

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ+ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

Between THE Lines TM



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
9 Black LGBTQ+ Michigan Trailblazers to Know

FROM THE EDITOR
Reflecting on the Significance of Print Media

THE PET GUIDE
How Animals Have Curbed Pandemic Isolation

Mrs. America Is Intersex

(and From Grand Rapids!)

By Ellen Shanna Knoppow

HAGOPIAN CLEANING SERVICES...

Because some pets
are just messy!



AIR DUCT CLEANING

\$100 OFF

Must present coupon. Some restrictions
apply. Not to be combined with
any other coupons/offers.

Expires 2/26/22

CARPET CLEANING

2 ROOMS + HALL \$99

Must present coupon. Up to 250 sq. ft.
each room. Not to be combined with
any other coupons/offers.

Expires 2/26/22

RUG CLEANING

2 FOR 1

Bring your rugs to any
of our drop-off locations
and we'll clean every
other one **FREE!**

Must present coupon at time
of rug drop-off. Not to be combined
with any other coupons/offers.

Expires 2/26/22



The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939

HAGOPIAN CLEANING SERVICES

1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742)

HagopianClean.com

SCHEDULE ONLINE!



- 4 5 Queer Things You Can Do Right Now-ish
- 6 Black History Month: 9 Black LGBTQ+ Michigan Trailblazers
- 8 Transformative: Considering the Long-Term Impact of Out 'Jeopardy!' Champion Amy Schneider
- 10 Hazel Park Becomes Latest Michigan City to Ban Conversion Therapy
- 10 How Entertainment Weekly Changed My Life as a Gay Kid and Led Me to Become a Journalist
- 11 Creep of the Week: LGBTQ+ Content Bans Offer Shelter for Fragile Conservatives
- 12 Mrs. America Is Intersex
- 14 Remembering John Kavanaugh: An Unabashed Hellraiser Leaves One Helluva Legacy
- 16 Lonely and Queer? Maybe You Just Need a Pet
- 17 What Your Pet's Zodiac Sign Says About Them
- 18 Pet Showstoppers: 5 Times the Real Stars of Your Favorite Queer-Inclusive Show Were the Animals
- 20 There's a New Charitable Angel, and His Name Is Fred
- 22 Ypsilanti's Tower Inn Cafe Joins Forces with Hamburger Mary's
- 26 Revisiting the Sex in 'Shortbus'



12 COVER STORY

Photo courtesy of Meagan Gilbert Photography

Only on Pridesource.com

Michigan LGBTQ+ Community Groups Unite to Admonish Appeals Judge Mark Boonstra Over Transphobic Comments

By Jason A. Michael

From the Short List to the Long Road – What Can We Expect from the Incoming Justice?

By Angie Martell

State House Candidate Mike McFall Says LGBTQ+ Community in Michigan 'Must Have a Seat at the Table in Lansing'

By Jason A. Michael

HIV Continues to Impact Black People at Greater Rates, CDC Reports

By Jason A. Michael



Judge Mark T. Boonstra. Photo: Facebook

VOL. 3008 • FEBRUARY 17, 2022

ISSUE 1194

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

www.pridesource.com
Phone 734-263-1476

PUBLISHERS

Benjamin Jenkins
benjamin@pridesource.com

Tom Wesley
tom@pridesource.com

Publishers Emeritus: Jan Stevenson & Susan Horowitz

EDITORIAL

Editorial Director

Chris Azzopardi
chris@pridesource.com

News and Features Editor

Jackie Jones
jackie@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Lawrence Ferber, Ellen Knoppow, Jason A. Michael, Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston, D'Anne Witkowski, Jill A. Greenberg, Eve Kucharski

Copy Editor

Sarah Hunt

Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, Mikey Rox, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Dana Rudolph

CREATIVE

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

ADVERTISING & SALES

Tom Wesley, 734-263-1476
tom@pridesource.com

Ann/Andy Cox, 248-613-2513
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National LGBT Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate



"Pride Source"



Follow us @pridesource



@pridesourcemedia



Pride Source



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2021

5 Queer Things You Can Do Right Now-ish

BY JACKIE JONES

The Black community has been pioneering American culture for centuries, from the arts to the civil rights movement. This is especially true for the Black LGBTQ+ community. Look no further than Ball culture to see that it helped forge an identity we still associate with today. So, for Black History Month, appreciate the Black queer community's rich culture with these events, and more:

Discuss Toni Morrison's Impact

The pioneer that was Toni Morrison may be gone, but the stories and characters she weaved live on. Even more memorable is Morrison's unique way of highlighting Black queer relationships. Congress of Black Women of Canada, too, recognizes Morrison's legendary literary talents. Their Feb. 20 event celebrates Black History Month with a virtual screening of "Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am," followed by a discussion led by author Rosemary Sadlier. Magdalene Lesmond, president of Congress of Black Women's Ajax/Pickering chapter, said this event "places value on the Black experience, almost like ignoring the rest of the world." The virtual film screening is available from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and the discussion begins at 3 p.m. through a separate Zoom link.

Register on Eventbrite.



Photo: Olga Bernard



Photo: Mark Gjukich

Enjoy UMMA's Queer Night

From 6 until 10 p.m. on Feb. 18, the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) presents Queer Night, a special event honoring the LGBTQ+ community in collaboration with the museum's current exhibition "Oh, honey...a queer reading of UMMA's collection." Guests will experience a queer personality workshop, love songs from OutLoud Chorus, a tarot reading, a screening of "The Sex Ed Class You Never Had" and a queer reading of UMMA's collection "Scavenger Hunt." "This event is the first of its kind" that "is family-friendly and filled with activities for all ages," said Jessica Allie, UMMA's public programs coordinator. The celebration continues at Necto's Pride Friday.

For more information, visit UMMA's website.



Photo: Boylesque Drag

Win Big at Boylesque Drag Bingo for a Cause

Boylesque Drag is sashaying into the room, making you laugh and filling you with life, honey, all while giving back to the Black community. So, why haven't you bought your tickets yet? Boylesque will offer a night of three games of drag bingo and entertainment from Maxi Chanel, Ani Briated, Hershae Chocolatae, Izaya Cole and Denise Russell. The troupe's upcoming drag bingo event supports Trans Sistas of Color and a multiple sclerosis stem cell transplant. Donations for the transplant would help April Austin, "a single black mom that raises a nonverbal autistic son while suffering [multiple sclerosis]," according to a Boylesque press release about the event. Over three years, they've raised \$40,000 to help with her stem cell transplant, but Austin needs a total of \$50,000. The event runs 7-10 p.m. on Feb. 18.

Buy your tickets on Eventbrite.



Shirley Woodson, Flight with Mirror, 2014, acrylic on canvas. Photo: Detroit Institute of Arts

Talk Art With Shirley Woodson

Grab your chosen family and head on over to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) for an evening of art. Join Detroit artist Shirley Woodson and DIA Head Curator of the Center for African American Art Valerie J. Mercer to discuss the current exhibition "Shirley Woodson: Shield of the Nile Reflection." Woodson will discuss how she prepared for an art career, her decision to exclude facial features on subjects, her color selection and her thoughts on contemporary art. She will also "provide insight into the importance of discipline and training for her artistic development," said Mercer. The in-person event starts at 6 p.m. on Feb. 23 and will be limited to 300.

To register and for more information, visit the DIA's website.



Support a Black and LGBTQ-Owned Business

This month is more than about observing. It's about equitably helping a Black-owned business. Some businesses to support this month and onward include LGBT Detroit, Detroit Vegan Soul, Copper House, Detroit Brows and Good Cakes and Bakes, to name a few. Help any way you can to support Black-owned businesses: share, purchase, or even attend an event.

Please check event pages for the most up-to-date scheduling information.



*"We love it here!
We couldn't have made
a better choice."*

—Beverly B., a community resident

At Fox Run, you're free to live the independent life you want and to be who you are—with an added safety net of support. We're the premier senior living community in Novi!

- **Go freely about your life** and pursue the activities you love on our green and spacious campus.
- **Gain time and freedom** from the hassle and expense of house repairs.
- **Enjoy peace of mind** with multiple levels of on-site care available should your health needs change.



Discover Senior Living at Fox Run!

Call **1-877-356-4913** or visit FoxRunNovi.com for your free brochure.

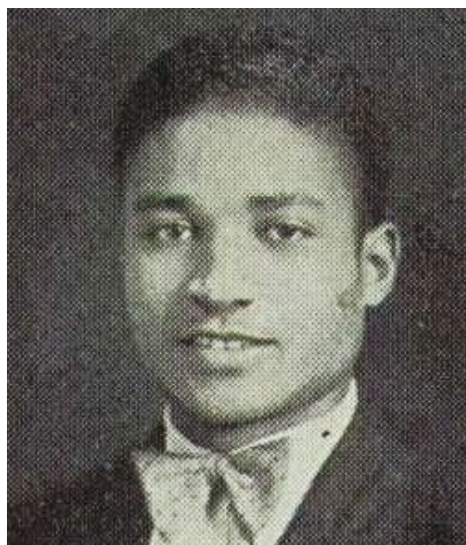
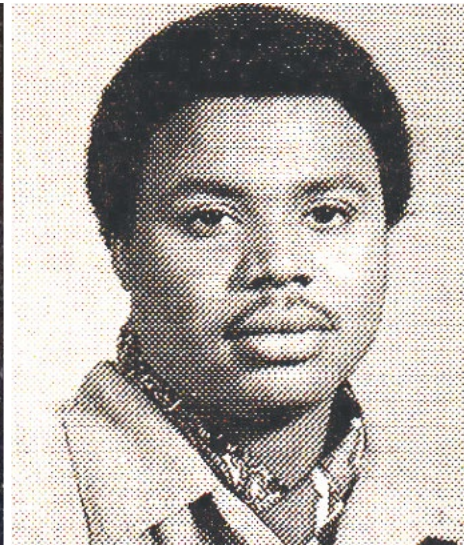
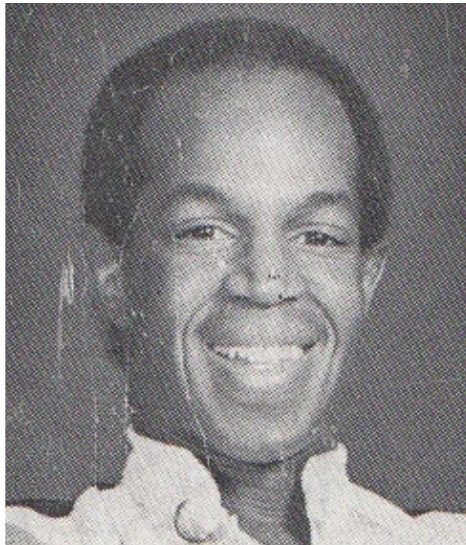


Novi
FoxRunNovi.com



BLACK HISTORY MONTH: SINGING FOR THE UNSUNG

9 Black LGBTQ+ Michigan Trailblazers You Should Know More About



BY JASON A. MICHAEL

February is, of course, Black History Month. It's a good opportunity to celebrate and learn more about Black history, but it can be challenging to piece together Black LGBTQ+ history, much of which has been lost to time.

Before Stonewall in 1969 and, hell, for many years after, LGBTQ+ history was shrouded in secrecy. Early LGBTQ+ organization leaders kept limited records and often used aliases for privacy and safety reasons, leaving behind incomplete records focused on early LGBTQ+ history. It's even more difficult to find complete records related to Black LGBTQ+ people — so many names have been lost to history, though these legacies live on through the lives they touched and the inspiration they left behind.

Historian Tim Retzliff launched Michigan LGBTQ Remember five years ago to centralize and preserve information about LGBTQ+ figures. The project's website features brief histories and, when possible, obits of 800 Michigan LGBTQ+ community members and allies. Here, Retzliff helped BTL compile a list of nine often overlooked LGBTQ+ African Americans who made significant contributions to Michigan's LGBTQ+ community.

"Some were leaders, some were activists, some were volunteers, some were bar owners or employees or customers, some were entertainers, some were elders, some were still in their youth, some met tragic ends, and many were simply ordinary LGBTQ+ people who went about their everyday lives," writes Retzliff in the site's introduction. "Some were out during their lifetime, some were not. Each deserves to be remembered as part of LGBTQ communities in which we live and that came before us."

