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Shooting down

Pidgjeon



v.

Turner

Analyzing the flawed Texas Supreme Court ruling

by David Taffet, Page 10

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. 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:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**

You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA 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 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:

- ◆ **You must continue to use 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:**

- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.

- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.

- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

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.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

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. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

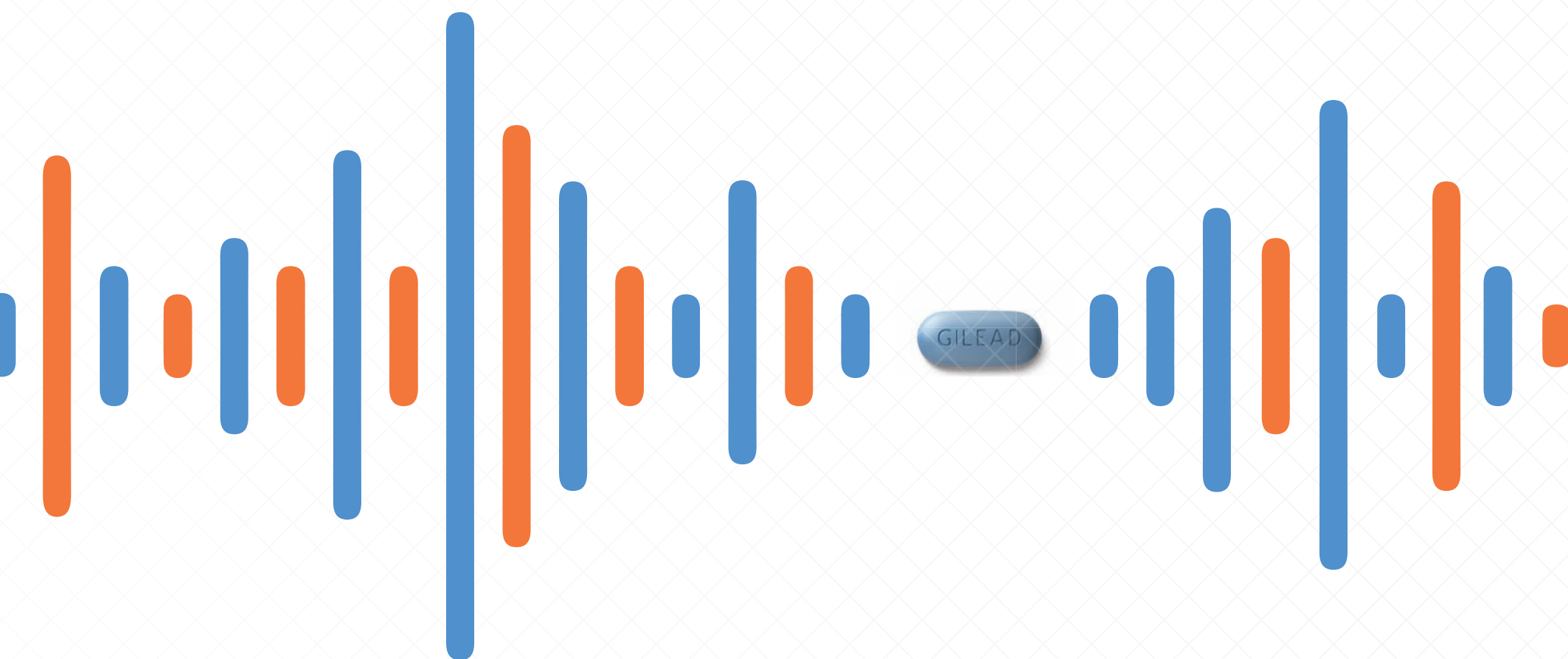
Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV 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, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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™?

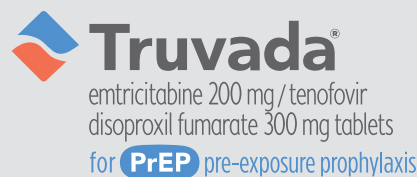
The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce
the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- 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.**

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(tru-VAH-dah)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. 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:

- **You must continue to use 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.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **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:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get 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.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider 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 certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

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.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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.

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.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

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.
- 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-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

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 FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having 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. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV 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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Marriage equality news around Europe

Germany

The German Parliament voted for marriage equality last week after Chancellor Angela Merkel allowed members of her party to vote freely on the issue. Although Merkel voted against the measure, a majority approved it.

Germany has had a civil union law for 15 years. The marriage law brings equality in areas like adoption, taxes and inheritance.

A recent poll shows 83 percent of Germans support marriage equality.

Armenia

Armenia became the second former Soviet republic to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. Estonia is the other former part of the Soviet Union that has been recognizing marriages performed abroad.

Homosexuality has been legal in Armenia since 2003, the same year it became legal across the U.S. with the Lawrence v. Texas decision that declared sodomy laws in this country unconstitutional.

Malta

A marriage equality law passed a second reading in Malta's parliament, and a final vote on the measure takes place on July 12. According to The Independent, the debate centered on use of gender-neutral words.

The opposition used arguments like they would no longer celebrate Mothers Day. Florists would lose money because no one would send flowers to their mother anymore and restaurants would lose money because no one would take their mothers out anymore.

— David Taffet

Patrick 'pushes back' after Straus links bathroom bill to suicide



Joe Straus

(IMHO: Dan Patrick's spokeswoman says the bathroom bill has never been about discrimination. That's bullshit and everybody knows it. It is and always has been exactly about discrimination against transgender people and anyone who doesn't "look right." — T. Nash.)

AUSTIN, Texas — The driving force in Texas behind a "bathroom bill" pushed back Monday, July 3, after the Republican House speaker was quoted as saying he didn't want a "suicide" on his hands over efforts to restrict which restrooms transgender people can use.

LGBT rights groups and other opponents, meanwhile, praised House Speaker Joe Straus over comments published in The New Yorker that signaled a moral opposition to a "bathroom bill" alongside his repeated condemnation of the measure as bad for the Texas economy.

In the story published Monday, author Lawrence Wright wrote that Straus told him about a senator coming to his office with a proposed compromise just before the bill collapsed in May.

"I'm not a lawyer, but I am a Texan," said Straus, according to the magazine. "I'm disgusted by all this. Tell the lieutenant governor I don't want the suicide of a single Texan on my hands."

Aides to Straus did not return emails Monday.

The comment appeared to echo concerns raised by LGBT rights groups that efforts to

restrict which bathrooms transgender people can use further marginalize a group of people who at least one recent survey has shown attempt suicide at a higher-than-average rate.

Republican Lt Gov. Dan Patrick has spearheaded the push for a North Carolina-style "bathroom bill" in Texas, and a spokeswoman said Monday he did not send any senators to Straus' office. She said the bill has never been about discrimination and that if Straus' comments were accurate, it would be "the latest of his reasons" for opposing the bill.

"The Lt. Governor hopes the Speaker did not make these comments. Obviously no one wants to see harm to anyone as a result of any legislation that is passed," Patrick spokeswoman Sherry Sylvestre said in an email to The Associated Press.

Straus is the powerful leader of the GOP-controlled House and for months has gone against Abbott and Patrick — as well as most Texas Republican lawmakers — in his public rejection of efforts to impose bathroom restrictions on transgender people. Patrick has blamed Straus for sinking the measure and forcing a special legislative session that will begin July 18.

In December, the largest survey of transgender Americans painted a grim picture of pervasive discrimination and harassment, finding that 40 percent of respondents said they had attempted suicide at some point. The survey by the National Center for Transgender Equality assessed input received in 2015 from 27,715 respondents in all 50 states. Researchers have estimated that the overall attempted suicide rate in the U.S. is less than 5 percent.

— Paul J. Weber/Associated Press

Lambda Legal pledges to fight Texas Supreme Court ruling while Paxton cheers the bigots on

Officials with Lambda Legal have pledged that their organization will "work with Houston attorneys to defend marriage" in response to the Texas Supreme Court ruling issued today claiming that legally-married same-sex couples do not have the right to marriage benefits.

In a statement released shortly after the Supreme Court ruling was announced, Lambda Legal accused the Texas Supreme court of defying the U.S. Supreme Court's marriage equality ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges, and pledged to help lead the fight to fully secure endangered marriage equality rights.

The Texas Supreme Court's ruling came in the case Pidgeon v. Turner, originally filed in late 2013 as Pidgeon v. Parker, challenging then-Houston Mayor Annise Parker's announcement that the city would begin offering health insurance and other benefits to the same-sex spouses of city employees.

Kenneth D. Upton Jr., senior counsel in Lambda Legal's South Central Regional Office in Dallas, declared, "This absurd contortion of the Obergefell ruling defies all logic and reason, especially in light of the Supreme Court's explicit ruling on Monday (June 26) that marriage is marriage and equal is equal. We will take steps to protect these families. The Court was very clear in the majority opinion about the scope of what marriage entails."

Eric Lesh, director of Lambda Legal's Fair Courts Projects, added that the Texas court ruling "is political and is an example of why elected judges are bad for LGBT people and bad for judicial independence."

— Tammye Nash

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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 **Brooke Oliver** attorney for Dykes on Bikes; **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; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

JULY

- **July 7: Big Bowling Blow-out**
Bowl for Hope supports the mission of Cathedral of Hope from 6-9 p.m. at AMF Richardson Lanes, 2101 N Central Expy., Richardson. CathedralofHope.com/47years.
- **July 8: Goddess Group's Clothing Swap and Dance Party**
Bring a laundry basket full of clothes to give away. Exchange then dance. \$10

entrance donation goes to Resource Center. Remaining clothing goes to Out of the Closet from 7-10 p.m. at White Rock Lake Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive.

- **July 7-9: Beyond Vanilla**

At the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Dallas, near the Galleria. Judy Tallwing is the keynote speaker. Advance registration fee starts at \$120; onsite registration is \$149. For information visit BeyondVanilla.org.

- **July 9-23: The Eclectic Anniversary Art Auction**

As part of its 47th anniversary celebration, Cathedral of Hope is transformed into an art gallery featuring a collection of original 20th and 21st century movie posters and art, including Texas artists and commissioned works. CathedralofHope.com/47years.

