Texas Legislature

85th

The good, the bad and the ugly

by David Taffet, Page 8
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headlines

- TEXAS NEWS
  8 The 85th Texas Legislature opens
  10 PSSA registering 2017 players
  12 Trump’s 1st 100 days: What’s possible

- LIFE+STYLE
  16 WiL Turner’s plan to get you in shape
  21 Mizer: Definition of gay masculinity
  24 Work it out: Gyms and yoga studios

- ON THE COVER
  Cover photo by David Taffet

departments

6 The Gay Agenda  25 Calendar
8 News  28 Ask Howard
14 Community Voices  29 Scene
16 Life+Style  32 MarketPlace

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Mattis won’t change LGBT military policy

During confirmation hearings on Thursday, Jan. 12, Secretary of Defense nominee retired Gen. James Mattis said he will not work to reverse the current policies that allow any qualified person to serve, including LGBT people.

“We open the door to all patriots who are eligible and meet the standards, provide them with the training, equipment and leadership that’s central to their success, and ensure all service members are treated with dignity and respect,” Mattis said during his testimony.

He also said, “Frankly, I’ve never cared much about two consenting adults and who they go to bed with.”

— David Taffet

More pro-LGBT bills have been filed so far than anti

So far, more pro-LGBT bills have been filed in the Texas Legislature than anti-LGBT bills. Here’s a list of the bills Equality Texas is following so far with links to more information about them.

HB refers to a House Bill and SB refers to a Senate Bill.

HB 96 by Joe Moody, D-El Paso – Repealing the unconstitutional provision on “homosexual conduct” & other statutory references to it.

HB 192 by Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio – Prohibiting discrimination in housing.

HB 225 by Eric Johnson, D-Dallas – Prohibiting discrimination in employment.

HB 238 by Donna Howard, D-Austin – Improving HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

HB 258 by Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas – Prohibiting any state agency contracting with vendors in states that repealed nondiscrimination protections or proscribe discrimination.

HB 290 by Eric Johnson, D-Dallas – Prohibiting sex discrimination in compensation.

HB 331 by Mary Gonzalez, D-D-Paso – Equalizing access to the “Romeo & Juliet” defense.

HB 494 by Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas – Prohibiting state travel to states that repealed nondiscrimination protections or proscribe discrimination.

HB 569 by Celia Israel, D-Dallas – Prohibiting state agencies from excluding same-sex couples from public accommodations and state contracting.

SB 166 by Rodriguez, Garcia, Whitmire – Repealing the unconstitutional provision on “homosexual conduct” & other statutory references to it.

SB 236 by Jose Menendez, D-San Antonio – Repealing the unconstitutional provision on “homosexual conduct” & other statutory references to it.

SB 251 by Rodriguez – Repealing the unconstitutional provision on “homosexual conduct” & other statutory references to it, plus post-Obergefell statutory modifications to reflect marriages of same-sex couples and their family relationships.

SJR 16 by Rodriguez, Garcia, Whitmire – Constitutional amendment to repeal the unconstitutional restrictions on the freedom to marry.

— David Taffet

D.C. Baptist church chooses lesbian couple as co-pastors

There have been a lot of “never thought I’d live to see the day” moments over the last few years. But this … . To me, this may be the most stunning of them all. Calvary Baptist Church in downtown Washington, D.C., has named a lesbian couple as its co-pastors.

Sally Sarratt and Maria Swearingen were presented to the congregation during worship services on Sunday, Jan. 8. They begin their new job on Feb. 26.

Religion News Service, in a story by Lauren Markoe, quotes a church spokeswoman as saying she didn’t know whether “a gay couple leading a church was a first for Baptists.”

“This is a major first.

The story describes Calvary Baptist as a “progressive” Baptist church. Shoot, I remember when being a “progressive Baptist church” meant not condemning people for getting divorced and then remarrying.

But it’s a brave new world out there, and even as D.C. prepares for the inauguration of the Cheeto in Chief, this story tells me there is hope, still.

Here are a few more tidbits from Markoe’s story:

• “We look for the best people in the world and that’s who they were,” said Carol Blythe (of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

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— Tammye Nash

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Meet Fender, a guy who is ready to rock your world. He is a 1-year-old, brown tabby domestic shorthair mix with gorgeous golden eyes. He came to the SPCA of Texas on Dec. 16 when he was rescued from inhumane conditions. Despite his rough past, Fender is a fun-loving, goofy guy who can't wait to meet his new family. He loves to play with toys, adores petting and making new friends. He gets along with the other kittens in his condo and likes lounging in the sun. He has been neutered, tested negative for FIV/FeLV, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations.

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Fender is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive, near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m., seven days a week. Regular adoption fees are $250 for puppies, $125 for adult dogs 6 months or older and kittens 0-6 months, $75 for adult cats 6 months or older and $50 for senior dogs or cats 7 years or older and VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and an FIV/FeLV test for cats six months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

Charles Aaron Grimes-Winchester, aka Angela Aaron-Winchester, former monarch of the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington known throughout North Texas for his charity work with a variety of organizations, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The Rev. Carol West will officiate at a memorial service and celebration of life set for 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21, at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fort Worth. The celebration will then continue at The Queen Mothers Review Show, starting at 7 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., also in Fort Worth.

Court members attending the memorial service are asked to wear their state attire if possible.
Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Timmye 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.

**January**

- **Jan. 16:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
  - **Jan. 16:** 12th Annual MLK Symposium
    The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture holds the 12th Annual MLK Symposium from 7-9 p.m. at Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. The theme for this year’s event is “MLK’s Legacy: Issues of Social Justice in the 21st Century,” and it will focus on ensuring equality under the law and civil rights for all citizens. Keynote speakers will be Jelani Cobb and Alicia Garza. To register or for more information call 214-871-2440 or visit DallasInstitute.org.

- **Jan. 17:** Stonewall elections
  Stonewall officer elections at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St.

- **Jan. 17:** Fort Worth
  - **Jan. 17:** Trans/SOFFA meeting
    Group meeting at 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth.

- **Jan. 17:** Outlaw Youth
  LGBT Youth Homelessness Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Jan. 18:** Dallas Frontrunners
  Walk or run on the Katy Trail. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.

- **Jan. 18:** Dallas Frontrunners
  Meet at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St.

- **Jan. 17:** Bloomin’ Ball kickoff
  Complimentary cocktails, gourmet coffee, desserts, DJ Tony Dean, live performances and a raffle. Happy hour at 5 p.m., hors d’oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. and comments by Steven Pace at 7 p.m. at Spaces, 1919 McKinney Ave.

- **Jan. 18:** Mayor’s LGBT Task Force
  Mayor’s advisory board chaired by Councilman Adam Medrano meets at 6:30 p.m. on the lower level of Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St.

- **Jan 20:** Protest at the Inauguration
  Protest on Inauguration Day Against War, Racism and Inequality from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Freedom Plaza, 14th St NW & Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

- **Jan. 21:** Women’s March on Austin
  The Women’s March on Austin, a sister event to the Women’s March on Washington, is taking place in D.C. from noon-6 p.m. at the Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.

- **Jan. 21:** Dallas Frontrunners
  Walk or run on the Katy Trail. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.

- **Jan. 21:** Gaybingo

- **Jan. 23:** Denton Trans/SOFFA meeting
  Group meeting at 7 p.m. at Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St, Denton.

