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Queer at the movies

**Gay filmmakers come into
their own at DIFF, USAFF**

by Arnold Wayne Jones, Page 20



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14



22



27

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 8 'Taking Back Oak Lawn' premieres
- 10 Backlash against anti-LGBT laws
- 14 LGBT gaming con is back

LIFE+STYLE

- 20 DIFF and USA Film Festival open
- 22 How Tituss Burgess became a star
- 27 'I'll Eat You Last' plays Fort Worth
- 29 Queer interest films at DIFF

ON THE COVER

Design by Kevin Thomas.
Images from *Sunset Song* screening at USA Film Festival; and *Slash* and *Late Bloomers* screening at Dallas Independent Film Festival

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 31 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 35 | Cassie Nova |
| 18 | Community Voices | 36 | Scene |
| 20 | Life+Style | 40 | Classifieds |

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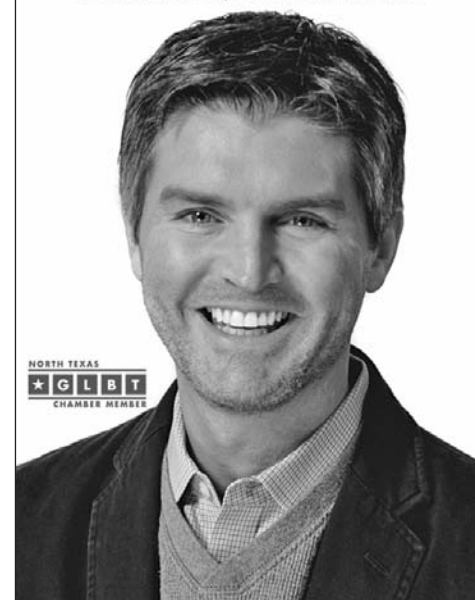
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Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton

Indicted AG sides with city on banning sex from the Kay

Indicted Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has joined the forces of truth, goodness and the American way to encourage Dallas to continue pissing away money to fight to keep eXXXotica, the love and sex expo, from coming to the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

Paxton filed an amicus brief in the suit eXXXotica filed against the city. By my reading, he argues that in order for Dallas business to flourish, we must tell business not to do business in the city.

The city is currently spending \$4,000 a day in legal fees to prevent the expo from renting space on a weekend when the Kay has no other business booked. That's just legal fees and doesn't include the money the city will be paying to eXXXotica when it loses its First Amendment free speech case.

Paxton also had new federal civil charges filed against him this week.

— David Taffet

David Gest, Liza Minelli's ex, has died in London

David Gest, who was once married to Liza Minelli, was found dead in his room at the Four Seasons Hotel in Canary Wharf in London on Tuesday April 12. His “friend and former bodyguard,” Imad Handi confirmed the news. He was

62.

Gest, a music producer and reality show star, was scheduled to tour the United Kingdom in July with his latest show, named ironically enough, the “David Gest is Not Dead But Alive With Soul” tour. The name of the tour stemmed from a mix-up in January when Gest was appearing on *Celebrity Big Brother*, and while he was sick in bed, a castmate mistook announcements of David Bowie's death to be announcement's of Gest's death, saying on air, “Oh my God, David Gest is dead!”

Gest had a successful career in the entertainment industry in his own right.

He produced Michael Jackson: 30th Anniversary Celebration in 2001, which was the highest-rated music special in U.S. history, and was a childhood friend of both Michael and Tito Jackson.

In 2011, Gest worked with Sir Richard Cliff on Cliff's album *Soulicious* with soul singers such as Roberta Flack and Candi Staton.

— Tammye Nash

Eagle Forum in chaos after founder endorses Trump

Phyllis Schlafly, founder of the Eagle Forum, was removed from her leadership position at the family values organization this week by her daughter and other board members. The five other members, including Dallas' own Cathie Adams, are angry she endorsed Donald Trump instead of Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas for the Republican presidential nomination.

Until recently Adams was president of the Texas Eagle Forum but remained involved with the group. That is until Schlafly asked for her resignation which Adams may or may not have refused.

Adams made it clear last month to the Dallas Morning News she was pissed about Schlafly's endorsement. Trump is manipulative and may have preyed upon Schlafly because of her age, Adams suggested. Schlafly clearly did not take kindly to the comment.

Adams is currently running for vice chairman of the Republican Party of Texas with Houston's Jared Woodfill, a lawyer who actively campaigned against Houston's Equal Rights Ordinance. They face current chairman Tom Mechler of Amarillo. They are campaigning “to take back our party”; the same party she led into financial disarray during her short stint as its president.

Sad!

— James Russell



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Brian, age 45, California

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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with this week's guest is **Rawlins Gilliland**; **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 except 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

• **Through 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 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

pet of the week / BELLE

Belle is a pure-bred, long-haired, black-and-tan German shepherd, about two-and-a-half years old and weighing about 90 pounds. She would be a great companion for an active person willing to go on daily walks, and with a large yard where she can run and play. She has had obedience training, but is a bit rusty, especially if she gets out without a leash. She will run through the neighborhood and not come back until she is ready. Belle is also 15-20 pounds overweight, and needs a companion who will monitor her eating.

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.



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House, 516 College Ave, Fort Worth.

• **April 19: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas meeting**

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox is the speaker. 6:30 p.m. at Vixin Lounge at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

• **April 21: Rainbow LULAC officer installation**

6:30 p.m. at Havana Lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs Road.

• **April 21: Taking Back Oak Lawn screening**

USA Film Festival premieres Steven Pomerantz's documentary about last fall's Oak Lawn attacks. 6:30 p.m. at Angelika Theater, 5321 E Mockingbird Lane.

• **April 21: Dawn Lundy Martin at WordSpace**

Poet Dawn Lundy Martin whose poetry collections include *Discipline* appears as part of the WordSpace series at 7:30 p.m. at South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave.

• **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.

• **April 22-24: Earth Day Texas**

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Fair Park, 1121 1st Ave. EarthDayTX.org.

• **April 23: It's My Park Day**

Celebrate the renovation and rejuvenation of Maria Luna Park in Oak Lawn and hear about plans for additional changes to the park. From 9-11 a.m. at Maria Luna Park, 4500 Maple Ave.

• **April 24: Second night Passover Seder**

Congregation Beth El Binah celebrates the second night of Passover with a seder at 5:30 p.m. at Deli News, 17062 Preston Road. \$60 members, \$65 non-members.

• **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. BlackTrans.org.

• **April 27: Dallas PrEP Summit**

Black AIDS Institute. BTAN, African American HIV University and AIDS Arms present discussions on PrEP issues. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Event from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lunch provided. Meadows Conference Center, 2900 Live Oak St. Register at DallasBlackPrepSummit.eventbrite.com.

• **April 30: Steve Grand in concert**

Steve Grand appears in concert. Chris Chism, who's been in the studio working on his first single "Don't Stay There," also performs. Concert begins at 7 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope 5901 Cedar Springs Road.

• **April 30: Free day at the zoo**

Free day at the zoo for residents of council districts 1, 2, 7 and 14 (council members Adam Medrano, Philip Kingston, Scott Griggs and Tiffinni Young). Proof of residence required. Begins at 1 p.m. at Dallas Zoo, 650 S. R. L. Thornton Freeway.

MAY

• **May 1: A Privileged Encounter:**

My Unique 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 4: LifeWalk Kickoff Party**

A silent auction and hors d'oeuvres are featured at 2016 LifeWalk's kickoff from 6:30-9 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane.

• **May 6-8: The Grace Project**



Dawn Lundy Martin's collections include *Discipline*, which won the Nightboat Books Prize, and *A Gathering of Matter/A Matter of Gathering*, which was selected for the Cave Canem Poetry Prize. She was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award. Martin appears as part of the WordSpace writers series at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21 at South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave.

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 [legacycounseling.org](mailto:angela@legacycounseling.org) or 214-520-6308 ext. 384. Information at legacygraceproject.org.

• **May 10: Awareness about the care needs of LGBT older adults**

Light dinner, the film *Gen Silent* and a panel discussion about challenges of LGBT aging in our culture presented by Ed-U-Care. 6 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.

• **May 12: Outrageous Oral 20**

The Dallas Way's oral history project welcomes Dickie Weaver, Mary Mallory and Michael Doughman at 7 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. (New location because of construction in the Rose Room).

• **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: Bloomin' Ball**

Ron Corning is the honorary chair of Sewing Seeds of Hope benefiting AIDS Interfaith Network at 5 p.m. at Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway.

• **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 door; student tickets are \$35. For tickets and more information visit TylerAreaGays.com or call 903-312-2081. 6 p.m.-midnight, at Holiday

AGENDA, Page 17

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'Taking Back Oak Lawn' premieres at the USA Film Festival

Documentary traces last year's spate of violence against gay men in Dallas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In October, after hearing about a couple of attacks on gay men in Oak Lawn, Steven Pomerantz decided to attend a rally for the survivors at the Legacy of Love Monument. One of the people he heard speaking there was Michael Dominguez, a survivor of one of the attacks.

"I heard Michael speak," Pomerantz said. "He was so eloquent. Something clicked in my brain."

Pomerantz had a video camera with him and decided to start recording. He thought he'd do something creative, maybe make a short documentary about Dominguez and Blake Rasnake, who had been attacked and kidnapped on Pride parade day in September.

Activists held more meetings — with police, with city council members, with Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk — as well as a rally at police headquarters and more protests on Cedar Springs Road.

Pomerantz attended them all — and continued filming.

He met a number of people in the community he hadn't known before: Burke Burnett, survivor of a 2011 hate crime attack who became active last fall, hoping to help recent victims; Lee Daugherty, owner of Alexandre's, who was the first bar owner on the strip to declare his outrage that his patrons, employees and friends were being attacked and vowed to do something about it.

Pomerantz said he used social media to arrange interviews, but making this documentary was different from others he had worked on. He was filming — and editing — in real time, he said, rather than trying to relate a story that was over.



The Light Up Oak Lawn march was one of several that called attention to the attacks in Oak Lawn last fall. (Winston Lackey/Dallas Voice).
Below, Steven Pomerantz, with backpack, filming his documentary. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Even as he was filming, Pomerantz explained, he didn't know how the story would end.

As he continued to follow events, Pomerantz decided to focus on a core group of activists trying to make a difference with politicians, the police and in the neighborhood.

