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# Crazy Sexy Time

with  
Dan Stevens

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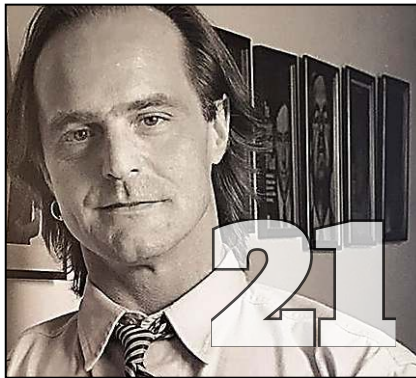
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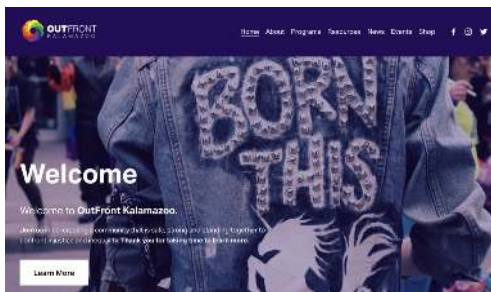
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By Chris Johnson

COVID-19 Redraws 2020 LGBTQ Travel Roadmap  
By Scott Stiffler

Sudan Repeals Death Penalty for Homosexuality  
By Michael Lavers

Also, make sure to check back for continuing COVID-19 coverage.

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# Community Leaders, Friends Remember Slain Detroit City Council Aid

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

By all accounts, DeAndree Watson had a bright future ahead of him. The 30-year old legislative aid to the Detroit City Council even dreamed of being elected president one day. But those aspirations came to a screeching halt July 5 when Watson was found dead in his car outside the Willow Creek Apartments in Westland. Shortly after discovering Watson, who had been shot to death, Westland Police found a second man, Deontez Jones, dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound in an apartment in the complex. Police, who are still investigating, believe the two deaths are connected.

Watson was a Detroit native who loved his city. He was the president of Central Student Government at the University of Michigan his senior year. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2012. Watson started his tenure with the Detroit City Council as in interim in Councilman Charles Pugh's office. After Pugh left office, Watson went on to work as a policy analyst for Councilman James Tate.

"DeAndree was the epitome of a leader and was often the first person to volunteer whenever he was needed," Tate said in a statement. "In the seven years we worked together, I had the pleasure of witnessing him mature from a previously outwardly shy intern into a very opinionated young man who was very active in progressive social and political issues. He



DeAndree Watson (left) poses with Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan. Via Instagram.

spoke often about change and realized the way to transform many of the ills that have gripped our society was through public policy."

In a Facebook post, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan called Watson, who was headed back to UofM to attend law school in the fall, "one of Detroit's rising leaders with a deep commitment to public service and the city he called home."

## Watson greatly admired

Dawan Glover first met Watson when the

two were both working in Pugh's office.

"He was very quiet and shy in the beginning," Glover recalled. "But then he began to come out of his bubble. He was progressive. He went deep into his policy. ... He was a policy guru."

Glover said the possibilities for Watson's future were endless.

"You hear people say that he had a bright future or a promising future ahead of him, and those words should not be taken lightly. He did everything he needed to be done to get to where he was. He could have been a judge

or the mayor. He was going to be the top of whatever it was he was going to do."

Nguvu Tsare, a field organizer for the Michigan Democratic Party who met Watson through the New Leaders Council, a group for progressive millennials, agreed.

"He literally was on track to be one of our most powerful elected officials," Tsare said. "When I first became friends with him, he told me that his goal was to be the president of the United States. I believed him. And as his friend, we would have strategy conversations about how he was going to get there."

Tsare praised Watson's leadership skills.

"I'm so glad that God blessed me to be in such close proximity with such a great man, such a respected man. He was one of those leaders who knew how to lead from behind. He was very good at making you do something and then making you feel like you had come up with it on your own. I don't know if I'll ever be able to do that.

"He was the best friend I ever had," Tsare went on. "He was my brother. He was my soul mate. I really miss my friend and I'd give anything to have him back. There's not a person who knew him wouldn't give anything to have him back."

There will be a memorial service for Watson this Saturday, July 18, at the Fisher Funeral Home, located at 24501 Five Mile Road in Redford Charter Township, from 3 to 6 p.m. Only 25 people will be allowed in the funeral home at a time. Masks are required.

# Nurse Asineth Little Talks Work During COVID-19, Care for LGBTQ Community

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It's not easy to be a certified nurse assistant in the midst of a pandemic. But four months into the novel coronavirus crisis, and Asineth Little is continuing to get by.

"When it first started it was a little scary," Little recalled. "I would sit in my car for a minute, say a prayer and then go in. After work, I take everything off when I come in. Then I take a shower and wash my clothes every night."

Little, who works for a health agency that sends her to different clients, said she doesn't even know if she's taken care of anyone who had COVID-19.

"If they are positive, they don't tell us," she said. "They get sick and they go out. They're just sick and out. If they send us to a client they don't tell us their status. They just say, 'Treat everyone as if they have it. Always wear your PPE at all times.'"

To get in and out of the facilities Little sometimes works in is a challenge, as most remain on lockdown.

"They take our temperature at each facility



I go into. They ask you questions. Have you traveled? Have you come in contact with anyone who's had it? Have you noticed any symptoms?" she said. "They ask you quite a bit before they allow you to come through."

Little said she has seen COVID-19 impact not just patients who have become isolated but

fellow caregivers as well.

"I talk to other caregivers about how they're doing and dealing with their families and things, their husbands and children. A lot of them have young kids and they're really concerned about taking it home," she said. "Some quit. And others were so frightened they

took a month off before they could come back."

As for Little, well, she doesn't scare easily.

"This is not my first rodeo with quarantining," she said. "When shingles first came out and no one knew much about it, they would shut facilities down and the people working there could not leave. At that time, shingles were not known to have come from chickenpox. You had to wear your PPE into people's rooms who were infected. That's one of the reasons I don't work in nursing homes anymore."

But to Little, her work is more than just a job. It's a calling. She said she's always enjoyed working in the medical field in any capacity she could.

"I think it came from when I was a child. When someone was sick in my family, my mother would take my sister and I — we couldn't have been more than 10 — and we would go and sit with my aunt or uncle or grandparents," Little said. "There wasn't much that we could do. But it helped us just being there. And I found comfort in that after a while.

See **Nurse Asineth**, continued on p. 5

## ► Nurse Asineth

Continued from p. 4

I didn't mind going. It made me happy. I enjoy what I do.

It's all about getting to know people. That, Little said, is the key to great health care.

"When I took care of babies, babies teach you now to be gentle because you have to take some care. Then working with teenagers is always a teachable moment. It's more than just taking care of the wounds. You also have to take care of the mental component," she said. "And when I work for hospice, you take care of the entire family mentally and get them to understand the process and what's going on with their loved one."

But if she had to choose a favorite group to work with, Little said it would be seniors.

"They have so much to tell you in regard to their lives, what's here and been here and what's new to them. I've taken care of people as old as 105," she said. "I had a lady at 105 who was still mopping her floors and taking care of her daughter who was 70-something. I just love them. They have so much wisdom."

When not working, Little stays active in Detroit's LGBTQ community, particularly helping women's groups. Through the years, she has been a part of the Ruth Ellis Center, S.P.I.C.E. and more LGBTQ-affirming organizations. Today, she is a part of The Center

**When not working, Little stays active in Detroit's LGBTQ community, particularly helping women's groups. Through the years, she has been a part of the Ruth Ellis Center, S.P.I.C.E. and more LGBTQ-affirming organizations. Today, she is a part of The Center for Lesbian and Queer Women and Girls at Kofi House — a division of the Ruth Ellis Center —and, in fact, Little was a friend of a late Ruth Ellis for whom the center was named.**

for Lesbian and Queer Women and Girls at Kofi House — a division of the Ruth Ellis Center —and, in fact, Little was a friend of a late Ruth Ellis for whom the center was named.

"Heck, we used to go to the club," said Little with a laugh. "And she could dance. She could out dance us all. She had a lot of fundraisers we would go to. And Ruth was a great talker. A very lovely woman."

And before meeting Ruth, Little worked as a patient care technician during the AIDS crisis.

"I had to draw blood on [a particularly frail] AIDS patient and me, being who I am, I had no idea this was going to upset me," she said. "I was shaking like a leaf and I had to stop. And the guy's partner said, 'It's OK,' and he took my hand and calmed me down and I was able to draw it."



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# Holland City Council Considers Passing Nondiscrimination Policy

BY JIM LARKIN

The Holland City Council is trying to decide whether it wants a toothless policy that states its opposition to discrimination against LGBTQ residents or adopt an ordinance that would allow it to enforce such anti-discrimination measures. Supporters who proposed the anti-discrimination measures protecting LGBTQ residents are leaving no doubt about which option they prefer.

“We want an ordinance so that it can have legal ramifications if people do not follow it,” said Sara Van Tongeren, who has been spearheading the anti-discrimination effort with Out On The Lakeshore Chair the Rev. Jennifer Adams and OOTL Director Jeff Sorensen. “To be honest, I am frustrated they are even thinking of a policy that has ramifications of ‘separate but equal,’ and yet, here we are.”

The council is expected to decide at its 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, meeting whether it will move forward with an ordinance, policy or both. Moving forward with an ordinance would require a second reading and final action at another council meeting, which could be as early as Aug. 5.

Five of eight council members — Jay Peters, Lyn Raymond, David Hoekstra, Nicki Arendshorst and Raul Garcia — and Mayor Nathan Bocks spoke in favor of an ordinance at the council’s July 8 work session. Bocks would only vote in the case of a tie.

Council members Myron Trethewey, Scott Corbin and Quincy Byrd expressed reservations about passing an ordinance rather than a policy. Trethewey voted against an anti-discrimination ordinance when the council voted 5-4 to reject it in June 2011.

But the majority of council members now appear to be in favor of such an ordinance.

“We’ve been talking about this for 10



BY EVE KUCHARSKI

After years of union advocacy, Cynthia Thornton is prepared to run for office. After all, she says, when it comes to representing the people of Michigan’s State House District 7, it’s not far removed from her existing job of Pride at Work Michigan president and as a union steward.

“I’m accustomed to being a representative in the interest of other people. You have your law book, so to speak, which is your contract, and you are advocating. So the people in that situation would be the membership,” Thornton said. “So on a larger scale, state rep versus union rep, your job is the same: to make sure that the interests of your constituency are being met and that the laws, as they apply to the circumstance, are being fairly applied to your constituents so that they get what they’re entitled to.”

But as eager as Thornton is now to run, it’s a decision that developed over the last five years. Though Thornton said her status as an out lesbian in the ‘80s could be considered a form of activism, it was 2011 that she took up the activist banner. As early as 2015, she began receiving a regular question: Why aren’t you running for office?

“My routine response was, ‘Because I’m too busy running for my life.’ And that’s still a real thing,” Thornton said.

For Thornton, speaking “truth to power” has not always been the simple thing to do, merely the right thing. For instance, she’s stated bluntly that her activism has not always been kind to her personal career goals. Like when the executive director of an organization said that her workers’ rights advocacy work was “hurting my promotional opportunities.”

Fully content to continue her work — like establishing the first LGBTQ Caucus in a Michigan Congressional District and the first LGBTQ Committee in the MDP Black Caucus — it was one conversation that really tipped the balance for Thornton to run.

“A union brother said to me, ‘You know that you can take that activist mindset and your activism in general to being a legislator; it doesn’t have to change who you are and how you advocate. It actually just gives you a stronger voice for the issues that are important,’” she said. “I had to agree with him. No one had said it that way [to me before], and I had never

# Flipping Perspectives, Fighting for Change

## How Union Steward Cynthia Thornton Plans to Engage the Community as District 7 State Rep

thought of it that way, but workers’ rights are still crucial to me. Civil rights are still crucial to me. Water shut-offs are still crucial to me. [Stopping] facial recognition technology [is crucial to me, too].”

### Changing Minds on Key Issues

Thornton is passionate in the arenas of civil rights enforcement, working to dismantle systemic racism within the criminal justice system, LGBTQ advocacy and continuously fighting for workers’ rights. Similar to the lasting effects of the conversation that changed her mind and inspired her to run for office, Thornton’s goal is to do the same for on-the-fence voters.

