The ‘bathroom bill’ battle came to FWISD this week

Standing for the students

The ‘bathroom bill’ battle came to FWISD this week

by Tammye Nash, Page 12
Odefsey®
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To learn more visit ODEFSEY.com

Please see Brief Summary of Patient Information with important warnings on the following pages.
Brief Summary of Patient Information about ODEFSEY

ODFSEY (oh-DEF-se) (emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY.

There may be new information about ODEFSEY. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about ODEFSEY?

ODFSEY can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take ODEFSEY or similar medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:
  - feel very weak or tired
  - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
  - have trouble breathing
  - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
  - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
  - feel dizzy or lightheaded
  - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take ODEFSEY. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:
  - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
  - dark “tea-colored” urine
  - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
  - loss of appetite
  - nausea
  - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time.
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and take ODEFSEY, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking ODEFSEY. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
  - Do not run out of ODEFSEY. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your ODEFSEY is all gone.
  - Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider.
  - If you stop taking ODEFSEY, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking ODEFSEY.

What is ODEFSEY?

ODFSEY is a prescription medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past and have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL, or
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have a viral load that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment.

It is not known if ODEFSEY is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age or who weigh less than 77 lb (35 kg).

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, ODEFSEY may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections. Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

ODFSEY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others. Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Who should not take ODEFSEY?

Do not take ODEFSEY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- dexamethasone (Ozurdex®, Maxidex®, Decadron®, Baycadyron®)
- dexlansoprazole (Dexilant®)
- esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®)
- lansoprazole (Prevacid®)
- omeprazole (Prilosec®, Zegerid®)
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®)
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- rabeprazole (AcipHex®)
- rifampin ( Rifitin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)

the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ODEFSEY?

Before taking ODEFSEY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney and bone problems
- have had depression or suicidal thoughts
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ODEFSEY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking ODEFSEY.
Pregnancy registry: There is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- Are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take ODEFSEY.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - At least one of the medicines in ODEFSEY can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in ODEFSEY can pass into your breast milk.
- Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines may interact with ODEFSEY. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with ODEFSEY.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take ODEFSEY with other medicines.

How should I take ODEFSEY?

- Take ODEFSEY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. ODEFSEY is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- Take ODEFSEY 1 time each day with a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking ODEFSEY.
- Do not miss a dose of ODEFSEY.
- If you take too much ODEFSEY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your ODEFSEY supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ODEFSEY and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of ODEFSEY?

ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects, including:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about ODEFSEY?”
- Severe skin rash and allergic reactions. Skin rash is a common side effect of ODEFSEY. Rash can be serious. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get a rash. In some cases, rash and allergic reaction may need to be treated in a hospital. If you get a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop taking ODEFSEY and call your healthcare provider right away:
  - fever
  - skin blisters
  - mouth sores
  - redness or swelling of the eyes (conjunctivitis)
  - swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat
  - trouble breathing or swallowing
  - pain on the right side of the stomach (abdominal) area
  - dark “tea-colored” urine

- Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - feel sad or hopeless
  - feel anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- Change in liver enzymes. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with ODEFSEY. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with ODEFSEY in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with ODEFSEY.
- Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking ODEFSEY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ODEFSEY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- Bone problems can happen in some people who take ODEFSEY. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effects of rilpivirine, one of the medicines in ODEFSEY, are depression, trouble sleeping (insomnia), and headache.

The most common side effect of emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide, two of the medicines in ODEFSEY, is nausea.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of ODEFSEY. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about ODEFSEY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ODEFSEY that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.ODEFSEY.com.

Keep ODEFSEY and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: March 2016

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Dallas Red Foundation’s Red in Wonderland party raised money for Legacy Counseling Center. (Photo by Jose Hernandez)

**Legacy Counseling Center.** (Photo by Jose Hernandez)

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Pet of the week / Basil

Basil, a 2-month-old domestic mix with medium hair, is a playful little guy who also loves to snuggle up for a nap. He is also very protective of his sister, Thyme, and it would be ideal to find a home that could take them both.

Other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is $110 for cats, $135 for kittens, $150 for dogs over 1 year, and $175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a $20 discount.

Obituary

Edward Dean Bishop, or “Pastor Dean” as he was known to his church and friends, died April 20, 2016 at Willow Bend Nursing Center. He was the former pastor at White Rock Community Church.

Pastor Dean was born in Mena, Ark., and received his ordination at First Baptist Church in Mena. He earned a bachelor of arts degree at the University of Arkansas, and continued his studies in Bible and psychology at Baylor University in Waco.

In his youth, he was an accomplished golfer and he worked as a golf professional for many years. He was also a licensed airline pilot and a man of adventure. Those who knew him heard many stories of his younger years.

Pastor Dean was a charter member of White Rock Community Church, and served as a deacon in its first year. He then served as associate pastor and interim pastor, and also worked with the White Rock Friend’s Ministry and the church’s Visitation and Outreach Programs. In 2004, he was named pastor emeritus.

Pastor Dean was a mentor to those in recovery, and a member of the Ryan White Planning Council during its early years in Dallas. He lived his later years as a passionate preacher about God’s inclusive love for all.

He was preceded in death by his life partner, Glen Eades; his mother, Kathleen (Holt) Bishop; his father, Col. Jesse Eugene Bishop; and his brother, Lt. Colonel Eugene H. Bishop. He is survived by his cousin, Evelyn Davis, and her husband, Ben; niece, Margaret Kay Denton, and her husband, Terry; and several great-nephews.

He will be fondly remembered by the congregation that loved him dearly along with his formed family and caregivers, Jo, Norma Jean, Todd and Daniel.

Pastor Dean’s Dallas “family” gives thanks to the staff of Willow Bend and Agape Hospice Care for their presence and care in his last months.

A celebration of his life is scheduled at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 at White Rock Community Church, 9352 Garland Road. Memorial contributions can be made to the church to honor his legacy of leadership.
Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye 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.

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM
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• May 14: Bloomin’ Ball
  Ron Corning is the honorary chair of Sewing Seeds of Hope benefiting AIDS Interfaith Network at 5 p.m. at Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway.

• May 15: 33rd International AIDS Candlelight Memorial
  AIDS Walk South Dallas presents the local observance from 3-5 p.m. at Cosmopolitan Congregation of Dallas, 1812 N. Haskell St.

• May 18: GLFD check presentation
  Happy hour and check presentation of more than $100,000 from Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas to SPCA of Dallas in Trinity Groves at 6 p.m. at Chino Chinatown, 3011 Gulden Lane, Suite 110.

• May 20: Mental health awareness forum
  The Dallas Public Library and National Alliance on Mental Illness Dallas partner to promote mental health awareness in May. District Attorney Susan Hawk speaks. From 9-11 a.m. in the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library Auditorium, 1515 Young St.

• May 20: Dallas-area Intercollegiate LGBTQ Happy Hour
  Texas Exes, SMU and TCU diversity groups host a happy hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and support schools’ LGBTQ students, faculty and alumni. 5-7 p.m. at Sushi Zushi West Village, 3636 McKinney Ave. Ste. 150. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

• May 20: Federal Club May mixer
  Valet available for $6. Light appetizers. From 6-8 p.m. at Campisi’s, 1520 Elm St. Suite 111.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye 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.

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LGBT advocates accuse Lt. Gov. Patrick of political grandstanding in his opposition to FWISD policy

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — Fort Worth Independent School District became the latest battlefield in the bathroom wars on Tuesday, May 10, when Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick came to town demanding that FWISD Superintendent Kent Scribner resign after signing guidelines detailing how the district and its faculty and staff are to interact with transgender students.

Patrick first issued a statement on Monday calling for Scribner’s resignation, and repeated the demand Tuesday at a 5 p.m. press conference at the FWISD administration building, just minutes before the school board’s regular meeting.

But those who support Scribner and the guidelines were there waiting for the lieutenant governor, eager to suggest to Patrick that he return to Austin and stay out of a local issue. Former Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns, who made national headlines in October 2010 with his impassioned speech during a council meeting on anti-LGBT bullying and teen suicide, and Equality Texas board Chair Steve Rudner pre-empted Patrick by holding a press conference in front of the administration building shortly after 4 p.m.

Scribner, at the board’s April 26 meeting, presented a set of guidelines he had authorized to detail the processes for implementing those parts of the anti-bullying policy approved by the school board in 2011 that deal with transgender students. The guidelines did not require a vote by the board and met with little fanfare — until anti-LGBT elements, including Patrick, found out about them.

Although nothing regarding the guidelines was listed on the board’s agenda for Tuesday night as an action item, hundreds of supporters and opponents turned up for the public comment section of the meeting to make their opinions heard.

Burns, reading from a prepared statement during the 4 p.m. press conference Tuesday, said he was “stunned … to read about Lt. Gov. Patrick’s fake outrage” over FWISD’s anti-bullying policy and the guidelines on implementing it.

“The lieutenant governor is not coming to Fort Worth to resolve any problems, he’s coming here to cause them,” Burns declared. “Dan Patrick … is out of bounds thinking he has any standing here today. He is intentionally picking a fight at the expense of Fort Worth kids and their parents and their teachers. He sees personal political gain in trying to tear us apart.”

“A bully like Dan Patrick can’t go unchallenged,” Burns continued. “He is wrong. He’s here to do harm for his own political gain.”

Rudner said Patrick needed to “get out of people’s bathrooms and get out of the school’s business … Picking on children is a new low for our lieutenant governor.” Repealing the guidelines would violate federal law and would be “dangerous and economically risky” for the district and the city, he said.

