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By Eve Kucharski

Also, make sure to check back for our LGBTQ Voter Guide at mivoterguide.com and continuing COVID-19 coverage.
LGBTQ Activists Condemn U.S. Rep. Fred Upton for Homophobic Attacks on Jon Hoadley

BY JAN STEVENSON

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-Michigan), one of the longest-serving members of the U.S. House of Representatives, has burnished a reputation for decency and civility. That's why it is especially alarming that his reelection campaign would resort to assaulting the first openly LGBTQ candidate for Congress from Michigan with time-worn homophobic tropes. Upton is using thinly veiled accusations that Jon Hoadley is a pedophile and a sexual predator to besmirch the reputation of Hoadley, his Democratic challenger in the Nov. 3 election.

It is ironic that Upton's unfounded attempts to assassinate the character of a rising star in the Democratic Party comes just three weeks after he and U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) participated in a virtual conversation Aug. 18 on civility and collegiality in politics and government.

"We're tired of the vitriolic rhetoric and mean-spirited language used in our political discourse, and so are the American people. That's why Debbie Dingell and I are proud to serve as vice chairs of the Problem Solvers Caucus, and why we do events like today's show – to show that civility and bipartisanship still work and should still be valued," Upton said.

Dingell agreed and said that name-calling, punching back and personal attacks and threats are dividing the nation. She challenged viewers to remember there's more that unites us than divides us. So, Between The Lines Newspaper contacted Dingell about the recent mailings and TV ads attacking Hoadley.

"I just talked to Fred and he swore he didn't have anything to do with this," she said. "Fred says his campaign has only aired two TV ads and neither are the ones we're talking about. The NRCC [National Republican Congressional Committee] is an independent entity — but I hold Fred accountable for messaging and I have complained about the NRCC many times, although the NRCC doesn't listen to me at all."

The LGBTQ Victory Fund, a national organization dedicated to electing LGBTQ leaders to public office, issued a scathing press release today condemning Upton for the attack ads and calling on him to apologize.

"Fred Upton is resorting to digging up Jon's puerile college blog posts and pulling together out-of-context words and phrases because he can find nothing else to criticize about Jon's public service record," said Annise Parker, president and CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund.

The release went on to say that for weeks, the NRCC has repeatedly referred to Hoadley as a "pedo sex poet" – a startling and defamatory use of homophobic tropes about gay men as pedophiles and sexual deviants. It also successfully pitched a political hit piece to the New York Post that purposely took phrases out of context from a 15-year-old LiveJournal Hoadley wrote while an undergraduate student. The NRCC then used those phrases to make outrageous claims about Hoadley – all of them aimed at perpetuating homophobic stereotypes about gay men. Campaign mailers sent to voters' homes used the same phrases to attack Hoadley.

Sean Meloy is a senior political director at the LGBTQ Victory Fund. He said that Fred Upton "wants it both ways.

"[Upton] is trying to talk about civility while calling his opponent a pedophile and drug user," Meloy said. "Upton could call an end to this..."
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Go to www.mivoterguide.com to learn more.
Hoadley
Continued from p. 4

immediately, but he’s let it go. He’s continued to let his staff and
his lackeys continue spreading these lies about Jon Hoadley.”

The LGBTQ Victory Fund has endorsed Jon Hoadley for
Congress.

Mark LaChey, the openly LGBTQ vice chair of the Michigan
Democratic Party, said he was incensed by the homophobic
attacks on Hoadley and tied the congressman’s actions to his
allegiance to President Donald Trump.

“Given their lock-step allegiance to Donald Trump and his
history of truth-be-damned campaign tactics, I am incredibly
disappointed but not surprised that Fred Upton and the NRCC
are using outright lies and out-of-context comments made
decades ago in their attempt to discredit State Representative Jon
Hoadley,” LaChey said. “If any voter in southwestern Michigan
doubted that our Congressman is a Trump lackey, these vile
accusations by the NRCC and the failure of Upton to condemn
them proves exactly who he has been and continues to be …
out-of-date, desperate and ultimately homophobic.”

Some of the attack ads and mailings have attempted to
depict Hoadley as demeaning of women. But female leaders
in Michigan were quick to speak out in support of Hoadley.

“The attacks against Jon are nothing more than a despicable
attempt to make something out of nothing. Jon’s record is clear:
he has been a voice for women and children throughout his
career and will continue to be our champion when elected to
Congress,” said Michigan State Rep. Kristy Pagan (D-Canton) and
legislative leader on women’s rights.

Hoadley, 37, is a three-term member of the Michigan House
of Representatives. He has distinguished himself as a principled,
progressive voice for equality — especially in the fight against
violence against women — and as a strong supporter of workers’
rights to organize. His campaign is endorsed by Gov. Gretchen
Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, Attorney General Dana
Nessel, U.S. Sen. and candidate for U.S. Vice President Kamala
Harris, U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker and scores
of other elected officials at all levels of government. He is also
strongly endorsed by the UAW and the Michigan AFL-CIO as
well as dozens of other unions, environmental groups, women’s
organizations, gun control advocates, LGBTQ groups and BTL.

Hoadley’s campaign was recently elevated to national
prominence as the Democratic Congressional Campaign
Committee moved the Michigan 6th race to a potential “Red
to Blue” pick up. This means that based on fundraising, polling
and other factors, the DCCC leadership believes Hoadley has
a chance to upset Upton this fall. Perhaps that threat is why
Upton’s campaign and supporters are targeting Hoadley with
sexually charged lies and innuendo.

“Shame on Fred Upton for utilizing this as a campaign

“Starting in 2016-18 voters started to punish anti-gay
campaigning. Voters didn’t have the appetite for homophobia
in politics. So anti-LGBTQ politicians have had to shift their
message to reach their anti-LGBTQ audience.”

Moss himself is openly gay.

“Pedophile is the dirtiest charge against gay men. This is nasty,
dirty, sick homophobia,” Moss said. “Accusing any candidate of
perverse behavior, especially when it is blatantly untrue as it is
in Jon’s case, is no less homophobic than the overt gay-bashing
of campaigns past. It’s a lie — based on a foundation of lies.”

Efforts to reach Fred Upton’s campaign were unsuccessful
by press time.

VOTE FOR EQUALITY NOV. 3

Between The Lines strongly endorses
these statewide and national candidates:

U.S. President & Vice President

Joe Biden, President
Kamala Harris, VP

U.S. Senate

Gary Peters, U.S. Senate

Michigan Supreme Court

Chief Justice
Bridget Mary McCormack

Elizabeth Welch

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Want to help? Here’s how you can get involved:

Become an election worker
Sign up here at Michigan.gov/DemocracyMVP
(Participants paid at least minimum wage)

Volunteer for a campaign
Here are six openly LGBTQ candidates endorsed
by BTL. We encourage you to support them by
volunteering and donating to their campaigns:

Jon Hoadley (D) is running for
the 6th Congressional District
in southwest Michigan. Hoadley
seeks to unseat incumbent
Republican Fred Upton who is
seeking his 17th term in the U.S.
Congress.

David Coulter (D), Oakland
County Executive seeks election
to the post he was appointed to
last summer after the death of
longtime County Executive L.
Brooks Patterson.

