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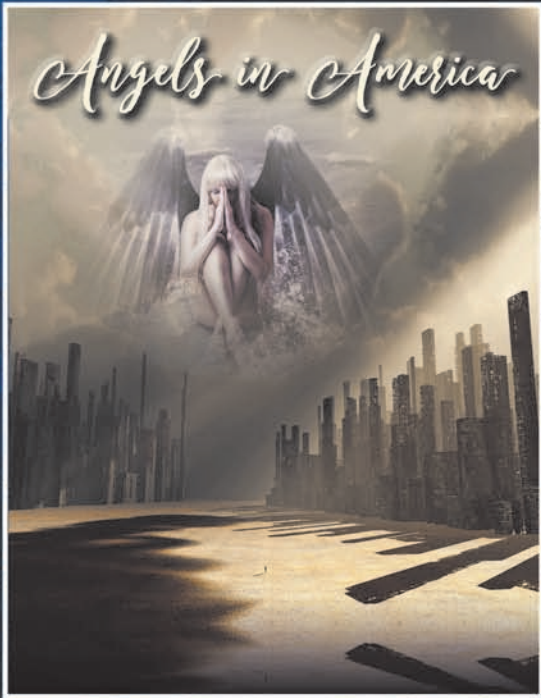


'It started with a wish'

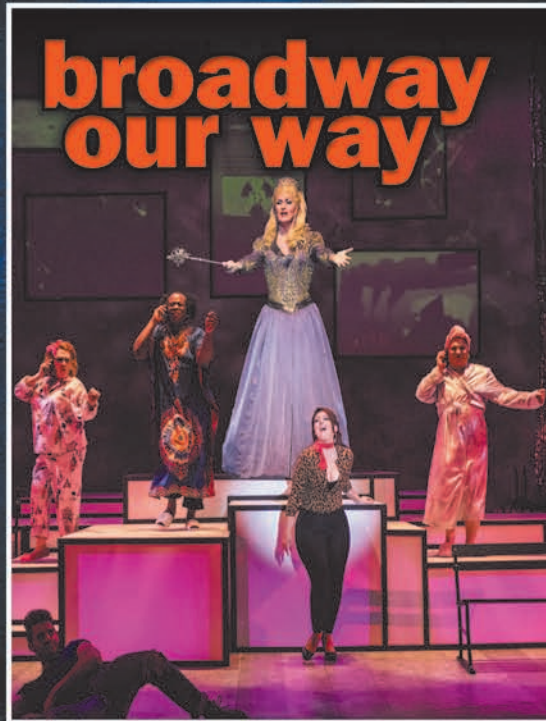
New nonprofit hopes to help the chronically ill
check off items on their bucket lists

by Tammye Nash, Page 8

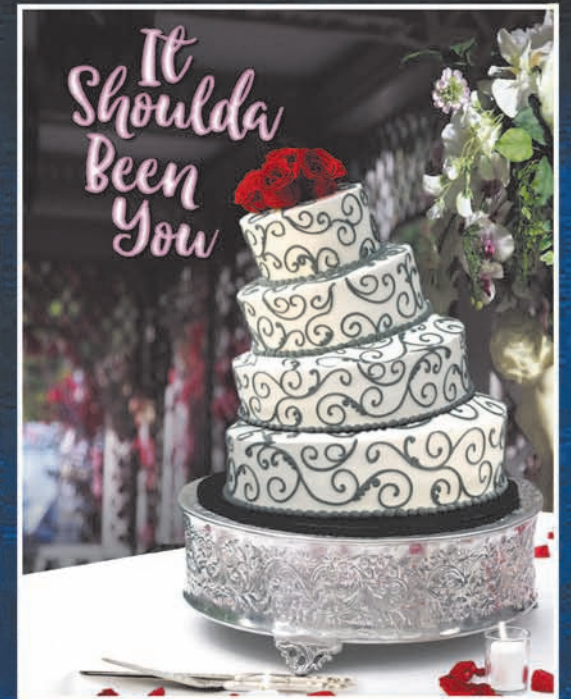
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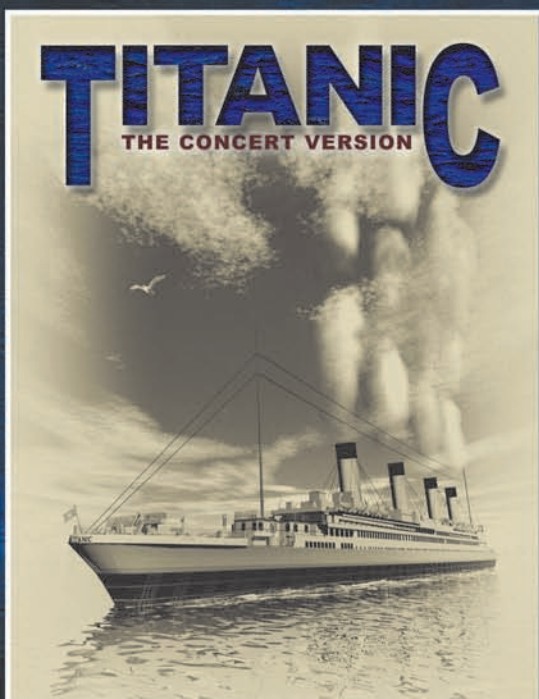


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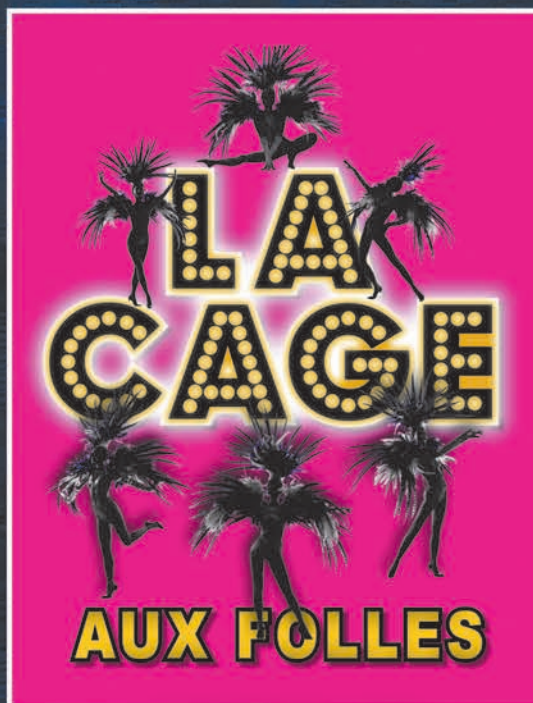


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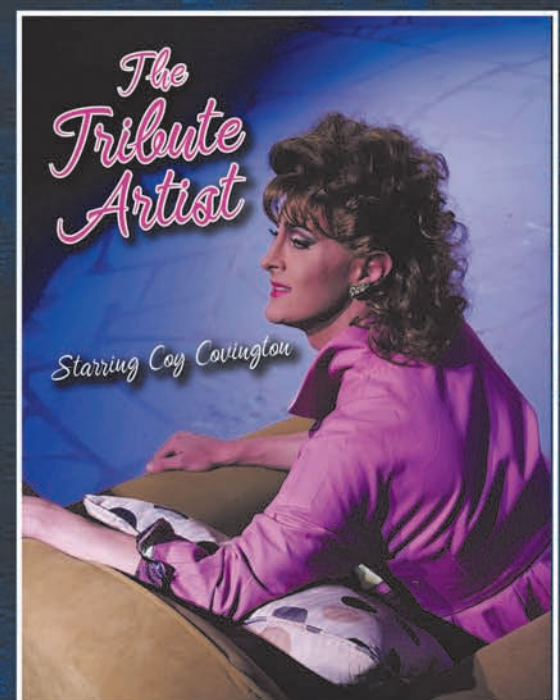
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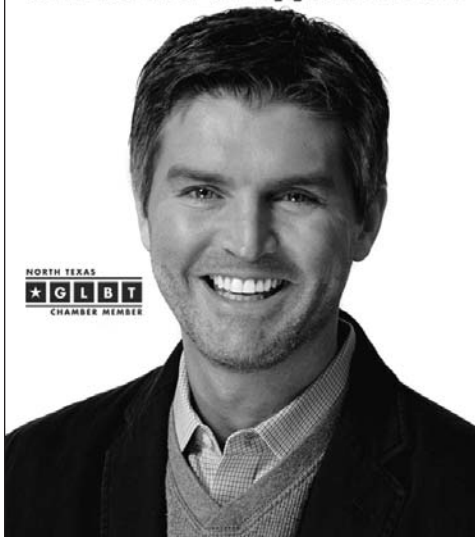
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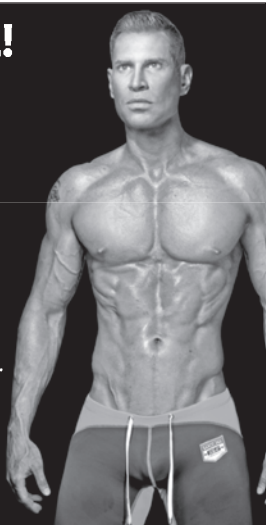
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**Cassie and her 'Freaks' make
Christmas merrier for
Sam Houston students**

Let's hear it for Cassie Nova and her cast of fellow freaks who raised more than \$7,000 for the students of Sam Houston Elementary School with the second annual "Cassie's Freakmas Christmas Show" on Monday night, Dec. 5, at JR.'s Bar and Grill.

The record-setting total happened thanks to donations from Caven customers and local businesses — including a \$5,000 check from Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban to cap off the evening.

Caven Enterprises, JR.'s parent company, adopted Sam Houston Elementary School, the poorest school in the Dallas Independent School District, more than 20 years ago. During those 20-plus years, Caven and its employees have been able, thanks to the generosity of the LGBT community and businesses who donate, to provide money to help with the school's fall and spring carnivals, the Reading is Fundamental program, field trips and the annual Secret Santa program.

Thanks to the Caven Secret Santas, each child at Sam Houston Elementary receives a gift of their choosing, a goody bag full of fresh fruit and other snacks and some special surprises. The program also brings Santa in to visit each class, and it provides every teacher and faculty member with a gift card, too.

— Tammye Nash

**Turtle Creek Chorale
hires Dennis Coleman**

Former Equality Texas Executive Director Dennis Coleman joins the staff of the Turtle Creek Chorale as its development director on Dec. 16.

Coleman is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. He has been a development and fundraising professional for more than 25 years, specializing in cultivation of new revenue sources.

For the last nearly four years, Coleman has been building a development office at Paul Quinn College in Dallas. He has also worked as Senior Consultant with The Non-Profit Group providing fundraising, grant writing and research to non-profit organizations.

Previously, Coleman was executive director of Equality Texas and the Equality Texas Foundation, state's LGBT lobbying and advocacy group.

From 2003-2010, he worked as regional director in charge of fundraising for the Dallas regional office of Lambda Legal Defense and Education expanding the fundraising, donor cultivation and planned giving efforts for that organization in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico and Colorado.

He has been with his partner Gregory Pynes for 15 years.

The Turtle Creek Chorale's Christmas show, A Not So Silent Night, runs Dec. 8-11 at City Performance Hall.

— David Taffet

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Contact **RichardsonHumaneSociety.org** if you can help foster, adopt or just have questions about Big Girl. Like RHS on Facebook to help get the word out for this wonderful dog.



