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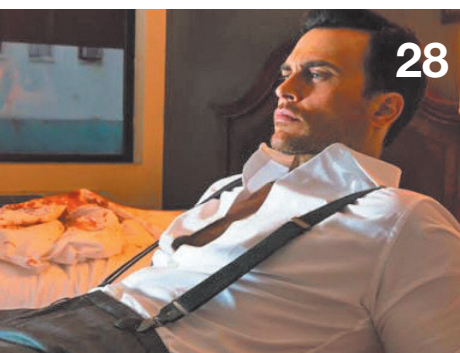
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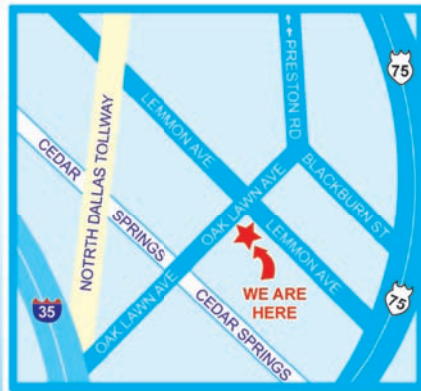
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Former Dallas Voice Publisher Robert Moore captured the emotion Thursday, July 7 as he and a Dallas Police officer were trapped behind a car by a sniper targeting police. (Photo Robert Moore)

If you'd like to make a donation to assist Dallas officers

If you'd like to make a donation to help Dallas Police officers recover from their injuries, Assist the Officer Foundation has set up a Dallas fund. For more information and to make a donation, go to ATODallas.org.

— David Taffet

Annise Parker to dedicate marker at Gittings' home in Philly

Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, the first openly LGBT mayor of a major U.S. city, will be keynote speaker at a ceremony in Philadelphia later this month unveiling a historic marker at the home of the late Barbara Gittings, a leading LGBT rights activist from the early days of the movement until her death in 2007.

The Barbara Gittings Residence Historic Marker Dedication ceremony is set for Tuesday, July 26, from 11-11:30 a.m. at the home Gittings shared with her partner, Kay Lahusen. The ceremony, taking place as part of the 2016 Equality Forum in Philadelphia, will also feature Equality Forum founder and Executive Director Malcolm Lazin and a special performance by the Anna Crusis Women's Choir, the oldest existing feminist choir in the U.S.. Gittings was a member of the choir.

— Tammye Nash

Second North Texas UMC church votes for same-sex marriage

A second North Texas conference Methodist Church has voted for same-sex weddings, according to the United Methodist Church website.

The article doesn't refer to the first — Northaven UMC in North Dallas — and expresses some surprise that the second was rural Aley UMC, located outside Seven Points.

Seven Points is on Cedar Creek Lake, which has a large LGBT weekend and retirement community. Celebration Church on the Lake in neighboring Mabank was established with an outreach to the LGBT community, with help from the Rev. Carol West of Celebration Church in Fort Worth.

About 80 percent of Aley's congregation voted to support its pastor, the Rev. Eston Williams, in his intention to conduct same-sex weddings, including Jim Braswell, mayor of nearby Gun Barrel City.

Williams, 67, who has been with the church 18 years, said he has opposed the Methodist position that homosexuality is incompatible with Christianity for years, but was persuaded to ask for a vote when his two daughters said they didn't want to be affiliated with “a denomination that isn't fully inclusive.”

The resolution voted on by the congregation ends with the statement, “We support our pastor to hold same-gender weddings in the sanctuary of Aley United Methodist Church.”

— David Taffet



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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

• **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 (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Trey more Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

JULY

• July 15: DallasStrong BBQ

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce is among the sponsors of a DallasStrong barbecue from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, 9800 Preston Road. \$25. First responders eat free.

• July 15: Federal Club mixer

HRC Federal Club mixer from 6-8 p.m. at Tutta's West End, 1701 N. Market St. #110.

• July 16: Quinceanera Gaybingo

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information, call 214-540-4458 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• July 16: Youth Vigil for Pulse

LGBTQ youth and allies rally including reading of the victims names, open mic, youth speakers and performers from 4-7 p.m. at Legacy of Love Monument.

• **July 16: Night of Stars benefiting LifeWalk** Raven, Jujube, Krystal Summers, Nova Starr, Vanity Storm, Sienna Silver and others guests perform to benefit Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund LifeWalk team 8:30-10 p.m. at The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave., #120. \$20.

• July 17: Drag Star Divas for Orlando

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce partners with The Rose Room and Drag Star Diva to present Drag Star Divas for Orlando, a benefit for the victims of the shooting in Orlando, a drag extravaganza featuring an all-star cast, 6-9:30 p.m. in The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. There is a \$5 suggested donation at the door, and the event is open to those 18 and over. Visit bit.ly/Divas4Orlando for more information.

• July 18-Aug. 11: Back to school donation drive

Real Live Connection, HRC, AIDS Walk South Dallas, and Oak Lawn UMC present a donation drive to collect clothing and school supplies for homeless LGBT youth and allies. Drop box locations are at the UPS Store, 3824 Cedar Springs Road, Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit RLC365.org.

• July 19: Log Cabin Republicans meeting

Former Dallas County GOP Party Chair Wade Emmert speaks on the challenges for the Republican Party. Social at 6:30. Meeting at 7 p.m. at Coal Vines, 2404 Cedar Springs Road.

• July 19: Sign up for AIN Angels

Join AIDS Interfaith Network for a margarita to sign up to walk on the AIN Angels LifeWalk team. \$40 registration includes: participation in the Walk, a LifeWalk T-shirt, an AIN sowing seeds of hope T-shirt and 4 LifeWalk raffle tickets from 6:30-8:30 at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

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• **July 19: Community meeting on homeless youth**

The Dallas Commission on Homelessness Community Engagement Committee hosts public meetings to educate, engage and gather feedback from the community to overcome challenges involving homeless youth, Tuesday, July 19-6-8 p.m. at North Dallas High School, 3120 N. Haskell Ave. Studies indicate about 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT. For information visit DallasCommissionOnHomelessness.org.

• **July 20: Holocaust survivor speaks**

If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

• **July 21: One Night Only: Songs and Stories from the Turtle Creek Chorale**

The Dallas Way fundraiser with a program of Turtle Creek Chorale stories and songs at 7 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets \$10-25. Sponsorships available.

• **July 21: Northeast Patrol Division breakfast**

Wellness and safety breakfast for those 55+. Jill Turner, President of Cooper Healthy Living, speaks. Doors at 9 a.m. and program at 10 a.m. at Harry Stone Rec Center, 2403 Millmar Dr. Free breakfast for first 200 who respond to bervin.smith@dcpd.ci.dallas.tx.us or 214-202-6255.

• **July 23: Summit on LGBT Aging**

Second annual summit is a joint venture with GALA North Texas. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Southern Methodist University Plano Campus, 5326 Tennyson Parkway, Plano. cfa.lgbt.

• **July 24: The Brick Closing Party**

The Brick/Joe's, 2525 Wycliff, will close after 25 years with a farewell party with owners Howard Okon and Greg Parrish who are retiring.

• **July 25: High Tech Happy Hour Christmas in July**

Benefits The Senior Source. A \$50 gift card to Target or Walmart will help a senior purchase personal items and a \$100 check will purchase and install an air conditioning unit. From 5-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, The quadrangle, 2800 Routh St. #140.

• **July 28-31 Texas Queerlesque Festival**

Queer burlesque takes center stage in the 4-day Texas Queerlesque Festival, where cabaret-style performing arts meets the culturally-rich queer community. The festival aims to unify, celebrate and elevate, and



The Dallas Way presents "One Night Only: Songs and Stories of the Turtle Creek Chorale," Thursday, July 21, as its annual fundraising event. Speakers — and singers — are Daryl Curry, Michael Sullivan, Doug Mitchell, Lonnie Parks and Brian Carey, with a special performance by the Nazarene Knockouts. The performers will be telling the story of the Chorale. The Dallas Way will also honor Jack Evans at this event, and everyone is encouraged to make a donation in his honor online at TheDallasWay.org or in person at the event. "One Night Only" is presented at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the program starts at 7 p.m.

showcases Texas premiere performers in two mainstage shows at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St., and Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., Ste. 120. For information visit TexasQueerlesqueFestival.com.

• **July 30: DFW Federal Club summer luncheon**

U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, the Democrat representing Texas' 33rd Congressional District, and Joni Madison, chief operating officer and chief of staff of the Human Rights Campaign, will be featured speakers at the DFW Federal Club's Summer Luncheon. The event is capped at 200 guests. Business casual luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm St. 48th floor. For information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

• **July 31: Holocaust survivor speaks**

If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

• **July 31: Sunday Night Fever**

Cathedral of Hope's 46th anniversary party with '70s costumes and karaoke. From 5-8 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

AUGUST

• **Aug. 9: Youth Summit and Diversity Dialogue**

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson hosts The 2016 Annual Youth Summit and Diversity Dialogue from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, 6101 Bishop Blvd. Contact Harrison Blair at 214-922-8885 to apply.

• **Aug. 9: Bridge Building Network —Ed-U-CARE**

Vivienne Armstrong talks about awareness about the care needs of LGBT older adults. Light dinner provided and Gen Silent will be shown from 6-8:30 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.

• **Aug. 10: Black Tie Sponsor Appreciation Party**

Black Tie Dinner holds its sponsor appreciation party at Brendan Bass Showroom, 2001 Irving Blvd.

• **Aug. 10: Holocaust survivor speaks**

If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

• **Aug. 13: Back to School Block Party**

Clothing and school supplies collected for homeless and in need LGBT youth and allies through the summer will be distributed from 4-7 p.m. at Oak Lawn UMC, 3014 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit RLC365.org.

• **Aug. 14: Top Dog Couture**

An evening of high canine fashion benefiting Tucker's Gift's LifeWalk team from 6-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$5.

• **U.S. Rep. Veasey's August Town Hall**

U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-District 33, hosts a town hall to give residence the chance to share thoughts and concerns on issues affecting their communities, 6 p.m. in the Community Room at El Centro West campus, 3330 N. Hampton Road. For information call 214-741-1387.

• **Aug. 19: Cabaret & Cabernet**

Sammons Center for the Performing Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., presents Cabaret & Cabernet, featuring emcee Tracy Fulton along with Denise Lee, Linda Petty, The Larry Petty Combo, Teddy and Lorena Davey, Jay Gardner, WT Greer, Sheran Goodspeed Keyton, Keran Jackson, LaLa Johnson, Carolyn Lee Jones, Shelley Kenneavy, Pam Musgrove and Diana Savage. Wine tasting at 7:30 p.m., performances at 8 p.m. Admission is \$400 for a table of eight; \$300 for a table of six, available by calling 214-520-7788 and online at bit.ly/CabaretAndCabernet.

• **Aug. 20: Turtle Creek monthly clean up**

Join Turtle Creek Association's monthly clean-up of the shores of Turtle Creek. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Beasley steps at Hall Street and the Katy Trail. clarke@turtletcreekassociation.org.

• **Aug. 20: Flame Games Gaybingo**

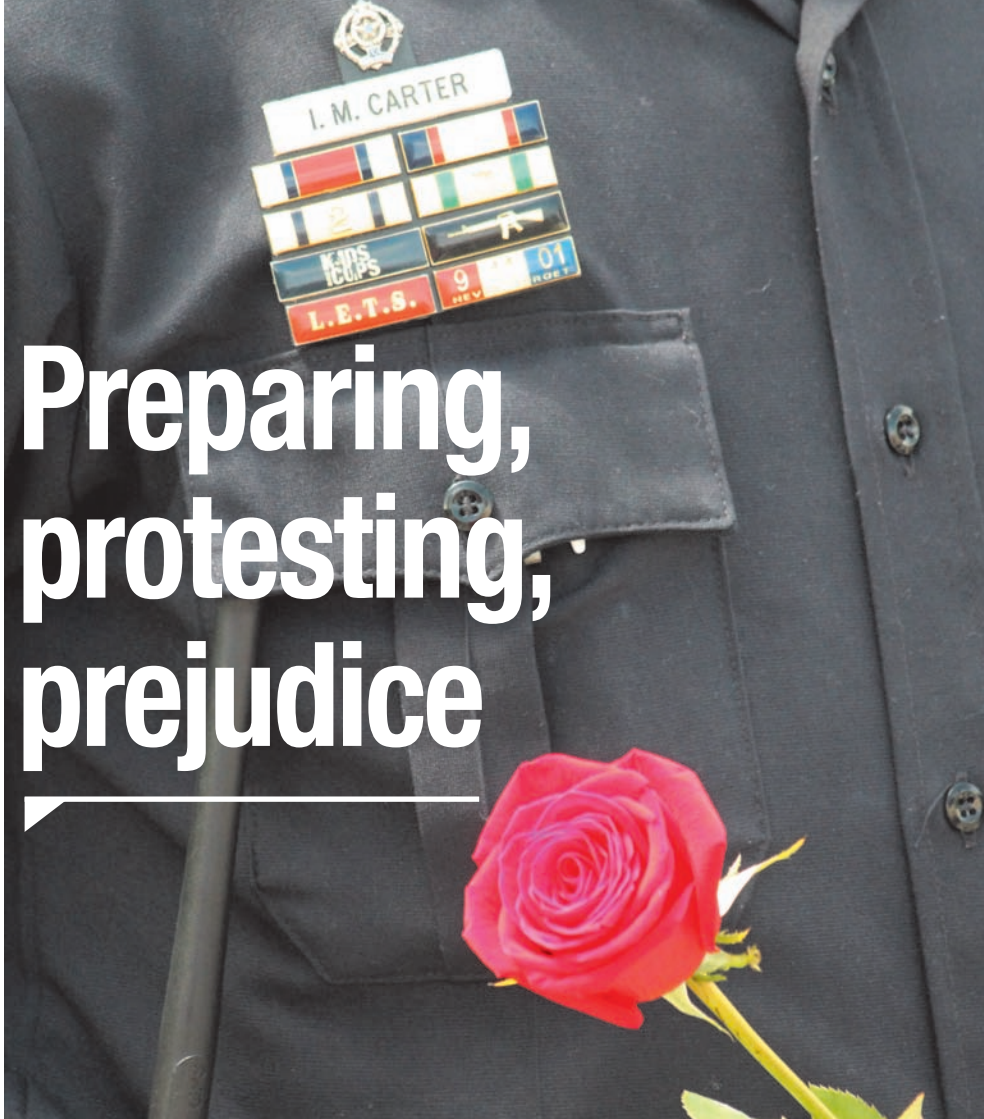
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• **Aug. 21: Holocaust survivor speaks**

If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

• **Aug. 25-26: Sister Helen Holy**

Sister Helen Holy headlines her own benefit show for Legacy Counseling Center saving sinners at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. \$45-100 plus sponsorship opportunities. HelenHoly.com.



