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01.18.19 | Volume 35 | Issue 37



headlines

■TEXAS NEWS

- 10 BTD opens beneficiary applications
- Legal clinic on trans issues is set 11
- MetroBall 14 headliners announced
 - LIFE+STYLE
- 16 An acrobat's ups and downs
- 17 Francoeur's many passions
- 18 'Next Room' eventually hits its mark



Mark Ramsay & Brian Corkins during their 2015 marriage in an Episcopal church in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Design by Kevin Thomas



departments

The Gay Agenda 8 15

News 28 29

Voices

Life+Style

Best Bets 25

Cassie Nova

Scene

MarketPlace

32

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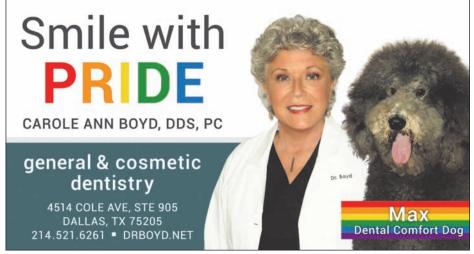
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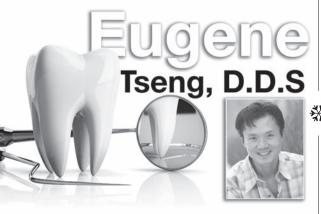
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Eric Johnson introduces employment nondiscrimination bill

State Rep. Eric Johnson has filed HB 850 to amend the labor code to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

The labor code already prohibits discrimination based on race, color, disability, religion, sex, national origin or age. Sexual orientation, for purposes of the bill, is the person's actual or perceived status. Gender identity or expression is defined as "having or being perceived as having a gender-related identity, appearance, expression or behavior, regardless of whether that identity, appearance, expression or behavior is different from that commonly associated with the individual's actual or perceived sex."

The bill is commonly known as a "state ENDA" or Employment Non-Discrimination

The law would cover discrimination by an employer, an employment agency or a labor organization.

Several similar bills have been filed, including those that cover public accommodation and housing. But in order to become a law, the bill must pass through committee before getting to the House floor. Having similar bills going to different committees provides more chance that one of the nondiscrimination bills gets to the full chamber.

- David Taffet

Griggs, Solis announce runs for mayor



Scott Griggs

Dallas City Councilman Scott Griggs, 44, became the seventh person to announce he is running for mayor of Dallas at an announcement party in the Design District on Thursday,

Griggs, who represents North Oak Cliff, is in his fourth term on the council and may not run for re-election to that council seat because of

Last week, Dallas School Board mem-

ber Miguel Solis, 32, whose district includes parts of Oak Lawn, announced his candidacy. When he was first elected, Solis was the youngest person to serve on the DISD board. He was elected school board president by the board and became the board's youngest president.

Other announced candidates for Dallas mavor are:

- Mike Ablon, 54, a real estate developer who has helped develop the Design District into a vibrant neighborhood.
- Albert Black, Jr., 59, CEO of On-Target Logistics who was the first black chair of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce.
- Larry Casto, 54, a former Dallas city attorney who helped the Mayor's LGBT Task Force update ordinances to reflect equality.
- Alyson Kennedy, 68, who ran as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president and was on the ballot in seven states.
- Lynn McBee, 50, CEO of Young Women's Preparatory Network and board chair of The
- Regina Montoya, 64, attorney, who worked in the Clinton administration and ran for Congress in 2000.
- Jason Villalba, 47, a former Republican state representative who was "primaried" out of his legislative seat. Villalba was targeted by the right wing because he received one of the highest scores among Republicans by Equality Texas. The extremist candidate that beat him in the primary lost in the general election. Villalba was one of the House Republicans opposing the bathroom bill.

Although nine people have already thrown their hats in the ring, the list of names is expected to grow. Of those frequently mentioned is Angela Hunt, the former councilwoman who has said she isn't interested in running this year. Another name frequently turning up on lists of potential candidates is state Rep. Rafael Anchia. Sitting in his Capitol office last week, Anchia said he doesn't know why his name keeps coming up, because he's never put it there. Pointing to his new corner office, he said he's really happy right where he is.

Election Day is Saturday, May 4. In the likely event that one candidate doesn't receive 50 percent of the vote, the runoff will be held on Saturday, June 8.

- David Taffet

Carrollton considering nondiscrimination charter amendment

The Carrollton City Council will discuss adding nondiscrimination to the city charter at its meeting on Tuesday, Jan 22, according to Carrollton real estate broker and LGBT activist Bob McCrainie. The regulation would protect city employees.

The council's work session begins at 5:45 p.m., and the council meeting begins at 7 p.m. Public comment is allowed at the council meeting, but more of the work is done at the



ASD's newest property

earlier session. Both are open to the public.

Only Carrollton residents would normally be allowed to comment. Before becoming part of a city charter, amendments must go to a vote

This is the proposition that will be considered: Proposition No. 11: Shall Section 10.02 of the City Charter be amended to prohibit discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy, in addition to the previously enacted prohibitions?

David Taffet

Racist plaque is removed from the Texas Capitol



Fric Johnson

An inaccurate historical marker was removed from the wall of a hall in the Texas Capitol in Austin over the weekend. State Rep. Eric Johnson has been campaigning to have the racist marker removed for more than a year. The Texas State Preservation Board voted unanimously to remove it on Friday, Jan. 11.

The Children of the Confederacy Creed was placed in the Capitol in 1959, almost 100 years after the Civil War, to justify the war as having no racist causes. It was hung during the Civil Rights movement, at a time when there were only white legislators.

Johnson sent out a picture of the wall where

the plaque had hung taken on Sunday, Jan. 13. The holes where it was bolted to the wall have been filled in and the area freshly painted.

We should also note how hard-working our local legislator is - he was at the Capitol on a Sunday toiling away. He also sent a picture of himself with the plague, which means his chief of staff, the even harder-working Mary Elbanna, had to be there as well to take the picture.

If the state is looking for a repository for the marker that will put it into its proper historical context, the new Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, opening in the West End on Sept. 17, 2020, might be a perfect place for this state-sanctioned racist artifact.

A number of Confederate statues remain on the Capitol grounds including a statue of Jefferson Davis.

- David Taffet

Ministry for the Aging makes \$50,000 contribution to ASD

In last week's newspaper, we reported Ministry with the Aging, Inc., a mission of the Dallas Episcopal Church, had donated \$30,000 to the Coalition for Aging LGBT and \$50,000 to Resource Center's Grey Pride program.

In all, the ministry made contributions to nine organizations out of funds from liquidation of a property in East Dallas. Charles Mullins, a board member speaking for the group, in a quick phone interview just before press time, couldn't remember the names of all of the groups that received funding.

Over the weekend, AIDS Services Dallas Director of Development and Public Relations Chris Turman sent Dallas Voice a note that on Dec. 31, Mullins stopped by his office and delivered a check for \$50,000.

ASD runs housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. Its five properties, which include a newly-acquired apartment complex within blocks of its other units, are located in North Oak Cliff

Including the ASD donation, Ministry with the Aging, Inc.'s donations to local LGBT and HIV/AIDS organizations totaled \$130,000.

- David Taffet



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Applications are available online now and more details regarding the application, qualifications, requirements and selection process, visit: **blacktie.org/beneficiaries**

The deadline for receiving completed applications is Friday, February 15th, 2019.

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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.

JANUARY

• Through Feb. 8: Register for Senior Games

Register for Dallas 2019 Senior Games that take place Feb. 28-March 10. Fun walk and fun run, basketball, bowling, corn hole, golf, pickleball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track & field and on March 16 cycling. Contact 214-671-1602 or pkrseniorprograms@dallascityhall.com. Info at DallasParks.org.

• Jan. 18: Little Black Dress

Little Black Dress FashionCITED preview party benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave.

• Jan. 18: DFW Federal Club happy hour

DFW Federal Club Happy Hour from 6-8 p.m. at Hilton Park Cities, 5954 Luther Lane.

• Jan. 19: Halftime Gaybingo

Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

• Jan. 19: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Gala

Reconciliation: Moving the Dream Forward with keynote speaker Michael Eric Dyson and Crystal Aikin from 6:30-9 p.m. in the Landmark Ballroom at Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. Tickets at 214-671-1505.

• Jan. 19: Scarborough Faire auditions

Come be a part of a theater experience like no other. Auditions for volunteer lane performers (actors and musicians) for Scarborough Renaissance Festival's performing company — Scarborough Academy of Performing Arts (SAPA) — will be held 9 a.m.—noon and 1:30—4:30 p.m. Auditions are by appointment at SAPA@SRFestival.com.

• Jan. 20: Dallas Women's March

Meet at St. Paul UMC, 1816 Routh St. at 2 p.m. and march to Dallas City Hall.

• Jan. 21: Snooze

Enjoy free breakfast at a pre-opening benefit to help kick of Legacy Counseling Center's 30th year at Snooze, 3211 Oak Lawn Ave. RSVP to snoozeeatery.com/OakLawn-Opening and enter SNOOZEOAKLAWN2019.

