

daily voice

The
LESBIAN
issue 2016

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voice | Established 1984 | Volume 32 | Issue 36 | FREE | Friday, January 15, 2016

*friendly
faces*



**Carole Ann Boyd & Max, the comfort dog,
make going to the dentist easier to bear**

by
David Taffet,
Page 8

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Design by Craig Tuggle

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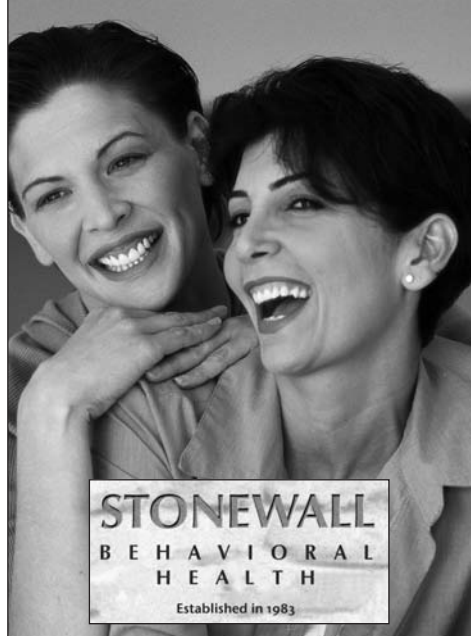
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LEAGUE Foundation taking applications for scholarships

The 2016 LEAGUE Foundation Scholarship Program is now open for high school senior students to apply online here. Application deadline is April 30 and awards will be dispersed in the summer.

Currently three awards are available, and every student application received is reviewed for each of the three. They are The Laurel Hester Memorial Scholarship (one awarded annually), The Matthew Shepard Memorial Scholarship (one awarded annually), and The LEAGUE Foundation Scholarship (typically, five awarded annually).

Scholarship proceeds are sent directly to the school the student is attending, rather than to the student. Complete applicant qualifications are available at Leaguefoundation.org/scholarships.

— Tammye Nash



Dallas County D.A. Susan Hawk

duct or drunkenness.

She believed Hawk was eligible for removal based on gross incompetency due to mental health issues not revealed before her election. She also accused Hawk of attempting to illegally use funds for personal reasons. Hawk later said she was in a facility seeking help for depression.

In a last minute filing last week, numerous current DA's office employees provided statements supporting Hawk, saying she ran the office effectively.

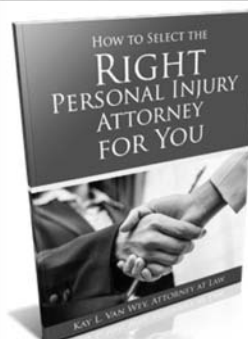
— James Russell

Suit to remove Susan Hawk tossed

The lawsuit to remove Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk from office was tossed on Friday, Jan. 8, ending the ongoing fight between former staffers and the embattled district attorney.

In October, Cynthia Stormer, the former chief of the DA's Administrative Division and longtime employee, filed an affidavit to remove the first-term Republican based on a little-known state code allowing any citizen of the county to file a petition to remove an official for gross incompetency, miscon-

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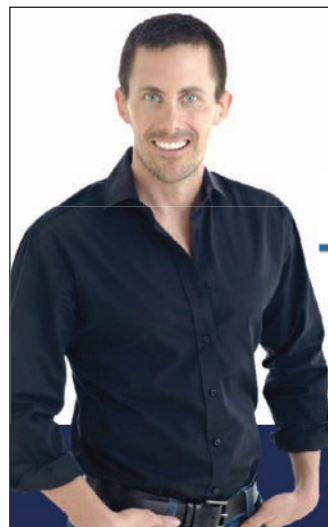
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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

JANUARY

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV / AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Fuse** game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or rramirez@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Jan. 15: HRC DFW January Mixer** 6-8 p.m. at kitchen LTO, 3011 Gulden Lane, Ste. 108.

• **Jan. 15: Psychic Night at Two Corks** Event features psychic Cheryl Andrea, with no admission and seating on a first come, first served basis. There will be a sign-up sheet to

reserve time for a private reading at a cost of \$15 for 15 minutes, also on a first come, first served basis. Andrea will do a couple of private readings at 7 p.m., with the Gallery Reading at about 7:30 p.m., followed by more private readings til 11 p.m. At Two Corks and A Bottle, in the Quadrangle, 2800 Routh St., Ste. 140. For information call 214-871-WINE.

• **Jan. 15: Little Black Dress preview party** Designers for the 10th annual Fashion CITED show are having an LBD competition to see whose dress is best. Complimentary valet, food and drinks. Benefits Legal Hospice of Texas. 6:30-9 p.m. at Park Place Volvo, 3515 Inwood Road.

• **Jan. 16: Gaybingo: Star Wars: Gaybingo Awakens** Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For tickets visit Bit.ly/1OPisps. For more information, call 214-540-4458 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Jan. 17: Self-defense workshop** A free self defense training lesson will be

pet of the week / MIMI

Mimi is a domestic longhair mix looking for the purrfect place to call home. At 7 years old and about 13 pounds, Mimi is ridiculously sweet and spirited. She loves to lay in your lap, give head butts and be rubbed. Her adoption fee is \$135.

Other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.



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• **Jan. 21: Open Carry and Your Business**
The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce continues its Lunch and Learn series with a program discussing what every business owner needs to know about Texas' new open carry law, presented by Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez and Jeff Youngblood with FASTSIGNS. Cost for members is \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door, and \$35 for non-members. For information email Tony Vedda at tony.vedda@glbtchamber.org. 11:30 a.m. at The Mercury, 11909 Preston Road, Ste. 1418.

• **Jan. 22: Our Bodies Our Lives 2016**
Reproductive rights continue under attack. Dale Hansen and Amy Vanderoef appear from 6-8 p.m. DJ Jonathan Graham spins for a dance party from 8-10 p.m. Seven for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. RSVP on the group's Facebook page.

• **Jan. 24: East Dallas Christian Church Concert Series**
Baritone Matt Woodbury baritone and pianist Keith Critcher perform the works of Brahms, Ibert, Peri, Schubert and Vaughn-Williams and original Woodbury compositions based on the poems of Hafiz and Oscar Wilde. All concerts are free of charge with open seating. Donations will be accepted. 3 p.m. in the Grimes Choir Suite at East Dallas Christian Church, 629 N. Peak Street.

• **Jan. 26: The Courage to Love**
A documentary about the journey of four individuals from the pain and shame of sexual addiction to the hope and healing of recovery. Filmmaker Paul Ginocchio leads a panel discussion after the film. 7 p.m. at Studio Movie Grill, 11170 N. Central Expressway. Free.

• **Jan. 27: Gay Singles Night at Two Corks**
Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St., Ste. 140 in The Quadrangle, hosts Gay Singles Night. No RSVP is necessary and there will be cheese plates available for purchase. Attendees can also have food delivered. 7:30-9 p.m.

• **Jan. 28: Outrageous Oral**
Dick Peeples, Pam Buchmeyer, Maggie Watt and Mike Anglin speak in this edition of the North Texas oral history project. 7 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Free.

• **Jan. 28: The Group**
Support group for black men who have sex with men living with HIV meets from 7-9 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday of the month at a private location. For more information call 214-455-7316.

• **Jan. 30-31: Travel and Adventure Show**
Meet directly with hundreds of travel experts, try global cuisine and get exclusive deals at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin Street. To register visit Travelshows.com/Dallas. Use the code VOICE to receive \$8 off.

FEBRUARY

• **Feb. 5: Resource Center Toast to Life Sponsor Party**
Sponsor appreciation party for Toast For Life – Mad Hatter's Ball from 7-9 p.m. at 3525 Turtle Creek Blvd., Ste. 20BC. For more information to reserve tickets call 214-540-4458 or e-mail bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Feb. 6: Dash for the Beads**
Mardi Gras festival with 5K fun run, one mile walk, costume contest, beer garden with live music. 9:30 a.m. at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.

• **Feb. 9: Ed-U-Care Building Bridge Network**
Training group for caretakers of LGBT seniors hosts a dinner followed by screening of the



Jan. 24: The East Dallas Christian Church Concert Series kicks off its annual recital series with baritone and Dallas resident Matt Woodbury performing with pianist Keith Critcher. They will perform both classical and contemporary works, including original compositions by Woodbury.

movie *Gen Silent* for LGBT senior and caretaker needs 6-8:30 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. For more information and to RSVP e-mail Sharyn Fein at educaredallas@gmail.com.

• **Feb. 12-14: HRC Time to Thrive Conference**
Annual national conference promoting safety, inclusion and well-being for LGBT youth features speakers, workshops and more at Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine. For more information and to register visit Timetothrive.org.

• **Feb. 13: LGBTQ Saves Valentine's Dance**
LGBT-friendly youth and young adult dance includes free food, drink and entertainment from 7-10 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 13: Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington's Emporer's Ball**

Annual fundraiser benefits Cancer Care Services at 7 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Lounge, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

MARCH

• **March 6: You'll Never Walk Alone**
Oak Lawn UMC presents "You'll Never Walk Alone: A Community Gathering of Hope, Unity, and Support for the Oak Lawn Neighborhood." The program expresses the community's appreciation for the leadership displayed by Mayor Rawlings and the Dallas Police Department in the face of recent violent attacks in Oak Lawn. Performances by the Dallas Police Choir, the Oak Lawn Band and Oak Lawn UMC's Chancel Choir. 6-7:30 p.m. at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

• **March 20: The Wedding Party and Expo: An LGBT Community Event**
Presented by the Dallas Voice, the largest LGBT wedding expo in Texas includes exhibitors, a fashion show, food samples, a community marketplace and free cake. Donnie Brown serves as celebrity host. 1-5 p.m. at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. For more information call 214-754-8710 ext. 126 or e-mail EXPO@dallasvoice.com. Register at TheWeddingPartyEXPO.com. Admission and parking are free with registration.

