

dallas voice

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1984 | Volume 32 | Issue 39 | FREE | Friday, February 5, 2016

Inside: The New Mr. and Ms.
TEXAS LEATHER

THE BOOKS ISSUE



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Marv Knox, left, Rev. Robert Jeffress



Cruz wins, Clinton barely edges Sanders in Iowa caucuses

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz won Iowa's Republican caucuses on Monday, Feb. 1, beating businessman Donald Trump 28 percent to 24 percent, with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio receiving 23 percent.

The most drama came in the Democratic caucus where former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton garnered 49.9 percent to Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' 49.6 percent. While the Iowa Democratic Party called the race for Clinton, Sanders declared the race a "virtual tie."

Since Monday, numerous candidates have ended their campaigns, including former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul on the Republican side, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat who came in a very distant third in the caucus.

Candidates are now focusing their eyes on New Hampshire's primary election on Feb. 9.

— James Russell

Dallas has its first case of sexually transmitted Zika virus

Dallas County Health and Human Services reported its first case of sexually transmitted Zika virus, one of the first in the country.

Zika is usually transmitted by mosquitoes. Although the particular breed of mosquito does live in Dallas County, the mosquito population is not active here this time of year. During summer months, the county has experience controlling mosquitoes because of the need to control a different mosquito that carries West Nile virus.

The greatest known Zika virus risk is to pregnant women.

AIDS Arms CEO John Carlo said there is no evidence the Zika virus poses a greater danger to those with HIV than to the general population. "There's simply no info, but anytime there's an infection, people with HIV are at increased risk," he said.

"Now that we know Zika virus can be transmitted through sex, this increases our awareness campaign in educating the public about protecting themselves and others," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "Next to abstinence, condoms

are the best prevention method against any sexually-transmitted infections."

— David Taffet

Baptist Standard editor calls out Jeffress for hypocrisy

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, we pointed out the ridiculousness of the Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, traveling to Iowa to introduce GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump at a political rally, and then telling the crowd how he couldn't really endorse Trump because that would endanger his church's tax-exempt status — all the while, endorsing Trump.

Well, it appears we weren't the only ones to notice the hypocrisy of it all. Now Jeffress' own Baptist colleagues are calling him out. In an editorial dated Jan. 28, Marv Knox, editor of The Baptist Standard, criticized Jeffress' actions.

Jeffress can back whichever candidate he wants for president; it's not the idea of a preacher supporting Trump with which he is taking issue, Knox wrote. The problem, plain and simple, is a preacher that lies.

I do wish Marv Knox had seen fit to call Jeffress out on his rampant and unChristian homophobia and anti-gay hatefulness, and all the lies he tells to support his homophobia, and all the damage he does to LGBT people in the process. But that's probably too much to ask for.

Still, it's nice to see that someone inside the Baptist "establishment" is willing to point out that Jeffress lied, and that he is doing neither his church nor his Christ any favors by doing so.

— Tammye Nash

GOP congresswoman talks about her trans son

GOP Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who represents South Florida, recently spoke about her trans son in an interview.

She scores 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's Congressional scorecard.

"He's so happy living an authentic life just being honest about who he is," Ros-Lehtinen said. "He brings a lot of joy in our lives."

Check out the full video on Instant Tea.

— David Taffet

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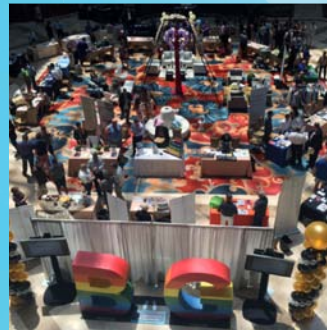
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THE GAY AGENDA

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

FEBRUARY

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. Community 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 St., 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. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or rramirez@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Feb. 5: Resource Center Toast to Life Sponsor Party**
Sponsor appreciation party for Toast For Life – Mad Hatter's Ball from 7-9 p.m. at 3525 Turtle Creek Blvd., Ste. 20BC. For more information to reserve tickets call 214-540-4458 or e-mail bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Feb. 6: Pride Adult Valentine Bingo**
A game night for adults that benefits Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association. 5-8 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4201 Trail Lake Dr., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 6: Lovebomb 2016 Benefit for Queerbomb Dallas**
Benefit for Queerbomb Dallas' annual event with entertainment and more at Zippers, 3333 N. Fitzhugh Ave. For more information visit On.fb.me/1Pf7ZQf.

• **Feb. 6: Dash for the Beads**
Mardi Gras festival with 5K fun run, one-mile walk, costume contest, beer garden with live music. 9:30 a.m. at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.

• **Feb. 9: Ed-U-Care Building Bridge Network**
Training group for caretakers of LGBT seniors hosts a dinner followed by screening of the movie *Gen Silent* for LGBT senior and caretaker needs 6-8:30 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. For more information and to RSVP e-mail Sharyn Fein at educaredallas@gmail.com.

pet of the week / BLAZIN GAL

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• **Feb. 9: Terry Loftis: 'Two for the Road'**
Terry D. Loftis presents *"Two For the Road,"* an evening of romantic and love lost songs for Valentines. 7:30 p.m. at The Women's Museum at Fair Park.

• **Feb. 9: East Texas P-FLAG**
Discussion on making P-FLAG's presence better known in the community. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Genecov Room, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler.

• **Feb. 11: Out & Equal DFW**
"Frame Your Love" Community Celebration
Receive a free picture frame to display a photo of your family in your workplace, enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar from 6-8 p.m. at Primo's Tex Mex, 1400 Hi Line Dr.

• **Feb. 11: LGBT Retirement Planning Workshop**
GALA presents a free workshop by Prudential Financial for LGBT couples and individuals. 6:30-8:15 p.m. Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

• **Feb. 11: Young Professionals Advisory Council Mixer**
Mix and mingle with young professionals making a difference in the community and learn how to get involved. 5:30-7 p.m. at Chino Chinatown at Trinity Groves, 3011 Gulden Ln., Suite 110.

• **Feb. 12: High Tech Happy Hour**
Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Primo's Tex Mex, 1400 Hi Line Dr. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

• **Feb. 12: Dallas Red Foundation takeover at Azure Addison**
An opportunity to learn about Legacy Counseling and Dallas Red Foundation while drinking DRF Signature Cocktails, from 8-10:30 p.m. at Azure, 4080 Beltline Road, Addison.

• **Feb. 12-14: HRC Time to Thrive Conference**
Annual national conference promoting safety, inclusion and well-being for LGBT youth features speakers, workshops and more at Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine. For more information and to register visit Timetothrive.org.

• **Feb. 13: LGBTQ Saves Valentine's Dance**
LGBT-friendly youth and young adult dance includes free food, drink and entertainment from 7-10 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 13: Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington's Emperor's Ball**
Annual fundraiser benefits Cancer Care Services at 7 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Lounge, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 16: Young Adult Gender Identity Group**
In partnership with SMU's Center for Family Counseling, GEAR is launching a new support group for young trans adults ages 18-29. 6 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.

• **Feb. 20: Gaybingo: Queen of Hearts**
Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information, call 214-540-4458 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Feb. 20: AOC Benefit Concert at TCU**
TCU's School for Classical and Contemporary Dance's Chi Tau Epsilon Honor Society presents the 2016 AIDS Outreach Center Benefit Concert featuring dance groups from across the region. 7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of Erma Lowe Hall, 3000 S. University Dr., Fort Worth. \$20 for adults. \$10 for non-TCU students. For tickets and more information call 817-257-4255.

• **Feb. 21: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association meeting**
Getting ready for fifth annual Easter and Pet Fest / Art Fest and general meeting. 3 p.m. at Barron House, 516 College Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 21: DRF Quiz for a Cause**
Dallas Red Foundation, Geeks Who Drink — D/FW, and Cedar Springs Tap House team up to create a Quiz for a Cause benefiting Dallas DRF and Legacy Counseling at 7 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

MARCH

• **March 5: Resource Center's Toast to Life Mad Hatter's Ball**
Enjoy a night of food from top local chefs and entertainment by DJ Bunny at this annual benefit for Resource Center programs from 7-11 p.m. at the Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. For tickets and more information visit Bit.ly/1VnT1vq.

• **March 6: You'll Never Walk Alone**
Oak Lawn UMC presents *"You'll Never Walk Alone: A Community Gathering of Hope, Unity, and Support for the Oak Lawn Neighborhood."* The program expresses the community's appreciation for the leadership displayed by Mayor Rawlings and the Dallas Police Department in the face of recent violent attacks in Oak Lawn. Performances by the Dallas Police Choir, the Oak Lawn Band and Oak Lawn UMC's Chancel Choir. 6-7:30 p.m. at Oak

Terry Loftis: 'Two for the Road'



The Denise Lee Free Cabaret Series presents special guest Terry D. Loftis. Lee and Loftis will perform *"Two For the Road,"* an evening of romantic and love lost songs for Valentines. 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at The Women's Museum at Fair Park.



Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

• **March 9: Mother Micheal Community Service Awards**
Awards presented by the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington with performances by category winners. 7 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings St., Fort Worth.

• **March 11-13: Imperial Court Coronation XXXVII**
Punking the Palace — *The Windsors Meet Steampunk: An Evening at Buckingham Palace.* Coronation is at 5 p.m. on Saturday night in the main ballroom of the host hotel. Radisson North-Fossil Creek, 2540 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth.

• **March 20: The Wedding Workshop: An LGBT Community Event**
Three-hour, hands-on seminar featuring wedding industry experts guide couples through all the steps for planning a memorable wedding. 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. For more information call 214-754-8710 ext. 126 or visit LGBTWeddingWorkshop.com. Admission and parking are free with registration.

• **March 20: The Wedding Party and Expo: An LGBT Community Event**
Presented by the Dallas Voice, the largest LGBT wedding expo in Texas includes exhibitors, a fashion show, food samples, a community marketplace and free cake. Donnie Brown serves as celebrity host. 1-5 p.m. at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. For more information call 214-754-8710 ext. 126 or e-mail EXPO@dallasvoice.com. Register at TheWeddingPartyEXPO.com. Admission and parking are free with registration. ■



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Turner links newly diagnosed to care

After seeing a friend die untreated, Phillip Turner dedicated himself to making sure others receive the care they need and deserve

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Phillip Turner is a linkage-to-care specialist with AIDS Healthcare Foundation. His job, he explained, is “to discover newly-diagnosed individuals who don’t know what to do next,” and help them take the next step in getting the care they need.

Turner, who’s been with AHF for almost two years, takes about 16 new people a month under his wing. He said when people are newly diagnosed, they often tell him their lives are over. He works to convince them that all they need is a lifestyle change; in most cases, they’ll take a pill

make sure they’re getting the medical care they need.

“I just want to guide them through the process and empower them,” he said.

He tracks them through their first three clinic appointments, reschedules for them if they miss an appointment and makes sure no new problems have come up.

“After that, I tell them, ‘If you need me, don’t hesitate to give me a call,’” Turner said.

If someone’s dropped out of care, Turner said, it’s usually because that person’s more concerned about something like where their next meal’s coming from instead of medical treatment for HIV. “If I have one of those, I’ll take him out to eat or give him a Kroger card,” he said.

In one case, Turner got a homeless client a \$19 phone, so they could keep in touch. He said spending just a few dollars to make sure someone had a phone was a lot cheaper than treating medical complications that could arise when someone falls out of care.

When another friend was diagnosed but didn’t seek immediate treatment, Turner got frustrated.

“You know I work in this field,” he recalled telling his friend. “Why didn’t you call me?”

While he loves what he’s doing, Turner is preparing himself for the next eventual step. He’s getting his MBA, but thinks he’d rather remain on the medical side, maybe as a nurse practitioner. Getting through nursing school is difficult, however, while maintaining a full-time job.

