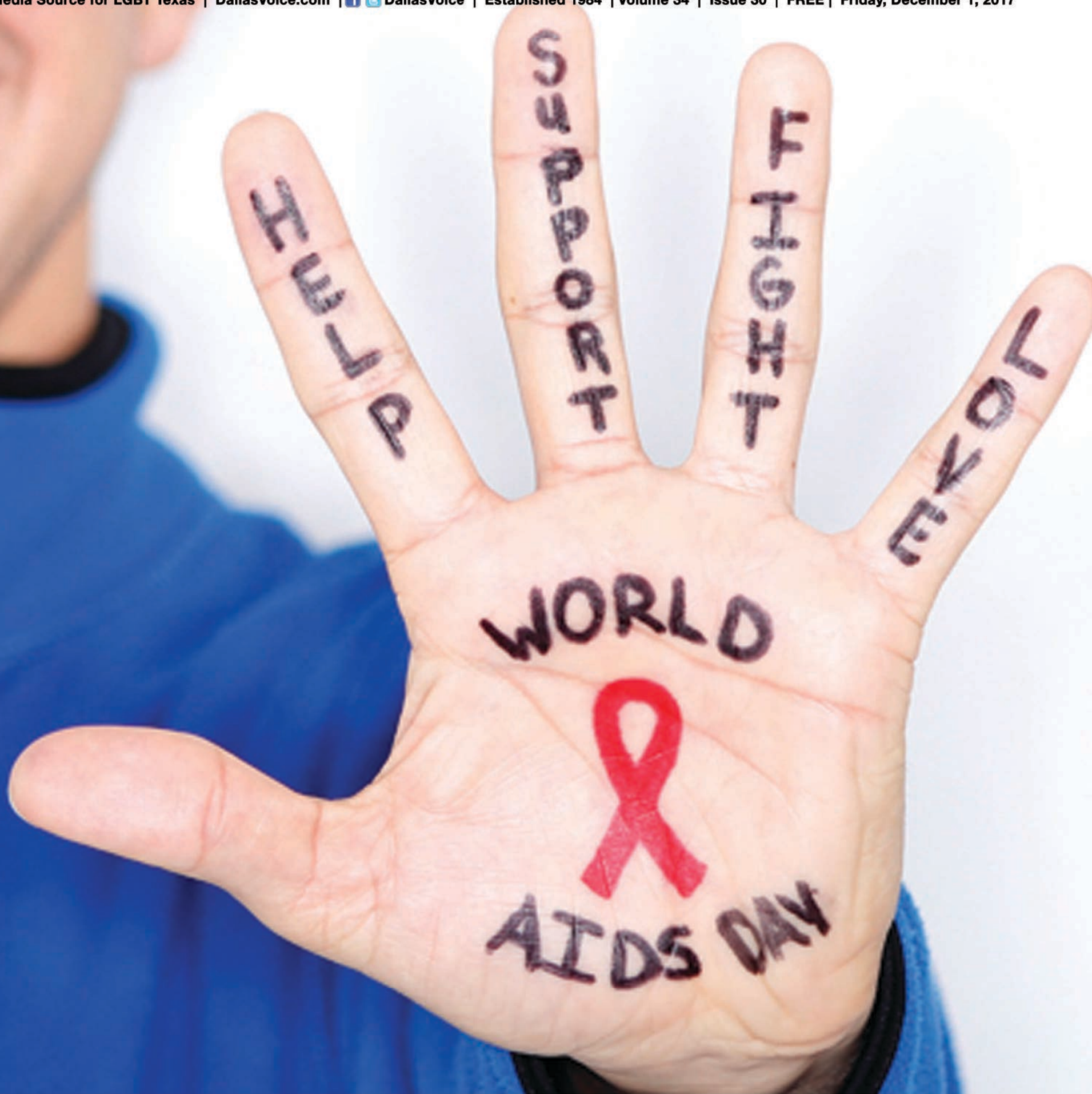


# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) | [f](#) [t](#) DallasVoice | Established 1984 | Volume 34 | Issue 30 | FREE | Friday, December 1, 2017



## WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older who weigh at least 77 pounds. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. GENVOYA combines 4 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with food. GENVOYA is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

**GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking GENVOYA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. 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 GENVOYA?

#### GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking GENVOYA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

### Who should not take GENVOYA?

#### Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

- **Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.** It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.
- **The herbal supplement St. John's wort.**
- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

### What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

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

- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking GENVOYA.

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA.
- **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.

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

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take GENVOYA with all of your other medicines.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

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

## Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you.

GENVOYA.com

GENVOYA does not  
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

# SHOW YOUR POWER

Take care of what matters most—you. GENVOYA is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for people who are either new to treatment or people whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with GENVOYA.

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## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

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

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking GENVOYA. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

## ABOUT GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 77 pounds and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. GENVOYA can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

### Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®), cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®), lurasidone (Latuda®), methylergonovine (Ergotrate®, Methergine®), midazolam (when taken by mouth), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®), pimezide (Orap®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®), sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®), or triazolam (Halcion®).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John's wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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

## IMPORTANT FACTS

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

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

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

- Those in the "Most Important Information About GENVOYA" section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- 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.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

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

## BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

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

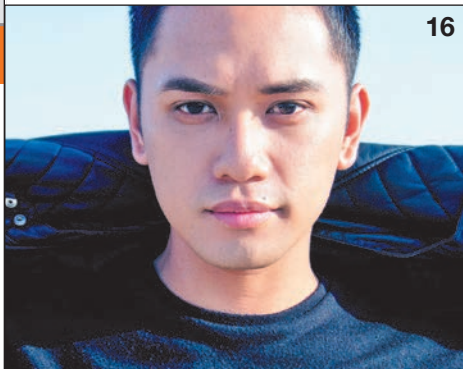
- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

## HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

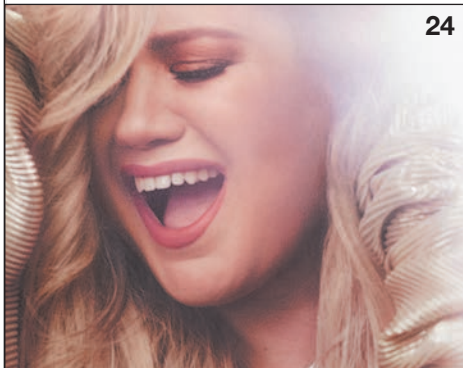
- GENVOYA is a complete one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take GENVOYA with food.



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Stephen Mobley. Photograph by  
Tammye Nash

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In early December, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in ***Masterpiece Cakeshop***, a case that has the potential to upend the hard-fought principle that no one should ever be denied service from a business open to the public simply because of who they are.

The case might seem relatively minor: a Colorado bakery refusing to sell a same-sex couple a cake for their wedding reception. But this is not about cake, and it's about a lot more than marriage.

A ruling that says the Constitution gives businesses the right to turn customers away based on religious beliefs or creativity would create gaping holes in our nation's longstanding nondiscrimination protections. It would say there is a constitutional right to discriminate—which could be used not only against LGBT people but also against religious and racial minorities, unmarried couples, single mothers and many, many others.

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[DallasVoice.com/Category/Instantea](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Instantea)

## Joe Barton says he isn't running for re-election

A little more than a week after a naked selfie of him was posted online, along with a sext that he sent to a woman he was sleeping with, Texas Congressman Joe Barton has told the Dallas Morning News that he will not seek re-election in 2018. Barton, a Republican from Ennis, is now in his 17th term in Congress. He is the longest-serving member of the Texas congressional delegation.

Barton told the Morning News: "I've always listened to people in Texas and worked for them in Washington, and I've been listening to a lot of people the last week in Texas. ... There are enough people who lost faith in me that it's time to step aside and let there be a new voice for the 6th District in Washington, so I am not going to run for re-election."

Barton has long been an enemy of LGBT equality and other progressive causes, including women's rights, and has portrayed himself as a champion of conservatism and "family values."

Openly-gay man John Duncan, who announced his candidacy over the summer and earlier this week announced his intention to file today (Friday, Dec. 1) to run in the Democratic Primary for the 6th Congressional District seat, issued this statement after news of Barton's decision was announced: "The recent uncovering of Rep. Joe Barton's conduct involving the sending of nude photos shows serious lapses in the judgment and leadership that we should not expect from our members of Congress. This episode has distracted us from talking about the issues that are important to the constituents of the 6th Congressional District of Texas. I welcome Rep. Barton's announcement that he will not seek reelection in 2018. His retirement will allow us to stay focused on discussions about job creation, economic growth, healthcare affordability, public education improvements, and other topics that affect the day-to-day lives of the hard-working families of our district."

— David Taffet and Tammye Nash

## Valdez has not resigned, is still considering a run for governor

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez has sent a statement to Dallas Voice Thursday, Nov. 30, indicating that information released Wednesday, Nov. 29, by the Dallas County Democratic Party was incorrect regarding her resignation as sheriff to run for governor. Valdez said she is still considering a run for governor, but has not announced her resignation or intention to run for higher office.

This is the statement Valdez's office sent to Dallas Voice on Nov. 30 at 10 a.m.: "As she has stated in the past, the sheriff is considering the next stage in her career. A letter of resignation was not submitted today. The sheriff will make a formal announcement when her final decision is made."

County Judge Clay Jenkins sent the following statement reinforcing Valdez comments: "Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins and/or County staff have not received notification document(s) of an intent to resign from any county elected official."

Jeffrey Payne, an openly-gay Dallas businessman who announced his campaign for governor earlier this year, said this week he intends to file to run for the office on Monday, Dec. 4.

— David Taffet

## Two more LGBT candidates announce runs for state house

Finn Jones and Jessica Gonzalez have announced their candidacies for seats in the Texas House of Representatives.

Gonzalez filed for District 104, a seat currently held by Democrat Roberto Alonzo. Gonzalez, a former secretary of Stonewall Democrats, wrote on her Facebook page that she filed the paperwork to enter the race:

"It's official. Today, I filed my candidacy application for the office of State Representative for HD104. I am excited at the possibility of serving the people of HD104. Please join my campaign together and help bring a new voice and positive change to the district by making a contribution and signing up on my website to stay informed on others ways you can get involved. Thank you in advance for your support!"

Jones announced he will run for House District 94, a mid-cities seat currently held by Republican Tony Tinderholt.

Jones hasn't indicated whether he's filed his paperwork yet, but his name hasn't appeared on the Secretary of State's website yet as an official candidate. Jones is a founder of TransCendence.

Tinderholt is on record as wanting to jail women who have abortions and who made a name for himself as a defender of true conservative values in 2015 when he appeared with his fifth wife at a Playboy party.

Other North Texas LGBT candidates who have already filed to run for public office in 2018 are Julie Johnson for Texas House District 115, and Lorie Burch for Congressional District 3.

Trans woman Pam Curry has announced her campaign for Texas Senate District 8 but has not yet filed.

The filing deadline is Monday, Dec. 11.

— David Taffet



Lorie Burch files to run for Congress.

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## THE GAY AGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guest is Texas House candidate **Julie Johnson**; **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 Trey more

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](mailto: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](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, 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.

### pet of the week / Tiffany

**Meet Tiffany**, a darling, 3-year-old, white-and-tan pit bull mix weighing 35 pounds. She's a fun-loving, adventurous gal who is always the life of the party, and she was surrendered to the SPCA of Texas on Oct.1 because her exuberant energy was a little too much for her previous owners. She loves running around and showing off how fast she is, meeting new people and getting lots of attention. She doesn't like being left alone and gets bored without any friends to hang out with. She is adventurous, playful and very athletic. She's also intelligent and determined, and knows how to sit, come and lie down, and is both kennel and leash-trained. Her dream home would have a big, fenced-in backyard and a family that can keep up with her. Due to her enthusiastic activity level, she would do best in a home without kids under age 10. She can be picky about her dog friends, so if you have another dog at home, please bring them for a meet-and-greet to see if they make a good match. Tiffany has been spayed, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Her adoption fee is only \$25. #155534

**Tiffany** 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. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for 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.



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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.

## DECEMBER

### • Dec. 1: World AIDS Day

• **Dec. 1: Federal Club holiday party**  
Entertainment by Anton Shaw & The Bad Habits. Dress in favorite '80s attire or business casual. Doors open at 7 p.m. for major donors and Black Tie Dinner board members, and 8 p.m. for Federal Club members, at Cityplace Tower, 2711 N. Haskell Ave., 42nd floor. \$35 advance and \$50 at door.

• **Dec. 1: Hands Across The Globe**  
Impulse Group Dallas presents a World AIDS Day 2017 event from 7-9 p.m. at Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road. [dallaswad2017.eventbrite.com](http://dallaswad2017.eventbrite.com)

• **Dec. 1: AP Community Center grand opening**  
Abounding Prosperity and H.O.P.E. Health Center grand opening from 7-10 p.m. at 1705 MLK Jr. Blvd. RSVP. 214-421-4800. [AboundingProsperity.org](http://AboundingProsperity.org).

