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**Marking
one year
of marriage
equality**

Page 8



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8

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Marriage, one year later
- 10 Plenette Pierson of the Dallas Wings
- 12 See something? Say something.
- 15 Trans athletes still excluded in Texas

LIFE+STYLE

- 18 Rufus Wainwright sings Shakespeare
- 20 The Charles Busch of Dallas
- 22 Marriage stories a year after the ruling

ON THE COVER

Cover design by Craig Tuggle



10



20

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 25 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 28 | Ask Howard |
| 16 | Community Voices | 29 | Scene |
| 18 | Life+Style | 32 | Classifieds |

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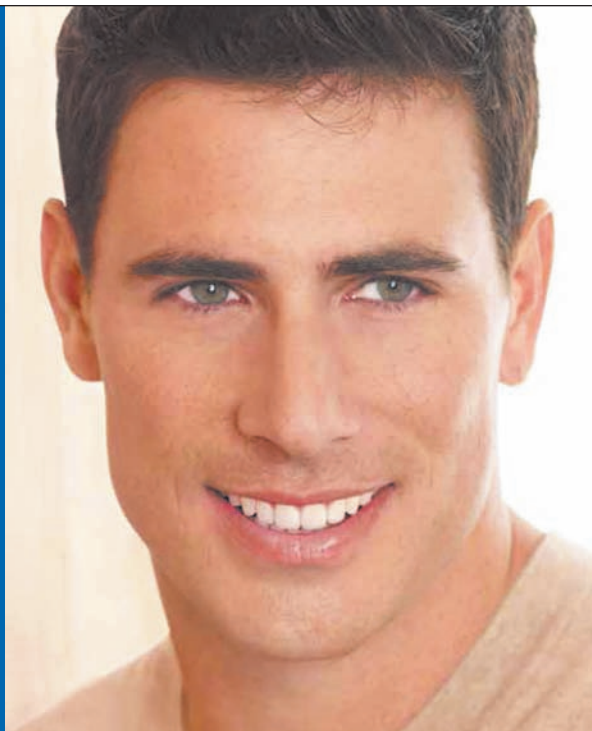
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instant**TEA**

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Members of the LGBT Community (and ally Judge Ken Molberg) gather in the lobby outside the Dallas County Commissioners Court to celebrate Pride Month in Dallas County.
(David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Dallas County proclaims June Pride Month

County Commissioner Mike Cantrell has made it a routine to skip the Dallas County Commission's proclamation of June as LGBT Pride Month. But the court continues to issue the proclamation. And on Tuesday, June 21, in addition to issuing the proclamation, the commissioners spent time remembering the victims of the Orlando massacre and the one year anniversary of the mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. (Cantrell couldn't be bothered with that either.)

County Judge Clay Jenkins noted this was the first meeting of the commissioners since the Orlando shooting. He called for a moment of silence for those who died in the attacks.

But Commissioner Theresa Daniel, who presented the Pride Month proclamation, was clearly tired of moments of silence that get nothing done: "Instead of a moment of silence, let's have a moment of action," Daniel said. "At this table, we have a responsibility for public safety."

She said when someone comes to a county facility for a flu shot, to serve jury duty, to pay taxes or interact with the county for any other reason, citizens have an expectation of safety. The best way to achieve that is to create an environment where all are welcome.

"Diversity in our society is our strength," she said.

Commissioner Elba Garcia expressed horror that on Monday June 20 the Senate voted to allow people on the terrorist watch list to buy assault weapons.

Commissioner John Wiley Price commented on Mother Emanuel and the history of bombings against the black community.

In her proclamation, Daniel noted the Stonewall riots and the one-year anniversary of marriage equality. She called Dallas County a beacon of light, where same-sex couples are welcomed. Harassment and job discrimination are still problems, Daniel's proclamation points out, and must be ended.

Once the proclamation passed unanimously (minus the absent Cantrell), Lambda Legal's Omar Narvaez spoke for the group of LGBT community members and allies who attended the meeting. He talked about the gut-wrenching week the community has endured since the Orlando massacre, but thanked the commission for being allies.

— David Taffet

Pulse employee to head Houston Pride parade

Imran Yousuf, a U.S. military veteran and

bouncer at Pulse Nightclub, will be honorary grand marshal of the Houston Pride parade on June 25. His actions at Pulse saved dozens of lives.

The parade begins at sunset with a 30-foot-by-20-foot rainbow flag inscribed with the names of the Orlando victims at the head of the parade.

Meet Yousuf at 1:30 p.m. on the Barefoot Wine Stage in front of Houston City Hall.

Last year, the Houston Pride parade moved from the Montrose neighborhood to downtown. Held the night after the marriage-equality decision, the parade attracted more than half a million people.

The Houston Pride Festival runs noon-7 p.m. Saturday at McKinney and Smith streets.

The Houston Pride Parade starts at 8:30 p.m. and runs through about 11 p.m. The route begins at Lamar Street, goes north on Smith Street, to Walker Street, makes a right to Milam Street and then makes a left and continues to Jefferson Street. Bleachers, high rise parking garages that are open to viewers and sidewalks line the route and are open to attendees.

— David Taffet

D.C. rally planned to 'Disarm Hate'

I received word from Sister Lawna Jocqui, of the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence that organizers have gotten the necessary permits approved and are moving forward with a "Rally in Washington, D.C., to Disarm Hate."

"So that the Orlando 49 did not die in vain, the LGBT community and its allies will rally in Washington to demand equal rights and sensible gun law reform," reads the post announcing the event. "Join us."

The rally is set for Saturday, Aug. 13, beginning at 11 a.m. on the National Mall in Washington.

Stay tuned for details as they become available.

— Tammye Nash

Love MUST Prevail: Broadway stars record song to honor Orlando victims

An "array of musical theater all-stars" came together last week to record a very special version of "What the World Needs Now is Love" in tribute to the victims of the June 12 attack on Pulse nightclub in Orlando, with 100 percent of the profit from sales of the recording going to the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida.

The song is available for download at BroadwayRecords.com for \$1.99.

— Tammye Nash

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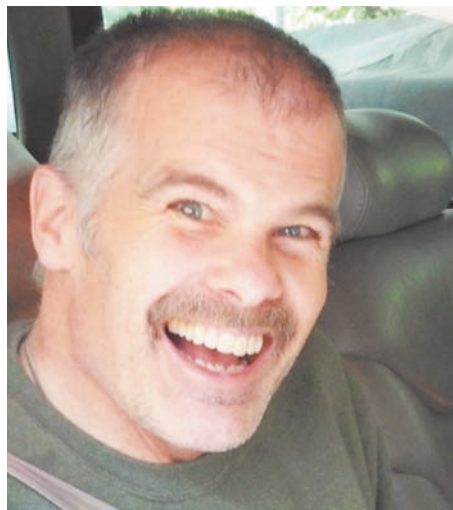
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THE GAY AGENDA

Obituary



Michael Robert Jensen, 55, died Sunday, June 19, 2016, at his home in Oak Cliff, after a hard-fought battle with ALS.

A native of Door County, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Jensen had lived in Dallas for more than 25 years. He worked as the head of security at the Nasher Sculpture Center and was past co-owner of Roxy Art Deco. He loved classic cars

and was a longtime member of Classic Chassis Car Club.

Jensen was preceded in death by his grandparents, George and Edna Jensen and Robert and Marion Malzahn; his godmother, Donna Marx; his niece, Sarah Marie; his grandparents-in-law, Edgar and Nora Parks and Dallas and Mildred Kniskern, and his father-in-law, James William Parks.

He is survived by his husband and partner of more than 29 years, Jim Parks; parents, George and Peggy Jensen; sister, Monica, and her husband, Jack; brother, Steve, and his wife, Kay; sister, Ann, and her husband Kevin; sisters-in-law, Kathy, Mary and her husband, Doug, Anita and her husband, Glen, and Patty and her wife Linda; as well a large extended family and friends, including his Nasher Sculpture Center family and his Classic Chassis Car Club family.

A memorial service will be held at the Nasher Sculpture Center at a time and date to be announced. Memorial contributions can be made to the Nasher Sculpture Center, attention Mike Jensen Memorial Fund, 2001 Flora St., Dallas, Texas 75201.

pet of the week / YEPEH

Yepeh is a domestic shorthair mix, about 3 months old and weighing about 4 pounds. Like all kittens, she is a ball of energy, bringing love and joy wherever she goes. If you're looking for a fun and adventurous companion, come meet Yepeh or one of the other kittens at Operation Kindness.

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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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 **Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez**; **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.

JUNE

• **June 24: Gay Pride Shabbat**
Congregation Beth El Binah, a Reform Jewish congregation, celebrates the ancient biblical holiday Gay Pride Shabbat. The Rev. Eric Folkerth and Neil Cazares-Thomas are among the participants. 7:30 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Northaven St.

• **June 24: Movie time for adults**
The Danish Girl at 2 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Branch Dallas Public Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• **June 25: National HIV Testing Day**
Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road, offers free walk-in HIV testing and free condoms, 4-7 p.m. Call 214-528-0144.

• **June 25: Federal Club Women's Event**
HRC DFW Federal Club holds a Women's Event at Noble Rey Brewing Company, 2636 Farrington St., in the Design District. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$25/person, available online at DFWFederalClubWCW.eventbrite.com. Price includes a commemorative print glass and three beers.

• **June 25: Dallas Wings Pride Night**
Dallas Voice and Dallas Wings invite you to come celebrate Pride Night at College Park Center as the Wings take on the Indiana Fever. Come early, cheer loud and have fun! College Park Center, 600 S. Center St., Arlington. Wings.wnba.com.

• **June 25: Buddies Groupies Night Out, Cowtown Style**
The Buddies Groupies, fans and patrons of the longtime Dallas bar Buddies, meet for the Buddies Groupies Night Out, Cowtown Style.

Check the Buddies Groupies Facebook page for details. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

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

• **June 25: National Loving Day Sidewalk March**
Join P-FLAG Abilene as it celebrates the 1967 *Loving v. U.S.* decision that legalized interracial marriage. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Vera Hall Minter Park, North 2nd and Cypress streets, Abilene.

• **June 25: Rainbow Family Day**
Sponsored by the Mayor's LGBT Task Force. From 4-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **June 25: Blow Torch**
QueerBomb's music festival from noon-5 p.m. at RBC, 2617 Commerce St.

• **June 25: Queerbomb Dallas 2016**
Free Pride celebration begins with music festival a noon followed by apoken word/open mike at 6 p.m., rally at 7:30 p.m., march at 8:30 p.m. and a party until 2 a.m. at RBC, 2617 Commerce St. For more information and to volunteer visit Facebook.com/QBDallas.

• **June 25: FemmeBomb**
Music festival presented by Planned Parenthood from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at Double Wide, 3510 Commerce St.

• **June 25: What's Up Doc**
Oak Lawn Band a free concert featuring music from popular old and new TV and movie animation at 4 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St.

• **June 26: Marriage Equality Day**
Celebrate the day that love and freedom won. From 4-6 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **June 26: Interweave Dallas LGBTQ and Allies fellowship brunch**
LGBTQ and A are invited to a brunch sponsored by Interweave, an affiliate organization of First Unitarian Church of Dallas. From 1-3 p.m. at Truck Yard, 5624 Sears St.

