

# dallasvoice

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## Love, Equality-style

Fundraiser benefits  
Equality Texas

by James Russell, Page 8



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

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Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith.  
Photo by Tammye Nash; design by  
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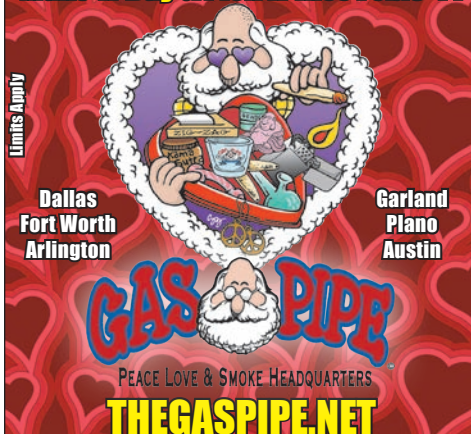


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Monica Greene

### The new Spice Girls take over Cedar Social

It's been five years since Monica Greene — the respected restaurateur who popularized authentic Mexican cuisine at her signature Uptown restaurant Ciudad, as well as her Tex-Mexy Deep Ellum staple Aca y Alla — has had a freestanding restaurant in Dallas. It's been a year and half since Leann Berry — possibly North Texas' most respected bartender and mixologist, especially known for her facility with spicy tequila drinks — left as bar manager at Uptown's Komali. And chef Anastacia Quinones — AQ to her friends, who got her chops at Komali before an extended stint at the now-defunct Kitchen LTO, as well leading the team as Oddfellows — has longed to work with former colleague Berry and personal hero Greene.

In other words, these three power women, known for their bold flavors on the plate, in the glass and in the room, have been itching to form a triumvirate and foodies across North Texas welcome it.

So now, it's happening.

Greene, Quinones and Berry are taking over the restaurant Cedar Social in the popular Lamar Street entertainment district just south of Downtown. They finalized the purchase and have already closed the restaurant down while a remodel — of the space and of the menu and bar — takes place. But it won't be for long. Berry tells me they have set Valentine's Day as the target date for the opening.

Expect a lot of Mexican-inspired food (AQ is first-generation American; Greene was born in Mexico) as well as some interesting drink options which will, of course, include margaritas.

The name will remain and the redo with enliven the space. Then things will open anew within about two weeks.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

### Scarborough RenFest sets job faire

Need a little extra cash? Want something to do with your weekends for a couple of months? Do you just like playing dress-up?

If you answer yes to any of these questions then you will want to check out the Scarborough Renaissance Festival job faire, Saturday, Feb. 24, at the festival's main offices at 2511 FM 66 in Waxahachie.

SRF is looking for "outgoing, energetic people 14 and older" for a variety of jobs. Many of the positions require costuming.

Interviews will take place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for part-time/seasonal positions during the eight weekends of the 2018 festival, which runs Saturdays, Sundays and Memorial Day Monday from April 7 through May 28, as well as Student Days on Tuesday, May 22.

Details and applications are available online at [SRFestival.com](http://SRFestival.com).

— Tammye Nash

### Gonzalez kicks off campaign

With just a month to go until the primary that will determine who will represent House District 104, Jessica Gonzalez kicked off her campaign Wednesday night, Jan. 31, to unseat Rep Roberto Alonzo.

Gonzalez was surrounded by a group of supporters that included the Dallas City Council's Four Amigos — Scott Griggs, Philip Kingston, Adam Medrano and Omar Narvaez.

Gonzalez said she would stand up for Democratic values and wanted to serve this particular district, because it was where she grew up.

— David Taffet

### Crosby, Etheridge to perform for East Texas candidate

David Crosby and Melissa Etheridge will perform at Scout Bar near Houston on Feb. 5 in a fundraiser for Democratic Congressional candidate Dayna Steele.

Steele is running for the Democratic nomination for the 36th Congressional District, east of Houston.

Tickets are \$101 and VIP tickets \$1,000 and are available online at [ScoutBar.com](http://ScoutBar.com). Scout Bar is at 18307 Egret Bay Blvd., near the Johnson Space Center in Clear Lake, south of Houston.

— David Taffet

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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.

## FEBRUARY

### • Feb. 3: Mardi Gras

Viva Dallas Burlesque presents Mardi Gras with beads, booze, kings day cake, and burlesque hosted by Patti Le Plae Safe. From 8-11 p.m. at 1350 Manufacturing St. #120.

### • Feb. 3: Dynamic Duets 6

United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Dynamic Duets 6 benefiting AIDS Interfaith Network. From 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

### • Feb. 3: Firedancers Soup'R Bowl Cook-Off

Delicious chilis, soups, stews, chowders, and anything you can serve from a crockpot and eat with a spoon from 2-4 p.m. The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave.

• **Feb. 3: DFW Sisters Roman Holiday**  
Join Sister Addy Rawl aka Randall Brown for her Novice project for DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence featuring DJ C-Rail at 10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

### • Feb. 4: Pizza & Politics

LGBT issues are on the agenda at the YPC of Dallas 32nd congressional district candidates forum at 12:30 p.m. at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road.

### • Feb. 6: Mid-Cities Democrats

Gubernatorial forum and chili dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Local UAW 218, 98 W. Hurst Blvd., Hurst. \$25. [info@midcitiesdemocrats.com](mailto:info@midcitiesdemocrats.com).

### • Feb. 6: DFW LGBT Grief Support Group

For people who have lost a same-sex spouse at 6:45 p.m. at Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 6: Outlast Youth: 2018 Vision & Equip

Discussion of where Outlast Youth is headed, what resources are available to address LGBT youth homelessness and how to get involved from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Promise House, 224. W. Page Ave.

### • Feb. 8: PFLAG Dallas

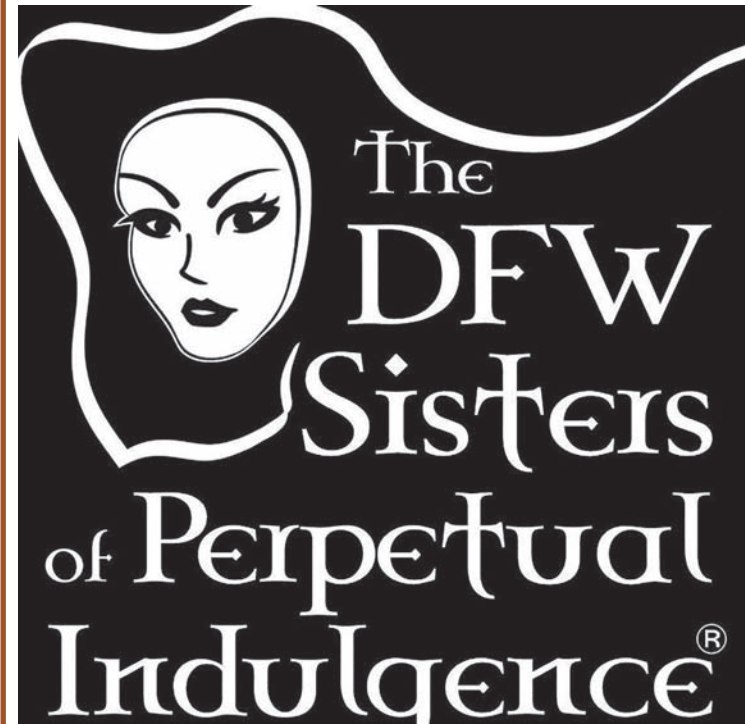
PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. [PFLAGDallas@outlook.com](mailto:PFLAGDallas@outlook.com).

### • Feb. 9: DFW Pride Happy Hour

DFW Pride Happy Hour, an LGBT-plus community sponsored by Texas Instruments, meets for a special event hosted by Strategic Alliance, the SMU Cox School of Business LGBTQ and allies organization, from 5-8 p.m. at the Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. For information call 214-768-2516. Includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, and free parking on the two lower levels of the museum's parking garage.

**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.

• **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 counselor **Candy Marcum**; **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);



Sister Addy Rawl of the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence presents the Roman Holiday Party, her Novice project, Saturday at Dallas Eagle. See listings for details.

### • Feb. 10: Aroused Impulse Group Dallas presented

"Aroused — The Art of Safer Sex," a party celebrating Impulse Group Dallas' anniversary and International Condom Day, from 9 p.m.-midnight at Deep Ellum Art Co., 3200 Commerce St., Dallas. Tickets are \$15 in advance, available at Aroused. [evenbrite.com](http://evenbrite.com), and \$20 at the door. Rapid HIV testing will be available, and there will be complimentary cocktails.

