

OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Cruz said what? It's a Pride Month miracle

Barbette gets a marker; even solar is bigger in Texas; and Paxton wants to talk about girlfriends?

It's a Pride Month miracle! Sen. Ted Cruz is telling his fellow Republicans to knock off the hate — at least in the muted way that politicians talk when asked a question while walking through congressional hallways. He responded to one of his colleagues posting on Twitter that “homosexuality has no place in America” by saying that “the behavior of consenting adults is their business.” No word on whether he'll be attending Saturday's Pride Parade in downtown Houston — or if he'll ask Texas Republicans to update their platform, which says “homosexuality is an abnormal lifestyle choice.”

Up in Round Rock, they're celebrating Pride Month by unveiling a state historic marker this week at the grave of Barbette, a famous 1920s aerialist and drag performer. Houston needs to step up for our own history and erect a statue of gay activist Ray Hill. The larger-than-life figure passed away in 2018 after a lifetime of fighting for free speech, prison rights and gay rights with a personal story that's as big and complicated as Texas itself. Maybe Skanska could dedicate some space at their new Montrose-area tower across the street from where the historic leather bar Mary's once stood.

When we talk about Texas' energy industry, we mean energy — not just oil and gas. An 815-megawatt solar farm — one of the largest in North America — is coming online outside of Dallas, with contracts to provide power to companies like AT&T, Toyota and PepsiCo. A friendly reminder that our state's low-regulation, low-barrier policies around energy production mean we're setting records for solar power generation, eclipsing even California.

Thank you to Current Revolt for breaking the story about Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico's girlfriend, which spread as far as Time and the New York Post. The apparent scandal? She's vegan and likes to dance at a gay bar. Was the story a Republican plant, intended to impugn Talarico's Texan credentials? And if so, did it backfire? Do Republican voters really want voters to focus on girlfriends? We look forward to similar coverage of Paxton's various ladies, including Laura Olson, a former Paxton



Jose Luis Magana/Associated Press

Surprisingly, Sen. Ted Cruz responded to a colleague's post by saying “the behavior of consenting adults is their business.”

staffer supposedly hired by Nate Paul as a favor to Paxton while the attorney general used taxpayer funds to protect the now-convicted felon from federal scrutiny. And don't forget Paxton's relationship with Christian influencer Tracy Duhon, which prompted Angela Paxton to file for divorce on “biblical grounds.”

Paxton is making his own headlines for investigating the Celsius energy drink, which he claims is dangerous for kids because it has too much caffeine. For the record: Paxton thinks that caffeine is a threat to kids, but child molesters get an easy treatment in court (like Adam Hoffman). Are those really the priorities Texans want to send to Washington?

While we cheer on our neighbors down Interstate 10 as the San Antonio Spurs take on the New York Knicks in the NBA finals, Rockets fans are celebrating the return of the team's 1990s era “ketchup and mustard” jerseys for the upcoming season. Hopefully this also means a return to 1990s era championships.

Why does everything have to be about politics? Gov. Greg Abbott decided to cheer on the Spurs by posting an AI-created photo of him dunking on New York Gov. Kathy Hochul while President Donald Trump laughs in the background. Oh, so now he's OK with boys playing in girls sports?

We much prefer it when politicians settle sports beefs the old-school way: Betting their favorite local foods. For example, Rep. Greg Casar brought Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez some H-E-B butter tortillas while she put up some bagels. Cruz offered New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand some Texas barbecue, Shiner beer and Blue Bell ice cream while she wagered some New York pizza and Brooklyn Lager. Chron.com's Chason Gordon reported.

Like the Roman Empire in reverse, Houston is mourning the fall of Istanbul. The longtime Turkish restaurant in the Rice Village is closing the doors this summer. Our only hope is that it finds a new location, or at least is replaced by a remarkably similar Constantinople Grill.

BREAKING NEWS



White House Cage Match

BIBLE VERSE

I will give them — within the walls of my house — a memorial and a name far greater than sons and daughters could give. For the name I give them is an everlasting one. It will never disappear!

Isaiah 56:5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When's the debate?

Regarding “Why the Talarico vs. Paxton race is becoming Texas vs. Washington,” (June 1): We're going to have a brand-new senator from Texas come November in what will be a closely watched race. When will state Rep. James Talarico and Attorney General Ken Paxton debate? What press organization will host it?

If this election is such a big deal, one would think a debate would be a given, but I would be surprised if it happens. Both candidates seem more interested in telling us how awful their opponent is. I, for one, would like to see these two candidates face one another in a live debate, and I specifically would like to know how they plan to serve our state while in the Senate. It would be a shame to elect a brand-new senator without a real debate.

American politics is a joke, and the joke is on the average American.

Patrick Cooney, Cypress

'Weaponization' fund

Regarding “Capitol rioters clamor for payouts from Trump's new ‘anti-weaponization’ fund despite backlash,” (May 30): The anti-weaponization fund is part of a settlement that resolves President Donald Trump's lawsuit against the IRS. This is complicated to read: First, there is this huge amount of money for Trump allies, then this slush fund is connected to Trump income tax return info that was leaked years ago.

Where is Congress in all this? Some have spoken against this apparent slush fund, but many have not. The Senate is working on a new Farm Bill, which includes SNAP, after rejecting the House version. Huge cuts to SNAP are being proposed to be passed on to

the states. The Farm Bill is where congressional focus should be.

I have written to my member of Congress to demand he speak against this huge so-called “weaponization” fund and reminded him that his constituents participate in SNAP and some are enrolled in Medicaid. These are the folks who need his help, who need him to speak up for them.

Kathleen Duncan, La Porte

It's class war, not political

Regarding “Soaring prices during the Iran war jeopardize travel to tourism-dependent countries in Asia,” (May 31): Prior to this war, the United States met a majority of its oil needs and bought the remaining from the Middle East. With Middle Eastern oil production reduced since March 1, our strategic reserves have been released to keep the price of oil and gas artificially down. Even with that, the average price across the country is over \$4 per gallon and in many places approaching \$6.

Why is the United States selling oil to Japan when we need it here? Why is the United States selling oil in the open market when we need it here? The president says it's making a lot of money for us. It is making a lot of money, but not for us. It is making money for the oligarchs who are manipulating the markets and getting rich off of our misery.

We are in a class war, not a political war. What the billionaires want us to think is that the problem is our politics, not their greed. The vice president of Exxon and the CEO of Chevron tell us that we are on the brink of one of the worst oil crises in our history. They warn that gas lines are coming. And there won't be one billionaire in line.

Patricia Garris, Spring

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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