

#### What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

# What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### **Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**

- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

#### **TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:**

Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV.
 If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

#### Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If
  you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat
  HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1
  and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

#### What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA.
   If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

# What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- If you take certain other medicines with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.

# I'm open-minded, not uninformed.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.



Learn more at truvada.com





#### (tru-VAH-dah)

# MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR Prep

#### **Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:**

- You must be HIV-1 negative. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

#### TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you
have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking
TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health
regularly for several months.

#### **ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP**

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

• To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

#### Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

#### **HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP**

- Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

#### IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

#### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency
  that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness
  or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach
  pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or
  abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

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

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

#### **BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP**

#### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV
  can pass to the baby in breast milk.

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

#### **HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK**

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

#### **GET MORE INFORMATION**

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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The bees of Queen Mary Honey. Photo by Tammye Nash. Design by Kevin Thomas

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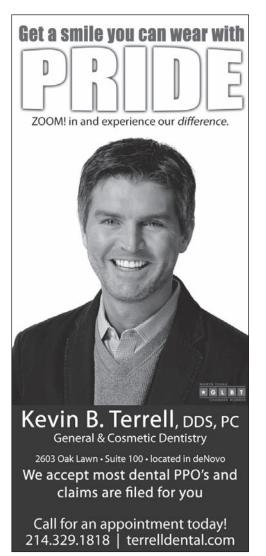
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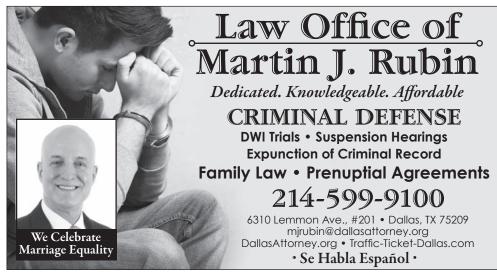


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#### Calls to Trevor Project spike

The Trevor Project — the nation's largest LGBTQ youth crisis intervention and suicide prevention organization - late on Wednesday, Aug. 2, issued a statement noting a growing number of calls, text messages and online chats coming into the agency from transgender youth correspondingly most notably with President Trump's tweet regarding transgender military service members, and news coverage of proposed "bathroom bills" in the Texas

According to the Trevor Project, of the approximately 178 contacts per day (on average), 7.3 percent typically self-identify as transgender. Within 24 hours of Trump's tweet regarding transgender military service members, contacts from transgender individuals spiked to 17.5 percent of all contacts. And, the week after the Texas Legislature introduced the anti-trans "bathroom bill," contacts from transgender young people doubled to 14.7

- Tammye Nash

#### 16th trans person killed; Breakfast Club boycott gains momentum

As the calls for a boycott of The Breakfast Club morning radio program continue to mount, in the wake of Lil Duval's anti-transgender hate speech during his appearance on the program last week, media in Georgia - and now across the country are reporting news of the 16th transgender person murdered so far this year.

According to The Georgia Voice, Atlanta resident



TeeTee Daingerfield

TeeTee Dangerfield, 32, was shot to death outside of her vehicle at the South Hampton Estates apartment complex on Monday, July 31 at about

Police said there are no suspects yet in Daingerfield's murder and that it is "unclear" whether she her murder had anything to do with her gender identity. But the Voice notes that her death came "just two days after a Midtown rally and march in support of the transgender community following President Trump's July 26 tweets effectively barring trans service members from serving in the U.S.

According to The National Center for Transgender Equality's 2015 Transgender Survey Report, "46 percent of respondents were verbally harassed and 9 percent were physically attacked because

of being transgender." The survey also found that 10 percent of respondents reported being sexually assaulted during the prior year, and 47 percent said they were sexually assaulted at some point in their

The calls to boycott The Breakfast Club — an iHeart radio-produced program that features cohosts DJ Envy, Angela Yee and Charlamagne tha God and that bills itself as "the world's most dangerous morning show" - began after comedian Lil Duvall said that if he ever found out a woman he had sex with was transgender, he would kill her.

The controversy actually started earlier in the week with journalist and best-selling author Janet Mock — who also happens to be transgender went on the show to promote her new book, Surpassing Certainty, and used the opportunity to advocate for transgender issues.

A few days later, Duval was the morning show's guest, and when asked about Trump's then-recent tweet saying transgender people would not be allowed to serve in the military, he responded with, ""Shout out to all the trannies out there."

Then when he was asked how he would respond if he found out that woman he was dating was transgender, he answered, "This might sound messed up, but I don't care, she dying." The show's hosts then went on to ask about Mock, using her book as a prop, and Duval declared, "Nope. That nigga doing his thing....ain't finna get me."

Houston trans activist Monica Roberts, author of TransGriot blog, did not hesitate in linking hate speech like Duval's — and the hesitancy of others to call out the hatred — to the murders of transgender women: "One of the things I'm really getting sick of along with the Black trans community and the parents of Black trans kids is the ongoing pattern in the Black community of our Black oriented media

outlets, be they radio, television or on social media. spouting hate speech aimed at the transgender community. It is anti-trans hate speech like this that results in Black trans women getting beat up or

- Tammye Nash

#### **Team Friendly DFW and Resource Center present Stigma-Free Community Workshop**

Team Friendly DFW and Resource Center team up to present Stigma-Free Community Workshop to Dallas from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

The workshops are designed discuss HIV in a safe environment

Topics include Aging with HIV. Resource Center's Gary Benecke facilitates. Parkland's Bettie Crocker presents PrEP Talk.

Specific communities are addressed by Tres Brown III (Fuse) with Teen Talk, Dr. Elizabeth Race facilitates Women & HIV and Rose Spire presents Gender

Lunch is provided.

Nelson Tebedo Clinic offers free HIV testing and health screenings.

The event is free but tickets are available through EventBrite.

- David Taffet

#### The Rev. Troy Perry visits Cathedral of Hope

The Rev. Troy Perry, founder of Metropolitan Community Church, visited Cathedral of Hope on July 29-30 for the first time in more than a decade.

"This is an important family reunion," said the



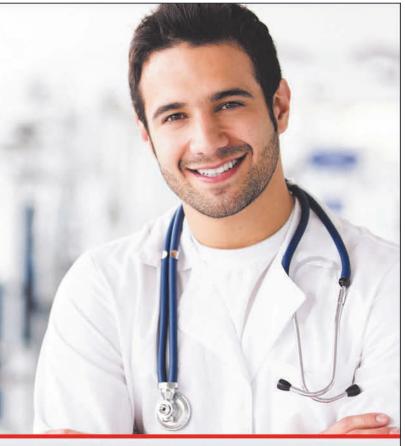
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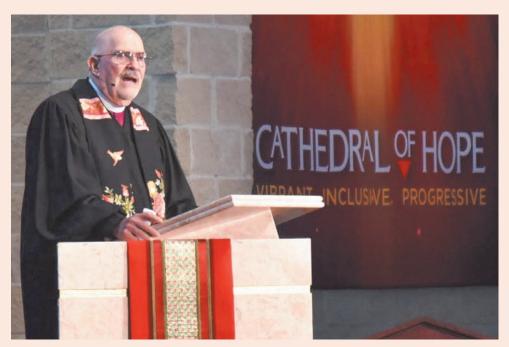


Photo courtesy Barb Nann/2nd2Nunn Photography

Rev. Neil Cazarez-Thomas.

Cathedral of Hope, which is now affiliated with United Church of Christ, was founded 47 years ago as an MCC church.

On Saturday, July 26, cathedral held a reception in Perry's honor at its Interfaith Peace Chapel. Perry spoke at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday. The Rev. Colleen Darraugh said MCC of Greater Dallas joined CoH for Sunday services, the first time the two congregations held this sort of joint event.

Cazarez-Thomas came out at the MCC church in Bournemouth, England. He said Perry "saved my life as I became an MCC member at age 16." When Perry retired from the pulpit at Founders MCC in Los Angeles, Cazarez-Thomas became that church's leader. He left two years ago to become senior pastor at Cathedral of Hope.

The weekend was more than a family reunion, but also a reconciliation after CoH left MCC on

unfriendly terms.

"We honor and value our history as an MCC church." Cazarez-Thomas said.

David Taffet

#### Republican negative reaction to trans military ban grows

As Trump doubles down on his transgender bigotry, opposition to his position increases and his excuse to discriminate — cost — gets examined.

Human Rights Campaign offered some compar-

- Security for Melania Trump to stay in Trump Tower for six months: \$26.8 million (This doesn't include lost business along 5th Avenue because of street closures)
- Trump's weekend golf trips to Mar-A-Lago: \$20

(This doesn't include loss of business in Palm Beach because of bridge and road closures to the

• Trans healthcare in the military for a year: \$2.4-8.4 million

And here's what the Republican reaction has been (quotes from the Washington Post, CNN and US News and World Report)

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Missouri, was still open to a ban, but thought the military should weigh in and policy should be set via Twitter. He said, "The President's tweet this morning regarding transgender Americans in the military is yet another example of why major policy announcements should not be made via Twitter."

Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, said, "There is no reason to force service members who are able to fight, train, and deploy to leave the military -

(I-35E and Inwood Rd.)

regardless of their gender identity."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said, "I don't think we should be discriminating against anyone. Transgender people are people, and deserve the best we can do for them. I look forward to getting much more information and clarity from our military leaders about the policy the President tweeted today."

The only additional information he got was that the military doesn't plan to discriminate.

A spokesperson for Sen. Joni Ernst, R-lowa, the first female combat veteran elected to the Senate,

"While she believes taxpayers shouldn't cover the costs associated with a gender reassignment surgery, Americans who are qualified and can meet the standards to serve in the military should be afforded that opportunity."

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said, "You ought to treat everybody fairly and give everybody a chance to serve.'

Sen. Thom Tillis R-N.C., "I would have significant objections to any proposal that calls for a specific group of American patriots currently serving in uniform to be removed from the military."

Former Marine and current Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, said, "My initial reaction is, if you can meet those standards, we shouldn't care who you are. So, meet the standards, and you should be able to join the military."

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Florida, said, "No American, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, should be prohibited from honor + privilege of serving our nation."

Ros-Lehtinen has been a staunch LGBT ally in the House of Representatives. Her son is transgen-

David Taffet



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

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guests are trans activists Leslie McMurray and Katie Sprinkle; 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 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; 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.; Leadership Lambda Toastmasters practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews.; Gray Pride support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; Lambda AA meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; DVtv in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4–5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

#### **AUGUST**

#### • Aug. 6: An Afternoon of Disco Delight

Nia Courtland, Bianca Davenport Starr and others present songs of the '70s and '80s to benefit Tuckers Gift, AIDS Walk South Dallas and Coalition for Aging LGBT. Food at 4 p.m. Show at 5 p.m. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

#### • Aug. 7, 9: DIVA New Member Clinic

Dallas Independent Volleyball Association new member clinic for those interested in playing volleyball or joining the league. Everyone who joins our league will be drafted onto a team. Advance sign up required to attend at DIVADallas.org. From 6:30-9 p.m. at K.B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St.

