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JOSHWAE ANDERSON

Road to success

by David Taffet, Page 8



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The sixth AIDS Walk South Dallas stepped off at 10 a.m. on March 26 from the MLK Jr. Community Center. Proceeds benefit the Afya Center.

Lonzie Hershner buys Zippers



Lonzie Hershner, right, with his friend Jeff Wilson

Lonzie Hershner, owner of The Tin Room, Marty's Live and Chesterfields, has announced that as of Thursday, March 31, he has purchased Zippers, the Fitzhugh Avenue mainstay, from Richard Curtin.

"I have always wanted to be on that side of town, so when the opportunity presented itself, I took it," Hershner said today.

Hershner said he signed the paper work Thursday afternoon to officially take over as owner of Zippers. He purchased the bar from Richard "Edna Jean" Curtin, who took over management and full ownership last year after having been part owner for some time.

Hershner said Thursday he will be making "a few changes" to the bar, including increasing the size of the front bar and changing the colors on the exterior. But Zippers fans don't need to be alarmed.

"Richard did a great job of remodeling the bar when he took over last year. We just want to take it back to where it used to be. We're going to get in there and just have some fun," Hershner said.

"Zippers has been there on Fitzhugh Avenue forever," Hershner said. "It is an icon in the gay community. We want to keep it that way."

Hershner had tried to re-open another Fitzhugh-area legend, The Hideaway, in 2013, but that plan fell through in 2013 after neighbors in the area challenged Hershner's application to TABC for a liquor license.

— Tammye Nash

Parkland, V.A. receive HRC's highest score, Methodist the lowest

The Human Rights Campaign has released its annual Healthcare Equality Index, and Dallas hospitals fared far better than they have in the past.

Parkland Health & Hospital System received HRC's top rating for the fourth year in a row. Rated separately, all of its facilities throughout the county — like Amelia Court and other clinics — fared well.

The four categories rated are patient non-discrimination, visitation, employment non-discrimination and training. The rating for each were "yes," "no" or "not applicable."

The Dallas V.A. hospital also received HRC's top rating.

UT Southwestern, Medical City, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake and Green Oaks Hospital received positive ratings in every category except training.

Who ranked worst across the board? Methodist Hospital received the lowest rating, with a "no" in every category.

— David Taffet

Resource Center receives two major gifts

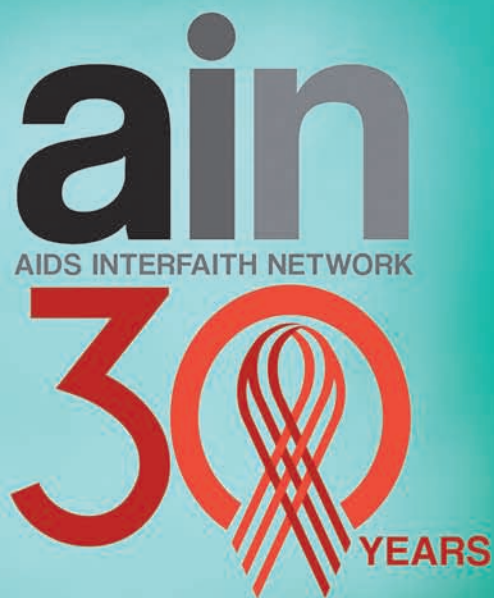
Two major gifts to Resource Center's capital campaign have put it one step closer to completing its fundraising goal.

The Louis L. Borick Foundation of Houston has donated \$300,000 and the Moody Foundation of Galveston has donated \$500,000, putting the campaign just \$400,000 shy of its \$8.7 million goal.

The capital campaign allows for new and expanded LGBT in a new community center currently under construction near the intersection of Cedar Springs and Inwood roads. The Reagan and Brown office and community space is currently undergoing remodeling improvements to consolidate HIV services, nutrition services and the food pantry.

The new community center is scheduled to open later this spring.

— James Russell



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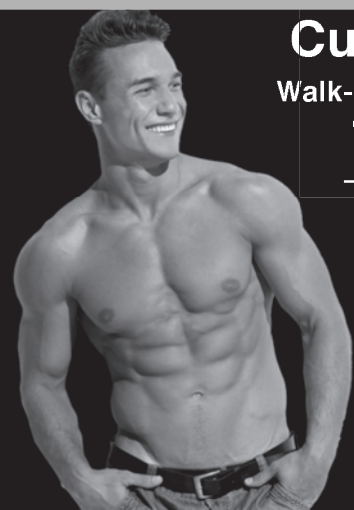
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THE GAY AGENDA

Obituary



Neil Emmons died in his sleep on March 31. An autopsy is expected.

Emmons served eight years as a City Plan Commissioner and was term limited out when he left the commission in 2009. He returned to the board when Councilman Adam Medrano appointed him.

Emmons had served as president of the Oak Lawn Committee. He was active in Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and served on the board of Resource Center in the 1990s.

Funeral plans are pending and we will put that information online along with next of kin when we receive it.

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.

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with this week's guest is **Jennifer Maddox** from Jonathan's Place; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV / AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening but the last of the month at

8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

APRIL

- **April 1: Compassion Fatigue Symposium** EduCare presents the fifth annual Compassion Fatigue Symposium sponsored by organizations including Lambda Legal and AIDS Arms from 8:15 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road. \$30 early bird registration. \$35 after March 1. Registration closes March 29.

pet of the week / JUSTIN

Justin is a domestic longhair mix who is about 2 years old. At 7 pounds, he is a relative small boy. He came to Operation Kindness from another shelter and is looking for a new forever home in the DFW area.

Other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.



• **April 2: Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas Project Ruffway Benefit**
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas benefiting the SPCA of Texas includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a DJ spinning the latest music, a silent auction, and a fashion show with models and their dogs wearing the Spring 2016 line. 7-10 p.m. at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive. For tickets and more information visit SPCA.org/GLFD.

• **April 2: HRC DFW Federal Club Spring 2016 Luncheon**
10:30 a.m.-12:30p.m. at the Tower Club in Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm St. 48th Floor. Reserved for 200. For tickets and more information visit Eventbrite.com/e/21893130944.

• **April 5: Woman to Woman 2016 Luncheon**
Benefit for Jewish Family Service with guest speaker Goldie Hawn at Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. For more information call 972-437-9950 ext. 259 or visit JFSdallas.org/woman.

• **April 7-8: Trans/gendering the Academy: Building LGBTQ Coalitions for Change Summit**
Event at University of North Texas in Denton features guest speaker Finn Enke on Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in ART 223 followed by a video festival and panel discussion on Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the University Union, room 332. For more information visit Bit.ly/1RG3Jxe.

• **April 7: BTD Beneficiary Announcement Party**
Black Tie Dinner announces its beneficiaries at 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Marquis on Magnolia, 1227 W. Magnolia St., Fort Worth.

• **April 9: Pups and Pints Benefit for Paws in the City**
Benefit for adoption and animal welfare group from 3-6 p.m. at Deep Ellum Brewing Company, 2823 St. Louis St. \$20 per person gets you a pint glass and 3 beer tickets.

• **April 9: Walk a Mile in Her Shoes**
Men's march to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence benefits the Dallas County Sexual Assault Coalition from 9 a.m.-noon beginning and ending on the Continental Pedestrian Bridge.

• **April 9-May 30: Scarborough Renaissance Festival**
Scarborough Faire features 200 quaint shoppes, food and grog from around the world, swordplay, comedy, birds of prey, magic and more. Weekends from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Scarborough Village, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie.

• **April 9: No Tie Dinner**
Progressive dinners at private homes end at the Frontiers of Flight Museum and benefits AIDS Services Dallas. Tickets at NoTieDinner.org.

• **April 10: Oak Cliff Earth Day**
Booths, exhibits, demonstrations. Free. Noon to 5 p.m. in Lake Cliff Park in the Demonstration Rose Garden, Colorado and Zang boulevards. The Oak Cliff Street car is free and runs every 30 minutes from Union Station to Lake Cliff Park.

• **April 15: North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce Celebration of Excellence**
Eleventh annual event honors awards in business excellence and to legislative champions at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Fwy.

• **April 16: Gaybingo**
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.

• **April 16: Oak Lawn Band presents 'Storytellers'**
Music from movies, theater, children's folk tales and more. 3 p.m. at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

• **April 17: TCGPWA general meeting**
Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association holds a general meeting at 3 p.m. at Barron House, 516 College Ave, Fort Worth.

• **April 22: FashionCited turns 10**
Designers Jonathan Aparicio, Petit Atelier, Edo Popken of Switzerland, Mario Alberto and others showcase their collections on celebrity models benefiting Legal Hospice of Texas. From 8-11 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave.

• **April 25-May 1: National Black Transmen Conference**
Fifth annual National Black Trans Advocacy Conference and awards gala. The Dallas/ Addison Marriott Quorum, 14901 Dallas Parkway.

• **April 22: 10th Annual FashionCITED Show**
Annual fashion show and fundraiser for Legal Hospice of Texas. 8 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave., Dallas. For additional information e-mail Kamesha Gibson at kamesha@legalthospice.org For tickets and more information visit Bit.ly/1DGaphZ.

MAY

• **May 1: A Privileged Encounter: My Unique**

April 7-8: Trans/gendering the Academy: Building LGBTQ Coalitions for Change Summit



University of North Texas in Denton hosts a two-day event featuring guest speaker Finn Enke of the University of Wisconsin on Thursday and a video festival and panel discussion on Friday at various locations on the UNT campus. For more information visit Bit.ly/1RG3Jxe.

• **Experience with President Bill Clinton, 1987-2000.**
Congregation Beth El Binah welcomes Rabbi Gene Levy of Little Rock who discusses his new book at 7:30 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road.

• **May 6-8: The Grace Project**
The world's largest conference for women living with HIV takes place at a hotel in the Coit/LBJ area. For more information contact Angela Huddy at Legacy Counseling Center at angela@legacycounseling.org or 214-520-6308 ext. 384. Information at legacygraceproject.org.

• **May 13-14: Contemporary Relationships Conference**
Learn and discuss ways to strengthen LGBTQ dating, relationships, and parenting with over 30 international and national speakers from 8 a.m.-5:15 p.m. on May 14. Pre-conference institutes take place May 13. Both events are held at St. David's Bethell Hall, 301 E. 8th St., Austin. For more information and to register visit Bit.ly/1tZKykeor e-mail info@contemporaryrelationships.com.

• **May 14: TAG'S Annual Ball**
"007: A Night With Bond," Tyler Area Gays' 2016 Annual Ball, features casino tables, cash bar, live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and more. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 at the bar; student tickets are \$35. For tickets and more information visit TylerAreaGays.com. For information email info@TylerAreaGays.com or call 903-312-2081. 6 p.m.-midnight, at Holiday Inn Tyler South Broadway, 5701 S. Broadway Ave.

• **May 14: MetroBall Winstar Casino Party Bus Trip**
Buses leave Sue Ellen's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and Collin Creek Mall at 9 a.m. Arrive Winstar Casino at 10:30 a.m. and depart Winstar at 2 p.m. Arrive Plano at 4 p.m. and Dallas at 4:30 p.m. \$75 for one person, \$125 for two and \$150 for three. Proceeds benefit the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and MetroBall. Tickets at MetroBallExpress.BrownPaperTickets.com

• **May 21: AIDS Outreach Center Evening of Hope Benefit Gala**
Benefits AOC's services and programs. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. at Worthington Hotel, 200 Main St., Fort Worth. For tickets and more information call 817-916-5224.

• **May 21: Orange is the New Bingo**
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.

• **May 21: Public grand opening LGBT Community Center**
Resource Center holds an open house at its new building from 10 a.m.-noon at Cedar Springs and Inwood roads.

JUNE

• **June 3: Metroball**
Debbie Gibson and Tiffany headline Metroball, the annual fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **June 11: Longview Pride**

• **June 18: Beach Blanket Bingo**
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.

• **June 24: Gay Pride Shabbat**
Congregation Beth El Binah, a Reform Jewish congregation, celebrates the ancient biblical holiday Gay Pride Shabbat. 7:30 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Northaven St.

• **June 25: Houston Pride Festival and Parade**

Fashioning a new career

With the help of UBE,
Joshwae Anderson is
overcoming obstacles on his
**road to
success**

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Joshwae Anderson had long dreamed of becoming a fashion designer. So he moved to Dallas from Tyler to attend Wade College, the school for merchandising and design located in Infomart. But until he enrolled in Wade, he had no formal training.

"I should have taken home ec in high school," Anderson acknowledged. Instead, he took shop with the other boys and learned welding.



A few years ago, though, Anderson's interest in fashion grew too strong to ignore. He taught himself how to create patterns and how to cut out garment pieces then sew them together by watching videos on YouTube. And he decided to pursue fashion as a career. So he moved to Dallas.

To save money, his wife and daughter stayed



behind in Tyler and moved in with a friend, while Anderson made plans to live with a friend in Dallas. But the housing plan didn't work out for him.

So Anderson turned to Wade College for help in finding housing options. But just as he arrived in Dallas in January 2015, the college's staffer assisting with housing quit his job and wasn't replaced.

Since he really didn't know anyone else in Dallas, Anderson turned to a smartphone app. He met someone on Jack'd who offered him a room at his house. Anderson stayed there for a short while, but that arrangement didn't work out either.

Neither did any of the other arrangements he tried to make over the next year. Some were worse than others.

"One guy put me out after a week," Anderson



Jalenzski Brown, left, and Joshwae Anderson

said. Not only did the guy put Anderson out after a week, he also called the police to make sure Anderson left. The man also refused to refund any of the money Anderson had paid, in cash, upfront.

Without cash, Anderson lived in his car for several weeks.

Another potential landlord wanted a relationship, but that's not what Anderson was interested in. Such situations aren't unusual, said Jalenzski Brown, program coordinator for United Black El-lument.

"I've [helped] guys who've been put out because they didn't put out," Brown noted.

As he battled in Dallas to keep his dreams alive, Anderson found himself in a long-distance battle on the homefront, too.

Anderson explained that his father was a preacher and he grew up in a very religious home. So even though he had known for awhile that he was attracted to men, he didn't see living as a gay man as an option.