- **July 11: Get Centered**

Behind the scenes tour of the Resource Center led by CEO Cece Cox from 11 a.m.-noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **July 11: Social ExperiEvent**

Social ExperiEvent, a collaborative effort to combine various forms of artistic media into a social event, featuring artists Tamara Alexandra and Sergio Santos painting live, music by DJ Extra and nonprofits IGNITE and Step UP, plus a blackjack tournament and a cornhole competition, takes place from 5:30-9 p.m. at Pilikia, 3113 Ross Ave. Social ExperiEvent is held the second Tuesday of each month. For information visit Facebook.com/events/717790881734444.

- **July 13: New Member Showcase**

New North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce members show who they are and what they do from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Best Western, 8051 LBJ Freeway.

- **July 13: Table Captain informational happy hour**

Thinking of becoming a Black Tie Dinner table captain? Representatives will be there to answer your questions. Sign up by 7 p.m. and you'll be eligible for your table to upgrade to Sapphire sponsor from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Stirr, 2803 Main St.

- **July 14: Voyeurotic Carnival: A Night of Circus and Burlesque**
PolyDallas Millennium LLC, hosts



BLACK TIE DINNER

Thinking of becoming a Black Tie Dinner table captain? Not sure you can do it? Have some questions? Black Tie Dinner is holding an informational happy hour to answer all your questions. Sign up by 7 p.m. to be eligible for a table upgrade to Sapphire sponsor for better seating near the stage and other perks. See listing for event details.

Voyeurotic Carnival: A Night of Circus and Burlesque at 8 p.m., at Viva's, 1350 Manufacturing, featuring Sydni Deveraux of New York City, Onyx Fury, Amy Henderson, Olive Avira, Iris Le'Mour, Vivienne Vermuth and Nox Falls, and emceed by Lillith Grey. The event is part of PolyDallas's 3rd annual symposium, "Power, Equality and Anarchy in Polyamory," being held July 14-16 at Crowne Plaza Dallas Market, 7050 N. Stemmons. Tickets for the burlesque show start at \$20 and are available at Prekindle.comn/vivas. For information on the seminar visit PolyDallasMillennium.com.

- **July 14: DFW Pride Happy Hour**

DFW Pride Happy Hour, organized and maintained as a community service by Texas Instruments' TI Pride Network, will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St., No. 140, in The Quadrangle. For information email pavw@ti.com.

- **July 15: Firecracker Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

- **July 16: Summer Psychic & Holistic Fair**

The Labyrinth Walk Coffee House presents the Summer Psychic and Holistic Fair at the UU Church of Oak Cliff, 2829 W. Kiest Blvd. Will include a variety of readers, healers, Reiki practitioners and more, plus vendors selling healing crystals, jewelry, bath products, art and more. Admission is free; readings start at \$20 per 15-minute session. For information visit LabyrinthWalkCoffeehouse.com.

- **July 18: Get Centered**

Behind the scenes tour of the Resource Center led by CEO Cece Cox from 11 a.m.-

noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **July 20: Gray Pride**

Monthly mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **July 21: Federal Club mixer**

Mixer for LGBT adults and allies from 6-8 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway.

- **July 22: Pride festival auditions**

Audition to perform on the community stage at the Sept. 16 Pride festival in Reverchon Park from 1-4 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

- **July 23: The Wedding Party & Expo**

Dallas Voice presents the third LGBT Wedding Expo to connect businesses with couples who are planning a wedding. Vendors include bakers, car services, caterers, clergy, florists, formal and bridal wear, jewelers, musicians, photographers and videographers, printers, venues, destinations and more from 1-4 p.m. at Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway.

- **July 23: A Very Sordid Wedding**

Screening of the film followed by Q&A with Ann Walker, Emerson Collins (producer), Rosemary Alexander, Newell Alexander and Del Shores at 5:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at CathedralofHope.com/47years.

- **July 24: Multi-Candidate Meet & Greet, Collin County**

Dani Pellett, candidate for Texas' District 32 congressional seat, hosts a multi-candidate meet-and-greet for Collin County from 7-9 p.m. at 281 Paddock Trail in Fairview. For information email Dani@DaniForCongress or call 802-392-DANI.

• **July 27: Peeling back the curtain**
 Stories you haven't heard. Tour the clinic and hear about programs you made possible through LifeWalk and other donations. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres served from 6-8 p.m. at Prism Health North Texas, Oak Cliff Clinic, 219 Sunset Ave #116A.

• **July 28: Last Bag Standing**
 CornHole Tournament with two-person teams. \$50 entry fee. Hosted by Chad West and Chris Moffett. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Hogg Elementary School. From 7-10 p.m. at BBBop, 828 W. Davis St. DashfortheBeads.org/last-bag-standing.

• **July 29: Pride festival auditions**
 Audition to perform on the community stage at the Sept. 16 Pride festival in Reverchon Park from 1-4 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **July 29: Gay For Good**
 G4G will be serving food, water and busing tables at The Stewpot from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up at GayForGood.org/dfw_g4g_the_stewpot

• **July 29: Reception for Troy Perry**
 The Rev. Elder Troy Perry will be on hand

for a reception from 7-9 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. CathedralofHope.com/47years.

July 30: CoH's guest preacher Troy Perry
 The Rev. Elder Troy Perry will be the guest preacher at 11 a.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. CathedralofHope.com/47years.

AUGUST

• **Aug. 1: Get Centered**
 Behind the scenes tour of the Resource Center led by CEO Cece Cox from 11 a.m.-noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 1: Classic Chassis Car Club**
 Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

• **Aug. 12: Landmark Dinner**
 Lambda Legal's annual dinner, 6-10 p.m. at The Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce St. in Dallas. Individual tickets are \$250; sponsorships are available, starting at \$1,500. For information email Carla McKinzie at cmckinzie@lambdalegal.org or call 214-219-8585.

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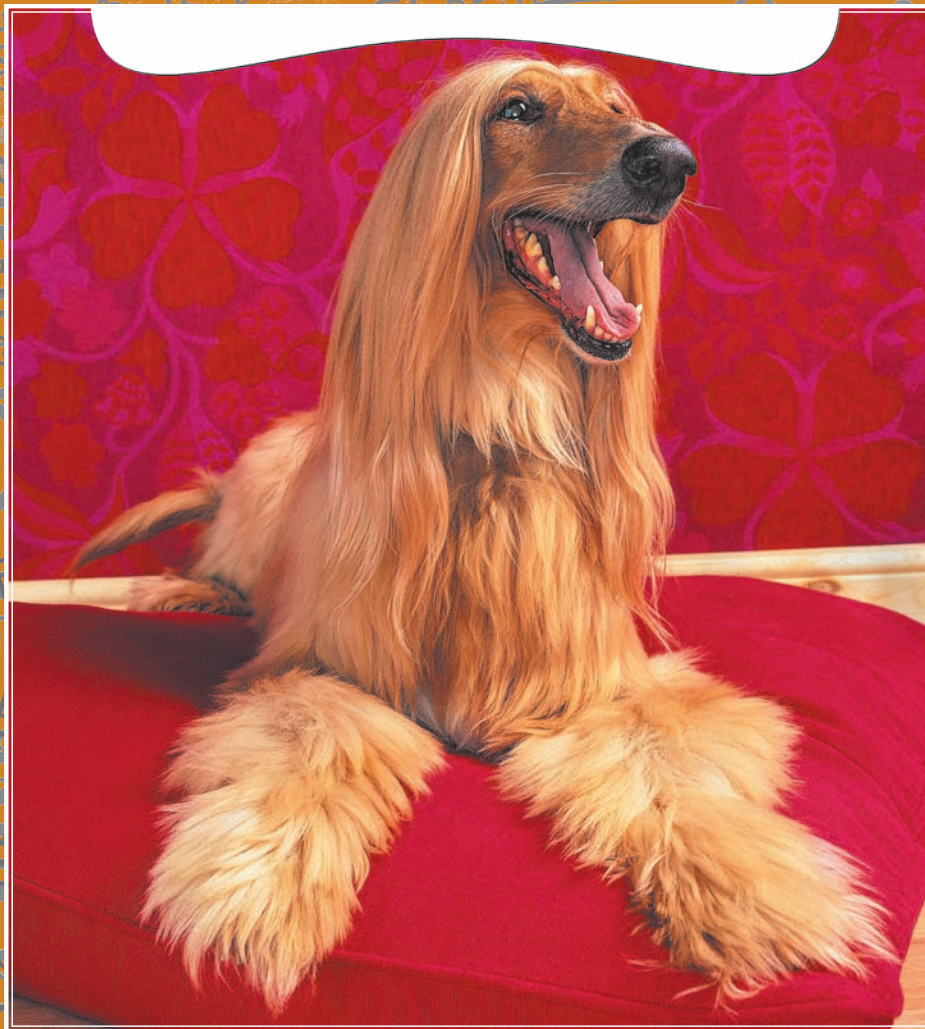
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ANALYSIS:

Shooting down Pidgeon v. Turner

The Texas Supreme Court tries to roll back advances made in *Obergefell* by denying the expansiveness of the ruling

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Four days after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision advancing LGBT family rights, and after two years of marriage equality in Texas have resulted in thousands of married same-sex couples, the Texas Supreme Court on June 30 ruled those couples don't necessarily have a right to the same marriage benefits as opposite-sex couples.

On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court summarily overturned an Arkansas law dealing with who can be listed as a parent on a birth certificate. The decision in the case, known as *Pavan v. Smith*, opens with an explanation of the 2015 *Obergefell* ruling: "The Constitution entitles same-sex couples to civil marriage 'on the same

terms and conditions as opposite-sex couples.'"

Four days later, the Texas Supreme Court mentioned *Pavan* in its ruling, but ignored what the ruling said, ignored the *Obergefell* ruling and, instead, concentrated on and dismissed the Texas marriage equality case, *DeLeon v. Perry*.

In its *Pidgeon v. Turner* ruling, the Texas Court wrote, "5th Circuit decisions are not binding on Texas courts" and "they are obligated to follow only higher Texas courts and the United States Supreme Court." The 5th Circuit heard arguments in *DeLeon* but had not issued any ruling before the U.S. Supreme Court issued its *Obergefell* decision.