John Pierre Adams

July 28, 1921 – Jan. 9, 1994

Born in Detroit, John Pierre Adams served in the U.S. Army during World War II and, while living in New York City following his tour of duty, performed with the Katherine Dunham Dance Company. He returned to Detroit in the 1950s and worked as a shipping clerk for an equipment company. In the 1970s, Adams led the local gay organization ONE in Detroit as its president for three years.

(Left to right, from top) Bradley Grant, Cappsene Ford, Floyd Dunn, Ken Dudley, John Pierre Adams, Jerry Palmer, Leon DeMeunier, Terri Jewell and Sylvia Robinson. Photos courtesy of Tim Retzliff and Dr. Kofi Adoma

Floyd Dunn

March 5, 1951 – April 17, 1996

Native Detroiter Floyd Dunn was a playwright, civil rights activist, and leader in the 1980s of the Detroit Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. Dunn later served as the founding director of the Black AIDS non-profit organization Project Survival and advocated for the inclusion of men and women of color in clinical trials. He died from AIDS-related complications at age 45.

Sylvia Robinson

Oct. 28, 1941 – June 15, 2001

Sylvia Robinson moved to Detroit at age 10, attended Northwestern High School, and earned her MSW from Wayne State. In 1977, she was appointed liaison to the gay community for the city's Human Rights Department. Robinson also co-founded the Detroit Coalition of Black Gays in 1979, served as education officer for the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, and later attended Full Truth Fellowship Church.

Jerry Palmer

Oct. 11, 1925 – June 19, 2012

Jerry Mae Palmer served as a role model for masculine-identified lesbians in Detroit's African American LGBTQ+ community. Born in Alabama, she later moved to Michigan where she worked on the line as an assembler for one of the automobile manufacturers. Before her death at age 86, Palmer and her friends provided vital safe spaces for people to proudly be themselves through a variety of social events.

Cappisene Ford

Jan. 11, 1953 – Dec. 26, 1995

Cappisene Ford, known to most in the gay community as Ms. L.T.D. (La Twiggy Darling), began to entertain in the 1970s at the Escape, My Fair Lady and other Detroit bars. She later went on to perform in Paris and Hong Kong. From 1979 to 1980 she served as records officer for the Michigan Organization for Human Rights. She died from AIDS-related complications at age 42.

Leon DeMeunier

Aug. 15, 1914 – Dec. 23, 1985

A native of Charleston, S.C., Leon Alfred DeMeunier grew up in Detroit and earned a degree in business administration from the University of Detroit, after which he operated his own tax and accounting service. He chaired the Detroit Congress of Racial Equality in the early 1960s and was active in the early gay organization ONE in Detroit.

Bradley Grant aka Peaches LeFleur

June 4, 1963 – July 19, 1993

Bradley Grant was a longtime member of the Detroit chapter of Black and White Men Together. He served on the board of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights and was active with the Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council. He also performed as a successful female impersonator under the name Peaches la Fleur. As Peaches, he racked up titles including Miss Gigi's. He died from AIDS-related complications at age 30.

Ken Dudley

Nov. 3, 1946 – April 28, 1991

A graduate of Wayne State University, Kenneth T. Dudley was a pioneering activist with the Detroit Gay Liberation Front and speaker at the city's first Pride march and rally in 1972. Dudley, along with Ann Lewis, also founded the organization Detroit Black Gays in response to a series of anti-gay slayings of Black gay bar customers in 1973. He died from AIDS-related complications at age 44.

Terri Jewell

Oct. 4, 1954 – Nov. 26, 1995

A native of Louisville, Ky., Terri Jewell was a noted lesbian feminist poet in Lansing whose work appeared in more than 70 publications, including The Black Scholar, Women of Power, The African-American Review, Sinister Wisdom, and Calyx. In 1994, she was awarded the Prism Award for her work in the Lansing LGBTQ+ community.

Find more on Retzloff's site at michiganlgbtqremember.com.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

Stay in the know!

GET TESTED!

Detroit Community Health Connection's Prep program offers confidential testing and counseling.

Call Today for an appointment



(313) 832-2932



MICHIGAN HIV/STD HOTLINE

800-872-2437

What is The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline?
Michigan's free statewide hotline for sexual health information. Trained operators are available to answer your questions and provide information about HIV and STI's. Find resources and services near you.

Call or Chat Online
The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline is available weekdays from 9AM to 5PM.

Visit us at MIUNIFIED.ORG to chat online.

Funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Things People Call About
Recent sexual encounters
Finding a testing site
Routes of HIV & STI transmission
Screening Costs & Health Insurance Coverage
HIV Treatment
Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Do you have any of these questions?
When & where should I get tested?
Have I been exposed to HIV?
How can I prevent the transmission of HIV and STIs?
What are treatment options for HIV & STIs?
What is PrEP?
What is PEP?

CALL TODAY

Transformative

Considering the Long-Term Impact of Our
'Jeopardy!' Champion Amy Schneider

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

You don't have to watch "Jeopardy!" to have heard about Amy Schneider's record-breaking, two-month, 40-game winning streak on the show. She's been on the cover of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, featured on CNN and *Good Morning America* and in *People* magazine. The list goes on and on.

But what does it all mean to the LGBTQ+ community? And the trans community in particular? Early on in her run — five games in — Schneider became the first trans person to qualify for the "Jeopardy!" Tournament of Champions, which will air in the fall. She became the first woman in the "Jeopardy!" millionaires club — her earnings total \$1,382,800 to be precise — and took second place in most consecutive games won from popular 38-day champ Matt Amodio.

Schneider did it all with a certain grace and dignity that allowed many viewers to get to know a trans person in a way they might not have ever had the opportunity to do. She didn't force her trans identity on anyone, but it was there, ever constant. She didn't shy away from anything when she spoke to the press, and just by being herself, she changed hearts and minds.

"The acceptance I've received is the fruit of long, violent struggles — some famous, some forgotten — in which generations of trans people have risked their lives to secure their basic right to exist," Schneider wrote in an essay about her experience on the show for *Jeopardy.com*. "Frances Thompson and Billy Tipton, Lili Elbe and Dora Richter, Sylvia Rivera and Felicia

Elizondo, Laverne Cox and Gavin Grimm, and so many more who are lost to history, have devoted themselves to creating the conditions that exist today, where a trans 'Jeopardy!' champion can be, for most people, uncritically accepted and celebrated as the person she is."

In the essay, Schneider acknowledges that she has helped the cause and that she is proud of it. She said even though she wasn't fighting the judicial system and only fulfilling her lifelong dream of appearing on "Jeopardy!" she was taking on "a burden of representation."

"...I will always and forever be proud to say that I've done my little part to ease the path for future generations of trans people to [be] free, open and [live] happy lives," she continued. "And that feeling is worth more to me than any financial gain could ever be."

Here in Michigan, Schneider certainly has accumulated a fan base.

"I think that Amy's winning streak was amazing and that she was the greatest educational tool ever," said Transgender Michigan Executive Director Rachel Crandall-Crocker. "She so normalized the transgender community."

Michelle Fox-Phillips, executive director of the Gender-Identity Network Alliance (GNA), agreed. "I think what she has done for trans visibility is immeasurable," Fox-Phillips said. "She has done so much for us. She is such a great ambassador and I hope that she continues to be an ambassador ... that she is out talking to people, the media, whatever, putting a positive light on our community."

Cindy Sanders of Warren said that Schneider was "an inspiration to all us transgender women" and that "she is truly an excellent role model."

In a CNN opinion piece, essayist Allison Hope acknowledged Schneider's impact as an example of representation, writing, "It is a high mark for LGBTQ+ visibility for those who identify in the acronym and allies alike, and a clapback to the haters," said Hope. "...There is something particularly uplifting, magical even, about Schneider's winning run. It is cathartic to root for a trans champion at a time when efforts continue to try to block or roll back the rights of transgender people in the U.S."



Photo: Sony Pictures Entertainment

50% OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV WILL EXPERIENCE COGNITIVE DECLINE AS THEY AGE

Would you like to talk to a professional about memory changes related to HIV and Alzheimer's? Need up-to-date resources, such as a physician referral, support groups, or other information?

Contact the HIV Supportive Services Program

- Kate Pierce at kpierce@alz.org or 248-996-1036
- Alzheimer's Association 24/7 helpline at helplinegmc@alz.org or 800-272-3900



Frida

Music by Robert Xavier Rodriguez
Lyrics and monologues by Migdalia Cruz



Tickets start at
\$29

MICHIGAN
OPERA
THEATRE

Music Hall: Sat / Feb 26 | Sun / Feb 27

TICKETS: michiganopera.org

Yuval Sharon, Cary L. Wasserman Artistic Director

Presented by FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – FIREFIGHTER



Department: Fire Department
Location: Ferndale Fire House
Salary Range: Patrol, \$49,471.02 - \$71,543.46
FLSA: Non-exempt/Union
Employment Type: Full Time

The City of Ferndale is seeking firefighters—aka superheroes, lifesavers, educators, and general doers of awesome things! Firefighters serve and protect the community. Our firefighters are first responders, combating and extinguishing fires; performing rescues, hazmat responses, and life support functions; and engaging in other specialized duties under emergency conditions, frequently involving personal hazard and/or severe weather conditions. Must have completed the written firefighter test with EMPCO and have a valid CPAT. Preference will be given to those applicants with a paramedic license, valid in the state of Michigan. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available. For a full list of qualifications and to apply, go to <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs>.

FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – POLICE OFFICER



Location: Ferndale Police Department
Salary Range: Officers at Academy, \$45,900
Officers in Field Training, \$49,980
Patrol, \$53,453.44 - \$72,040.32
Lateral Pay Available
Signing Bonus: \$3,000 Signing Bonus
Employment Type: Full Time

The City of Ferndale Police Department is looking for the best-of -the-best, Police Officer. Not just anyone, but the right one. If you believe that is you, we are now accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Interested parties will first need to complete the EMPCO test and profile. For testing dates, please visit the following website www.empcoco.net/testing. Candidates must have two years of college credit (60 credits), or four years of active military duty with an honorable discharge, or an acceptable combination; must be in excellent health and free from criminal background. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available. For a full list of qualifications and to apply, go to <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs>.

Hazel Park Becomes Latest Michigan City to Ban Conversion Therapy

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Conversion therapy for minors has been officially banned by the Hazel Park City Council after a unanimous vote Tuesday.

“This ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy embodies our ongoing commitment to the LGBTQ community, while also protecting our children from dangerous and discredited practices that have no legitimate medical basis,” said Councilmember Luke Londo, who introduced the ordinance and identifies as bisexual.

In passing the ban, Hazel Park becomes the sixth city in the state to have both a human rights ordinance (HRO) and a conversion therapy ban. The city joins Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Ferndale, Huntington Woods and Royal Oak, which all have HROs prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as well as conversion therapy bans.

Conversion therapy has been widely condemned by the medical community and has been documented by numerous studies as posing a significant risk of serious emotional and physical harm to youth who undergo it. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Directive 2021-3 in June of 2021, which requires the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to “take actions necessary to prohibit the use of state and federal funds for the harmful practice of conversion therapy on minors.”

“Since day one, I have made it clear that hate has no home in Michigan,” Whitmer said at the time. “My administration is committed to addressing the systemic barriers faced by young LGBTQ+ Michiganders so that our state is a place where they are able to reach their full potential.”

