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155 | Friday, September 9, 2016

the MUSIC Issue

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Dolly Parton, travelin' thru
Tegan & Sara, on tour in Dallas
Why **Michael Jackson** and **Liz Taylor** were pals





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Chely Wright photo by Meredith Louie

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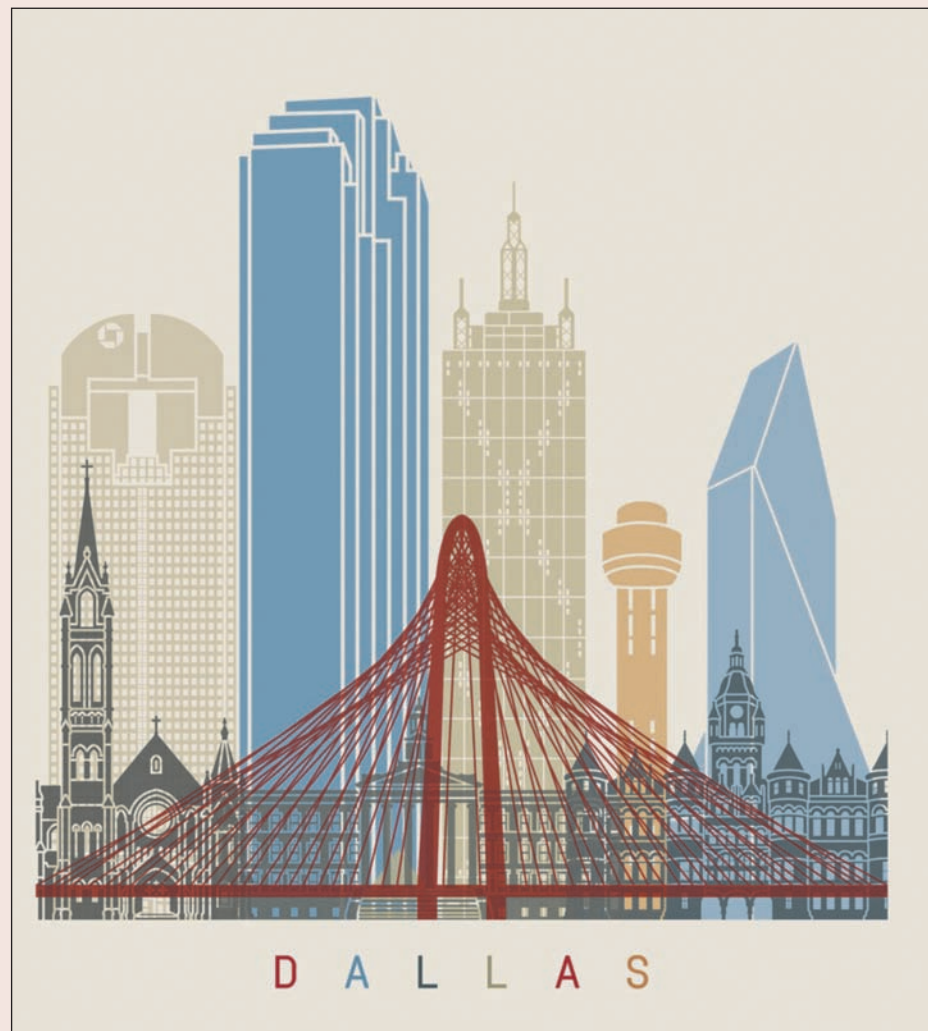
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Oak Lawn Library seeks submissions for 10th annual Art Show

For the past decade, Oak Lawn Library Friends has conducted a Dallas-based art show and exhibition, seeking works by its supporters for a juried display of pieces that reflect a theme. This year's theme — simply called "Dallas" — welcomes submissions in six categories: Painting, drawing, print, mixed media, water color and photography. If you have any works that fit in with those, and want to let the gayborhood see your talent — have your pieces (ready for hanging, no more than 36x36 inches, and new to the event — maximum of three pieces per artist) prepared at set. Submission day is Saturday, Oct. 1, from 2–4 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Library, and the exhibit will be up from Oct. 3–29. A panel of experts will present awards for best in show, as well as first place, second place and honorable mention in each category. Good luck!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

It's a fancy-casual event with live music and celebrichefs, where folks dress dapper and simple, where simple burgers are transformed into works of culinary art ... all to raise money for DIFFA. This year, it comes on the heels of Black Tie Dinner, taking place on Friday, Oct. 7, from 6:30–9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$150 and space is limited.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

DA Susan Hawk resigns

After meeting with her staff on Tuesday, Sept. 6, District Attorney Susan Hawk released her resignation letter. In it, she lists accomplishments since she took office in January 2015. She concludes with a note to voters in Dallas County saying it was an honor to serve for 22 years as an intern, prosecutor, judge and D.A.

She does not address the timing of her resignation. Had she resigned a week earlier, the chair of each political party could name someone to be listed on the November ballot and voters would have selected the new district attorney. By waiting until September, Gov. Greg Abbott chooses the replacement for the remainder of her term. Abbott has until the election to name a replacement. If he doesn't, then the office remains open and voters again may choose from candidates nominated by the parties.

Abbott is expected to name a Republican. In a countywide election, a Democrat is likely to win. Hawk is the only Republican to win a countywide election in Dallas since 2004.

— David Taffet

Cookout fundraiser Burgers & Burgundy moves to Trinity Groves

Burgers & Burgundy started when chef John Tesar was on the DIFFA Style Council and wanted to host a fundraiser. I was at the first one... and the six since then. It has moved from an Uptown condo rooftop to a fancy North Dallas estate's garden, where it has been for several years. It seems it has finally outgrown that space, though, and for its 8th year will move to the Ron Kirk Pedestrian Bridge.



Donald Trump

Apparently no one at the DMN was fired for calling Donald Trump a dumb ass

Apparently no one at the Dallas Morning News was fired for calling Donald Trump a dumb ass. Really, I checked.

And this morning, again no one was fired for issuing a half-assed endorsement of Hillary Clinton, their first endorsement of a Democrat for president since FDR before World War II (but not during).

OK, so they didn't exactly call him a dumb ass, but they did say, "Donald Trump is not qualified to serve as president and does not deserve your vote," and certainly gave lots of examples why.

That was the final line of their editorial. But here's where they were wrong. The headline proclaims, "Donald Trump is no Republican."

The headline implies it was someone else who nominated him as the choice to head the party ticket. Despite lots of defections from the party by elected Republicans to the Hillary camp, the majority rallied around Trump, nominated him and are supporting him — at least to some extent.

Here's what didn't happen: Lots of Democrats crossed over to vote in the Republican Party in order to nominate the most unqualified person to head a national ticket since, well, ever. Really. Didn't happen. I even checked. I called Jay Narey, president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. How many of his members voted for Trump. With certainty, he said none. The Democratic Party recorded a record number of primary voters, not an exodus to cross over and stick the Republican Party with Trump.

Here's what did happen. A lot of Republicans voted for Trump. More Republicans voted for Trump than for any of the candidates the Dallas Morning News thinks are better Republicans.

The DMN editorial says these are the beliefs Republicans have had for generations: A belief in individual liberty. Free markets. Strong national

defense.

Really? Individual liberty? Is that why the Republican-led Texas Legislature refuses to remove 21.06, the Texas sodomy law, from the state constitution, even it was declared unconstitutional in 2003?

Wasn't it their choice for Texas Attorney General who advised county clerks to disregard a U.S. Supreme Court ruling about same-sex marriage? Isn't the right to marry an individual liberty issue? The one Texas county clerk who took the AG's advice, Hood County Clerk Katie Lang, ended up owing a gay couple \$40,000 for legal fees after she followed his advice. Or does individual liberty end with the rights of Republican county clerks to refuse the rights of LGBT people?

At least the Morning News does draw some lines. My right to marry wasn't an individual liberty issue to them, but banning Muslims from the U.S. does cross the line. At least we agree there.

Over the years, the newspaper has endorsed lots of Republicans who have moved the party further and further to the right. My favorite

was its endorsement of Stephen Broden, who was running against Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson. The paper had to rescind its endorsement when he said armed insurrection isn't out of the question if he loses. Ah, true democracy in action.

But these editorials weren't aimed at their Democratic readers whose stomachs collectively turn at a majority of their editorial opinions. It was aimed at their Republican readers using a device Republicans love doing most: quoting Saint Ronald Reagan.

The editorial says, "Trump doesn't reflect Republican ideals of the past; we are certain he shouldn't reflect the GOP of the future."

So let me speak their own language to them. To quote Ronald Reagan, "I didn't leave the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party left me."

Trump is certainly a Republican of today. His signature issue, to build a wall, is absolutely not a Democratic issue. Building a wall is a great issue for Trump. He knows a lot about building crappy structures. When he says, "We're not going to pay for it," believe him. He'll create another corporation to build it, hire Mexicans to do the work and when it's time to pay the workers who built it, he'll declare bankruptcy, keeping his promise that Mexico — at least the Mexicans he hires to build it — will pay for it.

So maybe the Morning News believes in the Republican Party that freed the slaves and established the National Park System. Eisenhower's Interstate highway system created the cities of today. They endorsed Nixon who established the Environmental Protection Agency and opened diplomatic relations with China.

