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The new go-to in blue

**Officer Chelsea Geist is
DPD's new LGBTQ liaison**

by David Taffet, Page 6

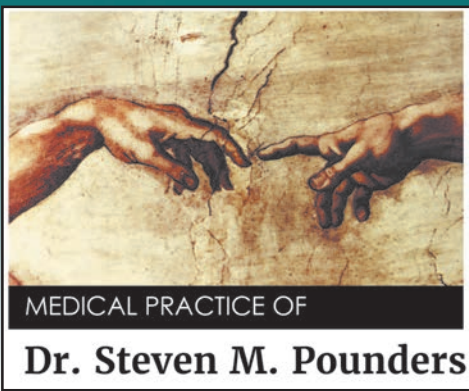


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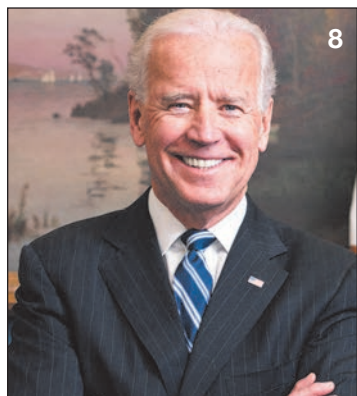
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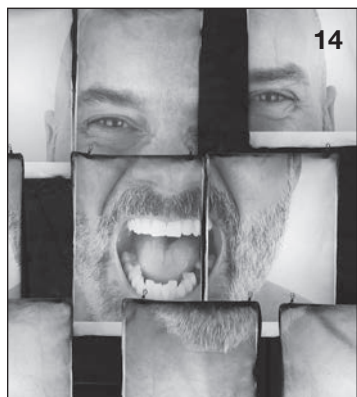
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Officer Chelsea Geist at DPD HQ
Photo by David Taffet
Design by Kevin Thomas

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The Berlin patient has died



Timothy Ray Brown and his husband Tim Hoeffgen (via Facebook)

Timothy Ray Brown, 54, better known as the Berlin patient, has died. He was the first person cured of HIV after being given a bone marrow transplant from someone who had a natural resistance to HIV.

Brown died of cancer. He was being treated for leukemia, a cancer of the blood, when he received the bone marrow transplant in 2007.

When he received the bone marrow transplant, Brown stopped taking his HIV medication. Within three months, no HIV could be found in his body. For the rest of his life, he remained clear of HIV.

The leukemia, however, returned earlier this year and spread to his brain and spinal cord.

A second person, known as the London patient, received the same treatment and remains HIV-negative and leukemia-free.

While scientists remain optimistic that HIV can be cured rather than just controlled, this treatment is considered too extreme to be used widely and is used only as a cancer treatment.

— David Taffet

Netflix releases

'Boys in the Band'

Boys in the Band opened off-Broadway in 1968, a year before Stonewall. I was a gay teen who grew up in New York, but I didn't see the show until 1970.

In the two years between its debut and when I saw it, *Boys in the Band* had become a dated play about self-hating homosexuals. I couldn't really identify with those characters who were so last year. But as the only play running with gay characters, I also somehow identified. (Imagine, Broadway without gay characters on stage!)

In 2018, the play was revived on Broadway with an all-gay, all-star cast. It won Tony Awards and was recognized for the insightful portrait of gay life in Greenwich Village pre-Stonewall. Gains in equality have made this a fascinating, even brilliant, period piece.

The award-winning Broadway production has now been turned into a Netflix film with the Broadway revival cast — Matt Bomer, Charlie Carver, Jim Parsons, Robin de Jesús, Brian Hutchison, Zachary Quinto, Andrew Rannells, Michael Benjamin Washington and Tuc Watkins. The film began streaming this week.

Bomer and Parsons, both Texans, have each appeared on the cover of *Out North Texas*, the official visitors guide for LGBT North Texas, which comes out every January and is published by Dallas Voice.

The play is by Mart Crowley, who lived to see the 50th anniversary Broadway revival, but died earlier this year of a heart attack. He wrote several sequels to *Boys in the Band*, but none ever made it to Broadway.

— David Taffet

Gina Ortiz Jones accepts invitation to 2 debates

Gina Ortiz Jones, the openly lesbian Democratic nominee for Congress in Texas' 23rd District, has accepted invitations to participate in two televised debates set to air in the San Antonio and El Paso media markets during the month of October.

Jones, a San Antonio native and Iraq War veteran, faces Republican nominee Tony Gonzales and Libertarian nominee Beto Vilella in the race to replace Republican incumbent Rep. Will Hurd.

The first debate, set for Oct 8 at 7 p.m., is being hosted by KSAT ABC-12 News and Southwest Texas Junior College, and will air live on KSAT-12 in Uvalde in the San Antonio media market. KVIA ABC-7 News hosts the second debate on Oct. 13 in the El Paso media market. More details for the virtual debate will be announced.

In announcing that she had accepted the invitations to the debates, Jones said, "As South and West Texans continue to suffer from this ongoing public health and economic crisis, voters deserve to know exactly where the candidates stand on the issues that matter. In these upcoming debates, I'm looking forward to contrasting my commitment to fighting for protective families with Tony Gonzales' promise to eliminate the Affordable Care Act and its protections for patients with pre-existing conditions."

— Tammye Nash

Dallas VideoFest's DocuFest to feature 'Gay Chorus Deep South'

The Dallas VideoFest's DocuFest begins Thursday, Oct. 1, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 4, offering four days of documentaries screened online, with nightly showings at the drive-in venue The Tin Star Theater in Trinity Groves.

The docs include films about Lucille Ball, Herb Alpert, Chuck Berry and Jimmy Carter, as well as new titles from Texas filmmakers Alan Govenar, Byrd Williams IV and Miles Hargrove.

One to watch is the local premiere of *Gay Chorus Deep South*, which follows the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus following the 2016 election as they toured the South, from Mississippi to Tennessee through the Carolinas and over the bridge in Selma.

Tim Seelig, former director of Turtle Creek Chorale who is now the SFGMC director, is featured prominently.

See the schedule and purchase tickets at VideoFest.org.

— Mark Lowry

Dallas Eagle to remain closed

Dallas Eagle owner Jeffrey Payne announced today (Wednesday, Sept. 30) that he will not be re-opening the bar on Maple Avenue before sometime in December at the earliest.

"We have been closed since March 15. I have wanted nothing more than to reopen since

that time; however, during that I time, I continued to believe it was not in the best interest of our staff, patrons and family," Payne said in a post on social media. "Looking at the data, I still do not feel it is the time to reopen. And will not reconsider it until December."

Payne acknowledged that he is "well aware" how some others feel about whether the bar should reopen, noting that "many of you have made it quite clear on social media and/

or private messages that you disagree with my decision." Still, he continued, while his customers have a right to their opinion and he respects that, "However," he continued, "not to be too blunt, I own the bar and the buck stops with me."

