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Friday, August 05, 2016



Pulse

Six staff members remembering, recovering
by Tammye Nash, Page 8

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Staff and cast members from Pulse nightclub, clockwise from top left: Chevelle Brooks, Angelica Sanchez, Alex Andrews, A'zsia Dupree, Kaija Adonis, MrMs Adrien. Photos by Kat Haygood.

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Judge blocks anti-gay Mississippi law

A federal judge in Mississippi on Monday, Aug. 1, refused state officials' request to be allowed to enforce Mississippi's anti-LGBT HB 1523 as the state appeals his ruling against the constitutionality of the measure, according to BuzzFeed reports.

HB 1523, signed into law in April by Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, provided protections for individuals, religious organizations and certain businesses who take actions due to their "sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions" regarding same-sex marriage — or any sex outside straight marriage. It also provided similar protections for those who object to transgender people.

U.S. District Court Judge Carlton Reeves in June issued a permanent injunction barring Mississippi from denying same-sex marriage licenses, meaning no circuit clerk or staff member clerk can deny a gay couple a marriage license even if House Bill 1523 is in effect. On Monday, Reeves refused to put his ruling on hold while the state appeals the ruling to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

He wrote, "[I]ssuing a marriage license to a gay couple is not like being forced into armed combat or to assist with an abortion. Matters of life and death are sui generis. If movants truly believe that providing services to LGBT citizens forces them to 'tinker with the machinery of death,' their animus exceeds anything seen in Romer, Windsor, or the marriage equality cases.

"The motions are denied," Reeves added. "The baton is now passed."

Also on Monday, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas D. Schroeder in Winston-Salem, N.C., heard arguments on whether to suspend that state's highly controversial HB2 — which prevents transgender people from using the appropriate public restrooms and which prohibits local governments from enacting LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination laws, among other things.

Schroeder, who is expected to rule soon, seemed a bit skeptical, pressing the state "to show how the law made anyone safer and whether it was necessary."

In related new, the Raleigh-based News & Ob-

server is reporting that North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory has allowed the state's disaster relief fund to instead be used to pay outside legal counsel defending him and other state officials against the many lawsuits that have been filed challenging HB2.

— Tammye Nash

SAG gives Tomlin its Lifetime Achievement Award

The Screen Actors Guild has been around for decades, and has presented its annual awards for film and television, called The Actor, since 1995. But SAG's Life Achievement Award has been bestowed every year since 1963, recognizing not just movie stars, or TV stars, but people who have made a real impact on our cultural heritage — people like Bob Hope, James Earl Jones, Betty White and Carol Burnett.

Well, add to that list the great Lily Tomlin.

The Oscar nominee, and multiple Grammy, Tony, Golden Globe and Emmy winner, will receive the guild's 53rd annual Life Achievement Award at a ceremony next January, airing on TNT. It's like the out actress and comedian, now 76, could also be a competitive nominee for her role in Netflix's *Grace and Frankie*.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

VOP top 10 set

It takes weeks of preliminaries and months of preparation to whittle down dozens of contestants to a top 10, but that's exactly what the Voice of Pride does every year. The finals competition isn't until Aug. 21 in the Rose Room, which gives these folks — including a number of new faces — about two weeks to perfect their looks, their vocals and their techniques. The winner gets a cash prize plus gets to ride in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and perform at the festival in Reverchon Park. Wish your favorites best of luck!

The contestants are Michael Duane, Imani Handy, Colby Geyer, Steve Patterson, Alvaro Ramalho, Maurice Doniphan, Eric Way, John Gilstrap, Gloria Devine and Nikolas Dombkowski.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Youth First Art Show at ilume GALLERY

4123 Cedar Springs Rd., Ste #107, Dallas, TX 75219

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Wednesday, Aug. 10 6-8 p.m.

Young Artist Reception at ilume GALLERY

4123 Cedar Springs Rd., Ste #107, Dallas, TX 75219

Meet the young artists from Youth First at this youth-friendly reception.

Friday, Aug. 12 6-8 p.m.

Young Professionals Advisory Council Mixer at ilume GALLERY

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Thursday, Aug. 25 6-8 p.m.

Young Professionals Advisory Council

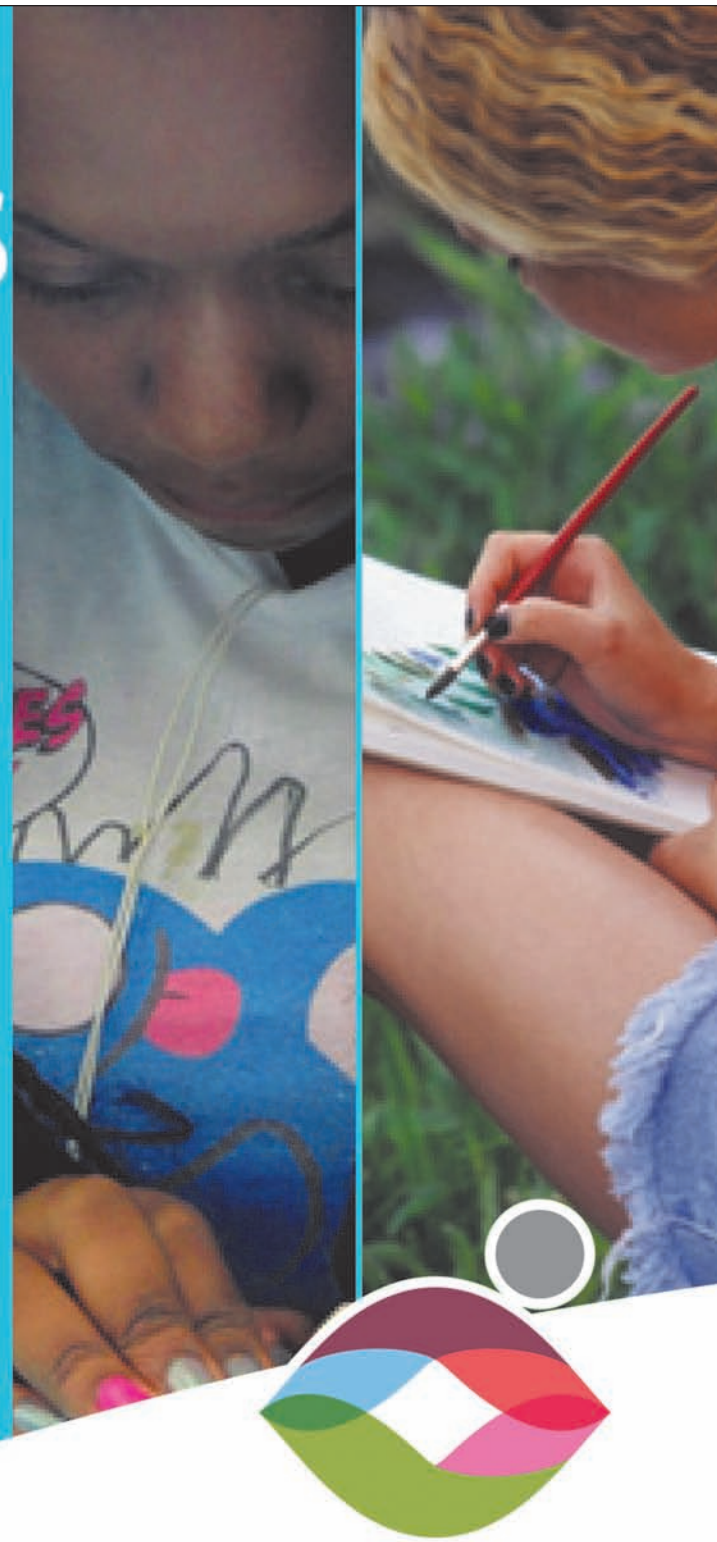
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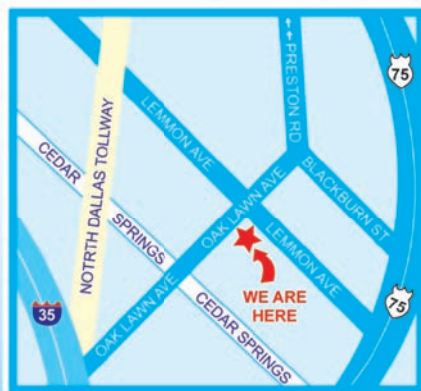
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THE GAY AGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM; **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.

• **Aug. 4-6: QuakeCon**
 QuakeCon, a four-day video game festival featuring North America's largest "bring your own computer" LAN party, with panels, presentations, workshops tech company exhibits, tournaments,

entertainment and more. Free to general attendees and open to the public. Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. For information visit QuakeCon.org.

• **Aug. 6: Miss Leo Party**
 The 29th annual Leo Party and Miss Leo Contest, celebrating the life of Miss Leo 2005 Jack Langan and benefitting the Daire Center, takes place from 8-11 p.m. at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. All proceeds benefit AIDS Interfaith Network's Daire Center. American Express, Master Card and Visa accepted for donations.

• **Aug. 6: Charity Car Wash**
 Team ASD LifeWalk's 2016 car wash fundraiser will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hillcrest House, 834 N. Marsalis Ave. Cost is \$7 for cars and \$10 for trucks and SUVs. For information visit Facebook.com/TeamASDLifeWalk.

• **Aug. 9: Youth Summit and Diversity Dialogue**
 Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson hosts The 2016 Annual Youth Summit and

pet of the week / CHARLIE

Sweet little **Charlie** is a short-coat Chihuahua mix about 2 months old and with black fur. He only weighs about 2 pounds now and will always be a small dog. If you're looking for the perfect lapdog companion, come meet Charlie now.

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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Diversity Dialogue from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, 6101 Bishop Blvd. Contact Harrison Blair at 214-922-8885 to apply.

• **Aug. 9: Bridge Building Network —Ed-U-CARE**

Vivienne Armstrong talks about awareness about the care needs of LGBT older adults. Light dinner provided and Gen Silent will be shown from 6-8:30 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.

• **Aug 9: Adam Medrano's Budget Town Hall**
Learn about the fiscal year 2016-17 Dallas city budget and provide your input from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Frontiers Of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave.

• **Aug. 10: Black Tie Sponsor Appreciation Party**

Black Tie Dinner holds its sponsor appreciation party at Brendan Bass Showroom, 2001 Irving Blvd.

• **Aug. 10: Holocaust survivor speaks**

If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

• **Aug. 11: U.S. Rep. Veasey's Dallas August Town Hall**

U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-District 33, hosts a town hall to give residence the chance to share thoughts and concerns on issues affecting their communities, 6 p.m. in the Community Room at El Centro West campus, 3330 N. Hampton Road. For information, call 214-741-1387.

• **Aug 11: LGBT-Friendly West Coast Swing**
Dallas Pride Dance country-western dance group invites couples and singles of all gender identities and skill levels to learn basics and beginning, intermediate, and advanced moves with award-winning dancer and instructor Lori Hayor. 9 p.m. at You Can Dance Studio, 14833 Inwood Road, Suite 600, Addison. \$15 suggested donation per person; no one turned away for inability to pay. 817-500-4962; 214-566-1260.

• **Aug. 13: Back to School Block Party**

Clothing and school supplies collected for homeless and in need LGBT youth and allies through the summer will be distributed from 4-7 p.m. at Oak Lawn UMC, 3014 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit RLC365.org.

