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Trans Voices

Transgender advocates and allies gathered in Austin this week to battle Dan Patrick's bathroom bill
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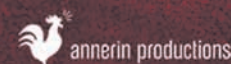
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Trans girl Libby Gonzalez stand with her father Frank during a rally for trans rights Monday in Austin. (Eric Gay/Associated Press)

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Street's Fine Chicken to open second, fast-casual location this summer

Street's Fine Chicken, the Street Family spot that opened last year in the long-standing Black-eyed Pea space on Cedar Springs, will open a second location this summer, the company announced Thursday afternoon, March 9.

A more fast-casual incarnation of the sit-down-service gayborhood location, the new chicken joint will be located near the intersection of Inwood Road and Forest Lane, according to Marco Street. The company's Liberty Burger is already a success at that location, he said.

Much of the menu will remain the same, and the spot will offer whole chickens and cater to take-out orders.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Robo-calling for hate



Dr. Steven Hotze

As hearings on Dan Patrick's bathroom bill got underway before the Senate State Affairs Committee in Austin on Tuesday afternoon, March 7, robo-calls were going out from Houston GOP activist Dr. Steven Hotze encouraging constituents to call Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, to urge her to vote for SB 6.

A Dallas Voice source, who said he had gotten several calls at work in a 30-minute time-frame, said the calls urged constituents to encourage

Nelson to support SB 6 "to keep men out of women's restrooms." He said the calls were going out under the guise of being from CRTX-News.com, "a Breitbart-esque bullshit website." Hotze is listed as the website's publisher.

Hotze, in case you are wondering, is the right-wingnut who in July 2015, announced the founding of "Real Marriage: One Man/One Woman for Life," a group he said would campaign against the cultural influence of "homo-fascists."

He said the organization was necessary to fight same-sex marriage because the homosexuals "want to intimidate individuals, churches, schools and families to celebrate those that participate in anal sex. That's what they love and enjoy: anal sex. And that's bad, that's evil. It's a terrible thing to try to do and they want to try to teach it to kids in schools. Kids will be encouraged to practice sodomy in kindergarten."

Hotze, founder of Hotze Health and Wellness Center in Houston, is a high-dollar GOP donor and a longtime conservative leader in the party.

Nelson, it seems, was listening to Hotze and his followers. She joined the majority in voting SB 6 out of committee.

— Tammye Nash

Rally remembers recent trans murder victims



About 25 people gathered in Reverchon Park on Friday evening, March 3, to remember trans victims of violence with a candlelight vigil.

At least seven trans women of color already have been murdered so far in 2017. Two of the seven murders occurred in Louisiana over

the past week. A third happened earlier in Louisiana but the victim was initially misgendered and dead-named.

Last year, at least 27 transgender people were killed in the U.S.

Shannon Walker, who organized the Dallas rally with Trans Pride Initiative, called the murders, involving stabbings and shootings, were especially violent.

— David Taffet

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THEGAYAGENDA

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 **Sam Tournabene** talking about **Advocacy Day**; **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.

MARCH

- **March 11: OOCCL Spring Symposium**
Oak Oak Cliff Conservation League

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you make them feel."

—Maya Angelou



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Brian Cross
1964-2017

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pet of the week / BIG'NM

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Big'Nm is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive, near I-30 West 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, 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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OBITUARIES

workshop to empower Oak Cliff residents and neighborhoods to make Oak Cliff even better from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Turner House, 401 N. Rosemont Ave.

- **March 12: DFW Pride Happy Hour**

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

- **March 12: Mikah Meyer**

To fund his world record road trip to all 417 national parks, Mikah Meyer sings at LGBT-friendly churches. He appears at 10:50 a.m. at St. Stephen United Methodist Church, 2520 Oates Dr, Mesquite.

- **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 16: AWSO kickoff party**

AIDS Walk South Dallas kickoff party including a display of AIDS Memorial quilt panels from 6:30-9 p.m. at Level Office, 701 Commerce St. \$20 suggested donation.

- **March 18: Lee Park AIDS Memorial Anniversary**

This month marks the 25th anniversary of the tree planting and plaque dedication in Lee Park to honor those lost to HIV/AIDS. A gathering at 11 a.m. will honor Alan Ross, who created the memorial and worked to have it installed in Lee Park. There will be testimonials and remembrances.

- **March 18: Rep. Pete Sessions Town Hall**

U.S. Rep Pete Sessions, R-Dallas, will hold a town hall at 12:30 p.m. at Richardson High School, 1250 Beltline Road. Anyone with concerns over protecting Medicare and Social Security benefits, health care or LGBT rights is encouraged to attend.

- **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 18: QCinema**

Suzanne Westenhoefer live at 7:30 p.m. at Amphibian



Brian Cross, 52, died suddenly on Monday, March 6.

Brian graduated from North Mesquite High School and received his B.A. from University of North Texas after having been expelled from Dallas Baptist University for being gay, even though at the time he didn't know he was gay.

Before he retired, he worked in art restoration and for several years ran an art gallery in Breckenridge, Colo. He served on the board of Congregation Beth El Binah, where

he was always made sure anyone coming to the group for the first time was welcomed. In February, he helped welcome about 100 LGBT teens that were in Dallas as part of a B'nai Brith Youth Organization convention.

Brian is survived by husband, David Taffet; mother and stepfather, Margaret and Bob Austin; father and stepmother, Steve Cross and Yvonne Cronin; his sister, Robin, and her family; his brother, Ken, and his family, and his uncle, David Ruth.

Brian's memorial service will be conducted by Congregation Beth El Binah at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road, at noon on Friday, March 10.



Patrick Warren Armstrong, 56, died peacefully at his Dallas home, beside his partner in his own bed, on Dec. 7, 2016.

Patrick's parents, Lou and Donna, worked for Braniff Airlines and inspired his love for all things Braniff. In 2008, Patrick guest-curated the Braniff exhibit at Frontiers of Flight Museum, Love Field. Many of the items included in that exhibit, in fact, belonged to him.

Patrick worked on the ramp in fleet services for American Airlines DFW until his medical retirement in 2004. He bravely fought illness for years, with uncommon spirit. His loving nature and warm smile will be greatly missed.

Patrick was preceded in death by his loving parents and, in 2002, by his previous partner, Harry Losey. He is survived by his partner, Russell Lewis, and his brothers, Dana and Terry Armstrong.

Patrick was a U.S. Navy veteran and he will be laid to rest, with honors, close to his parents in a columbarium at the Fort Sam Houston National Military Cemetery in San Antonio on Friday, March 17, at 1 p.m. His family, friends and Braniff family area welcome to attend.

Rest in peace, dear Patrick.

Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. \$25-75. Qcinema.org.

- **March 18: HRC Spring Luncheon**

Mary Beth Maxwell, senior vice president for programs, research and training speaks. From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 48th floor, 1601 Elm St. Federal club members free. Federal club guests \$35. Others \$50. SpringLuncheon2017.eventbrite.com



Tommy Ray Marion Sr., beloved father, grandfather and husband, and celebrated life-long Dallas educator, passed away on Feb. 24 at age 71.

Tommy was born Jan. 28, 1946, in Dallas, to unknown parents at St. Paul Hospital (now St. Paul Medical Center). After being cared for by the Holy Sisters of the International Order of the Daughters of

Charity of St. Vincent de Paul for one year, he was adopted by Raymond and Minnie Marion of Dallas. The Sisters took special care to watch over Tommy as he grew, frequently visiting the Marion household. As a child, Tommy was an avid tap dancer and piano player.

At age 13, Tommy snuck out of his house to attend Judy Garland's historic 1961 concert at the Music Hall at Fair Park. His parents never found out.

Tommy graduated from Jesuit College Preparatory School in 1963, then from Southern Methodist University in 1968, where he also earned his master's degree. He had an intense passion for education that lasted throughout his lifetime, beginning at Jesuit Dallas, where he taught Spanish from 1973 until 1992, serving for a time as chairman of the Foreign Language Department. In 1985 Tommy was honored at the White House, under President Ronald Reagan, as one of the country's Most Influential Teachers, receiving a Certificate of Excellence in the Presidential Scholar Program.

After many wonderful years at Jesuit, Tommy began his second career at Richland College in the Dallas County Community College District, starting in the Corporate Services Department. It was during this time that he taught at businesses across North Texas, including Alcatel, Ericsson, and MBNA, giving Spanish for Business and Industry courses. He also taught Command Spanish courses to first responders in Dallas County and the Plano Public Library.

Tommy was honored by Richland in 1995 with the Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award for his Spanish credit course instruction. Following his retirement, he continued working part time in the International offices where he was employed until his unexpected passing.

As an adult, Tommy was an avid local and world traveler. He was active in the Lebanese-American community, and helped found the annual Lebanese Food Festival. He loved classic movies and musicals, and could often be found along with his husband, Ray, at the Dallas Voice/Magnolia Theater's Big Movie Tuesdays or at the Winspear Opera House.

Tommy married Ray Sablack, his partner of 15 years, on June 26, 2015, the day marriage equality was made legal nationwide. They were one of the first male couples legally married in Dallas.

Tommy was preceded in death by parents, Raymond and Minnie (Ashmore) Marion of Dallas. He is survived by his loving husband, Ray Sablack of Dallas; his two adult children from his previous marriage, Tom Marion of The Colony and Carla Marion Peritz of Allen; son-in-law Don Peritz Jr., also of Allen; and two grandsons.

