Hollywood Feed is a natural and holistic pet specialty retail store. We aim to provide superior customer service and work to improve the lives of pets everywhere. Hollywood Feed was established in 1950 as the local feed store on Hollywood Street in Midtown Memphis. We counted the Memphis Zoo, the animal shelter, and the Memphis police force as our original house accounts. Over the next three decades, Hollywood Feed was the place to get pet food, good advice, and friendly service. After being customers for many years, the current owners acquired Hollywood Feed with the intention of building on the legacy of helping pets and people in the community.

Today, Hollywood Feed continues to help pets and people by offering our four-legged friends high-quality foods, USA made treats, toys, beds, and more. Our Feed Team sales associates receive over 40 hours of training from veterinarians, nutritionists, vendors, and behaviorists every year. We believe the best customer service involves helping pet owners make informed decisions about pet products.

Hollywood Feed also remains committed to the community. Our "Made In" products are sourced 100% from the United States and produced by American hands in the communities we serve. We donate over 100,000 pounds of dog food and other supplies every year. Each of our retail locations hosts regular adoption events with local shelters and rescues.

At Hollywood Feed, we have always believed in doing what is right for our customers. We take pride in the services we offer, the products we sell, and the pets and people we help every day. That's why we stand by our Hollywood Feed Promise if a customer is ever unhappy with a purchase for any reason. "If your pet doesn't love it, or you don't love it, we'll gladly replace or refund it."

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West retiring; Celebration Community Church begins search for new pastor

The Rev. Carol West, senior pastor at Celebration Community Church since August 1998, has announced that she will be retiring by the end of this year, and the church's Pulpit Search Committee announced Sunday, July 8, that the search for a new pastor has begun.

"Our beloved Rev. West has announced her retirement for later this year, and the Pastoral Search Committee has begun soliciting applications for the Senior Pastor position at CCC," the committee announced on Facebook. "It is with mixed emotion that we announce the Pastoral Search process has begun."

To meet the church's minimum requirements for senior pastor, an applicant must be an ordained minister, have experience pastoring church of similar size or larger, and be an advocate for the LGBT community.

Celebration Community Church was founded Jan. 10, 1993, as a satellite congregation of Dallas' White Rock Community Church but soon became an independent church. When West became senior pastor, the church had 35 members.

In the 20 years since, under her leadership, Celebration purchased its own building (an historic church building at 908 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fort Worth), started a satellite congregation on Cedar Creek Lake that has since become an independent church (Celebration on the Lake), expanded to include Barron House Counseling Center on adjacent property (purchased and donated to the church by members, then renovated with grant funds from Black Tie Dinner), and most recently, the church built the Rev. Carol A. West Community Center, a state-of-the-art building with room for dinners, events and more.

The church today has a membership of more than 500 people.

West, who taught English before entering the ministry and being ordained in 1990, joined the staff of what was then the Dallas Metropolitan Community Church (now Cathedral of Hope) as the AIDS chaplain at the height of the AIDS epidemic in North Texas. She has been involved in the North Texas LGBT community in many ways, and in 2009 was one of the leaders in the community's response and growing activism following the raid on the Rainbow Lounge, and in 2010 she received Black Tie Dinner's Kuchling Humanitarian Award.

West was diagnosed last September with an aggressive form of breast cancer, and began chemotherapy in October. But in June she announced via Facebook that her "scans were good" and that she would no longer have to undergo chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

West loves going fishing, and she loves going to the Dallas Wings basketball games. In September 2016, she married her partner of 30 years, Angela King.

— Tammye Nash

Congresswoman announces youth diversity summit

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is holding her annual youth summit and diversity dialogue on Aug. 6 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at SMU. The event is open to students from 13 and 17.

The day includes speeches from prominent community leaders, activities that highlight diversity and discussion between students on the meaning of diversity.

Dynamics of Diversity is the theme with the goal of the summit to increase cultural awareness and mutual understanding between the students who attend and their fellow students, community and beyond.

Applications are available at ebjohnson.house.gov/youth-summit-diversity-dialogue and must be returned by July 30 to Rep. Johnson's district office at 1825 Market Center Blvd., Suite 440, Dallas, TX 75207 or emailed to Dominque.Brown@mail.house.gov.

— David Taffet

Maine governor vetoes conversion therapy ban

On July 6, Maine Gov. Paul LePage became the first governor to veto legislation banning conversion therapy in his state.


Conversion therapy aims to change someone's sexual orientation, but all studies show it not only doesn’t work but causes other severe psychological problems. The American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association and American Medical Association all condemn the practice.

LePage called the bill “bad public policy” that regulated how professionals should practice. Gaining the votes to override the veto will be difficult.

— David Taffet
Are you PrEPed for summer?

Spring is here so you are probably thinking of getting on that diet and hitting the gym harder to get your Summer body in shape. In order to get fully in shape you may want to get on PrEP as well. The HELP Center is the only PrEP clinic in North Texas that provides access to PrEP free of charge.

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Mark Robinson Sims, 59, passed away on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, after a long history of medical challenges. Mark was born Sept. 12, 1958, in Arlington, Texas, to George Henry Sims Jr. and Frances “Frankie” (Cootes) Sims. He was preceded in death by his father on Dec. 29, 1974, and by his beloved mother on Aug. 27, 2014. Both are buried at Moore Memorial Gardens in Arlington.

Mark graduated from the University of Texas in Arlington with a degree in marketing. He worked in various positions in the Dallas area over the years, most recently running his own business. He was a long term resident of Dallas, having made his home for several years in the East Dallas area.

Mark is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Randy T. and Anita Sims, and their daughter, Allie, all of Southlake, Texas. He is also survived by numerous members of his chosen family, a vast and diverse group of people that includes friends, neighbors and people that he touched along his journey on this Earth.

Mark had a beautiful smile that caught people’s interest and a spirit that captured the hearts of those who took time to get to know him. He lived his life with grace, and he had a great impact on all those people who crossed his path. He will be greatly missed.

Mark requested that no service be held.

Todd Allen passed away peacefully July 7, 2018, at the T. Boone Pickens Hospice Center in Dallas after a courageous battle with heart failure. Allen was born Sept. 26, 1963 in Hutchinson, Kan., and spent his childhood there before moving to Amarillo, where he would become a track star and graduate from Amarillo High School. After finishing Ogle Hair School, Todd set out to make his mark on the world. He was the first-ever American Apprentice at Toni & Guy and, after his apprenticeship, worked in the best salons in Dallas before opening his own shop, The Todd Allen Salon. Over the next 35 years, he worked with some of the biggest names in style and fashion, coast-to-coast, inspiring many others to get into the business.

Todd spent several years in New York and Miami, working with world-renowned celebrity stylist Orbie. After years, Todd brought his passion, experience and entrepreneurial spirit back to Dallas to create Orange Salon. His innate passion for making everything around him more beautiful led to Preservation Dallas presenting him with the 2006 Preservation Achievement Award for the renovation of his mid-century home in Forest Hills.

Todd volunteered countless hours helping to raise funds for HIV/AIDS related causes, helping start DIFFA Dallas in 1984. Throughout his life, Todd strived to mentor others and to make every client — celebrity or not — look and feel like a star.

Todd is survived by his parents, Emmett and Judy Goinks Allen; sisters, Amy Foster and her husband, Mike, and Jennifer Allen; nephews, Brett Foster his wife, Amy, and their sons Paxton and Brady, and Andrew Foster; and his nieces, Mollie Foster; his beloved English bulldog, Minnie Pearl; and many devoted clients and friends.

A celebration of his life will be held Monday, July 16, at 11 a.m. at The Grapevine Bar, 3902 Maple Ave. in Dallas.

“It’s not what you wear…it’s who does your hair.” — Todd Allen
• July 13-14: Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit
The 10th annual Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit will be held at the University of Houston Student Center, 4800 Calhoun Road, Houston. Register at TxTNS.org/summit.