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THE GAY AGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guests are Marge Petty and Daniel Bouton from Out2Enroll and will talk about healthcare options under the Affordable Care Act; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

DECEMBER

• **Through Dec. 11: A Not So Silent Night**
The Turtle Creek Chorale presents its annual

Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com. A shortened children's Saturday matinee requires no tickets.

• Dec. 9: High Tech Happy Hour

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Komali, 4152 Cole Ave. Suite 106.

• Dec. 9: Pandora's Box: A Hard Candy Christmas

Holiday party and poetry reading from 8-10 p.m. at Pandora's Box, 3000 Commerce St.

• Dec. 9: An Evening of Jazz and Spoken Word

Originally planned "under the stars," but moved indoors. North Oak Cliff Branch Library, 302 W. 10th St.

• Dec. 10: Super Hero Ball

Holiday party from 7-10 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

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"Make Room"
7:15 pm PULSE,
Rev. Dr. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas

SATURDAY 12/17
CoH Music Ministry
Christmas Concert
7 pm Sanctuary FREE

• **Dec. 10: Women's Alliance for Leadership**

Award recipients include Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant, the first couple to legally marry in Texas and marriage equality plaintiffs Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman from 6-9 p.m. at the Doubletree Austin-University, 1617 N. Interstate-35, Austin. \$55.

• **Dec. 10: 20th anniversary Oak Lawn Branch**

The Oak Lawn Branch Library celebrates its 20th anniversary at its current location from 2-4 p.m. in the auditorium, Oak Lawn Branch, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 10: Coffee with Cops**

Dallas Police Department's Community Affairs Division invites the public to have coffee with cops at McDonalds from 9-11 a.m. at 5403 Ross Ave., 10320 Lake June, 4439 Lemmon Ave., 11217 Garland Road, 7007 W. Wheatland Road and 14770 Preston Road.

• **Dec. 10: The Salvation Sisters**

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be ringing bells and raising money for Legacy from 8 p.m.-midnight on Cedar Springs Road at Throckmorton St.

• **Dec. 11: Christmas with Charity America**

Mr. and Miss Charity America host a show to benefit the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 11: Christmas Stocking Auction**

The annual Christmas Stocking Auction benefits Legacy Counseling Center from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Preview of baskets and stockings in the Parlor on Dec. 10.

• **Dec. 12: Charitable Mondays**

A portion of sales will go to Shared Housing Center. Tell server you are participating from 3-7 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Klyde Warren Park.

• **Dec. 13: East Texas PFLAG Holiday Social**

Food, fun and socializing from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N Broadway Ave, Tyler.

• **Dec. 14: GALA Holiday Party**

North Texas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) holds its Holiday Party from 6-10 p.m. at Event 1013, 1013 E. 15th St. in Plano. Absolut Vodka is the liquor sponsor for the party which will include food, drinks, a raffle and a silent auction.

• **Dec. 16-17: Nearly Naked Nutcracker**

Broads and Panties Burlesque presents *The Nearly Naked Nutcracker* benefiting Trans-cendence and The Battered Women's Foundation at 9 p.m. at Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., Suite 120. Tickets at NearlyNakedNutcracker.com.

• **Dec. 19: Charitable Mondays**

A portion of sales will go to Shared Housing Center. Tell server you are participating from 3-7 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Klyde Warren Park.

• **Dec. 21: A Drag Queen Christmas**

Bib the Drag Queen, Trixie Mattel and more at 9 p.m. at House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St.

• **Dec. 24: Chinese food and a movie**

Congregation Beth El Binah has a traditional Jewish Christmas Eve dinner at 4:30 p.m. at Royal China, 6025 Royal Lane.

• **Dec. 25: Christmas**

• **Dec. 26: Charitable Mondays**

A portion of sales will go to Shared Housing Center. Tell server you are participating from 3-7 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Klyde Warren Park.

• **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

Find your party and party safely.

• **Dec. 31: Once in a Blue Moon dance**

New Year's Eve party for women from 7 p.m.-midnight at DanceMasters Ballroom located at 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. \$25.

• **Dec. 31: Masques at Midnight**

Formal gala and awards evening hosted by Tarrant County Pride from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Drive, Fort Worth.

JANUARY

• **Happy New Year**

• **Jan. 12: Little Black Dress Party**

The FashionCited preview party that benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 7-9:30 p.m. at Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave.

• **Jan. 17: Stonewall elections**

Stonewall officer elections at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

• **Jan 20: Protest at the Inauguration**

Protest on Inauguration Day Against War, Racism and Inequality from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Freedom Plaza, 14th St NW & Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.



The annual Christmas Stocking Auction benefiting Legacy Counseling Center takes place from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Round-Up Saloon on Sunday, Dec. 11. Preview the auction baskets and stockings in the parlor on Saturday. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

• **Jan. 21: Women's March on Austin**

A sister event to the Women's March on Washington taking place in D.C. from

noon-6 p.m. at the Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.

Make a wish

Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network hopes to make a few dreams come true for some chronically ill North Texans

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

"It all started as a wish," Brian Paris said, explaining how the new nonprofit called Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network came to be.

"I was having lunch with a friend a couple of years ago, in a little café in Athens, and we were talking about what we'd do if we suddenly came into a lot of money," Paris said. And for someone who has spent most of his professional career — not to mention his volunteer time — working with or for people at or near the end of their lives, the answer was easy.

"I am a huge, huge fan of the performing arts. And since I have spent so much time working in nursing homes and hospitals and with EMS, I know there are a lot of people who, like me, have always loved the performing arts, but whose health situations keep them from being able to get out and go to the shows and events and they love," Paris said. "They still have the want to, but they just don't have the ability."

"Say *A Chorus Line* is their all-time favorite show, and all they want is to be able to go see that show live one last time — maybe to see it live for the first time, even," he continued. "They know that Dallas Summer Musicals or ATTPAC is bringing that show to town, but they can't go. Their health won't let them go. What if we could make that happen for them, so they could go? It's something that's been on my mind for years, thinking about what it would be like for them if they could get to see their favorite performer just one more time."

In April, Paris and his mother — another avid fan of the performing arts — traveled to Austin to see Holland Taylor in *Ann*, the play she wrote and performed about legendary Texas Gov. Ann Richards, at Zach Theatre. "As I sat there watching the play, I started looking around, thinking about, if we wanted to bring a patient here to see a show at this theater who was on a stretcher, who needed a nurse with them, how would we do that?" he said.

In September, when he and his mom went back to Austin, to the same theater, to see *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. The logistics of bringing a patient on a stretcher or a wheelchair to see a show at that theater were still on his mind, so Paris decided to



Mr. Charity America Marty Edwards and Miss Charity America Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco

ask. And after talking the manager, he realized, "There really are ways we can do this."

So Paris decided to put his experience with other nonprofits — like Home for the Holidays — to use and create Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, an organization focused specifically on providing chronically and terminally ill patients with a chance to check off a bucket list item by seeing

To volunteer with, to donate to or to get more information about Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, visit the organization's website at RedRibbonTexas.org or email info@RedRibbonTexas.org. Information is also available at the Charity America Facebook Page, [Facebook.com/CharityAmericaTX](https://www.facebook.com/CharityAmericaTX). Donations can also be mailed to Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, P.O. Box 24, Malakoff, Texas 75148.

Miss Charity America **Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco** and Mr. Charity America **Marty Edwards** host the Christmas with Charity America fundraising show Sunday, Dec. 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., in the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6 p.m. Proceeds will be divided between Tucker's Gift, Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food and Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network.

one last play, or concert, or sporting event.

He applied for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and received approval in 15 days — "which is practically unheard of, to get approval that fast" — and pulled together a board of directors that includes people with experience in a variety of fields, from

entertainment to sports to logistics to law enforcement to medicine and more.

He also pulled in the Charity America organization, which puts on the Mr. and Miss Charity America pageant each fall and spends the rest of the year raising funds for other nonprofits. From now on, he said, proceeds from Charity America events will be divided between the beneficiary organizations chosen by the titleholders and the Red Ribbon Wish Network.

TRRWVN has seven voting board members (members other than Paris and Michael Champion, aka Miss Charity America Emeritus Sable Alexander, prefer to remain anonymous), with the 2017 Charity America titleholders, Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco and Marty Edwards as non-voting advisory board members. "Our two titleholders, they are the face of this organization," Paris said. "The rest of us — we don't want to draw any of the attention to ourselves. It's all about the clients we're trying to serve, the ones who may well be on their very last outing during their time here on earth, and that's where the attention needs to be."

Right now, he added, "We're all working for free to make this happen."

A percentage of proceeds from the Charity America pageant in September provided TRRWVN's first funds, Paris said, adding that the Christmas with Charity America Show set for Sunday at The Rose Room will hopefully put some more money in the bank.

"All the expenses so far have been gifted to us by very generous anonymous benefactors or have been paid out of [board members'] own pockets. We have some grant requests out to some very

generous and very diverse organizations," Paris said. "God knows what will come in, but even a \$5 check in the mail puts us closer to our goal."

Paris continued, "Dallas Summer Musicals, ATTPAC, Bass Hall — they are all bringing some amazing touring shows to North Texas in the next year. And we have so many amazing sporting teams and events here. We'd love to start giving people the opportunity to see these shows and these events."

"But it doesn't always have to be a big, expensive outing," he noted. "Somebody's wish could be something as simple as getting to go backstage at the Meyerson to how the curtains work, or at a play to see how they set the stage. Maybe they just want to see Neiman-Marcus all decorated for Christmas, or drive through Interlochen [in Arlington] to see the Christmas lights."

"What matters is being able to give someone a chance to see that show, that singer, that team that they always wanted to see. It's the best feeling in the world, watching someone's eyes light up and knowing that you helped make their wish come true."

Paris acknowledged that the new organization has some work to do to be able to start granting more complicated and expensive wishes. And he knows that there will likely be some wishes that just are possible. "But even if we can't guarantee granting someone's wish, we're going to do the legwork, make the calls — everything we can to try and make it happen," he said.

"With people with such a wide variety of experiences and backgrounds who all care so much, when you put your heads together, that's when miracles can happen," Paris said. ■

After eight years of effort, with about three weeks left to go before it's done, Resource Center needs only \$225,000 to meet its capital campaign goal.

"The capital campaign will end on Dec. 31," the agency's chief development officer, Cameron Hernholm, said this week. "We are about \$225,000 short of meeting the goal" and fully funding the construction of Resource Center's new LGBT community center on Cedar Springs Road and the remodel of the center's Simmons Foundation Health Campus on Reagan Street.

In a last-minute push to hit the goal, Hernholm said collection boxes will be available through the end of the year at the Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; at the Health Campus, 2701 Reagan St.; at Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, 4012 Cedar Springs Road, and at other participating businesses in the gayborhood.

Donations can be snail-mailed to Resource Center's offices — 5750 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, Texas 75235 — but the easiest way to donate, Hernholm said, is to visit the agency's website, MyResourceCenter.org. "If you go to the website and make your donation that way, you can even make a pledge donation that you can pay out over time," she said.

Plans originally included construction of a larger facility at the 5750 Cedar Springs location, with a price tag of about \$14 million. But the recession coupled with the rising costs of construc-

Almost there

Resource Center looking for \$225,000 to reach capital campaign goal by Dec. 31



The new LGBT Community Center opened in May. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

tion materials prompted Resource Center to reassess its plans. That led to the decision to build a not-quite-so-large new facility and remodel the facilities on Reagan Street rather than selling that property.

"When we set the original revised budget in 2013 and started construction, our goal was \$8.7 million," Hernholm said. "But of course, prices have gone up since then. In planning the remodeling at the Health Campus, we hadn't budgeted for a new roof we found out we had to have, or the new energy-efficient windows or the new [heating and AC system] we ended up needing."