• **June 26: Fears for Queers VI**
LGBT horror film festival benefiting GALA Youth at 5 p.m. at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

• **June 26: I Am Done: Protest against Hate in Fort Worth**
Take a stand against speech that incites hatred



Equality Texas joins with Cathedral of Hope, Resource Center, Lambda Legal, Human Rights Campaign, Turtle Creek Chorale, GALA Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas and the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce to host "Love Ignites: Lighting the Path to a Brighter Tomorrow," a celebration of the one-year anniversary of the marriage equality ruling, at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. The event takes place from 4-6 p.m. For more information, contact Collin Acock at collin.acock@equalitytexas.org or 512-474-5475 x2.

and violence toward the LGBT community at 10 a.m. at Stedfast Baptist Church, 5840 Jacksboro Highway, Fort Worth. Text Done to 41242 for details and updates.

• **June 27: National HIV Testing Day**
Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, 4012 Cedar Springs Road, offers free walk-in HIV testing and free condoms, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information call 214-528-0144.

• **June 28: Commissioner Theresa Daniel's District 1 town hall meeting**
From 6-7:30 p.m. at Eastfield College, Pleasant Grove campus, 802 S. Buckner Blvd.

• **June 29: Commissioner Theresa Daniel's District 1 town hall meeting**
From 6-7:30 p.m. at Arlington Hall, Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.

JULY

• **July 1: Garden Gigs at Dallas Arboretum**
Every Friday night in July, featuring John Lefler with Camille Cortinas, The Ray Johnson Band, Rania Khoury, Matt Tedderand Zach Nytomt. Bring your own picnics, or get food and drink from the food trucks on site. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for members, and parking is free. From 7-9:30 p.m. 8525 Garland Road. For information call 214-515-6500.

• **July 2: Teen Pride Volunteer Orientation**
Real Live Connection, which hosts "Teen Pride: A Celebration for All" each September as part of Dallas' LGBT Pride weekend, will hold two volunteer orientations for anyone interested in helping with this year's event on Sept. 17. Orientation sessions will be held July 2 from 4:30-5:30 p.m., and July 9 from 10-11 a.m., at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Participation in one orientation is required to volunteer with Teen Pride. Participants must pay \$10 for a background check. For information call 469-666-REAL(7325) or email volunteer@rlc365.org.

• **July 2: San Antonio Pride**
Crockett Park, 1300 N. Main Ave., San Antonio. PrideSanAntonio.org

• **July 6: Painting to Benefit Orlando**
1851 Club in Arlington and Poured restaurant and wine bar host a special glass painting night to benefit the victims of the June 12 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, at the restaurant, 1601 E. Debbie Lane, Ste. 1105, in Mansfield. Cost is \$35 per person, and includes all supplies, instruction and food, with house wines for \$5 a glass and \$1 off all beers all night. 6:30 p.m.. RSVP by email to bridgett@pouredtx.com or call 817-453-7919 to choose a wine or beer glass.

• **July 8: High Tech Happy Hour**
Organized by TI Pride Network but open to everyone. From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Maracas Cocina Mexicana, 2914 Main St.

• **July 16: Quinceanera 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.

• **July 17: Drag Star Divas for Orlando**
The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce partners with The Rose Room and Drag Star Diva to present Drag Star Divas for Orlando, a benefit for the victims of the shooting in Orlando, a drag extravaganza featuring an all-star cast, 6-9:30 p.m. in The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. There is a \$5 suggested donation at the door, and the event is open to those 18 and over. Visit <http://bit.ly/Divas4Orlando> for more information.

• **July 23: Summit on LGBT Aging**
Second annual summit is a joint venture with GALA North Texas. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Southern Methodist University Plano Campus, 5326 Tennyson Parkway, Plano. cfa.lgbt.



Local couples talk about the impact of the SCOTUS ruling on marriage equality in the last 12 months

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It's been a year since the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling in *Obergefell vs. Hodges*, making marriage equality the law of the land, and in those 12 months, about 123,000 same-sex couples have been legally married in this country, according to a study released Wednesday, June 22, by Gallup.

The study, based on interviews conducted over the last year by Gallup, shows that 49 percent of the same-sex couples in the U.S. who live together are now legally married, up from 38 percent before the ruling. That means that about 9.6 percent of the gays and lesbians in this country are married, up almost 2 percent from 7.9 percent before the marriage equality ruling.

And according to the Williams Institute, a progressive think-tank based at the UCLA School of Law and dedicated to independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity, those marriages generated about \$1.58 billion in the federal economy, and added about \$102 million in state and local sales tax revenue.

That level of spending, Williams Institute researchers say, could support an estimated 18,900 jobs for one full year.

That's a lot of money in a lot of pockets.

But for same-sex couples in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex who got married in the last 12 months or who finally had their legal marriages performed elsewhere legally recognized here at home, it's not about the money at all.

"It's breathtaking!" declared longtime activist Louise Young. "the absolute joy I've seen on the faces of couples that have gotten married! The pure joy that same-sex couples have is something we didn't have before."

"It's like waking up from a dream and realizing [the dream is] real."

Young and her wife, Vivienne Armstrong, have been a couple since they met on the campus of University of Colorado at Boulder in 1971. They went to Vermont for a civil union on July 24, 2000, when Vermont became the first state in the U.S. to recognize civil unions. They were married in California on Aug. 22, 2008, during the window between a state supreme court ruling legalizing marriage there and the vote on Proposition 8 that rescinded legal recognition. Then they were married again in Oklahoma on Oct. 14, 2014 at Young's high school reunion.

Armstrong pointed out that the *Obergefell* ruling has had far-reaching effects, beyond that walk down the aisle.

"So many people who've taken advantage of marriage have so many rights that impact their



Steve Atkinson and Ted Kincaid



Louise Young and Vivienne Armstrong



Gregory Craft and Linus Spiller

lives," she said. "A friend of ours who died recently, her wife had rights while she was dying and rights after death as a surviving spouse. But I am saddened that some people who have taken advantage of marriage have been outed and fired."

Steve Atkinson, who married his long-term partner, Ted Kincaid, in California in 2008 before Prop 8 passed, also noted that hasn't been all roses.

"It's been a very interesting year, in mostly good ways. But it's also been a mixed bag," Atkinson said. "On the negative side of things, when we won marriage rights, that unleashed a whole new round of hate against us, against all LGBT people. There have been a lot of so-called religious freedom bills and stuff, and all of it is really just a license to discriminate against us."

"People got pissed off that we got marriage rights. They're angry about that, so they are trying to take away our other rights and protections," he added. "We still don't have workplace protections. So we can get married, yes, but we can also still be fired for being gay."

Linus Spiller married his partner of 18 years, Gregory Craft, in February 2015 in Washington, D.C.

Craft says the marriage equality ruling has "changed the conversation. Because it's the law, [people] have to find something else petty to talk about now."

But while the law has changed, Spiller said, a

Pounders named 2016 Kuchling Award winner

Singer/actress Deborah Cox will headline 35th annual fundraising dinner

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Dr. Steven Pounders has been named the recipient of the 2016 Kuchling Humanitarian Award, Black Tie Dinner officials announced Thursday, June 23, at the annual Black Tie Sneak Peek event.

Organizers also announced that multi-platinum recording artist and actress Deborah Cox will be featured entertainer at this year's dinner, set for Oct. 1 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

Organizers said they chose Pounders as this year's Kuchling Award because he has, for more than 25 years, "served the LGBT community with compassion and dignity through his medical practice, which began at a time when HIV and AIDS were sweeping through the community with devastating impact." Pounders also volunteers as medical director of Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, which provides free medical care to those in need in the LGBT community.

Pounders has "spent decades supporting the LGBT community in Dallas, devoting his time and energy to myriad organizations and impacting thousands of lives," said Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Nathan Robbins. "As we celebrate our 35th year, Dr. Pounders is an excellent representation of a community leader and an extremely deserving recipient of the Kuchling Humanitarian Award."

Pounders said that when he found out he had been chosen as this year's Kuchling Award winner, "I felt humbled to be included on a list loaded with champions of social

change and equality for the LGBT community.

"My activism began in 1981, caring for and treating patients with the disease we came to know as HIV and AIDS at UTMB Galveston," he added. "While I'm very proud of our advancements in medical, legal and civil rights, I realize there is much work ahead."

Deborah Cox

Cox has recorded six award-winning albums, and her lost of No. 1 Billboard hits includes the double-platinum "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here," which sat at No. 1 on the R&B charts for 14 consecutive weeks. She was recently announced as the star of the national Broadway tour of *The Bodyguard*, a musical based on the Whitney Houston movie of the same name. The show comes to the Metroplex next year, as part of the Dallas Summer Musicals line-up from July 18-30, 2017, and at Bass Performance Hall Aug. 1-6, 2017.

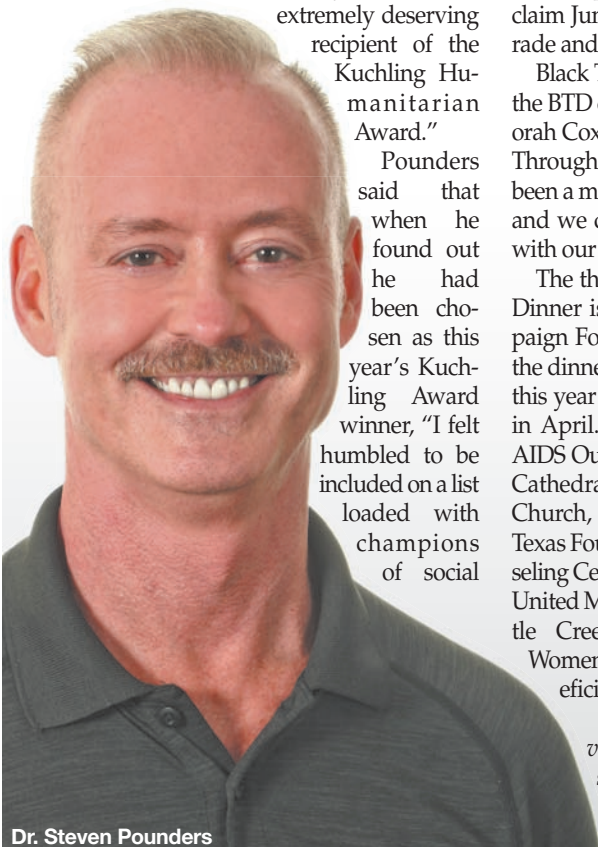
Cox is also long-time ally of the LGBT community. She received the Out Music Pillar Award in January 2015, the California State Senate Award in 2014, and The Civil Rights Award from the New York State Senate in 2007 for her contributions to the fight for equality.

Cox was also honored by The Harvey Milk Foundation at the 2015 Diversity Honors for her efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the LGBT community. And on June 12 this year, she received the Liberty Bell and Proclamation in Philadelphia by Mayor James Kenney to proclaim June 12 as LGBTQ Philadelphia Pride Parade and Festival Day.

Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Mitzi Lemons said the BTDC committee is "thrilled to welcome Deborah Cox to the Black Tie Dinner stage this year. Throughout her successful career, Deborah has been a major supporter of the LGBT community, and we can't wait to share her powerful voice with our community."

The theme for the 35th anniversary Black Tie Dinner is "Believe." The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the national beneficiary of the dinner each year, and organizers announced this year's list of local beneficiary organizations in April. They are: AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Outreach Center, AIDS Services of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope, Celebration Community Church, Congregation Beth El Binah, Equality Texas Foundation, Lambda Legal, Legacy Counseling Center, Legal Hospice of Texas, Northaven United Methodist Church, Resource Center, Turtle Creek Chorale, Uptown Players, The Women's Chorus of Dallas, and first time beneficiary, Promise House.