Preparing, protesting, prejudice

As the North Texas LGBT community prepares for Pride, protestors in Orlando call for gun control, and lawmakers in D.C. hold hearings on anti-gay bills

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

As families, fellow officers and government leaders gathered Tuesday, July 12, in Dallas for a memorial service honoring the one DART Police and four Dallas Police Department officers shot down Thursday night, July 7, following a peaceful Black Lives Matter rally, activists in Orlando staged a sit-in near U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio's office there to demand stricter gun control laws.

And in Washington, D.C., Democrats and LGBT activists clashed with Republicans over a federal version of the "religious freedom law" popular now with state legislatures that, in effect, gives businesses and individuals free reign to discriminate against LGBT people.

In North Texas

Meanwhile, back in North Texas, LGBT community leaders and law enforcement officials are looking ahead to upcoming Pride celebrations, and other LGBT-related events, pledging to remain mindful of the attacks last month in Orlando and last week in Dallas, but adding that they already

have policies in place to address safety issues.

Jeremy Liebke heads security for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade along with Maj. Barbara Hobbs of the Dallas Police. Liebke said he had just met with the Dallas Tavern Guild, the association of Dallas LGBT bar owners that puts on Dallas' Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade each September, about any needed security upgrades for the parade and festival in September.

"We're looking at some small changes," Liebke said. But, he said, bar owners were surprised that most contingencies are already in place.

"We've had plans in place for potential tragic [or] criminal events as long as I've been involved," Liebke said. That includes contingencies to address an active shooter situation, suspicious packages and even a sudden tornado.

Fort Worth PD's LGBT liaison, Officer Kathi Jones, said the Orlando massacre prompted police in her city to create a schematic of Cowtown's LGBT bars.

"Four bar owners were very open to that" idea, Jones said.

Fort Worth's parade, the Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade held each year on the first Saturday in October, is smaller than the Dallas parade. But, Jones said, the potential for an incident is the same.

She said officers are stationed at each corner along the route through downtown, for crowd and traffic control. The department's intelligence unit has cameras up cameras along the entire route, and a special response team is stationed a block off the route.

Jones said Fort Worth Police will certainly be on

But the rest of the country has a long way to go to catch up to Big D's spirit of unity

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Although the ambush of Dallas police officers took place barely a week ago, law enforcement is already using the event to examine its tactics, plans and community relations.

President Barack Obama said in remarks to police in Dallas this week that "the Dallas Police Department has been at the forefront of improving relations between police and the community."

"The murder rate here has fallen," Obama said. "Complaints of excessive force have been cut by 64 percent. The Dallas Police Department has been doing it the right way."

When David Brown became police chief in 2010, he stepped up a policy of using de-escalation tactics that have shown dramatic results: Dallas has the lowest rate of police shootings of any major city in the U.S.

The number of excessive force complaints has dropped dramatically. In 2009, 147 complaints were filed against Dallas officers for excessive force. That's almost three complaints a week. By 2014, complaints were down to 53 or one a week and by last year there were only 13 — about one a month.

DPD a model of de-escalation training



Dozens of activists participate on Monday, June 11 in a sit-in outside U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio's Orlando office, protesting for stricter gun control laws. The sit-in, intended to last 49 hours, was planned to honor the 49 victims of the June 12 Pulse Nightclub shooting and to pressure Rubio to take action on gun violence. (John Raoux/Associated Press)

heightened alert, but she believes security threats have already been addressed.

About 30 miles east in Dallas, the increased police presence around LGBT events, funded in part through a \$1 million donation to the city by Mark Cuban, has eased while police regroup and heal after the July 7 tragedy. That decrease is only temporary.

Liebbe said he didn't think people need to be concerned about security. But, he warned, "The freedoms we enjoy and deserve create some level of risk."

In Orlando

On Monday, June 11, a day shy of the one-month anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, gun control advocates started what they intended to be a 49-hour sit-in near Sen. Marco Rubio's office to remember the 49 victims of the shooting.

Protesters sang songs, held signs that said "#Sit-ForThe49" and laid 49 red roses on white paper inscribed with the names of each victim.

Nine hours in, police cut the demonstration short Monday night by arresting 10 protesters who refused to leave the building when it was closing.

The protesters were released later that same night on \$250 bond each. They face misdemeanor trespass charges.

The sit-in was part of a larger fight for new gun control measures, but so far the calls for change have yielded no results. The protesters said they were targeting Rubio because of the Florida Republican's opposition to same-sex marriage and the support he has gotten from the National Rifle Association.

Protester Fausto Cardenas, a University of Central Florida student, said Pulse had been a "safe space" for him and other members of the LGBT community.

"To not feel safe in a space like that was a very impactful thing for us," said Fausto, who wasn't arrested. "We want to hold people accountable."

Ida Eskamani, who was arrested, said that even though sit-in was over, she and other activists will urge voters to call and tweet Rubio, demanding that he act on gun legislation and measures to end discrimination.

"The line has been drawn and you are either standing with us or not," Eskamani said Tuesday, hours after being released from jail. "The heat is continuing to be turned up."

The protesters said they wanted all politicians to reject contributions from the NRA, and they wanted tighter restrictions on assault weapons, as well as universal background checks for all gun purchasers.

"It's not enough for politicians to offer platitudes," said Rasha Mubarak, an official with the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Florida. "We demand a comprehensive platform for gun control."

Rubio, a former GOP presidential candidate, was in Washington this week, but his state director listened to the protesters for about five minutes Monday.

"Sen. Rubio respects the views of others on these difficult issues, and he welcomes the continued input he is receiving from people across the political spectrum," Rubio spokeswoman Kristen Mor-

rell said in an email.

As part of the shooting anniversary, Orlando area officials on Tuesday helped move 49 white crosses, which served as one of the three major memorials to the Pulse victims, from Orlando Regional Medical Center to the Orange County Regional History Center, where the crosses will be preserved.

An official memorial will be designed as a garden near the hospital. Hospital officials said Tuesday that four patients from the Pulse shooting were still being treated, including one in critical condition.

And in Washington, D.C.

Also on Tuesday, Congressional Republicans and Democrats clashed over legislation the GOP described as upholding religious freedom and Democrats insisted was discriminatory, with no sign of consensus.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a three-hour hearing to consider the First Amendment Defense Act, a measure to "prohibit the federal government from taking discriminatory action" against a person whose religious beliefs or moral convictions define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

The legislation has 171 co-sponsors in the House, but faces opposition from Democrats and outside groups who argue it will result in more discrimination against members of the LGBT community as well as single-parent families.

"Protecting the sacred right to freely exercise your religion is the First Amendment to the Constitution for a reason; it has been and still is fundamental to the foundation of our nation," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the committee.

Foes of the bill also criticized the timing of holding the hearing on the one-month anniversary of the shooting at Pulse.

"With everything going on in this country right now, these horrific shootings of gay people, black people, police officers — what we should be doing is coming together as a nation, not tearing each other apart, which is exactly what this bill does," said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, top Democrat on the committee. "To say this hearing is politically tone-deaf is the understatement of the year."

Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in the 2015 Supreme Court ruling to legalize same-sex marriage in all 50 states, testified as a witness opposing the bill and asked, "What could ever justify such a discriminatory act?"

"As important as it is that same-sex couples like John (his late partner) and I have the right to obtain a civil marriage license in any state of the country," Obergefell said, "it is also critically important that this constitutional right is not undermined by proposals like this legislation that subject loving couples like me and John, and other LGBT people to discrimination."

Former Chief of the Atlanta Fire Department Kelvin Cochran, who was terminated from his position because of his opposition to same-sex marriage, advocated for the bill, saying it would have protected his job.



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Obama visits to help Dallas heal

The president was joined by VP Biden, G.W. Bush at a memorial service for fallen officers

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

President Barack Obama and former President George W. Bush — in Dallas to speak at the Tuesday, July 12 memorial service for the five officers killed July 7 following a Black Lives Matter protest rally — both spoke this week of the need to heal and to unite to bridge the growing chasm between the black community and police departments nationwide

The memorial service, coincidentally, took place on the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at an Orlando gay bar that left 49 people dead and 53 more wounded. While a congressional committee marked the day by debating new ways to discriminate against the LGBT community, Obama noted the anniversary differently.

He said the goal of the killer in Dallas was the same as the shooters' in Orlando and at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church last year in June — to divide the country.

"With an open heart, we can worry less about which side has been wronged, and worry more about joining sides to do right," Obama said. "But as Americans, we can decide that people like this killer [in Dallas] will ultimately fail. They will not drive us apart. We can decide to come together and make our country reflect the good inside us, the hopes and simple dreams we share."

The president was last of the afternoon's speakers and didn't go to the podium until after 2:30 p.m. Most people attending arrived by 11 a.m.

Outside the hall, Arlington police, assisted by officers from other DFW Metroplex police departments, handled traffic and security. Barricades kept most onlookers across the street from the Meyerson and created a maze for those going into the hall. But police were friendly and helpful to those trying to navigate the labyrinth of barricades.



President Barack Obama called on Americans to "worry more about joining sides to do right."
(Tammye Nash/ Dallas Voice)

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Inside the Meyerson, Secret Service took over security, working professionally and quickly to ensure everyone's safety while at the same time keeping the line of guests waiting to enter moving efficiently. Meyerson staff and volunteers were also on hand to help direct guests to the proper seating areas.

By the time the president and his entourage arrived, 2,500 people had filled the Meyerson. Uniformed officers packed most of the main orchestra section of the symphony hall, with the first five rows reserved for family of the victims. Each time family members arrived, escorted by police, the crowd stood, applauded and wiped away tears.

The Dallas Police Choir was joined on stage by singers from six area church choirs. They began with a powerful rendition of "Love is Stronger than Hate."

In addition to state and local officials who appeared on stage, governors Jay Nixon of Missouri and Suzanna Martinez of New Mexico attended. Mayors from New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Lewisville and Columbia flew in for the event. A police honor guard from Friendswood, south of Houston, sat upstairs. One Friendswood officer said it was an honor to be there for the families of the fallen officers.

Mayor Mike Rawlings welcomed everyone, noting they were there to comfort the families of the victims and "to honor those who were wounded, not only in body but soul," acknowledging how hurt everyone on the police force is. Police Chief David Brown said earlier in the day

he might require his officers to go through counseling, so that officers don't have to request it.

The Rev. Sheron Patterson of the United Methodist Church of North Texas, Rabbi Andrew Paley of Temple Shalom and Imam Omar Suleiman of Valley Ranch Islamic Center each offered prayers for unity, healing and peace.

Before the president spoke, Sen. John Cornyn, Brown and Bush offered some remarks.

Sen. John Cornyn thanked Rawlings and Brown for the strength they've shown since the ambush, calling them men of uncommon courage. He praised Dallas police officers for the way they ran toward the bullets, shielded citizens and sacrificed their own lives.

"They put the people of Dallas before themselves," Cornyn said.

After receiving a standing ovation, Bush said, "Today our nation grieves. Those of us who call Dallas home lost five members of our family." He said the Dallas Police Department has been an inspiration for the rest of the country, and added, "We are grief stricken, heartbroken and forever grateful."

Rawlings introduced DART Police Chief James Spiller saying, "Leadership is hard. Great leadership is unique. We experienced that leadership from James Spiller." As he introduced Brown, whom he called "a rock" and "my friend," the auditorium erupted into a standing ovation, the longest and loudest of the day, complete with whistles and cheers.

Brown said when he was young, he wasn't good at asking girls out. So he would memorize



After George W. Bush and Michelle Obama joined hands for "The Battle Hymn at the Republic," the rest of those on stage and everyone in the audience did as well. (Tammye Nash/ Dallas Voice)

lyrics to songs by Al Green and the Isley Brothers. But when he really loved a girl, he'd turned to the music of Stevie Wonder. "Today, I'm going to pull out some Stevie Wonder for these families," Brown said, proceeding to recite the words to "I'll

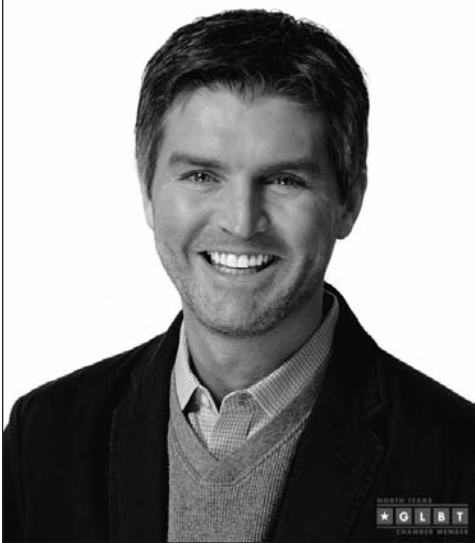
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The president followed Brown, beginning his speech by saying, "I'm so glad I met Michelle

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DPD, From Page 8

Although it was controversial at the time, one of the first steps Brown took after becoming chief was to fire officers who couldn't conform to new standards. Since taking office, 70 officers have been let go.

De-escalation tactics have taken a number of forms: When a high-speed chase caused a fatal accident, Brown limited high-speed chases. Officers show up for demonstrations in their squad cars dressed in police uniforms, not wearing riot gear riding in military vehicles.