• **Aug. 13: U.S. Rep. Veasey's Fort Worth August Town Hall**

U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-District 33, hosts a town hall to give residence the chance to share thoughts and concerns on issues affecting their

communities, 6 p.m. in the Forest Hill Library, 6962 Forest Hill Drive. For information, call 817-920-9086.

• **Aug. 13 Rugby skills lesson**

Lost Souls rugby team, which recently won the Bingham Challenger Cup, will hold a skills session beginning at 10 a.m. at Bayles Elementary, 2444 Telegraph Road. No experience necessary. For information, visit LostSoulsRFC.org.

• **Aug. 14: Top Dog Couture**

An evening of high canine fashion benefiting Tucker's Gift's LifeWalk team from 6-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$5.

• **Aug. 14: AIN's 30th anniversary celebration**

Celebrate 30 years of service with champagne, cupcakes and live tunes from Denise Lee from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP at Facebook.com/AINDallas.

• **Aug 15: Adam Medrano's Budget Town Hall**

Learn about the fiscal year 2016-17 Dallas city budget and provide your input from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park in Browder Springs Hall (the brick building with the Dr Pepper mural), 1515 S. Harwood St. Free parking.

• **Aug 18: LGBT-Friendly West Coast Swing**
Dallas Pride Dance country-western dance group invites couples and singles of all gender identities and skill levels to learn basics and beginning, intermediate, and advanced moves with award-winning dancer and instructor Lori Hayor. 9 p.m. at You Can Dance studio, 14833 Inwood Road, Suite 600, Addison. \$15 suggested donation per person; no one turned away for inability to pay. 817-500-4962; 214-566-1260.

• **Aug. 19: Cabaret & Cabernet**

Sammons Center for the Performing Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., presents Cabaret & Cabernet, featuring emcee Tracy Fulton along with Denise Lee, Linda Petty, The Larry Petty Combo, Teddy and Lorena Davey, Jay Gardner, W.T. Greer, Sheran Goodspeed Keyton, Keran Jackson, LaLa Johnson, Carolyn Lee Jones, Shelley Kenneavy, Pam Musgrove and Diana Savage. Wine tasting at 7:30 p.m., performances at 8 p.m. Admission is \$400 for a table of eight; \$300 for a table of six, available by calling 214-520-7788 and online at bit.ly/CabaretAndCabernet.

• **Aug. 20: Flame Games 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.

• **Aug. 21: Holocaust survivor speaks**

If you have never heard survivors tell their stories, this is your chance at 12:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St #100.

• **Aug. 26: Back-to-School fundraiser for Youth First**

Resource Center's Young Professionals Advisory Council hosts a special "after-work recess" to raise funds for the upcoming school year to benefit Resource Center's Youth First program, featuring DJ Brandon Moses, Stoli cocktails and light bites. 6-9 p.m. at 1626 Hi Line Drive, #C. For information email jwilliams@myresourcecenter.org or visit MyResourceCenter.org/ypac.

• **Aug. 25-26: Sister Helen Holy**

Sister Helen Holy headlines her own benefit show for Legacy Counseling Center saving sinners at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. \$45-\$100 plus sponsorship opportunities. HelenHoly.com.

• **Aug. 27: Austin Festival and Parade**

Festival at Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Jesse E. Segovia St., Austin. Parade starts at the state Capitol.

• **Aug. 27: Dallas Streetcar ribbon cutting**

The Dallas Streetcar extension to Bishop Arts opens. Details to follow.

• **Aug. 31: Black Tie 30-Day Countdown**

Black Tie Dinner counts down to its big event at MG+BW Showroom, 4519 McKinney Ave.

SEPTEMBER

• **Sept. 2-5: Splash Days**

Splash Days, the annual Labor Day end-of-summer LGBT swim party in Austin, will feature a full lake, new events and new venues, with a Friday welcome party, a special guest performer on Saturday night and a Monday T Dance. Tickets are on sale now at discounts of up to 15 percent from at-the-door prices. Throughout July, buy three passes and get a fourth of equal or lesser value free. For information or to purchase tickets, visit SplashDays.com.

• **Sept. 4: Broadway Brunch**

Leslie McDonel performs to benefit AIDS Services of Dallas. VIP meet-and-greet at 11:30 a.m., brunch at 12:15 p.m. and performance at 1:30 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens in Fair Park.

• **Sept. 10: North Texas Pride**

North Texas Pride Festival will be held from 1-



Team ASD LifeWalk holds its 2016 car wash fundraiser from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at Hillcrest House, 834 N. Marsalis Ave. Cost is \$7 for cars and \$10 for trucks and SUVs. For information visit Facebook.com/TeamASDLifeWalk.

8 p.m. at the Louisiana Street Grill, 350 E. Louisiana St., in downtown McKinney. There will be vendor booths, kids' activities and dancing. For information, visit NorthTexasPride.org.

• **Sept. 10: Turtle Creek monthly clean-up**

Join Turtle Creek Association's monthly clean-up of the shores of Turtle Creek. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Beasley steps at Hall Street and the Katy Trail. clarke@turtlecreekassociation.org.

• **Sept. 16: Band Against Cancer**

Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute and Medical Center present Band Against Cancer: The Sarah Cannon Tour, featuring Martina McBride and friends, with special guests Thompson Square, Cassadee Pope and Hudson Moore. Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Doors open at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets, ranging from \$34.75-\$125, at Verizon Theatre box office, online at AXS.com or by phone at 888-929-7849.

• **Sept. 17: Pride and Fabulous 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.

Remembering, recovering



Staff and cast members from Pulse talk about the night of the shooting, and how they are reclaiming their lives

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

It's been less than two months since a lone gunman walked into an Orlando gay nightclub called Pulse right at closing time and opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle and a 9mm handgun, killing 49 people and injuring 53 more.

For the general public, the horror of what is the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history may have

begun to fade. The LGBT community it remains ever-present, but perhaps at least a little less urgent.

But for those who were there, the horror and the fear remain as strong as ever.

This past week, six staff and cast members from Pulse were in Dallas, brought in as special guests to perform during the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer pageant at the Round-Up Saloon. Such a trip has become common for the club's employees, they said; clubs around the country have been inviting them to come to perform, to participate in fundraising events, because the club remains closed and the staff remains without work.

The six — manager A'zsia Dupree and performers/staff members Angelica Sanchez, MrMs Adrien, Axel Andrews and Kaija Adonis, along with Angelica's roommate and former Pulse cast member Chevella Brooks — sat down with Dallas Voice on Wednesday afternoon to talk about the night of the attack and the days since.

Even now, they all agreed, at least parts of what happened that night remain fuzzy in their minds.

For A'zsia, it was just like any other night at work. "We had stopped serving liquor, and I was making my rounds," talking to the bartenders, making sure they were closing out all the open tabs, getting ready to close out their registers. She had just made her way to the dressing room when the shooting started.

"I was right there by the back gate, but it was locked," A'zsia said. "At first we thought it was fireworks. We didn't know what it was."

When she realized what was happening, A'zsia said, she climbed over the gate and ran.

Chevella was waiting for Angelica and was toward the back of the bar when the

shooting began. Alex wasn't far away.

"We didn't know what it was," Alex said. "Maybe fireworks, or maybe it was the music. The new Drake song was playing."

Chevella said that when the shots started, she crouched down. "Then we raised up a little to look around, and then I hit the floor, and I stayed there. I was the last one to get out" before police moved in and the gunman holed up inside a nearby bathroom where many of the club-goers were hiding, staying there for more than two hours before being killed by police.

"I was curled up in a ball on that floor. There was a group of people on this side of me, and another group on that side of me. We all hit the floor. When I looked up that second time, they were all gone. Just gone. I jumped up and I ran" out on to the patio and out the back gate, Chevella said.

Chevella said that the gunman, at one point, was in a different room of the bar, with the building's cinderblock wall between them. "But it still sounded like it was right there, right on top of you. So close. You could hear bullets hitting the concrete — ting! Ting! Ting!"

Alex had run the other way, heading for the one place he thought he would be safe: the dressing room, which had a lock that required you to punch in a numerical code before it would open. Angelica was there, along with several club patrons. They, too, could hear the gunman continuing to fire.

"You could feel the sound," Alex said. "You could feel the sound of those shots vibrating in your chest."

Angelica nodded in agreement, saying that sound has stayed with her. "Afterwards, on July Fourth, I was at Parliament House [another Orlando bar], and it's right next to where they set off all the fireworks. And when the fireworks started going off, it took me back, it physically took me back to that night. I had to grab hold of a tree to keep from falling.

"But the thing is, looking back now, I know, every bullet you heard that night, that was a life. Somebody's life. That's what I can't take now," she said.

For her part, Angelica said she wasn't sure how she ended up in the dressing room. It wasn't until this week, during a Wednesday afternoon interview, that A'zsia offered some clarification. "You were on the patio with me," A'zsia said. "When it all started, you said, 'What fool is setting off fireworks in this club? Who's shooting in here? Let me go in here and find out what's going on.' You went in, and you didn't come back. And I went over the gate."

Stress, anxiety threaten community



Violence, hateful rhetoric are creating a kind of post-traumatic stress among LGBT people

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Local counselor Dennis Hartzog, M.Ed, LPC, says that it isn't unusual for clients who survived the early days of the AIDS epidemic to come to him suffering the classic symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder.

"These are people who survived from that first generation of AIDS, the people who were around at the height of the epidemic, the time before the miracle drugs were available," Hartzog explained. "During that whole time, and even now, they never felt safe."

"Even though they were tested repeatedly and each time the tests came back negative, they never felt safe. They saw their friends die, their

lovers die and they lived with the assumption that since they had done all the same things their friends had done, there was no way they could be negative," he said. "They went to two or three funerals a week sometimes. They felt they couldn't plan for a future, because their HIV negative status was no a home free card. They knew that status could change at any minute."

Even now, Hartzog said, that fear persists. "I have clients who have lost two or three lovers to AIDS, and they still exhibit those same PTSD symptoms. They meet all the requirements for a PTSD diagnosis. They have good lives now, good careers, good relationships. They have homes and friends. They are financially comfortable. And yet, they are still afraid, still convinced something will come along to ruin it all."

"This isn't about social anxiety," he said. "It truly meets the definition of a traumatic stress disorder."

STRESS, Page 13

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A complete rebuild or renovation is in the bathhouse's near future

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

After 42 years in the same location, several expansions into adjacent buildings and a number of cosmetic makeovers, Club Dallas will either undergo a major renovation or rebuild on the same location, according to its manager Josh Smith.

"We'll be undergoing some sort of change in the near future," Smith said. "These are old buildings."

Smith said he loves architecture and if there was anything architecturally significant about the buildings, his vote would be to renovate.

"If there was some historical substance, we'd save them," he said.

But these buildings were simply warehouse or manufacturing buildings when they were built more than 50 years before Club Dallas opened in 1974.

Features like a large indoor hot tub have wreaked havoc on the ceilings, especially in the main building. Smith said he's constantly dealing with leaks and other problems and simply needs new air conditioning and steam rooms and would love to replace the aging pool.

As Deep Ellum has exploded with development, real estate developers have shown interest in purchasing the property. The owners, who would like their business to continue operating as their legacy, have no interest in selling — especially considering how good business has been.

When Smith became general manager four years ago, he was determined to attract new customers by rooting out drugs and physically cleaning the place up.

Because social media apps have made bars and bathhouses less of a necessity for gay men to meet, Smith said he needed to give people a reason to come.

