

dallas voice

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Pride *across* **TEXAS**

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Mica England honored at Holocaust museum, visits Dallas PD



"It really felt like I had come full circle." That was how Mica England described how it felt to get a personal invitation to visit the Dallas Police Department headquarters to meet the department's LGBT liaison officer and to speak at a meeting with Chief U. Renee Hall and the department's deputy chiefs — 30 years after she first walked into the DPD offices to apply as an officer.

England was in Dallas this week to attend the grand opening of the new Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, which includes a tribute to England and her role in the fight for LGBT civil rights in Dallas.

It was July 1989 that England, then

working as a chef in Tulsa, first applied to be a Dallas police officer. She had met with recruiters in Tulsa who had told her at the time that the fact she was a lesbian would not disqualify her as an applicant. But when she came to Dallas and applied, one of those same recruiters refused to allow her to even finish the application process when England acknowledged during an interview that she was a lesbian.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, the day that the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum officially opened to the public — was "Upstander Day" in Dallas, recognizing the human rights heroes who defend the powerless and stand up to injustice. England is one of the museum's "upstanders."

But Tuesday, the day that England and others had a chance to tour the museum before it opened to the public, was an especially memorable day for the woman who, basically, fought the law and won. Because Tuesday was the day that England was invited to visit the DPD headquarters and speak to officers there.

England was invited into a chiefs meeting where she had the chance to tell her story to and answer questions from Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall and a number of the department's deputy chiefs, putting a human face to the stories those officers had heard and the policies the department now follows.

It was, England said, a most gratifying

moment. While her life today is very different from the life she led and the goals she had 30 years ago, she said she felt "really honored" to have been included in the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, and "happy to know that what I did was important for the city of Dallas and for the LGBT community. It's gratifying to know that [the Dallas police] recruit from the LGBT community now. That's important. I think a police force should be representational of the communities they serve."

And although her battle was fought and won so long ago, England said she knows that the LGBT community's work — and hers — continues. "When I looked around the museum [Tuesday] and then compared it what's going on out in the world today, it was really frightening," she said. "We are going backwards in so many ways. Trump and Pence keep taking rights away from transgender people and others. The LGBT community as a whole, we have a target on our backs. We have to keep fighting."

(Read the full story at DallasVoice.com/coming-full-circle-2/)

— Tammye Nash

Angelica Ross to host presidential candidate forum

Transgender activist and actress Angelica Ross will host the 2020 Presidential Candidate Forum on LGBTQ Issues set for Friday, Sept. 20, in Coe College's Sinclair Auditorium in



Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The forum will stream live.

Ross — star of *Pose* and *American Horror Story 1984* — is the first transgender person to host a presidential candidate forum.

The forum is presented by

GLAAD, One Iowa, The Gazette and The Advocate, and Zach Stafford, editor in chief of The Advocate, confirmed Ross' participation today (Monday, Sept. 16). Candidates confirmed to be participating so far are Joe Biden, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Julián Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar, Joe Sestak, Elizabeth Warren and Marianne Williamson, according to Deadline.com. The site also reports that country singer and season 11 The Voice contestant Bill Gilman will sing The National Anthem to open the forum.

GLAAD has also invited Beto O'Rourke, Bernie Sanders and Andrew Yang to participate.

Ross and GLAAD President and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis will discuss with the candidates their plans for improving acceptance of the LGBT community if elected President in 2020.

— Tammye Nash

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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.

SEPTEMBER

• **Sept. 20: Til Midnight at the Nasher**
Music, movies and moonlight from 6 p.m.-midnight at the Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

• **Sept. 21: A Taste of Summer Bake-Plant-Art Sale**
LifeWalk Team AIDS Services Dallas hosts sale of resident art, plants and baked goods from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hillcrest House, 834 N. Marsalis Ave.

• **Sept. 21: Fairy Tale Gaybingo**
Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at MyResourceCenter.org.

• **Sept. 21: Queens that Bowl**
GALA goes bowling from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Super Bowl, 2521 K Ave. Plano. Tickets at GALANorthTexas.org.

• **Sept. 22: Prime Timers**
Games hosted by Nick in Rockwall. Call 214-218-0912 for directions.

• **Sept. 23: North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce; Business & Community Excellence Awards '19 - luncheon**
Recognizing LGBT business and community leaders from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel. Info at GLBTChamber.com.

• **Sept. 24: 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.

• **Sept. 24: 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. For more information visit MyResourceCenter.org.

• **Sept. 24: Vision of Equality luncheon**
Resource Center's Vision of Equality Fundraising Luncheon from noon-

1 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free. RSVP to allisonjohnson@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Sept. 25: Prime Timers**
Dinner at 7 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 3514 W. Airport Freeway, Irving.

• **Sept. 25: DPD LGBTQ Town Hall**
Dallas Police officials including Chief U. Renee Hall and D.A. LGBT Liaison Philip Clark meet with the LGBT community at 6:30-8 p.m. at MLK Jr. Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Ave.

• **Sept. 26: Shakespeare Dallas: Pride in the Park**
Mention your favorite LGBT organization at the gate for free entry to Shakespeare in the Park's production of Macbeth at 8 p.m. at Samuell Grand

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 **Shannon Bailey** talking about addiction in the LGBT community; **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 Grauwlyer 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@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; **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 noon, 6:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 6525 Inwood Road.

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.

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• **Sept. 27-29: Dallas Southern Pride**

The 22nd annual Black Gay Pride weekend in Dallas that includes the lesbian and transgender communities with a variety of events. For more information visit DallasSouthernPride.com.

• **Sept. 27-Oct. 20: State Fair of Texas**

The State Fair of Texas comes around again, go out and have some fun. For more information visit BigTex.com.

• **Sept. 28: Unleashed LGBTQ Expo**

Businesses exhibiting new and innovative products and services with the LGBT community in mind from 2-11:30 p.m. at Market Hall, 2200 Stemmons Freeway. \$25-899. Tickets at Eventbrite.

• **Sept. 28: Red Star Space Oddity**

Red Party XI with live entertainment, silent auction, costumes encouraged

from 8-11 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 North Riverfront Blvd.

• **Sept. 28: DFW Sister Blue Ball**

Blue Ball takes place from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave.

• **Sept. 28: Trans/SOFFA support group**

An open group for those who identify as other than their assigned birth gender, significant others, friends, family and allies at 5 p.m. at Heart of the Matter Healing Center, 2060 N. Collins Blvd., Richardson.

• **Sept. 28: Comedy for a Cause**

K-Von, David Jessup, Carmella Dubuque, Sable Alexander and Angela K Alexander perform to benefit Tucket's Gift at 5:30 p.m. in The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Sept. 28: Fall Into Pride**

Dallas Black Pride presents Sonya Renee Taylor at 7 p.m. at 211 N. Ervay St. \$25.

pet of the week / DOLLOP



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Fall means PRIDE in TEXAS

first
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This is the first
time we are actual-
ly calling it Pride.”

The TAG Pride in the Park picnic is set for Saturday, Sept. 21, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Southside Park, 455 Shiloh Road in Tyler. Sanchez said that TAG is providing free burgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings — while supplies last — and TAG members will be bringing side dishes to share. Everyone attending is encouraged to bring their own side dishes, desserts and beverages.

Early this week Sanchez said more than 40 vendors had already registered to participate in the Pride picnic, with more applications coming in each day. “We have everything from HIV testing to yogurt to puppies looking for a forever home,” she said. “I think we will reach at least 50 vendors by the weekend. That’s important because it shows how much support the community has for us. And we’ve got a great conglomeration of vendors, too. A great variety.”

Vendors will include the Boy Scouts of America, the East Texas Crisis Center, organizers for Tyler’s upcoming Out of the Darkness suicide awareness walk, wedding planners, artists “and even Walmart/Marshall is coming. We’ve got everybody,” Sanchez said.

