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FREE | Friday, August 14, 2020



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makes

HISTORY

by Lisa Keen, Page 8

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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See Chad's story at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com).

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Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com).





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Sen. Kamala Harris, the presumptive Democratic candidate for vice president.
Photo by Tony Avelar/Associated Press.

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Rainbow-themed signs went up this week on either end of the Cedar Springs Strip, marking the gateway to Dallas' Oak Lawn gayborhood. The signs are part of a beautification project that includes rainbow crosswalks on Cedar Springs. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

EBJ announces \$565,000 in federal grants to Abounding Prosperity Inc.

U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson announced Thursday, Aug. 13, that Abounding Prosperity Inc. has received a total of \$565,000 through two federal grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Special Projects of National Significance Program.

Abounding Prosperity Inc. provides services addressing health, social and economic disparities among Black Americans, with a particular emphasis on gay and bisexual men, cisgender women, transgender women and their families.

Johnson said, "These federal grants will support critically needed programs and resources at Abounding Prosperity, and this funding will allow our communities to benefit from culturally tailored care specific to our most vulnerable populations living with HIV. I am proud to support the work that Abounding Prosperity does to provide comprehensive health and social services to our constituents and their families."

Abounding Prosperity CEO Kirk D. Myers added, "We are thrilled to be the recipient of two SPNS grants. These two grants will

help us increase rapid access to lifesaving HIV medications for HIV-positive populations and to expand the delivery and utilization of comprehensive care and treatment services for Black women with HIV in Dallas County."

— David Taffet

Texas Voting 101 ... Crash Course

Q: I think I'm registered to vote in Texas, but I'm not sure. How can I confirm?

A: Go to votetexas.gov. That's the official Texas voting website. On the right side of the window you will see "AM I REGISTERED?" Click on that button.

Q: I know I'm registered, but I can't find my voter identification postcard. Is that a problem?

A: No. You do not have to bring the card with you to your voting place. If you are registered, your name will be on their master list. You will have to provide a government-issued ID, though.

Q: Looks like I'm not actually registered in Texas. How can I register?

A: Go to votetexas.gov. That's the official Texas voting website. On the right side of the window you will see "REGISTER TO VOTE." Follow directions from there.

Q: What is the registration deadline?

A: Generally, it's 30 days before the election you intend to vote in. In the case of the upcoming November 3 state and national elections, the deadline (the very last date) for you to have your application completed, printed, signed and mailed ("postmarked") is October 5. Once processed, they will send you a voter registration "identification card" in the mail. But a better idea is to go ahead and do it AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THE APPLICATION

... while the Post Office is still functioning.

Q: Can I vote by mail as a Texas voter?

A: Yes, if you qualify (duly registered and either over 65 or disabled/ill, or expect to be "out of the county" on election day and during the 'early voting' days prior to the election).

For more information on voting, visit the Dallas Voice blog, InstanTEA, at DallasVoice.com.

— David Taffet

Obituary



Weiss Lankford-Harris received his eternal rest Aug. 3, 2020, at the age of 44. He was born on March 17, 1976, in Grand Saline to Larry Ross Sr. and Jayne Lee Lankford, the youngest of three sons. He was raised in his hometown of Mineola before moving to Dallas.

Weiss was preceded in death by his father, his beloved grandmother Lillian Kuykendall, his Aunt Joice, and his lifelong friend Miz Lilly Pettie.

A talented hair designer, Weiss followed his passion with love and vigor, achieving a high level of accomplishment that few can

claim. He was very proud to have been the hairdresser for the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders on the tv show *Making The Team* for several years.

He was a vibrant, energetic, funny, loving and caring young man. He loved life and people and never met a stranger.

Weiss is survived by his husband Ron Harris; his mom Jayne; his brother Brandon and Brandon's children Preston and Alyssa; his brother Tony and Tony's wife Sarah and their children, Olivia, Brody and Brock; his aunt JoAnn Moreland and her husband Vernon; his Uncle Jim Kuykendall and Jim's wife JJ and their children Jessica Locke and Jennifer Hallgren and their families. He is also survived by thousands of friends whom he loved with all of his heart and who loved him.

