

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for

Established 1984 | Volume 32 | Issue 1 | FREE | Friday, May 15, 2015



DRAGGING
up Dallas History

Outrageous Oral event
to focus on Dallas drag legends

By **Tammye Nash**

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A close-up photograph of a young man with short brown hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt. He is looking slightly upwards and to his right with a thoughtful expression. His right hand is visible at the bottom right corner, holding a dark-colored smartphone.

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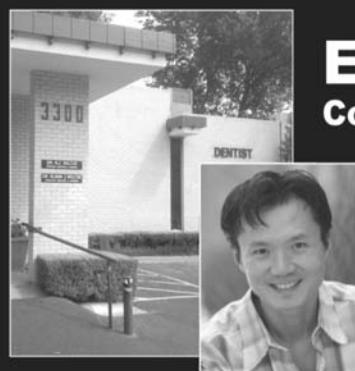
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Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings

Rawlings re-elected Dallas mayor but runoffs will decide some council races

Mayor Mike Rawlings easily defeated challenger Marcos Ronquillo, who was endorsed by both Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Stonewall Democrats.

Council members Scott Griggs, Adam Medrano, Lee Kleinman, Sandy Greyson, Jennifer Gates and Philip Kingston ran unopposed and were re-elected. All had DGLA's backing.

In District 4, DGLA-backed Carolyn King Arnold won 51 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff.

Monica Alonzo ran with token opposition and received more than 80 percent of the vote.

First term District 5 Councilman Rick Callahan was seen as vulnerable and drew two opponents. Earlier this year he voted against equalizing pension benefits for gay and lesbian city retirees. Sherry Cordova received DGLA's and Stonewall's endorsements. Callahan won with more than 60 percent of the vote.

Five candidates were vying for District 9. Mark Clayton won with almost 60 percent of the vote. Both Stonewall and DGLA endorsed him.

Four runoffs take place on June 13.

Vying to replace the council's voice of intolerance toward the LGBT community, Vonceil Jones Hill, will be Stonewall's pick Joe Tave and Casey Thomas II. Hill backs Thomas in this race for the District 3 seat.

In District 7, Kevin Felder will face Tiffinni Young in a runoff and in District 8, Dianne Gibson and Erik Wilson made the runoff. Young has DGLA's endorsement.

Paul Reyes and Adam McGough are headed for a runoff in District 10. McGough was endorsed by DGLA. Stonewall endorsed James White, who came in third.

— David Taffet

Legislative round up: bad bills advance but may be headed for defeat

SB 2065 by Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, which would protect clergy members from performing same-sex marriages passed, the Senate 21-10.

Various LGBT-friendly organizations pressed for the addition of four words clarifying clergy members may only refuse to officiate marriages that violate their conscience "in that official capacity." Despite their efforts Estes refused in both the State Affairs committee hearing and on the floor to add the language.

Proponents, including numerous conservative faith leaders, argued the bill was necessary to protect their right to deny performing a same-sex marriage.

Another bill, HB 4105 by Rep. Cecil Bell, R-Magnolia, which would bar county clerks from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, was scheduled for a floor vote this week, but as of press time faced an uncertain future. Legislators were actively maneuvering to kill the bill before midnight on Thursday, May 14, when it would be declared dead. It earned support from nearly the entire Republican caucus.

HB 3864 by Rep. Scott Sanford, R-McKinney, would allow child welfare organizations to discriminate against families based on religious beliefs was also set for a floor vote.

— James Russell



Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price

Fort Worth, Plano and other election results

Fort Worth Districts 5, 7 and 8 Council members Gina Bivens, Kelly Gray and Dennis Shingleton won their re-election by double digits.

Meanwhile District 4 Councilman Danny Scarth, who has consistently opposed LGBT policies, lost to challenger Cary Moon. District 2 Councilman Sal Espino squeaked by challenger Steve Thornton by a mere 27 votes. Thornton has called for a recount.

Mayor Betsy Price and council members Ann Zadeh, Jungus Jordan and W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman faced no opposition.

FWISD District 2 incumbent Tobi Jackson soundly defeated the Rev. Sultan Cole, who had been recorded making comments against the LGBT community.

Also re-elected were District 5 Trustee Needham and District 6 Trustee Ann Sutherland.

Non-profit leader Ron Kelley and retired corporate executive Tom Harrison won their elections for two of the city's at-large council seats. According to the Dallas Morning News, both were motivated to run because of the ordinance, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and other classes.

Citing a lack of community input and the speed at which it was implemented, the candidates said Plano residents should have voted on the measure.

Additionally, candidates backed by numerous conservative leaders and groups were resoundingly defeated in their bids across North Texas, according to an analysis of various endorsements.

— James Russell

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DRIVE AND DISCOVER



THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? E-mail your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

MAY

- **Weekly:** Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. Counselor Candy Marcum is this week's guest; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce Street, Suite C; Fuse game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; Fuse Connect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.

• May 15–May 23:

Couple Communication Workshop
Candy Marcum, LPC and Jimmy Owen, LPC conduct a two-weekend workshop for couples. 5-7 p.m. on May 15 and May 22 and 10 a.m.–noon on May 16 and May 23 at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 260. \$440 per couple includes two workbooks and eight hours of instruction. 214-521-1278. For more

information call or e-mail Candy Marcum at 214-521-1278 or candy@candymarcum.com.

- **May 16: National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Fair**

Teenagers, parents and members of the community are welcome to free employment and resource fair with entertainment from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at the African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave.

- **May 16: 2nd Annual Contemporary Relationships Conference**

Learn and discuss ways to strengthen LGBTQ dating, relationships, and parenting with over 30 international and national speakers at this one day conference. Optional pre-conference institutes on May 15. St. David's Bethell Hall, 301 E. 8th Street, Austin. Online registration deadline is May 7. For more information and

Correction:

In a story entitled "The Centrum undergoing major overhaul," we wrote that "the salons complex is gone." Salons of Dallas is still open for business.

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The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Mon.–Sat., and noon–5 p.m. Sun. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats, with discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, to any senior citizen that adopts a pet, and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices](https://www.facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices). Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.



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• **May 16: Gaybingo: 80's Gay Prom**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6–9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4495 or e-mail Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• **May 16: GEAR Voice Feminization Support Group**

Monthly meeting to study and practice voice feminization training. Free, but seating is limited to 30. 2–4 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail gear@myresourcecenter.org.

• **May 17: TAG Pride Picnic**

Tyler Area Gays hosts its largest pride picnic yet with more auction items, entertainment, food and vendors. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at Southside Park, Tyler. For more information e-mail info@tylerareagays.com or visit Tylerareagays.com or on Facebook at Facebook.com/TylerAreaGays.

• **May 17: Equality Texas' Spirit of Texas Brunch**

Equality Texas' annual statewide celebration of LGBT and ally Texans. VIP reception at 10:30 a.m. and brunch program at 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. at Historic Pearl Stable, 307 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio. For more information, including sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales visit Spiritoftexasbrunch.org.

• **May 17: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Monthly Meeting**

Pride planning meeting at 3 p.m. at the Baron House Counseling Center, 908 W. Pennsylvania, Fort Worth.

• **May 19: JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club**

• **May 19: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting**

</div



Drag: The Dallas Way

The legends speak

The Dallas Way presents a special Outrageous Oral program, "One Night Only: Four Legendary Performers Tell Outrageous Stories," Thursday, May 21, at The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

Dallas drag icons Michael Lee (Michael Doughman), Sister Helen Holy (Paul J. Williams), Edna Jean Robinson (Richard Curtin) and Patti Le Plae Safe (Rodd Gray), all on stage together for the first time ever, tell stories about their history.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the curtain goes up at 7 p.m. Reserved seating tickets are \$35 each or \$50 for two. Standing-room-only tickets are \$20. For tickets or sponsorship opportunities call 505-400-4405.

4 legendary performers come together for an Outrageous Oral program honoring the legacy of drag in Dallas

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Gay Dallas has always been known as a drag mecca — the land of legends like Lady Shawn, Tasha Kohl, Diva Sanchez, Rikki Rousseau and, of course, Kandi Delight. Those are names from way back in the day, when The Landing down on Pearl Street boasted a grand stage with curtains and a runway where you could see, not just a drag show, but a full-fledged drag extravaganza every week.

They had well-rehearsed group numbers and a trio of back-up dancers and special guests in from out of town, like Naomi Sims. Drag shows at The Landing were professional productions, that live on today in the likes of The Rose Room at S4. You can't tell the history of LGBT Dallas without talking about drag.

That's why the May installment of The Dallas Way's Outrageous Oral program presents "One Night Only: Four Legendary Performers Telling Outrageous Stories." The special program features Michael Lee (Michael Doughman), Sister Helen Holy (Paul J. Williams), Edna Jean Robinson (Richard Curtin) and Patti Le Plae Safe (Rodd Gray) on stage together for the first time ever.

The days of The Landing and other such venues were a time, recalls Doughman, when drag was primarily a source of entertainment, and a

very popular one at that. He points to The OP and the Wooden Nickel and later The Rose Room as evidence that the presence of drag has "remained pretty constant and sustained a very high quality of performance" through the years in Dallas.

But by the mid-1980s, the specter of AIDS had begun to cast its pall over North Texas, and the nature of drag in Dallas began to change.

"When AIDS started to really become an issue here, drag shows became a way to fight back," said Doughman, now executive director of Dallas Tavern Guild, adding that his first time in drag was in 1984, to raise money for TGRA. "Drag shows became a way to raise money to take care of our own, and a way to just forget about your troubles for an hour or two and laugh and have a good time again."

But, Doughman notes, "it wasn't the pretty girls, really, not the glamour drag" there on the front lines. Instead it was the ordinary guys with day jobs as bankers and waiters and whatever else who threw on a dress and painted their faces for the cause when the government wasn't funding agencies or programs or services for those in the midst of the epidemic.

"That's when it started, the mantra of charity drag," Doughman said. "Other than shows at places like the OP and The Wooden Nickel where they had regular casts and big productions, every other show around was there to raise money for some organization that was trying to get started to help people. Sometimes the shows were more specific; we were trying to raise money to help somebody pay their rent or to bury them when they died and their family had abandoned them."

"Not everybody had a lot of money, and couldn't do anything else to help. But just about

everybody could pay a \$2 cover and then throw some tips in a jar to help out. Whenever the need arises, we've always been able to get a bunch of people in drag and raise a chunk of cash to support a cause."

Mostly, as Doughman said, the "pretty girls"—aka "the pageant girls"—were the ones making a living doing drag, while the "charity girls" focused on raising money, mainly for AIDS. For the charity girls, he said, "you didn't have to look good. You didn't even have to have talent. You just had to be able to help people forget their troubles for a little while and raise money to help those who needed it. You just had to make people laugh and give you money."

And for the most part, there remained a huge gap between the pageant girls and the charity girls. Then along came Patti Le Plae Safe—Rodd Gray in daily life—who managed to bridge the gap.

