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Chicks Frontwoman Natalie Maines on Trio's Enduring Kinship With the LGBTQ Community

Violent, Homophobic Text Messages Found on Alpena County Sheriff Candidate's Phone

A photograph of a woman with short, curly hair, wearing a white chef's coat and large, round, wooden earrings. She is standing in a bakery, with various pastries and breads visible in the foreground and background. The lighting is warm and indoor.

Religious Alt-Right Group Targets LGBTQ-Owned Detroit Bakery

PHOTO BY GEORGE MITCHELL



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NEWS

6 Religious Alt-Right Group Targets LGBTQ-Owned Detroit Bakery

8 Violent, Homophobic Text Messages Found on Alpena County Sheriff Candidate's Phone

8 Annual Transgender Pride in the Park 2020 Goes Virtual

8 Gov. Whitmer, AG Nessel Respond to President Trump's Threat to Send Federal Law Enforcement to Detroit

9 Equality Michigan

10 Triple Murder Mystery: How the Love Lives of 3 Detroit Men Turned to Tragedy

14 Federal Judge Not Likely to Grant Injunction to Stop Anti-LGBTQ Rule Change

16 Trump Staffer Terminated from USAID Upon Anti-LGBTQ Twitter Tirade

16 300 Catholic Leaders Object to Commission on Unalienable Rights' Religious Freedom Priority

18 Five15 Owners to Expand Operations With Purchase of Pronto!

19 We Are Family: A Look at Hotter Than July's Family Inclusion

OPINION

12 Viewpoint: If You Value Essential Workers, Raise the Minimum Wage

12 Parting Glances

13 Creep of the Week

ENTERTAINMENT

20 Slick Chicks

24 Deep Inside Hollywood

25 QPuzzle

RESOURCES

26 Michigan Community Resources



COVER

6 Religious Alt-Right Group Targets LGBTQ-Owned Detroit Bakery

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Rep. John Lewis in 2004 called for defeat of a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. (Blade file photo by Micheal Key)

Here are some of our latest online-only pieces:

Oakland Pride Reveals New Logo to Reflect the Colors of the LGBTQ+ Progress Flag
By BTL Staff

Study Finds that Trans Women at Highest Risk for HIV/AIDS are Least Likely to Use PrEP
By Eve Kucharski

Lewis Defended Gay Marriage in 2004 House Speech
By Lou Chibbaro Jr.

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

Plus, with Aug. 4 primaries behind us, the general election is on! Our BTL Voter Guide will be coming out soon. Stay tuned.

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 **GILEAD**

Religious Alt-Right Group Targets LGBTQ-Owned Detroit Bakery

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Offensive Message

At first glance, the July 19 online order that Good Cakes and Bakes co-owner April Anderson received didn't seem all that unusual. It appeared to be a request for one of the bakery's rainbow-themed Pride month cakes because the word "PRIDE" stood out in all caps. Upon a closer look, however, Anderson realized she was gravely mistaken. The message read:

"I am ordering this cake to celebrate and have PRIDE in true Christian marriage. I'd like you to write on the cake, in icing, 'Homosexual acts are gravely evil. (Catholic Catechism 2357).'"

"I was like, 'This cannot be real,'" Anderson said. "Does he not know what bakery he called? [Who] he sent this to?"

Anderson is openly LGBTQ and owns the bakery with her wife, Michelle.

For several days, Anderson debated her options. She had no intention of writing the offensive message on the cake. Yet refusing to bake the cake made her concerned about discriminating against a client. The answer turned out to be rather simple — and within the bakery's policies. Anderson would prepare the cake without the requested writing.

"I would be legally OK with doing that because it says on our website we don't decorate cakes that's placed online," Anderson said. "You have to call the bakery for a decorated cake."

Anderson did, however, include the requested rainbow theme.

A Hate Group in Our Midst

As it happened, the man who ordered the cake called the bakery the night before his scheduled pick-up date, Saturday, July 25. Anderson was not at the bakery, but she was notified by a worker.

"[She] called me and said, 'There's a guy calling about a red velvet cake but I don't see an order for it,'" Anderson recalled. "And I said, 'Oh, Mr. Gordon.' I was like, 'Let him know his cake will be ready tomorrow 'cause it's Saturday, 3:30. He said the cake was for an office party and he wanted to pick it up on time.'"

At the outset, Anderson had contacted a friend who traced the cake buyer, David Gordon, to an alt-right religious organization. A national group based in Ferndale, the Church Militant is a church in name only. Rather, it is an extreme right-wing 501(c)(3) nonprofit owned by St. Michael's Media. By its own admission, Church Militant aims to convert non-Catholics to the faith and strengthen the faith of existing Catholics by bringing Jesus Christ to the internet through the use of digital media. Previously known as Real Catholic TV, the Archdiocese of Detroit has asked the organization to cease using the term "Catholic" to describe its activities. A recent article featured on the Church Militant website



Good Cakes and Bakes co-owner April Anderson didn't end up decorating a cake per a client's homophobic specifications. Instead, she included a Pride-positive message and rainbow decorations.

Photo: April Anderson

captioned "The Gay Rainbow is the Mark of the Beast" was authored by Gordon, who ordered the cake.

Legal Issues

Regardless of store policy, Anderson's actions followed Michigan civil rights law, according to ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan.

"If we go along with [Church Militant as] a religiously-affiliated organization, they were requesting a cake, [and] they were requesting a particular message on a cake," Kaplan said. "Under our Michigan civil rights law regarding public accommodation, the bakery had to provide them that cake they requested."

"But I think an argument can be made that the message they wanted on the cake might have gone into the realm of compelled speech," he continued. "The government ... cannot necessarily compel a particular business to engage in compelled speech that [goes against] whatever their moral compass, their religious

beliefs, their political, etc."

Kaplan said he's aware of situations where LGBTQ bakery owners in similar circumstances have provided the baked goods along with the materials for customers to decorate them as they wish.

Writing on a cake was not the central issue in the well-known Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission case. Kaplan went on to make the distinction.

"In that case, the same-sex couple were not asking for a specific message to be inscribed on the cake," Kaplan said.

Instead, the baker turned them down because he knew the cake was for a same-sex wedding. He argued that simply baking the cake amounted to compelled speech — endorsing same-sex marriage — which violated his religious beliefs. Others disagree: by providing a service, a business owner is not endorsing the lives of their customers.

But the Masterpiece Cake Shop decision did not address that issue. It did, however, reaffirm that when a business is open to the

public, the business must serve the public — without exception. In addition, the state has an important interest in enforcing civil rights laws, including those that protect LGBTQ people. In the end, the Supreme Court overturned the Colorado Civil Rights Commission's ruling because the majority believed the attorneys had exhibited hostility toward religion and the baker's religious beliefs when the case was tried.

"It didn't address the issue about is this compelled speech and where do you draw the line," Kaplan said. "What about a photographer who doesn't want to take photos at a wedding between a same-sex couple? Eventually, one of these cases is gonna get back to the Court. It's a big concern if we see everything as compelled speech, because how would we then enforce civil rights laws? How far does that slippery slope go?"

Community Response

Word got out about the cake order and it wasn't long before outraged community members took action. The friend Anderson had originally told about the order took the issue online. In a pro-LGBTQ Facebook group, he suggested creating a peaceful rally in support of Anderson on the afternoon that Gordon was to pick up the cake.

"I was very distraught," Ferndale resident Oscar Renault said. "We definitely wanted to show up and show support to the owner and even to the workers at that place. I felt [baking the cake] was the right thing to do ... to counter what happened a few years ago when a couple was denied a cake by a baker. No one should be denied a cake, but obviously we were all upset that the Church Militant approached the gay community. The LGBT community is aware of their presence in Ferndale because this is not the first time they [have] lashed out."

Anderson prepared the cake and included a letter "just explaining what our bakery stands for, who we are," she said. "We don't stand for hate, we're all about peace and justice and inclusion."

Almost 50 people gathered and social distancing was practiced. Saturday afternoon came and went, but Gordon never appeared. Like all online orders, the cake was prepaid: \$40 — plus a \$10 gratuity.

"I think he was trolling us and he wanted me not to make the cake so that he would have an argument about us being discriminatory against him for not making a cake," Anderson concluded. "I think it shocked him when he called Friday and we said, 'Oh, yeah, we're making the cake.'"

Going Forward

Even though Gordon didn't show up, plans unfolded to further show solidarity while supporters were still gathered at the bakery.

"I figured we need to do something to spread



Above: Good Cakes and Bakes.
Photo: April Anderson.

Below: April Anderson and with her wife, Michelle.
Photo courtesy of the James Beard Foundation.

the awareness, because our community should know one of our own was attacked this way," Renautt said. "But we are not 'militant' like these guys are. We are not militant as Church Militant. Our message is peaceful. We just want to make people aware that this happened. We want to drum up support for the Good Cakes and Bakes bakery."

To that end, Renautt set up a GoFundMe page. It was decided that pro-LGBTQ signs would be (legally) posted within view of the Church Militant offices. Several hundred "We are not militant" and "Love is not militant" yard signs will soon be ordered, and Renautt said many nearby businesses have expressed interest in displaying them in a window or on their property. Any excess funds will be donated to Corktown Health Center, where Anderson's wife works.

"This organization has been tormenting our

community for a long time," Renautt said. "For me, this is not something that our community should tolerate. I think we need to demonstrate our stance on this issue."

The most recent word on Gordon was that he called the bakery Thursday, July 30, inquiring about the cake. By then it had been discarded. Anderson said she might need legal advice, "because I know he's not done."

Going forward, Anderson will continue to be outspoken and proud of who she is. This experience hasn't deterred her — and it certainly hasn't made the LGBTQ community shy away either.

"We're not gonna change who we are," Anderson affirmed about being openly LGBTQ. "We made it very clear when we opened. Some people are like, 'Oh, we're just not gonna tell people, we want to keep stuff separate.' You can't compartmentalize your life. We're very, very proud, open.