“I actually had a Republican man tell me in the last year that his having been in my space and having heard me talk about issues affecting LGBT [people] and particularly talking about the fact that we want to make a living, be able to take care of ourselves, take care of our children, retire with dignity. How is that any different than what any other working person wants?” Thornton said. “And for him being able to hear that from someone, a real person, it made a difference for him. And we differ philosophically on a lot of things, but the point is I was able to reach him. And if I can reach him then I can potentially reach others.”

The key to that interaction, Thornton said, was viewing the man not as an “R” to convert to a “D” but as a person.

“To me, that is the most important part: get to know me as a person. Hear me as a person. Let me tell you peoples’ stories, not just positions, not just policy. Let me tell you how people are experiencing this, what they are considering that you may not know. And if you are somebody who is identifying as a human being and not just as a politician who has a loyalty but actually as a public servant who has a higher calling than that, then we can move forward and we can make some progress,” Thornton said. “That’s what I’m looking for: who is open? And I have to be open, too. I’m here to listen. I’m here to educate myself and find commonality, because within our stories, if you’re telling me something that I don’t know and I’m telling you something that you don’t know, we might actually hear something that resonates and allows us to build something together. And that’s what we need to do.”

### Aspirational Goals are Worthy Goals

When asked why Thornton believes she would be the best candidate for the position, she said that her combination of union work and paralegal education has given her familiarity both with constituent issues and legal questions. Additionally, she said she’s been working to broaden her existing knowledge base and looks forward to taking on public service fulltime.

“And I continue to do that work. In the last year or so, I have learned more about sexual assault than anybody could probably want to learn and some of the ramifications that I had never considered. So being a state rep will broaden the number of issues that I’m involved in because, guess what, it will be my fulltime job. I will not have to spend eight to 10 hours a day on other work,” Thornton said.

And coupled with her LGBTQ identity, it’s her diversity of lived and work experience that Thornton hopes will translate in the August primaries.

“My voice is still going to be there no matter what I’m doing, but having people who look like me and who are very out and very outspoken and proactive on behalf of myself and other peoples’ interests, it just seemed to take that to the next level,” she said. “Civil rights in general, workers’ rights, all that’s under attack and it doesn’t seem to be decreasing.”

Win or lose, however, Thornton made sure to impress one point to voters: “Nothing is going to change if we just sit back.”

“Well, I’m going to put it this way: it won’t change necessarily the way you want it to. Life changes all the time, but in terms of having a vision, and some people may laugh, but I do. At its simplest, I want a ‘Star Trek’ world. I want to see people from all walks of life, all colors, all sizes, all different abilities coming together [and] working toward a common goal,” she said. “... If they could model that for us in the ‘60s, is that not something we can actually be now accomplishing in the 2000s? ... So, I’m doing what I can do to move it forward so that over the next 50 years, and hopefully shorter, but so that the people who come behind me won’t be saying, ‘Why are we still here? Why are we still battling the same fight?’ We need to not let this particular set of protests die on the vine. Whatever may come out of it, we need to stay engaged so that there’s actually [change] fulfilled.”

See **Hollands**, continued on p. 7

## ► Holland

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years and this is the biggest disappointment I've ever had in my life that we didn't pass this 10 years ago," Peters said at the July 15 meeting. "I know well the impact it has had and continues to have on this community.

"I have absolutely no interest in a policy," Peters continued. "It is a terrible statement. It falls way short."

The proposed ordinance would not only add sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity to the list of those protected by the city's housing ordinance but it would also add disability, education, familial status, height and weight. If a policy were adopted instead of an ordinance, the city would be in a position of being able to enforce anti-discrimination penalties against those listed in the current ordinance but not against the proposed new classes of protected residents.

So it could penalize those who discriminate against residents because of age, race, national origin, color, sex, religion or source of income, but it would not apply to those who

discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, education, familial status, height and weight.

"This sends the message that lives have two different values — separate but equal," Van Tongeren said.

Van Tongeren encouraged supporters of the ordinance to submit public comments in favor at [publiccomment@cityofholland.com](mailto:publiccomment@cityofholland.com). She said such statements would indicate "my life is as equal as those protected" by the current housing ordinance.

She also encouraged people affected by the ordinance, specifically LGBTQ people, to review the ordinance and speak to how it is important to be treated equally. She also asked religious institutions to review it and comment on how it would not infringe on their right to practice religious freedoms. She said people could speak out via the public comment email address, coming to the June 15 council meeting and/or by writing a letter to the editor of The Holland Sentinel.

"We need to keep pushing for an ordinance," she said. "It is within reach. All we need is five votes for it to pass, but we would love more!"

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# 'I represent the gays. My uncle is gay': Sterling Heights City Council Divided on Diversifying Zoning Board

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

## The ZBA, and Why it Matters

Kelley Skillin, a nine-year resident of Sterling Heights, said she was "horrified and appalled" at the language used and the ideas perpetuated at the two recent city council meetings, particularly the one held July 7.

"I voted for some of these people," Skillin said. "And everything that they said showed just a marked lack of understanding about representation and why it matters."

The issue at hand was the nomination and subsequent vote to appoint an individual to the seven-member Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is one of the two highest-profile and important boards and commissions, along with the city's Planning Commission, as both are rule-making bodies.

During the June 16 city council meeting, councilmember Barbara Ziarko nominated Dennis Hansinger to an open position on the ZBA. The vote was 6-1 in favor, with councilmember Michael Radtke as the sole 'no' vote. He explained that his vote was not a comment on Hansinger's qualifications, it was simply that six white males already sat on the board; Hansinger will be the seventh.

According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates for 2019, of more than 132,000 people who live in the city, Sterling Heights is comprised of 51 percent female residents. In terms of race, non-Hispanic white (82 percent), Asian (7.5 percent) and Black or African American (6 percent) rank highest in number. In 2012, close to 40 percent of businesses were women-owned, and about 16 percent were owned by minorities. That's significant because zoning issues affect all property owners, both home and business.

ZBA appointees go through two rounds of votes, a nomination vote and an appointment vote. The second vote occurred at the July 7 council meeting. By then, councilmembers had clearly taken sides.

## The Council Members Speak

The first council member to speak on Hansinger's appointment at the July 7 meeting was councilmember Ziarko, who said she believed in equality, and that anyone can be subject to discrimination. She also pointed out that four of seven council members are women.

"This appointment has turned into something it never should have been turned into," Ziarko said. "Equality is equality. I know that discrimination has no boundaries. It could be gender, sexual orientation race, color of your skin. It's discrimination and that's how I feel because we are all equal. We all come from the same two people if you are a Christian."

Councilmember Maria Schmidt took issue with what she described as "cherry-picking" candidates.

"The day we start cherry-picking candidates for some of these boards and commissions based on sex or ethnicity is a sad day. This is a nonpartisan board up here. We need to keep that in check, because when that is not kept in check special interests come before this city," Schmidt said. "And we are here to do what's in the best interest of every resident of this city. That's the oath I took and that's what I live by."

Because no other candidates had been brought forward, Schmidt said she was comfortable with voting for Hansinger.

Mayor Pro Tem Liz Sierawski said the distinction between being an elected official who represents the entire community and an appointed member to a board or commission is an important one.

"I represent the gays. My uncle is gay. He's been gay his whole life, obviously. I'm not gay but I still can represent those interests. I represent men. I have five men in my immediate family ... I represent their best interests. I represent — and I've said this before — African Americans. Who knew I actually had some in my history? I represent Muslims because I care about ... what they believe, and [their right] to practice their faith in any way they choose. So my specific gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity doesn't come into play when I represent the people of Sterling Heights."

Like Schmidt, Sierawski said there simply wasn't a large diverse number of candidates who applied for the position. She said she "would love to have every woman in this community apply for positions" to ensure that there would be a wide pool with "multiple blacks, Muslims, gays, lesbians, transgenders, so that we have options," but that they lacked those options.

Councilmember Radtke implied he didn't buy the argument that the applicant pool was lacking and the council was helpless to do anything about it.

"Inclusivity starts with us," Radtke said. "It's on the council to go out and find candidates for these positions ... and then to put them on boards. In a city of 133,000 people, 51 percent which is women, it shocks me that we can't have or find a female candidate for one of our major boards."

A woman already serving on one of the committees had been identified by Radtke as a candidate. He said she was a lawyer and wanted to move up to the ZBA.

Councilmember Deanna Koski spoke next. She said, "Our purpose was to have representation of the city" on the boards and commissions, and things such as the color of one's skin or sex shouldn't matter.

At the same time, Koski said, "We don't go down the boards and commissions and say,



'OK, this board is composed of seven people. We have to have one female that's gay, we have to have one male that's homosexual, we have to have one black, we have to have one yellow, we have to have one green, we have to —' that's not the way it's supposed to be. It's supposed to be the knowledge, the training the experience that you have that you are willing to share with your fellow citizens of your city help make your city better."

Mayor Michael Taylor commented that both sides made valid points and that there was a need for greater diversity on boards and commissions. With Sterling Heights having one of the highest foreign-born populations in the state, he said the boards and commissions should reflect that.

"It's unfortunate that this happened the way it happened tonight and I call on all of us to do better the next time," Taylor said.

## Walk the Talk

Skillin, the Sterling Heights resident, said that if the council members claim they want diversity it should be reflected in their actions.

"Saying things like the fact that you have a gay uncle means that you represent the interests of LGBTQ people" was one example she provided of a lack of understanding.

"It's just frustrating because ... we just declared a resolution for Pride Month and Juneteenth and then they go, at the very next meeting, and say, all of these things that go against all the things they claim they want to recognize and promote," Skillin said.

Both Skillin and Radtke decried the claim that because the pool of applicants was limited, their hands were tied.

"It's easy to say the words and not as easy to do the work," Skillin suggested. "You have to actively seek out a wider pool of candidates. You can't just say, 'Well, we put an application on our website, and anyone who wants to volunteer can.' Because what happens is you end up with the 114 people that knew that that board existed

or that knew what that process was."

Between The Lines spoke with Radtke a week after the meeting; council members Sierawski, Koski, Schmidt and Ziarko did not respond to emails for comment.

"I think a lot of these arguments are disingenuous," Radtke said. "At the end of the day, my sole focus is two-fold. One is to dismantle the 'good-old-boy' networks that operates insidiously — people don't even realize they're operating. But more than that, I simply want the committees in Sterling Heights to reflect the diversity I see when I walk outside of my house every day."

Walking outside her house every day, Skillin herself has seen vast changes in just the nine years her family has lived

in Sterling Heights. When they moved in, the neighborhood mostly consisted of older white homeowners who bought houses when they were originally built in her subdivision in the '60s and '70s.

Now, she said, "a lot of younger people have moved in, a lot of families, a lot of immigrant families, African American families."

## Putting Principles into Practice

When pressed about how to fulfill the goal of widening the pool of applicants for any given post, Radtke acknowledged there was more the city council could — and should — do.

"I think the city has not fundamentally altered its application process in many years," Radtke said. "And so I guess we've been relying on people to come to us and affirmatively saying, 'I want to be appointed to this board or this thing,' and I think that because we've not done the outreach that we need to do — and I'll blame myself on this. We should be doing more to outreach to communities."

Radtke said the application process was being revamped, something Skillin is likely to be pleased to hear.

"We are poised to be the third-largest city in the state," Skillin said. "And I really think that the city needs to be showing some leadership on issues of diversifying their boards, and to think that they don't have a responsibility to do this is just kind of passing the buck and letting everything continue the way it has in the past."

In fact, there may be an opportunity for what Skillin calls "showing leadership" on the issue: when all was said and done, Hansinger declined the appointment, which means the council must go through the process again. The vote was 4-2 in favor, with Radtke and Taylor voting against the appointment; one council member was not present. According to Radtke, the day after the meeting, Hansinger sent a letter indicating his circumstances had changed. No specific reason was given.



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## BTL Endorses Dave Coulter for Oakland County Executive

BY BTL STAFF

In the race for Oakland County Executive there are two excellent choices in the Democratic primary Aug. 4 – Dave Coulter and Andy Meisner. Between these two longtime advocates for LGBTQ issues, BTL strongly endorses Dave Coulter. As the interim Oakland County executive, Coulter has proven himself to be a competent, energetic, creative and resourceful leader. And with over 1.2 million residents in the county, he is the LGBTQ elected official representing more residents in the state than anyone else, except Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Coulter has been active for decades in LGBTQ political groups and HIV/AIDS organizations. He served as the executive director of the Michigan AIDS Fund and was the second openly gay Mayor of Ferndale from 2011 until August 2019. Coulter has been an openly LGBTQ politician for almost two decades. In 2013 he was the first Michigan Mayor to perform a same-sex marriage. He was also elected to be the first openly gay Oakland County Commissioner, a position he held from 2002 to 2011. He served as a vice chair of the Michigan Democratic Party LGBTQ Caucus.