Dallas officers receive training in de-escalation procedures. They're taught to listen and express empathy. They're taught communication skills.

At the Black Lives Matter demonstration on July 7, police were interacting with demonstrators, talking to them and taking selfies with them before a gunman opened fire, killing four DPD officers and one DART officer, and wounding seven other officers and two civilians.

Lynn Walters, who attended the demonstration said there was a large police presence and a good mix of people from all races and backgrounds.

"Certainly people were angry about what happened in Baton Rouge and Minneapolis," she said.

They were angry about the practice and pattern of targeting people of color, she said, but the protesters weren't targeting those officers there to protect them. And officers didn't feel threatened or targeted by the demonstrators.

Not so lucky elsewhere

But that same spirit of unity doesn't exist elsewhere. Tensions appear to be rising between Black Lives Matter advocates and proponents of Blue Lives Matter, the name of a movement focusing on the safety of law enforcement officers.

Kelly Orians, a 30-year-old white public defender who attended a die-in protest in New Orleans, said the two movements are not — and should not be — equal.

"I don't believe in a Blue Lives Matter movement in the same way that I don't believe in a White Lives Matter movement or a Men's Lives Matter movement," she said. "Because we're pretty clear that those lives matter and our institutions are built to protect those lives, whereas our institutions are not built ... to protect black lives."

Tracie Washington, a black civil rights lawyer in New Orleans, expressed the same frustration with the Blue Lives Matter movement, as well as with a law Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards recently signed extending hate crime status to crimes targeting police and other emergency responders.

"It tries to marginalize Black Lives Matter," Washington said. "And it pits two equally impor-

tant interests against each other that weren't against each other."

William Colarulo, the white police superintendent of Radnor Township, Pennsylvania, is equally opposed to the Black Lives Matter movement, which he called a "violent, hateful organization that condones violence against police."

"They chant, 'Pigs in a blanket, fry them like bacon,'" he was quoted by Philly.com as saying. "I give no credit to that organization. They tend to investigate rather than heal and find solutions to the problem."

Comedian Trevor Noah, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" and a biracial native of South Africa, said people "shouldn't have to choose between the police and the citizens that they are sworn to protect."

"It always feels like in America ... if you take a stand for something, you automatically are against something else. It's such a strange world to be in," he said last week on the show.

In an editorial published Monday in The New York Times, Brooklyn Borough President and former NYPD Captain Eric L. Adams, who is black, said police and black citizens share the concern that they may be in the line of fire.

"My solution to the tension between the police and the people — which I recognize as my own inner tension — is to seek unity, not find division," he wrote, adding that community education and police reforms are also needed.

Neither side should stereotype the other, said Gregory Thomas, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. The Dallas shooter and others who fired at police in retaliation for the deaths of the black men are not "reflective of the vast majority of citizens who are engaged with and supportive of the law enforcement community," Thomas said.

Likewise, he added, the police shootings are not "reflective of the professional work that members of the law enforcement community conduct dutifully every day."

Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner Richard Ross said the terms Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter should not be mutually exclusive, but he acknowledges the growing divisions between the two groups.

"It's this either-or proposition," said Ross, who is black. "This is where we're stuck. ... It's gotten so far down the tracks that I'm afraid even people who want things to be resolved don't have a loud enough voice."

Associated Press writer Jesse J. Holland and Errin Haines Whack along with several other AP writers, contributed to this report.



PREPARING, From Page 8

"Equal rights, true tolerance means that, regardless of your position on marriage, you should be able to peacefully live out your beliefs and not suffer discrimination at the hands of the government," Cochran said.

Despite the ideological disagreements, the main focus of the hearing became the language used in the legislation and whether or not the bill would

undermine the Fair Housing Act, the Civil Rights Act or other pre-existing equality acts.

"We have had very robust conversations that disagree. What my concern is is that we are at times missing each other on misinformation," Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said.

Associated Press writers Mike Schneider and Sarah Grace Taylor contributed to this report.

THE PET ISSUE

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Tucker's Gift



The organizers of Tucker's Gift. (Courtesy Cody Dustin)

New group provides food and vet services for pets of low income people with HIV

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

PAMPER YOUR PET A DFW Sisters novice wanted to raise some money to help people with HIV take care of their pets, but was unable to find a group doing that. Seeing a need, Cody and Christopher Dustin decided to take up the cause.

"If there's a need, we have to do something," Cody Dustin said.

So they started a new organization called Tucker's Gift, named after their own dog. Within weeks, they had put together a board and had their nonprofit status in place.

By January, they were in business and by May they were serving clients under the banner, "preserving the bond between warm hearts and wet noses."

Tucker's Gift helps provide food and veterinary care for pets of people with HIV. Clients may be referred by an agency or apply directly on the group's website. AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, Health Services of North Texas and Resource Center are already working with

Tucker's Gift and it was named a partner agency of LifeWalk this year.

They have also formed a partnership with the North Texas Pet Food Pantry to provide food for pets.

Dustin said people should never have to face the choice of "Do I eat or do I feed my pet?"

Once a person is approved for pet food assistance, Tucker's Gift delivers a three-month supply.

They've made arrangements with several veterinarians to spay and neuter clients' pets and to provide vaccinations and wellness checks for those animals. A client makes an appointment and then Tucker's Gift calls in a payment for services provided. If the client needs transportation to the vet, Tucker's Gift provides that as well.

"A bootblack from Dallas Eagle did a huge fundraiser for us," Dustin said, and more fundraising efforts are planned.

Tucker's Gift will have its next fundraiser, Top Dog Couture, on Aug. 14 in The Rose Room. It will be an evening of high canine fashion, with prizes for best in show, best friends — the "most creative six-legged pair" — and Tucker's Choice, the crowd favorite.

Registration to enter the event is limited to the first 25 applicants. Go to the group's website to enter.

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PAMPER YOUR PET

FROM STAFF REPORTS

For many people, especially for many of us in the LGBT community, our pets are more than pets. They are our family. That's why every July, Dallas Voice presents our "Pamper Your Pets" issue.

Dallas Voice is — and for many years now, has been — pleased to partner with Operation Kindness to publish our Pet of the Week feature. And we are always thrilled when one of our featured

pets finds its forever home. For instance, just this month, Pamela Curry celebrated the one-year anniversary of the day she adopted her cat, Bonnie.

Operation Kindness is the longest standing, no-kill shelter in North Texas. In its 40 years of operation, the agency has saved more than 85,000 cats and dogs. Today, Operation Kindness cares for about 300 cats and dogs daily, with another 150 in foster homes.

Within the last year, Operation Kindness has provided medical care, clean shelter and food for

more than 4,500 homeless dogs and cats. Tours of the facility are available from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., by appointment only. Operation Kindness is a strictly nonprofit organization and receives no government funding.

Ordinarily, you will find our Pet of the Week on the first page of our "Gay Agenda" section each week, in a smallish box with info on and a photo of one dog or one cat. But this week, since it is our "Pet Issue," we wanted to expand our pet of the week and give you more options.

So please meet Buster and Meowth.

Buster is a Pug mix who, at about 2 years old, weighs about 45 pounds. He is a sweet and loving dog found as a stray more than a year ago. He has since been completely vetted and is ready for a new family to love. He is a little heavy for his six and could stand to lose a few pounds, but he will be a loyal and loving companion to his new family members.

The fee to adopt Buster is \$185.

On the feline side of things, meet Meowth (and yes, that is a Pokemon).

Meowth is a domestic longhair mix who is about 3 months old and weighs in at a mere 2 pounds. She'll probably grown up to be a medium-sized cat. At such a young age, she has yet to develop her own unique personality, but like most kittens she's sure to be full of love and energy — enough to entertain her new family for

hours.

The fee to adopt Meowth is \$135.

For information on these or other adoptable pets, contact Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The shelter is open six days a week: Monday, 3-8 p.m., 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 shelter is closed on Tuesdays. Adoption fees include spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm testing for dogs, leukemia and FIV testing for cats and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time get a \$20 discount. ■

Here is an alphabetical list of some animal shelter/animal adoption agencies available around the DFW Metroplex. Inclusion on this list does not indicate any kind of endorsement from Dallas Voice.

• **Animal Rescue Of Texas**
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AnimalRescueOfTexas.org

• **Arlington Animal Shelter**
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■ pets of the week / Meowth and Buster



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DallasAnimalServices.org

• **DFW Humane Society**
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Irving, 75038 • 972-721-7788
DFWHumane.com

• **Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Shelter**
4900 Martin St., Fort Worth, 76119
817-392-1234
FortWorthTexas.gov/Animals

• **HART Of Texas**
(Humane Animal Rescue Team)
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HARTofTexas.org

• **Humane Society Of North Texas**
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Fort Worth, 76103 • 817-332-4768
HSNT.org

• **Humane Society of Dallas County /Dog and Kitty City**
2719 Manor Way
Dallas, 75235 • 214-350-7387
DogNKittyCity.org

• **Lexee's Legacy Inc**
1437 Halsey Way, Carrollton 75007
972-245-0900
LexeesLegacy.com

• **Operation Kindness**
3201 Earhart Dr., Carrollton, 75006
972-418-7297
OperationKindness.org

• **Prairie Paws Adoption Center**
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972-237-8575
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• **Rowlett Animal Control**
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972-412-6219
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• **Second Chance SPCA**
1700 J Ave, Plano, 75074
972-424-0077
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• **SPCA of Texas**
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214-742-7722
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OBAMA, From Page 11

first, because she loves Stevie Wonder."

He followed that with a tribute to each of the officers. Before the event, he met with the wounded and he talked about the son of Shetamia Taylor, who brought her children to the demonstration. Her 12-year-old son told the president he wants to become a Dallas police officer someday.

"Despite the fact police conduct was the subject of the protest, the men and women of the Dallas Police Department did their jobs," Obama said, noting that the officers had posted photos of themselves with demonstrators on social media before the shooting started.

Throughout his speech, the president expressed frustration that he "hugged too many families" of people killed in similar incidents during his eight years in the White House. But he praised the Dallas police, who "didn't flinch and didn't act recklessly," and through their actions, "saved more lives than we will ever know."

He praised Brown for being at the forefront of improving relations between police and the residents of the city, and called DPD a national model for the way a police department should be run. But he enumerated the shortcomings that too often plague police departments in this country.

"We ask police to do too much and we ask too little of ourselves," Obama said, echoing frustrations Brown expressed yesterday. "We refuse to

fund drug treatment. We flood communities with guns."

The theme that's emerged this week in Dallas is unity. People of different religious and political backgrounds have come together. At a memorial service at Thanksgiving Square last Friday, July 8, one pastor even urged straight people to hold the hand of a gay person.

That unity was clear among those on stage, especially between Michelle Obama and George W. Bush. While others were speaking, Bush kept whispering to Michelle Obama and she'd answer. The two were acting like old friends who hadn't seen each other in awhile. Laura Bush and, while others were speaking, Barack Obama were continually glancing over at them, smiling or making faces at their interactions.

Everyone stood for the closing of the event as the choirs sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Michelle Obama took Bush's hand and both began singing along. The president and former first lady then took their spouses' hands. The three clergy seated directly behind them joined hands. Rawlings took his wife's hand and she took Brown's.

Just to emphasize that unity, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson joined hands with Sen. Ted Cruz. Seated above in the choral terrace, the Dallas City Council held hands. The rest of the audience joined them, singing and swaying while all holding hands.

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■ commUNITY voices

Standing on the brink

As we stand at a crossroads in our country, Black Panther Party cofounder's call for unity still rings true

‘During the past few years, strong movements have developed among women and among homosexuals seeking their liberation. There has been some uncertainty about how to relate to these movements.

“Whatever your personal opinions and your insecurities about homosexuality and the various liberation movements among homosexuals and women (and I speak of the homosexuals and women as oppressed groups), we should try to unite with them in a revolutionary fashion.

“I say, ‘whatever your insecurities are’ because as we very well know, sometimes our first instinct is to want to hit a homosexual in the mouth, and want a woman to be quiet. We want to hit a homosexual in the mouth because we are afraid that we might be homosexual; and we want to hit the women or shut her up because we are afraid that she might castrate us, or take the nuts that we might not have to start with.

“We must gain security in ourselves and therefore have respect and feelings for all oppressed people. We must not use the racist attitude that the white racists use against our people because they are black and poor. Many times the poorest white person is the most racist because he is afraid that he might lose something, or discover something that he does not have.”