“The courts have ruled and the law is clear,” Rudner said, referring to a recent decision by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals declaring that Title IX protects against anti-LGBT discrimination (see Page 16). Stressing that the district policy in question was approved by the school board after extensive public input some five years ago, Rudner said, “There’s no news here except that the lieutenant governor has decided to pick on kids that is already a bullied group of kids. It is shameful and it is despicable.”

Where supporters of the guidelines noted that FWISD stood to lose more than $50 million in federal funds without rules protecting transgender students, Patrick noted that the state of Texas gives the district more than $340 million. And that gives him, as the state’s lieutenant governor, “a say” in FWISD’s business, he said.

Patrick insisted that the guidelines violate the Texas Education Code and state law by keeping parents out of the loop regarding their children’s behavior and activities. He also suggested that interpretations of federal law saying that Title IX includes protections based on gender identity and sexual orientation are “just a fantasy.”

Patrick said that only about 1 percent of FWISD’s students are possibly transgender, and suggested that such a small number does not justify the protections outlined in the guidelines. The guidelines, he said, “are putting the privacy and comfort of 78,000 students behind the comfort of that 1 percent,” and he criticized Scribner and the board for indulging in “social engineering” instead of focusing on improving performance in the 40 percent of the district’s schools that he said are failing.

Patrick went on to tout his “very strong credentials” on educational issues before saying that the FWISD guidelines would prompt lawsuits by outraged parents and would be overturned in the courts, and that the guidelines were “the biggest promotion for school choice,” one of his pet issues.

He said the guidelines — which he repeatedly referred to as a policy — go “against common sense,” violate state Board of Education rules, … This policy is poorly written, and poorly thought out. This is not what a superintendent’s job is about.”

The dueling press conferences that preceded the board meeting were just the warm up. Advocates on both sides of the issue packed the boardroom for the public comment section of the meeting. An estimated 18 individuals took to the twin podiums over the course of a little more than an hour to speak either for or against the guidelines.

The crowd inside the board room — there were many more standing in the foyer or in the overflow room — seemed to be weighted a little heavier on the side of support, and an unofficial count puts the number of supporters who spoke at 20, compared to 18 who opposed the guidelines.

Many more had signed up to speak, but board President Jacinto Ramos Jr. said at the outset that the public comment session would be limited to one hour. He also said, however, that people were welcome to attend the board’s next meeting on...
Dan Patrick's record on education

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, in Fort Worth on Tuesday, May 10 for a press conference calling for Fort Worth ISD Superintendent Kent Scribner to resign over the district’s guidelines for interacting with trans students, repeatedly stressed his “strong credentials” on education during his time in the Texas Legislature.

But others have a far less rosy view of his record on the issue.

Patrick’s campaign website says he has a “proven record of defending our schools against the threat of CSCOPE and Common Core,” and stresses his support of “school choice” and charter schools. During his two terms in the Texas Senate, he was chair of the Committee on Education, and served on the Committee on Finance, for which he sat on the Subcommittee on Public Education Funding and the Subcommittee on Higher Education Funding.

According to various public sources, in February 2011, as vice chair of the Senate Committee on Education, Patrick spoke in favor of cutting an unspecified number of non-teaching positions from the state’s public school districts, such as “math department supervisors” and “curriculum experts.” In doing so, he claimed that Texas’ more than 1,200 public school districts — taken as a group — are the fifth-largest employer in the world. PolitiFact.com has called that claim “misleading.”

Patrick is also on record as being determined to establish creationism within the public school curriculum in Texas, despite court rulings that such a policy would violate the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

As a senator, Patrick in 2011 voted in favor of massive funding cuts to education, and although he claimed on the campaign trail to have “led the charge” to restore some of that funding in 2013, he was actually one of four senators who voted against it.

In his second term in the Senate in 2013, Patrick chaired the Senate Education Committee. Texas Monthly, which regularly rates Texas lawmakers, said Patrick was one of the worst legislators that session and called him, in his role as committee chair, a bully and an ideologue.

According to EducateTexas.com, the University of Mary Hardin Baylor in 2014 conducted a study, “Texas Kids Can’t Wait,” and determined that then-Sen. Patrick’s voting record on public education issues was the worst in either chamber of the legislature in 2013.

And just this week, in his Grading Texas blog on the Texas State Teacher’s Association website, Clay Robison called Patrick “a schoolyard bully” and a “super-charged ideologue with an ego to match.”

May 24, and that individual board members might choose to hold forums on the topic in their districts.

Sharon Herrera, the FWISD educator who founded LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S., a support group for LGBT youth, was one of those who spoke during the meeting, talking about her own experience as a lesbian teen and how she attempted suicide at age 16. On Wednesday, she said she is encouraged by what she sees as the board’s support of Scribner and the guidelines.

“These policies have been in place since 2011. I worked with Fairness Fort Worth’s former president, Tom Anable, and current President David Henderson and Jon Nelson on those policies,” Herrera said. “This superintendent made those policies come to life to ensure that all students are safe on our campuses. Dr. Scribner made an impact on students’ lives.”

As for those who spoke against the superintendent and the guidelines, Herrera said, “My question to them would be, do you actually have children in Fort Worth ISD? Have you taken the time to listen to LGBTQ youth? Have you researched the facts of LGBTQ youth?”

And as for the lieutenant governor, “Dan Patrick is a bully,” the educator declared. “Does he not realize the danger he’s putting our youth in? I ask him, what do you tell the two trans students I currently have in the hospitals for attempting suicide?”

Henderson said Wednesday that he was “still processing” Tuesday’s meeting. But he had a message for Patrick, and for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has in the last week issued statements opposing the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling and opposing FWISD’s guidelines.

“Please spend your time and money fixing what you broke, rather than breaking what Fort Worth fixed.”
AIDS service agencies say new requirements delay care, scare clients and work against getting people with HIV into treatment

DAVID TAFFET  | Senior Staff Writer
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The Department of State Health Services has implemented new requirements for anyone accessing AIDS services from local agencies under federal or state grants administered by the county. That includes Ryan White money and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program or ADAP.

Those new requirements, according to some local service providers, are creating even more roadblocks for those with HIV seeking healthcare. (Several area agencies provided information for this story, but all asked for anonymity out of fear of retribution from the county or the state.)

In this new program, called Modified Adjusted Gross Income or MAGI, clients must show their federal income tax returns, which limits how an agency can qualify someone. Previously, agencies could deduct expenses like child care, out-of-pocket medical expenses, dependents, assistance for handicapped family members and more. Now, only if those items were deducted on a tax form can they be considered in qualifying new or existing clients.

If a client comes into an agency to apply for services and doesn’t have the necessary tax forms or didn’t file taxes, the agency must request the form from the IRS. One person responsible for that at one agency said if something is different on the form, such as the address, it’s rejected and returned.

The rejection goes to the client. That client must contact the agency again and re-apply. For clients that are homeless, these rules can be especially problematic.

Taxes aren’t due until April 15 each year, and returns aren’t available for the agency to order for another few months. That means that agencies currently are receiving 2014 tax returns. A person’s income and health can change dramatically during that period of time.

Any information not given exactly as it appeared on the tax form might cause a rejection. One agency’s client manager said he’s seen an application rejected because one form listed the applicant’s address as Cedar Springs, and another form listed it as Cedar Springs Road.

He said names can also cause problems, especially for Hispanics that often use their mother’s and father’s last names, but don’t always use both.

And since many of the people accessing services are homeless or couch surfing, remembering which address they were at two years ago on the date they filed their tax return, if any, is problematic.

The new regulations also create new barriers for people with mental health issues. The IRS simply intimidates most people. One case manager said after receiving rejections for technical reasons on the application, those with mental illness can be so frightened they don’t return to re-apply and so receive no health care.

The state surveyed agencies using the system in 21 markets around the state. Of those responding to the survey, 60 percent found the system difficult or very difficult to use, while just 1 percent found it very easy. The survey showed 90 percent had difficulty obtaining paperwork.

Most agreed the process hasn’t gotten any easier since implementation.

“Too many steps needed to complete financial eligibility when a simpler process was used before,” one agency wrote on the survey to the state.

Asked how easy has it been to obtain tax transcripts, 77 percent said difficult or very difficult. For those clients who didn’t file tax returns, receiving a statement of non-filing was equally difficult.

One agency director compared MAGI to the trans bathroom issue, calling it a solution in search of a problem. He said in all his years working with people with HIV, he’s never seen clients fraudulently obtaining services from his agency.
Life insurance offered for people with HIV

Qualifications are strict and costs high, but policies are still an important tool for financial stability

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For the first time since the early 1980s, people with HIV can buy life insurance. Prudential Insurance Company of America and John Hancock Insurance are both offering policies.

Prudential Life insurance offers a term life policy for 10 or 15 years for people 30 to 60 years old. Coverage is available up to $2.5 million. John Hancock’s whole life policy is available for people 30 to 65 years old for amounts up to $2 million.

During the early 1980s, some life insurance policies were available without blood tests. If a person with HIV survived more than two years after purchasing a policy, the insurer couldn’t challenge the policy.

But as HIV testing became more accurate and common, insurers began requiring the test and disqualified anyone testing positive for the virus. But with the advent of anti-retroviral medications, HIV has become a manageable condition.

“With advances in the successful treatment of people with HIV, we are now able to offer this opportunity to apply for life insurance — a milestone we see as a significant step in the right direction,” Prudential officials wrote in marketing materials announcing the change.

Still, not everyone who applies will be accepted.

