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Pop star Robyn discusses her connection to her LGBT fans

by Chris Azzopardi, Page 14

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Pop icon Robyn.
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Maison announced as Kuchling Award winner

Don Maison, who retired in February after 32 years as CEO of AIDS Services of Dallas, has been named as the 2019 recipient of the Black Tie Dinner's Kuchling Humanitarian Award, Black Tie officials announced late last week.

The award is named in honor of the late Raymond Kuchling, a leading activist in the Dallas LGBTQ community in the 1980s. Maison is being recognized "for his many years of support, activism and leadership in the North Texas LGBTQ community," according to an announcement by the Black Tie board, noting that ASD provides housing and support services for low income and homeless individuals and families living with or impacted by HIV/AIDS.

As CEO of ASD, Maison helped develop what has become the model for AIDS housing around the country. Under his leadership, ASD grew from leasing two small houses to operating four apartment complexes in Oak Cliff that provide housing and services to 225 men, women and children in 152 bedrooms, with a staff of more than 70 people.

The Kuchling Award and other awards will be officially presented during the 2019 Black Tie Dinner on Nov. 2 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

— Tammye Nash

FW Human Relations Commission votes to remove Steele

The Fort Worth Human Relations Commission voted unanimously on Monday, July 15, to recommend the removal of Commissioner Mike Steele, who posted numerous racist, transphobic and conspiracy memes on Facebook.

Steele was not present at the meeting.

The Facebook posts were discovered two weeks ago by TCU Professor Emily Farris, who posted about them on Twitter.

Steele is serving his second term on the commission, which advises the city council and the city manager on human rights issues, including LGBTQ issues.

The meeting was called after Steele refused to resign following the revelations despite pressure from the commission and Mayor Betsy Price. In refusing to step down, Steele described himself as the "proud father of an LGBT son" and claimed he was exercising his right to free speech.

All attendees at the meeting spoke in favor of removing him, including Emily Farris. Steele's supporters submitted written comments.

— James Russell

Carolyn Davis, daughter killed in car accident

Former Dallas District 7 City Councilwoman Carolyn Davis, 57, was killed in a two-car accident on Monday, July 15 by a suspected drunk driver on East Ledbetter in South Dallas. Her daughter, Melissa Lashan Davis-Nunn who was a passenger in Davis' car was taken to Baylor in critical condition and died there a day later.

Jonathan Moore, 35, driver of the other car, was arrested and was charged with two counts of intoxication manslaughter. He has an extensive record of DUI arrests.

Davis served four terms on the Dallas City Council.

During her tenure, she served on the committee that oversees the city of Dallas pension funds. Before marriage equality, city employees in same-sex relationships were fighting for equality in their pensions. A city employee who was married at the time of retirement could leave pension payments to their spouse should the retired employee die first; those in same-sex relationships couldn't.

Davis was among the board members who championed equality on the pension board, and, with her help, LGBT employees achieved pension equality even before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality.

— David Taffet

CRIME ALERT: Don't take weed from a stranger

Dallas police are warning visitors to the Deep Ellum area not to accept a stranger's invitation to share a joint after three recent incidents in which victims have passed out and been robbed after accepting the offer of a free toke.

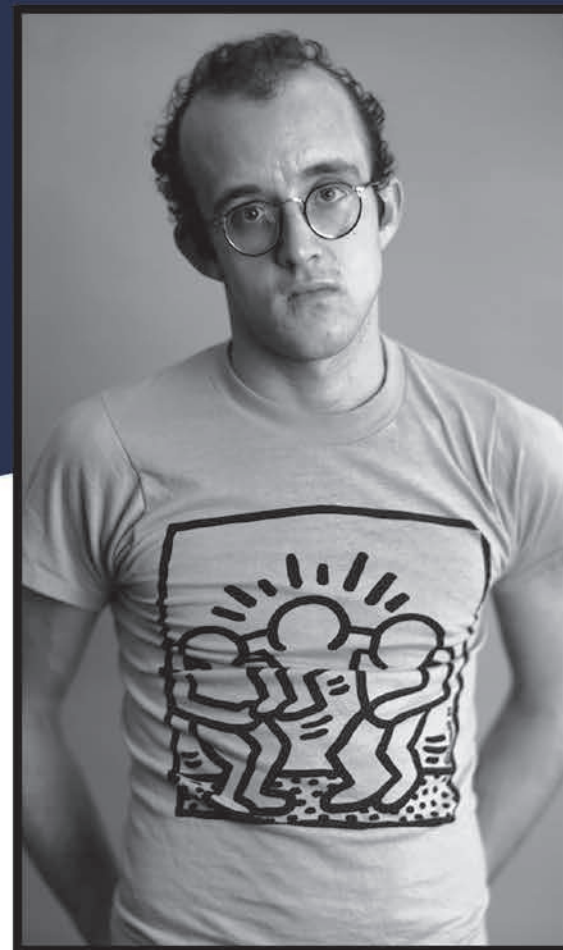
The first incident occurred around 1:35 a.m. at 2720 Elm St. The victim told police two black men approached him and offered to share a joint with him. He took a drag and quickly passed out. When he woke up, he realized he had been robbed. One of the suspects, possibly called Bonton, was described as being between 5 feet and 5 feet, 5 inches tall, and weighing around 190 pounds. The second suspect was taller and skinnier — about 6 feet tall and weighing about 170 pounds. The second suspect was wearing a white do-rag.

Two similar incidents happened on July 14.

Anyone with information regarding these offenses or "any activity matching this type of offense is asked to contact Dallas Police by calling 9-1-1.

— Tammye Nash

Keith Haring: *AGAINST ALL ODDS*



Haring artwork © The Keith Haring Foundation

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THE GAY AGENDA



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.

JULY

• July 19: DFW Federal Club Happy Hour

DFW Federal Club hosts a happy hour beginning at 6 p.m. at the Westin Downtown, 1220 Elm St. For information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

• **July 19: Til Midnight at the Nasher**
Music, movies and moonlight from 6 p.m.-midnight at the Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

• **July 19: A Night of Seeing Stars**
The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "A Night of Seeing Stars," from 7-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits Tucker's Gift. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• **July 20: Three-Ring Gaybingo**
Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

• **July 20: Christmas in July**
The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "A Night of Seeing Stars," from 6-9 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits the SSC Fund. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 20: Fair Park Fiesta

A Latin-themed market with food, drinks, live music, games and a pop-up a roller-rink from 5-10:30 p.m. on the Esplanade and the Automobile Building at Fair Park.

• July 20: Prime Timers

Pool party and potluck at 4 p.m. at 9719 Amberley Drive.

• July 21: UCLSE TurnAbout

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents its UCLSE TurnAbout Show from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits Dallas Hope Charities. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 22: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall

Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall meets at 7:30 p.m. at Harry Meyers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St., Rockwall. For more information, contact Patti or Heidi at sdrockwall@att.com.

• July 23: Family Night at Durkins Pizza

GALA family night's 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n' roll and pizza and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org.

• July 23: Grief group

Grief group for persons who have lost a same-sex spouse meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• July 24: UCLSE Club Night

United Court of the Lone Star Empire holds its Club Night from 7:30-10 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. Proceeds benefit the UCLSE General Fund. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 25: Health campus open house

Meet the staff, learn about the programs and tour the facilities at the Harold Simmons Foundation Health Campus. A new primary care clinic will open on the campus. Dr. Gene Voskuhl will make the announcement from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at 2701 Reagan St. MyResourceCenter.org.

• July 25: Film screening

GALA North Texas presents Alabama Bound and Lady Eva at the Angelika Plano, 7205 Bishop Road Suite E6, Plano. \$15 online and \$20 at the door. GALANorthTexas.org.

• July 25-28: QuakeCon

Gamers from around the world are in town for a four-day video game festival from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Gaylord Texas, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine. Quakecon.com.

• July 27: DFW Federal Club Summer Luncheon

The DFW Federal Club holds its Summer Luncheon. A panel discusses HRC's legislative partnership with Planned Parenthood. Former Dallas Voice reporter James Russell moderates at 11 a.m. at the Tower Club, 1601 Elm St. in downtown Dallas. For information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

• July 27: Self defense classic

Dallas police have partnered with Chamberlain Self Defense Studios to offer an LGBTQ self defense class from noon-3 p.m. at Juanita Craft Recreation Center, 4500 Spring Ave. Space is limited so make a reservation at Eventbrite.