• Jan. 22: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Jan. 22: DIVA new member clinic

Dallas Independent Volleyball Association, the largest gay sports organization in Dallas and second lasrgest gay volleyball organization in the U.S., offers free new member clinics. From 7-10 p.m. at Advantage Sports Center, 2800 N. I-35E, Carrollton. Register for clinic at DIVADallas.org. Each clinic is open to 25 people.

• Jan. 22: Family Night at Durkins

GALA family night's 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n' roll and pizza and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney.

• Jan. 22: BEN After Hours

Monthly networking program is open to Chamber members and escorted guests from 5:30-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, 2650 Laclede St. Suite 150.

• Jan. 23: Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County

Former Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns is the guest at a membership drive for Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County at 6 p.m. at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

• Jan. 23, 24: DIVA new member clinic

Dallas Independent Volleyball Association offers free new member clinics. From 6:30-9 p.m. at Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St. Register for clinic at DIVADallas.org. Each clinic is open to 25 people.

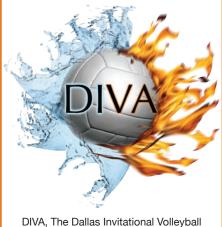
• Jan. 24: GLBT Chamber BEN

GLBT Chamber of Commerce and GALA North Texas Business Exchange Network from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Henry's, 5741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100, Plano.

• Jan. 24: Prime Timers

Dallas Fort Worth Prime Timers goes out to dinner at 7 p.m. at The Mockingbird Diner, 3130 W. Mockingbird Lane.

15



DIVA, The Dallas Invitational Volleybal Association, holds new member clinics on three nights next week. See listings for details.

• Jan. 26: Oral History Team Training

The Dallas Ways holds training to conduct and transcribe oral history interviews from noon-5 p.m. RSVP or contact with questions thedallasway. nino@gmail.com. Space is limited.

• Jan. 26: Resource Center Legal Clinic

Resource Center and University of North Texas present a legal clinic on changing gender markers and names from 2-5 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to attend. MyResourceCenter.org.

• Jan. 26: Prime Timers

Bring a friend to lunch and spades tournament at 11:30 a.m. at Two Guys from Italy, 11637 Webb Chapel Road.

• Jan. 27: HRC Pin Down Equality Bowling Fundraiser

Federal Club presents Pin Down

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is gender consultant Monica Prata; 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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; 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 2:30–4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@ gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, 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; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details;

Leadership Lambda Toastmasters gayidentified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); 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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; DVtv in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4–5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

Equality Bowling Tournament and Fundraiser with bowling, pizza and soft drinks, a silent auction and more from 1-3 p.m. at AMF Richardson Lanes, 2101 N. Central Expressway, Richardson.

• Jan. 27: Prime Timers

Visit then games at a private home in Rockwall from 2:30-5 p.m. RSVP by text or call 214-218-0912.

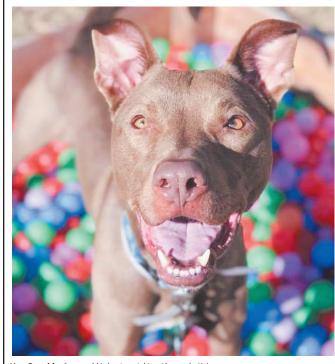
• Jan. 27: Bishop Yvette Flunder at CoH

Bishop Yvette Flunder will preach at morning services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• Jan. 27: SPCA Paws Cause

Enjoy food from local restaurants, drinks and entertainment to benefit the Southern Dallas Spay/Neuter Clinic and hang out with dogs and cats from 6-9 p.m. at Jan Rees Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive. Tickets at PawsCauseDallas.com.

pet of the week / DONALD



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doggy buddy his size so they can play together. Just bring them by the shelter to do a meet and greet. If you want an outgoing, playful dog that you can teach fun tricks, come meet Donald today. Donald has been neutered and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. #142956

Donald is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Ian Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/ neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative

and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit

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Same-sex marriage begins in 3 Dallas Episcopal churches

Church of the Transfiguration plans a ceremony to bless members who had to marry elsewhere

DAVID TAFFET I Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

fter years of disagreement between local Episcopal churches and the Dallas Episcopal diocese, Mark Ramsay and Brian Corkins will finally have their marriage blessed in their home church. They are among 15 couples set to renew their vows this weekend at Dallas' Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration.

The Rev. Casey Shobe, rector of the Church of the Transfiguration in North Dallas, called this weekend's blessing ceremony "the culmination of a lot of hope and prayer."

While in most Episcopal diocese samesex marriage was a settled issue years ago, in Dallas and a few other places around the U.S., objections by the presiding bishops prevented marriages from happening in some of the denomination's churches.

Last year, at a denominational meeting, officials reached a compromise: Those bishops who object to same-sex marriage because of their personal religious views won't be forced to change their beliefs, and churches that believe in marriage equality are allowed to perform marriage ceremonies and bless anniversaries.

An assisting bishop from another diocese will oversee those churches that disagree with their local bishop. While the obvious choice to take on that role for the Dallas diocese would have been the

Rt. Rev. J. Scott May-

Instead, the Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith, bishop of the Missouri diocese, will act as assisting bishop overseeing three Dallas churches that will begin hosting same-sex marriages this weekend. In addition to the Church of the Transfiguration, St. Thomas the Apostle on Inwood Road near Oak Lawn and the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on Greenville Avenue will welcome their same-sex-couple members to marry in their churches.

The Rev. Gene Robinson will participate in a ceremony at Church of the Transfiguration. Robinson, who is retired, was the first openly-gay man elected bishop in the Episcopal Church.

Shobe said 15 couples that married elsewhere will participate in the ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 19. Some of those couples had civil weddings. Others were married in churches of other denominations. And some accepted an offer by Bishop Mayer, who opened his diocese's churches to same-sex couples from the Dallas diocese during the stand-off.

Shobe said Dallas Bishop George Sumner's beliefs are firm and sincere. But, he added, in the Episcopal Church, his views on same-sex marriage were part of "a minority community."

Shobe said he appreciates Sumner's willingness to work with another bishop to accommodate Church of the

Transfiguration and the other two. Of the denomination's beliefs, he said, "we represent a wide range."

Shobe made it clear that his church proudly "remains a constituent member of the Diocese of Dallas under a new assisting bishop," and that Sumner and Smith have a good working relationship.

Shobe described the ceremony that he is so anxious to have in his church: "Fifteen couples will process in," he said, and after readings and a sermon, they'll stand.

"Those married civilly will be recognized," Shobe said. Then those married in other denominations will be recognized, and those married in other Episcopal churches will be welcomed.

"And I will bless them," he said in a warm tone that said more about how important this ceremony was to him and his church than words can explain.

Shobe explained there is a difference in the welcome for each of these groups. Those with a civil wedding will now be recognized religiously; those married in other denominations will now have their vows equally recognized by the Episcopal Church, and those married in other Episcopal churches will now be fully welcomed by their home church.

But, Shobe made clear, the couples' memberships and marriages were already recognized by the church — with a few exceptions. "Prior to this," he explained, "we couldn't bless their anniversaries using language from our traditions."

No new weddings will take place on

MARRIAGE, Page 14





Marriages will be blessed at St. Thomas

9 couples will have their weddings acknowledged by their home congregation

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

ishop Gene Robinson will be the guest preacher at the Sunday morning service at the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Robinson, the first openly-gay Episcopal bishop, will be in town to celebrate the commencement of same-sex marriage in Episcopal churches in the Dallas diocese.

Nine married couples that are members of St. Thomas but married elsewhere

will be blessed at the Holy Eucharist Service on Sunday morning at the celebration of "All sacraments for all people."

"For us, it's an emotional moment," said St. Thomas member Carl Youngberg.

He said the former Dallas bishop opposed same-sex marriage, and it was very disappointing when George Sumner was appointed bishop and announced there would be no same-sex marriages allowed in the diocese's churches.

Youngberg said he expected the ceremony to acknowledge the nine marriages would be very emotional because it will include at least one person whose spouse has died.

When Missouri Bishop Wayne Smith visited the church, he told them to move on as a parish, Youngberg said. And that's what the parish is doing, he said, describing the day as a gala celebration.



Rev. Gene Robinson

For St. Thomas, Youngberg said, Saturday is a turning point in the life of the congregation. "We have buried many gay people in Dallas," he said, explaining that during the height of the AIDS crisis, the church held as many as three or four funerals a week. But now, he added, "we're going to have a chance to marry them."

Youngberg said he hopes couples and families will join the church as marriage becomes a sacrament practiced in Dallas as it is in Episcopal churches around the country.

The weekly service will be held at 10 a.m. and marriage ceremony at 11:45 a.m. at the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 6525 Inwood Road.



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Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America's Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network



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Saucedo named junior partner

at Hewitt & Habgood Realty

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ewitt & Habgood Realty Group with Dave ry-Miller Real Estate, one of Dallas' highest-producing Realtor teams, this week announced that Jason Saucedo has been promoted

to junior partner. Managing Partners Steve Habgood and Kathy Hewitt said that Saucedo has been an associate with Hewitt & Habgood since 2016 and now, as junior partner, will take on more leadership responsibilities with marketing and management of the team as well as serving his clients.

As a fourth-generation Dallasite, the

managing partners said, Saucedo has "deep ties to the communi-

ty and understands the nuances of the many urban neighborhoods that make up the fabric" of the city. He is a graduate of Jesuit High School and has a bachelor of arts degree in business leadership from the University of Dallas, with a focus on marketing.

