



dallasvoice

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Paxton challenges HHS rules

Texas AG leads battle
against trans protections
in health care, Page 8.



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11

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Trans activists decry Paxton lawsuit
- 10 Trans woman sues former employer
- 11 Ed Rankin challenges Pete Sessions

LIFE+STYLE

- 14 Throwing Shade at Sons of Hermann
- 16 Barbra's new CD of duets
- 18 Clea DuVall's film 'The Intervention'

ON THE COVER

Design by Craig Tuggle



14



18

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 21 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 24 | Ask Howard |
| 12 | Community Voices | 25 | Scene |
| 14 | Life+Style | 29 | MarketPlace |

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And the Voice of Pride winner is...

T... Alvaro Ramalho! The local singer, pictured center, took the grand prize at the Voice of Pride competition, the annual "Dallas Idol" singing rondelet that culminated last night in the Rose Room. The winner (and first and second runners-up, John Paul Gilstrap and Colby Guyer) ride in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade on Sept. 18 and perform at

Reverchon Park afterwards. Congrats!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Al McAffrey wins Democratic slot in OKC

Former Oklahoma state Sen. Al McAffrey won his runoff for the Democratic nomination for U.S. representative for Oklahoma District 5.

Out of 16,010 votes cast, McAffrey won in a 40 vote landslide, or one-quarter percent of the vote. He actually received fewer votes on election day, but won with about 100 more votes from absentee ballots.

McAffrey was the first openly gay member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and later of the Oklahoma Senate. The district includes the southern part of Oklahoma City and parts of Potawatomi and Seminole counties.

In November, he'll face one-term incumbent Republican Steve Russell.

— David Taffet

LGBT community school supply drives help various schools

Crayons for Kids

Chad West Law Firm put together 50 back packs through donations to support the kids and teachers at Hogg Elementary School in Oak Cliff.

Mi Escuelita

Lost Souls Rugby made a large donation of school supplies to Mi Escuelita Preschool. The team has done this for a number of years and has become a great supporter of Mi Escuelita.

Mi Escuelita provides high quality early childhood education (Pre-K) to at-risk and low income families in an English immersion environment at four Dallas locations including one at Maple and Wycliff avenues.

— David Taffet

Abounding Prosperity wins grant

The South Dallas Fair Park Trust Fund has announced its 2015-16 grant recipients totaling \$378,275.15 in awarded funds to support 19 local nonprofits programs working to improve the South Dallas/Fair Park area. The Trust Fund will host its annual award dinner to honor the recipients for its most recent grant cycle from 6-8 p.m. on Aug. 25 at the Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

Among the recipients is Abounding Prosperity, the only HIV/AIDS organization based in South Dallas.

— David Taffet

Fort Worth judge instructs trans students to pee in the wrong bathroom

A judge in Fort Worth issued an injunction against the Obama administration's transgender bathroom policy. A hearing was held on Aug. 5 in U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor's court in Fort Worth.

Because Judge O'Connor believes the national guidelines will be overturned in a full hearing by the courts, he issued the national injunction.

While the case works its way through the courts, school districts will have to do what makes Paxton more comfortable, rather than accommodate all students.

— David Taffet

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THE GAY AGENDA

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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
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• **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

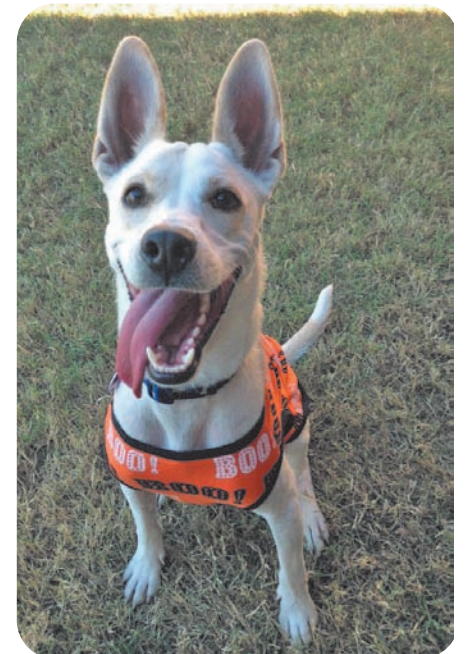
pet of the week / FITZROY

Fitzroy, a pocket shepherd, was found in a local shelter one year ago. He had more than 40 major puncture wounds on his back that, due to his thick shepherd coat, had gone unseen and untreated. The wounds were so badly infected that no one could tell if he had been mauled by some other animal, or if he had been stabbed by a person. The wounds healed, but the infection had been so severe that the skin of Fitzroy's back was so badly scarred that his hair will not regrow there. For that reason, Fitzroy has an amazing collection of T-shirts that he wears to protect his exposed and delicate skin. Fitzroy is about 2 years old, weighs about 40 pounds and is a gorgeous solid white pocket shepherd. He enjoys other dogs and regularly goes to the dog park. He is very shy of new people but given very little time, he is warm, funny and loving with those around him. Fitzroy has completed an extensive training program and even has his own Facebook page and blog. If you are interested saving Fitzroy, visit Take Me Home Pet Rescue at TakeMeHomePetRescue.com.



Take Me Home Pet Rescue is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Richardson. The organization has rescued more than 2,500 pets since its inception and is committed to helping Fitzroy find his perfect forever home.

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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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. 27: Friends Helping Friends**

Empress XXIII Donna Dumae and the United Court of the Lone Star Empire present the 20th annual Friends Helping Friends: A Disco Night at Studio 54, beginning at 7 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Local entertainers and entertainers coming in from Denver to participate, including Empress Brandi Roberts, will perform. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• **Aug. 27: Putt Putt Pub Crawl for LifeWalk**

Team Clover, one of several teams raising money for AIDS Arms' annual LifeWalk, hosts the third annual Putt Putt Pub Crawl, with registration from 11:30-12:30 at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, and tee time at 1 p.m. Teams of three or four members compete by going from bar to bar, putting through the golf course at each, with 11 holes total this year. Registration is \$120 per team, and the top team will receive a \$1,000 cash prize. For information email dallasteamclover@gmail.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**

Grand opening party for the Dallas Streetcar

extension to Bishop Arts from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

• **Aug. 27: A Taste of Summer Bake Sale**

Benefits LifeWalk Team ASD from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hillcrest House, 834 N. Marsalis Ave.

• **Aug. 30: Welcome Back to School: The Reality for Transgender Students**

GALA North Texas presents a free event for educators. Leslie McMurray moderates a panel Children's Hospital's Ximena Lopez, M.D., Equality Texas' Steve Rudner, Ryan Smith, parent of a trans child, Lambda Legal's Paul Castillo, Trans educator Oliver Blumer and Trans-Cendence founder Finn Jones. From 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Conference Center Section E, C-105 at Collin College Preston Ridge Campus, 9700 Wade Blvd., Frisco.

• **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. 1: Brewing Up Business**

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce netowrking at 8:30 a.m. at Zephyr, 4001 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Sept. 2-5: Splash Days**

Splash Days, the annual Labor Day end-of-summer LGBT swim party in Austin, qill 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

Obituary



Virginia Ann Scarlett, born on April 28, 1936 in Maypearl, Texas to Morrison Morgan Scarlett and Ruby Scarlett, passed away Monday, Aug. 22, 2016 in Dallas. She was a loving, devoted, compassionate mother and dear friend to so many people.

Virginia worked 33 years for the Wichita Falls

State Hospital, starting in 1964. In 1974 she was named Psychiatric Aide of the Year by the Texas Psychiatric Association and shortly thereafter was selected to become the director of Gerontology. After 18 years, Virginia transferred to the Occupational Therapy Department where she was the senior occupational therapist.

But the untold story is that in 1964, when she was hired by the hospital, she was beaten by her husband. She sadly endured being physically and verbally abused by her husband while at the same time working long, hard hours due to her devotion to her four children and to the patients entrusted in her care.

In 1976, Virginia divorced her abusive husband and took on the tough role of being both mother and father to her children. She never complained about the sacrifices she made on behalf for her children and was always a supportive, kind, devoted loving mother — a remarkable woman, to say the least. Virginia later married Jim Ellis, the love her of life, who sadly passed away in 1982.

She loved teaching patients how to make beautiful birdhouses, pottery and crochet, among



Friends Helping Friends Empress XXIII Donna Dumae and the United Court of the Lone Star Empire present the 20th annual "Friends Helping Friends: A Disco Night at Studio 54," beginning at 7 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave., and featuring guest entertainers from Denver. The event benefits AIDS Services of Dallas.

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. 8: Business Connections Mixer**

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce mixer at 5:30-7 p.m. at Souk at Trinity Groves, 3011 Gulden Lane Suite 114. Free. \$20 for nonmembers.

• **Sept. 9: Business Equality Conference '16**

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents conference to network with other

business professionals from around the state, attend breakout sessions and hear remarks from a national speaker on diversity from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at UNT Dallas College of Law, 1901 Main St.

• **Sept. 9: High Tech Happy Hour**

TI Pride Network, Texas Instruments' LGBT employee diversity group, hosts High Tech Happy Hour, open to everyone, at Sushi Zushi — West Village, 3636 McKinney Ave., Ste. 150. For information email pavw@ti.com.

