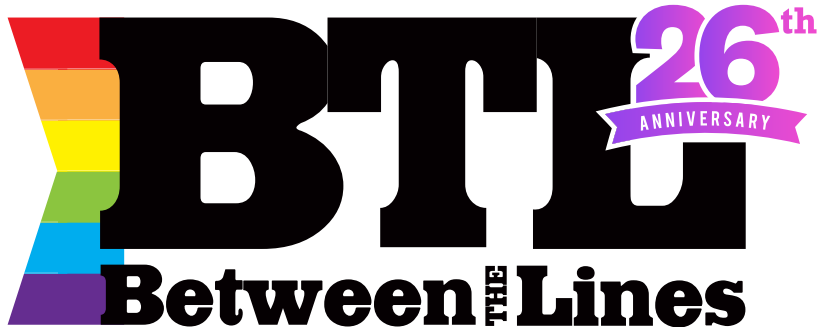


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Buttigieg Drops Presidential Campaign

Bloomberg Campaign Stops by LGBT Detroit

The Madness of Martha Wash



# On Being Heard

5 Detroit Women of Color Connect the Local with Global Work for Women's Equality

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**NEWS**

- 8 Rep. Amash One of 4 Votes Against House Anti-Lynching Bill
- 8 Bloomberg Campaign Reaches out to Detroit's LGBTQ Community of Color
- 12 On Being Heard: 5 Detroit Women to Visit UN to Fight for Women's Equality
- 18 Pence Downplays Role in HIV Outbreak as Indiana Governor
- 20 Va. Nondiscrimination Bill Receives Final Approval
- 20 Michael Hugh Guigar Obituary
- 23 Buttigieg Drops Presidential Campaign

**LIFE**

- 24 The Madness of Martha Walsh
- 28 Detroit's Alex English Talks Flexing Comedic Muscles on 'National Lampoon Radio Hour: The Podcast'
- 30 Review: 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire'
- 38 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 42 Detroit to Showcase its Mighty Real, Queer Art
- Cool Cities: Royal Oak: 34 David Bowie Alumni Tour in Royal Oak March 20
- 34 Improvetry: The Return
- 35 Affirmations Hosts Monthly 'Interrupting Social Media Stereotypes' Event
- 35 'Working: A Musical' at Stagecrafters
- 36 Happenings
- 39 Puzzle

**OPINION**

- 16 Parting Glances
- 16 Viewpoint
- 17 Creep of the Week



**COVER**

12 On Being Heard  
Deidre "D.S.SENSE" Smith, Pamela Alexander, Famika Edmond, London J. Bell and Cpl. Dani Woods. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter.

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## Important Facts About DOVATO

This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

### What is the Most Important Information I Should Know about DOVATO?

If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Resistant HBV infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV infection, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death.
  - Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.
  - **Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.** If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver.

### What is DOVATO?

DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults who have not received antiretroviral medicines in the past, **and** without known resistance to the medicines dolutegravir or lamivudine. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

### Who should not take DOVATO?

#### Do Not Take DOVATO if You:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.
- take dofetilide.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
  - Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
  - If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider will perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
  - If you can become pregnant, you should consistently use effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
  - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you: (cont'd)

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.**
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - One of the medicines in DOVATO (lamivudine) passes into your breastmilk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

### What are Possible Side Effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Those in the “What is the Most Important Information I Should Know about DOVATO?” section.**
- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms: fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver.

**Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or “tea-colored” urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.

- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:** feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems,** which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems.”** You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).



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DOVATO is a once-a-day complete treatment for adults who are new to HIV-1 medicine.

Results may vary.

\*Undetectable means reducing the HIV in your blood to very low levels (less than 50 copies per mL).

<sup>†</sup>As compared with 3-drug regimens.

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### What are Possible Side Effects of DOVATO (cont'd)?

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
- **The most common side effects of DOVATO include:** headache; diarrhea; nausea; trouble sleeping; and tiredness.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

### Where Can I Find More Information?

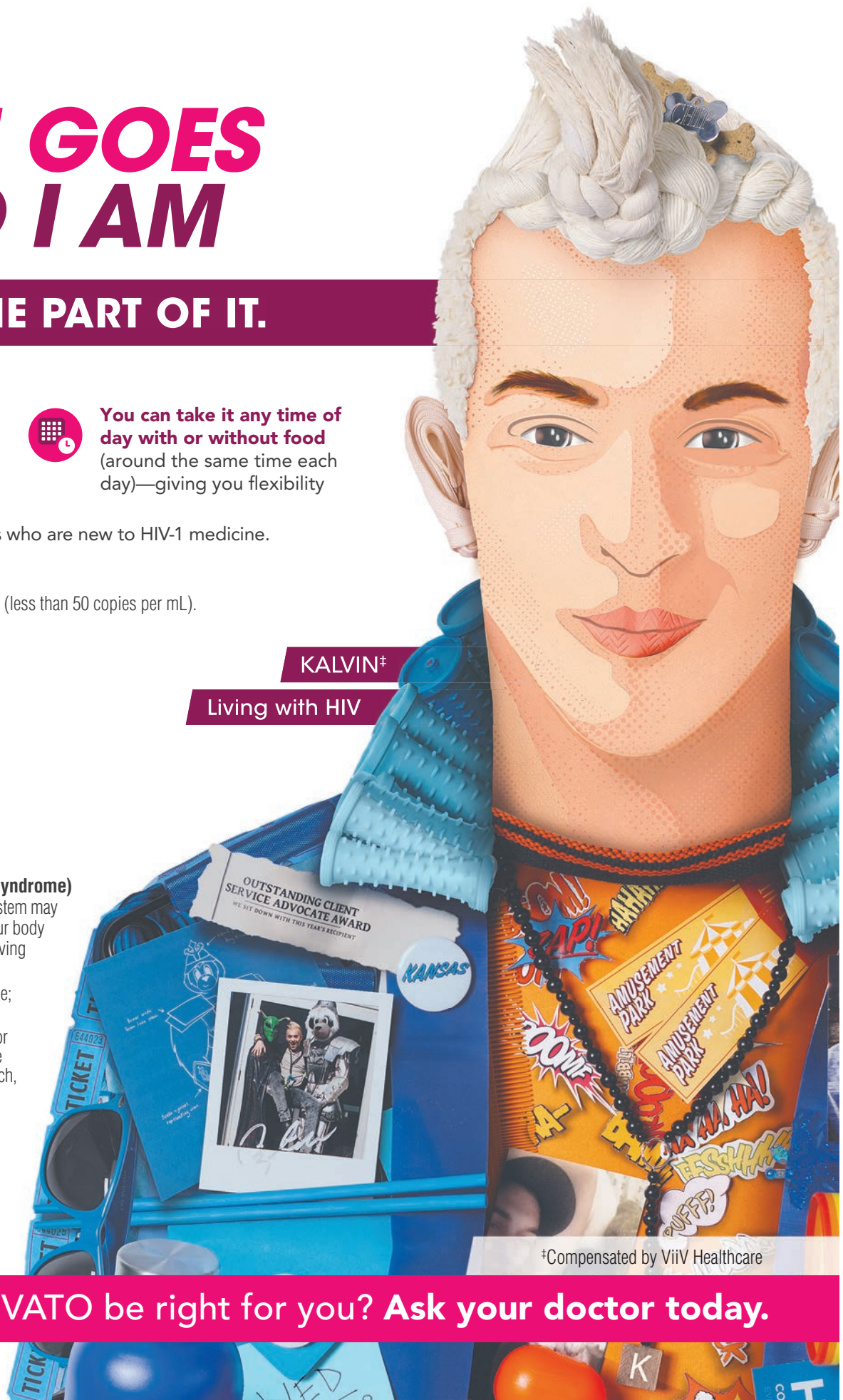
- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to [DOVATO.com](http://DOVATO.com) or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

October 2019 DVT:2PI-2PIL

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Could DOVATO be right for you? Ask your doctor today.

## Early Primary Voters Can Change Their Ballot Till March 9

So what if you voted already in Michigan's primary and the person you voted for has dropped out – like Buttigieg, Steyer or Klobuchar – or you've just changed your mind about who you want to vote for? It's still possible to change your vote!

Start by contacting your city or township clerk's office. They will provide you with a "spoiled ballot" form and give you a new ballot.

Most cities and townships have these forms available on their websites, or you can go in person to your city or township hall, get the form and vote again right then. But you have to do it by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 9. You can't change your vote on voting day.

Find out more about the process online at: [gaybe.am/s1](http://gaybe.am/s1).

## Buzz Thomas, 'Knight of the Rolodex,' to Speak at LGBT Chamber Event

**FERNDALE** - Buzz Thomas has decades of experience helping businesses connect with the people and agencies they need to be successful, and he spent 14 years in the Michigan legislature representing his Detroit district, serving as Democratic Floor Leader in the Senate and as Democratic Leader in the House during his terms. Because of this, he is affectionately known as the "Knight of the Rolodex" due to his extensive network of friends, colleagues, governmental professionals and business associates.

Thomas is a principle in Thomas Group Consulting that specializes in working with companies in Southeast Michigan to navigate the financial, regulatory, marketing and personnel diversity issues.

At the upcoming "On The Menu" breakfast speakers series produced by the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce on March 12 at 7:30 a.m., Thomas will offer his insights and expertise as an openly LGBTQ business owner. He will also discuss the roles LGBTQ businesses can and should play in Detroit and the surrounding area. He will also talk about how larger companies can best build strong, diverse workforces.



*This event will be held at the Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale. Tickets include breakfast and are \$16 for members, \$21 for non-members. For more information or to purchase tickets go to [DetroitLGBTChamber.com](http://DetroitLGBTChamber.com).*



Bloomberg campaign surrogates Gail Marquis (left) and Audrey Smaltz (center) addressed an audience at LGBT Detroit alongside National Director for LGBTQ+ Outreach Joseph Arroyo.

## Bloomberg Campaign Reaches Out to Detroit's LGBTQ Community of Color

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

For anyone paying attention to the Democratic candidates in the 2020 presidential race, polls have shown repeatedly that at the start of primary season voters have remained vastly undecided about their favored pick. In a PR Newswire poll of just over 1,000 voters released on Feb. 25, 63 percent are either undecided or unexcited about their choice. However, at this stage, it's clear that one candidate has floated out above the rest in visibility: Mike Bloomberg. The New York Times reported that at a price tag of roughly \$410 million, the New York billionaire has purchased "omnipresence," already outspending both Hillary Clinton and President Trump's entire 2016 budget for television ads alone.

Ahead of Super Tuesday, whether this massive outreach will pay off is unclear. In particular because of Bloomberg's shaky support among voters of color who make up nearly a third of the electorate. This stems in part from his support of New York's stop-and-frisk police tactics, which disproportionately targeted black and Latino men, while he served as mayor and controversial statements about redlining. Among LGBTQ voters, Bloomberg's past statements about transgender people as "he, she or it," "some guy in a dress" and alleged use of the term "horse-faced lesbians" has also tarnished his image.

Last week, Bloomberg sent two surrogates to LGBT Detroit as a part of his campaign's Listening Tour in a bid to learn more about issues vital to Michigan LGBTQ voters of color. National Director for LGBTQ+ Outreach Joseph Arroyo was in attendance, too.

"This [meeting] is about listening and hearing from people directly about what we can do better and how we can do this work better," Arroyo said. "So, we're here to answer questions, but we're really here to listen to what's really going on and how can we make sure our campaign is going to work for everyone."

### "Not an endorsement."

Jerron Totten is LGBT Detroit's social outreach coordinator and legislative outreach specialist. He said that this visit was not an endorsement of Bloomberg by LGBT Detroit, rather it served as a community forum.

"While this is not an endorsement by LGBT Detroit, the opportunity has been accepted by the Mike Bloomberg campaign, as any campaign would have the opportunity to hear the thoughts, needs, concerns and questions of this community," Totten said. "We as an organization provide a safe gathering space where members of the LGBTQ+ community can interact without fear, persecution or bigotry."

Besides Arroyo, the evening's speakers included wives Gail Marquis and Audrey Smaltz. Marquis is a former Olympic silver medalist and member of the Mike 2020 National LGBTQ+ Leadership Council, while Smaltz is part of the Mike 2020 National Women's Leadership Council. Marquis began the evening calling Bloomberg "a genuine man" and told the crowd of her and Smaltz's longtime friendship with him. When the floor opened for questions, a woman in the crowd brought up stop-and-frisk first.

"... What I want to know is: when did this man have a change of heart and is he going to use his money to rehabilitate a lot of these young men from stop-and-frisk and to get them out of prison and be able to get them back into society?"

Smaltz answered first, reminding the audience that the policy began in 1964 and that in an effort to keep the city safe, Bloomberg kept the policy in place and "didn't realize how bad it was" at first.

"As far as the men, black and brown, who are incarcerated, he's been trying to get them on stable footing. He gives a lot to

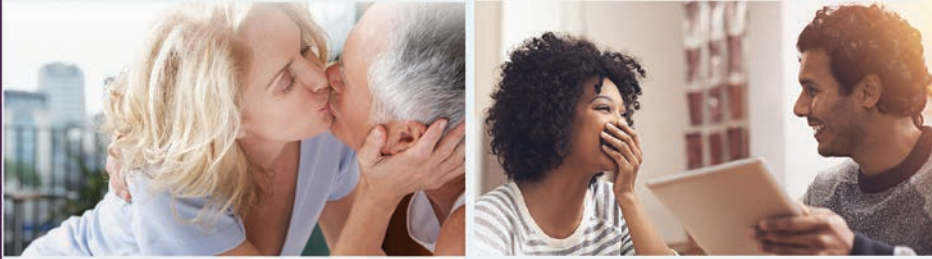
See **Bloomberg**, continued on p. 14

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## LGBT Detroit Receives Funding to Expand Leadership Academy

### BTL STAFF REPORT

LGBT Detroit recently received funding from ViiV Healthcare Positive Action for Youth for a new mentorship program that will expand its LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy. The academy is a social justice training program for African American LGBTQ young adults and allies. The new LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy – Mentorship Club will expand the former program and build a new collection of Michigan LGBTQ and allied social justice leaders and influencers.

To date, 62 people have graduated from the original Academy.

“We are happy to be named a recipient of ViiV Healthcare’s 2017-2019 Positive Action for Youth Giving,” said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit. “HIV and AIDS remains the most significant cause of death for African American gay and bi males in Southeast Michigan. Detroit is ground zero.”

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, currently 15- to 29-year-old men have the highest rates of infection statewide.