#### • Aug. 9: Brewing Up Business

The North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosts "Brewing Up Business" at Zephyr Café and Bakery, 4001 Cedar Springs Road, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. For information call 214-821-4528.

## • Aug. 10: Rally for Removal: Dismantling a Racist Society

The 60 foot tall Confederate War Memorial that lies in downtown Dallas is a stark reminder of a past that is bloody, cruel, and dark. Rally to ask the city to remove this monument to racism from 3-4 p.m. in the cemetery next to Dallas City Hall on Marilla Street.

#### • Aug. 10: Business Connections Mixer

The North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its Business Connections Mixer at Sushi Zushi, 3636 McKinney Ave., from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For information call 214-821-4528.

#### • Aug. 11: DFW Pride Happy Hour

Everyone is welcome to join at this self-styled "cocktail den". From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Cedars Social, 1326 S Lamar St.

#### • Aug. 11: Square dancing demo

LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares presents a demo/introduction from 7:30–8:30 p.m. at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com.

## • Aug. 11: Equality Texas Dallas Summer Mixer

Julian Castro and Evan Wolfson are scheduled guests from 6-8 p.m. at IQ Haus, 1107 Dragon St. Tickets at EventBrite.com.

#### • Aug. 11: Sing for Dignity

The Turtle Creek Chorale and guests perform a 24-hour sing-a-long marathon beginning at 6 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• Aug. 12: Landmark Dinner



"An Afternoon of Disco Delight," featuring Nia Courtland, above left, Bianca Davenport Starr, above right, and more, is set for Sunday afternoon at Sue Ellen's to raise money for Tucker's Gift, AIDS Walk South Dallas and the Coalition for Aging LGBT. See listings for details.

Lambda Legal's annual dinner, 6-10 p.m. at The Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce St. in Dallas. Individual tickets are \$250; sponsorships are available, starting at \$1,500. For information email Carla McKinzie at cmckinzie@lambdalegal.org or call 214-219-8585.

#### • Aug. 12: Let's Go Rollerskating

Rainbow Roundup goes rollerskating. Don't worry if your child can't skate, skate trainers are available for rent. From 3-5 p.m. at Fort Worth Rollerland West, 7325 Calmont Ave, Fort Worth. Skate fee is \$7.50 per person.

#### • Aug. 12: Stigma-Free Workshop

Team Friendly DFW and Resource Center team up to bring the first Stigma-Free Community Workshops to Dallas, designed to foster a safe community environment where we can sit and discuss the topic of HIV in a Stigma Free space hosted by Nelson-Tebedo Clinic from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free. Ticket information at EventBrite.com.

#### • Aug. 13: Top Dog Fashion Show

Entry fee is \$25 and admission \$5 all benefiting LifeWalk/Tucker's Gift from 6-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar

Springs Road. TopDog.TuckersGift.org.

#### • Aug. 14-16: DIVA New Member Clinic

Dallas Independent Volleyball Association new member clinic for interested in playing volleyball or joining the league. Everyone who joins our league will be drafted onto a team. Advance sign up required to attend at DIVADallas.org. From 6:30-9 p.m. at K.B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St.

#### • Aug 15: Get Centered

Behind the scenes tour of the Resource Center led by CEO Cece Cox from 11 a.m.-noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

#### • Aug. 16: GALA ally training

Wondering how to be an ally to the LGBT community at work, school or place of worship? The GALA Ally Committee is offering a free two-hour training from 6-8 p.m. at Keller Williams Frisco, 4783 Preston Road, Suite 100, Frisco. RSVP to ashlee.howard@att.net.

#### • Aug. 17: Gray Pride

Monthly mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

#### • Aug. 18: Federal Club Mixer

The DFW HRC Federal Club holds it

August mixer at Wheelhouse, 1617 Hi-Line Drive, Ste. 390, 6-8 p.m. Admission is free, but guests are asked to pre-register online at fcaugustmixer2017.eventbrite.com.

#### • Aug. 19: Hoot N' Holler 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.

#### • Aug. 19: Car wash

Team ASD LifeWalk washes cars, trucks and SUVs to raise money for LifeWalk from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at BJs NXS, 3215 N. Fitzhugh Ave.

#### • Aug. 19: GALA ally training

Wondering how to be an ally to the LGBT community at work, school or place of worship? The GALA Ally Committee is offering a free two-hour training from 9-11 a.m. at Celebrity Café & Bakery, 4709 W. Parker Road Suite 450, Plano. RSVP to ashlee.howard@att.net.

#### • Aug. 19: Dishing It Out

Paul J. Williams presents his oneman show Dishing It Out at 7 p.m. at Henderson Civic Theater, 122 E. Main, Henderson. \$15.

#### • Aug. 20: Pegasus Squares open house

LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares holds a free open house from 2:30–4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. Meet us, watch and try it, and discover if square dancing is for you. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com.

#### • Aug. 24: HRC Kick-off to Pride

Human Rights Campaign Dallas/Fort Worth kicks of Dallas Pride season with a gathering from 6:30-8 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, to sign up volunteers for the Festival in Reverchon Park and the Dallas Pride parade. For information email volunteers@hrcdfw.org.

#### pet of the week / ANDRE

Meet Andre, a friendly, 4-year-old grey tabby domestic shorthair mix. He is a loving, laid-back and gentle boy who enjoys basking in the sunlight, observing birds outside his window and hanging out with his feline friends in his condo. If you're looking for a sweet guy to snuggle up with, he's definitely your man. He is positive for FeLV, so he will need to either be the only cat in the home or live with other kitties with FeLV. He has been neutered, microchipped, tested negative for FIV and is current on all ageappropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today. #153657

Andre is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m., Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. In celebration of 100 Days of Summer at the SPCA of Texas, you can adopt any dog, cat, puppy or kitten for only \$25 (excluding livestock). 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 free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.









# The sweet life

Dallas businessmen — and best friends — plan a golden future with their country farm and Queen Mary Honey

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editior nash@dallasvoice.com

hink of them as the Golden Girls, except instead of four older straight women, they are four not-really-older gay men. And instead of Miami, their story is set (at least partially) in Canton, Texas.

And there are bees. Honeybees, in fact. Lots and lots of honeybees.

Now, there are a few other differences, too between TV's Golden Girls and Canton's honey boys. Blanche, Dorothy, Sophia and Rose started out as strangers who became roommates then best friends, while Clint, Jeff, J.T. and Derek were best friends who became roommates and home co-owners.

And while the Miami girls were at the end of or retired from their careers, the Dallas guys are at the height of theirs — and at the same time, just beginning a new adventure with Queen Mary Honey, their fledgling food and beverage venture based at their Canton-area vacation home.

Clint Thomson, the head bee charmer at Queen Mary, explained that he, Jeff Fielder and couple J.T. Williams and Derek Selders were best friends that spent all their time together. Before long, he said, they decided that since they already spent all their time together, they might as well live together.

"So we all moved in together a while ago, and it has worked out really well," Clint said. It's gone so well, in fact, that the friends decided to purchase a vacation home together.

"We started looking for property out in the country. We searched and searched until we found this property," Clint said. The property is about 10 acres, just south of Canton on Highway 19, with two houses and a

#### **Queen Mary Honey**

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barn, heavily wooded and bordered on three sides by a large commercial nursery that focuses on growing various trees.

He continued, "We wanted a new adventure, some place where we could do natural things," like raising livestock and gardening. And keeping bees.

Clint explained that the idea of keeping bees and harvesting and selling the honey came from him. "About 10 years ago, I lived in Goldthwaite, Texas, and I started keeping bees there. There was a man there named Ralph Ishmael who was my bee mentor. He was retiring from the business, and he gave me all his equipment."

Back in Goldthwaite, Clint said, "I didn't really harvest any of the honey. It was more about learning to keep the bees. They are fascinating creatures, and I really loved learning about them.

"But circumstances changed. I moved away from Goldthwaite and I gave up the beekeeping," Clint added. "Then, flash forward 10 years, and here we are with this property, and I thought, why not do beekeeping again? And this time, actually do it commercially."

So last year Clint ordered the hives, which arrived disassembled, and last December he put four of them together and situated them on the property. In early spring he introduced the bees — which can also be purchased via mail order, he said.

"It takes a little while to build each hive, to put it together," Clint said of the high-tech bee homes he uses. "I have others to assemble that I will put out eventually. But they are still in boxes right now. You can only set up a hive in early spring."

Bees are, in general, pretty self-sufficient creatures, Clint said. Once they are in their hives, "I really only have to make periodic checks. Here where we are, they have plenty of food sources around, and there is a creek that runs right through the property, so they have water, too."

There are certain dangers to watch out for, he said, and he looks for ways to address problems in the most natural, most effective and most efficient ways possible.

"By bringing in the bees, we really are helping the whole area," Clint said, explaining that by going about their usual day-to-day bee business, the bees are helping pollinate plants all around them, which keeps crops healthier and more productive.

"From the numbers I've seen, farmers can

get up to a 30 percent increase in yield when there are bees to pollinate their crops. Some crops, like almonds, can't survive without bee pollination," he said.

That means that there is a market for beekeepers who want to lease out hives, placing them on properties where crops are being grown to help increase the crops' yield. In fact, Clint said, he has already been approached by a man who grows flowers near Kaufman to do just that, and he hopes to be able to place some hives there by next spring.

The fact that honeybees have been dying off in large numbers has made plenty of headlines in recent years, and Clint said that is due to a "combination of factors," with pesticide use at the top of the list.

The main problem, he said, are neonicotinoids, systemic pesticides that are put on the seeds of a plant so that as the plant grows, the pesticide is part of the plant itself, instead of a separate substance applied to the plant.

"The bees get on the plant and take the nectar or the pollen. They aren't killed by retrieving the pollen or nectar, but they take it back to the hive, and the hive is slowly poisoned," Clint explained. "The bees then flee en masse and die. That is called colony collapse disorder."

There are also small parasites that can invade the hives and injure and kill the bees. One is the small hive beetle, which is really only a danger to hives that are weak to begin with. Another is the varroa mite, which bites through a bee's carapace to suck its blood, compromising the bee's immune system and weakening it.