Pet of the week • Kody



Meet **Kody**, a 3-1/2-year-old German shepherd mix with the most handsome smile! He can be a little shy at first. But once he gets to know you, his playful personality really shines. He loves

hard and plays hard, so he will need a new family that can keep up. His foster mom said he's super smart; he knows sit, down, leave it and get it. He also learned how to use the bells on the door to go outside in just one day. But he sometimes uses his intelligence for mischief and has learned to turn over his slow feeder bowl to get his food faster. So now he eats his food out of snuffle mats and he loves them! Kody will require a house with a large, private backyard where he can get all of his zoomies out multiple times a day. He'd do best with an active family looking for a dog to exercise and play

with. He's kind of a daddy's boy and tends to bond more with men, so hopefully there will be at least one male in the home he can look up to (no offense ladies). Kody can get a bit rowdy sometimes, so he is looking for some humans who have experience with large, energetic goofballs like him and no children. If you have other dogs at home, bring them to meet Kody to see if they get along, and if you're looking for a fun-loving dude to stay active with, he's the one for you. Kody is waiting to meet you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas.

In an effort to reduce the potential for spreading COVID-19, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoption events and mobile wellness events remain closed to the public until further notice. Adoptions are available by appointment only. Adopters will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the tele-adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption. Browse our available animals at spca.org/findapet and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.



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Harris: History-making choice for VP

U.S. senator from California
known for supporting LGBTQ equality



Sen. Kamala Harris (photo by John Locher/Associated Press)

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

It was not a big surprise, but it was a much-anticipated revelation: Democratic presidential nominee-apparent Joe Biden announced Tuesday, Aug. 11, that he has chosen U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris of California to be his running mate.

Political observers considered Harris the top contender for months, and various surveys and data indicated she is highly popular with the LGBTQ community.

And behind the headlines Tuesday, NBC News reported that the Biden campaign has also assigned openly-lesbian commentator Karine Jean-Pierre, one of his senior advisors, to serve as his running mate's chief of staff.

"Kamala Harris is a strong choice," said Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida. "She is smart; she'll KO Pence if he's not too afraid to debate her.

"Selecting Kamala Harris shows that Joe Biden isn't afraid to have leaders around him who push him forward on race and other critical issues. She's a stellar pick," Smith said.

Richard Socarides, another long-time LGBTQ Democratic activist, called Harris a "smart choice and the right choice."

"I think she'll be a great vice president," Socarides continued, "and she will eat Mike Pence alive at their debate and spit him out on the floor — as he deserves."

Lorri Jean, chief executive officer of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, the largest of its kind in the nation, said Harris was a "moderate" choice for Biden but a good one for the LGBTQ community.

"Kamala Harris was one of the moderates on the [vice presidential] list. Biden was definitely sending a message in that regard," Jean said. "Fortunately, from an LGBTQ perspective, she has long been an ally."

Biden pledged during a Democratic debate in March that he would choose a woman for his running mate. Since then, various news media examined lists of likely choices.

Some lists, including that of the New York Times, included openly-lesbian U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin. All the lists included Harris — usually at the top of list, too.

Biden's choice of Harris makes her the first Black woman and the first candidate

of Asian descent to run on a major party's ticket for the White House. She is a popular Democrat who made a strong bid for the party's presidential nomination herself in a field that, early on, included more than two dozen viable candidates.

Harris launched her campaign in January 2019 in Oakland, with a rally attended by more than 20,000 supporters, and she polled third early in the year, behind Biden and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders. Following a Democratic debate in which she confronted Biden over his pride in having worked with segregationists "to oppose busing," her campaign saw a surge of support.

But other candidates popular with the LGBTQ community, including openly-gay candidate Pete Buttigieg, soon had their own surges and quickly leapfrogged over Harris. She dropped out of the race in December, citing insufficient funding for her campaign.

A study of campaign contributions by zip code showed she had been the second strongest fundraiser in heavily LGBTQ zip codes, behind Buttigieg.

Harris was one of the few Democratic presidential candidates to release her own plan addressing a wide range of LGBTQ issues. She promised, as pres-

ident, she would establish a position of "chief advocate for LGBTQ+ affairs" in the White House, reverse the Trump administration ban on transgender people in the military and "ensure that religion cannot be used to discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals."

But the selection of Harris to join the Biden ticket was never a certainty. As recently as July 29, the Washington Post reported an anonymous source as saying that one of Biden's key advisers in vetting the VP list, former U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, was arguing against choosing Harris. Dodd was reportedly unhappy with Harris' debate attack on Biden's working with segregationists, but Dodd issued a statement saying the anonymous source's comments "do not represent my view of Sen. Harris"

Career on the fast track

Harris was sworn into the U.S. Senate just three years ago but has quickly risen to become one of its best known members. On the Senate Judiciary Committee, she played a pivotal role in grilling some of President Trump's most controversial nominees, including his first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, and his

second Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh.

Prior to becoming senator, Harris served as California's attorney general and, before that, as district attorney for San Francisco. She earned a reputation as a tough prosecutor and a strong supporter of equal rights for LGBTQ people.