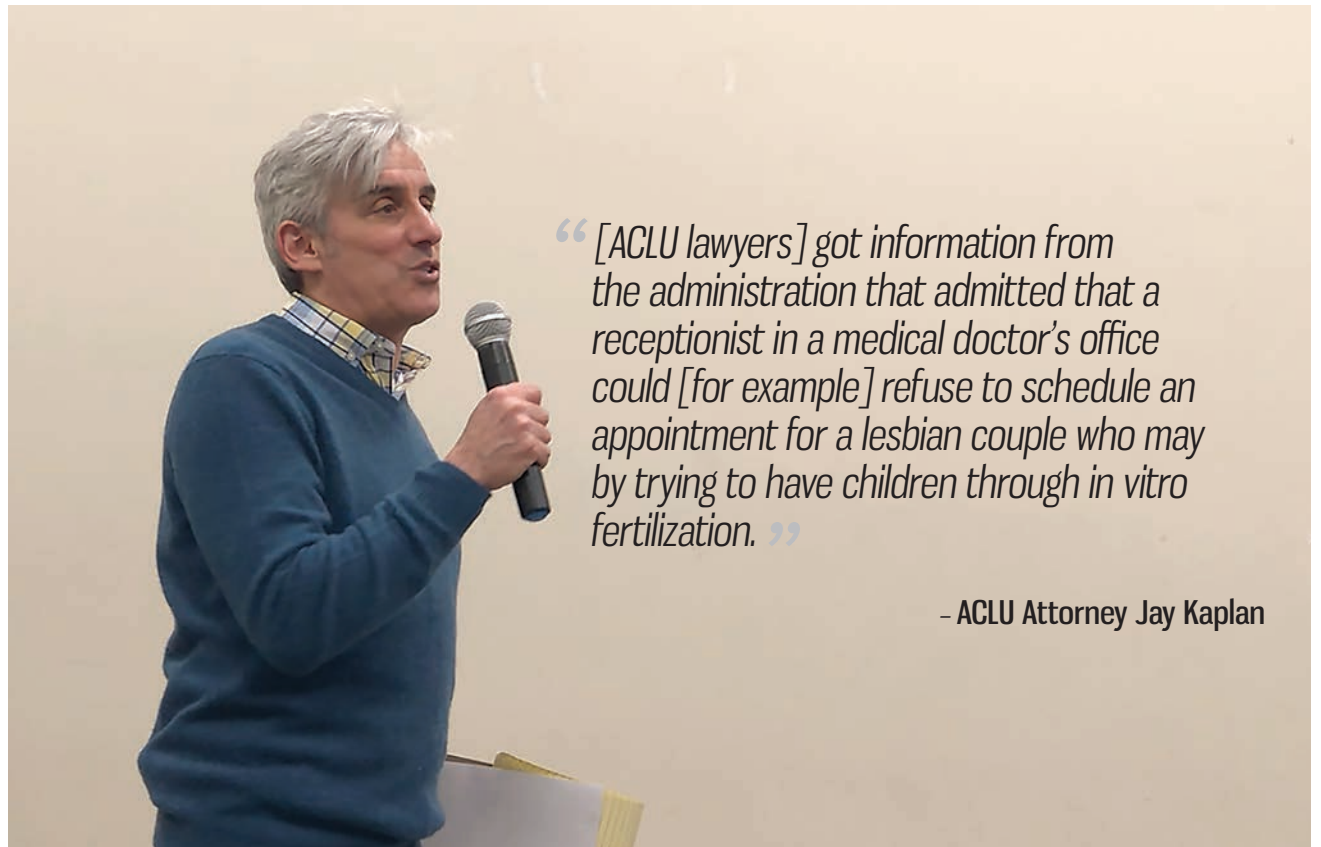


Brent Tucker

“Mentor and mentee applicants to the program will be matched by programmatic staff, advisors and committee members,” said Brent Tucker, newly hired program coordinator of the Academy’s Mentorship Club. “The mentor/mentee matching will occur in three sections: hosted forums, administrative matching and confirmation of matches.”

The mentor forum allows LGBT Detroit to work with prospective mentors and discover preferences and past experiences that can be offered to the program and mentees.

*Enrollment is currently underway. If you're interested, visit [lgbtdetroit.org](http://lgbtdetroit.org).*



“[ACLU lawyers] got information from the administration that admitted that a receptionist in a medical doctor’s office could [for example] refuse to schedule an appointment for a lesbian couple who may be trying to have children through in vitro fertilization.”

– ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan

## ACLU Town Hall Outlines Trump's Anti-LGBTQ Acts

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As the 2020 presidential primaries continue and November draws nearer, it’s vital for LGBTQ voters to familiarize themselves not only with the pro-LGBTQ platforms of existing candidates but the anti-LGBTQ measures taken by the Trump Administration. Last month, The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan hosted a town hall to answer questions and showcase those harmful actions to an audience at Ferndale’s Affirmations LGBTQ community center. The evening was hosted by LGBT Project Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan, who outlined some key differences in policy that have occurred since Trump took office.

### Discrimination in Health

First on the agenda for the evening was health care. Perhaps most notably, Kaplan talked about litigation surrounding the Affordable Care Act’s Section 1557, which provides protections for LGBT rights. Specifically, this section of the act codified nationwide nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people in health facilities and activities that receive federal funds. Under the Trump administration, these nationwide protections are at risk.

“The Trump Administration has issued some new guidelines this year and they say it’s very clear that LGBT people are not protected under section 1557. In other words, they can be discriminated against in health insurance coverage as well as accessing health care services,” Kaplan said. “This rule has not been finalized, and I’m sure we’ll see a great deal of litigation that says that this is clearly sex discrimination. But it’s created a very precarious situation, and our fear is that even though this hasn’t become a finalized rule, that many insurance companies will say, ‘Well now we can go to our [previous] blanket exclusions on trans-related health care.’”

Kaplan then referenced the Trump Administration’s medical conscience rule that would allow health care providers to refuse

service to LGBTQ people because of “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

“Two federal courts issued injunctions against this rule,” Kaplan said. “And there’s been litigation in four different cases in the federal courts in regards to this. And during discovery — that’s the period where you take depositions and try to gather information — [ACLU lawyers] got information from the administration that admitted that a receptionist in a medical doctor’s office could [for example] refuse to schedule an appointment for a lesbian couple who may be trying to have children through in vitro fertilization.”

The rule creates a broad interpretation of the term “health care provider,” meaning that anyone from the doctor, to the receptionist, to the ambulance driver involved in someone’s treatment could be protected in their employment if they refused their services. At the time of the town hall, there were 200 bills across state legislatures attacking doctors who agreed to provide treatment to transgender youth.

### Education

In the arena of education, Kaplan outlined that the Obama Administration secured civil rights protections for transgender students under Title IX federal law on the basis of sex. This allowed for students to participate in gender-segregated activities, including bathroom use, based on their gender identity without fear of discrimination.

“One of the first things that happened early in the days of the Trump Administration is that they rescinded those guidelines and they didn’t say that transgender students were not covered under Title IX, but they did rescind the guidelines for school districts, giving school districts a lot more discretion to decide whether or not a transgender student is able to participate in school activities,” Kaplan said. “We’ve seen a lot of good federal court decisions on

See **ACLU**, continued on p. 22

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**As mayor, Mike extended anti-discrimination laws to include gender identity in 2002.** Mike has supported marriage equality since 2005 and helped lead the effort to pass marriage equality in New York State through a Republican legislature and officiated a same-sex wedding on the first day it was legal.

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# On Being Heard: 5 Detroit Women to Visit UN to Fight for Women's Equality

**Editor's Note:** Due to concerns about the coronavirus, the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and all associated events have been canceled. At the time of publication, organizers said that they will be working to host a similar event locally. This is a developing story.

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

In an unprecedented global stand for gender equality, September of 1995 marked the unanimous adoption of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform of Action by 189 countries. This historic act occurred at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women and brought with it a series of objectives designed to aid equality. Among the 12 specific mandates, plans were outlined for dealing with issues like violence against women, the education and training of women, human rights of women, and women and armed conflict. Since then, the U.N. has reconvened every five years to assess its progress with its global goals and outline future plans for advancement.

Now, in 2020, the organization is due for another assessment, and thanks to a partnership between the Bell Global Justice Institute and The Ruth Ellis Center, a team of five Detroit women of color will have a chance to be a part of this global women's advancement initiative. On March 18, the group of various professionals will host a parallel event panel discussion titled Promising Practices for Beijing+25: Strengthening Visibility for Women of Color. In advance of the trip, BTL met up with each of the participants to learn more about their individual activism, goals for the upcoming event and what they hope to learn.

## London J. Bell — Founder and President of the Bell Global Justice Institute

Named for her brother, Marine Corps. Staff Sgt. Vincent James Bell, London Bell founded the Bell Global Justice Institute in an effort to advance acts of service.

"We aim to teach, inspire and empower youth and young adults to use local, national and international mechanisms of advocacy to advance their grassroots activism," reads the organization's mission statement.

Today, the organization has done various acts of activism like being involved in voter registration and education drives, raising awareness about life with disabilities and partnering with the U.N. to expand awareness about its work. Bell said that it was 2018 when both the Institute and REC first submitted a proposal to create a parallel U.N. event for last year.

"Our focus was the social determinants of



Left to right: Deidre "D.S.SENSE" Smith, Pamela Alexander, Famika Edmond, London J. Bell and Cpl. Dani Woods will each attend a panel in New York to discuss strengthening visibility for women of color. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter.

health regarding trans women, particularly trans women and girls of color," she said. "... We talked to a global audience. There were about 50 people in the room. We spoke to them about creating more affirming and safe spaces around the world for trans women."

After the success of that event, Bell said that the timing was perfect to bring a group together to discuss increasing the global visibility of women of color.

"For me, I believe that it's really important that women of color are at the table when there are policies being written — whether it be in the board room of NGOs or businesses or state and local law policy or even federal government and even in international arenas," Bell said.

In addition to being a woman of color herself, Bell has a disability. She will be using her platform to address the value of showcasing women experiencing different intersectionalities.

"Because I often feel left behind in spaces. And often times when I'm speaking up I feel like I'm speaking up by myself," Bell said. "And I want to make it known that it is important that we are influencing international policies like the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and that we are considering the intersectionality of all women and girls when doing so."

In addition to speaking out with the panel at the parallel event, Bell said she's excited to attend other similar events to learn of ways she can further the conversation both internationally and at home.

"This is really our opportunity to be a part of

that global conversation, and it's connecting the local and global together. And I'm very excited. It's a wonderful opportunity, I believe, for all of us," she said. "I am particularly excited to be able to gather such a dynamic group of women who are incredibly busy, who have expertise [in their fields]; I'm excited for all of us to be there."

## Pamela E. Alexander — Deputy Director of the Ruth Ellis Center

The Ruth Ellis Center is a nonprofit organization named after an African American lesbian who worked to provide housing and accepting spaces for LGBTQ people in Detroit. Today, REC works to aid homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in the city. In her role, Alexander specializes in work with youth, families and program development. Recently, she had a hand in the development of the Kofi House — a REC-sponsored safe space that specializes in providing resources for lesbians and queer young women.

Alexander said that although REC has sponsored trips to the UN before, this one stands out.

"This trip is different, because this is a panel of women of color who are focused on sharing best practices in addressing the health, well-being and safety of women of color in their local communities, across the country and globally," she said. "We wanted to make sure we selected professional women of color from

across spectrum of fields [to participate], from the arts, community policing, Lesbian/Queer Center, abilities and health and wellness."

When asked, Alexander said she's eager to learn from other attendees at the parallel event and beyond how REC's resources may be used locally and nationally. She said that although progress has been made to meet the Declaration's mandates, there's still much work to be done.

Alexander pointed to addressing causes of poverty and increasing access to educational opportunities and health care as methods to strengthen existing methods to meet mandates.

"I believe the global community is working toward the objectives of the Beijing Declaration, and I believe the U.S. needs to do more to ensure safety and improve health outcomes for women of color," she said.

## Cpl. Dani Woods — Chief's Neighborhood Liaison Unit of the Detroit Police Department

Dani Woods is a corporal who has been working as the Detroit Police Department's LGBT Liaison since 2013. In her role, she works to build trust and understanding between the city's LGBTQ community and the Department. She has partnered with organizations around Metro Detroit like the Ruth Ellis Center, Affirmations, LGBT Detroit and more. Woods also serves on an advisory board dedicated to listening to the concerns of LGBTQ civilians

in the city. Woods said that when Bell reached out to her to participate in the panel, she was honored.

“That platform is huge, so I’m happy to be a part of it,” Woods said. “And with the whole premise of the invisibility of women in certain spaces, my particular portion is kind of the flip side of what happens when women are visible in these spaces — no matter your identity, orientation, ethnicity and all of those things.”

Woods added that her intersectional identities as an openly lesbian, African American police officer coupled with the other panelists will provide for an enriching discussion. Speaking from her perspective as a police officer, Woods said that when she takes stock over the last 25 years she can see a definite level of progress gained for women’s equity in the U.S.

“I say that because women are no longer as timid or as shy or as apprehensive in speaking up,” she said. “When we talk about women in health, there are more women in certain places and they’re visible here in the U.S. Even in our police department, out of every police department in the nation, we have the most women in leadership roles.”

Woods also said she noticed definite increases in the number of women in politics and those women who feel empowered to leave abusive relationships. Still, despite that push forward, Woods is aware that there is more work to be done.

“So, I want to say we’ve arrived, but we’ve been here. Just [now] we’re not as behind the scenes as we were before,” she said. “I’m always looking to see how other practices and cultures in other countries [work], and I’m always interested in developing partnerships.”

Woods said that in 2016 she attended the Proud to Be Your Friend World LGBT Conference in Toronto. There, she learned of inclusive programs created by law enforcement officers around the world. One that stood out was a transgender-inclusive resources agreement between English law enforcement and LGBTQ advocates.

“[It’s] specifically for those that are doing survival sex work, which was like, ‘Wait. What?’ I couldn’t believe it. I brought home the literature and I’m still combing through it, but it really was an eye-opener,” Woods said. “Because you can arrest people all day long for a crime, but where is the real rehabilitation? Where is the help? Because just arresting someone and getting them off the street, well, when they get out guess what they’re going right back to. ... Hopefully, this [panel] will help improve and implement and improve programs here. I’m just excited to be a part of it all.”

## Deidre “D.S.SENSE” Smith — Founder of the On My Detroit Everything Movement

Deidre “D.S. SENSE” Smith is a poet, musician, activist and the founder of the On My Detroit Everything movement that encourages

pride in Detroit and speaking up for oneself. Within that movement, Smith hosts workshops titled SYMMYNS, which stands for Speak Your Mind, Mind Your Speech.

“And in those workshops, under that initiative, what I do is I educate youth, and girls especially, through the elements of hip-hop in community building, community outreach, restorative justice and transforming a conflict,” Smith said. “So, London saw that it would fit for me to also be a part of the panel discussion at the U.N., and I’m forever grateful to her for that.”

For a period of four years, Smith worked with the Ruth Ellis Center as a youth specialist where she worked with at-risk and runaway youth in the foster care system. She said that her program, that focused on inclusion, healthy expression and communication, aided a drop in “conflict, suicide attempts and self-harming.”

“I wanted them to understand how important their presence is,” she said.

Because of the program’s success, this is not the first time Smith has been asked to share her knowledge with people outside the Metro Detroit area. In 2018, Smith joined a group from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill called Next Level in Cartagena, Colombia, where she taught a similar class.

“And I was so proud to see so many young women in my classroom raging, talking about their woes, talking about their triumphs, talking about their businesses. That really spoke to me, because now here I was outside of Detroit seeing that there were women just like collectives I’ve been a part of here in Detroit,” Smith said.

Smith said that the point she hopes to emphasize the most on the upcoming panel is the value of sharing one’s voice — particularly as a woman of color.

“As a black woman the most important thing you have is your voice. We’re often in arenas where our ideas, our inputs aren’t considered. ... I think this discussion is important, and these five black women that are attending and holding this discussion are important because our voices will be heard,” she said. “But I really want to drive home the importance of freedom expression and the sharing of narratives through art.”

## Famika Edmond — Founder of For The Love Of H.E.R.

Over the past year Famika Edmond saw a need for women in Detroit to not only have a safe space but a supportive one, too. That’s why she founded For the Love of H.E.R. (Healing, Empowerment, Resilience) — a workshop intended to empower black women of all ages and provide “necessary tools for self-esteem, self-improvement and self-awareness.”

The five-week program achieves this by allowing participants to assess their own lives and examine their barriers to both personal and professional growth.