Last year the Oakland County Commission voted to appoint him to serve out the remainder of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's term following Patterson's death. Coulter is running now to continue in that position he's held since last year.

Coulter understands how government works and has consistently been a strong representative of the LGBTQ community. His deep experience fighting the AIDS epidemic has served him well in responding to the current COVID-19 epidemic. He has been swift and decisive in issuing safety orders and getting necessary resources to the people, health care providers and businesses in Oakland County. We were lucky to have someone with his perspective on such a serious health crisis in that position when the epidemic broke out.

This is a chance for the LGBTQ community to elect one of our own, and we should take this opportunity to hold on to such a high level seat at the table. Allies are certainly critical but diversity is also essential. LGBTQ people are underrepresented at all levels of government. Coulter will serve Oakland County well and be a highly visible representative of our community.

## Coulter is the Right Choice for Oakland County Executive

BY OSCAR RENAULT

Less than a year ago, on Nov. 27, 2019, David Coulter signed a resolution to adopt an anti-discrimination addition to employment policy that protects LGBTQ workers in Oakland County.

Previously, Oakland County's policy had forbidden discrimination based on race, sex, age, physical or mental handicap, national origin, religious beliefs or political affiliation. Nothing in the original resolution indicated the inclusion of protection from discrimination based on gender identity or expression. From day one, serving as Oakland County Executive, David Coulter concentrated his efforts on making Oakland County a safer and stronger community that promotes equality and inclusion. David Coulter is a passionate human rights activist with a proven track record.

As a Ferndale resident, I have observed David Coulter serving as our mayor for many years. Under David's leadership Ferndale continued



its course to become a vibrant and safe community for its LGBTQ population. The city of Ferndale is now one of the most progressive and forward-thinking communities in our county, if not in the whole state.

I do not have to remind anyone about the current political climate in our country

and how LGBTQ rights are under constant attack.

Local politics are always important since the local officials we elect are our amplified voices. They oversee especially important policies locally and on the state level. But policies and resolutions to safeguard the LGBTQ population are not easy to introduce and adapt. It is an uphill battle, and our community cannot stop. We cannot take the back seat just because in 2015 gay marriage was legalized. Our liberties are being challenged and undermined daily. Therefore, we need to advocate for openly

LGBTQ candidates like David Coulter.

We need to continue a dialogue in our society. The topics of equality and inclusion are extremely uncomfortable for many. There were plenty of occasions when our elected allies proudly declared their support for the LGBTQ community while delivering very little to further solidify our rights. That is why we need to support openly LGBTQ candidates who are willing and ready to raise their hand and speak about inequality. We need to elect leaders that stand against discrimination, confront bigotry and cast their vote in favor of policies and resolutions that focus on human rights.

There is no doubt in my mind that David Coulter is our champion and our advocate. I am certain that David Coulter will continue to bring people together and will progress our county forward, focusing on social and civil issues that are so important for our community. I am certain that David Coulter will reserve to positive, progressive and dignified practices while in the office, and he will continue his efforts to further unite our community.

*Oscar Renault is the founder of the LGBTQ Unity Fund, a PAC created to support LGBTQ candidates in Michigan.*

## Meisner is the Right Choice for Oakland County Executive

BY KEVIN HOWLEY

In just a month, Michigan voters will be heading to the polls for a primary election to select their candidates for November. The headline race for the Democratic nominee for Oakland County Executive features two good men, both of whom have a long history of being solid on issues of concern for the LGBTQ community, and one of whom happens to be gay.

Being a member of the LGBTQ community myself, I have made a practice and a commitment in my business career to aggressively support the advancement and growth of job candidates from underrepresented communities. I've been fired for being gay and have lost other jobs for the same reason. I understand the challenges we face. All things being equal, I always hired the candidate facing glass ceilings. All things being close to equal, I provided extra weight to the value of having underrepresented voices at the table to those that had not yet had the chance to shine in their career.

All that being said, I am endorsing the candidacy of Andy Meisner for Oakland County Executive. While both men are solid



on the policy issues we care about, those policy issues become unimportant if the Democrat doesn't win. And the stakes are even higher in 2020 with a presidential race, a U.S. Senate race and two Michigan Supreme Court seats on the ballot. Oakland County is

critical to each of those races. Democrats need to drive a solid majority in the County to win statewide races. Our selection of Andy to head the Democratic ticket in Oakland County is a reflection of the reality that, in this race, "all things are not equal", or near thereto.

Meisner is a proven and seasoned candidate. He has won election as Oakland County Treasurer three times — with larger margins than any other Democratic candidate in the County. He has created campaign teams that are broadly representative and, more importantly, have shown an ability to operate with high energy and success. Meisner has built coalitions throughout the County that have tapped into communities that are often considered swing voters. Andy knows how to raise money and is already far out-raising the other primary and general election candidates. Not only does

Andy have the better odds of winning in the November election, he'll have coattails that will be critical for so many other elections.

This unique time in our history puts another key decision-making factor in play: getting elected is important of course, but being able to deliver will be critical. Our current economic meltdown is putting severe pressure on municipal budgets. Andy's eight-year stint as Oakland County Treasurer and his history as a member of the Michigan Legislature give me an extra level of confidence that he can put the team in place to weather this storm. Experience matters.

I'm excited about the abundance of LGBTQ candidates across the state of Michigan running for positions from city commission to U.S. Congress. It's important for us to continue to break through glass ceilings and push past discrimination to take our rightful place at the table. We all have a responsibility to mentor and support community leaders with great potential so that they are well-positioned to meet future challenges. For today's challenges, however, I'm endorsing Andy Meisner for Oakland County Executive.

*Kevin Howley runs a turnaround management firm. He has worked with several non profits with close ties to the LGBTQ community over the years. He was the Democratic candidate for Oakland County Executive in 2012. He and his family live in Huntington Woods.*

# Obituary: Kenneth Jacob

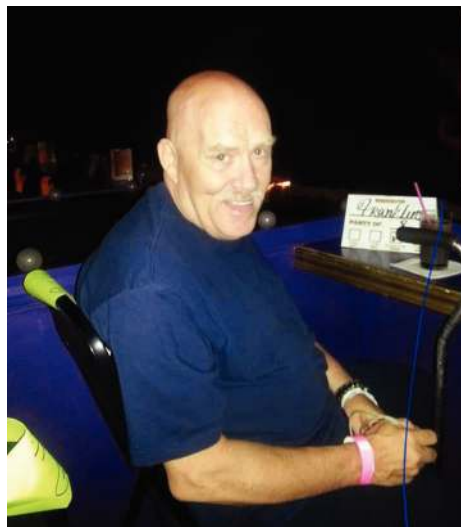
BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Sept. 12, 1952 – June 14, 2020

**K**enneth Jacob, known simply to friends as Kenny, died Sunday, June 14, after suffering a fatal stroke. Jacob was well-known and much beloved in Metro Detroit's LGBTQ community as the longtime manager of Chosen Books.

Long before there was an Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale, there was a Chosen Books. The gay and lesbian bookstore was opened in 1981 by personal partners John Cook and Bill Ashley and business partner Paul Bruce. It was located first in Palmer Park and then, after several years, in Royal Oak. The store served as an unofficial LGBTQ community center and was, for a long time, just about the only place people could learn more about the LGBTQ community. The store even operated a hotline for some time.

Jacob started working at the store in 1985,



and after Cook's and Ashley's death and Bruce's departure, he became the manager under the ownership of Cook's father, Joe Karasinski. He ran the store, took care of its longtime mascot Miss Kitty — a cat that wandered about the place — and doled out a naughty kind of humor that his customers loved.

"He was quite a comedian," said John D. DiDonato, his friend of many years and caregiver for a time. "He had a wonderful sense of sarcastic humor."

For a 1999 piece on the store, Jacob told *Between The Lines* that the best part of working at the store was "meeting new friends."

"I'm very blessed. I have an inner circle of

friends in the dozens," Jacob said. "They threw me a surprise party and there were over 200 of my friends that showed up. They did a roast for me a couple of years ago.

"Getting laid is easy," Jacob continued. "But making a friend is hard. And I'm blessed that I get to meet a lot of people."

Jacob, a lover of all things "I Love Lucy" and Lucille ball, had a huge collection of memorabilia, and he was also active with the Forum Foundation. He served on its board for several years, helped sell tickets to the Foundation's events at the store and he enjoyed attending all of them — especially the group's annual summer boat cruise on the Detroit River.

But the same year as the BTL story, Jacob suffered a major stroke. At first, he recovered quickly, but it was to be the start of a worrying trend. Several years later, in 2004, Jacob was at home when he experienced a strange pain that he felt did not warrant a trip to the hospital. The next morning, he was unable to walk. Tests revealed he had suffered a series of five strokes within the prior six months, including another major one the day before his hospital visit.

The damage from the latest stroke overlapped with the damage from the previous strokes and, as a result, Jacob was paralyzed on the right side of his body. He had limited motor skills, and, having lost the use of the left side of his

body, he had to learn to feed himself with his right hand.

Jacob was left unable to work. He lived with his mother for some years before she passed. And then he lived in an independent senior apartment for some time before his condition worsened.

"He was there for three or four years, and I took him to the doctor and the grocery store. And then it got to the point where he would fall out of bed, and my partner and I would have to go pick him up," DiDonato recalled. "Finally, I told his brother, 'You have to do something because we can't keep picking him up.' It was a very challenging life for him but he was a strong little bugger."

Jacob's family moved him to a care facility in Maysville where he suffered and succumbed to yet another stroke earlier this month.

"Kenny had a marvelous sense of humor," said longtime customer and friend BTL columnist Charles Alexander. "He was most helpful and he was just fun. He made you feel good."

DiDonato agreed.

"He was a very strong individual," he said. "Even with all the challenges God put in front of him he never complained. He kept his sense of humor and he just continued on. We all miss him terribly."

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## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Book in progress No. 1

I keep on my laptop desk a corner of chalky red brick. It's all that's left of the Cassboro Apartments formerly at 444 Peterboro, Detroit. I found this memento among broken boards and shattered glass of the recently razed, four-story building. The red brick anchors childhood memories for me.

At the time of the onset years of World War II, Peterboro was lined with a half dozen houses dating back to the 1880s and four apartment building dating to the 1920s. Several of the houses had fenced victory gardens that were alive with flowers and small vegetables.

In 1941, I was five when we moved into the Cassboro's apartment 114. My father, a factory worker, was 35; my mother, a laundry helper, 30. To this day, I have no idea how and where they met, nor do I recall their demonstrating any affection for each other in my boyhood presence. We were not an affectionate family.

We lived in four small rooms, which might have provided family warmth and privacy, but my father's mother — matriarchal, Southern-born Granny Lottie Lee Alexander — came to stay.

She was related to Robert E. Lee. She prepared our dinner meals. She called me "Granny's Lil' Bubba". I was 18 when she died.

The Cassboro was built in 1920. (I remember a pre-fridge ice box, gas stove, a milkman with horse-drawn van.) There were 60 apartments that were owned by a Mr. Burston. Each month he drove up in his black sedan, collected rents, chatted with landlords Mr. and Mrs. Hoag. He rarely noticed us kids.

I liked Landlord Hoag. He laughed a lot, showed me a basement storage room filled with furniture and toys. His wife was cranky. She caught me talking to Japhus, the building janitor, who was washing front porch windows.

Japhus told me he had seen a dead cat brought back to life after being stuffed with sand. "You're not to speak to him," Mrs. Hoag squinted. "Do you understand, Alexander?"