As the state's attorney general, Harris strongly opposed Proposition 8, a 2008 ballot measure that banned marriage for same-sex couples in the state. As senator, she has been a strong supporter of pro-LGBTQ positions, co-sponsoring the Equality Act and earning a perfect 100 percent score from the Human Rights Campaign.

But Harris has had her critics in the LGBTQ community, particularly regarding her early opposition to providing gender transition surgery to prison inmates.

Other possible picks

All the potential running mates for Biden were pro-LGBTQ. Susan Rice, former national security advisor to President Obama, was said to be a strong

contender alongside Harris. She was praised by LGBTQ activists in 2011 when, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, she was a strong advocate for having the United Nations General Assembly restore a reference to "sexual orientation" in a resolution to oppose the killing of vulnerable minority groups.

Rice also helped pass a UN resolution on the human rights of LGBT people, pushed to have several LGBTQ organizations obtain accredited status at the UN and called for the integration of LGBTQ concerns in U.S. foreign diplomacy.

Others believed to have been considered by Biden as a potential running mate included U.S. Rep. Karen Bass of Los Angeles, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren, another tough competitor for the Democratic presidential nomination this year, Tammy Duckworth of Illinois and Baldwin.

The Times said the Biden campaign "somewhat seriously" considered Bald-

win, the first openly-LGBTQ person elected to the Senate, to be a running mate.

Potential candidates from states with Republican governors — including Warren (Massachusetts), Sen. Maggie Hassan (New Hampshire), and U.S. Rep. Val Deming (Florida) — all started with a strike against them. If they won the national office, their seats in Congress would be chosen by the Republican governors of their states.

Baldwin didn't have that problem. Wisconsin's governor is a Democrat. But Baldwin's appeal on the vice presidential short list likely came from the fact that she represents a key electoral swing state — Wisconsin — and, like Harris, is considered both moderate and liberal.

"But Baldwin is relatively little known nationally, and many Democrats might object to an all-white ticket," noted the Times profile.

In addition to a racial and gender balance on the ticket, Biden almost cer-

tainly considered age. The former vice president is 77 and frequently scrutinized for signs of aging and cognitive decline, as is incumbent President Trump, 74. Warren of Massachusetts, another strong contender for the Democratic presidential nomination who was considered a top choice for vice president, is 71.

Harris, by comparison, is 55.

Meanwhile, the Democratic National Committee announced Aug. 11 that Baldwin and Buttigieg will both speak to the national convention audience on Thursday, Aug. 20, the evening Biden will deliver his nomination acceptance speech.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the political parties will not stage their usual in-person conventions but a hybrid to include some in-person gatherings and prime-time speeches on national television and through various social media.

Democrats meet Aug. 17-20. The Democrats' LGBTQ Caucus is slated to meet Aug. 18.

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Business woman of the year

Dallas Business Journal honors Dr. Suzanne Slonim for her unique minimally-invasive fibroid practice

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Dallas Business Journal has named Dr. Suzanne Slonim as one of its business women of the year. For 15 years, Slonim served as medical director of interventional radiology at Methodist Dallas Hospital before she founded the Fibroid Institute Dallas exclusively to treat uterine fibroids with a minimally-invasive procedure.

Slonim and her wife, Pam Gerber, searched locations around the country extensively before deciding on moving to Dallas. “We were looking for a place to be safe, happy and welcomed,” Gerber explained.

They had been living in Palo Alto, Calif. but couldn’t afford to continue living there comfortably. So they looked in Miami, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Tampa and a few other cities but found the LGBTQ community in Dallas to be the most organized and most welcoming.

Gerber said she was apprehensive about the move. She had preconceived notions about Dallas, but both Gerber and Slonim quickly found Dallas to be an easy place to live. And, Slonim said, it’s a great place to practice medicine. Among the things she likes about Texas, Slonim added, is that the state has prohibitions against corporations practicing medicine. So Slonim joined an existing practice as an interventional radiologist.

The couple planned to stay in Dallas five years. That was 20 years ago.

While at her practice, Slonim created a niche market in uterine fibroid embolization or UFE. Fibroids are abnormal, usually noncancerous, growths in the

uterus that cause severe abdominal pain and heavy periods. Instead of treating fibroids with a hysterectomy, UFE uses radiology to cut off the blood supply to the fibroid so it will shrink.

The plan to stay in Dallas just five years got derailed during year four when Slonim was named president of the medical staff at Methodist Dallas Hospital — the first woman named to that position. That meant an additional six years in Dallas — two as incoming president, two serving as president and two as immediate past president.

During that time, her UFE specialty grew. She said she became an amplifier for the relatively unknown, minimally-invasive procedure.