But that's not the Republican Party of today. The idea Trump — who's just Sarah Palin with bad hair — came out of nowhere is totally delusional. You may not have left the Republican Party, but yes, the Republican Party left you.

— David Taffet



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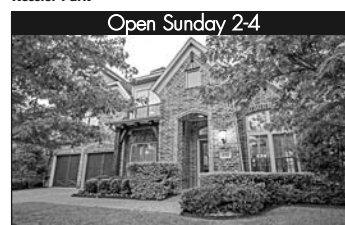
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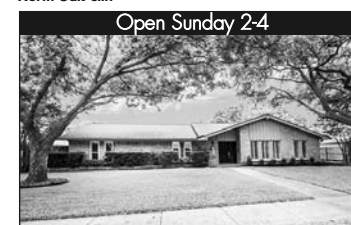
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THE GAY AGENDA

Obituary



Danny Glenn Harborth, 52, passed away on Aug. 31. Danny served in the U.S. Army for four years. His most recent position was as porter at Bowser Oaks. He had also worked at Petland, Cityvet and Pappadeaux.

He always saw the good in everybody he met. He loved caring for injured animals and once rescued a baby owl from a cat. He would nurse them and take them to animal sanctuaries. His partner remembers him as a wonderful, beautiful and colorful soul.

The picture was taken on a recent visit to the Dallas Zoo. Danny had just dyed his hair, which happened to match some of the foliage.

He is survived by his partner of 17 years, Allen Hardin, his sister Lauri and two brothers Dwayne and Darrel.

A service will be held on Sept. 10 in New Braunfels. ■

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV / AIDS in

the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m.

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SEPTEMBER

• Sept. 9: Reception for Todd Scoggins

Farewell reception from 5-8 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• 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. 9: 50 Shades of Gay speed dating mixer

Real Live Connection presents a speed dating mixer for gbt men as a benefit for the LGBTQ teen organization from 6-9 p.m. at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. No cover.

• Sept. 9: Gray Pride

Dr. Pravin Khemani of UT Southwestern discusses Parkinson's Disease at 6 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Sept. 9-10: The art of Jack Evans

Ilume Gallery stages its 100th show: a retrospective of the art work and mementos from the life of Jack Evans from 6-8 p.m. at ilume Gallery, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. The show continues through Sept. 17.

• 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. 10: Reconciling Potluck

Reconciling ministries hosts a potluck at 6:30 p.m. On Sept. 10 at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

• Sept. 11: Politics and Drag

Rainbow LULAC, HRC, Red and Stonewall Democrats present a political party hosted by Miss Red Foundation Raquel Blake with Gloria Devine, Roxianna Ditmore and Diva Dior and candidates Terry Meza,

Victoria Neave and Theresa Daniels, comments by Monica Alonzo and Omar Narvaez with special guest CD Kirven. Voter registration, HIV testing, food, drinks and special guests from 5-8 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

• Sept. 13: High Speed Rail public meeting

Councilmen Adam Medrano and Philip Kingston hold a public meeting to learn about proposed high speed rail from Dallas to Houston from 6-7:30 p.m. at Heritage Village, 1515 S. Harwood St.

• Sept. 14: Lambda Legal mixer

Get the latest updates on Lambda Legal cases that affect the LGBT community from 6-8 p.m. at Sambuca, 2120 McKinney Ave. RSVP to cmckinzie@lambdalegal.org

• 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: 8th Annual Red Party

Dallas Red Foundation presents recording artist J Sutta perform at the annual party that benefits Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage from 8-11 p.m. at Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. \$49.

• 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 16-18: 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.



Miss Red Foundation Raquel Blake hosts 'Politics and Drag' presented by Rainbow LULAC, Human Rights Campaign, Red Party Foundation and Stonewall Democrats. Check the Gay Agenda listings for details.

• 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, 3014 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, games 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

The festival takes place from noon-7 p.m. in Reverchon Park, 3500 Maple Ave. \$10. Children 12 and under free.

• 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. \$10. Children 12 and under free.

• Sept. 18: Blues Under the Stars

Blues artist Larry Lampkin performs at Blues Under the Stars at the Labyrinth Walk Coffee House on Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, 3839 W. Kiest Blvd. A \$10 donation is requested.



xx

Chorale begins season with After Dark

The season features three mainstage concerts, special performances and events

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Turtle Creek Chorale began rehearsals for its 37th season with a record number of singers as the group prepared for its opening After Dark benefit and performance. With 40 new singers joining the chorale this season, Artistic Director Sean Baugh said he expects the chorus to have a new and richer sound.

Rather than open the season with a mainstage concert, the season begins by bringing back another chorale tradition.

"We're beginning the season differently than in recent years — with a festive party," Chorale Executive Director Bruce Jaster said.

After Dark recalls the Chorale's Apples to Zebras fundraiser that was created by late board members Chet Flake and Bud Knight. The event began when Knight, who was a buyer for the North Dallas women's clothing store Lester Melnick, brought the store's seasonal leftovers to be auctioned. The first year, the event was called Ming to Mink and was

later expanded to Antiques to Zebras.

"That popularized the silent auction format that so many groups now use in their fundraising events," Jaster said. "After Dark will be more than the standard taste this, bid on that event."

The evening is billed as drinks, divas and desserts. The divas are Kristen Bond, Janelle Lutz, Amy Stevenson and Jodi Crawford Wright.

Chorale audiences know Wright from her performance as Tyler Clementi's mother in *Tyler's Suite* in March. Bond is a local performer who has appeared at WaterTower Theatre, Theatre 3, Lyric Stage and more. Lutz is known to Uptown Players audiences as Judy Garland from this season's *End of the Rainbow* and Stevenson may be best known for the monthly Mama's Party cabaret.

The chorale's ensembles and soloists will perform with them.

The desserts portion of After Dark includes stations to learn about pairing wine and desserts. Also featured will be a wine pull. Wines and liquors will be wrapped in sealed bags.

"Pay a price and pull a bag with a bottle valued higher than the price you paid," Jaster said.

The season

The chorale's mainstage concert season begins

in December with the holiday show at City Performance Hall. The Lone Star Wind Orchestra will accompany the Chorale and new compositions will premiere.

Topsy Turvy in March re-imagines music you thought you knew: How would Madonna sound if composed by Beethoven? What about a hymn performed in a smoky lounge?

The June concert, *In Your Dreams*, Baugh calls "a new concept in choral theater." More on that in the spring.

Producing three mainstage concerts during the season, rather than four, allows the chorale time to prepare for a number of other performances. In addition to opening Highland Park United Methodist Church's Tower Arts series (see accompanying story), the chorale joins Uptown Players for a concert version of *Titanic* in May.

And at times, the chorale performs with little advance notice as it did in June after the Pulse massacre in Orlando and the Dallas Police murders in July. This season, they're hoping for less tragic events through the year.

GALA

Over the summer, the Chorale was a standout at the GALA Festival in Denver with 150 members

participating. More than 6,600 singers from 171 choruses and ensembles took part in the quadrennial event for LGBT choruses.

"The chorale clearly received the most accolades from our peers," Jaster said.

Artistic director Sean Baugh added, "The ovations had to be ended to prep the hall for the next performance."

Baugh complimented other bests from around the country. The Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus did a Broadway-style production, transporting their sets and props to Denver.

"Unbelievable," Baugh said.

He also called Heartland Men's Chorus from Kansas City and Tim Seelig's San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus as well as Muse, a small group from Pennsylvania, as the festival's best.

"And Schola Cantarosa from Germany set Denver on their ear," Baugh said. Schola Cantarosa has performed in Dallas with the chorale.

The GALA festival takes place every four years over the Fourth of July week. While the Chorale would love to host using all of the Arts District's facilities, GALA board members feel Dallas is a little too warm that time of year to enjoy a visit. ■

After Dark, Sept. 16 at 8 p.m., 3015 at Trinity Groves. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com/After-Dark.

Photo inspires Chorale premiere

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A photo taken by Dallas Voice former publisher Robert Moore inspired the Turtle Creek Chorale to commission a new piece of music that the chorale premieres at the season opening of the Tower Arts concert series at Highland Park United Methodist Church.

Tower Arts, a series that began in 2004, brings world class artists to the church and to Dallas. This year's seven-concert series opens with the chorale, which premieres "Be At My Side," inspired by Moore's iconic photo taken during the downtown attack on Dallas police. Moore, who lives downtown and has been recognized for his travel photography since leaving the newspaper, came downstairs from his apartment to shoot some pictures of the demonstration, when he was caught in the crossfire.

While protestors were able to escape the gun shots, Moore was trapped in the middle of the street. He ducked behind a police car, where an officer protected him for several hours during the siege. Several photos he took while crouching be-

hind the DPD cruiser were printed in Dallas Voice and other newspapers around the country and were broadcast on TV.

"Be At My Side" was written by Gerald Guss, conductor of One Voice Charlotte, a gay and lesbian mixed-voice chorus. As part of Guss' preparation to write the piece, he spoke to Moore, who related part of the conversation he had with the composer.