Costs at the new community center went up,

too, she noted.

"All the things that have happened in the last year, here in Oak Lawn and around the country, made us even more aware of the need for security, and so we increased the security measures, which increased the cost," Hernholm explained. "Plus, there were some significant increases in the costs of the signage and construction permits the city required. And then of course, in any construction project, costs go as time goes on."

That added up, she said, to an increase of about \$586,000 in costs. "We were starting with a budget of about \$8.7 million, but we didn't just add that \$586,000 to that; we went in and cut costs in other

areas as we could. But with the increased permit costs and the additional improvements we had to make at the Health Campus, we were still a little short."

The revisions and additions put the new total goal for the capital campaign at just over \$10.3 million, and by early October, the campaign had already surpassed its original goal and was standing at just more than \$8.6 million. Nearly \$24,000 has been added to the total since then.

Resource Center's capital campaign is the largest such effort by an LGBT agency in the state of Texas and one of the largest LGBT capital campaigns in the country, Hernholm said. All donors, "whether they give \$100 or \$1 million," will be recognized on the "donor walls" at the community center and the Health Campus, she said, adding, "This really was a community effort. It's taken everybody making gifts to make this happen, and everybody who contributed deserves to be recognized."

Stressing again that the capital campaign will end on Dec. 31 no matter what, Hernholm said that Resource Center hasn't met its fundraising goal, "however much we might come up short will have to be added to the budget for next year. We can't not fix the roof at the Health Campus. We can't not have an HV/AC system; this is Texas! So we will add to next year's budget and I will have to find a way to get the money to pay for it."

But, she added, "It would be better all the way around if we can just meet that goal by Dec. 31. So if you've been waiting, for whatever reason, to donate then do it now. This is your last chance to be part of the capital campaign."

Peter A. Schulte

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- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
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What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

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- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems**, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
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You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY® is right for you.



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MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY or a similar medicine for a long time.

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about **DESCOVY®** and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY.

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCOVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.

An activist, a mentor, a friend

Fairness Fort Worth co-founder and president David Henderson, who died Dec. 3, helped his city's LGBT community find its voice

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The man that the Rev. Carol West called the conscience of Fort Worth's LGBT community has died.

David Henderson, president of Fairness Fort Worth, died Saturday, Dec. 3, of esophageal cancer.

Henderson was diagnosed with the disease, already at stage four, in August. He made the diagnosis public in early October, but remained active and engaged in working for LGBT equality until the end.

Henderson was the sponsor of the Coalition for Aging LGBT Tarrant County summit held in Fort Worth on Nov. 12. Although his health didn't allow him to attend, summit organizer Cannon Flowers said Henderson helped with all of the details and planning leading up to the event.

Earlier this year, the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce presented Henderson with its Extra Mile Award in recognition for his work with Fairness Fort Worth and his many years of service to the community. Chamber CEO Tony Vedda said, "David was like a dog with a bone, unflinching in his tenacity when advocating for the LGBT community."

Vedda said he was glad the chamber honored Henderson before he was diagnosed with cancer so that "he knew that we knew how much he did."

Henderson's activism began in 1980 when he was a student at UT Arlington, and was elected as the school's mascot. When staff in the athletic department found out he was gay, they asked him to resign.

Not only did Henderson refuse to resign, the incident prompted him to found what's now known as the GSA@UTA, the first campus LGBT alliance in Texas that was officially recognized by a school.

Henderson said he was proud that the attempt to get rid of him because he was gay resulted in the school having a LGBT organization as well as a mascot who was not only gay but now vocal about it.

"David had the most loving and gentle heart and his spirit filled the room everywhere he went and fought for social justice for all LGBTQA+ people, especially youth," Becki Clesse, president of GSA@UTA wrote in announcing Henderson's death to the group.

Before graduating, Henderson transferred to University of North Texas and promptly founded an LGBT alliance on that campus as well. He joined the board of the Dallas Gay Alliance in 1984, the year AIDS hit Texas hard, prompting DGA to form the AIDS Resource Center. Henderson managed daily operations at the storefront on Cedar Springs Road.

Henderson left Texas for about 20 years and

worked as a tax accountant. One of the couples suing for the right to marry in Massachusetts — the lawsuit that led to that state legalizing same-sex marriage in 2003 — was among his clients.

Henderson returned to Texas in 2009, shortly before the raid on the Rainbow Lounge that made headlines around the world.

In the raid, Fort Worth police accompanied Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents into the Rainbow Lounge, open for only a week at the time. Rather than just inspect the receipts behind the bar, police and agents chose to engage with patrons, becoming abusive with customers and leaving two of the customers injured. One of the two sustained permanent brain damage when he was slammed to the concrete floor and handcuffed. He was transported to JPS Hospital after collapsing outside the bar.

The raid, coming on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, prompted outrage and anger in the otherwise sleepy Fort Worth community — and around the country, and even the world. Protests began within hours.

"We gathered together some smart people," Henderson said on a video made before his GLBT Chamber award dinner, "and came up with the concept of working with some people in the city and not against them. We sat down with the police, with City Council and city management."

"He did it and he did it spectacularly," Vedda said of Henderson's efforts after the raid. "And he turned things around quickly."

That was the beginning of Fairness Fort Worth, an organization that worked for equality on a city and state level.

Within a few years, the group had given four-hour cultural competency training sessions to all of Fort Worth's more than 6,000 employees. They provided that training to Arlington's police department and parks department as well as to school districts around Tarrant County.

Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell said he worked together with Henderson to get quite a number of things accomplished, ranging from getting nondiscrimination policies in place with government agencies such as the North Texas Council of Governments and the Tollway Authority to putting in place anti-bullying policies at Uplift Education and the anti-bullying and transgender student policies in Fort Worth.

McDonnell said he and Henderson took the rivalry existing between Dallas and Fort Worth and exploited it to the advantage of the LGBT community. Before the Obergefell marriage equality decision in June 2015, Fort Worth updated its pension policy to provide equal coverage to same-sex couples. The two activists then took that to the Dallas pensions and said, "Hey, look what they have," McDonnell explained.

"As much as I miss the fellow activist, I miss the person," McDonnell said sadly. "He came to my dad's funeral. We went to see Lady Gaga together."

Before the *Obergefell* marriage equality ruling, Henderson wanted Tarrant County prepared and

ready to issue marriage licenses. So weeks ahead of the decision, he negotiated with the county's Republican district attorney and county clerk, answering any questions they had. On the day of the decision, while the Dallas County clerk was meeting with his staff until noon and the Harris County clerk was dragging his feet until late afternoon, Tarrant County was issuing licenses and marrying couples almost as soon as the Supreme Court ruling was announced.

Ten days after that decision, a Republican judge appointed Henderson as foreman of the Tarrant County Grand Jury, where he presided over more than 1,600 docket cases during his three-month term. That appointment made him the first openly-gay countywide official in Tarrant County.

"When David grabbed onto a cause, nobody was more tenacious, more dedicated or more articulate," said Jon Nelson, a co-founder and former president of Fairness Fort Worth. "Whatever he did, he was in that cause with both feet, 110 percent."

Nelson called Henderson a very impactful person when it came to helping other people. Henderson's motto was, he said, "Be the role model you wish you had growing up."

To that end, Henderson mentored four young men who had been bullied or were thrown out of their homes when their parents found out they were gay. One of the four was Alex Loesch, who met Henderson on his 15th birthday.

Loesch said he lived with his grandmother because he never had a father and his mother died when he was young. In school, he was bullied.

"Losing David is as close to losing a father as I'll ever know in my life," Loesch said. "He took me to my first gay Pride parade, even letting me march in it. He frequently took me and my best friend Zane out to dinner, bought me dress clothes and lectured us on safe sex."

Loesch said Henderson took him to get his driver's license and taught him to change a flat tire. He took him white-water rafting and attended his graduation. When Loesch was looking for a job, Henderson was his reference.

"David was there for every single milestone of my coming of age," Loesch said.

Loesch was the first young gay man Henderson took under his wing, but Henderson mentored three others as well.

"Xavier was able to grow from complete poverty and starvation, being

David Mack Henderson, the conscience of the Ft. Worth LGBT community.

shunned from family and classroom alike to being a child prodigy, starting the first GSA in his school and becoming the president for GLOW at Paschal, as well as being an outstanding violinist," Loesch said of one of the other three of what Henderson thought of as his godsons.

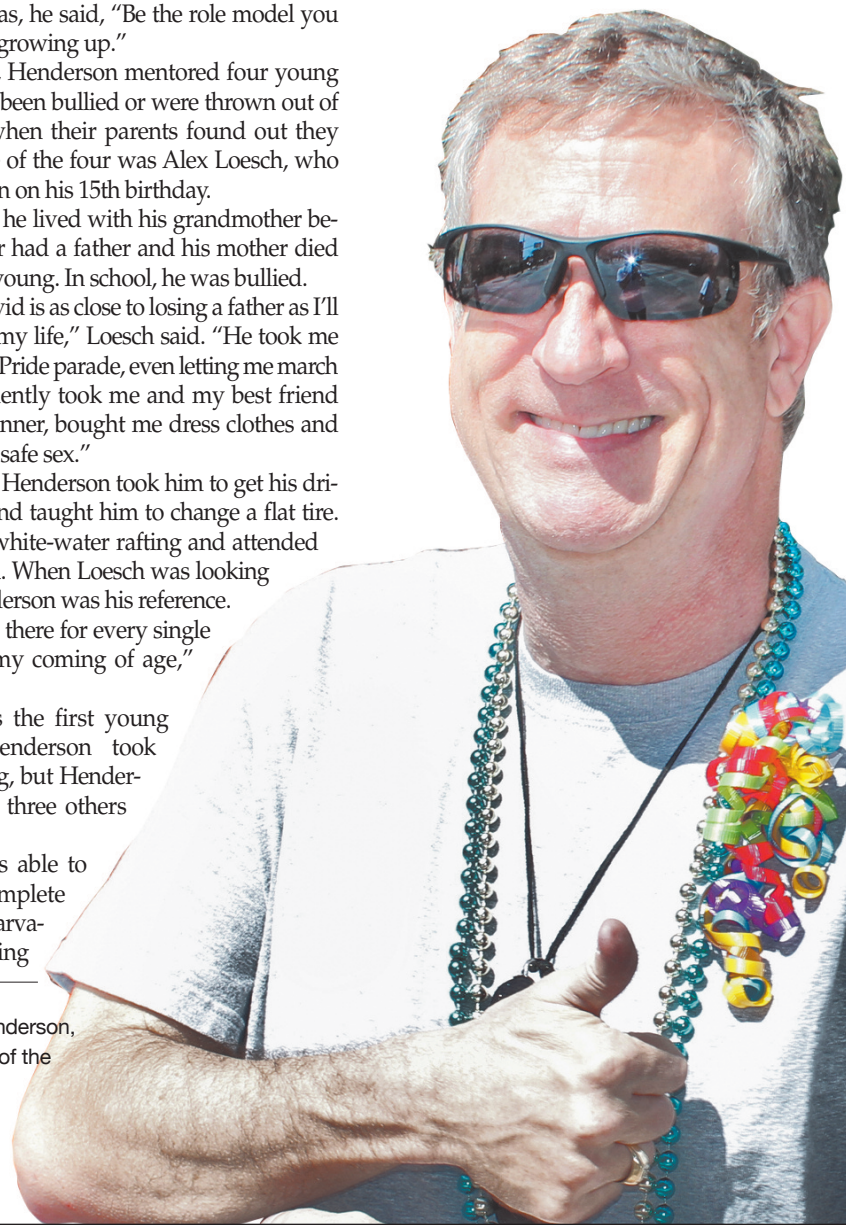
Another was Tony, who "didn't have a home to go to, let alone a school to attend," Loesch said. "But it didn't take long for him to finally graduate, find a place of his own and start life anew. And none of these lives would have been changed for the better without the help of David."

