

# daily voice

The Premier Media Source for

om | Volume 35 | Issue 41 | FREE | Friday, February 15, 2019



## Keeping hope *alive*

Wanda Sykes talks about  
puzzles, the Oscars and  
her new tour  
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Jesse Vroegh and his wife Jackie. (Photo courtesy of ACLU)

## Iowa jury awards trans man \$120K in discrimination suit

Iowa trans man Jesse Vroegh has won \$120,000 in damages in a discrimination lawsuit

against his employer, the Iowa Department of Corrections, according to a press release from the ACLU, lawyers for which represented Vroegh in the case.

A Polk County jury decided the lawsuit. Vroegh filed the discrimination suit after the Iowa DOC denied him use of the men's restrooms and locker room and work and denied him insurance coverage for medically-necessary surgery.

ACLU representatives note that this is the second jury award in recent months to an ACLU client that experienced discrimination for being transgender. In October, a Wisconsin jury awarded \$780,000 to two women who were also state employees.

Vroegh said that "the whole process of has been difficult and emotionally very trying" and that his life "has been put under a microscope because of this case," but he chose to pursue the case to help others facing similar situations.

— Tammye Nash

## Dallas Stars volunteer at Resource Center in advance of Hockey is for Everyone

Dallas Stars staff and former goalie Marty Turco volunteered at Resource Center last week in advance of the team's Hockey is for Everyone games. According to longtime volunteer coordinator Deborah Cavazos, this is the first time one of DFW's major sports teams has given its time to the center. The Stars spent their time

stocking the Food Pantry's shelves and serving in the hot meals program.

Hockey is for Everyone is an NHL project that promotes inclusion of the LGBT and other minority communities. Three games are part of the series: On Feb. 19, the Stars play the Nashville Predators. On Feb. 21, they play the St. Louis Blues. A third game in the series is on Feb. 23 against the Carolina Hurricanes, and this game is already sold out.

Tickets are available on the Dallas Stars website. \$5 from each ticket sold goes to Resource Center.

— David Taffet

## Scarborough Renaissance Festival holding job faire

Faire time is fast approaching in North Texas, with Scarborough Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie set to run each Saturday and Sunday and Memorial Day Monday from April 6 through May 27. And SRF can't operate without workers.

So if you are looking for a weekend job, you'll want to check out the SRF Job Faire Saturday, Feb. 23, at the festival's main office at 2511 GM 66 in Waxahachie.

Job interviews will take place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. that day to fill the part-time/seasonal jobs available during the eight weekends

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of SFR 2019. Scarborough Renaissance Festival is looking for “outgoing, energetic people, 16 and older,” to work in food and beverage sales, as wait staff, as restaurant hosts/hostesses, as restaurant/food service managers, in alcoholic beverage sales, as special event servers, in souvenir and ticket sales, as ticket takers/front entrance greeters, as exit gate personnel, in safety services, on the grounds crew, and as restroom attendants, kitchen help, cooks, dishwashers, exit surveyors, games personnel and more.

Many — but not all — positions require costuming. For details and applications, go online to [SRFestival.com](http://SRFestival.com).

— Tammye Nash

## SMU literacy app wins \$2.5 million in prizes

A literacy app created by a team from Southern Methodist University and Literacy Instruction for Texas tied for a grand Adult Literacy XPrize and won in another category winning a total of \$2.5 million.

The competition put together by the Barbara Bush Foundation was announced in 2015 in honor of the former first lady's 90th birthday.

Lisa Hembry of Literacy Instruction for Texas approached then SMU Dean David Chard with the idea of creating a game to compete in

the XPrize. They created a team called People ForWords and asked Tony Cuevas to put together a team to enter the competition to create a phone app that would help low-literate adults learn to read. Cuevas, husband of Dallas Voice Publisher Leo Cusimano, was previously academic director of SMU's Guildhall video game development program and worked closely with them on the project.

Once the various apps were developed and submitted to the Barbara Bush Foundation, volunteer groups in several cities were tested for literacy levels. Each participant was assigned a literacy app. At the end of a year, the app-users were tested again.

The SMU-developed app along with one created by a team in California showed the greatest increase in reading ability. The two groups split a \$3 million prize.

In addition, People ForWords won a second \$1 million prize for being most effective for native Spanish speakers. The SMU prize that will be shared with LIFT totals \$2.5 million. Cuevas said some of the prize money will go toward research.

“There's very little research about adult literacy,” he said.

Some of the money will go to further develop and distribute the app. And, he said, he hoped some of the money would go toward scholarships.

— David Taffet



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



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



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# THE GAY AGENDA



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

## FEBRUARY

### • 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, Carrollton.

### • Feb. 16: And the winner Is ... Gaybingo

Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at [rcdallas.org](http://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 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/](http://Tinyurl.com/)

JourneyIntoParenthoodFeb.

### • Feb. 17: Teddy Bear Auction

Dallas Bears hosts a teddy bear auction, in memory of the late Spanke Studer, benefitting 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.

### • Feb. 20: Coffee Conversations

Learn how the Small Business Administration can help you start or grow your small business from 8:15-9:30 a.m. at Crickles & Co., 4000 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 21: GALA Happy Hour

Free appetizers, game tables, for GALA's third Thursday happy hour from 5-8:30 p.m. at Henry's, 5741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100, Plano.

### • Feb. 21: Tyler Transgender Support

Tyler Transgender Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the Genecov Room, Tyler Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler.

### • Feb. 21: Gray Pride Mixer

Social mixer for LGBTQ folks 50+ with bites, beer and wine from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

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 [pegassussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegassussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Front-runners** 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



Dallas Bears hosts a teddy bear auction, in memory of the late Spanke Studer, benefitting AIDS Services of Dallas on Sunday, Feb. 17. See listings for details.

### • Feb. 22: Go Red for Women luncheon

ABC News Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Jennifer Ashton is the keynote speaker at the American Heart Association luncheon at the Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St.

### • Feb. 22: Studs

The Turtle Creek Chorale's spring cabaret, Studs, pays tribute to the music that swept us off our feet at 8 p.m. at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. \$55. [TurtleCreekChorale.com](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com).

### • Feb. 24: Prime Timers

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

### • Feb. 26: 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. 26: Family Night at Durkins Pizza

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

### • Feb. 28: Prime Timers

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

### • Feb. 28-March 10: Dallas 2019 Senior Games

Fun walk and fun run, basketball, bowling, corn hole, golf, pickleball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track & field and on March 16 cycling. Info at [DallasParks.org](http://DallasParks.org).

• **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 guests are **Katie Sprinkle** and **Leslie McMurray**; **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](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org).

of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details;

**Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** 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.



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# New venue, new date, new everything

Plans coming together quickly  
for Dallas Pride 2019 weekend

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

**W**ith only 15 weeks before Dallas Pride 2019 begins, organizers are working to get everything finished on time, Dallas Pride Executive Director Jaron Turnbow said this week.

“Right now, we are still getting all the nuts and bolts of the new venue in place,” Turnbow declared. “There’s so much more going on this year, and we have to get it all done sooner than before.”

Dallas Pride 2019 has been moved up three and a half months to June 1-2, and all the events have been moved across town to Fair Park. The Miller Lite Music Festival in Fair Park, including the Family Pride Zone and Teen Pride, will be held Saturday, June 1, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the Esplanade and in the Centennial Building. The Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade steps off at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, also inside Fair Park.

Organizers this week announced the 2019 Pride theme — Stonewall Strong, Dallas Proud — honoring both the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City, known as the birth of the modern LGBT rights movement, coming up June 29, and Dallas Pride’s new beginning. Not only is Pride moving to a new venue this year, Turnbow said, Dallas Tavern Guild, which has organized and presented the Pride parade in Dallas since 1984, has officially handed over control to Dallas Pride, which is now its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



In past years, the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade has had to be capped at 100 paid entries due to restrictions caused by city regulations, such as how long the streets could be shut down for the parade. This year, with the parade being held entirely within Fair Park, there is no limit on the number of entries.

Organizers are already accepting applications for beneficiaries for Pride 2019, Turnbow said, and applications and more information are available online at [DallasPride.org](http://DallasPride.org).

Nominations for grand marshals for Pride 2019 open online at the Dallas Pride website on March 1 and will remain open through March 22. Once the nominees are set, Turnbow said, voting will take place March 25-April 19.

