



# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | DallasVoice.com |   DallasVoice | Established 1984 | Volume 34 | Issue 35 | FREE | Friday, January 5, 2018



**Presidential  
Advisory  
Council on  
HIV/AIDS**

## Trump fires PACHA members

by David Taffet, Page 8



A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white dress shirt. He is smiling and has his hands clasped together in front of him.

# Are you PrEPed for the New Year?

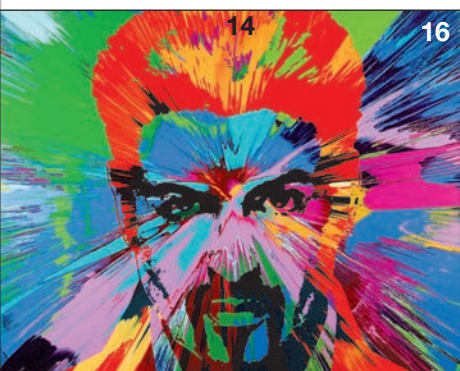
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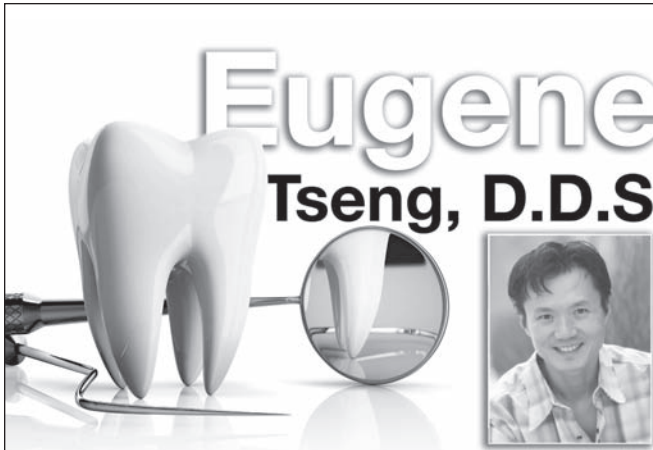
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# instantTEA

DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea

## Frisco man sentenced in Grindr hate crime case



Nigel Garrett, 21, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for assaulting a man because he was gay. Three other men also pleaded guilty in the case and await sentencing.

The men, ages 18-21, from Frisco, used Grindr to contact men in Aubrey, Frisco and Plano in January and February 2017. Each of the victims invited someone they thought was a gay man to their homes. Instead, four men showed up who bound them with tape, assaulted them and stole their cars.

They were caught in May. An 18-count federal indictment charged them with hate crimes, kidnapping, carjacking and using firearms to commit violent crimes. Each could have faced life in prison and \$250,000 fines.

Garrett and one of the other men took a plea deal in August. The two additional men have since pleaded guilty to the crimes.

— David Taffet

## Stonewall lists 40 LGBT people running for office in Texas

Stonewall Democrats of Texas listed 40 LGBT people running for office in Texas in 2018, either in a municipal election, a party primary or in November. Everyone won't have the opportunity to vote for each of these candidates, but several of the candidates are running for statewide office, giving everyone the opportunity to vote for an LGBT candidate.

For governor, Jeffrey Payne and Lupe Valdez face each other in the Democratic primary for governor. Eight other candidates are seeking the position as well.

Kerry Douglas McKennon's name will be on the ballot in November as the Libertarian candidate for lieutenant governor.

Steve Kirkland, who has served on a Houston bench for 12 years, is running for state Supreme Court. He's on the Democratic primary ballot unopposed and faces a Republican opponent in the fall.

Seven LGBT candidates are running for Congress. In District 21, should Democrat Mary Wilson win her primary and Republican Mauro Garza win his, there will be an all LGBT race. This is one of the most contested U.S. House seats in Texas with a total of 22 candidates running in the two primaries.

The LGBT candidates running for local seats in the primary elections don't just come from the big cities. McKennon, who's running for lieutenant governor, is from Petersburg, 30 miles northeast of Lubbock. Other LGBT candidates are from Odessa, Abilene, Lufkin and Vidor.

For the full list, see InstantTea online.

— David Taffet

## Williams Institute releases 2017 LGBT data

The Williams Institute at UCLA released its report of data collected in 2017 on the LGBT community:

- Using data gathered by the Gallup polling organization, 4.1 percent of adults identify as LGBT across the U.S.
- The state with the highest percent of people identifying as LGBT is Vermont with 5.3 percent. Vermont was the first state with relationship recognition. Only Washington, D.C., beats Vermont with 8.6 percent of adults identifying as LGBT.
- Vermont is followed by the first marriage equality state, Massachusetts, and California and Oregon with 4.9 percent each. Nevada is next with 4.8 percent.
- In Texas, 3.6 percent of adults identify as LGBT. That number is close to neighboring states Oklahoma, with 3.5 percent, and Louisiana, with 3.7 percent. New Mexico jumps to 4.2 percent.
- The state with the lowest percent of adults identifying themselves as LGBT is South Dakota at 2 percent.
- Williams Institute found that discrimination in Texas is expensive. Reducing housing and employment discrimination against transgender residents would save the state \$1.3 million in Medicaid expenses and \$370,000 in homeless shelter expenses annually.
- Reducing stigma that causes depression to a rate comparable to the straight community would have a positive impact on 25,400 Texans and benefit the state's economy by \$385.3 million annually in reduced healthcare costs and increased productivity.

— David Taffet

## Counseling office moves to new location

Life Gets Better Together Counseling re-opened Thursday, after the holiday break, in a new office space in a new location.

Licensed professional counselors Feleshia Porter, Renee Baker and Andrea Cozby are now located at 13500 Midway Road, #404 in Dallas. That's on the southeast corner of Midway Road and Alpha Road.

Baker explained that Life Gets Better Together Counseling moved because the owner of their previous location, on Forest Lane, will be demolishing the building to put up a new, three-story public storage facility. Baker said the Forest Lane building was 50 years old and "admittedly, had its share of drainage issues."

She continued, "We will miss the old space, but are thrilled to move into the new space ...which has two offices, a kitchen, a waiting area and storage. The new space will fit our needs equally as well or even a bit better. I am especially excited that we'll have a bit more breathing room for our group counseling."

Life Gets Better Counseling offers a wide range of counseling services but specializes in counseling related to gender identity and gender transition. All services are by appointment only.

Offices for Black Transmen Inc. were also located in the building at 3530 Forest Lane. Dallas Voice attempted to contact a representative for the organization for information on where their offices were moving but have not yet gotten a response. We will update as soon as we hear.

— Tammye Nash







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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 at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.** This week's guest is New Hope Mayor Jess Herbst; 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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **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. 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.

## JANUARY 2018

### • Jan. 8: Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats

Monthly meeting with Ag Commissioner candidate Kim Olson speaking at 7 p.m. at Tommy's Hamburgers, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth.

### • 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](mailto:PFLAGDallas@outlook.com).

### • Jan. 11: New members showcase

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce new members showcase from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave. #144. Free to members and guests.

### • Jan. 12-15: DSGA hosts Sin City Classic

Different Strokes Golf Association hosts the golf portion of the Sin City Classic in Las Vegas. The two-day tournament one-day fun round takes place at Bali Hai Golf Club. Pricing and info at [SinCityClassic.org](http://SinCityClassic.org). Early registration ends Dec. 15.

### • Jan. 13: Celebration Church's 25th anniversary

Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fort Worth, celebrates its 25th anniversary as a church with a party in the new Rev. Carol A. West Community Center. The celebration includes dinner, dancing and a cash bar, and tickets are \$50 each. For information visit [Celebration-Community-Church.com](http://Celebration-Community-Church.com) or call 817-335-3222.

### • Jan. 17: Candidate forum

The Frisco Democratic Club will hold a candidate forum featuring candidates in the races to represent Texas' third and 26th congressional districts, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Conference Center at Collin College Preston Ridge Campus, 9700 Wade Blvd. in Frisco. Candidates for the 3rd Congressional District are Lorie Burch, Adam Bell, Sam Johnson and Medrick Yhap. Candidates for the 26th Congressional District are Linsey Fagan and Will Fisher.

### • Jan. 17: Lambda Legal Mix and Mingle

Staff, leadership committee and supporters mix and mingle from 6-7:30 p.m. at Sambuca, 2120 McKinney Ave.

### • Jan. 18: Toast to Life mixer

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zatar Lebanese Tapas Bar, 2825 Commerce St.

### • Jan 20: Dallas Women's March

Join State Representative Victoria Neave, lead organizer of the Dallas Women's



Texas Ag Commissioner candidate Kim Olson speaks to the Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats on Monday. For details, see listings.

March, Rheta Bowers, Chair of the Dallas Women's March, Planned Parenthood, Dallas AFL-CIO, Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, and other partner organizations to commemorate the first anniversary of the historic Dallas Women's March, when Dallas joined cities across the country and the world to stand up for equality, justice, and inclusion. Time and location to follow.

### • 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](http://MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo).