"Last year was the first year that we put a big rainbow flag up in the window for the month of June and I know that ... sales were down and I believe, personally, it had to do with that sign," she continued. "We're in Detroit, we're in a predominantly Black city, a Black neighborhood. There is still, to this day ... some phobia within the Black community of homosexuality. I'm not gonna be naïve about that. But, again, when we take a stand — as long as we're happy with who we are, the decisions that we make — we stand by it, we're OK with it."

Good Cakes and Bakes is located at 19363 Livernois Ave. in Detroit and is reachable online at goodcakesandbakes.com or by calling 313-468-9915. See the website for hours (limited due to COVID-19) and delivery options. The shop's fundraiser page is gofundme.com/fl/god-is-not-militant.

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Gov. Whitmer, AG Nessel Respond to President Trump's Threat to Send Federal Law Enforcement to Detroit

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – In response to President Trump's threat to send federal law enforcement into cities across the nation, including Detroit, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel issued the following statements:

"It is deeply disturbing that President Trump is once again choosing to spread hateful rhetoric and attempting to suppress the voices of those he doesn't agree with," Whitmer said. "Quite frankly, the president doesn't know the first thing about Detroit. If he did, he would know that for nearly two months now, Detroiters have gathered



to peacefully protest the systemic racism and discrimination that Black Americans face every day. There is no reason for the president to send federal troops into a city where people are demanding change peacefully and respectfully. If the president actually wants to help the people of Michigan, he can start by picking up the phone and telling Mitch McConnell to pass the HEROES Act, so we can provide immediate relief to Michigan's families, schools, and small businesses."

"President Trump's politically motivated threat to send 'more federal law enforcement' to Detroit, among other cities, has nothing to do with protecting public health or safety. It is about using the power of his office as a cudgel to punish those who use their constitutionally guaranteed rights to express views he disagrees with. Such threats undermine peace and stability in our communities by unnecessarily escalating tensions and encroaching on states' rights," said Attorney General Dana Nessel. "We are a nation of laws, and the president's attempts to intimidate our communities with threats of violence could not be more un-American."

Violent, Homophobic Text Messages Found on Alpena County Sheriff Candidate's Phone

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Terry King is a candidate in the Alpena County sheriff's race who is facing criticism for violent and homophobic text messages that he sent on a county-owned phone in 2013 when he was employed as an undersheriff. In the messages to a family member, which BTL obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request, King shows a picture of two men holding hands and asks, "where is my fricken gun" and follows up with a message that says "bang bang."

The messages were sent at a wedding in St. Joseph County, and in conversation King continued not only to insult the LGBTQ couple present but went on to negatively comment about the appearance of other wedding guests, food and more. The Alpena News reported that the local community has marched in protest of King's candidacy after the text messages were made public.

Steven Kieliszewski is Alpena County's current sheriff and King's challenger in the upcoming primary when the two Republican candidates are set to square off on Aug. 4. Kieliszewski called the messages "disappointing."

"And, quite honestly, it shocked the hell out of me when I read it. It was disappointing to see that, that the number two person in charge of the Alpena County Sheriff's Office was stating that kind of stuff," Kieliszewski said. "It was just another point, if you will, that added [to the fact that] letting him go was the right decision."

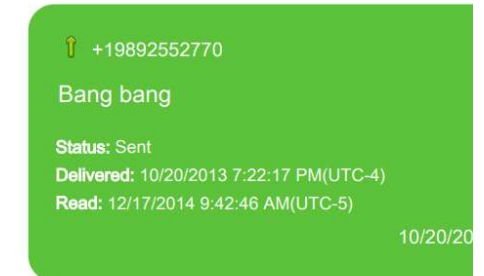
King resigned from his 14-year position as undersheriff in June 2019 after Kieliszewski told him that it was his intention to terminate him because of this incident coupled with his



2020 Alpena County Sheriff candidate Terry King is facing backlash after sending homophobic and violent text messages to a family member via his work phone in 2013. This image is Facebook screenshot of King's campaign photograph.

"obstruction of another case."

"Where it all started was the complaint of a person with a gun at one of our elementary schools, and we had police officers that arrived on scene shortly after the complaint was called into central dispatch and the suspect wasn't around. So the city PD was conducting an investigation for several days and at some point in time, I got word that the former undersheriff, supposedly, had sent text messages to the husband of the witness that the witness should not take a polygraph," Kieliszewski said. "... That happened in March of 2018, and almost a year to the date, in April of 2019 is when I got information that, in fact, a text message



Excerpted screenshots of King's conversation with a family member. King's text messages appear in green. To view the whole conversation, view the full story on pridesource.com.

was sent."

King was then put on administrative leave, an investigation was conducted and his work cellphone was seized.

"The cell phone is full of several text messages, and one of the individuals who was assisting me with the investigation came across that particular text messaging between him and another family member," Kieliszewski said.

The Detroit Free Press reports that King "subsequently filed a whistleblower lawsuit" after his resignation.

Annual Transgender Pride in the Park 2020 Goes Virtual

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

For over two decades now, Transgender Pride in the Park has served Southeast Michigan's LGBTQ community as a community celebration of Pride while also being something of a safe haven of expression for local transgender people. This year, however, due to health concerns surrounding the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Aug. 8 community picnic-style event will be held online. Transgender Michigan organizes the event annually, and its Executive Director and Co-Founder Rachel Crandall-Crocker said that it was the best way to ensure that nobody gets sick.

"People are lonely and isolated, especially now. This is a great way for us to all come



together without the tremendous risks [of COVID-19]," Crandall-Crocker said. "It will be a celebration of being trans, [and] because it's online we will be able to reach out to more people."

Additionally, Crandall-Crocker emphasized the online event will still provide an avenue for connection at "the virtual picnic table" so that every participant gets a chance to reach out and meet up online with other participants. Because, as event organizers said, "Unlike other Prides, Transgender Pride is less about presenting a big stage show and more about making connections and networking."

However, that's not to say that the event will lack entertainment.

"All the [scheduled] acts will be on our website for people to watch anytime," Crandall-Crocker said.

Transgender Pride in the Park will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Find out more about the event and register ahead of time here.

'Pose' Star Dominique Jackson to Keynote Virtual EQMI Event Aug. 7

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Dominique Jackson, one of the stars of the critically acclaimed FX television series "Pose," will be the keynote speaker for Equality Michigan's annual Mission Equality event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event, which takes place Friday, Aug. 7, will be virtual. Equality Michigan Executive Director Erin Knott said that creating the event was not easy.

"The first challenge was the decision itself," Knott said. "Mission Equality is such a fun event where we all get to congregate, meet new people and connect with old friends as we celebrate our successes and highlight areas still needing our attention. It was hard to admit that a packed room in Detroit wasn't going to be possible because of the pandemic."

Once Knott and her crew realized this, they were faced with an abundance of questions that included "determining what format to use virtually, how to make it fun and inclusive for our guests and how to communicate to sponsors that funding for our programs and services are still needed — even if our guests at Mission Equality will not be able to interact with sponsors the same way."

Rounding up sponsorships provided its own difficulties, too. Knott said that there had to be an adjustment made when other nonprofit organizations began reporting slowed ticket sales and sponsorships.

"It became even more obvious that fundraising would suffer as we made fundraising calls to past donors asking for their support," Knott said. "Several were impossible to follow up with because their offices were closed, many told us they were focusing on emergency basic needs and some have decided not to give at all because their own future was uncertain. And, while there is no doubt that this pandemic has disproportionately impacted the LGBTQ community, we are not the only community being affected. We also had to spend a great deal of time usually reserved for fundraising focused on learning how to put on a virtual event."

And that was, Knott said, perhaps the greatest challenge of all.

"Very few of us even knew what Zoom was before March of this year, let alone how to use it to plan a virtual event," she said. "In order to make sure the event runs smoothly we met with tech experts about our internet services and laptops. We watched endless videos on how to launch a Zoom poll, how to share videos and sound during a screen share, how to spotlight a speaker, how to preset breakout rooms, etc. We spent hours thinking about how to make it interactive by sending guests a party favor ahead of time and providing an opportunity for them to participate in the program by having a Q&A session."



Dominique Jackson at New York Pride 2019. Photo by DVSSROSS, Creative Commons.

And despite all that preparation, there is still much work to do as the event draws nearer. Still, Knott said that she's looking forward to the event and that she measures success by more than fundraising.

"Because we use this platform to highlight LGBTQ wins and upcoming challenges. I want to point out the great opportunities turning virtual provides, specifically traveling to the event isn't a barrier for our guests so hopefully more of our community will be able to participate," Knott said. "And we were able to secure an amazing keynote speaker in Dominique Jackson."

Jackson, who hails from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, came to the U.S. when she was 15 to escape persecution for being transgender. In New York City, she became a popular member of the ball scene and also the pageantry system, winning six titles while competing locally and nationally.

Today, Jackson is an actress, model, author and activist. She appears in the role of Elektra Abundance on "Pose," and she recently released her first book titled "The Transsexual from Tobago." In the book, Jackson talks candidly about her mental health struggles and her search for acceptance and self-actualization.

On the book's Amazon page, Jackson said her book "is an attempt to bring visibility to a community constantly abused by its peers. It is the experience from one but of many. It addresses the need for understanding not just tolerance. it is a plea for not only equality but for compassion. All labels, titles, genders, colors, nationalities and communities aside, all I see is human."

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Triple Murder Mystery: How the Love Lives of 3 Detroit Men Turned to Tragedy

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Their funerals took place on the same day, just a mere three miles down the road from each other. But in life, DeAndree Raeynard Max Watson, 30, and Quentin Demar DeGreaffenried, 27, both of Detroit, traveled in different circles. Their paths would tragically intersect, though, thanks to a third man, 25-year-old De’Ontez Tyree Jones, who is believed to have killed them both.

Watson’s death has been well-covered by local media. He was a rising star in Detroit politics, a policy analyst for Detroit City Councilman James Tate and, by all accounts, a beloved figure around the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. Both Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and Detroit City Council President praised him upon his passing.

