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PUBLISHER Leo Cusimano, leo@dallasvoice.com

MANAGING EDITOR Tammye Nash, nash@dallasvoice.com

SENIOR STAFF WRITER David Taffet, taffet@dallasvoice.com

STAFF WRITER Rich Lopez, rich@dallasvoice.com

PROOF READER Philip Burton

CONTRIBUTORS Chris Azzopardi, Gary Bellomy, Jenny Block, Joey Casiano, Jesus Chairez, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Mark Lowry, Cassie Nova, Josh Robbins, Howard Lewis Russell, James Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Mathew Shaw, David Webb, Casey Williams

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Chad Mantooth, mantooth@dallasvoice.com

MARKETPLACE MANAGER Stephen Mobley, mobley@dallasvoice.com

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE National Advertising Representative
Todd Evans, Rivendell Media Inc. 908-232-2021

ART DIRECTOR Kevin Thomas, thomas@dallasvoice.com

MULTIMEDIA Stephen Mobley, Social Media Director
Israel Luna, DVtv Video Producer, Host
Brad Pritchett DVtv Host | Regina Lyn DVtv Host

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Linda Depriter, distribution@dallasvoice.com

FOUNDERS Robert Moore | Don Ritz

AFFILIATIONS | MEMBERSHIPS

Associated Press - Associate Member
National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association
Certified LGBT Business Enterprise
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Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues), \$130. To subscribe call 214-754-8710 x114.

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Secretary Buttigieg visits Dallas

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg toured DFW Airport and rode DART to a press conference at Lovers Lane Station Wednesday, Aug. 11, when he was in town for a press conference regarding the infrastructure legislation just approved by the U.S. Senate. He was accompanied by U.S. Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson and Colin Allred, both of whom represent districts in DFW.

Johnson said getting reliable Internet throughout South Dallas was a priority. Buttigieg said Dallas and the DFW area stand to be one of the biggest benefactors of the infrastructure bill that passed the U.S. Senate this week. In addition to improving and expanding DART, he said he expects money to improve highways and funds to keep DFW International as one of the top airports in the country.

— David Taffet



U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson introduces U.S. Secretary of the Interior Pete Buttigieg to Dallas Voice. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

J.J. Koch and Gov. Gregg Abbott regarding local mask mandates intended to slow the spread of COVID-19. Jenkins and Jenna Royal, attorney for the intervening parents, both filed motions asking Dallas County District Judge Tonya Parker to issue an order enjoining Abbott's executive order, issued in May, prohibiting mask mandates issued by school districts, governmental bodies or any public or private entity that is receiving or will receive public funds.

Judge Parker issued the restraining order on Tuesday evening, Aug. 10. And by Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 11, Jenkins had issued an emergency executive order requiring masks be worn in schools, buildings and government offices in Dallas County. Jenkins' order went into effect at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.

The court battle comes as new COVID-19 infections, fueled by the Delta variant and a lagging vaccination rate, again begin to spike. Information compiled by The New York Times shows that, as of Monday, the daily average of cases in Texas stands at 12,426, or 43 cases

BLOG, Page 6

Dallas county judge, parents challenge Abbott

Dallas lesbian couple Laura and Deanna McFerrin Hogan were among the group of parents who, on Monday, Aug. 9, intervened in Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins countersuit against Dallas County Precinct 2 Commissioner



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per 1,000 residents. Only Florida has a higher daily average, at 20.052, or 93 cases per 1,000 residents. USAFacts.org shows Texas, with a full vaccination rate of only 44 percent, lags behind the national average of 50 percent.

Also this week, officials in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Grand Prairie and other independent school districts had already defied Abbott's executive order by announcing they would require teachers and students to be masked on their campuses. Houston ISD was set to consider similar measures this week.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice welcomes Rich Lopez back to the staff



Rich Lopez

Dallas Voice is pleased to welcome Rich Lopez back to our staff as a part-time staff writer focusing on LGBTQ arts and entertainment news.

Rich previously worked as a full-time arts and entertainment staff writer. Since returning to the DFW area after a stint with the Midland Reporter-Telegram as its features editor, he has been writing for the Voice as a freelancer. Rich will also be focusing on helping us publish the 2022 version of our annual visitors/relocation guide, Out North Texas, the premiere guide for LGBTQ people looking to visit North Texas or to relocate here.

— Tammye Nash

Republicans issue arrest warrants for Democrats

Republicans in the Texas House of Representatives issued arrest warrants for each Democrat that fled Austin to prevent a quorum. The goal of the Democrats is to prevent a voting bill from coming to the floor of the House that would roll back voting hours and make it harder to register to vote.

Above is the warrant issued for state Rep. Jessica Gonzalez. If you know the whereabouts of this dangerous fugitive from justice, please call Gov. Greg Abbott before she and her Austin roommate state Rep Julie Johnson go all Thelma and Louise on us.

— David Taffet

OBITUARY



Janice Kathryn Taylor

Janice Kathryn Taylor, 75, departed this life on July 25, 2021, at Midlothian Healthcare Center after

a long struggle against the effects of two severe strokes,

Born in Dallas on June 16, 1946, Jan had lived in the Dallas area most of her life. After graduating from DeSoto High School, she began work at Southwestern Bell in Dallas. She married Richard Bucher of Arlington, and they had three children. She became a stay-at-home mom for a while and was also a charming and efficient waitress, a talent she put to good use during the many years she worked two jobs to provide for her family. Her lively personality brightened many people's dining experience.

Jan's main career for 33 years was in manufacturing and calibrating research-grade rain gauges at Texas Electronics Inc. Her precision work was highly valued. The gauges are used worldwide, in meteorology, like on The Weather Channel, as well as in industrial and environmental purposes. One application was a United Nations Nile River Water Conserva-

tion study. The company was then located in the Oak Lawn neighborhood, where she lived and made many great friends through the years.

In 1972, Jan began a loving domestic partnership with long-time best friend/sister Linda Porter. They celebrated 48 years together in May, 2021, and raised five wonderful children as well as many rescued pets. They joined the Episcopal faith at The Church of the Good Samaritan in Dallas.

Jan loved all music, from The Beatles and Pink Floyd, to Gershwin and Chopin, collecting more than 1,000 vinyl records and countless CDs. She was a good pianist who adored Van Cliburn and Billy Joel. She liked concerts, movies, eating at Ojedas and relaxing with a book and her favorite cat, Oliver. She also loved her red '99 Mustang, Rosie.

Jan was predeceased by her mother, Winnie Siddall, and her daughter, Victoria Chastain. She is survived by her partner, Linda; her sons, Rick and Geoff Bucher; "step"-daughter and son, Amye White and Joel Judkins; five grandchildren, seven "step"-grandchildren and many close friends and chosen family members. Special thanks go to her angel on earth, David Anweiler.

Her final needs are being handled at West-Hurt Funeral Home in DeSoto, and there will be a private celebration of her life at a time to be determined. Anyone wishing to honor her memory is encouraged to make a donation to their favorite pet rescue group.



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It's your right to refuse the COVID vaccine

But you also have to face the consequences of that refusal

Frankly, I don't give a fuck if you get you the COVID vaccine.

You have a right to not get a vaccine, even if that decision will kill other people. Hopefully, it will kill you before you kill others. But since you'll probably insist on going to an emergency room and demanding care you no longer deserve because you could have prevented severe illness, you'll be infecting others no matter what happens to you.