### • Jan 20: Stonewall Goes Hollywood

Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats holds a fundraiser, Stonewall Goes Hollywood with QCinema founder Todd Camp speaking at 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Tickets at [tarrantstonewall.org/hollywood](http://tarrantstonewall.org/hollywood). \$50.

### • Jan 23: Senior Services Program listening session

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano hosts a program on the city's senior programs from 10-11 a.m. at Catholic Charities Dallas Brady Center, 537 S. Hall St.

## 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](mailto:PFLAGDallas@outlook.com).

### • Feb. 10: Love Equality

Benefit for Equality Texas at 8 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd Suite 107.

### • Feb. 10: 2018 Dallas Mardi Gras

The Krewe de Etoile presents the 2018 Mardi Gras Dallas Gala Masquerade Ball at Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave., from 7 p.m.-midnight. Tickets start at \$80, and this year's spotlighted charity is CitySquare. For information visit [KreweDeEtoile.com](http://KreweDeEtoile.com).

### • Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

### • 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](http://MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo).

### • Feb. 17: Krewe to Cure Arthritis-Mardi Gras Ball

From 6-11 p.m. at The Hall on Dragon Street, 1500 Dragon St.



• **Feb. 20: Early voting begins**

Early voting for the March primary runs Feb. 20-March 2. Vote at any early voting location in your county.

**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 6: Democratic and Republican primaries**

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

• **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.

• **March 24: AIDS Walk South Dallas**

AIDS Walk South Dallas takes place at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. Registration is at 8 a.m., followed by the opening ceremonies at 9:15 a.m. and step-off at 10 a.m. Register at AWSD2018.EventBrite.com. For information visit AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

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# Trump fires AIDS advisory council members

'Not the time' to not  
pay attention to HIV,  
local leaders say

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Six members of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) resigned in June 2017. On Dec. 30, President Donald Trump sent a letter to the remaining 10 members of PACHA dismissing them.

Scott A. Schoettes, Lambda Legal Counsel and HIV project director and one of the six council members who resigned in June, wrote in Newsweek at the time: "The Trump administration has no strategy to address the on-going HIV/AIDS epidemic, seeks zero input from experts to formulate HIV policy, and — most concerning — pushes legislation that will harm people living with HIV and halt or reverse important gains made in the fight against this disease."

None of those who resigned in June were

replaced, and no one has been nominated to replace those just fired.

"This matters because HIV is alive and well," Resource Center CEO Cece Cox said of the firings. "Tens of thousands of people are still diagnosed with HIV every year."

The council had strategy set through the year 2020 with the goal being a cure for HIV. But Cox said she is concerned that, going forward, the administration's decisions on HIV policy won't be based on science. And, she added, she isn't sure if the administration is keeping things quietly on track or simply ignoring the situation.

"Just not putting out information is damaging," Cox said. "We have to keep educating new generations of youth."

While Cox said she worried about a lack of attention to the issue, she hasn't seen any change of policy.

"It's been pretty quiet," Cox said. "We haven't received any alerts on drastic change."



John T. Carlo



# Wiley tapped to lead C.U.R.E.

Longtime activist will remain as president, CEO of AIDS Walk South Dallas

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Officials with Community Unity Respect Education Inc. — better known as C.U.R.E. — this week announced that Roseann Rossetti is resigning as the organization's president and that longtime community activist Auntjuan Wiley will step into that role.

Rossetti will become president emeritus of the HIV/AIDS agency, which this year marks its 10th anniversary. A statement announcing the change noted that C.U.R.E. board members voted unanimously to appoint Wiley, a longtime friend of cofounders Rossetti and Rosemarie Odom and a staunch supporter of the organization, as president and CEO.

Wiley is the founder and president/CEO

of AIDS Walk South Dallas Inc., an organization he founded in 2009 with the mission to empower persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Wiley has worked in the HIV/AIDS arena for 30 years locally, nationally and internationally providing education, prevention, advocacy, training, peer support, linkage to care and outreach.

"I am truly honored to even be thought about to continue such a legacy, but I promise to make [Rossetti and Odom] proud," Wiley said in a statement to Dallas Voice.

"The AIDS Memorial Quilt is vital to the history of our world, and C.U.R.E. will continue to make it visible in the Dallas/Fort Worth area by educating, bringing awareness and making sure those lost to HIV, and even those of us still living with the virus, are remembered, honored and celebrated," Wiley continued.

"We are in the process of building an incredible team at C.U.R.E., which will allow me to continue to serve efficiently as CEO of AIDS Walk South Dallas," he said. "Leading two incredible organizations will be a challenge, but I believe with my passion and determination, both will continue to



Auntjuan Wiley

serve this community with excellence and will make the difference they were born to make."

Rossetti said he is "confident" that Wiley will lead C.U.R.E. into the future.

"Throughout the years C.U.R.E. has brought a message of prevention and education to the community, which included most importantly hundreds of high school and college students," Rossetti said. "Change is inevitable, but change can breed

new possibilities. I am confident the vision and mission of C.U.R.E. will continue.

"My sincere gratitude to everyone for the support and confidence you've given to me and this organization," she added. "It has been my honor to work with you all. With his incredible passion to make a difference, his creativity and uniqueness, we know that [Wiley] will take C.U.R.E. to next dimension."

For more information visit [CureNTx.org](http://CureNTx.org).

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# Marriage equality plaintiff runs for state Senate

Mark Phariss' suit against Texas taught him a number of lessons he says he'll use in his race for public office

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Mark Phariss said he learned in his fight for marriage equality that Texans are a lot more compassionate, loving and caring than current Texas leaders would have you believe.

"Texans don't care who I live with or marry, but whether I can do the job," he said.

The job he was talking about is state senator.

Just before the December filing deadline, Phariss decided to use what he learned during the marriage equality fight as well as some of the name recognition he gained and turn that into a race for an open state Senate seat from Collin County.

"I also learned a little bit how to deal with media," he said. "That's not something I'd ever done before. Being in front of a camera petrified me."

And, he said, he learned to speak on mic to people who didn't necessarily agree with him in a respectful way, which is a skill he hopes to bring to the Legislature.

The race has gotten a lot of attention since Phariss entered. "Our filing generated a lot of publicity," he said.

But his two Republican opponents are, arguably, equally well known.

Angela Paxton is the wife of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who held the

SENATE, Page 12





# Welcome to OUT North Texas!

## Our 5th edition!

The image shows the top right corner of the magazine cover. It features a close-up, black and white photograph of a person's dark, wavy hair. The person's face is partially visible at the bottom right. The magazine's title 'OUT' is partially visible in large, bold, white letters on a red background. Below the title, the text 'Official 201' is visible, likely part of 'Official 2015'. The cover is tilted slightly to the right.

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District 8 senate seat before running for statewide office four years ago. Paxton has been under indictment ever since assuming office. His trial is on hold as Collin County battles against paying the fees owed the special prosecutors in the case.

Angela Paxton's primary opponent is Phillip Huffines, whose twin brother, Don, holds the District 16 seat just south of District 8 that includes part of Oak Lawn. Don Huffines received a 0 percent rating with Equality Texas and 100 percent by the Texas Right to Life Committee.

At least locally, Phillip Huffines is well known for his car dealerships' commercials.

Phariss faces one primary opponent — Brian Chaput. Phariss has nothing negative to say about Chaput. In fact, he said he likes Chaput and will endorse him if he wins the primary.

The two have met and agreed to stick to issues during the primary campaign, Phariss said.

The issues, as Phariss sees it, are education and transportation, not bathrooms and borders.

"Education and property taxes are linked," Phariss said. "And I would never have achieved what I have in my life if it weren't for my public education."

He said he never has complained about paying property taxes to fund education, "because someone paid for my education," he said. "But one thing we're not doing is properly funding education from the state level."

As state funding has decreased, local taxes have increased to make up the difference. And as the state's population has soared, efforts to fund new schools and maintain existing — and aging — facilities haven't kept pace.

Phariss said he opposes vouchers because that simply takes even more money out of the public education system. And he believes people who live in his district agree with him.

"We don't have failing schools in my district," he said. "I bought a house in Plano, because I knew the schools were good and that was good for the value of my house."

He sees transportation issues in the same light as education. Although the population has increased, funding for new roads hasn't kept pace. And the method of taxation to pay for them hasn't kept pace, either.

As cars have gotten more fuel-efficient and as more electric and hybrid vehicles have been sold, the gas tax revenue per mile driven has decreased. To make up for that, the state has built more toll roads.

Phariss encourages more public-private partnerships like the proposed high-speed rail project between Dallas and Houston. He said that will replace the need for expansion of I-45 between the two cities and is an environmentally-friendly project.

Phariss said he would also like to see marijuana decriminalized and sentences for marijuana-related offenses decreased. That would free up money spent on incarceration that could then be used to cover rising



Mark Phariss, left, and his husband Vic Holmes.

transportation costs.

Phariss is an attorney with a wide range of experience. He's been in private practice for himself and has worked as an in-house business attorney.