While some beekeepers treat the parasites with chemicals, Clint said he chooses non-chemical methods. For example, while he hasn't had any real problems with varroa mites so far, if he finds any, he simply heats the hive to 113 degrees — hot enough to kill the mites but not hot enough to harm the heats

Clint said he also purchases queen bees



bred to be more resistant to mites and uses other integrated pest management techniques.

He has also chosen to use high-tech hives that, while more expensive in the beginning and a bit harder to assemble, pay off in the end by allowing better honey harvests with less waste and less disruption to the bees.

"Harvesting the honey used to take forever the old way, and it was very traumatic for the bees," he said. "With these new hives, we hardly have to disturb the bees at all."

In "the old days," bee hives had wooden frames lined up, side by side, inside the boxes, creating the bases on which the bees built their honeycombs. To harvest the honey, beekeepers had to remove each frame, cut the honeycomb from it then

strain the honey.

In the new hives, the frames come with the "honeycomb" already built in. The bees deposit their honey, and when the time comes, the beekeeper can open a side panel — separated from the "honeycomb" and the busy

bees by a clear panel, uncap the tubes that run from top-to-bottom in the comb, turn a key and watch the pure, clear honey drain into capture tubes.

"The honey is so pure and clean that I could take a piece of toast out there, wipe the honey off the [drain tube] with it and eat it right there," Clint said. "It comes ready to eat, straight from the hive. And all the

pollen and good stuff that would have been strained out the

old way is still in it. The savings in manpower alone is worth the

extra cost initially."

He said that each frame in the hive can produce a half-gallon of honey at a time, and it takes the bees two to four weeks to fill a

frame. His hives have seven frames, which means every two to four weeks he can harvest about three-and-a-half gallons

of honey from each of the four hives.

Next spring, he added, he plans to add six more hives.

"These hives just came out in the last couple of years, and it is making a revolutionary change in the honey industry," he said. "It makes it possible for a much smaller operation to run a massive apiary. It cuts down on the cost of harvesting the

honey, which means better profit in the short term. And in the short term, it will help

bring down the price of quality, local honey."

Some of the hives use frames that allow room for the bees to build their own wax honeycomb, and that comb can also be harvested and used for products, many of which Clint and the others intend to add to their

They hope to add to their farm, too, and each one has his own specialty. J.T. is the one who looks after the elderly pig, Pork Chop, who came with the property. Derek does most of the gardening, and Clint and Jeff are the ones who look after the bees.

product line.

Right now, the four men are all very busy

with their lives in the big city: Clint is a computer consultant who operates Solera

Tech, offering managed services to small businesses; Jeff and J.T. are both closers in the title industry, and Derek works in the mortgage industry.

They also stay busy as volunteers with various organizations in the LGBT community. Clint was co-chair for Lambda Legal and now serves on the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce board. J.T. founded The Red Party and is currently chair of the chamber.

But, Clint said, they hope to someday be able to retire from city life and focus on operating Queen Mary Honey and living the life of gentleman farmers on their property.

"We want to get some goats, and maybe make products that use goat cheese and honey," Clint said. "We want to use the wax from the honeycomb to make lip balms and hair waxes and things like that. Maybe when someone is living here all the time, we'll get some chickens. And we'll sell honey.

"Someday, I'm gonna be able to just sit in my rocking chair and sell honey to the people who come by. That's the plan."





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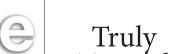
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# Life is hard, but there's a light



The Turtle Creek Chorale staging 24-hour marathon to support the trans community

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

nyone looking to Ethan Avanzino for a dramatic transition story just won't find one. He is the poster child for how things should be.

The Southwest Airlines employee produces audio and video training materials for the company. He's been there five years, and a year-and-a-half ago, he decided to transition on the job. He had started his medical transition earlier in the year and came out to coworkers in December 2015.

"Let's see how this goes," he said he told himself. "Everyone was supportive."

Anyone who had questions came to him and asked. Working with trainers for the company, he said he learned how to educate adults.

"My story should be how it is for everyone," Avanzino said. "Family. Friends. Job. Everyone completely accepting."

He's seen other transgender people lose their jobs, lose their friends and family, lose their homes.

"I didn't experience that," he said, but "I've seen it and it breaks my heart."

Avanzino thinks it's important to share his story and be a visible model of how things should be for the trans community.

"We go to work," he said. "We eat. We sleep."

That certainly is news to members of the Texas Senate, who passed a bathroom bill last week.

Avanzino was in Austin to testify before the committee hearing the bill. "They're all for privacy and protection," he said, "yet they want to put my privacy and protection on the line."

In his testimony before the Senate committee, Avanzino explained that he had his gender marker changed on his drivers license but not his birth certificate. So if the bathroom bill becomes law, he'd have to use the ladies' room.

He spoke briefly before asking the senators on the committee what questions they had for him. Looking at the hairy, bearded man in front of them, one meekly asked, "You have female on your birth certificate?"

"They don't see trans men when they write these bills," Avanzino said.

Avanzino chairs the Trans Council, an advisory group at Cathedral of Hope. Along with Lambda Legal, Trans Council has been designated as a beneficiary of the 24-hour Turtle Creek Chorale sing-a-thon, called Sing for Dignity, being held at the church beginning 6 p.m. on Aug. 11.

In 1999, the chorale sang for 22 hours to earn the world record for the longest choir concert. Turtle Creek Chorale Artistic Director Sean Baugh said Sing for Dignity isn't meant to set a record; it's purpose is to draw attention to a cause.

At press time, Baugh was still frantically putting the 24-hour marathon together and said he expected the main concert to begin at 6 p.m. and continue for several hours. Beyond that, the chorale will sing, rehearse, entertain and even offer some open mic time.

He expects the overnight portion of the concert to be more casual. In the morning they'll sing for BACH — the Breakfast at Cathedral of Hope that usually attracts about 200 people who rely on the church's generosity.

Other singers include Denise Lee, Amy Stevenson and Jody Crawford Wright.

A number of speakers, including Avanzino, will talk about their own experiences.

Baugh said the chorale addressed a number of issues this season. The season finale in June included a segment about crystal meth abuse in the LGBT community. A number of audience members talked to representatives from agencies that had tables in the lobby.

"And two people from the chorus sought treatment," he said. "I didn't know they were struggling."

When the governor of Texas just wouldn't let the bathroom bill die and the U.S. president decided to change current military policy to propose a ban on trans service personnel, Baugh said he knew he needed to do something. While a number of chorale members have lobbied their representatives in Austin, that's not what the chorale does as a group.

"We don't march," Baugh said. "We sing."

He called music the great unifier: "It af-

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## **■commUNITY**voices

# Bridging the gap

The complex relationship between the black transgender community and the larger black community

very time one of our transgender brothers or sisters loses their life to senseless acts of violence, I always ask myself: Who speaks up for them? We can sometimes rely on the LGBTQ community as a whole, but unfortunately, a majority of our community's reactions to these outrages has lowered my expectations.

Many of those who are murdered are black transgender women. How does the black community as a whole respond?

The relationship between the straight, cisgender black community and the LGBTQ is complex and layered. Some of the fundamental components of this relationship are the black church, white vs. black privilege, and the black LGBT community's relationship with the straight, cisgender black community.

At the beginning of the gay rights movement, it was white males who were the poster children for liberation, even though black and Latina trans woman threw the first bricks into the Stonewall Inn.

When the AIDS crisis plagued the community in the 1980s, most members of various resistance groups such as ACT Up were white. But the plague would end up nearly decimating the black LGBT people that lived in the shadows. So now, as we rise to fight for transgender rights, we must do better, because we deserve a better future.

The straight black community can be one of our strongest allies, if we extend the olive branch. And we must start by embracing our own black LGBT brothers and sisters.

We must recognize black gay men as



Sammi Nesbit Contributing Columnist

more than fetishes and fantasies, and black trans women as more than sex workers.

When we fight for the rights of transgender children in school, we must remember that there are also black and Latina children who ex-

perience problems with acceptance, and we must place their stories alongside the various narratives of oppression and bullying.

To understand the straight, cisgender black community, one must understand the dynamics of the black church.

The black church has been the only constant in the lives of almost every black person living in the South. The black church was often a meeting place during the civil rights movement, a place of comfort when loved ones were dying from AIDS, and it serves as a place of unity when an unarmed black man dies at the hands of an officer.

But the black church has also played a part in the attempted suppression of LGBTQ rights, with preachers sometimes delivering fear-mongering sermons and churches expelling members discovered to be part of the LGBT community.

But now, the tide has begun to change, just not as rapidly as some would hope. The days of black church leaders preaching hate are almost gone, and those that still linger in hate face sharp retribution (i.e. Kim Burrell).

Still, the black LGBT community and the straight, cisgender black community have yet to cross one major hurdle blocking progress in building relationship: How do they address the murders of the black transgender women?

The murders of black transwomen at the hands of straight men have long plagued the community. But many have turned a blind eye because of the stereotype that many black transwomen were sex workers and therefore, somehow deserved what happened to them.

This problem was most recently reiterated during an interview with Lil Duval by Charlemagne tha God on the morning radio show The Breakfast Club. The C-list comedian was asked, "What if you found out one of the women you were dating was a transwoman?" He said he would kill her.

His deplorable comments highlight the growing problem among black straight men (and some women) and their lack of acceptance of transgender women and men. And therein lies the problem.

To begin to change this way of thinking, we must first change our own ways of thinking. Many of our transgender brothers and sisters feel alienated from their lesbian, gay and bisexual peers; they feel excluded. We must support them wholeheartedly, invite them to the table, and let their voice be heard. We must understand their complexities and celebrate them for who they are — loving human beings.

As history is being made in the fight for the rights of the transgender community, this is the perfect opportunity to build a strong alliance with a community that understands the struggle for civil rights: the straight black community.

This is our opportunity to bridge the gap. 
Sammy Nesbit is the chief science officer of the Center for Minority Community Health and is currently a doctoral candidate at University of North Texas. He currently researches adolescent black and Latino HIV sero-prevalence behaviors in large urban communities.



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fects you emotionally."

Baugh said he looked for some trans-specific music, but found in looking through the chorale's repertoire that pieces they've done that spoke to the gay experience are applicable to any person who lives on the fringes of society.

"Life is hard, but there's a light," he said. Baugh said there aren't any trans members of the chorale currently, but membership is open to anyone who is male or identifies as male, and the group has had trans members in the past. He said the chorale may not have given those trans members the best welcome simply because they

didn't know the experience.

"When you don't know about something, you need to learn about it," he said.

