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Here are some of our latest online-only pieces:

LGBTQ Trump Supporters Tiptoe Away From President After US Capitol Attack

By Chris Johnson

Fair and Equal Michigan Keeps Pushing for LGBTQ Rights Initiative in 2021

By Eve Kucharski

Washtenaw County Adopts Equity and Inclusion Statement, Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

By BTL Staff

Jim Toy Community Center Announces Closure of its Physical Office Space, Launches GoFundMe Campaign

By BTL Staff



The Ann Arbor-based Jim Toy Community Center has announced the closure of its physical office space. It has begun a \$30,000 GoFundMe campaign to aid with ongoing financial struggles due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

Groundwork Laid, Dave Coulter Starts First Full Term in 2021 With Clear Vision

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

While most politicians running for their first full term in office can boast related experience and background, few can say they have firsthand experience. That's the case with Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter, who, long before he was elected by the people of Oakland County to serve as their executive, was thrust into the position when he was appointed to replace incumbent L. Brooks Patterson after his death in August of 2019. Coulter made history. Not only was he the first Democrat to hold the position since its creation in 1974, but he was the first openly gay official to do so as well. In fact, with its 1.2 million residents, Coulter effectively became the highest-ranking regional LGBTQ official in the state of Michigan outside of Attorney General Dana Nessel, whose position is statewide.

But as Coulter expressed in a *Between The Lines* interview during 2020's election season, he "never intended to just keep the seat warm" for another candidate.

"I didn't know in the beginning if I wanted to run or not. But once I had my team together and we established a relationship with the board of commissioners [that] was really good and I knew we could make a difference on these big things, then the ability to be part of that, and help drive that kind of change in Oakland County, was what really attracted me to want to stick around," he said.

Since winning the election by a more than 10-percentage-point margin against Republican opponent Mike Kowall, Coulter has had the advantage of needing no transition period between administrations and has continued to progress the initiatives and programs he began since his appointment. Coulter joined *Between The Lines* for an interview in December to assess current projects and his priorities going forward in 2021.

Implementing Equity

One of the first things that Coulter

emphasized when he began his term was his focus on diversity and inclusion within Oakland County. In December of 2020, he announced the creation of a 31-member Equity Council that is made up of employees and officials across almost every county department. The council will hold monthly meetings to assess the County's efficacy in its work, and its stated mission is to create a culture that respects diversity, equity and inclusion; promotes cultural sensitivity and understanding among employees; encourages and promotes workforce diversity; and ensures that the public receives services in a culturally sensitive manner. It is led by Robin Carter-Cooper, the county's first chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer.

Regarding his own LGBTQ identity, Coulter said that it helped to inform him on the value of giving diverse people a "seat at the table."

"I think my being LGBTQ helps give me a heightened awareness for my own limited perspective of the value of making sure that these historically underrepresented populations and issues actually get heard and addressed," he said. "... And I'm happy to say that several LGBT employees that are on that council makes sure that these kinds of issues

are front-of-mind and being discussed, [so that we implement] policy to address any inequities in those areas so they actually get resolved. I think it's a critical step that a council like that is going to be laying out measures that actually operationalize it and make sure change actually happens. That's what's really important."

Coulter's taken steps to implement payment equity among Oakland County employees as well. While the County has been taking steps to update its more than 30-year-old compensation plan since 2017, under Coulter a plan has been approved to increase County employee salaries across all departments by over \$10.5 million with room to grow over the next five years.

"The previous administrations had decided that Oakland County needed a compensation study. And, essentially, those are used to make sure that our salaries in the county are competitive with market-rate salaries so that we can retain and attract the best, most-skilled employees. ... But, frankly, compensation studies are difficult to do. They're broad, they're complex, they require a lot of work and that work had not been done, so I had the decision when we took over to either continue to implement a compensation study or not," Coulter said.

And ultimately, he felt it was the best way of "instilling fairness in the [County's] wage brackets."

"Because if somebody's not getting a decent wage, it means they were undervalued to the market and that needs to be corrected if we're going to have a great workforce going forward. I have high expectations for our employees and we demand a lot of them so, at the same time, we need to compensate them like that market would," he said. "I was pleased that the board of commissioners approved that earlier this month and that we're going to start implementing that. It's a critical part of talent retention and attraction."

Dealing with COVID-19

As the novel coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt life around the world, Coulter said he's planning to adhere to regulations brought down from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to stop COVID-19's spread. Regarding recently released COVID-19 vaccines, Coulter is focused on getting as many vaccines "out as quickly and safely as possible" while still following regulations regarding their distribution.

"We are prepared to distribute as many doses of the vaccine as we acquire. A lot of my job has been making sure that once these vaccines come into our hands, we can get them out quickly and safely to the population. That's a huge focus

of mine," he said. "I know that some are saying that this group should be ahead of that group, but ... we've all agreed that we'd follow, as long as it'd make sense, a unified and uniform schedule of who gets the vaccines when."

Notably, Coulter's administration has made bars and restaurants a priority by providing them \$10 million in a second round of relief funding via the Oakland Together Restaurant Relief Program before 2020's end. Coulter said that service industries, which have been disproportionately damaged by COVID-19's stay-at-home regulations, were high on his list to help.

"Earlier this spring, we gave out a pretty substantial round of funding to restaurants and bars, but when the governor had to unfortunately tighten up the health regulations and close indoor dining and drinking, we knew that that was going to be an area that needed particular help," Coulter said. "I'm very worried about us losing restaurants and bars over the winter; they're just not going to be able to survive. So, we looked at the amount of remaining CARES Act dollars that we had and said, 'OK, we've put an additional burden on those businesses, and we need to get them another round of relief'"

The CARES Act, or The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, gave a total of \$2.2 trillion of aid to businesses around the U.S. back in March of 2020. While funds were left over for Oakland County, Coulter said the tricky part of distributing them was the lengthy application and approval process that accompanies their allocation. And they were accessible to the County only until the end of 2020.

"So what we did is we took the almost 1,000 bars and restaurants that had received money from us in the spring, and we simply gave them another check. That allowed us to get the money out the door as soon as possible, without going through another application that we were afraid would take us past the end of the year," he said.

Coulter said that while he's pleased that Congress's Paycheck Protection Program is slated to aid bars and restaurants again, he realizes that that money likely won't be distributed until the spring of 2021.

"This was never meant to be enough money to get them through next summer, but our hope was that it would be enough to keep them going until the federal government got another round of stimulus out the door. It looks like that's going to happen, but even if that doesn't happen right away, the hope is that that is really bridge funding to get them through to maybe the spring when they will start to get this federal money that we hoped would come and now

See **Dave Coulter**, page 9

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BTL Photo: Susan Horowitz and Jan Stevenson

New Publisher Takes Over Between The Lines and Pridesource.com

Jan Stevenson, Susan Horowitz to Retire

As of Jan. 1, 2021, Between The Lines and all associated publishing media products have a new publisher. Benjamin Jenkins of Ann Arbor has assumed ownership of the 28-year old LGBTQ publishing network.

Jenkins is the former Production Manager at Pride Source Media Group, which is the former publisher of Between The Lines, the annual Pride Source Magazine



Benjamin Jenkins

and the website Pridesource.com. Six years ago he formed Merithot Creative Marketing, an agency based in Ann Arbor that specializes in branding, websites, videography and digital marketing.

"We are thrilled that Benjamin will be the new publisher of BTL and all the other print and digital products developed by Pride Source Media Group," said Jan Stevenson, co-owner of Pride Source Media Group. "He knows the products inside out from having worked first on our staff for a number of years, and since he's gone out on his own we have continued working together on many projects involving both our digital and print products."