"I've represented a whole slew of industries and have a broad background on how our economy works," he said.

He believes in policies that ensure a strong middle class. "Historically, other countries that have a huge gap between workers and the wealthy don't do well," he said. "We have to maintain our thriving middle class."

While he believes in working across the aisle and negotiating a deal that benefits everyone, he said some issues "are non-negotiable." Voting rights is one. No obstacles should be put in the way of any eligible citizen voting, he said.

Bathroom bills are another: "I'm never going to be in favor of a bathroom bill," Phariss said.

How much should the state pay local school districts to cover the cost of educa-

tion? That's negotiable. Phariss would like to see 50 percent. The current funding level is in the 30s. He'd consider it a win for Texas students if that level came up into the 40s.

That, he said, is reasonable compromise. He explained by discussing the marriage equality case.

Although Phariss and husband Vic Holmes, along with co-plaintiffs Nicole Dimetman and Cleo DeLeon won their case, Phariss said he never wanted to change what anyone believes or force their churches to change their basic beliefs.

"I simply disagree, and they and their churches can continue to believe as they please," he said. "We just wanted the state, not the church, to recognize our marriage."

Ironically, Phariss said, he's a Methodist, a mainstream denomination that still doesn't recognize same-sex marriages or officially ordain gay or lesbian clergy.

"I probably should be working within my church on that," he said, laughing, but not quite serious about mounting another marriage equality fight. ■



But with no website from the Office of National AIDS Policy and, now, no council advising the secretary of Health and Human Services, Cox is concerned the public won't get the latest information on the pandemic, nor will those tasked with setting public policy be able to make informed decisions.

"I hope this doesn't signal a complete lack of attention to HIV," she said.

Prism Health CEO John Carlo was a little more optimistic. "This may not be as bad as it seems," he said.

"It's not unusual for a president to discharge members of an advisory council to put in his own people," Carlo said. "The manner it was done was unfortunate."

He noted that those who were dismissed are eligible to reapply, although those who resigned in June are not.

While Presidents Bush and Obama replaced members of the council with their

own appointees, both allowed members appointed by their predecessors to finish their terms.

Carlo was more concerned with a lack of leadership in the Office of National AIDS Policy, where the first national AIDS strategy was created during Obama's first term in office. But, he noted, Trump has indicated interest in continuing AIDS policies that fund research, education and care and hasn't slashed Ryan White funding.

With the firing of the current council, Carlo said we should look for something to happen soon, whether it's the appointment of new council members, a re-invigoration of the Office of National AIDS Policy — or something else.

With thousands of new cases of HIV reported each year and new treatments in various stages of trial, Carlo said, "This is not the time to be winding down."

PACHA was created in 1995 during the



Cece Cox

Clinton administration, at a time when medication to treat HIV was being tested and first coming on the market. Since its creation, its job has been to provide expert information and make recommendations to the secretary of Health and Human Services about treatments, prevention programs and the search for a cure for HIV.

Each president has made his own appointments to the council but has generally allowed previous appointees to finish their four-year terms.

The council that was just disbanded was made up of doctors and researchers, educators, people fighting the disease in the faith community and people living with HIV.

The Office of National AIDS Policy, created in 1993, also during the Clinton administration, has been without a leader since Trump took office, and the office's website disappeared from the internet the day Trump was sworn in. ■



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## Slow and steady for the win

Voters must send packing the politicians who are burning down the country, and replace them with builders, instead

God bless the people in Colorado who hung up rainbow Make America Gay Again banners outside of the home Vice President Mike Pence and his family were staying in while on vacation at the end of last month! Nobody deserves to be dragged for an anti-LGBTQ past, present and future more than Pence. His actions as Indiana's governor and in Congress are well documented, including signing a license to discriminate bill and supporting "reparative" therapy.

But because Pence doesn't tweet deliriously in the middle of the night or rant incoherently before TV cameras (as does his boss, Donald Trump), he's largely been ignored by the media. But with impeachment on so many 2018 wish lists, it's important that we take a look at the man behind the dark curtain that is Trump's presidency.

Please note that I am not, as some have, arguing that impeaching Trump would leave us with Pence, therefore impeachment is a bad idea. Trump absolutely deserves to lose his job. He is a terrible failure



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

and wholly unfit for office. But Pence, too, needs to go. I look at it this way: While Trump is an ugly tumor exploding on the surface, Pence is a quiet, slow-growing cancer. Both will kill you, one of them just gets more attention earlier. Trump's insane first year makes Pence seem almost harmless; trust me, he is anything but.

Pence supports all of the same policies and certainly would be nominating the same anti-LGBTQ judges to lifetime appointments.

And that's IF Trump is impeached. It's a big "if." Republicans control all of the federal government right now. They are not going to impeach their dear leader. In 2018, the country's future depends on Democrats — or, more importantly, voters choosing Democrats. Are Democrats perfect? Nope. Not even close.

There are so many things that need to be

addressed by the Democratic Party, many of them things that the party should have been working much harder on for decades now, like racism and social inequality.

Some Democrats are shitty people who benefit from the status quo and don't really have any interest in changing things. Those Democrats need to be primaried by people who stand for actual change.

Voting for Democrats doesn't mean accepting the party where it's at. We must push Democrats to be better. Change is slow. To those of us who are marginalized, oppressed and discriminated against, change feels urgent and demands immediacy. Unfortunately, that's not how change works.

It is incremental.

I understand that people, including me, have a hard time with the whole "incremental" business.

The Democrats are the party of the increment. The progress is slow, but the aim is forward. The Republicans often seem to move much faster than the Democrats (take, for example, the swift pace Trump has been appointing terrible right-wing judges). But the pace is an illusion.

The Democrats seems to move slowly in comparison to the GOP only because it takes longer to build a house than it does to burn it to the ground. And our country is on fire right now.

There's this idea that our republic will continue on, no matter how we abuse it. But that's wishful thinking. People who previously weren't "into" politics are paying attention. We've seen thousands take to the streets over this past year to protest the Trump administration's harmful and hateful policies.

We need all of those people and more to vote. On New Year's Eve, writer and civil rights activist Shaun King tweeted, "I sincerely believe that 2018 will be a year of victories. I believe we will win many hard-fought battles and will make more progress on other ones than any year in recent memory." In other words, 2018 is going to be exhausting, but hopefully in the opposite way 2017 was.

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for more than a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.





# Sounding off

What were the best albums of the year? We think these

Donald Trump is still tweeting (oh yeah, and somehow still president). Free internet porn could be a bygone luxury thanks to #RIPNetNeutrality. But hey, music in 2017 didn't suck! Read on for the music that saved me, and maybe you, from one of the worst years for queerkind:

**10. Tori Amos, *Native Invader*.** To approach dire world affairs with a sound mind, Tori Amos called on her trusty muses to guide her finest release in some time. Themes of love, pain and healing, in the midst of both global and personal tragedy, comprise a set that draws upon Amos' earliest years as her trademark Bösendorfer is our guiding light on the mesmerizing and exquisitely rendered "Reindeer King." Elsewhere, Amos rails the patriarchy on "Bang," while the album's darkest foray, the wayward "Climb," finds her calling upon spiritual forces for some necessary divine political-hell intervention.

**9. Beck, *Colors*.** Beck's *Colors* seems to exist entirely in another time and place and political era, a god-send for all of us standing underneath the gray clouds of post-Obama America. (*Somebody* has to keep our hopes up.) Though he falls back on some familiar Phoenix-like tropes on this bright, buoyant slice of escapist heaven, hearing one of alt music's most introspective minds resist the solemn zeitgeist with work so full of life is refreshingly infectious.

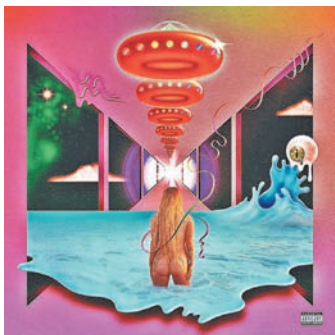
**8. Taylor Swift, *Reputation*.** *My name is whatever you decide*, Taylor Swift flirts on the thunderous "Don't Blame Me." Illuminating Swift's intent to acknowledge and exaggerate her constantly dissected and criticized persona, the line is, seemingly, a sly nod to haters who still hate. But if old Taylor is dead, who are we left with, then? Not exactly a "new" Taylor so much as a revised, extra brazen version, where

she and co-producers Jack Antonoff, Max Martin and Shellback throw gasoline on her pop fire. The songs are big and bad throughout, so it's surprising to hear the tender "New Year's Day" revisit Taylor of yore. Spoiler alert: Old Taylor didn't die.

**7. Kelela, *Take Me Apart*.** Nineties R&B was a special kind, and Kelela must think so, too. Her sultry debut studio album, *Take Me Apart*, is a sleek, mid-tempo-teeming set, with the D.C. native conjuring Brandy, Janet and Aaliyah, from the suppleness of her voice to the smooth urban grooves. But Kelela isn't concerned with fitting her music into a box for mainstream consumption, it seems, as her sophisticated artistry subverts the modern-day R&B template with a level of exhilarating old-school innovation.

