New Odefsey® is now available

emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

Ask your healthcare provider if ODEFSEY is right for you.

To learn more visit ODEFSEY.com

GILEAD
One small pill contains rilpivirine, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide (TAF).

Ask your healthcare provider if ODEFSEY is right for you.

To learn more visit ODEFSEY.com
**Brief Summary of Patient Information about ODEFSEY**

**ODFSEY (oh-DEF-see)**
(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY.

There may be new information about ODEFSEY. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

**What is the most important information I should know about ODEFSEY?**

ODFSEY can cause serious side effects, including:
- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take ODEFSEY or similar medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:
  - feel very weak or tired
  - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
  - have trouble breathing
  - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
  - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
  - feel dizzy or lightheaded
  - have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take ODEFSEY. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:
  - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
  - dark “tea-colored” urine
  - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
  - loss of appetite
  - nausea
  - pain, achiness, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and take ODEFSEY, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking ODEFSEY. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
  - Do not run out of ODEFSEY. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your ODEFSEY is all gone.
  - Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider.
  - If you stop taking ODEFSEY, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking ODEFSEY.

**What is ODEFSEY?**

ODFSEY is a prescription medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:
- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past and have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL, or
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have a viral load that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment.

It is not known if ODEFSEY is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age or who weigh less than 77 lb (35 kg).

**When used to treat HIV-1 infection, ODEFSEY may help:**
- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

**ODEFSEY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

**Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or re-use needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

**Who should not take ODEFSEY?**

Do not take ODEFSEY if you also take a medicine that contains:
- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- dexamethasone (Ozurdex®, Maxidex®, Decadron®, Baycadron™)
- dexamethasone (Dexilant®)
- esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®)
- lan소soprazole (Prevacid®)
- omeprazole (Prilosec®, Zegerid®)
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®)
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- rabeprazole (AcipHex®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ODEFSEY?**

Before taking ODEFSEY, tell your healthcare provider if you:
- have liver problems including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney and bone problems
- have had depression or suicidal thoughts
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ODEFSEY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking ODEFSEY.
Pregnancy registry: There is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- Are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take ODEFSEY.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - At least one of the medicines in ODEFSEY can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in ODEFSEY can pass into your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines may interact with ODEFSEY. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with ODEFSEY.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take ODEFSEY with other medicines.

How should I take ODEFSEY?

- Take ODEFSEY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. ODEFSEY is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- Take ODEFSEY 1 time each day with a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking ODEFSEY.
- Do not miss a dose of ODEFSEY.
- If you take too much ODEFSEY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your ODEFSEY supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ODEFSEY and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of ODEFSEY?

ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects, including:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about ODEFSEY?”
- Severe skin rash and allergic reactions. Skin rash is a common side effect of ODEFSEY. Rash can be serious. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get a rash. In some cases, rash and allergic reaction may need to be treated in a hospital.
  - If you get a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop taking ODEFSEY and call your healthcare provider right away:
    - fever
    - skin blisters
    - mouth sores
    - redness or swelling of the eyes (conjunctivitis)
    - swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat
    - trouble breathing or swallowing
    - pain on the right side of the stomach (abdominal) area
    - dark “tea-colored” urine
- Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - feel sad or hopeless
  - feel anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- Change in liver enzymes. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with ODEFSEY. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with ODEFSEY in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with ODEFSEY.
- Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking ODEFSEY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ODEFSEY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- Bone problems can happen in some people who take ODEFSEY. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effects of rilpivirine, one of the medicines in ODEFSEY, are depression, trouble sleeping (insomnia), and headache.

The most common side effect of emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide, two of the medicines in ODEFSEY, is nausea.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of ODEFSEY. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about ODEFSEY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ODEFSEY that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.ODEFSEY.com.

Keep ODEFSEY and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: March 2016

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SQUIRT ADS OUTRAGE WILTON MANORS RESIDENTS

Heidi Shoshana –
A few years ago, as a city employee, I was compelled to point out that it may not be appropriate to have a condom ad on the bin outside the Hagen little kid playground. A time and place for everything. I am ok with the Drive as my kid playground. A time and place for everything. I am ok with the Drive as my kid playground. A time and place for every

Stephen Devine –
What a stupid stupid thing for Mikey to waste his time on. It’s that stupid suit he puts on. He’s always been a big on Mikey to waste his time on. And, being the chickenshit that he’s always been, he leaves without getting a coffee.

Nate Klarfield –
Has anyone gone to the website squirt.org? It is NOT a mere hook-up gay dating site. It lists public cruising spots, (parks, bathrooms, truckstops, etc) where ‘members’ have had positive experiences engaging in ILLEGAL acts. (www.squirt.org/members) I don’t believe Wilton Manors or any city should have anything to do with that type of ad. By the way, I thought since Al Gore invented the Internet, we gay men and women stopped using those public places. JMHO.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR HECKLED OUT OF STARBUCKS

Maurice R Mizrahi –
everyone should heckle him everywhere he goes- BTW she used to be a lake worth elected official.

Bob Jordan –
And, being the chickenshit that he’s always been, he leaves without getting a coffee.

Jeff Anderson –
Good for her...of course, he ducks out surrounded by his posse. lol

TWO LANE INITIATIVE PROJECT DRAWS ROBUST DEBATE

Roger Allee –
I have always thought the city made a mistake by not building a parking garage at Hagan Park. But, whatever can be done to slow traffic on Wilton Drive is important. That road is dangerous. It isn’t just car traffic either, it is pedestrians who blatantly jaywalk as well.

Jim Burning –
Traffic will still flow and the town center will look so much better for it. That will increase traffic will still flow and the town center will look so much better for it. That will increase property values and decrease the sight of parking on [every] adjacent residential street. As long as this plan tackles PARKING and PEDESTRIAN safety I’m all for it. Too many of our brothers and sisters have died in accidents by senseless speeding!!

Carlos Lopez –
Wilton manors needs more bars, that’s what’s missing; bars, strip clubs, bars, crappy restaurants, [bars], bars, BARS. It’s so sad right now, only 199 bars within 2 blocks.

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Ken Keechl, a Wilton Manors attorney, has filed papers in Tallahassee seeking the district 93 seat in the Florida House of Representatives.

Keechl, 53, confirmed to SFGN that he is indeed starting another political campaign, calling incumbent district 93 representative, George Moraitis, a “homophobe.”

An openly gay married man, Keechl was first elected to the Broward County Commission in 2006. He was defeated for the seat by Chip LaMarca in 2010 and lost a re-match in 2014.

Moraitis, a Republican, has served in Tallahassee since 2010. According to data from the Broward Supervisor of Elections office, district 93, which straddles the coastline from Boca Raton to Hollywood, has more registered Republicans than Democrats or Independents. This unique situation makes the district a rare competitive contest in a solid blue Broward.

Keechl contends Moraitis is out of touch with the constituents. His campaign issued the following statement:

“My opponent has spent the last six years in Tallahassee voting for every piece of anti-woman and anti-LGBT legislation to cross his desk, to allow the dangerous practice of fracking, and to cut education funding by $1.3 billion, all the while denying the looming threat of climate change to our community. When I’m in Tallahassee, I will fight for the rights of every Floridian no matter who they love, their gender, or their ethnicity, to find responsible solutions to combat the threat of climate change and to ban fracking, and to provide our public schools with the resources our students and teachers need to give every child the excellent education they deserve. It’s time to take the power back from the special interests and put the people in charge in again.”

Keechl is the second Democrat to challenge Moraitis. Florida Atlantic University student Doug Oberman, 22 of Deerfield Beach, announced his intentions last month.

SFGN placed a call into Moraitis’ Fort Lauderdale office seeking comment but has yet to receive a return call.
Bryan Adams Cancels Mississippi Show, Citing State’s New Law

(AP) Canadian rocker Bryan Adams is canceling a performance this week in Mississippi, citing the state’s new law that allows religious groups and some private businesses to refuse service to gay couples.

Adams said in a statement Sunday night that he was canceling a show Thursday at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi. “The singer says he can’t ‘in good conscience’ perform in a state where ‘certain people are being denied their civil rights due to their sexual orientation.’”

The move comes after Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band canceled a Sunday show in Greensboro, North Carolina, because of the state’s new law blocking anti-discrimination rules for the LGBT community. The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce announced Thursday it would not honor Baker, who is scheduled to travel to Las Vegas this weekend to speak at the Republican Jewish Coalition’s leadership meeting. He will speak alongside GOP presidential hopeful Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and controversial pastor John Hagee, who has been vocal in his opposition to same-sex marriage.

The NGLCC planned to honor Baker as its “Best of the Best Awards Dinner” on April 26 but will no longer do so unless he cancels his upcoming speech at the GOP event. The group is also calling for Baker to support a bill aimed to protect transgender people in Massachusetts from discrimination in malls, restaurants and other types of public spaces.

“On the issue of protections in public accommodations for all people, NGLCC will continue to push Governor Baker to bring the same level of proactive leadership he brought to the precedent-setting diverse business inclusion Executive Order we championed together,” said NGLCC Co-Founder & President Justin Nelson in a statement released Friday.

The North Carolina law overrules LGBT antidiscrimination measures passed by local governments. It also excludes sexual orientation and gender identity from the state’s antidiscrimination policy and prevents people from filing employment discrimination lawsuits in state courts.

Conservatives have championed a provision that requires transgender people to use public restrooms that match the sex on their birth certificate, saying the law protects women and children from men who would use antidiscrimination measures as a pretense to enter the wrong restroom.


(EDGE) A prominent gay and lesbian business group said it ditched its plans to honor Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker at an upcoming gala event in Washington, D.C. after discovering he plans to speak at a GOP conference, according to The Boston Globe.

The move comes after Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band canceled a Sunday show in Greensboro, North Carolina, because of the state’s new law blocking anti-discrimination rules for the LGBT community. The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce announced Thursday it would not honor Baker, who is scheduled to travel to Las Vegas this weekend to speak at the Republican Jewish Coalition’s leadership meeting. He will speak alongside GOP presidential hopeful Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and controversial pastor John Hagee, who has been vocal in his opposition to same-sex marriage.

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Springsteen Cancels North Carolina Show Over Anti-Gay Law

(AP) Bruce Springsteen has canceled his concert in North Carolina, citing the state’s new law blocking anti-discrimination rules covering the LGBT community.

In a statement on his website Friday, Springsteen said he was canceling the concert scheduled for Sunday in Greensboro because of the law, which critics say discriminates against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Springsteen says the law “is an attempt by people who cannot stand the progress our country has made in recognizing the human rights of all of our citizens to overturn that progress.”

Because of that, he said he and the E Street Band must “show solidarity with those freedom fighters.”

People who bought tickets will get refunds.

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DINE OUT ONE DAY FIGHT AIDS

Thursday, April 28th

Thursday, April 28th a percentage of your check will benefit Broward House at the following restaurants:

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After Party Hosted by HUNTERS

More Info: BrowardHouse.org or DiningOutForLife.com
“The event of the year”

Friday, May 13 • 7 pm
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Honoring those who are transforming lives by living authentically and advancing inclusiveness.

- Peter Clark, Publisher, Hotspots Media Group
- Rae Franks, Esquire
- Robert Runcie, Superintendent, Broward County Schools
- Judge David Young

2016 Milk Foundation Milan Rosza Youth Award Honoree, Ryland Whittington

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For sponsor or ticket information: 954.463.9005, x105 or diversityhonors.com
UNC President: Transgender Law Does Little, Still May Hurt

(AP) The president of North Carolina’s public university system says a new state law addressing LGBT discrimination was hastily written by lawmakers who introduced and passed it in one day, perhaps without fully considering all the implications for higher education.

University of North Carolina system President Margaret Spellings spoke to reporters by telephone Friday, a day after the release of her memo to campus chancellors noting the university would comply with the law, which requires people to use only those bathrooms matching their biological sex. Spellings says some may have misunderstood the memo as an endorsement of the law.

On Friday, Spellings noted the law doesn’t describe how to enforce the bathroom rules, and that universities don’t have to change their anti-discrimination policies protecting LGBT people.

Mississippi Dem Asks U.S. Justice Dept. to Block Anti-Gay Law

(AP) The only Democrat in Mississippi’s congressional delegation is asking the U.S. Justice Department to file a lawsuit to try to block an incoming state law on religious objections to gay marriage.

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson says Wednesday that House Bill 1523, which is set to become law July 1, would give people “the explicit right to discriminate against anyone with a lifestyle they disagree with, in the name of religion.”

Thompson is asking U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch to file a federal lawsuit against the state over the bill, which was signed Tuesday by Republican Gov. Phil Bryant. It would provide legal protection to government employees, religious groups or private businesses that cite religious beliefs to block services to LGBT people who want to marry or adopt children.

A Justice Department response was not immediately available.

Counseling Bill Passes Tennessee House

(AP) A bill that would allow counselors to turn away patients based on their personal beliefs has passed in the House in Tennessee and is close to getting to the governor’s desk.

The Senate, which already passed the measure, still would have to approve an amendment adopted by the House.

Opponents of the measure say it would allow therapists to discriminate against gays and other people who are vulnerable and need therapy. Proponents say it takes into account the rights of everyone, including the therapists.

The American Counseling Association has condemned the measure.

The bill is part of a wave of proposals across the country that would allow people to deny services to gays based on religious beliefs.
Mayors Form Anti-Discrimination Group In Response To Laws

(AP) Mayors from around the country are forming a group called “Mayors Against Discrimination” in the wake of recent North Carolina and Mississippi laws they say are discriminatory.

The coalition that includes mayors from New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Philadelphia and other cities plans to explore prohibitions on contracting and purchasing from companies in those states in response to the new laws, which critics say discriminate against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Mississippi recently passed a law allowing religious groups and some private businesses to refuse service to gay couples. The North Carolina law prevents specific anti-discrimination rules for gay and transgender people for public accommodations and restroom use.

Supporters of the Mississippi law say it’s about protecting freedom of those who, for example, don’t want to perform same-sex weddings for religious reasons. Religious leaders and others have defended the North Carolina law, saying it protects women and children from men who use the law as a pretense to enter the wrong restroom.

SC Bill Would Bar Requiring Transgender Choice of Bathrooms

(AP) A South Carolina senator wants to bar local governments from requiring businesses to let transgender people use the bathroom of their choice, saying he’s taking a “stand for decency and common sense.”

The bill introduced Wednesday by Sen. Lee Bright would also require multistall bathrooms on public property to be designated and used “based on biological sex.” It specifically includes student bathrooms, locker rooms and shower rooms in public schools.

How private businesses handle their bathrooms should be up to the owners, not government, he said.

He knows of no city in South Carolina where that’s an issue, but he supports a North Carolina law that prohibits local communities from enacting anti-discrimination ordinances and requires transgender people to use public bathrooms that match their sex at birth. That law has drawn national backlash and prompted PayPal to announce Tuesday that it will cancel a major expansion in the state.

“We keep talking about tolerance, tolerance, tolerance,” said Bright, R-Roebuck. “I stand with our neighbors to the north and stand for decency and common sense. It’s a public safety issue. We don’t need men going into a women’s bathroom.”

Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, said the proposal is ridiculous, unnecessary and can hurt the state financially.

“I can see no logistical reason why we would entertain such a measure,” he said. GOP Gov. Nikki Haley agreed that there’s no need.

“In South Carolina, we are blessed because we don’t have to mandate respect or kindness or responsibility in this state,” she said. “I don’t know of any example that we’ve had a problem.”
Robin Roberts said Friday that “it hurts my soul” that someone might not be welcome in Mississippi because of a law saying religious groups and some private businesses can cite moral beliefs to deny services to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people.

The tourism industry in a place that calls itself the “Hospitality State” has been getting slammed with criticism after Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law Tuesday, saying he wanted to protect freedom of conscience for religious people.

Some opponents to the law have pointed out the incongruity that the co-anchor of ABC’s “Good Morning America,” with roots in the Gulf Coast town of Pass Christian, is on the cover of this year’s guide published by the private Mississippi Tourism Association. Roberts hasn’t been shy about her love for Amber Laign since announcing on the last day of 2013 that she’s lesbian.

“My longtime partner, Amber, and I have always felt welcomed in my home state, and it hurts my soul to think of anyone not feeling welcome,” Roberts said in the statement.

“It’s always been a deeply held belief of mine that everyone, everywhere should be treated equally. I’m proud that my beloved mother and father taught me as a child growing up in Mississippi to focus on the many things we all have in common, not our few differences. And what we all deserve to have in common is the right to be treated equally.”

Roberts said she agreed to be on the cover “last year well before recent events.” She’s much beloved on the Gulf Coast for her advocacy of the region after the devastation of 2005’s Hurricane Katrina. The 55-year-old moved to Mississippi in 1969 when her father was assigned to Biloxi’s Keesler Air Force Base.

Unlike some, Roberts didn’t call for tourists to boycott Mississippi. It’s unclear whether she’s contacted state government to express her displeasure or asked the association to remove the guide. A spokeswoman for ABC declined further comment.