Last year, Saucedo closed 30 transactions, and he made time to volunteer with a variety of North Texas organizations, including the Jesuit Alumni Association, Meals on Wheels, Adopt-A-Family, Ronald McDonald House and Blonds vs. Brunettes Dallas, an organization raising money for Alzheimer's research in the DFW area.



Left to right, Kathy Hewitt, Steve Hapgood and Jason Saucedo

Saucedo has been recognized by D Magazine as a Best Realtor in Dallas for the last three years and received the Five Star Professional Rising Star Award in 2017.

Saucedo said he finds "great joy" in helping people and is "thrilled to have joined Hewitt & Habgood Realty Group where I can help people for a living [and] have the flexibility to be involved in the community that has given me so much."

Kathy Hewitt and Steve Habgood founded Hewitt & Habgood Realty Group in 1999. The team currently has six members, with four Realtors, including Saucedo and associate Lance Hancock.

Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate is a division of Ebby Halliday Real Estate Inc.

BTD calls for beneficiary applications

FROM STAFF REPORTS

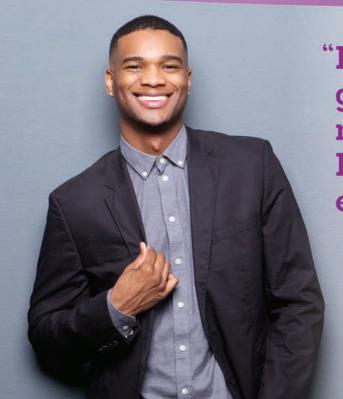
fficials with Black Tie Dinner Inc. announced this week that the application and selection process

for the 2019 event has begun, and all LGBTQ-inclusive 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations in North Texas are encouraged to apply.

The complete list of qualifications and

BTD, Next Page

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Legal clinic will focus on trans issues

Resource Center teaming with UNT Dallas law students to offer help with name, gendermarker changes

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

NT Dallas College of Law is working with Resource Center to develop some innovative programming to benefit the LGBT community.

Resource Center's vision is to create a legal clinic based on the same model as its counseling center. In that program, counselors are interns from Southern Methodist University supervised by professors who are licensed professionals. Those in need of counseling services receive them at no or reduced cost, and counseling students gain practical experience.

Angela Downes, assistant director of experiential education at UNT's downtown Dallas law school, said her school's mission is to train the next generation of public interest lawyers: "We have a commitment to serving under-served communities."

Three workshops on three different topics are planned at Resource Center. The first, on Jan. 26, will help transgender men and women with name and



Angela Downes

gender marker changes.

The afternoon will begin with a workshop to answer general questions. Then individuals will be paired up with law students from UNT Dallas College of Law under the supervision of licensed attorneys. Those students will then see their clients through subsequent court appearances.

This isn't the first legal clinic the UNT law school has created. It's already providing free legal clinics to help access social services and to help veterans access benefits.

Downes said few attorneys specialize in working with the transgender community. "The great news is this will be a training ground for our students and let folks who need help get help," she said.

Downes said the program is innovative and that while a few other schools around the country are doing something like it, she knows of nothing else like it in this area.

Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell said the program has been two years in the making. When he discussed the legal needs of the LGBT community with Downes, they identified name changes and gender markers as the top issue, so a clinic dealing with those issues was scheduled first. Two planned future clinics will address Class C misdemeanor tickets and estate planning. No dates have been set for those workshops.

McDonnell said he'd also like future workshops to address tenant-landlord disputes and discharge upgrades for those kicked out of the military under don't ask, don't tell.

Transgender woman Katie Sprinkle is one of the few attorneys in the area with a specialty in name and gender marker changes. She has been helping plan the legal workshop.

Sprinkle said it would be helpful for people to bring birth certificates, state-issued IDs, Social Security cards, passports and, if applicable, any documents relating to their criminal history. But not having those documents won't disqualify someone from participating; an attorney can help obtain any documents needed. That's just part of the process, Sprinkle said.

Sprinkle said Texas law doesn't require someone to file for name and gender marker changes in their home county, and some courts around the state refuse to deal with gender markers. But in Dallas County courts, the procedure is quite routine.

While the entire process normally takes about 60 days from day of filing, Sprinkle said several things could cause delays. For example, if someone has

completed probation, they have to wait two years before they can change their name. Or if someone had deferred adjudication, they have to file extra paperwork to have the infraction erased. That, Sprinkle said, is something an attorney can help clear up.

She's also worked with trans men whom she's advised to postpone changing a gender marker for insurance reasons. Some policies won't cover a hysterectomy for someone once they have been assigned male.

Sprinkle said each person's circumstances are a little different, and that's why she's encouraging anyone who's in the process of transitioning and not already working with an attorney to attend.

Downes said one way her school is preparing for this is bringing Sprinkle's wife, Leslie McMurray, who works at Resource Center, to do some cultural competency training. Downes said she expects by the end of the afternoon to have some petitions for name and gender marker changes ready to be filed.

"Once the petitions are filed, the students will see it through," she said. "They'll be hands on.

"It'll be a relaxed setting, but we'll be working hard," Downes continued. "We're excited about people getting this chapter done and being able to move on with their lives."

To further allay the fears anyone might have of speaking with an attorney, Downes said the average age of the school's students is 33. Many returned to law school because of something that happened in their lives; they relied on legal help and now want to help others.

McDonnell said he hopes this is the beginning of a long and successful relationship with the law school.



BTD From Previous Page.

the completely web-based applications are available online at BlackTie.org/Beneficiaries. Completed applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15. For more information about the application process email corela@blacktie.org.

Black Tie Dinner, now beginning its 38th year, is the largest sit-down dinner of its kind in the country. Over the last 37 years, the organization has distributed more than \$23 million to local nonprofits in the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities and to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Black Tie's national benefi-

ciary each year.

The 2019 dinner will be held Nov. 2 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. For information, visit BlackTie.org.

Each year, Black Tie's board of directors chooses up to 20 LGBTQ-supportive organizations from the North Texas area to share in proceeds from that year's dinner. To be eligible, candidates must have a tax-exempt status as determined by the IRS, be able to demonstrate significant service to the North Texas LGBTQ community and must use a majority of the money they receive from Black Tie for

direct programs and services.

"Our beneficiaries are the reason our board works so hard throughout the year to raise funds" Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Nathan Robbins said this week. "Our local beneficiaries make a huge difference in the North Texas community, so we are always excited to read about their impact each year during the application process."

Robbins said Black Tie is offering its "First-Year Beneficiary" program again this year, for the third consecutive year.

This program allows organizations

chosen as beneficiaries for the first time to participate with fewer requirements — for example, they are responsible for selling fewer tables and raffle tickets and for donating fewer auction items and volunteer hours, he said. As a result of the lighter requirements, Robbins explained, first-year beneficiaries receive a proportionally lower financial distribution.

This program, Robbins said, gives organizations new to Black Tie a chance to "get acquainted with the Black Tie Dinner family." After the first year, they will have to apply as a full beneficiary.

MetroBall headliners announced

14th annual event will feature Lisa Lisa, Robin S and Maxine Nightingale

FROM STAFF REPORTS



This year's MetroBall, GD-MAF's largest annual fundraising event, will be held June 7 at Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

GDMAF Founder and Treasurer David Hearn said more than 700 people are expected to attend the event, which includes a silent auction featuring more than 100 items and a DJ-dance party.

Hearn said that the celebrity emcee

Official MetroBall sponsors include Caven Enterprises, Dallas Voice, UPS Store, Dark Hour Haunted House, Omni Hotel, Saras Secret/Condoms to Go, AHF Pharmacy, John Deluna — Design, Copy — Strategy, MMS, Gilead, Uptown Physicians, Warwick Hotel, Doug Boster Catering and Toyota of Irving.

Hearn noted that since it was founded in 1996, in honor of his late partner Greg Dollgener, GDMAF has raised more than \$700,000, using that money to help more than 3,500 people with HIV/AIDS. The organization, operated completely by volunteers, helps people with HIV/AIDS cover costs — like paying rent or replacing a broken appliance — that aren't paid for through insurance and other HIV/AIDS organizations.

In addition to assisting individuals, GDMAF also donates to other North Texas programs once their primary funding is exhausted. Those organizations in-

paved the way for divas such as Gloria Estefan, Shakira, Selena and Jennifer Lopez. She had six top selling albums and sold more than 20 million records worldwide.

As the front-woman for Full Force's Cult Jam, Lisa Lisa had a string of chart-topping songs that started with "I Wonder If I Take You Home." Their debut album, Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam with Full Force, included the ballad "All Cried Out," and earned the group their second charting single, which catapulted the album to platinum status.

Spanish Fly, her second album, released in 1987, also hit platinum with singles like as "Head to Toe" and "Lost in Emotion."

Lisa Lisa has appeared in numerous television specials and on Broadway.

Robin S, born and raised in Queens, New York, began singing at age five in a church choir, then began vocal training at age eight with Brook Alexander, who also instructed Melba Moore.

At 15, Robin joined both jazz and cov-

radar. You never know which way I am coming from or what I'm doing.

"But," she added, "be sure of this: I am doing some really good things!"