The *Pavan* ruling stated that if a non-biological opposite-sex spouse would automatically be placed on a birth certificate, a non-biological same-sex spouse should also be placed on their child's birth certificate.

The Texas court uses SCOTUS' review of the case to argue that it's an example of "an issue it did not address in *Obergefell*." But the Texas court ignored that the U.S. Supreme Court, in its ruling, told the Arkansas Supreme Court that this matter was already settled law, as per the *Obergefell* ruling.

The Texas court then ignored *Obergefell*, which actually went into detail explaining that although marriage was historically between a man and a woman, marriage has always evolved, and today it isn't what it was in the past.

Pidgeon questions whether *Obergefell* meant any-

thing more than states must issue a license, ignoring the U.S. Supreme Court's instruction that all marriages are entitled to the same "rights, benefits, and responsibilities."

After dismissing the U.S. Supreme Court's actual words in the two cases, the Texas court concentrated on the appeals court's actions that it claims it doesn't need to follow. The Texas court explained that the 5th Circuit only upheld a lower federal court ruling after *Obergefell*. But even if they're bothered by the 5th Circuit's failure to issue an actual ruling, they claim they wouldn't be bound by it anyway.

"The Supreme Court held in *Obergefell* that the Constitution requires states to license and recognize same-sex marriages to the same extent that they license and recognize opposite-sex marriages, but it did not hold that states must provide the same publicly funded benefits to all married persons, and — unlike the 5th Circuit in *De Leon* — it did not hold that the Texas DOMAs are unconstitutional," the Texas Supreme Court wrote.

After the *Obergefell* ruling, the 5th Circuit affirmed the decision of the lower court, which ruled in favor of equality, agreeing with the U.S. Supreme Court. But in its decision, the Texas Supreme Court declared the only federal court that has jurisdiction over it is the U.S. Supreme Court, so *DeLeon* was irrelevant.

Background

Pidgeon v. Turner originated in 2013 and was then known as *Pidgeon v. Parker*, after the Windsor decision invalidated part of the Defense of Marriage Act. Then-Houston Mayor Annise Parker, on advice from the city attorney, extended marriage benefits to same-sex couples who had married in other states or countries.

A month later, two Houston residents, Jack Pidgeon and Larry Hicks, filed suit and got an injunction claiming those benefits violated the Texas Constitution and the Texas Family Code. That injunction was lifted after the *Obergefell* decision in 2015, and Houston began offering equal benefits to city employees.

Once benefits were offered, the Houston plaintiffs asked the Texas Supreme Court to hear the case. The court refused at first, but after receiving amicus briefs from Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Attorney General Ken Paxton, the court reversed its course and agreed to hear the case.

After Parker left office, her successor Sylvester Turner left her nondiscrimination policies in place, and Pidgeon and Hicks continued their lawsuit against Houston and the new mayor.

The effect of the ruling

Shannon Minter is the legal



director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which argued *Pavan* in the U.S. Supreme Court and won.

"You don't expect a court to rule that way," Minter said about the Texas court ruling. "There is a U.S. Supreme Court precedent — 'We told you this already.'"

He said what stands out in this case is the Texas court's pretense that there's an open question or uncertainly. "*Pavan* laid that to rest," he said. "It's an inexcusable error."

Minter called this more than just a bad ruling that would be overturned. He said it was very disturbing that a state supreme court would fail to follow law as set by the U.S. Supreme Court. He said he could think of no examples of the high court of any state making a similar ruling on abortion rights and had to go back as far as *Brown v. Board of Education* in the early 1950s, when state courts tried to block implementation of integration, to find anything similar.

During that period, Texas courts refused to enforce *Brown* on the premise that no Texas laws had been challenged. But the Texas Supreme Court ruled the cases were "so utterly without merit that we overrule it without further discussion."

In the current case, the Texas Supreme

Court even mentions its own decision regarding *Brown* — and then ignores it.

"It's shocking, shameful and [it] undermines the integrity of our political system," Minter said. "We rely on our courts to play by the rules."

He said when the Arkansas Supreme Court agreed with the state and tried to prevent a same-sex parent from appearing on her child's birth certificate, the ruling was summarily reversed in *Pavan*. That ruling reiterates that *Obergefell* makes it clear the U.S. Supreme Court was not interested in hearing cases about the rights of same-sex couples benefit by benefit.

That the Texas court ruled just a mere four days after *Pavan*, Minter said, makes this ruling "unconscionable." The ruling, he said, "sets a dangerous precedent that should be of concern to every person in the state."

Mary Bonauto, the attorney who argued *Obergefell* in front of the U.S. Supreme Court issued a statement that agreed: "The U.S. Supreme Court in *Obergefell* unambiguously recognized the fundamental and equal right to marry for same-sex couples nationwide, together with access to all the same legal rights, benefits and responsibilities as-

sociated with marriage without discrimination — a recognition the court, in fact, just re-affirmed this week in *Pavan v. Smith*," Bonauto wrote. "For the Texas court to leave open the possibility that *Obergefell* could be read otherwise is, plainly, wrong."

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Lee Daugherty called Abbott, Patrick and Paxton's interference "highly inappropriate."

"These Republicans are using their offices' power to coerce the Texas Supreme Court to further their own religiously motivated and openly bigoted agendas," he said.

He encouraged the city of Houston to appeal the decision directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Pidgeon and Hicks' attorney, Jared Woodfill, on the other hand, told Texas Monthly he would also like the case to go to the U.S. Supreme Court, but he hopes it's a vehicle for overturning *Obergefell*.

Dallas Voice reached out to attorneys for the

National Center for Lesbian Rights Shannon Minter, second from right, shown here with attorney Gloria Allred and California marriage equality plaintiffs Pali Cooper and Jeanne Rizzo in 2008, called the Texas Supreme Court's June 30th decision shocking and shameful. (Jose Sanchez/Associated Press)

city of Houston for comment but as of press deadline, had not heard back from them.



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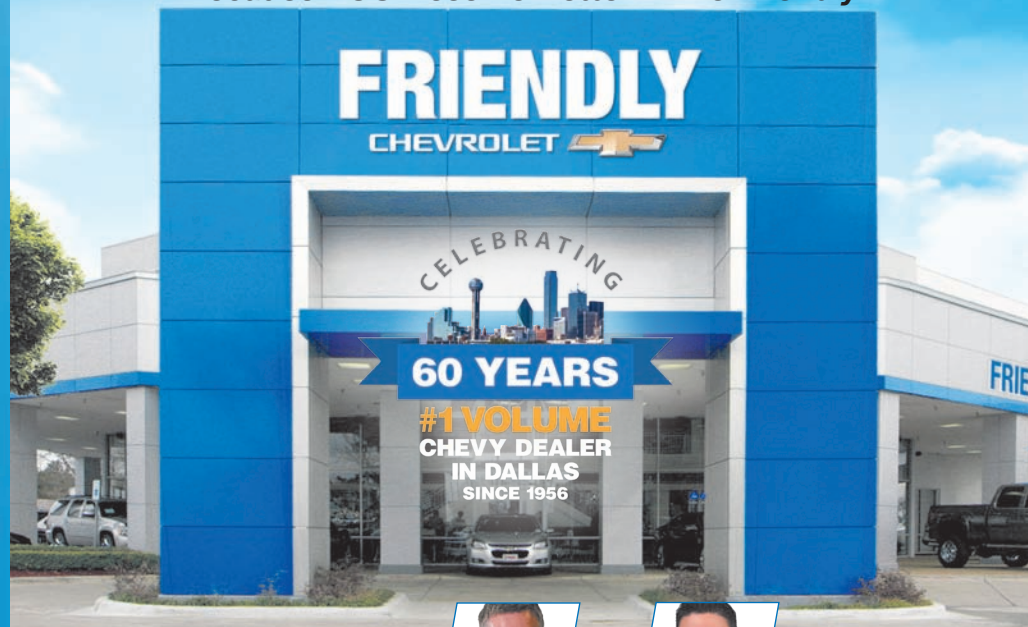


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Gearing up again

Advocates encourage Texans to keep fighting as special session looms

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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When the 85th Texas Legislature ended its regular session on May 29, the state's LGBT community heaved a collective sigh of relief.

Yes, lawmakers had passed — and Gov. Greg Abbott eventually signed — a bill allowing adoption and foster care organizations to make decisions based on religious beliefs and still receive state funding, setting the scene for LGBT youth and potential adoptive or foster parents to face discrimination. But it could have been worse. Other

so-called “religious refusal” bills failed to make headway, and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick’s notorious “bathroom bill” fell short, as well.

But some necessary pieces of legislation fell victim to the wrangling over potty politics and other discriminatory bills, and Abbott quickly called for a special session, setting an extensive agenda that includes a call for passage of a bathroom bill, abortion restrictions, school vouchers and more.

Now, with opening day of the special session — July 18 — less than two weeks away, LGBT advocates and other progressive leaders are rallying the troops in hopes of once again holding discrimination at bay in the Lone Star State.

David Topping, the Human Rights Campaign’s Texas field manager, said Thursday that he and his team of seven field organizers — including Criss Ruiz in Dallas — are “activating our volunteers across the state,” urging people to call their state representatives, state senators and the governor “and talk about why the bathroom bill and these other discriminatory bills are bad for Tex-



Criss Ruiz

as.”

“People need to let their elected officials know that this is a hurtful special session that is focusing on discrimination,” Topping said, adding that HRC is “opposed to discrimination in all its forms,” and is “working side-by-side with our coalition partners every single day” to stop discriminatory legislation in the special session.

“We will be here til the end of it,” Topping

said, noting that other coalition members include Equality Texas, the ACLU of Texas, Texas Freedom Network and the Transgender Education Network of Texas to oppose not just anti-LGBT bills, but all legislation targeting progressive issues.

Coalition partners are planning the One Texas Resistance rally and day of action at the state Capitol, on July 18, and Topping said he hopes to see as many people as

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How to Get Involved

For information on the One Texas Resistance rally and day of action, visit [Facebook.com/events/243320782832909](https://www.facebook.com/events/243320782832909).

For information on phone banks and other volunteer opportunities in Dallas/Fort Worth, visit the DFW HRC page at [Facebook.com/HRCDFW](https://www.facebook.com/HRCDFW) or the DFW Federal Club page at [Facebook.com/DFWFederalClub](https://www.facebook.com/DFWFederalClub).

