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What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
Pregnancy Registry: A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about
TRUVADA for **PrEP™**?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit **start.truvada.com**

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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10



15



20

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 10 DWF honors Valdez, Parker
- 11 Dallas council candidates speak out
- 15 Chamber honors Armstrong, Young
- 16 The makings of a memorable wedding

LIFE+STYLE

- 20 The Wonder (Woman) of summer films
- 22 BOOKS: A different wedding planner
- 24 Planning wedding perfection

ON THE COVER

Design by Kevin Thomas

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------|
| 8 | The Gay Agenda | 31 | Best Bets |
| 10 | News | 35 | Ask Howard |
| 18 | Community Voices | 36 | Scene |
| 20 | Life+Style | 40 | MarketPlace |

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Contact Koop at 512-463-0454 and Davis at 512-463-0389.

Other Republicans on the committee are Byron Cook, Charlie Geren, Kyle Kacal, Ken King, Chris Paddie and Dade Phelan.

— David Taffet

Living without fear of violence is a theme of BTAC

The sixth annual Black Trans Advocacy Conference was held in Dallas at the Marriott Quorum last week, and it included a candle-lighting ceremony to remember the nine trans women who have been murdered in the U.S. so far this year. Of those nine murder victims, eight were women of color.

"We are dying daily," the Rev. Carmarion Anderson said. "Will I be remembered

for my hard work or because I was a victim of hate? I could be one of them."

She said black trans people are tokenized within the LGBT community.

"They're targeting us but not connecting with us," Anderson said.

Resources are given to other organizations that have no employees of color who are transgender. She said that in addition to not getting employment, black trans people then don't get full access to AIDS medication or to PrEP to prevent exposure to the HIV virus.

Black Trans Advocacy founder Carter Brown said, "More than 40 percent of us are suicidal." And, he said, the black trans community has the highest rate of unemployment in the country.

"Society has a disgust for our bodies," Brown said.

Following up on Brown's remarks, Trenton Johnson, newly-crowned Mr. Black Trans International, said his platform is mental health.

"I am a survivor of several suicide attempts," he said.

He said that he encourages people who are transitioning not to just go to counseling to support a name change but to achieve spiritual wholeness.

Ms. Black Trans International is Tiffany Starr from Atlanta. Her platform is education. She talked about the abuse elderly black trans people face in nursing homes. "You're going to hell if you don't go back," she said trans people in nursing facilities are told.

Trans activist Monica Roberts of Houston called the recent visibility of the trans community a double-edged sword. She said the trans community is being targeted as a reaction to the Obergefell marriage equality decision. While the Supreme Court decision ensures everyone in the LGBT community the right to marry, the right wing, which only thrives when it has a target, has found it can attack trans people with their right to use public restroom facilities.

"Our hope is someday all of us will live without feeling threatened," she said.

— David Taffet

Dallas Wings get ready to kick off the season

The Dallas Wings, DFW's WNBA team based at the College Park Center at the University of Texas in Arlington, kicks off the 2017 season on May 14, and their first home game is May 20. On Tuesday, May 2, the players and coaches invited the DFW media to College Park Center for Media Day, giving the reporters a chance to get to know the 2017 Wings. Here's one shot from the activities. Look on DallasVoice.com for more.

— Tammye Nash

Texas ENDA voted out of committee

State Rep. Jason Villalba has voted with Democrats on the House Committee on Business and Industry to get Rep. Eric Johnson's HB 225 to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression out of committee.

Texas ENDA now moves to the Calendars Committee to schedule the bill's hearing on the House floor.

Employment non-discrimination bills have been submitted in most sessions of Congress since the 1990s and have always failed. An ENDA bill has never gotten out of committee in the Texas Legislature.

Whether or not ENDA passes the House, time spent debating employment non-discrimination is time not spent discussing bathrooms or the "right" to discriminate based on religious beliefs.

To thank Villalba for his vote and encourage him to get fellow Republicans to vote for the bill, call his local office at 214-363-8700.

Todd Hunter is the Republican chair of the Calendars Committee. Contact his office at 512-463-0672.

Donna Howard is the Democratic co-chair of the committee. You can call her at 512-463-0631. Dallas-area Democrats on the committee are Roberto Alonzo, Helen Giddings and Toni Rose. Poncho Nevarez is from Eagle Pass.

Republican LGBT allies on the committee are Linda Koop of Dallas and Sarah Davis of Houston.

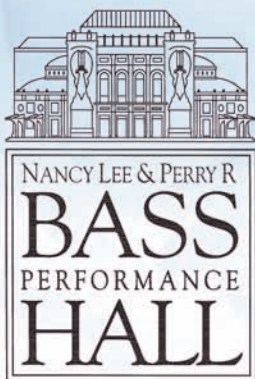
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THE GAY AGENDA

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.** This week's guest is community counselor **Candy Marcum**; **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 Treymore 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. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St #103; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews.; **Gray Pride support group** from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **DVtv** in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

MAY

• **May 5: Cinco de Mayo**
Bloomin Ball's Cinco de Mayo celebration benefits AIDS Interfaith Network from 4-7 p.m. at TK Dallas, 1919 McKinney Ave. #1056.

• **May 5: Cinco de Mayo Oh Myyy!**
Mr. and Miss Charity America present the Cinco de Mayo Oh Myyy! show, benefitting the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food and Tucker's Gift, at 8 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Features Miss Charity America 2017 Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco, Mr. Charity America 2017 Preston David Pickett and a host of friends.

• May 5-6: Contemporary Relationships 2017

Equality Texas hosts its fourth annual conference on strengthening LGBTQ relationships in Houston, with keynote address by Harville Hendrix, Ph.D., and Helen LaKelly Hunt, Ph.D. For information and tickets visit ContemporaryRelationships.com.

• May 5-7: Grace Project

Largest conference for women living with HIV. Westin Park Central, 12720 Merit Drive. Register at LegacyGraceProject.org.

• May 5-7: Titanic — The concert version

Uptown Players and the Turtle Creek Chorale present the concert version of the Broadway musical Titanic on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$15-55. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• May 6: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

Playdate open to all interested golfers, starting at 10 a.m., Sherrill Park Golf Course 2, 2001 E. Lookout Dr., Richardson. \$55.00. DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org for information.

• May 6: House of DIFFA: Arabesque

Celebrate fashion and design at DIFFA's annual black tie gala including silent and live auction, seated dinner and runway show at 6 p.m. at Omni Hotel, 555 S. Lamar Street.

• May 6: Park Cities/Central Dallas Democrats

Attorney Katie Sprinkle and Dallas Voice columnist Leslie McMurray speak to Park Cities/Central Dallas Democrats on transgender issues at 10 a.m. at University Park Library, 8383 Preston Center Plaza, Suite 200.

• May 7: Pre-needs planning

Free educational seminar and dinner. Funeral and cremation pre-planning from 5-7 p.m. at El Fenix, 6811 W. Northwest Highway. To reserve a seat, contact Scottlynd Colgrove at 214-398-8133 or scolgrove@lincemetery.com.

• May 10: Lambda Legal Spring Mix and Mingle

• May 10: The ABCs of LGBTQ



Transgender activists and life partners Katie Sprinkle, right, and Leslie McMurray will speak to Park Cities/Central Dallas Democrats on transgender issues Saturday. See listings for details.

OBITUARY



Kevin Graham, 53, of Pharr and Dallas, passed away peacefully April 20, 2017.

Kevin lived an active life of service and philanthropy. After retiring from software consulting, he built a successful real estate development business and served on many boards of directors for community centers, museums, even a bird sanctuary, while volunteering with numerous non-profits and the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District.

Kevin was a friend to everyone, a fitness enthusiast, a world-traveler, and an avid lover of architecture, art, design, historical preservation, and automobiles. A proud Texas A&M graduate he mentored many; his interest in technology and robotics became a passion he shared with many through youth programs in the Rio Grande Valley. He is loved and will be missed by thousands.

Celebrations of Kevin's life were held throughout the state. A special birthday weekend brunch will be held in his honor Sunday, July 16. Email nmpi.broadcast@gmail.com for more information. Donations in his honor may be made to Resource Center, Dallas, and Quinta Mazatlan, McAllen, Texas

The Transgender Council of Cathedral of Hope present a non-religious event at 1 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• May 11: Business Connections mixer

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce sponsors event from 5:30-7 p.m. at Komali, 4152 Cole Ave.

• May 11: Federal Club women's event

Visit DFWFederalClub.org or email co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org for details.

• May 12: DFW Pride Happy Hour

Texas Instruments sponsors the gathering from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• May 12: Founders Day

AIDS Services Dallas celebrates its 30th

anniversary from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Revlon Apartments Courtyard, 720 N. Lancaster Ave.

• May 13: Lambda Legal women's event

For information call 214-219-8585.

• May 13: Strutt Your Mutt

SPCA event to end animal cruelty. Festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. 5K at 8:30 a.m. 3K walk/run at 9:30 a.m. Trinity Groves. \$35.

• May 13: Gray Pride Senior Prom

Fifty Shade of Gray Pride is the theme of the senior prom for anyone 50 and older from 7-11 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. \$10. FiftyShadesGPProm.eventbrite.com.

pet of the week / BRIANNA

Meet **Brianna**, a 2-year-old, brindle Pit Bull mix weighing 44 pounds. She came to the SPCA of Texas on Feb. 10 after being rescued by an animal cruelty investigator. She is kind, loving and gentle. She can be a little shy around new people, but once she gets to know you, she'll be your friend forever. She loves going on walks and hanging out with other dogs. She's super affectionate and will shower you with hugs and kisses as much as you'll let her. If you're looking for a lovable, huggable gal to spend lazy Sundays with or take on outdoor adventures, she's the one for you. Brianna has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. She is heartworm positive, but thanks to generous donors, her treatments will be free at any Metroplex-area VCA Animal Hospital once she's adopted. #152350

Brianna is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday and noon-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Regular adoption fees are \$250 for puppies, \$125 for adult dogs 6 months or older and kittens 0-6 months, \$75 for adult cats 6 months or older and \$50 for senior dogs or cats 7 years or older and VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



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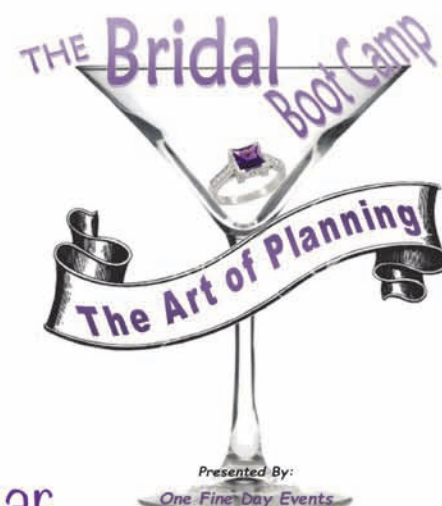
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Dallas Women's Foundation will honor Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez and Judge Tonya Parker with its Maura McNeil Women Helping Women Award, which recognizes those who have led in improving the lives of North Texas women and girls.