Anderson added that from the beginning of their relationship, his wife had known he was attracted to men. It was something neither of them fully comprehended.

"I was always attracted to men, but didn't understand the depth of that and what she couldn't give me," he said. And for his wife's part, he said, "Instead of helping me come out of that, she accused me of sleeping with men. I wasn't. I was faithful. I wanted to be with her."

Even though "I really did love her," Anderson said of his wife, their marriage ended in divorce.

Through it all, Anderson remained focused on his goal of making a career for himself in fashion, and he stayed in school. He wasn't going to be deterred no matter what his housing situation.

To make ends meet, he worked at a church as a musician. And he began a fashion business on the side.

As a custom clothing designer, Anderson began making shirts, bow ties, dresses and accessories for clients. He acquired a sewing machine, a serger, tables and a variety of notions.

It looked like things were going his way — until the day he walked outside after getting a haircut, and his car was gone. "I couldn't keep up with the note," Anderson said, explaining why the car was repossessed.

And then he lost his place to stay — again — and had to put his sewing equipment into storage.

In July, Anderson happened to meet Brown at a birthday party. The host had invited Brown to attend the party to present his safe-sex HIV prevention talks for those attending.

Brown said UBE's goal is to raise HIV awareness among young, black bi and gay guys in an effort to reduce the rate of HIV transmission. The group started as a social support group, Brown said, but to be effective, they had to meet people

where they were. And that means dealing with all of concerns — jobs,

health, housing, transportation and more.

Because most people don't come to UBE's Deep Ellum meeting space, Brown said, UBE will go to them whenever and wherever they can. That's how he ended up speaking at the party and meeting Anderson.

Anderson and Brown kept in touch online and reconnected in October. Brown saw someone working hard to stay in school, but running into all sorts of obstacles, and he wanted to help.

"How can UBE leverage our resources to help him to his goal?" Brown asked himself. In January he came up with the answer: UBE was having a fashion show in February, and they needed a lead designer.

Anderson brought his sewing machines, tables and notions out of storage and set them up in an unused room in UBE's Commerce Street space. He got to work designing. With only a few weeks left before the event, Anderson started training other people at UBE to cut and stitch and piece fabric together to create his fashions.

Within a week and a half of beginning work, Anderson had sold a custom collection of 15 pieces in the process of working on the fashion show.

Also as a result of working on the fashion show, Anderson found stable housing. And, Brown added, "he created some awesome fashion. The show put so many eyes on him."

At the show, held at Quixotic World Theater on Main Street in Deep Ellum, Anderson sold out his collection and gained some new clients. He's been finding others on Facebook and Instagram.

He named his collection Hidden, a name inspired by his personal life.

While his business is just starting, Anderson's education continues. He'll graduate from Wade at the end of the year, and he credits the school with teaching him more than pattern-making, textiles and sketching. He said he learned time management from them. "They're fast-paced," he said.

He said the school encouraged him to get involved and to network, things he never realized would be necessary components of creating a new business.

While he remains focused on his goal of finishing school this year, Anderson said he is proud of inspiring a couple of guys who helped him put together the fashion show to pursue fashion careers on their own.

Anderson also gives plenty of credit to UBE for helping him be who he has become.

"UBE gave me a way to be comfortable about myself without judgement," he said. "They embraced me and helped me embrace who I am — as a designer I'm creating things I never thought of before."

And, he adds, "I've never been happier." ■

STELLA!!!!!!



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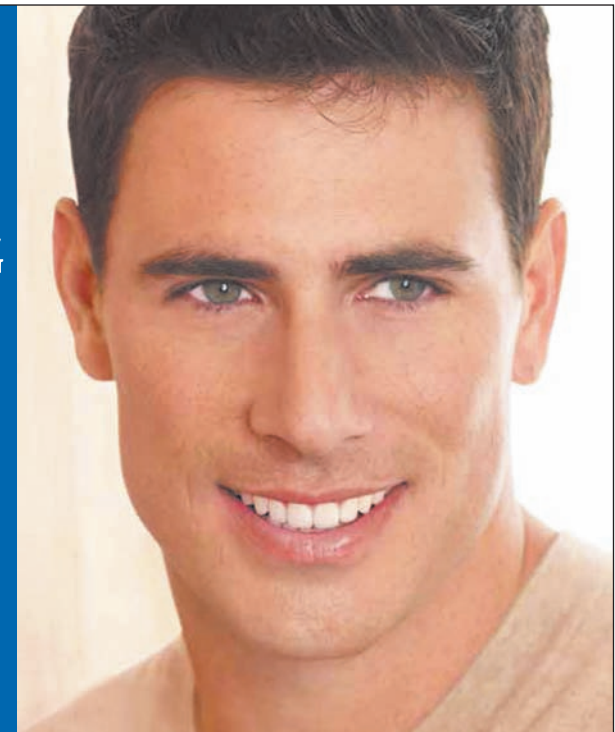
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String of violent crimes prompts new Arlington initiative

Two of three of gay man's attackers arrested

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson formed a city-wide task force late last month to address the uptick of violent attacks in the city, including a March 6 attack that left a gay man in a lot of pain and with a pile of hospital bills.

“Operation Safety Net targets gang members, known offenders and other criminals that commit violent offenses in Arlington,” Arlington police spokesman Christopher Cook wrote via e-mail.

“A lot of our violent crime is being driven by armed robberies. This surge of enforcement and covert resources will continue until we see a reversal in the trends on violent crime.”

A taskforce of department personnel from specialized units and patrol resources will connect data-driven intelligence with field personnel, Cook explained. This approach allows officers to have the most up-to-date information and commanders to deploy resources in hot spot locations where these crimes are most likely to occur.

“Arlington and other communities in North Texas are not immune to the uptick in violent offenses,” Chief Johnson said. “This taskforce will



Arlington's low score of HRC's Municipal Equality Index may not be a true reflection of the actual environment there for LGBT people. This rainbow-colored star is part of the Arlington Museum of Art's "The Star of Texas" exhibit, which includes 20 fiberglass stars designed by local artist Chris Cunningham and positioned throughout Arlington's Cultural Arts District, Downtown and Entertainment Districts. (Cassie Quinn/Dallas Voice Contributing Photographer)

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Matthew Gillispie was attacked March 6 in this North Arlington parking lot, near the intersection of Lamar and Cooper streets, after agreeing to meet someone there to sell some clothing. (James Russell/Dallas Voice)

seek to identify and respond to robbery patterns by using effective crime analysis, to effectively target known offenders and gang members for effective enforcement in Arlington, and to collaborate with regional and federal partners to address criminals crossing jurisdictional boundaries.”

According to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Municipal Equality Index, which rates LGBT inclusion in municipal law and policy, Arlington received a final score of 22 out of

100 possible points. Arlington earned 17 points because law enforcement responsibly reports hate crimes and engages with the LGBT community.

But the low MEI score may not be an accurate reflection of the city’s environment for LGBT residents and employees.

Last year, the city contacted Fairness Fort Worth to discuss best practices to help transgender employees who want to transition on the job and how

to answer questions or concerns fellow employees may have. Fairness Fort Worth also provides cultural competence training for its police department and parks and recreation staff.

“We are excited to be able to facilitate this comprehensive training program that reinforces our oath of office and commitment to provide equal protection under the law for all persons,” Johnson told Dallas Voice last year. “The Arlington Police Department strives to promote equality and re-

spect by providing procedural justice in both police-citizen encounters and in the workplace.”

Arrests made in assault

Matthew Gillispie, a 28-year old gay man living in North Arlington, was just one of the many victims of the increase in violent assaults. The fact that police already have two of the three suspects in that attack may indicate the crackdown is working.

Gillispie was attacked and robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart near his home after he arranged to resell some clothing via a smartphone application. He said he had planned to meet the customer about 10 p.m. in the parking lot on Collins Street, sell the clothing and deposit the money in time to pay his rent the next day.

But when he met the supposed customer, Gillispie noticed the man signal someone behind him, and that’s when two men grabbed him and threw him on the ground, holding him there at gunpoint.

“They said, ‘Give me everything,’” Gillispie said. His clothes, money, iPhone and, Gillispie said, his sense of safety were taken from him.

Gillispie said he wound up in the hospital for six hours. Police took his report about the attack the following day.

Police have so far arrested one adult and one juvenile suspected of assaulting Gillispie, according to Cook. Investigators have also identified a third suspect and are securing an arrest warrant. ■

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No child left behind?

Two local LGBT advocates
want to ensure charter
schools are safe for kids

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

In a meeting with Birdville school district administrators a few years ago, David Mack Henderson recalled recently, he told a story of a straight female student and LGBT ally who wanted to start a gay-straight alliance at her high school in the school district just north of Fort Worth.

The principal pushed back against her proposal. But the student refused to be deterred.

During a blood bank drive where organizers handed out "DONATE" t-shirts, she handed out T-shirts reading "DON'T" because she objected to the then-complete ban on blood donations by gay men and men who have sex with men.

The principal stopped her immediately.

The school environment became hostile. She became suicidal. Her parents removed her from the school. She enrolled in another school, run by Uplift Education, a network of 14 charter schools across North Texas.

Since then, "She has flourished," said Henderson, president of Fairness Fort Worth. "The school became a sanctuary."

For a straight ally, a new school became a safe place. But not all students are so lucky.

Charter schools and LGBT students

Charter schools have been operating in Texas since 1995. They operate like public schools, but are subject to fewer state laws. The reduced legislation is intended to encourage more innovation and

allow more flexibility, according to the Texas Education Agency.

But charter schools are subject to heightened scrutiny when it comes to fiscal and academic accountability.

Charter schools, like public schools, are open to all children, do not charge tuition and do not have special requirements for admission.

In 2014-15, charter schools served 227,827 students in 613 campuses across the state, according to the Texas Charter School Association. Many of those charter schools, however, lack LGBT-inclusive policies.

According to the 2013 School Climate Index published by Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 79 percent of students in Texas experienced verbal harassment based on sexual orientation and 56 percent were harassed based on their gender identity. Nearly nine out of 10 students heard homophobic remarks or negative remarks about gender identity.

Just under four in 10 students were physically harassed based on sexual orientation, and one in four were harassed based on gender identity.

Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager for Resource Center, and Henderson want to make sure students in and employees of all charter schools are protected from discrimination and harassment.

"A lot of folks think charter schools are essentially private. They are not. So long as any charter school operates with public funds, they should expect, and even invite, broad community interaction," Henderson said.

In the 10-county Dallas/Fort Worth area, less than 10 of the 93 independent school districts have some sort of LGBT-inclusive protections. But only the Dallas and Fort Worth districts have fully LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies for students, teachers and staff.



International Leadership Texas' Arlington elementary and middle school campus. (James Russell/ Dallas Voice)

With charter schools popping up in suburban areas, many in districts where there are no LGBT protections, implementing LGBT-inclusive policies may have a competitive edge when it comes to recruitment.

Their efforts show. In 2014, Uplift implemented a robust new anti-bullying policy in collaboration with Henderson and McDonnell. The two advocates are also currently working with Winfree Academy on similar policies.

In addition, McDonnell recently met with the staff of the Texas Charter Schools Association to discuss their nondiscrimination language.

Christine Isett, director of communications for TCSA, confirmed the meeting and said they are looking at additional protections.

"Our legal counsel recently met with representatives from the Resource Center, seeing as TCSA provides model policies to our member charter schools. The representatives from the Resource Center were interested in our policies and if it includes nondiscrimination language, which it does. TCSA is further reviewing our policies for our upcoming summer updates," Isett said in a statement.

Both men also recently reached out to International Leadership Texas, a network of charter schools promoting leadership skills and numerous opportunities to learn languages.

In multiple emails, Henderson and McDonnell offered to collaborate with ILT officials to ensure all students are protected.

"ILT is opening 10 schools this fall in rather conservative corners of DFW," Henderson said. "We anticipate they may see a disproportionately large number of applicants from LGBT youth and families seeking sanctuary from less welcoming school districts.

"We aim to lay the groundwork necessary to insure their academic and character development is

firmly rooted in both policy and practice," he added.

On Feb. 15, McDonnell e-mailed ILT Superintendent Eddie Conger, writing that he was "pleased to see the language in your student handbook on gender nondiscrimination and how that applies to LGBT students."

But, McDonnell noted, ILT could take additional steps ensuring LGBT students and employees are protected from bullying and harassment by, among other things, strengthening the student anti-bullying policy and adding protections for employees. McDonnell concluded by offering to assist ILT officials in those efforts.

On March 9, after not having gotten a response to the first email, Henderson joined McDonnell in a follow-up e-mail to Conger. Angela Marcellus, ILT's director of student services, replied to their second e-mail on March 17, assuring them their concerns were addressed and thanking them for their support.

But as Henderson and McDonnell saw it, "ILT did not have express, enumerated protections for LGBT youth, not to mention faculty and staff. Without those, what is there to implement and enforce?" Henderson noted.

After another e-mail exchange between Henderson and McDonnell, Marcellus noted the district is looking at their work with other districts. That review is ongoing, but Henderson and McDonnell were not told earlier it was underway.

Dallas Voice was copied by Marcellus on her latest email to Henderson and McDonnell on Thursday, March 31, our weekly press deadline day. Dallas Voice attempted to contact Marcellus that same day, by phone and by email, but she had not replied when the paper went to press.

Henderson and McDonnell said they will continue working together to ensure charter schools have LGBT-inclusive policies.

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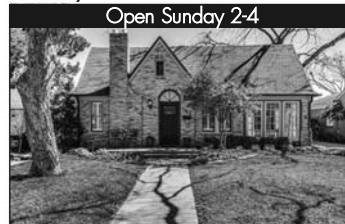
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Call of the wild

Dallas Zoo conservationist, wildlife expert to lead Wyoming and Montana tour

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Our pets are part of our families, and in the LGBT community we sometimes love our pets more than our families.

And we love wild animals too. We feed birds in our yards and many community members belong to the Dallas Zoo so that they can help make sure those city residents are well cared for, too.

In September, Ben Jones, dean of the Dallas Zoo Wild Earth Academy, will lead a wildlife trip through Montana and Wyoming. Many in the LGBT community met Jones, who was director of the Trinity River Audubon Center, at a large Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas fundraiser for the nature center.