• July 27: UCLSE Motown vs. Disco

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "Motown vs. Disco," from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Proceeds benefit AIN. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 28: UCLSE Men Are Cooking

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "The Men Are Cooking," from 2-5 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. Proceeds benefit the UCLSE General Fund. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 28: UCLSE A Night of Disney Magic

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "A Night of Disney Magic," from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle,

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.** This week's guest is the **Bob Satawake** husband of the former ambassador of the Dominican Republic; **Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors** meets Mondays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road, Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwylar Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St. Wednesdays for Breakfast Club from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave. and Thursdays for Rainbow Rec from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.; **Unwired Group of**

Crystal Meth Anonymous meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **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 the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com.

com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run at Oak Lawn Park, near the intersection of Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive support group** from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625.

Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

5740 Maple Ave. Proceeds benefit the Coalition for Aging LGBT. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• **July 28: Prime Timers**

Games hosted by Harry and Tommy at 2 p.m. at 1702 Brighton Drive, Carrollton.

• **July 28: Miss LifeWalk Pageant**

Drag queens, fundraising and advocacy, oh, my. Cheer, tip and support your favorite Miss LifeWalk candidate. Doors open at 5 p.m. Pageant at 6 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **July 31: Prime Timers**

Dinner at 5 p.m. at Big Al's Smokehouse BBQ, 3317 Inwood Dr.

AUGUST

• **Aug. 6: Classic Chassis Car Club**

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit ClassicChassis.com

• **Aug. 9-10: Our Stories**

Youth First presents Our Stories, a showcase of monologues, poetry, music, dance and more as part of Youth First's Creative Works Summer Program from 7-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 10: Silver Pride Project**

Movie night from 5:30-8 p.m. at Grauwyl Library, 2146 Gilford St. SilverPrideProject.com.

• **Aug. 12: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting**

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org

pet of the week / LITTLE MAMMA



Meet **Little Mamma**, an 11-year-old, female shepherd mix. She's a big, beautiful girl with a smooth, black and tan coat with hints of white around her brown eyes and floppy ears. She's an older gal, so she's a calm, gentle girl who enjoys taking it easy. Despite her age, she still has some pep in her step and loves to play with

toys. She likes hanging out in the sunshine, cuddling with people and curling up for naps in bed. She has some arthritis, so she would do best in a home where she won't have to climb stairs often. She does well with children, other dogs and is an all-around sweetheart. If you're looking for a laidback, loving lady to spend your days with, she's the one for you. Come meet her today.

Little Mamma is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$125 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and \$60 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. 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 free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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Manage your money; manage your life

Couple Elle Hall-Coleman and Dee Coleman specialize in helping women get their money — and their lives — under control

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Love of money, as the old adage goes, is the root of all evil. Regardless whether that is true, the fact remains that money management — or mismanagement, as it were — is the root of many problems in relationships of all types.

Elle Hall-Coleman and her wife Dee Coleman know that from personal experience. But they found answers for themselves, and now that are sharing their answers with others through Girlfriend's Budget, "a financial lifestyle blog for women."

Elle's father was a banker, and her mother was an accountant, she said. Both her parents had grown up poor, she said, and after establishing themselves in their careers, they were determined that their own children would know how to manage money from the start.

Dee, though, had a different experience with money. Her own childhood had been fraught with financial instability, and she had learned to see money as a way of both expressing love and exerting control over others.

After the two of them became a couple, some seven and a half years ago, their different approaches to money became a problem, until they finally decided to sit

down together, get things under control and set a path for moving forward.

"Initially, the money issue was a real struggle for us," Dee said. But then, Elle added, "We had a sit down, come to Jesus meeting about it. ... First we educated ourselves, and then we decided to teach others."

The two of them talked about things like what a budget actually looks like, organizing money and scheduling so that bills are paid on time and credit is properly managed and improved. It was during this process, Elle said, that Dee turned to her and said, "You really need to teach other people how to do this, too."

Girlfriend's Budget, Elle explained, is all about financial literacy. And while it is primarily aimed at women, anyone who wants to get a better handle on handling their money can benefit.

Money management is a skill many people don't learn from their parents, and it's not taught at school, the two said.

"Our goal is to educate women on money management because so many women don't have the chance to learn that anywhere else," Elle said. "Women typically make less than men, and in the LGBTQ community, when you are talking about two women living together and running a household, knowing how to manage your resources is essential."

But, she added, "It's not just about the numbers. It's about empowerment, about helping women find their voice." And money management is a large part of that, she said, because "Money is the power that speaks."

That's where Dee comes in. As a certified spiritual mindset coach, she works with Elle, the budgeting expert, to offer clients "the best of both worlds. We help them learn to manage their money, and we help them learn to change their

mindset. We help them dispel that negative aura so many people have around money because of things they have been taught all their life. We help them change their perspective around money and on life in general."

Their goal in combining their two areas of expertise, the women said, is to help their clients find not just financial freedom, but also freedom from within.

Dee explained that as she and her wife moved through their own money management journey, "I realized just how the struggle around money had changed me. Some people are not willing to work on those issues. But you need to get to the root of things before you can change them."

Some people, for example, are "emotional spenders," Elle said. "They have a void in their life, and they make all these purchases to try and fill that void. Dee says to them, 'Let's get to the root of the issue.'

It's like therapy in a way."

Dee added, "If they understand why they do these things, then they can work to crate positive change. I think this something that is very much needed, is especially in the LGBTQ community, where we can get so focused on acceptance, on being loved. People in our community so often want to be seen and

MONEY, Page 12



Resource Center opens primary care clinic

Dr. Gene Voskuhl, specializing in LGBTQ patient care, will lead staff

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Everyone should be able to see a doctor without fear of discrimination or judgment. That's why Resource Center is opening a new primary care clinic on its health campus, according to clinic director Dr. Gene Voskuhl.

Voskuhl will head the new clinic that will offer a full range of medical services, including PrEP and HIV treatment as well as care for those who are HIV-negative and HRT-gender affirming health services.

"Sexual orientation or gender identity often serve as barriers to care," Voskuhl said, calling the new clinic "gender-affirming and LGBTQ-focused."

When a patient doesn't have to focus on either coming out to a physician or hiding their identity, they'll receive better care. The patient can focus on what matters — actual health concerns.

Voskuhl said there's a need for this type of clinic. Lesbian and bisexual women, for example, are 25 percent less likely than heterosexual women to seek out routine health care such as cervical cancer screenings, pap smears or mammograms. Transgender men and women also have significant, specific medical and behavioral health needs that extend beyond hormone therapy or procedures related to transitioning.

Many doctors don't include an HIV test in a general physical exam, even though it's recommended that everyone be regularly tested. In Dallas, the highest rates of new HIV infections are among gay men and trans women, so it can be



Dr. Gene Voskuhl

dangerous not to test those groups as part of a regular exam.

PrEP is something many doctors don't offer to their patients, and some even claim PrEP doesn't work despite new studies that show no transmissions of HIV to people taking the drug Truvada as prescribed. That won't happen at the new clinic.

Until now, when Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo Clinic diagnosed someone with HIV or other sexually-transmit-

ted infection, they had to refer a patient out. "Now," Voskuhl said, "we can get that patient on a treatment plan within 24 hours and on the pathway to immediate care in a familiar and welcoming environment, free of stigma."

Primary care services offered at the new clinic also include flu shots and other vaccines, smoking cessation, well-woman exams and care for hypertension, diabetes and weight loss.

Voskuhl is an infectious disease spe-

Meet the staff, learn more about Resource Center's latest program, and tour the new facility for the primary care program at an open house of the Harold Simmons Foundation Health Campus, 2701 Reagan St., on Thursday, July 25, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Light bites and wine provided.

For information visit MyResourceCenter.org.

cialist who graduated from University of Oklahoma and helped launch the school's HIV clinic. He worked for Gilead, maker of Truvada, as a medical scientist instructing fellow physicians on how to safely treat LGBT patients and prescribe appropriate pharmaceuticals.

In Dallas, he's worked with Uptown Physicians and Prism Health North Texas.

Voskuhl's popularity in the community was noted when he was voted grand marshal of the 2012 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

The office will be open Monday through Friday from 2-6 p.m. Voskuhl said he chose those hours because the buildings are quieter in the late afternoon and offer more privacy. As the clinic gets busier, hours may be extended.

Currently, the clinic is not funded by grants.

"Ryan White clients need to continue going where you are," he said. Medicaid is also not yet accepted.