Jumping Party rental will be there “with seven humongous inflatables,” Sanchez said, including a 71-foot-long obstacle course and a couple of bounce houses, available for a small fee pay-

More Pride on tap

Dallas Lesbian Pride

Dallas legend Betty Neal presents “Wett: The Official Dallas Lesbian Pride” Friday, Sept. 27, beginning at 10 p.m. at Sue Ellen’s. The party will include a show featuring Kennedy Davenport, RP, Shemar Gracon, Karla KP and Glam Davenport, along with DJ 008 and MC Tyra Ra Ra. Reservations are available. Facebook.com/TheRealBettyNeal

Other upcoming Pride events:

- Wimberly Pride: Sept. 20-21. Includes a Pre-Pride Kick-off Party on Friday, a Pride March Pre-Party on Saturday from 5-7 p.m., the Pride March at 7:30 p.m. and the After Party from 7:30-11:59 p.m. Get all the details at Facebook.com/WimberlyPride.
- Grayson Pride Public Forum, Saturday, Sept. 28, at 6 p.m. at the Denison Snap Center,

531 W. Chestnut St. in Denison. Facebook.com/pg/GraysonPride.
• Texas Latino Pride Live Music Festival, Saturday, Oct. 5, from 2-10 p.m. at the Longhorn Ballroom, 216 Corinth St. in Dallas. Facebook.com/

TexasLatinoPride.

• Tarrant County Gay Pride, with the parade and festival on Saturday, Oct. 5, in downtown Fort Worth and at the Fort Worth Water Gardens, and the Gay Pride Picnic on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the 7th Street Pavillion at Trinity Park. TCGPWA.org.

• Grayson Pride Comedy Benefit, Friday, Oct. 18, at Tupelo Honey Bar and Grill, 130 E. Woodward St. in Denison. Facebook.com/pg/GraysonPride.

— Tammye Nash

Pride is breaking out all over Texas this fall, with first-ever Pride celebrations this weekend in Tyler and Wimberly, and Dallas Southern Pride getting underway next Wednesday, Sept. 25. Tarrant County Pride offers two days’ worth of events Oct. 5-6, and in Dallas, Texas Latino Pride is set from Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Longhorn Ballroom. ■

— Tammye Nash

Pride in the Park

Tyler Area Gays — TAG — has been around since 2008, explained Caroline Sanchez, the organization’s chair and volunteer coordinator, and has been staging picnics in the park for several years now. “But,” she said, “this is our

able to the vendor. There will be a Kids Zone, and The Tyler Loop, an online newspaper serving the Tyler area, will have representatives there “getting stories from people about coming out in East Texas,” she added. “Basically, we are bringing the community together — all different parts of the community — to see how we can help each other out.”

“We are all part of this community, so let’s work together to make it better for all of us.”

TylerAreaGays.com

Dallas Southern Pride

About 2,500 people are expected to converge on Dallas from Sept. 25-29 for Dallas Southern Pride/Black Pride 2019, according to Ahmad Goree, one of the organizers.

“We are expecting people from all over the country to come for Black Pride weekend,” Goree said, noting that Dallas’ annual celebration is rated as the fifth-largest black Pride celebration in the country, behind Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Miami

PRIDE, Page 10

AIN announces affiliation with AHF



Steven Pace



Bret Camp

AIN to continue services under its own name and staff; AHF to add a clinic

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Officials at AIN, a 30-year-old Dallas AIDS service provider, announced this week that their organization has affili-

ated with AIDS Healthcare Foundation. "The landscape of HIV/AIDS is changing," said AIN CEO and President Steven Pace, noting that AIN worked for two years to make the decision to affiliate and that he had spoken to most of the nine other agencies in other cities that have formed this sort of affiliation.

"All said it was the best thing they could have done," Pace said, while stressing that the two organizations are not merging.

AIN provides a variety of services — including meals, transportation and case management — for low-income individuals living with HIV and other vulnerable populations. In addition to meals, AIN's Daire Center provides non-medical support, including art therapy and stabilization in a safe space as well as respite care.

AHF is the largest non-profit HIV/AIDS healthcare provider in the U.S., providing medical care to 1.2 million people in 43 countries. In Texas, AHF operates clinics in North Dallas, Fort Worth at the AIDS Outreach Center office and in Houston. In addition, AHF's Out of the Closet resale store on Cedar Springs Road does HIV testing and houses a pharmacy.

AIN will continue to operate its programs under its own name with the same staff and leadership as before the affiliation, Pace said. But now, AHF will open a clinic in AIN's offices on Stemmons Freeway behind Children's Hospital and Parkland.

Those clients using any of AIN's services but currently receiving medical care from Parkland's Amelia Court HIV clinic, Prism Health North Texas, Health Services of North Texas, Partners Clinic at Methodist Hospital or AHF's clinic at Medical City are welcome to continue seeing their doctor, Pace said. And AIN will continue providing transportation to those clinics for their clients.

But clients out of care and those that find it more convenient will be able to get their medical care at the new on-site clinic that should open within the next six months, Pace said. AHF will also open a pharmacy in AIN's office, making it easier for its clients, whether they use the clinic or not, to pick up their medications.

Pace said in addition to the clinic, financial considerations were a part of the decision to affiliate.

AIN, Page 12

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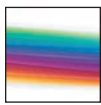
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and Los Angeles. "We go back and forth with LA, though, for the number four spot.

"We've got a lot going on this year," Goree continued. "We are really excited to be partnering with the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County District Attorney's Office this year for the first time to present the LGBTQ Town Hall Meeting" on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the MLK Jr. Recreation Center, 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Dallas. DPD's LGBT liaison of-

ficer, Cpl. Amber Washington, will be there, as well as the DA's LGBT liaison, Phillip Clark. "We'll be talking about all the issues and topics important to our community," Goree said.

The HIV Prevention Trials Network 092 Stakeholders Engagement Convening takes place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Sheraton Suites Market Center, 2101 N. Stemmons Freeway, and the Miss Dallas Southern Pride Pageant begins at 8:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the host hotel, the Doubletree by Hilton Market Center, 2015 Market Center Blvd.

Friday features the Ball House and Pageant Conference from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Doubletree, with a Lunch and Learn event from noon-2 p.m., presented by Gilead Sciences at the Sheraton. The evening continues with the BHAP Awards Gala from 6-11:30 p.m. at the Doubletree.

The BHAP Conference, Goree said,

will focus on "all the various issues that affect our lives, from politics to domestic violence and more, with about five different sessions during the day." And the Gala that evening will honor those individuals who "have made a significant impact on the BHAP community," and will include the presentation of the Community Advocate Award as well as awards for those who have excelled in their categories at the balls throughout the year, "life Face of the Year, Body of the Year and so on."

The main event for the weekend is the Pool Party from 4-8:30 p.m. at the Cedar Canyon Dude Ranch, 4523 University Hills Blvd. in Lancaster, featuring nationally-know R&B artists Light-Skinned Keisha, Asian Doll and more. The evening continues with the Mega Party at the Gas Monkey, 10110 Technology Blvd. in Dallas.

Dallas Southern Pride weekend winds up Sunday with the Gulf Coast Unity Ball, with competition in a variety of categories, from 4 p.m.-2 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Doubletree.

DallasSouthernPride.com



MAGNUM DALLAS

Tony Haas, owner of Magnum Dallas nightclub, said his club will offer patrons an upscale environment to enjoy the best live male entertainment when it opens on Oct. 11. Construction on the new club, located at 1820 Mockingbird Lane just west of Harry Hines Boulevard, is in its final stages now. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)



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“Funding is being pushed toward organizations that can provide a comprehensive range of services and get newly-diagnosed people into care,” Pace said. As an example, he said, “If you don’t have medical services, you can’t get funding for medical case management.”

Much of AIN’s support comes from government grants, so having the clinic in AIN’s offices will help ensure contin-

ued funding for its programs. The affiliation, Pace said, gives AIN a more sustainable future, adding, “The affiliation also gives us a safety net we never had before.”

