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Mayor Mike Rawlings is outraged and has issued a statement about the 911 service outage: It is outrageous that T-Mobile still has not resolved the ghost call issue that is putting Dallasites in danger by clogging our 911 system. I’m in full agreement with our city manager that our citizens deserve better. This issue not only puts paying T-Mobile customers at risk, but it jeopardizes the safety of people throughout our city. It’s encouraging that T-Mobile will finally be sending top engineers to Dallas tomorrow morning. I can only assume that they will work around the clock until they figure out how to fix this issue.

Here’s my experience of the 911 outage on March 6:

My husband, Brian Cross, was acting disoriented and was laying down. He was snoring, but that suddenly stopped. At 9 p.m. I called 911. After a few minutes, I was disconnected. When someone calls 911 and is disconnected, 911 operators are supposed to call back. They didn’t. I called 911 again immediately. The entire time I was trying to do CPR. Finally a 911 operator answered at 9:20. By that time, no matter how much I breathed into his mouth and pounded his chest, Brian wasn’t breathing.

Once I got through to 911, the response time was fantastic. Dallas Fire and Rescue was in our house within three minutes.

But had they been there at 9:05 rather than 9:25, Brian might have been resuscitated.

— David Taffet

SB 6 passes in the Texas Senate

Texas is one step closer to sharing North Carolina’s fate today, following the vote in the state Senate to approve SB 6, aka Dan Patrick’s Ridiculous Bathroom Bill.

The vote was 21-10. I haven’t seen a breakdown of the vote yet, but I am willing to bet that all but one of the 11 Democrats in the Senate voted against the measure. That one would be Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. of Brownsville. Lucio was the only Democrat — out of two — on the State Affairs Committee to vote in favor of sending the bill to the full Senate for a vote. He blames his vote on him being a Catholic.

His son, Eddie Lucio III, serves in the Texas House. He has said he opposes the bathroom bill.

What happens now depends largely on Speaker of the House Joe Straus, a Republican who has made no secret of the fact that he is not in favor of the measure. LGBT rights advocates hope that Straus will bury the House version of the bill in a committee that won’t let it ever see the light of day again.

You might want to contact Speaker Strauss and let him know we’re counting on him. And talk to your state reps, too. Make sure the Democrats are on our side, and do your best to convince the Republicans that the bathroom bill is bad for Texas’ pocketbook, but more importantly, that it’s bad for Texans.

— Tammye Nash

‘Hamilton’ actors will be featured artists at DTC gala

The Dallas Theater Center’s Centerstage Gala, its annual fundraiser and frou-frou social event, will take place on May 6, but we already know who the featured entertainment will be.

Two actors from the Broadway production of Hamilton — ensemble member Elizabeth Judd, and Sydney James Harcourt, who played multiple roles including understudying Aaron Burr (and who previously performed in musicals at the DTC, pictured) — will be headlining the event. Local DJ Spinderella will provide the after-party music.

Individual tickets are $1,000 and after-party tickets from $175.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Street’s Fine Chicken to open second, fast-casual location this summer

Street’s Fine Chicken, the Street Family spot that opened last year in the long-standing Black-eyed Pea space on Cedar Springs, will open a second location this summer, the company announced this afternoon.

A more fast-casual incarnation of the sit-down-service gayborhood location, the new chicken joint will be located near the intersection of Inwood Road and Forest Lane, according to Marco Street. The company’s Liberty Burger is already a success at that location, he said.

Much of the menu will remain the same, and the spot will offer whole chickens and cater to take-out orders.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
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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; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares meets every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St #103; Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run on the Katy trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.

MARCH

• March 18: Lee Park AIDS Memorial Anniversary
  This month marks the 25th anniversary of the tree planting and plaque dedication in Lee Park to honor those lost to HIV/AIDS. A gathering at 11 a.m. will honor Alan Ross, who created the memorial and worked to have it installed in Lee Park. There will be testimonials and remembrances.

• March 18: Rep. Pete Sessions Town Hall
  U.S. Rep Pete Sessions, R-Dallas, will hold a town hall at 12:30 p.m. at Richardson High School, 1250 Beltline Road. Anyone with concerns over protecting Medicare and Social Security benefits, health care or LGBT rights is encouraged to attend.

• March 18: Pot O’ Gold Gaybingo
  Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

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Pet of the Week / Molly Ann

Meet Molly Ann, an 8-year-old domestic shorthair mix with gorgeous Torbie-colored fur and striking green eyes. She can be a little timid when meeting new people, but once you spend some time with her, she’s a total love. She adores being scratched on her head and neck, and is happy to lie still while you give her all the attention. Once she gets to know you, you’ll find her in your lap purring up a storm; she’ll even follow you around to ask for more affection. If you’re looking for a lap cat to enjoy quiet time with, she’s your girl! Molly Ann has been spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FIV/FeLV and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations.

Molly Ann is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas at 2400 Lone Star Drive near 1-30 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 6-8 months, $75 for adult cats 6 months or older and $39 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 a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 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.

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March 18: QCinema
Suzanne Westenhoefer live at 7:30 p.m. at Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. $25-75. Qcinema.org.

March 18: HRC Spring Luncheon
Mary Beth Maxwell, senior vice president for programs, research and training speaks. From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 48th floor, 1601 Elm St. Federal club members free. Federal club guests $35. Others $50. SpringLuncheon2017.eventbrite.com

March 19: ‘Freedom to Marry’
Local premiere of the film Freedom to Marry by Eddie Rosenstein at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

March 20: Advocacy Day in Austin
Speak to your legislators. GALA North Texas will sponsor buses to Austin, Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin. GALA is chartering buses leaving from Collin Creek Mall and Cathedral of Hope. $15.

March 22: Resource Center Presents
Spring Soiree celebrating the grand opening of his new studio, Patina Bleu, with Gregory Barker
A Spring Soiree celebrating the grand opening of his new studio, Patina Bleu, with Gregory Barker
Artist and designer Gregory Barker holds a Spring Soiree celebrating the grand opening of his new studio, Patina Bleu, 833 W. 7th St. in North Oak Cliff. Free valet parking available. RSVP at Facebook.com/events/135188388235765,

March 23: They Were Expendable
Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance hosts a screening of They Were Expendable, starring John Wayne and Robert Montgomery as two PT boat skippers sent to help defend the Philippines from the Japanese, 7 p.m. at Studio Movie Grill, 13933 N. Central Expressway. Call 214-741-7500.

March 25: AID$ Walk South Dallas
From 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd.

March 25: Different Strokes Golf Association
New Members Invitational starts at 11 a.m. at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southerland Ave. Cost is $55. DSGADallas.org for information and to sign up.

March 25: Cocktails & Conversation with Gregory Barker
A Spring Soiree celebrating the grand opening of his new studio, Patina Bleu, 833 W. 7th St. in North Oak Cliff. Free valet parking available. RSVP at Facebook.com/events/135188388235765,

March 26: Stephen Daingerfield Dunn
Stephen Daingerfield Dunn reads from his newly published book, A Piece Of My Heart, with live music by Neil Mowles, Bob Goodwin and others, from 5-7 p.m. at Unity of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. Tickets are $20 per person, or $35 per couple, available through Eventbrite.com.

March 27: UNT Outlaw
Dallas LGBT Bar Association hosts a meet and greet with the performers from They Were Expendable, starring John Wayne, from 5-7 p.m. at UNT Dallas, 1901 Main St. in Dallas, for networking and to share information on opportunities available for students and on the Lavender Law Conference. Free, but RSVP to contact@DallasLGBTBar.org for planning purposes.

March 28: Family Night at Durkin’s Pizza
GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) North Texas holds Family Night at Durkin’s Pizza, 8930 S.H. 121 at Custer Road in McKinney. Owner Michael Durkin donates 10 percent of sales that night to GALA Youth. For information email info@galanorthtexas.org.

March 30: Black Tie Dinner Kickoff
Kickoff party from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Concrete Cowboy, 2512 Cedar Springs Road.

March 30: FashionCITED Rhythm and Hues Show
This fashion show fundraiser benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 7-10 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. $60.

March 30: Path2Parenthood
An evening on lesbian pregnancy with information on sperm donors, medical procedures and legal safeguards. Dinner is included from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Space limited so RSVP to corey@path2parenthood.org.

March 31: GALA Meet the Candidates
GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) North Texas hosts a Meet the Candidates event featuring candidates for city council, school board and the Collin College board of trustees, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at 4568 Southgate Drive in Plano. For information email info@galanorthtexas.org.

March 31–April 2: Texas Traditions Rodeo
Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents Texas Traditions Rodeo. Gates open at 11 a.m. at Diamond T Arena, 6900 E. Sherman Drive, Denton.
Go all out to go
All In for Advocacy

Nearly 1,000 registered to participate in LGBT lobby day in Austin on Monday

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

More than 900 people have already registered to participate Monday, March 20, in All In for Advocacy, a lobby day being sponsored by Equality Texas, in partnership with the ACLU of Texas, Texas Freedom Network, Human Rights Campaign and the Transgender Education Network of Texas.

“We will be having our largest advocacy day ever,” Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith said this week, noting that registration for the event had to be cut off about midweek because so many people had already registered.

“We have between 900 and 1,000 people already registered, and that’s more than double the attendance in any recent years,” Smith said. “There are buses coming from Dallas and Plano and Houston and San Antonio and Brownsville. We will have people here from all parts of the state.”

Individuals are required to have registered to get a seat on the chartered buses and to participate in Equality Texas’ Advocacy Day events. Smith said, though, that someone who didn’t get signed up before registration was closed should check the Advocacy Day links on the Equality Texas website anyway to see if “there’s a way we can work them in.”

And, he added, you don’t have to be registered with the Advocacy Day events to lobby your elected officials.

“Anyone can come in and make visits,” Smith said. “They may not get an informational packet or have lunch with our group. But the Capitol is open to anyone and I certainly wouldn’t discourage anyone from coming in to talk to their representatives.”

Those who can’t make the trip to Austin can still participate by visiting their elected officials’ district offices, Smith added. “You can have these conversations there, too.”

How to lobby

Those who are registered, though, have the advantage of training sessions from the five sponsoring organizations on how to most effectively lobby lawmakers. There have already been several preliminary training sessions in cities around the state, and there will be 30-minute training sessions “on site” in Austin on Monday.

The training, Smith said, explains “what lobbying is, and why people should do it. We’ll give them pointers on how to personalize the conversations they will be having with, probably [elected officials’] staff members. We will explain how the Legislature works, its processes and so on.

“We’ll give everyone tips to help them prepare and compose the stories they want to share,” he added. “That’s the best way to go, to tell them personal stories about why equality matters to you.”

Organizers will also have informational packets including issue sheets to provide more talking points about the issues and what bills have been filed so far. Issues covered in the information packets include the infamous bathroom bill, SB 6, of course. But there are other topics citizen lobbyists need to pay attention to, also — such as bill that pre-empt local ordinances or interfere with local control and those that allow discrimination based on religious beliefs.

Smith said lobby day organizers also want to remind participants not to focus just on speaking against the anti-LGBT bills that have been filed, but also make plain their support for the supportive legislation before lawmakers.

“There are 39 positive bills that have been filed, and those are not getting as much attention,” Smith said. “We want folks to have those conversations, too, about the pro-equality legislation, and we encourage them to personalize those stories, too.”

Among the pro-equality bills that have been filed are SB 165, which would prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and state contracting. Other bills have been filed in both houses that would repeal outdated language in the Texas penal code outlawing “homosexual conduct,” bills allowing correction of gender markers on official documents, bills that would improve HIV/AIDS prevention programs, equalize access to the one," he continued.

Still, he urged, “the work on the House side of this equation has to be as strong and as loud and as public and as persistent and as visible at the outcry was on the Senate side. We cannot let up in any way, shape or form.”

Smith said the about 400 people who went to Austin to testify against SB 6 in Senate hearings “must remain engaged. We need the members of the House to see the overwhelming opposition to this bill, to see the number of people who recognize this bill as the discrimination it truly is.”

Smith also encouraged those participating in All In for Advocacy Day to focus on contacting their own senators and representatives specifically.

“The most effective conversation starts with, ‘I am your constituent and … ,” he said. “And remember that even though SB 6 is getting most of the attention right now, we have to broaden the conversation to talk about any bill that singles out or targets LGBT people for discrimination.”

For a complete list of pro- and anti-equality legislation on Equality Texas’ radar, visit EqualityTexas.org/Legislature.
SB6 sails through Senate; fate still uncertain in the House

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN — The Texas version of North Carolina's “bathroom bill” is on its way to the state’s House of Representatives after final approval in the Senate by a 20-10 vote on Wednesday, March 15.

The only Democrat to vote in favor of the measure was Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. of Brownsville, who has said, as a Catholic, his religious beliefs affect his vote on the issue. His son, state Rep. Eddie Lucio III, has voiced his opposition.

The Senate’s approval Wednesday, following a preliminary vote on Tuesday that also came in at 20-10, happened despite the objections of big businesses including Amazon and American Airlines, celebrities such as Lady Gaga and warnings from the NFL and NBA.