He's done that by providing a clean, safe club. Younger people who come to Club Dallas for the first time regularly tell Smith and his staff that they thought it would be dark and sleazy and were surprised by what they've found.

In 2010, police raided Club Dallas and arrested 11 people for lewd behavior. District Attorney Craig Watkins ruled that the facility was a private club and threw out all the charges.

But Club Dallas was on the verge of being labeled a nuisance business.

Since then, Smith has worked with police especially in the area of drug enforcement.

"I've never viewed the police as an adversary," Smith said.

He said he's called LGBT police liaison Laura Martin at 4 a.m. several times and she's been very helpful to him.

"That raid wouldn't happen now," Smith said.

Currently, the gym facility accounts for about a quarter of the business at Club Dallas. That's down from when the gym was first installed. During the height of the AIDS crisis, gyms were discriminating against gay men because of wide misunderstanding of how the HIV virus was spread.

"We were the judgment-free zone before Planet Fitness became the judgment-free zone," Smith said.

Working out was important for people living with HIV because it was one of the few defenses to

Club Dallas celebrates 42 years in business



Club Dallas history

Club Dallas was founded in 1974 by J.W. Campbell and a group of investors. Today, three of those original owners remain: Dennis Holding, Wayne Schrebe and Lyle Black. The current ownership group also includes Mark Craven and Josh Smith.

The Clubs chain at one time had as many as 40 locations. Today, there are seven facilities in The Clubs chain, located in Dallas, Houston, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Columbus, Ohio.

The ownership group became more health focused and The Clubs added gyms to their facilities as a response to the AIDS epidemic. They wanted to give gay men shunned at other gyms over fear of HIV a place to work out and get fit. The gyms still place a large role in The Clubs facilities today, and clubs also provide free condoms and HIV/STD screenings weekly.

NABA information

The North American Bathhouse Association was founded in 2010 by Jeff Wodicki, an insurance agent who had several bathhouses as clients and wanted to bring competing entities together to work as one group to find better ways to purchase things like insurance and legal services, as well as other services and goods.

As membership has increased — 60-75 attendees are expected at this year's convention, set for Sept. 25-27 in Dallas — the organization's goals have changed to focus more on addressing day-to-day operations-oriented topics. Bathhouse managers from around North America attend the convention each year to share ideas.

Today, the main focus of NABA is cleaning up the image of bathhouses and growing the industry in today's app-focused world.

keep people healthy longer. Now, he said, most new apartment complexes have gyms and large chains have branches throughout the city. Fewer people need to drive to Club Dallas just for the gym.

Business at Club Dallas has been steadily increasing. In the past 18 months, the number of people under the age of 25 has increased by 150 percent. Each month has been setting sales records with July the biggest month in the club's history.

In September, Dallas will host the three-day North American Bathhouse Association meeting. Owners and managers from across the country meet to discuss best practices, preferred vendors, promotions and advertising.

Dallas Voice owner Leo Cusimano will be speaking at the convention. Club Dallas is the only advertiser that has appeared in every issue of Dallas Voice.

Smith said he campaigns to get other bathhouse owners to clean up and change their image. That's good for all other businesses, he said. If someone has a bad experience at one bathhouse, they're unlikely to try out another. But a good experience at one translates into more business for everyone, he said.

Smith said as they plan whether to renovate or rebuild, his goal is to create a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere and "attract the next generation."

But the next generation mostly uses phone apps. "We have Wi-Fi," Smith said. "So you can use your phone here, make your connection online and it's safer to meet here." ■

Making an impact

TPIF offers LGBT community a new way to donate

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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With the 35th annual Black Tie Dinner on the horizon, people know what that event is. They know that it raises money for the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and for a variety of local LGBT- and AIDS-related nonprofits. And so, through the years, when people started looking for a worthy organization to name as a beneficiary of their wills, they thought of Black Tie.

But as former Black Tie board member Judy Sherman noted this week, Black Tie was never intended or set up to take in those kinds of donations. But now there's a new organization that is able to take those donations, and to also help LGBT and allied philanthropists put their charitable dollars to their best use.

It's called the Texas Pride Impact Fund, and it's just getting ready to launch its first major, statewide effort.

For years, Sherman said this week, Black Tie has been "getting requests to do more than the charter allowed" the organization to do. "Black Tie has gotten a number of requests through the years to serve as the beneficiary of someone's will," or to act as a donor-advised fund for large donations.

But that's not the way Black Tie is set up. "Every thing Black Tie brings in in a given year they have to give out that year to their beneficiaries," Sherman explained. She noted that several BTDC committee members in 2013 started to explore the questions of "if and how Black Tie Dinner could evolve to serve these broader philanthropic needs."

Consensus was, she said, that "Black Tie Dinner needs to continue to do what they do best," while this new group developed a way to fill another niche. "We recognized the need and started talking about how we could fill it," Sherman said.

In 2014, a group of 10 came together to form a steering committee that has since created the Texas Pride Impact Fund, a new nonprofit focused on "secur[ing] the future for LGBTQ Texans by inspiring giving and investment to expand opportunities and enrich our communities," according to the TPIF mission statement.

Sherman said the steering committee — consisting of herself, Laurie Foley, Ron Guillard, Eric Johnson, Michael Kaufman, Linda Moore, Mark Parker, David Taffet, Roger Wedell and Philip Wier — has spent the last couple of years putting this new 501(c)3 nonprofit together "to serve as a

statewide initiative for LGBT philanthropy." They have formed regional teams — centered primarily in the state's major metropolitan areas so far — and these teams have worked to "get people to think of TPIF when it comes to planning their annual giving or making bequests in their estates," she said.

"As one of the guys working on this said, 'I just finally got so sick of seeing these high-net-worth gay men giving all their money to their alma maters, I just felt like throwing up,'" Sherman added. "And that's the thing, there are some really, really wealthy gay and lesbian people out there with no children, no family to leave their estate to. We want to give them an option, a way to leave that money where it can do the most good for the LGBT community."

TPIF is not intended to provide programs and services to individuals. Its purpose is to provide the necessary funding to those organizations that create and provide those programs and services.

"Somebody asked me," Sherman said, "what's the difference between giving to TPIF and to, say, Resource Center. The way I explained it is, Resource Center is one very large and very significant slice of the pie here in Texas. Our job at TPIF is to enlarge the pie, to bring in more donors that are able to support Resource Center and support other agencies and services and projects.

"The way I explain it," she added, "is that I want TPIF to be the face of gay philanthropy in Texas, the way the Human Rights Campaign is the face of political activism. We have the infrastructure in place now to administer and manage fundraising, but the effort will certainly continue to evolve."

So far, Sherman said, TPIF committee and board members have focused on "quietly launching" the organization with "soft events in people's homes around the state, bringing groups of people together and talking to them one-on-one to explain what we are doing and how they can help."

But as of Aug. 1, she said, TPIF has received the funding to launch its first big, statewide effort: a needs assessment to determine exactly what the issues are that need to be addressed, and how best to do so.

"We don't want to assume we are in any position to address the issues, without first determining exactly what the issues are, without prioritizing those issues and having a good handle on the depth and breadth of the need," Sherman said.

"We know millennials think of their needs within the LGBTQ community very differently than do the 8,000-plus LGBTQ seniors who cross that age 65 threshold each year. So we are doing a comprehensive assessment to inform our grant making and help us leverage the resources that exist today across the state to they can be directed towards the needs that are out there."

TPIF board members expect to complete the needs assessment in the second half of this year and to award its first grants in 2017. The funding for those early grants, they said, will come "from major donors and individual gifts" that are being solicited.

TPIF board officers are Sherman, Guillard and Wedell. Foley and David W. Carlson are the DFW regional leaders, and Guillard, April Ayers, Victor Kendall and Dr. Rolando Maldonado are the Houston regional leaders.

To get involved as a volunteer or for more information, email info@TxPIF.org or visit TxPIF.org.



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■ commUNITY voices

The HIV vaccine search

20 years later, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative is still committed to the cure

Mark Feinberg, MD, PhD, president and CEO of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), talks about the 20th anniversary of his organization and where the search for a cure stands today.



Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

Positive Voices

Positive Voices:

What are your

thoughts on IAVI marking its 20th anniversary this year? Dr. Mark Feinberg:

It's both a chance to reflect on what the organization has accomplished, as well as to think about its future. This year also marks 20 years since the advent of effective anti-retroviral therapy. ... IAVI is committed to the overall goal of ending AIDS. We recognize that AIDS will only come to an end if an effective vaccine is developed, but while that work goes on, every aspect of the response to HIV needs to be maximized. That includes getting as many people as possible who have HIV to know they have the virus and getting as many people with HIV on therapy as soon as they are able. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) should also be widely available.

When an HIV vaccine is developed, it will coexist with other treatment and prevention modalities. That creates complexity, but it also creates opportunity and is a testament to how much progress has been made in 20 years.

That said, the needs remain enormous. Most people living with HIV don't know their status, most with the virus are not on treatment around the world, and most who could benefit from PrEP have no way of getting access to it. A vaccine would be the best possible solution to address a lot of the barriers that currently limit the impact of available interventions in protecting at-risk populations.

What is IAVI's mission? IAVI is focused on the goal of developing an HIV vaccine. That includes work that we do in our own research labs and programs. But I think even more important than that is our commitment to maximizing the success of the overall HIV vaccine field. That means that we want to put in place resources that can support the work of investigators outside of IAVI, whether they're from academic labs or government labs.

One example of that is a service that we provide to investigators who don't have experience taking promising ideas from the laboratory into the clinic. That involves all kinds of complicated issues, like properly manufacturing the vaccine candidate, assuring its quality, dealing with regulatory issues and designing appropriate clinical trials. Many of the most brilliant scientists don't have that expertise and it wouldn't be the best use of their time to try to ac-



quire it.

We provide that as a function to investigators. In many ways, what IAVI has designed itself to be in 2016 is an organization that seeks to identify opportunities for greater collaboration in the field. And it seeks to both identify and solve barriers that exist. We are advancing candidate vaccines that have demonstrated promise.

What are some of IAVI's successes? IAVI, our scientists and our collaborators have made major contributions to understanding the immune response in people with HIV and to using that information to guide vaccine development. In the course of that work, we have a much more detailed understanding of the structure of the key components of HIV that will likely be the target of protective immune responses, and we have a much better idea about how to design vaccines.

Part of that work has led to the isolation of a series of monoclonal antibodies, both by IAVI and other investigators, that are now being explored for passive administration to prevent HIV infection. The goal would be to serve the same purpose as oral PrEP, but you might administer it once every three or six months via an injection rather than having to take a pill every day. There are lots of other, even more promising, antibodies including a number that IAVI and partners helped discover, isolate and characterize, that are also being explored as therapeutic or curative agents.

Why is this process so difficult? Developing an HIV vaccine or some modality to cure people of HIV is dependent upon solving many complicated — and currently incompletely understood — aspects of the biology of HIV infection. They're much more complicated than anything the scientific community has ever been asked to solve for before. HIV causes an infection that the immune systems of people with the virus aren't able to get rid of and persists in them throughout their lives. We don't yet have vac-

cines that protect against infections the immune system itself is not naturally able to clear. Making an HIV vaccine means that we'll have to do better than the immune system normally does itself. There are a number of exciting ideas about how to do that. Will they work? I don't know. Is it important to find ways of testing them as quickly as possible? Definitely.