While AIN will continue to fundraise and write its own grants, the arrangement assures the continuation of programs that might lose their funding at some point. Pace said that was good for his staff and his agency’s clients.

Pace said he isn’t concerned that adding a clinic would mean his agency would be taking clients from another clinic. He pointed to Prism Health NTX which merged with Uptown Physicians earlier this year, saying that merger has resulted in more business. Rather than consolidating services, Prism has since opened a clinic in Oak Lawn — on Lemmon Avenue near Central Expressway — while continuing to operate its South

Dallas and Oak Cliff clinics as well as Uptown’s offices.

Pace said AIN and AHF plan to redouble their efforts to do HIV testing and bring more people into care.

Pace said his organization has partnered with others in the past, and that experience should make it easier to affiliate with AHF. In 2000, AIN absorbed several of the programs of Oak Lawn Community Services as that agency ran into financial difficulty and closed. Pace said that was a period of rapid growth for his agency, and he expects similar growth through this affiliation.

AHF also benefits from the affiliation: After more than three decades of service, AIN is well known in the community. The agency has a level of trust in the community and among its supporters. Although AHF began providing care in 1987, it has only been operating in Dallas and Fort Worth since 2012.

Pace said both agencies have a similar mission. AHF Texas Regional Director Bret Camp agreed.

Camp called it a “mission decision” of bringing care to those who need it most. But he said AIN brings his organization some of the best case management and medical case management he’s seen.

“Both AHF and AIN share a common mission to stop the spread of HIV and improve the lives of all people living with HIV/AIDS, and we believe this relationship will be mutually beneficial for our clients, patients and our organizations,” Camp said.

Both organizations were founded to provide HIV-related services to underserved, low-income, multicultural communities.

“This new partnership allows both organizations to continue to leverage our respective strengths to better serve the needs of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS throughout the greater Dallas and North Texas area,” Camp said.

According to 2017 statistics, the latest available, Dallas County has the highest HIV infection rate in Texas and the fourth highest rate in the country. In 2017, an estimated 18,073 persons were living with HIV in Dallas County — an almost 6 percent increase over 2016.

Camp said there are another 3,000 to 4,000 people living undiagnosed in the area. He said his goal is to get those people diagnosed and into care.



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Take the Kavanaugh accusations seriously

I just read on NPR's health blog about a new study that found that "an estimated 3.3 million [women] nationwide said that their first sexual experience was rape." And this is likely an underestimate, because the data for the study predates the very new #MeToo movement, and only women age 18 to 44 were included.

That's a lot of women and a lot of rape. And it's both shocking and completely unsurprising considering that we live in a country where President Trump has been accused of rape and sexual assault many times, and all of his accusers have been dismissed as liars. And then, president rapist appointed Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, and the Republicans enthusiastically supported him despite very credible testimony by Christine Blasey Ford that he'd sexually assaulted her in high school.

And lo and behold, what's this trending now on Twitter? Brett Kavanaugh's penis. Because that's the horror show we're living in right now.

To be clear, it's not a dick pic of Kavanaugh on Twitter. It's more allegations of him using his penis to be a sexually assaulting trash heap. The latest allegations refer to incidents that happened while he was in college, and they star his penis being thrust at women who didn't want that to be happening to them.

Trump, of course, came to Kavanaugh's defense.

"Brett Kavanaugh should start suing people for libel, or the Justice Department should come to his rescue," Trump tweeted, indicating yet again that he has no idea what the Justice Department does. "The lies being told about him are unbelievable."

Trump's very Strange and Random capitalizations aside, Trump doesn't know if what's being said about Kavanaugh is true or not, because the FBI didn't bother to investigate the allegations at the time of Kavanaugh's nomination.

Of course, that's according to the Liberal Media, so ...

The next day Trump tweeted: "I call for the Resignation of everybody at The New York Times involved in the Kavanaugh SMEAR story, and while you're at it, the



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week



Russian Witch Hunt Hoax, which is just as phony!"

That's journalism in America, folks. The goddamn president calls for the resignation of reporters he doesn't agree with.

Other, much smarter, people (Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris for example) are calling for resignations, too — or, more specifically, impeachments.

"Confirmation is not exoneration, and these newest revelations are disturbing," Warren tweeted. "Like the man who appointed him, Kavanaugh should be impeached."

Would the Senate go for it? Well, no. Of course not. It's still Republican-controlled (though you can help that by volunteering for a U.S. Senate race in your neck of the woods), and Mitch McConnell, who said the new allegations "felt a little like Groundhog Day," is calling the shots.

But that doesn't mean a full investigation shouldn't happen. Impeach Trump. Impeach Kavanaugh. Let the proceedings begin, because Democracy is heading toward an iceberg, and if we don't do something this ship is going down.

Americans deserve the truth. Granted, a number of them will choose only to believe their dear leader. But winning over the mindless isn't the point. The point is we should be taking seriously charges of sexual assault and saying, "Gosh, maybe men who have credible accusations against them shouldn't be allowed to hold the most powerful positions in the land."

Look, it was clear that Kavanaugh

wasn't a good person before his confirmation hearing. It's also clear that he wasn't a good person during his confirmation hearing. And that means he isn't a good person now that he's a sitting Supreme Court justice.

This is a man who, for the rest of his life, will be making decisions that govern the bodies and lives of women and LGBTQ people in this country. This man who thought that pushing his penis into a woman's face was a funny joke in college.

I can't stop thinking about those 3 million women in this country were raped as their FIRST sexual experience. Their first! This doesn't count the many more who were raped after that.

And still, our default is to not believe women, to dismiss them as liars, especially when they accuse powerful men.

The idea that there are all these women out there who will stop at nothing to destroy a good man's life is absurd. Sexual assault isn't something the majority of women lie about.

The idea that there are all these men out there who will stop at nothing to destroy a good woman's life by assaulting her and then calling her a liar? We see that played out over and over again. And it has to stop.

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.



Love, fear, freedom

Pop artist Marina on art, activism and gay fandom

Even though Marina Diamandis cut herself loose from pop music after 2015's *FROOT* to find the version of herself she lost to an industry touting artifice, the truth is, she'd been feeling that way for a while.

During the promotional cycle for her 2012 album *Electra Heart*, the Welsh artist, who then went by the handle Marina and the Diamonds (she has since simplified her name — and image — to just Marina) was already shaken by a superficial perception of her that made her “uncomfortable.” Mainstream press interviews at that time were, she said in 2015, “complete shit,” the questioning one-note because journalists didn't seem to believe a pop artist could be complex and multi-dimensional.

After *FROOT*, she continued to demonstrate otherwise. She went back to school, studying psychology at Birkbeck at the University of London. She painted. She traveled. And then influenced by Swiss psychologist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, she recorded her latest album, called *Love + Fear*, which is

conceptually rooted solely in those two emotions. No “look,” no artifice.

There didn't need to be. At 33, Marina has a better grasp on who she is; she grapples with her public and personal identity, a common theme in her past work that has resonated with many in the LGBTQ community, is a thing of the past. As she prepares for a performance at the Bomb Factory on Sept. 27, we chatted her up. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

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Dallas Voice: Identity and acceptance have long been thematic mainstays in your music. With these new

songs, how might the LGBTQ audience identify? Marina: With *Love + Fear*, I don't think I'm really going through that or battling with that anymore, so there's a real clarity and a simple, direct way of communicating on the record; whereas, both subjects on previous records still felt very tumultuous and undecided, like I was trying to get through something and I didn't know how to feel about myself. Now, a lot of the things that I'm inspired by are not inside me; it's more looking outside at the world around me.

Recently, you painted a stunning illustration of Elizabeth Taylor for a T-shirt

whose sales will benefit her AIDS Foundation. It seems you have a lot in common with what that foundation stands for. How did you land on that particular cause for the shirt? Well, I watercolor as a hobby, and, actually, I'm doing a lot of merch designs with watercolors this year for this tour. But the foundation, they just approached me and said they were really interested in doing anything that they could, and I just suggested that we could start with a limited-edition watercolor that I would paint for them and that they can sell for charity.

