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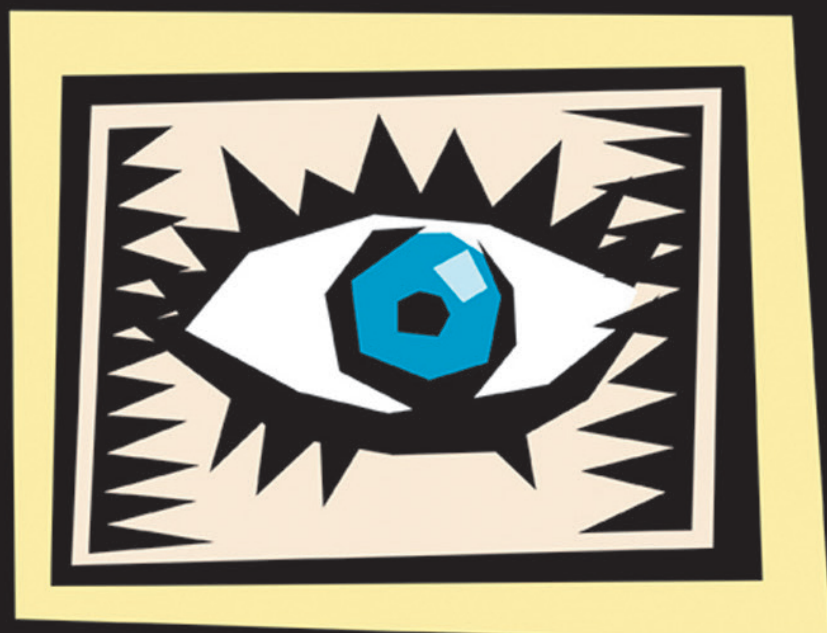


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8

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Putting your dollars to work
- 9 Get Organized
- 10 Making women's voices heard
- 12 Rosa Lopez tribute

LIFE+STYLE

- 14 Rising up: Dustin Lance Black
- 16 Fuel's errand: Honda Accord Hybrid
- 18 Oscars so gay
- 19 The magic flame

ON THE COVER

Design by Kevin Thomas



10



14

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|---------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 21 | Best Bets |
| 8 | News | 24 | Girl on Girls |
| 12 | Community Voices | 25 | Scene |
| 14 | Life+Style | 28 | Marketplace |

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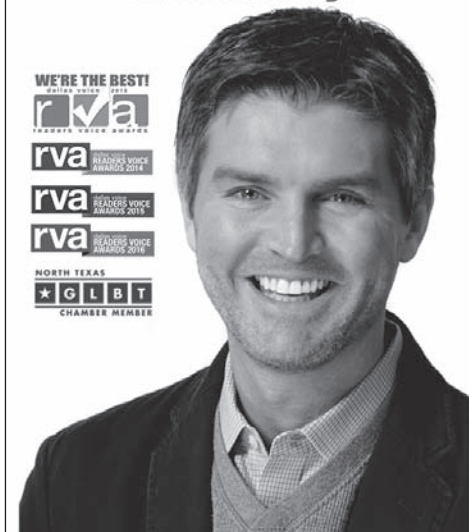


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Anchia files PrEP information bill



State Rep. Rafael Anchia

State Rep. Rafael Anchia filed HB2006 to require that anyone who receives a negative HIV test result will be provided with information about PrEP — pre-exposure prophylaxis — to prevent transmission of HIV in the future.

Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell called it a common sense bill that would help prevent the spread of HIV on a statewide basis. His agency and others that do HIV testing already regularly offer that information when providing HIV test results.

All the bill would required be offered is information.

"If they get a negative test result, is PrEP right for them as an HIV preventive tool?" McDonnell said.

No prescriptions would be offered. No referrals to a doctor or clinic prescribing PrEP would be required by the bill. Simply information.

McDonnell said he believes the reason PrEP hasn't been as popular in Texas as elsewhere is simply a lack of information.

— David Taffet

Same-sex marriage reduces adolescent suicide

A new study released by the Juvenile American Medical Association indicates that legalization of same-sex marriage has reduced adolescent suicide attempts.

Using information from 47 states, same-sex marriage policies were associated with a 7 percent reduction in the proportion of all high school students reporting a suicide attempt over the past year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-to-24-year-olds.

The report concludes that some of the reasons

for reduction in suicide include policies preventing same-sex marriage constitute social stigma and increased media attention that accompanies legalization includes increased social support.

— David Taffet

Trump rescinds guidelines protecting trans students



Betsy DeVos, left, Jeff Sessions, right

Despite pleas from parents of transgender children and LGBT employees, the Trump administration on Tuesday, Feb. 22 rescinded Obama-era guidance to schools barring discrimination against transgender students and ensuring they have access to the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, told the Washington Blade on Monday, "This is the first day of the president's second month in office and he is now fully coming after LGBT people," Keisling said. "I'm angry; I'm outraged. This is about kids who just want to go to school who just want to be themselves, and to hear the president a week or two ago talk about how supportive he is of LGBT people, it's just outrageous that he'd go after trans kids this way."

Removal of the guidance would fulfill a campaign promise from Trump, who pledged to rescind the guidance after it was issued, but still "protect everybody," amid outcry from conservative-leaning states. The Trump administration would be moving to rescind the guidance shortly after the confirmation of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Jointly issued in May under the Obama administration by the Justice Department and Education Department, the guidance asserts that denying transgender students access to the restroom in accordance with their gender identity violates the prohibition on sex discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Rescinding the guidance is consistent with a legal brief the Justice Department filed earlier this month in litigation against the guidance filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on behalf of 12 states. As a result of the litigation, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor issued a preliminary injunction barring the administration from enforcing the guidance nationwide.

Although the Justice Department under former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch filed an appeal along with a request with the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals seeking to limit the scope of the injunction to the 12 plaintiff states, the brief under Sessions withdraws that request and informs the federal appeals court the Trump administration is "currently considering how best to proceed in this appeal."

— Chris Johnson/Washington Blade

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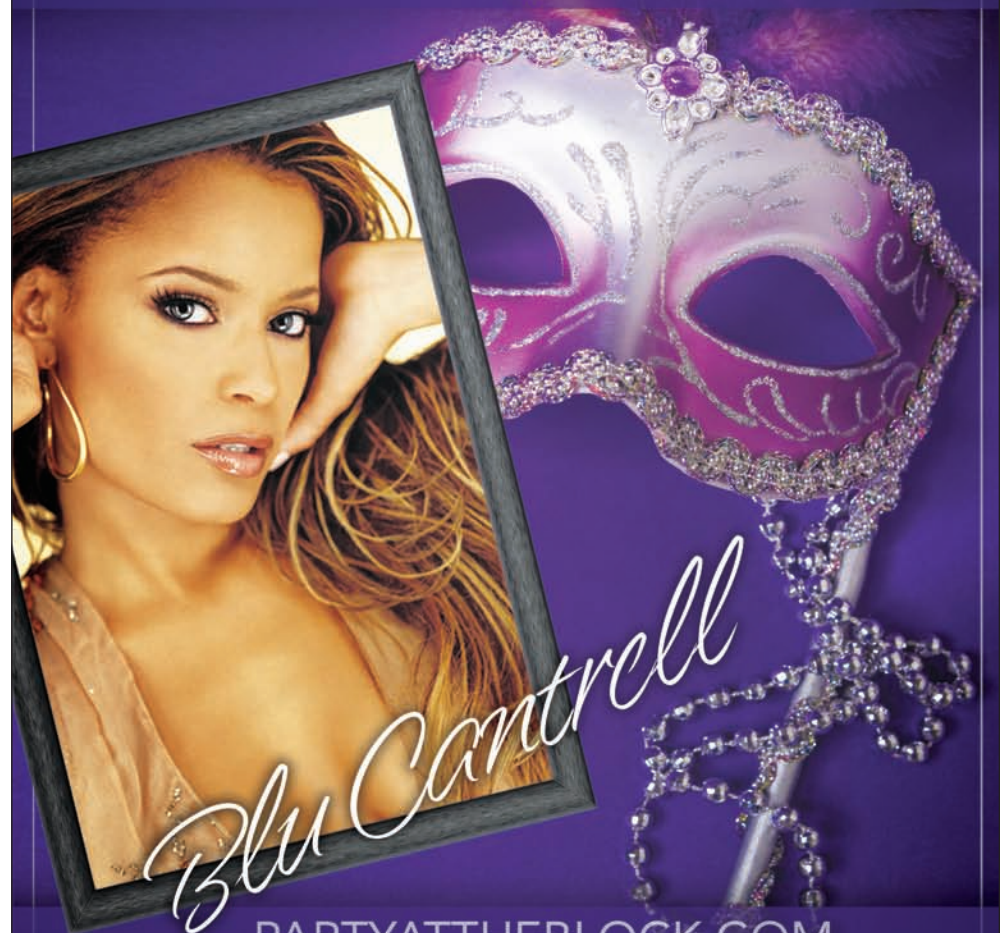


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THE GAY AGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is **Jay Malone** from *Indivisible*; **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. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St #103;

Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run on the Katy trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.

FEBRUARY

• Through March 31: St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts

Jessica Bell and Cristina Estrella Riggs bring their artwork to the Sundermann Gallery exhibition: Project Hope. St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts, 5100 Ross Ave.

• Feb. 24: Spring Fling

Mr. and Miss Charity America present Spring Fling benefiting the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food and Tucker's Gift at 7:30 p.m. at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

• Feb. 25: Dash for the Beads

5K and 10K run, 1K walk and festival at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.