• **Dec. 1: An Intimate Evening With Anderson Cooper and Andy Cohen**  
Deep talk and shallow tales as the long-time friends interview each other and take questions from the audience. 8 p.m. at The Pavilion at Irving Music Factory, 300 Las Colinas Blvd W., Irving. [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

• **Dec. 1: World AIDS Day commemoration and march**  
The Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drugs will have tables at Alexandre's, the Round-Up Saloon, Cedar Springs Tap House and JR's from 5-8 p.m. and march from Alexandre's to the Legacy of Love Monument at 8 p.m. to mark World AIDS Day.

• **Dec. 1: Gay Dodgeball Dallas registration party**  
America's Finest Dodgeball League hosts a registration party for people interested in

the new Gay Dodgeball Dallas league from 8:30-11:30 p.m. at Dallas Woody's Sports and Video Bar, 4011 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 2: The Women's Chorus of Dallas**  
TWCD performs with Metropolitan Winds at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. [TWCD.org](http://TWCD.org).

• **Dec. 2: The Lipstick Ball**  
Prince Shemar Garcon presents The Lipstick Ball with prizes in a number of categories from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at The Event Center, 704 S. Walton Walker Blvd.

• **Dec. 3: Jingle Bell Rock**  
Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents "Jingle Bell Rock," a show featuring Miss Gay Texas State Mayra D'Lorenzo Lauren, Miss Gay Texas State at Large Contessa Piranha and more, and benefiting The Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network and the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, with food from 4-5 p.m., and show at 5 p.m., at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

• **Dec. 3: Tony Moran's birthday party**  
Impulse Group and Stereo Live Dallas present Tony Moran's Birthday Event from 5 p.m.-midnight at Stereo Live, 2711 Storey Lane, featuring DJs Robbie Leslie, Grind and Tony Moran, and Kimberly Davis live. Tickets are \$10-\$40, available at [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com), and proceeds benefit Impulse Group and Purple Foundation. For information visit [StereoLiveDallas.com](http://StereoLiveDallas.com).

• **Dec. 3: The Dallas Way fall brunch**  
Dallas Way holds its 5th annual Fall Brunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at 4060 Cochran Chapel Road. Includes complimentary food, drink and valet service. A \$50 gift is suggested. RSVP and sponsorships are available at [TheDallasWay.org](http://TheDallasWay.org).

• **Dec. 3: Jonathan Tsay in recital**  
St. Matthews Cathedral Arts presents Jonathan Tsay in recital, performing *Beethoven Split* featuring the music of Beethoven, Haydn, Brahms, Liszt and Wagner, at 3 p.m. in the Justus Sundermann Gallery, 5100 Ross Ave. Admission and parking are free. For information call 214-887-6552 or email [info@cathedralartsdallas.org](mailto:info@cathedralartsdallas.org).

• **Dec. 4: Cassie's Freakmas Show**  
Cassie Nova hosts her annual show benefiting Caven Enterprises' Sam Houston



Cassie Nova and the crew help you get your freak on for a good cause Monday night, Dec. 4, with Cassie's Freakmas Show at JR's Bar & Grill. Proceeds benefit Caven's Sam Houston Elementary Secret Santa Program. See listings for details.

Elementary Secret Santa Program at JR's Bar and Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road, with prizes from Dark Hour, Spunk Lobe, Streets Fine Chicken, Warby Parker, Dallas Summer Musicals, Hair Today Gone Tomorrow, District 30, Tapelenders, Italia Express, Vektor Vodka, Salon Aura, Hard Rock Café, and the Todd Oldham Kid Made Modern collection. Show is at 11 p.m., drag time.

• **Dec. 4: Heritage Oak Cliff Holiday Party**  
At 7 p.m. in Turner House, 401 N. Rosemont Ave.

• **Dec. 5: Membership Appreciation Reception**  
Resource Center hosts a Membership Appreciation Holiday Reception, 5:30-7 p.m., at the center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road, featuring wine and bites. RSVP to Jennifer Bonham at [jbbonham@myresourcenter.org](mailto:jbbonham@myresourcenter.org).

• **Dec. 5: Classic Chassis Car Club**

Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

• **Dec. 6: GALA Holiday Party**  
Open bar, heavy appetizers, silent auction, raffle and photo booth from 6-10 p.m. at Event 1013, 1013 E. 15th St., Plano. \$20 advance. \$25 at the door. [GALANorthTexas.org](http://GALANorthTexas.org).

• **Dec. 7: Black Tie Distribution Party**  
Proceeds from Black Tie Dinner will be distributed at 6:30 p.m. at The W Hotel, 2440 Victory Park Lane.

• **Dec. 7: Allegiance**  
George Takei's Broadway show *Allegiance* will be shown on screen at Northpark Center 15, 8687 N. Central Expressway; Cinemark 17, 11819 Webb Chapel Road; Galaxy 10, 11801 McCree Road; Movies 16, 220 E. Westchester Parkway, Grand Prairie; Vista Ridge Mall, 2401 S. Stemmons

AGENDA, Page 18

## 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](http://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.**

A photograph of two men with beards and short hair, smiling and looking towards each other. They are wearing black leather vests over black tank tops. The man on the right has a small earring and a necklace with a pendant. The background is a blurred city street with buildings and greenery.

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**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.**

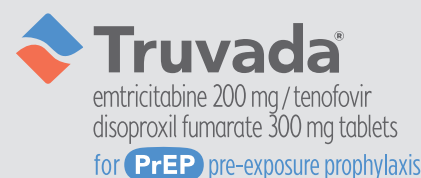
- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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

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(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](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.



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# Infections on the rise

The rate of new HIV infections and diagnoses is going down overall. But not among gay and bi men

**MATHEW SHAW** | Contributing Writer  
editor@dallasvoice.com

**N**ew HIV infections and diagnoses are declining overall each year in the United States, probably due in large part to targeted prevention efforts, according to officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But, they are quick to add, progress has been uneven, and infections and diagnoses each year have actually increased among some groups — including gay and bisexual men.

Gay and bisexual men were the only group to not experience a decline in HIV infections from 2008 to 2014, according to data from the CDC. In addition, the Texas Department of State Health Services has recently identified 16 clusters of HIV infections in the state, largely concentrated in Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.

This information gives a clearer idea of what the state is up against in its battle against HIV.

These HIV “clusters” are different genetic strains of HIV that are occurring among groups of people, according to Analise Monterosso, molecular HIV surveillance

coordinator for State Health Services.

These infections are all HIV subtype B, the most common strain in the country — but with slight changes in its genetic sequence, something that happens whenever genetic material is copied, Monterosso explained.

“It happens with every strand of DNA or RNA that’s repeated,” Monterosso said. “And because we know how often it’s expected those mistakes will happen, we can estimate the relatedness of two people based on that genetic sequence.”

This information is necessary not to “punish” those who are infected. Instead, it helps surveillance professionals understand what’s happening with the epidemic in the state, she said.

“Our public health departments are very taxed resource-wise and [too] understaffed to perform the disease intervention activities and prevention activities,” Monterosso explained. “So we make the most of what information we have.”



Analise Monterosso

Right now, the surveillance professionals know that transmissions in these clusters are occurring more rapidly than in other places because of the low genetic distance between two sequences, she said.

But, she stressed, “just because two people have viral sequences that are closely related, that does not mean that one person definitely gave it to the other person. It could mean that they’re directly related. Or it

could mean that there’s a person or two people in the transmission network that actually link them, but we don’t have the missing link.”

In clusters that are tightly related genetically, the virus is being transmitted from person to person in a short amount of time, Monterosso said. “In the course of the investigation, we found that many of the people that were linked to the cluster were missed opportunities,” she said.

By “missed opportunities,” she means that they could have been diagnosed up to a year before their actual diagnosis if they had taken the right test. That’s why the state department’s prevention branch has been coordinating with local community partners to advocate for routine HIV screening in emergency centers and for the recommended HIV testing algorithm to be completed.

The recommended testing algorithm is an antigen and antibody screening test. Antigens are markers that are on the virus, and antibodies are immune system markers against the virus, Monterosso explained.

The three tests under this recommended algorithm make up the fourth-generation test and can diagnose HIV as soon as 11 to 14 days post-infection. Unfortunately many physicians don’t think they need to administer all these tests, she added, which means patients think they are negative and don’t find out until up to a year later that they were positive all along.

On top of that, Monterosso continued, doctors are not ordering the HIV drug resistance test, which the CDC recommends for everybody entering medical care so they can know which medications will be effective in fighting the virus.

“There’s a misconception that it’s expensive,” she said. “It’s a little more expensive than other tests, but it’s typically run once, and it’s covered by health insurance.”

Neither are doctors routinely recom-



P.J. Moton

mending pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, Monterosso said. Some aren’t prescribing the PrEP regimen because they don’t know about it, but there have also been some reports of doctors that, even when asked, refuse to discuss the treatment regimen, much less prescribe it, because they claim to have some moral objection.

PrEP includes a pill called Truvada that people who are at high risk of contracting HIV can take to help prevent infection. It is often covered by health insurance or by medication assistance programs through Gilead, the pharmaceutical company that manufactures Truvada, if a patient doesn’t have insurance, Monterosso said.

PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of infection by 92 percent if taken consistently, according to the CDC. Still, some health professionals and AIDS activists oppose the regimen, suggesting that it gives some people a false sense of security and that too many people do not take the medications consistently.

The CDC stated last September that when antiretroviral therapy suppresses a person’s viral loads to undetectable levels, they cannot transmit HIV. But, as Abounding Prosperity’s Special Events and Projects Manager P.J. Moton points out, when the patients fail to take their medication consistently, the virus can develop a resistance to the medication, sometimes resulting in dangerous, drug-resistant clusters of the virus.

Abounding Prosperity, which primarily focuses on serving the health needs of black gay, bisexual and same-gender-loving men and transgender women of color, offers free testing services, including HIV and syphilis rapid testing, an oral and rectal swab for gonorrhea and chlamydia and a urine test.

Ultimately, it is people who do not know their HIV status who drive up infections, Moton said.

He said, “Unbeknownst to the general public, we have a higher number than ever before of individuals who come in who are in a committed relationship, or are in a monogamous relationship, who don’t know that their partner has stepped out, and then their partner has become infected and unintentionally infected them.”

## New HIV Infections in the U.S.

There were an estimated 37,600 new HIV infections in the United States in 2014, down 10 percent from 2010’s estimated total of 41,900. Of those new infections in 2014:

- 2,800 — 7 percent — were among people who inject drugs, including infections attributed to male-to-male sexual AND injection drug use.
- 8,600 — 23 percent — were among heterosexuals.
- 26,200 — 70 percent — were among gay and bisexual men.

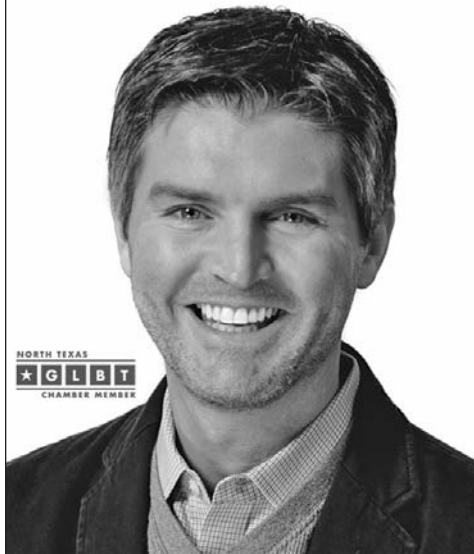
## New HIV Diagnoses in the U.S. in 2016

- 26,570 — 67 percent — of new HIV diagnoses were among gay and bisexual men.
- 83 percent of the males newly-diagnosed with HIV were gay or bisexual.
- Black/African-American gay and bisexual men accounted for 10,233 new HIV diagnoses, up 4 percent.
- Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men accounted for 7,425 new diagnoses, up 14 percent.
- White gay and bisexual men accounted for 7,390 new diagnoses, down 10 percent.

See DallasVoice.com for testing locations.




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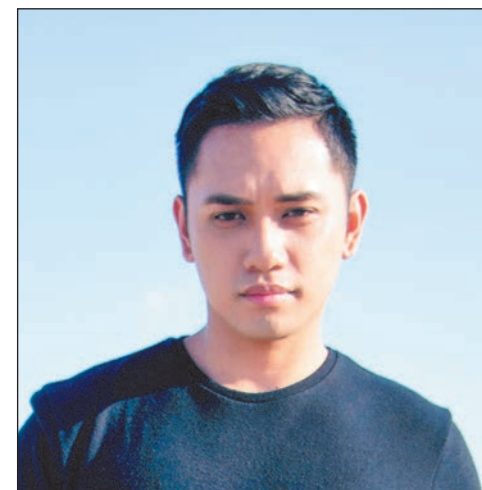
**matters**

# From boy band singer to AIDS activist

Nico Decastro stresses the importance of HIV testing



DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com



Nico Decastro

**N**ico Decastro moved to the Philippines as a teen to pursue his dreams of being a singer. There, he joined a boy band, performing with the group until he was 21.

But that's when tragedy struck. "Something happened," Decastro said, hesitating before adding, "I was raped."

