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Back to Baton

7 years after stepping down as artistic director, Tim Seelig returns for the Turtle Creek Chorale's 35th anniversary concert

By Arnold Wayne Jones
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Trans woman murdered in Tyler

Transgender woman Ty Underwood, 24, was shot to death in Tyler on Monday, Jan. 26.

Tyler detectives have a few leads, but nothing substantial.

Police believe shots were fired at Underwood's car. They said she tried to drive off but got stuck in a grassy area and hit a telephone pole. The murder



Ty Underwood

took place on Twenty-Fourth Street in North Tyler.

Friends, including Underwood's roommate, are calling this a hate crime. The detective on the case called it a "senseless murder."

Underwood worked in a nursing home and was recently accepted

into nursing school.

In 1993, Nicholas West was murdered in a city park in Tyler. That investigation was the first time a hate crime against a gay victim was taken seriously by police in Texas.

Anyone with information should contact Tyler Police Department at 903-531-1000 or Tyler-Smith County Crime Stoppers at 903-597-2833.

— David Taffet

Mormon Church to back LGB nondiscrimination bill

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced Tuesday, Jan. 27 at a press conference its support of a bill in the Utah legislature barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

At the same press conference, the LDS Church also announced it backs a bill that affirms an individual's right to refuse a same-sex marriage if that individual objects on religious grounds.

According to the Salt Lake City Tribune, the move is major milestone for Utah's LGB community. The nondiscrimination measure is likely to pass with the Church's backing.

"We call on local, state and the federal government, to serve all of their people by passing legislation that protects vital religious freedoms for individuals, families, churches and other faith groups while also protecting the rights of our LGB citizens in such areas as housing, employment and public accommodation in hotels, restaurants and transportation — protections which are not available in many parts of the country," said Elder Dallin Oaks in a news release.

While the Church's support of the religious liberty bill reaffirmed its belief that same-sex sexual relations are contrary to their religious beliefs.

— James Russell

ACA rules change for 2015 recognizing same-sex married couples

Under the Affordable Care Act, the rules have changed for same-sex couples buying health insurance on The Marketplace in 2015.

"For coverage starting in 2015, an insurance company that offers health coverage to opposite-sex spouses must do the same for same-sex

spouses," Healthcare.gov explains on a page for same-sex married couples.

The couple must be legally married in a state that issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

So, if a couple is legally married, it doesn't matter where they live, where the insurance company is located or whether the policy is new or re-issued. A same-sex couple is now entitled to buy the same policy offered to opposite-sex couples.

When applying, select "married" if you and your spouse plan to file a joint federal tax return for 2014.

If you are not married, but in a same-sex relationship, this rule does not apply. However, if either partner has an employer that offers partner benefits, the uninsured partner may be able to buy insurance through the employer. It may be cheaper, however, to purchase a plan as a single on The Marketplace.

The deadline to enroll this year is Feb. 15.

— David Taffet

Purple Foundation becomes No Tie Dinner's presenting sponsor

The Purple Foundation has long been a supporter of AIDS organizations, especially AIDS Services of Dallas, but the all-volunteer group is really doubling down for the upcoming No Tie Dinner and Dessert Party, the primary fundraiser for ASD each year. For the landmark 10th dinner, the Purple Foundation will be the official "presenting sponsor" — the first ever such sponsorship deal.

"This year has been Purple Foundation's most successful year, and we could not be more thrilled to be able to celebrate that success by expanding our support of our primary beneficiary," said Blake Baker, the foundation's president.

The No Tie Dinner takes place March 28, and the Purple Party follows about a month later.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Sheriff Lupe Valdez

Valdez running for re-election

Sheriff Lupe Valdez's office contacted Dallas Voice on Jan. 23 to say she *WILL* be running for re-election in 2016.

A story ran in Instant Tea Jan. 13 in which Pete Schulte an-

nounced he would run for the office of Dallas County Sheriff if Valdez decided to not seek re-election as many had expected. Schulte said he had met with Valdez to ask for her support and letting her know he would not run against her should she decide to run.

Raul Reyna, sheriff's department public information officer, said today, Valdez "will definitely be seeking re-election."

"Until Sheriff Valdez retires, I will not seek the nomination for Dallas County Sheriff," Schulte said. "I'm confident Sheriff Valdez will seek re-election, so I will not be doing anything political regarding the sheriff's race in 2016. Lupe's doing a great job."

— David Taffet



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Dallas lawyers to answer legal questions for free

Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions at no cost from 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, and Wednesday, Feb. 18, via LegalLine, a call-in program sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association.

LegalLine is a community service for DFW-area residents, provided the second and third Wednesdays of each month to answer legal questions from anonymous lawyers in related areas ranging from divorce and child support matters, to wills, insurance, employment and criminal law matters. Call LegalLine at 214-220-7476.

GALA North Texas hosts Sunday Super Bowl watch party

GALA North Texas hosts a Sunday Super Bowl watch party and discussion about Plano's Equal Rights Ordinance, 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, at 1641 W. Hebron Parkway. Beverages and snacks provided. Email youth@galanorthtexas.org for questions and more information.

Tarrant County Pride's Valentine Adult Bingo

Tarrant County Pride Association hosts a Valentine's-themed bingo fundraiser to benefit its 2015 events from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, 933 E. Avenue

J, Grand Prairie. \$20 donation includes two bingo cards for 15 rounds of bingo, adult beverages and snacks. A \$5 donation covers optional special rounds of bingo.

For more information on the event or donating prizes contact Richard James Tinker at tink2withu@aol.com or 817-921-3318. To donate anonymously contact Tony Coronado at tonycoronadodsns@aol.com.

2015 Annual Leather Knights Chili Cook-Off

Leather Knights' annual chili cook-off takes place from 3-6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Dallas Eagle. Set up begins at 2 p.m. Sign up at Leatherknights.org/sign-up.html.

Local company honored for efforts to fight hunger, seeks partnerships

Dallas-based Imlach & Collins Brothers, a moving company specializing in corporate and personal moving services, recently was named the top recipient of Move for Hunger's 2014 Atlas Van Lines Mover of the Year award. This merit distinguishes an Atlas Van Lines agent who had the highest amount of participation and donations for ongoing efforts to prevent hunger in its local community. To date, the Dallas company has accumulated more than 121,948 pounds of non-perishable food in the Dallas area.

pet of the week / LILY

Lily is a sweet 1-year-old pit bull mix. She's very loving and is just waiting for a person to call her own. She's been at the shelter more than three weeks, so her adoption fee has been waived. Ask for Lily, A871567, at Dallas Animal Services. The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Mon-Sat, and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. They also offer 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. Photo by Judi Burnett.



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Beginning Friday, January 30, 2015,
applications will be available online at
blacktie.org/beneficiaries.

The deadline for receiving completed applications
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For more details regarding qualifications,
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selection process, visit



blacktie.org/beneficiaries

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Turtle Creek Chorale
Uptown Players, Inc
Women's Chorus of Dallas

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A new trans generation

Teen gets help, gives help at Dallas Children's Hospital's new Genecis program for trans children

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Editor's Note: The last names of the transgender teen and her mother profiled in this story and the name of the school the teenager attends are being omitted to protect the teen from possible harassment because of her gender identity.

If you ask her, Christina will tell you that her daughter Kammie, 15, didn't transition — it was the whole family that transitioned. Christina used to think she had a son, but she has transitioned into understanding that she has a daughter.

Kammie participates in the new Genecis gender program at Children's Hospital in Dallas, the first program of its kind for trans youth in the southwest. Born in Germany, Kammie began presenting as a girl at age 9 when the family lived in rural Alabama.

She and her family live in North Texas now, but before moving here, Kammie had her birth certificate changed with a letter from an attending endocrinologist. She got her name changed legally to match her birth certificate after moving to Texas.

Christina said doctors in Alabama didn't know what to do with Kammie. So she put them in touch with doctors elsewhere who had experience dealing with gender dysphoria. When Kammie began attending counseling, she and her mom traveled 250 miles each way to Atlanta to see a counselor there.

At the end of the first session, the counselor asked, "If you had one wish, what would it be?"

"To be a girl," Kammie answered. That's what it took for the counselor to declare, "Then we can do this."

At the end of 4th grade, Kammie began presenting as a girl. When she returned to school in the fall, she was placed in a different class to avoid any possible harassment.

Christina, who describes herself as a devout Christian, doesn't understand why more parents don't accept their transgender children. Her religion teaches her that it is "bizarre ... that parents don't embrace their families," she said.

Christina said she knows that many parents have rejected their trans children, throwing them out of the house and cutting off contact with them. But for her, the focus has always instead been on how to protect her daughter.

Christina acknowledges that she could have been a stronger advocate for Kammie when her daughter was younger. She has seen the difference that having the support of her family has made for Kammie, noting, "The more I championed her, the stronger she was."

Christina said she has also seen the kind of anxiety and depression transgender children struggle with when they are not embraced by their family, and she is glad that hasn't been the case with her daughter.

An exceptional case

Kammie is an exceptional case, says Dr. Ximena Lopez, medical director of Genecis.

But while Kammie is "well-adjusted and has friends," not all children who have come through the clinic are at the same point on the spectrum, nor are they as easy to diagnose, the doctor said.

Children diagnosed with gender dysphoria are often prescribed puberty suppression medications to help "buy time," Lopez says. She adds, "If you avoid the effects of puberty, the outcome might be better" for a child in transition.

Lopez stresses that no puberty suppressors are ever administered without support from both of a child's parents. Many times, she says, one parent — usually the mother — is supportive while the other — usually the father — insists the child is just going through a phase.

And Lopez acknowledges that gender dysphoria is not necessarily an easy diagnosis to make. She says that counselors look for the kind of consistency in self identification that Kammie's counselor saw in her before they begin treatment.

