

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | Dallas | Volume 35 | Issue 46 | FREE | Friday, March 22, 2019



## All in

Advocates gather in Austin  
to lobby for LGBT equality

by David Taffet Page 8



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10

## headlines

### ■ TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Advocates turn out to lobby the Lege
- 9 Stonewall issues endorsements
- 10 ELECTIONS: Chad West in District 1
- 11 Ask Candy

### ■ LIFE+STYLE

- 14 BenDeLaCreme is coming to Dallas
- 15 REVIEW: 'Us' misses the mark
- 16 MUSIC: Mould in the 'Sunshine'

### ■ ON THE COVER

Activists Cece Cox and Leslie McMurray join others for Advocacy Day in Austin. Photo by David Taffet. Design by Kevin Thomas.



14



15

## departments

- |    |                |    |             |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6  | The Gay Agenda | 21 | Best Bets   |
| 8  | News           | 24 | Jenny Block |
| 13 | Voices         | 25 | Scene       |
| 14 | Life+Style     | 28 | MarketPlace |

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## Commissioners honor Don Maison for years of service

Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price presented a proclamation at the March 19 Commissioners Court meeting honoring retired AIDS Services of Dallas CEO Don Maison for his years of service to Dallas.

Price credited Maison for ending police harassment at Dallas gay bars in 1979 by defending and gaining acquittals for a group of men arrested at Village Station for dancing. He thanked Maison for providing housing for people with HIV at a time when no one wanted them in their neighborhood while at the same time improving the neighborhood by opening Hillcrest House and other neighboring properties acquired by ASD.

Price joked that Maison even showed courage — or was just a little crazy — when, as an

attorney, he took on Price as a client.

The other commissioners joined in praising Maison. Commissioner Elba Garcia talked about working with Maison on zoning and other issues when she was on the Dallas City Council. She joked about how good Maison's Spanish had become.

Republican Commissioner J.J. Koch, the newest member of the Commissioners Court, said Maison's work made Dallas a better place to live.

Peggy Lundy, Koch's chief of staff who said she's known Maison for 20 years, stood to honor him with a group that included current and former ASD residents, ASD staff, heads of other AIDS service agencies and LGBT and other community organizations.

— David Taffet

## HRC planning Democratic presidential debate in October

As we continue to struggle through the decidedly anti-LGBT Trump administration, LGBTQ Nation reported Tuesday, March 19, that presidential candidates in the 2020 Democratic primary will appear at a debate, hosted by the Human Rights Campaign focusing specifically on LGBT issues. The forum is set for Oct. 11, which is National Coming Out Day.

According to the article by Alex Bollinger,

HRC representatives have not yet said how the debate will be formatted or who will moderate. HRC hosted Visible Vote '08 in 2007 and a Democratic primary forum in 2004, but not in 2016.

Candidates will have to get at least 1 percent support in three different national polls, and will have to have more than 65,000 donors from 20 different states to qualify for the forum. Those are the same requirements for participating in other primary debates.

— Tammye Nash

## Once-a-month HIV treatment may be available next year

A new once-a-month injectable medication to treat HIV may be available in 2020, according to Fierce Pharma.

The two-drug regimen is manufactured by Glaxo Smith Klein's Viiv division. The injection combines Viiv's cabotegravir with Johnson & Johnson's rilpivirine.

Two studies show that the monthly injection has a "similar efficacy, safety and tolerability" as a current three-drug daily regimen. Patient reaction in the studies showed they universally preferred a monthly treatment to daily.

— David Taffet

## 'Beaver' hits 'Prime' time

*Beaver*, a short film written and produced by Cinna Monroe and directed by Israel Luna

and starring a host of local entertainers, is now available on Amazon Prime. What's it about? Well, "With the odds against her, middle-aged Cinna Monroe jumps back in the dating pool with just-out-of-prison hottie Skeeter. Can she keep her alcoholic mother, belligerent children and arch nemesis from spoiling her fun?"

The 30-minute movie, which won an award at the 2018 Q Cinema film fest, is "all about redneck women in Beaver, Okla., searching for love and sanity," and all of the female roles are played either by drag queens or transgender women. Monroe's plan is to make this movie the beginning of a 90-minute feature film, coming out next year.

The cast includes Krystal Summers, Cassie Nova, Edna Jean Robinson, Gloria Devine, Patti Le Plae Safe, Star Michaels and "a host of other Dallas talent, both in front of and behind the camera."

Monroe also wrote and produced a seven-minute short, titled *It's Not Over Yet* and starring Krystal Summers, created to bring awareness to the issue of anti-transgender violence.

Monroe told Dallas Voice that *Beaver* is free to watch for those who have Amazon Prime and others can rent it for \$2.99. And, she noted, "Positive reviews help us with the Amazon logarithm for increased visibility."

I've seen it, and I laughed all the way through. It's a total hoot. Check it out.

— Tammye Nash



David M. Lee, M.D. • Marc A. Tribble, M.D. • Donald A. Graneto, M.D. • Eric Klappholz, NP  
Peter Triporo, NP • Jason Vercher, PA-C • Vanessa Bludau, NP  
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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.

## MARCH

### • March 22: Spring Fling

Thrive throws Spring Fling for those 50+ at 7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedat Springs Road. Free.

### • March 23: AIDS Walk South Dallas

Walkers gather at 8 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd. \$25 individual walker. \$30 Walker with pet. Vendor space \$50.

### • March 23: HRC Spring Lunch

Mary Marshall Clark speaks about HRC's partnership with Columbia University to document the history of HRC, and Rebecca Marques gives a legislative update from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, 1601 Elm St. Federal Club members free. Guests \$35. Unaccompanied guests \$50 advance/\$55 at the door.

### • March 23: Prime Timers

Prime Timers DFW 29th chapter anniversary with bingo and door prizes at 4 p.m. social and 5 p.m. dinner at Dunston's, 5423 W. Lovers Lane.

### • March 23: Family Fotos

Austin Gartman Photography hosts spring fling benefiting GALA. Reserve a spot at [AustinGartmanStudios.com](http://AustinGartmanStudios.com)

from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Venue at Frisco Town Center, 8849 Carroll Circle, Frisco.

### • March 24: Prime Timers

Visit then games from 2:30-5 p.m. in Carrollton hosted by Harry and Tommy.

### • March 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.

### • March 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.

### • March 26: Dallas Mavs Pride Night

Mavs v. Sacramento Kings. A portion of each ticket sold benefits Resource Center at 7:30 p.m. at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Groupmatics. [events/event/MavsPride19](http://events/event/MavsPride19).

### • March 28: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Thai Star, 14833 Midway Road, Addison.

### • March 29: Transgender Day of Visibility

Trans-cendence and Human Rights Campaign co-host a discussion on why trans men seem invisible in the community with speakers Katie Sprinkle, Leslie McMurray, Finn Jones

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); 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](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and devel-

### Heritage Oak Cliff is hosting candidate forums:

**District 4 on March 26** from 6:30-8 p.m. at Paul Dunbar Library, 2008 E. Kiest Blvd.

**District 8 on April 2** from 6:30-8 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 W. Wheatland Road.

**Mayoral forum on April 8** from 6:30-8 p.m. at Cliff Temple Baptist Church, 134 W. 10th St.

**DISD District 7** on April 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Tyler St. Methodist Church, 927 W. 10th St.

**DISD District 5** on April 16 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Moorland YMCA, 907 E. Ledbetter Drive.

and Wulf James with reception at 5:30 p.m. and panel at 6 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St.

### • March 30: Toast to Life:

#### Bootlegger's Ball

Steve Kemble hosts with the Singapore Slingers and DJ Blake Ward from 7-11 p.m. at the Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. Tickets at [MyResourceCenter.org/ToastToLife](http://MyResourceCenter.org/ToastToLife).

### • March 30: Casino Night

Tyler Area Gays presents Wild, Wild West at Holiday Inn, 5701 S. Broadway, Tyler. Need 3 people to sponsor tables at \$250 each. Contact TAG at [info@TylerAreaGays.com](mailto:info@TylerAreaGays.com).

### • March 30: TAG Ball

Wild, Wild West is the theme of this year's TAG Ball and fundraiser at Holiday Inn, 5701 S. Broadway, Tyler.

### • March 30: Different Strokes Golf Association

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 10 a.m., at Bear Creek East, 3500 Bear Creek Ct, Dallas. \$60 Includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at [DSGADallas.org](http://DSGADallas.org) or email [communications@dsgadallas.org](mailto:communications@dsgadallas.org)

### • March 31: Transgender Day of Visibility

Moderated panel with variety of speakers under the T umbrella plus community from organizations throughout the LGBTQ community offering resources and information at 5 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

### • March 31: Journey into Parenthood

Join North Dallas Doula Associates for a LGBT couples low intervention, unmedicated, natural birth class from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at North Dallas Doula Associates, 107 Murray St. [Tinyurl.com/PreparedChildbirthLGBTQParents](http://Tinyurl.com/PreparedChildbirthLGBTQParents). \$125 per couple.