And these State Reps.:
Tim Sneller (D) seeks reelection to his seat in
Michigan’s 50th House District.
Laurie Pohutsky (D) seeks reelection to her seat in
Michigan’s 19th House District.
Jody LaMacchia (D) seeks election in Michigan’s 46th
House District.
Renee Richter (D) seeks election in Michigan’s 108th
House District.

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Progressive Voter Guide. Just enter your ZIP Code and see all the
races rated for equality that will be on your specific ballot.

You Can Vote Beginning Sept. 24
in Michigan with Your Absentee Ballot
LGBTQ Women-Focused Kofi House Debut Annual Friendship Event Sept. 19

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As fun as it can be to catch up with friends from time to time, it’s often a healthy thing. In fact, the Mayo Clinic reports that friendships can be a critical element for good mental health and wellbeing. Program Coordinator at The Center for Lesbian and Queer Women and Girls Kathie Griffin-Futch recognized when she planned her upcoming Women’s Friendship Month Brunch at the Kofi House.

“And that’s going to be Sept. 19 at the Kofi House in the yard,” Griffin-Futch said. “… This is going to be an annual event every September because September is Women’s Friendship Month and I want to highlight women and friendship. Because that’s what the CLQ program is about: empowering LGBTQ women, creating a safe space for those women and having a space where LGBTQ+ women can come and feel comfortable.”

Recognizing the safety precautions that must be taken for public gatherings because of the novel coronavirus, Griffin-Futch has restricted attendance to 25 participants, will hand out masks for all attendees, provide sanitization stations, require the completion of a health questionnaire and take temperature checks. She added that the seats and tables for this outdoor event are within social distancing guidelines, too. The event’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Sheryl Simmons.

“She is a good friend of Dr. Kofi’s [for whom the Kofi House is named], she was a resident of Highland Park, she had an appointed position with President Obama, she is a nurse,” Griffin-Futch said. “She heard what we were doing and she’s an ally for the LGBTQ+ community and she wanted to be a sponsor, so she is sponsoring the brunch.”

Because of the sponsorship, attendance is free and each participant will receive a copy of Simmons’ book on friendship, “My Friendtastic Life,” and a T-shirt from the event. While tickets to attend the event in-person are sold out, Griffin-Futch encourages those who are interested to follow the CQL Facebook page for updates and month-long Friendship-related programming.

“The Ko-fi House is located at 135 Hazelwood St. in Detroit. Find out more about it and its services online at ruthellscenter.org.”

LGBTQ Progress Update on Michigan’s Racial Disparities Task Force

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Having met regularly since spring, now that summer is almost at its end, the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities has been working in an advisory manner with both Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II for several months to address the causes of racial disparities in COVID-19 care. Regarding LGBTQ-specific issues, Executive Director of LGBT Detroit Curtis Lipscomb serves as the Task Force’s only LGBTQ-specific advisor. BTL caught up with Lipscomb to discuss the strides the group has made so far.

Statewide Leadership and Statewide Goals

“If I could say I have one thing that I’m most proud of, it’s that we have a true statewide leader. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said publicly that racism is a public health crisis. So, all of the things related to COVID-19, it disproportionately affects Black people and is therefore also a health crisis, and the lieutenant governor is the chair of this,” Lipscomb said. “What an honor to be appointed to this body. And two, it’s great to see these people, predominantly Black people in the area, committed to lending support to identify these barriers and offer solutions to that.”

So far, the Task Force has secured the testing of all household members within a family and even those who are asymptomatic; it has identified the most vulnerable communities of color and used data-driven strategy to add testing facilities there; provided follow-up care to support those in quarantine who cannot afford food, personal protective equipment and hygiene products; and more. To date, the Task Force is near its target goals in the expansion of mobile and community partner testing sites and more.

Looking to the Future

Currently, Lipscomb is gearing his efforts on the Task Force to push for even more educational resources, and even entertainment, “to support our physical and emotional wellbeing so that the public can see it at a safe space — wherever they dwell.”

Long-term, Lipscomb hopes that LGBT Detroit can become a well-known provider of PPE, testing and, ultimately, vaccinations.

“We haven’t gotten to that point yet, we are still on the prevention side because, as you know, there’s no vaccination yet. But, believe me, the moment that there is, you’re going to see not only this institution but a number of people seeking that opportunity,” Lipscomb said. “I know that we’re highly concerned about education, ‘What can we do right now to reduce transmission?’ That’s always on our mind.”
Keep up with Happenings at Aff!

Don’t miss out on what’s happening at the Center. Use our website calendar to stay current with all scheduled activities:

GoAffirmations.Org/Calendar/

290 West Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105 | www.goaffirmations.org
Equality at the Polls Needed: 2 LGBTQ Poll Workers Talk Volunteering

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

During the 2016 presidential race, roughly 1 million election inspectors, or poll workers as they are often called, were needed across the U.S. to aid in the voting process. Despite that great need, the Election Assistance Commission said that 65 percent of jurisdictions reported difficulty in obtaining enough people to sufficiently staff polling places and that over 50 percent of the poll workers who did volunteer were over the age of 60. In 2020, the need is just as dire, but because of novel coronavirus pandemic concerns — like elderly populations being more susceptible to the disease — finding able-bodied and willing volunteers is as difficult as ever.

A low number of polling volunteers doesn’t just mean longer wait times at the polls, according to an ABC News report, it could result in a reduction of available polling locations. And in key swing states like Michigan where absentee ballots cannot be counted until Election Day, weeks-long results delays could occur like in New York, “where it took six weeks for workers to process absentee ballots to get the final results of the recent Democratic congressional primary.”

Ahead of the November presidential election, Between The Lines interviewed two experienced poll workers who made sure to volunteer their time in 2020 to help ensure that Michiganders both have their absentee ballots counted and have fair access to in-person voting.

“Democracy in Action”

Faye Schuett has been volunteering as a poll worker since 2013 after she retired from her teaching job. Never having had the time before, she said that she was motivated to help out because she loves seeing “democracy in action.”

“And I’m always impressed with the variety of people who come in and how earnest everyone is about voting. People come in on crutches, they bring their children, a lot of people, when people are first-time voters and recently naturalized citizens, they have tears in their eyes after they vote,” Schuett said. “It is the one activity that binds us as a democracy. Everyone, all of our neighbors and the people who we were work for and the people who we work with, that is one activity that we can share and that is democracy.”

Michelle Walters agrees. Over the last several years, she’s volunteered her time as a poll worker both in Royal Oak and Detroit. She said she’s not sure there’s anything she could do “that would make as big of an impact as working the polls” on election day.

“But it’s not only seeing the voters come in that makes an impact on Schuett and Walters. Both are members of the LGBTQ community, and being active in the country’s political system serves as a reminder of those who have fought, and are still fighting for, equality.

“Being a woman and a lesbian, it’s been so important to protect our rights and that’s really the way to do it: to make sure you vote and vote in every election and make elections possible,” Schuett said. “I’ve always been impressed with the ladies and men behind the tables and you’d see them again and again — not always in good health — older retired people putting in a long day and helping people to vote. I always thought, ‘That’s something I’d like to do when I retire.’”