Financial advisor Randy Greenberg said Prudential asks applicants how they acquired the virus. Those infected by sharing needles are disqualified. But that’s not a policy specific to those with HIV, he said: Drug use disqualifies a person from obtaining life insurance whether or not HIV-positive.

Contracting the virus through sexual contact does not disqualify an applicant, he said. But to qualify for Prudential’s policy, a person must have been diagnosed more than a year ago and maintained “satisfactory CD4 levels.”

Other factors that would disqualify a candidate applying for life insurance include having been convicted of driving under the influence, smoking or having dangerous hobbies, like driving race cars.

The policyholder, after holding his or her policy for its term, can convert Prudential’s term life policy into a whole life policy, Greenberg said.

Insurance agent Steven Graves said he’s been pushing insurance companies to offer life insurance to people with HIV for years.

“This is a huge step in the right direction,” he said. But he noted, the qualifiers John Hancock lists for its policies are more numerous and specific than Prudential’s.

An applicant must be “compliant with anti-retroviral therapy for at least five consecutive years” and “well followed by an HIV specialist.”

A large city may have an HIV specialist, but smaller cities and rural areas don’t. Someone associated with AIDS that would be rare in anyone with a CD4 cell count above 350.

Just how expensive is this insurance? Graves sent a quote from Hancock for a 40-year-old male living in Texas with HIV and without HIV. The new policy for someone with HIV would cost $42.48 per month for $100,000 coverage. The person living without HIV would pay $8.37 per month for the same coverage.

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To be insured, the applicant must currently test negative for Hepatitis B and C and have no history of hepatitis. According to infectious disease specialist Dr. Gary Sinclair, a case of acute Hep B provides immunity to future infection, but the company is probably looking for people with chronic cases of Hep B that lead to cirrhosis of the liver and cancer. Cures for Hep C are recently available, but people who’ve had that disease are also prone to cirrhosis and cancer.

Hancock also requires no history of IV drug use, coronary artery disease, diabetes, cancer or protein in the urine that indicates kidney disease. Significant psychiatric history is a disqualifier.

The person must not be underweight and not be losing weight, have normal protein levels and have no AIDS-defining illness. Severe weight loss is often associated with AIDS. Diseases like cytomegalovirus or CMV, pneumocystis, Kaposi’s sarcoma are common opportunistic infections associated with AIDS that would be rare in anyone with a CD4 cell count above 350.

While the new coverage is expensive, some people will find having that coverage worthwhile.

“Now that we can get married, there’s the responsibility for certain debts the surviving spouse will incur,” Greenberg said. “Having life insurance available as a financial tool is incredibly valuable.”

Steven Graves, left and Randy Greenberg

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Gloucester v. Grimm, the 4th Circuit and trans rights

Explaining the court ruling over transgender students in school restrooms

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It’s an important legal victory, but the recent federal appeals panel ruling in favor of a transgender teen has not yet knocked down the hostility or hurdles blocking transgender people to access public restrooms. And even though LGBT legal activists are highly optimistic that the case will eventually make gains for transgender people, opponents have already filed an appeal to the full federal appeals court.

The court victory comes as national attention — even international attention — has focused intensely on the issue of transgender rights and protections.

North Carolina and Mississippi have passed state-level laws specifically barring transgender people from using public restrooms that correspond to their gender identity and presentation. That has triggered a flood of public and corporate protest, become an issue in the 2016 presidential campaign, and even prompted a question for President Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron at a joint press conference in London on May 6.

So here is a quick primer on why the appeals panel decision has garnered so much attention and why it may reach far beyond one transgender student in Virginia:

• What are the basics?

A three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled 2-to-1 on April 19 that Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 — which prohibits discrimination based on sex by federally-funded educational institutions — also prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

The majority’s ruling in Grimm v. Gloucester came on preliminary motion in a lawsuit filed by a transgender student, Gavin Grimm. The preliminary motion requested that he be able to use his public high school’s boys’ restrooms until his overall lawsuit can be resolved. An 87-year-old, Reagan-appointed federal district court judge had denied the preliminary injunction, declaring Grimm to be a female and ruling that “sex” in Title IX does not include gender identity or sexual orientation.

The majority reversed that decision, noting that the U.S. Department of Education had issued an opinion letter last year, saying Title IX requires “a school generally must treat transgender students consistent with their gender identity.” The panel sent the case back to the district court with instructions to reconsider the preliminary injunction based on the panel majority’s decision. The Gloucester County School Board immediately appealed the panel’s decision to the full 4th Circuit.

• Why is this a big deal?

This lawsuit is still in the preliminary stages, and the decision addresses only sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX in federally-funded educational facilities. But the April 19 ruling was the first time a federal appeals court anywhere in the nation has ruled that discrimination based on “sex” included discrimination based on “gender identity.”

Next, the full 4th Circuit, which covers the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and West Virginia, will have an opportunity to weigh in or let the panel decision stand. But LGBT activists note that most of the rest of the 4th Circuit judges are fairly progressive and are likely to uphold the panel decision.

Also, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory — who supported the law in that state to ban transgender people from using public restrooms consistent with their gender identity — said he would “respect” the 4th Circuit panel decision as it applies to federally-funded educational facilities. An editorial in the News & Observer newspaper in Raleigh said the ruling should prompt lawmakers there to repeal the anti-gay law.

• How big could this get?

This could go to the U.S. Supreme Court and a decision there could affect every state, not just the 4th Circuit states. But there’s another important potential impact, too: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII prohibits most public and private employers from discriminating based on “sex.” Like the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has determined that the prohibition on “sex” discrimination includes a prohibition on “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” discrimination.

As Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal, explains, “I believe there is least as strong a case that courts are required to give the EEOC’s determinations that Title VII’s ban on sex discrimination prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and that excluding transgender employees from restrooms matching their gender identity violates Title VII as there was for the 4th Circuit to be obligated to defer to the similar determinations of the Department of Education.”

• The Supreme Court? Really?

It’s possible, but LGBT legal activists think it’s not likely at this time. The Supreme Court rarely gets involved in a case at a preliminary stage.

One of the big reasons it does take a case is to resolve a conflict among the various federal appeals circuits. Right now, only the 4th Circuit has ruled on Title IX, so there is no conflict, notes Jennifer Levi of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

Gavin Grimm sued to use the right bathroom at his school.
Dallas Voice celebrates 32 years

Dallas Voice founder Don Ritz wrote the lead story in the first issue of Dallas Voice, printed 32 years ago on May 11, 1984. It was about the Dallas Gay Political Coalition, the political action committee of Dallas Gay Alliance, that had endorsed John Vance for Dallas County sheriff and Lloyd Doggett for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate.

Both candidates earned enough votes to get into a June runoff.

The other front page story in that first issue was about Pride III, the committee planning to celebrate national Pride Week in June and the second anniversary of Judge Jerry Buchmeyer’s decision declaring the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional in August.

That first paper was 24 pages. You know what wasn’t mentioned in those 24 pages? AIDS.

By May 1984, AIDS had already hit Houston hard. It had touched Dallas, but it was another six months before AIDS hit DFW hard enough that the Founding for Human Understanding — now Resource Center — was formed as a project of Dallas Gay Alliance to address the growing epidemic.

Here are a few other things that were making news back on May 11, 1984:

- Playwright and actor Harvey Fierstein had been given the key to the city, the first openly gay person to be honored that way in Dallas.
- Phone numbers were listed without area codes. Numbers that began with a 52 were Oak Lawn exchanges.
- The Methodist Church had just reaffirmed its position on homosexuality: “Homosexuals are people of ‘sacred worth’ but the practice of homosexuality is ‘incompatible with Christian teaching.’” That very same language is being debated again at the UMC’s quadrennial General Conference this month.
- Howie Daire answered relationship questions from readers. Howie had created Oak Lawn Counseling Center with his best buddy Candy Marcum. He died of AIDS a couple of years later.
- In an ad, Crossroads Market welcomed Dallas Voice to the family of Dallas’ gay-owned gay-operated businesses.
- Wayland Flowers, an outrageous gay performer, and Madame, his drag puppet, were performing at Granny’s Dinner Playhouse, a place way up north in the suburbs (at the time) on LBJ. Flowers died of AIDS in 1988.
- Tickets for the Turtle Creek Chorale’s cabaret show at Gran Crystal Palace (possibly on Airport Freeway in Irving; the article doesn’t specify an address) were on sale for two performances.
- Most of the ads were from the bars. Mahogany was performing at The Unicorn on Lemmon Avenue. MCA recording artists Bubba and Bear performed at Patrick’s on Fitzhugh. Comedy stars Jerry and Lola performed at the Fraternity House on Fitzhugh. Tina and Mack performed at the Hideaway on Buena Vista. Throckmorton Mining Company advertised that Heda Quote would be “serving subs soon.” James Griffith appeared at 4001 (previously the Village Station, located at the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton).
- Heda Quote was dishing the bar gossip: “Lonnie and Bill, owners of the Hideaway, toast their first year anniversary with singing star Dena Kaye.” Heda Quote, aka Rex Ackerman, wrote a gossip column for the Voice and later because the newspaper’s circulation director after his retirement from AT&T. He died of AIDS in 1998.
- Club Dallas had the inside back cover and has appeared in every issue since then. Dallas Voice staff offers a special thank you to Club Dallas, and to all of our readers and advertisers through the years.

Welcome to Volume 33, Issue 1 of Dallas Voice!