• Feb. 26: Mardi Gras Oak Cliff Parade

pet of the week / MINNIE

Meet **Minnie**, a 2-year-old, black-and-white pit bull mix. At just 38 pounds, she's a petite little lady who loves to give kisses. She came to the SPCA of Texas on Nov. 22 after being rescued from inhumane conditions, so she's had a rocky start to life. But she just knows that her future holds a loving forever family and a home to call her own. She's sweet, enjoys lots of belly rubs and is an amazing athlete! She likes playing with toys, going for runs and sleeping next to you. She would prefer to have all of your attention to herself, so she'd do best as an only pet. Minnie has been spayed, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. #150582

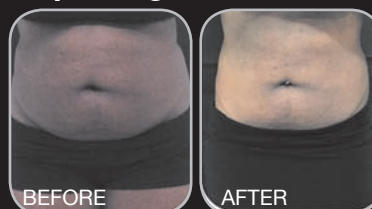
Minnie is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas at 2400 Lone Star Drive, near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m., seven days a week. Regular adoption fees are \$250 for puppies, \$125 for adult dogs 6 months or older and kittens 0-6 months, \$75 for adult cats 6 months or older and \$50 for senior dogs or cats 7 years or older and VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



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Ninth annual parade on Davis Street from Edgefield Avenue to the Bishop Arts District from 4-5 p.m.

• **Feb. 26: African American History Month Gospel Concert**

Gospel concert from 3-5 p.m. at St. James A.M.E., 1107 E Oak St, Denton.

• **Feb. 28: Last Night in Black History**

Michael D’Andre Childs from Artist Unplugged emcees a showcase of fashion designs from students at The Art Institute of Dallas, tribal dance and music, storytelling, poetry speaks and honors influential black leaders in history benefiting Artitude, a new non-profit to unite LGBT and diverse community artists from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

• **Feb. 28: Family Night at Durkins**

GALA meets from 5-8 p.m. at Durkin Pizza, 8930 State Highway 121, McKinney.

MARCH

• **March 1: Ashes on the Strip**

Cathedral of Hope Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Neil G Cazares-Thomas and other ministers will offer Ashes on the Strip at 5 p.m. at The Crossroads — Throckmorton Street and Cedar Springs Road.

• **March 2: Cirque du Soleil Promise House benefit**

Kurios at 8 p.m. at Lone Star Park, 1000 Lone Star Parkway, Grand Prairie. Tickets \$85-100 at PromiseHouse.org.

• **March 2: Brewing Up Business**

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce networking event from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Zephyr, 4001 Cedar Springs Road.

• **March 3-5: Scoot Back to Big D**

Pegasus Squares LGBT square dancing club hosts its inaugural Fly-In with more than 15 hours of dancing in two concurrent halls. Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. The host hotel is LaQuinta, 10001 N. Central Expressway.

• **March 4: Toast to Life**

Lady Bunny returns to host the Resource Center fundraiser from 7-11 p.m. at Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd.

• **March 6: Meet the City Manager**

Meet Dallas’ new city manager, T.C. Broadnax at 6 p.m. at Hitt auditorium,

Methodist Medical Center, 1441 N. Beckley Ave.

• **March 7: Lunch and Learn**

Sara Abosch, senior director of education, discusses Zakhor: the History and Politics of Holocaust Memorialization in Israel and the U.S. from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Free.

• **March 8: Planned Parenthood Awards Luncheon**

Marcia Clark is the speaker. Tickets are \$150. Reservations at 214-302-8382.

• **March 12: DFW Pride Happy Hour**

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Stirr Dallas, 2803 Main St. #110.

• **March 16: Gay Women’s Gathering:**

An Evening on Lesbian Pregnancy With a focus on legal and medical safety for the LGBT community, the event features a doctor, a lawyer and a sperm bank rep. From 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **March 18: Pot O’ Gold Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• **March 19: ‘Freedom to Marry’**

Local premiere of the film Freedom to Marry by Eddie Rosenstein at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

• **March 20: Advocacy Day in Austin**

Speak to your legislators. GALA North Texas will sponsor buses to Austin. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin. GALA is chartering buses leaving from Collin Creek Mall and Cathedral of Hope. \$15.

• **March 23-25: Topsy Turvy**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents Topsy Turvy: Songs You Thought You Knew at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$25-65. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **March 25: AIDS Walk South Dallas**

From 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd.



Michael D’Andre Childs from Artist Unplugged emcees a showcase of fashion designs by The Art Institute of Dallas students, at Last Night in Black History, a Black History Month event on Tuesday, Feb. 28. See listing for details.

• **March 31-April 2: Texas Traditions Rodeo**

Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents Texas Traditions Rodeo. Gates open at 11 a.m. at Diamond T Arena, 6900 E. Sherman Drive, Denton.

APRIL

• **April 8: No Tie Dinner**

This year’s theme is An Artful Life, inspired by the pop artists. From 7-10 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$75. Tickets at NoTieDinner.org

• **April 15: Purple Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• **April 16: Easter in the Park**

The pooch parade in Oak Lawn’s Lee Park is an Easter tradition. Bring picnic basket and lawn chairs. 1 p.m.

• **April 21: Compassion fatigue symposium**

Ed-U-Care presents its sixth annual symposium from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church,

9200 Inwood Road.EdUCareDallas.com.

• **April 21: Metroball Express**

Metroball Winstar Casino Party Bus and fundraiser for Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund leaves at 8:30 a.m. from Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St. and from Collin Creek Mall in Plano at 9 a.m. \$75. \$125 per couple.

• **April 28: Celebration of Excellence Dinner**

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents its Business Excellence Awards at its Celebration of Excellence Dinner. Details to follow.

• **April 28: Women’s Business Conference**

The Dallas Regional Chamber hosts the 21st annual Women’s Business Conference with keynote speaker Judy Smith at 8 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. \$99 members, \$250 nonmembers.

MAY

• **May 6: House of DIFFA: Arabesque**

Celebrate fashion and design at DIFFA’s annual black tie gala including silent and live auction, seated dinner and runway show at 6 p.m. at Omni Hotel, 555 S Lamar Street.



Putting your pink dollars to work

Activist investment strategies can bring you a better return

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

If you are looking to support the LGBT community with your charitable donations, it's not hard to find a whole slew of worthy nonprofits that could put your pink dollars to good use.

But sometimes we need to put those dollars to work making *more* dollars for us. In other words, sometimes we need to invest rather than donate. Is it possible to be community conscious with our investments as well as our charity.

Absolutely.

Actually, notes financial advisor Judy S. Sherman with Nexus Advisors, "socially conscious" investments strategies aren't new at all.

"You can certainly find socially-conscious investments that allow you to ex-

clude companies that you don't want to put your money into for some reason," Sherman said. "Some people hate Wal-Mart, some hate tobacco, some hate guns, some hate Exxon. So when I am planning their investments, I screen out those companies."

Sherman suggests looking at Human Rights Campaign's annual Corporate Equality Index if you want to put your money into companies that has LGBT-inclusive and supportive policies.

The CEI ranks companies based on a number of criteria, such as whether they have specific policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, whether they offer domestic partner benefits, whether they have transgender-inclusive benefits, whether they have LGBT employee resource groups and whether they have made a public commitment to the LGBT community.

The reports then scores the companies, from 100 to 0, based on those criteria. In the 2017 CEI, 517 major businesses spanning nearly every industry and geography earned a score of 100 percent. (Read the

full report online at HRC.org.)

Sherman also suggested that it's getting easier to find investment opportunities that fit a philosophy of investing in those that invest in us.

"You can usually start with the larger companies," she said. "Mass Mutual is one of the big companies that I work with, and they have very good policies. They got a 100 percent score on the CEI. Then look at some of the big banks, like JP Morgan Chase. Most of the big banks are good options when it comes to companies that support their LGBT employees and the community."

"Really though," she continued, "these days it seems like everyone is recognizing that it is important to embrace equality."

Chuck Smith, CEO of the statewide advocacy organization Equality Texas, suggested another easy way to find LGBT-supportive companies in which to invest: Just look at the businesses that are urging the Texas Legislature not to go down the North Carolina road.

Early in 2016, after the Charlotte City Council approved a nondiscrimination ordinance including protections for LGBT people, the North Carolina Legislature hastily passed a bill — the notorious HB 2 — that prohibited local governments from enacting such ordinances, and then went a step further to require transgender people to use the gender-specific public bathroom facilities conforming to gender on their birth certificates rather than the facility congruent with their actual gender identity.

Then-Gov. Pat McCrory signed the bill into law on March 23 — and the blowback came fast and furious. Performers began canceling concerts in North Carolina. Companies that had been considering moving there very publicly decided not to. Other city, county and state governments around the country banned official travel to the state. Conventions and conferences were canceled or moved. The NCAA and the ACC college sports organizations moved all their scheduled championship games out of the state.

According to an article published Nov. 3 on Forbes.com, as of that date North Carolina had lost about \$630 million in business over HB 2. (McCrory also lost his bid for re-election.)

Now Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is urging Lone Star State lawmakers to approve

a similar bill — SB 6 — and Texas' business community is leading the charge against that bit of discrimination. And that, Smith said, gives investors an easy way to find companies that deserve their money.

"First thing to do is look to see which companies are members of Texas Competes," Smith said. Texas Competes is "a partnership of business leaders committed to a Texas that is economically vibrant and welcoming of all people," including LGBT people. The complete list of members is available online at TexasCompetes.org.

Another group, Keep Texas Open for Business, is also campaigning against the Texas bathroom bill.

"These are all companies who don't just have LGBT-inclusive policies, they have actually invested in stopping discrimination," Smith said. "Apple Computer, for example, has been very active in this effort. And it's important for these companies to see that their efforts are appreciated. We need people to invest in these companies and to buy their products."