Gray said he was busy being an AIDS activist, and never had any intention of getting into drag—until the day that Bill Nelson and Terry Tebedo talked him into donning a dress and make up for an AIDS fundraising event. Friends raided their closets to get him dressed up and made up, and then when he performed, "Tom Davis gave me a \$20 tip! I was not supposed to be a drag queen, but my friends talked me into it, and I made money doing it. And I couldn't deny the money was needed."

"Patti" soon became quite popular on the drag fundraiser circuit, and one day, on a dare, Gray decided to enter a pageant. That first time almost became the last time thanks to a less-than-supportive pageant queen.

"She told me, Patti, you're not pretty. You're not talented. You need to go on and do your charity shows and leave the pageant stuff to us," Gray recalled. "I went home and I cried."

But instead of letting the petty insults derail his efforts, Gray decided, with the encouragement and help of his good friend John Gordon, to prove that it was possible to walk successfully in both sides of the drag world. And on Patti's first trip to the Miss Gay America Pageant, she won first runner-up, trading that sash for the winner's crown a few short months later when winner Ramona Leger died.

Gray, a hair stylist who owns his own shop, as Patti has helped bring the two sides of drag together in Dallas, earning the respect and admiration of the pageant girls, while earning hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity. "I've been doing this for 29 years now, 29 gloriously wonderful years," Gray said. "It's all about helping my community. That's what drag is, for me, and for so many others."

Richard Curtin, active in the community for about 27 years, is another "charity girl" who says, "Some of most important work I did in drag [as Edna Jean Robinson]. My specialty has always

been fundraising.

"For a decade, I begged and borrowed and stole—no, I never stole anything—any thing I could get to give away or auction off or use as an incentive to get people to buy raffle tickets. So steadfast, for a decade, to make sure we raised the money people needed," says Curtin, who in recent months has transitioned from drag performer to businessman as owner of Zipper.

And even though those years were filled with hardship and heartache as the AIDS epidemic continued to ravage the community, the struggle also serve to "tighten the bonds of our community, to tighten our sense of being a family," Curtin said. "Through those years, for so many of us, our family was the bar. We worked there, or we played there or we organized there or we raised money there. It was our family."

But turning his gaze from the past to the present, Curtin continued, "I think a little of that is missing now. A lot of that sense of community, of family, is missing now because the community is different. Is that bad? Is it good? I think it's just called evolution. The world has changed, and our community has changed. It's just a new world now."

While HIV/AIDS remains a shadow over the LGBT community, the immediacy of the epidemic has faded a bit, especially for the younger men and women who never lived in a world without the HIV medications that are adding quantity and

quality to the lives of those with the virus. AIDS is no longer the death sentence it once was, but instead a manageable chronic illness.

Still, Curtin said, "Those of us who made it through the crisis, who lived those years when we lost so many so fast—we remember that. And we have to pass it on. That's what this Dallas Way is about, I think. We remember, and by talking about it, we can teach the younger people about it. We learned by living it. Hopefully we can teach them by talking rather than them having to live it all over again."

The Dallas Way and its Outrageous Oral programs "celebrate the past," Curtin said, keeping alive the stories of those who came before and helped build the foundation for this brave new world where LGBT people are claiming equality on an ever-broadening basis. Even marriage equality, he pointed out, is just around the corner.

"We have to celebrate the past, remember it and teach the younger people what it was like, but we have to move forward to the future, too," he said. "What does this new world look like? It doesn't look like death. We know what death looks like; we held hands with it, lived with it."

"This, though—this looks like the future, and it looks good," Curtin declared. "There's so much to look forward to, and it's time to embrace the future and walk right on into it. There's room for all of us, and in the future, there will be even more room for even more of us." ■

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But with no Senate companion, road ahead is uncertain

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

In a surprise move, the Texas House voted Wednesday, May 12, to support a pilot needle exchange program aimed at slowing the spread of HIV and other communicable diseases in select Texas counties.

HB 65, introduced by Rep. Ruth McClendon, D-San Antonio, allows non-profit organizations to establish pilot programs for anonymous needle

That's because numerous conservative advocacy groups used the bill against Republican incumbents who supported the measure, including former Sen. Bob Deuell of Greenville, who was defeated in his primary of Sen. Bob Hall.

Resource Center's communications and advocacy manager, Rafael McDonnell, called the bill "a common sense policy and good for public health," adding, "I hope it finds support in the state Senate."

Unlike in previous sessions, the measure has no Senate companion this session, and finding one at the last minute may prove difficult. That leaves the bill's advocates scrambling and

Long overdue: needle exchange passes in House



exchanges in seven Texas counties: Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Nueces, Travis and Webb counties.

"These needle exchange programs have proven successful throughout the nation and have recently been enacted in Kentucky and Indiana. Charitable and faith-based organizations have tried establishing these programs in Texas for years, and it is about time the government allows these organizations to help their communities without fear of arrest or government interference," McClendon said in a statement.

Steven Pace, executive director of AIDS Interfaith Network, said the move was a small but powerful and long overdue victory.

"We need needle exchanges in the arsenal. It is part of the comprehensive approach to HIV. The struggle is really about judgment about drug use, not HIV prevention — and we have been involved in the struggle for 30 years," Pace wrote via text message. "It's time for Texas to get on board with all the real ways of doing HIV prevention."

Januari Leo, director of public affairs for Houston's Legacy Community Health, was floored by the news, and for good reason.

"It was unexpected," she said by phone. "We had been following other bills."

Leo has followed the fight for needle exchange bills in their various iterations since 2003. While it nearly passed in the 2009 session, it wasn't even on her radar last session — much less this session.

means that as the session winds down, the bill has few paths to survival.

Even if it passes in the Legislature and is signed by the governor, said AIDS Arms Executive Director Dr. John Carlo, two questions remain: funding and implementation.

"Nonprofits like AIDS Arms mostly rely on federal funds, which strictly prohibit the use of funds on needle exchanges. Because [the program] relies on private organizations, we need to seek the funds to be able to manage exchange programs," he said.

There are an estimated 185 needle exchanges operating nationwide, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. "Where the needle exchanges legally exist, there are certain protocols and systems to follow, including staff, regulations and accessibility," he added.

He also worries the needle exchanges could also result in the abuse of, for instance, heroin.

"IV drug transfer rates have declined over the years; the number of people at risk for opiate and prescription drug abuse however has risen. As the prescription drug market is further regulated, addicts who are barred from usage will find other ways to access drugs," he said.

A thankful but cautious Carlo has no doubt advocates are considering these questions. As he succinctly put it, "Now that we've been given a gift, how do we use it?"

The regular legislative session ends June 1. ■

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TREPAC troubles

To maintain access to MLS listings, LGBT real estate agents must belong to an organization promoting discrimination

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Texas Real Estate PAC is only concerned with property rights issues — issues like appraisal reform, eminent domain, homeowner associations. Money raised by TREPAC is supposed to be used to lobby lawmakers on those kinds of issues.

But for the most part, the 84th Texas Legislature, now in session, hasn't addressed those kinds of issues. Lawmakers have, instead, given higher priority to efforts to stop progress toward LGBT equality, including bills like the one introduced by Rep. Cecil Bell aimed at circumventing a possible U.S. Supreme Court ruling later this summer legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide.

Even though property rights issues have not been on the front burner, TREPAC funds have still been going to Texas lawmakers this session. And Carrollton real estate broker Bob McCrainie says that money is overwhelmingly supporting

legislators opposed to marriage equality.

Supporting anti-marriage-equality lawmakers goes against TREPAC's mission, McCrainie continued, because "Marriage is a property rights issue."

That's true in a community property state like Texas even more than in states that are not, McCrainie continued. He explained that couples can protest taxes together. They buy and sell property together, apply for loans together and pay taxes together. Marriage affects inheritance.

But TREPAC doesn't see it that way.

McCrainie and other agents who have spoken to TREPAC said the political action committee sees marriage equality as a social issue.

"Why aren't they defending the property rights of all Texans?" McCrainie asked.

McCrainie noted that he and other LGBT real estate agents must become members of the Texas Association of Realtors, because without that membership, they wouldn't have access to MLS listings. TREPAC is the association's political action committee.

McCrainie, whose Texas Pride Realty agency is located in Carrollton, said he gets calls regularly from gay couples moving to the Dallas area, who tell him, "We're moving to Texas and we're scared. Where can we live where I can drop off our child at school in the morning and he can pick our child up in the afternoon and we won't get shot?"



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That, McCrainie said, is how bad Texas' reputation is elsewhere.

The current situation does nothing to allay that bad rep, McCrainie said, noting that when a same-sex couple buys property from an LGBT real estate agent and that agent supports TREPAC, that couple's money is going to support legislation that discriminates against them.

MetroTex Realtors, the local affiliate of the Texas Association of Realtors, stages The White Party each year to benefit TREPAC. This year's event raised more than \$100,000 — money that has supported those legislators opposing equality.

TREPAC donated \$355,000 to legislators who sponsored HB 4105, a measure that would bar county employees from issuing marriage licenses. Its author, Rep. Cecil Bell, R-Magnolia, was among those receiving funds.

Real estate agent Paul LaPierre said he stopped supporting TREPAC almost 10 years ago, explaining, "I noticed a bunch of assholes getting the money."

He said his concern wasn't just money going to legislators specifically doing harm to the LGBT community, but to legislators taking the state in the wrong direction.

"Their outlook on society was different than mine," LaPierre said.

He also called TREPAC's claim that marriage is a social issue to be nonsense. He also said the mantra of "property rights issues" to be a new invention for TREPAC.

In the early 2000s, when the Texas legislature

was still under Democratic control, LaPierre said that TREPAC collected money under the guise of "protecting agent commissions." He said the PAC warned that the state was going to add a special tax on commissions — but no such legislation was ever actually discussed, he added.

Once Republicans came into office, LaPierre said, it was less believable that lawmakers were going to establish new taxes, so TREPAC came up with the "property rights issues" story.

LaPierre said that even though he doesn't contribute to TREPAC, he must maintain his Texas Association of Realtors membership in order to maintain access to MLS listings.

More than Texas

The problem isn't just in Texas.

Geoff Rosenberger is a member of the Atlantic City Board of Realtors and a past president of New Jersey's Realtor Political Action Committee.

"Gay Realtor members, my self included, have been addressing the issue of RPAC dollars we give to anti-gay legislators for a while with the national association and state associations of Realtors, to absolutely no avail," Rosenberger said.

He said his years of membership dues fund these legislators, and he has no alternative organization to join that would give him access to MLS listings.

Rosenberger been asking the current New Jersey organization to open a discussion regarding who their PAC is funding. After two months, he's received no response.



Bob McCrainie says TREPAC money overwhelmingly supports legislators opposed to marriage equality (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

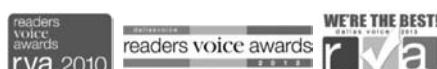
Yet funding these anti-equality legislators seems to violate the National Association of Realtors' strict code of ethics, which says a Realtor "shall not deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity."

After passage of the so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act in Indiana, Bruce Bright, the

president of the Indiana Association of Realtors, issued a statement. His state's PAC, supported by many LGBT real estate agents, had been contributing to politicians who voted for the anti-LGBT discrimination law.