After the attack, he moved back to the U.S. to be with his family and finish college. But he wasn't feeling well and went to the doctor. As part of the medical exam, he was given an HIV test. And three days before Christmas, in 2011, Decastro learned he was HIV positive.

It was unbelievable to him. "I never thought it could happen to a person like me," he said, explaining that he came from a military background — his father served in the U.S. Navy — and a religious family. HIV and AIDS were never discussed in his home, and he never learned about it in school.

His family, he said, was heartbroken, and he felt like he had let them down. When he told his mother, who is a breast cancer survivor, "she fell on the floor," he said. "She grabbed my hand and said, 'Everything's going to be OK. I'm going to take care of you.'"

But that was hard for Decastro to hear. He felt like he should have been taking care of her, and now she was putting aside her own health to try and care for him.

Decastro said he wanted to give up then. He dropped out of nursing school and attempted suicide by overdosing. "I ended up waking up in the hospital with the police outside my door," he said, and was surprised about what happened next.

What happened next came as a real surprise.

Once he was feeling better, he said, he thought he would be able to go home. Instead, he was held in the psychiatric unit for observation for a couple of days. He was allowed to make only short calls from

the hospital, and when he tried to reach his sister, whom he called his best friend and the most important person in his life, she didn't want to talk to him.

"Those two days were a wake-up call for me," Decastro said. He realized how many people his life impacted and how much they cared about him.

He decided it was time to turn his life around, so Decastro began working for the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team in Los Angeles, and he joined the L.A. Gay Men's Chorus.

"I was helping people by telling my story," he said, both at work and as a featured performer with the chorus. "I found hope through them."

He's also returned to singing and songwriting. His latest song, "Lost Soul," is about how he hit rock bottom and attempted suicide, but then found hope and peace with his life.

For World AIDS Day, Decastro will be part of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's commemoration event from 7-9 p.m. today (Friday, Dec. 1) at Out of the Closet on Cedar Springs Road. He'll sing his new song and appear along with *Real Housewives of Dallas* star Leanne Locken.

Noting that because he was diagnosed soon after being infected, Decastro said that he was able to begin taking HIV medications early and his viral load quickly became undetectable. He hopes others will follow that lead.

And this World AIDS Day, that's the message he has to share: Get tested. It can save your life.

# STILL STRESSED ABOUT HIV?

# HELP IS ON THE WAY!

The **H**ealth **E**ducation **L**earning **P**roject (HELP) opened DFW's first sexual health and wellness clinic for the LGBT community. Whether you are insured or uninsured, our clinical services are 100% **FREE** of charge. So if you want to take charge of your own sexual health and find out if the HIV prevention pill known as PrEP is right for you, call (817) 332-7722 and schedule an intake.

The HELP Center is located at 1717 Main Street in Fort Worth, Texas. PrEP is a medical intervention widely considered to be one of the most effective HIV prevention tools ever for at-risk populations. Clinical studies document PrEP is 92-99% effective when used properly.

 **HELP Center**  
for LGBT Health and Wellness

[www.HELPPFW.org](http://www.HELPPFW.org)



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**AGENDA**, from Page 11

Freeway, Lewisville; Tinseltown USA, 3800 Dallas Pkwy, Plano; Tinseltown Movies, 911 State Hwy. 114 W., Grapevine; Cinemark 24, 7201 Central Expwy, Plano; North East Mall 18, 1101 Melbourne Road, Hurst; and Ridgmar 13+Xtreme, 2300 Green Oaks Road, Fort Worth.

**• Dec. 7-10: Turtle Creek Chorale**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents its holiday concert Snowflakes at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

**• Dec. 8: DFW Pride Happy Hour**

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Maracas Cocina, 2914 Main St.

**• Dec. 9: Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network**

Sable Alexander, Jeff Germany, Patti Le Plae Safe, Lipps LaRue and the Austin Baptist Women perform to benefit the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

**• Dec. 9: Winnetka Heights Holiday Home Tour**

From noon-6 p.m. leaving from Turner House, 401 Rosemont Ave.

**• Dec. 10: Cowtown Cookoff**

TGRA hosts its annual Cowtown Cookoff, 'Round The Kitchen Table, beginning at 4 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings St. in Fort Worth. Competition categories include appetizers, side dishes, entrees and desserts, with prizes for the winner of each category and a grand prize winner.

**• Dec. 12: Stocking Auction**

Holiday party and stocking auction from 7-10 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

**• Dec. 14: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

**• Dec. 16: The Teddy Bear Party**

Teddy bears for Children's Health from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at Hall of State, Fair Park.

**• Dec 25: Christmas**

**• Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

**JANUARY 2018**

**• Jan. 1: Happy New Year**

**• Jan. 2: Classic Chassis Car Club**

Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

**• Jan. 11: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

**• Jan 20: Slumber Party 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.

**FEBRUARY**

**• Feb. 8: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

**• Feb. 17: Gold Medal Gaybingo**

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

**MARCH**

**• March 4: The Women's Chorus of Dallas**

TWCD performs with TWU and DISD singers at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TWCD.org.

**• March 8: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

**• March 17: Leprechaun Gaybingo**

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

**• March 23-25: Turtle Creek Chorale**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents Anthems, the songs that shaped the movements, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TurtleCreekChorale.com.



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# Reverse discrimination on Cedar Springs?

Odd code compliance and TABC complaints don't add up  
for gayborhood restaurant

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**C**rickles, a new breakfast, lunch and brunch restaurant, opened off Cedar Springs Road on July 25, in a space that's been occupied by restaurants for at least two decades.

They've already been so successful they're opening a second location in Lake Highlands sometime this spring. They are, co-owner Chad Bernard said, in it for the long haul.

But they've also gotten some odd code compliance complaints, and they've been reported to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for serving alcohol after hours, even though the restaurant isn't open after hours.

Bernard, who owns the restaurant with his mother Donna, his step brother Mark and his sister Crystal, said the complaints have been merely annoyances and a time-wasting drain but nothing that threatens his business.

It all started, Bernard said, when Italia offered to let them put a sign on their rail pointing to Crickles' entrance, two doors down on Throckmorton Street. Thairrific, which occupied the space for several years, had a similar sign hanging on Italia's rail, and no one complained.

But suddenly the Crickles sign, smaller than Thairrific's had been, violated city ordinance and had to be removed.

So they removed the sign.

Next, Bernard said, they bought two small outdoor cafe tables with chairs, similar to tables previous restaurants in that location have placed under the awning for years. The day he placed the tables outside, code compliance showed up again and claimed the office had received a complaint.

The code compliance officer insisted the complaint had been made weeks ago. Bernard showed the receipt that proved those tables were purchased that day. But rather than contest the complaint, he re-

moved the tables.

Then came an inspection by the fire department. The space had been "green tagged" — approved as safe — by the city, including the fire inspector, in July. This complaint concerned a fire exit, even though the Bernards had made no structural alterations to the space other than installing a take-out window in the restaurant's bar area.

From the outside of the building, it's apparent that corner had a door at one time. Bernard said he traced that alteration to the building to 2007. But the fire department said it had received a complaint directly from the mayor's office, and Crickles needed a fire exit in that corner of the space.

Finally, a TABC inspector paid Crickles a visit because someone complained the restaurant was serving alcohol after hours. Chad Bernard said he could prove, via time-stamped receipts, that didn't happen. And anyway, Crickles closes at 10 p.m. and their liquor license allows them to sell alcohol until midnight.

The TABC inspector told them he knows they weren't selling after hours because he's been by late at night to find they were closed. His visit was more of a heads-up that someone's filing false reports against them than a warning.

So the Bernards were left to wonder what's going on. Was another restaurant filing these complaints? A bar owner or employee? Or was it someone in the neighborhood unhappy about a straight family opening a business in the gayborhood?

Straight-owned businesses have been part of the neighborhood since Union Jack, the first gay-owned business on the street, opened in 1976. Adairs was a redneck bar located across the street from Union Jack in what is now part of S4.

The owner of Adairs disliked the gay community moving in around him, but he especially hated Union Jack's suggestive window displays. The more he complained, the more outrageous Union Jack



Donna and Chad Bernard

owner Richard Longstaff made his window displays. At one point he even put scantily-clad live male models in the window. Adairs eventually moved.

When Gene Street opened the original Black-eyed Pea restaurant on Cedar Springs Road in the late 1970s, he embraced the new gay-owned shops and bars that were opening along The Strip and hired many LGBT employees. His business thrived.

Other businesses with non-LGBT ownership have come and gone. When they didn't welcome the LGBT community with open arms, they closed quickly. Recent ex-

amples include a spin studio, a Mexican restaurant and a wine bar.

After opening, Crickles joined the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, the Cedar Springs Merchants Association and sent food over to the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic. Their staff is fully inclusive of the community.

Donna Bernard said all they want is a nice welcoming, family atmosphere. Chad Bernard said the large group of LGBT customers who regularly hang out there tells him they're doing a good job of that. He enjoys seeing how many people come in just to talk to his mom. ■

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# The slave trade is alive and well



When I first saw a friend of mine from South Africa post something on Facebook about “slaves,” my mind immediately went to the kind I am familiar with: people who roleplay in their relationships as Master/slave. Some even have contracts between them detailing the terms of their “service.” It’s pretty mundane stuff in my leather/kink world.

Then I read the article my friend, Frank Malaba, had posted. Frank is a delightful guy, a poet and actor and is also an activist for human rights. But when I saw his “trigger warning” in the post, I realized he was speaking of actual “slavery,” in the worst possible sense. Frank’s post included photos from a group of photojournalists calling themselves the Zambezi Reporters, the “Scribes of the Zambezi.” These pictures were beyond belief: Men shackled by their feet and hung in clusters like product on display; squalid rooms packed with human beings, in various states of health, being contained until they could be trafficked.

Accompanying stories indicate that these people are refugees fleeing various conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa that were captured by slave traders as they escaped conflict zones. They are sold into slavery as farm laborers in Libya at a price of \$400-\$500 each.

Recently, video of one of these slave auctions went viral, and the story of what is happening to these refugees leaked onto the world stage. Without the internet and social media, their horrific plight would still be a secret.



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

The sad story started as migrants were kidnapped and held for ransom. One migrant from Senegal told a member of the International Organization for Migration that he was told to call his family and demand cash for his release. When the family could not pay, he was moved to the southern Libyan city of Sabha and held with 100 other men, in a small room, until he was auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Those who were not sold or who could not pay for their own food were left to starve.

When I reposted this on my Facebook page, most people who read it were as horrified as me. But a few tried to compare the plight of these poor people to the idea of “wage slavery” and poverty in our country.

That’s where I lost it.

As a country with a history of slavery, of human beings being bought, sold and owned as property, Americans should be particularly sensitive to the inhumanity of this modern slave trade. To try to lessen the impact of what is an international human rights outrage with a pseudo-intellectual discussion of metaphoric economic concepts is inexcusable.

This is not scholarly theory; these are human beings, hung up like bunches of produce and bought and sold like bales of hay.

But my real outrage is reserved for our State Department. Just what are we doing to address this crisis? Where is the outrage from the Trump administration?

I can’t find any statement from our government on this slave trade situation. But it’s certainly easy to find the latest Trump rant on NFL players kneeling during the national anthem or gloating about his so-called “ratings.”

At a time when the U.S. should be taking its place on the world stage as a major force for good, we have instead become a bit actor, waiting in the wings for someone better and brighter to carry the day.

Our country’s former role as standard-bearer for human rights has been destroyed by a posturing, orange-haired, gibberish-speaking Pagliacci, a man who is a not-so-humorous distraction from the serious business at hand.

I am grateful I can use what little influence I have to make this story more visible. Just as life in the closet damages the well-being of LGBT people, hiding atrocities like this lets them fester and rot and grow out of control.

The closet is not a good place, for people or for news.

(My friend Frank Malaba’s blog with much of his poetry can be seen at FrankMalaba.blog. His resume and activism posts are online at FrankMalaba.com.)

*Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com. He is also media director for gubernatorial candidate Jeffrey Payne.*

# Taking Trump as he is and responding as we must

Someone once admonished me not to call Trump names because it does no good, and it detracts from meaningful discussions between differing viewpoints. With that in mind, I will refrain from calling him a scum-sucking pig or big tub of guts.

But is it proper to call him a liar? A bully? Petty? Homophobic? Transphobic? Misogynistic? Autocratic? Thin-skinned? Egotistical and without any concrete political philosophy? Oh, and how about pointing out he has a rabid hatred of the media, enough so that he frequently espouses a desire for restrictions on the press, restrictions that would fly in the face of the First Amendment?

I think the answer is yes. To every one of those questions.

First, EVERY characterization mentioned above has been proven as fact, over and over again, no matter how hard Kellyanne Conway and Sarah Huckabee Sanders try to whitewash things. Read Trump's tweets; they will tell you who he really is.

Second, these aren't occasional lapses in character or judgment. These are his DOM-

INANT TRAITS! You may want to, but you simply cannot ignore or deny that fact, either.

Read his tweets, that's who he is.