## APRIL

### • April 2: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

### • April 3: Mayoral candidate forum

The North Texas GLBT Chamber co-sponsors a mayoral candidate forum from 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m. at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, 2222 Welborn St.

• **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 **Jake Ballinger** and **Cason Esquivel** from **Transgender Day of Visibility** in Fort Worth; **Dallas Unwired** meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; **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

ops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Indepen-

dence 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.



• **April 4: Oak Cliff Earth Day**  
Grass roots Earth Day festival from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lake Cliff Park, 300 E. Colorado Blvd.

• **April 4: Catalog Preview Party**  
An exclusive first look at live and silent auction packages that will be featured in the Cotes du Coeur auction. RSVP by March 28 at [dallasrsvp@heart.org](mailto:dallasrsvp@heart.org). VouV Meeting and Event Space, 4445 Sigma Road.

• **April 6: No Tie Dinner**  
Dress is informal for the silent auction and dessert party that benefit AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. Tickets at [tickets.notiedinner.org](http://tickets.notiedinner.org).

• **April 6: Taste of Italy**  
Annual wine tasting fundraiser includes four one-ounce pours of Italian wine paired with chef-prepared food samples plus a swag bag with each paid entry

from 2-5 p.m. at Embrace UCC, 7500 Glenview Drive Suite B, Richland Hills. \$30-40. [EmbraceUCC.com](http://EmbraceUCC.com).

• **April 6: LGBTQ+Latinx Leadership Summit**  
LULAC, HRC and AIDS Healthcare Foundation learn about pro-equality legislation, health care, culture and history from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Ana G. Méndez University System - Dallas Area Campus, 3010 N. Stemmons Freeway.

• **April 7: Miss Red Pageant**  
Dallas Red Foundation presents the 4th annual Miss Red Foundation at 6 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **April 9: 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.

## pet of the week / BROCK



Meet **Brock**, a 5-year-old, black pit bull/chow-chow mix weighing 50 pounds. He's a playful, fun-loving guy who likes going on adventures, playing fetch,

going for walks, running and making new friends. He lives for attention and is working on learning basic commands. He walks well on his leash and does great on car rides. If you're looking for a handsome pup to spend your life with, he's the one for you! He is heartworm positive, but his treatments will be FREE once he is adopted. He'll just need to take it easy and snuggle while

he recovers. Brock has been neutered and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today! #168660

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# Advocating at the Capitol

LGBT community and allies lobby a friendlier legislature on an array of issues

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The last Texas Legislature was all bath-rooms, all the time in an all-out assault on the transgender community. This session, several hundred advocates that converged of the Capitol on Monday, March 18, for All In For Equality Advocacy Day met a less hostile group of lawmakers dealing with a broader array of issues.

Equality Texas Interim Executive Director Samantha Smoot warned that although a number of the most hostile legislators were gone this session, Lieutenant Gov. Dan Patrick remains determined to include anti-LGBT language in legislation coming out of the Senate and is using stealth tactics to do so.

In many legislative offices, staff welcomed a two-page handout prepared by Equality Texas that separated the pro-LGBT bills from the anti-LGBT bills. With more than 4,000 bills filed, keeping track of which ones would help and which ones would hurt the LGBT community can be as confusing for seasoned lawmakers as well as for freshman legislators.

Advocacy Day has become a biennial tradition in Austin after beginning in the 1980s as a march up Congress Street to the Capitol to showcase LGBT visibility. The issues highlighted at the time included repeal of the sodomy law and passage of hate crime legislation.

This evolved into lobbying as LGBT marchers who filled the streets in downtown Austin on a Sunday began to stay over to speak to their legislators on Monday. Although Democrats held the ma-

ajority in both houses through the 1990s, lobbyists struggled to find a majority to pass a hate crime law. They worked more than 10 years before the Texas hate crimes act was signed into law.

And the sodomy law — which criminalized private, consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same gender and which was held unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2003 — remains on the books today.

On Monday, LGBT advocates had an array of bills to discuss with legislators, and they gathered at the First United Methodist Church on Lavaca Street, a block from the Capitol, where organizers held training sessions on advocating for equality for LGBT issues. Human Rights Campaign field organizers led the training sessions, teaching people who had come from around the state effective methods of communicating with legislators and their staff.

“Tell your own personal story,” the HRC trainer explained. “Talk about a challenge you’ve experienced.”

Before going over to the Capitol, attendees paired off to practice telling their stories and then asking for support either for a specific bill or for supporting equality.

At noon, several hundred people gathered on the south steps of the Capitol for the All In for Equality rally organized by Equality Texas, Texas ALCU, Texas Freedom Network, Transgender Education Network of Texas and HRC.

TFN president Kathy Miller said, “We can’t allow religion to be misused to attack LGBT people.”

She was referring to the so-called “religious exemption” bills that have been filed. They would allow discrimination in broad categories as long as the discrimination is justified by religious belief.

One bill filed just before the filing deadline on March 15 would allow doctors and other healthcare professionals to refuse to deliver treatment because of religious objections.



Equality Texas Interim Executive Director Samantha Smoot at a rally on the Capitol steps on Monday. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

“Dan Patrick has made discrimination against LGBT people a legislative priority,” Miller said.

Selena Xie, representative of the Austin EMS Association, told the crowd, “These bills go against everything I have learned and believed in.” She said as a paramedic, she was required to take classes in medical ethics that taught everyone must be treated equally.

Emmett Schelling, executive director of TENT, said, “Kids need a state where they feel safe. We can’t let our community be used for political gain.”

Angel Bonilla, the first openly-trans person to compete on *The Voice*, told her story and sang to the crowd.

Three of the five LGBT members of the LGBT Legislative Caucus spoke at the rally. Rep. Erin Zwiener, a freshman who is bisexual, told her story and reassured the crowd about the anti-LGBT legislation.

“None of us got here by being timid,” she said, “and we’re not going to govern timid.”

In legislative offices, LGBT advocates had the most success just handing out information from Equality Texas that separated the good bills from the bad. Even experienced legislative staffs said they were having trouble keeping track of the massive volume of bills.

Rep. Yvonne Davis has represented her Oak Cliff district since 1992. Her staff made extra copies of the handout for a group that visited her office while discussing several of the bills.

Rep. Garnet Coleman has represented

For trans activist Leslie McMurray’s report on her visit to Austin on Advocacy Day, and for more photos by David Taffet and Leslie McMurray, visit [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com)

his Houston district since 1991. He wrote a bill that deals with gender marker changes. Currently only judges in Dallas, Travis and Bexar counties routinely approve those corrections. Staff in his office was happy to meet a group from Resource Center. Leslie McMurray, a transgender employee at Resource Center, offered to come back to Austin on Wednesday to testify for the bill.

Resource Center Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell spoke to staff in a number of offices about a bill to make the so-called “gay panic defense” illegal in criminal trials. That tactic, already illegal in a number of states, allows a defendant to get away with murder by claiming the victim, who was the same gender as the defendant, made an unwanted pass at them or the defendant found out the victim was transgender.

While Rep. Celia Israel filed a bill to make it illegal to use the discredited practice of reparative therapy on a minor, Dallas County freshman Rep. Terry Meza filed a bill to add criminal penalties to the practice. She said she was hopeful for a committee hearing.

Rep. Jessica Gonzalez is one of two lesbians elected to the legislature from Dallas County. Her legislative director, Laurie Roberts, and her chief of staff, Adam



# Stonewall Dallas issues endorsements

FROM STAFF REPORTS

**S**tonewall Democrats of Dallas on Thursday, March 21, issued a list of candidates the organization is endorsing in upcoming municipal elections in Dallas County. The group made the endorsements after several days of interviews with candidates asking for the group's backing. The endorsements were ratified by the general membership at its March meeting this week.

These are the endorsements:

**City of Dallas Mayor & City Council**

Mayor: Scott Griggs  
District 1: Chad West  
District 2: Adam Medrano  
District 4: Karon Flewellen  
District 5: Jaime Resendez  
District 6: Omar Narvaez  
District 7 (co-endorsement): Adam Bazaldua and Joseph Thomas  
District 8: Tennell Atkins  
District 9: Erin Moore  
District 10: DeDe Alexander  
District 12: Cookie Peadon  
District 14: Philip Kingston

**Richardson City Council**

Place 3: Dan Barrios  
Place 4: Johnny Lanzillo  
Place 5: Mauri Long



**Irving City Council**

Place 2: Shayan Elahi

**Cedar Hill City Council**

Place 5: Victor Gonzalez

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Brian Smith



# Candidate hopes Oak Cliff will 'go West'

After serving on commissions, boards and community organizations, Chad West would like to sit in the horseshoe

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas City Council District 1 candidate Chad West decided to run for political office about four years ago and prepared himself by working with community organizations, non-profits and on city boards.