So, actually, I do care if you get a COVID vaccine. Because you're putting other people's lives in danger if you don't.

If you catch COVID, as the virus replicates, it could produce a variant. That's the way viruses work. As they replicate, they sometimes mutate. The more virus out there, the more chance of mutation.

The current vaccines won't necessarily protect us against one of the future variants, putting us all in danger once again. Thanks for that.

The vaccines don't work on all people. But unlike, say, the shingles vaccine that's about 75 percent effective, the various COVID vaccines are more than 90 percent effective.

Those with compromised immune systems can't produce antibodies as well as someone with a normal immune system. Those who've received a transplant take immunosuppressants that make it more difficult to produce antibodies. And for some reason, those with diabetes are more prone to bad outcomes after contracting COVID-19.

So yeah, no vaccine works on everyone. But if you catch COVID, you may pass it along to people who can't protect themselves and others even though they tried. Your refusal to protect yourself is a refusal to protect others. You may kill someone.

But, like I said, you have a right to not



David Taffet
Senior Staff Writer

get vaccinated, and I don't care if you do or not.

I love the anti-vax argument that "God will protect us." As a religious person, I agree that God works

in mysterious ways — and sometimes not so mysterious. In this case, God helped people work very fast to produce vaccines that protect against the virus. The mystery? Divine prevention rather than divine cure.

Not for me to understand why God worked this way in this case.

Here's what I think we should do with the free vaccine we have waiting for you: We should give you just one more month to decide if you want to take it. Set an Oct. 1 deadline. Then we should send all the leftover vaccine to poor counties around the world where people are begging for a shot to protect themselves and their families. Protecting the poor is the godly thing to do, after all, and we'll never bother you about getting a vaccine again.

And what if you do catch COVID? Stay home. Enjoy your illness. Hopefully you'll recover. Many do. But our healthcare workers have been through enough this year.

Can't breathe? Sorry. Feel like you're dying? You just might.

But just as you have the right to not get the vaccine, healthcare workers have the right to prioritize their time and choose who to care for when they're overburdened.

With a limited number of nurses and doctors available, some may choose to care for people with other illnesses. Because they have a right to choose who to care for, just like you have a choice whether to take a vaccine. Some may decide their time is better spent curing a child with cancer or caring for an elderly person rushed to the ER after a heart attack.

But remember, you have a right to not get a vaccine and to expose others to your virus. ■

David Taffet is the senior staff writer for Dallas Voice. Opinions expressed here are his own.

Clearing the obstacles

EMPLOYMENT EQUALITY

When transgender employees are given support, they thrive

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Why shouldn't Monique Evans have succeeded at Wells Fargo? She's bright, experienced, educated and enjoys her job. She's active in her community here in Dallas and in her banking community.

Evans' company appreciates her contributions, and she appreciates her company's support. That's the way it should work. Everyone wins — employee, employer and customers.

Yet Wells Fargo's regional office reached out to Dallas Voice to tell Evans' story. And I was curious about just what the story was. Against all obstacles, the bank's representative explained to me, Evans has succeeded.

Evans, you see, is transgender.

But Wells Fargo got part of the story wrong. As Evans describes it, there really weren't any obstacles. Or when there were obstacles, the company removed them. She's proof of the idea that when employees can bring their whole selves to work, people succeed.

The bank first put nondiscrimination policies into place 30 years ago; it was one of the first banks to do so. Being based in San Francisco, that was the sensible thing for Wells Fargo to do.

And when the company expanded to Texas, they brought their corporate culture with them. It didn't matter that Texas is a "conservative" state; there are simply going to be LGBTQ employees when you have a company that large.

Evans had 15 years of experience in industry in a variety of positions when she came to Wells Fargo. She described the timing of her transition as perfect.

"When I had a confidential conversation with my mom, she said, 'I knew something, but didn't know what,'" Ev-



Monique Evans

ans explained.

In 2006, a friend of Evans who had already transitioned was moving to Texas from Ohio.

"She was there to be support," Evans said, "And I had just lost my job with Chase. I don't know why, but the reason was b.s."

Evans said her mom was fearful and thought she should get a job before she transitioned. But, Evans said, "I didn't want to transition on the job." She knew if she transitioned on the job, she'd have to handle the whispers. She preferred to have any new employer just hire Monique from the start.

Evans began working at GE Capital,

which was later acquired by Wells Fargo (now she is celebrating her seventh year with the company). By then, she had already changed her gender marker. When Wells Fargo acquired GE Capital, Evans was delighted to learn her new employer had employee resource groups.

"When I came out at Wells Fargo, I remember, I was already active in local organizations," Evans said. And she continues to be active in the community, currently serving on the board of Resource Center. She said she didn't fear any backlash because the company had good policies in place.

"For me it was a no-brainer," Evans continued. "Why should you live in the

shadows? Be transparent. I love that I'm transgender. I'd rather have people know than not know."

And when someone is confident with whom they are, and a company has the right policies in place, Evans finds that most people just don't care whether she's transgender or not. If anything, they've embraced her.

Evans describes herself as one of the lucky ones: "I've been protected," she said.

And now she's protecting other people. Evans serves on the company's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is active with their employee resource group that is affiliated with Out & Equal, the national organization made up of ERGs from companies and government organizations around the world.

But her community involvement goes even deeper.

"Part of me always wanted to be a teacher," Evans said. So she's volunteered with Girls, Inc., Promise House and Junior Achievement. All of that work with young people, she said, was taxing on her emotions at times.

When she's spoken on panels about diversity, she said she's often asked by people from other companies, "How can we attract more trans and non-binary talent?" Her advice to those companies is to start by looking at their own policies and ask themselves if their companies would be a safe place for trans and non-binary people to work.

"So many corporations are at the beginning stages of figuring out what to do," she said. "Companies are looking around the room."

Evans recommended they look to their ERGs for guidance, and if their company doesn't have an LGBTQ resource group, call Resource Center for some help on how to put the right policies in place.

Even at work, where you would expect employees to respect all of their co-workers, "Some people need to unlearn hatred from the past," she said. Trans people, she added, need to be protected and understood, but mostly their talents and skills need to be embraced. ■

The LGBTQ generational wealth gap

MANAGING WEALTH

Financial challenges facing LGBTQ people and how to address them

FINBARR TOESLAND | Contributing Writer
Courtesy of National LGBT Media Association

It's no secret that LGBTQ people face a range of financial challenges that heterosexual people simply don't have to contend with. But less discussed are the effects of financial discrimination on building LGBTQ generational wealth.

The stereotypical view of a wealthy gay couple with no children and a sizable disposable income is just that — a stereotype. In reality, the “American Dream” — buying a home, getting married, having kids, finding a good job and investing in a 401(k) — is out of reach for many LGBTQ people, according to a survey by TD Ameritrade. Almost two thirds (35 percent) of LGBTQ millennials say they are unlikely to achieve these goals by age 40, compared to fewer than half of straight millennials.

The same survey found that while the average annual income for a straight household is \$79,400, the average LGBTQ household earns just \$66,200 a year.

LGBTQ people are being left out of generational wealth for many reasons — including family rejection, systematic barriers and a lack of financial education. With almost half of LGBTQ adults saying they have been excluded by a family member or close friend as a result of their sexual orientation or gender identity, according to a study by the Pew Research Center, a lack of familial financial support is a common problem for many in the community.