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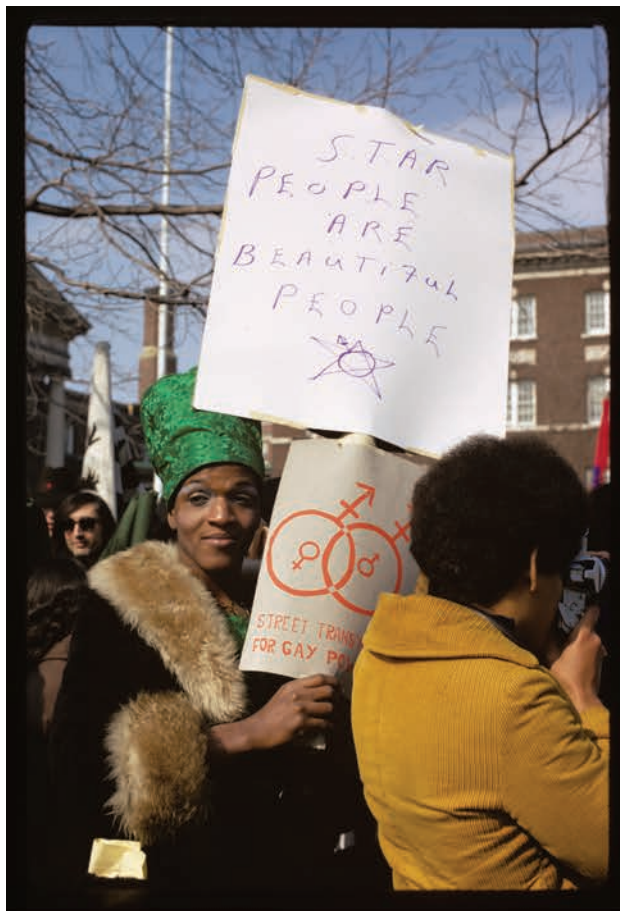
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April 22-26

See U.N., continued on p. 14



Diana Davies, *Gay Rights Demonstration, Albany, NY, 1971, 1971*. Digital print 14 x 11 inches (35.56 x 27.94 cm). Photo by Diana Davies/© The New York Public Library/Art Resource, NY

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## ► Bloomberg

Continued from p. 8



education all around. He has a men's initiative, which he had started – I'm not sure if it was while he was mayor or while he was coming out of it – specifically for black and brown men, young men, in New York city, in the tri-state area to get them educated, to get them jobs, to get them back on the right path," Marquis said.

Marquis added that she herself was stopped-and-frisked and trusts in Bloomberg's apology for the policy.

"You can go ahead and be the judge, but we have somebody up in the White House right now who doesn't apologize at all. He doesn't apologize repeatedly," she said.

## "We can take it back."

Still, not everyone in the audience was able to take Bloomberg at his word. A man in the crowd self-described himself as "not a Bloomberg fan." He said that he too was stopped and frisked and called Bloomberg's apology disingenuous.

"He has the privilege to look with disdain at 15-to 25-year-old black and brown men. That can't be forgiven," he said. "... Maya Angelou said if somebody shows you who they are you believe them. The contempt that Bloomberg

spoke about young black and brown men 15- to 25-year-old it wasn't once, it wasn't twice, it wasn't three times; there's no forgiving that."

Each speaker said they empathized with the audience member's concern. Then Arroyo said that qualities of Bloomberg's campaign like this listening tour is why he joined.

"What you're talking about is important, and we need to know. Because I think the place I see this campaign is that even if Bloomberg is not president he's still a billionaire and he's still going to have immense influence and power in this country," Arroyo said. "And so, everything I can do to get our campaign on the right track, I need to hear from people."

The panelists then went on to cite Bloomberg's support of various campaigns against conservative politicians like U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Mitch McConnell. Then both Marquis and Smaltz said that they would "take back" the audience members concerns.

Marquis also made note of the fact that Bloomberg "owned his white privilege" when he talked of his ability to receive a loan for his business after being laid off at 39. She then went on to cite the Greenwood Initiative as one of Bloomberg's platforms that is aimed at creating economic justice for black Americans. Arroyo said it's a way to "level the playing field" for black Americans.

"That's acknowledging that black people haven't been able to build generational wealth, and how do you have a conversation about economic

justice without talking about race? And that's one of the reasons I work for him, because he's actually acknowledging that it's not a level playing field," he said.

The plan is to aid the creation of 100,000 black-owned small businesses, create 1 million new black homeowners, to invest \$70 billion into 100 of the most disadvantaged neighborhoods and more.

Other topics the panelists said they would "take back" to Bloomberg directly were related to the study of HIV infection in transgender men, collecting data to prevent violence against transgender women, the increased rates of tobacco use among LGBTQ people and crushing levels of student loan debt — particularly at historically black colleges and universities.

The subject of gun violence was broached, too. Arroyo, who works with Everytown — a Bloomberg-started organization that is dedicated to stopping gun violence across the U.S. — answered. He cited Bloomberg's staunch anti-gun violence platform that aims to increase background checks, ban assault weapons and "hold the gun industry accountable."

"When I think about all the different things I've been a part of on his campaign I've seen it happen to the point where I'm at the table, not everyone's perfect, but the thing I love about this campaign is that I'm not the only one at the table, there are a lot of us at the table that are making sure we get things right," he said.

To find out more information about Bloomberg's presidential platforms visit [mikebloomberg.com](http://mikebloomberg.com).

## ► U.N.

Continued from p. 13



"Participants then learn strategies to heal and create new and empowering stories," Edmond said. "... We also want women to recognize the leadership that they possess inside of them. My goal is to empower black women to advocate for themselves, whether it be relationships,

career and/or health."

When approached by Bell to participate in the parallel event, Edmond said that she was immediately excited. Her focus on the panel will primarily be on health care.

"I would like to bring awareness to the stigmas and how often they are correlated and interrelated, the health impact of intersectional stigma, which is complex, generating a broad range of vulnerabilities and risks for women and girls," she said.

In addition to giving her a platform to draw attention to issues of visibility, Edmond said that having a global reach will be a welcome way for her to gain insight and information on how to improve the circumstances of the women who participate in her program locally.

Ideally, she said, the panel will provide her with ideas and tools to strengthen For the Love of H.E.R. that can be shared with other local organizations, too.

"I do feel that there have been strides that have happened in the global community but there are still areas for improvement. We have to look at why with certain demographics, they are still facing social and health disparities. Until we address systematic racism and stigmatization, we still have work that needs to be done," she said. "My hopes are that knowledge that I gain from participating on this panel, I can bring back what I have learned to my community. I feel it will give me more awareness of global issues that may be impacting other women and girls that I am not aware of."

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## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Planning to Come Out? Get ID

Times certainly have changed! Ten years ago, who in their straight, far-right mind would have thought that one of the candidates who would run for President of these United States of America would be queer?

And that a bona fide mayor of Chicago would be a lesbian? And that a former world-famous athlete would be transgender?

Or that the former mayor of Ferndale, David Coulter, would be the Oakland County Executive as a gay politician (smart, intelligent and personable)?

And, shock upon shock, that dozens of formerly straight celebrities — like rock stars, dancers, sports dudes, movie stars — would come out publicly on the internet and in People Magazine and admit same-sex, go-for-the-honesty, go-for-the-selfhood, attractions?

What's the world coming to? Are we witnessing a get-on-the-bandwagon response, a publicity ploy to amuse, titillate and challenge straight followers and fan clubs here, and in some cases, abroad?

While a majority in our LGBTQ community are pleased with the way celebs are exhibiting the courage to come out — better latent than never — a Washington, D.C. group calling itself PIM!, Prove It, Mary!, wants legal certification of newly admitted same-sex attractions.

"I've been uncloseted for most of my long, long life," said Dudley A. Asterisk, Officer Pro Tem of PIM. "Frankly, I'm just a little more than concerned that many of these NOs [newly out] are just interested in getting the word-of-mouth publicity."

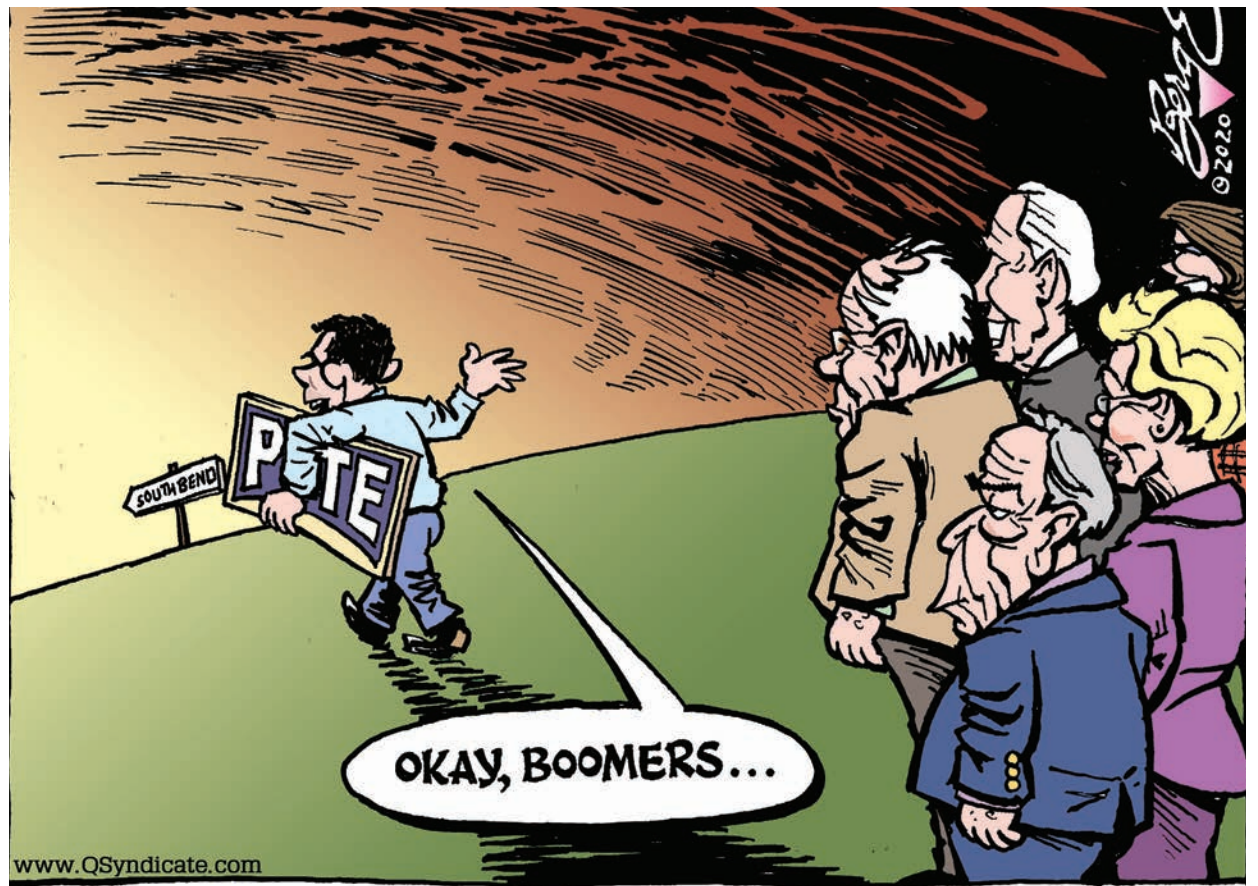
How do we really know they're gay or lesbian? Or, harder still to prove, transgender?

"If I say I'm straight, for example, in contrast, I'd have to prove it. It's been that way for centuries. So, why shouldn't be ask these NOs for proof? ID them? Stands to reason that with proof more closeted cases would feel comfortable in coming out of the closet," Asterisk said. "Our PIM Group also thinks that with proper ID of newly self-admitted gays and lesbians the Republican Party might benefit and profit in the long run. After all, the Log Cabin Republicans need just a tad or two of regeneration. And who knows how the up-and-coming 2020 election might benefit if being uncloseted had legal status."

Asterisk said that PIM is working toward the development of a wallet-sized picture ID.

"Identification will also carry an attorney signature and read, 'This is to certify that (Name) came out as a (gay, lesbian, transgender) person in good faith and standing on (date),' he said. "Consideration is being given to whether or not drag pictures are to be permitted with this proposed certification. Depends how things go in 2020."

*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.*



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

## Transmissions

### Trans Athletes: 80 Years of Controversy

I recently discussed some of the many bills making their way through statehouses this year, attempting to curtail or even criminalize transgender care. There is one category of these bills, however, that I feel deserves special attention. A number of these are specifically trained on young trans athletes.

Perhaps the best known of these bills right now is House Bill 2706, making its way through the Arizona legislature. Called the "Save Women's Sports Act," the bill requires all sports sponsored by an education institution — such as schools, colleges, etc. — be separated by "biological sex."

The bill doesn't stop there, of course. While it does go on to specify that women's sports "may not be open to students of

the male sex," it makes no opposing example of men's sports. Further, the bill claims that any such dispute of an athlete's gender will need to be resolved with a signed physician's letter that determines an individual's sex based on internal and external anatomy, testosterone levels and the person's genetic makeup.

Setting aside the flaws with such determinations, and understanding the wide variances in genetics, physical anatomy and testosterone levels, this means that a school could require all women — or at least any who are challenged,

See **Transmissions**, continued on next page



**Meanwhile, in 80 years of fears over men participating in women's sports, not one case has come forth to actually show an unfair advantage. That alone should show just how foolish this debate even is.**

## ► Transmissions

Continued from p. 14

regardless if they are trans-identified or not — to be subjected to a medical examination that would disclose details of their private parts.

Much the same is happening in Idaho, with HB 500, in Missouri with HJR 82 and in Alabama, with HB 35 and HB 20, aka the Gender Is Real Legislative (GIRL) Act. I would not be surprised to see more of these bills hit legislatures between the time I write this and this article's publication date, because the issue is being treated as if it is a major one, requiring immediate legislative solutions, a new bulwark in the "culture wars," if you will.

Yes it really is nothing new, and only serves as easy election year "red meat" for conservatives looking for something with which to scare their base. The notion of people somehow masquerading as the opposite gender to participate in women's sports is nothing new. And while I am sure there are plenty of examples dating back into antiquity, the first modern example I was able to locate was at the 1936 Olympics, held in Nazi Germany.

In those games, American Helen Stephens, known as the "Fulton Flash," due to her Missouri roots, defeated world record-holder Stanisława Walasiewicz — aka Stella Walsh.

One might wonder how this life-long resident of Missouri would feel to know that her home state is championing the very type of testing she was subjected to in Berlin.

Forty years later, the issue of transgender people in sports was once again headline news, as Renée Richards fought to play tennis in the U.S. Open in 1976. Richards refused a chromosome test, and she was not allowed to compete in the U.S. Open, the Italian Open nor Wimbledon.

The arguments against Richards are the same arguments we hear today, with some fearing that allowing Richards to play would open the door for any number of male players to change their own genders in order to compete in women's tennis, while the United States Open Committee argued in court that trans women should not be allowed to compete at all, because "there is

competitive advantage for a male who has undergone a sex-change surgery as a result of physical training and development as a male."

Richards eventually did relent and took the required chromosome test. The result was ambiguous.

Eventually, Richards did win her case, and she was able to play in the 1977 U.S. Open. She lost in the first round of singles competition, but she was able to make it to the finals playing doubles. The latter could be considered Richards' high water mark when it came to her tennis career.

This leads us back to today. Another 40 years on, and we are still arguing about gender in athletics. Today, arguably, the largest name mired in controversy is Caster Semenya, a middle-distance runner and gold medalist at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Arguably, it is debates over Semenya, who, like Richards, has been required to prove her gender in order to compete and has been barred for refusing such tests, that have helped fuel a lot of the debate over trans student athletes. Semenya, however, is not transgender. She is intersexed — not that details matter much to those seeking to smear anyone who doesn't fit their narrow definitions of sex and gender.