Kristen Senters, a spokeswoman for the foundation, said Valdez "has transformed the demographics of the sheriff's department," and called Parker "a powerhouse."

The award has been given annually since 1978 to anywhere from three to eight North Texas women. This isn't the first time LGBT women have been honored: Martina Navratilova, who lived in Dallas at the time, was honored in 1980. Routh Street Women's Clinic co-founder Charlotte Taft received the honor in 1981, and Barbara Rosenberg, who defeated bigoted Judge Jack Hampton, was honored in 1993.

This is the first time, however, two out lesbians have received the award in the same year.

"We sent out a call for nominations," Senters said. "The women were nominated by women in the community."

The selection committee was made up of former winners and other women in the community.

Senters said Valdez was chosen "hands down. She's done so much." She said the sheriff has been a role model who has changed the lives of many women and minorities.

Valdez was first elected sheriff in 2004, the first year that Democrats began winning office en masse in Dallas County. Since then, Democrats have gained a majority on the commissioners court and have won all county-wide elections each election since, with one exception: the 2016 district attorney's race.

Valdez is the only Hispanic lesbian sheriff in the U.S., and just one of four female sheriffs in Texas. She is currently serving her fourth term and remains very popular across the county.

Not surprisingly, Valdez faced strong opposition from the majority of people working in the sheriff's department when she first took office. But the new sheriff stressed that her door was open to all, and she invited members of the department to talk to her so that they could learn to respect each other and work together.

Some members of her department adapted to the change. Others quit or were let go, Valdez has said.



Women of inspiration

Sheriff Valdez, Judge Parker to be honored by Dallas Women's Foundation



Senters said Valdez balanced the department — 50 percent of the staff now are women.

"When she walks in a room, she owns it," Senters said. "Her presence and personality is an inspiration."

Senters said Parker is also an inspiration, and she is delighted that the two women were selected for the McNeil award in the

same year. At a luncheon given for the winners, Senters said Parker addressed Valdez, telling her, "I want to take this opportunity to thank you. You're my inspiration."

Senters said Parker told Valdez that her election and success as sheriff is what inspired her own run for judicial office. "If you can do it, I can do it," Senters said Parker told Valdez.

Senters called Parker "a force for what she's accomplished in such a short period of time."

Parker was elected to the 116th Civil District Court in Dallas County in 2010 and is in her second four-year term. She currently serves as the presiding judge of the Dallas County Civil District Courts. She's received the highest approval rating of any civil district judge.

Parker is the immediate past president of the Texas Association of District Judges, a non-partisan organization that monitors the Texas Legislature for bills that will affect the courts. She was elected as president of the TADJ while serving in her first term on the bench. She also volunteers with IGNITE, a non-partisan group that works with young women ages 14 to 22, aimed at developing their political ambition and training them how to run for public office.

Parker gained national attention soon after she was first sworn into office after she told Stonewall Dallas that she would not perform any marriages in her courtroom until she could marry any couple, regardless of sexual orientation. Video of her remarks went viral. Some conservatives in 2015 compare her decision with that of Kentucky County Clerk Kim Davis, who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The difference, however, is that judges in Texas are not required to perform weddings but may as a perk of their office. It is one of the main official duties of Kentucky county clerks to issue marriage licenses. And while Parker's stance treated all couples the same, Davis did not want to treat same-sex couples the same as opposite-sex couples.

After the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its *Obergefell* decision making marriage equality the law of the land, other Dallas County judges allowed Parker to perform the ceremonial first same-sex wedding in Dallas County (after Judge Dennise Garcia married longtime couple Jack Evans and George Harris). And when Mark "Major" Jimenez and Beau Chandler married earlier this year, after several arrests prior to the *Obergefell* decision while trying to obtain a marriage license to spotlight the issue of discrimination against LGBT couple, Parker joyfully performed their wedding too.

Two other women will receive the Maura McNeil Award along with Parker and Valdez:

Hind El Saadi El Jarrah co-founded and serves as the executive director of the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation that empowers Muslim women and their families and addresses their critical needs with counseling, legal services and play therapy. Madeline McClure is founding CEO of TexProtects to prevent child abuse. ■

Council candidates speak

3 candidates for Dallas City Council returned questionnaires distributed by Dallas Voice. Here's what they had to say

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Dallas Voice recently sent questionnaires to candidates for Dallas City Council. Only three candidates — District 2 incumbent Adam Medrano, District 6 incumbent Monica Alonzo and District 6 challenger Linus Spiller — returned completed questionnaires to us. Their responses are printed unedited below, in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

Adam Medrano

Adam Medrano

- Office for which you are running: Dallas City Council District 2

- Qualifications for office (education, experience, etc.): I know my community well. I have served it faithfully since

well before my days on the DISD Board and the Dallas City Council.

- Why are you running for this office (no more than 4 sentences, please): I am the only candidate in this race with a proven record of building coalitions and working with other elected officials. I am also the only candidate who has truly been involved in the community in District 2, where I was born and raised.

- Most important issue in your district (no more than 4 sentences, please): Our quality of life is key. We need to make sure we are meeting the needs of our growing community. This means ensuring services are delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner, improving and boosting our public safety, fixing our streets, and supporting our neighborhood schools.

- Why should LGBT people vote for you (no more than 4 sentences, please): I am proud to chair the City of Dallas LGBT Taskforce. Through this work, I am committed to making sure our community is welcoming and safe for all Dallas residents, especially our LGBTQ residents. Here is some of my prior work as the Task Force Chair:

*The City hired a diversity officer in May 2014.

*Modified Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA): Revised the City's Family Medical Leave Ordinance in May 2014 (Modified the definition of FMLA to include "designated care recipient"); Revisions to the Administrative Directive 3-72 (Revisions to reflect the inclusion of care of a "Designated Care Recipient" to the list of eligible reasons to utilize FML, allows LGBT members who have partners, with whom they reside, to care for their partner — "designed care recipient" — if that individual has a serious health condition and meets all the requirements of the Act).

*Transgender Health Benefits: Humans Resources Updated the Summary Plan Description (SPD) to Pay for Transgender Services (Psychotherapy for gender identity issues, Added Hormone Replacement of the desired gender, Laboratory testing to monitor the safety of the continuous hormone therapy).

*Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Municipal Equality Index (MEI) Score: The HRC municipal index rates municipalities of varying sizes drawn from every state in the nation. In 2013, on a 100-point scale, the City of Dallas scored 81 points. On the most index, the City of Dallas maxed out at 100 points. This is great evidence of our progress.

*Proposition 4 — Charter Amendment — Nondiscrimination protections for LGBT city employees: The City of Dallas voters supported adding both "sexual orientation" and gender identity and expression" to the City Charter amendment prohibiting discrimination against City employees based on Gender identity and sexual orientation.

*Civil and Police and Fire employees' Pension Benefits were expanded to cover same sex partners.

Monica Alonzo

- Office for which you are running: Dallas City Council, District 6

- Qualifications for office (education, experience, etc.): I am the incumbent candidate in this 2017 race for Dallas City Council, District 6;

I am running for re-election for a 4th term. In the previous 3 elections, the voting constituency in City Council District 6 overwhelmingly publicly recognized my qualifications and my zeal in wishing to offer them someone who would focus on them and with them in addressing City of Dallas

COUNCIL, Page 17

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WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older and weigh at least 77 lbs. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. GENVOYA combines 4 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with food. GENVOYA is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking GENVOYA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness in the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking GENVOYA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

- **Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.**

It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.

- **The herbal supplement** St. John’s wort.

- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

Serious side effects of GENVOYA may also include:

- **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking GENVOYA.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take GENVOYA with all of your other medicines.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about GENVOYA including Important Warnings on the following page.


Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you, and visit GENVOYA.com to learn more.



GENVOYA does not
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SHOW YOUR **POWER**

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(jen-VOY-uh)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

GENVOYA® may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness in the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection**. GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking GENVOYA. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.

ABOUT GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older and weigh at least 77 lbs who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. GENVOYA can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS**. Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®), cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®), Mevacor®, lurasidone (Latuda®), methylergonovine (Ergotrate®, Methergine®), midazolam (when taken by mouth), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®), pimozone (Orap®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®), sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®), or triazolam (Halcion®).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John's wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about GENVOYA and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About GENVOYA” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of GENVOYA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking GENVOYA.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with GENVOYA.

BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a complete one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take GENVOYA with food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about GENVOYA. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to GENVOYA.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit GENVOYA.com for program information.



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Chamber honors Armstrong and Young

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Thank you for being a candle in the wilderness,” Dallas attorney Rebecca Covell said in a video tribute to longtime activists Vivienne Armstrong and Louise Young played during the North

Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce’s annual Celebration of Excellence awards dinner held Friday night, April 28, at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel.

The chamber presented the newly-renamed Jack Evans and George Harris Lifetime Achievement Award to Armstrong and Young, who have been partners — in life and in activism — since they met in college more than 40 years ago.

Harris joined Realtor and activist Steve Atkinson on stage for the announcement that the award had been renamed in honor of him and his husband, the late Jack Evans. The two men have for years been known as the fathers of Dallas’ LGBT community and many of its organizations and had been together more than 55 years when Evans died last year.

Covell joined Atkinson and activist Dick Peeples in the tribute video, praising Armstrong and Young for their political activism, their activism for equality in the workplace and their example as a devoted and loving couple. She called the two women “visionaries” who “lived the change” they fought for.

“Thank you for all your hard work,” Covell said. “When it was so easy to sit down, you stood up for all of us. And you stayed up.”

Atkinson, noting that Armstrong and Young had “made it a foundation of their life’s work to affect change,” added that the LGBT community — in North Texas and across the country — “owe(s) them a huge debt of gratitude.” To the couple, he said, “You could not deserve this more. I am proud to call you friends.”

Young told the crowd that this was “an amazing experience” to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award now named in honor of Evans and Harris. She also credited the strength of her relationship with her wife for giving her the strength for years of activism.

“You know, having been together for so many years — and it’s 46 now — you do learn some things about appreciating [your partner]. I can truly say that everything we



Viv Armstrong, left, and Louise Young

have accomplished, we accomplished together.”