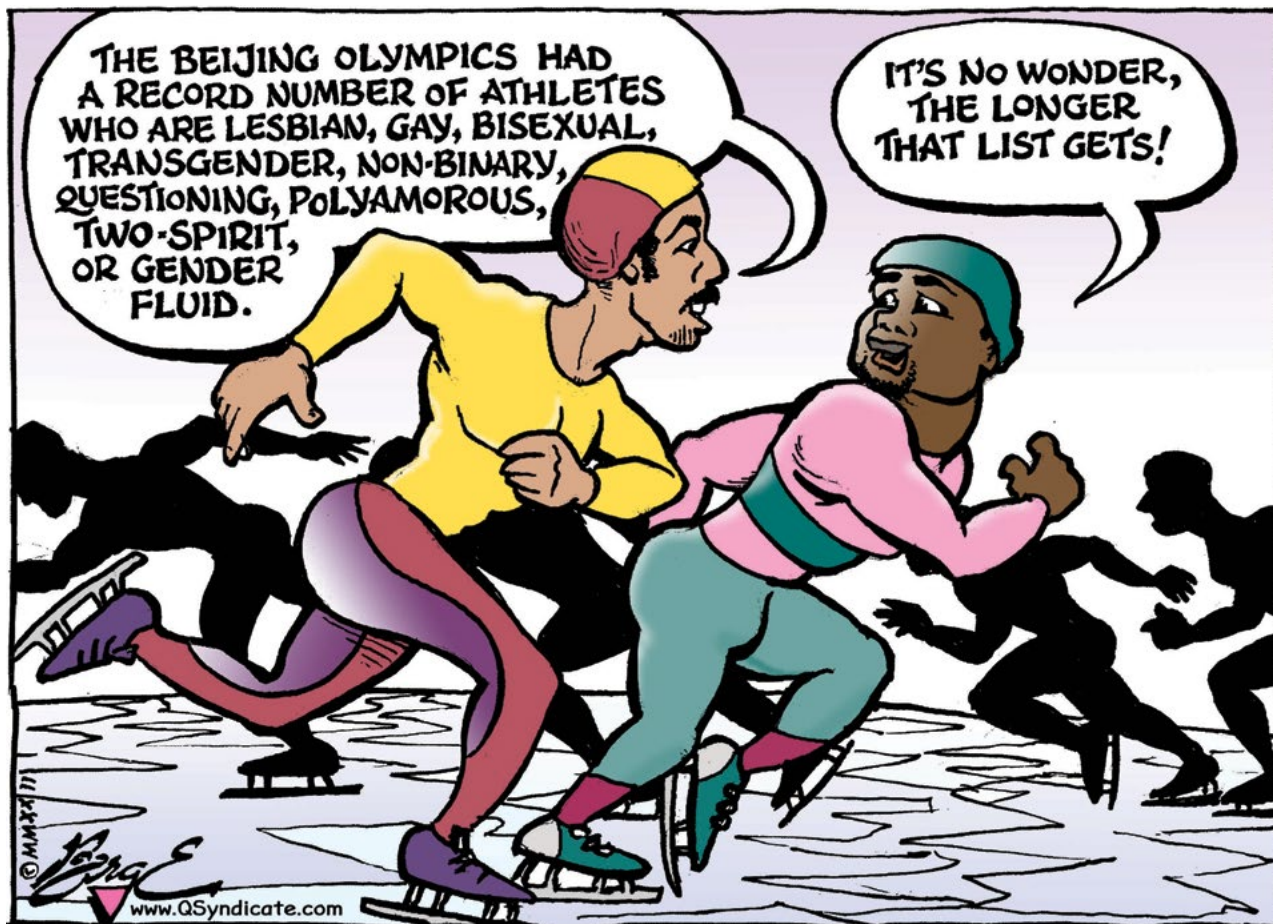
Hazel Park’s evolving commitment to LGBTQ+ community members

Hazel Park, much like nearby Ferndale and Royal Oak, well known as LGBTQ+ havens, has taken steps to truly open its arms to the LGBTQ+ community in recent years. The city passed its HRO in April of last year, sponsored by Londo and Councilmember Alissa Sullivan. The city hosted its first Pride in the Park celebration in 2019.

“Hazel Park has had an active, vibrant LGBTQ community for years,” Londo told BTL. “City Council has been very deliberate as of late in taking opportunities to recognize our LGBTQ residents, whether by raising the Pride Flag every June, hosting a Pride event, or passing legislation to protect their civil rights.

“Actually, when I first mentioned wanting to pass a Human Rights Ordinance last year, everyone was under the impression we already had one,” Londo continued. “I was merely codifying what had been common practice — ensuring our LGBTQ community is protected and celebrated.”

The ordinance still has to pass a second reading, which will take place at the Hazel Park City Council meeting on March 8. Once passed on second reading, it will take effect later that month.



How Entertainment Weekly Changed My Life as a Gay Kid and Led Me to Become a Journalist



By Chris Azzopardi

You wouldn’t be reading this right now, in print, if it weren’t for Entertainment Weekly. EW is why I became a journalist. This fact only makes it stranger, and sadder, to say that I can’t believe I won’t receive another issue of EW in my mailbox like I have for the last 20-plus years.

Last week, Barry Diller’s IAC Dotdash, after buying magazine giant Meredith Publishing, ceased the publication of EW, which had gone monthly in 2019.

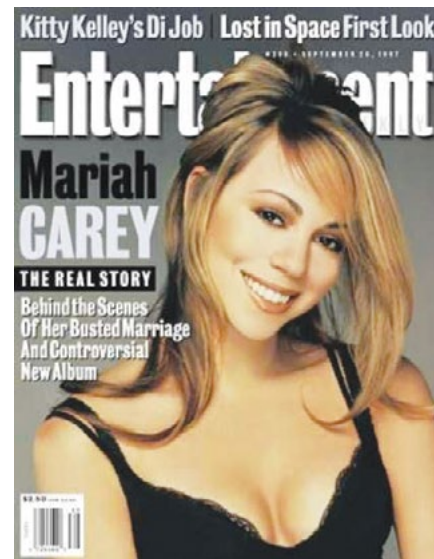
As a ’90s kid, my portal into a far more thrilling world than the one I was in at the time, which often felt like a heavy burden, was EW.

At Christmastime, I came to expect my parents to gift me an EW subscription almost every year. Each issue filled my young life with the much-needed fantasy of Hollywood glitz and glam, the notion that my life wouldn’t always be so tough. Best of all, it brought me closer to who I really was.

It also got me as front-and-center as I could get at the time to the famous gay icons who taught me perseverance and survival, like Cher and Mariah Carey. Closer to the TV shows that gave me a taste of what being gay didn’t have to look like but could look like. And much, much closer to N’SYNC, the Backstreet Boys and “Titanic”-era Leonardo DiCaprio, whose photos I’d cut out of

the magazine (no offense, EW) and which adorned my childhood bedroom walls. I wasn’t yet out, but it would’ve been easy to explain why cute boy banders and actors served as wallpaper: “Mom and Dad, I just really love pop culture!”

Which is true: EW was my Bible, one of the few things I felt like I could look forward to during a time that felt, to a kid who never fit in and always felt alone, like a battle to survive. It gave me connection when I felt disconnected. This was especially true during high school, when I struggled the hardest with my sexuality, combatting suicidal thoughts, while also trying to understand why my parents didn’t



See EW, next page

“

This wasn't meant to be a call to action, but if you're reading this now, it should be. Because I'll be honest: I'm afraid for the future of print media.

→ EW

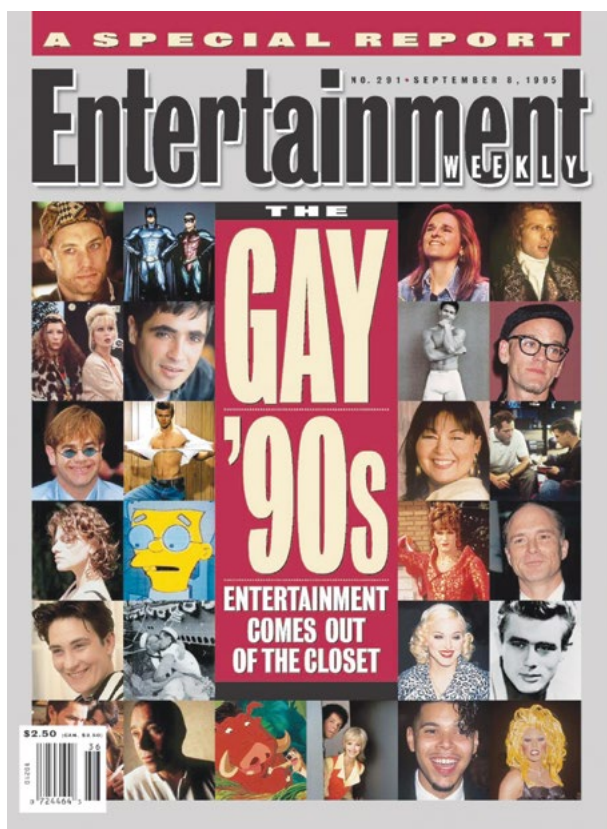
Continued from previous page

seem to love each other anymore.

Everything was so uncertain then, except for one thing: Every week, an issue of EW would show up in the mailbox. It's when I learned to love getting the mail, and why I made my parents make me my own mail key. There was just something so special about seeing my name on every issue. Something that was all my own at a time when I couldn't even own my identity.

EW was why I became a journalist. I remember in my senior year of college applying for a job — there was no job listing, but I still gave it a shot — and writing an impassioned cover letter about my deep relationship to the magazine, describing just what EW meant to me. I couldn't have known then what losing EW would feel like now.

And, truthfully, I'm taking this announcement hard, especially as I have fond memories of holding onto every issue for sometimes months, sometimes years, to quench my ferocious appetite for anything pop culture. It always pained me to have to decide which ones I'd hold onto and which ones I'd let go of, sanity-saving pieces of my youth dumped into the recycling bin. I couldn't get rid of the ones with Mariah, who, because I was so inspired by her music, renewed my shattered queer spirit every time I saw a mere photo of her. I tucked away the ones that featured some of my favorite shows, like "Queer as Folk" and "Will & Grace," ones that made me feel like I could someday have a place in the world. And I kept anything with Ellen in it because they made me feel less alone.



Those issues didn't just lead me to where I am now in journalism — they led me here, to Between The Lines and Pride Source Media Group. They led me to do the thing I loved that EW got to do — interview Mariah and Cher. And they remind me that media matters, representation matters, and somewhere to some closeted 16-year-old who was once like me — this publication matters, too.

This wasn't meant to be a call to action, but if you're reading this now, it should be. Because I'll be honest: I'm afraid for the future of print media. And to keep print alive, it's you who goes to your local queer bar or Whole Foods or coffeehouse and picks up our paper and thumbs through its pages, hopefully learning something new or, like in my case, something outside your own world that you identify with. New ideas, new perspectives, people whose stories help us, through their unique lens, reexamine our own lives. And it's that world I hope we can continue to preserve for generations to come.

CREEP OF THE WEEK

LGBTQ+ Content Bans Offer Shelter for Fragile Conservatives



By D'Anne Witkowski

Remember when Donald Trump won the 2016 election and his supporters called Hillary Clinton voters sore losers for their outrage and disgust? And then, when Trump lost the 2020 election his supporters threw a deadly temper tantrum, storming the U.S. Capitol?

And how Trump supporters called Democrats "snowflakes" for being upset by Trump's open hostility to people of color and women, but are now demanding we stop teaching about slavery in schools because it hurts white kids' feelings?

How about when Hillary Clinton's emails were treated like the biggest scandal in history (they weren't) by Trump and the mainstream media (shame on them forever for that) and now we've found out that Trump was basically using official documents as toilet paper?

Or how then Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell blocked a Supreme Court nominee by President Barack Obama claiming it was too close to the 2016 election, but fast tracked Trump's nominee Amy Coney Barrett even closer to the 2020 election?

I don't know, but I'm kind of seeing a pattern here. Like, maybe these people are not operating in good faith.

So much performative outrage, so little time. LGBTQ+ people are always a favorite punching bag in the so-called "culture wars" (which, I would like to point out, only one side is actually fighting. The anti-LGBTQ+ right is waging war on equality while LGBTQ+ people are not waging war against Christians, no matter how much Christians cry about being oppressed). So the continued push against LGBTQ+ people in schools should come as no surprise.

And yet, somehow it does. Or, not surprise, maybe, but dismay? It feels really awful to know that there are those who think that LGBTQ+ people pose a bigger threat to their children than, say, guns or COVID, two things that just don't seem to matter much to the anti-LGBTQ+ right.