West called Henderson a mentor in every sense of the word, saying that just as Henderson's death was a tragedy for the young men he mentored, it is a tremendous loss for the entire community.

"David helped the Fort Worth community find its voice," she said. "He worked with passion. He didn't give up. He drove people crazy."

West said Henderson was realistic about his illness and knew it was terminal, and applauded the friendship he had with his mother, "who loved him for who he was." He died, West said, wrapped in a rainbow flag his mother knitted for him. ■

David Mack Henderson is survived by his mother, Dr. Janet Henderson, and the four young men he mentored and thought of as his godsons. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave, Fort Worth.





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Kindness is key, not labels

At the Salvation Army in Dallas, preaching the gospel means caring for people without discrimination

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

This holiday season, you can donate to the bell ringers in Dallas without worrying that you are funding bigotry. Because here, the Salvation Army delivers its services without discrimination.

The agency offers its services to those in need, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, a Dallas Salvation Army official guaranteed this week.

"If you identify as a woman, you will be put in a women's shelter," said Felicia Richard, program manager of the Dallas Salvation Army's domestic violence program.

The Salvation Army is a religious organization, Richard said, with a mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone.

But does that mean constant preaching?

"Preaching is not always with words, but with deeds," Richard said. "Jesus wanted us to care for people without discrimination."

The only question she has to answer, Richard said, is: Did you treat people with kindness?

"That's what we mean when we say preaching the gospel," she said.

Richard spoke about the services offered in the domestic violence shelter, but said the overnight men's shelter and women's shelter, the substance abuse program, the sack lunches or hot meals are also offered without judgment or discrimination. Those programs are offered in the Carr P. Collins facility in Oak Lawn, on the corner of Harry Hines Boulevard and Hudnall Street.

The domestic violence shelter for women and its programs operate out of a separate facility elsewhere. The location of the shelter isn't made public for the safety of the women housed there.

Male victims of domestic violence are housed in a hotel. Richard said Salvation Army has a contract with the hotel, and that room reservations for the victims remain in Richard's name for the safety of those clients. Hotel employees understand the necessary security procedures.

This year, the shelter has housed several transgender domestic violence victims, Richard said. And as the agency's employees get more experience, they're doing a better job for all their clients, including their trans clients.

The women are housed two to a room. Each room has its own bathroom. When one woman saw her roommate undressed in the bathroom, she went to the office to ask why a man was in her room. They explained her roommate was trans-

gender and the situation was quickly resolved. But they learned from that experience.

Now, before a woman is admitted, the staff explains that all women are served without discrimination. That includes women who may be lesbian or transgender or of different races and those from other parts of the world who may speak a different language. It's the person who can't accept that diversity, Richard said, who wouldn't be a good candidate for Dallas Salvation Army's programs and services.

"We are a safe zone," Richard said. "We want everyone to know they are safe."

Richard said Dallas Salvation Army workers do not ask specifically about a potential client's sexual orientation. But the topic can come up when the clients are talking about their attackers. Sometimes, Richard said, a woman will call her same-sex attacker a roommate, but later clarify that the other woman was in fact a spouse or partner.

Regardless, Richard said, "We don't re-victimize. We want to make sure you get back to your self-sufficient healthy self. Healthy doesn't mean you're in a heterosexual relationship or not."

Richard said since she has worked for the agency, there haven't been any room changes because someone was transgender or lesbian. Instead, she said, room changes usually occur because of clients' schedules: When two women work and are on a similar schedule, it's more convenient for both to house them in the same room.

Salvation Army's domestic violence shelter can only house someone for up to 45 days. During that time the agency works with clients to develop a plan to help the person live independently. That might include getting housing, a job or proper identification, such as a corrected birth certificate for transgender women.

Not all domestic violence victims that talk to the Salvation Army's phone counselors will leave their situation right away. For those who aren't ready to leave, Richard suggested making a plan.

She encouraged them to get a P.O. box so their mail is already transferred to

their own address rather than an address shared with the abuser. They should also start putting some money aside, leave a packed bag at a friend's or in their office. But, she warned, they shouldn't suddenly remove a number of belongings from the shared home, because that will tip off the abuser that something's coming.

Move things gradually.

"Sometimes the best way to leave is with planning," Richards said, adding that victims of domestic abuse need to remember that leaving a violent situation isn't about no longer loving that person; it's about safety.

Richard said she knows the idea of a shelter can be frightening, but she said Salvation Army's domestic violence shelter, which she refers to as "the townhouse," is a homey place with a patio and a yard and a playground for kids.

To access Salvation Army services, call 214-424-7050. Walk-ins welcome at 5302 Harry Hines Blvd. The domestic violence program may be accessed at 214-424-7208.

Felicia Richard, right, said the only thing that's important is if they treated people with kindness. (David Taffet/ Dallas Voice)



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It's all fun and games for the Trumpistas for now. But just wait til the pots all boil

The reporter had to yell his question to be heard over the den of cheering and noise, asking an enthusiastic Trump supporter why he liked Donald Trump. The answer was simplistic but deeply reveling: “Look at this crowd! He gets people going! Just listen to them!”

I will make some assumptions about the guy answering the question. First, he is white. Second, he is a cisgender male. And third, he most likely calls himself a Christian.

For him, the election of Donald Trump is a show. He might as well be at a rock concert — and in some respects, he is. What he is witnessing is a show, complete and utter theater put on by a master of “reality TV.”

To him, I imagine this election will not be a big deal; win or lose, he thinks of politics as entertainment. Though he might end up suffering when the economy goes south, he will not be much affected by the policies that flow from Donald Trump and his cabinet of ideologues.

I, on the other hand, have lots to lose.

As an older American, I am counting on a meager Social Security income to supplement my retirement funds and pension someday. But if the Trumpistas have their way, Social Security will be “privatized” and, in reality, vanish into the pockets of Wall Street.

I also will someday be counting on Medicare, except that the Trump cabinet is already discussing ways to scam that as well.

As a queer American I have even more to lose.

The protections that some of our cities have in place to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

citizens might just be eliminated through new “religious freedom” laws and presidential decrees. Giving people the freedom to discriminate based on “deeply held religious beliefs” is a smoke-screen and everyone knows it. The idea is to reverse the last 50 years of progress made by our community toward being treated like full citizens of the United States of America.

Same-sex marriage? Many of Trump’s proposed Cabinet members are vehemently against it, and it won’t be long before they are putting up challenges to the Supreme Court ruling that gave us that right.

In reality, it’s just more entertainment for the masses who have no stake in the outcome. A big court fight will provide distraction to keep those people from seeing how much graft and corruption can be accomplished behind the curtains, from seeing how none of the promises Trump made them are being kept.

For women, the right to safe and inexpensive abortions will be a thing of the past. Already states are pushing insane restrictions and caveats on terminating a pregnancy that make it economically unfeasible. Texas, for example, just passed a zany law requiring a funeral for embryos and all the expense that entails. I feel sure the funeral directors lobby is toasting that decision.

Again, this is a measure designed to entertain the masses with the illusion that lawmakers are

“pro-life” and pious, when in reality they are just pandering to the far-right fundamentalists who religiously vote them into power again and again. They are more aptly described as “anti-women,” since the life of the mother means nothing to them, not to mention the quality of life of the unwanted child once it’s born.

The actual things that will most likely affect that Trump supporter will be subtle and won’t happen for a few years — unnoticed until it is too late. Good planning on the part of the Trump folks!

The return to fossil fuel seen by the Trumpistas is a recipe for disaster on a biblical scale, but it won’t come quickly so it won’t matter in the short term.

The ever-increasing temperatures are already changing the growing seasons for crops and plants in our country. And here in Dallas, I have noticed a large number of palm trees being used in landscaping. That would have been unthinkable when I was a child.

Coastal areas are already experiencing ever-worsening flooding, and as sea levels rise many, parts of our coastline will become uninhabitable. For folks in low-lying areas and coastal cities this is already becoming a big problem.

The catch is, it’s happening slowly, gradually. Like lobsters in a pot of water, most folks won’t notice the temperature is truly rising until it’s too late and they are “boiled.”

But really, what does that matter? It’s all just a big show anyway, isn’t it? And watching the storm of ridiculous tweets coming from the White House will be entertaining. What damage could really be done?

Just wait and see. It will be a horror show soon enough. ■

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



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Fun homo

Out cartoonist Alison Bechdel never thought a musical could be made out of her tragicomic memoir 'Fun Home.' Her evolution from neophyte to true believer

For all her newfound commercial clout, it might seem strange that Alison Bechdel recently returned to her less-mainstream roots.

Even though her self-described tragicomic novel *Fun Home* has become a Tony Award-winning smash musical — it just began a national tour, and will arrive in Houston in the spring (with more dates being added all the time) — Bechdel couldn't ignore her despair when Donald Trump was elected president. Attempting to process the startling outcome, the Vermont-based graphic novelist sat down to draw the iconic characters from her popular *Dykes to Watch Out For*, which was first published in 1983 in a feminist newspaper, *WomaNews*, before being widely syndicated to outlets across the U.S.

Bechdel hadn't revisited her popular strip's lesbian clan in eight years, during which time she released two graphic novels (2006's *Fun Home*, about her father's gay secret and her coming out, and its 2012 companion piece, *Are You My Mother?*) as well as seeing the musical adaptation take flight. In 2014, Bechdel was the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant.

Recently, the 56-year-old artist talked about getting back to the lesbian characters that first endeared her to LGBT audiences decades ago. Moreover, she discussed her initial doubts about *Fun Home* becoming a Broadway musical ("I'll take your option money, but good luck!"), the next-level catharsis she experienced when it did, and the pressures of critical and commercial success. ■

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Are you a fan of musicals? Bechdel: Honestly, I really have not been. I didn't quite understand the whole culture around musicals, and there are just people who are so passionate about musicals. That was not me. You know, I sort of thought of musicals as *Guys and Dolls* and people bursting into song inexplicably, but I also understood that there are beautiful musicals out there. I was a big fan of Sondheim, but somehow didn't think of Sondheim stuff as musicals in the traditional sense.

Do you have a new appreciation for musicals now that *Fun Home* is one? Absolutely, yeah. It's an amazing form, or it can be in the right hands. I'm just thinking about the sort of stock Broadway musical where there's a conflict, but things end up all happy. That's not so interesting. But the amazing emotional depth you can get in a musical is really interesting to me, and I was excited to see that happen with *Fun Home*.

What was your first thought when you heard *Fun Home* was getting the musical treatment? My first thought, honestly, was, "That's impossible. Yes, I'll take your option money, but good luck." I did not know much about musicals or the stage at all, and it

Cartoonist Alison Bechdel wasn't a fan of musical theater... until her memoir became one of the breakout hits on Broadway. (Photo courtesy of Elena Seibert)

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Putting the 'X' in Xmas

'Tis the season for satirist John Waters' new holiday show

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

It is possible that John Waters is the most misunderstood man in America whom everyone thinks they have all figured out.

Consider this: The man who helped make drag queens mainstream is *so over* Halloween.