For additional information about the dinner, visit blacktie.org. Raffle tickets and sponsorship tables are currently being sold at blacktie.org.



Dr. Steven Pounders



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Winging it

Dallas Wings veteran Plenette Pierson says the team is happy to welcome its LGBT fans

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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Sports fans in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex are accustomed to an embarrassment of riches, so to speak, when it comes to having professional athletes around. There's the Dallas Cowboys, the Dallas Mavericks, the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Stars, Dallas Elite, FC Dallas, Dallas Sidekicks ...

And now, you can add the WNBA's Dallas Wings to the list. But don't just lump the Wings in with, say, the Mavs or the Stars. "We're different," says team leader Plenette Pierson.

"If you see a player from some of these teams out and about, they probably have a whole entourage with them. Not us, though," Pierson said during a recent interview. "We're all really relatable."

"You're likely to see us out at the grocery store or wherever, and if you see and want a photo with us, ask us. We're all OK with that. We're real people, and we aspire to be in close contact with the community."

The Wings — formerly the Tulsa Shock — are just shy of half-way through their first season as a DFW team. As of press time Thursday, June 23, they stood at 6-9 on the season, putting them in third place, out of six teams, in the WNBA Western Conference. They were set to play the San Antonio Stars, 2-10 on the season and in last place in the Western Conference, on Thursday night.

But Pierson said she and her teammates never take any game for granted, even against a 2-10 team. "You have to go out

every game and play your best," she said. "Win or lose, you have to take lessons from each game you play."

In previous seasons, the WNBA playoffs have featured the top four teams from each conference, based on their regular season records. Starting this year, though, the top eight teams in the league, regardless of conference, qualify for the playoffs, and will be seeded based on their regular season records.

And instead of a series of games at each level, the first and second rounds are single-elimination. The semi-finals round and the finals will be best-of-five contests.

The Wings' 6-7 record puts them, as of Thursday afternoon, in a tie for sixth place with the Eastern Conference's Chicago Sky. But, Pierson said, the team is really just getting started.

"We had a phenomenal season last year," Pierson said, referring to the team's 18-16 season record, which earned them their first playoff berth since moving to Tulsa in 2010. "But even though we have a lot of the same players, we're still a young team. We've still got a learning curve this year, because we've had some injuries and we're still learning how to play together as a team" with those injuries and other factors in play.

And while the team got off to a slow start in its first year in Dallas, Pierson said, "We're going to weather this storm. There are a lot of teams that are peaking early, and we're still getting to top form. When we all get healthy and get out there on the court, it will be something to see."

Wings history

The Wings were founded before the 1998 season as the Detroit Shock. They moved to Tulsa in time for the 2010 season, keeping the Shock name. But when they came to Dallas last year to get ready for the 2016 season in their new home, the management chose to go with a new name, choosing Wings in part in tribute to the Pegasus that has long been a symbol of Dallas.

For Pierson, the team's move to Texas is

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something of a homecoming. Born in Houston, she grew up nearby in Kingwood, graduating from Kingwood High School in 1999. She played her college career at Texas Tech, from 1999 to 2003, and was a first-round draft choice for WNBA's Phoenix Mercury in 2003.

Pierson spent three seasons — 2003, 2004 and 2005 — in Phoenix before heading to Detroit in 2006 to join the Shock. She moved to the New York Liberty from 2010-2014, before rejoining the Shock in 2015, helping lead the team to its first playoff game since moving to Tulsa.

Now in her 14th season, Pierson is the Wings' tried-and-true veteran. She has two WNBA championships under her belt — in 2006 and 2008, both with the Detroit Shock. She won the WNBA's first Sixth Woman of the Year Award — recognizing the league's most valuable player for her team coming off the bench as a substitute, or sixth woman — in 2007, and in 2015 played in the All-Star Game.

And now, she said, she's happy to be back in Texas.

"Texas is a huge sports state, and Dallas is a huge sports town," Pierson said. "The Texas fans really embrace you."

That includes the LGBT community. A team spokeswoman said that between 30 and 35 percent of the Wings' season ticketholders come from the LGBT community, which has always shown a lot of support and enthusiasm for the WNBA as a whole.

Pierson agreed that the LGBT community here as welcomed the team with open arms. "The LGBT community is a great community, really supportive of us. It's a great market for the Wings, and a great market for the WNBA overall."

"We want fans in the seats for our games, and the LGBT community gives us that. They give us a lot of support, and we're happy to reach out to the community in return. We've always had great fans, and we're happy to see that continue in Dallas." ■



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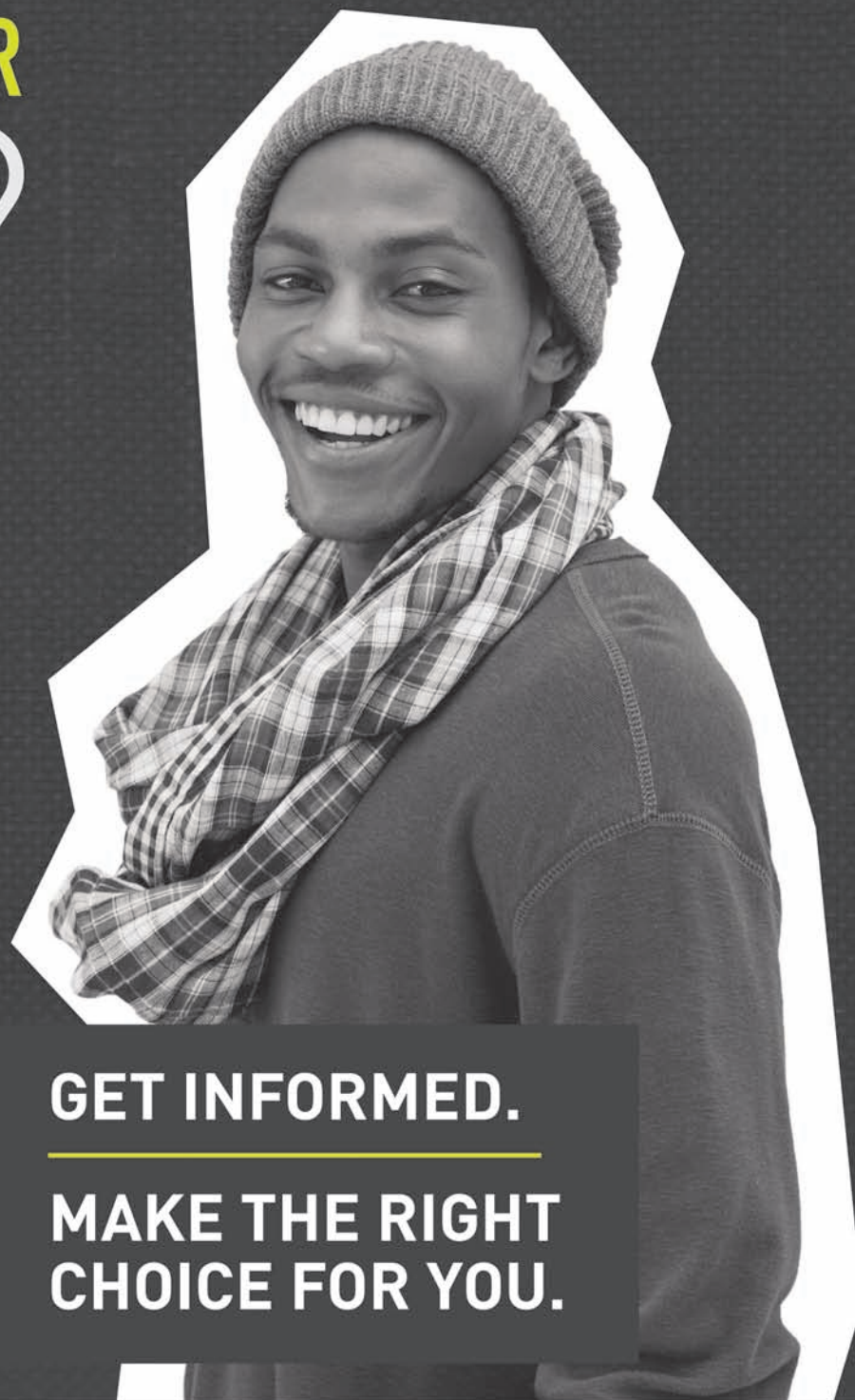


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Keeping our guard Up

'If you see something, say something,' minister, others advise

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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"We owe it to one another to be extra vigilant," the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas said after suitcases were found outside the door of Cathedral of Hope on Sunday, June 19, just a week after 49 people were shot to death inside an Orlando gay nightclub.

Cazares-Thomas said the church has stepped up security after the Orlando murders. Before the church opens now, a security officer checks the perimeter.

It was while checking the property that first Sunday after the Orlando attack that the guard found two suitcases and a laptop bag with something beeping inside.

That prompted an evacuation of the building and a call to police, who in turn summoned the bomb squad.

Cazares-Thomas moved the 9 a.m. service outside, but the bomb squad swept the church inside and out and had the bags removed in time for the 11 a.m. service to take place inside.

Cazares-Thomas' advice for people to use throughout the community — in bars and businesses, offices and churches — is if you see something, say something.

Church officials later learned the bags belonged to two homeless people who thought they were leaving their belongings in a safe place. And it would have been, the pastor said, had they let someone know. In fact, he added, the church would have locked the bags up kept them secure for the owners had church officials known what the bags were.

Instead it prompted a call to police.

"It's sad we have to do that," Cazares-Thomas said.

The church has done quite a bit of work to ensure its safety, including studying a video put out by the FBI and Homeland Security.

Ushers are the first people who greet anyone coming into the church, Cazares-Thomas said,

and they are the first line of defense against an attack. "You can tell a lot about someone who won't make eye contact," he said.

According to the FBI video, if you do make that eye contact, the likelihood a shooter will carry through with his plan goes down.

Cazares-Thomas said the Orlando shooter was wearing a coat and carrying a backpack. Take note if someone is dressed inappropriately, he advised.

"We're not allowing backpacks or big purses," Cazares-Thomas said, adding that the alternative is to go through everyone's backpacks and purses — and no one at the church wants to do that. Instead, church-goers can check those larger bags or return them to their car.

But taking steps to remain safe doesn't mean living in fear.

"Go about your normal life," Cazares-Thomas advised. "Don't let fear win."

Bob Roton, Legacy Counseling Center's clinic director, said although he's trained to look for suspicious behavior, the trick is knowing when suspicious behavior is actually dangerous behavior.

Police and airport security usually look for someone who's behaving nervously. That wouldn't work in a gay bar where someone may

— either building security or the police. Dallas police are on high alert to protect the LGBT community right now. They're aware of LGBT events going on through the end of the year and the location of many gay businesses. If you're calling from an LGBT-owned business, especially in the Oak Lawn area, let the 911 operator know.

Caven Enterprises CEO Gregg Kilhoffer said his clubs and others in Oak Lawn have banned backpacks for awhile. If someone using public transportation comes in with a backpack, and therefore has no vehicle in which to store the bag, bartenders will check the bag behind the bar.

If someone arrived wearing inappropriate clothing, Kilhoffer said, door staff checks them before letting that person in.

Still, bartenders get busy and may not notice when packages are left or when bags are unattended, Kilhoffer said. So, "If you see something that doesn't look right, please notify a bartender."

He said bartenders in all the clubs in Oak Lawn have safety procedures they follow and appreciate customers looking out for everyone's safety. So if you see something or someone that seems out of place, speak up, he said. Interrupt. Do whatever you need to do to get the attention of a manager, floor staff, door personnel or a bartender.

