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A Queer Timeline

This digital exhibit was created as a companion piece to a physical exhibit on the same topic. The goal of both the physical and digital exhibit is the same: to raise awareness of the history of GLBTQ people and events in Michigan, Ann Arbor, and at the University of Michigan.

The digital exhibit is broken down by decade, chronicling events related to AIDS, firsts, and the Spectrum Center.

Events noted with an * were found on [A Living Memory LGBT History Timeline](#)

This subject guide was created by Graduate student JJ Pionke MSI '13.

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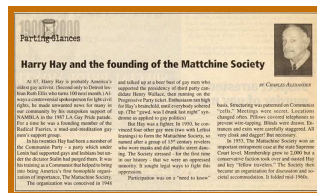
1890s - 1950s

- 1846-Sodomy is formally outlawed in Michigan.
- 1899-Ruth Ellis is born.
- 1903-Michigan outlaws gross indecency between males.
- 1939-Michigan enacts criminal sexual psychopath law.
- 1939-Michigan outlaws gross indecency between females.



1940s-Albert Einstein has picture taken holding a puppet made by Forman Brown, an University of Michigan alum. From Dan Bessie papers.

- 1943-U.S. military bars gays and lesbians from serving in the Armed Forces. *
- 1950-Priscilla Dean headlines at Uncle Tom's Plantation in Detroit during the height of the city's black drag craze.



1950- Mattachine Society forms. Article from the papers of John Kavanaugh.

- 1952-American Psychiatric Association includes homosexuality under sociopathic personality disturbance in its first official list of mental disorders.



1952-Men in a chorus line from the University of Michigan Opera. From the records of the Michigan Union.

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1960s

- 1962-Michigan State University remodels Union restroom to deter homosexuals.
- 1962-Illinois becomes first state to make consensual same-sex acts legal. *
- 1966-First U.S. gay community center opens, in San Francisco, led by The Society for Individual Rights. *
- 1967-Officials are charged with concealing movie cameras to view homosexual activity in Wayne State University restrooms.
- 1967-Wayne State University administration agrees to destroy files on suspected homosexuals.
- 1967-First gay bookstore in the U.S. opens: Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop (in New York City). *
- 1968-The American Psychiatric Association moves homosexuality from sociopathic category to sexual deviation. *
- 1968-Michigan repeals criminal sexual psychopath law.
- 1969-Stonewall riots. *

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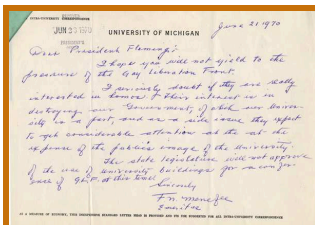
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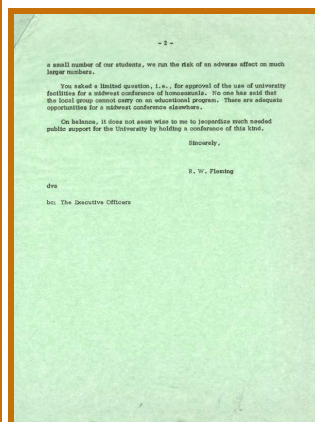
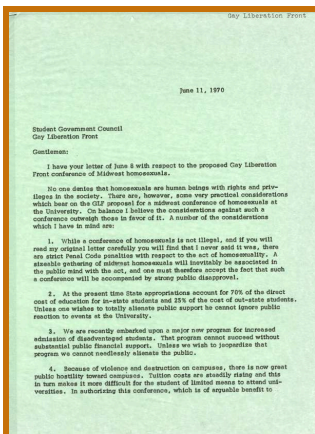
If you see an icon with this border, click to view the larger image.

1970s

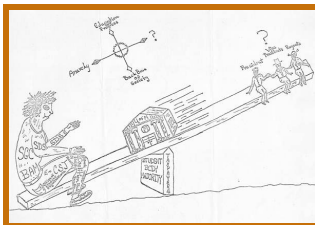
- 1970-Gay Liberation Movement registers as a student group at Michigan State University.