### • Feb. 10: Love Equality

Benefit for Equality Texas at 8 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd Suite 107. Tickets are \$50 in advance, available at [tinyurl.com/yauumagh](http://tinyurl.com/yauumagh). Tickets at the door are \$75, Sponsorships start a \$500 and are available at [tinyurl.com/ya57oesf](http://tinyurl.com/ya57oesf).

### • 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. 15: Miss CEBA Sweetheart

Caven Employees Benevolence Association presents the Miss CEBA Sweetheart

Pageant, hosted by Asia O'Hara at The Rose Room in S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Pageant begins at 10:30 p.m. Winners and first two runners-up will receive cash prizes and more; for information or to apply as a contestant, visit [CEBADallas.org](http://CEBADallas.org).

### • 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.

### • Feb. 21: Conspire — "Considering Matthew Shepherd"

Berklee College of Music presents the Dallas debut of vocal ensemble Conspire, performing Considering Matthew Shepherd, a three-part oratorio composed by Craig Hella Johnson, at 7:30 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets are available online at [DMA.org](http://DMA.org).



## MARCH

### • March 2: Bianca Del Rio

Performance at 8 p.m. at Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St.

### • March 3: Toast to Life-Bollywood

Steve Kemble hosts and DJ Jennifer Miller entertains. Info to follow.

### • March 3: Carousel of Love

Garza Productions presents "Carousel of Love: A Magical Night of Cabaret Extravaganza," at the Margo Jones Theatre in Fair Park, at Magnolia Lounge, 1121 First Ave. Tickets are \$27 and parking is free. All proceeds will benefit a charitable organization in North Texas This is an adult-only event. For information visit Facebook.com/GarzaProductionsDFW.

### • 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 6: Miss Red Pageant

From 8-11:30 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

### • 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 11: Mr. and Miss North Texas Pride Pageant

### • 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.

## pet of the week / OLIVE OYL

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# A Valentine to equality

New event benefits Equality Texas

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

A year ago, Steve Atkinson of Dallas, along with other members of the newly-formed Dallas steering committee for Equality Texas, wanted a fresh way to promote the statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy group.

That idea birthed the upcoming Valentine's Day-themed event, Love Equality, taking place Saturday, Feb. 10.

"It's a big, fun party," Atkinson explained, "and a celebration of our community and relationships."

It is also, to be clear, a fundraiser. In fact, Atkinson and event co-chair Wesley Bailey want Love Equality to become an annual fundraiser. Think Black Tie Dinner, the annual benefit for the Human Rights Campaign, but more laidback — at least for now.

Hosting the event is just one of the tasks of the local steering committee of roughly 25 members.

The Dallas group is one of four active Equality Texas steering committees in the state. According to Collin Acock, the organization's chief development officer, other committees are active in Amarillo, Austin and Houston. And, he added, "Our board members are starting steering committees in Brownsville, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Laredo and San Antonio."

Each steering committee is tasked with raising awareness of the organization in their respective communities through events like Love Equality. The Dallas committee includes a mix of veteran activists like Atkinson as well as newer ones like Bailey, much to Atkinson's delight.

"They bring different spheres of influence," Atkinson said of the board members who are a bit newer to activism, as well as their own skill sets.

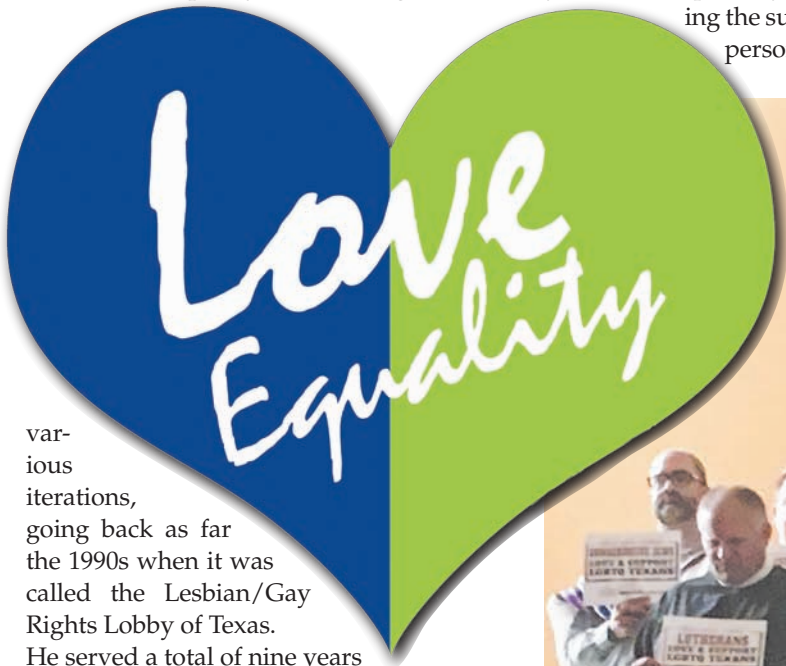
Bailey, a Dallas real estate lawyer who Atkinson called "fantastic," got involved through a colleague. After Donald Trump's election in 2016, Bailey was shocked and concerned, and he suddenly felt the urge to get involved despite never having served in a leadership role with a politically active group like Equality Texas.

Bailey did not just join the committee, he

also willingly co-chairs the events committee, another first for him.

"I'm not an events person. But I'm anal and organized. I can stay within a budget," he explained.

Atkinson, on the other hand, has been involved with Equality Texas throughout its



various iterations, going back as far the 1990s when it was called the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. He served a total of nine years on the organization's board, two of those as chair.

When he stepped down from that board, Atkinson got involved with the Human Rights Campaign, serving in various board leadership roles. But he could not stay away from Equality Texas for long. He currently serves as vice chair of the Equality Texas Foundation, the organization's non-profit arm in charge of education and outreach, not legislative lobbying.

"I'm really excited to be back. The group is close to my heart," Atkinson said. "I'm excited about the future of the organization."

Equality Texas Chief Executive Officer Chuck Smith noted they hired their first full-time Dallas staff member, Education and Resource Coordinator Rachel Gonzales. With her daughter Libby, who is trans, Gonzales may most recently be known as one of the many faces of opposition to the so-called bathroom bill restricting bathroom access for transgender individuals last session. The bill died, but the organization hired Gonzales, whose background involves developing awareness of various communities.

"We are excited about our board presence in Dallas and what it means for Equality Texas. With Love Equality, we have grown

to the point of holding an annual event that we hope will activate our supporters and engage new champions for LGBTQ dignity, respect, and rights in Texas," Smith said.

Atkinson is thrilled about the organization's growth even beyond Dallas. "Equality Texas is the primary organization deserving the support of every LGBT person in the state. They

are on the frontlines and on our home turf, constantly impacting our lives," he said. ■

*The Dallas steering committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Interfaith Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For more information e-mail marksadlek@gmail.com.*

Equality Texas supporters inside the Texas Capitol building during the 2017 special session.





# Responding to Trump's State of the Union

*Dallas Voice has compiled responses from North Texas elected officials and candidates, and from GLAAD, to Trump's State of the Union on Monday, Jan. 30. This is not a comprehensive list; it is simply responses sent to the Voice.*

## From John Duncan

Monday night, President Trump declared in the State of the Union that he and his administration have been "making America great again for all Americans," and he called for unity in Washington. However, the Trump Administration continues to fail to treat all Americans with dignity and respect or to follow through on any promises of unity.

In his response to the State of the Union on behalf of the Democrats, Rep. Joe Kennedy III declared that America should not be treated as a zero-sum game. As Democrats, we will "choose both" and fight, stand, protest and work for everyone.

I stand in solidarity with the Democrats who steadfastly protested President Trump last night. To the members of the House Democratic Women's Working Group, the Congressional Black Caucus and all others who vowed to hold this president accountable for his words and actions, I say, "Thank you." The all-black attire, the kente cloth, and the "Recy" and "Time's Up" pins you wore served as important reminders that we must continue to fight for true unity, inclusion and progress.

There is still much work to be done. President Trump's immigration plan supports an expensive and unnecessary border wall and puts strict limits on family reunification. America isn't about building walls between people and separating families. President Trump claims he "ended the war on beautiful, clean coal," but he fails to support renewable energy or the reduction of carbon emissions.

To truly unify as a nation that supports all, we must continue to fight for women, minorities, the LGBTQ community, immigrants and all families, workers and patients regardless of their socio-economic status.

*John Duncan is a Democratic candidate for the Texas 6th Congressional District.*

## From Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

On Transportation/Infrastructure:



Rep. Marc Veasey, left, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Almost an entire year has passed since President Trump first addressed a joint session of Congress. Yet, we are no closer now than we were then to seeing a concrete plan on how the administration plans to shore up our nation's infrastructure. The \$1.5 trillion infrastructure package that President Trump alluded to [Monday night] sounds great on its face. However, the devil is always in the details, and there is still no substitute for direct federal spending when it comes to infrastructure, especially when we are talking about helping our rural areas.