• **Sept. 10: North Texas Pride Festival**

North Texas Pride Festival will be held from 1-8 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. 11: Politics and Drag**

Rainbow LULAC, HRC, Red and Stonewall Democrats present a political party hosted by Miss Red Foundation Raquel Blake with voter registration, HIV testing, food, drinks and special guests from 5-8 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

• **Sept. 15: East Texas Stonewall Democrats**

Election planning and talking points will be discussed at the new group's first meeting in Ben Wheeler.

• **Sept 16-18: Literary Soul Symposium**

This year's theme is Using Literature as Building Blocks for Growth. Authors and presenters from L.A., Houston, San Francisco, Dallas and elsewhere. Friday from 7-9 p.m. at Checkered Past Winery, 4901 S. Lamar St. Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 Fitzhugh Ave. Sunday closing brunch from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ziziki's, 4514 Travis St. # 122. Register at literarysoulsymposium.myevent.com.

many other arts. She herself was a gifted, creative artist, and she loved to cook.

In 2007, Virginia moved to Dallas, but soon thereafter her health began to decline. She was cared for solely by her devoted, loving son Morgan Gianni, and she died peacefully in his arms after a lengthy illness.

In addition to her son, Virginia is survived by Allan Metcalf, Donna York and Scarlett Hodgkinson (in absentia in toto). She is survived also by nieces Vicki McCudden, Tammi Green and Brenda Beavers, and by great-nieces Autumn Green, Winter Green and Summer Green.

Visitation will be Friday, Aug. 26, p.m. from 7-9 p.m. at Aria Funeral Home, 19310 Preston Road, Dallas. Funeral services will be Saturday, Aug. 27, at 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials can be made in her honor to University of Texas South-west Medical Center, Gerontology Department.

"While we are deeply saddened you are gone, we know this life is only temporary and we shall be reunited again Heaven. Until then you will always be in our hearts and in those whose lives you touched."

Trans advocates decry latest Paxton lawsuit

After getting injunction against trans student guidelines, Texas AG targets transgender medical services

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Texas and four other Republican-led states have filed yet another lawsuit seeking to roll back the Obama administration's efforts to strengthen transgender rights, saying new federal nondiscrimination health rules could force doctors to act contrary to their medical judgment or religious beliefs.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday, Aug. 23, is the second in recent months in which conservative states — led by Texas and its right-wing attorney general, Ken Paxton — have sued over federal efforts to defend transgender rights. On Sunday, Aug 21, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor in Fort Worth issued a temporary injunction, in connection with an earlier lawsuit, that halted enactment of a set of guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education on how school districts should interact with transgender students.

Those guidelines, which included allowing those students to use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity, were not set-in-stone rules, administration officials said, but were instead guidelines that had been requested by many school districts. The administration has said, however, that prohibitions against sex-based discrimination included in Title IX include prohibitions against gender identity-based discrimination, and that schools that allow such discrimination could lose federal funds.

The new HHS rules affect health care providers that receive federal funds.

The newest lawsuit is asking Judge O'Connor to also block new regulations, issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that ban gender identity-based discrimination by doctors, hospitals and insurers, based on the Affordable Care Act's prohibitions on sex-based discrimination.

The latest lawsuit contends that the rules, finalized in May, could force doctors to help patients with gender transition contrary to the physicians' religious beliefs or medical judgment.

A press release from Paxton's office on Tuesday announcing the lawsuit called the new regulations "regulatory overreach ... invading the coffers of Texas, as well as violating the medical judgment and conscience rights of doctors and health care professionals across the country."

The press release accuses the Obama administration of "trying to redefine the law," and claims the new rules require taxpayers "to fund all treatments designed to transition to a different sex" and "forces health care workers, including physicians, to provide controversial services. Under the new rule, a physician that believes that certain treatments are not in a patient's best interests may be in violation of federal law. And a physician that, for religious or conscientious reasons cannot perform a particular procedure, chooses to instead refer a patient to another health care provider may also be determined to be in violation of this new rule."

But transgender rights advocates called that a far-fetched hypothetical, saying a person would not approach a doctor who lacked suitable experience and expertise.

Jillian Weiss, executive director of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, who called the new rules groundbreaking, disputed Paxton's interpretation.

"The only thing a doctor is obliged to do is treat all patients, including trans patients, with dignity and respect and to make treatment decisions free from bias," Weiss said. "If a doctor has a sound, evidence-based, medical reason to delay transition care for a specific patient, that would be respected under the regulations."

Trans rights advocates also noted that 10 states and Washington, D.C., already require private insurers to cover transgender health care, while six states plus D.C. cover such services through their Medicaid programs.

Joining Texas in the lawsuit are Wisconsin, Kentucky, Nebraska and Kansas, along with the Christian Medical and Dental Association and Franciscan Alliance, an Indiana-based network of religious hospitals.

Weiss is not alone in her condemnation of the lawsuit, which Paxton in his press release proudly noted is the 13th lawsuit he has filed against the Obama administration since



Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith said Paxton is wasting millions of dollars attacking transgender Texans.

taking office in January 2015. Advocates across the progressive spectrum have spoken out against the Texas AG's latest assault on transgender rights.

Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas, issued this statement Tuesday after Paxton announced the lawsuit: "Attorney General Ken Paxton continues his assault on the very existence of an estimated 1.4 million Americans who are transgender. Paxton is now seeking to deny transgender people access to competent medical care [and he] continues to waste millions of dollars filing lawsuits against the federal government and discriminating against his fellow taxpayers. The attorney general needs to stop this assault against an already marginalized population and stop wasting taxpayer money."

Rebecca L. Robertson, legal and policy director for the ACLU of Texas, noted that the new lawsuit was announced while Texas leaders were still "patt[ing] themselves on the back for convincing a federal court that transgender schoolchildren should be excluded from the protections of Title IX."

She added, "we don't know what else the state has in store, but the people of Texas will not stand idly by and let the state make transgender Texans into second-class citizens with no legal recourse when they face stigma and bias. Texas is better than this. This is not who we are."

And Nancy Zirkin, executive vice president of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, issued a statement suggesting that the latest lawsuit was intentionally filed in the same court that had just issued the injunction in the case involving the schools guidelines.

"Shopping around for right-wing judges willing to block the enforcement of our nation's civil rights laws is an abuse of the judicial system," Zirkin said.

An article written by John Council and published Wednesday, Aug. 24, on Law.com, says that O'Connor's "handling of the bathroom case was no accident." The article notes that O'Connor is a former aide to the Senate Judiciary Committee appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush in 2007. He previously worked with both the Tarrant County prosecutor's office and with the U.S. attorney's office in Fort Worth, and was an attorney for Texas U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.

After being appointed to the bench, O'Connor was assigned the docket for the Wichita Falls Division, but later made it known that he was willing to try interesting civil cases when appropriate, according to Council's article. Council also says Paxton took his suit on the educational guidelines to O'Connor's court because he knew that there he would have "a sympathetic judge," since O'Connor had already ruled in Paxton's favor once in a suit trying to derail LGBT rights. In 2015, O'Connor was the judge who granted Paxton's request not to extend family and medical leave benefits to same-sex couples, although Paxton dropped that case after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last June on marriage equality.

Jay Brown, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign said Paxton's "continued attacks on transgender Americans are politically motivated, designed to intimidate, and simply beyond the pale. After months of demonizing and targeting transgender students, it seems he has decided that all transgender people must be the target of his machinations. We strongly oppose Paxton's harmful lawsuit, and the courts should see if for what it is — a shameful, cheap, political attack."

Paul J. Weber with the Associated Press contributed to this report.

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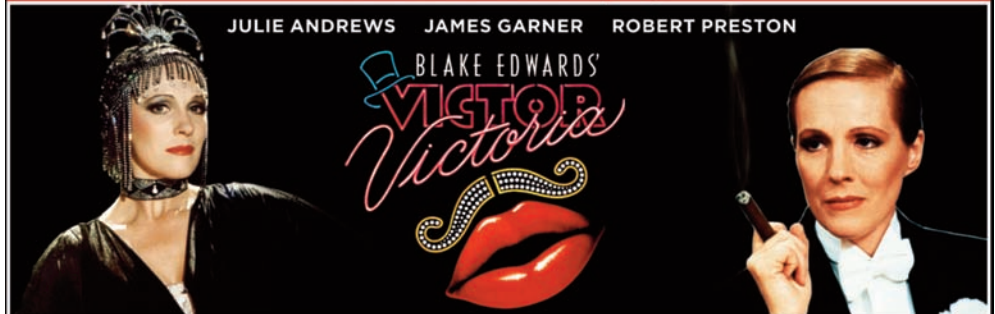
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Trans woman sues former employer

Despite improving business at Cedar Hill restaurant, Buffalo Wild Wings fired its manager when she began presenting as a woman

DAVID TAFFET
Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Kellie Alise Batko has filed suit against her former employer, Buffalo Wild Wings, charging the company with sex discrimination against a woman because she is transgender.

The restaurant has filed for dismissal of the suit, Batko has filed a response and is waiting for the court to rule on those motions.

The question before the court is whether sex discrimination against a trans woman is covered under Title VII. Buffalo Wild Wings claims Title VII's prohibition of discrimination "because of sex" does not apply to discrimination against transgender people.

