Comedian Sandra Bernhard Gets Serious about LGBTQ Youth
Pays Visit to Detroit's Ruth Ellis Center
If you are HIV negative, a medicine called PrEP can help keep you that way. When you add PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) to your daily routine and combine it with other preventative measures like using protection and regular HIV testing, it could help you reduce your risk of getting HIV by over 90%. Ask your healthcare provider about PrEP. Learn more at michigan.gov/hivstd.
MICHIGAN AIDS WALKS

Walks Look to Raise Awareness, Money

See page 6

CREEP OF THE WEEK

LGBT Activists Abroad Fear a Trump Presidency

See page 11

MEDIA

Check out the latest Screen Queen reviews

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ELECTION NEWS

LGBT Activists Abroad Fear a Trump Presidency

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Cover photo of REC Peer Support Staff from left to right: Donnie Issac, Brandy Smith, Satrice Tillman, Dwayne Cole Jr. with Sandra Bernhard.

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**Ingham County to Consider Backing Needle Exchange**

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners’ Human Services Committee is preparing a resolution to back the findings of an independent investigation into the need for a needle exchange program to prevent HIV and hepatitis C transmission among IV drug users.

The report, the results of an ad hoc committee formed by the Ingham Community Health Center Board of Directors in December, found a need for such programming in Ingham County and recommended that such a program be mobile to provide services beyond Lansing.

The committee came to its recommendations after six months of public meetings that included input from communities of faith, public health, law enforcement and other operating needle exchange programs in Michigan. The committee included Ingham County Commissioner and liaison to the Ingham Community Health Centers Board Todd Tennis, as well as Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum. The committee was headed up by Between The Lines reporter Todd Heywood, who also serves as the vice chair of the health center’s board.

“Thus is a great public health initiative that I look forward to continuing to support,” Byrum said.

Tennis said the program was needed to prevent the transmission of disease as well provide a new point of access for people with addictions to potentially access recovery and treatment options.

“I think the County Commission would see this as a supporting role,” he said of the proposed resolution in support of the report’s recommendations. “It is something we would want to provide technical and administration support for whatever private organizations provide this program.”

**Bone Density Loss for PrEP Users?**

A new study of a small group of young men who have sex with men taking PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis) to prevent HIV infection has raised concern that the drug may be fueling loss of bone mineral density.

“Through 48 weeks, BMD dropped about 1 percent at the hip and about 0.6 percent in the whole body (P < 0.001) but not in the spine,” reported Mark Mascolini in the conference reports for the 18th International Workshop on Comorbidities and Adverse Drug Reactions in HIV. “Percent changes in spine and hip BMD at week 48 correlated with tenofovir diposphate levels in blood cells.”

The average of age of the MSM studied was 20, and 46.5 percent of participants were African-American and 26.5 percent Latino; 79 percent of men identified themselves as gay and 14 percent as bisexual. Most of those enrolled started the study with “below normal” bone mineral density before beginning PrEP.

When the participants stopped using PrEP, the bone mineral density loss was reversed. However, it remains unclear if Truvada, the only drug approved for PrEP in the U.S., was responsible for the loss during drug use, or if nutritional and other factors played a role.

Investigators said the findings “suggest” some impact on bone growth in youth on PrEP.

Read the report: http://www.natap.org/2016/AdverseReactComor/AdverseReactComor_04.htm

**CDC Warns of New Antibiotic Resistance in Gonorrhea**

Last week at a conference on sexually transmitted infections, the CDC raised alarm about a cluster of cases of gonorrhea that appeared resistant to the last lines of treatment defense for the bacterial disease.

“Our last line of defense against gonorrhea is weakening,” Dr. Jonathan Mermin, director of CDC’s National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, said in a press release. “If resistance continues to increase and spread, current treatment will ultimately fail and 800,000 Americans a year will be at risk for untreatable gonorrhea.”

Federal health officials are concerned about a cluster of seven cases identified in Hawaii in April and May of this year that were found resistant to “azithromycin at dramatically higher levels than typically seen in the United States.” Five of those cases also showed “reduced susceptibility to ceftriaxone.” Both drugs are the last approved treatments for the infection.

But CDC officials also noted that recent studies of an experimental antibiotic held some hope in providing a new assault on the bacterial infection.

“ETX0914 works differently from any currently marketed antibiotic. As a single-dose oral therapy, it could be used as an alternative to ceftriaxone injection as a component of recommended therapy for gonorrhea, replacing the need for intramuscular injection,” explained CDC researchers contributed to the preclinical evaluation of the antibiotic by showing it was active in the laboratory against strains of gonorrhea that were resistant to other existing classes of drugs,” the CDC press release explained. The new drug will still have to go through larger clinical trials before it can be approved for general use in the U.S. That could take several more years.

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Millennials Missing from AIDS Walk Detroit

Walk raises $125,000; donations still being accepted

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

ROYAL OAK – There was only the merest hint of fall in the air for this year’s AIDS Walk Detroit. The annual event took place Sunday starting and ending at the Royal Oak Farmer’s Market. Organizers estimate about 1,200 people took part in the march – a slight increase from last year – and that $125,000 has been raised so far.

“We are really pleased with how well the event turned out,” said Teresa Roscoe, AIDS Walk Detroit’s board president. “There was a real feeling of community and support among everyone there.”

To date, AIDS Walk Detroit has raised over $3.8 million to benefit HIV/AIDS services in Michigan, making it the state’s largest grassroots HIV/AIDS fundraiser. But a lot has changed since a group of local merchants and shop keepers in Royal Oak organized the first Walk in 1991.

“We have made progress from the first time we walked until today and we continue to make progress,” said Royal Oak Mayor Jim Ellison at the walk’s opening ceremony. “And this walk needs to continue to happen until we can eliminate this HIV problem.”

Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter also addressed the crowd.

“Their struggle is over but ours continues,” Coulter said, pointing to the panels from the NAMES Memorial Quilt that were displayed on site. “In their name our struggle continues. We have made incredible progress since many of those individuals have passed. But there’s much work to be done, right? There is still stigma for people with HIV and AIDS, especially in our laws and policies, and that has to change. It’s still too hard for people to get access to their life-saving drugs that they need. And we still don’t have a cure.

“So as long as those things are real, we will continue to do what we’ve always done in this epidemic,” Coulter continued. “We will march, we will raise our voices and we will stomp our feet until there is a cure.”

The Missing Millennials

But those doing the shouting and the stomping are getting noticeably older. And as more and more Millennials begin to consider HIV a minor manageable disease, their absence at AIDS Walk Detroit has become apparent. They were not around when contracting HIV at AIDS Walk Detroit has become apparent.

HIV a minor manageable disease, their absence more and more Millennials begin to consider stomping are getting noticeably older. And as people who are older and lived through the history and lost people,” said Roscoe. “Our challenge is to engage those younger people. We’re all still working on that in this field, trying to engage younger people. We’re still trying to fight stigma and make them aware that this is still something to pay attention to.”

Diana Dunbar, who walked this year for the fifth time, agreed that stigma is still a problem.

“The stigma around HIV is still high,” Dunbar said. “That’s what pulls a lot of the youth away from it. ... A lot of the youth don’t come out because they don’t want to be judged. And a lot of them don’t come out because they’re not educated.”

Stephen Sullivan is 25. Unlike many people his age, he has been directly affected by the epidemic having lost an uncle. Still, he realizes not everyone his age has that connection and that it’s a challenge to get more young people to come out and walk.

“I think we have to make it relevant to them and their lives,” Sullivan said. “Some people think it’s just kind of going away, yet we still have 50,000 new infections each year. And it’s the younger community accounting for most of the new infections.”

Roscoe made the same point.

“When we look at the rates of infection now, the groups that are most impacted are young MSMs (men who have sex with men) of color. How do we reach those individuals?” Roscoe asked. “I think we have groups that are doing a good job engaging them, but we need to do more.”

Darius Baty said he walked not because he had lost someone to AIDS, but because he knows someone who is living with HIV.

“I have a friend who is celebrating seven years of surviving with the illness,” he said.

Baty suggested the solution to the missing Millennials problem is education.

“They don’t understand back in the ‘80s how severe the illness was, how we lost a whole community of creative people,” said Baty. “And I don’t feel there are a lot of people that are teaching them that. If you look at the organizations we have now, they’re pushing safer sex and passing out condoms and lube. But there are not a lot of organizations passing out history.”