Kammie says that she can remember as early as kindergarten thinking to herself that "my body was not the way it was supposed to be." But Christina says Kammie showed signs even earlier.

Christina says that even as a toddler, Kammie would cover her genitals with a washcloth when bathing. At the age of 7, Kammie told her mother "it wasn't supposed to be there."

"What do you want me to do? Snip it off?" Christina recalls asking. Now, she says, she wishes she had been more understanding way back then.

Soon after that, both

Christina says, Kammie's stepfather went out to a thrift store and bought her girl clothes.

"The transition was in us," Christina explains now. "These children were born who they are. The real transition comes in the people around them."

"Every child is different," Lopez says. "We're seeing younger and younger children who meet certain criteria for gender dysphoria. The younger they express themselves, the more likely they'll persist."

Lopez says the Genecis program — which stands for GENDER Education and Care, Interdisciplinary Support — sees children of a variety of ages. If gender behavior is not consistent in younger children, counselors and doctors are likely to wait until the child reaches puberty before beginning any treatment, she says.

Lopez says that many of the children referred for treatment in the program have attempted suicide, adding that the attempted suicide rate for gender dysphoric children is as high as 80 percent for those with unsupportive parents and as low as 4 percent when parents are supportive.

A new idea

Programs like Genecis "prepare people for a better life," Lopez says, noting that such programs are still very new. Europe led the way, and the first North American clinic opened in 2007 at Harvard Medical School's Boston Children's Hospital. That program has seen 500 patients and currently gets 10 referrals a month.

Since that time, 23 other programs have opened — most of them in the last year and most located in the northeast and California. Lopez says that over the last three years as Children's Hospital of Dallas was assembling its staff and putting the Genecis program together, the hospital has already seen about 40 gender dysphoric children.

Hospital spokesman Scott Summerall says the program officially opens sometime in the next two months. Lopez says this is a new generation of trans youth that are getting the parental support they need.

Feleshia Porter, a licensed professional counselor in Dallas who specializes in working with transgender clients, says she is "so excited about this program I can't stand it."

Porter says there are a number of advantages to transitioning at a young age.

"There's not as much erasing you have to do," she says. "They don't have to play the game. And they're socialized in the appropriate gender role."

Porter says when older people transition, they have to dismantle their old life to live a new life that's authentic. Transitioning younger allows the person to live a more authentic life from the beginning and have more authentic relationships.





THE GENECIS OF NEW DAY | Fifteen-year-old transgender girl Kammie, pictured opposite, first began to transition at age 9 while living in Alabama, with the support of her mother, Christina, pictured below with Kammie. Dr. Ximena Lopez, pictured at left, director of the new Genecis program for transgender children at Children's Hospital in Dallas, says Kammie is a role model for other trans teens and children. (Photos by David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



Living with confidence

While delighted with the Genecis program, Christina says she's learned over the years that confidence is Kammie's best protection in a world that is so often cruel to those who don't "fit in."

"A mean dog will bite you if you show you're afraid of them," she says. "But people are comfortable with people who are confident."

After Kammie began presenting as a girl in her rural Alabama school, Christina says, another student's parent found out about her transition and sent an email to about 150 parents, including Christina, demanding a "boycott of Kammie's right to gender expression in school."

Christina says she decided to send her own email to the list. She included a link to a blog she'd been keeping documenting her family's experiences. She also included her phone number and invited any parents with questions to call her.

Christina says she didn't receive a single phone call, while the number of people reading the blog soared.

Then she got calls from media. But Christina says didn't think a story on the television news about her 9-year-old transgender daughter was either necessary or appropriate. So she told reporters, "If something happens to my child because of what you put in the media, I hope you can sleep, because I'll be looking for you."

They never published a word, Christina says. Now, six years later, Kammie says she is ready to tell her story, and she is ready to help the Genecis program however she can.

Lopez says Kammie may be a good role model to participate in group sessions with other youths as those sessions begin. She has already addressed a group of 50 pediatric residents who work at the hospital.

Lopez says that considering doctors don't have any free time, she is even more impressed than Kammie was that they took time out to write her letters of thanks.

While she continues to participate in Genecis as a patient to monitor her progress, Lopez and other Genecis staff view Kammie as a role model and a success story.

FW extends benefits to employees' same-sex spouses

Change means Cowtown is once again ahead of Dallas in terms of LGBT-inclusive policies

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Fort Worth city officials announced Wednesday, Jan. 28, that beginning Feb. 1, the city will extend spousal benefits to the legal same-sex spouses of city employees. They made the announcements through The Roundup, the city employee newsletter.

The policy change was made to keep the city in compliance with IRS rulings handed down in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2013 ruling in *United States v Windsor* that overturned the section of the federal Defense of Marriage Act prohibiting federal government from recognizing legal same-sex marriages.

The Windsor decision requires that, regarding benefits governed under federal tax law, legal recognition of same-sex marriages be based on where the ceremony was held, not where the couple lives, noted David Mack Henderson, president of Fairness Fort Worth.

"In recent months, Fairness Fort Worth has held discussions with Fort Worth city manager representatives, especially in light of changes that have come from the IRS after the *Windsor* decision," Henderson said after the announcement on Wednesday. "They took these matters seriously, welcomed our insights and conducted their own research to come to an informed decision regarding pension benefit parity."

Assistant City Manager Susan Alanis said changing the policy was the logical decision to make.

"The city of Fort Worth has been working hard to be an inclusive environment for our employees and our citizens," Alanis said. "Many other states have legalized same-sex marriage [and] that is recognized by the federal government for tax pur-

poses. The city of Fort Worth has an IRS-qualified pension plan; therefore, it makes sense for us to allow all legally married employees to be treated the same under that federally-qualified plan."

Henderson said that several city employees participated in discussions with the city manager's office regarding the need to change the benefits policy, including Fort Worth police Cpl. Tracey Knight. Knight and her wife have a daughter, and they have been visible and vocal proponents of the marriage equality movement in Texas.

"This is a great day for LGBT officers in the city of Fort Worth," Knight said after the policy change was announced. "This decision means that — God forbid — if I get killed in the line of duty, my partner of 12 years — my wife since we got married in June 2014 — will be taken care of and treated like any other spouse of a fallen police officer."

"Fort Worth has continuously made progressive and inclusive decisions because it is the right thing to do not because they were forced to," Knight added. "I am proud to be a Fort Worth police officer and I am proud to live in the great city of Fort Worth."

Henderson also applauded Rafael McDonnell, the communications and advocacy manager of Dallas' Resource Center who is a Fort Worth resident. Henderson expressed his "gratitude [to McDonnell] for our partnership [in] researching the nitty-gritty of dizzying regulations. It's interesting to work for a common goal, even while he and I compete to see which city demonstrates it is more progressively competitive."

McDonnell noted that as soon as Fort Worth officials announced the policy change, he notified Dallas city officials that they were "behind the city of Fort Worth when it comes to this issue."

Dallas City Councilman Phillip Kingston agreed.

"I'm deeply embarrassed to have lost out on this important equality benefit to Fort Worth," Kingston told Dallas Voice. But he added, "Both

■ BENEFITS, Page 11



David Henderson



Tracey Knight



THE GAY AGENDA

JANUARY

• Jan. 10-Feb. 15: Bruce Wood:

A Retrospective

A new exhibition celebrating the life and creative contributions of the renowned Fort Worth dancer, choreographer and creative genius at the Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W Main St, Arlington. Tuesday–Saturday 10:00–5:00 p.m. Sunday 1–5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Children 12 and under are free. Call 817-275-4600 or email ama@arlingtonmuseum.org for more information.

• Jan. 30–Feb. 7:

Couple's Communication Workshop

Candy Marcum, LPC and Jimmy Owen, LPC conduct a two-weekend workshop for couples. 5-7 p.m. on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 and 10 a.m.–noon on Jan 31 and Feb. 7 at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 260. \$440 per couple. 214-521-1278. Candy@CandyMarcum.com.

• Jan. 31: Blue in the Heart of Texas 2

BITHOT is a biennial, one-day summit for Democratic Party activists toward the goal of discussing and maximizing the party's effectiveness in 2016. The summit includes an afternoon "KnowledgeFest" of breakout sessions on specific topics. Tickets are \$5 and cover meals. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. at New Mount Zion Baptist Church, 9550 Shepherd Road. Register online at Bit.ly/BITHOTDCDP.

FEBRUARY

• Feb. 1: Sierra Leonian Ambassador

speaks on Ebola

Reverend Marie Barnett, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Liberia speaks at 3 p.m. at the Museum of Biblical Art, 7500 Park Lane. The event is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat e-mail stewartp@swbell.net.

• Feb. 5: Tarrant County

AIDS Walk Registration Party

Come eat, drink, and sign up for the 2015 AIDS Walk from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the BB63 Salon in the Fort Worth Stockyards, 1411 Ellis Avenue, Fort Worth.

• Feb. 7: Turtle Creek Chorale

35th Anniversary Concert

Tim Seelig conducts this performance. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at Tickets.TurtleCreekChorale.com or at 214-526-3214.

• Feb. 7: Night Circus Masquerade Ball

The Women's Chorus of Dallas annual fundraiser. 7 p.m. at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

• Feb. 14: LGBTQ SAVES Youth dance

Valentine's dance for youth 7–10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E California Way, Forest Hill. For more information visit LGBTQSaves.weebly.com or e-mail LGBTQSaves@gmail.com.

• Feb. 14: Dash for the Beads

Oak Cliff Mardi Gras-themed walk, run and festival benefits local area schools to help promote healthy eating and physical activity. 9:30 a.m. at Kidd Springs Park. Register online at Bit.ly/1tZOTxv.

• Feb. 15: Mardi Gras Oak Cliff Parade

Bishop Arts District at 4 p.m.