Walters said that the impact she makes by interacting with her fellow volunteers helps make a stand for equality, too.

“One of the things that I do like about it is often my experience with poll workers is that there are not many LGBT people working the polls, so sometimes it’s an to spend many hours in close contact with someone who might not have spent a lot of time with an openly gay or lesbian person,” Walters said. “If nothing else, that was probably a good experience for them to see that we’re active in the democratic process and we’re trying to help and to give them a perspective of what it’s like to be a lesbian. I talk openly about my wife and what precinct we vote at and why we’re there. And I think it’s a good opportunity to share my lived experiences with people.”

How to Volunteer

In Michigan, those who are interested in becoming an election inspector must fill out an application at Michigan.gov/DemocracyMVP. In order to start the process, applicants must be:

- At least 16 years old and a resident of Michigan.
- A registered voter in the state if at least 18 years old.
- Not a challenging challenger, candidate, member of the candidate’s immediately family or a member of the local Board of Canvassers. Those who are convicted of a felony or an election crime may not serve.
- Willing to undergo a training session before election day.

Applicants who successfully go through the process will be paid for their time at a rate not lower than the minimum wage, but in some precincts, like in Ann Arbor, the starting pay rate is $13 per hour.

To find out more information about how to become an election inspector, visit Michigan.gov/sos.
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For over 50 years, Life magazine informed Americans about what was happening here and abroad. Photos and content were dramatic. Mostly conservative. Occasionally controversial. Once in a while, downright shocking.

Life folded in 1973; circulation 13 million. Readership, 10 times that amount. Its sister publication, Time, continues to this day.


Middle class Americans woke up to the realization that homosexuals were growing in number. Becoming alarmingly visible. A social threat to be somehow remedied.

In 1964, San Francisco was not the dynamic gay center of Castro/Market Street, clone-look militancy. It hadn’t the high-density population complex of the 1970s and pre-AIDS 1980s; but Life’s wide-audience article — unintentionally, to be sure — served as a catalyst for early gay migration there.

Life opened its expose head on: “Homosexuality shears across the spectrum of American life: the professional, the arts, business and labor. It always has. But today, especially in big cities, homosexuals are discarding their furtive ways and openly admitting, even flaunting, their deviation.

“Homosexuals have their own drinking places, their special assignation streets, even their own organizations. And for every obvious homosexual, there are probably nine nearly impossible to detect. This social disorder, which society tries to suppress, has forced itself into the public eye because it does present a problem — and parents especially are concerned.

“The myth and misconception with which homosexuality has so long been clothed must be cleared away, not to condone it but to cope with it.”

Accompanying the 14-page belly shock are a dozen photos. Nameless gay men clustered in dark bars or milling about on dimly lit streets.

“These brawny young men in their leather caps, shirts, jackets and pants are practicing homosexuals, men who turn to other men for affection and sexual satisfaction,” the piece read. “They are part of what they call the ‘gay world,’ which is actually a sad and often sordid world.”

Gay bars are exposed: “As each new customer walks into the dimly lit room, he will lock eyes with a half dozen young men before reaching his place at the bar. Throughout the evening there is a constant turnover of customers as contacts are made and two men slip out together, or individuals move on to other bars in search of better luck.

“As 2 a.m. closing time approaches, the atmosphere grows perceptibly more tense. It is the ‘frantic hour,’ the now-or-never time for making a contact.”

Sound familiar?

Here’s the early version of the gay agenda: “As part of its anti-homosexual drive the Los Angeles police force has compiled an ‘educational’ pamphlet for law enforcement officers entitled, ‘Some Characteristics of the Homosexual.’

The strongly opinionated pamphlet includes the warning that what the homosexuals really want is a ‘fruit world.’” (Not
Here is each reference and how it is debunked:

**False Charge: Hoadley is accused of being anti-women.**

**Fact:** In describing a night out at a straight bar Hoadley wrote, "I'm not going to lie: breeder=weird/bad dancers," from which the NRCC ridiculously accuses Hoadley of being "anti-woman." Hoadley, who minored in women's studies in college, has continuously been a champion for women's rights in the legislature, advocating for equal pay legislation, reproductive rights, childcare resources and beyond. The NRCC accusation is a lie and makes no logical sense.

**False Charge: Hoadley is a pedophile.**

**BOLD Fact:** In a clearly satirical discussion about whether all gay men desire to be flower girls, an aforementioned friend jokes that he has no desire to see a "4-year-old wearing a thong" as a condemnation of the hypersexualization of children. The phrase has been removed from context to somehow imply that Hoadley is a pedophile. It is another outright lie and distortion of the meanest kind to try to scare voters.

**False Charge: Hoadley condones drug usage.**

**Fact:** The original passage details that Hoadley went to leather bar to "learn about crystal meth" and attended an informational meeting about the drug's impact on the LGBTQ community. He has continuously been a champion for the rights, childcare resources and beyond. The NRCC accusation is a lie and makes no logical sense.

Reaction to Upton’s two-faced position of “civility and collegiality” versus his lies and distortions has been met with a firestorm of protest, from his constituents, LGBTQ leaders and local and national organizations including the Victory Fund.

In an emotional thank you note to his supporters last week, Hoadley wrote, “In the face of some of the most hateful and disgusting tactics we’ve ever seen in the 6th District, folks have raised their voices to let Congressman Upton and his dark money D.C. supporters know that hate has no home here in Southwest Michigan. No one can prepare themselves for the kind of vitriol we’ve seen from folks trying to defeat us, but the way people in our community have stepped up to let them know they’re with me means so much.”

Michigan’s LGBTQ community has known Jon Hoadley for over 15 years, serving admirably for six years in the Michigan House of Representatives. We know him to be principled, intelligent, trustworthy and we are lucky that someone this talented has committed his adult life to public service.

Upton should be ashamed of himself for besmirching him in this cowardly attack. If he meant anything he said while proclaiming his commitment to civility and collegiality he ought to apologize for this despicable smear campaign.

**Parting Glances**

Continued from p. 12

a cocktail.

Gay in the military, 1964: "If we didn't throw them out, we'd be condoning homosexuality. The services' position has to be that homosexual practices prejudice morale and discipline."

Life warns, "For the first time the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the homosexual case, but no legal procedures are likely to change society's basic repugnance to homosexuality as an immoral and disruptive force that should somehow be removed."

Lest we forget, Time 2020 marches on. What's past is prologue. Profile. (And! with Trump and the Republicans in power), perhaps once more an alarming possibility somehow to be removed.

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

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

While the novel coronavirus pandemic has had a hand in postponing or canceling most scheduled programming throughout 2020, Stand With Trans has turned that trend around by changing its annual Empowerment Workshop into the upcoming Trans Empowerment Month that will last throughout October.

“It’s usually an all-day conference. We call it the Empowerment Workshop and we thought long and hard about it, and, given the current situation, we knew we couldn’t do it in person. And having one day online did not sound like a good solution, so that’s when I threw out the idea of having this month-long event and everybody just jumped on it,” said Stand With Trans Founder and Executive Director Roz Keith. “We’ve got an amazing month planned.”