There's a bill in Florida that would ban discussion of LGBTQ+ people or issues in the classroom and forcing school staff to out kids to their parents. And now there's one in Tennessee. State Rep. Bruce Griffey has put forth legislation to make it illegal to

"promote, normalize, support or address LGBT issues or lifestyle." According to the Advocate, such legislation has been proposed before and failed. Griffey first introduced his bill last year.

His rationale? Public schools won't teach about Christianity, so they shouldn't teach about LGBTQ+ issues, either.

"The State of Tennessee is not allowed to teach my daughters Christian values that I think are important and they should learn, so I teach those at home," Griffey tells the AP. "So, if those are not part of the school curriculum, I don't see how LGBTQ+ and other issues and social lifestyles should be part of the curriculum."

It's a simple matter of fairness, right? Except that LGBTQ+ is not a religion. Who wants to tell him?

I'm kidding. As if Griffey is open to a rational conversation on this topic or any other. This is a guy who called his colleagues "medical Nazis" for their support of vaccine mandates. So, yeah.

All progress faces backlash. And the pendulum between progressive and conservative swings back and forth, for better or worse. But we've swung so far to the right that the entire Republican Party supports overthrowing the government. So long as they get to be in power.

This isn't normal.

In an email to the Advocate, Chris Sanders, executive director of the Tennessee Equality Project writes, "The 2022 legislative session has brought the most discriminatory bills ever."

And that's saying something. Tennessee isn't exactly known as a place that values LGBTQ+ liberation and acceptance, certainly not at the legislative level.

"Attacks on gender-affirming care, trans athletes, and LGBTQ+ materials in schools are themes that connect this year's bills to previous sessions," Sanders continues. "We also face new attacks on student pronouns with a bill allowing school personnel to disregard them, which is nothing short of state-sanctioned bullying. Given the number of bills that passed last year, we have to treat them all as if they could advance."

In other words, we can't just hope or assume that bills like this, no matter where they crop up, could very likely become law. In some places they already have. Elect people who recognize your humanity, damn it.

Mrs. America Is Intersex

Jackie Blankenship, the First Mrs. America From Michigan, Represents the ‘+’ in LGBTQ+

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Whatever outdated notions one has about the world of pageantry, Grand Rapids radio personality Jackie Blankenship is here to upend them. Blankenship, who in November was crowned Mrs. America 2022, counts herself as part of the LGBTQ+ community. And while a few winners of well-known pageants have been openly gay or transgender, Blankenship, as an openly intersex individual, is rare. What's more, Blankenship is using her platform as the first Mrs. America from Michigan to advocate for intersex youth.

When she was an adolescent, “My friends started having their period and having changes with their bodies,” Blankenship said. “And I was having the same changes. I was developing as a typical female, but I didn't have a period.”

Blankenship has an intersex condition called complete androgen insensitivity syndrome. When she was an infant, doctors discovered Blankenship had been born without a uterus or ovaries; instead, she had internal testes that were producing estrogen. Blankenship said she wasn't fully aware of this until she reached puberty.

“Because of a lack of knowledge on conditions like mine,” Blankenship said, “doctors urged my parents to have them removed. So when I was only 15, I had a surgery to have both internal testes or gonads removed from my abdomen, and was forced on an artificial hormone — a patch.”

Out of fear, Blankenship said she didn't ask a lot of questions.

“I was really good about just pretending everything was fine,” Blankenship said. “And I think that I had a knack for convincing myself, ‘Yeah, I just had a hysterectomy and everything's normal.’”

Around this time, Blankenship became interested in pageantry. She recalled being at the mall with her mother where a pageant was taking place. Blankenship, who enjoyed watching pageants on television, with all their fancy dresses and glamor, was enthralled. Her parents aren't “pageant people,” Blankenship stressed, and her younger sister didn't understand either.

“I think there was a part of me that had a very important need and urge to be very feminine,” Blankenship explained, “because I was at a ... juncture in my life where I was being told by doctors things that made me uncomfortable. It made me feel less feminine and because of



“I guess you'd say it kind of blew up in the support I got from the LGBTQ+ community and the community in general here in West Michigan.”

condition represents just one of 44 different intersex variations that affect up to 2 percent of the population. The response to her first-person account was tremendous.

“I guess you'd say it kind of blew up in the support I got from the LGBTQ+ community and the community in general here in West Michigan,” Blankenship said. She thought she should talk about it more.

“That's when I started getting messages, not necessarily from other intersex individuals, but from parents who wanted to stay anonymous: their child was just diagnosed with an intersex condition, whether it was mine or a different one, and they didn't know where to turn. And after reading my article, they were freaked out because their doctor had already suggested surgery and their child was only a baby.”

Blankenship supports the work of interACT Advocates, an organization that advocates for the human rights of children born with intersex traits. They believe in putting an end to medically unnecessary, nonconsensual intersex surgeries. They also believe that improving communication is a crucial part of improving care for intersex children.

Now comfortable answering questions from people who know little about the intersex community, Blankenship acknowledges being so outspoken is not for everyone.

“It's up to the individual to come out and talk about that if they ever want to,” Blankenship said. “And if they don't want to, that's fine, too. You should never be forced to talk about your genitals. And that's what a lot of this comes down to.”

“Intersex” refers to an individual born with reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or a chromosome pattern that doesn't seem to fit

that, I had this urge to do this.”

In her 20s, Blankenship took a break from competing in pageants. She attended college on a track and cross-country scholarship and got married. Then Blankenship discovered the world of “Mrs.” pageantry and pageants that are platform-based. However, when she explored the idea of competing with a platform, Blankenship wasn't yet ready to speak out about being intersex. It wasn't even until she was 25 or 26 that she fully understood it.

“People can be really cruel and say things — uneducated things — and I emotionally wasn't in a place where I could handle it,” Blankenship said. “If someone said ... I wasn't female enough to them, I couldn't take that kind of backlash. I wasn't there yet.” She chose infertility as her platform.

Blankenship's 5-year-old daughter, Greenleigh, was conceived via in vitro fertilization using Blankenship's sister as

a surrogate with sperm from Blankenship's husband and donor eggs. Focusing on women's infertility journeys made sense at first. Blankenship received an outpouring of support from women, yet she said she felt like a fraud.

“I didn't struggle with infertility,” Blankenship said. “I had a different issue. Now, I can't have children because of my issue, but it just felt like a very different animal altogether. And I felt like I was leading people on. Like, ‘Yeah, I understand your journey,’ when really, I don't understand their journey and they definitely don't understand mine.”

Blankenship came out publicly in a 2017 West Michigan Woman blog titled “I Am Intersex and I Am Here.” In it, she explained that because of her condition she has XY chromosomes, which are typically male, but she otherwise developed as female. Blankenship's

See Mrs. America, page 26



MCC Detroit's Coming Out Support Group is back!

Join us every 2nd & 4th Sunday,
12:45pm-1:45pm in the
Affirmations Conference Room.
Facilitated by Tim Kahanak



Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
Radically inclusive since 1972.

www.mccdetroit.org
290 W Nine Mile, Ferndale, MI 48220 | 248.399.7741

MCCDETROIT MCCDETROIT



at *Hodges...*



FORESTER[®] NFF 22

MANUFACTURER OFFER:
2022 SUBARU

**Check Out Our
Current Lease Offers**



**HODGES
SUBARU**
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220

248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com

HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES - 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.

MONDAY & THURS SALES - 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.

SATURDAY SALES - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

EVERYDAY!

EXCELLENT SERVICE • OUTSTANDING SELECTION • FANTASTIC PRICES....

*Model code: NFF-22 only. \$1,999 downpayment. \$0 security deposit. 1st month payment due at lease signing. 36 month/50K miles per year. 15 cents every mile thereafter. Tax, title, and license fees not included. Subject to one credit approval through Subaru Motors Finance.



STOMP
THE INTERNATIONAL SENSATION
STOMPONLINE.COM

MARCH 1-6 | MUSIC HALL

BroadwayInDetroit.com

Ticketmaster • 800-982-2787

Groups (10+) broadwayindetroitgroups@theambassadors.com
(Subject: Stomp)



BRINGING WELLNESS TO LIFE

AWBS MISSION: To meet the needs of individuals, families and the community by providing integrated health services which foster well-being and self-sufficiency.

AWBS offers a variety of services to all members to function at their greatest potential by using trained professionals and best practices.

SERVICES OFFERED: Mental Health Services, Substance Use Disorder, Prevention & Treatment, HIV Prevention, STDs Testing, Primary Care, Health Workshops, Intellectual Development Disabilities Services, Skill Building, Family Support and more.

TRAUMA INFORMED GROUPS: • Anger Management • Dialectical Behavior Therapy • Recovery • Smoking Cessation • Trans Trauma (T-TREM)



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR APPOINTMENT
CALL (313) 924-7860 | www.awbs.org

An Unabashed Hellraiser Leaves One Helluva Legacy

Memorial Set for Pioneering Detroit LGBTQ+ Activist John Kavanaugh

BY TIM RETZLOFF

Early coordinator of the Detroit Gay Liberation Front, a founder of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, and a constant gadfly for change within the Episcopal Church, John Kavanaugh died Dec. 17 at age 82. He had been in declining health for several years.

A memorial for the pioneering Detroit LGBTQ activist will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at Zion Lutheran Church in Ferndale.

The retired autoworker dated his coming out as gay to a Saturday in 1970 when he stood nervously outside the flagship Hudson's Department Store in downtown Detroit hawking a publication called the Gay Liberator.

He deliberately arrived a half hour late so he wouldn't be the first activist there. "Everybody else was an hour late," he recalled in a 1994 oral history interview. After waiting 15 minutes, he got up the nerve to start waving the newspaper to potential customers on his own. "I pulled a paper out of my bag and froze up against Hudson's wall. And somebody came along, took the paper, put a quarter in my other hand, I put a quarter in the pocket, reached into the bag and froze up against the wall again," he said. "Weeks later I was hollering, 'Read all about it!'"

Kavanaugh was an unabashed hellraiser and a tireless champion of sexual and racial justice for more than five decades.

His legacy lives on in the form of numerous organizations he took part in or helped found, including the MCC Detroit, which marks its 50th anniversary as a sanctioned church in 2022. Meetings of the Detroit GLF Christian Caucus held at Kavanaugh's apartment beginning in December 1970 led to the formation of MCC Detroit.

John Lawrence Kavanaugh was born Feb. 22, 1939 to

Marian Kavanaugh, a homemaker, and Paul Kavanaugh, an electrical engineer with the Detroit Edison Company. He grew up in Dearborn and graduated with the class of 1957 from St. Alphonso High School. That following January he professed his vows with Brothers of Holy Cross, a religious order within the Roman Catholic Church.

After leaving the Brothers in 1965, Kavanaugh taught at Divine Child High School in Dearborn while pursuing his Masters at the University of Detroit. One evening he was walking in downtown Detroit with another teacher from school and the colleague pointed out with disdain a gay bar down a side street. "I was back there the next night," Kavanaugh later recalled.

The bar was the Ten Eleven, one of the mainstays of local gay nightlife of the 1950s and '60s, where Kavanaugh found entrée into his community.

In July 1967, he moved into the northern part of the Virginia Park neighborhood, the same day as a police raid of a blind pig sparked the Detroit rebellion. The area, as he remembered it, consisted of homes owned by African American families, interspersed with apartment buildings with many of the units rented to white gay tenants like himself. The nearby Diplomat Lounge, operated by Bookie Stewart, became a regular hangout for Kavanaugh.

Around the same time, Kavanaugh took a job at Chevrolet Gear and Axle and worked on the assembly line for 25 years before taking an early retirement. He also discovered the city's sole gay organization in existence in the late 1960s, ONE in Detroit, which offered support and fellowship to closeted men.