The Montana/Wyoming tour, Jones said, is open to anyone. But he believes it will be especially appealing to the animal lovers in the LGBT community.

"The trip will be packed full of some of the most charismatic animals in North America," Jones said of the eight-day itinerary, which begins near Glacier National Park. The group will be met there by National Geographic and Discovery Channel wildlife producer Rob Whitehair.

Jones said the trip will crisscross the two states. From Glacier, where grizzly bear on mountainsides and black bear in the valleys will be feeding, preparing for hibernation, the group will head down to Yellowstone National Park, where Jones said he hopes the group will be able to see three wild dog species in one day — red fox, grey wolf and coyote.

"Wolves are one of the highlights of Yellowstone," Jones said.

Reintroduction of the wolves, which had been

wiped out in the park, has changed the ecological balance, Jones said. Elk had overpopulated. Now, willow stands the elk overgrazed have returned, providing nesting places for songbirds. Beaver colonies have rebounded along with the willow they needed to flourish, and renewed beaver dams have had an effect on the rivers and fish populations.

Watching a pack of wolves in Yellowstone, Jones said, feels like lightening in your veins.

Two years ago, Jones said, he saw a pack of wolves run through a pride of bison. They stopped and did a chorus howl in a circle. It was, he said, "the call of the wild."

Other specialists will join the group at different points throughout the trip, including an owl specialist Jones hopes will lead the group to see an elusive snowy owl. Bald eagles are always exciting to see, Jones continued, but Yellowstone is known for an incredible variety of birds — woodpeckers, kingfishers, cuckoos, magpies, jays.

A Blackfoot elder will guide the tour through his reservation in Montana, providing special access to land where wildlife is abundant along roads not generally open to the public.

From Yellowstone, the group will travel along the Beartooth Highway to Billings. The 68-mile-long highway is known for having one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Along the way, the group will see 20 peaks that reach higher than 12,000 feet.

Mountain goats, moose, bear mule deer, elk and marmot are plentiful along this route.

From Billings, the group will head back to Dallas.

Jones said the trip was a celebration of the centennial of the national park service, which was chartered on Aug. 26, 1916.

Sept. 10-17. \$3,000 per person double occupancy. \$550 single supplement. Airfare not included. Reservations at 214-528-9760.

Dallas Zoo: What's best, what's new, what's on the way

What's best

Giants of the Savannah — the habitat that opened in 2010 and is home to elephants, giraffes, impalas, zebras, ostriches, lions, warhogs, red river hogs, guinea fowl and cheetahs — was named third best zoo exhibition in the nation in 2015 by USA Today. The year before, USA Today named The Dallas Zoo one of the Top 10 zoos in the U.S., finishing one place ahead of the famous San Diego Zoo.

What's New

A new 3.5-acre, \$13.5 million hippopotamus habitat is under construction in the Wilds of Africa area of the zoo.

What's Newest

Four baby lesser flamingos were born this year at the Dallas Zoo. The greater flamingos are in Zoo North. The lesser (smaller) flamingos are across from the monorail station. Babies are fluffy, down-covered gray. As they eat more shrimp, their new feathers will turn pink.

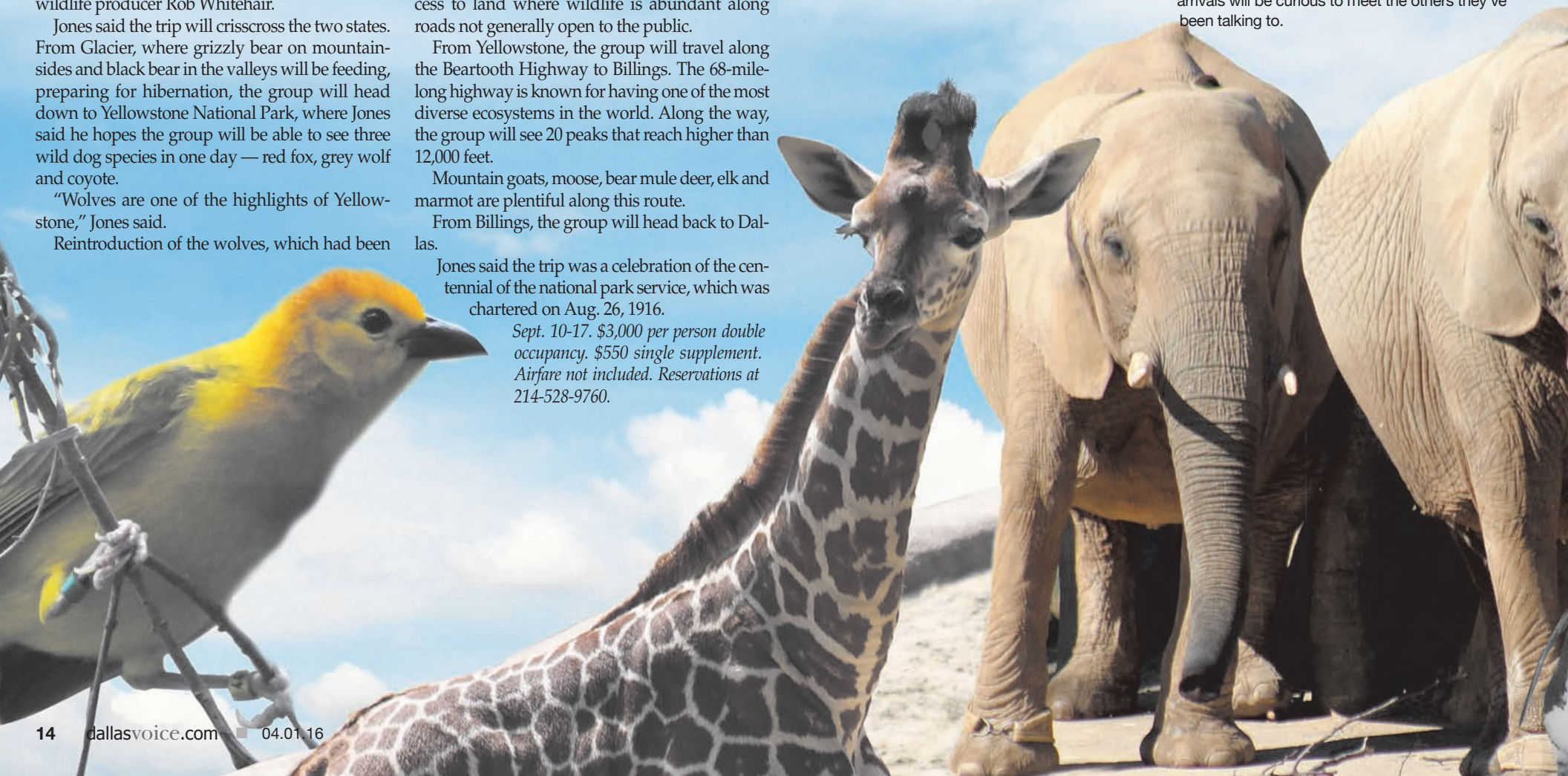
What's Coming

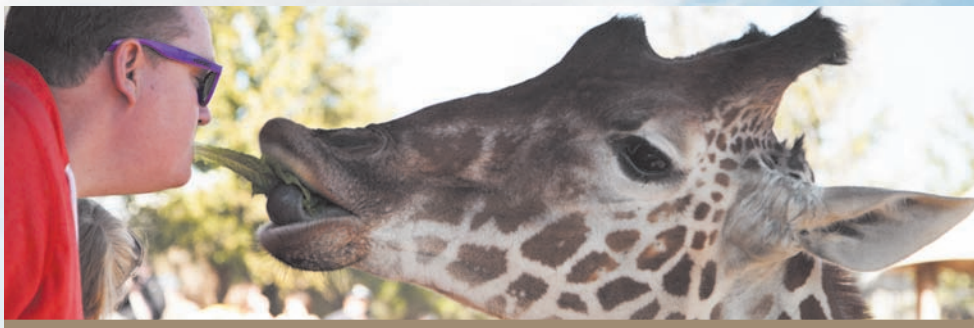
Congo, Kamba, Jenny and Gypsy are the four Asian elephants that live in the Giants of the Savannah habitat. All are retired circus elephants in their 30s, past breeding age.

Five elephants recently rescued from drought conditions in southern Africa are in quarantine for another week. Once that period is over, they'll be gradually introduced as they care to leave their barns and explore their new home.

Zookeepers believe the introduction will be a non-event for the elephants. The animals have been communicating with each other in their low-pitched sounds that are not audible to humans, so each group knows the other is there. They think Congo, Kamba, Jenny and Gypsy already let the new Dallas Zoo arrivals know that they'll be safe and happy in their new homes.

The new elephants won't be paraded out. The Dallas Zoo doesn't coerce animals, and would lose accreditation with the American Zoological Association if it did. Instead, the door will be opened and when the elephants are ready to come out and explore, they will. Zookeepers believe the new arrivals will be curious to meet the others they've been talking to.





What's Renovated

After 25 years of operation, the zoo's monorail has been rebranded, retrofitted and overhauled. The station's arrival and departure area has been redesigned, with two aviaries added. The mechanical system was rebuilt with new electrical and the cars outfitted with air conditioning. New species will be added to new environments. That includes the new hippo exhibit that opening spring 2017. The Wilds of Africa Adventure Safari monorail re-opened on March 25.

What's Only Here

The Giants of the Savannah is the only zoo exhibit in the U.S. that mixes giraffes and elephants in one habitat that also includes zebras, guinea fowl and ostriches. Greater kudu is the newest species being introduced into the environment.

No other zoo has 12-foot-deep pools that allow the elephants to totally immerse themselves, nor does any other zoo give the elephants migration paths. Each day something is changed in their environment to give them new experiences. And each elephant is equipped with a Fitbit ankle bracelet to allow caretakers to track their migration, exercise and other activities.

What's Cuddly

Dallas Zoo has the only koalas in Texas.

What's Not So Cuddly

The Dallas Zoo has one of the largest collections of venomous snakes in the U.S., and so it maintains the biggest supply of anti-venom, providing the anti-venom sera to hospitals throughout the Southwest when someone is bitten by a poisonous snake. The \$200,000 collection is kept in a small refrigerator and was last delivered by armed police escort.

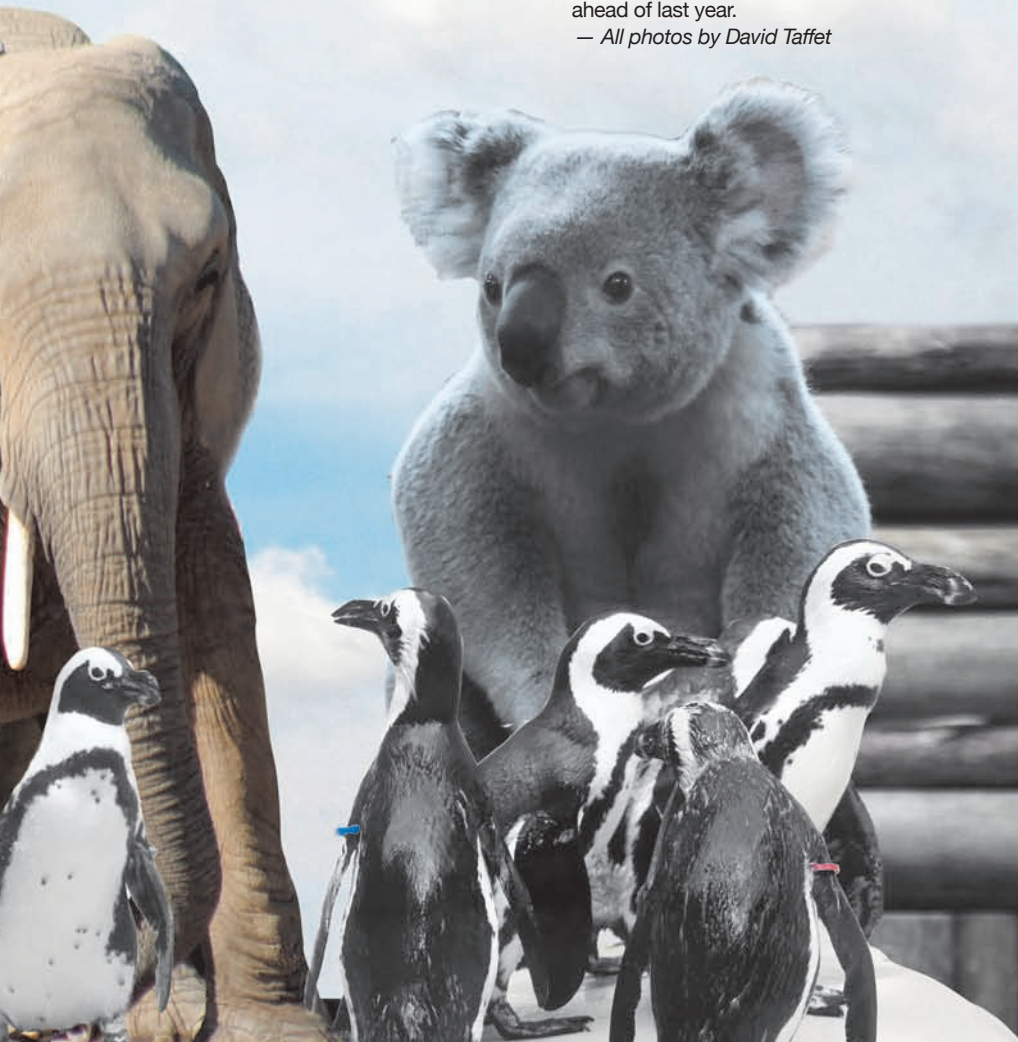
What's Endangered

Dallas Zoo's penguins are an endangered species from the mild southern African coast. A couple gave birth last year to the zoo's first baby. A newborn is covered in down that would sink them if they tried to swim. After growing his first feathers that keep his skin dry and body streamlined, the baby recently took his first swim.

