

# dallas voice

The Premier Media Source

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## Unlikely HERO

**Dale Hansen**  
looks back on the  
event that made  
him an iconic  
LGBT ally

by David Taffet, Page 8



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Dale Hansen at the 2014 Black Tie Dinner. Photo by Cassie Quinn.  
Design by Kevin Thompson

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## Alyssa Edwards' docu-series 'Dancing Queen' premiering on Netflix

We learned Wednesday, Aug. 22, that Dallas' own Alyssa Edwards, aka Justin Johnson, will be starring in her own "hilarious and heartfelt docu-series," to be called *Dancing Queen*, premiering globally on Netflix on Oct. 5.

The series is produced by World of Wonder Productions with executive producers Fenton Bailey, Randy Barbato, Tom Campbell, Roy Orecchio and RuPaul Charles. Alyssa herself is also a producer.

The first season will include eight 45-minute

episodes.

According to the email announcement from Netflix, the series is set in "the dancing, prancing, world of the multi-talented, multi-layered Justin Johnson — aka Drag Superstar Alyssa Edwards — as he juggles his dance life, drag life, family life and love life."

The series was filmed in Mesquite, Alyssa's hometown, and "goes behind the makeup and into the drag performer's highly competitive Beyond Belief Dance Company as he prepares a young class for an intensely competitive season."

Watching the trailer, which you can see here, it's obvious this show will be very "Alyssa." And as far

as we're concerned, that means it is going to be very entertaining.

It's always great to see a "hometown girl" — not to mention our 2016 Out North Texas cover girl — hit the big time. Well, Alyssa was already big time; a Netflix series is just the icing on the dancing queen's cake!

So congratulations, Alyssa. We're so proud for you!

— Tammye Nash

## Texas Dems in Congress call for Trump's impeachment

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, the day after Trump's campaign manager was found guilty on eight counts of tax and bank fraud charges and Trump's lawyer pleaded guilty to eight criminal counts and implicated Trump in criminal activity, Texas Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives were calling for the impeachment of the president.

Here are Tweets from some Texas Democratic representatives:

- Rep. Al Green, D-Houston: Where there is a will, there is a way. The framers of the Constitution provided impeachment as the way to remove an unfit President. The ultimate question is, does Congress have the will? #CountdownToImpeachment #ImpeachmentIsNotDead

- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston: #OTD @POTUS's personal lawyer and campaign chair pleaded and/or were found guilty of crimes bearing on his fitness to be President of U.S. and Leader of Free World. @realDonaldTrump must explain his

acts to American people.

- Rep. Filemon Vela, D-Brownsville: After today's guilty verdict in the @PaulManafort trial and @MichaelCohen212's plea deal, time is up. We must impeach crooked Donnie. @realDonaldTrump @POTUS

- Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin: I again urge GOP colleagues to stand w/ our country. Yes, Putin did all he could to elect Trump, but he doesn't care about political parties. He only seeks to divide & corrupt our trust of one another. What Putin opposes is the democracy we hold so dear.

Here's Trump's reaction on Twitter to the conviction and the guilty plea:

I feel very badly for Paul Manafort and his wonderful family. "Justice" took a 12 year old tax case, among other things, applied tremendous pressure on him and, unlike Michael Cohen, he refused to "break" — make up stories in order to get a "deal." Such respect for a brave man!

— David Taffet

## Helping Maddie move

A Go Fund Me page started late last week by an Oklahoma City woman has already brought in more than \$25,000 to help a 12-year-old transgender girl and her family move from the small town of Achille, Okla., to Houston.

The page, with the header "Go where you feel the most alive," notes that as of 2:50 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, 1,061 people had donated \$26,500 in five days. [UPDATE: As of 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, in seven days, 1,445 people had donated



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a total of \$50,771 to the Go Fund Me account. Donate here: [GoFundMe.com/move4maddie](https://GoFundMe.com/move4maddie)]

L Anne Babb established the account to help

Brandy Rose, her daughter, Maddie, and the rest of their family move after adults commenting on a Facebook post, which originated with the mother of one of Maddie's 7th grade classmates, threatening violence against the girl.

Brandi Rose told NBC News she hopes "we get our ducks in a row" so that they can move as soon as possible to Houston, where they have other family.

She told NBC News, "My daughter cried the other day saying that this is all her fault. I just want kids to know out there that the hatred is not their fault at all. There's nothing wrong with them. God made them the way there are for a reason. God doesn't make mistakes.

"To parents, accept your children," she added. "Let them be who they are. All you can do is love your children and protect them as best you can."

— Tammye Nash

## pet of the week /ZEKE



Meet **Zeke**, an 11-month-old, black-and-white domestic shorthair mix. He is sweet, friendly and very social; he loves to be around people and never passes up the chance to make a new friend. He's very curious boy and enjoys playing with all kinds of toys and being petted all over. He gets along fine with other cats, but he gets excited when he plays, so he may do best in a home without children under 12. If you're looking for a silly cat to put a smile on your face, he's the one for you! Zeke has been neutered and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today. #164681

**Zeke** is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and

Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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# 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.

## AUGUST

### • Through September: Pride at the Library

From UNT's LGBT Archive, the library will exhibit collections from UNT's LGBT Archive, documenting the history and culture of the LGBT community in Dallas at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas History & Archives (7th floor), 1515 Young St.

### • Aug. 24-26: Library book sale

Friends of the Dallas Public Library organized the end-of-summer book sale to benefit the library's 29 branches from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday at the Erik Jonsson Library, 1515 Young St.

### • Aug. 25: Austin Pride

### • Aug. 25: Silver Pride Project

Silver Pride Project mentoring group meets with LGBT youth of Job Corps at 2 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Aug. 25: Hero of Hope Award

Dale Hansen will speak at cocktail party honoring him from 6:30-9 p.m. at Hilton Dallas Park Cities, 5954 Luther Lane. \$100. CathedralofHope.com

### • Aug. 26: Hero of Hope Award

Dale Hansen will be presented the Hero of Hope Award at morning services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Aug. 28: Resource Center tour

CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Resource Center from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to [kfields@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:kfields@myresourcecenter.org).

### • Aug. 28: Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County

Texas Association of Business CEO Chris Wallace speaks at a Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. at Lou Lambert and James Smith's river retreat, 4701 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth. \$50.

### • Aug. 28: BEN After Hours

GLBT Chamber of Commerce networking for members and escorted guests from 5:30-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St, Suite 150.

## SEPTEMBER

### • Sept. 8: The Rainbow Party — Art and Diversity

Fall opening reception featuring works by Peter Toth benefits Resource Center with silent auction featuring artist Kathy Metcalf from 4-8 p.m. at Frisco Fine Art, 7227 Main St., Frisco.

### • Sept. 8: North Texas Heart Walk

The American Heart Association celebrates the 25th anniversary of Heart Walk three Heart Walks in North Texas: At the base of Reunion Tower in Dallas, at the C.H.

**Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink;** 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; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **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); **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.



Texas Association of Business CEO Chris Wallace speaks at a Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 28. See listings for details.

### • Sept. 13: AIDS Walk South Dallas kickoff

Launch party to register to walk, be a vendor or sponsor from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Street's Fine Chicken, 3857 Cedar Springs Road. \$25 minimum suggested donation.

• **Dallas Theater Center Kick-Off Party**  
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas and the Dallas Theater Center hold a special season kick-off event, from 6-8 p.m. at the Wyly Theater, 2400 Flora St., to showcase their partnership and DTC's upcoming season, focusing on the special bundling campaign between GLFD and DTC patrons. The director of the upcoming production of Steel Magnolias will speak

### • Sept. 13-Oct. 18: The Journey: A Coming Out Workshop

Did you come out recently or have you been out for awhile. No matter where you are on your coming out journey, you will benefit from this six-week interactive workshop open to all LGBT persons, family and friends facilitated by Rev. Robin Booth, Rev. Jane Graner and CoH member Will Fields on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, Conference Rooms A/B, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Register at [CathedralOfHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups/coh-care-ministry-groups/the-journey-workshop](http://CathedralOfHope.ChurchCenter.com/groups/coh-care-ministry-groups/the-journey-workshop). For more info email [will.fields@live.com](mailto:will.fields@live.com).

Collins Athletic Complex in Denton and at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth. Each event includes a 5K and a 1-mile fun run to promote a healthy lifestyle and raise money for the American Heart Association. For information visit [heart.org/dallas](http://heart.org/dallas) or [heart.org/tarrantcounty](http://heart.org/tarrantcounty).

### • Sept. 9: Erev Rosh Hashanah

Congregation Beth El Binah service begins at 7:30 p.m. at 11211 Preston Road.