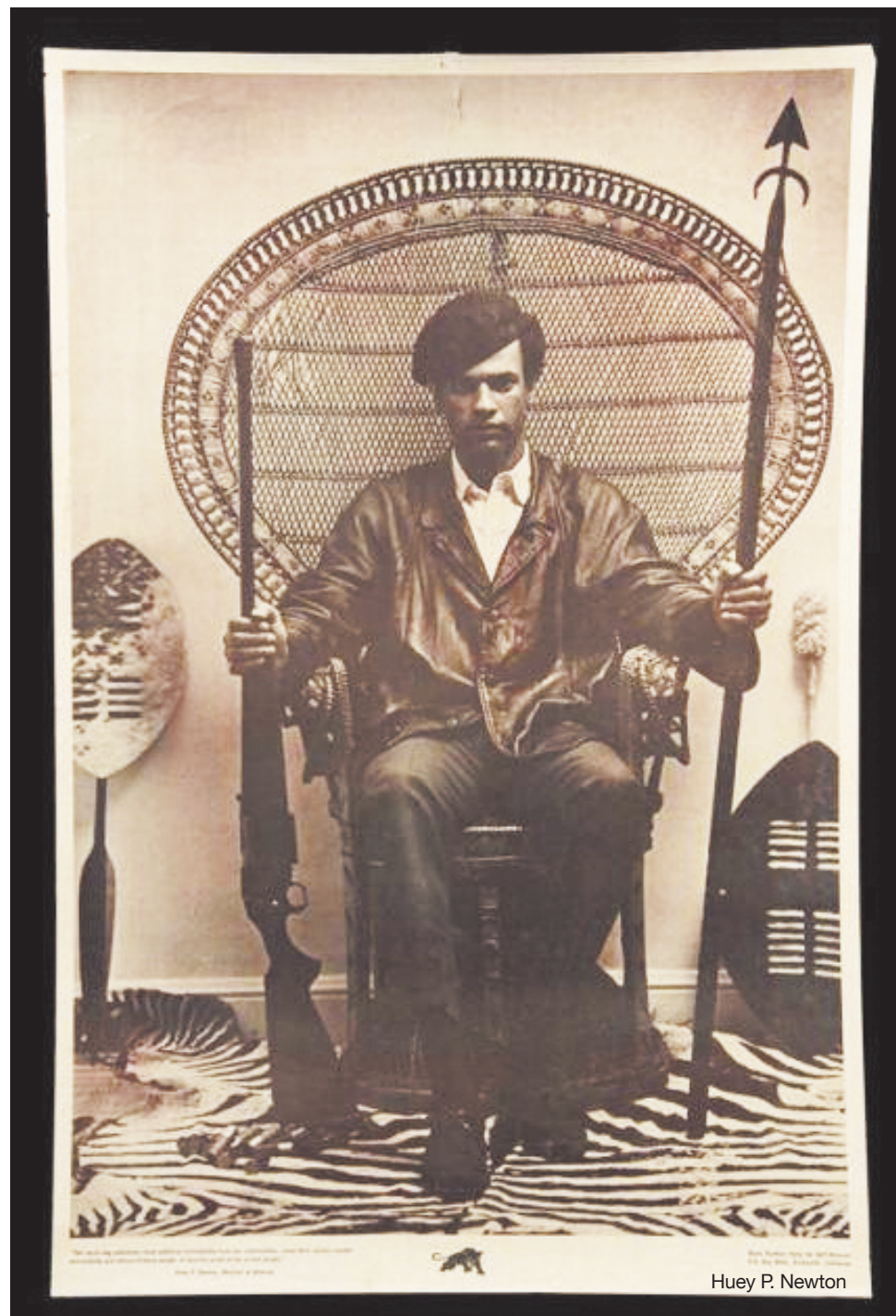
Over one year after the Stonewall rebellion in the summer of 1969 that set the movement for gay rights to move forward, Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, delivered these prophetic words in a speech that would come to be known as “his gay speech.”

Given the seismic shift in our country's social and political rhetoric towards communities and groups who are still marginalized in the 21st century, despite the tremendous gains we have made to change that landscape, we still have much work to do. This holds true for blacks, for women and for the LGBTQ communities.

Arguably, the more visible and contentious display of vitriol has been FELT by the black and LGBTQ communities, although the latter has made significant progress in the fight for equality in the “land of the free, and the home of the brave.” Women have also seen tremendous gains in their fight for access and equality at all levels of society. But there are still challenges and



Buster Spiller
Contributing Columnist



glass ceilings that remain.

In the black community, vestiges from American slavery, reconstruction and the period of legalized, racial discrimination known as “Jim Crow” still persist, bringing with it the same old stereotypes about blacks that have resulted in a number of societal ills that white America continues to ignore, despite our shared past.

Black men — and some black women — have been the contemporary targets of that hatred in the form of killings by those sworn to protect and serve every citizen of this nation.

To be fair — and on a topic that is the subject of criticism by some in and out of the black community — it is my belief a number of those unfortunate deaths were justifiable based on the circumstances, and the police were simply doing their job. BUT a higher percentage of those deaths involved excessive force that wasn't justifiable.

Last week after the murders of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile (Yes, I'm calling them “murders” because that's what they WERE!), that truth came home to roost in the latter cate-

gory of unjustified force. And that chicken came and set down square in my family, in an indelible and personal way, through painful dialogues

Watching the second video of the killing of Alton Sterling that was in constant loop on every news station and in the media, I found myself growing angrier and angrier, because it was my opinion that the officer acted improperly and yet another black man was dead. To be completely honest, I wasn't just angry; I was MAD AS HELL.

Before I had the opportunity to process this atrocity, Philando Castile was shot during a traffic stop, with his fiancée calmly sharing through live feed what was occurring before and after he was shot. She did so with a steely calm and resolve that I still don't understand how she managed.

Castile's death hit me harder. Why? Because he could have easily been me.

Like Castile, I work for my living and keep my nose clean. I am loved by the people I serve, in particularly their children. I care for my family and extended family members, as it is evident by the strong bond he had with his soon to be step-daughter that Castile did also.

And like Castile, I have a legal license to carry a handgun.

Equally as hard for me was the death of the five courageous Dallas police officers who lost their lives during what was supposed to be a peaceful protest coordinated between the black community and the Dallas PD. I sat stunned as I watched the television, repeating over and over again, "This is not supposed to be happening in Dallas, Texas. Dallas, Texas? This does not happen here."

I have lived by the model of responsible adulthood and citizenship all my life, virtues passed down to me from my parents, who were both in our home while I was growing up. I work extremely hard to live right, treat people well and leave something tangible for the next generation of my family and others outside of it to build upon.

What Castile's death spoke to me was this truth: Regardless of my BEST efforts to do the right thing by myself and others, if stopped by the police for a basic traffic infraction that whites and other racial groups also get stopped for, in the end I might become the next statistic — or in my own words, just another dead-ass nigger.

Is that painful to hear? That word? The word that all of us better NOT utter? Well, it's harder for me to mentally process because that's how I'm viewed by a segment of white America, including some police — as a targeted group.

However, what was more painful was my husband and I receiving a call from our family in Illinois. Our 17-year old grandson, our ONLY grandson out of six grandchildren, was apparently upset by everything that was going on. I couldn't speak to him; I was too angry. Gregory spoke to him, and our grandson asked him this pointed question before breaking down: "Pappadeaux, why are they trying to kill us? Why do they want to kill us?"

That question from a young man on the cusp of his adult life haunts me to this day, because if I did have the ability to answer his question, I wouldn't know what to say.

Perhaps I might say, "Grandson, I don't know why they do that. All you can do is do EVERYTHING we taught you to do when engaging police officers. Be respectful. Answer all of their questions honestly and calmly. Don't make any unnecessary movement that may be considered a threat. But above all, realize that if you do all of these things, Pappadeaux and PauPau can't protect you if that officer sees something different. We can't protect you and you may end up dead."

I don't know about you white community, but that is a really fucking hard pill to swallow. I am pretty sure you don't have similar conversations with your own children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other loved ones — certainly not at that type of brutally honest level, given this climate.

So how do we address this epidemic of "living while black until you are killed," that we are all witness to during this time in history — which by the way, is the same shit as usual, because this is NOT new. Blacks have been subject to racial profiling and killings for a very LONG time in this country's history.

The only difference now is that we have smartphones to record all of this shit. And even then, you have people who walk by virtue of the badge, reminiscent of those walking because of the prominent display of their hoods and sheets, all perceived to be upright and moral citizens.

Perhaps the late Huey P. Newton was on to something powerful that we all missed: the collaborative merging of the three primary struggles for equality facing this country. More so than not, our movements need each other. Blacks. Women. LGBTQ.

Deliberate actions and progress for one group is progress for us all. But we have to be willing to go down this path together, for equality's sake.

I was a participant in the recent prayer vigil for the Orlando tragedy sponsored by Resource Center here in Dallas, and I was overwhelmed emotionally at the sea of brother/sisterhood that event represented. LGBTQ, black, white, Latino, Asian, male, female, transgender, allies, politicians AND the police, all in solidarity for a TANGIBLY better America. I have never in my 20-plus years of advocacy in this country felt the kinship as I felt that day.

We deserve more than what we've been giving ourselves; my grandson and his contemporaries deserve more. We OWE them this.

And that will be our legacy to them, that they will no longer live in a society where a person is judged by their race, skin tone, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or any other ism that divides us as a nation. ■

Buster Spiller is a happily married, longtime activist, and award-winning playwright from Dallas.

2ND ANNUAL



Summit



on lgbt aging



The Second Annual Summit on LGBT Aging, an event held by the Coalition for Aging LGBT, will shine a bright light on the situation facing the aging LGBT communities in North Texas, featuring the presentation of a recently-fielded research report on the many issues we face. The Summit will also include lively, action-oriented break out sessions that will dig more deeply into areas of primary concern — housing, legal/financial issues, legislation, transgender-specific issues, caring and wellness, and social spaces and support.



The goal of the Summit is to further explore the needs of the aging LGBT population in North Texas and to continue to develop a plan of action to better address those needs. As the senior LGBT population continues to grow, we feel a great urgency to make sure that each aging person can live their life with dignity, respect and without fear of discrimination.



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LIFE+STYLE

community

Tiara en fuego



As she prepares to pass her title to a new queen, reigning Miss Gay Texas (and Miss Gay America) **Asia O'Hara** reflects on her amazing successes

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

The work of a pageant queen is never done. Especially when you're overseeing some of the biggest pageants in the country.

That's what it's like for Asia O'Hara. The former Miss Gay USofA (and former Miss All American Goddess) is the current titleholder of both Miss Gay America and its feeder contest, Miss Gay Texas — considered the top national *and* the top statewide drag titles in the nation. And if you think being a pageant queen is all tiaras and lip gloss, well, you couldn't be more wrong.

"Miss Gay Texas is the largest preliminary [to Miss Gay America in the fall], so I travel from city to city [across Texas] to administrate and facilitate the competition," she says moments after stepping off an airplane. "Nothing is as labor-intensive [as the Miss Gay America system] because of all the duties and rules. I maintain quality control, I'm the score tabulator, I perform. And I do that nationally as well."

It's enough to make a queen feel like Cinderella.

But if being, arguably, the No. 1 drag superstar in the nation *not* crowned by RuPaul sounds like a "be careful what you wish for" scenario, it has also been a tremendous honor for O'Hara.

And by next week, she'll be passing the torch to another starlet. The finals for Miss Gay Texas return to Dallas starting with prelims from July 19–21, with the coronation of the 2016 champion at the Rose Room on July 22.

"It's going to be a really interesting year, because we have a mix of those who are familiar with the system and those who haven't competed in it before," she says. "A few have been competing off-and-on for a decade while for others, this is their first state-level contest. That offers the audience and the judges a wide array of contestants and a very good pageant experience."

Even in the time Asia has competed, the world of pageants has changed.

"Especially in the America system, we pattern ourselves after mainstream entertainment, music and fashion, so we are kind of at the mercy of mainstream artists — that kind of drives our industry," she says. "Ten years ago, the industry standard was new and organic and eclectic. Now, we have a more feminist thread with a strong, almost masculine presence onstage: Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Demi Lovato — stars who are not as dainty and feminine as we're used to. To harness that [style] then make it look like female impersonation and not look like men in dresses takes a lot of finesse."

Then again, learning the craft of drag is less underground. We have *Drag Race*. We have YouTube and Etsy. "You can learn to mix music and emulate characters and sew by Googling it," O'Hara notes. "It's given [next-generation contestants] an edge."

But nothing can make you a champion without an innate appreciation for the essence of creating a new persona and selling it onstage. Contestants are judged by the style of their costumes, but also the fit, how well the color complements their complexion; how their hair works with the shape of their face, and how confident they appear, from their shoes to their nail polish.

Knowing "the look" is something O'Hara has done since she first began doing drag more than a decade ago. For most of that time, she's designed her own costumes, though she turned her designs over to others to make for her. Around 2011, the company that made her garments asked if she would be interested in working for them as a designer.

"I didn't do any sewing or construction or pattern-making, but I started to learn there about fabrics and textiles," she says. "Then I went to work for a textile company and started making my costumes. A colleague asked me to make a costume for her daughter's dance recital. [After initially resisting], she said, 'You have a God-given talent — and don't put it on a back burner.'" Now, O'Hara's day job keeps her busy styling looks for other people.

It's a good way to stay within the orbit of the pageant world when her reign ends — first with this month's contest, then in October when her term as Miss Gay America passes.

"You know, we call ourselves 'forever' Miss Gay Texas instead of 'former.' It is something you are forever. I've realized that I'm not really stepping down, I'm helping induct a new member into our legacy and add a new jewel to the crown. Mine will always be there, but with hers next to mine."

And this may well be her last year actively on the pageant scene. Although there are two more national contests she has won, "nothing is as prestigious as Miss Gay America, which has been going on for 40 years... and USofA is a close second. So while we all gravitate to things we have been successful at, I won't be jumping into another pageant," she says. "After [I step down], I will find some time to build some greatness in my personal life. I will force myself to focus on other aspects of my life. I want to be more well-rounded."

And that's how you win the interview portion, folks.

Miss Gay Texas finals take place July 19–21, with the finals at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, July 22. MissGayAmerica.com/Miss-Gay-Texas-America.

Portrait of Asia O'Hara by Kristofer Reynolds.

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On your mark ... get set ... Pokemon GO!