Stand With Trans is a nonprofit that helps provide resources and support for transgender youth and their parents as they go through the process of transitioning. Normally, when the Empowerment Workshop is a single-day event, both parents and attending youth have a choice of dozens of programs that answer various questions about the process of transitioning physically and socially, dating and much more. Keith said that all of those events and more will be accessible online this year.

“In the past, we would not have been able to fly in a surgeon from Texas or California, but we have four really amazing surgeons who will speak at different times in the month, which will be great for parents or even young adults or anyone looking to have some sort of gender affirmation surgery,” Keith said. “And because October is LGBT History Month, throughout the month we’re going to be sharing some trivia and fun facts that relate to LGBT history. We’re going to recognize International Pronoun Day, and there will be a special session on pronouns that’s led by some folks from OutFront Kalamazoo.”

This year’s event will kick off with Owen Bondono, Michigan’s Teacher of the Year who is an openly trans man, on Oct. 1. That event will be followed by a variety of programming on dating and safety, entertainment and more. And Keith said that this only scratches the surface of what SWT’s October programming will provide, emphasizing that anyone looking to be a better ally to transgender people can benefit from the events, too.

“This is really for everyone. Even if you’re not transgender, you’re going to get educated and you can be a better ally. If you’re a parent or caregiver or somebody who works with youth — like a mental health professional or a doctor, medical professional, teacher, school administrator — you can learn from these sessions,” she said. “We want people to come and get educated.”

While this year’s theme is “Be You,” it’s arguable that accessibility is also.

Keith said that all of the information provided is intended to reach as many people as possible, so youth are free to attend. Currently, there is ongoing early bird pricing for people who register by Sept. 15, and if for any reason potential attendees are unable to pay the registration fee, a subsidy for the event can be arranged.

“We always believed that the more information that we can put out there the stronger the allyship will be because people will better understand. And this is really so unique; it’s never been done before,” Keith said. “It’s really important to give people access. It would not be easy to get a consult with Dr. Bowers, or with Dr. Santucci, or Dr. Wilkins at U of M … But here’s an opportunity to get on this and ask your questions and hear about the procedure and talk about recovery. … All you have to do is register.”

Affirmations LGBTQ Center Expands COVID-19 Food Help Program

BY BTL STAFF

Affirmations has announced the expansion of its ‘Lettuce Help’ Food Program and will be offering a second pickup date in light of the novel coronavirus pandemic. On Wednesdays, from 4 to 7 p.m., those in need of food can stop by the center to pick up essentials in addition to the existing weekly Friday pickup period from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“For 31 years Affirmations has provided services to the LGBTQ community,” said Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia. “Despite the disruption of COVID-19, Affirmations has expanded services and we will continue to do everything we can to meet emerging needs.”

Those interested in obtaining boxes filled with a two-week supply of non-perishable foods and optional toiletries are instructed to pull up to the back of Affirmations for drop off of supplies into their cars by staff and volunteers. The program has been in operation for three months and has coordinated the donation of over 300 units of service to families across the tri-county area.

In partnership with Matrix Human Services and Unified, the Center will also be open to HIV testing by appointment only during both the Wednesday and Friday time frames. Affirmations will also continue to provide access to Instacart delivery orders of up to $75 each for those unable to travel.

Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) described his thoughts on the expansion.

“The ‘Lettuce Help’ program was created to provide essential goods to families in need during this very difficult time, no questions asked, and demonstrates the value that Affirmations provides to Michiganders of all backgrounds,” Moss said. “The center is also resuming its HIV testing, which was disrupted during the pandemic, during the same time slot as its food donation service thereby reimagining how to successfully operate and provide programming to vulnerable populations. This fills me with a lot of pride about what our community is capable of.”

Melanie Piana, mayor of Ferndale, added, “Affirmations has always been a critical partner caring for our LGBTQ Ferndale community members. In response to immense need during the pandemic, Affirmations continues to donate produce and non-perishable food to their most vulnerable members while taking care of their safety needs providing masks, sanitizer, sexual health and toiletry kits.”

Affirmations is located at 290 West Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. The Lettuce Help Food Program operates behind the center on Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information, call 248-398-7105. Visit goaffirmations.org for more information.

Fauci: Politicization of COVID-19 Pandemic is ‘Really Unfortunate’

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Dr. Anthony Fauci on Wednesday described the politicization of the coronavirus pandemic as “really unfortunate.”

“The politicization, the hostility, back and forth is something — I’ve been through multiple outbreaks over the last 35, 40 years as you well know — I’ve never seen such a situation where there’s been as much divisiveness,” Fauci told International Association of Providers of AIDS Care President José M. Zuñiga at the end of a virtual presentation he gave during the Virtual Fast-Track Cities 2020 conference.

“So you have to be able to function in the context of good public health practices, at the same time that it seems that everything is politicized, which is really unfortunate,” added Fauci.

Fauci, who is director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, spoke on the same day Bob Woodward released tapes in which President Trump acknowledged the pandemic’s severity.

Fauci said in a recent interview that Trump was “completely exasperated.”

Trump, in a June interview with Woodward, described the virus as a “thing that’s going to blow over.”

In his virtual presentation, Fauci mentioned the U.S. has responsibility to help countries around the world in the pandemic response.

He said the race for a vaccine has been accelerated by the urgency of the situation.

Fauci also insisted that the Trump administration’s comments about the pandemic are not hindered by politics.

Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) released a statement Wednesday afternoon about the comments.

“Dr. Fauci is in a position where it is not possible to be anything other than completely transparent and clear in his communication; he must and he is,” Moss said.

On Wednesday, the Trump administration announced that the federal government had reached a monetary agreement with the company Moderna to develop a vaccine.

Fauci said the vaccine candidates need to be tested and approved by the Food and Drug Administration before they can be given to the American public.

The announcement came after the Trump administration said it would remove Dr. Robert Redfield as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Fauci said the new director should be someone who has experience in the field.

“Americans have to have confidence in the CDC,” Fauci said.

He said the agency needs to be led by someone who has the confidence of the public.

The CDC also released a new report Wednesday on the pandemic.

The report revealed that the virus spread more than expected and that more people have been infected than previously believed.

It also revealed that the virus spread more than expected and that more people have been infected than previously believed.

The report also revealed that the virus spread more than expected and that more people have been infected than previously believed.

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LGBTQ-inclusive Curriculum Laws Take Effect in N.J., Ill.

BY PHILIP VAN SLOOTEN

New Jersey and Illinois’ LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum laws go into effect this academic year.

Five states, as well as counties in Maryland and Virginia have already enacted such laws. GLSEN notes six states currently ban LGBTQ-specific content in the classroom.

“We’re excited that LGBTQ students across the state are now guaranteed the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the classroom,” said Ashley Chiappano, the safe schools and community education manager for Garden State Equality, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy group in New Jersey, in an email to the Washington Blade. “Creating a more inclusive school environment.”

Illinois’ Inclusion Curriculum Law that Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed last year is being implemented this school year. Equality Illinois, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy group, is among the organizations that support the law.

New Jersey and Illinois join California, Colorado and Oregon in requiring LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum content. Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas have various restrictions.