— David Taffet

Headed for IML

Eddie Sherbert of Dallas, the current Mr. Texas Leather and Mr. Hidden Door titleholder, will be traveling to Chicago over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-31, to compete in the International Mr. Leather contest. Sherbert’s win at Mr. Texas Leather in February qualified him to compete for the 2017 IML title. But because the 2015 Mr. Texas Leather winner — who had been scheduled to compete at IML this year — is unable to travel to the contest, the contest’s producers asked Sherbert to represent the title this year at the international competition. “It’s an honor to represent the Lone Star State at this year’s IML,” Sherbert said. “I am excited about this opportunity to serve my community in such a prestigious competition, and I give thanks to everyone that has supported me while on this incredible journey.”

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March will wind through an area not usually associated with the LGBT community

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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While other cities celebrate National Gay Pride Month in June with parades, Dallas will have Queerbomb, Glitterstock, FemmeFest and CineWilde to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, as well as the series of Supreme Court decisions that led to last year’s marriage equality decision.

Queerbomb, now in its third year, organizes its own Pride events. And other groups are beginning to organize events around the Queerbomb celebrations, as well, according to Queerbomb organizer Daniel Cates said. “We’ve grown in amazing ways,” he said.

Cates noted that part of the reason for his event’s growth is a lack of other Pride events in Dallas during June. Razzle Dazzle has gone away again for now. MetroBall is a successful fundraiser held in June but there is an admission fee. But Queerbomb’s events are free, Cates said, adding that “Queerbomb is community funded and not covered in beer ads.”

Cates stressed that he isn’t bashing the annual Dallas Pride parade and celebration held in September. He just wants everyone to know they are welcome to celebrate National Pride Month at a fun, free event in June.

This year’s Queerbomb kicks off with a music festival that starts at noon and runs all afternoon on June 25 at RBC Deep Ellum, 2617 Commerce St.

Cates is excited about the new venue. “They rolled out the red carpet for us,” he said. “We’ve never worked with a facility of this caliber before.”

Glitterstock, a rally, will be held at 7:30 p.m. outside the club. That will be followed by a march — more appropriate than a parade, Cates said, because it better simulates the original gay Pride protest outside the Stonewall Inn in New York in 1969. “Pride is political,” he said.

And, he added, marching through a neighborhood that’s not usually associated with the LGBT community makes more of a statement than marching through the gayborhood.

Cates said a march is also more economical to stage than a parade. The exact route is still being worked out with Dallas police, but it will wind through Deep Ellum. The permit is inexpensive because marchers are expressing their free speech rights. On the other hand, parade permits when more than 20,000 people are expected run $500. Police protection will be provided to Queerbomb, but hiring off-duty officers for a march isn’t...
required as it is for a parade. That means Queerbomb will need to do some of its own policing — like making sure people don’t take alcoholic beverages out of the club and into the street.

For that, Queerbomb has marshals, as Cates calls them, rather than marshals.

After the march, DJ DQ will keep the party going at RBC Deep Ellum. But Glitterstock will take place in the parking lot outside the club. Entertainment includes drag performers, spoken word, music and burlesque. Cates said organizers are still looking for performers.

“We want to see the community get creative,” he said. “We’ll put on a queer variety show of fabulous proportions.”

Community groups are invited to set up booths. Cates said no one will be there asking anyone to change their electricity providers, but community groups are invited to “raise funds, find new members, publicize and evangelize.”

Other groups are planning events in conjunction with Queerbomb: Planned Parenthood has scheduled FemmeFest, a party celebrating femme-identifying queer folks. And CineWilde Dallas will join the fun with its first annual local queer film festival during the day at Central Trak. The festival is soliciting films from local amateur and professional LGBT filmmakers.

While venue and permits are already paid for, Cates said Queerbomb’s trying to raise about $5,000 to make the event more fabulous and keep all admission free of charge.

To make a donation to Queerbomb, visit GoFundMe.com/queerbomb2016.
Face the facts: Transgender people aren’t the ones to fear

I’m tempted to characterize those who joined Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in opposition to the guidelines for transgender students during the Fort Worth Independent School District’s May 10 board meeting as an angry mob, with glaring eyes, carrying pitchforks and torches — out for blood.

But that wouldn’t be true. Or fair.

In reality, they are parents who love their kids, just like I love my kids. They want them to be safe; they want them to have a good education. They have hopes and dreams for their children, want the very best for their them.

Just like I do.

If trans people — an extremely vulnerable and marginalized segment of the population — weren’t so deeply affected by this fear, I’d actually feel sorry for these parents. It must be awful to be so obsessed about someone you don’t know or understand sharing a bathroom or locker room with your little snowflake.

Those who gin up these unfounded fears and then fan the flames while trans people continue to die make me want to scrounge around my garage for my own pitchfork and a torch. They are truly the scum of the Earth (apologies to actual scum).

These techniques are not new, and they are deceptively simple. You give people something to be afraid of, then you tell them who’s to blame for making you afraid.

In case you haven’t figured it out yet, the thing they tell you to be afraid, the ones to blame for your fear, is the transgender community — even though we have done nothing to earn this fear and blame, other than existing.

Every era presents it’s own set of challenges. Change is hard for everyone and the pace of it lately has been dizzying.

In the 1950s, fearmongering was used to target African-Americans in an attempt to fight integration of schools. There would be diseases spread through toilet seats, they said.

That was, of course, bullshit, but it got people scared enough to put up a fight. I’m not sure what the fear of integrating schools was about.

How could a child getting an education be a threat to someone?

But in the ’50s, information was scarce. The Internet didn’t exist. Epidemiology wasn’t what it is today. So the fear spread.

Ultimately, integration happened anyway. And the fears never panned out.

In 1978, anti-gay forces in California launched Proposition 6, also known as the Briggs Initiative, seeking to institute a law requiring the termination of gay and lesbian faculty and staff in the California schools, and prohibiting the future hiring of any gay and lesbian faculty and staff.

Fearmongers spread hysteria by claiming gay and lesbian teachers would “turn children to the gay lifestyle.” Again, factual information wasn’t as readily available as were the lies. But fortunately, the initiative failed and again, the fears have proven unfounded.

Just in the last dozen years, it was same-sex marriage that shook the very foundations of the GOP and religious right.

“Marriage equality will destroy the sanctity of marriage!” they cried. Fear was spread, laws were passed and lawsuits made it all the way to the Supreme Court.

Obergefell v. Hodges became the law of the land last June, and yet the sanctity of marriage seems to have survived — even the sanctity of those third and fourth marriages that so many who were so worried about other people’s rights to marry.

In 2016, I can see how parents can perhaps be too busy with careers, taking kids to soccer practice, going to church, housework and whatnot to actually read a newspaper or log on to the Internet (other than Facebook, of course).

There is just so much information out there that it can be hard to keep track of it all. You can’t expect a busy mom to actually find out whether a transgender kid is a threat, or not. It’s so much easier to run down to the school board and regurgitate what the lieutenant governor says, or quote a clever hate meme from Facebook.

Let me make it easy for you: Just check out Media Matters’ A Comprehensive Guide To The Debunked “Bathroom Predator” Myth. Transgender people have done nothing in bathrooms to merit this fear. We are as concerned about safety as you are, maybe moreso because our fear of you is most certainly justified. You scare the hell out of us.

And we know that if anything happens in a bathroom, we are probably going to be blamed.

So to those folks who sided with Dan Patrick on Tuesday night, I’m sure you are a nice person. I bet your friends see the compassionate side of you, the funny person you can be, the gracious host or hostess.

You are probably someone that loves animals and cries at sad movies.

So stop for a moment and ask yourself: What was it that made you leave home and drive to a school board meeting so you could yell mean things and interrupt people when it was their turn to speak? What brought out the hatred for people you don’t even know?

Please. Put down the pitchfork and the torch. They must be getting heavy anyway.

Examine what it is you’re really afraid of. Because if your concern is truly for the safety of your children, and it’s caused by where I go to the bathroom, then your fear is misplaced.

Your children are safe as can be when it comes to transgender people and bathrooms.

As a parent, you can only do so much. It’s hard, I know. I’ve raised two beautiful daughters myself. Neither one of them are bigots. They both know the truth — that kids are in more danger from school bullies and the car trip to and from school than they ever will be by going potty with a trans person.

So just stop already. You just can’t stay in a perpetual state of fear when the facts tell you that fear is unfounded.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com
“So, even if the school eventually appealed to the Supremes, I would think it very unlikely that they would weigh in,” Levi said.

Plus, she notes, there are only eight justices on the Supreme Court right now. A tie vote at the Supreme Court would leave the appeals decision intact, so it seems unlikely the Gloucester County School Board would appeal to the Supreme Court under these circumstances.

More likely: If the full 4th Circuit upholds the panel decision, Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights predicts the school district will simply settle the lawsuit rather than go through the expense of a full trial when the 4th Circuit’s position is “so clear.”

• Who’s the student who sued?

 His name is Gavin Grimm, and he’s a junior at Gloucester High School in the rural Virginia county of Gloucester. He’s 16 years old and has felt, since age 6, that he’s a male.

A psychologist diagnosed Grimm with gender dysphoria, a condition in which a person strongly identifies as a gender different from his or her physical gender attributes. His parents helped him change his name, secure treatment to transition to a male identity, and inform and seek help from school officials.

Grimm does not participate in physical education classes and did not seek use of the boys’ locker room, but he did seek use of the boys’ restroom. He explained that, in girls’ restrooms, girls reacted negatively to his presence because they perceive him to be a boy.

• How did this land in court?

School officials initially cooperated and allowed Grimm to use the boys’ restroom. Things went well for seven weeks then, according to court documents, some parents of other students complained, and school board officials held hearings.