Here's just one of many examples I could offer to prove my point: Trump's tweet regarding transgender individuals in the military.

It reads:

"After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow...Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military."

"Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming...victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you"

Let us pause for a moment to consider. This is not some game show host; this is the president of the United States, the supposed leader of the free world, someone in whom we are supposed to place our trust for our very well-being.

And now, consider this reality: 1. He DID NOT consult the generals or military ex-

perts. 2. There are no tremendous costs associated with transgender servicemembers.

And 3. THERE IS NO DISRUPTION.

Don't believe me? Just Google it. Do the research. It is the absolute truth, and no amount of dancing around that fact will change it.

Also, while you may not like transgender people, and you may believe they should not be in the military, there is no factually-based justification from excluding them. Surely you acknowledge that this issue should be decided by the rule of law, by the rule of reason, with facts and not on the capricious whim of some individual intent on attacking transgender servicemembers to repay evangelicals for voting for him.

But even more important is the inescapable fact that Trump was so readily willing to sacrifice the well-being and livelihood of



Jon Nelson  
Special Contributor

those who volunteered to serve our country in exchange for his own political gain. His actions demonstrate how little he really cares about his fellow human beings, especially those who are marginalized, and how little he really cares about this country.

That's the real Trump.

What all this means is we need to act and react to the person Trump actually is and not who we expect him to be or wish he were. This is the hand we've been dealt. He is who he is, so we need to face him as he is and act accordingly.

Our opposition to his mean-spirited actions (sending 60,000 Haitian refugees back to Haiti is but one of many, many examples) may require us to find new ways of resisting, of fighting back. Remember Ronald Reagan and the AIDS crisis in the 1980s? Remember how our community reacted then. Let's take a page from those days.

We have to be even more inventive and aggressive than ever before, because Trump really is who we say he is and worse. And because our cause is just. ■

Jon Nelson is an attorney and activist and co-founder of Fairness Fort Worth.

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# American unbridled

Texas girl Kelly Clarkson talks artistic liberation, speaking her mind and why she wants to confront anti-LGBT parents

During her 15-year career as your friendly pop spirit-lifting Texan, Kelly Clarkson has prescribed a cheap alternative to therapy: anthemic pick-me-ups like “Since U Been Gone” and “People Like Us,” songs that impel a transcendental, fist-raised state.

Late-night Facebook Live sessions are also her thing, and recently, the *American Idol* alum geeked out like she’d just won *Idol* all over again about her soulful rebirth, *Meaning of Life*, released on her new label, Atlantic. It was just Clarkson chillin’ on the couch with a glass of red wine that was much deserved, considering the artistic sacrifices she had to make post-*Idol*, when she felt creatively stagnate as a Top 40 machine for RCA Records. But aside from a fat glass of red, Clarkson has other strong urges too.

Due, in part, to her simply being so damn cool, Clarkson — who drowned the world in their own tears right along with her own as she was crowned the inaugural *Idol* winner in 2002 — tells me she feels so compelled to stick up for her LGBT besties she literally wants to go door-to-door and talk some sense into her friends’ homophobic parents.

Because her friends ask her not to, she doesn’t. But here, with the ever-outspoken and now-artistically-liberated Clarkson leaving almost no opinion unturned, the North Texas native makes that point loud and clear. Before getting back to being a mom to River Rose, 3, and Remington Alexander, 1, as well as husband Brandon Blackstock’s kids Seth and Savannah from a previous relationship, Clarkson spoke like one. Even her simple “diva” request — a “pretty dress to sing in” — is enough to make you wish you were on that couch with her and a bottle of pinot.

— Chris Azzopardi

**Dallas Voice: How good does it feel to finally be yourself artistically?** Kelly Clarkson: It just feels freeing to make an entire project and, in its entirety, I’m 100 percent excited about it. There wasn’t any compromise. It’s how I feel the creative industry should feel. There’s nothing like working on something you’re so proud of.

**Please tell me you at least got a little sloppy at a gay club to celebrate the end of your contract with RCA.** Brother, I got four kids and a career, I ain’t got time to go to clubs! I’m rockin’ a 1-, 3-, 10- and 16 year-old, man. You know what club I go to? The club of playing board games with my family... which, actually, I love.

**Plus, you have your farm just outside Nashville. You’ve got chickens to raise!** We’ve got our chickens, our honeybees, our orchard. We love our farm.

**Have you sent Clive Davis [head of RCA] a copy of the album?** Be like, “This is what I was wanting to do this whole time!” Yeah, no. [Laughs] You know what’s so sad: I was so excited to work with him. You have no idea. He worked with so many of my favorites: Janis (Joplin), and he worked with Bruce Springsteen way back in the day. All these artists who were very innovative in their time, and I was so excited. That’s been one of the saddest points for me in this industry — just

figuring out that someone I really look up to just was not what they seemed. That was a pretty big blow. I was pretty sad about that. Like, we don’t always need to meet our heroes.

**In some ways, your story of artistic suppression is relatable to the LGBT community. As an ally, do you recognize that affinity?**

Talking with my gay or lesbian friends over the years, I can’t imagine. I’ve always said I can’t imagine not being able to be myself in and out. And, yes, while I can relate a bit musically to feeling like you’re going over massive hurdles to try and get to a compromise that you’re happy with, that’s nothing in comparison to hearing my friends talk about [being gay], especially in the South where I grew up, and then the faith thing comes into play.

I had one friend wait, and this is the saddest thing ever: I don’t think she ever felt comfortable in her skin because her parents were older. So, they passed away and then she finally felt free. I thought, “What a horrible feeling to have to wait until people aren’t around to be yourself.” I could never ever relate to that. I feel horrible that anybody has to go through that. It’s almost like when people ask me about other artists who have all these shticks about them and I’m like, “Oh god, that would weigh on me if I had to keep

LIFE+STYLE

interview

Photos courtesy Vincent Peters

that up, if I had to keep doing shit to make everyone happy.” Walking onto the stage in, like, a pretty dress to sing, that’s really the extent of my diva, or just my experience on the stage. I’ve always just been very simple. Even in situations, musically, where I really had to fight or jump through hoops, I still was able to be myself, which I think people didn’t like because I was very open. But I have to do that. I have to express myself. Literally, I would go in such a downward spiral of depression if I weren’t able to, and that’s why, honestly, a lot of friends, especially who are gay and lesbian, felt that way. I pray to God my children never have to feel that, that people around me don’t have to feel that. I always hope that I’m always the one person going, “If they’re upset about it, screw it. It’s your life. You can’t *not* be you. You can’t suffer just because you’re trying to make somebody else happy. That’s not a life.”

**That sounds exactly like something Kelly**

**Clarkson would say. And I wonder, as someone who has this large, far-reaching platform, what does it mean to you to be an LGBT ally, and when did you know you had the power to be one?** I always laugh at the concept that people are like, “We just love what you say; that’s why we love you,” and I’m like, “Why is everyone not like that?” That’s what boggles my mind. Why would you *not* say what you want to say? [In our last interview you] asked me if my daughter or son, or any of the four, ended up being gay, how would I take that, and I’d be like, “Awesome!” Honestly, in a world that is so hateful sometimes, I don’t care where my kids find love. Hopefully with a loving and respectful and kind person, but I don’t care if they’re a boy or a girl. It just doesn’t make a damn bit of difference to me.

I do want my children to fall in love with people who are loving, but I feel like our priorities are silly-ass backwards. Like, I want to go to my friends’ parents who just don’t want



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to talk about it. They know, but are like, “We just can’t talk about it,” which is so demeaning to their [children’s] existence. And I want to knock on their door — I don’t, because [my friends] ask me not to [laughs] — and be like, “Do you know you’re missing out on an exceptional human because you can’t get past your own ignorance? It’s just silly to me that you want to miss out.” I want to tell them, “I didn’t have a dad and it had nothing to do with me being gay — it had to do with, he was a shitty guy. And you have the opportunity now to *not* be that parent and embrace your child. That’s your DNA. You love your children. What’s wrong with you?” It just makes me so mad, more so than anything.

**This past June, you helped two gay fans get engaged during one of your meet-and-greets.** Oh my gosh, it was exciting. But I was nervous! Like, what if he was gonna say no?!

**How would you live that down?** Literally,

before I was like, “Wait. I do not want to be put in this situation where this guy might say no. Are you sure he’s gonna say yes?” And he goes, “Well, I hope so!” He was nervous. I probably didn’t help any.

**Do you hope gay couples just start routinely getting engaged in front of you?** I was like, “I need to get ordained!”

**For the sake of gay couples everywhere, why are you not?** I don’t know if that would be authenticated! I don’t know if people would question that! One of our friends — my husband also manages Blake Shelton — was like, “I wanna marry y’all” and I was like, “I want it to be, like, credible. You don’t actually have a following, or a church!”

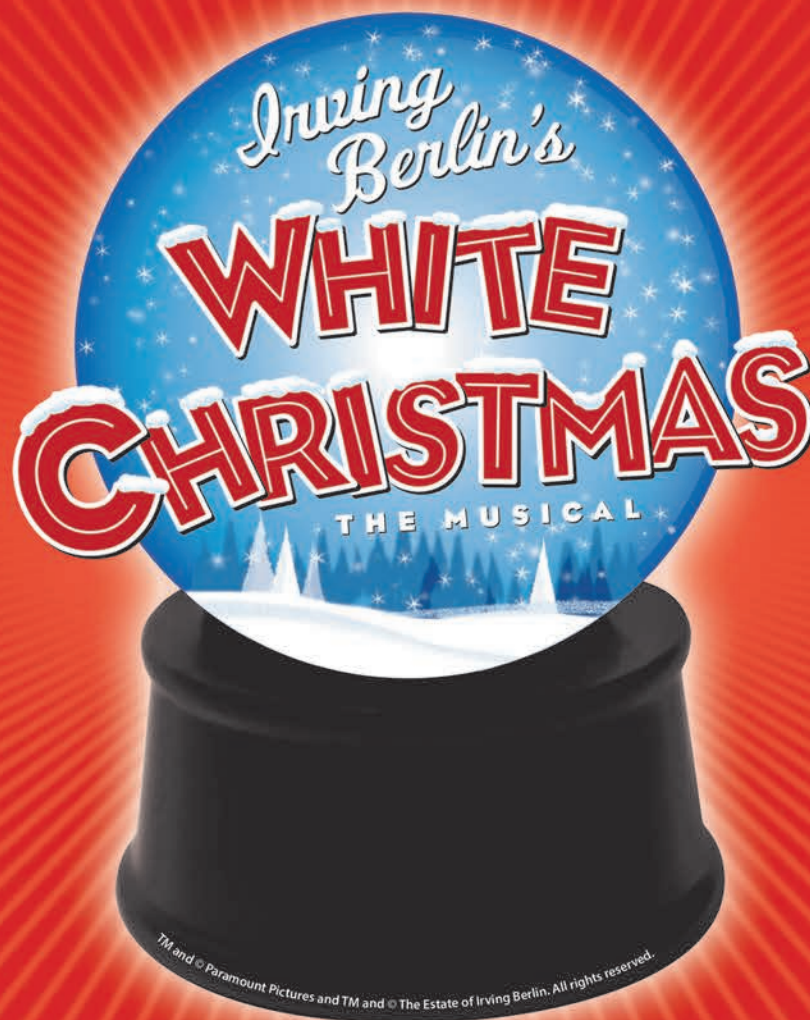
**I have a feeling people would go to the Church of KC.** Oh, Lord, that would be a funny church.

**So, as much as I love talking about music, it’s hard not to acknowledge the screwy state of the world during interviews these**

■ UNBRIDLED Page 32

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The Chevy Bolt, left, the Tesla Model 3, below right, and the Smart EV, below left, will all help redefine the age of electric.

video screens and built-in vacuum. Chrysler's infotainment touchscreen is about the world's easiest to use.

*Base price: \$41,995.*

**Hyundai Ioniq Plug-In.** Filling Hyundai's electrified closet is the new plug-in hybrid that depletes its 27 miles all-electric range before the 1.6-liter gasoline engine fires up to complete the journey — up to 650 total miles. Unlike most hybrids, the Ioniq keeps a sporty feel through its 6-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Beyond the future-tech bodywork and LED headlights, the car is available with leather seats, lane departure warning and lane-keep assist. If you prefer crossovers, a plug-in version of the similar Kia Niro arrives late this year.

*Base price (est): \$26,000.*

**Smart ForTwo.** Mercedes' microcar brand no longer sells gas-powered cars in the U.S. Most of you won't care, but the Smart EV was updated for 2018 and remains a part of its parent's zero emissions portfolio. Compared to others, it's a little light in the battery box, providing just 80 horsepower for 58 miles range. Expect 0-60 mph in 11.4s and an 81 mph top speed. Get it as a coupe or a cabrio. As with all Smarts, one buys the EV for a fashion statement or for tight maneuvering, not for its price or performance.

