Paxton challenges HHS rules

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

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.

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 Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.
In November, he’ll face one-term incumbent Republican Steve Russell.

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.

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.
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The best or nothing.
**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 re-grow 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.

**THE GAY AGENDA**

- **Weekly:** Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNOM-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 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. 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...
Virginia Ann Scarlett

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 of her life, who sadly passed away in 1982. She loved teaching patients how to make beautiful birdhouses, pottery and crochet, among 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 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 Southwestern 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 in Heaven. Until then you will always be in our hearts and in those whose lives you touched.”

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.

• 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 life walk team clover, one of several teams raising money for AIDS Arms’ annual life walk, 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.

• 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 get a fourth of equal or lesser value free. For information or to purchase tickets, visit SplashDays.com.

• Sept. 3: high tech happy hour TI Pride Network, Texas Instruments’ LGBT employee diversity group, hosts High Tech Happy Hour, open to everyone, at Sushi Sushi — West Village, 3636 McKinney Ave., Ste. 150. For information email parw@ti.com.

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• 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 Reality for transgender Students. 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.

• Sept. 9: 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.

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Trans advocates decry latest Paxton lawsuit

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
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 transgender schoolchildren should be excluded from the protections of Title IX.

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 it made 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 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.
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.
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 through 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.

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.

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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.

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 volume 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 it’s all of us, together, who collectively drive the machine. After all, we won’t continue to consume

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 tweetering 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 fingertips to show what Kim and Donald are up to, who they are fruizing with. The news headlines are full of Kim’s feud with Taylor Swift and with Trump’s latest ill-informed rants about Hillary’s supposedly incompetent.

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 they do, and we should not qualify you as an 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.

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

Rankin notes that straight-party-ticket voters have to keep him?”

“He’s an influential guy from Dallas. Shouldn’t we prevent market forces from controlling prices. "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.
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’ [sh*tick],” 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
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.”

“It 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 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 movie 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 is what exactly 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.

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.
The music and the mirror has 2 voices

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

ARNO LD WAYNE JONES I 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.
And the “duet” with Anthony Newley — who died nearly 20 years ago — is more feat of engineering than orchestration, clumsily shoehorning 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 zany, 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 Summertime 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 transends 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 the structure is there, on display, both durable and unforgettable.
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 Intervention, 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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DuVall, center rear, wrote, directs and stars in a ‘Big Chill’-like comedy with a contemporary gay twist. (Photo courtesy Samuel Goldwyn Films)

ancé prefers privacy. As for her choice of on-
years (she declines to share her name, as the fi-
lationship-wise, engaged to her girlfriend of four

feel it and go through what I had been fighting
running away from those things and let myself
stacks up as a result. I think I finally just stopped
with anything, and the accumulation of shit that
each other,” she says, “and running from one
intense relationship woes and tribulations.

tually it worked out for that person”) and recon-
vierung a difficult emotional period due to years of

curing a disastrous intervention (“We were in
the script’s genesis: DuVall’s personal experi-

It was actually one of the hardest scenes to

Put your hands behind your back, and don’t look at me. Then think of a
frenzied, vengeful kissing competition between
Sarah (Natasha Lyonne), the former of which is
becuiled by one of their friends’ latest conquests,
a frisky 22-year-old bisexual girl, Lola (Alia
Shawkat). (One of the funniest bits of drama re-

famous scene in the movie now.”

Despite boasting a litany of LGBT roles to her
credit, in shows like HBO’s Carnival, TNT’s Sav-
ving Grace, and FX’s American Horror Story: Asy-
lon, after Cheerleader DuVall admits she avoided
lesbian turrs 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 90s, I was in my early 20s, and there
was so much indirect pressure to be a certain
way. I was scared to say, ‘Don’t take on
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 ear-
worm of a single, “Boyfriend” (she also enlisted
Sara Quinn for The Intervention’s original score),
while several projects are in various stages of de-
velopment.

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 elec-
tion versus Trump and a pro-gun, anti-
the Intervention, DuVall re-
united 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 re-
ally 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 direct-
ing at the same time, any support system and
comforts I could give myself was much appreci-
ated. Plus, she’s so talented and funny and could
add so much.”

DuVall also agrees that Lyonne — who identi-
fies 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.”

For more info, visit: dallaspride.org

Family PRIDE Zone is a family friendly outdoor space in conjunction
with the Festival in the Park, held on Sunday, September 18th from
Noon to 7pm. The Festival in the Park is held with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom
Parade, a Dallas Tavern Guild event.

A fenced off safe space will be
created in Reverchon Park inside the gates of the
main Festival in the Park. Security professionals will
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adults and children under
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alcohol and proper attire
will be listed among other
house rules.

The Family PRIDE Zone
will include food, games,
etertainment, bounce houses, face painters, vendor booths and much more.
Special feature: Dennis Lee & Nana Puddin’, ventriloquist.