District 1 covers North Oak Cliff, roughly from I-30 to Illinois Avenue and I-35W to Westmoreland Street.

West served on the Citizens Bonds Task Force, which recommended how bond funds should be allocated, and he advocated for keeping quite a bit of the funds in parks and trails.

Before that, he served on the Bond Campaign Committee, a job he described as going into the community to sell it.

West also served on the Permit and License Appeal Board.

Most recently, West has been a member of the City Plan Commission. Serving on the Park Board is much easier because everyone loves parks, he said. But the Plan Commission? "I'm the guy, no matter what I do, someone's going to get mad at me," he said.

West joined the Plan Commission after an historic building near Bishop Arts was torn down and replaced with a CVS. He said his approach on the commission

has been to keep things more neighborhood-friendly, and that he prefers to have developers get input from the neighborhood before presenting a plan.

West said he finds that often, when a developer presents plans showing the neighborhood redeveloped, the neighborhood opposes the entire project.

One of West's first forays into neighborhood activities in Oak Cliff started 10 years ago when he and his partner, Brian Bleeker, started Dash for the Beads, a Mardi Gras-themed 5K run that has since raised more than \$300,000 for Oak Cliff schools.

As an attorney, West served on the board of Lambda Legal and helped turn the Lawrence v. Texas Dinner into the highly successful Landmark Dinner, which has become that organization's premier fundraiser.

As a candidate, West's campaign mantra has been "Neighborhoods First," not surprising for a candidate that wants to be successful in an area with some of the city's strongest neighborhoods and the largest concentration of active neighborhood associations.

"I want to protect neighborhoods above and beyond all else," he said.

West said he favors long-term zoning that will protect single-family neighborhoods. That doesn't mean he's against development or against adding multi-family housing in certain areas, especially transit areas. He used Westmoreland Station, the Oak Cliff terminus of DART's Red Line, as an example.

Acres of old and deteriorating industrial buildings surrounded by single-family neighborhoods cluster on one side

of the Westmoreland Station. He'd like to see that industrial land redeveloped into denser housing and retail closer to the station that stair-steps down to new single-family housing adjoining current neighborhoods.

West's other issues are related.

"We have to address the affordable housing crisis in Dallas," he said, explaining that can-

didates across the city are campaigning on that issue because it's hurting every district in Dallas. To address it, he'd like to put together a comprehensive housing plan.

He'd also like to require agencies to work together when it comes to road repair. "Don't pave then dig," he said, noting that often, the city will resurface a street, and, just weeks later, a utility will dig up the newly-paved road for underground maintenance. All the money spent on the street repairs ends up wasted, and the utility never returns the street to its previous condition, West said.

"Curb bump-outs, bike lanes, sewers, utilities — do it all at once," he said.

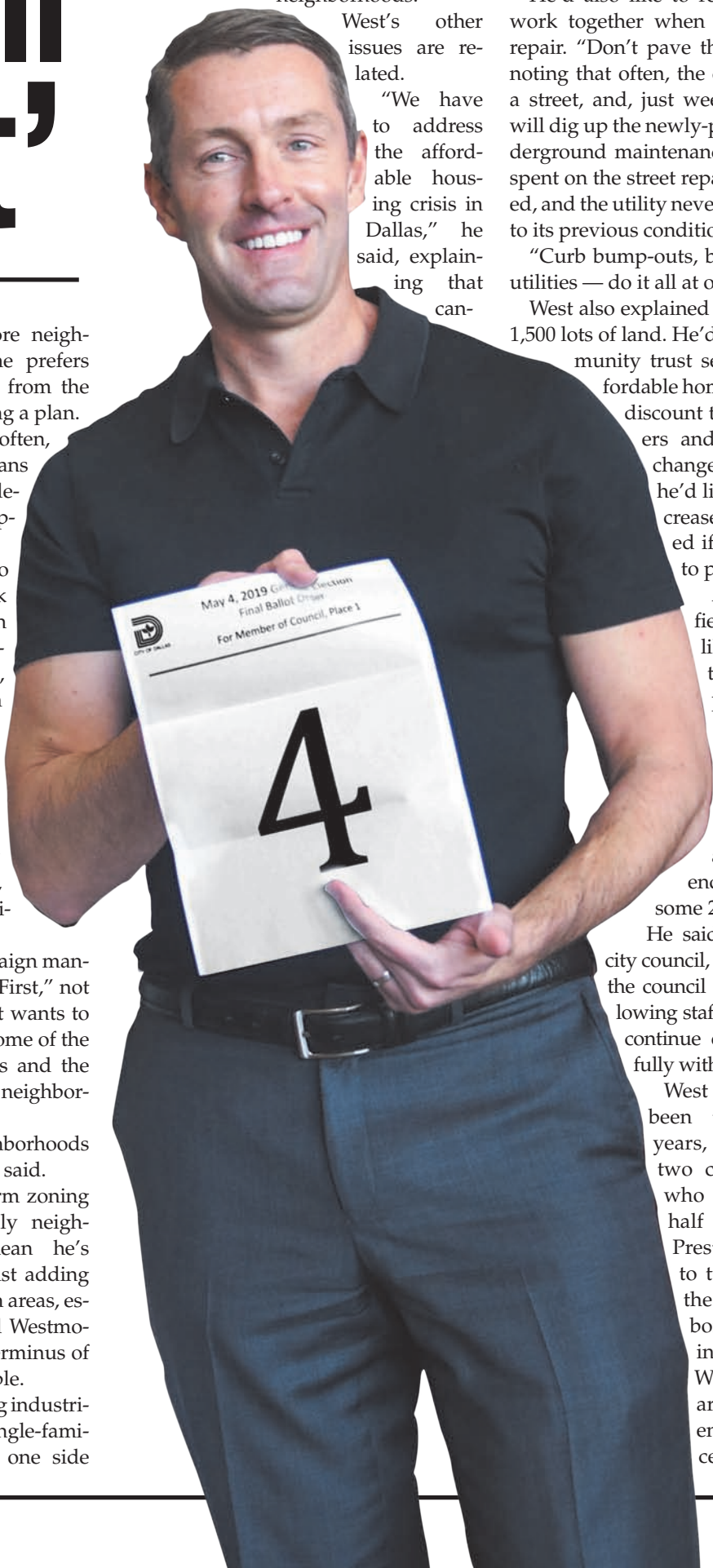
West also explained the city has about 1,500 lots of land. He'd like to see a community trust set up to build affordable homes sold at a major discount to police, firefighters and teachers. In exchange for the discount, he'd limit the annual increase that can be added if the house is sold to prevent flipping.

As for LGBT-certified businesses, he'd like to add them to the category of approved minority vendors.

West was born in Paducah, Ky. He's an army combat veteran, and that's how he ended up in Texas some 20 years ago.

He said if elected to the city council, he would serve on the council full-time while allowing staff in his law firm to continue operating successfully without him there.

West and Bleeker have been together for 10 years, and they have two children: Victoria, who is three-and-a-half years old, and Preston, who's about to turn two. Because the children were born via surrogate in California, both West and Bleeker are named as parents on the birth certificates. ■





# Ask Candy



**Candy Marcum**  
Advice Columnist

Where do we go from here?

Dear Candy,

I've been in love with my boyfriend for the past three years, but very unhappy with the long distance between us. He accepted an amazing job opportunity and had to relocate several states away within the first year of our dating. It took us about a month to agree that it was the best decision for him and the

best decision for us (at the time) to still try and make it work.

However, a part of me believes breaking up with him and seeing other men will make me feel better. Meeting other men like me in such a small town is difficult, and I can only imagine how better our relationship might've been if I was able to relocate with him. Candy, is it time for both of us to move on?

— Questioning a Long-Distance Relationship

Dear Questioning,

That you are asking yourself if you should date other men lets you know something's amiss. Relationships are not static — they move and change. The decision you two made three years ago needs to be revisited today, and revisited together. Keeping this long-distance relationship because the pickings at home are slim is not a reason to stay in this relationship.

By dating other men, you will find some things out about yourself. Maybe you will find out you like being single and dating, or maybe you'll find out it's time to move to the town where your boyfriend lives. Or maybe you'll find out the change you want to make has nothing

to do with dating or a boyfriend, but everything to do with where your life and career are going.

I suggest you take a good look at yourself and how your life is going. Make a plan to live a more fulfilling, meaningful and fun life. Then look around and see who's in it with you and where you ended up living.