The lies in the Texas Senate hearings and on the floor of the Legislature as well as the president's tweet about transgender people in the military — which contradicted statements from military leadership — made it apparent to Baugh that the chorale needed to be better allies with the trans community.

And, he said, when the chorale has addressed communities they feel distant from, "we found out we're not so different at all."

Cathedral of Hope is a co-presenter for

the 24-hour event.

Baugh laughed at himself for suggesting such a monumental task as staging a 24-hour concert with two weeks' notice and keeps finding things the community can help with. He said he's looking for people to offer printing, because, no, the chorale will not memorize 24 hours worth of music in advance. He needs food donated because if chorale members are going to stick around for that long and just catch quick naps between segments, they'll need to eat.

Starbucks has already pledged the coffee. 

Anyone who wants to donate services or goods to the event can call 214-526-3214.





ithin days of last fall's presidential election, Canada's main governmental website was shut down from an inundation of Americans curious about how they could relocate from the U.S. in favor of our English-speaking neighbor to the north. Irrespective of your politics, it's difficult to argue with those efforts. From its dreamy, welcoming prime minister (Justin Trudeau) to its progressive stance on gay rights, the country overall has much to offer. But stop No. 1 on the expatriate's itinerary should certainly be Vancouver.

One of Canada's three largest population centers (its 2.3 million residents — about the size of metropolitan Philadelphia in the U.S. — puts it behind only the greater Toronto and Montreal areas), Vancouver is the center of commerce and culture in Western Canada. (British Columbia is the westernmost province that touches on the contiguous U.S.) It *looks* like a big city: Skyscrapers dominate the landscape, though there is a surprising sameness to much of the major architecture — pale, aqua-glass cantilevered towers that look like they were all erected within a 10-year period in the 1960s dominate the landscape.

But despite all appearances, it feels more like a resort town that only happens to be a diverse hub and business center as well. The streets rarely seem crowded, except at certain choke points where tourists congregate. The streets are wide, with lots of greenspaces. Traffic rarely congests enough for anyone to consider road rage. In fact, rumors of Canadian politeness aren't rumors. There's a gentleness to the city that goes beyond being tourism-friendly. Canadians aren't just Americans with good healthcare; they are ... nicer.

At least, that's how it seems. They appreciate Southern hospitality, but they more than outdo us with Canadian calm. I felt decompressed in Vancouver in a way that I don't when I visit cities like New York or Seattle or San Francisco, not to mention Houston. It's a rejuvenating city for recharging your batteries.

Which was exactly the plan on a recent visit, where healthy eating, exercise and relaxation combined with pampering for a trip that was reenergizing.

#### Where to stay

Downtown Vancouver is where any base of operations for a visit should be centered. Unlike many city centers, it's an easy walking city with plenty of resources in case you want to take day-trips or just enjoy what the city itself has to offer.

The central part of Vancouver encompasses a variety of discrete neighborhoods, from the marina to the Central Business District, from Gastown to Granville Island to Yaletown and Stanley Park. It's also primed for rides out of the city (to the mountains,

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A footbridge at the top of the Sea to Sky Gondola in Squamish north of Vancouver, opposite, offers breathtaking views; learn to cook and plate like a chef at the Dirty Apron Cooking School, above.



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# **Uptown Physicians Group**

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A crosswalk along Davie Street marks the primary gayborhood, above; opposite, Vancouver's beautiful downtown as seen from the Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel.

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perhaps) or over it (float planes!). From Canada Place, the heart of the waterfront area and a multi-use facility for events and meetups, you can stroll along the seawall of Coal Harbour — by far the photo-op nexus of the city. Lined with a marina, cruise ship dock, seaplane platform (book a 20-minute floatplane ride with Harbour Air to see one-of-a-kind views of the region), as well as cafes and pedestrian paths, it affords amazing views of snowcapped mountains to the north as well as the bay itself. From here it's a lovely 20-minute walk (you'll encounter families of geese by the roadside!) to Stanley Park, a vast greenway that encompasses much of the northwestern finger of the Burrard

Countless lodging options are available for your rejuvenation weekend, but among the highest quality is the Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel (at least four Fairmont properties are located across the region). Located on the edge of Canada Place, its amenities include peerlessly appointed rooms (some with deep whirlpool tubs and breathtak-

ing views of the city, the mountains and harbour. It boasts the Willow Stream Spa and Fitness Center, where you can get a refreshing massage or just partake in the outdoor hot tubs, the cucumber water and healthy snacks or a shvitz in the sauna.

For a boutiquier experience, the quaint Loden Hotel projects a more European flair. The hallways are narrower and more intimate. The rooms are comfy with clever layouts (a moveable wall that can open up the bath to the sleeping area, or close it off for privacy). If you want to go full-out funky, though, don't miss The Burrard Hotel. A renovated Mid-Century Modern motorlodge, it's low on amenities but flush with campy excesses: Goofy decor, a retro courtyard for playing table tennis or just relaxing create a hip vibe. There's no room service, but the hotel provides a printed sheet recommending nearby food options as well some attractions — a kind of DIY concierge service. (The Burrard is also a quick walk to Davie Street, the main thoroughfare running through Vancouver's established gayborhood. Need to know

 just ask anyone; Canadians seem fully comfortable with knowing where the gay area is. More on that later.)

#### What to do

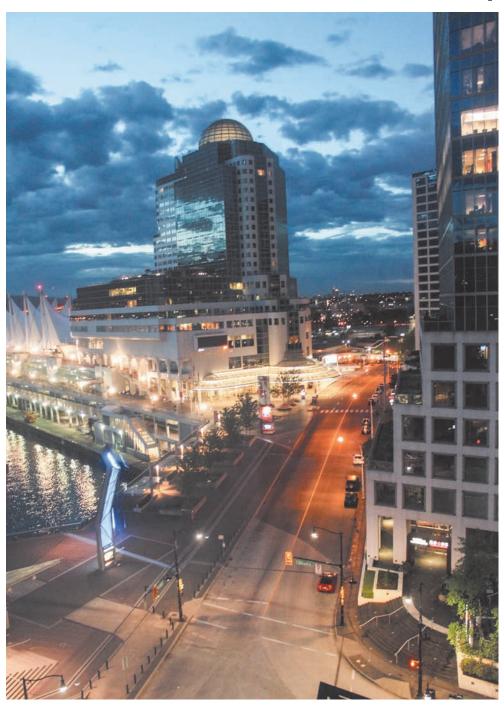
With easy access to skiing (Whistler resort is less than two hours away), water sports and parks, fitness is ingrained culturally into the city and has only expanded in recent years. Most if not all of the hotels offer yoga mats as in-room amenities and provide concierge services to book hiking excursions. Barriers restrict automobile access in many areas. (Take that as a blessing — car rentals can run as high as \$60/ day!) Many also supply complimentary or low-cost bike rentals to explore the area and get exercise.

It's only been about a decade that the biking lanes have become ubiquitous, when Mayor Gregor Robertson followed through on his commitment to sustainable

transportation options as one prong on his mission to make Vancouver "the greenest city in the world." The city has the smallest carbon footprint in North America for a major market, and Greenpeace was founded here in 1971. Even if you're not a health nut, biking, walking and public transportation are your best options for moving about Vancouver. Lyft and Uber have been shut out, at least for now, and the two cab companies lack reliability and can be downright useless (which is why a service like Uber came about in the first place).

The culturally aggressive pursuit of health-conscious and alternative-lifestyle options extends equally to the cuisine and other pastimes. For instance, hike yourself to the historic Gastown neighborhood (some of the streets are still cobblestone), and park yourself for 90 minutes at the Float House, one of several sensory-depri-

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vation facilities in the city. "Have a good float!" the chill staff will say, while prepping you for a womb-like experience in lukewarm, highly salinated water in an enclosed tube. It's New Age-y and slightly spiritual, and a total refresher.

Another option is to explore Granville Island. It isn't a true island; you can drive onto it and not even know you've left the "mainland." Really, it's just a gussied-up sandbar in the middle of False Creek, an inlet fed by English Bay. But don't think that diminishes its appeal; Granville Island, one local told us, was the second-most visited tourist attraction in Canada, behind only Niagara Falls. Even if that's an exaggeration, you can see why people love to come here, especially during warm weather. You can rent a kayak and go on an invigorating tour of False Creek, taking in the sights from the site of the Olympic Village to the buildings of Yaletown to the dome of Science World.

#### What to eat

When you're back on Granville Island, you'll probably be peckish, which is an excellent time to explore the Public Market, a marketplace of unique food and drink

purveyors (among my favorites: The Granville Island Tea Co., The Nut Merchant, Lee's Donuts and #1 Orchard), knickknack sellers, restaurants, boutiques and services. You can even take a walking Foodie Tour that serves you selected bites from several vendors. Or you might want to explore Vancouver's foodie scene in more detail.

You can learn first-hand how to make some fine-dining dishes by taking a class at The Dirty Apron, a high-tech cooking school where chef Takashi walks you through preparing everything from spot prawns and seared halibut cheek to roasted beef tenderloin, served with mimosas and a selection of wines.

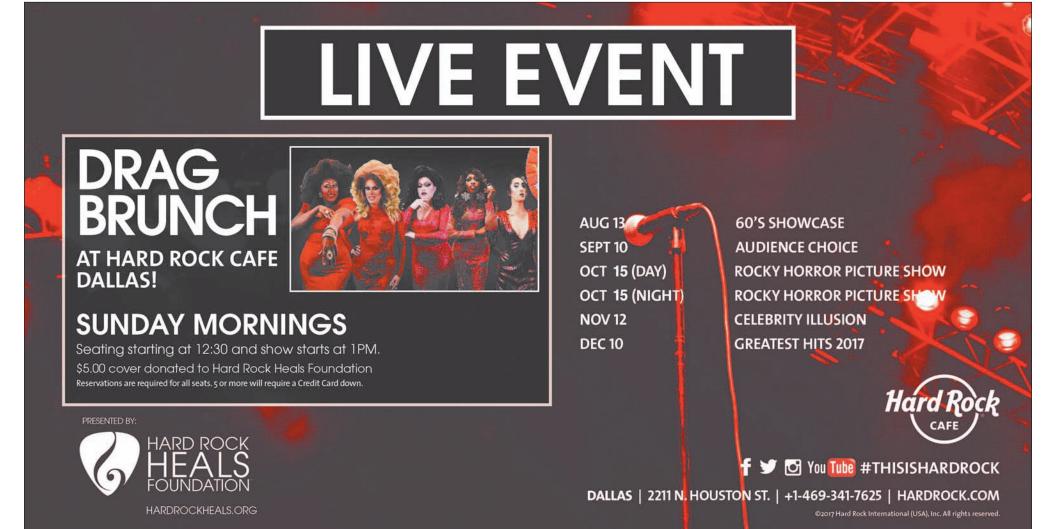
If you prefer for a professional to do all the work, some of the most inventive cuisine in the city is right inside the Fairmont Pacific Rim, where the newly-opened restaurant The Botanist delights the senses. Executive chef Hector Laguna and masterful beverage director Grant Sceney each ply their skills with enviable deftness, whether it's creating unique cocktails built around elaborate themes of the earth and its elements (one even served in a kind of terrarium), or conjuring elegant root vegetables with pepper or a nest of hand-cut tagliatelle pasta. (Even the breakfast menu is a treat.)