Payne ended his post with a reminder to "stay safe, mask up and take care of yourself and those around you."

— Tammye Nash



Wade/Vance wedding

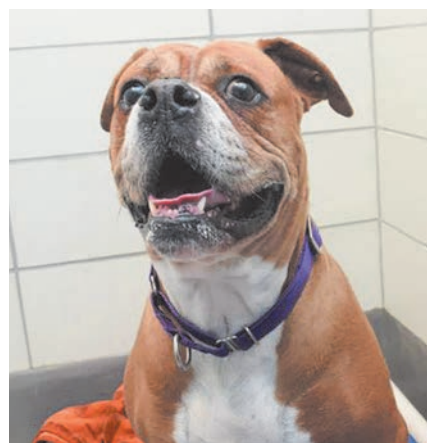
Chaselyn Wade, originally of Carlisle, Ken., and John C. Vance, originally of Plano, are happy to announce their upcoming marriage in a small, private ceremony in Key West, Fla., on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020. Chaselyn is the daughter of Barbara and James Biddle; John is the son of Kathy and Charles Vance. The couple now live in Dallas.

John is a graduate of Valley Forge Military College and is an IT sales representative. He is also a precinct chair for the Dallas County Democratic Party. Chaselyn is an accomplished actor, painter and makeup artist for both stage and screen. She is also a board member of Legacy Counseling.

The couple were first introduced 16 years ago and dated briefly before separating. Three years ago they were reunited, showing that love provides a second chance to whomever accepts the opportunity.

They will continue to reside in Dallas. A formal reception will be held in Dallas at a time and date to be announced. For information, visit TheKnot.com/johnandchaselyn.

pet of the week / DOTTIE



Meet **Dottie**, an 8-year-old female boxer mix weighing 78 pounds. She's a big, beautiful lady with a mostly red coat and

splashes of white on her muzzle. She is a sweet girl with a silly smile and a big heart. She was found as a stray and is now in search of a loving home to call her own. She was pretty timid when she first arrived at the shelter, so please bring kids under 12 to meet her. She could stand to lose a little weight, so she's hoping to find an adopter who will take her on daily walks, play with her and keep her in shape. She has a lot of love to give and can't wait to find her forever family. Potential adopters get to take her on a test drive through a trial adoption. Dottie 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/findadpet and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.

Keeping our pets safe from parasites

Welcome back, Dallas Voice readers! Can you believe it is already October? While that sinks in, I

am going to share our topic for this month's column: intestinal parasites. As you know, there are tons and tons of different parasites out there, both in human and non-human forms :). However, for this specific column, I will be focusing on the ones that affect our dogs and cats, specifically their guts.

There are some common misconceptions about intestinal parasites that I want to address first. One is that if you see no spaghetti-looking worms in the poop, then there are no intestinal parasites. This is not accurate!

There are different types of microscopic intestinal parasites that you will never see in the poop but that may still be present. In fact, some of them are fairly common here in Texas. Another common misconception is that if a dog or cat lives indoors, there is no way that he or she will have any sort of parasites. I have seen the exact opposite of this so many times.

I have lost count of how many indoor dogs and cats I have seen over the years with different kinds of intestinal parasites. Another important fact is that many of these parasites can be transmitted to humans, so please consult with your vet to see what precautions may be needed with certain parasites.

Let's start with the specifics of the most common intestinal parasites. Both dogs and cats can get these parasites, and they can be pretty cool or gross to watch, depending on your perspective (LOL).

The longer worms that people think about when this topic is brought up are usually roundworms or hookworms. These are mostly transmitted through ingestion of microscopic eggs found within stools, and this happens when our babies step on stool traces that may have the eggs and then lick their paws. Even if no stools are seen, many of these microscopic eggs can live in the environment for weeks — or even months!

Another very common intestinal parasite is the tapeworm. In fact, these worms are used in some parts of the world for weight loss (do not attempt this at home!). These are transmitted when a dog or cat ingests a flea that is infected with microscopic tapeworms. The adult worms will be seen in the stools or around our pet's anuses. Fun, right? These usually look like grains of rice, but they are segments or fragments of a much longer worm within the intestines of the dog or cat.

Now some of the ones that are microscopic and will never be seen as worms are giardia and coccidia. They are also usually transmitted through exposure to contam-



WOOF

Dr. Josh Talks Animals

inated stools. These can be very difficult to get rid of, so prevention and routine testing is very important.

The best way to make sure your

babies do not have any of these are through a physical exam and, usually, a fecal sample exam. You can also take a picture of what you see so that you can show it to your veterinary healthcare team.

The most common symptom associated with the presence of intestinal parasites is soft stools or diarrhea, even if no worms are seen. Now playing devil's advocate, normal stools does not mean no parasites are present. It is fairly common to see babies with completely normal stools that still have intestinal parasites.

Needless to say, it is important to note that soft stools or diarrhea are seen with many different issues and not just intestinal parasites. If you are concerned about possible worms, bring a fresh stool sample to your appointment with the doctor so that your vet team can process it. Your doctor may also recommend blood work if there is suspicion of a significant amount of parasites within the intestines, based on physical examination.

Prevention and environmental control are key to avoiding or minimizing exposure and transmission of these crazy critters. It is always super important to pick up your baby's stools right after they go to the bathroom, to avoid leaving parasites in the environment. Also, if you suspect or know that your baby has intestinal parasites, avoid going to common areas other animals go to, as they will be exposed to these parasites. Most of these are usually fairly easily treated, but hygiene at home will be vital, as well as routine follow ups with your pet's veterinary team.

Well, I hope this column has been enjoyable and informative for all of you, guys! You know how I like to keep it classy and sexy — hahaha.

Happy Halloween month, and please remember to vote! Abrazos, my friends!

Dr. Josh owns Isla Veterinary Boutique Hospital, 14380 Marsh Lane, Ste. 110 Addison (Next to Tom Thumb). Call him at 972-738-1111 or visit IslaVet.com.





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The new go-to in blue

Chelsea Geist is appointed new LGBTQ police liaison

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Officials in the Dallas Police Department's Office of Community Affairs have appointed Chelsea Geist as the new LGBTQ liaison officer

after former liaison officer Amber Roman was promoted to detective.

Connecting with the community during the pandemic is a challenge, Geist said, but because of the work of her predecessors over the past three decades, she's already getting calls.

The position of liaison began informally during the 1980s when Sgt. Earl Newsum, one of the cops patrolling Cedar Springs Road, decided he'd walk into the businesses along the strip and introduce himself. He became such a beloved figure in Oak Lawn, he was named grand marshal of the Pride parade in 1987.