Microsoft, Intel and United Airlines are among dozens of companies that signed onto a letter that says the measure will hurt its ability to recruit top workers, and the NBA and NFL have lobbed similar warnings at Texas. But Republicans are undeterred.

The measure, pushed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, was authored by Sen. Lois Kolkhurst, R-Brenham, who said Tuesday, “Don’t think that I don’t pray about this, that we’re making the right decision.”

But the bill, which requires transgender people to use public bathrooms that correspond with the sex on their birth certificate, still faces big obstacles that could ultimately derail the proposal in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Republican Speaker of the House Joe Straus says he has no appetite for a bill he has likened to a job-killer. Straus has stopped short of declaring the bill dead on arrival in the House, but his public and repeated denunciations are significant.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has also yet to definitively take a public stance about the most high-profile bill in Texas this year.

Abbott has taken broadsides at the NFL for wading into the debate but has not said whether the law is needed.

The North Carolina law prompted the NCAA to pull seven championship events out of the state, the NBA to move the All-Star game from Charlotte and contributed to former Republican Gov. Pat McCrory being voted out in November. McCrory has recently complained about having a hard time finding work now, because potential employers are worried about hiring someone who has such a high-profile reputation as an LGBT bigot.

During debate Tuesday over the bathroom bill, Republican Sen. Lois Kolkhurst of Brenham, author of SB 6, listens to Democratic Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., the only Democrat in the Senate to vote in favor of the measure. (Ralph Barrera/Austin-American Statesman, via Associated Press)
Easter in the Park celebrates its 50th year

LeeAnne Locken from Real Housewives of Dallas and Lifestyle Guru Steve Kemble will emcee the afternoon. The Pooch Parade takes place at 2 p.m. along Turtle Creek Boulevard. All pets must be on a leash. Prizes will be awarded by “celebrity judges” for Best in Show, Best Group, Most Creative and Best Easter-Inspired Outfit. Entry fee is $10.

Rescue organizations will be on site and will have pets available for adoption. An Easter egg hunt will take place on the lawn and photos with the Easter Bunny will be available. Live music will be pro-

Easter in the Park, which first took place at Lee Park in 1967, celebrates its 50th anniversary on April 16.

The Pooch Parade is always one of the most popular parts of the Easter in the Park celebration. (Photo by Chuck Marcelo)
vided by The Gypsy Playboys and DJ Jen Miller.

Those attending are encouraged to bring a blanket and a picnic basket or purchase lunch from food trucks that will be parked along Turtle Creek Boulevard.

For years, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra performed. In the 1980s and 1990s, they were joined by the Turtle Creek Chorale. However, costs kept rising — the concert that cost just a couple of thousand dollars to stage in the 1960s was going to cost more than $75,000 a decade ago — so the orchestra no longer participates.

Easter in the Park is now staged by the Lee Park Conservancy, which runs the park, and everyone is welcome. Easter in the Park runs from 1-4 p.m. on April 16.

Lobbying Cornyn in D.C.

The Texas delegation to the Human Rights Campaign’s Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., on March 9 met in person with Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn, although, delegation member Samuel Tornabene noted, the senator “didn’t say anything to encourage us regarding LGBTQ legislation.” (Photo courtesy of Samuel Tornabene)

Submit photos, event information to nash@dallasvoice.com for possible inclusion in the Dallas Voice.
exas Health Action, an Austin non-profit that promotes sexual wellness, opened its doors to its gender clinic a little more than a week ago with an appointment for one client. By the next day, they were booked through June.

THA was founded in May 2015, when “Folks were expressing a need for PrEP,” said Executive Director Joe McAdams. Staffed by volunteers, THA built in testing for sexually transmitted diseases as part of the examination needed before starting PrEP, a method of preventing HIV infection by taking Truvada as prevention medication for people who are HIV-negative. But, “We quickly moved to become a sexual health and wellness clinic,” McAdams said.

Dr. Cynthia Brinson said PrEP is “extremely important” in fighting HIV.
THA qualified for 340B pharmacy status so that a portion of the money spent on Truvada or other prescribed medications that were dispensed at certain outlets would be returned to THA. That allows all services provided by THA to be otherwise free to the client.

Since opening, THA has become the fastest-growing PrEP clinic in the country.

Although Austin has a county hospital, it’s not set up with the same levels of care as Parkland Hospital in Dallas, McAdams explained. THA has been getting referrals from the victims unit to offer PEP, or post-exposure prophylaxis. Treating someone with Truvada who may have been exposed to HIV seems to prevent infection also.

Many of the people THA was seeing were transgender. So, “It made sense for the next step to be a gender clinic,” McAdams said. This seemed to be the right time, McAdams said, with the rise of hate crimes around the country and the debate over SB6, the bathroom bill, in the Texas Legislature. What better time to help more people transition safely than the week SB6 passed the state Senate?

“We’re the antithesis to what’s going on politically,” McAdams said.

The new gender clinic takes a different approach to trans folks than many clinics do. Instead of challenging who people say they are, “We’re going to trust who they say they are,” McAdams said.

THA partnered with Dr. Cynthia Brinson, who has been treating trans people in her practice for more than 25 years. As part of Brinson’s practice, she takes care of people at the Travis County jail who have knew there was a tremendous need. But, “I didn’t realize they’d trust us so quickly,” she added.

Brinson said she’s continuing to encourage PrEP, which she called her passion. “It’s extremely important to me,” she said.

Her goal is stopping the virus in Austin with no new cases by 2020. In the last reporting year, more than 500 new cases were reported in Austin. That’s more new cases than San Francisco reported, largely because of that city’s Getting to Zero campaign that involves getting people likely to be infected on PrEP.
Alan Ross fought the city for years for a permanent remembrance in Lee Park

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Friends will gather in Lee Park on March 18 at 11 a.m. to mark the 25th anniversary of the planting of a tree and placing of a plaque — the AIDS memorial that Alan Ross fought so hard to get placed in the park.

“The original tree died after 12 or 13 years,” said current Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman. And then the entire memorial was rebuilt nearby and given a larger location.

“They were re-landscaping in that area,” Doughman said, explaining the move.

Although the plaque has been moved to a different location to make way for a new fountain, the memorial has stood, in one form or another, since March 1992. It was finally created after years of battling the city officials, who agreed at one point to allow the memorial as long as the words “AIDS,” “gay” and “lesbian” were not part of it.

But Ross, who was usually a very mild-mannered and patient person, refused to build an AIDS memorial that didn’t mention AIDS. He began his quest to have a memorial to those who died of AIDS in 1989, because, as executive director of the Dallas Tavern Guild, he had lost so many friends and colleagues to the disease.

Before there was a monument on the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Avenue or an iconic location like the new Resource Center, Lee Park was the Dallas LGBT community’s place to gather. When the Texas sodomy law was declared unconstitutional by Judge Jerry Buchmeyer in 1984, the celebration was held in Lee Park. The next year, when a Pride parade became an annual event, it ended in Lee Park where awards for best entries were announced.

So Lee Park was the obvious place for the memorial.

Unfortunately, the Dallas Park board disagreed.

The original plan for the memorial would have included a time capsule and a walkway paved with bricks that had the names of each of the 1,000 people from Dallas that had died of AIDS at that time. The park board refused and the fight moved to the Dallas City Council.

The Dallas Southern Memorial Association — which raised $50,000 in 1936 to build the Robert E. Lee statue in the park, but by 1989 swore it had nothing to do with the Ku Klux Klan anymore — objected. They argued to the council that Lee Park was not a neighborhood park, but was there to pay tribute to Robert E. Lee.

That, of course, was a lie. The park was renamed in Lee’s honor after the Klan-related organization placed the statue of Lee. But Oak Lawn Park, as it was originally known, was already almost a half century old when that happened.

Also objecting to the council was the Turtle Creek Association. They said an AIDS memorial would make the park unsuitable for children. “The Park Board didn’t want to set precedent for putting that sort of memorial to one disease in a park,” Doughman said.

The Park Board suggested putting the memorial at Parkland Hospital. But Ross knew that was a horrible idea. He wouldn’t put his AIDS memorial at Parkland for the same reason the Kennedy memorial wasn’t placed at Parkland.

So he persisted and raised more than $20,000 for the park department to use for upkeep. Still, they resisted.

Meanwhile, the Park Board relented slightly. They’d allow a memorial that didn’t use the words “AIDS,” “gay” or “lesbian.” Ross was adamant the permanent memorial must include those words. Still, he planted 1,000 daffodils in a garden in Lee Park as the first AIDS memorial.

During that period, Dallas was required to change the way it voted for city council members. Instead of city-wide seats and large regional districts that were designed to prevent minorities from getting elected, the courts ordered single-member districts.

Although majority Hispanic and majority black districts were drawn, the city was determined to make sure the LGBT community would never be represented. The line between District 2 and District 14 was
drawn down the middle of Cedar Springs Road, with the intention of diluting LGBT voting power.

That’s when the city got its first lesson in “don’t fuck with the LGBT community.” Two gay men, Chris Luna and Craig McDaniel, were elected to represent those districts, and Ross was ready to take his fight for an AIDS memorial to the new council.

Lee Park was in McDaniel’s district and he appointed a more neighborhood-friendly park board representative.

Ross planted his tree in March 1992 surrounded by other landscaping. A plaque with that date was placed in front of the tree in 1995, because of a continued battle with the city over wording.

The plaque reads: “This living tribute and surrounding beautification project is a gift to Lee Park and the City of Dallas in recognition of the AIDS community of Dallas County — Dallas Tavern Guild, sponsors.”

The current memorial is along a walk that begins at the new, formal entrance to Lee Park, at Lemmon Avenue and Turtle Creek Boulevard, then extends up to Arlington Hall.

And Lee Park is now operated by the Lee Park Conservancy, created in 1995 by five constituent groups. Among them is Dallas Tavern Guild. The others are Oak Lawn Forum, The Oak Lawn Committee as well as The Turtle Creek Association and Dallas Southern Memorial Association, which dropped their objections to the tribute to people who had died of the disease.

Alan Ross died of complications from AIDS on March 16, 1995, three years to the day after he planted the original tree as an AIDS memorial.
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• April 8: No Tie Dinner
  This year’s theme is An Artful Life, inspired by the pop artists. From 7-10 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. $75. Tickets at NoTieDinner.org

• April 9: HER HRC — Sue Ellen’s Throwback Party
  HRC brings back the old Sue’s with DJ, silent auctions, door prizes and games from 2-6 p.m. at TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. Includes the presentation of the DFW HRC Community Impact Award to Kathy Jack. General admission tickets are $10 in advance at TinyURL.com/HerHRC2017; $15 at the door. VIP tickets start at $40.

• April 9: Mega March
  March calling for immigration reform and an end to aggressive deportation efforts from 2-4 p.m. Line up on Ross Avenue at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe and march to Dallas City Hall.

• April 15: Purple Gaybingo
  Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• April 15: GALA Meet the Candidates
  GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) North Texas hosts a Meet the Candidate event featuring candidates for city council, school board and the Collin College board of trustees, from 3-5:30 p.m. at 601 Rouen Drive in McKinney. For information email info@galanorthtexas.org.

• April 16: Easter in the Park
  The pooch parade in Oak Lawn’s Lee Park is an Easter tradition. Bring picnic basket and lawn chairs. 1 p.m.

• April 19: Evening with the Judges
  Dallas LGBT Bar Association hosts an Evening with the Judges, from 5:30-7 p.m. in Belo Hall at Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Features Judges Roberto Canas Jr., Dennise Garcia, Maricela Moore, Tonya Parker and Ingrid Warren. Offers attending lawyers one-and-a-half hours of free continuing legal education credits. For information visit DGLBA.org.

• April 21: Compassion Fatigue Symposium
  Ed-U-Care presents its sixth annual symposium from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.EdUCareDallas.com.
ATLANTA — In a setback for gay rights advocates hoping for an expansion of workplace discrimination protections, a federal appeals court in Atlanta has ruled that employers aren’t prohibited from discriminating against employees because of sexual orientation.

A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday, March 10, ruled 2-1 that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits workplace discrimination based on a variety of factors, doesn’t protect against workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The case was one of two that Lambda Legal had pending before federal appeals courts — along with an Indiana case at the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago — that the LGBT rights group had hoped would mark a significant step forward for gay rights.

Jameka Evans in April 2015 sued her former employer, Georgia Regional Hospital in Savannah, alleging that she was discriminated against and effectively forced from her job as a security guard because she is a lesbian and didn’t conform to gender norms.

Visiting Judge Jose E. Martinez wrote in the majority opinion that the court was bound by precedent set by a 1979 case that said Title VII doesn’t prohibit “discharge for homosexuality.” Other circuits have also found that sexual orientation is not a protected class under that law, Martinez wrote.

An 11th Circuit decision from 2011 said discrimination against a transgender employee because of gender non-conformity amounted to sex discrimination and was not allowed, and Evans’ attorneys argued it should also protect gays and lesbians who claimed discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

Circuit Judge William Pryor, who was a party to that opinion, argued in a concurring opinion that the transgender case, which invoked a legislative aide who was fired after telling her boss she planned to undergo a gender transition, was based on behavior rather than status.

