

dallasvoice

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Art *Publica*

Lee Madrid is transforming walls in Oak Lawn with his murals.

by David Taffet, Page 8

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9th Circuit rejects Trump administration's military trans ban

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on Wednesday, July 18, rebuffed another attempt by the Trump administration to implement its plan to ban transgender people from serving openly in the U.S. military.

The administration had asked for a stay of the preliminary injunction issued by the trial court in December 2017 in a case brought by Lambda Legal and OutServe-SLDN, *Karnoski v. Trump*, and joined by the state of Washington. The stay, affirmed last month, blocks implementation of the trans ban and enables trans people to continue enlisting in the military.

The 9th Circuit ruled that the stay requested by the government "would upend, rather than

preserve, the status quo," which currently allows transgender people to serve in the military, according to a statement released today by Lambda Legal. The Trump administration had asked the Ninth Circuit to stay the injunction while it appealed the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington's April 13 ruling, which affirmed an earlier preliminary injunction and barred implementation of the transgender military ban.

The Trump administration had claimed that its "new" trans ban, released March 23, passed muster. But the court said the "new" plan was really a revamped version of the old plan and that it threatened the same constitutional violations. The court also found that the effort to ban trans people from military service must meet the most demanding level of scrutiny because it clearly targets transgender people.

The case is on track to go to trial in April 2019.

— Tammye Nash

Ohio executes gay man's killer

The state of Ohio on Wednesday, July 18, executed Robert Van Hook, 58, convicted of killing David Self in 1985. Van Hook had earlier this year tried to use the gay panic defense to escape the death penalty, according to a report by LGBTQ Nation.

Van Hook never claimed he did not kill Self but said that he had a difficult childhood that included sexual abuse and undiagnosed mental illness. He tried for years to get his sentenced overturned by claiming that his trial lawyers were incompetent, and earlier this year he begged the Ohio Parole Board for clemency, telling board members that he had been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and snapped when Self made sexual advances toward him.

Nobody bought it. The Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office called Van Hook's claim "cynical," writing in a filing that referred to Van Hook's admission that he had been robbing gay men since he was 15 that he "posed as a gay man; he frequented bars that were gay and he preyed on vulnerable victims who were gay."

Van Hook met Self, then 25, in a gay bar in Cincinnati, and after talking for a few hours, the two went back to Self's apartment. Once they were there, Van Hook strangled Self, then stabbed him several times in the neck before cutting open his abdomen and stabbing his internal organs.

When Self was found by a neighbor, he had

been nearly disemboweled, and Van Hook had left a cigarette butt and a paring knife in his abdominal cavity. Van Hook then stole a leather jacket and some necklaces and fled to Florida where he was arrested and then confessed to the murder.

— Tammye Nash

Federal judge rules foster agencies can't discriminate

A federal judge in Philadelphia ruled that foster care agencies that contract with the city must comply with its nondiscrimination ordinance. U.S. District Court Judge Petrese B. Tucker said Philadelphia didn't violate Catholic Social Services religious freedom when it suspended a contract with the agency because it wouldn't work with same-sex couples.

A Texas law passed in the last session of the Legislature specifically allows foster agencies to discriminate against LGBT foster singles and couples. While this ruling doesn't affect that law, it could be cited when questions of its constitutionality are debated in any upcoming lawsuit.

Philadelphia's local ordinance covers sexual orientation in public accommodations. Catholic Social Services argued the city was requiring the organization to abandon its religious beliefs.

The city said when an agency decides to take public dollars, they must serve everyone. By not working with same-sex couples, the agency was also limiting the pool of the best families and homes to place children.

Catholic Social Services countered it already had 30 good homes that were not being used.

Foster care agencies do home visits to certify that the home is safe for children. A representative for Catholic Social Services testified that certifying the home of a same-sex couple would be "a validation of the relationships in that home."

The judge said one other practice of the agency was problematic. Catholic Social Services requires a letter from clergy for any foster applicant. Tucker said that raised serious constitutional questions.

Catholic Social Services, which received \$1.7 million last year for its foster care placement services, would have to lay off employees and shutter its doors.

The city has contracts with 29 other foster care agencies.

— David Taffet



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THE GAY AGENDA



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

JULY

• Through September: Pride at the Library

From UNT's LGBT Archive, the library will exhibit collections from UNT's LGBT Archive, documenting the history and culture of the LGBT community in Dallas at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas History & Archives (7th floor), 1515 Young St.

• July 20: Tarrant County Democratic Party

The Tarrant County Democratic Party honors Lupe Valdez from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at R.J. Gator's Texas, 4413 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth. Tickets at secure.actblue.com.

• **July 21: Orange You Glad It's 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 21: Federal Club luncheon**
HRC's Olivia Alair Dalton is the speaker at the Federal Club summer luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 48th Floor, 1601 Elm St. RSVP required at eventbrite.com.

• **July 21: Coalition for Aging LGBT**
Join Brian Price, director of Coalition for Aging LGBT, to hear an update on the upcoming publication of the LGBT-friendly Senior Housing Guide for North Texas at 3 p.m. at Blue Mesa Grill, 612 Carroll St., Fort Worth.

• **July 22: Miss LifeWalk**
The 2018 Miss LifeWalk Pageant takes place from 6-9 p.m. in The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$20-30. LifeWalk.org.

• **July 24: Resource Center tour**
CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Resource Center from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to kfields@myresourcecenter.org.

• July 24: BEN After Hours

Chamber members and their guests are welcome to the monthly casual networking event from 5:30-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St., Suite 150.

• July 24: Federal Club

Recruiting event from 6-7:30 p.m. at Zatar, 2825 Commerce St. Info at shayom.ortiz@gmail.com.

• July 25: Watercolor Pawtraits

Maya X Kiwi is a watercolor artist with a specialty in animals. Participants will be painting their own pets, and the class is aimed at beginners. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Gather Kitchen, 1601 Elm St. Suite 140. \$60 at prekindle.com/event/89258-watercolor-pawtraits-dallas

• **July 26: GALA Volunteer engagement**
Learn about GALA and how to become more involved from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Blue Mesa Grill, 8200 Dallas Parkway, Plano.

• **July 26: Chaselyn Wade art show**
Chaselyn Wade's first art show opening at 5:30 p.m. at Cafe Izmir, 3711 Greenville Ave.

• **July 27: Black Tie Dinner On Stage**
Performing Arts Fort Worth hosts "Black Tie Dinner: On Stage" featuring special entertainment, highlights of Bass Hall's upcoming season, backstage tours and a special presentation on the upcoming Black Tie Dinner: VISIBLE at 6:30 p.m. at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. \$25.

• **July 28: Down to Float 4: Candy Land**
Impulse Group Dallas presents Down to Float 4 with Vanessa "Vanjie" Mateo from season 10 of RuPaul's Drag Race, DJ Joe Gauthreaux and special guest host and artist Blake McIver from 2-7 p.m. at 7044 Royal Lane. \$20-70. DownToFloat4.com.

• **July 28: Health Summit**
Issues discussed include autoimmune issues, diabetes, kidney, heart disease and more from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at Renaissance Hotel, 15201 Dallas Parkway, Addison.



The Miss LifeWalk pageant is set for Sunday, July 22 in the Rose Room. See listings for details.

• **July 28: HRC Equality Action Academy**
From 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Holocaust Museum, 211 Record St. Info at Criss.Ruiz@hrc.org.

• **July 28: TAG Camping Group**
Tyler Area Gays camping trip to Lake Jacksonville contact Ryan Benicky at benicky.who@gmail.com.

• **July 29: Miss Fire & Ice**
Miss Fire & Ice State and State-at-Large to qualify for the state pageant on Labor Day weekend at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. \$5.

• **July 31: Building LGBT Families**
GALA presents a panel discussion with representatives from Jonathan's Place, Dallas IVF and DebnamRust attorneys and GALA parents from 6:30-9 p.m. at Blue House Too, 934 Watters Creek Blvd., Allen.

AUGUST

• **Aug. 3: Spin**
Purple Foundation presents Spin with DJs Nina Flowers and Wilpower from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 3-5: Queer Occurrences**
Youth First and Lantern Productions present a comedy, romance and murder mystery Friday and Saturday at

7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Dallas Children's Theater, 5938 Skillman St. \$10.

• **Aug. 4: Score**
Purple Foundation presents Score with DJ James Anthony from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

• **Aug. 4: TX Latino Pride pool party**
Music by DJ Charlie Phresh, photo booth and open bar from 5-9 p.m. at Sisu, 2508 Maple Ave. \$15. Tickets at Eventbrite.com.

• **Aug. 5: HRC Back to School kick-off**
Back to school donation drive kick-off from 4-6 p.m. at Central Market, 320 Coit Road, Plano. Info at Cozette.kosary@gmail.com.

• **Aug. 7-15: DIVA new member clinics**
Dallas Invitational Volleyball Association new member clinics for the fall season on from 7-9 p.m. on Aug. 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15 at Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St. Info at DIVADallas.org.

• **Aug. 9: BTD Sneak Peek**
Black Tie announces awards and speakers from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

• **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 filmmaker **Byron Hunter**; **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** gay-identified 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.; **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; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

pet of the week / WALLACE



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Art Publica

Muralist Lee Madrid is painting walls on Cedar Springs Road, and there is more to come

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Lee Madrid is painting a mural on the side of the Nelson Tebedo Clinic on Cedar Springs Road with a small brush as if painting on a small canvas. That way colors can subtly graduate from lighter to darker, and he can fill small crevices in the brick, he explained.

Madrid has painted about 50 murals on exterior walls. Many are in Utah on public high schools and libraries. Others are in the Texas Hill Country.