"The economic harm that has beset our state is real, it is obvious, and it must be stopped," Bright said in his statement. "We add our voice to the chorus: Fix this issue now." ■

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What Would Harvey Do?

If Harvey Milk were here today, I feel fairly certain he would be helping advance the cause of marriage equality. And why wouldn't he?

Though we didn't get to pick the issue that will forever define a movement, the rapidly escalated fight for marriage equality has certainly advanced the notion that gay people are citizens deserving of the same rights as heterosexual Americans.

And yet, the fight for marriage is just the tip of the iceberg. If anything, the message of Harvey's life informs us that we cannot focus on just one issue when so much more is at stake.

If Harvey were here in Texas today — oh he would have had a field day! Here we are, three-and-a-half decades after the Briggs Initiative and Anita Bryant, yet in many ways, Texas looks more like 1978 than it does 2015.

I think back on the words of Anita Bryant spoken through her smarmy smile: "I know that homosexuals cannot biologically reproduce children; therefore, they must recruit our children." Then I hear the words of state Sen. Donna Campbell from 2013: "Yesterday's vote by the San Antonio City Council was an assault on the liberty of individuals to think freely and form their own opinion regarding certain lifestyle choices."

I look back on the remarkable 1978 victory against California's Proposition 6, which would have banned employment of gay people and their supporters in public schools, and I hear the words of state Sen. John Briggs, in a debate with Harvey Milk and Sally Gearhart: "...we cannot prevent child molestation, so let's cut our odds down and take out the homosexual group and keep in the heterosexual group." Then think about more than 60 elected lawmakers — including our future lieutenant governor and attorney general — who in 2014 signed an amicus brief rejecting marriage equality by comparing it to polygamy, incest and pedophilia.

I see how the fear-mongering of people like Bryant caused discriminatory ordinances to pop up all over the country. Now that marriage equality is so prevalent across the country, the same thing is happening all over again.

Yes, Harvey would have a lot to say about other things that are happening these days.

He would escalate his stand against the use of religion to harm people, and challenge the ugly and immoral use of religion to marginalize and discriminate against LGBT people. He would call out the hypocrisy of so-called religious liberty bills and probably say something similar to what he said in the 1970s: "The fact is that more people have been



Todd Whitley
Contributing Columnist

slaughtered in the name of religion than for any other single reason. That, that my friends, that is true perversion!"

He would have fought harder than we in the gay community are when the state moved to move \$3 million from HIV prevention programs to abstinence-only education.

While there is not a lot written about Harvey and transgender people, I know how thrilled he would be to see the growing acceptance of transgender people and how transgender women and men are rising up themselves to lead and create change.

But I know he would not stop there.

Harvey would fight hard against the continued

effective legislation, and a swift end to lethal violence, particularly against people of color.

He would be on the front lines of non-violent #BlackLivesMatter protests and rallies, recognizing that issues of race are issues of gay and transgender people as well. He would come back to the gay community with the message that all lives can't matter until black and brown lives matter.

And I know without a shadow of doubt that he would use that bullhorn to goad us out of complacency and apathy. He would still say he was here to recruit us and encourage us into action.

And that's what I take away from his life: not either/or but both/and.



refusal to provide protections for LGBT people and would vigorously decry legislation that harms transgender people or that fails to protect children or heinous bills that would create a bounty on transgender students: "All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential."

And because I understand that much of Harvey's success in advancing gay rights was working in coalition to advance the rights of others, I know that he would be about much more than LGBT rights.

When the Texas government was shutting down abortion clinics and in an attempt to control women's bodies, I believe Harvey would be right out there with women and friends of women demonstrating against these assaults on women's rights. When the annual May 1 workers' rights march shifted focus to immigrant rights and then to police brutality, I believe Harvey would be right there in solidarity, advocating for fair treatment, ef-

Times have changed and yet they haven't changed at all.

Where is our passion and our fervor? Where is our collective talk of hope and our cries against brutality and injustice toward others?

Each of us must come out. Not just come out gay but come out for each other, in every space. For the man who just wants something to eat. To the transgender youth crying out for help and acceptance. To the defense of people marginalized by the brutality of people in power. For the aging among us. For those who don't look like us. Just like Harvey and others did in the 70s and 80s, we must form coalition one with another.

A wise friend of mine planted an idea in my head that we need to stop walking in parades and start marching. She is absolutely right.

Harvey saw that the struggle for equality for gay people was the struggle for equality for all people. And that has not changed, for when you stand with me, straight ally, it gives me hope. And when I stand with you, my transgender sister of color, it gives you

Harvey's ghost

I never met Harvey Milk, yet he has always been a figure that looms large in my mind. I sometimes think his spirit haunts me and every other LGBTQ activist, unwilling to move on to whatever lies beyond. His spirit is restless because of the unfinished business left to do here in this world.

No, I don't really believe in ghosts. But I do believe that the spirit and essence of what a person does in this life can remain after death to affect others. Sometimes it is profound, stemming from a shared memory and common history.

As far as spirits go, having Harvey Milk around is not a bad thing. In fact, hearing his voice echo in my ears occasionally has actually kept me from falling into despair.

That sense of despair is fed by the actions of our state officials, who seem bound and determined to prevent us from enjoying our rights as citizens of Texas and the United States. They are determined to steal away the one thing that drove Harvey, and that is hope.

By crafting blatantly unconstitutional bills that would prevent clerks from issuing same-sex marriage certificates, these lawmakers try to steal our hope of having our relationships recognized legally by the state. They are trying to snatch away the hope that comes from the impending Supreme Court ruling on the constitutionality of the same-sex marriage bans that make a patchwork of inequality across our country.

And I hear Harvey's voice as he said, "...you have to give them hope." And I hear my own voice cry, "Thieves!"

I hear Harvey's spirit as I watch our insane politicians blame everything from the drought to the riots in Baltimore on "the gays," and try to scare us back into silence. His voice shouts, "Hope will never be silent."

I hear conservative people say we cannot afford to grant LGBTQ people equality — "Think of the litigation and the lawsuits against preachers who refuse to marry gay couples. It will be too great a burden on us."

The fact is that no such lawsuits have happened, and most likely none will happen. It's just another deception designed to rob us of hope.

And I hear Harvey's spirit grumbling in my ear, "It takes no compromising to give people their rights. It takes no money to respect the individual."

I see stories about homophobia and the violence it instills in people, and how politicians, preachers and pundits stoke the fires that drive this hatred. And I realize they are trying to steal our hope —

hope. And we believe hope does not disappoint. And if it does, then our work is not finished.

I believe we can and should be fierce advocates with our voices, our bodies, and our wallets. Because doing so makes everything else in our lives fuller and richer.

Because, "without hope, not only gays, but the blacks, the seniors, the handicapped, the us'es, the us'es will give up. And if you help elect to the cen-



Hardy Haberman

Flagging Left

our hope to be allowed to live our lives and love whom we will and get the same respect and rights as every other American.

That is the hope they would steal by calling equality, "special rights" and by denigrating our relationships

by comparing them to bestiality and worse. They would insult us and intimidate us to go back into the closet of oppression simply so they can be more comfortable.

And I hear Harvey's spirit speaking to me, reminding me of what he said so many years ago: "Rights are won only by those who make their voices heard."

I often wonder what Harvey Milk would say today. Here in Dallas, Texas. Here in a state so riddled with irrational hatred and fear of LGBTQ people that our legislature has tried to turn ordinary citizens into "bathroom police" to keep those sneaky transgender people from infiltrating the bathrooms of the gender they identify with. A state where no crazy law or ordinance is disputed as long as it benefits the white heterosexual majority. To hell with it being constitutional! A state where millions of dollars are spent to perpetrate a crime against LGBTQ citizens of Texas that may actually be worse than any physical act — the theft of hope.

Against that criminal act, I firmly believe, we must take action. Consider yourselves citizen guardians, protecting our hope for not just same-sex marriage, but hope for full equality.

Take that radical step. Don't just come out, refuse to go away. Listen carefully. Listen. Do you hear it? That voice that still speaks to us after so many years.

It's Harvey's spirit, and he is saying, "And you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow, hope for a better place to come to if the pressures at home are too great. Hope that all will be all right. Without hope, not only gays, but the blacks, the seniors, the handicapped — the us'es, the us'es — will give up."

Refuse to give up. Refuse to lose hope, so that someday Harvey Milk's restless spirit might finally find peace. Refuse to be silent and hang onto that one thing that can never be stolen — HOPE.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBTQ activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.

tral committee and other offices, more gay people, that gives a green light to all who feel disenfranchised, a green light to move forward. It means hope to a nation that has given up, because if a gay person makes it, the doors are open to everyone.

That's what Harvey would do.

Todd Whitley is a local activist and executive director of Hope for Peace and Justice. Read his blog at tdub68.wordpress.com

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The Emboldened girls

Legendary septuagenarians [Jane Fonda](#) and [Lily Tomlin](#) reunite 35 years after '9 to 5' for Netflix's latest edgy series, 'Grace and Frankie'

Lily Tomlin is watching Jane Fonda weep. Releasing a steady stream of waterworks, Fonda pauses slightly to collect herself before answering this question: Why have gay men forever revered older women even when the rest of the world — and Hollywood — have not? "I find the question so moving that it makes me cry," says Fonda.

It's one revelatory moment among many during this candid conversation with the 77-year-old Fonda and 75-year-old Tomlin, who appear together in the new Netflix original series *Grace and Frankie*. The beloved pair play modern golden girls forced to start anew after their husbands of 40-plus years (Martin Sheen and Sam Waterston) drop a big truth bomb: They're divorcing their wives because they are in love with each other. It's a great if long-overdue reunion for the actresses, who first worked together in 1980 (along with Dolly Parton) to put misogynistic men in their place in the feminist comedy classic *9 to 5*.

Will Dolly make a cameo on *Grace and Frankie*? During our freewheeling interview, the two longtime friends talked about the possibility of a *9 to 5* reunion on their new series, but they revealed plenty more, too. Fonda opened up about her own experiences dating high-profile gay men, one of whom proposed to her. Tomlin recalled the time she lashed out at Chita Rivera.

But first, the crying.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: You've both addressed ageing in Hollywood, and this show deals a lot with aging as well. Historically, gay men — we love our *Golden Girls*, we love our *Chers* and *Bette Midlers*. Why do you think, despite Hollywood's reputation for ageism, there has always been a place for older women in the gay community? Tomlin: I may be terribly wrong and cutting my tongue out for this: It's like, well, we're women of a certain age, and maybe we're considered more audacious.

Fonda: I find the question so moving that it makes me cry. I had never thought of it before, and it makes me so moved. I think Lily put her finger on it just now. Older women tend to be more audacious; they're bigger and bolder and, god knows, gay men love big and bold, right?

Does it go any deeper than that, do you think? Tomlin: It's like Lysinka. I knew he was from Mississippi, and he's like a little kitten in a way; his hair is so soft and pale red, and he's got a big, high, very white-skinned forehead. When I first saw Lysinka, I could just see this little boy — 4 or 5 years old in Mississippi — growing up around all these Southern women, and my family's Southern. I just saw him seeing through them and into their hearts. He saw the women being oppressed and being pigeonholed and how they act kind of audaciously just to free themselves. I just could see that little boy, and he satirized women's behavior so brilliantly — all the stuff, the travails they have, and I

just wept when I saw him because he was so brilliant. I think there are hinges between those two things. ... Jane is wiping tears from her eyes.