When Ben Click became police chief in 1993 — soon after Mica England successfully sued the police department for its discriminatory hiring practices — he decided to make liaison an official position, and he named Sr. Cpl. Lynn Albright to fill it.

After Albright retired, Laura Martin was named to the position. She was also promoted to detective and now carries out special assignments, like protecting visiting dignitaries. Roman said her current assignment is investigating assaults.

Geist said she is excited about her new position because she'll be working directly with her own community. She's engaged and was supposed to get married in October. But she and her fiancée put off the wedding until next year, after the pandemic is over, so that they can



celebrate in person with their families and friends.

Geist is from a Chicago suburb where she was raised with her younger brother and sister. She went to a small high school there and played soccer and basketball in school. After receiving her master's degree in criminal justice, she moved to Dallas to be with her fiancée. They live in West Dallas with their mini Australian shepherd Wrigley and mini golden doodle Lennie.

"As a child, I had admiration and respect for people who put others before themselves," Geist said. In high school, she even took a business law class, and, she said, "I was intrigued learning about law and law enforcement."

There were people who told her she wouldn't cut it as a police officer because she's lesbian and biracial. But that just strengthened her resolve. When she got to Dallas, Geist applied to DPD and was surprised how quickly she was hired.

For her first three years on the force, Geist patrolled the Southeast division. It was there, she said she learned that,

"Small things go a long way. Just say hello. Show you care."

To introduce herself to the LGBTQ community during the pandemic, the new liaison officer did a Zoom meet-and-greet on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Roman said since February she's tried to stay engaged by going out into the community on limited engagements. When churches have done food distributions, she has been there to pass out information or to visit people temporarily staying in hotels and apartments to let them know where they can pick up some free grocery items. And as the Katy Trail became more congested with so many people at home, Roman tried to get out information about other trails that aren't as frequently used.

Geist said she's getting involved in those sorts of community activities as well. "We're working to keep people engaged with us," she said. "Community Affairs will do events next year."

Geist also talked about something she believes the Dallas Police Department is doing right: the new Right Care Team, which only goes on mental health calls,

she explained.

The three-year pilot project is operating in South Central, simply because that sector had the most mental health calls in the city. Regular police are part of the team, because "you never know what you're walking into," Geist said. But officers with expertise, rather than just the standard 40 hours of mental health training, take the lead.

Roman said the new program seems to be getting people the help they need, and Geist said she hopes to see the program expanded soon.

Both Geist and Roman said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, officers are doing what they can to stay safe, clean and healthy. Cars are wiped down between calls. They are washing their hands a lot. For routine calls, officers maintain distance when possible and wear their masks. Officers have also been issued extra PPE gear.

"We have families at home," Geist said, explaining why officers are careful to take all precautions.

Police have added a couple of COVID-19 screening questions for those calling 9-1-1. But, Geist assured, all calls will be answered. When indicated, the responding officers and paramedics will wear extra gear and take every precaution possible.

Geist encourages anyone needing help navigating the system to email her. She said it can be intimidating at times, and she's there to help.

She also said she's happy to talk to anyone who may have information on a case under investigation. Knowing you're talking to someone in the community is easier for some, especially those who've never had much contact with the police before.

Roman said her biggest surprise during her time as liaison was the number of people who called her from out-of-town. People from surrounding cities without an LGBTQ liaison (Irving is the only suburb with a liaison) and people from out-of-state called her for help. Some wanted to know how to deal with a particular situation. Others wanted to just talk to someone in the community about whether or not they've been dealt with fairly.

Geist said she also welcomes those contacts both from within Dallas and from elsewhere.

To contact Officer Geist, email her at chelsea.geist@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us.

TULIP blooming in New Orleans



Tourism is the lifeblood of New Orleans, especially the French Quarter. But the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has hit the city hard, as this picture of a near-deserted French Quarter street in July shows. The pandemic has left many unemployed and struggling to pay rent and mortgage payments. The city's transgender and gender-non-conforming residents often struggle during the city's best times, but they are seeing hope in a new project called House of Tulip. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

A refuge for homeless transgender people is in the works in the Big Easy

MARIA CLARK |
USA Today - The American South
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A group of advocates in New Orleans has raised more than \$400,000 to create what will be the city's first home for transgender and gender-non-confirming people who are experiencing homelessness.

The project, called the House of Tulip (Trans United Leading Intersectional Progress), is believed to be the first of its kind in the U.S., according to Mariah Moore, a co-director of the organization and a national organizer for the Transgender Law Center.

The group is finalizing the purchase of a multi-unit home near the Tremé neighborhood in downtown New Orleans that will provide living space for up to 12 people at a time. Moore explained that unlike other forms of shelter, the home would not impose specific requirements or restrictions that would limit who could access living space.

"Some places say you have to be navigating sobriety or living with HIV, or they place a restriction on the amount

TULIP, Page 10

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A ‘monstrous, unintelligible display’

Biden wins debate by default as Trump encourages Proud Boys to ‘stand by’

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

The first meeting of the two major party presidential candidates Tuesday night was billed as a “debate,” but, as lesbian political commentator Rachel Maddow put it afterwards, the event turned out to be a “monstrous, unintelligible display of logorrhea.”

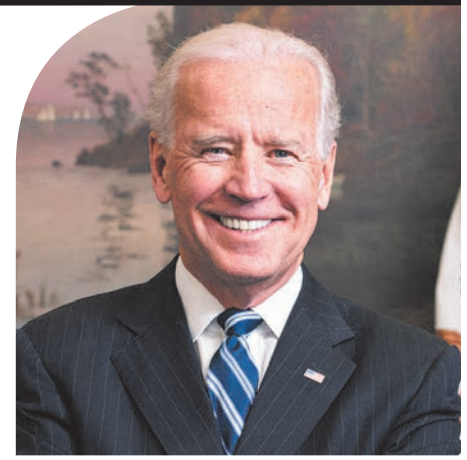
“What happened on that debate stage,” said Maddow, who led MSNBC’s post-debate discussion, “was unlike anything that has ever happened on a presidential debate stage ever before.”

What happened of particular interest to the LGBT community was President Trump’s refusal to tell white supremacists to “stand down” and his comment, instead, telling an extremist right-wing group that has voiced anti-LGBT views to “stand by.”

Trump’s response on the white supremacist question from Fox News moderator Chris Wallace garnered more attention from the post-debate commentary than his remarks on any other issue during the 90-minute event. Trump made his “stand by” remark when Wallace pressed Trump to say whether he was “willing to condemn white supremacists and militia groups and to say they need to stand down and not add to the violence” in cities around the country.

Trump tried initially to brush off the question, saying, “Sure, I’m willing to do that.” But then he quickly added that he believes the real problem is with anti-fascist groups on the left.

