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The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 34 | Issue 40 | FREE | Friday, February 8, 2019





02.08.19 | Volume 35 | Issue 40



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Model: Krystal Summers. Candy and props courtesy of Yelibelly Chocolates. Photo by Tammye Nash. For more information see Page 4.



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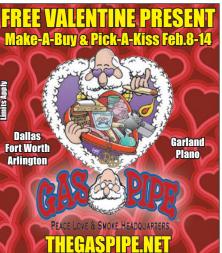
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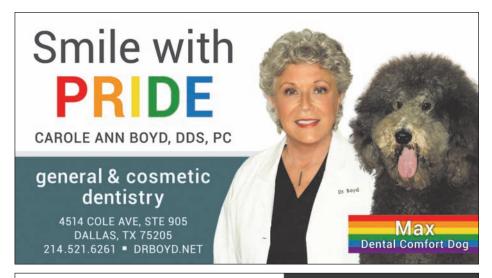
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Yeltbelly Chocolates

Dallas Voice offers a special Thank-You to our friend, chocolatier Sarahbeth "Yeli" Marshall, owner and chief chocolate officer for Yelibelly Chocolates. The award-winning artisan chocolate company headquartered in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Sarahbeth and Yelibelly Chocolates donated the candy and some of the props for our Valentine's Day cover featuring Krystal Summers.

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Photo by Kelly Alexander. Makeup by Vivienne Vermouth.



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LGBT Caucus holds first press conference



The newly-formed Texas LGBT Caucus in Texas House of Representatives held its first press conference on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Chair Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, announced that in addition to the five LGBT representatives, the new caucus has 16 additional members.

Gonzalez explained the reason for the caucus, saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu."

She said that last session, LGBT lawmakers and their allies fought off 20 anti-LGBT bills. This session, only two have been filed.

Glen Maxey, who became the first openly-gay member of the Texas House when he was elected in 1991, also attended the press

Vice Chair Jessica Gonzalez, D-Dallas, said there has been a spike in hate crimes and a skyrocketing rate of murders of transgender women that needs to be addressed. She also said conditions in prisons and services available upon release need attention.

Rep Julie Johnson, D-Farmers Branch, chose to highlight the issue of housing nondiscrimination. "Far too many people apply for an apartment, put their spouse on the application and are denied," she said.

She mentioned a bill she's supporting, filed by Rep. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio, that would prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Every person deserves a safe place to sleep." Johnson said.

Rep. Celia Israel. D-Austin. mentioned her lifelong friendship with Maxey. "He gave birth to a bunch of us," she said.

Because of terrible traffic problems in Austin, Israel has spent much of her time in the Legislature working on transportation issues. She said she'd like to be known as a "transportation chick" but also as a role model.

"I want 9-year-old Celia to know you can do whatever you want to do and you can run for office," she said, adding that she has hope for this session accomplishing more than the last one.

"Hopefully we're beyond the hatred and discrimination of last session," Israel said.

As a member of the LGBT Caucus, Israel said, she wants to highlight suicide prevention efforts. As part of that campaign, she filed a bill to make the practice of conversion therapy on minors illegal.

Equality Texas interim Executive Director Samantha Smoot spoke about its new poll that showed for the first time majority support for equality across the state in every group, even among Evangelicals.

She said the importance of the caucus to young people is the message it sends: "You're represented. You matter."

David Taffet

Take Back Oak Lawn files park naming application

Take Back Oak Lawn has filed an application with the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department to make the name of Oak Lawn Park permanent. The name "Oak Lawn Park" was deemed temporary by city officials after the statute of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was removed, changing the name of the park from Lee Park back to its original name. Oak Lawn Park, until a permanent name could be decided.

Lee Daugherty filed the application on Wednesday, Feb. 6 to counter attempts to change the name to Stanley Marcus Park or Turtle Creek Park. Because so much of Oak Lawn has been renamed and rebranded in what many see as an effort in order to distance the area from the LGBT community that spent decades making into a livable neighborhood, many consider the proposed name change from Oak Lawn Park to have homophobic overtones.

Daugherty said a park rep checked the paperwork and said they'd be in touch.

David Taffet

'Hamilton' hasn't even opened in North Texas yet, and it's already coming back

Hamilton, the hip-hop musical that is the biggest thing to emerge from Broadway since air conditioning, hasn't even opened yet in North Texas — it will soon, coming to Fair Park Musical Hall in April — but already it's coming back.

Performing Arts Fort Worth has announced that Hamilton will anchor its 2019-2020 season... meaning it will arrive in 2020. The Lin-Manuel Miranda history of the Founding Fathers will run at Bass Performance Hall June 9-28, 2020, Other shows in its season will be The Phantom of the Opera (Sept. 24-Oct. 5, 2019), Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Oct. 29-Nov. 3), Miss Saigon (Dec. 3-8), Hello, Dolly! (Jan. 14-19, 2020), then Hamilton, Come from Away (July 7–12), Escape to Margaritaville (Aug. 11–16) and Jesus Christ Superstar (Aug. 25-30).

- Arnold Wayne Jones





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.

FEBRUARY

• Feb. 9: Love Equality

The Equality Texas Dallas Steering committee presents Love Equality, a night of dancing with drinks and light food, benefitting Equality Texas, will be held from 8-11 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. Ste. 107.
Advance tickets are \$50 until Dec. 31, and \$75 from Jan. 1-Feb. 1, online at Secure.EveryAction.com/HZCrJuU7wUaaHFlftkj1Sg2. Tickets at the door \$100.

• Feb. 9: Prime Timers

Brunch at 11 a.m. at Le Peep, 4835 N. O'Connor Road, Irving.

• Feb. 9: Red Tie Reception

Coalition for Aging LGBT presents Red Tie Reception: A Lover's Celebration with dance, drag show and raffle prizes from 4-7 p.m. at Hurst Convention Center, 1601 Campus Drive, Hurst. Free tickets at CFA.lgbt.

• Feb. 9: LGBT Speed Dating

Real Live Connection presents LGBT speed dating fundraiser happy hour from 5-8 p.m. at Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road.

• Feb. 9: PALentine's Day

Gift giveaways and meet dozens of pets from noon-4 p.m. at SPCA Jan Rees-

• 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 counselor Candy Marcum; 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

Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive.

• Feb. 10: Underwear Auction

Team Metro underwear auction to raise money for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund from 5-9 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

• Feb. 10: Prime Timers

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

• Feb. 11: Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County

Monthly meeting and membership drive at 7 p.m. at Tommy's Hamburgers, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth.

• Feb. 12: Grief support group

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

• Feb. 12: Tyler PFLAG

Parents, family and friends of LGBT people meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Genecov Room, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler.

• Feb. 12: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Saltgrass Steakhouse, 13561 N. Central Expressway.

• Feb. 13: Pride Night–Falsettos

Pride Night at the national tour of Falsettos in collaboration with the Turtle Creek Chorale at 7:30 p.m. at Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Discounted tickets \$30-60 at ATTPAC.org.

e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org; LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2–4 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.; **Gray Pride** support group from

• Feb. 14: Prime Timers

Happy hour at 5 p.m. at JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

• Feb. 14: Miss CEBA

Jenna Skyy hosts the Miss CEBA Sweetheart Pageant at 10:30 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Applications and questions at CEBADallas.org.

• Feb. 14: Business Connections Mixer

GLBT Chamber of Commerce mixer. Bring a date or a friend from 5:30-7 p.m. at WXYZ Lounge, Aloft Dallas Downtown, 1033 Young St. GLBTChamber.com.

• Feb. 15: Prime Timers

Happy hour at 5:30 p.m. at Woody's, 4011 Cedar Springs Road.

• Feb. 16: SAGE Table

SAGE, the national senior LGBT organization, holds a breakfast potluck in Carrollton from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Cosmopolitan UCC, 1200 Metrocrest Drive, Carollton.

• Feb. 16: And the winner Is ... Gavbingo

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

• Feb. 16: DanceTCU concert benefiting AOC

DanceTCU welcomes performers from Avant Chamber Ballet, Booker T Washington, Jennfier Mabus Dance and Houston METdance Company to benefit AIDS Outreach Center at 7:30 p.m. at

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters**



Love Equality, the dance party benefitting Equality Texas, takes place Saturday, Feb. 9, at Seven for Parties on Turtle Creek Boulevard. See listings for details.

Erma Lowe Hall Studio Theatre on the TCU Campus. \$20 at the door.

• Feb. 16: Journey into Parenthood

Join North Dallas Doula Associates for a class to assist LGBT singles and couples in navigating medical and legal steps to becoming parents from 1-3 p.m. at North Dallas Doula Associates, 107 Murray St. \$20 single, \$30 couple. Tinyurl.com/JourneyIntoParenthoodFeb.

• Feb. 17: Teddy Bear Auction

Dallas Bears hosts auction in memory of Spanke Studer that benefits AIDS Services of Dallas. Preview and cocktails at 6 p.m. Auction at 7 p.m. at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• Feb. 20: Prime Timers

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at El Fenix, 5622 Lemmon Ave.

• Feb. 20: Texas LGBT Chamber lobby day

The LGBT chambers of commerce of Texas lobby at the state capitol.

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.; **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 / ANNABELLE



Meet **Annabelle**, a 3-year-old, brown-and-tan hound mix weighing 60 pounds. She's a sweet gal who loves to cuddle, and while she's a little shy around new people, once you

talk to her she'll wag her tail in delight! She is very well-mannered and adaptable; her foster parents said she got their routine down in one day. She's house-trained, quiet in a crate and a gentle, respectful girl. She didn't have the best life before coming to the SPCA of Texas, so she's hoping for a patient family who will love her and spoil her like she deserves. If you're looking for a loving, affectionate girl to join your family, she's the one for you. Annabelle has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today! #168351

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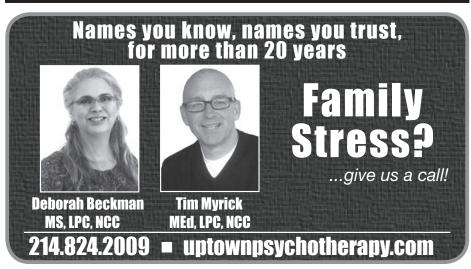


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32 years and Counting

Candy Marcus and Carolyn Hall waited a year after the marriage equality ruling to officially tie the knot

DAVID TAFFET I Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

andy Marcum and Carolyn Hall's first date was at Razzle Dazzle Dallas in 1986, when the AIDS crisis was beginning to hit Dallas in a big way.

"It was a time of war, but we knew how to throw a great party and fundraiser," Marcum said.

The couple already knew each other from their work as activists when they went on that first date. They had met in 1983, when Marcum and her friend and co-worker Howie Daire held a meeting for prospective board members for Oak Lawn Counseling Center, the agency they had created that eventually evolved into Oak Lawn Community Services.

"Carolyn walked in [to the meeting], and I thought: Who is that?" Marcum recalled. But both were in relationships at the time, so they remained just colleagues for awhile.

As Daire's health declined due to AIDS, Marcum wanted to help him with expenses, so Hall suggested they get together to plan a fundraiser for him. "I went over several times and we never did plan that party," Hall said.

By 1984 Marcum was single, and by 1986, so was Hall. That's when they planned that first date for Razzle Dazzle, which was being held on Cedar Springs Road that year. The street was closed off and organizations from throughout the community had information tables and booths.