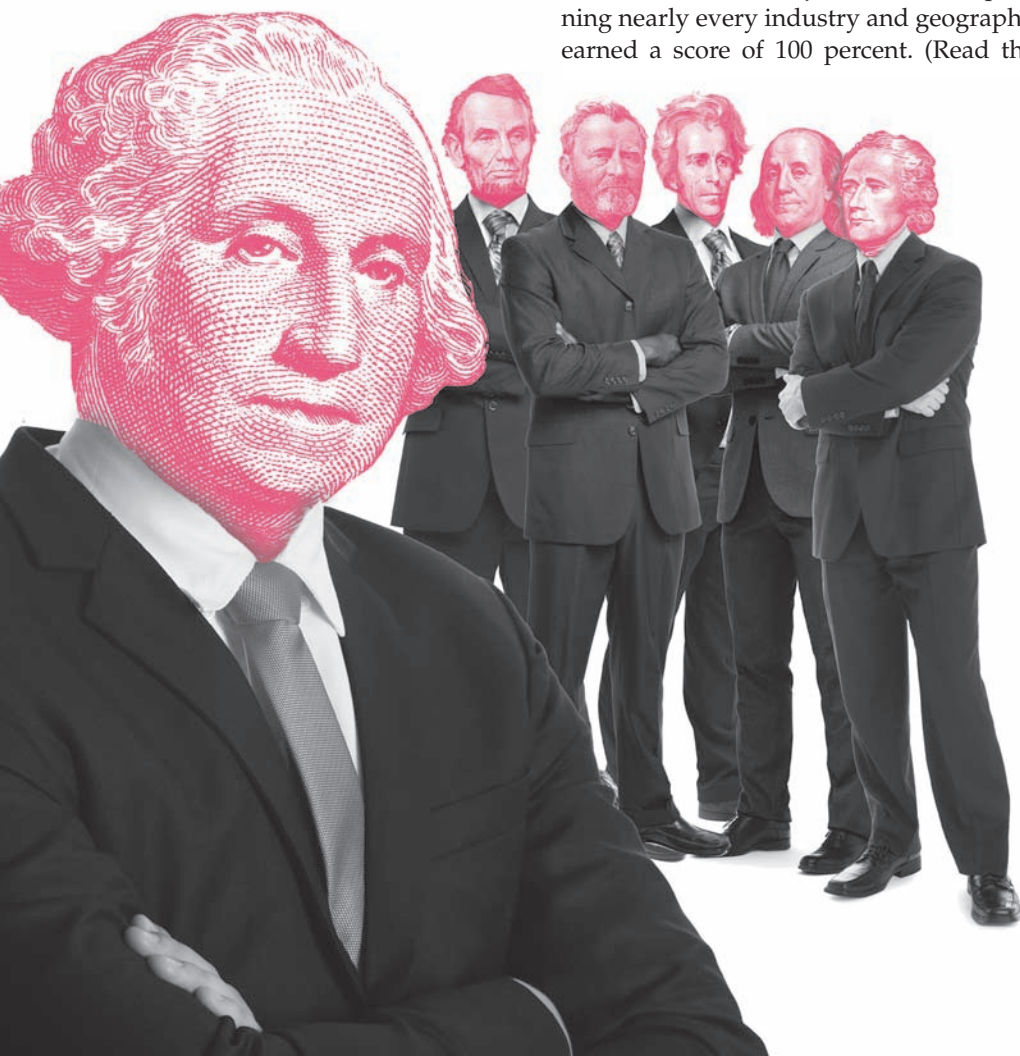
Sherman, noting that there are "hundreds of thousands" of financial advisors and investment firms, encouraged LGBT investors to work with LGBT financial advisors, "someone who is out and active in the community."

"It's one thing to throw some money at the community to try a buy a market share, but it's completely different to earn that market share through putting some real sweat equity into the community itself."

While it's obvious that LGBT investors will get personal satisfaction out of putting their investment dollars into companies that support the community, one Colorado-based investment firm has shown that doing so is likely to get you a higher "ROE" — "return on equity" — as well as a higher "ROE" — "return on equality."

Denver Investments has created the Workplace Equality Index, and from that built the Workplace Equality Portfolio. And the company has recently issued a report — "The Shareholder Case for LGBT Workplace Equality" — that shows that companies that embrace workplace equality will, overtime, out-perform their less-inclusive competitors.

"We identified a long-term trend toward outperformance of companies relative to





Get organized!

Whether you are running your own business, working for someone else or retired and living off savings, you can better manage your finances when you have things organized and accessible.

Long-time Dallas CPA Ron Allen, who owns his own tax and accounting firm, suggested several ways to help make sure your information and documentation is in top shape to help you maximize your money as tax season gets into full swing.

- Ask for and use any tax organizer or detailed spreadsheets provided by your preparer. If you're returning to the same preparer you used the previous year, the organizer should show your information from the prior year, and spreadsheets may be available for special circumstances, such as rental property income and expenses, self-employment income and expenses, and cost basis of stock sales.

- Be sure to inform your preparer of any significant changes in your information from last year. For example, the purchase, sale or refinance of real estate; an inheritance from an estate; contributing to the



Ron Allen

support of an elderly parent or other person; change in dependent status, etc.

- Changes in contact information such as mailing address, email address and telephone numbers should be communicated to your tax return preparer as they happen throughout the year.

- Sort your deduction receipts into categories as indicated on your organizer or spreadsheet, and total them for your preparer. This greatly assists in accuracy.

- Be sure that your name appears on each document that you send to your preparer.

- And finally, when your income tax return is completed, make sure you read and understand your return completely. If necessary ask your preparer questions so you know for sure what your return says. ■

Ron Allen, a former IRS agent, is a certified public accountant with a master's degree in accounting. His firm offers tax return preparation, accounting services, estate and trust planning and tax preparation, bookkeeping write-up services, payroll services, litigation support and forensic accounting services, IRS representation, mergers, acquisitions and sales services and entity selection and restructuring services.

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■ DOLLARS, From Previous Page

their respective sector peers after adopting LGBT-inclusive workplace policies," notes the report, authored by John N. Roberts and Cristian A. Landa. "Specifically, both the percentage of companies outperforming their respective sector and the companies' absolute outperformance of the sector increased five to 10 years after adopting LGBT-inclusive workplace policies."

Roberts, who manages the Workplace Equality Portfolio for Denver Investments, said that the portfolio was born back in the late 1990s after Ken Mossier, founder of RSVP Vacations died, leaving his estate to the Mossier Foundation, which promotes LGBT entrepreneurs.

After Mossier died in 1996, the foundation officials "came to me and said, 'We only want to invest in companies that have LGBT-inclusive policies,'" Roberts explained. "Back then, we didn't have Google, where we could type in a search and find out what companies that included. So we started calling these companies and asking whether they offered partner benefits."

Back then, he said, offering domestic partner benefits was the height of inclusivity, and "we found 24 companies that actually offered partner benefits."

Since then, just as with HRC's Corporate Equality Index, the criteria have grown

and changed — nondiscrimination policies based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, transgender health benefits, employee support and resource groups, and these days, "full parity of benefits, basically treating everyone the same, regardless," Roberts said.

In the nearly 20 years since the Mossier Foundation set things in motion with that request, Roberts said, Denver Investments has built "a data set that is unrivaled" in terms of determining inclusivity. "We're no longer just asking companies what their policies are, we are talking to the employees themselves, asking how well their companies are living up to their policies and promises. We are looking for companies that don't just talk the talk; we want companies that really walk the walk."

Over the years, and with the Return on Equality report, Roberts said that Denver Investments has found — and proven — that companies that treat their LGBT employees, all their employees, fairly perform better for their shareholders too.

"The difference is really stunning," he said. "We're talking about companies that outperform their competitors by about 2 percent a year, going back 20 years or so. Take that 2 percent a year and compound

■ DOLLARS, Page 10



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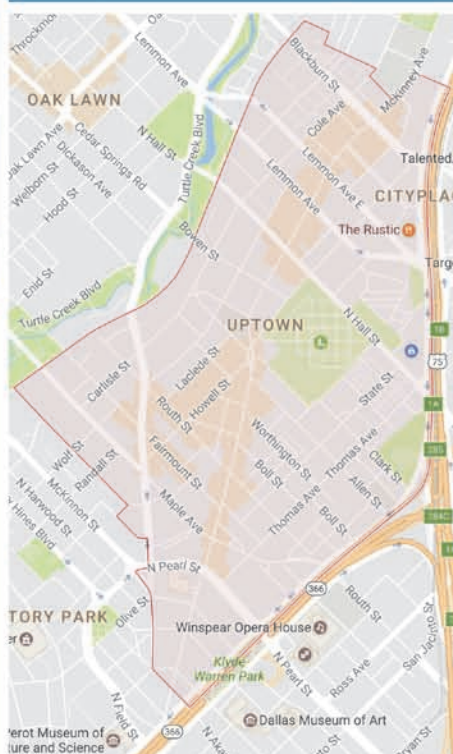
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Making women's voices heard

17th annual Words of Women essay contest, International Women's Day event is set

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

"It doesn't matter where women are, we're working. We are all working to make the world what it is," declared activist Christine Jarosz. "That's why the women's movement is a working women's movement. It started with the factory workers."

The month of March is Women's History Month, and it starts off with International Women's Day on March 8. And in Dallas every year, the Hello Sisters International Women's Day event celebrates and honors the women who work to keep the world working.

The annual Hello Sisters event started with an essay contest, and that contest remains the centerpiece of the celebration each year. It began, Jarosz noted, as a project of the Lesbian Resource Center.

Jarosz co-founded LRC and served as its first and only coordinator. The center was located in an old building on Skiles Street, just off Live Oak, and operated on membership fees — \$40 a year for a regular membership, or \$10 a month to be "A Founding Mother."

LRC offered a wide variety of programs and activities, starting with a lending library and including the Womyn for Womyn Lesbian University a peer education program, an exercise program, a housing referral program, a monthly dance and so much more. The idea of the center, Jarosz said, was not just to provide women with a meeting space and resources, but to give them a voice.

So many women, she said, were — and still are — isolated. Whether they live in the big city, way out in a rural area, even in another country altogether, Jarosz wanted to find a way to give them a voice. Thus was born the Words of Women essay contest. And Hello Sisters was built around that.

In looking for someplace to preserve the essays submitted for the first Words of Women contest, Jarosz approached the Dallas Women's Museum. "But they told me, 'we don't take words,'" she said. "But I wanted people to see these essays, to hear what these women had to say."