"They really inspired me," he said, explaining how a group of people that hadn't known each other before came together to create a group focused on helping the survivors and on beginning to make a difference immediately.

Some, like John Anderson, signed up to participate in Volunteers on Patrol, helping identify

troublemakers in the neighborhood, even managing to break up several potential attacks before they happened.

And then the furious activity slowed to a crawl. "I shot all this footage and around Christmas things settled down," Pomerantz said. "We were waiting for an arrest and nothing happened."

So the documentarian said he decided to put together what he had. With no arrest, there wasn't a traditional Hollywood ending. But, he said, it still makes a good story because it's real life and, in the end, people made a difference.

For Dominguez, the story is personally frustrating, because there's been no arrest in his or any of the cases. But Pomerantz's film, he noted, is less about the crimes and more about the community reaction.

"It happened to enough loud-mouthed people," Dominguez said.

Dominguez explained that nine months ago, he didn't know any of the people now involved in SOS—Survivors Offering Support, the organization he founded with Rasnake and Burnett, or those putting together the protests or fundraisers for SOS.

"Discrimination forced us together through extenuating cir-

cumstances," Dominguez said, adding that he hopes it starts a conversation in other LGBT communities as well.

Dominguez will appear with Pomerantz at the USA Film Festival premiere of Light Up Oak Lawn, participating in a question-and-answer session after the screening. He expects people to ask where things stand now, and he hopes questions like that will start a conversation about the LGBT community working with the city, police and district attorney's office to make the community safer.

Daugherty founded Take Back Oak Lawn and pulled Cedar Springs merchants and bar owners into the coalition of groups working to make the gayborhood safer. In the film, the bar owner talks about how business owners did — and didn't — respond. He said businesses on the Cedar Springs Strip had always invested in safety inside their properties.

But, he urges them, "Don't let it stop at the door." And he complimented Zephyr, a new restaurant on Cedar Springs Road, for installing an advanced camera system.

"The Round-Up upgraded to an amazing camera system," Daugherty added, "and Hunky's is now adding cameras."

Although news about the attacks is fading and no new attacks have been reported to police in recent months, the business response is continuing.

"We're seeing a decrease in crime," Daugherty said. "The stuff we've done is continuing to work and the community is not being complacent."

The film premieres at the USA Film Festival at 6:30 p.m. on April 21 at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. Q&A with Pomerantz and Dominguez follows the screening. ■



Equality Texas releases Oak Lawn hate crimes video

Dominguez says he refuses to let this happen in the city in which he chooses to live

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez, Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk, Dallas City Councilman Adam Medrano and Dallas Police Department's Maj. Max Garon joined Equality Texas and local hate crime survivors Monday, April 11, to announce the release of a video on the attacks that took place in Oak Lawn last fall.

The video was released as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities, and was announced in a press conference at Dallas Police Department headquarters in The Cedars. A second premiere screening was held April 14 at Austin Police headquarters.

Garon credited increased patrols in the area for decreased crime in Oak Lawn since the beginning of the year and encouraged crime victims who have not reported incidents to the police to come forward.

"Give us an opportunity to hear what you have to say and investigate the crime," Garon urged.

He said only two of the approximately 20 attacks that happened in the gayborhood last fall are classified as hate crimes. In those two assaults, survivors remember the assailants calling them faggot or other anti-gay slurs, Garon explained.

Michael Dominguez has no memory of being attacked on Cedar Springs Road outside S4 last fall, so he can't provide police with the kind of evidence that would support hate crime charges. But since his assailants took nothing from him, ruling out robbery as the motive, Dominguez said investigators shouldn't discount the possibility that the attack was a hate crime.

But that doesn't dampen his praise for the work police have been doing.

"There's no us or them," he said. "This department has really stepped up."

Dominguez explained why he's been so active since he was attacked, saying, "If I don't speak up, who is going to? I refuse to let this happen in the city [where] I chose to live. No one should live in fear."

Burke Burnett was the victim of an anti-gay attack near Paris, Texas in 2011. Since the rash of assaults began in Oak Lawn last fall, he has become active in efforts to help people who are now going through what he experienced five years ago. This, Burnett said, is an ugly period for Dallas' LGBT community.

He said he is focused on finding solutions through a support group for victims, with referrals to more extensive counseling if necessary, referrals to attorneys and state crime victims compensation assistance. Burnett said the LGBT community is much better equipped to help a survivor of a violent crime now than when the series of attacks began just a few months ago.



Michael Dominguez

Hawk said she is anxious to see some arrests made and promised to prosecute these cases to the fullest extent of the law.

"If we believe we can prove a hate crime, we will prosecute," the D.A. said.

Valdez said beatings or abuse of any kind are never acceptable: "No one deserves to become a victim."

The sheriff went on to comment on the community's response, noting, "We work best when we work together."

Medrano, who represents the neighborhood where the attacks took place, agreed with Valdez and complimented the work of SOS-Survivors Offering Support, Take Back Oak Lawn and the increasing numbers community members involved in Volunteers on Patrol.

But because no one has been arrested, Medrano said he is still frustrated.

"As someone who grew up in the neighborhood and lives in the area," he said, "they haven't caught anybody and that bothers me."

Medrano noted that the city has moved to improve safety in the gayborhood by installing 10 high-definition police cameras in the area and by adding more lighting on darker streets.

Equality Texas Board President Steve Rudner, who has a gay son, stressed that discrimination the root of hate crimes. "It is not fair to have to worry about your child being attacked," he said. "It's also not fair to worry about him being discriminated against."

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said he was impressed with the level of community response and how well the police and sheriff's departments are working with the LGBT community and city hall.

Smith blamed sexist, anti-gay, anti-immigrant rhetoric in political campaigns and the anti-LGBT legislation passing in state legislatures for the increase in violence targeting people for who they are and called that unacceptable.

Dominguez joined Rudner and Smith in Austin on Thursday for the Austin release of the video. ■

The 5-minute video can be seen at
[Vimeo.com/160154007](https://vimeo.com/160154007)

Irving Penn Beyond Beauty



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Irving Penn: Beyond Beauty is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum with generous support from ART MENTOR FOUNDATION LUCERNE, Sakurako and William Fisher, The William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund, The Lauder Foundation - Leonard and Judy Lauder Fund, Edward Lenkin and Roselin Atzwanger, The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, Margery and Edgar Masinter, The Margery and Edgar Masinter Exhibitions Fund, the James F. Petersen Charitable Fund in honor of Tania and Tom Evans, The Bernie Stadiem Endowment Fund, and the Trellis Fund. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum's traveling exhibition program, Treasures to Go.

Generous support for the local presentation is provided by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas.

Generous support for Irving Penn youth education programs provided by the Dallas Fort Worth Metropolitan New Car Dealers Association and the Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported, in part, by the generosity of DMA Members and donors, the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

IMAGE: Irving Penn, Issey Miyake Fashion: White and Black, New York, 1990, printed 1992, gelatin silver print, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of The Irving Penn Foundation, © The Irving Penn Foundation

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As goes Texas, so goes the country?

LGBT rights battles now playing out in statehouses got their start in Texas

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

After calling an emergency one-day session of the North Carolina Legislature in March to address the city of Charlotte's nondiscrimination ordinance, Republican Gov. Pat McCrory signed House Bill 2, the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, into law.

The law overrides local nondiscrimination ordinances and forces transgender people to use bathrooms according to the gender designation on their birth certificates, not their actual gender identity.

McCrory has called HB2 common sense. Charlotte's ordinance, in his words, was not common sense: "Ordinance defied common sense, allowing men to use women's bathroom/locker room for instance," he tweeted.

But on Tuesday, April 12, after loud national outcry, McCrory begrudgingly signed an execu-

tive order adding protections for LGBT employees and allowing businesses and local governments the right to establish nondiscrimination employment policies for their employees.

Lambda Legal Staff Attorney Kyle Palazzolo said this week that his organization will be going ahead with plans to sue the state over the discriminatory bill. The executive order, Palazzolo and others have said, was mere lip service without any real substance.

While LGBT groups and allies denounced the law, another group also spoke out against it: More than 130 business leaders from across the country signed a letter to McCrory in opposition to the law. They warned the law would "diminish the state's draw as a destination for tourism, new businesses and economic activity."

According to a report released by the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank based in Washington, D.C., the North Carolina economy could lose out on more than \$567.5 million in private-sector economic activity through 2018 because businesses don't want to do business in a state with discriminatory laws in place.

North Carolina is already feeling the impact.

After McCrory signed HB 2, the online payment system PayPal canceled plans to expand its Charlotte operation, a move that cost the state about 400 jobs. The German financial corporation Deutsche Bank announced plans to freeze any further expansion in the state — a loss of another 200 jobs.

Musicians Bruce Springsteen and Ringo Starr canceled performances in North Carolina, and the National Basketball Association has also threatened to pull its 2017 All Star games from the state.

Mississippi's Republican Gov. Phil Bryant, failing to learn from North Carolina's situation, recently signed similar anti-LGBT legislation into law. Other bills are currently under consideration in Massachusetts, Missouri, Michigan and Tennessee.

But North Carolina's law is sweeping and more draconian.

Daniel Williams, legislative coordinator for Equality Texas, is all too familiar with these bills. He's seen them all — or something like them — already.

"Every one of the bills you're seeing in state legislatures is a version of bills we beat [in the last legislative session in Texas]," Williams said. "Opponents of equality in Texas have tried their bills here before elsewhere. What's going on is predictive, a window into the future."

But measures like in North Carolina, Williams said, "isn't the stuff keeping me up late at night."

What keeps Williams up late at night are the so-called targeted approaches — the narrow exemptions giving cover for religious individuals and



Daniel Williams, legislative coordinator for Equality Texas

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faith-based organizations to decline service to individuals based on their beliefs.

Examples of the targeted approach include Collin County Republican Rep. Scott Sanford's child welfare bill.

"Those bills allow child welfare organizations to discriminate against LGBT families based on religious beliefs. It'll likely get a senate companion this time. Most of the bills will allow for religious override protections," Williams said. "You'll [also] see bills filed to allow county clerks to abolish issuance of same-sex marriage licenses based on religious convictions."