“A gay individual may establish with enough factual evidence that she experienced sex discrimination because her behavior deviated from a gender stereotype held by an employer, but our review of that claim would rest on behavior alone,” Pryor wrote.

Pryor also argued that it was up to Congress, not the courts, to declare sexual orientation a protected class.

Circuit Judge Robin Rosenbaum wrote in a dissenting opinion that it is time for the court to recognize that the law prohibits workplace discrimination based on an employee’s sexual orientation because that is discrimination based on sex.

Plain and simple, when a woman alleges, as Evans has, that she has been discriminated against because she is a lesbian, she necessarily alleges that she has been discriminated against because she failed to conform to the employer’s image of what women should be — specifically, that women should be sexually attracted to men only,” Rosenbaum wrote.

Evans’ lawsuit also included a claim that she was targeted because of gender-based behavior, notably dressing like a man and having a male haircut. The majority opinion said that could amount to a claim that’s not based on her sexual orientation and instructed the lower court to allow her to amend her initial lawsuit to try to bolster that claim.

In a similar case, a three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago in July upheld a lower court’s dismissal of a 2014 lawsuit filed by Kimberly Hively of South Bend, Indiana, a former part-time instructor who said Ivy Tech Community College in her hometown didn’t hire her full time because she is a lesbian.

The full 7th Circuit vacated that panel’s decision, and all 11 of the court’s judges reheard the case in November. The ruling has not yet been announced, but several of the judges seemed to signal during oral arguments that they were ready to broaden the scope of the 53-year-old civil rights law.

Lambda Legal attorneys said they plan to ask the 11th Circuit to vacate the Evans ruling and have the full 11-judge court rehear the case, like the 7th Circuit did in the Hively case.

“This is not the end of the road for us and certainly not for Jameka,” attorney Greg Nevins said in an emailed statement.

There is no way to draw a line between sexual orientation discrimination and discrimination based on gender non-conformity because not being straight is gender-non-conforming, period.”

N.C. senator’s staff restricts his Twitter use after he posts dog GIF

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A North Carolina state senator who’s running for mayor of Charlotte has had his Twitter use restricted by his campaign manager after he posted an animated image of a defecating dog in response to criticism of his LGBT stance.

WFAE-FM in Charlotte reports that campaign manager Dakota Cary confirmed the tweet was sent Tuesday, March 7, by Democratic state Sen. Joel Ford.

The offending tweet was a response to criticism from local gay activist Matt Comer, who attacked Ford for his record on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. Comer said Ford later called to apologize.

Cary said Ford used the GIF image because when he’s targeted on Twitter, it’s easier than “typing out the same response each time.”

Cary said the campaign might create a list of pre-approved GIFs for Ford.

Court expects to rule quickly on whether Moore can return to bench

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Judges have said they will issue a decision quickly on whether suspended Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore can return to the bench. A specially appointed appellate court last week granted Moore’s request for an expedited decision in his appeal. The court canceled oral arguments that had been scheduled for April and will make the decision based on court filings.

A judicial discipline panel in September ruled that Moore directed probate judges to flout the U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision on same-sex marriage. The Alabama
Court of the Judiciary, the state panel that hears complaints against judges, suspended Moore for the remainder of his term.

The Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission, which brought the accusations against Moore, did not object to fast-tracking the decision.

Moore is trying to win his position back after the ruling that he violated standards of judicial ethics with his actions regarding gay marriage. His attorney argued Moore shouldn’t have been removed and that the Court of the Judiciary exceeded its authority by suspending Moore for the remainder of his term.

“Chief Justice Moore did nothing wrong and should have never been charged. To allow a precedent that punishes Alabama judges based on political whims will completely undermine our system of justice,” Moore’s lawyer, Mat Staver said in a statement.

The Judicial Inquiry Commission, in a brief filed with the court, argued Moore’s punishment should stand. Lawyers for the commission said Moore urged probate judges to defy the federal courts by telling them they remained bound by a court order to deny marriage licenses to gay couples.

“This is a case is about the rule of law, and Chief Justice Moore’s continued flouting of it,” lawyers for the commission wrote.

UA committee advocates for gender transition benefits

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A University of Arkansas benefits committee that advocates for faculty and staff is asking that gender-transition treatments be reinstated in the employee health care plan.

The request in a March 7 letter came after the University of Arkansas System suspended the coverage, which was briefly offered earlier this year, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported. The system oversees a self-funded health care plan enrolling approximately 35,900 employees and family members from Fayetteville and other campuses.

“As a committee, we wholly support the transgender members of our University of Arkansas campus and system and feel as though the situation they face is deeply upsetting. We request that the coverage promised be immediately reinstated,” the letter states.

A Dec. 31 injunction from a Texas judge halted federal enforcement of regulations developed under the Affordable Care Act that prohibited health plans from automatically excluding gender-transition treatments from coverage.

University officials said the coverage that began Jan. 1 was in compliance with the regulations, but that it was suspended after March 6 “given the most current court ruling.”

They also said the benefits suspension could continue “pending the final legal outcome of the injunction or further clarification of the ACA coverage guidelines.”

University of Arkansas spokesman Mark Rushing didn’t respond to questions about whether campus leadership had taken a position in favor of restoring the benefits.

Sean Cahill, a Boston-based researcher who studies LGBT health policy issues, said covering gender-transition treatments “really doesn’t increase the cost of health care coverage for the general population” because the number of transgender people is small.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law estimated last year that the U.S. transgender adult population as about 1.4 million of the country’s adult population.

Florida businessman establishing scholarship in honor of Pulse victims

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Florida businessman is raising scholarship money for gay students to honor the 49 patrons killed last June in Orlando’s gay nightclub shooting massacre.

Barry Miller said Monday, March 13, that The 49 Fund is to award 10 scholarships annually, each worth $4,900. Students would have to self-identify as “out,” have a GPA of 3.0 and attend an institution of higher learning fulltime.

Survivors of the Pulse nightclub attack or deceased victims’ relatives would receive special consideration, said Miller, who is working on the project with the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida and the Central Florida Foundation.

The shooting, which happened in the early morning hours of June 12, was the deadliest mass shooting in recent U.S. history. It also left dozens wounded in addition to the 49 killed.

Also on Monday, the U.S. Justice Department said Monday, March 13, that it was giving the money to the state of Florida to pay for grief counseling and reimburse the costs of running an assistance center after the massacre.
Finding the gays — and the welcoming straights — on generic cruises

DAVID WEBB | The Rare Reporter

davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com

Sitting in the Ocean View bar of Holland America’s Zuiderdam somewhere in the Caribbean over the 2016 Christmas holidays, I engaged in one of my favorite pastimes — eavesdropping on the conversations around me.

I sat alone at a table behind two middle-aged couples who chatted aimlessly. I gathered they had just met, given the frequent topic-switching.

The two men began discussing the variety of bars on the ship, and what an assortment of people they observed traveling on the ship on its way through the Panama Canal. “Well, you know what the Crow’s Nest is, don’t you?” one of the men said to the other. “That’s where all the gays go.”

Of course, my ears perked up as I waited for his next comment or a response from the other man. That never happened though, because the speaker’s wife and I exchanged knowing glances and she launched an interception. “Shut up,” she said to her husband as I quietly chuckled.

“What’s the matter?” he said. “It says on the activity list that there is a nightly LGBT gathering in the Captain’s Corner of the Crow’s Nest. Doesn’t that mean gay?”

She again told him to shut up, and he did — even though he obviously didn’t understand why he should.

I locked eyes with the woman and mouthed the words, “It’s OK,” and I smiled.

Finishing my drink, I decided it would be a good time go find the Crow’s Nest. I resisted the impulse to say, “See you all in the Crow’s Nest.”

Looking at the activity guide, I saw that the LGBT gathering indeed took place in the Crow’s Nest, and I would be just in time for happy hour. So off I went to the top and front of the ship.

During previous cruises I was disappointed not to find many LGBT people in the designated cocktail lounges. I saw lots of gay men and lesbians and even one drag queen on previous cruises, but they never seemed to be where the ship’s cruise director tried to send them.

But this time, I got a surprise. I did indeed find not just one or two gay men and lesbians in the bar, but a whole bevy. This is more like it, I thought.

Among the group sitting at the bar was an older, wealthy couple from California traveling with their personal assistant.

(I knew they had to be wealthy because they had a personal assistant. Also, they occupied a suite in the sky and paid for the personal assistant to enjoy himself in a balcony room alone. I got along quite well with the personal assistant, but that’s another story.)

Traveling alone, I enjoyed 10 splendid nights of dining, drinking, gambling, dancing and dating. It was a wonderfully fulfilling cruise that surprised me in many ways. I met gay and lesbian people traveling alone, with their parents or with partners.

To say the ship’s personnel proved to be gay-friendly would be an understatement. Many of them were gay. In fact, I saw several ship officers of the same sex dancing together in the late-night bar near the casino.

I also really enjoyed the dinners and drinks I shared with the straight people I met.

One night when I went into the dining room, I saw the man and wife I had overheard in the cocktail lounge sitting alone at a table. They beckoned to me, and I went over and sat with them. The husband could not have been more gracious.

I saw his wife in the casino alone one night, and we had a good laugh about the whole thing. “He’s clueless,” she said.

I went on a gay-only cruise in the Mediterranean several years ago, and I enjoyed it. But I can’t say that I had more fun on it than I have any of the several generic cruises I’ve taken since then.

The truth is I found the gay-only cruises to be a lot more expensive than the other cruises I’ve taken. So if your budget is tight like mine, don’t be afraid to take advantage of the less expensive cruises.

You will not be the only queer on board.

David Webb sailed through the Panama Canal aboard Holland America’s Zuiderdam over the 2016 Christmas holiday.

(Photo courtesy David Webb)
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His humble approach to leadership is what attracts people to the chorale’s talented conductor DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taFFet@dallasvoice.com

urdle Creek Chorale Artistic Director Sean Baugh isn’t the larger-than-life figure one of his predecessors was. Those who work with him at the chorale and at Cathedral of Hope, where he serves as associate director of music and worship, describe him as warm and approachable, but at the same time, he is someone who gets his vision across.

Dallas Voice readers this year voted Baugh as their LGBT Role Model. Friends and coworkers this week said the honor is well deserved.

While clearly a fan of what’s come across on stage under Baugh’s leadership, Chorale Executive Director Bruce Jaster is awed by Baugh’s ability to express his musical vision to such a talented but diverse group of men.

“He retains a level of humility that is incredibly endearing,” Jaster said.

He called that “servant leadership.”

Tri Truong credits Baugh’s leadership for building and retaining membership in the chorale.

“He made extraordinary changes putting us back out in the community,” Truong said. “We’re part of the community and need to be out there.”

That includes everything from singing after the Orlando Pulse massacre to help the community heal, to singing at a funeral to help a family heal.

Truong said Baugh bases his values on the question, “When things happen, what can we do to help our community?” Baugh is, Truong said, “really good at that.”

The Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas with Cathedral of Hope said Baugh a role model in the way he collaborates. When Cazares-Thomas suggested a musical series of programs, and “Within three weeks, he had a program laid out, and was recruit-
Folks at the cathedral worried that as more and more of Baugh’s time became consumed by the chorale, they’d lose him. But they’ve learned he needs both aspects of his music — the liturgical and the performance — to fulfill him.

“He’s funny, witty and always brings something to the conversation, whatever that conversation’s about,” Cazares-Thommas said.

B.J. Cleveland will be the ringmaster for the upcoming Turtle Creek Chorale performance, Topsy Turvy. Cleveland, one of the area’s busiest actors, is also a director. But he said working under Baugh’s direction has been a pleasure.

“He’s a great leader,” Cleveland said. “He gives positive affirmation about the work first and then gives the notes.”

That is a great leadership skill, Cleveland said. It’s too easy to simply go after what’s wrong on stage; that’s what much lesser directors do. But that’s not how Baugh operates.

“Sean has good vision,” Cleveland said. “He’s done his homework.”

Baugh said he was humbled by the recognition.

“I guess I try to be kind to everybody I meet,” Baugh said. “No matter their age, looks, who they are.”

He doesn’t see the chorale as just a group of men that blend into one voice. He sees each person in the group as an individual, each with his own story. His advice to each of them is: Follow your dreams.

Baugh is certainly following his. Five years ago, he said, he never would have dreamed that he’d have a full-time career back in music.

And how does he balance two full-time music jobs?

“Not well,” he said.

Of course, everyone associated with the chorale and with the music ministry at Cathedral of Hope disagrees.

Ideas, Baugh said, come to him at any moment of the day — while he’s reading, driving and listening to music, watching TV or just talking to friends. He keeps his phone nearby at all times to record those ideas that may result in an idea for a new concert or how to arrange a particular song.

Baugh said he tries to live a life of authenticity and integrity. “I hope others see that,” he said.

Not only do the people who’ve performed under his direction see it, but they voted him the LGBT community’s best role model for it.

“Trying to hold court in a room full of 250 gay men is difficult and he does it so well,” Cleveland said.

The Turtle Creek Chorale’s next concert is Topsy Turvy at 7:30 p.m. on March 23-25 at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com.
Equality rights vs. religious liberty

LGBT advocates worry that SCOTUS nominee Gorsuch will fall on the wrong side of that line

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

The big question for the LGBT community over the next week is not so much whether President Trump’s nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court will be confirmed; he almost certainly will be. And almost every national LGBT group opposes his confirmation.