Wallace pressed him again about white supremacists, and Trump asked Wallace what group Wallace wanted him to denounce. Biden tossed out the name “Proud Boys,” a male-only group known



Donald Trump, left, and Joe Biden

for its anti-women, anti-black, anti-Muslim, anti-Jew, and anti-LGBT rhetoric and activities.

Trump said, “Proud Boys, stand back and stand by.”

Gay political commentator Keith Boykin said, “Trump telling white supremacists to ‘stand back and stand by’ was a disgrace that gave aid and comfort to racist bigots all across America.”

In a post-debate column for CNN, Boykin called Tuesday night’s event “the worst presidential debate in American history” and “an indictment on anyone who ever supported Donald Trump for president.”

But Charles Moran, a spokesman for Log Cabin Republicans and a Trump supporter, said what he took from the statement is that President Trump “is willing to clamp down on extremism on both sides, as he did earlier last week by condemning the KKK and Antifa as domestic terrorist groups — something Obama/Biden never had the courage to do.”

Moran said he saw the debate as “a stark display of a career politician who has spent 47 years in Washington, D.C., against a demonstrated change agent in Donald Trump who has faced some of the biggest challenges head on.”

Moran added, “President Trump wasn’t afraid to call out Biden’s dubious record and personal self-dealing. It’s what Americans are already thinking anyway.”

But Log Cabin Republicans’ founder

Rich Tafel, who is not a Trump supporter, had a different take. “Any normal president in our nation’s history would have denounced violent actions by radical groups,” he said.

“When he said that the Proud Boys should ‘stand by,’” Tafel said, “he was signaling to a violent group that he may call on them and they should stand down for now but be ready for his call. That’s how I interpreted it.”

Many others had the same interpretation.

“It’s not just that he didn’t repudiate white supremacists,” said CNN’s openly gay news host Anderson Cooper after the debate, “he told them to ‘stand by.’ Like, ‘Oh, don’t do anything now, but stand by because I might need you?’ Can you believe that the president of the United States would say that?”

Lorri Jean, chief executive officer of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, said Trump’s refusal to condemn white supremacists and his urging them to “stand by” delivered a “clear message” to LGBTQ people.

“He doesn’t want to build understanding and acceptance or even tolerance,” Jean said. “He wants to continue to create division. He has already appointed more than 300 judges, most of whom are immensely hostile to LGBTQ equality. Worst of all, his attempt to undermine the legitimacy of our national elections is a disgrace.”

LGBTQ Victory Fun President Annise

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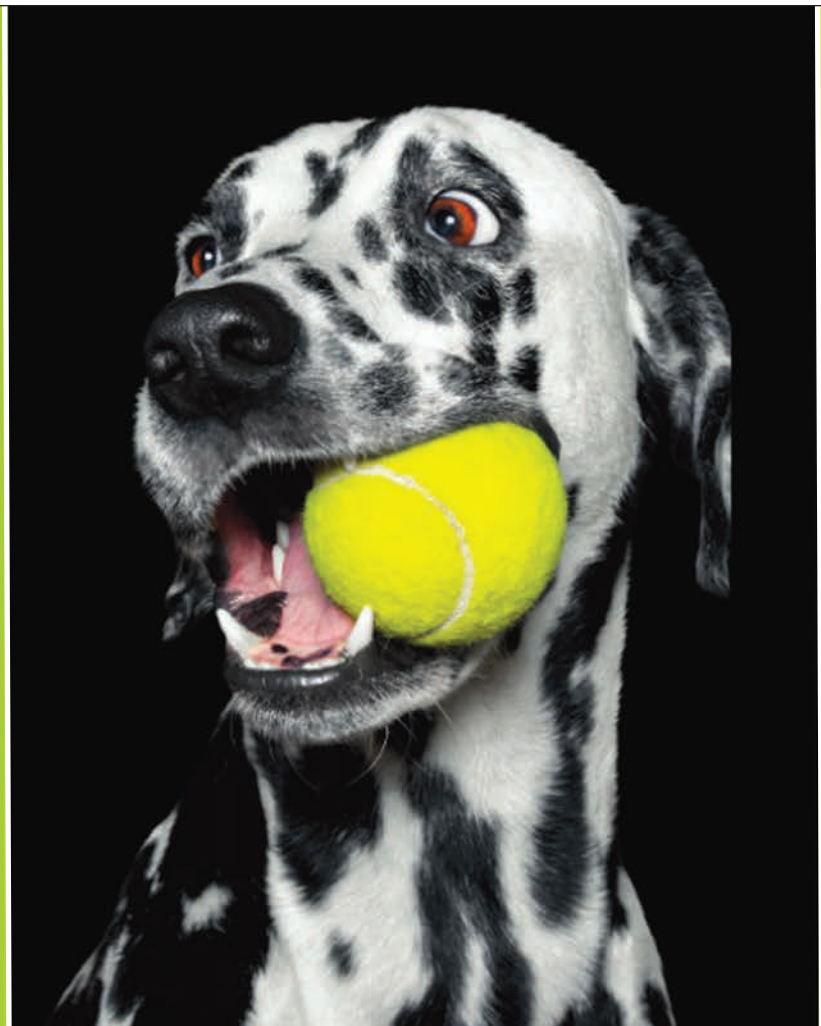
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TULIP

, From Page 7

of time you can stay," Moore said. "We want to think about all of that and how it can be harmful."

The group is aiming to have the house ready and available by next spring.

House of Tulip was the brainchild of Moore and fellow activist Milan Nicole Sherry, who co-founded BreakOUT!, an activist organization in New Orleans that supports LGBTQ youth.

New Orleans was hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic early on. The city's largely tourism-based economy has yet to recover leading to high rates of unemployment and a mounting housing crisis.

But even before the pandemic hit, about half of renters in the city were already living paycheck to paycheck. More than half were paying more than a third of their income on housing, according to a study commissioned by the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance in 2018.

Growing up in New Orleans as a transgender woman, Sherry said she had experienced housing instability even as an adult. As the fallout from the pandemic gripped her city, she worried about the

more vulnerable members of her community.

"For a lot of trans folks, housing is a matter of life or death," Sherry said. "They have to engage in survival sex work for a place to stay, and violence comes along with that. There are so many girls this year alone that we have lost."

The Human Rights Campaign lists at least 28 trans and gender-non-conforming people who have died violently so far this year in the U.S. The majority of those cases involved Black trans women, noting in a statement that they have not seen such a high number at this point in the year since advocates started tracking these cases in 2013.

And it's likely that there have been more cases since many of these murders are either misreported or go unreported.

Worried about the impact the pandemic would have on their community, Sherry and Moore, along with other advocates, mobilized and raised \$20,000 to support trans and gender-non-conforming people in New Orleans who needed

help paying rent and bills.