"Sometimes it's difficult for people who've been in a violent incident like the Dallas Police shootings to put their emotions into words," Moore said. "The words sometimes fall flat or seem trite. There are many times when I've been at a musical performance where the music stirs an emotion inside me that I'm sure is common throughout the hall and the people I'm sitting with. It is very gratifying to me and I commend the chorale for attempting to harness all the emotions of July 7 and express those emotions through music."

The chorale plans to perform "Be At My Side" again at its In Your Dreams concert at City Performance Hall on June 2-4.

Highland Park United Methodist Church, 6 p.m. on Sept. 11. Tickets at HPUMC.org/TowerArts



Robert Moore's photograph inspired 'Be At My Side.'

Fins to the left, fins to the right

Pipeline Angels helps trans and non-binary women navigate the shark-infested waters of entrepreneurship

LESLIE MCMURRAY | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

If I may borrow from Jimmy Buffett, it ain't easy swimming with sharks.

I'm speaking of the kind of sharks you find on Wall Street, in banks or even on the TV show *Shark Tank*.

Shark Tank features celebrity investors, such as Dallas' Mark Cuban, who listen to pitches from eager entrepreneurs and, if they like what they hear, offer to invest in the concept — for a share of the business.

This is often referred to as "angel investing." Financial "angels" will put up money for startups in exchange for a share of profits or a percentage of the business. Angels invest at a very high risk, because if the fledgling company fails, the angel is left with nothing.

But the lure is there. Imagine being the "angel," Andy Bechtolsheim, who took a chance and invested \$100,000 in a start-up called Google. That investment is now valued at around \$2.5 billion.

Gaining a foothold with a new business idea is hard enough if you are a straight, cisgendered male graduate of Stanford. Imagine how hard much harder it is if you are a transgender woman who has an idea, but not enough money to fund it — or

even enough money to get her I.D. legally changed. Now imagine walking in to a bank and asking for a loan.

Yeah, good luck with that.

Last month, a Chicago Business School/StartOut study found that 37 percent of U.S.-based LGBTQ entrepreneurs who have secured or are seeking funding are not out to those investors. The reasons vary, but 1 in 8 said it was because they were afraid it would hurt their business.

That's a sad statement that serves to illustrate just how far we've yet to go in the country.

Trans women and non-binary femmes ("Non-binary gender" is a name for any gender that doesn't fit within the traditional gender category; "femme" refers to genders on the part of the spectrum identified with womanhood) who lack resources are in dire straits indeed. Having identification that may out them can not only scrap any chance they have at securing financing, it can put them in danger of physical violence.

Depending on what city or state you are in, anti-transgender laws — like North Carolina's HB 2 and the ones that Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wants to see enacted here — can put trans women entrepreneurs at particular risk.

But now there is an organization called Pipeline Angels that's looking to level the playing field for



Natalia Oberti-Noguera

trans women, especially black, Latinx and/or indigenous trans women and non-binary femmes, who often find themselves left in the dark about what entrepreneurship requires due to poverty, fear and lack of accessible resources.

Pipeline Angels have also teamed up with Goodwin, a Global 50 law firm with a solid track record of working on groundbreaking legal and social justice matters, to provide a pro-bono name change and incorporation workshop for trans women and non-binary femme entrepreneurs.

The name change even includes the filing fees. The workshop will include 30 minutes of one-on-one, pro-bono legal counsel on the incorporation tools available on Goodwin's Founders Workbench, and each participant may also apply for additional pro-bono counseling through Goodwin's Neighborhood Business Initiative.

Boudica Cooper, a non-binary black femme who is the program coordinator at Pipeline Angels, explains, "To offer this service to trans women and non-binary femme entrepreneurs allows us to grow our businesses without needing to sign or create documents with a legal name that misgenders us. It allows us to order services, to incorporate our businesses, and to market ourselves, all under our correct name."

A website has been set up under the name Fempreneur.xyz and has details about the kind of startups they are looking for. The Fempreneur Clinic participants will also be able to apply to the 2016 Fall Pipeline Angels Pitch Summits.

For those unable to make the workshops in person, there are on-line webinars available as well.

Pipeline Angels CEO and founder Natalia Oberti-Noguera, a self-described queer woman, spoke about the importance of boot camps like hers that pair up high-net-worth women in Dallas with

trans women and non-binary femme entrepreneurs. Oberti-Noguera shared some eye-opening statistics to illustrate the need:

"According to the Center for Venture Research, in 2015, only 25 percent of U.S. angel investors were women, and only 5 percent were minorities (their words not mine)," she said, adding that the 2016 Spring Pipeline Angels included 25 percent black women, 17 percent Latinas, 25 percent Asian women, and 33 percent white women."

Oberti-Noguera continued, "According to the #ProjectDiane report, 2 percent of venture deals from 2012–2014 were for black women startups and black women startups are 4 percent of women-led startups. Over 21 percent of Pipeline Angels portfolio companies have a black woman founder, including Blendoor."

But it's so much more than not just money being invested. As Oberti-Noguera explained, "We offer assistance in three areas: practical, educational and mentoring to boot campers," the women she referred to as her "sharks in training."

Why Dallas? Oberti-Noguera says it's about "Activating local capital" and from all indications, Dallas has plenty of it.

But this isn't a free-money truck. It's a chance to show what you've got. It's a lot of hard work with a potential payoff for both angel and entrepreneur. How much they invest — the minimum is \$5,000 if you are selected — and how much equity the angel receives is negotiated.

If you have a company you want to pitch, here's your chance: Goo.gl/Forms/R2n3tAOwBS3uEzcA3. Entries will be accepted through this week. The face of angel investing is indeed being changed, and Pipeline Angels sounds like a match made in heaven.

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McKinney is home to North Texas Pride



More than 2,000 expected for Collin County's largest LGBT event of the year

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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The 6th annual North Texas Pride is slated for Saturday, Sept. 10 in McKinney, and North Texas Pride Committee member Morris Garcia said this year's even should be bigger and better than ever.

"We started this event in 2011 in an alley in McKinney, and when our event sponsor backed out, my husband and I — he was my partner then — we funded it ourselves," Garcia said.

"That first year, we had about 60 replies on our Facebook page for the event, and we were hoping we'd have at least that many people show up. We had a DJ, and a band and a team of volunteers to put it all on. And when it was all said and done, we had more than 225 people show up," he said.

The event has grown each year. Garcia said attendance last year topped 1,500, and organizers this year are expecting more than 2,000 people to show up. But, he added, "It doesn't have to always be bigger and bigger, as long as people have fun."

Garcia noted that North Texas Pride has always been very deliberately family-oriented, offering LGBT families and allies a place to bring their children to celebrate Pride, and as in each previous year, a number of activities are planned especially for the children — a bounce house, a water slide, facepainters, balloon artists, cotton candy and more.

Rainbow Roundup, the North Texas LGBT family organization, will be on hand with activities for children, and there will also be drawings for four door prizes geared toward the kids, too. Prizes will include a 4-foot plush bear, a Razor, an iTunes gift card and a Garmin fitness tracker. Children attending the festival will get one ticket each which they can use in the drawing for a specific prize.

Children will not be able to purchase additional tickets, but adults can purchase more tickets for them.

But there's plenty for the adults, too. Louisiana Street Grill will have a special menu available for Pride attendees, along with wine, beer and some mixed drinks. There will be a raffle for an Apple Watch and an Android Wear watch, and adults can purchase chances for the drawings at the festival.

The festival will be "jam-packed with vendor booths and sponsor booths," Garcia said.

The Pride festival begins at 1 p.m., and from then until about 5 p.m., Garcia said, the activities for kids will be in full gear. Activities from 5 to 8 p.m., though, will be geared toward the adults, with music, drag performances and more.

Headlining performer will be Sam Tolson, an Ohio-based singer/songwriter who first gained attention on YouTube and has been building a name for herself since then. Local performer Chris Chism is in the lineup, as is drag performer and Miss Gay North Texas State At Large Basha Nicole.

Admission to North Texas Pride is \$10 per adult, with children 12 and under admitted free. Tickets are available online at NorthTexasPride.com, and at the gate.

North Texas Pride has chosen two other non-profit organizations as beneficiaries of this year's Pride festival: Jonathan's Place and the Gregg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Fund. Jonathan's Place offers a number of services to children in need, including an emergency shelter that accepts newborns and children up to age 17, and foster and adoption programs that work with same-sex couples. GDMF helps people with HIV/AIDS in need of emergency funds and money to cover costs that other HIV service organizations can't help with.

The festival is also a fundraiser for North Texas Pride itself, Garcia said, intended to help the non-profit reach its long-term goal: a community center serving the LGBT community on the north side of the DFW Metroplex.

"We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a board of directors, and we are all volunteers. And we want to give the LGBT community in this area a place to congregate, to educate, to entertain," Garcia said. "That's our goal, and we are very passionate about it. We're doing a good thing here, and we are very proud to have the chance to do it." ■



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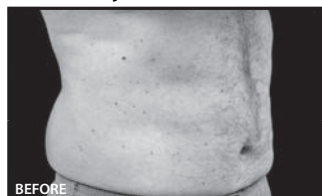
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■ commUNITY voices

Pam Geller carries lesbian baiting to new heights



Anthony Weiner is gross. The former Congressman who resigned in disgrace after he was caught sharing photos of his crotch on social media is at it again, and this time one of the crotch shots includes his sleeping four-year-old son in the bed next to him.