1970-Letter from Professor F.N. Menefee urging President Fleming to not support the Gay Liberation Movement. Office of the President, box .



1970-University of Michigan President Robben Fleming denies Gay Liberation Front use of campus facilities for gay conference. Letter from President Fleming in the Office of the President Collection.

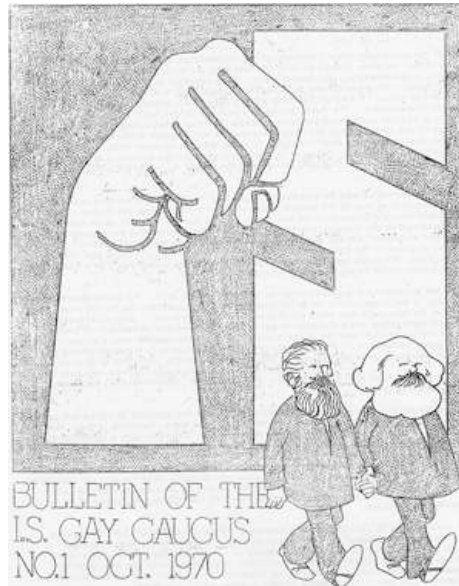


1970-Long letter of protest, including cartoons, one of which is pictured here, that admonish the Board of Regents for allowing homosexuals onto campus. From the Office of the President Collection.

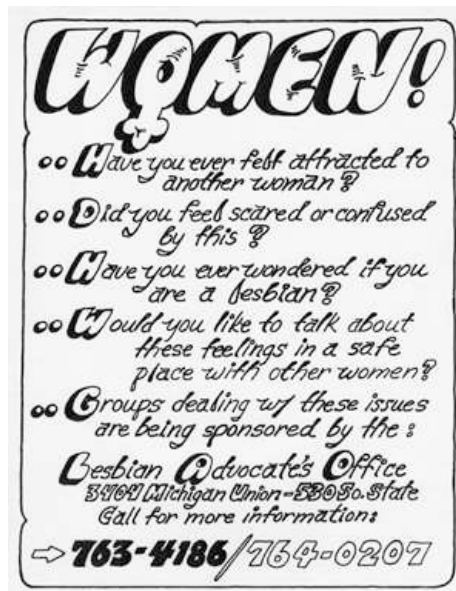
INSTITUTION	REGISTRATION	ACTIVITY	LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM
BOIS STATE	No registered organization		
BRAND	No request for recognition		
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	Registered last fall as a "PROGRESSIVE" organization with no request of this organization.	None in the News with a "Proclamation" table.	Substantive case heard later by Reg. with outcome not at table.
STATE COLLEGE	None's own up		
COLUMBIA (University)	The Gay Liberation Front is registered	Various, including table etc.	No problem

INSTITUTION	REGISTRATION	ACTIVITY	LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM
YALE	No request for recognition		
DREXEL	No request for recognition		
BERNARD	No request for recognition		
BERNARD	Active, recognized, but not yet incorporated, and legal activities, including activities for promotion, and activities for raising support of group within institutional boundaries.	None reported	Legal action regarding Reg. meeting registration
BERNARD STATE	No request for recognition		
BERNARD STATE	Registered under the name of a "Gay Liberation Front" in the Spring of 1970. A substantial case was filed against the organization during the Summer.	None, scheduled in the Fall of 1970.	Legal action will be taken on the case when the case is filed in the Fall of 1970.

1970-The Office of Student Affairs compiles a table of information pertaining to homosexual groups at other Big Ten schools. From the Office of the President Collection.