### • Sept. 10: Rosh Hashanah

Congregation Beth El Binah service begins at 10 a.m. follow by a catered luncheon at 11211 Preston Road.

## Obituary



**Joe Paul Walters** passed away Aug. 17, 2018, surrounded by his family and friends.

He is survived by his partner, Robert Stewart; his daughter, Julie Lynn Thiel; his son, Joe Edward Walters and wife, Emma Ramirez Walters; grandchildren Maggie Thiel, Derek Thiel, Justin Walters, Noah Walters and Bailey Walters; his sisters, Mae Kavanaugh and Debbie Walters-Dana, and many wonderful friends.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Faith Presbyterian Hospice, 12477 Merit Drive, Dallas, Texas 75251.



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Get Together



# Hansen to receive Hero of Hope Award

The legendary sportscaster became an accidental voice for equality when his producer suggested he comment on air about openly gay football player Michael Sam

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**D**riving to the 2014 Black Tie Dinner to receive the Media Award, sportscaster Dale Hansen's wife said to him, "How the hell did you become the voice of gay rights in America?"

"I don't go looking for these things," Hansen said.

Hansen drew national attention in 2014 when he delivered a commentary about openly-gay football player Michael Sam. He said his producer actually suggested he do the piece.

In college, Texas native Sam was the best defensive player in the toughest college league, but he wasn't drafted by an NFL team until the last round. In his commentary, Hansen compared

the reaction both by the public and NFL officials to Sam's coming out (it made people uncomfortable) to those same people's reactions to players who abused their wives (that was somehow OK). And he likened a gay man on a team of straight players to the first blacks who joined otherwise white teams.

This weekend, Cathedral of Hope honors Hansen with its Hero of Hope Award for taking a stand for equality. How does he feel about that?

"Well, I'm not one to turn down an award," he joked.

Hansen has been a sportscaster at WFAA Channel 8 since 1983. Before that he spent several years at KDFW, at that time the local CBS affiliate. He's been named Associated Press Sportscaster of the Year twice, United Press International's Best Sportscaster and Texas Sportscaster of the Year four times.

In 1986, he broke a story about payments being made to players on Southern Methodist University's football team. His reporting led to the NCAA canceling SMU's 1987 season. He received a Peabody Award for his coverage — as well as a number of death threats.

But LGBT rights hero?

"I'm not that courageous," Hansen said. "Others have done so much more."

He said he'd spoken about domestic violence and racism before, but no piece of commentary before had ever sparked the kind reaction he got after the Michael Sam commentary. There's possibly never been a reaction like that to any piece by a sports commentator.

Hansen called it the perfect storm: An out gay man who was defensive player of the year was beginning a career in America's most popular sport. Had Sam been an out tennis player or even baseball player,



HANSEN, Page 13



# Trans clothing swap set at OLUMC



**O**ak Lawn United Methodist Church is holding a Trans Clothing Swap on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The event is part of the church's clothing ministry and its outreach to the transgender community.

"We're collecting clothes all week," said Oak Lawn UMC's Executive Minister Heather Gottas. She said the church is specifically looking for chest binders for trans men.

People who have recently transitioned may have gender-specific clothes they no longer wear and might need clothing more appropriate to their post-transition lives.

The swap will be held on the church's second floor in the hospitality center and fellowship hall. It was spearheaded by a summer intern who is transgender.

"We will provide a safe, accepting space for our trans community members to find clothes that help them be their authentic selves," the church wrote in a press release. "Participants are invited to (though not required) bring their old clothes as well as to take home some for themselves."

Gottas said refreshments will be provided. She also said the event, though geared to the trans community, is open to others in the area needing clothes.

There's no charge to participate or for any of the clothing.

— David Taffet



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## Pride Festival for Kids!

Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!

**F**amily PRIDE Zone is a family friendly outdoor space located at Reverchon Park in conjunction with the Music Festival in the Park, on **Saturday, September 15th** - 11am to 7pm.

Family PRIDE Zone is a fenced off safe space with security professionals. Park entrance fees are \$10 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

### The Family PRIDE Zone

will include games, entertainment, bounce houses, face painters, vendor booths and much more. Special feature: Dennis Lee & Nana Puddin', ventriloquist. [dallaspride.org](http://dallaspride.org).



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**Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**

Sunday, September 16th - 2pm | Our 35th Edition | Cedar Springs

# A business in the balance

A gay man gets custody of his kids, but a court-appointed receiver's homophobia dragged his divorce on for years

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
[taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com)

**N**ot so long ago, if an opposite-sex couple with children was divorcing after one spouse came out, the children would end up with the straight parent, no matter what the particulars of the case were. Often the LGBT parent would have trouble even getting visitation rights. That's not the case anymore.

And yet, homophobia in the courtroom can still cause plenty of problems.

When Brandon Walters and his wife divorced, she was charged with assaulting him at a parents night event, at school, in front of their children. She pleaded no contest.

In turn, she accused him of molesting the children, a charge the children refuted and that never stuck. Walters now has custody of the children and is "establishing [their] legal residency."

Sexual orientation simply didn't enter into the court's decision.

But that doesn't mean the divorce was simple or without a large dose of homophobia.

The children spend half their time with their father now, and half their time with their mother, although Walters retains primary custody.

Since Texas is a community property state, the couple's assets were divided evenly. That includes the large insurance agency that Walters owns. With five offices, he's the largest Allstate broker in North Texas. Walters said he didn't dispute that his ex-wife was entitled to half the value of the company.

But in court, they couldn't agree what

the company was worth. So Judge Dennise Garcia appointed Charles Walker to be the company's receiver, to value the company and sell it. Walker had no experience in the insurance industry, but, Garcia said, she didn't have a receiver available with experience specific to the industry.

Walters offered to buy the company himself for three times annual sales, with proceeds going to his wife, less court costs. The receiver rejected the offer.

Now, two years and five offers later, with no other offers on the table, Walters is offering less than he originally offered because the company is worth less — and they're still negotiating.

Meanwhile, the receiver was supposed to be paying the bills and making sure Walters wasn't running up expenses, hiding money or doing anything else that would affect the sale price and his ex-wife's share. It hasn't been that cut-and-dried.

Walters doesn't sit in his office waiting for business to walk through the door; he takes potential clients out, and he sponsors events, such as last year's Black Tie Dinner B4 Black Auction Preview Party. When Walker questioned the expense, Walters began to notice a pattern: Walker questioned all efforts marketing to the LGBT community.

In an email, Walker questioned billing for the company's IT guy and wrote, "Also, they are supposedly going to gay bars together."

Walker regularly rejected charges from Walters when he took gay potential clients to the Round-Up Saloon. Where else, Walters demanded, would he take gay clients who like to dance?

So Walters set up an experiment: He took a straight client to a straight strip club on Stemmons Freeway that has such a bad reputation, off-duty Dallas police aren't even allowed to work security there. Unlike expenses at LGBT events or businesses, Walker didn't question that charge.

As per Judge Garcia's orders, Walker, as receiver, was supposed to protect the estate. Instead, Walters said, "He's devalued the estate and has run up about \$600,000 in receivership fee."





Brandon Walters

Walters explained that not only have sales decreased because he hasn't been allowed to spend money marketing the business, they've lost bonuses due to the drop in sales, and those bonuses were intended to account for a large chunk of the agency's revenues.

Walters also suggested that even though Walker has no experience in the insurance industry, anyone should understand that no business can function without its phones and internet service, and that paying the bills is necessary to keep phones and internet working. And yet Walters received a notice threatening to cut them off for nonpayment.

Recently, a line of credit was turned into a loan that has to be paid off, because Walker had failed to make the proper payments. Walters' attorneys argued that doesn't just show a lack of understanding of the insurance industry, it shows recklessness or lack of understanding of business in general.

Allstate must approve any sale of the business. It rejected a recent potential out-of-state purchaser. Walters knows the local market, and Allstate officials saw no reason to transfer the business to someone else when they had one of their top owners bidding to retain his agency.

For a court date earlier this month, Allstate wrote a letter offering to refinance if an agreement was made that day and said no one else would be approved for the sale.

Yet, Walker refused the offer.

In proposals to other potential buyers,

Walker included Walters' name in the sale. So if he lost the company, he wouldn't be able to sell insurance — the only means of support he has for his children — in his own name.

Walker also proposed a non-compete clause in any sale. "I can't order a non-compete," Garcia explained from the bench, because courts regularly throw them out.

Denise Martinez is general manager of the agency. She said since Walker was appointed receiver, the staff has dwindled from 20 agents to five.

"He plays games with existing staff," Martinez said, referring to Walker. She said he has offered employees raises and then taken those raises away.