Gynecologists generally steer away from the UFE procedure because patients complain of pain afterwards. But Slonim said that is because those doctors haven’t managed their patients’ pain. She prepares patients ahead of time with medication especially for that first week as the fibroids begin to shrink.

In her first year in her own practice, about 10 percent of Slonim’s clients came through referrals from other doctors. Now, as her work has been recognized by area gynecologists, about 80 percent are referrals.

Slonim said removal of just the uterus can be a very bloody operation requiring transfusions. In some cases, even when a woman will eventually need the uterus removed, doctors now refer patients to her to shrink fibroids first, making the removal a much safer operation.

Today, Slonim’s office is the only one that specializes in only doing UFE. “I feel passionate about it and love doing this procedure,” she said. And she’s passionate about making sure anyone with fibroids is given the option of UFE.

Although her company’s nondiscrimination policy includes sexual orientation and gender identity, Slonim said she’s never treated a trans man. That’s probably because fibroids are fed by estrogen, and hormone treatments block the growth of fibroids. But, she said, if a trans man with a uterus was seeking treatment for fibroids, she’d assure him



Dr. Suzanne Slonim

house where she fixed the problem.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Slonim’s office was closed because the procedure she does, while stopping severe pain, is considered elective. So, like other doctors, Slonim quickly adopted the use of telemedicine, and she has been able to prepare some patients for upcoming procedures

the finest medical care, something she said trans men and women don’t always receive.

Gerber said that commitment to providing the finest care possible is one of the things she admires most about her wife, describing Slonim as a cross between an old-school family doctor and a modern physician using the latest technology.

Slonim’s technique involves inserting a wire into a blood vessel in the patient’s wrist and steering it up the arm and down the torso into the uterus while monitoring the progress on a screen. That takes about a minute. That’s the “latest technology” part.

The “old-school family doctor” part and her bedside manner she may have learned from her parents, both of whom were doctors. Her father was from New Jersey and her mother came to the U.S. for college from Iraq then stayed for medical school. Slonim said her father retired when he was done paying for her medical school, but her mother, at 89, just stopped seeing patients earlier this year.

Slonim said her patients have her cell phone number and call her directly when they need her help. Gerber recalled one patient who was in pain because of a problem with a port who contacted Slonim in the middle of the night. The doctor had that patient come to their

online.

She has reopened the office, but before doing so, Slonim said, she added machines that clean the air of mold and other pathogens to help keep her patients and staff safe. Hand washing stations are placed throughout the office.

“Texas Medical Association has been great in getting us all the PPE we need,” she said. And she reopened feeling her office was as safe and protected as possible.

Slonim and Gerber have been together 30 years. They met in an L.A. Bar: “I want to be explicitly clear on this one,” Gerber said. “She asked *me* to dance.”

They live in a townhouse in the SoHiP section of Oak Lawn with a couple of chickens out in the chicken coop Slonim had built for Gerber’s 50th birthday. Slonim said she wanted fresh eggs, and they started with seven chickens. They’re down to two including one who was injured, has recovered and is now pigeon-toed.

As for her business, Slonim — who has spoken on the subject around the world and has written a number of books on the subject including her latest, *Pain Free Periods*, available at FibroidFree.com — hopes to replicate her model in other cities with other doctors who are as passionate as she is about treating fibroids with UFE rather than major surgery. ■

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Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues), \$130. Contact Dallas Voice at 214-754-8710 x123.

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■ commUNITYvoices

Do as I say, not as I do

“Pull your pants up.” How many times have we heard this admonishment directed at young Black men? Even Barack Obama, in a 2008 interview with MTV, said, “Brothers should pull up their pants.”

Mind you, he did preface that saying “creating jobs, improving our schools, health care, dealing with the war in Iraq” were the real issues, and that laws against sagging pants were “a waste of time.”

But what he did not say was that laws criminalizing sagging pants were fully intended to give the police more reasons to stop Black men in a country that has, shall we say, a long history of criminalizing Black skin. The laws were more than a waste of time: they were fully intended to increase the criminal justice system’s ability to waste Black men’s lives.

So I doubt that Jerry Falwell Jr., the stalwart Trump supporter and Liberty University president, would have ever dreamed that the start of his downfall would be triggered by a photo of him in sagging pants.

Falwell Jr. has been placed on an “indefinite leave of absence” from his position at Liberty U. after posting a photo on Instagram of himself on his yacht, with his pants unzipped, showing off his doughy belly and a bit of his underwear while standing next to a young woman who is not his wife who also has her pants unzipped.

His arm is around her, and his fingers are very close to her breast. He is holding a drink in his other hand.