Robin S currently has a weekly radio spot with "Gods DJ Pat Allen" out of California and is working on a new project and writing a poetry book.

Maxine Nightingale is a Grammy-nominated recording artist who has been touring the world for the past 25 years. Her multi-platinum single "Right Back Where We Started From" hit No. 1 in 24 countries, including the U.S., and she was nominated for the "Best New Artist" Grammy in 1976 for her hit single "Right Back." Her album Lead Me On was certified multi-platinum in 20 countries and gave her another No. 1 single, with "Lead Me On." It stayed on the top of the U.S. music charts for a record-breaking 47 weeks. And was recently placed at No. 11 on Billboard's All Time Contemporary Songs from the Past Century.

Nightingale has continued recording







Left to right, Lisa Lisa, Maxine Nightingale and Robin S

for MetroBall would be announced by April 1.

Tickets and sponsorships are available now online at gdmaf.org/MetroBall or by contacting Hearn by email at planobar@aol.com or by phone 972-743-6323.

General admission tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. A limited number of VIP packages, which include admission to a meet-and-greet session with the performers, are also available.

General admission tickets will also be available at the UPS Store on Cedar Springs, on a cash-only basis, as of April clude Prism Health of North Texas, AIDS Outreach Center Fort Worth, Resource Center, Access & Information Network (AIN), Health Services of North Texas Denton, Health Services of North Texas Plano, AIDS Services of Dallas, Amelia Court — Parkland Hospital and Arch Center — Children's Medical Center Dallas, Legacy Counseling Center and AIDS Walk South Dallas.

About this year's performers

Acknowledged as an originator of the Latin hip-hop/freestyle genre, Lisa Lisa

er bands in the New York metropolitan area, performing at dinner clubs, lounges, and other venues. While she was a member of the band Top Shelf, she met the owners of Homeboy Recording Studios, who began laying demo tracks for Robin's vocals.

Her first gold single was "Show Me Love," released in 1990 under the name Robin Stone, eventually caught the eye of executives at Big Beat Records, paving the way for her future career.

Although some may think she is out of the music scene these days, Robin said she is "like a stealth jet flying under the for RCA Records over the last decade, releasing numerous jazz, pop and urban contemporary CDs in the U.S. and Europe. She has shared billing with Santana, The Commodores, Lionel Richie, Boz Skaggs, The Average White Band, Rose Royce, The Temptations, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., Isaac Hayes and

Her song "Right Back Where I Started From" has been featured in the soundtracks for the movies *Starsky and Hutch* and *The Family Stone*, and can be heard in various commercials for Pantene Hair Conditioner.



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MARRIAGE From Page 8

Saturday. "Anyone who is not yet married gets their own wedding at a future date," Shobe said. And that's something he's relishing.

Robinson, who will participate in the ceremony, served as the bishop of the New Hampshire diocese and recently preached at the committal of Matthew Shepard's ashes at The Washington National Cathedral.

"Since his retirement," Shobe said, "he's been an advocate for marginalized people."

Robinson will preach at the church and several dozen additional clergy will participate.

One of the couples participating in the ceremony is the Rev. Jerry D. Godwin and David W. Stinson. Godwin is a retired priest and former rector of Transfiguration who now lives in Washington State.

"After 30 years of ministry at Transfiguration Dallas, first as senior associate and then as rector of the parish, I, with my partner of 35 years and husband of seven years, joyfully return to Transfiguration for this celebration and renewal of our vows, along with those of several couples at whose weddings I participated outside the diocese and outside the church," Godwin wrote in an email.

"If not an historic moment in the larger church, it most certainly is in the life of a local congregation known for championing social justice, first for the ordination of women, now for LGBTQ persons and always striving to respect the dignity of every human being," Godwin said.

Michael Widmer and Alvaro Amador were married in Trinity Church Boston in 2012. Widmer was baptised at Transfiguration, and his mother, sister and childhood friends were all married at the church.

"I participated in all of those weddings, but never thought I could actually have a wedding [at his home church] myself," he said.

So participating in this ceremony, Widmer said, was incredibly meaningful to him. Amador's best man is flying in from Provincetown to participate once again.

Another participant in the ceremony is Transfiguration member Randell Christopher, who was married in a civil ceremony. While he said he and his husband would rather have waited for a church ceremony, his husband's company was going to stop offering partner benefits after the *Obergefell* decision. So they opted for a simple legal marriage at the time.

"With God's grace and Jesus' commandments of abounding love, and in memory of the love and sacrifice of those who came before us, we rejoice and celebrate with gratitude and love this step forward in our personal life and our church's life," Christopher said.

Mark Ramsay and Brian Corkins said they are "absolutely thrilled" to be part of Saturday's ceremony, and to "have our marriage blessed and acknowledged by our home church."

After marriage equality became law in 2015, Ramsay and Corkins were married in an Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, Corkins' hometown. Shobe made the arrangements with the rector of the Michigan church. But, Ramsay said, having their marriage blessed by their own rector meant a lot to them.

Ramsay expressed his delight at the excitement among the congregation at Church of the Transfiguration, which he described as "90 percent straight, old and white. ... They're more excited about this than we are," he said. "We're grateful to be part of this congregation."

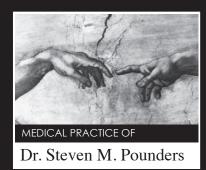
While the ceremony is open to anyone interested in attending, Shobe said he expects the sanctuary to be packed. In addition to the 15 couples' invited friends and family, many members of the congregation, as well as many clergy from other Episcopal churches, are expected to attend.

The service begins at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19 at Church of the Transfiguration, 15115 Hillcrest Road.



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Steve King and his racist agenda

Tshall begin this week's column with a limerick:

There once was a Republican named Steve

Who was racist like you wouldn't believe

But the media ignored him Because white supremacy bores them And focused on Rashida Tlaib.

If you've been paying attention to the news, then you know that both Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, and Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., have gotten attention for things they said out loud into microphones.

Except one of these representatives initially got way more attention.

Which one? Well, that would be Rashida Tlaib, the first Muslim woman ever elected to Congress, who she said, in speaking about Donald Trump, that we should "impeach the motherfucker."

Cue the pearl clutching.

Every possible news outlet ran with the story of the Muslim woman saying a bad word about a president who has shown nothing but contempt for people like her. My goodness, you would have thought that Tlaib had advocated grabbing women "by the pussy" or something.

Meanwhile, Steve King, one of the most open and unapologetic racists in Congress, while speaking to the New York Times, reminisced about a bygone era — and at first there was barely a peep by the media.

"White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization — how did that language become offensive?" King asked. "Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?"

Perhaps he went to a whites-only school. But King clearly has forgotten — or never bothered to learn about — our country's truly heinous history of slavery and racism.

In a statement, King claims that he was referring only to the term "Western civilization," not lumping the three terms together as the Times indicated. However, that's hard to believe because King has a long history of being super-duper racist and hasn't been at all shy about it.

For example, he once tweeted: "Culture and demographics are our destiny.





D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies."

And

he doesn't SAY that by "civilization" he meant "whites" and that by "somebody else's

babies" he means Muslims, he is responding to a — since deleted — tweet praising Geert Wilders, a Dutch politician who is known for his far-right, anti-Muslim dickishness.

Add that to the fact that King has been an anti-Obama birther since day one, even going so far as to say in 2008, "If [Obama] is elected president then the radical Islamists ... will be dancing in the streets in greater numbers than they did on Sept. 11, because they will declare victory in this war on terror."

King has also declared that only white people have contributed to civilization, unlike what he called "sub-groups."

Unsurprisingly, King not only hates non-white people, he also hates LGBTQ people. Weird how often those things go together, isn't it?

Marriage equality? He's against it. Transgender people in the military? He's a no on that, too.

Right before the midterm elections, King said he was looking forward to a solidly conservative U.S. Supreme Court, going so far as to say he hoped that Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor would "elope to Cuba." Though neither woman has publicly identified as a lesbian, that's just the worst thing King could think to call them. Not sure what the Cuba angle is. Sotomayor's parents were Puerto Rican, which is probably close enough for Steve.

While the furor over Tlaib's MF-bomb seems to be waning, King is, thankfully, starting to get into all kinds of trouble. The GOP actually kicked him off of his committees, which is a BFD.

According to Slate, "The House GOP removed King from the powerful Judiciary Committee, which oversees immigration and voting rights, and the Agriculture Committee, a plum assignment for a congressman representing rural Iowa. King was also stripped of his seat on the Small Business Committee."

A man like King has no business overseeing matters related in any way to immigration and voting, so that's good news. It's just sad that it took the GOP so long to disavow King's bigotry.

Of course, the only problem the GOP has with King is that he says the quiet part out loud. The GOP's long history of policies that hurt minorities is an open book, plus they embrace Trump wholeheartedly.

Oh, and by the way, Trump has previously said that King is "a special guy, a smart person, with really the right views on almost everything."

Iowa, DTMFA.

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES 1 Executive Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

e all frolicked on one — it's in every playground in America. We called it a seesaw, or a teeter-totter, and it was

physics at its most basic: One kid on one side, one on the other, a fulcrum in the middle in a perpetual motion of wheees!

We never thought we could make a career out of it. And, frankly, neither did David Rimmer.

