Boy Scouts Lift Ban On Gay Adults (Finally!)

Bullying And Harassment: Where Does Michigan Stand?
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— The New York Times

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If the goal of the state is to place children in loving and supportive homes, why are the laws looking to create more bureaucratic red tape and barriers to helping our children?

– Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director Jerry Peterson
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HISTORIC DECISION (FINALLY!)

Boy Scout Casey Chambers carries a rainbow flag during June 2014 San Francisco Pride Festival.

Boy Scouts of America Ends Ban on Gay Adults, Mormons May Bolt
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Past Presidents Of Hotter Than July Honored

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETOUR – About 50 people came out Friday for Hotter Than July’s annual Gathering on LGBT Issues. The conference, which took place at Michigan State University’s Detroit Center, has been a part of Detroit Black Gay Pride since its inception in 1996.

Rev. Roland Stringfellow, of Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit, delivered the keynote address and took on the topics of transgender equality and the LGBT community’s political future. “As many of us know, the LG community and B community still have issues that we need to work out with accepting our trans brothers and sisters,” Stringfellow said. “So when you now take it outside the LGB community and take it to the wider community as a whole, how then do I wrap my head around understanding what it means to be transgender? And for many people, they weren’t even aware that people were transitioning because that is how silent or how covert trans lives are in our community.”

Stringfellow said although transgender issues have gotten a great deal of mainstream attention as of late, there’s still so much we don’t understand about the community.

“We now say we know transgender because we know Caitlyn Jenner, but I argue we still don’t know gender at all, gender in the way that I thought it was,” said Stringfellow. “Like race, gender is a biosocial historical category that we all move through in different ways and in different times. Race and gender are not the same, but they are both biosocial historical categories that help facilitate and enforce the unequal distribution of power and wealth under capitalism.”

Referencing the recent victory for marriage equality handed down by the Supreme Court last month, Stringfellow said the LGBT community must look toward the future.

“I believe the next political agenda the LGBT community needs to focus on is voting,” he said. “Here’s why I say this. Any type of advancement we have gotten as a people or a community can be easily stripped or taken away when the decks are stacked against us and gerrymandering happens, and we have Republican super majorities in legislature.”

Past Presidents Of HTJ Recognized

Following Stringfellow’s remarks, Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, the agency that now produces HTJ, presented awards to the three living past presidents of the event. They are Johnny Jenkins, Hank Millbourne and Kimberly Jones. The fourth past president, Robert Clark, was recognized posthumously.

“Organizing Hotter Than July is tough,” said Lipscomb. “We are an interesting people in this room with a lot of different desires, wants and personalities. Imagine being a leader having to manage not only a project that is significant, important, authentic and mandatory, but to do it with different types of people who all identify as LGBT. ... A leader of that has to have a certain kind of strength, a certain kind of tenacity, to say, ‘You know what, I’ll take that charge.’”
HTJ Kicks Off With Candlelight Vigil

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT— About 75 people came out to Palmer Park July 21 to kick off the start of the 20th anniversary edition of Hotter Than July—Detroit Black Gay Pride. The crowd gathered around the blue spruce memorial tree, a tree organizers of HTJ planted early on in the event’s history, where a memorial marker that was created last year was officially permanently installed.

Speaking at the opening ceremony was Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones. “We have been in session since 10 a.m. this morning,” a tired Jones told the crowd. “We just got out of session, and we had one 10-minute break. So it’s been a long day.”

But Jones did not let her exhaustion put a damper on her enthusiasm for the event. “I am honored to be here with you even though it’s been a long day,” she said. “I’m still thankful to be here. As we pause tonight to remember those who have departed, it’s important to recognize the great strides the LGBT community is making ... This candlelight vigil gives us a chance to reflect on our loved ones who have passed on, whether it was due to natural causes or any other illness, violence due to gender hate or loss of life due to depression. We pause tonight to remember them.”

Jones said she has a long history of supporting the LGBT community. “I can tell you I support you,” she said. “I support your rights. I’m going to continue to stand with you, and I’m going to continue to be with you.”

The ceremony ended with remarks from Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, the agency that produces HTJ. “We did this 20 years ago,” Lipscomb said. “Just for a moment, think of something so wonderful that was created by us and has been maintained and operated for 20 years. The candlelight vigil, 20 years, rain or shine ... We’ve been here calling to the ancestors, drumming, for 20 years.”

“For 20 years, uninterrupted, we have gathered, and for 20 years it’s always been the candlelight vigil,” Lipscomb continued. “We always start with God first. Yeah, we party. We have some fun. I get it. I’m a little older. I can’t twerk like I used to do. But I can’t stop thanking God and remembering my friends who have gone before me. And for the next 20 years we will always start off Hotter Than July (this way). It has never changed, not thinking about God and our loved ones first. I don’t ever want Hotter Than July to change from that. I never want it to do that.”

But for as much as Lipscomb spoke about the past, he focused equally on the future. “We’re going to be here 20 years from now,” he said. “I can’t wait for the 40th anniversary.”

The candlelight vigil, 20 years, rain or shine ... We’ve been here calling to the ancestors, drumming, for 20 years.

– Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit
Creep of the Week

David Wells

G ood news for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and intersex kids who get arrested in Kentucky! Well, I mean, bad news to have been arrested, but at least there’s a policy that forbids the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) personnel, including volunteers, from using “derogatory language in a manner that conveys bias towards or hatred of the LGBTQI community” and telling “LGBTQI juveniles that they are abnormal, deviant, sinful or that they can or should change their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

When I first heard of this I had to double-check the state. Kentucky, really? Yes, Kentucky! (My apologies to the Bluegrass State for doubting, but y’all do keep voting for Mitch McConnell.)

To anyone who volunteers to work with juvenile offenders, let me first say, “Good for you!” Too often society writes these young people off as “bad kids” and once a young person finds him or herself in the system, it’s really hard to get out. And a lot of these kids are LGBT.

According to The Center for American Progress, “Though gay and transgender youth represent just 5 percent to 7 percent of the nation’s overall youth population, they compose 13 percent to 15 percent of those currently in the juvenile justice system.”

Clearly only a really terrible person would say, “You know what, I want to work with juvenile offenders and I want to tell the LGBT ones how gross and sinful they are as my right as an American Christian.”

Boy Scouts Of America End Total Ban On Gay Adults

BY DAVID CRARY

NEW YORK (AP) – The Boy Scouts of America on Monday ended its blanket ban on gay adult leaders while allowing church-sponsored Scout units to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

The new policy was approved unanimously by the BSA’s 17-member National Executive Committee. It would allow local Scout units to select adult leaders without regard to sexual orientation — a stance that several Scout councils have already adopted in defiance of the official national policy.

In 2013, after heated internal debate, the BSA decided to allow openly gay youth as scouts, but not gay adults as leaders. Several denominations that collectively sponsor close to half of all Scout units — including the Roman Catholic church, the Mormon church and the Southern Baptist Convention — have been apprehensive about ending the ban on gay adults.

The BSA’s top leaders pledged to defend the right of any church-sponsored units to continue excluding gays as adult volunteers. But that assurance has not satisfied some conservative church leaders.

“In recent years I have seen a definite cooling on the part of Baptist churches toward the Scouts,” said the Rev. Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. “This will probably bring that cooling to a freeze.”

A more nuanced response came from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, which expresses interest in maintaining its ties with the BSA, but also voiced concerns. Notably, it conveyed a reluctance to accept participation by anyone who engaged in sexual conduct outside of a heterosexual marriage.

Under the BSA’s new policy, gay leaders who were previously removed from Scouting because of the ban would have the opportunity to reapply for volunteer positions. If otherwise qualified, a gay adult would be eligible to serve as a Scoutmaster or unit leader.

Gates, who became the BSA’s president in May 2014, said at the time that he personally would have favored ending the ban on gay adults, but he opposed any further debate after the Scouts’ policymaking body upheld the ban. In May, he said that recent events “have confronted us with urgent challenges I did not foresee and which we cannot ignore.”

He cited an announcement by the BSA’s New York City chapter in early April that it had hired Pascal Tessier, the nation’s first openly gay Eagle Scout, as a summer camp leader. Gates also cited broader gay-rights developments and warned that rigidly maintaining the ban “will be the end of us as a national movement.”

The BSA’s right to exclude gays was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000. But since then, the policy has prompted numerous major corporations to suspend charitable donations to the Scouts and strained relations with some municipalities.