Marchers gathered and the opening ceremony featured the unfolding of AIDS Quilt panels from The NAMES Project. BTL photos: Jason Michael

For a complete photo album, go to: http://www.pridesource.com
Hundreds Walk in Fight Against AIDS in East Lansing

BY TODD HEYWOOD

EAST LANSING — Under bright sun, hundreds of people gathered and marched Sunday to raise money and awareness in the fight against HIV.

The Lansing Area AIDS Network AIDS Walk started in downtown East Lansing’s Valley Court Park, right next to the East Lansing Farmer’s Market, and wound through the city. Many of the walkers came from various groups at Michigan State University — including the Evans Scholars, the National Association of Black Accountants and others.

Jake Distel, executive director of LAAN, said the walk as of Sunday afternoon had raised over $10,000 for the agency. That money, he said, would be used to shore up weaknesses in the state’s HIV funding awards.

“It helps primarily with our operational costs,” he said, noting state funding caps the administrative costs to be paid by any grant — prevention or care — issues by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The state also limits where prevention dollars can be targeted.

“This allows us to expand our prevention efforts beyond the very targeted groups we are funded to work with,” he said.

Some of the money will also be used as match funding for smaller grants as well as used to help those living with HIV with various living needs such as housing, food and more.

Despite raising over $10,000 for the agency, Distel said the walk is less about fundraising and more about awareness.

“This was a chance to mobilize the young community,” he said. “Most everyone was from the college (Michigan State University).”
Comedian Sandra Bernhard Gets Serious about LGBTQ Youth
Spotlight on Ruth Ellis Center During Annual Voices Fundraising Gala

By Kate Opalewski

Detroit - The Ruth Ellis Center hosted their annual fundraising gala, Voices, on Sept. 22 to grow their base of supporters, express gratitude for current donors and celebrate the agency’s mission and success.

Their signature event, presented by Lear Corporation at the Waterview Loft at Port Detroit, provides critical funding to help continue annual operations at the REC which have allowed the organization to serve runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth for the last 17 years.

“I love to see things happening in Michigan, seeing Michigan reinvigorating and Detroit just coming to life,” said special celebrity guest Sandra Bernhard, who flew in from New York to show her support.

“I was totally blown away,” she said about her visit to the REC before her scheduled appearance at the benefit.

“I love that Ruth Ellis herself was one of the founding members of gay rights in Michigan. She established a place where people could come and find some solace. It’s just so perfect that she’s the namesake. I am very impressed by that. And I’m impressed with the whole take on how to communicate with families and how to get families on board to accept the children so that kids can go back home and be at home at where they belong with their family. It’s heartbreaking when you see and hear all of these things,” said Bernhard, a mother of an 18-year-old daughter.

Although she was raised from the age of 10 in Scottsdale, Arizona, Bernhard was born in Flint. Members of her family who still live in the mitten state joined Bernhard for dinner on the venue’s patio which overlooks the Detroit River and the glistening Canadian skyline.

When asked how she connects with African-American LGBTQ youth, the fellow Michigander expressed her compassion and empathy for the entire African-American community across the country.

“I was always connected with the music, the culture, the creativity, and I never understood why it had to be such a struggle and why it continues to be such a struggle. I don’t understand it. I feel without the black culture we wouldn’t be the country we are,” she said, noting that she has also been around the LGBTQ scene and in the trenches since moving to L.A. as a teenager.

“This evolution of the youth being so much more in touch with their sexuality and gender, it’s very impressive because when I was young we didn’t talk about it. I approached it from a completely different angle, so it’s very inspiring and interesting in many ways to see everybody coming to their understanding of it at such a young age,” she said.

So many feelings and emotions were expressed throughout the evening of Voices as guests enjoyed a silent auction, open bar, appetizers and the opportunity to share in an extraordinary legacy.

“The thing that really impacts me the most at this point in my life and my career … I see how many incredible people there are in the world wherever I go. I do select events throughout the year, many of them being LGBTQ-oriented events … I marvel at the amount of people who dedicate their lives to doing things for people every day that are seemingly quotidian, endless, maybe never without getting any sort of accolades, and I think, ‘Could I do that?’ And I don’t know if I could. Because it’s so great when I can just step in and be glamorous … I know that on a bigger, psychic emotional level, these things trickle down,” Bernhard said.

She continued, “What a world. We’re always in this kind of battle politically, you know, just the human spirit and the day-to-day work that people do is so moving, that you just kind of have to push everything aside and just go, ‘I’m just keeping on my blinders and I’m moving ahead’ because, you know, the world has changed in so many remarkable ways,” she said. “So you can be cynical and you can be the kind of person who just doesn’t see it or doesn’t care, but everybody in this room gets it, knows it, you’re in the trenches with it and it’s so inspiring. We’ve really built an incredible world. It’s important to remember that tonight.”

Wellness Center Campaign

Voices drew attention to the REC’s new Health and Wellness Center for which there is an ongoing capital campaign. The space is scheduled to open this year to expand their services in Highland Park and Detroit to provide LGBTQ youth (whom the REC already serves) access to mental health, substance use disorder treatment and prevention, and primary healthcare. This is made possible as a result of a partnership with the Henry Ford Health System.

REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson presented HFHS CEO Nancy Schlichting with this year’s Ruth’s Angel’s Award, given to individuals in the community who demonstrate dedication to helping provide a safe space for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

During the presentation, Schlichting spoke to hundreds of community members that attended to honor the services that the REC provides.

“As a gay leader, this community has embraced me. The Henry Ford Health System has embraced me in a way that I think is just extraordinary. I tell everyone I know that this is the best place I have ever lived in my entire life,” she said.

The agency currently operates four core services: a residential housing program known as Ruth’s House, the Second Stories Drop-In Center, Second Stories Outpatient Mental Health Services, and the Family Preservation Program, an innovative two-year pilot with significant state-wide implications.

“What makes this so special is, frankly, the people I get to work with everyday. Our team just jumped at the opportunity to help design and build the new health and wellness center and provide the services these young people need in such an important way,” Schlichting said.

“I am so proud of them and so proud of our health system for being a place that’s welcoming to all people. We are selective about partnerships in the community because we want to make sure that they work. I told Jerry that when we met and I saw the quality of leadership that he’s providing and the commitment and talents of the team, it was really easy to jump on board and create this partnership. It’s a sustainable program that people can count on.”

Which is important for the 817 unique individuals as of June 2016 who call Highland Park or Detroit their place of residence and...
access REC services with varying rates of intensity and duration. Around 500 youth and young adults access services annually, of which 10 percent are ages 13-17, 80 percent are ages 18-24, and 10 percent are ages 24-30. Of them, 40 percent are living with HIV.

Elliott Broom, board chair of the REC, is an African-American gay man who shared with the audience that he is able to live comfortably in his own skin. He would have hoped that young LGBTQ people could do the same by 2016, and be accepted by their families, by their friends and by society.

“But unfortunately, that still isn’t the case. The Ruth Ellis Center is there for all the young ladies and men who need support,” he said, reminding guests that 40 percent of all youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ.

“We couldn’t do what we do without all of you. We thank you for what you’ve done in the past, what you continue to do, and what you’ll do in the future.”

Bernhard, a one-of-a-kind comic diva, said she didn’t feel like being funny or silly that night.

“There’s so much pressure,” she said. “I feel like we’re right on the precipice of tipping over the scale in America. It’s just sad because, you know, what does everybody want? Everybody wants to be loved, everybody wants a place to go home at night. Everybody wants to feel comfortable and yet people push it away and their fear and their anger, you know, overrides the day. And look, it’s just so unnecessary, and I’m just so happy and I feel so thankful everyday that I’m on the other side of the scale. I’m on the side that says, ‘Wow, life is always an adventure.’ I always get to meet incredible people wherever I go. I have my connection to my past, to my present, to my future. I see it in my daughter. I don’t know; I just think America’s an incredible place. It’s an emotional place. It’s place’s that’s always tipping the scale … I just want to say that when I leave here tonight, I will continue to put out the good word for the Ruth Ellis Center and do whatever I can.”

REC Director of Development Mark Erwin-McCormick asked potential donors to do whatever they can before closing out the presentation.

“Take a moment to consider what the Ruth Ellis Center means to you, what it means to this community, and most importantly, what it means to the young people who rely on our services every single day.”