• July 14: Lambda Legal women’s brunch
The women of Lambda Legal’s Dallas Leadership Committee will hold a fundraising wine and brunch with entertainment by Anton Shaw at 11 a.m. at Times Ten Cellars, 6324 Prospect Ave.

• July 14: DIVA Freestyle Sand Tourney
DIVA Social and Foro Sports Club presents a sand volleyball tournament for past, current and future DIVA members at 5 p.m. at Foro Sports Club, 14725 Preston Road. social@divadallas.org.

• July 16: Dallas Masterpiece Town Hall
How does the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision affect the fight for equality presented by Texas Freedom Network, Equality Texas, Americans United, Resource Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• July 17: Waco Masterpiece Town Hall
How does the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision affect the fight for equality from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lakeshore Baptist Church 5801 Bishop Drive, Waco.

• July 17: Classic Chassis Car Club
See, share and enjoy classic cars the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at JR’s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

• July 17: Priscilla, Queen of the Desert
CineWilde presents the classic gay film at 9 p.m. at the Texas Theatre, 231 Jefferson Blvd. Tickets at boxoffice.printtixusa.com.

• July 20: Tarrant County Democratic Party
The Tarrant County Democratic Party honors Lupe Valdez from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at R.J. Gator’s Texas, 4413 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth. Tickets at secure.actblue.com.

• July 21: Orange You Glad It’s Gaybingo
Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. $20-30. LifeWalk.org.

• July 22: Miss LifeWalk
The 2018 Miss LifeWalk Pageant takes place from 6-9 p.m. in The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. $20-30. LifeWalk.org.

• July 24: Resource Center tour
CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Resource Center from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to kfields@myresourcecenter.org.

• July 25: Watercolor Pawtraits
Maya X Kiwi is a watercolor artist with a specialty in animals. Participants will be painting their own pets and the class is aimed at beginners. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Gather Kitchen, 1601 Elm St. Suite 140. $60 at prekindle.com/event/89258-watercolor-pawtraits-dallas

• July 26: GALA Volunteer engagement
Learn about GALA and how to become more involved from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Blue Mesa Grill, 8200 Dallas Parkway, Plano.

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When a pet grieves

Rotten knew his owner was gone and went through a period of mourning.

DAVID TAFFET  | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When a pet grieves

We grieve for our pets when they die. They’re our family, so of course we go through that period of mourning for them. But this isn’t about people grieving for their pets. This is the story of a pet grieving for his owner.

Rotten, an orange tabby, was about eight years old when my husband, Brian, died last year. He saw Brian pass out. He watched from a distance as I attempted CPR while waiting for 911 to answer my call. He kept an eye on paramedics trying to revive Brian and saw them carry him out of the room last week and raised $1,000 for Tucker’s Gift, a non-profit organization that helps people with HIV/AIDS care for their pets. Cody Dustin said that was quite a boost in revenue for them.

Dustin said he and his husband started the organization over drinks in 2015 when they realized no one offered help to people with HIV/AIDS in caring for their pets.

Tucker’s Gift provides veterinary care and even pet food for people with HIV/AIDS who can’t afford it. Applications must come from caseworkers at one of the agencies providing other services for that client. Those participating include Resource Center, Prism Health, AHF and AIN, among others.

“Once we get the client’s application, we give the client the info for the vet,” Dustin said. The client makes the appointment, and the vet calls Tucker’s Gift for payment.

Currently, only dogs and cats are included.

Veterinary care for pets of people with HIV/AIDS

Kenny From Last Comic Standing appeared in the Rose Room last week and raised $1,000 for Tucker’s Gift, a non-profit organization that helps people with HIV/AIDS care for their pets. Cody Dustin said that was quite a boost in revenue for them.

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Finding Bonnie

Pamela Curry celebrated an important anniversary this past week: It was the third anniversary of the day she found Bonnie.

It was July 10, 2015, as Curry downloaded the PDF version of that week’s Dallas Voice, as usual. As she flipped through the pages, she came across the Pet of the Week feature.

Every week, Dallas Voice highlights a specific pet up for adoption at the SPCA of Texas. The pet of the week on July 10, 2015, was a lovely orange tabby cat named Bonnie.

Curry was still mourning the death of her beloved Gizmo, who she had adopted when he was a wee kitten and had trained as her service animal. She had purchased some special canned food for Gizmo as a treat for his third birthday; unfortunately, that food had been recalled, and Curry found out too late.

But, she said, that day when she was flipping through the PDF, “I saw Bonnie in the Dallas Voice and something inside said, ‘Get her! So I called.’”

Although the Pet of the Week feature said that Bonnie was at the SPCA of Texas’ main shelter on Lone Star Drive, near I-30 and Hampton, when Curry called to ask about her, she learned Bonnie had been moved to an adoption site much closer to Curry’s home.

“So I set off to the Pet Smart on Coit Road she had been shuffled to and proceeded to adopt her,” Curry said.

And now, three years later, Curry and Bonnie are still best of friends.

“She’s not as social as Gizmo, but I’d gotten him as a weeks-old kitten, which made training him as a service animal easier,” Curry said. “Bonnie was already a year old when I adopted her, and that made training much more difficult. She’ll never pass the [service animal] test.

“Even after three years, she is skittish about going outside other than on my balcony. And she isn’t as patient about taking photos as Gizmo was, either,” Curry said. “Still, she is a great and loving companion. Last night, to celebrate our third anniversary, I gave her some of my salmon.”

Curry said that losing Gizmo had left her in “a lot of emotional pain.” But “Bonnie helped me through it. Now we have our own relationship. It’s not the same; it’s ours!”

Most of the animals up for adoption at SPCA of Texas are dogs and cats, but SPCA does offer other animals — horses, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, for example — for adoption. You can see all the pets available for adoption at SPCAFindAPet.com.
frustrated.
And he never cared for the way I prepared his dinner, even though it came out of the same can Brian served him from. He preferred waiting for Brian to feed him and would turn up his nose at whatever I put in the bowl.

A few weeks before Brian died, Rotten was lying across the bed from me while Brian was in the kitchen. I called to Brian and said, “Come here. He’s purring.” Brian came in and shrugged.

“I never heard him purr before, have you?” I asked. Brian walked back into the kitchen to finish whatever he was doing. Apparently, he had heard Rotten purr lots of times.

Over the first week after Brian’s death, I tried to get Rotten to come to me. I tried calling, I tried food. Nothing worked.

At night, Rotten would sneak out from under the bed to use his litter box and to nibble just a little. And he’d creep around the house, searching.

As he walked around the house, he’d cry. Not just a little whining cry — a loud, sobbing, couldn’t-catch-his-breath wail. Nothing would comfort him.

That went on for a month. He lost weight. And he didn’t want to be consoled — not by me, at least.

If I slept on Brian’s side of the bed, Rotten would jump up excited. When he saw it wasn’t Brian, he’d jump off and begin to cry again.

After a month, his crying began to subside. I tried to stay on my side of the bed, and he began sleeping on Brian’s. His appetite began to return. But he rarely came to me.

Several months later, I was lying in bed watching TV, and Rotten was on the floor glaring at me. I was thinking about Brian and thought about how he would call Rotten. Rotten was thinking I shouldn’t be on Brian’s side of the bed.

“Up, Up, UP,” Brian would say, patting the bed seven times as he said it with his voice rising on the third UP. There was a rhythm to it. Those pats went: ONE, two, three, ONE, two, three, ONE.

Rotten jumped up onto the bed and did something he’d never done before — he curled up in my arms and purred. Over the next few days, I tried calling him again the way Brian used to do.

“Up, Up, UP,” I’d say while patting the bed seven times — not six times, not eight — and he’d come.

I realized I had finally figured out what the cat thought his name was. I guess he never cared for the name Rotten.

Six months after Brian’s death, Rotten’s period of mourning was finally ending. He was bonding with me. He seemed to understand I was missing Brian as much as he was.