— Good Luck, Candy

Dear Candy,

Am I just old fashioned? When I was growing up, and throughout most of my adult life, the term "queer" was used only to humiliate, denigrate, bully and hurt. It was a weapon used to wound the most vulnerable. "Queer" and "faggot" were simply never okay to use in public, and rightfully so.

Essentially, the word "queer" was our community's "N-word."

Yes, sometimes "queer" has been used in jest among friends (just as the N-word has become among some blacks), but never in reference to our community at large, and especially never by the straight world in reference to our community (i.e. the media, as it was today on NPR ... "queer politics" ...

"queer culture" ... "a queer celebrity"). Excuse me??!

Even reputable rainbow community organizations are now being goaded into adding "Q" to "LGBT" for fear someone might feel not so much "not included" as "not specifically singled out" as such. Many in my generation (60 years old-plus) are tempted to depart from any organization that embraces, very unnecessarily, this well-recognized term of derision.

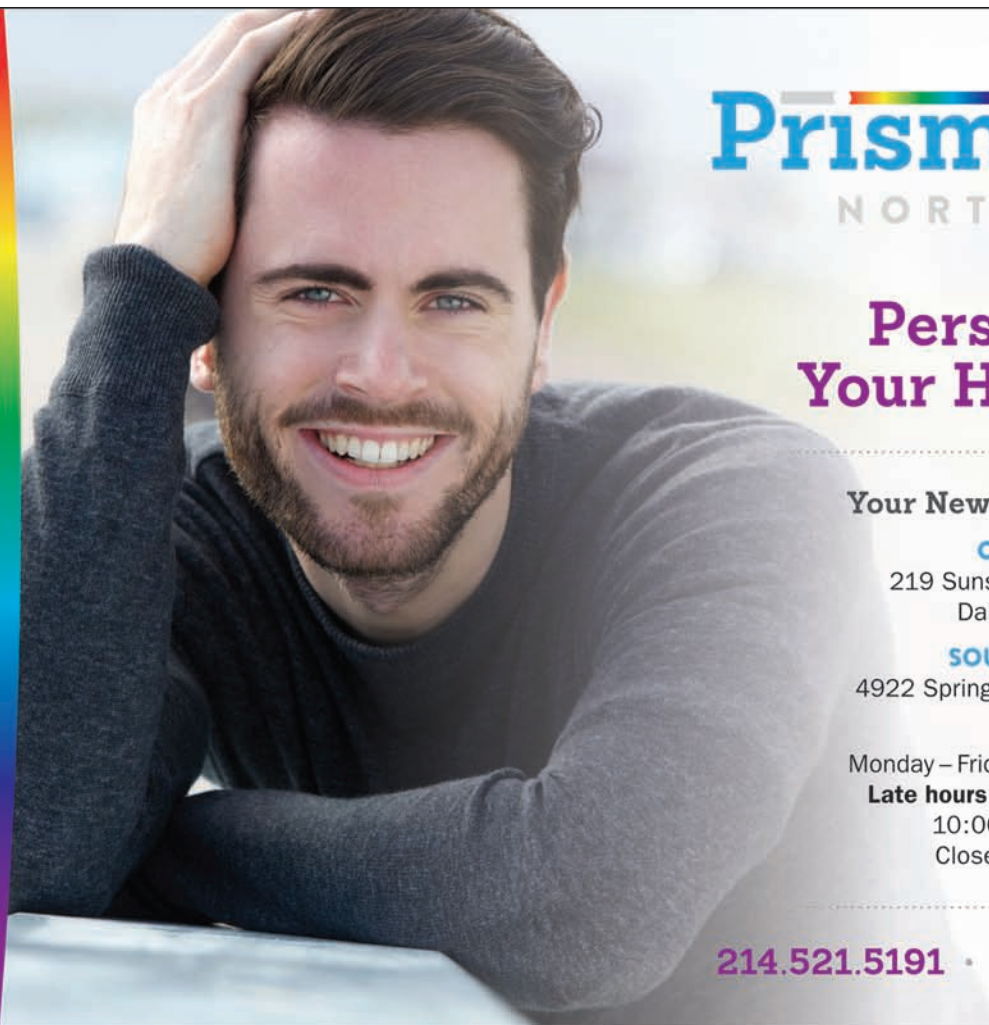
Should I just "get over it," as my young friends advise? Are they just trying to "take back" the word? (When was it ever "robbed" from us, by the way?) Or should I ask my wonderful black friends and colleagues to just "get over" their objection to the public use of the "N-word" in light of the parallel fact that some members of the African-American community refer to themselves, and their buds, with that term? Is it okay to use the "N-word" to describe the greater black community? Of course not. But I don't understand the real difference.

— Anonymous and Over 60

ASK CANDY, Next Page

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## ADVOCATING

From Page 8

Goodrum, explained many of the 28 bills Gonzalez filed and the implications they could have for the LGBT community. Some of her legislation she crafted by working with Dallas District Attorney John Creuzot.

One of those bills relates to victims of human trafficking. Gonzalez wants to deal with it by changing the emphasis in prosecution from the sex worker to the person purchasing the service. Currently

there are penalty enhancements starting at the fourth arrest, and the average sex worker is arrested nine times.

Gonzalez's bill would eliminate that enhancement.

Roberts said a disproportionate number of people prosecuted as sex workers are LGBT. Some are youth thrown out of their homes, and some are trans people fired from their jobs when they transition. They enter sex work to survive.

Reps. Jessica Gonzalez, left, and Mary Gonzalez

Other bills are designed to keep older people in their homes by adjusting the homestead exemption in designated preservation districts. Again, a disproportionate number of LGBT community members have been involved in preserving older neighborhoods. As their neighborhoods have gentrified, taxes have increased and have become unaffordable.

Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen promised there would be no bathroom



bills this session, while Gov. Greg Abbott said such a bill wasn't on his legislative agenda, and even Lt. Gov. Patrick said he wouldn't pursue a bathroom bill because "we already won that battle." And yet, Patrick is still hard at work in stealth mode to get discrimination added into Texas laws.

A bill that would take away a city's right to write ordinances on certain subjects had specifically excluded nondiscrimination ordinances from the list. But in a Senate committee, that provision was removed.

If the bill passes, nondiscrimination ordinances would be revoked — even in a city like Dallas where protection isn't just afforded by ordinance but in the city charter.



## ASK CANDY

From Previous Page

Dear Anonymous,

You bring up a subject that is being discussed in all LGBTQ+ communities in our country. Thank you for helping the conversation appear in this column.

That is what is important — the conversation.

Our community is a tapestry of voices, diversity, identities and emotions that deserve to be heard. Your voice deserves to be heard, too. When diversity of ideas come together, the best decisions result.

Therefore, it is important you stay engaged and active in the conversation. I'd like to challenge you to stay active in the community organizations to which you belong and to ask your 60-year-old-plus friends to do the same. LGBTQ+ people do not disappear at age 55. LGBTQ+ organizations need to hear our voices, our needs, our beliefs and our ideas — plus, I too am an older lesbian active in our community.

Keep us in the conversation by your presence and activism. We 60-year-old-plus people always need a seat at the table!

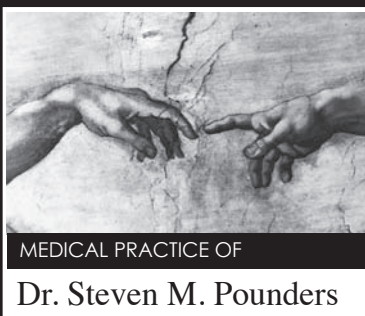
— Good Luck, Candy



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# The Connotation: Defending Democratic Socialism

Recently there was an article in Common Sense Press, a website established in 2018 “to give real views of the day without pressure from outside forces,” entitled “America’s Growing Love affair with Socialism.” The anonymous author expressed a view nullifying the Democratic Socialist movement happening right now in the liberal community. They note specific, extreme examples of socialism to invalidate the very altruistic hopes of elected Democratic Socialists and their constituents. This, among other fallacies, distracts from the progressive intention to shape the future of the United States.

The Oxford Dictionary defines socialism as “a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.” We’ve seen examples of consequences the “Growing Love Affair” author writes about: Stalin-era land seizures in Russia and the inadequate healthcare conditions common in Cuba. The author even goes so far as to provide a picture — next to the section about Cuba — of an elderly man on a bed in an obviously unsanitary room, possibly with fecal matter on the floor. But the author fails to give any indication of when or where the photograph was taken.

Quite lazy journalism, if you ask me.