I hope it's a partnership that we can continue because I would like to. I think when you're doing stuff for charity it's easy to say yes to a lot of little things, but this time around I'm looking for one or two partners across the next year which I can work with and focus on doing some good things with.

But yeah, that's a really important one for me, just because it's got such a stigma attached to it. It's bad enough if you have to deal with the illness itself, without having this really silly social stigma. And I really hope that things are still progressing forward in that way. Actually, that's why I wanted to do it, because I think [we] still have to constantly work on social problems with this, and she did this so much in her life, and I don't think a lot of people

Photo courtesy Zoey Grossman

know about how much work she did for HIV and AIDS sufferers.

How would you describe your relationship with your LGBTQ fans at this point in your career? I often get asked why I think I do have such a solid LGBTQ fanbase, and I think it's because a lot of the things that I've sung about in the past are connected to identity and a sense of being able to be yourself. When you grow up with a feeling of discrimination, that's something that you carry into your adult life, so being my fourth album, it seems that I'm still very lucky in that I have the support of the LGBTQ community. I think that's the reason, because if you bond with an artist early on with their lyrics, or their lyrics speak to you, that tends to be something you carry with you through your adult life. So, I kind of understand now why that has happened.

I was listening to *Love + Fear* when I read something Robyn told *The New York Times Magazine* that I thought might resonate with you: “There's always a gap between how I see myself and how other people see me.” Can you relate? Anyone who has a public job, there's always going to be that. Actually, not even anyone who has a public job, but for anyone in *life* there is gonna be

that gap. But I think it's bigger for people if you have a public job, and I think being an artist can really affect the way that you feel about yourself, because you know who you are, but you may appear to be another thing, because that's a popular thing for pop artists to do. They're experts at making you think they are a certain person when the reality is, they have a lot of other parts that they're not showing or that they're trying to hide, and that's part of being young. But I don't feel like that at all anymore.

Even with the name change, the reason I did it was because I knew it'd make me feel comfortable enough to be able to do this job again. It's totally worked. I feel very comfortable and confident, and I don't feel like there's any obstruction now between Marina and the Diamonds as an artist as opposed to a person. It's making that easier for the average person as opposed to putting this construct in front of it all the time.

Do you think nowadays there's more of a desire to want or need pop artists that we can relate to? I think that's just been a natural direction, because I think with Instagram and Twitter

and other social media platforms there was always gonna be a time where people would start to see through the veneer of staged or curated feeds, and now I think it's gone beyond that a bit, thank god, where you can be more natural, and you don't have to be this epic



conceptual thing all the time. Pop artists are fascinating, but at the end of the day, they are just normal people who are able to build a world around them that makes them look quite exciting. But really it's the ideas that they started out with — it's not really about how you look — and I think that's what fans are connecting with, the person himself [or herself].

Does Love + Fear reflect the heaviness you've expressed that you feel in other interviews when it comes to what is happening to minority communities in the world right now? I think I've felt very

confused about it, because there's just been, to all of us, such bombardment of awful events in a very short period of time, and now, of course, with the internet we have access to all of this information, so for the human brain, on a biological level, it's like, how many bad events can you truly digest and be able to empathize? So many bad things happened in the last four years that it's really hard to comprehend and know how to deal with it, so it's

more just trying to express that confusion, which I've written about a bit in "To Be Human" and "Life Is Strange." But it's a really hard topic to try and verbalize, to even try to condense for any of us.

Even though you're still pursuing music, how has pursuing other endeavors, like studying psychology and painting, broadened your sense of identity? I think as adults we get less time to expand other parts of ourselves. But because music was a hobby for me — I started doing it professionally at 22, and then I hit 30, 31 and I was like, "Well, what else is there in life?" — I didn't have the normal experiences a 20-something would have. I was living quite a different type of life, and that doesn't allow a lot of space for being detached from your music. Music is your whole life. So then you just get stuck in being — you almost become like a brand to yourself, like in your own mind. It's not even something you build, it's subconscious, I believe. So I think it was really necessary for me to just have a break in order to focus on other things that are equally important.

As adults, we do forget to still live as kids sometimes, don't we?

Yeah, and also just being able to try different things. Or change careers if you want to. I think adults become more nervous as we get older about change, and maybe we should think about it less seriously. You're not just a writer or a journalist — you could be a lot of different things you don't even know. You can

experiment in life.

What do you envision for yourself in the future? I hope to be able to integrate other parts of myself, like the fact that I love doing talks, and I love psychology and philosophy. I still like painting. I think those are things I can incorporate into whatever role I've been able to build outside of music, but music has been a really wonderful platform to start with, because that is my main passion.

Even with this record so far, being able to do this talk recently with this organization called The School of Life, which is a philosophy- and psychology-based school, that's really thrilling to me, because I'm able to contribute in a different way that's not just like, "Look at this pop video." Those are fun things, but they don't deepen my heart. They don't feel life-affirming. Songwriting is. It's just having a bit of a different perspective now, and I'm really enjoying that. I feel a lot freer. And yeah, anything can happen! It's exciting. Life is exciting.



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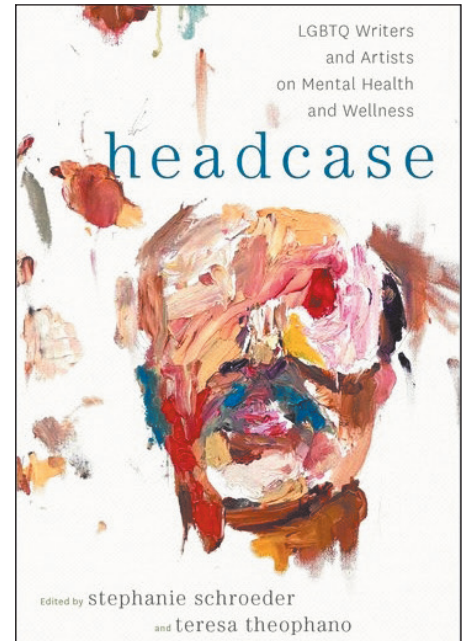
Headcase: LGBTQ Writers and Artists on Mental Health and Wellness, edited by Stephanie Schroeder and Teresa Theophano (Oxford University Press 2019) \$29.95; 287 pp.

If someone on the street saw you today, he might think you were at the peak of health. He can't see what's inside, though.

"Real or perceived minority status and... disenfranchisement make us vulnerable to being labeled as sick," write Stephanie Schroeder and Teresa Theophano, editors of *Headcase*. In other words, living as a member of the LGBTQ community may affect your mental health. Furthermore, Christian Huygen, one of the contributors to this book, says, "Research shows that, while LGBTQ people seek mental healthcare more often than our non-LGBTQ counterparts, we are more likely to leave care prematurely..."

Today, therapy is easier to get, if you feel hopeless or empty, but not all practitioners understand LGBTQ health issues. Mainstream healthcare has only relatively recently decided that homosexuality was not a disease in need of a "cure." Too many healthcare practitioners don't understand that insurance is sometimes iffy. *Never mind* those who believe conversion therapy is the right fix.

Have we evolved, when it comes to mental wellness for the LGBTQ community? You might think so, after reading the chapters here: Of a lesbian who received comfort from a therapist when her long-time friend wouldn't stop bringing religion up. Of veterans who no longer have to conceal their sexuality. Of fitting in with the local Mom's Group when you're the only queer mother, and, by the way, you've already conquered postpartum depression. On being a lesbian daughter of a lesbian mother who was hospitalized against her will decades ago, only because she dared love another woman.



"Mental illness can be scary for anyone," writes contributor Lance Hicks. "You choose between asking for help, knowing you're being judged, or suffering alone."