APRIL

• **April 2: Gay and Lesbian Fund of Dallas Project Ruffway Benefit**
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas benefiting the SPCA of Texas includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a DJ spinning the latest music, a silent auction, and a fashion show with models and their dogs wearing the Spring 2016 line. 7-10 p.m. at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive. For tickets and more information visit SPCA.org/GLFD.

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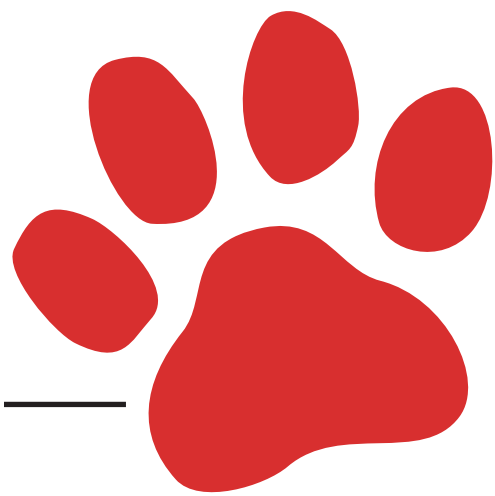
- Fri, 1/15 - Psychic Night - 7pm
- Wed., 1/27 - Gay Singles Night - 7:30pm
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Making the dentist's office *friendly*

Boyd, who was on the front lines of the AIDS battle early in her practice, is training her poodle Max to help comfort her patients today

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

If going to the dentist makes you nervous, meet Max.

Max is Dr. Carole Ann Boyd's standard poodle. He's being trained as a service dog and right now, he's better at hand signals than voice commands.

That can be a problem, Boyd said, if her hand is in a patient's mouth. So she's working on his verbal skills.

Max was in Boyd's ninth-floor office on Cole Avenue earlier this week learning office routine. He still needs some work, but pretty soon, the shrill sound of a drill in her office will be offset by Max's head, whose mane looks like it's been recently permed, plopped down in your lap.

In addition to his duties as dental assistant, Max has other interests outside the office. Max has his eye on Hollywood. In his spare time, he's taking classes at What a Great Dog Training Center in Plano and has been going on casting calls.

After one of his first auditions, he was hired for a video that's already been filmed but hasn't been released yet. And Max's chances look good for an upcoming commercial where he'll play the dog interfering with his owner's ability to drive.

Despite the fame that Max's budding Hollywood career may soon bring, his daily work remains in the office where Boyd promised his service would be strictly optional. Her care for patients will be the same no matter what.

Boyd has been practicing dentistry in Dallas since her graduation from Baylor Dental School in 1984. Her first office was in North Dallas, near Medical City hospital, and one of her patients that first year was a commercial pilot. Boyd said as soon as she looked in his mouth, she knew he had candidiasis, also known as thrush, a condition caused when the immune system can't keep a common yeast in check.

Boyd said that diagnosing the thrush made



Carole Ann Boyd has enlisted the aid of Max, her standard poodle, to help people relax when in her dental chair.

her realize her patient had AIDS. He died within two weeks, but making that diagnosis led to her gaining a reputation: "You can go to Dr. Boyd and she can tell you if you have AIDS," the pilot told friends before he died.

This was before there was a reliable, easy-to-get test for HIV, and while she couldn't always diagnose HIV, Boyd could recognize a variety of opportunistic oral cancers and other diseases that arose as a result of the virus. "That was a scary time for me," she said. "I got exposed all the time."

Boyd said dentistry in the 1980s involved a lot more blood than it does now, and it wasn't until 1984 that dentists first begin wearing gloves. Researchers still didn't completely understand how AIDS was transmitted then, and the HIV virus hadn't been discovered yet. So Boyd was tested for AIDS regularly, and once some drugs were available, went on preventive dosages several times in case the virus had transmitted.

Boyd said people were afraid to work in her office, so she recruited her wife, Barbara Hudson, then an executive in marketing at AT&T, to work with her. At one point, she even consulted a mentor about continuing to treat patients with HIV.

"She said, 'Carole Ann, if you're not going to do it, who's going to?'" Boyd recalled.



She knew her mentor was right, and instead of refusing to treat those with HIV, she expanded her work with people with HIV.

During the '80s, Boyd left Dallas for San Antonio for four years to continue her education. While there she helped set up the dental clinic for people with AIDS at UT San Antonio Health Science Center.

"Sometimes we'd lose 10 patients a week," she said.

When she returned to Dallas, Boyd volunteered at the Nelson-Tebedo dental clinic run by Parkland Hospital. When the county lost its grant, Resource Center went after funding to continue the service and received it, and Boyd helped restart the clinic.

She called her work there "down and dirty" — not only was she providing dental services, she also repainted and helped rebuild the office. It was, she said, some of the most rewarding work she has ever done.

As a result of her work with people with HIV, Boyd's practice always attracted a large LGBT clientele.

Her work with people with HIV continues. While losing patients to the virus is no longer a weekly event, she'll occasionally notice something in someone's mouth.

"I'm seeing things here," she said she'll tell a

patient. "Your viral load is going up."

Today, she's more likely to find signs of STDs during an oral exam. "HPV is huge," Boyd said, and that sexually transmitted virus is causing oral cancer and showing up in young people.

Boyd said she has always made a conscious effort to welcome LGBT clients in other ways, too.

Hudson, she said, was her closest friend since 1981. They've lived together since 1988 and married in California in 2013. Yet, when she went to other doctors' offices as a patient, Boyd couldn't list Hudson as anything other than a contact.

"When people were still in the closet at work, we listed significant other/spouse," she said.

Significant other came first on forms printed for her office, because she wanted her patients to know, "I respect you and your relationship."

Today, LGBT patients make up about half of Boyd's practice, but she doesn't hide who she is from the rest of her clients. "They know exactly where they are," Boyd said, but they're comfortable with that.

After years of fighting the AIDS crisis on the front lines, Boyd said it's nice to find a balance in her life — Max, golf, travel (she displays a number of her photos on a video screen in the waiting room), scuba, cooking and classical guitar lessons. And she has Max to help her relax and enjoy it all.

'Unusual' cases

Immigration, passport agency actions raise questions for same-sex married couples

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Jenny Nolan left an abusive family in Ireland last April and came to Texas on a visa waiver, a program that allows people from certain countries to visit the U.S. for three months without a formal document.

Once she was here, Nolan met Lily Flores. The two fell in love and married in Collin County right after the *Obergefell* decision legalized same-sex marriage throughout the U.S. They immediately began the process of applying for a green card for Nolan, a document entitling the spouse of an American citizen to remain in the U.S.

Because Flores is a student, Nolan's form was rejected at one point because immigration officials wanted proof that Nolan would have adequate financial support. The couple live with Penny Abbott in her Plano home. Abbott said she signed papers guaranteeing that additional support and Nolan was told to reapply — with no deadline given.

But on Thursday, Jan. 7, Homeland Security special agents appeared at Abbott's house and arrested Nolan.

Abbott immediately hired Moises Medina, an immigration attorney, to represent Nolan. Medina told Nolan they'd have a few days before she'd be transferred from Dallas to an ICE facility, based on his prior experience in such cases.

Instead, immigration officers transferred Nolan that day. But instead of sending her to the Johnson County Detention Center just south of Fort Worth, where most people arrested in Dallas for immigration violations are sent, Nolan was transferred to Rolling Plains Detention Center in Haskell.

Normally, people sent to Rolling Plains, located about 200 miles west of Dallas near Abilene, are

those who have committed crimes since arriving in the U.S. or who have a criminal record. Because she came to the U.S. on a visa waiver, Nolan was told she has no right to go before an immigration judge, and that she would be deported this week.

Abbot said that as Nolan was being checked into the facility, the guard looking at her paperwork kept asking her, "Why are you here?" Nolan had no answer.

Medina called the case unusual.

"She did everything right," Medina said. "She's not an enforcement priority."

In November 2014, Thomas Winkowski, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, issued new policies for the apprehension, detention and removal of undocumented immigrants, setting new enforcement priorities.

"In general, our enforcement and removal policies should continue to prioritize threats to national security, public safety and border security," Winkowski instructed.

The top priority for enforcement would be people suspected of being involved in terrorism, espionage or other threats to national security, people apprehended at borders entering the country unlawfully, those involved in street gangs and those convicted of a felony.

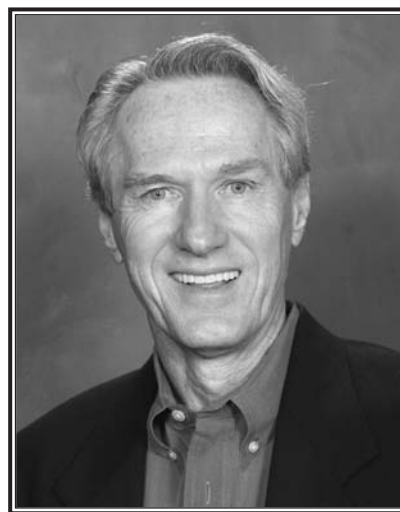
"She's not in that group," Medina said.