These are the kinds of consequences the author warns will happen by leaning toward socialism in America. This black-and-white reasoning does not account for the reality, policy and progress made in this country, which would prevent such domestic dilemmas. The law of eminent domain from the “takings clauses” of the Fifth Amendment stops these kinds of land and personal property seizures. Also, the Department of Health and Human Services has branches all over the U.S. to regulate sanitation in medical facilities.

The anonymous author also writes, “... my favorite is the term of endearment bandied about, that of Democratic Socialist. I find the term quite ironic, not to mention it being an oxymoron.” Assuming we are using the true denotation of the word socialist, then yes, they would be correct in calling it an oxymoron. But there is such a thing in literary arts called a “connotation.”

The author then adds, “In a true in-



**Joey Moreno**  
Contributing Columnist

stance of socialism, the people have no voice.” I don’t question the truth of that statement, but the use of its meaning constitutes a baseless argument. The author assumes this is the goal of like-minded progressives brandishing the Democratic Socialist platform — or at least a potential consequence. Although it is not explicitly stated, it is indirectly implied.

A simple web search of the phrase “democratic socialism” shows it is not pure socialism. That’s why the word “democratic” is in front of “socialism.” The beauty of language is that new words can be created in an instant. For instance, “bootylicious,” once a slang term, is now officially in the Oxford Dictionary.

To claim democratic socialism as a term is invalid because the two words on their own have different meanings is absurd and shows ignorance of the very elementary concept of the compound word. The author’s argument is about as strong as saying there can be no such thing as ice cream because ice is solid and everyone knows cream is liquid.

The official website of the Democratic Socialists of America makes the new connotation of socialism and the true meaning of democratic socialism clear: “Democratic socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically — to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few. To achieve a more just society, many structures of our government and economy must be radically transformed through greater economic and social democracy so that ordinary Americans can participate in the many decisions that affect our lives.”

Any notion suggesting a slight lean toward more socialist values is a detriment to American society does not take into account the improvements made by socialist-type policies of the past. For example, Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal helped save our ancestors from

the Great Depression. During this time, Congress raised the top marginal tax rate from 25 percent to 63 percent, not far off from U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s 70 percent suggestion.



Make no mistake, a socialist policy is a policy in which the distribution of goods and services is the shared responsibility of a group of people. When there is resource inequality in that group, those who have more must share what is appropriate, which means sharing more than those with less.

This is exactly what FDR’s New Deal was meant to do, and it did restore prosperity to Americans.

What we Democratic Socialists are facing now, with yet another instance of vast income inequality, is not just restoring prosperity, but also restoring equal opportunity to marginalized persons. We are faced with the task of making legislation that keeps our citizens safe from gun violence, racial discrimination and bigotry and that allows families to provide for their loved ones without the threat of hunger, homelessness or untreated illness.

Democratic socialism is not a trend. It is an ideal which has become more prevalent with progressives because, through actual work and comprehensive lawmaking, one would see how these actions could enrich our country, and not just financially. Without fallacious over-generalizations, through doing research and looking into the inner workings of such possible advancements, one might think twice before slandering a word and the people who champion its meaning.

Joey Moreno is currently enrolled in El Centro College as a PR/Literary Arts double major. He has worked in the Dallas high-end restaurant industry for more than three years and is a new member of the Stonewall Democrats.



# The creme DeLaCreme

The terminally delightful  
Drag Racer will now  
roast the haters

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

When BenDeLaCreme steps into his hotel to take a phone call, he has just finished a show in one city, is on the way to another city, and admits he is not sure *where* he is. But the old-school tour-bus style of transport beats the alternative.

"It's pretty fun — a bunch of queens rolling around together," he says. "It beats running from airport to airport."

That's the signature glass-half-full approach to life that has defined BenDeLaCreme (the drag persona of

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Benjamin Putnam) since he first shot to attention on Season 6 of *RuPaul's Drag Race* (he was eliminated on the penultimate episode; Bianca Del Rio won that season). And so it calls into question why the rose-colored performer would sign on to the tour of Hater's Roast: The Shady Tour, in which a rotating lineup of *Drag Race* alums (among them Willam, Latrice Royale and Thorgy Thor) throw shade at each other. Is that a good fit for BenDeLa?

"Well, ya know, the kindness is how they don't see it coming," he purrs. "It's definitely true that it's not exactly on-brand for BenDeLa, but some people may remember from *All Stars* that I'm pretty good at reading people. If you're sweet and innocent, you can get away with a lot more."

■ DELACREME Page 20





# Sophomore **jinx**

Jordan Peele doesn't capture lightning in a bottle with 'Us'



Lupita Nyong'o plays a desperate mother in 'Us.'

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Part of the inventiveness of Jordan Peele's last film, *Get Out*, was how it took the general premise of a classic horror film (*The Stepford Wives*) and re-cast it as a contemporary rumination on race in America. At its heart, *Get Out* wasn't even a horror film, but a sick comedy.

For his follow-up, *Us*, — which debuted earlier this month at the SXSW Film Festival — he has added substantially to his lineup of inspirations. You won't need to strain hard to catch intentional references to *The Birds*, *Jaws*,

*The Strangers*, *Straw Dogs*, *Dead Ringer*, *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*, *The Purge*, *C.H.U.D.*, *The Lady from Shanghai*, *Bird Box*, *The Shining*, *The Walking Dead* ... did I miss any? Probably ... which is the main problem with *Us*.

Peele has moved from a slickly efficient thriller to a convoluted, if often scary, portmanteau of ideas — too many ideas, as it turns out, to weave a coherent narrative. By incorporating so many homages, he's muddled his story to the point where you feel overwhelmed. It's difficult to remain viscerally scared when the filmmaker is distracting you

■ JINX Page 18

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# Hüsker düde

Bob Mould wants to (Sunshine) Rock your world



For fans of gay indie rock legend Bob Mould, whose solo albums have borne titles such as *Black Sheets of Rain* and *Beauty & Ruin*, the name of his latest, *Sunshine Rock* (Merge), might come as something of a surprise. But it's a completely fitting moniker, especially since the sun rises in the names of four of the record's songs. Sonically, the album is also more radiant, a deliberate shift on the part of the man also known for his previous bands Hüsker Dü and Sugar. But fear not, there is still plenty of loud, crackling guitar on *Sunshine Rock*.

Mould, whose tour brings him to North Texas for a set at the Granada Theater early next month (April 2), took time out to discuss his move to Germany, his global outlook and what fans can expect at his concert.

— Gregg Shapiro

**Dallas Voice:** The sun plays a starring role on your new album *Sunshine Rock*, appearing in the title track, "Sunny Love Song," "Camp Sunshine" and "Western Sunset." Please say something about becoming a sun worshipper on this album. Bob Mould: [Laughs] I think that





after a couple of albums in a row that were informed by a lot of darker, heavier incidents, it was a conscious effort to write to the brightness, to write to the light in whatever form it takes. The sun is the easy one because it keeps everything going forward for all of us.

**The songs “Lost Faith” and “The Final Years” have what I would describe as a dance energy, despite the seriousness of the lyrics. What was the thinking behind that?**

Oddly enough, those were two of the final songs written for the album.

They were both written in Berlin in February and March. That would be the global outlook on those, specifically. With “Lost Faith,” that was where the tempo landed. The same with “The Final Years.” Maybe those would lend themselves to the dance-floor because they have a little more room to breathe and tell the story. It’s interesting that you paired them up because they were born right next to each other in the same place.

**Speaking of Berlin, you are dividing your time between there and San Francisco. Did you speak German before you moved to Berlin, and if not, how is your German now?** [Laughs] *Ich spreche eine bisschen Deutsch.* It’s very poor actually. My German is not good at all. I can read a little bit, and I can understand a little bit. I can speak a tiny bit, enough to get by. Fortunately for me, so many people in Berlin speak English. It’s not really a problem. The frustrating part for me, and I’ve got to work on this is when I try to speak German, after a couple of sentences I get waved off [and they say], “No, let’s just speak English.” I’m like, “Oh! I’ll never get to practice! You’re going to make me go to immersion, aren’t you?”

**Alison Chesley, who can be heard playing**

**cello on “Western Sunset.” previously appeared on *The Last Dog and Pony Show*. She was in the bands Jason & Alison and Verbow with your longtime band member Jason Narducy, and you produced Verbow’s debut album and toured with them. How did this musical reunion on “Western Sunset” come about?** A few weeks before me and Jason and Jon [Wurster] were going to start working on the record in Oak-

land, I woke up one morning and said, “This record needs strings. I need more melodies on this record.” I had a lot of place-holder melodies in my demos. I typically use cellos

or Hammond organs for those kinds of things. I started building the melodies out to see what would happen. After days of sitting with those songs and adding a lot more parts to them, I had all these big string arrangements. I contacted Alison and sent her my very simple scores and she, being more of a master of sheet music than I, was able to get everything in shape. We had another arranger take a look at everything, and we got all of the scores super shiny and clean. The Prague TV Orchestra folks spent a day recording all of the strings alongside the basic tracks that we sent them. That’s where Alison came in. I had her come out to San Francisco at the end of the project to add some extra melodies to “Western Sunset.” She was a real key player in getting the string arrangements up to speed for the orchestra. Not only playing, but really helping with shining up all that stuff.