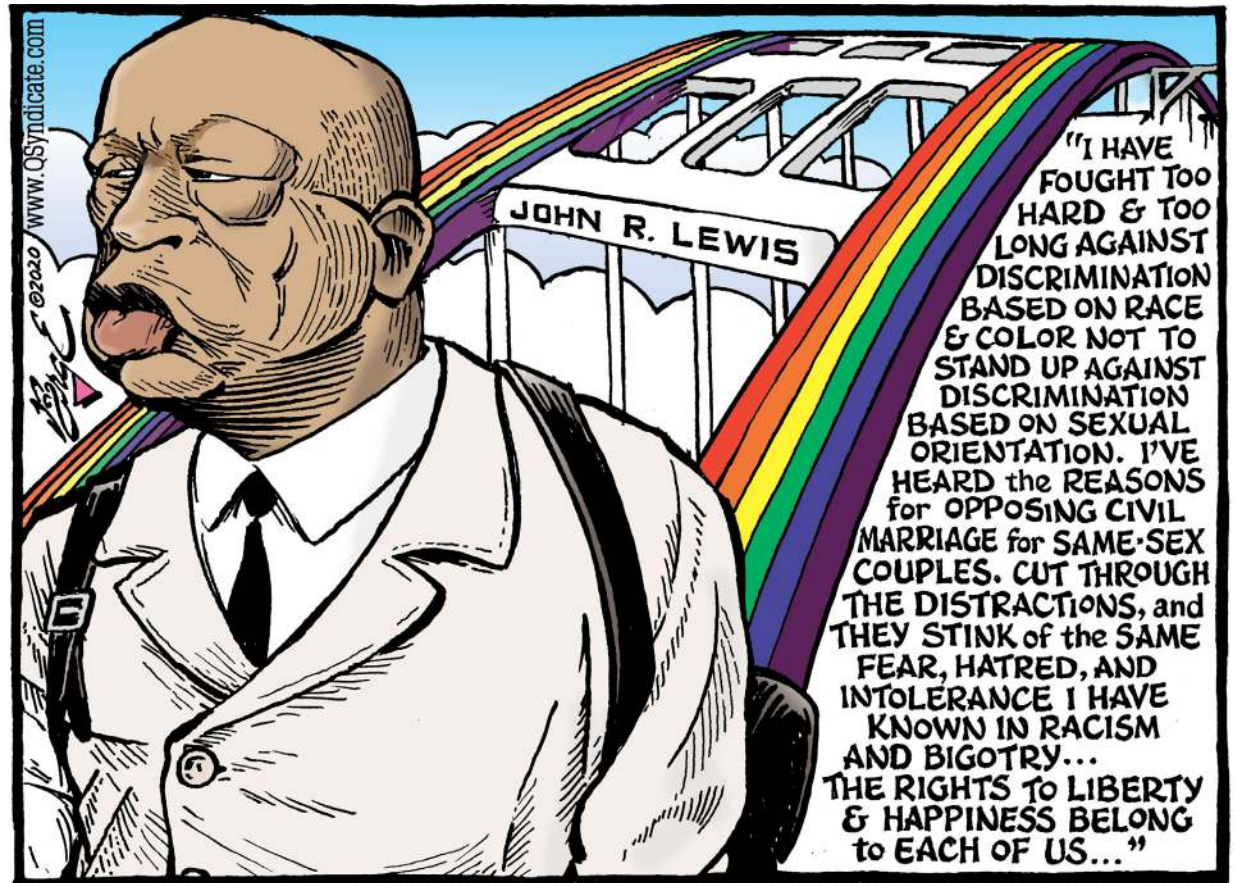
I carefully avoided her, though once I hid under a staircase listening to her gossip with sedate Mrs. Barnes who lived on the fourth floor. It was a scary thing to do.

The Cassboro was filled with kids. I didn't mind being an only child.

There was Betty Renny, whose ailing mother could sleep nights only by sitting upright. There was blond Patsy Katja, who had the best comic books to trade. Tomboy Joan McGonagle, who I heard through gossip did "things" with Tommy Tudman in his unmarried mom's bedroom.

There was Danny who lived across the hall. His clubfoot mom caught us, each age 8, showing our unbuttoned trophies in an abandoned car parked outside her window.

See next page



## Viewpoint



BY REV. DR. ROLAND STRINGFELLOW

### With a Supreme Court Victory Behind Us, Congress Must Finish the Job on LGBTQ Nondiscrimination Protections

"It is my duty as a representative in Congress ... to represent everyone in my community," Congressman Justin Amash says.

Last month, I joined so many across the nation in breathing a sigh of relief at a U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming that the federal law prohibiting employment discrimination based on sex protects LGBTQ workers. For too long, LGBTQ people in the workplace have feared for their jobs, remained in the closet to avoid being fired and worried about the attitudes of potential employers because of a lack of protections from employment discrimination. Now, LGBTQ Americans can feel safe knowing that the law is on their side.

Despite this advance, critical gaps remain in our nation's nondiscrimination laws, leaving LGBTQ people vulnerable

to mistreatment in housing, schools and public places like restaurants and bars. Even in health care, as the country confronts the novel coronavirus pandemic, a majority of states don't explicitly protect LGBTQ people from discrimination. And the Trump Administration has worked overtime to make it easier to deny care to LGBTQ people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

As the White House attempts to sow division we know that nationwide, strong bipartisan majorities support protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination in every area. Clearly, it's time for Congress to come together and pass comprehensive federal nondiscrimination protections. Only then will we be able to finish the job and patch the vulnerabilities that leave LGBTQ Americans behind.

The Supreme Court ruling — a 6-3 decision authored by

See [Transmissions](#), next page

Despite this advance, critical gaps remain in our nation's nondiscrimination laws, leaving LGBTQ people vulnerable to mistreatment in housing, schools and public places like restaurants and bars. Even in health care, as the country confronts the novel coronavirus pandemic, a majority of states don't explicitly protect LGBTQ people from discrimination.

## ► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 14

stalwart conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch — reflects the reality that Americans, by enormous margins, want to ensure that their LGBTQ neighbors and loved ones are safe from harm. Building these majorities and changing people's minds has required decades of work, patience and time. It's required LGBTQ people to share their stories, confront misunderstandings about their identities and engage in challenging discussions.

Every day LGBTQ people and our wide range of supporters have been hard at work for the past several years having frank and upfront conversations with our members of Congress. Here in Michigan, faith leaders and people of faith who support LGBTQ dignity and freedom have met several times with Congressman Justin Amash. They have urged Rep. Amash to join with his colleagues across the ideological spectrum in support of comprehensive federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people. And he has heard their voices.

"It is my duty as a representative in Congress to defend the Constitution and represent everyone in my community,"

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 14

There was Tommy Black at 116. From my bedroom window one summer evening I saw his mother's breasts when she left the bathroom light on. Tommy came out as a teenager.

There was red-haired Deanie, 13, who asked me, age 9, just for fun when his parents were gone to take off my clothes. For my silence, he gave me his Captain Midnight ring.

There was teenager Bobby Hendrix. At Christmastime his mother invited neighbor kids in for Dickens' "Christmas Carol" recordings. She smoked with a cigarette holder and acted like screen-star Betty Grable.

When I was 12, Bobby got us kids to

Congressman Amash said in a statement to Inclusive Justice this year. "It is also my responsibility to set an example for public discourse by listening and communicating thoughtfully. ... All at the meeting agreed on the need to show love and kindness to our neighbors and on the importance of having a civil conversation. The diversity of our country is a great asset, and we must be willing to listen to one another and not lose sight of how much more unites us than divides us. I'm thankful to Inclusive Justice for taking positive steps in the community to promote this kind of dialogue and mutual understanding."

I'm heartened by these conversations with Rep. Amash. I believe that honest and open discussions about the issues that matter so deeply to our country and to our path forward. It is the responsibility of Congress, of all of us, to move closer to a country where no one faces discrimination in any area of life simply because of who they are or who they love.

It's time for Congress to act!

*Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow lives in Detroit, Michigan.*

play draw-a-dare. He wrote dares on paper scraps. You got points for each challenge accepted. I wanted to do more than kiss the living room fish bowl, but I wasn't sure just quite what.

One day Bobby popped naked into the hallway. He had just showered, answering to a friend's knock. To this day, I can still see his soapy, suntanned skin, flashy teenage smile and muscular body shake and shiver.

It was a daredevil moment just as I was conveniently passing by. Other successful daredevil encounters occurred from time to time.

*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](http://Charles@pridesource.com).*

# Creep Of The Week

## Michael Heath

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Corporate America, man. Who knew they had the power to do seemingly impossible things like getting the Washington football team that uses a racial slur as a goddamn mascot to change its name? I mean, the team has had a LOT of pressure over the years, especially from native Americans and everyone who thinks racism is bad, but it turns out that the pressure just wasn't rich enough.

I'm kidding. Of course we knew that corporate America has the biggest and loudest voice in this country and they amplify that voice through a megaphone made of their pockets. And inside of those pockets is money, although no one's real pockets could ever hold so much... Never mind, you get the picture.

It took FedEx threatening a major financial blow against the team to get team owner Daniel Snyder to finally agree that, OK, maybe a racist mascot is not great. Needless to say, a lot of, mostly white, people are pissed and this has really ruined an otherwise perfect summer for them.

Not that I'm in the business of praising FedEx, but it is nice to see a corporation use their powers for good rather than evil.

So a tip of the hat to FedEx for firing Michael Heath.

Heath, an internet minister, spends a lot of time thinking about gay stuff and really loves to use the F-word. This has led many folks responding to the news of his FedEx firing on Twitter by calling him a "closet case" who is going to have his "Larry Craig moment" when his Grindr profile is leaked.

Honestly, these jokes only further cement the idea that being gay is a punchline, which hurts all LGBTQ people. I don't care if Heath is gay or not. He's a hateful and deeply unhappy man who has devoted his life to hurting other people under the guise of loving Jesus.

Heath announced in February that he was going to "do a world tour" called, well, it doesn't bear repeating but rhymes and means "gay men are fly larvae." He was inspired to go on this hate tour by Donald Trump.

"I'm going to do a world tour," Heath said on Dave Daubenmire's "Pass The Salt Live" show earlier this year, according to Right Wing Watch.

"I started supporting Donald Trump early in the 2016 primary for one reason: He insults his enemies. He makes things personal that deserve to be personal," he said. "The decades of leftists being the only ones allowed to make everything personal are over. It's long past time for WASP manners to take a back seat to the truth."

WASP manners? Has he SEEN how white people behave? It is amazing to me that anyone with even a glimmer of knowledge about the history of this country would think that WASPs are the good guys.

By the way, the "tour" was supposed to start

**Heath, an internet minister, spends a lot of time thinking about gay stuff and really loves to use the F-word. This has led many folks responding to the news of his FedEx firing on Twitter by calling him a "closet case" who is going to have his "Larry Craig moment" when his Grindr profile is leaked.**

on June 26, 2020, on the anniversary of the Obergefell ruling. I suspect plans were derailed by COVID-19, but who knows? Heath might be coming to a Hobby Lobby near you.

Anyway, Heath appeared again on Daubenmire's show to lament that he had lost his job as a driver for FedEx because of his deeply held religious views that gay men are fly larvae.

Actually, to hear Heath tell it, he wasn't "fired" he was "disqualified" because apparently we all live in a live game show called "Hi, We're in Hell" right now.

Heath says that FedEx decided that "he said homosexuality is wrong, he used the word f-ggots, he can't represent us anymore."

Can't say I blame them.

Heath does, though. In a column on his Helping Hands Ministry site (because of course) titled "Am I Allowed to Have an Opinion?" he begins with the epigraph "God hates f-gs," made infamous by Fred Phelps, who Heath claims was "more right than wrong."

Boy, between Trump and Phelps this guy really knows who to idolize.

I don't know if this column was written before or after the FedEx "disqualification," but in it he writes, "I believe that sodomy is gross and disgusting."

Well, thanks for letting us know. We'll note it on your chart.

"Strong enough words don't exist in any language on earth to accurately describe this wickedness," he continues, explaining that "gay men are fly larvae" comes the closest. "Typing out the phrase ['Gay Men are Fly Larvae'] seems to help for some reason. I think these accurate English words tap into a fundamental spiritual need of our age."

I can't help but picture that scene from "The Shining," only it's Heath behind the typewriter furiously typing "Gay Men are Fly Larvae" over and over in order to meditate. Definitely a totally normal and well-adjusted person.

# State Department Human Rights Commission Report Largely Omits LGBTQ Issues

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The Commission on Unalienable Rights' 60-page report contains numerous references to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and religious freedom. The report refers to marriage rights for same-sex couples, affirmative action and abortion as "divisive social and political controversies in the United States" and how "it is common for both sides to couch their claims in terms of basic rights."

"Indeed, it is a testament to the deep roots in the American spirit of our founding ideas about unalienable rights that our political debates continue to revolve around the concepts of individual freedom and human equality, even as we disagree — sometimes deeply," reads the report.

It does, however, criticize the U.N. Human Rights Council, which in recent years has championed LGBTQ rights, and other international institutions.

The Trump administration in 2018 withdrew from the council after what the report describes as "extensive efforts to work from within to reform" it. The report also notes China, Cuba, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and other countries "that are themselves flagrant human rights abusers" have been members of the council.