This combination of unique financial barriers that LGBTQ people face is what has led to generational wealth gap. It's a problem that will only affect more queer people if we don't address it now.

Legacy financial exclusion

It's not uncommon for LGBTQ people



at all stages of life to encounter financial challenges that their heterosexual counterparts won't face. Being kicked out of their homes as teens due to unaccepting parents, not receiving financial support from family for college, being removed from an inheritance — the financial cost of being LGBTQ can be substantial.

With the average inheritance reaching close to \$177,000 according to a HSBC survey and Cerulli Associates forecasting that up to \$68 trillion will trickle down to younger generations within 25 years, LGBTQ heirs could collectively lose trillions through inheritance exclusion.

“Even much smaller amounts could help folks pay off debt, pay off a home, send their own kids to college and help them with their own retirement. Many LGBTQ kids aren't getting these benefits,” explains John Auten-Schneider, co-owner of The Debt Free Guys blog and host, with his husband David, of the Queer Money podcast.

When David's parents pass away, David's sister will likely be inheriting upwards of \$1,000,000. Yet, David says, he won't receive any of this money, solely because he's gay. “His parents have every right to do with their money what they want, but it's a particular disappointment that they'll do this only because he's gay,” says John. “This, of course, means we need to plan differently for our retirement than his sister does.”

Younger LGBTQ people also face challenges directly related to their sexuality

or gender identity.

A disproportionately high number of young people experiencing homelessness — 20-45 percent — identify as members of the LGBTQ community. Lacking access to basic housing or financial support from family can set up a young person up for economic disadvantage before they even graduate from high school.

LGBTQ students also shoulder a larger student debt burden than their straight peers to the tune of an extra \$16,000. “This has been attributed, in part, to LGBTQ college students assuming more debt simply to leave hostile home lives. In some cases, parents may forgo helping their queer children in favor of helping their straight children,” explains John.

Knowledge is power

At the start of 2020, Michigan-based Lexa VanDamme was at her financial rock bottom. Stuck with a 70-plus hour work week, no money in her bank account, bills due the next day and a broken-down car, she decided to make a change.

“I realized that I needed to face my financial situation,” says VanDamme. “I dove deep into the online world of personal finance to learn about budgeting, debt payoff methods, saving and investing.”

After her crash course in finance, VanDamme refinanced her credit card debt into a lower-rate personal loan, created

a workable budget and started a side hustle to make extra income. There were a few bumps on her journey: “I actually cycled back into credit card debt three different times. I would pay it off, then eventually max it out a few months later,” she admits.

Still, she managed to pay off her debt by following the financial rules she had set for herself.

While trying to learn about personal finance on her own, VanDamme realized there was a need for accessible and relatable content that appealed to a wide range of people. She decided to create The Avocado Toast Budget. Starting out as a blog just over a year ago, The ATB now counts more than 400,000 followers on TikTok.

“For the longest time, the loudest voices in the personal finance community were cis, straight white males, and, as a queer woman, I wanted to share information and tips that were often overlooked by those creators,” VanDamme explains.

As with many LGBTQ people, after spending so long hiding who she really was, she wanted to live as true to herself and be as free as possible. “This led to me ignoring my spending habits, and being stuck in the paycheck-to-paycheck cycle. Airing my financial dirty laundry brought up similar feelings of anxiety and concern I felt when first coming out. How would people react? What would they think?” says VanDamme.

There is already a heavy stigma around talking about personal finances, especially when you may be struggling financially. “Since queer people often spend our lives fighting for the world to accept us and our queerness, we may be less apt to talk about our financial insecurities and struggles,” VanDamme says.

Genuine representation goes beyond just diversifying the financial content creators who receive media platforms, with the advice given by these experts also needing to be fully inclusive. “Advice tended to ignore how systems of oppression affect people of color, women, the LGBTQ community and more. We know statistically that it's easier for some to build wealth than others,” she adds.

VanDamme has an ongoing series on Instagram focused on the intersectional nature of many financial issues. The series helps shed some light on the economic realities that often contribute to minority community challenges. From financial inequality that disproportionately impacts disabled people to wealth inequity and racism and the cycle of poverty, VanDamme works to educate her audience on pressing topics that matter to them.

"It's especially important to talk about the financial challenges that trans people in our community face. This includes increased reports of lower wages, limited and more expensive housing options, and twice the rate of unemployment. This heavily impacts their ability to build wealth," she notes.

Intersectional challenges

While being LGBTQ can underpin unique money issues, queer people of color and queer women often experience additional difficulties around financial matters. In addition to the financial barriers faced by LGBTQ people, queer people of color also face a racial wealth gap to which employment discrimination, systematic inequalities and disparities in financial education all contribute.

According to research from the Federal Reserve, the average white family's wealth is eight times higher than the wealth of an average Black family. The gender pay gap also contributes to excluding women from building generational wealth, according to the latest statistics compiled by Pew Research, which show that women earned 84 percent of what men earned in 2020.

Carmen Perez, creator of Make Real Cents, a personal finance blog dedicated to helping people achieve financial independence, believes it's important to have experts who are more representative of the people they're speaking to. "I heard a quote a while ago: 'You can't be what you can't see.' I think that's really important because eventually, if you don't have a model to follow, either you have to be the first or it's never going to happen," she says.

As a woman of color and a lesbian, Perez knows firsthand how important it is to address the absence of representation in financial education. "It's definitely one of the things we have to step back and look at in the LGBT community," says Perez. "There [are] lot of hurdles up

against a lot of folks in this space," she says.

With more than 60,000 people following her Make Real Cents account, Perez is playing a part in democratizing access to finance. There, she does everything from break down the cost of credit to explain 401(k) company matches with easy-to-read graphics and Insta stories. Her methods are a world away from the complexity of some traditional financial advisors and tools.

"Millennials are starting to change the money game because we're delivering advice in a way that isn't super technical. It can be so overwhelming to watch CNBC with all these screens and tickers that don't mean anything to you personally," says Perez. "We're finding instances where people who have been historically locked out of the finance industry, by design, are speaking up. Unlike some traditional financial advisors that give out all this jargon and talk in all these terms that many may not understand."

Future generations

Despite the long-standing barriers facing LGBTQ people, LGBTQ personal finance content creators now offer a way for many to improve their financial literacy in more convenient ways than ever before. While investing early and regularly is one of the most effective ways to secure a financially comfortable retirement, it's never too late to build wealth and support for the next generation of LGBTQ people.

"[You can] create legacy wealth within the LGBTQ community by setting up your estate plan to donate to LGBTQ causes that will help homeless youth and [by] giving to local, younger LGBTQ folks you know personally," says John.

Negotiating the LGBTQ generational wealth gap is no small feat. But continuing the discussion around both financial literacy and taking steps to combat systematic financial issues can go a long way to address the financial challenges impacting the LGBTQ community.

"The stronger we are as LGBTQ individuals and allies, including our financial strength, the stronger we are as a community," concludes John. ■

Finbarr Toesland is an award-winning journalist committed to illuminating vital LGBTQ stories and under-reported issues. His journalism has been published by NBC News, BBC, Reuters, VICE, HuffPost and The Telegraph.