**Sunshine Rock contains a cover of Shocking Blue’s “Send Me A Postcard.” After all these years, why did you choose to include a cover tune and why that song in particular?** When the three of us [Bob, Jason and Jon] got together

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Winston Duke and Shahadi Wright Josephs are two of the bright spots in 'Us.'

## ■ JINX From Page 15

with so much detritus.

The story begins in 1986, when young Addy gets lost in an amusement park and encounters her Doppelgänger — a (perhaps) evil twin who scares the bejeebus out of her. Three decades later, the adult Adelaide (Lupita Nyong'o) is a happily-married mother of two, on vacation with hubbie Gabe (Winston Duke), daughter Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and son Jason (Evan Alex). When they visit the same boardwalk where Addy was frightened 30 years earlier, she has flashbacks and suspects something sinister is afoot, and bam! Moments later her prophecy is fulfilled: Their summer home is beset by four terrifying strangers, each of whom look exactly like her family. They are the shadow people, the Tethered Ones — underground dwellers who are seemingly soulless facsimiles of their above-ground counterparts.

"We are Americans," Shadow Adelaide (identified as Red) croaks, which seems to set up Peele's subversive message: America is two nations — of

haves and have-nots. And the have-nots want their turn.

If it stuck to this conceit, *Us* could be as sleekly unsettling as *Get Out*, but it continually raises more questions than it answers: Why don't the shadows kill their twins outright? Where did they come from? What is their plan? If they are, in fact, tethered — the mirrors of their happier counterparts — then how did they break free? There are gestures to explain these ideas, but they simply pile on. Peele has chosen so much source material to explore, he's also saddled the audience with all those sad tropes.

There are, nonetheless, reasons to recommend it: The face of Shadow Zora will haunt my dreams for weeks, and Duke's lighthearted schlubby dad injects wonderful elements of humor. And Peele does have something to say beyond the gimmickry. But he also suffers from the sophomore jinx faced by some filmmakers trying to capture lightning in a bottle twice. We have seen the enemy of acclaim, and it is *Us*. ■



in Oakland for the week of basic tracks, we ended up finishing two days early. We knew that the second of those two days was going to involve a film documentary and photos and all of that. The first of the two free days, we were like, "What are we going to do?" We started looking through some covers of songs that we thought would be cool. That was one of the songs that showed up and we took a stab at it. We learned it in 10 minutes and recorded it pretty much right then. That was the first song that I sang any vocals on for the record. That's the first take, first vocal for the record. It was really funny. I said, "Somebody get the words off the internet!" My favorite part of it, and it's really key to the whole album, is that they handed me these words and I'm singing. You can hear the warm-up that I'm doing at the beginning to try to get my voice open. About half a second before the first verse starts, I hear the vocal line in my head and I'm like, "I can't fucking sing this!" It's not in my range. Three hundred milliseconds before the vocal starts, I have to conjure up a new vocal line on the spot and that's what that is [laughs].

**You have a long history of being one third of a trio — beginning with Husker Du, continuing with Sugar and with your current band line-up featuring Jason and Jon on your solo albums from *Silver Age* through *Sunshine Rock*. Can you please say something about that?** I'm aware of it, but I guess I never tried to ascribe a meaning to it. That's where I started in music, with a three-piece. I've always enjoyed the simplicity of it. Particularly in the live setting. When you only have one guitar, one bass and one drummer, as an audience member, you can clearly see what everyone is bringing to it. You can see the interaction. There's just that little space in the middle of the stage where nothing physically exists, but sonically and emotionally, everything goes to that spot. That's where so much stuff happens. Nobody's there, but we are putting to that place and putting to the crowd. I think it's a specific form of rock and popular music that not many people are doing anymore. It appeals to me because you get to see how people interact. For people who like that kind of music, this is what we do. If you like that, this is your kind of record, especially your kind of show.

***Sunshine Rock* is your fourth album on Merge Records. Do you feel like you've found a home with the label?** It's been really fun. We've had a lot of mutual success off of this. Merge's initial interest was the reissues of the Sugar albums. When I let them know I was working on a current record, the one that became *Silver Age*,



they were interested when I played them something from it. They were serving nostalgia, but they accidentally walked into the future. It's funny how that happens.

**What can folks expect from your upcoming tour?** Probably loud. Probably sweaty. Probably a lot of yelling

and banging on instruments. It'll go by in a blur. It could feel like three hours of sheer noise. It could seem like two hours of incredible joy. Maybe you have to cut out before the show's over because the babysitter has to leave early [laughs]. It could be so many things. Because the three of us rarely get together — we live in different cities — to make records and make music is really special for us. I hope that that conveys to the audience. It means a lot to us, and we try to enjoy the times that we have doing this.

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*All Stars*, of course, refers to Season 3 of *Drag Race All Stars*, in which BenDeLa — who set a record by winning five challenges on what seemed to be an inevitable march to the title — shocked everyone by stepping away from the competition. And the reason why actually illuminates how BenDeLaCreme may have a more critical eye than it would seem.

“Quitting is a specific term I have never used [to describe my departure],” he explains. “I was not giving up on something but had accomplished something. I always had a problem with the way

the elimination system worked [on the show]. I don’t feel it’s fair or useful or particularly kind to the girls. It was a situation where I had done all these things and had this opportunity and I proved I can win this competition, but I don’t agree to the *terms* of the competition. Everyone knew I was the frontrunner, so to stay wouldn’t have given me anything more than I already had. It would just have put me in the position of having altercations with girls whom I had nothing against. I love drag; I love being good at performance; I love watching

other people’s drag performances... that was enough.”

There was fan blowback for BenDeLa’s decision but, interestingly, not from the producers of the show.

“It all happened in real time,” he says. “They saw it was good television. What’s interesting to me is what the priorities of reality TV are and what our priorities are as viewers. People love the show, but whenever people are confused by [my departure] I [see it as] people having more reverence for the structure of the show than the people



on it. I ask, ‘Don’t you want to support us, to do the right thing for us? Or do you value the theoretical crown over the person?’”

These thoughts undergird BenDeLa’s deep affection for drag — a passion that dates back to “my age in the single digits, when I was playing with makeup and shoes. I shoplifted women’s clothes in high school — I knew, this is what I wanted to do, but I didn’t know what to do *with* it — I didn’t know there was a box it fit into.”

At the same time, Putnam was doing theater and writing and telling stories by putting on plays for friends, but it was all mixed together: “I never wanted to [act or perform] separate from drag,” he says. “I really like the angle that drag gives all that. There’s something in the medium of camp that really lets you do more.”

And more is what he’s doing now. In addition to the tour and his drag gigs, BenDeLaCreme has also written three solo shows which he has performed in New York City and elsewhere... all in the person of BenDeLa.

“My first one was called *Terminally Delightful*, and it was autobiographical and played on the idea that BenDeLaCreme is trying to weave a narrative about herself but is actually the creation of someone much different. She has to integrate the truth that she shares these memories with Ben Putnam, who has a darker path.”

BenDeLa’s fourth show, which is currently in the writing process, will open in NYC in June before moving to Provincetown. It was inspired by the fact Putnam became engaged this year and wanted to “make a show exploring the ideas of marriage and how we think about it and the stories we tell each other about relationships,” he explains. “It will have puppets and videos and dick jokes.”

Sounds delightful. As always. ■

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**Friday 03.29 —  
Saturday 03.30**

### Dance Revolution 1: Ezralow Dance makes Dallas debut

It's a week for dancin' around North Texas. First up: Ezralow Dance, the modern company that combines classical music with dazzling choreography and a quirky sense of comedic energy, makes its local debut in the Arts District with two performances, courtesy of TITAS.

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

**Friday 03.22 —  
Sunday 04.24**

### Dance Revolution 2: Dark Circles continues residency at WTT

The gay-themed local troupe Dark Circles Contemporary Dance returns to WaterTower Theatre, where it has enjoyed a residency this year, for its latest presentation. The spring series features a world premiere commission from choreographer Sidra Bell, as well as a new work by founder Joshua L. Peugh. There will be four performances this weekend.

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



**Sunday 03.24**

### Dance Revolution 3: Tap Dogs hoof it into the Winspear

With a name like Tap Dogs, you expect tap dancing. But Tap Dogs is a lot more than that. Part theater, part concert, part construction site, the high-energy company has been stomping through stages and scaffoldings and water for more than 20 years. It shows up for a one-night-only display this weekend.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.