• Feb. 17: Equality Texas Faith Advocacy Day

Lobby legislators in Austin about issues facing LGBT people. First of three EQTX's lobbying days at the Capitol. Co-sponsored by the Texas Freedom Network. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life

Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration required. Register at EqualityTexas.org.

• Feb. 19: Urban Engagement Book Club:

Tomlinson Hill by Chris Tomlinson

CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. More information at CitySquare.org.

• Feb. 21: Chi Tau Epsilon Dance Honor

Society Benefit Concert

Texas Christian University's Chi Tau Epsilon Dance Honor Society hosts their annual benefit concert for AIDS Outreach Center at 7:30 p.m. at Studio Theatre at Erma Lowe Hall, 3000 South University Dr., Fort Worth. Call 817-257-4255 for ticket information.

• Feb. 21: Dallas-Fort Worth Gay for Good Volunteer Project

DFW Gay For Good's Habitat for Humanity volunteer project from 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. at 2606 Wilhurl. Arrive between 7:45-8:00 a.m. Register at Bit.ly/DFWG4G21. Contact Rob Peters at robpeters70@gmail.com or 781-472-0745 for more information.

• Feb. 21: Miss Gay Texas Pageant System's Miss Tri City State and State-at-Large Pageant

The system that promotes both female impersonation and community support holds a themed pageant and fundraiser to benefit AIDS Arms Life Walk. Categories include presentation, performance and more. Male interviews begin at 2 p.m. and show begins at 8 p.m. at Garlow's, 308 E. Main Street, Gun Barrel City. \$75 entry fee. Contact Sable Alexander at sablelindsey@aol.com.

• Feb. 22: He Said/She Said

The Human Rights Campaign Dallas Fort Worth presents the inaugural He Said/She Said fundraiser, a new twist on the Her HRC event. Events include trivia with cash prizes, HRC Bachelorette and/or Bachelor live auction and a drag show to cap off the day. Cassie Nova and Jenna Skyy host. 2 p.m. at Sue Ellen's.

• Feb. 28: 17th Annual Toast to Life: Voodoo on the Trinity

What do you get when you mix a bunny with magic? You get "Voodoo on the Trinity," the theme of Resource Center's annual Toast To Life fundraiser. DJ Lady Bunny will provide entertainment. The fundraiser begins 7 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 N Riverfront Blvd. For more information, visit Bit.ly/1BUUp2w.

MARCH

• March 7: 25th Anniversary of House DIFFA Celebration

DIFFA/Dallas celebrates the 25th anniversary of its House of DIFFA black tie fundraiser benefiting numerous North Texas AIDS service organizations. Silent/live auction, seated dinner and fashion runway show begins at 6 p.m. at the Omni Hotel Downtown Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St. Ticket prices vary and are available at Bit.ly/1ID2U2Y. For more information visit Dif-fadallas.org.

• March 7: Stonewall Democrats Candidate and Endorsement Screening

Takes place 9 a.m.–4 p.m. upstairs at Sue Ellen's. Open to the public but membership must be current or renewed at least 30 days prior in order to participate with the Endorsement Committee. 30-day deadline is Thursday, Feb. 5th. Visit Stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org for more information.



SPOTLIGHT:

Blue in the Heart of Texas 2

Dallas County is a reliably Democratic county these days. But that didn't happen without a ton of effort. And now the Dallas County Democratic Party wants to build on its successful efforts and galvanize voters with the second biennial Blue in the Heart of Texas summit. According to DCDP, the summit seeks to "empower Democrats in the North Texas region."

The one-day summit's theme this year is "Success in '16." It will include plenary sessions in the morning in which activists can learn, and break out sessions in the afternoon where activists can act. Known as "KnowledgeFest," the breakout sessions cover specific topics that could even help a Republican earn his or her political chops.

Even if its eyes are on 2016, the summit will analyze and set a path to success in the wake of the beating Democrats across the country endured this past election cycle. But with all of the workshops and takeaways, the summit clearly won't be only a time to mourn.

Plenary sessions will repeat to allow attendees to maximize their impact as activists and organizers. Whether you want to be deputized to register voters or reach out to rural counties, BITHOT and its break out sessions are structured to be collaborative, interactive, informative and fun.

8 a.m.–5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31 at New Mount Zion Baptist Church, 9550 Shepherd Road. Tickets available at Bit.ly/BITHOT2. \$5 covers cost of lunch.

—James Russell



Chikungunya virus seen in Dallas

DCHHS will spray for mosquitoes carrying West Nile and chikungunya viruses

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas County Health and Human Services began its information campaign on mosquitoes and transmission of disease early this year after health officials counted 10 cases of chikungunya virus in Dallas County last year.

The virus is spread by mosquitoes.

Dallas County has been spraying for mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus for several years.

There were no cases of chikungunya (pronounced chicken-gun-ya) in the Western Hemisphere until 2013 when the first case appeared in the Caribbean.

Dallas County health department officials believe that all 10 local cases of the virus were brought to Dallas by travelers. There are no confirmed cases of local transmission.

People can't spread the virus to each other, but are responsible for the spread of chikungunya: A

mosquito becomes a carrier of the virus when it bites an infected person and then spreads the virus when it bites another person.

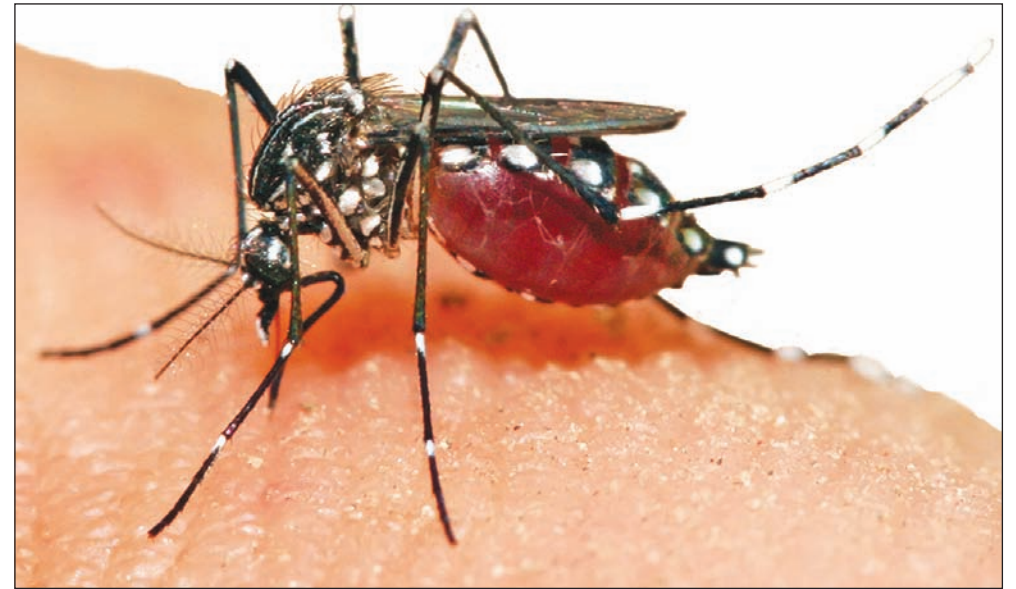
That's different from the way West Nile is transmitted. With that virus, a mosquito becomes a carrier when it bites an infected bird and spreads infection when it bites a person.

Because of the way the virus is spread, people diagnosed with chikungunya are asked to remain indoors to prevent transmission to others.

The two local mosquito varieties that can carry chikungunya are most active in the daytime. The type that carries West Nile is a nighttime mosquito that's most active at dawn and dusk, according to DCHHS spokeswoman Erikka Neroes.

"Mosquito season is typically May to November," Neroes said, adding that officials spray for mosquitoes after catching mosquitoes in traps that test positive for either of the viruses.

Common symptoms of chikungunya include high fever and joint pain. Headache, muscle pain, joint swelling and rash may also occur. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there's no medication to treat chikungunya and no vaccine for it. Symptoms appear three to seven days after



the patient is bitten by an infected mosquito.

Most people recover after a week, but some patients are plagued by long-term joint pain as a result of the illness.

Dr. John Carlo, executive director of AIDS Arms, said that in dealing with any infectious

disease, those living with AIDS may experience more severe symptoms than someone who is not immune-compromised.

So far there have been 2,333 travel-associated cases of chikungunya in the U.S., with 69 of those in Texas. No deaths have been reported. ■

Purple proceeds



Purple Party Foundation officials announced on Thursday, Jan. 29, that the organization raised a total of \$80,000 for the AIDS service organizations designated as its beneficiaries for 2014. The annual weekend-long fundraising party celebrates its 15th anniversary this year and organizers promise to "pull out all the stops to bring you our most spectacular weekend yet." Purple Party 2015 will be held May 8-11, and organizers have announced that its sponsorships this year include Toast to Life, a Resource Center fundraiser set for Feb. 28, and No Tie Dinner, an AIDS Services of Dallas fundraiser set for March 28. For more information about Purple Party and Purple Party Foundation, visit PurpleFoundation.org. (Courtesy photo)

■ BENEFITS, From Page 9

[Dallas] pensions are working toward implementing equality."

Kingston said the city employee pension fund board may need some additional encouragement from the city council to change its policy, but could go for a vote in the November election. The police and fire pension may take a vote of its beneficiaries to change some wording before it equalizes benefits.

Pointing to the successful charter change last November that added sexual orientation and gender identity to the nondiscrimination policy, Kingston said he was confident that voters would approve this change as well.

The notice in the Fort Worth city employee newsletter explained that as of Feb. 1, a 75 percent survivor benefit becomes available to the eligible same-sex spouses of general employees hired prior to July 1, 2011, to police officers hired prior to Jan. 1, 2013 and to firefighters hired prior to Jan. 10, 2015, as long as the couple were legally married at least one year prior to the employee's retirement.