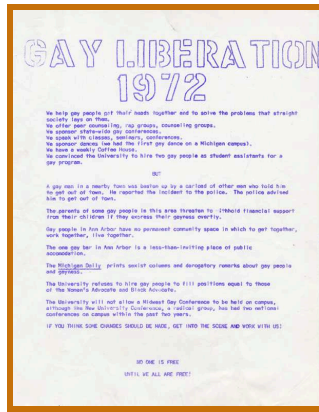


1970-Cover art for the Bulletin of the I.S. Gay Caucus No. 1 Oct. 1970 features two drawn older men holding hands and looking at each other. From the John Kavanaugh Collection.



1970-Poster encouraging lesbians to contact the Lesbian Advocate's Office. From the Jim Toy Collection.

- 1971-Gay Liberation Front organizes at Wayne State University.
- 1971-Gayle Rubin calls a meeting of Ann Arbor lesbians, resulting in formation of the Radicalesbians at the University of Michigan.
- 1971-University of Michigan hires Jim Toy and Cyndi Gair as first human sexuality advocates.
- 1972-Ann Arbor celebrates first officially designated Gay Pride Week in the US.



1972-Poster urging Gay Liberation. From the Michigan University Women's Advocate Office Collection.

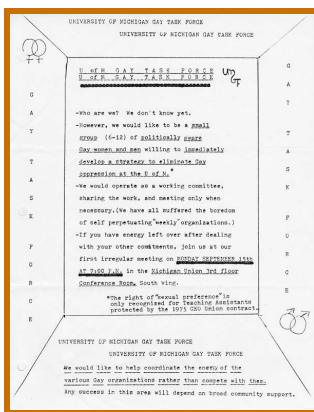
- 1972-Ann Arbor Council adopts ordinance protecting individuals from discrimination based on sexual preference.
- 1972-Detroit's first gay community center opens during Christopher Street celebrations.
- 1972-First statewide gay pride march held in Detroit.
- 1972-East Lansing becomes first city to ban anti-gay bias in city hiring. *
- 1973-American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. *
- 1973-Ann Arbor City Council members Nancy Wechsler and Jerry DeGriek come out at a meeting.



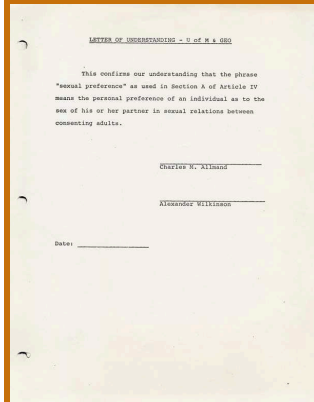
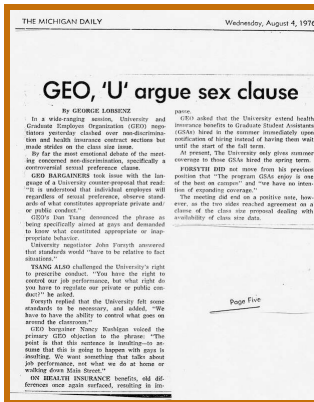
1974-Jerry DeGriek and Nancy Wechsler do not run for re-election. Article from the Human Rights Party Collection.

- 1974-Kathy Kozachenko is elected as an open lesbian to the Ann Arbor City Council.
- 1975-Collective organizes A Woman's Bookstore, later Womenspace, in Ann Arbor.
- 1975-Graduate employees at the University of Michigan secure protections for gays in union contract.



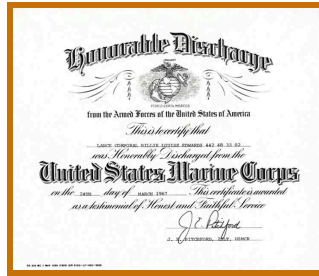


After 1975-Poster soliciting people to be on the U of M Gay Task Force. From the Daniel Tsang Collection.