- **Jan. 24:** The Refugee Camp Experience
  The Dallas Holocaust Museum in conjunction with the International Rescue Committee presents a panel on life in modern-day refugee camps with panelists from Rwanda, Sudan and Syria from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St.

- **Jan. 24:** Dallas Trans/SOFFA meeting
  Group meeting at 7 p.m. at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton.

- **Jan 24:** Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats
  Meet at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St.

- **Jan 27:** Bloomin’ Ball kickoff
  Complimentary cocktails, gourmet coffee, desserts, DJ Tony Dean, live performances and a raffle. Happy hour at 5 p.m., hors d’oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. and comments by Steven Pace at 7 p.m. at Spaces, 1919 McKinney Ave.

- **Jan 28:** Gay for Good
  DFW G4G volunteers with Dallas Animal Services Lend a Hand Program walking dogs, making treats and toys and assisting where needed at 11 a.m. at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N Westmoreland Road. Contact Duncan Smith at dms3dallas@tx.rr.com.

- **Jan. 29:** International Holocaust Remembrance Day
  On the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Dallas Holocaust Museum has a gathering of hope and remembrance at 2 p.m. at 211 N. Record St.

- **Jan. 30:** After Orlando
  An international theater action in response to the Pulse nightclub massacre is an evening of short plays followed by a reception in conjunction with Cara Mia Theatre Co. and Jubilee Theatre at 7 p.m. at Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd, Fort Worth. Free but donations benefit LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S.

**February**

- **Feb. 7:** From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet?
  Screening at Galerstein Women’s Center at UT Dallas. Free.

- **Feb. 8:** From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet?
  Screening at 6:30 p.m. at UT Dallas. Free.

- **Feb. 8:** From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet?
  Screening at 7 p.m. at Roper Hall, Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Hillcrest at Spring Valley roads. Free.

- **Feb. 12:** From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet?
  Screening at 5 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. $10.

- **Feb. 18:** Gaybingo

- **Feb. 24:** Spring Fling
  Mr. and Miss Charity America present Spring Fling benefiting the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, Rhonda Mae’s Wall of Food and Tucker’s Gift at 7:30 p.m. at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

- **Feb. 25:** Dash for the Beads
  5K and 10K run, 1K walk and festival at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.

**March**

- **March 4:** Toast to Life
  From 7-11 p.m. at Empire Room, 1225 N Riverfront Blvd.

- **March 18:** Gaybingo

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**The SPCA of Texas announced an expansion of services at its three North Texas spay/neuter and wellness clinics.**

**West Dallas**

- **Spay/neuter:** Tuesdays through Saturdays from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Wellness:** Mondays through Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Vaccination:** Sundays from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**South Dallas**

- **Spay/neuter:** Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Wellness:** Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Vaccination:** First and third Saturdays from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**McKinney**

- **Spay/neuter:** Tuesdays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Limited wellness:** Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Vaccination:** First and third Saturdays from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

To make appointments, call 214-742-7722.

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Mulan is one of the many pets available for adoption at SPCA. And take advantage of SPCA’s many spay/neuter and wellness clinics.
Bathroom (not so) humor(ous)

As the 85th session of the Texas Legislature convenes some lawmakers seem consumed with where transgender people pee, but others intend to deal with actual issues

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When the Texas House of Representatives was sworn in on Tuesday, Jan. 10, a very different Texas government convened than the one that had reared its ugly face the week before.

Days before the House and Senate sessions began, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, along with Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, unveiled Senate Bill 6 (referred to as SB6) that has quickly come to be known as the Texas Bathroom Bill. If passed, it would require transgender people to use bathrooms in public schools, government buildings and public universities based on their “biological sex” rather than the bathrooms appropriate for their gender identity.

The problematic bill doesn’t address whether someone’s birth certificate would be proof of “biological sex” or whether a corrected birth certificate issued by the state of Texas would be accepted as proof of someone’s sex. Nor does it say whether strip searches would be performed and addresses only trans women using ladies rooms, and it isn’t clear whether it intends for trans men to use the women’s restroom.

Because it will only take a few Republican votes in the Senate to kill the bill, Republicans who may have been wavering, thinking Patrick would challenge Sen. Ted Cruz in two years and would be gone from the Legislature, were put on notice when he announced his intention to run for a second term.

When the Texas House opened, no one referenced who should pee where and Republicans, who lead the House with a 95-55 majority, even took some subtle jabs at the incoming president.

Texas Secretary of State Rolando Pablos, recently appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott, welcomed immigrants: “We welcomed more Californians to their new home than any other state.” And he referenced Mexico as Texas’ largest trading partner.

While acknowledging different House members had different ways of getting there, the major concern of all Representatives is “to stand on behalf of the powerless.”

In the nomination speech for Speaker Joe Strauss and three seconding speeches — by a tea party member who voted against Strauss in the previous session, moderate Dallas Republican Linda Koop and a Democrat — all the lawmakers talked about similar qualities. They all said Strauss welcomes differing views, respects all members and keeps the House focused on important issues.

Then Strauss, who was re-elected unanimously, spoke about his plan for the upcoming session. He said he will focus on solutions to education finance, the gridlocked transportation system, water issues, Child Protective Services and mental health issues.

In what some Dan Patrick supporters might have thought was a reference to their beloved bathroom bill, Strauss cleverly began that portion of his address by saying, “Protecting children is one of the state’s most basic functions.” But he wasn’t referring to the supposed threat of where a transgender teen pees in school.

“Children should never live in fear of their own parents,” Strauss said before calling for fixing the mess at CPS. “This is Texas, and Texas should be better than that.”

Speaker of the House is a powerful position. The Speaker sets the tone and the agenda of that chamber of the Legislature. And anti-LGBT legislation apparently is not on his agenda, while including Democrats in the process definitely is.

“Compromise is a good word in this House,” Strauss said. “It’s how we find common ground.”

He called on lawmakers to show that they know how to solve problems. And if he wants, Strauss can bury anti-LGBT legislation in committees that will let those bills die.

Bathroom politics did make an appearance in the House on Wednesday the second day of the session. But right-wing efforts to restrict restroom access failed.

Tyler Republican Matt Schaefer proposed a rule that basically would impost SB6’s restrictions on people in the Capitol during debate over a standard housekeeping resolution to set rules for people with access to the House chamber among other things. But Republican Charlie Green of Fort Worth raised a point of order noting Schaefer’s resolution wasn’t relevant because the State Preservation Board, not the House, decides on policies for the Capitol. Schaefer withdrew his proposal.

The conservative Texas Association of Business, which has condemned SB6, estimates Texas will lose as much as $8.5 billion — claim Patrick denied during a Wednesday press conference.

“Every report out of North Carolina shows they have the second-strongest economy in the country or the second-best place to do business, the second-best place where executives want to move their companies to. It’s having no effect,” Patrick said.

In fact, HB2 has had significant effect on the state financially, and in terms of reputation. In September, an article by Business Insider estimated that North Carolina had at that time lost nearly $400 million in revenue because of the law, and that the NCAA and the ACA had both moved all of their championship games out of the state.