Look for packages left next to a building, in



Gregg Kilhoffer, left, and Bob Roton

be nervous because it's his first time in a bar or nervous about returning to a bar after the Orlando massacre, Roton said.

Actually, a bit of nervous behavior in an LGBT bar would be quite natural right now.

Roton also suggests engaging someone who seems to be behaving suspiciously; have a conversation with the person.

Roton said one situation he sees in his office is when someone who's been referred to Legacy is given an appointment or referral elsewhere and then doesn't leave. Or they leave, walk around the parking lot and then come back.

That can happen in any office. Someone comes into the lobby and asks a question, but then doesn't leave after he gets an answer.

If the situation seems threatening, call for help

the bushes or elsewhere. Notify security or call 911 rather than examine the package yourself.

Look for odd behavior among other patrons inside the club. But what does odd behavior look like?

If you see someone who looks nervous, approach that person. Say hello. Introduce yourself. Start a conversation. In most cases, that person was just nervous about being in a bar by himself. In the rare case where you suspect something, say something to bar staff. They'll keep an eye on the person and call security or the police if necessary.

Kilhoffer also advised club-goers to be aware of their surroundings and know where all the exits are.

Staying home isn't an answer. Looking out for each other and being aware of what's going on around us will help keep the community safe. ■



Patti Fink and Erin Moore

lot of attitudes haven't. "Young people aren't so bad," he said. "But those my age and older have been the most resistant, as well as religious people. They have been the absolute worst. They feel like something has been taken from them, when it hasn't."

"Every day, someone I interact with, either in person or online socially, has something negative to say," Spiller added. "They do it covertly usually, but the attitude is still there. And I attack it each time it rears its head, whether I hurt feelings or not."

But still, the joy that Young described is there — even for couples who have spent many years together and were legally married somewhere before the June 26, 2015 SCOTUS ruling made their marriages legal everywhere.

"What it means to me personally is that our life for the last 18 years together has not been in vain," Craft said. "It's actually recognized that we matter. It's not just a fantasy or a fad."

He continued, "For me, it has solidified our union. I am able to call Linus 'my husband' with strong conviction. Sometimes I notice people's reaction when I call Linus my husband, and it tickles me. But I don't care."

Spiller said he and Craft have always had a good response from their families, who were only upset that the two eloped to D.C. instead of getting married locally, where family could participate.

"Once we save enough money to renew our vows and have a reception the way we want to do it, we are going to have a tough time deciding who's going to be in the wedding party, because everyone is jockeying for a slot," he laughed.

Atkinson said he and Kincaid now "make a conscious effort to use the word 'husband'" when referring to one another.

"Even though we've been together 26 years and legally married for almost eight years, we never made an effort to use the word 'husband' until the ruling last year," Atkinson said. "Now we keep each other in check and make sure we use it — not because words are magical, it's just important that people hear it. The more we treat it as a natural thing, the more people get used to it and accept it."

"We have to boldly put ourselves out there," Atkinson said. "Just as it's been important throughout the history of our community to come out [as LGBT people], it's important now to be open about the fact that we are married, and that our marriage is as normal as any heterosexual marriage."

Patti Fink and Erin Moore, another long-term couple active in DFW's LGBT community and in Democratic politics statewide, were married on April 1, by Judge Teena Callahan in her courtroom. Callahan was the first family court judge in Texas to declare — in granting a divorce decree for a same-sex couple in 2009 — that Defense of Marriage Act, which allowed individual states to ignore the legality of same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions, was unconstitutional.

"Considering the long fight we had — first to prevent a constitutional amendment banning marriage through to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling legalizing marriage — getting married by a judge who is a personal friend and who had a part in that fight made it all the more meaningful."

And even though it's been 12 months, it's still sometimes hard to believe. "I still have to almost pinch myself sometimes at this great victory we've won," Atkinson said. "Most of us never dreamed we'd have marriage this soon. Ten years ago, I would have said I'd be an old, old man before that happened. And now, here we are." ■



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Celebration and remembrance

QueerBomb Pride party adds elements to honor Orlando victims

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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QueerBomb organizer Daniel Cates hopes this year's QueerBomb will be a way for the community to take action as it celebrates Pride and comes together to heal in the wake of the June 12 murders at Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

In just a few years, QueerBomb has evolved significantly, Cates said: "It began as a statement against the corporatization of Pride," he said. But what began as a protest is now the premiere LGBT June Pride event.

This year's celebration begins at noon at RBC, a club on Commerce Street in Deep Ellum, with the Blow Torch Music Festival. (See box for lineup)

At 5 p.m., the rally yard opens. Organizations will be set up to encourage people to get involved.

"Artists will be creating art live," Cates said, noting that proceeds will benefit the victims of the attack in Orlando.

Spoken word performances and open mike begin at 6 p.m.

The rally starts at 7:30 p.m., with a line-up of

Blow Torch Music Festival Lineup:

Noon: Robert Olivas and friends
1 p.m.: Charlie and the Big Black Cup
1:45 p.m.: Queer Classical Hour
 - featuring Vincent Pierce
3 p.m.: Patrick Boothe
3:40 p.m.: Toshio Mana
4:20 p.m.: Mr. Pixie
5 p.m.: Mokah Soulfly
5:15 p.m.: Alsace Carcione

Rally yard speakers:
 Keisha Hunter (Mokah Soulfly)
 Christopher Stephen Soden
 Luz Hernandez of Planned Parenthood
 Michael Dominguez
 Sammi Partida
 CD Kirven
 Danielle Jessica Pellet
 Kilo Mx
 Jalenwski Brown
 Councilman Medrano

speakers that includes City Councilman Adam Medrano, who will issue an LGBT Liberation Proclamation.

At 8:30 p.m. the march leaves the rally yard and will wind through Deep Ellum, making its way up Main Street and down Elm Street before returning to RBC.

Cates said it makes more sense if QueerBomb is trying to make a statement, to march through an area of town outside the gayborhood. Noting it would be mostly straight people who would be on the sidewalks watching on Saturday night, he said, "We'll show these people how to have a good time."

Anyone may participate since this is a march, not a parade. Police have promised security along the route.

The march ends where it began at RBC where the QueerBomb Ball begins at 9 p.m.

Cates said the rally yard will remain open and alcohol-free through the evening so younger people may participate. Drinking will be allowed inside and on the club's patios.

In addition to police security, RBC employs its

own private security and QueerBomb has volunteer security that will work the events throughout the day. People will be wanded before entering the club.

Other events are coordinating with QueerBomb to make the Pride celebration even larger.

Planned Parenthood is presenting FemmeBomb at Double Wide on Commerce Street. Live music and art will celebrate femme folks of all backgrounds, gender identities and sexual orientations. Sudie, Francine, Moth Face and DJ Ursa Minor are among the performers.

Oak Lawn Band presents What's Up Doc, a free concert, at the Latino Cultural Center with music from popular animated shows from TV and movies, both old and new.

"More and more people are coming on board," Cates said. "We're looking forward to seeing how it grows over the next few years."

RBC, 2617 Commerce Street from noon-2 a.m. Walking distance to Deep Ellum Station on the Green Line and paid parking is available for \$5 under the bridges.

Double Wide, 3510 Commerce St. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. at 4 p.m.

Trans athletes still excluded in Texas

Despite threat of lawsuits, UIL doesn't budge on exclusionary policy

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
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The 32-member legislative council of the University Interscholastic League can't say Rafael McDonnell didn't try to educate the committee on Tuesday, June 14.

McDonnell, the communications and advocacy manager of Resource Center, spoke to the statewide body overseeing high school sports and other extracurricular activities about a rule barring transgender student athletes in sports set to go into effect in August.

McDonnell asked the committee to halt its implementation, which states gender is based on a student's birth certificate, not gender identity. He also shared policies from Colorado, Florida and Minnesota, all of which have rules accommodating transgender athletes.

As the Dallas Voice and other outlets have reported, McDonnell said, "UIL did not consult outside resources; they simply codified their current practice."

The rule was one of 11 ballot items sent to school district superintendents across Texas for consideration. It passed in a lopsided 586-32 vote.

"The reception from the legislative committee was polite. They all intently looked at it and some took notes," McDonnell said. "But because it wasn't on the agenda, they couldn't take it up."

The committee however declined to consider a different proposal — unaffiliated with McDonnell's previous advocacy — allowing transgender athletes to play sports based on their gender identity.

His request to halt enforcement isn't without precedent, however.

Last year, the Education Department ruled a Palatine, Ill., school district violated Title IX for refusing to allow a transgender girl on a girls' sports team to use the girls' locker room. If the district did not remedy the situation within

30 days, the Education Department warned, it would risk losing some or all of its Title IX funding.

Some of the legal battles are currently playing out in Texas. Most recently Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, on behalf of a Wichita Falls school district, challenged new guidelines for transgender students released by the Obama administration.

In Fort Worth, a group known as Stand for Fort Worth, is rallying against similar guidelines released by the school district for accommodating transgender students. In their literature, the group suggests the provisions threaten the parent-child relationship and force an "agenda" on their children.

They've been joined by a chorus of local legislators, including Republican state Sen. Konni Burton, and state Reps. Matt Krause and Stephanie Klick, all of who represent parts of Fort Worth. Parents in Palatine recently formed a similar group known as "Students and Parents for Privacy" and filed a suit against the federal guidelines.

What the opponents have in rhetoric, they lack in historical precedent, however.

Earlier this month the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals declined to re-hear a case brought by transgender Virginia student Gavin Grimm. The Gloucester County schools student successfully sued to overturn his school district's policy segregating transgender students from their peers by requiring them to use separate restroom facilities.

The American Civil Liberties, representing Grimm, successfully argued the rule violates Title IX, federal non-discrimination laws and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

While the appeals court declined to re-hear the case, the Fourth Circuit halted the decision. The Gloucester County School Board plans to appeal its case to the Supreme Court.

McDonnell believes the Supreme Court will ultimately rule in favor of transgender equality.

Until then, "UIL now has in its hands good policies," McDonnell said. ■



Rafael McDonnell

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Tammye Nash Managing Editor | 113
Arnold Wayne Jones Executive Editor Life+Style | 129
David Taffet Senior Staff Writer | 125

Contributors: Chris Azzopardi, Jenny Block, J. Denton Bricker, Alicia Chang, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Shelley Hamilton, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Cassie Nova, Mikey Rox, Howard Lewis Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Mathew Shaw, Mark Stokes, Jef Tingley, David Webb, Casey Williams

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Media and the community

Looking back on a life in the field of journalism

When you count your blessings this month during gay Pride, don't forget to say a word of thanks to the Dallas-Fort Worth mainstream media. You wouldn't enjoy the freedom you experience today without the editors and reporters of those newspapers and television stations.

My thoughts on mainstream media crystallized June 9 at the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealy Plaza, when I accepted an award from the Press Club of Dallas for "Excellence in Journalism" at the 2016 North Texas Legends ceremony. The club honored me along with some real bigshots, including retired Dallas Morning News columnist Steve Blow, who wrote countless missives over the years in support of the LGBT community.

I stood in heady company, and I worried about how I would stack up.

The beauty of your last name starting with one of the last letters in the alphabet is that you will likely be the last one called to speak, which I was. The horror of it is that you must dwell on what you are going to say when it comes your turn to talk.

When my turn came I mounted the stage, and I hoped the words would come from my heart and mind. It helped that the beautiful NBC Channel 5 host, Kristi Nelson, welcomed me warmly, and she gave me a boost of confidence.