More recently, the BSA faced a civil rights investigation in New York and lawsuits in other states over the ban.

Kenneth Upton, a lawyer for the BTL | July 30, 2015 Boy Scouts of America, filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on behalf of two gay adults who were denied leadership positions within the Boy Scouts of America and subsequently named the BSA’s New York City chapter as a defendant.

The lawsuit alleged that the BSA’s executive board was unqualified to make the decision and that, by disregarding the advice of its own human rights committee, the BSA was engaging in “willful and malicious discrimination” against two gay Scout leaders.

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Kenneth Upton, a lawyer for the
Affirmations Gallery Hosts Spiritual Exhibit

FERNDALE – The Pittmann-Puckett Gallery at Affirmations presents the latest exhibit, “Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Orikri.” The exhibition will feature a collection of Orikri’s abstract paintings, all influenced by his new home, the city of Detroit.

Timothy Orikri, born and raised in southern Nigeria by a Baptist minister, uses a wide spectrum of vibrant colors and mixed media to create a secure world in which humanity is restored to God’s intended pure state. His artistic themes – much like the messages from his father’s pulpit – embrace hope, harmony and the gift of nature. Drawing on African, European and American influences, he carefully bridges the gap between the ancient and modern.

“This show represents scripted fantasies of my dreams both near and far,” says Orikri. “It’s a schematic rendition of hopes for a better city.”

The Pittmann-Puckett Gallery will host an opening reception at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30. Orikri will give remarks about his artwork and themes. A brief music program and an open discussion will follow. The event is free and open to the community. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit www.goaffirmations.org.

The exhibition will be on view until Aug. 28.

Dievendorf Outraises Opponents In Lansing Primary Race

LANSING – Emily Dievendorf, the former executive director of Equality Michigan, out raised her four August primary opponents in the Lansing City Council At-Large race.

Dievendorf is one of five vying to advance to the November general election. The four who advance from the August primary will face off for two seats representing the entire city of Lansing. Her opponents include Carol Wood, who currently serves in an at-large capacity on the council; former city councilmember and perennial candidate Harold Leeman Jr.; Mary Ann Prince, a regular attendee of City Council meetings and a retiree; and Patricia Spitzley, who helps run the Pacer Fund which is tasked with redeveloping former General Motors properties in the city.

Dievendorf raised $7,650 and spent $3,258.16. That leaves her with $4,391.96 going into the Aug. 4 primary vote. Wood started the reporting period with $308.96 in her campaign account, raised an additional $5,585 and spent $3,375.87. She has $2,464.09 on hand. Leeman started the campaign with a balance of $23.96, donated $600 to his own campaign and spent $548.23, leaving a balance of $75.73. Spitzley raised $3,065, spent $275.62 and has $2,789.38 left. Prince filed a waiver for her committee stating she would not raise or spend more than $1,000.
School-based bullying and harassment are very real problems affecting the nation’s youth and school districts. State legislatures and state educational agencies play vital roles in ensuring safe and supportive learning environments for all students.

But are the Michigan laws and policies that are currently in place actually working to protect LGBT youth against bullying and harassment?

Schools are by and large heteronormative and cisnormative. Even though the LGBT community accounts for less than 8 percent of the national population, younger generations are introduced to LGBT identities at higher rates than older generations due to social media and the growing acceptance of the LGBT community. The majority of Americans that support LGBT identities now exceeds 50 percent of the population.

In spite of growing acceptance, the statistics for LGBT youth are staggering. Forty percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT. LGB youth are four times as likely and trans youth are nine times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to their non-LGBT peers. GLSEN, an organization that has led national efforts to create safer schools by advocating for the development, adoption and implementation of comprehensive anti-bullying policies for the last 25 years, has reported that nine trans youth have already committed suicide this year.

In the first major vote on LGBT equality since the Supreme Court’s same-sex marriage decision June 26, the U.S. Senate recently failed to pass the Student Non-Discrimination Act. If passed, the bill would have prohibited public schools from discriminating against any student on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. It was modeled after Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., offered SNDA as an amendment to the Every Child Achieves Act, which would update federal education law; however, the amendment failed on a vote of 52 - 45, across party lines.

Currently, federal statutory protections address discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and disability, but federal civil rights laws do not expressly protect students from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Neither does current Michigan law.

History demonstrates that civil rights laws are effective in decreasing discrimination because they provide strong federal remedies targeted to specific vulnerable groups.

A recent report by GLSEN, “From Statehouse To Schoolhouse: Anti-bullying Policy Efforts in U.S. States and School Districts,” found that nearly 30 percent of U.S. school districts in the country did not have an anti-bullying policy. Of the 70 percent that do provide policies, only 14 percent had enumerated protections for students based upon sexual orientation and gender identity. A quarter required professional development for staff in addressing bullying and harassment in their schools. Less than one-third stipulated accountability for incidents of bullying and harassment to the district and/or state. In all, only 3 percent of district policies included LGBT enumerated rights, professional development requirements and accountability stipulations as an approach.

Accounting for all school districts, the GLSEN report found only one in 10 had enumerated rights for sexual orientation and gender identity/expression; three in 10 have enumerated rights for sexual orientation but not gender identity; two in 10 required professional development for staff and accountability for bullying incidents; and only a staggering 2 percent were providing anti-bullying policies that included all examined elements.

Michigan’s “Matt’s Safe School Law,” as it is now known, was introduced in May 2001 in the state Senate. It was named after Matt Epling, a student who committed suicide following years of bullying and harassment. The first draft of the bill was fairly comprehensive and was the first iteration of the law that enumerated sexual orientation but not gender identity. In 2006 sexual orientation was added to a later version of the bill, but was thrown out in the final version.

“The Michigan Legislature has been firmly in the hands of Republican control since the Matt’s Safe School Law was introduced in 2001. The only time the Dems had the house was for two sessions in 2007 and 2009, which was the first time that the law got any traction at all,” said Thomas Zook, Wayne State University College of
LGB youth are four times as likely and trans youth are nine times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to their non-LGBT peers.

Policy Change

“Even if you aren’t the kid being bullied, it is impacting all the students because of the climate,” Kovalchick said. “We have a variety of resources to encourage schools to make these safe environments that are inclusive and a place where students want to be.”

The State Department of Education has provided professional development training for teachers for the last 15 years. Kovalchick reports that, even with limited funding and resources, the State Department of Education provides training and support for school districts to further help their LGBT students.

“We provide a variety of support to help schools,” Kovalchick said. “It is a really great training, though we don’t have a lot of resources to get it widely spread and to help plan and help with these trainings.”

There has been a demand from schools and staff asking how they can better understand and support our students.”

The recent GLSEN report indicates that state laws, regulations and policy guidelines can have an impact on the presence of district anti-bullying policies and their content. It found that states with enumerated laws did influence districts’ anti-bully policy efforts.

“If we cannot get state laws to protect LGBT kids, then we need to push for local guidance leadership at the school and district level to change the culture of these schools.” Zook said. “State and national laws are never going to change people’s minds; you can never legislate people’s values, opinions and beliefs.”

Kovalchick echoed Zook’s opinions.

“If you’re looking at a hierarchy, if there is no state law existing, then district law takes precedent,” she said. “You could have a district policy, but if a state law comes into effect, that takes over the importance of the district policy.”
Anita, Who? OJ Cheers!
Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

When I was a kid, my mother would dose me with castor oil for what she perceived as alimentary crankiness on my part. This extract of the humble castor bean tastes horrid. Its end result: to leave its victim as clean as a penny whistle. (Toot free.) My dosage served as as a warning. Best not to indulge in any constipating shenanigans, if you know what’s good for you, young man.

But my mother — kind heart that she was — would temper my dosage by mixing it in a glass of OJ — to no avail. The oil floated in little bubble-up pools, clueing me in that the motor oil from hell was about to be swallowed.

OJ with castor oil is a perfect metaphor for a lust-er-forever harridan from our not-too-distant past: Anita Bryant – talented vocalist, OJ (seedless variety) role model, Florida-based homophobe, who in 1977 kicked off a massive Save Our Children, Inc. anti-gay campaign in the Sunshine State. And she had the credentials and the clout.

A Miss America runner-up, a Southern Baptist pew polisher, a gospel and pop singer, she was popular. Her big hit was the saccharine “Paper Roses.”