In late October, North Carolina’s then-Secretary of Commerce John Skvarla said at a press conference that HB2 fallout had not “moved the needle one iota” in terms of negatively affecting the state’s economy.
But an analysis by Politifact North Carolina labeled that claim “mostly false,” and noted the state is likely to lose millions more in the years to come just as a result of actions already taken, such as the college sports organizations moving their championships.

Back in Texas, Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, condemned SB6 as being vicious and said it would contribute to the already high suicide rate among transgender people.

Openly-lesbian Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, serves on the transportation committee and said she would rather spend her time working on the state’s actual problems. She said she sees some of the state’s worst traffic problems every day.

Likewise, Democratic Rep. Mary Gonzales, who is pansexual and represents El Paso, is looking to Equality Texas to take the lead in killing the bad legislation that has been filed. She said she’d also like to work on the real issues affecting her constituents, like bringing running water to portions of her district where residents live without.

Other anti-LGBT legislation

Several anti-LGBT bills have already been filed in the Texas Senate, but only one that Equality Texas is tracking has been filed in the House. That House bill, filed by Weatherford Republican Phil King, would exempt religious student organizations from school nondiscrimination policies.

Of course, the bill stipulates that discrimination has to be one of the organization’s “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Looking ahead to this new session, Equality Texas Communications Coordinator DeAnne Cuellar said, “I believe we have more allies than ever.”

In addition to SB6, which she called “unnecessary, unenforceable and damaging,” her biggest concern is SB242 introduced by Konnie Burton, R–Fort Worth. Burton’s bill would require school employees to “disclose any personal, direct, or incidental knowledge regarding a child.” Opponents fear the legislation, if passed, could allow teachers and other school personnel to out students to family and others.

Cuellar called the bill tricky, because it gets into the parent-child relationship. “But,” she added, “we’re opposed. We’re always against outing.”

She explained that the only time the bill allows a counselor or other professional to opt out of divulging even something said in confidence is if the parent is being investigated for abuse. If a child speaks to a counselor or teacher, that school employee would have to let the parent know, even if the child fears being thrown out of the house if the information was revealed.

While the Texas Association of Business and the state’s many local visitor and convention bureaus have come out strongly against the bathroom bill, cities will be lobbying against bills that prevent local governments from enacting local ordinances that protect LGBT people. Cities worry about local control being taken by the state.

“Historically, that party has advocated for local control,” Cuellar said, referring to Republican attempts to take away local control in ensuring equal rights.

Pre-empting local nondiscrimination ordinances is lumped in with bathroom restrictions in North Carolina’s HB2, but Texas politicians have separated the two issues into two different bills, possibly in hopes people would find the discrimination easier to swallow if it’s fed to them in smaller bites.

While the expected deluge of anti-LGBT bills has not yet hit, a number of representatives have filed pro-LGBT legislation.

Four senators — Rodriguez, Garcia, Hinojosa and Whitmire — filed SB 165 to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and state contracting in Texas.

In the House, bills have been filed to remove unconstitutional anti-LGBT wording from the penal code, to extend the “Romeo & Juliet defense” defense against statutory rape charges to gay and lesbian youth, to prohibit discrimination in each of the categories listed in the Senate bill, to prohibit travel to states that repeal nondiscrimination ordinances or proscribe discrimination, and more.

What about Abbott?

While the House Speaker intends to steer his chamber toward important issues of mental health, water, transportation, education funding and CPS, the lieutenant governor intends the Senate’s session to revolve around bathrooms. But where does the governor stand?

At the swearing-in session, Gov. Greg Abbott addressed the House. During his 10-minute speech, he didn’t mention a single issue facing the state. He didn’t refer to his lieutenant governor’s grandstanding attempt to save the state by regulating where kids pee in school. And he made no mention of the issues addressed by the House speaker.

Instead, he spoke in platitudes: “This is Texas and Texas is exceptional,” he said in various versions over and over again.

But should anti-LGBT legislation pass both houses, he’d be expected to sign that bill into law.

Equality Texas sponsors LGBT Advocacy Day at the Capitol on March 20 and encourages anyone who can come to Austin to participate in teams, visiting legislators’ offices to tell personal stories and let them meet LGBT people in their districts.

D2 Subway Public Meetings

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) invite you to attend a public meeting about the Dallas CBD Second Light Rail Alignment, known as D2. Based on input received to date, DART will be advancing D2 as a subway, rather than the original mostly above-ground route. We need your input to refine the project:

- What is your vision of a subway in downtown Dallas?
- What is most important to you about where it’s located?
- What are your thoughts on potential subway alternatives and station locations?
- As an additional project in Downtown, a streetcar line is being considered to connect the modern streetcar and the historic trolley. What are your ideas about this connection?

Public Meetings

Thursday, January 19, 2017 • 12:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
DART Headquarters – Board Room, 1401 Pacific Avenue, Dallas

The same information will be provided at each meeting. Learn more and subscribe to project updates at www.DART.org/D2.

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Registration is now open for Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association’s spring league, and PSSA leaders are encouraging everyone with an interest to attend introductory events and sign up to play.

“We are recruiting right now for the spring season, which starts March 5 at Kiest Park in Oak Cliff,” league President Mark Fiorello said in a recent interview. “All our teams form on their own, and coaches are actively looking for players.”

But, he added, someone who wants to play but doesn’t yet have a team should register anyway. “If you want to play, we’ll find you a team,” he pledged.

PSSA is open to men and women, and although it is known as the “gay” softball league and is affiliated with the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance, it’s also open to non-LGBT athletes. “Straight people are welcome to play in PSSA,” said Recruitment Coordinator Mark Keerbs. “In fact, we already have a number of straight players who participate. That [sexual orientation] doesn’t matter to us.”

PSSA offers players competition in six different categories: Divisions A, B, Upper C, Lower C, D and Recreational. The lettered divisions are all competitive divisions in which teams play to qualify for NAGAAA’s annual Softball World Series, set this year for Sept. 4-10 in Portland, Ore.

The 2016 Gay World Series was held in Austin, and Dallas Texas Force, “Powered by Woody’s,” won the Division A Championship. The Gay Softball World Series was first played in 1977, in San Francisco. It’s been held in Dallas three times — 2014, 2004 and 1988 — and Dallas teams have won championships or placed in the tournament’s divisional play several times.

While PSSA officials still want to see their league fielding quality competitive teams that can bring those World Series trophies back home, Fiorello and Keerbs said they want the recreational players to know they are welcome, too.

“The rec division just started last year,” Fiorello said. “A lot of our former players didn’t like the rating system the competitive division players have to go through. They didn’t like the time commitment the competitive divisions required.

“In the recreational division, there are no ratings. Players don’t have to participate in so many fundraisers to get the money to go to the World Series. They are only competing for standing in the league, nothing beyond that.”

Keerbs added, “The recreational division gives people an outlet to come out and play without having to take so seriously as you do in the competitive divisions. In the past, it was really hard for some people to find their own place in the league. With the rec division, that’s not a problem any more.”

Last year, the recreational division included six teams; Keerbs and Fiorello said they expect it to grow this year.

Leading up to the start of the season, PSSA is staging two series of events to introduce people to the league and bring in new players. The first is a series of PSSA Happy Hours, with board members, players and coaches attending to meet with new and prospective players, to talk with them about the league and answer whatever questions they have.