While nobody is implying that Weiner has molested his son, this was still, quite understandably, too much for his wife, Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin, to bear. And so she's separated from him.

The logical conclusion? She's a big ol' lipstick lesbian hooking up with Hilldyke, obviously.

At least that's the conclusion of the anti-gay and anti-Muslim right, who have for years been floating the idea that Abedin, a Muslim, and Clinton are not-so-secret lovers.

Pamela Geller is a particularly big fan of this Washington, D.C. slash fiction plot. On her website, Atlas Shrugs (get it? Because of how Ayn Rand is the lady version of Jesus), she has been posting about the Abedin-Clinton coupling since at least as far back as 2007.

"Nothing has been confirmed," Geller writes in a piece of brilliant commentary and hard-hitting journalism, "but this is as juicy as juicy gets in the sordid sex scandal department. Who'd a thunk that Hillary could have out sex-scandaled the old hound dog. Ouch!"

And why does she care about this so much? Well, she hates the Clintons. And she hates Muslims.

In fact, Geller is obsessed with Muslims. She's



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

the author of *Stop the Islamization of America: A Practical Guide to the Resistance* published by World Net Daily Books. No doubt this book is the only reason why America isn't under Sharia law today.

In her Aug. 29 post titled "Huma & Hillary Need New Beard," Geller argues that Abedin only ever married Weiner in order to cover up her relationship with Clinton.

Geller offers no evidence that this is true besides a bunch of whispers from right-wing and unnamed sources. But we know that in Right Wing Land, the path to fact is first wanting something to be true, then believing something to be true, then simply asserting that something is true.

This sordid story about Weiner and Abedin and Clinton is pretty much the climax of right-wing tropes. A perfect storm, if you will. An especially vile highlight from the Atlas Shrugs comments illustrates this perfectly: "A Saudi closeted lesbian marrying a pervy Jew for a baby and power while sleeping with her boss and pushing Islam on everyone. Gee what could go wrong?!"

Anti-gay? Check. Anti-Muslim? Check. Anti-Semitic? Check. A little misogyny thrown in for good measure? Check.

Thankfully, little by little, being called a lesbian is no longer the insult it once was. And this is thanks, in part, to political leaders like Clinton who have (finally) embraced LGBT Americans and are not afraid to stand by them. But as the right loses the battle against LGBT equality, it is ramping up its anti-Muslim hysteria. And, unfortunately, Abedin is their preferred target.

Granted, the right has been pushing the idea that Clinton is a lesbian ever since she dared to wear a headband in public. So it's not really a surprise that they're asserting the same thing about Abedin who has been working with Clinton since forever.

That both women have cheating husbands is just more "proof" of this theory, somehow. I mean, why else would they stay with these men unless, of course, they are power hungry lesbians?

It's a charge that many powerful women have had to contend with. For one thing, it's the greatest "insult" that can be thrown at a woman who dares to be "like a man," i.e. who dares to assert control over her own life, be smart as fuck, and smash the shit out of the glass ceiling. ■

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.

We will always love her

Sometimes, 11 minutes with **Dolly Parton** — legendary singer, songwriter and gay ally — is all you need to die happy



There are no angel wings. Instead, the performer scoots into a drab backstage garage on her own two legs like a unicorn dream: knee-length canary yellow dress, rhinestones, more rhinestones, and a glow that can apparently turn even an industrial underground into heaven on earth.

But something's off. Something is missing. Angel wings, I think.

Which, of course, you expect from a beaming Dolly Parton, even as she literally just stands in front of you. Her presence alone radiates her own healing power as she greets a mishmash of fans one by one, all of them basking in her shine. Moms, dads, kids. An elderly woman in a wheelchair. Me, a gay man.

This woman — a country queen, a “backwoods Barbie,” the self-proclaimed fairy godmother — has united us all merely by existing. And if it wasn't already evident, it certainly is in her midst: Dolly Parton is the only religion we may ever agree on.

For over two transcendent hours during her Pure & Simple Tour — she won't bring it to North Texas until Dec. 3, when she'll be at the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie — the Goddess of Goodness emerges as something too precious for this world. During her song “Little Sparrow,” the stage goes dark as screened-in birds take to the sky alongside Dolly's silhouette. Add “bird whisperer” to the long list of Dolly's accomplishments, which is seemingly endless: 43 studio album representing 100 million albums sold worldwide; 25 certified gold, platinum and multi-platinum awards; 25 No. 1 songs on the Billboard Country charts, a record for a female artist; seven Grammys and 10 Country Music Association awards; one of only five female artists to win the CMA's Entertainer of the Year Award; two Oscar nominations for songwriting (the title song to one of her many films, *9 to 5*, plus “Travelin' Thru” from the trans-centric road movie *Transamerica*);

and obviously, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

An angel, though? Parton demurs.

“I don't know if I'd go that far! I don't think I'm all that!” she says humbly, laughing the squeakiest of laughs.

Our 11-minute chat is peppered with that trademark Dolly charm. “I don't know where you got that odd number,” she squeaks again in her godly Tennessee accent, acknowledging the bonus minute her manager, Danny Nozell, has graciously given us. “He's saying you're getting a li'l something extra!”

Read on as Dolly blesses us with an extra 60 seconds of divinity, along with a look back on her introduction to the gay community, that time she may have gotten a contact buzz from Willie Nelson's grass and, like any paragon of virtue, helping her own family members come to terms with their sexuality. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Growing up in the Great Smoky Mountains, did you know any gay people? Dolly Parton: If I did, I didn't know they were at the time! We were just mountain people, and I did not know at that time — I sure did not.

What was your introduction to the gay community, then? As I started to be a teenager there were a couple of guys downtown that everybody was sayin' were queer, ya know? I know they often said that about anybody who was odd or different — "they're just queer, just strange and odd" — but the way they would talk about these two guys they would say, "Well, they're sissies, they're girls." I was a teenager then. But in my early days we did not know [what gay was]. It didn't take me long to know that people were different and that was always fine with me 'cause I was different, too, and I embraced and accepted them and I *knew* them. I knew them well. But no, in my early days I did not know. But I know a lot of them now! I have a huge gay and lesbian following and I'm proud of 'em, I love 'em and I think everybody should be themselves and be allowed to be themselves whoever they are, whatever they are.

How big is your gay circle these days? You know what, I have so many [gay] people in my companies. And later on, I did find out I have many gays and lesbians in my own family. We accept them, we embrace them. Oh, there are some in the mountains who still don't know quite what to make of it or how they should feel about it, but they're ours and they're who they are and we know they're wonderful and they're like us. We love the fact that they are who they are and we nurture that. We don't try to make them feel separate or different.

Because you've always been so LGBT-affirming, are you a safe place for them to open up about their sexuality? Yes! Actually, I've had many people through the years who I have helped to feel good about themselves. I say, "You need to let people know who you are and you need to come on out. You don't need to live your life in darkness — what's the point in that? You're never gonna be happy; you're gonna be sick. You're not gonna be healthy if you try to suppress your feelings and who you are."

I have a couple of transgender people who are on salary with me, so I am totally open for that. And a lot of people feel like they *can* come to me... and they do! Whether it's about being gay or whatever, a lot of

people do me like they used to do my mama and come to talk to me about things. Hopefully I'm able to help. I think I have.

When were you first aware of the transgender community? I remember watching the news when I was a girl and they [were talking about the] first operation that somebody had. That's the first time I ever heard about than many, many years ago.

Throughout your career, gay people have leaned on you for moral support while also absorbing your wisdom. But what have you learned from the gay people in your life? I certainly know that the gay people I know are the most sensitive and most caring of all. I think they go through so much that they have to live with their feelings on their sleeve. They've had to go through so much that I think they're very emotional and tenderhearted and more open to feelings, so I've just learned the same things I try to learn from everybody. I know they're good people and I've tried to learn from that as well. They're very creative, most of them. And I think that also comes from just embracing the fact that they're different. Most of the gays I know just want to make the world a more beautiful place like I do.

After 50 years of marriage, what inspired your new self-proclaimed "friends with benefits" song, "Outside Your Door?" Well, I'm married, but I'm not dead! I'm a romantic, fantasy person and I've felt *all* of those feelings. I've been through *everything* in my life. And when I don't write about myself, I write about other people that I know and their relationships, and people I know who don't know how to express themselves. So I gather my ideas from everything. And hell, you don't get too old to fantasize!

There's a 20-minute intermission during your Pure & Simple show. What do you do for those 20 minutes? It takes every bit of my time! I fly back to my bus right after intermission, and I go back and I change. I take a little breather to cool off for a minute, and then I change clothes — that's the only change I do [during the show]. Then, I change my hair, change my wig, and I touch up my makeup. And by the time I'm done with all that it's time to go back on.

What if you have to pee? Oh, I take a pee break and drink a little bit of water. But yeah, it's just a pee and pray break!

You jokingly mentioned during the show that you should run for

president. If you were elected, what would be your first order of business? I would just resign! That'd be my first order if I got elected — I'd say, "No, I don't want it, I don't want it!" [Laughs] But no, I don't know what I'd do. I don't even think on those terms. I'd make this world a better place, I'll tell you that.