Fonda: How she said that — that he sees through them into their hearts. And also: The notion of surviving.

Tomlin: And him making up this incredible creature who's just so much fun to watch, and yet it's painful. I could feel his little boy pain all through those years.

You both have had a profound influence on the LGBT and ally movements. Can you share a moment in your lives as LGBT activists and trailblazers that stand out as particularly memorable to you? Fonda: Campaigning with Harvey Milk in the Castro District in San Francisco for Prop 6. He was the most joyous. He was like Allen Ginsberg. He was always smiling and laughing, and he was beloved and he was funny — the most lovable person. I was so happy when I was with him. And it was just so much fun going into those gay bars with him — oh my god!

Tomlin: I never got to meet Harvey Milk. I knew [LGBT historian] Vito Russo; he was my good friend. I used to exchange so many stories with him. I was up on the Strip one night when I was not on *Laugh-In* yet. I was unknown and a woman that I was friends with who was a publicist had brought Chita Rivera to meet me, and

GIRLS Page 20

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Between the lines

J. DENTON BRICKER | Contributing Writer
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When Jonathon Norton was 15 years old, acting in his high school production of August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, to escape the boredom of the green room, he would wile away his down time writing monologues and short scenes for his castmates to act out for him. What began as their indulgence of his quirkiness quickly turned to annoyance. "They were like, 'Here he comes, here he comes with papers in his hands — hide, lock the door, turn off the lights!'" he recalls with a laugh.

Now, actors are seeking *him* out.

Norton is an emerging playwright, who has already met a degree of success; he recently wrapped up a sold-out three week-run of his newest play, *Mississippi Goddamn*, at the South Dallas Cultural Center. Norton both wrote and produced the production — a dual set of duties he enjoyed, as it permitted him greater control of the finished product and kept him occupied and focused during rehearsals ... normally a stressful time for playwrights.

The story centers on the neighbors of the '60s civil rights activists Medgar and Myrlie Evers, whose collective attempts to buy the couple out of their home in Jackson, Miss. Norton was inspired when he visited the Evers residence during a civil rights pilgrimage while enrolled at SMU.

"During our visit, the tour guide explained that on several

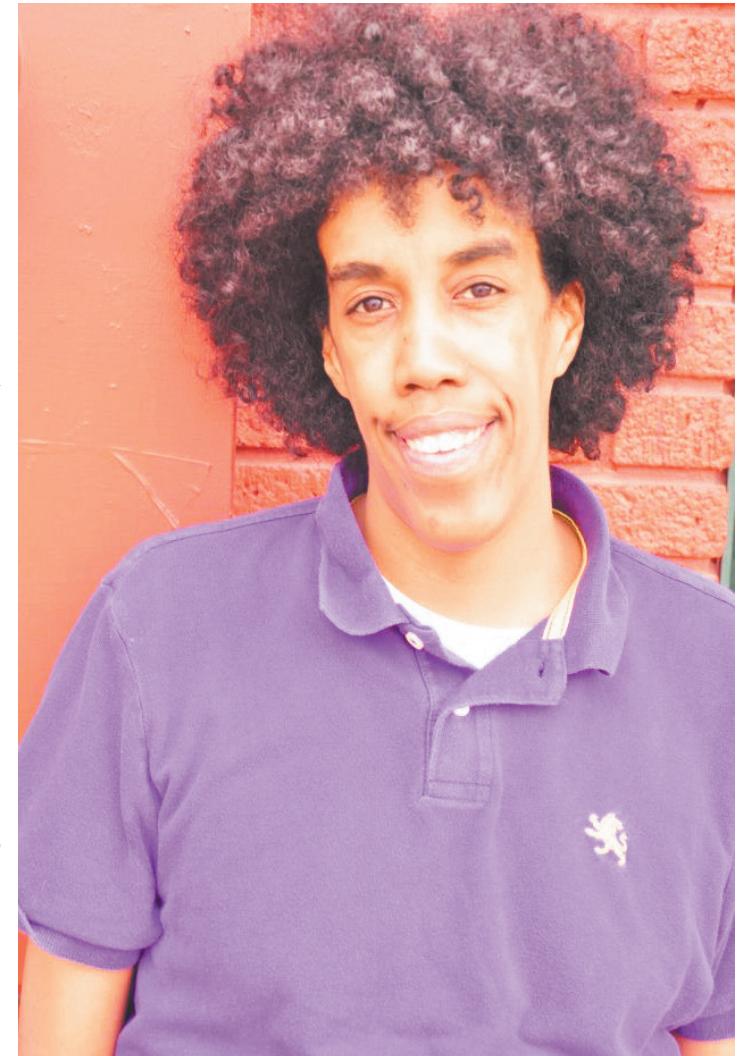
occasions Evers' neighbors tried to buy him out of the neighborhood," Norton says. "This was a man fighting for justice for the African-American community, and yet his [black] neighbors did not want him there. They had some valid reasons in terms of being afraid for their children's safety and their livelihoods, but still — it's kind of shocking to imagine his neighbors not wanting him there."

Likening the situation to a gay activist facing alienation and anger from his own gay neighbors, Norton addresses themes within the work that prove relevant in the face of the gay rights movement.

"I think because there is a theme within the play of speaking truth to power and not being afraid to do that, there is the conflict of Robbie [the main character] with her parents as they have this do not rock the boat mentality that still exists even within the gay community," Norton says.

Mississippi Goddamn garnered enough attention that following its recent run, a table reading was scheduled in New York City, and he has been approached by some institutions of higher learning about performing it, as it provides intense, challenging rolls for young African-American actors. Norton was also asked by the Dallas Morning News to write an op-ed piece on MLK Day entitled "If Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today...." In the piece, Norton wrote that if King were alive he would be proud of and support Coretta's work on LGBT equality. After the editorial ran, he received hate mail accusing him of putting words in King's mouth but he doesn't let that bother him — he

Jonathon Norton:
Living (and writing)
between 2 worlds



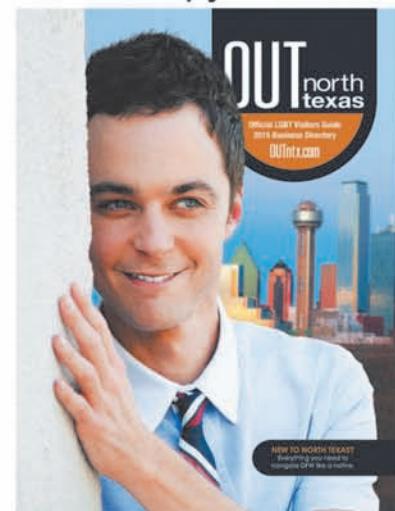
Playwright Jonathon Norton.

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As an out man himself, Norton feels the tension of both the black and LGBT communities and his role in creating works that reflect the scope of that experience. But making it work isn't always easy.

"Many of the African-American playwrights that are successful and established ... 95 percent of them are gay," he laughs. "It is common knowledge to the extent that a very close friend of mine jokes about the fact if you're gay, African-American and have a talent for writing, that's all it takes. You got it." But there is also an expectation that LGBT writers should create a play with gay characters — a pressure he has experienced, and even though he has ideas cooking, he hasn't found a way to do that effectively ... of yet.

"I've had a number of plays that I have started at one stage or another with gay characters in it and for some reason, I get to a point where I get blocked. I think it has to do with wondering if the work is becoming stereotypical or too safe or middle-of-the-road," he says. "I get to page 15 and I think the other piece of it is that I'm always interested in race and sexuality and how those things work together."

His previous play, *My Tidy List of Terrors*, was selected by the prestigious PlayPenn Conference, an annual event in Philadelphia that chooses talented works from across the nation for workshopping, readings and other development opportunities.

He's not making a living yet as a writer. Norton's day job is as a coordinator in campus services at SMU's McFarlin Auditorium, and he is a commons

producer for the online theater journal *HowlRound*, for which he covers the residency of Will Powers (the straight exception to the gay black writer rule) at the Dallas Theater Center. He raises awareness about the plights of playwrights and playwright residency support programs. This position also gives him the unique opportunity to learn from Powers, an established veteran playwright.

"Prior to Will coming to Dallas, I didn't really have other playwrights at that kind of level [having work produced regionally and on Broadway] that I can pick his brain and talk to him about the business and how it operates," Norton says. "So many writers didn't have access to someone like him at all. There is a lot of knowledge that doesn't get transferred so it's been great having someone in the community that can provide that."

But Norton isn't all serious race plays and heady theater aspirations — he also is a superfan of *Ru Paul's Drag Race*. (His pick this season to win is fellow Booker T. Washington alum Kennedy Davenport.)

"I love those moments on the show when the contestants talk about their parents, and the difficulty they've had within their families," Norton says. "That is one of the great things about *Untucked* that I miss — when someone would get a surprise call from their dad who they hadn't talked to in 15 years. The show has this huge straight following, so for straight America to see these kind of moments is an extremely powerful thing and it allows them see this warrior nature to the contestants."

Terry D. Loftis, Tony nominee

On the morning of April 28, Terry D. Loftis was in a crappy mood. He was grumbling because he was late to work when his cell phone rang. He answered it in a huff.

"What do you want?" he said to the voice on the other end. "Sorry," came the reply, "I just thought you'd like to know you're a Tony-nominated producer."

"I nearly drove off the road," Loftis admits.

Until about three months ago, the idea of co-producing a Broadway musical, not to mention being in the running for the theater world's top honor, wasn't really in the cards for Loftis. Then he received a call from an old friend who knew Loftis has a facility for raising money. Would he be interested in rounding up some investors for the B'way bow of *The Visit*, a Kander & Ebb musical starring Chita Rivera? He excitedly agreed. Then, less than a month before opening night, he snagged an especially large whale — one that entitled Loftis to an official "producer" credit on the show ... and eligibility for a Tony nomination. Still, he wasn't holding his breath.

"There were these big, [traditional] musicals like *An American in Paris* that we assumed would [snag all the attention]," he says over a burger. "We were this small, darkly comic musical, which is what drew me to *The Visit* in the first place." Then the highly-anticipated *Doctor Zhivago* tanked and the reviews for *The Visit* rolled in. Suddenly, Loftis is on the short-list right beside 82-year-old Chita Rivera.

It was a natural progression for Loftis, who has been a patron of the arts since he was a little gay boy singing to original cast albums. Suddenly, he's already committed now to producing two more Kander & Ebb shows in upcoming seasons. But for the near future, while he's trying not to get his hopes too high, there's one thing he's sure of: He definitely will be attending the Tony Awards on June 7.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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SAM & LILY & JANE & MARTIN | Netflix's 'Grace and Frankie' reunites four superstars with criss-crossed careers: Sam Waterston and Fonda co-starred on 'The Newsroom' while Martin Sheen and Tomlin shared screen time on 'The West Wing.'