Last year, Texas' Attorney General Ken Paxton sent a letter to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick outlining ways to protect a conservative form of religious liberty ahead of 85th legislative session. Chairman Joan Huffman, R-Houston, and Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, then addressed those concerns at the February hearing of the Senate's state affairs committee. Estes most notably filed legislation last session that would have reasserted a clergy member's right to refuse to perform a marriage that is against their religious beliefs.

"The big overarching stuff has been filed, but these targeted approaches are more dangerous. They are harder to explain they are dangerous," Williams said.

Not only is the legislation familiar to Williams, but the business response to them is familiar too. "Nondiscrimination ordinances are good for businesses. The business community in Texas has shown they unequivocally oppose any broad discriminatory law," he said.

Chris Wallace, president of the Texas Association of Business, a business trade organization with heavy influence in state politics, agreed. As LGBT rights become mainstream, Wallace said, the business community is realizing that discrimination hinders economic growth and drives away potential employers.

"Maybe it's not good politics [to oppose this legislation] but it's good policy. Texas is open for business for everyone," Wallace said. "We're usually ranked one, two or three [among] the best places to do business. Texas outshines its competitors. Discussions like these are detrimental [to the business climate]."

The millennial generation entering the workforce also does not want to work somewhere not welcoming to everyone.

"It's a talent and workforce issue. [Studies show] straight millennials do not want to work somewhere that does not welcome all people," Wallace said.

Wallace's organization, which was recently honored by the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, came out in full force alongside Equality Texas and the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, against a resolution filed by Republicans Rep. Jason Villalba of Dallas and Sen. Donna Campbell of New Braunfels that would have enshrined the state's existing religious liberty bill in the Texas Constitution.

The ballot referendum would have allowed business owners to deny services and goods to LGBT people and others based on the business owners' "sincerely-held" religious beliefs.



North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory

While Villalba dropped the proposal after hearing concerns from TAB leadership and others, Rep. Matt Krause, a Fort Worth Republican, filed his own bill. Campbell rebuffed the criticism and defended her bill.

Krause recently told the Austin American-Statesman he plans to file the legislation next session.

According to recent surveys, 67 percent of Texans support a law protecting LGBT people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations

and housing. And 53 percent oppose letting a small business owner, based on their religious beliefs, to refuse service to LGBT people.

It is clear, Williams said, "these laws don't reflect Texas values and that is why they were defeated last cycle."

But that doesn't necessarily mean they'd be defeated next time around. "The question," Williams said, "is if people and businesses are going to speak up and say these bills don't reflect our values."



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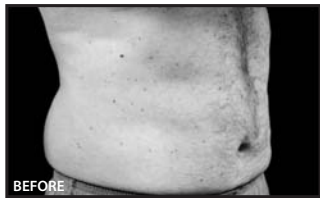
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First Baptist Church offers police counseling



The Rev. Robert Jeffress, who has slammed Islam, LGBTs and many others, raised eyebrows with his offer to counsel DPD officers.

Because of pastor's stands against many different groups, LGBT leaders find his offer disturbing

pert, who joined the church when he decided to run for the U.S. Senate, were on hand for the announcement, which has met with skepticism by many in the LGBT community.

Chief Brown will be honored at the 10:50 a.m. service at First Baptist Church on Sunday, April 17.

The announcement comes at a time when Brown is embroiled in controversy, with four police groups having called for him to be replaced.

Brown's supporters point to the lowest crime

BAPTISTS, Page 16



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HavenCon: LGBT gaming, geek convention is back



Photo courtesy of Frank Hui

New events 'meant to fill a void'

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer

russell@dallasvoice.com

HavenCon, the LGBT comic book and gaming convention, returns to Austin this month for its second year.

Last year's inaugural event drew 1,200 attendees from across the country in two days. This year's event includes tournaments, cosplay events, pop culture panels and a celebrity poker match benefiting TransLifeLine.org.

"It's been a great year with a lot of hard work, and we're proud to show off the amazing amount of events, panels, performances and guest appearances we have slated for this our second year," said conference organizer Shane Brown. "I also couldn't be more excited about our newest addition, the Celebrity Poker Match where we will be playing a game of poker to help raise funds for this year's charity, Trans Life Line."

Brown, who founded the social networking group Gay Austin Geeks in 2012, has added another, more serious series of events to the roster, called After Hours.

The After Hours line-up features fetish groups and other more taboo topics. Representatives from pup, gear and other fetish communities will talk about their communities. Other After Hours events include non-geek, more LGBT-focused discussions as well. For example, Planned Parenthood will be on site to talk about safer sex and alternative forms of contraception.

After House is meant to fill a void in the LGBT gaming and geek community, Brown said.

"Imagine you're watching the Pride parade and you see a group or organization you want

to know more about or hear them talk about what it is they represent. You can't really do that by running out in the street, and they might have a booth at the festival, but no real programming is set around them," he said.

"After Hours is that time when we can all let our hair down and talk about the more risqué, taboo and adult-type things. We think the culture of HavenCon, as a safe space and judgment-free environment, lends itself to these conversations in a great way for people to explore more parts of themselves in a constructive and safe manner," Brown added.

After Hours events may also be overtly political: "It's also a great forum for political movements, safer sex organizations and more to come and speak on what matters to them," the organizer said.

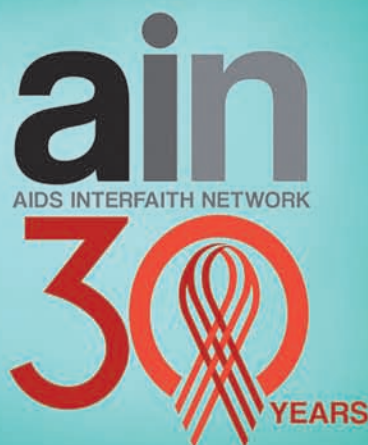
The gaming and geek communities are known for accepting all types of people, including the LGBT community and fetish groups. However, Brown said, that doesn't mean everyone is over the proverbial rainbow.

"I think we've come a long way in this area, but unfortunately, just like with any LGBT issue, we still have progress to make. We support various fandoms [online or at any other conventions] but sometimes we do so without real representation," Brown said.

Without representation, issues impacting the LGBT community may not be recognized.

"Online and real life bullying are still a real issue, and it's just nice to know that no matter what, we have a place to go to feel like we can fully be ourselves," Brown said. "This is the sort of conversation we promote at HavenCon." ■

HavenCon takes place from April 22-24 at Holiday Inn Midtown in Austin. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Children 10 and under can attend for free. Tickets are available at the door



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BAPTISTS, From Page 12

rate the city has seen in years despite cuts to the department, while detractors call his leadership style vindictive.

Jeffress decided to step into the fray by placing his church on the side of the chief.

In addition to offering counseling services to officers, the congregation will fund scholarships for children of Dallas officers to attend camp — presumably the church's own camp — and the church will offer a weekly Sunday school service for officers.

John McKee wrote to Dallas Voice to say, "I'm shocked that this isn't getting more attention."

The Dallas Police are starting an official counseling partnership with FBC which has famously engaged in anti-LGBT/anti-Muslim hate speech."

Jeffress has said the Church of Latter-day Saints and Islam are "from the pit of hell" and, in other statements, claimed Jews and gays are destined to end up in hell. The Catholic Church, he has said, is a "counterfeit religion" representing "the genius of Satan."

In his book, *Outrageous Truth*, Jeffress sums up his beliefs: "Every other religion is wrong."

Directing police officers — who must serve everyone in the city, no matter what their religion or sexual orientation — to counseling at Jeffress' church is a disturbing idea for quite a few people.

Because of a general distrust of Jeffress, Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell wonders if this is a Trojan horse to launch a challenge to the city's nondiscrimination ordinance.

"It's disturbing in the sense that Pastor Jeffress has shown himself not to be inclusive of many folks," McDonnell said. "In law enforcement, you don't get to pick and choose."

McDonnell said Resource Center has a partnership with SMU for its counseling services that will be expanding once the agency moves into its new building next month. They will be rolling out new substance abuse counseling then as well.

"If an officer or an officer's family is interested in taking advantage of our counseling services, we welcome them," McDonnell said.

The Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas, senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope, struck a somewhat conciliatory tone. He commended the chief for working with places of worship and didn't condemn Jeffress for offering services available at his church to the police department. Instead, he took it as a challenge to other congregations across the city to also support the Dallas Police Department.

"We're looking forward to offering counseling to those who may not feel comfortable at First Baptist Church," Cazares-Thomas said. "In this congregation, we have many police officers and some who seek out counseling."

He expressed hope the chief was not aligning with one church or one denomination, but was reaching out to places of worship across the city and extended an invitation to Brown to worship at Cathedral of Hope sometime in the near future.

But Cazares-Thomas did say he understands Jeffress' offer wasn't all that benign and acknowledged that he is worried about Brown's response to the invitation.

"We have heard some officers were being pressured to be there [at First Baptist] on Sunday," he said. "We hope officers who choose not to attend won't be shunned because they weren't there."

Dallas Voice contacted Dallas Police Department for comment for this story. A public information officer said the request had been forwarded directly to Chief Brown, but Dallas Voice had received no response as of press deadline.

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• **May 14: MetroBall Winstar Casino Party Bus Trip**

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• **May 15: 33rd International AIDS Candlelight Memorial**

AIDS Walk South Dallas presents the local observance from 3-5 p.m. at Cosmopolitan Congregation of Dallas, 1812 N. Haskell St.

• **May 20: Dallas-area Intercollegiate LGBTQ Happy Hour**

Texas Exes, SMU and TCU diversity groups host a happy hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and support schools' LGBTQ students, faculty and alumni. 5-7 p.m. at Sushi Zushi West Village, 3636 McKinney Ave. Ste. 150. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.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 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **May 23: Stonewall 20th anniversary reception**
Stonewall Democrats of Dallas celebrates its 20th anniversary with a reception and fundraiser from 7-9 p.m. in the Assembly Room, Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. \$50.

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• **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**

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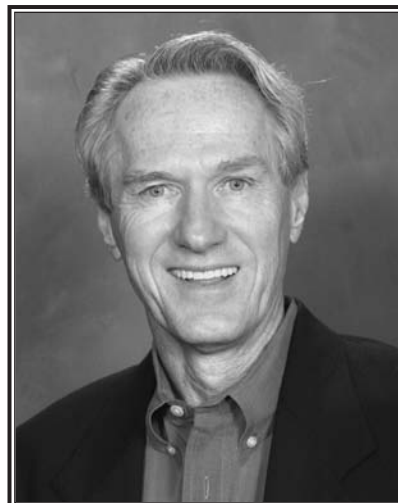
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A 'queer' apologia

Defending and reclaiming a word once used as a weapon of hate

We're here! We're queer! Get used to it! If you walk down Cedar Springs in Dallas on gay Pride parade day — or on Pride parade day in almost every other city in America — you'll hear this chant of defiance and celebration.