During the show, you joked about getting a contact buzz from Willie Nelson's tour bus. Where do you get your sense of humor? Oh, that comes from both sides of my family. My mama's people were hysterical; my daddy's people were hysterical. They just had a different sense of humor, and that's how we got through everything, with our sense of humor. And as a writer I just think funny. I try to find things to laugh about and so anyway, I just say whatever I say.

What's the closest you've gotten to Willie and his weed? Oh, I know Willie really well! I sang with him on my last album. We did a duet together called "From Here to the Moon and Back" and I was singing ... well, I was trying to sing and I said, "Willie, I'll tell you, you're the worst person I ever tried to sing with. I mean, you're brazen! I can't keep up with you! I'mma need a sack of your grass! I'mma need something!" But he laughed so hard. But anyway, I love him, but he's Willie and that's OK.

He smoked in the studio with you there is what you're saying? Oh, yeah! Willie smokes at the drop of a hat! I probably had a contact high from that, too!

You've been singing "I Will Always Love You" since the early '70s. What does that song mean to you now that it didn't mean to you when you first wrote it? Well, you appreciate things more as you get older. That song is just the gift that keeps on giving. It's always getting licensing in my publishing company; somebody's recorded it and we're signing off on that. And so the fact that people are always calling me and always wanting rights for [the song for] a wedding — I actually rewrote it as a wedding song; it makes a beautiful song — it just makes me appreciate the fact that I've been able to write something that's been that meaningful to so many people through the years. So, it does touch me. And it turned out to be the perfect song to sing to my fans — it's the song I like to dedicate to the fans. Not the sad parts, but the good parts — especially the line of, "I will always love you" for letting me do this.

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Becoming Ms. Wright



When Chely Wright came out, Nashville turned its back on one of its hitmakers. But now the happily married mother of 2 has found her own, new musical voice

JONANNA WIDNER | Contributing Writer
jonanna.widner@gmail.com

My goal," says Chely Wright, as we chat on the phone few days before the release of her new album *I Am the Rain*, "is to be as cool as Emmylou Harris and to emulate Rodney Crowell and be as poetic as Joe Henry."

That's a hell of an aspiration, and judging from the introspective, sophisticated sound of *I Am the Rain*, her aim is clearly on target. Although she began her career in mainstream pop country — quite successfully, in fact — *I Am the Rain* embodies Wright's continued evolution from a clever, skilled hit-writer embraced by corporate Nashville to a cerebral (and happily out) songwriter, free and untethered by radio-hit formula. *Rain's* melodies take their time, relying on emotional heft rather than the Budweiser twang of modern country, and the instrumentation runs the spectrum — "At the Heart of Me" is lifted by a lilting flute, "Will You Be There" is piano-driven — resulting in an album that skews more Laurel Canyon than Tennessee Valley.

Emphasis, by the way, on that word, "album."
"I have an affection for some the records of the '70s," she says. "They're more a narrative than a collection of singles. I wanted

this new album to be more an *experience*... It's not 'Oh, I love tracks 2 and 13,' and it's not an album to listen to as you multitask. It's put your phone down put on headphones and lay flat on the floor and close your eyes and absorb it."

Rain, then, is no place for a three-minute pop song. And while they have their merit, three-minute pop songs don't play as big a part in Wright's life as in the past.

In 1995, she scored her first Top 40 country single with the catchy number "Shut Up and Drive." Then in 1997, she earned a No. 1 spot on the charts with "Single White Female." The album of same name ended up spawning several hit singles. Wright pretty much could have stuck with the commercial country formula, made a career out of it, and called it good.

But as Wright's life shifted, so did her ambition to evolve as a songwriter. In 2008, she signed to Vanguard Records, home to a more eclectic and artsy lineup than her previous labels. In 2010, she released her seventh studio album, *Lifted off the Ground*, produced by Crowell. Wright came out publicly as lesbian that same year.

During that pivotal time, Wright let go of something she was quite good at: Writing hit pop-country songs.

"A lot of it had to do with pulling up my big girl pants and

doing something pretty terrifying, after growing up in the mainstream country world," she says. "Sometimes you have to put some of that identity to bed."

"Maybe it's very lesbian of me to say," Wright laughs, describing what it's like to challenge herself as a songwriter, "but it's kind of like when you've practiced a new golf grip, but then you get out on the tee box it's very tempting to go back to your old grip."

I Am the Rain, she says, "is an exercise in sticking with the new grip."

Wright has claimed more than once that after she came out, Nashville effectively froze her out of its hierarchy. (She does note that during her more mainstream years, "I never felt controlled" as far as her songwriting goes.)

"I had a lot of good years in country music," she says. "But I'm 45. At some point you don't want to put on the costume of a 25-year-old or a 30-year-old."

It makes sense. You grow older. You maybe have kids (Wright has two, with her wife Lauren Blitzer). You grow into your own. And along the way, if you want to, you can step out of the mold you were in at a young age.

"I can write a six-minute song now," Wright says. "It just gives you a freedom."

STILL A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY? | Chely Wright's new album, 'I Am the Rain' — her first full-length LP since coming out in 2010 — just dropped.

Tegan & Sara & Lori, oh my!

Fascinating new CDs
from 4 queer faves



Queer singing sisters Tegan and Sara, who will perform at the Majestic on Sept. 15, embrace their pop sensibilities on their current album, 'I Love You to Death.'

Lori McKenna, *The Bird & the Rifle*. Music Row's renowned wordsmith Lori McKenna doesn't exactly bury this casual burn, but still, you might miss it. You might because Lori McKenna's exceptional 10th studio album teems with lines that sear and stick; that's just what happens when you're as seasoned at breathing new life into familiar tropes as the 47-year-old Massachusetts-based musician. The burn? *You can have him / I hope you have fun / I guess wife number three could be the one.* "Old Men Young Women" opens with that zinger, wryly tearing down ageist patriarchal values.

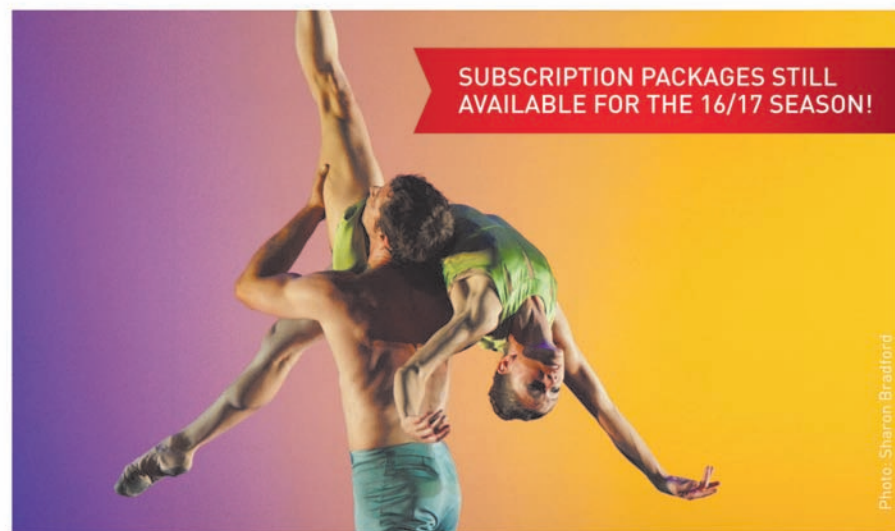
On *The Bird & the Rifle*, McKenna's poeticism endures throughout all 10 tracks, while Dave Cobb's rustic production is appropriately lean, letting her gentle Southern drawl guide her engaging narratives, as it should. (McKenna's writing chops are, in fact, Grammy-certified; she recently won the coveted award for co-writing Little Big Town's "Girl Crush"). On "Giving Up On Your Hometown," McKenna depicts a picturesque scene of childhood nostalgia, while "We Were Cool" recalls young love and cruising

around in an old car listening to Duran Duran, with all the hindsight of a grown adult. The album's opening track, "Wreck You," is a brutally honest portrait of a relationship gone awry, and that title track — oh, it's a stunner. During the song, McKenna draws on metaphors to tell the tale of a dreamer seeking to set herself free from her husband's oppressive ways. Like the bird McKenna sings about, her voice flutters. It's beautiful. Her singing, that song, this album.

Four stars.

Tegan and Sara, *Love You to Death*. If you're still lamenting the loss of Tegan and Sara's grunge-y, string-strumming past (RIP guitars), it might be time to move on. Because have you heard *Love You to Death*? It's the next obvious step in the gay sisters' glossy pop career, wherein — after 2013's *Heartthrob*, their full-on pop initiation — they continue to fulfill their childhood music fantasies to become, to some extent, the boombox pop icons they admired as kids. Buoyant synths. Throbbing basslines. Deep

■ TEGAN Page 23



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L+S books

PYT: Pretty, young, troubled

The sad parallel lives — and close personal friendship — of Michael Jackson and Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth and Michael by Donald Bogle (Atria 2016) \$26; 392 pp.