Mississippi’s law, effective July 1, would allow a church group to decline services including housing or adoption to gay couples. Private businesses could refuse marriage-related services such as room rentals, cakes, photography or flowers. Any employer or school could refuse to allow a transgender person to use the bathroom of their choice. Among government employees, clerks could refuse to issue marriage licenses and judges could refuse to marry gay couples. In both cases, governments are supposed to ensure licenses and marriages are “not impeded or delayed.”

No state or local laws to compel services to gay people had been passed in Mississippi. The measure prohibits local communities from passing their own ordinances.

Rochelle Hicks, executive director of the Mississippi Tourism Association, said earlier Friday that some individual tourists have been calling member hotels and casinos to cancel visits. She couldn’t be reached later after Roberts released her statement.

“We hope they will recognize the law doesn’t represent the views of all in our state,” Hicks said.

Some supporters have pushed back against criticism. The Tupelo-based American Family Association on Friday said opposition had been spearheaded by “gay activists and state business organizations who are hostile to Christianity.”

“By voting ‘yes’ to the ‘Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act,’ our governor and lawmakers heard the voices of their constituents and cast their vote for our residents’ freedom of religious conscience rather than for vocal and wealthy gay activists,” association President Tim Wildmon said in a statement.
Actual ATRIPLA patients.

ATRIPLA has been chosen by more than 500,000 people with HIV and their doctors. In the US, ATRIPLA is the #1 prescribed one-pill, once-daily HIV treatment.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT ATRIPLA.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.

What is ATRIPLA?
ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen, or with other anti-HIV-1 medicines, to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children at least 12 years old who weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs).

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections.

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- urine turns dark
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in color
- don’t feel like eating food for several days or longer
- feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), for a long time.

- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you need to discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?
You and your healthcare provider should decide if ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?
Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.
Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed build up of lactic acid in the blood, which can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems, with liver enlargement and fat in the liver, which can lead to death.

If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse.

ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA should not be taken with: Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLEXA® (emtricitabine/riplivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine), Epzicom® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD® (elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), Truvada® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), Viread® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA. ATRIPLA should not be used with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) unless recommended by your healthcare provider.

- Vfend® (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.

- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

Please see Important Safety Information continued on the following pages.

*Undetectable was defined as a viral load of fewer than 400 copies/mL.

† In this study, 511 adult patients new to therapy received either the meds in ATRIPLA each taken once daily or Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine) twice daily + SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) once daily.

‡ Symphony Health Solutions, PatientSource APLD and Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, counts are cumulative and equivalized, January 2007–February 2015.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following additional serious side effects:

- Serious psychiatric problems. Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior have been reported by a small number of patients. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide, and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness.

- Kidney problems (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.

- Other serious liver problems. Some patients have experienced serious liver problems, including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.

- Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones). Lab tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia), which could lead to fractures. Also, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may lead to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your bones or may prescribe medicines to help your bones.

Common side effects:

- Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach; they tend to go away after taking ATRIPLA for a few weeks. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. These symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol and/or mood-altering (street) drugs.

- If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, and/or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

- Rash is a common side effect with ATRIPLA that usually goes away without any change in treatment. Rash may be severe in a small number of patients. Rash occurs more commonly in children and may be a serious problem. If a rash develops, call your healthcare provider right away.

- Other common side effects include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

Other possible side effects:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV-1 medicines. Increase of fat in the upper back and neck, breasts, and around the trunk may happen. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these changes in body fat are not known.

- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen.

- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. If you notice any symptoms of infection, contact your healthcare provider right away.

- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness, and indigestion. This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Please see the following Patient Information for more information about these warnings, including signs and symptoms, and other Important Safety Information.

Bristol-Myers Squibb

ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

Patient Information

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

Please also read the section “MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA.”

Read the Patient Information that comes with ATRIPLA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill since there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking ATRIPLA. Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about ATRIPLA.

What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?

- Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

  - You feel very weak or tired.
  - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
  - You have trouble breathing.
  - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
  - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
  - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
  - You feel very weak or tired.
  - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.

- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). VIREAD and EMTRIVA are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA is for adults and children 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kg (at least 88 lbs). ATRIPLA is not recommended for children younger than 12 years of age. ATRIPLA has not been studied in adults over 65 years of age.

HIV infection destroys CD4+ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.
ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using ATRIPLA.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:
- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- Are breastfeeding (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.
- Have bone problems.
- Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection. Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.
- Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, it is very important to let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD®, Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA, or VIREAD. ATRIPLA also should not be used with SUSTIVA unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:
- Fortovase, Invirase (saquinavir), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Noxafil (posaconazole), Sporanox (itraconazole), Victerix (boceprevir), or Olyso (simeprevir): these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tiazac (diltiazem), Covera HS or Islopin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir), Selzentry (maraviroc), the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune, and others), Prograf (tacrolimus), or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycobutin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin sodium), and Zocor (simvastatin); or the anti-depressant medications bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, and Zyban) or Zoloft (sertraline): dose changes may be needed when these drugs are taken with ATRIPLA.
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine); tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be monitored more carefully if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be changed.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate), Prezista (darunavir) with Norvir (ritonavir), Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir), or Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Reyataz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. You may need to be monitored more carefully if you are taking ATRIPLA, Prezista, and Norvir together, or if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. The dose of Kaletra should be increased when taken with efavirenz.
- Medicine for seizures (for example, Dilantin [phenytoin], Tegretol [carbamazepine], or phenobarbital); your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists every time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

How should I take ATRIPLA?

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?

- Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it. Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA. Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, without checking with your healthcare provider.

VIREAD®
**ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)**

- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

**What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?**

ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)

- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)

- **“Flare-ups” of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the “flare-up” of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.

- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.

- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.

- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.

- **Changes in bone mineral density** (thinning bones). Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

**Common side effects:**

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child’s healthcare provider right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking ATRIPLA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

**Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:**

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

- **Skin discoloration** (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.

- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body’s immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.

- **Additional side effects** are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

**How do I store ATRIPLA?**

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

**General information about ATRIPLA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about ATRIPLA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ATRIPLA that is written for health professionals.

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

**What are the ingredients of ATRIPLA?**

**Active Ingredients:** efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

**Inactive Ingredients:** croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate. The film coating contains black iron oxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, red iron oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide.

Revised: February 2016

ATRIPLA is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb & Gilead Sciences, LLC. COMPLERA, EMTRIVA, HARVONI, HEPSERA, SOVALDI, STRIBILD, TRUVADA, and VIREAD are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. SUSTIVA is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company. Rayataz and Videx are trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Pravachol is a trademark of ER Squibb & Sons, LLC. Other brands listed are the trademarks of their respective owners.

ATRC0106 697US1601052-11-01

21-937-GS-016
Seasoned political operatives gathered inside a local coffee shop on Thursday, April 7, to hear from the former chairman of the Broward Democratic Party and leading candidate for Clerk of the Courts.

Mitch Ceasar told a group of mostly gay men from Fort Lauderdale that he would make every effort to rebuild a broken clerk's office.

“The office needs help,” Ceasar said.

A practicing attorney, Ceasar is attempting to win public office after decades of working behind the scenes as a Democratic party boss. According to the Broward Supervisor of Elections’ office, Ceasar faces competition from five other candidates – Elizabeth McHugh, Brenda Forman, Lisa Ferreri, Shandrall Roscoe and Rubin Young. Of the six, Ceasar has raised the most money -- $174,984 compared to $71,500 for McHugh and $30,075 for Forman, wife of retiring County Clerk, Howard C. Forman.

“Mitch is a great manager,” said Ron Mills, a gay man, who has in the past, served as Broward County's state committeeman for the Democratic Executive Committee. “He has the managerial skills needed for the job and he has never not put forth the motions.”

Joining Mills at the Fort Lauderdale reception for Ceasar were former Broward County Mayor Ken Keechl, one-time County Commission candidate Ben Lap, local attorney George Castrataro, former Florida GLBT Caucus chairman Michael Alletta and SFGN publisher Norm Kent. Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Dean Trantalis introduced Ceasar to the invited guests.

“Our court system is in complete shambles,” Trantalis, an attorney, said in his endorsement speech of Ceasar. “You cannot leave this task in anybody's hands. It takes a special talent -- someone who pushes people, who organizes people, has a history of understanding how people work and act.”

Ceasar, a married straight man, proudly displayed a plaque to the group recognizing his participation in a gay PrideFest parade circa 1997. Before his remarks, Ceasar told reporters standing up for human rights is a no-brainer.

“I certainly did not do it because it was the popular thing to do, I did it because it was the right thing to do,” Ceasar said.

A member of the national Democratic Executive Committee, Ceasar will have input on decisions made this July in Philadelphia. Chairing a major political party in a South Florida county home to more than two million people has its advantages.

“I've known Mitch for many, many years throughout my activity in the Democratic Party,” Trantalis said. “Mitch is a leader and not just for Democrats. He's reached out to so many groups and built this party to what it is today. Often times this county will turn the entire state.”

Broward's primary election is scheduled for Aug. 30. Currently, no Republican has filed for the clerks' position.

With 36 years as a lawyer to his credit, Ceasar said his campaign would focus on treating the public better. He also mentioned his work on committees for the Anti-Defamation League, Urban League and the independent authority which created the Sawgrass Expressway.

“That was the only road in Broward County history that came in six months early and millions of dollars under budget,” said Ceasar, chair of the authority. SFGN
**NEW YORK VOTES AS RACE TIGHTENS**

**John McDonald**

As New Yorkers prepare to cast their votes in the U.S. Presidential campaign, particularly on the Republican side, the race appears foggier than ever.

Businessman Donald J. Trump suffered a decisive defeat in Wisconsin’s primary and was outmaneuvered in Colorado by U.S. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas. Trump, who did not compete in Colorado, called the contest a “total fix.”

According to Real Clear Politics, Trump holds a 743 to 545 delegate lead over Cruz with Ohio Governor John Kasich with 143 delegates. A Republican candidate must procure 1,237 delegates in order to claim the nomination at this summer’s convention in Cleveland.

Andy Eddy, a member of the Broward Log Cabin Republicans Chapter, said the GOP convention could be contested if Trump doesn’t reach the required number of delegates. Eddy, who said he is leaning towards Kasich, questions Trump’s ability to change the way he operates.

“We’re a businessman and being a politician is very different,” Eddy said. “I’m from New York and I understand (Trump) where he comes from and having to make deals in a New York minute with real cut and dry decisions. I’m just not sure if he can change from that to being a politician and using influence to win favor.”

On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont enter New York’s primary with each claiming local roots. Sanders was born and raised in the city borough of Brooklyn, while Clinton served two terms in the U.S. Senate representing the Empire State.

Clinton holds a 1,287 to 1,068 lead in pledged delegates over Sanders, who continues to do well in western caucus states and took a rare primary win in Wisconsin last week. In New York polling, Clinton holds a 53 to 39 percent lead. New York’s primary is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19.

On Monday, Clinton told NBC News that Sanders is essentially being exposed as an untested candidate.

“Senator Sanders is having trouble answering questions about his core issue which is dealing with the banks,” Clinton said.

Sanders is on the defensive for failing to outline specific steps in how he would break up the big banks to fulfill his campaign promise of making America’s economy more equitable. —U.S. News

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**SOBE HATE CRIME MAY BE FAKE**

Witness contradicts victim’s statement

**Anthony Martínez Beven**

In a highly publicized, alleged gay hate crime incident that occurred on March 14 in Miami Beach at the BK Whopper Bar, the validity of events as portrayed by the victims is now being called into question.

According to the incident report, which was provided by the Miami Beach Police Department, both victims – Eric Danko and Jordan Schaeffer of LA – were initially “uncooperative” when approached by the responding officer.

Both victims also initially left the scene, where Schaeffer has told CBS Miami 4 that it was after a kissing session between Schaeffer and Danko that Schaeffer was attacked.

“It’s not right that anyone should suffer a hate crime and be a victim based off the person that they are,” Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer was left with a “lacerated lip” as a result of the altercation, the report says. Both Schaeffer and Danko were treated by Miami Beach Fire and Rescue at the scene.

The original report does not state use of derogatory gay terms by the attacker; however, the report was amended after the initial statement was given to police in which Danko and Schaeffer say they were called “faggots” before being attacked.

“This is why they feel this battery was a hate crime,” the report states.

Neither Schaeffer nor Danko returned phone calls, text messages or Facebook messages to SFGN requesting comment on the incident.

The report also states that Danko admitted to being under the influence of GHB, better known as the date rape drug.

Gay men ingest GHB for its altering effects, including higher sex drive and experience; but there is also a downside to taking the drug, such as erratic and violent behavior, according to the CDC.

Primary groups using GHB include party and nightclub attendees and bodybuilders, the CDC website states. The Whopper Bar, where the incident took place, is close to gay nightclub Twist.

Both Danko and Schaeffer refused photos of their injuries, according to the report. The manager of the Whopper Bar stated, “She did observe all parties involved in mutual combat.”

Tim Baird, who posted on social media about the incident, said via a Facebook post he witnessed the altercation, and the story being told by Schaeffer and Danko is “completely inaccurate.”

As we saw it, he is mainly responsible for the fight, and the altercation had nothing to do with his sexual identity. I’ve already contacted the Miami (Beach) Police to offer my perspective, if they want it,” Baird said.

Miami Beach PD spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez confirmed that they had been contacted by Baird, who was also visiting from Washington D.C., and that department LGBT liaison Juan Sanchez had reached out to him for additional information.

“We only have one side of the story,” Rodriguez told SFGN. “We are looking to identify the attacker or attackers but to also get another side of the story. We encourage people to come forward.”

Rodriguez said that the Miami Beach PD does not charge alleged attackers with hate crimes. It is an underline, secondary charge that will be determined by the Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney (SAO), he said.

“We have partnered with the SAO, which is currently pursuing this as a felony battery. In this case, there are significant injuries,” he said. “After we present the charges to the SAO, they make the decision.”

If the SAO does determine this to be a hate crime then the penalty for the charges will “heighten,” Rodriguez said.

The FBI has defined a hate crime as a “criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.”

Regardless of whether this incident is classified as a hate crime, Miami Beach is a safe place for the LGBT community, advocates say.

“Miami Beach is one of the most visited cities on the planet which also welcomes over 1.2 million LGBT visitors annually. The negative incident rate for tourists visiting our community is extremely low. Although the situation that happened at Burger King is truly unfortunate, we have every confidence in our Police Chief Dan Oates and the Miami Beach Police Department to keep our city a very safe place for our LGBT tourists,” said Steve Adkins of the LGBT Visitor Center on Miami Beach.

Rodriguez added, “I personally would never discourage any sort of affection to loved ones. Love is love...It is 2016. Everyone is able to do as they please and should do so freely.”

Anthony Martínez Beven covers Miami-Dade County for SFGN. He can be reached at anthony.beven@sfgn.com.
MURDER ON MIAMI BEACH
Younger lover charged with gruesome killing

Anthony Martinez Beven

A Miami Beach gay male in his 60s, who has been identified as financial executive Louis Piper, was found brutally murdered by Miami Beach Police officers last Wednesday.

His partner Jonathan Alonso, who declined to give a statement to police, is charged and being held in connection with Piper's murder, which is a non-bondable offense, said department spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez.

Alonso is charged with one count of murder in the first degree, and one count of felony criminal mischief for destruction of police property. Alonso faces the death penalty or life without parole if convicted of Piper's murder, according to Florida Statutes.

Alonso's arraignment will be scheduled and held at the Miami-Dade County Courthouse, and the Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney will handle prosecution of the case, Rodriguez said.

On April 6, officers responded to a call from concerned acquaintances of Piper, who lived at 1800 Sunset Harbour South Tower on Miami Beach with Alonso, 30, according to the incident report.

A co-worker, according to the report, had not seen Piper in several days nor had he returned phone calls. The co-worker “contacted the building management and requested they check on victim’s welfare,” the report states.

After knocking on the door several times, and hearing a dog barking from the inside of the apartment, building management entered the residence with a spare key.

Upon entry, they saw Alonso, who initially stated he had not seen the victim in four days and then stated “he saw him yesterday morning.”

Witnesses, who were denied access to the apartment by Alonso, became suspicious and called police, according to the report. Alonso left shortly after this.

When responding officers arrived to the apartment, they entered the residence “fearing for the safety of the victim or anyone else inside the apartment... The officers saw the following: suspect blood in the hallway leading to the bedrooms, suspect bloody footprints leading into the bedrooms...”

“Additionally, they saw a deceased unidentified male in an advanced state of decomposition in a bathroom. The deceased was lying in a large pool of blood and had sustained possible trauma to his neck area. Officers saw signs of a struggle in the bathroom. They saw blood on the walls, bed and floor.”

From the crime scene, several bloodied knives were collected, according to the report. Piper’s body was transferred to the medical examiner’s office and positively identified. The determined cause of death was “stab wounds to the head and neck, and the manner of death as homicide.”

Alonso was found on the afternoon of Friday, April 8, at Museum Park on NE 10th Street and Biscayne Blvd after a police bulletin was issued to the public.