The phenomenon is more than a series of annoying Facebook posts from phone-obsessed wanderers — it's an insight into the millennial Zeitgeist

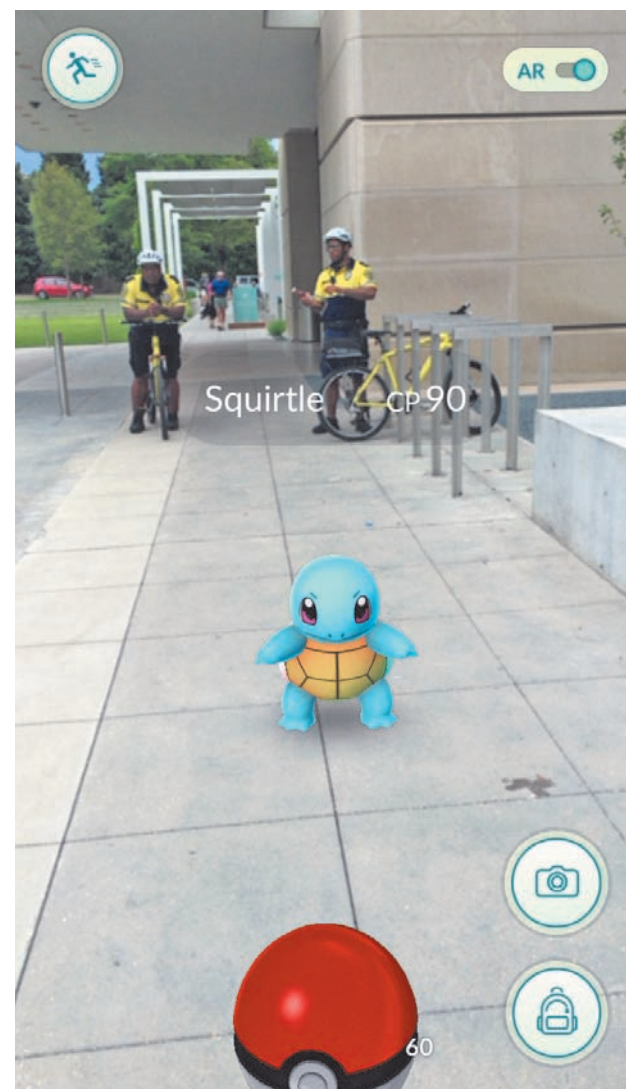
CHAKA CUMBERBATCH

Contributing Writer
chakacumberbatch@gmail.com

If you're in your mid-to-late 20s — or possibly even your early 30s ... or just a total nerd — it's safe to assume that your Facebook newsfeed has been practically consumed with talk of gym battles, faction wars and server issues. You're probably wondering why your seemingly rational friends are wandering the streets (sober!) at all hours of the night. On behalf of, like, literally *all* of us, let me apologize. Because yeah, we might need to Pokemon GO calm down a little bit. But I swear, there's an explanation for the mass hysteria. And it's not because we're all having a collective seizure again — that was just the one time!

Not unlike a stuffed toy inside of a claw machine, Pokemon GO dropped into the hands of a ravenous public in the United States late last week, and effectively reverted us all back to the wide-eyed 10-year-olds we were in the late '90s. We had box braids and crew cuts, jelly sandals and light-up sneakers. We were fueled by sugar cereal, convinced we could do anything we set our minds to and fixated on the curiously named pocket monsters from Japan to the point where many of our (deliriously religious) parents legitimately thought that the cartoon characters *had* to be demons, because we were clearly being possessed. What else could explain our unbridled fervor? This was our *Star Wars*. Bigger than Sinatra. More pervasive than Beanie Babies. We determined to catch them all.

Your girl was no exception. 1998 found me at the crossroads between Girl Scout troop meetings and MTV's *Total Request Live* marathons. I was not just a girl, but not yet a woman: Someone who hadn't quite figured out the difference between Cucumber Melon body spray and actual deodorant. It would be years still before I would learn that there was nothing shameful about the fact that I was developing poorly-repressed crushes on girls while my friends were starting to attract attention from boys. Also, I'm



pretty sure that was the year Ginger left the Spice Girls, and Will Smith came out with that appallingly masturbatory Western movie. (I purchased the soundtrack with my own money. It was a trying time.)

But as I watched the Pokemon series' protagonist, Ash Ketchum, battle his way through the Kanto region, on a seemingly never-ending quest to capture all 150 (at the time) Pokemon, I was transfixed. With loyal Pikachu at his side, he faced all obstacles head on, even when the cards (and Team Rocket) were stacked against him. Something about his Indigo League journey mirrored my own pre-teen perils, as I navigated foreign concepts such as "algebra" and "menstruation." As he struggled to find his footing as a Pokemon trainer, I in turn struggled to come to terms with my bisexuality ... which

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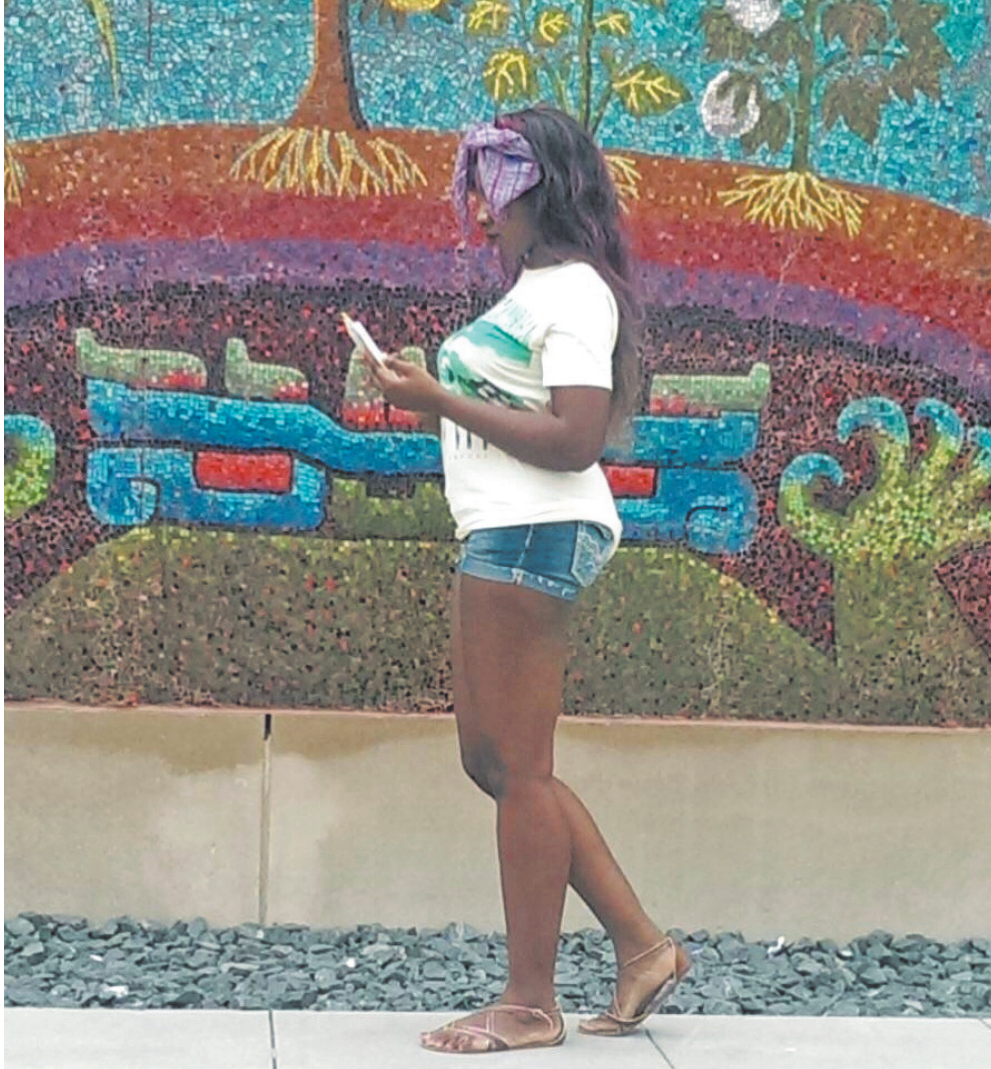
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Above: The author on the hunt for Pokemon (and her own youth) at the Dallas Museum of Art; opposite, what she sees on her smartphone.

(spoiler alert!) would take the entirety of my teenage and college years to figure out, act upon and eventually accept. I mean, I may not have understood why I felt attracted to both football players *and* cheerleaders, but I definitely understood how to level-up a fire Pokemon. Just like Ash's quest to become a Pokemon Master, my passage through the twilight of my girlhood years was paved with victories, defeats and enlightenment. It was less about the destination, and more about the journey.

Perhaps that's why I spent hours writing ridiculously bad fan fiction, playing the card game at lunch and fastidiously recording the episodes on our aging VCR. Perhaps that might be why I threw one of the biggest fits of my life when my fundamentalist Christian mother banned all things Pokemon from our home, at the behest of the fear-mongering church pastor she was taking orders from (talk about a cultish brainwashing!). Pokemon was more than just a cartoon series or a trading card game. It was (and to this day remains) a worldwide phenomenon. When Ash threw his first Pokeball, he caught more than just a Caterpie; he captured our attention. Twenty years later, he still has it.

Which is why we've been completely riveted by the release of Pokemon GO, a mobile game app that finally makes it possible for us to live out our childhood fantasies. Like every other diehard fan my age, I've spent a fair amount of money on Pokemon for various gaming systems over the years, but for me, none of have compared to this one. Instead of sitting in your rec room pressing buttons while mushrooms grow

under your feet, the game requires you to *physically get up, to leave your home* and explore your surroundings like a *real live person!* All in order to capture Pokemon. A simple trip to the grocery store is now an expedition. An afternoon in the park becomes a safari. Turning a corner means you could uncover a new Pokemon. This is augmented reality unlike anything we've ever seen, while (barring a few key updates that I've heard are on the way) being everything we've ever dreamed of.

I'm no longer watching Ash catch Pokemon — I'm walking in his shoes. My friends have children who they are now teaching about Pokemon through the game, and it's been insane to watch the fandom come full-circle. I mean, not since a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away have we seen a fire burn this fiercely, with a practically spiritual love for the source material being passed down through generations. It's so much more than just a game at this point.

So if you see us walking down Greenville Avenue, staring intently into our smartphones while you're hitting up happy hour at the Blue Goose, it's not because we're immature. If you see us talking about our recent conquests on Facebook, it's not because we're being distracted from real-life issues. If you see us pull over to catch a Pokemon at a local business, it's not because we don't have anything better to do. For many of us, our Pokedex has been a map guiding us through our lives.

And, if nothing else, it's getting people to Pokemon GO outside for once. Gotta catch 'em all, after all!

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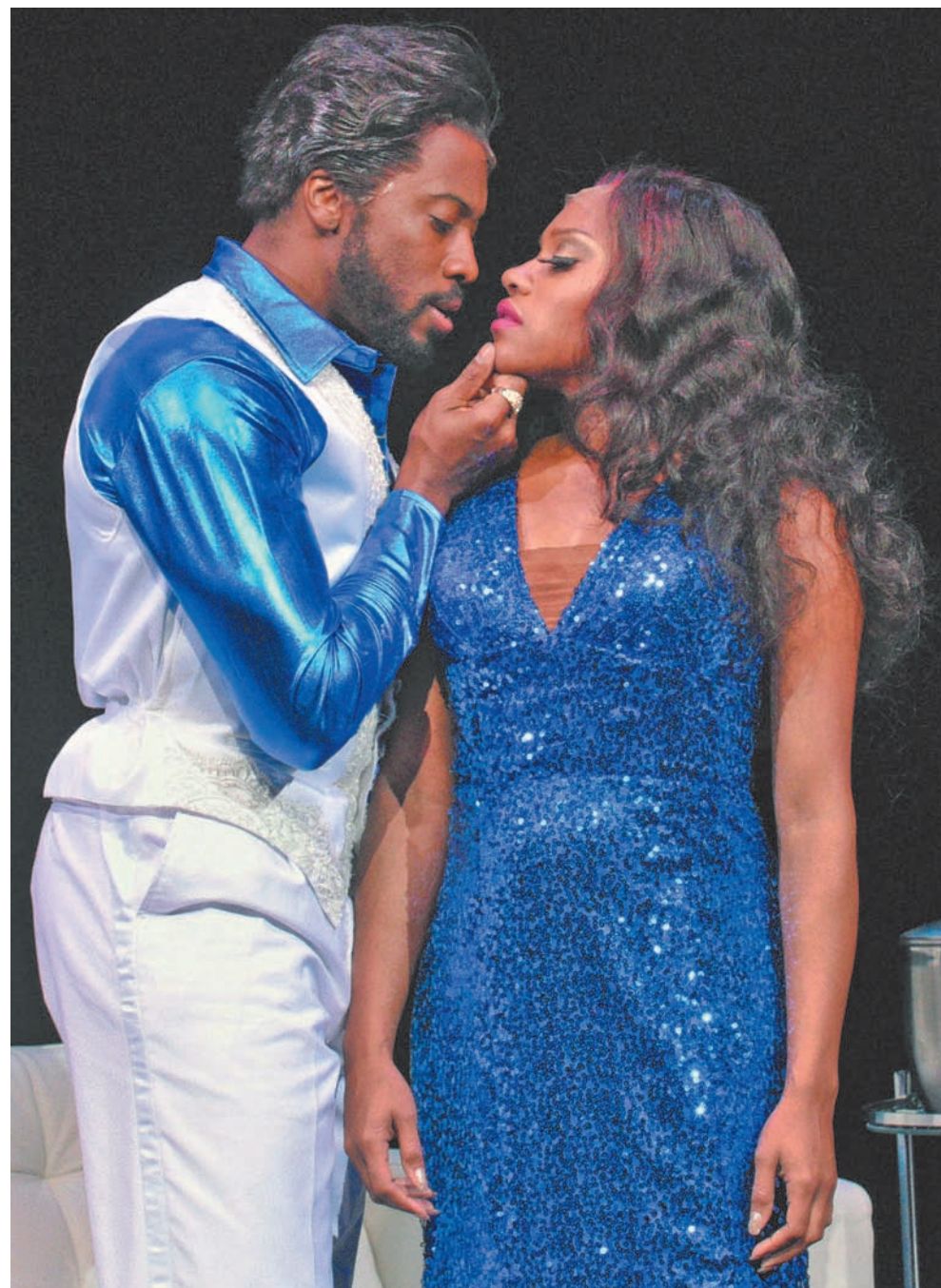
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L+S stage

Thunder role

Out actor Eric LaJuan Summers, a scene-stealing boy among 'Dreamgirls'



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Eric LaJuan Summers is tearing it up, stealing scenes left and right as the James Brown-ish soul singer James "Thunder" Early in the Dallas Theater Center's production of *Dreamgirls*. But despite all the attention, he's always looking for the next great opportunity. Maybe... Deena Jones?

He kids, he kids... but kinda not.

When Summers started his career as an actor,

he imagined himself as the staid, reliable, even dull leading-man type. The first time he auditioned for *Dreamgirls*, he was shooting for C.C. White, the studious songwriter.

"I've always been the serious one — the cute younger brother with a heart of gold," he says of his self-image. But others saw something else.