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Caribbean's first LGBTQ property is being built in Puerto Plata

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Andre Vlok and his husband started traveling from their Dallas home to the Dominican Republic in 2016. It wasn't long until "We decided we wanted a house there," Vlok said.

Wally Brewster, the U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic at the time but who now lives in Dallas, is gay. And at Casa Linda, the Norwegian developer would fly a rainbow flag. Vlok said he felt welcomed and decided to buy there.

"Six months ago, he reached out to me," Vlok said of the developer. "He had some land and wanted to do something for the LGBT community."

The developer explained he didn't want to offend anyone and asked, "Can you help us?" Vlok noted.

Since then, Vlok has been working as a consultant on a new development on the north shore aimed at the LGBTQ market. Known as Connections, it is the first LGBTQ community in the Caribbean.

Billed as a Caribbean oasis for the LGBTQ community and their family and friends, Vlok said about half of the



units sold so far have gone to allies. "A French Canadian woman told me she'd rather have gay neighbors than straight," he said.

The property is geared toward non-Dominicans, with amenities such as all utilities paid from one bill, so there's no need to deal with Spanish-speaking service providers.

Encuentro Beach is a five-minute walk from Connections and near the town of Cabarete. A coral reef encircles the bay, and beach is known for its white sand, turquoise water and the best surfing in the Caribbean. Kites are also popular on the beach.

Vlok said a car isn't necessary, because



a free shuttle bus will run between Connections and Cabarete to the east and the town of Sosua to the west. And a gay bar will be located on-site.

While he said this was envisioned mostly as a retirement property, half the units already sold have gone to younger people who see it as an investment. Connections has a rental program of its own

as well as participating in AirB&B.

Vlok said being able to rent units out when not using them is helping many property owners pay their mortgage.

The property is gated, but the Puerto Plata area is one of the safest in the Dominican Republic — even safest from hurricanes. While hurricanes have torn across Haiti, which shares the island with the D.R., and have hit the southern side of the island, mountains and sea currents have protected this area from getting hit by any severe storms.

The area also has a modern hospital, and healthcare is inexpensive.

Vlok said before thinking about buying in the Caribbean, "We looked for beach property here [in the U.S.]. We couldn't find anything affordable." He said his search took him from Galveston to North Carolina and just about everywhere along the coast in between.

The Dominican Republic has a population of about 10 million. Puerto Plata was founded in the 1500s and is surrounded by mountains. An aerial tramway, the only one in the Caribbean, takes visitors to the top of 2,600-foot Pico Isabel de Torres where there is a botanical garden.

Currently, Vlok said, he gets to his condo in Casa Linda about five times a year.

"After a week there, I feel recharged," he said.

For more information on purchasing property in the Caribbean's first LGBTQ development, visit Connections-dr.com.



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Smart money

COUPLES & MONEY

6 moves to create financial harmony

MIKEY ROX | Contributing Writer
Instagram @mikeyroxtravels

Relationships are hard enough work as it is. Throw money problems into the mix and you have a recipe for disaster. It doesn't have to go down like that though. By working together, you and your partner can set and achieve financial goals that will see you both through to a content and (hopefully) prosperous future together.

To set up that path to success, consider these tips on how to create financial harmony with money moves you can make right now:

• Openly discuss finances

Money is a difficult subject for couples to discuss, especially when you each have your own established spending and saving habits, for better or worse. Once you hit the future-planning stage of your relationship, however, it's crucial to sit down and talk numbers — your individual salaries, credit scores and what you want to build together as a unit.

Nathan Wade, managing editor of WealthFit Money, agrees. He advocates for opening up about money early on to ensure you're both on the same page

financially as your partnership progresses.

"Although it may be an uncomfortable topic, it will lead to a more prosperous future and relationship for you both," he says. "It will be much easier to create financial goals if you're both aligned on both debt-to-income ratios and savings. As a couple, you'll also need to discuss whether or not you'd like to have a separate or joint account. There are both pros and cons to both, and it's important to consider all variables before coming to a decision.

"Both parties should be fully transparent with their financial goals, and boundaries should be respected and enforced."

• Make time to talk about money

The money conversation you had at the beginning of your relationship is not a one-and-done event. Because cash flow changes constantly based on a variety of factors — like your job, unexpected expenses, and inflation, for example — you'll need to revisit the topic with your partner frequently. Keeping the



lines of communication open regarding your finances as a couple will help ward off resentments and nip bad habits in the bud before they become problematic.

Family finance expert Andrea Woroch suggests setting up monthly dates to discuss any financial issues or frustrations you may be experiencing yourself or with your other half.

"This will make your conversations much more productive," she says. "This is also a good time to review your finances, investments and talk about goals, both short-term and long-term goals. Do you want to travel more? Do you want to send your kids to private school or public school? What will retirement look

like? These are all important items you need to talk about regularly as goals can change."

• Review your credit together

Credit scores can be a contentious part of a relationship, especially if one partner has worked hard to build a respectable standing, and the other has squandered it by making poor financial decisions their whole life. It doesn't have to be a deal-breaker though.

Knowing your scores will prepare you for the process of securing loans should you need them and what interest rates you might be paying. This is also a great

SMART, Page 20



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Van Wey unfolds Dr. Death case

PROFILE

Through a series of malpractice lawsuits, a local attorney helped the Dallas district attorney build a criminal case

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas neurosurgeon Dr. Christopher Duntsch, who began his career at Baylor Plano, was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted in February 2017 of maiming one of his patients. And he has been accused of killing two patients and maiming or injuring another 32.

But had it not been for the tenacious efforts of lesbian attorney Kay van Wey, he might never have been brought to justice.

The career of and case against Duntsch, who earned the moniker Dr. Death, was the inspiration for a new mini-series — also called *Dr. Death* — now streaming on Peacock.

Van Wey told Dallas Voice that after taking on her first malpractice case against Duntsch, she devoted two years of her life to stopping him. She said she questioned everything about Duntsch's career, from his medical training to Texas law that allowed him to be hired by one Dallas-area hospital after another despite the mounting number of malpractice suits against him.

"Hospitals quietly fired him," Van Wey said. "He got a job elsewhere."

Before he even began practicing medicine, Duntsch attended med school at University of Tennessee. By some accounts, he was more concerned with things other than patient care during that period and obtained patents on some of his stem cell research. The university stood to earn a substantial amount of money from his work.

But his residency was in neurosurgery. Normally, a resident would participate in about 1,000 surgeries. Duntsch was involved in less than 100.

So, when Van Wey filed her first law-



suit and learned of his improper medical training, surely she sued the school? Well, no. University of Tennessee, being a state school, gets the immunity from lawsuits revolving around negligence claims that all government bodies have.

Duntsch's first job in Dallas was with the Minimally Invasive Spine Institute. But, "They caught on to him quickly," Van Wey said.

After operating on his first patient there, Duntsch left for a medical show in Las Vegas and left his patient without an attending physician. His excuse was he wasn't on call.

Baylor Plano was his next stop; he maimed several patients there.

"They allowed him to resign in a way that didn't require Baylor to report him," Van Wey said. "If he had been reported to the national database, it would have flagged him to other hospitals."

Instead, Duntsch hired an attorney and negotiated his resignation with a letter of recommendation.