The report stated that Alonso was in possession of the victim’s credit cards and had noticeable cuts on his body and hands.

Anthony Martinez Beven covers Miami-Dade County for SFGN. He can be reached at anthony.beven@sfgn.com.
KANSAS LESBIAN STUDENT SAYS CLASSMATES SENT HER GRAPHIC DEATH THREATS

(EDGE) A lesbian student from Kansas is opening up after receiving graphic death threats from fellow classmates last week, that allegedly referenced her being shot and her throat slashed, Fox-affiliate station WDAF reports.

Hannah Reno, 17, said she was specifically targeted because of her sexuality, calling the incident “extremely nasty.”

Reno, a junior at Basehor-Linwood High School in Basehor, Kan. and sax player in the school’s jazz band, was on the school bus home Friday when she received a Facebook message with song lyrics from two male students.

“It addressed things like my sexuality, and it addressed him wanting to kill me, and him wanting me to kill myself,” Reno told WDAF. Her father Brian added: “They wanted to cut her throat, shoot her, they wanted her to slit her wrists and cut her own throat.”

Brian called the police, who told him to speak with school officials. He did so this week and admin told WDAF that two students were suspended for violating a handbook policy about disrespect and intimidating students. SFGN

BI TEENS TEXT BATTLE GOES VIRAL

(SFGN) A bisexual teen’s text argument with her disapproving aunt has garnered nearly 16 million impressions on Twitter. The teen girl, Charlie, took to Twitter to vent.

“I got into a fight w my auntie and she said “at least I don’t have to worry about my kid being a f**ggot like your mum does”” reads the original tweet.

Later Charlie’s aunt apologizes for using the slur, saying it wasn’t meant to be hurtful but that “gay people have a lot of drama.”

“I tried to understand this bi shit you claim to be but teenagers make stuff up all the time. You're young you will find a man. You can change. You used to be so clever. If you think you can't accept my help, don’t come to Indie's birthday I do not want you ruining the day.”

But it’s been Charlie’s response that has gotten the most attention.

“Hi Aunt Marie Don’t worry about it! I know what you’re like after a few bottles of wine. I can’t make Indie’s birthday I’m afraid, I have a huge lesbian orgy that day and me and the other faggots have been planning it for months. By the way how’s your divorce going? I saw Uncle Lee with his new girlfriend, she’s 20 years younger than you right? Speak soon!”

In an interview with Fusion Charlie said “I think a lot of people have been affected by my text to [my aunt] because it’s something that hardly ever happens. LGBT teenagers/children are very passive when it comes to ignorance and abuse from their family because it’s their family...They feel as though they can’t argue with them or even defend themselves because we’re taught that family is the most important thing and conflicting views shouldn’t change anything.” SFGN
A transgender girl from California was assaulted before being critically injured in a hit-and-run Saturday, the New York Daily News reports.

The 16-year-old teen, who has not been identified, was found lying in the street around 2:30 a.m. Saturday near a restaurant in Monterey Park, Los Angeles County. Authorities said the teen was wearing woman’s clothes during the time she was attacked and hit by the car.

Police said the victim attended a party at the restaurant and was intentionally struck by the driver, who then fled the scene, local news station KABC reports.

The teen’s family held a conference Monday, urging for the public’s help in finding the suspect connected to the incident.

The teen is currently recovering at a nearby hospital.

If you have any information about the incident, please contact the Monterey Park Police Department at (626) 573-1311.
Miami Beach had a 2016 pride season kick-off for the books with a weekend packed full of events, celebrities, camaraderie, and most important, community and equality.

The weekend officially began with a VIP reception held at the South Beach W Hotel on Friday evening. In attendance were big names from the celebrity world and locally.

World-famous drag queen, porn director and DJ Chi Chi LaRue, Parade Grand Marshal and 200 nationally syndicated radio host Elvis Duran were both on hand.

Local LGBT community well-knowns also attended, including newly crowned Miss Miami Beach Gay Pride Kahla Mendoza, Miami drag queen Elaine Lancaster, Miami Beach Police Dept. LGBT liaison Juan Sanchez, state Rep. David Richardson and Lori Lynch of the LGBT Visitor Center on Miami Beach.

On Saturday, the pride festival on the beach opened to the public at Lumbar Park, 11th to 14th Streets on Ocean Drive, with drag queen TP Lords emceeing between music sets on the main stage.

The beach party featured exhibitors, community booths, food vendors and of course, alcoholic cash bars, in which 100 percent of proceeds go to support Miami Beach Gay Pride.

The mission of Miami Beach Gay Pride is “to bring out international pop star and rapper in which both he and Iggy Azalea spoke to media. was a private event hosted by Duran and TD Bank, in which both he and Iggy Azalea spoke to media.

“World is watching Miami Beach Gay Pride, and I couldn’t be more proud,” Duran said before bringing out international pop star and rapper Azalea.

“I want to see music support the LGBT community, and I want to use my platform to do that,” Azalea told reporters. She added how inspired, honored and proud she is that she is able to do so.

Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Grieco, who is heterosexual, was among a handful of equality-friendly and openly-gay politicians on-hand to also speak with media.

“This is the best place on Earth to be right now,” Grieco said, noting that he had just returned from Disney World in Orlando and rushed to Miami Beach Gay Pride, which he said is his “favorite event” of the entire year.

The parade itself featured floats from area political and health LGBT organizations, South Florida gay night clubs and bars, LGBT-friendly for-profit businesses, as well as local police and fire departments.

People of all ethnicities, ages and sexual identities packed Ocean Drive to see the floats and get some free giveaways, which included pride trinkets, condoms, candy and more.

Mel Toledo, of Miami Beach, said this was her first time attending the parade.

“This is officially the first year that I get to be here as an adult, and as a bisexual, I feel welcomed,” she said.

Soleil Santalla, of Miami, was also a first-timer. She called the event awesome, adding “Everyone’s different but in the same way.”

Justin Santoli, also of Miami, said the parade “brings the community together, and you can see the resources the community provides.”

Sunday was the final day of pride weekend. Elaine Lancaster hosted the beach party, which featured a drag showcase with Miss Miami Beach Gay Pride. The music headline for the main stage was Jordin Sparks.

Miami Beach Police Dept. spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez said that the crowd seemed larger than last year, but the final count will come from organizers next week. He added that no crowd disturbances or disorderly conduct had been reported.

In its 8th year, Miami Beach Gay Pride initially drew around 15,000 attendees. Last year, an estimated 130,000 attendees from all over the world came to the three-day weekend of events.

Miami Beach Gay Pride was established by former Miami Beach Mayor Matti Herrera Bower as an initiative of the Miami Beach Gay Business Development Council. SFGN

Anthony Martinez Beven covers Miami-Dade County for SFGN. He can be reached at anthony.beven@sfgn.com.
In March the Florida Department of Health, Broward (FL-DOH-Broward) presented an overview of its current HIV/AIDS programs and its preparations for the comprehensive HIV plan.

Its two major funders, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) now require that HIV prevention and treatment programs be integrated into one comprehensive plan. Currently, the CDC funds prevention programs and HRSA funds treatment programs. These programs are managed and delivered separately. On September 30, 2016, FL-DOH-Broward and Broward County Ryan White Care (Broward County RWC) will submit one plan to the CDC and HRSA. The plan will be in effect from 2017 through 2021. Below are some of the highlights of that presentation.

FL-DOH-Broward has a budget of $11.4 million. About 44 percent of its budget focuses on prevention. It has 57 staff positions with nine vacancies or 15.8 percent.

Broward County has largely eliminated mother-to-child transmission. No mother-to-child HIV transmissions occurred in 2013 or 2014. In 2015, out of 128 pregnancies among women living with HIV, only one woman transmitted HIV to her baby.

Public sector HIV testing in Broward has increased by 18 percent from 2013 to 2015. In 2015, people took 83,277 HIV tests in Broward, enough tests for about 4.5 percent of Broward’s population. FL-DOH-Broward distributed 10,029,777 condoms in 2015. FL-DOH-Broward has conducted monthly PrEP workshops and has hired a PrEP coordinator.

Successful HIV care requires that people enter and remain in treatment. The PROACT program links the newly diagnosed to treatment. It also re-engages treatment dropouts with treatment. PROACT has a linkage rate to treatment for the newly diagnosed of 95 percent. In 2014, viral suppression was achieved by about 61 percent of the people in Broward diagnosed with HIV.

While FL-DOH-Broward and Broward RWC administer Ryan White Care (RWC) programs, differences exist. The federal RWC program has two types of RWC programs. One type funds state health departments to run non-medical RWC programs and the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). FL-DOH-Broward manages these programs in Broward. The South Florida AIDS Network (SFAN) functions as its advisory body. Sometimes people call these programs RWC-Part B.

The other type funds RWC medical programs in urban areas with high HIV rates, such as Broward County. This program (Broward County RWC) manages RWC medical programs. The Brown RSHA HIV Planning Council functions as its planning body. Sometimes people call these programs RWC-Part A.

In addition, FL-DOH-Broward manages all HIV prevention programs in Broward. The Broward County HIV Prevention Planning Council (BCHPPC) functions as BCHPPC’s advisory body. The comprehensive plan requires that prevention, FL-DOH-Broward RWC, and Broward County RWC work together.

Some people, however, expressed a sense of exclusion. Joey Wynn, chair of SFAN, said that FL-DOH Broward had not worked with SFAN. Wynn credited FL-DOH-Broward for its achievements in running ADAP. He stressed, “We are not adversaries. We have not been included. We’re here to help.”

Despite progress in controlling the epidemic in Broward, work remains in prevention, in linking people to treatment, and in maintaining people in treatment.

To view the overview of HIV programs and services, please visit BrowardGreaterThan.org/hiv/aids-resources. Click on “Florida Department of Health in Broward County HIV... (Slideshow)” at the bottom left of the screen.

To learn about meetings of the Broward County HIV Prevention Planning Council, please visit Browardgreaterthan.org/broward-county-hiv-prevention-planning-council-bchppc/, and check for the date and time.

To learn about meetings of the Broward HIV Planning Council, please visit Bhpc.org/programs/hiv-planning-council/, and check its calendar.

The South Florida AIDS Network (SFAN) meets on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Holy Cross Healthplex, 1000 NE 56th Street, Ft. Lauderdale.

All meetings are open to the public.
**NEWS LOCAL**

GET TESTED!

Sunday was National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Denise Royal

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Sunday, April 10 was National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD). It was created in 2013. Commemorated each year on April 10, NYHAAD seeks to educate the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on young people. The day also highlights the contributions of young people in the fight against the virus.

Approximately 1,000 young people in the U.S. become HIV positive each month. Undoubtedly, many of these young people living with HIV are LGBT. As such, they need and deserve help from the LGBT community.

According to the Florida Department of Health, 16 percent of all new HIV infections in the state reported in 2014 were among persons under the age of 25. Between 2012-2014, 548 new HIV infection cases were reported among those ages 13-19 and 2,117 among those ages 20-24. A total of 3,914 persons aged 13-24 were living with HIV in 2014, 548 new HIV infection cases were reported in 2014 were among persons under the age of 25. Between 2012-2014, 548 new HIV infection cases were reported among those ages 13-19 and 2,117 among those ages 20-24. A total of 3,914 persons aged 13-24 were living with HIV in 2014.

Youth are the future leaders and pathfinders, Beaches. “Aside from understanding that our people in our community,” says Lorenzo Lowe, Director of Prevention Services at FL-DOH RWC, “it is an important day in which we focus more of our efforts in the battle as it pertains to young people in our community,” says Lorenzo Lowe, Director of Prevention Services at Compass, the LGBT Center of the Palm Beaches. “Aside from understanding that our youth are the future leaders and pathfinders, we must ensure that all of our initiatives will encourage and empower them to make the right choice when it comes to their sexual health and eliminating the spread of the virus. By doing this those of us who remember the beginning of AIDS can guide the next generation into carrying the torch that shall guide them to the development of a cure.”

This year, organizers are promoting the idea of a NYHAAD Bill of Rights, which asserts that young people should have certain rights and protections related to HIV/AIDS. The declaration has five articles, which are listed below.

**Article 1:** The right to live free from oppression. Poverty, racism, homophobia and other forms of oppression all contribute to HIV risk and to quality of treatment and care.

**Article 2:** The right to education. Young people have a right to the education and skills they need to protect themselves from HIV.

**Article 3:** The right to prevention. Young people have the right to condoms, HIV testing and medication needed to help prevent HIV, and have the right to confidential, affordable and accessible services.

**Article 4:** The right to treatment and care. Young people are at risk of not receiving medication regularly enough to have their viral load suppressed. We must ensure that all youth have access to affordable HIV treatment.

**Article 5:** The right to live without criminalization, discrimination and stigma. Young people living with HIV have the right to freedom and dignity. Laws that criminalize HIV are founded in ignorance and serve only to divert attention and resources from real strategies to end the epidemic.

Commemorating NYHAAD is a step toward acknowledging and addressing the needs of young people in the HIV and AIDS response. It is also a reminder to get tested for HIV/AIDS. There are dozens of testing sites throughout South Florida. Visit the AIDS page on the state’s health department website for a list of testing facilities in South Florida.

**NEWS SFAN**

**APRIL REPORT FROM SOUTH FLORIDA AIDS NETWORK**

The South Florida AIDS Network (SFAN) functions as the networking and advisory body for the Florida-Department of Health Ryan White Care (FL-DOH RWC) grant in Broward County. Its monthly meetings are open to the public.

Several people reported that potential RWC clients had problems contacting RWC’s Centralized Intake and Eligibility Determination (CIED). Lisa Agate (CIED) reported that CIED had had phone problems in the past, but that the phones are working now. She urged people to leave a voice mail message, rather than to hang up in frustration. Agate also provided alternative ways to contact CIED: 1) call 954-566-1417; 2) call 954-561-9681, then press 3 for RWC, and press 1 for Eligibility; or 3) people who prefer email messages can email M Salcedo@BRHPC.org.

Justin Bell, Florida Department of Health in Broward (FL-DOH) RWC reported on this program’s budget. It will spend all of its funds by March 31, 2016, the end of its 2015 contract year. Bell also reported that FL-DOH RWC has shifted funds from underperforming programs to underfunded programs, such as Home Delivered Meals and Home and Community Based Health. The latter provides medical devices and medical equipment for home use. Bell described these funding shifts as increasing services to disabled people with HIV. The Residential Substance Abuse Program is now providing more services for less money.

Bell also reported that FL-DOH RWC has begun a program to ensure that clients remain in treatment. The department makes up to six attempts to contact those clients suspected of dropping out of treatment. Bell also reported on HIV prevention issues. FL-DOH has stopped paying for the ads on the sides of buses. The Department of Transportation, however, will continue to run those ads free of charge. These ads promote HIV testing and challenge HIV stigma. FL-DOH has distributed 10 million condoms.

The national RWC program also funds RWC programs through Broward County (Broward RWC). Neil Walker of that program reported that the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) will take place in Hollywood, Florida from Sept. 15 to 18, 2016.

Joey Wynn brought up an issue that arose at the SFAN community meeting in March. This issue concerned changes to the case management program in Broward RWC. Leonard Jones (Broward RWC) explained that HIV treatment requires two types of case management: 1) disease case management and 2) social case management. He stressed that some clients may only need one type of case management. Other clients may need both, but some may need neither. These two types of case management require different skill sets. Disease case management requires medical knowledge to manage HIV, its medications, and any co-occurring conditions, such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease. Nurses possess this skill set. Social case management requires the skill set of a social worker. Broward-RWC has split case management into two types of jobs. Nurses, acting as disease case managers, work in four existing medical providers: 1) the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 2) Broward Health, 3) Broward Community and Family, and 4) the Memorial Hospital District. Social case managers will remain in their current locations.

Joey Wynn reported on the Florida Legislative Session that just ended. HIV programs escaped budget cuts. The legislature approved the Miami Syringe Exchange Program, as a pilot program. It should begin to serve clients later this year.


Next SFAN Meeting: Friday May 6, 2016, at 10 a.m., at the Holy Cross Healthplex, 1000 NE 56th Street, Ft. Lauderdale. Newcomers are encouraged to attend.
In writing for the Miami Herald, Steve Rothaus knows his audience. “Most of the people who read what I write are not gay,” Rothaus said. “There are certainly things I have to explain.”

Since 1985, Rothaus has explained much to readers of the Herald, covering South Florida’s gay scene before it was en vogue. He was there when famed fashion designer Gianni Versace was gunned down on South Beach and present decades later for the first same-sex weddings in Florida.

In a recent feature article, the Columbia Journalism Review called his work pioneering. Rothaus said he was flattered by the publicity, when reached by telephone, noting the CJR is the “voice of our industry” and a “well respected” publication.

Another recognition came earlier in the week when the National LGBTQ Task Force selected Rothaus for a community service award at its 2016 Miami Gala. The gala, entering its 20th year, is hosted by the iconic Fontainebleu Miami Beach this October.