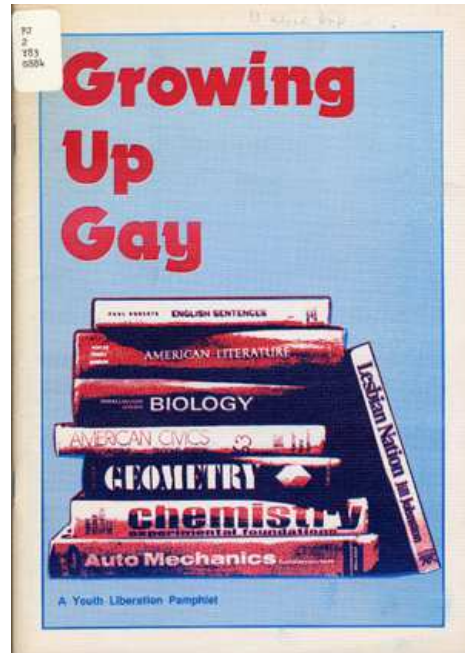
1976-Graduate employees and the University of Michigan have a new understanding about the non-discrimination clause of the new contract. GEO, U Argue Sex Clause and Fire-Breathing Stud In Dress? well as the Letter of Understanding that was added to the contract from Daniel Tsang Collection.

- 1976-First Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is held on original site in Hesperia.
- 1976-Gay Community Center opens on S. Forest in Ann Arbor.



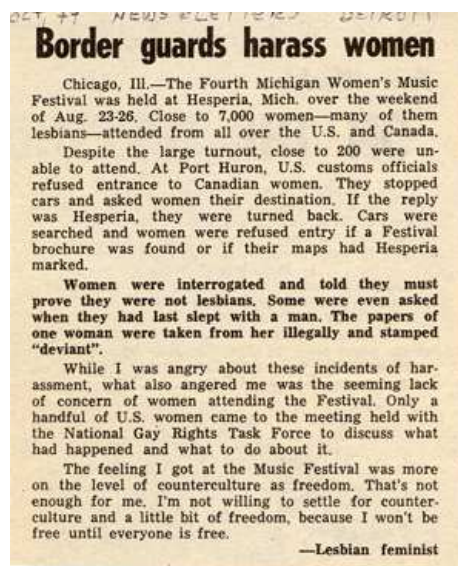
1977-President Carter changes Billie Edwards' dishonorable discharge from the Marines in 1967 due to sexual orientation to an honorable discharge, backdated. Discharge paper from the Billie Edwards Collection.

- 1977-Michigan State University includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy.
- 1977-Michigan's first transgender organization Crossroads is founded for Flint and Detroit area crossdressers.



1978-Growing Up Gay pamphlet.

- 1979-Hundreds from Michigan take part in the first National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights.



1979-Border Guards HarassWomen on their way to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Article from the Douglass Haller Collection.

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1980s

- 1981-First reported cases of what came to be called AIDS. *
- 1981-Michigan Department of Health reports states first two deaths from AIDS.
- 1983-State. Representative James Dressell introduces H.B. 5000 which would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- 1984-President Harold Shapiro issues non-discrimination statement at the University of Michigan.
- 1984-State non-discrimination bill, H.B. 5000, fails to pass legislature.
- 1985-NAMES Project memorial quilt for AIDS victims launched. *
- 1985-University of Michigan law professor James Martin becomes Washtenaw County's first AIDS death.

STOP THE SPREAD

The following guidelines should be useful in most public and private settings to prevent the spread of disease.

WHEN SHOULD PRECAUTIONS BE TAKEN?

ALWAYS use precautions when handling cloth, paper, or surfaces that have been soiled with blood, urine, feces, vomitus, saliva, or semen.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS ARE ADVISED?