The Pride committee also began ac-

cepting applications last month for festival vendors and for parade entries, Turnbow said, and those applications will likely be accepted through the end of April.

So far, he said, the committee has received festival vendor applications from 60 different organizations or businesses. Some of those have applied for two or three spaces, and festival sponsors will get vendor spaces as well.

“Before [in Oak Lawn Park and later in

Reverchon Park], we had limited space for vendors. Now, we have the room and we can add more areas of the park if we need to,” Turnbow said. “If we had 400 vendors, we could make that work. It would cost us to add more space, but we can do it.”

The same goes for the parade, he continued. In previous years, the parade was capped at about 100 entries, not counting grand marshals and other committee-sponsored entries, because



of time restrictions enforced by the city. This year, there is no limit on the number of entries.

“Last year, it took us almost four months to reach the limit on parade entries. Applications have only been open a month, and already we have 96 entries,” Turnbow said. “And we don’t have to stop at 100, which is good, because interest has increased significantly this year.”

Turnbow said there will be a mandato-



Dallas Pride Executive Director Jaron Turnbow

ry meeting for parade entrants on May 11, While organizers already have the parade route “nailed down,” Turnbow said, they are waiting for final approval from Spectra, the private company that manages Fair Park now for the city. “We will release the map of the parade route as soon as it is approved, but we can say for sure that the Court of Honor, at the end of the Esplanade between the Hall of State and the Centennial Building, will be the midway point of the parade route,” he said.

“If this were a normal year,” Turnbow continued, “we’d already have maps made and ready. But with all the changes this year for Dallas Pride, and for Fair Park, too, it’s a little bit slower process. I mean, it’s a new venue, new rules — new everything.”

Pride Coordinator Truett Calvert, who is in charge of volunteers, said volunteer applications go live on the Dallas Pride website on Monday, Feb. 18, and will remain open through May, and he is hoping to have more volunteers than ever before.

“In the past, our volunteers have just assisted with set up in the park and with various other duties on Saturday during the festival. This year, however, I am asking for volunteers for Saturday during the festival, but also on Sunday for the parade,” Calvert said.

Volunteer duties typically consist of helping vendors find their booth space, being visible during the event to answer questions or help attendees find the various vendors or get to specific events happening during the festival. Volunteers

also help out with the Family Pride Zone and with Teen Pride.

This year, Calvert noted, Sunday volunteers will be asked to help get the parade route ready, help in staging the floats and help with the flow of the parade through the park.

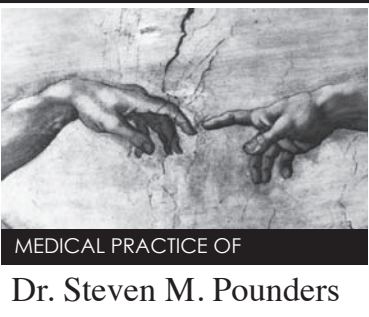
“I encourage anyone who is interested to sign up as a volunteer,” Calvert said. “I have families, couples, community allies, parents — anyone who is interested in helping — that sign up to volunteer, and everyone is welcome.”

There will be a volunteer meeting on May 11, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Rose Room, inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Calvert said he will probably try to have a walk-through at Fair Park for volunteers closer to the date for Pride weekend.

Applications for beneficiaries, parade entries and vendors and to sign up as a volunteer are all available now at DallasPride.org. Grand marshal nominations open March 1, also online at DallasPride.org. Visit the website for more information.



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# HOPE at Methodist Dallas

People who are HIV-positive can save someone's life by signing up to be an organ donor

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Once advances in medications turned HIV into a treatable disease, HIV became the sixth leading cause of kidney disease, according to Dr. Edward Dominguez, the medical director of Organ Transplant Infectious Disease at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. That means that kidney and liver donors are needed. Living donation is possible with both of those organs.

And since Methodist Dallas has joined HOPE, the HIV Organ Procurement Equity, that means if you have HIV, you can become an organ donor for other people living with HIV whose organs are failing, and the organs you donate may be used by someone at Methodist Dallas or they may be taken to another HOPE facility elsewhere in the country.

Dominguez said some of the first transplants in people with HIV were done in the 1990s among patients who didn't know they were HIV-positive. And, he said, "They did very well."

By the late '90s, kidneys for people with HIV were offered for study.

As more transplants into people with HIV were performed, the results were comparable to transplants into people who are HIV-negative. Then studies of positive-to-positive transplants here and in South Africa replicated encouraging results.

In 2006, Methodist Dallas had applied to be part of a protocol to do transplants from HIV-positive donors into HIV-positive recipients. Methodist Dallas transplant surgeon Dr. Richard Dickerman, who has performed more than 3,000

kidney transplants, performed his first transplant into an HIV-positive patient in 2009. Since then, he's done 18 such transplants.

But until 2016, organ transplants outside the protocol into people with HIV were still illegal. That's when, at the urging of the American Society of Transplantation, President Barack Obama signed legislation that allowed transplanting organs into people who are HIV-positive.

To qualify for a transplant, a patient's HIV must be under control. Still, transplant patients take drugs to suppress their immune system so their bodies don't reject the new organs, and a goal of HIV medication is to help the immune system recover. So some of the original HIV-positive transplant patients were doing so well on their HIV meds that they were rejecting their new organs.

But as Dominguez explained, there's a difference between being immunosuppressed and being immunodeficient. If all transplant patients had their immune systems suppressed to the point of immunodeficiency, they would contract the same opportunistic infections that were killing people with HIV before HIV meds were available.

So, Dominguez explained, "We bring [a transplant patient's immune system] down, but not too low. Now we can adjust the net state of immune suppression."

And with more recent medications, it's become easier to adjust to the right level of immunity for the patient.

HIV medications fight the replication of the virus and the destruction of CD4 cells. But the immunosuppressants taken by organ transplant recipients prevent rejection by lowering the level of CD3 cells. The bonus, Dominguez explained, is that the same medication also seems to attack the HIV virus or keep it under control.

There are a few other tricks to keeping an HIV-positive transplant patient healthy. Dominguez said these patients are kept off protease-based regimens and can't use Truvada, currently the most



From left, Dr. Richard Dickerman, Dr. Jose Castillo-Lugo and Dr. Edward Dominguez at the Transplant Institute, Methodist Dallas. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

popular HIV medication. Although that means no one-pill cocktail, there are new classes of medications keeping transplant HIV patients healthy.

Other than finding the right drug regimen and that optimal level of immune suppression, treatment for an HIV-positive organ recipient is the same as for an HIV-negative transplant recipient. In fact, medically speaking, nothing makes those who are HIV-positive with kidney disease stand out. People with HIV are coming in with the same problems as people who are HIV-negative.

Dickerman said that means medically and procedurally, the transplant is the same. Medical professionals have always taken tremendous precaution in the operating room while doing a transplant: "We treat all patients as if they have HIV," he said. "We wear eyewear, gloves and gown."

Dr. Jose Castillo-Lugo, a nephrologist at Methodist Dallas, runs the HOPE transplant program there. He said allowing transplants of organs from someone with HIV to someone with HIV opens new doors of donors. "It's going to change the practice around the world," he added.

The age of an HIV-positive donor is younger than the general donor population, and a younger kidney begins to function after transplant faster leading to a faster recovery. Also, that younger organ should remain healthy longer, doctors said.

So far, 90 patients have received organs from 60 donors through the HOPE program. In addition to kidneys, livers

may be transplanted from HIV-positive patients into HIV-positive patients, and Dickerman has performed three of those transplants.

A number of factors are involved in matching donors to recipients, such as blood type and tissue type matching. Body sizes also need to be comparable between donor and recipient, so that the donated organ fits properly in the recipient's body.

Age is another important factor. Dickerman said he can't transplant a 65-year-old kidney into a 30-year-old's body, because by the time the recipient turns 65, his kidney would be 100 years old. On the other hand, doctors aren't likely to transplant a teenager's organ into an elderly person that has a much shorter expected lifespan.

Distance between the donor and the recipient also has to be considered. Some organs like kidneys can survive outside the body longer than others, so a kidney donor in one location might be able to save the life of someone clear across the country.

A liver, however, must be transplanted within a few hours.

For some people with HIV, HOPE is a life changer, Castillo-Lugo said, adding that he has another important message for people with HIV: "People who are HIV-positive can be donors and save someone else's life."