In its last report, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) estimates that there is a current infrastructure gap of \$1.5 trillion needed by 2025. The U.S. Department of Transportation also estimates that more than \$800 billion is needed today just to bring our existing roads and bridges to a state of good repair. This is serious, and our country is exposed to greater risk every single day that we do not act.

The U.S. economy relies heavily on a vast network of infrastructure to move people, goods and services. Without a robust transportation network, we are putting our nation's economy and its people at risk. The time to act is now. This administration owes it to the American people to deliver on his campaign promises to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.

### On the Economy:

Now more than ever, we need to be protecting our most vulnerable — particularly communities of color. Our economy should be working for every American, not just a select few. Yet President Trump's only major legislative accomplishment during the first session of Congress was passage of a tax bill that overwhelmingly benefits the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations. This bill will end up costing the American people at least \$1.5 trillion over

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# Tax looped hole?

H&R block responds quickly after employee refuses to prepare tax returns for married lesbian couple

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When faced recently with an employee who refused to do tax returns for a married lesbian couple, H&R Block reacted immediately: "That's in violation of our policy and everything we stand for," H&R Block spokesperson Susan Waldron said when contacted about the complaint. "We serve every client."

Jamee Lynne Archer said she has been using H&R Block to file her taxes for seven years. But when she and her new wife went to the Arlington office on South Cooper Street recently to file their returns, the tax preparer refused to work with the couple.

Archer said she had an appointment with a specific H&R Block representative when she and her wife went into the office. But that representative was still working with a previous client when they arrived, so another representative, Nguyen Bui, met with them instead. But when Archer explained to him that they were married in 2017 and so they needed to file a joint return this time, she said Bui responded, "Well you guys can't file together."

Archer knew better: Not only could they file jointly, the law requires them to file jointly.

Before making the appointment, Archer had done her research, discovering that a married couple must file either a joint return or file as "married, filing separately," generally the most expensive way to file taxes.

But Bui was having not of that. "Well, it is just not right," Archer said he told them. "It [filing jointly] should only be for normal couples."

Because Archer and her wife have children, Bui said they should file separately, with each filing as head of household. But Archer knew that wasn't right. She knew two people can't each deduct the same children.

Had they simply trusted his advise, she

noted, the IRS could have assessed penalties against them.

H&R Block policies don't allow such anti-LGBT discrimination. And all employees should know this, because all employees are required to sign a "Corporate Policies and Procedures Acknowledgement" page that begins, "I understand that I am expected to read and comply with the policies and procedures outlined in the Corporate Human Resources Policies and Procedures."

Two paragraphs later is the H&R Block Corporate Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, which includes the statement, "I understand that discrimination and harassment based upon legally-protected characteristics including race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability and veteran status is strictly prohibited."

Although it's not on the page posted on the internet, H&R Block policy also includes gender identity and expression, Waldron said.

Although Arlington has no nondiscrimination ordinances, the company's policy also includes any additional categories covered by local law. The Dallas City Charter, for example, includes the categories in H&R Block's policies as well as "genetic characteristics."

Archer, a nurse, said she couldn't imagine someone in her profession deciding they just didn't like a patient's sexual orientation or race or gender identity and refusing to treat that person. As unimaginable as that is, though, the Department of Health and Human Services opened a new office in its civil rights division this month that allows just that sort of discrimination to occur. The new Conscience and Religious Freedom



Jamee Lynne and Constance Archer with their children. (Photo courtesy Jamee Archer)

Division allows healthcare professionals to claim a religious exemption from helping all patients.

Doctors, nurses, paramedics and others providing healthcare and related services like hospital admissions may refuse to treat a person because that person has had an abortion in the past or is transgender, gay or lesbian, if they have religious objections. In other words, the person who refused to do his or her job can claim discrimination if he or she is fired after allowing a person needing treatment to die.

Tax law, however, has no religious exemption, according to independent CPA Alan Levi. Marital status for that year's tax return is determined on Dec. 31, he said, and if a couple is married, there are only two ways to file.

"You file as married filing jointly or married filing separately," Levi said. "Single head of household is not available" to a legally-married person.

H&R Block is required to file all returns

electronically. Levi said if he had prepared the return with each claiming the same children, the first return would go through and the second return claiming the same child would be rejected because of the repeated social security number.

If amended tax reforms had to be filed later, the couple could be assessed a penalty if they owed more than they did on the separate returns. Any penalty would have been paid by H&R Block since it was the tax preparer who filed incorrect forms. But amending their returns resulting in additional taxes makes the couple more likely to be a target for future audits.

Tax law has no religious loopholes, Levi reiterated.

For legal reasons, Waldron said she couldn't comment on the current employment status of the tax preparer that refused to file a joint return for the Archers. She did say, however, that the company has "taken appropriate action," and she offered to "make it right" with the Archers. ■



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# communityvoices

## On being childless and the passage of time



Gary Bellomy  
Contributing Columnist

Being childless throughout one's entire life somewhat distorts the awareness of the passage of time. As a parent, one has the inherent opportunity of counting off the years as the children grow up and make their way in the world. Personally, I lack that firm grasp on time's progression that others often possess. My childlessness, together with a couple of other life markers, distorts this part of reality for me.

I am a gay man and a Baby Boomer — both of which embody the essence of Peter Pan.

Like every other adult, I am heavily burdened with responsibility. I've had to make sacrifices and concessions in both my professional and private lives.

Along the way, I've fallen in love; I've made lasting friends; I've known goodness, and I've been bitterly disappointed. I've buried parents and lovers. I have experienced profound joy and bone crushing grief. I have persevered. I have been forced to be an adult in every way possible.

But it's artifice; I am a child. I vowed to never grow up, and so far, I haven't. I'm great at pretending. With the dog years that have gathered on my physicality, I present a stern demeanor these days. But scratch the surface and you'll find all the childish traits and the magical thinking.

I am unrepentant. This alone is proof of my inability to engage in parenting.

Looking back through this prism, I was amazed when my peers had children that began high school. I remember the first time one began her infusive grandmother pride tirade — I was appalled. Still in my 30s, I took it as an affront. I couldn't be of an age to be a grandparent!

I didn't have children that might have helped me focus on my own mother's decline. To me, she was always the willing partner-in-crime that loved my husbands, my parties and being included.

Hell, I barely understood how to interact with my own niece and nephew. The uncle duties fell upon my husband, who was better suited for the role. Both the female child and the male child grew up physically active. I cringed with fear at the idea these drooling, athletic darlings would expect me to throw them a ball!

So, there it is: I'm that sissy boy too afraid to engage in sports. That is true. The sissy boy himself grew up in a world that assumed a male child was born with primal

knowledge of all games. I never received instructions in any sport from my parents or teachers. A rulebook could have made those years easier.

Beyond my deficiencies, I grew to despise sports,

sperm donor. But even that far back, there were policies that banned gay men from participation. And after I became HIV-positive, lost one husband and married another, I was told by my doctor to give up any hope for child-rearing, because I would be leaving behind orphans and an over-burdened spouse.

It was sound advice at the time.

That probability and my realistic assessment of my potential parenting skills put that struggle to rest. I have finally aged out



particularly football, which pushed every other high school pursuit to the back seat in importance. The minimal education doled out in that era was even waylaid by everyone's insistence on concentrating instead on that week's big game. Most teachers back then wanted to see your spirit ribbon, not your homework assignment.

Eventually, though, the onward march of time, became more realistic. Kids grew up. Colleges were chosen. More of my friends became grandparents, and I accepted it. I even grew to understand why they were proud. It just wasn't my life. I was the casual observer, and that was okay.

Was there a time when I wanted kids? When I was younger, I thought about it, sure. I had stretches of time when I did some soul searching and researched the possibility.

In my 20s, pre-AIDS era, I did some outreach to women's clinics about being a

of that most basic human drive to procreate. Although each spring I do still engage in massive womb-envy that only acquiring a newborn fur baby will satiate. At that point, most years, my "other" tosses on the Adult Hat and overrides my manic insistence that we need "one more."

I offer all of this in defense of my most recent aversion to parenthood. I am absolutely horrified when I encounter the adult offspring of my contemporaries. These children are now in their mid-40s, and in many the aging process appears accelerated. It throws me off track!

I know that I will find a way to adjust eventually. But for the moment, I am utterly baffled by the time passages in this life I inhabit.

Gary Bellomy is a longtime Dallas activist working on issues of LGBT equality, HIV/AIDS services and family violence prevention. He is a war resister and a Trump resister.





UNION, From Page 9

the next decade, a heavy burden that future generations will be forced to bear for decades to come.

