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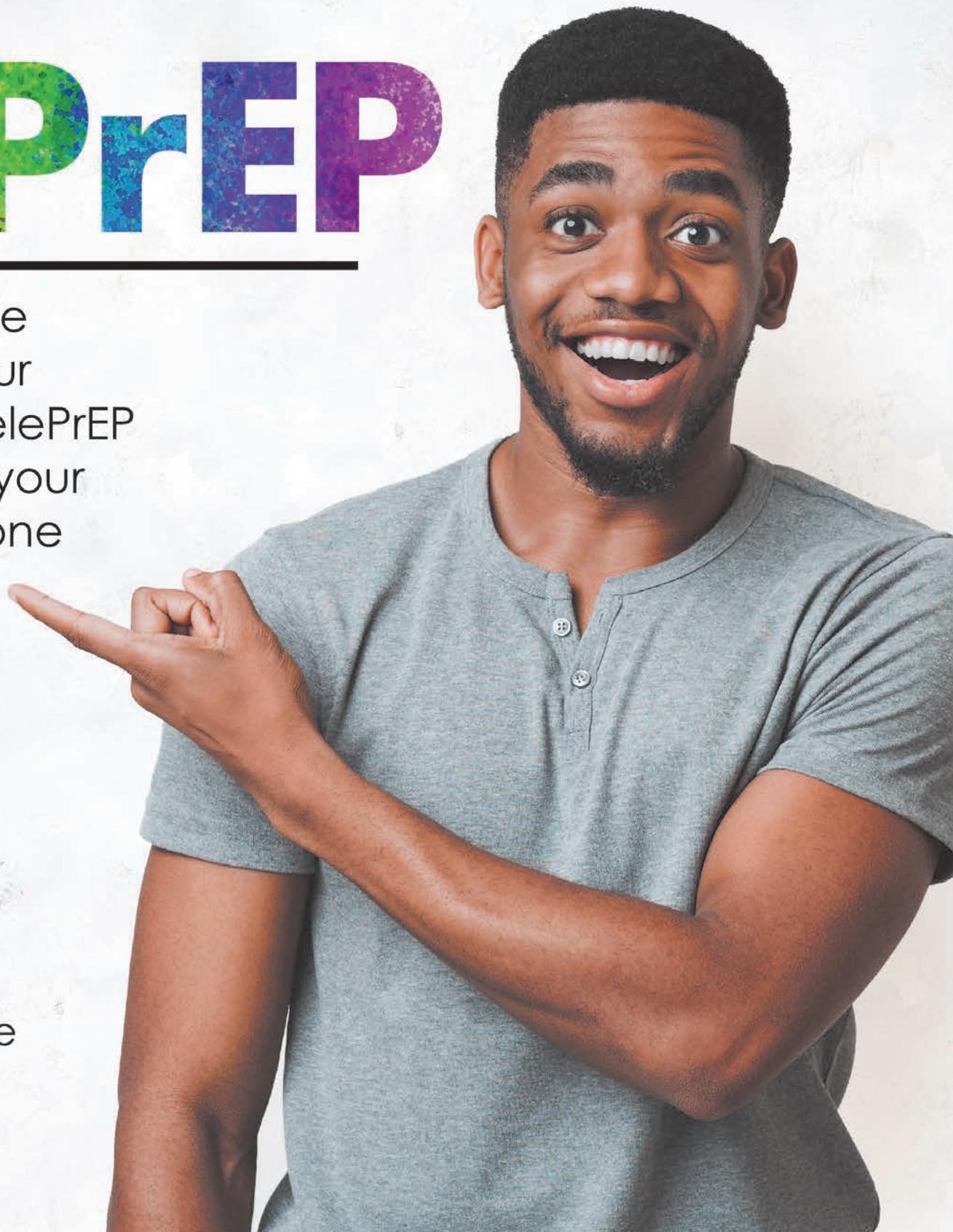
by David Taffet, Page 6

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| Cheralyn and Stacey Stevenson and sons. Cover design by Kevin Thomas. | | | |

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Japanese court rules it's unconstitutional to prevent same-sex couples from marrying

After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled for marriage equality, everyone expected countries around the world to follow suit. Few have.

A court ruling this week in Japan, however, may lead to marriage equality in that country. The Sapporo District Court ruled that failure to recognize same-sex marriages is unconstitutional. In its decision, the court wrote that since sexuality is not a matter of preference, denying same-sex couples the same rights as opposite-sex couples is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit was brought by three couples that each sued for 1 million yen (under \$10,000) for psychological damage caused by the government's refusal to let them marry. Although the court ruled they had the right to marry, the monetary award was denied. The couples said they would appeal.

This is the first time a Japanese court has ruled on the issue. The ruling doesn't legalize same-sex marriage but does send the message to lawmakers that preventing same-sex couples from marrying is unconstitutional.

—David Taffet

CVS wants to know your gender assigned at birth



Want to get your COVID-19 vaccine at CVS? You can't get one without telling the company if you're transgender.

The online form that CVS requires you to fill out to get a vaccine includes the question "What is your gender assigned at birth?" The choices are male or female. Click one or you can't continue with the application.

The three vaccines available at CVS are approved for people 16 and older. The same vaccine at the same dosage is given to everyone, no matter your weight, age or gender.

So why ask the "gender assigned at birth" question? CVS claims it's because "Patient birth sex is an important piece of biologic information that we use to make sure you get the care that is best for you." Call customer service to ask about the question, and they'll pull up that quote and repeat it to you verbatim — multiple times if you don't let them off the phone.

But go into a CVS store and talk to a pharmacist (pharmacists are the ones administering vaccine shots there), and they'll tell you they don't see any of the patient information. They only know that you have an appointment based on your name.

—David Taffet

Burglar hits Mario's, Tap House



Two Cedar Springs restaurants were targeted by the same burglar after midnight on

Saturday, March 13. Tanner Roberts, general manager of The Cedar Springs Tap House, said that the man stole money and a laptop from his restaurant after stealing money from the safe at Mario's Dallas.

Both restaurants are among the businesses located at 4123 Cedar Springs Road, on opposite ends of the block.

Roberts said that the suspect broke out the glass on a side door, facing Douglas Avenue, to gain entrance to Mario's at about 2:30 a.m. Roberts said he left the Tap House, located on the Knight Street end of the block, around 3:30 a.m. after closing up, and the suspect broke into that restaurant around 4:30 a.m., coming in through a back door that was damaged in an attempted break-in last month.