The next Recruiting Happy Hour will be held Friday, Jan. 20, 6-9 p.m. at JR.’s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Rd. A week later, Woody’s Sports & Video Bar, 4011 Cedar Springs Rd., hosts the next Recruiting Happy Hour, also starting at 6 p.m. The final happy hour event begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, this time at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

PSSA will also be hosting two Field Days at Kiest Park Softball Complex, 2179 W. Kiest Blvd., before the spring season starts. The field days, Keerbs said, will give prospective players a chance to get out on the field and participate in drills, including pitching, hitting, running, throwing and fielding, and it gives coaches looking for players to fill out their teams the chance to see who’s out there and interested in playing.

“This gives people a chance to see if they really want to pursue playing in PSSA,” Keerbs said. “It’s a great way to get your feet wet if you’re thinking about playing, but you aren’t sure yet.”

The first field day begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 22. The second begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.

“We’ll have a lot of other events throughout the season,” Fiorello said. “There will be tournaments and fundraisers and events just for fun. We hope anyone interested in softball will come and check us out.”
Each year our readers select their local favorites in our annual survey of nine categories.

Vote today!
Enter to win our Dream Date Valentine prize package!

Enter to win a Valentine’s Day Dream Date!

Vote by 2/3/17 for your Local Favorites!

Dallas Voice
The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas
The “most pro-gay Republican presidential candidate in history” will take office as president of the United States on Jan. 20, and yet the LGBT community has much to be anxious about as the administrations change.

In fact, the country as a whole may have reason to be more than a little anxious, given information made public some 10 days before his inauguration that Russian intelligence agencies have videos of Donald Trump in a Russian hotel room with prostitutes engaging in “golden showers” sex play and information documenting his financial indebtedness to Russia mobsters, leaving him vulnerable to blackmail.

But the LGBT community must deal with those possibilities as well as the fear of anti-LGBT efforts by a federal government under Republican control.

No matter what Trump might do as president to signal his unique level of comfort with LGBT people compared to his Republican conservative base, the departure of President Obama, indisputably the most pro-gay president in history regardless of party affiliation, will stand in stark contrast to what many LGBT people fear will become an inevitable string of disappointing inactions (at best) and hostile attacks (at worst).

While Trump used his campaign pulpit to urge the American people to stand in “solidarity” with the LGBT community following the Orlando nightclub massacre, his picks for key administration roles have been people with a history of standing solidly against that community.

And the hopes for a better tomorrow for LGBT people — hopes that Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton made abundantly clear she supported — are replaced now with the uneasy feeling that anti-LGBT legislation will breeze through a Republican-dominated Congress and be signed as part of some “deal” Trump might feel compelled to make to demonstrate his solidarity with his rabid right base and a certain admired foreign leader.

So, what exactly should the LGBT community brace to see? Here’s a look at the most likely events in Trump’s first 100 days:

The Executive Branch:
- Contractor discrimination: President Obama signed an executive order in July 2014 that prohibits contractors doing business with the federal government from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It also added gender identity to a previously existing Executive Order 13087 that prohibits discrimination against federal employees based on sexual orientation. Trump could rescind both executive orders or, alternatively, amend the existing order to grant a request — that Obama rejected — from a group of religious leaders who urged that the non-discrimination policy include a “robust religious exemption.”
- Hospital Memorandum: President Obama issued a memorandum April 15, 2010, calling for an end to discrimination against LGBT people by hospital visitation policies that limit visitors to immediate family members. Many same-sex couples now have the benefit of marriage to protect those visitation rights, but not all same-sex couples with close, long-term relationships do.
- Education discrimination: In May 2016, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice issued a “Dear Colleague” letter advising schools that discrimination against transgender students violates a federal law against sex discrimination. The Trump administration could issue a new letter with its own interpretation of the reach of Title IX. In addition, Trump’s pick for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, was a leading supporter of a 2004 ballot campaign against marriage equality in Michigan, and her family has given millions to anti-LGBT causes and groups.
- Health discrimination: In May last year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services issued regulations stating that the Affordable Care Act’s prohibition on sex discrimination in health coverage and care includes a prohibition on discrimination based on gender identity. The Trump HHS could issue its own interpretation of the ACA’s sex discrimination. Trump’s nominee for Secretary of HHS, Tom Price, has a long history of hostility toward the LGBT community. Plus efforts to repeal ACA — something Trump has made clear he supports — are already underway.

The Republican-led Congress:
- Nullifying executive orders: Even if Trump chooses not to rescind any of President Obama’s executive orders or memoranda, Congress could pass legislation to nullify any or all of them, and one Trump ally, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, predicted last month that Trump would rescind 70 percent of President Obama’s executive orders. So a Trump veto on such action by Congress seems unlikely.
- First Amendment Defense Act: This bill was introduced to Congress shortly before the Supreme Court’s ruling that said state bans on marriage for same-sex couples are unconstitutional. The FADA is part of the effort to circumvent laws that prohibit discrimination against same-sex couples. It would allow a person or business discriminating against LGBT people to defend themselves by claiming the discrimination is an exercise of the person or business’ religious beliefs. It seeks to prohibit the federal government from taking any adverse action against a person who “acts in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman.” Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said last month he thinks the prospects are “bright” for passing the bill now, and if the Republican-led Congress passes it, Trump will likely sign it.
- Johnson Amendment repeal: The Johnson Amendment is a law that ensures taxpayer money is not used to subsidize partisan political activity. Trump has said he wants the Johnson Amendment repealed because it prevents clergy from speaking about politics from the pulpit. A bill to repeal the Johnson Amendment was introduced Jan. 3.

In the courts:
- Supreme Court nominees: The most long-standing influence Trump could have on the LGBT community is through his choice or choices to fill U.S. Supreme Court seats. He released lists of potential nominees last year, and they all look decidedly conservative and some have a history of hostility toward equal rights for LGBT people. He will almost certainly make his first choice within the first 100 days, to fill the seat vacated by the death of right-wing Justice Antonin Scalia last February. Replacing one right-wing justice with another right-wing justice may not tip the court’s balance, but it will re-establish a necessary four-some that can accept conservative appeals for review. And a second Trump opportunity to nominate a justice would almost certainly bend the arc of the moral universe at the high court away from justice for the LGBT community.
- The North Carolina challenge: Under the Obama administration, the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against North Carolina’s anti-LGBT law HB2. Trump has said such matters should be left to the states. Trump’s nominee for attorney general, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, has a long and consistent history of acting against the best interest of LGBT citizens. If confirmed by the Senate, it seems likely Sessions, with the support of Trump, will withdraw the U.S.’s lawsuit against the North Carolina law. It also seems likely the Trump DOJ will weigh in on the side of North Carolina should the Supreme Court eventually review the constitutionality of HB2 as other lawsuits against it continue. And a similar law is now proceeding through the Texas Legislature.
- The Title IX showdown: In the spring, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in a case, Gloucester v. Grimm, to decide whether Title IX’s prohibition on sex discrimination in schools should be read to include a prohibition on gender identity discrimination. Under the Obama administration, the Department of Justice supported the transgender student’s claim that Title IX protects his right to use a bathroom of the gender with which he identifies. Under the Trump administration, a DOJ led by Sessions will almost certainly take sides with the Gloucester school district. The good news is that it seems most unlikely Trump can nominate and have confirmed a new right-wing Supreme Court justice in time to join in whatever ruling the court makes in the case this year. A tie vote will leave the federal appeals court ruling in favor of the transgender student intact.