"Benjamin has the knowledge of our history at BTL and shares our commitment to the LGBTQ community," said Susan Horowitz, co-owner with Stevenson of Pride Source Media Group. "He has the skills, the team and the resources to take BTL to the next level in this digital age of publishing. We look forward to seeing him develop these media products – especially as the economy starts opening up again in 2021 and as the media industry continues to rapidly evolve."

Jenkins said he and the newly merged team plan to continue publishing Between The Lines biweekly and to come out this summer with the 2021 edition of the Pride Source Magazine.

Jenkins has created Pride Source Media LLC that will serve as the new publishing entity. The current BTL news and entertainment editors and writing staff are moving over to the new company, as is the existing sales staff. They will work together with existing Merithot staff who will lend their expertise to the new publishing

business. Both Stevenson and Horowitz will remain on as consultants for several months to help with the transition and as publishers emeritus.

"As a queer person, I know the importance of queer media in ensuring that LGBTQ+ voices are heard and uplifted," Jenkins said. "I look forward to continuing the wonderful work of Jan and Susan, honoring their legacy and making

our own through our publications, finding opportunities to bring more value to our readers and business partners alike."

Jenkins also acquired Stevenson and Horowitz's interests in Q Syndicate LLC, the nation's largest provider of professionally produced content to LGBTQ publications and websites. Q Syndicate writers who hail from all over the U.S. create cartoons, puzzles and celebrity interviews that are then distributed to dozens of other LGBTQ newspapers and other media outlets. Chris Azzopardi will continue on in his role as both editor of Q Syndicate and as renowned celebrity interviewer. His work has been nationally syndicated, featured in such publications as The New York Times and GQ, and most recently on the Pride Source YouTube channel.

Pride Source Media Group was formed in 1994 as the publisher of Between The Lines, Pride Source Magazine, MiVoterGuide.com and the PrideSource.com website. It also produced the LGBTQ Wedding Expo for 10 consecutive years from 2010 to 2019, and, in 2005, created Encore Michigan to produce professional theater reviews and the annual Wilde Awards for excellence in live theater in Michigan. In 2015 Encore Michigan was transferred to a nonprofit entity.

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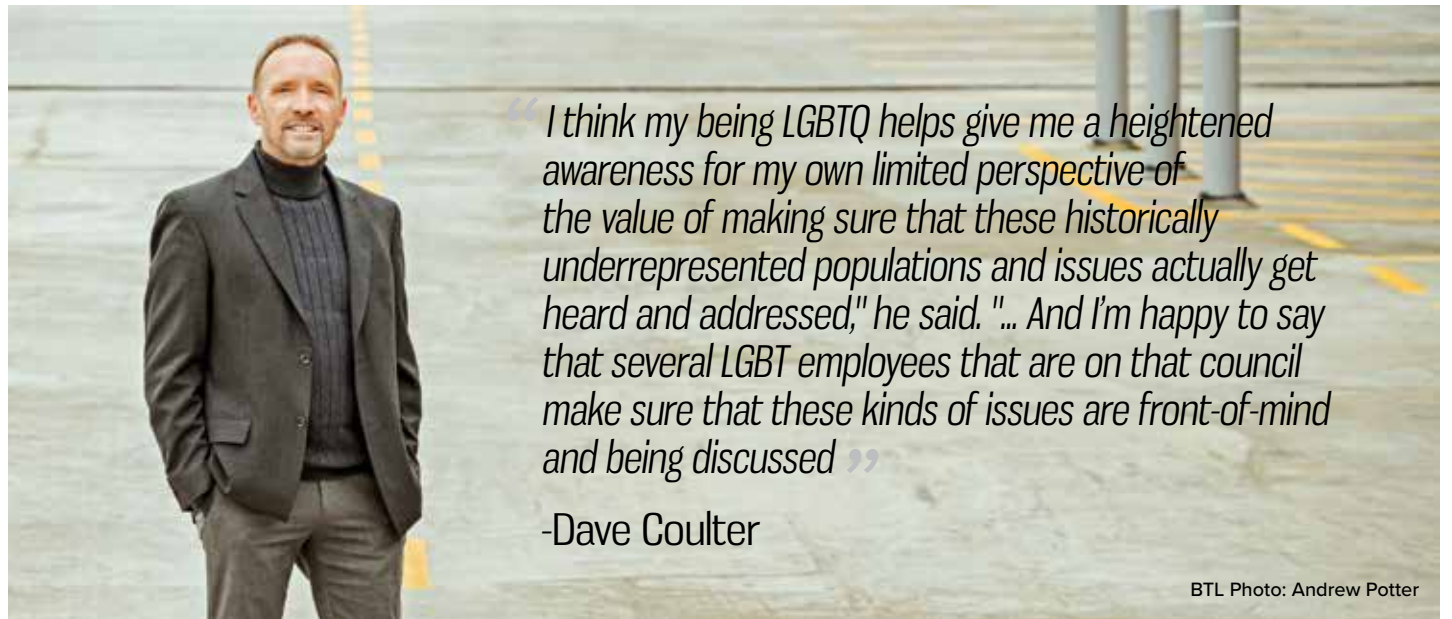
looks like it will," he said. "It really was meant as an emergency lifeline."

Long-Term Health and Transit

While COVID-19 has long been the topic of headlines, before the virus was a concern, Coulter's platform prioritized inclusive and accessible health care, a comprehensive transit plan for Oakland County, and increasing sustainability with an ultimate goal of net-zero emissions. He said that none of those projects have fallen by the wayside, but many will require long-term planning before implementation. In the case of the Oakland Health 360 initiative, it will take three years before residents will have increased access to holistic health services in clinics around the county.

"That's the longer-term vision for us of making sure that everyone in the county, including people in vulnerable populations like LGBT populations, have access to good quality, affordable health care, because we know that in the LGBT community the percentages are higher of people who don't have access," he said. "It's going to take us three years to transform our health clinics in Oakland County to be not just places where you can go to get a vaccine or that sort of thing but that you can go there for primary health care, mental health care and other services like that."

Immediately, Coulter plans on implementing practices around sustainability. He said he will "aggressively" pursue a smaller carbon footprint as he begins his first full term and, ironically, COVID-19 has laid great foundations for that goal.



"I think my being LGBTQ helps give me a heightened awareness for my own limited perspective of the value of making sure that these historically underrepresented populations and issues actually get heard and addressed," he said. "... And I'm happy to say that several LGBT employees that are on that council make sure that these kinds of issues are front-of-mind and being discussed"

-Dave Coulter

BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

"If there's one good thing about COVID, it's that emissions declined 7 percent in the last year just because of less activity. There's been less driving, less businesses operating. So we might have bought ourselves one more year, but we didn't buy ourselves a decade. This continues to be an urgent quest," he said. "Two of the things that have really struck me, just in terms of the ways that we've changed our operations in Oakland County is that more people with flexible work shifts and working from home, which requires less driving and the like, has really become the norm... That could even result in the need for less office space and less buildings that are using energy and so that's a potential positive right there."

He cited the lessened usage of paper due to digital work practices as a boon, too.

In fact, only one of Coulter's proposed plans has been delayed: his regional transit plan. Meant to provide more effective transportation across Oakland and between counties, Coulter said that he's still as committed as ever to bringing a comprehensive transportation agreement before voters, but he concedes that Oakland County residents will have to wait a tad longer due to the immediacy of COVID-19 concerns.

"People are using transit differently, the voters' appetite for a millage has maybe changed a little. But, having said that, I am just as committed as ever to helping to craft a transit plan that works for Southeast Michigan. I think the reasons for transit are just as strong as they ever were, but COVID has given us a bit of a pause in terms of figuring out how has COVID and the way it's changed our lives changed how we interact with transportation. And it's still my plan to achieve that within my first term of office," he said. "I have four years here, that we put a transit plan before the voters."