1. **Careful handwashing** is probably the single most important personal hygiene practice. Proper handwashing means **soapy and friction** and rinsing thoroughly with warm water. Ordinary soap kills most harmful bacteria and viruses, including the AIDS virus and hepatitis B virus.
2. **Clean surfaces** contaminated with blood, urine, feces, or vomitus. Use household bleach (diluted to 1% from one gallon of water in other disinfectant).
3. **Wear disposable gloves** any time there will be contact with blood, urine, feces, semen, the inside of the mouth, the genital area, or proctored rectum.
4. **Do not share personal laboratory items**, such as razors and toothbrushes, that may potentially cause bleeding.
5. **Cover bleeding or soiling wounds** whenever possible. Gauze or band-aids are sufficient.
6. **Dispose of materials soiled with both infectious respiratory fluids**, such as paper products, used carefully and promptly in a **leakproof**, sealed bag or container.
7. **Where syringes and needles are used, they should not be broken.** Discard them intact, in plastic containers not in cardboard containers.
8. **USE COMMON SENSE. YOU CAN CONTROL THE SPREAD OF ANY DISEASE BY AVOIDING, REMOVING, OR REDUCING POSSIBLE SOURCES OF INFECTION.**

DO THESE PRECAUTIONS REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREADING AIDS?

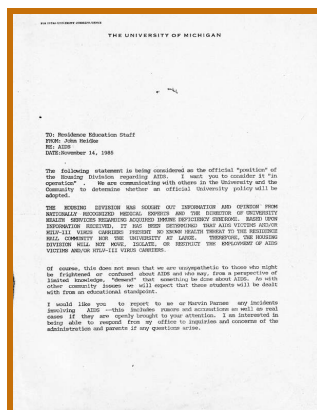
Yes. These precautions should **interfere** with the spread of the AIDS virus. It is important to remember that AIDS is not spread through the air, coughs and sneezes, swimming, swimming pools, toilet seats, dishes, utensils, or food.

December, 1985

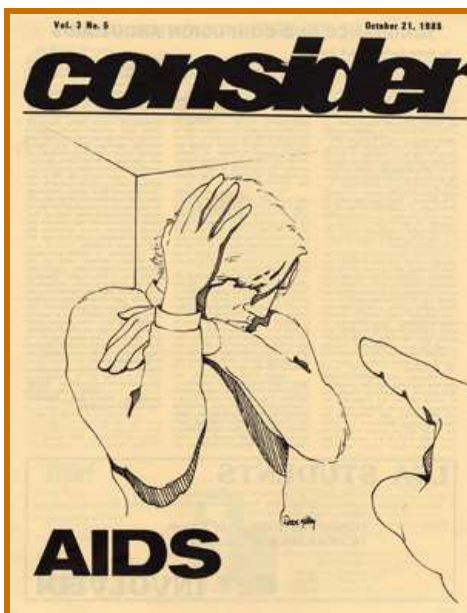
CHEC COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

400 Westmore
400 Westmore
See Also: Michigan: 48107-0443

1985-Informational poster from the Community Health Education Council on how to stop the spread of AIDS. Jim Toy, Box 9.



1985-Memo stating that Aids victims will not be discriminated against in housing policies at the University of Michigan. Jim Toy, Box 9



1985-Consider AIDS publication. Jim Toy, Box 9.

- 1985-Wayne State University amends non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation.

AIDS UPDATE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Vol. 1, No. 16 September 6, 1985
Contact: Robert Kucuff (313) 324-9600

Michigan Department of Public Health
Assisted Senior Advisory Program (ASAP) Statistics
September 6, 1985

Year	Cases	Deaths	Age	Sex	Origin
1985	2	1	18-24	M	Foreign
1984	14	13	25-34	M	Foreign
1983	20	19	25-34	M	Foreign
1982	20	19	25-34	M	Foreign
1981	20	19	25-34	M	Foreign
1980	20	19	25-34	M	Foreign

Case	County
1	Wayne
2	Wayne
3	Wayne
4	Wayne
5	Wayne
6	Wayne
7	Wayne
8	Wayne
9	Wayne
10	Wayne
11	Wayne
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99	Wayne
100	Wayne

1986-AIDS Update from the Michigan Department of Public Health shows the numbers of AIDS cases and their distribution across Michigan. Jim Toy, Box 9.