Watson was found dead in his car, a 2020 black Cadillac CTS, just outside the Willow Creek Apartments in Westland on Sunday, July 5. He had been shot to death. A short time later, police found the body of Jones dead in an apartment in the complex of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The First Victim

But while the story came to a tragic end in Westland, the family of DeGreaffenried is committed to spreading the word that it started in Detroit more than a week earlier, with the death of their loved one. Que, as he was sometimes called, had both a biological family and a foster family. He was good-natured and, according to his best friend Ashante Gooden, the life of the party.

“There was never a dull moment with Quentin. Even though he was adopted and had foster parents who raised him, he loved his biological family as much as he enjoyed his adopted family. He had nicknames for everybody. He would always make you laugh.”

A graduate of Dakota High School in Macomb, DeGreaffenried attended Macomb Community College for a time, as well as Specs Howard School of Broadcasting. He was interested in being a radio personality or perhaps even a veterinarian.

“He had a lot of friends,” said his grandmother, Rosa Hayes. “He was very giving, very loving. He loved people and he loved animals, too.”

DeGreaffenried and Jones had been in an on-again-off-again relationship for the past four years. All along, friends and family say, it had been volatile.

“Quentin’s personal life was out of whack,” Hayes said. “He went with De’Ontez Jones and De’Ontez was a fighter, an abuser and Quentin couldn’t shake him. He’s not a fighter. He’s timid. Quentin would leave him and then he’d get right back into it.”



DeAndree Watson, an up-and-coming star in Detroit politics and a policy analyst for Detroit City Councilman James Tate, poses in front of his new Cadillac CTS on June 18 while traveling cross-country to California with De’Ontez Jones. “Headed to LA completely unaware of what’s about to happen,” he posted to Instagram. On July 5, his lifeless body would be found in the car by Westland Police after an Onstar alert called them to the parking lot outside the Willow Creek Apartments.

Hayes said she knew it was bad, but, initially at least, not how bad.

“Quentin didn’t want me to dislike him. I was genuinely nice to him but it was difficult. I even talked to De’Ontez about it and he pretended that Quentin was not really telling the truth. Then it would happen again, a black eye or busted lip.”

If Hayes didn’t know how bad it was, Gooden, did.

“The whole four years they were together, De’Ontez was beating Quentin,” she said. “I would tell him over and over again, ‘Friend, leave.’ One day, he hit Quentin with an iron, and Quentin had to jump out of his second-floor window. De’Ontez went to jail but Quentin went back to him. He was living in Southfield Heights. They didn’t want to renew his lease because of all the disturbances. They knew Quentin was getting beat.”

By the end, things were undeniably bad.

“He would say, ‘If anything happens to me, it’s Sean,’” Hayes said. “He called De’Ontez Sean. He would tell me all the time. I always felt like Quentin [was going to erupt] and hurt Sean. Either way, it’s going to be bad because you’re going to jail. I’d ask him, ‘Why don’t you just leave?’ He would tell me he was going to



De’Ontez Jones was allegedly seeing Watson and Quentin DeGreaffenried – as well as possibly others – at the same time. Jones would be found dead in an apartment in the Willow Creek complex shortly after authorities discovered Watson’s body. He was dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

and then, next thing I knew, I’d see a post on Facebook that they were back together. Then I wouldn’t hear from him until things went bad again. He’d say, ‘He left with my check and I need money to pay my light bill.’”

The Common Denominator

Sean was one of several names Jones went by, and DeGreaffenried, though Jones always went back to him, was only one of several men Jones was involved with, according to both Hayes and Gooden.

“He was very elusive,” said Jey’nce Mizrahi Poindexter, the unofficial godmother of Black, gay Detroit.

She had known Jones for about five years and considered him her son.

“He had different pages on social media and different names he went by,” Poindexter said. “He’d pop in and pop out. So I just would try to help him and deal with him when I talked to him, but it was hard to keep up with him and know what was going on.”

After the iron incident, Jones received probation. He turned to Poindexter, who was a transgender victim’s advocate for Equality Michigan, and did his community service hours at the agency.

“He was very sweet,” Poindexter said. “There was definitely a good side to him. When he could get his head out of the confusion, he would talk with you and he was funny and silly and just cool to be around.”

After a while, Poindexter came to recognize



Quentin DeGreaffenried had been seeing De’Ontez Jones off and on for the last four years. DeGreaffenried’s body was discovered in his Northwest Detroit apartment on July 29. Authorities estimate he had been dead for three days. Before he died, Jones posted an apology to DeGreaffenried’s family on Instagram.

what she called Jones’s “confusion” when it would appear.

“He would think people were out to get him or feel like he couldn’t trust this person or trust that person,” she said. “I can’t diagnose or prognose, but I know he had definitely mentioned some stuff to men that I responded with, ‘Don’t listen to the confusion, drown out the noise.’ He had made some mistakes. He was trying to work, trying to hustle.”

“I never judged,” Poindexter continued. “I think he was comfortable with me and talking with me because I never judged him. I loved him right where he was at the moment he was connecting to me. I was just glad that I was able to help him for the time that I knew him.”

During the good times Jones, Poindexter said, had an appreciation for the finer things in life.

“He liked nice things. So we had that in common,” she said. “He’d always say, ‘Ma, you dress so nice.’ He’d walk through my closet and look at my stuff and we had some really nice moments.”

Poindexter and Jones drifted apart somewhat after his community service was completed. Jones and DeGreaffenried reconciled yet again and, according to DeGreaffenried’s friends and family, Jones continued to see other men on the side. One of those men was Watson, whom DeGreaffenried knew about and referred to as the “city council man.”

“Quentin would talk to me and he would mention the ‘city council man,’” said Hayes. “He would never tell me no names. I knew it was somebody in that group, that setting. De’Ontez Jones, he was a manipulator. He would find young men and just con them. He liked to use people. De’Ontez Jones drove everybody’s car. He would find young prosperous men and

he would use them. But my understanding, from listening to his friends, they would say that Sean really loved Quentin but he used everybody else. There's been a lot of them.

"DeAndree was one of the people that Sean was using as well," Hayes continued. "Sean wouldn't leave DeAndree alone because that was his money and he wouldn't leave Quentin alone because he really loved him."

Through it all, DeGraffenried would continue to vent to Gooden. She saw her best friend for the last time on June 11.

"He said, 'Ashante, he's leaving me,'" she recalled. "Sean called Quentin and said, 'I'm going to California and when I go, you're going to be surprised who goes with me.'"

According to Gooden, Jones left for California on June 17. Watson went with him and they drove across the country in his new car. Gooden believes there were others with them, but this could not be confirmed. Throughout the duration of the trip, Jones would continue to call DeGraffenried. Though they were broken up for the moment, Jones had left some belongings in DeGraffenried's apartment and wanted them back.

"He would call Quentin and threaten him and tell him he was going to whip his ass and he wanted his stuff," Gooden said. "Quentin was afraid to let Sean in the apartment. ... I believe my friend started to live in fear. He was afraid for his life. I believe he knew Sean was going to come after him and kill him. Sean used to always keep a gun, a black 9[mm]."

Jones was back in Michigan by June 25.

"Quentin called me that afternoon and said that Sean wanted him to go to Westland to drink," Gooden said. "Sean told him he had weed and everything. I was like, 'No, you shouldn't go out there. Leave him alone.' An hour later, Quentin called me and I heard them arguing."

That was the last time Gooden heard her friend's voice. She went days without hearing from him before reaching out to this family. She feared the worst, and when Hayes and her daughter Adrienne went to check on DeGraffenried on Monday, June 29, they were met by a host of flies and an awful stench outside his window. The police were called and they discovered his decomposing body inside. Dead from multiple gunshot wounds, the authorities determined he had been dead since Friday, July 26.

Word of DeGraffenried's death traveled quickly amongst his friends and associates, and, soon enough, tributes began to pour into his Facebook page.

"When I first heard about it, I thought that De'Ontez had been killed," Poindexter said. "I was crying, going crazy, and I was talking to one of my friends, who also knows De'Ontez, and he was like, 'No, sister, your son is on the run for the murder.'"

As news continued to spread about the killing, posts began appearing on Jones' Instagram account.

"I can't even explain what happened because people gone believe what they want to believe out here," the first post read. "Just know I'm hurt also. I'm completely broken over this. That was my boyfriend, that was my home."

DeGraffenried's family shared all of this information with the police. Jones spent the rest of the week on the run, but, by the end of it, he was posting to Instagram again. His birthday was coming up on July 11, and he hinted that he planned to take his life on that day.

"Imma wait it out till my birthday & baby I'm with you," he posted.

Then, just hours later, he posted twice more. "Sooooooo sorry to Quentin's family," read the first. The second: "mom I'm soo sorry."

The Last Act

Though DeGraffenried's family believes Jones was driving Watson's car when drove to DeGraffenried's apartment and killed him, what, if any other, role Watson played in the whole matter is unknown. Friends say the highly regarded Detroit City Council aid was only recently coming out of the closet and, perhaps, was not all the way out. How he met or became involved with Jones is also unknown.

Watson posted to his Instagram along the way on his cross-country trip. But he never mentioned Jones or anyone else he was traveling with and the photos he posted were only of himself. Close friends of Watson's say they knew little about Jones or his relationship with their friend.

All that is known is that in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 5, the Onstar button in Watson's car was activated. A short time later, Westland Police found him dead in his Cadillac. Like DeGraffenried, he had been shot to death. A short investigation led them to the apartment in the complex where Jones' body was found.

A host of questions still linger about what appears to be a senseless tragedy, but what is clear is that three young men aged 30 or younger are dead. DeGraffenried's family says they know that if it hadn't been for Watson's death, DeGraffenried's may have never received any attention.

"He worked for the city council, but my friend was somebody too," Gooden said.

"Nobody did anything about my baby being found dead," Hayes said. "But when they found DeAndree's body, all the publicity came. I wanted people to know it started in Ewald Circle and ended up in Westland. ... My baby's murder would have been a cold case if we hadn't spoken up and called the news."