Before ending up at University General Hospital — a facility across from Kiest Park on Hampton Road that went through numerous ownership changes, was never associated with a university and is now permanently closed — Duntsch was hired temporarily at Dallas Medical Center in Farmer's Branch. That's the hospital on LBJ better known by its original and unfortunate name — R.H. Dedman.

There, they cleared him to perform five surgeries. But he only did three, including surgery on Mary Efur, Van Wey's first client associated with Dr. Death. Van Wey said it was unusual that

a doctor with provisional use privileges wasn't proctored by an experienced doctor on staff.

So Efur, who was maimed by Duntsch, should have had recourse against the hospital, right? Except in Texas, "what they knew and when they knew it" is information that hospitals are immune from revealing, Van Wey said.



And should a hospital be taken to court and lose, awards are capped at \$250,000.

Why? Tort reform. Thank the Texas Legislature.

Constitutional? Since it's so hard to bring a case against a hospital, few, if any, cases have been appealed, and no rulings on the appellate level have overturned the law.

Four other attorneys took cases involving wrongful death or catastrophic injury against Dr. Death. Van Wey represented about a dozen of Duntsch's patients. The cases were resolved to the satisfaction of her clients, but Van Wey still persisted. She wanted to stop him from injuring more people.

Two surgeons accompanied Van Wey to the Dallas County District Attorney and presented the information they had. One assistant D.A. who worked on the case didn't get very far. But Asst. D.A. Michelle Shughart "rolled up her sleeves and delved into the case."

Van Wey said it was very unusual for a doctor to be criminally prosecuted for a malpractice case, but Shughart is the reason Duntsch is serving a life sentence. "She was able to get more evidence than civil attorneys," Van Wey said.

When Van Wey was taking depositions for her malpractice cases, she said,

Duntsch always took the 5th Amendment. The only way he "spoke" during those cases was through what she described as threatening and disturbed emails.

But in his criminal case, evidence was introduced about the shocking amount of blood loss his patients suffered. One doctor wondered, "Did he not know he was taking bites out of the spinal cord?" Van Wey recalled.

These were the kind of mistakes other physicians never saw in their life. Van Wey said she wondered if Duntsch were deranged and doing this on purpose? She still doesn't know the answer to that.

In court, no one testified for Duntsch, although one doctor called the case a system failure rather than blaming an incompetent or psychopathic doctor.

Van Wey said Duntsch is serving a life sentence because of skillful prosecution that began with the actual charges filed. Although two people died as a result of Duntsch's treatment, murder was not among those charges.

Instead, he was charged with six felony counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, five counts of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury and, in the case of Efur, one count of injury to an elderly person.

Looking back at the case now, Van Wey said she hopes it will change some things in the medical community. "For medical school, are there no character requirements?" she asked. "Residency programs should insure doctors have skills but also judgment and character."

Van Wey also said patients should have the right to know some things about their doctors. Such as, have they been treated for substance abuse? Have they been treated for depression?

"There's a problem in how they're protected," Van Wey said of doctors. "I'd want to know if they've been to rehab."

And hospitals need to know when a doctor was let go for cause. "The system put in place to protect patients is not working," Van Wey declared.

But has she seen any difference since her cases were settled and then Duntsch was convicted and of all of the felonies he was charged with?

"No, it's business as usual," she said. ■
Dr. Death is streaming now on Peacock.

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What are your words?

BACK TO SCHOOL

Kids' books on gender available for back-to-school

DANA RUDOLPH

Mombian

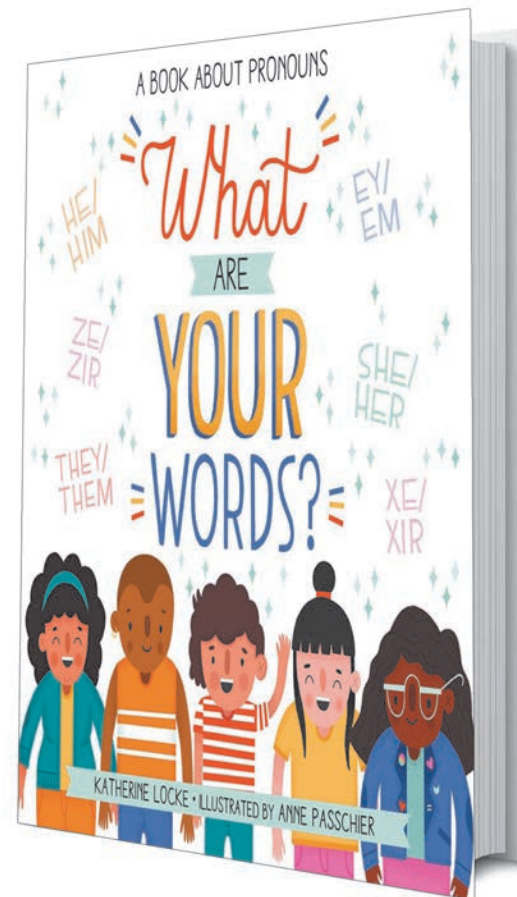
After a year when time has seemed strangely warped, it's hard to believe it's back-to-school season already. But it is. And to help get the school year off to an inclusive start, here are some great new picture books about gender identity. While I have long said that we need more LGBTQ-inclusive kids' books that aren't "about" being LGBTQ, there may still be times when books that directly explain LGBTQ identities and related topics can be helpful, especially when they encourage reflection and discussion, as these do. Check them out for home or school use!

What Are Your Words? A Book About Pronouns, by Katherine Locke and illustrated by Anne/Andy Passchier (Little Brown), both of whom are nonbinary, gives us the first-person story of a child named Ari. Ari's Uncle Lior uses they/them pronouns, and whenever they come to visit, they ask, "What are your words, Ari?"

"Sometimes I know my words right away," says Ari, whom we see dressed variously in pants, a dress and a skirt. Other times, "I have to think about my words." These words could be feelings or descriptive words — like "Happy," "Athletic," or "Sleepy" — or they could be pronouns. Sometimes Ari changes pronouns, and that's okay.

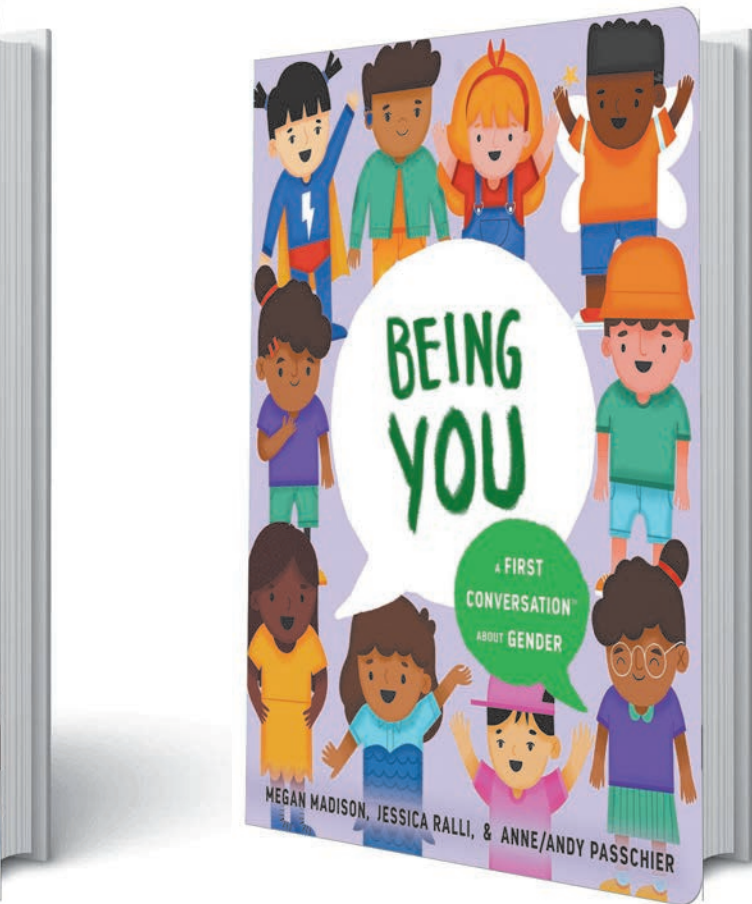
When Uncle Lior asks this time about Ari's words, however, Ari doesn't know which ones to use. Lior encourages patience as they both head to their neighborhood barbecue, where they meet a group of neighbors who use a variety of pronouns. Ari reflects that "Sometimes I have to wait for my words to find me" — and in the end, they do. Today they use "they/them."