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Back of the line

Is there hope for Dallas queer people of color in 2017?

Many of us brought in the New Year with resolutions that we hoped to maintain past January, and tried our best to forget the disasters of 2016. But Nov. 8 still haunts some of us beyond cruelty — and for a good reason.

No, Bernie Sanders didn’t make it past the primary, and people are still holding on to the notion that if he were the Democratic nominee that he would have won the general election. I hate to crush your fairy tale, but the outcome would have probably been the same.

Bernie had a hard time connecting to older, lower-income black and Latino communities that serve as a 46 percent voting bloc in the Democratic party and a 27 percent voting bloc in the general election. In the southern states, this problem was so apparent you could put the icing on it, and reality wouldn’t taste any sweeter.

Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, didn’t have this problem to deal with; she had the luxury of being from a southern state, with a husband many black people adopted as “black” during his time in office. As far as the numerous scandals are concerned, black and Latino people were not really fazed, because those were considered “white collar” problems.

We can go on and on about the “should’ve/could’ve/would’ve” of candidates that supported our community, but unfortunately, America has chosen to buy a cruise ship ticket on a voyage into the orange abyss. The only people that will possibly enjoy this journey are those of privilege, and I’m not just referring to the white straight middle-class community.

I am talking about the people who don’t have to think twice about things in life, who can go to brunch with friends on Sunday, or take a weekend vacation just to flood everyone’s timeline with photos.

But many people over the next four years won’t come remotely close to that luxury.

If you are HIV-positive and signed up for the Affordable Care Act, you may go to bed tonight wondering if you must relive the traumatic experience of answering hours of questions about your personal finances to qualify for Ryan White, just to pay for your HIV drugs.

If you’re an undocumented immigrant busting your butt in school to maintain high grades with hopes of going to graduate law or medical school, now that dream has been put into a holding pattern midterm.

For some of us in the gay community, the impact won’t be as brutal. We may occasionally find ourselves outraged by some insensitive tweet or remark, or we may rally to boycott some restaurant, store or product because they insulted one of our peers in the LGBT spectrum. But the outrage will be grandiose, without any real thought as to what our movement/voice looks like to the people that have pissed us off.

Honestly, if we were to take a look from the outside looking in, our storm of resentment would look like a group of young/middle-aged white men with a few friends of color fighting for change.

A large group of LGBT people of color won’t see these struggles the same way, nor will they have the inclination to join the fight — not because we don’t care, but because only a few of us share a thread with the greater LGBT community, a thread called “privilege.”

Some black and Latino queer people may have the privilege of attending a fundraiser for an LGBT charity or a riot mixer in uptown to raise awareness about an issue. Though these strides for inclusiveness are noteworthy, it’s only a small incremental success toward our dream of the ideal LGBT community.

If we were to look at the top three non-profits or organizations in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex that champion the beliefs of the LGBT community, how many of them have board members who are black or Latino queer people with experiences of not having privilege?

We must also ask ourselves, although black and Latino queer men account for 35 percent of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States with the highest rate of HIV infections every year, many leaders in our health community are perplexed. Many state- and federally-funded AIDS service organizations see black and Latino queer men only as a number, without any resolution to bring change.

One person can’t solve our problem overnight, and sprinkling pixie dust won’t make it any better. But the answer is simple: We don’t have a seat at the table.

If we do have a seat, it usually remains empty. And if we are present, our voice is dismissed. This new year, 2017, should be the year that queer people of color start to demand a voice and speak up about problems that we face in our community.

Queer people of color face a myriad of hurdles to access HIV preventive tools, such as PrEP. In the dark of the night, queer men of color are fetishized as a sexual accessory in several bars in the gayborhood but treated like damaged goods during the day.

But now, we have the unique opportunity to stand as one community to embrace each other’s cultural differences as unique. To be effective at change, we must reach beyond social country clubs and embrace the discomfort of simply not knowing but still being open to understanding.

Just because we have achieved marriage equality, doesn’t mean the fight is over. Our black queer brothers who have fewer sex partners is still three times more likely to contract HIV. Some of our undocumented Latina lesbian sisters who want to live better lives by being a first-generation college students now have to worry now about DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) being revoked. And our transgender brothers and sisters are still being silenced into sex work because they don’t have the privilege of being cisgender.

As a community, we can be a mighty fist of change that knocks out every obstacle threatening equality, or we can remain divided, thinking that our fight is won when queer people of color must fight an unseen battle every day, even in our community.

Sammi Nesbit is the chief science officer of the Center for Minority Community Health and is currently a doctoral candidate at University of North Texas. He currently researches adolescent black and Latino HIV seroprevalence behaviors in large urban communities.
Thank you, Mr. President

On Jan. 20, we’ll say goodbye to a transformative leader who tied his legacy to advancing LGBTQ civil rights, along with increasing health care access, saving the nation from economic depression, ending two wars, brokering a nuclear deal with Iran and normalizing relations with Cuba.

The Obama administration will be seen as a milestone for the LGBTQ community. The landmark achievements for which he will be remembered include signing the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009, repealing Don’t Ask Don’t Tell in 2010, and ending the legal defense of the Defense of Marriage Act in 2011, which ultimately led to marriage equality in 2015 via a Supreme Court ruling.

But hope and change for the LGBTQ community didn’t end with these accomplishments. Each year, President Obama and his cabinet made sure we continued to become part of the American fabric. Here are some highlights* (from a very long list of LGBTQ advancements):

2009: President Obama ended a 22-year ban on travel to the United States by HIV-positive people and ended mandatory HIV tests for residency applications.

2010: He developed the first comprehensive national HIV/AIDS strategy for the United States and continued to update and fund it.

2011: The President supported the Department of Health and Human Services’ StopBullying.gov, which provides resources to youth, parents, and community members to build a safe environment for all kids, including LGBTQ youth.

2012: The Obama Administration issued a final rule to ensure that the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s core housing programs are open to all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

2013: Following the Windsor decision, the president directed federal agencies to extend federal benefits to same-sex married couples. The Human Rights Campaign called it “the largest granting of rights in history.”

2014: He signed an executive order prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.

2015: The Obama administration supported efforts to ban the use of conversion therapy for minors.

2016: The U.S. Departments of Justice and Education sent a directive to school districts advising them that transgender students should be allowed to use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity, rather than their gender assigned at birth.

From ensuring hospital visitation rights for LGBT patients and their loved ones to expanding access to health care coverage and preventing LGBT discrimination by insurers, this president made society more tolerable.

President Obama worked hard to protect our future, while also recognizing the importance of preserving our past. He called on the Interior Department to identify significant LGBTQ historic sites. In 2016, the department selected the Stonewall Inn, the birthplace of the modern gay rights movement, as the first national monument honored for its role in the LGBTQ rights movement.

On a personal note, President Obama is the reason I came to Washington, D.C. In July 2011, I was politically appointed to HHS. I became one of 250-plus openly LGBTQ professionals who would serve in his administration — this total is more than all the known LGBTQ appointments of other presidential administrations combined, according to the Victory Fund.

It was important that President Obama not only discussed and acted on our issues, but he allowed us to become part of those conversations and placed us in positions of power to act on them. Thank you, Mr. President. I’m forever grateful.