Dallas Zoo Stats:

- Dallas Zoo is home to about 2,200 specimens from about 430 species (excluding fish and invertebrates).
- Of those, 66 species are managed through the Species Survival Program.
- Dallas Zoo covers 106 acres.
- Dallas Zoo employs 315 full-time staff.
- Dallas Zoo has 16,000 members.
- In 2015, 1 million people visited the Dallas Zoo for the first time. Attendance is currently running ahead of last year.

— All photos by David Taffet



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■ commUNITY voices

The new confederacy?

The lines of division are once again forming between states, individuals

About 160 years ago, the cracks of division were forming between the states over the issue of slavery in the United States. It was North vs. South, Democrat vs. Republican.

A few years before the war, the Supreme Court had ruled in *Dred Scott* that a former black slave could not be an American citizen and could not sue in federal court, fanning the flames of division and further setting the stage for civil war.

I don't know what it must have been like back then. I consider it one of the darkest and most shameful periods in the history of our great nation. I mean no disrespect to anyone in this comparison; what I am seeking to point out here is that deep divisions can have disastrous consequences.

Ever since the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision a summer ago, which provided marriage equality for LGBT people, there has been

an odd, tantrum-like backlash against the LGBT community, with special focus on the transgender community.

Once again, these debates are largely Republican vs. Democrat. The rhetoric has been vicious at times, and much of it is downright deceptive, with equality opponents loudly declaring over the "threat" that trans people pose in bathrooms. (Actual threat: None at all.)



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

The lines of division vary from state to state, with North Carolina throwing down the biggest gauntlet to date in the face of equality with passage of a state law revoking the city of Charlotte's non-discrimination ordinance, blocking passage of any such ordinances in the future and forcing trans people into bathrooms matching the gender marker on their birth certificate instead of their gender identity.

Do you carry a birth certificate with you when you use a public restroom? Does anyone you know carry their birth certificate around with them? I'm curious, what's going to be their probable cause that a crime has been committed?

While this new law is clearly unconstitutional on several levels, it also will likely jeopardize \$4.5 billion in federal funding for North Carolina public schools because it violates the guidelines in Title IX.

So permit me to take things to their illogical conclusion:

Several other states have laws similar to this: Georgia has a religious freedom bill that the governor vetoed; Tennessee just defeated one this past week. Massachusetts, Illi-

nois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina and Wisconsin are all still actively debating laws that would openly discriminate against the trans community.

All of these bills affect trans people in general, but also keep transgender students from using the proper bathroom. These bills are cruel and unjust. And as I said, they all violate Title IX.

Let's assume that all 10 of these states lose federal funding for their schools. (There are sure to be more such bills, as Texas is certain to join in this hate-fest as soon as the 2017 legislative session rolls around. Also several states have inactive bills that target trans people and they surely will try again.)

Imagine if these states banded together to create their own education system and share funds, since the federal money would not fund their bigotry. The NCAA

has been a staunch supporter of equality; what if Indiana and Kentucky were ineligible for the NCAA basketball tournament?

This time, the schism is not just Democrat and Republican. Not just North and South. It seems to be drawn mostly along religious lines.

I'm writing this on Easter and note the irony hanging thick in the air that Christianity has a doctrine that requires followers to love one another. Yet, in my 58 years of life, I've never seen more hate being targeted at a marginalized population that represents around one-half of 1 percent of the population.

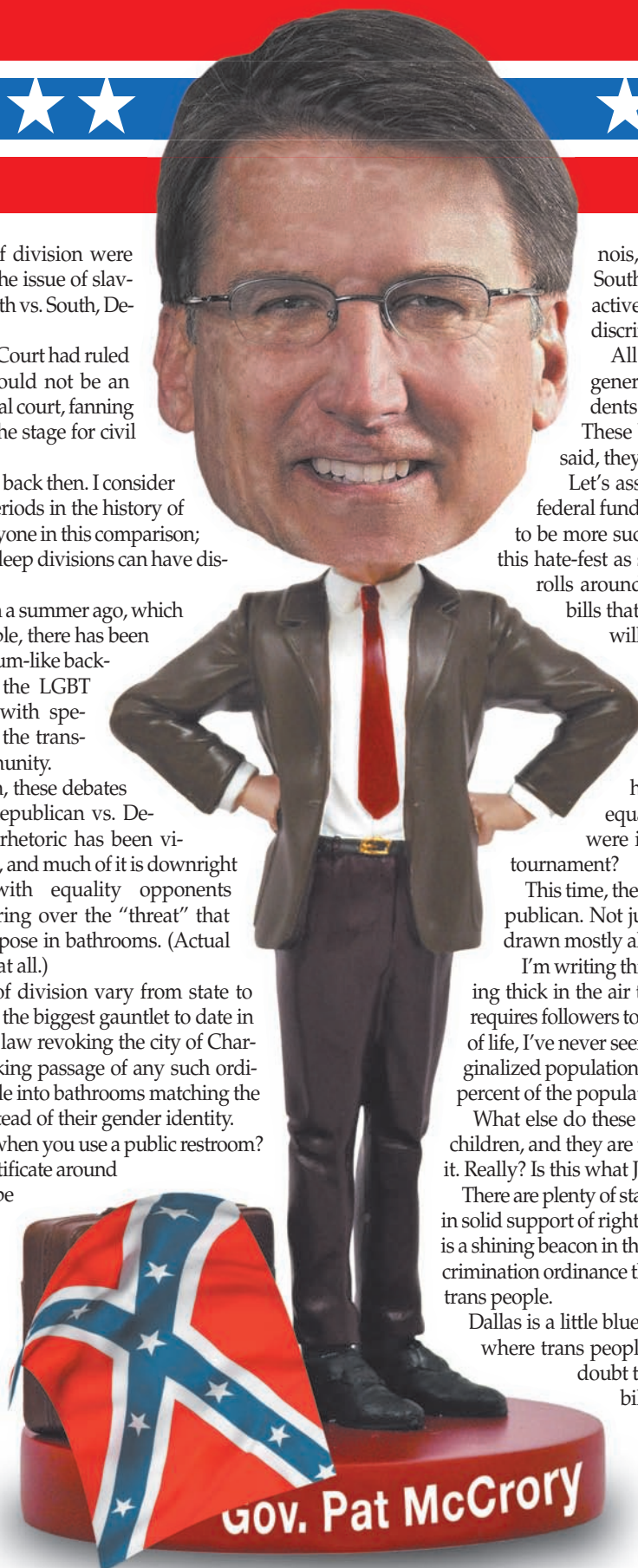
What else do these bills have in common? They target children, and they are using unfounded fear in order to do it. Really? Is this what Jesus would do?

There are plenty of states and city governments who stand in solid support of rights for ALL of their citizens. California is a shining beacon in the west. Boston just signed a non-discrimination ordinance that specifically and positively affects trans people.

Dallas is a little blue island in a sea of red here in Texas, where trans people can feel relatively safe. But don't doubt that we are one North Carolina-style bill away from losing that.

So, is there strong enough division? Is this something worth fighting, and dying for? If you are asking me personally, yeah, it is.

It makes me sad to say that



An open letter to North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory;

Dear Gov. McCrory,

So on Monday, March 28, you told NBC News that the nation-wide uproar and backlash over legislation you signed into law the previous week is just a bunch of “political theater,” a “calculated smear campaign” concocted by the big, bad gay people who are throwing a temper tantrum because they didn’t get their way.

North Carolina’s new law — the one that prohibits transgender people from using appropriate public restrooms and prohibits forward-thinking, equality-leaning local governing entities from enacting ordinances to protect some of their most vulnerable residents — doesn’t discriminate against anyone, you said. It’s just codifying the “norms and etiquette” that have existed for generations, you said.

All these objections, you said, are just “political correctness run amok.”

Well Gov. McCrory, let me tell you something. You are wrong. Plain and simple.

You want to know what’s really run amok there in North Carolina? Bigotry and ignorance.

Of course your damn law discriminates against people! It discriminates against that gay teenager being bullied who had hoped the ordinance recently passed in the city of Charlotte might have offered some protection, or at least, some legal recourse. It discriminates against the lesbian couple were refused an apartment lease because they are lesbians. It discriminates against the gay man refused service in a restaurant because he’s gay.

It discriminates against those people because it tells city governments, county governments that they can’t pass laws to specifically protect those people. It tells the LGBT people in your state they aren’t worthy of equal rights, that they don’t deserve protection.

And as for that bathroom thing Seriously Governor, I am surprised bolts of lightning didn’t strike you when you tried to claim that part isn’t discriminatory. And ignorant. That whole “men

because the simple answer is to simply do the right thing. Rights aren’t something you “grant” to someone else. I’m no better than my Christian neighbor. But they are no better or deserving of human rights than I am.

The truth is, this matter will likely be settled in the U.S. Supreme Court instead of on battlefields with the lives of young men and women sacrificed for the ideals of politicians.

In the 1860s, an awful lot of people died because of hatred and an unwillingness to see someone as human who looked different from them. Today, seeing an African American as three-fifths of a human would be unthinkable. Separate but equal didn’t work then, and it’s just as flawed now.

Those who support these “religious freedom” bills and the bills who target the transgender community are on the wrong side of history. Your freedom to practice the religion of your choice or to believe as you believe has never been on stronger



Tammye Nash
Managing Editor

women — WOMEN, Governor — using women’s restrooms. Oh, and by the way, we’re talking about transgender MEN using men’s restrooms, too. And all your bullshit about protecting women and children from predatory men who dress in women’s clothing just to get into the women’s restrooms is just that — BULLSHIT.

And just so you know, your stupid law won’t stop predators — rapists and pedophiles — from going after women and girls or after men and boys in restrooms. Because people like that DON’T OBEY THE LAW in the first damn place! All your stupid law does do is make criminals out of law-abiding citizens who just need to pee.

Governor, all the calls for boycotts against North Carolina — from individuals, businesses, organizations and even governing entities like the city of San Francisco — that’s not political theater. That’s the rising tide of common sense and fair-mindedness as people stand up for their own rights and the rights of others.

The Rev. Martin Luther King said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” It’s been a long time coming, but the universe truly is bending toward justice for LGBT people. People like you and the other bigots in the North Carolina legislature are fighting against that justice, but we won’t let you win. The “political theater” over your new law is proof of that. ■

footing, no matter what lies Ted Cruz or anyone else tells you.

Transgender people are no threat to you or your way of life. But using your beliefs to harm or penalize people you haven’t taken two minutes to try and understand is wrong, and it won’t be tolerated.

History is a harsh judge and it is through history’s unblinking eye that you can look back at the folly of your ancestors.

I am not saying that the struggle of African-Americans or the atrocity of slavery in 18th and 19th centuries is the same as struggle for LGBT equality. But hatred is hatred and one thing is for certain: those Trans women murdered each year because of who they are are no less dead, no less disrespected. It needs to stop. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

in women’s bathrooms/men in girls’ locker room showers” argument is such total bullshit.

Your whole argument is based on a bullshit lie. Because we aren’t talking about men in women’s restrooms. We are talking about transgender



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Janelle Lutz, one of North Texas' best musical actresses, revisits the giant among all gay icons

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Janelle Lutz has no problem admitting that she's one of those actresses who gets very, very nervous before any show opens ... but especially this time. Even though she has played Judy Garland in the past (about two years ago, in the musical *The Boy from Oz*), when it sank in that she would once more portray Garland in *The End of the Rainbow* — a play-with-music opening Friday at the Kalita — she confesses that she did something of a double-take.

"You wonder why I'm terrified and have been for months — 'I'm doing who-what-where?'" she laughs just hours before her first dress rehearsal. Yes: She would play Judy Garland — that avatar of gay culture, for whom the term "friend of Dorothy" became code for "gay" (owing to her performance as Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz*), and who surrounded herself with gay men her entire life, including a few husbands and sons-in-law — for Uptown Players, known for its gay-themed shows with loyal gay audiences. The potential judginess was almost intimidating.

END OF THE RAINBOW

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. April 1–17.
UptownPlayers.org.

Still, while Lutz admits that she was aware of Garland's status as an icon of gay culture, she was not full schooled in the lore (legend?) of her role in the Stonewall Riots and the advent of the modern gay rights movement. Then again, why should she be? Garland herself never knew the full scope of her impact, since it was police harassment on the night of her funeral that triggered the uprising at the New York City gay bar in June 1969. And *The End of the Rainbow* is set over the course of a few weeks less than a year before she died, of a drug overdose, at just age 47. Which meant that Lutz doesn't need to know about it. Not that it stops her from soaking up as much information as possible about the actress, singer and mother (to Liza Minnelli among others) who remains one of the most iconic artists of the 20th century.

And therein lay another trap for Lutz: How much of her role should be interpretation, and how much recreation?

"My thing is to try to be the most like her, as a tribute," Lutz says. "It isn't that I was gonna try to be her. That was my goal, even back to *The Boy from Oz*. The fear is to go too far. I'm not an impersonator, I'm an actress. There are going to be times I don't look like her — she was 4-foot-11 and I'm just shy of 5-8 — and times I don't sound like her, though I try. If you put two recordings next to each other [of her and me], they won't be the same. But [the idea is] to use how she gestures or uses her body so that it [doesn't] become a caricature. She was a real human being — she wasn't [just an accumulation of] tics."

That's also where all her research came in handy.

"I was very much a fan [of Garland] growing up on old movies," Lutz says. "I don't remember what first movie I saw her in, but I don't remember thinking of her as Dorothy, but maybe *Meet Me In St. Louis*, and then putting it together."

What would JUDY do?



MERIT OF GARLAND | 'The End of the Rainbow' is a 'play with music,' interspersing live concerts late in Judy Garland's life with scenes of her and the (gay) men in her life. (Photo courtesy Uptown Player)

The play is made up of set-piece scenes, broken up with concerts Garland delivers before a live audience. And for the concerts, Lutz had not only vinyl recordings and old movies, but also ac-

cess to YouTube.

"All but one of the songs I perform is in a concert setting, so I



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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Valentine, my brunching companion, judges many restaurants more harshly by their soundscapes than their tablescapes. “Music is life!” he insists. “Oxygen is just top 5... maybe 4.” Point is, for him, brunch is as much about atmosphere and vibe as culinary experience. (Mimosas, by the way, are probably one notch about oxygen for him as well.)