The caption under the photo reads: “More vacation shots. Lots of good friends visited us on the yacht. I promise that’s just black water in my glass. It was a prop only.”

Now, in case you were wondering why he would claim his drink was “just black water,” that’s because at Liberty



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

from the student housing guide: “A student may not be alone with an individual of the opposite sex in the academic classrooms or offices. Students may not enter the residence halls of the opposite sex. After dusk, a student may not be alone with an individual of the opposite sex in any unlighted area, such as the ball fields, parking lots, parked cars, etc.”

But what if it’s not a student? What if it’s the university president? And what if it’s not a car, but a yacht?

It is unlikely that, with Falwell Jr. being sidelined, Liberty University will somehow become a welcoming school that values diversity. They definitely don’t value LGBTQ students. The student honor code states: “Sexual relations outside of a Biblically ordained marriage between a natural-born man and a natural-born woman are not permissible at Liberty University.”

In other words, LGBTQ students are welcome — so long as they remain closeted and self-hating.

Falwell Jr. has been an outspoken supporter of Trump, claiming that Trump doesn’t have a racist bone in his body, which I actually believe because Trump is basically a walking bag of semi-sentient trash.

It should be noted that Jerry Falwell Sr. was an outspoken opponent of civil

rights, so something tells me that racism wouldn’t be a deal-breaker for Falwell Jr. — especially since he said there was nothing Trump could do to lose his support.

Surely this photo mishap will only strengthen the support Trump has for Falwell Jr. since they will finally have something in common. Whether it’s an Access Hollywood bus or a private yacht, boys will be boys, amirite?

Like attracts like, which is why the right-wing evangelical power players are so staunchly in Trump’s corner, despite the fact that Trump sees the 10 Commandments as a bucket list and can’t cite a single Bible verse when asked — even though he claims he can not only read but that he has read the Bible.

The strict moral code that they espouse is for OTHER people. The Bible is only important so far as its passages can act as support for their push to hurt the people they don’t like and then claim those policies are protected under “religious freedom” laws that, strangely, never seem to apply to religions other than Christianity.

Falwell Jr. apologized for the photo during a call to radio station WLNI. As @BettyBowers pointed out on Twitter, it was a morning radio show, and Falwell Jr. sounded very drunk.

In the call he rambled about how this woman was his wife’s assistant and that she was pregnant so he was joking around with her and that he never should have embarrassed her by posting the photo.

He also said, “I’m going to try to be a good boy from here on out.”

Definitely something a grown-ass sober man says.

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

Eliad Cohen:

Life of the party

The beefcake model and clothing designer's job as a party producer is on hold during the pandemic, but he plans to come back stronger than ever

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Chances are, even if the name doesn't ring a bell you would recognize Eliad Cohen on sight... and not necessarily his face. For about a third of his 32 years, he has been one of the most iconic fitness models (1.3 million Instagram followers alone) idolized in the gay universe, known as a daddy from his early 20s.

"That Arabian hairy chest!" he laughs, joking that his mom insists, "That's how I came into the world."

He embraces that identity, though; in fact, it's a tenet of his happiness to be comfortable in his own skin. "I'm really happy — I have some friends who are so stressed about ageing, but I am OK with it. You get to know yourself better."

Knowing himself — indeed, accepting himself — wasn't always easy. "Israel is different from [the rest of the Middle East] — Tel Aviv is the gayest city in the world! Like, really insane." But Cohen wasn't from Tel Aviv. Growing up in a smallish city in the north of Israel, being openly gay didn't seem like an option. "When I was young, I didn't accept myself," he says. It was an era where "calling someone gay [on a playground] was a slur. Also, I was in the army — we were [in close quarters] and taking showers together naked," so admitting he was gay felt awkward. After he came out of the closet, he told



his army buddies. "They said 'We love you, and it doesn't matter to us if you sleep with men or women. You are our brother.'"

It was slightly harder on his mother, whom he says was "completely shocked — it came from nowhere. I had a girlfriend who spent a lot of time in my house. But afterwards, we talked a lot. She said I should get married, and I said, 'No, ma, I have to be myself.' I'll never forget: The day after I told her, she said, 'Promise me one thing,' and she looked me straight in the eye and said, 'Never, never let them fuck you! You always fuck them.'" (Cohen is mum as to whether he's kept that promise.)

But for Cohen, coming out was just the first step in self acceptance. He didn't really come into his own until he began modeling and found that, within a period of about two years, he went from closeted army veteran to internationally famous beefcake icon for the gay community. How that success has lasted amazes even him.

After his first big break, appearing on the cover of the queer magazine *Spartacus*, he decided he needed to work hard and make as much money as he could, before his shelf-life expired and fans were ready to move on to the Next Big Thing.