As unpredictable as 2020 was, Coulter demonstrably put forth many new initiatives and plans before constituents. He said that while COVID-19 threw many a curveball, he can "imagine not announcing another major initiative" for the time being.

"We have so much work to do on the major issues that have occurred this year."

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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

700 PGs Later

I started writing my Parting Glances column in 1999. Its premise was simple enough: choose an important LGB — and occasionally T — historical event that actually changed things for us, or challenged us to speak out on behalf of LGBTQ human rights, during the 20th Century.

The initial Parting Glances columns were 125 words in length. Many of these included my firsthand reminiscences of what it was like to be gay — but highly closeted — way back then. I came out during my senior year at Cass Technical High School in 1956. I was a commercial art major.

I also wrote interviews for BTL and tongue-in-cheek — singular, not plural — humorous pieces. As for the interviews: when I was writing for Ten Percent, an earlier Detroit LGBTQ publication now called OutPost, I interviewed Jan Stevenson, then the first director of the Affirmations LGBTQ community center.

Jan apparently liked what I had to say about her and her insightful, innovative and strategic leadership — Jan, are you reading this? And when she partnered with BTL Co-Publisher Susan Horowitz, who purchased Between the Lines 27 years ago, Jan asked me to write for the paper.

I of course said an enthusiastic yes! I have been with Between the Lines and Pridesource.com since day one. I estimate that I have written about 750,000 words for the paper, and about 700 Parting Glances columns, increased since 2002 to 650 words each!

Footnote here: the previous owner of Between The Lines was a self-styled Radical Faerie who wanted BTL to be a militant, in-your-straight-face biweekly. Susan Horowitz saw the purpose of BTL to be more newsworthy and ecumenically outreaching. An important reason why I agreed to participate.

As for my art, I was recently mentioned by Detroit's weekly Metro Times for my art pieces appearing almost daily on Facebook since 2010. I estimate that, during the allotment of time, I have completed about 1,000 images. I average a new piece about every two days. Storage is becoming a problem.

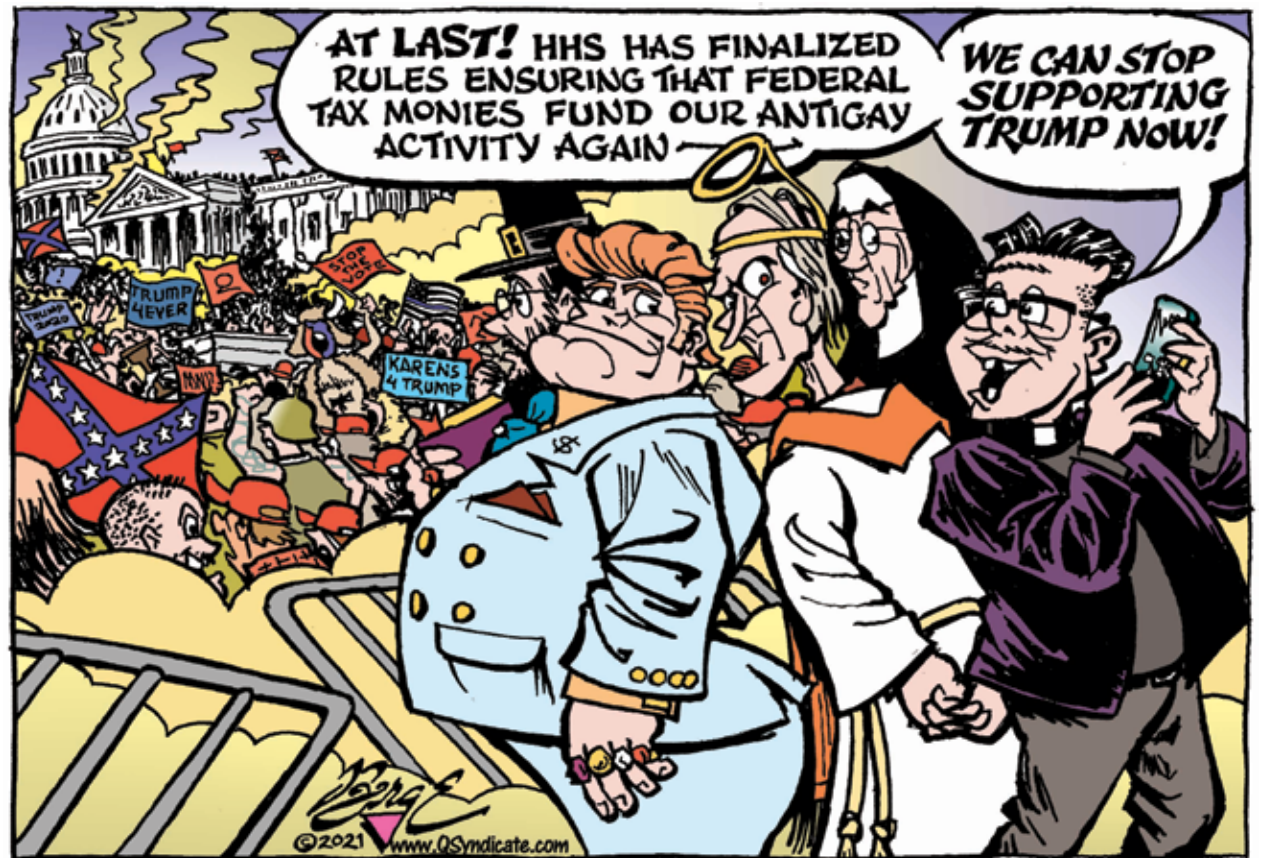
I have lived a very fortunate life. I have, because of my artistic talent and being gay — yes, being gay — for more than 65 years, met many creative and gifted gay and straight men and women in my life: musicians, dancers, artists, poets, impersonators, LGBTQ entertainers.

Fortunately, I had the guidance of wise mentors — one, my first partner at 19 — who stressed the importance of choosing and making a career and continuing my education at Wayne University. I started writing for the Wayne Collegian in 1959.

My professional writing and ongoing creating of art might not have happened if one life-saving event had not taken place for me. Choosing sobriety. In 1981, I came face-to-face with the realization that my alcohol abuse and daily bingeing, had gotten out of control. I stood at the edge of a nightmare pit.

Hospitalization, rehab and group therapy extended over the next year of concentrated recovery. While in recovery at

See next page



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Transmissions

Looking Ahead With Respair

We have reached the end of 2020, and I am sure my feelings about the year easily match anyone who happens upon this column. Good riddance to such a difficult year, and don't let the door hit you on the way out.

Like so many others, I have spent this year carefully going about my business, staying carefully at home, aside from the somewhat necessary trips to the market every week or two, and worrying about my partner who is somehow an essential worker at the local garden center. Presumably potting soil and bare-root roses are now a product that one simply cannot live without.

In May, I lost my first friend to COVID-19. I have had others battle it as well, with varying levels of success. Meanwhile, I have yet other friends with those own battles with deadly illnesses derailed due to the lack of medical staff due to this pandemic.

I've been fortunate to work from home with an employer that has a long history with the virtual office, and who has pivoted to becoming an entire work-from-home employer — but I have seen many friends and family face furloughs, layoffs and so on. I have seen the already precarious employment and housing situations of my friends thrown into chaos as the result of the impact of COVID-19 and efforts to survive same.

This year has been so much than the pandemic. Racial tensions that were rekindled during the Obama presidency with the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner and Michael Brown Jr. exploding once again after the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many others. White supremacists, emboldened by the President of the United States and others, have taken to the streets, often adding fuel to protests.