It's difficult to argue with that logic, especially on the weekends. Brunch isn't just breakfast we eat after the clock strikes noon, or a never-ending parade of sandwiches and daytime desserts (though, again, don't knock 'em). There's a social aspect to it that you can't discount.

That doesn't always mean you have to be in the center of Gayville or go only where your friends tell you to meet up. Sometimes it can be about discovering something new and delightful. And if the music is good? All the better.

For our first A Brunching of Gays outing, we visited a busy, buzzy Uptown eatery (The Social House); for the second, a low-key Cliffdwellers' hang (Kessler Park Eating House); this time, we sought out the Renaissance neighborhood of Lower Greenville Avenue, which in the last three years has surpassed its glory days of the late 1980s and early '90s (when clubs and dives predominated) to become one of the city's most vibrant destinations. The energy is now more hipster than homeowner, with a diverse clientele of foodies, funsters and freaks elbowing out the

families.

Remedy — barely more than a year old — is one of the signature restaurants now on that strip. The space is high and narrow, with a rustic patio and shabby-chicness (chandeliers and tin-panel ceiling ... but also exposed brick and visible plumbing). Its style is mirrored by neighbors like HG SPLY Co., Nora, Clark Food & Wine Co. and The Blind Butcher — it's both urban and urbane, the kind of chef-driven concept with high-end cocktail menu that attracts flannel-clad and bearded sandal-wearers with more regularity than Lillith Fair: Remedy is trendy, but not *too* trendy; popular, but not helplessly mainstream. You might wait for a table (especially if you want to dine *al fresco*), but not for very long.

In that way, Remedy is less about the see-and-be-seen coffee klatch that many brunch places can turn into, and more about a shared appreciation for enjoying upscale dining but not selling out. You sense a fellowship with the other diners here, one that says, “Edgy doesn't have to be dangerous... or even out-of-the-way.”

Valentine immediately grooved to the décor, the piped-in music, the friendly, chatty wait staff whose recommendations seemed to take on more weight precisely because we felt as much camaraderie with him as we did everyone else in the place.

The chef, Danyele McPherson (formerly with The Grape) has crafted a menu based on American classics but given a gourmet twist. As a starter, we got the Dutch baby (\$10), a German-American hybrid of a pancake and a soufflé. It

I ATE A BABY! | Remedy's Dutch baby — part pancake, part soufflé — is a lemony flavor bomb ... and arrives startlingly hot. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

arrived in a scalding-hot cast-iron skillet (when they say “don’t touch it,” trust them!), a burbling, lemony confection that cruelly beckoned us while forcing us to wait for it to cool down enough to spoon it out. It was worth our patience. Fluffy, and smothered in citrusy curd, it was as rich as Croesus and primed us for what was to come.

Remedy’s high-end take on shrimp and grits (\$19) was haute cuisine in presentation — a shallow bowl with an island of grits surrounded by a lagoon of buttery sauce and topped with a thin forest of sautéed shrimp and fresh herbs. “They’re a bit skimpy on the scampi,” Valentine observed at the three medium-sized prawns. A few more would have contributed to a more satisfying meal, but we both reveled in the flavors.

Heartier was the fried bologna sandwich (\$13) — again, a gourmet version of a trailer park staple. Remedy makes the bologna in-house, and the kitchen layers it on as thick as a deli sandwich, with a gooey dose of American cheese and grilled crispy on challah. Best of all, it comes with a side of tomato soup, for a meaty version of the classic grilled cheese.

We saved room for dessert and won out with a slice of cocoanut pie (\$9), where the brulee’d marshmallow topping added crunch to the sweetness and the intense cocoanut flavor.



CHALLAH! | The fried bologna sandwich at Remedy is high-end trailer-park cuisine, in the best possible way.

Mimosas weren’t listed on the menu at all, but of course they were available for the asking (good thing, too — that could be a dealbreaker). At \$4 per goblet, they seemed fairly priced for the quality, and a fitting way to toast our successful outing. Sometimes, the music doesn’t come over the speakers, but from the plates themselves.

Remedy, 2010 Greenville Ave. Weekend brunch from 11 a.m. RemedyDallas.com.

To recommend a brunch place we should check out, email your suggestion to jones@dallasvoice.com or tweet it to @criticalmasstx.

■ JUDY, From Page 18

could go and watch her perform those specific songs as a reference — Oh, that’s her singing “The Trolley Song.”

Because Lutz plays Garland near the end of her life — at an age fairly far from Lutz’s — she also has to convey the weary, doped-up, hardened Judy, not the perky teen when she became famous. Then again, there was always a ribbon of sadness threading its way through Judy’s songs. She couldn’t help it.

“I think it first hit me in college, when I started looking into music and would watch her, [that I realized] how sad her music sounded,” Lutz explains. “She could sing ‘Come On Get Happy’ or ‘Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,’ that are so sad and heartfelt but also just beautiful ... because she sings from the soul. She *means* it, every time she sings. She always has this one moment, even in happy song, where there’s this *click* and it would turn into this sad, desperate love song that would reflect her life. And it blows my mind even more that she could sing that way when she was [so addicted].”

That, of course, has been part of the appeal of Garland to generations of gay men: Her survivor instinct, her sticktoitiveness, her endurance in the face of obstacles. And it’s also something that made, ultimately, Lutz a huge fan.



It takes a lot of stage magic to turn Lutz into the much older Garland. (Photo by Craig Lynch)

“When I watched those old Judy movies, I never dreamed this would ever happen,” she gushes. The thrill is enough to send her over the rainbow.



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Do speak!

Gwen Stefani goes on the record about Gavin, Blake and her gay posse

Don't speak? Gwen Stefani can't help it as she opens up about her latest release — the "record that saved my life."

Featuring a multitude of diary-like outpourings related to Gavin Rossdale, whom the No Doubt frontwoman divorced in 2015 after 13 years of marriage, *This Is What the Truth Feels Like* is Stefani's third solo album and first since 2006's *The Sweet Escape*.

"It's so therapeutic to talk about it," she says the day before the album's release. "And I hope it saves some other lives. I really, really truly do hope that. That's the message I wanna give."

During our candid tell-all, Stefani also talked about her gay besties who "made me look pretty when I didn't feel pretty," being a (mostly) respected woman in a man's world and how she and boyfriend Blake Shelton hang with the same "big posse" of gays. ■

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: In the last year, when the going got tough, which gay friends of yours could you count on to have the wine cupboard fully stocked? Gwen Stefani: Most of my gay friends are talented, close people who work with me: my hairdresser, my makeup artist. Those are probably my two closest gay friends, and what I love about them is how spirited they are and how talented they are. I think "passionate" would be a really good way to describe them. They're not representing all gay men, but they represent the ones in my life who've had a huge impact on me. I turned to them this whole time period, during my whole tragedy, and they have been really, really super supportive and loyal and made me look pretty when I didn't feel pretty.

How did collaborating with Justin Tranter of Semi-Precious Weapons, who's gay, affect your recording sessions for *This Is What the Truth Feels Like*? The thing that was so great about working with Justin was that he had followed my career for the longest time. He knew everything about every song I'd ever done, whatever I'd worn, every piece of jewelry. It was like, whoa. And he'd wanted to work with me for a long time and I didn't know that, but it was like God put us in the same room at the perfect time because I needed his understanding and compassion. He was so supportive of me and so confident in me, and I had lost a lot of my confidence, so he really brought that out of me. I felt so comfortable around him from the moment that I met him. So, he was a huge support in making this record and a good friend — an instant friend, weirdly, because I didn't know him at all. But now I feel like he's one of my closest friends.

I don't think it's too far of a stretch to say that any gay man would instantly connect with you. Awww! That makes me happy.

Did Blake have to get your gay friends' approval? Well, I mean, Blake's definitely like — how would I describe it? All the same people all the time are always in the room together and we do everything together, so it's like we're all a big posse. It's funny, too, because Blake's mom was a hairdresser growing up, so he was definitely introduced to that world a *looong* time ago.

As the frontwoman of No Doubt, there have been many times you've been the only female rocker on a festival bill. For you, what's that experience been like? Did the boys take you seriously from the beginning? No, it's crazy. I've been so unbelievably blessed. I grew up in a man's world and it really doesn't make any sense either. In the past, as a girl — a baby girl — I was a girly girl and I wasn't guyish at all, but when I did discover music, I really got into this niche music, which was ska. I really related to it. All of the people who were my mentors as far as music, they were all guys, and to be in a band with my brother [Eric Stefani] and then my boyfriend [Tony Kanal], I was in this little family and very protected. I always felt like my opinion was counted, and not even counted but even counted with double stars. My creativity was respected.

There was a moment back in the day when I was doing festivals and we were just getting known and I do remember being disrespected here and there — they'd want me to take my top off or whatever — but it really didn't take long for me to be able to prove that I wasn't gonna stand for that. I don't know where the confidence came from, but I would get up there and I just knew I was gonna win them over and do whatever it took to win them over. I was not gonna leave the stage until I had a pit going. That's it. No question. It was a fire that was inside of me. I wasn't rebellious; I had this really normal, easy, beautiful, loving family. But I feel like I've always been respected and never had to really worry about, "Oh, I don't get respect because I'm a woman." And that's a really good thing, because that means if I can have that, other women and other people can have that and we are making some progress.

You're known for your sonic soul-barings, but lately, you also seem especially candid in

■ GWEN Next Page



LIFE+STYLE

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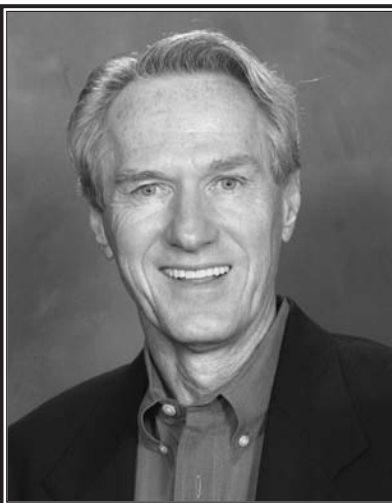
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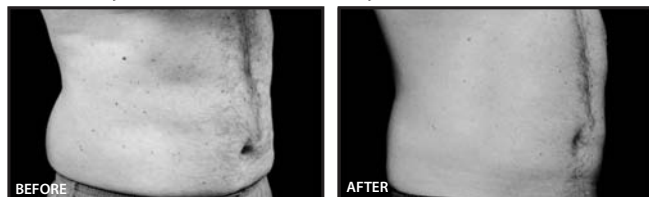
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L+S interview

■ GWEN, From Previous Page

interviews. Why did you decide to be so open about your life in the last year? Because I'm the kind of girl that's just not good with secrets. I tell everybody everything. If I ate too many Oreos, I'mma tell you about it! I grew up Catholic, so I just need to confess everything.

I feel like I've always been really open, but there was a point in my marriage [to Gavin Rossdale] — because maybe we were born out of the '90s — it felt cooler and more protected to not talk about the relationship, or it felt awkward because maybe we were both doing the same thing and I didn't wanna say something and he'd be like, "Why'd you say that?!" There were probably some limits during that relationship. And then with my children, obviously I can't talk about them because they're gonna be 15 and like, "Mom, why did you say that? You're embarrassing me!" I have to think a little bit about that now. But I just think... I don't know how else to be. Everybody knows what happened to me. I got a divorce. It's the worst thing that can happen to me besides death.

My whole life all I wanted to do was be a mother and a wife, and I had the dream of having this family because that's what I had. I have parents who've been married since high school, who are in love, and they're still in love and having their big wedding anniversary. I had a perfect example, so it's super tragic for me. My dreams are shattered and I feel so embarrassed about what happened. I don't feel embarrassed to talk about it though, with respect to my kids. I just think what happened was: In February [2015], my family fell apart. It was devastating. I didn't know what to do. It was a real big secret, but as I just explained, I'm not good with that. I tried everything to fix it. By June, I went into the studio and started writing. I was praying. I had already started on a spiritual journey when I got pregnant with Apollo that was sort of like, "Wow, really? I'm gonna be blessed with a baby... now?" That was a miracle. It just started me on this spiritual journey and thank God it started then because I was prepared when I had the tragedy. I had that nest of spirituality in me.

They say everything happens for a reason. And you kind of can't see it until you go through it and look back at it and see all the signs. I had the baby. Then I got *The Voice*, which was so needed. I needed to do something like that. I needed to play that role, and I also got in the room with Pharrell again who's been like a guardian angel to me.

You mentioned your son Apollo; you also have two other sons: Kingston and Zuma. There are people who don't appreciate the fact that you allow them to explore their feminine sides by painting their nails. How would you respond to those critics? Obviously I've lived my life with criticism for a very long time and my personality is, I live in truth and reality, and if somebody says something about me and I don't know them and they're not my friend or part of my life, it really doesn't affect me. Of course everyone's gonna have their perspective and their opinion, and I know what's real and what's honest and true, and that's really all that matters to me and all that's important. So, it doesn't really bother me. As long as my boys are protected and happy and I'm spending quality time with them, whether it's doing sports or doing nails, it really doesn't matter.

What would you say to one of your boys if they came out to you one day? I would be blessed



with a gay son. You *know* that I would feel blessed about that. I just want my boys to be happy and healthy, and I just ask God to guide me every day to be a good mother because it is not an easy job.

I've been lucky enough to have such a blessed life. I've been able to travel the world and meet so many different kinds of people. And it doesn't really matter if you're gay, straight, whatever. There are good and bad people, and I would be happy. I just want my kids to be happy, and whatever journey God gives them is their journey. I just need to be there to be the most supportive mom that I can be and that's what I'm gonna be. I always ask my gay friends, "OK, so what was it like when you were a little boy?" Because I do know that it's gotta be difficult to be the alternative, to not be the mainstream, or to be different, if you want to call it that. I feel like it's less and less [like that] these days, and it's hard for me to understand because it doesn't seem different or weird or anything anymore because it just seems so normal to me. I just saw [*The Danish Girl*]. I think what was so incredible about that movie was just — that was so long ago. I mean, can you imagine back then? Whoa. Now it feels like nothing anymore.