A memorial will be held at Richland College — Lago Vista/Richland Library at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 31. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dallas Public Library for Spanish Language Materials, so that Tommy's legacy will continue to inspire others to never stop learning.

SB6 backers win first battle

Despite overwhelming opposition during hearing, bathroom bill is voted out of committee

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
james.journo@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 7, was a long day at the Texas Capitol. That's when the Senate State Affairs Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 6, the so-called bathroom bill, authored by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham that would require transgender men and women to use public restrooms according to the sex noted on their birth certificates and not their gender identity.

Hundreds of people signed up to provide two-minute testimony for and against the bill, which opponents — including Equality Texas and a broad coalition of business groups — call “discriminatory.”

Kolkhorst insisted the bill was not about discriminating against transgender people when she laid out her bill to the committee earlier in the day. “While the media makes it so much about transgender, this is a bill to say that men should not go into the women’s restroom or into the shower or locker-room,” Kolkhorst told the committee.

Sen. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, replied that in that case, the bill is not necessary since there are laws already in place addressing the issue.

If Kolkhorst wants to prevent men from entering women’s bathrooms, Garcia asked, why not use simple language like “someone cannot enter the bathroom of the opposite sex”?

“If that’s really what your aim is, then why are we doing all these other things like the...reference to the biological sex on the birth certificate?” Garcia said. “Because I think that’s what leads to the concerns of many of the people in my district that this is discriminatory and that this is targeting transgender children.”

During the nearly 15 hours of public testimony on the bill, opponents again and again warned the bill would hurt people. Two mothers from the Dallas-Fort Worth area who have transgender daughters were especially concerned.

Rachel Gonzales of Dallas told the com-

mittee SB 6 would hurt her daughter. “Like every other parent here, I just want the best for my Libby,” Gonzales said of her daughter. “I want her to go to school every single day feeling safe and loved.”

“But SB 6 is about hurting transgender Texans — and transgender kids,” Gonzales added. “It’s not only a totally unnecessary bill, it’s a dangerous bill.”

Chelsa Morrison of Grapevine agreed. “I think our kids need to be treated fairly,” Morrison told the committee. “I think our kids need to be protected from discrimination, and I’m here today to make sure my child is protected under the law.”

“We are not fighting about bathrooms; we are fighting for our children’s lives,” Morrison said. “I urge you to listen to my story and the stories of so many other parents here today. Listen to our educators opposing this bill, and listen to the businesses warning you it’s bad for Texas.”

Legislation like SB 6 puts a divisive political agenda ahead of people who really need protection, said the Rev. S. David Wynn, lead pastor of Agape Metropolitan Community Church in Fort Worth.

“When transgender women, children and men go into the public restroom that is congruent with their gender identity, they are the most vulnerable person in that facility,” Wynn said. “They are already targets for bullying, shaming and violence. They are the ones who need protection, and shame on politicians for creating unfounded and misdirected conflict, hysteria and hate for this already overly targeted group.”

“With all due respect, in my faith tradition, we call that sin.”

Texas Welcomes All, a coalition of tourism and convention leaders from across Texas, cited evidence of the economic fallout after a similar bill passed in North Carolina. According to data compiled by Texas Competes, a group of businesses who oppose anti-LGBT legislation, economic fallout from North Carolina’s similar law totals almost a billion dollars.

Not all speakers agreed, however.

Bo French, a failed Republican candidate for the Texas Legislature last session, testified for the bill. Without providing facts to back up his statements, French refuted multiple studies and data indicating that similar legislation had devastating economic impacts on Indiana and North Carolina.

French, who is believed to be considering

Your turn to lobby

• All In For Equality

Equality Texas, in coordination with ACLU of Texas, Human Rights Campaign, Texas Freedom Network and Transgender Education Network of Texas as well as numerous local organizations around the state — including Resource Center and Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas — are hosting All In For Equality Advocacy Day on Monday, March 20 in Austin.

Those planning to attend are asked to register on online at EqualityTexas.org. There is a \$5 registration fee, intended to help reduce the rate of people who register then don’t show up. But those who want to attend but need a waiver of the registration fee can email Robert Salcido at robert.salcido@equalitytexas.org.

Lunch will be provided.

“This is an opportunity for you to ask state leaders to pass inclusive policies that protect all Texans, including our children,” organizers said,

“and end discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.”

• Transgender Lobby Day in D.C.

National Center for Transgender Equality is hosting the Transgender Lobby Day 2017 on Thursday and Friday, June 8-9, in Washington, D.C., to help “fight anti-trans legislation and promote trans inclusive policies.”

The organization encouraged transgender people, their families and friends and advocates and allies to register to participate. On Thursday, participants will meet with others from their state for a keynote address and training session. On Friday, after more training in the morning, participants will head to Capitol Hill to meet with their elected representatives.

For information, visit TransEquality.org or email Kory Masen, Lobby Day organizer, at kmasen@transequality.org.



Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas, speaks during a rally this week against proposed legislation that would keep transgender people from using appropriate public restroom facilities. The measure, SB 6, was voted out of committee despite overwhelming opposition. (Photo courtesy Susan Risdon)

another run for office, said the bill would in fact bring businesses to the state.

“Now the opponents of SB6 will caterwaul all day long about how this is bad and we will lose business in Texas. I say, don’t believe the radical leftists,” French said. “Their values are not our values. I believe that SB6 will put in place protections for our kids in school from would be predators and protect the rights of businesses. This will do nothing but attract business to Texas.”

French and other supporters of the bill were outnumbered, however.

According to official numbers, 44 people spoke in favor of the bill and 271 against. Among those who registered but did not testify, SB 6 opponents outnumbered supporters by almost 1,100.

But that did not deter committee members, who after almost 20 hours of testimony voted the bill out of committee on a party line vote of 8-1.

(One Republican committee member was not present for the vote, but asked to be counted as supporting its passage. One of two Democrats on the committee, Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. of Brownsville, voted in favor of the bathroom bill.)

The bill now awaits votes in the Senate, where it is likely to pass easily. The House, although also controlled by Republicans, is likely to prove a tougher sell, however. Speaker Joe Strauss has indicated that the bathroom bill is not among his priorities, and SB 6 opponents see him as their best hope of defeating the measure. ■

Blue in a swathe of red

Trans woman and congressional candidate Danielle Pellett was among those lobbying against SB 6 in Austin this week

TAMMY NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

When Danielle Pellett went to Austin on Monday, March 6, to lobby against Senate Bill 6 — the anti-transgender “bathroom bill” introduced by Sen. Lois Kolhurst and pushed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick — she went in armed with what she described as logical arguments she believed would get through to conservative Republicans.

Pellett is a transgender woman, a chemist by profession, who is challenging U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Dallas, in the 2018 midterm elections. She describes herself as “ex-conservative” turned “New Deal Democrats,” and said she knows how true conservatives think.

“As an ex-conservative myself, I didn’t try to use the business angle,” Pellett said, even though business leaders warn that passing the bathroom bill could cost the state millions in lost business. While that seems like a logical argument to use in approaching GOP lawmakers who claim to be fiscally conservative, Pellett said it is more

likely to backfire.

“The argument supporters of the bill use is that they are protecting the privacy and safety of women and children. When you tell them that passing this bill is going to cost the state millions of dollars, what you’re doing is asking them to put a price tag on their children’s safety,” Pellett explained. “And you can’t put a monetary value on a child’s safety.”

Instead, Pellett said, approach your argument from a perspective the conservatives can understand and identify with. “Ask them, how are we going to enforce this. Are people going to have to carry around their birth certificates?”

And, she added, you have to work on making the lawmakers understand “that trans people aren’t a risk to their children.” In earlier decades, Pellett said, anti-LGBT forces preyed on people’s fear by warning that if gays and lesbians were allowed to be teachers, the children would be harmed. It was “a dog whistle back then, and it is just as dangerous a dog whistle now to paint transgender as being a danger to children.

“We have to tell them, show them that trans people aren’t the boogeyman,” Pellett said. “If you want to convince the conservatives, you have to convince them of that. Point out to them that in other countries, sexual predators — the kind of people they



Transgender advocate and congressional candidate Danielle Pellett, front left, traveled to Austin on Monday, March 6, to lobby against SB 6. (Photo courtesy Danielle Pellett)

think this bill will protect children from — in other countries those people are chemically castrated. The chemicals they use to do that are the same ones that we [transgender women] take willingly as part of our transition process.

“We have to convince them, ‘We [transgender people] are not the sexual predators you want us to be,’” she said.

Pellett said that she visited on Monday with staffers in the offices of Sen. Van Taylor, R-Plano, and Rep. Linda Koop, R-Dallas. She said staffers in both offices were “very professional and very polite,” but she was not encouraged. Taylor’s staff members told Pellett that he would be voting in favor of SB 6, and while Koop’s staffers didn’t say for sure one way or the other, “I don’t think we

made much headway with them, either.”

Pellett said she felt as if the state senators and representatives “knew we were going to be there lobbying, so they were deliberately not there,” leaving staff members to talk to SB 6 opponents.

And while it bordered on discouraging to be lobbying in the GOP-controlled Legislature, she was lucky to find “a nice, comfortable blue dot in that great swathe of red,” in the form of the office Dallas’s freshman Democratic state Rep. Victoria Neave.