Lead sponsors for this year’s Voices gala were Comerica Bank, PNC Bank, Just Energy Foundation, Cadillac, DTE Energy, Credit Adjustments, Pride Source Media Group, Henry Grix and Howard Israel, Jeff Antaya and Peter Rosenfeld, Robert and Connie Sfire, John Allen and Steve Orlando, ISCG, MGM Grand Detroit, Bank of America, Ernst & Young, HFHS, WDET, North American Bankcard, St. John Providence, Flagstaff Bank, and Mariner’s Inn. Signage was donated by Detroit Wallpaper. Floral arrangements were donated by Bellisario Florist.

To contribute to the REC Health and Wellness Center’s capital campaign, please contact Erwin-McCormick at 313-680-3359 or Mark.McCormick@RuthEllisCenter.org.

REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson presented HFHS CEO Nancy Schlichting with this year’s Ruth’s Angels Award, given to individuals in the community who demonstrate dedication to helping provide a safe space for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Photos: Jenna Betwender
A

bout a dozen days ago tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow – at my
age how can I be sure? – I was gifted with a pair of John Lennon
Pre-Donald Trump, to be sure.

Reflected in my hand-held vanity, two-way mirror, these magic
spectacles make me look and feel younger. (To be honest, not an easy
ting to do at my gravity-compromised, sag-along-with-me age.)

The two-circle Lennon spectacles came rainbow wrapped. Gay tasteful
in a box filled with “magic sequins and let’s pretend glimmer.”

Oh, yes! With a note. And, surprise of surprises! A note written in
cursive writing – thanks to the Republicans, rapidly becoming a lost art
form – one word: “Imagine!”

Underneath the sequins and glitter is a folded patchouli-scented
Detroit’s gay intersection. Midnight’s the bewitching moment. Follow!
In or out of high heels or leather.”

And, in small lavender hand lettering, “Count the years backward. Say,
the magic word. Put on these glasses. For a minute or two, be glad you
were gay way back then…”

Let me be honest. I’m a born skeptic. I arrive 15 minutes early –
promptness is the courtesy of kings (or queens, in my case) as the old
saying goes – and I discover, to my chagrin, two empty, dimly lighted
downtown city blocks. Farmer & Bates. Come on, MoTowners, you’ve
got to be kidding!

I stop counting backwards at 60, which it turns out, is just a few seconds
before midnight. Looking about for safety’s sake, seeing I’m not in harm’s
way, I – with just a touch of coming out nervousness – put on my Lennon
specs, and … Oh, my stars. Mary, I can’t believe it!

Farmer & Bates is suddenly alive with hundreds of tourists eagerly
watching from behind street-lined wooden barricades. There are shouts
of approval. Loud applause, as one by one, gaudy costume by glorious
costume, drag queens by drama queens arrive, turn, bow, pause regally
of approval. Loud applause, as one by one, gaudy costume by glorious

See Smith: Gimme Shelter
At the same time, my long-expired glasses are not tinted rose. I am certain that transgender people will still find themselves turned away for the same reasons, if — hopefully — in lesser numbers. I don’t think I am being cynical in an era where Kim Davis was allowed to flaunt the Supreme Court of the United States on marriage equality, or while transgender students and others are still being barred from appropriate facilities around the country, in spite of policies from the Department of Education and rulings throughout the current administration.

I also would be remiss to not stress the last three words in the previous paragraph. We are in the waning months of the Obama administration, and face a somewhat uncertain future as both Clinton and Trump continue to swing it out. If there’s anything the Obama years have taught me, it is not only the person at the top who does the work, but people throughout a president’s bureaucracy. It’s not that Obama himself made these HUD rules happen solely by his own hand, but by dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people working in the West Wing and elsewhere.

Depending on who next occupies the Oval Office, the work started prior to 2012 and strengthened in 2015 and 2016 could be dismantled. Transgender people who have seen their rights expand over the last eight years might see them continue to be reduced, perhaps even more if we end up with a hard-right Supreme Court in place.

Transgender people, as I reminded you, are already often on the margins of society. We still lack employment protections. We still face discrimination both large and small. We still have to fight for justice in scores of murders.

Rules like this from HUD are huge boons for us, but are also only one more step on a much longer path. It is vital that we be allowed to continue ever forward.

Gwen Smith loves being hung up on. You’ll find her at www.gwensmith.com

Women, while an additional 13 percent offered an isolated location or shelter with non-transgender men.

It is worth noting, too, that two of the four states had LGBT protections, and those states were twice as likely to provide appropriate shelter compared to states that did not. Also, shelters specific to women were over 10 percent more likely to shelter a trans woman.

Nevertheless, callers were misgendered. They were not to be asked intrusive questions about their genital status and should not be denied access based on identity paperwork nor due to others’ discomfort with trans people. It further specified that a person’s gender identity be respected.

In all the above, the majority of shelters failed.

HUD created the 2015 guidelines in response to the LGBT Equal Access Rule issues put in place in 2012. That rule prohibited discrimination based on marital status, sexual orientation, and, of course, gender identity.

The guidelines have — as of Sept. 20 — been strengthened, with HUD issuing a final rule requiring that transgender people be treated equally in any federal-funded shelters. This new rule should prevent what the Center for American Progress and the Equal Rights Center discovered last year in their survey.

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Creep of the Week

Donald Trump

I just finished watching the first debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. The expectations for her were very high. The expectations for him, not so much. What I witnessed tonight was a man proving, unequivocally, that he is completely unqualified to hold any office, let alone the highest office in our country. It was, to use political science terminology, a real shit show. LGBT issues weren’t discussed in the debate, but Trump did defend his hatred of Rosie O’Donnell.

“I said very tough things to her and I think everyone would agree that she deserves it and nobody feels sorry for her,” he said.

Yeah, like after O’Donnell got engaged in 2011 and he Tweeted, “I feel sorry for Rosie new partner in love whose parents are devastated at the thought of their daughter being with @Rosie–a true loser.”

Surely “everyone” agrees, but only if “everyone” is as terrible as Trump.

Here’s a newsflash: LGBT voters are not particularly enamored with Trump.

According to an NBC poll released Sept. 26, a whopping 72 percent of LGBT voters support Clinton. Wait, did I say “whopping?” I meant measly. WTF, y’all? This should totally be 100 percent. Oh, wait. I almost forgot about Milo Yiannopoulos. Make that 99.9 percent.

That Clinton is ahead here is not a surprise. LGBT folks tend to vote for Democrats, which makes sense. Trump has tried reaching out to LGBT voters, but any efforts became null and void when he chose the notoriously anti-LGBT Mike Pence to be his running mate. And the Democrats are, after all, the only major party that acknowledges them as human beings deserving of rights and worthy of love. The Republicans, on the other hand, think that LGBT people exist solely to make life difficult for Christian bakers, florists and website designers.

And in that spirit, Trump is vowing to sign the so-called First Amendment Defense Act, which would shield those who discriminate against LGBT people from legal repercussions. Trump and the Republicans surrounding him believe in protecting the right to discriminate, not protecting LGBT people from discrimination.

As Clinton wrote on Sept. 19, “When (Trump) talks about making America great again, it’s code for taking America back to a time when many of us — women, people of color, immigrants, LGBT Americans, people with disabilities — were marginalized, ostracized and treated as less-than.”

In other words, Trump and Pence represent the worst parts of America. They’re appealing to straight, white men who are reeling after seeing even a modicum of their privilege slipping away. And he sure as hell isn’t going to stand for a bunch of “losers” taking away what he believes rightfully belongs to men like him.

Clinton, on the other hand, has a much more inclusive vision for America. She’s promised to “make sure that no special interests can get in the way of protecting and expanding civil rights, LGBT rights and all human rights.”

Make no mistake that Trump represents a backsliding of progress in this country. Not just for LGBT people, but for anyone considered a minority.

The fact that so many anti-LGBT stalwarts are united behind Trump is very telling.

Make no mistake that Trump represents a backslidding of progress in this country. Not just for LGBT people but for anyone considered a minority. The fact that so many anti-LGBT stalwarts are united behind Trump is very telling. Add that to the white supremacists who are ardent supporters and Clinton’s “basket of deplorables” comment starts to look a little too kind.

There are always going to be people who support him even though he is a semi-sentient spray tan. Republicans are uniting behind him because they want to see Supreme Court nominees that would throw marriage equality and reproductive rights in the trash. Even if that means saddling the country with a completely unstable and dangerous leader.