Jesse Garcia is the former president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and LULAC Dallas Rainbow Council. He now resides in Washington, D.C., and volunteers for his local LGBT Democratic group and the LULAC Lambda DC council he cofounded.

By Jesse Garcia/Special Contributor


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A new you

BY SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
Scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

It's the time of year when people start making resolutions — chief among them, to get fit. According to personal trainer and coach WiL Turner, fitness goals should be much broader than a simple desire to drop a few post-holiday pounds or to tone up quickly for a new Grindr photo. “Fitness” is an unbridled commitment to all-around healthy living. While Turner's philosophy focuses on exercise (naturally), it also encompasses healthy eating, regular downtime... and community involvement.

"I want to teach people to have happy lives whether it be exercising, eating well, sleeping or just being kind and nice to each other," Turner says. "Most of the time when clients come to me, their primary goal is to look great. That's a superficial goal. I don't really care what you look like — I care about your health."

For those who have resolved to improve their fitness in 2017 — and not just their looks — Turner offers the following tips on healthier and happier living.

**Journaling**
As a motivational tool, Turner suggests keeping a tangible, written record of one's daily fitness journey. Begin by logging your current vital statistics including weight, measurements, BMI and heart rate. Next, clearly commit both short and long term goals to writing. Then add and review information daily by recording things like food intake, exercise details, calories burned and even general feelings or inspirational thoughts.

"Having a journal is essentially important," Turner says. "This is something that was important to me before I became a trainer. It chronicles what you do from day to day and sets the habit of being consistent in following a routine. Writing [things] down is a part of the process to help achieve the goal."

**Exercise with someone**
Whether work outs are at home or a gym, Turner suggests recruiting a friend to join you. Many find teamwork motivating. In addition, workout partners help keep each other honest and on the right track.

"I typically try to encourage my clients to work out in groups, because you are holding each other accountable to be where you are supposed to be," Turner says. "You are going to work out, and you are going to have positive interaction with someone."

**Eating**
Forget going on a strict diet plan. Instead, Turner advocates a gradual transition to long-term healthier eating habits. Begin by modifying the quantity and quality of your daily food intake. If you love breads and pastas, for example, continue eating them. However, begin reducing the portions consumed and try using healthier versions of the carbohydrates.

"Diet is a four-letter word that I don't say. "This is something that was important to me before I became a trainer. It chronicles what you do from day to day and sets the habit of being consistent in following a routine. Writing [things] down is a part of the process to help achieve the goal."

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**FAT CITY, U.S.A.**
It probably comes as a surprise to nobody that "lose weight" is the most commonly abandoned New Year's resolution out there. (Be honest: You've already considered giving up on it.)

And if you're in Dallas, you kinda have an excuse... or maybe you're part of the problem. According to a study done by the personal finance website WalletHub, Dallas is the fourth worst city in the U.S. for living an active lifestyle, out of 100 studied.

The study looked at facts such as "average monthly fitness club/gym membership fee" (39th), percentage of physically inactive residents (a whopping 71st), swimming pools per capita (73rd) and "walk score" (38th). Only North Las Vegas, Laredo and Memphis scored lower. Arlington (No. 91), Fort Worth (No. 89), San Antonio (No. 84), Houston (No. 81), Garland (No. 80) and Corpus Christi (No. 79) fared better... but not much. The highest-ranked Texas city was, of course, those freaks in Austin (No. 39), who bike everywhere and eat well.

The top city for active lifestyle was Madison, Wisc., followed by Boise, Scottsdale and Portland, Ore.

Look, we live in a place that hotter'n blazes in the summer and where people panic when it dips below 30. Of course we're gonna be schizophrenic when it comes to exertion. But that's just the city in general. The gay community has always been more gymnentric. Still, not a bad idea to hunker down and try to keep that promise to get fit in 2017.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
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### NEW YOU From Page 16

use,” Turner says. “It implies that people have to restrict themselves from food. I call it healthier eating habits. I try to steer clear of recommending a diet per se.”

For snacking, Turner suggests alternatives like apples with peanut butter or a handful of almonds. Not only are these alternatives healthier, but they also can mimic the taste of the cookies or donuts one might normally eat. This trick can make transitioning to healthier options easier on the palate.

### Customization

Fitness programs are never a one-size-fits-all solution. For maximum effectiveness, programs should always be tailored to meet individual needs. Turner, who works frequently with the LGBT community, often encounters clients with very specific wellness concerns. Transgender people, for example, may have elevated hormone levels which, in turn, may have an impact on metabolism. HIV-positive people taking daily medications can also have special physiological considerations. Turner recommends tailoring fitness programs accordingly.

“The types of medication dictate the types of exercise in terms of heart rate,” Turner says. “I am mindful of the types of medication that my clients are taking at the time. It has changed my perspective of what I do as a fitness professional to provide a service and a support to these particular clients.”

### Safeguard against injury

Turner cautions that leaping into physical training too quickly can increase the risk of injury. He suggests first working on one’s flexibility and mobility prior to lifting weights or hitting the machines. Afterwards, as an additional measure to avoid injury, he recommends adequate daily rest to give the body time to recover from stress and fatigue.

“My clients never touch weights for the first two or three weeks of their training,” Turner says. “I teach them to use their own bodies as a tool for them to achieve their goal. If they are not aware of the movements or how their muscles contract, injury can be something as simple as picking up a dumbbell, and I’ve seen it happen.”

### Results

Wellness is a lifelong investment that offers not only improved appearance, but other significant rewards as well. Commitment to a fitness program can change one’s outlook and improve one’s self-esteem. Reaping the full benefit, however, requires steadfast dedication.

“We get out of our lives what we put into it and that includes how we take care of ourselves,” Turner says. “I am very much holistic in that sense. I think it’s more than what I look like. I have goals and ambitions. I care for my community. Fitness is an opportunity to engage with people in an in-depth way. It allows me to help people on a broader scale.”

Turner commits a portion of proceeds to benefit those impacted by HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit Fusion40Fitness.com.
Ever wonder where your ideal of the male physique came from? Chances are, it’s Bob Mizer.

Oh, sure, you like to think you arrived at your concept of male beauty by natural selection, but Bob Mizer — who died in 1992, at age 70 — probably shaped your understanding of sex appeal before you were even born.

Starting in the 1940s, Mizer’s black-and-white and color photographs appeared in his underground quasi-gay rag Physique Pictorial. In 1954, he was convicted of unlawful distribution of obscene materials through the mails for a series of photos of men in posing straps — basically, what you can see at any Pride parade nowadays, but which were scandalous at the time.

His photos, though, influenced the likes of Gore Vidal, David Hockney and Robert Mapplethorpe. Among his astonishing catalogue are one million photos of such icons as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Joe Dallesandro.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Collections of Mizer’s work are available through the art book company Taschen (which has a storefront in the Joule Hotel as well as online). You can learn more about Mizer via the Bob Mizer Foundation, BobMizer.org.
In its most basic description, it’s a muscle. Nothing computerized, no easy-to-follow instructions or list of parts. Nope, it’s a muscle — a dub-thumping, miraculous group of cells beating when you were born, due to simple electrical activity. But in the audiobook *Beast*, the heart knows who it loves.

At 6-foot-4 and 260 pounds, 15-year-old Dylan Ingvarsson was a beast. And he hated it.