Neave’s staffers, Pellett said, “invited me to come in and sit down and rest, offered me water. They greeted me with a smile and a wave. Victoria Neave’s office was so warm and welcoming, and that was really nice to find.”

HRC places field organizer in Dallas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Human Rights Campaign has placed four field organizers in Texas through the legislative session, and Criss Ruiz is the Dallas field organizer.

The other three are based in Houston, Austin and San Antonio.

Ruiz said she’s seeking volunteers to staff phone banks, reach out to the governor and legislators and to get the LGBT community involved.

She’s just getting started and is

visiting churches, businesses and LGBT organizations throughout the DFW area.

Ruiz moved to Dallas from Orlando, where she was a field organizer for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. Although Central Florida is majority Republican, Clinton won in the region Ruiz managed.

“That was a hard region to win, but we won it by calling, knocking and with blood, sweat and tears,” Ruiz said.

She said a number of her volunteers were Republicans who may have been economically conservative, but who also believed in fairness and equality. And she hopes to recruit like-minded allies across the political spectrum in Dallas, as well.

Ruiz said years ago she worked

at Pulse nightclub in Orlando and knew many of the people involved in the massacre, so that remains close to her heart.

She also was a member of a pop group called Boys and Girls United and toured as the opening act for Britney Spears and NSYNC.

Among the businesses she’s working with in Dallas are the bars. Ruiz said she’s working on several things with Caven Enterprises, which owns four bars on Cedar Springs Road, and she is doing a brunch on Sunday, March 5, at Cedar Springs Tap House.

Ruiz said HRC’s mission is to help Equality Texas and local organizations that have banded together fight SB6 — better known as the bathroom bill — and the so-called religious freedom bills that would

allow discrimination against LGBT people by claiming deeply held religious beliefs and attempts to prevent same-sex couples and transgender people from adopting.

She said volunteers are already flooding the governor’s office with phone calls about the bathroom bill and adoption. That’s something she intends to keep up throughout the legislative session.

To volunteer with HRC’s efforts in Texas, contact Ruiz at Criss.Ruiz@HRC.org.



Criss Ruiz

Planned Parenthood and the power of women

Annual awards luncheon highlights organization's role in empowering women, features a conversation with Marcia Clark

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Even as Republicans in Washington, D.C., surge forward in their efforts to cut all federal funds to Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas will continue to stand strong in its mission to provide reproductive health services, organization leaders promised Wednesday, March 8, at the annual Dallas Awards Luncheon.

The awards luncheon featured best-selling author Marcia Clark, the former prosecutor who was on the legal team that in 1995 attempted to convict pro football star O.J. Simpson of the 1994 murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Lyle Goldman. Actor, philanthropist and Dallas native Stephanie March, known for her role as Alex Cabot on *Law & Order: SVU*, introduced Clark and led the author in a discussion of her career and the difficulties of being a woman in a male-dominated field.

More than 1,600 supporters packed into the ballroom at the Omni Dallas Hotel for the event, which raised more than \$1 million to fund essential healthcare services such as contraception, sexually transmitted infecting testing and treatment, HIV testing, well-woman exams, clinical breast exams, cervical cancer screenings and safe, legal abortion.

Kelly Hart, senior director of public affairs for PPGT, noted that Planned Parenthood has "always been a safe and welcoming space for everyone," including members of the LGBT community. Julianna Gonen, policy director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, confirmed Planned Parenthood's commitment to LGBTQ people in a statement released Thursday, March 9, announcing that 30 LGBT organizations had sent a joint letter to Congress calling on the House and Senate to drop their efforts to kick Planned Parenthood out of the Medicaid program.

"The LGBTQ community stands firmly with Planned Parenthood and all of the reproductive health care providers who have thrown their open their doors to us when

other places in the medical care system have been less welcoming," Gonen said.

Kenneth Lambrecht, president and CEO of PPGT, reaffirmed that welcome.

"As a gay man and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, I am proud that every single day Planned Parenthood advocates for access to trusted, non-judgmental healthcare for all Texans," Lambrecht said. "We provide healthcare, regardless of a patient's insurance or immigration status or who they love or what zip code they're from."

"We are all in this together and we are stronger together," he added. "For 100 years in the U.S. and more than 80 years in Dallas, Planned Parenthood has been a trusted source of expert healthcare and health education. In Planned Parenthood's outreach and advocacy, we strive to destigmatize sexual healthcare in the communities we serve. It is very important to our mission that LGBTQ Texans know that all are welcome at our health centers for expert, non-judgmental healthcare services."

And those open doors should soon be open even wider. Hart noted that PPGT has plans to launch a new pilot program at clinics in Austin and in Plano, expanding the organization's outreach to the LGBT community.

Sarah Wheat, chief external affairs officer for PPGT, noted that the organization's clinical staff "just participated in a training with Dr. Hastings of the Center for Excellence for Transgender Health to enhance our provision of culturally sensitive, gender affirming care to trans patients. Our staff is planning to offer trans healthcare services later this year."

A conversation with Marcia Clark

Clark acknowledged that the prosecutorial team "knew going in that the odds were against us" in their efforts to convict Simpson, "but you still have to fight for what's true. You have to fight for what's right."

Clark and March agreed that while race played a big role in the Simpson trial, the "cult of celebrity" had a significant impact on the proceedings.

"We didn't have Twitter and Facebook and Snapchat and Instagram back then, thank goodness," Clark said. Still, she said, "faxing was the new big thing at the time and every day they blew up the fax machines in our offices" with messages about some small detail of the trial, which was being shown on TV each day.



Actor and activist Stephanie March, left, and former prosecutor Marcia Clark headlined the Planned Parenthood awards luncheon this week. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

But, Clark added, had the social media avenues of today existed during the Simpson trial, she believes that "women would have stood up" and spoken out against "the ridiculousness" of TV pundits who focused more on Clark's skirts and her hairstyle rather than on the facts of the case.

When March asked if having the TV cameras in the courtroom affected the outcome, Clark said yes, without a doubt. And while she believes that it is important to have cameras in courtrooms so that the general population can see the justice system in action, "what's problematic is the people who then come on and try to tell you what you're seeing. It's the broken punditry that causes the problems."

The importance of having cameras in the courtroom is subverted, she said, by the so-called experts who are commenting on legal points and details of a case that they don't actually understand.

The O.J. Simpson trial also showed in stark relief "how incredibly sexist" the U.S. justice system is, March said, commenting again on how the public's and the pundits' focus on Clark's skirts and her hair made it more difficult for her than it would have been for a male prosecutor.

Clarke agreed, saying that the sexism was especially pervasive in the Simpson trial because the presiding judge, Lance Ito, was himself very sexist and "a celebrity fan who loved the cameras."

In fact, Clark said, she believes that the TV ratings, pundits' remarks and the public's response actually affected the outcome of the trial by affecting some of the judge's rulings. One glaring example, she said, revolved around whether testimony indicating that one of the police officers investigating the case, Mark Furhman, was racist, and if so, did his racism prompt him to plant

evidence against Simpson.

Ito initially ruled that testimony on whether Furhman used "the N word" in referring to African-Americans in the early 1980s was irrelevant and was excluded. But when "the pundits went crazy" over that decision, Clark said, Ito changed his ruling "and that, I think, changed the outcome of the trial."

While the sexism was "unusually bad" in the Simpson trial, Clark said women often find themselves caught in the dilemma of trying to be hard-nosed enough to accomplish their goals and not being labeled a bitch.

March agreed: "If you're not strong enough, they say you're not smart, that you're not doing your job. But if you are stronger, then you're just being a bitch. Bitch is the new black."

Planned Parenthood, the women both said, is helping combat the anti-woman atmosphere by helping make sure that women retain ownership and control of their own bodies.

"There are many ways that society minimizes and marginalizes women," Clark said. "Stripping away your power, your control over your own body is one of them. These are civil rights we're talking about here, rights that are just so fundamental."

Clark said that she had recently remembered that as a teen, she got her first birth control pills from Planned Parenthood. Without that help, she said, she might not have graduated from high school, might not have been able to attend college and then law school.

"So Planned Parenthood helped me become who I am today," she said. "I don't really care whose from what [political] party. I'm just all for a good idea. And Planned Parenthood is a good idea." ■



GAY AGENTS, From Page 7

• **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: HRC Volunteer Mixer**

Human Rights Campaign hosts a mixer for current and prospective HRC volunteers from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the second floor at JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

• **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 23: They Were Expendable**

Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance hosts a screening

of *They Were Expendable*, starring John Wayne and Robert Montgomery as two PT boat skippers sent to help defend the Philippines from the Japanese, 7 p.m. at Studio Movie Grill, 13933 N. Central Expressway. Call 214-741-7500.

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

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

• **March 25: Different Strokes Golf Association**

New Members Invitational starts at 11 a.m. at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southerland Ave. Cost is \$55. DSGADallas.org for information and to sign up.

• **March 26: Holi celebration**

Enjoy Indian culture as Radha Krishna Temple celebrates Holi from noon-5 p.m. at South Fork Ranch, 3700 Hogge Drive, Parker.

• **March 30: Black Tie Dinner Kickoff**

Kickoff party from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Concrete Cowboy, 2512 Cedar Springs Road.