Vote like your future depends on it. Because it does.
Landmark LGBT-Friendly Restaurant to Clean Up Its Act

BY BTL STAFF

Although Como’s restaurant in downtown Ferndale was temporarily closed on Sept. 21 by the Oakland County Health Division, they will be working hard to make changes.

Owner George Grego told The Detroit Free Press on Sept. 23 that he hopes to re-open Como’s on the corner of Nine Mile and Woodward in three to five weeks with a renovated dining room and kitchen, a properly trained staff and a new menu that’s “fresh, lighter and locally sourced.”

This “facelift” follows a decision by the Food Service Appeal Board to temporarily revoke the restaurant’s business license.

“The law requires us to inspect restaurants minimally twice per year,” said George Miller, director of the OCHD. “Unfortunately for Como’s we’ve had quite a number of contacts with them between 2013 and 2016.”

Miller told The Detroit Free Press that multiple violations stemmed from concerns over the potential spread of food-borne illness, citing issues such as cross-contamination of food, improper personal hygiene among staff and not properly marking dates on food items, among other issues. The restaurant, known for its outdoor patio and late-night hours, also had its liquor license temporarily suspended in 2015 for two violations of state liquor law.

Como’s, which was renovated most recently in 1997, has been closed before as a result of fires, a flood, and the Northeast power blackout of 2003, but Grego said this was the first time the restaurant had been closed by the OCHD since it was opened in 1961 by his parents, George and Sicilia Grego.

The restaurant has built a reputation for being a strong activist for the LGBT community.

Getting Fit for Disabled Michigan Vets

Ann Arbor Business to Host October Cardio Charity Relay

BY BTL STAFF

ANN ARBOR – Fitness can play an important role in helping disabled veterans deal with the psychological and physiological effects that a war-related injury can have on them.

Take Bobby Body of St. Johns, Michigan, for example. He was an Army Airborne infantryman injured in February 2006 by an improvised explosive device in Iraq. The explosion severely injured his left side and lead to his evacuation back to the states, where he would later be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. After being medically retired from the Army in 2009, and undergoing numerous surgeries, Body’s left leg was ultimately amputated above the knee in 2013.

His journey toward recovery was documented by Disabled American Veterans, founded in 1921 as an advocacy and direct service organization that helps disabled service members receive the benefits they are entitled to by law.

While recovering from his amputation at the Ann Arbor Veterans Healthcare System’s amputee rehabilitation clinic, Body saw how long and arduous recovery could be, often lasting months. It was a timeline he did not want to endure. Through his positive attitude and can-do spirit, Body walked out of the clinic in less than seven weeks. Doctors and therapists at the Ann Arbor VA took notice of Body’s unique mental and physical abilities during his recovery and recruited him to become a counselor to other veterans who either had PTSD or recent amputations.

Using exercise as a healthy outlet, Body propelled himself into the world of powerlifting, winning a national tournament and placing in multiple World Championships against non-disabled competitors.

DAV National Commander Moses A. McIntosh, Jr. explained that Body is a shining example of everything that is good about our nation and its veterans, which is why he was selected as the 2016 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

The compassion he shows for other veterans and his work to help them find success is truly the hallmark of this award, and we’re very proud of what he’s doing for this community, McIntosh said.

Show Support

Many veterans are permanently physically limited due to their injuries and medical conditions. In spite of this, many are still interested in keeping in shape as best they can, healing themselves through exercise.

Local civilians can show support by exercising at the day-long Cardio Relay event to benefit the Michigan Department of DAV from 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Oct. 14 at the Better Living Fitness Center at 834B Phoenix Drive in Ann Arbor.

The goal is to raise $10,000 for disabled vets living in Michigan. During the event, participants are invited to sign up to work out for 15-minute time slots on one of Better Living Fitness Centers’ eight cardio machines, which include two stationary bicycles, three elliptical machines and a treadmill. Event participants are encouraged to make a donation onsite to DAV in exchange for their workout.

Founder Mark Thiesmeyer called DAV a perfect organization for this new facility’s first charity event in partnership with Tortoise and Hare Running and Fitness Center in Ann Arbor, and Between The Lines in Livonia.

“One of my dreams for the fitness center is to have it be a place that benefits the entire community, he said. At the same time, Disabled American Veterans is a fantastic organization that makes sure our veterans receive the benefits that they have earned and deserve.”

Access Benefits

The veteran population in Michigan is large, with around 634,000 representing almost nine percent of the state’s total adult population according to a 2013 Michigan Veterans Workforce Study. An estimated one in five of those veterans self-report one or more disabilities.

Many disabled service members who qualify for veteran benefits are not using them. Often times they don’t know if they’re eligible or how to access them.

Veterans who qualify for a 100-percent disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs are entitled to additional benefits not afforded to other veterans. Disability compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to veterans who are at least 10 percent disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a mental health
Grego’s family was known for telling customers back then to “hit the road” when they refused to be waited on by LGBT employees.

“Way before it ever became fashionable or even permissible to admit LGBT people into bars and restaurants, Como’s was welcoming and supportive,” said Craig Covey, former Ferndale mayor, who frequented the restaurant in the ’80s and ’90s for community meetings and socializing with other LGBT political activists.

As an establishment that has provided employment for hundreds of young people, including LGBT young people, it has been one of Covey’s favorite hangouts for the past 30 years.

“Como’s was always there for us. They said yes to every event and fundraiser, including the Pride festivals, the pub crawls, the blues festivals, and on and on,” Covey said. “I estimate that just in my fundraising for local LGBT and AIDS charities, Como’s donated in excess of $15,000 over the decades.”

What People are Saying on Facebook

Despite the overwhelmingly negative public comments shared on social media since the news broke, several supporters of Como’s have posted www.facebook.com/Comos—they are confident this is just a bump in the road for the first LGBT-friendly establishment that has made a positive impact in the area.

Debra Young said, “Looking forward to the grand reopening. Love Sicilia.”

Gary Bredow said, “I love Como’s, and George is a great guy. They’ll get the issues fixed and reopen.”

Dora Heski said, “I completely love your pizza and am happy to hear you are moving forward, and we can continue enjoying the decor, ambience, and food that I can’t stop eating.”

Julio Antonio Amill said, “Best wishes Sicilia. Can’t wait to see the new digs.”

For more information about Como’s, visit their www.comosferndale.com. Between The Lines will continue to report on this story. Watch for online updates.

Disabled Vets

Continued from p. 12

conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

With almost 1,300 chapters and 1.3 million members across the country, DAV provides more than 700,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with more than 300,000 benefit claims annually. In 2015, DAV helped attain more than $4 billion in new and retroactive benefits to care for veterans, their families and survivors. DAV is also a leader in “connecting veterans with meaningful employment, hosting job fairs and providing resources to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream their sacrifices have made possible.”

For more information or to register for the charity event, contact the center at 734-747-0123 or email office@betterliving.biz. To connect with the DAV in Michigan, visit their website at www.mi-dav.org.

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Layla and Majmun
Mark Morris Dance Group
The Silk Road Ensemble
Mark Morris, director and choreographer
Howard Hodgkin, set and costume designer
Alim Gasimov and Fargana Gasimova, mugham vocals
Thursday, October 13 // 7:30 pm
Friday, October 14 // 8 pm
Saturday, October 15 // 8 pm
Power Center

Mark Morris’s lyrical choreography, the soulful voices of Azerbaijan’s Alim Gasimov and Fargana Gasimova, the vibrant musicality of the Silk Road Ensemble, and the striking visual palette of British painter Howard Hodgkin combine in this new, large-scale production that receives its world premiere in September.
Debate 1: Are LGBT Voters Mixed on Clinton?

BY LISA KEEN

Most political observers seemed to score Monday night’s first presidential debate for Democrat Hillary Clinton, noting that she seemed to “get under the skin” of Republican Donald Trump. And a national poll released last Friday suggests most LGBT voters are leaning toward Clinton, in percentages fairly consistent with past voting trends.

Although LGBT issues did not come up during the 90-minute debate, Trump made reference to his well-publicized and long-standing feud with lesbian comedian Rosie O’Donnell. His remark came after Clinton repeated a frequent criticism of Trump, that he has said derogatory things about many women. Trump responded by acknowledging that he has said some “very tough things” about O’Donnell but that “I think everybody would agree that she deserves it, and nobody feels sorry for her.”