I love the message that pronouns fit into a whole constellation of words to describe oneself, and that finding one's



words may be a nonlinear journey. I also like that the book features multiple nonbinary people, including a nonbinary mentor to a (likely) nonbinary kid. And Uncle Lior is more than just their gender identity; they're also a biologist, have a great garden and wear colorful hats. Both Ari and Uncle Lior are white; the neighbors are racially diverse. Their story will likely prompt readers to start talking about their own words, which is exactly the point.

Being You: A First Conversation About Gender, by Jessica Ralliand and Megan Madison, also illustrated by Passchier (Penguin Workshop), is a nonfiction board book that explores some of the same ideas about gender and includes prompting questions, such as "What are some genders you know about?" and "What do you wonder about yourself? What do you know?"



"Different bodies have different parts," we learn. Sometimes grown-ups will call a baby a "girl" or a "boy" based on whether the baby's body has a vagina or a penis (which are not depicted in the illustrations), but "Some babies grow into a different gender" than that one — and in fact, "There are lots of different genders that people grow into." The authors also reassure readers that it's okay to wonder about your gender and to have that answer change.

They explain, too, how different pronouns may feel right — or not — to different people, and how people may also express themselves through clothes, hairstyles, toys and more. And unlike many books about gender identity, this one also tackles gender stereotypes, noting that people have said many untrue things about gender, and that "There are lots of unfair rules that give boys more power."

The authors quickly note that many adults and kids are now speaking up to change these rules and are called "feminists." They ask readers to reflect on times when they have encountered unfair rules about gender and to think about ways they can take action. Rather than preaching, they're engaging.

Two end spreads offer further information and ideas for grown-ups. Passchier's bright illustrations augment the text by showing children and adults of various genders (and other dimensions of diversity), playing and interacting. While the content seems advanced for a board book (part of a dubious industry trend with board books), the interactive nature of the text, encouraging readers to think about the topics for themselves, makes this an excellent "first book" for pre-K and up.

Also a good choice for classroom or home use are four books from the laud-



Mahoganie and Zak 2021

Benefit for Youth First

This year, Youth First's annual talent show will combine with Resource Center's back-to-school fundraiser benefiting students beginning their school year. The virtual event happens Thursday, Aug. 19, beginning at 6 p.m.

"LGBTQ youth need a community that tells them they are seen, valued, and matter," said event co-chair Mahoganie Gaston. "They often don't feel like they fit in today's society. Whether it's at school or at home, they often lose their voice."

Youth First is one of the only LGBTQ-focused programs in North Texas that addresses the challenges LGBTQ teens, ages 12-18, face at home, school and in the community. The program equips them with the tools and resources they need to live an authentic life through year-round, free programming that decreases high-risk behaviors, reduces social isolation and increases self-esteem.

Co-chair Zachary Fountain-Metz said, "Supporting Youth First is a step in giving youth their power back. Often, LGBTQ teens are hindered by an unbearable anxiety as they come to terms with themselves and naturally seek validation and acceptance from family and peers. Youth First provides the communal love and support that is vital in childhood development. I believe in the mission of empowering our youth so they are able to build a life in which they can thrive."

The virtual Back-To-School event, presented by Toyota, is free and will be held Thursday, August 19 at 6 p.m. More information can be found at MyResourceCenter.org/BackToSchool.

— From staff reports

ed A Kids Book About series (named to Oprah's Favorite Things list in 2020). Three are by "champions" of the GenderCool Project, a youth-led movement of transgender and non-binary teens, but aimed at children ages 5 to 9: A Kids Book About Being Non-binary, by Hunter Chinn-Raicht, A Kids Book About Being Transgender, by Gia Parr, and A Kids Book About Being Inclusive" by Ashton Mota and Rebekah Bruesehoff.

One other is A Kids Book About Gender, by Dale Mueller, a non-binary trans adult.

In each volume, the authors talk directly to readers as they share their personal stories and illuminate their book's core concepts. The books use bright backgrounds and a variety of fonts rather than pictures, keeping the focus on the

words and the conversational feel. They are geared towards generating new conversations, too, and all note, "This book is best read together, grownup and kid."

Find them at AKidsBookAbout.com and learn more about the GenderCool Project at GenderCool.org.

Looking for more LGBTQ-inclusive back-to-school resources for all grades, including sample communications to schools, policy guides, lesson plans, and even sources of free, LGBTQ-inclusive books for your school? Please visit mombian.com to see my latest annual list. ■

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, with a searchable database of 750+ LGBTQ family books, media, and more.

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time to start building low scores up. There are actions you can take immediately, like reducing debt with on time, more-than-the-minimum payments to outstanding balances, catching up on past-due accounts and putting a moratorium on opening new accounts for the foreseeable future.

If you're the partner with a better understanding of finances and credit, use that knowledge to help get your significant other back on track. It'll benefit you both in the long run. While there are no "joint FICO scores" for married couples, lenders will indeed take both of your credit scores into account. Each individual's credit score also can be affected in a situation where you have a joint credit card, and it wasn't paid in time; in this instance both credit scores would be negatively affected.

• **Decide on a household budget**

Establishing a budget gives you and your partner a chance to discuss which expenses are important and which ones you can live without. This exercise will

also help you pinpoint where you're currently wasting money and how you can cut back so you can spend more on what brings each of you happiness.

"Setting spending rules allows you both to talk openly about your expenses and gives each of you a chance to weigh in on big purchase decisions, too," Woroch says. "This means you discuss any purchase over a set dollar amount, depending on your financial situation."

"Consider using a budgeting app made specifically to help couples manage their money together. There are many options, such as Mint or HoneyFi, that will help you both stay abreast of what's happening as money comes in and goes out."

• **Prepare for the unexpected**

Not only is it crucial to have emergency savings set aside to avoid taking on debt that can lead to crippling financial woes — as well as cause tension in your relationship — but life insurance is incredibly important, especially if you have children.