That latter option doesn't sound like so much of an option, does it? No, and *Headcase* — a title that comes from reclamation of a negative word — takes a real-life look at the first parts of Hicks' sentiments: mental health, mental help and the history of it all within the LGBTQ community.

What you'll learn won't come easy, though. There are several distinct kinds of chapters inside *Headcase*, some easier to read than others. Readers will find arty things, poetry and drawings here. There are mini-memoirs of relevance. You'll find short stories, too, many of which have a disjointed feel, as though you just wandered into a half-conversation. There are chapters that are plainly meant for physicians, which might not appeal to laypersons. And you'll find history in this book, some of which — fair warning — will chill you.

Overall, *Headcase* could offer comfort, but it's not a substitute for a doctor. It's got subtle advice, but it's not a therapist. It's not even a good stand-in for a sympathetic friend, but if you need direction, it's worth a shot.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

When Terry met Stanley

'Ad Astra' cross-pollinates Malick and Kubrick, with middling success

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

When Stanley Kubrick released his seminal sci-fi film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, the druggie counterculture was at its peak — the Summer of Love was still in hangover mode — and this trippy meditation on the vastness of the galaxy and the psychological implications of deep-space exploration was brand new.

■ ASTRA Page 20



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Michael Uribe

Dear 'Abbey'

When you're a lord and life is making you lonely, you can always go to 'Downton'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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As much as you may have enjoyed the TV version of *Downton Abbey* in the comfort of your parlor, I doubt more than a handful of us watched it with more than a few friends at a time. It was a Sunday night show, a post-game-day palate cleanser consumed like an aperitif in the privacy of one's chambers. It was *not*, for all intents and purposes, a communal experience, except in the Monday morning recap around the water cooler with like-minded aficionados.

All of which means its transfer to the silver screen hardly promised a sure thing. It could feel merely bigger and longer, like a Christmas episode or a season finale, not a uniquely cinematic enterprise.

Then, when the familiar opening theme begins — the rush of violins, conjuring servants scurrying behind the scenes, paired with a stately, staccato piano of the rigid gentry frittering away above — you feel a rush of excitement ricochet through the theater, reminding you of something comfortable but new. And you know: *Downton Abbey* was made for the big screen.

It has roots there anyway. The series creator, Julian Fellowes, had already penned the 2001 film *Gosford Park*, which set up a similar dynamic. But we know these characters more deeply (the scroll of 20-plus names in the opening credits reminds you how massively), but it retains an intimacy.

The camerawork was always one of the secret weapons of *Downton Abbey*, as it fluidly scurries through the corridors of the servants, turning suddenly to follow a visitor upstairs, then later, pushing in from a low angle on the decorous appointments of the draw-



Maggie Smith, above left, makes an indelible big screen impression reprising her role as the Dowager Countess in the film adaptation of 'Downton Abbey,' right, gay butler Barrows (Robert James-Collier) finally finds love.

ing rooms and libraries, taking in the grandeur of the setting while reminding us that the people occupying the spaces are of a very human scale.

The plot concerns a visit to Downton by King George V and Queen Mary, and the havoc it wreaks on the Granthams and the staff. The challenge is in finding adequate action for all the characters to do. Mr. Bates (Brendan Coyle), whose tentative courtship of Anna (Joanna Froggatt) formed a fulcrum of the series, barely registers in the film (though Froggatt has a lot to do); Mary's (Michelle Dockery) new husband (Matthew Goode) doesn't even make an appearance until the final scenes.

But, as the saying goes, there's not much there, but what there is, is choice. A side plot about a burgeoning romance between the closeted butler Barrow (Robert James-Collier) and a visiting royal attendant provides some of the most poignant moments while slyly commenting on contemporary gay life; an assassination plot, while clumsily inserted, gives Allen Leech a few good scenes.



But Maggie Smith's Dowager Countess continues to be the droll engine that propels the comedy. She, parrying with rival Mrs. Crowley (Penelope Wilton), is responsible for at least the first half-dozen belly laughs, if not all of them. But she also turns in a heartbreaking, stiff-upper-lippy turn at an unexpected moment, reminding us that there ain't nothing like *this* dame. If she doesn't coast to an Oscar nomination, I'd be surprised.

It's possible that you already need

to be a fan to fully "get" *Downton*; I am, so I might not have been able to divorce myself fully from its history. But I suspect even newcomers will find themselves enchanted by the pageantry, the silliness and the realization that, less than a century ago, the world was a very different place, though still quite modern. It makes it possible to endure life a few years more at least, as we stumble through the new millennium. Civility, we can hope, endures. ■

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Within a decade, *Star Wars* came out and space became fun again.

But the Kurbickian template didn't die, it just went into hypersleep. In the past decade, filmmakers — faced with advances in technology — have allowed the “meaning” of man as a dot on a planet in an infinite universe to become central to the point of outer space movies: *Sunshine*, *Moon*, *Interstellar*, *Arrival*, *First Man*. Once again, the implication of whether we are alone in the cosmos, and what that even means, has renewed poignancy.

Over that patina of scifi, apply the lacquer of the recent films of Terrence Malick, whose moody, experimental films like *The Tree of Life*, *To the Wonder* and *Knight of Cups* have transformed images of man and nature into elegies ruminating on the nature of being. It's the New Existentialism ... appropriate in an age when many of us are questioning the legitimacy of our own institutions.

Ad Astra, the new film starring Brad Pitt, feels a progression of these themes — *The Shining* in space.

That probably makes the film sound more appealing that I found it ultimately to be. We learn about the main character, astronaut Roy McBride (Pitt), in doleful diary entries. As a result, we don't really know, at least for the first half, what *kind* of film it's going to be. This does create a fair amount of tension: Are we waiting to see a thriller, a mystery, an actioner, pure scifi? That uncertainty engenders as much discomfort as fear. But like a neutron, it seems to collapse in on itself, becoming dense

and mired in its own weightiness.

As a linear experience, it has merits. In the foreseeable future (not too far, yet contradictorily, far enough that many laws of physics have changed) a near-death experience caused by a massive power surge alters Roy's life. The military keeps the real reason a secret from the masses: A bolt of antimatter, apparently emitting from Neptune... and possibly originating from a failed mission to the outer edge of the solar system led, decades ago, by Roy's father (Tommy Lee Jones). Roy is sent to Mars to attempt to communicate with dad, and the notoriously calm astronaut is put through an emotional ringer on his journey discovering facts about his own history he never knew... or dealt with.

But in retrospect, too much of *Ad Astra* comes off as random and unnecessary: Terrorist attacks; bureaucratic protocols; a horrific murder on a space craft that is never really explained. Is this all a metaphor for the end times or a psychological profile?

I could never fully resolve the contradictions, especially on the walk home, though I did appreciate some of the ride. Pitt has matured into an actor of Gary Cooper-like restraint, whose face is interesting but inscrutable, so we can project onto him. He doesn't come across as pensive, but as emotionally turbid. That said, he and Jones both seem at least a decade too old for their roles. (Even in the flashbacks, Jones appears too haggard for space flight.) Add to that there's more fi than sci, and I constantly found myself at war with the premises.

Director James Gray tends to accentuate these hurdles rather than minimize them. He's always been the most dour of directors, someone for whom sluggish pacing is a default condition. The film's opening chyron only emphasized its portentousness, then darts down rabbit holes that don't illuminate plot or character, merely theme.

Still, I wouldn't write off *Ad Astra*... not yet. I have a sense that my appreciation for it might — *might* — grow on subsequent viewings, especially were I able to wrap my mind around some of the more Kafka-esque moments. Malick's films do that; so do Kubrick's. Gray isn't in their league, but there's the chance something more is out there, orbiting the soul of this movie, invisible in the dark vacuum of space. We can always keep looking. ■

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Thursday 09.26

Spend an evening with Michelle Obama

Former First Lady Michelle Obama spent eight years in the White House, but that hardly represents the sum total of her achievements. Last year, her memoir *Becoming* which jumped to the top of New York Times' best-sellers list, sold more copies than any other book published in the U.S. that year. One of the most influential women of the 21st century, Mrs. Obama addressed childhood obesity, supported veterans and encouraged children and women to seek higher education during her time in the White House. She's now touring the nation to reflect on her life and career, including a stop in Dallas this week. Thanks, Obamas!