Eligible members who retire on or after Feb. 1 will be eligible for the survivor benefit without a reduction in their pension benefits. Eligible members currently receiving a reduced benefit to provide for a legal same-sex spouse will have their benefit restored, without back pay, beginning Feb. 1.

Employees and their spouses must provide necessary documentation of their legal marriage before they are eligible for the benefits.

Any retiree who did not take a benefit reduction when they retired to fund a survivor bene-

fit, but who was legally married to their spouse for at least one year prior to their retirement from the city, can notify the fund of their designation of a spouse as their survivor and submit the required documentation.

Those hired after the specified dates have to take a reduction in pension benefits when they retire to be able to provide a survivor benefit to the person they designate.

All employees, no matter when they were hired, are eligible for a 75 percent spousal survivor benefit if they are vested and die while actively employed. The policy change means that as of Feb. 1, that also applies to same-sex spouses.

All these policies are now the same for all employees and their spouses, regardless of whether they are same-sex couples or opposite-sex couples.

Given the current backlash from conservative forces angry over LGBT advances in marriage equality and other areas, Henderson acknowledged right-wing elements may come forward to challenge the city's policy changes.

"Will the usual loudmouths cry foul?" Henderson said. "Look, I can't do much about folks waving pitchforks and playing chicken on live mics. But here's what I do know: Fort Worth values all of our employees and their families equally."

"That's how we draw the most talented workforce and also how we compete for jobs from firms who do the same. Many companies and cities tout high standards, but in Fort Worth we live by ours," Henderson said. ■

Dallas Voice Senior Staff Writer David Taffet contributed to this report.

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The breastaurant (and strip club) dilemma

Is it OK for a lesbian feminist to eat at Hooters or go to a strip club?

I'm confused. I have been trying to write this piece for months now, and the truth is that I haven't because I am confused.

I like tits and ass. I'm a lesbian, so that should come as no surprise.

But I'm also a card-carrying feminist. So, although I like tits and ass, I do not judge women on said parts or value or devalue them based on those parts.

But I do like to look (and, when invited, of course, to touch).

So, here's my quandary: What's a girl to do about places like Hooters and Twin Peaks or — eek — strip clubs when one both loves and respects the female body?

I've only been to Hooters once and to Twin Peaks once, believe it or not. But I have been to strip clubs many, many times.



Jenny Block
Contributing Writer

My issue with the first two is that the set up is clearly based on the heterosexual male fantasy ideals. The girls are glossy and dolled up with skin colored tights, uniforms that leave nothing to the imagination and enough make-up to make me wonder if I would recognize these girls once they washed their faces.

They are trained to speak to customers in a certain way, all individuality stripped from their "I'm here for your viewing pleasure" personas to create "the perfect girl."

All fluff, no content — that's my least favorite kind of girl. Fake is not my style. I like the real ones, with tattoos and Jeep-tousled hair and

ripped jeans.

So when I went to Hooters, I tried to engage the server in real conversation. She did her best. Even scooted into the booth next to me. But she was a shell of a girl, a cupcake that was all frosting and no cake.

And the server at Twin Peaks was even worse. She was like a Stepford server, programmed for certain dialogues, unable to participate in any others. She flirted and giggled and tossed her hair, but there was nothing — no one — there.

I've faired a little better in strip clubs, more so in the many I've been to in Portland, Ore., the strip club capital of the U.S., by the way. There you can go to a club where the girls are covered in tats and at least pretend not to give a shit about what you think.

I know: It's still an act. But it's way more fun and much easier for me to enjoy those girls than the "wide-eyed, I-just-fell-off-the-turnip-truck" variety who, I worry, moved to the "big city" for a better life and ended up stripping instead, like some sort of bad Lifetime movie.

It's akin to my pornography quandary. I like to watch some of it — the "woman positive/sex positive/by-lesbians-for-lesbians/real-fucking-not-just-hair-brushing" stuff. But I worry about the women who have chosen that life.

I know they say it's empowering, just like the strippers and the Hooters girls, who say they are "sticking it to the dumb man," taking their money and laughing all the way to the bank or to law school.

But is it true? Or do we simply live in a culture that ultimately values women as objects over anything else? That pays women less than men? That values beauty over all else? That thinks that being fat is paramount to murder?

If it really was a choice, if women could really make the same amount of money doing other things (and not filthy, demeaning or back-breaking work either), would they really sacrifice their bodies and — dare I say it, their souls — to do this kind of work?

And as a lesbian feminist, can I go really go to these places? Am I part of the problem if I do?

I don't mind being objectified by my lover. I love it, in fact, when she craves me and devours me. But I certainly don't want strangers to look at me like nothing more than the shell that is my body and the mask that is my face.

I'm a whole person and I'm a daughter and a mother and a friend and a sister and a partner. And so are those Hooters girls and Twin Peaks girls and strippers.

And yet, I do like tits and ass. And so the quandary continues. ■

Jenny Block is a writer and the author of the Lambda Award-winning book Open: Love, Sex, and Life in as Open Marriage. Her writing appears in and on HuffingtonPost.com, Curve Magazine, Dallas Voice, Edge Media Network and many others. Her new book, O Wow! Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm, is due out summer 2015 (Cleis Press). JennyOnThePage.com.



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Picking up the baton

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concerts

7 years after he stepped away from the podium, Tim Seelig — the Turtle Creek Chorale's charismatic former artistic director — returns for TCC's 35th anniversary concert

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

How fun is this?" Tim Seelig grins from his home in San Francisco. "I didn't know we would get this opportunity again!"

The opportunity is our interview, something both of us probably thought happened for the last time more than four years ago, when Seelig — a lifelong Texan — picked up and moved, at age 60, to San Francisco. It was not to retire, though he thought he had done that a few years earlier when he stepped down, after 20 years, as artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale. Instead, it was to start a new adventure — really, a dream come true: To lead the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the granddaddy of queer choral music.

"When I stepped down from the TCC, I thought I was retiring, but it didn't turn out that way. I didn't expect to do this again — to lead a gay men's chorus. But when the position [of artistic director at SFGMC] became available, of course I applied — I couldn't *not* apply," he says. "I just revered that this chorus exists, and the [cultural] landscape in San Francisco is pretty awesome. I get to work [in the same town] as one of the finest symphonic conductors in the world, who just married his partner. The San Francisco opera is also legendary — one of the three finest opera companies in America. The ballet has no peer." And he has befriended and worked closely with the likes of Stephen Schwartz, Andrew Lippa and Jake Heggie — the last two of whom were involved intimately in Seelig's recent wedding to his partner.

"That's the kind of arts community I stepped into," he smiles. "On the other hand, I stepped into a gay community that has been at the epicenter of almost every initiative, movement and insight inside the LGBT community — the AIDS quilt was started here, the rainbow flag was designed here, Harvey Milk was assassinated here. It's an arts and LGBT mecca. It has been awesome."

Yes, getting the position was the icing on his cake, a feather in his hat, a capstone to a career that had begun in earnest after Seelig came out ... as an adult, after years of marriage (he has two grown children and two grandchildren, on whom he dotes) and being throttled emotionally by his church.

His coming-out process was painful and stressful, and he found a form of salvation in the Turtle Creek Chorale.

The chorale had existed for only about seven years before Seelig took up the baton, but it was still a huge gamble to take on this "baby gay," Seelig admits. "I knew very little. They allowed me to blossom as a musician and as a gay man. They allowed me to grow into my own skin. My 20 years with the TCC made me who I am.

It was the happiest time of my life."

So last summer, when he received a call from Sean Baugh (who had recently been appointed acting artistic director of TCC), it was more than a blast from the past; it was an emotional sense-memory of an important chapter he has left behind.

"As they were planning the season last June, someone at the chorale said, 'It's our 35th anniversary — we need to commemorate it.'" The decision was made to see if Seelig would mind returning to lead the group that had been such an important part in the lives of both the man and the organization. "I think Sean may have had a little trepidation asking if I would do this. He told me to take my time, but I didn't have to think about that for one second. I said absolutely I would be honored to do that," Seelig says. He even waived his fee — the concert would be an act of love. "I could never, ever repay the organization and its members for a lifetime of memories, for their patience and generosity of spirit."

"Welcoming Tim back to the podium for this concert is not only historic and exciting for the organization, it's emotional for me as well," says Baugh. "Tim is the reason I joined the chorale, and someone I admire very much. I'm thrilled to see him in his element again."

Still, returning to pick up the baton wouldn't be anything like a usual guest-conducting gig. There's a lot of history, for sure, but it has been almost eight years since Seelig stepped away from the podium. Not every singing member would even necessarily know who he is.

"There is much more history than when I step in to conduct an all-star choir somewhere," he admits. "The current chorale, many of them I don't know. I'll be saying hi, you don't know me, but perhaps you've seen my bald head in the archives. Perhaps not. And there will be people who know me very well. It will be like putting on a well-worn, beloved pair of house shoes and trying on new Prada slippers at the same time. Making those two shoes work will be a great joy."

In keeping with the anniversary celebration, the concert — which will take place Feb. 7 at City Performance Hall — will span the musical history of the TCC, even some pre-dating Seelig.

"Sean is conducting two pieces from the time before I got there — standards in the repertoire now — including one number that was performed at the very first concert in 1980," he says. Then Seelig will lead the singers through memory lane.