No one wants to think about death, but life insurance can help cover debts and reduce mortgage payments, pay for your kids' college educations, cover funeral arrangements and make your family's lives easier overall. Even if one partner stays home with the kids, life insurance can be used to cover the cost of childcare that will be needed if something happens to him or her. You can find a life insurance calculator at Ladder Insurance and set up a plan within five minutes without having to deal with an agent or face annual policy fees.

Another step you may want to take to prepare for emergencies is to create a Legacy Binder together, which explains how you want money spent or saved and how to access bills and accounts in the event of a tragedy.

• **Hire a financial coach**

Hiring a financial coach will cost you some money, but when you do the math based on your own financial situation, you may find the cost-to-benefit ratio worth it.

"A coach can help [partners] discover the goals that they want to work on together and guide them along the way to make sure they are reaching them," says Holly Grosvenor, personal finance coach at Microstuff.com. "In some cases, when it comes to very strong behaviors like compulsive spending or ADHD, a financial therapist can help as well."

Try to always keep in mind, too, that financial hardships, if you experience them during the course of your relationship — and you likely will — don't have to last forever. Money mistakes are fixable if you're both committed to turning the situation around. Assess the situation, create a plan of attack, and rebuild whatever has taken a hit — together. ■

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He's currently nomading across the country in his van, seeking queer excitement everywhere he roams. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels

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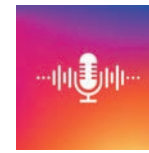
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GAY AGENDA



LISTEN TO HER

Alanis Morissette performs live, with special guest Garbage, on Friday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m. at Dos Equis Pavilion, 3839 S. Fitzhugh

Avenue. Tickets range from \$56-\$166 and are available at LiveNation.com



WRITE HERE

Cara Mia Theatre hosts a writing workshop open to Black, indigenous, POC and queer folks interested in writing and performing

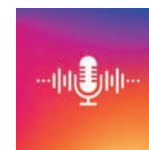
their own personal, political, rowdy manifesto on Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak Street. The workshop, a companion piece to Virginia Grise's performance manifesto *Your Healing is Killing Me*, is free and will be held from noon-3 p.m. Call 214-516-0706 or email info@carameatheatre.org for information.



EAT HERE

DJ Tony Dean spins all the best in vocal dance music (aka Disco) Sunday, Aug. 15, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at The Ivy Tavern, 5334 Lemmon Ave.

Enjoy the music, top-notch adult beverages and delicious food from The Ivy's kitchen all on the fan- and mist-cooled Ivy patio.



LISTEN TO THEM

Maroon 5 performs live Monday, Aug. 16, at 7 p.m. at Dos Equis Pavilion, 3839 S. Fitzhugh Avenue. Tickets range from \$32 to \$363 and

are available online at TicketNetwork.com.



SHOP FOR ART HERE

South Main Village, 120 S. Louis Ave., #101 in Fort Worth, presents its regular Third Thursday art crawl in the Near Southside Arts District,

hosted by galleries and local businesses. The monthly event is designed to give local artists more opportunity for exposure and advancement, and to give art lovers a chance to support local artists. Most galleries and shops in the Near Southside district open their doors for free to visitors from 6-9 p.m.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL



Resource Center, the Young Professionals Advisory Council and event co-chairs Mahogania Gaston and Zachary B. Fountain-Metz present the Back-To-School Talent Show Extravaganza, a virtual event benefitting Youth First, Thursday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m. This event, which combines Youth First's annual talent show with a fundraising effort, is free and is presented by Toyota. Youth First serves LGBTQ and allied youth, ages 12-18 and equips them with the tools and resources they need to live an authentic life through year-round, free programming that decreases high-risk behaviors, reduces social isolation, and increases self-esteem. For all the information on becoming a sponsor, donating to the event and to watch the event, visit <https://tinyurl.com/8ywr5vbn>.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

The Gay Agenda is now color-coded: Red for community events; blue for arts and entertainment; purple for sports; green for nightlife and orange for civic events and holidays.

AUGUST

• Aug. 13: Name and gender change workshop

Lambda Legal discusses what the process looks like in Texas to secure state and federal identity documents. Lawyers can receive CLE credit. Meeting via Zoom. LambdaLegal.org.

• Through Aug. 14: The Great 30

Bombshell Dance Project presented as part of the Elevator Project at Sammons Park, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

• Aug. 14: Queer Reads

Queer Reads is an online book club that meets the second Saturday of every month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Register at dallaslibrary.librarymarket.com/events/queer-reads-book-club-0.

• Aug. 14: Cara Mia Theatre's writing workshop

A companion piece to Virginia Grise's performance manifesto *Your Healing is Killing Me*, this workshop is open to Black/Indigenous/People of Color/Queer folks interested in writing and performing their own personal, political, rowdy manifesto. You don't have to consider yourself a writer or an artist to sign up; you just gotta have something you wanna

say. From noon-3 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Free. 214-516-0706. info@caramiatheatre.org.

• Aug. 16: Maroon 5 concert

Maroon 5 will play live at Dos Equis Pavilion, 3839 South Fitzhugh Ave. 7 p.m. \$32-363. Tickets at ticketnetwork.com/tickets/4305277/maroon-5-tickets-mon-aug-16-2021-dos-equis-pavilion

• Aug. 17: Stonewall Democrats general meeting

Democratic candidate for attorney general, Joe Jaworski, is the guest at the monthly general meeting of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is virtual. Register at StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org.

• Aug. 18: TAG Dinner Group

The Tyler Area Gays Dinner Group meets for dinner at Mario's Italian Restaurant. For information, emailinfo@TylerAreaGays.com.

• Aug. 19: Back to School Talent Show

This year's annual Youth First Talent Show has been combined with Resource Center's Back-to-School fundraiser for an all-new virtual show at 6 p.m. MyResourceCenter.org.

• Aug. 20-21: New Media Artworks

New media artworks by Refik Anadol and Quayola commissioned by Fort Worth Public Art will premiere as the first of four major public art projects at Will Rogers Memorial Center. Free.

• Aug. 21: TAG Men's Social Group

Tyler Area Gays' Men's Social Group meets for lunch at 11 a.m. at Jason's Deli. For more information email Tim Hoffman at Info@TylerAreaGays.com.

• Through-Aug 22: Tomoo Gokita: Get Down

Dallas Contemporary presents Japanese artist Tomoo Gokita's first North American museum exhibition: Get Down. Dallas Contemporary, 161 Glass St. DallasContemporary.org.

• Aug. 24: Get Centered tour

Virtual Resource Center tour streams for free at 5 p.m. Registration required. MyResourceCenter.org.

• Aug. 26: Black Tie Dinner Summer Social

Enjoy crafted cocktails, light bites, plenty of entertainment and exclusive announcements to share as we gear up for the 40th annual Black Tie Dinner. All proceeds benefit BTDC beneficiaries. Park Place Motorcars Mercedes-Benz, 6113 Lemmon Ave. \$25. BlackTie.org. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets at Eventbrite.com/e/summer-social-hosted-by-black-tie-dinner-tickets-165191356795.

• Aug. 26: A Listening Ear

A Listening Ear, Tyler Area Gays' support group for LGBTQ youth, meets via zoom from 6-8 p.m. For information email Info@TylerAreaGays.com.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammie Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.
Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com

Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Am I being catfished?