The next levels of priority would be those convicted of three misdemeanors other than traffic offenses, domestic violence, drug trafficking or driving under the influence or those who have significantly abused the visa or visa waiver program. Nolan didn't fit those categories, either.

John Nechman, an immigration attorney not involved in Nolan's case, said in cases of visa waiver, if someone changes his or her status within 60 days of arrival, immigration officials may charge fraudulent entry. But Nolan and Flores didn't marry until almost 90 days after entry.

While Nolan overstayed her visa waiver, she had begun her application process before the waiver expired, Medina said, and doesn't fall into

IMMIGRATION, Page 11



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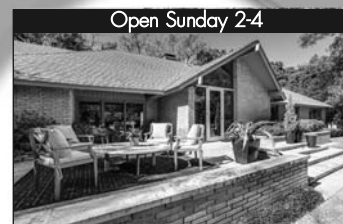
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Love comes full circle

30 years later, teen sweethearts find each other again to live life happily ever after

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

A lot can happen in 30 years. Coming full circle is not ordinarily among them. But that's what happened for Sharon and Marcel Herrera, who found each other again 30 years after they first met in San Angelo.

Marcel, whose maiden name is Enriquez, first caught a glance of Sharon Herrera when Sharon pulled up in front of the house where Marcel was babysitting. She was intrigued, but Sharon was older and seemingly out of reach.

"I was in high school and Sharon was in her first year of college," said Marcel, who took her wife's name. "She was a year older than me."

But the age difference didn't matter to Sharon. Not too long after they first exchanged glances, Sharon asked Marcel on a date.

Back then, in the mid-1980s, the cool kids hung out at Lake Nasworthy in San Angelo. "The day [Sharon] asked me there was the same day her mom bought her a Trans Am. She asked me to go on a ride."

For six months, they were inseparable, with Sharon picking Marcel up from high school for lunch.

"It was young love," Marcel said.

"She was my first kiss and first love," Sharon added.

Then tragedy struck the Herrera household. When Sharon was 20 years old, her mother died.

"My life was planned until I was 20, when my mother died. That's when and why I joined the Air Force. Uncle Sam saved me," Sharon said. "I loved fighting for my country."

Even though she served in the era of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the policy barring lesbian and gay servicemembers from serving openly, Sharon received an honorable discharge and still speaks proudly of her time in the Air Force.

Sharon could have returned to San Angelo when she left the military; she could have reunited with Marcel sooner. But a car accident brought Sharon to Fort Worth. While she chooses not to talk about the details, she calls the accident "fate."

"A force stronger than myself moved me here," Sharon said. "Then I found myself at the doors of the Fort Worth Independent School District. That's how I live life."

Sharon still works for the Fort Worth school district, and serves as president of LGBTQSave, a LGBT youth advocacy group she helped found.

Marcel, meanwhile, was still in San Angelo, working in the healthcare field. The two saw each other occasionally, when Sharon visited San Angelo. But they never spoke.

"We were in relationships and wanted to respect those boundaries," Marcel explained, admitting though, "There were maybe stolen glances."

That ended though in 2012, when Sharon went home for her 30-year high school reunion.

"It was Cinco de Mayo. I was just at the bar that night," Marcel said. "It was the Hispanic bar where you went to have fun. We saw

one another. She bought me a drink and asked me to dance. We just talked and caught up that night."

Sharon didn't look different, Marcel said, but she sounded different, more mature: "She needed to mature. She needed to spread [her] wings and be in other relationships," Marcel said, then added, "She changed. [She] was talkative."

"Now you can't shut me up!" Sharon interjected. "I was nothing like I am now."

For Sharon, the years apart fell away, and "I saw the person I fell in love with the first time," she said. "I knew I hurt her when I ran away because I loved her. I never felt a love like that. I never felt the power of love."

But Sharon's friends were not so confident in their renewed connection. As Marcel explained it, "Her friends cock blocked me."

Still, the two women really hit it off, and Sharon's friends eventually approved, too. Between May 2012 and January 2013, they traveled back and forth every weekend between Fort Worth and San Angelo to see one another.

"Sundays were horrible because we knew we'd be going back home," Marcel said.



Marcel, left, and Sharon Herrera wed in Las Vegas in December 2014 after 30 years apart.

But after Marcel's employer, a physician, retired, she saw an opportunity: "I decided I'd move to Fort Worth."

The women were married Dec. 13, 2014 in Las Vegas. It is a decision neither woman regrets.

"We're in a good place now," Marcel said. "It

was funny when we moved in together. We were and still are learning one another. We'll have a tiff then laugh about it. The moments we share are precious."

Sharon added, "There are lots of beautiful love stories, but this is my favorite. I can't believe we came full circle."



the category of those who have “significantly abused” the process.

The final priority targets noted in Winkowski’s order are those who have been issued a final order of removal on or after Jan. 1, 2014. No warrants or orders had been issued previously in Nolan’s case.

Medina filed a stay the day after Nolan was picked up by ICE and he remains hopeful of her release, rather than immediate deportation without a right to appear before an immigration judge, as immigration officials originally threatened.

Again, Medina stressed that he has no evidence that ICE is intentionally discriminating against same-sex couples in immigration cases. Still, he noted, all the “unusual” cases, like Nolan’s, his office is working on all involve gay or lesbian couples.

That includes Darryl Minor’s case.

Minor applied for a visa to bring his fiancé to the U.S. from Peru. According to immigration law, in order to maintain the status of being engaged, a couple has to see each other once every two years.

Medina said exceptions are granted for extreme hardship. Because homosexuality is viewed negatively in Peru, Minor could only see his fiancé in Lima, the capital.

Because of the way the application process has dragged on, it’s now been almost three years since the Minor and his fiancé have seen each other.

Medina said they’ve started the process from scratch, something he doesn’t think would have



happened had it been a straight couple.

Meantime, in the State Department

Another North Texas couple are also having trouble getting a federal agency to adhere to the *Obergefell* decision and treat them the same as a hetero couple: Marvin Vann Griffith hasn’t been able to update his passport to include his now-

legal married last name. Passports are issued by an agency of the U.S. State Department.

After Marvin Vann married Clark Griffith, both men changed their last name to Vann Griffith. Texas changed their drivers’ licenses without question and Social Security, which is run by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, issued a name change.

So when Marvin Vann Griffith’s “amended” passport was returned to him with his last name still listed as Vann, he called the Passport Agency to get an explanation.

The first person he spoke to told him he needed a court ordered name change because his marriage license was rejected as insufficient, although marriage licenses are all the Passport Agency requires for name changes after marriage.

So Vann Griffith asked to speak to a supervisor. The supervisor told him, “not all states recognize these kinds of marriages.”

Vann Griffith called Rep. Marc Veasey’s office. Jennifer Ward is the director of constituent services in Veasey’s Fort Worth office. She said the congressman made inquiries to the Passport Office on Vann Griffith’s behalf and the case is under review. But this is the first time she’s heard of a name change with a marriage license being rejected.

With cases like Nolan’s that Medina can explain only as ICE refusing to recognize a same-sex marriage and Vann Griffith’s, which was

already explained to him as the Passport Agency not recognizing his same-sex marriage, why is the federal government not following orders of the U.S. Supreme Court?

Medina has advice for couples applying for change of immigration status after marriage: “Contact an immigration attorney or an organization that handles these kinds of cases,” he advised. “Don’t try to do it all yourself.”

If picked up by ICE, he said, read every document carefully before signing anything. “And if you don’t understand, contact someone to help,” he said. “Voluntary deportation orders have very adverse consequences.” ■

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The outcasts do it better

When it comes to parenting vs. not parenting, the heteros could learn from the LGBTs

As an inhabitant of our heteronormative society, one can't help but notice the passive-aggressive, ever-present battle between heterosexual couples with children and childless (by choice or otherwise) straight couples.

Parenting straight couples often hold to the belief that their childless counterparts simply cannot understand the stress and pressure that raising children inevitably brings. Last-minute cocktailing and dinners out are no longer an option — unless you are members of the elite 1-percenters with access to an indefinitely on-call nanny.

Resentment frequently builds as parents watch on the sidelines — diaper in hand — as their childless former friends travel, take in shows and sleep in.

While straight couples with children watch their freedom fade, childless couples oftentimes perceive judgment from their parenting cohorts. Whether said judgment is real or existing only in the heads of married couples without children, it still holds the power to divide.

Couples living without kids sometimes feel as though their lives are invalidated by others with children. There remains to be a belief — whether spoken or silently understood — that until one becomes a parent, one can never fully understand love and, therefore, must be missing a key part of the human experience.

Forgive me if I've bored you with my dron-



Emily McGaughy
Special Contributor

evidence of queer people participating in this divide.

I am a 32-year-old married gay woman. My wife and I absolutely adore children and take full advantage of loving on our nine nieces and nephews — some of whom come for regular overnight visits — at every opportunity. Our best friends have a 4-year-old that we have fallen in love with and that has enriched our friendship with his moms. We also have two dogs that are obnoxiously spoiled and treated as children.

And with all of the beautiful little ones we have in our lives (fur and otherwise), we remain unsure as to whether parenting is the right choice for us. If you ask us if we plan to have kids today, and then ask the same tomorrow, I can almost guarantee you will hear opposing responses.

We just don't know.