Misogyny, too, has been on the rise. As has homophobia and transphobia. This year, over 40 people were killed in anti-transgender violent murders. All the while, the right-wing, hand-in-hand with other anti-trans bigots, have waged a war of words, claiming that transgender people were erasing lesbian, gay and bisexual people, or continuing to press long-debunked "bathroom predator" conspiracies.

In a word, it has been a very challenging year to be transgender or nonbinary.

Still, 2020 has not been without some bright points, with the biggest of these being the Supreme Court's decision in Bostock v. Clayton County and, in particular, R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which was consolidated under Bostock with a

See **Viewpoint**, next page

° Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

third case, *Altitude Express, Inc. v. Zarda*.

In a 6-3 decision, the court ruled for the plaintiffs, declaring that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity falls under sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This has also come up in *Parents for Privacy v. Barr*, in which the court upheld a lower ruling that included transgender students under Title IX. This protects their rights to appropriately-gendered facilities in schools.

Likewise, the election has made for strides in transgender representation, with Sarah McBride becoming a State senator for Delaware and the highest-ranking trans politician in the U.S.

Of course, I would be remiss to not also note the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, defeating Donald Trump for the presidency. Biden has made it clear that he will be an advocate for trans rights during his presidency, and we are already seeing cabinet picks that echo this. Frankly, however, just getting Donald Trump and Mike Pence out of office is already a step forward for the trans community.

I want to note, however, that the end of a calendar year, itself, is a fairly arbitrary thing, and much of the above started long before 2020 was at the top of the page. COVID-19 has the clue right in the name, having been discovered in 2019, and the failed leadership that has led to so much trauma around it were set into motion by our Senate and presidential administration long before that.

Likewise, racism, xenophobia, misogyny, anti-Semitism, homo- and transphobia — and so many more forms of hatred and prejudice — did not just come into existence in 2020. They may have been the fuel behind so much this year, but they are hardly new.

Nevertheless, it seems just as well to look at the end of this year, when so many horrible things bubbled up to the surface and so many of us faced pain and desperation, as a time to recover from the anguish.

In the 1400s there was a word, long since

In the 1400s there was a word, long since forgotten, that should probably return to our vocabulary in 2021: respair. The meaning may be obvious in context, as it refers to fresh hope after living through a period of despair. It is the clouds parting after a lengthy storm, and that is something we can take to heart

forgotten, that should probably return to our vocabulary in 2021: respair. The meaning may be obvious in context, as it refers to fresh hope after living through a period of despair. It is the clouds parting after a lengthy storm, and that is something we can take to heart.

As I write this, we have a president who is doing his level best to sabotage the incoming leader, and a senate that could — depending on a runoff in Georgia — swing to the Democratic Party. Now may well be a time where the worst may pass.

This isn't to say that we get a break, as there is still so much to both undo. Likewise, there will still be bigots to quell, and a whole lot we must continue to press on.

We can't let this be a time to sit back and relax, but, just this time, we can feel a lot more hope that we sensed in 2020.

Gwen Smith wishes you the best in 2021. You'll find her at gwensmith.com.

° Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

Cottage Hospital, an unexpected, ultimately rewarding door of opportunity happened. In initial therapy, we were told to go through magazines and cut out pictures indicative of our feelings.

In my alcoholic haze, I misunderstood. I created several collages. A nurse actually wanted to buy one. A year or so later I had my collages matted and framed. An artist friend suggested I enter them in competition for the Detroit Artist Market exhibition jurying. I did. Three pieces were accepted in a 1983 showing.

I have since then been creating art and BTL articles to share. One creation at a time. Sometimes two. One blessed — and happily sober — day at a time.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist, having contributed 700-plus columns, as a well-known LGBT community artist having shared over 1,000 pieces of art via Facebook. He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBTQ center Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at charles@pridesource.com.

Creep Of The Week

Republican Party

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hello! It's 2021 and everything is fine now! Ha, ha, just kidding. The dumpster fire rages on.

Some things in 2021 are delightful, like that guy who made the music video about the broccoli casserole heist — if you don't know what I'm talking about, Google it. That is a thing of beauty. But 2021 is off to a rough start otherwise.

We knew this would happen. Trump is still the president, after all, and he is determined to stay the president even if that means we don't get to have democracy any more. The kind of shit that's going on right now is what we expect in other places, like Venezuela and Zimbabwe, largely because we've bought into the lie that is American exceptionalism that goes hand-in-hand with America's racism. In America, it can't be bad if a white guy is doing it.

And boy, do we have too many white men in charge in the U.S. Trump's phone call to Brad Raffensperger, Georgia's secretary of state to pressure him to overturn the election results is stunning. Or at least it should be stunning, but these past four years have really dulled the senses. Trump telling the secretary of state to "find 11,780 votes" is VERY BAD. Sadly, Trump is like a car alarm. When you hear one you don't go running to get help or call the police. You tune it out. We've learned to live with Trump's insane shouting as background noise.

Raffensperger, by the way, is a Republican. So is Georgia's governor. And the fact that he told Trump, "Mr. President, the data you have is wrong" is considered hero-level stuff for the Republican Party right now. And it shouldn't be.

For a long time the supposedly sane Republicans have said that Trump is an aberration, that he doesn't represent the party. Oh, but he does. And the Republicans, a party that has always had a crush on totalitarianism, paved the road to Trump. This is no freak accident.

And now Ted Cruz, a man Trump wouldn't piss on if he were on fire, is leading the charge of 11 oh-so-brave senators and senators-elect to step in and hold Biden's presidency hostage unless a 10-day audit of the election. There is no proof, zero, of widespread voter fraud. The Republicans' fit over the election is baseless. This call for an audit is political theater. And we all know that Cruz is a great actor.

But this 11-strong brigade of

democracy-deniers, along with the Republicans across the country who are claiming the election was a fraud, is proof positive that Trump is no outlier. They want him to stay. They like how things are going under him. Trump IS the Republican Party, a party that has long sought to dismantle this country's public safety net in the name of "personal responsibility" while completely disregarding the suffering of the people who fall through the net onto the cement below.

This is the party that was gung-ho to invade Iraq and lied to the country in order to get support.

This is the party that has only grown more intolerant of LGBTQ people and rights and doubled down on discriminatory laws and scapegoating, transgender people being a favorite group to discriminate against under Trump.



This is the party that has made a blood pact with the religious right to install as many right-wing judges as possible in order to further erode the civil rights of people they don't like.

This is the party that thinks Black Lives Matter is a terrorist organization while white supremacists get a wink and a nod.

This is the party who has members who are out-and-proud climate change-deniers because this is the party that thinks science is witchcraft. This distrust of science, along with the sheer incompetence of the Trump administration, has led to over 350,000 deaths during this coronavirus pandemic.

Let's face it. The Republicans are the party of Trump. They like to call themselves a "big tent" party, but what they are is a bigoted tent party. They abhor government because they don't care about people. They care about power.

Even the Log Cabin Republicans backed Trump. The gay Republicans Endorsed Trump in 2020! Because Trump's presidency, a disaster for the country, is the GOP's crowning glory. And one of the things his supporters love about him is that he's mean to people. He's a bully. Republicans love to be the bully. Party over country. Fuck Your Feelings: Trump 2020. Cruelty is the point. Cruelty feels powerful, but it's the mark of the weak and decrepit. And in the end, Republicans are a party of people who use their power to hurt the people they don't like, helping only themselves.

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Michigan Attorney General Nessel to Appeal LGBTQ Discrimination Lawsuit

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Earlier this month Michigan Court of Claims Judge Christopher M. Murray heard two cases regarding the denial of services to LGBTQ patrons in light of held religious beliefs. They involved Rouch World, a Sturgis park and wedding venue that refused to host the ceremony of a same-sex couple; and that of Uprooted Electrolysis, a Marquette hair removal service that refused to serve a transgender client. He ruled that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* clearly finds that the electrolysis business discriminated against its client on the basis of sex, which is included in Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Law. But in the case of the wedding venue, the state's precedent holds that gay people are not protected from discrimination in that category.