The two women went to the party separately, met inside and have been togeth-

dates. They met on June 15 and were married on June 17. Easy to do, Marcum explained. There are 30 days in June. Just divide it by two and the 15th is er ever since. "We hit it right off," Marcum said. magic. When you find the right one, you hang on." On their June 15 anniversary, just before the when Supreme Court handed they met. Then down its Obergefell maradd two and the 17th is riage equality decision, Hall when they were married. and Marcum had a conver-Or she could just remember sation about getting married. her anniversary. Although they could have been married in other states that al-Valentine's Day traditions

wanted to be married in Texas. Two weeks later, marriage became legal across the county. And Hall asked Marcum, "Don't you think we should

Marcum, who admits now that she always had a little bit of trouble remembering the date of her anniversary anyway, suggested they wait until their next anniversary to marry. Now, she acknowledges, that was just a way to hide her fear of marriage.

ready recognized marriage equality,

get married?"

Marcum insisted she lived in Texas and

But the following June, the two went

Marcum, a counselor who specializes in LGBT families, said in the beginning of their relationship, Valentine's Day was a big deal to her and Hall. Her mother's birthday was on Feb. 14, as was Hall's best friend's. So they'd all go out

to Houston, where Marcum's 100-year-

old mother lived. They invited just a few

But Marcum still has to remember two

family and friends and tied the knot.

Hall said they continue the tradition today. This year, although Marcum's mother is gone, they and another couple and Hall's friend whose birthday is on Valentine's Day have reservations at Savor in Klyde Warren Park.

Marcum said Valentine's Day the last

begins with Thanksgiving, continues through Christmas and New Year's before finishing up with Valentine's Day. And while many people enjoy the holidays, many others spend the holidays being miserable. So she urges people who don't have a Valentine's date, not to pressure themselves.

holiday of "the holiday season," which

not." But if you're feeling pressure to not be alone, Valentine's can be about any relationship — family and friends as well as romantic partners. Marcum suggests those without romantic partners this Valentine's Day should "invite some over or go out with friends."

"This

is not one

where you

should feel

pressure," she

reiterated. "Eat

a salad and go

to bed. No one

will know if

you're out or

Give out a few small boxes of chocolate, she added, or put up a few decorations, if you like. But, Marcum stressed, "It doesn't have to be romantic."

And then on Friday — Valentine's Day is on a Thursday this year — wake up and realize you made it through it.

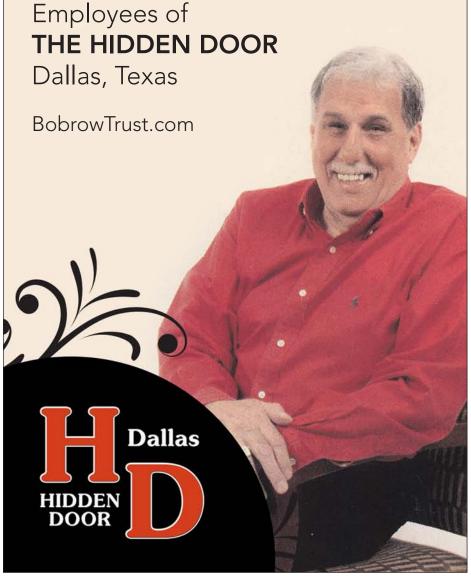
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OUR FRIEND **TONY BOBROW**

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Carrollton council approves ordinance

DAVID TAFFET I Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

he Carrollton City Council this week passed an employnondiscrimment ination ordinance that bans discrimination based on. among other things, sexual orientation and gender identity. The vote came during the council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

The ordinance, approved on a 5-2 vote that basically revised the city's existing nondiscrimination ordinance, protects city employees, contractors and political appointees. It also bans discrimination based on pregnancy and political beliefs.

A number of people attended in support of the ordinance, including Resource Center staff members Rafael Mc-Donnell, communications and advocacy manager, and Leslie McMurray, insurance assistance coordinator. But a significant contingent of individuals opposing the ordinance also attended.

During the public comment period, one dissenter complained the new law would allow men to use women's bathrooms. According to LGBT right advocate Cannon Brown, who attended the meeting, opponents also claimed the new ordinance would protect individuals involved in necrophilia and pedophilia.

McMurray, in her comments to the council, pointed out that equality for more groups doesn't take away equality from others.

Place 2 Councilman Mike Hennefer voted against the ordinance, saying that it wasn't needed because the city already does not discriminate against anyone.

Place 5 Councilman Glen Blanscet, a Baptist minister, also voted against revising the ordinance to include specific protections for LGBT people. During the debate, Blanscet said that the city was being "asked to create a new protected class" not recognized in state and federal law, and that by doing so, the city could face "other ramifications I'm not sure we're fully aware of."



Leslie McMurrav

Blanscet warned that creating these new protected classes could "impact other people's rights." He compared it to the passage of the Civil Rights Act in the 1960s, saying that the Civil Rights Act impacted other people's rights, but was justified in doing so, whereas the proposed revisions to Carrollton's ordinance could impact other people's rights in ways that were not justified.

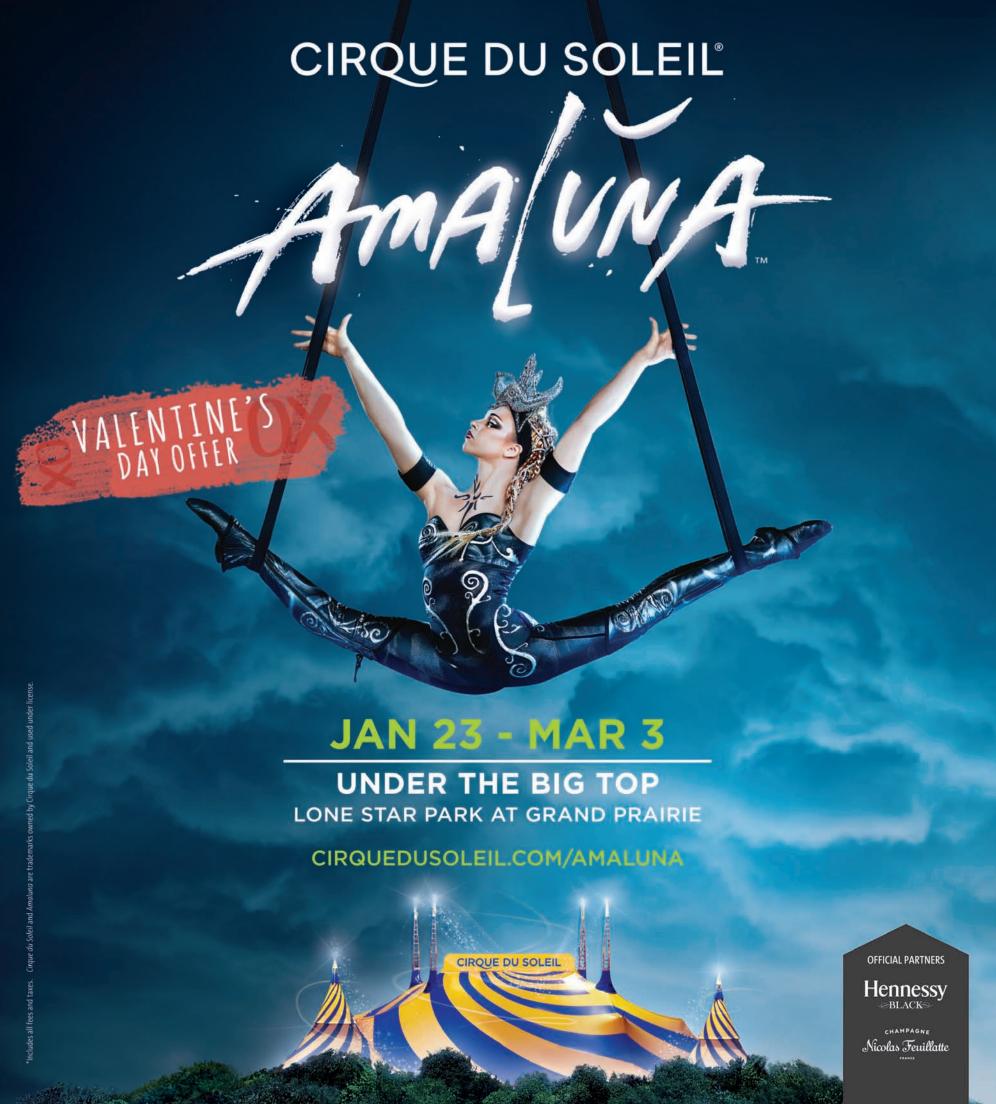
"This particular language [recommended by a committee that had studied the issues] has an impact [on other people's] freedom of religion and freedom of speech." Blanscet claimed, adding that "protected classes" based on sexual orientation and gender identity were not well defined. "What is that?" he questioned. "What does that mean?"

Place 1 Councilman Steve Babick, however, argued that it was specifically because these certain classes are not protected by state and federal law that the city of Carrollton needed to include those specific protections in its ordinance.

"This is a marked moment for us," Babick said, adding that the council "absolutely ought to" revise the ordinance to include specific protections. The council, he said, should pass the revised ordinance "to send the signal loud and clear as an employer ... that we do not discriminate."

Babick said, "A lot of people on both sides of the community, so to speak, want to make this a division point [in the city]. But let's remember what this is all about. It's anti-discrimination, which by its nature is not a division point; it's an inclusion point."

Tammye Nash contributed to this report.



On the **front** lines

hen Av-

Avery Belyeu is proud to be part of the Lambda Legal team

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

ery Belyeu joined the staff of Lambda last November as south central regional director, headquartered here in Dallas, she brought with her a wealth of experience as an LGBT advocate and in suicide prevention. But she also brought the unique perspective on the battle for equality that being a master's student at Brite Divinity School has given her.

Belyeu, who is transgender, said she began her advocacy work as an intern

at Equality North Carolina when she was in graduate school there. She was part of the team that helped get inclusive anti-bullying legislation passed in that

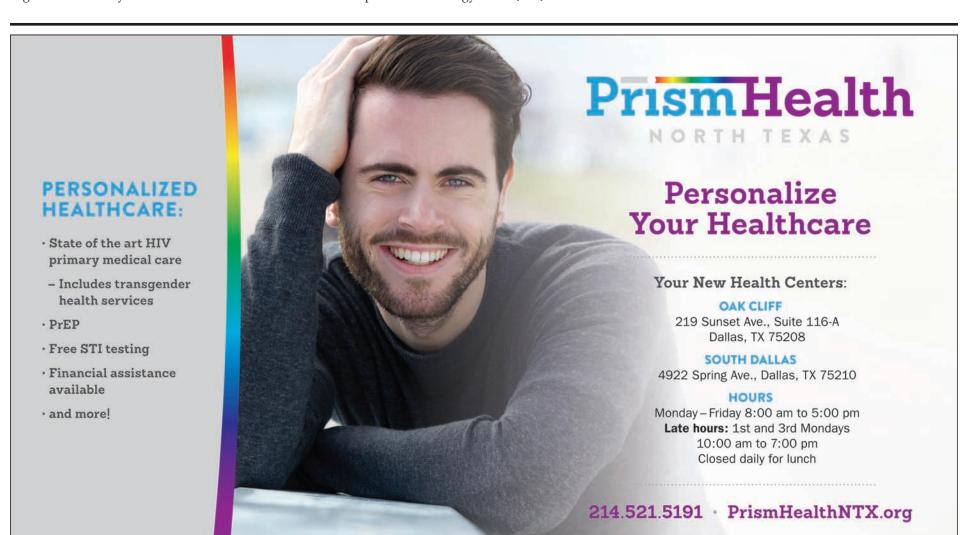
From there, she moved to New York City to join the Trevor Project, a organization committed to providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ people under the age of 25. She was the fourth staff person hired by the Trevor Project.