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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Dreams Come and Go...

The mind-boggling possibility of recording dreams may soon be a reality, predicts a British monthly science magazine *How It Works*.

Nanotechnology and brain scanning techniques are now such that translating neural impulses from brain neurons and retina images to recording and screen instrumentation is almost a done deal. (Nightmares anyone? Wet dreams for replay?)

Question: Are the dreams of gay and lesbian persons significantly different from those of straights because of variations in respective brain hemispheres? How about transgender persons? Recording dreams would likely provide answers.

I once kept a dream journal. I recorded over 50 dreams for six months, which is pretty good considering that dreams are like exotic butterflies — occasionally darksome moths — unless netted quickly they flutter back into the twilight zone, vanishing forever in seconds. (Everyone dreams. Cats, dogs, parrots. Donald Trump! Dreams occur every 90 minutes. This is evidenced by rapid eye movements, REMs, which is the up-and-down fluttering behind the eyelids.)

The secret to keeping a dream journal is to remind yourself at bedtime that you will remember your dreams when awakening, and to have pencil and paper nearby to jot down vivid and fresh details. You may not get back to sleep, but you've got something to show for time spent in your brain's unique answer to Disneyland.

I reread my dream journal recently, neglected over the years. It was fascinating, embarrassing, shock theater and — to be expected of an eccentric artist like myself — wacky. No wonder Freudian shrinks find their couch company such fun.

Here's a sample. Dated July 19, 2019. Feel free to free associate. Your couch. Or mine. "I'm riding in a cab with two other passengers wearing blond wigs, none of whom speak English. We are in a foreign country at night. I get off at the stop light. The cab driver rolls down the window. "You left your beaded bag, Monsignor!" I wake up. (No tip, I'm sure.)

Modesty precludes further dream journal entries. (One including an erotic encounter with two movie stars, an acrobat, three outfielders and a drag queen piano tuner.)

Although dreams can be crazy, they keep us from going temporarily insane. If you go without sleep for more than 48 hours — say at a weekend circuit party — you can expect to experience hallucinations or psychosis without taking drugs.

The world's record for going without ZZZs is 264 hours and 11 minutes, held by a straight but really bent DJ, who never fully recovered from nonstop lack of REMs.

Of all the sweet dreams I've, had none compares to a lucid dream. It's a real mind trip, and, for the 60 seconds or so that it lasts, it's life (and sometimes love) in the fifth dimension. No question about it: the mind has a mind of its own. (Lucid Dreams, like dreaming in color, are said by psychologists to be indices of reasonably high intelligence. Smile.)

You can fly. Touch your "solid" surroundings. Ask questions of dream people. (Like being awake, you may not get intelligent

See next page



Viewpoint



BY HOLLY SKLAR

If You Value Essential Workers, Raise the Minimum Wage

Every day in these hard times, grocery workers and delivery drivers, health care aides and cleaning staff, childcare workers and fast-food cooks, go to work for \$7.25 an hour, the federal minimum wage. It's been \$7.25 since July 24, 2009. That's 11 years without an increase — the longest period in history without a raise.

Some people say we can't raise the minimum wage now because times are hard. Well, if we hadn't raised the minimum wage in hard times, we wouldn't have a minimum wage to begin with.

The federal minimum wage was enacted in 1938 during the Great Depression to put a floor under wages nationally and boost the economy by increasing consumer purchasing power.

President Franklin Roosevelt called the minimum wage "an essential part of economic recovery." He said millions of workers

"receive pay so low that they have little buying power. Aside from the undoubted fact that they thereby suffer great human hardship, they are unable to buy adequate food and shelter, to maintain health or to buy their share of manufactured goods."

The minimum wage reached its high point in buying power back in 1968, when it was worth \$12.06 in today's dollars, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator.

Minimum wage increases have been too little, too late to keep up with the rising cost of living, much less provide workers a fair share of economic growth since the 1960s.

The federal minimum wage amounts to just \$15,080 a year for full-time work. Millions of people working for low pay at

See **Viewpoint**, next page

Minimum wage increases have been too little, too late to keep up with the rising cost of living, much less provide workers a fair share of economic growth since the 1960s. The federal minimum wage amounts to just \$15,080 a year for full-time work. Millions of people working for low pay at the minimum wage and above it couldn't make ends meet even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 12

the minimum wage and above it couldn't make ends meet even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Local businesses depend on local customers who make enough to buy what they are selling — from food and clothes to haircuts and car repairs. Raising the minimum wage will give needed raises to workers who will then have more to spend as customers.

Consumer spending makes up about 70% of our economy. Raising pay at the bottom is a very efficient way to lift the economy since it puts money in the pockets of people who most need to spend it.

Many businesses support raising the minimum wage. They have seen the benefits of higher pay in lower worker turnover, reduced hiring and training costs, lower error rates, increased productivity and greater customer satisfaction. They know it will increase consumer spending and help level the playing field.

“People can't spend money at local businesses like mine if they don't have it, which is why raising the minimum wage is all the more important now,” said Michael O'Connor, a barbershop owner in Pennsylvania, where the minimum wage is still \$7.25.

Keeping the minimum wage stuck in the past will not help small businesses compete with big businesses during and after this pandemic. Costco, Amazon and Target already pay a \$15 minimum wage throughout the country.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

answers). Have a sexual fling. (I encountered one dream partner who, when refusing to fling, was told he had no choice but to be flung. It was my dream. Get with it. He did. It was mind-blowing, though we haven't spoken since.)

It's a fact. More lesbians dream of U-Hauls than do gay men. More gay men dream of

If small businesses are to survive and grow, they will need employees who want to work for them and customers who want to buy from them — whether they are ordering for delivery or coming in the store. Decent wages and good customer service will be even more crucial.

We can't say we value people's work and not pay them enough to live on.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Raise the Wage Act in 2019, which would gradually increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025. That gives businesses five years to phase in a wage that Costco, Target, Amazon, Organic Valley, Dr. Bronner's, Illegal Pete's restaurants, ECOS, Room & Board and many other businesses large and small already pay or surpass today.

It's time for action in the Senate — and for more action in the states.

We're in a generation-defining crisis. Raising the minimum wage is essential — along with measures such as grants to small businesses to make it through the pandemic and increased government purchasing from small businesses going forward.

Working together we can save lives, save livelihoods and build a shared recovery.

Holly Sklar is the CEO of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage. That is a national network of business owners and executives who believe a fair minimum wage makes good business sense. A story from The American Forum.

basket weaving. Neither dream of elephants in their respective bedroom. And, as Freud might have said, “Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. A cucumber, just a cucumber.”

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

Creep Of The Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Jason Rapert

As of this writing 150,000 people in the U.S. are dead because of the novel coronavirus. It's over half a million worldwide. We still aren't doing enough testing despite Trump's assertions that we do more testing than anywhere else in the world and if we just didn't test so damn much we wouldn't have so many cases. In other words, the dumbest man in America is still in charge, and we are all paying the price whether it's stolen time away from loved ones, stolen wages, stolen crucial years of childhood, stolen education, stolen concerts and, of course, stolen lives.

I would not wish COVID-19 on anyone, due in large part to the fact that it's so contagious and that person, however deserving they may be, could make other people sick. Except for one person: Donald Trump. Does he deserve to suffer like the millions of sick in this country who could have been spared if he had even a shred of capable leadership in him? Sure. But, honestly, I want Trump to get COVID-19 because he is a man who does not, can not and will not understand something unless it is happening directly to him. I truly believe that his own illness will be the only way Trump will consider this pandemic serious and worthy of national sacrifice and national effort necessary to defeat it.

Instead we have people who are literally taking no precautions because they don't believe it's serious or they don't believe it at all. Trump, the most selfish person on earth, has managed to make small acts to protect each other into a culture war.

When it comes to COVID-19, it doesn't care what side of the war you're on — though, truth be told, it favors people of the “masks are tyranny” variety.

And still, with the staggering death toll and the wealth of science and data, which is of course incomplete and changes as we learn more — not because liberals can't keep their story straight but because THAT'S HOW SCIENCE WORKS — we have people who are making things worse.

Like Arkansas Sen. Jason Rapert, who has downplayed the virus, retweeted a Daily Caller story about how the CDC was basically run by the “Deep State,” and that it's “common sense” not to wear masks in hot weather. He also has an anti-LGBTQ history, most notably trying to ban marriage equality in 2017.

Earlier in July, Rapert participated in a mask-free church service where he addressed the congregation. “Say, ‘I wanna be free,’” he implores in a video posted to Twitter, raising his hand. There is a mumbled response of “I wanna be free” from the crowd. “I'm not a slave of fear, but a child of God.”

He then criticizes California Gov. Gavin

Look, I'm not a Christian, but I've lived long enough in this country to understand that you don't need to be inside of a church to worship God, especially if being inside of said church could help spread a deadly pandemic. The Christian thing to do would be to stay at home and read the Bible ...

Newsom for insisting that people not do things like attend mask-free church services and get sick and/or die.

“How many of you saw in the papers that Gov. Newsom told them they couldn't even sing in church?” he asks. “I want Gov. Newsom to know, the Bible says that God inhabits the praises of his people.”

Those gathered whoop and holler, spraying airborne droplets into the unmasked faces of those around them. Unfortunately, also contained in “the praises of his people,” is the COVID-19 virus, which is why large church gatherings — or any large gatherings — are a bad idea and an unconscionable risk.

Look, I'm not a Christian, but I've lived long enough in this country to understand that you don't need to be inside of a church to worship God, especially if being inside of said church could help spread a deadly pandemic. The Christian thing to do would be to stay at home and read the Bible, bust out the hymnal for some immediate family choir time. Go take a walk alone on an uncrowded beach and keep your eyes peeled for a mysterious second set of footprints.

Anyway, spoiler alert, Rapert is now in the hospital with COVID-19, though he is reportedly responding to treatment.