Under current federal guidelines, nondiscrimination statutes based on sex do include protections based on gender identity and transgender status. In June, the U.S. Labor Department announced updated regulations for federal contractors "reflect the current state of the law and the reality of a modern and diverse workforce."

Batko's attorney, Michael Hindman, said there's little question Buffalo Wild Wings fired Batko when she began

presenting as a woman. "When she was a woman who acted like a man, everything was fine," he said. "When she presented as a woman, it wasn't."

Batko worked as a restaurant manager for Buffalo Wild Wings for four-and-a-half years. In 2007, she was assigned to the company's Cedar Hill location where she "improved the restaurant's reputation in the community and its operational soundness," according to the response to the defendant's motion to dismiss.

"The company recognized she had transformed the store and done an exemplary job there," Hindman said.

Batko said before she took over, that store had been in the red every month. Within a year of her taking over the location, it ranked No. 5 out of 192 corporate-owned locations.

During her employment, Batko began to present as a woman and legally changed her gender markers, including on her state-issued IDs and her Social Security card. She gave human resources her new legal information and ordered a

nametag to reflect her new legal name.

Nine days later she was terminated. Her employers claimed it was for poor performance.

But, she said, "There was no reason [other than her transgender status] for them to have done what they did to me."

In her suit, Batko claims that as long as her employer believed she was a man and went by a man's name, the company was happy with her performance. Although her performance at work remained the same, when she no longer appeared to be a man and made legal changes to her identity, she was fired because she was a woman.

Although the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals hasn't ruled on a transgender employment discrimination case under Title VII, the 6th, 9th and 11th circuits have. All those courts have held that discrimination based on gender identity is sexual discrimination. And the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has agreed them.

In *Fabian v. Hospital of Central Connecticut*, the court ruled, "Employment discrimination on the basis of transgender identity is employment discrimination 'because of sex' and constitutes a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act."

The EEOC has said, "When an employer discriminates against someone because the person is transgender, the employer has engaged in disparate treatment related to the sex of the victim."

While protecting transgender employees may not have been the intent of lawmakers who wrote Title VII, Batko argues her sex was the basis of her firing. In her lawsuit, she compares expanding the definition of sex discrimination to discrimination based on race.

"Courts have recognized that Title VII's prohibition against race discrimination protects employees from being discriminated against because of an interracial marriage, or based on friendships that cross racial lines," the plaintiff's response says.

Title VII is usually used in sex discrimination cases to protect someone who doesn't present in a way expected of that gender — by a man who may be described as effeminate or a woman who doesn't wear makeup or clothes that are considered feminine.

For Batko, failure to adhere to a gender stereotype wasn't the problem; she was fired because she presented as a woman.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in the court of Judge Barbara Lynn — someone who knows something about gender discrimination first hand.

When Lynn graduated first in her class from law school at Southern Methodist University in 1976, she noticed men in her class were getting offers from major Dallas law firms, while she and other women in her class were not. When they sued half a dozen firms for gender discrimination, those firms changed their policies.

If Batko's case goes to trial, Lynn may rule that Buffalo Wild Wings needs to change its policies as well. ■



When Kellie Alise Batko took over as manager of the Buffalo Wild Wings in Cedar Hill, the restaurant was in the red. Even though she turned it around the company fired her when she transitioned.



Libertarian challenging Sessions for Congress

Ed Rankin has run before, but he believes this year presents an opportunity for a third party candidate without a Democratic rival

DAVID TAFFET
Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Ed Rankin has run for Congress before, but this year, he believes, some “interesting dynamics are lining up” that give him a better shot at winning a seat in Congress.

In the last election, Democrat Frank Perez received 35 percent of the vote in his bid to unseat long-time incumbent U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions. Rankin placed third in that race with 2.7 percent of the vote.

But in this election, there’s no Democrat running. That leaves those District 32 voters unhappy with their current representation and looking for an alternative to the Republican with a choice between Green Party candidate Gary Stuard and Rankin, who’s running on the Libertarian ticket.

Also in the last election, Donald Trump wasn’t at the top of the ticket, Rankin points out. And this year, District 32 didn’t vote for Trump in the primary. In the general election, in addition to votes from Democrats expected to turn out in strong numbers for Hillary Clinton in Dallas County, Rankin believes he’ll get votes of traditionally fiscally conservative Republicans who aren’t backing Trump and who don’t appreciate Sessions’ endorsement of him.

Many of those Republicans who won’t be voting for Trump certainly won’t vote for Clinton either, Rankin believes, which means they will probably vote Libertarian. He says his party probably has its strongest ticket ever, with former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson for president at the top of the

ticket, and former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld the candidate for vice president. Rankin even believes the Johnson-Weld team might have some coattail effects for his campaign.

Rankin also says he’s the obvious choice for LGBT voters in District 32, since he supports equality. “In an ideal world, we wouldn’t have the government involved,” he notes. “Since it is, I have to support marriage equality.”

Sessions, on the other hand, scored a zero on the Human Rights Campaign’s Congressional Score Card for the past two sessions, and he scored 3 out of 100 for the 111th Congress. One time when asked how he represents the LGBT community, Sessions claimed he doesn’t have any gays in his district — even though District 32 includes parts of Oak Lawn.

Rankin says government has no right to discriminate against people based solely on who they are. And he disdains the intolerance he’s seen at Trump rallies.

“One of the costs of living in a free society is getting along with people with whom you don’t agree,” he says.

Since no Democrat is running for the seat, Rankin could have registered with that party and received money and other support from the strong Dallas County Democratic Party, and even state party offices. But he says he doesn’t align with the Democratic Party on fiscal issues.

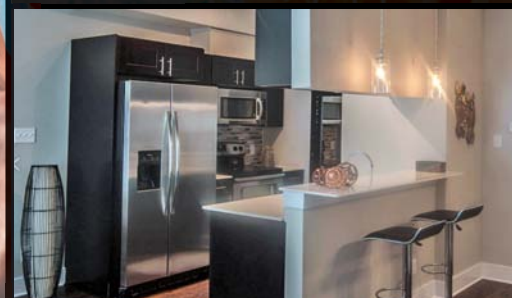
So if elected, would he sit with Republicans? “The party that wrote aversion therapy into its platform?” he asks, after a thoughtful pause. He’s just comfortable where he is — as a Libertarian, he adds.

LIBERTARIAN, Page 13

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Arnold Wayne Jones Executive Editor Life+Style | 129
David Taffet Senior Staff Writer | 125
Contributors: Chris Azzopardi, Jenny Block, J. Denton Bricker, Alicia Chang, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Shelley Hamilton, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Cassie Nova, Brent Paxton, Mikey Rox, Howard Lewis Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Mathew Shaw, Mark Stokes, Jef Tingley, David Webb, Casey Williams
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■ commUNITY voices

Kim, Donald and the decisions we make

Being a reality star doesn't qualify you as an entertainer nor as president

In modern times, we have the luxury of witnessing history being made through mass and social media. We can watch a presidential candidate's every move on the campaign trail or see our favorite reality stars' lives play out on camera, whether it be staged or not. The Internet, television, extended cable and the 24-hour news cycle have dramatically increased the world's ability to see, hear and experience every conceivable reality on earth.



Brent Paxton
Contributing Columnist

It started with radio. Then came television, giving viewers the ability to see and hear what was happening all around the world as it was happening. Both radio and television dramatically changed not just national life, but home life. The living room would never be the same.

Now the Internet has taken the top spot for audience and engagement, due in large part to social media. However, instead of one medium usurping the other, they've reached a point of synergy, wherein media use all of their outlets together to achieve their goal: to entertain, to inform, to influence and (most importantly) to sell.

Since content online is so high in volume, it can seem like an assault, an onslaught of material that is impossible to sort through. Therefore, we edit. We edit ourselves, and we allow the content providers and powers that be to edit for us. But it's all of us, together, who collectively drive the machine. After all, we won't continue to consume that which we don't want.

There are plenty of failed attempts to sell the public on something that was flatly rejected; think about the Internet's (and box office's) rejection of an all-female Ghostbusters cast or the public's (and Congress') resistance to Barak Obama's gun control measures. Ultimately, it is "the people" who decide when and where change happens.

It's very democratic at its best, but at its worst, dangerously ill-informed herd-like behavior. As Winston S. Churchill once said, "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

These democratic decisions collectively made by a society result in what television shows continue to air, who we hold to high esteem, who makes the covers of magazines, which type of movies continue to get made, which companies get our money and — most importantly — who



runs our country.

Today, we can see where our national values lie based on what is being produced by the media and subsequently consumed by the public. If an alien from outer space were to land in the United States he/she/it might mistakenly — or maybe accurately? — assume that Kim Kardashian is our most revered citizen, that twerking is the national dance and that Donald Trump is what we consider presidential material.

Just like that alien, our children are entering the world fresh-faced and bright-eyed, absorbing everything around them. Are these really the messages we want them to hear?

Like Kim Kardashian, Donald Trump is on television at any given moment, ever so slightly influencing us through words and action. Thousands of videos are available at our fingertip to show what Kim and Donald are up to, who they are feuding with. The news headlines are full of Kim's feud with Taylor Swift and with Trump's latest ill-informed rants about Hillary's supposed incompetence.

Trump and Kim Kardashian are similar in that they symbolize a shift in definitions, priorities and what we're willing to accept as national news. Kim represents our changing definition of what it means to be an entertainer; Donald highlights our acceptance of entertainers and businessmen as politicians (or our inability to know the difference).