“It’s awkward at first,” Rothaus said when asked about the award. “But it’s nice to have feedback from the community and know that you are making a difference.”

Rothaus said being honored by the community he covers is especially gratifying considering he has often reported on issues that some would just assume never see the light of day. Early in his career, Rothaus reported on gay bashings, HIV/AIDS and political action committees — subjects that were not always crowd pleasers.

“People would ask, why are you putting us under a microscope,” he recalled.

For the Herald, a prominent international newspaper, he had to do that. And for years, Rothaus would call opponents of gay rights to get their side of the story.

“And they would talk to me,” he said. “They would give me a sincere quote and trust that I would write what they had said accurately and honestly.”

“Integrity as a journalist is always first,” Rothaus said.

In the LGBT community, the narrative remains centered on struggles with the fight for full equality still very much alive. Transgender rights have leaped to the forefront, noted Rothaus, with discrimination in the workplace and in housing a reminder of the adversity some trans people face.

“Right now the protections aren’t there,” Rothaus said.

“There are specific laws where sexual orientation and gender identity are not included. People are still being tossed out of their homes and fired from their jobs for simply being who they are.”

His work at the Herald has earned Rothaus two Pulitzer Prizes of which he credits the news organization for providing him with excellent editors and publishers. The Herald, he said, took a chance with expanding its coverage of gay issues.

“It is loyalty” he says. “And sticking with us.”

Dr. Gary Richmond is currently conducting clinical trials for HIV infected adults who have never been on antiviral medications. The trials are comparing the investigational regimen GS-9883/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide in a single dose tablet to abacavir/dolutegravir/lamivudine(Triumeq®) in a single dose tablet or dolutegravir(Tivicay®) plus the investigational medicine emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide.

Trials are also recruiting for adults who have been on the same HIV treatment for at least 6 months and have an undetectable viral load(less than 50 copies/mL). For this study, participants must currently be taking dolutegravir(Tivicay®) plus abacavir/lamivudine (Epzicom®) or atazanavir or darunavir with ritonavir or cobicistat (Evotaz®, Prezembix®, Reyataz® with Norvir® or Tybost®, Prezista® with Norvir® or Tybost®) plus either emtricitabine/tenofovirdisoproxilfumarate (Truvada®) or abacavir/lamivudine (Epzicom®). Participants will be randomized to either remain on their current treatment or switch to the investigational regimen GS-9883/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide in a single dose tablet.

Eligible participants will receive study medication and have study required laboratory draws at no cost, as well as a stipend for travel.

Please contact Verne Appleby at 954-524-2250 ext. 211 for more information about these studies.
One of the major conferences on HIV, The annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) took place in Boston on February 22. Below is one of the highlights. Most of the webinars are available online. If interested in viewing any of the webinars, please visit www.croiwebcasts.org.

Dr. Kristen Hess reported on lifetime risk for HIV Infection, which refers to a group risk level rather than an individual risk level. Different risk groups, sexes, and races will vary in their lifetime risk.

Researchers use lifetime risk to measure which groups bear the greatest burden of a given disease. Public health planners use lifetime risk to direct resources to those groups with the greatest burden. Gay, bi, and other men who have sex with men (GBO-MSM) have the highest lifetime risk for HIV infection of 1 in 6 or 16.7 percent. Among GBO-MSM, African Americans have the highest lifetime risk 1 in 2, or 50 percent.

Epidemiologists define lifetime risk as the cumulative probability that a member of a particular group will receive a diagnosis of a given disease. This can be expressed as a 1 in N chance or as a percentage. If a group has a 1 in 6 chance of an HIV diagnosis, out of any six people in a random group, 1 or 16.7 percent of the group would have an HIV diagnosis in their lifetime. Public health officials should direct more HIV prevention resources to that group rather than to a group with a 1 in 880 chance of an HIV diagnosis.

Public Health researchers in the U.S. find it informative to examine data by race and by sex. No one can understand HIV unless they examine “risk groups” such as men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs. In order to calculate lifetime risks for a group, researchers need to know its total population.

The U.S. Census provides this data for most groups. The census fails to collect data on sexual orientation, sexual behavior, and gender identity. While some researchers have estimated the size of the GBO-MSM population, no one has estimated the size of the transgender population.

Among all males, the lifetime risk for HIV infection is 1 in 64 or 1.6 percent. The lifetime risk for males of only two racial groups exceeded that for all males. African Americans had a lifetime risk of 1 in 20 or 5 percent. Latinos had a lifetime risk of 1 in 48 or 2.1 percent.

Among all females, the lifetime risk for HIV infection is 1 in 227 or 0.4 percent. The lifetime risk for females of only one racial group exceeded that for all females. African American females had a lifetime risk of 1 in 48 or 2.1 percent. Latinas matched the national rate for females with a lifetime risk of 1 in 227 or 0.4 percent.

Comparing risk groups demonstrates the extraordinary burden of HIV on GBO-MSM. This risk group has a lifetime risk of 1 in 6 or 16.7 percent. African American GBO-MSM have a lifetime risk of 1 in 2 or 50 percent. The CDC estimates that half of all African American GBO-MSM will become HIV infected in their lifetimes. The burden of HIV disease falls most heavily on this population.

Latino GBO-MSM had a lifetime risk of 1 in 4 or 25 percent. White GBO-MSM had a lifetime risk of 1 in 11 or 9.1 percent.

Dr. Hess also estimated that residents of Florida had the third highest lifetime risk of residents of any state. Among Florida residents, the lifetime risk of HIV infection is 1 in 34 or 2.9 percent.

The burden of HIV falls heaviest on African American gay, bi, and other men who have sex with men (GBO-MSM). That makes this group central to all HIV work. Controlling the HIV epidemic requires dramatically increasing the numbers of African American GBO-MSM in care and drastically reducing new HIV infections among African American GBO-MSM.

To view the webcast on lifetime risk, please visit http://bit.ly/23mgUZm
It’s a lounge for rejuvenation.

Tucked away in a shopping plaza off A-1-A in Fort Lauderdale’s Galt Mile is a lounge where drinks are served in untraditional methods. This lounge is all about wellness and nutrition and the drip comes intravenously.

Welcome to Liquivita Lounge, quite possibly the future of medicine.

“We created the Liquivita Lounge concept to bring nutrient IV therapy to the masses,” says founder Samuel Tejada, a Broward County firefighter and paramedic.

Raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Tejada now calls Coconut Creek home. He launched his premium wellness spa setting earlier this year after hearing a lot of positive buzz from similar startups in Los Angeles.

The idea of voluntarily sticking a needle in your arm is still a bit daunting for some so Tejada and his investors have made every effort to ensure a relaxed ambiance for the Liquivita Lounge experience. Tejada describes the lounge – with locations in Broward and Palm Beach Counties – as offering concierge-like service the moment guests walk through his doors.

“We teamed up with a leading group of medical experts to create the best IV nutrient infusions in a high-end lounge setting,” Tejada said.

The lounge offers seven nutrient IV drips, giving guests a variety of options to improve their wellness. Executives seeking to sharpen performance and relieve stress have their brand while other drips are offered that improve the appearance of skin, nails and hair; power cell defenses and even cure hangovers.

A normal session takes anywhere between 30 to 45 minutes for the IV to be administered, said therapist Brian Beasley.

“Those IV drips were amazing. I can’t even begin to describe in words how great I felt after leaving Liquivita Lounge, especially 2-3 days later. That massage chair sure didn’t hurt either!” said MMA fighter Steve Montgomery, in one of several VIP testimonials posted on the lounge’s website.

Flight attendants, competitive athletes and busy corporate executives fit the usual profile of an IV therapy patient, said Emmanuel Trenche, marketing and public relations manager at Liquivita Lounge. Not to be left out, Millennials, have a drip targeted for their lifestyle. Labeled “Rise and Shine,” this drip is customized for society scene stealers recovering from a party hangover.

“Hungover? Bounce back and get moving quickly,” reads a page in a promotional Liquivita Lounge brochure. What makes the Rise & Shine drip so effective? Liquivita officials point to Taurine, the drip’s most powerful ingredient. Taurine is an amino acid that works with electrolytes and Magnesium, a metal, and Chloride, a halogen, to detoxify cells.

For a free consultation, call 954-909-4998 or to book a session, visit LiquivitaLounge.com
Art Serve at 1350 E. Sunrise Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale will host a fundraising evening – with fine art, jewelry and sports memorabilia being auctioned on Thursday, April 21. The event is being held in conjunction with Hamilton Fine Art and Auction, Inc.

Oils, watercolors, lithographs, prints and serigraphs from world-renown and local artists will be offered in addition to jewelry and sports memorabilia. Among the artists’ works to be auctioned are pieces by Pablo Picasso, Renoir, Marc Chagall, Jim Buckles and Tim Otte. All of the artwork is custom framed. Opening bids are about 60-70 percent less than traditional framed gallery and/or retail prices.

“You can expect a fun, upbeat and lively auction,” says Janice Hamilton of Hamilton Art Gallery. “The event will be educational and entertaining. The auction has something for everyone.”

Two paintings by South Florida painter, George Gore will be raffled. Door prizes including Florida artist, Tripp Harrison’s limited-edition, signed print, Turtle Cove valued at $750 will be awarded during the auction.

“For more than 20 years, Hamilton Fine Art and Auction has been a leader in the fine art and fundraising art auction industry,” says Hamilton. “We put the FUN back into fundraising and have raised millions of dollars over the years. Our goal is to offer some of the world’s most recognized artists as well as up-and-coming artists to the public.”

The evening begins with a preview reception, featuring wine and hors d’oeuvres at 6 p.m. The live auction starts at 7. Entertainment will be provided by vocalist Meg Taylor, accompanied by D. Lovid on piano.

Tickets are a $20 donation. Sponsorships for businesses start at $100 and include free tickets and advertising space in the event program.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Chris Evert Children’s Hospital at Broward Medical Center in memory of Dr. William Smouse, Co-Founder of the unit, the Ivy Stranahan Scholarship Memorial Fund and the Fort Lauderdale Woman’s Club.

For tickets and other information, please call 954-761-9407 or visit FortLauderdaleWomansClub.com/category/events. SFGN
In February, Humana agreed to pay a $500,000 fine for lack of cooperation in an investigation. The fine was included in a consent order. This investigation concerned charges that Humana had discriminated against people living with HIV.

This consent order did not address the merits of the discrimination charge. As part of the order, Humana agreed to “ensure that it does not by effect or design treat those living with HIV/AIDS less favorably than any other condition.”

In 2014, The AIDS Institute and The National Health Law Program filed a discrimination complaint with the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The complaint charged that Humana and other insurers had placed HIV medications on the medication tier with the greatest expense to the consumer. The Federal Office for Civil Rights then notified the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (FOIR) of this complaint. FOIR then began its own investigation leading to this Consent Order.

The charges in this case relate to a type of discrimination, “Marketplace Discrimination.” It occurs when health insurance practices discourage people with expensive-to-treat medical conditions from purchasing health insurance. As discouraged people tend to be invisible, its effects are impossible to measure. For example, health insurers categorize medications into tiers, based on expense to the customer. Marketplace discrimination occurs on those occasions when an insurer clusters all or most of the medications to treat a disease on the most expensive tier. According to Michael Ruppal of The AIDS Institute, marketplace discrimination extends to other diseases such as Hepatitis B and C.

This understanding of marketplace discrimination is consistent with the business model of health insurance. Cliff Eserman of Incompas Financial described this business model as “spreading the risk over a bunch of people, just not you.” Ruppal argued that if Health Insurance Companies spread their risk among customers with multiple needs, they could minimize risk. Instead, certain companies have policies that discourage people with expensive-to-treat medical conditions from purchasing their plans.

In practice, however, other factors come into play. According to Eserman, Health insurers label the ratio of benefits-paid-out to income-received as the “Usury Ratio.” Eserman reported that health insurers strive for a Usury Ratio of 80 percent. The remaining 20 percent has to cover wages, salaries, overhead, and profits. This creates an incentive to minimize benefits-paid-out through excluding more “costly” patients.

Before the Affordable Care Act, private insurance could refuse to sell insurance to people with expensive-to-treat medical conditions. Now, marketplace discrimination drives them to less discriminatory insurers. This would concentrate risk among those non-discriminating insurers, driving up their costs. Health insurers engaging in marketplace discrimination discriminate against customers and engage in unfair business competition.

Ruppal argues that marketplace discrimination also precludes effective cost containment. Individuals lack the purchasing power to negotiate costs with pharmaceutical companies. Health insurers, however, could use their group purchasing power to negotiate costs with pharmaceutical companies.

In marketplace discrimination, insurers merely pass on the high cost of medications to patients. Challenging marketplace discrimination puts pressure on health insurance companies to negotiate costs with pharmaceutical companies. This could drive down the prices of medications.

“We want the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to work as intended, and we want it to work for people living with HIV/AIDS and others with chronic health conditions,” said Ruppal.

“But shifting all the cost of medications to the patients is not only blatant discrimination, but it also leads to poorer health outcomes, since beneficiaries will not be able to afford and access their life-saving medications.”

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Once upon a time I had a friend who would have made a perfect candidate for the worst therapist in the world. D (his initial) fancied himself the last of the great queer social justice radicals.

According to D, he and he alone knew the difference between right from wrong – he was only too happy to educate others about their racism, sexism and homophobia. And who better to educate us, since D, by his own admission, was never wrong. Ever.  

But he seemed to have a good heart, and so for about 18 months, I tried to be his friend. I actually attended several Occupy Wall Street marches with him, and I enjoyed those rallies. It was good to see so many people standing up to corporate greed and corruption.  

But I wasn’t “radical” enough for D, and so he began to “educate” me about my “conservative” values. I began to notice a disturbing trend in his behavior. He would often fly into furious rages whenever anyone said anything he disagreed with. He would cut people out of his life at the slightest provocation, claiming that he was “putting up boundaries” and “empowering” himself.  

At one point he did this to one of my closest friends, telling me that I wasn’t “allowed” to mention my friend’s name in his presence.  

At the time I knew him D was training to be a therapist. As his rages escalated, I began to wonder what kind of therapy he was going to offer his clients. After awhile he got an internship in a respected therapist’s office – he then proceeded to go on and on about what a horrible person his new supervisor was.  

"I want to cut the bitch," D told me of his new boss.  

I began to feel very uncomfortable around D. I felt unsafe. He was triggering my PTSD. Why I remained in that friendship for another six months when I knew it needed to end is a testament to the harm PTSD can do to a person’s judgment.  

It was D who ended the friendship. When he finally cut the cord, he sent me a lengthy email in which he listed my myriad of faults – one after the other. He went out of his way to be as hurtful as possible and made it clear that I was not to respond because he was once again "empowering" himself and putting up "boundaries."  

He was too full of himself to hear my sigh of relief that this toxic friendship had finally ended.  

But then...  

Several people I had contacted regarding news articles I’d been assigned to write told me they were “advised” not to talk to me by a “friend” of mine. I soon found out that the “friend” in question was – you guessed it – D.  

I left him an irate voicemail in which I told him that he went too far and doesn’t know when to stop. A few days after that, I received a phone call from the Parkside Station of the San Francisco Police Department. It seems that D and his boyfriend had filed a harassment complaint against me. Among other things, they claimed that I wanted to have a “relationship” with D, which was news to me.  

"What are you going to do about this?" I asked the police officer.  

"Nothing," was the reply. "This complaint has no merit."  

"What does that mean?" I asked.  

"It means that this is a false police report," was the response. The officer told me that filing a false police report is a misdemeanor felony and asked me if I wanted to press charges against D and his boyfriend. I wished I had.  

Instead, I filed a complaint against D with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences, the office which licenses therapists to practice in this state. I stated my concern for the fact that someone as obviously unstable as D was being allowed to provide mental health services. Because I wasn’t his client, the California Board of Behavior Sciences dismissed my complaint against D without even attempting to verify if what I had told them was true. One would think that D’s desire to “cut” his supervisor would be of concern to the Board, but it wasn’t.  

As for D, I recently found out that he’s begun working at a counseling center, which serves the LGBT community here in San Francisco. I shudder to think of how much harm he’ll do to the psyche of his clients. Like many LGBT people, D comes from a background of abuse. He’s endured the sting of homophobia. He’s been traumatized. Whether he knows it or not, he suffers from PTSD. He’s damaged goods. With that in mind, it’s relatively easy to forgive his behavior.  

But what about the California Board of Behavioral Sciences? What’s their excuse? Why are they knowingly allowing mentally unhealthy therapists to work with people who are seeking to be healed from their own traumas? How can we, as LGBT people, a community that’s been traumatized by decades of hate and bullying, heal from our wounds when the therapists we turn to for help are themselves unstable? Is this a situation we can live with?  

We need to speak up and to demand higher standards from the mental health profession. We should not be expected to turn to unbalanced people for our therapy.
Are you dating or living with a psychopath? Doing so would not be that out of the ordinary, about one in one hundred persons are psychopathic. Being just out of a acquaintance that ended spectacularly bad my analytic mind set to doing what it does best, understanding what had gone so seriously wrong in literally a moment. No answers were readily available, never had I experienced anything so deeply disturbing and lingering.