At those hearings, some parents expressed hostility toward Grimm, calling him a “young lady” and a “freak.” Some warned that allowing him to use the boys’ restroom would lead to sexual assaults and prompt boys to dress as girls in order to enter the girls’ restrooms.

In response, the school board adopted a policy requiring that transgender students use “an alternative appropriate private facility.” But Grimm said that policy increased his feeling of being stigmatized.

• Who is on the student’s side?

 The ACLU, Lambda Legal, the Transgender Law Center, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the Transgender Law & Policy Institute, the U.S. Justice Department and school administrators in California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts and several other states, as well as the gay Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C.; the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association; and the Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network.

• Which 4th Circuit judges participated?

 Judge Henry Floyd (an appointee of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama) wrote the decision, which was joined by Senior Circuit Judge Andre Davis (an appointee of Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama). Judge Paul Niemeyer (an appointee of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush) concurred in part and dissented in part. © 2016 by Keen News Service
Dallas Voice: I attended one of your concerts last year, and was struck during the show’s finale by how increasingly strong your singing voice has become. You were belting!

Margaret Cho: Why thank you! I had been taking various lessons. I’ve also had a lot of incredible singers give me a ton of great advice. From Cyndi Lauper, who kind of taught me the basics, and I’ve also worked with Bird. She’s a tremendous coach and she often coaches the contestants on American Idol. I’ve had a great amount of support. I’ve worked with incredible producers who have also taken my voice and brought it to another level. I think I have some natural abilities, but it’s the technique that I’ve been learning from the best that keeps me going. I’m really honored to do it.

When Lea DeLaria released her first jazz vocal album, it seemed that singing was something she had wanted to do all along, and that the other things she did as a performer all led up to this moment. Is being a singer is something that you have always wanted to be? Oh, always. But then, again, I’m very much a standup comedian in my heart. That’s really what I do. Now I’m trying to incorporate all of the different elements of my work as a performer, and use it as a standup comedian.

You are calling your new album American Myth. What’s the significance of the title? It comes from one of the lyrics to the song “Anna Nicole.” It’s a song about Anna Nicole Smith. It’s the archetype of the tragic beauty who is too good for this world. It’s an American myth in the same way we mythologize Marilyn Monroe or James Dean. It’s an archetype we see over and over in film and on TV. That’s what I was referring to and what the song is about. It’s my version of “Candle In the Wind” for Anna Nicole.

I’m so glad that you mentioned the song “Anna Nicole.” Why was now the time to do this tribute to her? I actually wrote the song with Garrison Starr in 2010, we just hadn’t released it — it seemed too soon. You want to have some time to think about her. The world has changed. I think it’s the right time to look at her as kind of a frontrunner in reality television. She was Kim Kardashian before Kim Kardashian was Kim Kardashian. Of course, Kim Kardashian is a kind of archetype. But she owns her beauty and is tremendously successful. There’s no tragedy, there’s no drug story. There’s just her and her fame and her beauty. But Anna Nicole created that template of somebody that you’d want to watch on reality TV. Somebody that you’d want to invite into your home or as a role model, in terms of beauty and lifestyle and glamour.

As someone who spends a lot of time on tour, have you had the chance to try out all of the songs on the new album in front of a live audience? Yes, I have tried a few of them. A couple of the songs are a staple in my stand-up comedy. I usually end my shows with songs.

How has the reaction been? The reaction has been tremendous! Especially to a song called “Kill My Rapist.” I think it’s an important song. It’s not about violence. It’s about a cathartic release. To let go of the anger that

Fanny Brice wasn’t the only funny lady who could carry a tune. Margaret Cho did a good job of establishing herself as a singer and songwriting collaborator on her 2010 debut music album Cho Dependent. One of the busiest women in show business, between her standup comedy shows, Showtime specials, co-hosting duties on Fashion Police and her activism for queer, women’s and animal rights and causes, Cho has found the time to write and record her new follow-up album American Myth (Clownery Records). Cho recorded the album with her band The Dog Children, and co-wrote most of the songs with out singer/songwriter Garrison Starr. She describes it as “a glamorous and glittering tribute to family, comedy, anger, fame, gyness, grief, fat pride, love and hate.”

We spoke with Margaret about the album, her love of song and working with fellow comedian Leslie Jordan.
Dallas Voice: I attended one of your concerts last year, and was struck during the show’s finale by how increasingly strong your singing voice has become. You were belting!

Margaret Cho: Why thank you! I had been taking various lessons. I’ve also had a lot of incredible singers give me a ton of great advice. From Cyndi Lauper, who kind of taught me the basics, and I’ve also worked with Bird. She’s a tremendous coach and she often coaches the contestants on American Idol. I’ve had a great amount of support. I’ve worked with incredible producers who have also taken my voice and brought it to another level. I think I have some natural abilities, but it’s the technique that I’ve been learning from the best that keeps me going. I’m really honored to do it.

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It sometimes seems like all Hollywood can churn out anymore are expensive comic book movies, and lately, all of them have the consistent theme of hero-vs.-hero: *Batman v. Superman* and *Captain America: Civil War*, and now *X-Men: Apocalypse*. More than the others, however, this seems of a piece with the entire X-Men franchise, which has always blurred the line between good and bad. Which may be what has made it one of the most interesting titles in the Marvel universe, and one that resonates most with gay audiences.

Putatively wearing the black hats: Magneto (Michael Fassbender) and his crew — separatists who feel oppressed by the world of muggles, who label them as “freaks” and “outsiders.” It feels like such a plain metaphor that, at some points during *Apocalypse*, you half expect a politician to lobby for separate bathrooms based upon their mutation-at-birth. Magneto has undergone more than enough persecution in his lifetime, starting with his internment at Auschwitz and continuing through the deaths of others close to him (which we see played out here). Imprisoned as a Jew, demonized as a mutant … his rejection of mainstream society borders as much on Sylvia Rivera as on Osama bin Laden: You push someone hard enough, he will push back. That accounts for how, in the first two films of this trilogy of X-Men prequels (*First Class* and *X-Men: Days of Future Past*), Magneto was driven to mutiny, but not of the X-Men… Magneto’s betrayal is an act of defiance. And, of course, in the first two films we see that Magneto’s actions were understandable — all the more so in the wake of the Holocaust. Magneto may not have been a monster before the Holocaust, but he was a monster before it.
Days of Future Past are the others), Magneto and white-hatted Professor Xavier (James McAvoy) are often on the same side. Malcolm X or Mahatma? What are the paths toward equality? Is there a right and a wrong way, really?

Ultimately, there is a right way — the way that doesn’t involve the obliteration of all of earth-based society. But the argument is more with the methods than the politics themselves. That’s expressed in how, in Apocalypse, En Sabah Nur (Oscar Isaac) — a long-dormant supervillain, thought to be the first mutant millennia ago — recruits four horsemen for his crusade against humanity: Magneto, Psylocke, Angel, Storm... at least two of whom are considered heroes by the time Ian McKellen and company take over the roles.

You expect bigness — of emotions and explosions — in a sci-fi actioner, but the performances here are quirkier and better than average, especially Fassbender and McAvoy, who always appear to be thinking.

And director Bryan Singer seamlessly integrates several origin stories (for Cyclops, Storm and others) into the Bigger Picture stuff.

Indeed, Apocalypse builds on — or perhaps crib from — Days of Future Past, especially in one comedic-action scene where Quicksilver (Evan Peters) speeds through the Xavier School, rescuing students so fast, explosions cannot keep up with him. The scene feels wrong, as if he has in fact exceeded the speed of light, but it’s pointless to examine the physics of a set-piece that’s so much fun. That’s both the appeal and the flaw of superhero films that routinely take us to the brink of annihilation: You get dazzled by how high the stakes are, but lost in all the debris. War is all hell, and superhero movies are all-out war.

Everything is business as usual at FNN, a thinly-veiled incarnation of CNBC, with George Clooney as Lee Gates, a thinly-veiled Jim Cramer wannabe — an entertainer who treats the stock market like a plaything and market fluctuations like the latest tweets from Kardashians. He even has a permanent cast of strippers to give audiences the ol’ razzle dazzle. Ultimately it’s not about investing, or even business news and information, but about ratings and buzziness — the financial equivalent of clickbait web posts.

Only Lee’s superficiality has worked against him this time. His flippancy led one disturbed investor, Kyle (Jack O’Connell), to sink his last dime into Ibis, a company that just took a nearly billion-dollar hit due to a “computer glitch.” Only Kyle is not buying it, so he’s taken the set of Lee’s show, called Money Monster, hostage. He wants answers, or he’ll blow up a bomb on live TV. (Imagine the ratings that would get!)

There’s an honored tradition of outlaw-as-rebel-folk-hero stories throughout history, and the information age has made that possibility all the more expedient. Ever since a slow white Bronco chase got more viewers than the Super Bowl, popular culture has been obsessed with immediate exposure to celebrity. No longer do traveling troubadours have to write ballads to cement reputations — we have memes and Vines to do the work for us. You can be famous and irrelevant, often in the same day.

That’s the underlying theme of Money Monster... as is an indictment of the financial markets, and journalism, and... Yes, this movie has many targets in its sights, combining elements of Network, The Truman Show and The Big Short in one boiling real-time shit show.

I mean that in a good way — mostly. Director Jodie Foster manages to keep a lot of balls in the air at once, juggling all sides of crisis management with an indictment of American business. She owes a debt to Sidney Lumet’s Dog Day Afternoon with the complex intercutting and New York City setting, so what if it steers off course occasionally? Blame market forces. Or a computer glitch.