"I was ready to say, 'You're not the new guy anymore.' But I got even more

well-known. And it just continued and continued. I'm now 32 — I started when I was 21 — and I'm still happy," he says.

Although he has many interests and channels of fame — from modeling to acting, social media influencer to fitness icon — most of his work comes as a party producer and promoter, and in that job, he has found even more reason to be out, proud and motivated.

"One fan I will never forget: I was doing a party in Carnivale in Brazil and flew from Mardi Gras in Australia. It was like 24 hours on a flight, and I was destroyed, but this guy who was super shy asked me for a picture. I told him about the party I was hosting and told him he should come. He said no, he was too shy, but I said, come, be near the stage, and when I see you I will bring you up. And I did. I put him in the [control booth]. It was a huge party for 10,000 people, and he could see everything. After about a month, I got an email from him. He had gotten a tattoo on his arm of a moustache, which was the logo of the party. I asked him why he did that. He said he has been fighting cancer, and that after chemotherapy [treatment], he wouldn't remember much. He did this because he said, 'You were nice to me and generous to me and gave me the power to fight the cancer.' I started to cry when I read it. Now he's living his life. This is really, really meaningful to me. It gave me the power to be from the north of Israel and know I can affect someone from the other side of the world."

Of course, the party-producer career path is not much in evidence during corona.

"I moved to Miami from WeHo about eight months ago because [it was more convenient since I] travel a lot for work," Cohen says, though he's spent the last five months like the rest of us, sheltering in place. It's been bad "because there is nothing happening [on the party circuit]. On the other hand, I am having such a great time being home. For 11



■ ELIAD Next Page



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Benjamin J. Falk, New York, NY, *William C. Crane (detail)*, 1880-1900, albumen silver print, Museum of the City of New York, Collection on Broadway Productions, L2020.11.7



■ ELIAD From Previous Page

years, about the maximum I have been at home is two weeks. It's good sleeping in your own bed and making your own breakfast."

And he's hopeful for the future.

"It will be 2021 [before parties are back]," Cohen muses. "I am sure a vaccine will be ready, and people will be *starving* for a party. When it's back, I am sure it will be huge. But it will be a new normal — outdoor events rather than inside. We must evolve and move on: New productions, new events, new parties..." maybe even bringing something to North Texas. ("I did my party in Houston a few years ago; I've never been to Dallas, but I hear it's amazing.")

In the meantime, he's busy on his latest venture: promoting his new clothing line, Massbranded for Eliad Cohen.

"We started planning it a year ago. I met Mass [Luciano] and his [Massbranded] partner in London, and we started to design." They were supposed to launch in April, but the pandemic pushed back the release date of his line, though not the focus.

"The first thing always is, you must

be super comfy," Cohen says. "Sometimes I have these cool clothes from expensive designers, but they stay in my closet because they aren't comfortable — they are too tight. Clothing should show the muscles but not be too tight. I don't find it sexy [when guys dress like that] — it's like, you're trying too hard. Relax... really."

Practicality was another concern ("I like to close the zipper so I won't lose my wallet or phone or keys"). And he wanted to pay homage to his time in the Israeli army. "Mass' father was also a military guy, so we wanted something masculine, sexy and nice, but also easy-going," he says.

Cohen (who last year got out of a two-year relationship and is now happily single) recognizes that while athleisurewear was once considered weekend gear, in the post-pandemic world it has become the de facto uniform of the Zoom meeting and at-home worker, putting his brand ahead of the curve.

"Good timing," he grins. ■

Check out the fashion collection at Massbranded.com.

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Music has become such a profoundly important part of our lives during the pandemic. And there are multiple ways to get it, especially this week.



Playlist: Gary Lynn Floyd, *My 88 Keys, Vol. 2: Quarantined*. Even if he hadn't been a staple of Dallas stages for decades, we'd love telling people about Floyd's voice, one of the most emotionally pure you'll ever hear. Floyd follows up his 2015 album *My 88 Keys, Vol. 1: Unplugged* with his new post-corona record, filled with relaxing, spiritually-fulfilling songs, all curated for Floyd's audience. It's the perfect tonic to pandemic stress. Available for purchase or streaming on [AppleMusic](#) and [Spotify](#).



Streamable: Undermain In Concert. Undermain usually mounts live theater, but while the pandemic has shut it down, it has launched an In Concert Series which alternates groups and styles. Until Aug. 19 you can listen to the band Caftan, pictured, and Aug. 20-Sept. 5 the ensemble Open Classical. [Undermain.org](#). Free.