Has this experience changed him? Maybe resulted in any compassion for his fellow human? Well, I would say if his taking to social media, presumably from his hospital bed, to advocate gunning down Black Lives Matter protesters across the country is any indication, the answer is no.

On Twitter he's complaining about all of the nasty messages he's been receiving from “sadistic evil people” since getting sick. And it is true, there are lot of mean messages. It's not nice to wish someone dead, but I don't see any kind of apology from Rapert about how his willful misinformation and lack of regard for the safety of others helped to spread this virus to people, some of whom may die. That's more sadistic and sick than any Twitter message could ever be.

Federal Judge Not Likely to Grant Injunction to Stop Anti-LGBTQ Rule Change

BY LISA KEEN

A federal judge in Washington, D.C., indicated Monday he is not likely to grant an injunction to stop a Trump administration change in rules that will eliminate nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people.

In an hour-long hearing conducted by telephone Monday, lawyers for several health providers serving the LGBTQ community argued that a new rule set to take effect Aug. 18 eliminates the nondiscrimination language in Obama administration regulations. The regulations pertain to how the Affordable Care Act is to be implemented.

The ACA was enacted in 2011 under President Obama. Five years later, the Obama administration issued revised regulations stating that the law's prohibition against discrimination in health care on the basis of "sex" would also cover "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

Attorneys for Lambda Legal, arguing before U.S. District Court Judge James E. Boasberg of the District of Columbia, said the new Trump rule was released just three days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that "sex" covers "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. They said they believe



Judge James E. Boasberg.

the Supreme Court decision, in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, should cover similar language in similar laws.

But Boasberg, an Obama appointee, asked whether he might be obliged to wait until the court rules on the same language in other laws before applying the *Bostock* reasoning to the ACA.

William Wayne, a Department of Justice attorney representing the Trump administration, agreed with Boasberg. He also argued that the July 19 rule change was already in the publishing process before the *Bostock*

decision was released on June 15.

Judge Boasberg questioned why, after *Bostock*, "don't you have to put [the rule change] on hold and take [the *Bostock* decision] into consideration?"

"Why not stay its effective date and consider how *Bostock* affects the rule?" asked Boasberg.

At the end of the hearing, Boasberg gave DOJ until Aug. 10 to file a brief concerning a procedural issue in the dispute and said he would rule on the request for a preliminary injunction "a couple of weeks after" that filing.

Monday's hearing was about a motion to stop implementation of the new rule by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services until the federal court can decide on the constitutionality of the new rule.

The overall lawsuit, *Whitman Walker Clinic v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, involves a challenge by LGBTQ community health clinics in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and others against a regulation from the Trump administration that they say "invites discrimination against LGBTQ people."

The new rule, set to go into effect Aug. 18, undermines regulations for implementing the federal Affordable Care Act that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in health care.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in

Bostock that "on the basis of sex" does cover sexual orientation and gender identity. It made its ruling in a dispute involving Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, that covers discrimination "on the basis of sex" in employment.

The U.S. House of Representatives filed a brief in support of the *Whitman-Walker* lawsuit, saying the ACA was intended to "remove discriminatory barriers" to health care. It noted that regulations for implementing the ACA under the Obama administration directed that the prohibition on discrimination "on the basis of sex" includes sexual orientation and gender identity. That language, noted the House brief, "involves nearly the same" legal terms as Title VII, decided in *Bostock*.

Last year, federal district court judges in Manhattan and Seattle struck down an HHS "Denial of Care" rule change that would have allowed health care providers receiving federal funds to cite "religious or moral objections" in order to deny services to certain patients.

And there are other federal lawsuits challenging the rule change that was before Boasberg Monday. Attorneys General for 23 states filed a lawsuit last month in federal court in New York, challenging the rule-change. States participating in the lawsuit include California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and New York.

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Trump Staffer Terminated from USAID Upon Anti-LGBTQ Twitter Tirade: Report

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A Trump administration staffer unleashed a series of tweets Monday expressing anti-LGBTQ animus, prompting the U.S. Agency for International Development to fire her after her anti-LGBTQ views had once gone without reprisal, according to Politico.

Merritt Corrigan, who reportedly had a short, but rocky, tenure as deputy White House liaison to USAID, tweeted “Gay marriage isn’t marriage, Men aren’t women [and] US-funded Tunisian LGBT soap operas aren’t America First” in a tirade aimed at LGBTQ people and advances in LGBTQ rights.

Corrigan on Twitter announced she’d have more to say Thursday at a news conference with conspiracy theorists Jacob Wohl and Jack Burman, notorious for making debunked attacks on progressive leaders.

“The United States is losing ground in the battle to garner influence through humanitarian aid because we now refuse to help countries who don’t celebrate sexual deviancy,” Corrigan said. “Meanwhile, Russia and China are happy to step in and eat our lunch.”

In an attack on transgender women specifically, Corrigan expressed frustration with USAID policies that don’t take into whether or not a woman is transgender.



Merritt Corrigan unleashed anti-LGBTQ tweets. (Photo via Twitter)

“I watched with horror this week as USAID distributed taxpayer funded documents claiming ‘we cannot tell someone’s sex or gender by looking at them’ and that not calling oneself ‘cis-gendered’ is a microaggression,” Corrigan said. “I’m not cis-anything. I’m a woman.”

According to Politico’s Daniel Lippman, USAID fired Merritt Corrigan on Monday after she began posting her tweets. Barsa told the White House of his decision and received no pushback, Politico reported.

The White House and USAID didn’t immediately respond to the Washington Blade’s request to comment on whether the Trump administration would repudiate her remarks.

Corrigan’s reported departure comes months after CNN’s KFile reported in late June Corrigan has a history of inflammatory rhetoric aimed at refugees, the LGBTQ community and women.

“Mass deportations when?” Corrigan tweeted in October 2019, linking to a 2010 article in which German Chancellor Angela Merkel said German multiculturalism has failed, according to CNN.

According to a report in Axios, USAID employee groups in June requested to meet with John Barsa, the acting administrator of USAID, over concerns about Corrigan and other appointees. Barsa, however, defended Corrigan at the time despite her history of anti-LGBTQ and anti-immigrant comments.

Corrigan previously worked at Hungary’s Embassy in the United States, where she repeatedly tweeted support for far-right Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and referred to him as “the shining champion of

Western civilization,” according to ProPublica.

Led by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), 20 Democratic House members sent a letter to Barsa in late July, urging him to demand Corrigan’s resignation because her positions Corrigan are “in direct opposition to the work USAID supports.”

David Stacy, government affairs director for the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement Corrigan “is not unique in the Trump Administration,” which the organization has heavily criticized for its anti-LGBTQ policies and appointments.

“She is the exact type of anti-LGBTQ zealot that Trump recruits and places in positions of power,” Stacy said. “Corrigan’s biased and harmful beliefs are not shared by ‘the vast majority of Americans.’ Corrigan is a symptom of a larger problem, it’s time to hold the Trump-Pence administration accountable at the ballot box and elect a leader this November who supports the fundamental humanity of LGBTQ people and appoints people who share that basic decency.”

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

Over 300 Catholic Leaders Object to Commission on Unalienable Rights’ Religious Freedom Priority

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Over a period of two days, Catholic religious leaders from across the U.S. have signed a statement in objection to the draft report of the newly formed Commission on Unalienable Rights, which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo intends to rely upon as “advice on human rights grounded in our nation’s founding principles and the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” The letter in objection asserts that the draft report as it currently stands will prioritize religious freedoms over other human rights.

The authors of the statement include former Ambassador to the Holy See Miguel Diaz; Professor Hille Haker, an ethicist who holds the Richard McCormick Endowed Chair of Catholic Moral Theology at Loyola University Chicago; Dr. Mary E. Hunt, co-director of Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual; and the Executive Director of DignityUSA Marianne Duddy-Burke.

“All who endorsed this statement understand that it violates the social justice foundations of our faith,” Duddy-Burke said. “Despite Catholic leadership on the Commission and the blessing the report received from a U.S. Cardinal, this document does not further the dignity and

equality of all human beings. If implemented, it would limit human rights for countless people, especially those who most demand our care and attention.”

Primarily, signers have recommended “more nuance” in the way that the report focuses on the term “religious freedom.”

“The writers presuppose that the United States is a country that embraces its Protestant, republican, and liberal traditions, without elaborating on what the cultural changes over the last two hundred years mean for their interpretation. Human rights are founded not only on a Christian (natural law) theory, but have a home in many other religious and non-religious traditions. The Commissioners ignore the Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ perspective on religious freedom, as well as the internal debates with regards to religious freedom, race, equal rights of women, and LGBTQ+ rights,” the letter states. “Most egregiously, the document misses the present context of religious freedom – namely the discrimination and danger which members of various religions, among them Islam and Judaism, experience in the United States.”

Read the full letter and see its signers online at pridesource.com.



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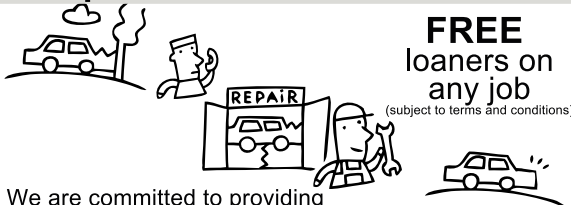
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Five15 Owners to Expand Operations With Purchase of Pronto!

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Five15 has long been Metro Detroit's hub for Drag Queen Bingo entertainment, but its operations are set to expand with the purchase of the neighboring Pronto! Restaurant and Video Bar. Co-owner Gary Baglio said that this deal has been in the works for over a year, and the hope is to turn Five15 into a Royal Oak "entertainment complex."

"Our space has always been an issue," Baglio said. "Our shows have been selling out for years and they just keep getting bigger and bigger and bigger. About a little over a year ago, the owners of Pronto! came to me. They were looking to sell and [they asked me] would I be interested in buying out the rest of the lease and the rest of the space from them. Of course, absolutely I wanted to."