But right now, we are living in this world as a committed, married couple without children. And I have not experienced the same feelings

ing on about life in the straight world. If nothing else, it hopefully serves as a reminder of why we, as LGBTs, really have it better. As I watch the dissension building amid parenting and non-parenting heterosexual couples, I have yet to see

of invalidation as my straight, married, childless acquaintances seem to go through.

My wife and I have people in our lives that are single, dating, married with children, and married without children. We all manage to co-exist just fine — regardless of differences in lifestyle. If there are feelings of resentment looming among these varying ways of life, I am unaware of it.

I write this from the perspective of a 30-something, committed lesbian who has witnessed more and more same-sex couples become parents, especially in 2015. And it fills my heart in a way that I cannot explain: It is not jealousy, it is not resentment. It is a true feeling of utter joy for my community.

Ten years ago, when I first began considering addressing my sexual and emotional attraction to women, I never dreamed it would look like this. In my wildest fantasies, I could never imagine not only myself being legally married but witnessing my LGBT sisters and brothers building the families they always desired. And I believe other queer people in relationships like mine (without children) echo my sentiments.

Hell, we have baby showers in our bars; it is so "Sweet Home Alabama" in the most endearing way.

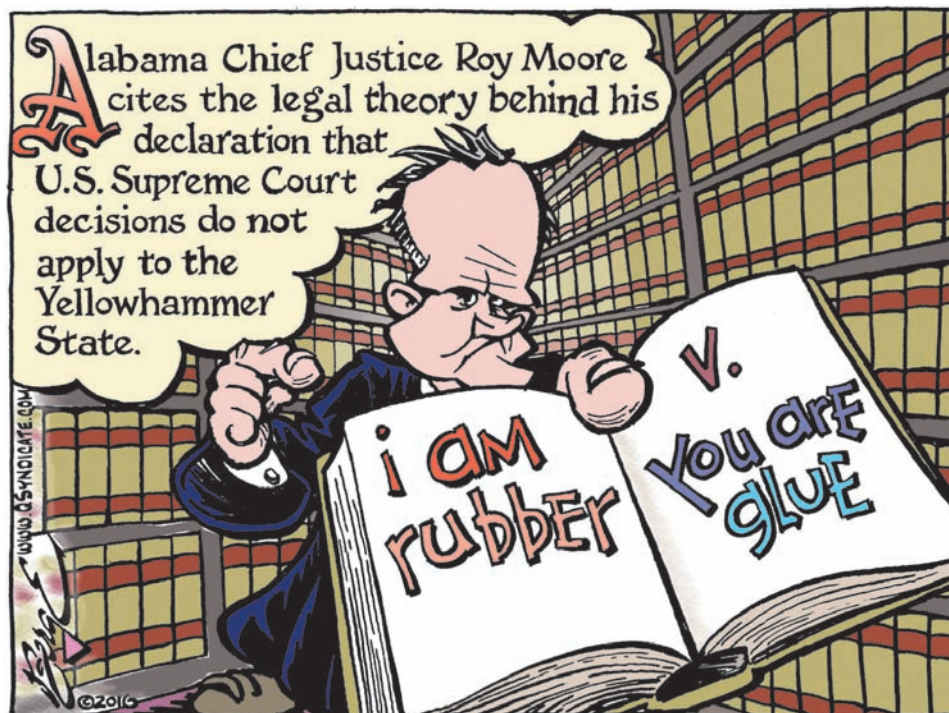
In the same vein, I don't feel that my childless family is considered less of a family by my queer-parenting friends. Of course, they beg us to have children because nothing sounds more appealing than raising kids alongside your best friends. But ultimately our love and commitment is respected within our diverse circle, with no holding back due to the fact that we have chosen not to have children at this point in our lives.

While a long history of oppression and inequality has plagued our community, I believe in many ways, the outcasts did it better.

When the heterosexual norm refused to allow us entrance into their world, we created our own. We built families, many times consisting of mostly people with no biological relation. Our holidays were spent with friends that did not share DNA, but that were bound by love and loyalty in a way we couldn't articulate.

And as we transition into a new era — one which has afforded us new freedoms — it seems we are successfully holding true to some of our foundational values. Ideals that promote inclusivity and the right to make your own rules — in relationships, in lifestyles, in families — are a fundamental part of who are as queer people. And I'm exceedingly proud to be a part of that.

Emily McGaughy is a Dallas-based writer and co-owner, with her wife Char McGaughy, of Gold Dust Tattoos. She describes herself as a liberal, feminist "vegetarian you roll your eyes at."



Amend this!

Texas moves into the 21st century when it comes to amending birth certificates

One of the things that cis-people (those who have a gender identity matching their physical anatomy) seldom — if ever — think about is the little letter designating their “sex” on identity documents.

When someone “comes out” as gay or lesbian, they don’t need to find an attorney to help them navigate the legal system, pay a \$295.29 filing fee and hope to find a sympathetic judge who will sign a court order to correct their identity documents.

But for transgender people, that little “M” or “F” looks like it’s in 46-point type. And for us, changing it can be a real, well, “ME.”

With a court order, a driver’s license can be corrected as far as name and gender, along with credit cards, bank info, car title, insurance, rental documents and a slew of other things that related to name change. But until the summer of 2013, Social Security wasn’t one of them.

Most people aren’t even aware that Social Security keeps track of your gender, but they do. And in 2013, policy was changed to permit a gender correction on Social Security documents.

But in Texas and several other states, correcting your gender on your birth certificate still remained an out-of-reach goal. Oh sure, they would “amend” it. But if someone asked for the “long form” or “full” birth certificate, both the original and the amended would be provided, essentially “outing” you as a transgender person to whomever made the request.

That could be devastating.

I am one of the lucky ones; I was fortunate enough to have been born in California. Officials there re-issued my original birth certificate and sealed the old, “incorrect” one.

But those born in Texas had no recourse whatsoever.

Until now.

A couple of events seemingly unrelated to birth certificates for transgender people recently occurred that were game changers for us.

The first event was the landmark *Obergefell* decision last June bringing marriage equality to America (even though some states in the south are still kicking and screaming about it). The second event was a lawsuit filed by a gay couple.

John Stone-Hoskins and James Stone-Hoskins married in New Mexico. James Stone-Hoskins died in January 2015. But John Stone-Hoskins was not listed on the death certificate as his husband because at the time, Texas’ ban on same-sex marriages was still in place. Instead, James Stone-Hoskins was listed as single.

John filed suit to change that, and Judge Orlando Garcia — who ruled in favor of marriage equality in a Texas lawsuit — ordered Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to amend the lawsuit. Paxton, apparently considering contempt of court charges for ignoring *Obergefell* small potatoes next to the handful of felony



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

Statistics to bring the rules regarding birth certificates in line with the 21st century.

Lo and behold, they did!

My partner, Katie Sprinkle is a Dallas attorney who has specialized in getting names and gender markers changed for the trans community. She was born in Irving and has gone along with some good-natured kidding from me as I occasionally refer to my “original, pristine birth certificate from Long Beach, Calif.,” that clearly identifies me as being born female.

Well in December, after learning of the change in policy, Katie sent in her paperwork to get her new “original pristine birth certificate from Irving, Texas” stating that she was indeed born female.

I asked her what it means to her after waiting all this time. She said, “It means I no longer have to be afraid when I look at my birth certificate. It previously had my name on it — Kathleen Louise Sprinkle — but it also said I was born male.”

She went on to say, “Doing things like getting a passport, or moving to another state where I may have to produce the ‘long form’ of my birth certificate and be ‘outed’ were always in the back of my mind. Having the proper identification in both name and gender is essential. It’s insulting for someone to think it’s a vanity issue. It’s very clearly a safety issue and having everything match brings peace of mind.”

For those who have already gone through the process to get the court order for name and gender marker changes, here is the process for getting a new birth certificate issued in the state of Texas:

DSHS.State.Tx.Us/vs/reqproc/forms.shtm.

Download the following forms:

VS 170 - Application for an Amendment to a Birth Record

VS 142.3 - Mail Application For A Certified Copy
Fill out both forms. All people born before 1990 must include both parents’ full dates of birth.

Include a certified copy of court order changing your name and/or gender marker. Include a brief note asking that your original birth certificate be sealed and a new one issued.

The fee on the forms states it will run you \$37, but the fee for the new one being issued is actually \$47 so send a check or money order for \$47.

Then join Katie in waiting by the mailbox; it will arrive before you know it. I mean, after waiting an eternity for this to happen, what’s another few weeks?

If you have questions with regard to the process, Katie has graciously permitted me to pass along her number: Katie Sprinkle Law, 214-814-5960. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

charges awaiting him, fought the order to amend Stone-Hoskins’ death certificate tooth and nail.

Paxton lost.

The change in the death certificate rules set the stage for Judge Garcia to then order the Texas Department of Vital

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Road scholars

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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When I first meet Isis Gaine and Shine True, it is 10:30 a.m. on a Saturday and they are buying eggnog-flavored donuts from Top Pot, the gourmet doughnut shop along Lower Greenville Avenue. Isis appears to be walking with a slight limp; turns out the previous night, she was hit by a car (not *too* bad) while crossing the street at Cedar Springs and Knight. But there's no time to worry about the injury right now. They have already had a full morning (a stop at Buzz Brews) and the afternoon is booked as well (down to Twisted Root Burger Co. in Deep Ellum, and more after that).

If it sounds like an itinerant, somewhat crazy life, that's exactly how they like it. Shine and Isis (they prefer to go by first names) are adventurers, and have turned their restlessness into a lifestyle ... and, they hope, a career.