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets



**Friday 09.20 –
Sunday 09.22**

**Don't cry for her, Dallas –
'Evita' is a legend**

Lyric Stage dedicates its 2019-20 season to the power and presence of women, and what

better way to start than with *Evita*, a riveting tale chronicling the life of former Argentine first lady Eva Peron. Catherine Carpenter Cox returns as Eva in this historical piece as she portrays one of the most powerful women in Latin America, who fought for women's rights (and was terribly corrupt) until her death of cervical cancer at age 33.

DEETS: Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. LyricStage.org.



**'Phantom,' once again,
haunts Bass Hall**

The shadowy figure who manipulates a young singer returns to Cowtown to lurk about the Bass in out producer Cameron Mackintosh's production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. This take on Andrew Lloyd Webber's eerily romantic masterpiece features new spellbinding special effects, brilliant stage design and choreography, all set to the famous sullen score that epitomizes spooky organ music.

**Wednesday 09.24
– Sunday 10.06**

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

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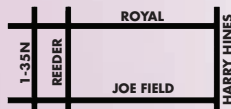
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Cats. Denise Lee plays Grizabella. Presented by The Firehouse Theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane. *Final weekend.* FirehouseTheatre.com

Evita. Lyric Stage brings back its production of this Tony favorite, again with Catherine Carpenter-Cox as the Argentine celebrity and Hector Garcia as Peron. Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. Friday-Sunday. LyricStage.org.

In the Heights. Lin-Manuel Miranda's other hip-hop musical, set in a mixed neighborhood of Manhattan during a hot summer week. Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 20. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Red Chariot. A world premiere science fiction thriller by Gordon Dahlquist. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Oct. 13. Undermain.org.

What We Were by Blake Hackler. Second Thought Theatre concludes its 2019 season with this world premiere about three sisters coping with a history of abuse. A co-production with Fort Worth's Circle Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sunday. SecondThoughtTheatre.com. Production moves to Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St. Fort Worth. Sept. 26-Oct. 19. CircleTheatre.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 Oct. 27 (extended). DMA.org.

A Sampling of Contemporary Portraiture. An exhibition of the work of five photographers producing compelling new examples of portraiture. Afterimage Gallery, 2613B Fairmount St. Through Nov. 4. AfterimageGallery.com.

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 Sunday. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 09.20

DANCE

Ronald Brown/Evidence. The acclaimed dance company performs, courtesy of TITAS/ Dance Unbound. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

SATURDAY 09.21

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 09.23

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 09.24

FILM

Yentl. Barbra Streisand directed and stars in this musical adaptation of the Isaac Bashevis Singer story. Amy Irving won an Oscar nomination, and the score won an Oscar for songwriting. 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.

WEDNESDAY 09.25

THEATER

Red Chariot. A world premiere science fiction thriller by Gordon Dahlquist. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Sept. 18-Oct. 13. Undermain.org.

this week's solution

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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Just how long *is* a “long-term” relationship? Acid-witted American essayist/historical novelist Gore Vidal and his life-partner, the mercurial Broadway stage manager Howard Austen, may very well hold the Gayness Book of World Records entry (celebrity edition, at least) for venerably maintaining the most triumphantly long-lived same-sex partnership in civilized history: 53 years (it expired upon Austen’s death in 2003). Whenever asked what stuff of destiny’s better angels he attributed to their relationship’s enviable endurance, Vidal (who himself passed away in 2012) would deadpan, “It’s easy to sustain a relationship when sex plays no part, and impossible, I have observed, when it does.” Angelic Howard here couldn’t have quipped Gore one better with even all the winged spirits of Heaven helping by my side.

Let’s just get all Vidal-Austen right to it.

Dear Howard: I’ve been monogamously dating my boyfriend now for almost three months, but still he’s on Grindr, and on Facebook he’s even still “single.” Now, I’m hardly one of those devious queens who goes snatching up his husband’s iPhone every time he steps in the shower, but Manny and me, we’re firmly into a long-term relationship here. We ain’t just dating *casually* anymore — I commanded his seedy ship of boy toys sail off into the sunset, lost at sea forever — at right about our six-week marker. So imagine my nausea upon discovering by accident that he’s begun calling some number up in Frisco that I don’t recognize, and quite regularly, too ...but only on those rare nights when I don’t sleep over, and always after 11 p.m. when I’ve been asleep for nearly an hour. Howard, why must I be the one forced to woundedly point out to my randy juvenile what’s so obvious here? Should I just tell this ramblin’, amblin’ man flat-out that without monogamy he’ll soon be without me? — **Almost Golden**

Dear Totally Leaden: Yes, absolutely, would you, please? A rare find it is, indeed, to run across someone so aglow with the radiance of such insecure pettiness as you — another stealth-ninja who surreptitiously steals another man’s private property to snoop through his intimate correspondences that are none of your business, while rapaciously trying to wrangle some phantom, “long-term” commitment out of a man whom you’ve barely met — in a relationship that’s withstood all the blistering, infidel sands of time now for 12 *whole weeks*? Honey, you don’t deserve “long-term” love. And certainly not to any real man cloaked in the humble possession of real, human fallibilities. Likely sooner than later do I most duly anticipate receiving my wedding invitation celebrating the noble nuptials of yourself to an XXXL anatomically correct, life-size beefcake stud of a blow-up doll.

Bottom line, Deviantella: Three measly months does not a “long-term relationship” make, remotely: Fully two years, in Howard’s estimation, meet only the bare *minimal* qualifying-time for the rigorous standards constituting “long-term” anointment. In layman’s terms, until you’re both on your third bottle of Tabasco purchased together; until each of you are able to echoingly pass one another in your hallway with the walking farts sans even a whiff of mutually mortifying embarrassment given to it; until long silences when facing one another opposite a table in a restaurant are no longer remotely uncomfortable ... then, and *only* then, will you at last know you’ve entered into a bona fide relationship of long-haul legs, munificent merit and death-do-us-part substance. My, but, oh my! Can you even *imagine* what rapture shall be your jilted, long-term lover on that gloriously golden day when, finally, Manny’s released from the putrid, shackling maw of your priggish purgatory? Through streaming tears in his eyes shall he again, *at last*, see shimmering blue skies! Or, as we say back home in Alabama whenever it’s raining yet the sun’s come out: The devil’s beating his wife at the door.

Dear Howard: How do I go about telling my husband, Mr. Vanilla Extract, that a single jar of Vaseline rattling around in our nightstand’s “date night” drawer doesn’t exactly set Saturday night’s mattress on fire with passion? I feel ashamed as a nun in a wimple even admitting to my own husband that I harbor such wicked lustiness as S-M bedroom fantasies, even though Roger’s totally addicted to daddy/twink bondage porn. (He doesn’t even bother anymore to erase his search histories.) But so far as he thinks of me in any sexual context at all, it’s almost like he fears even broaching the topic of bondage play with me, whom he takes to bed with him every single night. I suppose taking a flogger to the man to whom he vowed his eternal protection and devotion might irreparably diminish, if not outright demean, the sanctity of my spousal pedestal. Apparently, I’m too deified to be sullied with anything raunchier than a dab of petroleum jelly on anal Tuesdays.... why

can’t Roj instead see me more as *his* very own Saturday night, private love machine maniac? — **Rory Upchurch**

Dear Whore In Church: Fortuitously enough, just this past spring, X-Tube revealed the results of a gay audience survey that asked each of its anonymous participants to reveal what his/her secret favorite gay sex fetish is — the results of which you’ll find frustratingly vanilla: Being shackled, prostrate upon bent knees to your bed in chains, whimpering naked and blindfolded whilst mercilessly defiled by Master ‘Nilla Extract ... yeah, no worries, Twinkalicious, this list has your twisted, true-self totally covered:

In descending order, 2019’s top 10 gay fetish sex fantasies were: 10. Partialism (sexual interest in a specific body part other than the genitals). 9. Role play. 8. Narratophilia (aka “dirty talk”). 7. Uniforms. 6. Bondage. 5. Submission. 4. Exhibitionism. 3. Voyeurism. 2. Maschalagnia (armpits). 1. Macrophilia (sexual interest in someone of a much greater body size).