Despite the uncertainty with the company, Martinez said she's stuck it out because "I've been with Brandon for so long [16 years]. ... It's not only his business, it's mine. It's worth hanging in there with him."

September marks two years since Walker was appointed receiver and charged with selling the company, and Walters, the agency's employees and its overall future remain stuck in limbo while Walker appears to play a homophobic game of chicken.

Walters has submitted five bids in the last two years, and Walker has rejected them all. If Walker turns down Walters' latest bid, Walters said, he hopes the judge will force the sale.

Until then, the future of the agency continues to hang in the balance. ■

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## Project aims to preserve LGBT history in the Deep South

JAY REEVES | Associated Press

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** — A new project is documenting a once-hidden history of LGBTQ people in the Deep South, with donors providing troves of information and items on gay life, systemic oppression and activism.

Historian and archivist Joshua Burford said the goal of the Invisible Histories Project is to create a uniquely Southern collection that will “give Southern history back to queer Southerners.”

While the stereotypical LGBTQ person might live openly in an urban center and have plenty of money, he said, plenty of Southern gays live both in cities and in rural areas where they hold working-class jobs.

“If the model is always the West Village or Boy’s Town or Fire Island, then the South can never be the same as that. So we have to stop pretending like we want to be,” said Burford, engagement director of the group. “What we are is very queer and very Southern, and those two things are always overlapping.”

Established in late 2016, the Birmingham-based nonprofit organization already has gathered boxes full of information about gay life in Alabama, including decades-old directories of gay-friendly businesses dating to the late 1960s, activist T-shirts, records from gay-rights groups, and rainbow-themed material.

Bob Burns, who is gay, both lived through some of the toughest times for LGBTQ Southerners and documented them through years of activism. Now 66, he compiled a trove of information from years that included the AIDS epidemic and the oppression of gay people in the Deep South.

Burns heard about the project through a friend, and he’s donated items including the results of lengthy surveys he helped compile in 1989 and again in 1999 documenting what he called almost continual discrimination and rights violations directed at LGBTQ people in Alabama.

“That all had been sitting in a trunk here because there was no one to give it to,” said Burns, who has lived in Birmingham nearly 40 years.

He also donated a report compiled following a daylong event held years ago at a gay-friendly church to assess the needs and desire of the gay community around Birmingham.

“There was no place for that information to go so it was basically wasted,” he said. “But at least now it’s part of history. We



Joshua Burford of the Invisible Histories Project looks through items related to LGBTQ history in the U.S. South in Birmingham. (Jay Reeves/Associated Press)

know what people in whatever year it was, 15 or 20 years ago, thought was important.”

The Invisible Histories project will expand its work to Mississippi and Georgia later this year, and organizers hope to cover the entire Southeast within a few years.

The Stonewall National Museum and Archives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has thousands of books and artifacts documenting LGBT cultural and social history across the nation, and the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco tells the story of the Bay Area community. The History Project does the same in Boston for New England gays.

Items in the collection include documents about a conflict over plans to hold the Southeastern Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual College Conference at the University of Alabama in 1996. U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Alabama’s attorney general at the time, unsuccessfully argued that holding the event at a public university conflicted with a state law then in effect prohibiting homosexual acts.

The meeting went ahead as planned without incident, and Alabama voters elected Sessions to the U.S. Senate later that year.

The archive also includes documents related to the arrest of about 20 men accused of cruising for gay sex in a weeklong police sting conducted in a park in Tuscaloosa in 2002, said Burford, who originally researched the cases for school and is giving personal materials to the project.

Rather than developing a mammoth, gay version of the Smithsonian Institution that could be difficult for people to visit, the Invisible Histories Project plans to store items in smaller, local repositories. Much of the Alabama archive is housed at Birmingham’s main public library.

“We want to make sure that people who really care and are most affected by the materials can access it easily,” said development director Maigen Sullivan. “So we’re working with a number of smaller institutions that are closer to the community so that we can store their things there.”

Burford said it’s important to document the past accurately because LGBTQ people have been lied about and disregarded for generations.

“Queer people are orphaned from American history,” he said.





HANSEN, From Page 8

would he have done the commentary? He's not sure he would have.

And 2014 was a year before the *Obergefell* marriage equality decision. LGBT issues were constantly on the front page.

The video of Hansen's on-air commentary went viral. Hansen, who refers to himself as the "old, fat, white guy from Dallas," said the piece wouldn't have had the same impact coming from a young, fit sportscaster from L.A.

The Dallas sportscaster was featured in *People* magazine, *Newsweek* and more. Within days, he was flying out to Los Angeles to appear on Ellen Degeneres' show.

Hansen had ended his commentary with, "I don't understand his world, but I understand he's part of mine." Degeneres told him she thought that last line had the most impact.

Hansen explained he doesn't understand the attraction of one man to another. "It's not for me to understand," he said, "but for me to accept."

But whether or not he understands the attraction, he said he always understood the discrimination. And since the commentary aired, he said, he has come to an ever greater understanding.

At a sales kickoff event at the station soon after the piece aired, Hansen said, a friend that he works with told him, "My dad called me last night." The two hadn't spoken in 12 years, since the father threw the son out of the house for being gay. After seeing Hansen's commentary, the dad told his son that if it was OK for that fat, old, white guy, it was good enough for him.

And four years later, the commentary is still having an impact. Hansen was recently at a friend's house for dinner. He describes that friend as "my most conservative friend who finds Fox News just a little too liberal." One of the other guests was gay. He said to his friend that a few years ago that never would have happened and his friend agreed, crediting Hansen.

WFAA is owned by a different company now than when the commentary aired. He said at a recent meeting management was discussing what can be said on the air and what can't. Hansen said it was basically the same as always.

Another reporter pointed out, "Hansen says those things all the time."

"Yeah, but that's Hansen," was the response.

"I do sports," Hansen said. "I do it my way."

And his way isn't to please everyone all the time. He said that's impossible.

Hansen said that not pleasing everyone is exactly how Trump got elected. He told his supporters during the campaign that Muslims were terrorists and Mexicans were rapists and never apologized or backed down.

On the other hand, when Hillary Clinton used the term "basket of deplorables," she was crucified and ended up spending weeks finding a way to apologize to people who were never going to vote for her anyway.

"She should have stood her ground," Hansen said.

So Hansen doesn't back down. If he's chiding Jerry Jones for employing a domestic abuser, he's not going to apologize just because some people believe the team needs that abusive player. And that makes some of his viewers angry.

But it's also what makes his fans — and some of his detractors — tune in every night.

He said he recently heard from a woman who told him she stopped watching him years ago. When he asked why, she gave him examples from the previous night's show. He asked her how she knew what he said the night before if she hadn't watched in years. Seems her husband still watches Hansen, and she just happened to be walking through the room when he came on camera.

She caught every word of his three-and-a-half minute spot, of course while trying to avoid him.

"One of the reasons I've survived so long is I never try to please everybody," Hansen reiterated. When someone tells him they wish he'd just give the sports scores, he tells them to turn on Channel 5.

"I'm proud of where my life's taken me," he said.

As a sports reporter, Hansen said it was ironic that he's considered a hero among gay men who are probably less likely to be sports fans than the population in general. But he said he's very honored that so many do. In fact, he credits a gay man — Michael Sam — with changing his life.

"He took my world to a whole other place," Hansen said. ■

A reception for Hero of Hope winner Hansen will be held on Aug. 25 at the Hilton Dallas Park Cities, 5954 Luther Lane and the award will be presented during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday worship service on Sunday, Aug. 26 at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets to the Saturday reception are available at [CathedralofHope.com/anniversary/hero-of-hope](http://CathedralofHope.com/anniversary/hero-of-hope).

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# Talking about sex

I don't know how many of you are old enough to remember the standup comic Lenny Bruce, but surely you know of George Carlin. Both were famous for using words that were unacceptable — words that got Lenny Bruce arrested.



Hardy Haberman  
Flagging Left

George Carlin, on the other hand, did an entire routine based on the seven words you were forbidden to say on television and in the media without any police intervention. In fact, it became one of his most famous bits.

The humor of that routine lay mainly in the conscious breaking of taboos in media, and the nervous laughter it produced was in part because he was unashamed to use on stage the same speech everyone used in their daily conversations.

It would seem quaint today when, in media, we can pretty much talk about anything.

Or can we?

Our country, has a problem with language. There are certain words and topics we just cannot discuss in an adult and rational manner. The words are pretty much normal everyday words, like the three letter word “S-E-X.”

America cannot discuss sex without it being couched in terms of a joke, through sophomoric references or as a criminal activity.

SEX!