Hello beautiful people. Insert random complaint about the weather here. Just kidding. But I did notice I do that a lot. Like I'm trying to make small talk with myself. If I were a straight dude, I'd say, "Hot enough for ya?" If I were a true southern belle I'd say, "Lord a'mighty, tis awfully warm this morn, and I just know it's gonna be a scortcha of a day."

But I am a moody gay man/drag queen, so I will just say it's hot as balls and try not to use the word "moist" when complaining about the heat. Some of y'all just hate that word — moist. One last time: moist.

These past few weeks I have apparently become incredibly attractive. My DMs have been blowing up.

Now, as a drag queen, I get the regular pervs, usually from other countries, messaging me on Instagram or Facebook telling me, "U sexy," or "Want to talk to you," or, my favorite, "Show me dat hole!"

All just so romantic. They really know how to make a girl feel special.

Unfortunately, I do not get the random dick pics that some of my sisters get. Granted, I have a husband who would immediately get shown said dick pic, and we would judge the wang accordingly.

So last week I hosted an underwear auction at JR.'s. It was so much fun — beautiful men in little undies runnin' around everywhere! Later that night I get a text message sent directly to my actual phone number. It said, "James?" I figured it was one of my friends that got a new phone and a new number, so I replied, "Yes? Who dis?" (Because I am young and hip, and that's how us kids talk nowadays.)

He said his name was Drew and asked for me to show him a pic of myself. I said, "You first!" He sent me a pic of a very handsome, thick and muscular daddy. Now if you know me — well, let's just say I have a type, and this pic checked quite a few of my boxes.

I then told him, "Look dude, I ain't what you are looking for. I'm nearly 50, happily married and a drag queen." He immediately says that's cool; he'd fuck a



drag queen. Like I said, romantic.

Now I am convinced I'm being catfished.

I ask, "How did you get my number?" "Someone at JR.'s gave it to me," he answered.

The conversation continues: "Have we ever met?" "I've been to your shows, now show me your face." I said, "Maybe another time, goodnight." I left him hanging until I can figure out who is trying to catfish me and why.

When I reverse-look-up the phone number, it is for a 108-year-old lady named Victoria in Haskell, Texas. Screw you, Vicky. What do you really want? My mother's maiden name? My first pet's name? My childhood nickname (which BTW was faggot)?

What, Vicky? Answer me, you old bitch!

Then a few days later on Insta (Instagram, for you non hipsters), I get a message from a guy with no pic, no posts and no followers asking if I like straight

guys. I say, "Sure; they are great." Apparently, he is into drag queens, too. I tell him the same thing I told the other guy about being nearly 50 and happily married. He says, "That's cool, now send me a pic of your face." Blocked.

Is this some new scam that I don't know about? Is someone trying to get me to say something scandalous or inappropriate so they can show my husband or blackmail me? Should I engage and see what I can find out, or should I just block 'em all?

I should send them pics of nearly-famous actors to see if they notice, and if they ask for salacious photos of me, I will send pics of crazy, deformed penises — like the guy with two dicks.

Part of me thinks it is someone I know fucking with me or some bored bitch with no life trying to find some relevancy. It might be a robot.

That would be cool if it was a robot. Not a robocall situation, but an actual robot sitting in front of a computer, whose

only directive is to fuck with me. I'd be so flattered if my biggest nemesis was an actual evil genius that had the time, money and know-how to build a robot and program it to slightly annoy me. (I watch too much sci-fi bullshit.)

How does anyone get catfished in this day and age? They literally have a show about nothing but sad people being catfished. I think it's called Fishtank. (If you have never watched the documentary called *Catfish*, you should. It's kinda crazy and sad.)

I probably should not have written about this. What if Drew or my Instagram stalker read my articles? They will know I am on to them. If either of y'all are reading this, you should send me a check for \$10,000, and I will send it back to you as a money order or in gift cards. I'm also gonna need your social and a valid I.D. Once I have all of that information, I will send you all of the pics you want of my handsome (your word not mine) face.

Ru-veal yourself, and find out.

Y'all be careful out there on the innnets. There are a lot of bored crazies out there. And to anyone else that wants to slide into my DMs, start with a dick pic — or I won't even bother.

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

this week's solution

T	O	R	C	H	T	A	B	S	R	A	P	S	
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 browse For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents .	 submit To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents .
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The Raps Reunion

(Photos by Kat Haygood; some photos courtesy of Betty Neal)





Chris behind the bar at Round-Up Saloon during Wine Walk



Leo and David at it again



Antonio and Vince at Grizzly Pines

PUZZLE | Trans-cendent Values

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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55	56	57						58						
59							60			61				
62						63				64				
65						66				67				

Solution on Page xx

Across

- 1 ___ *Song Trilogy*
- 6 Hunter and namesakes
- 10 Emulates Eminem
- 14 Words after "The end of"
- 15 Do a nocturnal activity
- 16 Toward shelter
- 17 Three-masted vessel
- 18 Singer Vikki
- 19 Bowie married her
- 20 Trans actor who plays a trans teen on 59-Across
- 23 No. in a little black book
- 24 Drew back
- 25 Thaw with Nureyev's land
- 29 Guide for Commander D'Acy
- 33 Madonna's Peron role
- 34 Words between "Oscar" and "Renta"
- 36 Sounds like the Lion King
- 37 Character played by 20-Across
- 39 Some poplars
- 40 ___ *Little Kindness*
- 41 Thailand, formerly
- 43 In an excited state, perhaps
- 44 Eyed impolitely

- 47 Stop the flow of
- 50 Souls, to Foucault
- 52 Michelangelo, for one
- 55 Place where you can get a boner?
- 58 He sang Cole Porter's *Night and Day*
- 59 NBC comedy-drama about 3 moms
- 61 Used stopwatches
- 62 Material for a drag queen
- 63 Debussy's deity
- 64 Tape over a video
- 65 Barely made, with "out"
- 66 Make less difficult to bear
- 67 Lord of La Mancha

- 12 Fruit homophone of a couple
- 13 Tickle pink
- 21 Take out, perhaps
- 22 Singer Holly and family
- 25 You have them in the hole
- 26 Turn inside out
- 27 Patty Hearst's SLA name
- 28 Some lodge members
- 30 She plays Annie, mother of 37-Across
- 31 Composer Thomas
- 32 Oral attention getter
- 35 Label on a lemon that's not a fruit
- 38 Went raiding
- 39 Valuable strings
- 42 Up for debate
- 45 Web info source
- 46 Abuse orally
- 48 City on the Loire
- 49 Danes of *My So-Called Life*
- 51 Lebanon neighbor
- 53 Joe Cocker's *You ___ Beautiful*
- 54 George of *Robot Monsters*
- 55 Stare at
- 56 Long bath
- 57 Those who like it hot
- 60 ___ *Miz*

Down

- 1 Take a toll on
- 2 R.E.M.'s *The ___ Love*
- 3 Stonewall Jackson's troops
- 4 Dream up
- 5 Estate for Frida
- 6 Stage crew worker, briefly
- 7 Stock up on
- 8 Results of nongay sex
- 9 Waterway for heteros?
- 10 Bit of precipitation
- 11 Soprano Gluck

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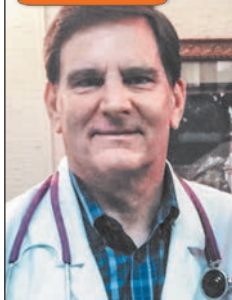
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