Both already had a sense of wanderlust even before they met. Isis was enlisted in the military, and serving in South Korea. Shine had relocated there to teach English to the locals. They met at a party — most of the ex-pats congregate together; it's a smallish community, they say — and they bonded over, of all things, fruit.

"She could not afford fruit — one apple was like \$4 — but I was on a base where the price was more reasonable," Isis explains. But lest you think it was a lop-sided relationship, Shine chimes in about her contribution.

"I had my own place!" she interjects. "An apartment where she could get off the base! It wasn't all about the fruit."

Their romance blossomed, although at the time — this was about 30 months ago — it seemed to be a short-term thing: Shine's assignment was coming to an end, and Isis was at the whims of military personnel decisions.

Then, Isis got an unexpected (but honorable) early discharge from the Army, which sent her back to the area where she initially enlisted: North Texas. By happenstance, Shine's assignment teaching was ending at the same time. She flew back to the U.S., but had an unplanned three-day layover on her way home ... at DFW Airport.

"So she stayed with me in Lewisville for a few days, and we've been together ever since," Isis says.

But Lewisville couldn't contain these world travelers. It didn't take them long to realize that staying put in one place was not in the DNA of either. They began traveling constantly — they say they have no home base, but live entirely on the road — and as a lark, would send videos of their travels back to Isis' mom and close friends.

"The feedback we got was amazing," Isis says. They wondered whether they could turn their passion into a professional. They began putting their work on every imaginable social media format — Vine, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube... some just a minute long.

How a former soldier and ex-school teacher took to the highways and byways of the world to spread the gospel of curious travel



RAINBOW TOUR | Shine and Isis stop into Top Pot Doughnuts on Lower Greenville Avenue during their whirlwind travel tour to Dallas to help launch their new YouTube channel, 'Let's Go Travel.' (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Last fall, they decided to take it a step further when they headed to New York City (a first for both), but it ended up being a boon-doggle. The trip was going to be the basis for a pilot to pitch to a TV network like Logo, so they hired "professionals" to stage, shoot and edit the footage, but what emerged was disastrous.

"It was very informative, but it wasn't us," says Isis. "It was not up to our rigorous standards — we are used to doing everything

on our own."

That's how they do it now. They are currently developing the *Let's Go Travel Show*, a YouTube channel they created where they could post videos of their exploits. (Only a few videos have been posted so far; their Dallas trip should go up later this month.)

LIFE+STYLE

travel



R Family Vacations teams with Olivia

Kelli Carpenter has been preaching the gospel of gay families for years, and in 2015, the Supreme Court finally caught up with her.

Carpenter has been passionate about serving LGBT people (especially couples, their children and their often-straight extended families) since co-founding the travel company R Family Vacations 11 years ago. With her wife Anne Steele, Carpenter is rearing four children of her own, and appreciates the value of a holiday adventure the entire family can enjoy, but which still appeals specifically to a queer sensibility.

"Gay travel companies started as a place you could feel safe while traveling," Carpenter — who attended college in Dallas and still has family here — says from her home in New Jersey. "Now [that gay rights have become more mainstream], it's more about a sense of community — a certain kind of comedy, an essence that is different for gay people."

Take, for instance, one of the frequent performers at R Family events: the gay comedian and actor Alec Mapa.



"Alec Mapa, like several couples, came with us [on vacations] for years and then decided to have children — Alec even 'blames' us for adopting a foster child in his act," she says.

Mapa will be on hand — along with comedian Vicki Shaw, singer-activist-athlete Esera Tuaolo and others when R Family Vacations sails into its latest adventure, a week-long trip to the Hard Rock Resort in Puerto Vallarta this summer. And for the first time, R Family is teaming with the premiere lesbian-specific travel company, Olivia.

"It's been in the works about three years," Carpenter says. "We decided that as a partnership, we are stronger doing family vacation together than individually."

It's something of a comeback for R Family, which started off doing full cruise ship charters but had to cut back substantially following the financial crisis; since then, groups and smaller charters have been its bread and butter. But this is the biggest event "of this size in many years. And we're already planning 2017; in 2018, we hope to book a full ship charter."

Although R Family is open to everyone — "we are the only company that does gay and lesbian travel — many gay male couples looking to have a great time feel comfortable [on our vacations], and about 15 percent of the people on our trips are not gay, but extended family and friends" — the emphasis is always on folks with little ones, which presents a unique business challenge.

"We can only charter in the summer, and even then only about a six-week period, because that's when all kids around the country are out of school," Carpenter says. (The PV trip will take place July 9–16.) "It's like a reunion that happens every year — we have a 30 percent repeat business. These kids have grown up together."

But it's just as appealing for parents who want to get away from the kids ... sort of. "Not only do you get family time, but the programming comes with a full kids' program so you can do stuff with or without your children and enjoy a date night," Carpenter says.

In other words, it's like a vacation with complimentary babysitting? "...And liquor is included," adds Carpenter.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

For more information and to book the July trip, visit RFamilyVacations.com or Olivia.com.

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Meet the Nerdmobile



Low on horses but big on heart, SmartForTwo is a couple's dream ride

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

My crazy love for a Smart is well documented, but I'm one of those nerds who fell in love on a trip to Europe and couldn't wait to order one when they became available stateside in 2008. In fact, I ordered mine in February 2008 and took delivery a year later!

But my seven-year-old car has its issues. The five-speed automated transmission seemingly takes a smoke break during gear changes, crosswinds keep drivers unnerved and putting it through the Smokey Mountains between Knoxville and Asheville rivals 500 miles of Indy. Given 71 horsepower, it can maintain 80 mph all day, but there's nothing in reserve. Trying to stay ahead of a semi, I once sounded like an old Catholic praying for a turbo.

Prayers answered for 2016.

Any child could tell it's a Smart from the Tridion safety cell frame to the rear-mounted engine. Gaze head-on, and you start to see the car's additional half-foot of width, taller hood to meet European pedestrian crash standards and LED driving lights. Its profile is more two-box than one, but looks handsome with plastic body panels, square taillamp pods, and 15-in. alloys. Sur-

prisingly, it's no longer than the outgoing model.

A wider cabin lets two people sit side-by-side without being staggered. The multicolor dash design features fabric coverings as before, but is dominated by a center LCD pod for infotainment and automatic climate controls below. Doors are noticeably thicker for side impact protection. Bluetooth, USB and convenient cupholders were added. A clever drawer slides out of the console.

Clear roof panels, heated leather buckets and a leather-wrapped steering wheel remain, though the eyeball tachometer and clock have combined into a single sprout on the driver's left. The two-piece tailgate can be deployed with one hand. A flip-forward front seat and roomy cargo hold can haul a painting or two

roller bags and a couple of duffles for a week away. JBL audio, cruise control, automatic wipers, and collision avoidance systems are available.

I couldn't prepare myself for the driving experience. A new turbocharged three-cylinder engine delivers 89 horsepower to the rear wheels — enough to touch 96 mph and give it much deeper lungs when hustling freeways. You can finally get a traditional 5-speed manual transmission, but the 6-speed dual clutch automatic

'16 SMART FOR TWO

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would be my choice as it now clicks through gears rather than lunging through them. Fuel economy of 33/39-MPG city/hwy is OK for a non-hybrid.

Underneath, engineers refined the rear suspension and developed a version of the Mercedes C-Class' for the front. Combine that with a wider stance, and the car rumbles over bumps without crash-banging and can be tossed into corners without feeling tipsy. Electronic stability control and Crosswind assist stand by just in case. Don't worry about safety; the ForTwo was

crash-tested against the Mercedes C- and S-Class sedans.

Look, I'm a nerd who would not recommend a Smart to everybody. It's, um, unique. I knew what I was getting into, don't mind my car's quirky personality, and appreciate how easy it is to park and store. And while I'm not selling mine anytime soon, the new model is much better. Dramatically improved handling, power and interior space should find a much wider audience while keeping early adopters adopting. I look forward to my next one. ■

SMART DESIGN | The 2016 Smart improves upon prior models, with more safety features and a Mercedes-level suspension. Plus the unmistakable look is a love-it-or-hate-it proposition. We love it.

BOOK REVIEW: 'You Don't Own Me'

You Don't Own Me: The Life and Times of Lesley Gore by Trevor Tolliver (Backbeat 2015) \$25; 209 pp.

Born into an era of lush crooners and big band swing, Lesley Sue Goldstein was, according to her parents, a musical prodigy. At six months, she could "duplicate the melody of a song;" as a toddler, she loved performing for her parents' friends.

After joining a girl group in middle school (one that fizzled quickly), Goldstein — who would soon be known the world over as Lesley Gore — entered an all-girl school and sang in a chorus. There, she realized that if she was going to sing professionally, she needed a vocal coach.

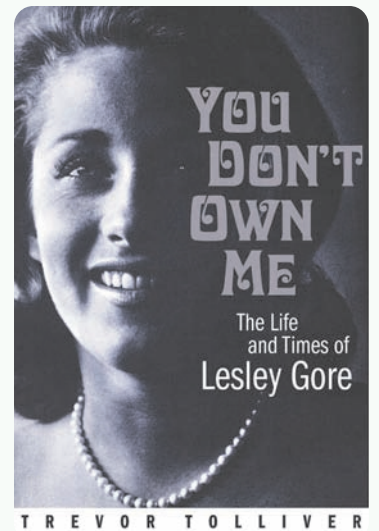
Her mother found one, who eventually led Gore to a tiny recording studio where she recorded a few discs for her family. A cousin passed one on to a bandleader, who invited Gore to perform at a gig where the president of Mercury Records was in attendance. In early 1963, he gave Gore's demo to music producer Quincy Jones and, two months later, at age 16, Gore was a pop music sensation.