"It was a busy time," Belyeu recalled. "The Trevor Project was growing fast, and it gave me an opportunity to really learn about working in the nonprofit

She held several positions with the organization, ending as education director, before leaving The Trevor Project to go to work for the Massachusetts-based Education Development Center. There, she focused on suicide prevention strategy



Avery Belyeu



with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.

Working for the EDC gave Belyeu "a federal perspective that I'd not really had before," she said. She worked with federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Health and Human Services, as well as with others in the private and public sectors to help develop a national strategy on suicide prevention.

Belyeu worked for EDC for more than four years, staying with the organization even after she moved to Fort Worth, where she and her husband still live, to begin attending Brite Divinity School.

"I'm a Southerner," Belyeu said, explaining why she decided to move back south after her years in New York and New England.

"I was dealing with some of that queer flight guilt," she added, noting how many LGBT people leave their rural roots to find a more accepting home in the bigger cities, and how many LGBT people from the South head north for the same reason.

But, Belyeu continued, "our move-

ment needs experienced LGBT leaders everywhere, and I felt like I had that experience to offer."

She said she chose to go to divinity school because so many of the attacks on the LGBT community have been based on religious rhetoric, and she wanted to be able to fight that rhetoric on its home turf.

"I didn't expect to have this great opportunity with Lambda Legal to come along," Belyeu said. "It is a really great fit for me. I couldn't pass it up."

She said she is thrilled to have the chance to work with Lambda Legal, because the agency is "a crucial part of our movement right now, and it is a smart part of our movement. We have some of the smartest people in the LGBT community working with Lambda Legal.

"Lambda Legal is strategic and it is thorough, and that's what our movement needs," she added.

Lambda Legal focuses on providing legal representation to LGBT people in cases that can set legal precedents to advance the cause of equality. The organization also operates a national legal help desk to help LGBT people needing legal advice and representation with a network of cooperating attorneys.

Texas has the third-largest number of calls to the help desk of any state, Belyeu noted.

As the Trump administration continues to attack transgender people in the U.S. military, Lambda Legal continues to participate in legal efforts to block Trump's ban on trans people in the military through the lawsuit *Karnoski v. Trump*. Transgender issues are also at the forefront of several other Lambda Legal cases, Belyeu said.

The organization is also participating in cases involving HIV-positive military servicemembers, adoption and foster parent rights — including a case out of Fort Worth, *Marouf v. Azar*, in which a Catholic adoption agency receiving government funds refused to allow a lesbian couple to adopt or be foster parents — and more.

Belyeu said she believes her education at Brite Divinity will help as Lambda Legal ramps up its efforts to stop so-called Reach the Lambda Legal Help Desk online at LambdaLegal.org/HelpDesk or by phone, in Texas, at 214-219-8585. Help desk phone numbers for other states are listed on the Lambda Legal website.

"religious exemption laws," which are popping up in state legislatures around the country, including Texas. These laws, she explained, allow individuals, businesses or organizations to sidestep non-discrimination laws based on religious beliefs

Belyeu said one of her goals is to include progressive faith leaders in the debate so the religious-based rhetoric is not one-sided. Belyeu said this is "an exciting time" to be part of the battle for LGBT equality, and especially to be part of Lambda Legal. "We have an amazing team of people, nationally and here in the South Central Region, and we have an amazing group of supporters here," she said. "Everyone here is energetic and excited about the work we are doing, and I am proud to be part of that."

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BEST 2017

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



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

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BEST Medical Group Practice and
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"Doing this job is Very humbling"

My preconceived notions about doing the youth homeless count were completely wrong

DAVID TAFFET I Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

Promise House asked me to tag along on a Youth Homeless Count, well, I can't refuse Promise House — even if it

Who would we run into? Would it be safe?

downtown Dallas.

What did I get myself into this time?

would be in February ... at 1 a.m. ... in

Wow. Were my preconceptions wrong.

The weather was perfect. Downtown Dallas at 1 a.m. on a Saturday morning felt perfectly safe. And I met some of the sweetest people.

A small group of us met at Promise House in Oak Cliff at about 12:30 a.m. We loaded the van with a plastic tub of prepackaged goods: shampoo, socks, soap — things that someone living on the street could use.

Then, with fearless leader Demetria Brown, Promise House's street outreach coordinator, at the helm, we headed out.

Keri Stitt, Promise House's chief partner relations officer, explained she didn't really like to call what we were doing a count. Rather, she said, it was a survey.

"It's the information we collect," she said, "and how we can intervene."

Brown said that while we want to find out how many young people are on the street, that wasn't enough. "We need to figure out how to help them get off the street," she said.

Stitt said she enjoyed working with homeless youth because they still had

Our first stop downtown was the Erik Jonsson Library. When we saw people hanging out around the library, we parked, each of us grabbed a couple of personal care packages, and we headed over to the main entrance on Young Street where three young men were



My team, from left, Jessica Wickizer, Keri Stitt, Demetria Brown and Christopher Moeder. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



David Taffet Senior Staff Writer

gathclosely ered. One was sleeping on a ledge, another and was reluctant to answer any questions. But the third

agreed to participate. He told

Brown

age and the ages of the other two young men. They were all between 19 and 22 years old. He answered other questions — about how he ended up on the street, his sexual orientation, where he spends most nights, what he might need and

Brown recorded the answers on a phone app, and it took about five minutes to complete the survey. We gave each of the young men a personal care package. The one who completed the survey also got a \$10 Target gift card.

any hopes he had for the future.

We moved on.

"Scuse me," Brown said cheerfully to a couple already asleep, bundled in sleeping bags on the sidewalk in front of the library.

They responded, maybe a little scared. Brown quickly identified herself and told them what we were doing. I worried that her waking them might upset them. But they responded positively. Everyone responded to her that way I learned

The woman said she was 30 — too old for the count — so we thanked them, gave each a personal care package, said good night and moved on. We repeated that with several more people.

How did she get that response, I asked

"Everything I do is from the heart," Brown explained. "I always greet you with a smile."

We circled the library on foot. Then we walked several blocks to check the streets surrounding the Stew Pot, the day shelter run by First Presbyterian Church.

We met a few other people camped outside the Stew Pot. All were too old for the survey, but we handed out packages to anyone that wanted one.

Before moving to another section of downtown, we took one more look at the main library entrance. Our group of three young men had grown to four, and the sleeping companion was up and agreed to do a survey.

Stitt interviewed him while Brown surveyed the new member of the group.

I chatted with the 19-year-old who was reluctant to answer questions. He said he had no way to carry the personal care items around, because he didn't have a backpack. I asked Brown if Promise House had any. She said she thought she could find one and would bring it to him the next night.

I asked him if they spent most nights here, and he said they did.

Stitt learned that the young man she was interviewing had some mental health concerns that he would like help with. She offered to connect him to services.

In the van after leaving these four young men, Stitt said she could make an appointment at Metrocare and drive him to at least a first appointment. Of course, treatment doesn't happen in one visit, but it would be easier if someone was there, walking him through those first

Our next stop was the Greyhound bus station and the downtown McDonald's. We parked on the street between the two. Quite a few people were gathered around the DART stop across the street from where we parked, even though DART had stopped running for the night a couple of hours earlier.

One man approached us. He looked young, but said he was in his late 20s. Brown explained what we were doing and asked if he knew of any young people on the street downtown. He suggested we look around West End Station. We told him another team was surveying the West End and El Centro College, so he said he knew of some around the Stew Pot area. We told him we just came from there. He was disappointed he couldn't help, but we thanked him and I gave him

HUNBLING, Page 17

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One person wants to parent relatives, another has let responsibility overrun human connections

Dear Candy,

I'm known as a trailblazer to the rest of my family, which is traditionally blue-collar, for being well-educated and working in a successful industry. My el-



ders are proud of me, especially my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

While my cousins, mostly my age, are proud, it hurts my heart to see them throw away opportunities on drugs, birthing out of wedlock and dropping out of school without a plan.

How do I set an example without policing them?

— Just Wanting to Help

Dear Just Wanting to Help,

While admirable and loving to want more opportunities for your cousins, it is not your role to parent them. As you said, they are mostly your age. People make choices and then have to live with them. It is the living with these consequences that form character.

We don't know how the story will play out for your cousins. I would suggest

you love them through their decisions and support them when you see positives coming from what they learn along the way. Focus on yourself and the decisions you are making. Let's see what your journey will bring to you and what character is built along the way.

Good Luck, Candy

Dear Candy,

I've faced a lot of adversity this past year for taking out a lot of loans, graduating and working a full-time job in an effort to begin my career and adulthood as soon as possible. I've lost several close friends due to a lack of connection, even people I used to live with, and I get the feeling that some believe me to be arrogant for thinking long-term more than "in the now." But what keeps me humble are the challenges I have to face every day, along with the memories of how far I've come.

How do I stress to others that with more blessings come more responsibility?

— Taking Responsibility Dear Taking Responsibility,

Let's talk about life balance. To live a happy, healthy life, you want to be able to take care of yourself financially, spiritually, physically and socially.

Look at yourself in terms of a pie. There are pieces in your pie that need to be attended to. You need the responsible piece, the fun piece, the connecting with others piece and the sacred piece. Sometimes a slice or two of your pie may change in proportion to the other slices, but the goal is to meet all your needs simultaneously.

Take a look at the percentages of these pieces of your pie. See what you can do to increase the play/fun part. You are too heavy in the responsibility portion.

Good Luck, Candy





a personal care package.

He said "Bless you" several times, so excited about the package containing simple items — items I don't even think about but that meant so much to him. He thanked me over and over when all I did was hand him a package.

Why wasn't there anything more we could do for him?

We walked over to the Greyhound bus station, which is hopping at 2 a.m. Inside, most seats were taken. Outside, some people were milling around while several people were laying on blankets on the sidewalk. Those are the ones Brown approached first.

One young man who was 19 and lying on blankets turned out to not be homeless. He was traveling back home to Midland where he had a job lined up in the oil field.

Another young man had been speaking Spanish fluently to a couple of other guys hanging around the bus station entrance. When we realized English was his first language, Stitt approached him. He was 23 and said he had learned Spanish hanging out of the street. He just picked it up from other people, he explained.

The young man had been homeless since his mother died when he was in 10th grade, and he was kicked out of his house. When Stitt asked him about any goals he might have, he said he'd love to get his GED. When she said she could arrange for him to get into a class, his eyes lit up with hope.

He told her he needed an ID, which he lost. She said she could help him with that, as well.

Stitt took a page from my notepad to write down her name and phone number. The young man said that although he had lost his phone, he could get in touch with her using someone else's.

Stitt asked him how old his Spanish-speaking friend was. He was also under 24, so the bilingual young man translated the survey questions into Spanish and the responses into English.

We gave each of them DART passes and personal care packages, and Stitt got the young man to promise he'd call her before we moved on.

We walked around the bus station and then around McDonalds. Cars wrapped around the building waiting to order in the drive-thru, and people were out on the street walking, but we didn't pass anyone we thought was homeless.

We walked around several more blocks, avoiding streets with patrol cars. Brown said the homeless stayed away from those streets that were usually patrolled. Instead, we chose darker streets where it was easier to sleep, away from the glare of lights, away from the gaze of police.

Finally, we returned to the van, wandered around a few more parts of downtown before driving back to Oak Cliff. In the car we talked about those who had needs Stitt and Brown could address, excited that a few small things they could do might make a difference in their lives.

Later in the week, Brown told me she tried to deliver the backpack to the young man at the library. She said the night she went back downtown, no one was there, but she'd try again later in the week.

That backpack might seem like a little thing, but it could make a big difference in that young man's life. Brown explained that some people will do the survey and others need to build some trust before they'll open up.