Looking out at the audience that included stalwarts such as retired ABC Channel 8 anchor Gloria Campos and investigative reporter Brett Shipp — not to mention "legends" like former Dallas Times Herald journalist Hugh Aynesworth, who covered the John F. Kennedy assassination — I might have shrunk. But that didn't happen because I knew I stood in the company of good people.

So I told my story as it relates to journalism. It began at the age of about 10 in my native town of Childress. I would go to the newspaper office, and they would give me 10 newspapers to sell for 10 cents each. When I returned to the office with the money, I got to keep half of it.

Back in those days, a half-dollar bought a lot more than you might imagine. And I loved sodas and chocolate.

I knew from an early age I wanted to be a journalist, and I eventually made my way to the University of Texas at Austin where I earned a degree in journalism. I was a good student, but I graduated in terror. The thought of getting my first job in my chosen field scared me to death.

I will forever be grateful to Rich Heiland, the



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

editor of a newspaper in the New-Texas chain of suburban newspapers owned by the Belo Corp., for giving me my first job. I worked every beat at that newspaper — except sports — learning the basics

of reporting. Someone asked me once to cover a football game, but they dismissed me from the project when I asked if they could explain the game to me first.

Everyone understood I was different, but no one challenged me on it. From the start, I gathered everyone would accept me if I carried my weight. I did.

At my next job at the Valley Morning Star in Harlingen I became increasingly alarmed about a new disease that came to be known as AIDS. I began dabbling in coverage of the epidemic, and I grew increasingly more interested in coverage of issues not routinely covered by the mainstream media.

My subsequent move to the Dallas Times Herald introduced me to William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, whom I met at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport during a protest he and his colleagues staged. It changed my career because their bravery so impressed me.

After leaving the Times Herald, I went to work as a staff writer at the Dallas Observer when it was still owned by the original founder, Bob Walton. The Observer reported LGBT news occasionally, but it left most of that to the newly-founded Dallas Voice that specifically served the gay community. I decided to change that, much to the distress of my editor, who reasoned that gay news should be in a gay newspaper and only occasionally reported by an offbeat weekly alternative publication.

Many "legendary" battles ensued between us over the coverage, but we made peace long ago and are good friends today. During that time, the Dallas chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation presented me with an award for a story I wrote about a gay man and his ill partner, who later died of HIV complications.

It was a time of change, and all media outlets began reassessing their coverage of AIDS and LGBT issues. Once again, I became a little confused about my purpose in life, and I applied for a job at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala. To my utter amazement,

they hired me, and I moved there.

After a couple of years of monitoring hate crimes and chasing white supremacist groups, I wanted to return home to Texas. I returned with an inspiration from SPLC founder Morris Dees and chief lawyer Richard Cohen that would influence the rest of my career. Dees and Cohen liked me, and they encouraged me to follow my heart.

I later applied for a job at the Dallas Voice, and editor Dennis Voice and publisher Robert Moore hired me. The next chapter of my career unfolded with me launching a new direction for myself and, to some extent, the weekly newspaper because Moore held a hands-off philosophy about editorial content. Many of the newspaper's readers and advertisers never dreamed that the LGBT community would be held to strict, traditional standards of journalism and investigative reports in the pages of the publication.

Hostility often ensued, but the community eventually sorted it out.

From its start, Dallas Voice exhibited a unique presentation among LGBT publications. The newspaper printed news in an unbiased manner, and it attracted the notice of mainstream journalists who often sought assistance about local LGBT issues. The sense of respect spread to local officials and finally to the Dallas-Fort Worth community at large. ■

Today, I'm best known for my reporting and columns for the Dallas Voice. I retired from the publication about eight years ago, but I still contribute to it occasionally. I'm happy to be remembered for my work at the Dallas Voice, especially after my peers at the Press Club of Dallas told me it rose to the level of excellence.

Letter to the editor

What the FBI missed

Many individuals and organizations, including my hometown newspaper, The Dallas Morning News, have asked what the FBI investigators missed when they questioned and looked into the beliefs and action of Omar Mateen, the man who murdered 49 people and wounded 53 more at Pulse nightclub in Orlando early Sunday morning, June 12.

I'll tell you what they missed: Violence against his wife.

Violence against a woman or child is, I would say, a very good indicator of what a man will do to others.

Either the FBI did not look hard enough or they discounted "family violence."

For shame!

Phyllis Guest, Dallas

Don't 'straight-wash' Orlando

The murders at Pulse were an act of terrorism, but just as much an act of anti-LGBT hate.

I think it's time for a little "Gaysplaining." When you call the creep who murdered my Latino/a brothers and sisters at Pulse — a GAY BAR — a terrorist, you are only half right. He was a terrorist who hated LGBTQ people, and many in the media are soft-peddling that fact.

If you do not understand why this is so disturbing, you are most likely not GLBTQAIA, or whatever letter you can tag onto the acronym.

Am I angry? Hell yes.

Do I want change? Yes.

I would love it if everyone would just "get along." But in America, we love our prejudices. And we have politicians and pundits who nurture them.

They stoke the fear that a lot of heterosexual men and women have of a different sexual orientation. They stoke the fear of the "other," whether it is race, heritage, sexual orientation or gender identity.

The "other" is something to be feared, despised and hated.

Add to this toxic mix the insanely easy access to high-powered weapons and ammunition designed to do nothing but slaughter people, and you have an even more volatile and deadly situation.

Sadly, in America when we are wronged — either by action or perception — we immediately look for revenge. Usually, revenge with a gun. We even joke about it, speaking of "blowing away" people we disagree with. It is the subject of movies, TV and books — a consistent thread in our culture.

So is it any wonder that the epidemic of gun violence has become an LGBTQ issue?

Meanwhile, there is the hate crime in Orlando.

Orlando — I used to think of that city's name as synonymous with fun, vacations, and pleasure. The theme parks, the tourist attractions and the gay bars made it a favorite spot for me and many of my friends.

But now, I can never use that city name again without seeing the faces of the 49 mainly Latino/a brothers and sisters who were murdered and the 50-plus others who are making painful recoveries in hospitals around the city.

Aside from tarnishing the city's name, the crime committed against the LGBTQ community has left a lot of LGBTQ people, such as myself, feeling wounded as well. Not just by the despicable act of the shooter, but by the "straight-washing" that has taken place in the press.

Calling the murderer a terrorist is only half right. He also hated LGBTQ people, and he



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

specifically targeted a gay nightclub.

Frankly, I don't care that he called 911 and ranted about ISIS. I don't care if he wore a fake explosive vest or not. I don't care if he was "radicalized" or not.

Anyone who goes into a gay bar and starts mindlessly killing people is radical in my book, and his target makes the reason pretty clear. This was not random violence; it was specific and it was a hate crime.

Now, that said, to the many heterosexual friends who have offered sympathies: Thank you. You recognize that this was an event that affected me and all the LGBTQ community. But please understand that the raw nerves and grief being experienced by the worldwide LGBTQ community is very real and very raw. We have all been attacked and it is every bit as traumatic as 9/11 was for the entire country.

So cut your LGBTQ friends a little slack, and maybe, if you really believe that you are an ally, you will join in doing something to change things. That could start with, oh, I don't know ... stricter gun laws?

The measures we are asking for have worked in every other "civilized" country, and they can work here. Almost half of the U.S. Senate thought gun law reform was a good thing, but those who were on the payroll of the NRA managed to get even the lamest form of control voted down.

I know, I know — Second Amendment and "bearing arms," founding fathers and "well-regulated militia" and blah blah blah. Hey, just what is an assault weapon anyway?

Want to quibble about the definition of "assault weapon"? Then go over to the NRA website and chat with the people over there stroking their guns.

Here in my community, we are healing. And we really don't care about whether you want to call this a terrorist attack or not.

To us, it was family, and to us, it calls for action.

I sincerely hope a big part of that action happens this November at the ballot box. All but three votes that defeated four minor gun control bills in the Senate came from Republicans. Let's start with eliminating all those (R)'s who are up for re-election.

Then maybe we can do more than talk about healing.

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

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Raise the Rufus!

Taming the unruly world of glam singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright

I'm not at the psychiatrist's office." Rufus Wainwright realizes that now, years later. There was a time, he acknowledges, amused by the notion, that interviews such as the one we're engaged in passed as therapy. For that reason, the singer and composer is transparent, a book that never closes. That frankness has long marked his raw musings, windows into his life as a gay man, as a former drug addict, as a son, as a father. The personal catharsis of his latest work is less discernible.

Featuring guest collaborators Helena Bonham Carter, Carrie Fisher, William Shatner, Florence Welch and sister Martha Wainwright, *Take All My Loves: 9 Shakespeare Sonnets* adapts the Bard's work within noticeably non-traditional sonic structures, because this is a Rufus Wainwright album.

Before we launch into a wide-ranging conversation — encompassing issues he sorted through while recording the Shakespearean project, how his "very wry" personality rubs gay people the wrong way and the Benedict Cumberbatch conundrum — Wainwright says "don't worry," reassuring me that even though this isn't quite psychiatry, "I'm still pretty open."

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Just when I think you've reached peaked ambition, you release an album of Shakespeare sonnets set to music. Where do you think your desire to be so outside of the box comes from? Rufus Wainwright: Well, I was never in the closet, I was never in the box... I was never in my right mind! I don't know. This album, in a lot of ways, is kind of a miracle in the sense that it's nothing that I ever really planned on or was working toward; it sort of made itself, and all in conjunction, of course, with the 400-year anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

It just so happens that many years ago I was working on a project of the sonnets [*Five Shakespeare Sonnets*, in 2010] and somehow the work that I was doing with these poems really resonated with all sorts of people, whether it was the San Francisco Symphony wanting arrangements of them or *Songs for Lulu* [his 2010 album grieving the loss of his mother, Kate McGarrigle] or other singers performing them. In fact, there are a few dance choreographers now who have started to choreograph pieces to the work, so it's just something that happened, and lo and behold it fell right in line with this 400th anniversary. I just had to facilitate that as much as I could. What a lot of people think is outside of my box is really just me following my brute instincts and going with that fully. I've never been able to work otherwise, so I suppose that will continue to be the case.

Yes, you seem a bit artistically restless. Yes. Also, for me, music is where I really — I mean, speaking about being in a psychiatrist's office — exorcise a lot of my demons and emotionally confront issues, and in order to do that I can't really coast now. I have to crack the ice a little bit. That's the way it is.

With this piece in particular, what issues are you confronting? I think a lot of this is centered

around my mother's illness and death, and also aging is in here. I think one of the reasons "A Woman's Face" is repeated several times — it's really about an older man kind of fawning over a younger man and that's a tradition that now I'm on both sides of [laughs]. I've been a younger man and I *am* that older man now, and so I see it from both sides. To have a woman [Anna Prohaska] sing it is very interesting, because that takes it into a whole other mirrored image, which is what's amazing about Shakespeare — how many reflections we can illustrate depending on how old one is or how young one is or what gender one is relating to at that moment. It's a vortex of possibilities.

When it comes to aging, what has been your experience as a middle-aged gay man who's a public figure? The catch-22 is that in 20 years — I'm 42 now — I'll probably look back at this period as really my zenith, when I was probably the most attractive I've ever been. But now that I'm in the middle of it, I'm looking backwards to when I was 22... and when I was 22 I was really miserable! So it's, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone," as Joni Mitchell said. But I think artistically in one's 40s you do feel the joint rapture of both experience and still a sense of youth that can combine and really make you feel like you're in the present.