"We both have video of the guy, although Mario's video is better than ours," Roberts said. "In the Mario's video, he has taken off his mask so you can see his face."

He described the suspect as a black male with facial hair who appeared to be in his mid-30s, wearing a black hoodie and black pants. Roberts said it was hard to gauge the man's height due to the angle of the cameras.

Anyone with information can call Dallas Police at 214-671-4TIP or submit a report online here.

—Tammye Nash

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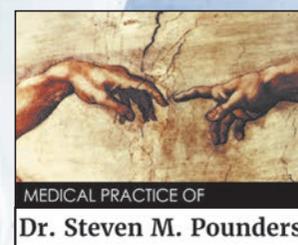
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All about change

Whether through their company The Changists or Stacey's new position with Family Equality, Stacey and Cheralyn Stevenson want to make the world better

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Things were changing for The Changists on the morning we spoke. Stacey Stevenson had big news: She had just been named the CEO of the national group Family Equality, which she'll run from Dallas.

Family Equality supports LGBTQ families by offering a state-by-state resource guide on everything from creating a family to holding LGBTQ family weeks in Provincetown to supporting pro-family legislation and litigation.

The organization recently shortened its name from Family Equality Council.

Just over a year ago, Stacey and Cheralyn Stevenson opened a new consulting firm in Dallas that they called The Changists. Targeting small to midsized law firms, the couple brought together Stacey's 20 years in business with Cheralyn's 20 years at a law firm.

Opening their new venture just before the start of the pandemic, the couple saw the lockdown as a challenge and an opportunity rather than as a deal breaker. Many attorneys, they found, took the pandemic-created slow down as a reason to stop and take a look at their businesses.

And that, Cheralyn said, "gave us an opportunity to test out our solutions."

Zoom gave the couple an opportunity to reach more clients, although they recommend Teams as a better platform for their work. And just as they relied on technology more than ever before, they were there to help their clients evolve

and supply some of the business knowledge and techniques not taught in law school.

The Changists often begin their work with clients by offering vendor recommendations.

"We provide and help implement solutions," Cheralyn said. "We want to be part of their growth."

While accounting is not part of a law degree, Stacey said it's becoming more common for attorneys to graduate with multiple degrees. For those without that billing and bookkeeping experience, Cheralyn said, she actually saves her clients money by matching a law firm with the right accounting service.

"We save you money with billable hours to have professional help doing those things," Cheralyn said. "You can save time and money and know it's done accurately."

Scheduling and creating Powerpoint presentations for marketing are other administrative duties that the Stevensons help law firms master.

Cheralyn said the number one reason attorneys are disbarred is not understanding or providing proper accounting for money held in trust. Another is scheduling. Attorneys get in trouble when a judge is looking for them for failing to appear in court.

Cheralyn said they tell potential clients, "You went to law school; we went to business school."

But it's more than the combination of their law experience and business experience that have gotten the couple to where they are with their business and with Stacey's new position with Family Equality.

A few years ago they created Lez Talk, a women's empowerment conference held at Resource Center in 2018 and 2019. Several hundred women attended the first sold-out conferences where "sin-



gles and couples to learn and talk about topics from loving yourself to loving others and everything in between while protecting your dignity."

"As married couples, where do we learn to have relationships?" Stacey asked. "Where do we learn how to parent?" Those are the questions Lez Talk was created to answer. Because although same-sex couples have been around a long time, legal marriage is still new in the community. And while LGBTQ people have always raised children parenting as out same-sex married couples is also new.

The Lez Talk conferences also focused on empowering women and addressing medical issues as well as holding couples workshops. "We never had anything like that [helping us in] navigating the heteronormative world," Stacey said.

They didn't hold the conference in 2020, but not because of the pandemic: "We wanted to focus on family and [how we could] affect the election," Stacey explained.

Both women grew up in Southern Baptist families, and they met at Sue Ellen's.

"Stacey thought I was straight," Cheralyn said of their first meeting, probably because Cheralyn was wearing a skirt — something that looked like a skirt in the front and shorts in the back. But after a couple of weeks of friendship — weeks during which Stacey found out Cheralyn was NOT straight — they began dating.

When they decided to marry, Stacey wanted the big wedding she had always dreamed about. Cheralyn, though, didn't want that because she knew her family wouldn't attend. So in 2007 the

two eloped to British Columbia, eight years before marriage equality became law here in the U.S.

When they decided to start their own families, they first tried fertility treatments, but that didn't work. So they decided to adopt, but the local adoption agency they first approached told them that women giving up their babies weren't looking for a same-sex couple to adopt those children. They were told, Stacey said, that "People wouldn't pick us."

But the Stevensons knew that was just the agency's way of trying to cover up its bigotry. So they found a referral to an agency out-of-state that promptly placed twins with them, and they've since adopted the two boys.

The couple's history of organizing events in the Dallas LGBTQ community combined with their business experience and their experience in building a family make Stacey a perfect fit for Family Equality. Although she just started her new position this week, she is already jumping in with both feet. On the organization's calendar are virtual family-building conferences, political issues and how to get involved on a state level, LGBTQ training sessions for employers and family building professionals and more.

The couple is taking all these changes in stride. As CEO of Family Equality, "I want to create systemic change for LGBTQ families," Stacey said, and Cheralyn will continue building The Changists into a transformative force in the business world of law firms.

After all, change is what they're all about. ■

Ship-shape for Sweden

Figure skating partners LeDuc, Cain-Gribble get called up to compete with Team USA at Worlds

COY COVINGTON | The Gay Blade

Ashley Cain-Gribble and her openly gay partner Timothy LeDuc, the 2019 U.S. Pairs figure skating champions, were disappointed with their performance and bronze medal placement at the recent 2021 Nationals. But they knew to hustle home and continue training because, while they didn't earn a spot to compete in this year's World Championships, launching March 22 in Stockholm, they were named as alternates to the team. They knew from past experience to be ready in case they got the call for duty.

And then the silver medal finishers from the 2021 Nationals withdrew from Worlds. So Cain-Gribble and LeDuc did indeed get the call, and they are ready, set, go, for Sweden.

It's a bit of déjà vu for the duo. In 2017 they were flown to Worlds in Helsinki, Finland, at the last moment to stand by in case Team USA needed them. They ended up not competing, but the trip was a terrific experience for an 11th-hour call. This year, they got only a 21-day notice that they would be heading to the Worlds with Team USA, but their tenacious work ethic means they are in good shape for Stockholm.