To be an organ donor, mark your driver's license or sign an organ donation card. Nothing on the license indicates HIV status. All organs are tested for HIV before transplant.



# 4 held in Austin for assault on gay couple

D.A. says she'll add hate crimes charges, ask for enhanced penalties

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**F**our men were arrested in Austin this week and charged with two counts each of aggravated assault in connection with an attack on two gay men in January. District Attorney Margaret Moore said at a press conference Wednesday, Feb. 13, that she has enough evidence to upgrade the charge to a first degree felony with hate crime enhancements.

Spencer Deehring and Tristan Perry were attacked after they left Rain, a gay bar at the corner of Third Street and Congress Avenue, after 2 a.m. on Jan. 19.

A man approached the couple, who were holding hands, and used a homophobic slur. When Perry verbally defended himself, a group of four men surrounded them. One of the men punched him and he fell to the sidewalk. The group began to punch and kick him.

When Deehring came to Perry's defense, the group assaulted him, too. A witness stepped in and called police.

Both Deehring and Perry were hospitalized with injuries that included concussions, fractured nose, bruised eye socket, neck injuries, cuts and bruises.

Surveillance cameras recorded the attack.

Police took one of the assailants, Frank Macias, 22, into custody on Monday, Feb. 11, after receiving a tip through Crime Stoppers. Deehring and the witness then identified Macias in a lineup.

In a confession to police, Macias implicated his brother, Miguel Macias, 20, as well as Quinn O'Connor, 21, and Kolby Monell. They were arrested on Tuesday.

Each is being held \$300,000 bail — \$150,000 for each of the two counts.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Travis County District Attorney Margare

ret Moore said her office will pursue hate crime charges. She explained that would require proving hate as a motive separately from the defendants' commission of the crime. But she believes she has enough evidence.

Hate crime charges enhance penalties by increasing the charge of aggravated assault from a second degree to a first degree felony.

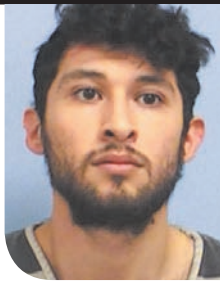
Since the attack, about 60 people have formed a group called Rainbow Patrol. On Saturday nights from 11 p.m. until 3 a.m., members of the Rainbow Patrol have been walking the streets of downtown Austin in neon purple reflective harnesses.

At the press conference announcing the arrests, Assistant Police Chief Ely Reyes, asked about the Rainbow Patrol, said, "The community is our eyes and ears out there."

Speaking directly to the couple, Reyes told them that Austin police take their case very seriously and that hate crimes in the city will not be tolerated.

On Facebook, Deehring said the couple would like some privacy over the next few weeks while they are recovering. "The brain heals slowly, and we're beginning to understand that after many hospital visits and scans," he wrote.

The four men charged in the attack each face sentences of five to 99 years. ■



Top to bottom, Frank Macias, Miguel Macias, Kolby Monell and Quinn O'Connor

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# First, do no harm

Every physician is familiar with the Hippocratic Oath, and one of its central promises — primum non nocere — which cautions us to “first, do no harm.” In a perfect world, our politicians and government agencies would be bound to a similar call to avoid knowingly bringing harm to the people. However, the Trump administration recently proposed a rule change to Medicare Part D that would harm hundreds of thousands of Americans living with HIV.

Since its creation, Medicare Part D has ensured access to vital medications for six “protected classes” of drugs. And because of this special designation, people living with chronic diseases like HIV can access life saving medications without interference.

The Trump administration’s proposed rule change would limit this access by adding layers of bureaucratic red tape, allowing restrictions to medications and preventing doctors from prescribing the best treatments for their patients. For people living with HIV, these actions could not only result in worse health outcomes, they could also revert us back to a time when such treatment options were not available.

For those of us who lived through the 1980s and early ‘90s that experienced tragedy after tragedy from the HIV epidemic, this is not acceptable. It was just over 20 years ago when, at the peak of the epidemic, nearly 50,000 people died in a single year from AIDS. But today, the disease claims fewer than 7,000 lives per year.

Let’s be clear, these successes could easily be erased.

Trump’s new rule would allow Medicare Part D to use the same practice that private health plans and pharmacy benefit managers use, including step therapy and prior authorization, which creates frustrating delays that too often harm patients.

By allowing for prior authorization — requiring providers to seek and gain approval by an insurance provider before covering specific medications — and step therapy — forcing patients to try certain medications first before allowing coverage for other medications — this rule would harm patients.

These practices are already incredibly serious problems for people living with HIV with private insurance, especially



**Dr. John Carlo**  
Contributing Columnist

when the “try first” medications are not as well-studied or have been shown to be clearly inferior to the nationally-recognized treatments.

And, unlike high blood pressure treatment where trying one medication first will not lower efficacy of future medications, failing one HIV treatment results in resistance that impacts the future ability to treat HIV. This increases the risk for poor health outcomes and increases the risk of transmission of the virus to others.

As a doctor, I’ve seen these practices play out with dangerous results.

One patient changed to a new health plan that required a step therapy, requiring her to switch her HIV medication that she had effectively been on for years to a less costly, but more difficult-to-take treatment. This resulted in her quickly developing medication resistance that then required she be put on additional medications — one of which was an infusion that cost in excess of \$118,000 per year.

Another patient living with HIV was in imminent danger of developing kidney failure and required an immediate medication. But despite the urgency, the

prior authorization process required our team to file paperwork after paperwork in order to get approval. This run around resulted in such unnecessary delay so that when approval finally came, the patient’s kidneys had already failed. He is now permanently on dialysis.

This isn’t just happening in D.C., New York, or L.A. It’s happening right here in Texas. The South overwhelmingly has the highest number of new HIV infections each year, and Texas has the third highest rate of people living with HIV among all 50 states.

Right here in Dallas, nearly 16,000 people are living with HIV. We now have the medications that help people to live long, healthy lives, and more and more are aging into Medicare. When on the right medications, viral suppression is achieved, meaning someone cannot transmit the virus to anyone else.

Individuals’ health and the public health of our state are all at risk with this proposed rule change.

We know these policies don’t work, and it’s critical for all of us to call on our representatives now to urge them to block this proposed rule change to ensure the potential harm to Medicare Part D’s protected classes does not become a reality. ■

*Dr. John Carlo is the CEO of Prism Health North Texas, which provides integrated HIV care in Dallas. He is also a former president of Dallas County Medical Society and chair of the Texas Public Health Coalition.*





# Tidying up

If you haven't yet heard of Marie Kondo, the diminutive Queen of Clean, you probably don't have a TV or a Netflix subscription, or maybe you don't read much. The delightful Japanese author seems to be everywhere these days — yes, even in our house. My partner and I watched one episode of *Tidying Up* on Netflix and were hooked.

The reason? Well, if the houses of the folks on her show could be put in order, certainly ours could be, too.

At one time, I kept a fairly tidy living place. My apartments were always well ordered, and though my decorating was far from “A Gay,” my taste was simple and uncluttered.

That changed when I moved into a house. Houses have more room and far more places to hide stuff. Add to that the fact that my partner and I are both collectors of various things, and pretty soon clutter ensued.

Between the coin-operated games and carnival memorabilia I collect and my partner's collection of vintage cowboy boots, we had the beginnings of a cluttered



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

house. Add to that my assortment of leather floggers, bondage gear and clothing, as well as a library of books that never seems to shrink (even though we have gone to e-books now), and we were getting crowded out of our own house.

Enter Marie Kondo's Konami method of tidying up. She has developed a great way of tackling the clutter and a technique of letting go of old things that no longer “spark joy.”

As part of our process, we emptied the closets of all our clothing, and, one article at a time, we held each to our chest and asked that question: “Does this spark joy?”

If it did, we kept it. If not, we thanked the article of clothing for its service and placed it into a bag to be donated to a

charity.

It sounded strange, but it worked. We carted more than 10 large garbage bags of clothing to a charity drop-off location and created another huge pile of leather garments that will be donated to fundraising auctions in the leather community.

The upside was, we got our closets back!

As we continue to “tidy up,” I expect we will see floor space in the house begin to open up, and our living space will be less chaotic and more livable.

And that brings me to something we might consider doing as a nation: We suffer from a lot of clutter in our country in the form of useless lobbyists, politicians and pundits. Maybe it's time we tried the Konami method on them as well.