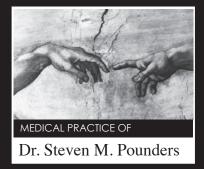
If she can get that one young man a backpack, maybe he'll begin to trust her enough to open up about other needs he may have. And eventually she might be able to help get him off the street.

"We take a lot for granted," Brown said. "Doing this job is very humbling."



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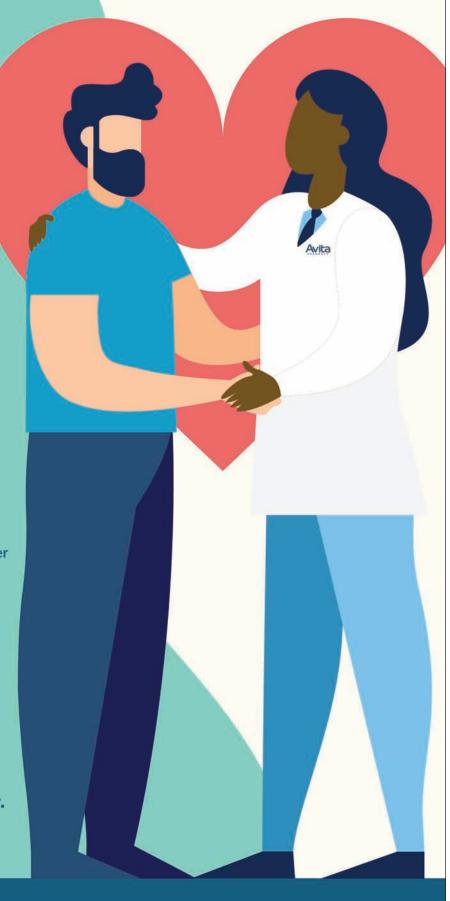
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Doing the right thing

Despite the fearmongering of opponents, Carrollton's City Council passed an ordinance covering LGBT employees

n Tuesday evening, Feb. 5, the Carrollton City Council voted, 5-2, in favor of an ordinance that would add a number of protections to city policies and statutes to protect employees or contractors. Some of those opposed to the ordinance claimed the protections were really something else in disguise; the most far-fetched and ridiculous claim was that this was a "Ban the Bible" ordinance.

But in truth, the ordinance wasn't "disguised" as anything. It's intent was right out there in the open.

Read it: "No person shall be favored or discriminated against with respect to any city appointment, employment contract or privilege on account of age, race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy or political beliefs."

Period!

Some of those opposing this ordinance want to wield fear as a weapon, as they have done for decades. From the 1950s when they riled up fear of sharing drinking fountains, to using fear to argue against equality for women or gay teachers.

Most recently, they claimed that the sanctity of marriage was in jeopardy if I were permitted to marry my wife, Katie. (And by the way, as of June 26, 2015, there is no distinction between "traditional" and same-sex marriage. It's all just called marriage.) I have news for those folks: If your marriage was on a solid foundation before Katie and I were married, chances are it still is. But if your marriage was in trouble before, it had nothing to do with the fact that Katie and I now share the same rights and protections as any other married couple.

Equal protection is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. And equality is not pie; there is enough of it to go around.

Me being able to see the doctor doesn't mean you can't. Me enjoying employment protections doesn't take anything



Leslie McMurray Accidental Activist

from your ployment. If I am able to feel safe in the city of Carrollton, it doesn't make you unsafe.

That's the magic equality.

Spreading lies and fear is irresponsible. What's even worse is using the Bible to hurt people, to deny them equal rights. Why not use it to make them feel welcome, instead?

We heard this same language and saw these same fear-mongering tactics nearly three years ago when the city of Mesquite approved a similar ordinance. In spite of the worries, Mesquite has not fallen off of the edge of the earth, and no one's religious rights have been trampled.

The ridiculous notion that Carrollton's new ordinance interferes with anyone's biblical beliefs is nonsense. Where in the Bible does it say I should be denied employment because I'm transgender? Nowhere. The Bible does, however, say "Love your neighbor," does it not?

For those genuinely afraid of losing what they consider a precious civil right, please know that I understand that fear. The reality of inequality slaps me in the face every day of my life.

I can be fired for who I am. I can be denied housing, and doctors can refuse me treatment. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit Feb. 4 to overturn Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, the non-discrimination provision that protects me, so that health care professionals can refuse me treatment if their religion tells them being transgender is wrong.

Be honest: You would be outraged as well if YOU were faced with that reality.

Carrollton is taking nothing from anyone. Seriously, read the ordinance. They only seek, as many cities around Texas have done, to level the playing field a little, because treating your neighbors with kindness and respect is a Texas value.

The community was watching, and so were businesses that may want to relocate to Carrollton now. In the face of protests from religious zealots and fearmongers pedaling their hateful, shameful scare tactics, the city of Carrollton made the right decision and they are to be congratulated and commended.

To Councilman Mike Hennefer who voted against the ordinance because he felt this ordinance wasn't needed since "Carrollton doesn't discriminate," I say: Good! Then having these protections won't hurt a thing and will send a clear message to all that Carrollton walks the walk on equality with regard to city employees and contractors.'

Councilman Glen Blanscet, who also voted against adding equality protections, seemed most concerned about the gender identity provisions and sexual orientation protections. Enough so, that pregnant women would also lose protection were the ordinance defeated.

Mr. Blanscet is the former executive pastor at First Baptist Church in Carrollton, so it's little surprise that he would claim to be worried about "unintended consequences."

To Mr. Blanscet, I say: Let me calm your fears. You need look no further than Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Plano, Farmers Branch, Mesquite and Irving — just to name a few — to realize that even though all these cities have added protections like the ones just approved in Carrollton, none have been plagued by locusts or have fallen into the sea.

To the five council members who withstood the venom hurled in their directions by uneducated, willfully-ignorant merchants of hate, I'm sorry you had to endure that, and I'm grateful you stood strong and did the right thing.

And yes, history will show you have done the right thing. I'm grateful for your courage, and I encourage you to expand these protections to all who live and work in Carrollton.

My name is Leslie McMurray, and I'm your neighbor.

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.

LIFE+STYLE valentine's day

Heart A Valentine's Gift Guide for LGBTQ lovers

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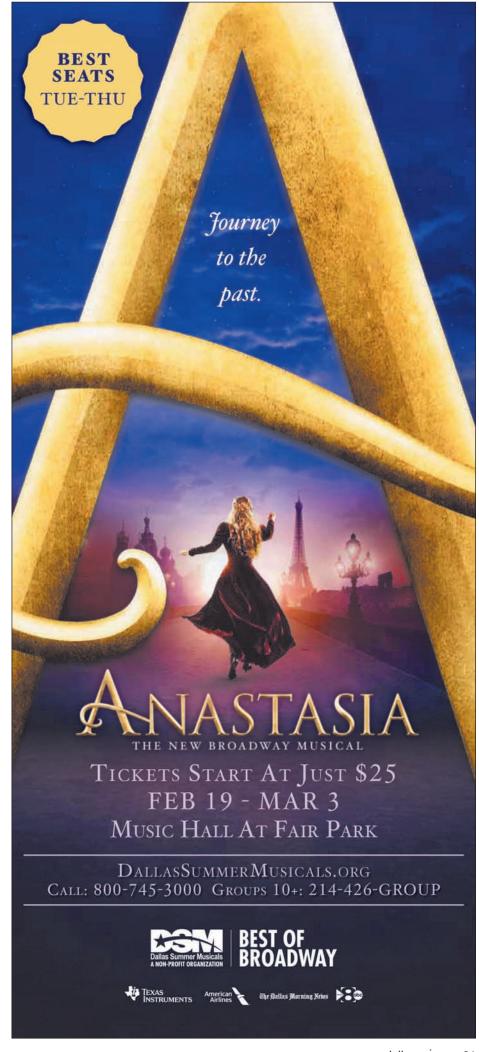
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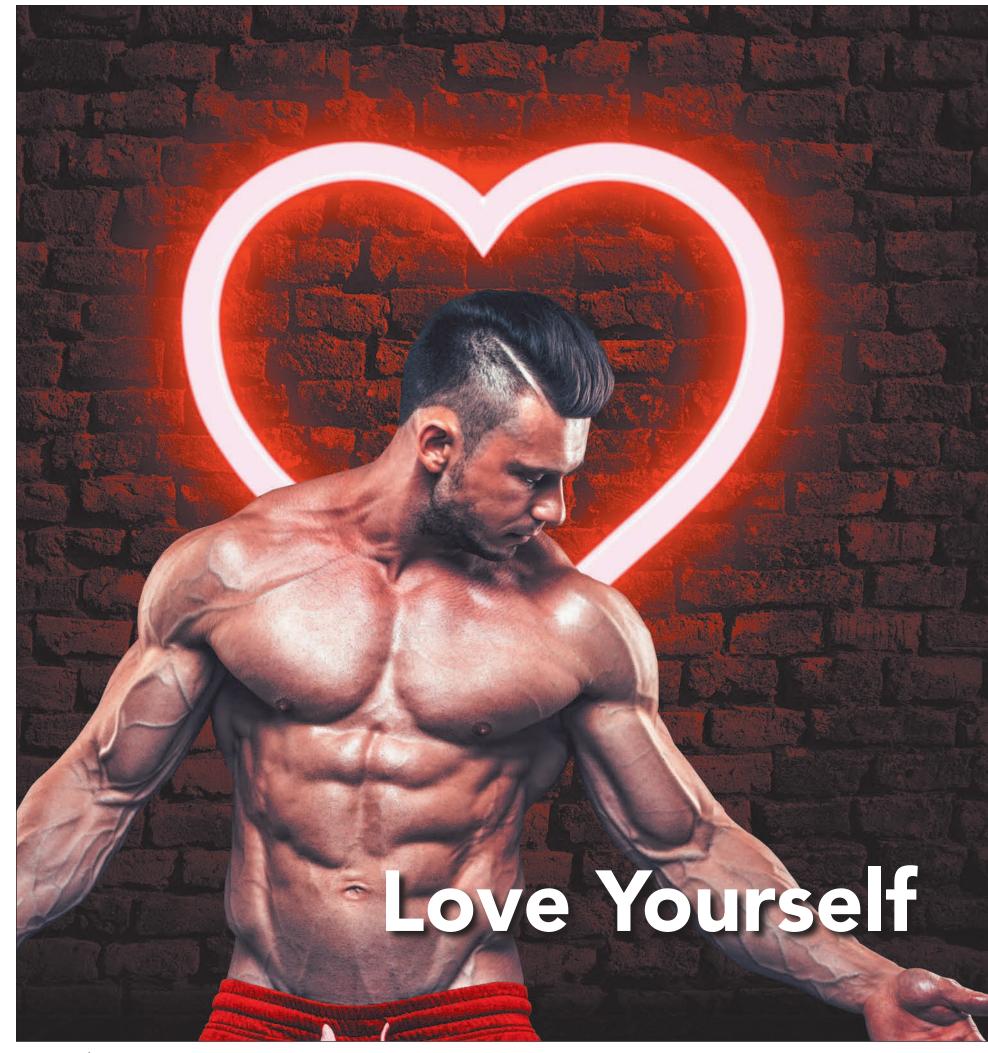
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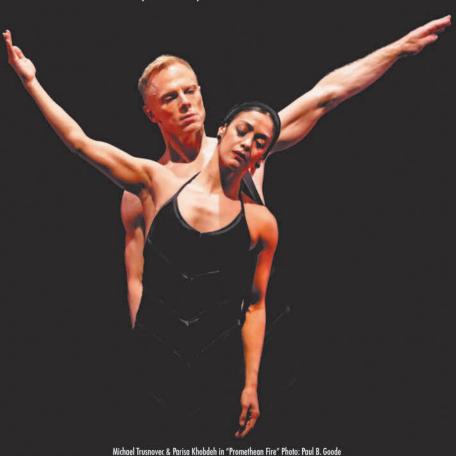
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Starting love afresh

9 things you need to cleanse before entering a new relationship



ew relationships are the universe's way of giving us yet another chance to get it right in the love department. And since none of us are getting younger, it's wise not to squander those chances by making the same mistakes over and over. With Valentine's coming up — and the associated shot at new romance - consider cleansing a few areas of your life, tangible and otherwise. Here are a few places to start.