Through conversation and the passage of time his behavioral inconsistencies surfaced as a continuum finally yielding a lead to research, and ultimately understanding.

I came to understand the man is a psychopath. Psychopaths are generally difficult to spot because they can initially be quite likable. Over time, their true nature becomes increasingly apparent. The moment he understood I was no longer open to his manipulation I was persona non grata.

Once I came to understand the condition I could clearly see that psychopaths operate in easily identifiable manners and are readily recognizable with rather common traits. To recognize a psychopath it is important to understand psychopath and sociopath are diagnoses of antisocial personality disorder, often arising from genetic and environmental stimuli affecting males more than females. Psychopathy generally peaks in the twenties and fades into the forties. Many cases are treatable and treatment can be effective when diligently administered and accepted. Sadly, some cases are not treatable particularly when the psychopath refuses to recognize the condition.

Psychopaths are almost always viewed as friendly; it is easy to leave a conversation with one feeling really good. They are often delightful people and skilled at small talk. A quick wit draws others to them and their litany of interesting stories is entertaining; the stories are on the surface believable and portray them in a positive light. With time you will come to understand that most of the stories have few roots in truth.

A lack of guilt will likely be your first flag signaling your date or partner might be a psychopath. Psychopaths are incapable of feeling remorse. They cannot accept responsibility for hurting others; instead everything will be your fault and responsibility. They have no empathy which also precludes them honestly loving, all the while presenting very convincing mimicking.

Arrogance is a hallmark of psychopaths usually expressed as an inflated sense of importance; they think rules and social norms don’t apply to them. They harbor a grandiose sense about their potential believing they are the best at everything they do. In actuality many do little or nothing at all.

With faint regard for their safety or that of others, psychopaths often lie, cheat, and steal to get ahead. Psychopaths can be very intelligent and their behavior is usually well organized leaving few clues behind. Sexual promiscuity is a common trait with no regard for their or other’s health while focusing only on their personal pleasure.

Psychopaths are master manipulators. Not experiencing genuine emotions toward others they are very good at manipulating other people’s emotions. Subtle yet effective flattery easily persuades others to do out of character things. As a result, those who love them often have no idea the psychopath is incapable of truly caring for other people. Guilt trips effectively push along their agenda.

Some psychopaths understand their personality disorder and effectively mimic their loved ones creating a relatively stable and normal relationship and a happy and successful life. More often the psychopath’s inability to feel remorse, empathy, compassion or love and to see such behaviors in their partner as weakness, ensures that in the end no good can or will come of the relationship.
Some years ago, I told someone that I was HIV positive before I agreed to his invitation for a date. “Yeah, I know,” he casually replied, and then he looked a little embarrassed, as if he shouldn’t have said it. It was too late, of course; I knew exactly what he meant. He could tell my HIV status by my face. I had The Look.

The sunken, wasted cheeks of someone living with HIV. It became a common manifestation in the 1980s and persisted until the medications that caused the condition, known as facial lipoatrophy, were changed or abandoned for better treatment.

Today, facial lipoatrophy is almost exclusively limited to long-term HIV survivors who used medications like d4T and DDI more than twenty years ago.

I’m one of those long-term survivors. When my symptoms began to appear, it meant that the choice to share my status, as an activist or on a personal level, had been taken away. My HIV was written across my face for all to see.

I am proud of my history advocating and living with HIV. But as uncomfortable as it may be to admit, it’s a lot easier to live openly as a person with HIV when you don’t look like it.

I felt ashamed of my appearance, and then conflicted. For someone who has been fighting so hard to reduce HIV stigma, what is there to be ashamed of, exactly? Many of the physical signs of HIV – from weight loss to fat redistribution to facial wasting – are worn as battle scars, if not badges of honor, by thousands of people living with HIV. My very survival is mirrored in my physicality. What’s wrong with that?

Eventually, I realized that correcting my facial wasting was no different than improving my t-cell counts. I wasn’t making a political statement; I was improving my health and well-being.

And so, I began a journey that would include multiple visits to Dr. Gerald Pierone in Vero Beach for the injection of various “facial filler” products into my face. It wasn’t easy trusting a physician to correct this – my face may have been sagging, but it’s the only one I had – but with some careful research I learned that Dr. Pierone was the most experienced in the field.

I chronicled my journey through video blogs that span more than six years (Log onto www.thegavoice.com to view each video blog). They include the treatments available for facial lipoatrophy, information about patient assistance programs for temporary fillers, and the dramatic results of permanent fillers, with plenty of “before and after” footage along the way.

The supportive response to the videos has taught me, once again, that the things about which we may be the most ashamed are the very things that can help someone else, if only we allow ourselves the courage to speak up about it.

I’m not kidding myself. Facial fillers are not the fountain of youth, no matter what “The Real Housewives” may think. My own aging process hasn’t been slowed down at all, but I like to think that my face looks like it is aging naturally, as if HIV wasting had never been an issue.

The answer to HIV stigma, of course, is not to wipe away any evidence that we may be living with the virus (beauty may be skin deep, but stigma runs far deeper). This has been an exercise in healing for me, and not an effort to escape the realities of my life and my health.

Today, I can complain about the ravages of getting older right along with everyone else, without the added layer of self-consciousness that once burdened me. And although no one loves the aging process, mine is tempered with the knowledge that I have survived when many have not.

It is gratitude, nothing more, that is written across my face.
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Dear Jae,

I read with interest your “Convictions” article in SFGN dated 3-30-16. It broke my heart.

As a person who lives free from religion, I wonder why those you interviewed on their faith stay with irrational belief systems in which, in their words, they “can’t dress” as they wish, in which their “traditions” are seen as obstacles to their faith, where “worship itself isn’t all that important,” where someone had to “find my own way,” and another finds it “difficult to fit in anywhere,” yet another is “ostracized,” another feels like “I am sinning,” and another is told that, “the people I love and I are going to hell.”

Why do they do this to themselves?

A crucial meaning of the word “faith” is to have confidence and trust in a person. Faith is independent of reason. I believe that religion has co-opted the word, so when we speak of faith we mean religious faith – when it could very well mean having faith in oneself!

One comment made in the article suggested the importance of culture. I agree that one’s culture is important and should be honored when possible. However, when one’s culture – or an aspect of it – prevents people from becoming who they are, perhaps it needs to be discarded – for one’s mental wellness, if for no other reason.

I hope that your interviewees can look beyond the mythological traditions and habits that cage them into belief systems that control by fear and intimidation. There are many secular support groups out there in the community. All it takes is will - and faith in oneself - to find one. SFGN

Sincerely,
Frank E Grant, Ph.D.

Dear Frank,

I received your letter the other day and I wanted to thank you for your input. As a person who identifies as an agnostic atheist in the same vein Carl Sagan was, I hold nature and the universe as sacred. My natural condition towards skepticism and secular ideas are apart of me. Even so, I wanted to defend the people who I interviewed and why they may stay as members of various religions or faith groups.

Religion itself can be an outlet for a person’s internal satisfaction for truth, contentment, spirituality, and intellectual curiosity. On the other side of the argument, it could be used as a tool to control, dictate, stigmatize, suppress, and destroy humanity. Throughout the centuries of time, politics surrounding religion has been used as a tool to control people rather than the actual belief in an ideology or belief system. (Examples: the introduction of Christianity in ancient Rome and the loss of Hellenic worship, the 16th century decline in Zoroastrianism because of the rise of privileges for converts to Islam, the modern push against Syrian refugees because of Christian fundamentalists and fear mongering, etc.)

One could make the argument that people should not practice a faith where religious leaders are actively hostile towards their sexuality, gender, or any unchangeable constant that’s apart of them. The resentment, pain, and anger is valid - but that’s disregarding the personal sacrifices a person goes through staying in a community where their personal interpretation of the scripture differs widely from the mainstream line of thought. With awareness and understanding, communities evolve and change.

Why, thirty to twenty years ago, certain mainstream gay rights organizations used to bar transgender people from their demands of legislative protections - should the transgender community have stopped identifying as LGBTQ? Of course not. This would have divided people, instead of allowing people to evolve. The intersections of our identity are too complex to discard just because it challenges a mainstream way of practice, ritual, spirituality, or mode of acceptance.

I was raised by an agnostic-leaning, Greek Orthodox Christian father and a Jewish mother who later converted to Paganism. Yes, you read that right. My childhood was filled with Passover, Hanukkah, secular Christmases, and a whirlwind of Pagan ceremonies after my mother began practicing witchcraft. I have been exposed to people of various spiritualities, belief systems, and religions. If a person uses religion as a way to satisfy their own internal curiosities and questions about the universe at large, I support that outlet even though I don’t agree with it personally.

So for LGBTQ people of (religious) faith to practice their religion in the face of a religious community that can be divided on their existence, that gives me more respect to the individual. They practice not because of fear, but because it gives them meaning and happiness.

In a modern context, religion itself has an overwhelming control over the narrative of our country. It is the “dominant” group in our nation. There are hundreds of denominations and churches out there, but the fact remains that the many fundamentalist groups still shape America.

Religion itself is not a problem, but radical extremism and the dominance of this extremism is the main source of violence or conflict in any religion. Even in a world where religion did not exist, I imagine that a different tool meant to influence, manipulate, or positively motivate would take its place. SFGN

Much peace,
Jae Kanella
Many of us remember the TV series “Get Smart” from the late sixties (or the movie remake in 2008, featuring actor Steve Carell). The series centers on bumbling secret agent Maxwell Smart, (Don Adams), also known as Agent 86 and his female partner, Agent 99 (Barbara Feldon).

Agents 86 and 99 work for “CONTROL,” a secret U.S. government counter-intelligence agency. Maxwell Smart is, assigned by his “Chief” to foil the enemy, “KAOS,” an international organization of evil. The pair investigates and thwarts KAOS’ various threats to the world. Together, they “out smart” KAOS.

In the end, Maxwell Smart never fails to save the day… usually, more often than not, with a lot of help from Agent 99.

Trivia challenge: “What do “CONTROL” and “KAOS” stand for?… see the very bottom of this article.

Gary Sullivan, LCSW

Many of us remember the TV series “Get Smart” from the late sixties (or the movie remake in 2008, featuring actor Steve Carell). The series centers on bumbling secret agent Maxwell Smart, (Don Adams), also known as Agent 86 and his female partner, Agent 99 (Barbara Feldon).

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Maxwell Smart used a lot of tricks and tools to beat the odds and “win.” There is a similarity here to another “SMART” program that supports individuals who want to “win.” To win in Recovery!

People who have chosen to abstain, or are considering abstinence from any type of addictive behaviors (substances or activities) It’s called SMART Recovery (Self Management and Recovery Training). SMART Recovery is a recognized resource for substance abuse and addiction recovery by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Center for Health Care Evaluation, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

What does SMART Recovery provide in the recovery tool box? First of all, SMART Recovery is a science-based approach to addiction recovery. The program teaches how to change self-defeating thinking and actions; and to work towards long-term satisfactions and quality of life.

Grounded primarily in the psychological tenets of Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT), SMART Recovery believes that how we “feel and act” is greatly influenced by how we “think.” So, by focusing on changing our maladaptive thinking, we can begin to experience self-empowerment in recovery and live satisfying lives.

SMART Recovery teaches tools and techniques for self-directed change. Its meetings are educational and include open discussions. SMART Recovery advocates the appropriate use of prescribed medications and psychological treatments.

What about other recovery programs? SMART Recovery believes that each individual finds his/her own path to recovery. For some, that way may include 12-step programs, like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA), or other abstinence-based self-empowering groups such as Women for Sobriety and LifeRing Secular Recovery.

Although the SMART Recovery approach differs from each of these approaches in various ways, it does not necessarily exclude them. Some SMART Recovery participants choose to attend other programs and meetings in addition to a SMART Recovery meeting, as they construct their own paths to recovery.

SMART Recovery features a four-Point Program that helps people recover from all types of addictive behaviors, including: drug and alcohol abuse, drug addiction, gambling addiction, cocaine/opiate addiction, and addiction to other substances and activities.

The Four Points are:

◆ Point #1: Enhancing and maintaining motivation to abstain
◆ Point #2: Coping with urges
◆ Point #3: Managing thoughts, feelings and behavior (problem-solving)
◆ Point #4: Balancing momentary and enduring satisfactions (lifestyle balance)

The program offers specific tools and techniques for each of the Four Points. Participants are encouraged to learn how to use these SMART Recovery tools and to practice the techniques as they progress toward achieving lifestyle balance and leading a fulfilling and healthy life.

SMART Recovery sponsors face-to-face meetings around the world, and daily online meetings. In addition, SMART Recovery’s online message board and 24/7 chat room are excellent forums to learn about SMART Recovery and obtain addiction recovery support.

The “Get Smart” TV Series left us with many, now-famous, Maxwell Smart catchphrases. Two notorious ones: “Would you Believe…” and; “Missed it by That Much!” Anyone who is working or seeking recovery very much wants to “Believe” that lifestyle balance and fulfillment is possible. Don’t miss it “By that much!”

If you haven’t done so yet, check out SMART Recovery. You won’t be “Sorry about that,” Chief!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Online: www.SmartRecovery.org

Link to meetings in the South Florida area: http://www.smartrecovery.org/meetings_db/view/ Florida area: http://www.smartrecovery.org/meetings_db/view/ or: smartrecoverysouthflorida.com

Link to online meetings schedule: http://www.smartrecovery.org/meetings/olschedule.htm

General Info Flyer: http://www.smartrecovery.org/resources/generalinfoflyer.pdf

Trivia Challenge: Gotcha! Ah, the number one myth in Get Smart history. The letters in CONTROL and KAOS do not stand for anything. KAOS and CONTROL were never written as acronyms (K.A.O.S.), as U.N.C.L.E. and S.P.E.C.T.R.E. were. The names were picked because chaos represents evil and the opposite of chaos is control.
EMOJIS MAY SOON SHOW GREATER GENDER DIVERSITY

Dana Rudolph

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ev\nresentation matters. That’s why I’m excited that emojis, those little icons used in texting and other online messaging, may be taking a step towards greater gender diversity. The problem was noticeable. Last week, feminine-product brand Always released a new video in its “Like a Girl” series, raising awareness about the limited range of female emojis. “Girls send over a billion emojis every day,” it tells us—but most female emojis are wearing pink or show stereotypical images, such as a bride, a princess, Playboy-style figures with bunny ears, or the recipient of a haircut. Male emojis show a range of professions and sports activities. The girls in the video are understandably disgruntled by this.

A fix may already be on the way. New emojis are approved by the non-profit Unicode Consortium, which includes tech giants like Google and Apple as well as a number of individuals. Once they approve an emoji, vendors like Google and Apple take the base emoji character and can add color and other custom details for their specific implementations. Currently, a vendor can implement a gendered version of a base Unicode emoji, but has to pick only one gender.

The consortium is, however, considering a new specification, Unicode Technical Standard #52, that would allow vendors to offer end users the option of choosing male, female, or gender-neutral versions of the same base emojis—similar to the way they can now choose different skin tones for many emojis.

The draft specification explains how things have been done in the past, stating, “Unicode itself does not normally specify the gender for emojis characters: the emojis character is RUNNER, not MAN RUNNING; POLICE OFFICER not POLICEMAN. For a greater sense of realism, however, vendors typically have picked a particular gender to display, even for the neutral characters.”

The vendors have tended to follow gender stereotypes. Unicode’s non-gendered police officer, construction worker, medic, guardsman, and spy are all implemented as male. Women remain limited to princess, bride, dancer, or the passive recipients of a haircut or a head massage.

The new specification would help—and one senses someone involved has at least a basic understanding of the difference between gender identity and expression, too: “The Gender customization allow[s] vendors to display male, female, and neutral versions. Neutral doesn’t mean the default (untagged) presentation, which could be any of these three; it means a specifically a [sic] gender-neutral presentation. These customizations are to mark appearance, and not gender identification.”

The draft specification would allow female, male, or neutral versions of a wrestler, weightlifter, spy, or police officer, among other emojis. Even the bride and “woman with bunny ears” emojis would allow gender customization, as would a proposed “man in tuxedo.” (I hope Unicode makes all of the emoji names gender neutral as part of this process, too.) The princess won’t be gender-customizable, presumably because a new emoji featuring a prince is scheduled for later this year, giving us separate emojis for male and female crowned heads.) I don’t know why the construction worker isn’t on the list, though.

Are male, female, and neutral options enough, given the vast spectrum of gender—but keeping in mind the small space of an emoji? The new emoji specification has not yet been approved, so if you have thoughts on the matter (or if you think additional emojis should be gender customizable), you can view the draft and find a link for feedback at: www.unicode.org/reports/tr52/.