Next time a politician asks you for money or for your vote, hug them (or their direct mail equivalent) to your chest. If they spark joy, then contribute to their campaign, vote for them or volunteer for their campaign.

If not — well, thank them for their service, and let them go. That means give

them no more support, no more votes and no more attention.

Politicians who have held seats in Congress or the Senate for decades can be set free, allowing room for those that “spark joy” — and that spark some much-needed change.

Blustering pundits who spout conspiracy theories and only clutter the media landscape can also be let go. Turn them off and stop buying their sponsors' products. Soon, the airwaves and the internet will have more room for voices that actually provide more than just noise.

We as a nation can tidy up our country by insisting that those representatives that do bring us joy act on our trust, and we must do the same with the executive branch. Urge your elected representatives to visit the White House, hug Mr. Trump and then ask if he “sparks joy.”

If not, let him — and his entire cabinet — go. ■

*Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com)*



# Getting Sykes-d up

LIFE+STYLE

comedy



Queermedian Wanda Sykes talks walkouts, Ellen's interview with Kevin Hart and the role her wife plays in her career

**B**ecause according to Trump's America only white het men can exist, now would be a good time to reintroduce Wanda Sykes. She is a black person and a woman and a lesbian.

And if you go to one of her Oh Well Tour standup engagements this year, or catch the taping of one on Netflix (tentatively scheduled to stream later this year), expect poking and probing of things affecting Americans who identify as any of those under-attack minorities. Some women who are still supporting Trump for some reason may have benefited from that very basic Wanda Sykes 101 bio above before seeing the actress-comedian-writer in New Jersey last September and walking out ... and *then* demanding a refund from the Count Basie Center for the Arts.

These are the same people who loved the 54-year-old comedian in *Monster-in-Law* and *Evan Almighty* and as the voice of an animated skunk in *Over the Hedge*. And the same people who then wondered what the problem was when Roseanne tweeted a racist tweet and why Sykes, who wrote for the *Roseanne* revival, jumped ship.

Not that the entertainer and mom-to-twins didn't have a loaded sched, but with recurring TV roles on *Broad City* and *Black-ish* (for which she was Emmy-nominated), and several new movies out this year, Sykes has somehow found the time and energy to rattle the privileged cages of Trump supporters. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

**Dallas Voice: Are you unfazed by walkouts at this point in your career?**

Wanda Sykes: It cracks me up, really. Like, what were you expecting? What are the crazy ladies' names? Diamond and whatever? The two African-American women. I forget their names. Diamond and Salt? Silk? [Note: It's Diamond and Silk, vloggers known for supporting Donald Trump.] It's like, no, that's not me.

**Or Kanye West.** Right, right, right.

**At this point, Trump is basically writing his own comedy show. Recently, there was a photo of him standing in front of a Burger King and McDonald's buffet at the White House.** It's hard to top him.

**When the fodder is ripe for comedy, is it actually harder to write the joke?** Yeah, it's hard to top as far as what he does, because it's just so ridiculous. Like

when he does something ridiculous, it's hard to write something where you would go, "That's like blah blah blah," because it's already ridiculous. It's hard to do a metaphor. So, really, you just have to talk about it as far as the level that it's gotten to, and I don't understand why we're still putting up with it. Why aren't we out in the streets, and you know, ready to drag him out of there, out of the White House? Because remember they got upset with Barack Obama when he wore a tan suit? I mean, this is ridiculous, the level that they're going to.

**Do you remember your first walkout and what that was like?** I got walkouts back under the George W. Bush administration. So, I've gotten used to it.

**I think I read that during one of your first shows in the late '80s, the audience booed you.** That was the second one. The first one I did went great. I almost won the contest; I did really well. So that's why I stayed with comedy. And then the second time, it didn't go well. I just bombed. I think because I was just so confident from the first time that I maybe got a little too cocky. Actually, I think it was the first time being on stage and it went great, and then I started going to comedy clubs, and I saw how it could actually go really

poorly and just go off the rails. I watched comics bomb, and then when I went back onstage again, I was just really nervous because I realized they don't have to laugh; they can actually sit here and boo. So, I think that's what happened the next time I did the competition.

**What is one thing you want people to take away from the Oh Well Tour?**

I hope they take away that I haven't lost hope. That I still believe that people are good and that we'll get through this, so I hope they walk away with that. Like, I'm not saying, "Hey, it's the end of the world."

**Where are you deriving that hope from?**

Young people. They give me hope. The Parkland kids — they do, they give me hope.

**Through your involvement with the Ruth Ellis Center for homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Detroit, you've met a lot of young people. What do young LGBTQ people want to know about Wanda Sykes?**

A lot of it is career-wise, 'cause a lot of them, man, they're so talented, they're very creative, a lot of the kids from the center. So a lot of them want to know how I got started and any advice career-wise, and then of course how hard was it coming out, and do I think that it had an effect on my career, and also advice on dealing with family members



as far as having problems dealing with coming out. Sometimes it's just, "Hey, what do you like to do for fun? When you get stumped creatively, what do you do to get out of it?"

**What do you do to get out of it?** You know what, I like jigsaw puzzles. I know I sound like an old lady! But every now and then, if I gotta break it up and nothing is coming to me, and I get stuck in a rut, I like to break out a jigsaw puzzle and maybe put some music on, something I don't normally listen to. You just need a shift. As soon as you make a shift, it opens everything back up for you.

**What's the last jigsaw puzzle you completed?** It was a cover from the New Yorker, and it was a dog sitting on porch steps.

**So you're a dog puzzle person?** [Laughs] Nah, it's not a lot of abstract stuff I do. I like a piece of art, or you know, it's usually still life.

**Do you do the 5,000-piece puzzles or are you more of a 300-piece puzzle person?** Usually it's more like 2,500. Five-thousand, that's a project for over the summer.

**Who do you test your material out on?** Pretty much the audience. My wife can see when something happens, and if I write it down or she sees something in my phone, she's like, "Oh boy, that's a joke for you now." Or something happens and she'll say, "Oh, you should write that down! That was funny!"

**How were you writing your material before cell phones?** I always had a notebook and always wrote things down in my notebook. I have boxes and boxes of notebooks where I used to write my stuff down. Now it goes in the phone, but I still like to write by hand.

**Will your Netflix show be out this year?** I'm shooting it in February, so it'll probably be out late spring.

**Will that be the Oh Well show? Will it be as anti-Trump as the show you're currently touring now?** I would say the first 15 minutes or so — 20 minutes — is that. But then I move on! The tour that I'm doing now, that will be the special I'm working on.

**The Guardian called it a "tough anti-Trump tirade." Is it scary to talk about Trump because of what happened to Kathy Griffin?** No, I think we see that Kathy was right. I think she was just a little ahead of us as far as where this was going.

**Right as far as her lambasting of the president?** Right.

**Have you had the acting career that you desired?** Well, I never really desired to have an acting career. I just wanted to be one of the funniest comedians out there and wanted to make a living traveling all

over, and film and TV is a bonus, really. I mean, come on, I got to go to Hawaii to shoot a movie with Amy [Schumer]. But to me, I take it seriously, though; I also just love doing it. I love standup.

**Do you feel you have a greater responsibility now to speak on political and social issues?** I talk about what interests me and what I find funny and what I like to talk about. I watch politics, I follow what's happening in the world. I like to talk about social issues, and I like to talk about my family and personal issues. To me, I'm not going out of the way to say, "Oh, I need 10 minutes on Trump's, I need something on gun control." That's not how I write — it's not planned. It's what happened. And that's the kind of comedy I like. There's room for all types of comedy; there's physical humor, and there's some comics who are not political at all, and that's fine. But for me, if I walked out onto a stage and didn't say anything about this craziness that's happening, it'd be like the elephant in the room. I think when I go on stage people are waiting for it. Like, "Oh, OK, when is she going to get there?"

**It's affecting everything you stand for, so how could you not?** For me, I believe that's the job for an artist. But then again, there are all types of artists and comics out there.

**Ellen's recent interview with Kevin Hart upset many people in the LGBTQ community. She was criticized for making Kevin out to be the victim, while muting the voice of her own community. Don Lemon was one of her critics. Where do you stand on how that interview went?** I looked at it as two comedians who are friends, and she was trying to help out her friend. Now, I agree with Don Lemon that there is a huge issue in the African-American community concerning homosexuality and the LGBTQ community. So, I think for me, you'd have to go a little deeper with discussing that. To me, to say, "Hey, I already apologized, and I didn't know about it until it came out this time around" — so, it's like, well, we didn't know about that, and now we do, so where's the apology? Or at least have some type of awareness as far as how your words really are affecting a lot of kids in our community. So, I always gotta come on the side of kids and our community.