Although Rimmer has been in athletics since his was 5 years old, growing up in Liverpool, he mostly did competitive gymnastics.

"I did artistic gymnastics until I was 17," he says, and then moved on to trampoline.

"It was a little bit different than jumping on the

bed," he laughs. For one thing, your mom doesn't yell at you for trampolining; in fact, she'd likely cheer you on, especially if, like Rimmer, you competed in the European and World championship.

It was after a few years of that when Rimmer

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decided to parlay his competitive sports training into a career.

"I auditioned for Cirque du Soleil in 2011," he says. He flew to Paris for a weekend-long audition, performing for the famed French-Canadian modern

circus company every leap and bounce he could to impress them. Maybe his skills would translate into an act for one of their shows.

Cirque was impressed. They wanted him in one of their companies... doing the teeterboard.

Yeah, Rimmer had never heard of it either.

"When they told me they wanted me to do it, I had

no idea what it was," he confesses.

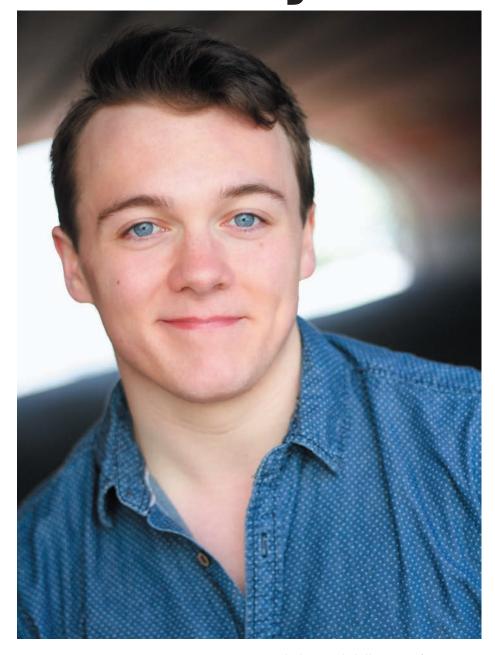
That was nearly eight years ago. But remember what we said about seesaws? Rimmer learned the specific skills that come from a crew of men — broken down into flyers, pushers and those who do both — soaring high under the big top in a jacked-up version of that. He spent the first few years with Cirque in Corteo, performing in South Africa; about four years ago, he moved onto Amaluna, which makes its North Texas debut this month.

Although the act itself only lasts for 15 minutes a show, the discipline it takes to put on such a show is intense.

"We obviously train a lot — three times a week," Rimmer says. "It also depends on what we need to do. If we have a new guy on the team, we have to focus on

■ AMALUNA Page 23

Latter-day cook



For amateur chef Kenny Francoeur, performing in 'The Book of Mormon' is just one of his passions

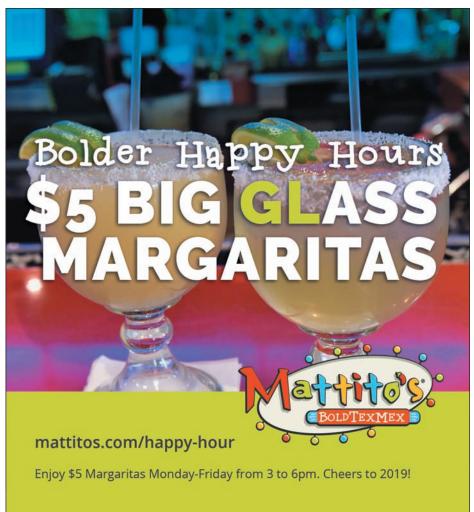
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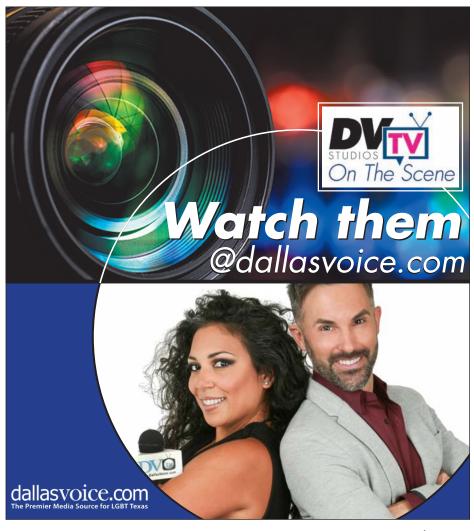
magine you were an integral part of the cast of a very popular Broadway musical. What kind of talents would you possess? Stellar dance skills? A golden soprano? The ability to make a perfect béchamel sauce?

Yeah, that last one may not quite

match the usual skill set. But for Kenny Francoeur, the dance captain of *The* Book of Mormon, cooking is just part and parcel of his multi-talented persona. So much so, in fact, that when he's not rehearsing or performing, Francoeur is busy conjuring up gourmet goodies for himself and his castmates as they travel across the country. Francoeur's blog The Long-Distance Kitchen chronicles it all — recipes, stories and insights, all delivered with a dash or two of his signature sass. "I will always capitalize the C in Croissant," he says for example in a recent entry, "because these pastries

■ LATTER DAY Page 19





Dildos and don'ts

Part farce, part tragedy, 'Next Room' eventually hits the spot

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor iones@dallasvoice.com

> merica, recently removed from the doldrums of the Civil War

and on the brink of modernity with the advancements of the Technological Revolution, still cannot escape its inherent

Victorianism. Electrification, automobiles and long-distance communication have transformed society's abilities but not its mores. Women are still corseted and treated paternalistically by their husbands; personal fulfillment as a concept, especially for women, doesn't exist. (Is it any wonder that Freud developed the idea of psychoanalysis

around the same time?)

That's true for Mrs. Givings (Jennifer Kuenzer), the wife of a prominent gynecologist (David Meglino). She's recently given birth but cannot produce

> breast milk in sufficient quantities to feed her daughter, so her husband hires an African-American wet nurse (Sky Williams).

Simultaneously, one of the doctor's patients, a frigid young socialite named Mrs. Daldry (Mindy Neuendorff), is unable to satisfy her own husband (Robert San Juan)... or be satisfied by him. Dr. Givings diagnoses her with "hysteria," and prescribes a "treatment" involving his new electric stimulation device...

■ DILDOS Page 23



A repressed doctor's wife (Jennifer Kuenzer) and a foppish patient (Evan Michael Woods) become entwined in a complicated relationship. (Photo courtesy Kris Ikejiri)



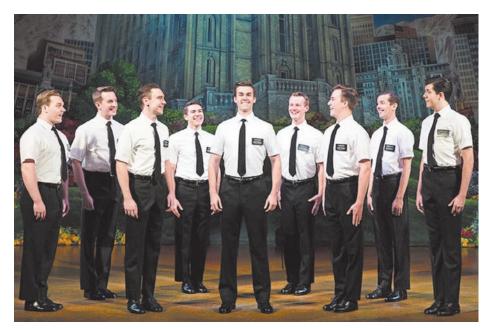


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■ LATTER DAY From Page 17

deserve the same respect and honor as our deities."

Baking those little deities is difficult enough. Francoeur manages to bake them in the tiny kitchens of his hotel suite or, if he's lucky, an Air BnB. "I'm really grateful the hotels have kitchens at all," he said during a recent phone interview. "But they are usually under-supplied. And the oven and fridge might be pieces of junk." He makes up for it by traveling with a trunk full of pots, pans and other equipment. "At one point I was bringing along an entire Kitchenaid standing mixer," he says. Often he'll create a recipe based on where he travels — when Mormon was in Chicago, he made deep dish pizza; a trip to Paris inspired his Magret de Canard replete with video demonstrations.

A typical work day for Francoeur starts at 1 p.m. with a four-hour rehearsal. As dance captain, he's is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the show's choreography — he must be at all rehearsals, and he's responsible not just for his own dancing but for his fellow cast members as well. There's a dinner break at 5 p.m., and then the show begins at 7. He's usually not back to his room until 1 a.m. This is break time; often he cooks until four in the morning. Recently, however, Francoeur says he's trying to shift his schedule and get up early rather than staying up late.

Either way, such a packed schedule can lead to some goofs. Francoeur recalls a time when a friend asked if they could bake a pie together for someone's birthday. They worked for a while together, and when it got late Francoeur told the friend, "'You go to bed. I've

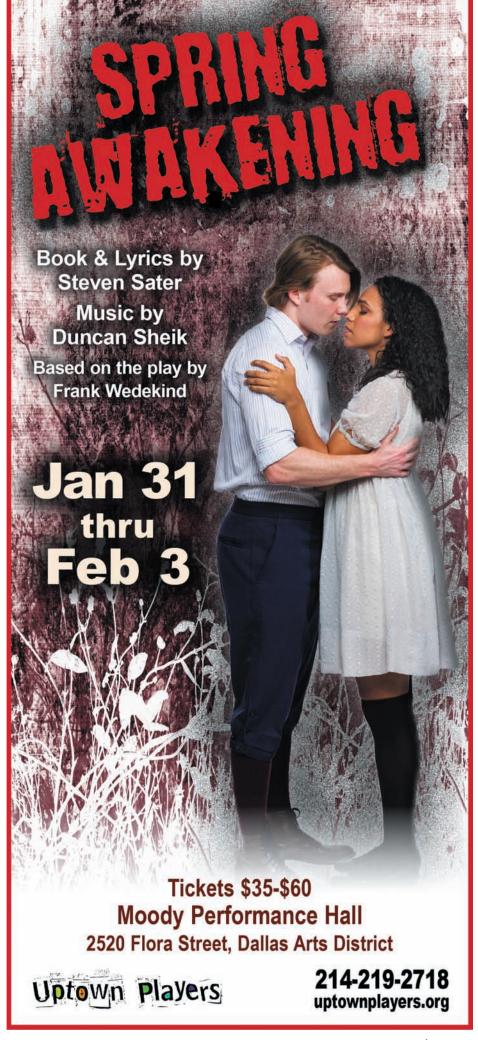
got the rest covered." Francoeur then promptly fell asleep as the pie cooked in the oven overnight. "We had spent all this time, making the crust, the filling," he says with a laugh, "and eight hours later we had a carbon brick of cherry pie. I felt so bad!"