"Halloween used to be 'gay Christmas,' and now it's how parents show their children how politically correct they can be," Waters sighs from his office in his beloved hometown of Baltimore. "I think Halloween has moved into the New Year's Eve realm [as a haven for amateurs]."

He even thinks dressing up for Halloween in expensive costumes is stupid. If you spend a lot of money, it's worse yet... unless you are very clever.

"I never go out in costumes, though I love to see people coming home dressed as half of a cow and hailing a cab all hot and miserable. But when I walk into a bank, I get so angry when I see the cashiers dressed up," he says. "I don't want people handling my financial things dressed as a kitty cat. Can you even see with those whiskers? How am I sure you aren't screwing up my payroll taxes?"

That said, Waters simultaneously wishes *more* people would put on costumes to go trick-or-treating ... just not on Oct. 31.

"Kids are so polite these days. Does anyone 'trick' anymore? We used to set lawns on fire! It was a whole week of vandalism! I don't see soap on a single windshield anymore," he says. "I think they should do it year-round when it's not Halloween — a kind of home invasion. Take the holiday back! Go out in costume, ring a bell and say, 'Give me candy or I'll burn your house down.'"

Like I say: Misunderstood.

Waters is a conundrum of sorts: a self-confessed purveyor of trash who dresses like a traveling bible salesman; a filmmaker who once has his leading lady eat actual dog poop, but who is known to be personally fastidious; a social critic who seems more optimistic than cynical... you just have to look harder to see it.

All of which is to say, it probably surprises

you that his favorite holiday isn't Halloween after all. It is, rather, Christmas.

What? The King of Camp is a sucker for corny commercialism? Well... yeah.

"I'm always optimistic about society. I'm never mean — nobody ever gets mad at me anymore about anything I do. When I was younger, people got mad at me about *everything* I did. I've been doing it so long, [they don't]," Waters sighs. "My interest is that Christmas makes everybody either happy or insane. I like extreme situations — no matter what religion, race, sexual preferences, I like to help people get through the holidays with decorating suggestions, songs, advice and humor. I like to show people how Christmas can be sexual how you can celebrate it before it becomes a disaster."

Enter the mind of John Waters.

At your peril.

You can do so at The Kessler on Dec. 14, when Waters brings his one-man spoken word performance, The John Waters

Christmas Show, to North Texas.

"Every year I upgrade it and add new material," he says. "I am so glad the election is over so it will be about anarchy."

It's not even that he has strong memories of Santa from childhood that shaped (warped?) his views of the season. Waters describes his holidays growing up as "pretty normal. We didn't have an all-white flocked tree with all blue balls, though the tree did fall over on my grandmother one year. That's something I have exploited for years — I've even put it in a movie. And I hear from people who all say it happened to them — it's usually [caused by] the dog or liquor."

The appeal of his show, he says, is that people always tell hellious stories about doomed holidays, yet they always seem surprised; he wants to help them *plan* for the craziness. Here are some ideas he hashed around about the holidays:

Dealing with family. What to do with Trump voters drunk on egg nog taunting you in an ugly sweater?

"If you go home to your family and they are



abusive, I have two suggestions," he says. "First, you issue everyone an abuse whistle. Every time someone is abusive, you blow it. Eventually, there will be so much whistle-blowing everyone will start laughing and stop being abusive."

His other suggestion? A good, old-fashioned curse. It works this way: You wait until the abusive person leaves the room. Then you lick the furniture they were sitting on. Waters swears it's effective.

"I know this curse works," he insists. "The hardest part is not getting caught, which can be embarrassing — they come back into the room and you have to say, 'I was not licking your chair!' But my own relatives aren't mean to me — the few that have been learned their lesson [from the curse], so it didn't taste that bad doing it."

Decorating. Even the director of *Mondo Trasho* has his standards.

"I'm against inflatable decorations — they are so ugly," he says. "They often deflate during the day, and it looks so like a Diane Arbus picture. A deflated Christmas creche is the ugliest thing I've ever seen."

But what about the use of Pink Flamingos? People don't "get" his reference, he says.

"I went back to the home I grew up in, [and the owners] had their Santa Claus pulled by pink flamingos," Waters clucks. "If you have one in a trailer park and you do it without irony, that lovely. But if you have 50 and are making fun of them? That's elitist. I liked it when it was country people with the plaster ones in the 1940s, but yuppies doing now [feels] condescending. It's a big yawn, to be honest."

Holiday music. "Certainly I talk about Christmas music and new ideas I have about it," he says. "Jazz, of course, is the sounds of heroin, and there are not enough Christmas carols from jazz artists. They need to think up new ones! I'm trying to inspire jazz heroin addicts [who love Christmas] with my show."

Anyone who thinks we need more heroin in the holidays is thinking outside the gift box. ■

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'Sloane' ranger

Sometimes, it takes a nasty woman to get things done in D.C. politics



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

We have to admit it: Aaron Sorkin spoiled us. So did David E. Kelley. They turned the idea of smart, fast-talking powerbrokers (in TV shows like *Boston Legal*, *Ally McBeal*, *The West Wing* and *The Newsroom*) into something sexy and entertaining. They weren't soapy melodramas about pretty people in high-rise cathedrals; they were classy comedy-dramas about schlubby-but-adorable people in high-rise cathedrals, conversing wisely about Big Issues. Each writer developed a style, a pace — something that you could groove on. There was a musicality to the work.

Those rhythms are what seem to be lacking in *Miss Sloane*, a pretty-good-but-shy-of-great pot-boiler set in the cutthroat world of D.C. lobbyists. Jessica Chastain is Elizabeth Sloane, a "nasty woman" who has built a reputation as a baracuda of influence peddling at the upper echelons of hardball politics. (Think Olivia Pope without the daddy issues.) The old white men at

her firm (Sam Waterston, Michael Stuhlbarg) don't like her style, but they look away as long as it brings in business — they are more driven by dollars than doctrine; Elizabeth is actually motivated by convictions and passions. So when The Gun Lobby seeks her services in defeating a toothless background-check bill, she poaches most of her team and jumps ship, moving to a boutique lobbying shop trying to get the bill

passed.

If Miss Sloane sounds like a Brockovichian crusader, well, it's not quite as simple as that. She's devious to the brink of criminality, selfish and self-destructive (she has a standing sex date with a hot male

escort), and tramples over her colleagues' personal lives. In the real world, she'd be the boss from hell — Miranda Priestly would report her to HR for abuse. But in *Movieland*, she's a complex but flawed heroine.

Only I never bought it. Chastain, a wonderful actress usually, is all stentorian pronouncements and icy smirks. It's not that she's a get-things-done mover and shaker, it's that she's secretive, mean, fickle. There's very little softness — very

★★★★★

MISS SLOANE

Jessica Chastain, Sam Waterston,
Gugu Mbatha-Raw.
Rated R. 130 mins.
Now playing in wide release.

Miss Sloane (Jessica Chastain) teaches a hard lesson to her colleague (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) in this satisfying but predictable political thriller.

little humanity — hinted at behind her façade; we can admire her or we can like her, but doing both is hard.

Director John Madden muddies things up while simultaneously simplifying them. He adds pulsing music underneath some of the walk-and-talk scenes, obscuring what should be key exposition. At the same time, the discussion of “how a bill becomes a law” (you’d think there was only one chamber of Congress, the Senate)

is less sophisticated than *Schoolhouse Rock*. (The bill is practically a MacGuffin anyway, and the twists are also obvious a mile away.)

For all of its “woulda-coulda-shoulda” potential, though, *Miss Sloane* moves along briskly, and the climax is emotionally satisfying if lazy and predictable. The message of the film ends up being, “our political system is fucked up, and no one really wants to fix it.” After this election season, that resonates almost too much. ■

BOOK REVIEW

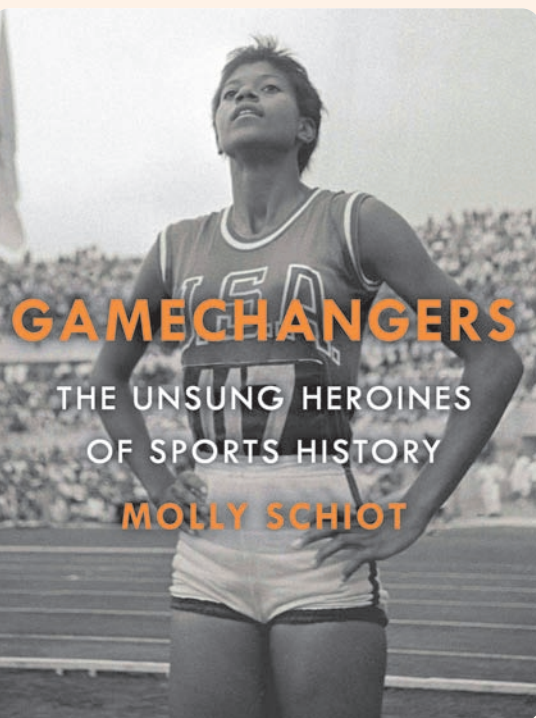
Gamechangers: The Unsung Heroines of Sports History by Molly Schiot (Simon & Schuster 2016) \$25; 310 pp.

Growing up, Molly Schiot “thought only men could be champions.” Most popular sports-themed movies indicated as much; so did TV shows. Few tales of women in sports were widely known, so Schiot, a Hollywood director, searched until she found a “treasure trove of images” that “inspired me to pull these stories out of the dark.”

Take the story of Alice Marble. Marble was a Grand Slam championship tennis winner many times over, but her “post-tennis life” was equally remarkable: shortly after losing both her husband and her baby, Marble became a spy for the Allies during World War II.

Althea Gibson was the first tennis player to break the color barrier at the U.S. Open. But did you know that there were a lot of African-American women who fought on the courts before her: Ruth Harris, Lillian Hardy, Alfreda Jackson, Clementine Redmon?

Of course, this book includes athletes (many lesbian or trans) like Billie Jean King, Babe Didrikson Zacharias, Nadia Comaneci, Renée Richards and Diana Nyad. You’ve heard about them, but you may not know that Olympian Abby Hoffman masqueraded as a boy when she was a 9-year-old, in order to play hockey in Canada. You may not know about the abuse the first fe-



male pro-baseball umpire got during ump school, the jeers the first female Boston Marathon runner endured, or the record snatched from Kitty O’Neil. You might have seen an in-your-face move by skater Surya Bonaly, but you don’t know what bullfighter Conchita Cintrón did, or that Negro League baseballer Toni Stone cheekily befriended prostitutes while on the road. Because of what an autopsy revealed, you might not know about Stella Walsh at all. And there’s a chance that many of these women couldn’t have reached their goals or made history without the efforts of Bernice Sandler and Edith Green.

Wow, are there a lot of surprises inside *Gamechangers*! Even rabid sports fans will find something new hiding here, in part because Schiot includes mini-chapters on women athletes in a huge variety of sports. Fans will find everything from archery to zooming racecars, balls to boats, journalism, hiking, climbing, skating and coaching. Nearly half of this book consists of photos of women athletes in action or in peril; many of them embraced dangerous feats and many were the target of men who thought they didn’t belong on the field. Schiot, pictured, also treats readers to a few interviews with and by pro female athletes.

In addition to sharing it with any young girl or teen in your life, this large coffee-table-sized book is one you’ll be proud to own and display. The minute you’ve got *Gamechangers* in your hand, you’ll know you’ve scored.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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This has become a standard in the Texas Ballet Theater's repertoire, as it is with virtually every ballet company in North America, and its celebratory happiness — a musical fruitcake, with every bite a colorful surprise — lifts your spirits.