■ **GIRLS**, From Page 16

Chita talked with a Bronx accent, and she's talking really fast and you don't know what she's saying. I kind of zoned out for a minute because I could hardly understand her at that point, and then I suddenly heard her say, "purse nelly." First she had said my "boy dancers" and the skin on the back of my neck bristled up, and that's when she said, "purse nelly" and then I just went ballistic. I said, "What did you say?!"

You lashed out at Chita Rivera? Tomlin: I lashed out! She said, "I dunno! WHADISAY?" I said, "You said, 'purse nelly.' I wanna know what that means. What you meant by that?" "I don't know. Whadisay? Pursenelly? Personally." She was saying "personally"!

Fonda: "Personally!" [Laughs]

Tomlin: And I didn't even cop to it. I was so embarrassed. I just doubled over laughing and fell on the floor.

Fonda: I just went to my 60th high school reunion. I went four years to an all-girls boarding school, and in the days leading up to the reunion I kept wondering, "God, I wonder whatever happened to Pat Johnson?" Because everyone in the class knew that Patty Johnson was gay, or at least we thought that she was. But no one talked about it. Not even among ourselves. Nobody ever said anything. And she was at the reunion — there were only four of us at the reunion.

Tomlin: Four out of the whole class?! Awww.

Fonda: And Pat Johnson was there, with an oxygen tank, mind you. It was the first time she'd been out to dinner in five years because she had some allergies to chemicals. And there she was with her wife! An amazing woman violinist! And I thought, well, this is very great. I never ever would have imagined back in the day that Pat Johnson would be able to get married to her lady friend.

Let's talk about your friendship with each other.

Was it smooth sailing from the very beginning? Tomlin: Yeah, we hit it off right away. I was so excited when Jane came to see one of my shows way back in the day ...

Fonda: ... This was pre-9 to 5!

Tomlin: ... Yeah. I was all excited. She came back-

stage and was very complimentary, and then next thing I knew...

Fonda: ... I was offering her a role in *9 to 5*, which was originally going to be a serious movie until I saw Lily's one-woman show called *Appearing Nightly*. I decided I didn't want to make a movie about office workers until she was one of them. And it had to be a comedy. It took me a year to convince her and Dolly to be in it! During that year we kind of saw each other because we'd be talking about different ideas and stuff, and so we kind of became friends before *9 to 5*.

What is different about working with each other on *Grace and Frankie* compared to when you worked together 35 years ago? Fonda: We're together more! I mean, it's four months, almost every day for almost 15 hours, which is a real treat for me. You know, Lily is very unusual. She has a real funny bone. So, watching her take on not just the scripts but life is a pleasure.

Tomlin: Thank you, Ms. Fonda!

After doing the first season of *Grace and Frankie*, what advice do you have for women who are romantically involved with a gay man?

Fonda: Try to stay friends. You know, it happened to a friend of mine when I lived in Atlanta, and she told me about it and it was very hard for her because she really loved him a lot. Because she loved him, she was able to understand that he needed to become who he really was, and they remained very, very close friends and they still live in the same building. I think that's the way to do it. Compassion, empathy, love, understanding — we need more of it.

Have either of you dated a gay man before?

Fonda: Oh yes! Oh my god. When I was young, I was the female that gay guys wanted to try to become heterosexual with. A very famous actor who's gay — and I will not name names — asked me to marry him. I was very flattered, but I said, "Why?" This was 1964. And I mean, he wasn't the only one. It's very interesting. And I lived for two years with a guy who was trying to become heterosexual. I'm intimately acquainted with that.

Did that come to mind as you were shooting this

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show, where you are married to a gay man? Fonda: [Laughs] No! Not until you made me think of it right now.

Lily, have you had any similar experiences?

Tomlin: No, I didn't; but I had girlfriends who dated gay guys in college and they couldn't understand why so-and-so didn't, you know, take them into their arms and sweep them away. Because they danced together so well! They were beautiful, tall blonde people! They were just kind of breathtaking, and they did make a nice looking couple, but that was about as far as it would go — looks. I had a girlfriend and we got into a big fight about being gay when I first moved to New York. She was watching *Lust for Life* and Anthony Quinn, who is so macho as Gauguin in that movie, and I said something like, "Look how macho this guy is — he's unbelievable!" She said, "If I were gay, I'd beat down the door of the nearest psychiatrist." I said, "If I fell in love with my refrigerator, I'd give it lamb chops!"

Netflix has really been a pioneer in reaching beyond LGBT stereotypes and being LGBT inclusive, and it's done it again with *Grace and Frankie*. How do you feel about the state of gay characters on TV as a whole? And what is it about this platform that allows Netflix to tell LGBT stories without getting gimmicky or exploitative? Tomlin: I think it's been a long time coming. Although, it's happened because of so many things that have gone before, and this culture has changed. Large parts of the culture have changed. Not the culture as a whole. You know, there's still a lot of ...

Fonda: ... Homophobia. I lived in the South for 20 years, and, unfortunately, homophobia is all too alive and rampant, but because there are so many more gay men and women in mass media and they're very lovable — and more and more people are coming out — Americans know somebody who's gay and lesbian. Once that happens, it's a lot harder to remain homophobic.

Did you ever think that gay marriage would be a reality in your lifetime? Tomlin: No, I did not.

Fonda: I didn't either.

Tomlin: I mean, I began to suspect. The last generation or two that have come along, they so demanded to be visible and they've taken for granted everything that the gay community had fought for so hard for a long time — it was wiped away from their minds that they were not accepted or not loved. I mean, they may have known it but they didn't own it.

Fonda: I agree, and I'm very optimistic. I found what Justice Kennedy said — that it should be looked at as sex discrimination — cause for optimism.

I remember when this show was announced, everyone was really hyped about you two getting back together, but they were also hoping for a Dolly Parton cameo. Has that been discussed as a real possibility amongst showrunners? Tomlin: Well, it's been discussed because so many people inquired about it and thought about it. Of course, Dolly's a good friend and the three of us really like each other and we've been friends all these years, but because *Grace and Frankie* is set apart, we want to establish our identity before we think about dragging the 9 to 5 life into it.

Fonda: It's a different style. It's a different animal. We wanna keep it that way. For now, anyway.

What do you think your 9 to 5 characters, Judy and Violet, are up to these days? Fonda: Violet's probably heading up a Silicon Valley company! Maybe we're married!



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L+S books

How Stella got her groovy family

For Father's Day,
a kids' book for
modern families

Stella Brings the Family by Miriam B. Schiffer, illustrated by Holly Clifton-Brown (Chronicle Kids 2015) \$17.36 pp.

Who loves a party? Who doesn't? The invitations, the decorations, the balloons the cake and ice cream, the games and the fun. If there's a magician or a clown, even better.

But what if the party wasn't quite right? What if the guest list upset you? In *Stella Brings the Family*, a little girl learns how to make things all better.

One day at school, Stella's teacher said she had something special for the class. They were going to have a Mother's Day celebration and everybody could invite their mommies. That was fine for Jonathan and Leon and Carmen. Howie had two mothers, and he was sure they'd both come. It was fine for all the other kids, but it really worried Stella because she had two dads. That meant she'd be the only one at the party who didn't have a mother.

All week long, Stella fretted. She worried. She couldn't stop thinking about it. Even her friends noticed she was sad but when Stella explained her situation, they didn't quite understand. Leon wondered who made Stella's lunch. Howie wanted to know who read bedtime stories in Stella's house. Carmen asked who kissed her boo-boos.

But lunch and bedtime and boo-boos weren't the problem. Finally, Jonathan made a suggestion: Why didn't Stella bring her whole family? She should bring all the people who made her lunches and gave her hugs and kisses.

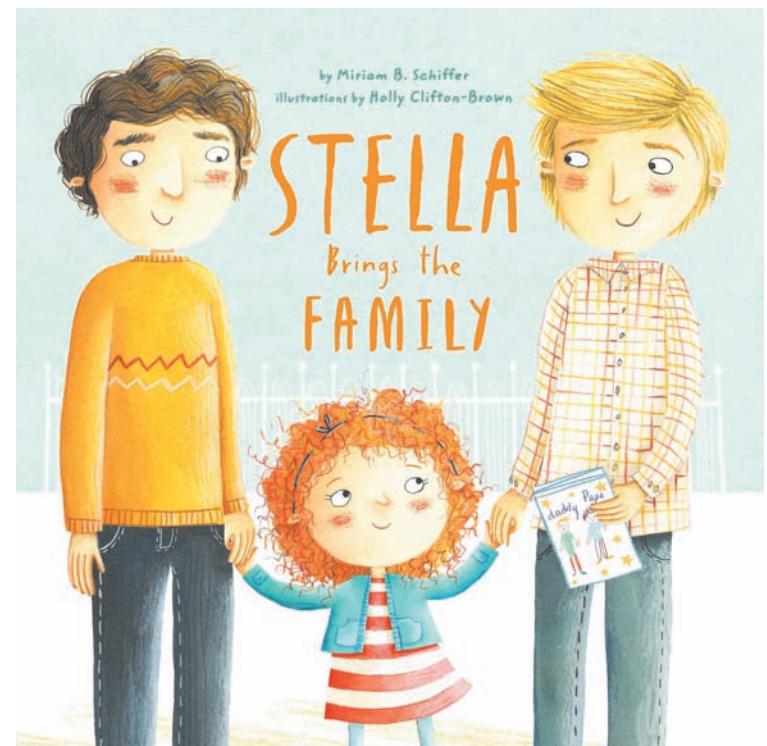
Stella's Daddy liked that idea. Her Papa did, too, but Stella wasn't so sure. A few days later, when it came time for the class to get ready for the party, Stella worked very hard. The decorations went up, the invitations were made, and party day arrived! So did Howie's two mothers and Jonathan's grandma ... plus a whole *family* of people who belonged to Stella! That was more than OK — they had the best Mother's Day party ever. But Father's Day was coming up soon. What would Stella do next?

Some sticky social situations, sadly, have no lower-age limit. Still, there's always a solution, as your child will see inside *Stella Brings the Family*.

Head-on, and with no fuss, author Miriam B. Schiffer deals with an issue that's actually been around for a long time: what happens when a celebration occurs and a child is absent the "right" parent to laud? In this case, Schiffer gives her main characters a nice fix for what could be an upsetting day — and then she takes things a little bit further in a sweet, casually-told story with illustrations by Holly Clifton-Brown that are the perfect accompaniment.

The audience here, I think, is right around the 4-to-7 age group, and preschool classes will want this book on their shelves. For sure, if your family has two mommies or two daddies, *Stella Brings the Family* is something your child will invite you to read again and again.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



STELLA HAS 2 DADDIES | Another sign of the times: A children's story about a gay-led family that's not about acceptance, but about kindergarten etiquette.

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'Max'ed out

Mad Max returns for 'Fury Road'; plus 'Iris,' 'Pitch 2'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The abiding awesomeness of the *Mad Max* films — a cult series of only three movies released over a six-year period, the last one nearly 30 years ago — is that while on the surface they are simple, fossil-fuel-burning apocalyptic actioners, for true cineastes they are much, much more... something that Andre Bazin might have called "pure cinema." It's not a stretch, or pretentiousness, to view a blow-'em-up through the lens of the French *nouvelle vague*, which is exactly my point. Go ahead and underestimate the newest entry in the series, *Mad Max: Fury Road*; but you do so at your peril.