The Blade last year reported Maryland’s State Department of Education said it was in the process of developing new standards to include LGBTQ and disabled communities. The Montgomery County School Board in May approved an LGBTQ history elective for juniors and seniors to begin next spring.

New Jersey’s law, signed by Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy in 2019, was implemented in stages this year by Garden State Equality and Make it Better for Youth, another advocacy group. They rolled out a pilot program in 12 public schools from January to June to test out teaching materials prior to the law taking effect this month, according to NBC News.

Samuel Garrett-Pate, the communications director for Equality California, told the Blade the organization assisted New Jersey and other states by sharing lessons learned in California, which in 2011 became the first state to mandate LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum.

“We started this effort back in 2006,” Garrett-Pate said,

explaining challenges advocates faced, which dovetailed with the fight for marriage equality. “This was only a few years after Prop 8 passed in California and one of the big arguments against marriage equality was kids would be taught about gay couples in school. In three years we were trying to pass legislation to ensure LGBTQ people would be fairly represented in our curriculum. It was not easy to get done.”

Garrett-Pate said activists knew at the time it was important for California to be the first state because of its size.

“Because California is so large, if we require textbooks, it requires textbook companies to come up with new ones for such a large market,” he explained. “It makes it easier for other states to adopt textbooks that are LGBT-inclusive.”

But it took six years after the law passed for the materials to be implemented and even then there were problems.

According to Equality California’s website and other news sources, when the textbooks and materials were rolled out in the fall of 2017, they were “nothing to be proud of” and advocates protested their use.

“Half of them were failing in significant ways in meeting the requirements of the Fair Education Act,” said Equality California’s Executive Director Rick Zbur in an interview posted to their website. “Many of them didn’t have any content related to significant LGBTQ historical figures as part of the history curriculum.”

Advocates fought and continue to fight to have relevant content in the curriculum, and have it implemented in more school districts, which meets the intent of the law. Garrett-Pate stated this is particularly important for LGBTQ youth who often do not have LGBTQ parents at home to pass down their history in an affirming way.

“This is about making sure LGBTQ students have role models throughout history,” he explained. “So that they learn that LGBTQ people are like anyone else and that they understand the context of their history. The bottom line of all of this is that history needs to be taught accurately and fairly. What conservative parents who opposed this are arguing is to rewrite history and we are arguing to teach history as it happened.”

Garrett-Pate said it is not just up to politicians and nonprofits to fight for inclusive curriculum, but for LGBTQ parents and students to hold their schools and teachers accountable for their education as well.

“It takes time and it takes work,” Garrett-Pate said. “But it is also the right thing to do.”

Similarly, C.P. Hoffman, the legal director for FreeState Justice, Maryland’s LGBTQ advocacy organization, stated they look forward to seeing the new state curriculum when it rolls out, “but in the meantime there’s nothing stopping individual school districts and teachers from working queer history and queer issues into their classes.”

“With more students identifying as LGBTQ+ than ever before, it’s crucial that they be able to see themselves reflected in their school work,” said Hoffman.

Vee Lamneck, executive director of Equality Virginia, told the Blade there “are many issues that still need to be addressed before Virginia is a safe and inclusive state for all LGBTQ people.” They said their organization over the summer conducted a survey that found “many Virginians are interested in prioritizing a statewide LGBTQ-inclusive Family Life Education curriculum.”

“LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum teaches students about the historical contributions of LGBTQ members of our society and shouldn’t be controversial — it’s simply fact,” said Lamneck. “We applaud the efforts of other states who are providing a more comprehensive and accurate teaching of our shared history.”

Lamneck conceded LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum would face opposition in Virginia. They nevertheless specifically applauded Montgomery County officials’ efforts “to affirm the dignity and historical accomplishments of LGBTQ individuals.”

“LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum creates a more welcoming, tolerant, and safe environment for all students,” Lamneck told the Blade.

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.
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Historical Corktown Workers Rowhouse Showcases Both Detroit History and Modern Art

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

From The Guardian Building to the GM Renaissance Center, Detroit has its fair share of grand buildings that have made architectural history over the years, but even some of the city’s most unassuming structures contain valuable information about the past. Nestled in the heart of Corktown, Detroit’s oldest neighborhood, is a rectangular building that dates back to 1849 called the Corktown Workers Rowhouse. Once serving as a multi-family home for working-class immigrants in the historically Irish neighborhood, the Rowhouse has managed to survive nearly 200 years in Detroit as a functional boarding home that stopped service in the 1970s. In recent months, its restored, true-to-history, gray-white exterior has become adorned with the abstract art of artist Thomas Bell with plans for even more art to circulate both in and outside of its walls. That’s because The Corktown Experience, a local nonprofit organization, has plans for transforming this piece of Detroit history into a workable exhibition space. And on Friday, Sept. 25, from 8 p.m. to midnight, there are plans to showcase even more art with a video installation by interFACEArts that will project from three windows in the home.

The man behind the art installations is Timothy Price. He’s the programming, marketing and events director for the Worker’s Rowhouse, an affiliate of The Corktown Experience. He said that there are plans in motion to restore the building, the home next door and its surrounding yard to create a hotspot for art and community. Unlike previous attempts to remodel the building that have taken place over the years, the goal is not to utilize the Rowhouse entirely as museum space—though it does feature nods to its past inside—but to showcase local artistry alongside the building’s history.

“The vision is to have an exhibition center. The unit at the end is going to be the exhibition center, the middle will be a lounge and then this will be a gallery,” Price said, in reference to the multiple rooms within the Rowhouse. “So we’re going to make white walls and do different curation of artists and exhibits.”

Price got involved with the project roughly 1 1/2 years ago, has a background in events planning and has had experience working with various Detroit nonprofit organizations like AIDS Walk Detroit. A member of the LGBTQ community himself, Price is excited to make space at the Rowhouse for LGBTQ artists, too.

“I’ve worked with a lot of LGBTQ artists,” Price said. “...I like history and we want to educate people, but we also want to stimulate people and bring art into history so that people say, ‘Why is this abstract piece of art hanging up there? And why is this Pride flag there?’ That’s part of history.”

Indeed, because there is a record of every single person who lived in the home from 1849 through the 1970s, Price said that there’s a high possibility that the building was home to LGBTQ tenants at some point. He said that at some point he’d be open to exploring the histories of the Rowhouse’s dozens of residents over the years.

Before that project takes off, however, more physical changes are scheduled to take place around the building. Alongside the Rowhouse’s exterior, a soundproof wall will be built that will stretch from its neighboring Most Holy Trinity Church to the nearby Irish Plaza Park. This will serve not only as a clear partition for the outdoor events but as an extension to the exhibition space.

“There will be some permanent work, and then what we’re going to do is start activation,” Price said. “Because the work that’s going to be featured on the house and elsewhere in the city will then become part of the wall on the back here.”

Additionally, event planning is on the table for the Rowhouse.

“We’re going to do a shipping container commercial kitchen with bathrooms and do a three-season pavilion so that people can rent it, do events here, and I’m talking everything from metal sculpture to different things, too,” Price said. “And then kind of getting into the next programming, which I finally finalized with an artist that I worked with at Midtown that we have, he’s doing a piece kind of relating LGBT and African American artists to go out front.”