**People, including actress-writer Lena Waithe, have been expressing a desire to see you as Oscar host. Would you be interested?** If they asked, yeah, I would be interested.

**You're not busy doing a puzzle that night?** [Laughs] I got a nice gay flag puzzle that I wanna work on so, um...

**Bring the gay puzzle to the Oscars and work on it there.** I mean, it's the Oscars, so I wouldn't run away from it. But it would be cool if they made it very inclusive and made RuPaul host.

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I'm very spoiled. But while I get to drive a lot of expensive cars, I don't make enough money to afford most of them. So when I start considering cars for myself, I want something that drives well, looks good, gets great gas mileage and is affordable. Still, I don't want it to feel cheap compared to more expensive rides. So when I start thinking about cars that cause little sacrifice for my spoiled self, Volkswagens rise like cream to the top... cars like the Jetta R-Line.

R-Line trim is more about appearance than actual performance, but gives the latest Jetta a pretty sporty suit. It starts about the big black grille with chrome brow and extends to the LED headlamps, 17-in. gray alloy wheels, habanero orange paint, and LED taillamps with classy amber turn signals, but it's really about the spicy paint! The grille connects it to the large VW Atlas cross-over while more sculpted bodysides give the car more visual interest than the slab-sided three boxes it replaced. Squinty taillamps and dual chrome exhaust outlets reference Audi.

I might as well list all our Jetta R-Line *doesn't* have inside. There are no leather seats, Beats audio system, navigation or flatscreen instrument cluster. We didn't even have satellite radio. But the car does have a lot of premium content, like dual-zone automatic climate control, wide panel moonroof and heated seats. The seats are leatherette, but the two-tone scheme looks good and the material will be insanely durable.

The audio system sounds fine and analog gauges are clear. Stitched coverings, piano black trim and metallic-look slat across the dash appear anything but low-rent. A swipescreen with proper volume and tuning knobs plus Apple

CarPlay are baby-easy. Adding layers of safety are forward collision alert with auto brake, blind spot detection, rear cross path detection and rearview camera.

I don't need my ride to be a muscle car, but it should be confident in the left lane. For the Jetta, that starts with a 1.4-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine that delivers just 147 horses, but churns up 184 lb.-ft. of torque to squirch those front wheels off the line and keep stirring as the speedometer sweeps. Connected to an 8-speed automatic transmission, the engine always seems to be in the right rev range whether creeping through city traffic or flying long distances. Really satisfying my soul is fuel economy of 30/40-MPG city highway, which are conservative in my real-world experience.

The suspension doesn't seem especially sophisticated on paper, with its independent front and torsion beam rear lay-out, but you'll think Audi engineers conjured it when you glide over

rough roads unbothered. Steering feel is direct and torque-vectoring control automatically brakes the inside front wheel

to sharpen curves. On the highway, the chassis provides the right balance between comfort and control, always engaging the driver's best instincts. Far more expensive cars achieve far less.

If you have a lot of money to spend, it's easy to find a German sedan that will delight you every day. I've driven plenty over the last 20 years. To get a car that's efficient, comfortable, athletic and styled way above its price point is no easy task. But R-Line fits the bill, especially given an as-tested price of \$24,140.

Competitors include the Chevy Cruze, Hyundai Elantra, Kia Forte, Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic. ■

To watch Casey's video review of the Jetta and other cars, follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.

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# Magic to do

Stephen Brower always knew he was destined for the stage. He was right — he's now leading the national tour of 'Anastasia'

It didn't take Stephen Brower long to go from college in Texas to Broadway and now the leading role (opposite Lila Coogan) in the national tour of 'Anastasia.' (Photo courtesy Matthew Murphy)

**JONANNA WIDNER** | Contributing Writer  
jonanna.widner@gmail.com

As a gay kid growing up in Oklahoma, Stephen Brower thought florescent lights and folding chairs were "magical." Well, in *some* circumstances.

"I was about 8 years old and my parents took me to see my brother in a

theater-camp play," Brower recalls. The atmosphere — with only said lights, chairs and a tiny, bare stage — blew Brower away. "I thought it was the coolest thing ever. I said to myself, 'I'm doing this.'"

And he certainly did achieve that goal. His childhood was filled with

dance and theater lessons, and after graduating (in just three years) with a degree from Texas State University, which offers one of the best musical theater programs in the country, Brower made the trek to

the mecca for theater geeks: New York City. Tons of starry-eyed actors have

the same aspirations, but once again, Brower's childhood thoughts predicted it. "I remember taking a school trip to New York; everyone thought it was too busy and hectic. I thought it was most exciting place. I still feel that, every time I come back."

He's still based in NYC, but he's not home much right now. After carving

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# Eugene Tseng, D.D.S



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out an acting career for himself, including his Broadway debut as part of the ensemble of the hit musical *Anastasia*, he hit the road — a journey that this week returns him to Texas. But that's not the only familiar territory — he's once again appearing in *Anastasia* ... but this time, for the national tour, he snagged the leading man role of Dmitry. (It opens at Fair Park Music Hall Tuesday, courtesy of Dallas Summer Musicals, then returns to Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall in May.)

The production, based on the animated musical of the same name, is a sweeping historical epic — "I cried the first time I ever saw it," Brower says — taking place during one of the most dramatic periods in history: The Russian Revolution. With its impressive costumes, elaborate musical numbers and stay-on-your-toes plot twists, *Anastasia* reflects the drama and spectacle of its era. Brower's beloved florescent lights have been replaced with an impressive LED projection screen that provides not just a backdrop but a dynamic, stunning, dreamy dimension to each set. "It's so amazing," Brower says. "I'm not sure audiences have seen anything like it."

Brower kicked off his career after moving to New York in 2015. Unlike many who make that jump, it didn't take him long to start working, first touring with *Pippin* and *An American in Paris* (both of which came to North Texas within the last four years), then joining *Anastasia* as a replacement, and understudy for the Dmitry role, on Broadway. So, are there any differences between that experience as an understudy and now on tour? Brower laughs. "The theaters! The ones on Broadway are old and creaky. The ones on tour are always much better." (And size, too — Fair Park Music Hall's 3,420 seats mean he and the cast will be performing for as much as three times the audience members as in New York.)

In all seriousness, though, Brower says the juxtaposition of understudy and lead are more complicated than you'd think. On tour, it's not just a matter of stepping in for another person's role — it's about actually *acting* as a leader, not just a lead. And then, there's what everyone who pursues acting as a calling dreams about. "It's a chance to really make the role my own," Brower says. "I don't have to worry about learning all the lines, hitting all the marks. So I get to explore it."

Ah, yes, exploring. That's the other



part of being on the road. Brower notes he is looking forward to seeing Texas again (both his parents were born here), especially getting to go back to Lee Harvey's ("It's a real Texas bar" he says), which he discovered the last time he was in town.

But most of all, he knows the audiences who check out *Anastasia* will find themselves exploring, too. "It really is a journey," he says, "for all the characters, not just mine. It's been so fun to see audiences react to that. It's such a lush, beautiful production." ■

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L+S books

## Come out, come out...

A memoir of sex and acceptance



*Hiding Out: A Memoir of Drugs, Deception, and Double Lives* by Tina Alexis Allen (Dey St. Books 2018)  
\$16.99; 288 pp.

"Ready or not, here I come!" Hear that, and if you hadn't hidden by then, hadn't found a secret spot, you had a real chance of losing at hide-n-seek. Get out of sight, though, and you might've managed to sneak back home, ready to play another game. As in this memoir by Tina Alexis Allen, that game could last for decades.

Growing up, Christina Worthington knew her father hated her. Her 12 siblings knew it, too, and they reminded her of it often: she was the youngest of her mother's "lucky 13" and the victim of much of her father's wrath. Starting at about age 9, Tina was also the victim of sexual abuse from two of her then-adult brothers.