When he's not cooking, creating recipes, rehearsing or performing, Francoeur is writing (not just his blog; his recent essay in the Advocate is an insightful look into the racism inherent in digital dating scenarios). He credits his upbringing for his diverse skills... and for his performance career.

"As the youngest I was always trying to get attention, always being the little clown," he says. His parents channeled that energy by enrolling him in children's theater, which lead to acting in high school. "But I was determined to be a history teacher," he says. "But my parents wanted me to give acting a shot. They forced my hand."

His parents have always been supportive, he says. "We've never been ones to put ourselves in boxes. It made it very easy to explore different kinds of performance."

With support like that, it's no wonder he views even *The Book of Mormon*— known primarily for its edginess— from a gentler perspective. "When people hear about it, they hear about the crass language, and yes, everything you've heard is true," he says. "But it's also heartwarming. It's really important that it's shared in the world we live in, encouraging acceptance, honesty, helping others. All that is in the middle of this crass little story written by those *South Park* guys. I know that's what they intended."



LIFE+STYLE

profile

Working the kinks out

Queermedian Margaret Cho talks new Asian-led kink series and Hollywood homophobia

amn that bulging carpometacarpal joint. Without it, Margaret Cho's kink play could've been trouble-free, but nope — that thumb joint has been "the bane of my existence since 1991," she says.

That's right: A conversation with Margaret Cho somehow lands on the topic of fisting. These things happen! Clearly, our chat took many wild and sexually freewheeling turns when the trailblazing comic called to discuss executive producing Mercy Mistress, an Asian-led web series exploring BDSM through the relationship of its lead, a queer Chinese-American dominatrix named Mistress Yin (played by actress-activist Poppy Liu), and her new client. The series is based on sex-work activist and BDSM educator Yin Q's memoir. Difficult digits aside, Cho discussed her intro to kink, diversity casting, what makes queer sex special and why Christian Grey should've been a sub.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: You've long spoken openly about sex, sexuality and kink. Why is it important to you to talk about queer sex in your work? Margaret Cho: It's just another way to embellish identity. There are just ways of being ourselves, and when you're queer and you come out, you come out to a world where you kind of need to figure out who you are because the examples aren't out there for us. They aren't defined. The lanes aren't so, like, obvious [laughs]. So, you really need to create it

When I was growing up in the '80s and '90s we had to deal with AIDS, which was such a huge, difficult monstrosity to get your head around and also to understand what we could do sexually that was not fluid bonded, so that's where bondage

and BDSM — all that kind of stuff — really came into the culture in a very, very big way. So, I was working in San Francisco at a lesbian BDSM collective making leather dildos and vaginas.

I believe you're referring to Stormy
Leather. Yeah. Way back when. And so I
was just very interested in that world, and
it just developed alongside everything.
Now, BDSM is very mainstream with Fifty
Shades of Grey and that kind of stuff, so

it's cool.

Is there a toy that you made that you were particularly proud of, like, "Hey, I did that?" No, because I wasn't designing them. It was more just the sheer number of ways you could make a strap-on. You could do a chin one, you could do a forehead one, like a unicorn. You could do a thigh one. I think the thigh one actually makes a lot of sense, ergonomically. It's actually better for the lower back than the traditional jockstrap harness.

A strap-on that's easier on the lower back appeals to me as I get older. Yeah, you wanna make sure you can continue doing these repetitive movements. Strap-ons, there's a great appeal to them. They're really fun, and even if you're not necessarily in a queer sexual relationship, you could definitely use them in any way, shape or form. I think that it adds another element. If you can add another phallus, it's always a positive.

Regarding your own queer sex education, whose examples were you following while growing up in the '80s? [Sex-positive feminist author] Susie Bright had a major role in that, and in the digital age somebody like [erotica writer] Violet Blue, who's a good friend of mine. Also [former porn actress and sex-positive feminist] Nina Hartley, who is a very, very old friend of mine and really great. They're people who really just showed me the ropes, as it were.

Is Mercy Mistress a good introduction for somebody who doesn't know much



about the kink world? Yeah, I think it's a great, great introduction. And also we're seeing Asian-Americans in a way we've never seen before, which I think is really incredible too. That's what I get really excited about. I think we've really gotten to this place that we're looking at diversity as something that is really necessary and really important, so I love that. And it really puts the control back into our hands, like we can actually control the narrative, as opposed to being an object; we're actually running the thing. That's really amazing.

How did you get involved as a producer?

My company, Animal Family, is one of the producers. We got into contact with the Mercy Mistress people; they just really

were doing. We loved the landscape of the world they were showing. We loved everything. It just seemed like a natural fit.

When did your interest in kink first pique?

Growing up in San Francisco around that era of queer politics was a very big deal. I grew up on Polk Street, which was really the epicenter; that and the Castro, where Harvey Milk was doing a lot of work. So I think being around all of that, it just seemed inevitable. My father owned a gay bookstore and he hired all these employees who were identifying in different ways, who were transitioning. Transitioning started in the '70s, which is an incredible thing

■ KINKS Page 22



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if you think about how early this was. People were transitioning, of course, before that, but that was the first experience I have had with people who were deciding to define their own gender. I got hired at Stormy Leather and I started meeting trans men for the first time. Before that it was just male-to-female trans women, but this was different, when it was femaleto-male transition. That was a very big, eye-opening thing; it just gave female body sexuality so much agency, which I had never really experienced before, and I thought that was really amazing and powerful.

In recent years, the trans community has been given a greater mainstream platform. But as we know, and as you point out, transgender people have existed for a very long time. Yeah, it's been there; it's just that we as a society haven't looked to them, and yet they've changed and shaped culture for centuries. It's really been forever but we just didn't know.

I think the same can be said about the kink community in a way, don't you? It's something that's been there but we haven't explored it in a mainstream way.

And when we do, do we get it right? Did Fifty Shades of Grey get it right? Well, my feeling about Fifty Shades of Grey is, for the Christian Grey character, there's no way he could actually be a dominant. He has to be a male submissive. Usually men who are wealthy, in great positions of power and who have that much luxury at their disposal to kind of extend on their sexuality are going to be a male submissive because they are just sick of being in charge. That, to me, is where I find it to be off. It's almost like Cinderella or something. It's kind of this weird European folktale where these gender roles are very stringent and don't allow for the men to fully explore their potential in who they really could be.

Because, according to Hollywood, it's the wav a man should act. Yeah. And that's the reason for these stories: to enforce the status quo and keep the culture intact and keep us from overstepping. But I don't want to be told that when you're in there for fantasy. It's not authentic to me. But I appreciate that it exists - and I appreciate that it sent countless millions of people to explore what this kind of sexuality is.

What perspective does Mercy Mistress offer on kink that hasn't yet been portrayed in the media? It's a real place of honesty and truth around what kink is. That it's just about a turn-on and the different kinds of people encountered in this world. The images of people in it are very authentic, which I think is very different.

A gay character tells a straight character: "You all need some kind of manual to figure out kinky sex." What can LGBTQ people teach the straight community about kink?

We listen to our instincts because that's all we have to go on. And that's the biggest truth: We do what we like because we fight so hard to get to do what we like.

How does your "interests and limits" list these days compare to your kink origins? I've actually gotten way more vanilla, which is funny, because when you're out there, you're trying to show off a little bit, to some degree, as to what you can take and what you're able to handle. And embellish that — embellish your own prowess. As I'm approaching 50, rapidly, I feel like, actually, I'm much more sedate, but I appreciate all the things that I'm experiencing seeing. I think that's great. But yeah, still can't get that thumb-knuckle in for the fisting! [Laughs]

Even all these years later? All these years later, I could never get that thumb in there, and I always had this feeling of like, "I'm just not really good enough to do this." But you don't have to get the thumb in.

It's still fisting without the thumb? It's still fisting without the thumb! And, you know, it's really fun.

In my mind, I'm still laughing about this thumb thing. It's the first joint that comes out. I'm looking at my thumb right now. It's that first little thumb joint. I just cannot get it in - no matter how small their thumb is, that joint always sticks out. That joint has been the bane of my existence since 1991. I just can't get it in there. No kind of lube is gonna [work] and I'm probably as stretched out as you can get and it's still not gonna happen.

And you give up? I give up. I'm done.