On the chance you're not familiar with the plot, it's Christmas Eve, and young Clara (performed, at the production reviewed, by Charis Alimanova) and Fritz (Philip Slocki) anxiously await the opening of presents, especially from the mysterious toymaker Herr Drosselmeyer (Paul Adam), who brings Clara a nutcracker in the shape of a sol-



THE NUTCRACKER

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dier. Fritz breaks it to Clara's dismay, but Drosselmeyer "fixes" it, with the gift magically becoming full-sized, and dancing with his friends in this alternate universe where toys and candy come to life. Like contemporary animated films, it's whimsical and funny for children, but beautiful and full of athleticism and

power for adults; at some points, you half expect the dancers to break out into a chorus of "Be Our Guest."

The cast, which alternates roles at various performances, is filled with some standouts, but ultimately, it's the feeling evoked by lithe bodies engaged in graceful movement to a sprightly score that wins you over. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

ON POINTE | 'The Nutcracker' combines the grace of human movement with Tchaikovsky's Romantic score. (Photo courtesy Marty Sohl)

Performances move from Dallas' Winspear Opera House to Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth for the remainder of the run. On Dec. 16, the company performs The Nutty Nutcracker, a comical riff on the classic choreography.

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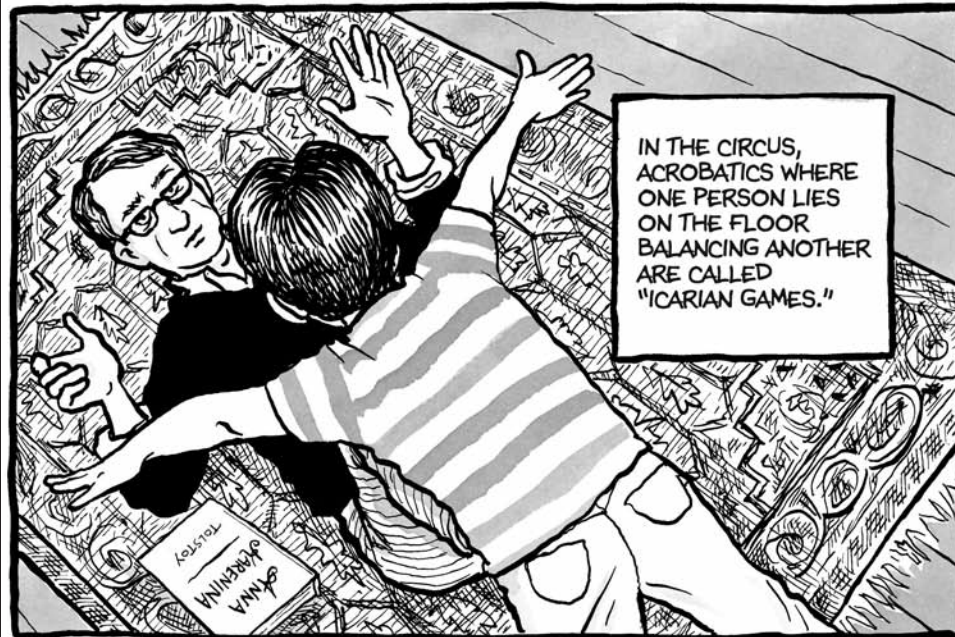
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IT WAS A DISCOMFORT WELL WORTH THE RARE PHYSICAL CONTACT, AND CERTAINLY WORTH THE MOMENT OF PERFECT BALANCE WHEN I SOARED ABOVE HIM.



■ BECHDEL, From Page 20

just seemed like a crazy, complex book. Of course, they left out large parts of the book as one has to do, but in the early days, I just couldn't imagine how that would be put on a stage. Also, because it's just so dark and so sad, it seemed like the antithesis of a musical.

Because of the emotional depth you explored in your book, did you have trepidation about how it might be portrayed on stage? If I had known more about musicals when I said yes to that project, I would've had a lot of trepidation, but I didn't quite know what I was getting into. I also knew that Lisa Kron would be writing the book [for the musical], and I was a great admirer of hers and really trusted her to get it right as much as she could.

Were you consulted during its evolution? I had pretty much zero to do with what you see on stage, and didn't have any official involvement in making that show.

How difficult was giving up control of your source material? It was a leap of faith. I trusted

Lisa, and [composer] Jeanine Tesori came on board. I also had trust in her. When I say I wasn't involved, it wasn't that they kept me out — I just didn't have any formal role. But they would meet with me periodically and pick my brain about ideas about the book and my process writing it. So, I felt very connected to them even though I didn't know what I was doing or what I was telling them.

When did you first see it, and what was your initial impression? The whole process took years, but the first thing I saw or heard was at the end of 2010. I got a script in the mail and a CD with music on it from a workshop they had all done that I didn't see. Up until then, it just seemed like a fantasy that may or may not happen one day. But when I heard those songs, I was just blown away. It was really powerful, and very few of those actually made it through to the final musical. There were so many songs that came and went, but I knew that they had something really magical happening.

Do you recall your feelings when first seeing



your life onstage? That, too, went through an amazing transition. At one point the stage set was an exact replica of my home studio, where I spend all my time, and that was really freaky. It was like I was looking in the window at myself working. But that got abandoned at one point and the set became a much more stripped down, sort of imaginary space. But it was pretty freaky all around, watching this musical about me and my family.

Do you have a favorite song from the show? It's really hard to pick. I know that sounds corny, but I love all of the songs. Of course "Ring of Keys" is just incredible. You know, I'm not really a big song person. Some people just don't have that part of their brain, and I think I'm one of them. It's funny to me to see how that song has caught on in the culture, to see just how it's gripped people, especially young people. Children just love that song. I mean,

little kids who don't even know what it means are singing it on YouTube — it's crazy.

How do you process the mainstream appeal of *Fun Home*? I guess it's just really a picture of what's been going on in the culture, and my story and the play came along at this particular juncture when people were finally open to hearing a queer story that's also a human story. There was finally space for that. I think if the play had come out a little sooner, if the book had come out a little sooner, it might not have caught on the way that it did, but somehow people were ready for it.

What do you think it is about the story that resonates so universally? For one thing, it's about a family. Everyone's got a family, of one fashion or another. Also, I think it's about a family with secrets, and most families have some kind of secret.

I think people relate a lot to that, to the catharsis of having a secret brought out in the open. I've heard stories of people from all different kinds of permutations — not just gay family members, but all kinds of issues: mental illness, affairs, double lives. I think it's a great relief for people to see this secret cracked open.

What have been some of the most memorable responses you've heard regarding the book over the years? God, you know, it's hard to hang onto those. Whenever I go to the show — I've seen it 15 or so times — people will recognize me in the audience afterwards, and I hear the most incredible stories, and people are sobbing. I get so caught in those exchanges — it's really intense — that I can't remember the details. So, I'm sorry I can't give you a good anecdote, but I've had amazingly intimate encounters with audience members.

Of the three characters representing your life at various stages in the musical, do you have a favorite Alison Bechdel? I don't! To me they all sort of fuse into a whole, and they're bound up. I couldn't single one out. I do think it was a really interesting choice to have the adult Alison telling this story because that wasn't really technically part of the book at all. That was part of Lisa Kron's genius, and it's an odd role. She's just mostly observing the action. The adult is having memories of her childhood and her young adulthood and her family, and they're playing out before her as she's trying to write about them, trying to make sense about them. So in a way, she's kind of a passive observer, but she's really not; she's actually very actively engaged with these memories of her former self. I think it really pulls everything together in an amazing way.

Did you worry about how they'd portray your father? I hadn't considered the ramifications of that,

and then in these early versions that I saw — different workshops and stuff — he would go from being a super-negative character to being a little too soft. It was very interesting to see how that got calibrated in the end. It's a very delicate balance to make him sympathetic enough to care about and also threatening enough for the story to work.

What kind of influence does the mainstream appeal of *Fun Home* have on your current work? I feel a bit like there are more eyes on me than there used to be. I used to be able to work free of that sense of anyone waiting for my work. So, I feel like there's a little added pressure now, but I'm trying to use that in a positive way, like to motivate me.

Do you ever plan to revisit the characters from *Dykes to Watch Out For*? Funny that you should ask that, because right now I'm just so distraught over the election that the only way I could see out of it, the only way I could help myself figure it out, was to start writing a *Dykes to Watch Out For* strip. I haven't thought about these characters in eight years, but I'm right in the middle of writing an episode and kind of dragging them all out of storage.

Why did this feel like the right time to revisit these characters? When I wrote the comic strip, I did it in some ways just for myself to figure out what was going on in the world. I always found the world so confusing and baffling, and by using my characters and having to talk through stuff that was happening in the world, I could find my own way. I felt like, I'm so confused at what just happened to our country that I needed to sit down with these characters and figure it out, so that's what I'm doing.

Will you continue working with these characters? I might not have time, but maybe I'll have to keep going.



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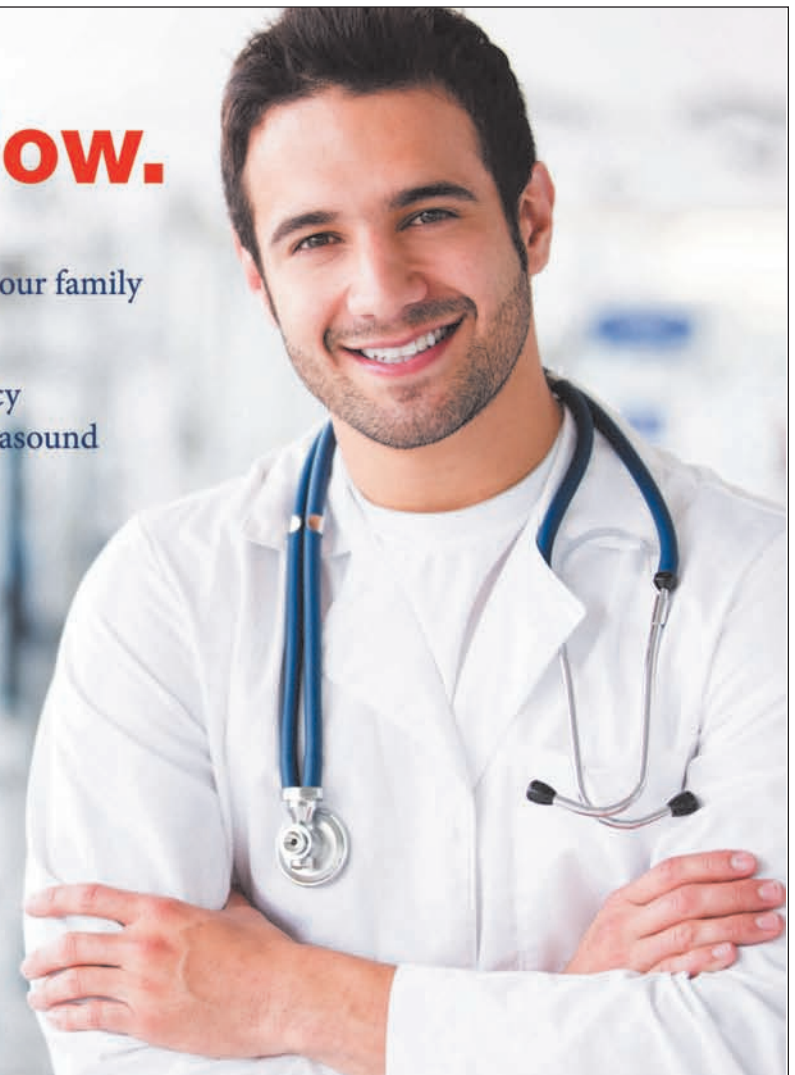
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**Friday 12.09 —
Sunday 12.11**

Turtle Creek Chorale invites you to A Not So Silent Night

The Turtle Creek Chorale's annual holiday concert is always a mixture of the sacred and the profane, from a moving arrangement of "Silent Night" (a staple) to campy and creative seasonal favorites about Santa Claus and naughty reindeer. This year's show — with the name A Not So Silent Night — promises to be both fun and profound as always. (There's a special children's matinee version on Saturday as well.)