The main barrier is the science, but other barriers relate to how effectively people work together to address complicated challenges like this one, which involves a long-term effort. It involves stakeholders from the public sector, the private sector, academia, government and nonprofit organizations. We're gratified to see increased collaboration in the field. We want to do everything we can to foster that.

What can individuals do to help? One of the real challenges is the level of public attention to HIV has waned. Maintaining a durable commitment for as long as it's going to take to get rid of AIDS is something that I think is an important area for advocacy, not only for IAVI.

Individuals can make sure that the world doesn't forget about the importance of continuing to pay attention to this issue. Continue to advocate for the development of new innovations. In addition, there is always the opportunity for participation in research studies. There's a lot of work that will need to be done that will require clinical trials involving both people with the virus and HIV-negative people. Without the commitment of people who have been in clinical trials to date, we wouldn't have the modalities that we have today.

■
Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr. is the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine. Find him on Twitter @oriolgutierrez. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites — HIVPlusMag.com, Positivelyaware.com, Poz.com and TheBody.com — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.



In those older gay men, such stress, such worry are understandable. They lived through horrible times when someone could be young and healthy, with a bright future ahead of them one day, and a

month or so later be at death's doorstep. That's not something you can just forget or get over.

But lately, Hartzog said, he is seeing that same stress, anxiety and panic, in much young lesbian and gay people ("I usually refer the transgender clients to Feleshia Porter [and Renee Baker]," local counselors who specialize in working with trans people, he said) who came of age or were even born after the advent of the HIV drug cocktails.

"In the past six months or more, it seems more and more [lesbian and gay] clients are coming in with some kind of panic disorder," he said. "These are young people in their 20s and 30s with stable backgrounds suffering from a number of different anxiety disorders. I work mostly with LGBT clients and I would say recently, at least three of every five LGBT person whop comes through my door is dealing with some level of anxiety. It's very, very unusual."

But at the same time, given recent events and the extremely hateful rhetoric that has marked this election year, it isn't really unexpected. Renee Baker, Ph.D.EE., LPC, agreed.

"It's slowing down some this week," she said Aug. 2. "But I have definitely had a lot of people coming in that needed to talk about the shooting in Orlando [at the Pulse nightclub] and the Dallas police shootings [from July 7, when five officers were killed following a peaceful Black Lives Matter rally].

"I have quite a few clients who've said they want to leave Texas," Baker continued. "I have clients dealing with a great deal of fear, some to the point they can't even leave their houses. Some are so afraid and every time they leave their home, they are wondering if they'll come back home that night."

Some, prompted by the injustice they see in the continuing onslaught of anti-transgender legislation — such as the so-called "bathroom bills" — and the ferociously hateful bent of GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump's campaign, that they are "spurred into action," Baker said.

Hartzog said that the panic disorders he is seeing seem to be particularly strong among gay men in their 20s and 30s, especially those who actually live in the Oak Lawn area. And it's tied, he believes, to the still-unsolved rash of attacks on gay men there.

"They are coming in here and, just sitting in my office, they are sweating and trembling, experiencing chest pain and nausea. It's getting to where they are afraid to leave their homes, afraid to be on the street after dark," he said. "They think, 'I need to go to Kroger so I'll have something to eat for breakfast in the morning,' and just the thought of it brings on those symptoms."

"I see people dealing with the symptoms of

agoraphobia, symptoms that might be short term but that will, in some cases I think, develop into full-blown agoraphobia," he said. "And it's not just in Oak Lawn. I am hearing similar stories from people in the Castro in San Francisco, Boystown in Chicago — all the gay neighborhoods. People just don't feel safe anymore even in their own neighborhoods, their own clubs and bars."

The virulent hatefulness of some politicians, Hartzog continued, can be especially stressful for LGBT people, who are often the specific targets of that hate.

"We've had to fight for our rights, rights heterosexuals take for granted. We've won a lot of battles, but we know that if our rights can be legislated into existence, then they can be legislated out of existence too, if the wrong people get elected," he said. "We've seen a lot of progress, but we are afraid it will all be taken away from us."

So the stress, the anxiety so many LGBT people are feeling these days is real, and it can be debilitating. But how do we fight it? How do we keep it from taking over our lives?

Start, Hartzog said, by recognizing where it comes from and by focusing instead on the best things in their lives, instead. In years past, while working with abused children, Hartzog said he learned that one way to deal with such anxiety and panic is to do a "gratitude list."

"If you are laying there in bed and your mind is catastrophizing on what could happen, then get up, get a tablet and start writing down all the things you are grateful for — things that make you feel secure, like your job, being loved and accepted by the people that you love and who are important to you," he said. "No, that won't take away the fear. But it can help you refocus and relax, and it will give you more confidence when you're dealing with things that happen."

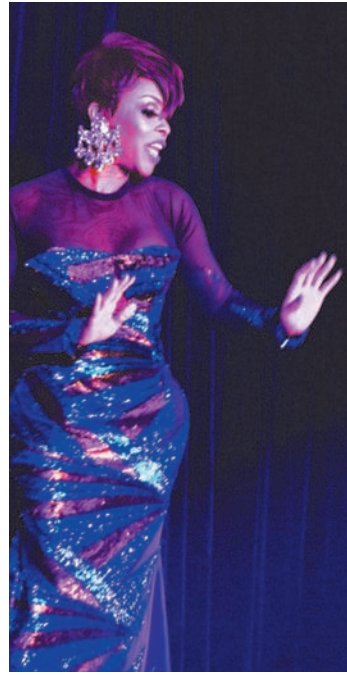
Recognizing the stress, Baker said, and finding a way to deal with it, is vital.

"Recognizing stress is akin to recognizing that our behaviors and thoughts and feelings are all changing," she said. "We are being pushed too far, and we can develop a variety of symptoms, such as sleep deprivation, muscle tension and depression and anxiety."

Baker added, "Recognizing the change, being mindful of the change, allows us to find a healthy way to cope — connection to others, exercise, meditation, getting out in nature and so on. Unrecognized stress can lead to coping in unhealthy ways, such as overeating, alcohol and drug use, and isolation."

And, Baker said, turn to friends and loved ones for help: "Asking for help from others when we want to the least, is often the best thing we can do."

In other words, as the LGBT community continues to be targeted by hate and violence, as the stress and anxiety threaten to tear the community apart, that's exactly when coming together as a community becomes even more important than ever. ■



Angelica Sanchez, left and MrMs Adrien



What she does remember, Angelica said, is that sense of denial. "It was surreal. I just kept thinking this can't be happening. This isn't real."

Chevelle said that as she ran from the club, maybe five or six minutes after the shooting started, she could see the police moving in. "They were already there, and they told me to keep running, so I did," she said.

She ran to a friend's house nearby, sheltering inside as she began to text her roommate, Angelica, who was trapped inside. "I told her I didn't know what was happening. I told her to be quiet," Chevelle remembered. "I called 9-11, and they said to stay hidden. They told me to tell [Angelica and the others hiding in the dressing room] to be quiet, to turn off their phones and to be quiet. They [police] said to tell them to stay where they were."

It was more than two hours later before those still in the club and still alive were rescued, because the gunman — hiding in the bathroom with his hostages and victims — was calling 9-11, telling police he had bombs, that there were snipers on rooftops around the club.

"They couldn't move in sooner because they didn't know for sure what was happening. They couldn't be sure that coming in sooner wouldn't end up with everybody dead," A'zsia said.

She, like the others, is quick to brush off any criticism of the Orlando Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the FBI and other federal investigators. "They did a great job that night," A'zsia said, with others chiming in to note that all the agencies involved have been very careful to make sure that every officer involved in investigation is part of the community or has experience working with the community.

Alex noted that one OPD officer, Tim Stanley, that he met that night "called me the next day. He calls all the time just to check on me. It's been very comforting."

Angelica added, "We've been so grateful to the first responders that were there and have been involved. There were officers and EMTs who came

in even though it wasn't safe. And they check in with us all the time, checking to make sure we are making it OK."

Everyone who lived through that night, the staff members agreed, carry the effects of it with them. But the love and support of their city and the LGBT community nationwide is pulling them through. Angelica said that as they travel to different clubs, people want to talk to them, touch them, hug them. It's as if, she said, the presence of the Pulse staff members is helping others heal, and Alex added, the love they feel flowing over them is helping the staff

members heal, too.

It's different now, they all agreed. They are different. A'zsia said she finds herself more impatient these days with the idea of being still, "having to stand in line somewhere, having to be still." And being in crowded clubs where they are surrounded, unable to move freely, can be unnerving. "It gets a little scary for us sometimes," she said.

Angelica and Axel both described how they are always on alert these days, always looking for an exit. "It doesn't matter where it is — a movie theater or a club or a grocery store, anywhere. You're always looking around, always watching," Axel said. Angelica added, "Every room I walk into, the first thing I do is look for all the exits, look for how I'm getting out of there if something happens, looking for the way to escape."

She added, "It's getting better. Every day it's better. But still, it's mind-boggling at times. It's like, I'm sitting here in this room, talking to you, and I walk out for a minute and when I come back, you're gone. Just gone. There are people who were there, and now they're just gone."

Still, the six agreed, they won't let the fear stop them.

"You just can't live your life in fear," Chevelle added. "Every other day it seems like something else happens. But you can't stay secluded, not and be who we are as gay people."

"That's our message now, everywhere we go — not to live in fear. Because if we do, that fear will trickle down. It will affect everyone, and that will hurt the gay community's economy, it will hurt the whole economy, if we are too afraid to go out anywhere," Angelica said.

She continued, "It's hard for us sometimes now to go out, to be in a bar. But this is our livelihood. It happened in a bar. It's happened in a church, in a movie theater, in a school. Are people not going to go to church any more, not go to the movies or send their kids to school? We can't let it stop us. If we live in fear, then we live in shells, alone."

"We're not going to let that happen." ■

New Zealand-born indie musician **Ladyhawke** talks about her musical — and sexual — awakening

Here comes the bride... and the other bride. It was as simple as that for Pip Brown, whose goes by the stage name Ladyhawke. The New Zealand-born indie popster flew under the gaydar until 2015, when she announced her marriage to actress Madeleine Sami. During the six years leading up to the couple's wedding, the 36-year-old musician — known for intoxicating synthpop earworms like "My Delirium" and "Paris Is Burning" — was writing about the "highs and lows" of their partnership. The result? Her third studio album, *Wild Things*, a buoyant love-smacked delight.

Hours before hitting the stage in Boston, Brown rang for a tell-all about the life few knew she was leading and the album she recorded that she never wants to hear again.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: When did you know you were not straight? Ladyhawke: As a teenager, I didn't really understand anything about sexuality. I didn't have any understanding of gay or straight; I had no one teaching me that stuff. I'm from a really small town in New Zealand, and I didn't know any gay people. There aren't any out gay people in my town, that's for sure. It wasn't on my radar. So I questioned, when all the girls were falling all over themselves to get to the boys, why I wasn't like that — and still, I was best friends with all the boys. All my friends were guys and I was their "buddy." I was like, "Why am I like this? And why do all their girlfriends hate me?" [Laughs] It took me a long time actually to realize what that was. I sort of thought for a while that I was bi, and so for a long time I ran with it. I just thought surely there must be some part of me that could fall in love with a guy, but I've never been in love with a guy. I do find men attractive. But I was quite confused and it sucks that that's a thing because we're not taught about that. We're not taught that it's OK to like someone who is the same sex as you. It's really horrible growing up thinking you're not normal.