When it comes to kink, does anything shock you anymore? Mmm, no. Because it's in the realm of play, nothing should be off-limits. It's play for a reason; it's just fantasy. It's these cathedrals we construct around our imagination; they have no bearing to what is in the real world, you know? If it's just play, everything is just play. People get into very wild situations that we don't have to judge or that we don't have to say, "That's too far," because it's not for public consumption; it's just between two people or between however many people have agreed on this particular fantasy.



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For more of our interview wit Margaret Cho, visit, DallasVoice.com.

basics and practice our skills. If we're doing big skills [or learning a new routine], we use a matted area or harnesses. We try to keep ourselves in shape. We all kind of weigh a similar weight. We cannot overload ourselves doing 10 shows a week."

Each Cirque du Soleil production is built around a look or a theme or a style; one element that sets Amaluna apart is how female-centric it is. Virtually all the athletes, clowns, jugglers and musicians in the show are women. The sole hold out? The men of the teeterboard. And for Rimmer, it makes for an interesting dynamic.

"Pretty much we are the only testosterone in the tent," he says. "There is a difference between Corteo and here, but the vibe is still the same: Everyone gets along and the environment is nice. You want the audience to have a good time, especially in our team, because we are the boys and we play and go into the audience and [get them psyched up]."

The energy and excitement comes naturally to Rimmer, even the sense of danger that comes from flying through the air.

"There are always nerves [when you perform], but I like working up adrenaline — I do extreme sports, go hiking, keeping myself active.

But running away to the circus is a different kind of thrill than athletics.

"When I was doing [competitive] gymnastics, it was very serious. It was drilled into you as a child that you are going to succeed, and that there's always some [other goal] to aim for — another competition, another tournament. Your mind is always in the competitive mode. But when I finished my gymnastics career I didn't want to stop because it's what I really wanted to do. But here you're in it to work toward the same goal. I prefer the artistic side [of performing]."

And he also likes the travel. He's been away from home since he was barely out of his teens, and "seeing different cultures and traveling with this group of people is the best part."

On the other hand, while some cast members travel with their boyfriends or spouses, Rimmer says he's too career-focused right now to date. Maybe when he's ready to settle down, he'll take the most daring leap of his life... without a net.

and proceeds to masturbate his client to orgas... sorry, "paroxysm."

It would be the stuff of farce if it weren't based on historical fact, and Sarah Ruhl's play *In The Next Room* (*Or The Vibrator Play*), now at the Bath House Cultural Center, combines the two, with mixed success. The farce aspect gets laden with (perhaps unavoidable) slow pacing: Just getting people in and out of their garments is a dull routine, although also part of the point

— these people are dinosaurs in the modern world, as caged by whale-bone and petticoats as by provincial morality. The humor — and there is plenty of it by way of situational satire — never gains much momentum from scene to scene.

And then Act 2 begins, and the game changes — first by the entrance of Leo (Evan Michael Woods), a rare instance of a man suffering from hysteria (and similarly treated by his own phallic implement), and second by the eleva-

tion of the acting. Woods' energetic Romanticism is charmingly tone-deaf to the woman around him; Neuendorff's realization of her feeling for the doctor's assistant (Katlin Moon-Jones) is both sad and sweet. But Williams and Kuenzer both steal scenes near the end where their exploration of their own predicaments, hemmed in by convention, produce legitimate "wow" moments. It takes a lot of foreplay, but the payoff is ultimately satisfying.



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LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Friday 01.18 — **Sunday** 02.10

DTC opens 2019 with Pulitzer winner 'Sweat'

As the federal government shutdown drags on, it's sobering to consider Lynn Nottage's 2017 play *Sweat*, about how private-sector shutdowns of a factory affects the people — many friends— working in a dead-end factory town. Nottage became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama twice. This production includes DTC company members Sally Nystuen Vahle, Liz Mikel Christopher Llewyn Ramirez and Ace Anderson.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. In previews through Jan. 22. DallasTheaterCenter.org



Friday 01.25 — Sunday 01.27

DSO meets its Waterloo with The Music of ABBA

What with the Mamma Mia movie sequel and Cher's new album, ABBA is in the middle of big comeback... not that the supergroup ever went away. Well, now the Dallas Symphony is getting into the act. The orchestra will perform three shows of The Music of ABBA with guests the Rajaton Vocal Ensemble, including all the iconic songs from the Swedish band.

DEETS: Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Friday at Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. MyDSO.com.

Thursday 01.24 — **Sunday** 01.27

Dark Circles begins residency at WaterTower

Dark Circle Contemporary Dance has performed at WaterTower Theatre in the past, but the companies' new association ups that game, as the gay-led dance troupe becomes an artist-in-residence this year. The team-up kicks off this week with four performances of new works that explore gay identity through movement. The evening includes works from queer choreographers Joshua L. Peugh, Mark Caserta, Eoghan Dillon and Mikey Morado, plus work from multimedia artist Brian Kenny.

DEETS: Addison Theatre
Centre, 15650 Addison Road.
DarkCirclesContemporaryDance.com.
WaterTowerTheatre.org.







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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Clowning Around with Murder! Another world premiere In Loving Black and White production from Pegasus Theatre, featuring bumbling detective Harry Hunsacker. Final weekend. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. PegasusTheatre.org.

Everybody. When all life must end, the guy "upstairs" calls them all - everybody - must learn their fate in the afterlife in this Pulitzer Prize finalist for drama, a modern, snarky comedy. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Jan. 27. StageWest.org.

Hamlet. Shakespeare Dallas launched is inaugural with the Bard's masterpiece of psychology. Moody Performance Hall, 2450 Flora St. Through Sunday. \$20-\$35. ShakespeareDallas.org.

In the Next Room; or The Vibrator Play. Sarah Ruhl's racy comedy of manners about how women in the Victorian Era were treated for "hysteria" via sexual assault. Presented by Imprint Theatreworks. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Jan. 26. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

Sweat. Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer play about the effects of unbalanced labor economic on real people. Presented by Dallas Theater Center. Kalita Humphrevs Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 10 (in previews through Jan. 22). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

DANCE

Shen Yun. The Chinese dance and music company returns to North Texas. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Jan. 27. ATTPAC.org.

FINE ART

An Enduring Legacy: The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Collection of Impressionist and Modern Art. The recent death of Dallas arts patron Margaret McDermott, at age 106, led to a bequest of 32 works from her private collection, housed in her own home until recently, and now on display with three previously-donated works to the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 17. DMA.org.

Ida O'Keeffe: Escaping Georgia's Shadow. The work of the "forgotten" sister of Georgia O'Keeffe, a promising artist in her own right, gets an exhibition. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 24. DMA.org.

Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello.

Archeological exhibition that details life for possessed peoples who worked the plantation of the third president of the United States. African American Museum at Fair Park. Through Monday.

FRIDAY 01.18

COMMUNITY

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

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars. The fourth installment of returning queens competing for the crown. VH1 at 7 p.m.

MONDAY 01.21

Mama's Party. Weekly cabaret night with special quest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10

TUESDAY 01.22

FILM

The Day the Earth Stood Still. An early example of '50s scifi with a humanistic message, about an alien who arrives on Earth in peace, but who nonetheless triggers worldwide panic and animosity. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 01.23

Cirque du Soleil: Amaluna. The latest from the French Canadian troupe of acrobatics, music and clowning, this time with a substantially female cast. Lone Star Park, 1000 Lone Star Parkway, Grand Prairie. Jan. 23-Feb. 17. From \$45.

CirqueDuSoleil.com/Amaluna.

THURSDAY 01.24

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andv's Bar. 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

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Cassie Nova

Is Big Brother watching?

Hello, my lovelies. Last night my husband and I went shoe shopping — he needed some work shoes and I needed some new tennis shoes. No big deal, just a casual evening of shopping and basically buying shit for ourselves that we didn't get for Christmas. We went to DSW in Cedar Hill and bought two pair of shoes each and a Newsies-style hat that Jamie said I looked cute in, so I snatched it up.

While shopping, I almost bought a pair of men's dress boots with a side zipper. They were adorable but a little pricey, and I all but refuse to buy anything that's not on sale. I'm telling you, the only way I will ever pay full price is if I am so in love with it that I am willing to top it. So for full price... I liked them, I didn't love them.

Today, I sat down at my computer to write my column and check my messages and Facebook ... and I see the devil in action. One of the first ads on Facebook was for a pair of black leather men's dress with a side zipper. On sale. What kind of "Big Brother is watching you" shit is this? Then, on the right side of the screen where they post mini-ads, what do I see? A fucking ad for a cute Newsies-style hat. Witchcraft, I tells ya!

I know that our phones listen to us, but I didn't know these fuckers could see what you are looking at inside stores as well. I am not one of these people who usually cares about my privacy or that stuff, but today I am shook. (That did not stop me from buying those boots, though — they will be here next Friday.) My point is, I appreciate the convenience but damn, Gina, we are getting closer to some Terminator/end-of-the-world shit. Skynet is gonna become self-aware soon, and we will all be f'ed in the A, and not in the good way. I think I am going to test my theory and just casually say out loud that I want a new Sit-N-Spin toy or some other random item just to see if it shows up on my feed... or will it know I am testing it? Or have I started a war just by asking these questions? Pray for me.