Training must be in this duo's DNA. They take it very seriously — embrace it, actually — typically spending at least 40 hours a week training, on and off the ice. Clearly, they're in spectacular shape (a picture is worth a thousand words).

"When we did get the call to compete," LeDuc recalled, "there wasn't any fear or panic. We knew we were trained; we knew we were ready. So it was just a feeling of pure excitement that we had

this opportunity."

It is a huge opportunity. Not only are they competing for themselves, but, due to the rules established by the International Skating Union (ISU), they are competing for the number of skating pairs that Team USA can send to the 2022 Olympics.

Let me explain: There are two U.S. teams qualified for this year's Worlds. The placement of these two teams must equal 13. For example, if Cain-Gribble and LeDuc finish at least sixth, and the other team (Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier) finish at least seventh — do the math. That adds up to lucky number 13, and the U.S. will have earned the right to send three pairs teams to the Olympics and to the 2022 World Championships.

That would be huge. The last time the U.S. fielded three teams was 1994.

The trip isn't likely to be a fun playdate considering the myriad of stringent safety protocols put in place by the ISU. There will be no sightseeing. No smörgåsbords. No spectators. Most of those involved with the event will, in fact, be placed in a Competition Bubble, which means going from the host hotel to the rink, then back to the hotel, staying masked at all times when not on the ice.

U.S. Figure Skating (the governing body of Team USA) had a snappier term for this practice during its sanctioned events held — successfully — during the pandemic in January. Participants entered a "skubble," or skating bubble. Skubble just sounds more inviting. But then, the ISU isn't known for its sense of whimsy.

Cain-Gribble and LeDuc have goals set for themselves that don't include partying to ABBA hits. "We want to build off our last appearance at Worlds in 2019 when we finished 9th" said LeDuc. "We want to move up. Our goal has been top 5 all along so we'd really like to see that happen."



Being a role model isn't a goal for LeDuc, but as the only openly queer skater competing in Stockholm, he is a role model nonetheless. There hasn't been a gay roll call, but LeDuc suspects that he is "one of very few out athletes, if not the only one, competing."

Highly decorated French ice dancer Guillaume Cizeron is openly gay, but he isn't competing this season.

LeDuc doesn't shy away from the rainbow spotlight. "I think it's so important that we see positive representation of queer folk in sports," LeDuc explained. "Many people think figure skaters are all gay. But that really functions to support toxic masculinity and a toxic idea of patriarchy. Figure skating is an artistic sport, and there is nothing wrong with men competing in artistic sports and expressing artistry that is not inherently feminine."

He continued, "The reality is that almost all male figure skaters at the elite level are cis-hetero. Amber Glenn, who also trains with us in Dallas, and I are the only two out athletes on all of Team USA. Competing on the world stage as an open athlete, I think, is really great for queer visibility. It's a representation of queer excellence, and I'm very excited to be sharing that with Ashley."

Sharing has become instinctual along the path of Cain-Gribble and LeDuc's partnership, especially during this past year of the unspeakable challenges we all faced. Yes, they do have the lofty ultimate goal of winning 2022 U.S. Nationals and winning a medal in the Olym-

pics, but it's not really about that.

Instead, Cain-Gribble said, "I think what this year has reminded us is that we won't be doing this forever."

She added, "Yes, we could lace up our skates whenever we want and go out on an ice surface and lose ourselves in whatever we're doing. But to train at this elite level and to compete at this level has an expiration date. This year has shown us we should take advantage of that and get the most out of our time together."

"What I've thought about every day is that I'm really grateful to be able to be out on the ice and to be as healthy as I've ever been. I'm excited to be doing this thing that I love most with my best friend. There will come a time when I won't see Timothy every single day," she said.

LeDuc recalled "a comment from the 2003 World Championships in Washington, D. C. It was just after the U.S. had invaded Iraq, and Michelle Kwan had just skated lights out [winning her fifth world title]. As she was coming off the ice, skating legend Peggy Fleming said, 'Well, she just took everyone's minds off the problems of the world.'"

During the year we've all just endured, figure skating — with its beauty and its marriage of artistry and athleticism — offers an escape from some of the ugliness around us.

And that sounds good about now. ■

The ISU World Figure Skating Championships will be held March 22-28 in Stockholm, Sweden. Television coverage of the competition will be carried on NBC, NBCSN and Peacock Premium.

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'Unleashed'

An off-the-chain networking opportunity

From politics to fashion, from health to entertainment — business owners, entertainers and professionals from all areas are looking to connect with the LGBTQ community.

And Wesley Smoot is here to help them make that connection through LGBTQ Unleashed, a virtual event beginning Thursday, March 25 and running through Saturday, March 27.

"We want to create a space where brands, entertainers and LGBTQ professionals can connect with LGBTQ consumers and the LGBTQ community," said Smoot. The event, he continued, will allow them to showcase their latest products and services and projects that are "culturally and commercially relative" to the community.

For consumers, he continued, it gives them the opportunity to check out "what's new from their favorite LGBTQ artists and to see what's new and to learn from industry professionals."

Unleashed LGBTQ will offer three days of keynote speakers, discussion panels, performances from headliners and more."

Smoot said that the virtual conference will be structured very much like a traditional, in-person conference: "The beginning of each day will be geared more toward the business side of things, then we will have the Unleashed Happy Hour and from there we move toward the entertainment side.

"Just like at any conference, you get the work done first and then it's time for some cocktails and time to have some fun," he said.

Smoot had originally scheduled Unleashed LGBTQ as an in-person event last year. But like most other such events, it had to be delayed and then reworked into a virtual gathering.

"We had to look at what we were trying to accomplish, and we could do that with a virtual transition," Smoot said. "We wanted our presenters to be



able to engage with the attendees; we wanted those attending to be able to ask questions and have those questions answered. All of that can be done with our virtual format."

He said that Unleashed LGBTQ has partnered with Webinarjam to create a website where people can "attend" the event without having to download any specialized apps. "You just go to our website, find the link for the event you want to see and click that link," he said.

Some of the keynote addresses, panel discussions and entertainment events will be streaming live. Others will be pre-recorded to accommodate scheduling conflicts and avoid problems with servers failing.

Main sponsors of the event are Gilead and Pride Radio. Other partners include Addicted (ES), AT&T, Commando, Dallas Voice, Grindr, He Said Magazine, iHeart Media, Legacy Counseling Center, Pink Media, Pride Radio, Ride Bodyworx, Romperjack, The Trevor Project and World Gay Boxing Championships.