That artist is Geno Harris, a self-taught Detroit artist who founded The Poor Man’s Art Collective specializes in his own brand of abstract decoupage. He said he was delighted to be thought of for the Rowhouse project.

“He contacted me for the first time when I was the managing gallerists for the Carr Center Gallery when it was on Woodward before they moved into the space they are in now. And he featured some of my artwork, and we became fast friends. He always expressed interest in doing [a project] together and this opportunity came up, and I jumped at the idea because it was one of those projects that would lend itself to bringing on board other artists who had not had the opportunity,” Harris said.

Because for Harris, creating a collaborative environment among the artists in his area is the ultimate goal—something that he’s excited that the Rowhouse will provide.

“Me, personally speaking, I’m all about community amongst artists,” he said. “So when Tim said that to me, I was like, ‘Oh, yeah, absolutely. You’ve found the perfect thing for Geno to be a part of. The art part and the possibility of doing exhibitions later on when we can be free from the pandemic sounds like the perfect fit ... to bring people to see different types of art and to see different types of people create different types of art.”

But art is not all that the Rowhouse will have to offer when work on it is completed. The upstairs portion of the building will be offered as offices for local organizations to make use of as necessary — truly, a community space.

To find out more about the Rowhouse visit cokrtownexperience.com or follow its social media accounts on Facebook at facebook.com/corktownexperience and cokrtown_workers_rowhouse on Instagram. The Workers Rowhouse is located at 1430 6th St. in Detroit. The upcoming art show will be on Friday, Sept. 25, from 8 p.m. to midnight.
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That scene. You know the one: the one in “Basic Instinct” where Sharon Stone’s legs are open. It’s been talked about and talked about, and talked about some more. It’s been talked about so much in the years since it shook the world in 1992 that it has diminished the other non-crotch facets of Sharon Stone.

What nobody talks about anymore is her heart, her courage and her activism. As Stone pushed through the male-dominating Hollywood sphere of the 1990s to reach top-tier cinematic heights through her work in 1990’s “Total Recall” and then “Basic Instinct,” an Oscar nomination for “Casino” solidifying her influential screen presence, she was giving a voice to the voiceless. She was speaking up for marginalized women. She was speaking up for the LGBTQ community. She was speaking up for herself.

And to this day, she still does.

Stone’s enduring affinity with the LGBTQ community might explain why working for the first time with Ryan Murphy, known for bringing actresses over 50 (Jessica Lange, Kathy Bates, and now Stone) into his lavishly stylized queerversion of prestige TV, was so special. In Murphy’s dark dramedy “Ratched” for Netflix, an origins story of Nurse Ratched of “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” the 62-year-old actress portrays the deliciously insane Lenore Osgood, a rich, twice-widowed mother who’d rather spend time with her Capuchin monkey than her queer son (played by openly gay actor Brandon Flynn). The series also stars out actresses Sarah Paulson, as nurse Mildred Ratched, and “Sex and the City” star and political activist Cynthia Nixon, who portrays Gwendolyn Briggs, the press secretary for the Governor of California.

When I spoke with Stone recently by phone, she did talk about the show’s queerness. But it was the touching story of her late father, Joe, who took her gay friends under his wing, that you won’t forget.

Where do you think your role as Lenore Osgood will rate on the “Things Queer People Love That I’ve Done” scale?

Right? (Laughs.) I have to say that it’s full of beauty and full of style and full of the immense tenderness that happens when we confront abuse. And because of the nature of what it is to live a queer life, I think all of that will be very moving.

While watching “Ratched,” I was reflecting on your LGBTQ roles. There’s been some that are blatantly queer, and others that are more nuanced in their queerness. “Catwoman” with Halle Berry came to mind because I really do think it’s part of the queer canon.

(Laughs.) I think because the character was so intriguing – and so catty, also! And I think because the character was really based in an intense beauty-centric world, maybe. I just feel like my characters are all based in a “for everybody” kind of world, but I really believe there’s something when you work for people who are gay-friendly and people who hire gay people on the set, where costumes and sets and things have an opportunity to grow and become even more lavish.

We shot (“Catwoman”) in Tony Duquette’s estate house (Duquette was an artist who specialized in fantastical set designs for stage and film); he was a very good friend of mine and, you know, he said to me when he met me, “I haven’t seen any of your pictures, darling.” But truly he was engaged in the (Canadian-American film actress and Duquette’s wife) Mary Pickford and (silent film actor) Douglas Fairbanks universe and swashbuckler films and all of these extremely lavish and beautiful filmmaking experiences.

One was not allowed to have a homosexual identity in those periods, so people had partners and the partnerships were agreements, and they were often very artistic agreements. In this case, very beautiful artistic agreements, very accomplished artistic agreements. And this was a way to love, be loved, be safe, be protective and work in the industry.
You’ve worked with straight directors as well as gay and queer directors. Ryan Murphy now among them. And when I think of him and the gay men I know, I think of the reverence and respect we have for women. Based on your experiences, what is different for you working with straight male directors versus gay or queer male directors and their treatment of the women that you’ve played?

(Laughs tellingly, as if she has a lot to say about this.) That’s a beautiful question. Well, it doesn’t just break down to gay and straight; it breaks down to people who have self-respect and people who do not. And our business was very much dominated by straight men – and a lot of straight men who felt that self-respect for them meant that there wasn’t any for women.

Now that we are opening the business to a more sincere and honest appraisal of reality, women, men, gays and straights get to participate in the business with a treatment of white male abuse, which is starting to calm down but not completely. And as we can see from our worldview here and certainly from our national view, the resistance to the end of it, it’s so violent; the resistance to the end of white male supremacy is so violent, and the women who have thrived on being victims and being victimized are unsure of what to do too because being a victim is an identity and having that situation where you call your husband or wife “mommy and daddy” is also part of that system. There’s a whole mindset that goes with that system that’s leaving, and as that leaves we have to start addressing all the other things, the underbelly of that, like child abuse and pedophilia.

When it comes to “Ratched” and working with someone like Ryan Murphy, who loves women differently than a straight man might, do you notice a difference in the way the character is being treated? For instance, was your experience different on, say, the set of “Basic Instinct”?

Well, I was protected on “Basic Instinct” because I had a European director (Paul Verhoeven), I had a very intelligent European director, so I was protected. I was not abused at all, or I could never have been able to play that part. We made agreements even prior to shooting that if we had disagreements we would take them off the set and into a private place and talk so that it wouldn’t tear down the authority of the character.

When “Basic Instinct” was released, it agitated LGBTQ activists who were taken aback by your character being a bisexual psychopath. Seeing as though you were passionate about LGBTQ issues and you are an activist for the community, how did you process their concerns at the time?

At the time we had all kinds of problems, not just LGBTQ people feeling like they were going to be abused and not knowing what was going to happen and showing great concern. But there were just people acting out all over the place over this movie. People blowing horns, trying to destroy the sets.