I love being queer. I love queers, even those I don't particularly like. When I use the word "queer," I speak of gender-bending, same-gender-loving, transgender, nonconforming, bi people. I prefer it to the acronym we persist in using to identify ourselves, and those who are in solidarity with us.

Regardless of how we identify ourselves, in the eyes of society, we are all queer. Sometimes, even within our communities, we still categorize ourselves, much as our non-queer counterparts do, thereby internalizing their prejudices into our lives and communities.

I know the word "queer" has been used a very long time as a pejorative term for gays and lesbians. I also know some queers don't like being identified as queer, believing it's offensive and derogatory. But for me, "queer" is an inclusive term. The letters, GLBT don't include many other people who are marginal within society because they, too, are "odd," "different," "out of the ordinary."

No matter their sexuality, they are our people too.

During the early 1980s, our community began to transform the word "queer." We embraced it as an affirmation of same-gender love. We claimed the word, making it our own, thus disempowering its ability to hurt us.

Also in the '80s, we were our most radical, most in-your-face selves. We had no choice — a pandemic called AIDS had attacked the men of our

community. When our men were attacked, so were our women, who cared for the ill men. A sexually transmitted virus was destroying innumerable lives, along with everything we had fought for since Stonewall. AIDS drove a wedge between people. It further alienated queer people from our families, friends, co-workers, churches, temples, synagogues.

The first time someone called me a queer, I didn't really understand what they were saying. But I knew one thing instantly: It wasn't good.



M. Shelley Hamilton
Special Contributor

When I consulted a dictionary I discovered "queer" has a daunting history, with many different meanings. It is true — most usages of the word are insulting to "queers," who, by the way, make up anywhere from 10 to 20 percent of the world's population, according to recent studies.

And still, many definitions weren't offensive. Indeed, they resonated with me — words like "odd," "different," "unusual" and "out of the ordinary." I couldn't grasp why being unusual, eccentric, different made one the brunt of cruel, demeaning jokes.

I rejected my peers' prejudice and arrogance. Instead, I embraced my new understanding with delight and wonder, and perhaps with a bit of arrogance myself. I felt empowered by the truth growing in my bones, and with childhood certainty I knew, the problem was with "them," not me.

I did this, of course, without knowing what I was actually doing. I possessed no understanding of sexuality or gender identity. I simply accepted my "out of the ordinarieness." I wasn't special or better, just beautifully unique — like millions of others.

Certainly, at the time I could not have concep-

tualized it this way. I instinctively understood that I was dissimilar from my siblings, my parents and most of the kids I knew. Intuitively I also knew queer people don't choose to be queer. I was born queer and I didn't choose to have my sexuality become a political, legal or religious topic for discussion on national television or the Internet, or from Sunday pulpits or class room lecterns.

I detest the word "homosexuals." It identifies us on the basis of our sexuality.

When we speak of non-gay people we don't refer to them as heterosexuals. Most folks I know don't appreciate being defined solely on the basis of whom we choose to share an intimate relationship with.

Part of my queerness is being a same-gender-loving woman. I am also ever so much more than my sexuality. I am spiritual and physical. I'm also intellectual and emotional. I am a preacher and a writer. I'm a wife and a grandmother. I'm a vegetarian — definitely queer in Texas!

Like the rest of humanity, queers aren't homogenous. We are doctors, lawyers, politicians, preachers, dancers, actors, writers, singers, plumbers, mechanics, professors ... So much more than our sexuality.

I have an urgent dream that queer people everywhere will choose to identify themselves as an international people known as "queer." I love the word. I embrace it with delight and freedom. I'll never apologize for my use of it.

When I look at our world and all its societies and variations of human beings it is the rich, interesting, compelling differences among us that empowers life. When I imagine myself entering our world for the first time, I have no choice but to smile, maybe even laugh. When you get right down to it, who we are, human beings, no matter our origins, are all pretty damn queer.

M. Shelley Hamilton, MDIV, was ordained MCC pastor for many years. She served on staff at the Cathedral of Hope UCC in Dallas in several different capacities for a cumulative 12 years. She retired from professional ministry in December 2014 and now lives with her wife, DebiSu Yelverton, in East Texas, where she is writing her spiritual memoir.

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screen

Out directors are gaining more mainstream acceptance, with queer films and filmmakers front-and-center at 2 Dallas film fests this week

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

There was a time when you went to theater for “the gay stuff” and the movies for everything else. Sure, there have always been indie films, but even the festival circuit was unofficially divided into “mainstream” and “LGBT.”

Well, not anymore. When I contacted James Faust, who runs the Dallas International Film Festival, a month ago to ask if there would be any gay-interest movies in the line-up this year, his response was: “Only half the festival.” While that’s a bit of an exaggeration, it’s true that there is a surfeit of gay-themed movies and queer filmmakers represented at the 10th DIFF this year, which is currently underway and continues through April 24. (See sidebar, Page 29.)

Just as impressively is this year’s 46th annual USA Film Festival, which screens fewer films but is just as devoted to queer voices as larger cinema-gatherings. In fact, for the first time ever, *all* the films screening during the opening night of the festival are by out directors, including original *House of Cards* creator Terrence Davies (*Sunset Song*), Steven Pomerantz (the locally-produced documentary *Taking Back Oak Lawn*; see interview Page 8) and Ira Sachs, whose *Little Men* is not, outwardly, a “gay film” at all. Which is how it should be.

“*[Little Men]* is a film about the friendship between two boys, and while it’s not a sexual relationship, it is a very romantic friendship — which many gay people can relate to ... as do straight people,” says Sachs. On the other hand, “there’s a very gay filmmaker who made it! I do believe there is a kind of sensibility we have as individuals that you can’t deny in the body of work. I adhere to the auteur theory that the filmmaker becomes [part of the story-telling].”

It’s not surprising, then, that out filmmakers who have become known for adding to the canon of queer cinema are turning their sights on non-gay-specific stories that nevertheless are imbued with their unique perspectives.

“I do think being a queer man is how I experience other people — I experienced some isolation growing up,” Sachs explains. “I was a gay kid [in Memphis] who was very involved in a children’s theater that really embraced outsiders in terms of race, class, sexuality — the last truly diverse community I was a part of. And *[Little Men]* is about how art and

creativity can become a vessel for kids who want to be different, how that forms the next story in their lives. But they are definitely different.”

FILM FESTIVALS

10th Annual Dallas International Film Festival, Through April 24.
DIFF2016.dallasfilm.org.

46th Annual USA Film Festival, April 20–24. USAFilmFestival.com.
Most screenings for both take place at the Angelika Film Center, 5307 E. Mockingbird Lane.



GAY SACHS | Filmmaker Ira Sachs’ latest movie, ‘Little Men,’ screens this week at the USA Film Festival — one of three movies by out filmmakers that will screen on the opening night of the 46th festival.

This is something of a reverse from the way stories were told in the past. Often, mainstream “gay” movies (*The Boys in the Band*, *Making Love*, *Brokeback Mountain*) could only get off the ground with straight directors (and usually actors); gay Hollywood directors like George Cukor masked their sensibilities as “women’s pictures.” But for Sachs at least, he sought his inspiration from more radical corners.

“I think there are many traditions as filmmakers we are in conversation with. More than the mainstream Hollywood films, for me was [the cinema of gay filmmakers] Fassbender and Pasolini and Visconti,” he says. “Perhaps this history of queer cinema, or you could say the history of rigorous storytelling by gay artists. It

all goes back to [19th century novelist] Henry James. No single artist has been more inspiring to me than him, who looked at his time from the standpoint of an outsider in his sexuality.” (That said, his next project is an HBO movie, starring Matt Bomer, about the troubled, closeted Hollywood actor Montgomery Clift.)

At USAFF, gay themes work their way into others film — not necessarily subtly, but directly. One of the movies screening, *Alzheimer’s: A Love Story*, is a short documentary about a gay couple, one of whom has such severe dementia he cannot recall who his partner is (try to watch it and not cry). But its universality will hit home with audiences of any orientation. Another documentary

■ FILM FESTIVALS Page 28



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Tituss androgynous



How Peeno, Kimmy & a little mermaid made Tituss Burgess an unlikely star

The Internet loves a good penis pun.

One of 2015's biggest breakout stars, Tituss Burgess, discovered this fact last year, when *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* actor's already-escalating showbiz profile reached new heights thanks to a song he sang called "Peeno Noir: An Ode to Black Penis." So Burgess can retire now, right?

"Oh no, I'm just getting started," says the out actor, who originated Sebastian the Crab in the musical version of *The Little Mermaid*. "There are so many races to love on!"

Not to mention, there's also the second — and hopefully third, fourth and eighth — season of Netflix's *Unbreakable*, with all of Season 2 just online. The 37-year-old plays Titus (a variation on his real name, with just one "s"), an aspiring and very gay Broadway performer who lives with an unworldly doomsday-cult survivor named Kimmy (Ellie Kemper).

But back to that penis song...

—Chris Azzopardi

TITUSS, NOT TITUS | Tituss Burgess says not to confuse him with his character of Titus (only one S) whom he plays on the Netflix series 'Kimmy Schmidt,' which is now streaming all eps of Season 2.



Dallas Voice: What was it like seeing “Peeno Noir” take off like it did? Burgess: I don’t know that I gave it as much thought or attention as attention was paid to it, and that’d be the honest truth. I mean, obviously I paid attention because I launched my own line of Pinot Noir [called “Pinot by Tituss”], but it was lovely to know that people thought it was funny and had taken ownership of it, but it’s become something other than what it initially was. People recite those words and tell me that their office breaks out into it just as release — no one’s thinking about what it actually meant — so it’s taken on a life of its own separate from the show. But it’s awesome and I love it, and I hope they find something as equally exciting and satisfying about this season as they did last season.