Almost from the moment she was born, Elizabeth Taylor's life was, as Donald Bogle relates, "like something of a fairy tale." She was a beautiful child who grew up to be a beautiful young woman with a mother who made it her mission to ensure that Elizabeth was a star. Sara Taylor enrolled her daughter in all the best classes and was ever on the lookout for opportunity; in 1939, that insistence on fame grew when the family moved to California. Two years later, as a result of two conversations her father had with influential Hollywood star-makers, Elizabeth, not quite 10 years old, was invited to try out for *Lassie Come Home*.

She got the part. Her mother got her wish.

Though Elizabeth Taylor's later life was filled with stardust, it wasn't storybook-happy, as we all know. She would battle various issues throughout the years; so would another star born halfway across the country at about the same time Elizabeth was dealing with the death of her second husband.

Michael Jackson, the eighth of ten children, grew up in a family that didn't have much except themselves — and his father, Joe, insisted that it remain that way. The Jackson children often were isolated, because Joe — who wanted fame for his singing-and-dancing sons — demanded that they rehearse constantly. There was little time for anything except practice. But for Michael, practice led to stardom.

It was another star, Katharine Hepburn, who was once surprised by Michael's audacity: eager to meet the favorite actors of his childhood, he asked Hepburn to introduce him to Greta Garbo. She declined. And then Michael asked to meet Elizabeth Taylor.

Right there, says Bogle, is the early beginning of a friendship that many called "flat-out weird," but that really *does* make sense. As Bogle shows in *Elizabeth and Michael*, few other celebrities had so much in common.

If that was the only focus, though, this would be a pretty thin book. Instead, Bogle's story moves in puddle-like circles around his subjects,



Author Donald Bogle casts the similarities that drew the King of Pop and the Queen of Hollywood together as a love story.

and through their lives: by knowing the people who raised and influenced them, we can trace the compassion that an older Taylor possessed and we see how Jackson built his empire, detail by detail. Bogle also gives readers a vivid sense of the time in which his narrative takes place which, combined with layered anecdotes and the parallels he draws between Taylor's and Jackson's lives, makes for an easy, entertaining read.

Certainly, this is book is a fan's dream ... but it's also one that pop-culture followers will relish. And if that's the kind of book you want now, then *Elizabeth and Michael* is what you need to get you.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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Murder afoot!

'Death' is something to sing about (again); Agatha takes us deeping into 'The Hollow;' and going Down Under at Theatre Too with 'The Sum of Us'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Scott A. Eckert is certainly one of North Texas' most peripatetic theater practitioners. He's often seen (or more likely, heard) onstage as a musical director and keyboardist, though has been known to act and even serve as playwright, composer and director. He tackles those last three chores in his new original musical *Death The Musical II: Death Takes a Harmony*. A loose follow-up (natch) to *Death The Musical*, it's a homespun shaggy dog mystery set in the wilds of BFE, Oklahoma. Into this sleep redneck berg pops Detective Inspector Harman (Chuck E. Moore), a British policeman ostensibly on vacation but actually investigating a series of seemingly unrelated "accidental" deaths by the residents. Most of the victims are gun-wielding good ol' boys who shoot firecrackers off their heads and negligently pole-dance themselves to an early grave. Is it Darwinism at work, or something more insidious?

Death II, presented at dinner-theater staple Pocket Sandwich Theatre, maintains the venue's reputation for audience-friendly light entertainment, but Eckert's smarts and wit bleed through all the camp. There are droll references to Shakespeare, hilarious asides (stingingly delivered by the wonderfully deadpan Moore) and gentle digs at Okie sumbitches. (One gay redneck, for instance, doesn't even know he's gay until his

boyfriend explains it to him.) As a director, there are dead spots — slow scene transitions, flat stagings), but what holds the show together is Eckert's score. From the complex lyrics to the beautiful music (the ballad "The Story of My Life" is hands-down brilliant songwriting), *Death II* is a jaunty meta-mystery — comic, campy and accomplished.

Up in Plano, another three-act mystery is playing out in more a more conventional setting. Agatha Christie's *The Hollow* is set in the drawing room of a remote English manor, where half a dozen relatives and a few guests have gathered for a weekend of hunting, tea... and murder! It's delicious melodrama, as only Christie can construct. Everyone's a suspect as the inbred Angkatells connive and reveal dark secrets, all of which could justify why someone shot an obnoxious dead on the patio. (We see the murder, and still don't know whodunit.)

This is Theatre Britain's third production of a Christie classic in as many years, and being less known that *And Then There Were None* and *The Mousetrap*, it's likely to keep more watchers guessing, although the denouement is also less satisfying than those others. Still, there are some performances to relish in this staging, including Cindy Beall as the absent-minded (but more-devious-than-she-looks) hostess; Byron Holder as the elegantly savvy detective; Natalie Johnson, swooshing through her scenes as the glamorous

ON THE BOARDS

THE SUM OF US at **Theatre Too**,
2900 Routh St. Through Sept. 25.
Theatre3Dallas.com.

DEATH THE MUSICAL II at **Pocket Sandwich Theatre**, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Sept. 25. PocketSandwich.com.

THE HOLLOW at **Cox Playhouse**, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Sept. 25. Theatre-Britain.com.

A gay son (Blake Lee) and his intrusive dad (Randy Pearlman) manage co-habiting in the comedy-drama 'The Sum of Us.' (Photo courtesy Linda Harrison)

starlet Veronica Craye; and Walt Threlkeld, whose spot-on accent as Gudgeon makes you wonder if the butler did it.

The accents are more Down Under than Downton in *The Sum of Us*, an Aussie play now at Theatre Too. It's the 1990s, and Harry (Randy Pearlman) is a generously accepting dad of a gay 24-year-old son, Jeff (Blake Lee). But having your live-in dad OK with your sexual orientation is as much blessing as curse for Jeff, who has to endure having his make-out sessions with new beau Greg (Michael Brannigan) interrupted by Pops. Parents are embarrassments to the children, even when the children aren't embarrassments to their parents.

The Sum of Us is an uneven and occasionally frustrating play. What was edgy for 1990 feels a little more dated now, though neither does it play out like period piece. What's most confounding is its structure: Harry and Jeff alternately serve as narrators, with long, rambling

soliloquies that sometimes bring the action to a screeching halt just as the momentum has built up. That's especially true in the often outrageously funny (and frequently sexy) comic scenes. But the playwright, David Stevens, can't decide if he's written a comedy, a dramedy, a melodrama or an outright tragedy, and the pieces fit awkwardly together.

That's no fault of the cast, who are uniformly excellent. Lee has a bravura openness in his stage persona, bigger than life and windblown in its unpredictability. Pearlman rides the crests of the play expertly. Brannigan, in his professional stage debut, nails the accent and the discomfort of the still-closeted Greg. Mark C. Guerra makes smart use of the downstairs black box, but even he can't help the stifling heat that pervades a two-and-a-half hour play sans air conditioning. Authenticity is welcome in theater, but they did not need to recreate the Outback in a basement.

■ **TEGAN**, From Page 19

'80s. If Amy Grant was recording a pop album in 2016, this might be it.

That's only a slightly weird observation, though also a compliment — remember Grant's own '90s pop-crossover *Heart in Motion*? So much of *Love You to Death* is, like that album, served sunny side up, romping through pop pleasures like the invigorating, drum-happy "Faint of Heart" and "BWU," a standout track that merges a thoughtful marriage-centric commentary with a punchy and distinctly queer chorus. Leaning heavily on keyboard for downer ditty "100x" is a nice touch — it's appropriately minimalistic, a quiet moment of reflection during an otherwise spirited outing. The song might be underwritten, even slightly amateurish considering their impressive catalog of more intricate compositions, but clearly the twins are embracing the simple



Fantasia's evolution over the last decade has been met with Grammy nominations and critical acclaim, and she's still taking charge of her artistry. Here, she bridges her old-school roots with a contemporary zest that's in full bloom on the deep blues of "Sleeping With the One I Love," "Ugly," a welcome country detour, and the vintage, Patti LaBelle-esque ballad "When I Met You." Prepare to be inspired all over again. **Three stars.**

Michael Blume, *When I Get It Right*. Close your eyes and imagine a world in which Sam Smith's songs are as impressive as his voice. Or just listen to Michael Blume, a New Jersey native who, because he's not run by a major-label machine (don't be surprised if that changes by the time you read this), can nonchalantly mention going down on a guy during an impressive rap break on "Relationships." When he's not rousing with his rhymes, Blume is a blue-eyed soul treasure singing passionately about queer issues and civil rights. The truth is, if there's any justice in this fickle music industry, both he and his intoxicating debut EP will reach Smith-level success sooner rather than later. **Three and a half stars.**

—Chris Azzopardi



pleasures of pop music. It's perfectly OK if we do, too. **Two and a half stars.**

Fantasia, *The Definition Of...* It's been 12 years since Fantasia Barrino gave us eternal life as she sobbed her way through "I Believe" after winning the third season of *American Idol*. Those tears were the tears of a dream being realized. The 32-year-old singer is still living that dream on *The Definition Of...*, her reflective fifth album.

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Thursday 09.15
— **Sunday 09.25**

TeCo's gay play fest starts

Both TeCo Theatrical Productions and Uptown Players are host gay Pride play fests this month, with TeCo getting started a day early with its lineup of six short (under 20 minutes) queer-themed plays. Audiences get to vote on their favorites, and first, second and third-place prizes will be awarded. Pictured is one of the entries, *Copeville* by local playwright Addison DeWitt, based on a true story about a lesbian in a small Texas town who learns about the Native American legend of the Two Spirits and then begins to make sense of her life.