TCC ANNIVERSARY

**City Performance Hall, 2520
Flora St. Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.
\$50–\$100. TurtleCreek.org.**



CONDUCT BECOMING | Tim Seelig returns, for the first time since leaving, to the chorus that made him the man he is today. (Photo by Shawn Northcutt)

■ SEELIG Page 20

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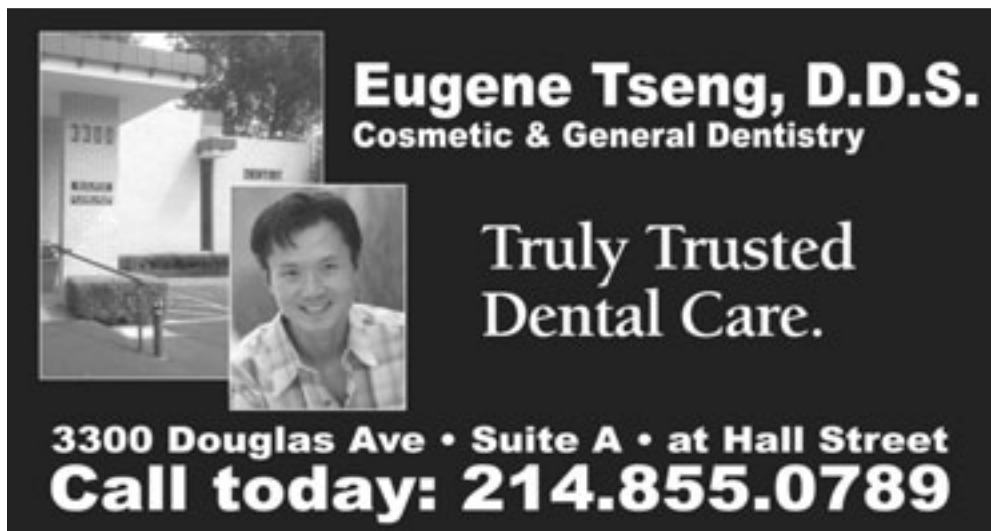


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Nice buns ... But it's what's in between that gives Rodeo Goat its kick

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

I don't usually offer up a full-length review two weeks after a restaurant opens, but I made an exception for Rodeo Goat for two reasons: First, because it is across the street from my office and has been taunting me with its "coming soon" sign for months; and second, because it's a *burger joint*. Not to disparage, but the menu (largely imported from the home base in Fort Worth) is well-fixed, the décor ain't gonna change and the service isn't exactly why you go to a diner like this in the first place.

Though that's a point: It could be. On my trips, my waitresses have been friendly, prompt, informed and, perhaps most notably, enthusiastic. You get the feeling these folks know they have a good product and they enjoy sharing it with customers who may be unsuspecting of the delights that can exist between two buns.

But let's not get completely ahead of ourselves. There really is more to Rodeo Goat than just the burgers.

Take, for instance, the sleeper cell of the menu ... right there under "appetizers" but with no description or words suggesting what's in store: "the Steaming Pile." It hardly sounds appetizing, but then again, the name on the door says "Rodeo Goat," which conjures a filthy nag with an ornery attitude and a hide tougher than Michele Bachmann's publicist. Forget that — it's not important. What matters are the flavors.

The ingredients are trailer-trash gourmet: Disks of habanero tater tots deep-fried and garnished with goat cheese, housemade bacon bits, gooey melted cheddar and topped with a fried

egg, served in a State Fair cardboard boat. If it sounds like a cardiologist's patient generator, I assure you, it is just that. The description alone should send a raw organic vegan running to Snuffer's to order cheesy fries by comparison. This is the kind of dish for which we have the National Institutes of Health. It is why, I suspect, gym memberships spike within 100 yards of a Rodeo Goat.

None of these are bad things.

Then again, "fried on fried on melted cheese" hardly smacks of heart-healthy eating. But honestly, what do you expect from a "steaming pile"? What you might *not* expect is how surreptitiously sophisticated the combinations are: soothing herbaceousness from the goat cheese, the luxurious goo that is a well-prepared sunny-side-up *huevo*, a hint of heat from the tots (they come with a side of ranchero dressing, but ask for a selection of dipping sauces — or even some of the Tabasco or Sriracha mayos — and the staff will happily comply. "You don't need to be monogamous to any of our mayos," my waitress told me). Get the steaming pile *before* the meal, not as a side — you'll want your palette to reset before the main course.

And the main course, natch, is burgers: More than a dozen by my count, including some turkey and vegetarian kinds that, no offense, I was not interested in: This is beefeaters' country, and I was on safari.

In the tradition of a deli, the burgers have names, sometimes incorporating local celebs. I passed over the Billy F. Gibbons (vegan!) and the Brad Sham (jalapenos and barbecue sauce) and went straight for the mayor. The Mike Rawlings (\$10.75) lured me with its unlikely pairing of candied bacon, Irish whiskey-infused cheddar,

MAJOR MAYOR WITH MAYO | The Mike Rawlings burger at Rodeo Goat, like other items on the menu, succeeds with unexpected flavor combinations. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

blackberry compote and mustard. The alchemy involved caught me unawares: The sandwich was both chewy and crunchy, sweet and spicy, greasy but not falling apart the second it touched the bun (I used only two napkins!).

Speaking of which, can we all just agree to be considered a truly delicious gourmet hamburger, the burger itself must be at least as greasy as the best man at an Italian wedding? But that doesn't give license to the bun to collapse like Russian currency. Brioche buns are too eggy, lacking the gluten ratio to maximize its service in delivering the patty to your mouth. Rodeo Goat's are just right, slathered in butter and grilled, providing the undergirding necessary to withstand your mouth's assault.

It won't take a long time to consume, anyway. Voracious accurately encapsulates the observed consumption style (go hungry), owing in part to the freshly ground meat and excellent sear on the patties.

The Rawlings wasn't the only candidate to get my vote. The salted sow (\$10.50) — a mix of beef and Italian sausage patty, topped with sliced prosciutto, tomato slab, chunk of mozzarella and basil, with balsamic mayo — is misnamed. It should be called the caprese, since that's exactly what it is. How does the cross-pollination of summery-fresh Italian appetizer and grilled meat work? Disarmingly well; the burger itself is softer and sweeter, and the burst of cool from the



GIRL SCOUTS BEWARE | A Thin Mint shake out on Rodeo Goat's colorful, spacious patio in the Design District.

mozz doesn't fight the warmth of the burger so much as complement it.

The remainder of the menu impresses on its own (the Thin Mint milkshake was awesome, and the selection of local beers will delight tap-house addicts), while the spacious patio will be perfect for happy hours when the weather warms slightly. We can wait. Heck, it took this long for Rodeo Goat to cross the Trinity, and we'll be forever thankful for that.

Rodeo Goat, 1926 Market Center Blvd. Open daily for lunch and dinner. RodeoGoat.com.

TASTING NOTES

Rodeo Goat isn't the only place with hamburgers on its mind. **Hopdaddy Burger Bar** celebrates its Texas roots with the Ranch Hand Dan, a chicken patty topped with caramelized onions and bacon. Hurry! It's only available 'til Feb. 8.

Rodeo Goat also isn't the only Tarrant-to-Dallas transplant.

Eddy Threthiphuangsin of Cowtown's **Bite City Grill** will open his latest concept, **Kin Kin Urban Thai**, by April, taking over the space recently vacated by Cyclone Anaya's.

And Rodeo Goat also isn't the only resto making news in the Design District. **Richard and Tiffanee Eilman**, owners of **Oak**, **Pak Pao** and **Belly & Trumpet**, announced that **John Tesar (Knife)** will come on board as a chef-partner at Oak. I recently dined at Oak, which has been a jewel of the neighborhood since opening two years ago. Among the highlights currently on the menu are a trio of eggplant dishes — Chinese, Thai and Indian styles, pictured, each with unique and diverse flavor profiles as well as textures and appearances; and a shrimp and lobster bisque that serves as one of the richest bowls this side of King Midas (note the applewood bacon chunks for a salty component). No word on how Tesar may modify the menu, but with the recent shuttering of his seafood resto Spoon, expect the ocean to be well-represented.

Last year, **Stephan Pyles** told me that he didn't know how long the **Buffalo Gap Wine & Food Summit** would continue, but that 2014 would be his last year. Now comes word that the lineup for the annual foodie festival at **Perini Ranch Steakhouse** outside of Abilene will actually be Pyles and his fellow founders of Southwestern cuisine, **Dean Fearing** and **Robert Del Grande**. What a confab that will be! Passes go on sale Feb. 5 for the event April 24–26. BuffaloGapSummit.com.

The Lower Greenville renaissance continues. In addition to the already established new spots like **Trader Joe's**, **Truck Yard**, **H&G SPLY Co.** and **Clark Food & Wine**, the recently-opened **Remedy** began lunch service this week, and neighboring **C'viche** announced its first day will be Feb. 10.

— A.W.J.



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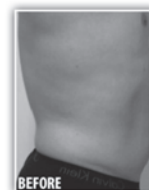
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L+S screen



Xavier Dolan, Canada's
hot queer filmmaker,
has 'Mommy' issues

All
about
Steve

FACE OF A SOCIOPATH | How far does a mother's love go?

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Xavier Dolan is barely old enough to rent a car, yet he already has five feature films under his belt. At 25, he's one of Canada's most impressive young filmmakers, bringing an unnerving maturity of topics and an aggressively ballsy style to his films. He's best known for his 2012 drama *Laurence Anyways*, an intimate epic about a transgender woman's relationship with her lover, but it's likely his latest film, *Mommy*, will eclipse that one ... at least until his next film comes along.

Steve (Antoine-Olivier Pilon) is a beautiful, tow-headed, blue-eyed 15-year-old, the apple of his mother Diane's (Anne Dorval) eye. That is, when he's not unpredictably violent, nearly strangling Diane to death or setting fire to his reformatory or yelling racist threats against a cab driver.

Steve isn't just "a handful," an example of "boy-will-be-boys" in the extreme. He's a down-right sociopath, a proto-serial killer masquerading behind hormones and the love of a single mother who's trying to do what's right but can't bring herself to confront the reality facing her.