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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Disaster!** Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick co-wrote this musical spoof of 1970s-era disaster movies. Presented by Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 14. [UptownPlayers.org](http://UptownPlayers.org).

**Fool for Love.** The new Classic Theatre Project returns with its second show, Sam Shepard's dark, surreal romance. Margo Jones Theater at Fair Park. Through March 31. [TheClassicTheatreProject.com](http://TheClassicTheatreProject.com).

**Stomp.** The joyously energetic show — part dance, part music, part performance art — settles in for three shows at the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Friday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. [EisemannCenter.com](http://EisemannCenter.com).

**The Wolves.** A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, this play deals with the cutthroat world of girl's high school soccer. Studio Theatre at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through April 14. [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).

#### DANCE

**Dark Circles Contemporary Dance.** Two world premieres. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Friday–Sunday. [DarkCirclesContemporaryDance.com](http://DarkCirclesContemporaryDance.com). [WaterTowerTheatre.org](http://WaterTowerTheatre.org).

#### OPERA

**La Boheme.** Perhaps Puccini's most beloved opera, and among the most performed, about Bohemians living in Paris during *le fin de siècle*. Reviewed this week. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through March 31. [DallasOpera.org](http://DallasOpera.org).

#### COMEDY

**Rhea Butcher.** The out comic performs. Amphibian Stage, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. \$25. Friday–Saturday. [AmphibianStage.com](http://AmphibianStage.com).

#### FINE ART

**Berthe Morisot: Woman Impressionist.** One of the most acclaimed of the Impressionists in her lifetime, Morisot fell into obscurity in the 20th century but has been rediscovered for her talent in this comprehensive exhibition. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through May 5. [DMA.org](http://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](http://MeadowsMuseumDallas.org).

### FRIDAY 03.22

#### COMMUNITY

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



And yet a fourth dance event to highlight: Stomp returns for its energetic performance for three shows at the Eisemann this weekend.

#### DANCE

**Dancing Beyond Borders.** Dallas Black Dance Theatre performs at the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 7:30 p.m. [EisemannCenter.com](http://EisemannCenter.com)

### SATURDAY 03.23

#### COMMUNITY

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

#### CONCERTS

**Dallas Chamber Symphony: Appalachian Spring.** The DCS performs one of Aaron Copeland's signature orchestral works, among other pieces. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY 03.24

#### DANCE

**Tap Dogs.** Energetic dance performance. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

### MONDAY 03.25

#### CABARET

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





#### FINE ART

**A Reverent Heart: Portraits by Richard D. Curtin.** A masters of art exhibition featuring the work of Curtin, aka Edna Jean Robinson. Fine Arts Gallery at Sul Ross State University, East Highway 90, Alpine. March 25–April 5. Artist's reception March 28, 5–7 p.m.

#### TUESDAY 03.26

##### FILM

**Sons of the Desert/The Battle of the Century.** The recent feature *Stan and Ollie* was about the career and friendship of Laurel and Hardy, but now you can see their actual work in this program of two shorts from their catalogue. 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.

#### THURSDAY 03.28

##### CABARET

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

##### BROADCAST

**Project Runway.** The design competition returns, with two Dallas designers in the mix. Now back on Bravo. 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY 03.29

##### THEATER

**A Few Good Men.** The stage play about hazing in the military and the quest for justice. Presented by Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. March 29–April 14. TheatreArlington.org.

##### CONCERTS

**Leslie Odom, Jr.** The Tony Award-winning star of *Hamilton* performs with the DSO. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. MyDSO.com.

##### DANCE

**Ezralow Dance.** Dallas debut of the modern dance troupe, presented by TITAS. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. March 29–30. ATPAC.org.

#### this week's solution

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# Girl on girls

**Jenny Block** sparks joy in tidying up relationships

"Does it spark joy?" It seems that everywhere I turn I see that question. It's all over social media. It comes up in conversation after conversation. While staying at a friend's home last weekend, I saw they had even put it up on their kitchen bulletin board. It emanates, of course, from Maria Kondo's Netflix series called *Tidying Up*, a show about ditching clutter and embracing organization. It's based on one principal: letting go of anything that doesn't spark joy.

It's not a new concept, but it's certainly a surprising new resurgence. Or maybe not so surprising. Our consumerist, "more of everything" culture can be exhausting. Mostly because no matter how much you buy, it's never enough and there's always more to be bought and there's always someone with the ability to buy even more than you can. It's a Sisyphean way of life that has virtually no chance of leading to happiness.

Sadly, we often model our relationships after that same concept. We add more friends, more activities, more trips. It's as if we think we can bury ourselves in the external to avoid the internal. It's a lousy idea, and it is a surefire recipe for disaster. It's like building a house with no foundation. All the pretty, shiny things in the world aren't going to hold up a house. It's the sturdy boring basics that do that job and do it well.

If we want to have a healthy, long-lasting relationship, we have to tidy up. We have to only do the things we really want to do. You don't have to say yes to every invitation. We have to only possess the things that, yes, bring us joy. We have to only take the trips to the places we want to go, not the places that we think will help fill our Instagram or avoid having any real conversations with our partners.

Speaking of conversations, most of us could use some tidying it up when it comes to how we talk to our partners and what we talk about, too. Communication is stellar. In fact, there is no doubt that it is the key to a strong relationship. But communication is not the same as word vomit. When we share with our partner, it needs to be about what we need them to know. Not just what we need to say.

Sometimes we use sharing as an excuse to say things that we need to get off our chest. But they are not things that our partner needs to hear; For example, telling your partner how much their kid, sibling, friend, fill-in-the-blank drives you batty because of who they are, what they've done, or how they relate to your partner. The thing is, unless the person in question is actually a danger to your partner,

all you're doing is airing your disgruntlement to the very person who doesn't need to hear it.

It's like telling a sick person how hard it is taking care of them. Of course it's hard. But talk to your friends and family about that, not the person for whom you are caring. This example may seem obvious, but we need to be just as conscious of editing our conversations when it comes to our partner. Even if that kid, sibling, friend, fill-in-the-blank, drives them nuts too, it's different. They're allowed to complain about them. You're not.

Sometimes it seems like our relationships are drowning in our "more of everything" culture that tells us to buy it all, be it all, share

it all. But the carefully-curated life is actually the much happier one just as the carefully-curated relationship is, as well. I am not talking about censoring yourself or hiding things from your partner. I'm talking about being conscious and kind.

When looking at an object we ask, "Does it spark joy?" Sure, not every necessary conversation is going to spark joy. But it would behoove us to at least T.H.I.N.K. before we speak.

T – Is it true?

H – Is it helpful?

I – Is it inspiring?

N – Is it necessary?

K – Is it kind?

Not everything we share with our partner will get high marks when it comes to inspiring. But it certainly should get straight A's when it comes to the rest.

Being in a relationship is hard, and not every moment is going to spark joy. But almost every relationship could benefit from a little tidying up. Pare back to the essentials. Stick to what sparks joy. And be gentle with your words. It's all about intention, and our intentions should always be to curate and cultivate relationships in a way that allows both partners to grow both as individuals and as a couple. Joy begets joy. Honor the spark.