The clinic takes cash or insurance. Most major plans are accepted and Resource Center is working to expand the health plan options. Call Resource Center to see if your insurance is accepted, or contact the insurance company directly to find out if Resource Center's clinic has been added.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 214-540-4492 or visit MyResourceCenter.org/lgbtqhealth. The health campus is located at 2701 Reagan St.

Ready to run:

LGBTQ House members and candidates announce hauls

Johnson, Terry post impressive numbers ahead of tight races

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
james.journo@gmail.com

The first crucial campaign finance reports offering a glimpse into the 2020 elections show sizable hauls for two Dallas County candidates running in swing seats.

Freshman Rep. Julie Johnson, D-Farmers Branch, raised \$79,000, spent \$50,000 and has \$109,000 cash on hand. Her major donors include Equality Texas Interim Executive Director Angela Hale and former Annie's List Director Patsy Woods Martin each gave \$5,000.

Republicans held the seat until Johnson defeated former Rep. Matt Rinaldi of Irving in 2018. But Republicans are itching to win back seats ahead of 2021 decennial redistricting, and Rinaldi is rumored to want to return to the Pink Dome. But he said this week that he will not run. He spent \$1,000 and has \$45,000 cash on hand.

Rinaldi was an outspoken foe of LGBTQ rights during his two terms in the legislature.

For a candidate in a seat anchored by Highland Park, a lot of people think investor and Democrat Shawn Terry can still eke out a win. The seat is currently held by Rep. Morgan Meyer, R-Highland Park but Democrats are optimistic after he only defeated Joanna Cattanaach by 200 votes in 2018.

Meyer's record is unfriendly to the LGBTQ community.

The gay investor posted the largest haul of any challenger in the state. The top vote getters in the three way race raised \$236,000 and spent \$33,000. He has \$193,000 cash on hand and no loans. His donors include LGBTQ activist Eric Johnson, who gave \$5,100 and Fort Worth political consultant J.D. Angle.

Cattanaach raised \$65,000, spent



State Reps. Jessica Gonzalez, left and Julie Johnson on the floor of the Texas house of Representatives. Shawn Terry, right.

\$34,000 and has \$64,000 cash on hand. Serena Connelly, a human rights advocate and daughter of the late Harold Simmons, gave \$6,000. Former Reps. Terri Hodge gave \$100 and Harryette Ehrhardt gave \$75.

A third candidate, Tom Ervin, raised \$42,000, spent \$12,000 and has \$26,000 cash on hand. Former Equality Texas Board President Steve Rudner gave \$2,000.

Meyer has an incumbent's advantage coupled with party fears they could lose the seat. The chairman of the General Investigating committee raised \$156,000, spent \$104,000 and has \$192,000 cash on hand. Major donors include a who's who of Dallas Republican social circles, including Harlan Crow, who gave \$15,000 and former Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, who

gave \$4,000.

The only other out LGBT representative in a swing seat is Erin Zwiener, a Driftwood Democrat and the body's first openly bisexual member. She raised \$22,000, spent \$26,000 and has \$25,000 cash on hand. She has no loans. She received mostly small donations in the district, which includes Blanco and Hays counties, but from a crosstitch of donors who warmed to her fights for private property rights. Among her bigger donors are Congressman Lloyd Doggett, who gave \$1,000 and Speaker Pro Tempore Joe Moody of El Paso, who gave \$500.

Three Republicans have already lined up against her. Carrie Isaac, wife of former Rep. Jason Isaac, who preceded Zwiener, raised \$103,000, spent \$4,000 and has \$94,000 cash on hand.

Former candidate Austin Talley, who lost the Republican primary to Ken Strange, raised \$12,000, spent \$21,000 and has \$11,000 cash on hand. He has a \$20,000 loan

A third candidate, attorney and former Hays County GOP Chairman Kent Wy-more, raised \$63,000, spent \$3,000, and has \$61,000 cash on hand.

None have publicly stated opinions on LGBTQ issues.

Seats occupied by Mary Gonzalez of Clint, Celia Israel of Austin and Jessica Gonzalez are as safe as the Pope is Catholic. But Democrats are still campaigning. Dallas' Gonzalez raised \$100, spent \$28,000 and has \$20,000 cash on hand.

LGBTQ Caucus Chairwoman Gonzalez of Clint raised \$1,500, spent \$18,000 and has \$32,000 cash on hand. Israel raised \$885, spent \$23,000 and has \$65,000 cash on hand.

The filing period for candidates formally opened November 9 and ends December 9. ■



The Bible: Not a guide to human sexuality

Dallas pastor the Rev. Will Horn writes about what the Bible does and doesn't say about being gay

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Rev. Will Horn explains in his new book, *The Handbook*, that the Bible is not a guide to human sexuality but instead a handbook about God's love.

Horn is lead pastor at Cosmopolitan Congregation of Dallas and founder and CEO of Will Horn Ministries. *The Handbook's* subtitle is "A quick conversation guide to what the Bible does and does not say about homosexuality." It's also about what people think they know about what the Bible says that it actually *doesn't* say.

To explain how misinformed people are, Horn gives an example: 12 percent of Americans think Joan of Arc was Noah's wife, he says.

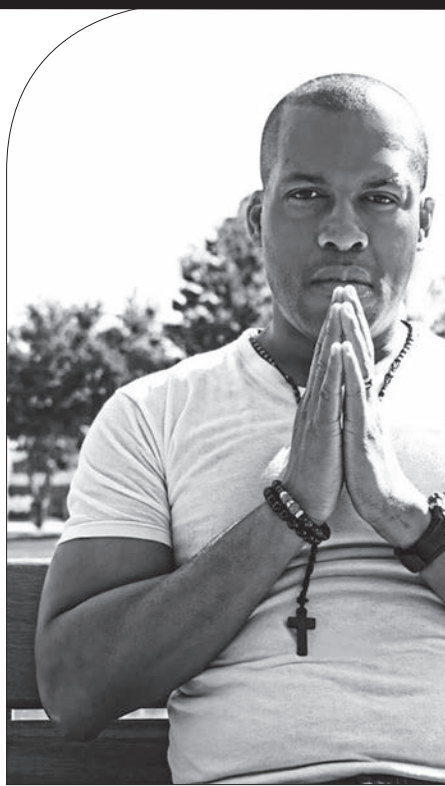
He also warns readers to understand the context in which the Bible was written, including the social and political climate at the time it was written. Fundamentalists don't put what was written in context, Horn says; they just read what's there.

And that sort of reading, he notes, has been used to justify slavery and the oppression of women.

In addition, the Bible wasn't written in English, and language is dynamic. Words from the Hebrew of the Old Testament or Greek of the New Testament may not have the same meaning centuries later as they did when they were first written. To complicate that, language has regionalisms that may have been more distinct thousands of years ago when communication was limited.

The Bible doesn't use the word "homosexual," Horn writes. In explaining the etymology of the word, he said it dates from Germany in the 1860s.

And what did Jesus say about homosexuality? Absolutely nothing that can be translated or interpreted as referring



Rev. Will Horn

to two people of the same gender having an intimate relationship.

"For those who identify with the Christian faith and strive to live lives according to the words and ways of Jesus Christ, this fact cannot go unnoticed or unaddressed," Horn writes.

He suggests a more holy life can be led by addressing the concerns Jesus addressed — like feeding the hungry and clothing the poor.

Horn also explains what he calls "the clobber passages" — the six or seven lines or stories used to condemn LGBT people.

First is the story of Sodom and Gemorrah. In Jewish interpretation, the sin of the towns was the sin of inhospitality and had nothing to do with sex. But in his explanation, Horn does address the ways in which that is twisted into denouncing homosexuality in some Christian interpretations.

His explanation of the so-called prohibition in Leviticus — usually translated as "man shall not lie with another man as he does with a woman" — is the passage related to a ban on temple prostitution and idol worship. He con-

BIBLE. Next Page




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BIBLE

From Previous Page

tinues by debunking the New Testament lines also used to condemn.

Finally, Horn explores the common arguments like "Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." His rebuttal is a quote from King David about his love for Jonathan, whom he loved "as his own soul." Had

Jonathan's name been Rachel or Rebecca, Horn notes, this would be remembered and revered as one of the great love stories of the Bible.

Horn tackles the ideas that same-sex couples can't reproduce (So why do so many have children?) and the idea that being gay or lesbian is a choice.

He concludes that the only choice is whether one chooses to be honest about his or her sexual orientation.