Did you experience queer culture shock going from New Zealand, where you didn't know a single gay person, to L.A.? I actually haven't lived in New Zealand for about 15 years; I left a really long time ago. I moved from New Zealand to Melbourne, Melbourne to Sydney, Sydney to London, and then to Los Angeles. Melbourne was the real defining city for me, where I sort of found myself more — not because of the epic gay community there, but because that happens to be the place where I realized for the first time that I had the ability to fall in love with a woman, which I'd never considered before. You know,

Kiwi fruit



then moving to L.A. after all of this, it's just another city where I can be myself. There are definitely a lot of cities I would question living in because I just don't know if I could walk down the street holding hands with my wife. It sucks that it's still like that in 2016. I feel sad even saying that.

That makes me think of the recent shooting in Orlando and how necessary it is that we have our safe places. How have you been processing the incident that happened in Orlando, and what kind of effect did it have on you as a queer person? I just can't even... I was so... I cried. I absolutely couldn't believe that. I've deejayed so many clubs, so many gay clubs, and so that could've been any of my friends or anyone I know. I just... it was very close to home and I feel very sick about it. I was in the U.K. on tour when it happened and I had loads of friends at L.A. Pride. And I was scared. I was like, "Why the fuck am I scared?" It's a horrible thing to be scared because of your sexuality. I was scared for my friends for being at L.A. Pride, for being proud of being gay, and for all our friends who are supporting them, all of our mates who are out there with us, side by side. It's a disgusting thing. I just don't even know what to say. I just can't believe it's still going on. It feels so medieval to me.

How have you used music to express your sexuality? All things are fueled by my sexuality, basically. It's who I am. I can't really avoid it. And the confusion as well. My songs have always been full of metaphors and confusion; I think it's part of life. I feel like sexuality is a spectrum; there's no black and white; there's no gay, straight, you're this or that. And the more open people are about it, the more you realize not everyone is black or white. Some people are very gay, very lesbian, but there's so much more to it than that.

Where do you fall on the spectrum? I don't know. My sexuality has confused me my entire life and it still does to this day, and I think it's because it's not taught to us in any way. It's always been an embarrassment. It's like, "Don't talk about it" — it's hush-hush. You know when you're a little girl you play with dolls? I wasn't that girl. I was the polar opposite. I was a tomboy. I played with trucks and Transformers. So, I don't know where I fall. All I know is that I am attracted to women, but I don't rule out that I could ever be attracted to a guy — I just haven't ever been. I can't say what the future will hold, but I know that I'm married and I love my wife.

Did you pull from that relationship when writing *Wild Things*? Oh god, yes. I'd actually finished pretty much the whole album right before we got married and then I properly completed it two months after we got married, so the whole buildup to our wedding was me writing and reflecting on the last few years of my life and the experiences I've had and on finding somebody who you go through highs and lows with and still get through it and realize you're with your best friend. I think that was one of the most rewarding conclusions I ever came to. This album is a timeline of all these things I've gone through.

Tell me about your favorite part of recording "Chills" with Scott Hoffman, also known as Babydaddy from Scissor Sisters. Scott is one of my favorite people in the world! He's so funny

and I just love him. I met up with him in New York and we wrote that song; that song happened quite quickly. He's just a great musician all around. He was on piano; I was on bass. We just jammed it out, and then we had "Chills." It was just a really fun experience, and I know we'll do stuff in the future together because we're friends and he's just a great guy. I love him. He's got the best sense of humor; he's hilarious. And we relate to each other on anxiety and germophobia. [Laughs]

You recorded an entire album that was much darker from what I've heard. Yeah, it was, definitely.

Why was that album so dark and why didn't it get a proper release? I've had really bad depression for a really long time — my whole life, basically; since as long as I can remember. I think since about puberty. I developed a really bad drinking problem and it all just became this horrible thing where I didn't know which came first anymore. I didn't know which was fueling which. I wasn't doing myself any favors and I wasn't doing my career any favors and I *definitely* wasn't doing my relationship any favors.

It got to the point where I had all these songs, and I remember playing them for my mom and I was in such a bad place at this point. I was feeling really yucky. Sad and gross. And I played the music to my mom and stepdad, and I just remember the looks on their faces really tore me up. They just looked shocked. Obviously, being used to me making somewhat upbeat music and then hearing this, I think it was more the lyrical content — it was just dark, dark music. And I remember my mom saying to me, "I can tell just by listening to this how bad you feel." And that was the moment when I went, "Right, I need to sort this out. This is so bad. I can't have a record that in 10 years time I'm not even gonna wanna listen to because it's going to remind me of a shitty time I went through. I need to fix myself."

Was it cathartic making it? Yeah. It was good making it. It was also painful making it. I just didn't enjoy the process. I've always said I love being in the studio, but it was just hard. I was so depressed. I couldn't really focus properly. I was blowing off appointments as well. I would blow off writing sessions. That's not what I've ever been about in the past, and I knew I needed to cut that out. I needed to stop drinking. First, I needed to just sort my life out, and my health, and my mentality. And that's exactly what I did. It took me ages. All the tours that I've done that have given me the flu, that have kicked my ass, just trying to stop drinking and getting to the point where I was starting to feel really good and not having anxiety panics on the daily — that was harder.

Based on *Wild Things*, I'm guessing you're in a much better place. Yes, definitely.

When you married Madeleine Sami in 2015 the Internet seemed surprised that you even dated women. Were you surprised that people were surprised? I was! This is gonna make me sound like I dated loads of girls — which I didn't! — but I would always bring my girlfriend to whatever press I was doing. My girlfriend would be at

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■ LADYHAWKE Page 20

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Dark but hopelessly convoluted, 'Squad' is half a good movie

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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As much as we (properly) complain that Hollywood has turned into a factory of pre-sold cartoon-based blockbusters without any original stories, you have to say: If that's what you're gonna do, then do it up right. And frankly, the summer of 2016 has been a disappointment. Last summer produced 10 films with grosses over \$150 mil; 2014 managed 11. So far this year? Four, and two are about fish and domesticated animals. (Worse: Few have deserved their riches. Last year gave us *Fury Road*; this year we get *Independence Day 2*.) With the worthy blockbuster?

For about the first half of *Suicide Squad*, it looked as if the Hollywood Hit Machine had finally caught its second wind. DC might finally begin to catch up with Marvel in creating a cinematic universe meriting brand loyalty. We're introduced to a rogues gallery of bad guys, recruited as a kind of superhuman SWAT team: Can't-miss assassin Deadshot (Will Smith), mentally unstable coquette Harley



■ **SUICIDE** Page 19 The 'Se7en'-like mania of Jared Leto as the Joker, matched with Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, are reason enough to see 'Suicide Squad.'

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Dress for success

How out costume designer Orry-Kelly defied Hollywood

Director Gillian Armstrong rose to fame in the U.S. as part of the Aussie New Wave of filmmaking in the late 1970s and early '80s — a movement that also included George Miller, Bruce Beresford, Peter Weir, Fred Schepisi and Phillip Noyce. Notably, Armstrong was the only woman on that list, and she brought a feminist perspective to her films, including *My Brilliant Career*, *Little Women* and *Mrs. Soffel*.

But all of these films were decades ago; she hasn't released a feature in the U.S. in 15 years. So her return now, with the documentary *Women He's Undressed*, is a welcome return. And not just because of Armstrong, but because of her topic: the Australian-born Hollywood fashion designer Orry-Kelly, one of the Oscar-winningest Aussies in film history. But while *Undressed* is putatively about Orry-Kelly's life and career, it's indirectly one of the most revealing chronicles ever attempted of gay life in the film world.

I chatted with Armstrong from her base in Sydney about the provocative "outing" of Hollywood stars, the importance of costuming in moviemaking and the state of same-sex marriage Down Under.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Women He's Undressed becomes available on DVD, as well as VOD and digital platforms on Tuesday.

Dallas Voice: How did a straight woman make such an investigative film about gay life in Hollywood? And did you know much about Orry-Kelly before you started? Armstrong: No, it was really my producer's baby. [He was] researching about Australians who had won Academy Awards, and at that time the most an Australian had won was Orry-Kelly. [He decided he wanted to make a film about it], and it was really a friend of a friend who said, "Why don't you talk to Gill Armstrong?" When he approached me I said who's [Orry-Kelly]? Then I looked at his films, and went, "Oh my goodness — *42nd Street*? *Casablanca*? *Dark Victory*? The same guy did all of these?"

So that's how you were hooked. What made you settle on the format you used, to have Orry-Kelly portrayed by an

actor, who sort of narrates the film in the first person? It was a tough decision. The thing was, we found a lot of the words he said in the letters and the memoir he wrote, which we discovered two months before shooting, had this dry, self-deprecating wit. If someone told you what he said, [it wouldn't have the same impact] — you really had to hear it. So we did a stylized shoot. It's sometimes a shock to have an actor in a documentary, but I think the audience forgets it's an actor and you have a great emotional involvement with the character.

It wasn't until the end that I realized we never saw any pictures of Orry-Kelly throughout, except in his youth — you tell the story through his work and images of others. It

■ ARMSTRONG Page 19



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L+S sports

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As we begin the Rio Games, we consider the progress of gays in sports

Conventional wisdom says that the locker room is the last closet. The sports world is seen as unwelcoming, anti-gay, left behind in a pathetic time warp while the rest of America hurtles forward, embracing LGBT issues, rights and people.

Conventional wisdom, says Cyd Zeigler, is wrong.

That's the driving force behind his new book, *Fair Play: How LGBT Athletes are Claiming Their Rightful Place in Sports*. A cofounder of Outsports — since 1999, the go-to website for news, photos and resources about gay athletics — Zeigler has written more coming-out stories than any American journalist.

For nearly two decades, Zeigler has chronicled the journeys of NBA and NFL players; college and high school athletes, and coaches, umpires, sportswriters. After hundreds of interviews and follow-ups, he's convinced that the real story is just how accepting teammates, fans and even opponents are when a gay sports figure comes out.

In fact, Zeigler says, he cannot recall one instance in which negative reactions outweighed the positive ones.

Want proof? In the two years he spent writing *Fair Play*, Zeigler kept adding new stories and experiences. As soon as one edit was done, another famous athlete came out, another team or league took a big step forward, or another ally stood up for LGBT rights. Finally, Zeigler said, "Stop! Let's print it!"

The book's 12 chapters cover a wide swath of gay sports issues. Headings include "Young Athletes Are Why There Will Never Be a 'Gay Jackie Robinson,'" "Straight Guys Look Too" and "Fallon Fox Is the Bravest Athlete in History."