So (co-star) Michael Douglas and Sherry Lansing, the head of Paramount Pictures, and I sat down and we talked about it. I said that I would be very happy to become the person who talked about these LGBTQ issues and to discuss that what we were trying to do was put LGBTQ characters in a major motion picture from Paramount and that we were trying to, for the first time ever, do that. That we were trying to give the LGBTQ community a platform. And that I would take on the position of being the voice of that platform if this community would trust me.

And you did.

And I did. And Michael and Sherry were like, “You’re willing to do this?” And I’m like, “I’m absolutely willing to do this, and there’s nothing about me that would cause people to distrust that that’s what I’m going to do.”

Would you say that was the moment in your life when LGBTQ issues became especially important to you?

I was already working for amfAR (The Foundation for AIDS Research, which Stone began working for in 1995, as Global Campaign Chair) at that time, so no. And I had already begun working for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation because my neighbor had funded it. So I was already heavily working on that with our pediatrician Dr. Peter S. Waldstein and his wife. I was into the pediatric aspect of it, and then I went to the Dominican Republic as a guest of the president because they were beginning to have extreme AIDS issues. This was a really long time ago. This was even before amfAR. Then amfAR asked me if I would work for them.

Getting back to film, I’m curious about your role in the 2000 HBO film “If These Walls Could Talk 2.” You must still get stopped by lesbians everywhere you go for being a part of that movie.

Well, I just think it was really great that we had this opportunity for Anne Heche to direct Ellen (DeGeneres) and I. Ellen was so brave and so cool to come out and use her platform to get so much good work done. Vermont changed their laws after we did that film (the year the film was released, Vermont became the first U.S. state to pass same-sex civil union legislation). The Vermont senator (James Merrill Jeffords) then changed from being a Republican to a Democrat, and I went to visit him at the Senate in Washington and there was a lot more action.

I know everybody wants to be mad at Ellen right now, but let’s not forget all of the incredible things she took on her own shoulders and her own back, and the pressure she took. I mean, when we did that, my parents were like, “Why are you doing this? And what are you doing?” And when I really explained it to them, my dad was like, “So you
mean those two uncles that lived together down the road were queer? And those old ladies were queer?” And I’m like, “Yeah, dad.” And he’s like, “Well, isn’t that nice. So they weren’t lonely and alone.” And I’m like, “Yeah, dad; they weren’t lonely and alone.” And he goes, “Well, that’s so good.”

That’s a beautiful response.

Right? So he started to have this revelation about all these old men or old women that he’d known all his life that lived together that weren’t alone and lonely. He started inviting my gay friends up to the hunting cabin, including my friend whose father had kind of dismissed him as not being masculine enough to do anything. My dad would take them out on the boat and teach them how to shoot and fish and drive the boat and walk in the woods. These were my 40 and 50 year old friends who were standing up and saying, “I had a dad but my real dad was Joe Stone because this is what he did for me. He taught me how to shoot a bow and arrow.” All of these things that their dads wouldn’t spend the time doing with them because they were mad at them for being gay.

I’m getting a mental image of me, a gay man, learning to walk in the woods from your father and what that experience might have been like.

At my dad’s memorial, one of my friends stood up and he said, “I don’t suppose you would recognize why I’m such a fashion plate in these flannel shirts, but these were Joe Stone’s shirts and he treated me like I was his son.”

Yes, by both my mother and my father. Because my mother always said, “It doesn’t matter who you love, it matters that you love.”

I couldn’t end this interview without mentioning the fact that you performed with Kylie Minogue in Cannes for AIDS research, and then you gave the gays an iconic moment with Mariah Carey on the red carpet at the 2018 Golden Globes and said you were going to trade diamonds with her. Did you realize the gay magic you were creating in both of those moments with two of our biggest gay icons?

No, but I can tell you that both of those women have been through their own personal major difficulties and giant triumphs. I admire both of them for being able to live in the public life and continue to be so generous.

I admire that about you because you have also been that person. I’m so happy we have your voice and that it’s been heard.

Thank you. One-hundred percent, you can count on me.

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

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Star Trek’s first trans and non-binary characters

The CBS All Access series “Star Trek: Discovery” will continue to fulfill the franchise’s progressive ideals and for the upcoming third season include the show’s first transgender and non-binary characters. Queer characters already existed in the “ST:D” universe, played by Anthony Rapp and Wilson Cruz, so the addition of the two new characters will be a welcome expansion of the ranks. Ian Alexander, a trans actor most known for his role on Netflix’s “The OA,” will play a trans Trill named Gray (Non-Trekker? A Trill is a species of humanoid from the planet Trill. And now you know) and UK actor Blu del Barrio, who is also non-binary, will play the non-binary character Adira. This will be del Barrio’s first major acting role, and they have told the press that they realized that “non-binary” was the best way to describe their gender nonconformity after seeing “Chilling Adventures of Sabrina”’s non-binary cast member, Lachlan Watson. In other words, we see ourselves in the media for the first time and it sometimes makes things a little more clear, gives us the words to describe ourselves, and, to adapt a “Trek” cliché, go boldly and get our life.

Trans musician Billy Tipton’s story told right

Billy Tipton was a successful touring jazz musician from the 1930s until the 1970s. Billy Tipton was also a trans man. His story is remarkable for many reasons, but in the hands of non-queer, cisgender-dominated media, his story is also almost never told with respect or understanding. The late musician is routinely misgendered, treated as a kind of gender double agent, and discussed in terms of deception and secrecy, as “a woman pretending to be a man.” “No Ordinary Man,” co-directed by Aisling Chin-Yee and Chase Joynt, a film that premiered this week at the Toronto International Film Festival, seeks to change all that. It’s a documentary of sorts, written by Amos Mac (co-founder of the trans magazine “Original Plumbing”), telling the story of Tipton’s life, elements of which are recreated by actors and trans artists because there was no traditional archival material available. Picked up for distribution by Radiant Films, keep an eye out for a streaming/theatrical release of this fascinating story, one finally properly told by queer people.

Dominique Jackson, Alec Mapa, Fortune Feimster get into a ‘Chick Fight’

The question of the day is, “What if ‘Fight Club’, but comedy-plus-women?” And the answer is – coming Nov. 13 to theaters and streaming platforms – the indie feature “Chick Fight.” The story of a woman who is introduced to an underground, all-female fight club, and who then discovers she has a personal connection to the history of the club, it stars “Billions” regular Malin Akerman, Alec Baldwin, Bella Thorne, Kevin Connolly (“Entourage”), and former pro wrestler Kevin Nash (“Magic Mike”). Meanwhile rounding out that cast are three queer champions that we’ll follow anywhere: comedians Fortune Feimster and Alec Mapa, as well as “Pose” Dominique Jackson. Originally developed by Ash Christian, the queer indie screenwriter and producer who suddenly and tragically died last month at age 35, the film is directed by Australian actor-turned-director Paul Leyden (“As The World Turns”) from a script by first-timer Joseph Downey. We plan to channel any post-election rage into watching this cast commit acts of comedy-violence. Should work.