For someone dealing with family condemnation based on presumed Biblical reasons, *The Handbook* is a handy guide to debunking the contorted homophobic interpretations ■

THE HANDBOOK

A Quick Conversation Guide to What the Bible Does and Does Not Say About Homosexuality

Will Horn



MONEY

From Page 8

accepted in a certain light, so they spend money to feel good about themselves or to look good or be accepted."

Both women come equipped with the education and the experience to fill their side of the equation in their business.

Elle has a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Dallas in arts and technology ("I thought I wanted to be an animator for movies when I was younger") and a master's in business administration from Texas Women's University, and years of experience in the corporate world, including a stint with the Dallas Independent School District where she helped develop budgets.

Dee earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington then went on to get a master's degree in psychology from UTA. She worked for Child Protective Services for six years and for a small company providing services for people with mental health disabilities for about a year before starting her own career as a life coach.

Elle developed "Girlfriend's, Budget! Level Up Your Money, Level Up Your Life System," which is a series of six "inner and outer financial freedom building steps to help established career women get out of their own head, and financially leverage themselves to follow their dreams."

Dee, whose website is at DeeTox-LifeCoaching.com, developed her own DeeTox Signature System, an eight-step program to promote spiritual and emotional healing.

Working together, the women offer a free 30-minute consultation, then from there clients can choose one-on-one counseling or a more affordable group counseling option. But they don't work with everyone who approaches them, they said.

"We are selective about our clients," Elle said. "We don't want to waste our time or their money trying to work with people who aren't really ready to change. But if you really want to change, we can help."

Dee concluded, "The way most people are going, they are going to have to work til they drop dead at their job because they do not manage their money well. But it doesn't have to be that way. Just reach out and ask for help. Go within and ask yourself, are you ready to put yourself first for a change?" ■



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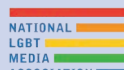
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Last Night a Drag Queen Saved My Life

How drag queens are becoming the heroes of HIV prevention

My love affair with drag queens goes way back. Since my childhood in the suburbs of East L.A. (an area noticeably lacking in glitz and glamour), I have been fascinated with these magical creatures. My first glimpses of queens were on daytime talk — which, in the pre-internet '80s, was also my only window into “the real world” that existed beyond my ‘hood. Geraldo would have the club kids on, and on The Jenny Jones Show and Ricki Lake, my beloved queens. (I made sure to scour the TV guide daily for such appearances.)

Part of my devotion is due to the fact that — aside from the pure fun, fantasy and escapism that drag queens have to offer — drag queens often bring hard-earned wisdom, strength, love, empathy and support, especially for the LGBTQ community.

And many queens have used their platforms for good, both literally and figuratively. These hardworking performers, most often gay men but sometimes trans women, are also often fierce activists speaking out on bullying and suicide prevention, transgender awareness, marriage equality, substance dependence and HIV awareness and prevention.

Of course when the '90s hit, along with RuPaul and his 1993 album Supermodel of the World, my drag curiosity had become a full-blown obsession — and now I had a Queen Motha to worship. Of course, I've gone on to become a fan of RuPaul's Drag Race (though I admit I feel a vague sense of resentment toward all you Johnny-come-lately fans).

One of the most amazing and powerful aspects of the show is its ability to bridge gaps that would not otherwise seem traversable. Not only have many estranged familial relationships been



healed through the series, but it has also been instrumental in increasing HIV awareness among both queer and straight audiences.

Famously in season one, petite and bubbly queen Ongina (Ryan Palao) disclosed his poz status after winning a challenge in which contestants created their own HIV awareness PSA. Though in its fledgling season on Logo, the show was not nearly to its current level of viewership, the moment was historic. Palao was one of the first people since Pedro Zamora (The Real World, season 3) to come out as HIV-positive on reality TV, and he helped reignite the conversation in the new millennium.

And that was just the beginning. Since June of last year, the show has started showing ads for Truvada, Gilead's branded PrEP treatment, which features gay men and cis and trans women of color.

In case you haven't heard, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a highly effective HIV prevention pill. If taken daily, Truvada can be up to 99 percent effective in preventing HIV transmission. With the show's now-massive VH1 audience, this could easily become one of the most effective PrEP campaigns to date.

In addition, season eight winner, Bob

the Drag Queen, has become a major PrEP ambassador. Shortly after taking the crown, Queen Bob (aka Christopher Caldwell) was quick to use his new national platform to increase PrEP awareness with an educational and entertaining video. “I have three goals: to give back to the community, [support the] children, and make people laugh,” he told The Advocate at the time. “Now that I'm America's Next Drag Superstar... I'm not gonna stop being political.”

As effective as things like national ads and star-power are, sometimes our local queens are the ones bringing PrEP awareness to where it's needed most — in the clubs.

Astoria, N.Y. queen Gilda Wabbit, who incorporates PrEP awareness into her live shows, told the The Advocate last summer that the stigma of the “Truvada whore” label is “real and damaging. It is sex-negative, cruel, and discourages safer-sex practices. I understand the fear ... but my friends who [use PrEP] are tested more often and are more informed about their sexual health than any people I've met before.”

So the moral of the story? Listen to a drag queen. It just may save your life — or at least your health. ■

Desiree Guerrero is the associate editor of Plus magazine. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, TheBody.com and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites —HIVPlusMag.com, PositivelyAware.com, Poz.com and TheBody.com — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS. For more information about the National AIDS Memorial Grove and the Pedro Zamora Young Leaders Scholarship, visit AidsMemorial.org.



Girl wonder

Pop icon Robyn talks 'pure bond' with LGBTQ fans, doing drag and her queer culture connections

If you're not a Robyn fan, you're not gay. Or so they say. I told Robyn about this gay Twitter collective POV when I called her on Skype recently, and with a titter she said: "Well, that particular, uh, viewpoint is maybe a little extreme, in my mind."

In non-Robyn minds, of course, that hyperbolic reach illustrates the electro dance queen's embedded place in queer culture, explicable underneath strobe lights inside a queer club where her shimmering dance-pop anthems register as euphoric elation and communal catharsis.

Same goes for a Robyn concert, perhaps the closest thing to a gay nightclub that's not an actual gay nightclub.

Or on a New York City subway platform *after* a Robyn concert, which happened in March when a passel of devotees convened while waiting for the E train, exuberantly belting out "Dancing On My Own," a diverse chorus of voices joined together by shared human emotions.

We, the misfits, move with her and are moved *by* her in the quiet solitude of our private sanctuaries (the bedroom) too, the lights down low, hearts broken but not beyond healing — Robyn's music at its emotional, queer-relatable core.

"Ever Again" is the latest video release from *Honey*, her first solo full-length in eight years, and the album's low-key house and lounge vibes wittingly challenge those who thought they knew what a Robyn song *should* sound like (she gets off on turning her image and sound on their head, she tells me). In the raw,

evocative clip, the 40-year-old pop icon is dressed in a sheer, nipple-baring silk blouse and latex jumpsuit, both fashioned by Nicolas Ghesquière for Louis Vuitton; she sexes a mic stand, cutting loose in a sandy desert where Greek statues tower over the Swedish fembot. When she raises the stand with profound ease after humping it on the ground, whipping it around and around through the air with propellant force, we are reminded of Robyn's status as a singular supernova still staking out her own slice of solitary sky in a galaxy of flashy pop stars.

You look at her, writhing, gyrating, moving in tandem with only herself as her guide, like a leader among us, and think: of course she is among the gods, a true pop music heroine. In the decade since *Body Talk*, when the late-'90s artist reemerged a cult force in the aughts, the gay icon has culled a coalition of underground outsiders and outcasts by cutting through pop-culture excess with the rarest of pop-star features: her desire to be human first, pop artist second.

She tells me she doesn't see herself like we see her — this, after I tell her how lucky I feel to be Skyping her (it's Robyn! On her own!) — and how her music has served as a heartening salve for many, including myself. Our Robyn is not Robyn's Robyn, however, and so her demure response — "OK, great. I'm happy I can do that for you," in a voice that intoned a steady softness that made me wonder what Robyn sounds like when she's shouting — can be read as reluctantly appreciative (later, she tells me why). She also spoke about why she thinks it's important artists understand

the queer references they use in their work, the precise reason she's proud "Dancing On My Own" became a gay anthem, and how her current post-tomboy femininity is, for her, "almost like dragging."