Dear Howard: I’m a top and my newlywed husband won’t bottom. He just refuses. Nor will he acknowledge my logical argument, “But we entered into this marriage *together* — a *sexual* team.

As teammates, *someone* has to always be pitcher; someone has to always play catcher.” I can’t be the only one of us who’s always willing to compromise my preferred position in the pyrrhic glorification, every time he hops aboard me with his wicked Louisville Slugger. (Who’d he inherit that monster creature from anyhow — Godzilla?) Howard, the true miracle afterwards, upon my insistent pressing of Jared as to *why* he would never swap-out turns playing catcher for me occasionally being allowed to pitch, was how I managed to refrain from coming just totally unglued once he answered my question. And talk about some more kind of prize revelation to pull out from what I assumed was just a box of Cracker Jack! Suddenly, it’s bottom of the ninth and the bases are loaded, and my husband quietly took a deep breath, tapped his cleats atop the mound, dusted a cloud of chalk into his hands and tossed straight down the center of home plate an ash-splintering, stadium eruption game-changer: “OK, truth is, sweetie, I don’t really much even enjoy anal

sex — neither the bottom bunk nor the top, if I’m being totally honest: The human anus just doesn’t turn me on. At all. Never has.”

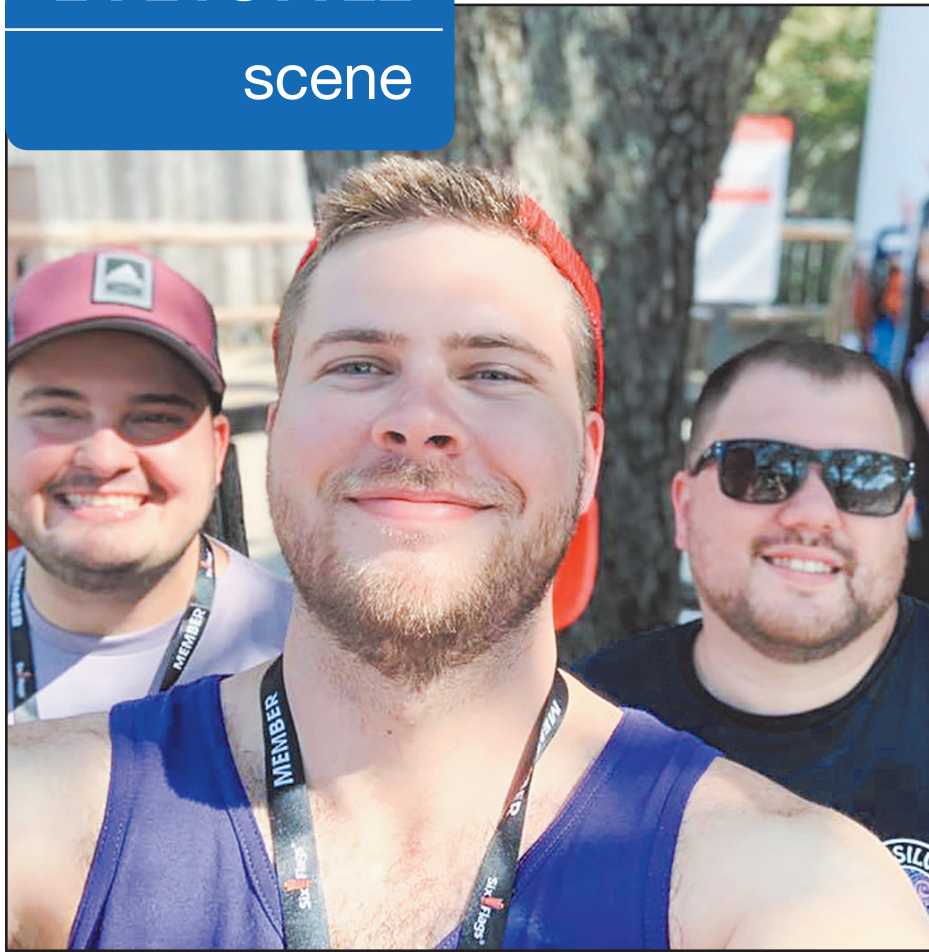
It took a few moments for the effects his stun gun’s paralysis to fully wear off. Eventually, though, I mouthed, “And yet you decided to go male for your marrying gender of preference, to accompany this amusing little fetish glitch? What kind of card-carrying homosexual suddenly announces that men’s buttocks don’t turn him on? On the gender-malfunction scale, it’s equivalency, in reverse, has his identical heterosexual doppelganger abruptly decreeing, “Well, if I’m being totally honest, college cheerleaders’ pompoms, televised pro-golf tournaments and a Fire Magic Diamond Echelon Outdoor Barbecue Grill just don’t really much turn me on.” Howard, have I gone crazy, or did some killer bees’ larvae hatch inside Jared’s ear? Or what if he’s really saying to me that it’s only *my* butt that doesn’t much turn him on? Oh, what a pretty pass we’ve now reached — our perfectly-paired same-sex union of two throbbing erections — and nary a demonic soul around for either of us to ejaculate in ... well, don’t that just fuck a duck? — **Bill Taft**

Dear William Howard: In Gayville’s new 21st century lexicon, your pitcher-by-default sexual-hub is what we now classify as a “side” — as in, he’s not a top, he’s not a bottom. YouTube “personality” Bradley Birkholz, a self-professed side and tireless promulgator of the term (as a very needed alternative, in his opinion, to the “butthole binary” of forcing gay men to choose between but two sexual-branding options — or, in varying meaningless degrees, a frustratingly begrudged “versatile”) elucidates: “When exploring my sexuality, I began discovering a world of sex far beyond the realm of butt sex. When you’re a side, you get to have fun no matter what. My message is that you don’t need to feel pressured into conforming to the expectations of gay sex fed to us through porn and popularized media.”

Nonetheless, William Howard, despite this sound argument in the defense of sides, it offers precious little comfort in your own defense. The bottom-line truth still remains that you were, for all intents and purposes, basically shanghai’d into marrying a man who conveniently negated ever mentioning beforehand that conjugal relations revolted him; worse, on whatever occasions he did deign to engage in sexual intercourse with you, it amounted to little more than a mercy fuck of duty, rather than the euphoria of lovemaking between an equal pair of testosterone-charged newlyweds. For a man who professes an equal disgust at playing either a top or bottom, the fact that he still refused to compromise with you halfway in the bedroom, or even bend a little, says to Howard that there lurks deeper letdowns in your husband’s psyche than merely his abhorrence of rectums.

— **Howard Lewis Russell**
Have a question about love, sex, relationships or etiquette? Send it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer it.