Emojis already took a step towards greater inclusion last year by including two-mom and two-dad families (with either one or two kids), in addition to the same-sex couples they’ve had for a few years now. None of these emojis can be customized by skin tone, however, so with most vendors, one is stuck with the default bright yellow. (EmojiOne, which produces a set of open-source emojis for any project or developer to use, makes all of its family icons White.) Given all the various configurations of skin tones among family members, maybe the generic bright yellow is the best solution here, so that we don’t have to choose from overly lengthy menus—or maybe there’s a clever solution that would make customization easier. In any case, Emojis One should do something other than all White.

One further emoji that has not yet made its way to our screens is the rainbow flag. Technology news site The Next Web reported last July that some members of the Unicode Consortium were open to this, but also concerned that simply adding this one flag “would provide no orderly path to encoding additional, similar flags for other social groups or causes.” If you wish to make your opinion known, visit: www.unicode.org/reporting.html.

Emojis are never going to be perfect images of our lives. They are fun, concise icons for certain aspects of the world. At the same time, representation does matter. I’m glad they’re allowing for greater aspects of identity, such as skin tone and family structure. I’m hopeful about the new gender specifications, too. We don’t need yet another venue telling girls all they can be are brides and princesses.

Personally, one of the other proposed features in the new specification has me equally excited—the ability to customize hair color and to specify red, long missing from most vendors’ emoji sets. As a proud redhead, I’ll be happy to have an emoji that finally represents that part of my identity. When I can put together an IKEA bookshelf and brag to my friends using a red-headed, female, construction worker emoji, I’ll be even happier.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

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North Carolina was one of my favorite states. Though I never lived there, my partner Michael Greenspan is a proud Tar Heel who was born in Asheville, grew up in Charlotte, and graduated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (then as now a center of progressive politics).

Before Michael got sick we used to visit North Carolina almost every year; to visit his relatives but also to enjoy all that state had to offer. And there was a lot. Vacations in North Carolina might include the Outer Banks, the Triangle - Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill - the Triad - Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point - and our favorites, the city of Asheville, the Blue Ridge and the Great Smoky Mountains. Michael and I loved to drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway, stopping along the way to enjoy all of its great sights: Grandfather Mountain, Linville Falls, Mount Mitchell, the Folk Art Center, Mount Pisgah and the Devil’s Courthouse.

North Carolina’s political climate, though hardly progressive, was never horrible enough to keep us away. In spite of Senator Jesse Helms, North Carolina was considered moderate by Southern standards, at least in comparison to nearby South Carolina, Tennessee or Virginia.

This blissful state ended with the tea party wave of the last decade, which elected a Republican majority to the General Assembly in 2010 and GOP Governor Pat McCrory in 2012. Now with total control of the state government, the right wing majority began to pass a series of tea party-inspired laws that pushed the Tar Heel state back a few decades.

High on the wish list was a Voting Law that changed how, when, and where voters could cast ballots and also changed the limits and disclosure requirements for political donors. Needless to say, this law has kept from the polls minority members, students and other groups most likely to vote for Democrats.

North Carolina’s recent outrage against humanity occurred in reaction to a LGBT rights law passed by the City of Charlotte. Outraged by the Queen City’s protection of its lesbian, gay, bisexual and especially transgender citizens, the General Assembly met in special session and rushed through HB2, a bill that McCrory signed on March 23.

The new law overturns Charlotte’s ordinance and bans all North Carolina municipalities from enacting sexual orientation and gender identity protections. HB2 also requires trans people to use bathrooms and locker rooms that do not match their gender identity. HB2 was rightly called “the most egregious, sweeping, hate-filled anti-LGBT legislation in this country’s history” though the State of Mississippi, not to be outdone, is now rushing through a "Religious Liberty Accommodations Act" that is even worse.

McCrory and his GOP legislators claim that they rushed HB2 through to prevent men from claiming transgender status in order to enter women’s bathrooms or locker rooms for predatory purposes. This ploy worked well in the City of Houston, where opponents used the specter of men in dresses to convince voters to repeal that city’s human rights law.

McCrory called HB2 “common sense” legislation passed “to stop the breach of basic privacy and etiquette, ensure privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms.” The fact that trans women are more likely to be the victims and not the perpetrators of bathroom or locker room crime was ignored by the governor.

North Carolina’s HB2 is related to the anti-LGBT “freedom of religion” laws that have recently passed or are being considered by the red states. These laws are part of a backlash against LGBT progress in America, especially the United States Supreme Court’s legalization of marriage equality in last year’s Obergefell v. Hodges ruling. Previous “freedom of religion” bills were vetoed by the governors of Georgia, South Dakota, and Virginia.

North Carolina was not so lucky. However, its new law did cause a reaction on the part of LGBT advocates, political progressives, and major corporations who threaten to move out of the Tar Heel State if HB2 is not repealed. I hope it is repealed. Meanwhile, though I am only one person, I intend to boycott the State of North Carolina until and unless it discards this horrendous law. This is personal. By passing HB2, North Carolina broke my heart, and for this I will not soon forgive or forget.
YOUR SUMMER IS FILLING UP QUICKLY.
It starts with graduations and confirmations. You’ve already got a pile of “Save the Date” cards for a bunch of weddings, and the summer wraps up with family reunions and more weddings. It might even end with yours, and in the new book “The Best Party of Our Lives” by Sarah Galvin, you’ll see how “I do” becomes “whooo hoooo!”

Even though she “always figured” she’d end up spending her life with a woman, Sarah Galvin “certainly had no interest in weddings....” They just weren’t relevant to her, except for an irksome knowledge that much of the wedding industry was biased against LGBTQ couples.

Later, as a writer for a newspaper in Seattle, she began getting requests to “crash” weddings and she was “blown away by the things” she saw. Weddings – especially for LGBTQ couples – weren’t what she thought they’d be. Their parties were “the best ones imaginable....”

The stories of some she found are in this book.

When a couple looks back on their boy-meets-boy (or girl-meets-girl) story, there’s often an element of surprise. There was an introduction, either traditionally or through modern methods like Craigslist, online, or dance rave. Falling in love might’ve begun with bumps and rough spots, followed by the realization of common interests and the happy idea that you can’t get her out of your mind.

No two proposals are alike, although today’s couples almost always have some sort of prior discussion on it. The actual “Will you....” might be romantic and accompanied by one or two rings, or it may be an out-loud wondering if moving in together meant more than merely sharing a home. And just like the proposals are varied, so are the budgets, which usually leads to a DIY ceremony that more reflects the pair.

Some of the couples in this book had domestic partnerships long before they married. One couple debated marriage altogether, figuring that there was no reason to wed as an “affirmation of the love they’d known was true” for years. Some invited nearly everyone they knew, while one couple sent “Don’t Save the Date” chotchkes. There were cakes and cake-toppers, toasts and gifts, and one “thirty-three-year relationship [that] deserved a party....”

So you got engaged over the holidays, or maybe you’ve got love on the brain. How do other LGBTQ couples make their special days... special? “The Best Party of Our Lives” is packed with ideas on that.

It’s also packed with another thing: stories that are very Seattle-centric. Author Sarah Galvin says she “started with” Seattle couples but she never really got any farther than that, although LGBTQ couples get married all over the place. I would’ve absolutely liked to see wider coverage from this book; the minimized area doesn’t make it bad – it makes it a lot of the same.

Even so, if you’ve got stars in your eyes, a ring on your finger, and romance on your mind, you’ll barely notice. For you, newlywed-to-be, “The Best Party of Our Lives” will fill you with happiness.

THE BEST PARTY OF OUR LIVES: STORIES OF GAY WEDDINGS
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Cruz continues to court anti-LGBT groups

Southern Poverty Law Center

Last November, Sen. Ted Cruz made some waves when he and two other presidential candidates—Mike Huckabee and Bobby Jindal—addressed an event in Iowa in support of “religious liberty.” The event was sponsored by extreme anti-LGBT radio host Kevin Swanson, of the anti-LGBT hate group Generations with Vision. Swanson has made many anti-LGBT statements over the years, and he has also defended the execution of LGBT people, though he said he would provide LGBT people a chance to repent first. Huckabee and Cruz pleaded ignorance about Swanson’s views, which are readily accessible through a web search.

Appearing at the event was a mistake, Rick Tyler, a Cruz campaign spokesman, told USA Today in December. Tyler said that Swanson’s comments about supporting the execution of LGBT people are “reprehensible,” and further stated that Cruz has spoken out repeatedly against anyone who calls for hatred or violence against homosexuals. In spite of Tyler’s claims about Cruz’s support for LGBT people, Cruz was scheduled to be at a campaign rally yesterday in Mississippi that included anti-LGBT and anti-Muslim radio host Bryan Fischer, the former director of issues analysis at the American Family Association (AFA), an anti-LGBT hate group. Cruz cancelled the appearance, citing illness, but told his Mississippi campaign chairman, State Sen. Chris McDaniel, that he wanted to come, and that he was still hoping to do a pop-in, but “there’s no way he could make a full rally.”

Though Fischer was removed from his directorship early last year, he remains a radio host and blogger at AFA. Fischer is known for his vitriolic anti-LGBT and anti-Muslim statements linking homosexuality to pedophilia as well as Nazism. He has called for the criminalization of homosexuality, called for the cessation of Muslim immigration to the U.S. and also stated that Muslims don’t have First Amendment rights. Fischer has even attacked African-Americans, saying, “[t]he wonder we are now awash in the disastrous social consequences of people who run like rabbits.”

“Religious liberty” has become a rallying cry for anti-LGBT groups, especially since last year’s Supreme Court ruling that legalized marriage equality nationwide. A litany of so-called “religious freedom restoration acts” have been proposed in many states, all drafted and driven by anti-LGBT groups attempting to legalize discrimination.

In late February, in fact, the Cruz campaign announced a “religious liberty” advisory council that features several people who have been instrumental in spreading and propagating damaging falsehoods about LGBT people for years. The narrative behind “religious liberty” portrays Christians who object to homosexuality on biblical grounds as victims of religious persecution. The so-called RFRA’s would allow Christians, especially, to deny goods and services to LGBT people on the basis of their religious beliefs. Cruz devotes a page of his website to this new narrative. On day one of a Cruz administration, the site claims, Cruz will “instruct the Department of Justice, the IRS, and every other federal agency that the persecution of religious liberty ends today.”

The choices for Cruz’s religious liberty advisory council are weighted heavily toward anti-LGBT Christian, something his council has in common with a “marriage and family” advisory board that Senator Marco Rubio’s campaign announced during February.

In fact, the two boards share some members:

- Cruz’s council includes two people from the anti-LGBT hate group Family Research Council (FRC) which has, for over two decades, worked to defame LGBT people with a variety of discredited myths and pseudoscience. FRC president Tony Perkins is the chair of Cruz’s advisory council and has linked homosexuality to pedophilia, even claiming that LGBT people “recruit children.” Other FRC officials have over the years called for the deportation of LGBT people, claimed that LGBT households are “violent” and that LGBT people are sexual predators. The FRC website states that “homosexual conduct is harmful to the persons who engage in it and to society at large, and can never be affirmed.”
- FRC fellow Kenneth Blackwell is on Cruz’s new council. Blackwell has compared same-sex marriage to incest, suggested that transgender and bisexual people would use same-sex marriage to engage in polygamy, and tried to link a 2014 mass murder in California to attacks on “natural marriage.”
- Ryan Anderson, a research fellow at the Heritage Center, was also named to Cruz’s advisory council. Anderson is one of the young guns of the anti-LGBT movement who, though not as overt in his anti-LGBT sentiment, routinely traffics in anti-LGBT pseudoscience when speaking to national media. He has also written that the decriminalization of homosexuality helped lead to the Penn State molestation scandal in 2011 and commended a book that supported the criminalization of “sodomy.”
- Another member of Cruz’s council is pastor Jim Garlow, who was a major proponent behind California’s Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in 2008. (It was later found unconstitutional in court.) Garlow has repeatedly linked gay marriage to Satan and held a conference at his Skyline megachurch in California in 2015 at which many speakers disparaged homosexuality as unhealthy and destructive.
- Everett Piper was also named to Cruz’s council. Piper is president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University and delivered the closing keynote address at the 2015 gathering of the anti-LGBT hate group World Congress of Families in Salt Lake City. At Garlow’s 2015 conference, Piper claimed that the LGBT rainbow flag had become “the dark flag of tyranny overnight.”
- Cruz has also brought in Kelly Shackelford of the Texas-based Liberty Institute, a legal firm that bills itself as fighting for “religious liberty.” In reality, the Liberty Institute works mostly against antidiscrimination ordinances and defends those who claim to have been hurt by them. Shackelford and the Institute peddle alleged anti-Christian incidents (many of which are false or misrepresented) to demonstrate the need for “religious liberty.”
- Carol Swain, a professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University, also sits on Cruz’s new religious liberty advisory council. A self-described Christian evangelical, Swain garnered attention last year when she wrote an op-ed in the Tennessean claiming that Islam is not like other religions in the United States, and that it “poses an absolute danger to us and our children unless it is monitored better than it has been under the Obama administration.”
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So, I like to go both ways. No…not that. Ew. I’m talking about with my cellphones.

I own both the iPhone and the Android. Variety isn’t such a bad thing. The iPhone is sort of like that older daddy-type that still carries a nice bubble butt and likes to get lots of attention. While the Android is that inexperienced college boy with the chiseled six-pack abs and an overactive libido. But that’s fine. Different is good. Which brings me to the subject of the newest iPhone announcement: the iPhone SE, where difference is lacking.

What the “SE” stands for is still a mystery. It’s in the newest string of lettered iPhones like the iPhone 6s and iPhone CE. I’m surprised they haven’t come out with the iPhone LGBT that comes in rainbow colors and preloaded with new music from Brittany Spears.

This new batch of Apple’s attempt at giving us “choices” isn’t actually very different than the rest. The look remains the same, so the rumors of Apple removing the headphone jack and Lightning plug were false. The color palette is extravagant – Silver, Gold, Space Gray, and Rose Gold.

But let’s face it...no one carries their phones around without a case, so the color options are a waste. It’s a 4-inch screen, which is exactly the same screen size as previous model the iPhone 5s. Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple, is a rare type of gay man...apparently to him, size DOESN’T matter.

Let’s elaborate about what’s on the inside. Because that’s what supposed to matter, according to those sappy romance movies on Lifetime. It’s got an A9 64-bit processor, which is seriously fast. Faster than any other 4-inch smartphone on the market. That also translates to quicker download times on cellular or Wi-Fi. So no more stutters when watching video or surfing the web. There’s still that dismal 16GB drive, which leaves little room if you’re into shooting video, taking pictures, or if you’re an app-a-holic like me. Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat all take up a considerable amount of space on that flash drive. There is a 64GB model for an extra $100 which might be worth the expense.

The battery life has supposedly tripled. I’m always leery about battery life on any phone, because it seems like every new model promises better battery life. Yet, my phone still dies when I’m partying at Rumors with a cocktail in one hand and a cock in the other. I guess it’s for the best, though, because my drunk texts were getting me in a heap of trouble.

As far as the camera, it is actually a welcome improvement with 12 megapixels which means better nudes…I mean, selfies. A new feature called Live Photos will record a few seconds before and after you take your picture. The video camera resolution can be shot up to 4k! If you’re older and don’t know what that means, it’s like replacing that VHS deck with a Laserdisc. The operating system is still iOS 9 that’s riddled with more bugs than my grandmother’s pantry.

Unfortunately, the iPhone’s continued lack of exciting features doesn’t bode well for the company’s future. Android phones have wireless charging, waterproof casing, and curved screen for more viewing room. Apple needs to push harder if it wants to stay ahead of the competition. It’s needs to add more features, not add more letters.
You will be surprised at how little capital wealth is required for a comfortable retirement.

Nest egg seems a strange term for your retirement money yet it carries a very real comparison. Though retirement planning and eggs are inherently strong in their structure, in the wrong circumstances both can be very fragile. Nest eggs are tricky work. They take discipline, timing, research and responsibility.

After you follow the rules as best you can; maximize savings, minimize spending and contribute to your retirement plan. What then? When do you have enough to quit working and enjoy your 'golden years'?

Here’s the problem. In all likelihood you will retire sooner and live longer than the generation ahead of you. Retirement for you may reasonably be measured in 30 to 40 years. Will you be sentenced to live forever under the veil of fear that one day your money may be gone while you still aren’t?

For many years savers have moved from a preponderance of stocks to bonds as they age. As you age, replacing your nest egg becomes more difficult than keeping it even at minimal rates of return. Taking your nest egg home and hiding it under the mattress is a sure fire way to outline your money. A better bet for your nest egg may be to move your safety horizon way out. Keep your nest egg actively, if conservatively, invested as long as you remain employed.

The stock market over any 10-year period outperforms bonds on an order of double. Over the long haul bonds and cash may keep a steady stream of income flowing your way year after year but that steady flow of income will buy less and less when inflation is factored in.

Protecting the principal while earning a livable and inflation protected return are equally important to give yourself the lifestyle you worked hard and saved for.

How much do you need to be comfortable while not working? I can’t know, there are too many variables. However, we can readily calculate a pretty good estimate. How much after tax income do you think you need to live the lifestyle you want? Don’t forget to consider income taxes unless you are wholly invested in tax-free bonds.