Not only did he tower over every single student and most of the teachers at St. Lawrence Prep, but he was also hairy as a faux-fur blanket. You might get teased, but you don’t get bullied when you’re like that. You don’t have a lot of friends, either, and you don’t get girls.

If it wasn’t for his best friend JP, Dylan wouldn’t know what to do. They’d known one another since they were little and he was everything Dylan was not: well-off, well-groomed, well-liked. Just walking the halls with JP made Dylan cool, though there was a dark side to JP’s friendship. Dylan hated that, too.

He hated his entire life, so he took risks — big, stupid risks. Which is how Dylan ended up on a roof. Which was how he ended up falling and busting his leg. Which was how he got sent to group therapy for self-harmers. Which was how he met the girl of his dreams.

Her name was Jamie — gorgeous, tall, smart, and she had the same struggles with the way her life was going. She only wanted to be friends, but he wanted so much more — partly because Jamie was funny and he liked her, partly because she liked him, and partly because she would prove to JP that Dylan could get a girl by himself.

But then everything fell apart. She said she told Dylan that she was transgender, but he didn’t hear that. Was she a dude? He wasn’t gay. She hadn’t hidden anything, hadn’t lied, but Dylan couldn’t get over facts.

And he couldn’t get over Jamie...

Two minutes into *Beast*, you’ll be eager to know more about Dylan. Author Brie Spangler gave him the right words with the right attitude, Andrew Eiden reads them perfectly, and you’ll genuinely like this kid with a tough exterior but a marshmallow center.
COOK LIKE IT MATTERS... CUZ IT DOES

Maybe you already work out five times a week and try to watch your carbs and alcohol content. But man cannot live on protein powder alone. So Dallas-based personal trainer Marcus Washington has developed a cookbook specifically for those with active lifestyles who want to eat right but with a minimum of fuss. Best of all, he’s developed recipes to sustain healthy glucose levels throughout the day to avoid, and manage, diabetes.

*My Glycemic Way*, which came out in August, promotes a low-glycemic diet that keeps you at a healthy weight. In addition, each mean takes less than 45 minutes to prepare.

— A.W.J.
Work it out

Gyms and yoga studios


Club Dallas — Exclusively serving gay men for more than 40 years, this institution has a popular gym open 24 hours, 365 days a year. 2616 Swiss Ave. 214-821-1990. The-Clubs.com.


Deadman Center for Lifetime Sports — Located on the SMU campus, it offers wall climbing, weight room, 1/7-mile indoor track, racquetball courts and aerobic dance rooms. 6000 Bush Ave. 214-768-3374.

Diesel Fitness — This West Village gym has a reputation for affordable memberships and solid service. 2901 Cityplace West Blvd., Suite 100. UptownEnergyFitness.com.

Equinox — This national gym offers a full range of fitness services. 4023 Oak Lawn Ave. Equinox.com.

Gold’s Gym — Locations are throughout the city, but the one in Uptown serves a fit, very gay customer base. 2425 McKinney Ave. 214-306-9000. GoldsGym.com.

King Spa & Sauna — Open 24/7, clients can partake in detoxifying, anti-inflammatory, depuration and skin rejuvenation saunas. 2154 Royal Lane. KingSpa.com.

LA Fitness — The ones on Mockingbird and a Signature on Haskell are popular with gay clientele. 4540 W. Mockingbird Lane and 2690 N. Haskell Ave. LAFitness.com.

Private Workout — Four locations in the Metroplex, each offering an efficient 25-minute audience-free workout designed by the Cooper Institute Certified Personal Trainers. 214-865-6153. PrivateWorkout.com.

Sunstone Yoga — With 13 locations locally, the Uptown one remains very popular with eight different types of yoga practices. 2907 South St. SunstoneYoga.com.

Title Boxing Club — Two locations in Dallas, where you can work out and train. 4140 Lemmon Ave., ste. 275. 214-520-2964. TitleBoxingClub.com.

Trophy Fitness Club — Among the five locations are one in the Downtown Mosaic and in one Uptown. 300 N. Akard St. and 2812 Vine St., Suite 300. TrophyFitnessClub.com.

24 Hour Fitness — Popular locations include Downtown and at Mockingbird and Greenville. 700 N. Harwood St. and 5706 E. Mockingbird Lane. 24HourFitness.com.


YMCA Downtown — In the heart of Downtown, this location offers amenities from groups workouts to personal trainers, handball, basketball, swimming pool and more. 601 N. Akard St., 214-954-0500. YMCADallas.org.

Yoga & Sync Wellbeing — This yoga fitness studio in Bishop Arts offers a variety of classes and workshops, as well as massage. 611 N. Bishop Ave. SyncDallas.com.
Saturday 10.08

**BearDance is back with DJ Decoding Jesus**

The BearDance is one of Dallas’ most popular fundraising events, and it kicks off 2017 with L.A.-based DJ Decoding Jesus spinning a late-night set at the Dallas Eagle. Come out in your favorite leather/fetish wear, and bring an extra fiver for a suggested donation at the door to AIDS Arms.

**DEETS:** Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 10 p.m.–2 a.m.

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**Pilobolus returns with ‘Shadowland’**

If you’ve never seen a performance by Pilobolus, you’ve missed one of the most inventive dance troupes in the world. A frequent stop has been Dallas, but the show this time is all new. Shadowland is a mix of silhouettes, dance, theater, circus and concert all rolled into an dazzling display of creative art. As usual, it arrives in the Dallas Arts District courtesy of TITAS.

**DEETS:** City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

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**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**


*Grounded*. A fighter pilot, put on desk duty because of her unplanned pregnancy, spends her day operating drones and her nights in carefree domesticity in this contemporary look at morality and modern warfare. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 4. 2TT.co.


**DANCE**


**FINE ART**

*Pathways*. A new and immense mural by Swiss artist Nicolas Party — a dreamy, cobalt forest of possibly underwater landscapes — occupies the main concourse of the museum, also featuring the pastel painting Two Men with Hats. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 5. Free. DMA.org.


**FRIDAY 01.13**

**COMMUNITY**

*High Tech Happy Hour*. Monthly queer mixer sponsored by the TI Pride Network, but open to everyone. Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

*Panoptikon*. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY 01.14**

**COMMUNITY**

*FrontRunners*. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

*BearDance: Slave to the Dark Beat*. L.A.-based DJ Decoding Jesus spins for this fundraiser and party. Gear up in your favorite fetish wear. A $5 suggested donation at the door benefits AIDS Arms. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 10 p.m.–2 a.m.
Sandy and his gal pal sing about ‘Tomorrow’ in the sweet-natured musical ‘Annie’ at Bass Hall this week.

PERFORMANCE

MONDAY 01.16 — MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

of newlyweds (Peter Falk), who’s actually a spy. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THEATER

THURSDAY 01.19

CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist’s weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody’s Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

BROADCAST
Top Chef Charleston. Two Dallas chefs — John Tesar and Casey Thompson — are among the returning competitors who this season are pitted against newcomers. Bravo at 8 p.m.

DANCE

FRIDAY 01.20

THEATER
Stupid Fucking Bird. Stage West kicks off 2017 with Aaron Posner’s comic modernization of Chekhov’s The Seagull. Directed by Emily Scott Banks. 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

PERFORMANCE
Risk! Live. Storyteller Kevin Allison and local talent gather for this spoken word event (think The Moth) with uncensored tales from real life. The theme for the night is “Adventure.” Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. Jan. 20. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. curtain. Risk-Show.com.