#### On Immigration:

I am deeply disappointed in the president's tone towards immigrants and the disregard to how they contribute to our nation. President Trump seems to forget that this country's history has been about tearing down walls, not building them up. The fate of 1.8 million young people should not be considered a bargaining chip for the president to use so that he can permanently reconfigure our legal immigration system by eliminating the diversity lottery and family reunification.

President Trump should not use the hopes and dreams of thousands of DACA recipients within my district as a tool to erect an expensive wall. For too long, these young people have only known the United States as their home. Congress must swiftly pass a bill to protect these individuals without damaging our reputation abroad as a place where dreams of a better life can come true."

#### On Healthcare:

President Trump signed the Republican Tax bill into law on Dec. 22, 2017. His tax bill is just the beginning of the Republicans' plan to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. The individual health care mandate, which is the primary enforcement mechanism under the ACA for individuals, will be repealed beginning in 2019. As a direct result of this repeal, more than 10 million Americans can reasonably expect to experience increased premiums. Ultimately, this will result in fewer Americans having health care coverage for their families.

Within the next year alone, Medicare will be cut by \$25 billion — effectively placing the burden of these tax cuts on the backs of our senior citizens. Sadly, Republicans in Congress and President Trump have demonstrated once again that they are willing to put the interests of a select few [the wealthy] ahead of the greater good of the American people. This bill will have a devastating impact on future generations for decades to come. We must continue to find a way to work with Republicans in a bipartisan manner to come up with real policy solutions to repair the Affordable Care Act and ensure all Americans have access to affordable and effective healthcare.

*Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson represents the Texas 30th Congressional District.*

#### From Sarah Kate Ellis

Managing to read a pre-written speech off a teleprompter does not make one pres-

idential or lend a single ounce of legitimacy to Trump's anti-LGBTQ agenda. Trump has spent the past year targeting vulnerable communities and surrounding himself with anti-black, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, anti-women and anti-LGBTQ activists with the goal of exacerbating discrimination and erasing LGBTQ Americans from the fabric of this nation.

*Sarah Kate Ellis is president and CEO of GLAAD, the world's largest LGBT media advocacy organization.*

#### From Rep. Marc Veasey

The American Dream that the president tried to inspire all families to achieve is undermined by the very policies he so proudly claims as victories. From making Americans less safe on the job to stacking the deck against them to line the pockets of Wall Street and CEOs, he's failed to put hardworking families first. It's hard to believe that the president can stand before Congress and emphasize family values when he's trying to tear apart the families of our nation's DREAMers. I will continue to do everything I can to keep the Trump administration from deporting mothers,

fathers, sisters, and brothers from the only country they have ever known and make sure they can continue contributing to our communities.

While I want to remain open-minded that we can reach across the aisle on an issue like infrastructure, any plan that comes before Congress needs to actually put Americans to work. The reality is teleprompter Trump and Twitter Trump have proven to be two different people. The version Democrats want to work with cannot go back on his word or take back the promises he's made tonight to the American people. ■

*Rep. Marc Veasey represents the Texas 33rd Congressional District.*

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# Dan Levy is da Schitt

The gay co-creator and co-star of the campy Netflix comedy 'Schitt's Creek' on love, humor and family

If you ever happen to bump into Dan Levy, thank him for *Schitt's Creek*, his super-bingeable comedic riff on a once-affluent family forced to live like fish out of Perrier in the podunk Canadian town the show is named after. And thank him, he who created and developed the series — which premiered in 2015 on Pop TV (and can also be seen on Netflix) — for willfully remaining single only to craft and deliver more rib-tickling bons mots for the show's fourth (and most affectionate) season, which is out now. Thank him again, while you're at it, because the 34-year-old former MTV Canada co-host has somehow found the time to create yet another queer-themed project that he tells me is in the works.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. For now, we have David Rose (Levy), replete with his color-averse apparel and drop-crotch pants, general distaste for people, and his animated and generally disgusted facial contortions worn like memes in the making. Johnny, David's perpetually on-edge father, is played by real-life father and *American Pie* and *Best in Show* actor Eugene Levy, who also serves as the comedy's co-creator. Together they've developed both a comedic knockout and a rich what-if satire of Kardashian life. *Schitt's Creek* also stars Catherine O'Hara, as the deliciously histrionic wig-loving family matriarch and former soap star Moira, and Annie Murphy as Alexis, the self-involved-but-somehow-sweet daughter who once argued with David over who would get murdered first in their sketchy new motel digs.

Via an allegorical wine conversation with hotel co-owner Stevie Budd (Emily Hampshire) presented in the show's first season, *Schitt's Creek* expertly tackled David's pansexuality ("I do drink red wine, but I also drink white wine; I like the wine, not the label"). Then there was a throuple,

and now there's Patrick (Noah Reid), a yin-yang match so absolutely perfect for David — notice all the ways he challenges David, especially with the potential mortification of this season's open-mike night at the store they co-own together — you'd be heartbroken if they didn't last.

Read on as Levy freewheeled his way through our conversation about living vicariously through David and Patrick's loving relationship, opening the minds of parents with queer kids, and how David has influenced him to "to try to live my life more out loud."

— Chris Azzopardi

**Dallas Voice: As a gay man, how personally rewarding is it to you to have one of the healthiest, most normal relationships on the show be between two queer men?**

Dan Levy: You know, all I really can do is think back to a time when I didn't think being myself was ever going to be a possibility. It's such a full circle moment for me right now to be writing this love story for them and to look back at it and just remember that there was a time in my life when I honestly didn't think that would be a possibility for myself. So, it's incredible. And to have the network support to really be able to tell the kinds of stories that I want to tell with it and not have any interference is rare and a privilege. When

you have that kind of freedom, there's also a certain level of responsibility to try and tell the most authentic story you possibly can. I think with these two characters I didn't want to reduce it to caricature. I didn't want it to be some kind of lesson that we're trying to ram down someone's throat. It was really about presenting a story of two people who have found love with each other.

**You've made very deliberate choices regarding the treatment of David's sexuality both as it relates to him but also as it relates to the other people in his life.** Personally, I never learn when someone is trying to teach me something. I learn through experience, and presenting complete tolerance and acceptance across the board is the only sce-