Most nights, he curls up with me now, but he’ll only sleep on my left side — Brian’s side. I’ve tried curling him up on my right, but he just can’t figure out how that could possibly work, and he storms off annoyed.

I know better than to try that anymore. And he responds to his name — Up, Up, UP — even without the seven pats now. ■

pet of the week / MISS GINGER

Meet Miss Ginger, a 3-year-old, black-and-white pit bull mix weighing 65 pounds. She’s an outgoing, friendly girl who loves making new friends, going for walks and learning tricks for treats. She walks well on her leash and knows how to sit on command. She gets along with children, rides well in the car and loves attention from people. She is particular about her dog friends, so she may do best as an only dog. If you’re looking for an affectionate pup to cuddle with, she’s the one for you! Miss Ginger has been spayed, microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today. #164778

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07.13.18  dallasvoice  9
Dallas attorney wins decision on Title VII question

Judge says federal law does cover anti-LGBT discrimination

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

A case now making its way through the U.S. District Court’s in the Northern District of Texas could provide a precedent-setting ruling in the U.S. 5th Circuit regarding whether Title VII of the civil rights act prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Dallas attorney Rob Wiley said this week that Judge Karen Gren Scholer’s decision not to dismiss his client’s suit against Xerox claiming discrimination under Title VII marks the first time in the Northern District of Texas that a federal judge has ruled that anti-LGBT discrimination violates Title VII.

“Just to allow someone to proceed with [such a case] is a huge deal,” Wiley said. “Now that [Scott Berghorn] has done it, the next person can do it.”

Scott Berghorn filed a federal employment discrimination lawsuit against Xerox, his former employer, Xerox Corp., claiming in a second amended petition that he was fired because he is gay and “fails to conform with traditional gender stereotypes.” Lawyers for Xerox had moved to have the petition dismissed, but Judge Scholer, in an order denying that motion, noted that “Actionable sex discrimination under Title VII includes those who do not conform to sex or gender stereotypes.”

While Berghorn still has to prove his case, Scholer said, “Berghorn pleads sufficient facts to state a plausible claim that Xerox terminated his employment allegedly due to his failure to conform to gender stereotypes.”

Wiley said that Berghorn had worked at Xerox for 14 years and had risen to senior management, overseeing a team of auditors. During his employment there, he had won numerous awards and promotions, had earned outstanding reviews and had never been “disciplined in any way.”

Berghorn, with others in management, had been given a company credit card to pay for work-related expenses. Wiley said that common practice allowed employees to use those credit cards for personal expenses, as long as they clearly marked them as personal expenses and paid the charges themselves. He said that expense forms even included a box to check for personal expenses.

“One employee even used a company credit card to make his truck payments,” Wiley said. “People did it all the time, and no one was ever fired for it. Scott always marked his personal expenses on the receipts and paid for them himself. Always.”

However, Wiley continued, when a new supervisor took over, he initiated an investigation into Berghorn’s expenses and subsequently fired him. But, the attorney noted, that supervisor only initiated the investigation after learning that Berghorn is gay.

“We know [the investigation into expenses] was only a pretext for something else. We know it was because [Berghorn] didn’t conform to their gender stereotypes,” Wiley said.

Kenneth Upton, Senior Counsel for Lambda Legal’s South Central Region based in Dallas, said that Scholer is, technically, not the first judge in the 5th Circuit to rule that Title VII prohibits anti-LGBT discrimination. Judge Lee Rosenthal in the Southern District of Texas, in Houston, had ruled that Title VII does allow such claims, although that case — involving a woman who said she wasn’t hired by Phillips 66 because she is transgender — was dismissed “on the facts,” Upton said.

That was “not a strong case, based on the facts,” Upton said, whereas “it sounds like [Berghorn’s case] is stronger.”

Having gotten past “the coverage issue” — the question of whether Title VII covers anti-LGBT discrimination — Berghorn’s case “could be the vehicle for the 5th Circuit” to address the issue, Upton said.

“Technically, the coverage issue is teed up for the 5th Circuit judges via a different case, but that case is likely to be resolved on the facts, without the court even considering the question of coverage.”

“The coverage issue” is confined to the 5th Circuit. In fact, varying rulings out of our circuits have set up an eventual showdown at the Supreme Court.

While the majority of appellate courts have said anti-LGBT discrimination is not prohibited under Title VII, there have been favorable rulings in the 7th and 2nd circuits, Wiley said.

Upton noted that the Supreme Court had refused to review a Lambda Legal case based on Title VII — Evans v. Georgia Regional Hospital — in which the lower court had ruled Jameka Evans, who said the hospital fired her because she was a lesbian who did not conform to gender norms, did not have a case under Title VII.

But, Upton added, “Evans wasn’t final then, and the Supreme Court usually doesn’t hear arguments on cases that aren’t final.”

The case was sent back to trial court for a hearing on the merits, and now that it has been settled, with the ruling in favor of the hospital, Lambda can appeal again.

But the showdown at the Supreme Court is already set, with a case out of New York — Zarda v. Altitude Express — in which the 2nd Circuit Court ruled that Title VII does cover anti-LGBT discrimination, and a case out of Florida — Bostick v. CBOSCS Inc. — in which the 11th Circuit said it does not, both having been appealed to SCOTUS.

“These are two cases that have been finalized that went in opposite directions,” Upton said. “Both have been appealed. But [SCOTUS] still might not take either one. They [the cases] could just sit up there a long time, waiting for hearings.”

As for Berghorn’s case, Upton said, it has promise. “He [Wiley] is a good lawyer, and he’s on the right side of this issue. So I think he has a real chance at making some good law with this case.”

Wiley said neither he nor his client expect any resolution soon. Wiley said that now that Scholer has ruled on the coverage issue, the case is set for mediation in August, and “there’s always the possibility it would be settled in mediation, which would be a win for us.”

If mediation fails, he said, the case will go to trial.

“Change comes in the courts at a glacial pace,” Wiley said. “No judge is going to be out there waving the gay/bi flag in issuing rulings, especially not in this District or in the 5th Circuit.”

“But this is a decision from a federal judge, and when other federal judges are considering this issue, they will have to look at this ruling as precedent,” he continued. “This is a very small step forward, yes. But it is a step forward.”

Rob Wiley
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3 Republican judges sided with a property owner that didn’t repair a broken window, resulting in a break-in and rapes.

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

After a jury found their apartment complex negligent for not properly repairing the lock on a window, Tracy Childers and Mary Trout were awarded actual and punitive damages. On July 3, the Fifth Court of Appeals in Dallas overturned the award.

“These judges got it wrong and got it wrong intentionally,” said Lin McCraw, attorney for Childers and Trout.

Childers was more direct: “You want to think they’d do the right thing,” she said. “But two lesbians going up against a corporation and an insurance company? A Republican judge is going to side with the corporation.”

Three appellate judges — Molly Francis, Craig Stoddart and Ada Brown — found that although local ordinances require that rental properties have locks on doors and keep windows in good repair, the property company that owned and managed Childers’ and Trout’s apartment couldn’t have foreseen what would happen to the women and therefore bore no responsibility for the attack on them in their apartment.

On June 21, 2014, Trout went with Childers to Childers’ Stoneleigh Place apartment in Garland and they went to bed. Childers said she woke up when she heard a noise, shining her cell phone light around the room. She saw a muscular man in the room who began beating her, with Trout getting between the two of them to try and protect Childers — to no avail.

The man then raped both women at knifepoint. The ordeal lasted more than an hour. Jarad Alan Wade was subsequently arrested for the crime and sentenced to 50 years in state prison.

But Childers and Trout claim the apartment complex bore part of the blame.

Childers said she had requested that the complex send someone to repair her window, which wouldn’t latch after having been damaged and was previously repaired only with soft caulk. The inadequate repairs left the metal latches with no place to connect and keep the window from opening.

At trial, Childers produced repair orders, and the person who repaired the window took the stand to testify that the repair had been inadequate.