A lot of the debate, though, is more of the same sort of anti-transgender animus wrapped up in faux sympathy over women's causes that has gone on for ages. This isn't about protecting women in sports so much as it is about creating an exclusion.

What's more, just as we saw with trying to bar trans women from restrooms, it will be all women, trans or not, who will bear the burden. This will be used to shame any woman who is viewed as not feminine enough, and it will discourage women from competing in an environment built on suspicion.

Meanwhile, in 80 years of fears over men participating in women's sports, not one case has come forth to actually show an unfair advantage. That alone should show just how foolish this debate even is. It's time to let trans people compete, and for us to leave such naked bigotry behind.

*Gwen Smith notes that Walasiewicz, like Semenya, was intersexed. You'll find her at [gwensmith.com](http://gwensmith.com)*

# Creep Of The Week

## Trump Administration

**P**ublic Service Announcement: Wash your hands — more than you already do. And get yourself a bottle of rubbing alcohol and some cotton balls and swab down your phone on the daily. As an expert on disease transmission recently said on "This Podcast Will Kill You," there is definitely poop on your phone. You're welcome.

So. Coronavirus. Not good. But also not something to panic about. At least, not yet. Who knows? Maybe it will be the thing to wipe out civilization, but when you watch Donald Trump telling his brainwashed supporters at a rally in South Carolina that the coronavirus is a hoax, well, you can't say we didn't have it coming.

Speaking of brainwashed supporters, on Feb. 28, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) tweeted, "Once upon a time, when politics & media was inhabited by normal people, a viral outbreak was treated as a public health matter. But now even an infectious disease caused by a virus, a submicroscopic infectious agent, is a domestic partisan political issue to exploit. Crazy."

Oh, yeah. It's crazy all right.

Self-described "mouthy gay" Steve Kenson had the perfect response.

"As a gay man who came of age during the AIDS era of the 1980s," he tweeted, "I'm intensely curious for you, a Republican Senator, to tell me more about how virus outbreaks were once handled apolitically."

It took President Ronald Reagan until 1985 to even say "AIDS" publicly. By then, according to NBC News, over 12,000 people had died. In 1982, Reagan's press secretary Larry Speakes laughed when asked about AIDS at a press conference. The reporter referred to it as "gay plague," to which Speakes replied, "I don't have it, do you?" and everybody laughed. Reagan's religious-right supporters like Jerry Falwell were declaring that AIDS was God's punishment for homosexuality. Reagan didn't want to lose that sweet right-wing support by seeming to give a shit about gays, so he just let people die.

Are those the "normal" people who inhabited politics and media that Rubio was talking about?

I mean, I'll give him the fact that there are people who are definitely not normal in politics right now. Chief among them is Trump, who believes that the virus will magically disappear once the weather gets warmer in April. Trump can't assure the nation that the government has this coronavirus thing under control, because 1) it doesn't and 2) Trump is only concerned about himself and remaining in power.

And then there's Mike Pence, Mr. Coronavirus Task Force, who exacerbated an HIV/AIDS outbreak in Indiana when he was governor because he needed to take time to pray on whether or not needle-exchange programs were

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

**Trump can't assure the nation that the government has this coronavirus thing under control, because 1) it doesn't and 2) Trump is only concerned about himself and remaining in power.**

a good idea. He also believes that electrocuting people will turn them heterosexual and that science is dark magic.

The Trump administration is actively trying to prevent the release of factual information about the coronavirus to the public and seems mainly concerned with the stock market rather than public health. Meanwhile, Trump is calling news agencies that report on the virus fake news. Not helpful!

That said, the news media's coverage of the coronavirus outbreak is problematic at best. The breathless coverage of every single new confirmed case and every death are much more likely to inspire panic than precautions.

But even if this doesn't become the next flu pandemic of 1917, what's truly terrifying is that we have a woefully incompetent crime syndicate running the show. As a country we are not prepared because our government is headed by the dumbest man in America.

And he's also a liar. On "Last Week Tonight," John Oliver took Trump to task for ignoring or contradicting his own health experts, often in real time.

"Your experts just said cases will go up and you said they would go down," Oliver said. "You can't just ignore real numbers and pick out ones you like better."

But, of course, he can and he does. And instead of focusing on Trump's lies and incompetence, much of the media is proceeding as if things were still normal. But things are not normal.

Are we all doomed? Well, only time will tell when it comes to coronavirus. But we can't keep on going on as a country with this administration in charge.

Trump may be fighting any connection to the outbreak response right now, but chances are if the numbers of infected and dead get huge enough that he'll be more than happy to take credit. And at least Rubio will Tweet some more Bible versus and Pence will pray for you. Who needs health insurance with coverage like that?

And, once again, wash your hands, cover your coughs and sneezes, and swab that cellphone. You know where it's been.

## Rep. Amash One of 4 Votes Against House Anti-Lynching Bill

Last week a bill passed in the U.S. House of Representatives that made lynching a federal hate crime 410-4. Of the four votes against, one was by Michigan's Independent Justin Amash. The three other votes were by Republicans Ted Yoho of Florida, Louie Gohmert of Texas and Thomas Massie of Kentucky who cited federal overreach as their reasoning for the votes.

"Creating federal crimes for matters that are normally handled by the state obscures which government — federal or state — is responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime, and it gives power to unelected federal officials whom voters can't directly hold accountable," Amash wrote in a tweet.

Known as the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, this bill was written after the 1955 racially motivated murder of then-teenaged Till.

"This legislation will not erase the stain of lynching and racist violence, but it will help shine the light of truth on the injustices of the past so that we can heal our nation and build a better, safer future for all of our children," Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

This bill was passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate.

## Boylesque Drag Hosts Charity Event for MS

Drag queen bingo is always a night of fun and laughs, but an upcoming event at the Tap Room in Ypsilanti is going to a good cause as well. Boylesque Bingo & Drag is hosting a charity bingo event

for April R. Austin, one of its best patrons who was recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

"For Jadein Black's Birthday Bingo, we are doing a bingo where all cover, all tips, and any other money donated is going directly to our pal April R Austin," wrote event organizers. "This single mother of an autistic son is saving up money for her Stem Replacement Surgery for her Multiple Sclerosis. This surgery is the only thing that can potentially prolong her life, and trust us when we say, we want this girl around for a long time!"

Attendees will play four games, see performances by queens and other local talents and all proceeds will go toward helping Austin. Bingo costs \$25.

*To read the full article visit [pridesource.com](http://pridesource.com). To reserve seats to this upcoming event email [jadeinblack@gmail.com](mailto:jadeinblack@gmail.com). Find out more about the fundraiser and how to donate online at [gaybe.am/99](http://gaybe.am/99).*



April R. Austin and drag queen Jadein Black.

# Pence Downplays Role in HIV Outbreak as Indiana Governor

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In defense of his role in overseeing coronavirus efforts within the Trump administration, Vice President Mike Pence downplayed on Saturday his responsibility for the HIV outbreak that occurred under his watch as Indiana governor.

Pence, responding to a question from journalist Andrew Feinberg during a White House news conference with President Trump, said the outbreak was a result of Indiana not allowing needle exchanges, which have been shown to reduce new HIV infections dramatically.

"We had an outbreak of HIV in a very small town that emerged in early 2015," Pence said. "My health officials came to me. We immediately deployed health resources. The truth was HIV/AIDS was being spread by people sharing needles and intravenous drug use, and the state of Indiana did not allow for providing a needle exchange to citizens."

Pence added the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention came to Indiana and made a recommendation, which he said led to him declaring a health emergency making for 30 days a needle exchange available in the state of Indiana.

"I'm proud to say that every one of those patients was treated, [and] we ended the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus," Pence said.

Scrutiny on Pence's responsibility for the HIV outbreak grew this week after Trump made him head coordinator for U.S. coronavirus efforts, saying Indiana had been a model for health administration. Satirizing Pence's appointment, the Daily Show's Trevor Noah proclaimed in a segment recalling the HIV outbreak, "We're definitely all going to die!"

Trump defended Pence's record in response to the question on Saturday, insisting Indiana "has been an absolute leader" on health care as a result of the vice president's work the state was "one of the best, if not the best in the country."

A Huffington Post article on Pence's oversight of the HIV outbreak written in 2016 and updated this week tells the story differently from the vice president.

According to the article, after the Indiana legislature approved a Pence-backed measure to defund Planned Parenthood in 2011, the clinic affiliated with the organization in Scott County was forced to shut down two years later. Scott County is a low-income rural area in central Indiana where drug injection was as a result of prescription opioid use.

Years later in 2015, local health officials began to report HIV cases linked to intravenous prescription opioid use in Scott



Vice President Mike Pence downplayed his role in a HIV outbreak as Indiana governor. (Photo public domain)

County. The determination was the people in Scott County were sharing needles and not getting tested for HIV.

The situation quickly escalated. At the height of the outbreak, 20 new HIV infections were diagnosed each week and reached a total of nearly 200 cases by the time the outbreak was finally under control, according to the Huffington Post.

Although a government needle exchanges would help address the outbreak, Pence reportedly "dragged his feet" because opposed the idea. The outbreak was initially reported in January 2015, but it took Pence until April 2015 to declare the emergency allowing government-backed needle exchanges.

Pence also addressed in response to the question Saturday his oversight of a MERS infection as Indiana governor. The vice president called MERS "an infectious disease much more deadly than the coronavirus."

"It was then when I was governor, I learned of the extraordinary capabilities of CDC, worked with my health officials in the state of Indiana, worked with federal officials and, maybe most importantly, learned the invaluable role that local health officials play in dealing with the spread of infectious disease," Pence said.

According to Pence, the state of Indiana secured the patient with MERS, found out other the individuals with whom the patient was in contact and concluded "there were no additional infections and that patient recovered and there was only other MERS disease."

Pence concluded he takes the experience of oversight over the HIV outbreak and MERS infection as Indiana governor as part of his duty overseeing coronavirus efforts.

"I think my experience as a governor, dealing with two different infectious disease and seeing the vital role health care providers play, and federal officials play, has really informed me," Pence said.

That's why, Pence said, he's spent time talking to governors about coronavirus efforts, pointing out a conversation he had yesterday with state health officials and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

"And I'm proud of the work that we did in the state of Indiana, and I hope to continue to bring all of the best minds together to deal with this issue," Pence concluded.

Trump interjected by saying Pence is "doing a great job" and that was a "great answer" to the question.

Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, who was serving as South Bend mayor in Indiana at the time of the outbreak, criticized Pence for his handling of the HIV outbreak Thursday during a CNN interview.

"I've been to the needle exchange that he reluctantly authorized," Buttigieg said. "He was dragged kicking and screaming into that. Had he acted earlier, I believe that the worst parts of that HIV epidemic could have been avoided."

Lucas Acosta, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, said Pence's account of the HIV outbreak in his state is "patently false."

"In actuality, Mike Pence failed Hoosiers, keeping his head in the sand and denying evidence-based science while failing to deliver the swift and strong response Indiana needed, costing the state millions and changing the lives of hundreds," Acosta said.

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## Va. Nondiscrimination Bill Receives Final Approval

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

A bill that would add sexual orientation and gender identity to Virginia's nondiscrimination law cleared its final legislative hurdle on Wednesday.

Senate Bill 868, which state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria) introduced, passed in the Virginia House of Delegates. State Del. Mark Sickles (D-Fairfax County) introduced a version of the Virginia Values Act in his chamber.

Virginia will become the first Southern state to add sexual orientation and gender identity to its statewide nondiscrimination law once Gov. Ralph Northam signs it.

"We just made Virginia a safer and more fair state for everyone," said James Parrish, director of the Virginia Values Coalition, a group of state and national LGBTQ advocacy groups that championed the Virginia Values Act. "We're grateful for the lawmakers, faith leaders, allies, parents, law enforcement officers and people of all political ideologies who worked together to ensure we passed nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ Virginians."

Vee Lamneck, executive director of Equality Virginia, echoed Parrish.

"This legislation will have a transformative and positive impact on the lives of LGBTQ Virginians," said Lamneck in a press release. "Our organization has been proud to advocate for bills to make a more equal and inclusive Commonwealth for years. This new law sends a strong message that Virginia is welcoming to all, including LGBTQ individuals and families."

Ebbin in a statement he sent to the Washington Blade also applauded his bill's passage.

"The Virginia Values Act represents decades of hard work on the part of advocates, constituents, and many colleagues in the legislature," said Ebbin. "It is long past time that every Virginian — members of the LGBTQ community, religious minorities, people of color and veterans — be treated equally under the law."

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

## OBITUARY

### Michael Hugh Guigar

Aug. 4, 1966 – Feb. 24, 2020

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Michael Hugh Guigar, a longtime member of the Detroit Together Men's Chorus, has died. He was 53.

Guigar was born in Marlette, Michigan, and he would go on to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science from Saginaw Valley State University.

"I'm a computer geek," Guigar admitted to viewers of his Facebook profile. "No, I will not fix your computer for free!"

Guigar was known for loving two things: singing and cats. An all-round animal lover and animal rights activist, Guigar had a special affinity for cats and head several, including his latest, named Pharaoh Cat. Guigar sang with the Detroit Together Men's Chorus and the choir of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. He also sang with the Detroit-Oakland chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Gentlemen Songsters.

"Michael Geiger, affectionally known as Huggy Bear, was a faithful member at MCCD," said MCCD Deacon Roland Smith, who sang with Guigar in the choir. "His tenor voice was a blessing to all that heard him sing. He has now joined the heavenly chorus with the other great singers."

"He loved to give hugs," said Brian Londrow,



who directed him in both the MCCD choir and Detroit Together Men's Chorus. "He was just an amazing person. He was an excellent musician, blessed with perfect pitch. For the men's chorus, he was the person who made new people feel welcome. He was very warm and genuine. That's one of the things that I appreciated about that man. For all the years I knew him, he was a very consistent person."

Guigar, Londrow said, also had a good sense of humor.

"He portrayed Shirley Temple in one of our chorus concerts doing 'On the Good Ship Lollipop' complete with the polka dot dress. He loved that. The part fit him and he played that part to a T. Musically, he could do any style. He put his heart into he was doing so it really meant something."

Guigar is survived by his partner Brent Toner. Guigar's family asked that memorial donations be made in Guigar's honor to the Detroit Together Men's Chorus.

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Continued from p. 10



behalf of transgender students in their ability to use the bathrooms, but ultimately there will be a school district that will point to the Trump administration rescinding these guidelines as a basis, as a justification, to support the policy saying, "You can only use a restroom, you can only participate in an activity in accordance with your biological sex that was assigned to you at birth."

Kaplan added that increasingly, anti-LGBTQ rights groups are using the argument of sex to target transgender student athletes and increase anti-transgender sentiment in legal arguments.

"When the Equality Act had hearings in the House of Representatives we were anticipating the arguments that they were going to make, and they stayed away from some of the bathroom arguments, but they wanted to talk a lot about sports. Like how this is unfair, a competitive advantage and things like that," he said. "And in our case [in Michigan] with Aimee Stephens in the Supreme Court, she worked in the funeral home, she was an embalmer, but Justice Scalia raised the question about transgender people playing sports, which had nothing to do with the case at hand. So we're going to be seeing more of this happen."

## Foster Care and Housing

In another case close to home, Kaplan pointed to a fight the ACLU had with legislation from the previous administrations of Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette. Specifically, the suit was against taxpayer-funded contracts that allowed religious foster care and adoption agencies to discriminate against potential LGBTQ parents.