Making the SCENE the week of Sept. 20–26:

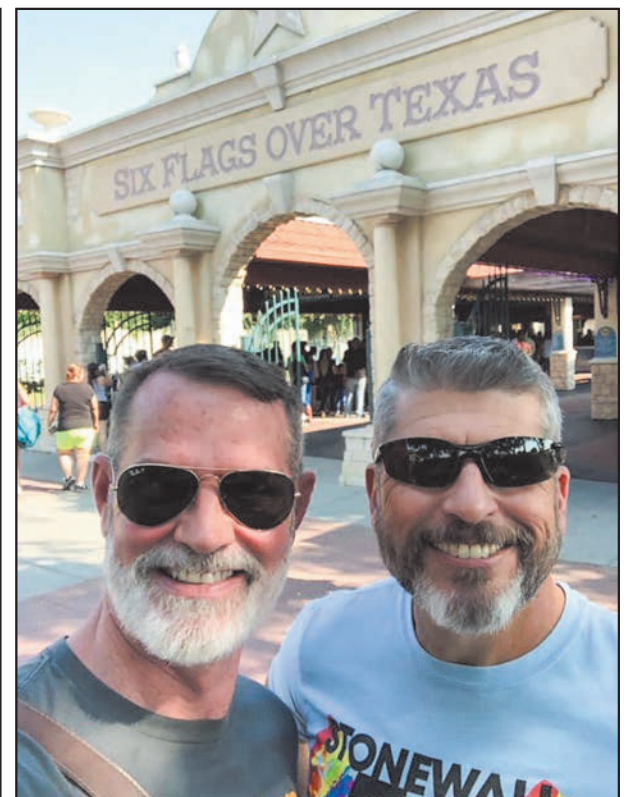
- **515 Bar:** Tap TV Trivia at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Alexandre's:** Anton Shaw Band on Saturday. Karaoke with Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Sings Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington presents Chasing Your Turnabout Dreams at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Mr. Dallas Eagle from 6–10 p.m. on Friday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire Candidate Show from 6–10 p.m. on Saturday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night from 10 p.m.–1 a.m. on Saturday. Dallas Diablos Cookout from 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Show Time at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door:** United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents The Men Are Cooking from 2–5 p.m. on Sunday. United Court's September Hidden Door Club Night from 7–10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **House of Blues:** Beyonce Drag Diva Brunch at 11 a.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Dragula Watch Party with Bleach at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** Monday Showcase with Chanel Champagne.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday. Dragula Watch Party at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. Line Dance Lessons with Yoshi at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **S4:** Storm Area 51 Party featuring Nina Flowers begins at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Mustache Envy on Friday. DJ Sno White and Primadonna on Saturday. Droo's Peach Crush and The Gawd Almightyes on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Miss Gay USofA Finals at 9 p.m. on Friday. Kat Sass on Sunday.
- **TMC:** The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy:** PrEP RealTalk Brunch from noon–3 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Relive the '90s with the greatest hits at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **Zipper's:** Monday Madness with sounds by Rudeboy Dallas from 9 p.m.–2 a.m.

Scene Photographers: *Kat Haygood, Nicholas Gonzalez* and *Chad Mantoath*

Out in the Park 2019



Out in the Park 2019



Out in the Park 2019



DALLAS HEART WALK

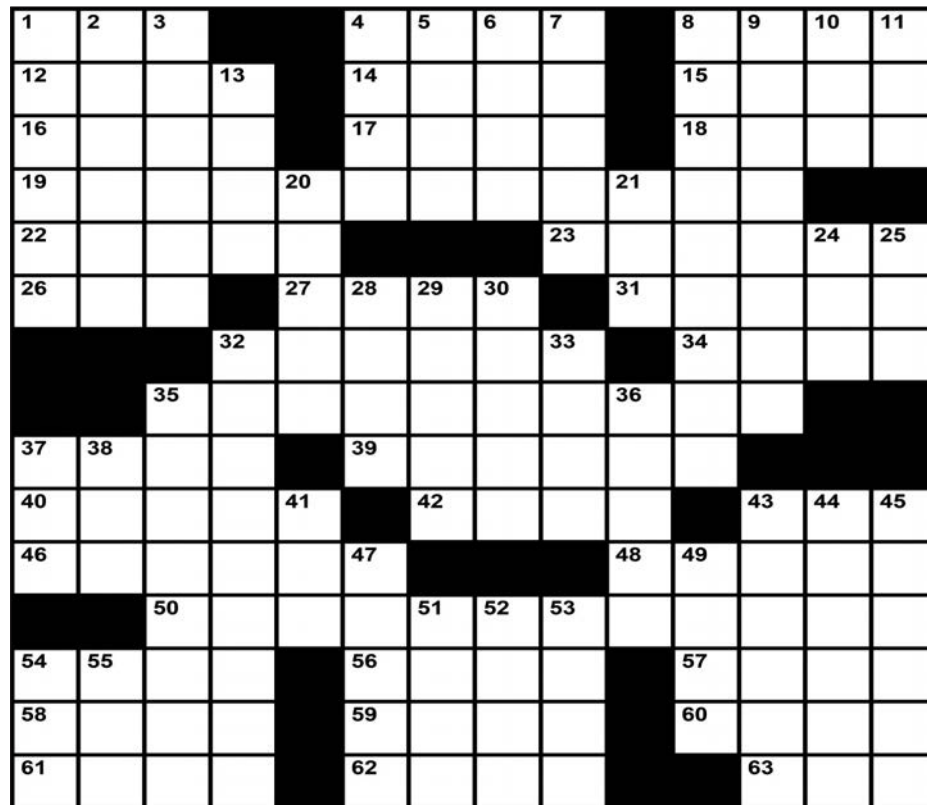


DALLAS HEART WALK



q-puzzle

Mary and Rhoda



Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 Facial application
- 4 B in Leviticus
- 8 Mark through
- 12 Straddling
- 14 Toledo's lake
- 15 Big name in pumps
- 16 Hard to come by
- 17 "No" voter
- 18 Trojans' org.
- 19 With 35-Across, Mary Richards, or with 50-Across, Rhoda Morgenstern
- 22 Actress Veronica
- 23 Put your sandwich meat in this
- 26 Princess Leia's dad, as a boy
- 27 Salty white stuff from the Greeks
- 31 Drag queen ___ Hapi
- 32 Poet/essayist John
- 34 Beatle Bailey dog
- 35 See 19-Across
- 37 "Nuts!"
- 39 Salty tasting
- 40 *Slumdog Millionaire* setting
- 42 Place for your drawers
- 43 Dickinson's howe'er
- 46 Cross-dresser Klinger's hometown

Down

- 48 Hawke of *Hamlet*
- 50 See 19-Across
- 54 "The Great Masturbator" painter
- 56 Trucker's shaft
- 57 Von Trapp family escape route
- 58 Performed like a top
- 59 Like Lindsay Lohan's movie girls
- 60 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
- 61 Go downhill fast?
- 62 *Sin City* star Jessica
- 63 Cross-dresser Joan of ___
- 20 Fairylike
- 21 Puppy's squeak
- 24 Gay history mo.
- 25 Capt. of industry
- 28 Goes down on
- 29 Bald tire's lack
- 30 Make muddled
- 32 Keener of *Capote*
- 33 "You know how ___"
- 35 Sex toy for a glory hole?
- 36 Like Bernstein, regarding pitches
- 37 Banned bug killer
- 38 Classic auto
- 41 Popular words in Provincetown
- 43 Louise's partner
- 44 *Rhoda* star Valerie
- 45 "Keep your pants on!"
- 47 Most recent legitimately elected president
- 49 Christmas poem opener
- 51 Doug Mattis leap
- 52 Use your mouth unfaithfully
- 53 Musical Horne
- 54 High-speed connection
- 55 *The Simpsons* storekeeper

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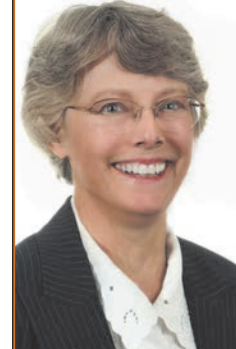


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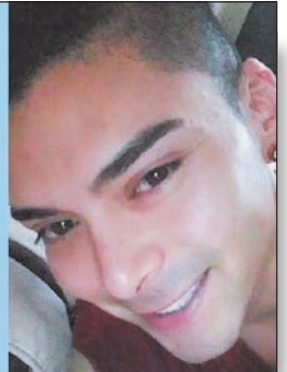
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