Neither Kim nor Donald is very good at what their supposed roles — entertainer or politician — traditionally imply. But both, for some reason, continue to mesmerize the public. Kim can't — won't?

— sing or act or dance. Donald does not seem to know or care to learn about issues that previously seemed like prerequisite knowledge for an American president. And still, Americans gobble up the news on gossip websites about Kim's new haircut or booty pic, while major news outlets run months-long coverage of Donald Trump's controversial tweets.

What brought us to the point? Is it a good place to be?

I say no. And I say that both Kim Kardashian and Donald J. Trump are the result of an American public that is becoming increasingly fickle and ill-informed about national issues and what we consider art.

The Kardashians of the world for many people. And I understand the escapism that those people seek by incessantly following reality stars' every move.

But we cannot apply that same frivolity to the race for president of the United States, or to any democratic election at any time. Following Donald Trump on Twitter does not make you informed on the issues of the day; just like hosting the Miss Universe pageant doesn't make you an expert on foreign policy — an argument Trump has tried to make.

So, I passionately implore all voters to inform themselves on the issues at hand and truly consider the decision we are about to make. I hope that drawing the connection between our national obsession with Donald Trump and Kim Kardashian will help you draw the line between an unqualified entertainer and a life-long public servant. ■



Rankin also commented on several other issues in the election.

He doesn't like the Affordable Care Act because providers aren't paid until a person is sick, and because the insurance system doesn't incentivize people to be wise consumers. "We don't have adequate market forces to bring efficiency," he explains.

Using cosmetic medicine as an example, Rankin says that those products were never covered by insurance, so to attract clientele, costs had to be kept under control.

He'd like to implement a system of medical savings accounts for general medical care supplemented by catastrophic health insurance policies. He'd like the Patriot Act repealed, calling it nothing more than spying on U.S. citizens. And Rankin be-

lieves consolidation of banks, drug companies, airlines, media and more is a national problem that prevents market forces from controlling prices.

He calls Sessions, who chairs the House Rules Committee, one of the most powerful members of the House of Representatives.

"Any piece of legislation that gets to the House floor is because of Pete Sessions," Rankin says. "He's an influential guy from Dallas. Shouldn't we keep him?"

Then he answered his own question with a resounding no, asking what Sessions has actually done for Dallas.

Rankin notes that straight-party-ticket voters can still cast a ballot for a third party candidate: Just go to the particular race and mark the ballot for the third-party candidate. ■



• 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. At 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. 16: After Dark

Drinks, divas and desserts with wine tastings and dessert stations benefiting the Turtle Creek Chorale from 8-11 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves. \$75. TurtleCreekChorale.com/after-dark.

• Sept. 16-24: Pride Performing Arts Festival

Uptown Players hosts its fifth annual arts festival for Pride with plays, including two world premieres from the company's first-ever Pride Write Play Writing Competition, a staged reading and cabaret acts. Kalita Humphries Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

• 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.

• Sept. 17: Teen Pride

Teen Pride: A Celebration for All, for LGBTQ youth ages 13-19, takes place from 2-7 p.m., at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 30145 Oak Lawn Ave. Includes youth speakers, an open mic, culture show-and-tell, a live game show, free food, an art competition (email

art@rlc365.org for details), entertainment, prizes, hames and more. Admission is free for LGBTQ youth and allies, with a suggested \$5 donation for adults accompanying youth. For information call 469-666-REAL or email pr@rlc365.org.

• Sept. 18: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade

Steps off at 2 p.m. at Cedar Springs Road at Wycliff Avenue. The route continues down Cedar Springs to Turtle Creek Blvd., then west to Maple Ave.

• Sept. 18: Festival in the Park

Following the parade, the festival takes place in Reverchon Park, 3500 Maple Ave.

• Sept. 18: Family Pride Zone

A safe space for LGBT parents and their kids from noon-7 p.m. in Reverchon Park, 3500 Maple Ave. \$5. Children under 13 free.

• Sept. 18: Peace Day Dallas

The Dallas Holocaust Museum observes International Day of Peace with three Holocaust survivors speaking. Max Glauken at 11 a.m., Fred Stauss at 1 p.m. and Jack Repp at 3 p.m. at 211 N. Record St.

• Sept. 21: Gertrude Stein and

Allen Ginsburg LGBT Pride Reading Pandora's Box Poetry Showcase presents queer poets reflecting on ecstasy, rage, woundedness, ferocity, bravery, affection and erotic marvels at 8 p.m. at the Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, 5601 Sears St.

• Sept. 23: Celebrate Bisexuality Day

• Sept. 23: World AIDS Day launch

C.U.R.E. introduces the recipients of this year's Open Hearts Awards from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bungalow 5, 1201 Oak Lawn Ave. \$20.

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Throwing Shade podcasters Erin Gibson and Bryan Safi queer up the Internet... and now also Dallas

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

It's the morning after their first live show of a new tour, and Bryan Safi and Erin Gibson are jazzed. It was a sell-out — the first on a weeks-long, cross-country road show. It's not that they haven't performed live before, but their main gig — as co-hosts of the popular podcast Throwing Shade — is done in a studio, without the benefit of an audience.

And their own style of comic commentary, wherein they rail against the news of the day especially about close-to-the-heart liberal causes “relevant to women and gays,” as their motto goes, benefits from live interaction and instantaneous feedback. Indeed, what fuels a lot their humor is the “yes/and” format of the best improv sketches ... even when things seem like they are about to go off the rails.

“Well, we trained at Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in L.A., and that's what's drawn people to the podcast — I'm gonna agree with you no matter what you say' [shtick],” says Safi.

“We know mistakes are gifts, so why not make fun of them?” adds Gibson. “I think it's a Southern thing too — Bryan has a kind of brassy you're not-getting-away-with-nuthin' attitude.”

That hold-your-feet-to-the-fire stick-to-itiveness has served the podcast well, where once a week, the duo riff on the latest news stories with their unique, opinionated spins. Fully a third of each show, which can run as long as 90 minutes, comprises Safi and Gibson expressing indignation and resentment at right-wing homophobes, brain-dead politicians and hypocritical pundits. It's serious opinion-comedy for those who don't care about the Kardashians or what Real Housewife is getting divorced this week.

“The thing is, the stuff Bryan and I talk about [isn't all fluff],” Gibson says. “Some of pop culture needs to be laughed at, but there's so many terrible things happening

A Shade off



now I like to use it as only a small distraction. When [I consume] pop culture, I am looking at it as how women are being treated. I try to tread lightly unless it deserves to be treated more seriously. I think there's an unfairness that's heavily skewed against women."

It's a good fit for the openly gay Safi because, "the marginalization is the same," Gibson says. "You can't really say there are women's issues and [a different set of] LGBT issues, because there is definitely an overlap. And that's sort of the reason why gay people and straight women get along."

"It certainly is a mix of pop culture and politics," says Safi. "We're definitely not news readers. I always feel like we make good points but we wanna get there the dumbest way possible. I do think we have been really good that if we fuck up really badly we apologize. We don't have researchers. But when we delve into our deeper issues, it is a conversation."

"I read about six blogs a day for women's issues and I go to the New York Times. Hard copies! We read newspapers!" Gibson says.

"Yea, we're definitely the smartest people at brunch," Safi adds.

And some of the savviest. Gibson was just nominated for an Emmy Award for her work on the Funny Or Die web-spoof *Gay of Thrones*. And Safi was part of one of last year's most magnificent national hoaxes: The Will Ferrell-Kristen Wiig deadpan parody of Lifetime movies *A Deadly Adoption* ... which ran as an actual Lifetime movie with no explanation. ("It was incredible — such a crazy experience to be in a meta-serious movie," Safi says. "The reaction to it was exactly what they wanted — people loved it and people hated it. I liked that my character's relationship with Kristen Wiig is solely based on coffee... At one point I said, 'I cannot believe we are talking about organic food again.'")

And together they will be venturing into new waters starting in January, when *Throwing Shade* expands from podcast to television... perhaps one of the first podcasts to make such a leap.

"TVLand came to us because they really loved our podcast," Gibson says. "We want it to be like a John Oliver meets Amy Schumer. It will be topical but some segments will be more evergreen. It will sort of be the pinnacle of *Throwing*



Shade."

But until then, there's still the tour and all that entails. Their current itinerary will take them from California across to the East Coast and up to Canada. But their three Texas shows — just-done Austin, Dallas on Aug. 26 and Houston on Aug. 27 — are a homecoming for the twosome: Safi is a native of El Paso, and Gibson grew up in the Houston area, and they bring a certain Lone Star spirit to their comedy. Gibson and Safi may be in California, but they are of Texas. But homecomings aren't always pleasant, as any survivor of a Thanksgiving family reunion can attest.

"Houston is the most stressful city for me on the tour, because I have a lot of family there,"

Gibson says. "I just get nervous, even though I think of Houston as the armpit of Texas."

"Don't put that in," Safi quickly says. "We're still trying to sell tickets. But really, Texas in general is the scariest part of the

tour — not because of the people, who are wonderful, but because you wanna perform good for Mama." (Safi's family was mostly coming to the Austin show, meaning Dallas may be the least stressful of the local stops.)