*Base price: \$25,290.*

**Ford Fusion Energi.** Not all electrified vehicles flaunt the excessive size of their ranges. Some like to measure in Miles per Gallon Equivalent (MPGe). In Ford-speak, "Energi" means plug-in, but this is a hybrid with a gasoline engine and batteries that charge in 2.5 hours (240v). Fully topped, the car achieves 104/91-MPGe city/hwy. Unlike most electrics, the Fusion Energi slips through carparks unnoticed with its handsome European styling. Adaptive

# Electric slide

The age of the electric car is closer than you think. This is what the future of driving looks like today

**CASEY WILLIAMS** | Auto Reviewer  
Autocasey@aol.com

We are living in an increasingly electrified automotive world. GM plans to offer 20 electric vehicles by 2023. Ford expects to offer a 300-mile crossover EV, tentatively called Model E, by 2020. All of Aston Martin's sexy sleighs will be electrified by the mid-2020s. Volvo's going there by 2020. The future is electric, but these specimens of modernity are here today. ■

**Chevy Bolt.** After an initial roll-out in California earlier this year, the crazy-cool Bolt is now available nationwide. Check its stats: 238 miles all-electric range and 200 horsepower for effortless acceleration. Tall wagon styling gives a look of strength. Available heated seats front/rear, heated steering wheel, Bose audio, navigation, forward collision mitigation braking and lane-keep-assist are all on the menu. Pre-condition the cabin from your smartphone. The Bolt is not just "OK for an electric car;" it's brilliant *because it's an electric car.*

*Base price (incl. credit): \$29,995.*

**Nissan Leaf.** All new for 2018, it's still recognizably a

Leaf, but a wider stance and sleeker bod is more muscular. The roomy interior can be equipped with Bose audio, adaptive cruise, blind spot warning and rear cross traffic alert. That's all great, but the Leaf only sports a 150 mile range — far short of the 200-plus miles that's becoming expected. Nissan promises a more powerful version with higher battery capacity for 2019. And, we expect a sporty NISMO edition to debut at the upcoming Tokyo Motor Show. Let's see if the wind blows it in a better direction.

*Base price: \$29,990.*

**Tesla Model 3.** The sexy smaller Tesla is inciting an Apple-like frenzy. What's the big deal? The base model offers 220 miles of electric range while a battery-fortified version travels 310 miles per charge. It can be replenished at the rate of 30 miles/hour on 240v or 130 miles in 30 minutes with Tesla's Supercharger. The dashboard is dominated by a 15-in. tablet-like touchscreen. Standard navigation, Wi-Fi, backup camera and automatic emergency braking accompany options like open pore wood trim and glass roof. Add Autopilot with full self-driving capability for \$8,000.

*Base price: \$35,000.*

**Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid.** This beautifully-sculpted people-mover is also one of the most advanced vehicles rolling. Fully charged, the mini-van travels 33 miles on electricity before the 287-horsepower 3.6-liter V6 engine fires up. Re-charge in 2 hours on 240v and expect 84-MPGe in city driving. Pre-condition the inside from your smartphone. The contrasting-color trim can be dressed with soft leather seats, panoramic sunroof, twin rear seat-mounted



cruise with stop-and-go functionality, pedestrian avoidance system and automatic parallel and perpendicular parking enhance technology.

*Base price: \$31,305.*

**Mercedes-Benz C350e.** This is one of the stealthiest hybrids you'll ever meet given its traditional Mercedes styling. Charge it up in 2.5 hours (240v) to travel 20 miles without disturbing dead dinos. After that, the turbo-charged 4-cylinder engine wakes up to carry on. Given a combined 275 horsepower, it shouldn't surprise you the 'Benz of hybrids scoots from 0-60 mph in just 5.8 seconds and to 130 mph. An air suspension, full suite of crash avoidance systems and all of the luxury you expect from a Mercedes seals the deal.

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# 20 years of 'Jocks'

Gays in sports approach a milestone... and so much has changes

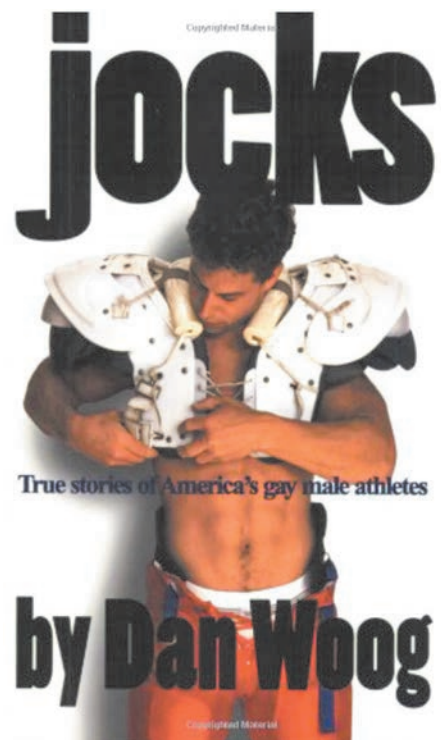
Eric "Gumby" Anderson was a high school cross-country coach. Near the end of school, one of his runners was beaten by three classmates — one of them a football player. Calling the runner a "faggot," they fractured his jaw and damaged his eardrum.

It was not the first incident involving a member of the Huntington Beach High School cross-country team. It had been happening ever since Anderson came out as gay.

The coach's announcement — earth-shaking at the time — occurred in 1993. The vicious beating took place three years later. The incident framed the first story in the book *Jocks: True Stories of America's Gay Male Athletes*. It was published in 1998.

I wrote that book. Nearly 20 years ago, it was as groundbreaking as Anderson's announcement had been. It was the first book-length compilation of the experiences of gay male athletes — the first time, really, that there was a public acknowledgment that such people existed.

Gay athletes had been around forever, of course. Ancient Greek men, I noted in the introduction, had used sports as an opportunity to meet boys. (The root word for "gymnasium" — "gymnos" — has nothing to do with athletics. It means "nude.")



Football players Dave Kopay and Jerry Smith, baseball outfielder Glenn Burke, and diving champion Greg Louganis had all come out of the closet already — though not always of their own volition. Only two male athletes, however, had done so during their active careers: figure skating star Rudy Galindo and soccer player Justin Fashanu.

The 1990s were still a fearful time to be a gay athlete.

Yet something else was stirring. Across

America — in rural towns, faceless suburbs and large cities — teenagers and 20-something gay males were shooting hoops, kicking soccer balls, handling hockey sticks, running, swimming and biking. They were working hard, and working out. Every day they sweated, trained, competed — and showered — in the most macho of all environments: high school and college sports.

They were nowhere near as visible as their classmates who were gay actors, musicians or even student government leaders. They heard slurs from teammates and coaches. They listened quietly as their teammates rated (and often denigrated) girls; detailed their sexual conquests, and passed along the still-accepted sports culture that exalted "manliness" (heterosexuality) and despised "femininity" (homosexuality).

But those gay athletes were there. They were finding themselves, finding their places on their teams, finding their places in society. And finding each other.

That was the landscape I set out to explore two decades ago. *Jocks* was filled with stories of the boys and young men who — unnoticed, but in ever-increasing numbers — were changing both the sports landscape, and the way all Americans looked at the image of "gay men."

Many of the stories involved sports like track, tennis and swimming. It was a lot easier then to come out as an "individual" athlete than a "team" player. Something about training on one's own — and not having to worry about the detrimental effect on closely-bonded teammates — seemed to draw gay athletes to solo sports.

Some of the tales were tough ones. The

stress of hiding one's sexuality led to drug and alcohol abuse, or thoughts of suicide (as had been true for years with gay non-athletes too). An interviewee described the anguish of being the boyfriend of a Division I basketball player: After games, the athlete went to parties and showed off his "masculinity" by picking up girls, while the boyfriend sat home alone. An Ivy League runner talked about track as a metaphor for not being out: His life was going around in circles.

But many of the stories were positive. When a football coach's son — who played for him — came out, the man's world changed. He realized the impact he could have on every player. By being more open about all kinds of differences, he became a better coach.

A wrestler mentored younger boys, helping them gain both physical and emotional strength.

And two straight athletes spoke up when gay kids in their school were bullied. People respect us for no reason other than we were born a certain way — with the gift of athletics, they said. Well, they added, we've all got to respect everyone else too, no matter how they were born.

Four years after *Jocks*, I wrote a sequel: *Jocks 2: Coming Out to Play*. By then, the stories were far more positive and wide-ranging. The ripples of young athletes coming out had already begun to spread.

In 2017, it's difficult to imagine a time when "gay male athlete" seemed almost an oxymoron. It's almost as if that was a different century entirely.

— Dan Woog

# The gender games

Dystopian cosplay or gender-fluid allegory? 'Mask' is both



At first, Sallot Leon thought the scrap of paper might be money. Erland nobles had been doing that — making money — ever since the war, when Nacea was obliterated. But no, this bit of paper was worth more than money: it was an open call for a replacement member of the Queen's Left Hand, an elite group of assassin-guards. "Come by invitation or by skill," the poster said.

Sal had the skill, for sure. Since age 8,

Sal worked as a street fighter and could climb anything. There was nothing Sal couldn't steal, no lock Sal couldn't pick. Those were skills the Queen needed, just as much as Sal needed to be Opal for the Left Hand and so, to get into the audition, committed the first murder of many.

That, as it turned out, was the easy part: after passing the first interview, Sal was accepted and given a mask to wear at all times — the last mask awarded. Twenty-three people were in the competition, for which the rules were simple: kill your competitors without being seen or getting caught, but don't hurt anyone not competing. Nine competitors were killed the first night.

As other Opal Wanna-Be's fell almost



**Mask of Shadows** by Linsey Miller (Sourcebooks 2017) \$18; 352 pp.

hourly, Sal had to rely on past experience and new skills to stay alive. Core-strength training helped Sal dodge spears and arrows from other competitors. Tutoring eliminated illiteracy. Medical training kept Sal from death by poisoning. But there was no way to avoid falling in love with someone forbidden, nor the aftermath that was sure to come.

Though it starts out a little on the clunky side, and it may take a minute to get your bearings, *Mask of Shadows* quickly becomes a pretty good novel. And a unique one,

too: it's rare to find a gender-fluid character in a main position, but that's where author Linsey Miller places hers — and yet, though unusual, fluidity isn't the driving force behind this story. We don't know, in fact, that Sal doesn't gender-identify until later in the novel. That's uncommon, too.

As for character development, there's where Miller shines. Sal starts out a bit feral, a street-wise petty thief, uncivilized but with hungry focus. There's a lot of selfishness in that early Sal, but as they mature into a trained assassin, egotism is replaced by allegiance and a much finer character. Add in a cast that could, one-by-one, die at any minute and, well, you'll be hooked.

For fans of *The Hunger Games*-type fiction, that's gonna be too appealing to pass up. It's gonna be too delicious to deny yourself. *Mask of Shadows*, for readers ages 15 and up, is gonna be a dream book.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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L+S screen



Tom (Pekka Strang) shows off some of his drawings in the frank and compelling 'Tom of Finland.'

# Fetish school of the arts

Before there was  
Tumblr, there was  
'Tom of Finland'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
[jones@dallasvoice.com](mailto:jones@dallasvoice.com)

For about a decade, we have been in a golden age of gay cinema. It's been a long time coming. There was underground gay cinema in the 1960s and '70s from the likes of Andy Warhol and Rainer Werner Fassbinder — dark, sexual, low-budget usually, but *there*. Then in the 1990s and 2000s, we went kinda-sorta mainstream with quasi-chaste romantic comedies — lots of butts, lots of frankness, little depth: *Another Gay Movie*, *But I'm a Cheerleader*, *He's All Over You*, countless more. That's also around the time we started getting gay drama inescapably tied to HIV/AIDS: *Longtime Companion*, *Philadelphia*.

Then *Brokeback Mountain* changed the game. It was gay but authentic and touching. It won awards. It got straight viewers to see gay people in a new light. That was followed by *The Kids Are All Right* and

*Milk* and *The Danish Girl* and *Moonlight*. Finally we had a cinematic voice.

But that voice still had the patina of heterorespectability — stories about gay parenting, or civil rights, or the challenges of being trans or a queer of color. There was still a niche to fill, and it needed to look back to do so: Serious movies about that same underground world that Fassbinder explored. Gay cinema that doesn't have to be cheesy, but undeniably queer. It was time for retro.

One of the first to do that was last year's *King Cobra*, about murder and drug use among the gay porn industry, which captured the seediness of the subject without wallowing or playing it safe.

Now comes *Tom of Finland*. I'm almost amazed that it's getting *any* theatrical

**TOM OF FINLAND**  
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■ TOM Page 34

# There's nothing like a dame

Ivan Jones flirts like the Dickens in the final Christmas panto from Theatre Britain

Mark Twain defined a "classic" of literature as something everyone talked about but nobody read. The performing arts have a similar category: The "holiday tradition." It's a tradition that ballet companies do *The Nutcracker* (Texas Ballet Theater is doing it right now, as is MBS Productions its parody version); choral groups sing "Silent Night" and "The Hallelujah Chorus;" orchestras perform pops concerts of "Rudolph" and "Silver Bells;" theaters trot out versions of *A Christmas Carol* each year; and in England, the panto is a revered celebration of the holidays.