In Dallas, one mural is on the side of Jerry's Supermarket on Jefferson Boulevard in Oak Cliff. Another is outside Wild Salsa on Main Street in Downtown Dallas.

His current project on the wall of the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic on Cedar Springs includes two sets of hands forming hearts with the AIDS Quilt in between them. Dallas Red Foundation is funding the project, which should be complete sometime in August.

Madrid begins painting at about 7 a.m. Because of the heat as well as cars that begin to fill the parking lot, he stops working at about 10 a.m.

He said he learned to paint as a traditional artist, working on canvases.

"I do a lot of canvas painting," he said. Those canvases are portraits that range in size from 2-by-3 feet up to 10 feet square. "That translates to become murals."

After moving to Dallas, Madrid joined forces with Arttitude, the LGBT arts organization with a variety of projects that include numerous cultural and artistic projects. The film *Transpose* that was recently shown at the Dallas Museum of Art and the current MariconX art exhibit at the Latino Cultural Center are among its projects.

Madrid brought his Dallas Mural Art Project to Arttitude, which has helped him



Lee Madrid paints the wall on the Nelson-Thomas Clinic early in the morning to avoid the heat. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

line up a series of walls that he and his team of artists will transform.

Dallas Red Foundation, a nonprofit that provides financial support to North Texas organizations that serve individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, funded the mural on the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic building as a gift to Resource Center, which operates the clinic.

John Anderson, who serves on the Mayor's LGBT Task Force's Quality of Life committee and is a member of Dallas Red Foundation, said the Task Force had been discussing the idea of rainbow crosswalks and other ways to distinguish and beautify the neighborhood. He said he was standing in the parking lot off Cedar Springs Road when the thought occurred to him, "Wouldn't it be great if we could have a plaza of art?"

Councilman Adam Medrano, who chairs the task force, connected Anderson with Arttitude. They came up with the idea of murals. And Resource Center got onboard with the idea quickly.

"People in the clinic are having a contest to name the mural," Madrid said.

The opposite wall will be a much larger project because that wall is two stories

high. Scaffolding will have to be erected, Madrid explained.

Covering such a large space will take even more time, but Madrid said he's building a mural team. He said anyone interested in participating should stop by Tuesdays through Thursdays, from 7-10 a.m.

The AIDS mural should be done by early August, he said, and then he will begin work on a mural to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots. Madrid refers to it as "the transgender wall," because it will honor the trans heroes who led the New York rebellion.

"The trans wall will have a huge image of Marsha P. Johnson," he said.

Johnson, who described herself as a drag queen, refused to be arrested at the Stonewall Inn in 1969 and was one of the leaders of the Stonewall rebellion. She became known as The Mayor of Christopher Street, was active in ACT UP and died in 1992.

Madrid said he is "still looking for community input" on the complete design for that mural.

Madrid said his designs for the two facing walls are quite different. The Nel-

son-Tebedo wall is long and low, so he created a design that's linear. The opposite wall, though, reaches up two stories and is more like a canvas.

On the long, low wall, he'll be working around some signs affixed to the building and may extend the work out to cover several posts in front of the building that have been tagged.

Is he worried about tagging defacing the mural? No. Madrid explained that taggers don't normally leave their mark over space that's already been painted. In fact, he'd love local taggers to come join his mural team. In fact, he noted, the most famous artist to arise from the AIDS crisis was Keith Haring, who began his career as a tagger on the New York subways.

Once Madrid has decorated the walls on Cedar Springs Road, he said, Arttitude has put together a list of walls that property owners would like to see covered in his work. But he has a few months more work to go on the Strip, and he invites people to come out mornings to watch, chat or join in. Weather permitting, he said the best time to catch him is 8-10 a.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays. ■

Episcopalians vote to let individual churches decide on weddings



Representatives of the Fort Worth diocese voted for marriage equality at the recent general convention hoping to extend equality to Dallas. (Episcopal News Service)

Local bishop may continue to hamper same-sex marriage in Dallas churches, despite approval of compromise resolution

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Despite the vote at the Episcopal Church's General Convention in Austin approving a compromise resolution allowing individual churches to perform same-sex marriages without the approval of their local bishop, questions remain about how easy it will be for churches in dioceses with bishops who object.

Six years ago, the Episcopal Church appointed a national marriage task force to look at the question of same-sex marriage, which was gaining strength as an issue in states and in other denominations across the country.

At the general convention in 2015, a resolution passed allowing same-sex marriage.

But bishops in eight dioceses — including Dallas — blocked churches under their jurisdiction from performing those weddings. Bishops who blocked their members from marrying were required to make some accommodation.

Bishop J. Scott Mayer, the bishop of Fort Worth and of Northwest Texas, stepped in and offered Dallas church members the hospitality of marriage in his diocese. That solved the accommodation problem for Dallas Bishop George Sumner.

At this year's convention, a compromise resolution passed on July 13 that takes the marriage decision out of the hands of the bishops and puts it into the hands of the rectors at the parish level: The rector of each church will decide who may or may not marry at that church.

The resolution takes effect on Dec. 2.

Part of the compromise is that the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer will not be altered. Marriage rites for same-sex couples have been approved but will appear in supplemental material.

Katie Sherrod, spokeswoman for the Fort Worth diocese and Bishop Mayer, said, "That's a large sacrifice to allies."

She said Sumner is violating the spirit

WEDDINGS, Page 14

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Voting open for Pride grand marshals

The Dallas Tavern Guild last week announced the six people nominated by community members as potential grand marshals of the 2018 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, set for Sunday, Sept. 16. Voting to narrow the field down to two grand marshals continues through midnight, Aug. 3, online at DallasPride.org. Winners will be announced Friday, Aug. 10, by Dallas Voice in print and online, at DallasPride.org, and through social media.

The nominees are Chris Bengston, David Hearn, Jalenzski Brown, the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas, Rebecca Covell and Wayne Davis. "It was a very interesting year for nominations," Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman said this year. "We had some bizarre suggestions; some that were meant to be sarcastic, I guess, and some that were just silly. And then there were the people who got all their friends to go to the site and nominate them."

"We had to go through all of those nominations and make sure that the nominees actually fit the criteria, that they were people whose contributions to and visibility in the community are truly outstanding," he continued. "Each of these six nominees most definitely have significant credibility. They are leaders in their field. We are very pleased with the six nominees we have."

Chris Bengston has been with Caven Enterprises for 33 years and is no on site events coordinator. She works with local and national drag pageants that are held in Caven clubs, usually in The Rose Room at S4, and with other organizations holding events at the clubs, including GDMAF ad MetroBall, Prism Health North Texas and LifeWalk, Bear Dance, Purple Foundation and more. She has received the Dru Howlett Award from OLCS and the Open Heart Award from C.U.R.E., and has been one of Resource Center's 5 Factor honorees.

She is especially proud of her volunteer work at Sam Houston Elementary School and with the Secret Santa Project benefitting the children there. She has one son, Alex Bengston.

David Hearn founded the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, with a group of friends, in memory of his later partner in 1996 and has been on the board of directors since its inception, also serving as president and treasurer. In 2005, the group started MetroBall, which has become GDMAF's largest fundraiser of the year. Hearn has also served on the boards of AIDS ARMS and AIDS Services of McKinney and has received numerous awards, including AIDS ARMS Heart and Hands Award, Dallas Voice LGBT Role Model Award, Miss Gay Texas State Pageant "Around the World" Memorial Legends Award, Health Services of North Texas Hearts and Heroes Spirit Award, Dallas Bears Randy Franklin Memorial "I Care" Community Service Award and many more.

Jalenzski Brown works with Resource Center, which is North Texas' primary LGBT and AIDS service organization, as the MPowerment Programs manager and co-manager of the HIV and STD prevention and treatment services. He also serves on the Mayor of Dallas' LGBT Task Force and worked with the Human Rights Campaign as a 2017 HIV360 Fellow. He volunteers with a variety of organizations in the community, and as an avid lover of humanity, he believes all people deserve respect and the opportunity to reach their greatest potential for good.

The Rev. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas is senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope, having begun his tenure there on June 3, 2015, after serving for 13 years as the senior pastor of the Founders Metropolitan Community Church, Los Angeles, the founding church of Metropolitan Community Churches. Cazares-Thomas has been a member of Metropolitan Community Churches since 1981, having joined the church on his 15th birthday. He has served in numerous denominational positions including chair of the Board of Ordained Ministries (European District), member of the Elder's Task Force on Education and more. He also works with Dallas Hope Charities, a outreach of Cathedral of Hope, to bring a LGBT homeless youth shelter to



Christine Bengston



David Hearn



Dr. Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas



Jalenzski Brown



Rebecca Covell



Wayne Davis

Dallas. He is married to Isaiah Thomas-Cazares, and they have a daughter.

Rebecca Covell is a Dallas attorney concentrating her practice in the areas of estate planning, probate and business transactions. She served as a briefing attorney to the chief judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri before relocating to Dallas and establishing her own firm in 1990. She is a former member of the national board of directors for the Human Rights Campaign and is active in the local HRC community. She is an advisor to the DFW Federal Club and a member of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, as well as a former chair of the Women's Business Network and a mentor to young lawyers. Covell also provides volunteer legal services for the Legal Hospice of Texas.

Her recognitions include DV Readers Best Civil Lawyer, Black Tie Dinner Kuchling Award, North Texas GLBT Chamber Business Person of the Year, Legal Hospice of Texas Volunteer Award and more.

Wayne Davis is president of the Dallas Bears and has previously served as treasurer, vice president and secretary. He is a member of the Worship Team at Metropolitan Community Church and has helps with coordination of participants and volunteers at the General Conference in Victoria, B.C. He is currently the secretary/treasurer for International LeatherSIR and a member of the board of directors. Since April 2001, He has been events director at the Dallas Eagle, and is proud to have been placed in Sainthood by the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence as Saint B. Tim Harder.