So she created Hello Sisters to give contest winners a chance to read their essays out loud. The first one was held at the Women's Museum.

"Each year, it got bigger," Jarosz said. "Each year, we added things — exhibitors, speakers, musicians, dancers. In my mind, everything about the event is designed to make the essay contest winner each year feel like the most important woman in the world."



DOLLARS, From Page 8



For six years, the Women's Museum hosted Hello Sisters. Then the museum closed, and the event moved to the Bath House Cultural Center on White Rock Lake, where it has been held for the last 10 years, presented by a committee called The Mother Board.

"We have no belief that this event is ours," Jarosz said of herself and the other organizers. "We're just lucky enough to be the ones who help make it happen."

International Women's Day is on March 8 each year, which obviously doesn't always fall on a weekend day. So organizers hold Hello Sisters on the closest Saturday, and then on March 8 host the Just-A-Dinner event. This year's dinner will be at Afrah's Restaurant, 318 E. Beltline in Richardson, from 7:30-10 p.m. Dinner costs about \$15.

But the main event, Hello Sisters and the announcement of the essay contest winner, will be held Saturday, March 4, from noon-5:30 p.m., at the Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther St. (on the east shore of White Rock Lake). In addition to the essay contest winner, the event will feature the Hello Sisters 100 Yard Sign art display, arts, crafts, music, stories and speakers discussing the status of women.

The event is open to vendors, who pay only \$25 and bring their own table and chairs to set up their exhibits. Organizers are also accepting event sponsors. "That's how we pay for everything, through vendor fees and sponsors," Jarosz said. "Everything we do is for free. This is not a fundraiser. It's a community event."

This year's winning essay and past winners' essays at the Words of Women website, WordsOfWomen.org. This

year's winner is a local woman, Jarosz said. But last year's winner was from Seoul, South Korea, and the year before from California. Other previous winning essays have come from India and Afghanistan.

"The year the woman from Afghanistan won, she couldn't be here, of course, but her aunt was in school in New Mexico, and she paid herself to fly in to be here to read her niece's essay at the event," Jarosz said.

This essay contest, Jarosz said, is to her one of the most important things she has accomplished in a lifetime of activism. "I have a lot of joyful moments, but the time I am the happiest is when I can pick up the phone and call the winner of the essay contest," she said.

"One year, the winner was from Garland. I didn't know her, but I called her house and a teenage girl answered. She sounded totally bored and uninterested, until I told her who I was. And then all that bored teenager stuff was gone. She was so excited. I could hear her, 'Mama! Mama! It's them! The essay contest! You won!'"

"Right then, I really saw the power of this one little essay contest," Jarosz continued. "That's why I do what I do, so that women have a voice. So they know they are heard and recognized and appreciated. So they know how important they are."

"We have to support and encourage each other. That's why we make these things happen. That's why it is important."

To volunteer for the Hello Sisters International Women's Day event, or to be a vendor or a sponsor, or to RSVP for Just-A-Dinner, call 347-933-1256.

it by 20 years, and you are talking about a huge difference."

Today, he said, the Workplace Equality Index includes 260 companies that all have

"state of the art LGBT-inclusive policies."

"There's always been a lot of qualitative information on why it's a good idea for companies to treat their LGBT employees

well, but there was scant research in terms of what was in it for the companies and their shareholders," Roberts said. "Now, we have quantified that difference. We've

proven that you'll do better from an investment standpoint when you go with inclusive, supportive companies.

"That's a powerful statement."

Repeating history?

Art exhibit on resistance to Nazis has new meaning in Trump era

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Bullying and bravery are the themes of *Holocaust Heroes: Fierce Females*, an exhibit now on display at the Museum of Biblical Art and National Center for Jewish Art on Boedeker Street across from NorthPark Mall. It features a series of leather collages created by lesbian artist Linda Stein that honor women who were heroes of the Holocaust.

"How do you keep your self-respect and survive?" Stein's work asks. The women she honors in her artistic creations maintained their self-respect, though some didn't survive.

For example, Hannah Senech joined the British army and parachuted behind enemy lines to rescue Jews who were being transported to Auschwitz. She was captured, tortured and then killed by firing squad.

Another woman featured in the exhibit is Ruth Gruber, a photographer who may be more responsible for bringing images of the

Holocaust to the U.S. than any other journalist. She survived the war, but just recently died at the age of 105. The Nazis would have described her work as "fake news."

Also featured is Neor Inayot Khan, a radio operator with a Muslim background, who was dispatched by Great Britain to Paris to send messages back to England. While the average life expectancy of men working as radio operators behind enemy lines during World War II was less than six weeks, Khan survived four months before she was captured and sent to Dachau, where she was killed.

Stein's work, though created some time ago, is more relevant than ever in the current political environment, where white supremacists are treated as just a normal part of the political spectrum, rather than being called out as Neo-Nazis and condemned for their hatred.

Stein pointed out what she calls "the four Bs" that allowed the rise of Nazism, adding that she sees many parallels in today's world.

For instance, she said, the Holocaust began with bullying. Bullies thrive on having a class of people that they can attack. While only a small portion of the population in



Nazi Germany were the bullies or the bullied, most people stood on the sidelines and allowed the bullies to escalate their terror into violence. Those who wouldn't get are the one's Stein calls the bystanders.

But what ultimately defeated the Nazis were the brave, Stein added — those who stood up to the violence, hatred and oppression. In her exhibit, Stein focuses on 10 women who made a difference during the Holocaust.

During the current administration, Stein said she sees women as once again being heroes. The first resistance to the Trump administration came in the form of the women's marches held across the country the day after Trump's inauguration.

But is history really repeating itself with this administration?

The president issued a statement on Holocaust Remembrance Day, but in that state-

ment he made no mention of millions of Jews killed in the Holocaust, even though his daughter and son-in-law are Jewish. And it wasn't until more than 60 bomb threats were called in to Jewish Community Centers around the country, including the one in Dallas, and tombstones in a Jewish cemetery were overturned that Trump bothered to speak out and condemn the anti-Semitism. Even when he did speak up, he failed to mention the roles white supremacist Neo-Nazis play in his administration.

In a time when immigrants — Muslims in particular — are being bullied in many of the same ways Jews in Nazi Germany were bullied, Stein's exhibit is a valuable commentary.

Museum of Biblical Arts, 7500 Park Lane. Wednesday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. \$12. On exhibit through March 31

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Tammye Nash Managing Editor | 113
Arnold Wayne Jones Executive Editor Life+Style | 129
David Taffet Senior Staff Writer | 125
Contributors: Chris Azzopardi, Jenny Block, J. Denton Bricker, Alicia Chang, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Shelley Hamilton, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Cassie Nova, Mikey Rox, Howard Lewis Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Mathew Shaw, Mark Stokes, Jef Tingley, David Webb, Casey Williams
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Remembering Rosa

LGBT Latina community leader Rosa Lopez leaves a legacy of civic pride and activism

JESUS CHAIREZ | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Dallas' iconic lesbian Latina, chicana, feminist and community activist Rosa Erlinda Lopez — lovingly known simply as Rosa — lost her long and courageous battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma on Tuesday morning, Feb. 21, 2017. Rosa died surrounded by loving family and friends in her hometown of Moline, Ill., having left Dallas on Wednesday, Feb. 15, to be with her family there.

Rosa's cancer had been in remission for years. "But it recently returned and [more] fierce this time," according to her niece, Angie Moore of Moline.

Rosa grew up as the third eldest child in a family of two sons and eight daughters. She worked at the nonprofit housing organization Housing Assistance Center of the Niagara Frontier, Inc. in Buffalo, N.Y. But when that organization failed due to a lack of funding, she decided to move to Dallas. She said she moved here because both her parents were born in Dallas, and because she wanted to be close her Latino culture and heritage. She also felt living in Dallas would give her easier access México.

Rosa arrived in Dallas in 1991, and by 1992 she had founded and was serving as executive director of Vecinos Unidos Inc., a West Dallas nonprofit that provides homes to residents of that low-income community. Rosa was dedicated to West Dallas and also served on the board of the West Dallas Chamber of Commerce for two years.

In 1995, Rosa and some of her friends founded Dallas' first lesbian Latina group — Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas. LLDD's mission was "to serve as a resource and support organization, for the purpose of educational, emotional, political and social advancement of lesbianas Latinas."

I first met Rosa through her work with LLDD, and I made sure she and others in the organization knew they always had an open door to come on my weekly LGBT Latino radio program on KNON, *Sin Fronteras*, to discuss issues of concern and events happening in the community. Because of Rosa's addictive smile and personality, we quickly became friends.



Rosa

MEMORIAL SERVICE

LULAC 4871 — The Dallas Rainbow Council will hold a community memorial service for and tribute to Rosa Lopez on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 6-7 p.m., at the Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas. Rosa's family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Rosa's name to LULAC 4871's Jesus Chairez & Rosa Lopez Scholarship Fund. LULAC 4871 President Alex Treviño said contributions can be mailed to LULAC Rainbow, P.O. Box 192336, Dallas, Texas 75210. Make checks payable to LULAC 4871, and make sure to note on the memo line that your contribution is for scholarship fund in memory of Rosa. LULAC also has a PayPal account and contributions may also be made online at [Paypal.me/lulacrainbow](https://www.paypal.me/lulacrainbow).

On Saturday, Nov. 9, 1996, Rosa and the rest of Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas became Dallas' first LGBT Latino group to hold a major community dance at a prominent Dallas hotel when they hosted "La Noche de Gala Formal Dance" at the Harvey Hotel downtown. The event was very well attended.

LLDD disbanded after two years but Rosa certainly didn't retire from civic life. While she continued to work "a normal job" during the day, by night and weekends she was a community volunteer and a civic leader, putting her time and effort into making Dallas a better place for all.

She was one of the pioneering business-people who helped make the Bishop Arts District what it is today by opening her ice cream parlor, Suenos Sabrosos (Sweet Dreams), there. It was a loving place that felt like home to many and where people in the community people came to enjoy sweet treats and talk to Rosa, who always had a

sympathetic ear for their concerns.