The Trump-O’Donnell feud dates back 10 years and started when O’Donnell called Trump a “snake oil salesman,” he called her a “loser,” and they traded barbs back and forth. The spat took on some political significance during a Republican primary debate last year when Fox News moderator Megyn Kelly asked Trump about his record of making derogatory comments about women, calling them “fat pigs,” “dogs,” “slobs” and “disgusting animals.” Trump, quipped, “Only Rosie O’Donnell.”

Gregory Angelo, head of the national Log Cabin Republicans group, said that “nothing” can be read into Trump’s remarks about O’Donnell Monday night. The long-standing feud, he said, “had nothing to do with (O’Donnell)’s sexual orientation.”

“I didn’t read anything into Donald Trump’s comments then or during tonight’s debate as anything resembling an anti-gay attitude,” said Angelo.

But Trump’s revival of his attacks on O’Donnell to deflect attention away from his negative comments on women generally came just days after the Human Rights Campaign criticized him for “hiring notoriously anti-LGBTQ politician” Rick Santorum and other anti-LGBT politicians to a “Faith and Cultural Advisory Committee.” Trump also last week released a second list of people he would consider naming to the U.S. Supreme Court. Among them was former Colorado Solicitor General Tim Tymkovich, who defended the state’s anti-gay Amendment 2 before the U.S. Supreme Court.

But anecdotal evidence and some data suggest many LGBT Republicans are still likely to back Trump Nov. 8. Angelo said he is seeing “a lot of enthusiasm among LGBT voters for Donald Trump.” Matthew Shuman, head of the Arizona chapter of Log Cabin, said he got two emails immediately after the debate from gay Republicans wanting to volunteer for the Trump campaign.

Both Angelo and former national Log Cabin president Rich Tafel said they have heard a number of LGBT people who supported Democrat Bernie Sanders say they might not vote for Clinton.

“I’ve had some amazing conversations with my Bernie friends. I’ve been a bit surprised by the depth of their dislike of Hillary,” said Tafel. “It is ironic that my centrist GOP friends gay and straight seem more comfortable voting for Hillary than my Bernie friends.”

The results of an NBC poll released last Friday show the LGBT vote splitting pretty much the way it always does in presidential elections – 72 percent for the Democrat, 20 percent for the Republican.

When asked to consider Clinton, Trump, Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson, and Green Party candidate Jill Stein, LGBT identified voters went 63 percent to Clinton, 15 percent to Trump, 13 percent to Johnson, and 8 percent to Stein.

“An overwhelming 82 percent of LGBT registered voters said they have an unfavorable impression of Trump compared to 41 percent who said they have an unfavorable impression of Clinton,” said NBC. “Just under six in 10 said they have a favorable impression of Clinton. Only 17 percent said the same of Trump.”

Angelo said he expects the LGBT vote to be higher and noted that the NBC sample was heavily Democratic. The survey included 1,728 self-identified LGBT people, surveyed between Sept. 5-18. Seventy percent of the registered LGBT voters surveyed said they were Democrats or leaning Democratic; 18 percent Republican or Republican-leaning; and 13 percent Independent.

Michigan

Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBT Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, said he was a Sanders supporter and he “absolutely” thinks most LGBT Sanders supporters will vote for Clinton.

“As a Bernie delegate to Philadelphia,” LaChey, “I watched the change as the convention progressed where he and his delegates, LGBT and otherwise, came on board with Hillary in large part because her adoption of many of his core positions in the 2016 DNC platform.”

LaChey said he would urge LGBT voters to “do your research on the issues that matter most to you in your day-to-day life. …I trust that you will come to the conclusion that only Clinton/Kaine will promote LGBT equality in the upcoming four years.”

Lorri Jean, chief executive officer of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, said she, too, thinks most Sanders supporters will back Clinton. But, she added, “I also think there remains a significant number of young Sanders supporters who are disaffected and are supporting neither Trump nor Hillary.”

“They are attracted to Johnson because he isn’t Trump or Clinton,” said Jean, “but they do not understand that Libertarians, and Johnson himself, generally do not support many issues that are typically of great importance to young voters.”

Jean said she was struck Monday night with Trump’s “insensitivity to communities of color.”

“If he would stereotype them in the way he has,” said Jean, “it’s likely that he would do the same to LGBT people.”

Gay political columnist Richard Rosendall agreed. Noting that voting rights for African-Americans and reproductive rights for women have “been eroded and are under continual attack,” Rosendall said, “It is hard to understand why LGBT folk would think our advances are invulnerable.”

“If Trump wins, he can be expected to cater to the racist, sexist, xenophobic, Islamophobic, homophobic and transphobic right wing that is his base. …The Republicans are determined to erase the Obama presidency, and Barack Obama is the most pro-LGBT president in history.”

Angelo said the board of the national Log Cabin group would discuss whether to make an endorsement when it meets this weekend in Washington, D.C. Although Angelo would not discuss his own preference for a candidate, he did say he felt Trump’s performance during Monday’s debate shows “he can more than hold his own against Hillary Clinton.”

Recent polls certainly suggest Trump is holding his own against Clinton.

Openly gay election data guru Nate Silver of fivethirtyeight.com now calculates Clinton as having only a 55 percent chance of winning – that’s down from as much as 70 percent just a few weeks ago. Silver calculates Trump’s chances at 45 percent.

RealClearPolitics.com says its average of polls shows Clinton at 47 percent, Trump at 44 percent. Individual polls show support for the two candidates within the margin of error of each other.
Clinton Underscores LGBT Rights to Win Over Millennials

For a Democrat, Clinton has low support among young voters

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

With polls showing a decline in support among Millennials, Hillary Clinton is underscoring LGBT rights to keep young voters from straying from the Democratic presidential ticket on Election Day.

Clinton referenced the importance of continuing the LGBT rights advancements seen under the Obama administration during a speech Monday intended to rally Millennials at Temple University.

Contrasting her views with Donald Trump’s demonization of minority groups, Clinton offered a vision of America eliminating the barriers they face. Along with black people who think their lives are disposable, immigrants who fear deportation and young men and women sexually assaulted on college campuses, Clinton said there are “too many young LGBT Americans bullied.”

“You aren’t and you shouldn’t be satisfied with the progress we’ve made,” Clinton said.

“You should keep wanting to right wrongs and fight for justice and dignity for all.”

Throughout her speech, Clinton articulated plans aimed at helping Millennials, including reforms allowing refinancing of student debt, making public college tuition free to those who can’t afford it and debt free for everyone and investing in climate change technology.

Clinton also discussed her history at length. At the time Trump’s real estate company was allegedly denying housing to black and Puerto Rican applicants, Clinton reminded the audience that as a young civil rights lawyer, she sought to make lives for minorities and children better as a law student, and then as a lawyer, under her mentor, Children’s Defense Fund founder Marian Wright Edelman.

“I learned that to drive real progress, you have to change both hearts and laws, so we gathered evidence, we built a coalition and our work helped convince Congress to ensure access to education for all students with disabilities,” Clinton said. “And that experience turned me into a lifelong advocate for children and families.”

This work, Clinton said, made people “surprised, and even threatened” by the idea of an activist first lady when her husband was elected president, but she was undaunted and, after her unsuccessful attempt at passing universal health care, shepherded into law the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Later in her speech, Clinton made a veiled reference to LGBT people when she presented a vision for the future and said “there’s no doubt in my mind that young people have more at stake in this election than any other age group.”

“We will say we build a future where all our children have the opportunity to live up to

See Clinton and Millennials, page 17
LGBT Activists Abroad Fear a Trump Presidency

GOP nominee sparks anger around the world

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

LGBT activists around the world are increasingly concerned about the potential impact that a Donald Trump presidency could have overseas.

Ahmed “Danny” Ramadan, a gay Syrian man who received asylum in Canada in 2014, described Trump as “a scary figure” who “started as a joke.”

“He is in a position to actually lead one of the most powerful countries in the world,” Ramadan told the Washington Blade this week in an email from Vancouver. “Donald Trump built his whole campaign on his attacks against immigrants like me, coming from the other side of the world and trying to build honest and beautiful lives for ourselves in the West.”

Trump sparked outrage in June 2015 when he described Mexicans as “rapists” at his campaign announcement. LGBT advocacy groups sharply criticized the billionaire Republican a few months later when he proposed a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the U.S.