Kay Wilkinson to receive 2018 Kuchling Award

Kay Wilkinson has been named this year's Raymond Kuchling Award recipient by the board of the Black Tie Dinner.

David Gifford-Robinson, Black Tie Dinner co-chair, said, "We are honored to recognize Kay Wilkinson for her many years of support, activism and leadership in the LGBTQ community. Kay's commitment to our causes and willingness to speak up make her an exemplary honoree to join this impressive list of leaders who have been recognized with the Kuchling Award."

Wilkinson has chaired or assisted with an extensive list of organizations in her years of activism, dating back to the beginning

of the AIDS crisis. She served on the Turtle Creek Chorale board for 10 years, including three as board chair and three as chair of the advisory board.

She was also among the founders of the supper club at AIDS Services Dallas, regularly cooking for and feeding residents of Ewing House. "The Ewing kitchen at the time was a disaster," she said.

Wilkinson raised money to redo an interim kitchen so that it was usable until an industrial kitchen could be installed.

More recently, Wilkinson has been a board member of The Dallas Way. She helped create some of the original fundraisers for the organization to help cover the cost of digitizing material donated to the LGBT archives housed at University of North Texas and mounting exhibits from those archives. One such exhibit remains on display on the

seventh floor of the Erik Jonsson Library through the summer.

She also has emceed a number of Outrageous Oral history programs for The Dallas Way.

Before beginning her career as a mortgage banker, Wilkinson was an English teacher and has volunteered for head start. "It's so important to give pre-K kids a head start in reading," she said.

Her other civic activities included teaching swimming with the Red Cross and training young children be lifeguards.

After moving to Oak Cliff in the early 1980s, Wilkinson was active in area code enforcement and neighborhood revitalization in Winnetka Heights. She was active in the Old Oak Cliff Tour of Homes, now one of the largest and oldest home tours in the city.

From her Oak Cliff home, Wilkinson held



a number of fundraisers to support Equality Texas' efforts to repeal Section 21.06 of the Texas Criminal Code, the Texas sodomy law found unconstitutional in 2003's *Lawrence v. Texas* case. The theme of her parties was to donate \$21.06 toward the repeal effort.

Wilkinson is an avid bridge and spades player, and she has been active in a book club that's been meeting for 25 years.

This year's dinner will be held at the Sheraton Hotel downtown on Nov. 3.

— David Taffet

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'Masterpiece' explained

Local experts discuss ramifications of SCOTUS ruling

MATHEW SHAW | Contributing Writer
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A panel of legal experts discussed the consequences of a recent Supreme Court ruling in favor of an anti-gay baker at an event recent at Resource Center. The panel included Eric Rothschild, senior litigation counsel at Americans United for Separation of Church and State; Rebecca Robertson, chief program officer for Equality Texas, and Dallas lawyer, mediator and arbitrator Shelly Skeen.

Last month, the Supreme Court issued a narrow ruling in the case *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, declaring that a Colorado law that prohibited discrimination against LGBT people was not applied fairly toward a baker who refused a wedding cake for a gay couple.

The court noted that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission made disparaging comments toward the baker's religious beliefs.

Though the court did not strike down Colorado's anti-discrimination law and did say LGBT persons are afforded protection, the ruling says people with religious beliefs against gay marriage should be protected, too.

"[The Supreme Court ruled] on the basis of the free exercise clause that the baker did not get a fair shake," Skeen explained. "There were a couple of commissioners who made some statements that sounded like they weren't giving consideration for the baker's religious beliefs. One said religion was often used as a despicable and deplorable way to tolerate discrimination."

But the question of whether freedom of speech can be used to deny people services remains unanswered, Skeen continued. "What it did was it left open many, many issues about whether a cake is free speech, whether a cake sends a message, what it looks like when it might be possible to use your religious beliefs to deny someone service," Skeen continued. "All of these were not answered. That's what's coming next. It's already happening all over the country."

The law firm that represented the baker, Alliance Defending Freedom, considers



Arielle Clarkson

Masterpiece a win because of a strategy used by the group, Robertson said.

"They are bringing these cases all over the country in an effort to create the law. We call it impact litigation," Robertson explained. "In portraying [the baker] in the way that they do as a hero in religious liberty, they're really inviting people to take similar steps in their own communities and see if they can find some other cases."

Rothschild said many of these cases have been dealt with in lower courts.

"There's flower shops and invitation stores and videographers," he said. "Often in these cases it's not even a dispute like the *Masterpiece* case where you had customers and public accommodations in disagreement, but companies that want to discriminate, bringing lawsuits before they even start selling. They're really seeking out the liberty."

For example, during the same week that the *Masterpiece* decision was announced, the Arizona Court of Appeals upheld a Phoenix, Ariz. anti-discrimination ordinance that was challenged by a for-profit company seeking a First Amendment exemption.

The judge who wrote the decision cited *Masterpiece*, stating that allowing businesses to deny services to customers based on sexual orientation would be a "grave and continuing harm."

Notably, the business that challenged the ordinance, Brush & Nib Studio, had never had a same-sex couple requesting their service.

Rothschild said that case is a sign that courts will read *Masterpiece* as narrowly as it was written.

But with Justice Kennedy retiring and possibly being replaced by conservative Judge Brett Kavanaugh, the dynamics of the court could change, considering how important Kennedy was to LGBT civil rights, Skeen said.

"Justice Kennedy was important because he was the guy that said that everybody should have a certain basic level of dignity, and what he did with respect to the liberty interest, which is found in the Fourteenth Amendment," Skeen said. "He was really a champion of individual liberty rights."

Robertson added that Kennedy authored every Supreme Court opinion important to LGBT rights, from striking down sodomy laws (*Lawrence v. Texas* in 2004) to Colorado trying to amend its constitution to forbid gay rights (*Romer v. Evans* in 1996).

"It's also important for us as a community to recognize that the Supreme Court rarely leads on these issues," Robertson said. "Part of what makes it possible for the Supreme Court to rule is when our community is changing the hearts and minds of our neighbors."

As for the prospects of Kavanaugh ruling on LGBT cases as a Supreme Court justice, he has not yet had an LGBT case, Rothschild said. But his opinion over contraception coverage under the Affordable Care Act is concerning.

"He was insisting that religious organizations not only could get out of providing contraceptive coverage but could get out of participating in the process, to opt out of even the accommodating, which is basically filling out a simple form," Rothschild said.

Skeen said the courts are an important safeguard of people's rights, which is why people need to let their legislators know how they feel about potential nominees.

"We have the three branches of government. The one check and balance that has always upheld fundamental rights for the last 150 years has been the Supreme Court," she said.

In the meantime, the panelists offered suggestions on helping to change hearts and minds to eventually effect changes in the law.

"[Americans United for Separation of Church and State] started an initiative called Protect Thy Neighbor directed at exactly this kind of religious refusals," Rothschild said. "We encourage reporting from

people who are discriminated against on that basis, and we advocate in legislatures and work with coalitions, and we also bring cases."

Skeen said that victims of discrimination need to create a record of their stories and send them to organizations like Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Commission on Human Rights, LGBT Coalition for Aging and Dallas LGBT Bar Association.

The panel answered questions from the audience and touched on what public accommodations are, what constitutes sincere religious beliefs and what is compelled speech.

"[Public accommodation is] if you're a business that opens your doors to the public," Robertson said. "It could be a bowling alley or hotel or restaurant or shop, but it's a place that is open for business to the public."

Rothschild said courts are deferential to persons asserting religious beliefs.

"Most of these cases are coming up with somebody coming from the majority religion," he said. "If somebody belonged to the Church of I Like to Smoke a Lot of Marijuana, the cases are not treated as sincere religious beliefs. There is a privilege given to mainstream religions."

Skeen said compelled speech has to do with refusing to speak and not refusal to do things, and the medium of the speech must also be considered.

"Traditionally and historically has it been speech?" she said. "For example, a novel, a song, a painting, all of those things traditionally have been considered a type of speech. But wedding cakes — not a type of speech. Cakes are to be eaten."

Robertson added that nobody is required to sell wedding cakes. Rothschild said that only Justices Gorsuch and Thomas have signed onto the "free speech as a means to discriminate" argument.

At the end of the evening, Arielle Clarkson, DFW regional field coordinator for Texas Freedom Network, issued a call for action to the audience.

First, she implored the audience to register to vote: "I think we take that for granted," Clarkson said. "I mostly work with college students, and you would not believe how hard it is to convince them that they need to show up to the polls."

Clarkson said that the issues we vote on are intersectional, that they affect everybody.

"Other people are affected by these civil rights violations," she said. "Show up for yourselves; show up for your community, but show up for the other people affected. Share your stories of refusal. We need these stories. How do we create stories without experiences? The personal is political." ■

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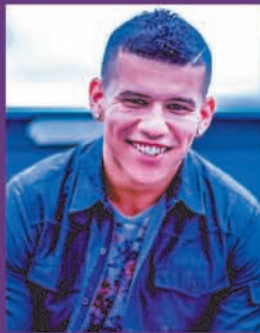
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WEDDINGS, From Page 9

of the compromise resolution in a letter he sent to his diocese and other bishops after returning from the convention. “If I’m understanding Bishop Sumner’s letter, it appears to me he’s creating unnecessary steps,” she said. “He would have to ask another bishop to step in.”

Sumner seems to be saying in his letter that any church in Dallas that performs same-sex weddings would have to find another bishop to oversee all spiritual matters. For all temporal issues, Dallas would still be in charge.