You can also email Criss Ruiz at criss.ruiz@hrc.org for information on volunteering.

possible in Austin for that event.

Jose Medina, deputy communications manager for Texas Freedom Network, said that the rally is “still in the planning stages,” but the purpose is to declare “the one unifying message, which is that we are one Texas, and we are standing against extreme legislation.”

Medina said, “The most effective thing is for state representatives and state senators to hear from their constituents, telling them that this [bathroom bill and other discriminatory measures] isn’t something most fair-minded Texans want. They want real issues, not fabricated issues. And the bathroom bill is a fabricated issue.

“Calling your elected officials really works,” he said. “If we get enough people calling their offices, we can stop these discriminatory bills.”

Ruiz said that getting people calling their elected officials is exactly what she has been working on, and will continue to work on up through the session itself.

“We are trying to get our phone banks up to par, to get people calling. Even if you’ve

never phone banked before, come help. We can show you how to do it right then and there,” Ruiz said.

“We have to get people energized and organized,” she continued. “I know it’s all been taking a toll on people. There’s been a lot of wear and tear on people. But the fight is not over. No matter how tired you are, we’ve got to keep going. You can’t just sit back and watch. You can be part of the change.”

Abbott’s agenda for the special session includes: passage of a bathroom bill that would prohibit transgender people from using appropriate public restroom facilities and would negate local nondiscrimination ordinances; passage of legislation to keep public funds from being used to pay for abortions, to bar some insurance plans from covering the procedure and to tighten restrictions on clinics where abortions are performed; passage of a school voucher program to allow taxpayer dollars to allow some special education students to attend private schools; and passage of legislation increasing teacher pay statewide and create a commission



to fix the school finance system.

Other issues on his agenda include voter fraud legislation, maternal mortality,

property tax cuts, local government limits, union dues, end of life care and agency operation. ■

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Brenda Tripp

DoD puts off change
allowing trans people to
enlist for another 6 months

FROM STAFF REPORTS AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is giving the military chiefs another six months to conduct a review to determine if allowing transgender individuals to enlist in the armed services will affect the “readiness or lethality” of the force.

Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said Mattis made the decision Friday, June 30. The delay in allowing the enlistment of new recruits does not affect transgender troops who are already serving openly.



“After consulting with the service chiefs and secretaries, I have determined that it is necessary to defer the start of accessions for six months,” Mattis said in a memo that was sent Friday to the service chiefs and secretaries and was obtained by The Associated Press. “We will use this additional time to evaluate more carefully the impact of such accessions on readiness and lethality.”

In the memo, Mattis said he believes the department must measure “each policy decision against one standard” — whether it affects the ability of the military to defend the nation.

Mattis’ decision formally endorses an agreement hammered out last week by the leaders of the four military services, which

rejected Army and Air Force requests for a two-year wait. And it reflects the broader worry that a longer delay would trigger criticism on Capitol Hill, officials familiar with the talks told the AP.

The request for a delay was sent to Mattis for a final decision last week.

Mattis said the review by the services must be completed by Dec. 1, and he noted that his approval of a delay “does not presuppose the outcome of the review.” He said the additional time would ensure he has “the benefit of the views of the military leadership and of the senior civilian

officials who are now arriving in the department.”

Mattis’ decision was met with divided reaction.

Brenda Antoinette Tripp, a North Texas transgender woman who spent 20 years on active duty with the U.S. military and another eight in the reserves, said the decision is “disheartening and not substantiated by real data.”

Tripp continued, “Please explain how this makes sense. It’s OK for both heterosexual and homosexual men and women to serve, and to serve honorably. You have people with same-sex attraction changing clothes next to those

with opposite-sex attraction, and there are no real problems [because] they all know how to act professionally. But someone who is transgender is now a threat?”

Tripp, who did not come out as a transgender woman until after she left the military, said she is “very disappointed in my country’s leadership,” adding that many people thought when the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy was ended allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly, that also ended the ban on transgender servicemembers. “Most people did not have a clue as to the difference,” she said. “How can we as military volunteers trust a leadership that withdraws support from its own people? If they go back on this, they send a very dangerous

message to the citizens who step up to serve this country.

“The legislators and administrators who are abandoning people who trusted them are the real threat to our readiness,” she said.

Stephen Peters, Human Rights Campaign spokesman and a Marine veteran, said, “Each day that passes without the policy in place restricts the armed forces’ ability to recruit the best and the brightest, regardless of gender identity.”

A basic training instructor for one branch of the military said this week that “this delay is hurting us. We have to remember that our new [recruits] are more accepting than we give them credit for. I’ve had many talks with [recruits and] some are afraid because it’s a change. But for the most part, they are wondering why it’s taking so long.

“We as a country and a military have already overcome several integrations that people thought were going to be the end of it all,” the instructor continued. “We integrated African-Americans, foreigners from other countries as a way for them to gain citizenship, and the gay and lesbian community. This is no different. We will show our strength in numbers by being supportive of the [servicemember] beside us, not their race, religion, gender or sexual preference.”

The instructor acknowledged that there will be “bad eggs,” but insisted that is just because “we are a more condensed version of the communities we come from. [But plans are already in motion to ensure that every servicemember] has privacy and feels comfortable in the uncomfortable environment of basic training. Let’s stop looking for the negative and look at the positive of having another [recruit] that wants to defend the country we love.”

OutServe-SLDN (formerly the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network) issued a statement noting that Out-Serve has been working with Pentagon officials and allied organizations to ensure the necessary policy changes were ready for implementation by July 1. The organization, according to the statement, is “confident that the services are equipped to support this final piece of transgender military service and there should no delay in its implementation. We are disappointed” that the DoD has chosen to delay implementation.

Acknowledging that OutServe can’t do anything to avoid the six-month delay, the statement went on to “reiterate that the ser-

vices are prepared for transgender individuals and assert that delays beyond January 2018 will have a negative impact on military readiness [and] that we cannot tolerate.”

Transgender service members have been able to serve openly in the military since last year, when then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter ended the ban, declaring it the right thing to do. Since Oct. 1, transgender troops have been able to receive medical care and start formally changing their gender identifications in the Pentagon’s personnel system. OutServe estimated that there are more than 14,000 transgender men and women already serving in the U.S. armed forces, many of them serving openly, thanks to Carter’s actions a year ago.

Still waiting

Carter gave the services until July 1 to develop policies to allow people already identifying as transgender to newly join the military, if they meet physical, medical and other standards, and have been stable in their identified genders for 18 months.

The military chiefs have argued they need more time to study the issue and its effects on the readiness of the force before taking that step. According to officials familiar with the internal discussions, the chiefs believe the extra six months would give the four military services time to gauge if currently serving transgender troops are facing problems and what necessary changes military bases might have to make.

They said Navy officials were ready to begin enlistment in July but asked for a one-year delay, largely to accommodate a request from the Marine Corps for more time. The Navy secretary also oversees the Marine Corps. The Army and Air Force wanted a two-year delay to further study the issue, they said.

Already, there are as many as 250 service members who are in the process of transitioning to their preferred genders or who have been approved to formally change gender within the Pentagon’s personnel system, according to several defense officials. Key concerns include whether currently enlisted troops have had medical or other issues that cause delays or problems with their ability to deploy or meet physical or other standards for their jobs. Military leaders also want to review how transgender troops are treated, if they’re discriminated against or if they have had disciplinary problems, the officials said. ■

Pride in México City

About 500,000 attend
39th Pride march in capitol city

JESUS CHAIREZ | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

MÉXICO CITY — The México City LGBTTTI (Lésbico, Gay, Bisexual, Transgénero, Travesti, Transexual e Intersexual) community kicked off its XXXIX Pride march on Saturday, June 24, marching down the city's main avenue, Paseo de la Reforma, which runs through the middle of the city of 22 million people.

In the U.S., such a gathering of people and floats streaming down the middle of the street is called a parade. Here in México, it is more than a parade; it is a march of solidarity and unity. There are no inactive, passive observers on the sidelines here; almost everyone is walking alongside floats and group entries toward the city's Zocalo (main square) where the presidential palace is located.

An estimated 500,000 revelers gathered at the border of México City's gayborhood La Zona Rosa (the Pink Zone), at the El Angel de la Independencia (Angel of Independence). The Angel, as it is known, is one of México City's most important monuments and a good starting point since it symbolizes Mexican freedom.

This year's parade theme was *Respetar Mi Familia, Mi Libertad, Mi Vida* (Respect My Family, My Freedom, My Life), and respect is what the LGBT community still strives for, even though México City has had same-sex marriage and adoption rights since December 2009.

Life is good for LGBT people here in liberal México City, with lots of freedom, community admiration and respect. The mayor not only proclaimed June as LGBT Pride Month, he also proclaimed México City as a *Ciudad Arcoíris*, (Rainbow City), a city that is most gay friendly.

The LGBT communities do not want to lose that respect and are fighting diligently to advance their rights.

In 2016, the Catholic Church supported México's National Front for the Family, a coalition of more than 1,000 organizations, in its March for the Family events around the country. These marches, along with the Catholic Church, influenced Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, keeping him from promoting protections for same-sex marriage as part of México's constitution. Still, the LGBT community here is not faced with anything like what Texas' LGBT communi-

ty is fighting in terms of the homophobic legislation. At least not yet.

LGBT groups from all around United States of México (yes, that is how it is officially known) have their Pride marches and parades a week or two before the México City march to avoid conflicts with what is considered México's main Pride march. That's why people from all over México are able to attend the Pride march here in the capital city.

There were not just people from all over México attending the march are people from all around Latin and South America and the rest of the world were there. Proud gay Latinos from Dallas attended this year's activities in México City, too.

Juan Herrera and Derrick Villa, both



members of Front Runners Dallas, came to México City to participate in the march. Though the two said they had no ideas what to expect from the march, they enjoyed it very much and were most impressed with the size of the crowd of people of all ages, sexes and colors. They both said they felt very safe in the city, too.

March entries and a lot of individuals made political statements with their attire and handmade signs. There were several posters portaying Russian President Vladimir Putin with a Hitler moustache, an obvious reference to what is happening to gay men in Chechnya.