"Housing was the main worry we kept hearing about over and over again," Sherry said.

While there are a handful of housing options in New Orleans for people experiencing homelessness, many come with specific restrictions and requirements. Some shelters, for example, are only available to people who are HIV positive, or specifically for single mothers, or people who are newly sober.

"We know these barriers prevent someone from seeking help. You would be surprised what people will do to meet those conditions. I have seen young people willing to contract HIV to get into housing," Sherry said.

The 12-bedroom TULIP home, once open, will be available to any transgender or gender-non-confirming person experiencing homeless for as long as they need, Moore said.

Some people may need the space longer than others, she added. Awareness around this long-term need is one reason the group aims to acquire a second property and find pathways to home ownership for community members.

"We want to expand to have many Tulips across New Orleans," Sherry said. ■



DISPLAY

, From Page 8

Parker, the former mayor of Houston, characterized Trump's behavior during the debate as "unhinged."

"He brought a level of chaos and toxicity to this debate that is unparalleled in American politics and was a desperate attempt to distract from a failed presidency," Parker said. "His refusal to denounce white supremacy and his embrace of bigotry to defend his agenda and supporters makes clear this is an election of unprecedented consequences."

The immediate consequences of the debate appeared to turn against Trump. In a quick CNN telephone poll of 568 registered voters who watched the debate, 60 percent said Biden "did the best job in the debate," and only 28 percent favored Trump. (The margin of error 6.3 points.) Fifty-seven percent said the debate had "no effect" on their vote; 32 percent said they were "more likely to vote for Biden," and 11 percent said they were "more likely to vote for Trump."

In a CBS News "Instant Post-Debate Poll" of 1,039 "likely voters" who

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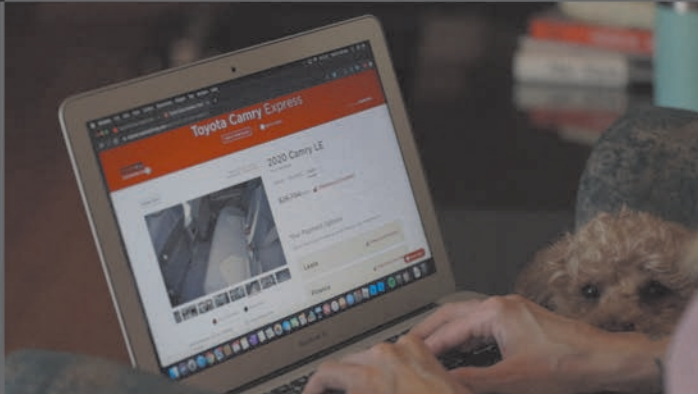
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watched the debate, 48 percent said Biden won, 41 percent said Trump, 10 percent called it a draw.

In one interesting sideshow leading up to the debate, Trump's son Eric drew some attention when, during a nationally broadcast Fox News show, he accidentally claimed to be part of the LGBT community.

The stumble occurred during a Fox & Friends segment in which the moderators were talking about a Sept. 28 opinion piece in the New York Times about a "Secret Trump Voter" who is a lesbian. Fox & Friends co-host Ainsley Earhardt said the essay told the story of a Manhattan lesbian in her 50s, identified only as Chris, who was supporting Trump, because her 401k went up 19.6 percent and the Affordable Care Act had caused her health insurance to become unaffordable.

Earhardt then asked Eric Trump, "are you counting on this person, the secret voter?"

"Ainsley, that person's there. I see it everyday," Eric Trump responded. "The LGBT community — they are incredible, and you should see how they've come out in full force for my father every single day. I'm part of that community, and we love the man...."

He later told the New York Post that he had simply been trying to paraphrase what gay supporters of his father say: "To clarify, many of our close friends are part of the LGBT community, which was the intent of my statement. The left has taken that vote for granted for a long time, and support from the gay community for my father is incredible. As to me personally, as I think you know, I am a happily married man to my wife, Lara."

The next debate is Wednesday, Oct. 7, between the two vice presidential candidates, Democrat Kamala Harris and current Vice President Mike Pence.

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★★★★ELECTION INFO★★★★

• **Voter Registration Deadline: Monday, Oct. 5**

To register to vote in Texas, complete a voter registration application and return it to your county election office by Monday, Oct. 5. You can deliver your registration application in person, or you can mail it. Forms that are mailed in must be postmarked by Oct. 5. You can find an application at the Texas Secretary of State website, sos.state.tx.us/elections, or go to your county voter registrar's office.

You can also check to see whether you are already registered to vote, find your polling location, find early voting locations and find key election dates by visiting the Texas Secretary of State website.

• **Absentee/mail-in voting**

You can vote by absentee (mail-in) ballot in Texas if you are 65 or older, if you are disabled, if you will be out of your county of residence on Election Day and during the designated time for early voting by personal appearance, or if you are in jail but otherwise eligible to vote or certified for participation in the address confidentiality program. Absentee ballots must be requested no later than 11 days prior to Election Day. That is Oct. 23 this year, but the United States Postal Service recommends requesting mail-in ballots no later than Oct. 19. And voted ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received no later than the day after Election Day.

Instructions on requesting and voting by an absentee ballot are available on the Texas Secretary of State website. Read the directions and follow them exactly.

• **Early Voting: Oct. 13-30**

In July, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, in response to

the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, extended the early voting period by six days in an effort to make early voting in person safer. Anyone who is registered to vote can vote early, but you have to vote in person.

Those who vote early can cast their ballot at any polling location in the country where they are registered. Check the Secretary of State website to find early voting locations in your county. Hours and dates can vary by county.

• **Election Day: Nov. 3**

Polls are open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Election Day. However, anyone already in line and waiting to vote at 7 p.m. will get a chance to vote. You don't have to have your voter's registration card with you to vote, but you must have a valid ID.

On Election Day, you must vote at your specific precinct polling location, except in Dallas and Collin counties where, for the first time in a national election, you may vote at any polling location in your county.

Acceptable forms of ID include a Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety, a Texas election identification certificate issued by DPS, a Texas personal identification card issued by DPS, a Texas handgun license issued by DPS, a United States military identification card with your photograph, a United States citizenship certificate with your photograph or a United States passport (book or card).

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, which does not expire, for voters aged 18-69 the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired no more than four years. For voters aged 70 or older, the photo identification may be expired for any length of time, as long as it is otherwise accurate.

For more information visit the Texas Secretary of State website at sos.state.tx.us/elections or the website for the county in which you are registered to vote.