"The live show is more of a standup — we don't sit down as if we are recording, but we [perform]. About 80 percent is planned and written in advance, with some improv," says Safi. "We kinda talk personally and integrate stuff that happens in town and anything exciting during that day."

"And we do some live crank calls!" shouts Gibson, recalling a recurring gimmick from the podcast. "Crank calling is such a primal thing. We're not mean, but we do call people, like organizations that aren't cool to ladies and gays... you know ... people who we don't love."

But who couldn't love these two?

Listen to the *Throwing Shade* podcast weekly, available on iTunes and other platforms.

THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS | Combative but hilariously shady, Erin Gibson and Bryan Safi bring their podcast to the stage of Sons of Hermann Hall this week.

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The music and the mirror has 2 voices

Babs back on B'way. Plus: Cast albums for 'She Loves Me,' 'Close to You'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

If you're anything like me, chances are you did a quick double-take when you looked at the lineup of singers pairing with Barbra Streisand on her latest album. Anne Hathaway? Well, she won an Oscar for a musical, OK. Ditto Jamie Foxx. And Hugh Jackman has song-and-dance man cred. But look closer: Chris Pine. *Force Awakens* star Daisy Ridley. Alec Baldwin. Melissa McCarthy... *Melissa McCarthy*???

Certainly all kind of voices bring different nuances to musical interpretation, but if you please: *What the hell is going on here?*

Encore: *Movie Partners Sing Broadway*, as it turns out — a daring experiment, but one that doesn't entirely work.

Let's face facts: Barbra Streisand's voice was not one designed for duets. Yes, she has some famous ones with Neil Diamond and Barry Gibb

and even Frank Sinatra. But that was before she became La Streisand, before the notorious perfectionist became so legendary she suggests a form of untouchability. It's where Sinatra was, actually, when *she* guested on *his* album of duets. Now *she's* the big dog, and one known for her tightly-wound arrangements and grand, dramatic flourishes. How will she pair with lesser mortals?

The results vary song-to-song. The album kicks off with a singular trio: The playlet-set-to-music "At the Ballet" from Marvin Hamlisch's *A Chorus Line*. Streisand doesn't just sing the lyric, she *plays* the part of Sheila, the ageing hoofer recounting how she got involved in dance due to a troubled childhood. There's dialogue and interaction between her and co-stars Hathaway and Ridley (both of whom acquit themselves quite nicely), but it strikes a bit of a false note: Babs' phrasing are arch and operatic. The three don't mesh.



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And the “duet” with Anthony Newley — who died nearly 20 years ago — is more feat of engineering than orchestration, clumsily shoehorning in an old version of Newley singing his own “Who Can I Turn To (When Nobody Needs Me)” from *The Roar of the Greasepaint — The Smell of the Crowd* with Barbra’s new interpretation. It’s very awkward.

But her unlikeliest singing partners actually draw out her playful side. “The Best Thing That Has Ever Happened” from Sondheim’s rockiest musical, *Road Show*, is a swifty, fun, romantic duet with Alec Baldwin — perhaps her best song partner, because his voice isn’t overly trained. Irving Berlin’s “Anything You Can Do” is a classic patter song, which McCarthy, all brash energy, dispatches on pitch, which is all that’s really called for.

Blindly devoted Barbra fans will love the chance to hear a coulda-woulda-shoulda of her missed Broadway opportunities — a sort of follow-up to *The Broadway Album*. But will she win new converts with it? Not unless Antonio Banderas and Seth McFarlane have legions of fans waiting to see what they’ll do next musically. And I kinda doubt that.

She Loves Me 2016 Broadway Cast Recording
The plot of *She Loves Me* has been around for



the lion’s share of a century — first as a play called *Parfumerie*, then the Ernst Lubitsch movie comedy *The Shop Around the Corner*, updated musically by MGM as *In the Good Old Summer-time* and modernized for the Internet age in the saccharine comedy *You’ve Got Mail*. I’m not sure why this structure has such staying power, especially considering how twee and unlikely the central conceit is: A man (Georg) and a woman (Amalia) — both single and who both know each other — belong to a lonelyhearts club and correspond anonymously with each other, never realizing that the other was there all along!

Wha...?!?!?

Even in the age of Grindr, aliases, no faces, missed opportunities and amorous entanglements seem unlikely. It seems so juvenile and emotionally stunted. For it to work at all, you just have to swallow it and dive head-first into the farcical unlikeliness of it all.

That’s what the recent Broadway revival of this 1963 musical by Bock and Harnick — sandwiched between the team’s two masterpieces, 1959’s *Fiorello!* and 1964’s *Fiddler on the Roof* — does, embracing rather than mocking the overt silliness. That’s all it can do, really. It’s a sunny, sincere score filled with gooey ballads, simple lyrics and flat emotions.

Sometimes that works (it is musical theater,

after all). The patter song “Tonight at Eight,” where the man (Zachary Levi) swoons over his first date that evening works outside the universe of the story: Many an audition has been tackled via its 100 seconds of exuberance. “Will He Like Me?” captures a universal sense of self-doubt and longing that also transcends the format and works as a cabaret number.

The production values on this cast recording, including the voices, are all fine, but, like the musical itself, nothing stands out. This is one of those so-called classics more honored for its longevity than for its relevance. Only die-hard theater queens will be swayed.

Close to You: Bacharach Reimagined Original London Cast Recording

Ever since *Mamma Mia*, the single-source jukebox musical has become a staple of modern theater. Oh, they have existed before — plenty of revues of Sondheim, for instance — but most have been straight-up concert shows of songs always intended for the musical theater. Turning pop into Broadway is comparatively new... and not always successful.

I get why producers do it. You need an anchor to bring in audiences, and familiarity seems like a marketing dream: You don’t have to sell the concept, just the songs. Sometimes, the trick is

shoehorning a plot around an existing setlist; sometimes it’s about arranging the songs for theater consumption.

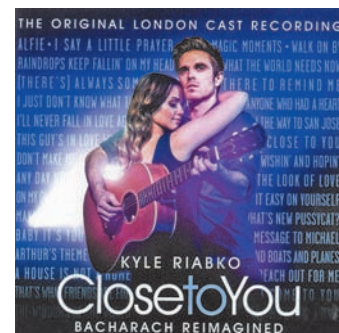
That appears to be the concept behind *Close to You*, a London-originated musical devised by Kyle Riabko and set to the songs of the ’60s composer Burt Bacharach — *Bacharach Reimagined*, the subtitle promises. So I guess my question is: Did Burt really need to be reimagined?

The third number on this album — a mashup of “The Look of Love,” “I Say a Little Prayer” and “Arthur’s Theme” —

proves the danger of trying too hard: The tempo of “I Say a Little Prayer” is almost dirge-like, instead of the effervescent champagne of a song Dionne Warwick turned it into. Yes, there’s an R&B undercurrent with gospel-like harmonies, but half the fun of the song is its speed. The arrangement is the song.

That happens on a few other key numbers from the show.

But ultimately, it’s the appeal of Bacharach’s music itself — somehow still fully a product of the 1960s, yet as catchy as a summer cold — that fuels this musical. The catalogue that Bacharach created, often with lyricist Hal David, didn’t really need to be fiddled with. But the structure is there, on display, both durable and unforgettable. ■



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Life



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That's what friends are for

Officially out spreading her creative wings, actress/writer/director Clea DuVall is ready for her 'Intervention'

It took an intervention for Clea DuVall to finally come out of the closet publicly. While she's played queer characters throughout her career as actress — in 1999's *But I'm A Cheerleader* and more recently in HBO's *Veep* — DuVall's delightful directorial debut, *The Inter-*



DuVall, center rear, wrote, directs and stars in a 'Big Chill'-like comedy with a contemporary gay twist. (Photo courtesy Samuel Goldwyn Films)

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vention, finally gave her a chance to play a lesbian character that she related to ... as well as feel comfortable enough to officially open up about her own identity.

A dramedy also written by and starring DuVall, *The Intervention* sees a group of friends gather to tell a couple, Ruby and Peter, that they urgently need to divorce, since their relationship has become completely dysfunctional and toxic. However, this well-intentioned meddling causes Ruby and Peter to lash out at these friends, including could-be-an-alcoholic organizer, Annie (Melanie Lynskey), and call out their respective issues. For example, lesbian couple Jessie and Sarah (Natasha Lyonne), the former of which is beguiled by one of their friends' latest conquests, a frisky 22-year-old bisexual girl, Lola (Alia Shawkat). (One of the funniest bits of drama resulting from the emotional fireworks involves a frenzied, vengeful kissing competition between Sarah and Jessie — it's worth the price of admission alone.)

"It was actually one of the hardest scenes to shoot," DuVall says. "There was so much about the timing, the people, getting the dialogue out. There were so much technical things involved I walked away from that worried, but it's my favorite scene in the movie now."

While *The Big Chill* serves as a cinematic inspiration for *The Intervention* (shot in and around Savannah, Ga.), real life also played a major part in the script's genesis: DuVall's personal experience staging a disastrous intervention ("We were all out of our league and it was a bust, but eventually it worked out for that person") and reconciling a difficult emotional period due to years of intense relationship woes and tribulations.

"Ten years of relationships building on top of each other," she says, "and running from one problem into a new problem, not really dealing with anything, and the accumulation of shit that stacks up as a result. I think I finally just stopped running away from those things and let myself feel it and go through what I had been fighting to avoid."