But there were no Donald Trump masks

or even any references to the American president, as far as I could see. I guess people just couldn't be bothered.

Another thing missing from this sea of rainbow flags was a rainbow flag with the two extra colors brown and black such as the one adopted this year by Pride organizers in Philadelphia. I asked one of México's leading gay activists, who was one of the original march organizers 39 years ago, for his thoughts on the proposed additional colors, and he scoffed at the idea, saying he thinks it is an awful idea and that he chose to stay with the traditional flag, instead. ■

Jesus Chairez is a former Dallasite now living in México City. He was the producer and host of



North Texas first bilingual LGBT Latino radio show, Sin Fronteras on KNON 89.3 FM; from July 1993 to July 2005. Chairez is a published author in the book, Queer Brown Voices, a collective of Personal Narratives of Latina/o Activism. He is also a freelance writer/artist and can be reached at facebook.com/Jesus-Chairez

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■ commUNITYvoices

The exotic, scandalous ‘transgender lifestyle’

With the Texas Legislature’s special session set to get underway on July 18, I thought I would shed some light on what Dan Patrick, the Republican caucus and right wing evangelicals call “the transgender lifestyle.”

This “lifestyle” is apparently their justification for keeping us out of the bathroom and public spaces, denying us medical care, preventing us from serving in the U.S. military and interfering with attempts to offer us protections relating to employment and housing.

This “lifestyle” of ours must be pretty outrageous, right?

In the interest of pure sensationalistic journalism, I offer you, dear readers, a rare peek behind the curtain into the real lives of



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

were out on the street, and police were directing traffic for the fireworks show on Saturday night. No one even gave our “lifestyle” a second glance.

We had pancakes for dinner. Maybe Dan Patrick finds it creepy that sometimes we have breakfast

for dinner, but Katie loves it. Then we walked to the store to buy some milk because we were low, and Katie loves her glass of Ovaltine at night before bed.

mining marriage and the traditional family, I set up my coffee maker to have my coffee ready for me before I head back to work on Monday morning. See, I have a 9-to-5 job as part of my outlandish “transgender lifestyle.” And Katie? Her “transgender lifestyle” includes being an attorney.

Pretty wild, right?

Is all this worthy of scorn? Of judgment? Of hatred and fear?

What is so scary about our lifestyle?

Being transgender makes up a small part of who we are. We are really just two more women who live and work in Dallas County. Our lives are very ordinary, actually. We have the same desire for safety and privacy as each of our neighbors.

But are we unusual among transgender



two actual, real-life transgender women — me and my partner, Katie.

Let’s start with our outrageous weekend, shall we?

Friday, I went to happy hour with some people from work. I had a diet coke and a handful of tortilla chips. I used the bathroom at Mattito’s without incident. See, I just had to pee.

Then I drove home, to the house Katie and I recently bought in Coppell. (We pay property tax just like everyone else.) Katie was in the back yard with our two border collies, Breezy and Patches. She was fixing a sprinkler head that had broken off. (She’s so handy.)

I made Katie a scrambled-egg sandwich for dinner. We watched an HBO comedy special before heading to bed.

Saturday started off in an especially decadent manner — I slept in until 8 a.m. and drank coffee in bed. Katie and I ran a couple of errands before coming home and assembling the new lawnmower we bought. We then mowed the lawn. Lots of people

After that, we joined a few thousand people to enjoy the fireworks show in Coppell. Other than trying to avoid West Nile by spraying “Off!” all over ourselves, we had a beautiful evening.

Sunday, we drove to Home Depot after breakfast to pick up a couple of parts for the sprinkler in the yard and a new exhaust fan for the bathroom at home. We managed to get installed without incident. We also picked up some paint to tidy up the trim on the outside of the house.

While Katie worked in the yard, I went to Kroger to buy groceries for the week, and later — get this! — we drove to Costco and bought some ribs to cook on the grill and some cat food for the kitties.

So many people have recommended it, so we finally watched the first episode of *Game of Thrones*. I know, I know; it’s scandalous how far behind we are. Perhaps that is why legislators want to deny us healthcare (or prevent trans children from using the bathroom)?

Worn out by my busy weekend of under-

people? Are we the transgender outliers?

No, not really. Transgender people are not that much different from anyone else in most areas. We aren’t trying to trick anyone. We aren’t the pathetic street people portrayed in movies.

So there you have it, Dan Patrick. There it is: the “transgender lifestyle” in all its decadent glory. I just can’t seem to figure out what it is about it that is making us the target of your hatred and fear.

What is it about a 7-year-old trans girl that has you so wound up that you would lobby for a special session of the Legislature just so you can dictate where she goes to the bathroom. Frankly, the idea of a grown man worrying about where a 7-year-old girl goes potty — now THERE’S a deviant lifestyle! That’s something that to me, as a parent, warrants closer scrutiny. You just sound creepy.

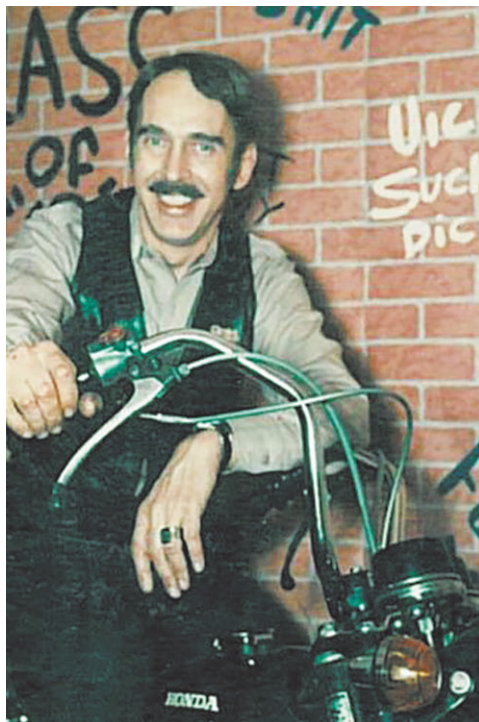
Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

Saying goodbye to a legend

What drew me to the “leather scene” in the 1970s was an image — a composite, really, of masculine images that all spoke of a raw passion and eros. The drawings of Tom of Finland, the paintings of Etienne, those photos of mustached men in leather jackets and little else in the pages of “physique” magazines from the 1960s — they all spoke to something deep inside me and motivated me to seek out those men.

What I didn’t know at the time was many of those images were a direct result of the work of a man whose name I didn’t learn until many years later: Chuck Renslow.

Chuck began working as a photographer in the 1950s, shooting images of the ballet. Later, his interests led him to body builders and, with his lover at the time Don Orejudos (the painter known as Etienne), he formed Kris Studios. That endeavor became one of the most profitable and prolific publishers of male erotica in the country.



Chuck Renslow

Along the way, Chuck and Etienne purchased the Gold Coast bar in Chicago, and the first leather bar was born. That bar was part of my early leather life, being the first big city leather bar I ever went into.

That bar also became the site of a contest which eventually became International Mister Leather. IML moved out of the bar in 1979, and now the yearly event draws almost 10,000 leather enthusiasts to Chicago



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

from all over the world. In 2013, I was honored to be a judge in that contest, and the experience ranks as one of my most memorable. I interviewed more than 50 contestants before helping narrow down the field to the top 20, who went on to compete in front of a huge crowd at Chicago’s Harris Theater.

Chuck has been a steadfast supporter of the leather community beyond IML, too, contributing to many charities and instrumental in the formation of the Leather Archives and Museum. That institution holds the world’s largest collection of leather-related memorabilia and literature. Its archives hold the papers of hundreds of LGBT writers and activists in the leather realm — including a few bits of my own past. On my last visit, I was shown my first club vest from the Dallas Motorcycle Club, neatly preserved and stored away. My papers and personal collections will end up there some day in the (hopefully) distant future.

Chuck was also an enthusiastic supporter of LGBT rights, and when Chicago’s LGBT community organized its first Pride parade, Chuck was there, contributing his time and money to make it a reality.

I had a chance to get to know Chuck better on a trip to South Africa a few years ago. I got to listen to a few of his stories, and I got a much better sense of his sense of humor and his commitment to our community. It is an experience even more dear to me now, since he is gone.

Chuck Renslow died of heart failure on June 29 at the age of 87. He is survived by his partner, Ron Ehemann, and his two sons, Patrick Corcoran and Robert Wilke. He is also survived by a large and loving family of leather men and women from all parts of the globe.

He will be missed not just by his family, not just by me, but by a generation of leather folk whose lives he influenced for the better. ■

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.



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Nico suave

Sexy actor — and proud
bisexual — Nico Tortorella
embraces polyamory

When it comes to Hollywood interviews, they're "just so fucking straightforward and boring and everybody asks the same questions and it just gets redundant," explains Nico Tortorella. But our interview is different.

"This is a straight-up *Love Bomb* episode," acknowledges the 28-year-old actor, likening the conversational tone of our exchange to his love- and sexuality-centric podcast, now in its second season.

Though he touches on *Menendez: Blood Brothers*, his Lifetime movie about the infamous, parricidal siblings (which debuted earlier this month), and the upcoming season of his series, TV Land's *Younger*, Tortorella greatly expounds on his ever-evolving sexual identity, which has been an ongoing dialogue — internally and externally — since the actor revealed his label-less fluidity a year ago.

Now identifying as a "proud" bisexual, the Chicago-born dreamboat candidly discusses his desire for a polyamorous relationship, struggling with his sexuality as a kid before finding his queer "safe haven" within the theater and his current mission to normalize the abnormal.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Your sexual identity has really evolved over the last year; in 2016, you revealed you were label-less and "emotionally fluid." Then, you said you identify as bisexual. Nico Tortorella: I really like the term bisexual, and I fall somewhere under the umbrella that is bisexuality. I use the word bisexual because people have fought for so long for this word and the fact that it even exists in part of the LGBTI-etc. is just a beautiful thing, and I'm not gonna be the person to take, like, fluidity or emotional fluidity or pansexual. I'm comfortable somewhere under the bisexual label, and I'm proud of it.