Suenos Sabrosos was so popular that Dallas Observer gave Rosa the award for Best Cultural Dessert in the magazine's 2005 "Best Of Dallas" issue. But Rosas closed the ice cream parlor after many years of hard work so she could dedicate more time to her health and concentrate on her civic work in West Dallas.

Mary Velez, who walked into Suenos Sabrosos for some ice cream one day and left as a future board member (and eventually, board chair) of Vecinos Unidos, said that through that organization, Rosa "inspired each homeowner to be outstanding citizens of their West Dallas community." She said Rosa was "involved in voter registration, in workshops on the Affordable Care Act and community gardening." She also recalled that at Vecinos Unidos offices, Rosa kept a Mexican ice cream cart full of free books, which she called "Helado (Cool) Stories." It was her way of promoting literacy among the residents of West Dallas.

Jesse Garcia, a founding member of Dallas' LULAC 4871 — The Dallas Rainbow Council, who now lives in Washington D.C., said, "For years, Rosa dedicated her life to Vecinos Unidos, which connected West Dallas residents to resources. In 2010, our LULAC Dallas Rainbow Council awarded Rosa a community service award for helping low income people."

Juan C. Contreras, a past president of LULAC 4871, told me that Rosa "was truly a fighter, a role model, and above all, a friend. During my years at LULAC Council 4871, she was awarded the 'Se Presta' (She Lends), an award honoring a community leader who has partnered with [LULAC 4871] to make a difference."

Contreras was instrumental in honoring Rosa by having her name added to LULAC 4871 scholarship fund in 2014, which then became the "Jesus Chairez & Rosa Lopez Scholarship Fund." It is an honor to me to share that honor with her.

West Dallas, the Dallas Latino community in general and the Dallas LGBT community has lost a one-of-a-kind leader with Rosa Lopez's death. Let us honor her memory and her contributions by keeping her dream alive.

Jesus Chairez is a former Dallasite now living in Mexico City. He was a producer and host of North Texas first bilingual LGBT Latino radio show, Sin Fronteras, on KNON 89.3 FM, from July 1993 to July 2005. Chairez is author Queer Brown Voices, a collection of personal narratives of Latina/o activism. Chairez is a freelance writer and can be reached at [Facebook.com/JesusChairez](https://www.facebook.com/JesusChairez).

An open letter to Donald Trump, the man occupying the White House



Mr. Trump:
You recent gaff about the terrorist attack in Sweden (and other gaffes regarding current events) might be excusable — if you were not sitting in the Oval Office. As the so-called president of the U.S., you have the most effective information gathering operations in the world at your fingertips, as well as the miracle of Google.

I understand you are fond of hyperbole and often overstate things to make your point. It's a political device I understand well. But using this technique simply to elicit fear in our citizens in an effort to justify whatever actions you might have planned is pretty much bush-league (pun intended).

I would expect something much more nuanced for an allegedly successful businessman such as yourself.

In addition, citing non-existent "terrorist attacks" simply because you saw it on Fox News brings into question your intellect. Sir, do you not realize that Fox News is simply a propaganda machine for the GOP? It represents the pinnacle of "fake news" and is rarely trustworthy for an accurate account of restaurant reviews, much less issues of national importance.

If you insist on continuing to try and play the role of president, you need to spend a little more time working on your lines and your delivery, because presidents shouldn't try to make policy in angry 140-character bursts of words on social media. The president should be thoughtful and level-headed, proposing and enacting policies that are carefully thought out, with input from experts on the subject.

There are millions of Americans that look to the President as the "captain of this great ship of state" we call the United States. That



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

is a metaphor for the awesome task of being a leader. People follow leaders who are level-headed. They trust them; they will do anything for a leader they believe to be trustworthy. Unfortunately, people will also follow leaders who scare them into following. Those kinds of leaders — the ones who lead by fear and intimidation — have a very poor track record. Just look at the long list of despotic dictators who have come and gone and are only remembered for their tyranny and unpopularity. The public eventually figures out that they have been "played," and that does not end well for the dictator.

I would ask that as long as you are playing the role of president, you at least try to avoid citing nonexistent events as a justification for your policies. In short, stop playing the "fear card." It's a surefire way to decrease your popularity and lose ratings. (I use that as an example, since it seems "ratings" is the only thing you understand.

Here, let me put it in words surely even you can comprehend:

Trump lying = Trump not trusted.
Trump not trusted = Trump unpopular.
Trump unpopular = Trump sad.

Sincerely,
Hardy Haberman

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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Rising Up

Oscar winner Dustin Lance Black on his first time as an activist, the power of collective protesting and changing hearts with 'When We Rise'

With an emotionally resonant speech, Dustin Lance Black accepted the Oscar for his original screenplay of *Milk* in 2009, a powerful tribute to gay political hero Harvey Milk. Could an Emmy be next?

It's possible, even if the 42-year-old is too modest to admit that his latest screen ambition, *When We Rise* (airing on ABC starting on Feb. 27), the accomplished filmmaker's tremendous seven-part undertaking chronicling the progressive uprising of the '60s and '70s, is certainly golden statue-worthy. Partly inspired by LGBT rights activist Cleve Jones' recent memoir, the miniseries sheds light on our foremothers and -fathers who raised hell — working to combat misogyny, homophobia and racism — to create a changed world for future generations of, as the show declares, "others."

"With this show, I measure success by whether I get a phone call from one of my Southern family members who have never talked about being gay," Black says. "When that happens, and that conversation is started, it will have succeeded."

And should that conversation stretch beyond Black's own parochial loved ones, its influence could be life-changing for those in the queer population who now find themselves trying to resist the oppression of Trump's America.

For that reason, *When We Rise* is shockingly relevant, especially considering its half-century-old history isn't just history — it's our current reality.

During this intimate conversation with Black, the filmmaker gets candid about the beginning of his activism at age 7, the importance of "we" in any resistance movement, and how sharing a story is the first step in changing a mind. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

The miniseries When We Rise begins airing Monday on Ch. 8.

Dallas Voice: Tell me how this miniseries ended up on a commercial network like ABC. Dustin Lance Black: This project started for me four years ago, when I heard a rumor that ABC was looking at optioning LGBT history properties, and I called my agent and was like, "Is that true?" Just four years before, I had to charge the development cost of *Milk* on my credit card because no one wanted to pay for it — no one was interested! So, I had made my agent book a meeting with the powers that be at ABC, to look them in the eye and see if it was true ... and it was. The funny thing is, they said, "We can't afford you, but who do you think would be good to write and create something like this?" and I just laughed. Like, come on!

So, I thought, "Boy, this is an incredible opportunity to tell our LGBT story, or a part of our LGBT story, and not be preaching directly to the choir." I had other networks that had been interested for a long time in something of this nature, and I thought, "They're gonna spend more money, they're gonna give me all the time in the world, it'll be a great experience and we'll get it absolutely right ... and we're gonna turn around and preach directly to the choir and we might not change a single mind." Here, I had a chance to tell our stories on the network that I watched



as a kid, because as a kid, I grew up in the South, I grew up in the military, I grew up in a conservative home, in a Christian home, and we trusted ABC because ABC told family stories. I thought, “Well, here’s a chance to finally be able to tell the story of my LGBT family to my actual family,” and that’s what I set out to do. That’s why I think it’s remarkable that it’s on ABC. We’ve come to a place where we can perhaps talk the same language of family between these two Americas, and perhaps change hearts and minds in a time when that seems absolutely, critically necessary.

How was the idea for *When We Rise* first conceived? I toyed with the idea for a long time. After *Milk* was over, I started to think about other stories that need to be told, and I’m doing other LGBT-themed history projects, but I always wondered, “Was there something bigger, and how would I go about doing that?” As I met people — activists — along the way, I would sort of catalog their names in my head in case I ever got the chance to do something like this, and it was ABC saying they would actually pay for a year of research to really figure out who to depict that set it in motion.

So, it was always something I wanted to do,

and I thought ABC was the right home for it. So then, at great personal expense, I set out on a journey. Let me just say nobody made any money off this thing. If anything, my poor agent and business manager were sweating it as we got it to year four.

You have Rachel Griffiths, Mary-Louise Parker and Guy Pearce, and then a terrific cast playing them in their youth. How did the casting process work for this? Did you have any of these actors in mind while researching the real-life person they’re playing? I never think about who will play the parts while I’m writing if it’s based on a true story because I’m working so hard to get the real people right. Certainly, by the time I was writing the finale, I started brainstorming, and I had one dream for [lesbian women’s rights activist] Roma Guy and that was Mary-Louise Parker, and I had one dream for Cleve Jones and that was Guy Pearce.

Then, I got this very emotional, beautiful phone call from Michael K. Williams [who plays Ken Jones, an African-American community organizer] while I was at the airport scouting locations in San Francisco. He told me how personally meaningful the scripts were to him, and he talked about the people he lost — his friends and fellow artists in New York — when he was growing up, and I could just tell it was coming from a very personal place, so you can’t beat that personal connection.

The young cast — we went out searching, and

we just wanted to cast the very best people. [Transgender civil rights leader] Cecilia Chung was a really interesting one to me. I had said to my casting director that I only wanted to cast trans actors and actresses in the show to play the trans roles, and they brought up Ivory [Aquino] to play Cecilia Chung. I got a little upset with him and said, “You know, I told you it’s important we make an effort and cast trans actors and actresses for these roles,” and he said, “We think you need to get on the phone with Ivory,” and Ivory came out to me as trans on the phone call. She’s now come out to the world.