**6. SZA, *Ctrl*.** SZA — which rolls off the tongue slightly easier than the St. Louis native's birthname, Solana Imani Rowe — is a name even your mom might know early next year. Yes, all the cool kids were shook when SZA released her debut, and if there is any justice left in this world come February, she might walk away with the five Grammys she's nominated for. As if SZA's glorious take down of arrogant ex-lovers and revelations like "let me tell you a secret, I been secretly banging your homeboy" weren't reason enough for her to win, *Ctrl* deconstructs every genre that influences it, blazing trails with a unique, ethereal blend of soul, jazz, R&B and chillwave that's all her own.

**5. Kendrick Lamar, *DAMN*.** *Bitch, sit down* should be on every mug you drink from in 2018. But for now, it's a Kendrick Lamar line from "HUMBLE.," basically writing the epitaph on the disaster that was 2017. The hip-hop icon, who has breathed the same air as our blessed Queen Bey, is fire on *DAMN*. Tackling



LIFE+STYLE  
year in review

Geraldo Rivera, President Trump and gun control, he leaves room for vast self-reflection — and gorgeous jazz flourishes — that makes for an intricately layered look at one's own place in humanity.

**4. Perfume Genius, *No Shape*.** If the world is ending, fine, Mike "Perfume Genius" Hadreas will just ride his sequined motorcycle into the sunset, thank you very much. In my mind that is what I see when I hear "Slip Away," which bursts from the seams to reveal a kaleidoscopic surge of aural bliss — a strikingly queer reaction to a fascist uprising. Breaking his own mold time and time again, one of music's sincerest songwriters takes *No Shape* into a new dimension where escapist fantasy and Sade vibe together. The piano parables of Hadreas' formative years are history, replaced by fresh textural turns that are as boldly queer as his tender poetry.

**3. The National, *Sleep Well Beast*.** The quiet beauty of The National's experimental arrangements on their seventh LP reveals itself in the third ear. It strikes first like a mysterious whisper on "Nobody Else Will Be There," hushed as if frontman Matt Berninger is singing to you in the dark. Deeper within the *Beast*, the Ohioans take their trademark melancholic, lyrical roots to new Radiohead-evoking rock heights, where synth fuzz fills out "Walk It Back" and a hypnotic undercurrent sweeps the bottom of "Born to Beg." On the indie-electronica track "I'll Still Destroy You," peace

and chaos collide as Berninger reveals, *I'm just trying to stay in touch with anything I'm still in touch with*. Frankness at its finest.

**2. Kesha, *Rainbow*.** Dr. Luke survivor and former Jim Beam-swigging pop bot Kesha Rose Sebert made the queerest mainstream album of the year, drawing from her own dark-horse experiences to create her most authentic recording, vocally and otherwise — one she dedicated to her fellow outcasts and underdogs. From her rise-above credo on the lovely guitar "Bastards" opener to her delightfully weird song about a queer afterlife, "Spaceship," *Rainbow* is the album 2017's shitstorm desperately needed: One marked by individuality, empowerment and survival.

**1. Lorde, *Melodrama*.** Already Grammy-nominated for album of the year, *Melodrama* pulses with lived emotional fervor, as its forlorn creator struggles to sort through sordid love to find her best self again amid the remnants ("Supercut," a vocal paradise) and self-imposed blame (her devastating Kate Bush moment, "Writer in the Dark"). Elegant keys swirl into surging Robyn-esque dancefloor fodder, vocal beds serve atmospheric percussion-like qualities. Thematically, Lorde's timeless exploration of love's highs and lows is captivating and wise beyond her 20 years, an album that speaks to the ears as much as the heart.

— Chris Azzopardi

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW  
MUSIC



# Season's readings!

The best in fiction, nonfiction and kid-lit



Among the best of 2017 were several LGBT titles, including the nonfiction ‘Scores’ and the kid-lit ‘They Both Die at the End.’

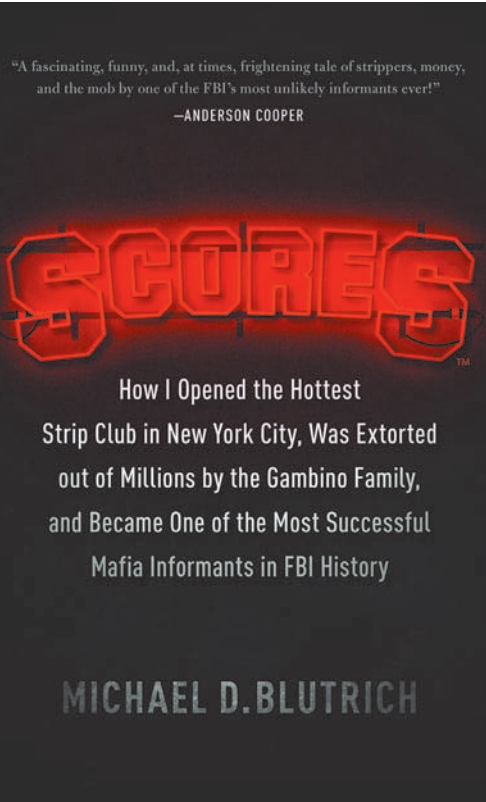
Trust me on this: when you read more than 300 books a year, you come across some books that are not so good. Thankfully, you come across more of them that are good, great or even stellar. Here’s my list of the Best of 2017, those things that you *absolutely cannot* miss, the books you should want in your hands now, in no certain order.

### FICTION

Anyone who’s read the *Little House on the Prairie* books and loved them will want to read *Caroline: Little House, Revisited* by Sarah Miller. This book imagines the thoughts and dreams of Laura Ingalls’ mother; the surprise is that Miller lets Caroline Ingalls be frustrated, angry and real.

For those who need a good scare, *The Last to See Me* by M Dressler is what you need. Narrated by a woman who’s dead-not-dead, it’s a cat-and-mouse tale of a “hunter” who comes to rid an old mansion of a mischievous spirit. But does he have the right spirit? Gotta find out for yourself.

Everything about *The Trick* by Emanuel Bergmann is going to captivate you. Everything. It’s the story of an old man who



lived a full, tumultuous, dangerous life; and a little boy who’s losing what he loves best and decides to trust the most unlikely person to fix it. It’s about love, most of all, but it’s not sappy — it’s funny and charming and you can’t miss it.

Here’s another chiller, but for a different reason: *When the English Fall* by David Williams. It’s the story of the end of the world, told from the point-of-view of a quiet, introspective Amish man. It’s one of those “what if?” novels, with a slight twist of the weird. The ending will leave you squirming, so what’s not to love?

And finally, a Christmas tale that can be read any time: *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Frederick Backman is the story of a man who hates Christmas because of all the horrible things that have happened in his life. What would he give to make the holiday better? Read this under-70-page book but bring the tissues. That is all.

Bonus: *One Good Mama Bone* by Bren McClain and *The Ada Decades* by Paula Martinac were close runners-up. The first is about a mother’s love; the second is a look at history through the eyes of two lesbian women. Both are worth a second look.

■ BOOKS Page 23

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# Culture shock

The most amazing things in North Texas culture in 2017

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

The end of the year — and beginning of a new one — is a convenient time to reflect on where we started and how far we've come. Think about it: Virtually all of the things on this admittedly arbitrary list were not really true just 12 months ago (we left out President Trump, because hey, we're trying to be positive here). You learned all these 20 or so things since this time last year ... or you didn't when they happened, and you now know about them. That's pretty awesome.

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW  
ART/CULTURE

**The DMA gets amazing.** The hiring of executive director Agustin Arteaga in 2016 was a masterstroke for the Dallas Museum of Art, which saw attendance — and acclaim — soar. Arteaga imported an exhibition of Mexican artists that broke records; he installed the amazing Yayoi Kusama infinity mirror room and made the famed Keir Collection of Islamic Art a

permanent fixture. And that's just in his first 16 months.

**The Dallas Theater Center wins the Tony Award.** 'Bout time.

**Poke bowls us over.** The signature dish of the Hawaiian islands, a kind of rice-bowl-meets-tuna-tartare, becomes a major influence in the Dallas foodie scene. We're cool with that.

**A trans man becomes Mr. Texas Leather.** Rylee Janus Spire proves your gender at birth can't stop you from entering the rarefied world of leathermen.

**The next season of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars gets all Dallas-y.** Shangela and Kennedy Davenport are announced as two of the nine contestants (a 10th will be named later) set to compete on the upcoming third *All Stars* installment of the drag competition.