When the Detroit Gay Liberation Front (GLF) began in January 1970, inspired by the Stonewall Riots six months

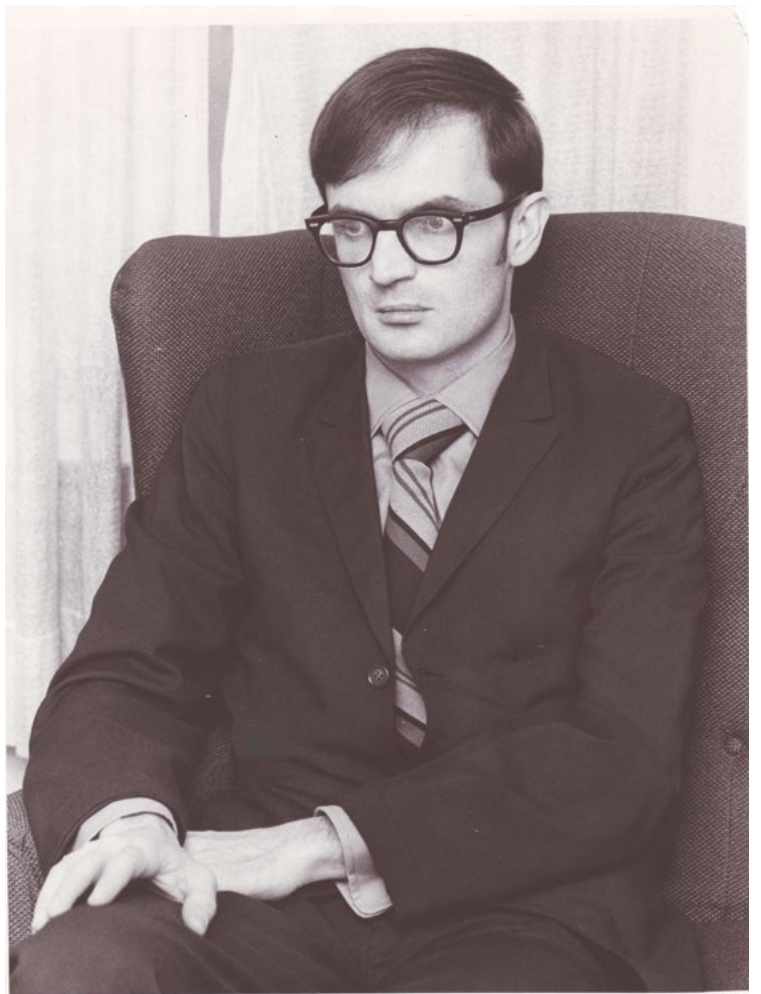


Photo: Detroit Free Press/ZUMA Press

See **John Kavanaugh**, page 24

SASSY:
Study on Aging and Sexual Satisfaction among Gay Men

Researchers at Michigan State University are conducting a study about sexual satisfaction among gay men 50+.

To participate, you will complete a one-time brief (15 - 20 min) confidential online survey about sexual satisfaction, aging, health, and your experiences.

If you are interested in participating, please email Lucas at sassystudy.msu@gmail.com to receive your unique secure survey link.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT LUCAS R. PRIETO, PHD
CANDIDATE, MSW
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
PRIETOLU@MSU.EDU | 989-488-6722

For more information
Visit: <https://bit.ly/2ZfidCp>

Where queer and kinky people can be, and find themselves

The spectrum of sexual and gender identities is wide and there are a variety of ways to find pleasure and satisfaction in consensual sexual relationships. Our therapists can help with issues including:

- Relationship Issues
- Non-Monogamy
- Coming Out
- LGBTQ Affirmative Therapy
- Kink and Fetish Affirmative Therapy
- Internalized oppression

The Center
for Relationship and Sexual Health

(248) 399-7447
Royal Oak | crsh.com

7 NOTES NATURAL HEALTH

Hear, See, and Feel True Wellness

Ann Arbor's premiere destination for integrative bodywork, incorporating massage, sound therapy, energy work, and reflexology.

248-962-5475
7notesnaturalhealth.com



FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
www.wellnessaids.org

WWW.WELLNESSAIDS.ORG



LIVE WELL Medical Clinic

SERVICES PROVIDED

HIV Speciality & Primary Care

HIV & STI Testing

Trans Affirming Care

LGBTQ+ Focused Care

Your health is our priority



LIVE WELL MEDICAL CLINIC

FLINT

DOORS OPEN MARCH 15, 2022

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

630 S. SAGINAW ST. FLINT, MI 48502

SUITE 4

TEMPORARY LOCATION

[Schedule Today](#)

Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool.

100% Local Agents. 100% Client Focused.
Trillium Real Estate Helps People
Make Good Decisions.



Sandi & Linda
www.trilliumrealtors.com

323 Braun Ct. Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-302-3011



TRILLIUM
REAL ESTATE

Lonely and Queer? Maybe You Just Need a Pet

For These LGBTQ+ Michiganders, Their Companion Animals Changed Their Lives

BY NAYANIKA GUHA

For 30-year-old Jarell Wilson from Detroit, COVID-19 isolation only intensified their struggles with depression. Self-isolation and working from home would've been worse, too, if it weren't for their two pets, a cat and a dog.

"Pets have helped me in so many ways," they say. "I wrestle with depression and Mia, my dog, was often the only reason I would get out of bed at times. And Zelda has definitely been a comfort. Whenever I'm crying, no matter where I am in the apartment, she comes to find and comfort me."

For many LGBTQ+ people across the country, the pandemic has forced them to be isolated from their chosen families, to live with people they may not be out to, and to face

increased levels of discrimination. A 2017 study supported by the National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Traineeship from the National Institute of Mental Health showed a linkage between the lack of social support and a rise in depression. For many, where human support is unavailable, support from animals can be a positive source of comfort and companionship. Further, per the findings of a 2021 study examining the power of pets in the lives of LGBTQ+ young people experiencing homelessness, pets have positive mental health impacts for queer young adults experiencing homelessness.

For many queer people, pets are considered a part of their (chosen) family. A poll by Harris Interactive has shown that 90 percent of LGBTQ+ pet owners believe that their pet is a member of their family. Moreover, two-thirds have also bought their pets

presents for the holidays. Taylor Hewitt, a 23-year-old bisexual woman from Kalamazoo, couldn't agree more.

Hewitt adopted Buffy, an 8-month-old kitten, in September 2021. She says that having a pet has made her life significantly better and that "she has quickly become a large part of my life." "I consider her to be my family," she says. "I am able to rely on her for comfort and love, and she is able to do the same for me."

For those who are marginalized and othered, a 2018 study from The University of Pennsylvania found that companion animals offer their LGBTQ+ owners "unconditional love and acceptance ... through both verbal and physical communication." So for people who have experienced love from a biological family that is conditional because of one's sexuality or gender identity, a good cuddle with an unconditionally loving pet can help curb loneliness.

A 2021 study by the Archives of Sexual Behavior, focused on minority stress and pet-based sources of resilience, found that pets contribute to building resilience and provide uniquely beneficial emotional connections. It also found that, for queer people, pets were "vital sources of support that promoted thriving" and pet relationships promoted happiness that increased participants' life satisfaction.

"We just know that the few moments a person is petting, hugging and sometimes kissing the dog on its head are relaxing," says Jared Wadley, Therapaws board member and therapy dog handler. Therapaws is a Dexter-based organization that promotes therapeutic effects of the human-animal bond through interactions with qualified therapy dogs. "It's a time when the person forgets his or her troubles to simply embrace the canine, who loves the attention." The joy and smiles from the visits are priceless, and the Therapaws volunteer handlers are more



Taylor Hewitt with her cat Buffy. Photo courtesy of Taylor Hewitt



Jarell Wilson with their cat Zelda. Photo courtesy of Jarell Wilson

than happy to facilitate these human-animal interactions, he adds.

For those dealing with mental health conditions, pets can also be a great source of stability and provide a sense of routine. Hewitt believes that having a pet has provided her with a sense of much-needed consistency in her life. Having Buffy, she says, has helped her stick to a routine that aids in the care of her mental health. Further, the fact that Buffy is with her as she wakes up, and is there to comfort her as she falls asleep, is very important to her.

"While I still feel alone sometimes, having a pet has helped me feel significantly less lonely. When I am feeling sad or stressed, her presence alone helps to ease my worries," she says.

Beyond their ability to abate the feeling of isolation, pets also help create connection for queer people. Wilson, for instance, feels that their dog's boisterous, joyful energy has helped

attract positive people into their life.

"Some of my friends were made because of my dog," they say, adding that having pets has helped them learn to love people better. "And my cat has reaffirmed to me how valuable boundaries are, and to not engage with people who can't respect them."

But it's not just young people whose mental health benefits from animal companions. According to a 2018 study by the US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, LGBTQ+ adults 50 and over who own a pet had higher perceived social support, especially those with a disability and limited social network size, compared to those without a pet.

The bottom line is that, for many LGBTQ+ people, pets provide a reason to wake up in the morning. As Hewitt says, "It's a good feeling, and without her I feel as though I would not be able to receive the same kind of care. She gives me a sense of purpose."

What Your Pet's Zodiac Sign Says About Them

BY JACKIE JONES

Every pet has its own personality. Some are playful, while others love a long day of lounging. Have you ever wondered why? Of course there are various factors that determine unique animal quirks, but sometimes it boils down to good ol' astrology. Here's a better understanding of your pet based around the zodiac:



Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Aries have an energetic, almost anxious need to always be doing something. And pets that fall within this zodiac sign are no different.

Whether that's outside frolicking in the grass or aimlessly running toward a directionless destination on a hamster wheel, there will be motion in their lives. Also, because Mars rules them, they have an unmistakable me-first, take-charge, almost abrasive attitude not unlike the Greek god of war himself. Yes, these pets can be unruly, determined and highly impatient, but they'll also make you feel like anything is possible — purely based on their child-like energy.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

A Taurus is one of the chilliest pets in any vet office. And probably the most unfazed, unless they're pushed to their limit... or don't receive the affection they yearn for in relationships.

Generally, these pets are low-maintenance creatures; however, because they are ruled by Venus, the Greek goddess of love, they exude a slight regal glow. Still, they're not entitled, just charming. So, if you're a person who loves snuggles, check the date of a potential pet's birthday to see if they're a darling Taurus.



Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Gemini are curious pets. Ruled by Mercury, the Greek messenger of the gods, these pets have a need to communicate by any means necessary. If your pet falls within this sign,

make sure you hold them close around other pets lest they jump, leap, or even fly to try to socialize. Not only are Gemini pets social butterflies, they're also playful. If you need some excitement in your life after a long day of human existence, look to these curious beings for a good time. They won't disappoint.



Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Sweet, sweet, emotional Cancer just needs a hug. With their sign ruled by the moon, it makes sense. Just as the moon changes, their emotions are constantly changing. However,

unlike an Aries, who are reactive, a Cancer first comes across passive. Before coming out of their shell, these shy beings would instead like to figure out the setting around them. Also, they appreciate being in a nurturing, safe home setting. If your home is filled with soft pillows

See **Pet Zodiac**, page 19



Your trusted source for
LAB GROWN DIAMONDS



FEEL CONFIDENT SHOWING YOUR LOVE AND
COMMITMENT WITH OUR LARGE SELECTION OF SUPERIOR QUALITY
AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE LAB GROWN DIAMONDS.

Value
MORE AFFORDABLE THAN
NATURAL DIAMONDS OF
SAME COLOR AND QUALITY

Quality
SAME FIRE AND BRILLIANCE
AS NATURAL DIAMONDS.
ALL LABORATORY GRADED

Sustainability
KNOWN ORIGIN AND
GUARANTEED CONFLICT FREE.
ETHICALLY SOURCED



ASTREIN'S

248.644.1651 • 120 WEST MAPLE • DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM
ASTREINS.COM • WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY 10:00 TO 4:30 OR BY APPOINTMENT

Pet Showstoppers

5 Times the Real Stars of Your Favorite Queer-Inclusive Show Were the Animals

BY SARAH HUNT

Human actors are great and all, but as any animal lover will attest, a well-placed puppy or a noble equine can elevate a good show to must-see status. If you watch reruns of old “Frasier” episodes strictly because you need an Eddie fix to brighten your mood, this list is for you, fellow pet lover.

‘Brooklyn 91,’ Captain Holt’s



Photo: “Brooklyn 91” / YouTube

Corgi Cheddar

Life goal: Find someone who looks at you the way Captain Raymond Holt looks at his beloved Corgi, Cheddar.