Gifts. You don't have to burn all the cards and gifts your ex ever gave you — that relationship is still part of your story, and you'll regret expunging those things in the long run (I've been there myself) — but it's important to close that chapter and put the literal lid on those memories. Store them in a weatherproof bin in the basement or attic (or the back of a closet) as a future reminder of what once was instead of a constant reminder of what went wrong.

Bed sheets. This may seem like an insignificant place to concentrate your cleansing energy, but you and your ex spent a lot of time on your bed sheets. They hold memories (among other things, like your ex's DNA), and your new partner deserves to make new memories on sanitary cotton that's not a graveyard of ghosts of relationships past.

Yourself. One of my best strategies to shake off a particularly bad breakup is to get a new 'do. A fresh hairstyle (or even just a shapeup) has the uncanny ability to change your physical appearance and mental and emotional outlook by providing a sense of satisfaction and confidence. But don't stop there. Schedule a few self-care appointments, like a massage, fitness class and a gripeand-get-over-it brunch with your besties before moving on.

Your car. Maybe you don't have anything in your car that reminds you of your ex, but it's still an area that you'll want to cleanse before picking up a romantic prospect for a date. Nobody with any self respect wants to date a slob, and a dirty vehicle is the first warning that you might have cat skeletons buried under stacks of newspapers at home.

Underwear drawer. My boyfriend and I enjoy buying each other sexy underwear for special occasions, but if we ever break up, those skivvies are going straight into the Dumpster. They're an intimate part of our relationship, and I wouldn't carry them over into a new one. I'd think about him every time I put them on, which is hardly fair for the new guy I'm trying to entice. It's sad to see them go, I know — they represent many satisfying experiences — but

you're here to make new ones, however that may work out in the future.

Closets. Did your partner leave clothing in your closet? Return them. Are there items they bought you in there? Put 'em in that bin in the attic. You're not alone here. According to a Nectar Sleep survey, 59 percent of respondents said they do a "fall refresh" to their wardrobes when starting a committed relationship to get rid of previous partners' favorite sweaters and t-shirts.

Medicine cabinet. Toss the tooth-brushes, colognes and any other grooming products your ex might have left behind. Keep the expensive skin creams, though — Dumpster divers don't need \$90 worth of retinol, son.

Nightstand. There are several life rules I stand by, and one of them is that drawer dildos don't enter my ass; I

don't know where it's been, but I know it's been somewhere, and that's enough nope for me. If you're starting a new relationship, clean out your sex drawer so you: a. don't look like a fucc boi with your 27 condoms and half-empty bottles of Gun Oil; and b. don't get called out for being a dirtball while your dick is in your hand.

Media accounts. If your breakup wasn't amicable and you two are prone to agitating each other on social media, take the high road and block your ex for the time being. New dates deserve a fighting chance to connect with you, and that can't happen if your diverting energy to a toxic situation. Maybe you can ease into being friends after time has passed, maybe not, but a clean break is best if you intend to truly move on.

— Mikey Rox

BOOK REVIEW: 'THE TRAUMA CLEANER'

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Decay and Disaster by
Sarah Krasnostein (St.
Martin's Press 2018)
\$26.99; 291 pp.

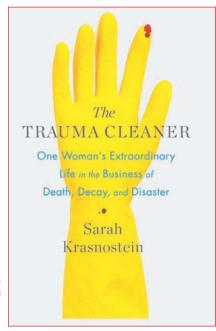
The woman didn't seem very old, but it was really hard to tell. She wouldn't let anyone past her screen door — as if the stench wasn't enough to keep most people away.

Hoarder situations like that — suicides, undiscovered deaths, accidents — are business-as-usual for Sandra Pankhurst, 60-something owner of Specialized Trauma Cleaning (STC) in Australia. But as Sarah

Krasnostein learned when she befriended her, Pankhurst extends to those clients compassion, and nothing less.

There was ample reason for that. Although many of the questions Krasnostein asked Pankhurst were waved away with claims of disremembering, it's true that Pankhurst was born a boy, raised as a boy, became a man, married a woman, and fathered two sons. But "Peter," as Krasnostein pseudonymously calls Pankhurst then, was hiding a part of himself, so, soon after his youngest son's birth, he left his family to live as a woman.

Though "her reality is as conflicted as it is real," Pankhurst shared tales of being a sex-worker and a madam. Dates and locales may've been incorrect and names forgotten, but it's also true that Pankhurst eventually fully transitioned and continued to work in the sex industry until she was raped and almost



lost her life. She fell in love, fell out of love, fell in love again, married an older man and divorced.

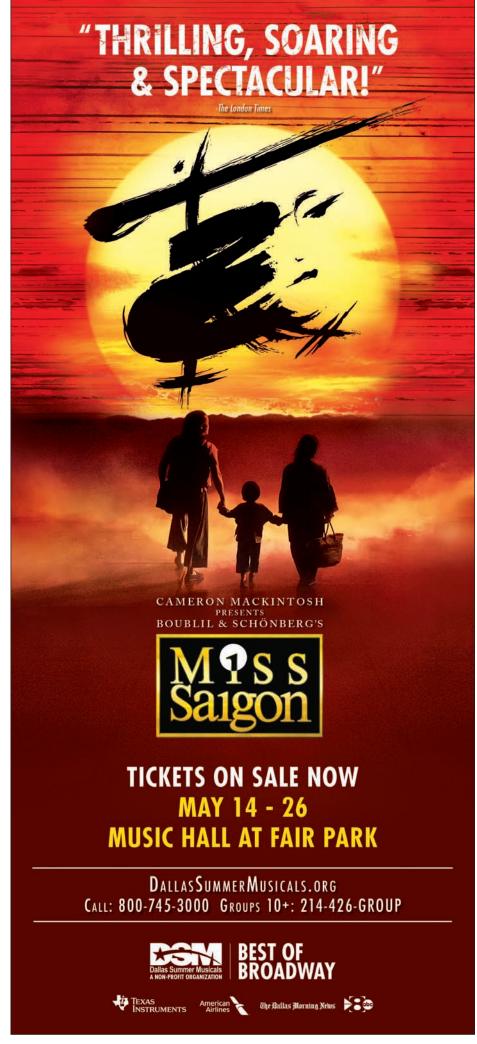
It was because of her ex that Pankhurst founded STC. "As a boss," says Krasnostein, "Sandra is, variously, mother hen... bad cop... and hanging judge." Her business cleans up sites affected by hoarding and death, and she's matter-of-fact about bugs, vermin and smells as her staff hauls away pathogen-soaked furniture while ensuring that next-of-kin are treated with kindness.

As enjoyable as this unique tale is, there are

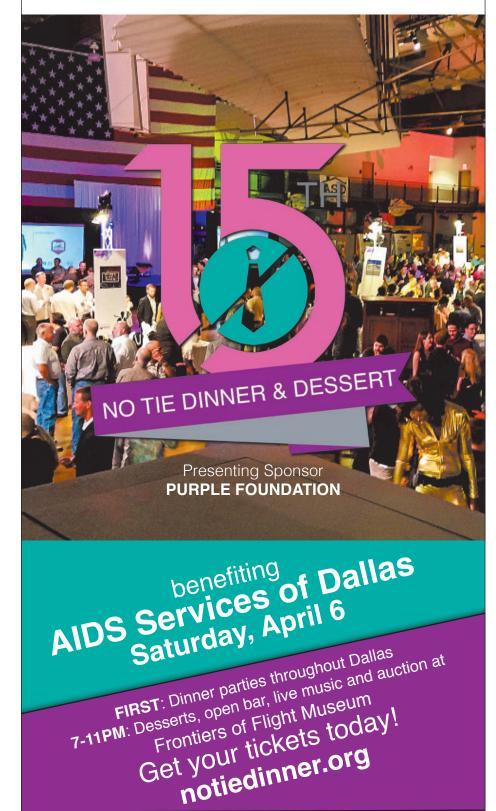
a few things you'll need to know before you sweep through *The Trauma Cleaner*. First of all, in her get-to-know-you time, Krasnostein became close friends with her subject and uses familiarity to gush about her. She's also exceedingly, perhaps needlessly, explicit in details of a sexual nature while largely ignoring big opportunities for enlightenment on the business side of the book.

And yet, the goodness — and there's an industrial-sized dustpan full of it — comes between the lines. This is a biography of cringing, compassion and somebody's-gotto-do-it resourcefulness, plus irritations, but with a breezy heft of fabrication built in. It's so singular that it's almost irresistible; indeed, if you can get past the gushing and the gruesome, *The Trauma Cleaner* is a book you shouldn't wait to get your hands on.

- Terri Schlichenmeyer



Not Formal...Just Fun!



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L+S profile

Let's have a Keke

Disney-turned-'Pimp' star reflects on coming out, talks blurring gender lines and what James Dean and Dolly Parton taught her



Photos courtesy Vertical Entertainment.

eke Palmer is not a girl, not yet – oh wait, she *is* a woman. It happened so fast, but here we are: With her squeaky-clean Nickelodeon and Disney Channel days behind her, Palmer disappears into her latest rough-and-buff turn as the eponymous lesbian street hustler anchoring the Lee Daniels-produced drama Pimp (now available to stream on Amazon Prime). Hair pulled back into a mohawk-shaped waterfall of braids and buzzed on both sides whilst presenting a chiseled physique and altogether hard aesthetic, there's nary a trace of Palmer, Child Star.

Palmer's work after her breakout role as 11-year-old Akeelah Anderson in the 2006 drama *Akeelah and the Bee* has epitomized the makings of a precocious multi-hyphenate: beyond her film career, which also includes 2012's *Joyful Noise*, the 25-year-old starred on TV's *Scream Queens*, a Ryan Murphy production, and can currently be seen

on the Epix spy drama *Berlin Station*; the televised *Grease: Live* and Broadway's *Rodgers+Hammerstein's Cinderella* as Cinderella herself (she was the first actor of color to play the princess in this production); she has one proper studio album, her 2007 debut *So Cool*, and another on the way; and in 2017, she wrote a book, *I Don't Belong to You: Quiet the Noise and Find Your Voice*, documenting her journey thus far.

In 2015, Palmer came out as sexually fluid in the video for her song "I Don't Belong to You." In the clip, she's seen in bed with a man but ends up at the house of a woman, played by fellow singer Cassie. Here, Palmer reflects on the LGBTQ community's reaction to her coming out and discusses embracing her masc energy, what James Dean taught her about sexuality, normalizing queer black characters and an irksome double standard in the bisexual community.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: One thing is for sure: *Pimp* is not an episode of Nickelodeon's *True Jackson*. Keke Palmer: [*Laughs*] Oh my gosh, it's definitely a total different project and different tone. I just felt like I was really stepping outside myself, that's for sure.

Was that intentional? Were you craving something grittier? Step outside myself, for sure. I started developing this project right after *True Jackson*, like a year after kind of doing the same thing. I think TV naturally can be a little bit repetitive, and when you're doing a children's network, it can really only go so far [with] subjects and content matter and what you can talk about. So, for me, I was really just looking for something that would allow me a challenge as an actor.