"Charged with addressing human rights violations globally, the council gave greatly disproportionate attention to Israel while ignoring egregious human rights abuses in many other parts of the world," reads the report. "These outcomes are in part a function of programmatic bias in the UNHRC, and in the United Nations more broadly. The U.S. withdrawal from the UNHRC does not reflect a rejection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, but rather a determination to find better means of effectively securing them."

The report among other things, also says "new claims of rights must be carefully considered."

"With the passage of time, it is reasonable to expect a certain expansion and refinement of the list of recognized international human rights even as the essentials of freedom and human dignity remain constant," it reads. "The application of existing rights to persons from whom they have been wrongfully withheld is particularly to be welcomed. It must be kept in mind, however, that it was largely owing to the relative modesty of its reach that the UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) succeeded in launching the universal human rights project on a global scale. The UDHR was deliberately limited to a small set of rights on which there was perceived to be a near-universal consensus."

"The fact is that the power of the universal human rights idea is strongest when grounded

in principles so widely accepted as to be beyond legitimate debate; it is weakest when it is employed in disputes among competing groups in society over political priorities," adds the report. "Such political disputes are usually best left up to resolution through ordinary democratic processes of bargaining, education, persuasion, compromise, and voting. The tendency to fight political battles with the vocabulary of human rights risks stifling the kind of robust discussion on which a vibrant democracy depends."

The report also says "the effort to shut down legitimate debate by recasting contestable policy preferences as fixed and unquestionable human rights imperatives promotes intolerance, impedes reconciliation, devalues core rights, and denies rights in the name of rights."

"In sum, the United States should be open to, but cautious in, endorsing new claims of human rights," it adds.

The report specifically refers to slavery, "the forceful displacement of native Americans from their ancestral lands; the discrimination against immigrants and other vulnerable minorities; and the imposition of legal liabilities on, and the withholding of opportunities from, women."

"Respect for unalienable rights requires forthright acknowledgement of not only where the United States has fallen short of its principles but also special recognition of the sin of slavery — an institution as old as human civilization and our nation's deepest violation of unalienable rights," it reads. "The legally protected and institutionally entrenched slavery that disfigured the United States at its birth reduced fellow human beings to property to be bought, sold, and used as a means for their owners' benefit."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday reiterated this point in a speech he delivered at the National Constitutional Center in Philadelphia.

"Now, it's true that at our nation's founding our country fell far short of securing the rights of all," he said. "The evil institution of slavery was our nation's gravest departure from these founding principles. We expelled Native Americans from their ancestral lands. And our foreign policy, too, has not always comported with the idea of sovereignty embedded in the core of our founding."

"But crucially — crucially — the nation's founding principles gave us a standard by which we could see the gravity of our failings and a political framework that gave us the tools to ultimately abolish slavery and enshrine into law equality without regard to race," he added.

The State Department released its report less than two months after George Floyd, who was Black, died after Derek Chauvin, a then-Minneapolis police officer who is white, knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Floyd's death sparked a national protest

movement against police brutality. It has also spurred a national reckoning on race in the U.S.

"The commission was never intended to time the release of this report to the current societal upheavals that are currently roiling our nation," said Pompeo in his speech. "Nevertheless, the report touches on this moment, and so will I, because today's unrest directly ties to our ability to put our founding principles at the core of what we do as Americans and as diplomats all across the world."

Pompeo specifically criticized the New York Times over its 1619 Project that examines slavery's legacy in the U.S.

"They want you to believe that America's institutions continue to reflect the country's acceptance of slavery at our founding," he said.

"They want you to believe that Marxist ideology that America is only the oppressors and the oppressed," added Pompeo. "The Chinese Communist Party must be gleeful when they see the New York Times spout this ideology."

Pompeo said "some people have taken these false doctrines to heart," specifically referring to "the rioters pulling down statues thus see nothing wrong with desecrating monuments to those who fought for our unalienable rights — from our founding to the present day."

"This is a dark vision of America's birth," said Pompeo. "I reject it. It's a disturbed reading of history. It is a slander on our great people. Nothing could be further from the truth of our founding and the rights about which this report speaks."

A Black Lives Matter mural on a boarded-up restaurant in Asheville, N.C., on June 8, 2020. (Washington Blade photo by Michael K. Lavers)

Report 'undermines human rights'

Pompeo last July announced the creation of the commission, which he said would stress "natural laws and natural rights." The announcement took place against the backdrop of continued criticism over the Trump administration's overall foreign policy and of the White House's anti-LGBTQ policies in the U.S.

Mary Ann Glendon, a professor at the Harvard Law School known for her opposition to marriage rights for same-sex couples, chairs the commission. Glendon introduced Pompeo at the National Constitution Center.

"For the commissioners over these past several months, it's been humbling as well as moving to see American flags in the hands of so many of the Hong Kong protesters," said Glendon in her introductory remarks. "And it was the fact for us that so many people in so many places count so much on the United States — yes, even in the ways that our country falls short of its own ideals, it was that fact that led us to our principal conclusion, which was that as a nation that came into being by affirming certain unalienable rights that belong

to everyone everywhere, the United States must now rise to the challenges with the same energy and spirit that it brought to the building of a new international order in the post-World War period."

Advocacy groups in their sharp criticism of the commission noted, among other things, that Pompeo named Glendon as chair. Democracy Forward in March filed a federal lawsuit against the State Department over the commission on behalf of the Council for Global Equality, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) and the Global Justice Center.

"From day one, the Trump-Pence administration has been retreating from and undermining the global framework for human rights established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948," said Human Rights Campaign Government Affairs Director David Stacy on Thursday in a statement. "As was clear from the start, Secretary Pompeo's Commission on Unalienable Rights was designed to challenge the international consensus with a narrow view of human rights, that among other things would leave LGBTQ people even more vulnerable to violence and discrimination."

OutRight Action International in a press release said the report "undermines human rights."

"The fundamental principle of human rights is universality — human rights belong to us all, regardless of religious denomination, gender, race, sexual orientation, or any other number of distinguishing features," said Maria Sjödin, the group's deputy executive director. "By using human rights language, the report claims to safeguard human rights, while in fact doing the opposite. It positions international human rights law as secondary to national legislation, elevates one human right over another, and equates 'unalienable rights' to 'natural law' and 'natural rights' — terms used to describe a social order which is often characterized by male-domination, subservience of women, racial inequality, and complete erasure of LGBTQ people."

A senior State Department official on Thursday acknowledged criticisms of the commission when he spoke with reporters on a conference call.

"He commission was greeted with immediate and fierce criticism," said the official. "Contrary to what Secretary Pompeo said about the mandate, it was immediately said that Secretary Pompeo's secret purpose was to deny various groups their rights and radically elevate religious liberty."

"The report you will soon see bears no resemblance to the criticisms that have been leveled against the secretary or the commission," added the official.

See **Human Rights**, continued on p. 15

# Poland's Anti-LGBTQ President Reelected



Polish President Andrzej Duda

BY MICHAEL LAVERS

The anti-LGBTQ president of Poland won reelection on Sunday.

The Associated Press reported Andrzej Duda defeated Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski by a 51.2-48.8 percent margin. The two men ran against each other in a runoff because they didn't receive a majority of the vote in the first-round of Poland's presidential election that took place on June 28.

Activists have sharply criticized Duda — head of Poland's conservative Law and Justice party — over his anti-LGBTQ rhetoric.

Duda last month said LGBTQ "ideology" is more harmful than communism. Justyna Nakielska of Kampania Przeciw Homofobii, a Polish LGBTQ advocacy group, told the Washington Blade last month noted the Law and Justice party ahead of last October's parliamentary elections described LGBTQ Poles as "a threat to the family" and said they "want to sexualize children."

Duda on June 24 met with President Trump at the White House.

"As there is a feeling of huge disappointment we need to remember that almost half of Polish voters said firmly no to the hatred campaign waged by Duda, and showed they are in favor of a democratic, modern and open

Poland," Magdalena Świder of Kampania Przeciw Homofobii, a Polish LGBTQ advocacy group, told the Washington Blade on Tuesday in a statement. "We will keep on fighting, as the community needs us. All the incitement to hate by president Duda resulted in many instances of LGBT people being

physically attacked or their homes being marked with homophobic vandalism, so our main goal is to press for protection of sexual orientation and gender identity to be included in the hate crime and hate speech legislation."

Human Rights Campaign President Alphonso David echoed Świder in his own statement.

"President Andrej Duda's reelection after running on a virulently anti-LGBTQ election platform is confirmation that the fight for LGBTQ rights and freedoms is far from over," said David. "However, Duda's narrow victory demonstrates that there are a great number of Polish people who do not support his views, including his cruel campaign pledge to ban same-sex couples from adopting children that need loving homes, and his extreme anti-LGBTQ rhetoric."

"Despite Duda's victory, LGBTQ advocates will continue to fight in Poland and elsewhere for the basic respect and dignity that our community deserves," he added.

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

the meetings. "But we haven't, as far as I know, made specific invitations to this organization or that organization."

"We've given all organizations equally an opportunity to bring their opinions to us and we have studied all the opinions, all the statements, all the questions, all the criticisms that have come forward," added the official.

The State Department on Friday told the Blade the draft report that is currently posted to its website "will reflect any additional adjustments the commission may make in light of public comments" in roughly three weeks.

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

## ► Human Rights

Continued from p. 14

The official noted to the Washington Blade the commission has thus far held five public meetings with public comment sections in each. The official also said there was a virtual public comment period that lasted nine months.

The official said in response to the Blade's question about whether the commission invited LGBTQ advocacy groups to participate in these meetings that it "has consulted all of the statements that have come in."

"It's far to say yes," said the official in reference to LGBTQ groups' participation in

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Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

# Instagram and Facebook to Ban Conversion Therapy Content

BY KAEA ROEDER

Instagram and Facebook on July 10 announced they will ban conversion therapy content on their sites, following a block on ads promoting the practice earlier this year.

This announcement comes on the heels of the U.N. formally calling for a global conversion therapy ban.

Mathew Shurka, co-founder of Born Perfect, a project run by him and the National Center for Lesbian Rights that is dedicated to ending conversion therapy, worked with Instagram and Facebook to create a system to identify content promoting the practice. Shurka also worked with Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the independent U.N. expert on LGBTQ issues, in preparation for the global call to end conversion therapy.

Shurka said this ban will protect LGBTQ people from viewing misleading or convincing content promoting conversion therapy. Social media sites have become a platform for promoting the practice, and he said this ban can eradicate that spread.

As a survivor of conversion therapy, Shurka said this call by the U.N. and social media content ban is “incredibly important” for LGBTQ rights on a global scale.

“When I was in conversion therapy and lost and confused, I literally had no resources,” he said. “Now you have the U.N. being really clear

on a global level that this is something that has to end, and we’re going to push forward in advocating for that ... It’s just the world of a difference as a survivor for me, and I really do think it will save lives and save families from ever choosing to go down that path.”

Amie Bishop, a senior research advisor with OutRight Action International, said this action by Instagram and Facebook is a step towards “multi-sector involvement” in banning conversion therapy.

“Bans, at any level, that are successful in blocking access to harmful programs and interventions is really very important,” Bishop said. “This move by Instagram and Facebook represents another dimension of bans — now it’s the private sector also getting involved.”

Bishop also said for this action to make an impact in eradicating conversion therapy, the fundamental discrimination embedded in societies and cultures needs to also be recognized. Shurka and Bishop both said they hope this action inspires other companies in the private sector to get involved in eliminating conversion therapy practices, especially other social networking sites.

## Algorithms need to be adapted, experts say

Shurka said creating the algorithm to detect

anti-LGBTQ content was a “complicated” process of identifying simple sentences and key phrases that suggest conversion therapy while resisting making the language restrictions too broad. Phrasing on the practice was analyzed from across the globe and evaluated in multiple languages, as well.

Bishop said many sites and organizations that promote conversion therapy employ deceptive phrasing and utilize misleading marketing tools, such as including Pride flags in anti-LGBTQ content. The National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, for example, changed its name to the Alliance for Therapeutic Choice and Scientific Integrity in 2014 to appear more “choice” focused and scientifically backed.

In order to maintain the ban and protect LGBTQ individuals against conversion therapy content, Bishop also said social media platforms will have to keep up with the ever-changing branding.

“There’s always going to be new content coming out that may be less obvious at the beginning that it’s harmful,” she said. “That’s going to be the challenge, that you’re keeping up with the evolution of terminology and branding to ensure that things aren’t slipping through.”