Live: Addison Drive-in Concert Series: Joseph Veazie. If you've missed the experience of seeing an actual musician in the same physical space as you making live music, well you can get back to it ... sort of. The city of Addison last month launched a new drive-in concert series — live music enjoyed from the safety of your car. The second weekend launches Friday with the band Extended Play and culminates Saturday with popular local singer Joseph Veazie, pictured. 15499 Julian St. at Addison Circle Park. Aug. 14-15, 8:30-10 p.m. Free.

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Cassie Nova

Ellen's being mean, and Sunny turns 12

Y'all, I hate hearing all this stuff about Ellen. I hate hearing that she's mean and that many people that work for her find the workplace toxic. I just hate it. If she turned a blind eye to injustice or sexual harassment by one of her producers, then I will be mad.

I honestly hope it's not true, but you know what? For all of those people that are so ready to "cancel" her solely based on the "fact" that she is mean, y'all can piss off.

I've seen so many posts on Facebook lately saying that she is finally getting what she deserves. Because she is mean? Ridiculous. Are we just going to forget all she has done to help normalize our community to the rest of the country. If you are living an out and proud life today, you can thank people like Ellen DeGeneres for starting that conversation with America. So many young people do not realize what it was like in the time before.

Before Ellen came out on television, there were so few positive gay role models on TV. I'm not saying everything changed overnight when she came out, but it was a real start to the change in the way the American public viewed us. And I, for one, will always be grateful to Ellen for that.

So she is mean; let's break that down. Some people don't know what it is like to be an entertainer and be "on." I am not saying that I am on the same level as Ellen, but I am an entertainer ... regardless of what you have heard. Believe me, it's exhausting to always be ON. Smiling, joking and being upbeat like you are onstage all the time is exhausting.

I don't think she is mean just to be mean; I just think she is not always ready to entertain, and that gets misinterpreted as being a bitch.

One of my very good friends is an entertainer, but when she is offstage, she is actually very shy. She is one of the nicest people I know but is constantly being called a bitch because she isn't super outgoing when she

is not on stage. I hate that so much for her.

Look, if it comes out that Ellen is crazy evil and sets fires to flaming bags of poop on the steps of an orphanage, I will absolutely be heartbroken. And I will let her go, so to speak. But just because some people find her mean? NO.

I've been called a bitch for not stopping to joke around with someone I don't really know. Luckily, being a bit of a bitch is on brand for me. I guess that is the real problem most people have with Ellen; her brand is being nice. She says be kind to one another at the close of every show but doesn't always practice what she preaches. In that way, sure, she is a bit hypocritical. I get that. But to just "cancel" her for that is just as wrong as being mean.

Like I said, I hate hearing all this stuff

about Ellen, but I am still a fan. But Lord help me if y'all ever go after Kelly Clarkson! I will fight a bitch over Kelly.

On a lighter note, yesterday was my Pomeranian Sunny's birthday. Yes, we are those gays that know our dogs' birthdays. But we don't make it into a big deal. We just had a small cake and a very intimate and exclusive get-together with a few decorations, an ice sculpture of Sunny and a bouncy house.

We are feeling the repercussions of the party today, though. Everyone is SO hungover, so I made myself a Bloody Mary ... you know, hair of the dog.

I took Sunny some Pedialyte a few minutes ago, and his trick is still here. I can't believe he let him stay the night. He is such a whore!



I can't believe my baby is 12 years old. Seems like just yesterday I was teaching him to fetch, and now he always seems to have a ball in his mouth ... just like his daddy.

My dogs have really helped me during this quarantine bullshit. Every day they make me laugh, and I never feel too lonely. Even if I want to be alone ... nope. They refuse it. Even if I want a moment to myself, fugitaboutit! I shut the bathroom door and I have tiny noses snorting and little paws reaching for me. They are called lap dogs for a reason: They are not happy unless they are in your lap.

We literally sleep in a dog pile. At any time during the night, I have at least two dogs touching me. And as soon as my husband leaves for work in the mornings, I can easily have all five dogs on me. I think they are worried I am going to get cold, so they are warming me up.

I'm not sure what they will do when I finally go back to work. They will probably have a party: bitches and blow for everybody. Rude!

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

this week's solution

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Andrew and Dante at the pool.