She was also a spokes-personality for the Florida Citrus Commission, and nationally televised commercials featured her singing “Come to the Florida Sunshine tree.” (“Breakfast without OJ is like a day without sunshine.”)

Her TV accounts were Coca-Cola, Kraft Foods, Holiday Inn and Tupperware. (She sang “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” during the graveside services for Lyndon B. Johnson, and performed the National Anthem at Super Bowl III.)

But Miss Anita was not happy with a gay rights ordinance passed in Dade County, January 1977. She spoke out as a born-again Christian mom, launching a campaign six months later for repeal. She used lies and stereotypes. Crooned Anita to the rafters: gay people are wicked, godless and out to recruit on America’s playgrounds.

“As a mother I know that homosexuals cannot biologically reproduce children,” she preached. “Therefore, they must recruit our children. If gays are granted rights, next we’ll have to give rights to prostitutes, people who sleep with St. Bernards, nail biters.” (Sound familiar?)

Her campaign of venom and hatred worked. On June 7, 1977, Dade County’s anti-discrimination ordinance was rescinded by a margin of 69 percent to 31 percent. But Anita and cohorts didn’t count on a nationwide OJ backlash.

Our community quickly became galvanized and cohesive, forging a united front. Unwittingly, Anita did us an important and long-lasting favor.

Since then things haven’t gone too well for poor Anita. Gay activists successfully organized a nationwide OJ boycott (some enclosing $2 and asking for a copy of a nonexistent pamphlet linking OJ with homosexuality.) And she got a custard pie in the face during a TV interview.

The fallout from her political activism destroyed her career; and her contract with the Florida Citrus Commission was allowed to lapse because of negative publicity generated by Save Our Children, Inc. and the OJ boycott.

Her marriage to Bob Green squeezed out, and in 1980 she dumped him. She married a second husband, Charlie Hobson Dry, in 1990, and they tried to salvage her career in a series of small venues (including one Windsor, Ontario supper club stint).

But comeback has been nonexistent, and the Drys have left behind them many unpaid employees and creditors. They filed for bankruptcy twice: Arkansas (1997) and Tennessee (2001). In 2005, Anita, 65 – all but forgotten – was parodied on “Will & Grace.”

Charles@pridesource.com

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Viewpoint

Michigan Children Could Suffer From Religious Exemption Legislation

OPINION BY JERRY PETERSON

Pending legislation in Michigan stands in stark contradiction to the stated goals of prioritizing the welfare and best interests of children. The proposed legislation states that placing a child in a safe, loving and supportive home is a paramount goal of the state. House Bill 4188 allows for agencies to object child placement for foster care based on religious or moral objections.

If the goal of the state is to place children in loving and supportive homes, why are the laws looking to discredit more bureaucratic red tape and barriers to helping our children? As the Executive Director of the Ruth Ellis Center, I represent the real people harmed by this legislation.

They are the very children and youth the system claims to support! Yet, this legislation seeks to eliminate the stated goal of looking out for the best interest of every child in its care.

I call out the hypocrisy of any system that turns a blind eye to discrimination, thereby institutionalizing harm, trauma and serial rejection to the very children and youth it has a moral and ethical obligation to take care of.

Legalizing discrimination against adults on the basis of personal moral or religious principles, and claiming that it does no harm to anyone else, is misleading and in contrast to the stated objectives of the child welfare system.

The Ruth Ellis Center operates a Michigan-licensed and contracted residential foster care Intensive Treatment Unit. Annually, The Center serves seven to 15 young people aged 13 to 17 who identify as LGBTQ. Due to the demand of alternative placement for LGBTQ youth, The Center is expanding from five to nine beds.

Many of these children and youth have been rejected by up to seven foster families, particularly for transgender and gender expressive youth — and the number of these children is on the rise. LGBTQ couples are more likely to adopt children or youth with special needs or who are hard to place within the foster care system. There is no reason why those loving homes should be discriminated against, when the paramount goal of the state is to place children in loving and supportive homes.

Jerry Peterson is the executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center. The Ruth Ellis Center is located at 77 Victor St., Highland Park. Visit www.ruthelliscenter.org for more information.
The Equality Act Is The LGBT Rights Bill We Want And Need

BY MARA KEISLING

In 1974, the Equality Act was introduced to add sexual orientation throughout the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Twenty years later, for various political reasons, the bill was stripped down to be only an employment rights bill and renamed ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. ENDA has been the centerpiece federal legislation ever since, although gender identity was excluded from the act until 2007. And this week, we are very pleased to announce that ENDA is being replaced with the Equality Act, a more comprehensive bill that when passed will offer protection in employment, housing, public accommodations and four other areas.

For more than 10 years, NCTE has advocated for refocusing on a comprehensive bill more akin to the original Equality Act. The most notable difference between the Equality Act and its 1974 namesake is that it includes both gender identity and sexual orientation — and unlike in 2007, removing gender identity is now completely unthinkable.

Here’s what you may want to know:
• The Equality Act was introduced Thursday, July 23 by Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., in the U.S. Senate and Rep. Cicilline, D-R.I., in the U.S. House of Representatives, along with many co-sponsors: Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Cory Booker, and Reps. Nancy Pelosi and John Lewis. They will be joined by a large number of co-sponsors.
• The bill will explicitly prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in employment, housing, education, credit, public accommodations, jury service and federally funded programs. (Gender identity and sexual orientation are defined the same way they were in ENDA.)
• The bill will also codify the existing interpretations of sexual orientation and gender identity bias as being forms of sex discrimination, which many courts and federal agencies — including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission — have already embraced. Think of it as wearing both a belt and suspenders. So for instance, if a trans person is discriminated against in their job, it will be clearly illegal as both gender identity discrimination and sex discrimination. This is important for various reasons, including that it will help cement these interpretations under various other laws not directly amended by the bill.
• Interestingly, the types of businesses considered to be public accommodations would be expanded by the Equality Act, not only for sexual orientation but also for the existing categories of race, color, religion and national origin. Additionally, the category of sex would be added to the public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Act for the first time, greatly advancing women’s rights.
• In the same way the law protects people on the basis of their race and religion, the Equality Act will make clear that discrimination because someone is (or is perceived to be) LGBT, or is a parent, child, partner or otherwise associated with someone who is LGBT, is also illegal.
• Whereas ENDA would have created a new law specific to LGBT people, the Equality Act will add LGBT protections to existing civil rights laws like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Jury Selection and Service Act. It is being done this way to ensure that LGBT people are protected equally compared to other marginalized groups that are already protected.
• No special religious exemptions would apply for discrimination against LGBT people. Amending existing civil rights laws means that the religious exemptions that have been in place for 50 years will remain in place. Mainly this means that religious institutions can continue to prefer individuals of their own faith.

This bill was written to address the real discrimination that LGBT people face in real life — discrimination that is often pervasive in the workplace but goes far beyond it.
**New Poll Finds Majority Of Voters Prefer Candidates Who Support Non-Discrimination Protections**

**BY BTL STAFF**

WASHINGTON D.C. – A recent polling by Democracy Corps has found that 59 percent of voters are less likely to support candidates who oppose non-discrimination protections.

The survey also found that 64 percent of likely Republican voters support protecting LGBT people from workplace discrimination compared to the 90 percent of Democrats who support the same protections. Eighty-four percent of college students, 73 percent of non-college voters and 70 percent of observant Christians favor protecting LGBT people from discrimination in employment.

The HRC reports that while millennial voters supported Obama in 2008, many of them voted Republican in 2010, 2012 and 2014 signaling a frustration with the slow pace of change.

Results from this survey are consistent with past surveys; in 2011, 79 percent of voters supported ending workplace discrimination.

“Opposing LGBT non-discrimination protections is costly and will grow costlier by the day,” said JoDee Winterhof, HRC vice president for policy and political affairs. “The overwhelming majority of voters who believe that LGBT people should be protected from discrimination in the workplace – a value that reaches across party lines – also makes clear that the time to pass explicit, comprehensive LGBT non-discrimination protections is long overdue.”

In March, polling conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for HRC revealed that nearly two-thirds of LGBT Americans have faced discrimination in their lives, with LGBT people reporting workplace discrimination the most frequently experienced form of discrimination.