So... what’s on next?
Defiantly Fiat

Fiat’s gas-sipping crossover proves unexpectedly exhilarating

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

One of my favorite car commercials is the recent one where a Viagra pill drops in the gasoline tank of a little Fiat 500, and a few moments later, it’s extended its length and girth to become the 500X four-door crossover. You can almost sense the testosterone pulsing through its buff body, ready to take four and their gear to any climax — or through any climate.

Designers at Fiat’s Centro Stile in Turin, Italy, were left with the task to reshape the iconic micro 500 into a compact crossover fit for global markets — especially crossover-crazy America. They took the 500’s hallmark double headlamps, trapezoidal nose, rounded clamshell hood and “whiskers and logo” face in a more mature direction. It’s still end-to-end Italian. Yet to serve all purses and purposes, buyers can choose between five trim levels: Pop, Easy, Lounge, Trekking and Trekking Plus. The last two trade elegant monochrome for more of an off-road look with gray plastic ground affects and 18-in. alloys.

Interior styling is handsome, reaching far above the 500X’s price point. Striated aluminum look on the console and door handles, upper and lower gloveboxes, and painted dash panels are chic. Dash tops and doors are thoroughly padded. Some trim packages come with contrasting color leather, but Trekking editions sport black seats with canvas inserts.

Audio and navigation are managed through a simple touch-screen in the dash with proper tuning and volume knobs. Drivers enjoy straight-forward analog gauges and thick flat-bottom leather-wrapped steering wheel. Our car had a rearview camera, but went without the available active crash avoidance systems. Still, Bluetooth and USBs stood by to connect smartphones and audio players.

A little blue pill can definitely get your motor running. And, the 500X has two motors running. Base models come with a 160horsepower 1.4-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine paired with a 6-speed manual transmission. Fine, but our Trekking edition came with the available 2.4-liter four-cylinder that delivers 180 horsepower and 175 lb.-ft. of torque – routed through a 9-speed automatic transmission. The three-mode all-wheel drive system, adjustable for Auto, Sport, and Traction+, features a disconnecting rear axle to reduce parasitic loss when not needed. That enables fuel economy ratings of 21/30-MPG city/hwy.

Beyond the powertrain, Italian spirit comes through in the crossover’s driving character. Plant your foot and the engine scoots down the road. Steering is heavy, but expeditiously directs commands to the athletic chassis. To me, it feels almost German in its combination of playfulness and...
Political allies

How a black lesbian and the first lady of the United States formed an unexpected friendship

The Firebrand and the First Lady by Patricia Bell-Scott (Alfred A. Knopf 2016) $30; 480 pp.

Eleanor Roosevelt’s Camp Tera, nestled near New York’s Hudson River, was initially meant to be a temporary, helping place for Depression-era women who were destitute and totally without resources. Though she was young, educated and married, Pauli Murray was there because of ill health.

Recovery-time aside, Murray’s tenure at Camp Tera was beneficial: a friend had told her that Roosevelt answered all correspondence, and Murray took that to heart. In 1938, a few years after she was kicked out of Camp Tera for “disrespecting the first lady,” she wrote a protest letter to Roosevelt, requesting intercession in FDR’s stance on anti-lynching laws. Activism was Murray’s passion and the answer she got wasn’t what she’d wanted but it did, as promised, come from Roosevelt.

Murray was born in 1910, the feisty granddaughter of a mulatto slave whose stories of injustice she grew up hearing. Murray lost her mother when she was just three; a few years later, her father was institutionalized, then murdered; her brother was lobotomized. She herself had health problems and was often severely underweight; during one of her hospitalizations, she finally admitted that she was attracted to women, which was then considered to be a mental disorder.

It took awhile for Murray to tell Roosevelt all that. Before she did, and because of that first protest note, the two corresponded for years in letters that offered guidance, outrage, and rebuttal. The women didn’t always agree, but they always seemed to attempt to understand one another’s take on issues. Murray supported Roosevelt in her widowhood. Roosevelt encouraged Murray in her activism.

It was a support that Murray imagined she felt long after Mrs. Roosevelt’s death.

I would not, under the broadest of terms, call The Firebrand and the First Lady a pleasurable read. That’s not to say that this book isn’t a pleasure — it’s just not something you’d pick up to relax with. Author Patricia Bell-Scott goes deep into the politics and work of both Roosevelt and Murray (more the latter than the former) and that can be very dry. It’s informative — Bell-Scott tells a story that’s been largely hidden for decades, about a woman who left her mark on social issues in many ways — but it’s far from lively. Adding more details of Murray’s personal life might’ve helped; that’s what I was hungriest for, but didn’t get enough of.

This is an important work of history and definitely worth reading but you’ll want to be in the mood for it, particularly if you usually like lots of energy in your stories. If you’re a scholar or historian reading The Firebrand and the First Lady, though, the pace is something you probably won’t mind.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

and a feeling that a pizza truck wouldn’t move it off course. Even on rough pavement, the suspension soaked it up and I suspect it would make a reasonable impression of an SUV during light off-roading.

I’m not sure the 500X is quite as invigorating as what happens after one takes Viagra, but the little crossover is more exhilarating than I expected. The interior is beautifully appointed, elegantly styled, and easy to use. There’s plenty of power and the chassis behaves exactly as you’d expect from an Italian crossover. Unlike the hideous 500L, the 500X has game. Take a pill, rise up and hit the road. The rest will be a wild ride.

Unlike the tiny 500 that’s built in Mexico for the U.S. market, the 500X is assembled in Melfi, Italy alongside its brother, the Jeep Renegade. A base price of $20,000, and $25,405 as tested, puts the 500X against the Honda HR-V, Chevy Trax, Mini Countryman, Hyundai Tucson and Nissan Juke.

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Luis de la Fuente mixes a keen business sense with a passion for fun. DrawingDallas

Name and age: Luis de la Fuente, 26.
Spotting at: Bowser Avenue with Rolo, his 2-year-old Anatolian Shepherd.
Occupation: Real estate agent.
Entrepreneurial spirit: Born and raised in Dallas, this self-proclaimed “mutt” is the son of a Mexican national and a Persian mother. He is the middle child with an older sister and a younger brother. Reared in an entrepreneurial family (his parents own and operate Scalini’s Italian Restaurant in Lakewood), Luis has owned his own food truck, been on the board of directors for an Olympic sprinter’s online training business and is currently developing an event-based social media app.

Luis has an MBA in finance and strategy from Southern Methodist University and an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering. He pursues real estate in order to have the freedom to pursue some of his other interests and businesses. (If you or someone you know is looking for a new home, visit Luis at RighteousHomes.net.)

Fun and free: When he is not pursuing his business ventures, Luis enjoys playing soccer, lifting weights, playing guitar, composing music, singing and cooking! His favorite dish is cold-cooked salmon ceviché.

Passionate, romantic, independent and philanthropic are words you can use to describe this stylish, handsome young go-getter. Luis also enjoys traveling. Some of his destinations have included Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Iran, Spain, France and Germany. Future travel plans include Australia and Japan.
Luis de la Fuente mixes a keen business sense with a passion for fun.

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com
“Kill My Rapist!” made me think of Tori Amos’s song “Me and a Gun,” and the way that opened up the conversation about rape, and made people aware of the organization RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network). Do you feel like you are reigniting that torch of awareness? Did you collaborate with any of the same songwriters that you worked with on your previous music album Cho Dependent? No. Most of what was just written by me and Garrison. I also wrote a little bit with Roger Rocha, who is wonderful as well. I had fewer collabs on this one because I wanted to settle down and focus on my own songwriting. I also wanted collab with Garrison who is someone I will always work with.

There is a long tradition of comedic songwriters, including Ruth Wallis, Shiel Silverstein, Tom Lehrer, Allan Sherman and Steve Martin. Do you have a favorite comedic songwriter and which comedic songwriters do you look to for inspiration? I think Morrissey is pretty funny. Of course, Bob Dylan and Patty Griffin; Patty’s not comedic but there are elements where she goes for lightness. I think I look a lot to Morrissey. I own songwriting. I also wanted collab with Garrison. I also wrote a little bit with Roger Rocha, who is wonder-ful as well. I had fewer collabs on this one because I wanted to settle down and focus on my own songwriting. I also wanted collab with Garrison who is someone I will always work with.

Leslie Jordan is featured in the video for “Ron’s Got a DUI.” What was it like working with Leslie on the video? Oh, I love Leslie! He’s a sparkling star. There’s so much effervescence and so much joy in everything he does. I really love bringing his energy to a really nice fairy tale; this great relationship and one that I had when I was much younger. As a child, I had a lot of older gay men taking care of me. There’s a trust there. I feel like little girls and old gay men together — there’s a safety. They make a shield from all of the bad things they’ve experienced in the world. They make a home together. There are no songs about that. I don’t know if you remember, but there was a show a long time ago called Love, Sidney.

Yes, with Tony Randall. Right. Originally, they didn’t state it in the show, but it was about an older gay man with a kind of surrogate family. That’s the only time I remember seeing something like that. Unfortunately, I’m of the era where a lot of the men I was around when I grew up died of AIDS. At the end of the video, there’s a regulation size panel [that I am making] that I’m going to sew on to the AIDS quilt. It’s a great tribute and something that I think tends to get forgotten. Society moves so fast now, but we need to look back at important things like the AIDS quilt. We have to remember that there is a whole generation of men we’ve lost and to remember to honor them.