Attorney General Dana Nessel. Courtesy photo.

"With respect to whether sexual orientation falls within the meaning of 'sex' under the ELCRA, the Court of Appeals has already concluded that it does not. *Barbour v. Dep't of Social Services*. ... Being a decision published after Nov. 1, 1990, *Barbour* is binding on this Court under MCR 7.215(A) and must be followed. And, whether *Barbour's* reasoning is no longer valid in light of *Bostock v. Clayton Co* ... and cases containing similar reasoning, is a matter for the Court of Appeals, not this Court," read Murray's decision.

That decision has since been appealed by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. She said she "respectfully disagrees" with Murray's decision to rely on the 1993 *Barbour* case as precedent, citing that *Bostock* should have impacted the outcome in *Rouch World*, too.

"Michigan courts have held that federal precedent is highly persuasive when determining the contours of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, and federal courts across the country – including the U.S. Supreme Court in *Bostock v. Clayton Co* – have held that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a form of sex discrimination," Nessel said in an MLive report.

She went on to say that her office intends to submit that "all Michigan residents are entitled to protection under the law – regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation – in our appeal to this decision."

Jay Kaplan is the staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan's LGBT Project. He said that while he doesn't know if the Michigan Court of Appeals can overrule its past decision, he wouldn't be surprised if the case made it up to the Michigan Supreme Court, "which can overrule the *Barbour* case to make that decision [in favor of LGBTQ protections]."

"I think now that we have a progressive majority on the state Supreme Court, if it ultimately goes to the Supreme Court, hopefully, they will do just that. We want to get some good case law that says that LGBTQ people are covered under our civil rights law," Kaplan said. "That doesn't mean that we still don't want to amend our Michigan Civil Rights laws to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity, because then we don't have to leave it up to court interpretation, but we definitely want our state courts to apply the *Bostock* decision not only to employment situations but to these cases that involve public accommodation."

One thing that Kaplan said is certain is that cases of this kind are not going away any time soon. In fact, the Supreme Court is currently in the process of making a decision in just such a case.

"I could definitely see the defendants trying to argue that their religious beliefs take precedent over enforcing civil rights laws. That's a very dangerous thing, and, hopefully, our courts will not buy into that argument," Kaplan said. "Right now, the Supreme Court heard the case *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, where the faith-based [foster agency] argument is that we have a right to a government contract, but we don't have to adhere to the nondiscrimination provisions of the contract because of our religious beliefs. And if the U.S. Supreme Court decides, 'Yes, that is a kind of exception when you cite for religious beliefs,' I think that could be very damaging."

In the meantime, however, Kaplan said he hopes there will be more cases decided in Michigan's state courts in favor of LGBTQ rights. This seems more possible than ever because of Michigan's progressive majority on the Supreme Court.

"It doesn't mean that things are guaranteed but we might have a more hospitable environment in our state court. The other reason we have to rely on our state court is that President Trump, during his term, has appointed a substantial number of federal judges to the federal district court and 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and 100% of these judges are conservative and many of them have been part of anti-LGBT decisions in the past," Kaplan said. "So we have to look to our state courts, and we are going to be seeing more activity happening in the state."

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Trump Supporters Storm US Capitol

BY MICHAEL LAVERS

Thousands of President Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on last week as lawmakers were beginning to certify the Electoral College results.

The siege began shortly after President Trump spoke to his supporters who gathered on the Ellipse for the "Save America Rally." Participants then marched to the Capitol.

The Washington Post reported the U.S. Capitol Police locked down the Capitol and evacuated lawmakers after Trump supporters breached it. Other media reports indicate at least one person was shot during the siege.

“The violence and destruction taking place at the U.S. Capitol must stop and it must stop now,” tweeted Vice President Pence, who was in the Capitol when the siege began. “Anyone involved must respect law enforcement officers and immediately leave the building.”



Supporters of President Trump stand in front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. (Washington Blade photo by Michael K. Lavers)

The Washington Blade was on the east side of the Capitol when police used tear gas in an attempt to stop the protesters from entering the building. This reporter saw at least three people with pro-Trump signs standing in the window.

A curfew will go into effect in D.C. at 6 p.m.

Mayor Muriel Bowser and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) requested the National Guard to help clear the Capitol. The Metropolitan Police Department, the Montgomery County Police Department and the U.S. Secret Service are among the other law enforcement agencies that responded to the scene.

The siege began shortly after lawmakers began to certify the Electoral College results that confirmed President-elect Biden had defeated Trump, despite unfounded claims the presidential election results were rigged. Dozens of Republican lawmakers previously announced they would object to the count.

Democrats last Wednesday also regained control of the U.S. Senate with the victories of

Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in Georgia.

“The violence and destruction taking place at the U.S. Capitol must stop and it must stop now,” tweeted Vice President Pence, who was in the Capitol when the siege began. “Anyone involved must respect law enforcement officers and immediately leave the building.”

“Peaceful protest is the right of every American but this attack on our Capitol will not be tolerated and those involved and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law,” he added.

Trump in a video he released on Twitter falsely asserted the election “was stolen from us.”

“You have to go home now,” he said. “We have to have peace. We have to have law and order.”

“America is so much better than what we’re seeing today,” tweeted Biden.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, is among those who condemned the siege.

“All Americans should be outraged by this



The “Save America Rally” on the Ellipse on Jan. 6, 2021. (Washington Blade photo by Michael Key)

attack on our Capitol,” Hogan said. “This is a heinous and violent assault on the heart of our democracy. I will not stand for this, and neither should any American.”

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) in a tweet said, “I cry for our country.”

“Hard to take seriously the political arsonists, starting with Trump, when they say they want to put out the flames after they lit the match,”

he tweeted. “I never thought we would live to see the day that violent mobs seized control of the Capitol.”

Kaela Roeder contributed to this article. This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.

Amid Coup Chaos, Trump Quietly Erases LGBTQ Protections in Adoption, Health Services

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Under the cover of chaos the day after Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol, the Trump administration has officially nixed regulations barring federal grantees in the Department of Health & Human Services from discriminating against LGBTQ people, including in adoption services.

HHS went public on Thursday with the final rule, which rescinds regulations implemented in the Obama administration barring discrimination among HHS grantees with respect to sex, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. The change also rescinds the Obama-era regulations requiring HHS grantees to “treat as valid the marriages of same-sex couples.”

Although Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which governs federal programs, prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, it doesn't prohibit anti-LGBTQ discrimination, so the regulation allows considerable discrimination in federal programs against LGBTQ people.

“Given the careful balancing of rights, obligations and goals in the public-private partnerships in federal grant programs, the department believes it appropriate to impose only those nondiscrimination requirements required by the Constitution and federal statutes applicable to the department's grantees,” the federal rule says.

Most prominently, the new regulation would allow taxpayer-funded child welfare services to refuse placement into LGBTQ families or discriminate against LGBTQ youth. Religiously affiliated adoption and foster care centers have been pushing for this change in regulation, including Catholic Social Services in Philadelphia, which currently has a case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court seeking a First Amendment right to reject same-sex couples on religious grounds.

Rachel Laser, CEO of Americans United for Separation of Church & State, criticized the regulation in a statement for allowing discrimination in the child welfare system.

“The federal government should protect our country's most vulnerable people instead of issuing rules that license discrimination,” Laser said. “People should never be turned away from the services they need. That is especially true for children in foster care and the families who want to provide them with loving, safe homes. Rather than prioritizing the

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President Donald Trump's HHS has erased LGBTQ non-discrimination requirements for federal grantees. (Washington Blade file photo by Michael Key)

best interests of children and families, the Trump administration's new rule invites taxpayer-funded foster care agencies to discriminate against them.”