There's not a whole lot of dialogue in *Fury Road*, but that merely coalesces the purity of the plot: In a post-apocalyptic wasteland where water, food and arable soil are at a premium, hoards of roaming marauders have turned the world into a series of warring tribes who appear to destroy each other not for good reason, but because they fear the same will happen to them. It's a vicious cycle, where survival is the dominant instinct, even though the means of achieving it are self-destructive. (Basically, it's what Tea Baggers think Jade Helm 15 is intended to be.)

Our anti-hero, Max (Tom Hardy, taking over — thankfully — from Mel Gibson) is captured by an especially aggressive band of melanin-free Morlocks, led by Joe the Immortal, who doles out water sparingly to his loyal subjects while living a rich life inside The Citadel, his stronghold in the desert. Joe relies on Imperator Furiosa (Charlize Theron, channeling her best Sigourney Weaver) to lead his squadrons on missions. But one day, Furiosa mutinies, and tries to escape with Joe's harem of sex slaves for a better life in The Green Place. Joe tries to stop her. And for the next two hours, you can hardly catch your breath.

Fury Road is a shit-kicking rude-boy of a motion picture (emphasis on motion), but its genius is that it isn't a brain-dead, testosterone-fueled explode-a-thon with dopey sentiments. (I watched the trailer for *San Andreas* before it; trust me, I know whereof I speak). At its heart beats a genuine parable of female empowerment and the benefits of matriarchal leadership. (Naw.... Really? Really.)

The director, George Miller — who also made the others in the series, as well as such incongruous films as *Lorenzo's Oil* and *Happy Feet* — is a brilliant and exhilarating visualist, who uses machine-gun editing and skip-frame fast-motion techniques without convoluting the action. He has fully conceived of a world where ad-hoc religious zealotry and demented militancy have

supplanted actual culture. I think it's funny that a lot of the audience for this movie (aside from gay guys like me who kinda get off on all the beefcake) have no idea they are being indoctrinated with a message that ultimately embraces peace and cooperation. At least after it rips the bad guy's face off. Hey, it is summer.

Also opening: *Iris*, the hilariously engaging documentary about nonagenarian fashion icon Iris Apfel (a must-see); and *Pitch Perfect 2*, a follow-up to the hit a capella comedy. ■

ROAD WARRIOR | After a 30 year absence, Mad Max is back on screen ... thankfully, without Mel Gibson.



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Sunday 05.17

Sue Ellen's hosts 9th annual Women's Music Festival

Girls — they run the world. Or so Beyonce claims. Well, maybe they do, especially when those girls include Anton Shaw, Heather Knox, Hunter Valentine, the ladies in Barefoot Hippies, Yoza and Deborah Vial, pictured, who will headline this 9th annual, daylong concert series. It'd be worth coming out for any one of these entertainers, but this line-up will keep you rockin' for seven hours.

DEETS: Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 1 p.m. \$20-\$30. SueEllensDallas.com.

Saturday 05.16

Relive your prom at Gaybingo!

Remember prom? Bad tux? Date who you thought made you look straight (it fooled no one)? Hair bands? Bad themes (Under the Sea! A Night to Remember!)? Yeah, it was awful when you look back on it. But face it: You had a good time. And even if you didn't, this is your chance to make up for it, with Gaybingo reliving the 1980s (hey, some of us actually went to prom in the 1980s!) for its monthly games-and-fundraiser. Don't forget your corsage!

DEETS: The Rose Room inside S4, 2911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. games. \$25-\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.



Saturday 05.16

Command Performance Gala celebrates dance

TITAS is known for bringing the best of the current dance world — from ballet to loads of contemporary and modern — to the stages of Dallas from the four corners of the earth, so its annual Command Performance Gala is sort of the best of the best, with dancers representing companies such as San Francisco Ballet, MOMIX, Bruce Wood Dance Project, as well as solo artists like Lil Buck, pictured. It's a grand experience every year — don't miss it.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7 p.m. ATTPAC.org.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Sense & Sensibility. Stage adaptation of Jane Austen's romantic comedy of manners. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 24. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Avenue Q. The Tony-winning musical about sexually active puppets. *Final weekend.* Art Centre Theatre, 5220 Village Creek Drive, Plano. ArtCentreTheatre.com.

The Down Low. A dead body, a love-struck teen, a 'shroom-popping stoner and a Russian model populate this quirky, gay play performed in front of 15 audience members in a small house. *Reviewed this week.* 5922 E. Mockingbird Lane, Friday–Saturday. 8 p.m. \$15. AudacityTheatreLab.com.

The Lady with All the Answers. Gay playwright David Rambo wrote this solo show about advice columnist Ann Landers. Starring Gene Raye Price. Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through June 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Jackie & Me. Rene Moreno directs this play about a time-traveling kid who meets Jackie Robinson. Presented by Dallas Children's Theater. *Final weekend.* Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. \$13–\$26. DCT.org.

I and You. Circle Theatre. 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through May 23. CircleTheatre.com.

Urinetown. The hilarious Tony Award winner about a bleak future where water is more valuable than gold. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through May 24. TheatreArlington.org.

The Liar. B.J. Cleveland directs this modern twist on a Corneille farce. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 31. Theatre3Dallas.com.

DANCE

Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Spring Celebration Series. Four performances end the 38th season of the dance troupe, which includes guest from the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Friday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

TITAS: Command Performance Gala. TITAS' annual celebration of dance arrives with special appearances by a host of artists including Lil Buck, Yuan Tuan Tan (San Francisco Ballet), Albert Drake (Bruce Wood Dance Project) and dances from MOMIX, among others. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 16. 7 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

FINE ART

Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shigara and Sadamasa Motonaga. A side-by-side examination of the art of two of the post-war Japanese avant garde art movement known as Gutai, which sought not to transform matter but bring it to life with experimental techniques. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 15. DMA.org.

Ruben Nieto: Decollage. The bold, colorful abstract paintings of Ruben Nieto, influenced by the pop art movement (especially Roy Lichtenstein), mark a new series opening Saturday. Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1845 Levee St., ste. 110. May 16–June 20. Opening night artist's reception, 6–8 p.m. CrisWorley.com.

Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine. The DMA's conservationists restore this century-old display case of silver, lapis and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

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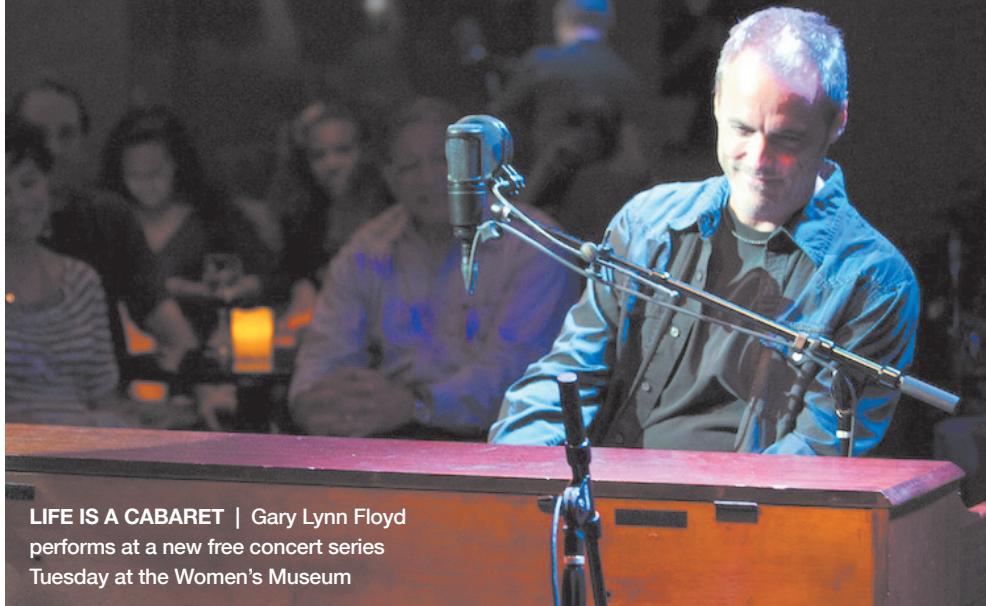
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LIFE IS A CABARET | Gary Lynn Floyd performs at a new free concert series Tuesday at the Women's Museum

FESTIVAL

Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual trip to Medieval Europe, including dancers, musicians, food, crafts and cosplayers. This weekend's theme: "The Legends of the Seas." Faire Grounds, FM 66, Waxahachie. Through May 25 (weekends), 10 a.m.-7 p.m. \$25. SRFestival.com.

FRIDAY 05.15

COMMUNITY

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Jad Abumrad. The host of the NPR thought series

Radiolab hosts an evening of "think speak" about issues that matter, with two shows on Friday. City Performance Hall, 2540 Flora St. 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

SATURDAY 05.16

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. Remember that awkward tux you wore while concealing your acne and pretending to be straight with the buck-toothed girl who needed a date? Yeah, we all went to prom. And this month's Gaybingo theme is '80s (Gay) Prom, so you can even go with big hair and funky music. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6

p.m. curtain. \$25-\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

SUNDAY 05.16

CONCERTS

9th Annual Women's Music Festival. Sue Ellen's hosts this mega concert with headliner Deborah Vial and Hunter Valentine, Anton Shaw, Yoza, Heather Knox and Barefoot Hippies. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 1 p.m. \$20-\$30. SueEllensDallas.com.

St. Vincent. The entrancing Grammy Award-winning singer performs as part of the inaugural Soluna International Music & Arts Festival. Annette Strauss Square next to the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8:30 p.m. \$35. ATTPAC.org.

BROADCAST

Mad Men. The season finale of the iconic drama about life in 1960s America. Airs on AMC at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 05.18

CABARET

Gary Lynn Floyd. Performs as part of a new cabaret series, from Denise Lee. Women's Museum at Fair Park, 3800 Parry Ave. 7 p.m. Free.

FILM

Viva Las Vegas. The Elvis hit. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

this week's solution



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Cassie Nova

Cassie's rules for social media

Oh, happy day, everybody! I bring you shocking news about our world: Cell phones and social media are ruining everything! Now, I love how quickly you can you can access damn near anything, but that also presents a downside. It affects our attention spans. No one can pay attention to anything for more than a couple of seconds. Oh look, something shiny! On any random night in the Rose Room we have an audience that watches our show for a few seconds and watches their phone for a few seconds and back. It's like they are watching a tennis match from behind the tennis player. Bitches, don't sit in the front row if you are gonna be on your phone! I will get you. Feel free to take my picture but that don't mean I wanna stop everything to be in your selfie.