I'm not thinking about the future. I'm really trying to focus on right now, today. I wanna be in the moment right now because it's so much better if you're not thinking about the past or the future.

As a pop star over 40, what's it like navigating the pop world with so much pressure on youth, age and beauty? There was a moment right before I did *The Voice*, in between [2012's No Doubt release] *Push and Shove* and *The Voice*, where I was concerned about it and desperate to have new music and it took a little earthquake to be like, "OK, let's get some perspective here. You've already had the longest career. You're so blessed to have any of this and any of this that happens after this is literally icing on the cake."

I'm not delusional about where I'm at in my career. I know that this opportunity to have new music is magical, and there's not one second that I don't appreciate it and I think it is what it is. I feel proud of the career that I've had and I feel so grateful for it and I mean, we all have to go through life. This is life. Life is... "born to blossom and bloom to perish." That's it. That is what it is. And the way to do it is to be grateful and to be spiritual and try to do the best you can every single day — to be in the moment.

Gwen, you have such a healthy perspective on life. Oh, I have to work on it! I work on it every single day. Some days I'm a mental case.



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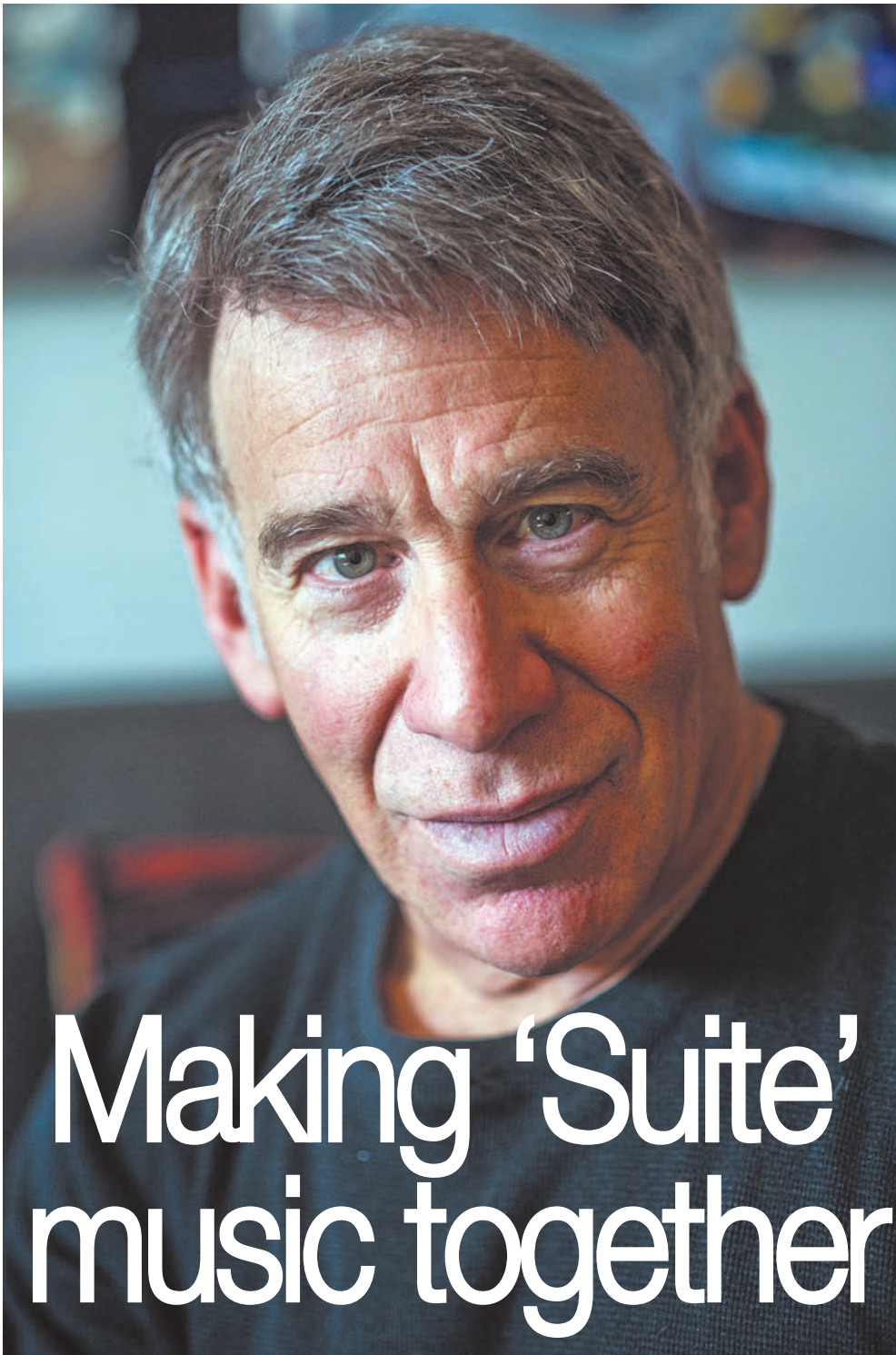


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Making 'Suite' music together

How the legendary Broadway composer **Stephen Schwartz** marshaled giants of the music world to create a chorale work about anti-gay bullying

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Stephen Schwartz remembers quite clearly the first time he heard the name Tyler Clementi.

A college student in New York City, Clementi was having sex with another man when his roommate surreptitiously streamed in online on two nights. The resultant humiliation led Clementi to kill himself by jumping off the George Washington Bridge.

"That was in my neck of the woods," says Schwartz, who lives in Connecticut but maintains a *pied-a-terre* in Manhattan. "It was a local story — and a huge one. I don't know how long national coverage extended, but it was covered extensively here from the arrest to the trial. It was a story with what they call legs."

Flash forward: Schwartz received a commission from the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus to create a piece *Testimony*. The man behind the

■ SCHWARTZ Next Page

DEFYING BIGOTRY | Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz helped gather his famous composing friends to create a choral work about anti-gay bullying and suicide.

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■ SCHWARTZ From Previous Page

request was the SFGMC's artistic director: Tim Seelig, the long-time head of Dallas' Turtle Creek Chorale. That experience led to a personal friendship between the two men.

About a year later, "Tim was in New York and while we were having breakfast, he told me the idea of commissioning a piece about Tyler Clementi to raise awareness of bullying," recalls Schwartz. A woman named Pamela Stewart had already been interviewing the Clementi family and had the basics of a libretto. "As we spoke, [I

realized] an interesting approach would be to ask multiple composers to do a piece [and turn it into] a suite. Tim liked the idea of approaching different composers and since most of them were people I knew, I volunteered to get in touch with them."

Schwartz is underplaying the impressiveness of the composers being "people he knew." As one of the titans of Broadway theater — he's written some of the signature musicals of the last 50 years, including *Pippin*, *Godspell* and *Wicked*, and has won three

Oscars for his film work — Schwartz's Rolodex is a who's-who of contemporary music-makers.

Among those he contacted, and who ultimately contributed pieces, are John Corigliano and his partner Mark Adamo; Jake Heggie; Ann Hampton Calloway; and Stephen Flaherty. They formed the basis for what became

know as *Tyler's Suite*.

Schwartz took the lead in coordinating the pieces, serving, as he puts it, more as curator than major-domo. "I got in touch with the vari-

TCC: HEROES

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TurtleCreekChorale.com.



Former Turtle Creek Chorale artistic director Tim Seelig initially approached Schwartz about creating a work for men's choir.

ous composers in consultation with Tim, and they [each] decided what they would do. [We] then left everyone to their own devices." But among those missing from the initial lineup of composers? Schwartz himself.

"I think originally there were going to be five or six sections and I was not intending to write any of them," he says. But as it started to expand, "I became forlorn about not writing one. Now I think it is eight or nine sections."

The process has been an organic one; as it has progressed, *Tyler's Suite* has changed and evolved with each contribution, each performance.

"As you might imagine, in the early days, as things came in, the overall piece took a while to find its own coherence," Schwartz explains. "We played around with different orders of pieces, individual composers did some changes and editing to their own. I would make some suggestions to individual composers. Some of the contributors were able to see early performances; some were not and were enthusiastic about getting feedback. Everyone was taking a shot in the dark."

One of the additions was to include an explanation of who Tyler Clementi was as part of the performance. "One of the things Tim and I realized was that while we knew Tyler's story, many in the audience didn't." Now, though, Schwartz describes it in good shape, and basically in a final, polished state.

"I love the sound of a chorus. I love a lot of voices singing together — maybe my favorite sound in the world is a chorus singing very quietly," he says. "I've [written choral parts] a good deal both for men's chorus or mixed chorus in a lot of my shows. The way vocals combine, how they will blend with one another, is a whole craft in itself. And writing for men's chorus is very different than writing for SATB [soprano-alto-tenor-bass]. It's different working out the blend."

And this work in particular is one of the more rewarding projects he has worked on.

"I'm very happy to talk to you and very proud of the part I played in bringing to life *Tyler's Suite*," he says. "It's an important piece that helps people be aware of bullying and its important implications."

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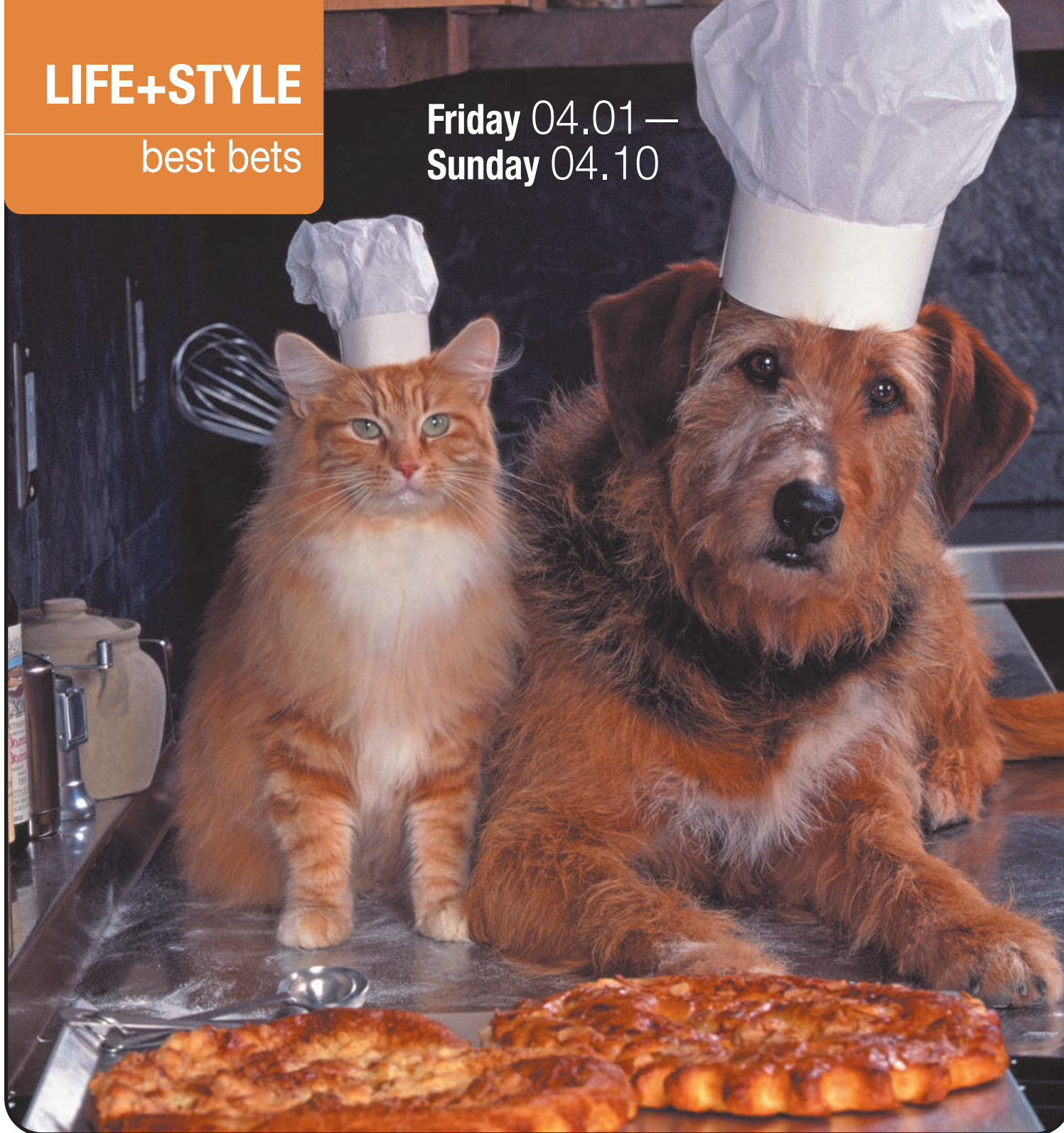
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Food, fashion and four-legged fundraising dominate this week and beyond

We're not sure why all of a sudden three elements of our lives — our pets, fashion and foodie events — combined for one week, but here they are: Several food festivals, both with dogs and without, plus some fashion fundraisers ... once again, with Fido in attendance. Here, this, is our rundown.

Fort Worth Food and Wine Festival. This food fest includes the "main event" tasting on April 1, and continues with a brunch and Sunday afternoon picnic. April 1–3. For locale and tickets, visit FortWorthFoodAndWineFestival.com.

Project Ruffway. This fundraiser benefiting the SPCA of Texas is hosted by the Gay and Lesbian Fund of Dallas, and features a runway show of pets and their parents. Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive. April 2, 7–10 p.m.

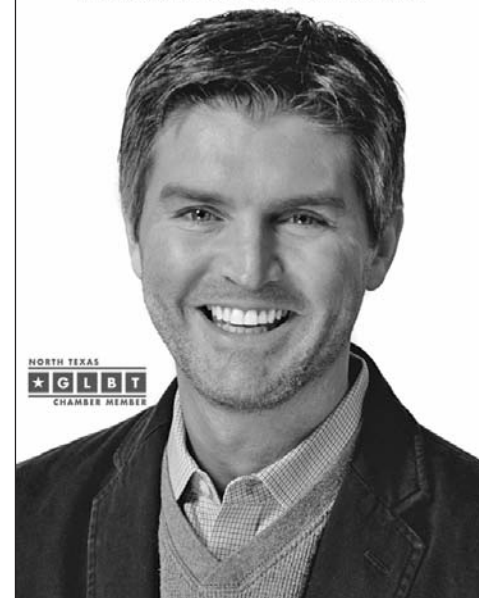
Kibble and Cocktails. Another pets-centric foodie fundraiser, this brings together top chefs to Trinity Groves to raise money for DFW Rescue Me. Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. April 5, 7–10 p.m. \$100. KibbleAndCocktails.org.