“Take care of yourself,” is Turner’s best advice, but if you test positive, he said,

“There’s no shame and nothing to hide.” ■

Sunday, Feb. 7 is National Black HIV Awareness Day. Turner and other AHF staff will be testing for HIV and other STDs from 3-6 p.m. at Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road. AIDS Walk South Dallas director Auntjuan Wiley will speak. Chips, dip and margaritas will be served.



once a day and then can lead a normal life.

But Turner knows things aren’t that simple for everyone. “For instance, if someone is homeless, I know they’re more worried about finding a place to live,” he said.

In those cases, he refers clients to Legacy Counseling Center’s Homebase for Housing, which helps people find affordable housing and has a program to house people with HIV as they transition back to health and to work. He refers them to Resource Center’s food pantry and lunch program and to a group like United Black Ellument for socializing.

Turner also follows newly-diagnosed people to

Turner moved to Dallas two years ago. He has a bachelor’s degree in business administration and worked as a teller for Capital One and then as a transport tech. But he didn’t want to work in the business world anymore, and a series of events, starting in 2013 when a friend of his died of complications from AIDS, led him to his current position.

“I got a call he was in ICU,” Turner said. “He didn’t tell anyone he had HIV. It saddens me he got to the point he thought no one cared for him and he had no need to live anymore.”

A year later, another friend told him about the opening with AHF, and Turner jumped at the chance to make a difference.



Phillip Turner, above, and above left with Samantha Vega an AHF fixed-site testing manager from South Florida visiting Dallas for the week. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Good news, bad news

HIV diagnoses decreasing among African-Americans, but black gay men still 3 times more likely to be infected as white gay men

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For National Black HIV Awareness Day, Abounding Prosperity will hold a testing and fish fry event from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6 at Abounding Prosperity, 2311 MLK Blvd.

"Know Your Status Dallas" will provide HIV testing and information 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Feb 6 at the Southwest Center Mall

HIV diagnoses among African-Americans have been decreasing over the past 10 years.

That's the good news.

The bad news is that statistics show African-American gay men are still three times as likely to be infected with HIV as gay white men, according to Greg Millett, an epidemiologist and researcher who currently serves as director of public policy for amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research. But in that same time period diagnoses among gay African-American men increased by 87 percent.

One in four new infections in the U.S. is among gay African-American men.

While gay men make up only a few percent of the African-American population, 53 percent of new diagnoses are among gay black men.

And, Millett said, while black men are more likely to be tested than white men, black men are also more likely to be infected and not know it.

Statistics show that a greater percentage of African-American men who have been diagnosed as HIV-positive are not in care, compared to white men diagnosed with HIV. Millett cited a number of reasons for that, including a general mistrust of medical professionals in the African-American community dating back to the Tuskegee syphilis experiment conducted by the U.S. government from 1932 to 1972.

Men of color are more likely than white men to believe HIV was a virus manufactured to kill gay men and therefore don't trust medication given to suppress that virus, he said.

In addition, a greater percentage of African-Americans with HIV are homeless, compared to other HIV-positive populations. "Housing is a huge indicator," Millett said. "People in stable housing are more likely to take their medications."

HIV criminalization laws, which don't follow any public health recommendations and are disproportionately used against men of color often "dissuade testing," Millett continued, therefore delaying or completely preventing treatment.

Millet also said Medicaid expansion is a huge tool in treatment of the disease. Southern states with large black populations disproportionately refused to add to their rosters of Medicaid recipi-

ents. Without that coverage, fewer low-income people receive the medical care they need with an HIV infection.

Among white gay men, 34 percent who are HIV-positive are virally suppressed with existing treatments. Among African-American gay men, only 16 percent are virally suppressed. While a disparity in efficacy of some of the earlier drugs may have been a problem, Millett said, there's no disparity with current medications.

"It's an access issue," he declared.

Abounding Prosperity Associate Director Tamara Stephney said compared to national figures, Texas is actually doing quite well. She said the most important statistic to her, locally speaking, is linkage to care. Of the 2,000 people AP tests per year, the positivity rate is 4 to 7 percent. Of those testing positive, 85 percent remain in care.

Separate statistics aren't kept nationally or on a state level for trans women with HIV, but Stephney said of their 40 trans clients, all remain in care.



Greg Millett

As of 2014, 80,000 people are living with HIV in Texas — 63,000 men and 17,000 women. Of those, 16,146 live in Dallas County.

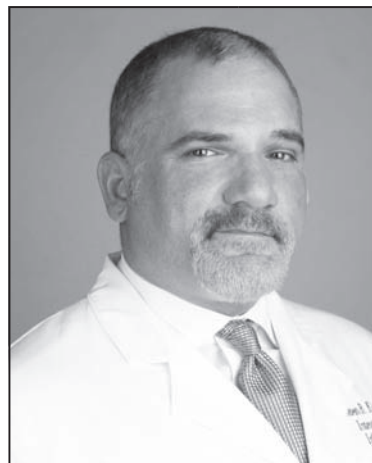
There were 887 new HIV diagnoses in Dallas County in 2014, the latest year from which information is available. Of those new cases, 652 were among gay men. Almost half of the total new diagnoses were among black men. The county didn't release statistics that combined race and sexual orientation.

Within five years, researchers are optimistic about finding a cure that will knock out the virus altogether. AmfAR recently committed \$100 million to finding a cure by 2020. Millett said a grant of \$20 million to University of California San Francisco would establish the first Institute for Cure Research.

He said the push for a cure was propelled by new medical leads that weren't there just a few years ago and amfAR's new financial stability that allowed it to raise the money for what it hopes will be a final push for the cure.

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JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

The food pantry is one of Resource Center's most popular programs. Currently located on the Denton Drive Cutoff, just off Maple Avenue near Inwood Road, the pantry serves more than 800 people a week. So when center officials learned that the landlord at that space was unexpectedly cancelling the pantry's lease, they knew that halting the popular service, even temporarily, was out of the question.

But it wasn't just center staffers worried the pantry's clientele would be inconvenienced. It also meant making significant changes to the center's ongoing capital campaign timeline.

Resource Center is in the midst of an \$8.7 million capital campaign intended to help the center meet the needs of an ever-growing community. Originally, the idea was to first move staff and social services into the new 20,000-square-foot facility under construction on Cedar Springs Road at Inwood when that facility was finished. That move would free space at the current Reagan-and-Brown location to move into phase two: consolidating HIV services, nutrition services and the food pantry.

Now, both the construction and renovation are happening at the same time. On the revised timeline, the pantry should be ready by mid-

Resource Center fast tracks pantry renovation



Workers strip what was the Red, Blue and Yellow rooms to the bare walls to build the new food pantry. (James Russell/Dallas Voice)

February, the new facility in March, and the Reagan-and-Brown renovations by the summer.

"This timeline was not ideal, but we are committed to clients," Resource Center CEO Cece Cox noted. "We will not miss one day of service

at the pantry. Staff is working to accommodate clients to ensure that their needs are being met during this transitional phase."

In order to continue to meet the high demand for service, it will take \$600,000 to renovate the Reagan-and-Brown building, including the

construction and relocation of the food pantry.

The food pantry began in 1985 out of a cardboard box at Crossroads Market, then located at the intersection of Cedar Springs and Throckmorton. As need grew, so did the pantry. It moved to a larger space in the 3900 block of Cedar Springs, and eventually to its current location at Denton Drive Cutoff.

Now, through a partnership with the North Texas Food Bank, the center is able to readily restock its pantry with fresh produce, dairy, meats and frozen meals for the 1,900 clients who use it every month.

Cox said the new food pantry space at the Reagan-and-Brown facility will be about the same size as the old one — about 12,000 square feet — but the new one will be "more efficient in terms of client use," said Cox. It will also benefit clients who use public transit.

"When you use public transportation, you're subject to longer wait times," Cox said. Clients may be using already limited resources just to access the pantry and services, she added.

Doris Carrillo, Resource Center's client services manager, said, "The new food pantry means a friendlier and more centralized location for clients." She called the Denton Cut Off location "isolated."

"The new food pantry location offers a one-stop shop for all of our clients' nutritional and supportive needs. With the move of the pantry to Reagan-and-Brown, clients won't have to sacrifice stocking up on groceries over a daily hot meal. Now they can have both, due to convenient access to all programs," Carrillo added. ■



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The leather life

New Texas Leather titleholders plan a year of raising visibility, mentoring others and giving back to the community

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Mera Tucker has been an out, proud leather woman for many years. Eddie Sherbert, although an out, proud gay man many years, has only been in the leather community for the last couple of years. Now the two of them are teaming up to represent the Dallas/Fort Worth leather community and spread their message of love and support.

Tucker and Sherbert won the titles of Ms. Texas Leather and Mr. Texas Leather on Saturday, Jan. 30, at Dallas Eagle. It was the fifth annual contest for the women, and the 20th annual content for the men, and both contests are presented by Texas Leather Productions, owned by Jeffrey Payne, and by Dallas Eagle.

This is not the first leather title for either Tucker or Sherbert. Tucker won the Ms. South Plains Leather regional contest in 2004, just before moving from Oklahoma to D-FW. Sherbert earned his first leather sash last fall when he won the title Mr. Hidden Door, the first leather contest he entered.

The Hidden Door win qualified Sherbert to compete in the International Mr. Leather contest slated for Memorial Day Weekend in Chicago this year. By winning the Texas Leather title, Sherbert is qualified to compete in IML in 2017, too.

The Ms. Texas Leather title qualifies Tucker to compete in the 2017 International Ms. Leather Contest held each spring in San Jose and in the American Leatherwoman contest in Chicago in October.

It's the timing of the Texas Leather contest that means the 2016 winners are qualified to compete for the 2017 international titles, Tucker explained. By the time the Texas Leather contest is held, the slate of contestants for IML and IMsL are already set for that year.

But the Texas Leather titles for both Tucker and Sherbert are about much more than just getting to wear a studded leather sash and travel to other



Ms. Texas Leather Mera Tucker, left, and Mr. Texas Leather Eddie Sherbert.
(Photo courtesy Texas Leather Productions)

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Time to Thrive comes to DFW

Third annual conference provides workshops for supporting LGBT youth

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

The Time to Thrive conference may be best known as the event where actress Ellen Page came out as a lesbian in 2014. But the conference, only in its third year, has also become a leading national gathering for educators and other professionals who work with LGBT youth.

Presented by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the National Education Association and the American Counseling Association, the three-day conference takes place Feb. 12-14 at the Gaylord Hotel in Grapevine. It focuses on the best practices, strategies and emerging trends for educators and others working with LGBT youth.

Ellen Kahn is director of the children, youth and families program at the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. She said the idea for a conference came after examining results from a 2012 survey of 10,000 LGBT teenagers.

"We learned [that while] LGBT youth feel some support and others are claiming and own-



Ellen Page speaks at the 2014 Time to Thrive conference. (Ferrer Productions)

Time to Thrive takes place Friday, Feb. 12, 2016 to Sunday, Feb. 14 at Marriott's Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine. To register visit Bit.ly/1QGnOTn. For volunteer opportunities visit Volunteersignup.org/WXQL4

ing their identities, they still face challenges. It's the best and worst of times. LGBT youth are growing up in a better time and are more likely to have peer support, but they still face anti-LGBT sentiment," Kahn said. "We're asking the question, what can we do to contribute to and create better outcomes for youth?"

Past conferences were held in Portland, Ore., and Las Vegas. Kahn said she is excited that the Dallas-Fort Worth area is as a different from the previous locations as Portland was from Las Vegas.

"We're really excited to be in Texas. The Dallas-Fort Worth area has many resources and opportunities, but it's still a socially conservative climate," Kahn said. "We hope [the conference] successful once again and we draw folks from all parts of Texas and elsewhere."