Fred Ellis, a member of St. Thomas Church on Inwood Road, attended the general convention. He said his church pays its assessment to the Dallas diocese but would be asking the Fort Worth diocese to do all the work if St. Thomas chooses to allow same-sex marriages there.

And, Ellis added, asking another bishop — presumably Mayer, who already is the bishop of two dioceses — without compensating his office for the additional work would be unfair.

He questioned whether the Dallas bishop’s office would split St. Thomas’ assessment with Fort Worth in order to compensate that diocese, or if the Dallas bishop expects the local church to pay additional fees to the facilitating diocese as a way to punish those churches for following the national church and not the local bishop.

Ellis said he expects several churches in the Dallas diocese to begin performing same-sex marriages. St. Thomas in Oak Lawn has had a large LGBT membership for decades, and, Ellis said, Church of the Ascension on Greenville Avenue attracts a large number of LGBT members from East Dallas.

The liberal Church of the Transfiguration on Hillcrest Road in North Dallas, one of the largest Episcopal churches in the country, is also expected to begin performing same-sex marriages. Officials there are more positive that things will work out in the spirit in which the resolution was written.

“It’s just a matter of figuring out the dynamics of this,” said Transfiguration’s Deacon Ginny Kivel.

Ellis said he expects some lively discussions at other Episcopal churches throughout the Dallas diocese, which includes Collin and Denton counties and large parts of East Texas such as the Cedar Creek area that is popular with the LGBT community.

According to the Episcopal News Service, Bishop William Howard Love of the Albany, N.Y., diocese was the most vocal

opposition to the resolution. His diocese is one of the eight that have forbidden same-sex couples from marrying in its churches and prevented its pastors from performing ceremonies. Passage of the resolution, ENS reported, “would put him in the awkward position of violating parts of his ordination vows.”

Love talked about whether “sexual intimacy within that of a same-sex couple was appropriate,” and called it “a new thing,” but said there hasn’t been “an honest look” at what God said on the issue.

For same-sex couples waiting to get married in Dallas, Albany and six other dioceses, there’s no question about their relationships other than whether their local bishops will recognize them in the same way their church does.

St. Thomas Church, for one, is not waiting for specific direction from their bishop. In an email to the congregation, Rector Joy Daley wrote in big letters, “Same-Sex Marriages to Begin at St. Thomas.”

“It has grieved me to watch so many of you serve faithfully, lovingly in your various ministries, to come to the table each week, to be involved in preparing and carrying out the sacramental life of this parish and then be excluded from the sacrament of marriage,” she wrote.

The Vestry of St. Thomas signed a resolution on July 17 that begins, “Having been duly informed by our rector, The Rev. Joy Daley, that effective on Advent 1, Dec. 2, 2018, she and other clergy at her discretion, will begin to perform same-sex marriages at The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle pursuant to Resolution B012, passed at the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.”

With the question of same-sex marriage essentially settled in the Episcopal Church and just eight dioceses figuring out how to implement it, just one mainline Protestant denomination is left without marriage equality — the Methodist Church.

Next year, the Methodist Church holds its own general conference. According to ministers of that denomination, they’re working on a compromise similar to that worked out last week in the Episcopal Church that would put the decision of whether or not to marry same-sex couples into the hands of the individual pastors and churches.

Some local Methodist ministers already have performed same-sex weddings, but they’d like to continue doing that without fear that someone from another church will press charges against them. ■

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A quiet act of defiance

When I came to

Dallas in 2011, I didn't think a transgender person could marry anyone — of either sex. It seemed that no matter whom we loved, it was considered a same-

sex marriage, and thus taboo. (See the cluster f-ck that the Nikki Araguz case became.) I have always been attracted to women. Although my outside presentation has undergone a profound change and my legal documents have been updated, my inner feelings have been consistent with regard to identity and attraction. But for those who would hang labels, they would insist that when I transitioned, I went to bed a heterosexual male and woke up a lesbian.

Wait. It gets better. I fell in love with Katie, my soon-to-be wife, in 2013. Katie was born in Texas and before the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell* ruling on marriage equality, Texas wouldn't re-issue a birth certificate, like California would, for transgender residents who have had a name and gender marker change.

Although our love for one another was no less real or passionate than that of any heterosexual couple, the possibility of us one day getting married was just not in the cards in pre-*Obergefell* Texas.

To illustrate just how silly things were, I joked one day that we should go down to the Dallas County Clerk's office and apply for a marriage license using my California birth certificate, which says I was born female, and Katie's original Texas birth certificate that still said "male," and they would have to issue us a marriage license!

So, since we were both born male, would that make it a gay marriage? Or since we both are legally and physically female, is it a lesbian marriage? Or because of the difference in birth certificate laws, would it have been a heterosexual marriage?

Crazy, eh?



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

Instead, we waited. It took a while, but on June 26, 2015, The U.S. Supreme Court made marriage equality the law of the land. And later this summer, Katie and I will say, "I do."

It makes me sad that — given the current make-up of the Supreme Court, the retirement of Justice Kennedy (who wrote the tear-inducing majority opinion in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* case) and the likely confirmation of a new ultra-conservative justice — if there were a challenge to marriage equality (or a slew of other LGBT issues from access to health-care to employment rights) it would likely be 5-4 decision, with us on the short end of the stick, regardless of how sound the argument.

While there is no case working its way to the high court that would potentially overturn *Obergefell*, if the religious right has their way, such a case could be in the offing, not long after their No. 1 target: *Roe v. Wade*.

Rather than abolish same sex marriage, it seems more likely that opponents will try to weaken it. In June 2017, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the landmark decision legalizing same-sex marriage does not fully address the right to marriage benefits. SCOTUS announced it would not hear an appeal of that case, which centers on Houston's policy to provide spouses of gay and lesbian employees the same government-subsidized marriage benefits it provides to opposite-sex spouses.

You know, because some things are a little more equal than others, right?

So that brings us to today, as Katie and I walked into the 21st-floor office of the Dallas County Clerk's Office to get our marriage license.

It bears mentioning that Dallas County Clerk John Warren has been supportive from the beginning, even acting in defiance of accused felon and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton who advised county clerks to wait before issuing licenses immediately following the *Obergefell* ruling.

The marriage license application is non-gendered, asking for the names of Applicant One and Applicant Two, rather than Bride and Groom. The clerk on duty was welcoming and did her job efficiently and with a smile. She seemed to share in our joy. We were made to feel welcome and she treated us like any other couple.

Thank you John Warren for your leadership. I don't feel like our marriage is any dif-



ferent than anyone else's. It's no better and it's no worse. We are both adults, and our reasons for getting married are sound: We love each other dearly.

We don't feel like our small ceremony will threaten the foundation of "traditional marriage." Our union will jeopardize the rights of no one. Katie and I loving one another is not a crime against the state (though until the Supreme Court's 2004 ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* it was considered to be).

So for now anyway, we can get married in our home in Dallas County. I didn't think I'd see the day. We follow in the footsteps of George Harris and Jack Evans, the first same-sex couple to receive a marriage license in Dallas County back in June 2015.


These words from Justice Kennedy say it perfectly:

"No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage.

"Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right."

At least, it does for now.

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.



Lay some Sugar on me

Sugarland's frontwoman Jennifer Nettles on celebrating the queer community with their latest album, their gay-inclusive video and why 'tolerance' isn't enough

(Photo credit) Big Machine

Just before releasing a hotly anticipated new album with Sugarland bandmate Kristian Bush, duo front woman Jennifer Nettles summed up her history of progressive politics and queer advocacy and love for chicken with one defiant tweet: "Steals recipe for world's best chicken sandwich and opens 'Chick-fil-Gay.' Serves EVERYBODY deliciousness and is open on Sundays. Wins world," she wrote on May 15, her unfettered outspokenness still a rare but significant thing in country music.

"Or the spinoff of it: It can start as Chick-fil-Gay and then it could just turn into Chick-fil-Heyyy!, which would be super fun too," she tells me with a robust guffaw.

Bigger, the band's first release since their long-established country sound was cranked to arena-rock heights on 2010's *The Incredible Machine*, reflects on our emotionally and politically strained modern

world (their powerful lament, "Tuesday's Broken," addresses America's gun problem and school shootings) with love, hope, unity and inclusiveness, themes near and dear to Sugarland since the release of their 2002 debut. "These are the days of the underdog, the counted out, the ones you don't see coming; times of the left-behinds..."

Nettles sings on "Not the Only," counting herself among us. "Silent voices I've never heard, all waiting to say the words, held up and kept inside, but we don't have to hide."

Here, prior to the Sugarland concert at Verizon Friday, Nettles wins the world by talking about Sugarland's mission to shine a light on the unseen, being political post-Dixie Chicks, and why it's important for people (see: homophobes) to not get it twisted: that "Mother" lyric is most definitely referring to a gay couple in love. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

SUGARLAND

Verizon Theatre
1001 Performance Drive,
Grand Prairie. July 20. AXS.com.

Dallas Voice: Did recent world tragedies and the country's overall divisiveness have anything to do with you getting back to your Sugarland roots? Jennifer Nettles:

Yeah. I had been feeling the urges to get back and do something and see what that would feel like again. At first it seemed to be a matter of the calendar, and then we started writing and then when we looked at this collection and what was coming out of us we realized, "Whoa, we have a lot to say, and this is actually the reason for the timing" — that these messages that we have are, well, no pun intended, bigger than what, initially, this reconvening was going to be. It was very much a bigger message for the world.