We get to learn more about Titus’s “straight life” this season. Who were you during your straight life? Gay! [Laughs] Honestly, I had a formal conversation with my mom when I was 19, but I don’t know that I was ever in the closet, if I’m being perfectly honest. I never had the “I have to tell the world” mindset.

How much of the character is you? I’m gonna be honest with you: very little. We share a similar wicked sense of humor and we both, of course, love musical theater and Diana Ross, but my energy lives a lot lower to the ground than his does and I don’t yearn for the spotlight the way he does. The fact is, I really, really enjoy my alone time, so I don’t crave that the way my character does. In fact, by the time we’re done filming the season, I’m quite exhausted. He requires such a high level of vibration, and so by the time it’s done, I’m happy to hang him up for a few months.

Titus’ breakthrough moment this season involves him in geisha garb. I’m just waiting to hear what the critics have to say about that. Oooh lord. When I read that script I thought, “Jesus. Last year it was the wolf [Jacqueline, who is “American Indian,” unleashed a primal howl during the finale]; this year it’s gonna be the geisha.”

How prepared are you for any backlash? Oh, I’m prepared. I’ve had six months to prep for the harsh criticism. The thing about [creators] Tina [Fey] and Robert [Carlock] is, they don’t shy away from the current climate of the country, and while on a surface level it might seem like they’re giving these silly stereotypes a platform, I think it’s just sort of exacerbating what we have become so sensitive to. But if it’s a headline, my friend, it is fair game.

Tina and Robert are two of the most informed people I’ve ever met, and sometimes we get scripts and I think, “Surely this has not happened somewhere,”

or, “Surely this is something that they’ve made up.” So I’ll get on the Internet and there it is. The transracial storyline — people feeling as though as they remember past lives — when I read these headlines, it’s funny because it’s so unbelievable. So yeah, it’s a fine line, but they treat it with great sensitivity and great class — and it is, after all, a comedy.

Are there ever times where you’re like, “Tina, no, no — too far.” Yeah — the geisha episode! I didn’t wanna do it.

What were you hesitant about? I’m in white face, man! I didn’t want anyone to think I was disrespecting a culture. But what we did was make certain that, while it’s funny, he’s extremely sincere about what has happened to him. He’s for real, and as long as he’s for real in his interpretation and his acknowledgement of his past lives then it’s not offensive. There’s something oddly touching about the end of that episode, and I think it also serves a greater storyline, which is, Titus has finally taken the initiative to take control of his career. No one else is giving him a job, so he wrote one for himself, so that is what’s smart about it.

What do you think when people call Titus a stereotype? I think they didn’t see the same show that I filmed. Titus is more everyman than Jacqueline, Kimmy or Lillian. He’s broke, he can’t afford to pay his rent, he’s chasing this career that has not materialized, he has trouble in relationships, at least last season, and he is not a size 32 in the waist. He gets rejected when he attempts to do something good with his life, even if it’s one of his bizarre “this is gonna make me famous” excursions. Most Americans are living lives unfulfilled. Most Americans don’t have the money that Jacqueline has. Most Americans, especially black people, don’t get away with committing murder like Lillian did. So they’re not paying attention, that’s what I think.

Your performance of Diana Ross’s “Believe in Yourself” while accepting the Human Rights Campaign’s Visibility Award late last year was so moving. Why is being out and visible important to you? Honey, how much time do you have? [Laughs] I know what dark places feel like and I know what the absence of love and community feels like, and if I had a me when I was growing up to see, I would have perhaps been familiar to you guys a lot sooner than two years ago. For that reason, I don’t want any young person or any old person to not acknowledge who they came into the world being through all of their past lives. This current one that you’re experiencing is one that should be fully realized, otherwise you are the walking dead, and what is the point? ■



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Taco love

The Sylvan Thirty development scores another hit with Austin import Tacodeli

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

With the exception of a cup of tea, the taco is perhaps the simplest of all prepared foods ... which is precisely what makes it so difficult to get one right. Tortilla, protein, garnish. That's all you have to work with. We're talking about maybe a few bites to convey all you need to about your creation. You can't mask a tough piece of meat behind a bed of polenta or distract the tongue by delivering a dazzling visual croque-en-bouche. You can't hide the flaws



FIREWORK IN YOUR MOUTH | The decor at West Dallas' Tacodeli is as festive as the flavors in the hand-crafted tacos. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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when there's so little involved to begin with.

Which of course is why a great taco is a thing of beauty — a culinary firework that, when done right, sets off rockets in your mouth. You don't luxuriate in a taco — ever heard of day-old tacos? No! You eat them, fast, quick, hot. "Wow" is the principal dividend of a taco. And since most taquerias have words like "stand" or "stop" in their name, it's not like white glove service makes up for anything. This is the people's food, and the people will be satisfied.

Over at Sylvan Thirty, it's not "shack" or "stand" or even "bistro," but "deli" in the name of the taco joint. And as with a traditional delicatessen, the menu at **Tacodeli** is a curated one, thought out and planned, but with opportunity to individualize it.

Even with just a smattering of ingredients, composing a great taco takes skill. Corn or flour tortilla? Corn, with its natural sweetness, can overwhelm an already-sweet protein like shrimp, and doubling up is sometimes needed to secure all the juices (an excessively messy taco is a failure). At Tacodeli, both flour and corn come from the same Sonoran-style tortilleria just a few miles down the road, so freshness is a watchword, and the flour tortillas here are especially delish and well-matched for the ingredients. (More on those later.)

But what might make customization at Tacodeli the taste sensation it is are the salsas. A good salsa isn't a disguise, but an accent that inflects the flavors of the meat and vegetables. Many taquerias offer one, maybe two or three salsas ("mild, spicy or hot?"); they have four here, ranging from a soothing complement to your palate to a bit of liquid TNT.

The creaminess of their signature green "dona" salsa belies the heat from the poblano, while traditional tomatillo — which they promote as milder — imparts a deft, refreshing tang. The rojas resembles a traditional red sauce but with a warm smokiness, and the habanero — as orange as Donald Trump holding his breath — percolates menacingly on the tongue, a slow burn-like acid coming

through with a strong citrus undercurrent. Half of the fun in exploring Tacodeli's menu is a good ol' fashioned mix-n-match, coming up with combos that satisfy your cravings.

That said, it's easiest to leave the other recipes up to the kitchen. They have designed an exhaustive menu of hand-crafted tacos, including eight beef, six chicken and vegetarian, four pork and three seafood, as well as the daily specials and eggy breakfast tacos. In short, there's no want for versions to experiment with. (They range in price from about \$3-\$4.)

The cochinita pibil (Wednesdays only!) is a chewy original of thinly-sliced, charred pork, as juicy as a bride on her wedding night. Brightly decorated with the achiote marinade and boas of pickled onion, it's a flamboyantly delectable introduction to pibil-style. Another Wednesday special, the Delibelly, draws a creamy coolness from well-marbled strips of pork belly.

The freakin' vegan is remarkably satisfying in its simplicity: a shmeat of pureed black beans with a slice of avocado and pico, clinging for dear life to the walls of the flour tortilla. I chose flour as well for the shrimp taco, probably my favorite among the selections offered every day. The server recommended I order the taco loco (braised beef) with a double-girding of corn tortilla because the juiciness of the meat might bleed through the first layer. That ended up being an unnecessary precaution, though the dense shreds of adobo-braised brisket were plenty rich enough, along with the caramelized onion, guac and queso fresco.

The only real disappointment on the menu has been the Mexico City chicken: Cubes of grilled breast sat like lifeless monoliths in the tortilla. Much better for chicken lovers is the free-range pollo fantastico. It's not an overstatement — almost everything here is *muy fantastico*. It's one of my favorite food spots in Dallas right now.

Tacodeli, 1878 Sylvan Ave. in the Sylvan Thirty development. Open daily 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Tacodeli.com.



TACO LIBRE RETURNS TO SALUTE STREET FOOD

Last summer, Downtown Dallas sizzled on a warm summer afternoon with the first-ever **Taco Libre**, a celebration of the definitive Mexican street food with about a dozen taquerias from across North Texas showing off their skills with the simple flavor bomb of a taco. This year's incarnation of Taco Libre — once again curated by our friend (and occasional contributor), the undisputed guru of tacos Jose R. Ralat, gets improved in several ways. First, it's taking place on April 30, so maybe it won't be quite so hot out. Second, it expands substantially, rising to nearly two dozen participating taquerias — including **Tacodeli** and **Trompo** (both reviewed this week) as well as some of my other personal favorites: **El Come Taco** (pictured from last year), **El Tizoncito**, **Taco Stop** and **Urban Taco**. There will also be live music and an appearance by luchador Blue Demon Jr. "We've added vendors from outside the DFW area, including Austin's Valentina's Tex-Mex BBQ and El Paso's Tacoholics," Ralat says. "I couldn't be more excited."

— A.W.J.

Taco Libre, Main Street Garden, April 30. \$2 tacos. Entry tickets \$16, available at Prekindle.com/tacolibre.





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Trompo

Luis Olvera likes tacos. And he wants you to like tacos, too.

In fact, the outside of his brand-new West Dallas taqueria Trompo still boasts the awning from the space's previous owner, Mr. Phil's Bar-B-Que; Trompo's name is only etched on the door itself, with the hours of operation and Olvera's philosophy: "Eat more tacos." And might as well eat his, right?

Damn right.

For those used to eating high-end tacos at gourmet eateries like Stampe 66 or even Urban Taco, the setting of Trompo may come as a disappointment.

Located about a mile off the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, it's near the expanding Design District, right on the edge of the exciting Trinity Groves development, but there's a bootstrap independence that marks it as more mom-and-pop than corporate. Heck, even by neighborhood taqueria standards, its décor is sparse — i.e., nonexistent. White walls, a mini-fridge, some stools at a counter and a bathroom sign represent the only furnishing in the utilitarian dining area, other than the placard that announces the full menu: three tacos (beef, pork and vegetarian), three quesadillas (beef, pork or both). Oh, and two salsas, Topo Chico and Mexican Coke. That's it.

That's all you need.

The restaurant is named for the *trompo* (Spanish for "top") — the vertical rotisserie onto which strata of pork are layered, marinated in paprika, roasted and shaved off into the doubled corn tortillas. (The logo for the restaurant is an abstract swirl that suggests a tornado, but is in fact a *trompo* itself.) Start there: The pork is as fiery-red as an arbol chile, with a crispy, even crunchy char. There is a dusting of onions and cilantro, a modest wedge of lime on the side.