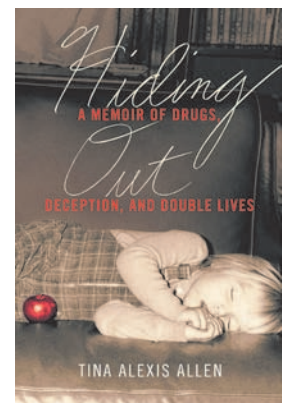
But she never told anyone. Instead, she acted out at school until the nuns were at their wits' end and her saintly mother was exasperated. At 11, a younger teacher finally took Tina under her wing ... and into her bed.

Two years later, by the time her teacher-lover sent her away, Tina knew she was more attracted to girls than to boys. By her mid-teens, she had a college-age girlfriend who lived near her parents' Washington, D.C.-area house, from which she managed to mostly stay away; there was more comfort in the girlfriend's apartment than there was at her childhood home, where hiding her real self was necessary.

But no one can hide forever. When her father invited her and her girlfriend to lunch one day, Tina was guarded — and rightfully so, because he figured out her secret, and she couldn't deny it. Then he revealed a shocker of his own: he was gay, too.

Within weeks, Tina went from hated daughter to favorite; from ignored to invitee to her father's dinners and clubs. They agreed

to keep one another's secrets from the rest of the family — partying drinking, and doing drugs until the stress of it all bubbled over. Tina couldn't take the lies



anymore, and her lips spilled the truth.

Memoirs, by their very nature, are generally focused inwardly, to a greater or lesser degree. Count *Hiding Out* on the latter side. Starting with a raucous anecdote of sibling rivalry before Christmas Mass, you're in for more than a look-at-me memoir. This is, in fact, a whole-family tale in which Allen puts the focus mainly on her parents, with sibs ringing the action as needed. Using that as a base, tales eke out tantalizingly slowly over the course of this book, and some are shocking, told so casually that you'll get a "Wait. What?" backlash. Don't be surprised if you read the occasional sentence twice, in disbelief.

Add a tight window of time and a deep unsubstantiated-rumor-type mystery that feels like a character unto itself, and you've got a compulsively readable book that's, at its close, very unique. If a memoir like *Hiding Out* is what you want for a long winter's night, then get ready.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer





**Friday 02.15 —  
Sunday 03.10**

**Langston Hughes defends his art in “Are You Now, Or Have You Ever Been”**

In 1953, on the eve of giving testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee, Langston Hughes — poet laureate of the Harlem Renaissance — tries to write a poem. What follows is a rumination not just on McCarthyism,

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but the role of the artist. Stage West presents the regional premiere of Carlyle Brown’s *Are You Now, Or Have You Ever Been*. With Djoré Nance as Hughes and Christopher Dontrell Piper as his attorney.

**DEETS:** Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.



**Tuesday 02.14 —  
Sunday 03.10**

**Kitchen Dog presents irreverent comedy ‘You Got Older’**

Mae’s boyfriend dumped her, she got fired from her job and now has to move home to look after her dad, all while the biological clock goes tick-tick-tick. Kitchen Dog Theater is back with its first show of 2019, the dark comedy *You Got Older*, which combines fantasy and grim reality with bawdy humor. Jenny Ledel and Barry Nash lead the cast; Tina Parker directs.

**DEETS:** Trinity River Arts Theater, 2600 N. Stemmons Expressway. KitchDogTheater.org.



**Friday 02.15 —  
Sunday 02.17**

**DSO plays the music of ‘The Little Mermaid’ to accompany screening**

The Disney animated musical renaissance really began with *The Little Mermaid*, and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra is honoring that music (by eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken) with a live performance of the score, played along to a screening of the film itself. It’s a great family event, or just for anyone who loves that music. Sarah Hicks conducts.

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



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## ARTSWEEK

### THEATER

#### ***Are You Now, Or Have You Ever Been...***

Carlyle Brown wrote this drama, about when queer poet Langston Hughes was compelled to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Presented by Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through March 10. StageWest.org.

***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. Through Sunday. ATPAC.org.

***I Do! I Do!*** Jones and Schmidt (*The Fantasticks*) wrote this two-hander, a musical adaptation of the hit play *The Fourposter*, about stages in the lives of a married couple. Presented by Lyric Stage. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. Feb. 14–17. LyricStage.org.

***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.

***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.

***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. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.

***Lonely Planet.*** Steve Dietz's plays and 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.

***You Got Older.*** The second show of Kitchen Dog Theater's 2018–19 season, this bawdy dark comedy by Clare Barron makes its regional premiere. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through March 10. KitchenDogTheater.org.

### DANCE

***Bruce Wood Dance: Dances from the Heart.*** Annual fundraiser and performance from the local dance company, this two-night gala includes food, drinks, live music and dance performances. Bruce Wood Studio, 101 Howell St. Feb. 15 and 16. BruceWoodDance.org.

### CIRCUS

***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. From \$45. CirqueDuSoleil.com/Amaluna.

### FINE ART

***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 02.15

### COMMUNITY

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

### BROADCAST

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

## MONDAY 02.18

### CABARET

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

## this week's solution

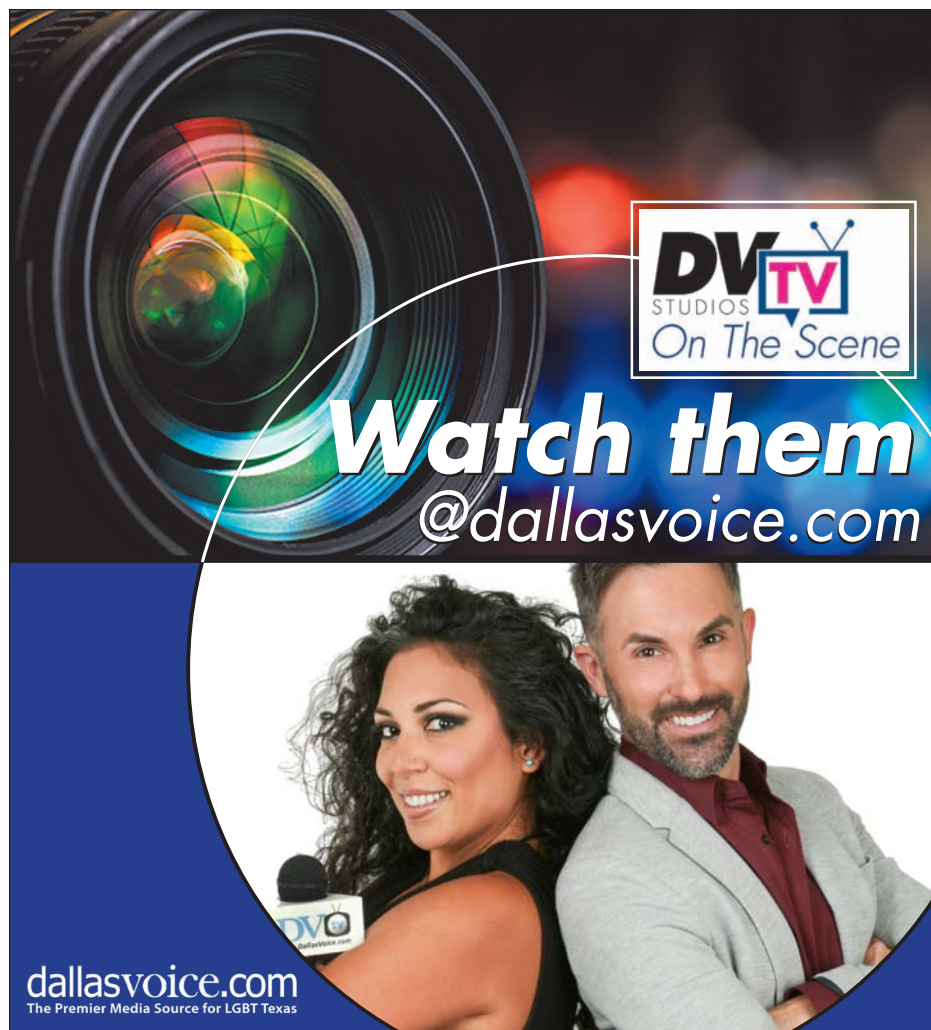
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 **browse**

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit  
Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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# Cassie Nova

Cassie on religion

Hello, everyone. This has been a very shitty few weeks for my family. My beautiful niece lost a baby that she carried the full nine months. It was some kind of infection that the doctors say they were unfamiliar with. It was all very sudden and heartbreaking. Luckily my niece, whom we almost lost as well, pulled through. She has shown her strength and relied on her faith to get her through this. I know that there will be a lot of hard days ahead for her and her husband but I'm glad they have their beliefs and family to get them through.