But the proposed regulation will have far-reaching implications in health services, allowing anti-LGBTQ discrimination in HIV and STI prevention programs, opioid programs, youth homelessness services, health professional training and substance-use recovery programs.

The finalization of the rule, first proposed in November 2019, was expected. The Office of Management & Budget, which coordinates the rule-making process among federal agencies indicated on its website it had received the proposed rule and it was scheduled to be made final in the lame-duck session before Trump's exit.

But the Trump administration had already ceased enforcing the nondiscrimination components of the Obama-era rule when it proposed the regulation in 2019, arguing the previous administration didn't go through the correct rule-making process when it was made final in the eleventh-hour of the Obama administration in December 2016.

The Trump-era rule seeks to justify itself by saying the Obama-era regulations aren't based on statutes and religious-affiliated groups have complained and filed lawsuits over meeting those requirements. These groups, HHS noted, assert the policy is unlawful under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment.

“In the statutes establishing certain

programs and grants, Congress has specified the protected categories with respect to which discrimination is prohibited,” the rule says. “Congress has not expressly included discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or same-sex marriage status, in any statute applicable to departmental grants.”

HHS had already granted an exemption from the Obama-era rule to South Carolina, which sought to get out of the regulation on behalf of the Miracle Hill Ministries adoption agency.

Laser cited the exemption granted to South Carolina and Americans United's lawsuit against it in her criticism of the final rule.

“Discrimination should never be funded or supported by our government, but that's exactly what this rule does,” Laser said. “Families, senior citizens and children could lose protections against discrimination and suddenly be turned away from taxpayer-funded programs they need. That includes people like Americans United client Aimee Maddonna, who was turned away from helping children in foster care by a government-funded agency solely because Aimee is Catholic – the ‘wrong’ religion according to an evangelical Protestant agency in South Carolina.”

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association. Read the full article online at pridesource.com.

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Clear as a Bella p. 21



A Threesome Remedy

FOR OUR TIMES

(Left to right) Brian Jordan Alvarez, Max Jenkins and Peter Vack in a scene from the Netflix series "Social Distance." Photo: Netflix

'Social Distance' Stars Talk COVID-Era Series and Pandemic Dating

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

File this under the "Content We're Living" category: "Social Distance," Netflix's anthology series completely conceived, cast and shot in quarantine. Tucked into the show's eight episodes is "Zero Feet Away," which follows a gay couple suffering from cabin fever who give a threesome a shot after they've had enough of each other.

"Zero Feet Away" stars Max Jenkins, who has a part on "Dead to Me" as Christina Applegate's gay real-estate partner; Brian Jordan Alvarez, who portrays Jack's husband, Estefan, on "Will & Grace," and "Mozart in the Jungle" star Peter Vack.

In October, they talked about their longtime friendship, filming during a pandemic and Funfetti.

Did you guys know each other beforehand? Had you crossed paths?

Brian Jordan Alvarez: Very much so.

Peter Vack: Max and I's friendship goes back to childhood. We went to performing arts summer camp together, and then Brian and I met and became basically best friends our freshman year of college.

Alvarez: When he met me he told me, "You should meet my friend Max, you would like him," and it turned out to be true. We've all become friends now.

Vack: I just want to underscore that these two are two of the people I love most in the world as friends. So often the job with acting is to become very close and intimate with people immediately; with this, it really felt like a party from moment one. It really was like a summer camp vibe. I think that is in part due to the fact that they allowed friends

and, in fact, sought out friends to do this or people that had these deep, decades-long connections.

Was the script set?

Alvarez: It was set, we had nothing to do with it. It was a totally wonderfully written piece that was just given to us. They were great about – sorry, am I bulldozing?

Max Jenkins: Shut up. Just talk. I love hearing you talk.

Alvarez: They were really generous, which always helps me in letting us improv. We also had a lot of freedom to just say the line slightly differently or improv. It was just cool to have that freedom.

Max, did you improv the line "zhuzh my crack"?

Jenkins: I can't believe they used that! You know, that was the moment that we really

hit on something beautiful. I thought it was "zhuzh my taint."

Alvarez: That might've been a different take.

Jenkins: Yeah. The director's cut has "zhuzh my taint," I believe. (Everyone laughs.)

Did you actually shoot on April 17, the day the episode says it took place?

Alvarez: No, no. I was gonna say it was funny that Peter called it summer camp because we were calling it that when we were doing it, but I don't think we realized that it was also the dead middle of summer.

Jenkins: The solstice.

Alvarez: (Laughs.) It was like literally, what, mid July?

Vack: I now have some handle on it because I'm back in New York and it gets cold, but in L.A. with the coronavirus it was all one month.

Jenkins: That's why this experience was like, "before this and after this"; that was my only milestone.

Alvarez: Right, that's true!

Jenkins: And we're so lucky that we had this gift of breaking out of our quarantine, you know? And also, I'm working now and everybody is so scared on "Special"; everyone's freaked out and it's like, girl, I ripped the Band-Aid off in July. We already did this, and it was a blast, and everybody is kind of more focused, so I feel very at ease working with all these stipulations and with all the PPE.

Peter, when you come over with a mask on in the episode, that's now the reality for dating and hooking up. Did that speak to you on a personal level as much as it spoke to me?

Vack: Oh, totally. I have been both single and partnered in this experience and, yeah, it totally felt like... it's hard to even articulate. There's new rules now, I guess. And I am something of a hypochondriac, so that was very easy to tap into.

Jenkins: For me, I tend to be single. (Laughs.) I haven't really attacked it consciously, like this new challenge of dating. It's been more (like) if I'm truly obsessed with the idea of this person, I {ITAL might} hang out with them. There are so many more gates for my psyche to go through (laughs), and my psyche does not tend to clear those gates; therefore, there are few prospects.

So no virtual pandemic dating for you?

Jenkins: Well, I have been doing quite a bit of that, but it tends to be boring. There's not so much going on in people's lives, there's not so much to catch each other up on. I find it just not... it's a facsimile of getting to know someone. It's like we're all doing performances of being chill and being our normal selves. That's just my experience.

Alvarez: Yeah, I was doing a lot more FaceTiming than ever.

Jenkins: I can't get down. I just (don't) feel like I'm really getting to know someone.

Alvarez: I guess I haven't done any real formal dates, but I have FaceTimed with people, you know, in maybe a more romantic way. (Laughs.) And yeah, it's definitely not as good as the real thing. (Laughs.) But yeah, I think after the lonesomeness set in after a while, FaceTime was really able to quell that in a way that just staring at my wall could not.

Jenkins: At first I felt so sorry for myself. And I was like, "My friends who are partnered don't understand and they need to be checking in on me more!" Then I started to feel even worse for them than for myself, which I guess is what our episode is sort of about, a little bit: the challenge of that. Because I started to see them jumping out of their skins. (Laughs.) I started to see my partnered friends freaking the fuck out.

Alvarez: I prefer the solitude to being bottled up with one other person.

Jenkins: Yeah. I'm already traumatized that I have to share my space with.... him. (He pans the camera to his dog, Rock.)

Since you had a rapport, I imagine the threesome, when you actually get down to it, was very giggle-worthy. I was in stitches watching you guys. Was it even more hysterical actually doing it?

Jenkins: It was so normal, so oddly second nature.

Vack: Yeah.

Alvarez: It felt a lot like doing a play in the best ways. Because it's very physical comedy, almost farcical.

Jenkins: It's true. Typically the crew is not laughing at you, so you have this kind of unresponsive audience. But in our case we were making ourselves laugh, so we didn't give a fuck about anything but what each other was saying about it.