"We sued the state in federal court, won and thought everything was taken care of, but then two of the faith-based agencies turned around and filed a lawsuit in the western district for the federal court on the other side. Raising the same issues, they hoped to get a more conservative judge and they did," Kaplan said. "And what happened is we have a federal judge in one of those case that has issued an injunction against the state of Michigan saying that, 'State of Michigan, you have to give these agencies a contract, and they are committed

*"I know it doesn't get a lot of attention, but it's really important because I think a lot of times with LGBT civil rights we haven't paid enough attention to the rulings of the courts. It's not the whole enchilada, but it's certainly an important factor to move our rights forward."*

to refuse to work with same-sex couples."

These types of exemptions have extended to homeless shelters, too. Specifically, an Obama-era guidance to permit homeless transgender people to stay in shelters that align with their gender identity was removed by the current administration.

"They have said homeless shelters can use their own religious privacy and safety concerns to consider an individual's sex when making a determination about how and whether or not to accommodate someone seeking shelter," Kaplan said. "So what we've seen in the past is often transgender women were being turned away from the women's shelter and being told they have to stay at the men's facility. And many times their own safety is at risk."

This is also the case in Michigan prisons, where female transgender inmates risk being sexually assaulted and otherwise attacked when they aren't permitted to stay with inmates of their gender identity.

## Court Appointments

Lastly, Kaplan pointed at the current administration's astoundingly speedy court appointments, showing that Trump has appointed more judges in four years than Obama was able to do in eight.

"He has appointed 50 circuit court of appeals judges and 133 district court judges that have been confirmed," he said. "Basically the recommendations for these judgeships, are coming from the Federalist Society. It's known as a conservative legal organization and their legal philosophy is if it's not specifically mentioned in the constitution ... it's not there."

And the judges being appointed are serving lifetime terms.

"If they're in their 40s, they might be on that bench for 50 years, and it can really influence how we interpret our laws," Kaplan said. "I know it doesn't get a lot of attention, but it's really important because I think a lot of times with LGBT civil rights we haven't paid enough attention to the rulings of the courts. It's not the whole enchilada, but it's certainly an important factor to move our rights forward."

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# Buttigieg Drops Presidential Campaign

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Former South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg, who had considerable success and made history as a gay presidential candidate, dropped on Sunday night his bid for the White House.

“Tonight, I am making the difficult to suspend my campaign for the presidency,” Buttigieg said in a speech in his hometown of South Bend. “I will no longer seek to be the Democratic nominee for president, but I will do everything in my power to ensure that we have a new Democratic president come January.”

In a speech bringing historic campaign for the LGBTQ community to an end, Buttigieg invoked the major themes of his campaign, including respect, belonging, discipline and joy.

Those values, Buttigieg said, were what compelled him to discontinue his bid for the presidency just days before Super Tuesday, when a lion’s share of 1,357 delegates will be awarded.

“One of the those values is truth, and today is a moment of truth,” Buttigieg said. “After a year of going everywhere, meeting everyone, defying every expectations, seeking everybody, the truth is that the path has narrowed for our candidacy, if not our cause.”

Throughout his speech, Buttigieg supporters could be heard chanting, “2024! 2024!”

Buttigieg exits on the heels of the primary in South Carolina, where he performed poorly behind former vice president Joseph Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders. Buttigieg won 8 percent of the vote, compared to 49 percent for Biden and 20 percent for Sanders.

But Buttigieg enjoyed considerable success in the early voting state of Iowa and New Hampshire. Although his win in Iowa was marred by a fiasco in counting votes for the Iowa caucuses, he walked out with the most delegates, becoming the first openly gay person to state contest in a presidential primary.

But Buttigieg struggled to win support from black voters, whose support will be crucial in obtaining the Democratic nomination as the primary heads in Super Tuesday and states with a greater racial minority electorate.

By dropping out of the race before Super Tuesday, Buttigieg spares himself the rejection from black voters at the polls, which have a cemented an image of him for all his future political endeavors, and limits the field of moderate candidates in the Democratic primary sharing Buttigieg’s ideology to avoid



splitting up that vote.

Chasten Buttigieg, introducing his husband on stage, recalled the time he affirmed his husband’s decision to run for president because of what it would mean for gay youth.

“After falling in love with Pete, he got me to believe in myself,” Chasten Buttigieg said. “And I told Pete to run because I knew there were other kids sitting out there in this country who wanted to believe in themselves, too.”

Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California, had endorsed Buttigieg and affirmed in a statement the importance of the candidate’s campaign to LGBTQ people.

“Pete and Chasten have transformed our politics forever,” Zbur said. “They’ve given hope to millions of LGBTQ+ youth who saw themselves in this campaign. They’ve put tears of pride in the eyes of LGBTQ+ seniors, who have, over the course of their adult lives, witnessed an unimaginable arc of history. For them, this campaign meant something — and it will mean something for generations to come.”

Despite his struggles, Buttigieg maintained an optimistic tone throughout his speech, maintaining his vision for improving America.

“I firmly believe that in these years in our time, we can and will make American life and politics more like what it could be, not just more wise and more prosperous, but more equitable and more just and more decent,” Buttigieg said.

Although Buttigieg didn’t endorse a candidate in his speech, he made a veiled warning against Sanders, whose opponents say he can’t win and would bring failure to candidates across the board.

“We need an approach strong enough not only to win the White House, but to hold the House, win the Senate and send Mitch McConnell into retirement,” Buttigieg said.

While his candidacy is one for the history books, Buttigieg said for the time being his focus remains the same: Removing Trump from the White House.

“I know that as this campaign ends, there comes disappointment,” Buttigieg said. “But I hope everyone who has been part of this anyway knows that the campaign that you have built and the community that you have created is only the beginning of the change that we are going to make together.”



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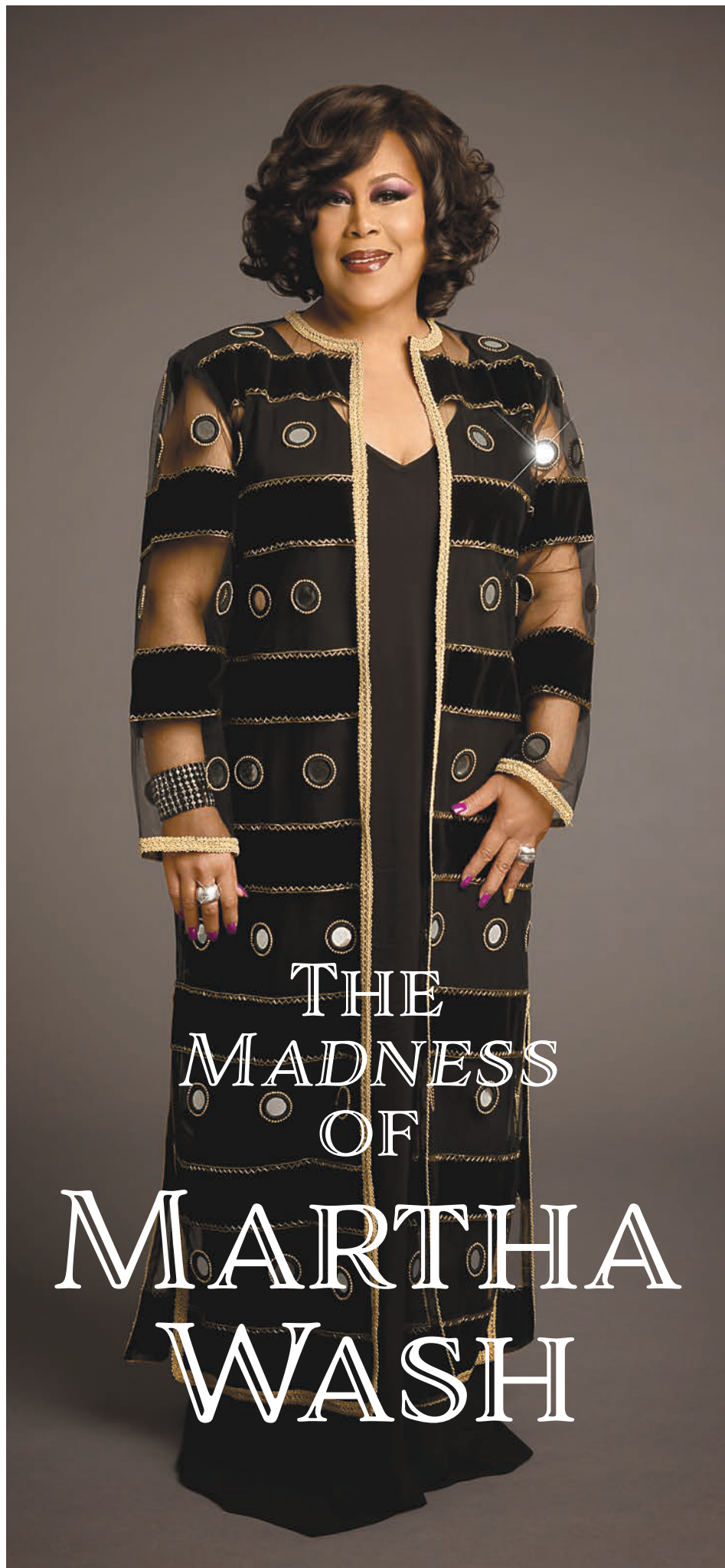
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## Disco Queen Talks Gays Who Snatched 'It's Raining Men,' Sylvester Memories and Exploring New Sounds

BYLINE BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**O**n her new album, "Love & Conflict," Martha Wash is far removed from her disco days, when she became known as half of The Weather Girls. With the late Izora Rhodes-Armstead, the duo began their career as Two Tons O' Fun. They shot to stardom in the early '80s as The Weather Girls, after releasing one of the biggest gay anthems, "It's Raining Men."

During her solo career in the 1990s, Wash's booming voice was infamously used without her permission on dance-pop touchstones like Seduction's "(You're My One and Only) True Love" and Black Box's "Strike It Up" and "Fantasy," as well as C+C Music Factory's No. 1 hit "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)." In 2014, Rolling Stone called Wash "the most famous unknown singer of the '90s."

Released on her own independent record label, Purple Rose Records, "Love & Conflict" is a fusion of funk, blues and R&B – "another departure from what people are used to hearing me sing," she says. But, perhaps more importantly, the record represents Wash's artistic freedom.

The 66-year-old disco queen recently spoke about breaking out of the dance-pop music mold, singing about dating apps but being too leery to use them, and that time she and iconic gay singer Sylvester literally shook the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House.

**How have you kept your voice intact all these years? What are your tricks?**

I have no tricks! And look, I think over time don't we all kind of change a bit? (Laughs.) While I am grateful to still be able to sing, you know, the voice changes over time – and I've been doing this a long time! (Laughs.)

**On "Never Enough Money," you sing, "Sugar's waiting in the back, you're flirting on a dating app..." Are you on dating apps, Martha?**

No, I am not!

**So you're not speaking from personal experience?**

No, no. But you hear so much about especially young ... well, not even young people anymore! Everybody's doing it. It doesn't matter the age anymore. People are trying to find love wherever they think they can, and there's so many different (apps) out there. You see people, their heads just down in their phones with the email, or the dating apps, and things like that. (Sighs.) Hey, technology.

**Say hypothetically you did have a Tinder profile.**

Oh god.

**What would you say about Martha Wash in your Tinder profile?**

Goodness. I like flowers. (Laughs.) Confident.

**What would you look for in another person's profile?**

Let's see: A guy that likes to laugh or can make me laugh.

**A sense of humor is always good.**

Sense of humor's always good 'cause I don't always have one. (Laughs.) Sense of humor *and* can deal with my madness. Also somebody who has a strong spiritual background. I'm a homebody, but I also like to travel. Somebody who's adventurous.

**How about TV shows? What do you binge?**

Oh god, there's too many of 'em to count! I have so many TV shows in my library that I have to keep deleting them because I'm almost at 100 percent. Seriously! And there's still a whole lot of shows and movies that I have not even seen on Netflix or Hulu at all. You know, I have subscriptions but I haven't used 'em! So I just have my favorites. I like crime shows, I like medical shows.

**So there you have it: We've just written your Tinder profile.**

I have never thought about doing that.

**It's never gonna happen?**

I'm not gonna say never, but I'm kind of leery of all of that. I really am.

**How did "Never Enough Money" come about?**

It has to do with greed, power, attention and a lot of things we see in the world today, and it's a right-in-your-face kind of situation; it's like you wanna turn your head away but can't. The situations will not let you turn your head away and, for the most part, I want to say it's negative.

**You're the kind of artist who seems to relish continual artistic evolution. How is "Love & Conflict" an evolution for you as an artist?**

It's just another avenue of the kind of music that I want to be able to record. I've always said I never wanted to be pigeonholed into one particular genre of music. Everybody knows me for the most part as a dance music artist. I came from R&B and disco and that's what I listened to as a teenager. But also growing up, I listened to all kinds of music, so I was able to appreciate all different genres of music.

So when I didn't have a record label, I



decided to create my own to put out the kind of music that I felt I wanted to put out. That's grown so much over the years, in fact. I'll talk to my manager and he'll say, "What do you think you wanna do this time?" So he reached out to (producer) Sami Basbous and all the music, the musicians and everything are Canadian. And we recorded in Montreal.

So it's basically a Canadian-based album, and he just had some great songs that we put together. And what we came up with was "Love & Conflict" because we all have or have been through love and conflict, and sometimes it's on a daily basis, but it's about how we decide to deal with things. I firmly believe that love always trumps conflict. Love always wins in the end.

#### Has that always been your motto?

Yeah, especially more so over the years. I've always believed that the higher power was always love, and there's scripture in the Bible about love covering a multitude of sins, so the bottom line is love encompasses all.

#### When did you feel like you'd first been embraced by the LGBTQ community? Do you recall a specific moment?

No, because in school I had gay friends and some of my teachers were gay. It was never a big thing to me. And then when I started singing background for Sylvester, it just continued on but just as a larger group of people. The gay community was always behind Sylvester, and with Izora and I singing background for him there was never any problem, and it just continued over the decades. And I'd have to say that the gay community has always been the biggest fan base for me.

#### And you're no stranger to the Pride circuit. Is that a special experience for you?

Well, (laughs) I think because I've been at this for so long it's just become a natural thing.

#### You lost a lot of friends during the AIDS epidemic, including Sylvester. How do you reflect on that period of time?

Sad. So many people were lost because of fear and ignorance, and I want to say putting a death sentence on the gay community during that time, because everybody was pointing fingers. And all the fingers were pointing to the LGBTQ community, you know. And then on the other side of that, people that were winding up HIV positive, some of them didn't pay attention, some of them did not listen.

#### Not even the president at the time, Ronald Reagan, would acknowledge that AIDS was an issue.

And information wasn't being put out correctly. So there became this big stigma regarding that and the gay community, like they weren't Christians and this was the wrath of God, that whole kind of madness.

I remember a newspaper article about a black woman who wound up with AIDS, and I'm reading the article and I'm saying to

myself, "OK, what you're saying is this is a gay disease but this woman was not gay, so how did she wind up with AIDS?" In the media it was all geared toward the gay community and gay men. That was the frustration.

#### Were you trying to correct that misconception?

Yeah. I'd have conversations with my friends: "Well, now they're saying this in the media but this is happening to somebody who's not gay so it cannot be just a gay disease, I don't believe it."

#### Can you share a story with me of you and Sylvester that illustrates just how close you were then?

Oh god, we would have a lot of fun on the road, between him and Izora and myself and the band. Sometimes we'd all get together and have dinner or just hang out and it would just be madness. (Laughs.) We did have a lot of fun, and then talking and kidding each other and all this other kind of stuff.

#### Several icons passed on "It's Raining Men," including Cher and Diana Ross, and even you and Izora were reluctant to record it. After you did, when did you know the song had become an LGBTQ anthem?

When they snatched it! Absolutely snatched it! (Laughs.)