**New leadership stakes a claim at local arts companies.** Joanie Schultz takes over

Damien Hirst's painting of George Michael, above, was a stellar work, as was the DMA's dazzling Infinity Mirror Room, opposite, devoted to pumpkins by Yayoi Kusama.



as the new artistic director at WaterTower Theatre (and soon brings on a new managing director, Nick Even) and makes a statement with her first show, the Stone-wall history *Hit the Wall*, while the Fort Worth Opera fires one gay general director (Darren Woods) and soon hires another (Tuomas Hiltunen). Meanwhile, Keith Cerny makes a sudden departure as CEO of the Dallas Opera.

**The Arboretum gets a major overhaul.** We love the Dallas Arboretum anyway, but its new A Tasteful Place pavilion and garden has really expanded its mission and improved its grounds.

**Neil deGrasse Tyson explains it all for you.** The rock star astronomer's two-and-a-half hour apparently impromptu lecture about the universe, including us peons here on earth and how we think, was the most compelling educational event of the year. (And he's coming back with a new show on Jan. 18!)

**Gay North Texas-based ice skater wins bronze at U.S. Nationals.** Timothy LeDuc and his skating partner Ashley Cain won bronze in pairs skating in January, and continue to make inroads in international competition.

**The North Texas theater community says "#MeToo."** TheaterJones.com breaks

a major story about Lee Trull — a longtime theater professional with ties to the Dallas Theater Center, Kitchen Dog Theater, Stage West and more — about sexual predation over years, and he is promptly disavowed and/or dismissed from his assignments. And word has it the scandal — as in Hollywood and Washington — is only beginning.

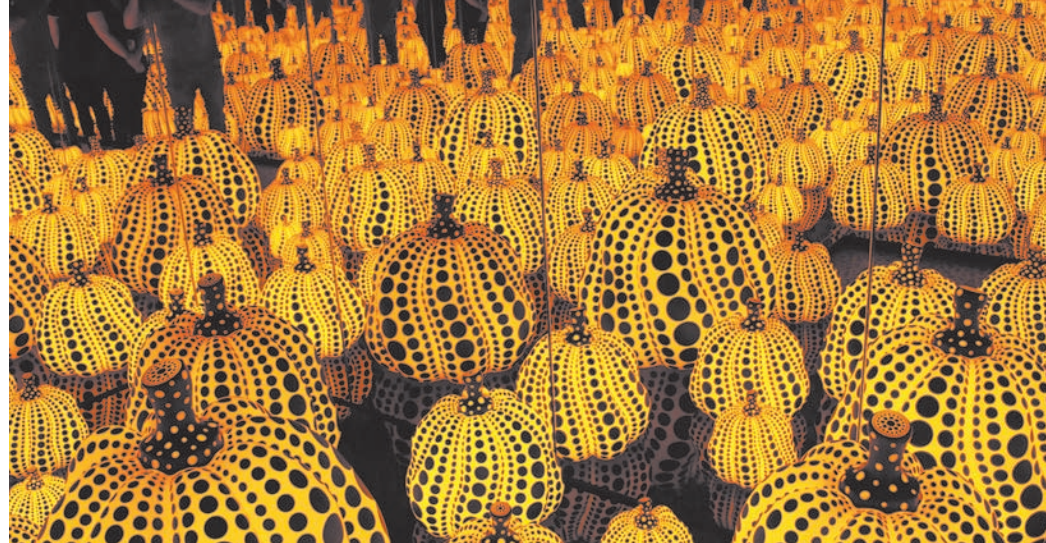
**Rene Moreno, the peerless stage director, dies at 57.** For the local theater community, the loss was incalculable.

**Within a span of three days (Dec. 25–28, 2016), the world lost George Michael, Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds.** And the gayverse seemed a little emptier.

**George Michael's legacy.** The former Dallas resident left us his final project, a compelling autobiographical documentary (*George Michael: Freedom*), and his former partner, Kenny Goss, brought an amazing new painting by legendary artist Damien Hirst to Dallas for auction, netting a mint for charity.

**Dallas gay Pride parade gets its first name sponsor.** Gay-inclusive craft beer-maker Lakewood Brewing Co. raises a glass for diversity.

**The BSA slowly joins the human race.** After allowing gay leaders, the Irving-based Boy Scouts of America



announced a position permitting trans members, as well as girls, to join its ranks. Welcome to the new millennium! (P.S. It's 17 years old.)

**Kevin Spacey and Bryan Singer prove sex allegations aren't exclusively hetero.** Allegations of unwanted sexual advances by both the actor and the director (who together made *The Usual Suspects* and *Superman Returns*) opened the debate from woman-only allegations to same-sex claims. And Spacey also came out.

**Theater director Derek Whitener is brutally bashed, and his colleagues rally in support.** The attack outside of Target on the out theater professional triggered a massive upswell in support that em-

boldened the entire theater community to stand up for its own.

**The Resource Center gets its first-ever straight president.** Deborah McMurray proves serving the community crosses gender-identity lines.

**The Katy Trail crosses the road to let you get to the other side.** The extension opens, finally connecting the 3.5 mile running, walking and biking trail with Mockingbird Station on the east side of North Central Expressway.

**Lee Park changes its name back to Oak Lawn Park.** With the statue of namesake Robert E. Lee removed, why not? Arlington Hall remains the same, despite its association with the confederate general. ■

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## Combat missions

Spielberg takes on the White House in 'The Post;' Cooper goes native in 'Hostiles'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

*The Post.* Full disclosure: It's difficult to be immersed in the field of journalism and not react almost instinctually to a movie like *The Post*, which painstakingly, soberly but generously portrays the occupation of newsgathering not merely as a job, but a mission fraught with ethical ambiguity, personal sacrifice and hard-to-admit logrolling of competing forces: What do you report, and when? Are your sources scamming you or deceived themselves? Will what you say have unexpected consequences that could lay a heavy moral burden on you, but is the truth worth it?

These are issues that plague all journalists... or did, until the Breitbarts and Fox-Newses and AlternativeFacts purveyors turned the respected field of reportage into a hashtag for "fake news" and bullying demagoguery. To some of us, the job still matters, even though it's much, much harder to do nowadays.

But *The Post*, the holiday prestige picture consequentially and magnificently presented by director Steven Spielberg, shows how these concerns lurked over one of the preeminent media companies of the

last 50 years, no matter what our current Commander-in-Cheetoh tweets. In the late 1960s, the Washington Post was little more than a local paper whose city just happened to be the seat of federal government. But the Graham family that owned it wanted to expand its reach, hiring a promising editor name Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks) to compete on a national level with the likes of the Old Gray Lady, the austere New York Times.

When Phil Graham committed suicide, ownership of the Post passed to his widow, Kay (Meryl Streep), a savvy socialite still trapped in an era where women were expected to stay in the bedroom and out of the boardroom. Kay, though, needed to assert her authority during a tumultuous week in the summer of 1971, when, in an effort to raise capital, the Post planned an initial public offering just as a story crossed its desk: the release of documents that came to be known as The Pentagon Papers, an exhaustive series of memos over decades that, in short, revealed that the Vietnam War was unwinnable for the U.S., and higher-ups in government knew it all along. It was political dynamite, at a time when lying to the American people still meant something and Executive Branch abuse of authority caused consternation in the voting booth. The New York Times broke the story, and was under attack from the White House to silence the reporting; the Post obtained the same

Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks, seated) considers a story that could rock the White House in 'The Post,' above; A cavalry captain (Christian Bale) escorts a widow (Rosamund Pike) across dangerous territory in 'Hostiles,' opposite.



information, though, so Bradlee (as the editor invested in uncovering news) and Kay (as the ultimate arbiter of what her publication could endure legally and financially) were saddled with deciding what to do: Stand up for the First Amendment, or risk imprisonment and possible ruin.

As with *Apollo 13*, *The Post* can't make a secret out of *what* they decided; it can only tell the inside story and provide the emotional impact of being in the room when it was happening.

Like *Spotlight* a few years back and movies like *All the President's Men* from a generation ago, *The Post* has the studied, dour authority of folks handling the journalistic equivalent of nitroglycerin, fully aware that their choices will resonate beyond the pages of the morning's broadsheet. Spielberg invests the film with thriller-like tension set within the walls of power, not the battlefield. Xerox machines become conspirators; running to the corner newsstand at dawn to smack down quarters and read the first edition has the texture of an era passing us by. (I'm old enough to remember routinely washing newsprint from my hands; I bet a lot of you reading this have no idea what that even means.)

Streep and Hanks, uniting for the first time in a movie, are perfectly cast (Streep is a magician who has moved from the

pinched naïf of her earliest films to the patrician grande dame of acting without missing a beat), but Spielberg's brilliance can also be seen in the casting of actors often associated with comedy (David Cross, Bob Odenkirk) in straight roles that they handle excellently. He takes you into the newsroom and the halls of Washington where the real decisions are made and poses the conundrum: What would you do? It's not as easy to answer as you might think.

But while *The Post* is the most engaging and hopeful movie of the year, it is also one of the saddest. It's difficult not to watch as these serious people debate serious matters and not wonder if the torch has passed to SEO, click-bait, native advertising, advertorial and partisan shouting. We know good journalism is still happening; *The Post* makes you realize, though, that there was a time when citizens really cared about journalism.