Why was it important for you to include actual trans actors in the trans roles? First and foremost, when I’m casting any role, I’m gonna look for somebody who can bring a part of their experience to the role. They still have to be a great actor, so if I can’t find anyone in the world who shares some experience that they’re about to portray in this character, who’s also a good actor, then I’ll happily go for someone else. And the big surprise is, it was *not* hard to find amazing trans actors and actresses to play these parts. What was difficult was deciding who to cast because so many great tapes came in. So, I call bullshit on Hollywood if they say it’s difficult. And if they think it’s difficult, then they should call our casting directors because they found unbelievable trans actors and actresses, and it was actually tough to decide *who* to cast.

I think people have the impression it is

difficult based on what they’ve heard from directors and casting agents, so this is refreshing to hear. It’s not true. I’ll tell you what was difficult: Years ago, it was difficult to find openly gay actors to play openly gay roles — *that* was difficult. When we were doing *Milk*, that’s what we said we wanted to do, and the studio gave us full permission to do that. So, we called agents and manager friends and they all said they didn’t have any gay actors or actresses, which is funny since I knew some of their clients *were* gay! It was very frustrating, but thankfully that’s begun to change as well, particularly in this young generation of actors and actress who, in one way or another, have come out on social media when they were kids and there’s no putting them back in the closet in today’s social-media age.

An interesting tidbit to share is, they also worked incredibly hard with the real people when that was possible. For both the young cast and the old cast, on my own dime, I flew up the real people to wherever we were shooting so they could be there to work with the costume department, the set design department and the actors, just to make sure we were as close to truthful as possible.

Do you remember the first time you stood up for something you believed in? My mom was paralyzed from polio since she was 7. She had the use of her arms, but that was about it. So, I grew up with a severely

■ RISING Page 17

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Fuel's errand

The uber-fuel-efficient Accord Hybrid is a stylish and affordable winner



40 is the new 29, as the still-youthful and energetic Accord Hybrid proves.

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com



While the Honda Accord has been around more than 40 years, the new Hybrid doesn't look a day over 29. Its youthful smooth body with glistening

lighting only serves to draw attention to the technology beneath the shredded sheetmetal. All that's made Accord one of the world's most popular cars conspires with automated driving features to elevate it.

Putting power to pavement is a little complex. The hybrid system starts with a

2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine. System output reaches 212 horsepower — the highest of any midsize hybrid sedan. As you would expect, it's also very efficient, posting 49/47/48 miles per gallon city/highway/combined. Nearly 50 MPG in a roomy family sedan is impressive, but not easily achieved.

Accord Hybrid can operate in three modes: EV Drive, Hybrid Drive or Engine Drive. In the first, the lithium ion battery pack can drive the car short distances without starting the gas engine. In Hybrid Drive, the electric motor drives the wheels while the gas engine replenishes the battery pack. In the last mode, both the gas

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engine and electric motor drive the front wheels. Drivers can choose EV Drive, but the car will also choose modes to operate most efficiently in all conditions.

I drove the car through stop-and-go city traffic, on expressways, and hauling tail across open Interstates. Clocking 49 MPG in city driving is impressive — especially since the car moves quickly and smoothly under electric power. Under throttle, you can hear the engine revving strangely as it moves out, but it moves out. On the highway, you can feel the powertrain switching between electric, gas and both, but it's not overly annoying and delivers impressive fuel economy.

The car comes standard with "Honda Sensing" — a grouping of safety-tech like Adaptive Cruise Control, Collision Mitigation Braking, Forward Collision warning and Lane Keeping Assist systems. To preview the future of driving, press the little steering wheel button on the steering wheel. It allows the car to self-center in its lane automatically. Lightly grip the wheel and watch it keep the car going straight. Very cool. A multi-angle rearview camera and Honda's Lane Watch camera provide all-around vision backing and turning.

Accord receives styling upgrades for

2017 that make it appear both sportier and more futuristic. Our Touring edition glitters with LED headlamps, foglamps and taillamps that look like jewels. A sculpted aluminum hood sits atop a brighter and more pronounced front grille. Restyled bumpers and facias lend the car a ritzier appearance. Place it over 17-in. aluminum wheels.

Like all Accords, the Hybrid's interior is nicely-tailored, but the infotainment screen is a ridiculous collection of confusion with volume and tuning that defy actual knobs.

Radio channels and music menus swipe like an iPad, but it takes seemingly forever to sync music files and boot up.

I figured it out, but Honda can do better. Check the new CR-V for proof. Comfy heated leather seats, classy woodgrain dashboard trim, and kicking audio system are all great.

Like most of my 40ish friends, the Accord will probably just be 29 forever. With a sexy body, demonstrated efficiency, gleaming lights and soothing luxury, it will never have to explain anything. The infotainment system is a confusing mess, but the rest of the car is all the original Accord dreamed to be. A base price of \$29,605 (\$36,790 as tested) makes 29, not to mention 40, look pretty good. ■

disabled mom, and I didn't quite know that or realize that until I was probably 7 years old, somewhere in the early years of elementary school when we started having to be out in public with strangers. The way they looked at her and the way they treated her, it ate at me.

I was an incredibly shy kid. I rarely said a word in school. But there was this student named Anthony who was severely mentally disabled, and he would get bullied constantly. I remember the time I finally stood up for him. I was very afraid, because I was a tiny little thing. And I remember trembling, but the bullies backed down. I told that story to my mom, and my mom looked me in the eyes and said, "You have a strong sense of justice — where does that come from?" And the answer is pretty obvious: I was hiding a pretty big difference of my own, and I knew at that point that I had crushes on my guy friends and not the girls in school. Certainly, having watched my mom being treated so differently because of her difference, those sorts of moments of witness instilled a sense of justice in me.

And now you are one of our most recognized activists. Well, your job's incredibly important right now. I can't overstate how much we depend on journalists right now to stand up for the truth, so good on you.

We both tell stories about LGBT people, and I imagine, like me, you hope that non-queers see your work and come away with a sense of just... humanity. That's the key,

isn't it? Listen, this show is for ABC. As a kid who grew up watching ABC in the South in a Christian, military home I knew I could show up at the dinner table with all the laws and facts and science I wanted and I wouldn't change a single mind. You want to change a mind in that other America? You gotta lead from the heart, and you do that by telling stories, not by arguing facts or the Constitution.

So, that's what I came armed with for *When We Rise*. I went out and did my best to find true stories — in particular, stories of families, because the family story transcends these two Americas. There's not a lot we think we have in common right now, but both Americas have family stories, and we can both be moved by each other's family stories. That's why I mine family stories: the families we lost when so many of us were outed or came out, the makeshift families we had to build to survive, and eventually the families we were able to build and raise.

So, by that design, you tell an emotional story, you can change a heart; if you can change a heart, you can change a mind; you change a mind, you can change the law. But it goes in that order, and so this is the first step of that. Let's try and change some hearts.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

To read more of our interview with Dustin Lance Black, visit DallasVoice.com.

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Oscars so gay

Forget 'a day without an immigrant' — nowadays, Hollywood without gays would be the death of awards, as these queer Oscar contenders show

Most of us know that the most popular Oscar-nominated film for the gay community is *Moonlight*, which has the second-most nominations this year. But it's hardly the only film with gay content (or a queer sensibility, or LGBT nominees). In addition to nominations for iconic allies like Meryl Streep and Viola Davis, many gay folks behind the scenes and on screen inform particular areas of a wide swath of films this year. So here's a primer on some

■ OSCARS Page 20

Out Texas native Tom Ford, right, directed Michael Shannon, center, to an Oscar nomination for 'Nocturnal Animals.'

"Fearless performers... brilliant at making precisely coordinated feats look improvisational, even reckless."
- The Dallas Morning News

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The magic flame

Queer icons have helped campy magician Jeff Hobson find his onstage persona

When he steps onstage, magic isn't enough for Jeff Hobson. As the emcee for the popular *The Illusionists Live From Broadway* show — as well as his solo performances — he looked to campy icons for inspiration. Now, he wears rhinestones like a suit of armor. Hobson's bedazzled jackets and sparkling custom-made shoes match his flamboyant delivery as The Trickster in the show that opens Tuesday at Music Hall as part of the Dallas Summer Musicals season.

Camp? Certainly, but Hobson wouldn't say his Trickster character is gay.

"I guess he's more of a metrosexual so he has some kind of appeal for everyone. You have to have the thing that makes you stand out," he says. "Elvis had his hip move. Mine is 10,000 rhinestones — combined with magic."

Described as the Avengers of magic

shows, *The Illusionists* consist of an all-star cast of magicians with colorful (or creepy?) names like Anti-Conjuror, Weapon Master and Daredevil.

So how does a mere trickster stand out?

"I still remember the days of Liberace and Rip Taylor. I'm no youngster," Hobson laughs. "So I wanted that flamboyance."

Videos of him on YouTube can be found pulling men onstage to help him with a trick. He flirts relentlessly. The men don't seem to mind his double entendres, which

may be another magic trick (he's not telling). But children and women in the audience eat it up.

Hobson's shtick has

included elevated card tricks, lit matches from his crotch, wristwatch swiping and his "disappearing egg sack." Perhaps his most dramatic is his fire eating, a talent he's performed for most of his career.

"Of course I'm flaming every night," he quips.

Ba-dum-bum.

As a child growing up in Detroit, magic was Hobson's main outlet. He describes

THE ILLUSIONISTS

Music Hall at Fair Park,
901 First Ave. Feb. 28–March 5.
DallasSummerMusicals.org.



The Trickster, right, works his magic on an audience member.

himself as sheltered, but the excitement that came with magic was his bridge to others. That has stayed with him through today.

"It was my way of making other people happy and making friends, to create wonders," he says. "It was a cool thing to do. I still have those feelings, which is probably why I'm the one in the troupe who is the most interactive [with the audience]."

Although he doesn't mention his own orientation, Hobson understands he can be toeing the line on his performance. He also works to be careful about it.

"All the jokes are on me. I'm not trying to do anything at anyone else's expense whether it's the audience or a community," Hobson says.

And coming to Texas, he knows some

■ FLAME Next Page

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of the gay influence on the nominated films.