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administration

Leo Cusimano Publisher ■ 114

editorial

Tammye Nash Managing Editor ■ 113

David Taffet Senior Staff Writer ■ 125

Philip Burton Proofreader

Contributors: Chris Azzopardi, Gary Bellomy, Jenny Block, J. Denton Bricker, Joey Cassiano, Jesus Chairez, Alicia Chang, D'Anne Witowski, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Mark Lowry, Steven Monacelli, Cassie Nova, Josh Robbins, Mikey Rox, Howard Lewis Russell, James Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Mathew Shaw, Brandi Amara Skyy, Mark Stokes, Jef Tingley, Casey Williams

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National Advertising Representative

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art

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Regina Lyn DVtv Host

circulation

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■ commUNITYvoices

Words count. Know what they mean

I saw an ad for the Trump campaign while watching TV over the weekend. The ad featured what looked, to me, to be an intentionally diverse group of people speaking more about the “terror” of a Joe Biden presidency rather than saying anything good about Don Trump.

All these people seemed pretty scared. Of course, all GOP politics seem to be motivated by fear these days.

There are a slew of things to be afraid of, according to the ad. One of the most prominent was that “Uncle Joe” would make the U.S. a socialist nation. The first thought that crossed my mind was that these people probably don’t even know what socialism is. I’m also not sure what they think it is.

I remember when Barack Obama was running; the GOP stoked fears that he would come and take your guns.

He didn’t. He had eight years to do it, and he didn’t.

I looked up a Gallop poll from 2018. It asked 1,035 Americans across all 50 states about their understanding of socialism. Only 17 percent could identify it as the government owning the means of production. That is about as far as you can get from what we have in the United States, and I can’t really recall anyone from either party advocating that — at least, not anyone who has had an actual chance of being elected.

There was a tie for the top answer to the question of “What is socialism?” One of the top two answers was, “I don’t know.”

This brings me back to the commercial.

I didn’t get the feeling from watching this ad for Trump that the cast of the commercial had the slightest notion of what socialism is. But they were by God, afraid of it. And they are positive Joe Biden is going to turn this country to socialism if elected.

The other answer tied the top spot in the Gallop poll was probably what really terrifies Republican voters: Nearly a quarter of those polled said socialism is “equality” — equal standing for every-



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

one, equal rights, equal distribution.

Yeah, I can see why they fear that so much. They have theirs, and they’ll be damned

if any of the riffraff below them on the social and economic ladder is going to get even the toniest bite out of their slice of the American Dream pie!

Why is equality so scary to so many people?

Remember the years leading up to the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality? Remember the hand-wringing that went on? “If they let same-sex couples marry, what will be next?! People marrying their dogs or horses?!” Remember all the ranting about how permitting same-sex marriage would destroy “traditional marriage”? (What is traditional marriage, anyway? And no, same-sex marriage didn’t destroy it, whatever it is.)

Katie and I just celebrated our second wedding anniversary, and I’m not aware of our marriage having had any negative effect on anyone else getting married. All of that fear was unfounded. It was just noise.

The same goes for the hyped-up fears of socialism. It’s nothing but a dog-whistle used to rile up Republican voters — to scare them — even when they don’t really have a grasp of what it is.

In fairness, the same could be said about the left using the term “fascism.” It’s just a word used to strike fear in Democratic voters. Let’s not do that.

The world has seen real fascism, and Trump ain’t it. Fascism is characterized by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition and strong regimen-

tation of society and of the economy, and Trump has not managed that — not that he hasn’t tried.

The third-most common answer to the question of what socialism is was “benefits and services, social services, free medicine for all.”

Wow, yeah. I can sure see why that would scare someone. That would be terrible if we provided healthcare to everyone and offered social services to those who are most vulnerable. Scary stuff indeed.

Personally, I don’t believe in all the name calling and finger pointing. It’s childish, undignified and lazy. I’m not a socialist, I don’t believe in economic planning by the government or government owning the means of production. (It doesn’t work, for one reason. Read *The Road To Serfdom* by F.A. Hayek.)

But there is nothing wrong with having compassion for those who need a little help and nothing wrong with leveling the playing field a bit by passing the Equality Act.

While I’m not a socialist, I’m definitely not impartial. I believe Donald Trump is dangerous and unfit. I question his motives, and I don’t trust him. He has become disconnected from the truth, and he is a terrible example for children.

Not only do I hope he loses in November, I hope he loses by an historic margin.

As a voter, I really wish the name calling would stop. Don’t tell me what your opponent thinks; tell me what you think. But if you insist on name calling, maybe use words your voters actually know the meaning of.

But more than anything else right now, I hope you vote. Vote all the way down the ballot. It matters. School board matters. Judges matter. Texas House matters.

It all matters.

Please vote like your life depends on it because it just might. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in the DFW area. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.



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The art of self-acceptance



Joey Brock's self portrait portrays his own coming out process.

Dallas artist explores struggle with being gay through a series of interviews and collage portraits

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Joey Brock's new exhibit at Ro2 Art in downtown Dallas — *In America* — is about self-acceptance. Each of his works displayed began with an interview.

"My grandfather was a Baptist minister," Brock said, "and I struggled with being gay." So he began his journey to self acceptance with a self-portrait. Using a variety of photographs of himself, he pieced together the portrait with 12 self-fragmented yet coherent pieces that together complete the puzzle of Joey Brock.

Fragmented, he said, was how he felt about himself for many years.

Audio of Brock's interviews of his subjects play in the background as those models in Brock's portraits discuss the idea of self-acceptance. Many of his subjects are gay or lesbian. Some are transgender, and others are straight.

One composite of two men includes images of Donnie, a dancer who works in the clubs on Cedar Springs Road, and images of Dylan, also from Dallas. Brock said the two images worked together well because "they're very much who they are."

Once he understood something about his models, Brock photographed them. But that was just the beginning of the process.



Each of the works is at least three layers thick, with the various pieces sewn together. Lips, eyebrows and hair are stitched onto the portrait. Everything is layered. Nothing is glued in these collage-portraits.

"Have you ever been discriminated against," he asked his models. "How did it make you feel?"

And the collages express triumph over pain so powerfully that we began discussing how we've experienced discrimination and overcome it as I viewed the exhibit.

So how has the COVID pandemic affected his work? "For me it was an escape," Brock said.

He works a full-time job, and, since the lock-down, has been working from

home. So, he said, "I used the time."

Of the 60 people Brock interviewed and photographed for this project, he's completed about half of the portraits. Being home gave him time to complete several in time for this exhibit.

How has the pandemic affected Ro2 Art? Their Cedars gallery is still open, but they had just opened this second showroom downtown when the pandemic hit. That show closed before very many visitors had seen it. Brock's *In America* show is just the second show Ro2 is presenting downtown.

Joey Brock: *In America* runs through Oct. 31 at Ro2 Art, 110 N. Akard St. To schedule a viewing or for questions contact galler@ro2art.com.