Your cross-genre collaborations are constantly surprising people, and there are some unexpected ones on this album. Who is someone you want to work with that we wouldn't expect? The other day my sister Martha had her 40th birthday and we had some people up to the house. One of them was Sufjan Stevens, who I've admired for a long time and, yeah, he'd be fun to write a song with. I've given up on Björk. She's not taken my lead. I'm like, "Hey Björk, let's do this"



and she's, like, hanging out with aliens or something.

I saw you in Toronto in 2014 for *If I Loved You: Gentlemen Prefer Broadway*; I've seen you many times before, but not in that dynamic, with a bunch of men, many of whom were straight. So I was watching you and, of course, admiring the performances, but I was also

noticing the way you interacted with the other fellas on stage and I'm like, "Rufus is such a shameless flirt." I know! I'm terrible!

Have you always been that way? I have. I'm just built that way. I'm sort of a gay Elizabeth Taylor.

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'The Charles Busch of Dallas'

Actor Coy Covington dons wig and heels for his 10th outing as a female character in a Charles Busch play



TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

As Coy Covington what he thinks of being called “the Charles Busch of Dallas,” and he’ll tell you, that’s high praise indeed.

“It’s a thrill and an honor. They can tag me with that all they want,” Covington declared. “Truly, it is a huge honor, and just a hoot. I enjoy doing his work so much. I am grateful to be acknowledged for it, and grateful that [Busch] is so generous with his work.”

Theatre Three opens its 2016-17 season, beginning this weekend, with one of Busch’s campy classics, *Psycho Beach Party*, described as an “hilarious and outrageous mash-up of Frankie Avalon, Annette Funicello and *The Three Faces of Eve*.”

It is the 10th time Covington has donned wigs and heels for a roll in a Busch play. But it is the first time, he said, that he has had the chance to debut a new version of one of the playwright’s works.

“Charles and I, over the years, have gotten to be friends,” Covington said this week. “We’re not ‘buddies,’ but we have gotten to be friends. He’s just a fabulous person really, and he’s always been very supportive of and generous to me.

“I tease him often — although I’m not really teasing — telling him that even though he’s having so much success right with his cabaret show [which he brought to Dallas’ Wyly Theater last October], he needs to keep writing more plays be-

cause I need more roles!”

And while *Beach Party* is not a new play, really, this is a new version of it, thanks at least in part to Covington’s participation.

“When he found out I was doing this play this summer at Theatre Three, he contacted me [and T3’s acting artistic director, Bruce Coleman] and said, ‘Would you guys be willing to use this new version of the play?’” Covington explained. “Of course we said yes. We jumped at the chance. So the audiences in Dallas will be the first ones to ever see this version of it.”

In *Psycho Beach Party*, Covington plays Mrs. Forrest, mother of the show’s main protagonist, Chicklet Forrest, a teenage girl who desperately wants to be part of the 1962 Malibu surfer crowd, but has to find a way to overcome her own issues — which include multiple personality disorder — to do so.

Covington describes his character as “the overbearing mother. ... the over-protective mother who’s just a little bit whacked out herself.” It is the first time he has taken on a supporting role in a Busch play instead of one of the central characters.

It is a “really exciting opportunity,” the actor said, that “grew out of Charles Busch’s generosity and his willingness to reach out to me. It’s really kind of cool we’re doing this revised play. It’s kind of fabulous.”

Busch is “just terrific,” Covington continued, “and very honest. When he told me he was revising this play, I asked him, ‘Can’t you do something to pad my part?’ He just said, ‘No. It’s a supporting role, darling. I know you are used to being center stage, but this is a supporting role.’

“And you know, that impressed me even more!”

Covington, who began his stage career in the early 1990s, is known for specializing in female roles, performed in drag, and this is the 10th time he has performed a female role in a Charles Busch play.

“I started doing his plays — I think the first one was in 1992, *Red Scare on Sunset*. I just sort of fell into his rhythm,” the actor said of his affinity for Busch plays. “He’s just got this kind of effortless, brassy elegance that draws me toward him.”

As a performer and a playwright, Covington said Busch is “very theatrical and generous,” with a “witty, urbane glamor” that shines through his work.

“His vernacular and his syntax is just so unique,” Covington said. “So he’s fun to talk to, fun to read. I mean, his Facebook posts are legendary. His writing is just so specialized, so stylized, but at the same time, that makes it hard to memorize.”

He noted that because this is the first time the revised version of *Beach Party* will be staged,

“We’re trying to go word-for-word, to do it exactly as it’s written. And there is this one line I kept getting wrong. I kept saying, ‘I can see clearly now.’ But when I went back and reread the script, I realized that the actual line is, ‘I see now clearly.’

“It just puts a more theatrical spin on the lines,” Covington said. “He just has a certain way of arranging the words that gives it that Charles Busch spin, which is just more fabulous than the usual.”

Covington admits that he has thought of following even further in Busch’s footsteps and writing his own plays. “He doesn’t do parodies; he does satire. He pays homage to these glamorous old movies, and if I wrote, I would definitely do that. I would probably have similar themes, the same comic sensibility.

“So yes, I have thought about writing, but I haven’t ever gotten around to putting pen to paper.”

He would also strive, Covington said, to add another element of Busch’s work to his own writing: “His writing is also a little bit naughty. There’s glamor and elegance, with some of the movies’ innuendo — and then there’s just a little bit of raunch thrown in, and I love that. It just adds a whole new layer.”

While he may someday write his own plays, for now Covington said he is focused on doing his best with Busch’s work. “I just really look up to him,” Covington said. “And he really does need to keep writing!”

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Sunday, June 12, 2016

Alexandre's • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Monday, June 13, 2016

Zipper's • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Sue Ellen's • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Monday, June 20, 2016

Cedar Springs Tap House • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Liquid Zoo • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

ELIMINATION DATES LOCATION CHECK-IN START

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Kaliente • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Brick / Joe's • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Pekers • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Saturday, July 9, 2016

Marty's Live • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

QUARTER-FINAL DATES LOCATION START

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Dallas Eagle • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

Thursday, July 21, 2016

BJ's NXS • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

SEMI-FINAL DATE LOCATION START

Sunday, July 31, 2016

Round-Up Saloon • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

FINAL DATE LOCATION START

Sunday, August 21, 2016

The Rose Room • 6:15 pm 7:00 pm

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A More Perfect Union, anthology by B.G. Thomas, J. Scott Coatsworth, Jamie Fessenden, Michael Murphy (Dreamspinner, 2016) paperback \$17.99; 350 pp; eBook \$6.99; 104K

As we near the one-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, establishing marriage equality as the law of the land, Dreamspinner Press is publishing an anthology of stories from four authors — who also happen to be married gay men — exploring love and marriage in days before and since that ruling.

A More Perfect Union, the publishers say, is intended “to commemorate the anniversary of full marriage equality in the U.S.” and celebrate “the idea of marriage itself — and the universal truth of it that applies to us all, gay or straight.”

In “Someday,” author B.G. Thomas tells the story of Lucas Arrowood and Dalton Churchill, who meet when Lucas is walking to school on the first day of kindergarten and Dalton stops to help Lucas tie his shoe. The two become best friends and then lovers. But even after Dalton stands up to his conservative family to defend his love for Lucas, he refuses to marry his partner until same-sex marriage is legal everywhere.

J. Scott Coatsworth contributes “Flames” to the anthology. It is the story of Alex and Gio, life partners who are separated after an argument. When their home is destroyed and Gio is critically injured in a fire, Gio's mother banishes Alex from his side, and Alex has no legal recourse since the two had never married. But Alex is determined to get to Gio, to use their memories to bring him back from the brink of death, no matter what rules he has to break to do it.

“Destined,” by Jamie Fessenden, is the story of Jay and Wallace, who first meet at an LGBTQ group and but take six years to finally become a couple thanks to bad timing through many meetings. Once they are together, though, they fight their disapproving families and even the state legislature to overcome the obstacles in their road to happiness.

The final entry in *A More Perfect Union* is “Jeordi and Tom,” by Michael Murphy. It tells the story of an open, loving gay couple living in the rural South, and how they withstand the efforts of family members and even a pastor to stay together. When Jeordi is hospitalized after an accident, his family tries to keep Tom from his side, prompting the two men to start a battle for legal recognition even against the bigoted county clerk who won't issue them a marriage license.

— From Staff Reports

The Battle for Room 314 by Ed Boland (Grand Central 2016) \$26; 243 pp.

What was a nice, educated gay man doing in a

snarling pit of teenage attitude? With sweaty palms and a worthless planner, newly-minted teacher Ed Boland wondered that himself. Inspired by teachers in his family, he'd given up a well-paying job to teach but the ninth-grade class he'd gotten wasn't what he bargained for.

Because Boland had spent a year teaching English in China, he figured he had a leg up on a job at Manhattan's Union Street School, a new combined middle and high school that focused on history and international studies. Teaching there, he'd been led to believe, was a dream job and, since he'd already worked with promising but disadvantaged New York-area minority students through Project Advance, he thought he knew the kind of fresh-faced students he'd have.

Instead, what he found in the classroom that fall were sullen, attitudinal, sometimes violent young adults, many (if not most) of whom were dealing with absentee parents, drug abuse, poverty, pregnancy, and bullying. Some of his new ninth-grade students were in their very late teens; many were unable to write in complete sentences or do age-appropriate schoolwork. At least one barely spoke English.

And yet, with a Hollywood-happy ending on his mind, Boland persevered. He hoped to connect with the kids, though they were often uncontrollable. He dreamed they would eventually learn something, though they usually ignored his lessons.

And when the year was over, he had considered staying at Union Street but he just couldn't.

“I so wish it were a different ending for me and for the kids,” says Boland, “but some stories have to end like a seventies movie — gritty, real and sad.”

The solution to the country's school- and grade-based issues, says author Ed Boland, is a multi-faceted one, beginning with more education for the educators. There are other fixes, too, and *The Battle for Room 314* offers them.

But that's not all: Boland, overall, tells a story that's both shocking and unsurprising; part *To Sir, With Love* and part battlefield skirmish. There are occasional moments of too much information (both personal and classroom) but even more of frustration and missed opportunity (again, on two levels). What Boland shares left me feeling glum, mostly, but there are shadows of hope in this book — especially at the end, when he wraps up his story with a chapter of follow-ups.

Though you should be reminded that it's representative of one man's experience in one school, this book offers hard lessons. Still, if you've ever fretted about the state of education — on either side of the teacher's desk — *The Battle for Room 314* goes to the head of the class.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



■ RUFUS, From Page 18

Groban, I can't blame you. Yes, yes. He's a handsome man.

Did you get a chance to meet Benedict Cumberbatch while recording the BBC's *The Shakespeare Show: Recorded Live from the Royal Shakespeare Company*?

Yeah! I've hung out with Benedict a couple of times. He's... he's quite the figure. Most amazing thing is, I can't tell if he's gorgeous or incredibly ugly. [Laughs] It's a weird combination. At certain angles he looks like my aunt, and then at certain angles he looks the man who's gonna ruin my marriage.

A couple of years ago, I was surprised to hear you say you didn't think you had a big gay following. I've been following you since "Cigarettes and Chocolate Milk"

and I'm definitely gay. Aww! Well, thank you. I guess I just feel with the gay community my kind of very wry and frank opinion on things can be misinterpreted. Us queers are kind of a sensitive bunch, so sometimes there's a bit of a tempest in a teapot [reaction] when I put out certain concepts. Some people enjoy the dialectic of that and other people shy from it and, well, the gay community... it can get a little insular.