La La Land. Though largely heteronormative, two of the 14 nominations for this po-mo musical are for best song, both of which were co-written by Benj Pasek, the openly gay lyricist responsible for such stage shows as *Dogfight* and *Dear Evan Hansen*.

Fences. Oscar-winning producer Scott Rudin, who shares a best picture nomination for this film, is openly gay.

Lion. Ditto *Lion*'s Iain Canning.

Zootopia. Producer and co-director

Byron Howard is openly gay. If it wins as best animated film, expect him to thank his husband.

Florence Foster Jenkins. The two-time nominee features an overlooked performance by Simon Helberg as a closeted pianist. (The film's straight director, Stephen Frears, has a long history of making films with gay content.)

Nocturnal Animals. Although supporting actor nominee Michael Shannon is straight, the film's writer-director is out Texas native and fashion designer Tom Ford.

20th Century Women. Original screenplay nominee Mike Mills writes about his mother with this film; in his last feature, *Beginners*, Mills wrote about his dad, who came out as gay late in life. (Christopher Plummer won an Oscar for that film.)

Hidden Figures. The best picture nominee features out actor Jim Parsons (*The Big Bang Theory*) in a key supporting role.

The Lobster. This comedy about couplehood in a dystopian future includes gay themes related to relationships of any kind being essential in a well-ordered society.

Loving. This story of the interracial cou-

ple (including best actress nominee Ruth Negga) who triggered a supreme court decision decriminalizing miscegenation doesn't have any gay content itself, but the decision is iconic in the gay community as laying the groundwork for marriage equality.

Life, Animated. Queer documentarian Roger Ross Williams made this story of an autistic boy who deals with the world via Disney films. Williams previously won the documentary short Oscar for *Music for Prudence*.

I Am Not Your Negro. The center of this film is queer intellectual James Baldwin.

O.J.: Made in America. In this epic, eight-hour documentary, we learn not only that O.J. Simpson's father was gay, but that helicopter pilot Bob Tur, who famously chased and reported on the slow escape in the white Bronco, is a trans woman, now known as Zoey.

Star Trek Beyond. The makeup nomination for this film probably wasn't specifically for attaching pointy ears to out actor Zachary Quinto ... but maybe!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

The Oscars air on Ch. 8 Sunday, with coverage starting at 6 p.m.

■ FLAME From Previous Page

stops may need to digest him a little slower than other stops.

"There are more conservative places and sometimes I do temper my performance. Sometimes I have to start off a little bit less me and build it up. But then they come around. An audience like Dallas though, gets me," he says.

And despite the rhinestones and swishy act, it's just about the magic.

"It full of amazing and shocking magic that's awe-inspiring and beautiful," Hobson says. "So in short, it's fabulous ... like me."

— Rich Lopez



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Thursday 03.02 — Sunday 03.05

Uptown Players takes on showtunes with Broadway Our Way

There are a lot of great fundraisers out there — fashion shows, cocktail parties, beer bashes, dinner-and-dessert feasts, fancy affairs and low-key ones. But few are as outright entertaining as Uptown Players' annual fundraiser, Broadway Our Way. A full-on show featuring some of the top singing, dancing and comedic talent in North Texas, BOW is a revue of musical numbers from Broadway's songbook, only this time the girls sing the boys' parts and vice-versa. It also previews the rest of UP's season and gets you dibs on season tickets. B.J. Cleveland, Coy Covington and a host of others will delight you.

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



Tuesday 02.28

Terry D. Loftis to give a 'standard' cabaret at Fair Park

When we say Terry D. Loftis has standards, we mean both an ethical compass and a catalogue of songs from the Great American Songbook. Nat King Cole. Sammy Davis Jr. If it has a classy vibe, Loftis is all over it. In fact, that may be why he named his upcoming cabaret performance at the Women's Building at Fair Park Clas, Style & Juice. The juice, by the way, refers to Scotch whisky. Cuz what's a cabaret singer without a little booze on hand? And to sweeten the juice, it's free!

DEETS: Women's Building at Fair Park, 3800 Parry Ave. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Free.



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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Galileo. Bertolt Brecht's play about the famed, controversial astronomer, with Bruce DuBose in the title role. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through March 5. Undermain.org.

The Echo Room Presents: Her Song. A retooled version of Echo Theatre's annual cabaret style play and revue. Final weekend. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. EchoTheatre.org. TicketDFW.com.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Theatre 3's annual musical comedy revue returns, but in a newly-imagined production. Final weekend. Theatre Too inside Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Lovers, Lust & Lies. A world premiere play by Alejandro de la Costa, about two college friends who reunite and revisit their past relationship. Intended for mature audiences. Presented by MBS Productions. Final weekend. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. MBSProductions.net. Paper Flowers. A regional premiere of a rarely-performed play about a man, a woman and the disruption of social order Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater in their new space. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway, ste. 180. Through March 11. KitchenDogTheater.org. The Illusionists. An encore performance of this amazing collection of masterful magicians who dazzle with their feats of illusion. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Feb. 28–March 5. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Thurgood. Jubilee Theatre kicks of Black History Month with this show about the groundbreaking lawyer and jurist Thurgood Marshall. Final weekend. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.

Will You Still Love Me in the Morning? The first show of Theatre Britain's final, five-show season, a farce about several couples sharing a house with comic consequences. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through March 5. Theatre-Britain.com.

CIRCUS

Kurios — Cabinet of Curiosities. The latest creation from Cirque du Soleil. Reviewed this week. Lone Star Park, 1000 Lone Star Parkway, Grand Prairie. Through March 26. CirqueDuSoleil.com/kurios.

FINE ART

Art and Nature in the Middle Ages. Evolving representations of the natural world in the Romanesque period, from England to Iran.



Cirque du Soleil is back! Read Arnold Wayne Jones' review of latest production, 'Kurios,' online at DallasVoice.com.

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through March 19. DMA.org.

Landscape Relativities: The Collaborative Works of Arnold Chang and Michael Cherney. This exhibition highlights the blurred line between photography and Chinese ink painting from two contemporary artists. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Feb. 25–June 25. CrowCollection.org.

FRIDAY 02.24

COMMUNITY

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

FILM

CineWilde presents: Y tu Mama Tambien. The monthly gay film fest's February film is the edgy Mexican street drama, directed by Oscar winner Alfonso Cuarón and starring Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna. Texas Theatre. 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Pre-show talk 8:30 p.m., screening at 9 p.m. and after-party at 11 p.m. \$10.



Arists Arnold Chang and Michael Cherney combine their disciplines for a new exhibition opening Saturday at the Crow Collection.

SATURDAY 02.25

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

SUNDAY 02.26

BROADCAST

The 89th Annual Academy Awards. Jimmy Kimmel hosts the show that honors Hollywood's year at the movies. Pre-show coverage all day; ceremony airs at 7 p.m. on Ch. 8.

MONDAY 02.27

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.

BROADCAST

When We Rise. Dustin Lance Black (Milk) directs this miniseries based on the memoir of gay rights activist Cleve Jones. Airs on Ch. 8 from 8–10 p.m. Feb. 27, March 1, 2 and 3.

TUESDAY 02.28

FILM

Westworld. Not the TV show, but Michael Crichton's 1973 film that inspired it, about robots at an amusement park that go wrong. (Note similarities as well to Crichton's later *Jurassic Park*.) Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 03.02

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.

THEATER

Broadway Our Way. Uptown Players presents this annual fundraiser, a revue of showtunes with a twist. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. March 2–5. UptownPlayers.org.

Passing Strange. The funky, edgy musical (winner of the Tony for best book) is an autobiographical account of performance artist Stew, and his journey of sexual, political and musical awakenings. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. inside the Quadrangle. March 2–26 (in previews through March 5). Theatre3Dallas.com.

FRIDAY 03.03

FILM

Third Annual DFW South Asian Film Festival. The annual festival of films from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives returns, and once again, includes LGBT programming. This year, it moves from Plano to Addison (as well as an opening night party at the Perot Museum). AMC Village on the Parkway, 5100 Belt Line Road. March 3–5. Visit DFWSAFF.com for full schedule.

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March Events

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Girl on Girls

Jenny Block makes getting your freak on a political statement

The time to have more sex is now. The time to relish, to pleasure seek, to kiss and hug and hold hands and dance slow and fuck hard is now. Right now. Things are scary out there. They're precarious and dangerous and hateful and unpredictable and we have to balance the scales with some serious good and not add to the incredibly bad.

At first — right after the election, I mean — the state of the world left me not only not wanting to indulge in pleasure, but also feeling as if it wasn't OK, that maybe it was even downright wrong, to enjoy anything ... as if relishing anything implied somehow that everything was normal, or that things weren't as bad as they seemed. Feeling good was somehow bad karma. If I was happy, then the world would lash out and remind me to be sad.

But that crazy and fatalistic view is exactly what the bad guys want: to get us to stop living our lives and start living by their lies. That's the definition of terrorism — using intimidation and violence against the public to forward political aims. They want us still and afraid and suffering so that we see no choice but to follow their nefarious lead. The hate. The violence. The lies. Every inch of what the current administration is up to is about making us afraid to live our lives.

Well, fuck that. One of the most powerful ways to protest the hate and the lies is to live the love and the truth.

So I've gotten over my initial reaction to the election of Forty-Five and have decided instead to do exactly what the powers that be don't

want me to do. I'm seeking pleasure. Sexual and otherwise. I'm considering hedonism my spirit guide. I'm eating chocolate. I'm laughing at bad jokes. I'm sitting in the sun. I'm masturbating. I'm sinking my toes in the sand. I'm letting the sun sink into my skin. But most importantly, I'm loving my fiancé Robin. I'm kissing her every chance I get. I'm holding her hand in public. I'm having sex with her and enjoying it more than ever, because I know it's exactly what Forty-Five and his minions don't want me to do. I'm reminding myself every moment I get that pleasure and my pursuit of it is my right and my responsibility.