Here in North Texas, Theatre Britain has long shared its affection for the panto with American audiences. It's an interesting confection, the panto (short for "pantomime," though I'm not sure why). The form is as full of tropes as the ocean is fish: There's a dame — a female character played by a man in drag; a boy hero — played by a woman (Peter Pan is a famous variation); there are ghosts, puppets, audience participation, sing-alongs, hissable villains and *tons* of sexual double entendres ... yet all aimed above the heads of the kiddos, who make it a family favorite.

I had never experienced a panto until attending my first from Theatre Britain about 15 years ago, but I have rarely missed one in the interim. They are silly trifles, often attended by as many kids as adults, but the campiness has always been a draw. Some (all written by Jackie Mellor-Guin and directed by Sue Birch) have been better than others, sometimes my mood has been more receptive ... but the panto has long been one of my Christmas traditions.

Only this was the last one. Theatre Britain is packing up shop, as Birch and her



Ivan Jones as the dame and Shay McDonald as D'Artagnan in 'Three Musketeers,' the last-ever panto from Theatre Britain.

husband Ian return to their native England next spring. Our source of panto will dry up, locally at least.

Perhaps that's what made me enjoy this farewell production of *The Three Musketeers* all the more, but I think it's just because it's a good show. Ivan Jones is back as the dame, this time as Planchet, the flirtatious assistant to D'Artagnan (Shay McDonald), who hopes to join the French king's elite guard. But Cardinal Richelieu (a sneering Brandon Whitlock) has other plans, and is trying to bring down the monarchy and install himself as supreme leader. He's defeated, of course, and everyone else walks away smiling.

The plot is perfunctory, but the style has the intense energy of a circus clown. Planchet picks on one man in the audience (in the case of the opening performance, *me*) to flirt with, smile and coo at, bedecked in a garish costume, standing 6-foot-something in heels, playing the fool (or really, the jester) and filling the air with countless jokes about riding a donkey ("Can someone please attend my ass!?") that make the kids giggle and the adults blanch.

If you've seen a panto before, you know what I'm talking about; if you haven't, this may be your last shot.

I'll miss Theatre Britain's presence on the local theater scene, and the panto in particular, in no small part because Birch always created diverse casts ... and not just in the cross-dressing aspect. Tall and short, Asian, Anglo and African-American, slight and zaftig, youthful and, ahem, "experienced" all share the stage together. You feel the sense of community, the affection. Classics don't get read, and traditions fall away ... but they will be missed. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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## THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE

By Matthew Lopez

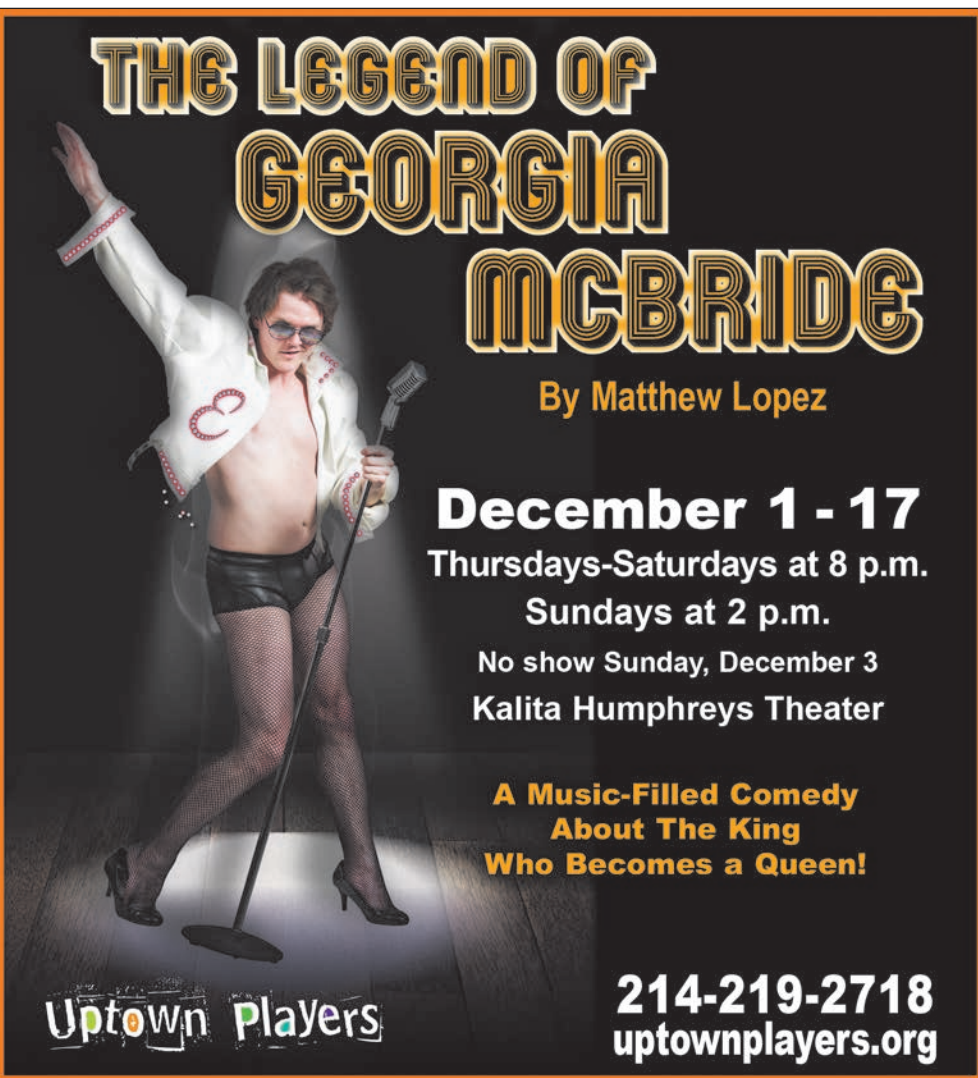
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■ UNBRIDLED From Page 25

**days.** Yeah, everything is obviously impacted by it.

**How are you? I know you've always stood up for what you believe in, but in this politically divisive climate, do you feel an even greater responsibility to stand up for the things that are important to you?** The hard thing for me, specifically: I always hate when people bring up, "Oh, you're a celebrity, you shouldn't have an opinion." The hard thing in that for me is, I'm not just that. I'm a mother, I'm a daughter, I'm a woman. And it took a long time and a lot of women to pioneer that way for me, to even have a voice. So, for me to not use that is so disrespectful to those before me who worked so hard for it. For me to not take advantage of that seems like a cruel irony.

**Why would I not voice my opinion as a mother?** Why can't I say this is a really hard time to have a 10- and 16-year-old, guys? Because I don't know what to tell them when they hear certain things on TV. They're smart enough to know what's going on. I can't hide them from that. So, it's a very hard time to explain things away. It's a very hard time to have the discussion about any kind of bigotry or racism or elitism. It's a very hard time because a lot of things are happening that are making crazy, insane, irrational moments normal, and it's a very hard time to raise kids in that environment. Forget me even being a

celebrity. As a mother — just as a mother — it's a very hard time.

I'm glad, at least, that everything is all coming to the forefront because it's now pointing out — like, I had no idea we had white supremacists. I have never come across people like that. Not even as a child in a small town in the South, and even then, that town has blossomed and they're more progressive now.

**It's 2017 — why are we still having these conversations?** But we're having them because they do exist, and it's insane. It's insane that somebody just doesn't go, "Oh, I'm sorry, but yeah, we don't want that here. You should go somewhere else. This is a country of many cultures, many faiths, and open-mindedness. That is why people came here." It's amazing to me that we just don't have grown-ass men and women in the public eye of politics going, "Absolutely not. I'm not even having this conversation because that's not even OK. There's no way to validate what just happened."

**Reflecting on all your work for RCA: Which album are you most and least proud of?**

The album I'm most proud of in that whole section is the Christmas album [2013's *Wrapped in Red*], and that's just because it was 100 percent me. Because it was Christmas and it was OK for me to make decisions. They let me and [producer Greg Kurstin] do whatever we wanted, so it was a lot easier to



accomplish my goal with that album. My least favorite? Man, I mean, maybe my least favorite was my first one [2003's *Thankful*]. I just say that because of the experience. I was very young and very excited about making a record. It was my first time doing all of that, and it was also my first time realizing, "This is gonna be really hard because there are so many cooks in the kitchen and they don't care that you're not allowed to be one." It was my first experience in the industry going, "Oh, wait, this isn't what I thought it was gonna be like." So my ignorance led to that and me being young and excited, I guess. Not that I don't love the album — it's just that I didn't love finding that out.

**Do you ever get tired of singing your first single, 2002's "A Moment Like This?"** I

never sing it! Because the song wasn't meant for me — it was meant for the winner. I never would've been like, "This is a great record." I get the moment it was for. That was the perfect song for that moment. I totally address that, but that song doesn't fit in my tour setlist.

**It still takes me back every time I hear it.**

Totally. The nostalgia. For me, too. It was a beautiful moment. I'm very thankful and blessed for it. But it wasn't a song that was meant for me. They just wrote it for whomever was gonna win, so that doesn't make me feel special.

**With *Meaning of Life*, your hair on the album cover is giving me some serious Mariah vibes.** That Drew Barrymore-to-the-side-'90s vibe, yeah — it's completely calculated.

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[Laughs] I literally was like, “I want the hair for this album to be talking to God.” It fits with the record. It’s so sassy and confident and diva in the best sense, and so I really wanted that ‘90s hair. All my inspiration photos were of ‘90s hair. Whether it’s the artwork or the music, everything on this album is influenced by the ‘90s, which was my favorite time in music.

**From “Since U Been Gone” on through “People Like Us” and “I Have a Dream,” your anthems have been empowering to LGBT people. What song on this album do you hope becomes the next big gay anthem?** It’s always my gay boys who come up and go, “Oh my god, I love ‘Whole Lotta Woman.’” And it’s so funny, because I’m like, that is so ironic and amazing!

**Based solely on the track’s name, not even the fact that it’s a celebratory anthem, you can’t possibly be that surprised.** Honestly, I didn’t think about it! But then we performed it impromptu at the *Today* show just for the audience there in New York — not for the televised show, just for the audience — and it was so funny because all the gay boys were dancing more than anyone, even more than the women! It was so fun. It’s such a fun audience that just loves sass and confidence, and I just love being surrounded by an audience with that kind of energy.

**That song definitely shut downs, once and for all, your social-media shamers. What**

Photos courtesy Vincent Peters



**advice do you have for LGBT people who experience the bullying that you’ve experienced?** We have a 16-year-old girl, and a grown-ass woman was being horrible to her. She was just being hateful and passive-aggressive online, and I had to be real with (my daughter). I said, “This is gonna happen so often, so this would be a good time to learn to take the high road. Block them or whatever you want to do to not see it, if you don’t want to see it.”

Bullying is gonna happen, so we tell our kids, “That’s gonna happen. I can’t protect you from that. There’s nothing we can do about that. There are no bullying cops.” It’s an epidemic that’s horrible, and it needs to be addressed, but at the same time, when you have kids coming to you, I just have to teach her to rise above it.

It’s one of those things I always describe to fans, too, in meet-and-greets because they always ask, “How are you so confident?” It’s because, at the end of the day, I really, don’t care about anyone’s opinion but mine and the people I know who love me and really do want the best for me. You can’t base your entire existence and every decision off how people are gonna feel about it. That’s a giant check list; there’s a lot of us. So, just be happy with your decisions, and sometimes know you’re gonna be successful and sometimes you’re gonna fail. And whatever. At least you were steering your ship. ■

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■ **TOM** From Page 30

release it a universe of VOD and streaming services; it feels more festival than festive (a holiday release, no less! "Honey, should we watch a movie about Charles Dickens or the gay leather scene?")

If you don't already know who Tom of Finland was, you should; he all but invented gay identity. I'm not really joking. All those types from the Village People started at the tip of his pencil. He drew hyper-idealized versions of masculinity: Rippling muscles, enormous genitals, moustachioed bikers having guilt-free anonymous sex.

Tom was just drawing his own fantasies — fan fiction of a kind — but his underground cartoons caught on in a world before the internet, with cheap copies circulated in New York and San Fran and Los Angeles. His art became aspirational.

There were, of course, downsides. Especially in his native Finland in the immediate post-WWII era, his drawings were considered pornographic; being labeled gay could result in prison and definitely financial ruin. The movie suggests that if he hadn't caught on with the Castro culture, and visited the West Coast, he



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4. Viagra Prescribing Information, Revised January 2010. 5. Cialis Prescribing Information, Revised October 2011. 6. Levitra Prescribing Information, Revised November 2011. 7. AMS 700™ Patient Manual. Information and Instructions for Patients Considering an Inflatable Penile Prosthesis. American Medical Systems. 2012.

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AMSUS/MH-01639/April 2015

may have languished in relative obscurity, his work more underground than it still is. (Now, his drawings are considered "art," and sold in expensive Taschen collections at tony bookstores for big bucks.)