It is something almost every human being engages in at one time or another. Unless you were the product of in vitro fertil-

ization, you were conceived — and sex was undoubtedly involved.

But try to bring that topic up in our nation's capital and, unless it is in regard to something illegal, you will be hushed. It's a topic that's just not spoken of.

When politicians do talk about sex, it is either as a crude joke, “locker room stories” or with a heartfelt apology for some socially unacceptable act they were caught doing.

Those speeches usually end with something about “leaving politics to spend more time with family,” but they most likely end up spending more time with a divorce lawyer.

The inability to speak about sex cripples our legislatures and warps our country's already problematic attitudes towards it. In Washington, sex is something to be derided, embarrassed by or legislated against. Our country has created a dysfunctional relationship around what can be a perfectly natural and joyous act. It is an attitude so dysfunctional that it leads to misguided laws like FOSTA (the Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act) and, worse, a repression of natural desires that leads to bathroom encounters and public scandals.

Sex. If there is one thing I would hope to accomplish in my lifetime it is bringing our country and lawmakers to the realization that if we cannot talk about sex, we can never embrace it in a healthy manner. If we can't talk about sex as adults, we will forever be stuck in a perpetual adolescence.

Sex. If it is consensual and between adults, it should be celebrated not condemned. If we could talk about it rationally, we would be having more of it and doing so in a healthy and honest way.

Sex. Having that conversation as adults will assure that LGBTQ people are recognized as vital and vibrant parts of our society and essential to our rich culture.

Sex. Having that conversation as adults will allow us to educate our children with a realistic and comprehensive view of the full spectrum of consensual human sexual expression. Telling adolescents that abstinence is the only sex education they need is a lie, and worse, a transparent ploy to manipulate their behavior. We have to recognize that they are budding adults and deserve adult answers to their questions about sex.

Sex. Having an adult conversation will allow us to recognize the importance of bodily autonomy in all matters regarding sex, reproduction and economic justice. It will allow us to create healthier relationships and richer lives.

Sex. Having an adult conversation will allow us to accept sex work as legitimate work and understand that sex workers' dignity and safety is as important as that of workers in any other profession.

Sex! We must talk about it as adults and demand that our elected representatives do so as well!

At this critical time in our country's history we cannot afford to stay silent. We cannot afford to allow repression to stunt our country's maturity. We must talk about sex, write about sex, fight for sex, have more sex!

It is a radical idea and a radical act. But these are dangerous times that call for just such radical acts!

Say it with me Americans: I am not afraid to talk about sex!

And one day, perhaps we will be able to talk like adults about other important four-letter words — like “love” — and five-letter words — like “peace” — and seven-letter words — like “Justice”.

Maybe one day there will be no words that can't be spoken. ■



# Deny. Deflect. Repeat.

The spotlight is once again on priests abusing children, but once again the church is blaming the gays

**W**elp, child sex abuse in the Catholic church is in the news again and, gosh, wouldn't you know it?! The Catholic church is trying to blame it on the gays. Again.

A recent Pennsylvania grand jury report found sex abuse rampant in the church, something everyone who has ever delved into it has also found to be true. According to the report, some 300 priests preyed on children for decades while church leaders turned a blind eye to the literal hell on earth they were letting fester.

There's a reason why, in every Hollywood depiction of prison, there's a child abuser, usually a sexual abuser, who gets shanked in the showers. After all, it's easy to hate that guy.

I'm not condoning violence, just pointing out that as a society we pretty much agree that child abusers are THE WORST.

Unless they wear a black robe and a white collar.

Then instead of going to prison, you just get transferred to a new parish with brand new parishioners to terrorize.

There are many reasons why this is such a bad practice, but I would like to point out that by moving the priest away from his victim(s), the church is essentially saying that the victims are the problem. The priest is the innocent here, seduced by the tender flesh of wicked children, as opposed to a very sick person guilty of the worst kind of abuse.

And if you feel like you're experiencing déjà vu, well, you are in the sense that, yes, this has happened before. And it keeps happening. All over the world.

But the Catholic church knows just who to blame.

In an Aug. 16 interview with Thomas McKenna, the president of Catholic Action for Faith and Family, Cardinal Raymond Burke says, "It seems clear in light of these recent terrible scandals that indeed there is a homosexual culture, not only among the clergy but even within the hierarchy, which



**D'Anne Witkowski**  
Creep of the Week

needs to be purified at the root."

Now, it may sound like Burke is shining a spotlight on problems within the church itself, something that really needs to be examined more closely and would be examined more closely

if the church stopped trying to cover up its sexual abuse epidemic.

But, of course, that's not what Burke is doing here. He's basically saying, "If we just get rid of all the gays who are mucking up each level of the hierarchy everything will be just fine."

But of course, it won't. Rather than spend a second examining the institution to stop abuse, the church once again seeks to change the subject.

Look, all organized religion requires a great deal of suspended disbelief and magical thinking, a.k.a. "faith," in order to work. Critical thinking is pretty much the antithesis to religious doctrine. Which is why the church is seeking to capitalize on the gross mischaracterization that gay people are pedophiles in order to absolve its own sins.

"I think it has been considerably aggravated by the anti-life culture in which we live, namely the contraceptive culture that separates the sexual act from the conjugal union," Burke tells McKenna. "The sexual act has no meaning whatsoever except between a man and a woman in marriage, since the conjugal act is by its very nature for procreation."

Got that? Gays are a problem, but the whole thing has been made even worse by all of these whores on birth control having sex without making babies. Thank you for attending this TED Talk about sex by a man who supposedly has never had sex.

Burke calls homosexuality "disordered," and he's not the only conservative Catholic calling for a purge of gays from the priesthood. However, Burke and the others are not making any distinction between "gay" and "pedophile," a distinction that is, uh,



really important because they are not one in the same.

Unless, of course, your goal isn't to keep kids safe from abuse, but is actually to CYF (cover your frock).

*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.*



# A woman in the world

Legendary editor Tina Brown's mission is nothing short of transforming journalism as we know it

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Tina Brown is the kind of celebrity who, when you mention her name in passing to generally knowledgeable people, generates one of two reactions: 1. Glassy stares. 2. Pearl-clutching hyperventilation. The second reaction is from people who know who she is; the first is from people who don't *realize* they know who she is.

Because if you've consumed media in the last 30 years in the English-speaking world, you have crossed paths with the legacy of Tina Brown. It hasn't always been favorable ... or at least, she's had her share of pundit detractors (though few of those merit a blip on the cultural radar anymore). After becoming editor of the British society mag *Tatler* while only 25, she proved her cred as a publishing Cinderella; she took the flailing lifestyle magazine *Vanity Fair* and transformed it into the must-read celebrity publication of the 1980s (she *sextupled* its circulation in three years). Brown is the one who put a pregnant Demi Moore on the cover, an image so iconic it may well be Moore's (and perhaps Brown's) obituary photo.

She then moved onto the staid *New Yorker*, which, in its then-73 year history, had employed only three previous editors, all men. Brown gussied up the look, adding — for the first time — a staff photographer (legendary fashion lensman Richard Avedon). Critics said she would ruin the storied publication, but would *NYer* columnist Andy Borowitz be the social media icon he is today if Brown hadn't loosened the starched collar on Eustace Tilley? The Weinstein-backed *Talk* magazine was her first real belly-flop, but she followed that stumble in 2008 launching a news website (perhaps you've heard of it: *The Daily Beast*).

Brown's facility at revitalizing reportage has continued to evolve and expand. So, when Brown chose Dallas late last year as one of the cities for hosting one of her Women in the World salons, North Texans got a first-look at what she's been up to.

"We do our big summit in April and then take it on the road,"





Brown explained to me in a parlor at the Fairmount Hotel, hours before the event. “We are very excited to be here. We just felt we must come to Dallas.” (She must have liked it; her group just announced that Women in the World will be back at the Dallas Museum of Art Nov. 5 for a private event.)

Once you experienced it, you understood: You were getting a peak at the future of journalism. Print endures and the internet proliferates, but in-person salons? It’s simply the most exciting reinvention of news analysis since the World Wide Web.

“The live events — I see them as magazines,” Brown says. “It’s not really a TED Talk, which is a presentation. It’s more journalistic — we call it live journalism. It’s about the pacing, the storytelling, the combination of the individuals with marquee personalities and people we discover and tell the stories of. And frankly, it’s usually the people you haven’t heard of before you leave the theater talking about.”