Trump made the announcement days after a couple who had pledged their allegiance to the so-called Islamic State killed 14 people and wounded 20 others at a social service center in San Bernardino, California. ISIS also claimed responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks in Paris last November that left more than 100 people dead.

Trump reiterated his call to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the U.S. in the wake of the June 12 massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, that left 49 people dead and 53 others injured. He also said his administration would suspend immigration “when there is a proven history of terrorism against the United States, Europe and our allies.”

Trump announced last month that his administration would ban immigrants “from some of the most dangerous and most volatile regions of the world that have a history of exporting terrorism.” He also said potential immigrants to the U.S. would be required to pass an “ideological test” that would include LGBT-specific questions.

“This guy plainly said he’s going to put a cap on Muslims entering the United States,” said Tarek Zeidan, a Lebanese LGBT activist who is currently studying at Harvard University.

Tommy Chen of Rainbow Action, an advocacy group in Hong Kong, told the Blade this week that the Obama administration’s efforts to promote LGBT rights abroad have had a direct impact in the former British colony. He expressed doubts that these policies would continue if Trump were elected.

“As a community we have strong doubts about Donald Trump’s implementation of policies that will effect the LGBT community, in the U.S., and its effects around the world,” said Chen.

Juana Mora, an independent Cuban LGBT activist, was far more blunt. “Donald Trump would be a disaster for the LGBTI community,” she told the Blade this week from Havana.

Mora said a Trump presidency would also have an adverse impact on the normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba that Obama announced in 2014. Maykel González, a journalist and independent LGBT activist who lives in the Cuban city of Sagua la Grande, agreed.

“The process of normalizing relations began with the Democrats,” González told the Blade. “We all believe on the island that this would continue better if the Democrats maintain the president.”

An activist in Mauritania with whom the Blade spoke said Trump could bolster the country’s LGBT rights movement.

Mauritania is among the handful of countries in which homosexuality remains punishable by death. The activist with whom the Blade spoke said Trump could help address long-standing racial inequalities in the country.

“I’m with Trump,” said the activist.

Clinton recognized for ‘gay rights are human rights’ speech

Activists with whom the Blade has previously spoken have pointed out Clinton delivered her landmark “gay rights are human rights” speech in Geneva in 2011. The Obama administration on the same day directed government agencies that implement U.S. foreign policy to promote LGBT rights abroad.

Trump’s running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, opposed these efforts when he was a member of the House of Representatives.

“We, along with many other organizations, have welcomed the proactive and positive role taken by the current U.S. administration to advance LGBTI equality in the world,” ILGA-Europe told the Blade this week in a statement. “We can only hope that the next U.S. administration, whatever its make-up, continues to support LGBTI equality, both in word and deed.”

Francisco Robledo, director of the Workplace Alliance for Diversity and Inclusion in Mexico City, said he remains confident the U.S. would continue to promote LGBT rights abroad if Clinton were elected.

He told the Blade these efforts would have a positive impact around the world.

“The dominoes would fall rapidly in Mexico and in other countries,” said Robledo.

Mora agreed.

“The LGBTI community would continue to have successes in its social struggles for the recognition of our rights,” she said.

Erick Martínez, a Honduran LGBT rights activist, noted Clinton’s response to the 2009 coup that toppled then-President Manuel Zelaya has been criticized. He nevertheless said the former secretary of state would do more to promote global LGBT rights than Trump.

“She would maintain the work that President Obama has developed,” said Martínez.

Clinton continues to face criticism from Trump and Republican lawmakers over her handling of the 2012 raid on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that left U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other Americans dead.

A gay activist in Benghazi told the Blade that many Libyans “don’t like” Clinton because of the incident. Zeidan said many people in the Middle East also distrust the former secretary of state because of her “hawkish” foreign policy and her relationships with Egypt and other countries in which LGBT people continue to face persecution.

Clinton last week applauded the announcement that the U.S. would provide the Israeli military with $38 billion over the next decade.

“America’s commitment to Israel’s security must always remain rock-solid and unwavering,” she said in a statement.

Zeidan told the Blade that many people in the Middle East remain critical of U.S. involvement in human rights and other issues within the region.

“With a Hillary win, the programs that we have seen set in place and the positions ... will likely continue,” he said.
their God-given potential no matter who they are, where they’re from, what they look like or who they love,” Clinton said.

The LGBT components of Clinton’s speech were similar to the reference to LGBT rights Tim Kaine made on NBC’s “Meet the Press” Sunday when asked about the dwindling support for the Democratic presidential ticket among Millennials.

“Do you believe in immigration reform or don’t you?” Kaine said. “We do, Millennials do. Do you believe in LGBT equality or don’t you? We do, Millennials do, Donald Trump doesn’t. And finally, do you have a plan to deal with college affordability? We have one. Millennials need one.”

Clinton may need additional support from Millennials to pull off a win in the general election. Polls demonstrate many young voters are likely to support Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. (Although that might change as a result of his continued gaffes, such as saying he was glad “nobody got hurt” during attacks in New York City that injured 25 people and stabbings in Minnesota that injured eight.)

As reported by NBC News, a national Quinnipiac poll showed Clinton has 31 percent support among voters 18-to-34 years old, giving her a slim 5-point lead in this age group over Trump. That’s down from the support of 48 percent of youth and the 24-point lead over Trump she enjoyed last month.

As Kawashima-Ginsberg pointed out, a Fusion poll last year found half of Millennials think of gender as a spectrum, not binary. Youths who are also white were most likely to support the idea of a non-binary gender system. Fifty-five percent of white Millennials said gender is on a spectrum, compared to 47 percent of Latinos and 32 percent of black youth.

Laura Epstein, press secretary for the People for the American Way, said the policies Clinton outlined during her Temple University speech demonstrate “why she’ll be a strong advocate for Millennials in the White House.”

“While Trump has promised Supreme Court justices who’d overturn abortion rights and reject LGBT rights, Hillary Clinton will appoint justices who will protect fundamental constitutional rights for all Americans, including protecting Americans’ right to vote over the right of billionaires to buy elections,” Epstein said. “The next president could nominate up to four Supreme Court justices, and that stark contrast between Clinton and Trump is a big reason why Millennials will reject Trump’s campaign of hate and turn out to vote for Hillary Clinton.”

Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of Tisch College’s Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning (CIRCLE), a non-partisan research center on youth engagement, said emphasis on LGBT rights is a good way for Clinton to shore up support among Millennials.

“Acknowledging that Millennials are diverse in many ways – and developing policies and practices that communicate a culture of care for youth with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations – could appeal to a large number of young people who may feel that issues important to them are being neglected,” Kawashima-Ginsberg said.

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BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

A Taste of Honey

Remember 1961? The world was straighter then. There was no Will, no Grace. No Ellen, either. So, it’s no surprise films from this era had to eschew queerness. When British New Wave delight “A Taste of Honey” stirred the pot with its explicit-for-the-time portrayal of a groundbreaking gay character named Geoffrey (Murray Melvin), who gets chummy with fellow outsider Jo (Rita Tushingham), it was a landmark for both the film and for the future of LGBT cinema. Geoffrey is sympathetic to Jo’s situation: Her selfish, socialite mother is too busy pursuing male suitors to invest an iota of attention in her daughter. First, Jo finds refuge in a black sailor named Jimmy – his race leading to contention in one of the film’s controversial subplots – and then Geoffrey, whose homosexuality piques her curious, guileless mind (“I’ve always wanted to know about people like you”), who’s “just like a big sister” to her and whom she relishes because “I always want to have you with me because I know you’ll never ask anything from me.” Openly non-hetero portrayals in cinema weren’t, obviously, a reality in the ’60s.

Of course, later, we’d celebrate many gay characters in films such as “Brokeback Mountain” and “Weekend,” but thanks to a newly restored Blu-ray edition of “A Taste of Honey” from Criterion Collection, today’s nonconformists can experience a seminal moment in LGBT cinema history, a gauge of just how far we queers have come on the screen. Don’t forget to tune into the extras, which include Melvin’s illuminating remarks about using mere context clues to depict Geoffrey’s sexuality. “I always say I was the start of gay pride,” he says. “It’s old gown to me, honey. It was on my shoulder and I’m very proud of it.” Certainly, he should be.

Everybody Wants Some!!