But as quickly as her star rose, it began to fall, perhaps because of the Beatles and the British Invasion. Gore's music continued to hit the charts but, in the end, the new sound and the not-so-innocent times wore away at her popularity. By 1969, Trevor Tolliver writes, "Her career, for all outward appearances, was over."

And yet, Gore continued to have some professional success until her death about a year ago, with a few minor hits but mostly as a songwriter and in Golden Oldies circles. As for her personal life, she enjoyed a decades-long relationship with another woman, which was something her teenaged self hadn't dared to do.

When a book starts with a foreword entitled "A Gushing Fanboy," that's exactly the tone you're going to get throughout the book. While it may seem chummy, I couldn't stop thinking of a supermarket tabloid mixed with discography. The book is overly swooning, breathless and music-industry-driven, consisting largely of reconstructed conversations. I would've loved reading more about Gore's personal life (Tolliver hints at some tumult with her paramour) but instead, we're plunged back into more about her flagging career. Even that could have been more interesting, were it given a less-chatty spin. Overall, I think there's an audience for *You Don't Own Me*, probably one of ardent fans or behind-the-music folks. For the rest of us, well, you won't want to own this book, either.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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A chat with the stars of the world premiere gay comedy-drama 'Clarkston'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

At opening night of *Clarkston*, my companion could hardly control her excitement. "We're seeing a world premiere! No one else has seen this play before!" she enthused. It was eye-opening to experience her excitement. Dallas has become something of a laboratory for significant world premieres lately, including *three* operas in 2015 alone, as well as two already this season from Dallas Theater Center (and another opening in a few months).

It's especially exciting for Taylor Trench and Sam Lilja, the stars of the most recent premiere. It's especially gratifying in that these young actors got to work with MacArthur "Genius" Grant Fellow Samuel D. Hunter, who wrote *Clarkston*.

"Having the opportunity to work with Sam and [director] Davis McCallum," is what drew Lilja to audition for the show; he'd never worked in Dallas before, nor even been here.

LAST TRAIN TO CLARKSTON | Dallas newcomers Sam Lilja and Taylor Trench play gay men exploring a precarious romance in DTC's world premiere 'Clarkston.' (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

(Trench appeared in the national touring production of *Spring Awakening* a few years ago, so was slightly familiar with the Arts District already.) "I've been a fan of theirs for many years. I was really lucky to work with them in a three-person show in such a concentrated place."

Creating the characters for a world premiere was an especially interesting challenge for young actors.

"Sam and Davis are very generous and open to input from actors, which is nice, because really, we are the bottom of the totem pole. But Sam is almost mathematical about the way he writes, so the script didn't change a tremendous amount in rehearsals," Trench says.

"It felt like being a part of that collaboration was really great. They valued what we had to say," about creating the characters," Lilja says. "It's pretty amazing that in Dallas there are so many new plays."

CLARKSTON

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St.
Through Jan. 31.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Clarkston is an intense comedy-drama, set mostly in a Costco in the Pacific Northwest. Chris (Lilja) is a head-down-get-your-work done local working as a stocker whose life is upended by the arrival of Jake (Trench), an openly gay Northeasterner who seems to be "slumming" by

getting his first-ever job. But there's much more below the surface. Chris is mostly in the closet, and dreams of a career as a writer — a dream frustrated by having to deal with a meth-addicted

mom. And Jake suffers from a degenerative disease that will take his life within a few years. They form a strangely antagonistic yet co-dependent bond, where each tears at the other while somehow giving them purpose. The audience swings back and forth between allegiances, never fully sure which character to root for... which is what both actors like about the show.

■ CLARKSTON Next Page

The showman must go on

B.J. Cleveland, Dallas theater's go-to guy

Coy Covington has some advice for B.J. Cleveland: Learn the word "no."

"I really need to add that word to my vocabulary," Cleveland smiles at the words of wisdom offered by his longtime friend and colleague. Already one of the busiest theater professionals in North Texas — in addition to his day job with the Dallas Theater Center, he's in demand as an M.C., director, actor and all-around utility expert (from painting sets to fetching costumes) — Cleveland's 2015 was madcap, even for him. When he began the year, his only theater obligations were starring in Uptown Players' *The Nance*, pictured, directing Uptown's *Gilligan's Fire Island* and closing the year with his one-man *Christmas Carol* at Theatre 3.

Then T3's legendary founder, Jac Alder, died. Alder's replacement as artistic director was Bruce R. Coleman, who asked Cleveland to pick up some slack: Could he direct *Cotton Patch Gospel*, which Alder added to the lineup at the last minute, as well as *The Liar* (with only two hours' notice)? Sure. Could he take over directing a production of *Curtains* that Coleman was set to stage in Irving? Of course. Could he, in fact, step in to introduce Denise Lee at her standing-room-only cabaret show and even perform a number or two? Why not.

By New Year's Eve, Cleveland had agreed to "nine or ten" shows, the most recent being taking over for an injured Doug Jackson in the four-actor revue *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, which runs at Theatre 3 through March 6.

"I was at *Star Wars* three days after *Christmas Carol* closed when I could feel my cell phone go crazy in my pocket," Cleveland says. As soon as the movie got out, he checked his messages: Half a dozen beginning him to take over for Jackson with less than a week of prep time. Cleveland's DCT colleague, Artie Olaisen, counseled him to turn it down. He knew Cleveland was burned out and needed a break. But he couldn't say no. "What if it was your the-



ater?" he asked Olaisen.

So the Metroplex's busiest actor is back on the stage, and when this run ends, it's off to rehearsals at his old stomping grounds at Theatre Arlington to perform in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. This summer, he'll star in Uptown's regional premiere of Terrence McNally's *It's Only a Play*, as well as help out with the company's annual Broadway Our Way fundraiser. As of now, that's all he has on the books for 2016. He plans to take a much-deserved break, turn down other requests and spend the rest of the year catching his breath.

Yeah, like that'll happen.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at Theatre 3's Theatre Too space through March 6. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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CLARKSTON, From Previous Page

"What I like about Sam's writing is, he doesn't follow those rules," Trench says. "The antagonist and protagonist changes — we all play those roles, and each character antagonizes the other. No matter how much research you do it's impossible to understand a character's full life, but the more you say the words, the more you find these hidden Easter eggs in Sam's writing. You get these new gifts, you learn tiny new things. It's a lot like life."

"There's something new every night that we discover together," adds Lilja.

For Trench, playing an openly gay 20-something was a comfortable space to occupy, but Lilja, who is straight, says he really understands the closeted Chris as well.

"I grew up in a small town in Iowa so I understand that world," Lilja says. "I have friends I went to high school with who you knew or had a good idea they were gay but couldn't say it because of society, so it's not that far-fetched for me to imagine Chris. And I know what it's like to be an outsider being an artist in a small town."

And it's an experience most audience members can relate to as well.



Trench and Lilja in a scene from 'Clarkston.' (Photo by Karen Almond)

LET'S GO, From Page 14



"We can't stop the momentum," says Shine. "We [really just started] four months ago, but doing it on our own helps a lot. We started with iMovie, then got FinalCut [software] to do the editing. We have a tag-team system of editing techniques. People are already requesting us to come to their cities." Isis has already been accepted to film school, and hopes to become a filmmaker of both documentaries and features. They've really already started.

"We are doing two documentaries [while making the travel show] — one a behind-the-scenes look at our process, and one on female entrepreneurs," says Shine.

They know that as a curious, young, interracial lesbian couple, they have something that sets them apart. But their style of exploration isn't about doing "gay travel," but about doing "travel" from a gay perspective.

"People overseas don't know a lot about America — they think everything is all 'New York Yankees' and 'Hollywood,'" Isis says. "But we like [landscapes] that are forever changing, meeting new people, [forging] new relationships. We are lesbians and an interracial couple, but we are just us, not doing gay travel, but" going off the beaten path to uncover the quirks, appealing characters and fun activities anyone can enjoy.

They arrived in Dallas direct from Phoenix, after starting in New York City; after the Metroplex, they're heading for San Francisco, then Las Vegas; hopefully, they will make it to Africa, because they want to pursue international travel. But they are adamant that the future holds what it holds — there are no rules for them to follow, just life for them to enjoy and excitement to discover.

Like eating an eggnog doughnut. And learning to look both ways before crossing Cedar Springs.



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Friday 01.22



L.A. dance troupe BodyTraffic makes Dallas debut

TITAS' 10-show season not only features three world premieres, but also nine local debuts, including one of Los Angeles' hottest dance companies. BodyTraffic. The three-year-old company features stylized, energetic performances designed by sought-after choreographers in what should be a memorable evening of contemporary dance.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$12-\$200. ATPAC.org.

Friday 01.15
Saturday 01.16

New Age guru and author Gregg Braden plots a spiritual path

Gregg Braden is a best selling author of books about self-enlightenment and living a spiritual life in the modern world. He brings his talents to Dallas this weekend at two events — on Friday evening for a book signing, reception and talk; and then all day Saturday for a full-on workshop, both held at the Unity Church in North Dallas.

DEETS: Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. UnityDallas.org.