Armstrong said she is “extremely grateful to be part of this community” and that she “thank(s) my lucky stars for being in Dallas in a community that is whole.”

Young said that she and Armstrong had just recently returned from a trip to New York City to celebrate their anniversary, Armstrong’s recent 70th birthday and her own upcoming 70th birthday. While they were there, she said, they visited The Stone-

wall Inn, the famous bar that was the site of the Stonewall Riots in 1969 and that has recently been named a national historical site, and they had a chance to meet an 80-year-old bartender who was at the Stonewall the night of the riots.

“It was quite a thrill” to meet him, Young said. “It gave us quite a bit of perspective on how far we’ve come. So even though we may sense these dark times ahead because of the elections of November, don’t forget that we always, always keep moving forward.”

Also at the dinner, the chamber honored other outstanding leaders in the business and civic community:

Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager with Resource Center, received the Extra Mile Community Service Award, sponsored by American Airlines. Joshua Cogan with Outlast Youth received the Emerging Leader Award sponsored by Visit Dallas.

J. Waylon and Associates received the Member Service Award sponsored by Raytheon. Fastsigns Irving/Las Colinas received the Business of the Year Award sponsored by TNT Promotions. American Airlines received the Corporate Ally Award, sponsored by Cigna. And Douglas Roark, Staff Perm, received the Supplier Diversity Champion Award, sponsored by Toyota.

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Making your wedding memorable

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Judges can do it, so I've decided writers can too. Having been recently widowed, I recused myself from writing any news stories about marriage.

We're coming up on what would have been my one-year wedding anniversary. But my husband Brian died suddenly in March, so that will be a difficult weekend for me.

Cousins who came to Dallas for my wedding will be back for my anniversary. We'll

Wedding party time!

If you are looking for ways to make sure that your wedding is not just memorable, but as perfect as possible for you, then you probably need some help with the planning. Or at least with ideas about what's available, what's possible and what's fabulous.

And sure, wedding planners, wedding vendors and wedding services are no further away than your computer keyboard and Google. But when you find a service online, can you be sure that vendor is happy to work with same-sex couples. I mean, nothing can sour wedding plans faster than a bigot in a bakery or a 'phobe in a flower shop.

Well, we've got your answer: The Wedding Party & Expo, coming to Dallas on July 23.

The event, our third annual, is produced by Dallas Voice and presented and hosted by Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway in Dallas. The event takes place at the Hilton Anatole from 1-4 p.m. that Sunday, and will feature dozens of vendors available to provide you with everything from the cake to the flowers to the DJ and maybe even the minister for your big day.

It will be "the largest LGBT wedding expo in Texas," according to Dallas Voice Publisher Leo Cusimano.

"As a media company, we have the ideal resources to produce, promote and present an amazing show," Cusimano said. "Whether you're planning your wedding, a reception or anniversary celebration, our diverse group of exhibitors will offer you a creative array of options, all from companies that value and understand our community."

"We hope you will be inspired by our wedding vendors all who want your business," he said.

Cusimano also called on wedding service vendors, urging them not to miss out on a chance to reach out to the LGBT community.

"If you are a wedding vendor, we give you unparalleled access to our fiercely loyal market and access to couples who are ready to wed," he said.

For information on participating in the Expo, email Dallas Voice Advertising Director Chad Mantooth at mantooth@dallasvoice.com.

— Tammye Nash



On stage at City Performance Hall, Brian and I got married last June. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

toast Brian and eat the top layer of our wedding cake that's been taking up so much of our freezer since last June. With their help, I'll get through it.

So I decided to write something for this issue about the memory I'll always have of staging our wonderful and peculiar wedding.

I know lots of people who've gotten married by a judge in a courtroom, and that's fine if you're marrying for financial reasons like employment benefits or for the security that comes with a marriage license. But if you're inviting friends and family, do something different — and different doesn't necessarily mean expensive.

The alternative to a quick courtroom ceremony doesn't have to be a sit-down dinner in a hotel ballroom. And keeping costs under control doesn't necessarily mean limiting the number of guests.

Brian and I got married in front of 950 of our closest friends, on stage during a Turtle Creek Chorale concert celebrating the one-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell* marriage-equality decision.

We had a Jewish wedding, which means we needed a chuppah — a wedding canopy. We created the chuppah with old talit — prayer shawls — that Brian colored brightly with magic markers. He hung them over a frame he made of PVC pipe. Total cost for the pipe and connectors was under \$10.

As we planned for the event, someone asked what our colors were going to be. Being a good queen, I answered "blush and bashful." (For anyone who doesn't know the reference — first, shame on you! And



second, they were Shelby's colors in *Steel Magnolias*.)

But when Brian heard those were the colors I wanted — he sometimes took things I said too seriously — he ran with it. He shopped his heart out until he found matching ties and vests, mine in blush and his in bashful, he insisted. After scouring NorthPark and men's stores elsewhere in the city, he found the perfect tie-and-vest sets at Al's Formal Wear on Oak Lawn Avenue, and he got them at a perfectly reasonable price.

And who could argue with him on whether he got the colors right? They're totally made up colors anyway.

Our biggest expense was the wedding cake. We were married in City Performance Hall. With audience and singers, we needed cake for about 900.

A friend recommended his cake baker Drew Pierson to us. Before we discussed cake design, I asked Drew if he'd be offended by baking a cake for a gay wedding. I mean, no reason to take chances even though Drew is gay.

So we came up with our combination of flavors — almond sour cream cake with cream cheese butter cream icing and Key lime and mandarin orange filling between layers.

Over the top? Sure. A little nauseating? Well, eat one layer at a time, not all mixed together. Delicious? Memorable? Hell yes.

Here's a tip I learned that helped keep our costs down and kept problems to a minimum. When your cake baker suggests something, like how to keep the biggest cake he's ever baked standing after being transported from Garland, listen to him.

And when the caterer has several options on how to serve and one option isn't more important to you than another, ask her, "Which is easier?" Our caterer was flabbergasted. No one ever asks that. And she quoted us a great rate.

We opted for plastic dishes rather than glass plates. We really didn't care and I'll bet no one who attended particularly noticed. For those who did — OK, fine; judge us. But it kept the catering costs down because of all the extra time and labor it would have taken to wash 900 dishes with accompanying silverware.

What people remember was that cake.

And the colorful chuppah we stood under.

And the beautiful song the chorale sang that we interrupted with our ceremony.

And the tears of joy that filled the stage.

Damn you, Turtles, for making ME cry during the ceremony, and I'll always love you for making our wedding so memorable.

So as you plan your wedding, remember you don't have to do it on stage in the middle of a Turtle Creek Chorale to have fun. Just think outside the box. Make your wedding memorable, and don't be bridezillas.

Most important is to make sure the day is memorable to you. Hopefully it's a memory you'll share together for many years. For me, it's a memory of how wonderful our short time together was.



issues, our home.

- Why are you running for this office (no more than 4 sentences, please): I seek Re-Election in Council District 6 in order to continue and complete the tasks and goals which have been identified by the constituents of the district. I hope I have shown my ability to listen, reflect and act to make better the quality of life for all District 6 constituents. My experience has taught me the importance of passion, leadership and collaboration in our City. These qualities I will maintain in order to bring each of the constituents of District 6 to a better place for themselves and their families.

- Most important issue in your district (no more than 4 sentences, please): Unfortunately, the most important issue in the district I represent is the abuse of Senior Citizens and their disenfranchisement and right to vote because of the Early Voting by Mail Ballot FRAUD. That is why it is important to continue to support our men and women in uniform, our First Responders, that provide us with Safety and Security. There are critical issues that need to continue to be addressed, especially those concerning Housing, Economic Development and Improvements to Aging Infrastructure.

- Why should LGBT people vote for you?: I am, and have always been, a very strong ally of the LGBTQ community, alongside the rest of my family. Now, more than ever in today's political climate, the LGBTQ community needs the support and affirmation of allies such as myself to assure that together, we keep moving progressively and positively forward. Our Latino and LGBTQ communities share the same interests, issues, and concerns which affect each of our lives; we have more similarities than we do differences. We come from diverse communities that are united and that work together for improvement of Quality of Life in our city, state, and nation; I shall continue to address the interests, issues and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens as fairly and openly as I already do.

Linus Spiller

- Office for which you are running: Dallas City Council, District 6

- Qualifications for office (education, experience, etc.): B.A. Candidate, UT-Arlington, Communications (expected Dec. 2017). Work experience includes: banking/financial services, loan operations, non-profit services, federal and private student loan operations, project

management, and educational programming.

- Why are you running for this office (no more than 4 sentences, please): I am a 20-year resident of District 6 with 20+ years of civic/community experience, including city council board/commission appointments. I am the ONLY candidate in this race with successful experience managing public tax dollars, which will prove useful in finding a solution for the beleaguered Dallas Police and Fire Pension Fund, the HUD situation, and for other red flag instances regarding misuse of tax dollars, like the ATPAC bailout. This wealth of experience makes me uniquely qualified to provide leadership to District 6 and the City of Dallas.

- Most important issue in your district (no more than 4 sentences, please): Because our district was gerrymandered rather "creatively", there are 4 different constituencies contained in District 6 (Midway Hollow, Bachman Lake, West Dallas, Arcadia Park), all with different pressing concerns. With that in mind, my campaign platform focuses on the following priorities each constituency has in common: 1) infrastructure repair (i.e., roads, streets, alleys), 2) public safety (crime is persistent in all areas and we need more police officers, period), and 3) economic development, especially in the West Dallas and Arcadia Park areas of the district, with Bachman Lake needing support as well.