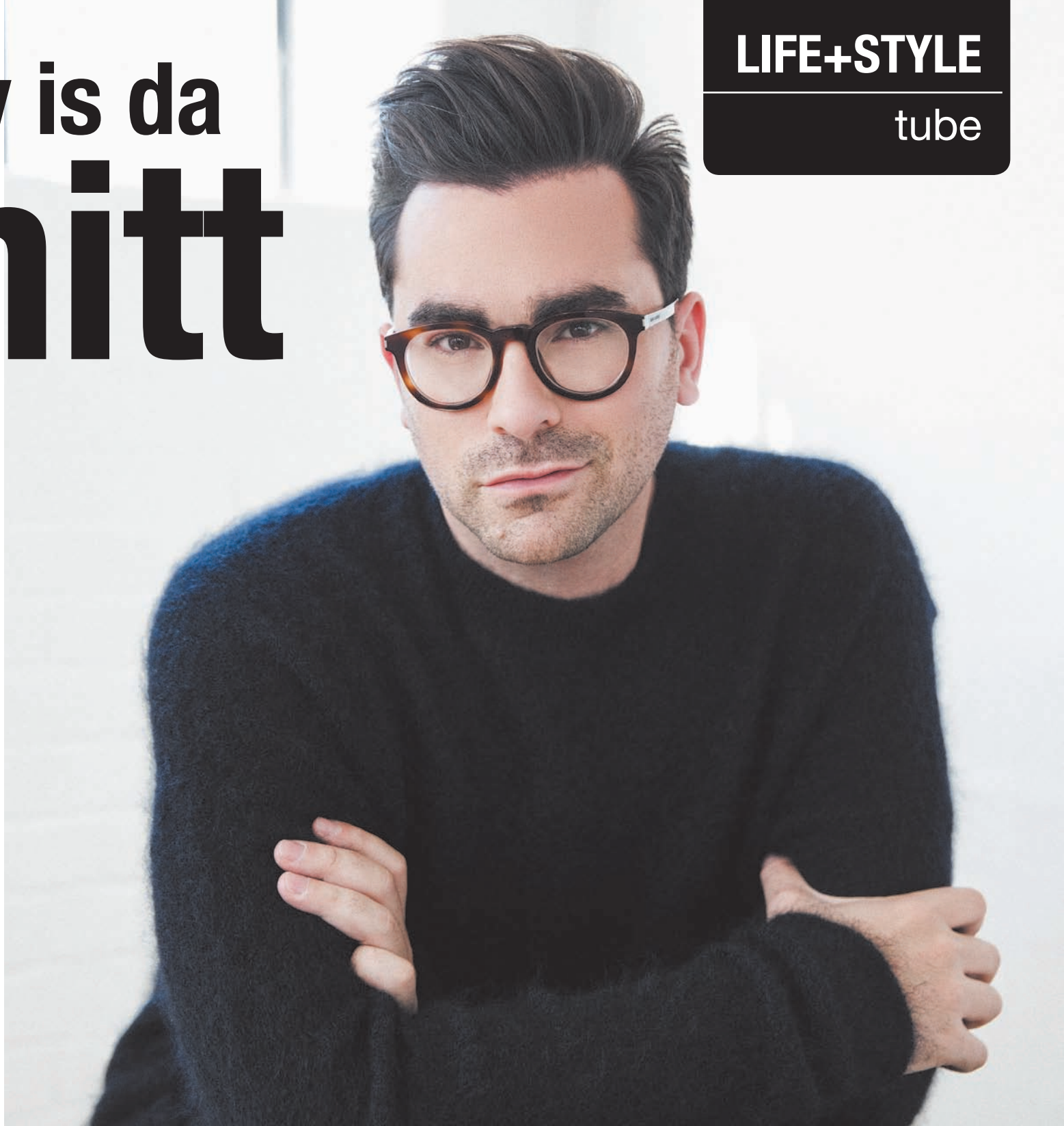


Photo courtesy Vanessa Fein



nario that should be existing right now. I want to show this without trying to make it feel like an educational lesson for people who don't quite understand it.

The letters that I've gotten from families who are more conservative-leaning and who have never quite understood the fight — to have letters from these people explaining that they've never had a point of entry before, that was the most amazing and eye-opening part of this whole conversation. In a way, it opened my eyes to understanding them a little bit better and understanding that sometimes I look at it with, "How can I not see the bigotry?" But at the same time, if people do not know what they do not know, all you can try to do is guide them with a gentle hand.

**You guided Larry King with a gentle hand last year when you were on *Larry King Now* to talk about the show. It was really interesting to watch the dynamic between you and Larry as you explained pansexuality to him — that must've opened up a lot of eyes who hadn't even heard the word "pansexual."** It's about having conversations. We should have more of them. Talk to people instead of coming at things with bats swinging — and don't get me wrong, there are times when that is absolutely necessary. But I think when it comes to the world of sexuality, which is ever-changing, try to have a conversation with people and lead them down the path of acceptance by way of setting an example.

I've had great conversations with people on the streets who've come up and told me that when they came out of the closet their parents didn't quite understand them, but by watching the show and seeing how accepting Johnny and Moira Rose are to their kids — the fact that it was never a question — allows them to feel safer, allows them to feel like, "Oh, why am I having such a problem with it when these people who I've come to know and love are not asking the same questions that I'm asking? Why am I asking them then?" And it's changed the conversation in their house. You can't ask for a more rewarding takeaway from the experience.

**Did you need characters like them when you were younger?** It's interesting, because it's still kind of an ongoing conversation on the show in terms of Patrick being fresh out of the closet and exploring what that means. There's fear on either side. And, yes, I grew up knowing that my parents ultimately would not have a problem with it, but when you're going through that and you're internalizing that much fear you get to a point where you ask yourself, "Well, maybe they will have a problem with it; maybe I'm misreading the situation." There are so many questions that I think we're forced to ask ourselves because we're alone in that process.

**Which show with queer themes did you gravitate toward most as you were coming into your own?** I guess it would be *Will & Grace*. I think *Will & Grace* really opened up the conversation. *My So-Called Life* affected me more just because I was such a huge fan

of the show. I think we've come a long way, and there's still a long way to go, but all you can really do is seize the opportunities that are given to you and try and make good with the power that TV can offer.

**I watched the sixth episode of the new season, "Open Mic," and it was the first time that I ugly cried watching the show. In fact, until then, I hadn't cried listening to Tina Turner's "Simply the Best" either. When is the last time you serenaded a man?** Never! Because the intention is always to keep them! [That scene] all stems from a conversation I had with a friend of mine who was seeing someone who chose to sing to them and it really just disrupted the whole momentum of their relationship because, unlike Noah who has such a beautiful voice, this person did not, and it just didn't work out in the end. But I knew Noah could sing, and I knew he was a musician going into it, so it was always my intention to somehow find a way for him to sing.

You know, I don't love writing dialogue where people are talking about their feelings. I would much rather bring some fun, interesting and dynamic ways of showing that kind of feeling, and the idea that David would be so off-put and embarrassed by his partner choosing to sing in front of a room full of people — and then to know that Noah has this voice, and that in the end we could use this as a device to really cement them as a couple in ways that I don't think they even expected — was really special.

And I had always had this fondness for the lyrics for that song, and for a long time whenever it came on at a bar or something, I would always be the person turning to someone saying, "The lyrics to this song are *really* beautiful." When you're listening to the Tina Turner version it's just a pop song and people are like, "Yeah, I know, it's fine," and it's like, "No, no, no — the lyrics are *really* beautiful." So, when we thought of this idea, it was the *only* option, this idea that Patrick would sort of tease David with a flashy pop song but make it his own.

**What is so lovely about that scene is it really subverts stereotypes about small town small-mindedness — the townies are there, and they're celebrating Patrick and David's love for each other right along with them.** It was our intention from the get-go to never make the town the butt of the joke and to always make the family sort of the joke. We wanted the town to always be this safety net for these people, and for them to always feel safe there.

**Well, it gave me lots of hope.** Oh, good! That's what we're aiming to do, to be just a bit of a safe place for people for 21 minutes and 50 seconds a week.

**Where does the line between Dan Levy and David Rose start and end?** Uh, there's a big one! It's interesting. Yeah, I would kill for his confidence.

**I'd kill for some of his style. Every time I**

■ SCHITT Next Page

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■ SCHITT From Previous Page

watch him I'm like, "Clearly, I need more black and I need more flow." [Laughs] It's funny, 'cause in promoting the show we talked to someone who was going through some of the outfits and it was sort of a "yea" or "nay" situation and it came upon the outfit that we wear when we're doing the number [in Episode 3, "Asbestos Fest"]. I'm in, like, black with a baby's breath sweater with matching pants and the person decided to "nay" the outfit, and I had to gently tell her that those pants were actually my own from home! Generally speaking, I wouldn't wear it with a matching top, but I did wear it at one point in my real life.

I think I've always been excited about fashion, so to be able to style the show with our costume designer really just scratches that itch for me. As a character, though, I don't think we're alike. I think some of our neuroses probably exist — the lack of patience [laughs] — but you know, it's funny, you start the first season of the show and these people are, on paper at least, really hard pills to swallow, and the intention of the show was to always make the takeaway "love doesn't cost any money" and these people will slowly start to realize that. My takeaway from David has been to try to live my life more out loud because I think his unabashedness when it comes to just being authentically himself at all times is something I wish I employed in my own life.

**But you do seem to be much more open about your sexuality than before the show.** I think when you start out it's a really tough track to navigate. You can be really comfortable in your personal life, but the professional world is a very different beast. When gossip blogs were outing people — I really do feel like it's such a tender thing; it's a very sensitive thing for people, and there should be no pressure to do anything until you're ready. I do know that there's obligation, obviously, that comes with being someone who's in the public eye and being able to use that, but for me it was just that you grow into yourself and you grow into what you want to share with people publicly. Because yeah, I do think that conversation is a tricky one, and actually, I am sort of naturally quite private and don't like attention. (Laughs)

**Last year your co-star Emily Hampshire, who plays Stevie, told me men expect her to be Stevie on dates and that she feels bad she's not.** I know. She always says that: "Stevie's so cool ... and then I show up." [Laughs]

**Do you have an example of that happening to you?** Being a disappointment to people? Yes! ... No — I think David has brought out the best in me as a person in terms of what I want to stand for and the kinds of things I want to fight for. I also have realized in ways that I never did before the reach that this show has to actually affect change in people's homes, and you know, you have to run with that and you have to wave that flag proudly because there's a lot of opposition out there. You have to constantly make sure that your megaphone is being heard over all the noise, which is why it was such a thrill for GLAAD to sponsor our L.A. event and to participate in the fundraising campaign. And again, you get to see people coming out of the woodwork and people of all different sort of backgrounds sending love to David and Patrick. It's incredible to watch.

**They've instilled hope that, maybe, people aren't just looking for a quickie on Grindr.** Exactly.

**It's refreshing.** Yeah, it's been really fun to play, and in a way, I often wonder if I wrote that as almost some kind of personal manifestation. If you write it, they will come.