I hear myself and my community's struggles represented in some of these songs, and I feel emboldened by them. To what extent was the queer community on your mind while creating this album? It was on our minds significantly. You hear those messages poke through within the music: messages of unity and inclusion, and of not only tolerance — sometimes tolerance to me is such a...

ack!... it's not even the right word anymore. We need to move beyond just tolerance. And it even needs to move beyond acceptance. It needs to move into celebration and just outright humanism.

I don't think any person wants to just be tolerated. Tolerated, no — I don't even know where that word came from. It's clear that whoever started throwing that term around was already coming from a defensive standpoint. So that being said, I think you hear those messages celebrated in songs like "Tuesday's Broken," "Mother" and "Not the Only," and even in songs like "Bigger." But you hear it much more clearly and outright on "Mother," where it says, "She's got a ring to give to you she hopes you'll give away. She don't care who you give it to, where they're from, if they pray like you..."

And "first thing she taught you is love is love." Yeah, that love is love, right? So you hear it very distinctly and you hear it in the messages of heartaches in "Tuesday's Broken." Even in the second verse you don't know why the teenage girl is on the bed and

why she is possibly considering self-harming because of not feeling love and not feeling celebrated and not feeling a part of her community and being online, dear God help us all. So you hear those messages, for sure, throughout.

And for me, obviously always being a champion of the marginalized, always being a champion of those who are being oppressed — and all of these really horribly divisive tones that we hear now in our culture and in our community that have always been there but we're hearing them now in a way that is super ugly — when you hear those messages of self-love and of inclusion on this record, absolutely the LGBTQA community was on our minds when we were writing this.

In the lyric video for "Mother," two gay men are seen holding hands. I don't think I've ever seen a gay couple featured in a major, mainstream country music video. Is that precisely why you chose to include them? Yes! I mean, not to say like, "Hey! We're the first ones in country music to feature a gay couple visually!" But to be able to say, "Just so you know, what you hear in this and what you might be assuming is absolutely visually and literally true. Like, if you might be toiling around with the idea of what this might be about, let's go ahead and show you."

It feels bold, but in 2018, I feel like it shouldn't feel that way. No, you're right, it should not feel bold. But the interesting thing is the reason many times it feels bold within the country music community is because everyone talks about the Dixie Chicks syndrome of what we saw all those years ago. I think times are different. I think it is time for people within all of the music community, but especially in the country music community, where we have such a beautifully diverse audience — we are not preaching to the choir here. We are offering messages. We are offering them to hopefully inspire people to be open and think differently for those who may not already.

Did you learn that love is love from your mom? Absolutely. I have a mother who's beautifully open and unconditionally loving, not only to myself but to the world and, yeah, she definitely taught me very, very early on.

How have you passed that same sentiment onto your own son? Magnus is 5, so certain concepts feel abstract in terms of "let me teach you a lesson." What I do is show him through life. The gay community is a big part of our lives in terms of people. My manager is gay and my personal assistant is gay, and these are people who are family to me. My PA was my roommate all four years of college. You know what I'm saying? It's a family.

So, it's in life, it's just a matter of fact. And if questions arise, as children many times will have, I will be very open and celebratory in that way. But children live what you show them, and if you show them love and if you show them openness, that is what they will enjoy. If you keep them closed off and you

show them hate, that is what they will reflect. So, he reflects my values in that way.

When confronted with backlash from conservative country fans, how do you stay motivated to keep letting your voice be heard in a genre that once sought to quiet artists like, for instance, the Dixie Chicks? I believe that times are different and social media is an echo chamber. People shout their hate and other people shout hate back. So, I try to be mindful. Don't get me wrong, I would love to keep people in check. But really, at the end of the day, that's just noise. The importance is the message that I am putting out there. And if somebody fires back and they don't like it on social media, who cares. And if people are going to judge someone's art and someone's music based on this really new concept of an artist being more personally connected, because now we do have immediate access through social media between fans and artist, then you know, don't listen to the music, don't buy it. To each his own. [Laughs]

There used to be a direct connection between the two, that you couldn't say too much because people wouldn't buy your music and record labels would worry, but that doesn't seem to be the case anymore. No, I don't think it can be because, especially now — again in the age of social media where you have a direct outlet to the world, not just to your fanbase but to the world — I don't think that dynamic exists anymore. The publicists and labels can't worry about that in the same way because it's like, look, you're gonna be who you are.

Especially once you've opened the floodgates. And you've opened the floodgates. Yes, yes. [Laughs]

But some artists choose not to use their platform for political reasons. For instance, your collaborator on "Babe," Taylor Swift, isn't known for making political statements and she gets a lot of flak for that. Really?

Yeah, she isn't as politically outspoken as you, for example. Do you think artists have a responsibility to use their platform to speak out on matters of concern? I think human beings have a responsibility. I definitely feel a calling within myself to speak my truth. I'm very outspoken in my own personal life as well so it bears to reason that I would be that authentic in my public life. Some people aren't very outspoken, even in their private lives.

Have you prepared for the country conservatives who may have an issue with you broaching gun policy on "Tuesday's Broken?" Yes, but I feel really confident, Chris, in the sense that, look, what happens is everyone on the far margins scream and are terribly afraid that suddenly each of their rights are going to be completely obliterated by comprising at all. If you give anyone an inch, they're gonna take a mile and pull you to the opposite pole — I don't believe that. I believe that sensible gun control is possible.

■ SUGAR Page 24

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Wheels up!

Edgy queer filmmaker Gus Van Sant discusses his dark comedy about alcoholism and quadriplegia 'Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot'



Gus Van Sant is the independent of directors who still have legit Hollywood cred. He has made Oscar-winning hits like *Good Will Hunting* and *Milk*, as well as the wickedly perverse *To Die For* and the controversial shot-for-shot remake of *Psycho*. But his cult status owes in large part to his micro-budget outsider films about people living on the fringe of society: *My Own Private Idaho*, *Drugstore Cowboy*, *Elephant*, *Gerry*, *Last Days*.

His latest film is yet another darkly comic look at what should be difficult subject matter: A biopic of quadriplegic alcoholic cartoonist John Callahan (played by Joaquin Phoenix) named *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot*. (The title itself is a cruel riff on its protagonist's use of a wheelchair; it's now playing in Dallas.) Because it's Van Sant (he's directed two actors to Oscar wins), his calls get returned; he was able to assem-

ble a high-powered cast that in addition to Phoenix includes Rooney Mara, Jack Black and Jonah Hill. The film genre-surfs between addiction-recovery melodrama to biography of a disabled man to AIDS crisis drama, all of which is indelibly Gus Van Santy.

We chatted with the gay filmmaker about his familiarity with movies dealing with alcoholism, his friendship with Callahan and the film's most surprising casting.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: There's a tradition of films about addiction; were you familiar with any of them before you started working on *Don't Worry*? Gus Van Sant: I think there are three of them about going through the steps of AA that I was aware of; I saw the Sandra Bullock movie, *28 Days*; I don't know if I ever

All this useless beauty

Documentary 'McQueen' reveals the sad true life of the fashion icon



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High fashion is about fantasy — idealized bodies exuding impossible cool strutting in form-fitting garments that evoke a world you can barely imagine. But not all fantasies are sunny and friendly; some are dark. Some are nightmares.

For Lee Alexander McQueen — Lee to his friends, Alexander to the pages of *Vogue* and *Marie Claire* — fantasies were subversive things. He trafficked in a world of beauty but scoured it for the seedy side. Pudgy and with an impenetrable lower class East End accent and the look of a skinhead, McQueen himself was hardly an avatar of haute couture. (Ever notice how many designers appear at the end of their own shows in ill-tailored T-shirts and dad jeans?) And when he began to emerge in the early 1990s, his concept of clothing was some of the most subversive the universe had come upon.

"It was modern and it was classical," one pundit observes in *McQueen*, the new documentary about the radical fashionista's life and work. "It was tradition and it was sabotage. It was beauty and violence." It was, in sum, everything the '90s were, writ on fabric.

It can be arresting to realize how little we know about many celebrities — names that instantly evoke images in our mind's

eye, but whose faces, voices and histories we aren't all that familiar with. (Quick! What did Princess Diana sound like? How tall is Berry Gordy?) *McQueen* — using grainy cellphone and Super 8 archive footage and old news reports, as well as contemporary interviews (its style quickly recalls another documentary about a troubled Brit, *Amy*) — looks deep into Lee's personal life, his relationships, his ambitions, his process. His art was guerrilla-esque, like Basquiat or Banksy or even Pollock or Van Gogh; the only difference is, his medium was clothing.

With the exception of Banksy, all of those artists ended tragically, which also befell Lee; he dealt with a lot of personal loss (family, friends, lovers), including an HIV diagnosis and drug abuse. In some ways, that makes his story almost predictably rags-to-riches-to-rags-to-redemption-to-tragedy; but that doesn't make his story less poignant nor his creativity less profound; indeed, it could be the exact opposite. Lee was a Roman candle, burning brightly before fading just as the illumination becomes most intense.

"You don't discover talent; talent is there. You open doors for talent," a colleague opines. "[But] no one discovered Alexander McQueen — Alexander McQueen discovered himself." And by the end of his life, what he discovered made living unbearable.

Opens Aug. 3 at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station.

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Thanks for Cher-ing

How do you make a sequel to a film that shot its wad the first time? With Cher, dammit!

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The 2008 movie version of *Mamma Mia!* was, until *Wonder Woman*, worldwide the highest-grossing live action film ever directed by a woman, so making a sequel of any monster hit would seem to be a no-brainer.

Except how do you make a sequel to a musical whose entire *raison d'être* was a showcase for the hit songs of the disco-era supergroup ABBA? Once you exhaust their catalogue of hits — 15 impressively catchy, Zeitgeisty dance club classics dot the original, with a half-dozen less memorable songs filling out the set-list and cobbled into the rough outline of a plot — what's left to get your toes tapping



Sophie's (Amanda Seyfried) grandmother (Cher) shows up at the end of 'Mamma Mia,' but that's not a spoiler — the film is too sweetly predictable to deny you her appearance.