Lee Park AIDS Memorial Anniversary



Creating the memorial in Lee Park to honor those lost to HIV/AIDS was one of the projects nearest and dearest to the heart of longtime Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Alan Ross. Come out Saturday at 11 a.m. to help mark the 25th anniversary of that memorial. See listings for details.



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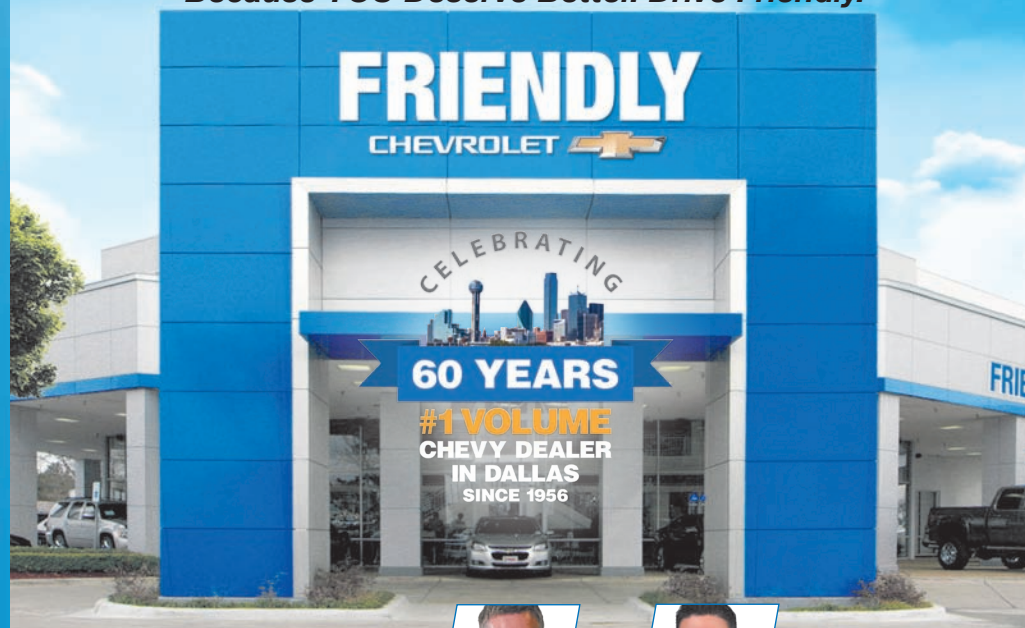


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214-920-4168

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Remembering — Recordando

Dallas' LGBT Latino history site is born

Recordando: It's Spanish for "remembering."

I have documented my life through photographs because my parents didn't. With nine people in our family, taking photos and processing film were a luxuries they couldn't afford. That was long before digital cameras and cell phones, of course.

I was in my mid-twenties when I first got involved in LGBT activism, helping form Dallas' first LGBT Latino organization, the Hispanic Coalition de Dallas. That was in the early 1980s. I took pictures then, too, and saved news clippings about the organization and its activities. But that was all lost when I handed over the scrapbook to the organization's last president, in 1988, after he disappeared and the organization folded.

When I started Dallas' — and North Texas' — first bilingual Latino LGBT radio show, Sin Fronteras, in July 1993, I once again started documenting progress with photographs and news clippings. But I wasn't really thinking back then about saving Dallas' LGBT Latino history.

After Sin Fronteras went off the air in July 2005, a friend was looking at my scrapbook. He said to me, "Mujer [girl], you have a wonderful gay Latino history book here. You are like a living dinosaur for our gay Latino community."

I realized that was true.

Beginning in the spring of 2011, I started participating in a LGBT Latino history project, co-authoring a book called Queer Brown Voices, Personal Narratives of Latina/o LGBT Activism. It is a collection of essays chronicling the experiences of 14 Latina/o LGBT activists from across the U.S.A., that was ultimately published in September 2015.

When The Dallas Way: The Dallas GLBT History Project was formed, I participated by telling my story at an Outrageous Oral event in September 2012.

So documenting Dallas' LGBT Latino history has always been important to me. One of the reasons it is so important for those of us in that community to keep those records is that our LGBT Latino accounts aren't included in the mainstream mix of Dallas' overall LGBT history. Latinos, like



Jesus Chairez
Contributing Columnist

most people of color, are often ignored. (Think #GayMediaSoWhite here).

Then, in the spring of 2013, I met with Joe Perez, an original member of the Gay Hispanic Coalition de Dallas,

and Rosa Lopez, founding member and co-chair of the Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas, to discuss how to save our LGBT Latino history. Instead of complaining, we just decided to save our history ourselves.

Joe Perez had saved things from the coalition for his own personal pleasure, not because he was thinking about preserving LGBT Latino history. He had in his possession things I thought of as the Holy Grail of Dallas' gay Latino past.

Rosa Lopez had a scrapbook filled not with pictures, but with agendas and newsletters. To top it off, I had materials from my radio show Sin Fronteras. All of these things were important artifacts of our history.

The three of us met a couple of times, but then we got sidetracked. And I moved back to Mexico City.

Still, recording Dallas' LGBT Latino history was always at the back of my mind, and ultimately, I was able to document Joe's scrapbook during an October 2016 visit. I planned to document Rosa's scrapbook next, during a visit planned for the spring of this year, when I will be back in Dallas on business.

But Rosa's cancer, which had been in remission, came back, more aggressive than before. And in the last week of January, Rosa's niece sent me an email letting me know that Rosa's time was short.

So I immediately got on a plane to Dallas to visit with Rosa. We spent some time together and I was able to record her story, via an audio interview, and to document her scrapbook.

It was our final project together.

Rosa's life was ending, and in an effort to preserve her legacy and our LGBT Latino history, I created "Remembering – Re-

cordando: a Dallas Latina/o LGBT History Viewpoint," and finally putting all of our material on the Internet.

Since I had no historical material from Dallas' first Gay Latino bar, Bamboleo's, I contacted Carl Smith, the last remaining owner of the bar, for any information he had. Fortunately, Carl had saved his Bamboleo's material digitally, because, he said, he knew that "Bamboleo's was making history and changing the culture of the LGBT community, not just the LGBT Latino community, and that [the information] needed to be preserved and shared."

"Remembering – Recordando" includes Rosa's portrait, her scrapbook and our last audio interview. Also included is Joe's and my scrapbooks, and pictures and video from Bamboleo's that Carl added.

Others have also started to add materials. And I will be adding items as I find them; I'm searching for all pictures and information from the community referencing the LGBT Latino.

For example I would love to have photos from Cruz's Café, a gay Latino Tex-Mex restaurant once located Cedar Springs Road, next door to where Street's Fine Chicken is now. And before Bamboleo's, there was Hugo's a small Mexican cantina once located on Maple Avenue, between Reagan and Throckmorton Streets.

I would love to add pictures of any activities from the Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas days — or any other organization or activity related to the LGBT Latino community in North Texas. If there are organizations or events that I don't know about, please let me know.

"Remembering — Recordando: a Dallas Latina/o LGBT History Viewpoint" is a work in progress, and I always looking for more stories to add, in English or Spanish. I hope others will join in to preserve this almost-lost history of our community and our movement.

Jesus Chairez is a former Dallasite now living in Mexico City. He was the producer and host of North Texas first bilingual LGBT Latino radio show, Sin Fronteras, on KNON 89.3 FM and is an author published in the book, Queer Brown Voices: A Collection of Personal Narratives of Latina/o Activism. He can be reached at facebook.com/JesusChairez.



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Side**bi**side

Proudly bisexual singer Vanessa Carlton is just as worried about gay rights as you are

When we begin our interview, I ask Vanessa Carlton — as you do — “How are you?” At first, she replies with a perfunctory “good,” but then she backpedals:

“Actually, I’m not great,” she confides. Carlton is — like any anti-Trumpist — on edge of late.

“It’s really scary,” says the 36-year-old, who established herself with her Grammy-nominated hit “A Thousand Miles,” which made her a household name in 2002. “If [this] administration tries to take away the right to adopt and same-sex marriages — if I could lose my mind any more, I will. I can’t even fathom. At this point, we’re talking about civil rights of Americans, and LGBTQ is a community and that is *real*.”

That’s a bold position for a woman married to a man (John McCauley of the band Deer Tick), but Carlton isn’t just an ally — she identifies as a “proud bisexual.” She came out as bi in 2010 during Nashville Pride. Now, like the rest of us, she’s grappling with the distressing reality that “the most fundamental human rights in this country are at risk,” she says.

Carlton’s allegiance to the queermunity first blossomed when she was an aspiring dancer of 13, after moving to New York City and immersing herself in gay circles.

“I don’t look at the community as separate from my life,” she says. “I was never able to differentiate it because I was just always in it. My adolescence was in that community, so I never really looked at it as some kind of specialty community or ‘other.’”

Even though she describes herself as “private... but not weirdly private,” when Carlton played Nashville Pride seven years ago (her *first* Pride), a couple of young women in the audience compelled the singer to come out publicly. Her reason for taking that leap was simple: She imagined them being shunned by their parents for being gay.

“I just wanted to connect with them,” she recalls.