**Hostiles.** Scott Cooper is a master at making competent, sincere, solidly good films that just don't wow you. His first big success, *Crazy Heart*, won Jeff Bridges an overdue Oscar, but its story of a washed up country music star getting his life back together felt clichéd, familiar, safe. Cooper moved on to a different genre (crime dra-



ma) with *Out of the Furnace* and *Black Mass*, and, having exhausted those tropes, now tackles yet another genre — the Western.

*Hostiles* is fiction that plays as if it could be fact. In 1892, a serious army captain named Blocker (Christian Bale, yet again disappearing into a role) with a distaste for the Indians he has fought against is inexplicably assigned to escort a captured Cheyenne chief (Wes Studi) from Colorado to his ancestral lands in Wyoming. (It's a road movie with horses and arrows!) Of course, Blocker hates the chief and all his people; of course, by the end they are allies, even friends, and Blocker sees the peaceful nature of the Cheyenne, as well as the antagonism of the white men invading

their territory. ("I have seen the enemy, and he is us" might well have been typed on every page of the script in invisible ink.) Cooper isn't all that subtle in showing the brutality of the Comanche... and the equal sadism of the cavalry — each side would call the other "a hostile" ... and both sides would be correct.

It's predictable as Cooper's movies tend to be, but, as acknowledged, he is a capable director, and *Hostiles* overflows with beautiful vistas, solid character performances (not just from Bale and Studi, but Rosamund Pike and Rory Cochrane) and visceral gunfights. As expected, it cleaves to the elements of the form, but it does so reliably and effectively. ■

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**Thursday 01.11  
— Sunday 03.04**

**Theatre Too presents its last-ever production of  
'I Love You, You're Perfect' (no, seriously!)**

London had *The Mousetrap*. Off-Broadway had *The Fantasticks*. And Dallas has *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Actually, make that one also a "had." Like those other cities with shows that seemed to run forever, the romantic musical revue from out librettist Joe DiPietro and composer Jimmy Roberts has been a staple on the North Texas theater scene for nearly two decades — Theatre Too (the smaller space at Theatre 3) has presented the show on 17 prior occasions. But this 18th will be, we are assured, the last ... and they are going out in style. B.J. Cleveland returns as director with a cast including Janelle Lutz, Aaron Green, Greg Hullett and Liz J. Millea. And on Valentine's Day, the production moves upstairs to the mainstage for a one-night-only special edition featuring a slew of returning cast members from all 18 years of the show.

**DEETS:** Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**LIFE+STYLE**

**best bets**

**Friday 01.05 —  
Sunday 01.21**

**Chinese dance troupe  
Shen Yun returns to multiple  
North Texas venues**

The Chinese dance company Shen Yun Performing Arts celebrates 5,000 years of its native country's rich heritage... only no one in China can see it. But you're in North Texas, darn it, and you have plenty of chances — it will be performed at the Winspear Opera House, Fair Park Music Hall and Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall at numerous recitals now through Jan. 21.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St., Jan. 5–15. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Jan. 8–10. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave., Jan. 13–21. Tickets and schedules for all venues at ShenYun.com/Dallas.



**Wednesday 01.10 —  
Saturday 02.03**

**Second Thought launches  
season with 'Hillary and Clinton'**

A woman named Hillary is running for president, but her campaign seems stalled. She has a husband named Bill. The play is called *Hillary and Clinton*. Sound familiar? Well it is... and it isn't. Playwright Lucas Hnath (a recent Tony nominee for *A Doll's House Part 2*) created this fictional 2016 play about an alternative universe of political intrigue... but it has never seemed more relevant. Stormi Demerson and Barry Nash star in this first show of Second Thought Theatre's 2018 season.

**DEETS:** Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus., 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

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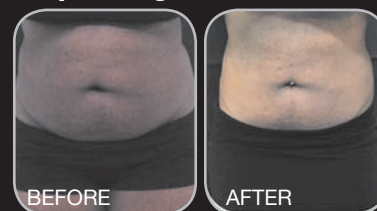
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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Fade.** Lucia, a Mexican novelist, gets a job as a TV writer and realizes she has more in common with the cleaning crew than her fellow scribes in this comic drama from Tanya Saracho. *Final weekend.* Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre 2400 Flora St. [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).

**A Minor Case of Murder.** A world premiere Living Black-and-White production from Pegasus Theatre, following the antics of inept detective Harry Hunsacker as he solves a crime on New Years' Eve 1933. Directed by Michael Serrecchia. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Jan. 28. [PegasusTheatre.org](http://PegasusTheatre.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 Saturday. [Theatre-Britain.com](http://Theatre-Britain.com).

#### DANCE

**Shen Yun Performing Arts.** The Chinese dance company performs at several venues across North Texas. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St., Jan. 5-15. Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave., Jan. 13-21. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Jan. 8-10. [ShenYun.com/dallas](http://ShenYun.com/dallas).

#### FINE ART

**Sopheap Pich.** The Cambodian sculptor's work, including the massive *Rang Phnom Flower*, on display at Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. *Final week.* [CrowCollection.org](http://CrowCollection.org).

**Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony.** The Nasher presents this exhibition of Sachs' reworking of Japanese traditional tea service. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. *Final week.* [NasherSculptureCenter.org](http://NasherSculptureCenter.org).

**Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins.** The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 25. [DMA.org](http://DMA.org)

### FRIDAY 01.05

#### COMMUNITY

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

### SATURDAY 01.06

#### COMMUNITY

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

### TUESDAY 01.09

#### FILM

**Dark Passage.** One of the memorable screen pairings of Bogart and Bacall, a film noir about a man convicted of murder trying to prove his innocence. Directed by Delmer Daves. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY 01.10

#### THEATER

**Hillary and Clinton.** A woman named Hillary with a husband named Bill is running for president of the United States in this fictional work by playwright Lucas Hnath (*The Christians, Red Speedo, A Doll's House Part 2*). Opens Second Thought's 2018 season. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Jan. 10-Feb. 3 (in previews through Jan. 11). [2TT.co](http://2TT.co).

### THURSDAY 01.11

#### THEATER

**I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.** The 18th (and final) production from Theatre Too of this musical revue about romance. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Jan. 11-March 4 (in previews through Jan. 12). [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

#### CABARET

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

### FRIDAY 01.12

#### THEATER

**Glengarry Glen Ross.** The new theater company Imprint Theatreworks opens its inaugural season with this Pulitzer Prize-winner about cutthroat real estate salesmen. The cast includes Kevin Moore and Lon Barrera. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Jan. 12-27. [ImprintTheatreworks.org](http://ImprintTheatreworks.org).

## this week's solution

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■ BOOKS From Page 15

## NONFICTION

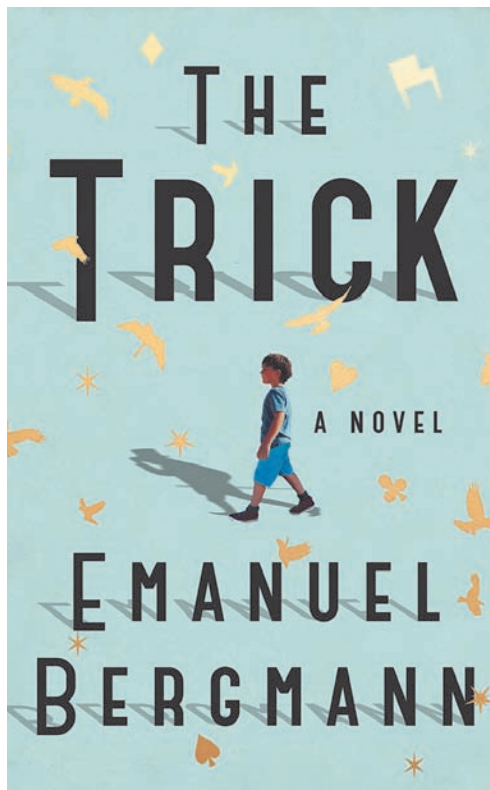
Have you ever wondered where your feet have been? That may be an odd question, until you've read *The Ground Beneath Us* by Paul Bogard. Indeed, this book is about dirt but that's not all: you'll read what that dirt consists of, what else is down there, how scientists find fossils and remains, what keeps our ground stable (or doesn't) and what comes from what's below.

There never seems to be an end to the ubiquitous Hollywood biography, but *Hank & Jim: The Fifty-Year Friendship of Henry Fonda and James Stewart* by Scott Eyman is a keeper. It's warm and funny, but also very sad and poignant. This book will give you lots of insight, not only to these two stars and their families, but also how Hollywood used to work, back in its heyday.

For the reader who loves a cheer-worthy story, *Never Caught* by Erica Armstrong Dumbar is the story of Oney, who was owned by George Washington. Through a series of laws, Washington tried to keep her enslaved but she was smarter than he thought. Not only did she escape, but she stayed free right beneath his nose. It's a tale that will make you outraged, but it'll also amaze you.