#### How did it become apparent that we snatched it?

Well, I think maybe in my mind, in the way back of my mind, when (the song's writer) Paul Jabara initially said that he wanted us to record the song, I looked at Izora and we said, "You gotta be kidding" and he said, "No, I need to hear you record this song." I said, "Nobody is going to buy that song." And I wasn't particularly thinking at that time of the gay community, I really wasn't. I was thinking broader. And I said, "Nobody is going to buy that song." He said, "I need you to record this song."

He said, "This song is going to be a hit," and he was right. And I remember sometimes when Izora and I were doing shows he would wind up at the club and he was giving the DJ the acetate of that record. There's a 12-inch, almost no label on it, and he'd say, "Play this song." So it became a hit long before radio ever picked up on it.

#### So it was a hit in the gay clubs first.

Oh yeah.

#### And that was instant.

For them. (Laughs.)

#### In 1990, you famously filed lawsuits against producers and record labels for credit and compensation on hit songs you had sung, which resulted in federal legislation that made vocal credit mandatory. This stemmed from your lead vocal being uncredited on several songs by Black

See **Martha Wash**, continued on p. 26



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## ► Martha Wash

Continued from p. 25

**Box, including "Strike It Up" and "Everybody Everybody." What was the lasting impact of those lawsuits?**

Well, just to that end, I'd have to say my attorney, Steven Brown, argued some kind of way that became lawful, that any person that is featured on a project has to have their name credited.

**That's a big deal. I can't imagine how the industry might take advantage of artists now if he hadn't gone through with that litigation.**

That's true. And look, I think some of that stuff still goes on today, you know what I'm saying?

**Why do you think that?**

If there's a way for people to get around stuff, they're gonna do it.

**Do you know of it happening?**

I can't say that I know of it specifically, but I would not be surprised. I think between the parties involved, anything can be done and anything can be said. In the movies, for decades, Marni Nixon was the voice of a lot of the actresses you heard singing in movies and you thought it was their real voice. Well, Marni Nixon did all the singing for these actresses in movies.

**I'm curious if ghost singing still happens.**

Well, there's a lot of Auto-Tuning, so maybe not so much ghosting anymore! (Laughs.)

**What do you think of Auto-Tune?**

Look: If it makes me sound fabulous, then I'm OK (with it). (Laughs.) But I mean, when your whole show is Auto-Tuned – the true test comes with a piano and a vocalist and that's it. The thing is, in the previous decades, you had real singers.

**Regarding the Black Box controversy: Because fashion model Katrin Quinol was seen in videos lip-syncing to your vocals, it seemed the record label didn't think your body type would appeal to music consumers. Now, we have artists like Lizzo, a plus-size black woman who's at the top. What do you think of that shift when it comes to body positivity and the way more people seem to be embracing full-figured women now?**

I think it's a good thing. First of all, we're all individuals: We're all not built the same way, we all don't look the same way, we all don't act the same way. So I think it's great that Lizzo has got this platform now, and she's doing what she's doing very well, and she's the kind of person who doesn't give a shit about what you think of her. She's doing her thing, whether you like it or not. And everybody has their own preference, but my thing would be: I don't think size should ever come into play. But we're such a visual society, especially nowadays with the invention of technology and the internet. Embrace what

they do, because everybody's talent doesn't come in the same-sized package.

**So you do recognize that people are embracing a wider range of body sizes more now than they were in the '70s during the Black Box controversy?**

Oh yes – going all the way back to Two Tons O' Fun and singing background for Sylvester, I want to say the record label didn't necessarily know how to market us. We were two large women – and funny thing is, we were two large women who *could* sing. And up until that time, you never saw a large woman out in the front, a front vocalist, until you saw us. Think about it: The only other person I could think of would've been Mama Cass from the Mamas & the Papas. You have to go all the way back to the '70s and the '60s. The Mamas and the Papas came out in the '60s. And Mama Cass Elliott was the only one that I knew of or that I could visually see on TV who was large.

**So it sounds like you at least appreciate Lizzo. Who are you listening to these days?**

Actually not too many people. (Laughs.) I don't listen to a whole lot of different people. I'll hear songs on the radio. I do like H.E.R. But I have to be kind of truthful: I'm an old-school girl. I like old-school R&B, that kind of stuff. And I like old-school disco music too.

**A friend wanted me to ask you if your performance of "You Are My Friend" with Sylvester was really the insanely transcendent performance moment it sounds like it was?**

Yeah, that place was rockin'. It was so bad that I have to tell you this story: It was the second time, I think, that – I'm not gonna say a rock 'n' roll band, but a band like Sylvester had performed at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House. I think the first one was The Pointer Sisters.

And so when we did it, the place was sold out and people just wore whatever they wanted to wear. I saw so many different outfits (laughs). One guy had both of his ass cheeks out – seriously. I saw another woman who was in a full ball gown. It was just a cross section of people. Everybody was having a great time, and it was (the song) "Dance (Disco Heat)" we were doing and the place was just going up, to the point that the last balcony started shaking because there were so many people up there. The building was moving and, you know, San Francisco is prone to earthquakes, so the people of the opera house were not too pleased (laughs). I don't think there's been another act up in there like that ever again.

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

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# Detroit's Alex English Talks Flexing Comedic Muscles on 'National Lampoon Radio Hour: The Podcast'

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

With a star-studded cast featuring the likes of John Belushi, Chevy Chase, Bill Murray and Gilda Radner, "The National Lampoon Radio Hour" cemented itself as a fixture of comedic history in the '70s. Today, decades after its initial debut, a new generation of comedy trend-setters has taken up the mantle and released a podcast version of the show.

Included in the show's cast is Detroit's own Alex English, an openly gay comedian who is based in New York. Between The Lines caught up with English to talk more in-depth about how he got involved with the show, developing his sketch comedy voice, writing with his queer identity in mind and some of his creative goals for future episodes of the show.

## What prompted your move to New York?

I went to Central Michigan, I graduated in 2012 and then the summer following I went back home and I literally did not know what I was going to do. Then, I was presented with the chance to move out here to New York by a family friend. And so, what was supposed to be just a week of visiting and sightseeing and feeling out the place where I would eventually stay, I made the decision to work very diligently at just securing some sort of odd job so that I could stay, which I ended up doing. That turned into now, almost eight years being here.

## What made you get into comedy?

Two or three months into living in New York City I had kind of found myself by the suggestion of another waiter at a restaurant I was working at, to start and try stand-up. I had always had it in the back of my head, but I did not know how to even begin with it as a career. But eventually, I found myself kind of like walking myself into it and figuring out and navigating the scene, and eight years later I'm with National Lampoon.



## How did you get involved with the "National Lampoon Radio Hour"?

I was familiar with National Lampoon just with the movies. When I was younger I used to watch "Animal House" all the time and "[Thanksgiving] Family Reunion" and the vacation movies. So, I wasn't familiar with the "Radio Hour," but I was familiar with the National Lampoon brand and what they were about: very silly and absurd humor. I basically had gotten a request from my representative and was told that by request of Jo Firestone and Cole Escola that they wanted me to take part. And based on what I had already done, National Lampoon was pretty familiar ground to me. So it really didn't take much thought for me to hop on.

## Writing sketches and performing stand-up is very different. Did you have to change your approach to comedy at all in this role?

One hundred percent. What I tell people when they ask me about the podcast is I definitely had to flex, or even develop, a new muscle. Because, you know, stand-up is pretty much writing for yourself and you're performing

for yourself and for the audience that's in front of you from the very beginning. A lot of stand-ups have the story of like, "I started in improv," or "I started in sketch," or "I took a sketch course," or "I did theater at school." And they had that training of learning how to write a sketch and the dos and don'ts of sketch writing, but I didn't have any of that — particularly because I didn't have the money for sketch writing (laughs). When I got into the room for the "Radio Hour," I knew, based on my familiarity with the cast, a lot of them had that background as I came in kind of just with my own comedic instinct on stage. So, I had to learn how to kind of share the stage in a way.

## How do your stand-up roots influence your sketch writing now?

Well, you know what's so funny is growing up and familiarizing myself with the National Lampoon — and especially the "Radio Hour" — when I go back into the historical context of what the "Radio Hour" was and how people view it, people labeled it this very white boy-driven institution of comedy. And so, when I think about it, I don't think there

was a single person — much less like myself — that placed my voice in that particular genre of comedy. I am this queer black kid from Detroit. And I'm from the West side of Detroit, so it's definitely a different polar opposite kind of thought process and comedic sensibility. I was like, "Are the people who enjoy 'National Lampoon' going to get me?" And I didn't want to try to do something other than what I know how [to do.] Everybody got cast because of their own individual style and their own individual voice, so it would be [wrong] to try and water down or fix or change something based on what I think everybody else would be doing.

## What's something that you haven't done yet with National Lampoon that you're excited to try comedically?

One thing I was trying to work on very hard that I don't think I was able to accomplish in this first season was a character that was making appearances throughout episodes. Because Cole really came together with that Renee character or the guy who sings. So I definitely want to come up with a character that everyone can kind of fall in love with.

## You've mentioned in your stand-up that sometimes as an openly gay comedian you're pressured to behave in a stereotypical way. How have you fought that pressure?

Absolutely, absolutely. One thing I tell people all the time is, just because my persona is a little bit different than what people expect, that's in no way me denouncing who I am. Even outside of regular conversations I'll hear some people say to me, "Why don't you just be yourself?" And I'm not quite sure what that means ever. It feels very coded. We don't all come in the same package; we're not monolithic. Like any other group of people, we all have different interests and ways that we communicate.

*Portrait of a Lady on Fire*


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Puzzle on page 39



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# Review: 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire'

BY GEORGE ELKIND

Freely embracing the erotic core of figurative art, Céline Sciamma's "Portrait of a Lady on Fire" finds Marianne (Noémie Merlant), a working painter, visiting an island estate off the French coast where Héloïse (Adèle Haenel) and her single mother (Valeria Golino) live in isolation. There, Marianne's contracted to paint a portrait of Héloïse, posing as a paid companion for her reluctant, sheltered charge. Héloïse's housebound status has a purpose; she's inherited the prospect of an arranged marriage to a stranger, a "Milanese gentleman," since her sister's recent, abrupt death — leading her mother to track her doings closely.

It isn't long before some chemistry becomes apparent. On long walks among red cliffs, fields of rushes and rocky beaches, the two women slowly build a connection; Héloïse — blond, sultry and frequently irate — borrows books and asks Marianne about the outside world. Marianne — reserved, ardent and far better-traveled — shares with her what she can. Over the film's course, Marianne's object is to get to know her subject, a figure too lively to behave as a stereotypically passive artistic model.

Sciamma's direction frames painting as interwoven with this process of familiarization: a progressive act of physical intimacy, of getting

to know someone by tracing their every contour, and struggling to grasp at the essence of who they are. Using a familiar structure more often erected between male artists and female models (often nudes), Sciamma upsets the power dynamics and dominant norms of art and romance. The cultural assumptions and presumed differences that so often accompany her chosen "scene" are here upended, salvaging it from the calcified narratives of the straight world by centering it on two women. With this simple act, she blurs the roles within it — suggesting a romance that's driven by need, yes, but also competition, and one in which the terrain shifts with each challenge broached between its partners.

At times the story can feel like a defense, if a deeply felt and just one. Advocating for the complexity and richness of loving someone physically, savoring them for the particulars of their body, shape and mind — if Sciamma's version of sex and courtship can be construed as objectification, it doesn't make it much easier to find a fault with it.

This space of basic equality — and so free and frequent questioning — is only helped by "Portraits" thoroughly female milieu.

Across the film's two-hour course, there's scarcely a man to be found. Conceiving the film's late-1700s island refuge as a woman's



world, Sciamma creates a space that feels grown not just from romance between two women but a community built among women more broadly. Class boundaries are upheld but never harshly, domestic tasks are swapped and shared, and folk medicine, home remedies and open conversations on women's health — even sex and choice — all feature. This gives the feeling of a natural piece with the work's earthy tones. Here, men exist as mostly shadows, memories, artistic precedents: words read aloud, music dimly recalled, the looming spectre of a noble marriage.

What comes through in all this is a holistic quality: a willingness to reimagine the

narratives prevailing in the dominant culture from top to bottom. Being thorough, Sciamma doesn't stop at interrogation; instead she poses meaningful alternatives, building a small society with its own freer sexual codes, liberated in thought and consideration by taking on a queer lens.

Her path and pace in doing so prove steady in their slow-burn deliberation, but the film's energy — evidenced by its rigor, focus and inhabited performances — feels consistently alive. Making a case for depiction as a rich, valid form of physical intimacy so long as it's done thoughtfully, "Portrait's" director proves her point in what's clearly an act of love.



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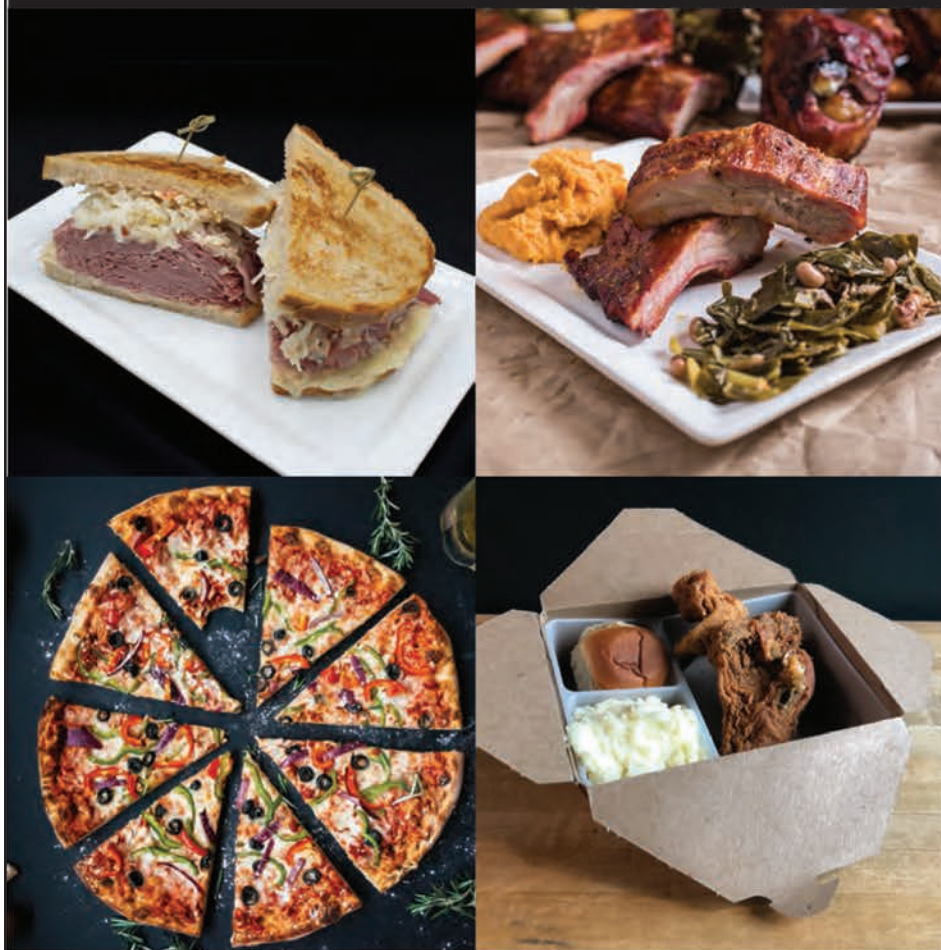
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# David Bowie Alumni Tour in Royal Oak March 20

BY BTL STAFF

Having sold millions of records worldwide, written, produced and performed dozens of hits like "Heroes," "Rebel Rebel" and "Starman," it's clear that David Bowie's cultural impact on the world was just as immense as his musical contributions. Now, fans of the late performer can get a taste of his works once again at "A Bowie Celebration." This all-ages show brings together alumni band members of Bowie's to create a show that centers around some of his greatest hits. On Friday, March 20, it'll head to The Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Included in the event's lineup is Mike Garson, Gerry Leonard, Carmine Rojas, Kevin Armstrong, Alan Childs and Sass Jordan — each of whom Bowie respected as musicians. For instance, Bowie called Garson's piano playing exceptional.