Thursday 01.21 —
Sunday 01.24



'The New Moon,' a rarely-revived Romberg/Hammerstein operetta, gets new life from (natch) Lyric Stage

Long before he teamed legendarily with Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II co-wrote composer Sig Romberg's final Broadway operetta, *The New Moon*. This rarely-scene musical will get a new concert staging from North Texas' premiere source of classic and original musical theater, Lyric Stage, with *Grand Hotel*'s Christopher J. Deaton (pictured with Kristen Lassiter) starring.

DEETS: Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Hall, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. LyricStage.org.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Sexy Laundry. The return of the hit from earlier this year, a co-production from WaterTower and Stage West, reuniting original cast members Bob Hess and Wendy Welch. Moves from the Addison Theatre Centre to Fort Worth. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Jan. 31. StageWest.org.

Death is a Bad Habit! Pegasus Theatre, renowned for its patented In Living Black and White shows, returns for an historic 30th anniversary season with this world premiere murder mystery-comedy featuring the bumbling part-time detective Harry Hunsacker. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Jan. 24. PegasusTheatre.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Gay playwright Joe DiPietro co-wrote this popular musical revue about relationships. Last week, B.J. Cleveland became a last-minute replacement for Doug Jackson, who fell ill. He co-stars with Amy Mills Jackson, Max Swarner and Kim Swarner. Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Feb. 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Clarkston. Dallas Theater Center presents this world premiere from gay playwright Samuel D. Hunter, about a relationship between workers in a Costco. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 31. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Martyr. The first show of Second Thought Theatre's 2016 season, about a teen (Garret Storms) who begins spouting fundamentalist philosophy and the effect on those around him. Directed by Blake Hackler. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphrey Campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 6. STT.co.



FASHION CITED PREVIEW PARTY | Help kickoff the annual fundraiser for the Legal Hospice of Texas at Park Place Volvo on Friday.

FINE ART

Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots. An exclusive exhibit of the innovative American painter's late work, a departure from his classic "drip" paintings, but also showing the span of the artist's work. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717

Harwood St. Through March 20. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Castiglione: Lost Genius. Masterworks on paper from the Royal Collection. Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 14. Free. KimbellArt.org.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Painter's Eye. Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 14. \$18. KimbellArt.org.

N.S. Harsha: Sprouts, reach in to reach out. A site-specific mural, the first in Dallas for the Indian artist, transforms the main corridor of the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 21. DMA.org.

International Pop. A survey of pop art, the distinctive modern movement of the 1960s. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 17. DMA.org

FRIDAY 01.15

COMMUNITY

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

FILM

The Man Who Fell To Earth. The Texas Theatre marks the death of icon David Bowie with a screening of the innovative, existential sci-fi Nic Roeg film he starred in. 35mm print. Friday 9 p.m. (encore screening Saturday at 3:40 p.m.) TheTexasTheatre.com.

BOOK SIGNING

Gregg Braden. The best selling author will hold a signing, reception and talk — Creating Resilience in a Time of Extremes. Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. 6 p.m. \$20-\$45. 972-233-71096. UnityDallas.org.

CABARET

Cabaret and Cabernet. The Sammons Center launches its new season of wine tastings and live music. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3620 Harry Hines Blvd.



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Gaybingo lineup for 2016

The Resource Center's monthly Gaybingo fundraiser is a tradition, arriving the third Saturday of every month (except December). It kicks off this Saturday with the theme Star Wars: Gaybingo Awakens. But the entire lineup of theme nights has already been decided, and here it is if you wanna start planning your costume early.

All games at the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 5 p.m., games start at 6 p.m. \$25–\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

Feb 20: Queen of Hearts.

March 19: March Madness.

April 16: Wig in a Box.

May 21: Orange is the New Bingo.

June 18: Beach Blanket Gaybingo.

July 16: Quinceanera Gaybingo
(the event's 15th anniversary).

Aug. 20: Flame Games.

Sept. 17: Pride and Fabulous.

Oct. 15: Bewitched.

Nov. 19: Nutcracker.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

7:30 p.m. 214-520-7788. SammonsArtCenter.org.

THEATER

Aida: The Concert Version. Uptown Players teams up again with the Turtle Creek Chorale for this “bonus” show of the season, featuring the Tony Award-winning songs of Elton John and Tim Rice. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Jan 15–17. \$40–\$55. UptownPlayers.org.

COMMUNITY

Little Black Dress: Fashion CITED Preview Party. A preview of the upcoming fundraiser for the Legal Hospice of Texas. Park Place Volvo, 3515 Lemmon Ave. 6:30–9 p.m. \$20 donation requested.

SATURDAY 01.16

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

WORKSHOP

Gregg Braden. The best selling author will host a day-long workshop: Awakening the Power of a Spiritually-Based Science. Coffee and lunch provided. Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. \$125. 972-233-71096. UnityDallas.org.

MONDAY 01.18 — MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

CABARET

Mama's Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

TUESDAY 01.19

FILM

The Boys in the Band. In 1960s New York, long before the AIDS crisis (but also before Stonewall), a group of gay men gather for a birthday party and secrets are revealed. Mart Crowley's hit play became William Friedkin's film directing debut, a funny, dark, withering look at gay life on the brink of liberation. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 01.21

CABARET

Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

THEATER

The New Moon. Before his legendary pairing with Richard Rodgers — or even his near-legendary one with Jerome Kern — Oscar Hammerstein II teamed up with operetta composer Sig Romberg for this 1928 hit. Lyric Stage presents this rarely-revived musical in concert form, with Jay Dias leading the 35-piece orchestra and Andy Baldwin directing his recent *Grand Hotel* co-star Christopher J. Deaton. Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Hall, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Jan. 21–24. LyricStage.org.

FRIDAY 01.22

DANCE

BodyTraffic. Three-year-old Los Angeles-based dance troupe BodyTraffic makes its Dallas debut with this evening of contemporary dance, presented by TITAS. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 22. 8 p.m. \$12–\$200. ATTPAC.org.



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Girl on Girls

Jenny Block asks: Is lesbian bed death real? And what can you do?

Ugh. The dreaded LBD. No, not the little black dress. I adore those. I'm talking about lesbian bed death. The phenom that sometimes seems as common as the urge to merge. (Cue the U-Haul.)

Things start off well enough. You meet a girl. You fall head over heels in love... or at least in lust. You can't keep your hands off one another. The car. The kitchen. The guest room at your friend's party. You're always late and everyone always knows why.

You tell each other you can't ever get enough and you will always want one another this way, always want to rip each other's clothes off the minute she comes into view. And for the first few months, that

proves to be true. You joke about losing jobs and friends and family to your new sole focus: having sex.

And then, without either of you really noticing at first, the sex begins to wane. You find yourself counting how many days it's been. Soon you can't remember when the last time was at all. You blame it on work or stress or how "busy" you both are. You talk about it and recommit to getting back to the sheets. For a while, it's good... really good, actually. In fact, in some ways, it's even better then it was at the start. You know one another, your bodies and what you like. You remember how good it felt to connect physically and intimately and sexually, to connect in a way that you don't connect with anyone else.

And then it happens again. The wane begins. But this time it's worse. There's no sex at all to speak of and the kisses you share suddenly feel more like the ones your Aunt Susan gives you at the annual family reunion picnic.

It's so easy to make a million excuses and let the

new norm take over, especially when lesbian bed death is often regarded as a major issue in the lesbian community. But is it really? That's hard to know for sure.

The term was coined by Pepper Schwartz, a sociologist from the University of Washington, in her book *American Couples* (1983). She argued that lesbians in committed partnerships engage in sex less than gay male or heterosexual couples and that the longer the relationship, the steeper the decrease in physical intimacy. The lesbian community has called bullshit on her claims throughout the years. But we all know or have been in a couple where this does indeed happen. My guess is that — as is most often the case — the truth lies somewhere in between.

With most any couple, things cool off after the honeymoon period. Life takes over. Reality sets in. The "shiny effect" wears off. And that can be OK as long as both partners are happy and satisfied and things have not come to a complete halt.

But it can be too easy to get too comfortable in a relationship. Out go the cute jeans, in come the bedraggled sweats. Out go the nights on the town, in come the nights on the couch. Out go the sexy texts, in come the reminders to pick up a gallon of milk on the way home.

We get back what we put out there. If we stop making an effort, if we stop looking at our partners with desire, if we let everything but intimacy with our partner take the front seat, it's no wonder that our sex lives would end up slumped over and suffering in the back.

So if sex is no longer a part of the relationship, it's time to talk. Having no sex at all in a romantic partnership is just not healthy (barring any medical or psychological issues that simply cannot be overcome). You're no longer a couple. You're roommates. This will likely not be the easiest conversation to have. But it's a vital one. It's imperative to ask your partner if she has noticed the loss, why she suspects that is, whether she is still sexually interested in you, and how committed she is to reviving your once hot relationship that has turned to ice.

Some issues that may arise include stress both in the relationship and outside of it, resentment toward one another over issues big and small, and no longer feeling that "crave" for one another.

Hopefully both partners will want to work on whatever issues there are and clear the air of any misunderstandings. Seeking the help of a professional might be the best move toward accomplishing that. Honest, open communication is the only real path to resolution.

The truth may be that the relationship is over. Or it may simply be that the couple let themselves drift apart and both partners actually want to come together but had no idea that they both felt that way.