I, on the other hand, am finding myself more and more... faithless. I roll my eyes every time I hear the phrase "thoughts and prayers." Faith can't be forced — trust me I've tried. I know that a lot of my friends and family will not want to hear this from me, but I am not a fan of religion. I honestly wish I had blind faith in something, but I believe religion hurts more than it helps. I am not talking about one's individual faith; I am talking about religion and the rules they make up to fit what they want to believe and how they believe you should act.

I am not saying I do not believe in God or a higher power — I do — but I first learned to hate myself in church. It was always godly folks telling me I was going to burn in hell. As a kid, that was the most terrifying thing in the world. I remember going to church with my best friend's family when I was about 11 or 12. We woke up that Sunday morning and his mom made us all pancakes and bacon. We got to church and one of the first things the preacher said was about how we were all supposed to be fasting. They were Mormon and for some reason, at certain times they fast. I was standing there smelling like pancakes and bacon feeling guilty, and even though I didn't know anything about their religion, I felt shame for just having breakfast.

The breakfast shame was nothing compared to the gay shame I felt when he started talking about the demon gays. A few years later I went to a different church with the same family, a Christian church. I guess some of the Mormon ways sent them into a different direction, too. It started out great, speaking of love and light, but then they always seemed to say at least one small, going-to-hell-if-you-are-gay thing that made me leave hating who I was. To me, being gay was never a choice, it was just a fact of who I was. I decided that every friendship or relationship with my family was on borrowed time because as soon as they knew the real me, I would be out and gone, never to return.

I watch the news every day. I am shocked that the evangelical Christians are totally OK with the president cheating



on his wives and having sex with porn stars but can't get over two men loving each other. I am baffled by so many things I hear "Christians" say these days. I think the biggest problem with all religions are the human interpretation of stories written forever ago. History is written by the winners so what is the truth? We will never know, but blind faith in these stories must be so freeing. I just do not have that kind of faith. I know I am not a theologian and don't mean to offend anyone but if I do offend you.... you have my thoughts and prayers.

Believe it or not, I still pray. When I pray, I see it as a way to speak to the energy that was my grandma, the energy that was my grandpa, the energy of whatever created everything. If that sounds like some hippy dippy bullshit, maybe it is, but why are my beliefs less than yours. I am not so small-minded to think that there is nothing more after death, but if this life is all we have, I strive to live in a way that at the end of my life I can be proud of my time here. If the only reason you are a good person is because of a fear of going to hell, you might be an asshole... but whatever works.

For those of you that love religion and going to church, I'm glad for you. I guess in a way I am jealous. Jealous that you found what I never could in church. Please don't see this as a cry for some religious help; it is not. Please don't contact me trying to get me to join your church — I appreciate it but do not need it. I found happiness within myself. It was easy when I stopped feeling shame for something I never felt was wrong. I don't think I know everything but I know my place in my universe. For now, faith and confidence in my place in said universe is subject to change, always learning... always growing.

OK now, this is weird. The week I decide to write about religion, the below question was the only one sent to me this week.

Dear Cassie, You seem like a crazy bitch that I would never want to piss off...Do you think you would be able to commit murder? Signed, just curious!

Dearest jc, Test me bitch! Just kidding. I absolutely think if I had to protect someone I love I could kill someone. I get mad and I can yell like a crazy person but killing just to kill, no way. Way too much work! I will admit to fantasizing about having telekinetic powers like Carrie and hurling cars that cut me off into the air as the explode, but that's just a normal traffic fantasy... right?

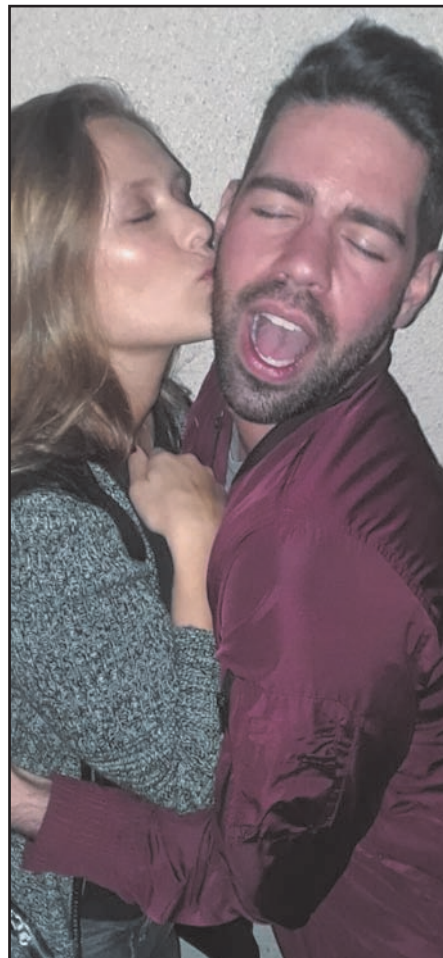
Speaking of murder, did you see Zac Efron is going to play Ted Bundy in an upcoming movie? Bitch, I would let him murder my.... well, you know!

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO! Cassie Nova  
Reach the writer at AskCassieNova@gmail.com.

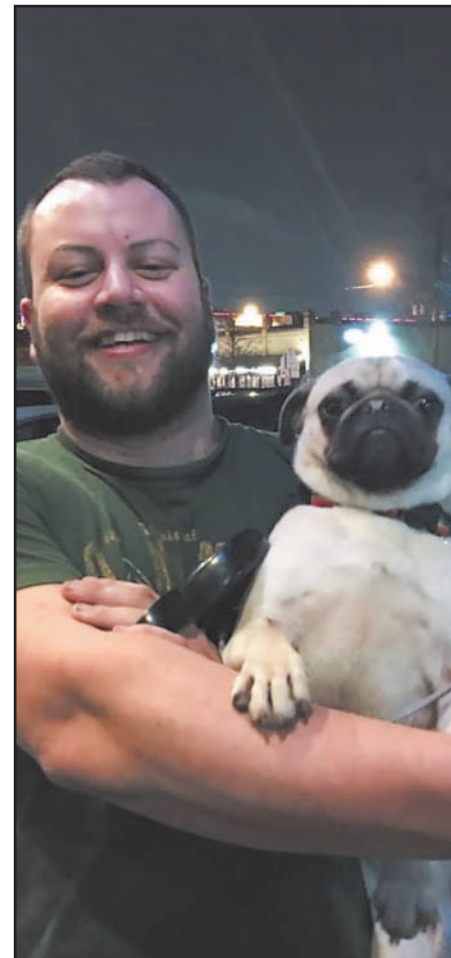




Fun on the patio at The Grapevine



Friends out for fun on The Strip



Jerod and Melania the pug out on the town

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Feb. 15–21**:

- **1851 Club:** Barbie Davenport, Addison Foster and Nia Courtland on Friday. Caress Riata, Chanel St. John and Sapphire Davenport on Saturday.
- **Alexandre's:** Stephanie Sallie on Friday. K-Marie on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** DeeJay DJ presents Divine Miss Divas Heartbreakers at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Sapphire Tailor hosts Party On The Patio with Jazzie Bleu, Shelly von Miller, Adrian Balansay, Dez Nonaughts and Fluffy at 11 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court Dynamic Duets Contest from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. DFW Sisters Masquerade Ball at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Henry's Tavern:** GALA Happy Hour on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday. Raquel Blake and Bleach in Double Trouble at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Monday is Steak Night.
- **Marty's Live:** Layla LaRue, Shavon and Gizelle Bevon Ashton perform in a cancer fundraising benefit show at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Sunday Funday Dance Party at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Showdown at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. The Saloon Girls Drag Show and Lip Sync Contest at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Mustache Envy on Friday. Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents A Bleeding Heart Masquerade at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Anton Shaw Band and The Southpaw Preachers on Sunday. The Queer-Off at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Tersa Matthews on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC:** The Mining Company: Fuego Wednesdays at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy:** The G-Spot Social for Women from 6-11 p.m. on Friday. Imperial Court Candidate Presentation at the Emperor's Red and White Ball, buffet at 6 p.m. and show at 7 p.m.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

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

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Photos with a friend on The Strip