Shurka also said conversion therapists use language that can be misleading, such as “gender wholeness” or “sexual wholeness” to

market the practice.

## Critics’ expectations low

Wayne Besen, the founder of Truth Wins Out, said he applauds the companies for announcing this ban, but said he wants to see action before calling the effort a victory.

Truth Wins Out is a non-profit organization that specializes in uncovering “ex-gay” conversion leaders’ claims, advocating for anti-LGBTQ media to be taken down and providing platforms for survivors of conversion therapies to share their stories.

Besen said he is unsure if social media companies would make the effort to sort through conversion therapy content because they rarely police white supremacy and other hateful content.

“If they’re not going to be able to address neo-Nazis and white supremacists, are they going to be serious about ex-gay conversion therapy?” he said.

Besen also said content on conversion therapy is only “five or 10 percent of the problem” online, and anti-LGBTQ activity is still rampant and harmful on digital platforms.

“I want to see action. I don’t want to see this as a PR stunt at a time when they’re under increasing pressure,” he said.



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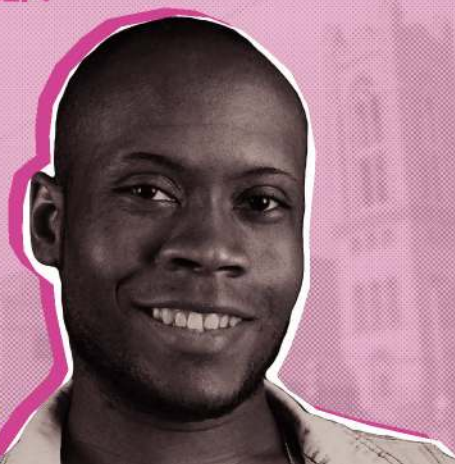
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Photo: Netflix

# Crazy Sexy Time with Dan Stevens

## 'Eurovision' Actor Talks New Campy Gay Role – and His First-Ever Gay Role

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

As closeted Russian pop prince Alexander Lemtov, actor Dan Stevens shows up in the Netflix comedy “Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga” bejeweled in rhinestones, with a mopy head of Wham!-era George Michael hair. He gives double-cheek kisses. He gives invites to his “very crazy sexy” parties. Alexander’s extraneous, and that he doesn’t see what other far-less-opulent people do, is the joke. He’s beyond out of touch with the ordinary person, like Lars (Will Ferrell) and Sigrit (Rachel McAdams), small-town Icelandic best friends who become accidental “Eurovision” contestants and enter into a sing-off against Lemtov.

Co-written by Ferrell, the campy musical is an outrageous love letter to the “Eurovision Song Contest,” an inescapable UK phenom. Alexander is certainly worlds apart from Stevens’s star-making turn in “Downton Abbey”

and his breadth of chameleonic work, which includes the live-action remake of “Beauty and the Beast,” as the beast; the thriller “The Guest”; as a mutant with mind powers in the trippy FX series “Legion,” and, recently, in the Dave Franco-directed horror film “The Rental.”

As for Lemtov, this isn’t Stevens’s first time taking on a queer role. One of Stevens’s earliest roles, as Nick Guest in the “The Line of Beauty,” featured the actor as a gay man living in 1980s Britain during the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 2006 BBC miniseries adaptation of the Alan Hollinghurst novel of the same name.

For our recent interview, Stevens lost the Lemtov wig to reflect on portraying Nick Guest, and also talked about the safe place “Eurovision” provides contestants from anti-LGBTQ countries and, just for good measure, his favorite Cher songs.

**During what might be the gayest scene in “Eurovision,” you, along with the cast and**

**former “Eurovision” contestant and drag queen Conchita Wurst, sing an epic medley of Madonna, Cher and ABBA. Can you name anything gayer that you’ve done in your life?**

(Laughs.) It’s certainly up there! I don’t know if we can start ranking those, but most of those people coming out of the crowd were previous “Eurovision” contestants – and not all of them drag queens, it should be said. But yeah, amazing to have Conchita Wurst, Bilal (Hassani) and Jamala. It was an amazing list of former contestants, all of them incredible singers.

And yeah, to duke it out with those guys, and also with Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams, was pretty surreal. I think for pretty much everyone involved in that sequence it was – I don’t know about the *gayest* moment of their life, but it was certainly one of the most surreal. And I’ve shown that sequence to a couple of, shall we say, “Eurovision” superfans who absolutely lost their minds at

that sequence.

**Is “Believe” your go-to Cher song?**

I suppose it would be. I’m trying to think what else I would go for now. “Strong Enough.” “Fernando.” “Chiquitita.” “If I Could Turn Back Time.” I probably would do a medley! (Laughs.)

**How did you navigate Alexander Lemtov’s campy-gay sexuality?**

First and foremost, I went at it from that Euro-millionaire thing, which I’ve always found very, very funny. There’s a certain kind of campiness to those sort of mysteriously wealthy Europeans, particularly the Russians with the philosophy that if something is gold it must be best. Lemtov definitely has that kind of attitude.

It was very much inspired by a bizarre meeting I had once at a thing with Irina Shayk, the model. I met her in Manhattan

and she asked me where I live, and at the time I was living in Brooklyn. She went (in a Russian accent), “Brooklyn. Too far.” And I said, “Well, OK, so where do you live?” And she just said, in one phrase, “West Village best place.” And I was like, “All right. OK.” (Laughs.) That sort of told me everything I needed to know about her outlook and just that sense of, when you just have that much money it shapes how you see the world, and also how that kind of warps your taste as well. And Lemtov has some pretty warped taste – both in the wardrobe *and* the home-decoration department.

**George Michael's name comes up at one point during the film. Did you tap into LGBTQ pop artists to get Alexander's queer sensibility down?**

I mean, the wig was very much inspired by George Michael. And there was a lot of trolling of hundreds of hours of “Eurovision” acts on YouTube. Just sort of the way that they work the camera is very interesting. There’s always the flying camera, and they kind of embrace it flying around them. If you know “Eurovision,” there’s always at least one country that submits an oversexualized, erotically choreographed number with fire and leather, so Lemtov is definitely from that school. There’s also a Russian crossover singer, a sort of opera-pop act called Philipp Kirkorov, who if you’re not aware of him a quick Google search will tell you all you need to know about him. He’s a really, really sweet man who’s a real sort of feature of “Eurovision.” He’s written a number of songs for “Eurovision.” I think he’s performed there at least once and he is a Russian superstar. Very, very friendly with Putin and apparently married with kids. But his wardrobe choice and his style might surprise you.

**The film points out the dangerous living conditions that LGBTQ people face in Russia, and you recently talked about this with Attitude magazine. Did the country's conservative views on queerness surprise you?**

I think the way it was phrased in Attitude was like I had never even heard of these issues before and suddenly I was like, “Oh, wow, guess it’s really dangerous for them.” I was very aware of that. And I guess what I meant to say is, I wanted to be sensitive to that. You couldn’t really do a movie about “Eurovision” without touching on that subject; it’s famously a safe haven and a great champion of the LGBTQ+ community, and it has a huge fan base around the world for that very reason. One of the first trans performers in Israel winning a few years back. Conchita winning. Netta has a huge LGBTQ following. It really embraces that, and it’s a delight for that reason. And yet some of these performers come from countries where it’s dangerous to openly acknowledge their sexuality, and however silly our film is and however ridiculous “Eurovision” is, I think it’s really important to remember that.

**When it came to the campiness of the character, was avoiding queer caricature a concern?**

I guess. I think historically there have been issues with that and with caricaturing, but you know, as we all know, there are as many different shapes and sizes of a queer person as there are of a straight person, so I think in the context of “Eurovision,” obviously Lemtov is a particular kind of performer. Whether he’s straight or gay, it’s sort of immaterial; he’s just that kind of guy, who’s just sitting on that much money with that kind of taste and is maybe not able to acknowledge fully who he is back home.

I think his need for Sigrit is a little different than we might expect. He’s not just the sleazy Lothario coming in to just kind of save Sigrit and break up (their band) Fire Saga. He’s got slightly more nuanced and complicated reasons for wanting her by his side.

**How does he compare to other gay or queer characters that you have played in your career?**

I mean, he certainly has a more interesting wardrobe than say Nick Guest in “Line of Beauty.” I don’t think Nick ever graduated to old-glamour camp. But to be honest, it never really occurred to me. I never sort of think, “I have had a quota of gay roles so I can’t take on another one.” Same with “Line of Beauty.” It was just an absolutely beautiful book and a beautiful adaptation, so it never really was an issue for me.

**I believe I read that your first sex scene was in “The Line of Beauty.”**

It was one of the first things I ever did, to be honest. But quite possibly. I haven’t been keeping count.

**That’s what I’m here for.**

(Laughs.) Yeah, right. You’ve got the league table there. You know, to be honest, when it comes to onscreen love scenes, they’re all fantasy scenes. They’re all made up. Me and whoever the other person is are not really together in real life, so you’re always entering into a fantasy scenario. The very nature of what I do is just sort of jumping into someone else’s life and exploring the world through their eyes, so it feels very much the same for me.

I think obviously gay actors have been playing straight roles for a very, very long time, and maybe not able to openly acknowledge their sexuality in the countries that they come from. I hope I’m not taking away roles from gay actors by playing gay roles. I think it’s just the nature of acting, really, that I don’t think we should necessarily have looked for a gay Russian actor to play Alexander Lemtov. You could still sort of leap into a role as an actor, within the realms of possibility.

**Would you say that with “The Line of Beauty” you first became aware that you had LGBTQ fans?**

See Dan Stevens, continued on p. 20

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► **Dan Stevens**

Continued from p. 19

I suppose that's where it must've started. I mean, it is a really beautiful book and I think a very, very beautiful and sensitive adaptation as well.

**What was your introduction to the LGBTQ community?**

I think it would've been in the National Youth Theatre in London. Growing up, I didn't have many friends who were openly gay, and so I would've been about 15 when I first went to study – study is a strong word – but I got to go play with the National Youth Theatre and that's the first time that, for many people involved, you're meeting people from different backgrounds from all over the country, and all of them have this one thing in common: they love performing. And people from different ethnic backgrounds and different sexualities as well. It was a really, really eye-opening experience, and really fascinating. Some of those people are still my friends today. But yeah, it was a really valuable experience.

**Which moment in your career helped court a bigger gay audience: you as a hairy beast or the scene when you come out of the**

**shower in "The Guest"?**

(Laughs.) I mean, you'd have to look at your league table for that one. I don't have the stats on that.

**A film you starred in, "Permission," took a hard look at monogamy and prominently featured a gay couple. Is LGBTQ representation important to you when you're considering a project?**

Yeah. I mean, that one was particularly interesting because an old friend of mine, Brian Crano, who is himself a married gay writer and director, and David Craig, who is in the film, is his husband and that film very much came out of conversations that – not just between myself and Brian but Brian and his circle of friends – have had in the years running up to that movie. Just about relationships in general, not just LGBTQ, but about life partners and sexuality.

I thought it was a really interesting film in terms of how nuanced the discussion was and the questions raised in it. It wasn't clear cut. And it's not clear cut. I think that's the thing. I think everyone wants sexuality to be black and white and it's just not. And everyone wants marriage to be that as well and it's just not. And I think Brian is particularly sensitive to that. He introduced me to Dan Savage and the "Savage Love" podcast many, many years ago and I've been a very, very long-time listener. I've never called in, not yet.

**What would you ask Dan Savage?**

Oh god, the list is so long. But I'm a huge, huge fan of Dan Savage and what he has done, not just for the LGBTQ community but actually just for people in general in their relationships. And particularly in the early days. It's gotten a little less out there, I would say, the call-ins. Or maybe it's that I've gotten less sensitive to some of these things!

**And about those dance-offs on your show "Legion": What problems would you solve right now if problems could be solved by psychic dance-offs?**

(Laughs.) I mean, that is a great question. Psychic dance-offs could solve all sorts of things right now. And actually I've seen in the streets, during some of the protests that have been going on all over the place, that some people have taken to sort of collective dancing and I think that that might actually be a way forward.

*As editor of Q Syndicate, the 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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# John Montgomery Talks New Documentary About His Activist Brother, 'America You Kill Me'

BY BENJAMIN DECKER

To call Jeffrey Montgomery a gay rights activist would be an understatement. The legacy of the local warrior for LGBTQ rights is being cemented with the new documentary, "America You Kill Me," coming out later this year. It will take a look at not only Montgomery's personal life, but his lifelong fight for gay rights and equality. The production team includes Detroit filmmaker Daniel Land and his brother, John Montgomery.