First-time attendees have the opportunity to attend a preconference workshop on Friday, Feb. 12, lead by Resource Center's program manager, Johnny Humphrey. The "LGBT 101" workshop introduces basic concepts, terminology and risk factors/behaviors for working



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with LGBT youth.
“They’ll answer the basic questions for people new to LGBT work,” Kahn said.

Friday’s opening plenary includes an awards ceremony and keynote speeches. Bob Harper, best known for his role on NBC’s hit show *The Biggest Loser*, Emmy Award-winning John Quiñones, anchor of ABC’s *What Would You Do?* and 16-year old YouTube star Brendan Jordan will speak.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary and former San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro is also among the keynote speakers. Castro was an ideal person to honor, Kahn said. Not only is he a notable Texan, but also a well-known LGBT advocate.

“As San Antonio mayor he was passionate about ending youth homelessness. He saw the urgency around LGBT youth homelessness. He’s continuing to keep the issue front and center. He’s also putting in place nondiscrimination ordinances at the department, making long and lasting change,” she added.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, attendees will learn from a panel of experts on closing the gap among LGBT youth followed by a full day of workshops. Attendees have the opportunity to follow certain workshop tracks, including HIV, gender expression and identity and intersectionality.

“The sessions will primarily focus on HIV prevention, safe schools and working with resistant families,” Kahn said. Some workshops also offer continuing education credits to social workers and counselors thanks to partnerships with the National Education Association and American



Judy Shephard, left and Ellen Khan speak at a previous Time to Thrive conference. (Ferrer Productions)

Counseling Association.
“We’re building up the program based on trends. We know there will be a learning curve for some people as well, which is why there is a broad range of workshops,” Kahn said.

Along with Resource Center’s Humphrey, other local LGBT advocates are also presenting this year. Rafael McDonnell, the center’s communications and advocacy manager, will teach attendees how to replicate Resource Center’s successes on the adoption of LGBT-inclusive

policies in their communities.
Drs. Ximena Lopez and Meredith Chapman of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Children’s Health will present on best practices on working with gender non-conforming and transgender youth, including when to refer them to mental health providers and understanding the benefits of intervention with puberty suppression and cross-sex hormone therapy.
Chapman is an associate professor of psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center who works with transgender youth. An assistant professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Lopez also is the medical director of the Gender, Education and Care Interdisciplinary Support (GENECIS) program. The program provides mental health and endocrine care for gender non-conforming children and adolescents.
“People who work with young adults want to be effective and supportive. We hope we help move them in that direction,” Kahn said. ■



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■ commUNITY voices

So. It is Black History Month, right? Do you care? Should I care? There is constant debate among white people — and even black people — about the need for a Black History Month. As someone who studies the lives of black people and works to unite the race, to me every day is a matter of Black History — living in it and reflecting on it.

But before I continue, let me give this disclaimer: I'm not a big fan of labels — i.e. black, white, gay, straight, top, bottom, masculine, feminine, etc. And before y'all go jumping down my throat uninvited — as y'all did to Raven-Symone when she denounced being African-American — please understand that my dislike for labels has nothing to do with being ashamed of being black or white or gay or straight or top or bottom or masculine or feminine or . . . You get the idea.

The truth is, no one label can sum up the totality of a person's human experience. But labels can provide a point of reference and insight into someone's reality.

People often find themselves at the intersection of many labels, which can be conflicting. I believe labels give rise to the division which fuels conquest. In other words, one group is always going to think that their agenda and way of life is better or of greater importance than the next.

Additionally, labels are social constructs. "Black" and "white" were created by America as a result of the Atlantic slave trade and slavery. Europeans brought Africans — from all over the continent, by the way — to the Americas, and thus the Africans became the black race and the Europeans became the white race.

Let us remember that black and white people alike were often left in the dark about the great achievements and excellence of black people. Black history hasn't always been taught and included in American history classes in our educational system.

It wasn't until the efforts of Carter G. Woodson, in the early 1900s, and the birth of Negro History Week that the larger society in America began discussing black history.

Even today, black history is often taught as an elective or a month's worth of curriculum, while white history is generally considered "American history."

Growing up, I don't recall Black History Month being a big deal at home, because my family frequently discussed our history. And I was always right there, soaking in all the wisdom of my elders.

I do, however, remember Black History Month and the limited lessons of black excellence we received in school. It started with slavery and ended with Martin Luther King Jr.

As someone who is at the intersection of black and gay, I would've liked to have heard about what those like me contributed to society. Seeing yourself and others like you reflected positively has a positive impact on self worth, and how others place value on your life.

Black Gay History is Black History, too, right?

I was so happy to see Jada Pinkett-Smith release a video on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, looking like an African goddess radiating in the sun, boycotting the Oscars for the lack of diversity among the nominees and standing firm on what



Illustration by Kevin Thomas/Dallas Voice



Jalenzski Brown
Contributing Writer

she believes.

And I really loved and enjoyed Snoop Dogg's response to the matter at hand. He gave me all the life I needed.

But if you think Jada's video was merely about the Oscars, I think you're missing the whole point.

In her video, she asks the following questions: "Is it time that people of color recognize how much power, influence that we have amassed that we no longer need to ask to be invited anywhere? ... Have we now come to a new time and place where we recognize that we can no longer beg for love, acknowledgment or respect [from] any group?"

She goes on to say that true power lies in our ability to love, respect and acknowledge ourselves the way in which we ask others to do so. I've always told people that I love me enough for all of us. When you cultivate self-love, there is less of a need to receive love from others.

"It is our responsibility now to make the change. Maybe it is time we pull back our resources and we put them back into our communities, into our programs, and we make programs for ourselves that acknowledge us in ways we see fit," Jada added.

(In case you missed Jada Pinkett-Smith's and Snoop Dogg's videos, find the nearest portal to YouTube and check them out.)

I think Jada's wisdom can be applied to many areas of life and positively impact how we work, live and play. We need more people with big platforms to bring awareness to issues of inclusion and diversity.

My good buddy Ray Jordan, who is working on

a doctorate in public policy and social change, with an emphasis in Martin Luther King Jr. studies, recently led an awesome discussion on the legacy of MLK Jr. and the Civil Rights movement, hosted by United Black Ellument's B.L.A.C.K. Chat series (B.L.A.C.K. is an acronym for Building Leaders and Cultivating Knowledge).

Ray believes that the black experience has created arguably some of the strongest people on the planet, merely by the mechanism of survival of the fittest. This statement definitely holds true when you consider all that black people have had to endure and continuously deal with: slavery, Jim Crow, the new Jim Crow, police brutality, emotional distress — and the list goes on.

There aren't any weak Americans of African descent left!

With that being said, I'm definitely proud to claim the black experience (too bad I can't say the same for Raven). And I'm so grateful that we now live in an age of information and connectivity, because seeking new truths is not as hard as it once was.

Let's all reflect on how far we've come as humans — individually and collectively — and build on the strengths of our ancestors. Don't be afraid to push past mediocrity by striving for better.

If there is a need for something in society, gather the resources needed and create it, even if doing so means no longer being a line item on someone else's agenda.

It is my hope that one day we can live in a society where labels matter less and living is about the human experience and growth of all people. The world is much bigger than any one person or racial groups.

Regardless of how you group or regroup people, construct or deconstruct society, we're all interconnected. ■

Jalenzski Brown seeks to find peace, love and happiness in every moment of his human experience and help those around him do the same.



competitions. Both said they want to use their visibility first and foremost to help their communities — the leather community, the larger LGBT community, and the DFW community in general.

Mera Tucker

Tucker and her wife, Johnnie, have long been active in the DFW leather community. Mera Tucker, especially, is famous for her homemade cookies that she donates to just about every fundraising effort in town.

"In the last 12 years, I have donated enough cookies to sink a battleship, and we have raised thousands of dollars with those cookies," she laughed. Tucker said she started the bake sale held each year during Texas Bear Round-Up, and she and Johnnie host a pool party each year at their home, lovingly dubbed The Tucker Inn, for all the women attending the annual Leather Sir/Boy contest.

She said she and Johnnie "have both been raising money for this community for a long time. That's my passion. Ok, actually, cookies are my passion. But I can use the cookies to raise money."



Tucker, who has been involved in organizing the Ms. Texas Leather contest since it started five years ago, thought her days as a leather contestant were long past. But, she said, "the main thing this contest has always needed is contestants." So as the deadline to register approached and she realized only one woman had signed up to compete, "I knew it was time to put up or shut up. So I signed up to compete."

A third woman also registered, giving the fifth annual Ms. Texas Leather the most contestants so far.

While she wasn't looking for the title, Tucker said that now that she has it, she intends to put it to good use.

"I want to work with the other women in this community to make sure we are visible," she said. "I want the other women out there, especially the young women, who are looking for the leather community to know that we are here. I want them to know they have someone to go to, someone to help show them the way."

And she doesn't plan to just be out and visible in the leather community, or even just in the LGBT community. "I have been out at work as a lesbian and as a leather lesbian since day one," she said, noting that she works for Neiman Marcus as office manager in the facilities department.

"I told my boss that if I won, I'd be at work Monday, but if I lost, I'd probably spend the week laying in bed crying," she said. "I won. And I wore

my [black, white and red leather studded] sash to work on Monday."

Eddie Sherbert

Although he has only gotten involved in the leather community over the past two years or so, Sherbert said he has been fascinated by leather since he was young. But it wasn't until he went to the International Mr. Leather contest last year in May that he decided he wanted to compete for a leather title.

"When that curtain went up and I saw those 52 men standing on that stage, waving — goosebumps just washed over my whole body. I knew right then I wanted to do that. I wanted to be on that stage."

So far, Sherbert is two for two, having won both contests he has entered. He said he wants to use the platform those titles give him to, like Tucker, be a mentor and an example to others in his community, and for those just finding their way into the world of leather.

"I would really like to be able to establish a mentoring program. We have people who are coming



out now in their teens, and we still have people in their 30s and 40s and 50s and beyond who are just coming out," Sherbert said. "Sometimes they need some with some real-life experiences to be there for them, to basically hold their hand and talk them through whatever they are dealing with."

"The mission of the Texas Leather contest is sharing, educating about and honoring the leather community and its history," he added. "I plan to spend the next year promoting that mission. We need to work to move forward, always, but I want people to remember that we also need to respect where we've been."

Sherbert is a flight attendant for American Airlines, working on international flights. While he isn't likely to get to wear his Texas Leather sash to work the way Tucker did, his job does give him the chance to travel, around the states and abroad. And as he travels, Sherbert said, he gets the chance to learn about the leather communities in other cities and countries, and to tell them about the DFW community.

He and Tucker agreed that, at the core of things, their job as Texas Leather titleholders is to just "be as visible as possible."

Tucker added, "We'll just keep trying whatever works to be visible, to help our community. For both of us, mentoring others and giving back to our community is everything. If you aren't doing something to give back, then you're just taking up space." ■



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20 years ago, self-described ‘front row bitch’ Matthew Rettenmund wrote an exhaustive compendium of all things Madge. Now he revisits the ultimate tribute of literary superfandom, ‘The Encyclopedia Madonnica’

Matthew Rettenmund is only kidding, but his enduring commitment to Madonna isn’t lost on him when he jokes, “She has me on speed *hang-up*.” It’s a statement that couldn’t ring truer if it were, well, true. Except Rettenmund, the author known for quenching your man-thirst via his site Boy Culture, doesn’t *know* Madonna like you know your mom or a Facebook friend or even the hot Starbucks barista you shamelessly stalk. He and Madonna have met, briefly, a few times, but they’re not musing introspectively on their way to Kabbalah classes, drafting, en route, a detailed plan for the icon’s next love-it-or-hate-it career conquest, though Rettenmund — who calls himself Madonna’s “front-row bitch” — would make an expert consultant. After all, he did document the life and times and first menstruation of Madge (actual entry: “Madonna first bled at age 10.”), when, two decades ago, he released *Encyclopedia Madonnica 20: Madonna from A to Z*. Now updated, this impressively crazy feat of fandom that goes deep (and deeper and deeper) into the pop empresses’ history is not just a book — when it comes to Madonna, it’s the Holy Bible. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: You must know more about Madonna than Madonna herself.