Out this week

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

Opening Friday at the
Angelika 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/Tu-ray this week is Tab
Hunter Confidential, pictured, a revealing doc-
umentary 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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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 in 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.

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.

‘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: Kaita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

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**THEATER**

**The Toxic Avenger.** Joe DiPietro (Memphis) wrote this musical spoof of the camp horror cult film about a man exposed to nuclear waste 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. ATTPAC.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 Vicksy Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 16. StageWest.org.


**Pride and Prejudice.** A regional premiere musical inspired by Jane Austen’s 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 debut. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Aug. 26–Sept. 11. UptownPlayers.org.

**I Love You Because.** An original backstage comedy written by Kurt Kleinnann, about a group of actors involved in performance mayhem. Final weekend. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive.


**Smoky 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.

**Srijoner Hut: Benagli Film Festival of Dallas.** The inaugural weekend of a
FILM
The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert. CineWize 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.

SAVATURDAY 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.

FILM

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

BROADCAST

FINE ART

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.

COMMUNITY

THEATER
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.

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

FRIDAY 09.02
THEATER

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.

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.
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 want to hear this, but 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 healthfully 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 twinkie-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 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 entirely; she’s got a million other things on her mind.” As Dad said, “You’re different; you’re special.”

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 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.

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.
• Alexandre's: Kristin Major 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.

• 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
Alicia lines up a shot for the win.

Girls’ night out at TMC: The Mining Company.

Looking good and feeling good on The Strip.

Winslows on the patio.

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Gettin' crazy at JR.'s.

Bella, Anton and Darla share a laugh.

Susie, meet Sue.
Look for the insert in next week's issue!

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**q-puzzle**

Out at Rio

Solution on page 24

Across
1. Differes from Dorian Gray
2. Second fruit eater
3. Be a master baiter-and-switcher, perhaps
4. Lacking potency
5. Bartok the composer
6. Tennessee Williams Summer and Smoke heroine
7. Salty white stuff from the Greeks
8. Nickel or dime
9. Tomato variety
10. With 60-Across or 21-Across, country with 8 out athletes at Rio
11. See 19-Across
12. Glove material
13. Will and Grace shared one
14. Trojan Horse, e.g.
15. Country with 3 out athletes at Rio
16. Site for three men in a tub
17. Baltic capital
18. Alternative to “Go straight”
19. Java brewer
20. Country with 6 out athletes at Rio
21. Beauty that’s only skin deep
22. Da Vinci’s __ Lisa
23. Arsenic’s old partner
24. In debt to
25. Country with 4 out athletes at Rio
26. Get the seed that was spilled
27. Luncheonette lure
28. Aida was one
29. Country with 2 out athletes at Rio
30. See 19-Across
31. Kind of cut
32. Mercury and Saturn
33. Resembling, with “to”
34. Draft eligible
35. Showboat’s “Nobody ___ But Me”
36. Silence for Copland
37. Treat for Rizzo at the Frosty Palace
38. Penn of Milk
39. Dick Button’s milieu
40. Extremely hard
41. Pitching stat
42. Trophy for a war movie
43. Puts one’s finger on
44. Put a finger on
45. Of The Thin Man
46. It’s Not the Size That Counts star
47. Park of Queens
48. Spank one’s bottom
49. Sushi selection

Down
1. Bad and then some
2. Susan’s Thelma and Louise partner
3. Song from Flashdance
4. Untimely death
5. “___ told by an idiot”
6. Weird Al Yankovic song about oral sex?
7. God of Gaius
8. Very similar
9. Song from Flashdance
10. Be in debt to
11. Beauty that’s only skin deep
12. 60-Across or 21-Across, country with 8 out athletes at Rio
13. Summer and Smoke heroine
14. Tennessee Williams Summer and Smoke heroine
15. Mercury and Saturn
16. Mercury and Saturn
17. Trojan Horse, e.g.
18. Country with 2 out athletes at Rio
19. Country with 2 out athletes at Rio
20. Outlying community
22. Old enough for sex without arrest
23. Title for Alec Guinness
24. Erotic opening
25. Emulate Alison Bechdel
26. Upfront amount
27. Bottom lines
28. It sticks out in front of a sailor
29. A girl named Frank
30. Sculptor Nancy
31. Dick Button’s milieu
32. Kind of resistance on a path
33. Extremely hard
34. Pitching stat
35. Put a finger on
36. Put a finger on
37. Park of Queens
38. Spank one’s bottom
39. Sushi selection
40. Country with 4 out athletes at Rio
41. Beauty that’s only skin deep
42. Da Vinci’s __ Lisa
43. Arsenic’s old partner
44. In debt to
45. Country with 4 out athletes at Rio
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