"You should try out for Thunder Early," the

Eric LaJuan Summers as James 'Thunder' Early and Kristen Bond as Lorrell pack a lot of heat (and humor) in DTC's 'Dreamgirls.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

casting director suggested. That's not really his persona, Summers countered. The casting director just shook her head.

"When you learn what your real type is, you'll never stop working," she counseled.

Turns out she was right. Summers' flamboyant turn Thunder Early gives the production a lot of its humor and sexual energy. And it's just the latest role that shows his facility with over-the-top performances. Prior to *Dreamgirls*, Summers was with the Broadway production of *Motown The Musical*, portraying such irrepressible performers as Rick James, Jackie Wilson and Marlon Jackson. Before that, he auditioned for the role of Little Richard in the feature film *Get On Up*, but was deemed too old to play the teenaged version of the R&B legend (though his singing voice is in the film).

So tackling Thunder Early wasn't much of a stretch. It's the kind of over-the-top soul singer he's become accustomed to. And he has a lot of inspirations to draw from.

"People always say the character is based on James Brown, but I add in some Little Richard, some Marlon, some Jackie," Summers says. And

audiences go wild, especially when the character goes off-book and drops trou during his Vegas number. Hey, a little exhibitionism never hurt anyone.

"Eric is a hoot and a great flirt," says Joel Ferrell, his director for *Dreamgirls*. Told this, Summers feigns mock surprise.

"My mother saw the show and after she said, 'So you don't act anymore — you just show up and be yourself?'" he says. "I said, 'How dare you! [Thunder] is a womanizer — I'm not!'"

"That's the only thing," she said."

All of which leads to his desire to try something new and different. He thinks he could get the Celine-esque hand choreography of Deena Jones *down*. Or really

anything that shows the chops he has.

"One of my favorite things about my first Broadway show [*Aida*] was, I had a death scene, I had a sword fight ... I *want* to do something serious. On a show like *Will and Grace*, I'm always Jack and Karen; I think it's time to be the Will."

That might be Summers' goal, but audiences know what they like. And a little Thunder never hurt anybody. ■

DREAMGIRLS

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St.
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DallasTheaterCenter.org.

TASTING NOTES

Unless you're a Walloon, you probably don't know that July 21 is Belgian Independence Day. Why is that important? Because **Meddlesome Moth** marks the occasion by designating July 18–22 **Belgian Beer Week** at the Design District gastropub. Each day will feature a different tapping of unique or interesting beers (from pale ales to sours), as well as a daily flight of five beers (\$20) from the same family of brewers: The Duvel Single, and the Ommegang Rosetta (a brand new fruit-flavored powerhouse), and a trio of consecutive vintage quadrupel ales from 3 Philosophers (2011, '12 and '13).

Fans of the now-departed **Stephan Pyles** restaurant may be lamenting that while his new **Flora Street Cafe** continues to serve the signature blue corn muffins, other favorites from the old menu are not available there. True enough. But his other Uptown eatery, **Stampede 66**, is picking up some of the slack. Four of the most beloved dishes are migrating to the menu there, including the famous bone-in "Cowboy Ribeye," pictured; the tamale tart with peekytoe crab; the Southwestern Caesar salad; and the Heaven & Hell cake. All are now available on the dinner menu.

Steel, the gayborhood sushi spot, has added new summer lunch items to its menu, including crispy rock shrimp, Thai crunch salad, Vietnamese buns and pad Thai. Lunch is served Monday–Friday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Uptown has a brand-new eatery: **Next Door** at 2908 McKinney Ave. is a chef-driven restaurant and bar overlooking the neighborhood from its second-floor patio. We'll share a sneak-peek of chef **Paul Niekrasz**'s menu soon.

The Southern California-based fast-casual chain **El Pollo Loco** has about 400 locations — none of them in North Texas... yet. That'll change next month with two locations opening in the Mid-Cities, followed by "five to seven more" by the end of the year, including in Dallas proper. The chain is known for its grilled bone-in chicken served whole, in burritos, tacos and bowls. But the chunky guacamole is the draw for me.

DFW Restaurant Week — when more than 100 local restaurants offer fixed-price menus (\$35 or \$45), with a portion of proceeds benefiting the **North Texas Food Bank** and Lena Pope — runs from Aug. 15–21 (though some places extend by a week or two). But reservation day is July 18, so get ready to line up on Monday to book your favorite, or the most popular, restaurants on the list.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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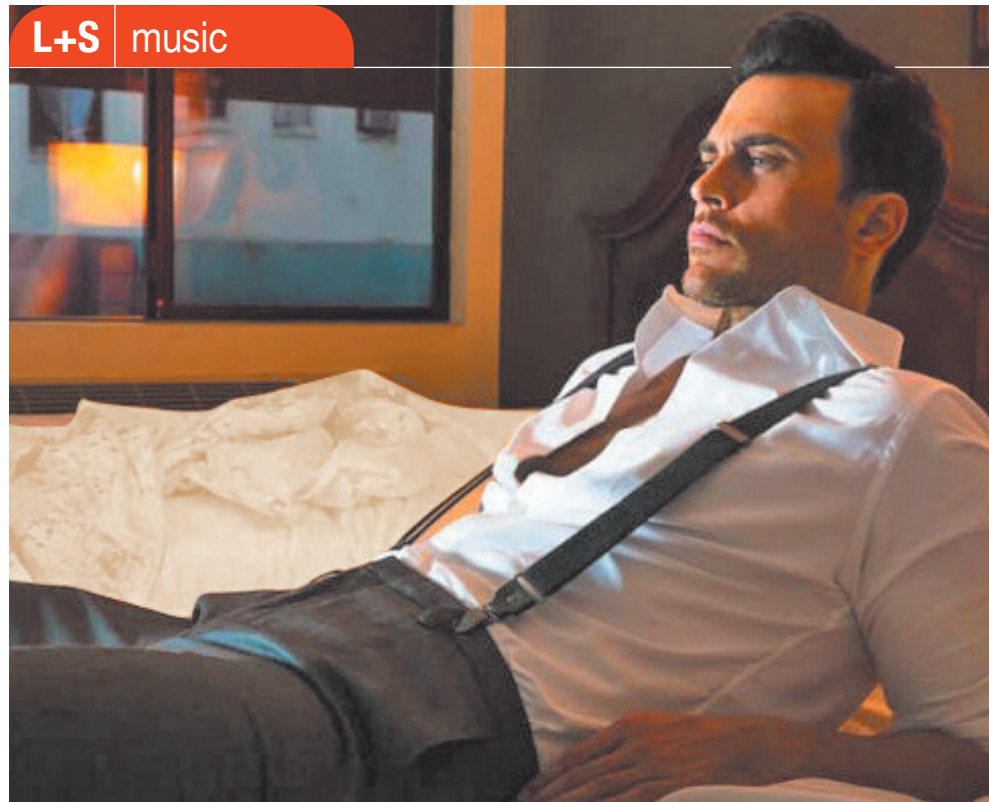
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Maddening man

Cheyenne Jackson CD shows vocal chops, but stumbles on song selection

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Judges on shows like *American Idol* often disparage singers by saying their voices are “too cabaret,” or “too Broadway.” It’s a puzzling criticism, because it’s no criticism at all. Broadway and cabaret are incredibly important and successful genres of music that not only endure, but delight and even excite. (*Hamilton*, anyone? Or ever heard of Streisand?) The implication of such snipes is that because such styles are not radio-friendly “pop,” not “contemporary,” not “hip, young” music, they have no musical value on a singing competition show.

Screw that. Such ignorant critiques merely reveal a lack of imagination on the part of judges. Heck, one of the *Idol* arbiters in the last years was Harry Connick Jr., whose main genre derives from imitating the Big Band era of the 1940s. Pop music is what we make of it.

So it is no insult to say that Broadway veteran Cheyenne Jackson’s new album, *Renaissance*, projects an old-school commitment to “classic” music. From its opening song — “Feelin’ Good,” popularized by retro crooner Michael Bublé but originally written for the 1960s musical *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off* — Jackson shows an unabashed appreciation for a flamboyant, bombastic show-stopper. With his 22-piece backing orchestra, Jackson demonstrates a facility and great vocal ability in a variety of genres. The message is clear: musical chops are what matter. It’s the singer, not the song.

Well, sort of.

An individual song is one thing; Jackson shows clarity and power on “Feelin’ Good,” and



most of the other tracks included. But the mark of great album is cohesion — a carefully curated lineup of numbers that join together into a theme. A compilation of favorite songs is just a vanity project without direction.

Truth is, *Renaissance* is an expansion of a series of concerts Jackson gave “inspired by the music of the *Mad Men* era.” But that’s an unwieldy and wide net — *Mad Men* took place over the course of the entire ‘60s, a decade as musically diverse and constantly changing as any has ever been. Even the TV series moved from underground jazz clubs in its pilot to acid rock hippie music by its series finale seven seasons later.

How do you thread that needle? The answer is: Not all that successfully.

A strangeness emerges in the interplay of his song selection. The brassy second track on the album, “Americano,” swings like an old-school standard. Jackson’s phrasing is clear and his

voice catchy, although his reliance on clarity almost comes in the way. His diction is so precise, it lacks the sense of spontaneity that the best jazz must have. “Angel Eyes” is a moody, haunting number — the kind Nelson Riddle used to arrange to great effect — but it seems out of place here. (He could have accomplished more with the intoxicating mystery song “Nature Boy.”)

“Something Stupid” (the comically romantic ballad creepily popularized as a duet between Frank Sinatra and his daughter Nancy) is a perfectly pleasant duet with Jackson and pal Jane Krakowski, although it would have been nicer if

he had paired up with another man to give it a proper gay twist — the chance to improve upon an inherently silly song and turn it into a modern gay anthem was sadly missed. “Besame Mucho’s” slow samba doesn’t meld well with the with the jazzy swing, or the Broadway blow-out, of the other numbers.

“I (Who Have Nothing)” sounds as if Jackson may be auditioning to sing the title track in Quentin Tarantino’s next film. I’d actually love to see that happen. His voice is spectacular, but this CD is more compilation than concept album, an audition reel that proves the artist’s talent ... but not his judgment. ■

Why Beyoncé’s ‘Lemonade’ matters

Everyone has their own theory about Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*. Is it about her marriage to Jay Z? Her father’s infidelity? America’s pervasive racism and its wrenching consequence: the slaughtering of innocent blacks? Is it about Orlando now?

Could be. Though the complexities are rich and thought-provoking, *Lemonade* simply represents resilience. Inspired by Bey’s grandmother-in-law, it’s about soldiering on despite setbacks, be it the calamity of a troubled relationship, the ever-present black struggle, or the grief of 49 lives lost in a gay nightclub. It is, thusly, our album to lean on, music for unearthing an inner fortitude when fortitude seems futile. Beyoncé is, yet again, a beacon of empowerment, and *Lemonade* is next-level liberation.

“Freedom,” for instance, marches in like a victorious rally cry. During the song, Queen Bey channels the rawness of Merry Clayton’s vocal shred, when the singer memorably sang “rape, murder; just a shot away” in 1969 on the Rolling Stone’s “Gimme Shelter;” on “Freedom,” Bey is carrying on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks; she is the voice of all those oppressed, past, present and future. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of despair and persecution, a “bulletproof” Beyoncé proclaims, “I break chains all by myself.” In that moment, she sounds reborn, which she is.

Lemonade sees Beyoncé on the frontlines of change. This is her *Like a Prayer*, her *Velvet Rope*. Risks abound, from the Jack White-produced goth rock of her patriarchal takedown “Don’t Hurt Yourself” to the New Orleans-tinged “Daddy Lessons,” a guitar-plucked, percussion-slapped soul ditty that’s a testament to Beyoncé as a bona fide artist: Her talent is basically boundless.

Vocally, too, Beyoncé doesn’t play it safe. “Don’t Hurt Yourself” smears Auto-Tune all over her velvety voice; she drops to a hypnotically low octave on “6 Inch;” she fashions a reggae inflection on “Hold Up.” The production is bold, and Bey’s presence throughout is seismic. She is queen; *Lemonade* is her throne.

It also happens to be her best album to date (do it; bow down), advancing the inventiveness of her last avant-garde release, 2013’s self-titled *Beyoncé*. This one further catapults the former Destiny’s Child song slayer beyond bling and bug-a-boos to new, socially-conscious heights. Pop stars, this is your benchmark now. Basically, not only should you surprise-drop your work and create an astonishing visual component, as she has, you must also be the Zeitgeist. You mustn’t just buck the trends, you must set them. You must make an album that plays like an album — remember cohesive narratives? — rather than a stew of singles. You must show that you can be successful without radio support.

Bey’s sixth studio album is a staggering achievement on those merits alone. But it doesn’t stop there. It goes deeper. Potent social subtext concerning the Black Lives Matter movement and Southern repression mark the 11-chapter narrative, which also serve as tinted-windows into Bey’s own personal life. By now we’ve all heard of Becky, the mistress with “the good hair,” whomever she is; on “Formation,” the singer leads a feminist rebellion, dropping that Red Lobster zinger while simultaneously leading humanity down the road to unification. Reconciliation comes in the form of “Sandcastles,” the piano ballad that bridges the album’s split narrative — angry, icy/hopeful, warm — as it unfolds into “All Night,” which champions the power of love... all love. (The video appropriately features gay and lesbian couples who are, you guessed it, crazy in love.)

When I interviewed Beyoncé in 2011, the future of her artistic intentions and inspirations were apparent even though she was discussing the sonic bend of that year’s release, 4: “I really focused on making people feel good and feel love and know that there is love out there and goodness exists,” she thoughtfully conveyed, as if she were in the early stages of planning *Lemonade*. “I wanted to make a body of work that took risks — to be brave and be myself, and not focus on being cool.”

The cycle is complete. Bey is now the artist she sought to be then, full-fledged, chains undone. Love, too, is still the answer, it seems. Hate and tears and terrorists, be damned. On “All Night,” she assures, “Nothing real can be threatened.” In that moment, as the narrative of *Lemonade* culminates with the healing power of hope, she’s not only a singer, not just a pop star either — Beyoncé is a life force doing her part to keep the love alive.