I wouldn’t ordinarily watch Wife Swap, but when I saw that you were going to be on it, I couldn’t resist. On the whole, was that experience like for you? It was great! I love Holly Robinson Peete. I love her family. We had the best time. Her husband is fantastic. Her kids are beautiful. I really enjoyed being in that environment. I’m not often around that kind of family, I’m not around kids. I’m not around straight men [laughs]. I had a very nice time.

Your television presence has also increased with your recurring appearances on Fashion Police. How do you like being a part of the Fashion Police team? I love it! I’ve become very close to all of the co-hosts. I love Brad, I love Giuliana, I love Nene, and I’m especially tight with Melissa. I’ve known her for a very long time. She’s my sister. Consistently what we do is try to honor Joan Rivers’ memory. We try to do her justice. Fashion Police was Joan’s favorite thing. It was her most prized accomplishment. She really enjoyed it. What we try to do is bring it up back to her level. There’s no way you could ever replace Joan Rivers, but we can at least try to have fun and make her proud.
‘Mamma Mia!’ returns to North Texas for one weekend only

We’ve loved our ABBA since the days when disco was new, and unlike those fly-by-night friends, we never gave up on the ’70s supergroup. And we were rewarded in 2001 with one of the first megahit jukebox musicals built around the catalogue of a single artist, with hits like “Dancin’ Queen,” “The Winner Takes It All” and of course the title song from Mamma Mia!, the delightfully campy musical that swings into Fort Worth’s Bass Hall for one weekend of glitter and fun in the Greek Isles. Go, and have the time of your life.

**DEETS:** Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

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Soluna visual arts festival returns starting with ‘Rules of the Game’

The Soluna festival began just last year, and was such a hit, it has returned for a second iteration of music, dance and multimedia displays. Kicking it all off is a new work that combines dance and video with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra performing a piece by Pharrell Williams. It’ll make you happy. Soluna runs for two weeks.

**DEETS:** “Rules of the Game,” Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 17 at 7:30 p.m. For a full lineup of events, visit MyDSO.org/2016-soluna.

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**Saturday 05.14**

**AIN marks 30 years of sowing seeds of hope with annual fundraiser Bloomin’ Ball**

AIDS Interfaith Network has been doing good works for people living with HIV/AIDS for 30 years, and for 10 of them, the Bloomin’ Ball has been the major fundraiser helping them get money to further their efforts. The decade-old event is a cocktail party with entertainment, followed by dinner and dancing ... and all very chic. It may be hot out, but it’s still spring, so time to blossom and enjoy one of the season’s best parties. Gary Lynn Floyd is in charge of the entertainment.

**DEETS:** Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. Cocktails start at 5 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., dancing at 9 p.m. BloominBall2016.eventbrite.com.

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ARTS WEEK
THEATER
The Great God Pan. The second show in Second Thought Theatre’s current season is this drama by Amy Herzog about child sexual abuse and recovered memories. Final weekend. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.
The Intergalactic Nemesis. A multimedia performance, as a cheesy graphic novel is embodied by live actors. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. ATTPAC.org.
The Mighty Valkyries. A world premiere popcorn-tossing melodrama from Pocket Sandwich Theatre, about a city run by butch female superheroes. Final weekend. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane.

FINE ART
MEMBER Appreciation Month continues...

> MONDAY
All Club Members get a FREE locker
Do not use before Noon to 4pm
Buddy Night: Bring a friend, rent a room and your friend’s locker is FREE, 4pm-Midnight!

> WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
$10 Lockers 8am-8pm, Members only

> FRIDAY
TCI-Friday - 1/2 Price Rooms, 4pm-8pm!
FREE Youth Lockers, 8am-Midnight!
Lights OUT! every Friday in May, dusk till dawn

> SATURDAY
Footside lanachan @ 1pm

Jonathan Palant leads the Credo Choir in a ‘mass for peace,’ the choral work ‘The Armed Man,’ performed Sunday at Temple Shalom.

SUNDAY 05.14
FESTIVAL
Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual trip to Medieval Europe, including dancers, musicians, food, crafts and cosplayers. Faire Grounds, FM 66, Waxahachie. Through May 30. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. $25. SRFestival.com.

THEATER
Centerstage 2016. Justin Guarini headlines this fundraiser in support of the Dallas Theater Center. winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 6:30 p.m. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

COMMUNITY
The Bloomin’ Ball. It’s springtime, which means sowing seeds of hope with the Bloomin’ Ball, the major dozen in the world) is among the seven paintings in this intimate exhibit that explores themes in Dutch art. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 21. DMA.org.

this week’s solution
Red Zone XXIII
Friday, 5/20 @ the STROKE of Midnight!

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS
BUNS ATTIC EERIE
USES LEEZA DENTS
Dallas Voice's Tuesday Big Movie lineup at the Magnolia for summer

Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre’s weekly Big Movie New Classic Series, sponsored by Dallas Voice, screens a different classic film each Tuesday at 7:30 and 10 p.m. The schedule lets movie buffs plan their Tuesdays all the way from now through the end of July. Here is this quarter’s lineup:

- **May 24:** Grey Gardens. The original documentary by Albert and David Maysles, a Grand Guignol horror comedy about real-life American socialites living in squalor in a Long Island mansion. Essential cinema.
- **May 31:** Hair. Milos Forman’s film adaptation of the hippie musical... about a decade too late.
- **June 7:** Aliens. The first sequel to the 1979 original, this James Cameron film made Sigourney Weaver into an action star.
- **June 14:** How to Marry a Millionaire. Marilyn Monroe and Lauren Bacall go on the hunt for rich husbands.
- **June 21:** Bonnie & Clyde. Shot in Dallas, and based on the real-life Dallas outlaw this was one of the films that helped redefine modern cinema in the post-studio era.
- **June 28:** Bullitt. Super-cool Steve McQueen has a big hit in this action drama, famous for a car chase through the hilly streets of San Francisco.
- **July 5:** Blazing Saddles. One of the seminal comedies of the 1970s, this spoof of Westerns explored racial unease with side-splitting laughs. Co-written and directed by Mel Brooks.
- **July 12:** The Band Wagon. One of the most overlooked of the Freed Unit MGM musicals, it’s often overshadowed by Singin’ in the Rain, an American in Paris and Gigi, but it is up there with all of them in terms of tunefulness and style. Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse make a great pair.
- **July 19:** The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3. An amazing real-time cat-and-mouse thriller about terrorists hijacking a NYC subway about a generation before 9/11.
- **July 26:** Five Easy Pieces. Jack Nicholson in his breakout dramatic role about a talented young pianist who struggles with disenfranchisement.

*— Arnold Wayne Jones*


**SUNDAY 05.15**

**CONCERTS**

Credo Choir: The Armed Man. The adult mixed choir, led by Jonathan Palant, performs Karl Jenkins’ The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace, originally inspired by the conflict in Kosovo but applicable the world over. Temple Shalom, 6920 Alpha Road. 7 p.m. $20 suggested donation. CredoChoir.org.

**MONDAY 05.16**

**CABARET**

Mama’s Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. $10.

**BROADCAST**

RuPaul’s Drag Race. The eighth season finale. Logo at 8 p.m.

Real Housewives of Dallas. The new reality show, which features Dallas women (and a regular appearance by Steve Kemble), Bravo at 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY 05.17**

**FILM**

Notorious. One of Hitchcock’s most stylish and romantic black-and-white thrillers, an “audience pick” for the new season of the classic film series. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

**FESTIVAL**


**THURSDAY 05.19**

**CABARET**

Denise Lee Sings. The local divas performs as part of the Sammons Cabaret Series. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 8 p.m. SammonsArtCenter.org.

**THEATER**

Kiss the Boys. The return of Mark-Brian Sonna’s “murderous comedy” about two gay men planning a murder that doesn’t go as planned. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15660 Addison Road. May 19–June 11. MBSProductions.net.

**FRIDAY 05.20**

**THEATER**

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OCTOBER 1ST
Cassie weighs in on sero-discordant relationships in the age of PrEP

Well, Donald Trump will probably be the Republican “chosen one” to run for president. That is all the proof I need — it is the end of days. If you listen closely, you can hear the hoofed symphony of the four horsemen ushering in the apocalypse. Yes, I’m being a little dramatic but I think about the end of the world and the fall of society all the time. I am obsessed with apocalyptic fiction and often fantasize about how I would fare in a post-apocalyptic world. Of course I’m assuming I somehow survive the Captain Trips plague, or haven’t been eaten by zombies or somehow I was immune to radiation poisoning after the bombs get dropped. I’m a total optimist. Yes, I know it would be horrible, with all the death and destruction, but could you imagine how nice and quiet it would be. How cool it would be to see our planet bounce back from all the horrible things we’ve done to it. But on the other hand, I’m not very physical or handy or self-reliant. Crap, I’d be screwed. I like to think I could Tim Gunn the shit out of survival and “make it work,” but I’d probably electrocute myself from trying to hook up a generator or solar panels just so I could have air-conditioning.

If I had to kill animals myself so I could eat, I would probably be a vegetarian... or a pescatarian, because I am a good fisherman. On the other hand, I’m sure I could find a cow that is being a dick — the one that had it coming excuse for eating meat. That heifer was being a total bitch, so we ate her. Guilt averted!

The thought of no more movies, books or new music ever coming out horrifies me. What would I talk about with my friends? Oh yeah, er body dead. I guess I would have to eventually go in search of other survivors, but what if they were homophobes or worse... Trump supporters? Would I be selfish with my seed or would I give it to the women I met and let them turkey baste themselves? Cuz honey, mankind would definitely end with us if I had to do the deed with a chick. I don’t know, maybe if it was really dark and she wore a fake mustache or something.