Add some salsa if you care to (*rojo* and *verde* — both excellent), but everything you need is right there. A signature taco that encapsulates a brand,



MEXICAN HAT TRICK | Trompo is named for its pork taco, foreground, but the bistek, rear, is just as satisfying. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

a style ... all in two or three mouthfuls.

The bistek is equally wonderful, if not more so. Shreds of moist, braised beef glistening from the fat of the meat and seasoned simply but effectively. There's even a vegetarian option of poblano and paneer (Indian peasant cheese), prepared with just as much thoughtfulness and flavor. And each for \$1.85.

At more than twice as much (but still cheap), the quesadilla (\$3.85) isn't what you're probably used to at Tex-Mex joints: Two tortillas sandwiching meat and cheese between their layers. Cheese is the big addition, but here's it's more akin to a taco (gringa is pork, pirata is beef, campuchana is a combo) housed on a large single flour tortilla, grilled to a leathery texture and loaded up like a militia in the Pacific Northwest. These are good sharing foods — keep it to yourself, and have a few tacos, too. You'll still spend less than a Hamilton for it.

Olvera has some streamlining to do. The storefront has barely been opened a month, and there are some growing pains in getting the food out fast (and, for instance, bringing the drink *before* the tacos so we have something to occupy our time with while waiting). But he's already got the food right.

Trompo, 839 Singleton Blvd. Open daily 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Find it on Facebook.



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

If your only exposure to Hollywood agents is Ari Gold from *Entourage*, and you thought that was a little over-played, well, you've never heard of Sue Mengers. She was an agent of the old-school variety — hustler, cajoler, smoked like a chimney — even though, as a woman in a man's world, she was about as new-school as you could get in Tinseltown. She started with one client, the stage star Julie Harris, and eventually represented the box office powerhouses of the 1970s: Streisand and Dunaway. MacGraw and Hackman. Burt and Babs.

By the 1980s, though, styles had changed. Her clients — and her influence — fell out of fashion. She bled stars, though continued to make a living representing B-listers. "They survive," Mengers snarls from behind a joint in her faux Pucci-print kaftan from the living room of her Beverly Hills manse. No need to be bitter. But that doesn't mean a sharp tongue isn't warranted.

John Logan — who seems as at-ease scripting action-adventure movies (*Gladiator*, *Skyfall*), period TV horror shows (*Penny Dreadful*) and thoughtful plays (*Red*) — turned his sights on Mengers in the delightfully devilish one-woman show *I'll Eat You Last*. It was a smash two B'way seasons ago with Bette Midler on the sofa, campily spewing her dishy gossip to an audience of starry-eyed gay boys. But while the production now at Amphibian in Fort Worth (a regional premiere) doesn't boast La Bette as its lead, actress Karen Murphy more than distinguishes herself in the best way imaginable: She makes us forget about the star who played her,

CANNIBAL LOVE STORY | Karen Murphy makes you forget about Bette Midler as the queen of celebrity agents. (Photo by Lanny Nagler)

Super-agent Sue Mengers comes to life in the gossipy 'I'll Eat You Last'

and think about the stars she knew.

That's a bonus in such a tart, snappy celebrifest as this, even if it does target more classic gay icons named Cybill and Elton, instead of contemporary pretenders with names like Kardashian and Minaj. The play, like the subject, is old-school entertainment, packaged with a bitchy bow. Unwrapping it is as exhilarating as being a kid on Christmas morning.

It's 1981, and Sue has just been fired by Barbra after a disastrous movie deal involving Streisand and Mengers' own husband, an artsy film director best remembered for his flop *All Night Long*.

Losing Streisand — who basically made Sue's career — meant a hoard of disgruntled actors likewise took flight. Through it all, if we are to believe what we see, Mengers refused to burn bridges ... except the ones that Logan has

her set ablaze in this extended monologue. (The main targets of her withering wit: Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway.) The problem is almost that's there's not *enough* venom in the play. You yearn for it to get even sassier, the way screenwriter William Goldman has done in a series of tell-alls about Hollywood hypocrisy. At 70 breezy minutes, the play is almost over before it begins. It's the only standup comic adage to leave 'em wanting more.

Still, what's there is choice, with Logan deftly name dropping while making rude comparisons of stars to Nazi Josef Goebbels and explaining Mengers' code of ethics ("1. Never lie to a client. 2. Never tell the truth") while simultaneously presenting a kind of feminist mini-history. Sue ... Hillary ... it's all the same. ■

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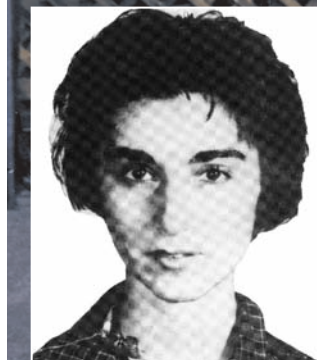
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L+S screen



QUEER CINEMA | The documentaries 'Witness,' above (about lesbian murder victim Kitty Genovese) and 'Alzheimer's: A Love Story,' below, are two of the films with gay themes screening at the USA Film Festival.

■ FILM FESTIVALS, From Page 20

— the impressive *Witness*, about the famed 1964 murder of Kitty Genovese — brings up the victim's lesbianism, which was well-known among her friends but was white-washed in all news coverage at the time.

It's not merely on the screen where LGBT audiences can enjoy the fest. Just as notable is that many of the honorees at USAFF are popular figures as allies of the gay community. Sachs cast Alfred Molina, who starred in his gay romance *Love is Strange*, in a small role here. actor Bruce Davison — who won an Oscar nomination for the AIDS-themed drama *Longtime Companion* and was a vocal advocate for inclusiveness — will be saluted with a retrospective, and Dallas legend Linda Gray is among the guests and moderators. The festival is also dedicated in part to the late Richard Glatzer (*Still Alice*), the gay filmmaker (with his husband Wash Westmoreland) who passed away last year from ALS.

Film festivals, in fact, are an integral experience for directors like Sachs.

"There is less interest in specific stories about everyday lives [in Hollywood]," he says. "What's great about festivals is engaging with an audience in a particular community, to hear how

people respond [to a film]. Each city is different and each has a different relationship to cinema. It shows that it does still matter where you are."

And the ability to tell entertaining and personal stories that resonate with multiple audiences is still the goal of the artist.

"I make films where there's a voice as a gay man in it, but we're all part of the same history," Sachs says. "To me, it's all one long story and trying to understand how people get through their days. What are the challenges these folks are facing? Telling the story of two boys in Brooklyn or Montgomery Clift? It's the same thing."

Sachs and Molina will be in attendance at the screening of Little Men Thursday, and saluted for their contributions to cinema.



What a DIFF a gay makes

Queer-interest films to catch at DIFF

Among the films at the Dallas International Film Fest this year of interest to the LGBT community, including screening dates and times. Look for online reviews at DallasVoice.com.

Arianna (April 15, 4:45 p.m.; April 20, 4:45 p.m.). The Italian countryside is the setting for this mystery about a 19-year-old girl who begins to notice her body isn't maturing "normally." A rare portrait of an intersex character. (Screens as part of the narrative competition.)

Viva (April 15, 7:45 p.m.; April 23, 7 p.m.). Set against the backdrop of Havana's drag community, this story of a young drag queen scraping by who is about to break through when his abusive father returns to his life mixes hard realities of life in Cuba with the style of Almodovar.

The Bad Kids (April 17, 7:45 p.m.; April 19, 4:45 p.m.). This documentary about at-risk youth enrolled in an alternative high school — a sort of "last chance" school to help build them a future — is directed by the out couple of Keith Fulton and Lou Pepe (*Lost in La Mancha*), and speaks to all disenfranchised youth. (Screens as part of the documentary competition.)

I Promise You Anarchy, pictured (April 17, 10:30 p.m.; April 18, 10:45 p.m.). Two best friends — skateboarders and underground criminals — are also secretly lovers, though neither cares to acknowledge the meaning of that in this raw, Mexico City-set film that recalls early Innaritu.

The Best and Most Beautiful Things (April 19, 7:15 p.m.; April 20, 4:15 p.m.). Michelle — legally blind and falling on the autism spectrum — is an outcast who refuses to let her disabilities define her, as she sets out to achieve her dreams. Her journey of self-discovery includes exploring her sexuality, which becomes a backbone of the film's narrative. (Screens as part of the documentary competition.)

The Pearl (April 20, 7:15 p.m.; April 21, 4 p.m.). Four middle-aged and senior men from hyper-masculine backgrounds (war veterans, steelworkers) risk everything when they come out as trans women and begin the arduous process of transitioning. A very real look at the trans experience, far removed from the gloss of *I Am Cait* or *Transparent*. (Screens as part of the documentary competition.)

Slash (April 20, 10:30 p.m.; April 21, 7:30 p.m.). Neil, a 15-year-old teen, writes sci-fi erotic fan fiction that initially embarrasses him but eventually leads him on a journey to adult fiction and revelations about his own sexuality. (Screens as part of the Texas feature narrative competition.)

Other People (April 21, 7:30 p.m.; April 22, 4 p.m.). Jesse Plemmons (*Friday Night Lights*) plays a gay man, just broken up with his boyfriend, who's dealing with his mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer. Molly Shannon wowed audiences at Sundance with her performance.

Special presentations

These older films receive screenings as well. **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** (1966; April 19, 7 p.m.). The film version of Edward Albee's incisive portrait of a marriage is 50 years old.

Late Bloomers (1996; April 20 at 7:30 p.m.). The Dallas-shot lesbian wedding comedy turns 20. Arnold Wayne Jones leads the post-screening Q&A.

Far From Heaven (2002; April 23, 12:30 p.m.). Lensman Ed Lachman, an Oscar nominee for *Carol*, attends a screening of this provocative tribute to Douglas Sirk from director Todd Haynes, about a 1950s woman (Julianne Moore) who discovers her husband (Dennis Quaid) is gay. ■



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LIFE+STYLE

best bets

**Thursday 04.21 —
Friday 04.22**

Edgy Canadian dance company Kidd Pivot makes Dallas debut

If modern dance has taught us one thing, it's that "dance" is about a heckuva lot more than just moving your feet to music. On the cutting edge of contemporary dance is Kidd Pivot, which makes its North Texas debut for two shows. Combining original music with text, design and, of course, movement, it's one of the exciting premieres sponsored by TITAS this season.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 pm. ATPAC.org.