FUTURE

Dallas museum of art presents “divine felines: cats of ancient egypt.” highlights include more than 70 objects spanning 5,000 years, such as the famous statue of a persian cat and a plaque showing a domestic cat with a human face. DMA.org.

mama’s party. local singer amy stevenson hosts a new lineup every thursday. mable peabody’s beauty parlor and chain saw repair, 1125 e. university drive, denton. 9:30 p.m.

the moscow ballet. “warflower.” an all-new adaptation of the tchaikovsky classic. music hall, 1925 elm st. jan. 19–22. 7:30 and 10 p.m. tickets at moscowballet.com.

flying steps. the returning competitors who this season are pitted against newcomers. sons of hermann hall, 3414 elm st. jan. 19–22. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. curtain. risk-show.com.

the moth. story teller kevin allison and local talent gather for this spoken word event (think the moth) with uncensored tales from real life. sons of hermann hall, 3414 elm st. jan. 20. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. curtain. risk-show.com.

red bull flying bach. classical music and breakdancing come together as the flying steps perform street moves to j.s. bach’s “well-tempered clavier.” majestic theatre, 1925 elm st. jan. 14–16. redbullflyingbach.com.

 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.

flying steps. the returning competitors who this season are pitted against newcomers. sons of hermann hall, 3414 elm st. jan. 19–22. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. curtain. risk-show.com.
Ask Howard
How to do the wrong thing right

At last, a brand new, glistening year is here! We all must hope, and pray to whichever mythical being is our most, that 2017 bodes a far better year for everyone. Let’s get right to it.

Dear Howard,
I’m 33, 5-foot-9, brunet/brown, 205 lbs.; still, I’m not what skinnier queens would label as “morbidly fabby.” For my New Year’s resolution, I joined Gold’s Gym, and am working out harder now (five times a week!) than I’ve ever persevered in my entire life. But Howard, I’ve shed a whopping total of precisely 12 ounces in two solid, back-breaking, sweaty weeks! Maybe it’s a thyroid condition? Since late December, I’ve barely eaten anything fattening at all: I’ve cut out all dairy (Haagen-Dazs, Go-Gurt, Yoo-hoo), all wheat products (Sara Lee, Dolly Madison, Kraft); also, I’ve quit the drive-thru at all my fave restaurants (Carl’s Jr., Wendy’s, Mickey D’s, the DQ); so, what’s the real reason why am I’m still no more attractive to dudes now, in 2017, than I was way back last year?

— Tyson D. I.

Dear Howard,
My older half-sister gleefully informs me that the reason I’m always so lonely, and can’t ever keep a man, is because I’ve never once crossed a bridge in my life that I didn’t immediately torch behind me: WTF? — Reggie

Dear Reginald,
Have you never heard that most all bridges burn by now, in 2017, than I was way back last year?

— Howard Lewis Russell

Dear Ty,
To paraphrase Amy Schumer’s whimsically brutal self-analysis of her own weight struggles: “I’m never fat; I’m just always… disappointing.” Still, Schumer has no problems attracting scads of lustful suitors; thus, do not pull this Miss Sausage-Gravy-and-Blue-Hydrangeas’ “I’ve tried-every-diet-but-nothin’-evah-works” thyroid crap on me: The sole reason, Tie-Dye, for why you’re not even more fuckable now than you were previously is because no men are ever attracted to indolent, narcissistic whiners. Dear Howard here’s own mother (divorced from my father when I was 12, and who was never thin for even a single day in her post-childbearing/post-divorced life) always laughingly balked, “I may be fat and 55, but put me in a room with 100 beauty queens and one man, and I alone will walk out of the room with that man.” Desirability, Ty, is all in one’s attitude; if you presume men desire you, then men will naturally trip over their feet to be yours, regardless of how often you repeatedly purchase yet another New Year’s resolution gym membership. (P.S. If your goal is truly weight loss, it takes more than two weeks of hard work to see appreciable results — keep it up, and improve your attitude!)

— Elzi

L.P.B. that Ace doesn’t know about? — Eli

Dear Elvira,
Nosy is as vapid does: I take it there will be no love lost between you and Ace (your longest, dearest BFF) once you primly expose his latest infatuation to be nothing less than a cheating ‘ho, as confirmed by Vaseline Valley’s vixens that Ace’s “Little Pretty Britches” no doubt, indeed, is. Regardless, Eliza, at least just hear out Dear Howard: Short of Ace possessing the I.Q. of, say, a triple-A battery-powered latex butt plug, he is certainly well aware of his newest boy-toy’s wild side; you’ve no need to spread gossip “bombshells;” trust me, their shrapnel projectiles will only land a thudding dud on you. Stay out of this, Lizzy, do you hear me? Not only is Ace’s bedroom-business none of yours, but you’ll also potentially lose your longest, dearest friend in the bargain. Believe me, Ace’s secretly cheating “L.P.B. boy-toy” will trip-up soon enough on his own… sans any sympathetic “assistance” from you. Broken toys always do.

— Howard Lewis Russell
Making the SCENE the week of Jan. 13-19

- BJ’s NXS!: Papa Ray’s cookout on the patio at 6 p.m. Sybil’s Sunday Strip Off at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- Cedar Springs Tap House: Geeks Who Drink trivia at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Club Changes: Miss Wall of Food Candidate Show at 8:30 p.m. on Friday. The Divine Miss Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Friday. Mr. and Miss Wall of Food 2017 at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Rhonda Mae’s Wall Of Food Show from 8 p.m.-midnight on Thursday.
- Dallas Eagle: Discipline Corps club night on Friday. Bear Dance–Slave to the Dark Beat with DJ Decoding Jesus starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday. NLA–Dallas club night on Saturday.
- JR.’s Bar & Grill: Cassie’s Freak Show with Daphne, May May Graves, Your Highness and Stefani on Monday.
- Marty’s Live: Champagne Chanel’s Showcase on Monday.
- Rainbow Lounge: Free tacos from 8-10 p.m. on Taco Tuesday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Sing a Little Song karaoke at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- Sue Ellen’s: This Free Life featuring guest DJ Citizen Jane on Friday. Cherry Bomb on Saturday.
- Kathy & Bella at 3:30 p.m. and Barefoot Hippies at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Cassie, Asia, Krystal, Taejah L. Thomas, Roxy Brooks, Layla and Jenna on Friday.
- Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: TGRA show at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Scene Photographer: Kay Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Striking a pose at Marty’s Live
Joel at Liquid Zoo
Fresh baked cookies at Liquid Zoo
Huggin it out at Dallas Eagle
People on fleek at The Grapevine
Laughing with friends at The Grapevine
Lory and Joe at The Grapevine
Getting friendly at Dallas Eagle
Martie’s Group
Singing the night away at Liquid Zoo
At Dallas Eagle: Madonna? Is that you?
Getting friendly at Dallas Eagle
People on fleek at The Grapevine
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People on fleek at The Grapevine
Laughing with friends at The Grapevine
AT The Michael Carbonaro Show

Striking a pose at Marty’s Live

Singing the night away at Liquid Zoo

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