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Has your relationship with the LGBTQ community always been such a natural fit? Robyn: Yeah, I'm sure. Whatever people connect to in my music, if it's there for them, then that is a natural connection. You know what I think? I wouldn't say that all LGBT and queer people are the same, so for me, it's maybe a little awkward to assume that all people that are LGBTQ have the same views of what I do, but I can recognize myself in the LGBTQ community in the sense that I think they are people who question what being a human being is about because it has been naturally incorporated in being different or feeling different, or maybe not being conventional or living in a conventional way. I think questioning yourself or questioning the context you're in comes natural to this community, and for me, that's something that I feel connected to or that I feel that I can understand. Maybe that's why there seems to be this strong, kind of pure bond between me and that part of my fan group.

How do you explain the relationship between the LGBTQ community and, more specifically, your music? There's a tradition with the gay community gravitating to music that is melodic and melancholy, maybe in the same [song]. You can hear it in ABBA, you can hear it in the tradition of British gay bands and gay artists that have always championed this way of singing about emotions, whether it's like Erasure, or even Queen. There's a tradition there within gay music culture that I always felt was something

that I connected to.

You've said that making your own space as a pop artist versus trend-grabbing has been at least somewhat a by-product of being inspired by the queer community also having to create its own space. When did you first experience the queer community in that way? My first experience of club culture was in New York in a club called Body & Soul, which was at this place called the Shelter in New York. I don't know if you could say it was a pure gay club because it was very mixed, but it was definitely a club that was authentic in the sense that it was really connected to the foundations of house music in New York, which was a pure gay culture. But I wouldn't say it was a part of gay culture that represents all gay people, either.

Also, I think it's maybe important to just define "gay" or "LGBTQ" because there's so many different parts of it now, which is an amazing thing. You know, it's really beautiful how diverse it's been and become and also how broad it is now; it's part of the commercial pop culture in the world. But the part that I was brought into as a teenager was maybe something that I don't think you can say was a commercial part of the gay community but something that grew out of a gay community that was very underground and not so accepted.

When it comes to the commercialization of queerness in pop music, what are you seeing? Are more artists diving into queer culture in a way that wasn't happening when you launched your music career in the '90s? For me, I don't think I am a protector of queer — well, maybe queer, but not gay values. I'm not the one who sets the agenda for how people should relate to gay culture; I think that's something that gay people have to do and kind of guard themselves. I don't feel like I have that right. But I was always inspired by club music, and the club culture is something that gay people crave. It wouldn't exist if there wasn't the gay community that started that whole movement in America in the '70s. And I think because of that, I have a responsibility to be aware of what the references are that I'm drawn to. But it's also queer culture in the sense that there's lots of artists who don't define themselves as gay artists but who are still making queer music, whether it's Kate Bush or Prince.

Is queerness in pop music political? I think there's a political aspect to talking about gay communities — and there's also another aspect, which is just about the queer expression and what that means. But sometimes they overlap and sometimes it's really important to be political. I think it's always important to be aware of, whether it's gay culture or black culture or any minority, what it is that you

are representing and where you draw your inspiration from. But then there's also another kind of space, which is held by a queer expression and which, I think, [goes] beyond your sexual orientation. It might be a way of just expressing yourself that is not part of the norm, so there's lots of different nuances in that.

You've said you get shy when fans express their love for you because you don't know if things are gonna get weird. What's the weirdest encounter you've had with a fan? I don't remember. I don't keep track of those things, but I guess for me it's just maybe sometimes I don't feel that I ... maybe I'm not just always comfortable with the attention, but that doesn't mean I'm not, like, happy that people enjoy my music. I'm just always really flattered when people come up to me and tell me what they feel. That's always a nice day, especially when people are nice. But I don't know. It's hard to give an example of weird fans.

What about the attention makes you uncomfortable? I guess maybe I'm just a little bit uncomfortable with the idea of fame. I don't think it has to do, maybe, with fans; I just think sometimes I'm like a sensitive person [laughs], so I don't always feel like I recognize myself in the image that people have of me. I might have a different day, or I might be in a different kind of mood, or whatever; I just get a little awkward. But it's nothing too traumatic.

Aside from "Dancing On My Own," are there other songs of yours that have been interpreted, or even kind of claimed, by LGBTQ culture in ways you hadn't expected they would be? I think with songs like that you never know what's gonna happen to them. It's almost like when you release a song, it's not yours anymore — it's up to the people who listen to it to decide what it means for them. And that's what I love about making music, or even performing live: that it's a conversation between me and the people who are listening. So I don't, maybe other people do, know what's gonna happen with a song.

With "Dancing On My Own," it was definitely like that — I had no idea it was going to take on these several different lives, being a part of [HBO's] *Girls* and then becoming what you're saying: a song that meant a lot to the gay community, and in lots of different countries. That's one of the biggest compliments you can get as an artist, because the gay community chooses their champions in a very special way, and I think all subcultures do. For me, growing up with that kind of music, it's something I'm really proud about.

You've said that the sonic inspiration for

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Zazu (John Oliver) upstages Simba... until a meerkat upstages him.

The uncanny savannah

Disney's new paradigm: Show me Timon-ey!

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

It's been nearly 50 years since a roboticist first coined the phrase "uncanny valley" to describe the point at which human facsimiles progress from being eerily accurate to just plain creepy, but computer graphics have taken this attraction-revulsion dichotomy to an unimaginable level. We look at the anthropomorphic characters in a film like *Toy Story 4*, or even a motion-captured performance in a movie like *The Avengers*, as we know we're being fooled, even as we admire the skill of it. But those films are inherent fantasies — chimeras that create a foreign world.

Things get a little more complicated with the new version of *The Lion King*.

Consider: There was not a time, during the entire "filming" of that movie, when an actual camera was ever employed. Not a single living actor was used on-screen... ever. (Even *The Jungle Book* used an actual boy playing Mowgli.) It was created, in its entirety, among the pixels and electrons of a massive server farm, every moment carefully plotted and programmed and rendered. Animated films do that all the time (at least since the decline of cel animation), but what they do here? Well, it's simply uncanny.

Not, though, in the bad way... at least not entirely. (It probably helps that all the characters are animals; no real humans were harmed in the making of this film.) During the opening sequence, when the baboon Rafiki holds the cub Simba aloft on Pride Rock for all the creatures to see, you can't resist staring in awe at the beauty and accuracy of richness of his mane, of the sunlight reflecting on stone, of the reticulation of the insects. It's so impressively realistic... and then it strikes you: Wait,

■ SAVANNAH Page 20

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He colored our world

Post-humous memoir of Pride flag designer weaves fascinating tale

Rainbow Warrior: My Life in Color by Gilbert Baker (Chicago Review Press 2019) \$27; 256 pp.

Even as a small child, Gilbert Baker knew that he was gay. He grew up in Kansas, a child who loved to draw, create, wear fancy dresses and dream of being an artist. Alas, art wasn't a career in his parents' eyes. So as a young man, Baker lied about his gayness and enlisted in the Army, where he quickly realized that he was in for years of abuse (at best) or Vietnam (at worst). He "lived in terror," he writes, before filing as a conscientious objector; the Army instead listed him as a medic and sent him to San Francisco.

It was the perfect accidental gift.

"When I got to San Francisco," he writes, "I knew I wasn't ever going back to Kansas."

Five days a week, Baker worked in an Army laboratory; the rest of the time was his to fall in love, explore



his new city and work on his sewing skills, the latter of which became an obsession. By 1977, he was making costumes and banners for demonstrations. When he was asked to make something special for the city's Gay Freedom Day Parade of 1978, he thought about the rainbow as a flag and dove right in.

While that first flag was a big hit, the symbol didn't take off immediately. Still, it was present in every street activists event he was part of, at every parade, every protest. "One pair of scissors" and a mile of fabric could "change the whole dynamic," he would later

write. It was "a pure act of rebellion."

Rainbow Warrior was compiled from several manuscripts that Baker left after his death in 2017, a fact that would have been helpful to have early-on. You'll be more forgiving of the overly-florid prose knowing that.

Aside from that annoyance, readers may also notice a bit of pretentiousness, lots of snark, endless drugs and frequent nudity in Baker's narrative, much of which takes place post-Stonewall, post-Summer-of-

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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The value of any festival is its smorgasbord sensibility — taste a little of this, sample a little of that, look over an array of the other. You never know if you'll like something until you try it.

Now, as the Festival of Independent Theatres enters its third decade, we can appreciate the variety of creatives practicing their craft and their art. (Women, the adage goes, need a reason to have sex; men just need a place. Small theater companies are both.)