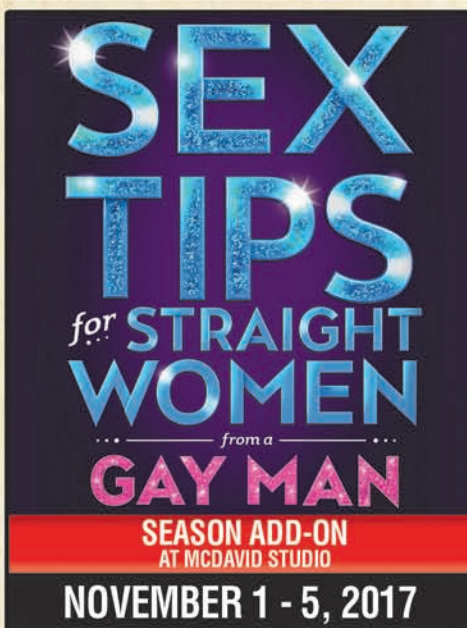
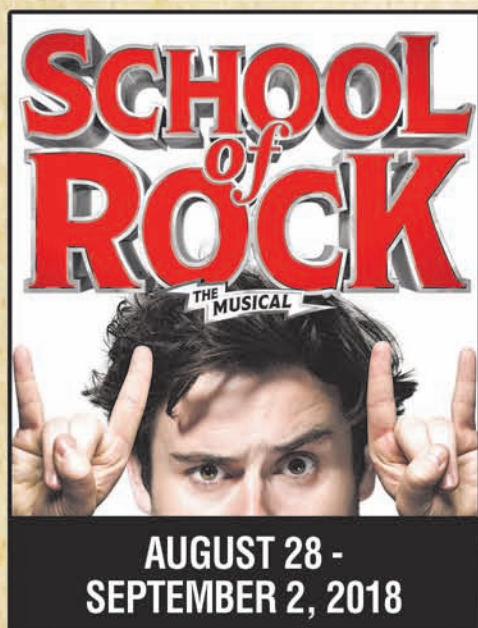
After you revealed that you're open to dating men, did you hear from more



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Despite flashes of fun, 'Spider-Man' reboot weaves a tangled web



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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I don't envy those people tasked with adapting a comic book superhero into a movie, especially for its umpteenth incarnation, but neither do I feel the need to defer to them. They often have to take plotlines from existing books and shoe-horn them into a cinematic format, at once satisfying the fanboys and making hugely expensive movies accessible to wide audiences. Remember the controversy in casting Ben Affleck as Batman? Or Michael Keaton as Batman? How about the blowback of Heath Ledger as The Joker? You can't please everyone, and trying to do so muddies the waters.

But just look at the credits for the new *Spider-Man* movie, subtitled *Homecoming*. (Awful title.) Six different writers are credited with the screenplay (two of them get an additional "screen story" credit). Having that many acknowledged writers on one film is virtually unheard of (and probably doesn't count a slate of uncredited script doctors and rewrites),

and let's face it, size matters ... and in this case, less is definitely more. So many voices compete and shout-down each other, even if unintentionally; consistent tone is almost impossible. Franchise films already have too many masters; now they are overstocked with servants, as well.

I don't know if there's any superhero movie I have wanted to like more than *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, and one that I begrudgingly concluded I cannot recommend. It tries so hard, with its puppy-dog eyes and goofy grin, that you want to take it from the pound and give it a good home. But this dog needs a lot more potty

training.

The winsome desire to please is exemplified in the performance of Tom Holland, the 21-year-old British (of course) naïf who plays 15-year-old Peter Parker, aka Spider-Man. We were introduced to Holland's take on this character — which, since 2002, has been played at least five previous times by two other actors — in last year's *Captain America: Civil War*. His was barely more than a cameo, introduced midway through to assist in a battle, then discarded as soon as possible so as not to overstay his welcome (or spend too much time in a Disney production while his series is released by Sony). In that film, we could sense his impetuosity, his dewy-eyed enthusiasm, his essential teenager-ness. We now endure well more than two hours of that shtick, and I'll tell you,

it works better in smaller quantities.

Mercifully, we don't get an origin story, aside from Peter's morbidly obese side-nerd recounting that he was stung by

a radioactive spider. But that shorthand only makes sense if we have an idea about what powers Spider-Man already has, and that's where *Homecoming* goes off the rails. From what's onscreen, there's no indication he has "spidey-sense." His physical strength allows him to be thrown into concrete walls and hold a massive ferry together without sweating through his Spandex, but a quick bump on the noggin renders him unconscious for hours. (The head-trauma trope to disable a hero temporarily irritates me in every instance, because a blow sufficient to cause a blackout has probably resulted in brain damage



Spiderman: Homecoming
Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr. 130 mins. Now playing in wide release.

and cognitive impairment. You should not be following the bad guy, but rushing to the emergency room for a CT scan.) And when we learn that his costume is, itself, a piece of technology designed by Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), with its own virtual concierge selecting web styles and GoogleMapping his pursuit of the criminals... well, what do we need Peter Parker for anyway, except adenoidal quips and bad decision-making?

That teenaged angst, of course, has always been central to the character's appeal among Spider-Minions. Should he take the algebra test or stop Sandman from killing the mayor? Will he stand up M.J. or prevent Doc Ock from ravaging Midtown Manhattan? Peter Parker is a sad-sack; Spider-Man is a savior; they just happen to occupy the same body. Personally, that loser-hood irks me more than it makes me identify with his plight. It may be consistent with the awkward teen years, but it just makes me want to smack some sense into him. You *can* both get the girl *and* capture the Green Goblin, you just need to plan better.

The film's verisimilitude is actually its saving grace ... at first. *Homecoming* is the most tactile of superhero films — not in the ways of the glisteningly wet nighttime streets of Gotham, or the ear-splitting realism of a skyscraper imploding, but in its pimply, ragged unimpressiveness. Peter *seems* like he should be on Ritalin; his wannabe girlfriend Liz is pretty enough, but not glamorous or even charismatic; Spider-Man's nemesis, The Vulture (Michael Keaton, returning to superherodom), has the craggy, aged appearance of a bitter

New Yorker who spent too much time in the sun. That contrasts to Tony Stark's shiny, perfect, well-heeled worldliness; Spider-Man isn't an Avenger, he's a kid from Queens. I can dig that.

At least I try to. The film simply goes astray too many times. For every great touch (like Keaton's performance, especially when he works out that Spidey is Peter) there's a boondoggle to follow at its heels. What a tangled web has director Joe Watts (he's also one of the six screenwriters) woven. At times this feels more teen sex romp than Marvel Cinematic Universe entry. (There are tons of references in particular to *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and the "homecoming" of the title refers to an actual high school homecoming dance.) But what are we to take away from this chaos? Is Happy Hogan (Jon Favreau), Stark's body man, Peter's devoted minder or a casually incompetent lucky who makes things worse? Is Peter a genius whiz kid or hopeless flake? Character and plot are often sacrificed for a quick gag or inane gimmick; some of the action set-pieces are so overproduced and visually cluttered, you don't feel swept up so much as you do exasperated.

I saw *Homecoming* with a friend who's as devoted a Marvel-head as anybody I've met, with a marshmallow heart when it comes to Spidey. I could tell he was disappointed to the point of ambivalence, yet he refused to outright bad-mouth the film. I get why: You want to root for Holland's Spider-Man because he's gotten to the nitty-gritty of the character's appeal. It's just too bad he's allowed to founder in such a shambles.

C'MON, GET HAPPY!

As much as gays like their brunches, they are equally enthusiastic about 1. cocktails and 2. good deals. Which is why we are starting a new occasional feature, focusing on hot happy hours (including the trendy reverse happy hours) where you can get a bite and drinks deals as well as fellowship. After all, "happy" is a synonym for "gay."

In Uptown: The new restaurant **Water Grill** — a California concept that opened its first non-West Coast incarnation in Dallas earlier this year — specializes in high-end and interesting seafood. But if you're on a budget, you can try out a sampler of its menu for \$6–\$10 a bite, from New England-style clam chowder to Atlantic cod fish tacos and some savory goat cheese and pear ravioli. In addition, all pints of beer are \$5, select wines are \$6–\$8 and even the specialty craft cocktails run \$8. Happy hour runs 3–6 p.m. weekdays.

In The Cedars: One residence of this funky neighborhood south of Downtown hasn't had a happy hour in ages, which is why **The Cedars Social's** latest incarnation is a welcome addition. The cheffy restaurant across from South Side on Lamar just began its happy hour concept, which offers well-priced apps like the famed meatballs (\$4) and tender sirloin tacos (\$5 for two), and six specialty drinks for six bucks each. Among the highlights: the rye-based Paper Plane (elegant but potent) and Monte Carlo (Don Draper-esque, pictured above with tacos). Drinks and food are available 4–7 p.m., as well in reverse happy hour fashion, from late-night (starting from 10 p.m.; later on weekends) until closing.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Mazda3's Grand Touring adds sportiness to a hatchback

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
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You can buy any number of expensive sports sedans with fancy three-pointed stars, spinning propellers, intertwined rings or centuries-old crests. Most of them drive divinely, making your morning commute and weekend romps absolute joy. But keep this on the down-low: You don't have to buy one of those expensive rides to get your kicks on Route 66, Highway 1 or Main Street. You could just buy the Mazda3 Grand Touring.

Styling could just as easily been executed in Turin as Hiroshima. The body is tightly drawn over its 18-in. wheels with creases flowing towards the rear. In front is a big chrome-lined grille that fits neatly between peering LED headlights and running lights. The hatchback body is practical but also lends more of that European aesthetic. Every line and curve is elegantly executed.

The interior is a driver's paradise

with a thick, heated, leather-wrapped steering wheel, large tachometer and click-click leather-wrapped gearshift. Deeply-bolstered

heated, leather-wrapped front seats keep drivers in place. Rain-sensing wipers, dual-zone automatic climate control, push-button starting and one-touch moonroof add convenient luxury. Everything looks and feels upscale.

'17 3 GRAND TOURING

Mazda. 184 horsepower,
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As-tested price: \$28,880.

Infotainment is controlled through a console joywheel and dashtop 7-in. screen — very much as in high-end European cars. I think the head-up display, which reflects off of a plastic tab above the gauges, is completely stupid. Fortunately, the

Bose 9-speaker audio system makes up for it. You'll also appreciate Bluetooth calling/audio streaming and SMS text messaging.