- Why should LGBT people vote for you (no more than 4 sentences, please): I would like to think LGBTQ persons should vote for me because I'm the most qualified of all 6 candidates running, including the incumbent. I would like to think LGBTQ persons should vote for me because of my 23+ years working as an activist for the LGBTQ community, including many groundbreaking moments for the black LGBTQ community which started emerging from the closet back in the 80s and 90s as a result of the passion myself and others had as strong, OUT gay people. However, with this election comes the realization you can be the most qualified and have labored in the LGBTQ community yet your community won't support you because they have an 'idea' in their minds of who their heroes/sheroes should be and what they should look like, regardless of their shortcomings and flaws. In the end, I let democracy do what it's going to do and focus on those who will vote for me and hope it includes the LGBTQ community I have consistently given so much to over the past 2+ decades without asking for anything in return. ■



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Terry Thompson President | 116
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editorial

Tammye Nash Managing Editor | 113
Arnold Wayne Jones Executive Editor Life+Style | 129
David Taffet Senior Staff Writer | 125
Contributors: Chris Azzopardi, Jenny Block, J. Denton Bricker, Alicia Chang, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Shelley Hamilton, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Cassie Nova, Mikey Rox, Howard Lewis Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Mathew Shaw, Brandi Amara Skyy, Mark Stokes, Jef Tingley, David Webb, Casey Williams
Photographers: Kat Haygood, Chuck Marcelo, Cassie Quinn

advertising

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Eddie Zanetti Advertising Account Manager | 115
Jesse Arnold MarketPlace Manager | 110
Stephen Mobley MarketPlace Sales | 123

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media Inc. 908-232-2021

art

Kevin Thomas Art Director | 119
Chuck Miller Graphic Designer | 132

multimedia

Stephen Mobley Social Media Manager | 123
Israel Luna Video Producer
Brad Pritchett DVtv Host
Trenton Warwick Video Producer
Brian Kennedy Video Producer

circulation

Linda Depriter Circulation Director | 120

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■ commUNITYvoices

Helpful guidelines for *aging* gay men



(A few notes to myself)

I have to acknowledge that definite challenges lay ahead for me as I work to find my place within the aging sector of the LGBT community. Daily occurrences serves as reminders that I'm not as young as I once was.

In fact, at this very moment, I am engaging in a form of self-administered behavioral therapy. I've actually started making grunting noises as I begin my mornings, moving around my house. It drives my



Gary Bellomy
Contributing Columnist

ineptitude and remain relevant.

husband insane: WTF is that? Stop that!

And do I succumb to the often-appealing attitude to let go of long-held standards of dress and vibrancy, or do I beat back the jungle of old age

That's the struggle. So here are a few guidelines I've come up with for gay men who are, like me, getting older.

1. Keep your balls shaved. Even if you are the only one looking at them, it's still important. If you are fortunate to have a sexual partner, shave. No one wants to see a 1975-style crotch. Nobody.

2. (I am in a relationship with arguably one of the most attractive men in the city, so this next point probably comes off justifiably as very sour grapes. But I find it worth the mention.) My vanity has not

overlooked the fact that at some point, other gay men cease to pay attention to you. You are no longer desirable. You are invisible.

It takes a while to get used to this. Be patient with yourself. It's a good lesson in the long run. You no longer need to depend on their approval. You are free to dictate your own sense of beauty and self-worth.

3. When the time arrives that you must pay for a sexual partner (and yes, that time comes for all of us that are single or who become so due to the inevitable loss of one's husband through death or divorce), please deal with a professional hustler not trade. You've lived too long to become another elder abuse statistic or worse. You deserve better. After all, isn't it all about enjoyment? Spend the extra cash and be safe.

4. Maintain your social networks. Do not hide out because you are no longer "mainstream." You have everything you've always had to offer plus as you age, you do acquire a certain amount of wisdom. *You do.* So use it.

You've lived openly as a gay man. That means you have lived truthfully. Use that knowledge. We need that right now. Really, you owe it to the world. Maybe you've never spoken out. Find your voice.

5. Seems that a disproportionate amount of gay men of my generation have arrived at their later years never having been in a lasting relationship. It's been extremely easy to coast along in our world. One gets laid regularly or occasionally as one can. The usual group of friends is around, hopefully. Gay life makes it easy to be single into perpetuity.

But, 6. No one can deny the overwhelming loneliness that a life spent alone entails. I see single men living in suspended animation — no real possessions, bachelor living at its worst. The aching is palpable. An attitude of "We'll pick out the china pattern together" keeps them from stabbing themselves.

But waiting for Mr. Right to come along is an indulgence of a much younger and less aware gay man. Give it up. He's not coming. Settle for someone flawed, like yourself. There's still time.

Being involved with another human makes us more human. It doesn't always involve living together. Bonding helps us grow and mature. Arrested development in gay men is rampant. Lives are wasted while they wait for the perfect fellow to show up.

7. Those who have been fortunate enough to maintain decades-long relationships, I hope, are enjoying these final years. They know well — and they accept — the weaknesses and the strengths of their partners. They are blessed.

8. Those of us who have been married for a long while to men younger than ourselves are challenged. Most of our careers have reached their zenith. We are headed into retirement or are inventing some kind of business that intrigues the elder versions of ourselves.

But we need to respect that our partners are probably in a different place. Most likely, they are now at the top of their game. Resist the competitive edge inherent in the DNA of a gay man. Support their careers. Encourage them. Do not let green-eyed

envy find a place in your home life. It can rot a once-solid relationship.

9. We are the generation that was the first to be able to live openly as gay men. The time was right for our existence. It wasn't always easy: We had to fight. We had to sacrifice. We lost many of our own along the way. There were no answers that were put in place for us. We just had to figure it out.

But I think it's made it easier for the gay men that have come after us. I hope so, at least. And now aging is the next thing we

have to deal with.

At times, we come off as a flash mob of aging Norma Desmonds. We have been youth-centric throughout our queer existence. Now it's biting us in the ass. Karma — what a bitch!

Maybe we will find a way to have grace in this process. I look forward to the adventure that lies ahead of us.

Gary Bellomy is a longtime Dallas activist working on issues of LGBT equality, HIV/AIDS services and family violence prevention. He is a war resister and a Trump resister.

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Summer of Wonder

Our annual preview of the summer's movies

The summer movie season officially kicks off this weekend with the new *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie, and its week-by-week slate of wannabe blockbusters will be peppered with art films, dark horses, interesting failures and more. Here's our curated list of what to look forward to for the next four months.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

MAY 5

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2. The surprise blockbuster of 2014 returns with another comic sequel. Part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

3 Generations. The Weinsteins got some free publicity when they challenged the R rating given to this drama about the effect of a trans teen's (Elle Fanning) transition, and the support of the mother (Naomi Watts) and grandmother (Susan Sarandon). (Limited release)



MAY 12

King Arthur: Legend of the Sword. Charlie Hunnam and Jude Law star in Guy Ritchie's take on the Arthurian legend.

Snatched. Goldie Hawn returns to the screen after a 15-year absence as the mom of Amy Schumer in this full-bodied action comedy, arriving for Mother's Day.

Paris Can Wait. Diane Lane and Alec Baldwin star in this romantic comedy from first-time feature director Eleanor Coppola... aged 81. (Limited release)

MAY 19

Alien: Covenant. Ridley Scott directs this latest in the *Alien* series.

Everything, Everything. A teenager, allergic to everything, falls for the boy next door.

MAY 24

Baywatch. Zac Efron and Dwayne Johnson take over as lifeguards in this action comedy based on the camp TV series.



Women are making their mark in a testosterone-fueled summer season, with Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, opposite, Rachel Weisz in 'My Cousin Rachel,' left, and as a female undead in the rebooted 'Mummy,' above.

MAY 26 (Memorial Day)

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales. Javier Bardem joins this over-exposed series based on the Disney ride.

JUNE 2

Wonder Woman. Gal Gadot, who played the Amazonia princess in *Dawn of Justice*, gets to headline this origin story with Chris Pine. Directed by Patty Jenkins (*Monster*).

Captain Underpants. An animated comedy about two pranksters, from DreamWorks Animation. Voiced by Kevin Hart and Jordan Peele.

JUNE 9

The Mummy. Tom Cruise stars in the remake of the undead classic, now with a feminist bent.

It Comes at Night. A revenge drama starring Joel Edgerton.

My Cousin Rachel. Rachel Weiss stars in this remake of the Daphne Du Maurier mystery; the original was Richard Burton's film debut. (Limited release)

JUNE 16

All Eyez on Me. Biopic about Tupac

MOVIES Page 30

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L+S dance

Let's talk about sex (education)

Joshua Peugh explores
gay sexuality in his
world premiere for
Dark Circles



Although Joshua Peugh has only been back in the U.S. for a few years, he's already engendered quite a following — he was labeled one of "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine in 2015, and no less than the New York Times has called him "an important discovery."

But despite his Texas roots — he attended SMU — he founded his company Dark Circles Contemporary Dance in 2010 in Seoul, South Korea. Now based in Fort Worth, Dark Circles offers up three world premieres this week, including Peugh's own *Bleachers*, which ruminates about the lack of sex education for gay boys.

We sat down with the New Mexico native to discuss how he got his start, and his vision for incorporating gay themes in his latest work.

— Alicia Chang

Dallas Voice: When did you first start dancing?

Peugh: I started when I was 3 — ballet and tap — and danced all through growing up. I played soccer for one season and asked my mom if I could go back to tap class. I danced all through high school, though my freshman year of high school I joined the show choir. I did some voice training, so my plan after high school was to study musical theater.

Your family was well-known in your small desert town because your dad was a minister. How did moving to Dallas to attend SMU affect you?

I got to start over and rebuild my identity. I don't think I realized how much of myself was tied to my family

until I left. I had a really happy childhood until I came out to my dad, but that was my sophomore year of college.

Does that coming-out process play a role in *Bleachers*?

Not overtly. It started with an article I read five years ago about sex education, and the writer made the point that he still felt shame and confusion, even as a straight adult male. He had complicated feelings about the fact that boys teach other boys about sex, and that most of us don't learn about it from adults or people who have an actual education. But we teach each other all of the social constructs of how a man is supposed to be, how big is better, and all of those silly things.

You tried creating with this theme of sex ed in the past, but then it turned into something else. Why try this subject matter again now?

This time, for the first time, all of the men in the company are actually gay. And I think that's one of the reasons we are dealing with this subject now. My intention wasn't to deal with gay sexuality at all, I was trying to explore men in sex ed generally. Now the focus is specifically gay men. It's already hard for boys because we are told you're going to want to have sex, don't do it, you'll get somebody pregnant.

Why did you set *Bleachers* in the late 1990s?

That's when I was in high school and that's when I was figuring out that I was gay. So first of all, I have some nostalgia for that, but that was literally when I was figuring that stuff out and fumbling my way through trying to figure out sex.

How have the male dancers in your company informed the work? Well, the way that I create is based on who's in the room. I don't just generate movement and teach it. We build everything together. I want their instincts to build what we are creating. I have ideas and a personal aesthetic, but it's important to let them tell the story they want to tell because in that way the work is authentic, and that way the audience can immerse themselves in the story we're trying to tell.

How would you describe Dark Circles?

We're getting ready to start our fifth year here in North Texas, but we just had our seventh anniversary in Korea. Our main goal was to make work that was accessible to as many

people as possible and to tell human stories in an honest and authentic way. My goal is to always have people leave the theater with questions about why we [as humans] do what we do.

What I want is for people to not leave what they see in the lobby. I want people to be entertained and enjoy what they see. If that's all the see in the work, that's fine with me.