The real question is if Judge Neil Gorsuch will discuss, during his March 20 confirmation hearing, whether he will favor the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of free exercise of religion over its guarantee of equal protection of the law.

Most people in the LGBT community supports both rights, and most judges will say they do, too.

But the increasingly frequent clashes between those who support equal rights for LGBT citizens and those who feel fear or hostility toward LGBT people is coming to a head at the U.S. Supreme Court. And the legal battleground of those clashes is equal protection versus free exercise.

Neil Gorsuch’s confirmation is virtually guaranteed. As Democratic U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand pointed out recently, the Republican majority in the Senate — the GOP holds 32 seats there — will almost certainly change the Senate rules, if necessary, to ensure Gorsuch is confirmed by a simple majority vote.

And as for the religion-versus-equal protection balance, Gorsuch’s record lends itself to the assumption that he will weigh religious arguments more heavily than those of equal protection. If asked about a specific case on LGBT cases, he’s likely to say — as most judicial nominees do — that he will abide by the Supreme Court’s decisions on those cases.

But the Supreme Court’s decisions have been mixed. Pro-LGBT legal activists have won several major victories at the nation’s highest court in recent years, seeing the ban on marriage for same-sex couples (Obergefell v. Hodges, 2015) and the Defense of Marriage Act, which prevented equal federal benefits for same-sex married couples (U.S. v. Windsor, 2013), struck down by SCOTUS.

But anti-LGBT activists using religious exercise arguments have scored points, too. The Supreme Court’s Hobby Lobby decision in 2014 was seen as a “dangerous and radical” one that could enable employers to simply claim religious beliefs to gain exemption from laws barring discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

In its analysis of Gorsuch’s record, Lambda Legal officials concluded that this nominee has displayed “a vision of a society where religion prevails over law, and where the concerns of religious parties override the concerns of other citizens.”

“In supporting this vision, Judge Gorsuch’s opinions open the door to all manner of assaults on the civil rights of ordinary citizens — including lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people,
Gorsuch's record, according to that statement, is "more recklessly conservative" than that of Justice Antonin Scalia, the person he was nominated to replace.

That is a particularly bold statement. Before he died in February 2016, Scalia had amassed the worst voting record on LGBT issues of any justice on the high court. Some court observers believe that Gorsuch can't do worse than Scalia, so his confirmation will simply put things back to the way they were.

But Lambda disagrees.

"Don't for a second think that, because Gorsuch would be replacing Scalia, he'd be no more than a continuation of the status quo. It's far worse than that," Lambda officials opined in an email to its supporters last month, marking the first time Lambda Legal has publicly opposed a Supreme Court nominee.

Other LGBT organizations are also opposing Gorsuch.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights said Gorsuch has a "dangerously radical view of religious liberty that would undermine anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people and others."

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) said he has "expressed hostility to progressive movements' use of the judicial process to safeguard constitutional liberties and protections for all."

Part of Gorsuch's record before becoming a judge on the Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals appears to show a dismissive attitude toward lawsuits seeking equal protection for LGBT people. In a 2005 article he wrote for National Review Online, he referred to such lawsuits as part of a "social agenda" and suggested that, rather than the courts, progressive people should seek redress from "elected leaders and the ballot box."

His other pre-court writings revealed his ability to parse language to suit his needs. For instance, as an editor of The Federalist Paper at Columbia University, he objected to a description of the paper as a "political organization." Instead, he and his fellow editors explained, it was a "forum" for debate on "the issues of the day."

As a judge on the Tenth Circuit, Gorsuch wrote a concurring opinion in Burwell v. Hobby Lobby that suggested employers would be "involved in the wrongdoing of others" if they complied with employment laws that prohibited certain types of discrimination in health care coverage.

The case dealt with a department store employer who objected to paying for contraception for the company's employees. Advocates in the LGBT community, however, easily envision employers making religious objections to things like preventive care against HIV infection or the use of medical insemination for lesbians seeking to have children.

What the LGBT community has to hope for is that Gorsuch's preference for freedom of religion can be tempered by his attitude toward lawsuits seeking equal protection for LGBT people. In a 2017 article on the high court, the Senate would likely vote on Gorsuch's nomination the week before its April 8 recess.

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The case dealt with a department store employer who objected to paying for contraception for the company's employees. Advocates in the LGBT community, however, easily envision employers making religious objections to things like preventive care against HIV infection or the use of medical insemination for lesbians seeking to have children.

What the LGBT community has to hope for is that Gorsuch's preference for freedom of religion can be tempered by his attitude toward lawsuits seeking equal protection for LGBT people. In a 2017 article on the high court, the Senate would likely vote on Gorsuch's nomination the week before its April 8 recess.

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Every Queen Deserves a Crown!

A new kind of candidate

Congressional candidate Danielle Pellet looks for ways to untangle political issues that will solve several problems at once

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

For most people, the issues facing the U.S. today seem as difficult as a Gordian knot. But Danielle Pellet says the trick to unraveling the knot is recognizing that seemingly unrelated ends are actually connected in the middle of it all.

Pellet is the transgender woman who hopes to unseat Pete Sessions next year and win the right to represent Texas 32nd District in Congress. She has already filed paperwork to form an exploratory committee, has created a campaign website and has a staff of “about a dozen people” helping her get her campaign in gear.

Pellet, who lives with her wife J.J. Larson in Richardson, understands that the fact that she is transgender will play a role in her campaign. But, she said, she doesn’t want anyone to vote for her or against her because of that. She wants voters to cast their ballots based on her stance on the issues.

“I’m not a token candidate,” Pellet said during a recent interview. She has very definite ideas on how to solve the dilemmas surrounding the most problematic issues — from immigration to funding Social Security, from stopping global warming to finding newer, greener forms of energy.

That’s where the Gordian Knot comes in.

“Look at the Gordian Knot. You can’t start in the middle and unravel it. It has to be untied from the ends,” Pellet said. Then she adds with a grin, “Ok, well, in the myth Alexander just sliced through the knot, which doesn’t work with my analogy.”

Actually though, it does. Pellet has ideas to cut through the B.S.

For example, how do you address the issue of undocumented immigrants and, at the same time, avoid cutting Social Security? Create a path to citizenship through which undocumented immigrants expand the tax base and pay into Social Security.

It’s not some nebulous theory: Pellet has a very specific and detailed — and ultimately, workable — plan to make it happen.

“My family were immigrants as recently as two generations ago, and I refuse to turn others away due to racial or religious fears,” Pellet notes on her website. “Immigrants have enriched our society and we have been stronger together by embracing our melting-pot culture.”

Global warming is a fact, Pellet said, and this country has to come up with a plan to address it and remedies for it’s effects, including drought that is plaguing portions of the country. One idea, she said, is to build desalination plants on the east and west coasts, then use pipelines to deliver the potable water to drought-stricken areas inland.

As an added bonus, building and operating the desalination plants and the pipelines, Pellet said, creates jobs. With more people employed, there will be fewer people receiving federal benefits, and more money circulating through the economy.

While “conservative” candidates tend to demonize those receiving “welfare,” Pellet says the answer is to create not just jobs, but to create income equality.

“If you want people off food stamps, then pay them a living wage,” she said. “I’ve played Monopoly, and I’ve seen how it ends. As you go around the board, it gets more and more expensive to ‘live.’ But you still only get $200 for passing Go.”

She advocates for raising the minimum wage gradually to $15 an hour by 2024, and for abolishing sub-minimum wages, including tipped wages and wages paid to disabled people.

Pellet advocates for “getting off foreign oil,” not just because fossil fuels put the U.S. in a position of funding foreign powers that sponsor terrorism, but also because “burning hydrocarbons is bad for the environment.” But she is quick to note that she isn’t “just some environmentalist liberal hippy” out hugging trees; she also believes that the best way to replace fossil fuels is with thorium energy, a reactor-based nuclear power with low radio-toxicity waste.

Pellet doesn’t just throw out a bunch of scientific terms to dazzle folks, hoping that
someone else will come along to find a way to make it work. She graduated from the University of North Texas with degrees in sociology and forensic chemistry and worked as a teaching assistant in the criministics lab courses. Now, she works as a chemist.

Pellet said that she was 6 years old when she first “picked out my middle name,” Jessica. But it was 2004 and she was in the Air Force ROTC at UNT and “two months away from field time” when she finally decided to come out as transgender.

The Air Force stresses “integrity first,” Pellet said, and keeping her gender identity a secret was creating “horrible conflict. … I walked away from a career as a pilot. I just couldn’t” stay silent and hidden.

Pellet also wants voters to know that while she has never held public office — this is, in fact, her first campaign — this isn’t her first foray into transgender student organization at a Texas university, and later on worked with the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and the Progressive Alliance. She stressed that she is committed not only to her campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives, but also to getting progressive candidates elected across the board. To that end, she’s developing a free canvassing app she calls Prometheus, which will help activists and campaigns engage at the grassroots level.

For more information visit Pellet’s campaign website, DaniForCongress.com.
Thank you to the community, volunteers, clients and supporters who voted Resource Center as Best Local LGBT non-profit in the Dallas Voice 2017 Readers Voice Awards!

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As possibly the only transgender funeral director in the area, Scottlynd Cosgrove would like others in his field to learn what's appropriate when dealing with a trans body.

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
david@dallasvoice.com

Showing respect for the dead, even when the family doesn’t

As far as Scottlynd Cosgrove can tell, he’s the only licensed embalmer and funeral home director who has transitioned. And he said he has handled five funerals for transgender people — and every time, there were problems.

“The families were not supportive,” he said, adding that he encountered other problems in some instances. In some, “Regardless of gender marker changes, the death certificate still had the birth gender.”

That’s because even though the deceased had taken care of the paperwork during their life, the medical examiner ruled based on the physical exam. The person had had her gender marker changed, but she had not had gender confirmation surgery.

And faced with an unsupportive family, Cosgrove said, he could do nothing other than “untransition” the body before burial. It was either that or refer the family to a different undertaker, who might have been less respectful. And he could have lost his job on top of everything else.

Cosgrove was asked recently to participate on a panel addressing others in the funeral industry, discussing the best way to handle the bodies of transgender people and to work with their families.

Cosgrove said he told the audience that the worst thing he had seen was a funeral director talking to the unsupportive family of a transgender person. As the family began making fun of the deceased, the undertaker joined right in making jokes.

“My position is speaking to individuals respectfully,” he said. That means never making jokes about the person who died, even if the family is acting in a disrespectful way.

In speaking with family members, “It might be most respectful to remain gender neutral,” he said, suggesting that funeral directors say things like, “I’m sorry for the loss of your loved one,” and “I’m sure your loved one was a wonderful person.”

Cosgrove said the transgender people he’s buried had not had their gender markers changed. He said his work would have been easier had they had birth certificates changed to indicate their proper gender and then had birth certificates and marriage licenses that matched, although he acknowledged birth certificates are changed in the state where someone was born and not all states make that very easy.

He said that if all the paperwork isn’t in place, “then the funeral director or mortician will decide on the gender on the death certificate.”

In none of the five cases he’s worked with was paperwork in place, Cosgrove said.

“Once things are legally in place — birth certificate, name change — the family’s hands are tied,” he added.

During the service, the families can say whatever they want to say, Cosgrove said. Of the five transgender funerals he’s handled — two female-to-male and three male-to-female — he said the comments during the service were atrocious. The family of one of the trans women described her as a whore. The trans men were obviously on hormones and referred to as women.

Cosgrove didn’t begin his four-year funeral degree until after he had transitioned. Before that he had come out as lesbian and was a nurse. So, he said, the comments he heard as a funeral director about transgender people were nothing new. As a nurse, one of the most atrocious comments he remembers about a trans patient was, “Have I got a show for you.”

Cosgrove started his transition in Claremore, Okla., where he worked for the Veterans Administration. He was the first to go through the court system there to change his gender marker.

“No one had a problem with it,” he said. Then he moved to Dallas, with its large LGBT community.

“There’s lots of ignorance in the gay community,” he said.

When approached by gay men at JR.’s, he’s tried to show the same respect he uses at work. He thanks them, but explains he’s straight. That often leads to questions about why he’s in a gay bar if he is straight, in a tone that’s partially confused but also annoyed. His answer: “Because I’m the T in LGBT.”
YOU MATTER AND SO DOES YOUR HEALTH
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What is DESCovy?
DESCovy is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCovy is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCovy combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCovy by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

DESCovy does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.
To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCovy. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION
What is the most important information I should know about DESCovy?
DESCovy may cause serious side effects:
- Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- Serious liver problems. The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCovy for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. DESCovy is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCovy, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCovy without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

What are the other possible side effects of DESCovy?
Serious side effects of DESCovy may also include:
- Changes in body fat, which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- Changes in your immune system. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCovy.
- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCovy if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- Bone problems, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCovy is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCovy?
- All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCovy works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCovy with all of your other medicines.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCovy can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCovy.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about DESCovy, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCovy® is right for you.
IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.

- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCovy is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY or a similar medicine for a long time.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About DESCOVY" section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY.

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCovy is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCovy is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.

- DESCovy does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCovy is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCovy with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCovy.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCovy.com for program information.
Las Vegas Democrat wants to ban conversion therapy in Nevada

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Aiming to protect children whose parents enroll them in anti-gay camp and other conversion programs, a Nevada lawmaker argued Monday, March 13, at a legislative hearing that the state should ban professional therapists from attempting to talk people out of homosexuality.

Most national organizations of medical professionals oppose conversion therapy because they say sexual orientation is not a mental condition, and the method leads kids to kill themselves.

“Conversion therapy is nothing more than getting LGBTQ youth to hate themselves,” Sen. David Parks, who is openly gay, said.

The Las Vegas Democrat has proposed the state urge medical boards to discipline licensed professionals who attempt to stamp out gay people’s sexual desires.

But it would ultimately outlaw willing adults and children’s parents from seeking medical professionals to conduct the treatment, which opponents said would undermine parents and individuals’ right to seek wellness in ways they deem appropriate.

Senate Bill 201 would apply to psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, family therapists and other clinical counselors. It would not apply to religious counselors like ministers.

“As a clinician, you’re supposed to deal specifically with medicine and science,” said Sen. Pat Spearman, D-North Las Vegas. “As a pastoral counselor, you can bring in all types of dogmatic inferences that you want to, and that’s OK.”

California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, signed the nation’s first state ban on conversion therapy in 2012.

Medical organizations opposed to the practice include the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, American Counseling Association and National Association of Social Workers.

Statements from those organizations over the past 20 years say research has debunked any psychological advantages of conversion therapy and instead showed it causes people to retreat from society, hide their identity or kill themselves.

Blumenthal unveils bill to toughen hate crimes law


The bill, which the Connecticut Democrat planned to introduce Wednesday, March 15, would create incentives for law enforcement to submit complete reports on hate crimes, as well as training on how to report the data.

Blumenthal said FBI data show a 6.8 percent increase in hate crimes nationwide in 2015, but due to “dramatic underreporting” the real figure is likely much higher.

Blumenthal’s proposal would also establish grants to fund state-run hotlines to ensure hate crimes don’t go unreported and would provide victims of hate crimes the right to sue in civil court, even in states without hate crime laws. Also, judges would be allowed to require those convicted under a 2009 federal hate crimes law to undergo a period of supervised release, including community service and education centered on the community targeted by the crime.

“Beyond the law, leaders of our nation have to condemn hate crimes in no uncertain terms, consistently, repeatedly, unequivocally,” Blumenthal said during a news conference at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. “The condemnation by our leaders, beginning with the president of the United States, has to be consistent and repeated. And this kind of condemnation has been lacking.”

Representatives from The Anti-Defamation League in Connecticut, the Council on America-Islamic Relations, the Greater Hartford NAACP and the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective were on hand Monday to support Blumenthal’s legislation.
The grand delusion

This isn’t River City, and Trump isn’t the Music Man

This morning I checked in on a GoFundMe campaign. I like GoFundMe. It’s a way to give an extended community a chance to participate in charitable or entrepreneurial endeavors. It can be effective in helping friends out or funding special events.

One event that organizers have turned to GoFundMe to pay for is the “DeploraBall Picnic,” the brainchild of Peter Boykin. If you don’t recognize that name, just think these three words: “Gays for Trump.”

Yes this deluded man is one of the driving forces behind a movement that is so “alt-right” it’s just “alt-wrong.” According to Boykin’s Facebook page, his group wants to “end political correctness, build unity, strengthen the economy and Make America Great Again!”

Funny way to do that, by backing a party that has played a major role in leading America into two economic disasters, the Great Depression and the Great Recession.

Boykin supports a political party that has historically increased the deficit at the expense of the middle class and poor Americans. But hey Peter, don’t let facts get in your way. After all, your buddy Trump doesn’t.

Mr. Boykin’s latest venture, a 4th of July Picnic, looks destined to make the Trump inauguration “crowd” look like a real crowd, considering at last check his goal of $25,000 is only $24,875 away from success after one month. Guess they will be celebrating by eating “alternative hot dogs” and drinking “alternative beer” (aka “bread and water”).

The whole venture begs the question, “Gays for Trump?” Really?

I mean, seriously, how can we expect any kind of protections for LGBTQ Americans from an administration that has appointed notoriously anti-LGBTQ people to nearly every level of government. Top that off with a hostile vice president whose record on “gays” is dismally poor, and I can only think that Boykin is in need of serious psychotherapy.

Perhaps it is the same malady affecting the unemployed coal miners who saw Trump as the savior of the coal industry when he promised to reopen the mines and bring American industry back to life.

It is more of a matter of faith than reality, and putting faith in a politician’s promise is only slightly smarter than putting faith in a billionaire who has made a fortune selling lies.

The “Gays for Trump” want to believe that the 45th president will be some kind of savior, when in reality he is just a skilled con man preying on the misguided beliefs of delusional people.

Of course, being gay myself, I can find an analogy in a Broadway musical. The Music Man told the story of just such a con man. He comes to River City and discovers a pool table has just been delivered to a local establishment.

Seizing the opportunity, he convinces the town that the evils of “pool” will destroy their town, its morality and civilization in general. The answer? Band instruments!

Just imagine Donald Trump, wearing a sparkling uniform, convincing America that what he is selling is the answer to the “disaster” our country has become: “Oh we’ve got trouble, right here in River City!”

And now we await delivery of the band instruments for an orchestra that doesn’t know how to play. We await the alleged returning jobs, but those that return will be for skilled workers in new fields and the workers waiting on them are not prepared. So even if they do return, the plight of the coal miners will remain bleak.

But they believe! And like the “Gays for Trump,” they think that belief, misguided though it is, will be enough.

Sadly thought, there is no happy ending in this performance. The parade will not happen, and the “Gays for Trump” will be left on the sidelines, watching and cheering as their freedoms and rights are swept away in the wake of the Trump march toward disaster.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhall Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonsDiary.blogspot.com.
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We’re all winners!

But some are more winners than others

Like every award, the Readers Voice Awards are all about picking winners, but when you live in a vibrant area of the country like North Texas, we’re all winners in a way. That said, only Guy Jones, pictured, ended up taking home a prize from us: Dinner for two at 18th & Vine BBQ (which took the title Best Dining Experience), two tickets to see the Alvin Ailey dance company perform later this month at the Winspear and $500 in cash. And he managed all that just by voting online in the RVAs during the month of January — quite a windfall. It shows how much we depend on our readers to make a difference, and we thank Guy, and you, and the winners and our advertisers for keeping a dialogue going about issues that matter to all of us.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Guy Jones-RVA 2017 drawing winner

ABOUT THE VOTING

Every year, we prove that the “Voice” in Dallas Voice isn’t those of us who work here, but those of you who read us. That’s why we created the Readers Voice Awards more than a decade ago: To have you weigh in about what you love about North Texas.

And you responded — boy, how you responded! More than 31,000 votes were cast in 109 categories (broken down into nine divisions). This year, Health ended up attracting the most reader interest (nearly 7,000 votes total), with Best Chiropractor being the most popular individual category. We added or tweaked a few categories for 2017, including Best Wedding Service Provider, Best Burlesque Performer, Best Local LGBT Community Role Model and Best Photographer/Videographer. (And hey! We’re always open to suggestions for next year!) There were a few ties, some returning winners as well as newcomers. All of them made an impact. Give them — and yourself — a cheer.

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Graphic Artist: Chuck Miller
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4144 North Central Expressway, Ste. 750.
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3625 N. Hall St., Ste. 540.
214-521-1278.
Stonewall-Inc.com.

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Advanced Skin Fitness
2928 Oak Lawn Ave.
214-521-5277.
AdvancedSkinFitness.com.

BEST DENTIST
Eugene Tseng, D.D.S.
3300 Douglas Ave., Ste. A.
214-855-0799.

BEST PERSONAL TRAINER
Justin Murphy
3600 McKinney Ave., Ste. 200.
214-559-4772.
Builtco.com.

BEST CHIROPRACTOR
Michael Shippy
4000 W. Park Blvd., Pano.
972-769-9500.
ShippyChiropractic.com.

BEST OPTOMETRIST
William Henderson, Uptown Vision
2504 Cedar Springs Road.
214-953-3937.
UptownVisionDallas.com.

BEST DERMATOLOGIST
Farhad Niroomand, M.D.,
Uptown Derm
4144 N. Central Expressway, Ste. 855.
Open weekdays at 8 p.m.
(10 a.m. Tuesdays, 7:30 a.m. Fridays)
214-303-1102.
UptownDerm.com.

BEST GYM
LA Fitness
2690 N. Haskell Ave.
LAFitness.com.

BEST YOGA STUDIO
V12 Yoga
600 S. Harwood St., 2nd Floor
214-741-9642.
V12Yoga.com.

BEST URGENT CARE FACILITY
Highland Park E.R.
5150 Lemmon Ave.
214-443-8131.
HighlandParkER.net.

BEST PHARMACY
CVS
3133 Lemmon Ave.
(and multiple other locations).

Best Personal Trainer
Justin Murphy
Justin Murphy grew up racing motocross, and being physically fit was an important component for success. So even when he gave up racing, he continued working out, going so far as to earn his degree in kinesiology from UNT. A personal trainer for the last five years (currently with Builtco), Murphy specializes in “transformations:” Getting his clients to whatever their goals are in a realistic timeframe. But that doesn’t end at standing next to them at the gym, shouting encouragement — in fact, most of his work with clients includes preparing workout and diet regimens, detailed from day-to-day, and making sure they stick to it. “The people who stick to the program get the results!” he says, and nothing is more satisfying to him than helping someone stay fit and live longer. And apparently, Dallas Voice voters think the feeling is mutual.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Yoga Studio
V12
In the nearly three years V12 Yoga has been around, it has grown a devoted following of regulars. And why not? With a wall of windows overlooking Downtown, anyone would enjoy doing their sun salutation in the warm comfort of this historic building on the edge of the Farmers Market. Owners Veronica and Ade Hazley create a peaceful and encouraging environment of instruction and practice seven days a week. And the studio is right over a bar, for those who like to follow “Namaste” with a brewsky. Hey, it’s all about your practice.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
BEST PATIO
2 YEARS IN A ROW!

COME SEE WHAT YOU'RE MISSING AT
THE BEST LITTLE TAP HOUSE IN TEXAS.

4123 CEDAR SPRINGS ROAD    DALLAS TX, 75219
Best Public Space
Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

A city cannot truly thrive without a commitment to public space — just try to imagine New York City without Central Park. But in the sprawl of Texas, it can be easy to see only highways and development and not feel the real beauty of the state. But the Dallas Arboretum is probably the most soothing, greenest oasis in all of Dallas. On the border of White Rock Lake, it boasts acres and acres of flowers (including the annual Dallas Blooms Festival, going on through April 9), shrubbery, trees, plants and even horticultural exhibitions year-round. It’s a haven reminding us that just because things are bigger in Texas, doesn’t mean you should overlook its small wonders.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
Best Straight Ally
Mark Cuban

For many, Mark Cuban has always been a love-him-or-hate-him proposition. The most flamboyant Texas billionaire in a state known for its well-heeled flamboyance, it’s his emotional honesty that usually resonates with people, whether it’s an argument with refs during Mavericks games or speaking truth to hopefuls on his hit show Shark Tank. But what probably led many Dallas Voice readers to single him out as their favorite ally has been his unabashed support for LGBT people and progressive causes, from his activism in last year’s election to his support for more openness in professional sports. We always know where we stand with Cuban, and usually, that’s shoulder-to-shoulder.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST LOCAL STRAIGHT ALLY
Mark Cuban
Entrepreneur, owner of the Dallas Mavericks and Shark Tank judge

BEST LOCAL LGBT COMMUNITY ROLE MODEL
Sean Baugh
Artistic director, Turtle Creek Chorale TurtleCreekChorale.com.

BEST LOCAL NONPROFIT
Resource Center
5750 Cedar Springs Road.
Open weekdays, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
214-521-5124.
MyResourceCenter.org.

BEST PARTY FOR A CAUSE
Black Tie Dinner
BlackTie.org.

BEST LOCAL LGBT SPORTS ORGANIZATION
Lost Souls Rugby Football Club
LostSoulsRFC.org.
If gay people think of their pets like children, then perhaps they think of their yards like leafy, colorful children. Both require nurturing, attention, care and expertise to thrive. And where you have your vet to help out with Fifi, the experts at North Haven Gardens can turn your lawn into a showplace. Yes, the flowers are fresh and the shrubbery hearty; true, the selection is extensive and the prices fair. But it’s the service that ups the game from “babysitter” to “nanny.” Hey, there’s a reason they call it a “nursery.”

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Best Garden Supply/Nursery
North Haven Gardens

New salads
New tacos
$1 mimosas
$5 margarititas

Bring in this advertisement for a free lunch or dinner appetizer!
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AND WINE SELECTION
Goody Goody
3316 Oak Lawn Ave. (and additional locations).
Mondays–Saturdays at 10 a.m.
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BEST EYEWEAR/OPTICAL
Fashion Optical
3430 Oak Lawn Ave.
Open Mondays–Fridays at 9 a.m.,
Saturdays at 10 a.m., Sundays at noon.
214-526-6006.
FashionOpticalDallas.com.