Vack: It just felt like effortless fun. And I agree: The fact that it was just us there, it was giddy. It was just pure pleasure, top to bottom.

How long did it take to shoot?

Jenkins: A week. We had a week of isolating in the hotel prior to shooting.

Did you use that time in the hotel to rehearse, or just screw around?

Jenkins: We weren't allowed to see each other.

Vack: We'd be, like, on the balcony, far apart.

Jenkins: With our masks.

I thought that they would've made you a pod and put you all in a hotel room together.

Jenkins: We agreed that the pod thing could've worked, but they were determined to divide and conquer us any possible way. It was like every precaution you could think of. There was no precaution too silly-seeming. (Laughs.) We had to gargle mouthwash before every kiss.

Is there anything about the episode you'd like to spotlight that happened behind the scenes?

Alvarez: We had like 30 jars of Funfetti. (Everyone laughs.) Because in filmmaking if you're going to do a lot of takes, you also have to have options.

Jenkins: And on the first take I was just eating heaping spoonfuls and my body started to shut down pretty quickly. I mean, talk about coronavirus.

This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

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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'The Show Must Go On': Finding a Way to Perform During COVID

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The novel coronavirus pandemic might have wreaked havoc on actor and singer Cory Shorter's theatrical career this year, but with shows canceled left and right, the time off actually allowed the Royal Oak-based performer to work on music. He just independently released a single, "Before You Go," and already has a video for it in the can.

"With the pandemic, I wasn't able to work like I was supposed to," Shorter said. "Theater is my full-time job and I had five shows lined up starting in March and going through September and they all were canceled. That gave me enough time to complete my album and work on my videos. I was also able to spend some much-needed time with my fiancé after being apart for so many months."

To craft "Before You Go," Shorter called on Swedish producer VinAce.

"I told him I wanted something new, an EDM/dance-type beat," Shorter said. "He mainly does R&B and rap, but we worked closely together and it's what I wanted it to sound like. And he delivered a beat that is now (one) of my favorite songs I've recorded so far."

As much production help as he got, Shorter developed the concept of the song and wrote the lyrics himself.

"You know when you're ending a bad relationship but before you break you want one more kiss? That's the inspiration behind 'Before You Go.' Being over all of the games and finding happiness in yourself," Shorter said. "I write based off of personal experiences. As an actor as well, I find experiences from different characters I've played and their circumstances."

Shorter's anguish and disappointment can clearly be heard in the song, and its style is reminiscent of vintage '90s house and artists like CeCe Peniston and Crystal Waters. Altogether, the song could be described as a virtual three-minute mood swing that takes listeners from heartbreak to get the hell on with it.

Long before pursuing music, Shorter began



Cory Shorter. Courtesy Photo

his career in entertainment as a child actor. He earned a degree in theater from the University of Michigan. By night, and using the stage name Izaya Cole, Shorter became Michigan's most-awarded showboy. He won 25 pageants and was the first showboy from the state to win a national title. Before he was done, he'd pick up three of them: Mr. Gay Unlimited, Mr. Black National and Mr. Sapphire.

Eventually, Shorter put being a showboy on the back burner and focused on his acting. On New Year's Eve, Shorter returned to the stage in a production of "Happy Days - The Musical" at the Broadway Palm Theater in Fort Myers, Florida. The show plays there through Feb. 14

before traveling to Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

"Prather Productions is the company putting the show on and they are taking COVID-19 very seriously," he said. "They have added air purifiers to their theaters and installed machines that kill viruses in the air. Our patrons are required to wear masks. Even us, the actors, are wearing face shields on stage during the show. The theaters are operating at half capacity. So they have taken every precaution possible to ensure a great theater experience for patrons and actors."

"The only thing that is a little challenging is performing a full musical singing and dancing with a face shield on just because it's something

we are not used to," Shorter continued. "But the show must go on."

Shorter wants the music to go on as well and will focus on it in 2021 — as much as time allows.

"I would love to just keep making records and have people listen ... to just keep growing a support base. And I definitely would love to tour with my music eventually when I'm able to and start planning that," he said. "Plus, I still have the goal of being on Broadway one day. My goal is to just get better each year."

"Before You Go" by Cory Shorter is available on all streaming platforms.

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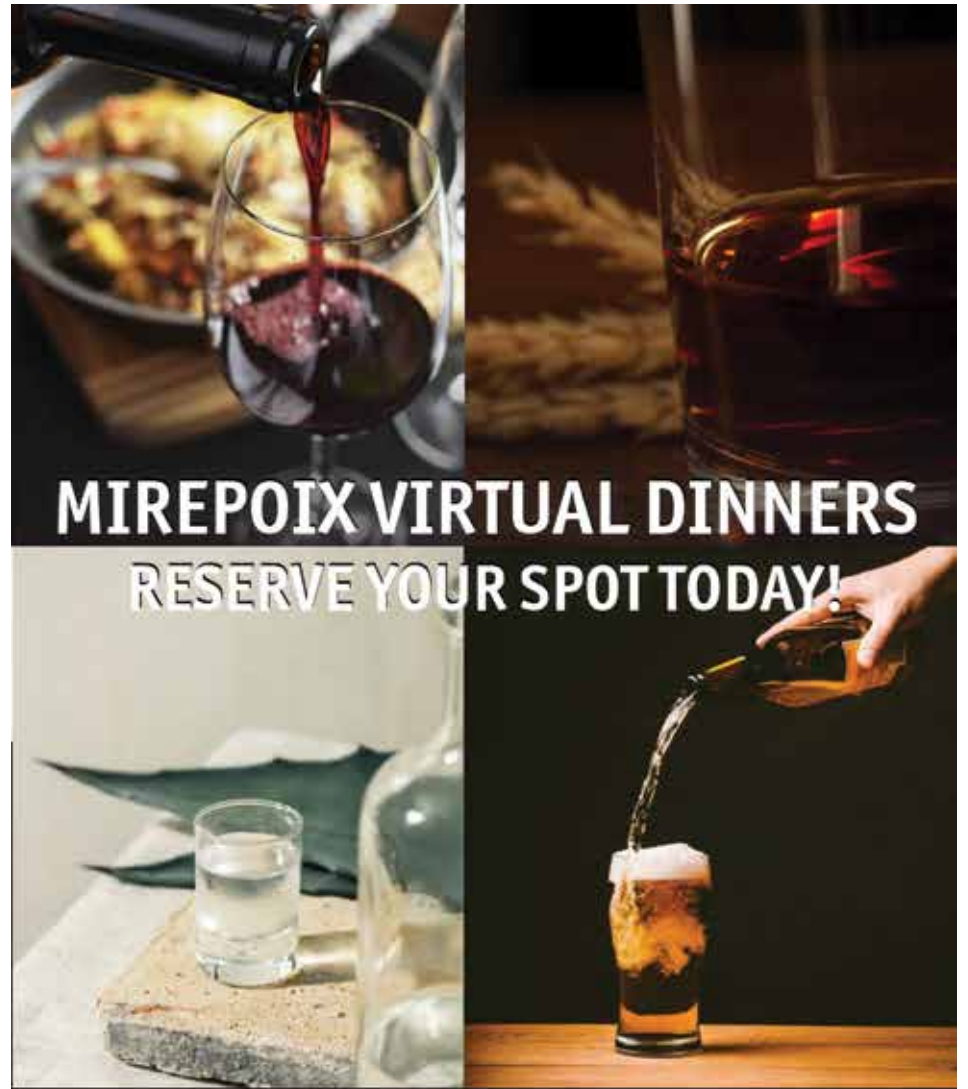
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Together Together' hits Sundance with Patti Harrison and Tig Notaro

"Together Together," a new comedy making its debut at the 2021 very online Sundance Film Festival, is another push forward for trans actors. The movie's co-star, comedian Patti Harrison ("Shrill"), is a transgender comedian who's already got a reputation for turning perceptions about comedy upside down. In "TT," she plays opposite Ed Helms as a young loner who goes to work for him, and their growing relationship forms the basis of the story. No word on whether her character is trans or what the on-screen relationship entails, but what's exciting here is that a trans actor is co-headlining a feature. With the exception of Laverne Cox in the remake of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" that's still a rare enough occurrence to be exciting news. Nikole Beckwith ("Stockholm, Pennsylvania") wrote and directed the film, which co-stars Nora Dunn, Tig Notaro and "Los Espookys" creator Julio Torres. Now all it has to be is funny.