Saturday 04.16

Famed Dallas rockers Jane Doe reunite for concert at Sue Ellen's

They were the first band Kathy Jack ever booked for Caven. They have played with the likes of the great Deborah Vial. They have been seen at the Kessler, House of Blues and other venues ... but not so much lately. Only Susan Carson remains in North Texas, so bringin' the girls of Jane Doe back together for a concert is a time to celebrate, which you can as they perform Saturday at Sue Ellen's. Mojo Dolls opens for them.

DEETS: Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 9 p.m. Caven.com.

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calendar highlights



Legendary singer Tony Bennett performs at McFarlin Auditorium April 22.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

End of the Rainbow. Janelle Lutz plays Judy Garland in the waning months of her life. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theatre, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

The Big Meal. A romantic comedy about a modern family. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. April 15–May 8. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

I'll Eat You Last: A Chat with Sue Mengers. Bette Midler had a recent Broadway smash in this one-woman show about the powerhouse agent; written by John Logan (*Red*). This limited run performance features B'way veteran Karen Murphy as the excoriating Hollywood legend. *Reviewed this week.* Milburn Theatre, 120 S. Main St., For Worth. Through May 1. AmphibianStage.com.

Feather and the Tempest. An allegorical play about a youth (at times a boy, at others a girl) in a hostile, ever-changing world. Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Road. Through May 1. TeatroDallas.org.

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

Jonah. A world premiere from Len Jenkin, a contemporary retelling of the biblical myth. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through May 7. Undermain.org.

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. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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.

Perfect Wedding. A bedroom farce, presented by Theatre Britain. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through May 8. Theatre-Britain.com.

Temple Spirit. A world premiere by Susan Felder incorporates Japanese folklore and verse form. *Final weekend.* Creative Arts Building at Fair Park. EchoTheatre.org.

OPERA

Show Boat. For the first time in its 57 year history, the Dallas Opera performs a musical which basically is an early American operetta — Kern and Hammerstein's socially aware romance. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 15–May 1. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

Rebecca Warren: The Main Thing. A mid-career retrospective of the British visual arts and sculptress, in

this week's solution

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submit

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Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

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.

Eye of the Collector. An exhibition of the quirky tchotchkes and unusual trinkets of nine people prove the axiom that every object tells a story. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. April 16–Sept. 5. PerotMuseum.org.

FILM

10th Dallas International Film Festival. The 11-day festival of film returns, with plenty of gay content. (See story starting on Page 20.) Most of the screenings take place at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5307 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through April 24. For a complete schedule and list of films and events, visit DIFF2016.DallasFilm.org.

FRIDAY 04.15

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 04.16

FESTIVAL

Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual trip to Medieval Europe, including dancers, musicians, food, crafts and cosplayers. Faire Grounds, FM 66, Waxahachie. Through May 30. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. \$25. SRFestival.com.

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. Wig in a Box is the theme this month at Gaybingo. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

SPORTS

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

CONCERTS

Jane Doe. The all-girl rockers return for a heavy hitting show with special guests Mojo Dolls. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 9 p.m. Caven.org.

MONDAY 04.18

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.

Real Housewives of Dallas. The new reality show, which features Dallas women (and a regular appearance by Steve Kemble). Bravo at 8 p.m.

Gay for Play Game Show. A new panel show a la Match Game with celeb contestants like Todrick Hall and Carson Kressley; RuPaul hosts. Logo at 9 p.m.

TUESDAY 04.19

FILM

I Ladri di Bicicletta (Bicycle Thieves). The classic of Italian Neo-Realism about a man and his young son in post-War Italy who survive only because of the man's bike, which keeps getting stolen. 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 04.20

THEATER

Deferred Action. A world premiere from David Lozano and Lee Trull about Dream Act-ers. A co-production with DTC and Cara Mia Theatre Co. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. April 20–May 14 (in previews through April 29). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Great God Pan. The second show in Second Thought Theatre's current season is this drama by Amy Herzog about child sexual abuse and recovered memories. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. April 20–May 14. 2TT.co.

Wicked. The return of the mega-hit by Stephen Schwartz, which Dallas gets but North Carolina won't now! It posits what happened in Oz before Dorothy flew over the rainbow. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. April 20–May 22. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

THURSDAY 04.21

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.

Sammons Cabaret: Janelle Lutz. The star of the recent End of the Rainbow performs. 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. \$8 p.m. \$40. SammonsArtCenter.org.

FILM

46th Annual USA Film Festival. The festival kicks off with three films by gay directors (Ira Sachs, Terrence Davies, Steven Pomerantz). Opening night includes a screening of the new local documentary *Taking Back Oak Lawn*; Dallas Voice's Arnold Wayne Jones will lead the post-screening Q&A. For more information on the festival, see story starting on Page 20. Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5307 E. Mockingbird Lane. April 21–24. USAFilmFestival.com.

DANCE

Kidd Pivot. The Canadian dance troupe combines movement, design, text and rich visuals in a compelling production. . City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. April 21–22. ATPAC.org.

FRIDAY 04.22

CONCERTS

Tony Bennett. The legendary singer, most recently paired with Lady Gag, performs. McFarlin Auditorium on the SMU campus, 2405 Boaz Lane. 8 p.m. \$78–\$153. TonyBennett.com.

FUNDRAISER

Fashion CITED: Spy on Fashion. 10th annual runway show and party benefit Legal Hospice of Texas. Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. 8 p.m.

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Cassie Nova

Allergies won't stop Cassie from answering your questions!

Holla, hookers! Allergies are the work of the devil. After being sick all week — convinced I had the worst cold in history and I was dying — I broke down and went to the doctor. "It's just allergies," the doc said. "It's from the unusually high levels of pollen in the air." Screw you doc! "Just" allergies. I feel like death warmed over. If you think about it, allergies are like an STD from nature. Thanks Mother Nature, you whore!

Sorry, I may be a little more moody than usual. So let's get to the batch of Ask Cassie questions I received these past few weeks through Facebook (you can also email directly!).

Dear Cassie, Have you ever gone to jail in drag,

or known someone who has? What was that like? What is the oddest/worst/funniest bathroom experience in drag? Thanks, Bradley.

Dear Bradley, Going to jail would be horrible, but going to jail in drag would be horrifying — now that I think about it, it might be my biggest fear. I have been very lucky in that I have never been to jail. I have heard a few stories of friends who have been incarcerated in full high whore drag. One got pulled over for DUI and went directly to jail ... in Waxahachie. Funny thing was, she lived in Garland and somehow magically ended up in Waxahachie. Poor thang said she was way too drunk to drive and is still paying for it. She also said, as horrible as it was, the officers were nice to her. They gave her some boy clothes and baby wipes to take off her make up. She said she was embarrassed but it could have been much worse.

A different friend was pulled over and taken to jail for a warrant she hadn't taken care of. She said she was in a simple black cocktail dress that she had to stay in for more than 24 hours. When she finally was

bailed out, she left in the same black dress with wig and pads in hand. She said they put her in a cell by herself where she sat contemplating what a strange turn her life has taken, calling it one of the worst experiences of her life. I bet it was. Oh yeah, she also said they only gave her bologna sandwiches to eat. I don't think I would have survived.

As far as bathroom experiences, I've only been told by the police to leave the women's restroom once. It was at a straight night-club in Fort Worth. I was hosting a Halloween costume contest years ago and went into the restroom to touch up my lipstick. I don't use the restroom once I am in drag — it's too much work. I was in the women's restroom holding court with some fascinated straight girls that were asking me a million questions when I heard a very deep voice coming from outside the door say, "Sir, I need you to leave the woman's restroom immediately." Oh shit! I got out real quick. He told me if I went back inside the women's restroom, he was going to arrest me. I know that sounds like the beginning of a very hot porno, but it scared the mess outta me. The funny part was, all the straight women were yelling at the cop to leave me alone. He threw his hands up and walked away. I wasn't going to take any chances. I fixed my lipstick in the men's room after that. I got a few weird looks and a cat-call. I felt pretty.

I honestly can't imagine what it must be like for my trans brothers and sisters. These backward-ass states like North Carolina and Mississippi make me fear for their safety. It is so strange that what bathroom they use is even an issue. Everybody has to pee and poop. Why are they making it weird? Anyhoo, thanks for your question!

Dear Cassie, I am a 51-year-old gay male that has had three relationships of eight, eight and five years, none of which were open relationships. Our GLBT community has worked so hard to obtain equal marriage rights. However, any gay hookup site has many of the profiles stating they are in open relationships. For me, this is a complete contradiction of what a relationship is. Should we be judging our friends, and our community who are in an open relationship? Is seems so contradictory to me. Thanks, Mike.

Dear Mike, Do you remember the theme to the show *Diff'rent Strokes*? "What might be right for you, might not be right for some." If an open relationship works for others, then good for them. I personally could not do it, but that doesn't mean I don't understand the appeal. There are a lot of straight couples that consider themselves swingers. Swingers have been around forever. I guess that is a form of an open relationship. Open relationships are not just a gay thing. You just hear about it more because you are on gay apps. Whether straight or gay, the heart wants what it wants. If you are open-minded enough to give your heart to one person and your penis to another, who am I to judge? I just hope that both parties in said open relationship know that that they are in an open relationship. Cuz if one doesn't know that's just plain cheatin'!

Dear Cassie, Do you think it's possible for middle/high school kids to already truly know that they are gay/bi? Signed, Stephanie, a curious parent.

Dear Stephanie, Absolutely they know. Knowing and being able to admit it to themselves are two different things. Looking back, the thoughts of being



gay were there long before the hormones spurred me on to act on it. Self-discovery is different for everybody. Be accepting and show support without judgement to your kid and I can only imagine the thoughtful well-rounded individual they will become. Thanks, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, If someone who never tells you they love you but shows it, do they really love you? Thanks, Chad.