McCraw explained that to have proved at trial the need for extra lighting or a security guard, he would have had to show an extreme degree of criminal activity in the area. But everyone locks their houses or apartments, he said. It’s a simple and common precaution.
Leaving a house unlocked or a window open, he said, invites a break-in. That's why city codes require rental properties to provide working locks on doors and latches on windows.

But Judge Francis, who wrote the opinion in the ruling overturning the award to the two women, called the break-in unforeseen.

McCraw said that the court applied the standard of having to provide proof of the need for extra security to basic security required in city property codes. “I shouldn’t have to show it’s an unsafe area to require working windows,” he said.

McCraw said the Court of Appeals ruled the apartment complex couldn’t foresee someone would enter the apartment. But Childers disagreed. “It is foreseeable,” she said. “It’s in the law that it’s foreseeable.”

McCraw said this ruling, if allowed to stand, could be used as precedence in any property liability case. He said the ruling invalidates ordinances on the books throughout the counties that Fifth Court of Appeals covers, which includes Dallas.

“I wonder if we would have had a different result if the home were in Highland Park, and a repairman had failed to repair a window and a little girl or boy were raped?” McCraw questioned.

He noted that the appellate court wasn’t supposed to re-examine the facts. The court was to overturn a verdict if the judge made errors.

McCraw said he will file for a rehearing, but he isn’t sure yet if he was going to ask for a rehearing by a three-judge panel.

McCraw said his message to the court is: “You’ve made every home less safe.”

Meanwhile, two of the judges who overturned the award — Frances and Stoddart — are up for re-election in November.
But if he is confirmed, Trump’s SCOTUS nominee would certainly add weight to the right wing of the court.

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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President Donald Trump on Monday night, July 9, nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court a judge who has no known LGBT-related decisions in his 12 years on the federal appeals court.

But LGBT activists feel certain that if confirmed, Judge Brett Kavanaugh would be no Justice Anthony Kennedy. Many expect that it is likely, though, that Kavanaugh could help undermine if not overturn outright Roe v. Wade.

And many have suggested that Trump chose Kavanaugh as a way of protecting himself against possible criminal charges arising out of the investigation into accusations he colluded with Russia to meddle in the 2016 elections.

Rea Carey, head of the LGBTQ Task Force, said, “There hasn’t been a nominee for the Supreme Court this extreme since Robert Bork.”

Jenny Pizer of Lambda Legal was even more blunt, saying Kavanaugh will “yank the court sharply to the extreme right.”

And Equality California called him a “far-right extremist.”

Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights said there is nothing in Kavanaugh’s record to indicate he “understands the real-world impact of discrimination on LGBT people or the importance of construing our nation’s laws to enable them to participate fully and equally in society.”

But Kavanaugh, speaking from prepared remarks in the East Room of the White House Monday night, tried with whatever he could find to suggest he understands. He said he was deeply honored to fill Kennedy’s seat, but he didn’t mention that Kennedy had, during his time on the bench, become a reliable swing vote in favor of equal rights for LGBT people in four landmark cases.

Kavanaugh noted that Justice Elena Kagan, when she was dean at Harvard Law school, hired him to teach students there that “the Constitution’s separation of powers protects individual liberty ….” He did not mention that Kagan has been a reliable vote for LGBT equality, too.

And Kavanaugh credited his mother, a judge who once taught in public high school, with “taught me the importance of equality for all Americans.”

Kavanaugh, 53, did not mention that he also clerked for Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, who resigned last year as allegations surfaced that he engaged in sexual misconduct. Kozinski was also a supporter of equal rights for LGBT people.

President George W. Bush appointed Kavanaugh to the D.C. Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. Prior to that, Kavanaugh worked in the White House as President Bush’s staff secretary, and he married the woman who worked as Bush’s personal secretary.

In the Bush White House, Kavanaugh was a key player in choosing U.S. Supreme Court nominees, most of whom were very right wing.

At Kavanaugh’s own confirmation hearing in 2006, then-Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., told Kavanaugh that the issue of same-sex marriage was coming up through the court system. He asked, “Do you have a viewpoint on issues, say, as marriage and the determination of the definition of that? Is that something that the court should es-

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tablish, or is it left to the legislative bodies?”

Kavanaugh said he was hesitant to discuss the issue, since it might come before him on the D.C. Circuit. But he did speak on “judicial activism.”

“In terms of your general principle about judicial activism,” said Kavanaugh, “I do think that some of the worst moments in the Supreme Court’s history have been moments of judicial activism, like the Dred Scott case, like the Lochner case, where the court went outside its proper bounds, in my judgment, in interpreting clauses of the Constitution to impose its own policy views and to supplant the proper role of the legislative branch.

“So I think, in terms of judicial activism, that is something that all judges have to guard against. That is something that the Supreme Court has to guard against. And throughout our history, we have seen that some of the worst moments in the Supreme Court history have been moments of judicial activism where courts have imposed their own policy preferences.”

Rachel B. Tiven, chief executive officer of Lambda Legal, said LGBT people “have good reason to fear that Judge Kavanaugh will abuse his power on the court to protect the wealthy and the powerful while depriving LGBT Americans of our dignity, demeaning our community, and diminishing our status as equal citizens.”

Many political observers are speculating that Trump was drawn to Kavanaugh in no small part because he thinks Kavanaugh would protect him when certain issues come before the Supreme Court. Kavanaugh has written, for instance, that he does not believe a U.S. president can be criminally indicted or subjected to a civil lawsuit while in office.

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., who is on the Senate Judiciary Committee, told the Rachel Maddow Show Monday night that the Kavanaugh nomination is a “get out of jail free card” for Trump.

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I recently had a friend on Facebook tell me, “It looks like the Democrats are lining up to lose this fall’s elections.” That immediately reminded me of a question asked every year at the Passover table in my family home. It comes from the Reform Jewish Haggadah, the book used to conduct the services, and is a story about four sons who ask questions of the head of the household about the symbols and meanings of the ceremonial meal: “The wicked son inquires in a mocking spirit: ‘What mean ye by this service?’ As he says ye and not we, he excludes himself from the household of Israel. Therefore thou shouldst turn on him and say: ‘It is because of that which the Lord did for me when I came forth out of Egypt.’ For me and not for him, for had he been there, he would not have been found worthy of being redeemed.”

Framing is everything, and that wicked son gets a harsh lesson in that framing. By talking about “the Democrats” as being separate and apart from himself, my friend firmly positioned himself as a bystander. He was watching the coming election as if it were a horse race and he was in the grandstands as a passive observer.

I don’t believe he really is so uninvolved, but the language he used will have several subtle psychological effects.

For one, it absolves him of any responsibility should the Democratic candidates lose in the fall. That allows him — or any one else who takes that position — to do a lot of complaining without having to actually make an effort to win.

It is understandable, since the media treats elections much like horse races and delights in reporting on who is “ahead in the polls.” It is a compelling narrative that gets clicks, eyeballs and listeners for their outlets but does nothing to inform voters of the candidates’ positions or policies.

In addition, it reinforces the belief that “we the people” have little or no control over the political process. Folks seeking to keep voters home often use that narrative.

It is a pervasive opinion, and it leads to the subtle psychological effects.
Lesbian sisterhood

Can lesbians just be friends?"

Most women look through a different lens in our everyday walk through life because we have a natural inclination to feel protected and safe. This instinct becomes even more distinct when you’re a lesbian or bisexual woman.

We, as women, often know about the double standards between boys and girls — sexism, sexual harassment, physical abuse, workplace harassment and what it’s like to be discriminated against, mistreated or overlooked for a promotion, raise or job opportunity.

This discrimination, abuse and dysfunction even extends to and is prevalent in our households, our religious institutions, our educational sectors, our political sectors, the media and many of our social circles.

Simply because we are female — and especially because we are lesbian or bisexual women — we are bound to face unnecessary hardships and challenges. So it is imperative that within the LGBT community we are “friends” and not just lovers.