If *Mommy* were a Hollywood film, Steve would channel his energies into superpowers, or

have a tearful but definitive self-actualization scene full of hope and promise of recovery as he goes on Ritalin.

Dolan's worldview is darker. Generationally, he's much closer in age to Steve than to Diane, but it's difficult to fathom where his sympathies lie as a writer-director. Diane is indulgent and volatile herself, and also largely careless in how she deals with her clearly disturbed child. (He's never seen taking any prescriptions to control his diagnosed impulse-control problems, and Diane frequently puts Steve in provocative situations that anyone could see would exacerbate his fits.)

Despite its flaws, though, *Mommy* is a compelling artistic effort. Dolan shoots virtually the entire film in a 1:1 aspect ratio, meaning the film is exactly as

wide as it is tall. (It *appears* taller, but trust me: It's an exact square.) Who does that — who, indeed, has *ever* done it? The effect is arresting, making us observe these lives as if through a window, literally making up voyeurs into the private lives of ordinary people. Only on two brief occasions does Dolan resort to wide screen — once during a moment of joyous release, once during a fantasy flash-forward — but they just highlight the claustrophobia of the remaining scenes. *Mommy* is dour and puzzling and unrelenting, but it's also a breath of fresh air.

★★★★★

MOMMY

Anne Dorval, Suzanne Clement,
Antoine-Olivier Pilon. Rated R.
140 mins. Now playing at the
Angelika Mockingbird Station.

Win the office pool!

The Oscar nominated animated, live action and doc shorts begin their runs



BRIEFLY SPEAKING | A great February tradition, the short films — animated (like 'A Single Life,' above), live action ('Boogaloo and Graham,' below) and documentaries — run at the Magnolia and Texas Theatre.

There's never been much of a commercial market for short films, unless you count the cartoons lucky enough to claim a spot before certain animated films or documentaries that HBO picks up for later broadcast. But shorts are some of the most interesting films being made, which is why the motion picture academy continues to bestow three awards each year for shorts — animated, documentary and live action, all of which you can begin seeing this week in Dallas.

The animated and live action programs — now playing at the Magnolia with alternating screenings of under two hours each — are, as always, a diverse assortment. Shorts are one of the rare chances to see hand-drawn cels and other inventive, non-CGI forms of animation. Consider the stop-motion magic of *A Single Life*, pic-

tured, in which a mysterious record player takes a young woman through all the stages of her life in the course of a single song, or the mixed-media renderings of *The Bigger Picture*, a poignant tale of an aging parent. And of course there's *Feast*, old-school Disney about a dog's food-based relationship with his master that is observant, charming and surprising as only Disney can do. (It's much better than *Paperman*, which won the Oscar two years ago but don't be surprised to see *The Bigger Picture* win.)

The live action films range from small but star-driven pieces like *The Phone Call* (with Sally Hawkins and Jim Broadbent, about a worker in a crisis center who received a disturbing but oddly familiar call from a distraught widower) to the tender coming-of-age take *Boogaloo and Graham*, about two Irish boys who befriend a pair of chickens. But the frontrunner for the prize on Oscar Sunday is probably *Butter Lamp*, in which a young photographer attempts to capture a group of Tibetan nomads in snapshots in front of false backgrounds from DisneyWorld to the Beijing Olympics, even as their lives are being forever disrupted by the harsh realities of cultural and political upheaval.

(The documentary short subjects — which were not screened in advance — play in two programs, the first of which shows at the Texas Theatre on Feb. 5, the second on Feb. 8.) ■

— A.W.J.



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■ SEELIG, From Page 14

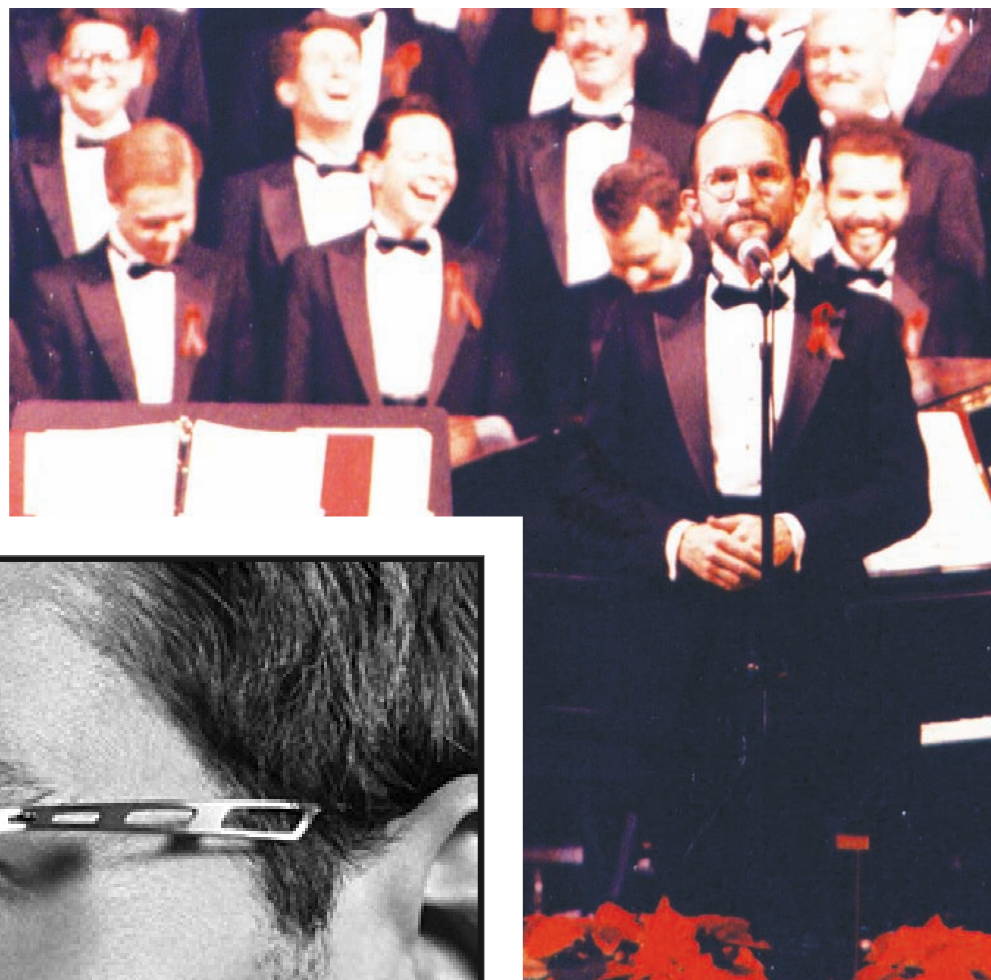
"We're going in chronological order. The first half of the concert is the current chorale — the full chorus," he says. "The second half will be the alumni, including the women I have conducted over the years." (Seelig co-founded the women's group within the TCC in 1989.) "Highlights from the show will include some of the TCC commissions — obviously from 1991's *When We No Longer Touch*, and of course *Sing for the Cure*."

"At 35, we are stronger than ever. I can't think

of any better way to do that than through the music that has made us who we are," adds Baugh.

But more than just a standard recitation of songs, there will be stories woven together with video clips, as well as a tribute to Anne Albritton, "who was our life-blood," Seelig says. Baugh

HAIR APPARENT | An archive photo a Christmas concert (which has been a tradition for decades), it shows the early days of Seelig's tenure as artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale,



and Seelig chose the music last summer and sent recordings and sheet music to the alumni and women, who have already begun rehearsing; but the real work will take place once Seelig arrives in Dallas next week.

"On Feb. 6, we'll have a big reception followed by a three-hour rehearsal, then two more three-hour rehearsals on Saturday before the concert," he says.

He's certain that the return to the baton will, when he formally steps onstage, fill him with a flood of complex emotions. But it's an experience he will long cherish.

"It's been a wonderful, warm feeling," Seelig says, "and I've felt so welcomed. I love the TCC so much ... OK, now I'm crying."

It's not too late to join in! Participation in the concert is open to men and returning women up to Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. when the first rehearsal begins at the Cathedral of Hope. ■

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LIFE+STYLE

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Saturday 01.31

Paula Poundstone doubles up at Saturday concerts

Out comic Paula Poundstone has a way of communicating with her audiences that says “I feel you,” which has made her a popular standup for 30 years. She brings her patented humor to Dallas for two shows on Saturday — the early show at 7 p.m. is sold out, but there are still seats available for the 9:30 p.m.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.



‘Everest’ premiere at Dallas Opera

Dallas Opera continues its season with two mountaintop works — one, the fourth act of the classic *La Wally*, is set in the Alps, but the second is a world premiere work about the doomed Mt. Everest expedition of 1996. The amazing set (and bearish climbers) is just one draw of this daring English-language one-act opera.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 30–Feb. 7. DallasOpera.org.



Friday 01.30

**Friday 01.30—
Sunday 02.01**

Marvel swings into Dallas, Part 2

The Marvel museum expo has been playing for a few weeks in Fair Park, but the show opening this weekend — including several matinee and evening shows — is the live action stunt show Marvel Universe Live, with special effects, fireworks and well-built muscle men in tights. They had me at well-built.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Jan. 30–Feb. 1. MarvelUniverseLive.com. Ticketmaster.com.



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calendar highlights

DARK CIRCLES | The new dance company led by Joshua L. Peugh holds its winter series performance in Fort Worth with a world premiere dance.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Boeing, Boeing. The farce about sexual escapades among the jet set in swingin’ Paris in the 1960s. *Final weekend*. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. TheatreArlington.org.