Carlton continues to reach out to fans on social media, posting about her current tour (it will bring her to Dallas’ Granada Theater on March 24) in support of what’s arguably her best album to date, *Liberian*, but also the Trump administration’s constant barrage of bad decisions, including his immigration ban. Again, it’s personal: “I have family that live in

Vanessa Carlton is more interested in being a good musician than a pop star. (Photo courtesy Eddie Chacon)

the Middle East, and when I'm seeing stories of these families being divided and the children being detained for five hours in the airport because it's something our president did... that is when I will highlight and communicate to strangers about how I feel."

Because "every day or every week there's a new threat to something," Carlton hasn't been as out as she thinks people should be right now, she realizes during our conversation.

"I haven't highlighted that fact about myself," she admits, pointing to her lack of outness on social media. "Every American that believes in rights for all, they should be out — and not just out supporting, but sharing, 'This is who I am.'"

Traces of the singer are woven into the ethereal fabric of 2015's *Liberian*, Carlton's fifth studio album titled after an oil painting her grandfather made. Last year, the album was released as a live set, recorded in Nashville's 3rd & Lindsley.

Liberian isn't just the most cohesive collection in her repertoire (dating back to 2002's breakout LP *Be Not Nobody*); it's a major sonic shift from "A Thousand Miles." Her breakthrough piano ditty left such an indelible mark on her career that Carlton's publicist asks me to limit my questioning regarding the song.

"I will tell you, I play it first at my shows," she says, noting that her core fanbase now comes to hear songs from 2011's *Rabbits on the Run* and *Liberian*.

"And then there's always the people who go, 'Oh my god! It's Vanessa Carlton! We've gotta go see her!' They don't know the other stuff, and I'm like their 'Get Drunk With It On YouTube Girl' and they just want to relive that moment, but it's not that kind of show, really. It's a moodier show. So, I open with that song, and if they're wanting to stay for the rest of the set, then great; if not, then they got what they wanted."

Though "A Thousand Miles" has followed the musician around since the beginning of her career, Carlton admits it has afforded her the ability to pursue more personally fulfilling ventures. After signing to A&M Records (a now-defunct Universal subsidiary), it became apparent to the singer that, "I wasn't interested in being a pop star. Being a pop star at a major label — there are a lot of rules, there



Photo courtesy Ejesse DeFlorio

are a lot of walls, there's a lot of expectations, there's a lot of limitations," she says. "It's just not my vibe. I never was good at it. I always alienated people along the way. I never kissed the right ass. It was a disaster. It was bound to change."

Fifteen years after launching her major-label career, that evolution fully materializes on *Liberian*, which, from the celestial murmur "Take It Easy" through its dreamlike finish, was "made to be that soothing, cool feeling on the brain." On the road, she hopes to nurture more Pride-type connections — *sans* politics, though.

"It's just about human beings and dissection of emotions of humans and connection and fear and beauty," she says. "If I can highlight that in a time like this — I guess this tour is a good time to play this record."

Her mood, about human rights and even her purpose these days as a musician, strikes the same general chord as the world at large: uncertainty. Her blood pressure rises just talking about President Trump and how his administration could strip her friends and family of their inalienable rights, so when asked to shift topics — from politics to music — she happily obliges with a "No, please!"

But there's hope yet, and it's the music, a glorious escape. "It really calms me down playing it," she says of *Liberian*.

The truth is, though: It's as much a refuge for her as it is for us. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

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Welcome to Amsterdam

Rarely revived, Theatre 3's 'Passing Strange' tracks the journey of an artist



Calvin Scott Roberts rocks out in the smart and emotionally jarring rock musical 'Passing Strange.' (Photo courtesy Jeffrey Schmidt)

You never know when the Holy Spirit will enter you — or, when it does, what shape it will take.

For Stew — the officially-unnamed narrator of the funky-thoughtful musical *Passing Strange*, making its regional premiere at Theatre 3 — it happened at one church service. Only it didn't take the form of the Father or the Son, but of Music. Rock-n-roll. His salvation came in chord progressions and backbeats. Stew — referred to simply as Youth (Darren McElroy), as well as the adult Narrator (Calvin Scott Roberts) — followed a bohemian path of sex, drugs and a surprisingly radio-friendly pop sound. Although African-American, Youth was as hopelessly middle-class as his paler compatriots. It wasn't until he made it to Europe — first Amsterdam, then Berlin —

that he was seen as edgy and "urban." He could fool the hipsters of the early 1980s with his (fake) tales of civil rights activism ... at least for a while. But the façade made him callow and cruel. He wallowed in a false persona, trying to impress people who didn't matter in his life while ignoring those he did.

This is autobiographical stuff, told with a poetic sensibility in a free-verse narration that unblinkingly tells us that Youth was a pretty terrible guy, but that being terri-

ble may have been the only way to reach his end. A reverie on race that isn't about the Jazz Age or told through the prism of Jim Crow. It's a pilgrim's progress, told through a funky downtown soundtrack.

Stew's music (co-composed with Heidi Rodewald) defines pigeonholing, but without being "gospel," it conjures the hypnotic repetition of a chanted church refrain with catchy, short musical phrases that augment the evocative language (Stew describes Berlin "as a forest of sharp corners").

Passing Strange was "the other" big musical of 2007–08, all but blanked at that year's Tony Awards by Lin-Manuel Miranda's pre-*Hamilton* hit *In the Heights* (it did win

the Tony for best book of a musical). I saw that production, in which Stew starred as himself, so I was curious whether it could translate with another

actor; the answer to that is an unqualified "yes." Roberts may not be actually playing his own guitar, but he is inhabiting a character whose defining feature is that he never interacts with any of the other actors onstage: He hovers omnisciently, filling in the blanks as his recollections are acting out before us in their iconoclastic glory. But Roberts' searing emotionalism is sometimes enough to bring you to tears. Just as good is Cam Kirkpatrick as a queer youth minister and a kinky boot-scootin' German

PASSING STRANGE

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performance artist, and Nikka Morton, a powerhouse as the Youth's doting mother.

The one obvious weakness at the final preview performance reviewed is in the sound. The lyrics and dialogue are pregnant with internal rhymes and double meaning, which are sometimes drowned out by the band. At the same time, the music — while capably played under Pam Holcomb-McLain's music direction — doesn't really "rock out" enough. The plotting doesn't allow for easy last-chord applause breaks, but there should be more opportunity for the audience to interrupt with a round of clapping. Maybe that was my diffident audience; this is a show that benefits from an engaged, rowdy atmosphere.

Even without the mosh-pit vibe, *Passing Strange* is an exceptional musical of unusual songs and quirky storytelling. This is the first full-scale musical produced from new T3 artistic director Jeffrey Schmidt, and while he didn't direct it — that fell to the very capable Vickie Washington — the energy it exudes recalls Schmidt's own hand with the amazing hit from several seasons past, *On the Eve*. It signals a new regime at T3 in style and substance, so you should definitely take the opportunity to see this outstanding production.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

"A fascinating, funny, and, at times, frightening tale of strippers, money, and the mob by one of the FBI's most unlikely informants ever!"
—ANDERSON COOPER

SCORES

How I Opened the Hottest Strip Club in New York City, Was Extorted out of Millions by the Gambino Family, and Became One of the Most Successful Mafia Informants in FBI History

MICHAEL D. BLUTRICH

Scores: How I Opened the Hottest Strip Club in New York City, Was Extorted Out of Millions by the Gambino Family, and Became One of the Most Successful Mafia informants in FBI History by Michael D. Blutrigh (BenBella Books 2017) \$26.95; 328 pp.

How does it happen that a gay man would own a mainstream strip club? It was, says Michael Blutrigh, a long story that started after he opened his law firm and

— in search of an outside investment— purchased an L.A. nightclub. Believing that the success of his California business could transfer to New York, he recalled the excitement of a private banker who claimed he'd always wanted to own an upscale strip club.

Being a closeted gay man, that wasn't exactly Blutrigh's dream but the idea niggled at his brain. Partnering with the banker and others, they began looking for a building and batting ideas around.

Scores was born, with a planned opening on Halloween night, 1991.

And then the Mafia arrived.

In order to operate, the partners were told, they would need "protection," which would involve some of New York's biggest La Cosa Nostra families in a sort of symbiotic relationship, plus a grand-a-week kickback. It would also involve skirting Big Apple laws for as long as possible, because Scores would be the city's "first and most notorious upscale gentlemen's club" and there were rules against what a customer would find inside those Upper East Side doors.

Because of the novelty and the entertainment it offered, Scores was successful — more successful than Blutrigh had dreamed. He rode a wave that made him rich and semi-famous ... at least, until the FBI caught up with him and made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

And, of course, that's far from the end of the tale. What's left to say about *Scores* involves rompishness, humor, surprisingly heart-pounding chapters, a little *Goodfellas*, a little *Boogie Nights*, and quite a bit of fun.

That last appeal comes in the form of overgrown tales, courtesy of Blutrigh's memories of what happened inside his gentlemen's club every evening for nearly five years. Readers who remember the most infamous discos of the '70s will find something familiar in that, updated to the 1990s but no less outrageous.

But this book isn't all party: Blutrigh delightfully drops names, including many you'll recognize, but he's deadly serious when he switches his tale from wild to wired, from dancing to danger. Indeed, though you know the risk has largely passed — he wrote a book, after all, right? — the whole of the story is one you've got to read.