Let’s hear it for the boys who don denim cutoffs and romp around the locker-room and spank each other.
It’s all so casual – a suggestive position, a couple of perky nipples, a guy with a donk so juicy other guys can’t help but admire it too.

And that’s the charm of “Everybody Wants Some!!,” the gayest non-gay movie since everything James Franco has made in the last five years. Like vintage porn without the man-on-man sexy time, director Richard Linklater’s irresistible throwback teems with the kind of bro-y homoeroticism you lap up at your local gym. Maybe it’s the source material: jocks, the ‘80s, years of mounting gay subtext like that volleyball scene in “Top Gun.”

“Everybody Wants Some!!” is one big and very welcome cock tease, but because Linklater is an accomplished filmmaker – it doesn’t get much better than his groundbreaking film “Boyhood” – this wonderfully amusing and adjacently gay frat film is more than male-gazing. In the lead role is “Glee” star Blake Jenner, as puppy-eyed Jake, a high school pitcher entering his freshman year of college and experiencing the typical first-year intimidation from his teammates. It’s not long before those same teammates, who razz him for being new and without their pervy streak, learn that even a college newbie can have a few tricks up his sleeve.

You know the scene. The pig’s blood. The car wreck involving a young John Travolta. Then what follows: the showdown with her mother (played by the wonderfully nutty Piper Laurie). In all its gory glory and queer resonance, and executed with surprising grace, “Carrie” did to proms and periods what “Nightmare on Elm Street” did to dreams. The mayhem lives on courtesy of Shout! Factory, with a stacked edition honoring its nearly half-century reign. Included among the supplemental materials: a peek at the film’s musical version and rare photos. But most satisfying are the ample interviews, featuring Spacek and director Brian De Palma, that thoroughly explore “Carrie” from inception through its reboot-sparking legacy.

Carrie

If you saw the original “Carrie” in 1976, you know how greatly it resonated with the queer population – so much so that one gay filmmaker even remade it for the #ItGetsBetter era. Nearly four decades after Stephen King’s book first became a film, “Boys Don’t Cry” out director Kimberly Peirce resurrected the classic revenge tale in 2013, though so innocuously she may as well have left it alone. “Carrie” didn’t need a remake. This 40th Anniversary Collector’s Edition reminds us why. For one: the spooky yet wholly empathetic Sissy Spacek. As “Creepy Carrie,” her name according to one young neighborhood bully, Spacek inhabits Carrie’s complicated being with pathos and utter horror, making the film’s protagonist a frightful presence and a pillar of outsider empowerment. High school humiliation and her mother’s constant Jesus-led condemnation come to a head on prom night, when Carrie lets her telekinesis rage into a full-blown blood bath.

Also Out

Ingrid Bergman: In Her Own Words

What might Ingrid Bergman’s life have been like if she hadn’t become a screen legend? That question looms throughout fellow Swede and director Stig Björkman’s 2015 documentary, culled from diaries, letters, film clips and home movies. The doc serves as both a celebratory and humanizing homage to Bergman, who went from Sweden to Italy to Hollywood to build her film empire, finding remarkable success while also yearning “to be free.” And so the “Casablanca” heroine was, prioritizing film over family, pursuing romance despite controversy and, eventually, breaking out of the box Hollywood put her in. Björkman’s doc is intimate, moving and melancholic, touching on the most interesting facets of Bergman’s romances and legendary filmography. But matched with a gentle score from Michael Nyman and Alicia Vikander’s voiceover narration, and through interviews with the icon’s children, including Isabella Rossellini, the bittersweetness of “what could’ve been” permeates the fleeting flash of every family photo. Seven minutes of additional home movies are included among the recently released Criterion package, along with extra scenes and a music video for the emotional end-credits song, “The Movie About Us.”
Inn Season Cafe Celebrates 35th Birthday

ROYAL OAK – October is Vegetarian Awareness Month, the perfect time to take part in a month-long celebration at Royal Oak’s renowned Inn Season Cafe. Marking 35 years, metro Detroit’s longest-running vegetarian and vegan restaurant will offer a month of specials, giveaways and events for customers.

“Focusing on fresh, organic, local and natural ingredients has always set Inn Season apart,” said Nick Raftis, Inn Season Cafe’s owner since 2002. “We look at this 35th anniversary as a celebration of this type of food and the people who grow it, prepare it, and especially our customers, who support it.”

The Inn Season Cafe opened its doors in 1981 and has since supported the local farming community through direct contact with farmers and through farmer’s markets. Dishes are inspired by a seasonal array of organic ingredients, grown without the use of pesticides and other chemicals.

According to the website, the Inn Season Cafe is dedicated to supporting organic farming and acknowledges the “interconnectedness of environmental, spiritual and physical well-being.”

As a part of their commitment to sustainability, the Inn Season Cafe has also transitioned its carryout materials to completely compostable and recycled products. All packing materials, from bottles, cans and plastics, are recycled and most of their vegetable trimmings are composted.

Kicking off the 35th birthday celebration on Oct. 1 is a gift card giveaway. Patrons visiting the restaurant that day can enter a drawing to win a $50 Inn Season Cafe gift card. Five winners will be selected.

During the first week, running from October 4-8, $50 gift cards will be available for purchase at the special rate of $35 each. Limit 20 gift cards per day, one per person.

From Oct. 11-15, 35 free dinners will be given away on Facebook to those posting a special memory or photo of the restaurant. Watch for details on www.facebook.com/Inn-Season-Cafe.

During the week of Oct. 18-22, guests can enjoy a creative, seasonally inspired three-course dinner for two, including salad, entree and dessert, for just $35 per couple. Limited quantities per evening.

And the birthday celebration culminates with a happy-hour fundraiser to benefit Earthworks Urban Farm from 5-8 pm on Monday, Oct. 24. Sponsored by Elie Wine Company, the party will include a tasting of biodynamic wines plus food and entertainment. Follow updates and purchase tickets on Facebook/Inn-Season-Cafe.

For those with allergies, contact the server when ordering to ensure that no nuts or soy products are used in the meal. These ingredients are often used by the Inn Season Cafe and all meals can be made to order.

Inn Season Cafe is located at 500 E. Fourth St., three blocks east of Main St., in Royal Oak. Offering fresh organic cuisine with vegan, gluten-free, wheat-free and soy-free options, Inn Season is also Royal Oak’s only kosher-certified restaurant.

For more information and to see restaurant hours visit http://theinnseasoncafe.com.
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Editor's Pick

4th Annual Michigan French Canadian Heritage Week

In 2014 the Michigan Legislature decided to extend the day of celebration to an entire week highlighting French Canadian Heritage. For many people of French Canadian heritage, their connection to this culture is tenuous at best. For others it is a genealogical interest. Whatever the case may be, an entire week of festivities and activities – spread out around the state – has been designed for those interested in learning more about the culture and heritage.

The festival began Wed., Sept. 21 but there is still time to attend one of the many exciting venue opportunities that include: children’s story time; folk concerts with traditional step dancing, stomper music and dancing; a film screening of “La Gang des Hors-La-Loi” (The Outlaw League); presentation of the fur trade; a museum installation; children’s activities and more.

Tickets and admission prices vary depending on the activity. Participating cities include: Monroe, Detroit, Marquette, Chassell, Houghton and Lake Linden.

For more information visit https://voyageurheritage.wordpress.com/heritageweek.
Editor’s Pick

**Michigan Bullying Prevention Conference**

**ROYAL OAK** – The conference is designed to help school administrators, counselors, school psychologists and social workers, law enforcement, bullying prevention specialists, and those working with youth become better equipped with the tools and strategies to overcome bullying in Michigan schools. Topics to be covered include: cyberbullying, school climate, restorative practices, trauma, suicide and depression, legal aspects of bullying prevention, data driven decisions, communication strategies between parents and schools, health consequences of bullying and best practices for bullying prevention. Join other professionals in multiple workshops and learn from national keynote speakers. For more information and to sign up visit www.ibpaworld.org/mi.