Today sees DuVall in a much happier place relationship-wise, engaged to her girlfriend of four years (she declines to share her name, as the fiancé prefers privacy). As for her choice of on-

screen partner for *The Intervention*, DuVall reunited with longtime friend and *Cheerleader* co-star Lyonne, these days best known for her Emmy-nominated turn as libidinous prisoner Nicky Nichols on *Orange Is The New Black*.

"I didn't originally write the part with Natasha in mind — I saw the role as someone very different," DuVall says. "Then, as I started casting and getting more people involved, I really wanted someone I already was comfortable with and had an intimacy, where you wouldn't have to create that or a dynamic on the fly. She's like my family, and you can't manufacture that. Because I was doing something so far outside my comfort zone by writing, acting and directing at the same time, any support system and comforts I could give myself was much appreciated. Plus, she's so talented and funny and could add so much."

DuVall also agrees that Lyonne — who identifies as heterosexual — makes an amazing lesbian onscreen. "She does!" DuVall laughs. "There's something very commanding and alpha about her, and I think that stereotypically people equate that with a more male personality, so she feels very comfortable being the guy. With me, she's always the girl though, which I think she also likes."

Despite boasting a litany of LGBT roles to her credit, in shows like HBO's *Carnivale*, TNT's *Saving Grace*, and FX's *American Horror Story: Asylum*, after *Cheerleader* DuVall admits she avoided lesbian turns for years, while also keeping her own identity ambiguous on a public level.

"I was scared," she says. "There were a lot of lesbian roles offered after, and I was scared. It was the 1990s, I was in my early 20s, and there was so much indirect pressure to be a certain way. No one was ever saying to me, 'Don't take on these gay roles,' but I think I was definitely putting that on myself and that's too bad, because there are things I look back on and wish I had been more brave."

That's all changed now, however, and DuVall feels especially comfortable in the skin of behind the scenes director: This year she directed the video for Tegan and Sara's synth-drenched earworm of a single, "Boyfriend" (she also enlisted Sara Quinn for *The Intervention*'s original score), while several projects are in various stages of development.

Yet there's one zone DuVall admits she feels compelled to enter despite her lack of comfort to date: politics. With this insane, high stakes election versus Trump and a pro-gun, anti-female/LGBT GOP platform, she's motivated to intervene.

"I'm in conversations with people I worked with to see what we can do to get involved and help with gun control," she says. "There's an organization called Emily's List, and their goal is to get female Democrats elected to all the levels of political office. I think I've shied away from being too publicly political, mainly because I felt I wasn't educated enough, and I want my opinions to be based on education rather than reactions to things I don't like."

— Lawrence Ferber

The Intervention begins a national roll-out this week.

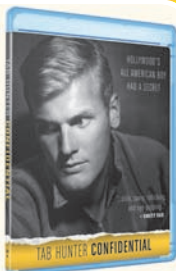
Out this week

Two films Dallas audiences first sampled at the USA Film Festival come to theaters and DVD this week.

Opening Friday at the Angelikas in Dallas and Plano is Ira Sachs' *Little Men*, a charming "New York story" about two young boys who "boycott" their parents until the adults stop quarrelling. It screened at last April's festival.

And newly on DVD/Blu-ray this week is *Tab Hunter Confidential*, pictured, a revealing documentary about one of the biggest heartthrobs of the 1950s who remained in the closet for decades. It debuted at the festival in 2015.

Search DallasVoice.com for interviews with Sachs and Hunter.



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Friday 08.26 —
Sunday 10.09

The stars turn out for 'Constellations'

Nerd alert! Roland is a beekeeper. Marianne is as Cambridge academic, a physicist who studies theoretical cosmology. They meet and fall and love. And that should be it. But there's chaos theory and wormholes and tons of other intellectual justifications for the myriad ways this girl-meets-boy story could play out ... all of which do in this sophisticated two-hander, a romance with the universe of love at its feet. Alex Organ and Allison Pistorius star in Nick Payne's *Constellations*, the season-open for the DTC.

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. (Studio Theatre). DallasTheaterCenter.org.



Friday 08.26 —
Sunday 09.11

'The Toxic Avenger' musical makes its North Texas debut

The musical version of *The Toxic Avenger* is a legend of things that never quite were. It got its initial staging at Houston's Alley Theatre, before moving to off-Broadway for retooling and an eventual move to B'way. But the move never took place, despite widespread acclaim, and the rights to the show never came free... until Uptown Players snagged them for this cult classic about a green superhero.

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



Saturday 08.27

Drag Racer Thorgy Thor performs at Marty's Live

The new All Star edition of *RuPaul's Drag Race* is underway, but last season's quirky contestant, Thorgy Thor, is the draw this weekend in Dallas. She'll bring her live performance to the gayborhood with a late-night set that promises to be as sassy as she is.

DEETS: Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave. Doors at 9 p.m., show at midnight. OneNightINBangkok.org.

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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

The Toxic Avenger. Joe DiPietro (*Memphis*) wrote this musical spoof of the camp horror cult film about a man exposed to nuclear waster who becomes a vigilante superhero. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Aug. 26–Sept. 11. UptownPlayers.org.

A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder. The Tony Award winner for best musical, this light-hearted farce about social classes and murder — adapted from the film *Kind Hearts and Coronets* — makes its North Texas debut. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

An Iliad. Denis O’Hare, the gay Tony Award-winning actor, co-wrote this adaptation of Homer’s classic. Presented in the Black Box at Stage West, 821 Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 18. StageWest.org.

Bootycandy. Robert O’Hara’s series of scenes, all connected by the theme of being black and gay in America. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 11. StageWest.org.

Constellations. Dallas Theater Center opens its new season with this romantic play about an astrophysicist and a beekeeper whose love travels across time and space. Wyly Theatre Studio Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 9. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Death the Musical II: Death Takes a Harmony. A. Scott Eckert, one of Dallas’ top musical directors and musicians, brings us the followup to his self-penned *Death the Musical* with this comic sequel. Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Aug. 26–Sept. 24. 214-821-1860.

Dreamless. A new musical written and directed by Justin Locklear, set in a restaurant owned by a brother and sister team. Ochre House Theater, 285 Exposition Ave. Through Sept. 10. OchreHouseTheater.org.

I Love You Because. A regional premiere musical inspired by Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. Presented by Our Productions Theatre Co. Studio Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through 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. *Final weekend.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive.



Swiss painter Nicolas Party created a massive mural along the main concourse of the DMA. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

PegasusTheatre.com.

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. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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 different agendas. A regional premiere based on Goldoni’s commedia dell’arte

masterpiece. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Taming. A female-empowerment political comedy from writer Laurent Gunderson. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 17. CircleTheatre.org.

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. *Final weekend.* Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.

FILM

Srijoner Hut: Benagli Film Festival of Dallas. The inaugural weekend of a





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film fest, dedicated to the culture of Southeast India and Bangladesh. The program includes two films of interest to the gay community (the short *An Unknown Guest* and the closing feature *Bhool*). Angelika Film Center Plano, 7205 Bishop Road, Plano. Aug. 26–28. For a complete lineup and to purchase tickets, visit SrijonerHut.com.

FINE ART

Pathway. A new and immense mural by Swiss artist Nicolas Party — a dream, cobalt forest of possibly underwater landscapes — occupies the main concourse of the museum, also featuring the pastel painting *Two Men with Hats*. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 5, 2017. Free. 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 08.26

COMMUNITY

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

COMEDY

Sister Helen Holy's Live Christian Broadcast. Judgy church lady Sister Helen Holy (aka comedian Paul J. Williams) presents a hell-arious standup, benefiting Legacy Counseling Center. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7 p.m. \$45 (VIP tickets for \$100). HelenHoly.com.

Throwing Shade Live. Podcasters Bryan Safi and Erin Gibson take their popular, dishy show on the road for a live performance. See story on Page 14. Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. Doors 8 p.m., show 9 p.m. \$17. ThrowingShade.com.

The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron? A one-man show about the battle of the sexes. Two nights only. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Aug. 26–27. EisemannCenter.com.

FILM

The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert. CineWilde presents this hilarious comedy set in th Australian Outback, where three drag queens turn a rural area upside down. An Oscar went to the costumes. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. film. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

SATURDAY 08.27

COMMUNITY

Pub Crawl with a Twist Fundraiser. LifeWalk Team Clover sponsors this pub crawl/mini-golf fundraiser, combining putting and drinking. Check in at the Round-Up Saloon from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Benefits LifeWalk 2016.

Thorgy Thor. The recent Drag Racer appears for a live show in Dallas. Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave. Show at midnight. OneNightInBangkok.org.

FINE ART

A Summer Solstice. Closing reception and awards show featuring 20 artists. Gallery 3, 1319 W. Davis St. 7-10 p.m.

BURLESQUE

Confetti Eddie's Naughty Magic Show. Magician Edward Ruiz presents an evening of burlesque, comedy and sleight-of-hand with master of ceremonies David Jessup and performers from Viva Dallas Burlesque. Viva Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., ste. 120. Doors at 8 p.m. Tickets from \$20. VivaLounge.com.