Between he Lines got in contact with John Montgomery to discuss the film in-depth and learn about plans for release.

## How has the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic affected the production of the documentary?

The movie has been in the works for seven years. In April, we were supposed to be the headline movie at the [Detroit] Free Press Film Festival — hopefully, now that'll be in December — but because of the pandemic that all got canceled. But it gave us the opportunity to upgrade the movie with more animations, motion graphics, timelines, graphs — that kind of thing. It enabled us to have a better movie.

## Since movie theaters are still closed, how have you been maintaining the general public's interest with the documentary and keeping in touch with them?

We're trying to — as we get ready to release it — build a community that is following the movie on Facebook, Instagram, etc. So, we got involved with the Woodhull [Freedom] Foundation for sexual freedom because Jeff was a board member and co-founder until he died. They went to him for advice for years on any kind of topics. They have been doing weekly shows and events through Facebook Live. This week, Saturday the 18, which is also the fourth anniversary of Jeffrey's death, they are featuring Jeff and the movie. It is from four to 5 o'clock on Facebook Live. There will be clips and outtakes from the movie, I know I also have an interview in there. It finishes up with a live panel with three big time activists, Cathy Renna, Mandy Carter and Ricci Levy.

## Do you have plans for when the documentary will be officially released?

The Free Press said they will have the festival in the first week of December.

*"The public still thinks our lives are a political issue, defined by the mythic Gay Agenda. America... You Kill Me! America kills all of us."*

— Jeffrey Montgomery



We will see if that happens, if it does we will be there. We want to have a lot of new people hearing about Jeffrey and getting involved in the story. [From the live event] you will get an idea of Jeffrey's work and where the movie stands right now.

## Does the documentary focus on Montgomery's whole life, or just when he started to get politically active?

It starts out with family footage from when he was a little kid and goes through his whole life. In the beginning, it pretty quickly ends up at his work at Triangle — what really put him on the map. It's a full story with a rise, a fall and a legacy.

Jeff was alive for the first three-and-a-half years we were working on the movie. And he wanted no editorial input on it. It was up to Daniel Land, our filmmaker and director, and myself as to what the editorial content will be. We couldn't make it a fluff piece, so we deal with the rise of the fall and what happened at the end.

## How did production on this movie start, or, in other words, what was the inspiration for it?

What happened was in 2012 I had a restaurant that went out of business. At the same time, Jeffrey's health was failing so I became his caretaker. I did that for about three-and-a-half years. But during that time he decided he wanted to come out of retirement



and become active again. So we came up with an idea of sending him on a college lecture tour.

We had this woman that would interview and film him talking about all kinds of topics — from gay marriage to housing discrimination, job discrimination, hate crimes. The colleges would be able to handpick an interview and he would come to talk about it. A friend of mine and Jeff's introduced us to Daniel Land, a local Detroit filmmaker. He got to meet Jeff and he just bought into the project — thought it was incredible. He said, "You know, forget the lecture tour — we'll do a full-blown documentary on this."

## Since it has been seven years since the film started development, what are the biggest difficulties you have faced besides the COVID-19 lockdown of course?

It has taken a while because it has all been done on fundraising. There has been no specific schedule, but for seven years we have been doing fundraisers to raise money for the film. For a few years, progress was really slow. In 2018, we got a really good donation from a woman in Rhode Island and we were able to get the movie done. What we are doing now is involving fundraising. We just got affiliated with Documentary Educational Resources and they have become our fiscal supporter. It enables us to have a 501(c)(3) involved in fundraising. We just have hope the world premiere will be in December.

To RSVP for the upcoming event, visit [gaybe.am/tu](http://gaybe.am/tu).

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# Screen Queen Criterion Films Celebrate Diversity in All Its Forms



BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

## 'Paris Is Burning'

In "Paris Is Burning," a strut is a defiant act, an exertion of suppressed power. In the mid-to-late 1980s, when the landmark documentary was filmed, these moves couldn't be showcased just anywhere. Today the same is true, as the call to end violence against trans people and to confront transphobia persists. Given the number of trans people killed since the doc was released (and the surge of trans murders currently making headlines), that call seems, still, to fall on deaf ears. And so white, queer, non-trans director Jennie Livingston's 1990 film remains fiercely important, as much a time capsule as a reflection on how much progress has been made (and has yet to be made), its haunting relevance resonating yet again during our modern LGBTQ and Black Lives Matter movements. At the time of its release, Livingston's doc illuminated issues of transphobia, racism, AIDS and poverty through intimate, everyday depictions of legendary voguers, drag queens and trans women, including Pepper LaBeija, Dorian Corey and Venus Xtravaganza, as they found both refuge from the oppressive outside world and a unifying sense of community within the drag-ball scene. "Paris Is Burning" introduced shade and voguing; it was the doc that opened the door for TV's groundbreaking trans-centric show "Pose" and Netflix's new doc on trans depiction in media, "Disclosure," which acknowledges the classic doc's historical significance while also critiquing it for being exploitative of a seriously marginalized community. The Criterion Collection's digital restoration of the film features an episode of "The Joan Rivers Show" from 1991, with Livingston and ball

community members, who teach Rivers queer slang; a new sit-down with Livingston, Sol Pendavis, Freddie Pendavis and filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris; and over an hour of never-before-seen footage. "Now more than ever, the call for realness, that reverberating standard of ball excellence, is required," writes Black LGBTQ activist and filmmaker Michelle Parkerson in an essay in the 38-page liner notes of the Criterion release, which also includes a 1991 review by the late, Black gay poet and activist Essex Hemphill.

In 2020, the film's urgency can be heard loud and clear: our greatest act of defiance, it reminds us, is living authentically, for the whole world to see.

## 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire'

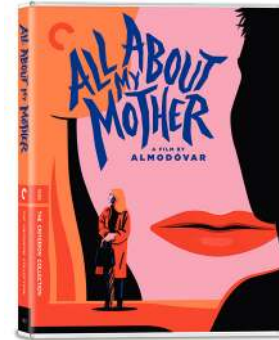
Forbidden love flourishes in the quietest of corners, outside of view, beyond the patriarchal pressures of conformant. So it goes in writer-director Céline Sciamma's achingly beautiful, queer-feminist love story "Portrait of a Lady on Fire," where fire, often in a literal sense (there is lots of actual fire), burns fiercely and freely between two women, one an enamored painter, the other her reluctant subject. Sciamma sets her story in the late 18th century, during the dawn of the Romantic era. A young painter, Marianne, played by French actress Noémie Merlant, arrives on a remote island off the coast of France to paint Heloise, played by French actress Adèle Haenel. The portrait is to be her wedding portrait, but Heloise doesn't want to marry the man she is about to wed, so she refuses to pose. As Marianne's relationship with Heloise blossoms, it's clear she will have a better chance at capturing Heloise than the previous portrait artist, who left without accomplishing the task of painting Heloise. But Marianne is different, patient. She draws Heloise from memory in secret until she establishes her trust;



she speaks to her in a way no one likely ever has, her attraction expressed fervidly through sometimes nothing more than small, stolen moments when she fixes her enraptured eyes on Heloise. Aesthetically, the film is a ravishing work of art all its own, a kind of visual poetry that cinematographer Claire Mathon captures to breathtaking effect. In stunning 4K, Criterion emphasizes the sumptuous beauty rendered in each scene. Beyond the film itself, the Blu-ray includes a new conversation with Sciamma and film critic Dana Stevens, new interviews with Haenel and Merlant, and an interview with Mathon.

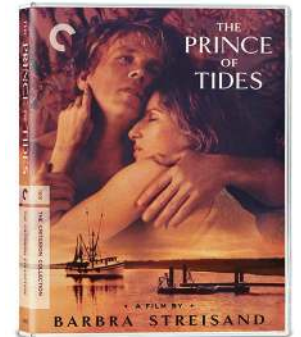
## 'All About My Mother'

In the 1999 Spanish drama "All About My Mother," the celebrated gay film visionary Pedro Almodóvar's reverence for women movingly permeates every vibrant frame of his loving ode to sisterhood. Self-assembled family units are, of course, a dynamic that is an oft-necessary way of life for members of the LGBTQ community, which "All About My Mother" honors through the character of Agrado (played by Spanish actress Antonia San Juan), an early figure of transgender representation, and the way in which Almodóvar matter-of-factly folds her into a blended family of characteristically diverse women. Those women include Sister Rosa (Penélope Cruz), an HIV-positive nun; Huma Rojo (Marisa Paredes), an iconic actress; and the film's grief-stricken protagonist, Manuela (Cecilia Roth), whose determination to stay connected to her teenage son after his sudden death leads her to discover the magic of chosen family and the healing bonds those relationships engender. In a 1999 written tribute republished in Criterion's digital restoration of the film, Almodóvar reflects on whimsical distortions of truth for the screen, and a perspective his mother shared with him as a child that became the impetus for "All About My Mother," one that is hard to argue with: "how reality needs fiction in order to be complete, more pleasant, more livable." Elsewhere, Criterion's Blu-ray release includes a 52-minute documentary from 2012 on the making of the film, a TV program featuring Almodóvar and his mother, and a post-screening Q&A from 2019.



## 'The Prince of Tides'

Barbra Streisand has garnered far less attention for her work behind the camera than in front of it, even though she was instrumental in dismantling the status quo of male-dominated directors. And so her film "The Prince of Tides" rightfully deserves Criterion treatment, with all the bells and whistles presented here, including a stunning 4K transfer and lots of Babs. She is featured in several interviews, and provides a thoughtful audio commentary, recorded in 1991 and updated in 2019. There's audition and rehearsal footage, behind-the-scenes footage and an alternate ending that features a song that Streisand wrote for the film called "Places That Belong to You," cut from the movie so as not to distract from the film's central character study. Released in 1992, "The Prince of Tides" was Streisand's second feature as a director, after her 1983 telling of "Yentl." So emotionally invested in Pat Conroy's novel of the same name years before its release, Streisand's cinematic take on the story, which she also starred in and produced, scored seven Oscar nominations and traverses genre borders, from schmaltzy romance to family drama and, during the film's most horrific reveal, a shocking thriller. The film features the multi-hyphenate living legend as Dr. Susan Lowenstein, a psychiatrist who unearths one family's buried trauma. She does so through regular meetings with Tom Wingo (Nick Nolte) after his sister, Savannah, attempts suicide. Of note: George Carlin as Eddie Detreville, Savannah's trusted gay neighbor, and Streisand's gay son Jason Gould, who plays her son in the film. Moving through, and past, trauma is the film's crux, until it makes a full-on soap-opera leap and centers the soppy love-conquers-all romance between Streisand and Nolte, undermining the drama's stronger, more complex themes. What's admirable, though, is how, nearly three decades ago, Streisand shined a light on the potential danger of toxic masculinity and nurtured a project that encouraged men to embrace sensitivity and vulnerability.



Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the LGBTQ wire service. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.