A complete line up and schedule are available online at UnleashedLGBTQ.com.

"I had people, especially here in Dallas, saying I was being too ambitious, that this couldn't be done," Smoot said. "They were quick to shut me down. But I found friends to partner with, and we worked our tails off to do this, and the networking opportunities are going to be just unreal.

"So many of us are trying to do our best to revitalize the economy, while being as responsible and as safe as possible," Smoot said.

— Tammye Nash

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■ commUNITYvoices

'Raya and the Last Dragon' — Does love really win?

Disney did it again. They created a queer story more explicit than the last in their newest film *Raya and the Last Dragon*.

Raya is a typical Disney product: exemplary in craftsmanship, emotionally potent and surprisingly subversive. With a star turn by Kelly Marie Tran, the female-centered episodic adventure evokes *Moana* for a Marvel audience — high-octane fight sequences and chase scenes contrasted against ethereal visuals of water dragons in flight, calling back to Elsa's cryokinetic prowess extravaganza.

The Southeast Asian influence in the film is compelling following the zeitgeist of *Crazy Rich Asians*, and the sleeping dragon of the East finally is awakening to its economic potential. This film balances all this while meditating class, human nature and the trauma of orphaned children. These factors culminate into a painstakingly and impeccably crafted film, tailor-made for critical acclaim.

What, then, could I possibly complain about?

The answer lies in the thesis of the film: After the fall of man, humankind's distrust of each other has led the world into chaos, and only love can bring us together and conquer all.

It's just another way of saying "Love Wins."

What a cop out.

To its credit, *Wonder Woman* pitted the same ideas against each other, concluding that evil lay in the heart of man. *Raya* asserts the same thing but leaves no room for ambiguity, tying it all up with a trademark Disney ending. The journey up until that point, however, is still worth the ride.

The beginning of *Raya* is the loss of innocence: Raya loses her father immediately after she is betrayed by her first girlfriend, Namaari, from the nearby nation of Fang, voiced by Gemma Chan. Raya and Namaari connect over having single parents and through their love of dragons, historical and imaginary. Imaginary dragons soon give way to human reality; in their case, Namaari's betrayal causes a restructuring of society, a further venture east of Eden.

Dragons represent the goodness of humanity, the ideal of innocence — in short,



Rashid Eldoma
Contributing Columnist

conviction by Awkwafina.

Sisu is too trusting, easily conned and in need of Raya's protection. Sisu functions as a martyr, slain to deceive the audience that things might not, in fact, end happily in this story, bridging Raya and Namaari from their initial connection to its final iteration. Sisu forces them to hearken back to the past when animosities had not hardened, and two girls from different nations could come together and make that crucial first contact.

"It isn't so far away," Sisu asserts. Dragons are a dreampolitik in a world still reeling from the fall of man.

Eden in this world is Kumandra, a continent loosely based on Southeast Asia. It was once whole, in a time when dragons roamed alongside humankind. When the dragons sacrificed themselves to the imprison the Druun, shadow creatures that petrify mankind, the continent fractured into five nations: Fang, Heart, Spine, Talon and Tail.

Initially Heart, Raya's homeland, housed the Dragonstone — containing the final remnant of dragon magic — until Namaari betrays Raya's trust, tries to steal the stone and incites its shattering, followed by a scramble for nations to collect the stone's fragments, the release of the Druun back into the world and increasingly nationalistic international relations amidst a global "pandemic" — if you consider petrification allegorical of disease.

Fang obtains the largest fragment of the Dragonstone, and their kingdom prospers.

Fang builds a city on water, the Druun's only weakness. It is a kind of overground Atlantis. Their monarch Virana,

dragons represent love. The film explicitly states that through the character of Sisu, the eponymous Last Dragon, played with comic

voiced by Sandra Oh, speaks in reverential tones about infrastructure made possible through the ingenuity of their people, but does not address the luck of natural geography. They speculate on other nations' envy, even going as far as to teach it to children as state propaganda. Theirs is the only nation to go without Druun casualties — a model nation for model citizens; a mythical, fantastical Levittown, but just as exclusive.

Other nations are terrorized by the Druun, which ravage Heart and Spine nearly totally and separate parents from their children in Tail and Talon. The reality of life in Kumandra, outside of Fang, is one of privation and loss. The only nation spared is Fang. Their privilege is undeniable but it is a subversive one: Fang is a matriarchal monarchy, clothing their propaganda with gentle voices and cute undercuts.

It would have been a more interesting film if Fang were more overtly sinister, proudly nationalistic in its ambition. As the film stands, Fang also remains unexplored.

Disney's recent material has flirted with controversial topics without ever consummating the relationship. The company never lingers too long in the discomfort — waning, waxing, returning to comfortable well-trod shores. The same holds true for *Raya*, whose exploration of class, nationalism and human nature ends with Code-era film convention. Ending in what, exactly? Annexation into the larger nation-state Kumandra.

Parents reunite with their children. Dragons frolic around, bringing rain and abundance. All is well. Queerness is left coded. Love won out, and love is the salve that can fix all the world's ailments, the film asserts, shrugging away any meaningful conversation about inequality, queerness and trauma of loss, lulling the child into a dreampolitik as fantastical as dragons. ■

Rashid Eldoma is an educator in Arlington. Born in the Philippines, he immigrated to the U.S. at 12, mirroring the synthesis of East and West in the Southeast Asian-inspired Raya and the Last Dragon. He studied theater in college, giving him an interest in the art of narrative storytelling and the meaning hidden in the screenplay.

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Sound ridiculous?

You haven't driven the 2021 Kia Sorento Hybrid.

There's no shame in rolling your family up to a club (or church) in this swaggering crossover. Its face is dominated by strings of LED headlamps flanking a big, black grille. But the side view channels the larger Telluride crossover with 17-inch wheels, satin silver fender ornaments and silver fins sprouting from the windowline. Faceted tail lamps hint at sports cars. And bathed in Runway Red paint, it makes a scene.

There's a lot of fakery inside, but also much legitimacy. As if trained at Target, Kia's stylists are very good at making interiors look and feel expensive with-

2021 Kia Sorento Hybrid

- Six-passenger, FWD crossover
- Powertrain: 1.6-liter T4, 6-spd auto, battery
- Output: 227hp/258 lb.-ft. Torque
- Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
- Wheels f/r: 17-inch/17-inch alloy
- Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
- Must-have features: Style, MPGs
- Fuel economy: 39/35 mpg city/hwy
- Assembly: Hwasung, Korea
- Base/As-tested price: \$29,390/38,205

out actually being expensive. Instead of just putting plastic on the dash and doors, they made it look like stamped aluminum with pressed diamonds. Seats are faux leather but feel like they belong in a BMW — especially when heated and power adjusted.