Zachary Quinto.

Zachary Quinto and the 'Secret Court'

Podcasts are everywhere, and now Zachary Quinto's got one. No, he's not sitting at his dining room table talking about "Star Trek". He's producing and starring in a scripted podcast series, called "Secret Court," based on a 100-year-old tragedy that took place at Harvard University. It was then that a young Harvard sophomore named Cyril Wilcox, a member of the class of 1920, killed himself. He had been part of a small group of gay male friends on campus, and his suicide led the school to secretly purge the other students from the university. Nobody had done anything wrong except be homosexual, but they found themselves branded as offenders and removed from school, their official records – as well as the record of the purge – erased. "Secret Court" will feature Quinto in a voice role (no other is known at this point) and is being written by Abdi Nazemian ("The Artist's Wife"), produced in partnership with Quinto's production company. We're also guessing that its potential success might lead to a film or TV version of the story, one that deserves to be brought to light.

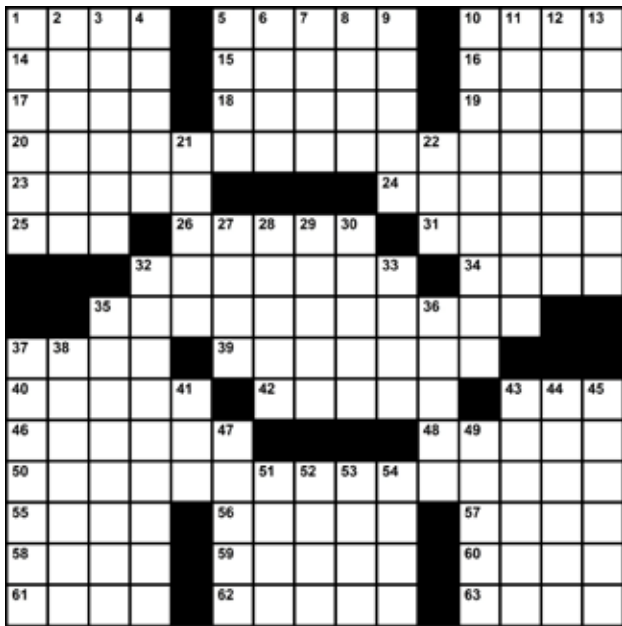
Little Richard really was 'Everything'

When Little Richard died in early 2020 at age 87, the world lost the great queer inventor of rock and roll. In the 1950s he brazenly took on musical norms, white racism and anti-queer cultural norms, defiantly making music that terrified parents and turned on young people. And though his religious beliefs led him to a lifetime of conflict with his own queerness, he maintained his position as a voice for liberation until his death. Now a documentary is in the works, one that will try to capture a small part of the musician's world-changing legacy. "Little Richard: I Am Everything" – produced by queer filmmaker Dee Rees ("Mudbound") in collaboration with "Rolling Stone," and directed by Lisa Cortes ("All In: The Fight for Democracy") – will focus on the man's influence and musical innovation, as well as his fearless (and often contradictory) public discussions about sexuality. Expect lots of famous musicians, queer and otherwise, to lend their testimonies to this one. And a 2022 release is also a safe bet.

A Samantha-less 'Sex and the City'

You heard that correctly. HBO has confirmed that Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis will return for a "Sex and the City" reboot. Kim Cattrall is not part of that conversation. We all know why. And it doesn't matter if you're Team Cattrall or Team Everybody Else in this fractured friend-scape. What matters is the fact that a "Sex and the City" reboot is a great idea that we all need. This is a dire historical moment of people not having frivolous sex with total strangers and not being able to afford very large Manhattan apartments or Manolo Blahnik shoes or even a fancy brunch. Solution: A new character who is extremely horny, young and queer, one who runs circles around the other three women and treats them like the scolding aunties they've all turned into, a chaotic Gen Z sex demon who'll shake things up and make Parker's outfits look tame. Maybe Zendaya. The script can figure out why she'd be hanging out with the rest of them. Maybe she's someone's niece. It doesn't matter. It could work.

Romeo San Vicente would very much like a brunch left at his front door and would tip big for it.



Clear as a Bella

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Moist mounds
- 5 "A Delicate Balance" author
- 10 Cowhand's chow
- 14 James of "The African Queen" fame
- 15 A queen rules it, perhaps
- 16 Sultry Horne

- 17 Rednour, who wrote a femme's guide
- 18 One thousandth
- 19 "___ do anything better than you"
- 20 Bella Abzug portrayer in "Bella Bella"
- 23 Flynn role opposite Davis
- 24 It may bite
- 25 Sault ___ Marie
- 26 Employ a rubber

- 31 "You'll ___ Walk Alone"
- 32 Penetrating character for Bela Lugosi?
- 34 Beatty flick
- 35 Bella Abzug portrayer in "The Glorias"
- 37 Lit ___
- 39 Enjoyed Aspen, perhaps
- 40 Like Bernstein's paper
- 42 What you can give it
- 43 South Beach lotion letters
- 46 Wearer of wax wings
- 48 Bellybutton type
- 50 Bella Abzug portrayer in "Mrs. America"
- 55 Soft cheese
- 56 From the top
- 57 Slightly
- 58 "East of ___"
- 59 Artist Arlene
- 60 Guitar of Shakespeare's day
- 61 "Methinks thou ___ protest too much"
- 62 Hank of hair
- 63 Look at a hottie in a bar

Down

- 1 Sprints at the Gay Games
- 2 In shock
- 3 Amanda of "Married ... With Children"
- 4 Hit first, to Mauresmo
- 5 Navy rival
- 6 Son of Eric the Red
- 7 "___ Hai"
- 8 "Legally Blonde" character
- 9 Islamic leaders
- 10 Sparkled like a Liberace outfit
- 11 Split end, for example
- 12 Never broadcast
- 13 Rainbow pennants at a pride parade, e.g.
- 21 Bring to bear
- 22 California map word
- 27 "Screwed again!"
- 28 Train that comes quickly
- 29 Region of Babylonia
- 30 Skip a syllable
- 32 All, for one
- 33 Gets the bottom line
- 35 Gender stereotypes
- 36 Spill the beans
- 37 Took on "Ev'ry Mountain"
- 38 Sitcom family name
- 41 Sonny and Cher, once
- 43 Michelangelo's David, e.g.
- 44 "Jesus Christ Superstar" role
- 45 Word after bottom
- 47 "Designing Women" costar Jean
- 49 Mo of Arizona politics
- 51 Mold medium
- 52 Great review on Broadway
- 53 Practices B&D, e.g.
- 54 Lands End, and more

See p. 15 for answers

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AIDS/HIV

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Metro Care Coordination Network

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877-931-3248
248-266-5545
Metrocarenetwork.org

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

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

Matrix MAC Health

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

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

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

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Sterling Hts., MI 48310
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www.accesscommunity.org

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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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:

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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.

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Fair Michigan

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Plymouth, MI 48170
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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

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

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TiesLikeMe.org
Suits And The City
Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

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<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
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19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
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www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

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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

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

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- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
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- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
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