The buffet of offerings at FIT this year — at least the two (of eight) productions I saw opening weekend — show how filling and varied that menu is. *The First Annual Gay Show* wears its attitude like a rainbow wig at church. A devised piece featuring six performers, its plot orbits around a volatile premise: A pageant for queer people of color, judged by Looks, Guts, Beauty, Talent and Queerness (or LGBTQ). The four contestants have an uphill battle — none, they concede, are considered avatars of mainstream beauty: A gay Asian man, a mixed-race genderfluid person,

a black trans woman, a butch lesbian of color. All have led lives racked with self-doubt and external abuse; each has steadfastly persevered, because how can you not. And they have found a way to share these experiences in arresting moments of confessions, movement, comedy, irony — a vast burlesque that questions our collective understanding of each other. If it sounds touchy-feely, it is; but if it also sounds daring and interesting and illuminating, it is also that, as untraditional as the people in it.

More traditional, but no less insightful, is *Nerve*, a two-hander about a man

(Matt Lyle) and woman (Kim Lyle) on an awkward first date. Every joke is scrutinized for political correctness; every admission

a cudgel to be used to pick apart your adversary... I mean, "date's" suitability for long-term partnership. It's exaggerated and disastrous but also achingly accurate in its dissection of the mating ritual in modern society, gay or straight. Is he a stalker? Is she a psychopath? And even if the answer to both is "yes," is that a dealbreaker? The Lyles (married in real life) are experienced comedians comfortable in the idiom of the absurd, and their energy sustained its 50 minutes of ups and downs. If the rest of the festival entrants are as tasty as these two, your appetite for theater will be satisfied like a Thursday in late November.

FIT
Bath House Cultural Center,
521 E. Lawther Drive.
Through Aug. 14.
FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org.



■ GIRL From Page 15

“Baby Forgive Me,” from *Honey* was Bruce Springsteen’s “Streets of Philadelphia,” a song that means a great deal to the LGBTQ community due to its use in *Philadelphia*. Can you take me through the process of how Bruce’s song led to “Baby Forgive Me?” I think there were lots of different songs that inspired “Baby Forgive Me,” but I know that I mentioned “Streets of Philadelphia” in an interview. That was definitely part of it, but there were other songs as well, like a George McCrae song called “Rock Your Baby,” that I listened to. But also other disco and more modern songs like slower Balearic, like house music, that I also listened to so much. So that was a mix of very, very different things, and me and Mr. Tophat, who I made it with, were playing around with these chords in the studio. It was one of those songs that just came very intuitively and kind of in one go. We worked on it for a long time and refined it, and it went through lots of different stages. There was a point where it was almost like a slow acid track. To me, it’s very inspired by disco and quite acoustic and more analog soul music, like the way it’s written, but Mr. Tophat and Joseph Mount gave it this other more monotonous production that maybe sounds a little bit more like “Streets of Philadelphia” in a way.

Gay men still have a real thing for late ’90s female pop: Are they the ones who still request your ’90s hit “Show Me Love” be part of your current tour repertoire? I think it depends on where you look. In Sweden here, where I live, a lot of people that grew up with that song still see it as one of the more important songs of my repertoire [laughs]. But yeah...

Do you still see it that way? I do, yeah. I still play it live sometimes. It was a part of the setlist the last time I toured, so I’m not against it in any way.

You took an eight-year break before *Honey* was released last year. Will we have to wait as long for the next album? Oh, I don’t know if it will be another eight

years — that would feel strange. There will be an album sooner or later, but I don’t know when. I’m still touring, so I haven’t been spending any time in the studio since the end of last year. I hope to at the end of this year, but I have no clue when I’ll have music finished.

You once said you identify with the queer community when it comes to subverting gender expectations, and I noticed your gender presentation is currently softer and more feminine. Did you get sick of having to introduce yourself as, “Hi I’m Robyn and I’m a girl?” I haven’t introduced myself that way in a very long time, but I think when I grew up, being androgynous was also a way of protecting myself and not being as vulnerable as a woman or as a girl. I was maybe at a stage when I made this album where I felt like it was time to let that go, even a bit. Not saying at all that androgyny is something you can’t be vulnerable in, because I really think it’s a lot of different things for a lot of different people. And I don’t think that being androgynous is, as much as it was maybe when I was growing up, a protection, because everything with gender is kind of being reexamined at the moment. So maybe, for me, it was more drag going into a feminine role than it was being androgynous.

You felt more comfortable as a tomboy. Exactly. So being more feminine is almost like dragging for me ... or exploring something in myself that maybe I wasn’t as easy with.

Do you find power in how you choose to present gender? For me, I think the power of it is being able to play with it and not having to decide what it is. And that it is just like everything else: Whether you have short hair or long hair or if you’re shy or extroverted, these things change over time, and I think what’s interesting is how you approach it from what *your* norm is, or how you’re feeling, what is challenging to you — and maybe what’s challenging to the people who think they know who you are.

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gazelles are coming to obeisance to an apex predator? Giraffes are appearing, like the magi, to honor their king? *Huh!?!?* When it happens in line-drawn cartoons with cuddly human features and glistening eyes, the kumbayanness of it all is essential to the charm. When you aim for photorealism? Well, let's just say the director, Jon Favreau, has exchanged authenticity of visual for verisimilitude of story. It just rings false.

At least it does for a while. Eventually, once the animals begin to move their mouths and tell lame jokes (in English!), the realism is undercut. And then your

focus recenters: Why remake one animated film 25 years later for another one without significant changes? It seems, "because we can."

That has been an increasingly worrying refrain in Hollywood, and especially Disney, in recent years. The House of Mouse seems to have a two-pronged approach to growth: Superheroes and repackaged classics. Its purchase of Fox Studios was clearly a craven grab to control the remaining properties in the Marvel canon (Fantastic Four, X-Men, Deadpool) so that they could consolidate ownership of the most lucrative

cinematic property in recent vintage (and add it to their Star Wars franchises). Then — starting with *Maleficent* in 2014, and continuing through *Cinderella*, *Jungle Book*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Dumbo*, *Aladdin*, the upcoming *Mulan* and *Little Mermaid* and now this — Disney is merely rehashing its track record of saleable stories with a techno-twist. Of the 30 wide-release studio films released since *Endgame*, 15 have been remakes or sequels. It's all about the opening weekend grosses and overseas roll-outs. Longevity, word-of-mouth, creativity? Not major concerns.

Of course, art can emerge from commerce (and even legit entertainment), but I wonder why we all will line up for *The Lion King* again, just to hear the same songs, see the same story, revisit ... well, everything.

It's not as though the show isn't problematic structurally. Like the stage musical, it shoots its load in the magnificent opening number ("Circle of Life") and there's no place to go but down. And the other signature song from the 1995 version, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," was performed as a single by Elton John; the lyrics don't fit into the narrative of any characters, and shoehorning it in never works. (New, not-very-good lyrics here just diminish it even more.)

Still, there are some good reasons to seek it out. The star of the first half of the film, beyond its mere existence as a work of engineering, is John Oliver's voice work as Zazu — prissy, droll, incisively-delivered. But he is soon upstaged by Billy Eichner as Timon, whose catty, flamboyantly whiny vocal performance could stand on its own in a one-man show. (Less interesting by far: Donald Glover and Beyoncé, who bring virtually no shadings to the two leading characters.) Add to that Hans Zimmer's amazing new underscore and Favreau's admirable modulation of the emotions, and this film, like Simba himself, eventually finds its own roar. ■

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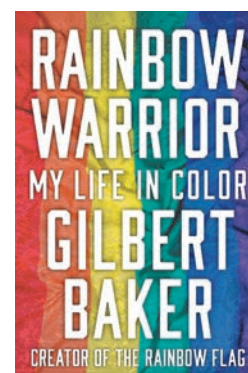
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■ COLORED From Page 17



Love, pre-AIDS. And thus is the appeal here. Baker was one of the more ferociously involved protesters, by his own account, and his anecdotes are priceless. He gives readers a good

first-person look at early efforts for gay rights, and eye-opening, sometimes jaw-dropping, behind-the-scenes peeks at life as a young gay man during an uprising. It's a lively, outrageous look at outrage, in an account that seems not to have held one thing back. That makes *Rainbow Warrior* readable and entertaining and, despite its overly-ornate verbosity, a good look at revolution cut from a different cloth. ■

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



Friday 07.19

S4 hosts finals for Miss Gay Texas America

The teeth are sparkling, the goods have been tucked, the costumes bedazzled: All week, drag queens have been preparing to find out who will be named this year's Miss Gay Texas America. In addition to crown, a sash and bragging rights, the pageant will determine who will represent the Lone Star State in the nationals at Miss Gay America 2020, to be held October in St. Louis. The top 10 will perform, with Miss Gay America 2007 Chanel LaMasters, pictured, emceeing and performances by previous Miss Gay America winners, including the reigning queen Andora Tete.