But I'd like to plant some seeds. And that's why I'm doing this dance right now. Because honestly I'm still conflicted about how sex ed should be taught, and how comprehensive it should be. These are still for me, really complicated questions, and usually when I'm making a dance, it's my way of figuring myself out.

DARK CIRCLES SPRINGS SERIES

Lowe Hall Studio Theatre,
3000 S. University Drive, Fort Worth
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Sunday at 2 p.m. \$15–\$25.
DarkCirclesContemporaryDance.com

A PRIMER BEFORE THE ENGAGEMENT

Before I Do by Elizabeth F. Schwartz, afterword by Jim Obergefell (The New Press 2016) \$14.95; 220 pp.

The box was too small for a toaster. There was no pony in there, no new car, not even a stuffed animal. The box was too small for all that, but it held so much more: dreams, ideas, happiness, congratulations! And if you're lucky, your wise new fiancé tucked *Before I Do* in the box with your beautiful engagement ring.

So, you put a ring on it, made the proposal and now you've got a wedding to plan. It's all quite exciting, but slow down a minute. If you've grown up thinking that this day would never come, then you mightn't've thought about what marriage

entails.

"LGBT people," says Schwartz, "have not lived in a world with premarital guidance for LGBT couples. We have suffered systemic exclusion..."

Just because you *can* be married now is no reason that you *should*, she points out. Yes, you're in love, and yes, you've been together forever, but now's the time

to be sure you know exactly what you're in for. That starts by asking yourselves a series of difficult but important questions.

Once you've gotten that (perhaps uncomfortable) part out of the way, be sure that any past relationships are completely and legally finished and "do not create confusion with multiple statuses with multiple people." Know what paperwork you need in order to proceed, and what questions you'll be asked as you're filling it out.

This pre-wedding period is a good time to talk to a financial expert, a tax consultant and a lawyer. Don't trust word-of-mouth to protect your finances; the laws in your state may horrify you, if wedded bliss goes bust. Talk about debt: how much each of you has, and how you perceive it. Educate yourself on insurance coverage, asset protection, pre-nups and estate planning.

And if all this preparation makes you start to think that maybe marriage isn't such a good idea after all, Schwartz says that's OK. There are valid reasons for not taking the plunge, and there are alternatives. One of them may be a much better fit for you.

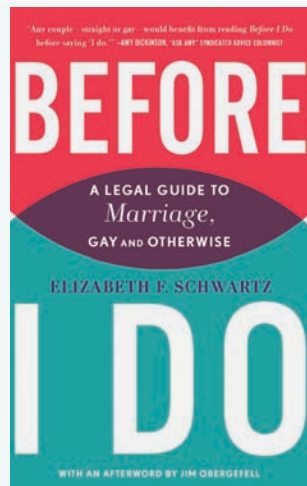
Getting engaged is such an exciting time. Putting the brakes on everything isn't the most romantic notion, but it may be the most prudent. *Before I Do* explains why.

Though she says her advice in this book is appropriate for anyone, Schwartz focuses more on gay and lesbian couples, as well as trans individuals and their prospective spouses. She does so, in part, because she feels that they've only seen marriage "on the fringes."

That somewhat sets this book apart from the thousands of other wedding-planner books on bookshelves; what really makes it different, however, is that Schwartz admits her no-nonsense words may talk prospective brides and grooms *out* of having a wedding. Truth: readers who might've somehow taken marriage lightly before will absolutely be convinced otherwise.

"Failure to plan has terrible consequences," says Schwartz, and this book erases that omission. Read *Before I Do*, though, and rest assured that you can toast one another smarter.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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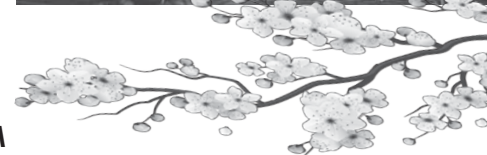
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I told her I'd marry her at Jenny's Noodle House or our own backyard. She told me she wanted me to have the wedding of my dreams and that she wanted to have hers, too.

"I waited more than 50 years to find you, and I'm only going to do this once. So we're going to do it right," she said.

And so began the journey not just from fiancées, but all the way to wives. And what a journey it is ... and it's barely half-way over.

Robin and I got engaged in July 2016. She proposed to me in a movie-worthy scene: A surprise trip to Mackinac Island for my birthday. We rode in a horse drawn carriage — the only form of transportation on the island other than bicycles and emergency vehicles — to the Grand Hotel, where *Somewhere in Time* was filmed and home to the country's longest veranda. That very veranda was where she popped the question as the sun began to set in the summer sky.

I was wearing the Samuel Dong dress covered in painterly flowers that she had gotten me the day before in Traverse City with a pair of nude Jimmy Choo pumps. She was wearing a baby blue blazer with her signature pink checked Vineyard Vines shirt and bright blue Cole Haans. In the

photos, we look perfectly matched and I look perfectly shocked, because I was.

Right from the start, we knew we wanted to wait until the spring of 2018 to get married — partly because my daughter is graduating high school in two months and heading off to college in the fall. But the truth is, the six months after we got engaged were a whirlwind, entertaining at the lake, a dinner in D.C., Feast in Portland, Plezzure Island in Galveston, a holiday in France, a cruise in the Caribbean, and then Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's had their way with us. So although we found ourselves day-dreaming about our perfect wedding, it wasn't until the first of the year that we started planning in earnest.

Sort of. I *did* buy my gown. This is our wedding and we want everything to reflect us. We are making all of the decisions together — the venue, the music, the flowers, the photographer. But the dress: That had to be all me. I know exactly how I want to look for her and the minute I saw the dress, I knew. I wish I could tell you all about it. But there's no way she won't be

reading this. So, suffice it to say, she won't be disappointed. Think the *Sex and the City* movie, the kind of couture drama that every girly girl's dreams are made of.

Robin is having a custom tux made. She's thinking navy. I'm thinking she'll be the sharpest bride ever to walk down the aisle. Honestly, I can't stop imagining that moment. I think we're going to do that thing where the couple sees each other for the first time privately, right before the ceremony so we can have that moment all to ourselves (along with our photographer, of course). That way we can take photos while everyone arrives and has a cocktail so we don't keep everyone waiting between the ceremony and the reception. I get misty-eyed every time I think of that

moment. It's that second, more than anything else, that I can hardly wait for. (Insert nauseatingly wistful sigh here.)

Once the holidays were behind us, we began serious planning. Other than the dress — it took me weeks to confess to her that I had bought it because I knew she would think I was nuts ... and she did — the first thing we did was hire a designer/planner. From the first minute we met with

Chad Cornwall and Kyle Santolini, who together are Revisionist Events, we knew that not only would we have the most brilliant wedding of our dreams, we also knew that the two of them would keep the two of us sane and relatively stress-free and help us to remember that this is about us not about anyone or anything else.


We picked the venue, and it is mind-blowingly perfect. It's in Houston and is called The Astorian. Even though we live on Lake Livingston, we still call Houston our second home since Robin lived there for so long and because so many of our friends live there. The Astorian was once a warehouse; now it's equal parts chic and industrial. Grand Central Terminal was the design inspiration. It's just so glorious that it requires almost no decoration, though I know Chad and Kyle will make it even more spectacular. I get goosebumps just thinking about it. Everyone who knows Robin says there is no venue on the planet that is more her. I couldn't agree more and I could not be any happy that we're getting married there.

The DJ has also been hired — a friend of Robin's, Bradley David Janacek. I'm told he's well known in Houston and after meeting with him and making him swear

■ BRIDES Page 28



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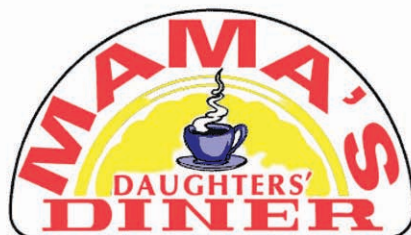
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■ BRIDES From Page 25

not to play the Macarena, the Electric Slide, anything by Jimmy Buffet, a number of other songs that make me want to peel my skin off, I'm excited to have him in the booth or spinning or whatever it is the kids are calling it these days.

We haven't landed on a photographer yet. I am *very* particular on that front. I hate, loathe and despise the majority of wedding photography. I desperately want our photos to look more like they belong in a gorgeous magazine and less like they belong at the bridal expo.

Speaking of which, my fantabulous fiancé actually took me to one of those shows, despite the fact that she would generally rather have her toenails removed than attend one. But she knew how much I wanted to go even though I knew deep down that it would be *painfully* cheesy, which it was. Oh, was it cheesy! I can tell you, we agreed 110 percent on what we absolutely *don't* want at our wedding. But even if we didn't get that peace of mind from attending, the giggling and hand-holding alone were worth the price of admission. We did get two ideas that I, regrettably, cannot reveal until after the wedding. But it'll be worth the wait. Pinky promise.

We've started looking at rings. As the Eiffel Tower glittered outside of our riverboat cabin this past fall, I gave her a simple silver band engraved with the longitude and latitude of the Grand Hotel where she proposed. But on our wedding day, I plan to give her the ring I'm having made with the diamond from her mother's engagement ring, a simple tension setting in platinum. I have my heart set on two of the most impossibly thin eternity bands, one for either side of the perfection I call my engagement ring. Robin proposed with her mother's ring and later replaced it with a ring that couldn't be any more me.

Amazing friends of ours are gifting us with a wedding cake from Who Made the Cake! Nothing on the calendar yet. But I am antsy as all get out to taste a million cake and frosting flavors with my girl and our friends and to pick out a cake that will make everyone say, "Yup. That looks like Robin and Jenny, all right."

Landing on the guest list has been a challenge. We both have out-of-town relatives and mutual friends who are no-brainers for the list. But then there are the friends that we each have that the other hasn't yet met. It's more of an issue for me since we live outside of Houston and I have met her crew there and they are now my friends as well. But I have friends from Dallas and beyond who she not only has never met but maybe has rarely or even ever heard of. There are people who are insanely important to me despite the time and miles

that separate us. So, invited they will be.

When you're trying to keep your wedding at a place designed to look like Grand Central from *becoming* Grand Central, it can be tricky. It's an emotional time but it's an expensive one too. When it comes to wedding planning I don't think any decision is harder than the guest list when emotions and reality both have to be considered. But, like everything else, we are making it work with lots of talking and even more kindness and understanding.

My dad is officiating. He's leaving it up to us to write it, but he'll be performing it, including as much or as little of the Jewish traditions and rituals as we both would like and incorporating as much Christian and secular traditions as we like as well. Writing it together is as exciting as it is daunting. But we're looking forward to tackling it together and I am over the moon that Robin decided that she'd like him to perform the ceremony. She decided minutes after meeting him. She says the very fact that he didn't push the issue made her sure that he was the man for the job. Makes me feel as sappy as a girl can feel.