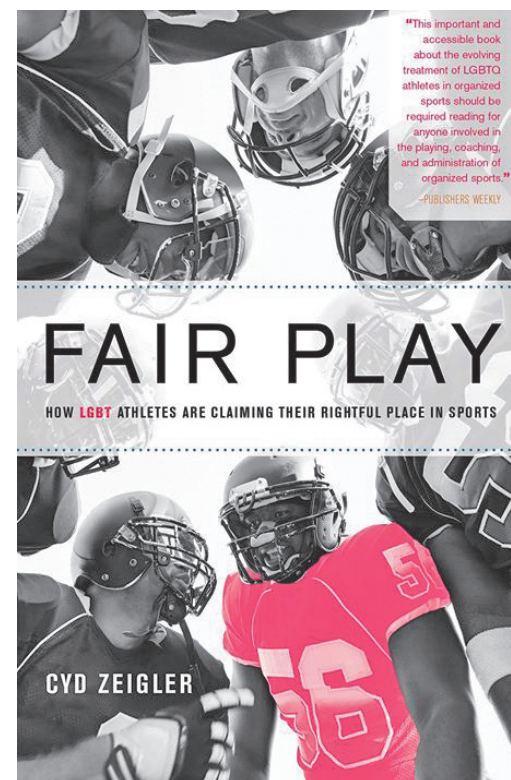
The first chapter is "John Amaechi and Tim Hardaway's 'Tipping Point' Moment." It's about the NBA player's coming-out experiences — specifically, what happened afterward. Former All-Star Tim Hardaway told a Miami radio audience that he "hated" gay people. Furthermore, he said, they should not be part of the locker room.

Reaction was swift — and anti-Hardaway. Zeigler calls it "the day the homophobes lost the culture war in sports."

The American culture war continues, of course. It plays out in politics, most recently in North Carolina where legislators hastily passed a "bathroom bill" to address a non-existent problem with trans people.

In sports, Zeigler calls Michael Sam's experience "chilling." After coming out in college — and earning awards for his play — the University of Missouri football star was unable to catch on with any NFL team.

In a chapter titled "The Big Lie of the Big



Five," Zeigler tackles the prevailing belief of executives of the major sports leagues that any professional athlete who came out would create an unwelcome, unacceptable "distraction."

"I've been to the Super Bowl," Zeigler writes. "It's a distracting mess. The media is ever-present. The host city is overrun with fans, celebrities, major corporations, and parties, from dawn to dusk. If a team's front office cannot handle the attention a gay athlete might bring, it is woefully ill-equipped to win a world championship."

Zeigler makes clear that sports owners and executives are out of step with the times. He counters every Michael Sam-non-signing story with many more counterintuitive ones. (Counterintuitive, that is, unless you've been paying attention — as he has — to what's really going on in the sports world.)

Zeigler's favorite story might be retired Dallas Cowboy Michael Irvin's. The NFL Hall of Famer and three-time Super Bowl champion came out as the brother of a transgender person or drag queen (he's not sure). He supported same-sex marriage, and said he'd have no problem with a gay teammate.

Then — as part of Zeigler's interview for a cover story with Out magazine — he enthusiastically posed shirtless.

Like the Amaechi and Hardaway moment, Zeigler calls the Irvin story a "game-changer." So was a follow-up interview with the NFL Network, when Irvin connected his support for LGBT issues with his own experiences as an

African-American. "Equality for all means equality for all," he said simply.

Zeigler admits that at times he himself has fallen into the trap of putting most athletes in boxes where they don't belong. Writing *Fair Play* has helped him realize that much of the sports world is further along than many people realize.

He hopes it will reach a wide audience. Review copies were sent to mainstream media. They've been interested in it — further evidence that sportswriters also understand the importance of, and advances sweeping through, the LGBT sports world.

Meanwhile, the coming-out stories keep coming. Zeigler proudly recounts the story of a young athlete who read *Fair Play* the moment it appeared on Kindle. He showed it to his parents, to help them understand his experiences.

"I wish more people could see what I see,"

Ziegler's Out magazine interview with former Dallas Cowboy Michael Irvin is considered a watershed in paving the way for LGBT understanding in mainstream team sports.



Zeigler says. "There is nothing more powerful — for an athlete or teammates — than coming out."

And no one has seen or described more great coming out stories than Cyd Zeigler. ■

—Dan Woog

■ SUICIDE, From Page 16

Quinn (Margot Robbie), human flame-thrower El Diablo (Jay Hernandez) and a few more whose backstories we rush through.

There's also a scientist possessed by an ancient witch known as the Enchantress, whose split personality comes out whenever bad-ass black ops queen Amanda Waller (Viola Davis) taunts her. When the Enchantress goes commando, and threatens the world with her magic, the Suicide Squad gets enlisted to tamp her down. And trust me: That is the most cogent description you'll get of this plot.

It's a shame, because the movie has a lot of energy and style until it goes off the reservation. I could spend an hour exploring the Enchantress and her eerie abilities alone, but writer-director David Ayer (who tends toward bombast when a few quiet moments of exposition might suffice)

dives much too quickly into the action. There's no time to absorb the arc of the plot because we're constantly flashing back and forth, providing character history and motivation. And when it comes down to it, why, exactly, were these villains tapped for this task force? Frankly, El Diablo looks like he could handle the threats from meta-humans single-handedly. ("What exactly does Harley Quinn do?" I overheard someone say as we filed out.)

But despite spatial, plot and pacing problems, I wouldn't discourage people from watching *Suicide Squad*. Robbie's bat-shit crazy sex appeal meshes well with Jared Leto's insane, *Se7en*-like mania as the Joker. If only we got more screen time with him. But that's certainly what the inevitable sequels are for. That's where we are in film these days: Always hoping that the next one will be better. ■

Now playing in wide release.

■ ARMSTRONG, From Page 17

was a conscious decision. When we decided to have an actor portray him, we knew if we were to cut to a real photo, you think, "Oh, his nose is wrong" or "his hairline is deeper," and it takes you out of the story. So I made the decision *not* to show him other than as a little boy in a sailor suit [until the end]. Also, there weren't a huge number of stills — who cared about the costume designer back then? They [wanted to see his clothes and the women wearing them].

You convey a lot about the creative value of costuming — in fact, two of your films were Oscar-nominated for their costume design! They were! I'm a huge fan of costume design — it's one of the reasons I took this film on. I love to help the public understand what goes on behind the scenes. So yeah, I choose wonderful costume designers and push them to do all the things Orry did — I want them to [reveal] character and enhance the mood and the scene.

So, you still haven't said why the gay history was so important to you. Well, when you try to tell a truthful portrait of someone, you have to place them in their historical and social context. There were so many myths that I needed to get to the bottom of. A strong part of who he was and how he behaved, [in contrast to] how his old friend

Cary Grant behaved. That was due to the homophobia of the time. It was really remarkable — the 1920s was so open [to people being out of the closet]; it wasn't until after the Wall Street crash that society really tightened up. I understood how there were — and continue to be — a lot of pressure on actors to appear completely heterosexual, but there was also pressure on the costumes designers to have lovely wives and homes because the studios wanted to publicize them as well. But [Orry] refused to have that sham marriage, while the others, like Cary Grant [who the documentary implies was in several long-term same-sex relationships, including with Orry] toed the line while their boyfriends lived nearby, connected through the garden gate. What terrible pressure to have people keep up [such a sham]. And Orry had none of it.

Australia has a reputation as being a fairly open community; is same-sex marriage legal there now? Same sex marriage is *not* legal, and it has been a huge controversy. We have a conservative government here, and [the conservatives] won't permit same-sex marriage without a plebiscite. It's always the way: Public opinion is with [equality], but a noisy, small conservative minority [rattles the cage]. But if you start making [human rights] subject to a public vote, it stirs the "anti campaign," doesn't it? ■

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L+S profile

■ **LADYHAWKE**, From Page 15

everything. This is before Madeleine — well, Madeleine would come to everything too. But I would always bring my partner to everything: video shoots, press, shows, everything. And no one batted an eyelash! I always quite laughed at that. I thought it was quite funny. But yeah, I never even got quizzed on it.

I remember my manager being like, “You don’t really ever talk about this.” And I was like, “No one ever asks me!” He was like, “Why don’t we just tell people you’re married?” But I’ve been out for forever. Everyone knows. I dated guys — I’ve had boyfriends — but it was never anything serious for me. It wasn’t until I had my first girlfriend, I was

like, “Uh, I see. This is a thing.” So it’s been so long for me that I just forgot that it was even a thing, you know? I know it’s so different when you’re really young and you’re just coming out and you’re realizing who you are and you have your entire family to tell. I remember that feeling. I know it’s incredibly hard. But this was so different for me because it’s no secret [laughs]. I like the way we did it, though: “Yeah, she’s married.”

You made a statement without having to make a statement. Exactly. Getting married is such an important step in a person’s life and it was something I was proud of as a human being. I couldn’t really commit to anything; you can see that from

Damn...Look at that class!



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how many different bloody cities I’ve lived in! I can’t really stay still. I’m always jumping around from place to place to place, and so this was important for me and I wanted everyone to know. I wanted them to know that this was huge decision for me and that I was proud of taking this step. ■

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Sunday 08.07

Saxmen Dave Koz and David Sanborn headline at Fair Park Music Hall

As two of the most famous and acclaimed saxophonists out there, the pairing of Dave Koz and David Sanborn is a natural fit. They just launched their co-headlining tour Side by Side, and bring it to Fair Park for a matinee performance on Sunday. With dozens of Grammy nominations between them and tons of best-selling jazz albums, they know how to please audiences with soulful music.

DEETS: Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. 3 p.m. DaveKoz.com. DavidSanborn.com.

Friday 08.05

By George, it's Boy George! Culture Club reunites

In recent years, Boy George has concentrated on his career as a DJ, but he hasn't given up entirely on what brought him international stardom in the first place: His Grammy Award-winning work with the '80s alt pop band Culture Club. If you missed them the first time out — or just long to relive those days — you can see Culture Club reunite for a concert third weekend at Verizon Theater.

DEETS: Verizon Theater, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 8 p.m. AXS.com.

Tuesday 08.09

Queer Texas musician Jay Brannan returns to Sons of Hermann Hall

Texas native Jay Brannan has traveled all over the world with his low-key style of folkish acoustic rock, which has merited comparisons to Liz Phair, Ani DiFranco and fellow Texan Lisa Loeb. The openly gay singer's style was destined for more intimate venues like Sons of Hermann Hall, where he returns on Tuesday for a late set.

DEETS: Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. 9 p.m. \$15-\$17. Ticketfly.com. JayBrannan.com/tour.

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THEATER

One Man, Two Guvnors. Recent Tony host James Corden shot to fame in the original production of this madcap comedy, and now former Dallasite (and current Broadway star) Brian Gonzales takes over the role of a man trying to hide the fact he is working for two different men, with equally different agendas. A regional premiere based on Goldoni's commedia dell'arte masterpiece. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Aug 5-8. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Novelist. Theresa Rebeck wrote this dramedy about a Nobel laureate suffering from writer's block. Gregory Lush, who recently starred in Uptown Players' *Mothers & Sons*, makes his Theatre 3 directorial debut. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Aug. 28 (in previews through Sunday). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Querolus, or Missed Fortune. This play — originally a hit in the 5th century — has been adapted and translated by Dallas impresario Mark-Brian Sonna, who plays the title role in this backstabbing comedy. *Final weekend.* Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. MBSProductions.net.

Smokey Joe's Cafe: The Songs of Leiber and Stoller. A revue of the music of one of the great songwriting duos of the pop era. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 28. JubileeTheatre.org.

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown. Musical adaptation of Almodovar's film Spanish women, love, revenge and a lot of spiked gazpacho. *Final weekend.* Rose Marine Theatre, 1440 N. Main St., Fort

Worth. ArtesDeLaRosa.org.