*Tom of Finland* covers all of that. Director Dome Karukoski unflinchingly (but not salaciously) shows Tom's "shameful" obsession with hooking up, his risky behavior in a pre-AIDS world, his eye-opening discovery that he is not alone. And he lets Pekka Strang carry much of the weight fearlessly, while giving members of the supporting cast (including Niklas Hogner, a dead-ringer for Tom's "Kake" character, who appears as a kind of muse) moments to shine. Any film that ends at the International Mr. Leather convention is one that has no problem shooting the finger at tongue-clucking Puritans and homophobic ostriches who prefer to keep their heads in the dirt before acknowledging the complex if lurid pageant of mankind's sexual history. (More proof of its bona fides? This is Finland's official entry for best foreign language film at next year's Oscars.)

Like the artist himself, *Tom of Finland* doesn't play things safe, but documents an historic and resonant cultural touchstone. It also extends the galaxy of queer cinema into its own realm and answers that age-old question, "Who's your daddy?" Why, *Tom of Finland*, of course. ■

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**Friday 12.01  
— Sunday 12.17**

**Regional premiere of a cross-dressing comedy from Uptown Players**

Life doesn't always go the way you expect. Like, when you're an Elvis impersonator, you don't think that means you're basically a drag queen. But that's the discovery Casey, a struggling singer in the Florida Panhandle, begins to realize. *The Legend of Georgia McBride* is a play with music, and that music is sung by Kyle Igneczi, who previously gender-bended in the title role of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. It isn't even Christmas, and Uptown Players is already into its second show of the 2017–18 season! Directed by Bruce R. Coleman.

**DEETS:** Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. [UptownPlayers.org](http://UptownPlayers.org).



**Tuesday 12.05  
— Sunday 12.17**

**The Grinch sneaks into the Winspear**

Not everyone wants Christmas to arrive — some are downright grinchy about it. The AT&T Performing Arts Center's Broadway Series ends its 2017 shows with a stage musical adaptation of the timelessly funny and heartwarming story of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*! All your favorite characters, from Max the dog to Cindy Lou Hoo will be on hand to stop this travesty of smallheartedness.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

**Thursday 12.07 – Sunday 12.10**

**TCC gets into the holiday spirit with Snowflakes Christmas concert**

Snowflakes get a bad rap since last year's election. But at the Turtle Creek Chorale, they embrace snowflakes — because nothing sets the tone for a Christmas concert quite so well. For the company's annual concert, they pull out all the stops, with beautiful music and lots of campy holiday cheers, including performances by vocalist Jodi C. Wright and a set by the Houston Chamber Ringers. Everyone — even a snowflake — is welcome!

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. [TurtleCreekChorale.com](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com).



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## calendar highlights



See the Arts District transform into a Christmas setting, complete with Santa and music by En Vogue, on Saturday.

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Act of God.** B.J. Cleveland, typecast once again, as the Almighty in a regional premiere from David Javerbaum about the secrets of the universe. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 31. StageWest.org.

**A Christmas Carol.** Brad Leland (*Friday Night Lights*) stars as Ebenezer Scrooge this year. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**A Motown Christmas.** A rollicking holiday revue. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 24. JubileeTheatre.org.



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**The Great Distance Home.** Kelsey Leigh Ervi conceived of and directs this immersive, multi-discipline theater event about a boy's search for home wherever that may be. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Dec. 1-17. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**John.** Undermain Theatre presents this play by Pulitzer Prize-winner Annie Baker, set in an eerie B&B the weekend after Thanksgiving. *Final weekend.* Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Undermain.org.

**The Legend of Georgia McBride.** A low-rent Elvis impersonator discovers a new direction when he embraces drag in this region premiere from Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Dec. 1-17. UptownPlayers.org.

**The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents a Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker!** The return of the send-up of the famed ballet. Main stage at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 26. MBSProductions.net.

**Santa Claus: A New Musical.** When Santa announces his retirement after a millennium, the North Pole goes crazy. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. CasaManana.org.

**The Three Musketeers.** Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, with Ivan Jones returning in the

hilarious cross-dressing role in this family-friendly treatment of the Dumas novel. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H. Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

**BALLET**  
**The Nutcracker.** A real version of the Tchaikovsky ballet, presented by Texas Ballet Theater. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sunday. ATPAC.org. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 8-24. BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.org.

this week's solution

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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

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# Girl on girls

Jenny Block figures it out

I've finally figured it out. I've spent much of my life pondering this question and recently the answer revealed itself to me. It's the question that many, if not most, humans contemplate: How do we know what the right relationship is for us — the one that will fulfill us, the one that will make us our best selves, the one that will last?

The answer is found in an integral part of the most common wedding vows

*I take you to be my lawfully wedded spouse to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.*

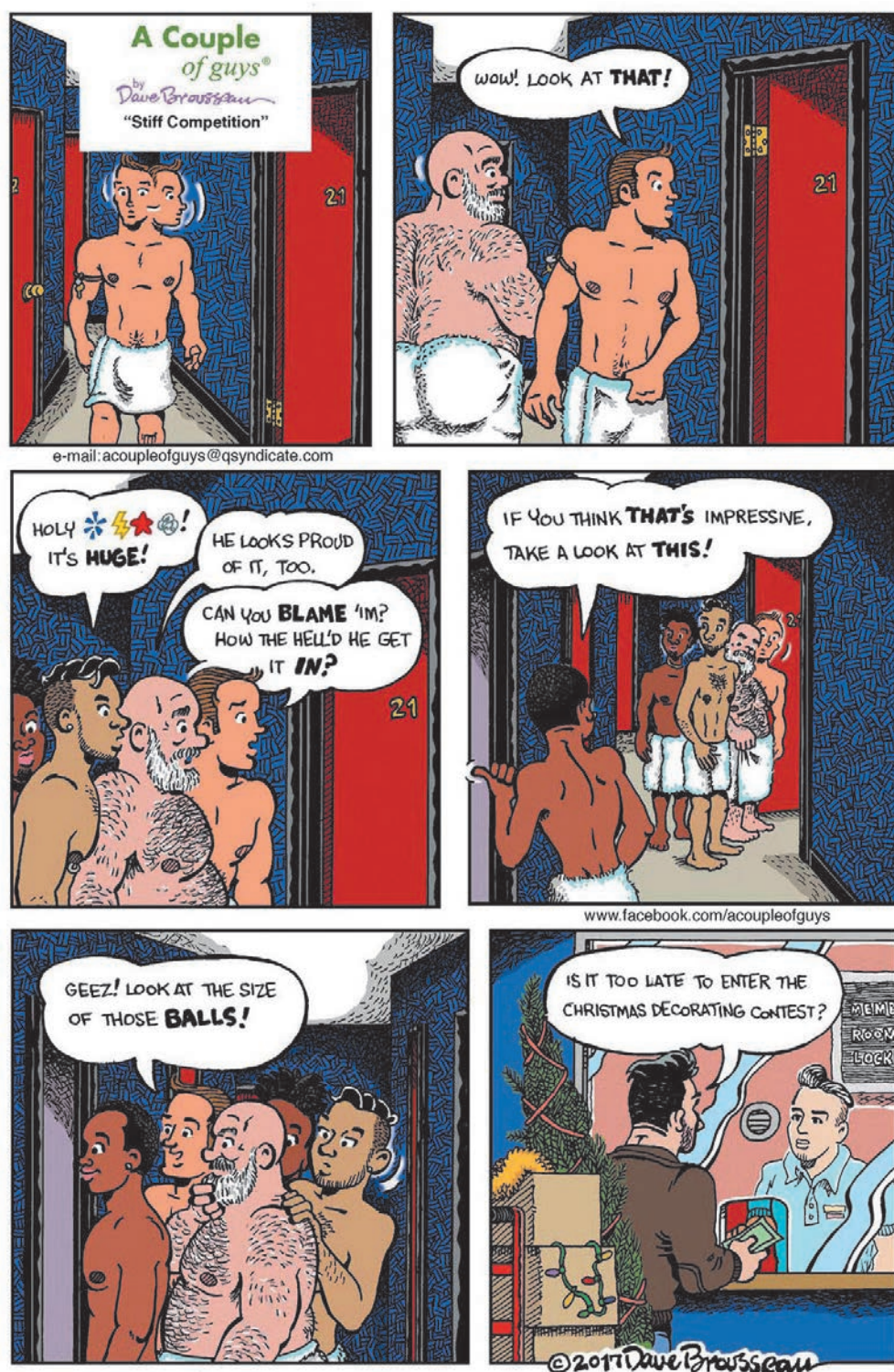
Those are more than the vows we give to the person we marry; those are the promises we

make, explicitly or not, to the person we commit our lives to, even if the legal act of marriage is not involved.

The problem is that we fail to focus on the most important words. It's easy to commit "for better." It's easy to commit "for richer." It's easy to commit "in health." But what about for worse, for poorer, and in sickness?

The person you want to marry is the one who has no fear of those.

Unfortunately, we don't always know if the person we're committing to gets that ... unless we ask. The part of the relationship that many people find the least sexy is the most important, making it, to my mind, the sexiest thing of



all: communication.

When you first meet someone, you most likely experience them at their best while you, too, are at *your* best. That makes everything a little too easy. It isn't until the shit hits the fan that you see a person's true colors. But what if the wedding or the moving in or the commitment happens before any calamity?

There's only one thing to do — ask the hard questions and be ready for whatever the answers might be. What if I lose my job? Are you in for the lean times? What if I fall ill? Will you care for me? Will you resent having to do it? What if I gain a zillion pounds or lose a leg? What if all of my hair falls out? What if the worse me is the only me there is to have? Will you have me?

They're hard questions to ask another person and almost as difficult to ask ourselves. The answers may land even harder. But if we don't ask, we won't know, and if we don't know, we are walking blindly into one of the biggest decisions of our lives.

This has been on my mind for good reason. Lately, I'm seeing a lot of couples around me breaking up, marriages and other long-term commitments unraveling and tumbling down. All of them appear to have the same thing in common. No one asked the hard stuff, and when the hard stuff reared its ugly head, it was ignored or denied or otherwise cast aside, hidden or forgotten until it couldn't be ignored any more.

Here's the thing. No one wants to find out that their partner was only around for the money. No one wants to find out that their partner can only love them when they're "on." No one wants to find out that their partner has no desire to care for them when sickness darkens the doorstep. But I know one thing for sure: Finding all of that out before the commitment is significantly better than finding out after.

Let's say you didn't find out. Let's say you're like these couples around me who didn't ask or

didn't know or didn't see. When you do discover it, there's only one thing to do — leave. There's no coming back from being wanted only for the perfect version of you. That isn't the real version. And what you deserve, what we all deserve, is someone who doesn't just tolerate the real us but who truly adores the real us, bad moods, empty pockets, stuffed up noses, and all.

I knew my fiancée was "the one" when I landed in the hospital with a finger so swollen and black and infected that I wasn't sure it would be mine for much longer. But she didn't flinch. I knew my fiancée was the one when I moped around the house and cried for days when my daughter left for college. I knew she was the one when I lost my job and then one project and then another and all she said is, "I just want you to do something you love. Whatever that may be. No need to grab it until you feel it."

I knew my fiancée was the one when she said she loved me for all that I am, not in spite of it.

I have a dog I am too attached to; a daughter who has left the nest; a family that needs me; a plethora of health issues. I like terrible movies, and I'm obsessed with crime TV. I wear my heart on my sleeve. I am an empath to the nth degree, wearing the worry of the planet and everyone living on it on my shoulders. I love beautiful clothes and shoes, even if I have nowhere to wear them. I have an art collection that thrills me. And, most importantly, I have to be by the water and in the sun. To me, I'm a clichéd mess. To her, I'm just right even where I'm wrong.

Commit only to someone for whom you are just right. Not good. Not good enough. Not tolerated. But just right, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health.

Have a question about sex, relationships or life you want Jenny to address? Email it to [GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com](mailto:GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com).