DEETS: Bishop Arts Theatre, 215 S. Tyler St. \$18–\$22. BishopArtsTheatre.org.

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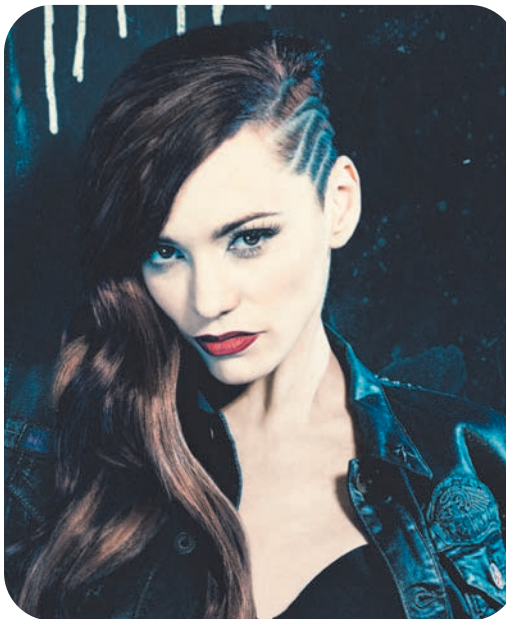
best bets

Saturday 09.10 —
Sunday 09.18

'Jesus Christ Superstar' skips Calvary, heads right into Fort Worth

Jesus Christ Superstar really did help change the shape of modern musical theater. It was one of the first rock operas, one to pick an otherwise unlikely topic and it introduced audiences to the team of Webber and Rice, who would define a style of musical for generations. Casa Manana presents this new version, with features as King Herod B.J. Cleveland, who — despite working harder and wider than James Brown — has not been on the Casa stages in 22 years. Welcome back, Beej!

DEETS: Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave. Fort Worth. CasaManana.org.



Friday 09.16

8th annual Red Party features Pussycat Doll Jessica Sutta

You know it's officially Dallas Pride Weekend when the Red Party kicks off on Friday. This year's event, hosted by Raquel Blake, features a performance from former Pussycat Doll J Sutta. The event is a fundraiser for Legacy Counseling Center, so you can dance your booty off and do some good for Dallas' community.

DEETS: Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. Eventbrite.com.



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calendar highlights

Undermain Theatre launched a trilogy of plays, produced over the next three seasons, about life in Mexico.



ARTSWEEK 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. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

Camelot. Season premiere production from Lyric Stage is Lerner and Loewe's tuneful, colorful telling of the Arthurian Legend. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Sept. 9-18. LyricStage.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.

Bootycandy. Robert O'Hara's series of scenes, all connected by the theme of being black and gay in America. *Final weekend.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.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. *Reviewed this week.* Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through 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. *Final weekend.* Ochre House Theater, 285 Exposition Ave. OchreHouseTheater.org.

The Hollow. An Agatha Christie mystery thriller, set in a spooky estate. *Reviewed this week.* Cox Building Playhouse, 11517 H Ave., Plano. Through Sept. 25. Theatre-Britain.com.

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.

Jesus Christ Superstar. The Webber and Rice rock opera. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Sept. 10-18. CasaManana.org.

The Sum of Us. A gay son lives with his accepting father ... but the father's girlfriend is not as open-minded. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Sept. 25. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Edward Albee's searing American classic, a raucous night with an embattled husband and wife working out their demons. Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Sept. 18. OnstageInBedford.com.

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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.

Jack Evans. Pop art from the late Dallas icon will be on display for two nights. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Sept. 9–10, 6–8 p.m. ilumeGallerie.com.

DIGS

Texas Home and Garden Show. Three-day expo of all things related to decorating and gardening in Texas. Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. Sept. 9–11. TexasHomesAndGarden.com.

FRIDAY 09.09

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour. Monthly gay mixer. Sushi Zushi, 3636 McKinney Ave. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 09.10

COMMUNITY

Community Cast Party. Annual fundraiser and party for WaterTower Theatre, featuring Denise Lee performing

her one-woman cabaret show, food from local restaurants and more. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. 7–11 p.m. \$50. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

MONDAY 09.12

SEMINAR

Adult Playwrighting. Local acclaimed gay playwright Jonathan Norton (*Mississippi Goddam*) offers his insights into the skills of playwrighting to those interested in theater arts. Offered through the DTC's education outreach series. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. 6:30–8:30 p.m. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

TUESDAY 09.13

FILM

Touch of Evil. Director Orson Welles' final true masterpiece feature film (his later documentary *F for Fake* capped his career), this glorious 1958 thriller is seen by many as the last of the great film noir classics (until the genre was reinvented as neo-noir by *Chinatown*, *The Long Goodbye* and more in the 1970s). Don't be late — the opening tracking shot is one of the most magnificent flourishes in all cinema. 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.

WEDNESDAY 09.14

THEATER

So go the ghosts of mexico, part one — a brave woman in mexico. Dallas premiere of a trilogy of plays

from author Matthew Paul Olmos, this one involved a young woman in Mexico who agrees to become the local police chief when no one else will take the job. Undermain Theatre, 3400 Main St. Sept. 14–Oct. 8. Undermain.org.

THURSDAY 09.15

THEATER

Third Annual PlayPride Competition Festival. A series of six short plays on gay themes, with audiences voting on the winner. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 Tyler St. Through Sept. 25. BishopArtsTheatre.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 09.16

CONCERTS

Martina McBride. The country singer performs. Verizon Theatre, 100 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 7 p.m. Verizon.TheaterAtGrandPrairie.com.

FUNDRAISER

Turtle Creek Chorale: After Dark. A "drinks, divas and desserts" party and fundraiser for the Turtle Creek

Chorale, held at Trinity Groves. 3015 Gulden St. 8–11 pm. \$75. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

COMMUNITY

Red Party. J Sutta performs at this 8th annual fundraiser for Legacy Counseling Center. Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. 8–11 p.m.

THEATER

Dallas Pride Performing Arts Festival. Fifth annual play festival. Presented by Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Sept. 16–24. UptownPlayers.org.

this week's solution

B	A	J	A	S	P	E	C	D	A	R	T	
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Girl on Girls

Jenny Block doubles down on the games people play when dating

It sounds really simple. And it is. And it isn't. So many people wonder why they can't meet someone great — someone smart and sweet and honest and funny and kind who they're attracted to. I have a philosophy about that.

It's all the games.

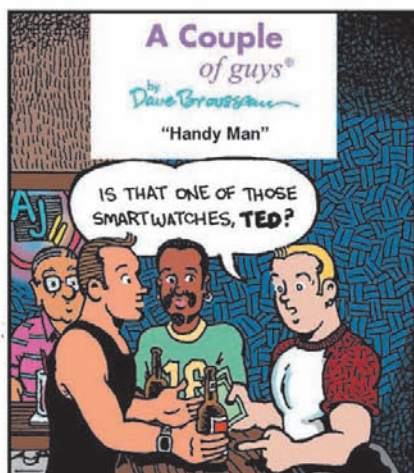
The thing is, even people who don't *think* they're playing games... are playing games. How do I know? Because I used to do it.

I'm not talking about anything devious — lying or playing people against each other. I'm not talking about pretending to be a totally different person. I'm talking about the games that most of us have learned

to play that are likely the very things that are keeping us from finding the love and partnership for which we long.

Game No. 1: Mirroring. You meet someone and you find yourself saying, "Me too!" far too often. Sure, you do go to clubs occasionally. Yes, you have been to a raw food restaurant once. And, fine, you know a couple of lyrics from *Annie*. But emphatically claiming, "Me too!" to the possible love interest who spends every weekend on Oak Lawn, every other night at Be Raw, and all season at Dallas Theater Center is not the same as your monthly early night at the Round-Up, occasional take-out sushi and playing an orphan in your third grade musical. Be yourself. Your whole self. Who cares if it's not who you imagine this person would fall for? What's the point if you don't actually have all the things in common that you claim to? Even if being honest can be embarrassing, better to get together based on the truth now than to break up because of all of the fibbing later.

Game No. 2: Posing. Even if it's not about things



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the other person is into, recreating yourself in the image of what you think that person wants in a partner will get you in the same trouble as mirroring. Saying you love to take care of the house and hate to watch TV and run 25 miles a day is not a good idea when you're more of a "let the dishes lie where they may, hit the sofa after work, don't own running shoes" kind of person. You might be able to keep it up for a while. But at some point, the jig will be up ... and then what? You'll end up living a life you have no interest in; becoming resentful that your partner wants you to be someone you're not (even though that's what you put forth); and/or ending up with yet another break-up on your hands.

Game No. 3: Acting against your instincts. Call it intuition, desire, feelings, whatever you like. Too many of us think we don't know what is best for us. We imagine ourselves too emotional, too available, too open, too whatever. We feel as if we have to act more aloof than our heart requests because otherwise no one will want us. The truth is that anyone who wants you more because you want them less is playing games, too. When you act against your feelings, you set yourself up for a relationship that may well fail you in terms of your heart's desires. If you are actually emotional and mushy and open to love and want a partner who honors and respects that, you are unlikely to find it in someone who was attracted to your stance of indifference.