**Are they coming?** Not at the moment, but hopefully soon. It's all so tricky because we put so much of our times into this show and, for me, it's a 13-month commitment, so it's hard to be open and available to someone in a relationship when my eye will always tend to wander back to the show. It's finding the balance. But yeah ... one day.

**Are you interested in creating or playing more realistic portrayals of queerness that cut beyond caricature in the way David has?** Of course, yeah. There is a new show that I'm working on right now with quite an amazing queer character that I quite love. I wish I could tell you more about it. It's pretty fun, and if it all works out we will talk again and I will give you the lowdown. But yes, if all goes to plan then there might be a new show coming out in the next couple of years.

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# Race & marriage

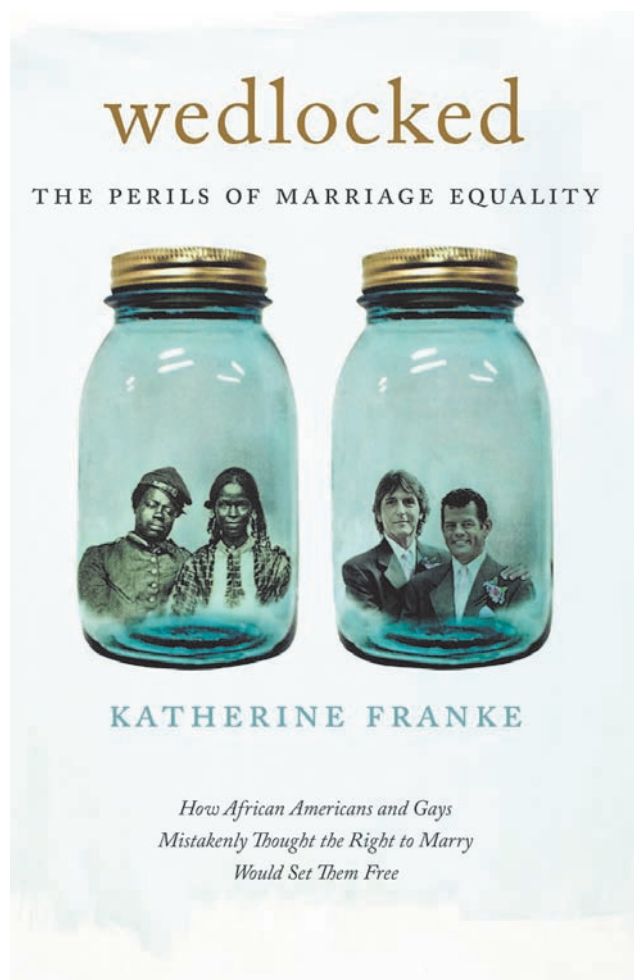
The path to marriage equality is more complicated than you think

**Wedlocked: The Perils of Marriage Equality** by Katherine Franke (New York University Press 2015) \$26; 275 pp.

When President George Washington died, his will stipulated that his slaves be given their freedom when his wife, Martha, who inherited them, passed. This, says Katherine Franke, accidentally “put a price on” Martha’s head, but moreover, it was an acknowledgment on Washington’s part that shows one complexity of slavery: marriage between the Washington slaves meant that freeing *his* without freeing *hers* could break up families. This issue, and others before and after the Civil War, illustrates how “many of the experiences of African Americans held out a message to the same-sex marriage movement today.”

Throughout American history, Franke says, the “rules” of marriage for non-white or gay individuals hid a double-edged sword of enhanced rights and enforced matrimonial laws complicated by pre-Emancipation fluidity of relationships and looser definitions of “marriage” within African-American communities then; and by somewhat of a lack of awareness in the LGBT community, complicated by different state laws now. The bottom line that’s often not emphasized: when a couple marries, the state suddenly “acquires a legal interest in your relationship.” Now, as then, marriage may also be legally “forced” on a couple: in the case of former slaves, to gain benefits in wartime; for LGBT couples, in the continuation of health benefits. Even after all that, marriage, as Franke reminds readers, has never offered a guarantee from discrimination.

Is it possible, Franke asks, that “the inability to marry creates a kind of freedom from the ‘bonds’ of marriage?” At a time when the rates of marriage in the black community are low and LGBT parents are demanding new legal definitions of “family,” will marriage become antiquated? Or is the “freedom” to marry just another way for society to meddle in the lives of



marginalized individuals?

Surely, few readers would consider *Wedlocked* a fun weekend read. It’s not exactly what you’d take to the beach with you. Fun, no. Interesting, absolutely.

It’s also quite thought-provoking. Author Katherine Franke is, in part, director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia University, and in this book, she asks hard questions between jaw-dropping history lessons and proof that marriage is both burden and boon to anyone who’s not white and straight. That’s not to say that the institution is dead; instead, Franke wonders if, of all rights denied former slaves and gay individuals, marriage may’ve been the oddest choice for legal battles.

But which other right would’ve been better? The answer to that seems to be left open for discussion; indeed, readers are given much to ponder from this heavy-duty, scholarly book. Just beware that *time* is the key to opening *Wedlocked*, now in paperback. Enjoy and contemplate, but don’t be in any hurry.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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The new Jeep Wrangler heads for the hills

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

When you're clinging to the side of a mountain, hanging in peril, you better have four capable wheels beneath you. So when one redesigns the Jeep Wrangler, it better look like a Jeep and it better master trails like one. In creating the new 2018 Wrangler, current customer expectations were paramount, but it's also a lot more enticing for the less adventurous.

The larger Wrangler's shape is instantly familiar, but stylists improved aerodynamics with a faster windshield rake and canted grille. Headlamps bend the outer slots of Jeep's trademark grille as did the classic CJ's. Fender vents look cool, but minimize hood flutter. LED headlamps, running lights, foglamps and taillights imbue a modern ethos. The jacked up and nostriled Rubicon model is especially menacing.

Gone is the cloth erector set of previous generations, replaced with a choice of tops that includes a proper hardtop, available with removable front panels, but that's where generations diverge. Integrated frame rails let the softtop fold back in about 15 seconds. Add another 15 seconds



to slide off and stow the rear and side curtains. Or, choose Unlimited models with a one-touch power-opening canvas center section that reveals sky to both rows of seats. Absolutely brilliant.

Inside, designers were inspired by the CJ7's horizontal row of gauges, so they created a wide contrasting panel that connects the analog dials to round air vents and the new center console cradling Chrysler's baby-simple infotainment system. Click through icons for radio, media, climate and navigation on the touchscreen. Or use redundant buttons and knobs below. Or command by voice. Your choice.

Adding refinement, Sahara trim brings stitched dash coverings and soft-touch door panels. Rubicon models embrace red for the dash. While this may seem sacrilege for Jeep purists, you can choose heated seats and heated steering wheel. Beautiful, but Jeeps don't run on styling flourishes.

The base engine is a 3.6-liter V6 delivering 285 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. of torque, but hold your Jerry because an optional 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, assisted by a light hybrid system, manages 270 horsepower and 295 lb.-ft. of torque. A 3.0-liter diesel arrives in 2019.

Choose between a new shorter-throw 6-speed manual or 8-speed automatic transmission. Fuel economy for the V6 four-door rates 18/23-MPG city/highway.

On-road, rear axle hop and wandering steering are diminished. Launching down a rough gravel road, the suspension soaked it up more like a Grand Cherokee than classic Wrangler. The new automatic transmission added a level of calm never experienced in a Wrangler.

For those who think Jeep emasculated your beloved Wrangler, take a seat... and head for the hills. During our drive, Jeep guides plotted a course through cactus and boulders, heading straight up a mountainside. We shifted into 4Lo, locked differentials, electrically disconnected the sway bars, and gently eased up the face of Hell's rock garden, skid plates clanging away. This was accomplished in a Rubicon Unlimited with turbo4 and automatic transmission!

As assuredly as Saguaro cactus grow in Arizona, Wrangler remains true to form and mission. Purists can appreciate it for improved capability, but it can also serve as a legit family car. Power back the canvas roof and enjoy your new mountain. Prices start at \$26,995 for a two-door Sport and climbing to over \$40,000 for a four-door Rubicon Unlimited.

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# Fate of the furious



Katja (Diane Kruger) and her lawyer brace themselves for a terrorism trial in the volatile political drama 'In the Fade.'

Diane Kruger's revelatory performance steels the poignant thriller 'In the Fade'

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

It's Oscar season, which is when established celebs start the talk-show circuit ginning up sympathy for their blockbusters while indie and foreign films scramble for the kind of attention that doesn't just pad their pockets, but helps their product turn a real profit. A nomination for actress or screenplay or foreign language film can be just the ticket to sell tickets.

The German film *In the Fade* certainly had reasonable hopes at such an awards bump. It won the Golden Globe and was short-listed for the Oscars, but failed to grab any nominations. That's kind of remarkable, because Fatih Akin's politically-charged revenge drama is one of the most viscerally arresting emotional rides of the year.