Rettenmund: I think that’s true. That’s not to brag, but just like a lot of people, she seems to forget a lot of things about herself, and like a lot of stars enhances some things. I think I have more factoids than she’s ever kept at any one given time.

When did you decide that you would dedicate the rest of your life to this woman?

I’m not dead yet! I can still give her up! I first became really interested when I first heard her on the radio. I have a very clear memory of it, and it was when I first heard “Holiday.” I was obsessed with the Billboard charts at the time, and I remember driving back from a Dungeons & Dragons session and I heard this song and thought it was amazing.

Of course it’s a cliché, but I thought she was a black girl. I really associate that song with “Let the Music Play” by Shannon because I was hearing them at the same time, and for some reason I was just so captivated by “Holiday” that I wanted to know more about her.

I liked being surprised by her even in small ways back then, and I liked a lot of different stars. I really liked Cyndi Lauper first, and so it took a while for all my forces to coalesce around Madonna. I would say when “Like a Virgin” came out it really kind of starting to hit its stride, and certainly by 1985 I had moved on from Cyndi Lauper, and Madonna was my woman — she was my main woman.

I found her really useful when I was talking to people too, because even back then I’d feel like when you were having a conversation about Madonna, it’s never just about Madonna; it’s about different suppositions and presets people have when they’re talking about her, and that’s not true of a lot of artists. She was kind of an icon from the beginning for that reason — she means a lot of different things to a lot of different people. She causes people to express things within themselves whether they intend to do it or not.

For me that was sexuality. I recall seeing the “Vogue” video and being awestruck that I could see boobage through that black lacey top. I associated Madonna with sex at a very young age. What facets of Madonna did you first cling to? Oh, I mean that was definitely part of it. But before that, it was just the coolness. That’s true of almost any person you put on a pedestal. There’s a cool factor. But Madonna always had a certain effortless coolness. She never questions herself. She reminded me of Andy Warhol in that way. She had tunnel vision about what she wanted to do, that she was gonna do it really well and that she was *the* person to do it. I really admired that. I liked that she was so decisive and really so cool.

The sex part came along quickly, too. At the time, I was a teenager and had hormones flare-ups. And I was gay, and I just kind of felt that she was a kindred spirit. She’d



Matthew Rettenmund may not be Madonna’s bestie, but he certainly helped make her into a living legend — and gay icon.

come from Michigan where I came from — and where I'll probably go when I die [laughs]. I just loved knowing that she had come where I had come from and was doing all this stuff and was so unafraid to be so expressively sexual in a way that I couldn't be, so I definitely used her as a mode of expression as we do with any star. It was easier to say, "I love Madonna," than it was to go into the hundreds of things that were wrapped up in that. I definitely used her as a kind of shorthand, and I liked that she used her music and her work as a shorthand to communicate back to her fans.

How would you describe your level of fandom when it comes to Madonna? Front-row bitch. People always like to say, "I'm a crazy fan but I'm not crazy like that person," but I don't have a lot of wiggle room for that because I've written this huge book on her and people know me as someone who's pretty far gone. But I would describe myself as someone who has complete respect and affection for Madonna, and the respect is very objective, and the affection is very subjective. I have a high level of both of those things, but I still think I'm able to be realistic, and I think that's reflected in the book. As positive as it is, and as fawning as parts of it are, you do have to kind of step back and say, "This wasn't so great, this let me down, this reveals a character flaw," so I'm sort of a student of Madonna's.

You definitely did not fawn over her film career. Well, yeah. I think that's a good way to tell if someone is too far gone as a fan: If they really like all of her movies. I think even she would admit that a lot her movies were not good. She may not agree why. [Laughs] She might say it was the script, it was the director. But also, you weren't so great in them. So much of the criticism she gets is just ridiculously over the top and it's unfounded and so mired in people's hang ups and expectations: the way women and the way older women and the way public figures should act and behave. I'm someone who's extremely sensitive, and as confident as I can be, I take stuff to heart in a way, and I like the fact that she's able to present an extremely determined public face. And as much as it probably does affect her in some ways, it doesn't stop her. That's inspiring.

What compelled you to write this book 20 years ago? When I wrote the first book and when I decided to update it, the way I approached it is: It had to be two different things. On one hand it is a serious reference book, but on the other hand there's a ridiculousness about the endeavor. That's the point of it. It is a pop artifact. I want it to be kind of ridiculous that we have a 600-page encyclopedia about this person, about any person. I was inspired 20 years ago by a dictionary on Marilyn Monroe and that one was very straight-laced. Basically entries with all the different people and places and things about her. I really kicked it up a notch from that. But that was my inspiration. So: I'm the Lady Gaga and those writers are the Madonna.

What does Madonna think of your book? She loves it — no, I'm just kidding. I'll tell you the truth: When I did the first book 20 years ago I approached her publicist to try to get them to potentially give me some information or help me out, and of course they ignored me. When the book came out, her publicist, Liz Rosenberg — and I'll never forget it — called me at my new job and said, "I love this." So I was thrilled that they liked it. What happened was they had me send a signed copy to Madonna and Madonna signed a copy for me. So she did see it and she was aware of it. But Madonna's the kind of person who is not gonna be excited to hear that somebody wrote a book about her. She's not gonna flip open a book and go, "Look at all this wonderful stuff he got right about me." You just can't picture that.

Who would wanna read a book about themselves anyway? Nobody would, but especially someone who's cool. She'd roll her eyes. This time around I did send it to her people again, got no negative feedback or anything. I haven't gotten a signed copy this time, but I haven't gotten a lawsuit either. If she gets it and flips through it — or maybe her kids would; I can imagine that happening more likely — I would hope she'd appreciate the affection that's there.

Anything in the book that you're uncomfortable with her seeing? I wouldn't want her to read about plastic surgery or my guesses about plastic surgery or any kind of personal health things. I don't think I would care about her reading any of my impressions of her work. She understands that people have criticisms, and unlike most people who review her, I know that none of my reviews,

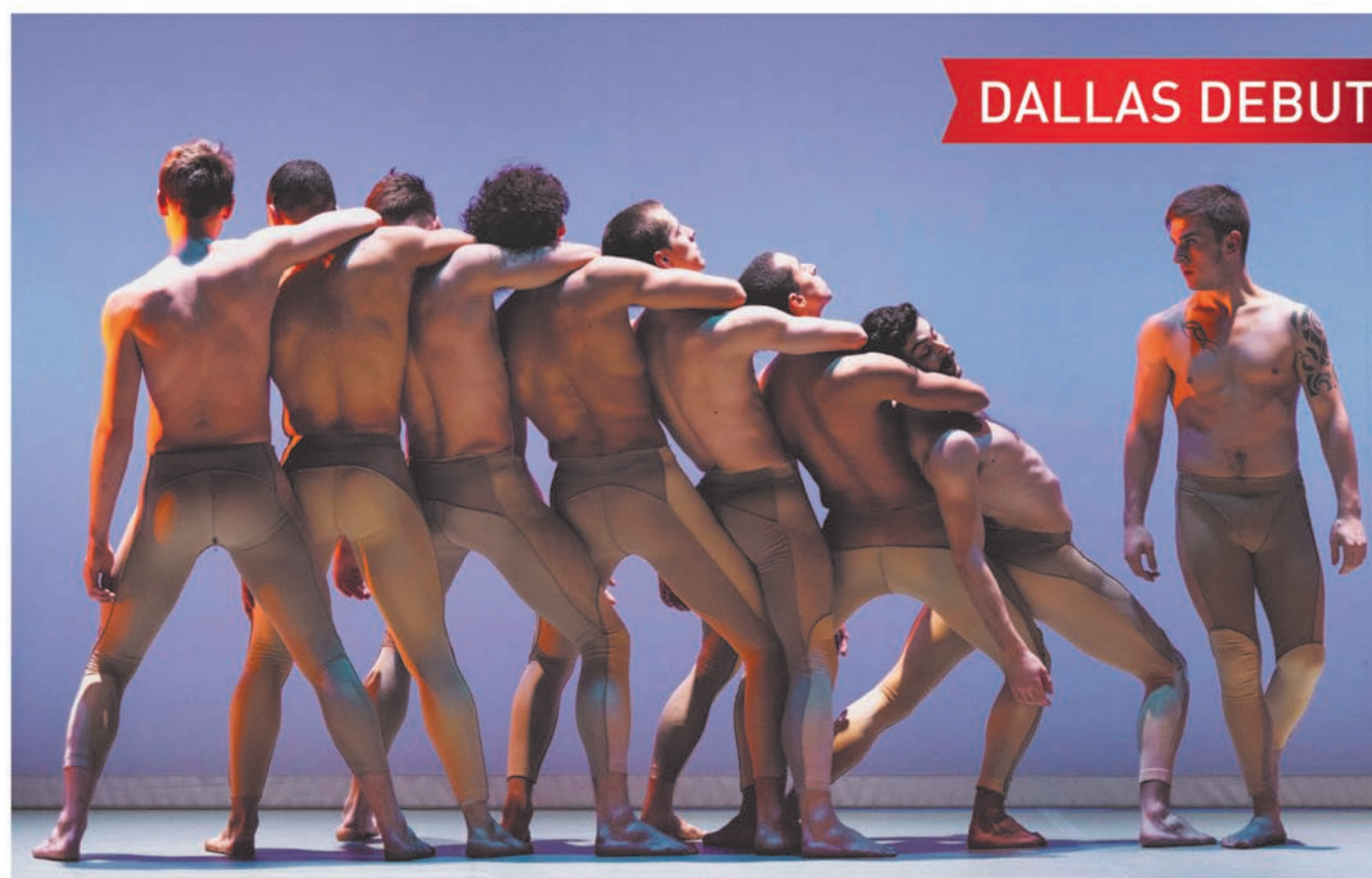
even the ones that are negative, are outrageously off-base. They don't come from a place of hating her.

Also, the last time, I was just some random kid doing a book and so nobody wanted to deal with me — except Allen Ginsberg, maybe because I was a young boy. But this time I was able to get some people to actually talk to me, and some of them said things that weren't 100 percent positive, like the publicist from *Desperately Seeking Susan* who had a very long interview, and I put in every word. I found it really fascinating because he really respected her and thought she was talented musically early on. He was very frank in saying that there were times when it wasn't cool to be seen with him, so she didn't want to be seen with him, and so she'd blow him off.



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To read the full interview with Matthew Rettenmund, visit DallasVoice.com.