CIRCUS

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus XTREME. The circus comes to town — Dallas and Fort Worth — for acts of derring-do. American Airlines Center, 2800 Victory Ave. Through Aug. 14. Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 S. Houston St., Fort Worth. Aug. 18-21. Ringling.com.

CONCERTS

Culture Club. The '80s pop group reunite for this concert. It's karma, chameleon. Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 8 p.m. AXS.com.

FINE ART

Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting. A lovely original Vermeer is among the seven

this week's solution

P	O	N	T	E		A	R	M	S		C	U	K	E
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Y	E	W	S			T	Y	K	E		S	A	T	E

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 08.05
COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 08.06
DANCE

An Evening of Shakti (Strength) and Bhakti (Devotion). Three Indian-style dance companies — Indique Dance Company, Battery Dance and Indian Heritage Foundation — present a program of indian dance. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 6–8 p.m., \$15–\$100.

FINE ART
A Night of Art, Fashion and Passion. Benita Rimi, a dress designer for Carolina Herrera, turns paintings by local artist Daniel Padilla into wearable art. GR Home Furnishings, 1201 Oak Lawn Ave. 6 p.m. Open to the public.

SUNDAY 08.07
WORSHIP

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

CONCERTS
Dave Koz and David Sanborn. The famed saxophonists perform together for a matinee at Fair Park Musical Hall, 901 First Ave. 3 p.m.

MONDAY 08.08
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 08.09
FILM

Now, Voyager. How to choose among the many amazing performances Bette Davis delivered over her career? Surely this one, though, stands the test of time — the mousy, skittish heiress who comes into her own, thanks to Paul Henreid and Claude Rains. 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.

CONCERTS
Jay Brannan. The queer Texas musician performs. Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. 9 p.m. \$15–\$17. JayBrannan.com/tour. Ticketfly.com.

THURSDAY 08.11
CABARET

Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in



Bette Davis' transformation from mousy spinster to tragic heroine makes 'Now, Voyager' an unmissable classic. It screens Tuesday at the Magnolia.

the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

THEATER
I Love You Because. A regional premiere musical inspired by Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Presented by Our Productions Theatre Co. in both Denton and Dallas counties. MCL Grand, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Aug. 5–7; Studio Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Aug. 11–Sept. 3. OurProductions.org.

The Coarse Actor Rises! An original backstage comedy written by Kurt Kleinmann, about a group of actors involved in performance mayhem. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Aug. 11–27. PegasusTheatre.com.

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Cassie Nova

Cassie's 'Sordid' history with movies

Oh Em Gee!!! I am gonna be a movie star! No seriously! Last week, I had the wonderful opportunity to take a role in Del Shores' sequel to the fabulous film *Sordid Lives*, called *A Very Sordid Wedding*. Del has been a fan of the Rose Room for years and I was lucky enough to be asked to be in a scene set there. Acting-wise, it was a real stretch for me: I played a bitchy drag queen named Cassie Nova. I know, I was totally typecast. Anyhoo, more on that later. Let me tell you why this was a real full circle moment for me.

Around 2000, myself, Celeste Martinez, Valerie Lohr and her husband Johnny went to the Inwood Theatre to see *Sordid Lives*, which all the gays were talking about. We loved it. It's fabulous fun. If you have never seen it, do it now. (Who am I kidding,

everyone has seen it.) It's got drag, death, wooden legs and some characters that reminded me way too much of my family. It has almost as many quotable lines as *Steel Magnolias*, and you know how much we love to quote a line from a movie. I can't tell you how many times I have said, "Ohhkaaaaayyyyyyy" or "Now if you will please excuse me, I have a show to do." I don't have a lot of use for the "Shoot her in the head, Wardell!" but I keep it locked and loaded just in case.

I loved the movie so much that I bought it when it came out on DVD (for \$89.99 I think!). DVD's were expensive as fuck when they first came out back then. Hell, I remember when Blockbuster would charge you over a hundred bucks if you lost one of their shitty cassettes. Anyway, I took the *Sordid Lives* DVD to my mom's house in Italy, Texas, and forced her and my Aunt Zina to watch it with me. I don't know what I was thinking. Back then, my family and I didn't have an open dialogue about being gay and the drag stuff — not like we do now. And *Sordid*

Lives is freakin' full of gay and drag stuff.

To be honest, there were a few times during the movie that I felt uncomfortable watching with my mother. When Ty tells his mama he's gay, my mama's living room got very tense for a second. My own coming out story was painful and a very touchy subject with Mom at that time. Looking back, I can plainly see that watching that movie with Mom changed something in the way we talked about me being gay. We joked about it more ... actually started to talk about it more. It may have put some things into perspective for my mother. I bet she thought, "At least we are not as fucked up as that family."

She is still not completely on board with the drag thing, and I don't think Brother Boy or Dr. Eve helped with that. When Mom first found out I was gay, one of the first things she said to me was, "You betta not ever dress up like no woman!" Being gay was one thing, but being a drag queen on top of that might have been too much for any mother to bear. She ignored it as long as she could, but at some point I guess she figured out that Cassie was not a phase, but a profession. My drag persona was a large part of her son's life and she wasn't going anywhere. Now my mom sees that I am not a woman trapped in a man's body but rather an entertainer whose voice wears women's clothing to be heard.

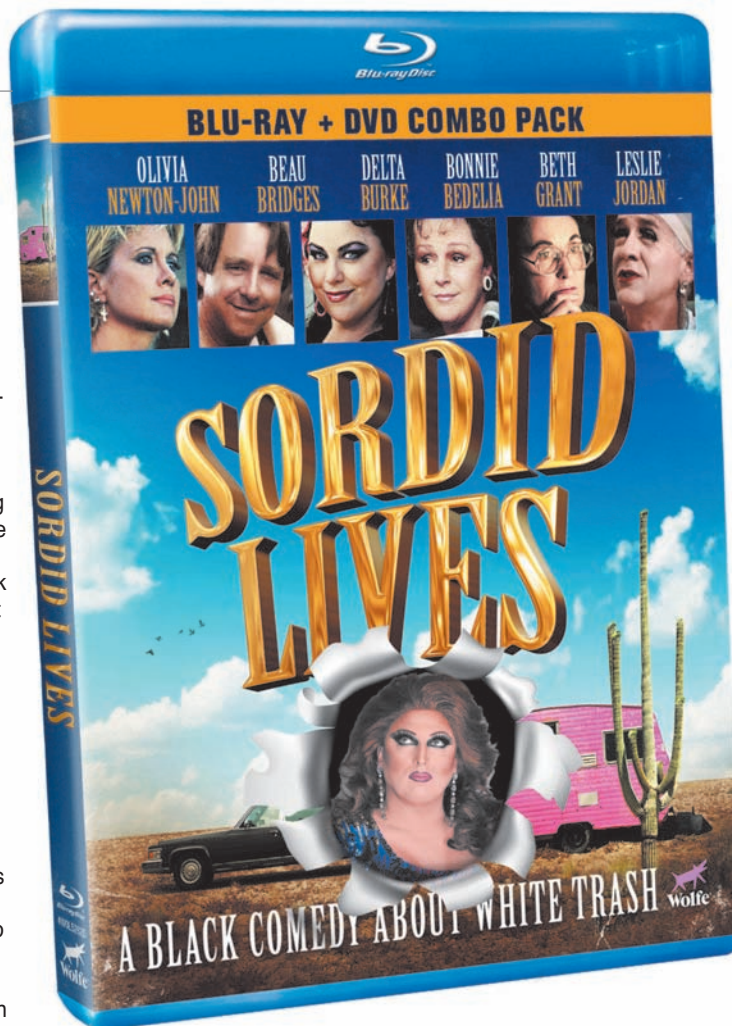
I know my mama and my Aunt Zina enjoyed the movie because they laughed and cackled through the whole thing. Plus Momma loves Beau Bridges — I think she got some serious ladywood for him. I've even heard her say, "Ohhkaaaaayyyyyyy" in a very Brother Boy voice.

When Del Shores told me that he wrote Cassie Nova into the next chapter of the *Sordid Lives* saga, I about died. I was so freakin' excited ... but I am one of those people that don't want to get their hopes up about anything. I hate being disappointed, and I was not.

The day we filmed I was so nervous. I didn't want to fuck up something that suddenly meant the world to me. I always want to do a good job at everything I do, but I was on the verge of a panic attack. I could not get out of my head. What if I am awful? What if I stutter like I just got donkey punched in the head? What if I vomit or have a heart attack right on camera? So many stupid, ridiculous scenarios going through my head.

Then Del does what a great director is supposed to do. He told me what to do and how to do it. He stroked my ego enough to get me to a positive, strong and fun place. I had one of the coolest moments of my life: I got to be in a scene with Leslie Jordan. That damn Leslie Jordan is a hoot. He is the nicest, craziest off-the-wall person I have ever met. He is exactly who you think he is — a joy.

My second scene had me being introduced and entering the stage in the Rose Room. We rehearsed it a few times and once again I was in my head. Even though I was doing what I have done hundreds of times, walking out onto stage and starting the show, I started to doubt myself and my abilities.



When they yelled "Rolling!" for a second I thought, "Oh, fuck, I can't." Then they yelled "Action!" and across the way, on the other side of the stage. I saw someone waving at me. It was Emerson Collins. Emerson is a wonderful actor and is one of the producers of the film, and is a very good friend of mine. He's on that show *The People's Couch* and was incredible in Del's play and movie *Southern Baptist Sissies*. He is also a very good looking man.

So he is waving at me just seconds before I am to walk on stage and do what I do. I see him and start to wave back when he drops his pants and shakes his dick at me. He full helicoptered his meat at me just as they called my name. It was honestly one of the nicest things that anyone has ever done for me. Not because I got to see his peen (which was lovely) but because he knew I was a little to in my head. It was funny, shocking and just what I needed to clear away any self-doubt I had. It changed my whole thought process from nervous energy to "let's kick some ass!" And I did.

Del let me do what I do and let me run with it. I did my lines and then went into messing with people in the crowd just like I do in the regular Rose Room show. The crowd of extras in the audience were all fans of *Sordid Lives* or the Rose Room. Many were fans of both, so the energy in the room was incredible. When Del yelled, "Cut!" the crowd started to applaud really loud. It was such a great moment. It was such a great feeling.

I've worked on a few other movies over the years, but nothing as professional or as well run as *A Very Sordid Wedding*. It was so cool to see Del in his element, doing what he was born to do. I knew he was a great writer, but to experience him directing was amazing. Over all, it was a very good day. One I will remember forever. Thank you Del, Emerson, Leslie and especially the big beefy cameraman with the full beard. You will be in my spank bank forever!

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

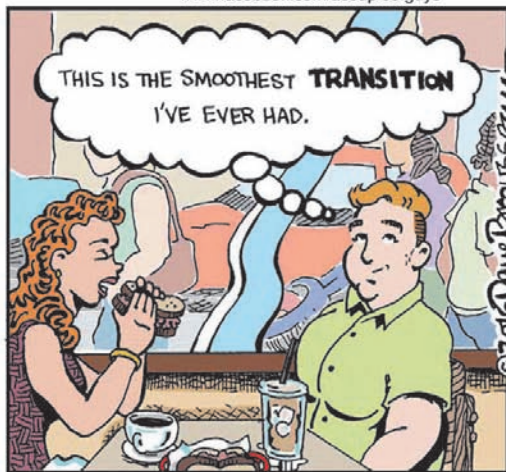
If you have a question or comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



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Jamming the night away at Alexandre's



She said yes at Sue Ellen's!