It's my right to live my life and it's my responsibility to put on my oxygen mask first before helping others. Pleasure is self-care. The world needs saving right now. But the only way we're going to be able to do it is if we save ourselves first. They want to break us down, make us feel guilty for being for we are and for loving who and what we love. They want us desperate. But pleasure feeds us. And now is the time to be well-fed.

Orgasm is particularly important now. It helps us sleep. It aids in the fight against depression and anxiety. It combats headaches. You're brushing your teeth, right? You're washing your face, aren't you? You're taking your vitamins or meds I bet. Well, orgasm needs to be part of your regime. Pleasure needs to be on your list of keeping yourself ready, willing and able to fight the good fight.

It's far more difficult to overcome a nation of people who are holding fast to their commitment to self-care then those who aren't. We cannot allow ourselves to become fatigued by the fight.

They don't want me to exercise my rights. They don't want me to live in my body. They don't want me to experience the world. They don't want me to make my own decisions or listen to my own mind or know and live and



abide by the truth no matter how many times or in how many different ways they tell me it isn't the truth. But I am going to do all of those things. I'm not going to get dumber. I'm going to get smarter.

This is an insanely difficult time. The world is in intense unrest. We are left with only one question: Will we continue to live or will we let them kill us, if not literally then figuratively?

I know what I'm going to do. I'm going to live. I'm going to live really hard. I'm going to sing off-key at the top of my lungs to my favorite songs. I'm going to go to the theater with my love. I'm going to go to the art museum with my dad. I'm going to eat sushi with my mom. I'm going to cry at sappy

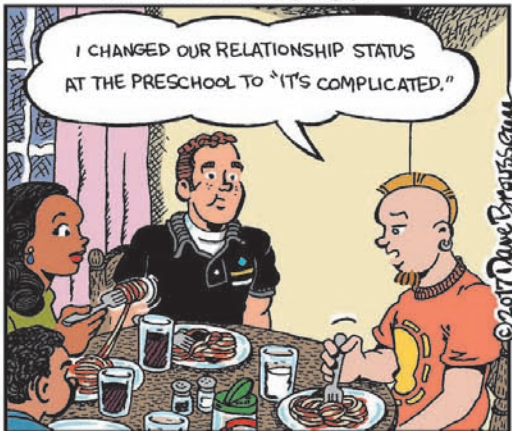
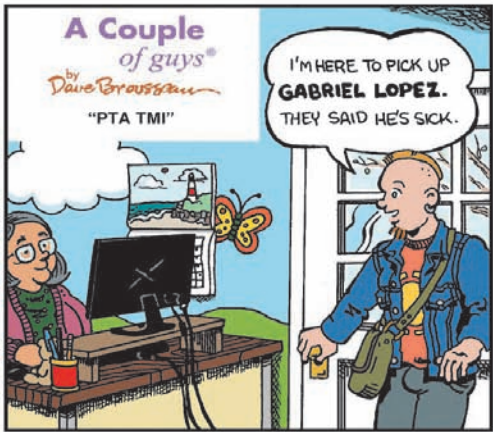
movies with my daughter. And I'm going to orgasm myself into fighting shape. I'm going to live.

What I am not going to do is let it rip apart my relationship or erode the love I live for. I'm not going to stop having sex and making out and goofing off and being Robin's girl. Divide and conquer is all played out and I'm not playing.

So sign the petitions and make the calls and run for office and vote and march every chance you get. We have to keep doing all the things and we have to do them more than ever.

We also have to love. We have to love and love and love and love. We have to love and kiss and hug and play and fuck. And, you know, truth be told, at least a little part of me truly believes that Forty-Five is destroyed just a little every time any one of us enjoys stellar gay sex. Fucking just might be the best way of all to tell Forty-Five to fuck off.

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



this week's solution

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browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

submit

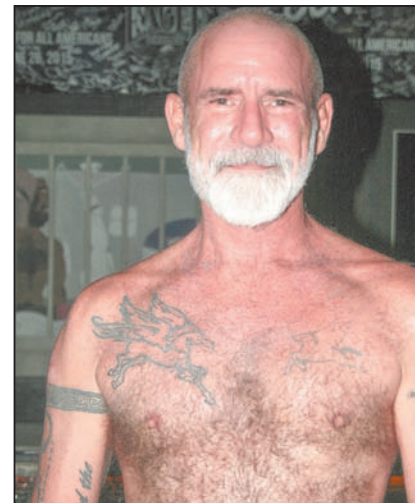
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Manning the door at Dallas Eagle



Friends hanging out at Liquid Zoo



Sexy staff at Dallas Eagle



Working it at Club Stallions



Willam and the girls



Friends out for fun at Dallas Eagle

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Feb. 24–March 2**

- **Alexandre's:** Lala Johnson with Linny Nance and the Netowrk on Friday. Bondtourage on Saturday. Liz Mikel on Tuesday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. So Strung Out with spencer West on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXS!:** Sixth annual Fat Tuesday celebration on Tuesday.
- **Cedar Grove:** Drag Brunch emceed by Jenni P at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Geeks Who Drink two year anniversary on Friday.
- **Club Changes:** Divine Miss Divas Show with Tasha LaMoore, Monique Rostin, Lova Chochran, Angel Simone and M.C. Shamoo at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Back Patio Saturday Night from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday. Monthly Bear Gathering with Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and Mardi Gras cook off from 5-7 p.m.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Valentine Extravaganza Show with Mr. Dallas Pride 2016 Kenny Ivy from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. Miss Texas Gay Rodeo Association fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Angels vs Demons from 6-10 p.m. on Sunday. Mardi Gras Supper & Show from 7-10 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Carnival on Saturday. Cassie's Freak Show with Fantasha, May May Graves and

Scene Photographer: **Kay Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**

Mulan Alexis on Monday.

- **Liquid Zoo:** A Hero in You, Celebrating Heroes in our Community, with emcee Devon DeVasquez at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** Meet Kennedy and Katya from RuPaul's Season 7 on Friday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Join Miss Round-Up, Sassy O'Hara for Boys, Boots & Boxer Briefs to win a cash prize at 10 p.m. on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Carnival on Saturday. Cherry Bomb performs. Kathy & Bella at 3:30 p.m. and Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Carnival with Cassie, Asia, Krystal, Jenna, Layla, Kelexis and Sasha A. on Saturday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** Linda and Larry Petty at 8 p.m. on Friday. HausBone Jazz at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:**
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Beads! Beads! Beads! Celebrate Mardi Gras on Tuesday.

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Alyssa Edwards lights up the night at S4



Getting close at Alexandre's



Jordan and Eric at Alexandre's



Smiling staff at Woody's Sports & Video Bar



High-fashion pose on The Strip



Mikey at TMC: The Mining Company



Cassie Nova getting shady



Wayne Smith at Liquid Zoo



Serving up fun at Liquid Zoo



Getting friendly at The Round-Up Saloon



Kene and Alan at Sue Ellen's



Friends' night out at Woody's Sports & Video Bar

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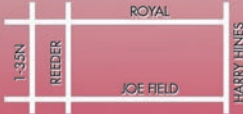
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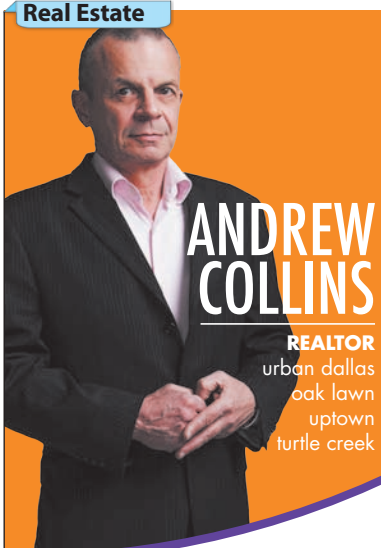
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Homojis

Solution on Page 24

Across

- 1 Collette of *United States* of Tara
5 Puts the tongue between the cheeks
9 ___ fan tutte
13 *Ben Hur* or *Spartacus*
14 Red rind contents
15 Sherman Hemsley religious sitcom
16 Unimportant
17 Ward of *Once and Again*
18 Aquarium
19 Gathering for tops and bottoms?
22 Writer Castillo
23 Mapa of *Switched at Birth*
24 Connection with people
28 Marine role of Jim Nabors
32 Be in the hole
33 Stops suckling
36 Kunis of *Black Swan*
37 Country ruled by a dick-tator?
40 One of Grampa Walton's granddaughters
41 Presbyterian minister Jane
42 Went down on
43 Cul-___
45 Equated

Down

- 47 Like Albee's three women
50 Neighbor of Ariz.
51 Computer storage of phallic pictures?
57 Date opening?
58 Mary Richards' spunk, for example
59 *Charlie's Angels* role
61 Second fruit eater
62 ___ *Upon a Mattress*
63 Hairy twin
64 Anna Madrigal's daughter
65 One who looks into crystal balls
66 Cold-cock
1 Word after pro
2 Source of oil-based lubricants
3 Robert De ___
4 Top of the world
5 Where motorists get off
6 What comes to mind
7 One of the Obama girls
8 Vidal's *Visit to a ___ Planet*
9 Where the ancients stuck their bones
10 Barbra's *Funny Girl* guy
11 Tickled pink
12 Like a desk blotter

- 20 "If I'd only ___!"
21 Ball holder for Patty Sheehan
24 Like Orlando Cruz before a bout
25 Gay-friendly, perhaps
26 Meaning of the homojis that appear in circles
27 Canvas covering
29 City of Da Vinci's *Last Supper*
30 Top
31 Competed at Indy
34 Scott of *Beautiful Thing*
35 The hole she bang, perhaps?
38 Curse from Jeremy Irons in *The Borgias*
39 Dweebish *Family Matters* boy
44 The Batmobile, e.g.
46 Caused to come out
48 HRC's equal sign, and others
49 *SNL* producer Michaels
51 Word to a dominatrix
52 Bring to naught
53 Trey does his voice on *South Park*
54 Disney's Mickey and Minnie, e.g.
55 Bear up there
56 Guillermo of *Weeds*
60 Wicks of the WNBA



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