DEETS: The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$25 cover. 9 p.m. PartyAtTheBlock.com.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Friday 07.19 – Sunday 07.28

Hello, Betty! Dolly Levi comes to Fair Park

A true "Broadway best," the iconic musical *Hello, Dolly!* swings back into town with the sensational Texas native Betty Buckley. Best known for her role as Grizabella in *Cats*, the Fort Worth-raised theater staple takes on Dolly — first made popular onstage more than 50 years ago by the late, great Carol Channing. Close to wrapping up her first-ever national tour, Buckley's ready to captivate audiences close to home. Read our review at DallasVoice.com.

DEETS: Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.



Tuesday 07.23 – Sunday 07.28

Mob tale takes new tone to the Bass

After a run earlier this year in Dallas, the musical *A Bronx Tale* comes to Cowtown. Based on the story that inspired the 1993 film, *A Bronx Tale* details life about a boy growing up on the stoops of a Mafia-run NYC neighborhood. This streetwise kid hits conflict when he's torn between living a straightedge life like his father or following a mob boss who's become his mentor. Written by Chazz Palminteri, who played mobster Sonny LoSpecchio in the film, and co-directed by Robert Di Niro, who played the boy's father, this take on the gangster-genre classic hits a new pitch while keeping the style of the original.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. BassHall.com.

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One of a handful of Caravaggios on view in the U.S. — and the second one currently in North Texas — 'Martha and Mary Magdalene' demonstrates one of the volatile painter's early explorations of chiaroscuro. It will be on display at the Dallas Museum of Art through Sept. 22.



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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Festival of Independent Theatres. The annual festival of short plays, including this year's substantial LGBTQ-interest productions. *Reviewed this week.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 3. FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.org.

Hello, Dolly! Betty Buckley stars as Dolly Levi, a matchmaker in turn-of-the-century New York who secretly has designs on a wealthy merchant in Jerry Herman's classic musical. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Through July 28.

Godspell. The Gospel of Matthew adapted by Stephen Schwartz. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through July 28. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Crossing the Line. A documentary-style theater work, dealing with the immigration crisis at the border, co-presented by Kitchen Dog Theater and Cry Havoc Theatre Co. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Aug. 4. KitchDogTheater.org.

Mamma Mia! The ABBA musical. Firehouse Theatre. 2535 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Through Aug. 11. TheFirehouseTheatre.com.

FILM

Asian Film Festival of Dallas. 18th annual celebration of cinema from Asia. All screenings at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station. Through July 25. For complete lineup, visit AsianFilmDallas.com.

COMEDY

Old Jews Telling Jokes. A show celebrating the humor of the Borscht Belt. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Through Richardson. July 28. EisemannCenter.com.

FINE ART

Dior: From Paris to the World. Retrospective of 70 years of the famed French design house. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Sept. 1. DMA.org.

Caravaggio: *Martha and Mary Magdalene.* A stunning work from 1598, on loan to the DMA through the summer. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through Sept. 22. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 07.19

DRAG

Miss Gay Texas America. The finals of the feeder pageant to one of the biggest titles in drag, Miss Gay America. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$25 cover. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 07.20

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

MONDAY 07.22

CABARET

Mama's Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10

TUESDAY 07.23

FILM

A Night at the Opera. A classic from the Marx Brothers. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

THEATER

A Bronx Tale. Alan Menken composed the score to this adaptation of the one-man play (and later movie) based on the early life of Chazz Palminteri. After a run in January in Dallas, it opens this week at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through July 28. BassHall.com

THURSDAY 07.25

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 07.26

THEATER

Latin History for Morons. John Leguizamo received a Tony nomination for this engaging, instructive and funny recitation of Western culture from the Hispanic perspective. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Waxing nostalgic over the old Rose Room

Hello, lovely people. I hope your summer is off to a great start. Mine has been great so far. June was a Pride Month for the record books. I did so much daylight drag it scared me into believing that I was a day walker. Luckily, I reverted back to my vampire ways very easily.

I am fortunate enough that I get to work with many young, up-and-coming drag queens and performers. Many of the young'uns that I book have a great work ethic and are very reliable. The one thing I wish many of them would learn is a little more of our drag herstory. A few weeks ago, I suggested we do "Lil Ole Bitty Pissant Country Place" from *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* as a closing production on a Monday night for my Freakshow, and every one of those girls freaked out. None of them knew the song well enough to do, even with me as Dolly and they were just my "whores!"

I was shocked. I know that it is a very old song from a very old musical, but it is so great in a drag show. I think if you are going to be a drag queen, even in this day and age, you gotta know your shit. When I first started doing drag, I didn't know every single song Donna Day or Tasha Kohl did, but I asked questions — "Who sings this? Do you have a copy of this song?" Back then, you couldn't just Shazam a song and have it to learn immediately. We traded songs on homemade cassettes like how kids trade Pokémon cards today.

Drag has changed so much over the years, but one of the things I miss the most is someone like Donna Day singing "Old Friend" by Phillis Hyman and making you feel the heavy, beautiful emotion of the song. Or Celeste Martinez doing "Left in the Dark" by Barbra Streisand and having nearly everyone in the room in tears.

That was what was so great about the old Rose Room. It was small and intimate, so that you could feel the emotion coming off the entertainer. Yes, they were lip-syncing, but it was still powerful and magical in its own way.

When I speak of the old Rose Room, I'm talking about before the existence of Station 4. The original Rose Room was a very small room upstairs. It had one bar, a tiny DJ booth and a spotlight with a stage that was all of four inches above the ground. I think there were only nine tables and a rail around the room that people would crowd behind. The



performers had to walk through the crowd to get to the stage. If you wanted to do a big costume reveal, you had better be covered up before you hit that stage.

It was always packed inside with a line of people waiting to get in. With it being so small, it didn't take many people to be there to feel like we were packed. I remember all the girls saying that if the room were bigger our tips would be better. The truth is, not by very much.

The old Rose Room was something great. The new Rose Room is phenomenal — bigger and better in almost every way — but it lost some of the intimacy that I loved back then.

The drama of a beautiful ballad doesn't work in the new Rose Room. Unless you are sitting in the front few rows, you can't clearly see the performers enough for that to work. I guess that's why the new kids are all about death drops and cartwheels. Now you want to make sure that even the people way back in the back of the room are still entertained, even if all they can see is a tiny dancing queen off in the distance.

I guess I am feeling a little nostalgic for the drag of my youth. I miss many of the great ones that are no longer with us. Donna Day,

Whitney Paige, Coco... just to name a few. I guess we all feel that the way things were when we were young was the golden age of whatever we were into, and someday these young girls will hopefully feel a little nostalgic for the way things are right now, because in the blink of an eye, things will change. Can you imagine it? Someday, someone will say, "Bitch, I remember when So-and-So used to slay Cardi B," or "When that queen did that pussy song by Cupcake, it was ovah!" Then they will say, They don't make 'em like they used to."

Speaking of young people, I want to tell you about a kid I have seen around here in Midlothian. I don't know his name and have never even spoken to him, but I admire this kid so much. Let me explain.

A few weeks ago, I was at the vet with one of my dogs waiting for them to open. I like to get there early to sign in, then wait in my car listening to an audiobook. On this day, I happened to look through my rearview and saw this long-haired, slightly chubby, kind of effeminate-looking boy. He was walking towards the high school, so I am guessing freshman or sophomore. Actually, he was dancing more than walking. He had his headphones on and

was strutting, side-stepping and spinning on his way to school. To me, it looked like he was doing The Hustle or the Electric Slide. He was in his own world and having the absolute best time. He'd take a few steps forward and then back it up. Throw in a little spin, finger snapping and then move forward again. He was obviously in no hurry to get to wherever ever he was going but was enjoying the hell out of his journey.

That chance sighting made my whole day. A few people honked at him as they passed, but he just kept on living his truth and enjoying whatever song he was listening to. I admire this kid because I can almost guarantee that high school is not an easy place for him to be, and he has the deck stacked against him.