Anyhoo, I'm sure we have nothing to worry about, so let me help some folks in the little time we have left.

Dearest Cassie, I have been doing drag for about five years. I don't perform that often, but I go out a lot in drag and — not to brag — I am sickening. I get told I am beautiful all the time. I love dressing up as a woman, and I love all of the attention I get. I have been seeing this guy that will only talk to me when I am dressed up. He refuses to call me anything but my girl name, and even when we talk on the phone, he refers to me as his woman or his lady. It sounds weird, but I love it.

I have started to question if I should change my gender. I feel like I can be more myself when I'm dressed as a girl. I've been thinking of getting breasts. I know my boyfriend would love it if I had real tits. He has even offered to help pay for them. I guess my question is: How do I know if this is what

the right decision for me?

If I decide to transition it will change so much for me. I've only ever dressed up to go out or to have guys come over. I've never gone to work or out shopping dressed up.
I'm not sure

what

my



next step should be. Thank you, K.J.

Hi, K.J. I have one question for you: Would you still want to be a woman if you were not pretty? It is really that simple. If your true energy is feminine, then you would not doubt your journey. Being your true self is not about looks, it is about who you are on the inside. Do you want breasts, or do you only want them because they would make drag easier? Do what is going to make you happy, but you need to know what that is. And if there is still a question mark when you ask yourself these questions... you know the answer.

When I first started doing drag I went through a similar situation. I loved the attention so much that I did drag all of the time. I even remember thinking of getting pumped (that's when some non-medical

professional, usually in someone's living room, injects you with back alley silicone). I actually saved up to get my chest and cheekbones pumped. Thank the Lord I did not go through with it. I know of so many girls that have had it done, and it causes many health problems later in life. It really is poison to your body.

Dating someone who will only see you in drag is not really letting someone know you. He sounds like so many guys out there that start off by having sex with a drag queen so they can say they are still mostly straight. Whatever, dude. In a year or two he will probably be a full-fledged homo. That is his journey, though — don't let him dictate yours. If he really likes you, he will want to know the real you, but that may be something you need to work out for yourself. Good luck!

you? Maybe she's not in the same place as you when it comes to feelings. Having a kid changes the whole equation; you can't fault her for wanting to protect her son. You need to find out if she is in the relationship 100 percent. Ask her for a timeline, but be understanding. Is she out at all with her family? Maybe she is not as comfortable as you are at being out. Pride doesn't come easy for everybody.

Dear Cassie, My girlfriend and I are not your typical lesbian couple. We have

been together over two years and

do not live together, I am ready

to marry her and move in to-

gether, but she keeps saying that she likes things the

way they are. She has

an 8-year-old son that

I adore but hasn't told

her family that we are a couple. I'm frus-

trated. What should

I do? Thanks, Lez

If you love her, give her more time. Let her know you are all in and ready, but you will eventually need more from her. She will either come around, or you will know it is time to move on. Good luck!

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

Email your questions to AskCassieNo-va@gmail.com.



Girl power out on The Strip

Making the SCENE the week of Jan. 18-24:

- 1851 Club: Jada Fox, Sapphire Davenport and Ronnie Mikyles on Friday. Nia Courtland, Kristie Davenport and Dantel McKim on Saturday.
- 515 Bar: Tap TV Trivia for Cash at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- Alexandre's: Anton Shaw Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie sings Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- Cedar Springs Tap House: Two-for-One Burger Day from 11 a.m. on Thursday.
- · Club Reflection: Sapphire Tailar hosts Party on the Patio at 11 p.m. on Saturday.
- Dallas Eagle: Team Friendly DFW's 4th Annual Men's Underwear Auction at 7 p.m. on Friday. Kage's Paws & Claws Parade at 6-9 p.m. on Saturday. DIVA Night with DJ C-Rail on Saturday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night on Saturday.
- Deja Vu: MLK Mega Party Weekend. Dream on Sunday.
- Henry's Tavern: Celebrate Pride with us on Wednesday.
- \cdot Hidden Door: Congratulations on making Logo's list of 50 Most Popular Gay Bars in the U.S.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Double Trouble Tuesdays at 11 p.m. with Raquel Blake and Bleach.
- Liquid Zoo: Monday is Steak Night.
- Marty's Live: A Cancer Fundraising Show in memory of Gaylan Zant with Layla LaRue, Shavon, Gizelle Bevon Ashton and more at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- Round-Up Saloon: ManCandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs! at 10 p.m. on Monday. Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- Sue Ellen's: 30th Anniversary All White Pearl Party on Saturday. Miss Lady of the Lake State and State at Large Pageants at 6 p.m. on Sunday. \$5 cover. Primadonna and DJ Sno White on Saturday. The Mescaline Americans and Strangle Love on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Dion Summer on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Fuego Wednesdays at TMC.
- Urban Cowboy: Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Dallas Independent Volleyball Association Spring Mixer. Free drink for the first 30 registered members for spring season. Invite friends considering playing.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth



Enjoying the weather on the patio at Cedar Springs Tap House



Hanging out at Alexandre's



Eyebrows on point on The Strip



Staying cool on The Strip



Keeping things secure at Havana



Thomas has a shot just for you at S4



Time for fun on The Strip



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Friends having fun on The Strip





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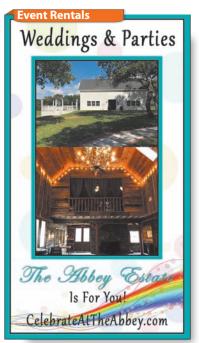


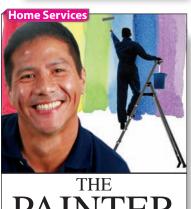
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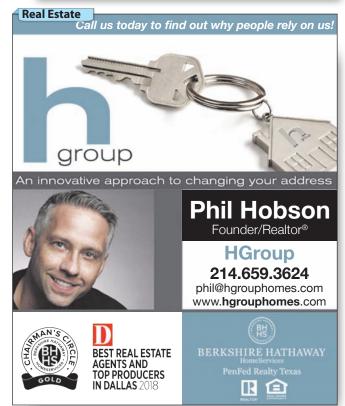


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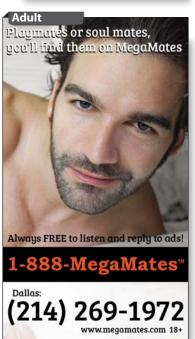
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15 16 18 20 22 23 25 28 31 34 38 39 40 42 41 43 44 46 55 63 64 65

Hedges' Moms

Solution on Page 26

Across

- 1 Potent leader
- 5 Peter I, for one
- 9 It could explode in your 49 Eat away at mouth, in a gag
- 14 Brightly colored
- 15 Top drawer
- 16 Venue of Spartacus
- 17 Ron Howard film with Ellen DeGeneres
- 18 Winslet of The Reader
- 19 Type of call
- 20 She plays the mom of Lucas Hedges in
- 31-Across
- 23 Showy bloomers
- 24 Goes down
- 27 It connects Dick to Dyke
- 28 How a guy may approach his boyfriend?
- 31 Lucas Hedges movie about a family struggling with gay
- conversion 35 Hopkins of Bosom Buddies
- 36 "Got ya!"
- 37 Prepared, like fruit
- 39 Toto's home st.
- 40 Sounds like
- Harvey Fierstein?
- 43 Lucas Hedges flick about a mom and son struggling with drug addiction
- 46 Slaves row them

- for their masters 48 Maugham's
- Cakes and ____
- 50 Debbie Harry's old band
- 54 She plays the mom of Lucas Hedges in
- 43-Across
- 57 Mexican friend of Maya Angelou?
- 60 Like the 13 Amer. colonies
- 61 ___ up (come clean)
- 62 Dorothy, to Em
- 63 When doubled, Mork's good-bye
- 64 Isherwood's
- Camera
- 65 Chat room request 66 On the calm side
- 67 Parker of South Park

Down

- 1 Erect
- 2 Concern of GLAAD and NLGIA
- 3 Lumberjack's first cut
- 4 Entail
- 5 Enjoy a bed, perhaps
- 6 Emulates three men in a tub
- 7 Opposition member
- 8 Clarinet part 9 Minnelli hit of 1972
- 10 Hard shaft material
- 11 GM make

- 12 Aardvark entree
- 13 Rebel Without a Cause director Nicholas
- 21 One with a tricky tongue
- 22 Summer Billings hrs.
- 25 Kevin Isom's It Only Hurts When I ___
- 26 Singer Yma from Peru
- 28 Colette's fathers
- 29 Forbidden fruit site
- 30 Propane holder
- 31 One way to San Francisco
- 32 Midwest hub
- 33 Arafat once of Middle East politics
- 34 Know, to Frida
- 38 Much of many a Shakespearean play
- 41 The Laramie
- 42 Entices into the sack, perhaps
- 44 Neatnik's opposite
- 45 Live Aid, e.g.
- 47 Rev. White of Soulforce
- 50 Juice for your pickle
- 51 Dismal, to Dickinson
- 52 Lancelot's "C'est Moi," translated
- 53 Francis Bacon work
- 55 Island of Barrie's land
- 56 Russian inland sea 57 T or F, on exams
- 58 Problem of Harold in The Boys in the Band
- 59 Some like it hot

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