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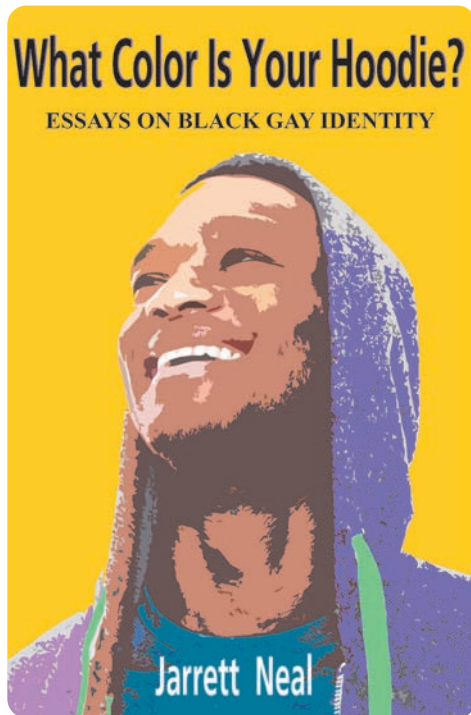
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Queer like me

Jarrett Neal's collection of fearless essays explores sexuality and race



***What Color Is Your Hoodie? Essays on Black Gay Identity* by Jarrett Neal (Chelsea Station Editions 2015) \$18; 175 pp.**

Born to a 14-year-old mother and raised in a household with an alcoholic grandfather, Jarrett Neal was in eighth grade when his gym class accidentally walked in on their coach, showering. It was Neal's first glimpse of a naked man. It "ended my boyhood," he writes.

He was well into college when he finally admitted to himself that he was attracted to men; still, the daily taunts from his more athletic and self-confident peers — and the absence of a father — haunted him. To counteract it, Neal joined a gym and worked out tirelessly, until he realized that he'd never have a body like He-Man. He was never going to make a living with his physique.

Instead, Neal knew that he had to write.

It was "write or die," he says, though he's been told that his style is "either too black or too gay" and he once assumed that "as a boy I wasn't supposed to care about books." Even so, he devoured the works of gay men — particu-

larly those who were black. That voracity for books led to a teaching career.

In the essays compiled in this collection, Neal discusses the dearth of gay black men in films and television, and decries the lack of interest by white readers in the works of black authors. He looks at the sexuality of gay black men who, like most African-American men, live under sexual stereotypes that cause "a tremendous onus... to live up to." He writes about black men (some, gay) who have made history and changed perceptions within their neighborhoods or industries. And as a black man with a white husband, he notes that racism within the gay community is as big a problem as it is anywhere else.

Neal isn't shy. There's no waffling inside this book, nothing held back. He discusses gay porn as blithely as he does modern literature; he remembers his childhood with the same passion as he does coming out. Such power and force in writing serves to give readers — straight or gay — a solid understanding of the points he tries to make. We might laugh or raise our eyebrows but we also empathize or, as the case may be, sympathize.

What mars this otherwise well-done collection of essays is its sloppiness. *What Color Is Your Hoodie?* is riddled with misspellings and punctuation mistakes which, because of the frequency, almost made me want to quit reading on several



Jarrett Neal

occasions. But if you can forgive that distraction, then this unusual book is a good read that may actually change minds. Truthful, blunt and thought-provoking (regretful mistakes aside), this should be read.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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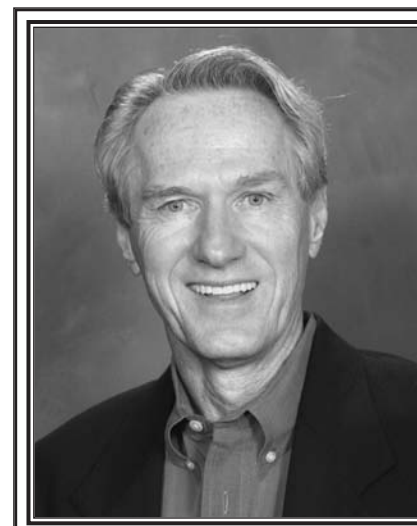
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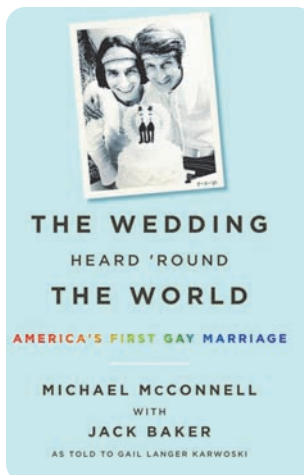
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Love and (gay) marriage

The history of same-sex marriage is longer than you think; also, YA romance with a trans twist



***The Wedding Heard 'Round the World* by Michael McConnell with Jack Baker (as told to Gail Langer Karwoski) (University of Minnesota Press 2016) \$22.95; 200 pp.**

As a child playing with neighborhood girls, Michael McConnell remembers wanting the same thing they wanted: to grow up and marry a handsome man. Their crushes were *his* crushes, but in the 1950s, that kind of thing wasn't discussed.

By the time he entered college at the University of Oklahoma in the mid-'60s, however, McConnell had come out to his family and was comfortable with his sexuality. He met other gay men and enjoyed an active social life on campus. Then, on Oct. 29, 1966, he met Jack Baker.

For the first minutes of their get-to-know-you, McConnell thought Baker was much older, or perhaps straight. Baker's de-

meanor was businesslike, almost military; McConnell had recently had his heart broken, and was guarded. Still, by the end of the evening, they were lovers; soon after, they were a couple.

By the early '70s, though their relationship had to be kept quiet, McConnell and Baker were "out" enough to want to make real change. Baker, a Minneapolis law student, filed suit against the U.S. Department of Defense over an unfair downgrade in his discharge status. After following Baker north, McConnell fought job discrimination. And then there was the wedding Baker promised McConnell on Baker's 25th birthday. *It would happen* — they just had to figure out how.

That would take some time, but Baker was on it. His legal training tickled his methodical mind, until he discovered two loopholes the state of Minnesota hadn't closed. One led to the next, and both led to their history-making wedding in 1971.

That, of course, isn't the end of the story. McConnell and Baker continued their activism but their nuptials — the first in America for same-sex celebrants — are the real focus in *The Wedding Heard 'Round the World*. That's a good thing, too, because the love story in this book is what makes it so readable. McConnell's account is mostly what's here, and it's the quintessential romance: boy meets boy, boy marries boy, they live hap-

■ **REVIEWS** Page 24



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L+S books

A cookbook that SIZZLES

Wesley Smoot's 'Home-O-Erotic Cookbook'
— going from beefcake to just desserts

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Wesley Smoot has a passion for publishing. And a passion for food. And he's a gay man, so also a passion for hot, half-naked guys. The question was: How could he explore all three? The answer was: *Weslo's Home-O-Erotic Cookbook*.

"I've had the idea for a couple of years," Smoot says. "I put out [an art photography coffee table] book before this with a photographer, and I designed a lot of the concepts and art work. But it didn't get past a small Austin circle. But this is the book I wanted to do."

The cookbook combines sexy boudoir photography (with culinary themes) and legit, chef-designed recipes, going from brunch to sides to entrees and even cocktails. In short, it's a faboo dinner party sandwiched between hardcovers.

But it wasn't all erotic fun. A book this detailed and exhaustive required tons of work.

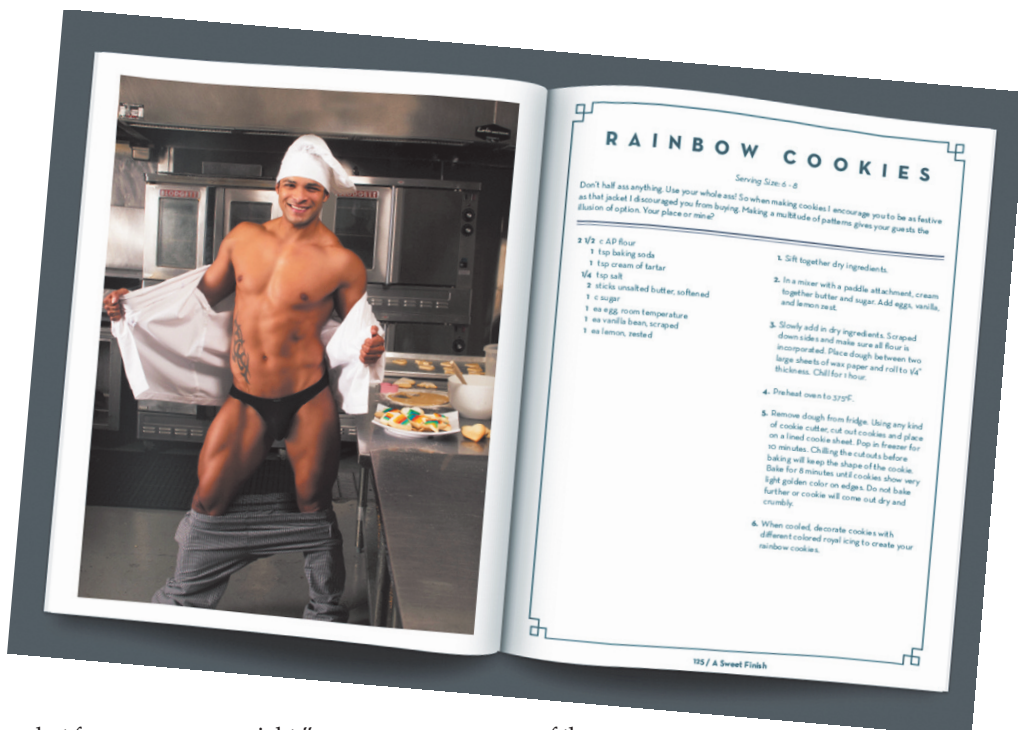
Until last year, Smoot was living in Austin, and culled many of his models from that area. But the casting was slow-going.

"Austin bars don't have all these boy dancers," Smoot grins. "If you're doing a recipe for cakes, you think 'big ass.' So I wanted a variety [of models]."

When he moved to Dallas last spring to move in with his boyfriend, a whole universe of sexy men of different body types opened up. All told, they shot 75 guys for the book, which went on sale last November. (The local launch party was held at Flower Reign in the gayborhood. "We served the stuffed mushrooms from the book and they went fast!" Smoot says.)

Getting the right photographer, and the right venues for shooting, was a different chore.

"I wanted a gay photographer, but the one I selected ended up being a straight guy — and he was great at what he did," Smoot says. "We started shooting in March, on my birthday — we



shot four guys on one night.”

Locales were another problem. Smoot reserved space in a commercial kitchen studio for some of the shots, and scheduled it for late so that no one else in the studio would wonder why half-naked men were walking around. But there were some people who just wouldn't leave. Eventually, Smoot just said “screw it,” and began shooting. They did get some side-eye, but marshaled ahead. (Smoot's Uptown condo served as the set for several of the recipes as well.)

But this wasn't just a peek-a-boo book; Smoot wanted serious cuisine features. Sure, it contains headings like “Foreplay” (appetizers) and “All the Way” (entrees), and recipes have names like “New York Stripper Steak” and “Bottoms Up Pineapple Cake,” but every dish is a tried-and-true delight.

“I commissioned a chef to help me develop the recipes,” Smoot says. “I wanted some things to be tongue-in-cheek, like with the ‘gingers bears’ and ‘cream puffs.’ But while it's sexually charged, it's tastefully done. My partner Gary and I cooked most

of them

ourselves [for the shoots] ... though one of the salmon dishes looked hard as fuck to make, so we just laid out all the ingredients!”

If you pay attention to the book's spine, you might notice the words “Vol. 1.” That's because Smoot doesn't see this as just a one-shot venture.

“I am really excited about putting out additional volumes and developing an app,” he says. “And we have started a publishing company working on other titles.” Next up: A book about hypocrisy among the right wing of American politics.

Smoot could probably use a stiff drink when producing that one. Fortunately, there are plenty of cocktail recipes to choose from.

Available at Flower Reign and Amazon.com. And check out InstantTea's Cocktail Friday post for drink ideas from Weslo's Home-O-Erotic Cookbook, and look online and in Dallas Voice for occasional food recipes as well.