OK, now that I really think about it, being the last drag queen on earth would be horrible. But it would be cool if there was an abandoned city or town with lots of land and houses and we could explore and see if you could survive with no help. There would have to be an emergency but for when you’ve had too much alone time and you could go back to society. I could handle about four or five days before I lost what little of my mind I have left. They could call it Apocaland! Or One Man’s Land. Or Batch Springs.

So until the world officially ends I have a job to do... Dear Cassie, I have a few friends who are HIV-positive and on PrEP. Many of them have unprotected sex, claiming that a nondeductible viral load along with the PrEP make bareback as safe as using a condom. Well, I was a teenager in the ’80s. I was aware of it when it was “gay cancer.” I’ve spent my whole life afraid of becoming poz (because I’m kind of a whore).

Here’s my problem. It’s two parts. The first is kind of easy because I think I already know I’m not going to do it. There’s this guy who is built like a god that wants to have sex with me. Bare. Never in a million years will I get another chance to have sex with someone who looks like him. He’s poz and only has unprotected sex. He says he has “a zero load” and PrEP will keep me safe. What are your thoughts on that?

And now the real dilemma. There’s another poz guy that I want to have sex with before the opportunity passes. We’ve actually discussed condoms and such, and if it comes down to it, using it won’t be an issue. But my problem is my mind. I so, so, so want to give oral to this guy, but I don’t do that with condoms. There’s no pleasure in it for me because it tastes like I’m chewing a balloon. I’m so afraid that his pre-ejaculate (look at me not using the dirty words!) will infect some unknown mouth sore and I’ll contract the virus. I know it’s silly, but my mind won’t let go of the idea. I know that logically and most healthy would be to just not do it or to make sure he has a condom on when I do the deed, but I also know I don’t always have the greatest will power when it comes to these things. Help? Signed, Positively Negative.

Dear P.N., First, let me say this: Yes, PrEP does greatly decrease the chances of you getting HIV and studies have shown that it is very effective. But it does not prevent gonorrhea, syphilis, genital warts or any other STIs out there. Why take a chance? Being HIV-positive is not the death sentence it once was, but there still is no cure. If you become positive, you will have to take very expensive meds for the rest of your life.

Growing up in the ’80s and ’90s solidified a real fear in me of all STIs, especially HIV. I have lost a lot of friends over the years. That’s why it horrifies me to hear about barebacking. I don’t know about you, but I don’t think I could get out of my head enough to enjoy unprotected sex with someone I barely know, impulsive or not. No matter how hot a guy is, your health should come before he does. And if you are going suck as much dick as you apparently do, maybe you should think about being on PrEP as well. I still think you should wrap it before you tap it! Safe sex can still be hot sex. Try to find a hot partner that understands that. Good luck, Cassie.

Hey Cassie, I hope you are having a great week!!! So my question for you is this, did you see yourself running/hosting your own show when you first started drag? And if not where did you see yourself? Thanks, Jeffery.

Yo Jeff, When I first started drag, I don’t think I thought about the future too much. I tended to only really plan for my next show. Then as I got booked more and more, I had an arsenal of songs and costumes to rely on. I remember I was always working on wigs. Back then there were not as many styles of wigs for sale as we have now. If you wanted a certain color combination of hair, you had to take basic color wigs apart and sew the pieces together. Lace front wigs cost thousands of dollars and were hard to find, so we had to base-tease the hell out of some hair to make a good wig line. Hell, I remember having to dye a platinum-white wig with RID dye because I wanted pink hair.

I always wanted to emcee, but it took a while before the bosses would let me touch the mic. I worked hard at being a good M.C. and getting comfortable enough to have fun and not over think things. When I was young I knew I wanted to entertain. I got lucky that things happened for me the way they did. I was not planned but I followed what made me happy. I hope your path leads you to happiness.

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

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.

Photo courtesy Krisofer Reynolds
Making the SCENE the week of May 13–19:

- Alexandre's: Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Mi Diva Loca on Saturday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Ilumin on Thursday.
- Brick/Joe's: Bob the Drag Queen and Kennedy Davenport on Saturday. Tickets at OneNightInBangkok.org. Support Brick Hashtags softball team dressed in your best cowboy attire from 3-7 p.m. on Sunday.
- Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. and Imperial Court show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Wall of Food show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- Dallas Eagle: Jazzmin's benefit show for Charity America 2017 on Friday at 8 p.m. Discipline Corps club night at 10 p.m. on Friday. National Leather Association club night on Saturday. Annual DFW Sisters Red Dress Party with DJ C-Rail from 9 p.m.-midnight on Saturday.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Net Chix Exposed with Krystal and Asia on Tuesday.
- Pekers: Hot dogs and chopped BBQ sandwiches benefit Linze Serell's bid for Miss Life Walk on Saturday. Karaoke cash jackpot is up to $850.
- Round-Up Saloon: Darts tournament from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. Must register by 5 p.m. to be eligible to win an Apple watch.
- Sue Ellen's: Mojo Dolls on Friday. Dance the night away with Marge on Saturday. Rock it out at Music Fest on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Riling Star with Layla and Kelexis on Thursday.
- Two Corks and a Bottle: Denise Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: College night on Thursdays.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Dallas Woody's XP C1 Extra Innings from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth.
Scenes from the Black Trans Conference

Guys' night out at JR.'s

Jonah at Woody's
Guys’ night out at The Round-Up Saloon

Robert and Mario at The Round-Up Saloon

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Across
1 Ballet follower 11 Like family
6 Loesser’s most happy one on 15 “What does she see ___?”
Broadway 16 Lover of Henry and June
11 Like family 17 John of M. Butterfly
15 “What does she see ___?” 18 Neighborhood where 39-Across
is located
21 They hit Stephen Hough’s piano 21 They hit Stephen Hough’s piano
strings 22 Went for, at Barneys
24 Swedish import 23 Some dam project
24 Swedish import 25 Bitch’s response
26 Style Tracy Turnblad’s hair 26 Style Tracy Turnblad’s hair
28 Queen’s “subjects” 28 Queen’s “subjects”
33 Possible result of unsafe sx 30 Mooring sites
34 Mardi Gras follower 31 Long, slippery one
34 Mardi Gras follower 32 Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis
39 Site of 1969 riots soon to be 35 “Get thee ___ nunnery”
designated a national monument 37 Tyler of Lord of the Rings
43 Person in the Navy 38 Cut quickly
44 One of Bernstein’s strings 39 Love, to Navratilova
45 Has a hissy fit 41 “Xanadu” band, for short
47 Planet with a butt sound 42 From the Union
49 Dieter’s catchword 43 Person in the Navy
52 Region in J. Siberry’s land 44 One of Bernstein’s strings
54 What you can give it 45 Has a hissy fit
58 Carbs or cabooses 46 California home of Streisand
59 ___ Menace (Radicalesbian phrase) 47 Planet with a butt sound
60 ___ Menace (Radicalesbian phrase) 50 South American that may climb
every mountain
62 Ziegfeld Follies costume designer 51 One that attacks a fly
64 Carolina pro footballer 53 Emily Dickinson output
65 They cause a bicycle to be “bi” 55 Dr. for the children’s hour?
66 Speech in which Obama mentioned 56 ___ Menace (Radicalesbian phrase)
39-Across in 2013 58 Came to a halt
67 Nickname that Taylor dislikes 61 Like a twosome
68 Carbs or cabooses 62 Ziegfeld Follies costume designer
70 Kind of queer 63 HRC does this to candidates
71 Puts into service 65 They cause a bicycle to be “bi”
73 Fender bender scars 66 Speech in which Obama mentioned
39-Across in 2013

Down
1 LGBT ___ (Obama was the first to 19 Finish filming
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2 Come apart 25 Bitch’s response
3 Bulldykes 28 Queen’s “subjects”
4 Come off as 30 Mooring sites
5 Sea eagles 31 Long, slippery one
6 King of Lawrence’s land 32 Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis
7 SASE, for one 35 “Get thee ___ nunnery”
8 Cowardly lion actor 37 Tyler of Lord of the Rings
9 Vidal’s ___ from Golgotha 38 Cut quickly
10 Words before were 40 Love, to Navratilova
11 Kate’s sitcom partner 41 “Xanadu” band, for short
12 “Bears” that aren’t bears 42 From the Union
13 Take into the body 43 Person in the Navy
14 Had an opening for 44 One of Bernstein’s strings
15 “What does she see ___?” 45 Has a hissy fit
16 Lover of Henry and June 46 California home of Streisand
17 John of M. Butterfly 47 Planet with a butt sound
18 Neighborhood where 39-Across 48 William of Knots Landing
is located 50 South American that may climb
every mountain
21 They hit Stephen Hough’s piano 51 One that attacks a fly
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22 Went for, at Barneys 55 Dr. for the children’s hour?
23 Some dam project 56 ___ Menace (Radicalesbian phrase)
24 Swedish import 58 Came to a halt
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27 Ward of Once and Again 62 Ziegfeld Follies costume designer
29 Used farmers’ tools 63 HRC does this to candidates
30 Mooring sites 64 Carolina pro footballer
31 Long, slippery one 65 They cause a bicycle to be “bi”
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62 Ziegfeld Follies costume designer 64 Carolina pro footballer
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66 Speech in which Obama mentioned
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68 Carbs or cabooses 69 Room at the top
69 Room at the top 70 Kind of queer
70 Kind of queer 71 Puts into service
71 Puts into service 73 Fender bender scars
73 Fender bender scars

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