DEMAND MORE MONEY FOR A.I.D.S. RESEARCH!

—A.I.D.S. IS A MENTAL ISSUE, NOT A MORAL ISSUE!
—A.I.D.S. IS NOT A "GAY" DISEASE!
—AIDS IS AT RISK: WRITE TO PUSH A.I.D.S.!
—A.I.D.S. IS CAUSED BY A VIRUS, NOT SEX PRACTICE!
—STOP DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH A.I.D.S.!

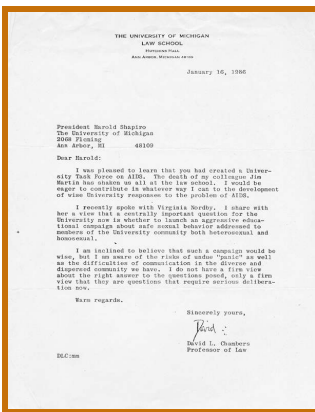
Sat. Oct. 19
1:00PM at the Federal Bldg.
Downtown Ann Arbor
at Liberty & Fifth

—STOP ALL OBSTACLES TO HEALTH CARE!
—FREE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL!
—FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, STIGMA, & OPPRESSION!
—STOP THE A.I.D.S. RESEARCH STOP HERE!

ATTACK THE DISEASE,
NOT GAYS AND LESBIANS!

Organized by ACTION AGAINST A.I.D.S. (AAAS) (AAI)
43 West Street, Tuesday at 7:00 on the Fifth Floor of the Michigan League.
For more information, phone AAI, call 763-4100.

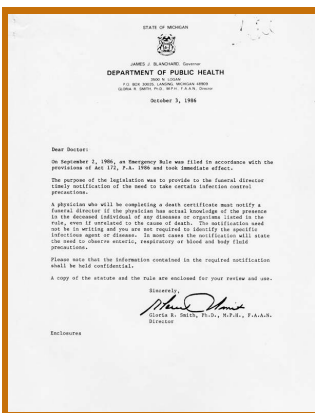
1986-Undated poster that demands more money for AIDS research. Jim Toy, Box 9.



1986-President Fleming of the University of Michigan creates a UM AIDS Task Force of which there is a great deal of support. Jim Toy, Box 9.



1986-Ann Arbor Public Schools struggle with AIDS policies for teachers and students. Jim Toy, Box 9.



1986-The Department of Public Health enacts an Emergency Rule so that funeral directors will know what kind of precautions to take with bodies. Jim Toy, Box 9.



1986-The University of Michigan accepts guidelines that allow AIDS victims to attend classes. Jim Toy, Box 9.

- 1988-New state AIDS disclosure law makes it a felony to conceal HIV infection from sex partners.
- 1988-National Coming Out Day launched. *



1989-Poster celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Jim Toy, Box 1.

- 1989-Debate rages at Michigan Womyn's Music Festival over

whether to allow male children of attendees to come to the festival.

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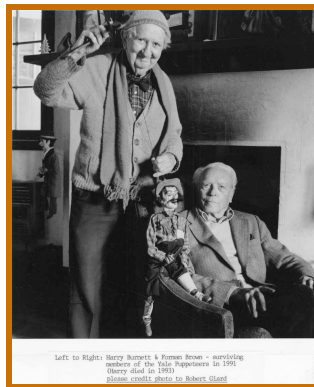
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1990s

- 1990-Michigan State University trustees revise non-discrimination bylaw to expressly protect sexual orientation.
- 1990-Organizers of Michigan Womyn's Music Festival issue statement prohibiting S/M activities.
- 1990-Twenty-six Michigan athletes take part in Gay Games III in Vancouver, Canada.
- 1990-Wayne County judge strikes down Michigan sodomy and gross indecency statutes.
- 1991-Ann Arbor City Council unanimously enacts state's first domestic partnership ordinance.
- 1991-Eastern Michigan University bans discriminatory acts against minority students.
- 1991-Michigan Womyn's Music Festival evicts attendee believed to be transsexual.