BEST GAY APPAREL
Skivvies
4001 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. C.
Open daily at 10 a.m. (noon Sunday).
214-659-4965.
SkivviesMensUnderwear.com.

BEST ADULT NOVELTIES
Alternatives
1720 W. Mockingbird Lane.
214-638-0765.
SexySite.com.

Best Collectibles
Zeus Comics & Collectibles
Comic books — they’re not just for nerds anymore. No, really. With
the success of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (and even DC, occasionally),
superheroes have gone mainstream... as have their trappings. So
the folks at Zeus Comics & Collectibles were the obvious choice for
favorite place to find tchotchkes with a “super” pedigree. Owner Richard
Neal happily provides his customers — from the kids purchasing their
first inexpensive Batwing piggybank to middle-aged men shelling out
a few hundred for limited-edition statuettes — with a wide selection of
memorabilia to be enjoyed and even invested in. Who says you have to
grow up?

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones

From our family to you: Thank you!
For voting for us on the Readers Voice Awards!

SUESAPALOOZA
SUNDAY MAY 7TH
PET AND FAMILY FRIENDLY
THE ROSE ROOM
JR’s Bar & Grill
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THE MINING COMPANY
LIVE MUSIC
BEER GARDEN
GET YOUR SUESAPALOOZA TICKETS EARLY! partyattheblock.com
NIGHTLIFE

BEST GAY CLUB
FRIENDLIEST STAFF
The Round-Up Saloon
3912 Cedar Springs Road.
Open daily 3 p.m.–2 a.m.
214-522-9611.

BEST LESBIAN CLUB
Sue Ellen’s
3014 Throckmorton St.
Open daily 4 p.m.–2 a.m.,
after-hours until 4 a.m.
214-559-0707.
SueEllensDallas.com.

BEST LATINO CLUB
Kaliente
4350 Maple Ave.
Open daily 9 p.m.–2 a.m.
214-520-6676.
Kaliente.cc.

BEST STRAIGHT BAR FOR LGBTs
The Grapevine Bar
3902 Maple Ave.
Open daily 3 p.m.—2 a.m.
(Sundays from 1 p.m.)
214-522-8466.
GrapevineBar.com

BEST CLUB TO GET A LAP DANCE
The Tin Room
2514 Hudnall St.
Open daily 10 a.m.–2 a.m.
214-526-6365.
TinRoomDallas.com.

Best Club DJ
DJ Ellz
Spins at Zippers (Wednesday–Friday) and Marty’s Live (Sunday), 9 p.m.–2 p.m.

Although he’s been spinning less than three years, Elliott Reed — aka DJ Ellz — already has amassed enough of a following that he was the winner in this year’s polling for best club DJ. And we think we know the reasons. One is — and this is a shocker — he doesn’t think the music should be all about himself. “I play what I like, but really what the people like. It’s not about me, it’s about people having a good time even if they’re having a bad day. He steers clear of too much EDM, settling in on R&B, House and even pop. “I love Rihanna a lot, as well as Ariana Grande — vocalists who can really sing. I like making people happy.” Oh, and the last reason he’s a hit with our readers? Well, just look at his photo!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
BEST EXOTIC DANCER
Sunel Molina
Dances at BJ’s NXS!

BEST CLUB DJ
DJ Ellz
Spins at Zippers (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), and Marty’s Live (Sundays), at 9 p.m.

BEST BARTENDER
Jacob Moore
TMC: The Mining Company
3903 Cedar Springs Road.
Open Tuesdays—Sundays, 3 p.m.–2 a.m.
214-521-4205.
TMCDallas.com.

BEST LOCAL DRAG PERFORMER
Cassie Nova
The Rose Room at S4
3911 Cedar Springs Road.

BEST KARAOKE HOST
BEST THEME NIGHT
Wayne Smith, Cher-E-Oke
Cedar Springs Tap House (Thursdays); Alexandre’s (Sundays); and Liquid Zoo (Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays), at 10 p.m.

BEST BEER BUST
Cedar Springs Tap House
4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100.
214-377-7446.
CedarSpringsTapHouse.com.

HOTTEST HOOKUP APP
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Best Gay Club
Friendliest Staff
The Round-Up Saloon

You have to assume there is a connection between what won the Round-Up the title Best Gay Club (for, like, the gazillionth time) and its co-honor as Friendliest Staff. When it comes to what we go to The Strip for, having a good time is No. 1, and a welcoming smile and “Howdy, pardner” goes a long way in making us feel welcome. But it’s more than just that, of course: The spacious club just oozes “Texas” with its two-stepping, boot-scootin’ clientele and men poured into Wranglers. Heck, without the Round-Up, you might as well live in Minnesota.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Photo by Kat Haygood

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2017 DFW Auto Show
5 DAYS ONLY - March 22-26, 2017
AT THE DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER
650,000 square feet of new cars, trucks and SUVs
**Best Photographer**

Stephanie Ray Photography

You’d probably expect most wedding photographers to be supportive of same-sex marriage — after all, it means more business! — but for seasoned wedding and portrait photographer Stephanie Ray, it’s a passion. “Same-sex weddings are a personal favorite of mine, because it reminds me that love comes in many forms and all love is worth celebrating!” says the 15-year veteran. But it’s not only weddings she enjoys. Ray also operated The Photo Van, a mobile photo booth she personally converted about four years ago. It comes with costumes, props and mostly, a sense of fun. So you don’t need to be engaged to enjoy working with Ray — you just need to like getting your picture taken.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Best Nail Salon**

Nailed Nail Bar

You might call working as manicurist a growth industry — after all, we all have fingernails we need to trim regularly … or occasionally, claws we need to sharpen. But there’s more to a good mani (and pedi!) than looking well-groomed and not snagging on your socks. And that’s service. Nailed Nail Bar owner Tyson Nguyen believes in pampering his clientele with luxurious surroundings, nice snacks (champagne anyone?) and a menu of services that make you feel not just that you’re taking care of a task, but actually being treated like the queen you are.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
Best GLBT Destination
San Francisco

Gay travelers all know about The Castro, but California’s “City by the Bay” is known as one of the most scenic and recreational cities of the West Coast year-round. The weather is famously mild — chilly even — but one of the main attractions is Baker Beach. Located at the northwest corner of the San Francisco, this is the one of the most interesting beaches in the U.S., known for its openness to the population, boasting a direct view of the Golden Gate Bridge as well as the full coastline of the city. Part of the beach is clothing optional, there’s a food truck party on weekends as well as great hiking, beach soccer, Frisbee and wine tastings. A city like this is more than just one neighborhood — it’s the vastness of opportunity that makes San Francisco the total package.

— Nicholas Clements-Lindsey
Photo by Nicholas Clements-Lindsey
BEST LOCAL PRODUCTION (MUSICAL)

**Dreamgirls** (Dallas Theater Center)
Performed June 10–July 24, 2016, at the Wyly Theatre.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

BEST LOCAL PRODUCTION (PLAY)

**Angels in America** (Uptown Players)
Performed Nov. 4–20, 2016, the Kalita Humphreys Theater.
UptownPlayers.org.

BEST LOCAL STAGE DIRECTOR

Cheryl Denson
Directing credits in 2016 include Angels in America and *End of the Rainbow* (both Uptown Players).

BEST LOCAL DRAMATIC ACTOR/ACTRESS

B.J. Cleveland

BEST LOCAL MUSICAL ACTOR/ACTRESS

M. Denise Lee
Recent performing credits include *The Empress and the Pearl* (Theatre Three); *Bella: An American Tale* (Dallas Theater Center); also, founder of the Dallas Cabaret Festival.

BEST LOCAL SINGER

Alvaro Ramalho

BEST LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATION

BEST LOCAL BAND, GROUP OR MUSICIAN

Turtle Creek Chorale
3630 Harry Hines Blvd., Ste. 360
214-526-3214.
TurtleCreek.org.

BEST DANCE EVENT OR TRouPE

Bruce Wood Dance Project
BruceWoodDance.org.

BEST THEATRICAL PRESENTER

AT&T Performing Arts Center
ATTPAC.org.

BEST BURLESQUE PERFORMER

(TIE)

Vivienne Vermouth
Lillian Grey

BEST LOCAL SINGER

Alvaro Ramalho

If you’ve ever heard Alvaro Ramalho sing, you’d know how he ended up as our readers’ favorite vocalist. It’s not just his work with the Turtle Creek Chorale, but his other performances — especially the series of appearances that led him to being named the 2016 Voice of Pride, and performing at the post-parade Pride festival in Lee Park last fall. He’s an expressive and powerful singer, someone who really captures what we love about live music.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST LOCAL PRODUCTION (PLAY)

**Angels in America**
BEST LOCAL STAGE DIRECTOR

Cheryl Denson

Here’s a statistic you probably didn’t know: More Americans attend live theatrical performances every year than attend live sporting events. Theater has the ability to transform us, and nowhere was that more apparent last year than in Uptown Players’ production of Tony Kushner’s landmark play *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches*. Directed by Cheryl Denson, it captured the humor, sadness, mystery, anger and frustrating political machinations that led to the AIDS epidemic, but that also empowered a movement. UP is planning to stage *Part Two* later this year, so if you missed the first one, be prepared to see why theater is more important now than ever before.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
**BEST DINING EXPERIENCE**
18th and Vine
4100 Maple Ave.
214-443-8335.
18thAndVineBBQ.com.

**BEST NEW RESTAURANT**
Zephyr Bakery Cafe
4001 Cedar Springs Road.
214-377-6023.
Zephyr.cafe,

**BEST LOCAL CHEF**
Blythe Beck, Pink Magnolia

**BEST BRUNCH**
Bread Winners Café
3301 McKinney Ave.
(and other area locations).
BreadWinnersCafe.com.

**BEST BURGER**
Hunky's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers
3930 Cedar Springs Road and
321 N. Bishop Ave.
Hunkys.com.

**BEST BARBECUE**
Pecan Lodge
2702 Main St.
214-748-8900.
PecanLodge.com.

**BEST STEAK**
Bob's Steak & Chop House
4300 Lemmon Ave. (and additional location).
Bobs-SteakAndChop.com.

**BEST ASIAN/SUSHI**
Oishii
2525 Wycliffe Ave.
DallasOishii.com.

**BEST ITALIAN/PIZZA**
Campisi's
5610 E. Mockingbird Lane.
Campisis.us.

**BEST TEX-MEX (TIE)**
Gloria's Latin Cuisine
3223 Lemmon Ave. (and other locations).
GloriasCuisine.com.
Uncle Julio's
4125 Lemmon Ave. (and other locations).
214-520-6620.
Uncle Julios.com.

**BEST TAQUERIA**
Velvet Taco
3012 N. Henderson Ave.
214-823-8358.
VelvetTaco.com.

**Italian/Pizza**
Campisi’s
The shape is unmistakable: Oblong, with slices cut not into triangles, but more bite-sized rectangles across the longest meridian. It is a pizza like none other... and that’s no doubt why readers voted Campisi’s their favorite pizzeria and spot for Italian cuisine. The storied eatery — its main location has been on Mockingbird Lane, beneath an even older sign identifying it as “The Egyptian,” since the 1940s, but there are satellites, including heat-at-home options in grocery stores — is old-school Italian at its kitschiest: iceberg salads drenched in garlicy oil, dimly-lit dining rooms illuminated by red-glassed candles, veal pounded thinner than Lara Flynn Boyle. We love it all. But it’s that pizza that shouts something unique and special. We love it. Always will.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Best New Restaurant**
Zephyr Bakery Cafe
It’s an exciting time to be in the Oak Lawn gayborhood, especially if you’re a foodie. In recent years, we’ve witnessed an explosion of development and growth that has diversified the area culturally and culinarily. And one of the high points for Dallas Voice readers has been the emergence of Zephyr along The Strip. Authentically Parisian in concept and execution, it’s a cozy boîte, with charming decor, a popular brunch, lush baked goods prepared daily (bacon belongs on cupcakes!), rich coffee and a pet-friendly patio. You can imagine yourself dining along the 18th arrondissement, overlooking the city from Montmartre... well, you will have to imagine that. But close your eyes and let the food take you there. Bon voyage, y’all!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
For voting us Best Latino Club In Dallas!

¡GRACIAS!

4350 Maple Ave
Kaliente Dallas
www.kaliente.cc
Tex-Mex
Uncle Julio’s

Without question, one of the great benefits of living in Dallas is access to tons of great Tex-Mex cuisine. In fact, there’s so much good food out there, we weren’t surprised that Dallas Voice readers voted for a tie in the category, with both Gloria’s and Uncle Julio’s coming out on top. And while Gloria’s offers the bonus of fusion cuisine — you can also enjoy Mexican, Salvadoran and “SalvaTex” delights — Uncle Julio’s is straight-up Tex-Mex with its sizzling fajitas, fancy frozen margaritas (including a few brand new recipes), table-side guacamole and of course combination platters of enchiladas, tamales and tacos. And for a little flamboyance, don’t forget the chocolate piñata for dessert … and who doesn’t enjoy a little flamboyance?