Look for big news soon from DVtv host Brad Pritchett



Eric and Seth



Lorie and Adlee



Jake and Lucifer



Jason "just Biden" his time til November

Material Boy

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62						63					64			
65						66					67			

Solution on Page 16

Across

- 1 The sound of music
- 5 *The Sound of Music* character
- 10 "La vie en rose" singer
- 14 Moby Dick chaser
- 15 Rupert Everett's *An ___ Husband*
- 16 Uncommon, to Caligula
- 17 *Grease* prop for Travolta
- 18 *South Pacific* fruit
- 19 Pt. of USA
- 20 Start of a quip from Billy Eichner
- 23 "Ta ta!"
- 24 Low point in ballet
- 25 Willing and able partner
- 27 Script ending
- 30 Like the *Tales of the City* setting
- 34 Highly competent
- 35 Uranus, for example
- 37 Crack pilot
- 38 Rev. White of Soulforce
- 39 More of the quip
- 40 Where you work in the navy
- 41 Post-opposite
- 42 Force to leave
- 43 Lozenge before a kiss
- 44 Stravinsky string, perhaps
- 46 Mission ending

Down

- 47 "I want to be alone" actress
- 48 gfn.com assets
- 50 Pakistani *Seinfeld* character
- 51 End of the quip
- 59 Melville story of the sea
- 60 George, who was Mary Ann
- 61 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 62 Lightly burn
- 63 Monastery's main man
- 64 One playing with balls at the circus
- 65 They may be split
- 66 Good to eat
- 67 Pulls a boner
- 12 Part of BART
- 13 Jamie of *M*A*S*H*
- 21 Food for a stallion
- 22 Oral sex participant
- 25 Wheelchair routes
- 26 *Your Movie Sucks* author Roger
- 27 Part of UHF
- 28 It may be straight or electric
- 29 Diplomatic agent
- 31 Player on first, in Glenn Burke's sport
- 32 Like sourballs
- 33 "Faboo!"
- 35 Spot in Vegas
- 36 Enjoy orally
- 39 Unclear
- 43 Bottom
- 45 Broadway cast, e.g.
- 47 Fly opening?
- 49 Respond to a Richard Simmons workout
- 50 Off-the-wall
- 51 Netflix series about ballroom culture
- 52 The last word to 38-Across
- 53 Yellow-brick way
- 54 Jessica of *Dark Angel*
- 55 Madonna and Christopher
- 56 Not worth oral treatment
- 57 Close by
- 58 Has an STD, e.g.

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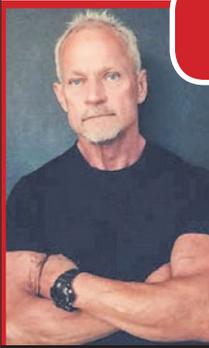
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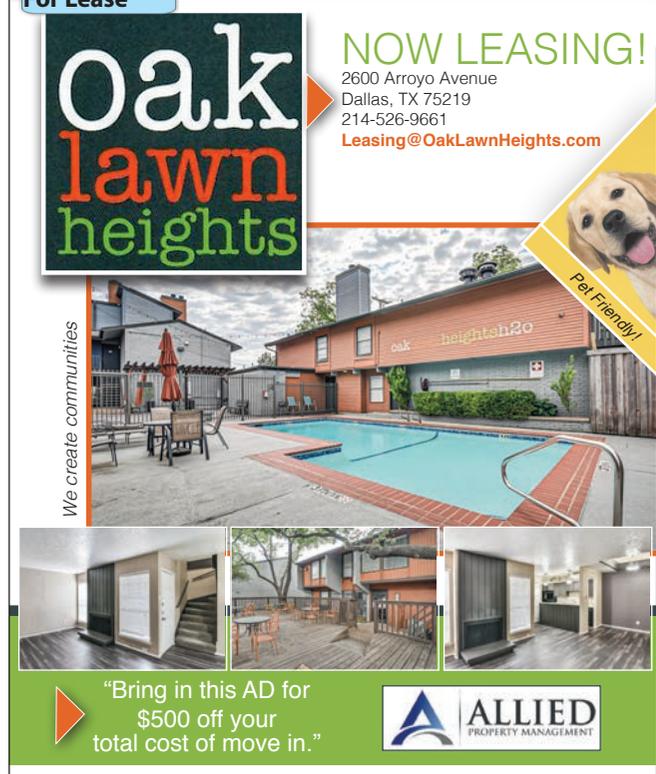
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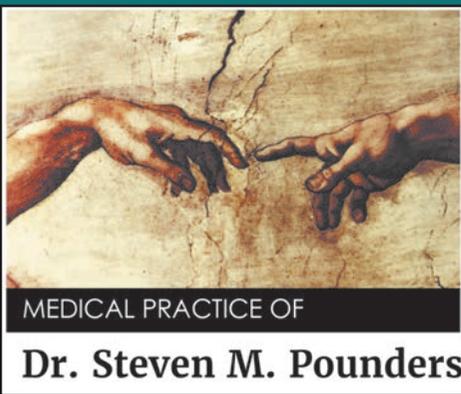


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