There's an amazingly small amount of profanity and prurience inside this book; it's there, but not as much as you'd think there'd be, given the subject matter. That restraint uniquely serves to enhance this book, and heightens the story's value.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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L+S screen

Be our gayest

Disney baits the bigots with 'Beauty and the Beast'



Who's the gay one here? Straight actor Josh Gad plays the frou-frou Le Fou opposite queer actor Luke Evans.

When Bill Condon, the (gay) director of the live-action version of *Beauty and the Beast*, announced that Le Fou, the comic relief character played by (straight) actor Josh Gad would enjoy the first "exclusively gay moment" in a Disney film, the right wing alternative news underbelly clutched their pearls in disgust. This would be, they said, the first gay character in what should be a family-friendly musical meant for Jesus and grandkids. Boycott! Never before has Disney trawled the underbelly of the homosexual agenda!

Only, of course, that's total horseshit.

Gad's character — a holdover from the 1991 animated version, which most of the fundamentalist film critics probably own on VHS, DVD and Blu-ray — was always a bumbling sidekick who sycophantically praises the vain, brawny bad guy Gaston, which is about as emasculating and asexualizing as you can get. (Le Fou, by the way, means "the fool" in French — a classic role in theater.)

The live-action version, which opens wide next week, is overall darker and more textured than the sunny cartoon (it's also 45 minutes longer). This is *mature* Disney. Maturity is supposed to be a plus. Not for some folks.

But it's especially frustrating because

Disney hardly has a clean slate when it comes to gay characters. Jafar? Jiminy Cricket? Ursula?!?! These are queer icons of long-standing. Why get all nose-bent now? Especially with this film, where the gay content is (as it has always been in mainstream culture) largely suggested. You need to be *smart* to pick up on it — something I am not overly worried about with those who are boycotting.

This *Beauty and the Beast* was already one of the gayest productions ever from big-ticket Hollywood, and it has little to do with Le Fou. As mentioned already, the director is gay, but it hardly stops there. The songs were co-written by the late Howard Ashman (gay). The hyper-masculine hetero Gaston is played by actor Luke Evans (gay). Ian McKellen (gay) voices the clock Cogsworth... taking over from David Ogden Stiers, who voiced the role in 1991. (Stiers: also gay.) The screenplay was co-written by YA novelist Stephen Chbosky, who has written several books that contain gay teens.

And worst of all is just how glancingly gay Le Fou actually *is*. This isn't *Shortbus* — there is no sex scene, not even any kissing. There is only Le Fou gazing longingly at Gaston, some obtuse conversation about "what I'm looking for in a mate" and then,

■ GAYEST Page 20

Being green

Runner-up Oscar nominees might be better than the winners



German soldiers are forced by a Danish sergeant to defuse thousands of mines on a beach in 'Land of Mine.'

The war is over, and the Nazis lost. You'd probably assume German soldiers fighting in other European countries put down their arms and marched back home. Only that's not what happened for many young Germans in Denmark. That small northern Ally Power was riddled with land mines — many more than most other countries. And before the war could truly be over, *someone* would have to disarm thousands upon thousands of them. And since the Germans planted them, the Danish authorities conscripted them as bomb disposal units.

"Justice," you probably think. "Damn Nazis deserve what they got."

And then you see *Land of Mine*, one of the five films recently nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award (it lost to *The Salesman*), and your moral compass begins spinning like a top.

Putting men in the way of uncontrollable explosives has been a conceit of filmmakers going back to Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1953 film *The Wages of Fear* (remade in the 1970s as *Sorcerer*) to *Speed* and beyond. But somehow, this time it feels less like a gimmick than a metaphor for the intensity of emotions on both sides.

You want to sympathize with Sgt. Rasmussen (Roland Møller), the Danish officer charged with training and disciplining the

German boys (none are over 20) tasked with defusing an entire beachhead of buried ordnance. Rasmussen is more than a tough drill sergeant, though; there is malice in his heart and he deceives and endangers the soldiers, none of whom were in any position to set policy at the Reichstag or probably even shoot at another combatant. They dream mostly of their girlfriends back home, their moms' cooking and what they will do now that the war is over.

Of course, not all of them will make it back. Who knows how many — if any — will?

Land of Mine is a raw and powerful film — more honest and intense, even, than *Hacksaw Ridge*, and for my money the best foreign language film of the nominees this year. But it's neither easy nor entirely satisfying. Like *All Quiet on the Western Front*, it humanizes the enemy and reminds us that happy endings and wartime rarely go together.

Now playing at the Angelika Film Centers in Dallas and Plano.

Zucchini lives with his alcoholic mother in a tenement, trying to avoid dear ol' mom when her BAC and her abusive nature dovetail and she takes her frustrations out on him. One day, when he retreats to

■ GREEN Page 20

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Orphans rally together in the warm animated comedy-drama 'My Life as a Zucchini.'

the attic he calls a room, he slams the door in the floor to keep his mom out... and never sees her again. Gripped with guilt

that he may have killed his own mother, he's sent by the authorities to a group home to wait for adoption — or, more than

like, age out of the system.

There, Zucchini meets the motley crew of fellow orphans — some whose parents abandoned them, some whose parents are now imprisoned and all of whom are just as damaged as he.

My Life as a Zucchini, which lost the Oscar for Best Animated Feature last week to the crowd-pleasing *Zootopia*, is surely one of the more heartfelt and whimsically beautiful features on recent vintage. At barely 70 minutes, there's not a lot of meat on its bones, but as the saying goes, what's there is choice. It's both colorful (Play-Doh-ish stop-motion creatures that are both fantastical and human) and dark (the tone,

the shadows, the doleful looks). It's reminiscent of Tim Burton, but with less cheeky cynicism. ■

Screen both in French with subtitles and dubbed in English. Now playing at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre.

■ GAYEST Page 18

near the *very* end, Le Fou shown dancing with another man. That lasts for less than a second.

That's it. There are shampoo commercials that air on ABC Family that have more explicit gay content.

But don't tell the homophobes that. Once they're *told* something is gay, they can't unring that Tinkerbell.

Of course, Disney knew exactly what it was doing.

The film was always going to be a hit, just as their live action redos of animated hits — *Maleficent* (*Sleeping Beauty*) *Snow White and the Huntsman*, *Cinderella* and *101 Dalmatians* — have always been. But it's also the most daring and moody of those remakes. It's moody and serious and could be a harder sell than something colorful and light. So why not leak a story that this *movie* is "Disney for adults" (or, at a minimum, Disney for folks who didn't progress emotionally since the Spanish Inquisition), and let the bigots foot the bill for the publicity push? Bring in the curiosity-seekers. Most will spend two hours and 11 minutes waiting for the evidence. And when it comes, they will say, "Oh, that's it? I've seen more inappropriate sexual behavior at a seventh-grad prom."

I don't really care what gets folks into paying seats. Gay or not, this *Beauty and the Beast* is a *great* movie — gorgeous, smart, emotional. And who doesn't love a story about bestiality?

Oh, yeah — *BATB* has *always* been about that. That never seemed to bother the bigots protesting now — they must have left their bibles at home on that one.

Nothing like a spoonful of hypocrisy to make the box office receipts go down. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Friday 03.10 —
Sunday 03.26

John Copley returns to direct
‘Madame Butterfly’ at Dallas Opera

For years, opera director John Copley was a staple at Dallas Opera, but after announcing his retirement (honestly, for the nth time), he seemed to actually be retired! But no! He’s back, bringing is particular skill-set to one of the giants of the canon: Puccini’s gorgeously composed *Madame Butterfly*. Soprano Hui He stars as Cio-Cio San, the doomed heroine who gives up everything for the men in her life.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House,
2403 Flora St.
DallasOpera.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Monday 03.13

China Forbes joins Pink Martini for colorful concert

Pink Martini is a band that is nearly impossible to quantify. A dozen musicians (including out pianist and bandleader Thomas Lauderdale) combine jazz, punch, world music and a retro sound in a buoyantly unique experience. The group’s latest album, the infectious *Je Dis Oui!*, is a delight, and you can experience it live at a post-sundown outdoor concert in the Arts District, with soloist China Forbes joining toasting this Martini.

DEETS: Strauss Square,
2403 Flora St. 8 p.m.
ATTPAC.org.



Friday 03.17 —
Sunday 03.19

Dances at a Gathering features
festival of movement

North Texas is blessed with great dance groups, including Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, Bruce Wood Dance Project and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. And for three days, you can see them in one place, with this three-day festival of dance at the Eisemann Center. Among the performers will be Harry Feril, pictured with Albert Drake, a founding member of BWDP.

DEETS: Eisemann Center for Performing Arts,
2351 Performance Drive, Richardson.
EisemannCenter.com.



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calendar highlights



A married couple get in hot water when they accidentally hit a deer in the world premiere of 'Deer' at Stage West.

ARTSWEEK THEATER

Deer. A long-married couple's relationship takes a dark turn when on their boring trip to the mountains they accidentally kill a deer and set in motion an unusual series of events. A world premiere by Aaron Mark. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd. Fort Worth. Through April 9. StageWest.org.

Let It Be. What if all of the Fab Four reunited 10 years after their final breakup? That's the question answered in this cover-band-ish half concert, half musical. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through March 19. DallasSummerMusicals.org. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. March 21–26. BassHall.com.