Without bells and whistles, you could see the Dallas salon play out like flipping through the pages of a glossy newstand copy of an eye-catching magazine: The multiple-source lead feature (headlined “Persisters,” featuring three women of remarkable but diverse achievements: Dallas Police Chief Renee Hall, Marine fighter pilot Amy McGrath and former NFL coach Jen Welter). Then there was the political profile from a human interest angle: Hannah Song, who runs a modern-day Underground Railroad to rescue victims of the North Korean regime. There was a poem read by a remarkable talent, Iasia Sweeting and even some quasi advertorial: A grant from Dallas-based Toyota for the salon’s Mother of Invention award to Maxeme Tuchman, founder of the educational platform Caribou. It ended with a one-on-one with Cecile Richards of Planned Parenthood.

If you were paying attention, you no doubt noticed that all the speakers (and indeed, all the interviewers) were women. And that’s a driving force behind Brown’s mission.

“We curate the experience. You get to learn about a world you didn’t know,” she says. “It’s just about women who turn us on with their life’s work. We bring these amazing women together. It’s about the excitement of people discovering people who have passion. And people find that passion very appealing.”

At the height of the MeToo movement, Brown was already well-ensconced in issues of women in the workplace and the struggles they experience, always with a unique, even withering perspective.

“We did a huge sexual harassment discussion [before it was in the news so much]. “HR is there to protect the company; there’s hardly a woman you can think of who raised sexual harassment whose career improved. [We also reported early on] the rise of white supremacists. And we are really bringing to the world the voices of women, which we have been doing since 2009 — how ahead of the curve we were!” Brown says in her measured, erudite accent. “I felt women who were extraordinary and had amazing stories to tell did not have enough of a platform. Many were from overseas — Africa or the Middle East — fighting jihad, fighting [limited] access to education, oppression, child marriage. We really went deeply into the question of what was happening in the world. By the time we put them onstage, people really want to hear from them. It’s a very cutting edge, newsy platform.”

In doing so, Brown hopes she has brought a new energy and visibility to women’s issues — their struggles, yes, but also their victories.

“[MeToo] is not just about victimhood but the women who have beaten down the doors. We don’t do programs about victims; it’s about people who triumphed. We’ve heard a lot about resistance this past year; but resistance without persistence doesn’t get you anywhere... it’s about the ones who keep going!”

Take, for instance, Cecile Richards. “I don’t know *how* she kept going,” Brown admits. “[2017] was a year from hell, and she’d been pushed back at every turn. She ended 2017 opening two clinics in Texas and blazing ahead. She’s a remarkable figure. And her mom was amazing, too.”

The key, Brown realized long ago, is that facts and knowledge are all but meaningless if you don’t grab your audience. Which is what she has spent 40 years doing.

“Storytelling brings the world alive to you in ways you didn’t expect to care about,” Brown says. “It’s very hard to make people care, and we think it’s our job to *make* people care.”

*The next Women in the World salon takes place in Toronto on Sept. 10. An event is also planned at the Dallas Museum of Art on Nov. 5. For more information and updates, visit WomenInTheWorld.com.*

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## The rescuers

Gay couple's life among the dogs gets profiled in new documentary

**S**ay you're a long-term couple. You've been together for decades, worked hard, amassed a decent chunk of retirement money. Now's the time you'd relax, right? Maybe spend your time living laconic lives, prepping for grandkid visits or your next vacation.

That may be the case with most couples, but Danny Robertshaw and Ron Danta — a South Carolina couple who have been together for 30 years — have dedicated their lives to something else: Together, over the past 10 years, they've rescued more than 10,000 dogs, most of them from puppy mills, dogfighting rings, abusive situations and/or the brink of being euthanized.

The pair — and their pups — are

the subject of new documentary, *Life in the Doghouse*, from director Ron Davis. Robertshaw and Danta, along with Davis, will be at Plano's Studio Movie Grill for a special screening, Q&A and photo op of the film this weekend. And while *Life in the Doghouse* has gained traction along the movie festival circuit, it's clear the they aren't in it for fame or money.

Professional horse trainers by trade, Robertshaw and Danta loved animals well before they ever met, much less before being the subject of a documentary. "I know people who never grew up with a dog, cat, horse, whatever — I personally can't imagine life without an animal," Danta says. "I just have such great respect for them. They just pour out so much love."

**Watch them**  
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The couple returned that love early on. As a couple in the early 2000s, they would visit shelters and bring home the two or three dogs closest to being euthanized. "We'd bring them home, rehab them, and try to find them homes through our horse community," Robertshaw explains. Once those two or three were re-homed, they'd return to the shelter and start the process over again.

Their informal operation scaled up dramatically when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. "It was quite devastating to see all the dogs that were on roofs and in trees and swimming in the water," Robertshaw says. They began a system: They'd load up their horse trailer with supplies for the citizens of affected areas. A friend would drive it down, drop off supplies, and return with dogs. By the end of the whole thing, they'd rescued almost 600 dogs. Having done it all on the fly, they found themselves in a bit over their heads.

"We were taking money out of our retirement fund to spay, neuter and

medicate most of the dogs — I bet about 95 percent of the dogs from Katrina were heartworm positive," Robertshaw says.

Both Robertshaw and Danta believe that abused and neglected dogs can only truly recover if they are in a loving, consistent space, not just a no-kill shelter. "We started this on an individual basis, with the attitude that any dog passed on to us we were going to take care of it as if it were our very own," Robertshaw says.

So they set about converting their own home into a haven where they could provide the best care for each animal.

The result was their non-profit Danny and Ron's Rescue, which now has a staff, including a veterinarian (neither founder receives a salary from the organization). Staffing up and adding a structure — and support from grants, donations and endowments — had allowed the couple to dramatically increase the extent of their care. Each dog is spayed/neutered, microchipped, dewormed,

#### LIFE IN THE DOGHOUSE

Studio Movie Grill,  
4721 W. Park Blvd., Plano.  
Aug 25, 5 p.m.

■ RESCUERS Page 23



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Chevy's once-vanilla compact crossover Trax crosses the Redline

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

The compact crossover segment is red hot, but most of the models are plain vanilla. They usually look like they're wobbling on tall roller skates above the little commuter cars on which they're based. While it looks sturdy, and is pleasant to drive, that's definitely been the case with the Chevy Trax. To remedy its frumpy style, designers crossed the red line and dipped their pens into the vat of cool that coats sporty Chevys like the Camaro, Colorado and upcoming Blazer.

Trax was recently updated with a new front fascia that's reminiscent of the Camaro's with squinty headlamps and large grille. Bulging fenders give it a tough appearance, but the Redline Edition looks handsomely evil in monochrome paint over 18-in black wheels with red accent stripes. Black mirror caps, black grille with black surround, black emblems, black trim and black Trax badge with red outline distinguish the exterior from more pedestrian versions. LED signature lighting up front and roof rails on top add an upscale aura.

Inside, the Trax Redline is mostly a class act. Stitched leatherette on the dash, perfectly-sized leather-wrapped steering wheel and Jett Black canvas and leatherette seats are very nice — as are Bose audio, power sunroof and tilt/telescoping steering column. Storage is enhanced with 60/40 split/fold rear bench seat, under-seat front passenger storage and cubbies in every crevice. As is typical in Chevrolet crossovers, it seems as if GM is trying to corner the market on hard plastic for the dash tops and doors.

Our Trax is not burdened with fancy crash-avoidance systems, but does come standard with a rear vision camera and easy-to-use infotainment system that can be controlled by voice or 7-in. touchscreen. It's easy to swipe through radio stations and music libraries, but it would be better if a proper tuning knob joined the volume knob. Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto make connecting iThings easy.

If you're thinking this sporty little Chevy might scorch pavement with some sprightly powertrain, think again. It's a very nice vehicle, but a Camaro it is not. Like other Trax editions, it runs with a 1.4-liter turbo-charged 4-cylinder engine that delivers 138



horsepower and 148 lb.-ft. of torque. All of that routes to the all-wheel-drive system through a six-speed automatic transmission. Fuel economy is rated 24/30-MPG city/highway.

Nothing about that is terribly exciting, but it's enough power for a compact crossover with sporting intentions. Would it be better with 200 horsepower? Sure, but it's

not necessary. Fuel economy is decent, but behind key competitors. Better than the engine, ride and handling are quite good. Some bumps will jolt the basic suspension, but nothing squeaks, creaks or rattles in the cabin. Push it into a corner and it's almost fun.

Nobody is going to confuse the Trax Redline with a Corvette, but that little

hint of "angry Camaro" style sets it apart from other affordable compact crossovers. It looks good and with the exception of swaths of hard plastic, the interior is a pleasant place. Given a base price of \$21,000, or \$28,295 as-tested, Trax is formidable competition for the Ford EcoSport, Fiat 500X, Subaru Crosstrek, Honda HR-V, Toyota C-HR and Hyundai Kona.