Q-Music:

A 2020 LGBTQ History Month playlist

GREGG SHAPIRO | Contributing Writer
greggshapiro@aol.com

October is LGBTQ History Month, and considering the huge role that music has always played in the life of our community, it seems only fitting that we kick off LGBTQ History Month so with some reviews of recent releases featuring some LGBTQ musical icons.

Andy Bell of Erasure is the grand dame of this playlist. The vocal half of the electronic dance-pop duo (alongside the quieter multi-instrumentalist Vince Clarke) now in its 35th year, the unabashedly gay Bell can still stir up all the feels with his powerful and emotive voice. We reviewed *The Neon* (Mute), the twosome's 18th album, in the Sept. 18 issue of Dallas Voice. But Bell is also an audible presence on the song "Good At Goodbyes" from *Fun City* (YSKWN/MRI Entertainment), the latest full-length by Bright Light Bright Light (aka Rod Thomas, who was featured in a profile interview, also in the Sept. 18 issue of the Voice).

Bell's not the only high-profile queer artist enlisted by Bright Light Bright Light. The legendary Justin Vivian Bond can be heard on "Saying Goodbye Is Exhausting" (notice a pattern?). That's the sensational Jake Shears on "Sensation," gay rapper Big Dipper on "Love Song" and Sam Sparro on "You Make It So Easy, Don't You."

A majority of the tracks on the ironically-titled *Fun City* (as many of the songs are about breakups), are geared towards club play and dancing, therefore it's not all that surprising that original Madonna backing vocalists Donna DeLory and Niki Haris can be heard on the banger "This Was My House."

Electronic beats propel *Hype Nostalgia* (Carpark), the new album by Rituals of Mine, too. Following a series of name changes and formerly being a duo (for its 2016 major label debut), Rituals of Mine is now the work of Terra Lopez. Featuring forward-thinking R&B-oriented numbers such as the queer personal statement of "Come Around Me" ("None of this fake shit, when you



Elizabeth Powell of Land of Talk

come around me" and "Now that you hear this, will you come around me?"), the erotic undercurrent of "Reflex," and "222," with its lyric about being "stuck in a year" (a near-perfect description of 2020), as well as the dramatic ballad "The Last Wave," invite listeners to believe the hype.

Said to be inspired by Canadian band Land of Talk's lead vocalist Elizabeth Powell's coming out as a non-binary femme, the songs on *Indistinct Conversations* (Saddle Creek), would still be just as compelling. Songs such as "The Weight of That Weekend," "Love in 2 Stages," "Now You Want to Live in the Light," "A/B Futures" and "Footnotes" rank among the album's best tracks.

Recorded in late 2016 but not released until 2020, *Nobody Cries Today* (matlovellmusic.com), the brilliant debut by Southern gay singer/songwriter Matt Lovell, was well worth the wait. The reason for the delay? In early 2017, Lovell was carjacked and shot in the chest at point-blank range. Fortunately, he was able to get help, but he spent the next few years recovering from PTSD.

Thankfully, Lovell has released this stunning album, and we are all the better for it. In possession of a powerful and expressive set of pipes, Lovell delivers a set of original, soulful and country-influenced tunes that are worthy of repeated listens. Knockout tracks include "90 Proof," "Be Free," "Alligator Lily," "The Way That It Was," and a pair of duets with Leigh Nash (really?) – "The Gospel" and "Dime Adios."

A queer concept album or "coming-of-age radio musical," *Postcards From the Rearview Mirror* (Ert Records) by multi-hyphenate Sabrina Chap (musician, slam poet, burlesque performer,

■ Q-MUSIC Next Page

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■ Q-MUSIC From Previous Page

playwright) features 10 songs interwoven with the spoken messages on nine postcards. Telling the story of a pair of queer teens who hit the road to escape their oppressive home lives and head for the promise of a new beginning in Los Angeles, the construct of the album allows Chap to draw on her various influences.

Father (izzyheltai.com) is the debut album by trans singer/songwriter Izzy Heltai. Heltai's powerful voice, which at times recalls Jeff Buckley, goes a long way in giving his songs the necessary passion to convey their messages to listeners. This is especially true of the songs "Marching Song," "To Talk About Yourself," "Songbird" and "Anyone to Anybody."

Fittingly for the times in which we live, all-female three-piece punk band Ladyshark takes a more politically-oriented approach on its new album *Good Stuff* (ladysharkband.com). From the nervous honesty of "Coalesce" to the call to "get along with each other" on "Machine Wash" to the musical spotlight aimed at "Rich White Boys," Ladyshark is here to leave its (teeth)mark.

Where would we be without cher-

ished allies such as Molly Tuttle and Lydia Loveless? Tuttle, who has per-

Izzy Heltai

formed as a supportive ally at events such as Porch Pride: A Bluegrass Pride Queer-antine Festival, performs her rendition of the late, gay music legend Arthur Russell's "A Little Lost" on her new covers album ...*But I'd Rather Be With You* (Compass). Tuttle also sings songs by Karen Dalton, FKA Twigs, Harry Styles, The National and Yeah Yeah Yeahs to mention a few.

On "September," from her new album *Daughter* (Honey, You're Gonna Be Late), Loveless is joined by trans and rock icon Laura Jane Grace (of Against Me! Fame). The pairing of Loveless, whose voice is reminiscent of Neko Case during her alt-country early days, and Grace's distinctive vocals backing her, give the piano and cello-driven ballad a greater emotional weight. ■



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Tuesday 10.06

Dance, unbound and virtual

TITAS/Dance Unbound is venturing into the virtual world with a new fundraising effort, Virtually TITAS, featuring all seven companies of the 2020-21 TITAS season. While the pandemic has shut down plans to hold this as a live event in a theater, TITAS will still give dance fans a chance to enjoy excerpts of seven different works from Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Parsons Dance, Ballet Hispanic, Doug Varone and Dancers, Aspen, Santa Fe Ballet, Kyle Abraham's A.I.M. and Alonzo King LINES Ballet. The one-hour presentation takes place online Tuesday, Oct. 6, beginning at 7 p.m. It is free to watch, but registration is required at attpac.org/on-sale/2020/virtually-titas/. Once you register, you will get an email with a link and a password to access the program. *For more info call TITAS at 214-978-2891.*



Thru Sunday 10.04

'Pageant,' revived and streamed

Just like every arts organization in the days of the pandemic, Uptown Players has been forced to rethink, rework and redo to keep things going. And through Oct. 4, Uptown is reviving its 2014 production of *Pageant*, with six contestants — Miss Deep South, Miss West Coast, Miss Great Plains, Miss Bible Belt, Miss Industrial Northeast and Miss Texas — competing in evening gown, talent, swim-wear and spokesmodel and, of course, questions for each finalist from *The Beauty Crisis Hotline*. What could make this all even more entertaining, though? In classic Uptown style, each contestant is played by a man. The cast features Walter Lee, Ashton Shawver, Peter DiCesare, Drew Kelly, Micah Greene and Sergio Antonio Garcia as the contestants, and B.J. Cleveland as pageant host Frankie Cavalier. Visit UptownPlayers.org for more information and to purchase tickets, which start at \$20.