A fresh salad is one of the artisanal farm-to-table dishes a Burdock & Co., above; taking in the views from one of the nature trails in Squamish, opposite.

Tell locals you have a table at Miku, one of the preeminent sushi restaurants in the city, and you'll surely be met by squeals of envy for its preparation of sablefish and aburi salmon sashimi. The towering restaurant Coast serves an extensive menu of fish items, including a massive sushi sampler tray and rich bowl of cioppino.

Seafood and sushi are clearly plentiful and diverse, but I also found it effortless to discover vegetarian options. Falafel shops are in relative abundance; local breweries and distilleries supply regionally-specific beers and liquors (explore some of them at the Steamworks Brewing Co. or The Flying Pug, both in Gastown); area coffee roasters;



and you can splurge on your diet after walking so much with a trip to Lucky's Doughnuts.

Lucky's is a short stroll from Burdock & Co. along the bohemian Main Street, a smallish farm-to-table style eatery opened in 2013, where the craft of the food is a point of pride. The wine list is filled with organic and unfiltered options, and even "orange" wines (similar to roses), plus delicate salads, an amazing ribeye steak and some of the best breads I've ever eaten. And Burgoo, next to the Burrard Hotel, offers more than burgers ("burgoo" actually refers to a traditional stew, not a sandwich), including gastropub items like an herbaceous shepherd's pie.

French culture is more widespread in Eastern Canada, especially Quebec, but you'll encounter plenty of French-speakers and Gallic influences across the nation. (Canada is a cosmopolitan nation; without trying, I easily overheard not just French, but German, Portuguese, Mandarin, Arabic and Spanish spoken commonly on the street.) If you are a francophile, though, Medina is where it's at, though it adds healthy doses of Mediterranean dishes as well. Feast on a tomato-y cassoulet with

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# ROLL CALL! Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!



amily PRIDE Zone is a family friendly outdoor space in conjunction with the Music Festival in the Park, held on **Saturday, September 16th** - 11am to 7pm. The Music Festival is located at Reverchon Park and is a Dallas Tavern Guild event.

Inside the main gates of the Music Festival is a fenced off safe space created for the Family PRIDE Zone. Security professionals will staff our entrance. Park entrance fees are \$10 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

#### The Family PRIDE Zone

will include food, games, entertainment, bounce houses, face painters, vendor booths and much more. Special feature: Dennis Lee & Nana Puddin', ventriloquist. Also look for Teen PRIDE.

For more info. visit: dallaspride.org.

#### Family PRIDE Zone

& Kimberly Kantor
& Kimberly Kantor

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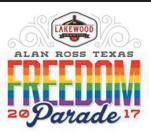
Sponsorships Available Call Leo 214.893.1075











#### Music Festival in the Park | Family PRIDE Zone | Teen PRIDE

Saturday, September 16th - 11am to 7pm Reverchon Park - 3505 Maple Ave | Dallas Music Festival Sponsored by Miller Lite Family PRIDE Zone Sponsored by Toyota

#### Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade

Sunday, September 17th - 2pm | Our 34th Edition | Stand Up | Speak OUT Cedar Springs - from Wycliff to Turtle Creek | Sponsored by Lakewood Brewing Co.

#### L+S | travel



Sign up for a kayak tour on Granville Island to explore False Creek, opposite; above, English Bay at the foot of Davie Street is a popular destination point during gay Pride events during the first week of August each year.

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sausages and bacon and flavored sodas with such phantasmagorical combinations like tumeric/lime/chili. But the specialty at Medina are the liege-style waffles — smaller, rounder, shallower, and fluffier than their Belgian counterparts, as if some

mythical Eggo had achieved eternal bliss. You can add maple syrup, of course (boring), but why not white chantilly lavender, or as I did, a passionfruit cream? You won't be sorry. Wash it all down with an

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#### Canadians are not Americans! A primer

The Vancouver of this story is in British Columbia; there is a Vancouver in Washington State, as well. Don't be fooled! They are different! In fact, Canadians share a lot in common with us, but it's in the details where you can see the distinctions. If you do decide to relocate there, here are some quirks you'll need to get used to.

Their money is prettier than ours. Of course a country with pink banknotes on which a queen appears would be at the forefront of gay rights.

They confuse you with the metric system ... but not consistently. Like most of the civilized world except the U.S., Canada long ago embraced kilos, liters, meters, centigrade ... but not always. One bus driver told me how tall a mountain was in feet, but how far away it was in kilometers. Most temps are in Celsius, so when you tell them it gets up to 100 degrees in Texas, many will pass out from shock.



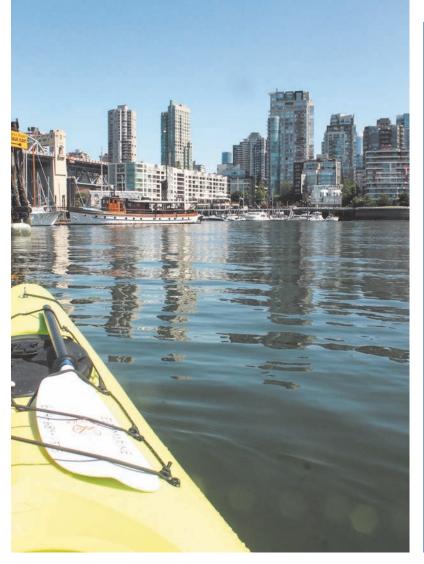
They have our sports ... but not really. Most everywhere else in the world, "football" (or "futbol") is what we call "soccer." But if a Canadian refers to "football," he means the gridiron game a la the Super Bowl. Except Canadian football is played on a field with different dimensions and different rules. So don't ask them if they punt on a fourth down — they won't know what a fourth down *is*. Baseball is the same, thank goodness.

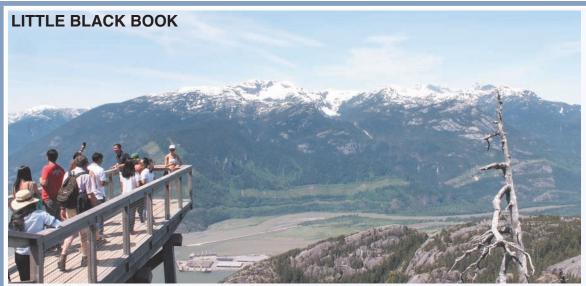
They eat more fish. And not just catfish! Sablefish is a big deal here, pictured.

They are nicer. In America, if someone cuts you off on the highway, it is customary to chase him down, threaten his family and spew a series of curse words while brandishing a firearm; in Canada, if a man is convicted of multiple murder, the coffee shop conversation probably won't get any more heated than "I'll tell ya, he's a piece o' garbage!"

Their head of government isn't a serial liar, admitted sex offender or traitor to their values. He's also hot.

— A.W.J.





#### **Accommodations**

Burrard Hotel. The Burrard.com. Fairmont Pacific Rim, Fairmont.com/PacificRim. Loden Hotel, TheLoden.com. Food & Drink

Beach Bay Cafe, BeachBayCafe.com. The Botanist Restaurant inside Fairmont Pacific Rim, BotanistRestaurant.com. Burdock & Co., BurdockandCo.com. Burgoo, Burgoo.ca. Coast, Glowbalgroup.com/Coast. The Flying Pig, TheFlyingPigVan.com. Lucky's Doughnuts, LuckysDoughnuts.com.

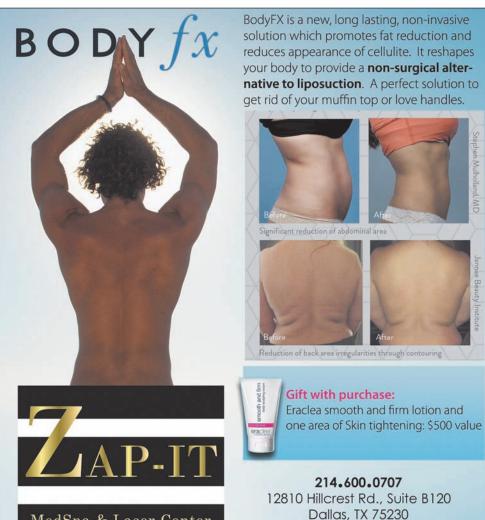
Medina, MedinaCafe.com. Miku, MikuRestaurant.com. Steamworks Brewing Co., Steamworks.com.

#### Clubs & Bars

Celebrities, CelebritiesNightclub.com. The Junction, JunctionPub.com. Numbers, Numbers.ca. Pumpjack, PumpjackPub.com. **Attractions & Activities** 

The Dirty Apron Cooking School, DirtyApron.com. Ecomarine Paddlesport Centres, EcoMarine.com. Float House Gastown. FloatHouse.ca. Granville Island and Public Market, GranvilleIsland. com. Granville Island Foodie Tours, Foodie Tours.ca. Harbour Air Seaplanes, Harbour Air.ca. Sea to Sky Gondola in Squamish, SeatoSkyGondola.com, pictured. Resources

Tourism Vancouver, Tourism Vancouver.com.



www.zapitdallas.com

MedSpa & Laser Center



#### ■ TRAVEL From Page 20

espresso drink, and imagine you're in Paris for just an instant.

#### Gaying it up

Perhaps surprisingly, perhaps not, one of the most diverse neighborhoods to sample a variety of foods is the gayborhood. Walk down just a half-dozen blocks of Davie Street, and you'll encounter Japanese, Thai, Indian, Persian, Himalayan, Greek, Transylvanian, Malaysian and Chinese food options, as well as seafood, pho, ramen, pizza, poutine, burgers ... and that's not counting the fast food chains. That much culinary diversity is merely emblematic of thriving gay population here, which includes one of the oldest continually-operating gay bars with the same owner in the world, dive bars, show clubs and more. Among them: Celebrities, a long-standing nightclub in a building that's more than a century old; Numbers, a popular cabaret; The Junction, which has a huge patio and friendly atmosphere; and the large, neighborhoody sports bar Pumpjack.