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**September 29, 2016 | BTL 25**

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**MUSIC & MORE**

**Comedy**


**Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University**


**Concerts**


**AEAG Live & Reaf** “The Temper Trap Coast Modern” Tickets: $30. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 29. 313-833-9700. http://ktwb.liv.tv/2b4qNtC

**AEAG Live and The Crofoot** “Rachael Yamagata” Tickets: $15-$58. The Pike Room, 1 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. 7 p.m. Oct. 3. www.thecrofoot.com

**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** “Roméo & Juliet”. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 6 p.m. Oct. 8, 734-668-8397. www.a2s.com

**Auto-Owners Insurance** “Sutton Foster” See the award-winning actress, singer, and dancer as she performs a one-night only special concert event. Tickets: $27.50. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Oct. 1. 800-WHARTON. whatoncenter.com

**Humble Design** “JR JR” Ages 18 and up. Tickets: $15, VIP $100 - $250. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 6. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

**Live Nation** “Ingrid Michaelson” With special guest AJP. Tickets: $29.50-$59.50. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 7. 313-961-5451. www.livenation.com

**Live Nation** “Opeth” Tickets: $29.50-$54. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 7. 313-961-5451. www.livenation.com

**Live Nation** “Ghost” Tickets: $25-$45. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 7. 313-961-5451. www.livenation.com


**Live Nation** “Asth” The 1977 20th Anniversary Tour. Tickets: $20. The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Sep. 30. www. saintandrewsdetroit.com


**Majestic Theater** “The Temper Trap” Tickets: $25-$30. All ages welcome. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 30. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

See Happenings, page 27
Sing Street
John Carney is coming for your tears again. After bringing together a pair of Irish musicians in “Once” and testing our very emotional well-being every time “Falling Slowly” played in a public setting, the director / writer gleans music from the ’80s, as “Sing Street” follows a group of friends who assemble a band as one does when you’re young and aspiring to “babe magnet” status. Rock ’n’ roll, though, becomes salvation as the band’s leader singer, Conor “Cosmo” Lalor (Ferdia Walsh-Peelo), navigates adolescent strife: his parents’ divorce, bullying and identity issues. Featuring tunes by Duran Duran and The Cure, and a closing number by Adam Levine, who speaks about the track during the disc’s too-few extras, “Sing Street” is a warm love letter to the transcendent power of music.

Hello, My Name Is Doris
Queer ally and mom-to-a-gay-son Sally Field works her onscreen magic in “Hello, My Name Is Doris” as a delightfully wonky golden girl whose life is in shambles after her mother dies. Her husband’s dead too, so Doris is in a hard place. Imagine your grandma having make-out fantasies about 20-something men and participating in the “LGBT Knitting Committee” – that’s Doris, and Doris, despite hardships, is determined to live her best damn life. So, Doris crashes on a much younger co-worker (beware: after this, you will never think of a medicine ball as just a medicine ball) and, in another age-defying moment, jams out amid hipsters to a fictional alt-rock band featuring fun.’s Jack Antonoff. Because she’s Sally Field, you adore her in her charming, frantic, cat-lady state even if you can’t quite cherish this slight dramedy the same way. Deleted scenes and a commentary from director Michael Showalter are among the special features.

Neighbors 2
James’ younger, handsomer brother Dave Franco, who famously jumpstarted his career by sodomizing himself for Funny or Die, keeps the family tradition of gayness going. In “Neighbors 2,” Franco helps put a refreshing bend on the Seth Rogen-starring stoner comedy “Neighbors,” reprising his role as Zac Efron’s BFF, but with this surprising revelation: He’s gay and has a fiancé, Darren (John Early). Efron’s thirt year trap of a bod is, obviously, reason enough to see this sequel, which somehow manages to tackle gender politics, growing pains and the messy line between gay guys and the merely romantic. And stay for the same-sex wedding. Who knew a premise this rooted in bros and boozing could also be this sweetly homed? Extras are less gay, though your queer sensibilities certainly won’t mind a funny deleted scene featuring a shirtless Efron and a bunch of boys in crop-tops.

The Nice Guys
This is a confusing time for our country. For instance, since when doesn’t a Ryan Gosling movie – with porn, and with a rim job joke – make bank. But seriously: “The Nice Guys” didn’t pull in big bucks at the box office, and it should have. One of the best films of year, the flick is a splendid web of ’70s vibes, twisty mystery and girl power, as in literal girl power, as in an adolescent schoolgirl being a badass. Gosling’s precocious daughter, Holly, played by Angourie Rice, steps in because, well, frankly, her alcoholic father needs her to, and not just to uncover whether a porn star named Misty Mountains is dead or alive (after all, we’re talking about the same guy who bloodily mangles his hand during an investigation that requires him to break a window). Gosling and Russell Crowe, playing his instigating partner, are the ultimate odd couple who slay with a salvo of punchlines. It doesn’t hurt, of course, that Matt Bomer is here for the fun as a not-nice guy. Also not very nice, though? The scant features.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.
St. Mary’s School Hosts Holiday Craft Blast

BY BTL STAFF

Orchard Lake – Summer is over and millions of Americans have already started checking items off their holiday shopping lists. But it’s not always easy to find the perfect gift for anyone and everyone, especially when we all want to give a unique gift that will be remembered year-round.

With events such as the Holiday Craft Blast Oct. 8-9, shoppers can find custom-made, one-of-a-kind treasures created by local artisans. Choose from beautiful jewelry, delightful fragrant body lotions, handmade soaps, sculptures, carvings, paintings, pottery, framed art, and photos.

Dozens of fine juried crafters will be at St. Mary’s School at 3535 Commerce Road in Orchard Lake featuring unique and high-quality gifts for everyone on the holiday shopping list.

The event, presented by Art Fair Fun, is from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Oct. 8 and from 12-5 p.m. on Oct. 9. Admission is $3 for adults. Children age 12 and under are free. For more information, visit the Holiday Craft Blast website www.HolidayCraftBlast.com.
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Desiree Akhavan is here 2 creep in ‘Creep 2’

After taking a bow with 2014’s indie comedy “Inappropriate Behavior,” where she wrote, directed and starred as a young bisexual Persian woman creating her own rules, Desiree Akhavan has moved into Lena Dunham Land, not only by guest starring on “Girls,” but also by creating her own series in the UK – currently in development – called “The Bisexual.” This is, of course, great news, and queer women’s stories, especially of the non-white variety, are in short supply. But as horror junkies forgive us for being extra thrilled by the latest bit of Akhavan news: she’s co-starring in “Creep 2.” Didn’t see “Creep”? Well, you should, because it was a gnarly bit of unsettling horror from 2015 directed by and starring first-time filmmaker Patrick Brice, and co-written and co-starring Mark Duplass. It concerned a naïve videographer who winds up answering the most disturbing Craigslist job listing of them all, then having to fight for his survival. Akhavan will enter this nasty little universe, and we couldn’t be happier, especially if she gets to battle the Creep herself. We think she could probably take him.

James Baldwin documentary ‘I Am Not Your Negro’ coming soon

“I Am Not Your Negro,” from filmmaker Raoul Peck, having won the documentary audience award at the Toronto International Film Festival, has been acquired by Magnolia Pictures for distribution in North America. The film is based on the life and writing of African-American novelist and essayist James Baldwin, specifically his unfinished book, “Remember This House.” Narrated by Samuel L Jackson, it positions Baldwin in history, in his own words, during the time of the assassinations of Malcolm X, Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King Jr, all of whom were his friends. And though his work was new decades ago, it remains relevant; Baldwin was the kind of writer – openly gay in the mid-20th century, when it was difficult enough just being a black man – whose books right-wingers love to try to ban, even in 2016, primarily because the conditions he wrote about in now-classic books like “Giovanni’s Room” and “Notes of a Native Song” have changed so little in so many ways. Look for this one to pop up during awards season.

Jen Richards joins cast of ‘Nashville’

If you ever wondered when a show on CMT was going to feature a transgender person, you’ve got your answer: now. “Nashville,” the series that lived on ABC for four seasons, developing a devoted but small audience – and struggling ratings – found itself cancelled and then revived for at least one more year by CMT. It’ll be the same show, but the plot just got queered a little, as the upcoming 22-episode arc features a new character, a physical therapist played by trans actress Jen Richards. We don’t know at the moment if Richards character will be a trans woman on the show, but we don’t really care. Casting trans actors is good enough all by itself. Richards is the Emmy-nominated creator of the series “Her Story,” and she’s appeared on “I Am Cait,” Logo’s “Beautiful As I Want To Be” and AOL’s “True Trans with Laura Jane Grace.” She’ll also appear very soon on the Laverne Cox-starring series “Doubt.” So she’s been pretty busy. And we’re going to finally start watching “Nashville.” Can she sing, too? Does she get to sing? We think she should sing.
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