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have turned

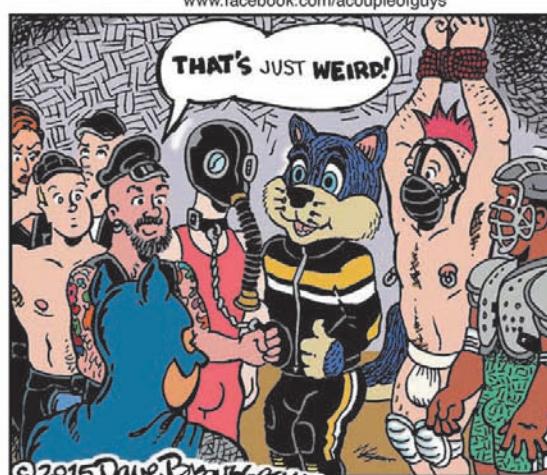
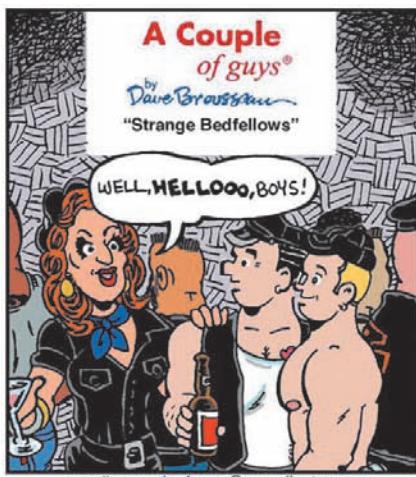
everybody into an expert on everything. Here are my top 10 biggest social media pet peeves:

1. Thinking if you don't check in at the gym it didn't happen.
2. Posting pics of everything you eat ... ever.
3. Leaving a negative comment when someone says something uplifting — fuck you, Debbie Downer.
4. The ubiquitous 'woe is me' post, i.e., "No one will date me." "I don't have any money." Or my least favorite, "I think I'm ugly," which is an obvious attempt to get people to say nice things about you.
5. Tagging me in a post that has nothing to do with me.
6. Vague posts annoy the shit out of me — saying things like, "I can't believe that just happened."
7. People that are only brave behind a keyboard, you know those shit-talking Internet bullies.
8. The ever-present post that says, "I just cleaned out my friends list so if you are reading this congratulations, you made the cut." Thank god!
9. Couples that post daily things about how much they love each other and how perfect things are,

when you know how rocky their relationship really is. Scandalous!

10. Tweets where people beg you to follow them.
11. The pic of your ugly feet in front of a pool or the ocean.

Now, even though I say these things annoy me, I am also guilty of some. I just scrolled through my social media accounts and saw four pictures of my feet in front of various bodies of water and three of fancy foods that I have scarfed. What has happened to me? What have I become? Am I a social media whore?



You there, reading this! I bet you are reading this off the Internet instead of the print magazine. Too bad. We can't escape the web! We lost our AT&T Uverse signal last week at home — nothing worked. No Internet. No cable TV. No nuthin' for two days. It was awful. I felt like Tom Hanks in *Castaway*, a million miles away from everything and talking to inanimate objects. I was overwhelmed with joy and relief when it finally came back on. Thankfully it is working today, so I can answer some of y'all's questions.

Hi Cassie, I'm a 50-year-old married mom and grandmother, who also happens to be a life-long tomboy. I have short hair, I don't wear makeup, and I can't stand girly clothes or high heels. Because my husband and I are both very outspoken straight LGBT allies with many LGBT friends, we often get "accused" of being closeted gays in a sham marriage. People point to the fact that I'm a tomboy, and say that since I dress and "act" like a lesbian, then I must be one. My sensible side chalks it up to Texas bigotry and ignorance, but after a while, my sensitive side starts to hurt. Any advice for me, Cassie?

Signed, Perplexed in Plano.

Dearest PinP, First off let me say thank you for your support and being an ally to our community. It warms my heart to know people like you are out there and it breaks my heart that people say stupid shit to you. I could tell you to just ignore the ignorant things people say but that doesn't change the fact that those things hurt your feelings. I love that you own being a tomboy. Just be you and piss on the naysayers. When someone accuses you of being a lesbian, say, "I wish I was! Lesbians are awesome. But I am strictly dicky, just ask my husband. Bitch!"

Dear Cassie, How do you fall out of love with your best friend?? When no matter how many times you tell yourself it's not going to happen that he is the one you see living your life with. Signed, JP.

Dear JP, The best relationships start off by being friends but the impression that I am getting is that he is not into you that way. If that is the case, he can't force what isn't there. If you want to keep him as a close friend you need to keep your feelings in check. What is more important: Having him as a friend or trying to force his feelings and possibly ruining the whole relationship? You may want to separate yourself from him. You can't fall for another if you are always so hung up on someone else. Good luck, Cassie.

Hi Cassie, I've made a lot of new gay friends in the past year (which is great!) since I actually moved into Dallas from Plano, and one thing that I seem to notice is how catty they can be, not only among themselves but to strangers they'll never meet. I'm afraid that I'm going to start picking up their bad habits. Is there any way I can avoid taking that behavior into myself? Thanks, Cordin.

Dear Cordin, I think it is hilarious you are asking a drag queen about being catty. Seriously though, you tend to take on the traits of the people you hang out with. Either give in to the dark side or really work on not being one of the Plastics. We gays tend to be bitchy and catty for comedic effect, rarely do we mean anything by it. But that doesn't mean it is right. Being a bitchy queen is so stereotypical, don't give in. Be yourself. Don't be a Mean Girl just to fit in. Leave being a cunt to the professionals, like me. Cassie.

I have one wish for you all; I wish you all have the life you that you seem to have on Facebook. May your life be filled with videos of puppy's being adorable and memes of cats being grumpy. This Internet bullshit looks like it is here to stay, so let's try to use it for good, not evil. Oh and for porn!

Love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

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



DJ Ivan Gomez and Purple Foundation President Blake Baker watch over the dance floor during Purple Party's Ignite at S4.



Girls' night out at Sue Ellen's.



Asia T. O'Hara at S4.



Chilling at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.

Making the SCENE the week of May 15-21:

Alexandre's: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. Chris Chism at 10 p.m. on Saturday and 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Liz Mikel at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Brick/Joe's: Meech Big Red Party fundraiser to prevent heart disease featuring Chevelle Brooks, Adonis Kyng, A'keria Chanel Davenport, Nick St. James, Essense Allure Collins and Desera Bonet Chance on Friday. Free admission until 11 p.m. Free food, special giveaways and special guests.

Cedar Springs Tap House: RuPaul's Drag Race watch party at 8 p.m. on Monday.

Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Imperial Court show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Wall of Food Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: Mast Dallas meeting from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday. **Black & White Party** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. DJ Blaine spins music favorites from the 1980s at the **Back to the 80s Dance** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.

JR's Bar & Grill: Free HIV Testing by Resource Center at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

S4: Trash Disco with host Craig Reed on Friday. **GayBingo** on Saturday.

Sue Ellen's: Barefoot Hippies on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. **Music Fest** featuring Deborah Vial and Hunter Valentine from 2-9 p.m. on Sunday.

The Rose Room: **The Dallas Way** tribute to drag at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

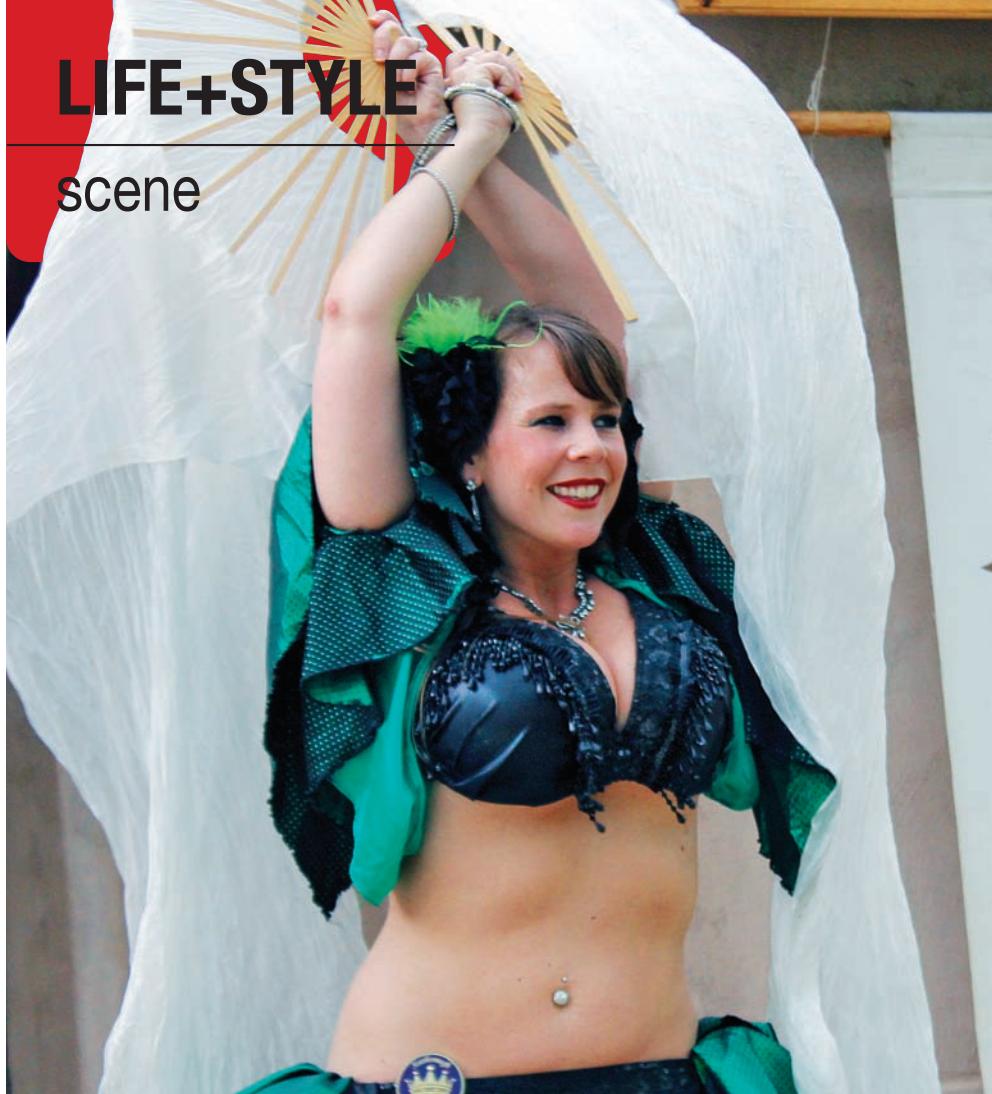
TMC: The Mining Company: Team Octane Extra Innings on Sunday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Extra Innings at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Haygood.



Netta serves up the drinks at The Brick/Joe's.



Kede performs with The Wings of Isis at Scarborough Renaissance Festival.