The Book Club Play. Members of a book club allow a documentarian to film them in this contrived and pointless exercise. *Final weekend*. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Explorers Club. A knockabout farce set in the age of exploration at the end of the 19th century. With Mark Shum, John-Michael Marrs. This co-production with Stage West moves to WaterTower for the remainder of its run. WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 8. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Flick. The regional premiere of Annie Baker’s 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning play about a rundown moviehouse. Directed by Blake Hackler, who last year performed in *Cock*. *Final weekend*. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Undermain.org.

Stagger Lee. Dallas Theater Center presents a world premiere musical by writer in residence Will Power, about how a folk song in the African-American community became a huge R&B hit half a century later. Cast includes Denise Lee and former Dallas actor Cedric Neal. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Feb. 15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Tru. Jay Presson Allen’s play starring legendary Texas actor Jaston Williams as Truman Capote. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Feb. 8. Theatre3Dallas.com.

My Name Is Asher Lev. Circle Theatre kicks off its 34th season with this adaptation of the Chaim Potok novel. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through March 7. CircleTheatre.com.

In Real Life. The third installment of Charlayne Woodward’s trilogy of plays about an African-American actress making it in the 1960s and ’70s. Directed by Tre Garret. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through March 1. JubileeTheatre.org.

OPERA

La Wally and Everest. The Dallas Opera continues its season with two one-acts: The fourth Act from Alfredo Catalani’s *La Wally* (set in the Alps) and the world premiere of Gene Scheer and Joby Talbot’s *Everest*, about the doomed 1996 expedition. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 30–Feb. 7. DallasOpera.org.

DANCE

Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. The winter series from the new dance troupe includes a world premiere (*You And Me*) as well as the recent *Critics of the Morning Song* from Joshua L. Peugh. Emma Lowe Hall Studio Theatre, 3000 S. University Drive, Fort Worth. Jan. 29–31. DarkCirclesContemporaryDance.com.

STUNT SHOW

Marvel Universe Live. Not the be confused with the Marvel Experience, this is a live-action stunt show featuring favorite characters from Stan Lee’s mind. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Jan. 30–Feb. 1. MarvelUniverseLive.com. Ticketmaster.com.

CIRCUS

Cavalia: Odysseo. Dallas premiere of the new Cavalia, a Cirque du Soleil-ish show featuring horses, as well as acrobatic performers. DrPepper Ballpark, 7300 Rough Riders Trail, Frisco. Through Feb. 8. \$29.50–\$229.50. Cavalia.net.

EXPO

The Marvel Experience Tour. An interactive theme park attraction with rides and exhibits centering on the Marvel Universe. The Cotton Bowl, inside Fair Park. Through Sunday. TheMarvelExperienceTour.com.

FINE ART

Bruce Wood: A Retrospective. The pioneering choreographer, who passed away suddenly last year from complications due to AIDS, has his life and work celebrated in this exhibition. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St., Arlington. Tuesdays–Saturdays. \$8.

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.

Bouquets: French Still Life Painting from Chardin to Matisse. A reexamination of the painting of flowers in the 19th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 8. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion. Stunning couture from three of Japan’s most iconic fashion designers: Miyake, Yamamoto and Kawakubo. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Feb. 22.

SATURDAY 01.31

SPORTS

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

FUNDRAISER

Leather Knights Chili Cookoff. The annual cookoff and fundraiser returns once again to the Dallas Eagle, just in time for Mr.Ms. Texas Leather Weekend. 5740 Maple Ave 3–6 p.m.

Billy Masters

Even in death, Whitney creates buzz

While I was in Fort Lauderdale, **John Travolta** was chatting up a stranger in a Planet Fitness in Ocala, Fla. At 3 a.m., **Justin Jones** thought he'd work out in an empty gym when a familiar-looking bald man approached him (coincidentally, I met Kirby in kind of a gym). "Hi, I'm John," said the hairpiece-free Travolta. He then bombarded the guy with a barrage of questions: are you married, do you have kids, what do you do for fun. Jones later told *The Enquirer* (in exchange for payment, I'm sure), "I understood what was happening when it was happening — it was in his body language. It didn't make me uncomfortable, but I noticed it."

Last week saw the debut of the long-awaited **Whitney Houston** biopic. Considering it followed up Lifetime's previous biopics on **Anna Nicole Smith** and **Brittany Murphy**, I can't say the results were disastrous. On the positive side, we got to enjoy the stellar vocals of **Deborah Cox**, doing her best Whitney impersonation (and purposely suppressing her trademark soul). The person getting the brunt of the criticism is **Angela Bassett**, who was making her directorial debut. Most of the barbs came from the Houston family. Matriarch **Cissy** all but issued a fatwa on Angela, but Whitney's daughter **Bobbi Kristina** went further. You see, BK wasn't pissed the film was made. Oh, no. She was pissed she wasn't in it! Believe it or not, Whitney's only child wanted to be cast as the lead. Hmmm, let's look at the reasons why she wasn't. First, I don't believe she can act.

Second, she would be doing love scenes with the guy playing her dad. And third, she looks nothing like Whitney. Perhaps she would have been more successful if she'd gone after the role of **Bobby Brown**!

Bobbi Kristina went public with her complaints. While the film was in production, she Tweeted, "Ha MsAng 'bassketcase' has such a damn nerve. My lord, at least the world doesn't mistake me for the wrong sex... she has #XtraEquipment." She then added, "When I win my first Grammy or Oscar, *Shrugs* hmmm whichever comes 1st, I'll be sure 2shout URname out b-tch! hah Ur-TestResults = MALE. Lmao." I'm not sure where to start dissecting this: the grievances, the grammar or the grandiosity. It is fascinating that LaPrincia's sister muses on whether she'll win a Grammy or an Oscar first while bashing someone who actually has been nominated for an Oscar!

Nine million years ago, **Joan Rivers** gave me a signed copy of her will "for safe keeping." Alas, this is an old draft that is completely invalid (but I bet worth a small fortune on eBay). I thought about this while reading her last will and testament and discovering that she was as generous in death as she was in life. A portion of Auntie Joan's estimated \$150 million estate is to be donated to some of her favorite charities, including God's Love We Deliver and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Bequeaths were also made to a handful of relatives (her grandson Cooper and her sister's two kids), her assistants and some close friends. The rest goes to daughter **Melissa**.

Jared Leto recently Tweeted a mega-hot selfie wearing only tights and a fanny pack. Turns out, Leto is selling the accessory, which he calls a "hip pack" (a term I'm sure he picked up from his *Dallas Buyers*

Club co-star **Matthew McConaughey**, who called it that when he was snapped wearing one). You may buy Jared's wares at JaredLetoMerch.com.

Derek Hough has left *Dancing with the Stars* to try something really different: "I am ecstatic that I'll be able to extend my passion for performing to the Great Stage of Radio City Music Hall in New York Spring Spectacular." Yes, you read correctly: Hough is going to become a Rockette. He's certainly got the gams for it. Derek may have left *DWTS*, but we still have **Julianne** at the judges' table. And she had a big announcement of her own. Fox will be joining the TV musical craze with a live performance of *Grease*. And playing Sandy will be Hough (Julianne, not Derek), while Rizzo will be portrayed by **Vanessa Hudgens**. Since *Grease: Live* isn't taking place until Jan. 31, 2016, it continues the longstanding Fox tradition of casting the roles of high school students with people a generation older. (*Glee*, anyone?)

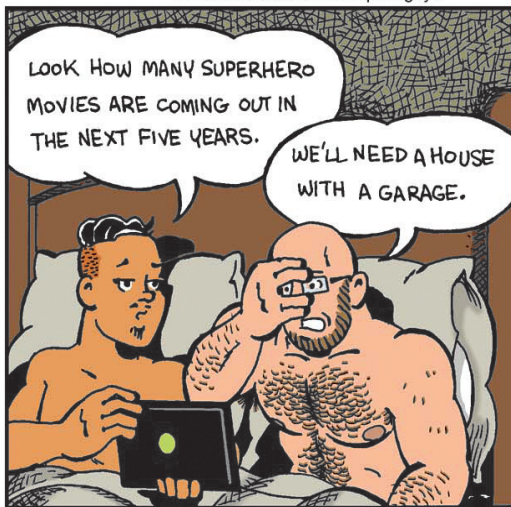
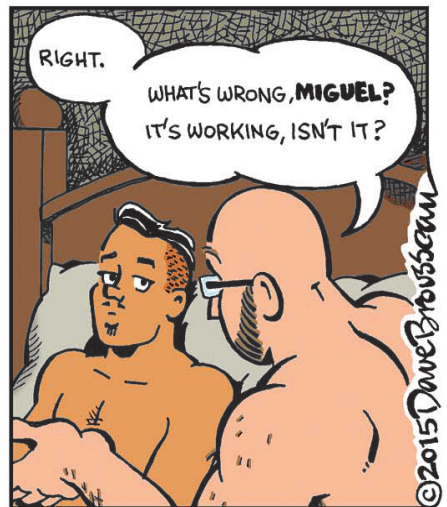
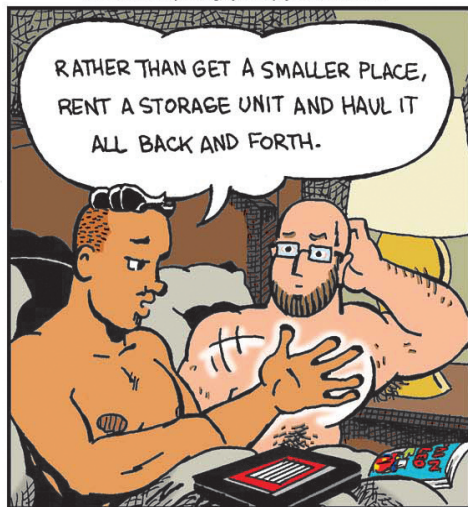
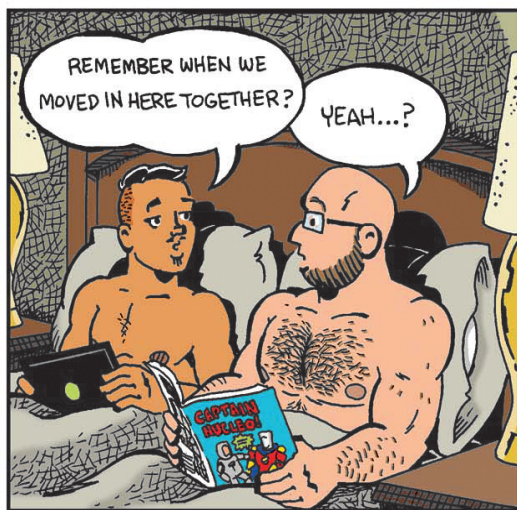
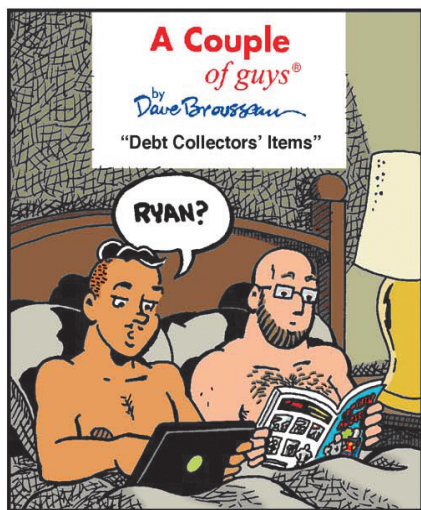
This week's Ask Billy question comes from Barry in Atlanta: "I loved the photo of you and the Carver twins — they are so hot on *Teen Wolf*. But what is this three-way you mentioned? Is that in a movie? A gay three-way?"