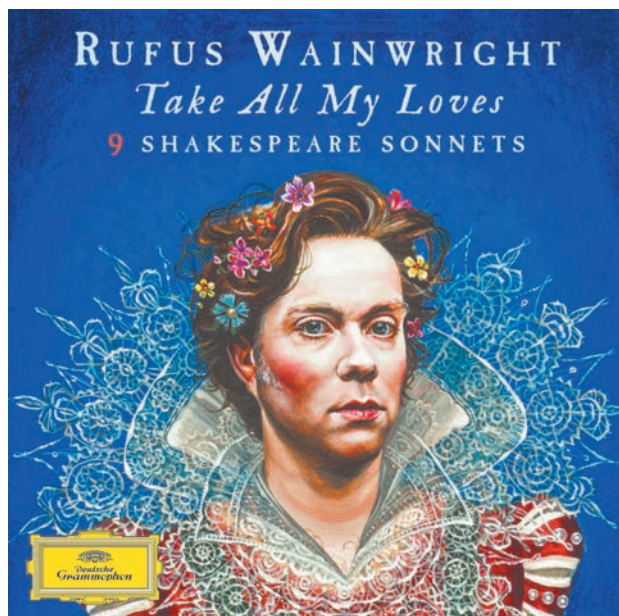
You never had to make a coming out announcement, so I wonder: How do you feel about famous people coming out making headlines in 2016? Yeah, well... I mean, it's good that they're doing it. ... I don't know. I just... it's still to be applauded because the sad truth is we are living in reactionary times now and whether it's Donald Trump or ISIS, there is this kind of tremendous backlash to a lot of the advancements that have been made in the last 20 years, and so I think it's probably harder in certain places to be gay now than it was a while ago. The pendulum has started to swing the other way. So, as long as people are coming out and continuing the battle, then I think it's good.

I know you have a lot of opinions on today's pop divas. So Lady Gaga, Adele and Beyoncé: Which would you fuck, marry, kill? Fuck, marry, kill — oh boy. Dangerous. I guess I would marry Adele. Ahh, I would, you know, fuck Gaga and kill Beyoncé.

Did you not like *Lemonade*? I just, ahhh... whatever. I was only given a few choices, so it's not my fault.

You don't have any tour stops in North Carolina, but what's your take on how artists are handling the situation regarding House Bill 2, the "bathroom bill"? And if you did have a date there, what would you do? This relates back to what I said before: I think that any kind of pushback against this rising wave of right-wing extremism coming from large sectors in the world is a positive act. What's good about the North Carolina thing is, I mean, I think the artists are doing their part, which is great, but I think it's also the business leaders who are really pulling the money out of the state that's gonna really make a huge difference. It's all people working in conjunction from all different fields that's important. And yeah, I'd probably pull out.

So, no North Carolina shows anytime soon? No, and I *don't* have any gigs there. I'll go to the ladies room one time in protest and scare everybody.



As we speak, you're about to restage *Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall* [on June 16-17 in New York and June 23-24 in Toronto]. How will the music and the show reflect the way the world's changed in the last 10 years since you first performed it? The main reason I'm doing the show again is to see what condition my voice is in. I mean, I have an inkling that it's at the top of its game, and the only way to really prove that is to sing that material, so it's more of a practical exercise for me to do this show again. I've been working very hard on my singing over the years and I want to show that off, but on a more philosophical level: I originally did this show because of my broken feelings toward the Iraq War. I needed something to remind me of how great America could be when it wanted to be, and sadly we're in the same predicament with Donald Trump and this racist, sexist blowback. I don't know, it just seems to be something that occurs every 10 years in the United States and I'm happy that the Judy show is gonna be back out there again because it is all the good that this country can represent.

Regarding your voice: Haven't you already proven yourself as a singer? Well, I'm a big opera fan and in the world of opera, you don't really hit your stride until you're in your 40s vocally. That's when you get all the big roles, so it's just more of a personal thing. I'm not trying to prove it to anybody; I'm just proving it to myself, and also just to be really on top of the material. I loved doing Judy the first time because it was this kind of mad rollercoaster ride that I just attached myself to with handcuffs (laughs) and went along with, but this time I feel like I can hold onto the reigns a little better and just really nail it.

You've done Judy and Shakespeare. Which other legendary figures intrigue you enough to make you want to dedicate an entire album's worth of material to their work? The figure that's kind of looming all of a sudden — I'm just hearing little squeaks of this in my psyche, but I'm a big Blake fan. I love Blake. Who knows. Maybe something like that. I'd also like to do a French record at some point to just sort of, you know, loosen it up a bit. And of course there are my own songs from my own life, so there are a lot of possibilities.

And the Shakespeare character you call your spirit animal? Oh, gee. I would say I've always wanted to be Titania from a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, because I'm a sad queen, really. ■

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Tuesday 06.28 — Sunday 07.10

Making it big on Broadway

Caitlin Ehlinger leads the cast in Dallas Summer Musicals and Performing Arts Fort Worth's production of *42nd Street*, the comedy classic that tells the story of starry-eyed Peggy Sawyer who leaves her home in Allentown, Penn., to make it big on Broadway.

DEETS: Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave.
DallasSummerMusicals.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Wednesday 06.29 —
Saturday 07.23

A different kind of boy

Second Thought Theatre winds up its 2016 season with *A Kid Like Jake*, directed by Matthew Gray and starring Christie Vela, Ian Ferguson and Jenny Ledel. Daniel Pearle's play about a couple trying to get their son — who likes to dress up as Cinderella — into an exclusive preschool runs June 29-July 23 at Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys Campus.

DEETS: Bryant Hall, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.



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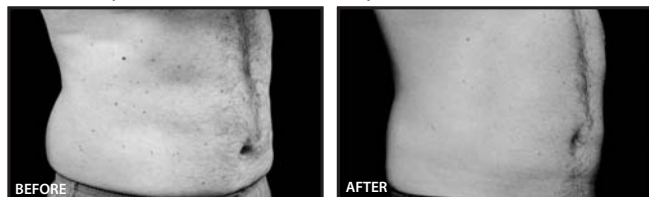
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calendar highlights



Dallas Theater Center's production of *Dreamgirls* continues through July 24 at the Wyly Theatre.



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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Anything Goes. Cole Porter's infectiously madcap musical closes out Lyric Stage's 2015–16 season. *Final weekend.* Carpenter Hall of Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. LyricStage.org.

Beauty and the Beast. A special one-week-only performance of the Disney classic. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

Blackberry Winter. A daughter finds ways of coping with her mother's slide into dementia in this funny, poetic play about Alzheimer's and myth. Runs in repertory with

The Thrush and the Woodpecker, both by Steven Yockey and part of the New Works Festival from Kitchen Dog, which moves (temporarily) into the space at Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. *Final weekend.* KitchenDogTheater.org.

Bullets Over Broadway. National tour of the adaptation of Woody Allen's Oscar-winning comedy film, set in the world of gangsters and theater trash. *Final weekend.* Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Dreamgirls. The hit rock musical, a thinly-disguised version of the making of the Supremes and Motown, becomes the Dallas Theater Center's summer family show ... for funky, open-minded families. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through July 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Livin' Fat. A college-educated man is forced to take a job as a janitor in a bank, and happens upon \$20k in cash dropped by bank robbers and unnoticed by the cops in this comedy. *Final weekend.* Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.

Outside Mullingar. Doubt and Moonstruck author John Patrick Shanley's quirky romance, set in Ireland. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Psycho Beach Party. Coy Covington stars in this campy Charles Busch play. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through July 10. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Wait Until Dark. Frederick Knott's tightly-wound suspense thriller, about a blind woman terrorized by criminals looking for a doll filled with heroin. *Final weekend.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

FINE ART

Rebecca Warren: The Main Thing. A mid-career retrospective of the British visual arts and sculptress, in 20 diverse pieces. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 17. DMA.org.

Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting. A lovely original Vermeer is among the seven paintings in this intimate exhibit exploring 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. Through Sept. 5. PerotMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 06.24
COMMUNITY

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

MONDAY 06.27
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.

TUESDAY 06.28
FILM

Bullitt. Super-cool Steve McQueen had a hit in this iconic police drama. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia

Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 06.30
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.

this week's solution

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Ask Howard

It seems everyone now suddenly, this summer, has "vacation" on their minds, and along with all those tan, frolicking queers in turquoise Spandex beach thongs comes, of course, good old summertime-sizzling XXX fantasies of faraway, exotic, one-night-stand strangers whom one never has to ever see or fuck twice, again: Let's get right to it.

Dear Howard,

Have you ever heard of a "zoo party" before? My life-partner and I attend pig parties a lot — dungeon slings, blindfolded slaves, Tina galore and the like — but I just received an actual, snail-mailed velum invitation card to some zoo orgy thing at the nearby "ranch" of my monthly allowed, "hall pass" hookup. The three-day event is taking place over the 4th of July weekend. His engraved card reads, cryptically, "Are You Prey, Or, Predator? Cum As The Beast You're Born Wild To Be." Ugh, cum again now? What's proper etiquette here, Howard? — **Jake**

Dear Jake,

Kudos to your life-partner's Mesozoic benevolence, playa, for bestowing you once-a-month

hall passes. He certainly is cutting-edge/homotrendy — I'm so envious! Regarding your question, though: To my knowledge, and now astonishment, Jake, zoological "safari orgies" hadn't even so far yet made their underground jump across the pond from the reptilian pits of Berlin and Amsterdam, say nothing of having actually landed already now in Bible Belt Central. With a little research, though, Jake, here are the top 10 LGBT "zoo orgy" party animals' slang invocations, for all invitees joining in such fanged, bareback expeditions:

A word to the wise here, Jake: If you're a big ol' hairy, brutally-alpha top, I'd advise you steer well clear of showing up to any safari orgy as Harambe, the recently euthanized silverback gorilla.

1. Bear — husky, large-built, middle-aged, proudly brandishing thick facial, chest and body hair.
2. Cub — younger, thinner, less stocky baby bear (usually a bottom).
3. Chicken — young twink, willowy-skinny with no body hair (tends to be effeminate).
4. Otter — wiry, lean and hairy (older than a chicken but younger and leaner than a bear).

5. Chicken Hawk — older perv who exclusively pursues twinkie chickens and otters.

6. Wolf — muscular, sexually-aggressive, toothsome predator.

7. Giraffe — handsomely tall, sometimes gangly, lusted by prey and predators alike.

8. Pig — the kinkier and filthier it is, the happier he deviantly wallows in it (as you probably know).

9. Bull — 'roided-up gym junkie, obsessively tipping the scales well north of 200 lbs.

10. Unicorn — the nonexistent, self-proclaimed "100 percent bisexual" (desiring of a threesome sans any jealous conflict).

FYI: A word to the wise here, Jake: If you're a big ol' hairy, brutally-alpha top, I'd advise you steer lawfully well clear of showing up to any safari orgy as, oh, Harambe, the recently euthanized Cincinnati Zoo silverback gorilla ... that is, if you at all have your raw sights set on abusing any virginally-precious, submissive little chimps.