‘Good Joe Bell’ walks the walk

A pro-queer film starring Mark Wahlber? Well, we were a little surprised ourselves to be honest, but there’s a first time for everything (being a Calvin Klein underwear model doesn’t count). And that’s why we’re pleased to see that Wahlberg will be giving a world some good vibrations in “Good Joe Bell.” Based on a true story and also co-produced by Wahlberg, the plot follows Oregon dad Joe Bell, who walks across the United States with his gay son Jadin (“Play by Play”) as they try to raise awareness about the bullying and abuse of LGBTQ kids. Co-starring Connie Britton, and directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green (“ Monsters and Men”), it also boasts a script from Academy Award-winning “Brokeback Mountain” team Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana (and that’s about the gold standard of screenwriting cred when it comes to straight writers). The film has its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, no doubt with some award season hope on its mind. Look for it to pop up on screens (big or small) later this year.

Deep Inside Hollywood

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A Head of the Game

Q Puzzle

Across
1 Climax, e.g.
6 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
10 Queens stadium name
14 Pound poem part

Down
1 Play for a sucker
2 Lorca’s stick
3 They crawl around your mound
4 RBI, to Billy Bean
5 Down in the dumps
6 They keep your nuts in place
7 Behind
8 Troubling spots
9 Billy Budd, for one
10 Allstate rival
11 Like Derek Zoolander
12 Cole Porter’s “Ridin’ on a Cloud”
13 Big name in pumps
14 Cole Porter’s “Ridin’ ___”
15 “Cute!”
16 “The Black Clark Gable” Doggs
17 “Stock phrase”
18 “Add-on for Congo"
19 “Opt out of swallowing"
20 “Fairy story figure"
21 “Place to become wife and wife"
22 “Star Turner"
23 “Todd Oldham designs”
24 “Start of a quip by Holland Taylor”
25 “R.E.M.’s “The ___ Love”"
26 “35 Lone Star sch.
27 “37 Spud, to Gomer
28 “39 More of the quip
29 “41 More of the quip
30 “43 Magna __
31 “44 Nick and Nora’s dog
32 “46 Tow job
33 “47 G. Burke’s greatest hits
34 “48 Obi, e.g.
35 “50 Seduce
36 “52 Pay attention to
37 “54 Russian river locale, once
38 “56 End of the quip
39 “53 Sports car, briefly
40 “64 Be a voyeur, perhaps
41 “65 Home near the polar bears
42 “66 Where they yell “Cut!”
43 “67 “The Black Clark Gable” Doggs
44 “68 Stock phrase
45 “69 Add-on for Congo
46 “70 Opt out of swallowing
47 “71 Fairy story figure
48 “1 Play for a sucker
49 “2 Lorca’s stick
50 “3 They crawl around your mound
51 “4 RBI, to Billy Bean
52 “5 Down in the dumps
53 “6 They keep your nuts in place
54 “7 Behind
55 “8 Troubling spots
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Clues pg. 22
Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan’s LGBTQ Online @ pridesource.com

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

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

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

Matrix MAC Health
429 Livernois St.
Ferndale, MI 48220
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/matrix-mac-health/

Macomb County STD Clinic
27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-8440
http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDS/Counseling/testing

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)
196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48343
248-209-2647
www.olhsa.org

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)
Sterling Heights Center
4301 East 14 Mile Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48310
586-722-6036
www.accesscommunity.org

Advocacy
Equality Michigan
19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
Facebook.com/equalitymichigan

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

U-M Ann Arbor
Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter.umich.edu
http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center
gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University
LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtcenter
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center
ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp
Wayne State JIGSAW
Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW
wsuigjsaw@gmail.com

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

Jim Toy Community Center
Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit
Downtown Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/lgbdetroit
@LGBTDetroit.
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

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

Legal
American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan
PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairemichigan.org
Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016

Know Your Rights Project
Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

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

Political
The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party
Facebook.com/TheLGBTCAucusOfTheMDP
Stonewall for Revolution
www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution

Professional Groups
Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtcamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

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

Transgender
FtM Detroit
https://www.facebook.com/FTMDetroit/
ftmdetroit@gmail.com

Get Listed, Promote Your Events
You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.
You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then “Add Event.” Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com

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

Find these resources online
Adoption Services
AIDS/HIV Hotlines
AIDS/HIV Organizations
Alzheimer’s Association
Animal Shelter
Anti-Violence
Archives/Collections
Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
Cancer Support Groups
Choruses
Community Centers
Employee Resource Groups
Families and Parents
Foster Care
Foundations and Funders
Hotlines & Switchboards
Labor Union
Legal Organizations
Museums
Music Groups
National Organizations
Political Organizations
Professional Organizations
Religious & Spiritual
Senior Living
Seniors
Social/Community Organizations
Sports
Substance Abuse
Transgender Groups/Services
Women’s Health
Youth Services
I Stay Ready.  
I Use Condoms.

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Free condoms delivered by mail to residents of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck.

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PrEP Clinic

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

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

UNIFIED  
hIV health and beyond

In partnership with  
Sinai Grace Hospital

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

www.miunified.org

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Dr. Benson is launching a new podcast series for 2020!
Use your cell phone to capture the QR code above, or visit our website, Spotify, Apple, or Google for access.

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

1. Why We Sleep? (Dr. Benson) Release: 1/2/2020
   Sleep is one of the most important, but least understood aspects of our lives and wellness.

2. Living with HIV in the 21st Century (Dr. Benson & Caleb Youngblood) Release: 1/16/2020
   HIV is a chronic manageable disorder, perhaps easier to live with than Heart Disease or Diabetes. Learn the latest about the HIV virus, new therapies, and the lessons learned from our history of dealing with HIV and its social stigma.

3. On the Edge: Transcending the Standard of Care
   (Dr. Paul Benson, Dorea Shoemaker & Gretchen Haughton) Release: 1/30/2020
   Take matters into your own hands and become an active participant in your health. We'll discuss Cannabidiol (CBD) and its properties to improve and manage health with an expert, Dorea Shoemaker. CBD may be a new and safer alternative for pain instead of Tylenol or ibuprofen. We'll also discover benefits of whole food supplements to keep us healthy.

4. The Transgender Population – Understanding and Embracing this Population
   (Leon Bullough) Release: 2/13/2020
   A report from the World Professional Association on Transgender Health's (WPATH) Annual Conference. Hormone Replacement therapy is only a part of the transitioning process. Community and mental health support is essential for success. Individualized care plans based on evidence based medicine and created to match each individual's desires and pace is essential to make the transition process a safe and healthy journey.

5. Sexual Health and HIV Prevention
   (Dr. Paul Benson & Mark Rosen) Release: 2/27/2020
   We'll discuss sexually transmitted infections and their prevention. Many healthcare providers sweep this topic under the rug, but outcomes improve when we talk about how to stay healthy and infection free. Sexual health is not simply the absence of disease. It's living comfortably without fear or stigma; and embracing your sexuality while living day to day in your comfort zone.

6. Living Well Over the Age of 50
   (Dr. Benson and Colin Colter) Release: 3/12/2020
   We'll discuss simple steps you, with the assistance of your doctor, can implement to live longer and healthier. Proper health maintenance makes a big difference at any age, but becomes even more important as the decades pass. We'll talk about prevention and aggressive strategies to manage co-morbidities sometimes encountered as we age. We can't turn back the clock, but you can improve your heart, liver, brain function, kidneys, and virtually every organ system.

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