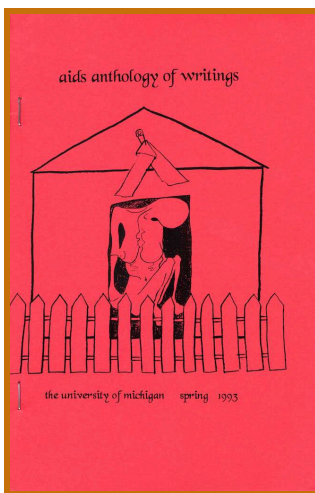


Left to Right: Harry Burnett & Forman Brown - surviving members of the Yale Puppeteers in 1991. Harry died in 1993. Photo credit: photo to Robert Glend

1991-Harry Burnett and Forman Brown of the Yale Puppeteers. Dan Bessie, Box 1.

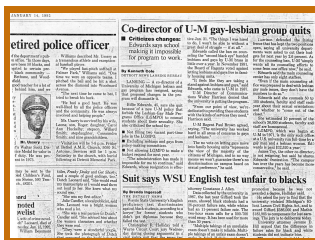


1992-The flu shot causes people to have false positive HIV tests. Jim Toy, Box 9.



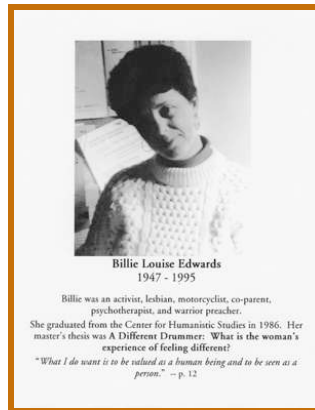
1993-AIDS Anthology of Writings, a student publication, contains various creative writings about AIDS, including I'm Sick of AIDS by Nick Pawlowski. Jim Toy, Box 9.

- 1993-Don't Ask, Don't Tell, U.S. military policy adopted. *
- 1993-University of Michigan regents pass by-law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.



1993-Billie Edwards resigns as the last Lesbian Advocate at the University of Michigan. Billie Edwards, Box 1.

- 1995-Keith Orr and Martin Contreras open Aut Bar on Braun Court in Ann Arbor.
- 1996-Congress passes Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), forbidding federal recognition of (and benefits for) married same-sex couples. *
- 1996-Eastern Michigan University's trustees amend non-discrimination policies to include sexual orientation.
- 1996-Governor John Engler signs bill into law banning same-sex marriage in Michigan.
- 1997-Michigan State University trustees



1995-Billie Edwards dies. Billie Edwards, Box 1.

1996-Voting record that banned same-sex marriage in Michigan. John Kavanaugh, Box 1.

- approve domestic partnership benefits for LGB faculty and staff.
- 1997-Ypsilanti City Council enacts non-discrimination ordinance.
- 1998-Matthew Shepard murdered in Wyoming. *



1998-Candlelight vigil held at the University of Michigan for Matthew Shepard. Office of LGBT Affairs, Box 3.

- 1998-Detroit City Council extends domestic partnership benefits to LGB city employees.
- 1998-Eastern Michigan University extends domestic partnership benefits to LGB faculty.
- 1998-State Representative Lynne Martinez of Lansing introduces bill to add lesbians and gays to Michigan's hate crimes law.
- 1999-Ann Arbor amends non-discrimination ordinance to protect gender identity.