— Chris Azzopardi



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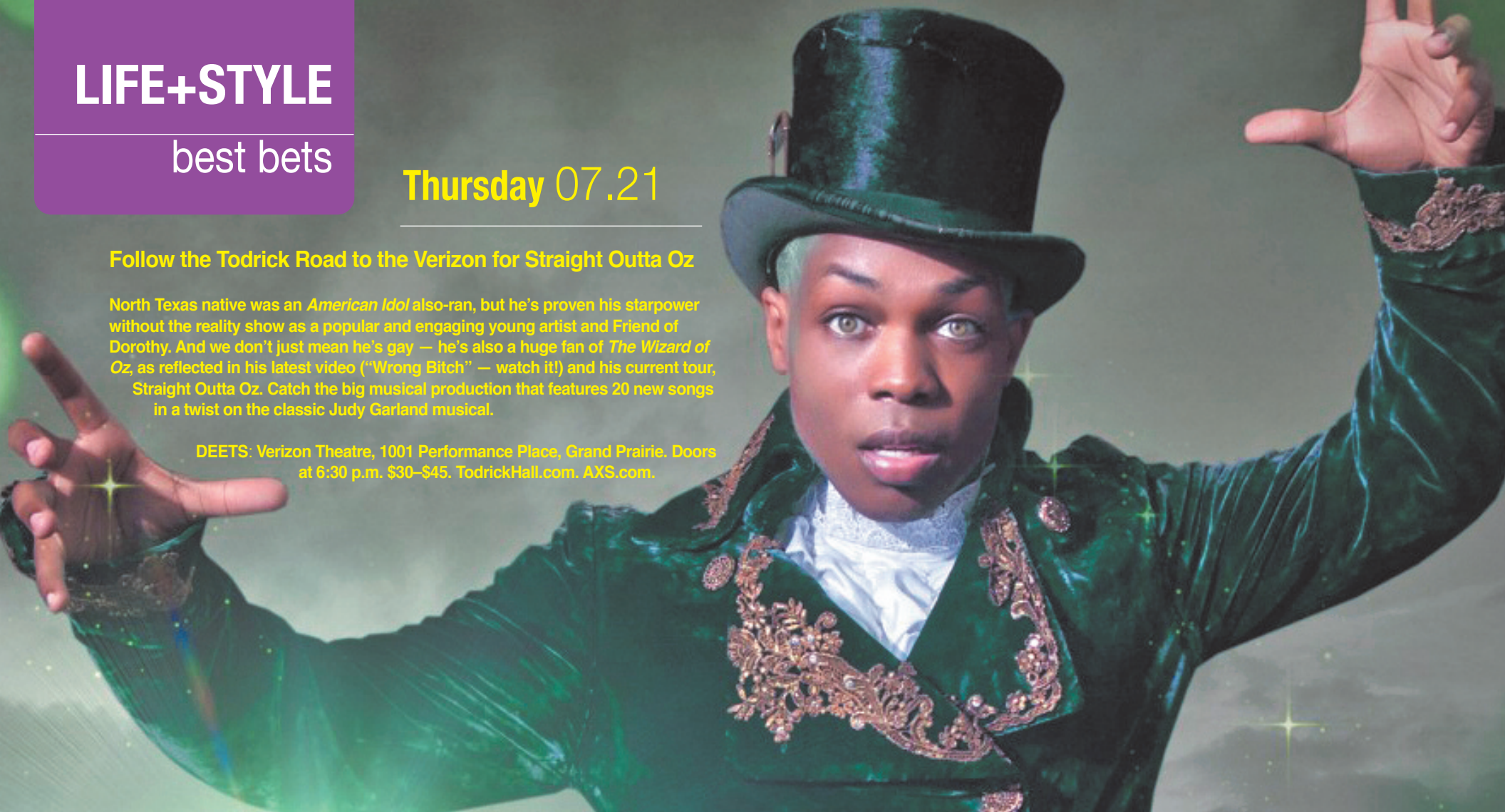
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Thursday 07.21

Follow the Toderick Road to the Verizon for Straight Outta Oz

North Texas native was an *American Idol* also-ran, but he's proven his stardom without the reality show as a popular and engaging young artist and Friend of Dorothy. And we don't just mean he's gay — he's also a huge fan of *The Wizard of Oz*, as reflected in his latest video ("Wrong Bitch" — watch it!) and his current tour, *Straight Outta Oz*. Catch the big musical production that features 20 new songs in a twist on the classic Judy Garland musical.

DEETS: Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Doors at 6:30 p.m. \$30–\$45. ToderickHall.com. AXS.com.



Saturday 07.16

JuJuBee, Raven, local luminaries turn out for a Night of Stars

There's just a week before The Brick closes its doors for good, but it's going out with a blast, starting this weekend, when Drag Racers JuJuBee and Raven join Dallas talent like Krystal Summers, Mark Alan Smith and more for this dragtastic entertainment — a fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund.

DEETS: The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m. \$20 suggested donation.



Saturday 07.16

Gaybingo celebrates 15 years with quinceanera

Everyone knows that in Texas, girls mark their 15th birthday with a quinceanera. Well, that goes for *gurrlls*, as well, and girl, Saturday is the 15th anniversary of Gaybingo, the month fundraiser for the Resource Center. So come dressed as a pinata, or in your pasteliest taffeta to celebrate becoming a real lady.

DEETS: The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors at 5 p.m. MyResourceCenter.org.



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More than a dozen area drag performers will appear at a fundraiser benefiting the victims of the Pulse massacre at a show Sunday at the Rose Room.

ARTSWEEK
THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The 18th annual showcase of smaller local companies returns with six troupes producing unique shows. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through July 30. For a complete lineup of performances, visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.com.

It's Only a Play. The cast of a new Broadway show

await the New York Times review to make or break them in this hilarious backstage comedy from Terrence McNally. Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. July 15–July 31. UptownPlayers.org.

Dreamgirls. The hit rock musical, a thinly-disguised version of the making of the Supremes and Motown, becomes the Dallas Theater Center's summer family show ... for funky families. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through July 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Hair. The hippie rock musical (with nudity!). [OhLook](http://OhLookPerform.com)

Performing Arts Center, 1631 W. Northwest Highway, Grapevine. Through July 22. OhLookPerform.com.

Jekyll & Hyde. R.L. Stevenson's tale of madness and personality. Bedford Boys Ranch, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through July 31. OnstageInBedford.com.

A Kid Like Jake. Second Thought Theatre closes its season with this area premiere about a little boy who prefers Cinderella to G.I. Joe. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphrey Campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 23. 2TT.co.

Old Time Music Hall. Theatre Britain's musical revue and fundraiser. *Final weekend.* Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 Ave H., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com.

Pinkalicious. A musical about the joys of overdoing it with color. *Final weekend.* Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. DCT.org.

42nd Street. The classic insider musical about Broadway. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

FILM

Asian Film Festival of Dallas. The 15th annual film fest focussing on Asian films and filmmakers. Screenings at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, Through July 21. For a complete lineup of events and screenings, visit AsianFilmDallas.com.

FINE ART

Rebecca Warren: The Main Thing. A mid-career retrospective of the British visual artist and sculptress, in 20 diverse pieces. *Final week.* Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 17. DMA.org.

Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting. A lovely original Vermeer is among the seven

paintings in this intimate exhibit exploring themes in Dutch art. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 21. DMA.org.

Eye of the Collector. An exhibition of the quirky tchotchkes and unusual trinkets of nine people prove the axiom that every object tells a story. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. Through Sept. 5. PerotMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 07.15
COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 07.16
COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. Put on your prettiest dress — Gaybingo is celebrating its quinceanera. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

My Oh My Extravaganza. Drag show. The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. Doors at 7:30 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m. \$20. Prekindle.com.

BENEFIT

Night of Stars. Raven, JuJuBee and more perform at this fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 8:30 p.m. \$20 suggested donation. BrickDallas.com.





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Reigning Mr. Gay USofA Michael LaMasters will perform Sunday at the Round-Up for a preliminary contest, Mr. Gay Southern States USofA.

SUNDAY 07.17

BENEFIT
Dallas Drag Star Divas for Orlando. More than a dozen drag stars will unite at the Rose Room for a fundraising performance benefiting the victims of the Orlando Pulse shooting. Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 6–9:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. DragStarDiva.com.

COMMUNITY
Mr. Gay Southern States USofA. This preliminary to the Mr. Gay USofA contest is a talent competition at heart, with points also for clubwear and interview. Reigning Mr. Gay USofA Michael LaMasters will perform. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 10:30 p.m. \$8.

MONDAY 07.18

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 07.19

FILM
The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3. Long before 24, this 1973 feature film presented a terrorist attack on New York City in real time. An underrated urban masterpiece of 1970s gritty cinema, this richly textured thriller stars Walter Matthau and Robert Shaw. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

COMMUNITY
Miss Gay Texas America Pageant Finals. City winners from across the state gather in Dallas for this feeder competition to the prestigious Miss Gay America, with the final night crowning a new champion. Read the interview with outgoing winner Asia O'Hara on Page 20. Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. MissGayAmerica.co/Miss-Gay-Texas-America.

WEDNESDAY 07.20

APPEARANCE
Chris Colfer: Fairytales Transformed. *Glee* actor Chris Colfer, who has also written a series of fantasy books, will read from his work and answer questions as part of DMA's Arts & Letters Live Series. Horchow Auditorium at the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. 7:30 p.m. \$10–\$20. DMA.org/tickets.

THURSDAY 07.21

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.

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Girl on Girls

Sex toys and cherry pies: **Jenny Block** on traveling as a couple (and the greatest adventure of them all)

People apply all kinds of standards when it comes to evaluating your viability as a couple: Some people say it's surviving a visit to Ikea; some say attending your first funeral, or moving in together, that will be most telling. For me, traveling is the activity that can reveal an awful lot about your partner ... and about your compatibility with that person.

Whether someone is your travel-twin or travel-nemesis, you will inevitably learn a heck of a lot about him/her while readying to spend your time

away.

Packing is the first major indicator. I don't like to check bags unless there are some serious extenuating circumstances. If it doesn't fit in a carry on, you probably don't need it. (What constitutes an extenuating circumstance? Meeting the Queen. Going on adventures that require serious equipment. Trips over three weeks. You get the idea.)

Packing light and carrying on means less chance of luggage loss, ease of getting around, less stuff strewn around your accommodations, fewer things to leave behind. In other words, less stressors for you as a couple. Packing light says "I care about the experience — not having eight million pairs of shoes to choose from." It means I care enough about our relationship to not put additional strain on it.

Then there's airport behavior. Being well-matched on this front is incredibly important. Do you both have pre-check and Global Entry clearances, or are you both novice travelers? If one of you is muttering under your breath while the other is apologizing for

having a bottle of water in his/her carry-on, the magic of traveling together will likely dissipate too quickly.

You can also learn a lot by watching your partner navigate an airport or train station, a bus depot or car rental desk, a ferry dock or a helicopter pad.

Traveling generally means sharing quarters somewhat smaller than what you're used to at home. How you treat that space says a lot about who you are and how you feel about the person with whom you're supposed to be graciously sharing it. Fights can be swift and fierce if accommodation mayhem ensues.

Unpacking is another indicator. Do you immediately split the drawers and the hangers and unpack your things while expecting your partner to do the same? Do you fling open your suitcase and spend the trip digging through mounds of clothes and shoes? Is one of you an unpacker and the other a digger? Do you — *gasp!* — hog all of the unpacking space and leave nothing for your floundering companion?

Then there's the trip itself. Adventure or culture? Far-flung or never too far from home? Exotic or familiar? On the ritz or on the cheap? Once again, it's about respecting each other's wishes and needs and desires as well as about managing expectations. Don't surprise your sweetie with a trip to your favorite campground if his idea of roughing it is eating somewhere without tablecloths.

Insisting on a place that isn't comfortable for both can lead to a plethora of bickering, although compromising and stepping out of your comfort zone can say a lot about your ability to work together. So be mindful of how your partner both plans and responds if you want some insight into how he or she may tackle what life throws at him or her.

My fiancé has done some pretty highfalutin' traveling. I've had my share of fancy trips myself, but I don't always have the master suite or the grand casita. So when I took her on our first trip together, I was pretty nervous. I was a guest on an Olivia Travel cruise and had a very nice room with a portal. But I knew in the back of my mind it had to be small in comparison to the suites she had been in on a number of cruises.

So I had to laugh when we arrived and she took one look at the digs and said, "Ummmm... Where are we supposed to put everything? And where are we supposed to be?" I told her to trust me; I quickly and efficiently unpacked and put everything neatly in its place. By the next morning, having gotten ready for dinner the night before and for the day that morning and even having both done some work, she said, "Wow. This is super-comfy." Crisis averted.

For the rest of the trip, we did great, managing the



The happily — and newly — affianced couple... while traveling.

tight quarters and even-tighter bathroom. We were respectful and neat (for the most part) and we didn't even have a bump.

We've traveled a number of times since then and have had equally grand travel experiences from modest airport hotels to glorious rooftop digs on a Mexican island. We're both seasoned and similar when it comes to traveling and that is ideal.

We've also learned a lot about each other — fast — from taking those trips. I unpack; she doesn't. I like to get coffee first thing; she's happy to wait until breakfast. I don't need a plan; she likes to have an activity on tap. But — most importantly — we've learned that we really dig each other and that traveling reveals just how well we really do mesh.

So, I guess it's no surprise that it was on a surprise trip for my birthday this very week that she popped the question; I enthusiastically said "yes."

As we boarded the Mackinac Island Ferry, she asked me what was in my tote. "Sex toys and cherry pie," I said without a hint of irony before we both started laughing hard enough to concern the little old ladies next to us just a tiny bit. We did a little shopping before we got to the dock and not everything fit into my suitcase. And, once again, our travels proved to me that being with her is going to be the biggest adventure of our lives.

Block is the author of the The Ultimate Guide to Solo Sex by Jenny Block, foreword by Betty Dodson.