Dear Howard,

I'm backpacking across continental Europe six weeks later this summer, hitting all



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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the major vice meccas — Copenhagen, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, Barcelona, Rome. Could you tell me which country over all has the most well-hung men? — **Lucky Bangin' Backpacker**

Dear Lucky, Well, aren't we sure going to have a big summer! Fortunately, Howard here is a very globally-seasoned sex traveler, so trust me when I tell you that the most consistently colossal cocks in all of Europe are just awaitin' you to bend over in — wait for it... Lisbon. Lucky, my man, no size queen sleazily panhandling/hustling his way across the continent should ever skip the prime penises of Portugal.

Dear Howard,

My wife and I are "queer hypocrisy" film buffs: We relish films starring straight actors who laughably attempt portraying themselves gay. We're heading up soon to our "low-tech" cabin in Santa Fe to escape this annually Stygian Dallas summer swelter and would enjoy some clever DVD suggestions from you to bring along—and don't dare suggest to us such obviously homophobic bilge as the likes of *Boys Don't Cry*, *Personal Best*, *Bound*, *Heavenly Creatures*, *Carol*, *The Children's Hour* or *Basic Instinct*, or, I swear, we'll never read your column again.

— **Beth**

Dear Bethany,

My heart quivers with fear of losing you, sweet reader.

— **Howard Lewis Russell**

Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs an answer? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.



Officers from the DPD Northwest Division, under the command of Deputy Chief Catrina Shead, pose with Councilman Adam Medrano and Stoli North America Bartender of the Year Rocky Collins on The Strip.



Steve Kemble, above, emceed the CSMA's Summer Showcase, featuring hot men in swimwear, below.



J.C. and Chan at Panda's

Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 24-30**:

- **Alexandre's**: Jason Huff and the Ignition on Friday. No Label on Saturday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Illumin on Thursday.
- **Barbara's Pavillon**: Pride Month Trivia Night during Double Dee Karaoke from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's**: Dannee Phann birthday bash with India Ferrah and appearances by Andrew Christian models, benefitting Resource Center, on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection**: Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Condom Queen of the Parking Lot kickoff at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: National Leather Association-Dallas presents Leather Perspectives from 1:30-4 p.m. on Saturday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents CPR Ball benefitting AIDS Interfaith Network from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. Leather Knights presents Camp-A-Lot from 8-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill**: Dream Girls with Chanel, Sassy, Raquel, Fantasha and Athena on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon**: Dance lessons with Juanita at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's**: Ashley Bradberry on Friday. The Grown Folks with Kerrie Leppia on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. and Tyla Taylor at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room**: Cassie, Kelexis, Valerie, Kennedy Davenport, Layla and Kandy Cayne on Saturday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle**: Show Tune Night with David Carpenter on the piano from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon**: Imperial Pride Pageant at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood**

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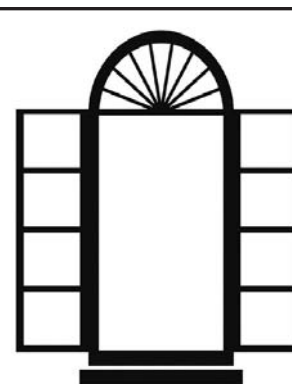


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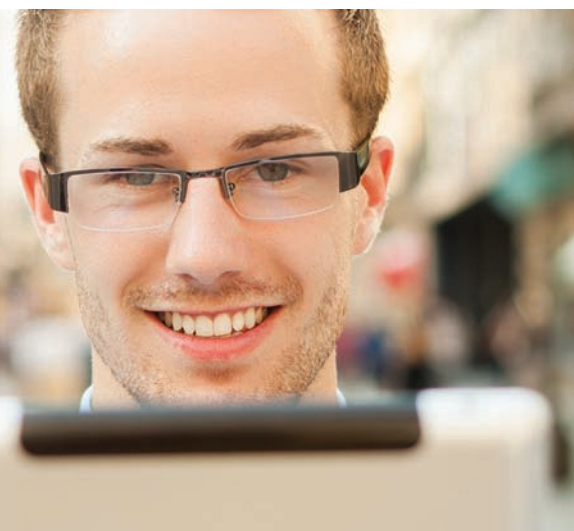
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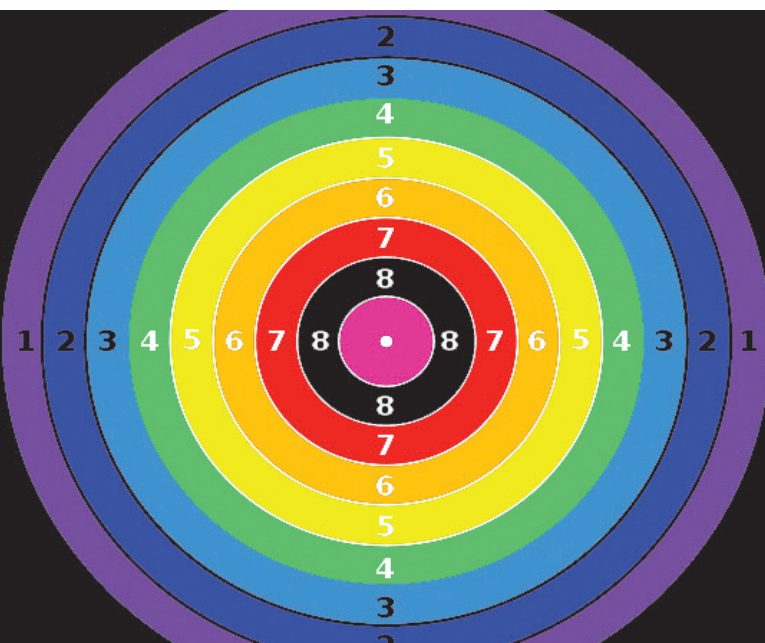
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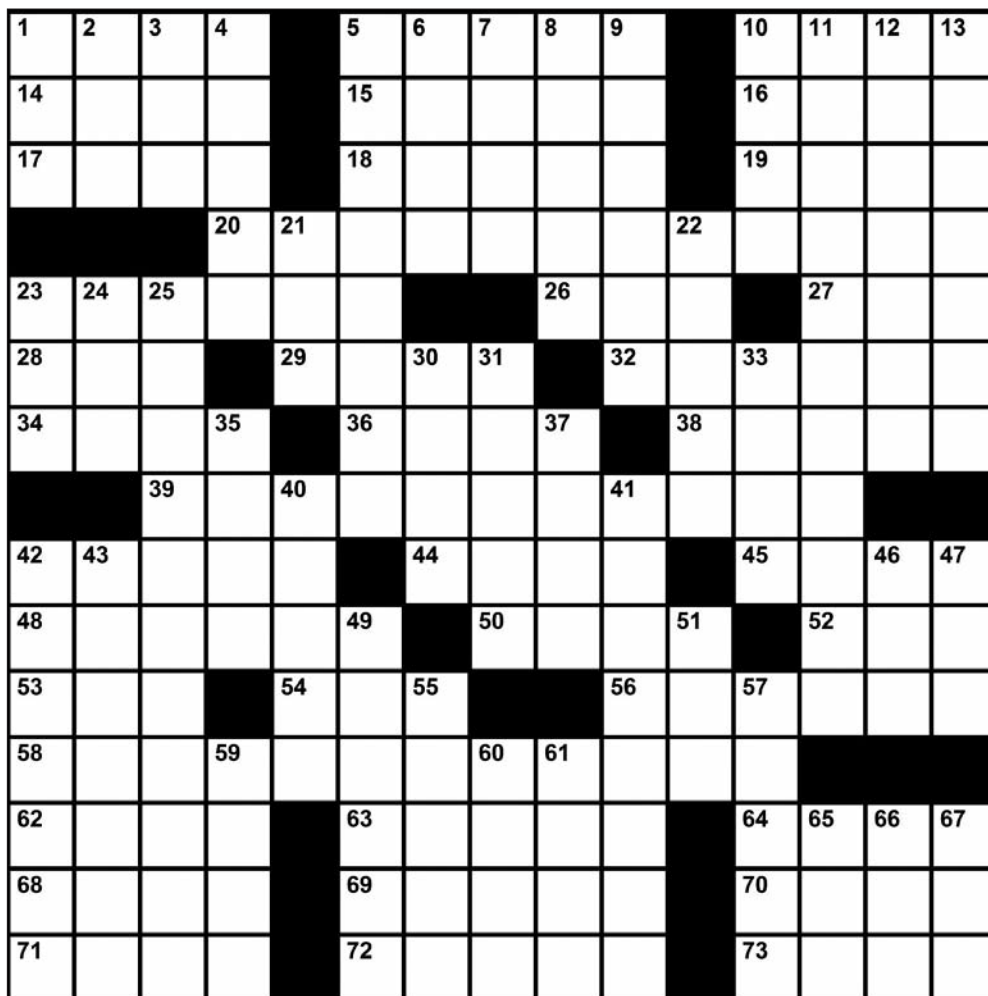
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q-puzzle



Bi TV

Solution on page 27

Across

- 1 TV show with bisexual Damon Drecker
- 5 Symbol at Metropolitan Community Church
- 10 Rubber stamp
- 14 Melville story of the sea
- 15 Teased
- 16 M or G
- 17 Have dog breath?
- 18 City of Lorca's homeland
- 19 Unbending
- 20 TV show with bisexual pol Frank Underwood
- 23 Used rubbers
- 26 Kerouac's *Big* ____
- 27 Threesome for Caligula
- 28 YMCA activity
- 29 Morse clicks
- 32 Minute part
- 34 Competitor of Barneys
- 36 Russian river to the Caspian
- 38 Shaw of swing
- 39 TV show with bisexual Dr. Eleanor O'Hara
- 42 Barber manuscript, e.g.
- 44 Hacienda room
- 45 Not straight
- 48 Loser's catchword
- 50 Bryant once of hoops
- 52 Carnival resort
- 53 Advocate.com, for one
- 54 "Vox populi, vox ____"
- 56 "Let's get one thing straight: I'm not.", e.g.
- 58 TV show with bisexual Dr. Callie Torres
- 62 Ares of *Xena* and others
- 63 Innocent ones
- 64 Put the top on the cake
- 68 ____ of *Seventeen*
- 69 *Seascape* author
- 70 Village People's "In the ____"
- 71 "Caught in the headlights" animal
- 72 Gaily colored flowers, commonly
- 73 TV show with bisexual cheerleader Brittany Pierce

Down

- 1 Peter Cottontail's move
- 2 Thurman of *Kill Bill*
- 3 No to Rimbaud
- 4 Teens in black makeup, e.g.
- 5 I, Derek?
- 6 Jane Spahr and Mychal Judge
- 7 Comic strip dog
- 8 Fat lady songs at the opera
- 9 Cluster "fornications"
- 10 Sundance's Place
- 11 Ben Hur, and competitors
- 12 Guy often found in handcuffs
- 13 Where to be, re the closet
- 21 Brit. word ref
- 22 Need lubricating, maybe
- 23 Hesitation sounds
- 24 *Breakfast on Pluto* actor Stephen
- 25 Recognize gay rights, e.g.
- 30 Uno + dos
- 31 He's a wheel man
- 33 Manger, to Mary's boy
- 35 Foam at South Beach
- 37 Composer Edouard
- 40 Enjoys Quentin Crisp
- 41 Rear ends
- 42 Coldcocked
- 43 Eat away at
- 46 Peeples of *Fame*
- 47 Pull behind
- 49 Dip it in your cup
- 51 Shade maker
- 55 Including everything
- 57 Bombing, on stage
- 59 River of the Singing Nun's country
- 60 *Mamma Mia!* band
- 61 Began like Sheehan, with "off"
- 65 James Dean's *East of Eden* role
- 66 Mother without a mother
- 67 Color for Easter eggs



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