There's no fancy name on the audio system, but it still sounds pretty good. There is also a panoramic sunroof, a power liftgate and middle-row captain's chairs. It all lends an aura of exclusivity.

As expected from an all-new electrified crossover, the Sorento is packed with all that today's tech-savvy families crave. The intuitive touchscreen can be swiped and voice controlled, but is flanked by proper volume and tuning knobs for simplicity.

Wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and console charging connect seamlessly. Toss your phone on the pad and conjure your favorite tunes ... or directions.

For those in the rear rows, USB charging plugs add convenience.

Twist a console knob to engage the powertrain. It sounds complicated, but it works smoothly. The gas part is a 1.6-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine connected to a six-speed automatic transmission. Add to that motors and batteries to achieve 227 horsepower and 258 lb.-ft. of torque. Step hard to dispense 0-60 mph in 7.7 seconds. Even better are fuel economy ratings of 39/35-MPG city/highway.

The combination of a turbocharged engine and regular transmission provides a peaceful driving experience that's so rare in hybrids that usually rev their continuously variable transmissions like banshees.

There's all of the safety gear, too. Adaptive cruise control with lane centering steering, lane keep assist, blind spot warning, rear cross path detection and forward collision alert with auto brake lend drivers the equivalent of an all-knowing co-pilot. A rear seat occupant alert keeps kids from being left inside, while safe exit assist uses the blind spot system to prevent passengers



from stepping into traffic.

I kept thinking how well the Sorento hybrid fits my family. We drove it on a highway trip to see my parents, took them to lunch and had the daily commutes. It drove like a smoother version of a non-hybrid while delivering compact car fuel economy.

Given its upscale appearance and features, it was a pleasant surprise to know Sorentos start at \$29,390 and come to a value-packed \$38,205 all in.

Storm Forward! ■

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

The non-abstract cubist

Juan Gris, one of the 4 pillars of cubism, gets his first show in 35 years

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Juan Gris is cubist but not abstract. Of the four pillars of cubism — Picasso, Braque, Leger and Gris — he may be the one whose work is most accessible. Certainly, the collection on display at the Dallas Museum of Art is a delight to see. The exhibit spans Gris' 17-year career in the first major exhibit of the artist's work in 35 years.

Gris moved from Madrid to Paris in 1906 where he studied painting and met Picasso and Braque, who invented cubism around 1908.

Early paintings by Gris date from 1910 but already show an embrace and understanding of cubism. Within a few years, he was a master of the style. By 1912, Gris had exhibited at the Salon des Independents and signed with an art dealer to represent his work.

But a Gris painting differs from the works of other cubists. He believed objects in his works should be recognizable, and in most of the 38 paintings included in this exhibit, they are.

"Still Life before an Open Window" may be described as his masterpiece. Certainly, I was drawn back to the canvas several times before Nicole Myers, the DMA's senior curator of European art, pointed out the painting as one of the artist's best.

Throughout painting history, still lifes usually stand on their own. In Gris' painting world, the cubist still life sits in his studio in front of several recognizable pieces of furniture and an open window that overlooks the building across the street.

Other artists' work can be classified into periods that often last a decade. During the short career of Gris — he began his career at the age of 23 and died at 40 of a misdiagnosed kidney disease — his phases can be traced year to year.

Juan Gris,
Fantômas, 1915,
National Gallery of
Art, Washington,
Chester Dale Fund



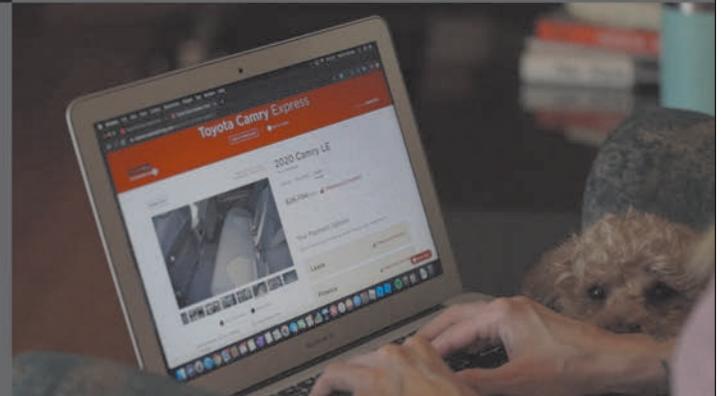
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■ CUBIST From Previous Page

In 1914, he experimented with paper collages. Although he later said the works were no good, these collages mounted on canvas are considered among his greatest contributions to cubism.

The next year, he experimented with color. While many of Picasso's greatest works are very gray, Gris — his name means gray — worked in bright pigments. Several of the works on display from this period include the use of pointillism, a technique created in the 1880s by Georges Seurat, on a cubist canvas.

A year later, his style changes again. This time, he limited his color palette and used tones of light, medium and dark. It is during this time that he is at his most abstract — something he quickly backs away from.

At the end of World War I, Europe was in the middle of a pandemic. France's art world was rebelling against abstraction, which was labeled "foreign." Images included in Gris' work during this time became more solid again and less abstract.

"The Sideboard" includes a still life sitting on a wooden buffet. In the background is a door. The door and sideboard are very representational while the still life attaches itself to the furniture and wraps around its crevices, demanding the viewer unwrap and decode the relationship between the pieces of the work.

By 1920, Gris was experiencing the early stages of his kidney disease, and that affected his work for the last seven years of his life. For health reasons, he stayed on the Mediterranean where he returned to the open window as an element in his later works.

Because his life was short, Gris is the least known of the original cubists, so this show is a delightful surprise. ■

Cubism in Color: The Still Lives of Juan Gris on exhibit through July 25. \$16. New museum hours Wednesday-Friday and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday.