Another dynamic to consider is that black lesbian women face an entirely different struggle than any other gender or race. Because of the complexion of our skin, our race, our gender and our sexual orientation, we are not taken seriously. We are not just not favored, we are considered to be inferior per society’s standards.

You probably thought this article was going to be about lesbian relationships and how two women can find it difficult to get along or be “just friends.” While those are important to address, they are not the focus of this piece.

Maybe we can talk about those issues another time. But for now, I want to challenge not only lesbian women but the whole LGBT community to be conscious and deliberate about establishing positive and productive friendships and to create allies beyond your social circles.

We can raise awareness, ensure protection, establish togetherness and encourage growth between our lesbian sisterhood and society.

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reinforced on social media.

On top of that, it justifies doing nothing. It is the mental equivalent of throwing up your hands and just walking away and waiting to see what happens. Even if you do go to the polls, it is with a sense that your single vote doesn’t matter.

The truth is that maybe one vote doesn’t matter. But many votes do.

So rather than declare him unredeemable, as the words of the Haggadah do, I choose to ask him to change his language a bit and take some action.

Unless you are someone who backs the Republican agenda, I ask that whenever you refer to a Democratic candidate you use the pronouns “we,” “our” and “my.” Doing so shifts your thinking into a new frame, one that sees the outcome of the election as your responsibility, not someone else’s.

It means you have a bet riding on that horse in the race, and the results will matter directly to you.

Just a few simple actions can make a difference beyond anything you might imagine:

Get involved with a campaign. Find a candidate you like and actually contribute to their campaign. Volunteer to work for a candidate; make calls; block walk or stuff mailers.

Stop watching the polls and instead get out the vote to go to the polls. Find three friends who may not have voted recently and take them to the polls with you. Encourage your family to vote for your candidates, and let them know exactly why it matters.

Stop spreading the negative narrative and framing on social media. Instead, use the power of social media to encourage others to get involved in winning the elections in November. Let them know they all have a stake in the race.

The press will continue to follow the horse race; it’s an easy story to report and takes little effort. But you can’t be content to watch from the sidelines anymore.

This race is the most important one in your lifetime. And you have to choose whether you will be a passive observer or an active part of changing history.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.
LIFE+STYLE
profile

"Oh, did I print that?"

Jake Shears is in a state of surprised perplexity, wondering if a version of his new (and very moving) memoir, *Boys Keep Swinging*, landed in the hands of a journalist, containing what he calls the "weird epilogue."

After all, Shears (born Jason Sellards) thought he stripped that throwaway entry — quite literally, as "I had them rip that page out from the ones that hadn’t been sent out already when I found out about that" — but those not-to-be-published pages still made the rounds to some of us.

In addition to reflecting on the process of reaching into tucked away corners of his life for the two-years-in-the-making memoir, the flash-forward epilogue explains his lengthy break from the Scissor Sisters, which Shears formed with Scott “Babydaddy” Hoffman in 2001, just days after Sept. 11. He writes, “I didn’t have much to say anymore through that particular filter.”

Calling from New York, where he’s starring as Charlie Price in Broadway’s *Kinky Boots*, it’s clear in conversation that even if you didn’t know Shears studied fiction writing at the New School in New York City and went on to adapt Armistead Maupin’s *Tales of the City* into a stage musical, you’d catch on to his writerly conscience quickly. He cycles through his thoughts carefully, acknowledging his tendency to get lost in thought — “here I’m not talking in complete sentences” — or prefacing his explanation of the Trump era’s judgy, joy-shaming rhetoric with, “I’m not gonna be eloquent saying this, I don’t think.”

A love letter to the band of misfits he met living in Seattle and New York responsible for his queer coming of age, a journey that transformed his youth as a suppressed, bullied Christian outcast into a flagrantly gay, go-go dancing, glam-rock superstar, the wonderful *Boys Keep Swinging* is an unflinching account of sexuality in bloom, imbued with Shears’ colorful record of his most formative years.

Musically, he’s found his creative mojo again, releasing
As gay people in their 30s, it's sometimes

**Boys Keep Swinging**

By Jake Shears

In this memoir, Jake Shears, the singer of Scissor Sisters, shares his experiences growing up gay in the 1980s and 1990s. He discusses his love for music, his personal struggles, and his journey to finding himself. Shears, a self-proclaimed "unabashedly gay role model," shares his story in an effort to inspire others and encourage acceptance.

**Dallas Voice:** My mom is a fan of yours, and we've been to a Scissor Sisters show together. She wants to read your book, and I want her to, but I'm worried she'll ask me a lot of questions about the gay community's deep, dark secrets — like, what are International Male catalogues? — after she does. Jake Shears: It was weird to have my own mom read it! She read it in a day, and I was really beside myself when I finally gave it to her, but I had her primed for it for a couple of years while I was writing it, so she was ready for it. She's actually been super supportive and loved it.

Considering she wasn't accepting of you after you came out to her, that's a pretty evolved woman. Yeah, my mom's amazing. I couldn't have a better mom.

Reading it, I don't think I expected to find parts of myself in your life story. But some of my earliest memories have been jolted and brought back to life because of you sharing your own. I forgot B. Dalton Bookseller even existed until you mentioned it. I had no expectations as to what people were going to think or respond to, or whether people would identify with it. It's funny: Sam Sparro, a really great friend of mine in Los Angeles and one of the first people I gave [the book] to when I got the uncorrected proofs, that's what he said. He was just like, "I feel like this is my own story in so many ways." The day I turned this book in was devastating to me. I was really very unhappy. Basically, it had to be ripped out of my hands. [Laughs]

**Why was letting the book go so difficult for you?** It'd been such a part of my life for a couple of years. I don't know if I would call it a crutch, but it was definitely this obsession once I had started editing it. I was editing it until the last hour. When I turned in the final — the very last edits — I was so unhappy! I feel a lot better about it now.

When your friend, novelist Rakesh Satyal, suggested you write the book, did you immediately know where to start? For a while, the book had started where the New York section starts. That was the beginning of the book, and I was going for quite a while. I really wasn't planning on writing that whole first third [about my youth], and then I hit this point when I was writing really into what is now the second section where I was like, 'I'm not gonna be able to go any further without actually starting from the beginning.'

So, I went back. That whole first third I ended up going back and writing.

As gay people in their 30s, it's sometimes easy to forget the emotional turmoil and personal struggle we went through to be comfortable with ourselves. Did reflecting on your own sexual adversity give you a greater appreciation for who you've become — this unabashedly gay role model? I don't really think of myself like that, but the thing I did underestimate, though, is, I'm a pretty resilient person. Going back and writing some of the more painful stuff, I feel like I kind of underestimated its effect on me, just in general in my everyday life. I would finish a week and feel terrible and realize I had been sort of reliving some hard stuff, and I didn't really consider that when I was getting into it and didn't really know that was happening at the time. It's strange. I feel like there are 30 different books that I could've written.

**Did you tap into any other queer memoirists for advice or insight?** The Carrie Brownstein book [Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl] came along exactly when I needed it. It really resonated with me, and it was very influential. Over the summer I met up with [gay author] Michael Cunningham, and I've had a couple of great talks with him about this thing and have gotten a lot of support from him.

It's hard to give the book to somebody when it's not finished. It's just strange. You've gotta pick the right people to give it to before it's done. I had lunch with Elton [John] a couple of weeks ago, and I was excited for him to read it because he plays a prominent part in the last third of the book. He read it in a day and wrote me this email, and he was so happy and loved it. That was really sweet.

In addition to Elton, you write a lot about your childhood idol, David Bowie, in the book. You didn't actually meet Bowie, right? No, he just came to a show and I found out about it after I got off stage. I was heartbroken. It was the scariest. Just a really freaky moment for me.