**New Research Reveals How Body Size Influences Romance In Same-Sex Relationships**

**BY BTL STAFF**

CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY – Research hasn’t focused on the influences of body size with regards to the romantic relationships of same-sex couples, says Charlotte Markey, a professor of psychology at Rutgers University – Camden, until now. New findings have shown the influence of social relationships on behaviors around body size for LGB couples.

Mark team with Villanova University researchers Patrick Markey; fellow Rutgers – Camden faculty researchers Kristin August and Christopher Nave; and Lindzee Bailey, a recent graduate of Rutgers – Camden’s master of arts in psychology program, who initiated the project as part of her thesis, to examine the topic in a groundbreaking study, titled “Understanding same-sex male and female partners’ restrained eating in the context of their relationships,” in the June issue of Journal of Health Psychology.

“The study aims to advance not only an understanding of same-sex relationships, but a more complete understanding of all romantic relationships,” says Markey, a resident of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

According to the researchers, restrained eating is defined as the deliberate, long-term restriction of food intake in order to lose, maintain or avoid gaining weight. It is characterized by alternating episodes of cognitive dietary restraint, uncontrolled eating and emotional eating. Although exercising some restraint is critical in the current food environment, where supersized portions can be found around every corner, explains Markey, dietary restraint – as the researchers studied it – is considered dysfunctional.

“It is important for all of us to be cognizant of practices conducive to weight management, but it is not healthy to vacillate between restraint and binging or emotional eating,” says the Rutgers – Camden researcher. “Understanding factors that contribute to dietary restraint can aid in the prevention of disordered eating and unhealthy weight management.”

Over the course of the study, the researchers surveyed 288 participants in monogamous, romantic same-sex relationships. The majority of the couples, who were participating in a larger study examining predictors of relationship quality and health among gay and lesbian couples, were cohabitating and romantically involved – on average – for about five and a half years.

Consistent with their previous research on same-sex couples linking body mass index and concerns over weight issues, the study found significant evidence that men and women who were relatively heavier than their partners were at particular risk for engaging in all facets of restrained eating that they studied.

The researchers posit that the findings may be explained in part by the need for individuals in both same-sex and heterosexual relationships to conform to body ideals of close reference groups – in this case, their romantic partners. This tendency can be increased, they add, when the partner is of the same gender.

According to Markey, the results of the study have a variety of significant implications for this traditionally understudied population. She notes that there has been discussion among researchers who study eating behaviors that lesbian women are not as concerned about their bodies and weight as heterosexual women and that gay men are more concerned about these issues than heterosexual men.

“What this study suggests is that the relationships that any individual maintains – regardless of sexual orientation – may be critical in determining their eating behaviors,” she says. “This implies that therapeutic interventions may improve not only their relationships, but their eating habits and even their overall well-being.”

The researchers are now conducting research studying the influence and effects of body image in same-sex relationships, with plans in the works for additional studies focusing on other aspects of these relationships and their effects on health and well-being.
Keisling: Equality Act
Continued from p. 11

while a bill can always change as it moves through the legislative process, we need to stake a claim and introduce a bill that really is what we need. That is what the Equality Act is.

Passing the Equality Act will probably take time, and there are things you can do to help. First, contact your Representative and your two U.S. Senators and ask them to co-sponsor the Equality Act. Remember, support for LGBT people is changing quickly, so even if your members of Congress haven’t supported LGBT equality in the past, contact them anyway — their stance may be evolving.

Second, we need to make sure Congress and the public understand that anti-LGBT discrimination is very real, which means we need your stories. Next month, NCTE will launch the 2015 U.S. Trans Survey — the biggest survey yet of trans people in the U.S. This survey, a follow-up to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey conducted six years ago, will clearly make the case for the Equality Act along with all of our other efforts to improve the lives of trans people.

A final word: We all know that getting any legislation through a very polarized Congress is really hard right now. But we also know that the transgender and LGBT movements are stronger and better connected than ever. So, though we can’t say that we see a clear pathway to pass the Equality Act through the current Congress, we know that the politics of LGBT equality are shifting in our favor. When the original Equality Act was first introduced more than four decades ago, its passage may have seemed to some like a pipe dream. Today, it is not. The promise of Equality Act is still urgently needed. The question is how quickly we can hasten its inevitable passage.

Keisling is a transgender rights activist currently serving as the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality based in Washington D.C. Keisling founded the center, which has contributed to efforts that have resulted in numerous victories for the transgender equality movement.

We all know that getting any legislation through a very polarized Congress is really hard right now. But we also know that the transgender and LGBT movements are stronger and better connected than ever.
An LGBT Tour Of The Great Lakes

BY AJ TRAGER AND BTL STAFF

For LGBT and allied Michiganders, access to beautiful and historic vacation destinations is often only a few hours away. From in-state sights – Traverse City, Saugatuck and Lansing – to nearby Chicago, Illinois, residents can take a world-class vacation without ever setting foot on a plane. For those looking to fit in one last summer vacation, or plan for a cooler-temperature fall retreat, take a look at these nearby LGBT-friendly cities.

West Michigan

If driving from Metro Detroit, the cozy town of Saugatuck and its sister city, Douglas, are only three hours away by expressway. Saugatuck was recently named the 2015 Best Coastal Small Town by USA Today Readers Choice and offers vacationers a unique look into West Michigan history. Downtown Saugatuck is seated right on Lake Michigan and the area is filled with ice cream stores, unique restaurants, beaches, sand dunes and shopping.

There is a reason that Saugatuck is named The Art Coast of Michigan. The city is home to over 140 LGBT-owned companies, over 20 galleries, the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, the Ox-Bow School of Arts and plenty of permanent and temporary art installations. The area features many opportunities to take to the water, whether sailing on a sailboat, paddling in a kayak or taking the Victorian style Chain Ferry across the Kalamazoo River for just a dollar.

The west side of the state is covered with wineries and craft breweries due to the lake effect climate, which makes it easier to grow grapes. The Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail begins in Saugatuck and flows south to New Buffalo, passing by 24 notable breweries and wineries. The Fenn Valley Vineyard and Virtue Cider are some highlights. For more information, visit www.michiganwines.com.

Traverse City Area

Summer is “beach season” in Traverse City. Named as one of its top 10 summer trips by National Geographic, Traverse City has over 150 inland lakes, more than 20 golf courses and miles of hiking and cycling tracks as well as locations for boating, sailing, paddling, swimming and beachcombing.

Five historic lighthouses surround the Traverse City area: Mission Point, Grand Traverse, South Manitou, North Manitou and Point Betsie. Sleeping Bear Dunes

See Travel, page 16
2015 // AUG 8+9

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National Park is nearby, as well as large schooners, sloops and frigates offering tall ship summer excursions on Grand Traverse Bay and an opportunity to attend the “floating classrooms” to learn about the area’s aquatic environment and maritime history.

Don’t forget to step into Side Traxx, the local gay video-dance bar, located at 520 Franklin St. and visit www.traversecity.com/summer/things-to-do-kids-activities for more information on what children’s activities are available in the region.

Lansing Area

Located along the banks of the Grand River in the heart of the Lower Peninsula, Lansing is a blend of small town and busy city. The city has a lot to offer from late-night evening dancing and entertainment to quiet evenings in one of the many state parks.

Lansing has over 1,000 businesses and is home to Michigan Pride held Aug. 28, which will welcome members of the LGBT and allied community from across the state to celebrate equality.

Home to Michigan State University, nearby East Lansing is packed full of fun and exciting activities for the whole family. If traveling during school months, catch an MSU sporting event. Stop into the MSU LGBT Resource Center and see what activities and support services are currently being offered for marginalized sexualities on one of Michigan’s top college campuses.

Located in the northeastern side of Lansing, Old Town was established in the mid-1800s. Old Town will host JazzFest beginning Aug. 7; the district hosts other festivals throughout the year including Old Town Oktoberfest, Old Town Renegade Festival, Chalk of the Town and the Old Town Festival of the Moon and Sun celebrating the beginning of summer in late June.

Visitors can take one of various guided tours of the State Capitol and the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum and can explore Michigan history and culture at the Library of Michigan and Historical Museum. Travelers can even learn firsthand how cheese and ice cream are made at the Michigan State University Dairy Complex or attend one of 30 annual fairs.

Chicago

Chicago is a very popular vacation destination for Michiganders and is located just on the other side of Lake Michigan. Chicago is known as a world-class center of culture, commerce, education, architecture, dining and shopping. Lakeview contains Boystown, a gay community located five miles northwest of downtown. Over the years, Boystown has become a mix of artsy-types, working families, young professionals and the LGBT community.
In recent years, neighborhood real estate values have risen and Boystown has become increasingly more mixed with the LGBT and allied communities.