What was the biggest challenge working on this film? Letting go — letting go without fear of doing a character that's so different from yourself. And it's an intense role; you really kind of have to let go. And it's not a positive [role]: Wednesday has a lot of negative dynamics around her that she's been dealing with throughout her life. Doing it was not necessarily hard but actually being in that kind of headspace for so long was difficult.

There are a lot of unfortunate things going on around her, but the least of her worries is her sexuality. That's refreshing. Exactly.

Was playing someone who's a lesbian a draw? I can't say her sexuality itself was a draw, but what you're saying [was]. I like the character as a whole. I liked everything about her. I think what attracted me to her the most was her strength. This kind of character being a lead character and being female is not what we see often, so that's what attracted me the most. Just that she was tough, and she was cool, and I didn't really think too much about who she slept with, although I was delighted by the love story between her and her girlfriend. But I just saw it simply as a love story as opposed to a gay love story and a dynamic between women that we haven't seen in that kind of way. It wasn't oversexualized, and I really loved the way that her sexuality was displayed in the film. It wasn't exploited.

And by depicting her sexuality in a matter-of-fact way, it helps to normalize it. Somebody might say she's a quote-unquote "stud" or she's not a femme there's a lot of language that's used in the community. Having said that, Wednesday has both. That's what I love about Wednesday, and I really tried to make that apparent. Wednesday is masculine and feminine. She has elements of both, and she and her girlfriend share those positions with each other, so I feel like it's the same way in all relationships whether you're same-sex or not. And again, that's what I loved about the film: We weren't just doing something that's stereotypical;

we weren't just giving you this hard-up, one-note [character] and she's just flat — no, she's a human.

Was her gender fluidity written in the script? I think her being tough was a part of the script, but the nuances brought to it, that was definitely me. Just because myself, I have elements of high masculinity just as much as I have elements of high femininity, and in Wednesday, I really got to explore those elements in myself a lot more. I enjoyed that because I think women are strong, and though Wednesday is a lesbian, I don't think masculinity defines your sexuality. I think that's you as person.

Can you give me an example of how you feel you've embraced your masculinity? I can't say I can think of one where it's glaringly obvious, but I think in general I don't ever choose what people would expect me to say or how people would expect me to respond to anything as a woman or as a black person or as anybody in general. As a person I don't feel like I fit into many boxes of identity.

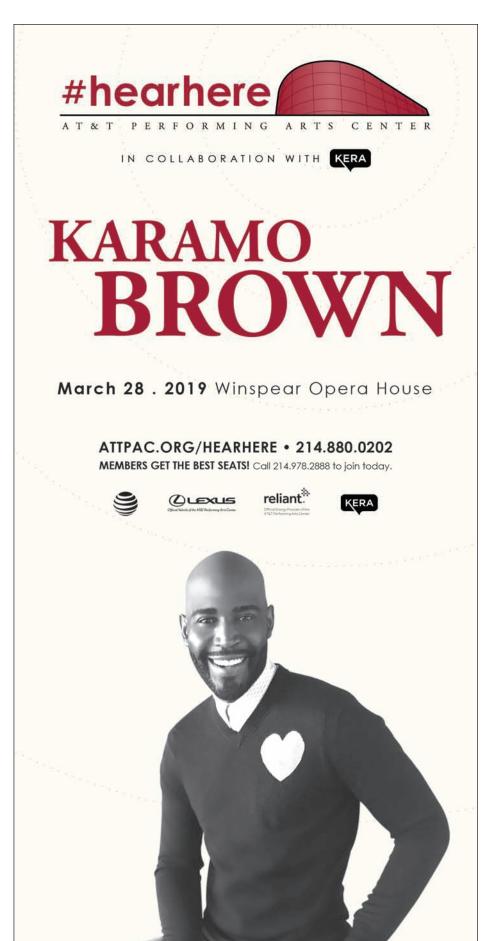
You played TLC's Chilli in the Lifetime biopic CrazySexyCool: The TLC Story.

She doesn't strike me as someone who is straight-up feminine. Yeah, not at all. And that's the thing, it doesn't have to be as obvious as, oh, this person's wearing their pants low and they got a big top on. Masculinity can be as small as you sitting with your legs open.

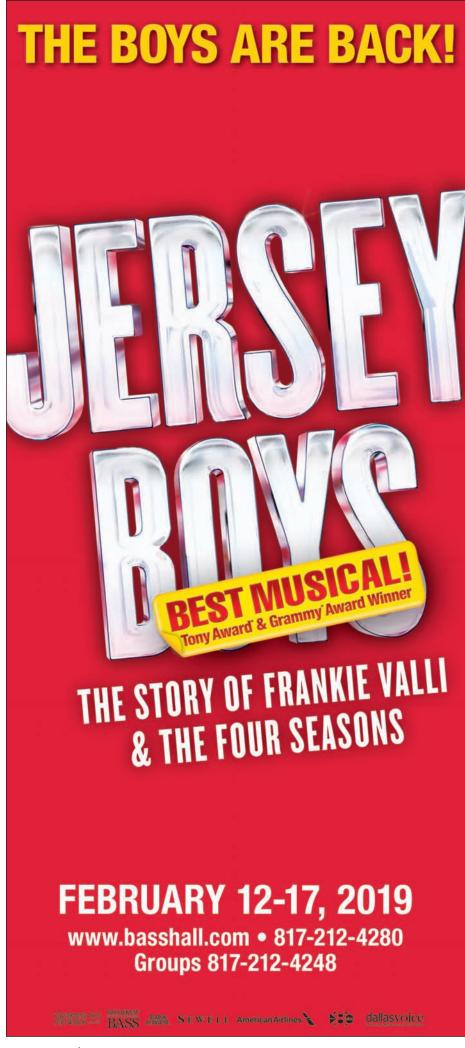
It can be an attitude. It can be an attitude. Masculinity is different. It can be just how you approach a situation, or energy you're putting off in this particular moment. I think I've had that many times; especially when I'm creating boundary lines, I've definitely had it. When I'm trying to pursue something platonic with another male, sometimes I will be masculine to let them know, "Hey, you my homeboy; what's good?"

How do you hope this movie speaks to queer black women? Man, I just think it allows opportunity to get more knowledge in accepting one another. I don't think the black community has been as hard on lesbian women as much as they've been on homosexual men. But one of my cousins is just like Wednesday, and so I think for us it really just more so maybe can take the light off the fact that this is a gay person, and more so this is a person and really wrap ourselves into this specific person's world, not a gay person but this person that's not just defined solely by these aspects of her life. Really just give this character a human opportunity to stand on her own. Because like I said, a lot of times with these characters, they're just supporting roles, they're not the lead, they're not someone you would feel for; they're most likely someone you get to judge and they're kind of a spectacle. So that's what I love about this movie: We're

■ KeKe Next Page



ON SALE NOW



■ KeKe From Previous Page

normalizing something that has been around and has been normal for years. but now we're just giving it the opportunity to breathe and the light to shine.

When you first came to terms with your own sexuality, did you have role models? Anyone in the business from the LGBTQ community you looked to for inspiration? Maybe when I was like 18, 19, I was kind of like, "What does this mean?" But I think growing up in L.A., you kind of feel OK to be yourself. I think the kind of energy of the culture of L.A., or Hollywood, is that it's OK to be yourself and that it's OK to experience things and find who you are.

So. I didn't feel like I needed someone to look to in order to be comfortable with that, but at the same time I think it was more so being comfortable with myself as opposed to me looking outwardly for comfort. It was just kind of me saying, "OK, it's not a big deal; this is who I am and I can be who I wanna be and date who I wanna date," and it was just being more relaxed about all of that.

But like I said before. I don't think there is much fear maybe for a woman when it comes to being bisexual or being fluid or being queer or whatever anybody calls it. I think in that regard, maybe I had an easier time. And then my family is not typical in terms of that: My mom has always said when I was young, before I even thought of any of that stuff, that if her kids were [LGBTQ] she would just want the person to be cute! [Laughs] But that's not everybody's story.

But you were also a young star who was on shows for kids on Nickelodeon where I imagine the expectations were high to be... Perfect. Yeah, I felt it more there in that regard than in terms of my sexuality.

Did being a child star ever stifle your sexuality? Hmmmm... I don't think that it stifled my sexuality. I think other things stifled my sexuality, like my idea of who I had to be or what type of young woman I was, how people viewed me. Honestly, I never felt stifled by ... I think I felt maybe confused by it at a certain time, but just as confused as I would've been in general with understanding my feelings with dating and all that kind of stuff.

But I allowed my journey to be my own and, like I said, I grew up in a community of people where many of my friends were also gay or they were fluid and we didn't really put different things on ourselves in terms of our sexual identity. We was just kind of like, "You know, I'm going on a date with so-and-so, I'm doing this." It wasn't seen as anything more than just us being ourselves. And maybe that's the millennial way. Maybe I got born in the perfect generation.



Yeah, I got on the wrong boat. I got on the one before you. [Laughs] I'm telling you: These millennials are accepting. I read something as a teen that was telling me how James Dean was sexually fluid and that was the first time I had ever seen or heard that term. I thought it was really cool that it was a male who was open and being honest about something like that in that era. I remember when I saw that I really loved it because I think often I feel like it's much harder for males to have that idea than it is for women.

People assume when a man dates another man he can't date another woman, and I've had many friends and many relationships with people who I felt like that was a really big crutch for them in being OK with their own identity because the reality was they weren't in the closet, they weren't hiding. They did like men, but they did like women. And the unfortunate thing about it was that a lot of women couldn't accept that (he was with men), so when I saw that I remember seeing that thing with James Dean and I really loved it because I'm like, "What's the problem if a guy likes both?"

There's a double standard there. I hate it.

What kind of attention did "I Don't Belong to You" get you from queer women? Were more slipping into your DMs?

Yeah, sure! I think a lot of people were kind of like, "Oh, I knew it," or something like this. And that's always funny. I think if anything would be quote-unquote "obvious" it would just be my openness as a human being. I truly believe sexuality is a spectrum. I believe you're meant to find love wherever it finds you, so if it happens to find you [with] the same sex, what a travesty it would be that you denied it because you've been walking around your life the whole 10 years being a heterosexual.

I worked with a director once, and in just regular conversation it happened to slip out that she was married to a woman. What I loved about her is that she said, "But I dated men for many years; I just happened to find true love with this woman." And I loved that because that's what life is. We put so many labels on stuff to be gay, straight, dah dah dah,



when in reality, in the ancient times, it was seen as very special when you could find love with the same sex. And in the Native American community it was called "two spirit," and I think in our Western culture we work so hard to define everybody and everything that we lose the soul.

I think that's what I also loved about *Pimp*. It isn't about the label. She found love in this little girl, and they found protection in each other as children, so I mean, that's where they found love. It's not about what their label is, it's about the fact that they found love. And I feel like people should stop trying to make everybody fit into a box and just let people live their life. Define themselves the way they choose.

You have new music and visuals on the way this year. And it's been exciting to see more out LGBTQ artists like Troye Sivan and Hayley Kiyoko express their queerness without reservation... Oh yeah, I love Hayley!

Will your sexual fluidity influence the narrative and visuals of your upcoming project? I haven't thought about it just yet. With the visuals that I have, a lot of them are just kind of dancing or little bitty things here and there. But if I feel like there is the opportunity to say something, then I always will. Just like when I did "I Don't Belong to You," it was a statement piece. If I'm trying to specifically say something, then yes, because again I feel like my sexuality is who I find love with, so my music will mirror that.