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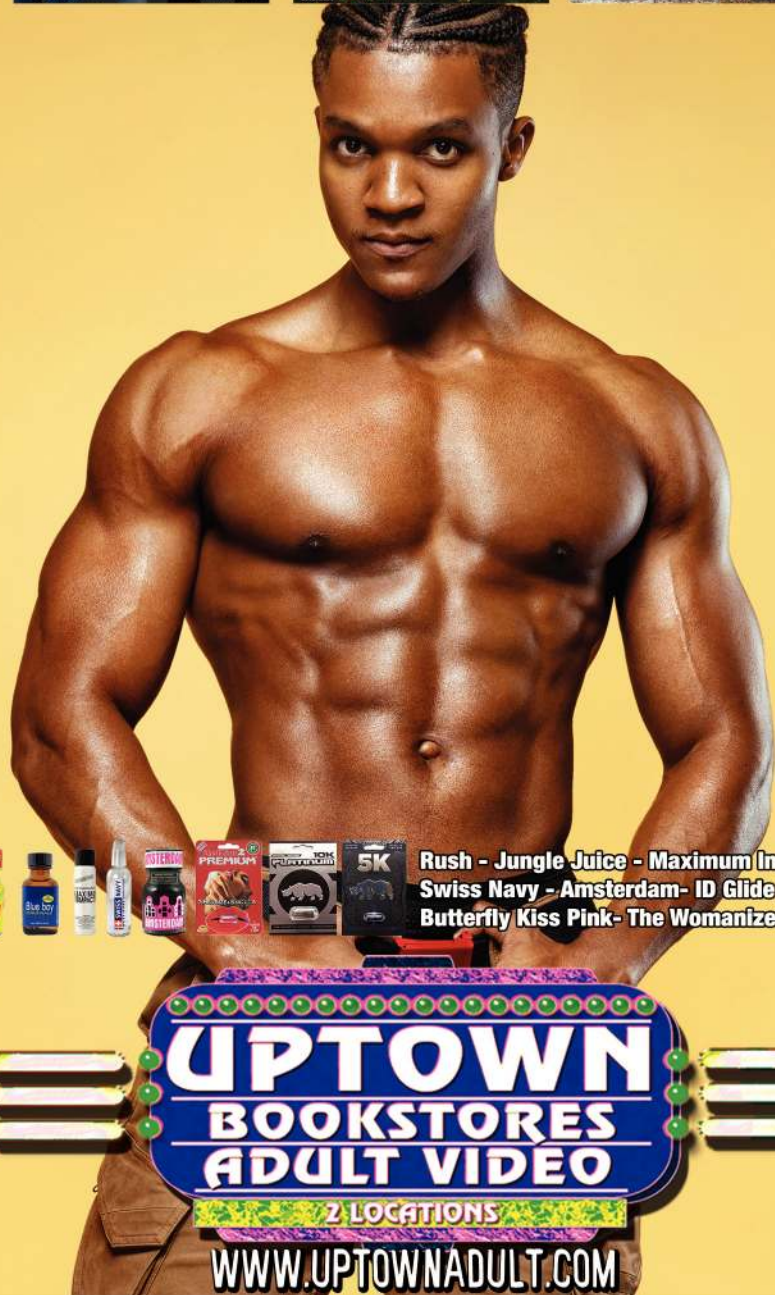
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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Some queer Hallmark Christmas movies are coming. Ho ho ho.

For a long time we were comfortable allowing straight people to have Hallmark Christmas movies. It seemed weirdly their thing and it was fine because everyone knows those movies are ... not good. But then came last year's miniature right-wing firestorm about a lesbian couple in a commercial that aired one (shocking!) time on the Hallmark Channel, and suddenly every member of the LGBTQIA+ community stood up together and demanded to be the focus of a movie about someone who returns to their hometown bakery at Christmas and finds lukewarm romance. Now that collective wish is coming true, as Hallmark has announced some inclusion, in the form of queer characters and story lines, coming for the 2020 Christmas movie season. Crown Media spokesperson George Zaralidis has been quoted as saying that the company wants the films to be a place "where everyone feels welcome," which is nice. And since the channel's Christmas programming starts in October before the Halloween candy is consumed, you won't have long to wait.

## CW casts a fresh lead for 'Batwoman': Javicia Leslie

Though she's not yet a household name, you may remember Javicia Leslie as a regular on the two-season run of the very strange, Millennial-minded and ecumenically spiritual CBS drama "God Friended Me." On that show she played a young lesbian bartender, and off camera Leslie is out, bisexual, and already has a new job: she's Batwoman on the CW series of the same name. When actor Ruby Rose left "Batwoman" after one season, the assumption was that the show would simply recast the role; Batwoman's normie name was Kate Kane and that seemed to be how things would stay locked in. But in a fascinating wrinkle, the series will be getting a new lead character named Ryan Wilder, played by Leslie. The character, according to the official casting call, will be "the most dangerous type of fighter: highly skilled and wildly undisciplined. An out lesbian. Athletic. Raw. Passionate. Fallible. And very much not your stereotypical All-American hero." Now all that needs to happen is production starting up again, probably sometime in 2021, because more lesbian crimefighters dressed as bats are how we will keep coping.

## Look fashion forward to 'Halston' with Ewan McGregor

True fans of the late Roy Halston already dug deep into "Halston," last year's documentary that wore his last name. And it seemed like 2020 was going to give us another helping, this time a narrative mini-series starring Ewan McGregor as the late designer whose name defined sophisticated '70s glamour. You know the punchline of that grim joke already, as production shut down several months ago. But when it's safe to do so, it'll up and run again on the series that promises a deep dive in the pool of '70s excess.



Ewan McGregor. Photo: Starfrenzy

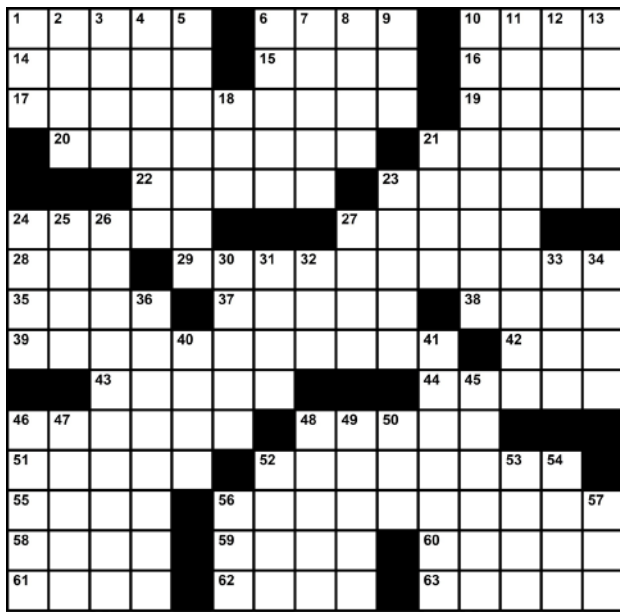
McGregor is, of course, still in. Rory Culkin will play the late gay director Joel Schumacher. The project is scripted by Ian Brennan ("Glee") and Sharr White ("The Affair"), directed by Daniel Minahan ("True Blood"), and fittingly, very queerly executive produced by Christine Vachon and Ryan Murphy, among others. So all you have to do now is keep your look together until - well, OK, we have no idea until when, but the future is full of hope and yours to imagine. Have you even seen the documentary yet? Go watch the documentary. It's great and Liza's in it, so hurry up now.

## Pedro Almodóvar and Tilda Swinton are shooting a movie now. Yes, now.

Undaunted and fully swaddled in protective gear, a new film is in production from prolific gay Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar and star Tilda Swinton. Nope, it's not being shot via Zoom, but it is a one-person cast and, based on the publicity photo, Almodóvar might even be a one-person crew. The project is "The Human Voice," a short feature based on the play of the same name from the legendary 20th-century queer French playwright and director Jean Cocteau. The action takes place in one act, involving the main character calling a former lover for the last time, as that person is due to marry another person the next day. The adaptation will update the action to the current century, but the psychological complexities will most certainly remain timeless. The project was due to begin earlier this year, but after some recalibrating of the logistics of how a film gets made in the middle of a global pandemic, director and star began shooting in Madrid last week.

Romeo San Vicente keeps in warm and gracious touch with all former lovers.





- 37 What to do with your best shot, to Benatar  
 38 "\_\_\_ For All Seasons"  
 39 End of the reason  
 42 Guesstimate from the cockpit  
 43 Works with visual effects  
 44 Frost over  
 46 Like John Hurt's Caligula  
 48 Czech champ of tennis  
 51 El Greco's homeland  
 52 Randy Rainbow songs, for example  
 55 Fill with cargo  
 56 Follow-up series to a movie about Simon  
 58 Pt. of AARP  
 59 McCormack of a rebooted series  
 60 Homonym for Chaz's mom  
 61 Triple X, for Caesar  
 62 Got going  
 63 Trojan beauty
- 11 "Prít-+Porter" actress  
 12 Cole Porter's "\_\_\_ I Kissed My Baby Goodbye"  
 13 Hit in the family jewels  
 18 Kind of enc.  
 21 Takei's "Star Trek" role  
 23 Crooks crack them  
 24 Broadway composer Jerome  
 25 Ending with switch  
 26 Adam and Steve's favorite James Dean movie?  
 27 Home of Picasso's Stein portrait  
 30 Terminal in Chicago  
 31 Baseball glove  
 32 Hot time for Colette  
 33 Russian singing duo  
 34 Move the football between your legs  
 36 Workplace for Michelangelo  
 40 Type of crime  
 41 Language of "Fiddler on the Roof," historically  
 45 You've heard it before  
 46 Fame  
 47 Body build  
 48 "Alice" star Linda  
 49 With blood rushing to the head  
 50 Mo. to vote against homophobe Trump  
 52 Minute opening  
 53 List ender  
 54 Kind of loser  
 56 "Ben Hur" novelist Wallace  
 57 Kevin Bacon in "Footloose"

## After Simon

### Across

- 1 The bottom line  
 6 "\_\_\_ Walked Into My Life"  
 10 Fashion accessory for Zorro  
 14 Town in a Hersey novel  
 15 Actor with no lines  
 16 Way to come  
 17 Start of the reason that the title character of 57-Across texted "Screw you!" to Simon

### Q Puzzle

- 19 Who deserves malice, to Lincoln  
 20 Top Greek philosopher  
 21 Spaghetti topping  
 22 What comes out of your head  
 23 Got in a pet  
 24 Carolyn, who wrote about a Nancy  
 27 Daughter of a gay-friendly president  
 28 Pitching stat  
 29 More of the reason  
 35 Diana or Betsy

### Down

- 1 "\_\_\_ Hunter Confidential"  
 2 Tributes in verse  
 3 Word after fish, in slang  
 4 "Sorry, I have a headache tonight ..." prop  
 5 Miraculous cure shrine  
 6 Marvin Gaye's "\_\_\_ Little Girl"  
 7 Band members blow them  
 8 Med. care providers  
 9 Always, to Byron  
 10 Da Vinci signature piece

Clues P. 20

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248-545-1435  
<http://www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/matrix-mac-health/>

### Macomb County STD Clinic

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

### Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)

196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.  
Pontiac, MI 48343  
248-209-2647  
[www.olhsa.org](http://www.olhsa.org)

### Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

Sterling Heights Center  
4301 East 14 Mile Rd.  
Sterling Hts., MI 48310  
586-722-6036  
[www.accesscommunity.org](http://www.accesscommunity.org)

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

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

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

### Eastern Michigan University

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

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

[ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)

### Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)  
[wsujigsaw@gmail.com](mailto:wsujigsaw@gmail.com)

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor  
[www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)  
[www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter](https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter)  
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.  
319 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-995-9867

### LGBT Detroit

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

### Affirmations

Ferndale  
<http://goaffirmations.org>  
[www.facebook.com/Affirmations/](https://www.facebook.com/Affirmations/)  
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.  
290 W. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, MI  
248-398-7105

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project  
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI  
[www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)  
313-578-6800

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

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

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI  
313-578-6812  
[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org)  
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

## Political

### The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)  
Stonewall for Revolution  
[www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

### Ties Like Me

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

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

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

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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



## 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



**CORKTOWN**  
—HEALTH CENTER—

# HEALTHCARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



- | Primary Care
- | Behavior Health Services
- | HIV Care
- | Breast/Cervical Cancer Screening
- | Hormone Therapy
- | Insurance Navigation
- | Fully Integrated PrEP services and more!

313-832-3300  
www.corktownhealth.org


# PrEP Clinic

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

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

**UNIFIED**  
hiv health and beyond  
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.


**In partnership with  
Sinai Grace Hospital**




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

PrEP must be taken every day to be most effective

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



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



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

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

**WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG**



## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Treatment and Prevention

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

### SERVICES INCLUDE

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





**ACCESS**  
www.accesscommunity.org

**Sterling Heights Center**  
4301 East 14 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48310  
586-788-6235

Part of the MetroCare Coordination Network

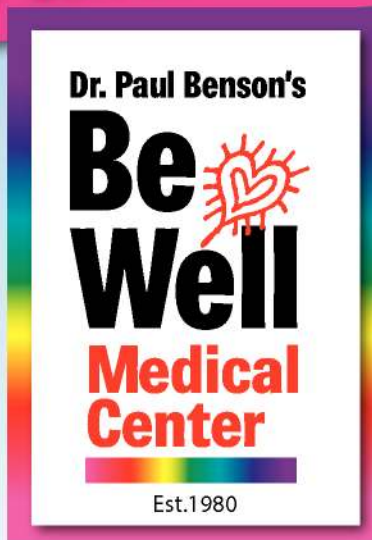
# On the Edge of Primary Care PODCASTS with Dr. Paul Benson



**Dr. Benson is launching a new podcast series for 2020!**

Use your cell phone to capture the QR code above, or visit our website, Spotify, Apple, or Google for access.

Since 1980, our medical team has been committed to providing compassionate, sensitive care for all lifestyles. The topics and specialists featured on the podcast will help you keep pace with the most up-to-date info to improve your health!



**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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