When you found out about his passing how did that affect you? It was so strange because I'd been pounding Black Star all weekend and just absolutely loving it, and then I had told my friend Laura it was great.
While you were crying, out musician Chad King and his friend Ian Axel were figuring out their next move. Could A Great Big World, as they’re collectively known, strike twice with another colossal Christina Aguilera-assisted tearjerker?

Peaking at No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 and winning them a Grammy for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, even they knew another “Say Something,” which featured Aguilera’s harmonious flutters, was likely inimitable. Still, the crushing ballad gave considerable clout to the two albums that followed it: their 2014 debut Is There Anybody Out There? and its 2015 followup, When the Morning Comes.

With a third on the way, and its lead bop, “Younger,” out now, we caught up with King to discuss writing about dressing in his mom’s clothes as a kid, finding their true selves, and how Paris Is Burning inspired a musical moment.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: On “Younger,” you revel in the nostalgia of playing with Barbies and giving fashion shows. What were these fashions like? Did you strut? Chad King: Yeah, I remember going through my mom’s closet with my younger brother and putting on her heels, putting on her dresses, and stuffing the dress with padding to make it look like we had boobs. Then, as a whole family, we’d sit down on the living room couch and me and my brother would come out and just work it. And they’d all cheer for us. I never thought I would be singing about that, but I’m glad it made its way into the music.

How did the song come about? “Younger” was actually the first song we wrote for this album, and it morphed into this tune where it’s like, let’s tap into our childhood: what we remember, why we were so happy then, and what was so exciting and freeing and liberating about being that kid. Playing house with my neighbor down the street, I just remember playing with her Barbies and feeling like no one was going to come and hurt me. I was so safe to be and act however I wanted to, and there was just something so freeing about that moment.

After two albums, why self-title this one? Is There Anybody Out There? was sort of a collection of songs that me and Ian had written over the first five years of us being friends. And one of those songs was “Say Something,” and “Say Something” had the life that it had and all of a sudden we found ourselves in this pop world. We also found ourselves feeling a bit of pressure to stay in that world, and that’s when the second album came out. Then the second record did what it did, or didn’t do.

And then it came time for the third album. We were like, let’s go back to writing for ourselves again. We took six months to write this album, and we are so proud of these
I imagine after “Say Something” the pressure to top yourselves or reach that same level again was immense. In the moment, we would never say there’s pressure. I’d be like, “No, we’re just writing!” I’d probably say that. “Yeah, we love writing!” But looking back and reflecting on how we wrote with all sorts of pop writers and got into the room with all kinds of pop producers, it’s very clear we were going through the motions of creating something under this pressure. Even if it was subconscious, there was this pressure, for sure. That song feels like an anomaly. It feels like a monster. It feels like something that happens once in a lifetime. So, to follow that up is — yeah, there’s a ton of pressure.

Did you have people around you asking you to recapture that magic? Yeah, we had a couple moments where people were like, “We want you to write ‘Say Something’ for us.” So we had to go through the motions of writing another song like “Say Something.” There’s actually one song that we have — oh, I don’t know if it’s official. I can’t tell you. But we have a song that looks like it’s gonna be making another artist’s record and their original briefing to us was, “We love the emotion behind ‘Say Something.’” Can you give us a song like this? So, me and Ian tapped into that, and it looks like we’ll be getting the song on his record. But I think “Say Something” came from such an emotionally charged place that it’s hard to recreate if you’re not experiencing that in the moment.

You wrote a great essay for Out magazine about being a gay man with multiple sclerosis. As a gay man with MS, do you hear from other gay people with MS who can relate? At the time, I remember people coming to me and saying like, “I had this trauma around my MS,” and sort of validating my theory: this mind-body connection, and that there is nothing separate about it, and the fact that I came out and two weeks later I was diagnosed with MS is not a coincidence. I have no doubt that that is not a coincidence.

I don’t feel like I am MS. I feel like, yeah, I was diagnosed with that, but to me, my body was reacting to its environment in certain ways and I just need to be aware and conscious, and be really careful of what I put in my body and how I treat my body in general. When I started paying attention to the effect of my environment inside and out, that’s when I started seeing real change. But it just didn’t feel random to me. It felt like, “What the hell is going on with my body and why would it be going through this right now?” And so my sexuality was tied in completely to that and that was so monumental of a discovery for me.

The landscape for out gay musicians has changed even since 2014, when you released your debut. If anything, there are more artists who are out from the get-go. Is this an even better time to be an out gay musician than it was when you released your debut just four years ago? Actually, I’m a little jealous of anyone just now entering this music scene because it’s like being gay today versus being gay 20 years ago. It’s just not the same thing. It’s just not. And it’s so awesome that kids have nothing to fear when they’re singing about who they love — and it could be a guy and a guy, or a girl and a girl, and it works and everyone accepts it and it’s beautiful. I think the landscape is going to change even more so in the next year. I went and saw Tyler, the Creator, and this was the first time I ever really listened to his music or listened to the lyrics and I was like, “Whoa, he’s singing about a cute boy and he has all these hardcore rap fans. It was so cool to see.”

I think this is a really beautiful time to be out and an artist and be free with your expression. The fear I had with “Hold Each Other” or with any of our songs talking about love interest, where I felt like it couldn’t be from the male perspective about another male, that feels like it’s gone now.

So I take it you’ll be writing with male pronouns on this upcoming release? Yeah, I do on this record coming out. I do it more. And it was freeing and easier, and it was beautiful. So, I’m really excited for people to get even more gay music from us!
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Say you worked the same job for 29 years. If you averaged 40 hours a week, that would total 60,320 hours.

That, give or take an hour, is how long Brad Zimmerman waited tables in New York City. But unlike most people who do something — anything — for that amount of time, slinging hash was never his career. The entire time, he was working on his true loves: acting, writing and comedy. Along the way, he made strides, earning gigs opening for the likes of George Carlin and Joan Rivers, but he wasn’t able to hang up his apron until his one-man play, My Son, the Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy, hit the stage for an off-Broadway and touring stint that has lasted years.

As we talked over the phone just before My Son, the Waiter made its way to Richardson, his complexity as both a person and an onstage character became clear. He speaks in philosophical terms about his craft, and honestly about his own inner battles.

“My therapist once said to me, ‘Your journey is about confidence, in all areas of your life,’” Zimmerman says. “It took me a long time to get out into the world and experience the failure I was so deathly afraid of, and then ultimately to realize that it’s everything in terms of leaning and growing.”

Chatting with Zimmerman, it’s pretty clear that a source of that fear of failure is his complicated relationship with his mother. He recounts a time in the past few years when the two were driving to dinner.

“I'm in my early 60s, I'm making more money than I've ever made in my life,” he says, “and she says, ‘Maybe you should go back to graduate school. So that you have something to fall back on.’” He says this without anger — only bemusement. If one could see him shaking his head through the phone, you would. “I couldn’t believe it came out of her mouth.”

The things that come out of his mother’s mouth make up a good amount of the play — and a good part of its humor — but there’s so much more, as Zimmerman chronicles his pursuit of a 29-year-old dream. Part standup comedy and part traditional theater, My Son covers his fears, his ideas, his years of “what'll you have?” and his slow-burning tenacity that finally landed him where he wanted to be. Almost every moment of those 29 years was spent working on his craft: taking acting lessons, studying his craft, writing, observing. “In his autobiography, Bruce Springsteen says ‘If you wanna take it all the way to end of the night, there’s a fire in the gut that just won’t quit,’” Zimmerman notes in his quintessential New York way. “And that’s really drive.”

That drive clearly is a huge part of Zimmerman’s psyche, but it resulted in him writing a play that, at its core, is part of a long tradition of one-liners and the age-old theme of Jewish boys and their moms. Where Zimmerman takes the twist is tying it into his own journey of self-discovery, of conquering fears. And while he offers plenty of comedy about his mother’s struggle with her son’s career (“If all goes well,” he quotes her as saying, “Brad is buying a bookcase”), in the long run it’s about relationships. “It’s not just funny,” he says. “It’s very meaningful — a lot of people are touched and inspired by it.”