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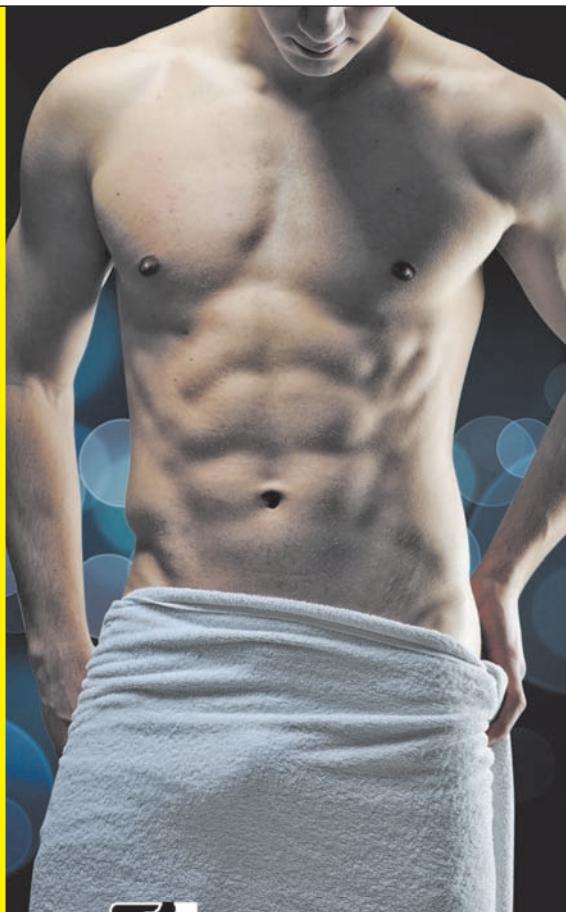
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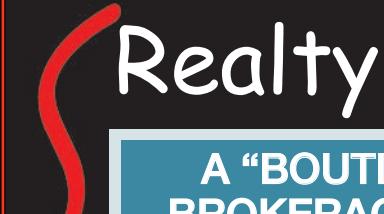
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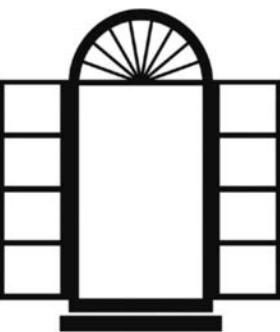
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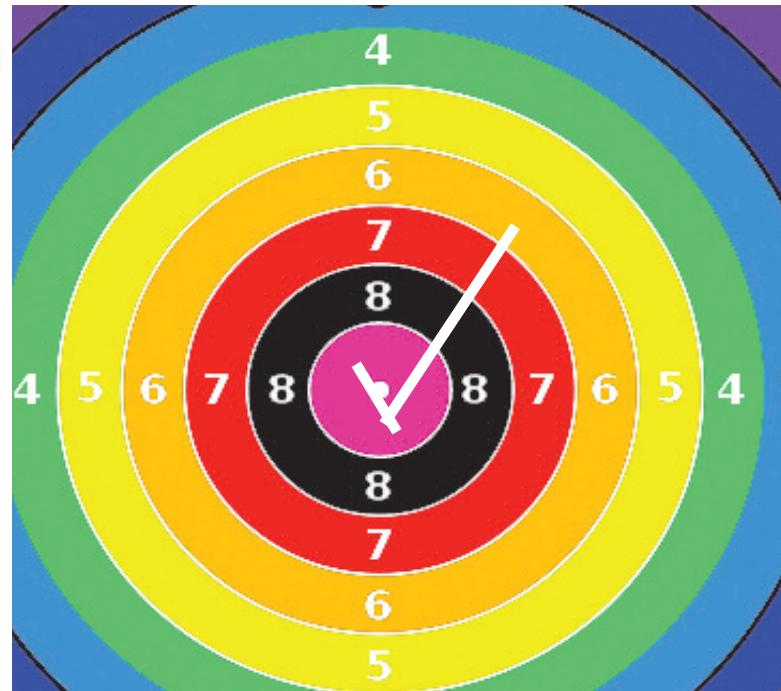
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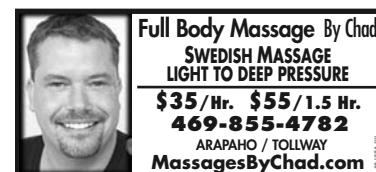
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Dallas, Texas 75209
- LAMBDA GROUP
6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour
OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
7:30 PM, Wed; 1 1/2 hours
Meeting Type: Open, Sharing,
Steps, Welcoming to all,
Safe for GLBT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Psychic Readings by Doren
Reunite with Loved Ones
Marriage, Health & Business
Helps with ALL Problems in Life
Available for Parties!
469-733-5451

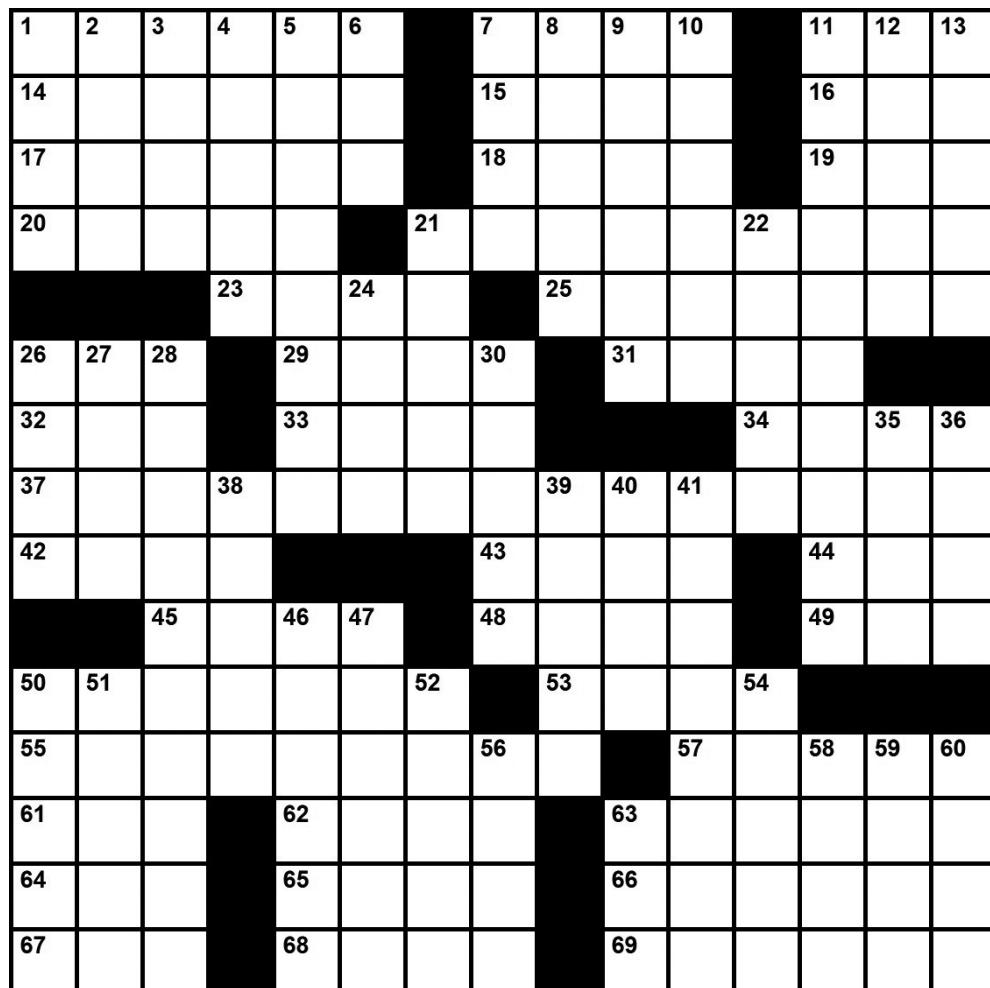
Join us for Catholic Mass
for the LGBT community
First Sunday of each Month
Dignity Dallas Mass held at
CATHEDRAL OF HOPE
Interfaith Peace Chapel, Lower Level
dignitydallas@hotmail.com
972-729-9572 www.dignitydallas.net

Pegasus Squares,
an LGBT Square Dance Club,
meets every Sunday from
2:30pm-4:30pm at the Resource
Center. Beginner lessons start in
October. Contact Rob Miller at
682-238-3442 for more information
or visit pegasus-squares.com.

Volunteer Needed!!
Be part of an exciting team
and make a difference in
someone's life. Volunteers
will be trained to conduct
HIV outreach in the
GLBT community working
along side of trained Risk
Reduction Specialists. For
more information contact
Sonny Blake
@ 214-522-8600 Ext. 236



q-puzzle



America's First Gay President?

Solution on page 27

Across

- 1 You bend them in gay bars
- 7 Shuttlecock
- 11 Classic two-seaters
- 14 Lollipop Guild members, e.g.
- 15 Artist Catherine
- 16 Alley ____ (basketball play)
- 17 Lily of 37-Across
- 18 *Rag and Bone* author
- 19 Wilder's ____ Town
- 20 Hot and bothered
- 21 Dumped wife in 37-Across
- 23 Oscar ____ Renta
- 25 Sunken passage
- 26 Come out on the beach
- 29 Early lesbian newspaper publisher Ben
- 31 "Diana" singer
- 32 "That's incredible!"
- 33 Classic shirt brand
- 34 Cousin of Jethro and Jethrine
- 37 Netflix comedy about wives of guys who dump them for each other
- 42 Fairy tale bad guy
- 43 Willingly
- 44 Wing for Julia Morgan
- 45 Ethnic acronym
- 48 Coup target, to Cocteau
- 49 Letters on stones
- 50 Nothing-but-net sounds
- 53 Fingered
- 55 Sam of 37-Across
- 57 Pee-wee or Della
- 61 Suffix with boy or girl
- 62 "Jennifer" of long ago, e.g.
- 63 Sheen of 37-Across and *The West Wing*
- 64 '70s sitcom producer
- 65 *Vanity Fair* alternative
- 66 Marc of pop music
- 67 Get a load of
- 68 News columnist Lisa
- 69 Sounds in "The Trolley Song"

Down

- 1 Caesar's final reproach
- 2 Fruit ____ (gay district)
- 3 British bottoms
- 4 Made eyes at
- 5 "You were great last night ..." perhaps
- 6 IRS info
- 7 ____ fide
- 8 Toothpaste sung about during a "Grease" sleepover
- 9 Kahlo's husband
- 10 Overwhelm with sound
- 11 Pedestrian that drops trou?
- 12 Creamy balls
- 13 Waterfall effect
- 21 Alexander of *Love! Valour! Compassion!*
- 22 Kind of wooden bucket
- 24 Sally portrayer of *Cabaret*
- 26 Pop-up breakfast brand
- 27 It made people go down on the Titanic
- 28 Hairy guy, to his date?
- 30 Mix up
- 35 Taylor of *I Shot Andy Warhol*
- 36 Puppy's cry
- 38 Cut out
- 39 Get along with the group
- 40 Enjoy E. Lynn Harris
- 41 In the end
- 46 Piercing cry
- 47 Grinding tool
- 50 Emulates Bruce Hayes
- 51 Fritter away
- 52 Arrow shaft
- 54 Word for skin
- 56 Rainbow, to some
- 58 Alfred Douglas' school
- 59 Emulate Elton
- 60 Runs out
- 63 Britten's raincoat

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