Here's a surprise: *Scores* by Michael D. Blutrich. It's the true story of a gay man who ran his New York City nightclub with help from the Italian mafia. When he was arrested for something totally unrelated, he decided to work with authorities to shut the mob down. Just a little bit dangerous? Yep, and a rompish can't-miss, too.

Another pleasant surprise was *The Long*



*Haul* by Finn Murphy. It's a slice-of-life look at over-the-road trucking, including some of those kinds of stories you'd ask a trucker, if you could. For the curious, it's a must-have.

## KID-LIT

Just three of them: With bullying in the news, your child will want to read *Dirt* by Denise Gosliner Orenstein — especially if she's an animal lover. This novel is about a little girl who lives in poverty and thus is essentially invisible. She's okay with that, until her father falls ill and goes to the hospital and she's alone. Then she finds a filthy, matted pony who won't go home. What happens next will captivate any 7-to-12-year-old.

*The Song from Somewhere Else* by A.F. Harrold, illustrated by Levi Pinfold is another book with bullying as its theme. It's the story of a little girl who befriends a friendless boy from school... but that doesn't make her very popular. Get this book for your older-elementary-school-to-early-middle-schooler, but read it yourself first. You'll love it, too.

And finally, *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera is a tale of two teenage boys that will die today. Death-Cast has told them so — and so, what will they do with their final day? There's fun in this book, a few laughs, a bit of surprise romance, and a tale that will make anyone 14 and older think about living life to the fullest.

And there you are — a pile o' books to get you started for the new year. Season's readings!

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

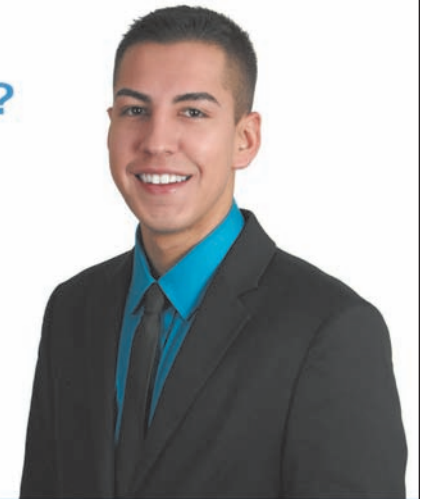
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# Cassie Nova

Cassie fan-girls out on 'Star Wars'

Happy New Year, everybody. I hope you all have the 2018 you deserve. That means if you are a shitty person, I hope you have a shitty year; if you are sweetheart and treat people with kindness and decency, then I hope you have a freakin' awesome year. If you made a resolution, I hope you have the will power to see it through, for at least a few months.

My resolution — more a wish, really — is that everyone else gains a bunch of weight. That way, I seem like I am killing it on my *real* New Year/New Me bullshit thing I have planned. I am going to listen to Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" every day for motivation. Time to make a change! I think I am going to give up appetizers when I go out to eat. Baby steps, ya know.

Where all of my *Star Wars* fans at? If you have not seen *The Last Jedi*, please stop reading now. I am going to talk about spoilers and stuff so you have been warned.

I was recently accused of being such a *Star Wars* fan that I was brainwashed into loving the movies even if they were awful. There is a hint of truth to that, but it's not about brainwashing. I just love the stories and characters so much that I have an emotional connection to all of the movies and I always will. That being said, *The Last Jedi* was not my favorite in the series, though I still loved it.

Here are a few things about the new movie

that irked me. First, I love me some Leia. From princess to commander, I don't care, I love her. But did they *really* shoot her into outer space? And then she didn't die, so she "forced" (or Skywalked?) her way back onto the ship? That scene annoyed me — just fuck all science. (Yes I know in the entire movie's world *everything* is fiction and very little could hold up to actual science.) I know there could never be an explosion with fire in space, but something about that scene took it too far. I kind of thought they were going to let her die to let us say bye to Leia/Carrie Fisher but nope, she lives... onscreen.

Next is Kylo Ren. I love Adam Driver; he is ugly-hot and gives off this big dick vibe that makes me moist. But Oh My Gaaa he sounded like an entitled bitchy millennial throughout that movie. You are supposed to be some force-wielding badass; act like it and quit whining. And what the fuck is up with Snope? Who the hell is he? Why is his face so messed up? If he is such a motherfucker that he can use the Dark Side to know Kylo Ren's every thought, why can't he tell Kylo is about to cut him in half. You suck, Snope. At least Darth Vader, Darth Maul and Lord Dooku had presence — hell even the Emperor seemed like a ninja compared to Snope. I think I hated Snope more than Jar Jar Binks. Meesa loathed that guy!

All of that being said, I still can't wait to go see it again. I loved the casino on Cantonica. I loved the underlying "save the animals" theme. I want a porg and wish they were real. I got goosebumps when the kid at the end used the force to move the broom. The gold dice from the Millennium Falcon made my heart jump. Lit-



tle things that made me nostalgic and hopeful. You can pick apart every movie ever made but I will follow these characters and these worlds till the day I die... maybe even after.

Anyhoo, back to the real world. Let's dish out some advice.

*Dearest Cassie, For Christmas, I put a lot of thought and heart into getting my boyfriend a gift, which he loved, but all he got me was an Amazon gift card. He said it was so I could buy myself whatever I wanted. Seems like a cop out. It makes me think he doesn't like me enough to put any thought into what to get me. Should I be mad? Thanks, Kyle.*

Dear Kyle, Bitch, at least he got you a gift!

If he didn't like you, he probably wouldn't have gotten you that. Seriously though, not everyone is good at gift-giving. Unless you have a clear vision of what you want to get someone, it's easy to second-guess yourself into settling for something that is good enough. I get what you are saying, and if he knows you well enough he should be able to find something he knows you will like.

But give the guy a break. Let him know that next time a gift-giving holiday comes around, you want him to put more thought into it. But then don't be a cunt if you hate what he gets you. It's about giving, not receiving blah blah blah. Good luck, Cassie.

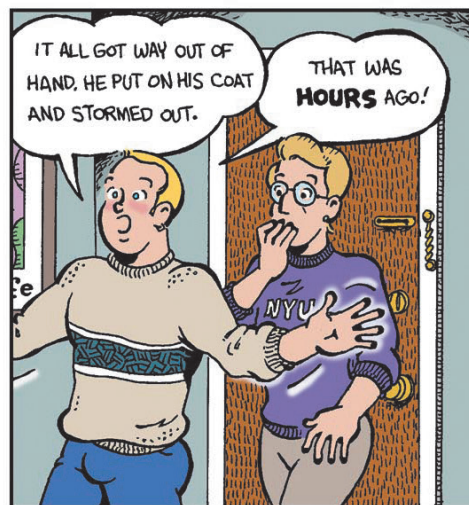
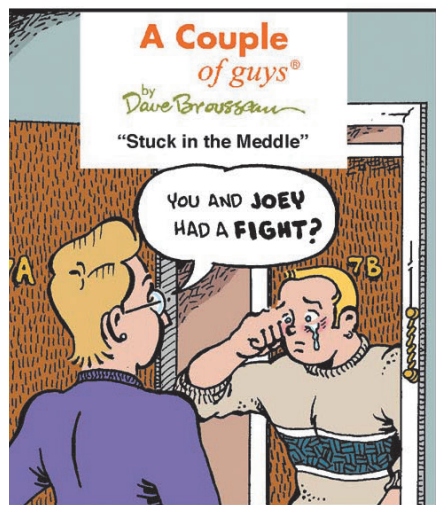
*Dearest Cassie, I have a close friend that is constantly in need of something. He is always short on his rent and needs help from his friends to pay it. He apparently has the worst luck because he is constantly complaining that someone has stolen money out of his wallet yet is out all the time buying drinks. It's strange — he will be out all weekend, but come Monday he complains that someone has stolen all of his money. His electricity is turned off every other month, and so is his cell phone. Between myself and other friends in our group, we have lent him thousands. We know we will never see that money, but I don't know what to do now. I don't want to see him end up on the streets, but I am sick of feeling responsible and feeling used by him. What would you do in my situation? Thank you ...*

Dear dot dot dot, You need to toughen up and tell that bitch "no." You are his friend, not his parent. He is not your responsibility. It is time for him to grow up. If he knows he can always rely on y'all to help him out and pay his bills, why would he change? It sounds like he is using you all and playing you like a fiddle.