Openly gay police captain Holt is typically a very serious, buttoned-down character who has no time for Andy Samberg’s Jimmy Peralta and his endless shenanigans, but this giant of a man falls apart when it comes to his love for Cheddar. For his part, Cheddar seems completely fine with wearing a beret or posing on a surfboard in a pair of swim trunks if it means pleasing his Captain. It’s a love for the ages.

Sadly, the canine actor who played Cheddar, Stewart, died in 2019 at age 13.

‘Difficult People,’ Julie’s Dogs, Sen. Jelly Bean and Greg

“Difficult People” is one of those shows that you either “get” or that you hate with so much intensity, people have had to unfollow you on social media for all your ranting. Openly obnoxious would-be comedians Billy (portrayed by Billy Eichner, who also happens to be openly gay in real life) and bestie Julie (Julie Klausner) have a penchant for fearlessly

diving straight into one LGBTQ+ stereotype after another. Let us never forget the dog park hookup between Billy and Seth Meyers, billed as “Dog Park Guy” in the Season 2 “Premium Membership” episode.

It’s a show aimed at stirring shit up, but one thing we can all agree on? Julie’s basset hounds, Sen. Jelly Bean and Greg, the real scene-stealers. If you haven’t seen the episode where her dog walkers turn them into football-loving YouTube stars, stop everything and get to it.

Need more basset hound? Follow Martha (Sen. Jelly Bean) and Otis (Greg) on Instagram!

Xena, Warrior Princess and her horses Argo and Argo II

There are several reasons “Xena, Warrior Princess” resonated so much with the LGBTQ+ community. First, Xena herself (portrayed by Lucy Lawless) is unquestionably dripping with sexuality. She makes warrior princessing look sexy. Second, despite all the “controversy,” it was always evident she had a same-sex relationship with co-star Gabrielle (portrayed by Renee O’Connor), which was eventually all but verified when Xena kisses an ailing Gabrielle back to life.

Anyway, Xena wouldn’t be Xena without a magical beast by her side. No, not Gabrielle. Argo, her (often, literally glowing) palomino horse (and later, the aptly named Argo II). Let’s just say the fan art involving Argo is, well, I don’t want to spoil the surprise, but you don’t want to Google the subject in mixed company. Argo and Argo II were gorgeous, faithful, and without them, it would have taken Xena *a lot* longer to get around.

‘Broad City,’ Ilana’s Rat Mother

While openly bisexual Ilana (Ilana Glazer) and Abbi (Abbi Jacobson) don’t have pet companions on the show, animals featured frequently on this LGBTQ+ fan favorite. There was Ilana’s gay brother’s dog wedding in “The Matrix” episode from Season 2 (the one where Abbi rollerbladed into a chasm in Central Park and spent the rest of the episode roleplaying “The Voice” with figs standing in for the judges). But the real stand-out episode involves a much more — let’s just go with *disgusting* — premise: rat birth.

In the “Rat Pack” episode from Season



Photo: “Xena” / Studios USA

4, Ilana and roommate Jaime (the adorable Arturo Castro) throw a party to raise money to pay for rat extermination (oh, the joys of living in New York). At one point, Ilana and sorta-boyfriend Lincoln (Hannibal Buress) accidentally trap a rat in the bathroom. Later, when Ilana witnesses said rat — surprise, she’s pregnant! — giving birth, she bonds with her on a deeply spiritual level. “She’s a single gal,” muses Ilana. “Just looking to raise her kids in a safe home. She’s me!”

While it’s probably a good thing Ilana, especially, wasn’t in charge of keeping another living being alive, this show did a fantastic job integrating animals into hilarious storylines very naturally. Need more proof? Check out Lincoln talking to dogs in the clip below.

‘Schitt’s Creek,’ Ted’s Menagerie

This Canadian sleeper hit is sure to be considered a classic for years to come. It’s got everything: deep characters who authentically develop over the series run, stellar writing and plotting, authentic LGBTQ+ representation, basically the entire Levy family, Moira’s wigs... but it also has a really fun undercurrent of hilarious animal-centric episodes.

Local veterinarian Ted Mullins (Dustin Milligan) is at the heart of these plotlines, for obvious reasons, but it’s Alexis Rose (Anne Murphy) who brings to life one of the show’s most hilarious moments. In the Season 1 episode “Carl’s Funeral,” Ted and Alexis share a romantic moment in bed... with the audience of a diapered dog, complete with a medical cone. Not to worry, says the vet, they do that sometimes. Enter dog number two: a giant beast who seems like he’s in it for the finish. As the

situation escalates, Alexis, who wants Ted to believe she’s a dog person, mouths over Ted’s shoulder “GO AWAY” to the dogs.

Then, of course, there was the not-to-be-missed time (very) well-toned Ted inadvertently stripped in front of a webcam trained on a family of baby bunnies up for adoption.



Photo: “Schitt’s Creek” / Pop TV

Well, there you have it, ya filthy animal! The perfect must-see list for a weekend on the couch with all the creature comforts of home — think of it as an ode to the late TV legend and animal lover Betty White. Find a furry companion (human or otherwise), cuddle up, and celebrate the pure-hearted goodness our animal counterparts add to our lives.

Consider making a donation to a local animal shelter like the Michigan Animal Rescue League in honor of Betty White and her steadfast dedication to helping animals in need.

➔ **Pet Zodiac**

Continued from page 17

and offers a protective atmosphere, then these pets will be in heaven.



Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)

Move out of the way because these pets attract all the attention, and they know it. Stunning? Yes. Loud? A given.

A new hairstyle? Probably every two weeks. If you haven't guessed already, Leo pets are high-maintenance. And it makes sense. They represent and are ruled by the sun in astrology. Like the sun, they do what they know best: shine. They will pretty much rule your household, mainly because they offer so much warmth and affection. It's hard to resist their strong (albeit, sometimes dramatic) personalities.



Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Just like a Gemini, Virgos are ruled by the planet Mercury. But, unlike a Gemini, Virgos thrive on structure instead

of chaos. These pets are methodical and analytical beings that weigh out the pros and cons of life. Making sure their decisions are nearly perfect. While they are a bit shy, they still like to explore the outdoors. In fact, they have a strong connection to nature. When they're not in their minds or basking in the field, they spend most of their time being great listeners and dependable pets.



Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Libras love love. These pets are ruled by Venus and enjoy meeting other pets. Not only do they enjoy companionship,

but they like to be groomed to look their best. They aren't prima donnas like Leos, but they do like to make sure they have the best trim or coat in town. Because they're slightly co-dependent, they shouldn't be left alone for too long. They'll exude FOMO with a whimper, whine or by being moody. For that reason, make sure you shower them with love when you can.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

According to Greek mythology, Scorpios are ruled by the planet Pluto, the

god of the underworld. So, if your pet is a part of this zodiac sign, most likely they have a quiet intensity about them. They may even come across as shy. But don't let that outward appearance fool you. They're magnetic and can even help you heal emotionally. If you're going through a transformative time, these are the pets you want near. They're magnetic intensity will hone in on your problems and help soothe

your anxieties just by their presence.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

If your pet is a Sagittarius, be ready for an adventure... right now. They take on the

world like it's their playground and rarely care about the distractions around them. Ruled by Jupiter, known as the planet of abundance and good fortune in astrology, these zodiac signs always have luck on their side. When they're not exploring the world, they can be found pondering life's many theories with their pet friends. With all they want to do in the world, they have an almost endless energy supply. So if you, too, like to roam the world, get yourself a Sagittarius pet.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Capricorns are stubborn. They are essentially the father's of the zodiac,

exemplifying traits such as responsibility, dependability and structure. After all, they are ruled by Saturn, which represents the traits above. However, beyond their gruff exterior is an intelligent being that's completely capable of standing alone. If you're a person with a busy schedule, you can be assured that a Capricorn pet will be fine without your presence.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Saturn and Uranus rule the Aquarius pet. Uranus, which represents technology and

innovation in astrology, is why, most times, this zodiac sign is labeled "weird." They're not "weird" in a negative connotation, though. They simply have a peculiar look on life that centers around humanity as a whole. These are the humanitarians of the pets, always willing to help their friends and family whenever they need it. However, they still manage to maintain their individuality. So, if you're looking for a chill pet that likes to express their unique personality, look for an Aquarius.



Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

A Pisces might look innocent and naive, but these pets are wise. Their openness to

the world and different energies makes them vulnerable to their environment. And because of this sensitivity, any setting they're in must be nurturing. Pets who fall under this sign aren't known to be active. Instead, they like to rest. So if they're in a home that values their need for space, sleep and comfort, then they will be content to be utterly loyal to those who live in the house.



They need you.



If you can't adopt, sponsor a kennel! For the cost of a cup of coffee a day, you can make a homeless animal's dream come true.

And we'll place a custom plaque on the kennel, featuring your message, a photo of your beloved, or advertising your business!

hshv.org/kennel



There's a New Charitable Angel, and His Name Is Fred

How a Dog's Love Evolved Into a Charity for Kids Living With HIV

BY CHRISTOPHER BARRETT POLITAN

This past World AIDS Day, as we continued to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, a historic gift from Fred Says — a Chicago-based charity founded by HIV-positive doctor Rob Garofalo — reminds us that there is another pandemic that requires our commitment.

Named in honor of Dr. Garofalo's dog Fred, the charity will give more than \$200K in charitable donations to organizations in Chicago, across the U.S., and in other parts of the world that address the timely and specific needs of young people living with HIV. This year's gift — by far the organization's largest to date — announces Fred Says on the philanthropic world stage and honors the passing of Fred, who was integral in coping with Dr. Garofalo's own HIV diagnosis 10 years ago.

"Fred may no longer be by my side, but what will follow in his memory is a movement he inspired," says Garofalo. "A focus on supporting HIV-positive young people is essential to curb the spread of HIV and make the world a better place for future generations."

Dr. Rob Garofalo is a pediatrician and the Head of the Division of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. He is also a professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg



School of Medicine where he is a national authority on LGBTQ+ health issues, adolescent sexuality, and HIV clinical care and prevention.

Dr. Garofalo was diagnosed with HIV in 2010. Despite his medical expertise and experience caring for those with HIV, it was a dog named Fred, who Garofalo adopted after his diagnosis, who proved indispensable to his survival. With Fred, he faced challenges imposed by his own HIV diagnosis that otherwise seemed elusive. The affect Fred's unconditional love had on his own health led Dr.

Garofalo to start Fred Says in 2013, a charity dedicated to ensuring HIV-positive youth receive the care, services and support they deserve to lead healthy and productive lives.

"It's a charity that is grounded in the spirit of unconditional love and in a specific ethos and commitment to youth living with HIV," says Garofalo. "Within that rubric, there are infinite possibilities for giving."

For the past 10 years, Fred Says has been a quiet, scrappy and nimble funder and — much like its namesake, Fred — this small organization has

had an oversized impact. To date, Fred Says has distributed more than \$300,000 in direct support to nonprofit organizations throughout the country.

During this period, Fred Says has operated through mostly micro-donations via social media, or by leveraging local events such as the Ride for Life Chicago and a strategic partnership with the Stonewall Sports League in Chicago. Contributions to-date have been redistributed to organizations in Chicago and beyond that are committed to creating change in the lives of HIV-positive young people.

In 2020, the organization released "When Dogs Heal," a book of essays and photographs capturing the stories of people living with HIV and the dogs that saved them. The anthology puts power back into the lived experiences of diverse HIV-positive people — depicting them as not survivors, but people living with HIV and thriving in large part due to the power of a dog's unconditional love.

This year's milestone donations come at a turning point for the small, family-run charity: Upon Fred's passing, Fred Says received a generous contribution from a loyal friend and supporter that will help to expand the reach of Fred Says' work. "This charity and I have been touched by an angel twice in our lives," said Garofalo. "The first angel was Fred himself and all

that he has given not just me but the world. The second angel comes in the form of this generous donation, and the donations that follow, to make this year's giving a reality."

In celebration of Fred's life, Fred Says is donating its largest amount to date (\$205,000) to organizations across the nation and around the world including Howard Brown/Broadway Youth Center in Chicago and Callen-Lorde Health Center in New York City.

Accompanying this year's monetary gifts will also be the distribution of 100 Fred plush toys to children at Lurie Children's Hospital.