Continue down Davie Street's steep incline toward English Bay, and you'll be rewarded by a lovely beach of warm sand, parks and views of snow-capped mountains, even in summer. You can sun on the

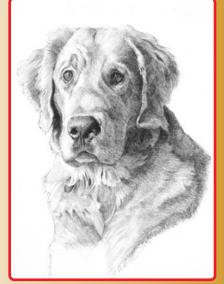
beach (or just people-watch), or stroll the coast and visit the AIDS memorial, which when erected included the names of every local who had succumbed to the disease. For refreshment, stop into Beach Bay Cafe for refreshing lite fare, including a Canadian specialty called the Caesar — a bloody mary made with Clamato. (It's much better than it sounds.)

The annual Pride celebration arrives in late summer, and the gayborhood hops; smaller celebrations start as early as July 30 and continue until the parade, this year on Aug. 6. But this being Canada, Pride isn't confined to a few blocks of the gay ghetto; extends across the city, with a parade route that traverses miles of city streets.

If you decide you do want to get outside the city, the nearby mountains provide several options. During winter, famed Whistler ski resort is a huge draw (its annual Elevation gay ski week is popular), but during warmer weather, the Sea to Sky Gondola in Squamish offers a wonderful opportunity to commune with nature. Opened in 2014, the gondola whisks you up a mountainside where nature trails (you can take guided tours or strike out on your own) expose you to how some of the

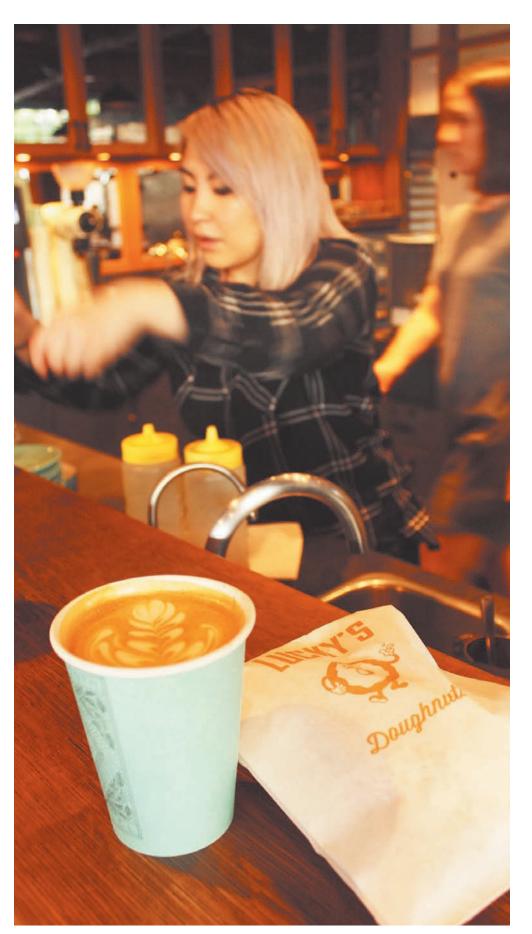








For more information call 214.498.6273 or visit www.DRPhilips.net



Enjoy a coffee and Berliner at Lucky's Doughnuts.

First Nations people paid homage to the land. Look out on the tribe's most sacred mountain, the Squamish Chief, from a rarefied perch. Even the coach ride from Canada Place is a hoot, with informative facts about the culture, landscape and history.

All of which, if you're paying attention, will only reinforce the idea that, as proud as Americans (and especially Texans) can

be, we are not the only game in town, even insofar as English-speaking North America goes. (Though don't be fooled by the language into thinking they are us! *See* sidebar, Page 22.) Vancouver is merely one of the most bewitching reminders of Canada's progressivity, beauty and diversity. It's a delightful place to visit ... and you might wanna live there.

## **Saturday** 08.05

#### Season 9 Drag Racers reunite for a drag-off

You may think you know who won the last season of RuPaul's Drag Race, but a queen's work is never done. Putative winner Sasha Velour appears onstage alongside Shea Coulee, Farrah Moan and a host of others (with Trixie as hostess) in the touring show War on the Catwalk. The all-audiences show welcomes your cheers for whomever deserves to be the next supermodel of the world.... But Sasha keeps the cash.

DEETS: House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 8 p.m. DragFans.com.



# Friday 08.04 — **Sunday** 08.27

LIFE+STYLE

best bets

## 'The Minotaur' bullies its way into Theatre 3

Who controls your life's narrative? Or are you a pawn of fate? No need to listen to that Greek chorus in your head, just cuz you're on the horns of a dilemma. Theatre 3 kicks off its 57th (!) season with Anna Ziegler's modern-day updating of the myth of *The Minotaur*. New artistic director Jeffrey Schmidt directs.

**DEETS**: Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the quadrangle. In previews through Sunday; opening night Monday. Theatre3Dallas.com.



## Friday 08.11

#### Girls just wanna have fun... boys, too, when Cyndi is in town

The gay community might have no greater ally than Cyndi Lauper, the Tony and Grammy Award-winning composer, performer and activist. The "True Colors" icon brings her musicality and her personality to the stage of the Verizon Theatre. She's so unusual!

**DEETS**: Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Drive, Grand Prairie. 7:30 p.m. AXS.com.





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Stephen Mobley - Social Media Manager 214.754.8710 - dallasvoice.com/social-media-management-services

#### calendar highlights



An actress struggles with confidence when cast as Shakespeare's famous (male) hero in 'Women Playing Hamlet' at the Bath House. (Photo by Alan Abair)

#### **ARTSWEEK**

THEATER

The Festival of Independent Theatres (FIT). Eight small companies perform for the 19th annual fest. *Final weekend*. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.com.

**Beehive: The '60s Musical**. Jukebox musical about the women who made pop music in the 1960s so memorable. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 27. JubileeTheatre.org.

Hit the Wall. A play with music about the Stonewall Riots that triggered the modern gay liberation movement. Reviewed this week. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 20. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Hood.** A world premiere musical about Robin Hood, by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn. Final weekend. Wyly Theatre,

2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Bible: The Complete Words of God (Abridged). Amphibian Stage Productions presents the return engagement of this comedy. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth.

Through Aug. 13. AmphibianStage.com.

The Life and (Cruel) Times of Conchita Zaragoza: A Mambo Musical. Comedy by Mark-Brian Sonna about a Mexican girl obsessed with being the next big star in America... despite being undocumented. Final weekend.
Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. MBSProductions.net.

*The Minotaur*. Anna Ziegler's contemporary take on love and honor, with the mythic creature of the title as its symbolic center. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Aug. 3–27 (in previews through Aug. 6). Theatre3Dallas.com.

#### FINE ART

**Sopheap Pich**. The Cambodian sculptor's work, including the massive *Rang Phnom Flower*, on display at Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. CrowCollection.org.

Iris Van Herpen: Transforming Fashion. A must-see show of the designer's wondrous garments. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 20. DMA.org.

#### FRIDAY 08.04

COMMUNITY

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

#### **SATURDAY 08.05**

DRAG

War on the Catwalk: The Queens from Drag Race Season 9. Winner Sasha Velour appears with Shea, Trinity, Farrah, Kimora and host Trixie. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 8 p.m. DragFans.com.

#### **MONDAY 08.07**

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.

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#### **TUESDAY 08.08**

Scarface. Brian DePalma directed Al Pacino in this retelling of the 1930s gangster film. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

#### **COMMUNITY**

Men's Prime Timers Dine Out. Bi-monthly dinner out for the group of mature gay men. Fernando's, 4347 W. Northwest Highway. 7 p.m. Pay-what-you-eat. RSVP required. 972-504-8866. Primetimersww.net/dfw

#### **THURSDAY 08.10**

**CABARET** 

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.

Women Playing Hamlet. Comedy from Pegasus Theatre about a woman who takes on the Melancholy Dane. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Aug. 10-26. Search Eventbrite.com or visit www.goo.gl/QTXguP for tickets





#### **FRIDAY 08.11**

CONCERTS

Cyndi Lauper. In concert at Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Drive, Grand Prairie. 7:30 p.m. AXS.com.

#### COMMUNITY

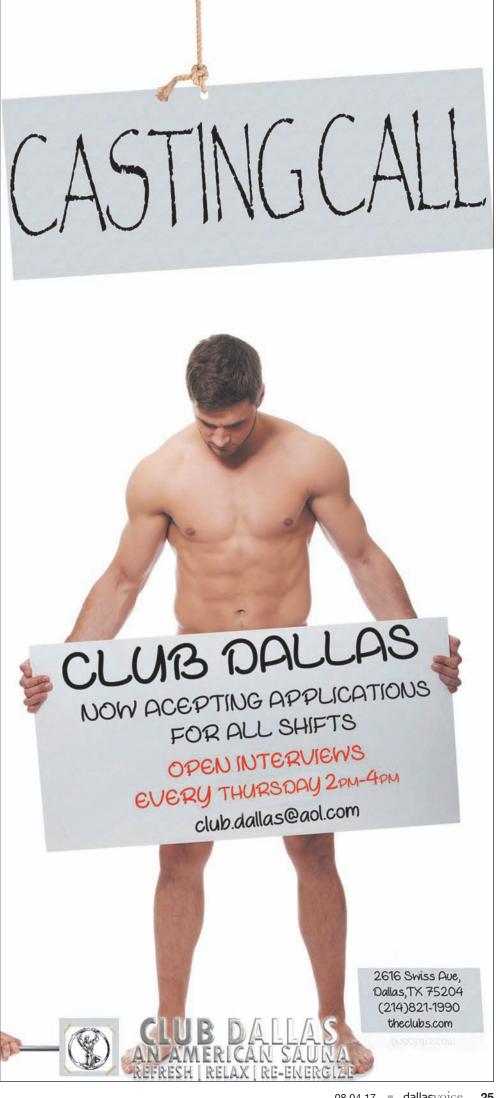
**DFW Pride Happy Hour (formerly High Tech** Happy Hour). Monthly queer mixer sponsored by the TI Pride Network, and open to everyone. Cedars Social, 1326 S. Lamar St. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### **THEATER**

All About Bette. The return of the acclaimed one-woman show, with Morgana Shaw transfixing as screen legend Bette Davis. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth, Sept. 11-12; Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road, Aug. 18-26. An Evening With Bette Davis.com.