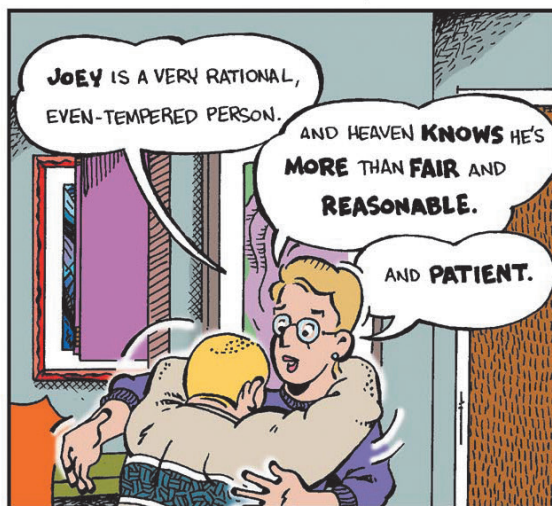
I get that you care about your friend, but you have got to put a stop to any and all financial help you are giving to him. He needs to keep his ass at home and save his money. It sounds to me like he may have a drug or alcohol problem. If that is the case, encourage him to seek help with that. Stop allowing yourself to be used. Sometimes the best thing you can do for a friend is walk away. Let him sink or swim. Be his friend, be his emotional support — not his ATM. Good luck!

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

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



www.facebook.com/acoupleofguys



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# New Years Eve

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Jan. 5–11**:

- **Alexandre's:** *Girls' Night Out* with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **DJ Eliz** on Saturday. **K-Marie** sings *Broadway* on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** *Will & Grace* watch party on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** *Celebration of life potluck* for **Mike Swinney** at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** *Sunday Funday* at the Dallas Eagle from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** *Cassie's Freak Show* at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Marty's Live:** *Chanel Champagne* hosts *Showcase* on Monday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** *Miss Gay USofA*, *USofA Classic* and *USofA Newcomer* honoring **Rocky Tacoma**, **Porsche Paris** and **Edna Jean Robinson** at 3 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** *Tuesday Tease* at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **TMC:** *The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays* at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** *Karaoke with Will* from 9 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** *Showtunes* at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

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





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Smiling staff at Woody's



"Hold me closer Tony Danza" — Kathy and the gang at Sue Ellen's



Mindy and Bella snuggle up at Sue Ellen's





Friends out for fun on The Strip



Julia and Kruger at Alexandre's



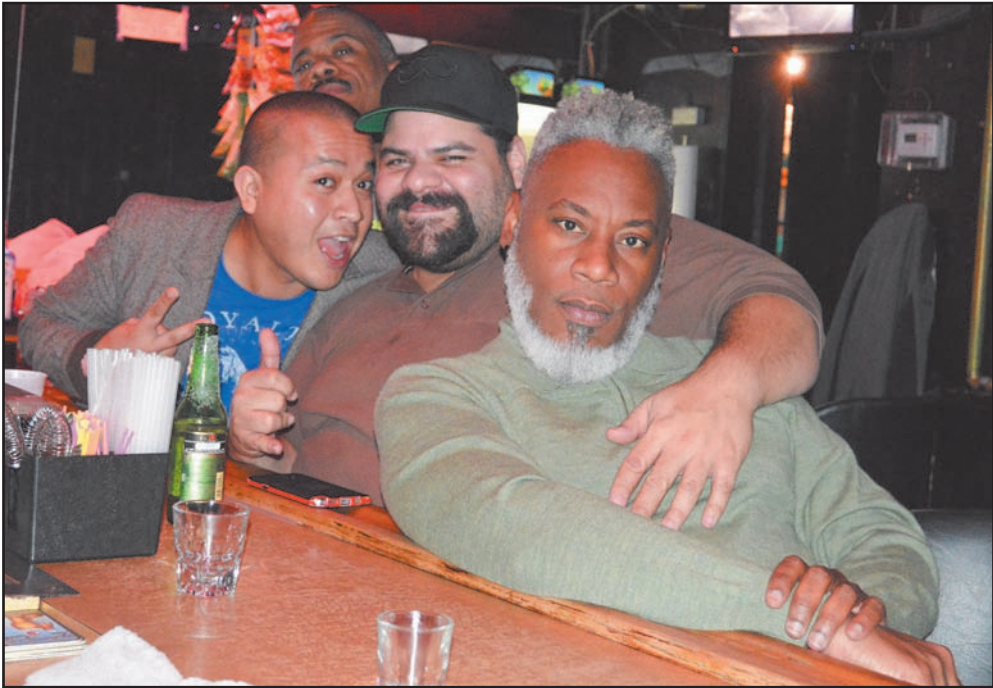
Bubba is ready to serve at Italia Express



Guys' night out at The Hidden Door



Gregolas and Sam on The Strip



Buddies at the bar at The Hidden Door



Happy staff at Havana's



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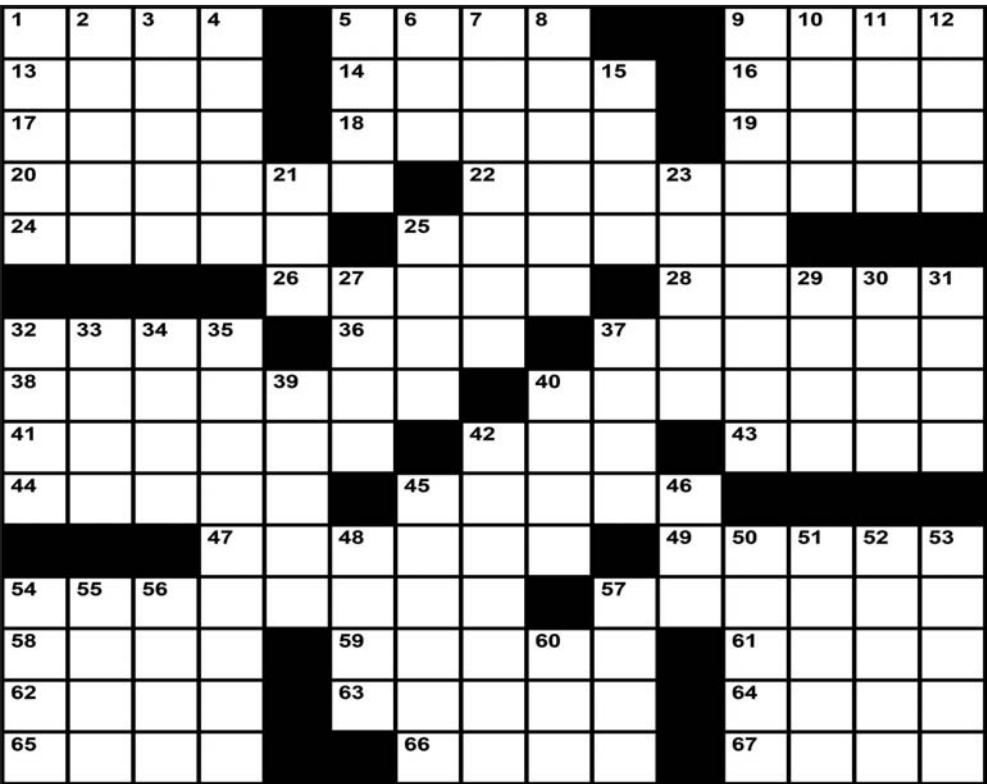
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## MarketPlace





# LGBTQ-J

Solution on Page 23

**Across**

1 Prepares to shoot off

5 *Project Runway* judge Michael

9 Broadway scenery chewers

13 Ballet move

14 Cuddly creatures of Endor

16 Click it to go to AfterEllen.com

17 Fairy tale bad guy

18 "Fiddle-\_\_\_!" (Scarlett's saying)

19 Pronoun for King James

20 New Queer Cinema pioneer Todd

22 *The Fall of America* author Allen

24 Antigay crusader Bryant

25 Take care of

26 Visitors at lesbianation.com

28 Gay cultural values, e.g.

32 Peril for Patty Sheehan

36 Hems and haws

37 Oral zinger

38 Billy of *American Horror Story*

40 I Love Dick creator Jill

41 It may cream your face when you bite it

42 *Argo* employer

43 Miss, to Mauresmo

44 \_\_\_ Ste. Marie, Mich.

45 Network of *Wedding Wars*

47 Makes up

49 Ass-kissers' responses

54 LGBTQ rights activist Jazz

57 Like the people in this puzzle whose clues are starred

58 Glenn, in *Fatal Attraction*

59 1971 Jane Fonda movie

61 Bishop's *Creep* \_\_\_

62 Title for Edna or Judi

63 Evita's married name

64 At no time, in verse

65 Mireille of *World War Z*

66 *Out in Left Field* host Goldberg

67 Verdon, who played Lola

21 La mer, to Debussy

23 Like Shirley MacLaine's magnolias

25 HI, once

27 He may have crystal balls

29 Poem of 22-Across

30 Anal alternative

31 Lid problem

32 Links athletic supporters

33 Affluent, to Lorca

34 Sometime defender of gay rts.

35 Units in Alexander's army

37 Thoroughfare with yellow bricks

39 Untouchable target

40 Homophobia and such

42 Pause in Dickinson's "I'm nobody! Who are you?"

45 Avoided going straight

46 Look in a gay bar

48 Peeling fruits for soldiers, e.g.

50 Georgetown Hoyas' coach Patrick

51 Muscle Mary's pride

52 Makeup maker Lauder

53 Like a clipped sheep

54 Green stones material

55 Zip

56 DeGeneres' *Finding* \_\_\_

57 Malone of *Life as a House*

60 Amount of bricks

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