As for his mom? She’s in her 80s now and still going strong. “She actually is very proud of me,” Zimmerman says. “We have a great relationship. I love her to death.”

And, ever the showman, Zimmerman notes, “This will all be in the sequel.” Now that he’s not waiting tables, he actually has time to write it.

— Joanna Widner
340, good buddy

Even if you’re a little **husky**, we’ve got a car to fit you!

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**CITY OF DALLAS FAIR HOUSING OFFICE**

The city of Dallas Fair Housing and Human Rights Ordinance makes it illegal to discriminate against a person in regards to:

- Race | Color | Religion | Sex | National Origin
- Handicap (Mental or Physical) | Familial Status (Children Under 18) | Source of Income (social security, spousal support, child support or veterans with housing assistance vouchers)
- Sexual Orientation | Gender Identity

The actions that are covered by the City Ordinance are:

- **RENTAL**, including leasing, using and keeping a unit, and property management;
- **SALES**, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;
- **ADVERTISEMENT**, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;
- **EMPLOYMENT**, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;
- **PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION**, service in restaurants, theaters, retail store, and non-governmental public services (relative to sexual orientation only).

If you suspect discrimination in these areas and wish to file a complaint call: 214-670-FAIR (3247)
When BMW first started talking about building “Ultimate Driving Machines,” they weren’t talking about three-row crossovers or exuberantly large luxury sedans; they meant cars like the 3-Series sedans — cars that could collect three friends, but remain loyal buddies for weekend backroad romps. The latest iteration ranges from efficient to obscene, but I’d make the one in the middle mine. Check the 340i.

Taking a look at the sedan, it does seem like a familiar buddy. BMW’s iconic twin-kidney grille, flanked by quad LED headlamps and underlined by LED foglamps, flow into a long bulging hood designed to meet pedestrian crash standards. Lower body cladding hints at speed, but also connects it stylistically to the i8 plug-in. All that couture hunkers over 18-in. alloy wheels with a planted stance. The Hoffmeister kink in the rear windowline is often copied, but best executed by BMW.

As an upper-level 3-Series with the M Sport package, the 340i is lavishly equipped. Seats are upholstered in BMW’s SensaTec faux leather, but will wear well and feel expensive. Extendable lower cushions and deep bolsters fit you like a tailor stitched you in. Once there, crank up the Harman Kardon audio system, power back the moonroof and adjust the dual-zone automatic climate control to your liking. The thick three-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel and clear analog gauges demand to be gripped and seen!

The iDrive is still one of the most confusing infotainment systems in any car, but it’s better than it once was. Apple CarPlay compatibility simplifies it a smidge. More annoying, I have no idea why BMW thinks the stereo should keep blaring even after the door has opened (and closed, before locking it). I can assure you my neighbors have no desire to hear Elvis Presley booming out as if he’s still in residency at the Las Vegas Hilton (it’s also a bit embarrassing when I’m rocking out to Susan Boyle).

While the 340i doesn’t tatt an M3 badge on its ass, it is still a bit mischievous. Planted under the bulging hood is a 3.0-liter twin-turbo inline-6 that dishes 320 horsepower and 330 lb-ft of torque to the rear wheels through a 6-speed manual transmission. Slap the pedal to see 0-60 mph in 4.9 seconds on the way to a 130 mph top speed. That’s no longer supercar fast, but it’s plenty enough to get your giggles. Toss in auto stop/start, which pauses the engine at rest, and you’ll enjoy 19/29-MPG city/highway.

On-road, the 340i becomes more familiar. A firm suspension and quick steering encourages you to dominate two-lane backroads while overall solid feel of the car adds confidence for very long drives. The low profile tires do little to smooth out rough roads, but the sophisticated suspension keeps the ride from becoming overly harsh. And, drivers can dial it the way they like it with Eco, Comfort and Sport modes to adjust the steering firmness and powertrain responsiveness.

They’re cars you look at across the mall parking lot, or in your driveway, and make you think, “Yeah, that’s my car, my buddy, and I can’t wait to drive it home.” Despite iDrive, the 340i gives the impression of being a simple car, focused on driving pleasure. It’s a traditional BMW with the powertrain and technology of a modern automotive athlete. That’s one you can take home, enjoy on a date, or just jump inside and sleep with it.

In case you want to keep shopping, check out the Kia Stinger GT (which we reviewed last month), Mercedes-Benz C300, Cadillac ATS-V and Audi A4.

**BMW's sedan focuses on the simple pleasures of driving**

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

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**'18 340i**

BMW

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and she needed to listen to it. And so, it was Sunday night and I was hanging out with this guy, this friend of a friend, and we were just having a drink and he didn’t know any Bowie stuff, so I was like, “I’ll play you some good Bowie tunes.” And I was playing Bowie and I got an instant message from my friend Laura that just said, “David Bowie,” with a frowny face. I was so confused. I wrote back and then she gave me the news. It was just a weird night. This person that I didn’t really know ended up just being with me all night. I was wrecked.

I woke up the next morning and was going through a lot of stuff at that time in my life, and I was actually overjoyed in the following weeks to see the outpouring of love for him. All the parties and all the memories and just everyone’s enthusiasm and love for him was so wonderful, and my darkest time was just that night, and I’ve been celebrating him ever since.

Considering Bowie’s influence on you as an artist, did his death have you contemplating your own legacy as an artist? Oh, I don’t know. I don’t even really think about it. I do feel like I’m into probably chapter three. The next 10 years are gonna be another thing for me. The album is coming out this summer. The next 10 years are gonna be another thing, and I’ve been celebrating him ever since.

Considering Bowie’s influence on you as an artist, did his death have you contemplating your own legacy as an artist? Oh, I don’t know. I don’t even really think about it. I do feel like I’m into probably chapter three. The next 10 years are gonna be another thing for me. The album is coming out this summer. The next 10 years are gonna be another thing, and I’ve been celebrating him ever since.

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**Friday 07.13 — Sunday 07.29**

**‘Priscilla Queen of the Desert’ drags itself into the Kalita**

The film version of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* is a beloved camp classic with disco hits and a message of inclusion. The same goes for the stage musical, which Uptown Players brings to the stage of the Kalita Humphreys for three weeks. It’s the story of three drag queens (two cisgender men and one transwoman) crossing the Australian Outback in a beat-up bus who encounter locals while being aggressively themselves. Blake McIver of Bravo’s *The People’s Couch* stars. And on Sunday, McIver also performs his one-man cabaret act, Blake Does Barbra, at the Kalita starting at 7 p.m. for a single night.

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

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**Friday 07.13 — Sunday 08.04**

**Festival of Independent Theatres has another FIT**

Festival of Independent Theatres — FIT to fans — has, for 20 years now, providing small companies with a format for sharing their art and craft with audiences, from both established small companies (WingSpan, Echo) and up-and-comers (Imprint, Eccentric Bear). Eight short (one hour or less) presentations — some older plays, some premieres, some performance art pieces — are slated this year, including The Tragical Farce of Jimmy Pine from “gaywright” Ben Schroth (directed by Andi Allen), Just Girl Things (a female follow-up to Danielle Georgiou’s *The Show About Men*) and Pinter’s Landscape, pictured.

**DEETS**: All performances at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Visit FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org for tickets and schedule.

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**Friday 07.13**

**Miss Gay Texas America twirls into Dallas**

In the pageant world, Miss Gay America is a big deal (this year will mark its 46th incarnation), and Texas being what it is, the state preliminary Miss Gay Texas America is a big deal, too. The reining MGTA, Violet S’Arbleu (pictured), will relinquish her crown in the Rose Room on the 13th to one tearful hopeful. Come by to see who is America’s next drag superstar (non-TV version).