Juan Gris, Still Life before an Open Window, Place Ravignan, 1915, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Louise and Walter Arensberg Collection, 1950



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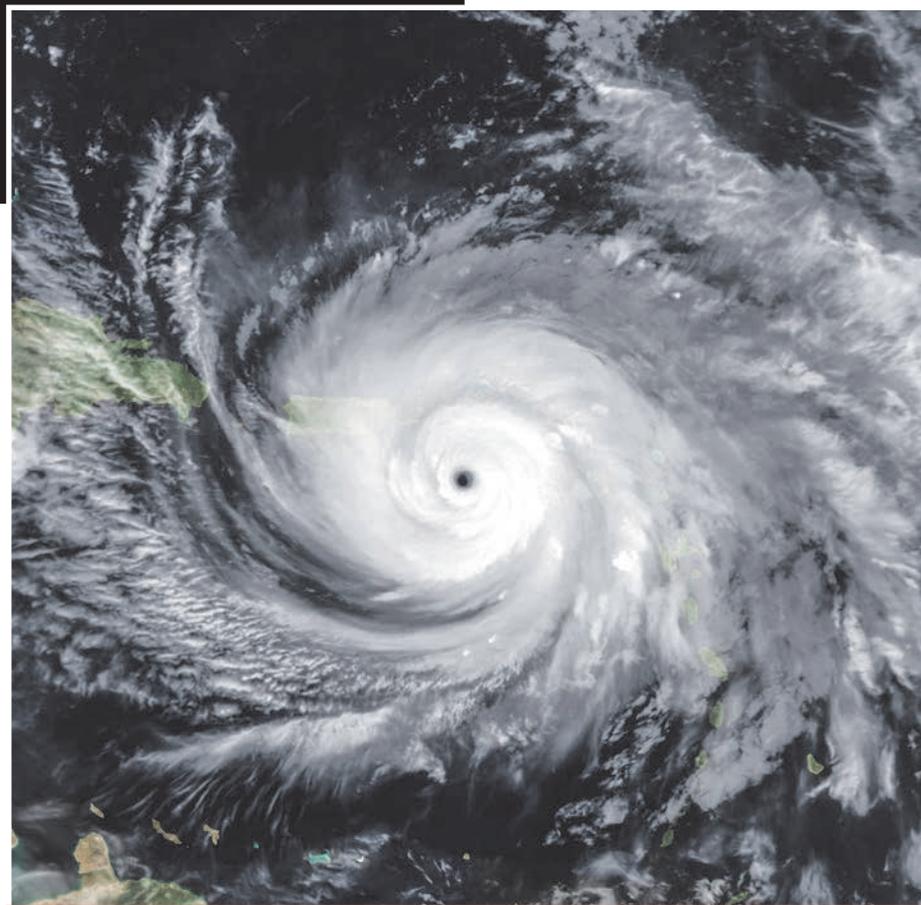


03.19

The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington kicks off Coronation XLI weekend, with the “Under the Big Top” theme, with the In Town/Out of Town Show and awards presentations. *At Club Reflection, 6-11 p.m.; admission is free. (Coronation takes place Saturday night, March 20, at The Urban Cowboy Saloon, but the event is sold out. To be placed on a waiting list email coronation@icfwa.org.)*

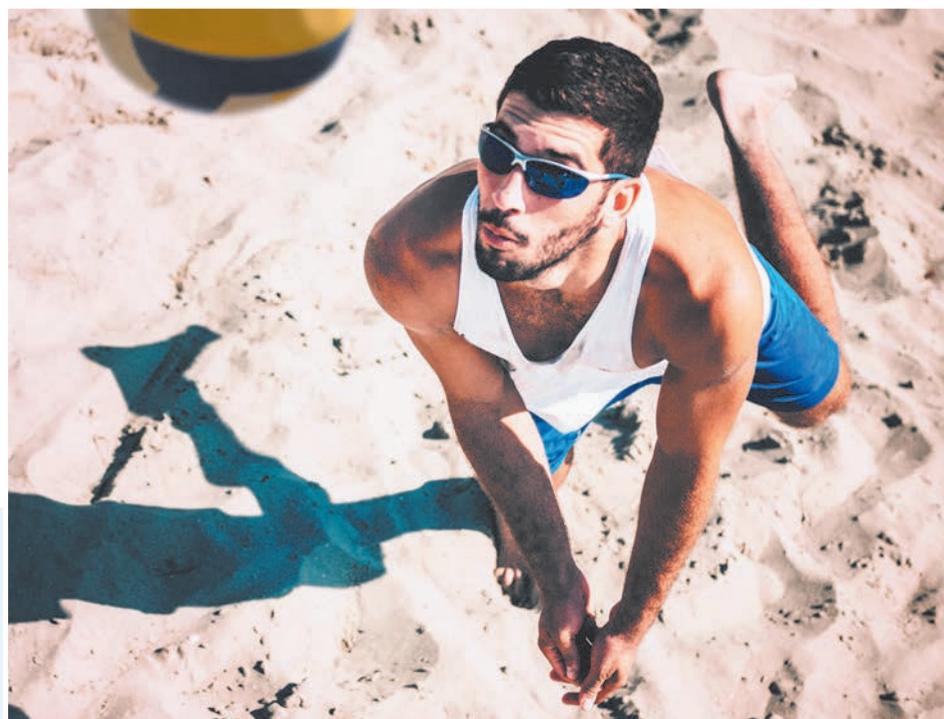
03.24

Born Sports League, a nonprofit organization, kicks off its Sand Volleyball Spring 2021 season. The season includes games each Wednesday through May 12, with recreational and competitive divisions. *For information email info@bornsportsleague.com; play starts each Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Foro Sports Club, 14725 Preston Road.*



03.25

In the fall of 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico (leading to the infamous “Trump throwing paper towels” incident). At the same time, on the other side of North America, wildfires ravaged Santa Rosa, Calif. The film *Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Changes*, being screened online by the Dallas Public Library, tells those two stories through the voices of LGBTQ people who lived through them and were part of the community response. *Free; 7-8 p.m. followed by discussion, at Dallas Public Library Online. Register at DallasLibrary.librarymarket.com/events/fire-flood-film-discussion.*



Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Who, last year, could have possibly guessed that we'd be back here, yet again — March Madness, Round 2: The Gleaning! Nevertheless, I hope everyone — despite our powerless bout with Antarctica a few weeks back, and the St. Paddy's Day parade being canceled (again!) this year — are all warmly enjoying this wearin'-of-the-green month, for March 20 not only just happens to be the very first day of spring, it's also The International Day of Happiness! How very apropos, too, because — yes, my mischievous leprechauns — the vaccines are here ... at last!

Oh, roll me over in a bed of clover and cue a double rainbow! I don't know who's happier, me or the lone bumblebee buzzing about my miraculously salvaged lemon trees, now bursting into aromatic bloom (the lone survivors on my otherwise formerly Edenic, now desolately dead balcony). Welcome springtime; welcome 2021! So glad you made it!