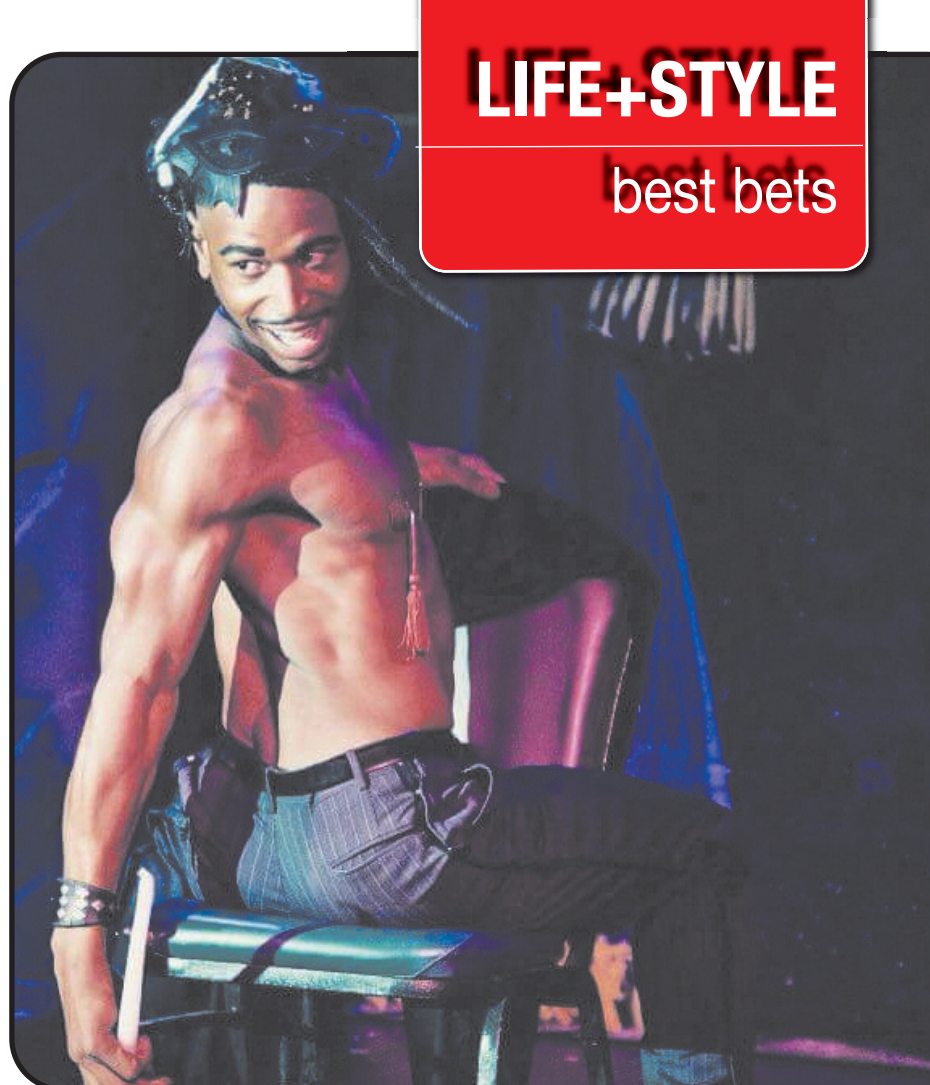
DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at :30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

Friday 12.09 — Saturday 12.10

Dallas Black Dance Theatre hosts Mingle & Jingle

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is throwing a holiday party with the name Black on Black: Mingle & Jingle. And they are doing it as only a dance company can — with light bites and cocktails, a live DJ at the after-party and in between? Performances from the talented cast of DBDT and DBDT: Encore! There'll even be a photo booth and caricature artist to keep the memories alive ... and it's all 21-and-up only!

DEETS: DBDT Studios, 2700 Ann Williams Way. \$32.50. 6:30 p.m. reception; 7:30 p.m. performance; 8:30 p.m. after-party. DBDT.com. ATPAC.org.



LIFE+STYLE
best bets

Friday 12.16 — Saturday 12.17

Meet sexy cast of 'The Nearly Naked Nutcracker' — a burlesque (and boylesque!) extravaganza

The Nutcracker is one of the chestnuts (ahem) of the holiday season. But there's more to it than Tchaikovsky's famed ballet — there's a hip-hop version, a ballet-within-a-play comedy version ... even the Texas Ballet Theater itself does a special *Nutty Nutcracker* (Dec. 16). But the raciest is probably *The Nearly Naked Nutcracker*, a burlesque show returning to the Design District for two nights. A mix of striptease, dance and comedy, it featuring pole-dancing soldiers, scantily-clad mouse kings and even Herr Drosselmeyer as master of ceremonies among the LGBT-friendly cast.

DEETS: Viva's Lounge. 1350 Manufacturing St. 8 p.m. \$22. NearlyNakedNutcracker.com.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

A Charlie Brown Christmas. K. Douglas Miller directs an adult cast in this stage adaptation of the TV holiday classic, featuring the Peanuts gang for Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Dec. 21. DCT.org.

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's annual holiday show, this time with Sally Vahle in the role of Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show. Theatre 3's downstairs space, Theatre Too, presents this one-man show, with B.J. Cleveland single-handedly performing all the roles in Dickens' holiday story. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker! The hilarious comedy about strippers mistakenly taken for ballet dancers returns. Presented by MBS Productions. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 26. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Broadway Christmas Wonderland. A family-friendly review of holiday songs and dancing. Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals, Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through Dec. 18. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Day Light. A blizzard in 1867 brings to light desires and secrets of a Texas family in this original play, written and directed by Bruce R. Coleman. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Gloria. The regional premiere of this Pulitzer finalist about the cutthroat world of magazine publishing. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 22 (in previews through Dec. 13). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge. Christopher Durang's farce about the holidays through the eyes of a Dickens character. Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Dec. 18. OnstageInBedford.com.

Murder for Two. An Agatha Christie-esque mystery, played by only two actors — one the detective, one all the suspects. A witty musical of dueling pianos and wits. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 18. StageWest.org.

Nuestra Pastorela. Cara Mia presents this family-friendly but zany spin on the traditional Mexican holiday shepherd tale. (In English with some Spanish.) *Final weekend.* Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

Santa Claus: A New Musical. The legendary gift-giver gets his own musical, developed locally in a world premiere. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. CasaManana.org.

Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold. It's *CSI: Bethlehem* as a Catholic nun solves the biblical mystery: Where did the gold that the three wise men brought to the manger go? Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 23. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Sleeping Beauty. An original English panto, a beloved holiday tradition, skewers a familiar fairy tale with cross-dressing and comedy in a family-friendly way. Cox Building Playhouse, 1617 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

CONCERTS

Dallas Symphony Christmas Pops. The annual



An exquisite reliquary from Portugal demonstrates the floral architectural adornments, as well as the bird atop the peripet, that distinguished Medieval artists' developments in presenting the natural world. It's part of the DMA's current exhibit *Art & Nature in the Middle Ages*.

concert series of carols, classics and sing-alongs. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Through Dec. 18. MyDSO.org.

Turtle Creek Chorale: A Not So Silent Night. Dallas' gay men's chorus' annual celebration of the sacred and the profane. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Through Sunday. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

DANCE

Jessica Lang Dance. The modern dance company returns to North Texas after 2013's successful appearance with a new show. Presented by TITAS. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Black on Black: Mingle & Jingle. Holiday party and performance. DBDT Studios, 2700 Ann Williams Way. Dec. 9–10. 6:30 doors. \$32.50. DBDT.com. ATPAC.org.

BALLET

The Nutcracker. Texas Ballet Theater's annual production of Tchaikovsky's classic Christmas ballet. (*Reviewed this week.*) Bass Performance Hall, 535

Commerce St., Fort Worth, Dec. 9–24.
TexasBalletTheater.org.

The Nutcracker. Presented by the Dallas Repertoire Ballet. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Dec. 9–10 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.

FINE ART

Pathways. A new and immense mural by Swiss artist Nicolas Party — a dreamy, 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.

Pablo Picasso: Ceramics. An exhibition of the great 20th century artists work in clay. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main ST., Arlington. Through Feb. 12. ArlingtonMuseum.org.

Matthew Alexander. An exhibition of the British modern Impressionist's paintings. Alan Barnes Fine Art, 3906 Lemmon Ave., ste. 222. Through Dec. 31. AlanBarnesFineArt.com.

Art and Nature in the Middle Ages. Evolving representations of the natural world in the Romanesque period, from England to Iran. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through March 19. DMA.org.

Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt. Highlights of works from the Brooklyn Museum that honor the mystical role cats played in the days of the pharaohs. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 5, 2017. Free. DMA.org.

EXHIBITION

Birds of Paradise. Developed by the National Geographic, this exhibition explores 39 rare birds found in the area of New Guinea. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. Through Jan. 8, 2017. PerotMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 12.09

COMMUNITY

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

FILM

Auntie Mame. CineWilde, the monthly LGBT film fest, presents this camp classic, with a flamboyant Rosalind Russell as the carefree flapper turned surrogate mom. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 7:30 p.m. doors, 8:30 p.m. pre-show Auntie Mame attire/drag competition, 9 p.m. screening, 11 p.m. Christmas cocktail after-party. \$10.

SATURDAY 12.10

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

MONDAY 12.12

CABARET

Mama's Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her

ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

TUESDAY 12.13

FILM

Logan's Run. An Oscar-winning sci-fi classic about a dystopian future where no one lives past 30. Filmed in part in North Texas. 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 12.14

CONCERTS

Morrissey. The singer's concert from last month was postponed to this date. McFarlin Memorial Auditorium on the SMU campus, 2405 Boaz Lane. \$50–\$90. AXS.com.

THURSDAY 12.15

CABARET

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

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

BROADCAST

Top Chef Charleston. Two Dallas chefs — John Tesar and Casey Thompson — are among the returning competitors who this season are pitted against newcomers. Bravo at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 12.16

BURLESQUE

The Nearly Naked Nutcracker. The return of this campy/sexy striptease, an admixture of dance and comedy, built around a Nutcracker theme. Features male and female performers. Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St. Dec. 16–17. 8 p.m. \$22. NearlyNakedNutcracker.com.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Cassie helps find a perfect Christmas gift for a first anniversary

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat. Please do put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do. If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you.

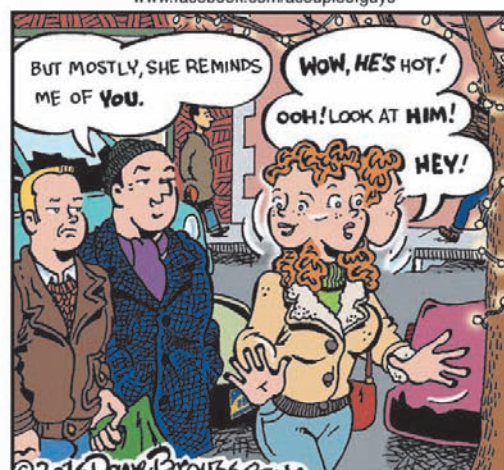
I've been eating the Member Berries and thinking about all the old nursery rhymes and Christmas carols we learned in school. Remember the bad school holiday shows we had to put on in school, in an auditorium full of parents and siblings? Everyone all hopped-up on those dry-ass sugar cookies covered in red or green crystals?