Each of these grantees have demonstrated a deep and lasting commitment to people living with HIV and will help carry on a 10-year legacy of giving inspired by Fred.

"Like many agencies, we've seen that youth living with HIV have been hit hardest by the COVID pandemic and have had the most difficulty accessing services. This gift from Fred Says will go a long way," said Asa Radix MD, PhD, from Callen-Lorde Health Center in New York City.

This story originally appeared in Plus magazine.

Christopher Barrett Politan is principal of Get Give Grow, a philanthropic advisory organization.



Horror in Good Taste





Crown Pharmacy

Specializing in providing world class HIV pharmaceutical care

866-575-3784 (toll free)
www.crownpharmacy.com

24401 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI 48239
313-532-DRUG (3784) 313-532-3718 (fax)
crownpharmacy1@aol.com

HOURS: M-F 10 am - 6 pm Weds 10am-5pm
Closed Weekends and Holidays

Low Cost Pet Prescriptions





THANKS
FOR
READING

pridesource.com/
subscribe



HOOP DREAMS VIBES.

LEWIS
JEWELERS
"YOUR DIAMOND STORE"

M

PROUD SPONSOR OF MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

2000 W Stadium Blvd Ann Arbor
734.994.5111 | www.LewisJewelers.com

**Quality, Compassionate Veterinary Care
for The Community's Dogs & Cats**



Dr. Amanda Lee, DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Glynnes D. Graham, DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

**PATTERSON
DOG
&
CAT
HOSPITAL**
Established in 1894

3800 Grand River
Detroit, MI 48208-2866

tel: 313.832.7282
pattersondogandcat.com

**Training is fun.
Training is bonding.
Training is freedom.**

Call for your no charge consultation.

(248) 688-9450
www.sitmeanssit.com

2179 Crooks Road, Rochester Hills
Serving the Metro Detroit Area

#137579334



SIT MEANS SIT
DOG TRAINING

'A Safe Haven For Everybody'

Ypsilanti's Tower Inn Cafe Joins Forces with Hamburger Mary's

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW



Rois and Nathalie Savvides, with Doug Hanchett. Photo courtesy of Doug Hanchett

Ypsilanti's Tower Inn is getting a Mary makeover.

Tower Inn Cafe owners Rois and Nathalie Savvides were putting the final touches on their new, pared-down menu when BTL checked in with them recently. Many of the restaurant's signature dishes will remain when Hamburger Mary's, an LGBTQ-friendly bar and grill franchise with locations across the country, collaborates with the storied Ypsilanti pizza joint on a concept the owners hope will have broad appeal (no pun intended). They opened in January and a grand reopening is planned for March.

And yes, the spinach cheese triangles stay. The pizza Blanca, breadsticks and Greek salad made the cut, too.

"I chose the 20 percent of our items that were top favorites," said Rois. Those favorites will round out Hamburger Mary's full menu.

And for those uninitiated, Hamburger Mary's may be a place to eat and drink, but food is not what made the franchise famous. Drag shows and other entertainment are featured throughout the evenings, some of it family-friendly, some a little more risqué.

"It's not all going to be rolled out right away," said co-owner Doug Hanchett. "We're going to have karaoke — we call it MaryOke — a couple of nights a week, hosted by drag queens. There'll be trivia hosted by a drag queen... 'bitchy bingo' where [customers] can win fun little prizes and whatnot." In addition, "Dining with the Divas," Hamburger Mary's signature drag offering, is on the menu, too. Late Friday and Saturday nights will be saved for the adult crowd, with live entertainment including burlesque. Hanchett also mentioned an open mic night.

"There's lots of new drag queens popping up everywhere," said Hanchett, who performs as Chanel Hunter. "We want to be able to give them a platform to grow their art and earn a chance to work with us."

Hanchett was tightlipped about potential headlining main acts because the contracts aren't yet finalized. But, "I have some of the biggest names in ['RuPaul's] Drag Race' already secured for February, March and April," he said.

It was Hanchett who approached the couple about exploring a dual-concept restaurant. As the owner of a Hamburger Mary's in Grand Rapids, which is now "on pause" due to the pandemic, it's clear Hanchett is passionate about bringing the restaurant's feel-good vibe to another Michigan locale.

"It's a fun environment," Hanchett said. "Anyone who walks in the door is accepted. Even though it's LGBTQ-owned, it's not necessarily a gay bar."

Grand Rapids resident Jimmy Link agrees. Link, who is gay, could be found at the Grand Rapids Hamburger Mary's once or twice a week when they were still open. While Link said the venue may not be a typical gay bar, "it's definitely a restaurant and lounge-entertainment location, where there are drag performers."

Link said he would notice when groups who love drag came in with their partners, often the partner was uneasy at first, but, "nine times out of 10, they seem very involved at the end," he said. And they were at least watching the show instead of a game on TV. "The hosts get them involved."

The Savvides and Hanchett all emphasized the family-friendly atmosphere of Hamburger Mary's, which bills itself as an "open-air



bar and grille for open-minded people.”

“Family is part of what we do at Hamburger Mary’s,” Hanchett said.

Hanchett described a scenario where a mom and dad with two kids might be at a table enjoying an early evening drag performance while the kids are handing dollar bills to the drag queens. Or, “a kid who comes in who is almost paralyzed in fear to go out in public with his mom and dad because they’re identifying as trans now — and they feel comfortable going here,” Hanchett said.

Hamburger Mary’s is also the kind of place where a patron might feel inspired to join a spontaneous conga line trailing behind a local drag queen after one of the regulars requests “Wepa” by Gloria Estefan. At least, that’s what Link experienced recently. “It was something you would picture in a movie,” he recalled.

While the Savvides and Hanchett together own the new-fashioned restaurant, which is located across the street from Eastern Michigan University, the Savvides are taking a step back to become silent partners. Rois and Nathalie both attended EMU and The Tower Inn Café, established in 1975, is integral to who they are. “We had our first date there, a long time ago,” Rois said. They purchased the restaurant in 1997.

But like many restaurants, Tower Inn was hit hard by the pandemic.

“Our business is tied into the university,” Rois said. They’re located at the corner of College Place and Cross Street, and many professors would walk across the street from EMU to dine there. When classes went online, their clientele — and staff — dwindled.

“We did very well for years [but] the pandemic affected us more than any other

restaurant,” Rois said. “We went from 55 employees to having maybe, toward the end, 15 employees.”

That’s where the makeover comes in. When Hanchett approached the couple with his idea for a dual concept, the Savvides were won over by the welcoming spirit of the franchise.

“One of the things that really inspired us and helped us make the decision to go forward with this Hamburger Mary’s concept is how Hamburger Mary’s strives to be a safe place for everybody,” Nathalie explained. “It doesn’t matter your background. It doesn’t matter who you love, the color of your skin, your religious background. It just wants to be a safe haven for everybody.”

And while that’s true, Hamburger Mary’s also wants to be a place where customers are well fed. To that end, their burgers — like Buffy the Burger Slayer and the one-pound Proud Mary — are part of a “mouthwatering menu” that also includes milkshakes, homemade chili, soups, salads, sandwiches and entrees. For dessert, deep fried Twinkies and Mary Tyler S’mores are just two of the options. And a full-service bar with cocktails, wine and a specialized beer list is available.

Appetizers and sides are some of the popular choices from Hamburger Mary’s menu. Link recommends the Ta-Tas. That is, tater tots. But what he really wanted to talk about were the macaroni and cheese balls.

“They are actual deep-fried balls of mac and cheese,” Link said. “It’s literally what it sounds like. And it is heavenly, especially when you’ve been waiting outside in the cold rainy weather for a show and then you get to go inside and have a nice hot mac and cheese ball. It’s excellent.”

“THE AUDIENCE REACHES A FEVER PITCH!”
- Entertainment Weekly

SUMMER
THE DONNA SUMMER MUSICAL
ON SALE NOW!
FISHER THEATRE • MARCH 8-20

BroadwayInDetroit.com | Ticketmaster.com | Box Office
Groups (10+) BroadwayInDetroitGroups@theambassadors.com
(subject: Summer) • OC performance, March 13 at 7:30pm

Photo: Francesco Scavullo

Not ready to ask your doctor for an HIV test?

Don’t want to go to the clinic during COVID?

WE GOT YOU!



HIV testing at home is a safe and discreet way to learn your status.

Residents of Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck can order a free kit today at www.detroitmi.gov/HIVtest. Or scan the QR code.



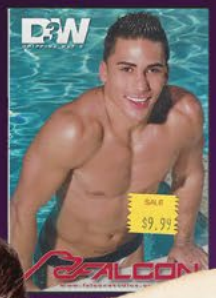
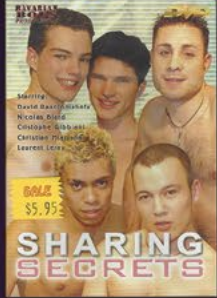
Detroit Health Department STD/HIV Prevention
100 Mack Avenue (Third Floor)
Detroit, MI 48201

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

UPTOWN SPECIAL
XXX DVD's
3/\$9.99
WHILE THEY LAST
MAY 26TH -
MAY 30TH 2021

ALL XXX
DVD RENTALS
AS LOW AS \$1.25
EVERY DAY!



Rush - Jungle Juice - Maximum Impact -
Swiss Navy - Amsterdam - ID Glide - COLT-
Butterfly Kiss Pink - The Womanizer

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO
2 LOCATIONS
WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

16541 Woodward Ave.
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"
Highland Park
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

Hours:
Mon-Sat 10am - 9pm
Sun 12 - 6pm

→ John Kavanaugh

Continued from page 14

prior, Kavanaugh was an early attendee. He soon became coordinator and beside selling the Gay Liberator at Hudson's, joined in demonstrations against the Episcopal Church and the Detroit Police Department.

Kavanaugh was pained by the exodus of people of color and lesbians when a majority of members voted to focus addressing only gay concerns. "Their contention was, single issue, let's deal only with gay questions. Well, that's a code word. What it means is let's deal only with white male gay issues... Blacks, women realized what was being said and walked out," he explained in the 1994 oral history. "These were friends that were walking out. It hurt very much."

After GLF unraveled, he became involved with its successor group the Detroit Gay Activists. He and Ray Warner carried the banner for the DGA as marchers paraded down Woodward Avenue as part of Christopher Street Detroit '72, the state's first-ever Pride celebration in June 1972.

The following year, Kavanaugh was part of an entourage that took candidate Maryann Mahaffey on a campaign tour of gay bars in her first run for Detroit City Council, a seat she held for more than three decades.

Also in the early 1970s, Kavanaugh served as lay leader MCC Detroit during its formative years as a mission church, when it moved from his apartment to the finished basement of one of the members. "By the second meeting I was chosen to be their spokesperson, the term that we used, because I was out of the closet. Nobody else was," he explained in a 2011 interview. Serving as the young congregation's public face, he was interviewed by name in an article in the Detroit Free Press and appeared on Windsor television station CKLW to discuss MCC Detroit's pathbreaking outreach to the local gay community.

In 1974, when a gay bar called Tiffany's refused to serve John Pierre Adams, a Black friend who was serving as president of ONE in Detroit, Kavanaugh urged Gay Liberator readers to drink elsewhere.

"We are an outgrowth of Black Lib and of Women's Lib. And when the gains of any are threatened, we all are," he wrote. "When we ourselves do the threatening, then we are damn



John Kavanaugh with Maxine Waters. Photo: The John L. Kavanaugh papers (Personal Materials), Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

fools."

A decade later, Kavanaugh became active in the Detroit chapter of Black and White Men Together. Through the years he remained an unyielding nag to church leaders in the Episcopal Diocese, offering critiques and pushing for change through an irregular personal newsletter called the Bead Reader.

By the early 1990s, he became close with Jeffrey Montgomery and volunteered with the Triangle Foundation, predecessor to Equality Michigan. He later shared his thoughts about Montgomery on film for the forthcoming documentary "America, You Kill Me."

Kavanaugh remained politically and socially engaged. At age 65, he authored and published his first book, "Welcome to the Gay Age," which drew linkages between laws against interracial marriage and laws against same-sex marriage. Kavanaugh believed people in intimate queer relationships that bridged racial boundaries offered expansive opportunities to liberate faith and society.