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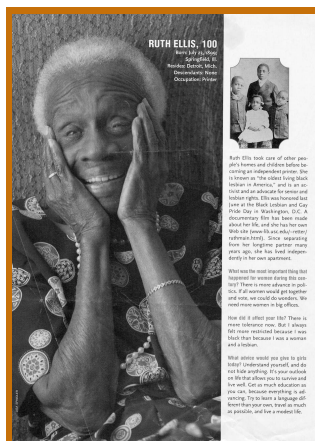
2000 - 2012

- 2000-Ruth Ellis dies.
- 2000-Vermont becomes the first state to allow Civil Unions.



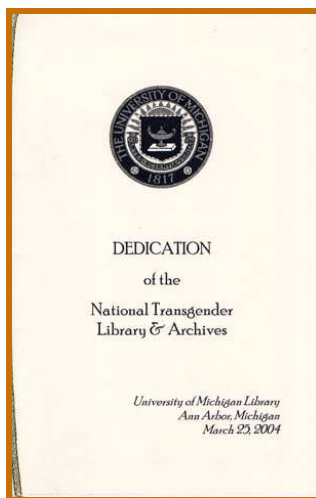
2000-Ruth Ellis and Jim Toy. Ruth Ellis, Box 2.

- 2003-U.S. Supreme Court strikes down



2000-Ruth Eiiiis, 100. Article from *MS. Magazine*. Ruth Ellis, Box 2.

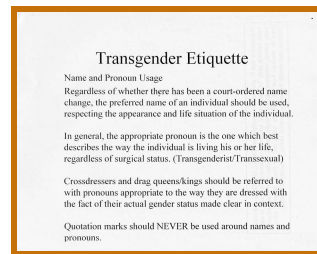
remaining state sodomy laws. *



2004-National Transgender Library and Archives finds a home at the University of Michigan. LILA, Box 1.

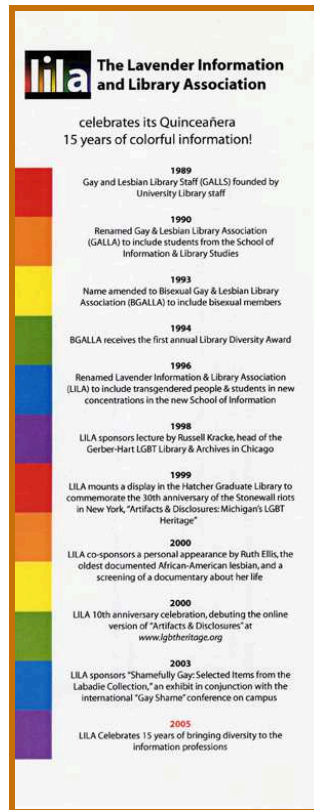
- 2004-

2004



2004-Transgender Etiquette PowerPoint Slide. Sandra Cole, Box 1.

Massachusetts becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage.



2005-LILA (The Lavender Information and Library Association) celebrates 15 years at the University of Michigan. LILA, Box 1.

- 2008-California courts allow same sex couples to marry which is then overturned by voters in Proposition 8.
- 2010-"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy is repealed.
- 2012-Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) ruled unconstitutional by United States District Judge Jeffrey White.
- 2012-President Obama becomes the first President, while in office, to endorse same-sex marriage.

This subject guide was created by School of Information graduate student JJ Pionke MSI '13.

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Sources

A wide variety of sources were used to create this timeline. From the Bentley Historical Library the following collections were used:

[Dan Bessie](#)
[Sandra S. Cole](#)
[Billie Louise Edwards](#)
[Ruth Ellis](#)
[Growing Up Gay publication](#)
[Douglas M. Haller](#)
[John L. Kavanaugh](#)
[Lavendar Information and Library Association](#)
[Office of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Affairs](#)
[President \(University of Michigan\)](#)
[Jim Toy](#)
[Daniel Tsang](#)

From the internet, these sources were used:

- [A Living Memory LGBT History Timeline](#)
- [lgbtheritage.com](#) Found only on [The Wayback Machine](#)

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