MONDAY 08.29

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 08.30

FILM

Victor/Victoria. In pre-war Paris, a female singer pretends to be a man in female drag and becomes an overnight sensation. This wacky farce from director Blake Edwards was nominated for seven Oscars. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 09.01

CABARET

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

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars. The new season of All Stars, with Dallas' Alyssa Edwards in the pack. Airls on Logo at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 09.02

THEATER

The Hollow. An Agatha Christie mystery thriller, set in a spooky estate. Cox Building Playhouse, 11517 H Ave., Plano. Sept. 2–25. Theatre-Britain.com.

DANCE

Dallas DanceFest Honors and Awards. Third annual celebration of dance, with local favorites from Bruce Wood Dance Project, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and more. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. TheDanceCouncil.org.



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- September 16th – 18th PRIDE Weekend
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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

As Labor Day fast approaches and another summertime, again noticeably begins to wane — shorter daylight hours, raggedy, spent foliage and browning, parched *everything* — so we, too, queer readers, apparently begin another of life's "autumnal" reflections on human mortality. To paraphrase the incomparably immortal Yogi Berra, "It sure gets late early around here." Let's get right to it.

Dear Howard,

On our way home from Whataburger the other night, as he (quite disgustingly!) smacked onion rings' grease off his fingertips, my older-than-dirt happy hubby spryly announced, apropos of absolutely nothing, "Stan, I'm gonna live to be 100, and you can't die first, either. You're stronger than I am. You can deal living without me. I couldn't stand living without you."

Howard, there's a vast age difference between us: Charlie is 77; I'm 63. He's the junk-food-aholic, not me; the word "exercise" is pure anathema to him — hell, he eats fast food seven days a week! Yet *somehow* Charlie's the one who has never been sick so much as a single day in our entire grease-indulgent marriage, and no doubt the old svelte-and-glowing Methuselah *will* live to be a hundred, I'm certain. It's

just not fair! How do I persuasively argue against bad habits with a person who defies all rules? — **Stan Leigh**

Dear Stanley,

You don't, you can't and you shouldn't. Rules for the ordinary *never* apply to those innately/perpetually happy outliers among us. But cheer up, Stan, my morose, trans-fat-free, exerciser man; keep in mind, Charlie *is* 14 years your elder — you *merely* have to make it to but age 86 (plus a few extra odd months or so depending on your birth month) to healthily grant Charles In Charge his wish of outliving him/What's *truly* incredulous to dear Howard here, actually, is that Whataburger hasn't contracted "long-lived" chipper Chuck by now *already* to be their grinning new slim/trim twinkle-eyed septuagenarian national spokesperson.

Dear Howard,

I'm 17, a high school senior now. I came out to my parents last week, on the very day before school started back again. But Dad wouldn't "tolerate hearing such hormonal, teenage idiocy," and I got lectured for, like, the billionth time, that in his day he was lucky to even see an occasional *Penthouse* magazine, whatever that was, that all I *really* need to do is just lay off the computer porn a bit, that we Millennials are exposed to "just way too much twisted filth way too early," blah, blah, blah. Mom, for her part, was in her usual AWOL haze of Wellbutrin denial, so I'm basically just right back to where I started before even bravely working up my nerve to tell the folks in the first place. Suggestions? — **Dabney**

Dear Dab,

During all trials of pubescent ennui, son, just put on some Rolling Stones and ride it out the best you can: OK, so what, "Your mother who neglected you

owes a million dollars tax, and your father's still perfecting ways of making sealing wax." Eventually, things get better. They really do. Find yourself a nice boy your own age (or no more than five years older, maximum) to date. Always choose guys with a big brain first, before a big cock. Never play with a man sporting visible tattoos for *any* length of time more than a one-night-stand. Never fall for the line, "You're different; you're special." *Never* believe any man's promise when he tells you he won't cum inside you so no condoms necessary here. (Play safe, no exceptions!) *Never* believe for one second that you're so very all-that-fabulous as to bewitch any man into being exclusively faithful only to you. Men have testosterone. Men are horny 24/7. All men are *only* as faithful as the sexual options presented before them.

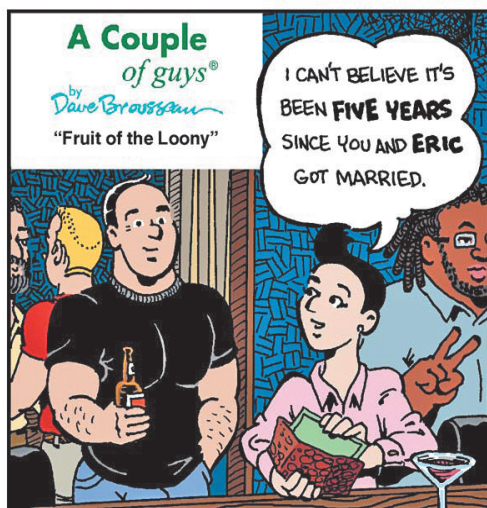
Dear Howard,

I have a two-parter question, two simple but extremely *hard* questions: 1. What is the definition of "time" as you see it; and 2. Would you choose to know the date of your own death if given the option?

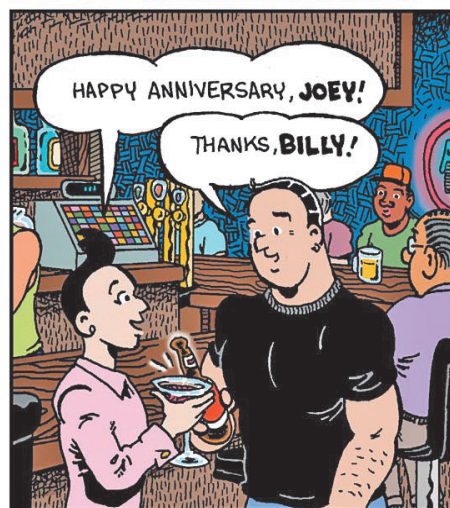
— Marcella

Dear Marcella,

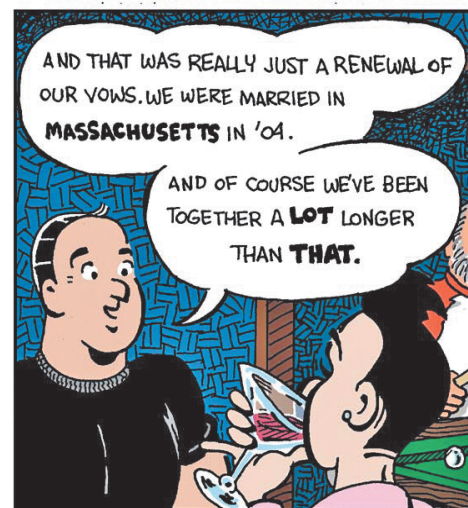
Never have I received two *easier* questions to answer: 1. Time is



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what keeps everything from happening all at once; 2. Are you fuckin' crazy? And let me add 3. This is a gay advice column, Marcy; so for future reference, precious, please do try adhering to simple format — it ain't hard to do.

— **Howard Lewis Russell**

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

browse

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this week's solution

A	G	E	S	A	D	A	M	S	C	A	M
W	E	A	K	B	E	L	A	A	L	M	A
F	E	T	A	C	O	I	N	R	O	M	A
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A	K	I	N	O	N	E	A		E	L	S
R	E	S	T	M	A	L	T	S	E	A	N



Asia T. O'Hara struts her stuff at The Rose Room in S4.



The guys at Love Field Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram show off their NGMA Ad Pop Award.



The 2016 Voice of Pride winners.

- **Alexandre's:** Kristen Majors on Friday. Stephanie Sallie on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. So Strung Out with Spencer West on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXS!** Papa Ray's cookout at 4 p.m. and Sexy Show hosted by Sybil Ann Storm at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Club Changes:** Imperial Leather Pageant at 8 p.m. on Saturday. Wall of Food Show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m., cookout at 4 p.m. and benefit show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Leather & Lace at 8 p.m. on Friday and Friends Helping Friends benefiting AIDS Services of Dallas at 7 p.m. on Saturday. SheBeata Pinata presents A Night South of the Border, an underwear auction benefiting the Turtle Creek Chorale Pride Fund, at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Turnabout benefiting Caven Employees Benevolence Association on Monday.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Aug. 26–Sept. 1:**

- **Rainbow Lounge:** Davenport Starr's Starr Studded Birthday Show at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Team Clover Putt Putt Golf Tournament benefiting LifeWalk at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Ciao Bella at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Kathy and Bella at 3:30 p.m. and Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Special Tasha Kohl Show 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Hip Hop and Latin Thursdays hosted by DJ Phanz and Chris Ray.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Clover Open. Register at LifeWalk.org. Your team could win \$1,000 and other prizes on Saturday.

Scene Photographers: *Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth*

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Bella, Anton and Darla share a laugh.



Susie, meet Sue.



Gettin' crazy at JR.'s.