Take the income you will require and divide the amount by 5 percent. Five percent is a reasonably safe yield expectation on most investments over time. Understand that you will probably earn more, more like 10 percent, but that excess must be left in your investment account. The excess becomes a part of your capital protecting you against inflation. You will have more principal yielding 5 percent allowing your income to grow over the years as prices go up.

The calculation becomes very simple. For example assume income must be $25,000 your first year (of freedom). Divide $25,000 by 5 percent and the size of your next egg must be $500,000. Over time you will likely earn 10 percent and the balance you don’t spend increases the $500,000 to $525,000 which next year allows $26,250 income. The third year your principal is $551,250, which allows $27,600 income. And so on. The magic is in allowing part of your return to be reinvested.

Remember the $500,000 in the example is not necessarily simply your cash, stocks and bonds. Perhaps your home has a great deal of equity and moving to a less expensive place can yield resources that can be included in your principal. Include your Social Security income in your income calculations. Don’t forget to make your income calculation based on your new freedom based lifestyle that probably will not require many of the fixed and variable expenses required while you are working.

You will be surprised at how little capital wealth is required for a comfortable retirement. I certainly was.

Missed a week? Don’t worry. Catch up at SFGN.com/RetiringGay to follow the series online.

Ric Reily is the author of two books, Money Is The Root Of All - Skip The Debt Habit, and Gregory’s Hero. You can reach him at ricreily@gmail.com

This multi-part series, Retiring Gay, primarily considers the financial steps to successful retirement. However, preparing emotionally for retirement is equally important to a happy, fulfilling and successful retirement. Planning for retirement is your opportunity to reconsider day to day living. Insurance, investments, spending, savings, socializing, residence and many other considerations change. Reaching retirement with a well executed plan makes your transition to a post work life easier and more fulfilling.

F ollowing an extensive nationwide search, the Gay Men’s Chorus of South Florida has hired Harold G. Dioquino as its conductor and artistic director.

The assistant conductor of the 175-member chorus since its founding six years ago, he has been the interim director since last summer. “While the search generated dozens of responses from highly qualified candidates from 13 different states, we discovered that our next great artistic leader was right in our own backyard,” said Mark Kent, the chorus’ executive director. “It was an intense process that yielded an amazing result.

“Harold Dioquino has taken the chorus to new heights during his tenure as interim conductor. Our audiences are raving about his programming, and the chorus members themselves love the vocal technique he is infusing into their work.”

Dioquino brings more than 25 years of experience in all phases of musical performance, including rehearsing, conducting, arranging for both vocal and instrumental parts, programming, and research.

In addition to his position with the Gay Men’s Chorus of South Florida, Dioquino is the music director of South Florida’s acclaimed Dingegin Choir and director of music at the Church by the Sea in Bal Harbour.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in music from the Philippines’ University of the Immaculate Conception, where he was a member of the music faculty following graduation. From 1993 to 2000, he was assistant conductor and pianist for the Himig Singers, one of the Philippines’ premier choruses. During his tenure, the chorus toured extensively in Europe and North America, winning numerous prestigious music competitions.
Some soldiers see action. Some do not. Fort Lauderdale resident and ex-closeted Vietnam vet James Stoup is the author of “Behind the Wire: A Story about Life in the Rear during the Vietnam War.”

He spent 1970-71 in Vietnam “in the rear” writing for army publications rather than in combat. His book about that year is a powerful exposé about drugs, low morale and bad leadership during the last years of that war.

If you did not know that Stoup eventually came out of the closet, reading his superb Vietnam memoir would barely set off your gaydar. That is what his next book will do.

In “Behind the Wire,” he describes tours of duty filled with drugs, bitterness, resentment, mutiny and sex in the lives of soldiers who do not agree with the premise of the Vietnam War and have no respect for their superiors who make their lives miserable. “Behind the Wire” should be read as a prelude to Stoup’s forthcoming gay memoir, and also by those who lived through Vietnam and are only now sufficiently distanced from that war to learn the truths that Stoup unflinchingly discloses.

When asked if the account of his having sex with a woman in Thailand while on leave was accurate, Stoup says, “I did gay Thailand much later in life, but no, that R&R in Bangkok was true as written. The entire book is true as written. Military peer pressure, you see. And, it was 1970, I was 23, and very much in the closet and repressed. But I do have an interesting aside for you on the gay underground that I discovered existed in our camp just weeks before leaving to come home. I remember thinking, ‘Damn! Wish I had found this earlier!’”

The most powerful moment described in “Behind the Wire” is near its conclusion when Stoup looks around at the other soldiers belted into their seats on the transport plane bringing them home. Many were going through severe heroin withdrawal right before leaving to come home. I remember thinking, “Damn! Wish I had found this earlier!”

Stoup describes two opposing groups within the ranks of the American military in Vietnam: those who wait out their tour and the lifers who seemed to hate them.

Stoup says, “Keep in mind that all but the most hard-core of the career military types knew the war was wrong. The good lifers were just doing their jobs and making a living, while the others did what they could to advance their careers regardless of the right or wrong of the war. The morality of the war was very ambiguous to the career military, and the politicians and policymakers really fucked with them big time.”

“Behind the Wire” is as clear and honest a depiction of a soldier’s experience in Vietnam as may be found. The cynicism and restlessness of the American soldier in Vietnam as described by Stoup have probably been replicated in subsequent US military interventions elsewhere in the world. If “Behind the Wire” is indicative of the quality of his forthcoming account of post-war marriage, family and coming-out, readers are in store for more eye-opening revelations.

LAUDERDALE’S JAMES STOUP TELLS THE TRUTH ABOUT SEX, DRUGS & ANGER IN VIETNAM

Tony Adams
I grew up in a mixed-faith household. My father’s family are Eastern European Jews who came to America from the area around the Caucasus mountains (now the Ukraine and the various “Stans” (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, etc.) My mother’s side is a mixture of Irish, English and German. They didn’t have a lot in common, but in the spring, they both cooked brisket.

My mother’s mother corned it for St. Patrick’s Day and my father’s mother made it for Passover.

However you prepare it, brisket is a flavorful meat and, when prepared correctly, delicious and tender. Half the battle is in picking the right piece of meat, look for a brisket with nice marbling.

The more fat you can see, the more tender the meat will be. Beef brisket comes from the pectoral muscle of a cow. It’s a tough cut that needs a long, slow cooking process to tenderize it.

With St. Patty’s Day long past, let’s take a look at the traditional Jewish preparation of brisket.

Passover begins on the evening of Friday, April 22, and this dish is as traditional at a Passover Seder as a turkey is on a Thanksgiving table.

### Harriet Horowitz’s Passover Brisket

**Ingredients**

- 6 to 7 pounds beef brisket
- ¼ cup flour
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- 1 Tbs. garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 8 stalks celery, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 6 yellow onions, peeled and sliced
- 6 fresh or dried bay leaves
- 3 (16 oz. each) cans stewed tomatoes
- ¼ cup brown sugar (optional)

**Directions**

Rinse the brisket and pat dry with paper towels.

Mix together flour, salt, pepper, garlic and parsley.

Lightly dust the brisket in flour. (This is most easily done by putting it in a clean grocery bag with the flour, closing the bag and shaking it until the flour sticks to the beef)

In a large non-aluminum Dutch oven or roasting pan, heat the olive oil.

Brown the roast 2-3 minutes on all sides.

Place the brisket fatty side up in the pan.

Pile the carrots, celery, onions, and bay leaves around the brisket.

Add the stewed tomatoes.

There should be enough liquid and vegetables to come about 3/4 of the way up the meat.

Cover the top of the Dutch oven with the lid, if using a roasting pan, top the brisket with 2 sheets of parchment paper, then with aluminum foil. (Tomatoes react unpleasantly with aluminum).

Bake for 3 1/2 hours, or until the meat is tender.

If you prefer your vegetables crisper, remove from the liquid and set aside.

If you prefer softer veggies, leave them in the pan for the next step.

Return the roasting pan or Dutch oven to the stove top and boil the sauce over medium heat for another 10 minutes, or until the sauce is thickened, adding brown sugar if desired.

My mother was not one to spend much time in the kitchen. She would do anything to allow for more time at the pool. She made a brisket that was equally delicious and required little attention.

### Mrs. O’Leary’s Corned Beef and Cabbage

**Ingredients**

- 4-6 pound brisket
- Salt and pepper
- ½ Cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 can or bottle (12 oz.) Guinness
- 1 head of cabbage cut in wedges
- 6 large carrots, sliced into 2 inch segments
- 6 red potatoes, quartered

**Directions**

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Rinse the beef completely and pat dry, sprinkle liberally with salt and pepper.

Heat oil in a large roasting pan or Dutch oven.

Place beef fatty side down and leave for 2-3 minutes or until browned.

Flip beef over and repeat on all exposed sides until all sides have been seared.

Place roast in pan, fatty side up.

Pour beer around and gently over the beef.

Coat top of beef with brown sugar.

Cover, and place in an oven preheated to 300 degrees.

Bake for 2 hours.

Remove from oven, baste beef with juices from pan.

Add vegetables to pan, surrounding roast.

Cover and bake for an additional 30 minutes.

Remove cover from pan, baste beef with juices; roast an additional 30 minutes, adding more stout if needed.

Remove the brisket, cover lightly with foil and allow to rest for at least 15 minutes.

Remove vegetables to serving platter.

Boil down any remaining liquid until it forms a glaze, set aside for use at table.

Jews generally don’t serve corned beef as a roast, it is sliced and used on sandwiches.

However, a beef brisket is a traditional entrée for Passover Seder.

This is a combination of my Aunt Harriet’s recipe with influences by Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa. SFGN

No matter how you cook the brisket, it should always be sliced across the grain.

For tips on how to carve a brisket go to https://youtu.be/nGAP1DQ_Vs8
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FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 14 - APRIL 19, 2016
WWW.SFGN.COM

4/14
CONCERT
Mamma Mia! ABBA The Concert, tonight at 8 p.m. at the Kravis Center, will send South Florida audiences back to Stockholm in the 1970s, disco ball and all! This amazing international tribute band, called “the closest to ABBA you’ll ever get,” will sing all the Swedish band’s biggest hits, including “Dancing Queen,” “Waterloo,” “The Name of the Game,” “Mamma Mia” and “Fernando.” Tickets start at $15 at Kravis.org.

4/15
DANCE
“Toeing” the line between high art and high camp, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo is an internationally acclaimed all-male ballet troupe beloved for their parodies of classics like “Swan Lake.” Delicately stuffed into tutus and man-sized toe shoes, the gender-bending dancers amaze with their grace and technical prowess. Tonight at 8 p.m. at the Parker Playhouse, 707 NE 8th St. Tickets at ParkerPlayhouse.com.

4/16
THEATER
Nostalgia is in the air at The Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway in Boca Raton. This weekend, the theater known for old fashioned musicals debuts a new production of “I Love a Piano,” featuring the music of great American composer Irving Berlin. Sing along and tap your toes to his timeless classics “Blue Skies,” “Puttin’ on the Ritz” and “There’s No Business Like Show Business.” Tickets start at $70 at TheWick.org.

4/17
FILM
“First Monday in May,” a look at the creation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s most attended fashion exhibition in history, “China: Through the Looking Glass,” opens this weekend at O Cinema Wynwood, 90 NW 29th St. in Miami. The documentary features Anna Wintour, Karl Lagerfeld, Jean Paul Gaultier, John Galliano and more. Check local listings for show times. Tickets at O-Cinema.org.

4/18
THEATER
Ginger Reiter, creator of “The Jackie Mason Musical,” offers a reading of her latest work, “Mel Schwartz Sleeps with Mae West,” a transgender comedy, tonight at 8 p.m. at Empire Stage, 1140 N. Flagler Drive in Fort Lauderdale. Set in Miami Beach ca. 1981, homophobe Mel Schwartz discovers his mistress is not what he thinks “she” is and havoc results. Free admission, but reservations encouraged by calling 845-598-2850.

4/19
CABARET
Are you a true “Gleek” or just a big Broadway fan? In any case, head down to the Parker Playhouse, 707 NE 8th Ave. in Fort Lauderdale, to see and hear Darren Criss, who had his big breakout role as Blaine on Fox’s hit “Glee.” The Broadway star will be joined by Sirius XM star Seth Rudetsky for an evening of show tunes and dishy insider show biz talk. Tickets are $46.50 to $126.50 at ParkerPlayhouse.com.
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RIVERSIDE HOTEL
Lesbian couple grapples with marriage question in new web series

David-Elijah Nahmod

Jen Tullock and Hannah Pearl Utt aren’t a couple, but they play one on TV. Close friends and writing partners, they co-star in the new Super Deluxe web series “Disengaged,” which raises the question: now that we can marry, should we?

“We wanted to tell a story about codependency,” Tullock, a self-described out, proud lesbian, told SFGN. “We found ourselves in relationships that we were deeply rooted in and couldn’t escape from. That became the perfect springboard for a story not only about gay marriage, but about modern relationships and how the vocabulary for them is shifting and evolving.”

“We are reassessing our thoughts about marriage,” added Utt. “A lot of our friends are getting married and divorced.”

Tullock is a comedian, a writer and a voice actor. Also a musician, she’s released “Jentari,” a rap album. She’s been seen as a “sardonic soccer mom” in national ads for Twixt, Wal-Mart and Toyota. Utt is an actress with a number of independent films to her credit. The women are partners in “Dodge and Demure,” a production company in which they collaborate on projects to showcase themselves as actors and writers.

“Humor is how Jen and I deal with everything,” Utt pointed out. “We don’t know how to communicate without humor.”

The women assured SFGN that they were not against gay marriage. “It’s wonderful that we now have the right to decide for ourselves,” said Tullock. “As a young, queer person, I’m not blind to how hard people before me fought. I’m grateful for the work they did.”

“I don’t mean for the show to sound anti-marriage,” Tullock said. “It’s more about the ritual of the marriage machine. These are things that can’t be described as funny or sad. They exist in that middle ground. Our relationships are filled with joy and pain.”

The first season of “Disengaged” can now be viewed on YouTube: http://bit.ly/23lFLfY
WHAT THE HELL IS POLYAMORY, AND WHY'S IT ON MY TV SCREEN?

A look at AT&T’s new romance comedy

Brittany Ferrendi

Polyamory — the state of being in love with more than one person at one time — is relatively unheard of in mainstream pop culture. Really, most people had no idea it was even a thing. Until now.

“You Me Her” is a romantic comedy about a failing marriage that gets revived when the husband hires an escort. He finds out that his wife had a secret — she used to be involved romantically and sexually with other women. So, the wife also begins to get involved with the escort and it evolves into a three-person relationship.

This AT&T original series pushes the boundaries of hetero-normativity in media. Most of the time, television series and movies show heterosexual, two-person relationships as the main focus. More so in recent years, this idea has expanded to include gay, lesbian and bisexual characters — though they are usually not the main characters.

So, this is huge. Putting all of it out in the open, “You Me Her” breaks through the norm and leaves viewers intrigued (and maybe a bit confused). The best part about this show? It’s a romantic comedy. It’s not trying to spend the whole show explaining and acclimating the viewer to the audience. It’s not trying to avoid offending anyone. It’s not trying to shove polyamory into people’s throats and it’s not trying to convince people that polyamory is the right or only way to go. It wants to tell a story, a comedy, with the polyamorous relationship as only one piece to the puzzle.

Not only is the show breaking boundaries of what could be considered “appropriate” for television, people are also loving it on social media. Overall people on Twitter responded better than expected for a show that defies norms.

I’m excited for this show to continue, but I will admit that I have had my reservations.

Since it’s pretty much the first show involving polyamory in mainstream media, I’ve been very concerned that it will be misrepresented. For example, it is very likely that people will confuse polyamory with having sexual relations with multiple people. Polyamory is about love and intimate relationships, not just about fulfilling sexual desires. There is a fine difference between romance and sexuality — you don’t need to be sexually involved with someone to be in a polyamorous relationship. It’s even in the name: Poly is from Greek origins, meaning “many” or “several,” while amory comes from the Latin word amor, meaning “love.”

So, while I am expecting sexuality to be involved in the show — one of the women being an escort kind of gave it away — I am hoping that there’s more to it than sex. I’m hoping there is love.

Another thing that worries me about the show is the sexualization of the two women — it’s no secret that straight men sometimes fetishize lesbian couples. The stereotype is that some men want lesbians to join them for a threesome, when in reality lesbians would typically want nothing to do with a straight man. Being that “You Me Her” features a two women, one man relationship, I would worry that this sexualization would be used as a sole crutch to gear people into liking the show.

At the end of the day, there’s nothing we can do about sexualization of any of the characters. You can’t control who you’re attracted to — which is kind of the whole point of the show. Regardless of whether people enjoy the show because of the comedy, the romance, the plot, or because the characters are irresistible, one thing is for sure: “You Me Her” is breaking boundaries in a way that most people would have never expected.
Becoming a mother was a “game changer” for funny lady Wanda Sykes. While her family may provide plenty of material for her stand up act, the “New Adventures of Old Christine” and “MadTV” alum doesn’t regret starting a family.