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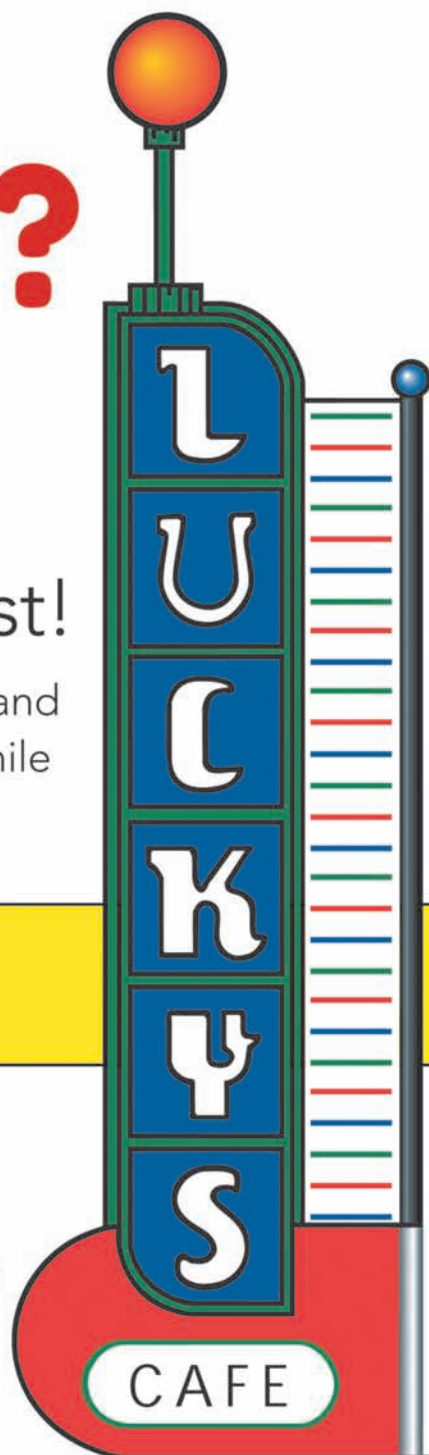
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TASTING NOTES: Literary Edition

Last month, I blogged that comedy writer and on-air cooking show personality **Greg Cope White** would be in Dallas promoting his new memoir, *The Pink Marine* with TV appearances and book signings. Well, that was the plan ... until White had to have emergency heart surgery at the last minute. He rescheduled his appearances, and will now be Barnes & Noble Lincoln Park, reading from the book that details his enlistment in the Marine Corps in Dallas while bar hopping along Cedar Springs. And look for an upcoming full interview with White when we talk about his Food Network show *Unique Sweets*. BN, 7700 W. Northwest Highway. 7 p.m.

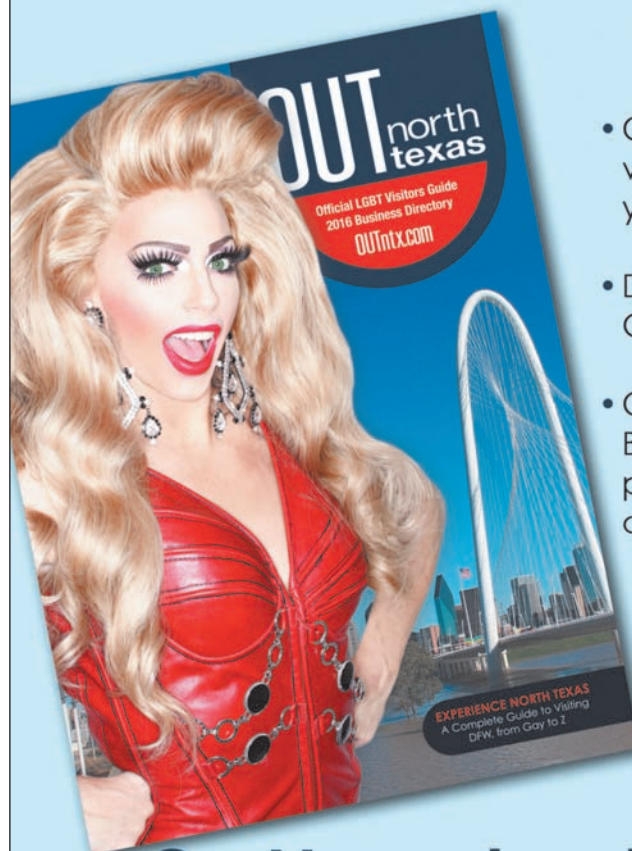


The well-respected **New York Times** restaurant critic **Pete Wells** set off journalistic shockwaves in the culinary world last month when his review of the acclaimed **Per Se** in New York City bumped Thomas Keller's fine dining mecca from the rare four-star rating all the way down to two. Well, our own **Howard Lewis Russell** dined at Per Se barely a week later, and shares with readers the impact of the story — and whether the restaurant still stands up to its storied price for devoted foodies. Look for the piece now on **InstantTEA** at DallasVoice.com. (Photo is one of the dishes served at Per Se.)

If you're a fan of culinary history, **Bernie Lubbers** — aka The Whiskey Professor — is happy to educate you, with some entertainment thrown in. Lubbers will present a musical-informational-culinary dinner at **Ill Forks** on Feb. 16 called **Bourbon through Bluegrass**, in which guests will taste a variety of American whiskeys and dining on chef **Chris Vogeli's** menu, which pairs food and booze. The cost is just \$45/person. Reservations can be made at 3Forks.com.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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■ REVIEWS, From Page 19

pily (almost) ever after.

Conversely, it's the *almost* that makes this book so important: the battles the authors accepted caused emotional hardship in many ways and that almost caused a breakup. And yet, for the sake of others that came after them, they continued to take on gay rights issues — stories of which are told humbly, yet proudly.

Overall, this is a sweet story wrapped inside a righteous fight, told with charm and grace. It's deep, yet lighthearted and definitely worth a look. Start *The Wedding Heard 'Round the World* —

and you'll have no defense.

***What We Left Behind* by Robin Talley (Harlequin Teen 2015) \$18.99; 416 pp.**

Years from now, it'll all seem so sweet. There'll always be a soft place in your heart for your first kiss, your first I-love-you, and for the person who gave them to you. You'll never forget the electricity of holding hands or the rush of being together even after, as for instance in the novel *What We Left Behind*, you start to pull apart.

Gretchen Daniels wasn't sure why she didn't tell her girlfriend, Toni, that they'd be attending

college in different cities. Last spring, Toni applied to Harvard and Gretchen applied to Boston University — same city, opposite ends — both reasoning that they could at least spend weekends together. At the last minute, though, Gretchen decided to attend NYU.

She didn't tell Toni until the night before she left. They were juniors in their all-girl high school when Toni first saw Gretchen at a dance and was instantly in love. Everybody thought they were the cutest couple: Gretchen conferred upon Toni a new-found popularity. Toni taught Gretchen what it was like to be genderqueer — or at least she tried.



But the secret that Gretchen held all summer bugged Toni, and she was rightfully upset. She really didn't have much to say to Gretchen, a silence complicated by Toni's immersion into a campus group she joined. Freshmen weren't allowed to be officers of the Undergraduate BGLTQIA Association but upperclassmen let her hang out with them and, under their tutelage, she began to explore labels for herself. She began to think about gender fluidity, and transitioning.

Toni's lack of communication baffled Gretchen, and she discussed it at length with her new BFF, Carroll, a gay man who loved New York as much as Gretchen did. He was just one of the new friends she'd acquired, but she missed Toni and the closeness they had. She didn't quite understand why Toni was questioning so much about herself, and she wasn't sure how she'd fit in her girlfriend's life if Toni became Tony. Would that change everything?

Better question: by the end of this book, will you care? I have my doubts.

What We Left Behind is very, very slow; in fact, it sometimes seemed to me that it was twice as long as its 416 pages of overly-detailed, same-old dialogue and young adults who were way too angst-y for my tastes. Yes, these kids do things that only increase the melodrama amongst themselves, which is ultimately not all that interesting but which creates an uneasiness in plot, making most of Talley's characters mighty unlikeable.

And yet, I persevered. I was hoping to learn something from Toni's gender-questioning. What I got instead was an abundance of language that seemed rather clinical and not always clear. Was that the point? Shrug.

Romance readers may find a tiny smidge of *amour* here, if they've the time to look for it, but I really wasn't a big fan of this book. For the most part, best you just heed the title and leave this behind.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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Friday 02.05

Texas Theatre, Cine Wilde team for screening and party of 'The Hunger,' honoring David Bowie

The death of the pioneering artist David Bowie continues to resonate, and Cine Wilde — the monthly gay film fest — has paired up again with Texas Theatre to screen one of his most outrageous and stylish films, Tony Scott's 1983 film *The Hunger*. Bowie and Catherine Deneuve play modern-day vampires in a cat-and-mouse pursuit of Susan Sarandon. The screening will be followed by an after-party featuring punkish DJ music. Come ready to dance.

DEETS: The Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 9:20 p.m. screening; 11 p.m. after-party.

Saturday 02.13

BalletBoyz dance troupe makes its Dallas debut with graceful muscularity

With its innovative combination of weightless elegance and brute muscularity, the U.K.'s BalletBoyz is one of the most intensely exciting dance troupes in the world today. The company makes its Dallas debut on Feb. 13 with a sensual performance at the Winspear. This may be the most anticipated local premiere of TITAS' all-dance season.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.



LIFE+STYLE

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Friday 02.05 — Sunday 02.28

Dallas Theater Center revisits the Bard with 'Romeo & Juliet'

For the first four full seasons with artistic director Kevin Moriarty, the Dallas Theater Center performed one of Shakespeare's plays — a comedy, a history, a tragedy and a so-called romance — each season. The tradition dropped off, though, after *King Lear*. Well, it's back, with another of the major tragedies, *Romeo & Juliet*. Unlike the last four, Moriarty isn't directing this one (that role falls to the talented Joel Ferrell) and it moves from Downtown's Wyly Theatre back to the DTC's Uptown haunts at the Kalita Humphreys.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

The Bridges of Madison County. The Tony Award winner for best original score makes its Dallas debut in this national tour. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through Feb. 14. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Clever Little Lies. Gay playwright Joe DiPietro's story of love, marriage and secrets. Features Bill Jenkins and Linda Leonard. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through March 5. CircleTheatre.com.

Romeo & Juliet. The Dallas Theater Center's production of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy, directed by Joel Ferrell. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 28 (in preview through Feb. 4). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Seven Guitars. August Wilson's play about the African-American experience, set in 1948 and tracking how the death of a famed blues guitarist affects a group of friends. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 28. JubileeTheatre.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Gay playwright Joe DiPietro co-wrote this popular musical revue about relationships. Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 6 (extended). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Lord of the Flies. Kelsey Leigh Ervi directs this adaptation of the Nobel Prize winning allegory about young men stranded on an island who create their own civilization. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 14. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Tick... Tick... BOOM! Before *Rent*, Jonathan Larson composed this reflected three-person chamber musical about relationships. Directed by Lon Barrera. Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford.



'HER SONG' | Echo Theatre brings back its February tradition, a revue, cocktail party and celebration of the women who wrote and performed the Great American Songbook.

Through Feb. 28. OnstageInBedford.com.

Martyr. Second Thought Theatre's season opener about a teen (Garret Storms) who begins spouting fundamentalist philosophy and the effect on those around him. *Final weekend.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphrey campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. STT.co.

Oil, a new play set in Texas about family intrigue and fortune-grubbing. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Feb. 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

A Year with Frog and Toad. The Dallas Children's Theater's sweet-natured adaptation of the children's book, equally good for kids and adults. Rosewood

Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Feb. 28. \$15-\$28. DCT.org.

FINE ART

Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots. An exclusive exhibit of the innovative American painter's late work. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through March 20. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting. A lovely original Vermeer (one of only three dozen in the world) is among the paintings in this intimate exhibit that explores Dutch art. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 21. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 02.05

FILM

The Hunger. The Texas Theatre continues its salute to the late David Bowie with this sexy film about bisexual vampires. Also features an after-party. Co-presented with the gay film festival Cine Wilde. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 9:20 p.m.