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**Brian Smith**



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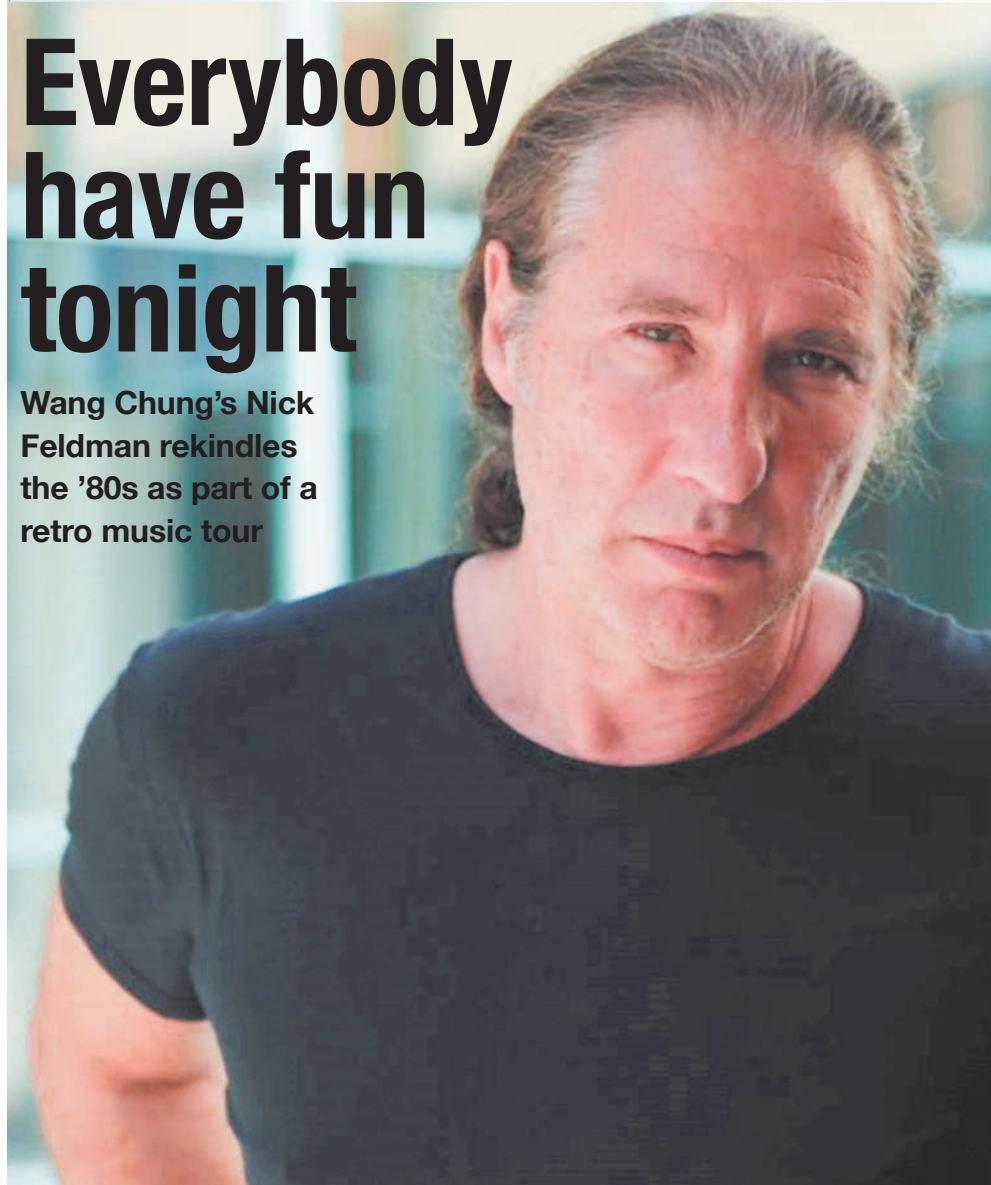
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L+S screen

## Everybody have fun tonight

Wang Chung's Nick Feldman rekindles the '80s as part of a retro music tour



There are certain songs that have the power to transport listeners instantly to a bygone era. Wang Chung's 1984 hit "Dance Hall Days" is, for me, one such track. The song's opening guitar chords and drumbeats alone begin to evoke sentimental memories of the '80s: bold fashions, big hair, MTV (when it actually broadcast music videos), and John Hughes' teen-angst movies. Two of the U.K. band's chart topping 1986 follow-up hits — "Everybody Have Fun Tonight" and "Let's Go" — have a similarly nostalgic effect.

Wang Chung's two constituent members — Brits Nick Feldman and Jack Hues — join several Reagan Era bands (including, among others, Animotion, Book of Love, Missing Persons, and Nu Shooz) on Aug. 24, in Lost '80s Live, a concert dripping in hip nostalgia. We spoke with Feldman about Wang Chung's chart successes, the music's pop culture longevity and the band's appeal to the LGBT community.

— Scott Huffman

**Dallas Voice: Do you ever feel that you are caught in a strange '80s time loop?** Nick Feldman: Yes, I definitely feel that. [That's] so accurate. I jump out of it into another era, but I get right back again. I'm very grateful to the '80s. It's been good to me. I mustn't grumble, as we say.

**Are you surprised at how well Wang Chung's hits have withstood time?** Incredibly surprised ... I'm in a constant state of surprise. We stopped doing it for about 20 years. We took 20 years out and did other things. It just would never go away. That time loop keep sucking us back in. The music getting played and put into movies and TV shows. We kept getting offered tours. In the end we got back [together] and carried on. The fact that people are

enthusiastic about it is incredibly amazing, really. I'm grateful for it. I never would have expected that.

**Why do you suppose these songs have had such staying power?** I mean, obviously for people of that age, it's going to mean something to you if [the songs] happened to come out at that time of your life. I think also music was much more central to the culture in those days. The coming together of melody, of dance and rock rhythms,

### LOST '80s LIVE

Verizon Theatre,  
1001 Performance Place,  
Grand Prairie, Aug. 24.  
6:30 p.m., Lost80sLive.com



electronica and synthesizers, and samplers and musicianship. Plus, MTV was an exciting new medium. That whole visual side was again something. It was coming from you at all sides in a central, unified kind of way. And I think the melodies are good, generally. A good song always helps, doesn't it?

**Yes, good music is good music.** Having said that, parents and children don't always agree about what's good and what isn't *[laughs]*.

**Do you have a favorite song to perform?** It's hard not to enjoy our biggest hits. They are fun to play, and it is fun to get reaction from the audience. We kind of get them involved and singing along. That's a bit of a thrill for us. When we play, we stretch them out with solos and free playing. That's enjoyable. There's a [newer] song called "Space Junk" that we do sometimes. It's got sort of like a hip-hop beat almost. I personally enjoy playing that. It was in *The Walking Dead* actually, that song. So it gets a bit of recognition.

**How much credit do you give the LGBT community for Wang Chung's success?** I think we should be grateful to that community. You know, the club versions [of the songs] were very well received. We were always very happy about that. Neither of us [is] gay ourselves, but I think quite a lot of people thought we were. I quite liked that. I remember when we played *Solid Gold*. My wife at the time was sitting in the audience just before we were about to play. People around her were discussing that we were gay and everything. They were totally convinced we were gay. It was quite something, but I was quite happy about that.

**When did you first feel you had "made it" in the business?** When we came to America for the very first time. We were suddenly on MTV. Wherever we went, people would recognize us. It was completely weird. We came from the U.K. At that point, we hadn't had any significant success. We weren't known. We kind of went, "Wow, people seem to know who the hell we are. Maybe they think we are somebody else." That was something. And I suppose the moment we felt we were coming into another phase was with the single "Everybody Have Fun Tonight." I remember talking to [Shep] Pettibone who was going to do a remix of "Let's Go" and saying that this is all much bigger than we are. It's no longer under our control which is quite frightening. 1987, I think it was.

**Has success a blessing or a burden?** A blessing. No question. I can't see any down sides. Certainly in the '80s, it got difficult in trying to maintain success. It got intense. So, that's not much fun. In that sense, having success means you've got something to lose. If you don't have success, you've got nothing to lose. I'm glad we weren't in [the latter] position.

groomed and given a checkup. Each dog gets its own bowl and bed. Perhaps most importantly, Danta and Robertshaw give the animal as much time as it needs to recover from trauma.