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



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THE PETS ISSUE: Our Furry Families



Bobbie and Ivan



Bill and Clint with Oliver



Joey visits Thom and Maddie



Mark and Munchkin



Damon and Jamison



James and (not so furry) Ruby

- Making the SCENE the week of July 15–21:
- Alexandre's: Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Chris Chism and the Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday.
 - Brick/Joe's: Night of Stars includes Raven, JuJuBee and others in a benefit for the Gregg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.
 - Dallas Eagle: DFW Leather Corps club night on Saturday. South Central LSb-CBB fundraiser on Saturday. Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association awards banquet from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday.
 - JR.'s Bar & Grill: The I Hate Cassie Show with Raquel, Bronx, Marissah and Bianca on Tuesday.
 - Kessler: My Oh My drag show at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.
 - Pekers: Linze Serrell presents Gospel vs. Nasty with Bible and Biscuits at 4 p.m. and show at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday benefiting her bid for Miss LifeWalk 2016.
 - Rainbow Lounge: Kelexis Davenport hosts Drag Warz on Thursday.
 - Round-Up Saloon: A Night of Distinguished Gentlemen: Mr. Gay Southern States USofA featuring Montell Infiniti Ross, Michael LaMasters, Kane Connors, Essence Allure Collins, Christopher Iman and Xavier Valentino at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.
 - Sue Ellen's: Mustache Envy on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
 - The Rose Room: GayBingo at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Drag Star Divas for Orlando benefits victims of the Pulse massacre from 6-9:30 p.m. on Sunday. Project Funway on Wednesday. Outrageous Oral on Thursday.
 - Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood



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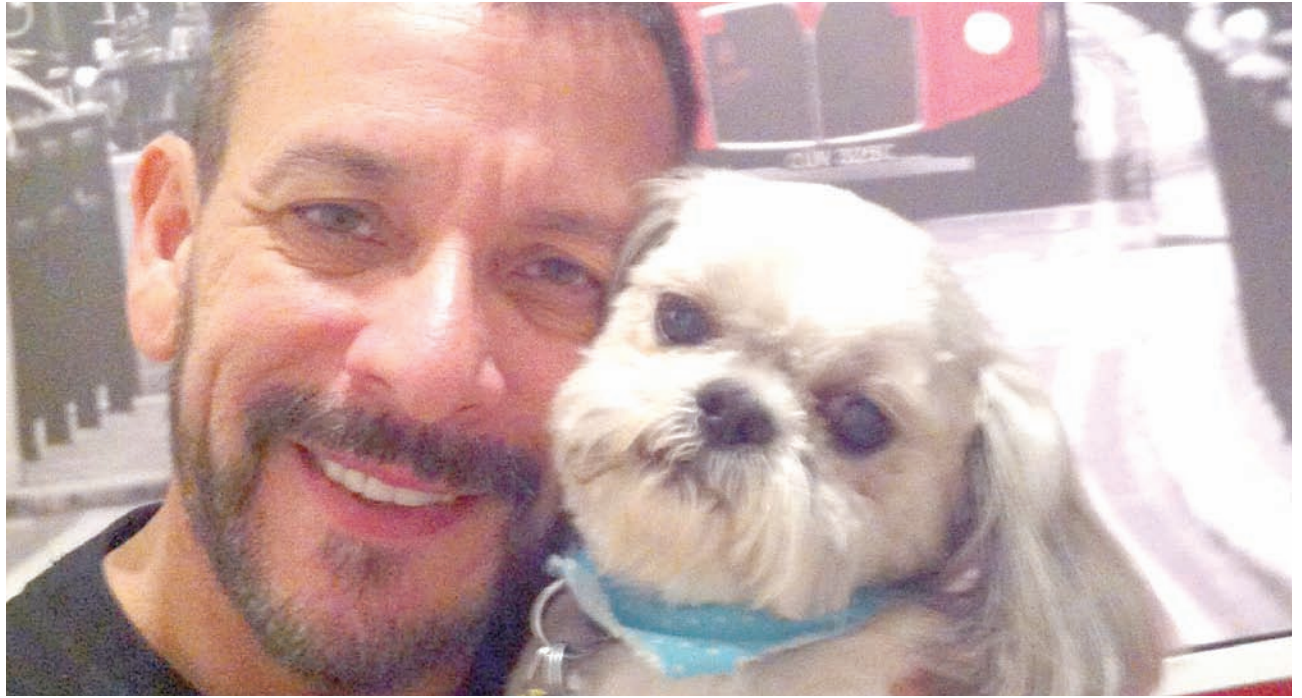
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THE PETS ISSUE: Our Furry Families



Amber and Dylan



Seamus and Jacques Cousteau



Bartleby gives Mr. Sniffles and Danny the stink-eye



Jimmy and Tippy



Brent with Pepsi and Don



Bill and Cayman



Joey and Chanel

THE PETS ISSUE: Our Furry Families



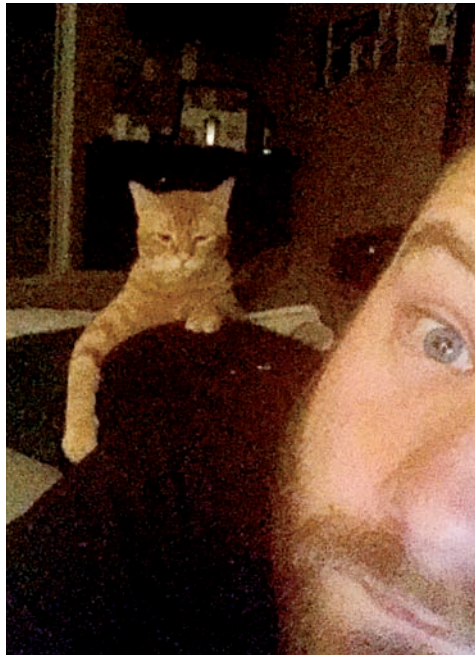
Sandra with Akasha, Eragon and Tinkerbelle



Dr. Carol Ann Boyd with Max



Bill and Alfie



Jeremy and Fred



Scott and Del Norte



Brad and Josh at their wedding with Penny and Roxie

THE PETS ISSUE: Our Furry Families



Joey gets a trim at Woody's Grooming Lounge



Johnalee with Miley and Milo



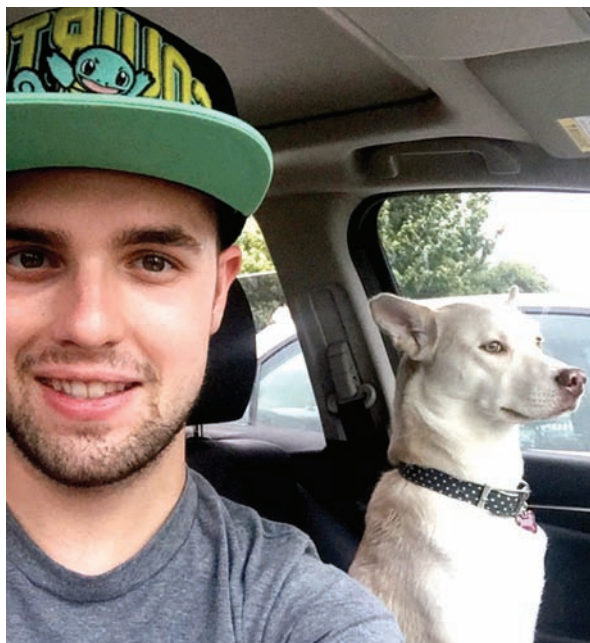
Laura and Jennifer of Full Circle Tavern with their fur kids



Bruce and Kiki



Jose Luis with Frank and Renzo



Jake and Alayna



Mark and Chris from ES Collections and Tapelenders with Bailey and Cosmo

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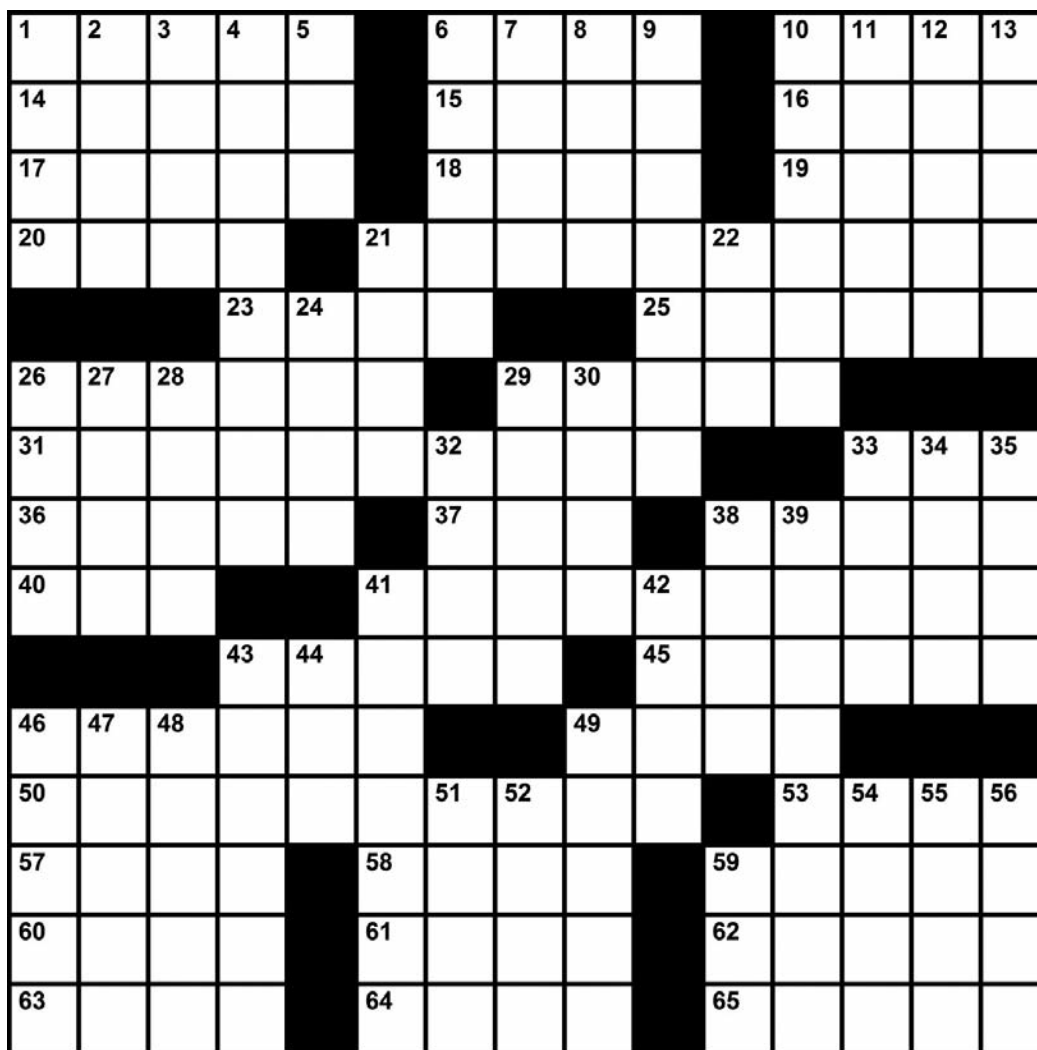
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q-puzzle



Piscatella's Two Beards

Solution on page 33

Across

- 1 Where to find bulging pecs
- 6 Shirley MacLaine's Out on a ____
- 10 Cheryl of *Charlie's Angels*
- 14 Man of morals
- 15 About Uranus?
- 16 Gillette razor product
- 17 *Orange is the New ____* (TV show of this puzzle's quote)
- 18 Michael Buble's "____ Little Tenderness"
- 19 Sow's mate
- 20 Pinto prodder
- 21 Start of Piscatella's description of two beards
- 23 Former Time film critic
- 25 Some like it hot
- 26 Michelangelo's David, e.g.
- 29 Threesome member for Dumas
- 31 More of the description
- 33 LA clock setting
- 36 Rainbow maker
- 37 SEP, e.g.
- 38 Singing group at Metropolitan Community Church
- 40 Dick Cheney, to Mary
- 41 More of the description
- 43 Erection of buffalo skins
- 45 Like Abe

- 46 Amanda of *Married...With Children*
- 49 Debtor's car, maybe
- 50 End of the description
- 53 Cosmetic surgery that sucks
- 57 End note
- 58 Guinness of *The Lavender Hill Mob*
- 59 Piscatella, at the prison
- 60 Circumcision, for one
- 61 Vehicle with a turret
- 62 Uninvited spa guests?
- 63 Kind of beer
- 64 Herbert's *Fortune and Men's ____*
- 65 Channel markers

Down

- 1 Where truckers park their bottoms
- 2 "Can't ____ Lovin' That Man of Mine"
- 3 Genesis man
- 4 Gay old philosopher, perhaps
- 5 Rd. where they toll you so
- 6 Leguin's *The ____ of Heaven*
- 7 About, in memos
- 8 Deli jarful
- 9 Rue's role on *The Golden Girls*
- 10 Hercules' dozen
- 11 Show penitence
- 12 Area of Tennessee?
- 13 Hannah of *Steel Magnolias*

- 21 Dawson's Creek type
- 22 Classified letters
- 24 One of the Marianas
- 26 Milk force, for short
- 27 Scarlett's plantation
- 28 *Phantom* scar source
- 29 Up ____ (in hot water)
- 30 Language of Bangkok
- 32 Wine's partner
- 33 Prod with a rod
- 34 Is on the bottom?
- 35 Show, with "out"
- 38 Chicken pen
- 39 Place for a good lei
- 41 Emulate Dr. Kildare
- 42 Those, to Gomer
- 43 Comparatively hackneyed
- 44 Ricky Martin's that
- 46 Tennis champ Borg
- 47 Jazzman Blake
- 48 Drag queen Mann
- 49 Stones
- 51 *Three Tall Women*, for one
- 52 Surrealist Magritte
- 54 *Otello* villain
- 55 Do oral things on one's knees
- 56 Lines from Lesbos
- 59 Use your tongue

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