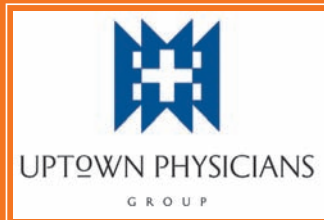
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to? Sure, *Mamma Mia!* notably omitted “Fernando” and “Waterloo,” that’s two you can work with. But that’s not a feature film; it’s barely a short.

But no studio ever let an impossible task stand in the way of its quest for a box office bonanza. It fell to Ol Parker — a British screenwriter (*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*) whose sole directorial effort to be released this side of the pond was 2005’s lesbian romance *Imagine Me & You* — was saddled with the responsibility.

And boy did he make it work.

Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again won’t make many (any?) year-end-best lists, and while it does utilize “Fernando” and “Waterloo,” it pads the soundtrack with a slate of songs that would feel shoehorned into the plot if only they were worth listening to in the first place. (He also sneaks in “reprises” of “I Have a Dream,” “Dancing Queen” and “Super Trouper” to flesh out the storyline.) But all that seems incidental to the squishy, happy mood the film leaves you with.

One risky decision is that while virtually the entire original cast returns, only Amanda Seyfried as Sophie could be considered to have a major role in this one. It’s been a year since Sophie’s mom Donna (Meryl Streep) has died, and she’s reopening the Grecian hotel with a huge party. That puts her in a sentimental mood, as we flashback to how Donna (played as a young woman by Lily James) ended up on this Mediterranean island in the first place: Meeting the string of men who could be Sophie’s father and putting down roots here.

To be honest, it doesn’t make a lot of

sense. But let’s face it — the very nature of most musicals is confectionery; style and tone and attitude predominate over character development and (usually) plot. Musicals trade in familiar tropes and then explore them by having people break out into song and dance to embody their emotions. And that’s just what it delivers.

There’s a surprising sophistication to Parker’s visual design; lots of cross-cutting and matching shots that draw people and places separated by time and space together. And he builds to the big reveal: The first appearance in feature film since 2010’s *Burlesque* by the iconic Cher as Sophie’s grandmother.

Is it a gimmick, a stunt to get the gays into the theater? You betcha. (She’s only in the last 20 minutes, and speaks, by my count, 16 lines of dialogue in addition to two songs.) But it’s a thrill nonetheless when she croons out “Fernando” as a surprising, kitschy duet with Andy Garcia. It’s the cherry on this fluffy meringue.

Still, it’s mostly James who carries the picture, which she does brightly with a lovely singing voice and open, golden aura. Seyfried — the only really good singer in the original — also lends her vocals to several songs. They more than make up for the occasionally croaking by Pierce Brosnan, Stellan Skarsaard and a few others.

After the revolutionary development of the movie musical with *La La Land* and *The Greatest Showman*, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* does feel a bit quaint. But that’s also something most musicals embrace. Be the first in line and take a chance on it. ■

Now playing in wide release.

■ **VAN SANT** From Page 18

saw *Clean and Sober* [with Michael Keaton], but I was gonna to go watch that one.

You obviously appreciate older Hollywood films — you did a remake of *Psycho*. Had you seen the classics *The Lost Weekend* and *Days of Wine and Roses*? I know of them — those two are like major alcoholism movies. Studios tend to use them as models. But I thought it was working independently, so I was more following John [Callahan] and his experiences.

So did you know Callahan personally? I didn’t know him well [for a long time], but I did sort of know him from around Portland; it wasn’t until we started the project [that I got to know him better].

John died in 2010, so that’s a while back... He died during the writing [of the script]. We were working on a [draft] starting back in 1997.

Speaking of the script, the storytelling is pretty non-linear, though never confusing; was that how it was written or done in the editing? That was in the scriptwriting. I think when I started writing it a few years ago, I was [more interested in] collecting those sto-

ries in the book that I found most interesting and later [connected them]. I was always a big fan of *Slaughterhouse 5*, Kurt Vonnegut’s book [which jumps around its timeline].

Jonah Hill plays Donny, John’s AA sponsor, as this very gay, very droll rich boy and important to John’s development; was he a real person? He was based on a real character ... he’s in [Callahan’s autobiography] but he gave us a lot more information about Donny [during the writing]. The part about Donny dying was not in the book which came out before Donny died but John visited him and went to his funeral.

How did you end up casting him? When we were looking for someone to play that character, I checked with Joaquin. There are certain actor like Jonah who if you see them do enough amazing things, you know they can do almost anything, and he has a comedic background [which I liked], so we just offered it to him. I think his development of the character was partly based on people he knew or had worked with who had a lighter voice

Frankly I didn’t even realize it was Hill for the first 20 minutes or so. [Chuckles]. Yeah.

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Dancing queens



Endlessly catchy, 'Priscilla' rules the desert ... and the Kalita

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

There are jukebox musicals based on songwriters' catalogues (ABBA for *Mamma Mia*, the Four Seasons for *Jersey Boys*, Carole King for *Beautiful*). And there are jukebox musicals than hinge around a genre or period ('80s pop for *Rock of Ages*, for instance, though *Jersey Boys* and *Beautiful* also magpie from other artists). But *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* may be the only such musical that compiles its set list from a vast array of camp hits and classic drag queen lip-synch. Which means one inescapable truth: When a company like Uptown Players stages a production of it, as is now onstage at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the audience can barely control itself not to treat it as a sing-along.

I admit some culpability myself during the opening night of *Priscilla*, which ends Act 1 with Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" and Act 2 with Pat Benatar's "We Belong" and crams in songs by everyone

Resist the urge to treat the stage version of "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" as a sing-along. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)



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from Burt Bachrach to Jimmy Webb, John Denver, Verdi and Cyndi Lauper, plus tons of disco. Some are sung live; some are themselves lip-synched; some actually do both (you have to see it to understand). The score is as infectious as Ebola.

That helps mask a number of weaknesses in the script and the casting in this version. The story — adapted from the low-budget cult sensation — is about three drag queens (Tick/Mitzi, Adam/Felicia and Bernadette) traipsing across the Australian Outback in a beat-up bus christened Priscilla, on the way to a gig at a casino in the hinterlands. Along the way, they encounter Aborigines, rednecks and outsiders who embrace and/or bash them. It's all outrageously kitsch and almost aggressively sentimental. It wears its heart on its chiffon sleeve.

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July
29. UptownPlayers.org

Each of the three main characters serves a unique role in driving the plot: Bernadette (Jack Donahue), the transgender widow, is the heart; Adam (Blake McIver), the hot youngster, is the humor; and Tick (Kelly Groves), the middle-aged veteran, is the schmaltz. Two-thirds of that triumvirate work out.

McIver is charismatic and sexy — and best of all, has a strong singing voice — as the most flamboyant of the lot, mercilessly goading Bernadette and throwing more shade than a full solar eclipse. While Donahue's voice isn't as strong, his acting skills are; especially in his scenes with Sonny Franks, as the starry-eyed mechanic who accepts all the girls for what they are, Donahue brings a lovely, mature pathos to the show.

But Groves' Tick never hits. His voice is shaky, and his pacing on the songs idiosyncratic to the point of distraction — he sounded entirely off-beat on "Always on My Mind" and seemed perpetually ill at ease. (Maybe it's the fault of the orchestrations, but taking a buoyant song like "Say a Little Prayer" and turning it into a dirge near to top of the show is a serious misfire.) Tick's plot is also the least interesting, though the one that propels the story; it requires more fire and authenticity to be effective.

Fortunately, we have the exaggerated costumes (they elicit their own set of cheers), the campy craziness and the hopeful message of empowerment to carry us through the rough patches, and by the end you're tempted to run onstage and hand out a few bills to the queens. They worked hard for the money. ■

SCREENING OF 'PRISCILLA' AT TEXAS THEATRE

While the live-action adaptation of *Priscilla* walks the boards for a few more weeks in Uptown, the 1994 film that inspired it — *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* — is the featured film at the month's CineWilde film screening, which features classic movies of interest to the gay community. The film stars Terrence Stamp, Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce and Bill Hunter. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. July 20. Screening at 9 p.m., amateur drag show at 11:15 p.m. TheTexasTheatre.com.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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I believe we are in a challenging time right now with lobbyists and the NRA and different money powers, and I believe the waters are convoluted. I believe there needs to be tort reform within our congress and within the ways we vote on all of these issues.

Those are huge, broad issues, but at the end of the day, I believe it's absolutely possible for us to do anything we want to. We can change the rules, we can remake the rules. We wrote 'em the first time. It's possible to fix this. It's possible to look at gun laws, it's



possible to look at mental health, it's possible to look at all of these pieces. We just have to be willing to do it and to elect the people who are going to do it.

Have you thought about how this album could bridge gaps between people who think like you and your conservative fanbase? Look, art has many purposes. Sometimes it's to entertain, sometimes it's to inspire and sometimes it is even to provoke, and all of those are valid. What I hope we are able to do in Sugarland and in all of my music is to be able to inspire dialogue and to invite conversation. Rather than pressing the buttons, I want to sit in a corner, point a subversive finger and say, "What do you think about this over here? How could we make it better?"

To ask you a lighter question that's tour related: Do you have a favorite Christian Siriano dress that you can't wait to wear? Mmmm! There are several pieces I cannot wait to wear! I mean, he really did his thing on this, and we had such fun in this collaboration just because it already had a theme to it. So, he was able to then just take that and really have fun with it because the theme for the tour, visually and aesthetically, is this beautifully, other-world vintage circus-y look, so we had a lot of fun doing research for that.