I don't even really have a question, but
I just need to acknowledge that, with
Joyful Noise, you worked with Dolly
Parton and Queen Latifah in the same
movie. Man, I was so happy that I got to
do that, OK?! Because it was just so cool.
I love Queen Latifah — that was my third
acting project with her. And working with
Dolly Parton was just so, so special and
awesome because she's such a sweet,
sweet woman and she would bring us
fudge bars on set.

Homemade fudge bars? Homemade fudge bars. And I would be so scared on set when I had to do my kissing scene and she would just be there to comfort me. I've always been a quote-unquote "tomboy" and also into girly stuff, but I've always felt more comfortable in more comfortable clothes — in sportswear, I always felt more comfortable, chill like that — and I remember asking her, "How are you beautiful like this every day? How can you do this?" She said, "I just made a choice when I was younger, and I wanted to be that way, so I get up every day and I make sure that it's the way that I'm presented."

I remember just thinking that was so amazing, and that was kind of my first lesson in "we are what we repeatedly do." That was something she wanted to be a part of who she was — we know Dolly Parton as being fabulous 24/7, and it's not an easy thing to do, so I really just loved that about her. I loved learning about her during that production. I would love to be like that.

But then you think of all the time and energy it takes.... Oh, child!

Do you see yourself as a role model for queer black girls? That's such a hard one. I can't tell someone what to see me as, but there are certain things that I feel could be communicated better in the world and so I use my platform for that.

When I did my song "I Don't Belong to You" I talked about that a lot. I talked also about gender fluidity, that you as a woman aren't defined by A, B, C and D, that you as a man aren't defined by A, B, C and D.

I speak a lot on being a black female, being a female, being a millennial; if any of those things attract somebody to say, "I like what she says, she's a role model to me," then of course that's cool. But I don't try to think too much about being a role model as much as I think about being myself and speaking on the issues that are important to me.

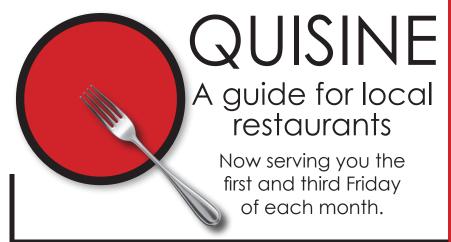


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Friday 02.15 — Saturday 02.16

Bruce Wood Dance hosts Dances from the Heart fundraiser and performance

best bets

LIFE+STYLE

Bruce Wood dance continues to produce some of the best live entertainment in North Texas, even half a decade since its founder passed away. It's biggest annual fundraiser, this year titled Dances from the Heart (arriving adjacent to Valentine's Day!), features live piano music from Joseph Threlken, food, drinks and the performance of some classic dances from Wood's repertoire, curated by artistic director Joy Bollinger.

DEETS: Bruce Wood Studio, 101 Howell St. Feb. 15 and 16. Tickets from \$250. BruceWoodDance.org.

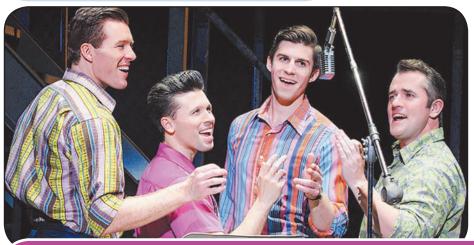
Tuesday 02.12 – **Sunday** 02.17

Queer musical 'Falsettos' opens at Winspear

William Finn's groundbreaking musical Falsettos - really two one-act musicals, called March of the Falsettos and Falsettoland — was a joyous

yet sad depiction of queer life just at the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic. Revolutionary when it won Tonys for its book and score in 1992, it feels just as relevant today in its depiction of love, loss and family. The Lincoln Center's acclaimed 2016 revival arrives in Dallas with a brand-new national tour this week.

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





Tuesday 02.05— **Wednesday** 02.06

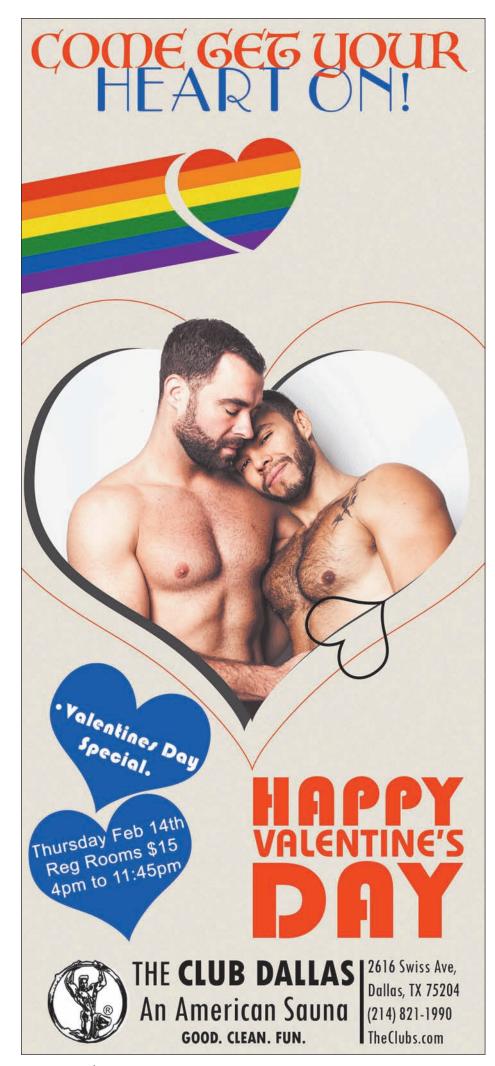
'Jersey Boys' returns to North Texas. this time in Fort Worth

Doo-wop music reached a pinnacle, and evolved into something more, with the arrival of the Four Seasons, led by the angelic high tenor of Frankie Valli. Jersey Boys, which won the Tony Award for best musical, is a catchy, engaging jukebox musical.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Incognito. A play about the quest for understanding the human mind. Written by Nick Payne; directed by Alex Organ; starring Drew Wall. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 23. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

An Iliad. Undermain celebrates 35 years with a revival of its 2012 production of the myth, adapted by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through March 3. Undermain.org.

Lonely Planet. Steve Dietz's play is a meditation on the AIDS epidemic, produced with a twist. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 24. AmphibianStage.com.

The Manufactured Myth of Eveline Flynn.

World premiere original musical by Ian Ferguson and Michael Federico about a woman whose birth signaled a change in the world. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Through Feb. 24. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Sweat. Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer play about the effects of unbalanced labor economic on real people. Presented by Dallas Theater Center. Final weekend. Kalita Humphreys Theater. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

DANCE

Beijing Dance Theater. Dallas debut. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

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

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

Fortuny: Friends and Followers.

Examination of the influence of the 19th century Spanish painter. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. on the SMU campus. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org

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

FRIDAY 02.08

BROADCAST

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

SATURDAY 02.09

DANCE

Paul Taylor Dance Company. The modern dance troupe returns (for the ninth time) to the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 7:30 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.

TUESDAY 02.12

Falsettos. National tour of the revival of William Finn's Tony Award-winning musical - really, two short musicals back-to-back about complicated gay relationships at the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic. Wednesday night is also Pride Night. Winspear Opera House, 403 Flora St. Feb. 12-17. ATTPAC.org.

Jersey Boys. Tony-winning jukebox musical about the Four Seasons. Part of the Broadway at the Bass Series. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Feb. 12-17. BassHall.com.

FILM

To Have and Have Not. First pairing of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in a film noir potboiler. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

this week's solution

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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Oh, Cupid, pierce my heart! Here we are once again, holding our collective breaths for some grotesquely-grinning, winged and diapered teratophile, sporting a well-stocked quiver on his feathered back, poised to fire a potion-tipped arrow into our February fornications. Of all the ridiculous holidays clogging our calendar, there's actually a quite simple explanation behind why an invention so cretinously vapid as Valentine's Day forever hovers amongst all A-list favorites in the public's affection: Sanctified sexual predation. More bluntly, Valentine's is the solitary holiday that promises any swingin' dick who so desires can score himself a little tasty piece of sumpin-sumpin.

Hence, if you're of the persuasion that a Valentine's void of sodomy is about as libido-arousing as a porno with condoms, then come sit by me: In 2018, for the first time in VOD subscription history, the search for "Paternal Gay Incest" videos ("real" dads seducing their "real" over-18 sons) overtook "Brutal Gay Twink Bondage" and "Extreme Gay Slave Torture" — combined — as the No. 1 most popular internet porn-engine categories. (Pornography, by the by, exclusively keeps the internet afloat; far back in second place is "Ancestry/Genealogical" searches. In other words, the World Wide Web would die without providing a sexual-fantasy outlet for men involving anyone other than the one to whom they've promised their lifelong fidelity.) So let's get faithlessly right to it.

Dear Howard: How do you go about successfully seducing a straight dude's pants off? I've been cohabitating in the same bed together with my partner for almost four decades. I was just 15 when we met; he was an old fossil of 25. To say we've enjoyed growing, well, "asexually eccentric" over these past 40 years would be like saying, "Michael Jackson gradually enjoyed some comforting milk before bedtime every dawn to help him sleep."

Our sex life is a cuckoo's nest of wacky quirks: In my mid-50s now, I've officially joined Grant in grizzled daddyhood, and we've conspiratorially made it our Valentine's missions to see which of us can get our building's newest hetero hottie into bed first. He's a stud I've personally nicknamed Steve (because he's a dead ringer for my first celebrity boy crush, Steve Austin of The Six Million Dollar Man, but whom Grant refers to as Heath ... as in Heath Barkley from The Big Valley). The only times our paths ever cross with Steve/Heath is in the laundry room, where he always has a new giggling bimbo skank welded to his side. They wink at us while purringly petting the laced-up bulge straining Steve/Heath's leather biker pants.

Grant's so in lust with him that he's laughably taken to streaming Lee Major's sexiest scenes from *The Six Million Dollar Man* and

The Big Valley on side-by-side laptops. Grant says watching the same heartthrob at two sexily separate ages is even more hypnotizing and lurid than any so-called "real" dad/son porn. Grant surfs through every "straight" BDSM hookup site he can find. hoping to stumble across Steve/Heath's ad, which he's convinced is lurking out there, somewhere, considering the sheer volume of pussycats he runs through weekly: "Wait, wait, I think I found it!" Saliva dripping off his tongue, he said. "Listen to this: User Name, DockMyCock. XXXL MassiveHung Sk8r looking for cuckold couples to..." Interrupting him, I dismissively shook my head. "Cuckold? That dumb thing's never heard such a word in his life. Move on. Next!"

Grant waved his Fuji bottle of Stoli at me. "No, listen! XXXL Sk8r looking for cuckold couples to party & chill with while watching MILF porn. Donations to my houseboat fund buys admission to whatever floats your boat. The more generous the donations, the more I return favors in kind." Grant swilled triumphantly of his plastic Fuji flower-bottled vodka. "See, I told you it's our Heath Barkley! Oh, Heath can be had." I corrected him: "Ding-dong, it's MILF porn he's into—Moms I'd Love to Fuck, not Daddies. And nowhere does he say cuckold gay couples. Just give it up — the ad's not his."

Grant refused to concede defeat. "But what about Heath being a professional Sk8r ice skaters only come in two flavors: closet queen or screaming." I rolled my eyes. "You, idiot. Steve's hardly referring to the kind of ice produced by water at 32 degrees Fahrenheit." Grant blinked his eyes, uncomprehending as Audra Barkley (aka Linda Evans), posing on a staircase, whose only apparent function was to spout a line of defiant morality into thin air while showcasing the latest 1960s hairstyles to her fellow Earth inhabitants of the 1860s: "What a pair of horny old fools are we?" said Grant.