Still, it's a lot of work. And the stories of that trauma can be heartbreaking. Danta recounts the different ways their dogs have been hurt before they arrived at the rescue: some have been burned or otherwise tortured; some were trapped in small cages at puppy mills with zero contact with other dogs or humans; one was thrown onto a highway from a car

going 70 miles per hour. "Emotionally, it's very hard," Danta says. "It's very hard to see these dogs that have been abused. There are a lot of ups and downs. But also physically, there's a lot of care to it. A lot of them have health issues, so it's a lot to get them back to a healthy state."

For every tough story, however, the pair has one that will bring a smile to even the most cynical face. Robertshaw recounts the story of a perfect match. "We had a dog that was so shy and turned inward. Just terribly petrified," he says. Around the same time, a friend of the couples

swung by. Her own dog had died recently, and she was depressed. She came over not to get a new dog, but only to test the waters of being around them. The scared little dog had other ideas. "This dog just immediately attached himself to her, like nobody's business" Robertshaw says. "It was just an instant love affair. And it still is." Needless to say, their friend went home with a new friend for life. "We probably have hundreds of stories like that," Robertshaw says. "It's things like that that keep us going."

— Jonanna Widner ■



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### Saturday 08.25

#### Drag Racers Aja and Pearl headline party for HELP Center

The HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness in Fort Worth has been around for a year, and you're invited to celebrate. Aja and Pearl, both alumna from *RuPaul's Drag Race*, will be the featured entertainment. The event is free but you have to RSVP (check out the link below) to attend.

**DEETS:** Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. 9 p.m. Free with RSVP at [HelpCenterParty.Eventbrite.com](http://HelpCenterParty.Eventbrite.com).



### Friday 08.24 — Sunday 08.26

#### TBT opens season with 'Cinderella'

Who doesn't love a good fairy tale? Certainly most of the classical composers, who loved setting fables to music for ballet dancers to bring to life. Texas Ballet Theater's latest entry into the canon is Prokofiev's *Cinderella*, which kicks off its 2018–2019 season. The spritely ballet plays exclusively in Dallas for five performances this weekend, including matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

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



### Friday 08.24 — Saturday 08.25

#### Camille A. Brown & Dancers brings powerful piece to Moody this weekend

Since 2006, Camille A. Brown & Dancers has built a rep for gutsy movement, socio-political content and of course magnificent choreography. Nowhere is that juncture of

elements more apparent than in the 2015 piece *Black Girl: Linguistic Play*, in which Brown explores the rhythms and language of being a black girl growing up in America, from playing double dutch on a playground to Marco Polo and the other games of childhood. That epic piece is the entire program for this weekend's two performances, courtesy of TITAS.

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

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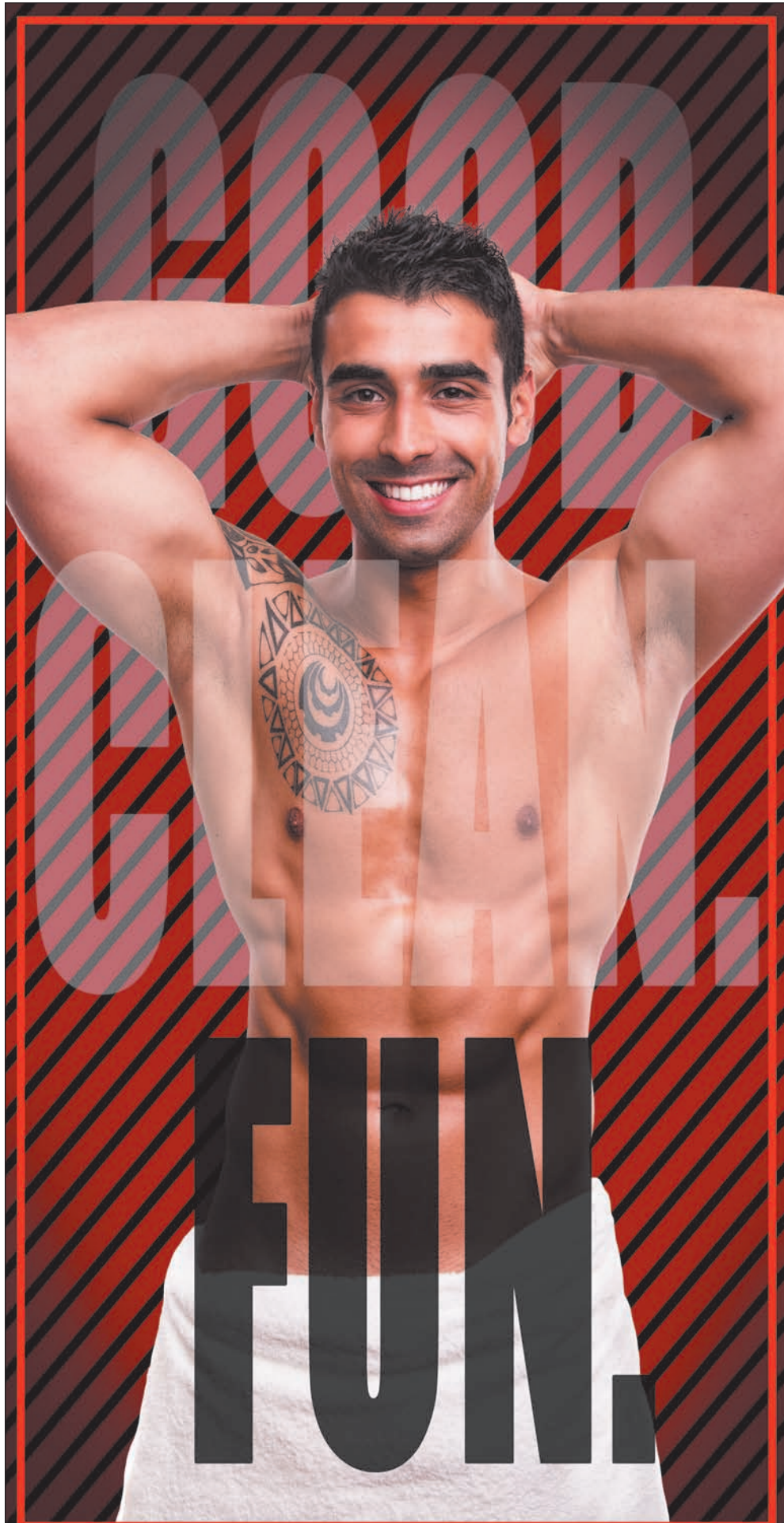
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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Hand to God.** An immersive, open-seating production of the hit play about a Christian congregation and puppet ministry, and a man who speaks only through a hand puppet... although all is not what it seems. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Heisenberg/Actually Double Feature.** Theatre 3 opens its season with a double feature of two one-act plays: Heisenberg follows the aftermath of a surprise kiss by two strangers on a train, and Actually dives into the murky world of sexual ethics. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Thetare3Dallas.com.

**Perfect Arrangement.** Two State Department officials in the 1950s — a closeted gay man and lesbian in committed same-sex relationships — are assigned the task of unearthing homosexuals in the Cold War comedy. Presented by Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Aug. 24–Sept. 2. UptownPlayers.org.

**Revolt. She said. Revolt again.** Second Thought closes its season with the regional premiere of this play that explores gender politics, power dynamics and female stereotypes in the 21st century. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sept. 15. 2TT.co.

**School of Rock.** The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, based on the hit film about an unorthodox teacher. *Reviewed this week.* Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through Sunday; Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Aug. 28–Sept. 1. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

#### FINE ART

**An Enduring Legacy: The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Collection of Impressionist and Modern Art.** The recent death of Dallas arts patron Margaret McDermott, at age 106, led to a bequest of 32 works from her private collection, housed in her own home until recently, and not on display with three previously-donated works to the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 17, 2019. DMA.org.

#### EXHIBITIONS

**Ultimate Dinosaurs.** Exhibit analyzing the history of the creatures that would come to occupy Jurassic Park. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 N. Field St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. PerotMuseum.org.

### FRIDAY 08.24

#### COMMUNITY

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

### SATURDAY 08.25

#### 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.

### MONDAY 08.27

#### CABARET

**Mama's Party.** Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

### TUESDAY 08.28

#### FILM

**Fiddler on the Roof.** Oscar-winning film adaptation of the hit musical about Jewish peasants in Russia during the October Revolution. 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 08.29

#### COMMUNITY

**The Queer Off!!** Weekly variety show with 14 contestants, 12 weeks and one eventual winner. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton Road. 10 p.m.

### THURSDAY 08.30

#### CABARET

**Glitterbomb Denton.** Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

#### THEATER

**An Octoroon.** Stage West presents the regional premiere of this controversial satire based on a 19th century play about a white man who falls for a woman who is one-eighth black. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Aug. 30–Sept 30. StageWest.org.

## this week's solution

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**browse**

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# Cassie Nova

You're a bunch of vultures!