Mazda steps up with an array of safety gear, too. Our car had blind spot monitoring, rear cross traffic alert and a rearview camera. Matching the best sport sedans, it also has radar adaptive cruise control to keep a safe distance on the highway, but

also to enable the crash mitigation and city brake support systems. Lane departure warning and lane keep assist keep it between the ditches.

It's nearly impossible to get a manual transmission in a luxed-out sport sedan, but Mazda has your back with an available 6-speed manual that clicks through gears like it was stolen from a Miata. It connects to a 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine that spools out 184 horsepower that has no prayer of outrunning muscle cars, but runs proudly against other compact cars. An efficient 25/34-MPG city/highway pave the way to low-cost ownership.

Mazda3 engineers probably did not create the Miata's chassis, but they clearly

commune with those who did. In the Mazda3, it's tight for carving up backroads, but is also compliant over rough pavement. No compact car balances performance and comfort better. Steering is nicely weighted and precisely tuned to tell drivers exactly what's happening underneath. It's all proof that you don't need a sports car to have fun nor a luxury car to ride serenely.

Mazda has been called the "Japanese Alfa Romeo" — an apt description. They're both practical, beautifully styled and enjoyable to drive. If you're looking for a compact five-door, don't overlook the Mazda3. Its as-tested price of \$28,880 puts it against the Chevy Cruze, Subaru Impreza, Ford Focus and Volkswagen Golf hatchbacks. ■



Called "the Japanese Alfa Romeo," the slick styling of the Mazda3 could have as easily been tailored in Turin as Hiroshima.

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gay male admirers? I think it was actually more when I came into touch with my own sexuality — not in terms of who I prefer, but just me as a sexual being. I just became more aware of different energies.

When did you embrace your bisexuality?

Honestly, I think with the work that I'm doing on my podcast — really exploring sexuality as a human condition has educated me on many different people's lives and the importance of labels and the unimportance of labels, for that matter. I'm in a really interesting place where I can talk about these things, but I'm really doing the work outside of myself on it.

Do you think people are too sexually rigid because society forces people to choose boxes to put themselves into? Is Hollywood influenced by this rigidity?

Look, in Hollywood these are the stories that are being told that everybody's watching. And if you look at mainstream television, basically since it's been created, there's only been one story that's been told. For the most part, it's about the heteronormative, white family and that has been what's been pushed in our faces for so long.

Finally, in the last 20, 30 years, things have really been changing. So the answer is yes, absolutely. It's what we know; it's what we've seen. Religiously, it is what we've been taught. It is everything. So, I think, yes, for so long people have been so oppressed in who they are because it doesn't match what we're being shown. Now, in the age of the internet and social media, there's just so much being thrown down our throats constantly — pun intended — and it's like, it exists. Finally, it exists. Finally, people's stories can be told. And my purpose in life is to extend these stories. I'm in love with people and I'm in love with their stories.

How do your views on sexuality influence the roles you choose as an actor? Are you looking for roles that challenge people's views on sexuality?

Yeah, for sure. It's a natural thing that happens once I put myself into the role, and those types of projects seem to be floating in my direction, which I'm all for. But I think as an actor it is my job to transform, and as obsessed as I am with the community and our stories and everything, I'm obsessed with people in all facets of life. It's my job to become them. So, I really think that there's always gonna be a whole slew of different characters I play.

How have your *Love Bomb* guests enlightened you and your approach to your sexuality?

It really is an extension of who I am. My sexuality is a part of my story — it's not all of my story — and to just normalize things that are deemed abnormal is really important. That's my driving force at this point, so it affects everything that I do because it *is* me.

What topics do you seek to normalize during this second season?

In the second season, I have everyone from Courtney Love to Todrick Hall to Johnny Weir. Some really, really heavy episodes. And it's everything from ageism to intersectionality. The most amazing thing about this show is that every single person who comes on has a completely different story, and nine times out of 10 the story that is told is different than the one that I thought I was going to hear. That's where the real magic is. So, the spectrum is wide. It's a universe, really.

There's been talk about developing the *The Love Bomb* into a sketch-based TV

series. What's the status on that? The idea has evolved into something. I left a development meeting this morning, which I can't talk too much about. But it is definitely happening. It is moving at a really sensible pace, and it's the one thing that I'm most excited about right now. Honestly, there's great acting jobs in the future and different movies and TV shows even, but this is the soul.

What about it excites you? It's just an extension of the podcast, I think. Everything I learned on the podcast I wanna take to the next level. The way I see it in my head is, it's some sort of segmented show where I'm talking to different people all over the world and learning and really diving into different cultures and people and sexuality. It's a sexploration of love.

I hope that it's been picked up by a cable network so you can push buttons and boundaries. I'm gonna get naked at some point, I promise!

You really are challenging people's feelings on sex and nakedness, aren't you? And love, too! People are so fucking uptight about love. Love is supposed to be one specific way. You're supposed to get married and have kids and that's it — oh, and you're probably supposed to marry the opposite sex. That just isn't the case for so many fucking people.

Like all my gay friends who are in open relationships. Even on that note: Why is it socially acceptable for two gay people to be in an open relationship, but if you hear about a straight couple in an open relationship people are like, "What? How does that work?" It doesn't make sense to people.

Also, being somebody that dates both, how do I maneuver that conversation? Like, "Look, I want a boyfriend and a girlfriend at the same time — are you cool with that?" That's even more confusing. But I've done it, and at the end of the day that's who I am. I think I'm coming more and more into my own acceptance with polyamory and how I think that I can just be the best partner, if that is an option.

Have you always been as comfortable in your skin as you seem to be now? I just wanna make it clear that it was not always easy for me. For sure, as a kid. I had a really bad stutter from 8 to 11. I wasn't doing any theater, and sexuality in my household was one thing and one thing only. Anything heard or talked about or seen outside of it was gross in one way or another. I mean, big Italian family in Chicago. It didn't exist anywhere in my family. I didn't have any gay relatives. It just wasn't anywhere.

Did you grow up Catholic? Yes, yes. And the theater is a safe haven for queer people everywhere; it just is. That's where they go to let the flags fly to transform, to create, to fall in love, and it was the best training that I had for acting, for sure, and just for human experience. And once I started seeing [gay people], I started getting more comfortable talking about it with my family. But the struggle was real. When I got sober, really, is when I decided that I wasn't going to *not* be unapologetically myself, and I really just stepped into it.


 **ONLINE EXCLUSIVE**
Read more of our interview with Nico Tortorella, visit DallasVoice.com.

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**Thursday 07.13 —
Thursday 07.20**

Asian Film Festival opens 16th incarnation with queer content on hand

The Asian Film Festival of Dallas has been exposing North Texans to the cinema of China, Japan, Taiwan and a host of other countries and filmmakers for 15 years. For the 16th annual fest, AFFD has more films than ever before — 70, with 35 features and 35 shorts, including LGBT-specific works, such as *Albino*, pictured (screening July 16), and *Rage* (July 15), as well as the entire Apu Trilogy. It kicks off eight days of screenings Thursday.

DEETS: Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. For a full schedule, visit AsianFilmDallas.com.



Monday 07.10

Free screening of 'Raid of the Rainbow Lounge'

On the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, police in Fort Worth recklessly raided a new gay bar, sparking a national debate on police sensitivity to gay issues ... again. Local filmmaker Robert L. Camina's *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge*, a documentary of the aftermath, will receive a free screening at the Magnolia, sponsored by WaterTower Theatre, which later this month will produce *Hit the Wall*, a play about Stonewall. Both the film's and the play's directors will be present for a post-screening Q&A.

DEETS: Landmark's Magnolia Theatre, 3699 McKinney Ave. 7 p.m. Free.

**Tuesday 07.11 —
Sunday 07.23**

It's a Peter Pan-demic! 'Finding Neverland' opens in Dallas

What is it with this Peter Pan obsession? In addition to the original, there's *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Hook*, *Pan*, *Fly*, a circus show and more. Included in the "more" is *Finding Neverland*, an Oscar-winning film that became a Broadway musical, about James Barrie's inspiration for writing his classic. The show makes its North Texas debut at the Winspear, courtesy of the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK THEATER

Disaster! Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick developed this musical that parodies disaster movies. Trinity Arts Theater at Bedford Boys Ranch, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through July 23. OnstageInBedford.com.

Hood. A world premiere musical about Robin Hood, by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Aug. 6. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Ann. Linda Leonard as Texas Gov. Ann Richards. *Final weekend.* Presented by Stage West. Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. StageWest.org.

The Bible: The Complete Words of God (Abridged). Amphibian Stage Productions presents the return engagement of this comedy. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. July 7–Aug. 13. AmphibianStage.com.

King o' the Moon. The Apollo 11 moonlanding is the central focus of a family in this play by Tom Dudzick. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through July 15. CircleTheatre.org.

The Merry Wives of Windsor. Shakespeare Dallas kicks off its 2017 season with this comedy about Sir John Falstaff. Performed in repertory with an adaptation of Cervantes' *Quixote*. Samuel Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. Through July 21. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale. A touring musical, inspired by Cinderella but set in Africa. Intended for children 5 and up. *Final*

weekend. Presented by Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. DCT.org.

The Necessities. A world premiere from local gay playwright, director and actor Blake Hackler, about four strangers in a small Texas town whose lives converge. Closes Second Thought Theatre's season. Joel Ferrell directs. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 29. 2TT.co.

Nobody's Perfect. Theatre Britain continues its final season, with artistic director Sue Birch taking to the stage in this romantic farce. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through July 16. Theatre-Britain.com.

Quixote. Shakespeare Dallas continues its 2017 season with this stage adaptation of Cervantes' *Quixote*. Performed in rep with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Samuel Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. Through July 22. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

Sex with Strangers. Two writers end up sharing a remote location in this comedy, presented by Stage West. Through July 23. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.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. *Final weekend.* Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. DMA.org.

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Second Thought closes its season with a world premiere from Blake Hackler, 'The Necessities,' at Bryant Hall.

Sopheap Pich. The Cambodian sculptor's work, including the massive *Rang Phnom Flower*, on display at Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 7, 2018. CrowCollection.org.