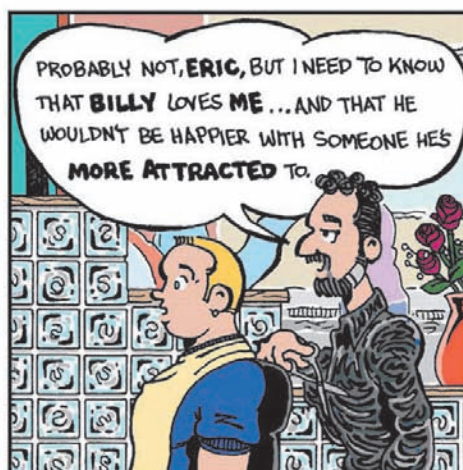
Ok Chad, Your question confuses the hell out of me. So he shows that he loves you but never says the words I love you? Do you believe he loves you? If hearing those words are important to you, tell him. Some guys just aren't wired for communication. Words are not easy for some to say but at the end of the day, they are just words. If he proves and shows his love for you, you are luckier than most, but speak up and let him know you need to hear it. I love you ... see I said it and I don't even know you. Good luck, Cassie.

If I didn't get to your question this week, check back in weeks to come. A woman's work is never done but I do love my job, so keep the questions coming. I know all, and if I don't know it, I can bullshit my way through almost anything.

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

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

Photo courtesy Krisofer Reynolds





Guys' night out at Woody's Sports & Video Bar



RafiQ and Cannon celebrate their 20th anniversary in the Mediterranean, including a stop at the Vatican



George and the gang at The Brick



Laser light show on the dance floor at S4



Scotsmen on parade at Scarborough Renaissance Festival

- Making the **SCENE** the week of April 15-21:
- **Alexandre's:** Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Chris Chism and Paul Allen and friends on Saturday.
 - **Brick/Joe's:** Hypeman Dupree birthday celebration, **The White and Gold Affair** with special guest **Naked Hustla At** hosted by **Ida Mae Watergate** at 10:45 p.m. on Friday. Coming up at 8 p.m. on April 23, **The Bitch is Back** with Joe Posa as **Joan Rivers** and special guest **Tony Tripoli**.
 - **Club Reflection:** **Cowtown Leathermen** cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **International Gay Rodeo Association** presents **Jason Bernard's** birthday blowout at 6 p.m. on Sunday. **Wall of Food Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
 - **Dallas Eagle:** **8-Bit Arcade** game theme weekend. **Sergio and Justin's** arcade birthday celebration on Friday. **MasT Dallas** meeting from 2-4:30 p.m. on Saturday. **DFW Leather Corps** club night at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Spring Revival** benefiting **AIDS Interfaith Network**.
 - **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Dream Girls** with **Chanel, Raquel, Alexis, Athena** and **Sassy** on Thursday.
 - **Rainbow Lounge:** **Miss Fort Worth FFI** and **FFI at Large** at 11 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Round-Up Saloon:** Sixth annual **Round-Up Diesel** chili cookoff from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Sue Ellen's:** **Party Raid** on Friday. **Jane Doe** and **Mojo Dolls** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3 p.m. and **Marisela Trio** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **The Rose Room:** **Miss Gay Dallas** on Thursday.
 - **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **College Night** every Thursday.
 - **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **NAGVA Seed Party** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**.



Dinner with friends at 2 Corks and a Bottle



Dancers at TMC: The Mining Company



Getting friendly at The Brick



Showing off the menu at Zephyr



Sean celebrates his birthday at The Brick



Enjoying the patio at Sue Ellen's



tClowning with Kathy, her mom and a friend at Sue Ellen's

2016 No Tie Dinner: The



night in photos



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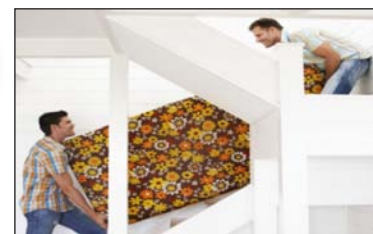
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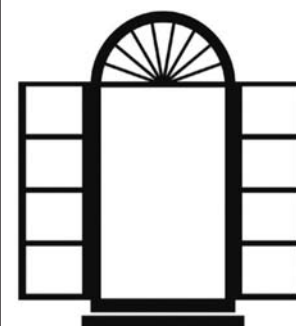


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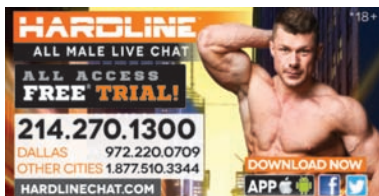
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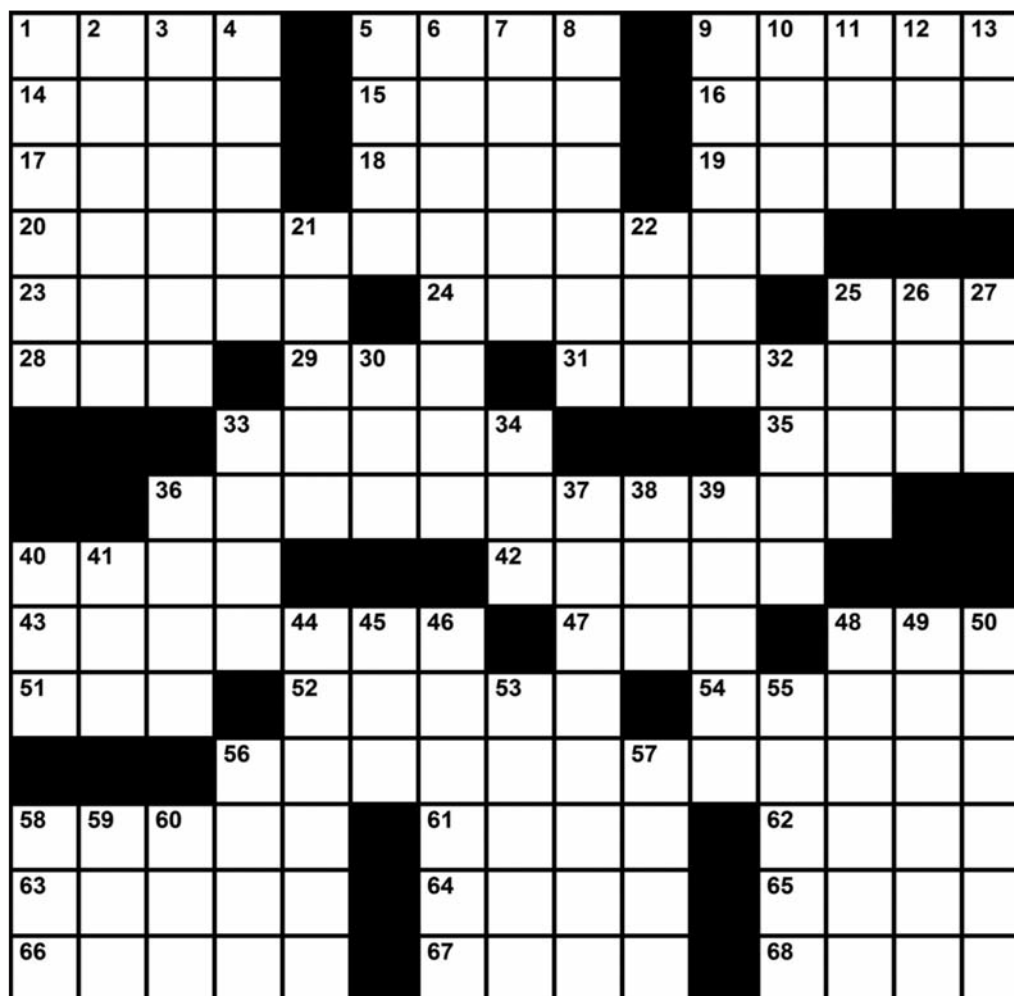
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q-puzzle



Pet Murderer

Solution on page 53

Across

- 1 *Mamma Mia!* band
- 5 Acted like
- 9 Prefix with sexual
- 14 Susan Feniger preparation
- 15 Irene of *Fame*
- 16 Illicit love affair
- 17 Problem for skin
- 18 Send tumbling
- 19 '69 disturbances at Stonewall
- 20 Ed O'Neill's character on
Modern Family
- 23 Marlon Brando's hometown
- 24 Fran Drescher show, with *The*
- 25 Sound of Scarecrow's foe
- 28 Stimp's pal
- 29 U-turn from NNW
- 31 Sometimes pierced flap
- 33 Funny Cheri
- 35 Tops a cupcake
- 36 Mitchell's pet snake that 20-Across
"murdered"
- 40 Boat bottom
- 42 Mullally of *Will & Grace*
- 43 Communicating regularly
- 47 Dick, for short
- 48 They made laws against O. Wilde's
love life
- 51 1950 film noir

52 Male deliveries?

- 54 Layer at Hamburger Mary's
- 56 Mitchell's pet bird that 20-Across
"murdered"
- 58 "...a ___ deferred" (Hughes)
- 61 Ball of film
- 62 Illegal block by Esera Tuaola
- 63 Greek triangle
- 64 Pink on the inside
- 65 Windy day toy
- 66 A turnstile swallows it
- 67 Boob
- 68 Takes advantage of pupils?

Down

- 1 Scale with three sharps
- 2 Turned into
- 3 *South Pacific* tree
- 4 Alpha, to the circumcized
- 5 Beginning of *Hairspray*
- 6 Wife and wife, e.g.
- 7 Susan in *All My Children*
- 8 Moon over the Niles?
- 9 Saint Joan or Saint Sebastian
- 10 Send off
- 11 When repeated, campy
- 12 Wheel track
- 13 Areas for Dr. Kerry Weaver
- 21 Jamaican cultist

- 22 Old Spanish queen
- 25 Partner of Caesar, in comedy
- 26 Prez linked with Joshua Speed
- 27 Bentley of *American Beauty*
- 30 Remarks, slangily
- 32 Pride member
- 33 Northern capital
- 34 Descartes's conclusion
- 36 *Chicago's* Catherine ___-Jones
- 37 Use your head
- 38 Well-kept secret, for some
- 39 Painter Francis
- 40 Dan Savage memoir, with *The*
- 41 Bowie collaborator
- 44 Tracey of *Tracey Takes On*
- 45 Queerly shy
- 46 Sand or water, to Sheehan
- 48 Broadway's "Thoroughly modern"
woman
- 49 Like Miss Manners
- 50 Wesley of *To Wong Foo, Thanks For
Everything! Julie Newmar*
- 53 Start of a religious title
- 55 Head attachments
- 56 It has a fickle finger
- 57 Don Juan's mother
- 58 It can kill the queen of a colony
- 59 Vintage vehicle
- 60 "Horny" animal

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