DANCE

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre. The Taiwan modern dance troupe makes its Dallas debut. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

SUNDAY 02.07

WORSHIP

Dignity (LGBT Catholics). Worship the first Sunday of each month, led by ministers Cliff and Jon Garinn. Interfaith Peace Chapel (lower level), 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m.

MONDAY 02.08

CABARET

Mama's Party. Amy Stevenson hosts her cabaret. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

TUESDAY 02.09 — MARDI GRAS!

FILM

Mildred Pierce. Joan Crawford's Oscar came for this potboiler about a devoted mother and the steps she'll take for her daughter. High camp, but deliciously so.

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Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

COMMUNITY

An Awareness About the Care Needs of LGBTQ Older Adults. A light dinner, film and panel discussion about ageing in LGBT culture. The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. 6 p.m. RSVP to educaredallas@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY 02.10

THEATER

The Echo Room Presents: Her Song. A new tradition from female-centric troupe Echo Theatre, this revue features music and dance celebrating songs from the Great American Female Songbook, with music direction from Scott A. Eckert. The show will feature a cash bar, as well as food from chef Doug Brown, and guest stars at each performance. A special Valentine's Day 5 p.m. show will also be offered. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Feb. 10-27; Feb. 10 preview; Feb. 14 special 5 p.m. Valentine's show. EchoTheatre.org.

Long Day's Journey into Night. Eugene O'Neill monumental family drama. Undermain Theatre, 3400 Main St. Feb. 10-March 6. Evening shows at 7:30 p.m. (earlier time). Undermain.org.

THURSDAY 02.11

CABARET

Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING

Greg Cope White. White will be signing copies of *The Pink Marine*, about his time in the military, at the Barnes & Noble Lincoln Park, 7700 W. Northwest Highway. 7 p.m.

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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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this week's solution

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REVIEW: 'Bridges of Madison County'

If you weren't around when Robert James Waller's novel *The Bridges of Madison County* dropped in 1992, you probably can't fully appreciate its cultural impact. It was, in retrospect, the Midwestern equivalent of *50 Shades of Grey*. Poorly written treacle masquerading as grand romance. It was almost a parody of itself from the start, with a love interest who was masculine and mysterious, but also a feminist and vegetarian. (The message was: Adultery is wrong, unless it's with the right guy.) Waller even included a foreword to the book insisting the story was true (it was not) and asserting that anyone *not* moved by his prose was a soulless ghoul.

I hated it, of course ... at least until Clint Eastwood's 1995 film adaptation. It took Hollywood's least sentimental director to turn a work of literary diabetes into a palatable meal. Waller's follow-up book was a comparative flop (critics never liked him, and audiences caught on) and the property drifted off, like *Brigadoon*, into the mists of poor decision-making, like mullets and Alicia Silverstone movies after *Clueless*.

At least until composer Robert Jason Brown got ahold of it, and crafted a musical version (with book by Marsha Norman) in 2014. Despite a Tony Award for best score (it bested *If/Then*, which just closed in Dallas), *Bridges* lasted just 100 performances, so a tour was not a certainty. But there it is, planted into Fair Park Music Hall for a two-week run. At capacity, almost more people could see it here than in New York — its Broadway home was fewer than 1,100 season, not even a third of the Music Hall's cavernous auditorium.

Which may be the principal failing of this pro-



duction. From the opening song (more like an aria), Elizabeth Stanley as Francesca — the Italian war bride living a life of quiet desperation in 1965 Iowa — cannot be heard or understood. It's as if the actress wasn't prepared for the vastness of the space she would be expected to fill in what's essentially a chamber musical (albeit one that runs nearly three hours). Her Arianna-Huffington-speaking-Russian-with-socks-in-her-mouth accent garbles the lyrics; it's not until Andrew Samonsky as the sexy NatGeo photographer Robert Kincaid belts out a few numbers that we really enjoy the aspiring beauty of Brown's folksy-pop operetta.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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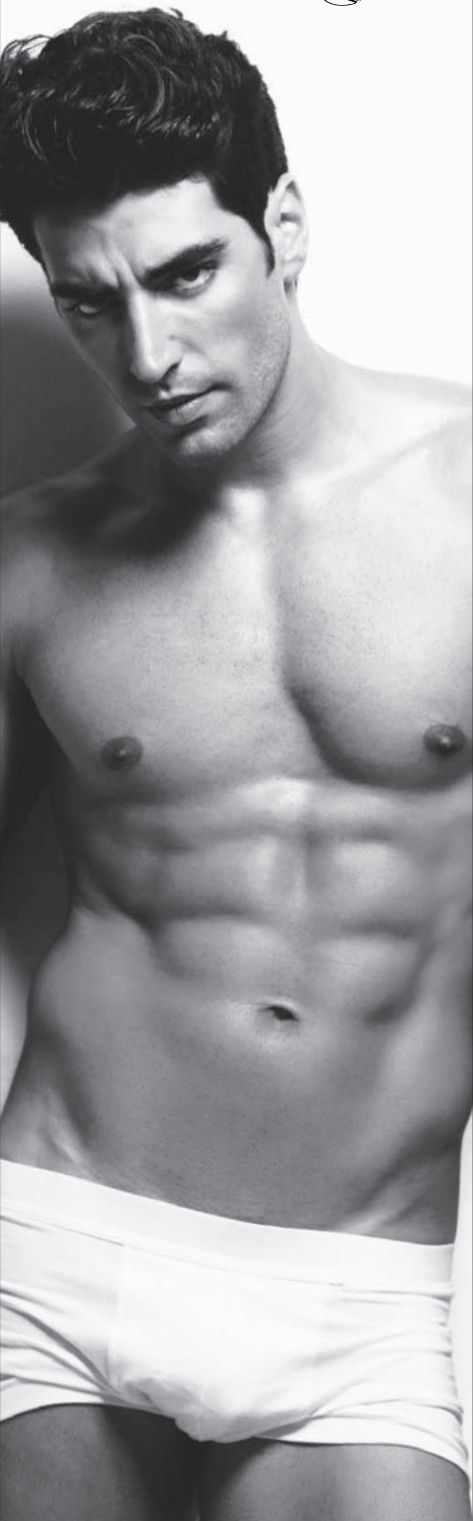
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Cassie Nova

Cassie is a car guy? Who knew!?

Hey howdy, everybody. I hope y'all are enjoying this so-called "winter" we are having. I know we all see all the snow and ice on the news in all those far-away lands like New York or D.C. and say, "Thank God we are in Texas." But I really hope we get some actual winter weather. In my head, I sound like an old-timer when I think, "If we don't get a good ol' hard freeze, dem bugs are gonna be somethin' awful come spring and summer." That's the kind of shit I've heard my Grandma say my whole life and now I catch myself saying it. If I ever hear myself saying, "Storm's a-comin'", I can feel it in my bones," I will have officially become an old person and I will start eating dinner at 4 p.m.

My husband and I have started talking about buying me a new car. I am not what you would call a car guy. All I need is a reliable car that will get me from point A to point B without me getting laughed at. I do enjoy pretty cars and such, but having a super sleek brand new baby is not very high on my list of priorities. The only reason we are even thinking of getting a new car is because I have put a shit-ton of miles on my Jeep Liberty. Living in Midlothian and working in Oak Lawn has jacked up the age of Miss Liberty. She still runs perfectly, but the hubby wants to trade her in while we can, before we start having problems with her. If it were up to me I would drive her 'til it she died or had to be put down; I'm loyal that way.

My first car I had all of three weeks. I was 17 and my Dad gave me a junker — a '75 Impala. It was

huge and hideous. It was copper-colored, luckily — you couldn't tell what was rust and what was paint. The front seats were torn up but the back seat was perfect. I remember my Dad telling me the back seats were nice and roomy, so when I got a girlfriend, I'd have a place to "do her." His words. Boy, was that wishful thinking on his part. I drove that car exactly three times 'til it gave up on living and just died for good. My Pawpaw towed me to a place to sell it for scraps. I think I got 200 bucks.

My second car was an '85 Toyota Tercel I bought from a dealership. I over-paid and got screwed because I had no idea what I was doing. My Mom took me to the car dealership in Pleasant Grove and cosigned so I could get a car, then she left me. By the way, did I mention that Miss Tercel was a manual transmission and I had never driven a stick ... shift?

I had to be at work 15 minutes away in two hours; it took the full 120 minutes for me to get there. I grinded those gears and popped that clutch so many times I thought the car and my head would explode. I spent the next week teaching myself to drive a stick in the parking lot of the General Cinema in Mesquite. Then I was set. I had a reliable ride to get me where I really wanted to be. The place that called to me. The place I would one day call home. The Gayborhood. Oak Lawn. Queer Mecca of Texas.

Every day I had off and every evening I was not working, I made that drive to Oak Lawn from Balch Springs. Even if it was just to go to Hunky's for a burger, I would make that drive, just to be near my people. I quickly made friends and dated boys that lived in the area, so I had more and more reasons to make the drive. The prospect of getting laid is a great motivator to put some miles on your ugly little car. Keep in mind, I was not the best driver — I had only been driving for a little while. I don't think any

teenager is a good driver, especially when they have only had a few lessons. I actually failed the driver's test the first time I took it. The light turned yellow and I thought, ooh better hurry. So technically I ran a red light. Whatever.

The first time I ever drove in the rain I had a wreck. I was on my way to Oak Lawn to have lunch with some boy I was dating. It was going to be our third date, and you know what that means: We were going have sex for the third time.

Anyhoo, the rain had stopped but the streets were still very wet. I was coming up Lemmon when the light turned yellow and the car in front of me decided to stop. I had to put on my brakes kind of hard and slid right into that car. The car I hit was a Jaguar. Of course it was. I jumped out of my car and ran to the Jaguar's driver door noticing the broken headlight and crunched in bumper of my car. The driver opened the door and my heart stopped. The woman's face was all bruised and black. It looked like a baseball had hit her right in the nose going 90 miles per hour. I screamed when I saw her face and just started saying I'm sorry, I'm so sorry. I was about to run to a pay phone and call an ambulance when she grabbed me and said, "Dahling, you didn't do this," as she pointed to her face, "I just had a nose job."

I just kept asking if she was okay and saying how sorry I was; she just kept hushing me and telling me to calm down, and saying, "it's just a car." She walked back to inspect the damage, I was so panicked. All I could think was how was I going to pay for this and that my mom's gonna kill me and oh-my-poor-car. She said, "My car has only the tiniest of scratches. I tell you what, you take care of the damage to your car and I will take care of mine. No need



to get the insurance involved." By the way, for some reason I felt like I was talking to royalty, this bitch had class oozing out of every pore. Even with the bruised, fucked-up face you could tell how beautiful she was. Her clothes, her hair... everything was on point. I said okay with a sigh of relief, she got back in her car and drove away with an elegant wave.

Now my car on the other hand was not looking good. Although she was drivable, she looked a hot mess. Miss Tercel looked like one of her eyes had been punched out and she could see around corners.

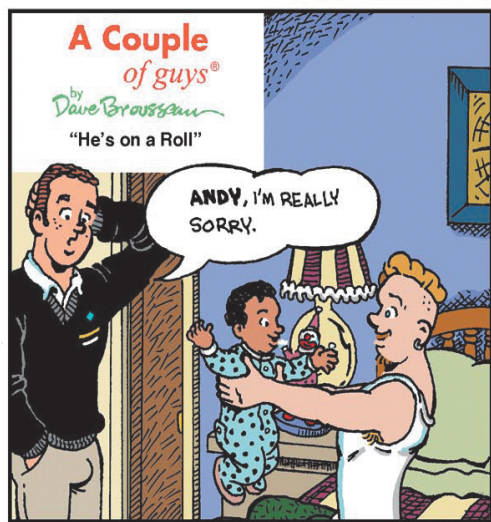
She was ugly to begin with but now she was Fugly. I got the light replaced and pulled out most of the dent but she was never the same. I had to say goodbye to her not long after that. Last I heard she was a home for wayward raccoons in some junkyard. RIP Miss Tercel.