Vacation “must sees” for the “Windy City” include Wrigley Field, the Field Museum, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Hancock Tower, Navy Pier, the Willis Tower, Shedd Aquarium and the Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

While Chicago may be miles from the nearest ocean, the west side of Lake Michigan provides a waterfront destination that has 28 miles of lakefront shoreline, including 24 beaches and an 18-mile bike path. Many visitors rely on the elevated rail transport system, or “The L,” instead of cabs to get around the city.

Lakeview will host its Fine Art Festival beginning Sept. 11 followed by Oktoberfest Chicago on Sept. 26 and the Chicago LGBT International Film Festival Sept. 17-24.

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**LGBT Resources**

**SAUGATUCK/DOUGLAS**

LGBT Guide To Saugatuck and Douglas: www.gaysaugatuckdouglas.com

The Dunes Resort: https://dunesresort.com

PFLAG Holland/Lakeshore: www.pflaglakeshore.org

**TRAVERSE CITY**

Northern Michigan Pride: http://northernmichiganpride.org

Side Traxx: http://sidetraxxtc.com/

PFLAG Traverse City: Tollfree Number: 800-442-7315

**LANSONG**

Michigan Pride: www.michiganpride.org

LAHR: lahronline.org

Lesbian Connection: www.lconline.org

Lansing Area AIDS Network: www.laanonline.org

PFLAG Lansing: 517-332-4550

**CHICAGO**

Windy City Times: www.windycitymediagroup.com

Chicago Pride: http://chicago.gopride.com

LGBT Community Organization: www.centeronhalsted.org

AIDS Foundation Chicago: www.aidschicago.org

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Northalsted Market Days takes place Aug. 8-9. See the event ad on page 15.
The falsetto is gone.
When Boy George sings now, a rich tone resounds. He refers to it as “the voice of experience.”
The voice, once fluttery and high, can be traced back to the early ’80s by way of a long, glittery trail that George blazed as the front man for Culture Club. The band formed in 1981, at the onset of a second, MTV-aided British invasion, and the foursome turned out a treasure trove of sonic gold, most notably “Karma Chameleon” and “Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?”
Within a few years of their emergence, Culture Club was a bona fide act of great significance. Instantly, they became the first band since The Beatles with three songs from their debut album, 1982’s “Kissing to be Clever,” to reach the top 10 on Billboard’s Hot 100. And it wasn’t just music they were influencing.
It was fashion. It was politics. It was gender. It was the queer community as a whole.
Now, Culture Club is back. After more than 12 years apart, the original members of Culture Club are reuniting for a tour and their forthcoming LP, “Tribes,” their first album together since 1999’s “Don’t Mind If I Do.” As part of the tour, the foursome will perform at 9 p.m. Aug. 7 at The Colosseum at Caesars Windsor.
George, 54, recently rang to sound off on a smorgasbord of topics: Culture Club nostalgia, the Madonna vs. Lady Gaga rivalry, his massive hat collection and the lack of any pop star “stand outs.”

Why is now the right time for Culture Club to reunite?
The idea first started about four years ago.
With all the different management, and just so many complications, it’s taken this long to actually get everybody together. When I suggested it four years ago it seemed like a really simple idea; it turned out to be quite complicated! (Laughs)
Now we’ve gotten into rehearsing, and we recently did “Today,” although we didn’t have Jon (Moss) there, but it was our first live thing together in a while. The thing about Culture Club, but also just bands in general: The fun is always the playing and the recording and the writing. It’s the other stuff that’s kind of boring.
Culture Club makes the most sense when we’re on stage and concentrating on what we’re doing musically. (The tour is) gonna be interesting. It’s as much a surprise for me, but obviously, we know there’s a lot of affection out there for what we are collectively.

Do people expect you to be the same band you were 20 years ago? Are you still the same band?

I don’t think anybody expects me to be what I was 20 years ago. If they do, they’re deluded. (Laughs) I’ve never spoken to anybody who said, “You’re nothing like you were 20 years ago.” There are some people in the world who believe you could be suspended in animation, I think (laughs), but we all get older and we all develop. And, in fact, I think I’ve a very different performer. I actually prefer what I do now.

Why is that?

I like the noise that I make now because I feel like I’ve earned it. I feel it’s a voice of experience. I feel I’m more connected to what I do. Vocaly and emotionally I’m more connected to my life, full stop, and I’m kind of happy with who I am.

There’s always room for improvement, of course, but I don’t have the sort of insecurities that I had when I was a younger man. People say to me, “You were so confident!” I probably appeared confident but, perhaps underneath, I wasn’t. I think life is about growing into yourself, accepting who you are and maybe having a better relationship with who you are, sort of liking yourself, and I think I’m closer now than I’ve ever been.

How long did it take you to reach that point?

It takes a long time to get there, but you know, some people just don’t get there. And I don’t know how you get there, and I don’t know how you know you’re there, but you operate with a sense of peace. In life, it’s very easy to do what you’ve always done. It’s very easy to slip back into bad attitudes, bad habits and personality traits.

Speaking of bad habits, you’ve been very vocal in discussing your drug and alcohol use early on in your life. These days, what’s the wildest you get? What’s a typical night for you like now?

Obviously I don’t think of those past things as being wild days – I just think of them as being quite negative. I was talking about this last night at dinner. I think you learn as you get older, if you’re smart, that the joy is in the mundane things – the small things, like being with your family, taking a walk, having coffee with friends, having meals with friends, good company. It’s like that saying, “the devil is in the detail” – sometimes I have the most fun when I’m just walking around with no set plans. Because there’s so many special effects in my life in terms of the career thing and traveling and all of that kind of excitement, I counterbalance it with sheer ordinarness in a way, and that’s where I have the most fun sometimes.

How did your signature look come to involve hats?

Going to clubs as a kid, we were always trying to over-exaggerate our look – a hat is definitely a way of over-exaggerating an outfit! Back then I was sometimes doing a kind of Carmen Miranda thing (laughs) and wearing a turban. It was just basically plundering every kind of theatrical idea you could imagine, and hats – I just love hats. Hats have to wear you. You can’t buy

INFO
Culture Club
9 p.m. Aug. 7
Caesars Windsor
377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor
www.caesars.com/caesars-windsor
Boy George

Continued from page 19

somebody a hat because that’s like buying somebody a haircut.

How many hats would you say you have?
I have quite a few that I can’t wear anymore because they’re damaged, but I refuse to let them go. (Laughs) I have about 40 wearable ones, and I’m always adding new hats to the collection.

You must have a hat room.
They’re scattered around. Also: They’re a really good thing to give to auctions. People are always asking me for things for charity, so I’m always giving them to people to sell.

How many different hats do you wear on stage?
At the moment I’ve got a few that I’m gonna try out. The thing about stage costumes is, they seem like a great idea until you put them on. Trying to dance around in them in the heat – the hat makes that decision for you. But I’ve got some quite fierce looks for this tour, and I’m gonna up the ante. I think it’s quite important, because at the moment everybody looks like everybody else. Everybody in a band seems like they’re in the audience. You look at a band on stage and you say, “Oh, it’s really nice that they’re on stage and they’ve worn their gym clothes to the gig.” (Laughs) There aren’t really many artists – just a lot of backroom boys pretending to be artists. A lot of producers who become pop stars. But there really aren’t many artists around or anybody that stands out. It’s a weird time for pop culture, and I suppose you can only measure current pop culture by what it was like when you were doing your thing. So, I’m always gonna measure it by what I’ve grown up with: David Bowie, Annie Lennox, Prince, Madonna… Of course I’m gonna measure it by that, and I don’t see any of that around at the moment. I mean, Gaga, Nicki Minaj and Rihanna – they’re working a bit of a hot look. More the girls.

What do you think it says about the current state of the music industry that Gaga ended up toning down her image?
Actually, what I think is interesting about Lady Gaga is she’s an incredible theatrical vocalist. She has a whole Judy Garland / Liza Minnelli thing going on, and I’m actually more of a fan of what’s she’s doing now than – I mean, I loved what she did in the beginning. It was great. I remember seeing her on TV and thinking, “What’s she got on now?!” (Laughs) But in terms of her musicality, what she’s doing now is amazing.