Some days it feels like we almost have everything done. Other days it feels like there are still a million zillion things to do. We still haven't decided whether or not to have favors. We love the idea of ending the evening with a greasy to-go snack. We haven't landed on a caterer or a menu. We still have candles and flowers to decide on. Save the Dates have been ordered but we haven't even started looking at invitations. We have the guest list in progress. So, right this minute, it feels as if the fun has only just begun.

Luckily, it has been really fun. We've had our head-butt moments, of course. And two women getting married — strong-willed, intelligent and opinionated women to boot — does have its challenges. Two bouquets or one? Who goes to whose bachelorette party? Who walks down the aisle first? But most importantly, how do we equally honor and represent who we both are as individuals as well as who we are growing into as a couple? It's a remarkable feat that Robin and I are giddy to turn into a night that will forever stand for the beginning of a pretty kick-ass journey.

It's an incredible thing, deciding to get married. The wedding is just a symbol of course — a party, an event, a moment in time to serve as the marker for when it all began. And I have no doubt that the mark we make will be a memorable one full of the love and joy and family and friends that define who we are: Two women who are eternally grateful to have found one another and who are ecstatic to have said yes to happily ever after.

— Jenny Block

They got the look

Dallas-based designer Watters has just the dress for your wedding

When it comes to picking a wedding dress, there are few fashion houses that know more than Watters. The Dallas-based company staged only two runway shows for the press this year — one in New York City, and one in Dallas. We attended the Dallas show, and were

impressed by the details, shapes, modern touches and beauty of many. Check out these designs (and look online for many more). ■

— Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones
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Shakur.

Cars 3. Another fuel-injected sequel.
Rough Night. A comedy with Scarlett Johansson about a male stripper who dies at a bachelorette party.
47 Meters Down. A thriller about a shark threatening divers.

JUNE 23

Transformers: The Last Knight. Yet another in the series of noisy, annoying robot movies.
The Beguiled. Colin Farrell and Nicole Kidman star in this remake about a confederate soldier rescued by several young

women... if you want to call it "rescue."
 (Limited release)

JUNE 28 (Wednesday)

Baby Driver. Edgar Wright directs this action comedy about a young getaway driver. Features Jon Hamm, Jamie Foxx and Kevin Spacey.

JUNE 30 (Independence Day Weekend)

Despicable Me 3. More minions!
The House. Will Ferrell, Amy Poehler and former Dallasite Allison Tolman star in this comedy.

JULY 7

Spider-Man: Homecoming. First full feature with Tom Holland starring as Peter Parker.
A Ghost Story. This year's best actor Oscar winner Casey Affleck follows up with this romantic fantasy. (Limited release)

JULY 14

War for the Planet of the Apes. The latest in the series where the earth is ruled by talking apes. How different is this from the Trump administration?

JULY 21

Dunkirk. Christopher Nolan's World War II epic about a brutal battle. Stars Tom Hardy, Mark Rylance, Kenneth Branagh and Cillian Murphy.
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets. Luc Besson's adaptation of the sci-fi comic book.

JULY 28

Atomic Blonde. A Cold War spy thriller with Charlize Theron.
The Emoji Movie. Yes, we've reached that point in our culture.
An Inconvenient Sequel. A follow-up to the Oscar-winning documentary about global climate change, with Al Gore.

AUG. 4

Detroit. John Boyega (*The Force Awakens*) stars in Oscar-winner Kathryn Bigelow's historical drama about the civil unrest in Motor City in 1967.
The Dark Tower. Matthew McConaughey and Idris Elba star in this hotly-anticipated adaptation of Stephen King's series.

AUG. 11

Anabelle: Creation. The latest installment in the possessed-doll horror series.

AUG. 18

The Hitman's Bodyguard. Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L. Jackson star in this action-comedy.
The Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature. Squirrel to the animated comedy.

AUG. 25

Polaroid. A Ring-like horror film.
Tulip Fever. Oscar winners Alicia Vikander and Christoph Waltz star in this Tom Stoppard adaptation of the romance set during the flower mania of 17th century Holland.
Villa Capri. A chase comedy with Tommy Lee Jones and Morgan Freeman, filmed in New Mexico.

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Friday 05.05 — Sunday 05.12

Kitchen Dog takes over the Wyly with a chimp named 'Trevor'



Kitchen Dog Theater has been itinerant for a few years (it should move into permanent digs next year), but it's moving up ... in a way. The company will take over the Studio Theatre on the 9th floor of the Wyly Theatre for a limited-run production of the regional premiere of *Trevor*, a true story about a famous chimpanzee (played by Max Hartman) — he once worked with Morgan Fairchild — at the center of a controversy. It sounds bananas!

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Saturday 05.06

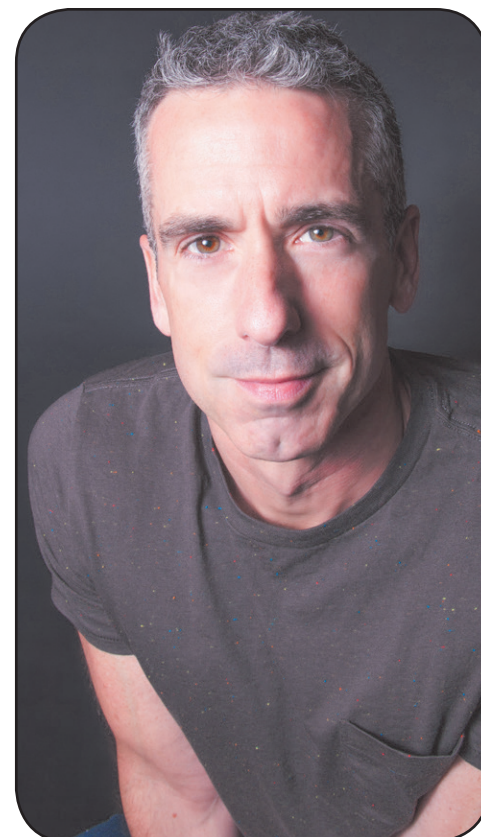
'Hamilton' stars headline at DTC's Centerstage gala

The news has been great this week for the Dallas Theater Center. On Monday, it was announced that the company would received the 2017 Tony Award for best regional theater in America, and this weekend two former cast members of the biggest show on Broadway, *Hamilton*, will headline at DTC's gala fundraiser. Elizabeth Judd and Sydney James Harcourt, pictured — who will also perform in DTC's world premiere *Hood* this summer — should be electrifying entertainment.

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. 6:30 p.m. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Thursday 05.11

Dan Savage appears for a live show at The Kessler

It was just last week that Dan Savage's porn film fest, Hump!, made its way to Oak Cliff, and now the man himself is back in a live appearance in conjunction with WordSpace. The out sex advice columnist will dish as part of the Headliner Series about all things coital ... and probably much more.

DEETS: The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. 7 p.m. Tickets from \$35. WordSpaceDallas.com. TheKessler.com.

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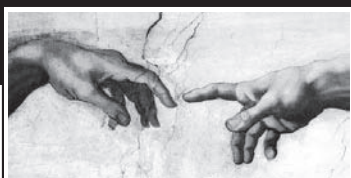


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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Electra. DTC artistic director Kevin Moriarty has adapted Sophocles' tragedy for an outdoor experience just as in ancient Greece, with the audience intimately involved in the production. Abbey Siegworth takes on the title role. Annette Strauss Square (beside the Winspear Opera House), 2403 Flora St. Through May 21. Start time will be after sundown (8:30 p.m.). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Titanic. A co-production of Uptown Players and the Turtle Creek Chorale, this is a concert version of the award-winning musical about the doomed ocean liner. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Sunday. UptownPlayers.org. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

Trevor. Kitchen Dog Theater has been itinerant for a few years (thank goodness they will be opening their own permanent space next year) and this time, they turn up at the Wylie Theatre for a short run of this play, a dark comedy about a chimp (played by Max Hartmann) at the center of a controversy. Studio Theatre at the Wylie, 2400 Flora St. Through May 14. KitchenDogTheater.org.

The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord. A metaphysical comedy about religion and personalities throughout history. *Final weekend.* WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

A Man of No Importance. The newish Brick Road Theatre in Plano will present the charming chamber musical about a gay man deeply in the closet with B.J. Cleveland in the lead. Cox Playhouse, 1509 H Ave., Plano. May 5–13. BrickRoadTheatre.org.

Straight White Men. A father deals with his three sons — two successful, one not so much — in this modern comedy. *Final weekend.* Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

Susan and God. The 1937 stage version of one of the film films Joan Crawford made at MGM. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Disney's The Little Mermaid. The charming stage adaptation of the movie musical, written by Dallasite Doug Wright. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through May 14. CasaManana.org.

OPERA

Norma. Bellini's classic of the bel canto canon, about a doomed Druid priestess in Ancient Gaul. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 7. DallasOpera.org.

Fort Worth Opera Festival. The performances continue. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. FWOpera.org.

FINE ART

Mexico 1900–1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Jose Luis Orozco and the Avant-Garde.

A magnificent exhibition of nearly 200 works showcasing the impressive diversity — from

realism to cubism to surrealism and even film — of Mexican art in the first half of the 20th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 9. DMA.org.

Landscape Relativities: The Collaborative Works of Arnold Chang and Michael Cherney.

This exhibition highlights the blurred line between photography and Chinese ink painting from two contemporary artists. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through June 25. CrowCollection.org.

FESTIVALS

37th Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual faire that takes you back to 17th century Europe features vendors, performances and cosplay. Scarborough Faire Grounds, FM 66 in Waxahachie (exit 399B off I-35). Weekends through May 29. SRFestival.com.

FRIDAY 05.05

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 05.06

CONCERTS

Voices of Change. The chamber ensemble presents a new series, 365 Modern Music, where concerts are performed in architecturally significant homes in North Texas. Presented in partnership with the Dallas Architecture Forum. A tour of the home is included. Home of Helen Blackburn and Drew Lang, 3809 Mockingbird Lane. 11 a.m. \$50. VoicesOfChange.org.

FUNDRAISER

DIFFA: Arabesque. The annual dinner, party, fashion show and fundraiser, once again at the Omni Dallas Downtown. Sold out, but wait-list tickets are possible. DiffaDallas.org.

Centerstage 2017. Dallas Theater Center's annual gala and fundraiser. Wylie Theater, 2400 Flora St. 6:30 p.m. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

this week's solution

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Canadian soprano Aviva Fortunata will step into the title role in Dallas Opera's magical 'Norma' for the final matinee performance this Sunday, after a family emergency for star Elza van den Heever.