#### this week's solution

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7777 Forest Lane, Ste. B122 | 972-383-1060

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK

AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER

Fort Worth, 76111 | 817-335-1994 | AOC.org

AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS

214-941-0523 | AIDSDallas.org

**AMELIA COURT** 

1936 Amelia Court | 214-590-5647 | AOC.org

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214-521-6622 | LegalHospice.org

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214-528-2336 | MyResourceCenter.org

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Fort Worth | 817-321-4743 NoTexasAIDS.org

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214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

**EDUCATION** 

LEAP | 214-821-4528 | GLBTLeap.org

LGBTQA PROGRAM at UT ARLINGTON

Arlington | 817-272-2099 | UTA.edu/lgbtqa

OUT@COLLIN COUNTY COMM. COLLEGE 214-991-7851 | Out.Collin.edu

214-991-7651 | Out.Comm.edu

**SMU WOMEN & LGBT CENTER** 

214-768-4792

SMU.edu/StudentAffairs

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214-768-4792 | People.SMU.edu/Spectrum

**UNT ALLY PROGRAM** 

940-565-2589 | multicultural@unt.edu

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OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND

469-616-0138 | Info@oaklawnband.org

**TURTLE CREEK CHORALE** 

214-526-3214 ext. 101 | TurtleCreek.org

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS

214-520-7828 | TWCD.org

POLITICAL

DALLAS STONEWALL YOUNG DEMOCRATS | DallasSYD.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF DALLAS COUNTY | LPDallas.org

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS LogCabin.org/Chapter

**METROPLEX REPUBLICANS** 

MetroplexRepublicans.com

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS

214-506-DEMS (3367) StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON
StonewallDemocratsOfDentoncounty.org

TARRANT COUNTY STONEWALL 817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

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GLOBE | 972-308-7233 | FedGlobe.org

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lambdapride@freetoasthoast.us

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LGBT LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR LGBTLawTx.com | 800-204-2222 ext. 1420

NORTH TEXAS GLBT CHAMBER

214-821-GLBT | GLBTChamber.org

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Outandequal.org/dallas-fort-worthDFW@ outandequal.org

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COALITION FOR AGING LGBT - DFW 214-577-7976 | CFA.lgbt

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DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE 214-528-0144 | info@dgla.com | DGLA.com

**DALLAS LATINO PRIDE** 

TexasLationGayPride.com

DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE

214-405-5475 | DallasSouthernPride.com

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214-571-1073 | DallasPride.org

GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS GLFD.org | 214-421-8177

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

Community Council of Greater Dallas 844-831-9600 | CCCG.org

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE of NTX 214-855-0520 | info@hrionline.org

LAMBDA LEGAL

214-219-8585 | lambdalegal.org

SOS - SURVIVORS OFFERING SUPPORT 5750 Cedar Springs Rd. | YouCaring.com

TARRANT COUNTY GAY PRIDE WEEK president@tcgpwa.org | TCGPWA.org

SOCIAL

BATTALION MOTORCYCLE

BattalionMC.com

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB 214-446-0606 | ClassicChassis.com

**COUPLES METRO DALLAS** 

214-521-5342 | CouplesMetroDallas.com

DALLAS BEARS

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DAMN | 214-521-5342 ext. 1739 | DAMNmen.org DFW FUSE| 214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

**DISCIPLINE CORPS** 

214-521-5342 ext. 1731 | disciplinecorps.com

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P.O. Box 130703 | Tyler, 75713 | 903-330-8901

FIREDANCERS mikeykeith@cs.com | firedancers.org

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469-324-4123 | FriscoPride.com

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GLBT Aging Interest Network |214-528-0144 IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH

careteam@icfwa.org | ICFWA.org JEWEL | 214-540-GIRL | jewel@rcdallas.org

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214-395-8460 | LeatherKnights.org

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Rick: campout@lvlpwa.com | LVLPWA.com

MEN OF ALL COLORS
214-521-4765 | pulliam\_preston@yahoo.com

NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION info@nla-dallas.org | NLA-Dallas.org

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214-662-4706 | Once-In-A-Blue-Moon.org

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PRIME TIMERS OF DFW 972-504-8866 information@primetimers-dfw.org

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000 012 2001 | 13.007 11000

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RAINBOW ROUNDUP - LGBT Families info@rrup.org | rrup.org

REAL LIVE CONNECTION-TEEN PRIDE 469-666-7325 | rlc365.org

SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW Singles.meetup.com/2049

SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB

214-289-1179 | Spectrum-MRC.com

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DFW Groups.yahoo.com/groups/indallasftworth dalmusl@yahoo.com

UNITED BLACK ELLUMENT 214-760-9718 | UBEDallas.org

UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR
EMPIRE | DallasCourt.org

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**AGAPE MCC** 

Fort Worth | 817-535-5002 | AgapeMCC.com

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH** 

Garland | AscensionTexas.org

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Farmers Branch | 972-245-6520 COLight.org

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH Fort Worth | 817-335-3222

Celebration-Community-Church.com

CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE

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**DALLAS MEDITATION CENTER -**

Sundays 5pm | DallasMeditationCenter.com

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Fort Worth |817-921-5683 | FOLOchurch.org FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS

214-528-3990 | DallasUU.org

THE GATHERING PLACE 214-643-3250 | TheGatheringDallas.org

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 214-824-2533 | GraceUMCDallas.org

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Plano | InterMindful.com

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940-484-6159 | HarvestMCC.org HORIZON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Carrollton | 972-492-4940 | HorizonUU.org
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KESSLER PARK UNITED METHODIST 214-942-0098 | kpumc.org INTERWEAVE DALLAS, NTX UNITARIAN

LIVING FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 972-546-0543 | LivingFaithDFW.org

LUTHERANS CONCERNED 214-855-4998 | ReconcilingWorks.org

Carrollton | 972-243-0761 | MCCGD.org

MCC OF GREATER DALLAS

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214-363-2479 | Northaven.org OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 214-521-5197 | oaklawn@olumc.org

PATHWAYS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Hurst | 817-803-5941 | PathwaysUU.org

PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 214-623-8400 | PromiseUCC.org

ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH

214-351-1401

ST STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST

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TRINITY MCC 817-265-5454| TrinityMCC.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH uuc@oakcliffuu.org | OakCliffUU.org

**UNITY OF DALLAS** 

972-233-7106 | UnityDallas.org

WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH 214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

2TO DTC

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FrontrunnersDallas.org

FrontrunnersDallas.org

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info@dsgadallas.org | DSGADallas.org NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

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OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION OLTADallas.org PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL

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817-540-0303 rainbow\_rollers\_league@yahoo.com TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

214-346-2107 | TGRA.org

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS LAMBDA 214-264-0222 | DdallasAl-Anon.org

BLACK TRANSMEN INC. 1-855-BLK-TMEN | BlackTransMen.org

CANCER SUPPORT COMM. | 214-345-8230

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FAMILY PRIDE COALITION | 817-881-3949 G.E.A.R (Gender, Education, Advocacy & Resources) | 214-521-5124

outreach@coda.org | CoDependents.org

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MANAGEMENT GROUP 469-328-1980 | Marial33@gmail.com

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972-77-PFLAG | info@pflagdallas.org

PFLAG-FORT WORTH | 817-428-2329 SEX & LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS

STONEWALL GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

5910 Cedar Springs #116 | Dallas,75235

214-879-0400 | youth@myresourcecenter.org

214-673-8092

YOUTH FIRST

**26** dallasvoice.com ■ 08.04.1

# Cassie Nova

Cassie explores dad/son dynamics

Hello, all. The other day I was flipping the channels on television and stopped to watch half of an episode of The Facts of Life. Then I realized something: My first crush was a girl. I know, right? I was just as shocked as you. I think a lot of young gay men probably fell for the rough and tough Jo Polniaczek. She rode a motorcycle, she always had grease on her face and she looked like she could whoop some ass. She was awesome.

I remember my dad asking me if I thought Blair was hot. He made quite a few comments on what he would do to Blair, given the chance. I just said, "Nope! I like Jo. I think she's the prettiest." Remember, I was like 10 years old. I'm sure my dad knew by me choosing the only butch one of the girls that eventually we would have a talk that I'm sure he didn't want to have.

You see, I left a breadcrumb trail that pointed to me being gay. OK, maybe not so much breadcrumbs as flashing neon lights.

My dad and I are not close. We love each other, we just don't have a lot of need to be around each other. I see him once or twice a year. Throughout my childhood and adult life, I have disappointed him. I wasn't butch, I hated getting dirty, I couldn't care less about fixing cars, and I refused to work outdoors in the heat. These are all things that I know my dad equated to "being a man."

When I was 12, I told my dad I needed money for something, he said I could go to work with him on this construction job he was doing and help him. He said he would pay me like 5 bucks an hour — a huge rate in the '80s. I agreed, and he woke me the next morning

before the sun came up to go with him to work. The morning was already warm — summers in Texas! Go figure - and he told me, "You see that big pile of bricks? Separate the broken ones and take them over there to the Dumpster, then bring me the unbroken ones and set them right there." He pointed to a spot about 100 yards away. I had no gloves or wheelbarrow, so I was to just carry bricks all day.

I started out with the best of intentions. I picked through this huge pile of Acme bricks; most of them were broken,

so I had to walk all the way to the other side of the construction site to throw them away. I immediately hated everything about it. The broken bricks hurt my arms because I would try to carry as many as I could. The sun was sweltering, and there was no shade anywhere. My dad and his crew were working in the back of the lot, so I felt like I was totally alone in the sun. I don't mind telling you that I am, and always have been, a wuss when it comes to the heat. By 11 a.m., it must have been close to 100 degrees. I kept taking breaks to get water from a yellow and red Igloo cooler on the back of my dad's truck, and I swear that every time I took a break would be when my dad would check on me and tell me to get back to work.

By noon, I was exhausted and only about halfway through the pile of bricks. I want to tell you that I toughened up and had a Mr. Miyagi/ Karate Kid moment and kicked that pile of bricks' ass, but that did not happen. I tapped out. I couldn't do it anymore. I was hot, sore and exhausted, and I took my ass over to the only tree on the lot and sat my little gay ass in the only shade I could find. A few minutes later, my dad and his crew broke for lunch. He asked me what I was doing...I told him I was done, that I would not be hauling any more brick today. He called me a fucking pussy, got in his truck and drove away, leaving me there while they went somewhere for lunch.

When they returned, I was exactly where he left me: under the tree, fanning myself with a piece of cardboard. He got out of his truck and gave me a look of utter disappointment. That look stays with me to this day. I sat there until about 5:30, then he told me to get in the truck. We drove home in silence and didn't speak again for about a month. That was actually pretty normal. When you have divorced parents, a lot of time can go by before guilt or circumstance can make your dad come back around.

rental for a Valentine's Day dance. Mom told me to ask my dad. (The parental units only communicated through me and my sister.) Dad said he would give it to me, but I would have to work for it. I figured this was another one of his attempts to toughen me up. I really wanted to look cute at the dance because there was this guy at school named Jason that I had the biggest crush on, so I agreed to mow an empty lot and he would pay for the tux rental (about

dad's house, so I pushed the lawnmower over and was going to get to work. What he failed to tell me was that the grass was up to my shoulders and there was trash everywhere.