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When you're a writer whose beat is love and relationships, among other things, your relationship – you're life really – is far from private. I don't mind, for the most part anyway. It's what I signed up for. And when my wife decided to marry me, it's what she signed up for too.

It has its ups and downs. But the other day, we got to experience one of the major ups, as it were. It's something that's happened before. But this time it really struck me.

We ran into someone my wife had met a half dozen or so years ago. She's significantly younger than both of us (read, 20-plus years in relation to my wife). And she told us how much she looked up to us and our relationship. She said how much she admired what we had, how we supported and loved one another. And she described how much she hoped for that for herself one day.

It got me to thinking about how much — and how little — she and anyone else who knows us almost solely through social media really does, well, know us.

She knows how beautiful our wedding was. But she doesn't know about the arguments and even tears that went on behind the scenes as we were planning.

She knows how I sometimes get to travel with my wife when she's working. But she doesn't know how hard it is for me when I can't.

She knows how much time and energy my wife puts into promoting my work. But she doesn't know how frustrating it can be to be married to a creative.

And that got me to thinking about how much I want to be the couple she sees us as. I mean, we are that couple. Our social media is curated, like everyone else's, but it's not make-believe, not by a long shot.

What I mean is, I want to start thinking, "Are we making this person — and all the other people who have posted #Couple-



Goals over the years — proud?"

Kind of like asking yourself, "Would this make my mom/dad/grandparent/fill-in-the-blank-with-someone-whose-opinion-of-you-is-important-to-you proud?"

I'm thinking about when we do disagree. What if that young woman could see us then? Would we feel good about how we talk to one another? About what we say? About the language and even volume we use?

Would we feel good about the choices we make when it comes to one another? About how we support one another?

I have a weird pet peeve: I loathe humming. My wife loves to hum, and to sing too, for that matter. I'm not really proud of my internal eye rolls and (hopefully) imperceptible sighs when she does either. And I don't think our #CoupleGoals admirers would be very impressed with my internal huffing.

So, I'd like to change that. I'm not sure how you rid yourself of a pet peeve. But I sure would like to do my best.

Being in a relationship is weird, especially during a pandemic marked by so much isolation. And it can become easy to not do our best, to take things personally, to not speak impeccably, to make assumptions. In other words, it can get too easy to not follow my beloved "Four Agreements." It can seem like you're operating in a vacuum when you're in a relationship, and that can make it easy to get lazy and not be your best you, not give the best of yourself to your partner.

But what if you thought someone was watching?

I wouldn't want anyone to see me grumbling about having to unload the dishwasher for what feels like the millionth time or see me looking irritated at my wife's choice of music in the car. It's just not nice. And I'm sure my wife could give you her own list of behaviors she's not proud of when it comes to our relationship.

Sure, we should do the right thing because it's the right thing. We should be generous and kind because we should be

generous and kind. But sometimes that can be more than we can muster, and so, maybe, if it helps to think there's someone watching, someone counting on us to give them hope that relationships really can be pretty darn terrific if we commit to them and tend to them and prioritize them, then so be it.

Pretend your mom is watching. Or pretend that friend who tells you how much she wants a relationship just like yours is watching. Or, heck, pretend you have your own reality television show. Ask yourself, is that a clip I would want on YouTube? And if not, why would I behave that way?

We should live our lives to make ourselves proud. But when things get tough, it can help to think about what choices would make those we love proud of us, too. I like to call it the rewind test. So, next time you catch yourself about to be less than your best, ask yourself, "If we could rewind the tape, would I — and others — be proud of what I'm about to see?"

You just might be surprised about what a little perspective can do for your relationship.

Send your comments or questions to GirlOnGirls@gmail.com.

this week's solution

T	I	M	E	G	R	I	M	P	A	P	A	S
E	D	E	N	O	O	N	A	O	M	E	G	A
R	E	A	D	U	S	S	R	L	A	C	E	D
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Another one Flew OverThe Cuckoo's Nest

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68						69					70			

Solution on Page 18

Across

- 1 Out of ____ (Paula Martinac novel)
5 Like a bleak fairy tale brother?
9 Parenting couple, sometimes
14 Forbidden fruit site
15 Chaplin partner
16 Last letter on Lesbos
17 Enjoy Harper Lee
18 R. Nureyev's land, once
19 Like a fem's clothing
20 She plays the title role in 39-Across
23 Tickle pink
24 Elton's john
25 Larry Kramer, to Yale
29 Come upon
33 Queer ____ three-dollar bill
34 Wet one's lips, e.g.
37 Wood not needing moth balls
39 Web television series based on the Ken Kesey novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
40 Venue for 39-Across
42 Release from bondage
43 Where to see *Cats*
44 JFK preceder
45 Porn Santa's member?
48 Jane of a 1944 Moorehead flick

- 50 Like Kopay, from the NFL
51 Type of queen
56 She plays Gwendolyn Briggs in 39-Across
60 Traditional Eden fruit
63 Part of a split in a religious body
64 Mambo king Puente
65 Lindsay of *Liz & Dick*
66 Fruits did this in the orchard
67 Dirt clump
68 Comes out
69 ____ buco
70 Gay cable network

Down

- 1 Closemouthed
2 Everett's
An ____ Husband
3 Ben Stiller's mother Anne
4 Finish with
5 Take back a blow job?
6 Painter Bonheur
7 Kind of shot
8 Streetcar guy
9 Teri of *The Fosters*
10 Kitchen appliance brand
11 Chest muscle, for short
12 Personal-ad info
13 Like McCullers' cafe
21 Town for fudge packers?
22 Karen Walker, perhaps

- 26 It's for giving "more" in *Oliver*
27 Old line for cockpit workers
28 Karl or Harpo
30 Versatile vehicle
31 Composer Rorem
32 Love triangle expanded to eight?
34 Barry Manilow hit
35 Playful swimmer
36 In this place, to Colette
38 Small salamander
39 Sort of awakening
40 Bobby Orr's org.
41 Antidiscrimination letters
43 Some S&M restraints
46 Grecian vessel
47 "Get your rear in gear!"
49 Fame
52 Throw, to Billy Bean
53 Wilde in France
54 Turner that goes either way
55 Battery pole
57 Longs, to a Samurai?
58 Tops cakes
59 Part of Welk's intro
60 Maugham's *Cakes and ____*
61 Curse wrongly attributed to Mercutio
62 F-word start, for Socrates?

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