*You can write to Jenny Block at GirlOn-Girls@gmail.com.*



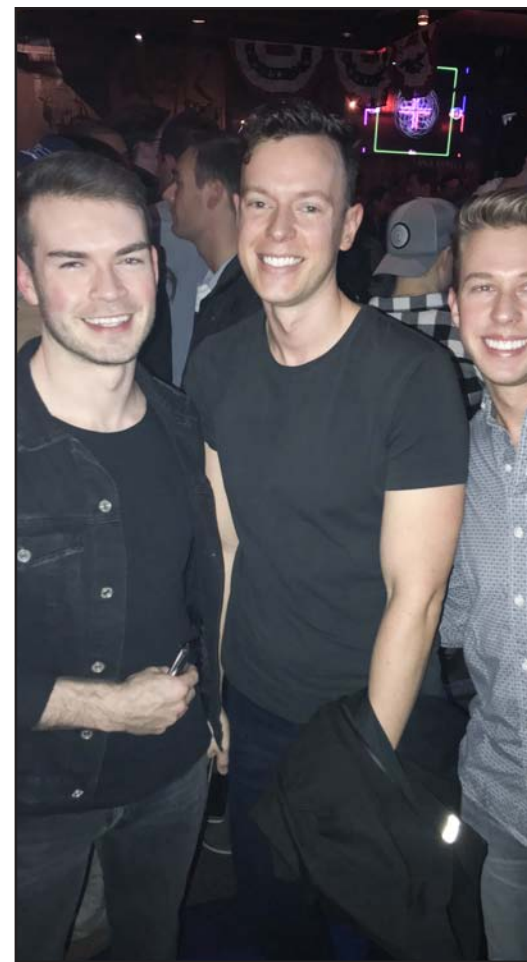




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- **515 Bar:** Tap TV Trivia at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Alexandre's:** JaQuay and the Elm Street Kids on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Sings Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party at 7 p.m. on Thursday. ALH Poker Night at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Dez Nonaughts, Shelly Von Miller and Zimora Evans perform on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Dallas Diablos Cookout from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Selena Tribute Contest hosted by Mayra deLorenzo, with a \$300 prize, on Thursday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday. Raquel Blake and Bleach at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** Trashed Out Tuesday with Jenni P and guests at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Pekers:** Totally Twisted Karaoke at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Joshua City's Road to Key West Victory Party at 6 p.m. on Friday. The Southern ScrumDown Third Half with Lost Souls Rugby at noon on Saturday. Lost Souls Bachelor Auction at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Hoedown for America at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** The Anton Shaw Band at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Miss Texas Bluebonnet State and at Large at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tuesday Tease at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The Queer Off Season Two at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Tina Burner on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC:** The Mining Company: Fuego Wednesdays at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Ally's One Night Stand Bachelor Auction at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Comedy Clips at 10 p.m. on Friday. College and Amateur Sports Happy Hour on Saturday. I Love the '90s at 9 p.m. on Monday. Showtunes at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Jada Pinkett Fox variety show at 11 p.m. on Thursday



A trio of friends out for a good time at JR.'s Bar & Grill





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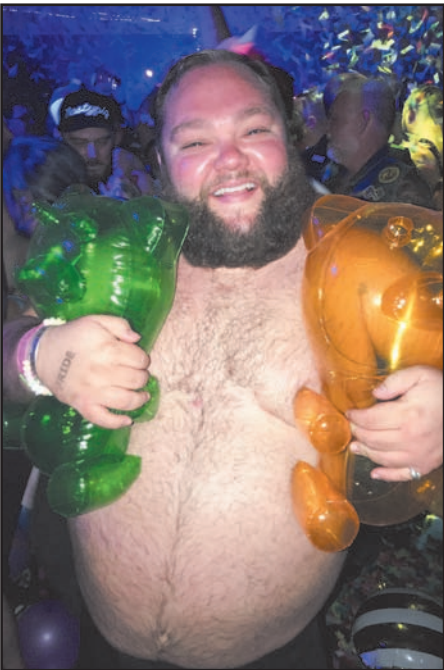


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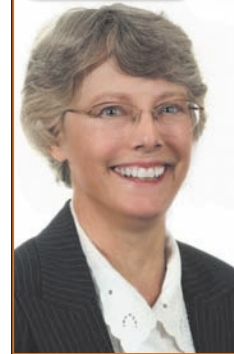


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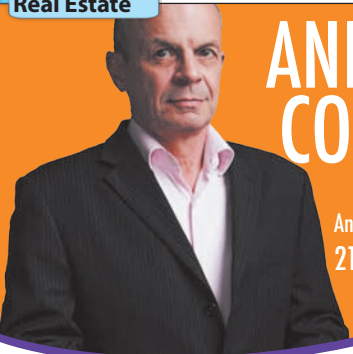
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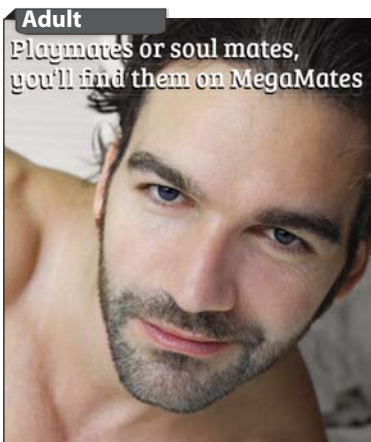
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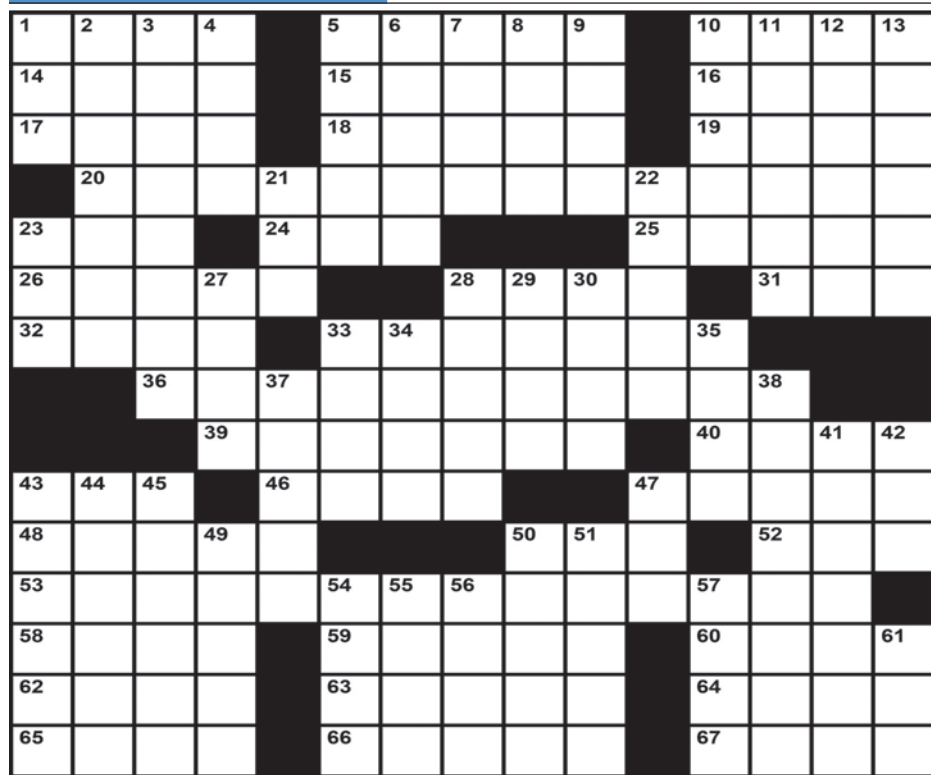
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## Unforgettable

Solution on Page 23

### Across

- 1 Part of a vacuum cleaner that sucks  
5 Hibernate with the bears  
10 Change partners  
14 Organic compound  
15 Reinaldo Arenas' Peter  
16 Like an unbelievable tale  
17 Boob tube warrior  
18 Medium for Frasier Crane  
19 *Cunt* author Muscio  
20 Trump said he wishes he could run against her again  
23 Alternative to smoking  
24 Objectivist Rand  
25 Gawk like a chicken hawk  
26 Like enhanced briefs  
28 Cole Porter's Indiana hometown  
31 Some, on the Somme  
32 Hit the books hard  
33 Transplant King Richard's heart?  
36 Start of the response of 20-Across (from *Mean Girls*)  
39 Film showers  
40 Able to bend over  
43 Econ. total

### Down

- 46 Diddles the expense account  
47 Took part in the Blue Wave of 2018  
48 Make erect  
50 Cole Porter's "\_\_\_ Gigolo"  
52 Hypotheticals  
53 End of the response  
58 Mall bag  
59 Calvin of underwear  
60 Brings to light  
62 Hurry along  
63 Triangle sign  
64 Objectifies, sexually  
65 Northern capital  
66 At the crack of dawn  
67 Tommy's gun  
1 Put the whammy on  
2 Robin Williams' \_\_\_ *Photo*  
3 Husband, to his husband's parent  
4 Airline to Ben Gurion  
5 Do a facial, e.g.  
6 Get smart  
7 Swirl around three men in a tub  
8 *Spamalot* writer Idle  
9 Drag queen Gene \_\_\_  
10 Time on the job  
11 It may show an opening

- 12 Popular vote winner of 2000  
13 Earhart vehicles  
21 Of the congregation  
22 Mazda competitor  
23 Network of *Will & Grace*  
27 AIDS org.  
28 Hart Crane works  
29 Irish pop singer  
30 Rivera's rivers  
33 Chloe's *Boys Don't Cry* role  
34 Teed off  
35 Canadian oil company  
37 "Blow me down!"  
38 Cock-eyed Nellie in *South Pacific*  
41 WNBA employee  
42 Stat for Esera Tuaolo  
43 Small cavern  
44 Pyle player  
45 Gay rodeo accessory  
47 Brewing tank  
49 Care for  
50 "\_\_\_ Survive"  
51 Pam Dawber's role with Robin Williams  
54 Actress Ione  
55 Film director Kazan  
56 Santa's team, e.g.  
57 Dwelling, to the von Trapps  
61 1040 ID

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