I got trash bags and filled three of them. I stared to mow but I couldn't do it. The mower couldn't handle the undergrowth. I either wasn't strong enough to get the mower over the tall grass humps, or the mower wasn't the right tool for the job. Either way, the task seemed impossible to me, so once again I gave up. I hated that I was giving up, but I swear that I tried. I knew my dad was going to be disappointed again, but I was getting used to it. When I pushed the mower back to his house, he just shook his head and said, "I knew it." The next day I got a job at Dairy Queen and have been making my own money ever since.

I'm not saying I was an angel when it came to my dad. I knew where he kept his rolls of coins he saved so I stole from him. Both my sister and I would steal from him, mostly to go buy chips and Cokes from the convenience store - one more reason for him to be disappointed in me. And I don't think I ever apologized for stealing from him. I think we disappointed each other a lot over the years, and that might be why we - intentionally or unintentionally - kind of avoid each other even

Luckily, my dad's second wife gave him the son he wanted. My brother Keith is awesome. He works hard, isn't afraid to get dirty and is the fishing-buddy, car-tinkering, lady-loving, kid-making son I could never be. Keith and my dad are friends. What I do and who I love make my dad uncomfortable. I know he loves me and genuinely likes my partner, but I don't need my dad like his other kids do. Having kids maybe makes you need your family more. I don't know, there is plenty of blame to go around as to why we don't see each other more.

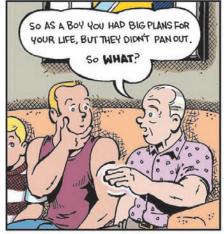
Not all of my memories of my dad are negative. Quite a few times he would get me out of school to take me fishing by saying someone died. Those were good days.

I'm not sure where all of this came from. I sat down to write my column and answer a few questions and this came flooding out. I think this week I needed to help myself work out a few of my own issues. Thanks for indulging me.

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

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





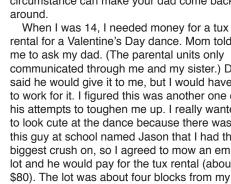
















Fun times with Glitter Beard at Woody's Sports and Video Bar



Sergio pours the drinks at Dallas Eagle

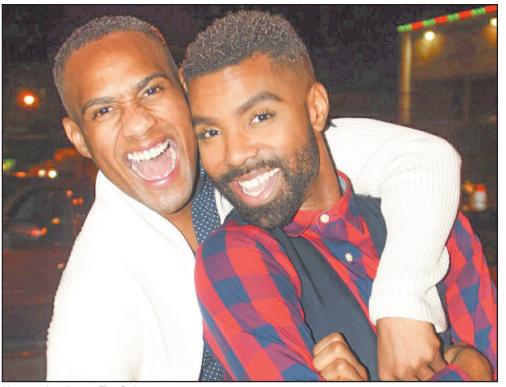
Making the **SCENE** the week of **Aug. 4–10**:

- Alexandre's: Girls' Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. Mi Diva Loca on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Broadway on Tuesday. Bianka on Wednesday.
- BJ's NXS!: Trashy Tuesday.
- Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association meeting at 2 p.m., cookout at 4 p.m. and show at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Dinner Theatre Extravaganza from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. Purple Party from 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- Marty's Live: Tuesdays with Blake.
- Pekers: Totally Twisted Karaoke at 9:45 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Mancandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Boys, Boots and Boxer Briefs on Monday.
- S4: Purple Foundation presents Spin Summer Edition with DJ Abel from Miami and DJ Corey David from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. on Friday.
- The Rose Room: Rising Star Pageant with special guest Plastique Tiara and hosted by Asia O'Hara on Thursday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: Imperial Court Black and White show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Wall of Food show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Showtunes at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Zippers: Monday Madness sounds by Rudeboy Dallas from 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth







Hugs and smiles on The Strip



Strike a pose



Fun and games at The Grapevine



Sharing secrets at The Grapevine



Two-steppin' time at The Round-Up Saloon



Fun times at BJ's NXS!

# **Texas Latino Pride**

Photos courtesy OjosFeos



















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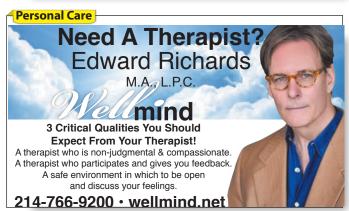
















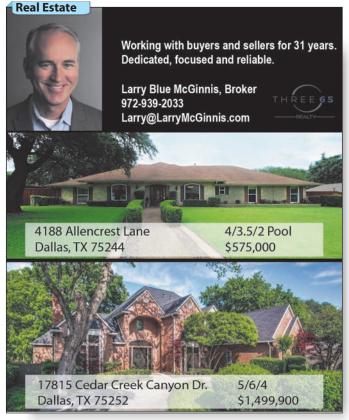














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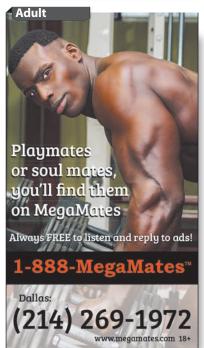
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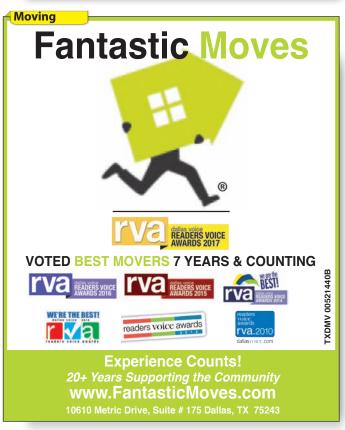




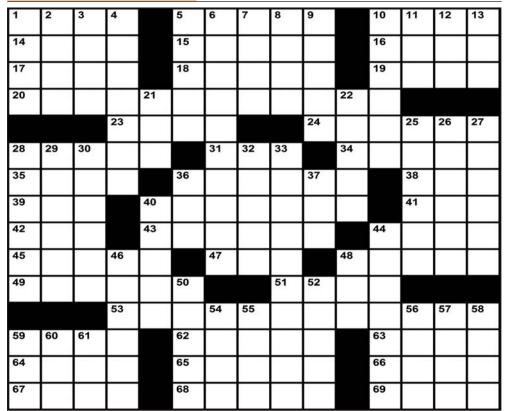








#### q-puzzle



# **Old and Dribbling**

#### Solution on Page 25

#### Across

- 1 Simians on Roddy McDowall's planet
- 5 Like a woman without a woman
- 10 Anthropologist Margaret
- 14 Pandora's Box heroine
- 15 Dallas Voice, for example
- 16 A lot, maybe
- 17 Dancing With the Stars cohost Andrews
- 18 Playful swimmer
- 19 Express the success of a lover's caress
- 20 Pro team of 40-Across
- 23 At once, to the Bard
- 24 Emulated Kerouac's On the Road
- 28 With 48-Across, position of 40-Across
- 31 It takes balls to make them in NFL games
- 34 Trumpet blast
- 35 Sea eagles
- 36 My Fair Lady song
- 38 Butt
- 39 X-ray unit
- 40 Oldest player in the **WNBA**
- 41 Stonewall Jackson's country (abbr.)
- 42 Shoshonean tongue
- 43 Geneticist's study
- 44 Bearing
- 45 Deal with 47 Dick, for short

- 48 See 28-Across
- 49 Lively wit
- 51 Commuter plane trips
- 53 College team of
- 40-Across, briefly
- 59 Dorothy Gale's home
- 62 Not spelled out
- 63 Nurse Jackie protrayer Falco
- 64 Straddling
- 65 Place for a G-string
- 66 Actor Rip
- 67 Four-posters for foreplay, for some
- 68 Will and Grace shared one
- 69 Aspen vehicle

#### Down

- 1 They have foamy heads
- 2 Like a virgin
- 3 Director Kazan
- 4 Catches some rays at South Beach
- 5 Ohno of Geert Blanchart's 54 Zami: A New Spelling sport
- 6 Pressure to come out of the closet?
- 7 Makes a pick
- 8 Drag queen's application
- 9 Billy Bean boo-boo
- 10 Bear, e.g.
- 11 The Name of the Rose author
- 12 Astronomical altar
- 13 Pride's place

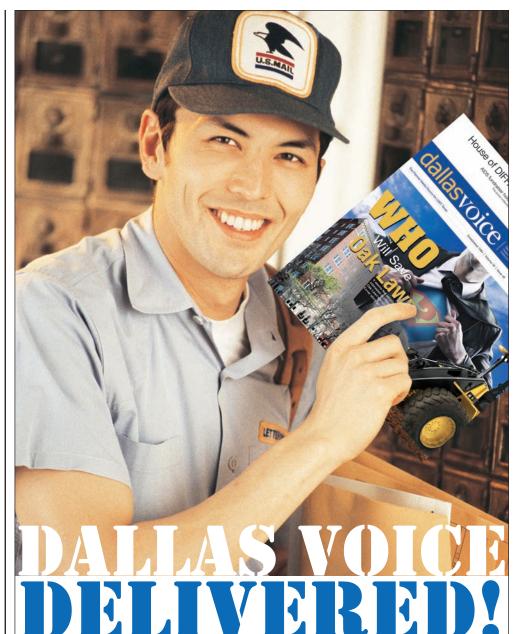
- 21 Stuff for a blow job?
- star Cross
- 27 Supply partner
- 29 Mounts the soapbox
- penetration?
- Loves of \_\_\_ Gillis
- 33 Goes either way, at home

- 40 Stiff-upper-lip type
- them off
- 46 Ranking suit, or criminals in suits?
- 50 The bottom line
- 52 Navel unlikely to collect lint
- of My \_\_\_
- 55 Trojans' org.
- 56 Clay Aiken, almost
- 57 Land of Emma
- 58 Tickle pink
- 59 British sitcom *Ab* \_\_\_\_
- "Food, Glorious Food"?
- 61 Member, in slang

- 22 Dressed like a judge
- 25 Desperate Housewives
- 26 Rubber
- 28 Go over
- 30 Committed to
- 32 Sheila Kuehl's The Many
- 36 California has a big one
- 37 Woolf's \_\_\_\_ Dalloway
- 44 Minuteman shot
- 48 Fam. docs

- Donoghue

- 60 Did an encore of



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