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. *Final weekend.* Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway, ste. 180. KitchenDogTheater.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. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre

3, 2800 Routh St. inside the Quadrangle. Through March 26. Theatre3Dallas.com.

West Side Story. The classic musical adaptation of *Romeo & Juliet*, set on the hard streets of New York City. Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. *Final weekend.* Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. CasaManana.org.

DANCE

Diavolo. The powerhouse modern dance company performs. City Performance Hall 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. ATPAC.org.

this week's solution

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The modern dance troupe Diavolo performs for one weekend at City Performance Hall.

OPERA

Madame Butterfly. The Dallas Opera's first production of 2017 is this Puccini classic about a doomed romance in Japan. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 10–26. DallasOpera.org.

CIRCUS

Kurios — Cabinet of Curiosities. The latest creation from Cirque du Soleil. 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. 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 03.10

COMMUNITY

DFW Pride Happy Hour (formerly High Tech Happy Hour). Monthly queer mixer sponsored by the TI Pride Network, and open to everyone. Stirr, 2803 Main St. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY 03.11

DANCE

Dancing Beyond Borders (West). One-night-only performance by the Dallas Black Dance Theatre in Fort Worth. Scott Theatre, 1300 Gendy St. \$15. 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY 03.13

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.

CONCERTS

Pink Martini. The big band led by out leader Thomas Lauderdale welcomes special guest China Forbes in a concert in support of the band's latest album, the infectious *Je Dis Oui!* Strauss Square, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

TUESDAY 03.14

FILM

Freaks. Tod Browning's unexpectedly touching early sound film, about side-show acts in a circus and their private lives. 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 03.16

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.

FRIDAY 03.17

DANCE

Dances at a Gathering. A festival of dance performances from Bruce Wood Dance Project, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and more, for one weekend only. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. March 17–19. EisemannCenter.com.

OPERA

The Turn of the Screw. Dallas Opera presents Benjamin Britten's moody adaptation of Henry James' mysterious story. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 11–25. DallasOpera.org.

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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

More dependable than even the dewy, post-ides' arrival of the spring equinox, every year March brings the disgruntled abandonment of all our rosy New Year's diet resolutions (*sigh!*). Et tu, Brute? And even though we can't stay forever slim, at least we *can* all learn how to forever give fantastic blowjobs (see below). Let's get right to it.

Dear Howard,

I'm just a straightforward, normal, steak-and-potatoes kind of guy; inexplicably, the "foodie" chad on my gay card didn't get punched, but

my husband started some "libido diet" back in January where he only eats beets, rice, dark chocolate (70 percent cacao only) and pineapple. *Nothing* else. I don't know whether it's totally "placebo-effect," or what, but Tom's now waking me up twice a night to go at it, which I'm just too friggin' tired to do — I am *not* some *Westworld* sex-bot! Neither of us is 20-something anymore, yet, *magically*, Tom has melted-off 24 lbs. in under two months and he just *loves* rubbing in his newfound, testosterone-raging superiority over me with it. Is there something scientific to that old chestnut

about certain foods increasing horniness? — Pete

Dear Petunia,

What do you even require Howard, The Science 'ho, for here? I'm perplexed. Your question answered itself — he lost the weight and feels livelier. Nonetheless, to further elaborate on the obvious, here are the five very *worst* foods conducive of amorousness: 1. Steak-and-potatoes. The heavier the meal, the more one just snoozes afterwards. 2. Beans. Gas may be natural, but unless you're into Dutch ovens, avoid them on date night. 3. Hot peppers. Texas we do live in, yet chilis, unfortunately, produce acid reflux in a reclining position. 4. Garlic. Even if you're not prone to heartburn, garlic makes both the smell and [gag!] taste of semen anything *but* appealing. 5. Bacon. Fatty meats cause one's sweat glands to, literally, *reek!*

Conversely, doing a total one-eighty, here are the five very *best* foods actually conducive of a whole lotta lovin' hanky-panky (see if they look familiar): 1. Beets. Their rich nitrate content induces "engorgement" for extraordinarily happy endings. 2. Rice. The only starch that produces zero gas in the human body. 3. Dark chocolate. One word: flavanols, for increased blood flow (i.e., sexual arousal). 4. Pineapple. For the sweetest, most delicious-tasting ejaculate ever guzzled. 5. Red wine. The best natural aphrodisiac (putting even raw oysters with pink champagne to utter shame).

Dear Howard,

I want to desperately increase my CD4/T-cell count, but I can't ever seem to nudge my number above 250, max. It's been hovering just beneath there for years and I hardly ever forget a day, either. Whether you're an actual medical doctor or not, dude, I'm sure you've heard things from your other readers on this matter. Is there, like, a best time of day for taking my ART (antiretroviral therapy) meds, to get the maximum "punch" out of them? — Andy

Dear Andrew,

You "*hardly* ever forget a day," and therein lies the rub: "*hardly* ever" is not remotely the same thing as "*never*." This ain't horseshoes you're playing with here, Slick: Close... doesn't... *count*... with... HIV! Indeed, I'm *not* a medical doctor and, yes, Dear Howard *is* privy to lots of "things" other people don't hear, but, hell, I don't know what answer to give you: 5 p.m. is your answer — let's stick with that. Do *not* deviate too far from 5 daily, that's an order. All that Howard *knows* is a normal CD4 count is from 500 to 1,500 cells per cubic millimeter of blood. Medications *must* be taken daily, always. An hour, or even three, in either direction won't make a whit of difference, of course, so long as



you consistently take your meds *daily*. Just pick a time of day, any time of day, *every* day, you can always remember. One-hundred percent adherence is the master key to bumping up those numbers. Oh, and you didn't hear this from Howard, either, but Milo Yiannopoulos is the absolute worst gay standard-bearer there is. Yes, I know Milo has nothing whatsoever to do with your question, but I just thought I'd shoehorn that little lodestone of gay politics in: Some wars aren't worth fighting even if you win; some fights are worth warring even if you lose.

Dear Howard,

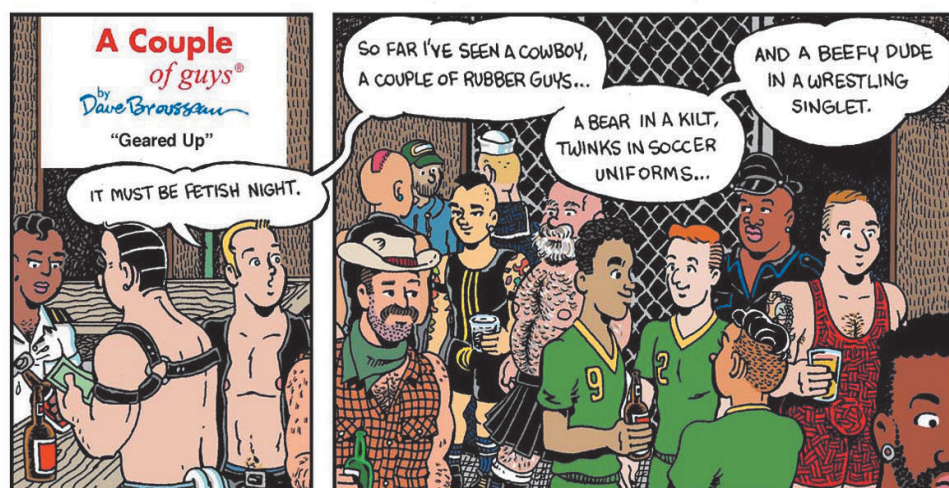
The latest love of my life, Lord Icicle Prick, informs me I give "the worst head on the planet." Any tips you can provide for, hopefully, improving my b.j. skills would sure be appreciated — you got anything? — L. Larson

Dear Llaris,

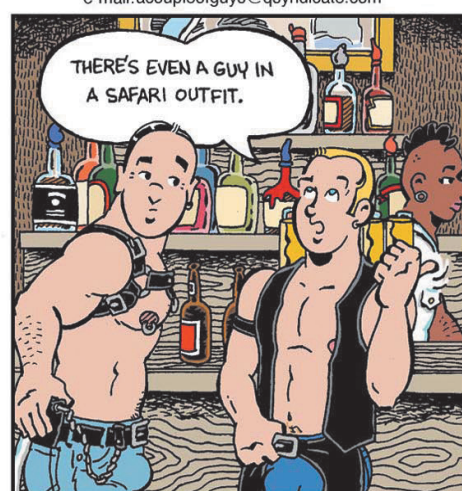
Yes, I sure do: Dump your debasing love. Seriously — and Principessa Icicle be damned! — all you really gotta follow, stud, is The Snowflake Statute: No two men on this entire Earth enjoy getting sucked-off *exactly* the same way; regardless, decent fellatio just isn't too very hard a skill to master satisfactorily, no matter how frosty the man is you're performing on . . . you already *know* where your mouth goes, which means you're 99 percent there already. Everything else is just a submission of **PREPT**—Pacing, Rhythm, Enthusiasm, Patience and Timing.