Certainly the outbreak's worst days are now behind us, albeit, the United States' daily death rate remains resolutely moored at 1,500 (still exceeding last summer's peak). With nary a single Republican vote, Biden just passed perhaps the single grandest piece of legislation since FDR's New Deal. People's individual \$1,400 stimulus checks have already begun arriving! (One ponders if our congressional Republicans' constituents plan to return theirs?) A sighing Nancy Pelosi, of her fellow "statesmen" across the aisle, drolly deadpanned, "Vote no and take the dough."

All partisan pissing contests aside, let's remember what that old cliché so provenly assuages: "A rising tide lifts all flotilla." Hence, with the zephyr winds of a 70 percent public approval rating for his unprecedented \$1.9 trillion COVID booster shot at Biden's back, he's now requiring all states to offer vaccinations to every adult by May 1. The anticipation of a "normal" life's return by this summer is practically palpable.

One can almost taste the mask-free Fourth of July fireworks bursting in air! What an astonishing four-leaf clover's find, indeed, is our new president's stimulus package. His first televised address to the nation "centered on the thought that our divided nation did, finally, come together in a common cause — vaccines as the road to normalcy. From this, a glimmer of unity springs forth, as a still divided country seeks solace in millions of tiny jabs in the arm." The two dates Biden gambles his best on are May 1, "when all adults in the United States will be eligible to receive a vaccine," and July 4, "when American life might seem a little like it once was."

How zestfully refreshing it is to be led by a president who actually relishes optimism



continue wearing well-fitted masks, avoid large gatherings and physically distance themselves from others when out in public." (Yeah, I know—in other words, the same old, same old.)

Keep in mind, too, that a person isn't considered "fully vaccinated" until two weeks after receiving his/her second dose of vaccine. And it's still just March, with only about 9 percent of the U.S. population fully vaccinated so far. But, hey, look at where we all were only one year ago today. Our progress has been outright super-sonic. So, regarding all of your as yet unvaccinated friends, just ask them to be patient a little longer; their turn's a coming; Or maybe tell them just dash into the CVS at midnight for some, oh, leftover St. Patrick's Day discounted paraphernalia ... who knows? They might just get lucky!

Dear Howard: Only the other day, after the governor said it was OK to take off our masks and return back to 100 percent normalcy, did I finally step outside my front door again, following a solid 11 months of not leaving my house even once. By the end of 2020, most all my friends had fallen away, one by one, until the only conversation I'd have was with either my dog or the Tom Thumb delivery guy. Howard, this was how I spent all of 2020: Just me and my dog (and my toys no one tells his mama about) bonding here in my little studio. I'm wondering, is this to be just the new norm? Broke, butt-plugged and boyfriend-less?

— Kacie Bann

Dear K.C. and The Sunshine Band: Well, talk about the unavoidable — whaddya know? Here I am again, back as usual

over obfuscation! Wow! Let's just get all Easter Parade right to it, shall we?

Dear Howard: Man, I'm one lucky dude; I've had my shots already, both of 'em! So just what are the rules nowadays for goin' out in public, once vaccinated, especially when hangin' around friends who aren't yet?

— Peter Cottontail

Dear Dick Powderpuff: Well, gurl, aren't your bunny-trail droppings just glowing every hue of the rainbow! Unfortunately though, here's the gray truth: Things really haven't changed too radically much yet. CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky recommends those fully vaccinated "to

to gaping buttoles — what a shocker! Listen, Sunshine, on the subject of seeking connections here in our new world order (and putting aside the idiotically reckless decision of Gov. Abbott), finding your way back from loneliness ain't gonna be easy, especially if you're only now emerging into this new spring sunshine after a full year of hermetically-sealed solitude. To quote Jean, a dear friend of mine from Alabama who forever radiated a childlike, all's-well spirit of wondrous magnanimity: "Honeeeeeey! We're all on the Titanic together. I hope you've got a raft!"

I'd love also to believe that by this summer's Fourth of July celebrations, all the flotsam/jetsam reminders of "Rona's" yearlong visit from hell will, like our former Oracle L'Orange himself, simply fade away into unlamented desuetude — the viral equivalency to, say, kale, quinoa or cronuts—in comic hindsight, merely laughable, undigestible piffle.

And on this tangent of gastroenterology, lest I forget, for any of you out there who are 40 or older, if you've not yet previously enjoyed the pleasure of a colonoscopy, then it's high time you schedule one—NOW! March, after all, is National Colorectal Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States for men and women combined and yet the easiest to prevent. A simple colonoscopy every 10 years, trust me, will provide you blessed peace-of-mind:

That said, I'll step down now from my soapbox. Y'all have a hippity-hoppity/blue-bonnet-brimming happy Easter, everyone . . . chins up, guys, it's almost over!

Send your commentary or question to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and Howard may answer it here.

this week's solution

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scene



Pretty in pink (Photo courtesy Brittany Kroll)



Dallas Voice Distribution Manager Linda welcomes John to the crew

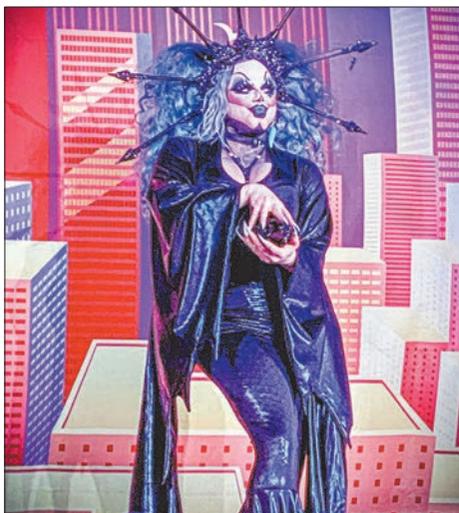
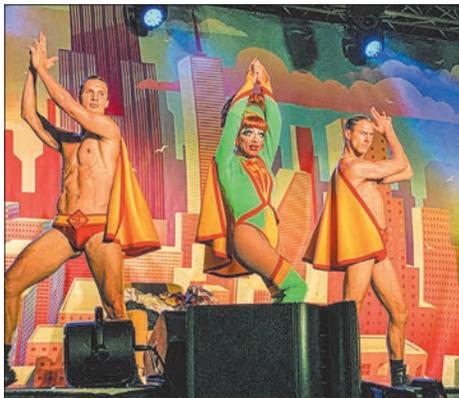
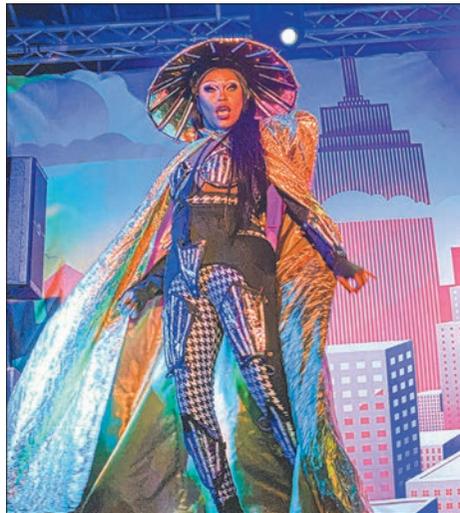
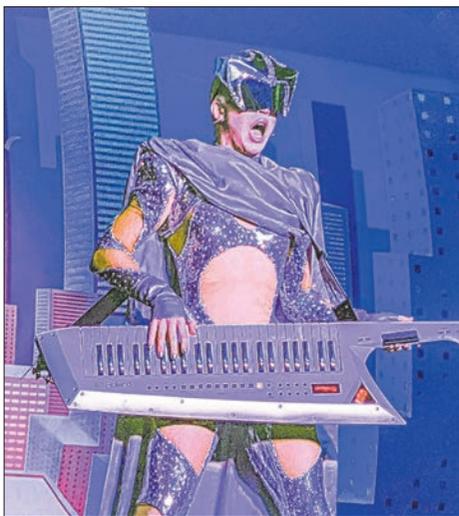