MONDAY 05.08

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 05.09

FILM

Mommie Dearest. The camp classic. *See sidebar.* 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.

THURSDAY 05.11

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

SPEAKER

Dan Savage. The sex advice guru appears. The Kessler, 1230 W. Davis St. 7 p.m. WordSpaceDallas.com.

Dallas Voice's Tuesday Big Movie lineup at the Magnolia Theatre

Landmark's Magnolia Theatre's weekly Big Movie New Classic Series, sponsored by Dallas Voice, screens a different classic film each Tuesday at 7:30 and 10 p.m. This quarter's lineup is:

May 9: *Mommie Dearest* (pictured). You watched *Feud*, now see the last infamous portrayal of Joan Crawford by Faye Dunaway, in a role that defined camp for a generation. No wire hangers ever!

May 16: *Gaslight*. Ingrid Bergman's breathtakingly modern and delicate performance, which won her an Oscar, is only one of the joys in the moody Victorian film noir from George Cukor. Great work also by Charles Boyer and a young Angela Lansbury.

Mat 23: *Mermaids*. Cher's follow-up to her Oscar win for *Moonstruck* wasn't a great hit at the time, though it has gained something of a cult following. With early performances by Wynona Rider and Christina Ricci as her daughters.

May 30: *South Pacific*. Epic film adaptation of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical about racism and heroism in World War II.

June 6: *Thelma and Louise*. *Feud* redux again: Before she was Bette Davis, Susan Sarandon was Louise opposite Geena Davis' Thelma (and Brad Pitt's abs) in this Oscar-winning feminist classic.

June 13: *Torch Song Trilogy*. Harvey Fierstein's award-winning series of short plays became a movie starring Fierstein and Matthew Broderick, navigating New York life as gay men in the 1980s.

June 20: *An American in Paris*. Recently turned into a Tony Award-winning stage musical, this is the Oscar winner for best picture of 1951.

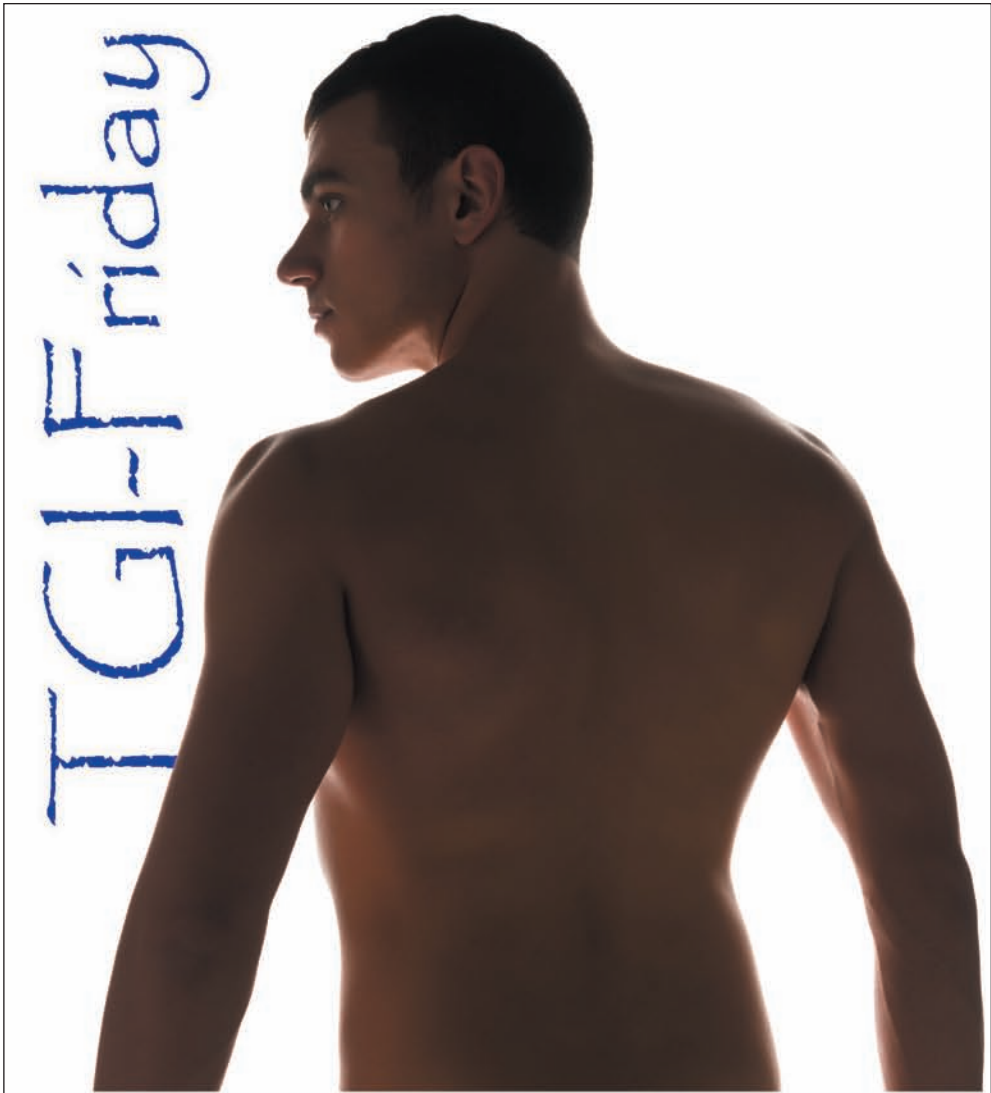
June 27: *Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte*. Final *Feud* redux: Joan dropped out and Bette tapped Olivia DeHavilland to appear in this Grand Guignol hagsploitation about a weird Southern belle and the mystery around her.

July 4: *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. Celebrate America with this hugely successful entry in the *Star Trek* franchise, which time travels to 1980s California. Directed by Leonard Nimoy.

July 11: *The Bridges of Madison County*. Meryl Streep's beautiful acting and Clint Eastwood's unsentimental directing elevate a cheesy novel to great filmmaking.

July 18: *The Great Race*. Blake Edwards directed this acclaimed farce, set in the world of European car racing.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

As always, whenever unsure of how to *guarantee* your question will be selected by Howard for publication, never underestimate the mesmerizing allure of that age-old, gay favorite topic eternal—cock size. Everybody loves reading whether or not their own erection measures up, or down, in the bedroom-prowess department; moreover, everybody loves discovering about others equipped, ahem, less fortunate than they.

Let's get right to the small of it.

Dear Howard,

My roomie, a self-proclaimed "budding screenwriter," just came back from one of his

"business trips" to L.A. bragging how he got plowed by the most endowed star in Hollywood, but the bitch flat-out refused spilling which Tinseltown luminary owned this supposedly fire hydrant-sized boner — except to feed me some teasing, decoy-drivel that the star is "skinny, craggy-faced, and old enough to be our father" ... which basically means *any* man in show business over 50 with the exceptions of John Goodman and Danny DeVito. What I'm dying to know is: who, in all of planet Hollywood, was literally King Kong-sized capable of expanding my slutty BFF's "Grand Canyon" any wider than it already is. (It echoes!) Howard, what's the juicy scuttlebutt you hear about which male star

swings La La Land's biggest billy-stick? —

Gossip Joey

Dear G.J.,

The last I swingingly checked, precious, my name wasn't Perez Hilton; additionally, let me just add (via full homage to *Hee-Haw*) that I'm not one to go around spreadin' rumors — really, I'm just not the gossipy kind; why, you'll never hear Howard repeating gossip ... so hunty, you'd better be sure and listen close the first time:

Willem Dafoe, hands down, is rumored to swing a schlong even mythically larger than Hollywood's gold-en-age previous penile standard-bearer, Milton Berle. My size-queen grapevine reports that Liam Neeson, James Woods, Snoop Dogg and Jon Hamm are equally packin' for pleasure rides that, in the immortal lyrics of Macy Gray's "Caligula," perfectly sum up their own infamously sought after man-jewels: *He's something like my favorite movie / I wanna see him again and again / He's like my freight train — he really moves me / When we go out I'm gonna let him in / He's somethin' like my 7 Eleven / He got me open like an all night store / He's like my blue sky — he's next to heaven / He give me some and then I want some more.*

Now, just for the further, juicy fun of it, G.J., assuming one gives any credence whatsoever to Gayville's size-queen gossip mongers, at the polar opposite end of Hollywood's him-bo-spectrum arise such oft-repeated names as Josh, Brad, Vin, Ashton and Tom ... all of whom "allegedly" come up (to all red-blooded men's Viagra delight!) just a teensy bit, um, short-changed in their shorts.

Dear Howard,

While cruising porn last night, I ran across pix of my twin baby brother on some famous twink site that shall remain nameless. Dale's four minutes younger than me, so I'm guessing that what accounts for us being so different: He moved to California three years ago, after dropping out of high school, and hasn't been home to Dallas again since. He claims he works valet at some fancy Beverly Hills hotel. Dale knows I'm gay, but he never came out to me before he left, or to our parents. Should I tell him I saw pix of him? Do you think he's working in the porn biz? — **Moose**

Dear Antlers-For-Brains,



Working in porn? Why, don't be ridiculous, son: Everybody knows that in California all the parking attendants valet naked and perform sexual requests upon demand for swanky hotel guests. Now, the *real* question my readers crave an answer to, Moosehead, is whether your porn star twin baby brother's penis is identical in all particulars (girth, width) to yours; or, is it, maybe, say, actually four inches bigger, even though you're fully four minutes his elder? And, yes, you should definitely call him; however, I'd refrain from blurting out that you've gandered his dick pix on Sean Cody.

Dear Howard,

How many times do you think a normal gay man gets his heart broken before he's 30? — **Perry, The Heart-Stamped**

Dear Prissy,

All hearts start out as glass, but few end up as stone. The trick is never to hate whom our heart gets shattered by; the secret is to never wear too much heart on your sleeve; simply calling it life is the remedy, and one just moves on.