— Howard Lewis Russell

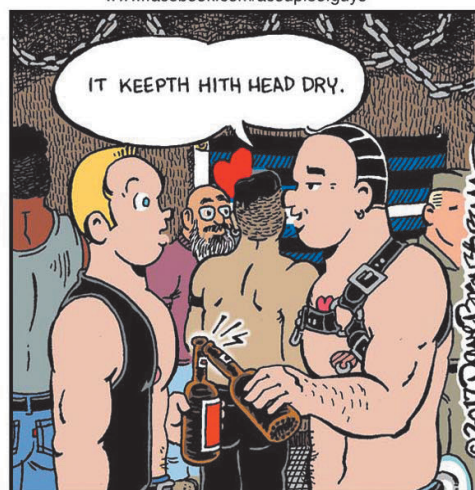
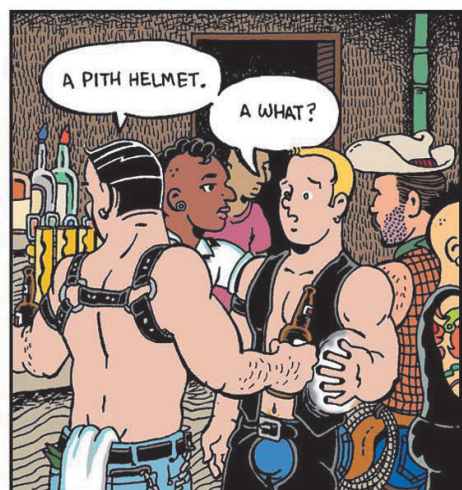
Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs an answer? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.



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Caven Enterprises Thank-You Party at S4



Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 10-16**

- **Barbara's Pavillion:** Olga and Dallas' birthday party on Saturday at 9 p.m.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Hangover Brunch, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Every Thursday is **Cher-E-Oke** with Wayne Smith, 10 p.m.-midnight.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Saturday night starts with **TGRA's Queen of the Closet Pageant** from 6-10 p.m., followed by the **Purple Party — ROAR** from 10 p.m.-3 a.m. It's also **NLA-Dallas Club Night** and the **Esprit de Corps** welcome from 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show**, with **Fantasha, Athena, Xanna** and **Raquel**, is Monday, and **Sasha, Lana** and **Valerie** join **Krystal** and the **Cool Kids** on Tuesday. **Athena, Chanel, Alexis, Kira** and **Fantasha** hit the stage Thursday for **Dream Girls**.
- **Liquid Zoo Sports Bar & Grill:** **Karaoke** seven nights at week at 9 p.m.
- **Marty's Live:** Joshua City's Monday happy hour, 1-7 p.m. **DJ Rude Boy** on **Wet Willie** Wednesday.

- **Pekers:** **Totally Twisted Karaoke** every Friday and Saturday night.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** **Kiana Lee** hosts **Twisted Tuesdays** at 11 p.m. **Chanel LaMasters** hosts **Drag Warz Wednesday** at 11 p.m. with a \$150 cash prize.
- **Rose Room:** **Kelexis, Asia, Krystal, Nicole Luv Dupree, Jenna** and **Plastique** perform Friday night.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **2017 Dallas Diesel Chili Cookoff** is Sunday, 4-8 p.m. **Man Candy** starts at 8 p.m. Sunday and **Boys, Boots and Bozer Briefs** is Monday at 10 p.m.
- **S4: Purple Party: SPIN (Spring Edition)**, with **DJ Dani Toro** of Barcelona and **DJ David Corey** of Dallas, is Friday, 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Sir** on Saturday. **Kathy and Bella** on Sunday, 3:30-5:30 p.m. **Kathy and Bella** host **Open Mic Night** on Wednesday.
- **Zipperz:** **Tipsy Tuesdays**, with sounds by **Rudeboy Dallas** from 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

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



Alan Cumming, star of stage and screen, performed recently at the Evening of Hope Gala, benefiting Hope's New Door Beginning Center



Terry, Gregg and Ben at S4



Out and about on The Strip



Ala, Kathy and Kene at Sue Ellen's



All smiles at The Grapevine





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DJ Mateo at TMC: The Mining Company



Friends hanging out at The Round-Up Saloon



Guys' night out at Pekers



Glasses are trending on The Strip



Long-time friends at The Round-Up Saloon



Slinging drinks at Pekers



Working it at Club Stallions



Behind the bar at The Grapevine



Feeling the groove at The Grapevine



Friendly faces at The Grapevine



Friends on The Strip

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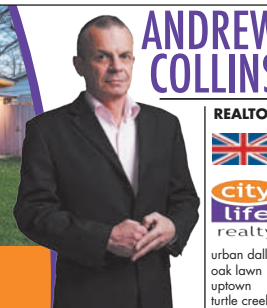
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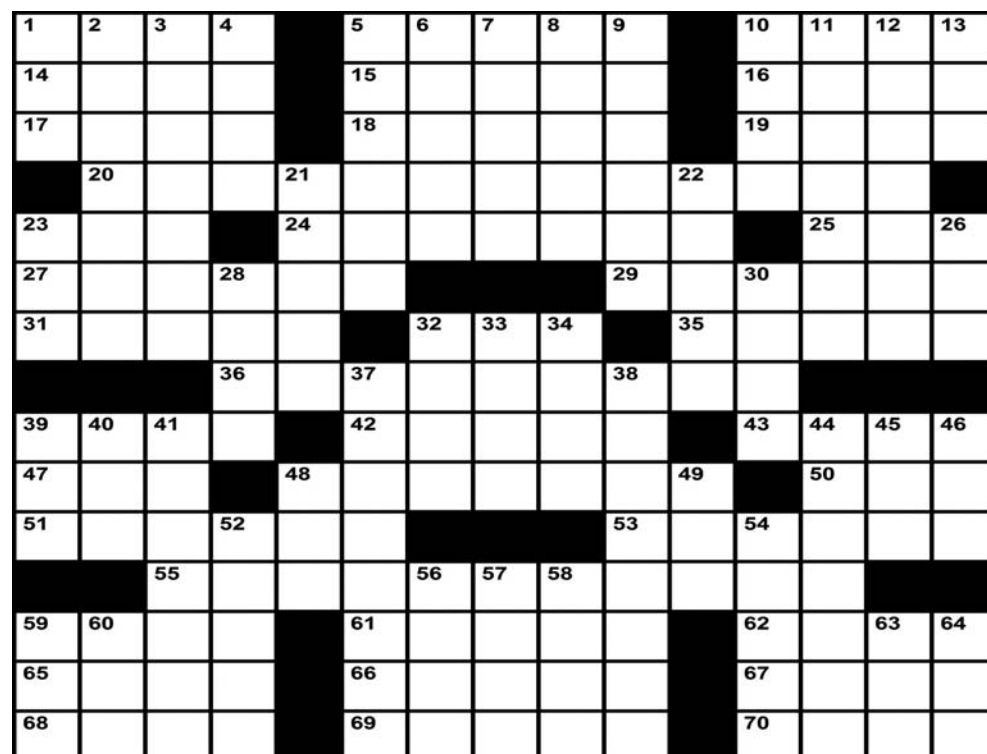
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q-puzzle



Distinction at the Oscars

Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 *Fame* word that follows performing
5 Disney deer
10 Doctors, doggy-style
14 Geoffrey of *Frida*
15 Cager Shaq
16 Ginsberg's "Gotcha"
17 "___ hollers, make him pay"
18 Hermaphroditic land animal
19 It brings a tear to the eye
20 Start of one distinction of *Moonlight*
23 Earhart's domain
24 Jeremy Irons' domain in *The Borgias*
25 Prefix for the homophobic Right
27 One-time Toyota rival
29 Got the bottom line
31 Gay porn director Rainier
32 Suck the energy from
35 Urgent wants
36 More of the distinction
39 Whitman who sampled Peter Doyle
42 Specialty of Wanda Sykes
43 Fairy story
47 Just make, with "out"
48 "The Lonely Goatherd" singer
50 Comic actor DeLaria
51 Vincente Minnelli's ___ *Parade*

53 Person in the Navy

55 End of the distinction

59 Like a Muscle Mary

who does sit-ups

61 Martian marking

62 Some actors have big ones

65 Load

66 The way we word

67 *Aida* solo

68 Helpful tip

69 Printer powder

70 Gay Bob, for example

Down

1 Paul Newman role in *Exodus*

2 Orton's *The ___ on the Stair*

3 Summer tops

4 "Fer ___!"

5 Ralph Waldo

Emerson's hometown

6 Nitpicky about a bit of history?

7 Dry and crumbly

8 Cotton props in *Showboat*

9 "Yeah, right!"

10 Ricky Martin's "Livin' La ___ Loca"

11 Teach LGBTQ studies, for example

12 Made pink?

13 Army N.C.O.

21 Longtime Dolphins coach Don

22 TÈa of *Fun with Dick and Jane*

23 1993 Carole Maso novel

26 Scores with Esera Tuaolo

28 Splinter group

30 Big top, e.g.

32 Manly man

33 Where to look, in "Misty"

34 Drag queen Gene

37 Brief circumcision?

38 Athlete who tries to pin you to the floor

39 On the small side

40 Alias, initially

41 Either of Heather's two mommies

44 "Fast," to Leonard Bernstein

45 Gene Wilder in *The Producers*

46 Copland capability

48 "You said it!"

49 Indian author Santha Rama ___

52 Offer an apple to Adam and Steve?

54 Response to "How do you know?"

56 Part of a Texas town's name

57 ___ instant (like premature ejaculation)

58 Composer John

59 "No whispering!"

60 Island necklace

63 Lubricant

64 Mineo of movies

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