I was in bed a few months ago – I had to get up really early the next day – and there was an advertisement for Gaga and Tony Bennett. There was a show on TV and I said, “Well, I’ll watch a bit of it and then I’ll go to sleep.” I ended up watching the whole thing and being gobsmacked by how great she was.

How fair are the comparisons to Madonna?
I’m not saying this to diss Madonna at all – I mean, Madonna doesn’t have anything to prove to anyone; she’s Madonna! – but I really felt all those comparisons were a bit stupid. Of course someone like Lady Gaga, who’s younger than Madonna, is gonna be influenced by Madonna. It’s a complete compliment. That’s how you have to view it. Whenever I see anybody working a look that I might’ve had back in the day – I’ve done it. Why do I need to get upset about it?

As someone who’s always stood for gender fluidity and gender expression, what are your feelings on Caitlyn Jenner?
I think it’s amazing, but there are a lot of other people being overlooked, like Candis Cayne. Caitlyn Jenner is getting the limelight because of the Kardashians, but there are a lot of people who have made that transition – her transition – possible.

I feel in a way we’re starting to, in part, live in a world I always wanted to live in. When I started my career, I was very naive. I wanted to change the world. I wanted to live in a world where it didn’t really matter if someone was gay or straight, transsexual, lesbian, whatever – and we’re certainly getting closer in some areas.

You gotta remember that myself and Caitlyn Jenner live in a celebrity bubble to a certain extent, and there are different rules in that celebrity bubble. But I think it’s great. I think it’s always wonderful when someone is allowed to be who they wanna be no matter how long it takes. I think that’s a beautiful thing to watch. When I saw that interview with Diane Sawyer, I was quite tearful.

I have to say, though: There’s a daisy chain of people who affected change long before I was around, like Oscar Wilde and Quentin Crisp. There are people no one knows about from the Victorian time. I’m always kind of coming across drag queens and Bohemians who were around 100 years ago who were a part of that daisy chain. So, I think it’s amazing that we’re edging toward the kind of liberalism that I always dreamed of.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi)
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Royal Oak – New business partnerships and exciting alliances to benefit the community and enhance the festival experience were announced as organizers, sponsors and festival co-founder, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, shared plans for the 18th Annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. An extended partnership with Ford, expanded relationship with Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and new sponsorships with OUR Credit Union and Vibe Credit Union will boost Ford Arts, Beats & Eats, taking place in downtown Royal Oak Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7.

In its 17-year history, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats has not only entertained millions of people, but has also greatly impacted the entire area by raising $4.5 million from gate admission, beverage proceeds and other festival sponsored community initiatives benefiting nonprofits and civic organizations throughout southeastern Michigan.

“The area’s largest Labor Day weekend celebration will continue to be known as Ford Arts, Beats & Eats as the Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers, in partnership with Ford Motor Company’s Detroit Region, extends its Title Sponsorship agreement, which it has held since 2010, to 2018. The festival’s impact and reach could not be achieved without this key corporate support.

“We are proud to continue to invest in the communities we serve by extending our Title Sponsorship of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats,” said Amy Marentic, Detroit regional sales manager for Ford Motor Company. “The success of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats is due to collaboration among businesses, our communities, and civic organizations,” said L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive. “Their support enables this festival experience to continue for Oakland County’s premier Labor Day festival with the upgrade of the key partnership with Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort as it expands its role to Presenting Sponsor through 2017, making the new official title of the festival as: Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

“We are excited to expand our agreement with Ford Arts, Beats & Eats to become its presenting sponsor,” said Raul Venegas, director of Marketing & Entertainment at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. “In the years of our involvement with the festival, we have found it offers the most successful event marketing opportunity of its kind. It not only creates valuable exposure in the metro Detroit area but it has driven thousands of festival-goers to our properties in Mt. Pleasant.”

Ford Arts, Beats & Eats also announced new partnerships with two credit unions with a downtown Royal Oak presence. OUR Credit Union and Vibe Credit Union will share exclusive rights as financial institution sponsors at the festival.

“The success of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats is due to collaboration among businesses, our communities, and civic organizations,” said L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive. “Their support enables this regional quality of life event to continue without utilizing taxpayers’ dollars.”

To satisfy growing interest, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats will once again present its popular health and fitness activities as part of the weekend’s offerings while also making a few fun tweaks.

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), the area’s cultural beacon for more than a century, is once again involved in Ford Arts, Beats & Eats with two new enriching features, DIA Away: Think Like an Artist and Artist Demonstrations.

DIA Away is a free, mobile interactive classroom for students and a creative exploration space for people of all ages and will add an educational hands-on art experience to the festival. The fully furnished, vibrantly designed 53 foot double-expandable trailer gives participants the opportunity to discover some of the ways artists think and then try out creative thinking skills at digital and hands-on stations.

DIA Away is one of the many ways the DIA shares its world-renowned collection and educational resources outside its museum walls and was created in consultation with area educators, community members, DIA visitors and in collaboration with MRA experiential tours & equipment. DIA Away will be located in the Kids Zone sponsored by DMC Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

In addition, the DIA will be the presenting sponsor of Artist Demonstrations at the festival each day as an extension of their Think Like An Artist exhibit. The DIA will present three onstage art demonstrations each day of the festival. In each demonstration, a festival visual artist will have a piece they are working on, explain how it is made and talk about their techniques. Each demonstration will take between 15 and 30 minutes and will be located on an exclusive stage in the OUR Credit Union parking lot.
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Editor’s Pick

Each year, the Jim Toy Community Center brings together families and friends to celebrate the LGBT and allied community. With food, fun, games, children’s activities, music and even a family-friendly drag show, JTCC invites everyone to join them for the 2015 Washtenaw County Pride Picnic.

This year’s picnic will include veggie and meat brats grilled by The Wurst Bar and delicious sides and desserts from the Aut Bar, Ayse’s Cafe, Frita Batidos and The Lunch Room. This year’s event includes sponsorships by Between the Lines, OutPost, Zingerman’s, Arbor Brewing Company, Washtenaw Community College and many more.

The picnic begins at noon this Saturday, Aug. 1 and runs until 3 p.m. The picnic will be at Ann Arbor’s Allmendinger Park. Admission is $5 for adults, free for those 18 and younger. For more information, visit www.jimtoycenter.org.

### Happenings

#### OUTINGS

**Thursday, July 30**


Operation Kidsafe Safety Week FREE digital fingerprint and photo safety program. Specialized digital imagery equipment will only be in your area for a limited engagement. Did you know over 2,000 children are reported missing everyday in the United States? Don’t miss this opportunity to get your FREE Child Safety Kit, including digital fingerprints and photograph. Safety tips will help you set up a family safety action plan.

Operation Kidsafe, 37720 Amrhein Road, Livonia, 734-237-1052, operationkidsafe22@gmail.com


Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Orkri 6:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105, www.goaffirmations.org

**Friday, July 31**


**Saturday, Aug. 1**

Take It From The Top Musical theater workshop. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, 800-WHARTON, www.whartoncenter.com

Washtenaw Pride Picnic 12 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, Pauline and Fifth, Ann Arbor. www.jimtoycenter.org

**Sunday, Aug. 2**


Purple Rose Theatre Backyard BBQ Fundraiser 3:30 p.m. Tickets: $125. Purple Rose Theatre Company, 8540 Island Lake Road, Dexter.