First Wednesday Cedar Springs Wine Walk. The monthly wine stroll to take in the fashions and retail appeal of the gayborhood. Feel free to bring your dog. April 6, 6–9 p.m.

Savor Dallas. The food phantasm finishes off with the biggest event, the latest incarnation Savor Dallas, which includes a stroll through the Arts District, a grand tasting, a reserve tasting and even a festival-ending brunch, at locations across Dallas and featuring a slew of local chefs, restaurants, mixologists and wine purveyors. April 7–10. For a complete schedule of locations and tickets, visit SavorDallas.com.

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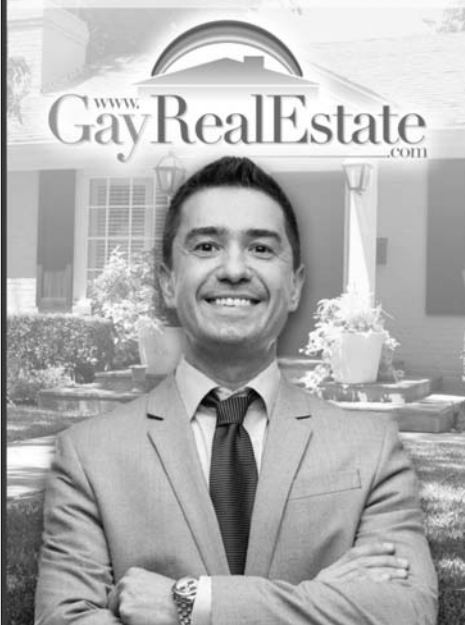
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calendar highlights



Forget Batman and Superman — check out these empowered female superheroes at one of Pocket Sandwich's popcorn-tossers, 'The Mighty Valkyries.' (Photo by Rodney Dobbs)

ARTSWEEK THEATER

All the Way. The Dallas Theater Center's first-ever co-production with Houston's Alley Theatre is this staging of the acclaimed Tony Award-winning play about LBJ. *Final weekend.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Buyer & Cellar. Playwright Jonathan Tolins took a real fact — the mall underneath Barbra Streisand's home, loaded with the mementos she has accumulated over the decades — and turned it into a fictional story about the young gay guy assigned to attend it. Doug Atkins stars in this hilarious one-man show. The Studio at Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd. Through April 10. StageWest.org.

Dante: Paradiso. The third installment in Dante's Divine Comedy is also the third world premiere adaptation from MBS Productions, following the company's acclaimed versions of *Inferno* and *Purgatorio*. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 9. MBSProductions.net.

God's Trombone. A revival of the hit gospel musical. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through April 24. JubileeTheatre.org.

The Little Mermaid. The Disney classic about Ariel, adapted for the stage by Dallas' Doug Wright, with a score composed by Alan Menken. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

Light Up the Sky. Theatre 3's season continues with this classic comedy by Moss Hart. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Love Letters. Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal, the original stars of the film *Love Story*, reunite for this version of the A.R. Gurney play, an epistolary romance about a man and a woman sharing their intimate secrets over decades of correspondence. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

The Mighty Valkyries. A world premiere popcorn-tossing melodrama from Pocket Sandwich Theatre,

about a city run by butch female superheroes. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through May 14.

The Nether. Stage West presents this play about a dystopian future where the internet is a policed realm. Randy Pearlman, Aaron Roberts and Allison Pistorius appear; Garret Storms directs. *Final weekend.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

The Realistic Joneses. A quirky comedy about neighbors in the suburbs — two couples with the same last name. Studio Theatre of Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 10. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: Heroes. The third concert of the gay men's chorus' 2015–16 season celebrates local organizations who have been "heroes" of the community: DFW Federal Club, the Bruce Wood Dance Project, Resource Center, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the Cathedral of Hope and Jonathan's Place. It will also include the regional premiere of *Tyler's Suite*, specially commissioned by several gay choruses nationwide to honor Tyler Clementi, a symbol of suicide prevention in the gay community. Each performance will include a counselor on hand discussing the scourge of depression and suicide. Read our interview with one of the composers of *Tyler's Suite*, Oscar winner Stephen Schwartz, on Page 25. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. April 1–2. 7:30 p.m. \$28–\$65. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

FINE ART

Rebecca Warren: The Main Thing. A mid-career retrospective of the British visual arts and sculptress, in 20 diverse pieces. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 17. 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 seven paintings in this intimate exhibit that explores themes in Dutch art. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 21. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 01.01

DINING
Fort Worth Food and Wine Festival. A weekend of foodie-centric festivities, including Friday's Main Event (6 p.m.) and late-night desserts (9 p.m.), Saturday's rise-and-shine brunch (11 a.m.) and Sunday's family picnic (2 p.m.). Visit FortWorthFoodAndWineFestival.com for tickets and locations.

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

SATURDAY 04.02

FUNDRAISER
Project Ruffway. Canine couture meets feline fashion in this runway show and fundraiser, hosted by the Gay and Lesbian Fund of Dallas and benefiting the SPCA of Texas. Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive. 7–10 p.m.

SPORTS
Dallas Elite Women's Football: Season Opener. Dallas' successful young women's team opens its season with a home game against in-state rivals from Houston. Bishop Lynch High School Field, 9750 Ferguson Road. 7 p.m. \$10. DallasEliteFootball.com.

SUNDAY 04.03

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 04.04

CABARET
Mama's Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. \$10.

BROADCAST
RuPaul's Drag Race. The eighth season continues. Logo at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 04.05

FUNDRAISER
Kibble and Cocktails. A foodie fundraiser benefitting DFW Rescue Me brings together area chefs and restaurants cooking up bites and beverages to benefit four-legged friends. Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. 7–10 p.m. \$100. KibbleAndCocktails.org.

FILM
Medium Cool. The late Oscar-winning cinematographer Haskell Wexler made his debut as a feature film director with this meta-movie, part documentary of the riotous 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, part fiction film about the

counter-culture. 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.

WEDNESDAY 04.06

COMMUNITY
First Wednesday Cedar Springs Wine Walk. Grab a glass of Barefoot and explore The Strip. Along Cedar Springs Road between Oak Lawn and Wycliff avenues. 6–9 p.m.



THURSDAY 04.07

THEATER
I'll Eat Your Last: A Chat with Sue Mengers. Better Midler had a recent Broadway smash in this one-woman show about the powerhouse agent. This limited run performance features B'way veteran Karen Murphy as the excoriating Hollywood legend. Milburn Theatre, 120 S. Main St., For Worth. April 7–9 at 8 p.m., April 10 at 2 p.m. AmphibianStage.com.

The Lady, The Empress and The Pearl, Part One: The Empress and the Pearl. Local favorites M. Denise Lee and Marisa Diotalevi team up for this world premiere play about Bessie Smith and Janis Joplin. In Theatre 3's Theatre Too space, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. April 7–May 1 (in previews through April 8). Theatre3Dallas.com.

DINING
Savor Dallas. The weekend-long Dallas foodie event returns, with the Arts District Garden Party Thursday, plus a grand tasting and reserve tasting on Saturday and "waffle wars" breakfast Sunday. Participating restaurants include The Common Table, Parigi, Salum, Lark on the Park, Public School 214, Madrina, Luck, Ida Claire and more. Visit SavorDallas.com for complete lineups and locations, plus tickets.

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.

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Cassie Nova

Cassie calls 'Shenanigans!' on liars

Hello all. As most of you know, I watch way too much TV. I watch hours of mind numbing fluff — possibly as a way to get out of my own head, or because I have very questionable taste. I do not keep up with the Kardashians, but I do visit Redneck Island from time to time. From *Face Off* to *The Real O'Neils*, my preferences are varied. If I cooked as much as I watch cooking shows, I'd be a Michelin-star chef.

The other night I was sitting in bed watching the hypnotic screen as it lulled me away to sleepy town when I accidentally hit the remote and it went to live TV. It just so happened to be the opening credits of *Brokeback Mountain*. I hadn't watched the movie since it came out in 2005 so I decided I would watch a few minutes. I ended up watching the entire film.

If you haven't watched Ang Lee's masterpiece film, based on a short story by Annie Proulx, I urge you to do so. (I'm talking to you millennial gays.) It's about a secretive relationship between a couple of cowboys that starts while watching over a heard of sheep on Brokeback Mountain in 1963. The movie is heartbreaking and beautiful. It got me thinking of all of the real life stories of guys like Jack Twist and Ennis Del Mar. Men and women throughout human history that could not truly be with the person they loved and it breaks my heart. How many guys hid their relationships, only meeting in secret? How many found true love and actually had a happy life together. I like to think that for every sad, heartbreaking story out there, there are a hundred more that

found their happily ever after.

The sad truth is that we will never know much about real gays through history. The stories we get are only speculation. The people in charge that get to shape history tend to omit and edit things so the past is biased. Part of me wants to research more on the topic of gays past, but I'm also not sure of how much of the truth I can take. I know what was done to gays during the Holocaust. I know what is still being done to them in Middle East. I know there was a little more sexual fluidity during Roman times.

It reminds me of how thankful I am to be alive today. We are a lucky lot. Your opportunities to love and be loved are better now than any other time in gay history and some of y'all still can't get a man. (Winky face!)

Dear Cassie, I have a friend that lies so much. He lies about everything. He lies about guys he's slept with to the places he has vacationed. It drives me crazy. Should I call him out on it or just let it go. It's so annoying! Thanks, Ty.

Dear Ty, I think we all lie a little bit. We lie to make ourselves seem more interesting. Sometimes we lie just to hear ourselves talk. Well, not me. I have never lied. That's a lie. If your friend's lies are not hurting anyone, I say let it go. Naw, just kidding! Call that bitch out. Every time you know he is lying call shenanigans. Yell at the top of your lungs *Shenanigans!!!*

I have a friend that lies a whole lot as well. She must also have a short memory. Once she told me and a group of my friends a story about how she put a sample of Selsun Blue shampoo in the mailbox of one of her enemies. Only it wasn't shampoo in the bottle, it was Nair mixed with blue food coloring. The story ended with her enemy sporting short hair a few days later. Great story. Only one problem: She was

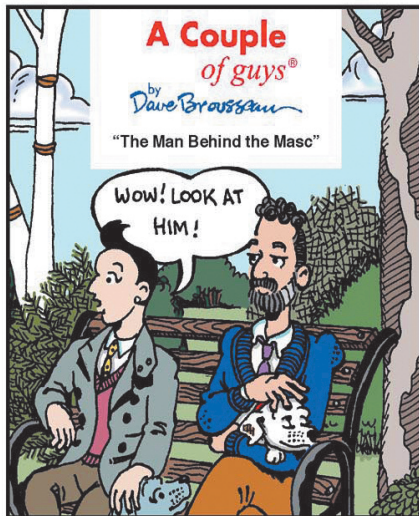
telling a story that had happened to me. I did the exact same thing to my best friend's ex-boyfriend. He cheated on, stole from and just really fucked my best friend over. Long story short, I am a horrible person but a great friend.

Anyhoo, back to the liar. She told the anecdote to our group like it was 100 percent her story. I couldn't believe she didn't remember that not only was I the one that told her that story, but I had even written about it in this very column about a year before. I should have called shenanigans but I just let her go on, knowing that the people she was talking to knew the truth. It was unreal. Surprisingly enough that was just one of the many times we let her tell us a story that we knew didn't happen to her. It was very... really, queen?

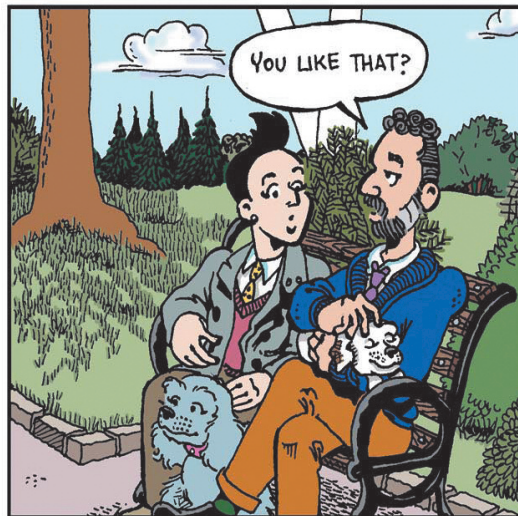
I admit, I like to embellish — that is part of being a good storyteller. But the balls on that bitch were enormous. We all want to feel interesting so maybe your friend that lies is just trying to fit in. Hoping that if they entertain you, a little white lie is no big deal. It's when they start to believe their own lies that you have a problem. Live without regrets, call shenanigans! Good luck, Cassie.

Dearest Cassie, First let me say I adore you. Would you ever go or have you ever tried to go on RuPaul's Drag Race? I think you would kill it. Forever a fan, Jeremy.

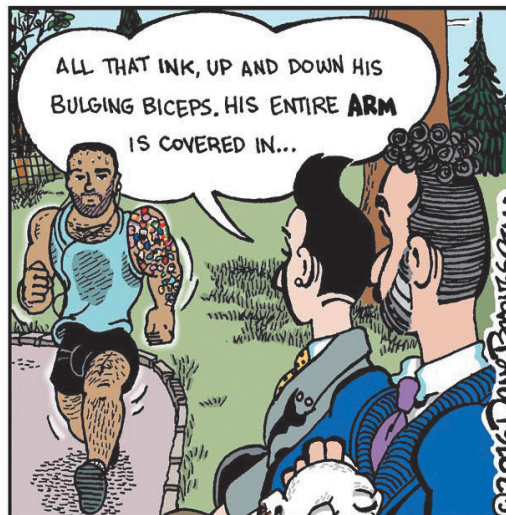
Dear Jeremy, Thank you for your kind



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words. I have been asked and answered this question in the past and the only reason I am revisiting it is because my thoughts on the subject have changed — well, not really changed, but I have come to a realization on the subject. In the past I have joked about not caring to be on that show, but the truth is, I think I would do horribly on *Drag Race*. Don't get me wrong: I have more personality than any one show can handle, but that might not be enough to do well on *that* show.