Now with a footprint that spans the entire corner of W 6th Street and S Washington Avenue, the focus will turn to renovations and updates.

"Five15's vibe is very Palm Springs 1960s lounge decor, and we're looking to expand that across the entire space," he said. "In the immediate future, Pronto will be closed and we'll be using the patio and we'll be using the outdoor space for outdoor dining."

That patio is the second-largest in Royal Oak, spanning 2,000 square feet. Baglio said that in the coming months, it will be used to help current Drag Queen Bingo shows adhere to social distancing even better.

"[The novel coronavirus] has impacted us a lot. Mainly, people are fearful of coming out, and I understand that. We have taken extensive precautions here. Number one, we are reducing our capacity by 2/3, so our capacity is 150 people and we only allow about 50 people per show now," he said. "We also bought a bunch



of big planters that divide up the space. ... And by moving our shows out to the patio, it would give our guests that extra layer of comfort being outside because people are more apt to do things outside as opposed to doing things indoors."

Baglio said that soon guests will be able to look forward to an increased menu and even coffee drinks with "a little bit of extra spice."

"Like a Long Island iced coffee or Bailey's and coffee. We have a liquor license, so we'll be able to serve liquor with our coffee drinks as well as sandwiches and things like that," he said.

In addition, there will be some programming additions that fans will be able to mark on their calendars soon.

"The goal is to be a complex where there are multiple things happening under one roof that you can take advantage of by walking from room to room to room," Baglio said.

To learn more about Five15, visit its website: Five15.net.

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Find Puzzle on p.25

We Are Family

A Look at Hotter Than July's Family Inclusion

HOTTER THAN JULY
RETROSPECTIVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
HOTTER THAN JULY

BY DAMON "MAGIC" PERCY

Every year, Hotter Than July includes activities and spaces for families. Shontese Hill, an out-and-proud lesbian of color, exposed her biological children, Ka'Juan and Missy, to the LGBTQ community at early ages.

"I brought my daughter, Missy, to the [Hotter Than July] picnic somewhere around the third Pride," Hill said. "My extended family always came to the picnic. They were always open, warm and had a phenomenal time."

Hill, no stranger to community work in the LGBTQ community, began volunteering with a group called Brothers & Sisters in the early '90s. She said having her children grow up in this community has been a blessing, it has allowed her to feel safe and secure.

"Hotter Than July always offered places that gave a familiar feeling, somewhere I could feel OK being myself," Hill said. "A benefit of that was connecting with people who will make it their business to attend the picnic so they can bring their children and show that it is a normal thing."

There are events specifically geared toward children and families at Hotter Than July's picnic every year. However, Hill said she knows LGBTQ couples who will not bring their children to anything Pride-related because they do not want them to be exposed to it.

"There should be nothing hidden; I raised my two [children] at Pride every year," Hill said. "The only time they were not there was if they were with other family members. I always believed in my truth."

Hill said she has become a surrogate mother in the community, taking in children whose parents have kicked them out of their homes.

"I feel like a mother to many of my son's friends," Hill said. "They would be put out simply for being gay, and I would take them in. I made them feel welcomed, made sure they went to school, had food and somewhere to sleep when their families did not."

"Pose," FX's Emmy-nominated television series – that documented the lives of LGBTQ people of color – has popularized ballroom culture. Ballroom culture is an underground LGBTQ subculture where nonbiological families are created. This alternative family structure is responsible for connecting LGBTQ people whose biological family ostracized them.

While ShaTanya Atwell, 47, is not a biological



Above: Ka'Juan, Shontese and Missy Hill. Below: ShaTanya "Dada" Atwell. Photos by Jason Flowers.

mother, she certainly has formed quite the family and following in the community.

Atwell is a trans woman affectionately known as "Dada." She is a respected figure in the community, and she has been around since the beginning of Hotter Than July. She said that experiencing discord with some of her own biological family members influenced her to create a chosen family.

"Initially, me being trans, my family did not talk to me," Atwell said. "It was my first friend, Cat, in the community that made me realize that I could be who I am."

Being transparent and vulnerable has helped Atwell demonstrate her strength in being an example of a trans woman navigating the community.

"I made my own family and world. They know everything about me, and I know everything about them," Atwell said. "I want them to know everything, because I don't want someone to tell them something they should know. That needs to come from me."

Atwell said that being a parent chose her.

"I have taken care of a lot of kids who were out on the streets or on the stroll at 12 and 13 years old. Some families are created from so many broken homes," she said.

Over 15 years ago, Atwell worked at the Ruth Ellis Center and was introduced to a new generation of young people. The Ruth Ellis Center is a nonprofit organization aimed at providing a residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth.

"I wanted to show them love, give them respect and earn their respect," she said. "I taught them to be friendly but follow your first impression and gut feeling."

It was at the Ruth Ellis Center that Atwell got more involved in LGBTQ community work. She said that she appreciates the fact Hotter

Than July is such a fun experience and that the gathering of the community is more special there than anywhere else.

"People can find themselves here and gravitate toward people who've created families," Atwell said. "I have always been able to bring kids to Hotter Than July."

Both Hill and Atwell believe that they have shown their children what family should be and remain examples of positive role models for their children and the LGBTQ community.

Hill said she is proud that her children "stayed true to who they are and didn't let someone talk them down." Atwell said, "I have been able to show my kids what family looks like, and that they should build their own families."

Damon "Magic" Percy is a cultural historian, writer, activist and archivist based out of Detroit. He sits on the boards of community organizations – Black Bear Brotherhood and Detroit Sound Conservancy – and is a long-standing member of LGBT Detroit.



Slick Chicks

Chicks Frontwoman Natalie Maines on Trio's Enduring Kinship With the LGBTQ Community

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Sitting somewhere with an abstract-art background obscuring her precise location, (Dixie) Chicks frontwoman Natalie Maines erupts into an explosive maybe-I-shouldn't cackle during our Zoom call as she talks about how she's about to get in trouble for saying too much. This time, it's regarding a controversial decision made by country trio Lady A, formerly known as Lady Antebellum. After the band changed their name in solidarity with the current Black Lives Matter movement, they sued a Black blues singer named Lady A for the trademark to the title. And yes, Maines has something to say about that.

After all, this is Natalie Maines, who directed pointed criticism at then-President George W. Bush in 2003 at a London concert, when the Lubbock, Texas native said The Chicks were "ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas."

Country music blackballed them. Conservatives torched their CDs. The promo poster for the 2006 documentary about the fallout, "Shut Up and Sing," depicted The Chicks sitting on top of the U.S. Capitol building, their half-naked

bodies graffitied with words and phrases like "Dixie Bimbos," "Traitors" and "Big Mouth." In the 2020 doc "Miss Americana," about Taylor Swift's evolution into a vocal anti-Trump liberal and LGBTQ-rights advocate, Swift said she had been pressured to refrain from being politically and socially free-spoken to avoid a Chicks-like career implosion.

Returning after a 14-year recording hiatus, Maines, fortunately, still refuses to shut up on "Gaslighter," the trio's most authentic and unflinchingly personal album yet. Joined by sisters Martie Maguire and Emily Robison, "Gaslighter" does exactly what Maines couldn't during our interview (a prenup preempts her from doing so): detail her divorce from her husband, actor Adrian Pasdar, of 17 years with scathing lyrical specificity, the kind of wig-snatching realness the queer community devours. An honest album about survival, it couldn't have come at a better time.

During our Zoom session, Maines discussed the post-controversy era of their career as the moment she noticed a major show of support from the LGBTQ community, the queer creators who nurtured the new album's vibe, and the gays she'd party with on her boat. Yes, *that* boat.

Photo: Sony Music

Let's start with a *different* personal journey you've taken. It involves you watching "Vanderpump Rules." Tell me what led you down that road – a road so many gay men themselves have gone down.

Ha! Well, let me say, it's a part of my pandemic TV binging. In the past, when I was sick, I was in bed all day and, "Oh, hey, I've never watched 'The Kardashians.' But there's a whole marathon. I'm gonna watch 'The Kardashians.'" So I think with COVID, I've binge-watched shows I never would've binge-watched before, and "Vanderpump Rules" is a really good one, actually. I will continue to be a fan even after this pandemic! Ha!

You get to live vicariously through someone else's drama.

I like drama at a distance! A *big* distance.

For "Gaslighter," you worked with queer pop songwriter Justin Tranter and trans-woman producer Teddy Geiger. How did working with LGBTQ collaborators help to shape the authenticity of the album's narrative?

They kind of play different roles, but yeah, the first song that we wrote for the album was with Teddy and Justin, and it was "Sleep at Night." That (track) was a very different sound for us and that really excited me. That was all Teddy. She went to these electronic drums and just started with that beat, and the way that Justin and Teddy can both phrase things very percussively and put them in the song was a real lesson for me that I try to do now and perfect and get better at. So, yes, as far as where we could go with the sound, they were very much there. And Justin is such a great lyricist. He was definitely there to help us say what we wanted to say *and* tell. Ha!

Your producer, Jack Antonoff, once told me he was a straight guy with "lesbian chemicals."

He's very in touch with his feminine side! I think that's why he works so well with females. I have never asked him this, and he works with males too, but I wonder if he does enjoy working with females better. Or a lot of males just look at him as the female producer so they don't ask him. Ha!

When we chatted in 2013 you told me Rachel Maddow would be your "lesbian girl crush." Maybe your lesbian chemicals and Jack's lesbian chemicals are what really made this collaboration work.

Ha! I don't know. Because we all *three* got along great with him! He just has a sensitivity. He just doesn't have that macho, masculine, jerk kind of thing. He's got a healthy ego. He doesn't need to build himself up by putting other people down or by holding them back. And he's a great communicator, which women love. A lot of straight men are not! Ha!

You consulted different activist groups for the "March March" video, which features images from a Pride parade alongside footage from

current Black Lives Matter protests. For the video, who did you consult from the LGBTQ community?