**Monday, Aug. 3**

Lansing Capital Roller Derby Summer Boot Camp 6 p.m. Six week, 12 session Roller Derby basic skills training boot camp. $60 due day 1 of camp, accepting cash or check. Open to both men and women. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-75, East Lansing. lcrbootcamp@mittenmavens.net www.mittenmavens.net

**Tuesday, Aug. 4**


MAC Health 2 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit, www.michiganaidscouncil.org


**Wednesday, Aug. 5**

Free Pool and $1 Off Beer ‘aunt’BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor, 734-994-3677. www.auntbar.com

MAC Health 6 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105, www.michiganaidscouncil.org

Transgender Michigan Legal Clinic 7 p.m. Are you unsure how the law affects you as a transgender person? If you have a question to ask a lawyer, then come to the Transgender Michigan Legal Clinic. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 810-345-TGML. info@transgendermichigan.org www.transgendermichigan.org/events/pride.html

**Thursday, Aug. 6**

Trivia with Terry and Thirsty Thursday, 7:30 p.m. $1 Off Beer ‘aunt’BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor, 734-994-3677. www.auntbar.com

MAC Health 2 p.m. Mondays by appointment only. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Ferndale, www.michiganaidscouncil.org

Allysa G. Smith, Ninth Annual Percussion Recital Benefiting the Komien 3-Day 6 p.m. A lovely evening of percussion music, including works for marimba, ragtime xylophone, multiple percussion and more! Special guests include Rob Kratz, Sara Potter, Thomas Cushine and Dave Pfankowski, percussion Miriam Lynch, voice and Kelli Creamer, bass. FREE, Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley St., Flint, asmith@dayt@gmail.com www.smithmarimba.com/ the_3-day

MAC Health 11 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 928 McNichols Road W, Detroit. 313-863-9394. www.michiganaidscouncil.org

MAC Health 11 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit, www.michiganaidscouncil.org

**Friday, Aug. 7**


Culture Club 9 p.m. Tickets: $55+ Canadian. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor, 800-991-
Miguel, ‘Wildheart’

Carnal sex is the gateway to bittersweet romanticism on Miguel’s modern-lust-and-love odyssey, “Wildheart.” And the pompadoured R&B seducer’s third studio album is not beating around the bush. Or is it? In the most literal sense, it is; real-life sex is a raw, uninhibited Xtube clip—at least in Miguel’s dirty mind. “I’m your master, babe,” the 29-year-old dreamboat declares on “The Valley,” getting his rocks off D’Angelo style as a pulsating drone and his fan-inducing falsetto works in conjunction with the song’s X-rated setting: the San Fernando Valley, the world’s notorious porn mecca. Its sex-positive takeaway is commendable on its own. Miguel, though, is much too artistically discerning for such simplicity (you’ve obsessively listened to his debut, “Kaleidoscope Dream,” right?), and when he contextualizes his sexual desires, he takes you to the third dimension. Sex isn’t just sex anymore. It’s “coffee in the morning,” and, of course, cuddles and conversation—all of which are the basis for “Coffee,” the post-fuck phase. And then, maybe it’s love (“Waves”). Or maybe it’s not... anymore (“Leaves,” a devastating dose of summertime sadness). Despite a hypersexualized exterior, there’s an unexpected plethora of psychological feelings to sift through on “Wildheart,” and an even wider range of musical influences. One of those muses is, without question, Prince. The veteran’s presence is undeniable throughout this rock- and electro-infused R&B scorcher, a sumptuous, intoxicating and top-shelf set. Grade: A-

Kacey Musgraves, ‘Pageant Material’

Kacey Musgraves was part of the change that country music needed. Guys can love guys and girls can love girls and so what, she proclaimed on “Follow Your Arrow.” Though her Grammy-winning breakthrough anthem matter-of-factly advocated for queer acceptance, the 26-year-old Texan was knocking down doors left and right on her defiant gem-of-a-debut “Same Trailer, Different Park.” That hasn’t changed much with “Pageant Material,” which works both for and against her. On the follow-up to “Same Trailer,” Musgraves assures us she’s not done taking the piss out of people who sniff around in other people’s business (“Biscuits”), and despite modest fame, she maintains an outsider disposition on the title track. She’s also still smoking pot. That easy-going, every-girl authenticity gives Musgraves a leg up on “Pageant Material,” when some of the album’s weightless songwriting can’t live up to its predecessor’s sly, no-sweat scribes. “High Time” is a grass-swaying good time that epitomizes Musgraves’ sonic simplicity; that feet-up, chill-out sound is her trademark, but on “Pageant Material,” it’s paired with vague, vanilla riffs that only scratch the surface of family, love and dogma from her seemingly endless supply of “be yourself” stock. Buttons are still being pushed, just not with the same innovativeness as before (remember “It Is What It Is,” about casual hook-ups?). “Biscuits” is a fine song, though. And even if it’s another shoulder shrug to all the haters, you can’t deny the cuteness of every metaphor on “Cup of Tea.” “Pageant Material,” then, is the dreaded sequel. Same trailer; different, less-interesting park. Grade: C+

Also Out

Adam Lambert, ‘The Original High’

Ladies and gentleman, please welcome Adam Lambert to the Serious Phase of his career. The third installment in the rocker’s post-“Idol” career isn’t merely here for your entertainment. And the makeup? It’s gone. Lambert still keeps it in the clubs on “The Original High”; refreshingly, though, he tries on some new chic sounds, venturing outside his glam-rock romps to spotlight some of his most personal lyrics to date.

Joy Williams, ‘Venus’

Still biting back tears caused by the cataclysmic split of folk duo The Civil Wars last year? Sorry to say, but Joy Williams’ solo comeback album won’t do much to dry your eyes. With her soothing, supple voice, Williams distances herself from her rootsy work with ex-bandmate John White only to take on a decent-but-overwrought genre jumble: synth trip-hop, late ‘90s Lilith pop and smatterings of too much of just about everything else.

Florence and the Machine, ‘How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful’

The dog days are gone... and so are the days when English super-vocalist Florence Welch unleashed her colossal voice like a fireworks show finale. Her belt still bursts from within the deepest depths of her soul, but on her junior release, “How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful,” it’s used sparingly. Welch’s career so far has been, in large part, defined by her lung power. Not anymore. This one’s a big, beautiful slow-burn.
Happenings
Continued from page 24


Saturday, Aug. 8
turnT aut vadIBM, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

Transgender Pride in the Park
12 p.m. All Trans-people and Allies Welcome. Free food, free fun, great friends. Transgender Michigan, Pinecrest Ave & Earl Blvd., Ferndale. 855-345-TGM. info@ transgendermichigan.org www.Transgendermichigan.org/events/pride.html

Sunday, Aug. 9
Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Orikiri

Northalsted Market Days

Salsa Night

Yoga and Pilates in the Garden

Theater

Jeff Daniels' Onstage & Unplugged
A prolific songwriter as well as playwright, Daniels will perform an arsenal of songs that are alternately humorous and poignant. Tickets: $75-125. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 1. 734-433-7673. www.PurpleRoseTheatre.org

Umretown the Musical
Set in an admittedly absurd dystopian future where one must pay to pee, the show lampoons corporate bureaucracy, pie-in-the-sky optimism, revolution without a plan and the musical theatre genre itself. Tickets: $10 - Penny Seats Theatre, West Park Band Shell, Seventh Street between Miller and Huron Rds., Ann Arbor. July 30 - Aug. 15. 734-926-5346. www.pennysheets.org

Professional
All's Well That Ends Well

Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov
A retired diva of the stage, her novelist husband and their two adult children have all invited house guests for the weekend. As they indulge their artistic eccentricities, the guests begin to wonder if they've landed in a madhouse and if they can survive the weekend with their own sanity intact. Tickets: $15-24. Hope Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Northville. Through Aug. 6. 734-766-9810. www.shakespeareroyal oak.com

Always a Bridesmaid
Four friends have sworn to keep the promise they made on the night of their Senior Prom: to be in each other's weddings - no matter what. Tickets: $35-41. The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through Aug. 2. 517-672-6005. www.diotheatre.com

As You Like It

Banana for Turtle

Beaches Trippin’

Buyer & Cellar
Twenty-something AlexMore is a struggling L.A. actor until he takes an intriguing “odd job.” Tickets: $36-43. Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck, Through Aug. 9. 269-857-2398. www.sc4a.org

Ernie
On Detroit Tigers' announcer Ernie Harwell's last night at Comerica Park in September 2009, he encounters an unusual boy who is eager to know all about him, coxing Harwell into giving one final broadcast til the "broadcast of his life." Tickets: $20-25. City Theatre, 2701 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 2. 313-471-6611. www.olympiantertainment.com

Hatfield & McCoy’s
We have all heard of this feud, but who knows the truth! No one, really. This musical comedy adaptation is sure to help you pick sides. Tickets: $43.50. includes meal and show. Cornell’s Dinner Theatre, 18935 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshal. Through Aug. 22. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

Hay Fever
A novel set in the 1930s, its characters live on a very large and luxurious country estate, where they indulge their artistic eccentricities, and where a group of house guests are invited to attend a costume party. Tickets: $120. The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through Aug. 6. 734-766-9810. www.shakespeareroyal oak.com