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Jenna Skyy is a big gay fan of Dallas Voice.

- Making the **SCENE** the week of **Aug. 5–11**:
- **Alexandre's**: **Filter Kings** on Friday. **Mi Diva Loca** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Chris Chism** on Wednesday. **Illumin** on Thursday.
 - **BJ's NXS!**: **Battle of the DJs** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. \$500 cash prize.
 - **Club Changes**: **Cowtown Leathermen** meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.
 - **Club Reflection**: **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** meeting at 2 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **North Texas Council of Clubs Fall Frolic Cake Walk** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Dallas Eagle**: **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **I Love the 90s** at 8 p.m. on Friday. **ILSb-ICBB fundraiser** from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Bears and Leather Knights** club night on Saturday.
 - **Rainbow Lounge**: **Mark Alan Smith** at 10:30 p.m. on Monday.
 - **Round-Up Saloon**: **Man Candy** from 8 p.m.-close on Sunday.
 - **Sue Ellen's**: **RIP the System** on Friday. **Lauren Alexander** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3:30 and **Barefoot Hippies** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Two Corks and a Bottle**: **Show Tune Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
 - **Urban Cowboy Saloon**: **Imperial Court Emperor and Empress** show at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
 - **Woody's Sports & Video Bar**: Drawing to win a trip to Puerto Vallarta on Saturday. Tickets from a **PSSA World Series-bound** team or any Woody's staff member. ■

Scene Photographers: *Kat Haygood & Chad Mantooth*



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If you have questions, call Leo Cusimano 214.754.8710 ext. 114



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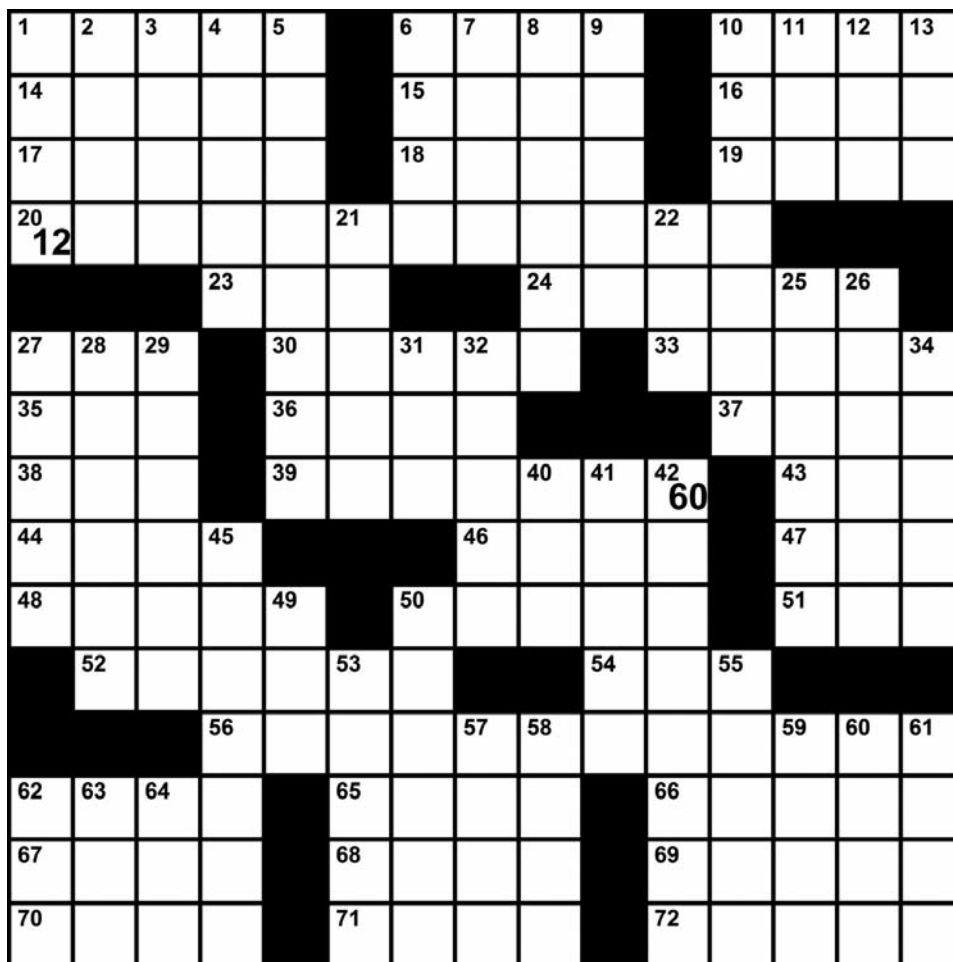
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q-puzzle



In a Number of Performances

Solution on page 24

Across

- 1 Da Vinci's bridge
- 6 Rock Hudson's *A Farewell to* ____
- 10 Vegetable dildo, for short
- 14 *The Seven Samurai* director
Kurosawa
- 15 The African Queen, e.g.
- 16 Baldwin's *The* ____ *Corner*
- 17 Provide food for
- 18 Brought forth fruit
- 19 Deli jarful
- 20 56-Across played Mary Epps in this
2013 movie
- 23 Noise at the Roxy
- 24 Brunch entree
- 27 Semen may be evidence on this
program
- 30 Faith in music
- 33 Like a stifling relationship
- 35 Hosp. worker
- 36 Express pleasure orally
- 37 Scroll for the cut
- 38 Sandy's sound in *Annie*
- 39 56-Across played Harriet Hayes
in this 2006-07 TV series
- 43 It gets laid on some streets
- 44 Gather, after spilling one's seed
- 46 Run-down neighborhood
- 47 Same-sex vow
- 48 *Let the Dead Bury the Dead* author
Randall
- 50 Conductor Georg

- 51 *Beauty and the Beast* film frame
- 52 Meryl of *The Hours*
- 54 *Star Trek* sequel, briefly
- 56 Actress in "a number of
performances"
- 62 Gay-friendly area of London
- 65 Trojans' org.
- 66 8-Down had his last one in Paris
- 67 Think out
- 68 In stitches, to Edith Head
- 69 *Dirty Dancing* director Ardolino
- 70 Bow source in *Robin Hood - Men in
Tights*
- 71 Little biker in a Gay Pride march
- 72 Satisfies fully

Down

- 1 Conference of the UCLA Bruins
- 2 "I've had better..."
- 3 Evening, in ads
- 4 E.M. Forster's *Where Angels
Fear to* ____
- 5 Pair of studs, e.g.
- 6 "Dancing Queen" band
- 7 Hoppers down under
- 8 Streetcar guy
- 9 Type of room at a bathhouse
- 10 Robert Goulet musical
- 11 Thurman of *Even Cowgirls Get
the Blues*
- 12 F, in the orchestra pit
- 13 Bowie collaborator Brian

- 21 Stallion's sound
- 22 Doc for lions and tigers and bears
- 25 Kind of dancer or fruit
- 26 Tongue-lashing
- 27 Marcia ____ (*American Crime Story*
role for 56-Across)
- 28 Abercrombie & Fitch buying binges
- 29 Little one
- 31 Lucy of Charlie's Angels
- 32 "____ it goes" (Ellerbee line taken
from Vonnegut)
- 34 56-Across played Abby in this
2015 film
- 40 Not in the pink
- 41 "The closet" opening?
- 42 TV newsmagazine with
Anderson Cooper
- 45 Jim of *The Big Bang Theory*
- 49 PBS helper
- 50 Kevin of *American Beauty*
- 53 German Surrealist Max
- 55 Type of award for singers, e.g.
- 57 Overhead predator
- 58 Material for Philip Johnson's
Glass House
- 59 Prissy hissy
- 60 Enjoy the scenery at a gay bar
- 61 Discouraging words
- 62 Undercover agent
- 63 Cheer for Lorca
- 64 Left in the field

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An Open Letter to the CDC on PrEP

Four years ago on July 16, 2012, the Food and Drug Administration approved use of Truvada for the prevention of HIV, which is also known as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)¹. In a report released by Gilead Sciences on June 20, 2016, they revealed the following information:

1. 49,148 total cumulative prescriptions for Truvada as PrEP have been filled based on data reported by 82% of all pharmacies. While it is unknown how many people who were originally prescribed the drug are still on it, based on adherence information in previous studies, no more than half the people actually took the drug on any type of consistent basis². Therefore, we estimate that about 25,000 are still taking Truvada for prevention. Of these patients 79% were men or about 20,000.
2. We are assuming almost all of these 20,000 are men who have sex with men (MSM). Studies estimate that there are 4,875,000 MSM³—or 3.9% of the 125 million adult men in the US. As a result, we can conclude that less than .04% of MSM are taking Truvada for PrEP. CDC has suggested that 1.2 million men⁴ should be on PrEP but doctors and patients are not responding to that call in large numbers. PrEP cannot be a major factor in preventing HIV when so few people are on it. On the other hand recent studies indicate that 60% of MSM use condoms regularly⁵, based on last sex among HIV-negative MSM.
3. African-Americans are 12% of the US population but are 44% of new HIV infections⁶. However, they are only 10% of people on PrEP. Young people are most at risk for new HIV infections, but made up only 7.6% of PrEP prescriptions. Whites represent 27% of new infections but made up 74% of those on PrEP. The men who are taking PrEP are those least at risk from HIV.
4. PrEP does not protect people from STDs. The rapid rise in rates of STDs such as syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea⁷ indicate that fewer people are using condoms and suggesting the need to reinvigorate safer sex campaigns, which have suffered greatly as a result of the CDC's almost exclusive focus on PrEP.
5. The wide-scale advertising promotions of Truvada for PrEP by AIDS organizations and community groups funded by the manufacturer Gilead Sciences gives the impression that PrEP is very popular even though the raw numbers tell another story. Based on the large number of men who say they are on PrEP on hook-up sites such as Grindr, it would appear that they are seeking unprotected sex whether they take the drug or not.

The CDC is the national agency responsible for the prevention of HIV and other STDs. As such, we call on you to re-balance your prevention efforts to align with what patients want and need so that we can achieve better success in preventing new infections.

Thank you.
AIDS Healthcare Foundation

¹ Food and Drug Administration. (2012). FDA approves first drug for reducing the risk of sexually acquired HIV infection. Retrieved online: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm312210.htm>

² Cohen SE et al. (2014). Implementation of PrEP in STD Clinics: High Uptake and Drug Detection Among MSM in the Demonstration Project. 21st Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). Retrieved online: <http://www.croiconference.org/sessions/implementation-prep-std-clinics-high-uptake-and-drug-detection-among-msm-demo-project>

³ Jones JM. (22 June 2016). Same-Sex Marriages Up One Year After Supreme Court Verdict. Gallup. Retrieved online: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/193055/same-sex-marriages-one-year-supreme-court-verdict.aspx>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (24 November 2015). Transcript for CDC Telebriefing: Daily Pill Prevents HIV – New CDC estimates underscore the need to increase awareness of a daily pill that can prevent HIV infection. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/t1124-hivprep.html>

⁵ Paz-Bailey G et al. (2016). Trends in condom use among men who have sex with men in the United States: The role of antiretroviral therapy and sero-adaptive strategies. AIDS.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (November 2015). Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2014. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-us.pdf>

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (17 November 2015). Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases on the Rise, Some at Alarming Rate. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2015/std-surveillance-report-press-release.html>