I've always thought of myself as somewhat smart. Well, I remember one Christmas show in fifth grade

that proved I was also, on occasion, an idiot. Like most kids, I didn't love school all the time. I can't tell you how many times I faked a fever or forced myself to vomit just so I could stay home and watch cartoons and cooking shows all day. An exception was the two weeks before Christmas break. I loved going to school then. It seemed like every day was festive, with lots of stuff going on that would get us out of doing actual school work.

One of the highlights at John Ireland Elementary School in Pleasant Grove was putting on a Christmas show for our parents. I was in the choir and was chosen to read a poem in the show, so there were quite a few times I got out of doing actual school work to go to rehearsals. It made me feel special in a way that probably shaped my future life choices.

The poem I read was "Twas the night before Christmas in Texas." It was a cute take on the story we all know. It opened with *'Twas the night before Christmas ya know, way out on the prairie without any snow.* I can still probably recite the entire thing.



My teacher told me to wear a festive sweater and cowboy boots and she had a Santa hat for me to wear, so my costume for the recital was perfect. Now, for the choir part of the show, we were singing a few different carols and we were told to wear white shirts. Bitch, I had a costume change! So after my solo about how Christmas was different but still joyous in Texas, I had to quickly take off my boots and sweater and join the other choir kids onstage.

I blame the teacher for not clarifying what kind of white shirt she wanted us to wear. Apparently we were supposed to wear a button-up shirt, not a white wifebeater T. So I strutted out on stage with my skinny little arms and shoulders showing without the least bit of hesitation, not bothered by the fact that my poor teacher had just laughed at me. She said, "James, is this the only other shirt you have?" I said yes, and she giggled at me on sent me out. Everyone else were in a crisp white button-down and I looked like an extra from *The Outsiders*.

I remember seeing my mother in the audience, just shaking her head. It wasn't until it was over and Ma said, "Good God, son" that I even knew I had done something wrong. I am sure I embarrassed her. I like that I stood out but after that, my mom took more of an interest in what I wore for important occasions. Like I said, most of the time smart... but we all have our blonde moments.

Any who, now let's spread some Christmas cheer and help some folks out.

Dear Cassie, With the holidays right around the corner, I need some advice. My boyfriend and I have been together for a little over a year. Halloween was our one-year anniversary and I am struggling to think of a gift for him that won't break my budget. We are in love and plan on moving in together soon. I know I can get him something that he will like but I really want to impress him and his family with a thoughtful gift from the heart but I cannot think of anything that feels right. Any suggestions? Thank you, T-Rex.

Dear T-Rex, if that is your real name: I found it super easy to give thoughtful gifts at the beginning of a relationship. Everything is new exciting and romance and heart come easy. You should know him enough by now to know what he will love but let me give you a few pointers that might help. When my husband and I first got together, every gift had such

meaning behind it.

Our first Christmas together I bought him a star. Yes, a star in the sky. I basically paid about 100 bucks for a piece of paper that said I had named a star in his honor. It was sweet but pretty stupid, too. I was star-scammed by love.

On our first date we saw the movie *Dreamcatcher*, so I made him a handmade dreamcatcher. It looked rough but the sentiment was there. You said y'all got together on Halloween, so think of a gift to incorporate that. What were your costumes that night? Get two boy dolls or action figures dressed in the costumes you wore that night as a cheesy cute reminder of when you first got together. In my head, you were dressed as a hot Hawkman and he a hot Egyptian god. That would look so cool together, or maybe I am just thinking of a porn I saw. Either way, don't overthink it.

Don't worry too much about a gift to impress his family. Impress his family by treating your boyfriend well. Let them see you love him and that should be enough. You are gay so get creative — I know you have it in you. You know you have an idea of what you wanna get him so follow your gut and get that. Good luck and happy holidays, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, Would you be my drag mother? Please, Shuanna.

Dear Shuanna, Nope! I had my tubes tied years ago to keep from having drag children. In all seriousness, I am here for any of the up-and-coming wannabe drag queens for advice, but I found that being self-reliant is the best way to do most anything. You learn more from watching and doing for yourself. YouTube is a great resource, you can learn makeup, sewing even dance steps and incorporate them all into whatever character you want to be.

I am actually really proud of the girls that enter the Thursday night show in the Rose Room. Come enter a talent night or just come watch. Those girls have a great sisterhood and help each other a lot. You don't need a drag mother but drag sisters are the best. Good luck finding your squad.

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

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



Casey mans the door at Sue Ellen's



Pool time at The Grapevine



Cold drink, hot man at The Tin Room



Alisa and Erin on The Strip



Cassie Nova and her Freaks pulled in the big bucks (Thanks Mark Cuban) for SH Elementary

Making the SCENE the week of Dec. 9–15:

- **BJ's NXS!**: Sybil's Sunday Strip off at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House**: Watch Emerald City at 8 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Changes**: Imperial Court presents Christmas Duets benefiting Breakfast with Santa for Samaritan House children at 8 p.m. and the Divine Miss Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Friday. Miss La Femme 2017 Pageant benefiting Wall of Food fund at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection**: Craig Sullivan hosts Back Patio Saturday Night. Cowtown Christmas Cookoff at 4 p.m. and Texas Gay Rodeo Association Cowtown Christmas Show and Auction at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: Holiday Variety Show hosted by boy jake benefits Legacy Founders Cottage at 7 p.m. on Friday. Canned food drive at the door. Discipline Corps club night on Friday. United Court Investiture and first fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Saturday. NLA - Dallas club night on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill**: Cassie's Freak Show with Fantasha, Aaron Rey, Your Highness and Stefani on Monday.
- **Marty's Live**: Wet Willie Wednesday with Dannee.
- **Pekers**: This week's Karaoke Cash Jackpot is worth \$450. Sign up to sing before 10:30 p.m. on Saturday to be

- entered for a chance to win.
- **Rainbow Lounge**: Divas Christmas Show with Kiana Lee as Adele, Bianca Davenport Starr as Chaka Kahn and more at 11 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Round-Up Saloon**: Annual Christmas Stocking Auction benefiting Legacy Founders Cottage preview on Saturday in the parlor and auction at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
 - **Sue Ellen's**: Country Night with Barefoot Hippies and Bad Habits on Friday. Straw Hat Society on Saturday. Anton's Holiday Extravaganza with Bad Habits on Sunday.
 - **The Rose Room**: Cassie, Kelexis, Krystal, Kenneth Rex, Dee Ranged, Layla and Asia on Saturday. Asia, Kelexis, Layla, Kenneth Rex, Krystal and Cassie on Sunday.
 - **Two Corks and a Bottle**: Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
 - **Urban Cowboy Saloon**: Frida's Freaky Friday at 10:30 p.m.
 - **Woody's Sports & Video Bar**: Dallas at N.Y. Giants at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood & Chad Mantooth



Sergio serves up the good stuff at Dallas Eagle



Visit Dallas — formerly the Dallas CVB — hosted a luncheon and collected toys for DPD's Santa Cop drive.



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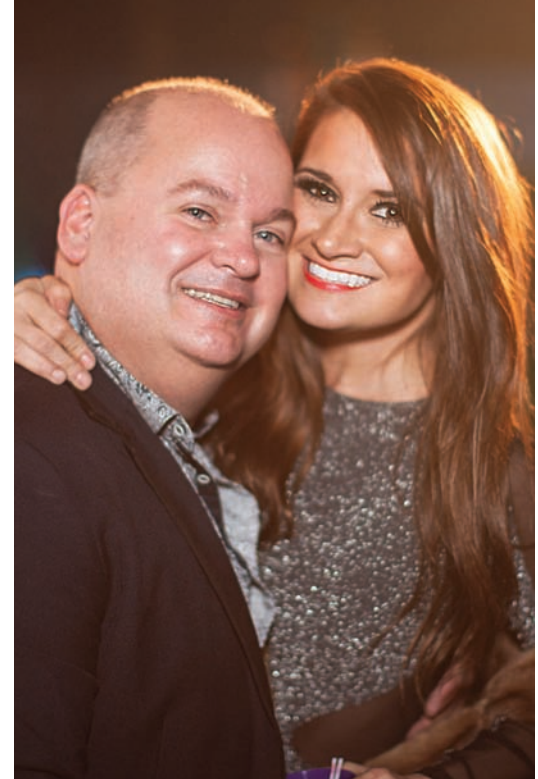
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The 2016 Teddy Bear Party

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Fighting Chants

Solution on page 33

Across

- 1 Cukor’s rib donor
- 5 Decide not to swallow
- 9 Amelie Mauresmo’s woman
- 14 Threesome that visited Mary
- 15 ___ sci
- 16 Hunter that comes out at night
- 17 Apple that isn’t a fruit
- 18 What you should take it like
- 19 Shopping aids
- 20 Start of a Green Day chant at the 2016 American Music Awards
- 23 There’s a single runner
- 24 Where to find a date in a hot place
- 25 Cyndi Lauper’s “___ Bop”
- 28 Poses for Bruce Weber
- 30 Place for porking?
- 32 Crude cartel
- 35 Hoops for the New York Liberty
- 38 Safari sighting
- 39 Green Day’s new album
- 42 R.E.M. frontman Michael
- 43 Shrill barks
- 44 Lots of bucks
- 45 Mexican food brand
- 47 Drag queen ___ Phace

49 Peeples of *Fame*

- 50 Up on
- 53 President without a first lady Buchanan
- 57 End of chant
- 59 Risky fellatio partner?
- 62 Highsmith title condiment
- 63 Hurler Hershiser
- 64 Coming from Uranus, e.g.
- 65 Singer Fure
- 66 Internally pink
- 67 You can go down on them in winter
- 68 Petrol station choice
- 69 It may be grand, to Glenn Burke

Down

- 1 Acid type
- 2 Ripley portrayer Matt
- 3 Material for nice stones
- 4 Instrument for viewing an angry inch?
- 5 Low-quality meat
- 6 Quality of some asses
- 7 Writer Dykewomon
- 8 Big tipplers
- 9 More like Gomer’s Mayberry
- 10 Phantom of the Opera name
- 11 Fit start
- 12 Bonheur’s word

13 Madonna’s pair

- 21 Sex attachment
- 22 One of TV’s *Bosom Buddies*
- 25 Your gardener’s tool
- 26 Figure skater Sonja
- 27 Moon in “*Return of the Jedi*”
- 29 Broadway bio
- 31 *Spartacus* extras
- 32 Bean of *Desperate Housewives*
- 33 Kind of dish
- 34 LuPone Broadway role
- 36 *Mamma ___!*
- 37 Greek tragedy writer
- 40 Chickens like Foghorn of cartoons
- 41 Eavesdropping org.
- 46 1917 US soldiers
- 48 Duds in the bedroom
- 51 Prop department jewelry
- 52 Peter the Great, and more
- 54 Many a painting by Frida’s Diego
- 55 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 56 Beaver State capital
- 57 Pine for
- 58 “Tell ___ the judge!”
- 59 Some women’s studies degrees
- 60 Not in the pink
- 61 Overtime creator

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