We only spend a few minutes with Nuri (Numan Acar), a Turkish Kurd working as a translators in Hamburg, and his son Rocco before a terrorist's fertilizer bomb rips through Nuri's office, killing them both. The lone survivor of this small family is Katja (Diane Kruger), a white German national devastated by the murders. But her tragedy is continually multiplied as the investigation only generates more horror.

First she's met with suspicions by the police about the "innocence" of her foreign-born husband. Wasn't he a former drug runner? Was he political? Wasn't he a Muslim? Was he, in short, "asking for it"?

Writer-director Fatih Akin's compelling drama repeatedly redefines itself without ever veering afield of its basic thrust: A character study of the lengths we will go to when hatred drives others and emotion blinds our judgment. He divides the film into three segments, each of which play out as a mini-thriller. In the first, Katja deals with her turmoil of loss and accusation; in the second, she steels herself for a courtroom drama; and in the third, her despair fuels her desire for vengeance.

And at the center of all three is Kruger. I'll confess I have always thought of her as a capable actress whose abiding beauty allowed her to coast through big-budget spectacles like *Troy*, *National Treasure* and even *Inglourious Basterds*. She showed some chops in the slow-paced border mystery series *The Bridge*, but nothing really prepared me for the fierceness of her Katja. Kruger writhes in bottomless grief, eventually allowing Katja to be reckless, selfish and pitiable. She then explodes into a primal fury that's as arresting as anything you'll witness in a theater. ("Is there any other actress this year who gave as emotionally raw a performance as that one?" asked a friend who screened the movie with me. I admit I was at a loss to name one.)

While the fates of Dreamers dangle amid Washington in-fighting, *In the Fade* presents a powerful study of how anger and violence against those who are different is terrifying but also wrongheaded and pointless. The Oscar voters might not have seen it, but you still can.

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**Friday 02.02 —  
Sunday 03.04**

**'Frankenstein' creeps into the Kalita**

An insane, power-mad weirdo unleashes a creature of his creation on the world without assessing the consequences to mankind. No, I'm not talking about Steve Bannon, but Victor von Frankenstein, the poster boy for "just because you can do something doesn't mean you should." Nick Dear adapts Mary Shelley's classic gothic novel of the dangers of modernity for a production of *Frankenstein*, directed by Joel Ferrell for the Dallas Theater Center. Previews continue through Tuesday, and it officially opens on Wednesday.

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



**LIFE+STYLE**

best bets

**Saturday 02.03**

**Love, Bruce: A special cabaret and benefit for Bruce Wood Dance**

Bruce Wood Dance usually does a special fundraising cabaret and dinner, though in the past it has been called Mistletoe Magic and has taken place around Christmas. The company switched things up for 2018, with the Valentine-themed Love, Bruce — named in honor of the late founder. The cocktail party, dinner and cabaret performance includes performances by pianist/composer Joseph Thalken and singer Brent Barrett. Donna Wilhelm will be honored for her charitable work.

**DEETS:** Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 7 p.m. Tickets from \$150. [BruceWoodDance.org](http://BruceWoodDance.org).



**Friday 02.02 —  
Sunday 02.04  
Sunday 02.11**

**Del Shores continues his one-man show 'Six Characters in Search of a Play'**

As we wrote last week, writer-director-standup comic Del Shores (*Sordid Lives*, *Southern Baptist Sissies*) takes to the stage with a rare appearance as an actor for a show he wrote himself, *Six Characters in Search of a Play*. Dallas audiences are among the

first to see this cathartic one-man show, directed by Emerson Collins. The show continues through Sunday, presented by Kitchen Dog Theater, then next week moves over the Circle Theatre in Fort Worth for one performance.

**DEETS:** Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. [KitchenDogTheater.org](http://KitchenDogTheater.org). Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. [CircleTheatre.com](http://CircleTheatre.com).

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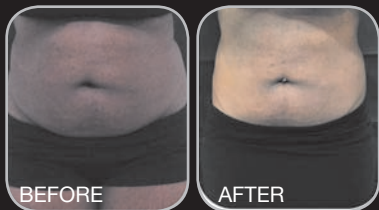
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## calendar highlights



## ARTSWEEK

### THEATER

**A Chorus Line.** A limited-run staging of the cultural sensation produced by Uptown Players. Three performances only. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Feb. 2 and 3 at 8 p.m., Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. [UptownPlayers.org](http://UptownPlayers.org).

**The Color Purple.** The story of Celie, a black woman triply disadvantaged in the early 20th century South. *Final weekend.* Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. [DallasSummerMusicals.org](http://DallasSummerMusicals.org).

**Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue.** Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 18. [WaterTowerTheatre.org](http://WaterTowerTheatre.org).

**Detroit '67.** A play by Dominique Morriseau set against the backdrop of the civil rights riots (the same profiled in last year's film *Detroit*). Jubilee Theatre. 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 25. [JubileeTheatre.org](http://JubileeTheatre.org).

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.** A new adaptation of the psychological horror story. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Feb. 11. [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

**The Gazebo.** A comedy thriller that tributes Hitchcock. Directed by Doug Miller. *Final weekend.* Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. [IrvingTheatre.org](http://IrvingTheatre.org).

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

**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. Through March 4. [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

**Like a Billion Likes.** An unpopular high school girl starts up a relationship with a gender-non-conforming boy and abuses social media

in this contemporary dark comedy. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 18. [StageWest.org](http://StageWest.org).

**Frankenstein.** A new adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic of modernity, written by Nick Dear, directed by Joel Ferrell. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Feb. 2-March 4 (in previews through Feb. 6). [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).

**Six Characters in Search of a Play.** Del Shores wrote and performs in this one-man play about the people he has met. Directed by Emerson Collins. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Feb. 2-4. [KitchDogTheater.org](http://KitchDogTheater.org).

**Small Mouth Sounds.** A new play about six strangers who have taken vows of silence and their ache to communicate. Part of the off Broadway on Flora Series. Directed by Rachel Chavkin (*The Great Comet*). Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Jan. 31-Feb. 4. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

### FINE ART

**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 02.02

### COMMUNITY

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

## SATURDAY 02.03

### 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.





Jubilee Theatre's 'Detroit '67,' pictured, is one of several plays with stories about African-Americans playing during Black History Month.

#### FUNDRAISER

**Bruce Wood Dance: Love, Bruce.** A fundraiser, dinner and cabaret performance. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 7 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

#### TUESDAY 02.06

##### FILM

**Bell, Book and Candle.** A light-hearted romantic comedy with James Stewart and Kim Novak about witchcraft — far different than their other pairing, *Vertigo*. 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 02.07

##### COMMUNITY

**First Wednesday Cedar Springs Wine Walk.** Monthly stroll through the gayborhood. Pick up a wine glass for \$10 outside the Round-Up Saloon. 6–9 p.m.

##### THEATER

**Three Sisters.** Undermain's new staging of Chekhov's classic. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Feb. 7–March 11. Undermain.org.

#### THURSDAY 02.08

##### CABARET

**Glitterbomb Denton.** Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8:00 p.m.

##### FILM

**South Asian Film Festival 2018.** Fourth annual screening of movies from India, Bangladesh and surrounding countries kicks off. Runs Feb. 8–11. For a full lineup visit DFWSAFF.com.

##### THEATER

**Thurgood.** George Stevens Jr.'s play about the pioneering lawyer. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Feb. 8–25. BishopArtsTheatre.org.

#### this week's solution

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**browse**

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

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# Cassie Nova

Cassie grabbed a boob (and she liked it)

Hello, my people! I hope life finds you well on this fine day. And today *is* a fine day — you woke up, so there's that at least. Some days I wish I was one of those always-happy, bubbly people. Truth is, I usually wanna punch their lights out.

Let me brood and be moody. That is my sweet spot.

A few weeks ago, we had an unexpected guest in the Rose Room. It was crazy. About 20 minutes before the show started, someone came backstage and said, "I think Katy Perry is sitting out in the audience in the second row." We were like, "Whatever, queen." But I decided some reconnaissance was in order. So I sent my friend Sweet Mark — we named him Sweet Mark because there are literally thousands of Marks out there and he was the nicest; BTW, there was also a Stupid Mark but he didn't like his nickname for some reason — to check. Anyhoo, Sweet Mark came back and said very plainly, "I think that is her." I was like, you *think*? She is one of the most famous pop stars out there, what do you mean you *think*? He was very unbothered by the whole situation. It was kind of hilarious. (Maybe we should rechristen him Chill Mark.)