My friend Michael Skolnik, an activist and an organizer and a liaison for a lot of people (and the founding partner of The Soze Agency, a creative agency focusing on authentic campaigns that uplift compassion and equity), we consulted him for the "March March" video. One of the things he said was, "Have more from gay Pride marches." He mentioned the (Black) trans march in Brooklyn (in June). He was like, "That was a huge march, so you should put that one in." I've known Michael for a long time; he's a great guy; he organized March for Our Lives (in 2018 in D.C.) that we all went to as well.

Also, I'm on these calls as part of a group called Harness (founded by America Ferrera, Wilmer Valderrama and Ryan Piers Williams, the group connects communities through conversation to inspire action and power change). They've been having a lot more Zoom calls, and I've been on a lot of those.

Harness brings all different walks of life together and supports diversity and Black Lives Matter, and White People 4 Black Lives and different trans and LGBTQ causes or groups. It's a great place as just somebody who wants to speak out and hear and know as much as I can, and those calls are a great way to listen and not talk, and learn. Learn directly from the source.

Your relationship with the LGBTQ community goes way back, at least publicly. Have you always been a queer magnet?

I mean, I was always open to it. But growing up in Lubbock, Texas, I can think of people that I knew who were *probably* gay, but they weren't out yet. I don't even know if they knew that about themselves yet, necessarily. Lubbock was a very suppressive place.

But you would've guided them and held their hand through the coming out process.

I would've always been their friend, for sure. In Lubbock – I'm sure it's different now, I'm an old lady, ha! – but back in the '90s in high school, I can't even think of somebody who was out-there gay. They might not have been trying to act straight but you just ... you didn't feel free like that. So I hope that's changed in Lubbock. I have to assume it has.

You know, I've asked some of our gay fans, "What is it that has drawn gay people to us?" Because I think after the controversy there was an extra kinship for just understanding what it feels like to be hated by a mass group of people. Ha! *Then*, them acting out on it. But then fighting for what you believe is right, and standing up for yourselves, and not letting them shush you. Before that, what my friends have told me was what gay fans liked was the over-the-top sort of Spice Girls fashion. Ha! We were the cliché for every fad! We wore every fad all at once!

See **Slick Chicks**, continued on p. 22



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► Slick Chicks

Continued from p. 21

You must've seen a lot of Chicks drag queens then, right?

Yes. "Chicks with Dicks" – there were a lot of those kinds of revues.

I think your divorce has maybe given some false hope to lesbians. On Twitter, I'm seeing queer women express that even though they love "Gaslighter," they'll always be sad that you're not queer.

Ha! You know, sometimes I do think, "Would that have been easier? Darn it!" But I think I'm more of a gay guy on the inside. Is there a title for that?

For a straight woman who presents as a gay man?

Or just *feels* it on the inside!

Call Jack. I'm sure he has a good name for it.

Yeah, we probably meet right in the middle. I forgot the question!

It was about lesbians who are sad that you're not queer.

Ha! I mean, we used to always joke that when I got the short hair, yeah, people liked to think that. But before that we always joked that lesbians seem to like Martie. Martie's always dressed a little more gender-neutral. She likes pants. And listen, she's got a great body, so (she attracts) *all* demographics. One time she flirted with Ellen on a red carpet.

Gay Twitter is obsessed with your boat, referenced on "Gaslighter" and then, of course, "Tights on My Boat." And they want to party on that boat. If you could invite three famous LGBTQ folks to hang with you on your boat, who would they be?

Ha! I'm thinking of several. I'm gonna go with Andy Cohen, Howard Stern's top gay. Goin' with him. I also have the stress of: I'll probably miss my favorite one because I'm just not thinking! I could go all news. I have to think in smaller categories.

You're an Indigo Girls fan. How about Amy and Emily?

Yeah, there'd be some good music there. I could go, like, Anderson Cooper, Rachel Maddow and Don Lemon. There's my three *news* people.

Wait. What about Fortune Feimster? I mean, you *did* have a dance with her.

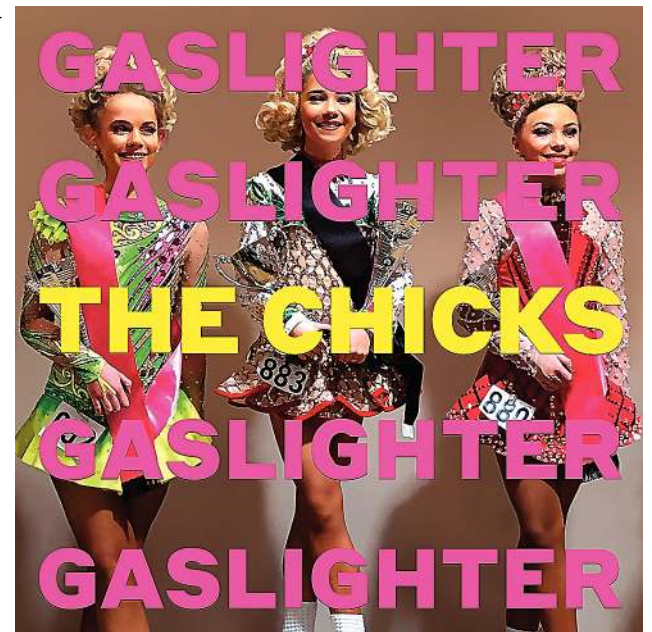
Love, love, love Fortune. See, that's why I said you gotta go smaller categories! So if I had a "comedy" LGBTQ guest list it'd be: Fortune, Wanda Sykes ... who else? Maybe Rosie or Ellen. Yeah. I could have a good time with either one of them!

Is Fortune a good dancer?

Fortune's a good ice cream dancer. We did her first *duo* ice cream dance (in which they danced with ice cream in their hands). I had the honor of being the first person to do that. Ha!

The Chicks changed their name to meet the moment. The name change was subtle; there was no flashy press release. And you didn't even have to sue a Black artist for the rights to the name. How do you think other bands have handled their approach to changing their name?

Listen, I think it's unfortunate, yes. Bad move on the lawsuit. I think they should've rethought that. Just not a good look. And I say this with peace and love, but if they had called me for counsel – ha! – this is what I would've told them: I would've said, "Listen, by suing her, you're doing the opposite



of what you're trying to do. And it's not going to go well. And it's just *not* the right thing to do. If you really want to meet this moment, if you're changing your name for the right reasons or to really have a certain impact or outcome, then you are doing the opposite of that."

And listen, we felt the pressure of, once you've had success, changing your name feels like a huge thing to overcome. We had had discussions about changing our name since 2003. But it seemed, just for whatever reason, too big a thing to do, and nobody was calling on us to do it. We just felt icky having Dixie in our name. Then, for us, we had to think of other names. We didn't really want to have anything other than The Chicks, but we knew that that could legally be a really hard thing to get because it's such a common word.

So we had lawyers, and we took our time. But even Lady Antebellum, or Lady A, they had that trademark for, like, six years. But I don't know their situation. To me, if they were told nobody else had that name, they should fire that attorney. Ha! Because, basically, that was an easy thing to find. So I don't know if (the attorney) knew and just thought, You're bigger than them so you would win the trademark and you'll be fine going forward. But it's really not the right way to do it.

So, I think they should've just picked a brand new name. That's what I would've told them. Because they might've even had more fans, or made people recognize their name even more. I think the worry is, "Nobody's gonna know who we are." Like, maybe they missed the news story where you changed your name. Ha!

But I think that's what they should've done. Brand new name. And they can still do it right now. That is my advice to them. And it feels amazing. I have to say, all of that discussion and overthinking and worry, like, "How do you change your name after so much success?" Oh my god, it was a gift. It was a weight that you didn't even realize you were carrying.

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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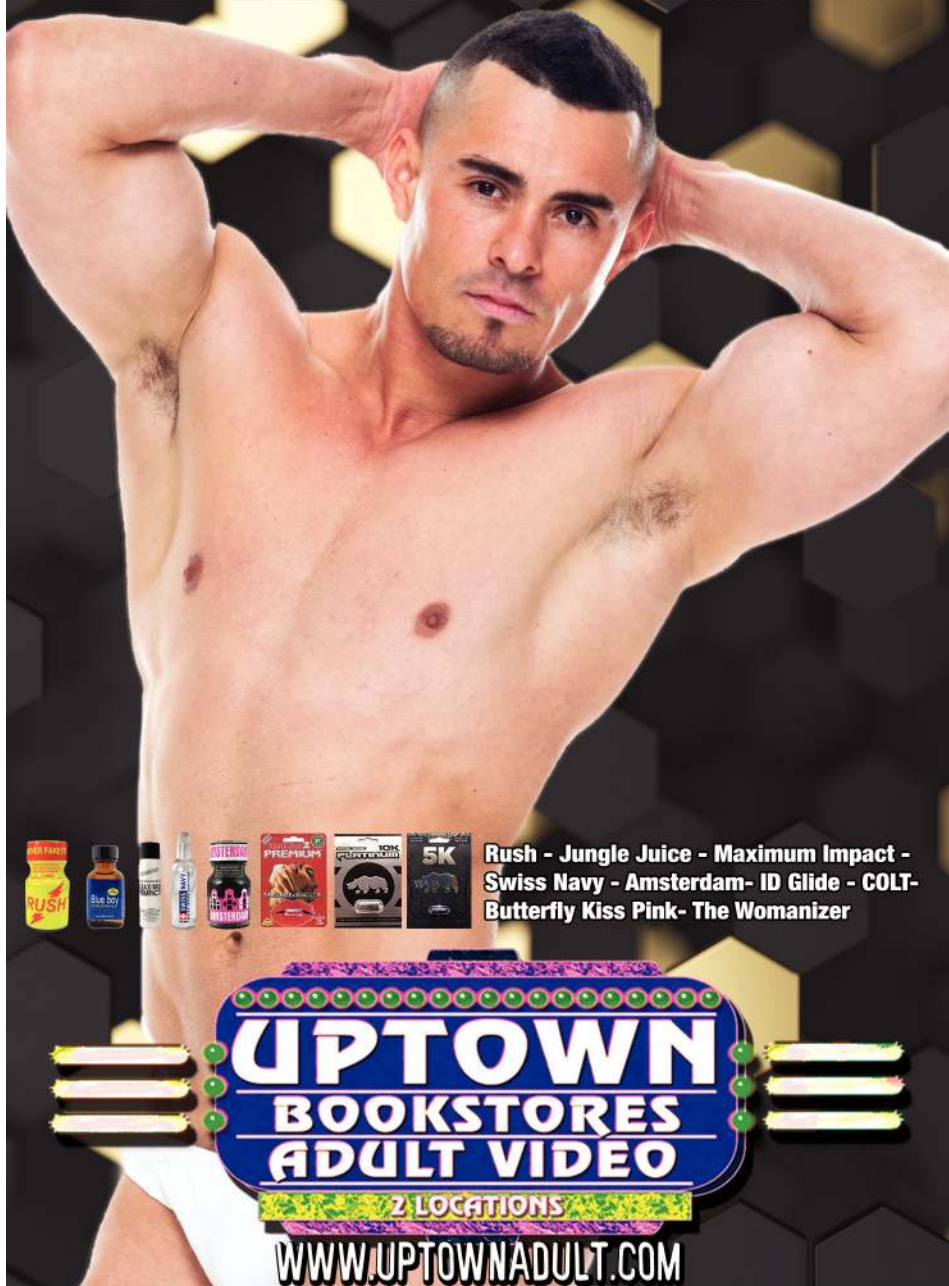
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Billy Eichner developing Paul Lynde biopic 'Man in the Box'