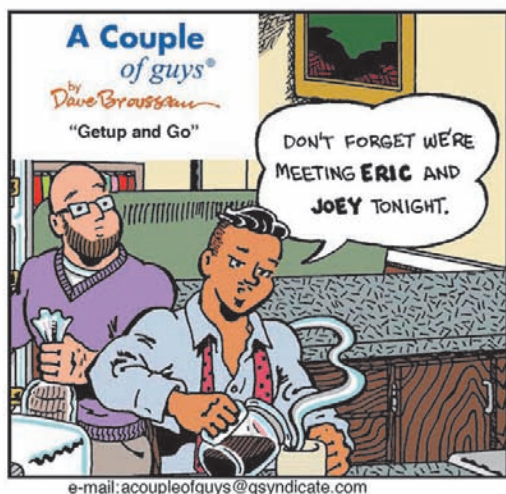


Hence the need for a true heart-to-heart. Maybe there is something all together different at play. But whatever it is, facing it is always better than ignoring it.

Relationships require care. When we cease to tend to them, we cease to truly be in them. If you're not getting the intimacy you desire, tell your partner the truth about how you're feeling. You deserve hot sex just as much as you deserve true love. And lesbian bed deserves to die.

Have a question about sex you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.

Photo courtesy StephGrantPhotography.com



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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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this week's solution

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To open up the Lesbian Issue edition of Scene, say hello to newly-engaged couple Tori and Chelsie.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Jan. 15–21:

- **Alexandre's:** Ashleigh Smith on Friday. Mahogany on Saturday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Alicia Silex on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXS!** Show off your Favorite Underwear contest at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Dannee Phann has assembled a blockbuster lineup to celebrate Alyssa Edwards' birthday on Saturday.
- **Changes:** Bubble LaRue's F**k'em All show at 10 p.m. on Saturday benefits AIDS Outreach Center.
- **Club Reflection:** Cowtown Leathermen annual chili cook-off at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Wall of Food pageant at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** DFW Leather Corps club night on Friday. MasT Dallas meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Ladies of Leather and Lace present Somewhere Over the Rainbow to benefit GDMF and CURE at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Dream Girls with Chanel, Sassy, Nikki, Fantasha and Vita Summers on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear happy hour from 6–9 p.m. on Friday. Free self-defense training lesson taught by Chuck Gary and David Downing is free and open to the community at noon on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Mustache Envy on Friday. Cami Maki & the Conspirators on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. and Marisela Trio at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Karaoke night at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Watch the divisional games on the big screen on Saturday and Sunday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographers: Winston Lackey and Chad Mantooth.

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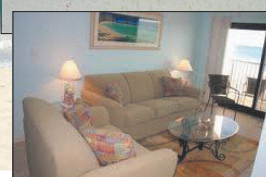
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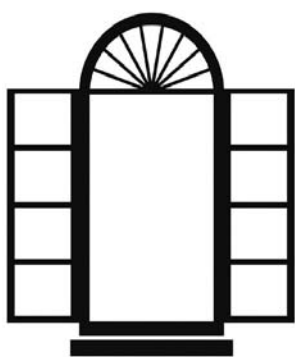
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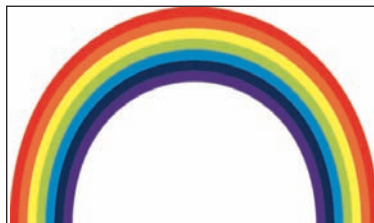
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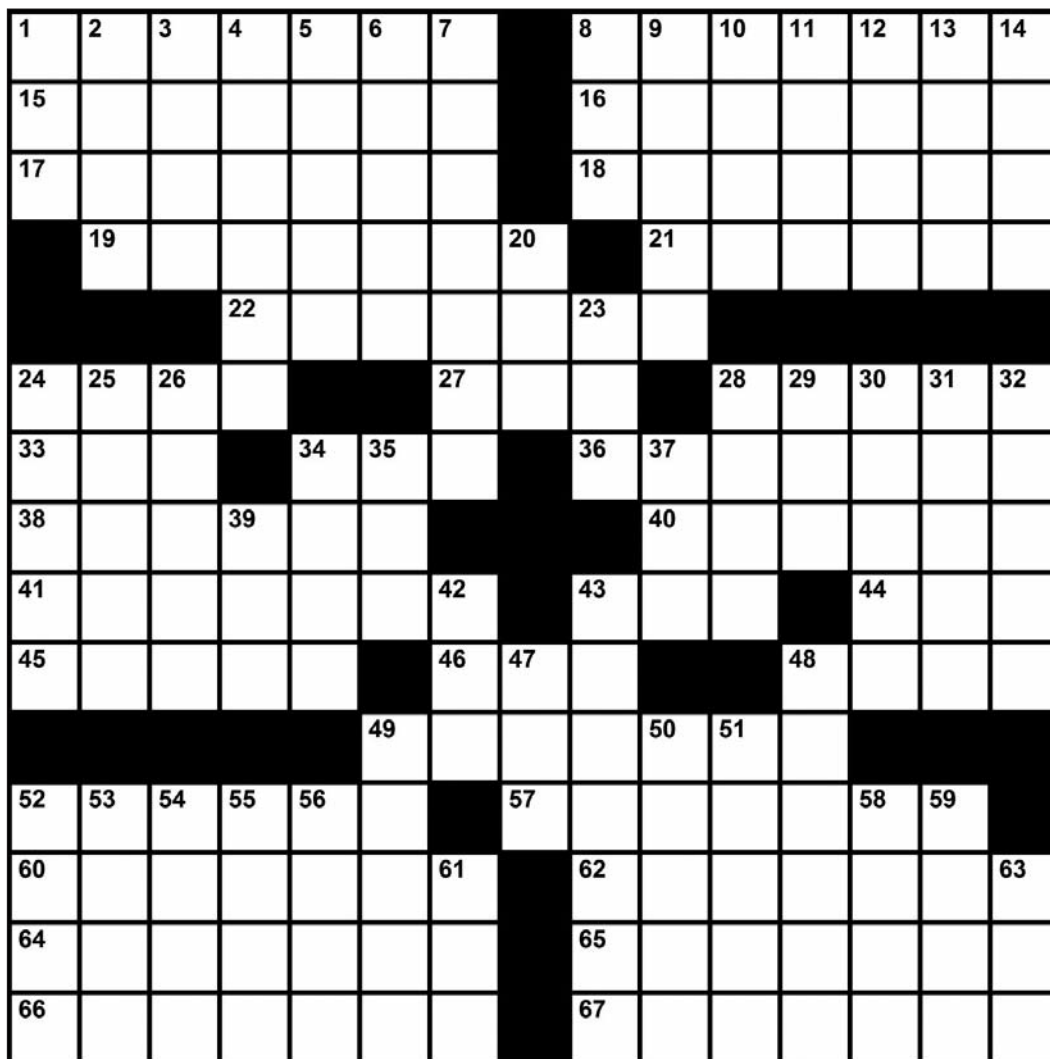
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For more information contact

Sonny Blake
@ 214-522-8600 Ext. 236

q-puzzle



Degeneres Is Ideal, Also Istic

Solution on page 23

Across

- 1 Anaís Nin was one
- 8 Golfer Muffin ___-Devlin
- 15 Physically fit
- 16 Unit with some real stallions
- 17 "You wish!"
- 18 Rio beach of song
- 19 Start of Degeneres' comment on receiving the People's Choice Humanitarian award
- 21 More of the comment
- 22 Rubbers of noses
- 24 Seaman's pair
- 27 Doze off
- 28 More of the comment
- 33 Debussy sea
- 34 Trucker's ride
- 36 Lea of *OITNB*
- 38 Imaginary
- 40 Seaport of Pasolini's land
- 41 Some Willa Cather works
- 43 Came out on top
- 44 Neighbor of Cal.
- 45 Degeneres
- 46 Put a scuff on
- 48 Sign over
- 49 Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, e.g.
- 52 Children's hospital to which

- Degeneres donated her award
- 57 End of the comment
- 60 Like Kerr Smith in *Dawson's Creek*
- 62 Kind of homo
- 64 First, for one
- 65 Whip material
- 66 "Jailhouse Rock" settings
- 67 Become harder to climb

Down

- 1 Had sex with, in slang
- 2 Letters over Mary's son
- 3 On the ocean
- 4 *Pulp Fiction* actor Ving
- 5 Shakespeare's feet
- 6 Shake up
- 7 Erection of temporary shelters
- 8 Poli ___
- 9 Parenting couple, sometimes
- 10 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You ___"
- 11 Half of Mork's good-bye
- 12 Warhol critic Greenberg
- 13 At Wit's End author Bombeck
- 14 Idol of porn
- 20 Ins. letters
- 23 Ann Bannan's ___ *Girl Out*
- 24 Get a smile out of
- 25 Self-directed Streisand film

- 26 Flamboyant Flynn
- 28 Cumming on the stage
- 29 Break for Heather's mummies
- 30 One that mates with a queen bee
- 31 Was laid up in bed
- 32 Easily screwed
- 34 Prince's purple precipitation
- 35 Island in gay Paree
- 37 Rocker Brian
- 39 Byron's before
- 42 Mustangs of the NCAA
- 43 Violet Quill members, for example
- 47 "Try ___ might..."
- 48 Queer as a three-dollar bill, e.g.
- 49 Mullally of *Will & Grace*
- 50 Weight unit for your stones
- 51 "Is that true of us?"
- 52 Margaret Cho's *Can't ___ Dancing*
- 53 Alas., once
- 54 Knight in the saga of Moff Mors
- 55 Aussie colleges
- 56 Paul of *Little Miss Sunshine*
- 58 "Take ___ from me ..."
- 59 Staircase descender for Duchamp
- 61 Dottermans of *Antonia's Line*
- 63 DC figure

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