I went to the curtain and peeped out for myself. It was definitely her, just sitting patiently, waiting for our show to start. She really is beautiful. I went back to the dressing room and said, "Bitch, that is her!" and all hell broke loose. Jenna, Krystal, Asia and Layla all went running to peek through the curtain. Apparently they

were not very discrete — she saw them looking at her and gave them a wave. To her it had to look like a drag queen totem pole peeking at her from behind the curtain.

Krystal Summers, who had already turned in a Katy Perry mix was like, nope, I am not doing a Katy Perry song with her sitting right there. Jenna Skyy, on the other hand, called and made her roommate get out of bed to bring her Katy Perry candy-themed costume. It's super cute.

Miss Perry sat there and watched the show with her group and looked like they were having a fabulous time. She tipped each girl and danced and Yaaaasssss Qweened all night.

(Side note: I later found out from the front door that she waited in line, paid cover for everyone in her group and never asked for special treatment. Security asked her to remove her sunglasses and let them go through her bag. She did not hesitate to do either. I just wanted to put that out there. She was a class act with no drama.)

I was really pleased with how respectful our audience was to her. Of course, everyone wanted to talk to her and get a selfie, but for the most part, people just left her alone. She did have security/body guards with her but they only stepped in if they needed to. Mostly she just sat there and had fun. She "Proud Mary"ed with Layla Larue and Snapchatted Jenna's "California Girl." She was a great tipper and an absolute joy to have in our audience.

The entire time she was sitting there, we were hoping and praying that she would come



backstage and meet the girls. You know the rule: If you don't get a selfie then did it even happen. That really is one of the greatest perks of being a drag queen: We meet a lot of fabulous celebrities. Lady Gaga, Lance Bass, Jordan Sparks and even Gabourey Sidibe. So I asked Katy Perry if she would come backstage to meet my girls before she left, she said, "Absolutely!"

She could not have been nicer. She complimented the show over and over. She said it was by far one of the best drag shows she has ever seen. We beamed with pride. It's always nice to get validation from someone you admire. We started taking pics and she stopped and took a picture with every person that asked. In one of our group pics I asked her if I could grab her boob. I do this stupid joke where I ask if I can grab your boob and if you say yes, I call you a slut. Before I can deliver my punchline she said, "Please!" and grabbed my hand and put it on her perfect, perky, nice

sized boob. The photo of that might be one of my most favorite things ever. The look on her face is priceless.

I have always really liked Katy Perry. I've done "I Kissed a Girl" so many times over the years, I feel like I owe her royalties. Now, I love her. Our experience with her was everything we wanted it to be. She was funny, charming and made us feel like the stars of the night. I can't say enough good things about her. Katy Perry, you rock and you are always welcome back in the Rose Room.

But now for something that has annoyed the fuck out of me since the pic of me grabbing Katy Perry's boob was posted online and in Dallas Voice. I was contacted by two young gay boys telling me I should be ashamed of myself for "violating" Katy Perry the way I did. I was preached at that women are not a man's plaything. That they are sure that one day I will be Katy Perry's #MeToo story. One of the twinks went so far as to say that I should make a public apology to Katy Perry and jump in front of this before it ruins my career.

First off, I find it funny that both of my preachers were very young, white gays. Being that long ago I myself was a young white gay, it baffles me to think they think I need them to police me. Second, just kiss my ass you little brats. And as for women, I adore them and literally have made it my job to emulate them.

The world is so messed up right now. People get offended over every little thing. People don't think about intent anymore and a rush to judge is the only driving force. There are so many actually awful things going on in this world but you wanna make me feel like I did something wrong, that I am some kind of sexual predator and that should be put on blast for an innocent boob grab. Intent! What was my intent?! Good lord. Chill out, little gays.

I admit that there are probably a lot of straight men out there that I have treated like meat. I inappropriately grab butts, crotches and trick boys into kissing me on the lips with a fake-out cheek kiss. I like to think I am trying to balance out the universe one straight boy at a time.

My intent is always to make them have a night they will never forget. Have fun with them, take them out of their comfort zone and entertain. Men have treated women like things for centuries; I feel like I am giving them a taste of their own medicine. Beware straight men, if you come to my show, you might get got!

And Katy Perry might get a boob grabbed.

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







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What's up at The Round-Up Saloon?



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Humerto and John at The Hidden Door



Hitching a ride at Woody's

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Feb. 2-8**:

- **Alexandre's: Girls' Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie sings Broadway** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes: Imperial Court Candidate Bar Crawl** at 11 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection: Imperial Court Candidate Bar Crawl** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Queen of the Rodeo** contestant show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Cowtown Leathermen** cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday and **Imperial Court** show at 6 p.m.
- **Dallas Eagle: The Boys of Babylon swimwear edition** hosted by **Lipps LaRue** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **The DFW Sisters** present **Roman Holiday** hosted by **Bear Lockdown** from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday.
- **Hidden Door: Sunday Funday.**
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Liquid Zoo: Steak night** on Monday.
- **Marty's Live: Sexcapade** features **Nicole O'hara Munro** and **Rudeboy Dallas** on Friday.
- **Pekers: Super Bowl Party** at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon: RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party** at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon: Imperial Court Candidate Bar Crawl** at 9 p.m. on Friday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar: SuperBowl Watch Party** with pre-game buffet and half-time buffet at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Daily coverage of the **Winter Games from PyongChang** starts Thursday.

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



David and Damian at The Hidden Door





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Lovey-dovey on The Strip



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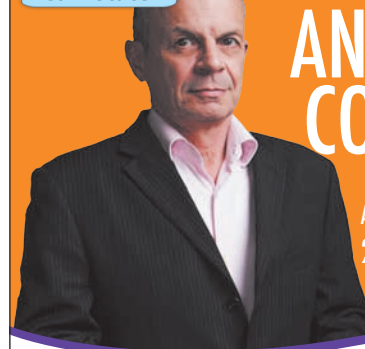
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## The Left Hand of Darkness

Solution on Page 23

### Across

- 1 Lesbos, even to straight people
- 5 Bodies of sailors
- 10 "How queer!"
- 14 Sphincter opening?
- 15 It can cut your pole
- 16 Kill, as a bill
- 17 Words from Rimbaud
- 18 Playful aquatic critter
- 19 Michelangelo's David, and such
- 20 Beginning of a quote from *The Left Hand of Darkness* author Ursula Le Guin (1929-2018)
- 23 *Guys and Dolls* co-creator Burrows
- 24 Long, to a Samurai?
- 25 Robin William's *Mork and Mindy* partner Dawber
- 26 Poke fun at
- 28 Spoke like Sparky on *South Park*
- 30 Boom Boom Room beach
- 32 Say without thinking
- 33 Org. for Dr. Susan Love
- 36 Mapplethorpe models, often
- 37 Boxers eat it on the floor
- 38 Bodies of soldiers
- 40 Cincinnati team

- 41 More of the quote with "the"
- 44 Atlantic City casino,
- 47 Blow job with a twist?
- 48 Up to, for short
- 51 In-your-face
- 53 Market tail?
- 54 Seine feeder
- 56 "What Will Mary Say" singer Johnny
- 58 Where a top puts it?
- 59 End of the quote
- 63 One that attacks a fly
- 64 Where a queen may rule
- 65 Elizabeth of *Transamerica*
- 66 Janis Joplin's "Down \_\_\_\_"
- 67 Montezuma, for example
- 68 Parker of *South Park*

### Down

- 1 "\_\_\_\_ Spartacus!"
- 2 One of Frosty's pair?
- 3 Get slick in the shower
- 4 *Showboat's* "Nobody \_\_\_\_ But Me"
- 5 Sated
- 6 Be unfaithful to
- 7 Piercing rebuke from Caesar?
- 8 Sassy kid
- 9 Aileen Wuornos' kind of killer

- 10 Porter's "Well, Did You \_\_\_\_"
- 11 Close role in *Hamlet*
- 12 Got
- 13 Deer in Maria's song
- 21 Nureyev's refusal
- 22 Guy under Hoover
- 23 *Mamma Mia!* band
- 27 Opera villain, typically
- 29 Fast food pioneer Ray
- 31 Richard Simmons, to fitness
- 33 *Corydon* author Gide
- 34 A. A. for children
- 35 One may shed this
- 38 One, to Frida
- 39 Gay Games VI site (abbr.)
- 42 Top floor
- 43 Sex appeal
- 44 Red fruit used as a vegetable.
- 45 "DeDe Dinah" singer Frankie
- 46 It's tossed off a ship
- 48 Bear or bull
- 49 Chant
- 50 Street named for writer Harper?
- 52 James Beard partner William
- 55 Roll with the punches
- 57 Felder or Teasdale
- 58 Gomer Pyle's branch
- 60 "\_\_\_\_ who?!"
- 61 Inked decoration, for short
- 62 Heady stuff



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