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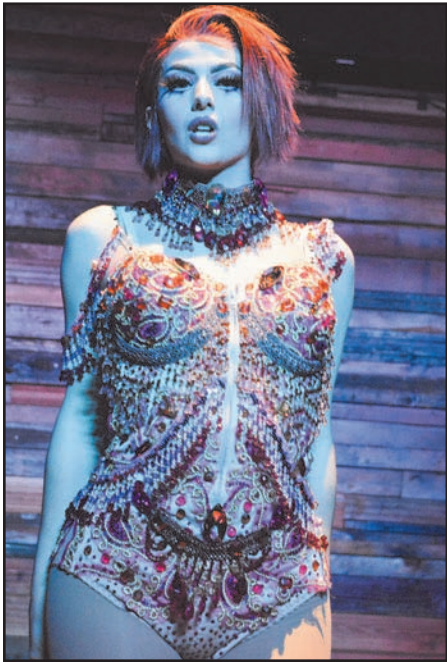
The DFW Sisters visit The Round-Up Saloon



All smiles on The Strip



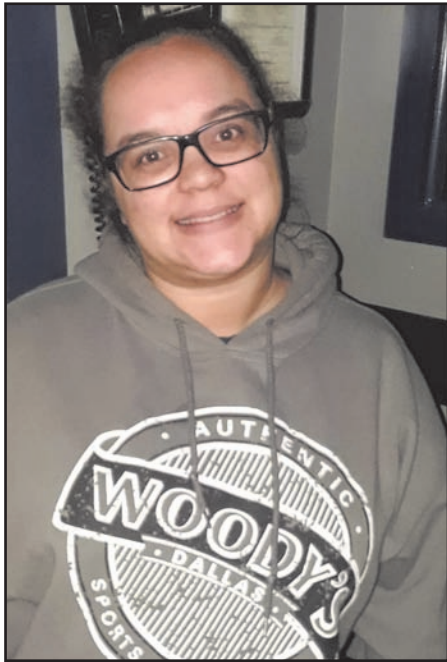
Friends ready to celebrate Valentine's Day in the Gayborhood



Mannequita performs at Sue Ellen's



Darlin' Clemintine and Sissy Pop on The Strip



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Nancy and Tiffany Shae at Sue Ellen's



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A photograph of a shirtless man with dark hair and a beard, looking down at a smartphone he is holding in his right hand. He is wearing a thin chain necklace and a black wristband.

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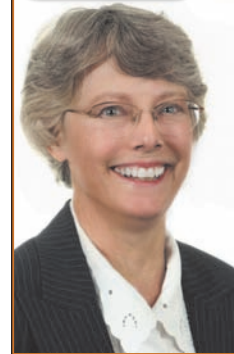


Rebecca S. Covell  
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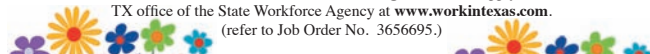


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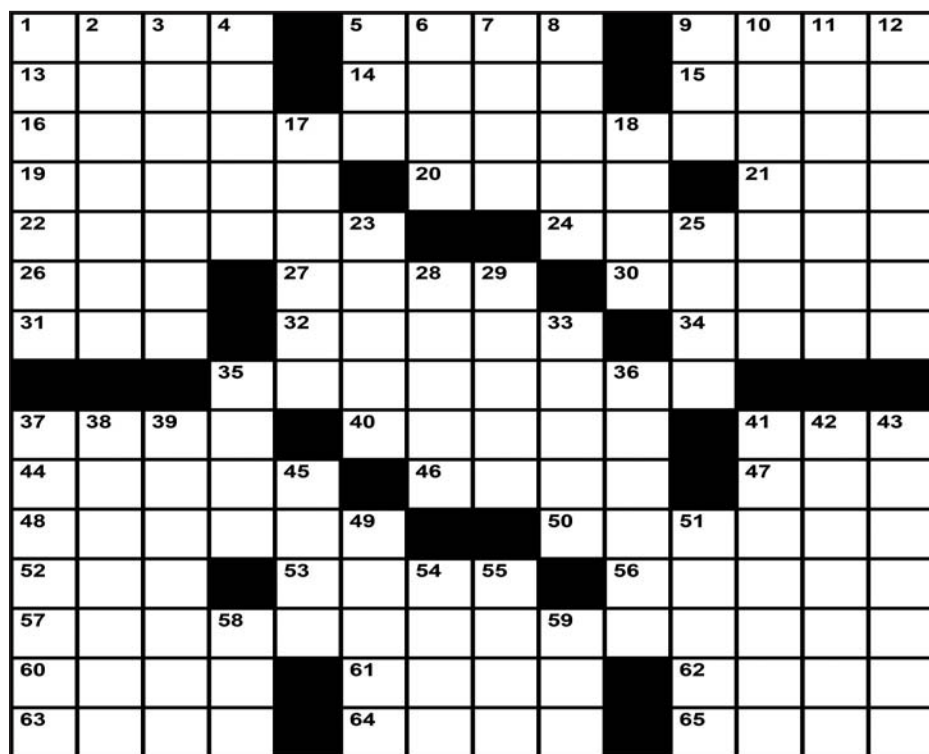
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## Homophobia

Solution on Page 22

### Across

- 1 Smart ass response from the mouth
- 5 Spirited horse
- 9 *Cunt* author Muscio
- 13 "Take a crack \_\_\_\_"
- 14 Memory unit
- 15 *Lawrence of Arabia* director David
- 16 Start of a comment by 57-Across about homophobia all over the planet
- 19 Big bang cause, briefly
- 20 *Six Feet Under* character
- 21 Athenian T
- 22 *Claire of the Moon* actor Todd
- 24 Cruises in style
- 26 Adverb for Lord Byron
- 27 Plumb, and others
- 30 "\_\_\_\_ Is Nothing Like a Dame"
- 31 JFK's predecessor
- 32 Nathan and family
- 34 Some nest eggs, for short
- 35 End of the comment
- 37 Brightly colored
- 40 Dreamy fruit of Greek myth
- 41 Navigation aid
- 44 Bean of *Desperate Housewives*
- 46 Apple invader

- 47 "That was good, honey!"

- 48 \_\_\_\_ and Delilah (Saint-Saëns opera)
- 50 Somewhat
- 52 That, south of the border
- 53 Use a trick towel
- 56 Laura of *ER*
- 57 *Empire* star who recently was viciously attacked
- 60 Not a dup.
- 61 Superman portrayer Dean
- 62 Comedian Johnson
- 63 Top
- 64 Cock attachment
- 65 Belgian river

### Down

- 1 Like Peter and Mary
- 2 Clothed
- 3 Chapel with a Michelangelo ceiling
- 4 Paparazzi pursue them
- 5 Follower of Jim Buchanan
- 6 Homophobe Paul once of the House
- 7 Blade brand
- 8 Lili Reinhart role in *Riverdale*
- 9 Not in the pink
- 10 Answer to "Male or

- female?" for some
- 11 Nisha of *Chutney Popcorn*
- 12 Nobleman in *Macbeth* with a cow?
- 17 Like many pols, to gay causes
- 18 Cops, in slang
- 23 To no \_\_\_\_ (useless)
- 25 Like a Marc Jacobs ensemble
- 28 Give a large bosom, e.g.
- 29 Care for
- 33 Blue shirtless guy
- 35 Mireille of *World War Z*
- 36 Merchant of films
- 37 Facial event
- 38 Indication of a used rubber
- 39 Gradual absorption
- 41 James of *Victor/Victoria* and family
- 42 Board for O'Keeffe
- 43 Max or Leo in *The Producers*
- 45 "\_\_\_\_ lay me ..."
- 49 Em's Dorothy
- 51 A dentist may stick it in your mouth
- 54 Exam taken in H.S.
- 55 Put out
- 58 Army NCO
- 59 Queen's "Another \_\_\_\_ Bites the Dust"



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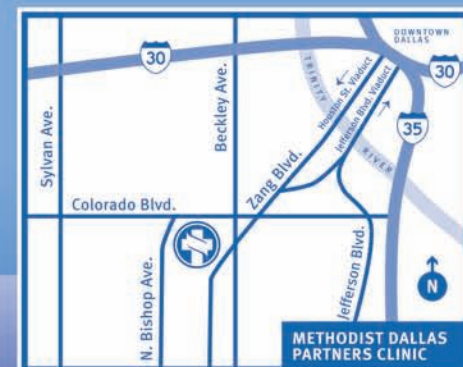
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