**DEETS**: The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. $25 cover. MissGayTexasAmerica.com.

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ARTSWEEK
THEATER
Hairpray. The Tony Award-winning megahit returns in a team up between the Dallas Theater Center and AT&T Performing Arts Center. Michelle Dowdy, who was in the Broadway cast for three years, stars. Directed by Joel Ferrell. Final weekend. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.
FILM
Shampoo. Opening night of the film fest. All screenings take place at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station. Visit AsianFilmDallas.com for a complete schedule.

FRIDAY 07.13
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.
Miss Gay Texas America Pageant. The direct state preliminary for Miss Gay America comes to the Rose Room for final competition. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. $15 cover. MissGayTexasAmerica.com.

FRIDAY 07.20
FILM
CineWilde Presents The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. As the stage musical plays in Uptown, the source material — this 1994 Australian film — runs as this month’s CineWilde screening in Oak Cliff. Presented by CineWilde, with a pre-show discussion and followed by a post-show party and amateur drag contest. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 8:30 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. show. $10.

SATURDAY 07.21
COMMUNITY
Gaybingo. This month’s theme is Orange You Glad It’s Gaybingo at this game and fundraising party benefiting Resource Center. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. $25–$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

the this week’s solution

RATS BLADE H A S H
OVEN REBEL ANNO
NORA ACELA ITON
IM FIGHTING FOR
ODIUM RAN IN
VET FRAGILE INC
ODER ALIFE I AGO
I JUST AN IT
BEER ALTO TAIL FIN
OLDE N GL ENN
DEM E VER AG E R TE
GOTT IM E TOLIVE
F I N E SIMBA RENT
REIN L I aD IN SO
ASAN TEXTS ST E P
Girl on girls
Jenny Block, on kindness as the hardest best thing you can do

A friend of mine — let’s call him Phil — is getting divorced. His soon-to-be-ex (we’ll call him Ed) was an addict and did time in prison. He suffers from a chronic illness that requires expensive healthcare. He asked Phil if they could get married so he could get health insurance through Phil’s work.

Phil said yes.

About 18 months later, Ed was using again. He became violent. He started threatening Phil. He started behaving erratically. Phil pleaded with him to go to rehab, to go to counseling, to try to find his way back. After numerous attempts, Phil left and filed for divorce.

And now, Ed is trying to take Phil for everything he possibly can … much of which he may actually have a legal right to, because they were married. Phil came into the marriage with a lot and is a high-income earner. Ed came with nothing and earns nothing. Not one of Ed’s demands is just, and not one of his demands is kind. Which got me thinking about how simple it all could be if we were just kind to one another in all we do.

Every day, we make choices in our relationships. We can do what’s “legal” or we can do what’s kind. Kind isn’t always easy. Sometimes, it’s downright annoying. I feel quite sure that my wife doesn’t relish taking the trash out over and over … and over. But she does and she never says a word about it.

All things being equal, I should take it out half the time. That would be “legal,” sharing chores equally. But she does it because she does it. She does it because she knows how hard it is for me to lift a bulgy package into the giant can. She does it because she chooses to be kind.

I don’t like washing the dishes after I cook. And my wife almost always offers to do it. I try not to let her because after dinner is the first and only time she finally sits down and stops after going at it all day, starting from before I even open my eyes. She’ll get up and wash. But it only takes me a few minutes and it’s the kinder choice for me to do it myself even though I was the one who cooked and “legally,” one cooks and one washes.

Do I always make the kinder choice? I wish. But I always feel good when I do … and not so much when I don’t.

My guide to being kind is an ancient — and incredibly simple — one. Miguel Ruiz put them in book form with The Four Agreements, but the ideals are based on ancient Toltec wisdom. 1. Be impeccable with your words. 2. Don’t take anything personally. 3. Don’t make assumptions. 4. Always do your best.

That’s it.

It appears that Ed has made the choice not to adhere to any of these. That’s his prerogative. Phil can’t make him follow them any more than any of us can force another to make the decisions we want them to. What Phil can do is decide if he will follow them. In doing so, he may lose his shirt. But he will likely save his heart and soul.

In a healthy relationship (unlike Phil and Ed’s), good begets good — that is, one partner following the four agreements often inspires the other to do the same and a sort of “circle of kindness” is created, like in that commercial where the guy sees the other guy help the women with the stroller so he helps the guy with his groceries and the woman who sees that helps the woman on the bus and so on and so on.

Sometimes you get mad at your partner or she gets mad at you; either way, it makes you want to do the opposite of what the four agreements suggest. That is the moment of choice. That is the moment you can either grumble about always being the one to empty the dishwasher and take it as some personal affront and attach some meaning about your partner thinking you’re good for nothing more than emptying the dishwasher or you can simply, well, empty the dishwasher.

One leaves both me and the machine empty. The other leaves me feeling full and satisfied that I didn’t turn dishes into weapons or anything else other than what they are. Clean dishes. Nothing more. Nothing less.

I don’t always remember to follow the agreements. Worse, sometimes I remember and simply choose not to follow them because I’m feeling grumpy. But when I listen to myself and to the universe I remember that these ideals are ideals for a reason. They are something we are to aspire to and something which promises great reward. But they also require great practice.

Ed won’t likely read this column. Even if he did, he likely wouldn’t be able to hear the message. That’s how it seems to work for some reason. He who needs it most is least able to hear it. But our job is not to force others to act; it is to act in a way that sits well with our own soul. And, should that inspire others, the better.

I still won’t always want to put the clothes in the dryer. I’ll still say unkind, unnecessary things. I’ll still get my feelings hurt even when the matter at hand has nothing at all to do with me. I’ll still fall short of a task when I couldn’t seem to muster my all. But I will always walk with kindness and I will always strive to let the agreements be my guide. I will strive to be impeccable with my words. I will strive to not assume. I will strive not to make everything about me. I will — and this is really the sum of all the parts — strive to do my best.

And when it comes to relationships, or life for that matter, that really is all we can do. One thing is for sure, nothing ever feels as good in the long run as doing the right thing. And the kind thing, is always the right thing. Have a question about sex, relationships or life you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of July 13–19:

• Alexandre’s: K-Marie on Friday, Vero Voz y Compania on Saturday, Wayne Smith on Sunday, K-Marie on Tuesday, Carymel on Wednesday, Chris Chism on Thursday.

• Cedar Springs Tap House: Drag on Tap at 9:30 p.m. on Monday.

• Club Changes: Bastille Day Ball and Wall of Food Show at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

• Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Wall of Food Show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

• Dallas Eagle: Sir LT’s Bearlesque Brigade from 6-10 p.m. on Friday benefits Resource Center. NLA–Dallas club night from 7-11 p.m. on Saturday, Diablos Glow Party begins at 9 p.m. on Saturday.

• Hidden Door: Get the party going on Sunday Funday.

• JR.’s Bar & Grill: Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

• Marty’s Live: Sexcapade Fridays with Nicole O’Hara Munro.

• Pekers: The Miss Gay Texas Pageant System presents Send in the Clowns at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

• Round-Up Saloon: Saturday Karaoke at 5 p.m. Mancandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs! at 10 p.m. on Monday.

• Sue Ellen’s: Mojo Dolls on Saturday, Honey Folk at 3:30 p.m. and Cherry Bomb at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

• The 515 Bar: LeQube from 9:30-11:30 p.m. on Friday.

• The Rose Room: Miss Gay Texas America 2018 finals at 9 p.m. on Friday, $25. Kennedy Davenport on Sunday.

• TMC: The Mining Company: Athena O’Hara at midnight on Wednesday.

• Urban Cowboy Saloon: MayMay Graves’ “Monsters” Release Party at 10 p.m. on Friday, Tie Dye Party at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

• Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Dallas Lone Star Basketball Association summer season draft party from 8-10 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Luis and Booney

Kimberly and Smokey

Jenni P raising money for Pets Alive

Susan Penny, Bo Benny and Buck Brown

Susan

Lisa, Polar, Rascal, Bruce, Remy, ChiChi and Mimi

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