In 2018, Kavanaugh donated his home at 135 Hazelwood Street to the Ruth Ellis Center to serve as a haven for lesbians and queer women and girls. At Kavanaugh's request, the new venue was named Kofi House in honor of activist, clinical psychologist, and REC co-founder Dr. Kofi Adoma.

As an activist and thinker, Kavanaugh could be idiosyncratic and insistent. In many ways, as his body grew frail in his later years, his sass only grew stronger.

Many who knew him personally or knew him from any number of meetings bore witness to his salty language. As he said in a letter to Metra magazine in 1985, "I am my mother's mind and my father's cuss words!"

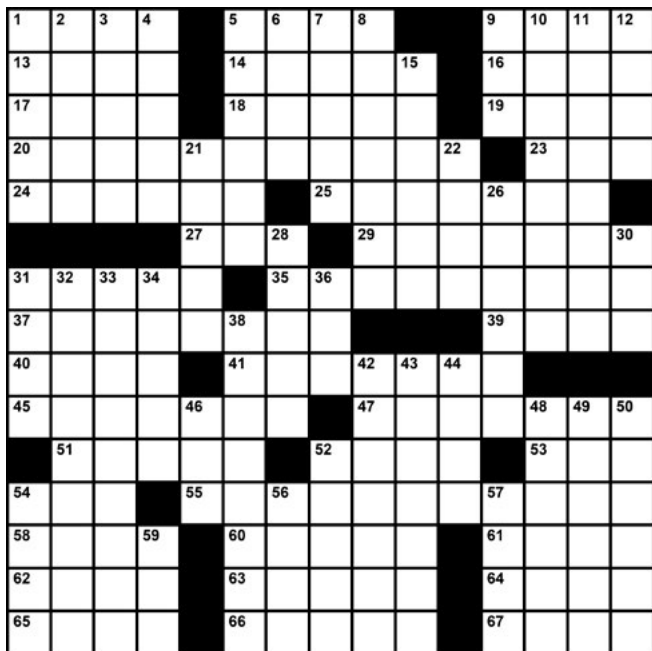
We value diversity in the City of Ann Arbor,
and take pride in being **different** from the rest.



The City of Ann Arbor is an Equal Opportunity Employer

We are proud of our diverse workforce and our commitment to equal opportunity. We do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, arrest record, color, disability, educational association, familial status, family responsibilities, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, HIV status, marital status, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran status, victim of domestic violence or stalking, or weight in any aspect of our hiring or employment process. The City of Ann Arbor has earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which assesses lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer equality in more than 500 cities across the nation.

a2gov.org/jobs



- 39 Start of a rhyme about a tiger
 40 Top's betting phrase?
 41 One who says "Bottoms up!"
 45 Be of interest to
 47 Pink triangle, for one
 51 India's first prime minister
 52 Gay couple as parents, sometimes
 53 Rene Auberjonois role
 54 Eleanor's beard?
 55 End of the quote
 58 Gershwin and Levin
 60 Beau chaser
 61 Message at LesbianNation.com
 62 Family heads
 63 Eurasian range
 64 Schoolyard retort
 65 Picks out, with "for"
 66 Fire Island ____
 67 Like Lindsay Lohan's girls
- 15 BART users at rush hour
 21 Recipient of Bugs' kisses
 22 Song title spelled in pantomime
 26 Hard to bear
 28 Contempt
 30 Frequent Hudson costar
 31 Larger-than-life
 32 It's fruity and makes you pucker
 33 Wandering worker
 34 Judi of "Notes on a Scandal"
 36 One, for James M. Barrie
 38 Well hung, like Christmas lights
 42 Peter or Paul, but not Mary
 43 Like a lonely bottom?
 44 "Frozen" queen
 46 Pitching stat
 48 Advance from third, for Billy Bean
 49 Black Sea city
 50 Ed of "Fight Club"
 52 Like people near a leaning erection
 54 One who may want a bone
 56 Lois portrayer of "Lois and Clark"
 57 Broadway opening for a lot?
 59 Teakettle sound

Down

- 1 Homophobe Kim
 2 N.B.A. great Thomas
 3 Beach of a White Party
 4 Ointment for a gash
 5 Tony and Oscar
 6 Big name in wine
 7 "___ Paris"
 8 Opposite of goes down on
 9 Alec's "Star Wars" character
 10 Winter warm spot
 11 Lady of the evening
 12 Perfect scores for Caesar?

Horror in Good Taste

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Goes to low beam
 5 Opera queen's delight
 9 "The Bells ___ Mary's"
 13 Mishima's continent
 14 Like the Ladies of Llangollen
 16 Ill humor
 17 Prop for Juliet
 18 Shell competitor
- 19 Neighbor of Pakistan
 20 Start of a quote from 35-Across
 23 Cause of Venus envy?
 24 Gladiator's protection
 25 Farthest from the start
 27 Papers of D.H. Lawrence, e.g.
 29 Condemned openly
 31 Say "nothin'," say
 35 With 37-Across, Elvira portrayer
 37 See 35-Across

Serving the Real Estate Needs of Michigan's
 LGBT Community for 30 Years!

Lynn L. Stange
 Full Service Realtor
 Buyer's & Listing Agent
 70 W. Long Lake Rd., Troy, MI 48098

"There really is a difference!"

Phone: 248-561-6967
 Email: LLStange.aol.com



typical binary definitions of male or female. That is, Blankenship and others with intersex traits don't fit in a traditional box when it comes to gender.

Blankenship may be able to “pass” without effort, but said she feels welcome in the LGBTQ+ community just the same. However, Blankenship called it troublesome that because she presents herself with so much femininity — pageantry and all — those who have never met someone who's intersex might not get the full picture.

“I sometimes worry that I make people who might not necessarily align themselves with the LGBTQ community feel very safe because they see me [and] they say, ‘Oh, well, that's intersex. I'm fine with it,’” Blankenship said. “And sometimes it makes me feel a little heavy, a little sad, because I worry that we need to show more differences. But I'm one of the very few that are willing to talk about it.”

Raised in Portage, Blankenship, 36, now lives in Grandville with her husband, Jimmy Blankenship, and their daughter. Along with Rachel Gray, she's half of the “Gray and Green Show,” which can be heard mornings on 105.3 HOT FM (Blankenship was born Jackie Green.) She's proud of its distinction as an all-female show, one that won a Michigan Association of Broadcasters award for Best Morning Show. When she's not on air, spending time with family or competing in pageants, Blankenship is also a competitive runner.

Blankenship competed in the Mrs. World pageant last month but didn't win the title. For her pageantry and her advocacy, Blankenship hears often from young people who look to her as a role model.

“I've really gotten that a lot and it's a very special thing to hear,” Blankenship said. “It makes me feel a lot of overwhelming emotions because when I was 15 and I had that surgery and I felt very alone and I had no one to talk to, I would have loved to have been able to log onto the internet and see someone talking about this [or] to see it in media at all. And you didn't, unless you read some sensationalized book like ‘Middlesex.’”

“And it's hard because when you don't see yourself ever portrayed, you feel like you're wrong or you're so different that no one can relate to you,” she added.

Eventually Blankenship found a community online, and today she understands herself differently. Intersex is not a disorder. And she didn't need medical intervention, because her body was fine the way it was.

Blankenship said, “We should look at it as kind of freakin' magical that our bodies can be born different than what you think you know — and what science has told you — because we've done so little research.”



Paul Dawson as James and PJ DeBoy as Jamie in “Shortbus.” Photo: Oscilloscope Laboratories

Revisiting the Sex in ‘Shortbus’

How John Cameron Mitchell Used Unsimulated Sex to Make Striking Bush-Era Social Statements

BY GEORGE ELKIND

“Let's face it: monogamy's for straight people,” says Jamie (PJ DeBoy) in one early moment in John Cameron Mitchell's “Shortbus.” The film was restored and rereleased by Oscilloscope Laboratories and will screen Feb. 24 as part of Skin City at Outer Limits Lounge in Hamtramck.

In the movie, Jamie is sitting next to his partner James (Paul Dawson) in their sex therapist's precisely decorated, peach-toned office. The pair, who've been together (and exclusive) for some five years, are now considering opening up. “We thought we should get an impartial opinion from a sex therapist,” he adds sheepishly.

Upon the film's 2006 release, this prospect and many of the film's other features might have seemed like a greater provocation than they do now. Released in the midst of the more — or perhaps just differently — sexually repressive Bush years, the movie responded on multiple fronts to the climate of its time. Stemming from Mitchell's desire to reclaim onscreen sex from porn, “Shortbus” often seems to chafe against the overscrubbed confines of then NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg's New York

Featuring an ensemble of smaller-name performers finding their way around discontented relationships and boxed-in sex lives, Mitchell always works to present characters' discoveries and disappointments as work toward self-discovery, illuminating long-shadowed regions within themselves. Even as they seek structure, they learn mostly by doing and then discussing: specifically by exploring kink, non-monogamy, and increasingly messy, blurry, communal approaches to eroticism — and then talking about it after. Mitchell's script and direction draws these processes out through long bouts and montages of unsimulated, adventurous sex: flogging, pissing, rapt observation, and large-scale orgies all enter into the mix; all are presented, too, as something more than natural for anyone to try.

The characters, many finding themselves a bit less comfortable, tend to engage in all this with an air of awkward hesitation. James and Jamie's repressed couples counselor Sofia Lin (she dislikes the term “sex therapist”), played by Sook-Yin Lee, best embodies the feeling, acting as a new entrant to the technically underground, atmospherically free-for-all sex salon that gives the film its title. She's in some sense a surrogate for arthouse and festival audiences at the time of the film's

original release, inviting them to venture out along with her into worlds of surprise and pleasure.

While Mitchell's approach is companionable toward his viewers as much as the film's fumbling, earnest characters, it bears some signs, too, of a gleeful frankness that's beyond either of their reach — and other signs also of a winking, self-aware voyeur. When a trio of guys belts the national anthem into each other's dicks and butts, there's a bemused, half-contented directorial gaze at work — but also a playful, inviting sense of subversion.

This air of invitation seems to be at the heart of the movie's rhetorical aims. Whereas Mitchell's 2001 film “Hedwig and the Angry Inch” focused on outsiders on the basis of identity and circumstance — starring an immigrant trans woman with desires for a kind of alt-pop stardom — the playful kinksters in “Shortbus” are largely (like much of its imagined audience) middle to upper class. This reality proves more than incidental; crucially, it situates them and what they do squarely within the mainstream while allowing them the luxury of time and mental bandwidth required for intense self-exploration. The Shortbus and the film around

it, then, offer an environment for both viewers and characters to explore structured forms of play, creating a safe space more akin to an adults-only Montessori school than a sex club in the old, verboten and underground sense. By winnowing the gap between the erotic and workaday, the private and public, Mitchell makes a case from the same place many a queer man would: one that sees desire and self-conception as deeply intertwined, but with boundaries subject to constant questioning and negotiation.

While sex was already featured prominently in a range of independent works produced around the globe — and the rise of digital filmmaking made production of more risk-embracing material freshly accessible domestically — Mitchell's determinedly lively presentation of onscreen sex between his characters feels distinct in its aim and tone.

By making sex unabashedly its center, “Shortbus” argues that a place firmly in the mainstream is exactly where such depictions belong. Because as so many queer people grasp well enough already, without understanding desire, it's impossible to really know who you are.

FLOWER TO THE PEOPLE



Exclusive Merch
available at TerrapinMade.com

Instagram icon InstaTerrapin

Did you know over 600 Michigan residents test positive for HIV every year? Matrix Human Services operates one of the largest HIV Prevention and Treatment programs in the city of Detroit, providing a full range of services to those in need.



GET YOUR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL HIV TEST TODAY



Anonymous Testing | At-Home Test Kits | Free Condoms and Lube | PrEP + PEP Services



877-931-3248



TimeToKnowDetroit.org



Individualized Health Education + Peer Support

TESTING POSITIVE FOR STDs CAN MEAN A HIGHER RISK OF HIV. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU WERE TESTED? PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS WITH A FREE HIV TEST.