Queer and square at the same time is a good way to describe the legendary Paul Lynde, the comic actor who worked in film and TV for decades, but is most well-known for occupying the center square box of the long-running game show "Hollywood Squares." And for the upcoming biopic "Man in the Box," the title takes on a second meaning, because Lynde was, if not fully closeted, also not fully out in any contemporary understanding of the word. He existed as he was on camera, a not-masculine man in a pre-Stonewall culture (the word was "flamboyant" back then) whose job was to make America laugh. But he was also never allowed to speak about who he was. It was a peculiar and terrible bind placed on performers of that era, one that will be explored when Billy Eichner takes on the role. Eichner is producing the film, and developing a script from Edwin Cannistraci, which will explore the complexities and isolation of a Hollywood life lived somewhere between the closet and career-ending honesty. It seems like a no-brainer that Eichner should be the person who handles this story, and we can't wait to see the final product.

Scotty Bowers lives again thanks to Seth Rogen and Luca Guadagnino

The late Scotty Bowers was a bisexual man who could only exist in Hollywood in the golden age of studios controlling actors' lives. Back in post-WW2 Los Angeles, Bowers operated a combination gas station/brothel, serving the needs of closeted actors and actresses with an array of helpful employees. His late-in-life tell-all book, "Full Service," inspired the documentary "Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood," and his life was the basis for a character in Ryan Murphy's miniseries "Hollywood." That means it's time for another take on the story, this time from queer filmmaker Luca Guadagnino ("Call Me By Your Name") and the screenwriting team of Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. It's early yet, so there's no cast, and no delivery date that we know of, but re-orienting Hollywood history to accommodate the truths that actors were denied the chance to live openly back in the day? That's always welcome, whenever they get around to sharing it with the world.

'Transparent' star Trace Lysette producing 'Trans in Trumpland'

The current anti-queer presidential administration has made no secret of its particular animosity toward the trans community, and has done everything it can to make their lives impossible. Bizarrely, while enacting every sort of roadblock they can to transgender citizens living lives with dignity, their leader continues to deny that it's happening. So it's vital and relevant that transgender actress Trace Lysette ("Transparent") is currently executive producing "Trans in Trumpland." The four-part documentary series to be directed by trans filmmaker Tony Zosherafatayn will follow four trans people fighting back against the Trump administration's attempts to dismantle equal rights protections. The series, co-produced by longtime trans activist Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, will take a road trip style journey through Idaho, Texas, North Carolina and Mississippi, where individual trans citizens are working to survive, thrive and make a difference. Completed in 2019, the series is currently looking for a broadcast home.

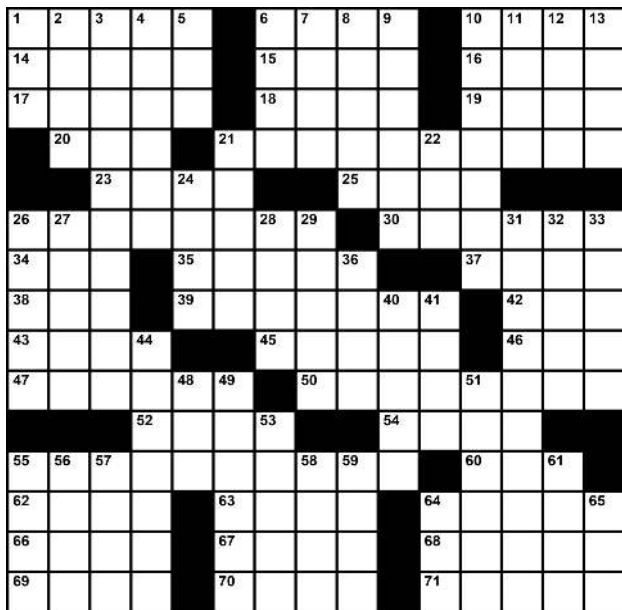


Trace Lysette. Photo: KathClick

'Pose' co-creator Steven Canals has '81 Words' for the world

Until the year 1974, the American medical establishment officially considered queer people to be mentally ill. This injustice was changed after activists Frank Kameny and Barbara Gittings risked their careers, alongside a group of closeted psychiatrists, to challenge the American Psychiatric Association's official stance on the matter. Now, thanks to FX, which recently gave audiences "Mrs. America," that story is getting its own miniseries. "Pose" co-creator Steven Canals is developing the project, and will write the script based on Alix Spiegel's award-winning "This American Life" episode about the subject. That this counts as relatively recent queer history, a fairly grim facet of our lives that many LGBTQ people might not even know about, is proof enough that the stories need to keep being told. Like they'd say on "Pose," "Teach the Children!"

Romeo San Vicente is currently at the beach, masked, with a 6-foot sand castle barrier separating him from admirers.



A New Crime Fighter in Town

Across

- 1 He doesn't sleep with women
- 6 Opera villain, typically
- 10 Pole of your first mate?
- 14 Bass formerly of NSYNC

Q Puzzle

- 15 Like a top
- 16 Curtain-raising time
- 17 Not at all cool
- 18 Palindromic male name
- 19 Boat bottom
- 20 With 21-Across, TV series of Javicia Leslie
- 21 See 20-Across
- 23 Layer beneath two plastic brides
- 25 Goes out with
- 26 Unsophisticated
- 30 Tee Corinne pics, e.g.
- 34 MPG monitor
- 35 Use for a bed
- 37 Maupin story of the city
- 38 Mel of Giants fame
- 39 With 55-Across, 2019 film of Javicia Leslie

- 42 Stole upon the stage
- 43 Not even once, to Whitman
- 45 Ready for bed
- 46 Duvall played her in "Popeye"
- 47 Cleverly skillful
- 50 Shipboard personnel
- 52 Samurai's continent
- 54 Frolicking run
- 55 See 39-Across
- 60 Prefix with "woman" in an upcoming role for Javicia Leslie
- 62 "Modern Family" adoptee
- 63 Express love manually, perhaps
- 64 Claire Morgan, to Patricia Highsmith
- 66 Vaulted church area
- 67 Objectifies, sexually
- 68 Gay men's lifestyle magazine
- 69 Noise of the lambs
- 70 Petrol station choice
- 71 Bean of "Normal, Ohio"

Down

- 1 Kind of shot
- 2 Initiated phone sex
- 3 Like couples who bathe together?
- 4 Like sour fruits
- 5 Muscle Mary's weight training unit
- 6 Crude dude
- 7 "No" voter
- 8 Gay.com, and others
- 9 Balls
- 10 Reaches the top
- 11 Passed with flying colors
- 12 Pansy supporter
- 13 Scrabble Q, for example
- 21 Easily damaged
- 22 NYPD rank
- 24 Anne Hathaway's "enchanted" role
- 26 Former hotelier Helmsley
- 27 Quit, with "out"
- 28 Makes costumes, e.g.
- 29 "The L Word," and others
- 31 Symptom of being a breeder?

- 32 Andrew ___ Webber
- 33 Elite Navy divers
- 36 Nureyev's refusal
- 40 Mortimer, with a wooden head
- 41 Words used in setting the tempo
- 44 Some of Melissa Etheridge's crew
- 48 Sussex suffix
- 49 Poor trick rag
- 51 One who comes slowly
- 53 Cockeyed
- 55 Use your mouth unfaithfully
- 56 Cohost Kelly
- 57 Rick's old flame
- 58 Is unlike Dorian Gray
- 59 ___ many words
- 61 Source of poi address
- 64 Sixth word of Abe's address
- 65 T. Baldwin's title

Clues P. 18

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

AIDS/HIV

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

Metro Care Coordination Network

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

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

Matrix MAC Health

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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

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

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

Community Centers

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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

Find these resources online

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
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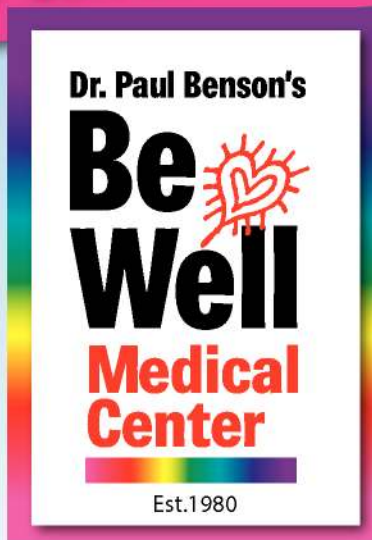
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3 On the Edge: Transcending the Standard of Care

(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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