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
Remembrance: Joey

For anyone who has never had a pet — and that includes the current Commander-in-Cheeto — they insinuate themselves into your lives in ways the limbic brain cannot fathom. How can a speechless, furry, four-legged mammal win over our hearts just by being them? It’s no wonder people — gay people especially — often refer to their dogs, cats, snakes, birds and ferrets as “children.” We certainly felt that way about Joey, the languidly adorable Chihuahua who, for more than five years, was the de facto mascot of Dallas Voice.

With his mommy, Voice Distribution Manager Linda Depriter, he delivered newspapers across the Metroplex, winning over everybody who came in touch with him. And “touch” you did — he was meant to be held, cuddled and dressed in outfits pricier than most of his work colleagues.

So when Joey was suddenly attacked and killed more than a month ago, our hearts were broken like glass. He was the embodiment of why we care about our pets — not as property, but as members of the family.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
Remembrance: Joey

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— Arnold Wayne Jones

Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones
Linda Gray and Patrick Duffy will share memories of Dallas — the original series and 2.0.

‘Dallas’ star Linda Gray — Sue Ellen herself — recalls the unlikely hit soap opera, and how the city shapes her life and career

Knots Landing after Dallas became “such a huge hit,” says Gray. But no one was really prepared for what Dallas would eventually mean — not only to the actors, but to the greater culture and certainly the image of the city we all call home.

Gray, along with co-star Patrick Duffy (the other surviving main cast-member to star both in the original series, which ran 1978–91, and the reboot that aired on TNT for three seasons starting in 2012) will share stories like that — and no doubt many others — at A Dallas Retrospective, and evening of memories about the iconic TV series at the Winspear Opera House on March 23.

Gray, a Southern California native first got the call in late 1977 to fly to Texas to shoot the first five episodes of a new show called Knots Landing on a piece of cardboard: Brown and flat. A total culture shock,” she says. Initially, there weren’t the highest expectations for the series … or much of a budget.

“We landed in Dallas in January 1978. I thought, ‘Where are we going?’ It was like landing on a piece of cardboard: Brown and flat. A total culture shock,” she says. Initially, there weren’t the highest expectations for the series … or much of a budget.

“They put us a place called the NorthPark Inn directly across from NorthPark Mall,” she says. “It was just a motel — not a nice hotel. I can see it now while I’m talking to you: shag green carpeting and a most unappealing decor. David Jacobs and I would sit together and have a cup of coffee every morning.”

Neither of them had any idea what Texas was about — Jacobs confessed to her, “I don’t know much about Texas except everyone has two names.”

The work was taxing for all the actors, who would work six days a week while shooting on location in Texas, usually during the sweltering summer months.

“We didn’t run into many people, we didn’t hang out — we were just exhausted mainly,” she recalls. “But Larry [Hagman, who played her onscreen husband J.R. Ewing] and Patrick had their families there. I used to call Mary Martin [Hagman’s real-life mom] my mother-in-law.”

The show debuted in April of that year, and got picked up for Season 2. It developed a following, until by the summer of 1980 when the clarion call “Who shot J.R.?” kept the entire nation on edge. (The culprit wasn’t Sue Ellen, though Gray jokes, “I should have shot him! He was not a very good husband!”)

It’s strange to think that for the first few seasons, Gray was basically indifferent. “Early on, I had nothing to do — Sue Ellen was never meant to be an important character,” she says. “I was in the background.”

Amazing, then, to realize how much the show, and Gray’s own character, eventually had… including the Dallas gay bar named JR.’s and a lesbian club named Sue Ellen’s — clear references to the iconic couple from the juiciest nighttime drama for more than a decade. (“I’ve been to all of those clubs — Sue Ellen’s and J.R.’s and the Round-Up Saloon and loved them. They are so great to me!” Gray says.)

They worked their way up from the NorthPark Inn to some “weird condominiums” and finally the Mansion on Turtle Creek. By the time Dallas returned to TV in 2012, the city was practically a second home for Gray, largely for the people she met.

“The most important thing for me is the friendships I have made over the years — people who I adore and stay in contact with,” she says. “I love Dallas and the people there. Now when I am coming back into town, I have to have dinner and lunch and a breakfast [planned]. So when I go to Dallas, I have to extend a few days because I really want to see my friends.”

But she is also fond of stories about how the show she starred on meant so much to generations of TV watchers.

“It was such a global phenomenon — nobody knew it was going to be that huge,” she says. “To this day, people are still telling me stories about ‘Who shot J.R.?’. They remember sitting with mom and dad and grandma watching the show. There’s nothing better than that.”
Thank you, Dallas!

THANKS FOR VOTING HOLLYWOOD FEED “BEST PET SUPPLY” & “BEST PET GROOMING” IN THE 2017 READERS VOICE AWARDS!

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Despite its enduring popularity in the contemporary canon, Madame Butterfly has never been one of my favorite operas. In fact, I tend to dislike it with a fair degree of brio. Giacomo Puccini composed some lovely music that endures and even inspires (listen carefully, and you can detect passages that hint at Les Miserables, as well as some that crib from his own La Boheme). But too often — and especially here — those passages are weighed down with cumbersome libretti that seem to stretch out interminably. That’s definitely true of Butterfly.

The plot is simple, but also reprehensible. Pinkerton (tenor Gianluca Terranova), an American sailor station in Nagasaki in 1904, agrees to “marry” a local girl, a 15-year-old geisha named Cio-Cio San (soprano Hui He), with full knowledge that while the marriage is technically legal, he can divorce her at any time without consequence by simply abandoning her. His friend, the U.S. consul Sharpless (baritone Lucas Meachem), warns him not to play with an ingénue’s emotions, which, of course, he ignores. And because this is opera, she steadfastly refuses to believe what a scoundrel Pinkerton is even after he dumps her and the infant child she bore in his absence, moves back to America and finds a pretty, white, blonde wife. The Pinkertons take the child back to the U.S. Cio-Cio San kills herself in sacrifice.

This has never seemed like grand, heightened emotions but the story of a dick who gets away with ruining someone’s life without suffering any consequences. And perhaps worst of all, it sets up the “shy lotus blossom subservient to men of the West” cliché that has plagued cultural identity politics for generations.

Usually with opera, it’s easy to compartmentalize the actions onstage from our own lives — the pieces were written centuries ago, or are set in mythic, far-away lands or highly fanciful settings. But Butterfly is so modern, so familiar, its plot always leaves a bitter after-taste, like seeing actors perform minstrel acts wearing blackface. A teenager seduced by a sleazy sailor (who never gets a real comeuppance) and ruined emotionally, financially, fatally? You feel complicit in its outdated attitudes and casual colonialist superiority. And it takes nearly three hours to get there.

Indeed, the pacing of Butterfly has perpetually irked me; there’s more pomposity in reading a simple letter than most of us would commit to writing an entire novel, and long, gooey romantic passages neither advance the plot nor dazzle us with spectacle. The love ballad that ends Act 1 goes on an on long after the lovers have run out of words to sing. The interlude between scenes in Act 2 lasts a full five minutes, and when the curtain finally rises again, the setting hasn’t changed an iota.

You endure all this, of course, for masterful performances from singers who know how to milk Puccini’s lush melodies.
for all they’re worth. But while Hui He’s voice is powerful and pitch-perfect, her phrasings are unexpectedly anti-climactic (notably her showpiece aria, the legendary “Un bel di,” seems abbreviated in the last note). Terranova’s performance is ham-fisted and callow. Only Meachem’s Sharpless carries the necessary dramatic weight and also provides the few moments of levity.

Madame Butterfly is an opera where you are either already a fan or you struggle to become one. I’m the latter. And the struggle is real… and not one that ends victoriously.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Madame Butterfly is one of the world’s most-performed operas; the same can’t be said of Benjamin Britten’s The Turn of the Screw, though the Dallas Opera’s next production sets out to remedy that.

Britten is perhaps the most famous British composer of opera, though still less widely-known than his Italian, French and Russian counterparts. The DO has staged only four productions of his works in its history (Peter Grimes, The Rape of Lucretia, Billy Budd and now this) — that’s about one-third of the number of productions of Butterfly alone. And Turn of the Screw — based on Henry James’ novella, one of the iconic psychological ghost stories in literature — is making its company debut.

A chamber opera (only six actors are required), it tells the story of a young governess (soprano Emma Bell) hired by the absent guardian of two children — nephew Miles (Oliver Nathaniel Sz) and niece Flora (Ashley Emerson) — to live in their remote house and look over her mysterious charges. The governess grows uneasy with the children, hearing stories about their behavior she can’t believe, but unable to ask their uncle for advice. Then she begins seeing a shadowy figure on the grounds … someone whom she’s told is dead. Can she trust what she sees? And what is the power that Bly House has over her psychological well-being?

Britten culls his musical inspiration from both traditional nursery rhymes as well as his own modernist 12-tone themes that inject dissonance and surprise that crawls under your skin. But don’t worry if that’s not your style — next up from the DO will be Bellini’s Norma, one of the great bel canto operas of all time.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Madame Butterfly

Hui He plays the 15-year-old geisha tragically seduced by a narcissistic naval officer in this testament to the awfulness of Westerners and the self-sacrificing dignity of Asians in the culturally confused ‘Madame Butterfly.’ (Photo courtesy Karen Almond/Dallas Opera)

GET SCREWED

Benjamin Britten makes a return to the Dallas Opera after 20 years with the company debut of ‘The Turn of the Screw’

“I’m the latter. And the struggle is real… and not one that ends victoriously.”

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Britten culls his musical inspiration from both traditional nursery rhymes as well as his own modernist 12-tone themes that inject dissonance and surprise that crawls under your skin. But don’t worry if that’s not your style — next up from the DO will be Bellini’s Norma, one of the great bel canto operas of all time.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Performances March 17, 22 and 25 at 7:30 p.m., March 19 matinee at 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org.
Jeep’s Wrangler Unlimited Sahara is built for city to desert

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

Jeep would like you to think Wranglers spend all of their miles crawling over rocks, shimmying up steep trails, and fording deep creeks. Some do, but most while away their days in fashion mall parking garages, commuting to work, lurching through coffee shop drive-thrus and hauling jet skis. No matter how you use your Jeep, the Firecracker Red Sahara edition has your back.

Neither Jeep nor its customers like radical design changes, so the iconic off-roader retains its tall seven-slot “grater” grille, hood with external latches, big round projector headlamps, beefy bumper and two-box shape that never cozied a wind tunnel. But that doesn’t mean it doesn’t recognize today’s design trends, flashing a body color grille and fender extensions, LED floglamps and red hardtop. Remove Jeep’s Wrangler Unlimited Sahara is built for city to desert

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two panels over the front seats for targa-style air freshening. Sahara editions also come with a soft top for summer months. A rear defroster and wiper/washer keep views clear.

Once you grapple yourself up and inside, the views are excellent and amenities are plentiful. Heated leather bucket seats up front face a simple dashboard with round gauges, large knobs for the automatic climate control system and a notched gear selector. The UConnect infotainment system is generations behind with a tiny touchscreen, but features navigation, USB input, voice control and Bluetooth. You can still remove the doors to splash through streams, but they contain one-touch down power windows and power mirrors. Five people and their luggage find space.

Between the old-fashioned fenders is a 3.6-liter V6 engine delivering 285 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. of torque. It routes to the wheels through a 5-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode. That would normally be ridiculous power in a mid-size SUV, but this one rides on a full frame and smashes every molecule of air it passes by. It takes a firm foot on its throttle to get it moving, but once underway, it can tow 3,500 lbs. Fuel economy ratings of 16/20-MPG city/hwy reflect its weight and shape. I’d put a Jerry can on the back just in case.

If you use all of the Wrangler’s capabilities, you’ll go far from a gas station. This is a serious beast, fortified with Command-Trac shift on the fly part-time four-wheel-drive, Dana 44 heavy duty rear axle and Dana 30 solid front axle. Skid plates protect the transfer case and fuel tank. Dirt-clawing off-road tires work with best-in-class approach angle of 42.2 degrees, breakover angle of 25.8 degrees and departure angle of 32.3 degrees to usher the big Jeep through and over almost anything.

A tight turning radius works just as well maneuvering through tight downtown garages as weaving through trees on-trail. Yet anybody pondering a Jeep Wrangler Unlimited needs to keep a few things in mind. No matter what you do to civilize this brute, and stretching the wheelbase does make it ride and handle better, a Jeep is still a very serious off-road machine that kinda bumps over bumps whether potholes, expansion joints or small critters. Steering is numb and the throttle is soft – perfect for finesse on difficult trails, but annoying in everyday traffic. A Jeep Grand Cherokee or Compass may be better choices for those wanting the Jeep vibe with modern dynamics.