I saw him again a few afternoons later, and he was still jamming: a few steps forward, a few steps back with a little spin. I want to send him every bit of love and light so that he keeps that beautiful spirit. You never know when just being yourself can have an impact on someone else's day. You do you, dancing queen.

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

Email: AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



Friends hanging out at Alexandre's

Making the **SCENE** the week of **July 19–25:**

- **1851 Club:** **Barbie Davenport**, **Aries Noir** and **Ronnie Skyy Mikyles** on Friday. **Chanel St. John**, **Sapphire Davenport** and **Kristie Davenport** on Saturday.
- **Alexandre's:** **Anton Shaw Band** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Claws Watch Party** at 8 p.m. on Sunday. **Pose Watch Party** at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Party on the Patio** hosted by **Veronica Reyes** and **Sapphire Tailor** with music at 9 p.m. and show at 11 p.m. on Saturday. **Cowtown Leathermen Cookout** from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court presents **A Night of Seeing Stars** from 7-10 p.m. on Friday, **Christmas in July** from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, and **United Court-Dallas Eagle Turnabout Show** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday. **Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night** begins at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Don't Tell Supper Club:** **Drag Brunch** with **Jenni P** on Sunday.
- **Havana:** **Sunday Brunch**; doors open at noon.
- **Hidden Door:** **United Court Club Night** at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Double Trouble** with **Raquel Blake** and **Bleach** at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Miss Wanda** from 9 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- **Pekers:** **A Trip to the 80s** presented by the **Miss Gay Texas Pageant System**, from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs! contest** with **Sassy O'Hara** at 10 p.m. on Monday. **The Round-Up Hoe Down Dance Competition** at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. **Line Dance Lessons** at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **Tyla: Still the One: A Tribute to Shania Twain** on Sunday. **C.E.B.A. All American King Pageant** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Kennedy Davenport** on Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** \$100 cash prize for **Fuego** Wednesday at 11:30 p.m.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Karaoke** at 10 p.m. on Sunday. **Relive the '90s** from 9 p.m.-close on Monday.
- **Zipperz:** **Ronnie Skyy Mikyles** presents **Unzipped Male Revue** at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantoath**



Kiana Raye at JR.'s



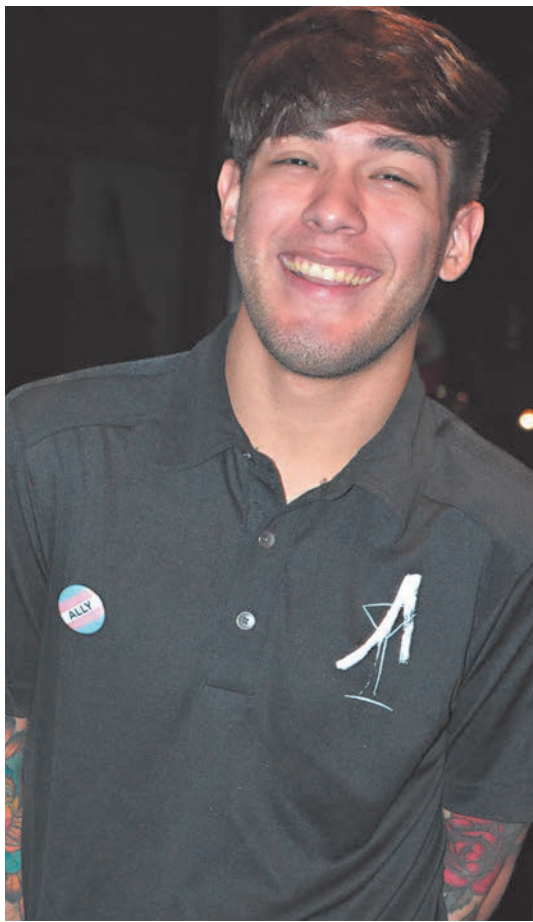
Catching up with friends at Cedar Springs Tap House



DJ Mateo at TMC: The Mining Company



Working the pole at
TMC: The Mining Company



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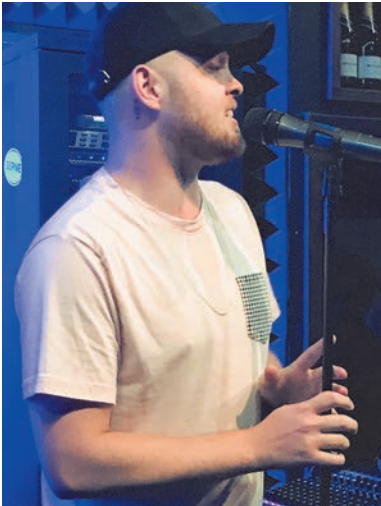
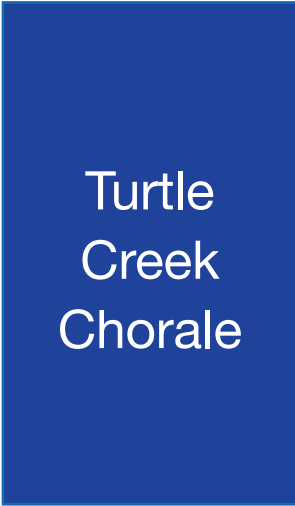


Save a horse; ride at cowboy at The Round-Up

Black Tie at Bass Hall



Drag Queen Story Time



World Pride

Photos by Emily Zolten Jillette



q-puzzle

Charlie's Angels

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Solution on Page 23

Across

- 1 Gay Bob, for example
- 5 Man with a steel rod
- 10 Dab at fresh lipstick, e.g.
- 14 John Goodman's *Normal*, ____
- 15 LuPone Broadway role
- 16 Wild party
- 17 Drivers get off on it
- 18 It lessens the bottom line
- 19 Column by the decimal
- 20 With 22-Across, she will soon play Sabrina in the *Charlie's Angels* franchise
- 22 See 20-Across
- 24 Genre of Samuel Butler
- 25 Goes around
- 26 She has played Madison Lee in the *Charlie's Angels* franchise
- 30 Big name in Chicago
- 33 Mardi Gras mo., often
- 34 Emcee Pat
- 38 Kind of tea
- 39 Changed from red to pink
- 41 Georgia spread on the screen
- 42 One-time link
- 43 Reproduced without breeders
- 45 Grizabella, on
- Broadway
- 46 Metal teeth near the package
- 48 Heart-shaped mollusk
- 50 Penguin perches
- 52 Evidence in a Scoppettone novel
- 53 She has played Dylan Sanders in the *Charlie's Angels* franchise
- 56 It may be removed in SRS
- 57 Run out of
- 58 City in the land of Rilke
- 60 Twist an arm
- 61 Belgium treaty city
- 62 Man, as a cruising goal
- 63 Worship service, for Mychal Judge
- 64 Tumblers' sites
- 65 State, to Cocteau

Down

- 1 Lame crowd
- 2 Frank of the New York School of poetry
- 3 Speed to heed
- 4 Not straight
- 5 Cash in
- 6 Where to find hot buns
- 7 Baby food catcher
- 8 Miss that was a Cole Porter hit
- 9 Decoration for skin
- 10 Do some bullying
- 11 Isle of Bette Midler's birth state

- 12 In-your-face
- 13 Dry runs
- 21 *South Park* co-creator Parker
- 23 Blows it
- 27 Moslem cleric
- 28 *Margaret Mead* ____ *Me Gay*
- 29 Often-dunked item
- 30 Cameron, who has played Natalie Cook in the franchise
- 31 Curtain-raising time
- 32 Moves a head between one's legs
- 35 What the excited snowman might do?
- 36 Word on an Asian map
- 37 Jackson, who has played Sabrina Duncan in the franchise
- 39 Some who like it hot
- 40 Translates from heterospeak?
- 43 Sneaky Pie cry
- 44 Dire destiny
- 47 Academy newbies
- 49 Snack with milk
- 51 Daughter of a gay friendly prez
- 52 Fruit with wrinkles
- 53 Nickelodeon explorer
- 54 Coral habitat
- 55 Cinder suffix of fairy tales
- 56 Bottom of the Thames
- 59 Circus safety device

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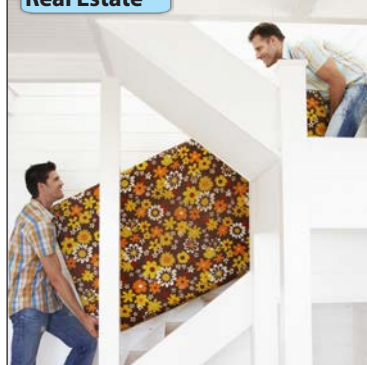
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