If and when I have to say goodbye to my current car, that will be a hard day. I love my Jeep Liberty. She kept me safe when I was hit by this bitch named Miritza that ran a red light. She got me home safe on those nights I probably should not have been driving. She has help shield the masses with her tinted windows when I have had to go somewhere in half drag. Miss Liberty has had to endure my horrible singing when I am trying to learn a new song for the show. My car is the place I do all of my best crying. When my Pawpaw and my dogs Dax and Evee passed away, I boo-hoo'd peacefully with no judgment. I take good care of her and she has taken good care of me. I guess I am a little bit of a car guy after all.

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

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

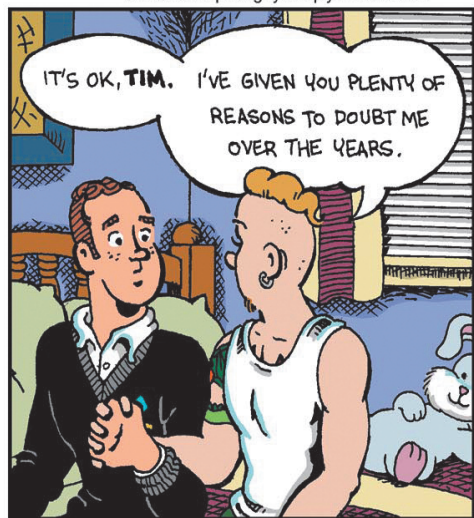
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Making the **SCENE** the week of **Feb. 5-11**:

- **Alexandre's**: **Girls Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Mi Diva Loca** on Saturday. **Karaoke with Wayne Smith** on Sunday.
- **BJ's NXS!**: **Fat Tuesday Party** with DJ **T. Diamonds** at 9 p.m. with 30 hot dancers to entertain on Tuesday.
- **Brick/Joe's**: **Win Dubal D's Gift Bag** promoting her new single release on Saturday. **Sally Duvall** benefit show hosted by **Kennedy Davenport** and **Ida Mae Watergate** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House**: **Super Bowl** watch party. Reserve your table now.
- **Changes**: **Imperial Court** candidate presentation at 9-10:30 p.m. on Saturday. **Cowtown Leathermen** meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday. **Imperial Court** candidate show at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection**: **Imperial Court** candidate presentation at 9-10:30 p.m. on Saturday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday. **Cowtown Leathermen** cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **TGRA** show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **TGRA-Cowtown Leathermen** game night from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** show at 8 p.m. on Friday. **Leather Knights** annual **Buy Daddy's Box** fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Bears** club night on Saturday. **Dallas Girls of Leather** monthly meeting at 5 p.m. on Sunday. **Trivia Night with Marna Payne** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door**: **Firedancers Dallas** presents **2016 Soup'r Bowl Cook-off** — basically anything you can serve from a crock pot and eat with a spoon — from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill**: **Mardi Gras Carnivale** on Saturday.
- **Pekers**: **Super Bowl** watch party on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon**: **Super Bowl** fun with free food, the biggest screen on the block and prizes each quarter at 5 p.m. followed by **Miss Gay South Central States USofA** with more than \$5,000 in prizes at 11 p.m. on Sunday.
- **S4**: **Mardi Gras Carnivale** with performances by **Trixie Mattel** and **Jessica Sutta** on Saturday.
- **Sue Ellen's**: **Cherry Bomb** on Friday. **Pink** tribute band **Dirty Little Freaks** on Saturday. **Carnivale** celebration on Saturday. **Kathy and Bella** at 3 p.m. on Sunday before the **Super Bowl** watch party.
- **TMC: The Mining Company**: **Mardi Gras Carnivale** on Saturday. **Fat Tuesday** crawfish boil at 8 p.m. **Terry Bucher** presents **Rent-a-Cowboy** with all your favorite **Round-Up** dancers benefiting **R.E.B.A.** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon**: **Imperial Court** candidate presentation at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar**: **Super Bowl** in HD with stadium buffet and a game-related fundraiser on Sunday. Free beads and show tunes **Fat Tuesday** at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographers: **Winston Lackey**



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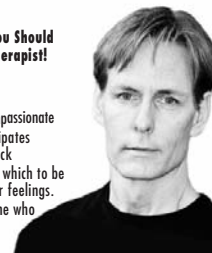
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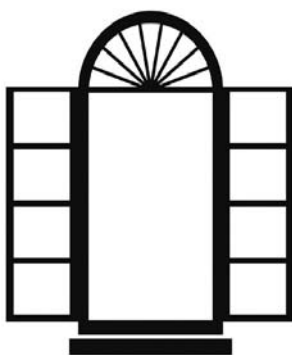
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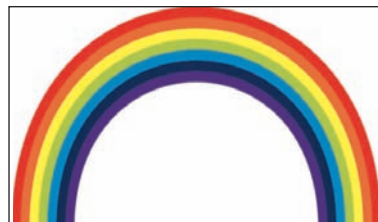
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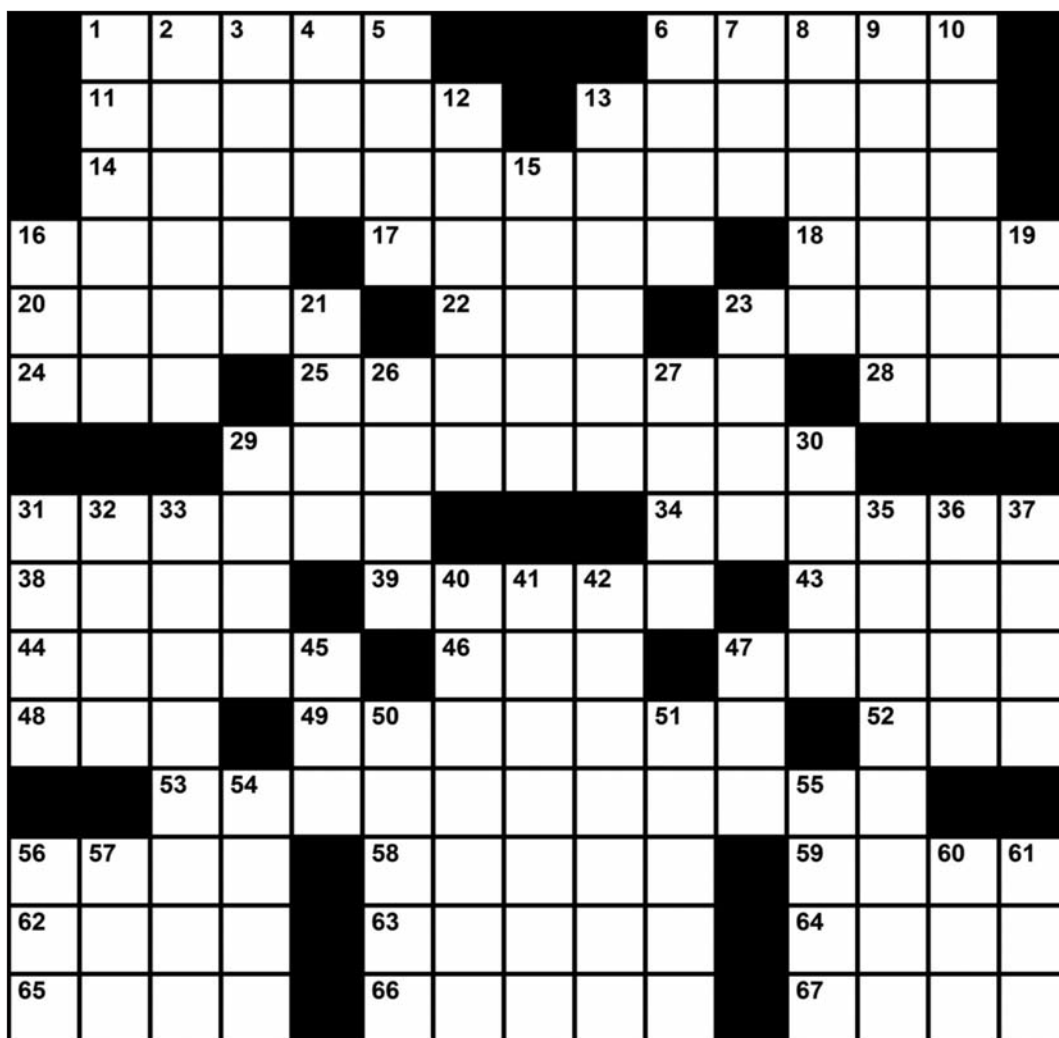
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q-puzzle



Maid in Fresno

Solution on page 26

Across

- 1 Broadway prompter's job
- 6 Chicken hawk and falcon
- 11 *Evita* composer ___ Lloyd Webber
- 13 Seek a Hail Mary
- 14 She plays Martha, a hotel maid in *Addicted to Fresno*
- 16 The New York Liberty's org.
- 17 Still in the closet, perhaps
- 18 "___ I say ..."
- 20 Hägar's comics wife
- 22 Place east of Eden
- 23 Houston hurler
- 24 Fruit sugar ending
- 25 Rainbow pennants at a pride parade, e.g.
- 28 Unusual power
- 29 She plays Shannon, a hotel maid in *Addicted to Fresno*
- 31 Lincoln-Douglas event
- 34 Shagged
- 38 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 39 Liberace's choice of fur
- 43 Sondheim's Sweeney
- 44 Resell, as tickets
- 46 Part of the work wk.
- 47 Sweaty place
- 48 Musket attachment
- 49 Makes a lame excuse?

- 52 Like the "fruit loop" section of a city
- 53 She plays Kelly in *Addicted to Fresno*
- 56 Result of excessive rough play
- 58 2008 *Survivor* locale
- 59 Bottoms' description of tops?
- 62 Way off the highway
- 63 Train that comes quickly
- 64 Barcelona boy
- 65 Elliot of the Mamas and the Papas
- 66 Food, clothing, shelter, and sex?
- 67 Hairy twin of Genesis

Down

- 1 Event for Queer Palm films
- 2 Lacking Viagra?
- 3 Where to see Tom, Dick, or Harry
- 4 Piece-loving org.
- 5 Tale of adventure
- 6 *Gay Priest* author Malcolm
- 7 Possible commitment ceremony vow
- 8 Splits
- 9 Indicate
- 10 Allan of Minnesota and others
- 12 Stable sound
- 13 Eagle, at times
- 15 In the midst of
- 16 British TV doctor
- 19 Pacifier

- 21 Go up against
- 23 On the ocean
- 26 Fruity drinks
- 27 Director Norman of *Longtime Companion*
- 29 Housing for Leopold and Loeb
- 30 *Rubyfruit Jungle* novelist ___ Mae Brown
- 31 Amount of AZT, e.g.
- 32 Suffix with prefer
- 33 Limbs of hairy gay guys?
- 35 Olympic diver Greg
- 36 "Love Is Not All" poet St. Vincent Millay
- 37 Time of decision
- 40 Having a cool head
- 41 Energetic subject of a queen?
- 42 Loeb's partner
- 45 Chem. pollutant
- 47 Where commuters get off (abbr.)
- 50 Instrument of the Phantom of the Opera
- 51 Bones below elbows
- 54 They call balls
- 55 Belt
- 56 Chelsea's mom, initially
- 57 Battery size
- 60 Radclyffe's lady
- 61 Small amount

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