Bernie and friends enjoy the show



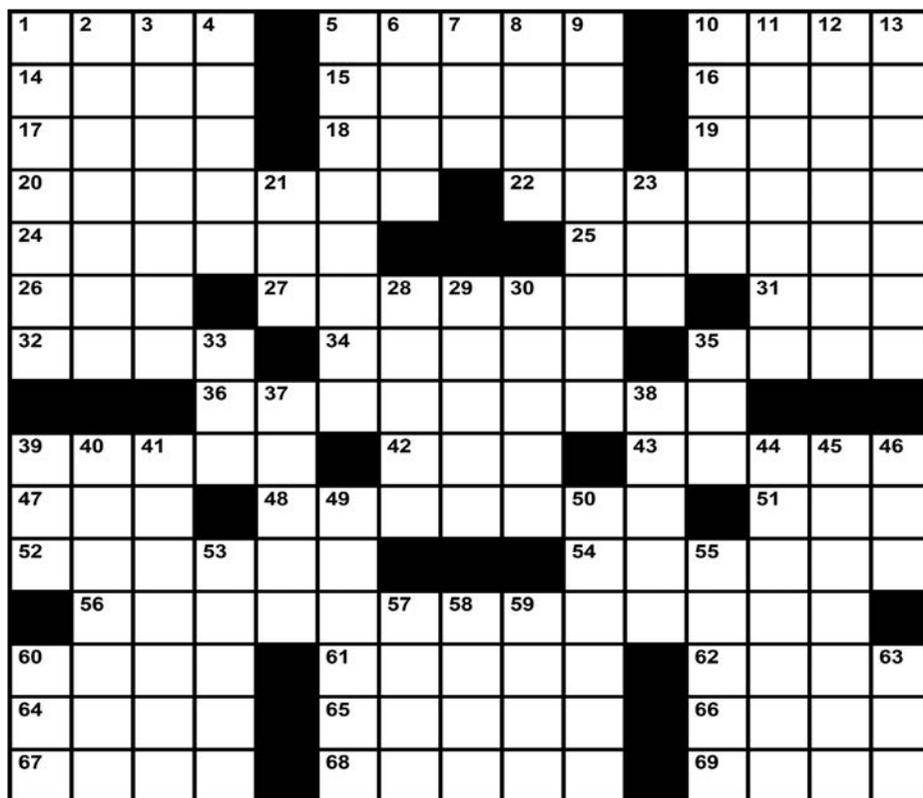
Jenni P at The Tin Room

Drive 'N Drag (Photos by Chad Mantooth)



q-puzzle

Do You Get a Rush Out of Hate?



Solution on Page 14

Across

- 1 Irene who played Coco in *Fame*
 5 S&M reminders
 10 XXX, in Greek porn?
 14 Give ___ to (approve)
 15 Easily screwed
 16 Trent of Mississippi
 17 Circumcision, for one
 18 Take steps
 19 Rick's old flame
 20 Hate-monger Ann
 22 Hate-monger Sean
 24 Heat and then cool
 25 Pussies with sharp teeth
 26 Caesar of comedy
 27 What the tide does
 31 ___ generis
 32 Look for hotties in a gay bar
 34 Stallion that's spotted
 35 WW II gun
 36 Hate-monger radio host
 39 Last letter for Socrates
 42 Geological span
 43 Pics that penetrate your clothes
 47 Bert, to Ernie
 48 Most able to bend over
 51 Urvashi has one
 52 Like better
 54 Mary Cassatt, for one

Down

- 1 Unresponsive body
 2 Negatively charged
 3 The Capitol dome is its top
 4 *Hello* singer
 5 Dik-dik, for one
 6 Singer Vicki
 7 Hurry, to Shakespeare
 8 Porter's *Well, Did You ___*
 9 It can coldcock you
 10 React to static
 11 Most like St. Mary
 12 "I'm being straight with you!"
 13 Doesn't leave the closet
 21 Middle X or O

- 23 Anais who went both ways
 28 College social
 29 "Have a ball!"
 30 Emma of *Battle of the Sexes*
 33 Worn-out horse
 35 Abbr. of old in Tatu's land
 37 Weapon pointed at James Bond's crotch
 38 Bit player
 39 Antonym (abbr.)
 40 Sultry Dietrich
 41 Lover of Franklin and Lorena
 44 Amelia Earhart, for example
 45 Affirmation to a drag queen
 46 Go down
 49 Shower with kind words
 50 *No Exit* playwright
 53 Like Albert, in *The Birdcage*
 55 ___ *Is Nothing Like a Dame*
 57 Ryan of porn
 58 Vincent Lopez theme song
 59 Responder to *Bite me!?*
 60 *Little Miss Evil* writer Raphael
 63 Refrain syllable

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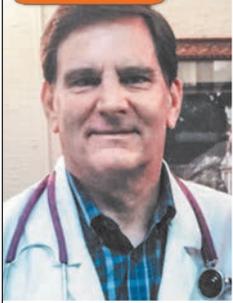
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