How will the healing vibes of the album translate to the stage? We try to make it feel transportive so when you leave you feel like you have been offered an escape and some asylum and some refugee, and that you leave feeling seen.

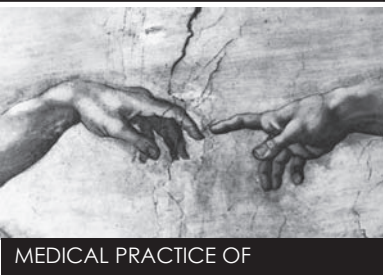
Sugarland is known for sneaking cover songs into the shows. Have you considered any cover songs that may fit the healing vibes of the album? The fun part about the live shows is that over the course of the tour they will continue to evolve. We've got some cover choices and a remix situation that's super, super funky and fun, and we also have a sort of an all-skate that we like to do at the end with all of our openers to come on and join us, and that's usually a big, fun party.

I am sure that within that we will be able to figure out messages of unity; the potential is ripe for all of those messages. [Laughs] Right now, we're leaning toward the fun party side, but that's not to say that isn't about unity too.

What do you hope your queer fans take away from this album? I would harken back to our conversation regarding the tour: to feel seen. I think it's such an interesting time where we are supposedly more technologically, in terms of ideas, connected than ever. But at the same time — the last song on the album, "Not the Only," especially speaks to this — a lot of us still feel very alone and very unseen, and I hope that within the queer community, within the gay community, the trans community — the LGBTQA! All the letters! I hope that everyone feels seen, and let's say again: celebrated.

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Miss Vanjie, DJ Joe Gauthreaux headline Impulse Dallas' DTF4: Candyland

Impulse Dallas does a lot to spread the word about safe sex practices and HIV help, and the signature event to do so each year is DTF ... for Down to Float, its 4th annual pool party (this time entitled Candyland). This year, music will be provided by famed NOLA DJ Joe Gauthreaux with entertainment from Drag Race alum Vanessa ... who became a sensation with her farewell refrain, "Vanjie!!!" Priscilla actor Blake McIver will also make an appearance.

DEETS: Residence at 7044 Royal Lane. 2-7 p.m. Tickets from \$32. Eventbrite.com.

by and about Asians, and those from the region, including horror, romance, animation and documentaries. There's some of all that at this year's festival (including the dark, edgy anime film *Have a Nice Day*, pictured), which numbers more than 30 feature-length films and even more shorts, including a women's showcase and student films, several of which (*Bo & Mei*, *Her Bath* and *Monogramish*, all screening July 20) are specifically LGBT.

DEETS: Screenings take place at the Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station. Visit AsianFilmDallas.com for complete schedule and tickets.

LIFE+STYLE

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Tuesday 07.24 — Sunday 08.12

The Phantom stalks the Music Hall and Bass in 'Love Never Dies'

At the end of *Phantom of the Opera*, the Phantom has disappeared. What happened to him? Well, it turns out, he moved to Coney Island. Seriously. *Love Never Dies* is Andrew Lloyd Webber's sequel to the juggernaut musical about the tortured but elusive impresario who stalks a charming young ingénue. The national tour of the show opens this week for a two-week run in Dallas before heading over to Fort Worth's Bass Hall next month.

DEETS: Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. July 24-Aug. 5. DallasSummerMusicals.org. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Aug. 7-12. BassHall.com.

Friday 07.20 — Thursday 07.26

Asian Film Festival of Dallas returns for 17th year

For 17 years now, the Asian Film Festival of Dallas has showcased a variety of films representing about half the planet, from those



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The 20th annual series of eight rotating performance from small companies, including WingSpan, Echo, Imprint and more. *Reviewed this week.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 4. Visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org for complete schedule.

Priscilla Queen of the Desert. The Oscar-winning film, about three drag queens traversing the Australian Outback in a rattly bus dubbed Priscilla, becomes a jukebox musical of disco hits. Presented by Uptown Players. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 29. UptownPlayers.org.

The Revolutionists. Laura Gunderson's wicked feminist quartet, about four historical figures of the French Revolution (including Marie Antoinette and Charlotte Corday) leaving their mark on history. Presented by the new company Imprint Theatreworks. Margo Jones Theatre in the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. July 20–Aug. 5. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

My Son, the Waiter. Brad Zimmerman's one-man show about trying to make a career as an actor. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through July 29. EisemannCenter.com.

FILM

17th Annual Asian Film Festival of Dallas. Festival of films by and about Asian culture. All screenings take place at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station. Through Thursday. Visit AsianFilmDallas.com for a complete schedule.

FINE ART

Laura Owens. The controversial, eclectic artist is featured at a show at the Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through July 29. DMA.org.

EXHIBITIONS

Ultimate Dinosaurs. Exhibit analyzing the history of the creatures that would come to occupy Jurassic Park. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 N. Field St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. PerotMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 07.20

COMMUNITY

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

CONCERTS

Sugarland. See Story, Page 16. Verizon Theatre. 1001 Performance Drive, Grand Prairie. AXS.com.

FILM

CineWilde Presents *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. As the stage musical plays in Uptown, the source material — this 1994 Australian film — runs as this month's CineWilde screening in Oak Cliff. Presented by CineWilde, with a pre-show discussion and followed by a post-show party and amateur drag contest. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 8:30 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. screening, 11:15 p.m. contest. \$10.

SATURDAY 07.21

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

Gaybingo. This month's theme is Orange You Glad It's Gaybingo at this game and fundraising party benefiting Resource Center. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

SPEAKER

Seven Things I Have Learned: And Evening with Ira Glass. The creator and host of radio's This American Life appears. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org

TUESDAY 07.24

FILM

Dark Victory. Bette Davis received one of her 10 Oscar nominations for best actress for this tearjerker about a woman losing her eyesight. 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.

THEATER

Love Never Dies: The Phantom Returns.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's follow-up to his international smash, set decades after *The Phantom of the Opera* with new goings-on, this time on Coney Island. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. July 24–Aug. 5. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Aug. 7–12. BassHall.com.

THURSDAY 07.26

CABARET

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

CONCERTS

Pentatonix. The North Texas a capella vocalists perform with guests Callum Scott, Echosmith. Dos Equis Pavilion at Fair Park, 3839 Fitzhugh Ave. 8 p.m. Ticketmaster.com

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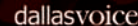
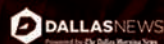
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Cassie Nova

An average day with Cassie

Some days, being super-average is annoying. None of what I am about to write is meant to be a pity party or a fishing expedition for compliments, it is just something that has been on my mind for a while.

First I will start with what I am above average at. (Donna Day would have killed me for ending that sentence with at, she hated that.) I am a great emcee. My ability to host a show and entertain is above average. I'm very good at drag. I may not be the best but I am certainly better than average. I am an above average home cook — not a chef or even ready to go on *MasterChef*, but I can slay a casserole and my grilling skills are on point.

I am probably *slightly* above average with useless trivia — not enough to go on *Jeopardy* but enough to beat most of my friends at Trivial Pursuit. In high school, I was voted “Most Friendly,” so at some point I was good at being friendly... boy, did I lose that skill. But that is about all where I am better than the norm.

The list of things I am *below* average at could fill 10 encyclopedias, so let's not go there. I've just always wondered how it felt to be the absolute best at something. Does Michael Phelps' dick get extra erect knowing he is the best at swimming? I will never know. (Not about Michaels Phelps' dick, but about being the best at something.) I am even average in my averageness. Since most everybody is average, am I making any sense? I know being average is not a bad thing but there will always be a part of us that wants to outshine all the rest. I guess I am being petty and I should be happy in the middle, it could always be worse. I will continue to aim for the stars but be okay with the moon.

Being petty, that's another thing I excel at! Ha! Suck it, average!

Dear Cassie, I have been dating a guy for the past nine months. He is wanting to move faster than I want. He thinks we are ready to move into a place together but I don't know if I am ready. I enjoy my space. Our real problem is that every one of my friends and most of my family absolutely hate him. He is a bit over-protective and very jealous. He constantly needs to know where I am and who I am with. I wish he treated me better than he does, but he's really not that bad. I think I love him but am not sure I want to lose everyone else to be with him. My friends have gotten to where they don't invite me out because they don't want to be around him.

I was single for such a long time and felt overwhelming loneliness before we got together. Other gay guys always think there must be something wrong with you if you have been single for a long time. I am almost 35 and it just feels good to have someone that wants to be with me. In the beginning, I liked that he got jealous, but now it's getting to be too much. I hate having to check in like he is one of my parents. I am grown. Being single for so long sucked but being in a relationship has come with a high price. What would you do in my place? Thank you. Anonymous.

Dear Anon-o-mouse, Listen baby, you need to grow a pair. Break up with this mutherfucker and quit acting like you are his little bitch. Nine months and you don't know if you love him? You don't. Is that dick good or somethin'? Have



you been dickmatized?

What do your friends and family see that you don't? You are too old to be letting someone treat you like property. If you loved him you would want to move in with him. If you loved him truly, there is usually only one speed for a relationship and that is all out speeding. Your brain is telling you what your heart already knows: He is not the one.

Look, I get it. Before my husband and I got together, I allowed myself to be treated like shit just so I would not be alone. I put up with so much ridiculous shit that I am so ashamed of. I dated one bisexual guy that brought a date — a female! — to my show the night after we first had sex. And my dumb ass continued to date him. One guy “dated” me because as long as everyone thought we were together he would get free drinks, and I remember thinking, At least I am not alone.

Loneliness can play tricks on the mind and can make you forget your worth. It can make

you blind to what is going on right in front of you. Fear of being alone is just as bad. You get it in your head, what if this is all I get. You mentally allow yourself to settle.