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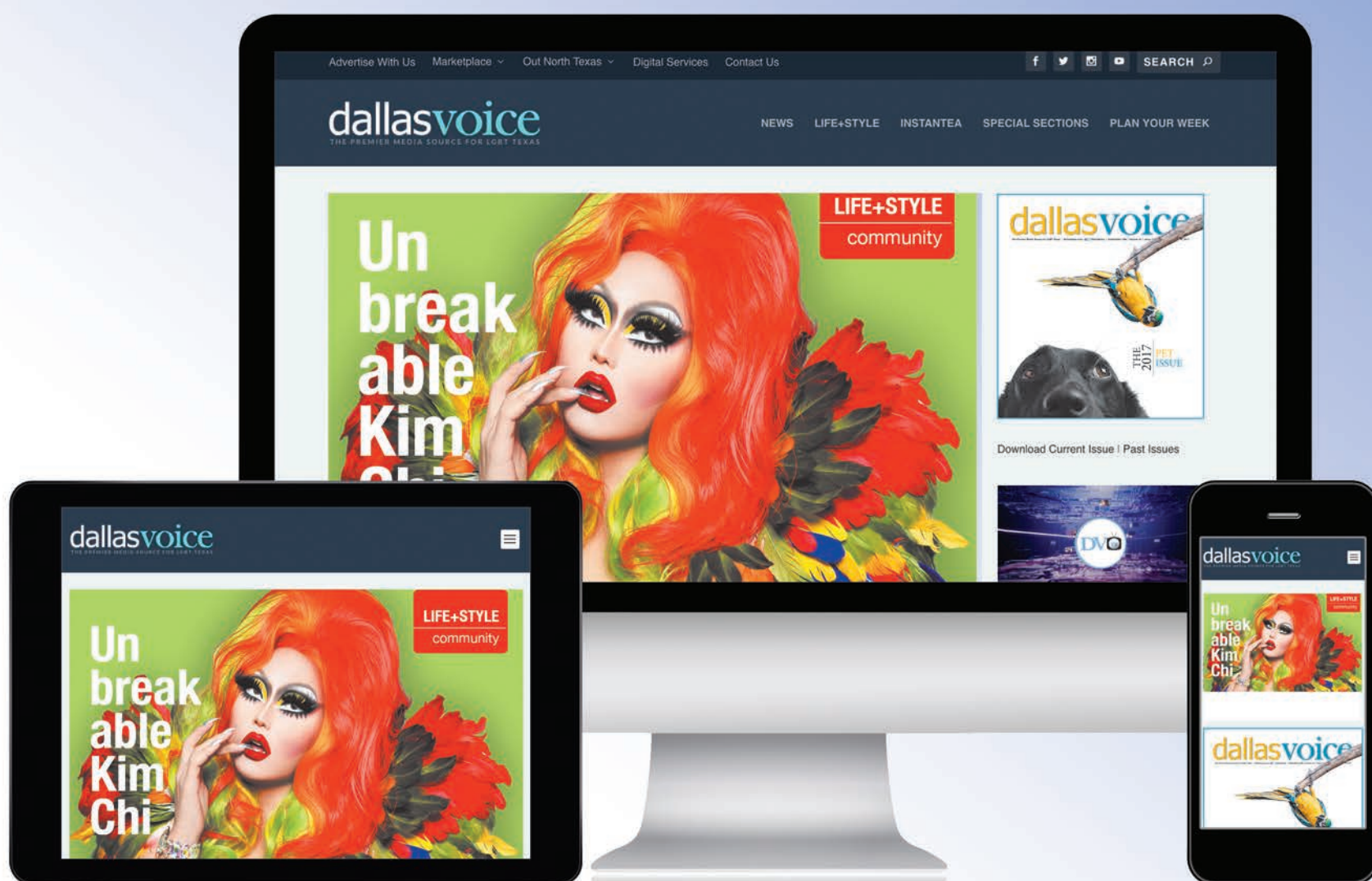
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## Dallas Red Foundation says: Thanks for Giving



The Dallas Red Foundation held its “Thanks for Giving” event Nov. 17 at the West Village’s 7th floor Skyline Lounge, presenting the organization’s beneficiary, Legacy Counseling Center, with a donation of \$70,000. Dallas Red Foundation has been raising funds for charitable causes for nine years, and this year’s total set a record. For information on donating to Dallas Red Foundation or on becoming a sponsor of the organization, visit [DallasRedFoundation.org](http://DallasRedFoundation.org) or call 214-764-1180.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Dec. 1-7**

- **Alexandre's:** *Girls Night Out* with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Mi Diva Loca** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie sings Broadway** on Tuesday. **Chris Chism** on Wednesday. **Spencer West** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** *The Divine Miss Divas Show* at 10 p.m. on Friday. *Wall of Food Show* at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** *Cowtown Leathermen Christmas Party* at 4 p.m. and *Mr. Cowtown Leathermen Pageant* at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** *ERSICSS – A Red Ribbon Affair* from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. *United Court of the Lone Star Empire Investiture and First Fundraiser* at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Beardance: Naughty Santa** at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** *Cassie's Freakmas 2017* at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** *Steak night* on Monday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** *Toy Drive and Tacky Sweater Contest* hosted by **Lost Souls Rugby Club** at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Please bring unwrapped toys. *Hard Candy Christmas* hosted by **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** benefits **TGRA charities** from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** *Jingle Bell Rock* with **Miss Gay Texas State Mayra D'Lorenzo Lauren** and **Miss Gay Texas State at Large Contessa Piranha** with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** *Miss Gay Fire & Ice USofA 2018* starring **Miss Gay USofA Roxie Hart** and honoring **Nina DiAngelo Miss Gay Fire & Ice 2017** at 10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** *Karaoke* from 9 p.m.-midnight on Tuesday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** *Gay Dodgeball* registration event from 8-11:30 p.m. on Friday.

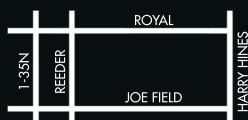
Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**



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# Miss Texas FFI 2017

Winner of Miss Texas FFI 2017 is Amanda Nicole, pictured at left with pageant owner Layla Larue and Miss Texas FFI 2017 At Large Kara Foxx Paris. Pictured below are, from left, first alternate Kup Kake, Miss Texas FFI 2017 Amanda Nicole, pageant owner Layla Larue, Miss Texas FFI 2017 At Large Kara Foxx Paris, first alternate at large Fantasia and second alternate at large Erykah White.



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Getting ready for Christmas at Sue Ellen's



The Tuesday Night Tease at Sue Ellen's



Pals and a pup at Woody's



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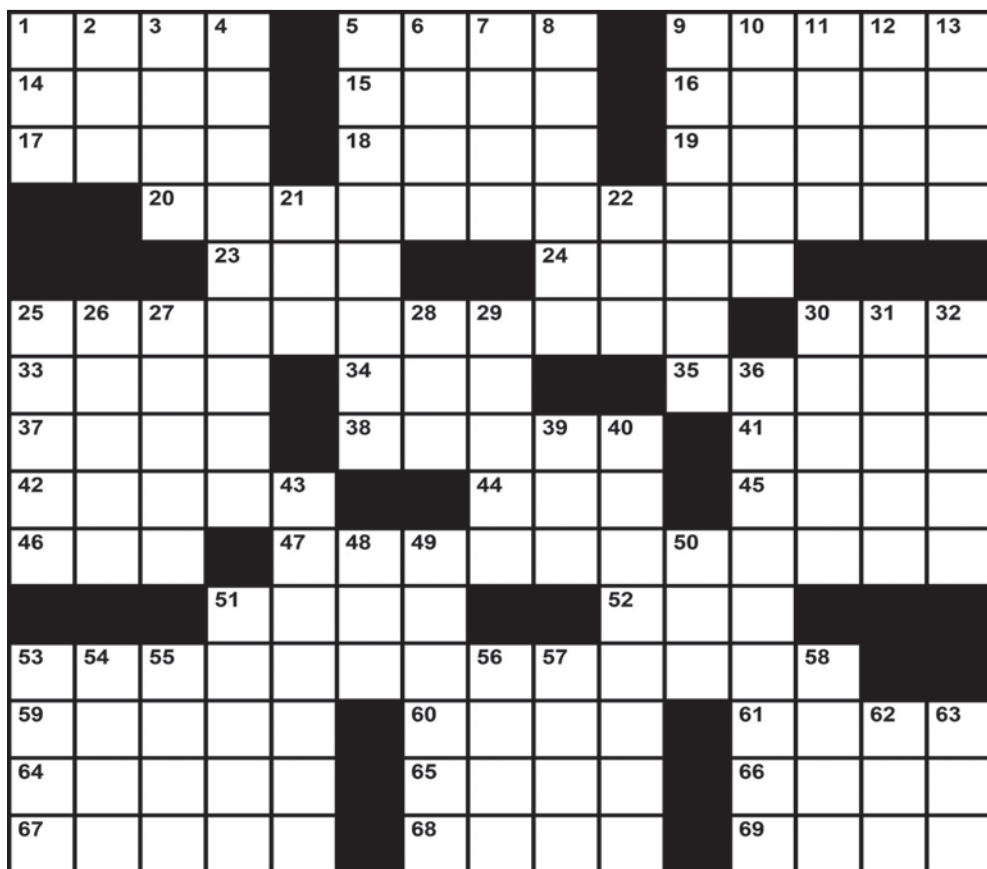
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## q-puzzle



## Clemency at Thanksgiving

Solution on Page 37

### Across

- 1 Strip in the locker room
- 5 Sexual attraction, with "the"
- 9 Don of game shows
- 14 David Hyde Pierce, to Yale
- 15 Actor Mapa
- 16 Homer-erotic tale?
- 17 Shakespeare's foot
- 18 Not e'en once
- 19 LGBT briefing follow-up, for short?
- 20 Traditional Thanksgiving gesture by the president
- 23 Gielgud's john
- 24 Passing fancy
- 25 Comedian who said that 47-Across had turned Thanksgiving into 53-Across
- 30 Month for Kahlo
- 33 Warhol pal \_\_\_ Sedgwick
- 34 One of two ways
- 35 Shoot off another plant
- 37 One with flaming pants?
- 38 Stick it to
- 41 L'eggs shade
- 42 Loads of
- 44 CBS forensic drama
- 45 Those, to Gomer
- 46 Castro Street, on BART
- 47 President who

threatened to only let one of the two birds go

- 51 *Spamalot* writer Eric
- 52 Bill written by Alice Paul
- 53 1982 Meryl Streep film
- 59 Think tank output
- 60 Hazard for Sheehan
- 61 Clothing designer Chow
- 64 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.
- 65 Nathan of *The Birdcage*
- 66 Will off the set
- 67 Fuss over feathers
- 68 2000 gay flick \_\_\_ and *Charley*
- 69 Result of getting rear-ended

### Down

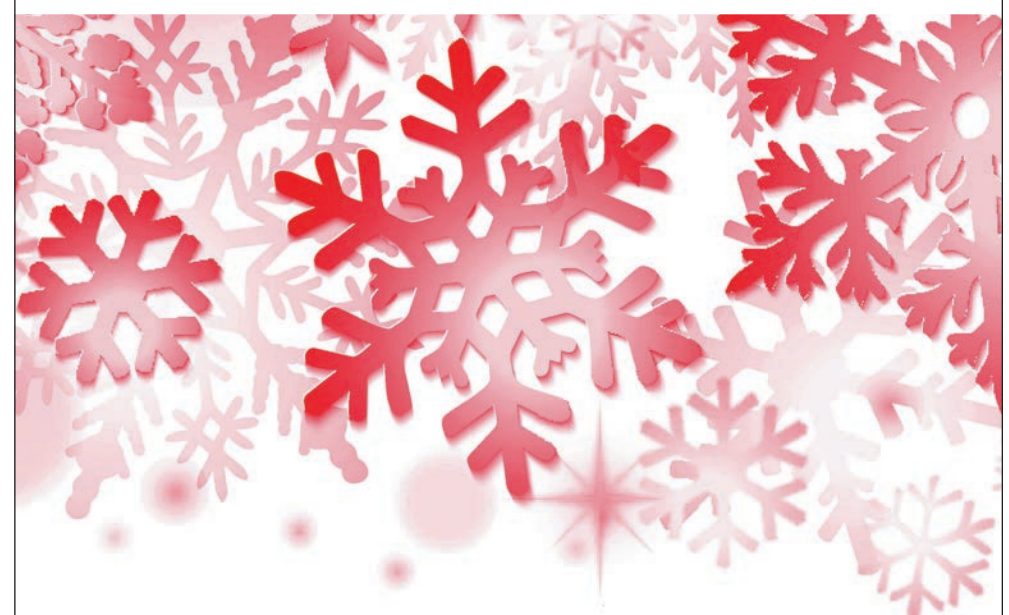
- 1 Figure skater Babilonia
- 2 Home st. of Harper Lee
- 3 Drag queen's shoe
- 4 Professionals on *Six Feet Under*
- 5 Exchanges in David Kopay's sport
- 6 It's sold in bars
- 7 *Dawson's Creek* type
- 8 Illegible letters
- 9 Pricking
- 10 It arouses you in bed
- 11 Button's place
- 12 South Beach's Miami-\_\_\_ County

13 Jazz singer Anita

- 21 Siegfried's partner
- 22 However, in verse
- 25 Gets hard
- 26 Bonehead
- 27 Sporty Mazda
- 28 Hail Mary path
- 29 Lover of Dali, perhaps
- 30 \_\_\_ Picchu (ancient Incan commune)
- 31 *The Deep Six* actor Zimbalist
- 32 Result of overzealous circumcision?
- 36 Withdrawn, like an eagle's talons
- 39 Night school subj.
- 40 Like welcoming thighs
- 43 Dr. Montgomery of *Grey's Anatomy*
- 48 Grand \_\_\_ Opry
- 49 Joan of Lesbian Herstory
- 50 Angular opening
- 51 Cole Porter's "\_\_\_ Men"
- 53 Gullible guy
- 54 Febreze target
- 55 Guitarist Townshend
- 56 Fiddler on the reef
- 57 *The English Patient* nurse
- 58 Land of Sinead O'Connor
- 62 Anais, who went both ways
- 63 \_\_\_ UP

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