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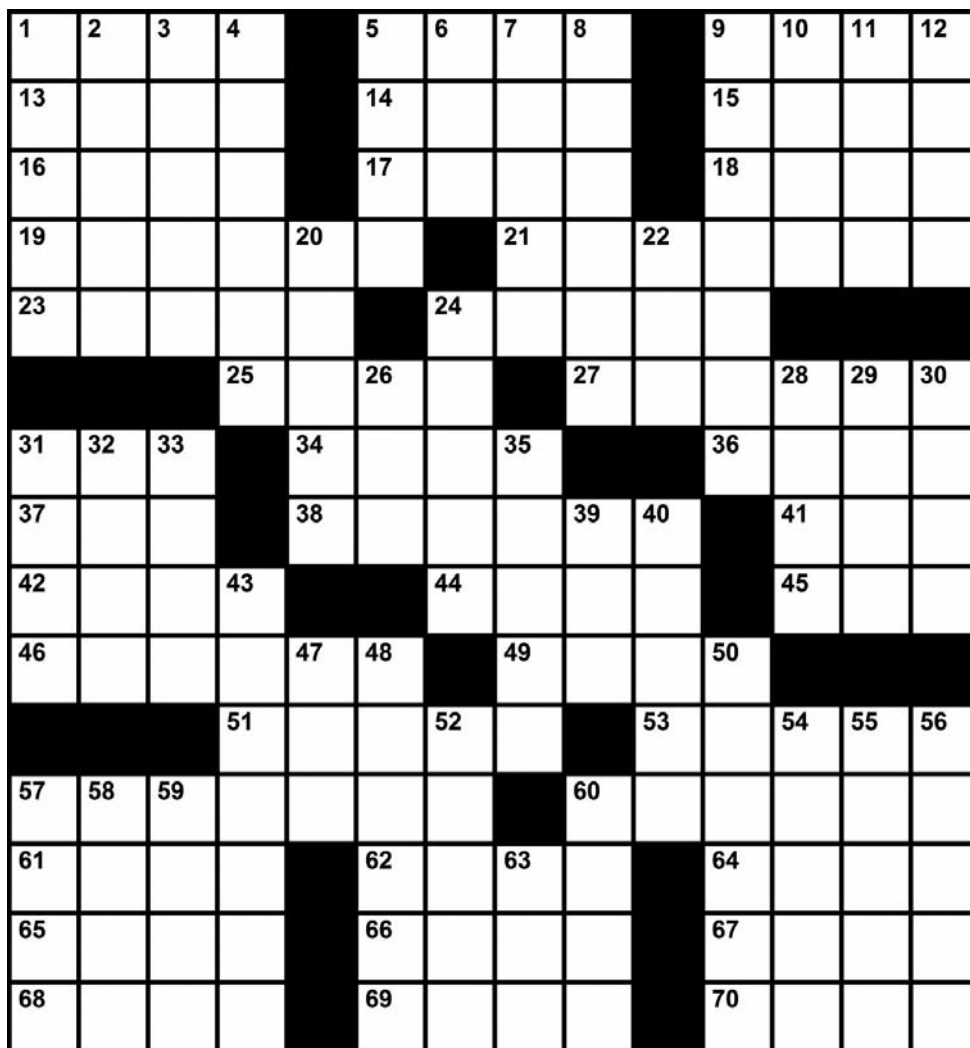
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q-puzzle



Out at Rio

Solution on page 24

Across

- 1 Differs from Dorian Gray
- 5 Second fruit eater
- 9 Be a master baiter-and-switcher, perhaps
- 13 Lacking potency
- 14 Bartok the composer
- 15 Tennessee Williams *Summer and Smoke* heroine
- 16 Salty white stuff from the Greeks
- 17 Nickel or dime
- 18 Tomato variety
- 19 With 60-Across or 21-Across, country with 8 out athletes at Rio
- 21 See 19-Across
- 23 Glove material
- 24 Will and Grace shared one
- 25 Trojan Horse, e.g.
- 27 Country with 3 out athletes at Rio
- 31 Site for three men in a tub
- 34 Baltic capital
- 36 Alternative to "Go straight"
- 37 Java brewer
- 38 Country with 6 out athletes at Rio
- 41 Beauty that's only skin deep
- 42 Da Vinci's ___ Lisa
- 44 Arsenic's old partner
- 45 Be in debt to
- 46 Country with 4 out athletes at Rio

- 49 Get the seed that was spilled
- 51 Luncheonette lure
- 53 Aida was one
- 57 Country with 2 out athletes at Rio
- 60 See 19-Across
- 61 Kazan, whose desire was a streetcar
- 62 Kind of cut
- 64 Mercury and Saturn
- 65 Resembling, with "to"
- 66 Draft eligible
- 67 *Showboat*'s "Nobody ___ But Me"
- 68 Silence for Copland
- 69 Treat for Rizzo at the Frosty Palace
- 70 Penn of *Milk*

Down

- 1 Bad and then some
- 2 Susan's *Thelma and Louise* partner
- 3 Weird Al Yankovic song about oral sex?
- 4 Doug Mattis, for one
- 5 Multiple choice choices
- 6 God of Gaius
- 7 Very similar
- 8 Song from *Flashdance*
- 9 *Bewitched* actor Dick
- 10 Lump of earth
- 11 What gunners shoot off
- 12 Word to a dominatrix

- 20 Outlying community
- 22 Crack code-cracking org.
- 24 Old enough for sex without arrest
- 26 Title for Alec Guinness
- 28 Erotic opening
- 29 Emulate Alison Bechdel
- 30 Upfront amount
- 31 Bottom lines
- 32 It sticks out in front of a sailor
- 33 A girl named Frank
- 35 Sculptor Nancy
- 39 Dick Button's milieu
- 40 Kind of resistance on a path
- 43 Extremely hard
- 47 Pitching stat
- 48 Private part in a war movie
- 50 Puts one's finger on
- 52 Loy of *The Thin Man*
- 54 "___ told by an idiot" (Shakespeare)
- 55 First lesbian magazine *Vice* ___
- 56 City in the Ruhr valley
- 57 Reverse or neutral
- 58 *It's Not the Size That Counts* star Sommer
- 59 Park of Queens
- 60 Spank one's bottom
- 63 Sushi selection

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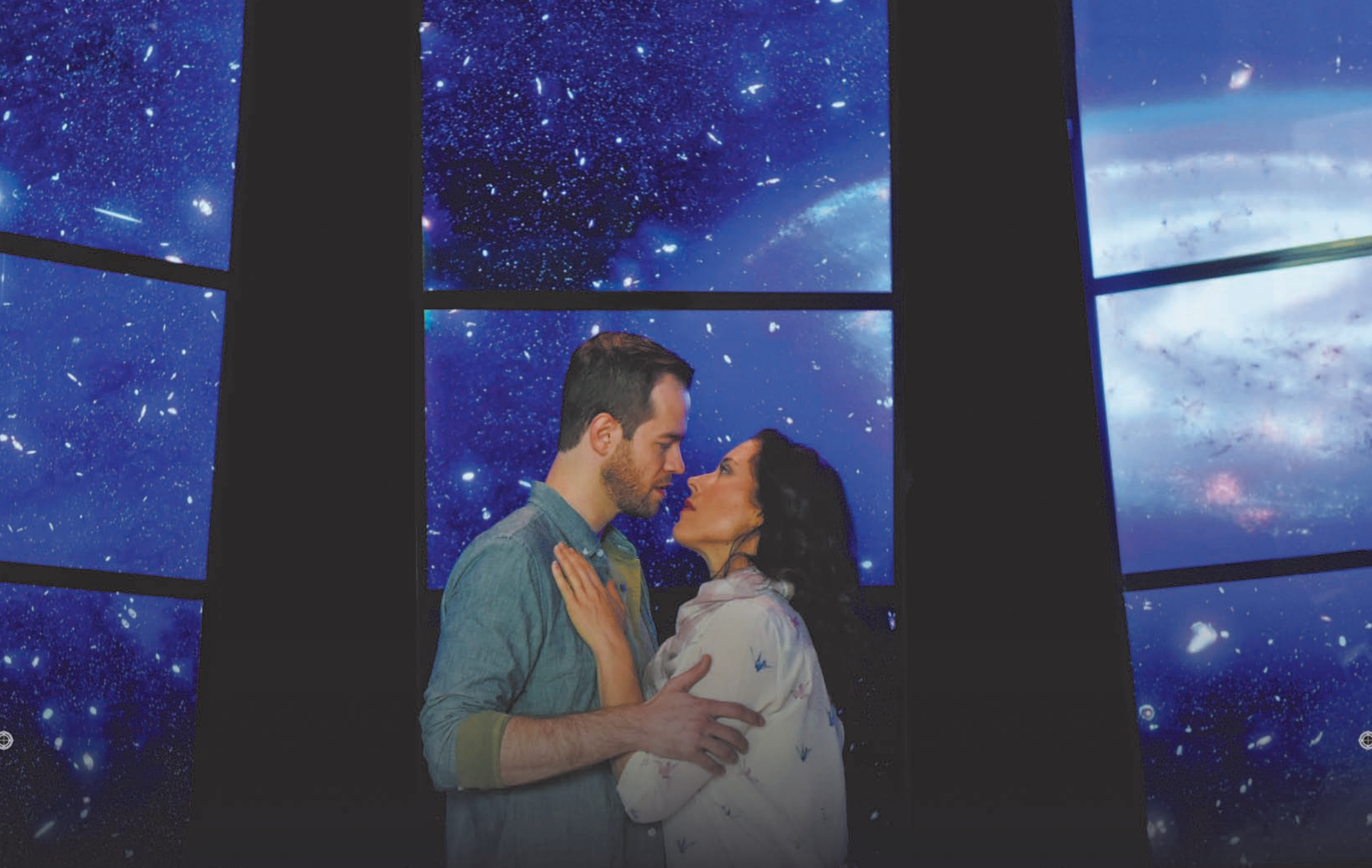
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