You are better than that, and you deserve better. Settling only worked for the pioneers of the Old West. This guy is not for you and you know it. When you break it off with him — and you know you should — don't think of it as a loss. Think of him as a stepping-stone to get to who you are supposed to be with. You learn from each relationship you have; sometimes all you learn is how you don't want to be treated.

For me, I think I allowed myself to be treated badly in the past to know how to recognize when I was being treated right. I think you have learned all you need to from this guy — you have graduated. The new school year will start as soon as you are ready. Move on.

If you don't already have a pet, get one. My dogs helped curb my loneliness and helped me erase the smell of desperation. They helped me

realize that I was worthy of love and to know it when it came to me. Good luck, my friend. You deserve love — we all do — and never settle.

Cassie.

Giving advice. That's something else I am good at doing, maybe even above average.

Actually, the more I think about it, the more I think it is way too stressful to be the best at anything. You're always expected to be the best. There is comfort in mediocrity. Being average at things is the norm. I think I am going to take the advice I would give someone that is struggling with being average. I would tell them to chill the fuck out and just do you.

So I am going to take a chill pill on the subject and give myself a break. I will strive for greatness and maybe not beat myself up for just being average to above average!

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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Making the SCENE the week of July 20–26:

- **Alexandre's:** **Stephanie Sallie** on Friday. **Jason Huff and the Ignition** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Carymel** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears Cookout** from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. **Miss Turnabout Show** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court Show** from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. **DIVA Night with DJ C-Rail** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night** on Saturday. **Dallas Bears Club Night** on Saturday. **Diablos Cookout** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** **Mayra D’Lorenzo** raises money for **Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System** at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** **Messy Mondays** at the Hidden Door.
- **JR.’s Bar & Grill:** **Dreamgirls** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty’s Live:** Tuesdays with **Blake**.
- **Pekers:** **Totally Twisted Karaoke** at 9:45 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear Happy Hour** at 6 p.m. on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen’s:** **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **Devils Burlesque** on Saturday. **Southpaw Preachers** at 3:30 p.m. and **Anton Shaw Band** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The 515 Bar:** **Sunday Funday** free food at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Taryn Taylor** appears Friday through Sunday. **Miss Universo Latino** on Wednesday. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and pageant begins at 10 p.m.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Trashy Tuesdays** at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Crown Jewel Ball** at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody’s Sports & Video Bar:** **Jada Pinkett Fox** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Zippers:** **Monday Madness** with sounds by **Rudeboy Dallas** from 9 p.m.–2 a.m. on Monday.

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



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Guys' night out at The Tin Room



Working the pole at Club Stallions



Getting close at Alexandre's



The Cast of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* at Uptown Players (Photo courtesy Kris Ikejiri)



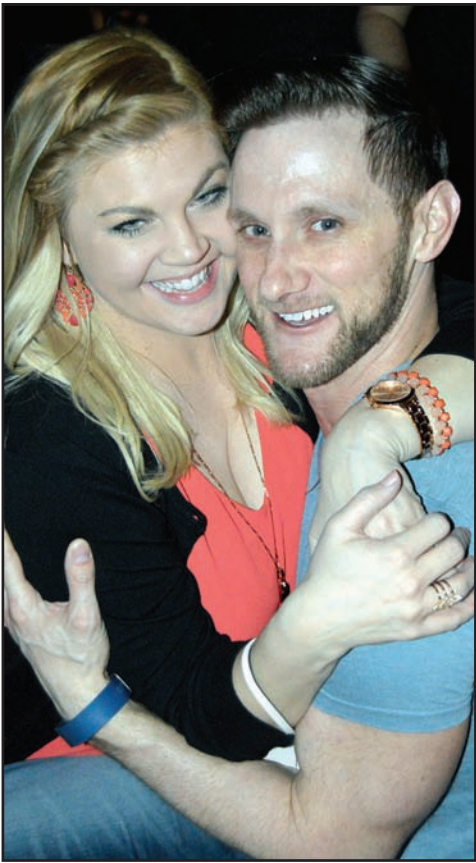
John, Chris and Tyler on The Strip



The bartender at The Round-Up has his hands full.



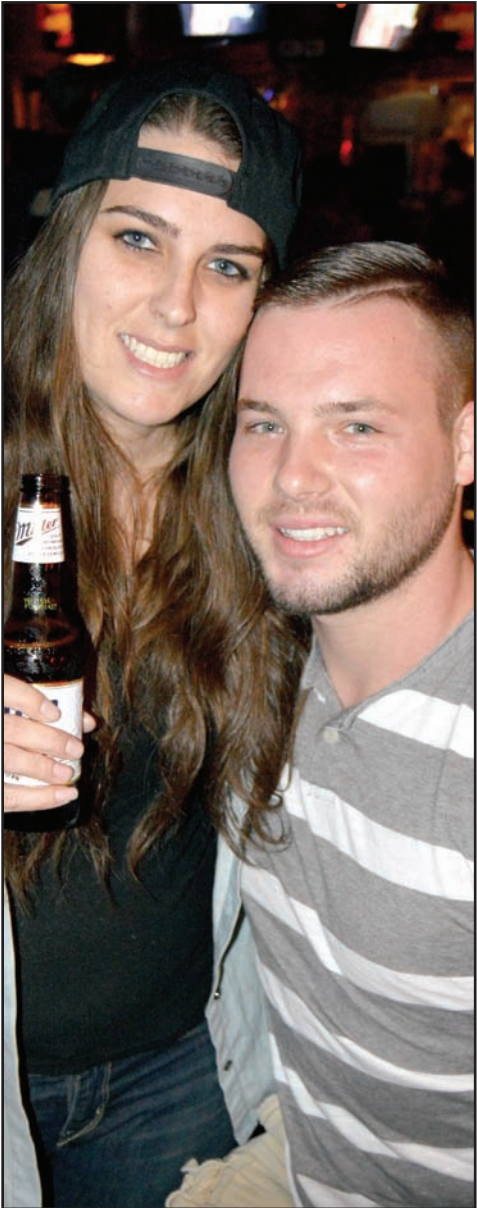
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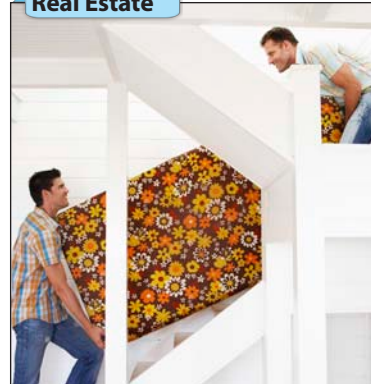
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q-puzzle

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Tasmanian Angel

Solution on Page 27

Across

- 1 Teacher in *The King and I*
- 5 Bell bottoms, perhaps
- 10 First two quarters of a New York Liberty game, e.g.
- 14 Lysol target
- 15 Like Mary's little follower
- 16 *Midnight in the Garden of Good and* ____
- 17 It's glorious, in *Oliver!*
- 18 Brand for cutting leaves of grass
- 19 Prefix with gravure, in "Easter Parade"
- 20 More of a quote that begins "There is nothing stronger than..."
- 23 "Bust a Nut" band
- 24 9-digit ID org.
- 25 Weapon pointed at James Bond's crotch
- 26 Britney Spears' "____ Curious"
- 28 Rhett Butler's final word
- 30 With 33-Across, comic from Tasmania and source of the quote
- 33 See 30-Across
- 37 River at Pittsburgh
- 38 *Corydon* author Gide
- 42 Dust Bowl refugee
- 43 Supposed gay percentage of the population
- 44 Greeted the milkmaid
- 45 "I Got Rhythm" writer Gershwin

46 Overhand stroke, for

- Amelie Mauresmo
- 49 More of the quote
- 50 Small, wet bodies
- 52 Arizona tribe
- 54 She and she or he and he
- 56 More of the quote
- 59 End of the quote
- 63 Working hard
- 64 Member of a Dumas threesome
- 66 Some falcon feathers
- 67 Russian duo that sings "All Things Said"
- 68 Utah Starzz and Houston Comets
- 69 Toronto gas brand
- 70 From A to B, to Debussy
- 71 Seed spilled by some farmers
- 72 "Weed 'em and ____" (gardener's motto?)

Down

- 1 Like a dancer's diet
- 2 Reader computer program
- 3 Othello on peaty ground?
- 4 *Dirty Dancing* director Emile
- 5 Heavy metal band?
- 6 "But still..."
- 7 Vistas in a gay bar?
- 8 Penetrating path
- 9 "I ____ to recall..."
- 10 *The Pajama Game* hideaway owner of song
- 11 Admits openly
- 12 Like a ballerina

13 Blow away

- 21 Gay ____ Sutra
- 22 *Summer and Smoke* heroine
- 27 Rock Hudson's marriage, perhaps
- 29 Dated
- 30 Amorous affliction, with "the"
- 31 Sound deep in the throat
- 32 Actress Foch
- 34 "Canvas" for tats
- 35 Shuttlecock
- 36 Votes of approval
- 39 Feat in Glenn Burke's sport
- 40 "____ good turn daily" (Scout motto)
- 41 Where much of *Fried Green Tomatoes* takes place
- 47 "Zip it!"
- 48 Polloi preceder
- 50 A shot
- 51 Bed occupant
- 53 Dreadlocks feature
- 55 Big name in oil
- 56 "Screwed again!"
- 57 Vermont, to Vivien
- 58 Word before "my shorts"
- 60 Make less difficult to bear
- 61 Early newspaper publisher Ben
- 62 Broadway disappointment
- 65 Food for a stallion

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



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- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

Rx Only

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.