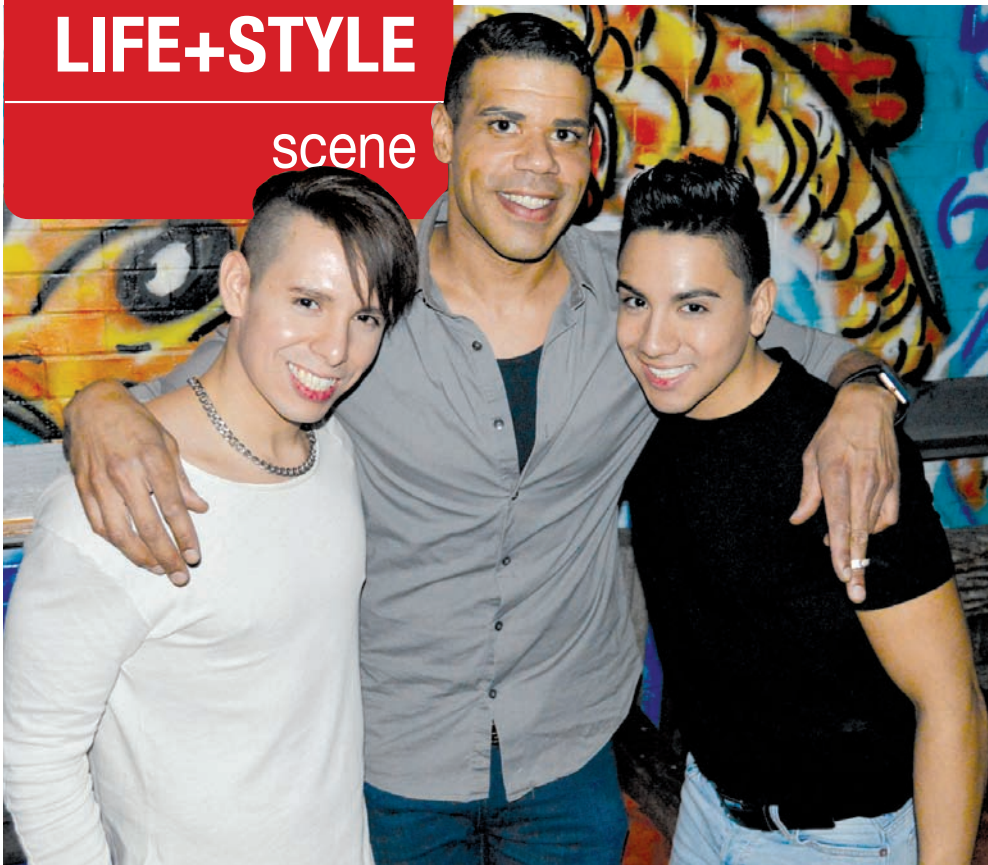
I don't think I would do well with the dancing challenges. It takes me forever to learn very basic choreography, but when I *have* it learned I know it to my core. I just need more time than what you get on such a tight shooting schedule. I don't sing at all. They always have at least one challenge where those poor queens are forced to sing. There is a reason I lip-synch for a living. And to be perfectly honest, my taste in clothes is very questionable. I have a very certain look I like, and anything away from that look bothers me to the point I am uncomfortable. I am not fashion forward. I don't wear enough — I like my little hooker dresses and big hair. I definitely have my own style but I don't think it would do well there.

Plus, it seems exhausting. I'm not sure I have the energy and stamina to keep up with those damn kids. Not to mention, I have a temper and might actually punch the first the first bitch that called me old or fat. I guarantee you it would be good TV but I don't think it would be fun (for me at least). Who knows, maybe I will find a show to be on that lets me be me without having to kill myself! Oh my God, I'm lazy!

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

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

Photo courtesy Krisofer Reynolds



Ozby, Alba and Peter at BJ's NXS



Andrea, T.J. and Michelle on The Strip

Making the SCENE the week of April 1-7:

- **Alexandre's:** Stephanie Sallie on Friday. K-Marie on Saturday. Chris Chism on Wednesday.
- **BJ's NXS!** The Ringmaster Strip Off at 9 p.m. every Sunday beginning this week.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Win \$10,000 at happy hour Bag Of Cash give away at 8 p.m. on Friday. Must be present to win. Dallas Red Foundation presents Miss Red pageant hosted by Krystal Summers with judge Jenna Sky at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** 21st anniversary weekend. Texas Gay Rodeo Association fundraiser Wanted! benefits King and Queen of the Rodeo at 8 p.m. on Friday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Grand Duckie Show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Bears and Leather Knights club night on Saturday. Anniversary cake and snacks at 2 p.m. on Sunday, awards at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Dallas Girls of Leather monthly meeting at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** King and Queen of the Rodeo with Trisha Davis at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Dream Girls with Chanel, Fantasha, Kandy, Bronx and Vita on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Miss Southern Gay States featuring Miss Gay USofA Mokha Montrese, Miss Gay Southern States USofA Alexis Mateo and others at 10 p.m. on Sunday. \$8 at the door.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Retro Party on Friday. Rock Rolls On on Saturday. Kathy and Bella at 3 p.m. and Barefoot Hippies at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Chick Happy Hour on Thursday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth.



Friends' night out at TMC: The Mining Co.



The friendly staff at The Round-Up Saloon



In line at S4



David and Lee celebrate their birthdays at The Brick.



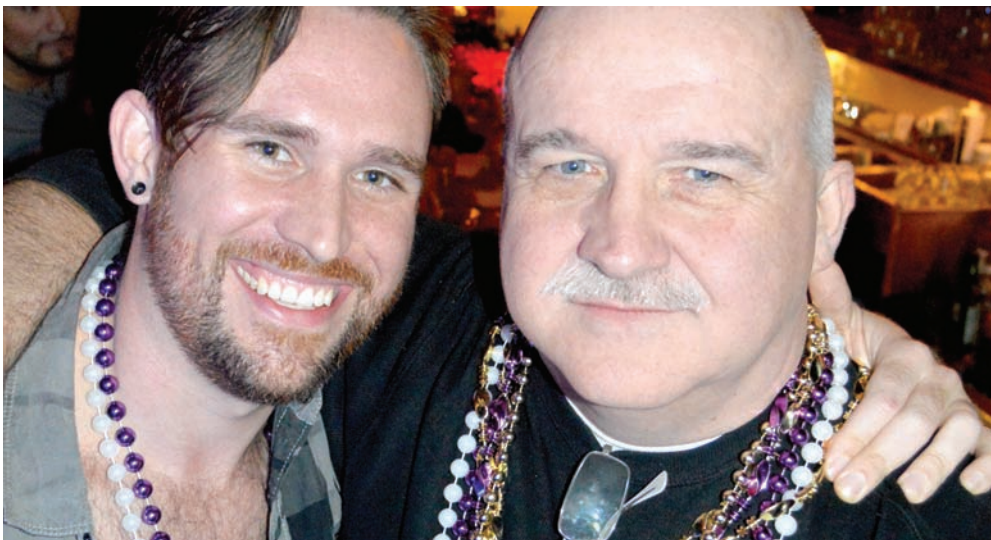
Kevin and David at BJ's NXS



Carla and Christina at Sue Ellen's



Jay, Tonia and Ryan on The Strip



Bears celebrating in Oak Lawn.



Dancer at BJ's NXS



Friends partying at The Brick



Coco and Nicole O'Hara at BJ's NXS



A little lovin' at The Round-Up Saloon



Showing out on the pole at TMC: The Mining Co.



Girls' night out on The Strip



Friends at S4

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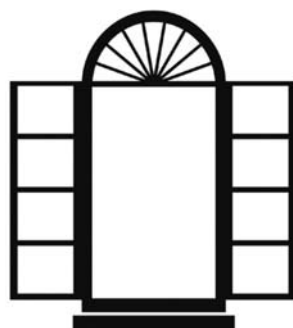
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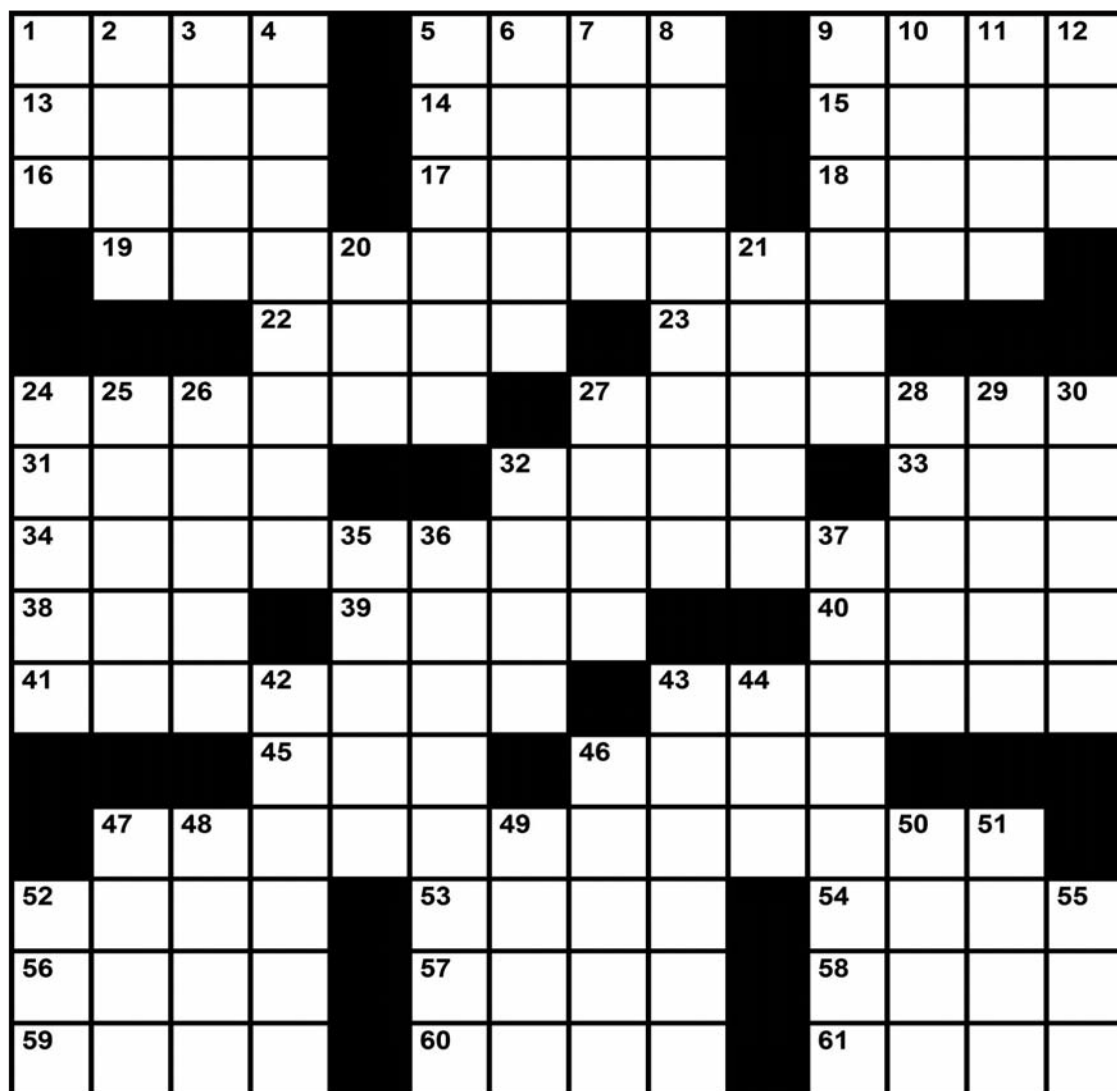
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A Crush on the Boss

Solution on page 29

Across

- Mary had a little one
- Deep throat clearer
- Intro, at Gay.com
- Where to find Moby Dick
- Sitarist Shankar
- Bear locales
- Single drag queen?
- Bauxite and borax
- Type of New York Liberty defense
- Episode of *The Simpsons* named for a boss
- Like a phone in use
- Galley slave's tool
- Pupils watching porn may do this
- The Unicorn* author Iris
- Track shape
- Strip a fruit
- Noted Warhol subject
- Gay character on *The Simpsons* who has a crush on his boss
- U-turn from SSW
- Kind of plastic
- "___ Rhythm"
- Bewitched* actor Dick
- Olympic awards for Louganis
- "We ___ the Champions"

46 Lucci in *All My Children*

47 34-Across had a dream about his

boss jumping naked out of this

52 Cheryl of *Charlie's Angels*

53 "For here ___ go?"

54 Fairy tale huffer

56 Foundation for Humanity name

57 Bear's den

58 *Mamma Mia!* band

59 Talk with one's hands

60 Some of Mary's lambs

61 Wine list info

Down

- Beat it
- Words before were
- Sexy clothing material
- Billy Bean's sport
- Turn on
- Boy wizard Potter
- Straight
- Cam's home state on *Modern Family*
- Cross-dressing comedian Eddie
- Music synthesizer
- Gym bunnies do it to their pecs
- Fruit sugar ending
- On the other hand

21 Insertion indicator

24 Football foursome

25 Trump of old

26 Put one on top of the other

27 One of the Three Bears

28 Last letter from Socrates

29 Movie based on *The Price of Salt*

30 Ellen DeGeneres and others

32 Oral attention getter

35 In-your-face

36 Like a short round for Sheehan

37 Hernando's place in *The Pajama Game*

42 Good and evil place in a Kevin Spacey movie

43 George Moscone, and others

44 SASE, e.g.

46 Holmes of *Wonder Boys*

47 First word of a *South Pacific* song

48 "Understood" to Ginsberg

49 Pull out your shooter

50 Port on Osaka Bay

51 Isle in Brando's *Desiree*

52 ___ *Miserables*

55 Way out

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