Jeeps cross all demographics — all summed up nicely in the Wrangler Unlimited Sahara. It is stylish, maneuverable, comfortable and innately capable no matter where life travels. A base price of $27,895 ($45,045 as-tested) puts it against the Land Rover LR4, Toyota 4Runner and Chevy Tahoe.
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Thursday 03.23
— Saturday 03.25

‘Robot Planet Rising,’ sequel to last year’s ‘Intergalactic Nemesis,’ recasts the graphic novel

Comic book movies are big-budget productions … usually. But what if a (fake) graphic novel about spies and space traveling monsters were presented not as a film, but as a radio show with live sound effects, live actors and slides of the graphic novel? That was one of the most entertaining productions of 2016 with the Austin-based Intergalactic Nemesis. Now the sequel, Robot Planet Rising, returns and it’s a great chance to enjoy the cleverness all over again … or for the first time.

DEETS: Wyly Theatre,
2400 Flora St.
ATTPAC.org.

Friday 03.24
— Sunday 04.09

The new musical comedy ‘It Shoulda Been You’ invites you to a wedding

The bride is Jewish, the bridegroom Catholic and their mothers are … well, mothers-in-law about to unleash their own brand of crazy on the wedding festivities. The 2015 hit musical It Shoulda Been You umakes its local debut courtesy of Uptown Players, with local legends Wendy Welch and Linda Leonard as the powerhouse moms.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
UptownPlayers.org.

Friday 03.17
— Saturday 03.18

Scream like a banshee at a St. Patty’s-themed scarefest

Irish culture is known for three things: Whiskey, St. Patrick’s Day and mystical creatures like leprechauns and banshees. Well, you can combine all those things (the whiskey is on your own, though) with the Dark Hour Haunted House, which this weekend has a special St. Patty’s Day theme.

DEETS: Dark Hour Haunted House,
701 Taylor Drive, Plano. 8–11 p.m.
DarkHourHauntedHouse.com.
**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**


**Passing Strange.** The funky, edgy musical (winner of the Tony for best book) is an autobiographical account of performance artist Stew, and his journey of sexual, political and musical awakenings. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. inside the Quadrangle. Through March 26. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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Queermedian Suzanne Westenhoefer performs Sunday in Fort Worth, in a show presented by Q Cinema.

**this week’s solution**

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**DANCE**

**Dances at a Gathering.** A festival of dance performances from Bruce Wood Dance Project, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and more, for one weekend only. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. March 17–19. EisemannCenter.com.

**THEATRE**


**CIRCUSS**


**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.

**FILM**

**To Catch a Thief.** This quarter’s “Viewers’ Choice” film is a luxurious classic from Alfred Hitchcock, with Cary Grant and Grace Kelly. 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.

**FINE ART**


**PRESENTATION**

**Linda Gray and Patrick Ewing: A Dallas Retrospective.** The stars of both the original and reboot series set in Big D share their memories. See our interview with Linda Gray, Page 60. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

**Robot Planet Rising: An Intergalactic Nemesis Live Action Graphic Novel.** A follow-up to last year’s entertaining multi-media presentation of live actors, projections and sound effects. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. March 23–25. 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday matinee. ATTPAC.org.

**CONCERTS**

**Turtle Creek Chorale: Topsy Turvy.** Think you know that song? Well, maybe not. That’s what the chorale will prove to you with their new concert. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. March 23–25. 7:30 p.m. $25–$85. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

**THEATRE**

**It Shoulda Been You.** A wedding is the backdrop for farce in this recent musical from Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. March 24–April 9. UptownPlayers.org.

**COMEDY**

**Suzanne Westenhoefer.** The queermedian performs, presented by Q Cinema. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. $25–$50. Qcinema.org.
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Cassie Nova

Hi-diddly-ho, neighborinos!

Adulting sometimes can really suck.

Remember the good old days when you could watch cartoons and think of nothing but the stupid coyote trying to catch that damn roadrunner? I still watch cartoons but think of other stuff I should be doing, or else my mind wanders to worst-case scenarios. I will watch The Simpsons and when Homer’s starts a near nuclear meltdown at the plant, I wonder, “How close are we to a nuclear war?” With the current nuclear meltdown at the plant, I wonder, “How and when Homer’s starts a near roadrunner? I still watch cartoons but think of other stuff I should be doing, or else my mind wanders to worst-case scenarios. I will watch the current nuclear meltdown at the plant, I wonder, “How close are we to a nuclear war?” Even with the current nuclear meltdown at the plant, I wonder, “How close are we to a nuclear war?”

I was a teenager. Remember that TV movie The Day After, about the horrible fallout after a nuclear war on a small Kansas town? That show scared the shit out of me. I was way too young to watch that bullshit. It messed with my head. I think that movie made me into the worrier I am today. It was a while before I could lose myself in cartoons again. Still, how messed up do you have to be that your thought process goes from Looney Tunes to The Simpsons to nuclear war to Trump. And I can’t turn it off. Maybe that’s why we all love puppy and cat videos on the internet. It’s like they are Windex to a foggy brain. Sometimes it’s just what you need to unload the heaviness on your mind.

So I say, take more time to watch baby animal videos! Don’t spend all day doing it or your adulting will turn into surviving because you are a lazy piece of shit that won’t get off the freaking computer and go to work so you can pay your bills. See, my mind just went from puppies and kittens to being homeless. What the hell is wrong with me? Since there is no hope for me, let’s see if I can help others.

Dear Cassie, I just started working at a new job. My new coworkers were mentioning wanting to go watch the drag show in the Rose Room. Would love to bring them to one of my favorite places in Dallas, but these are brand new people I don’t know well. What do you think? I started two weeks ago. Would it be too soon to bring coworkers I don’t into my comfort zone? Yours truly, cashmeeousidehowboudat.

Dear Stupid Name, I think the best thing you could do is show them who you are. If that means letting them into your comfort zone then do it, just be prepared for if it change things. Maybe they will find that they love it as much as you do and want to come out with you all the time. Which could ruin everything you love because they are horrible people that won’t shut up or leave and it will all be your fault. Do you like them enough to spend a lot of time with them? Are you OK with them seeing what a sloppy drunken whore where you can be? I think they should be flattered that you are even thinking of bringing them to your safe place. But proceed with caution — sometimes it is best to keep work separate from play. Once a drunken coworker that cannot hold their liquor pukes on you and you have to babysit the lightweight, things can never go back to how they were before. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, Where does someone who is 40, used to party too much but doesn’t drink at all anymore, doesn’t mind going out but is not dying to go out alone, meet somebody? I mean, these people on My 600 lb Life have someone to wipe their hole, so why can’t I find a decent guy that wants more than sex? It seems some people can find sex anytime, anywhere, but it’s so different when you’re in your late 30s—40s to meet nice people now. The bar scene has changed a lot and don’t want to be Debbie Downer, but I’m kinda discouraged with the Dallas dating scene or where to even meet nice, quality people for more than a quick hookup. Help me. By the way, you’re blessed you have an awesome guy. Don’t take it for granted! Signed, GM4nice guy.

Dear Cassie, Where can the 30s—40s crowd go out, have a fun time and meet anyone remotely decent? The Strip is bleak. Thanks, Donny D.

Dear Cassie, I’m a good-hearted, attractive, stable guy wanting to meet a decent man but I will not settle. I am finding it very difficult to meet guys that are interested and serious about dating so how do I navigate between not settling and being too picky? Thanks, R.D.

Well GM4nice guy, Donny D and R.D. It seems there are a lot of you out there going through very similar situations. I wish I had the answers for all of you. I wish I knew of a club that attracted likeminded guys looking for more than just a quickie. I say try doing something that maybe pushes you out of your comfort zone.

If you like sports even a little, join a gay sports league or find out when they have games and be an athletic supporter. There’s volleyball, softball, basketball, even go to a line-dance class. The point is, you have to put yourself out there. There is life away from the bars but you have to find it. If you are religious, try going to church. I hear there are “decent” guys there. I don’t know, I have never been... it burns.

Go to the gym, a coffee shop, a dog park (preferably with a dog) and meet people. Take chances. Give guys your number. Create a routine so that if a guy sees you someplace more than a few times, he’s more likely to say hi and start a conversation. Your chances of meeting another gay guy increase around the gayborhood, but the gays are everywhere. A decent man could just be a smile away. Corney but true. Good luck guys. Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I know it’s not your specific field, but I don’t see enough information about bisexuals even though we make up over 50 percent of the LGBTQIA community. I’m curious as to why that is and why homosexuals and heterosexuals still want to say, “make a choice,” and other such offensive directions even though it’s 2017. Bisex in the City.

Dear Bisex, You’re right that bisexuality is not something I know much about. I think many of us don’t fully understand it and that’s why people say you should make a choice. Unfortunately, labels make things easier for some to handle. To be honest, if I were single, dating a bisexual man would scare the hell out of me. I’m not talking about once you are in an established relationship, but when it’s new, how do you compete with the opposite sex? I don’t have what she has. It is mentally a little overwhelming thinking about how hard relationships can be and feeling like you have to watch out for a whole other gender. I know these thoughts are based on fear and jealousy and it’s not right but that doesn’t mean they are not there. It would seem like a bisexual person would have to work double-duty to build trust. I’ve actually never thought about it till now but being bisexual has to be harder than being straight or gay. Stay strong and carry on!

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

If you have a question or comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com
LIFE+STYLE

scene

RVA WINNERS

Making the SCENE the week of March 17–23:

- 1851 Club: All Star Drag Show at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- Alexandre’s: Chris Chism and the Band on Friday. Walter Lee on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Broadway on a Tuesday on Tuesday. Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday.
- BJ’s NXS!: Sybil Ann Storm hosts All Male Review at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- Club Changes: The Divine Miss Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- Club Reflection: Party on the Patio at 9 p.m. on Saturday. Cowtown Third Sunday Cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: Bear Lockdown from Friday afternoon through Sunday night.
- Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter club night on Saturday.
- JR.’s Bar & Grill: Dream Girls with Chanel, Daphne, Sassy, Sasha and Your Highness on Thursday.
- Marty’s Live: Rudeboy Dallas male and female dancers from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Fridays.
- Rainbow Lounge: The Illusions of Rainbow presents Sweet Savage as Cher at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Ber Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday. Lost Souls Bachelor Auction at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- Sue Ellen’s: Jennie Dale Lord on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3:30 p.m., and Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: St. Patrick’s Day with Cassie, Asia, Krystal, Savanna Stevens, Kelexis, Jenna and Plastique on Friday.
- Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: The Sh*t Show with Frida Monet, Eva Royale, Bleach and Kylee Fatale at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.
- Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Saint Patrick’s Day Party on Friday.

Scene Photographers: Kay Haygood and Chad Mantooth

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Sean Baugh (left): Best Local Role Model; Turtle Creek Chorale: Best Organization, Best Local Arts Group

Kroger Cedar Springs: Best Grocery Store

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*Thank You, —Ron Cogburn*

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*Thank You, —Ron Cogburn*
Across
1 The bottom line
6 Stat for Richard Simmons
10 ___ jockey strap (support for a radio host?)
14 Became erect
15 Stein fillers
16 Jerusalem server
17 Downton Abbey veteran who plays 57-Across
19 Note to Jared Polis’ staff
20 “Shall Caesar send ___?” (Julius Caesar)
21 Gorillas in the Mist author Fossey
22 Gay character played by Josh Gad
23 Arizona resort
25 Annoy during a blow job?
26 Light, woody material
29 Wok concoction
31 Aladdin’s monkey
32 Third Reich chronicler William
34 Cable sports award
38 With 40- and 57-Across, Disney remake that features a gay character
40 See 38-Across
42 Coldcock
43 Mel pretended to be gay for her in What Women Want
47 Emergency road service gp.
50 What Donald Duck lacks down below
52 Son of Uranus
53 All choked up
54 Slowly, to Sondheim
55 Samples some buns, e.g.
57 See 38-Across
58 Birth of a notion?
59 Circumcise clumsily, e.g.
63 Come quickly
64 Harry Potter veteran who plays 38-Across
66 Early indicator of orientation
67 The Seattle Storm, for one
68 Like Baldwin in Paris
69 Daughters of Bilitis co-founder Phyllis
70 Snakes in hieroglyphics
71 The Seattle Storm, for one

Down
1 Cry of pride
2 Like phone sex
3 Tara porterray Collette
4 Evaluate asses?
5 Rent or allow
6 Dish from Pasolini’s land
7 White House closet woman
8 Ann Bannon or Edgar Box
9 Sound of the draft fizzling out?
10 Forced to one’s knees, perhaps
11 “___ My Heart in San Francisco”
12 “Some more” to Marga-
13 What electing gay candidates can bring
18 Teaching deg.
22 Island necklace
24 ___ of Eden
26 Streisand, familiarly
27 Aid’s partner
28 Hawaiian wedding wing-ding, perhaps
30 Hunks of history
33 Metropolitan Community Church song
35 South Park owner of a gay dog
36 Terrific, in slang
37 Yelled yeses
39 Prepare a bra for removal
41 Mane location
44 Where Roxane Gay works?
45 One of the motorist’s aids
46 Cuff-to-crotch lines
49 Fla. clock setting
51 Hubby of Demi
52 ___ American Idol judge Paula
53 All choked up
54 Slowly, to Sondheim
56 Viewed, to Tweety
60 Continent of Cho’s parents
61 Hole opening?
62 Spanking spot
64 LAX pilot’s guess
65 Singer DiFranco

Solution on Page 68

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