"It is pointless to talk about his ability as a pianist. He is exceptional. However, there are very, very few musicians, let alone pianists, who naturally understand the movement and free thinking necessary to hurl themselves into experimental or traditional areas of music, sometimes, ironically, at the same time," Bowie said. "Mike does this with such enthusiasm that it makes my heart glad just to be in the same room with him."



Photo credit: Adam Bielawski

Armstrong said he's eager to bring Bowie's music to both old and new fans alike.

"It's a great honor to join Mike Garson and my Bowie brothers to help bring David Bowie's amazing legacy to new audiences," Armstrong said.

Tickets start at \$35. To find out more about this event visit [royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://royaloakmusictheatre.com).

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BY BTL STAFF

In its second round, Improvetry is an evening event to be held on Saturday, March 7, at Le Crepe in Royal Oak that features live music, food, drinks and, of course, poetry. This event is hosted by Exquisite Poetry Group, a four-person group "inspired to create a safe and expressive space for poets across the Metro Detroit Area."

"On the spot poetry will be done by the poets. Games will be played to test their skill,"

organizers wrote. "Think you have what it takes? Join open mic and give us your best! Eat, have a drink and be a part of something great!"

Poets scheduled to appear at this event are Lyrical Hero O, Ry Jay, Krys Jones, One Single Rose, Keemo, Sparrow and Odie Blew. This event will also host an open mic portion.

Tickets are \$15. Le Crepe is located at 317 South Washington Ave. Find out more about this event online at [gaybe.am/Zk](http://gaybe.am/Zk).

# Affirmations Hosts Monthly 'Interrupting Social Media Stereotypes' Events

BY BTL STAFF

LGBTQ community center Affirmations will host its latest public event called Interrupting Social Media Stereotypes, or ISMS, on March 19 from noon to 1 p.m.. A roundtable networking discussion, this group meets every third Thursday of the month to chat all things stigma.

"ISMS is a roundtable networking and discussion group addressing various social stigmas with a different theme each month," write event organizers. "Participants will be a part of an active learning discussion regarding the month's theme, and find ways that we as a



## ISMS



community can work against themed 'isms.' Previously, the group has held discussions on topics like sizeism, religious imperialism, racism and classism. On March 19, the topic will be sexism, with a sessions on heterosexism scheduled for April 16.

"The group will be led by Megan Fuciarelli from US2 Consulting, Inc," organizers said.

To find out more about Affirmations and this group, visit [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org) or [gaybe.am/wk](http://gaybe.am/wk).

# 'Working: A Musical' at Stagecrafters

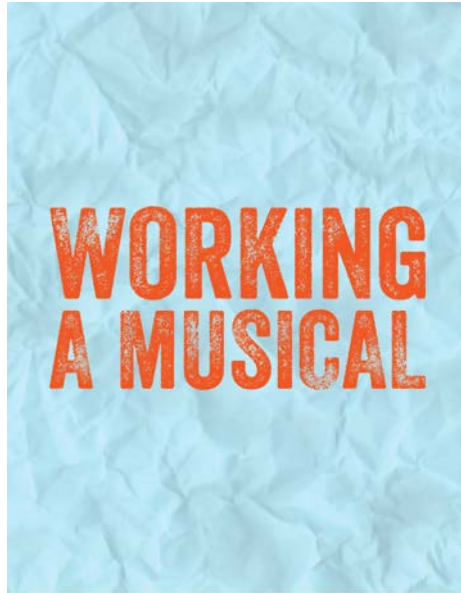
BY BTL STAFF

Royal Oak's Stagecrafters community theater is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit that provides opportunities for community members to test and develop their theater abilities on stage. This March, the nonprofit will be putting on "Working: A Musical," a story about the "hopes and dreams, joys and sorrows of the average working American."

"Based on Studs Terkel's best-selling book of interviews with American workers, 'Working' paints a vivid portrait of the men and women who do the work that is so often taken for granted: the schoolteacher, the mason, the waitress, the fireman and the housewife, to name a few," organizers wrote. "A moving and inspirational look at the lives of everyday people, in song."

This show is rated PG-13. Tickets start at \$20.

To find out more information about the show visit [stagecrafters.org](http://stagecrafters.org).



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# Happenings

## Letterkenny Live! at the Masonic Temple Theatre March 10

The stars of the award-winning Canadian comedy show "Letterkenny" are on tour with "Letterkenny Live!" This 90-minute sketch comedy show will feature nine of the show's cast members in never-before-seen bits. This show will be at The Masonic Temple Theatre on Tuesday, March 10. Find more information and tickets online [themasonic.com/events.php](http://themasonic.com/events.php).

## OUTINGS

### Friday, March 6

**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, Lansing, S Cedar. 517-887-4597 [cwheeler@ingham.org](mailto:cwheeler@ingham.org)

**The Naked Magicians** 7 p.m. Seen on London's West End, the Las Vegas strip, in 250+ cities around the world, and by over 50 million on TV (NBC, ABC, FOX, iTV) – The Naked Magicians is undoubtedly the world's funniest. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501

### Saturday, March 7

**Queer Conversations** 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group thT meets to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out , dating, and much more. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

### Monday, March 9

**Fair and Equal Michigan Lansing Fundraiser** 5:30 p.m. Join Fair and Equal Michigan with special guest Attorney General Dana Nessel to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression protections for all Michiganders. Governors Room, 121 W Allegan St., Lansing.

**LGBT Game Night** 6 p.m. 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. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups** –

**Macomb County** 7:30 p.m. All youth welcome FREE AT Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700

### Wednesday, March 11

**Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee** 7:30 p.m. meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

### Thursday, March 12

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

### Saturday, March 14

**Queer Conversations** 11 a.m. See March 7

### Sunday, March 15

**Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals** 5 p.m. There is no fee to attend the groups. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month @ St. Stephens Episcopal Church. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363.

For an event every month that begins at 5:00pm on day First of the month, repeating until June 1An event every month that begins at 5:00pm on day Third of the month, repeating until June 1 St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st Street, Wyandotte. 734-747-4363 [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

### Monday, March 16

**LGBT Game Night** 6 p.m. See March 9

### Wednesday, March 18

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County** 7:30 p.m. Free the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

**Transgender Support Group – Westland** 7 p.m. Free Westlan Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. 734-326-6123 [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org)

## WMUSIC & MORE

**Emanuel Ax, piano, Leonidas Kavakos, violin and Yo-Yo Ma, cello** March 3, 7:30 p.m. World-renowned musicians Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos, and Yo-Yo Ma unite

perform an evening of trios by Beethoven. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor. 7347643464 [ums.org/performance/emanuel-ax-leonidas-kavakos-yo-yo-ma/](http://ums.org/performance/emanuel-ax-leonidas-kavakos-yo-yo-ma/)

**Midwest RAD Fest** March 6, The 11th Annual Midwest RAD Fest is a juried contemporary dance festival which will feature over 200 professional dance artists from all over the world performing in 5 different concerts, presenting site specific works, teaching South Kalamazoo Mall, 359 S Kalamazoo Mall Suite 204, Kalamazoo. <http://www.midwestradfest.com> [midwestradfest.org](http://midwestradfest.org)

**Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting** March 12, 7 p.m. LGBTQ Toastmaster Club focusing on Professional and personal communication skills development. Better communication skills improves leadership style and relationships. Guests (and allies) are always welcome. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867 [lawrencemoebis@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencemoebis@gmail.com) <https://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org/>

**Tarek Yamani Trio** March 13, 8 p.m. Born and raised in Beirut and now living in Harlem, Tarek Yamani taught himself jazz at the age of 19 and has dedicated himself to exploring relationships between African-American jazz and classical Arabic music.

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## MARCH 13 – 29, 2020

TICKETS AT [STAGECRAFTERS.ORG](http://STAGECRAFTERS.ORG)

## Editor's Pick

### Drag Bingo for Ann Arbor Pride and Alzheimer's Disease Center

On March 27, bingo and drag lovers are invited to Conor O'Neill's Irish Restaurant in Ann Arbor for a night of performance and prizes. Tickets are going fast, contact [cmgi@umich.edu](mailto:cmgi@umich.edu) to find out more and purchase tickets.



Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333

**Helene Grimaud** March 14, 8 p.m. French pianist Hélène Grimaud explores the universal nature of memory and its place in the lives of all of us through this recital program, which comes from her most recent recording, *Memory*. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464 [ums.org/performance/helene-grimaud-piano](http://ums.org/performance/helene-grimaud-piano)

**Anthem, a dance for four women by Milka Djordjević** March 18, 7:30 p.m. Questioning contemporary dance's predisposition towards neutrality, and the de-sexualization of the female body, ANTHEM embraces theatricality, virtuosity, and sass. Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 [ums.org/performance/anthem/](http://ums.org/performance/anthem/)

**New York Philharmonic String Quartet with Ann-Marie McDermott** piano March 22, 4 p.m. Formed two years ago during the New York Philharmonic's 175th season by four of the orchestra's principal musicians — concertmaster Frank Huang, principal associate concertmaster Sheryl Staples, principal viola (and U-M alumna) Cynthia Phelps, and Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572 [www.rackham.umich.edu](http://www.rackham.umich.edu)

**Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting** March 26, 7 p.m. LGBTQ Toastmaster Club focusing on Professional and personal communication skills development. Better communication skills improves leadership style and relationships. Guests (and allies) are always welcome. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867 <https://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org/>

**Sir James Galway and Lady Jeanne Galway, flutes** March 27, 8 p.m. With over 30 million copies of 98 recordings sold worldwide, Galway is virtually a household name, globally renowned as the supreme interpreter of the classical

flute repertoire and a passionate voice for music Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464

**Benjamin Grosvenor, piano** April 2, 7:30 p.m. Bursting onto the scene after he won the Keyboard Final of the 2004 BBC Young Musician Competition at the age of 11, Benjamin Grosvenor leaves rapturous audiences in his wake wherever he goes. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. [ums.org/performance/benjamin-grosvenor-piano/](http://ums.org/performance/benjamin-grosvenor-piano/)

**Apollo's Fire and Chorus – J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion** April 5, 4 p.m. Were it not for the composer Felix Mendelssohn, who rediscovered Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* more than 75 years after the composer's death, the world might never have been introduced to the music of this incredible Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. [ums.org/performance/j-s-bachs-st-matthew-passion/](http://ums.org/performance/j-s-bachs-st-matthew-passion/)

## THEATER

**Fiddler on the Roof** Beginning March 10, Tony®-winning director Bartlett Sher and the team behind *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and 2017 Tony-winning Best Play *Oslo*, bring a fresh and authentic vision to this beloved theatrical masterpiece from Tony winner Joseph Stein and Pulitzer Prize. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000 [broadwayindetroit.com/shows/fiddler-on-the-roof](http://broadwayindetroit.com/shows/fiddler-on-the-roof)

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**National Theatre Live in HD: Present Laughter** Beginning March 19, This

giddy and surprisingly modern reflection on fame, desire, and loneliness stars Andrew Scott (BBC's *Sherlock*, *Fleabag*) as Garry. As he prepares to embark on an overseas tour, star actor Garry Essendine's colorful life is in danger Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 [ums.org](http://ums.org)

**Dear Evan Hansen** Beginning March 25. Dear Evan Hansen features a book by Tony Award winner Steven Levenson, a score by Grammy®, Tony® and Academy Award® winners Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (*La La Land*, *The Greatest Showman*), and direction. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000 [broadwayindetroit.com](http://broadwayindetroit.com)

**Home** Beginning April 3 What makes a house a home? In a little less than two hours, you'll find the answer to that question both literally and metaphorically, until April 4 Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327

## ANNOUNCED

**Affirmations Spring Bash 2020**, Saturday April 18 at the Dearborn Inn Marriott. General admission \$250, VIP \$500. [GoAffirmations.org/spring-bash-2020](http://GoAffirmations.org/spring-bash-2020)

**Equality Michigan Fall Reception 2020** August 7, Roostertail, 100 Marquette Drive, VIP Reception 5:30 p.m. Reception 6 p.m. and dinner 7 p.m. Reception \$175, VIP \$250. [www.equalitymi.org/MissionEquality](http://www.equalitymi.org/MissionEquality)

**Michigan LGBTQ Comedy Fest**, Saturday April 25, 8 p.m. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Tickets \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. <http://motorcitypride.org/comedyfest18/>

## Editor's Pick

### Unified Hosts Event to Quit Smoking March 25

Hosted by Unified - HIV Health and Beyond in Ypsilanti, this event is for current smokers who don't want to quit, don't think they can quit, or are considering quitting at some point. This event is at 12:30 p.m. at UHHB Ypsilanti, located at 2287 Ellsworth Road in Suite B. Find out more online on the group's Facebook page.

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# Fiddler on the Roof

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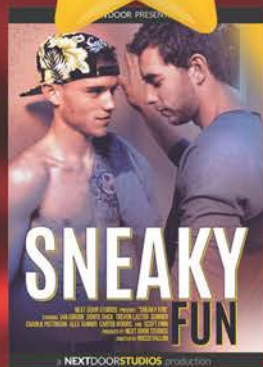
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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## 'The Book of Ruth' re-opens the book on AIDS

Now that the 1980s are officially vintage and the subject of period films, a mini wave of projects about the first decade of AIDS has taken hold: Yen Tan's indie drama "1985," the documentary "How To Survive a Plague," the French ACT-UP-themed drama "BPM," and FX's "Pose" incorporates HIV storylines into its ongoing narrative. Next up: "The Book of Ruth," a feature based on the true story of Ruth Coker Burks, an Evangelical Christian single mother from Arkansas who became a caregiver and advocate for gay men with AIDS in the Reagan era. The film – which currently has no release date -- will star Ruth Wilson ("His Dark Materials") as Burks and Matt Bomer as a gay man who finds himself in her care. Making his feature directing debut is Tony Award-nominated theater director Michael Arden, with a screenplay from Rebecca Pollock and Kas Graham. Set in 1983, the film will tell the story of Burks' education and transformation into an activist and ally, something more conservative Christians might think about emulating.

## Nathan Lane and Laurie Metcalf hit Broadway

It's been a couple of years now since rumors have circulated about a revival of Arthur Miller's classic 1949 play "Death of a Salesman." The dark drama is one of the great examples of American theater, and actor Nathan Lane has been circling around the main role of Willy Loman for more than a minute. And now it's really happening. Lane will take on the title role alongside Laurie Metcalf ("Roseanne") for a Broadway revival that's scheduled for spring of 2021. Scott Rudin is producing, Joe Mantello ("Angels in America") will direct, and it'll give Lane a chance to flex the dramatic muscles of his usual comedic instrument. So if all you know of Lane is films like "The Birdcage," think about heading to New York next year to indulge in this classic tragedy. After the upcoming election, who won't want to see a heartbreaking tale of the American Dream crashing to the ground in a heap of disillusion and despair?