Yes, indeed. *I Am Michael* is about **Michael Glatze**, who worked at XY magazine, founded YGA and was a gay rights activist. Eventually, he became a proponent of conversion therapy and an outspoken ex-gay. **James Franco** is playing Glatze while the role of his boyfriend is being played by **Zachary Quinto**. According to sources who saw the flick at Sundance, Franco meets **Charlie Carver** in a club and hits on him. When Carver asks about his boyfriend, Franco says, "He'd like you, too." This leads to a very hot sex scene. How hot? We're told there's lots of kissing (as evident above), skin and, at the very least, asses.

When **Luke Perry** could be cast as Danny Zuko in *Grease: Live*, it's definitely time to end yet another column. If you've got a question for me, send it along and I promise to get back to you before the Rockettes realize they hired the wrong Hough!

So, until next time, remember one man's filth is another man's bible. Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

Have a question for Billy? Send an email to him at Billy@BillyMasters.com.



LIFE+STYLE

scene



Friends' night out at TMC.



Friends at Sue Ellen's.



Greg, Christi, Howard and Greg at The Brick.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Jan. 30–Feb. 5:

Alexandre's: Kristen Majors and Matt Barron at 10 p.m. on Friday. Carlos Saenz at 10 p.m. on Saturday. So Strung Out with Spencer West at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: J.D. Swisher hosts Fun Day starting at 1 p.m. on Sunday benefiting Wounded Warriors.

Brick/Joe's: Super Bowl watch party at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Pole Warrior Challenge presents Battle of the Queens with Kourtney Wells, Patti le Plae Safe, Jada Fox and G Licious G at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Changes: Mr. and Miss Snowflake Pageant on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Dallas Eagle: Mr. and Ms Texas Leather 2015 all weekend. Leather Knights chili cook-off at 3–6 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Girls of Leather monthly meeting at 5 p.m.

Hidden Door: Two big screens to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Sue Ellen's: Lileth Grey Karaoke on Friday. Super Bowl Party with Barefoot Hippies at 9–midnight on Sunday. Scotty Isaacs on Wednesday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: DIVA Draft Party at 6–8 p.m. on Saturday. Super Bowl watch party on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. with stadium snacks and Katy Perry halftime. ■

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



James holding Joey at Zone d'Erotica.



Out at Marty's Live.

LIFE+STYLE

scene



Friends on The Strip.



Girls' night out at The Round-Up Saloon.



Guys' night out at BJ's NXS!

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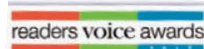
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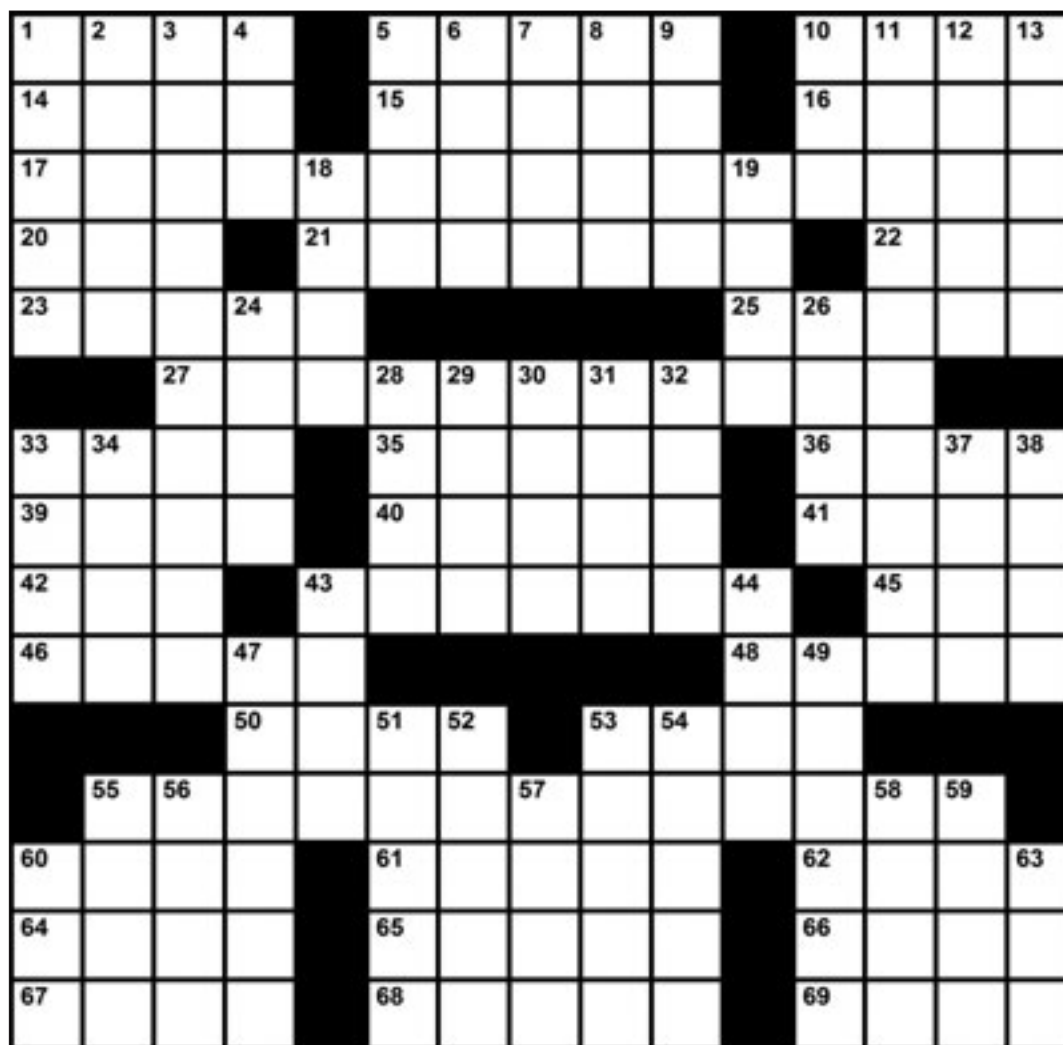
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q-puzzle



You Can See Right Through Her

Solution on page 23

Across

- Bunch of stallions
- People in flaming pants?
- Seeks answers
- Lube ingredient
- Ganges country
- Like a virgin
- Character of 27-Across
- U.K. member
- Prominent cock
- Slinger's weapon
- Gross Anatomy* actress Christine
- Acts as an usher
- Gender identity comedy
- Meaty sandwich, maybe
- "Thereby hangs ___"
- Cut calories
- Star quality
- Gulf war ally
- In need of BenGay
- Unburden
- Me and My Shadows* subject Judy
- Long in the field of acting
- Bannon's Brinker
- Brian of figure skating
- Ivy League team
- "Beat it!"

55 Actor who plays 17-Across

- Burning software
- Kline of *De-Lovely*
- Forbidden fruit site
- CK One emanation
- Make changes to
- Sally who rode into space
- Like three men that visited Mary
- Office furniture
- HIV exam, e.g.

Down

- Hill Street Blues* regular Veronica
- Writer Dykewomon
- Dangerous cruising
- Augsburg article
- Suction head
- The 411
- Fruity drinks
- Diplomacy breakdown
- Like sex with protection
- Busy mo. for the IRS
- Closing remarks of Evan Wolfson
- Put it on top of your hot dog
- Tickles pink
- Opera queen's delight
- Highland dialect

24 Disney techno flick

- All's Well That ___ Well*
- Org. that has never been to Uranus
- Have top billing
- Lynde of *Bewitched*
- Alan of *The Aviator*
- Strap on a stallion
- Alpert of "Mame" fame
- Peace Nobel Wiesel
- Buffalo's lake
- Dotted-line command
- Sheehan's sport
- Dire destiny
- Peter Allen's "Once ___ I Go"
- Photog Mapplethorpe
- Hot under the collar
- Part of a *Tommy* lyric
- Are lousy
- Dealer's offerings
- Knight job for Alec Guinness
- Love of Lesbos
- Part of YSL
- Garfield's sidekick
- Beatty flick
- "This instant!"
- King's court divider

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