Iris Van Herpen: Transforming Fashion. A must-see show of the designer's wondrous garments. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 20. DMA.org

SUNDAY 07.09

COMMUNITY
Drag Brunch at the Hard Rock Cafe. Monthly campfest with queens and mimosas. This month's theme: Broadway. Hard Rock Café, 2211 N. Houston St. Showtime at 12:30 p.m. \$5 cover.

MONDAY 07.10

FILM
Raid of the Rainbow Lounge. A free screening of the award-winning documentary by local filmmaker Robert L. Camina, about the now-gone Fort Worth club, raided by police on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Presented in conjunction with WaterTower Theatre's upcoming production of *Hit the Wall*, which explores the Stonewall Riots. The screening includes a talk-back with Camina and WaterTower artistic director Joanie Schultz. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. 7 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY 07.11

THEATER
Finding Neverland. Stage musical adaptation of the Oscar-winning film about the inspiration for *Peter Pan*. Presented by AT&T Performing Arts

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Center. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. July 11–23. ATPAC.org.

FILM
The Bridges of Madison County. Meryl Streep's beautiful acting and Clint Eastwood's unsentimental directing elevate a cheesy novel to great filmmaking. 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 07.13

FILM
Asian Film Festival of Dallas. The 16th annual festival, including some gay content. Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. July 13–20. AsianFilmDallas.com.

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.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Cassie advises how to handle a bully

I have a new obsession. The new season of *The Great British Bake-Off* is going full force on PBS. Twelve bakers compete to be the best home baker in the U.K. It sounds so boring but it's not. What the hell have I turned into? I don't even like to bake, but I love the show. I love a lot of British shows, from *Downton Abbey* to *Doctor Who*. About *Downton*, a friend told me, "You probably won't like it, there aren't zombies or anything so it might go over your head." Ouch! I actually let that bother me for a while.

The truth is, I missed out on the whole *Downton* craze while it was on partially because of my friend's comment, and partly because I didn't catch it from the beginning. I cannot jump on board with a new show if I don't start from the beginning, so when we signed up for Amazon Prime (best decision ever!), I was able to start it from the first episode. I binged all six seasons in less than two weeks. You see? I can be classy as fuck when I want to be, as I sip my tea with my motherfuckin' pinky in the air.

Now let me help a few people so I can get back to watching *Shaun of the Dead*. British zombies for the win, Alex!

Dear Cassie, One question that's been on the table for LifeWalk is: How do we inspire the next generation to keep the walk alive? The majority of LifeWalk volunteers are of the generation that lived through the worst of AIDS. We've been walking for 25 years and realize that we're getting older and have a real need for younger people to carry on and eventually lead the way, but since they did not feel, first-hand, the suffering and loss, what can we do to

get them involved? Thanks, Landon

Hey Landon, That is a great question. The truth is, when horrible things happen it tends to bring us all closer together. LifeWalk was and is a great way to focus our hurt into something positive. Millennials get a bad rap; I see a lot of caring young people that want to do good in the world but don't necessarily have the focus. I wish I knew a way to inspire them to care more about their community and the world in general.

I did notice that after the Pulse shooting there was a wave of people wanting to help and donate, but it quickly seemed to slow down. There are so many horrible things that happen almost daily that you can lose your momentum for helping others. You just get overwhelmed and think, what's the point? Like I said, I wish I knew how to inspire the masses, but I am stumped. Hopefully those giving individuals that want to help will find their way to volunteer for LifeWalk. If you would like to volunteer, go to Lifewalk.org and form or join a team. I'm talking to you millennials — show us the heart I know you have. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I'm having an unusual problem. A boy in my neighborhood has started trying to bully me. He shouts homophobic slurs at me whenever he sees me and encourages other kids to do the same. The problem is that this kid is probably 10 years old, while I'm in my mid-40s. This was not a problem I expected to have again at my age. And while I've certainly developed a thick enough skin over the years not to let insults bother me, it's the simple fact that a child is doing this that throws me off. If I



had done this to a strange adult as a child, that adult probably would have just smacked me upside the head, and rightly so. Unfortunately, that is no longer an option in today's society.

I've tried ignoring the kid, but it's been a couple of months now with no change, except now he's starting to influence other neighborhood children. Some of the phrases he uses, such as "You're broken," sound like something he would have learned from an adult, which makes me hesitant to approach his family... especially since the whole family seem like rednecks. I'd love to just say something truly horrible to scar him forever, but that would just make me the bully. What would you do? Signed, CB

Dear CB, This is some bullshit. That kind of hate and language is taught, so the parents are probably Neanderthals as well. God, I miss the '80s where you could scare the hell out of a kid and get away with it. Just kidding... kinda. Talk to the other kids' parents before they get too

heavily into that brat's hate. Most parents would be appalled that their kid is saying horrible stuff like that.

Unfortunately, in Trump's America we keep seeing this kind of bad behavior. They see our president acting awful with no repercussions so what's the big deal. He says whatever the fuck he wants to, so why can't I? You ask what I personally would do... well, I wouldn't be able to keep my mouth shut. Tell the kid if he keeps it up you will tell his parents. If that doesn't work, try to have a civilized conversation with his mom. The downside is that it could make it worse. Then you have the whole redneck clan talking shit to you.

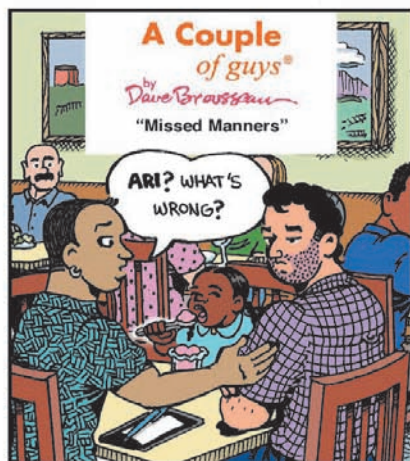
You could always just ignore the little brat, but sometimes taking the high road hurts us in ways we don't even realize. I think you should say something. If he is bullying you, imagine what he is doing to kids at school. Maybe his parents will put a stop to it or at least bust his ass. Keep me posted, I want to know how this turns out. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, OK, here goes: It's been 14 years since my parents died and it has been extremely rough. I was only 15 at the time and I didn't know how cruel life really was until everything I owned or knew got taken away from me two weeks after the funeral. Enough with that sadness. What I'm writing to you about is rather confusing. I keep getting money from them every year through random people. At first I thought oh they must be friends of the family, but the letters attached with the money are genuinely my parents. It's not just a hundred bucks; it's a lot of cash. Am I going crazy in believing that they are alive? Thanks, E.G.

Dear E.G., First I want to say sorry about your loss. Then I want to say... huh? I need more info. How did your parents die? Did you not get to see their bodies and that is why you think there is a possibility that they are still alive? It is not unheard of that a parent will leave things for their kids to be delivered after they die. It sounds like a beautiful Lifetime movie, but ask yourself, why would they fake their own deaths? The most obvious answer is usually the right answer. They probably had a will that stated that you be sent these letters and money on certain dates. Consider it a blessing that they loved you enough to do that and not some great mystery that they are still alive. Be realistic.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question or comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.





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- **Alexandre's:** **Girl's Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Mi Diva Loca** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie Broadway** on Tuesday. **Bianka** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Cher-e-Oke** with **Wayne Smith** at 10 p.m. Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Cowtown Leathermen** meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Crown Jewel Ball** at 5 p.m. buffet at 6 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Dylan & Randall's wedding** at 4 p.m. on Friday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Weezie Davis' Wild Wild West Show** at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- NLA - Dallas** club night on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Mable Peabody's:** **Classic Burlesque Peep Show** at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Double Crowning: Mr. Gay Lonestar & Southern States USofA** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Wall of Food** show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

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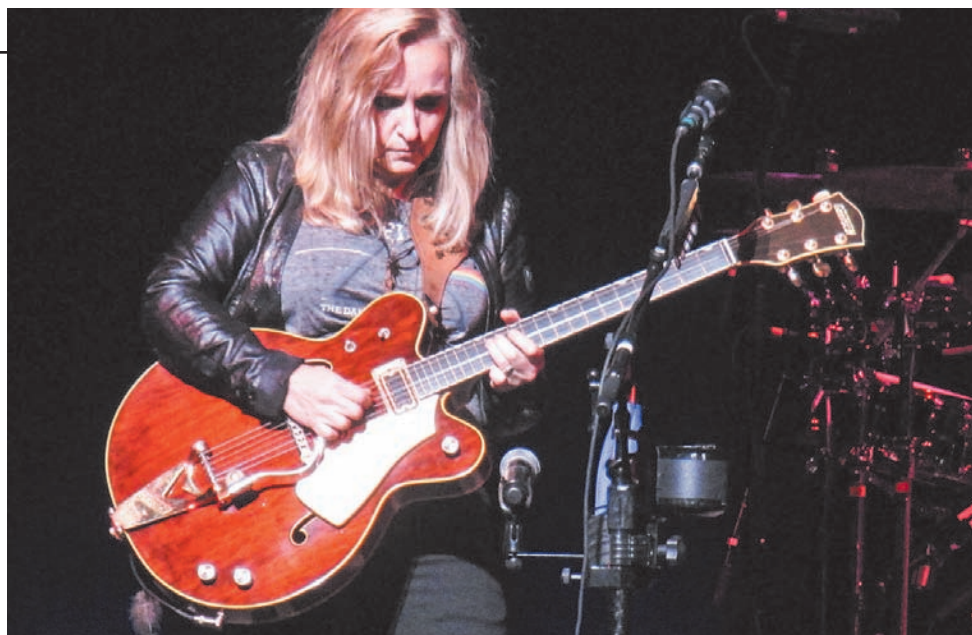


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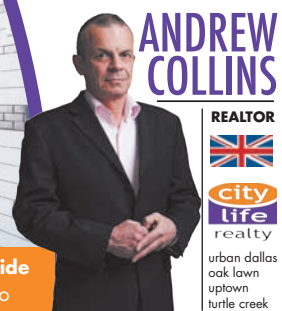
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59 Result of excessive circumcision

60 Land of singer S. O'Connor



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