“It’s a huge change, but it felt right. I just didn’t realize how much it would affect everything,” Sykes explained in a telephone interview.

She used to include a joke about her children in her shows: “People say having kids is a lot of work, but it’s worth it. I just stop with they’re a lot of work.”

Sykes, 52, doesn’t have many regrets, however.

“They’re fair game….My comedy is pretty much what happens in my life and that’s definitely what’s happening,” she said. “I can’t remember the last time I got to sleep past 7:30 except when I’m on the road touring and doing shows.”

South Florida audiences will get a taste of Sykes’ dry humor on Sunday, April 17 when she offers a sneak preview of her new comedy special at the Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.

In addition to her family, she ticked off a list of topics for the show, including politics, Donald Trump, the environment, GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and food, the situation in Flint and race relations.

“I have this situation in my own home,” she explained. “I’m married to a French white woman with two white kids. I’m a minority in my own home.”

In addition to her upcoming comedy special, she remains busy. She has a recurring role in “Blackish” on ABC and will be appearing in episodes of Showtime’s “House of Lies” airing this summer.

But she’s most famous—especially with much younger fans—for her distinctive voice.

Sykes pointed out, “If the parent recognizes me, it’s from ‘Curb Your Enthusiasm,’ but the kids know me as the witch on ‘Bubble Guppies’ (on Nickelodeon).”

She is reprising her popular role as the voice of Granny in the latest “Ice Age” film, due out later this year, and is very excited about a new project for Nickelodeon, in which she plays one of the parents of a same-sex doll family.

“Portia de Rossi plays my wife. We have two mommy dolls and two kid dolls, which is pretty cool,” Sykes said.

When she’s not touring, acting or playing mother, Sykes simply enjoys relaxing. She and her wife love boating, “even if it’s just fishing or for a ride.” She also has plans to do more writing.

“I’m a pretty decent writer,” she said. “I just like a good story. Of course, I like to think of something for me, but if there isn’t a part for me, fine. I want to approach it first as a writer.”

In the meantime, she admitted, she has plenty to keep her busy.

Wanda Sykes takes the stage at Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino and Resort in Hollywood on Sunday, April 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets start at $30 at MyHRL.com.
Peter Bisuito is the world’s only gay bodybuilder comedian.

“It’s been a double edged sword. I’ve done a lot of research and I cannot find at all—not one person in this world—who is a full time gay, muscle bodybuilding comedian,” said Bisuito.

He certainly doesn’t look like many leading comedians on the circuit.

“I’ve always told myself I’m like Kathy Griffin-meets-Wanda Sykes-meets-George Carlin,” he said, naming three heavyweights.

“People aren’t used to seeing comedians who look like me, so they don’t make the connection. Sometimes it works for me and sometimes against me.”

Bisuito, who grew up outside of Rochester, New York, had concentrated on theater and dance in his early years before taking up bodybuilding at the age of 27 and catapulting his weight from 145 lbs. to 245 lbs. today.

About the same time he moved to Los Angeles and a couple of years later came out, a “long process,” he recalled.

Then, the corporate executive and entrepreneur turned his attention to comedy.

“Deep down I always knew I wanted to perform,” Bisuito said. “I was 42 and woke up one day, decided to take the leap of faith, gave up my job and put myself on food stamps.”

That was four years ago and in just a couple weeks, he will be headlining a seven-city European tour of England, Ireland and the Netherlands.

But first, Bisuito will make his South Florida debut at the Broward Center in Fort Lauderdale.

Bisuito and his husband recently relocated to the area after spending 13 years in upstate New York.

“That’s all you need to know about that decision,” he explained, expressing no remorse about leaving the harsh winters behind.

“I’m a storyteller, I don’t tell jokes. I’m not a rimshot comedian,” Bisuito explained, preferring to relate his recent experiences and encounters to audiences.

Bisuito also relies on his audiences to set the tone at his performances. The “gayer” the audience, the “gayer” the stories.

“I do this whole schtick where I compare gay couples and straight couples: If you walk into a straight bar and bump into a straight guy’s girl, you end up in a bar fight. But, if it’s a gay bar, you end up in a three-way,” he said with a chuckle, noting the name of his act, “My Big Funny Peter.”

See Peter Bisuito in “My Big Funny Peter” in the Abdo New River Room at the Broward Center on Saturday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $26 - $35 at BrowardCenter.org. For more information, go to MyBigFunnyPeter.com. SFGN
**Datebook Theater**

**Top Picks**

* The Legend of Zelda: Master Quest
  April 14 at 8 p.m. at the Adrienne Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. The renowned video game is celebrated with a 56-piece orchestra, 20-person choir, and video presentation. Tickets $75 to $125. Call 305-949-6722 or visit ArshCenter.org.

* Loud and Proud
  April 16 at All Saints Church, 333 Tarpon River Drive in Fort Lauderdale. The Fort Lauderdale Gay Men’s Chorus performs its spring concert, with the debut of the Fort Lauderdale LGBTQ and Allies Youth Honor Choir. Tickets $25 to $40. Call 954-832-0060 or visit TheFTLGMC.org.

* Florence K
  April 16 at 8 p.m. at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. The Canadian chanteuse performs bossa nova, blues, pop, and Latin inspired tunes. Tickets $20. Call 954-462-0222 or visit BrowardCenter.org.

* The 24th Annual Ukrainian Montage
  April 17 at 2 p.m. at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. A celebration of Ukrainian folk dance and music by the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami. Tickets $25. Call 954-462-0222 or visit BrowardCenter.org.

* Darren Criss
  April 19 at 8 p.m. at Parker Playhouse, 707 NE Eighth St. in Fort Lauderdale. The “Glee” star comes to New York to perform Broadway hits. Tickets $46.50 to $126.50. Call 954-462-0222 or visit ParkerPlayhouse.com.

* An Evening with David Sedaris
  April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Parker Playhouse, 707 NE Eighth St. in Fort Lauderdale. The author recounts his comedic life as a second-generation Greek American growing up in North Carolina and working as a holiday elf and an apple picker. Tickets $68.89 to $77.43. Call 954-462-0222 or visit ParkerPlayhouse.com.

* The Submission
  Through May 8 at Island City Stage, 2304 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. Danny, a gay playwright, is elated that his play is chosen to be performed at a festival -- but he turned it in under the pen name of a black woman. He hires a black actress to fill in for him, but it only makes things more complicated. Tickets $35. Call 954-519-2533 or visit IslandCityStage.org.

**Broward County**

* Steve Hackett: Acolyte to Wolfhght -- Genesis Revisited
  April 14 at 8 p.m. at Parker Playhouse, 707 NE Eighth St. in Fort Lauderdale. The former Genesis guitarist returns after an impressive performance in 2014. Tickets $47.50 to $167.50. Call 954-462-0222 or visit ParkerPlayhouse.com.

* Amy Helm & The Handsome Strangers
  April 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. The daughter of Levon Helm and Libby Titus Fagen, the singer performs traditional gospel, blues standards, and her own compositions. Tickets $25 to $49.50. Call 954-462-0222 or visit BrowardCenter.org.

* Goblin Market
  April 15 to 17 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. Two sisters return to their home filled with faeries and goblins and other mythical creatures. Tickets $20. Call 954-462-0222 or visit BrowardCenter.org.

**Palm Beach County**

* ABBa The Concert
  April 14 at 8 p.m. at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach. A tribute to the Swedish pop band responsible for hits like “Dancing Queen” and “Mamma Mia!” Tickets $15 and up. Call 561-832-7469 or visit Kravis.org.

* Symphonic Band Concert
  April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach. A performance by the Palm Beach Atlantic University symphony. Tickets $10. Call 561-832-7469 or visit Kravis.org.

* PBAU Dance Ensemble Spring Concert
  April 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach. Palm Beach Atlantic University dance students perform works by renowned choreographers and locals. Tickets $10. Call 561-832-7469 or visit Kravis.org.

* Outside Mullingar
  Through April 24 at the Don & Ann Brown Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 211 St. in Cutler Bay. Set in Ireland, Rosemary and Anthony Reilly must deal with their own personal problems as a brother and sister are ditched by their theater group. Tickets $10. Call 561-832-7469 or visit Kravis.org.

* The Pajama Game
  Through April 24 at Lake Worth Playhouse, in Lake Worth. Workers at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory threaten to strike for a 7.5 cent pay raise in this musical adapted from the novel “7 ½ Cents.” Tickets $29 to $72. Call 561-586-6410 or visit LakeWorthPlayhouse.org.

**Miami-Dade County**

* Chicago City Limits
  April 14 at 8 p.m. at the Aventura Arts and Cultural Center, 3385 NE 188 St. in Aventura. The improv troupe is one of New York’s longest running shows. Tickets $39. Visit AventuraCenter.org.

* * Barrage 8
  April 15 at 8 p.m. at the Adrienne Arsht Center, 3355 NE 188 St. in Aventura. A fun performance using all instruments in the modern string family. Tickets $40 to $45. Visit AventuraCenter.org.

* * Chris MacDonald’s Memories of Elvis in Concert
  April 15 at 5 and 8 p.m. at the Adrienne Arsht Center, 3355 NE 188 St. in Aventura. A tribute to the great Elvis Presley with performances from his beginnings in the ‘50s to the outrageous costumes of the Las Vegas era. Tickets $55. Visit AventuraCenter.org.

* A Minister’s Wife
  Through April 24 at GableStage, 1200 Anastasia Ave. in Coral Gables. A reverend and his wife seem to be in the perfect marriage, but all the troubles bubbling beneath come to a head when a handsome young poet comes to town. Tickets $60. Call 305-445-1119 or visit GableStage.org.

* The Two-Character Play
  Through April 24 at the Miami Theater Center, 9806 NE Second Ave. in Miami Shores. A brother and sister are ditched by their theater company while touring the nation, and they must deal with their own personal problems while also trying to keep their careers afloat. Tickets $45. Call 305-751-9950 or visit MTCMiami.org.

* The Hammer Trinity
  Through May 8 at the Adrienne Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. Casper Kent discovers he is in line to the throne and must defend the precious hammer from pirates. The three-part play is performed over 6.5 hours. Tickets $150. Call 305-949-6722 or visit ArshCenter.org.

* Denotes New Listing

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**TOP PICKS**

**BROWARD COUNTY**

* Pineapple Jam
April 15 at 6 p.m. at Historic Stranahan House Museum, 335 SE Sixth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. The annual Pineapple Jam returns to the home of the founders of Fort Lauderdale with dinner, house tours, live auction, cocktails, and more. Tickets $150 benefitting preservation and educational programs. Call 954-524-4736 or visit StranahanHouse.org.

* The Art of Tyce Marshall
April 15 to May 6 at Art Gallery 21 at the Woman’s Club of Wilton Manors, 600 NE 21st Court in Wilton Manors. Experience the work of Tyce Marshall, inspired by seascapes, as well as the artwork of artists Mark Baker, Patti Maceri, Pamela Molobado, Carl Phillips and Pat Wahl. Free. Call 954-661-4740 or visit ArtGallery21.org.

**BROWARD SUPPORT SERVICES**

**GENDER BENDER YOUTH GROUP**
Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at SunServe Campus, 1480 SW Ninth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. A group for LGBT youth 13 to 21 to discuss gender, gender expression, binary systems, friendship, family and whatever else comes up! Free. Visit SunServeYouth.com

**PFLAG**
Tuesdays in Fort Lauderdale, Coral Springs and Southwest Ranches. A support group for parents of LGBT youth 13 to 21. Free. Visit SunServeYouth.com for dates and locations.

**GAYWRITES**
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Stonewall Library, 1300 E. Sunrise Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale. Come join us and write your memoir, poem, blog, novel or short story. Free. Email Jay Asher at ijahsher@aol.com.

**SUNSERVE YOUTH GROUP**
Tuesdays and Thursdays in Fort Lauderdale, Southwest Ranches, Coral Springs and Hollywood. A support group and night of fun for LGBT youth 13 to 21. Free. Visit SunServeYouth.com for dates and times.

**SURVIVOR SUPPORT**
First and third Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Broward Health Imperial Point Hospital cafeteria, 6401 N. Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. Find support from counselors and peers who have lost loved ones to suicide. Call the Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention at 954-384-0344 or visit FISPOnline.org.

* Author Presentation: Gregg Shapiro and Denise Duhamel

* The YMCA PrEP Workshop
April 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 408 NW 14th Terrace in Fort Lauderdale. Learn more about PrEP. Free. Call 954-463-9005, ext. 210 or email prep@pridecenterflorida.org.

**LGBT Senior Cultural Competency 101**
May 19, and June 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Highway in Wilton Manors. Learn how your business can better serve the LGBT senior community during one of these classes, with options to book a longer session for staff. RSVP to Bruce Williams at 954-463-9005, ext. 109 or email BWilliams@PrideCenterFlorida.org.

**Palm Beach County**

* Hatsume Fair
April 16 and 17 at Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road in Delray Beach. Celebrate the arrival of spring with Taiko drumming, martial arts, samurai sword fighting, dance, artisans, vendors, and more. Tickets $12. Call 561-495-0233 or visit Morikami.org.

* Zumba Fitness
Mondays at 6 p.m. at Compass GLCC, 201 N. Dixie Highway in Lake Worth. Get moving with a certified Zumba instructor for an infusion of exercise and dance moves. Donation of $5 or more. Call 561-324-1626 or visit CompassGLCC.com.

* Sober Sisters
Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at Lambda North, 18 S. J St. in Lake Worth. A support and discussion group for female recovering alcoholics. Visit LambdaNorth.net.

* Out of the Closet, Into the Light
Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at MCC of the Palm Beaches, 4857 Northlake Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens. AA for the LGBT community. Free. Call 561-775-5900 or visit MCCPalmBeach.org.

* Voices of Pride
Mondays at 7 p.m. at Compass GLCC, 201 N. Dixie Highway in Lake Worth. Join the Gay Men’s Chorus as they practice every week. Free. Call 561-533-9699 or visit CompassGLCC.com.

* Out of the Closet NA Group
Mondays at 7 p.m. at Lambda North, 18 S. J St. in Lake Worth. A support and discussion group for LGBT recovering addicts. Visit LambdaNorth.net.

**HIV Support Group**
Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m. at the University of Miami Flipse Building #302, 5665 Ponce de Leon Drive in Coral Gables. An open discussion about coming out, relationships, peer pressure, bullying, depression and more. Free. Visit Pridelines.org.

**Rainbow Circle**
Mondays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Jose Marti Park, 362 SW Fourth Ave. in Miami. Yogis 18 and older of all levels are invited to a practice lead by a certified instructor. Bring your own yoga mat, water, and towel. Free. Call 305-358-7550 or visit BayfrontParkMiami.com/Yoga.html.

**Yoga**
Mondays at 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Compass GLCC, 201 N. Dixie Highway in Lake Worth. Join the Gay Men’s Chorus as they practice every week. Free. Call 561-533-9699 or visit CompassGLCC.com.

**Positive Connection**
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Compass GLCC, 201 N. Dixie Highway in Lake Worth. Men who are HIV positive are invited to come together for support, education, and advocacy. Closed group. Call 561-324-1626 or visit CompassGLCC.com.

**Green Market**
Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon at West Palm Beach Waterfront, 101 S. Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach. A relaxing morning of shopping through green vendors and live entertainment. Contact Katrina Resch 561-822-1520 or KResch@wpb.org.

* Denotes New Listing
An adult entertainment company, specializing in Mormon sex practices, has been banned from participating in Utah's Pride festivities. In email communications leaked to the press, organizers of Utah Pride rejected the vendor and parade application from MormonBoyz.com/MormonGirlz.com in no uncertain terms.

“I’m sorry to be the bearer of bad news. We do have to be aware of the community that we live in and that we are a part of. We feel that your specific business does not represent a part of that community,” wrote Mike Parsons, vendor coordinator.

Utah Pride’s decision to exclude MormonBoyz.com/MormonGirlz.com has its creative directors perplexed.

“We are a fun, sexy and satirical company that not only celebrates the inherent homoeroticism of the Mormon missionary experience, but also satirizes the hypocrisy and repression of the LDS church – perhaps the most powerful and aggressive opponent of LGBT equality in America today,” writes LeGrand and Paul, MormonBoyz.com/MormonGirlz.com owners.
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Andrewsdentalcare.com

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Torysullivanmd.com

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Americanpainexperts.com

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Simplymenshealth.com

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HELP WANTED! - Now full service gym located on E. Sunrise Blvd., looking for part time front desk help (Tues & Wed 5am-10am and 8am-2pm every other Sat & Sun) and fill in as needed. Contact Julian via email julian@stamina1640.com.

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   - [ ] No

3. Do you often ask people to repeat themselves?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

4. Do you feel you can hear people but sometimes can’t understand them?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

5. Are you missing key words while having conversation in a crowded restaurant or at family gatherings?
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