Starting to see a pattern here? The truth is that all three of these — and so many of the other games we play — are basically about lying about who we are, or at least hiding it, in an effort to be who you imagine someone wanting. This behavior almost always results in disappointment — in yourself for lying and/or not living up to who you claimed you were and in your partner for not accepting who you are de-

spite the fact that you basically sold the other person a false bill of goods.

When I swiped right on my now-fiancé and we first started talking, I was brutally honest. So honest that we joke about it now. I was insanely clear about what I did and did not want; about the kinds of things I liked and did not like; and about who I was (especially the parts that I imagined hard to put up with). I texted and called when I wanted to and as much as I wanted to. I asked when we could meet very soon after we matched because, well, I wanted to. I figured if she didn't, she likely wasn't the girl for me.

I even said, "I think I'm falling in love with you," the second weekend we spent together. She still teases me about it. But I also know how much my exposing myself in such a raw way meant to her then and continues to mean to her.

It wasn't easy. I had become so used to mirroring and posing and acting how I thought I was "supposed to," that being real felt, well, fake. But it paid off. Big. Once we got serious, I didn't have to hide the sweets or the reruns of *Castle* that I have probably have unhealthy attachments to. I didn't have to participate in activities that were completely out of my wheelhouse. I didn't have to refrain from being the mushy, teary, moody, anxious, nerdy, goofy girl who loves couture and to dance — but only to the music to music that I dig.

The point is, we're all weird and the person who matches your weird is out there. I promise. But you'll only find that special weirdo if you're willing to let your true weird out to play.

Jenny Block is the author of *The Ultimate Guide to Solo Sex* by Jenny Block, foreword by Betty Dodson.

Have a question about sex you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.



Family **PRIDE** Zone

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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 staff our entrance. Park entrance fees are \$10 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

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

For more info, visit: dallaspride.org

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



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- **Club Reflection:** Jennings Street Jam headlined by Jeffrey Austin from The Voice with live music, local LGBT organizations, carnival games, food and the 2016 Condom Queen of the Parking Lot Pageant at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Discipline Corps club night on Friday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire candidate announcement and Stop the Madness Show at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Dallas Does Denim buffet B-B-Q at 7 p.m. and Big City Outlaws at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Mr. Bear & Mr. Cub Round-Up Contest at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Project Funway: Pride Edition at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. Guns & Hoses benefit for the families of fallen police officers, first responders and firefighters that serve our community at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Scotty Isaacs on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3:30 p.m. and Barefoot Hippies at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Open mic on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Drag Racers Kennedy Davenport and Jasmine Masters on Friday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Sunday Review Drag Show with Mystique Summers.

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Cedar Springs Wine Walk

Photos by Chad Mantooth and Terry Walker



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Wine Walk at Out of the Closet.



Wine Walk at the Round-Up Saloon.



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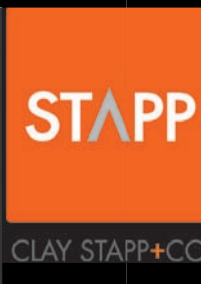
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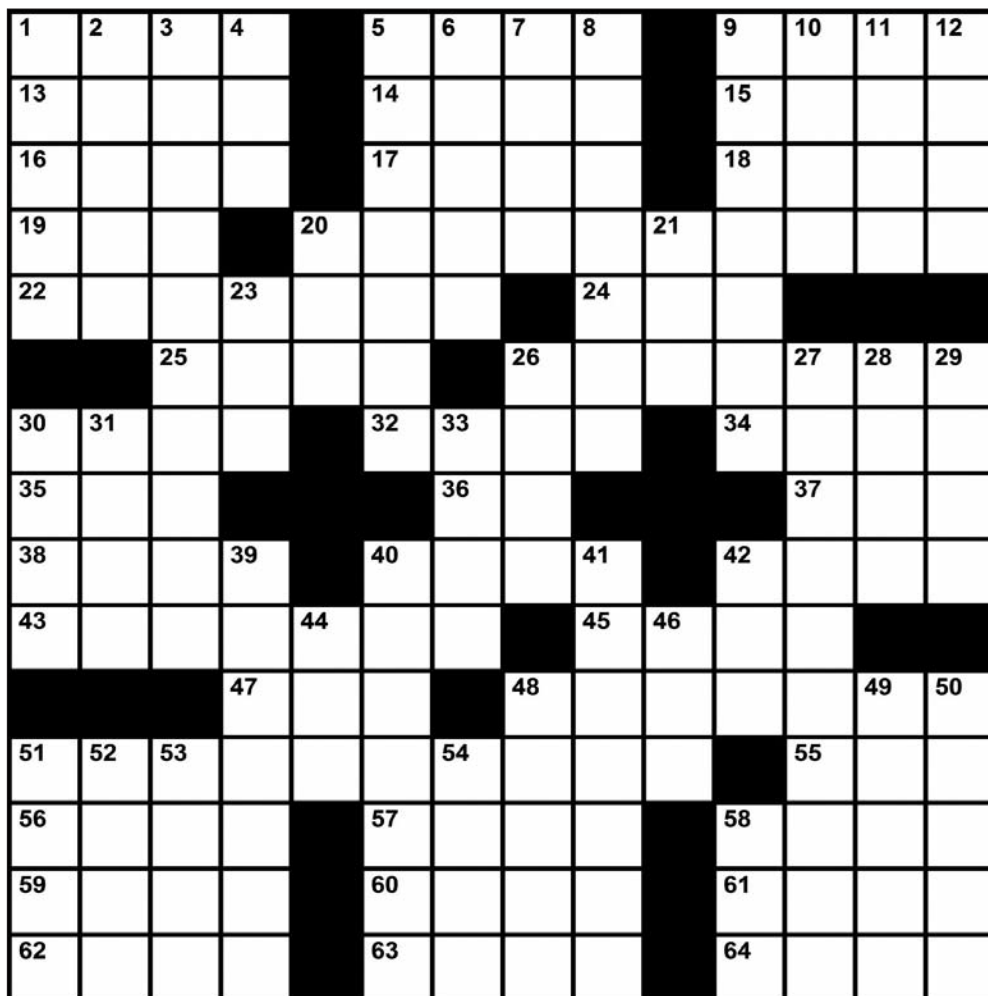
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q-puzzle



Appropriate Bible Verse

Solution on page 26

Across

- 1 Lorca's lower
- 5 Kind of sheet
- 9 Come quickly
- 13 Rupert Everett's ____ *Life*
- 14 2012 Ben Affleck movie
- 15 Penetrating reed
- 16 Verdi slave girl
- 17 One with a long tongue
- 18 Cutlass or 98, for short
- 19 Feeling of hitting rock bottom
- 20 Start of a movie in which actor Will played gay but did not feel free to do a film kiss
- 22 Where Hamlet told Ophelia to get herself
- 24 "____ *Spartacus!*"
- 25 It comes before sex and marriage
- 26 "Jailhouse Rock" singers?
- 30 Mary's little pet
- 32 Since, to J. M. Barrie
- 34 Asian cuisine
- 35 Will Smith title role
- 36 More of the movie
- 37 Suffix for southeast
- 38 Guitarist Townshend
- 40 "A time to embrace and a time to refrain ____ embracing" (Ecclesiastes 3:5)

- 42 Stare at
- 43 Dickhead
- 45 Hathaway of *Brokeback Mountain*
- 47 Heston in a chariot
- 48 *War Requiem* composer Benjamin
- 51 End of the movie
- 55 Dr. of the rap world
- 56 Straight
- 57 Words in many disco names
- 58 Brought forth fruit
- 59 Undercover crack investigator
- 60 Alfred Douglas' school
- 61 Got a little behind
- 62 You, to the Amish
- 63 Groups of games, to Navratilova
- 64 *Showboat* cap'n

Down

- 1 Beefcake muscles
- 2 Scrabble quintet of one-pointers
- 3 Actor son of Will
- 4 Chicken-king link
- 5 Poems of Samuel Butler, e.g.
- 6 Official substitute
- 7 "Omigosh!"
- 8 Cough med that can coldcock you
- 9 Where a welcome is trampled
- 10 Type of seaman
- 11 Straddled a stallion

- 12 Madonna's *Dick Tracy* character
- 20 Sch. for Rev. Spahr
- 21 Looker's leg
- 23 Snatch
- 26 The skinny
- 27 TV series in which 3-Down has done a film kiss
- 28 Dixie Chicks' "Goodbye ____"
- 29 Triangle ratio
- 30 Drinks like a pussycat
- 31 "*Losing My Religion*" extra Mapa
- 33 Dick of *Bewitched*
- 39 Use Cialis, e.g.
- 40 Over a very long time
- 41 Leaves behind
- 42 Neighbor of Minn.
- 44 Wilder's ____ *Town*
- 46 Anais who went both ways
- 48 Homophobe, for one
- 49 Screwed up
- 50 Hard up
- 51 Tickled pink
- 52 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You ____"
- 53 Debussy's daddy
- 54 Haul around
- 58 Drag queen's stole, often

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