— Howard Lewis Russell

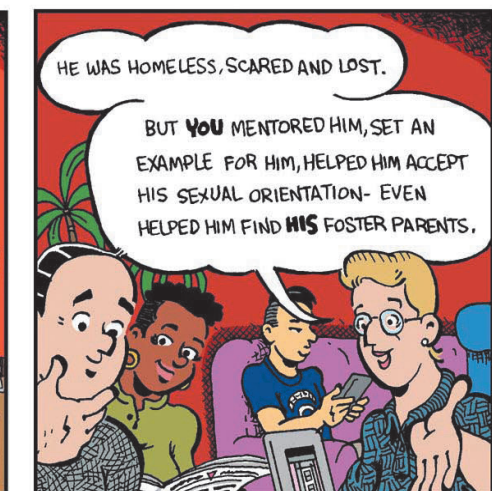
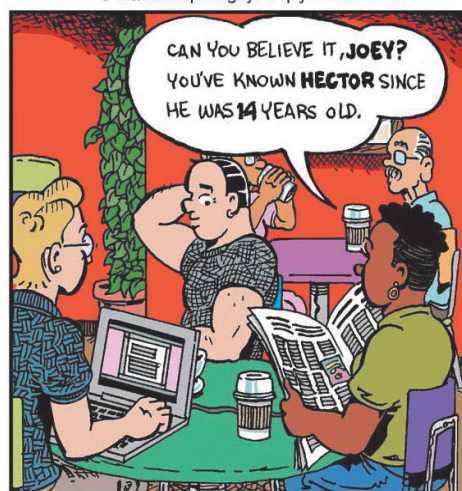
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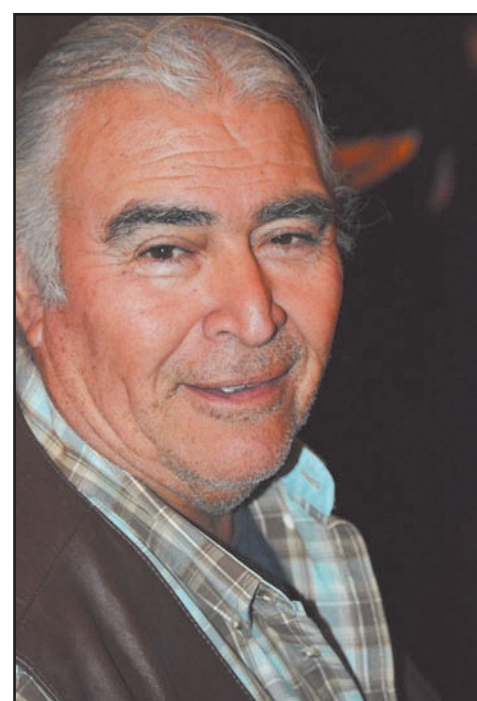
Group of friends at the Tin Room



Brian, Uli, Luis and Jeff at JR.'s Bar & Grill



Sarah, Ashley and Kelly at Alexandre's



Tim at The Hidden Door



Harley at The Grapevine

Making the **SCENE** the week of May 5-11:

- **Alexandre's:** **Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Genre** featuring **K-Marie** on Saturday. **Walter Lee** on Tuesday. **Bianka** on Wednesday.
- **BJ's NXS!:** **All Male Revue** at 10:30 p.m. Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Cinco de Mayo** party all day on Friday.
- **Club Changes:** The **Mr. & Miss Club Changes Pageant** from 8 p.m.-midnight on Saturday. **Wall of Food Show — Rick and Philippe's Deportation** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Cowtown Leathermen's** first Sunday cookout from 4-7 p.m. **King & Queen of the Rodeo Pageant** from 6-9:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Charity America Cinco de Mayo Show** benefits **Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food** and **Tucker's Gift** at 8 p.m. on Friday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Country through the Decades** benefiting **AIDS Interfaith Network** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** The **Super Sunday Show** at 11 p.m.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Mancandy** at 8 p.m. on Sunday. **Boys, Boots and Boxer Briefs** at 10 p.m. on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Suesapalooza** live performances on Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **RuPaul's Drag Race** surprise co-host at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Scene Photographers: **Kay Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**



Group fun at Sue Ellen's



Special guest Brittany Moore flies into S4




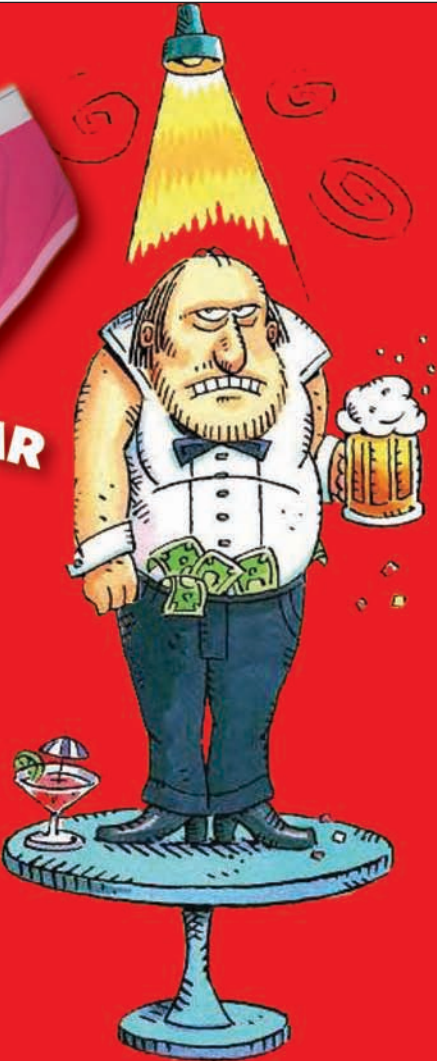


Guy and Thomas at the Tin Room



Janna and Kayla at Alexandre's



Staff having fun at the Round-Up Saloon





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Jackson and Scott at The Hidden Door



John and Jason at the Tin Room



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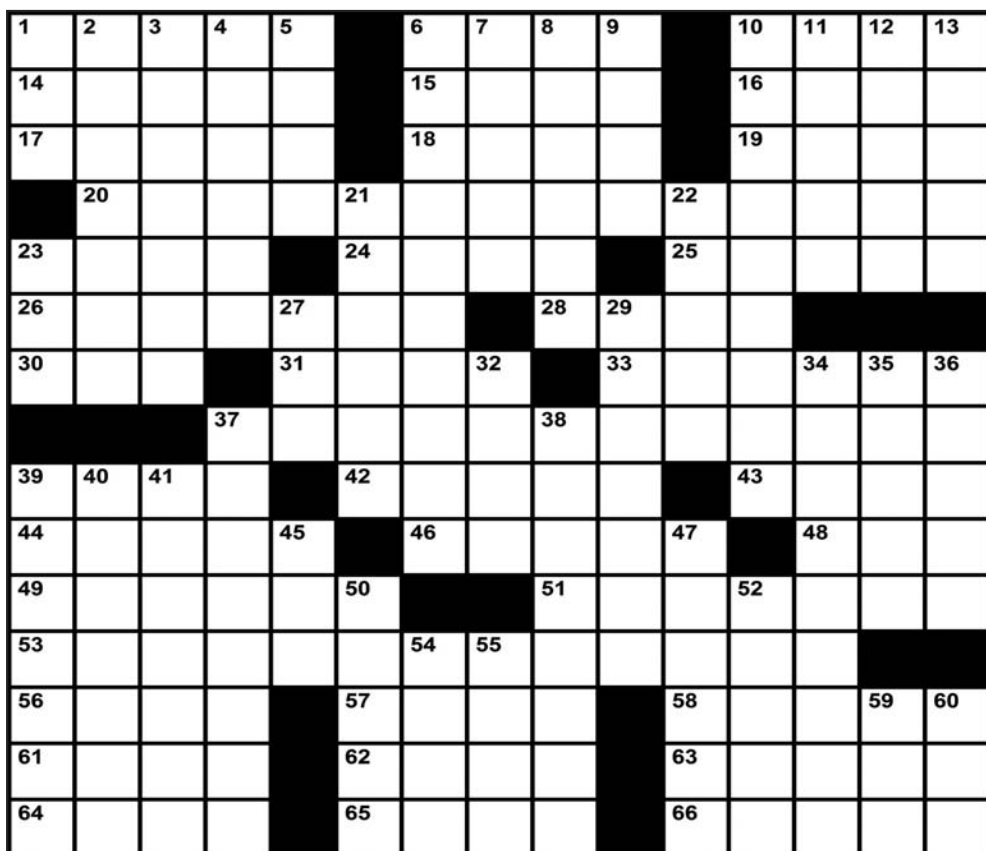
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Between the Covers

Solution on Page 32

Across

- 1 Chat room request
 6 Eat semi-firm noodles, e.g., with "up"
 10 Joe.My.God, for one
 14 Get a bead on
 15 Position at sea
 16 Villain of *Otello*
 17 *Alexander* director Oliver
 18 Cub slugger
 19 His grandmother had a Woody
 20 Single guys
 23 You may pick up one with gaydar
 24 By mouth
 25 "I took you for that cunning ___ of Venice" (*Othello*)
 26 Anthem of Jane Siberry's land
 28 Jannings of old films
 30 Bentley of *American Beauty*
 31 Edible pocket
 33 No zip
 37 Motel doorhandle sign
 39 Latin homo leader?
 42 Screwed up
 43 Part of Liberace's style
 44 Topsoils
 46 Events at Barneys
 48 Sorbonne summer

Down

- 49 *The Importance of Being* ___
 51 ACT UP member, at times
 53 Designer with book titles at 20- and 37-Across
 56 Judy Garland's "*Meet Me ___ Louis*"
 57 Composer Boulanger
 58 *My Fair Lady* composer
 61 Cock attachment
 62 "Forbidden" perfume
 63 One way to mark errors
 64 Swimmer you can eat
 65 Kind of dunk, to Sue Wicks
 66 Beasts with long ears and butts

Down

- 1 Carrier to Swed.
 2 Computer clickers for lesbian porn?
 3 They reproduce without sex or adoption
 4 *Back to the Future* bully Biff
 5 One way to cook fruit
 6 They help guys to sing soprano
 7 Island glad-hand word
 8 Give a loafer a new bottom
 9 Steady guy

10 Olympian that go both ways?

- 11 Veronica of *Sotto, Sotto*
 12 Looker in a gay bar?
 13 Poke in the backside
 21 First aid antiseptic
 22 The Brewers, e.g.
 23 Woman's promise to her wife, e.g.
 27 GI mail drop
 29 Females in fairy tales
 32 Big name in razors
 34 Masters of farm animals that don't breed
 35 About to blow
 36 "Li'l" guy of Dogpatch
 37 Like Ian McKellen as Richard III, e.g.
 38 Orgasmic rapture, for example
 39 Some Whitman works
 40 Greek city of old
 41 Basket rummy
 45 Taxpayer's ID
 47 Reagan Court appointee
 50 Fouls, to the Pinball Wizard
 52 Princess Diana and Diana Ross
 54 Small vessel
 55 Napoleon's exile isle
 59 Pee-___ Herman
 60 Wood and others



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