"We can rebuild him, though," I assured my life's partner, softly finger-raking a fresh dab of wax through his flip, as I remembered Steve/Heath's odd soliloguy in the laundry room last Sunday while Grant was downloading naked celebrities. "You mean, we have the technology?" Grant smirked, as I told him how Steve/Heath had set an empty guitar case on the floor by the door and slurred, "My five-year plan is easy - I just wanna save me up enough to buy a houseboat, where I get to do nothin' except fish all day long, fuck 'tween meals and fart where I sleep. Houseboats come in three styles - standard, custom and luxury; I'd like to afford me a Sunstar, a Thoroughbred or a Bravada. Any help you could provide would be most appreciated."

So, Howard, this brings us to our question: Is there a secret key or formula that'll guarantee instant access into any given Heath/Steve's hetero pants? How does a



middle-aged, over-educated, non-wealthy nancy-boy lure a young, hung, full of cum 20-something straight moron ... short of purchasing him a Bravada houseboat? — Sex on a Stick

Dear Sticky Dick: Surprisingly enough, the odds are stacked in your favor. Keep in mind — the same number of men are truly straight as are truly gay-about 10 percent, and if you're older, all the better; it's programmed into human DNA to choose sexual experimentation with older men versus younger... provided the younger is convinced that intimacy between two males isn't really gay. (Try out the famous "Julius Caesar speech" on him, should Steve/Heath prove initially hesitant.) Innocently arouse his curiosity to the point he wants to picture you naked; if there's a smirk or a giggle, he's yours. Any man who doesn't feel gay will go all the way. Additionally, if only interested in an NSA fuck buddy, have him make the first move on you. This way, you neither risk rejection nor detection, and your extramarital peccadillos shall eternally remain a secret the young stud won't go blabbering slanders about you.

Now, to all you Valentine voyeurs, the inherent paradox in penning an etiquette column for those needing guidance on how better to get away with something they ought not be doing in the first place, is that there's no advice I can dispense that any randomly-selected John Waters movie couldn't answer for you far more adroitly. I play everything for the lowest common denominator: laughs. My columns don't clarify, or solve anything, say nothing of dispense

any relevant advice. There is nowhere to go with this stuff that's not farcical — there is no up. A few minutes' distraction from reality is as good as it gets, kids. The only direction I can lead is across, which is why on this February day, of all comforting places, we arrive in ye ol' barber's shoppe, upon where we discover ourselves shamelessly eavesdropping, quite involuntarily, on Presidents Trump, Obama and Carter getting Valentine's haircuts for date night.

Barber 1: Mr. President, would you like me to splash on a bit of after-shave?

DT: Hell, no, Melania would think I had spent the afternoon in a whorehouse.

Barber 2: How about you, Mr. President? BO: Sure. Michele doesn't know what the inside of a whorehouse smells like.

Barber 3: You, preacher?

JC: No marked-lady sauce for me — I've only ever been unfaithful in my thoughts, never my heart.

Teenage floor sweeper: Too dang bad Bill ain't here. He'd pass around some of his Monica Polaroids and teach all three of you popes how it's really done.

For exactly as with houseboats and American presidents, Valentine's adultery only comes in three styles: Standard, custom and luxury. Sea to shining sea, in this land so gratefully fair, what one can romantically get away with is directly proportionate to what one can faithlessly suffer losing. Boredom in bed isn't the fault of the mattress.

- Howard Lewis Russell

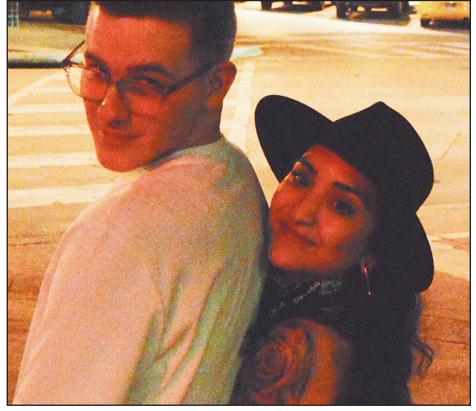
Have a question about etiquette, sex or anything else? Sent it to AskHoward@dal-lasvoice.com and he may answer.



Friends out for fun at Dallas Woody's

Making the SCENE the Week of Feb. 8-14:

- 515 Bar: King & Queen of the Rodeo from 9 p.m.-midnight on Saturday.
- Alexandre's: Terry Loftis on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- · Cedar Springs Tap House: Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Dallas Eagle: Discipline Corps night on Friday. Ms. GPOL Dirty 30 Bake Off from 5-9 p.m. On Saturday. Bears Night and NLA Night on Saturday. GDMAF/Team Metro Lifewalk Underwear Auction from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- Deja Vu: Queens Court featuring TS Madison, Miss Sophia and Funky Dineva.
 Doors open at 8 p.m. and show at 10 p.m. on Monday.
- Hard Rock Cafe: Drag Brunch presents Drag Hearts Ball. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday. Reservations required.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show att 11 p.m. on Monday. Double Trouble Tuesdays at 11 p.m.
- Liquid Zoo: Wing Wednesdays.
- · Marty's Live: Trashed Out Tuesdays with Jenni P and guests at 10 p.m.
- Round-Up Saloon: Sassy O'Hara emcees the 30th Annual \$2 Two-Step Rent-a-Cowboy at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Sue Ellen's: DJ Sno White on Saturday. The Empire Cats and Hip Hop Hurray on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Plastique Tiara and Savannah Stevens on Friday and Saturday.
 Savannah also performs on Sunday. Caven Employee Benevolence Association presents Miss DEBA Sweetheart Pageant hosted by Jenna Skyy at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Fuego Wednesdays Latin Dance Contest at 11:30 p.m.
- Urban Cowboy: Queens Empower hosted by Domita Sanchez at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. Fierce Drag Show and Free HIV Testing.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Showtunes at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. Jada Pinkett Fox's Variety Show at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

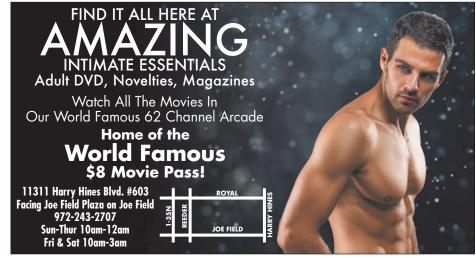


Casey and Kim get out and about



The handsome staff at Dallas Woody's







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Checking out the night life on The Strip



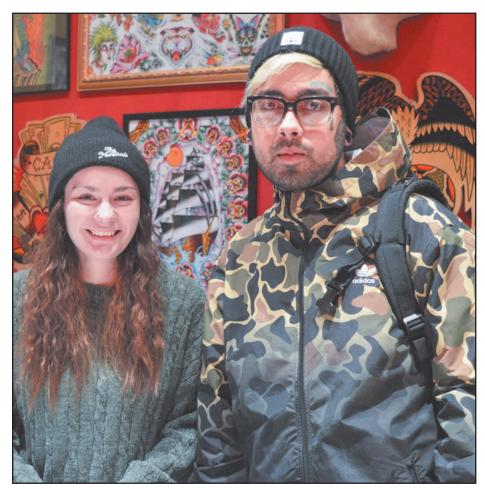
All excited about Wing Wednesdays at Liquid Zoo



All smiles on The Strip



Showing off some flexibility at The Round-Up Saloon



Inked up at Cedar Springs Tattoo and Piercing



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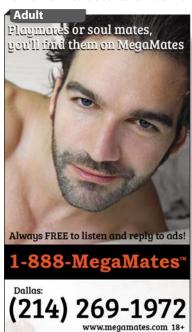
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q-puzzle 11 12 14 13 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 27 24 25 26 29 30 32 33 31 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 42 43 45 46 48 49 51 52 54 55 53 56 57 58 59 60 61

The Voice of Authority

Solution on Page 32

Across

- 1 Chloe director Egoyan
- 5 Bash for just men
- 9 Nevada neighbor
- 13 Sappho's B
- 14 Texas town, with "El"
- 15 Distinctive Streisand feature
- 16 DWTS cohost Andrews
- 17 Airline to Ben Gurion
- 18 2001 biopic about Murdoch
- 19 Start of a quote by
- 47-Across 22 Ford contemporary
- 23 Where they rub you the right way
- 24 The whole shebang
- 27 Show some restraint?
- 31 Dance with grass over
- 32 Menial worker

the bush

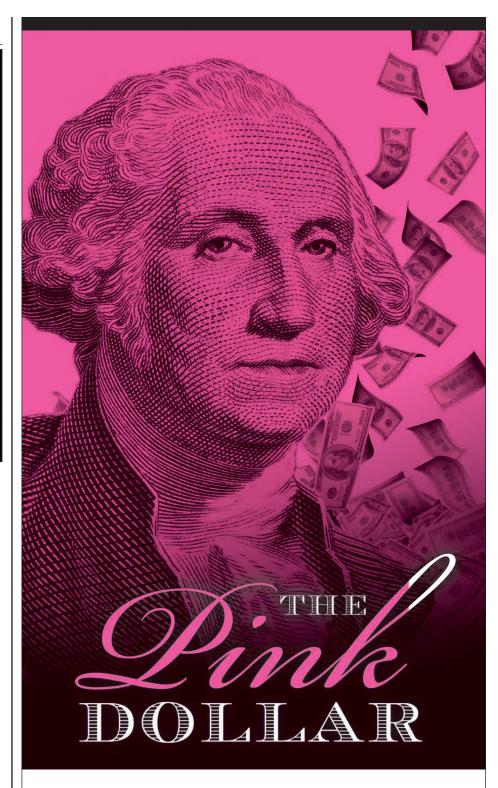
- 33 City in central Israel
- 34 End of the quote
- 38 Hot temper
- 39 The bottom line
- 40 Bus Stop playwright
- 41 New edition of Maurice, e.g.
- 43 Trojan, but not a condom
- 45 Dusk, to Dickinson
- 46 Shake it

- 47 Bisexual character on Riverdale
- 53 It might poke you in prison
- 54 Brought forth fruit
- 55 Island of Barrie's land 56 In the pink
- 57 Big name in oil
- 58 Acne, in slang
- 59 Queen's "subjects"
- 60 Targets of a masher?
- 61 Boy with a bow

Down

- 1 His brother laid him in his grave
- 2 Polo of *The Fosters*
- 3 Porter's regretful miss
- 4 WNBA defense, ironically
- 5 Goes on a shopping spree, e.g.
- 6 Anklebone
- 7 Lickety-split
- 8 Patty Sheehan stepped in it
- 9 Early commercial computer
- 10 Zipped
- 11 Hoffman play
- about AIDS
- 12 Cocks and bulls

- 20 "Xanadu" band, for short
- 21 Classic toothpaste brand
- 24 Position in Bernstein's orchestra
- 25 Very queer
- 26 What hibernating bears do
- 27 Back-to-school mo.
- 28 De-Lovely star Kevin
- 29 Vowel sound in "gay"
- 30 Rims
- 32 Furtive "Over here!"
- 35 More like slick winter roads
- 36 Cher's ex as a kid?
- 37 Bigger than queen
- 42 TV Superman George
- 43 Where bowlers roll their balls
- 44 Fair-hiring letters
- 46 Genesis patriarch
- 47 Conceptual artist Gaye
- 48 To the ___ (how to play a pirate)
- 49 Cross-dresser in a Kinks song
- 50 Dusk in Dijon
- 51 "I'm ___ your tricks!"
- 52 Kind of marketing
- 53 Singing syllable



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