Invasive Species

Jalal Jones and the Kalashnikov
By Yussef El Guindi - Michigan Premier! Allah is an actor who has just received rave reviews for his performance of Hamlet at a struggling theater in Los Angeles. But he’s having trouble paying the bills - and he needs his big break. And that’s just what his smarmy agent is offering! Tickets: Pay-what-you-can; suggested donation $20. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 16. 734-638-4590. www.theatrenova.com/events/8414

See Happenings, page 31

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### Always Something happening at the aut\BAR Weekly Events and Specials

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Karaoke and 1/2 off wine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>$1 off beer and free pool</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Trivia with Terry and Thirsty Thursday 1/2 off beer and well drinks with Student ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Bistro Fridays Special menu a la carte, or prix fixe 4-course meal for $20</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>turnIT aut\club night at the aut\BAR Progressive Drink specials</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Salsa Night $1 tacos Salsa lessons</td>
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- Affirmations, Ferndale
- MAC Offices, New Center

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 1pm-6pm (By Appointment Only)</td>
<td>Time: 2pm-10pm (Walk-in or Appointment)</td>
<td>Time: 6pm-9pm (Walk-in or Appointment)</td>
<td>Time: 9am-noon 2pm-5pm (Walk-in or Appointment)</td>
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To make appointments or get more information, call: 1-888- A CONDOM (226-6366)

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### Talk to a live expert about STDs

- How long should I wait before testing?
- Where can I find free testing?
- Should I take PrEP?
- My partner is positive but undetectable. How risky is sex?
- I just found out I have HIV. What should I do now?

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www.aidspartnership.org

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@michiganhotline

Volunteer Opportunities - Want to help improve the health of your community? Volunteer with the hotline today!

The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline is a program of AIDS Partnership Michigan
Across
1 HIV exam, e.g. (?) 15 Computer knockoff
5 You may pick one up at a bar 16 It means nothing to Frida
10 “Spartacus” or “Ben-Hur” 17 Source of red balls
14 “ ___ The Woods” 18 Single-handed
19 Wet spot cause 19 Wet spot cause
23 Moist ending 30 Start of a top review
24 Maiden name preceder 31 “Do-Re-Mi” subject
25 Big tops 32 Rilke’s ice
27 Gas or clutch 33 Pussy input
30 Sound of getting banged? 34 Kind of traffic
31 Curve and others 35 Kind of queer
32 Sound of getting banged? 36 Curve and others
37 A space probe 37 Like gay teens with supportive moms and dads
39 Sound of getting banged? 38 Earth tine
41 Tammy Baldwin ad word 39 Even if, for short
42 The other woman 40 “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” actress
43 Make messy 43 AT&T rival
44 Artist Eva 45 “Julius Caesar” setting
46 Some pigeon pieces 46 Jobs of doubles
48 Some pigeon pieces 47 Some Bacon pieces
51 Big tops 49 Pisa place
52 Alf and others 50 Kind of queer
61 Source of red balls 51 Less polite
62 One who comes out after some rubbing 52 Alf and others
63 Firm member (abbr.) 53 End of a top review
70 Wet spot cause 55 Wilson of “Zoolander”
71 Wet spot cause 56 Weathercock
75 Wet spot cause 57 Moby Dick chaser
80 Wet spot cause 58 Old cagers’ org.

Down
1 1 is active in B&D 15 Computer knockoff
2 Bear 16 It means nothing to Frida
3 Eyed impolitely 17 Source of red balls
4 Gertrude Stein’s “A Long Gay Book,” for one 18 Single-handed
5 “Do-Re-Mi” subject 19 Wet spot cause
6 Kate’s sitcom partner 20 Start of a top review
7 Admire a hottie 21 Sib of the bride, to the other bride
8 Shakespeare’s Hathaway 22 OCS grads
9 Bottomless 23 Moist ending
10 Provide 24 Maiden name preceder
11 Wife and wife, e.g. 26 Inflated doll leak sound
19 Wet spot cause 27 Gas or clutch
20 Start of a top review 30 Sound of getting banged?
23 Moist ending 31 Curve and others
24 Maiden name preceder 32 Sound of getting banged?
25 Big tops 33 Pussy input
27 Gas or clutch 34 Sound of getting banged?
30 Sound of getting banged? 36 Curve and others
32 Sound of getting banged? 37 Like gay teens with supportive moms and dads
39 Sound of getting banged? 38 Earth tine
41 Tammy Baldwin ad word 39 Even if, for short
42 The other woman 43 AT&T rival
43 AT&T rival 45 “Julius Caesar” setting
46 Some pigeon pieces 46 Jobs of doubles
48 Some pigeon pieces 47 Some Bacon pieces
51 Big tops 49 Pisa place
52 Alf and others 50 Kind of queer
53 End of a top review 51 Less polite
55 Wilson of “Zoolander” 52 Alf and others
56 Weathercock 53 End of a top review
57 Moby Dick chaser 54 Gets behind
58 Old cagers’ org. 55 Wilson of “Zoolander”
61 Source of red balls 56 Weathercock
62 One who comes out after some rubbing 57 Moby Dick chaser
63 Firm member (abbr.) 60 Court figure Mandlikova
64 Warhol of soup fame 61 Jacques of song
65 Look dirty? 62 One who comes out after some rubbing
66 Pongy’s lady 63 Firm member (abbr.)
67 Computer knockoff 65 Look dirty?
68 Badminton doubles 66 Pongy’s lady
69 Kate’s sitcom partner 69 Kate’s sitcom partner
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Solution below
The Grandmont Community Association will be celebrating its 42nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair. This year’s exhibition will be enhanced by adding jazz to the event. Come enjoy an “open air” shopping experience with over 50 of metro Detroit’s finest local artisans and pop-up businesses.

The fair will highlight the works of local artists from different genres and generations which include young and emerging Sculptor Austin Brantly and three-time National Award-winning Artist Ronald Scarbough. The festival’s main stage will feature an array of performing arts throughout the day. The events grand finale will feature talented up-and-coming jazz vocalist Marchan DeShawn and Roger Tucker & 3/4 Step which includes two band members from Motown’s legendary recording band, The Funk Brothers. This event will also include free health screenings, fun fitness activities, great food, massage tent and much more.

The event will run from 12 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1. The fair will run in Ramsay Park, located on Longacre Street between Grand River & Lyndon, two blocks east of Southfield Fwy., Detroit. The event is completely free and open to the public.

The Art of Murder In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack Brooks, one of the most accomplished and eccentric painters of his generation, and his devoted wife Annie await the imminent arrival of Jack’s art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one. Tickets: $15-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Aug. 23. 517-652-5900. www.williamstontheatre.org

The Great American Trailer Park Musical In this Michigan premiere, Betty, Lin and Pickles are back with a new cast of residents at North Florida’s most exclusive manufactured housing community, Armadillo Acres. Tickets: $34-36. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 9. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

The Taming of the Shrew This classic battle of the sexes takes on new life when given to a group of Stipstream regulars and vibrant students. As we continue to define and redefine gender identity in today’s society, we might be surprised by how the next generation acknowledges the subject. Tickets: $10 by reservation only. Stipstream Theatre Initiative, 20937 John R., Hazel Park. Through Aug. 9. www.stipstreamti.com

ART ‘N’ AROUND


Grandmont Community Association - “42nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair” Free. Ramsay Park, Longacre St., between Grand River & Lyndon, Detroit. 12 p.m. Aug. 1.


The Art of Murder

In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack Brooks, one of the most accomplished and eccentric painters of his generation, and his devoted wife Annie await the imminent arrival of Jack’s art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one. Tickets: $15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Pippin

A troupe of dancers tells the story in this stylized musical of a young prince’s quest for true happiness. Tickets: $12-33. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through Aug. 1. 517-276-6029. www.tibbits.org

Big Joe’s Cafe

A teacher is preparing for his first day of teaching, and after waking up from a restless night, he is thrust into a universe whose inhabitants take him on a trip through parts of speech, arithmetic and social studies to help him for the big day. Tickets: $8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 409 N. Second Ave., Alpena. Through Aug. 2. 989-354-2267. www.thunderbaytheatre.com

Smookey Joe’s Cafe


The Taming of the Shrew

This amazing American trailer park musical is a Michigan premiere, Betty, Lin and Pickles are back with a new cast of residents at North Florida’s most exclusive manufactured housing community, Armadillo Acres. Tickets: $34-36. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 9. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

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