## 'Weetzie Bat's' queer L.A. love-blast



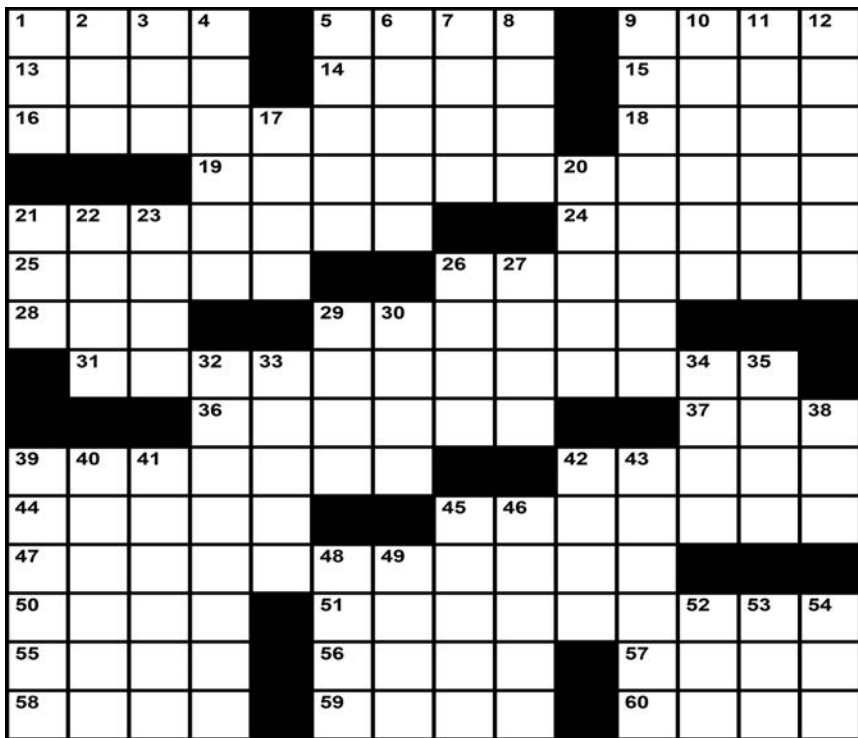
Beanie Feldstein. Photo: KathClic

Filmmaker Justin Kelly has spent his growing body of work exploring the darker fringes of queer life in movies like "JT LeRoy" and "King Cobra." So it was time for a little bit of joy. And there's nothing quite as joyful as Francesca Lia Block's classic 1989 YA novel "Weetzie Bat." The candy-coated story of a punk-rock girl in Los Angeles named Weetzie Bat, her friends and family, her Secret Agent Lover Man, and the three wishes she's granted, has been a beacon of glittery literary hope for queer kids for the past 30 years. Years ago there was talk of a Tim Burton version that never materialized, but this time around there's forward momentum and a cool young cast: Anya Taylor-Joy ("The Witch") as Weetzie, Nick Robinson ("Love, Simon"), Sasha Lane ("American Honey"), Keiynan Lonsdale ("The Flash") and Théodore Pellerin ("On Becoming a God in Central Florida"). We're guessing this will be set in the New Wave-iest version of '80s Los Angeles, just like the book, so if nothing else, we're probably going to be gagging over the costumes and sets.

## 'Legendary's' ballroom credentials

If you're like us, you followed the Twitterstorm over the new HBO Max reality competition series "Legendary," which will enter the world of ballroom and judge contestants on their voguing skills. The controversy arose due to, among other things, the hiring of "The Good Place" actor Jameela Jamil – who is queer but not from the world of ballroom – as host. But mostly missing from this conversation has been something just as important: the show's inclusion of ballroom veterans who aren't as famous as Jamil but whose names deserve to be centered. So let's talk about Leiomy Maldonado, the first openly transgender contestant on MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew," who's additionally a choreographer for FX's "Pose," and who'll be a "Legendary" judge. Let's also talk about Dashaun Wesley, a "Pose," "Magic Mike XXL" and "Hit The Floor" dancer who'll serve as "Legendary" commentator. And let's also talk about DJ MikeQ, who's spent years working in ballroom making music and scored the documentary feature "Kiki" and the Viceland documentary series "My House." We'll reserve judgement on the final product when we see it, of course, but we still have high hopes for something "truly real."

Romeo San Vicente has an attitude and is usually in the mood.



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### Across

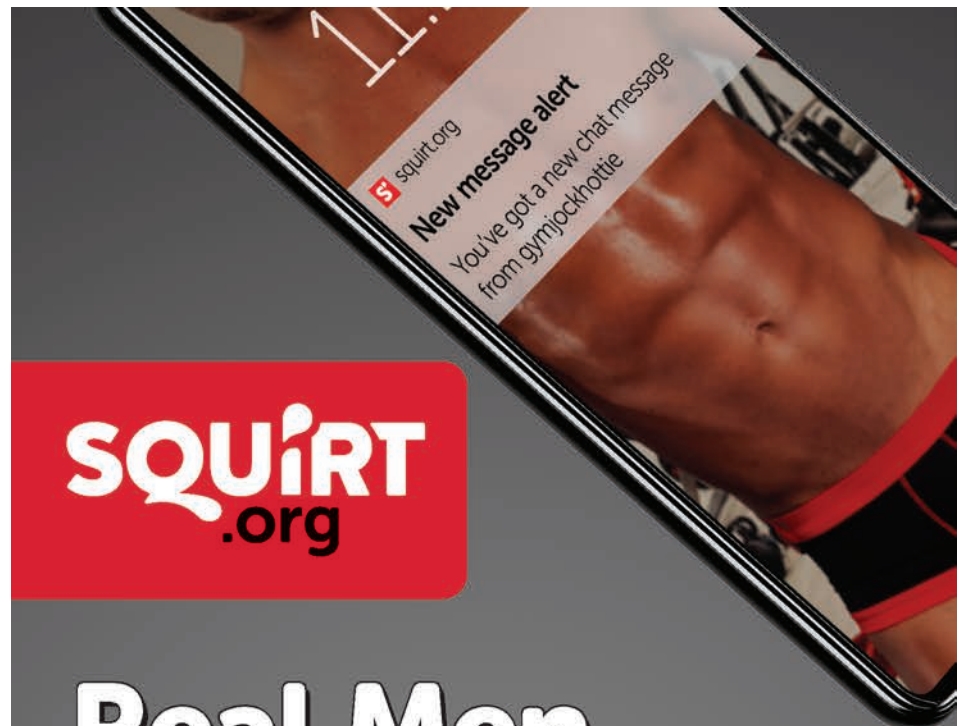
- 1 Peter player on "ER"  
 5 "Cast Away" escape boat  
 9 XXX, to the Greeks  
 13 Cafeteria list  
 14 160 rods  
 15 Chase game  
 16 The last part of "Semper ubi sub ubi," in English  
 18 Memo start  
 19 He won a Tony for playing Lola in "Kinky Boots"  
 21 Williams of "Ugly Betty"  
 24 Twin made without hetero sex  
 25 Small stream, to Gomer  
 26 Top targets  
 28 LBJ's successor  
 29 Dinah on a beach?  
 31 TV show in which 19-Across will appear with Elmo  
 36 David Hyde \_\_\_\_  
 37 Egypt and Syr., once  
 39 Rubbed the wrong way?  
 42 Tim of "Rocky Horror" fame  
 44 "I Got a Name" singer Jim  
 45 Bette Midler film of 1979  
 47 Gown worn by 19-Across to the Oscars  
 50 River Kwai locale  
 51 O'Keeffe collection  
 55 Annapolis inst.  
 56 "Like \_\_\_\_ lump it"  
 57 Ark architect  
 58 Pounder part  
 59 Not hard to get in bed  
 60 Like Lea DeLaria's comedy

### Down

- 1 Meat source Down Under  
 2 Animated dog  
 3 Homophobe Pence's home (abbr.)

- 4 Province of PrideVision watchers  
 5 R&B singer Lou  
 6 Train that comes quickly  
 7 Wear at the edges  
 8 Maryland athlete  
 9 Theron of Aileen Wuornos fame  
 10 "The African Queen" director John  
 11 Have in mind  
 12 Barney's and others  
 17 Take a chance  
 20 Autumn color  
 21 Remote target  
 22 Pump with them at the gym  
 23 Team in "A League of Their Own"  
 26 Fruit with a peel  
 27 Art Deco design name  
 29 Foe of Peter Pan  
 30 Bunch of stallions  
 32 Visitor to Uranus, perhaps  
 33 Lent a hand to  
 34 Shared coin  
 35 Seamen  
 38 Reuben bread, usually  
 39 Goes on the fritz  
 40 Fruit flaw  
 41 Cyrano's beloved  
 42 "Camelot"'s "\_\_\_\_ Moi"  
 43 Like a bear  
 45 Smallest nonmonogamous groups  
 46 "Daisy Miller" author James  
 48 Sheriff Taylor's boy  
 49 "Star Trek" automaton  
 52 Doze off  
 53 Not swallow easily  
 54 Just short

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

## AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at [www.PrideSource.com](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/TheLGBT-CAUCUSoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/CaucusoftheMDP)  
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)



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

### 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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# Detroit to Showcase its Mighty Real, Queer Art in June

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A group of LGBTQ artists are planning a multi-venue art exhibit to run in June throughout Detroit for Pride month. Called Mighty Real/Queer Detroit, it is the brainchild of visual and performance artist Patrick Burton.

"The exhibition will explore queer art by emerging and established Detroit artists," Burton said. "It will celebrate LGBTQ artists, past and present, from Detroit and its metropolitan area, whose works manifest distinct but intersecting backgrounds."

Mighty Real/Queer Detroit will occur in multiple venues simultaneously, including two evenings of music, film, spoken word and performance work at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Confirmed galleries include Collected Detroit, Galerie Camille, Hatch, M Contemporary, Scarab Club and the Cass Café.

The idea first came to Burton a couple of years ago, he said, but initially the plans weren't quite as grand. Burton was attending an opening at the Scarab Club and chatting up Scarab Club Board Member and BTL columnist Charles Alexander.

"I remember seeing a few artists that were included in the show and I just had this kind of surreal idea," Burton said. "I wanted to put a show together to celebrate the experience of others — to reveal the community emerging from a desire for visibility. And to show how real and good that desire is."

Alexander told Burton he should launch such an exhibit in Detroit.

"He said, 'You should do it. Write a proposal,'" Burton recalled. "Then there were so many artists that came to my mind as I started thinking; I had maybe 40 artists I had identified on a piece of paper. I said why don't I do three galleries. So I continued to reach out to galleries I had a connection with or some kind of relationship with the gallery director and it just kept expanding. That's when I realized it was too much for me to do myself, so I started talking to other artists about being involved in the planning. ... It was really Charles Alexander who pushed me into doing this."

So, logically, Burton started pushing others to become involved. Curating the exhibit with him will be photographer S. Kay Young, art consultant Peter Gahan and artist Geno Harris.

"I've been friends with Patrick for a very long time and I've

been a part of his performance art and I'm an exhibiting artist in Detroit and I loved the idea," Young said. "It seems like this is an under celebrated group of artists and we want to celebrate who we are and show Detroit that we are mighty real."

Harris was asked to help curate by Gahan.

"Peter had contacted me and wanted me to be a part of Kresge's Fine Arts Building," Harris said. "And upon him and I talking and selecting one of my art pieces to go in their office he started telling me about the idea Patrick had come up with and he felt that I would be able to bring a different aspect to it. So he floated my name to the committee and the rest of history."

"My viewpoint, what I bring to it, is a lot of emerging artists," Harris continued. "I deal with a lot of emerging artists and a lot of the artists involved are career artists so it's a good fit."

Burton said the show will, in addition to serving as an artist showcase, pay an homage to the AIDS crisis.

"As part of the visibility I want to showcase, Mighty Real/Queer Detroit will address loss and remembrance by including significant, rarely seen and unexhibited art objects," Burton said. "Works by artists who died of AIDS in the 1980s and '90s will be exhibited for the first time, including work by artists Brian Buczak, Timothy Gass, Marcus Mannino and Constatine Tsatsanis. A special tribute will be offered to the legendary Detroit artist LeRoy Foster and the recently deceased Jack O. Summers."

The exhibition celebrates around 100 artists including Joan Jett Blakk, Charzette Torrence, Alvaro Jurado, Carl Demeulenaere, Jon Strand, James Stephens, Deborah Rockman, Audrey Banks, S. Kay Young, Fernando Calderon, Heather Gardner, Carl George and Darryl Terrell.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a calendar of events highlighting panel discussions, artist talks, performances, and poetry readings will be issued in all media. In addition, a catalogue of selected artwork, including essays examining the exhibit from a variety of historical, cultural and personal perspectives, will be available.

"The project, of course, has merit because there are in the Detroit LGBTQ community many excellent, talented artists, writers, poets and impersonators," Alexander said. "Their work will unquestionably be a fine addition to the Detroit art scene."

"LeRoy Foster is a real, real plus to this exhibition," Alexander went on. "Foster, who was known as the black Michelangelo, needs further exhibiting."

*If you are interested in being included in the Mighty Real/Queer Detroit exhibition, email Patrick Burton for submission guidelines at [patrickburton313@aol.com](mailto:patrickburton313@aol.com).*

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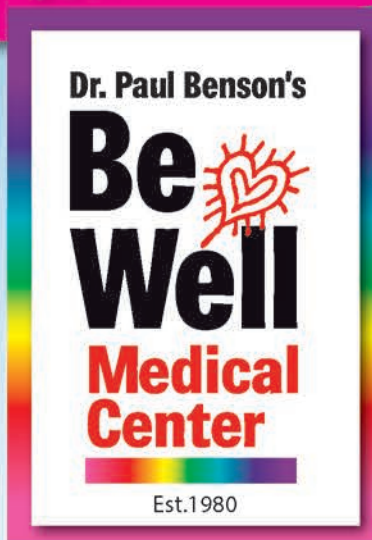
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**1 Why We Sleep?** (Dr. Benson) Release: **1/2/2020**

Sleep is one of the most important, but least understood aspects of our lives and wellness.

**2 Living with HIV in the 21st Century** (Dr. Benson & Caleb Youngblood) Release: **1/16/2020**

HIV is a chronic manageable disorder, perhaps easier to live with than Heart Disease or Diabetes. Learn the latest about the HIV virus, new therapies, and the lessons learned from our history of dealing with HIV and its social stigma.

**3 On the Edge: Transcending the Standard of Care**

(Dr. Paul Benson, Dorea Shoemaker & Gretchen Haughton) Release: **1/30/2020**

Take matters into your own hands and become an active participant in your health. We'll discuss Cannabidiol (CBD) and its properties to improve and manage health with an expert, Dorea Shoemaker. CBD may be a new and safer alternative for pain instead of Tylenol or ibuprofen. We'll also discover benefits of whole food supplements to keep us healthy.

**4 The Transgender Population – Understanding and Embracing this Population** (Leon Bullough) Release: **2/13/2020**

A report from the World Professional Association on Transgender Health's (WPATH) Annual Conference. Hormone Replacement therapy is only a part of the transitioning process. Community and mental health support is essential for success. Individualized care plans based on evidence based

medicine and created to match each individual's desires and pace is essential to make the transition process a safe and healthy journey.

**5 Sexual Health and HIV Prevention**

(Dr. Paul Benson & Mark Rosen) Release: **2/27/2020**

We'll discuss sexually transmitted infections and their prevention. Many healthcare providers sweep this topic under the rug, but outcomes improve when we talk about how to stay healthy and infection free. Sexual health is not simply the absence of disease. It's living comfortably without fear or stigma; and embracing your sexuality while living day to day in your comfort zone.

**6 Living Well Over the Age of 50**

(Dr. Benson and Colin Colter) Release: **3/12/2020**

We'll discuss simple steps you, with the assistance of your doctor, can implement to live longer and healthier. Proper health maintenance makes a big difference at any age, but becomes even more important as the decades pass. We'll talk about prevention and aggressive strategies to manage co-morbidities sometimes encountered as we age. We can't turn back the clock, but you *can* improve your heart, liver, brain function, kidneys, and virtually every organ system.



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