Hello, beautiful people! As many of you know, I am an animal lover. I have a pack of six dogs, sized from a Chihuahua to a Chow, a giant tortoise named Ruby, a cat named Kitty and now a new pet I have named Cecil. Actually, I wouldn't call Cecil my pet; he (or she) is my friend that has stopped by my house about once a month for the past 18 months.

Cecil is a big ol' buzzard. Maybe he is a vulture, but whatever he is, he likes to perch himself on the telephone pole on the edge of my front yard.

There have been many occasions when I have gone outside and he is just hanging around. I think he may be attracted to a Dumpster across the street that belongs to the local elementary school. Whenever I see he has come for a visit, I feed him. I throw some hot dogs or leftover lunchmeat out into the field close by. He waits a few minutes, swoops down, eats and leaves. Now, before you people wanna start bitchin' that I shouldn't be feeding a wild animal, save it. I have bird feeders all over my yard and this is basically the same thing, just with meat!

Cecil is ugly, bless his heart, but he is fascinating, too. He is a necessary member of the local animal community that specializes in the cleanup and removal of road kill — gross, but necessary. I like to think Cecil appreciates our dinner dates. He's kind of the perfect man: he eats your meat then leaves. Win-win!

Now let's help some human animals.

*Dear Cassie, This is kind of a weird one. I have a hot guy friend who I follow on social media. When we see each other out we always say hi, so we are somewhere between acquaintances and friends. Last week he goes live on Instagram and I click on it to see what's up. He is naked and playing with his dick. I was like, OMG I have hit the jackpot.*

*Then I realize there is someone else there with him, and I don't think he knew he was streaming live, because they were talking about him having huge veins, and the guy offscreen moves the camera. You can clearly see they are shooting up drugs. It broke my heart. The guy is so sweet and so beautiful. I thought he was smarter than that, but like I said, I don't know him that well. I want to say something to him. Maybe send him a message that he shouldn't do drugs or that he should get help. I don't know what to do, but I can't get it off my mind. Help! Signed, Just Say No!*

Dear JSN, Unfortunately, sex and drugs run rampant in our community. I think you should send him a private message expressing your feelings. I'm not sure if it will do any good, but at least it may help relieve your mind. When someone is on drugs the last thing they want is someone preaching to them to stop doing drugs, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try. You never know what that other person is going through, and maybe your words will be the wakeup call he needs. Do you know any of his close friends or family? Are you willing to risk your "acquaintance/friendship" to speak out about his drug use? It is a tricky spot to be in, but if you saw it live, chances are other people did too.



When I was on drugs years ago, I was a stealthy mutherfucker. I was good at concealing that I was doing them. Who knows? If I had been caught or called out for doing drugs maybe I would have quit sooner. In this day of social media, public perception of someone is a powerful thing. Let him know what you saw and that you hope he gets the help he needs. Shame and fear of disappointing your peers is a strong motivator. Your message could be the thing that saves his life. Good luck to you and him. Cassie.

*Dear Cassie, I am a gay man. I hate drag. I've been to shows because my friends want to go. I don't get it.*

Dearest Adam, First off, you didn't sign your letter, but your name is in your email address. Thank you for taking the time out your day to express your opinion about my wonderfully

fulfilling job. You sound like a great guy and a lover of life.

Look, I get that drag is not for everyone. I really do. When I first came out and even before, I hated that the media always focused on the drag queens, Dykes on Bikes or the leather guys wearing chaps with their asses showing. I was a young gay in the late '80s and early '90s and didn't see any just normal looking gay guys ever on the news or in movies. At the time, I thought that all gays were either flaming queens or drag queens, and I feared I would never find happiness being gay.

Boy, was I wrong. Once I came out and my eyes were open to all of the different facets of our community, I realized there is a real rainbow of diversity when it came to our gay world. At first I didn't get drag, not until I realized the creative outlet it can be for me.

Drag is art! Art is subjective. You don't have to get it. I now get why the media focused on the Dykes on Bikes and leather daddies and drag queens — they're fabulous.

I don't like wrestling but I'm not going to send an email just to dis it. There is something you should understand though: drag queens are the first people that get called when someone wants to raise money for something. Usually that something is to help our community, because you are part of that community. You are a gay man so you can thank drag queens for being the spark that is the flame of your gay rights. You don't have to get it but you should respect it. Good day sir....I SAID GOOD DAY!

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





Friends enjoying the sunshine on The Strip



Jameson let's it all hang out on The Strip



Laughing it up on The Strip



Birthday boy and friends on The Strip



The friendly staff at S4



Ben and his lovely wife at S4



Group night out on The Strip

- Making the **SCENE** the week of **Aug. 24-30**
- **Alexandre's:** **K-Marie** on Friday and Tuesday. **Anton Shaw Band** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Carymel** on Wednesday.
  - **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Drag on Tap** at 9:30 p.m. on Monday.
  - **Club Reflection:** **Black and White Ball**, buffet at 5 p.m. and show at 6 p.m. on Saturday. **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and **Cookout** from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.
  - **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court Show** at 7 p.m. on Friday and **Leather and Lace Show** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Diablos Cookout** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
  - **Havana:** **Mayra D'Lorenzo** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
  - **Hidden Door:** **DJ Rueben Martinez** from 3-8 p.m. on Sunday.
  - **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Clover Open** putt-putt bar crawl benefitting **Team Clover** and **LifeWalk** at 11 a.m. on Saturday.
  - **Liquid Zoo:** **Steak Night** at 7:30 p.m. on Monday.
  - **Marty's LIVE:** **Showcase** with **Chanel Champagne** on Monday with **DJ Rubiks**.
  - **Round-Up Saloon:** **Clover Open** putt-putt bar crawl at 11 a.m. on Saturday. **Lost Souls Rugby School Supply Drive** benefitting **Mi Escuelita** from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday.
  - **S4:** **Clover Open** putt-putt bar crawl benefitting **Team Clover** and **LifeWalk** at 11 a.m. on Saturday.
  - **Sue Ellen's:** **Clover Open** putt-putt bar crawl benefitting **Team Clover** and **LifeWalk** at 11 a.m. on Saturday. **Strangle Love** on Saturday. **Southpaw Preachers** at 3:30 p.m. and **Harlem River Noise** on Sunday. **Tucker's Gift Top Dog Couture** hosted by **Melodee** and **Angela Karmichael** from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday. \$5. **The Queer Off** is new at 10 p.m. on Wednesdays.
  - **The Rose Room:** **Rising Star Pageant** hosted by **Asia O'Hara** on Thursday.
  - **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Clover Open** putt-putt bar crawl benefitting **Team Clover** and **LifeWalk** at 11 a.m. on Saturday.
  - **Urban Cowboy:** Special show featuring **RuPaul's Drag Race** stars **Aja** and **Pearl** and benefitting **HELP** on Saturday at 9 p.m. Must RSVP at [HELPCENTERPARTY.EVENTBRITE.com](http://HELPCENTERPARTY.EVENTBRITE.com)
  - **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Team Dallas Send Off Party** and **Underwear Auction** from 8-10 p.m. on Friday. **Clover Open** putt-putt bar crawl benefitting **Team Clover** and **LifeWalk** at 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday.
  - **Zipper's:** **Erotica** at 10 p.m. on Thursday.

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





Adrian Lea Jarvis won the Voice of Pride competition at S4



Getting close on the pation at Sue Ellen's



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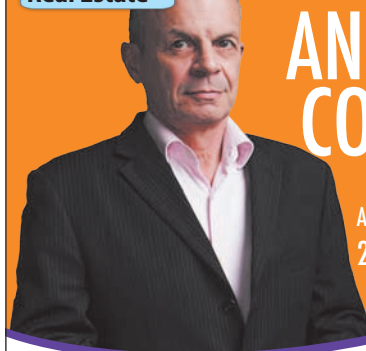
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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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62					63						64			

## Peppermint Twist

Solution on Page 26

### Across

- 1 Homer work
- 5 Patron of Wilde's homeland, briefly
- 10 Stats on a stallion
- 14 Sammy once of the Cubs
- 15 Pirate's stash
- 16 Parker of *South Park*
- 17 Leopold's partner
- 18 Responds to yeast
- 19 "...a deer, a female deer..."
- 20 Musical in which Peppermint became the first transgender woman to originate a principal role on Broadway
- 23 In the loop, at a gay rodeo
- 24 Swiss miss, perhaps (abbr.)
- 25 As a bottom limit
- 28 Sea near the Caspian
- 30 Gives a butt-whuppin' to
- 31 20-Across is based on the music of this all female band
- 35 Anderson Cooper's network
- 36 Edgar Box to Gore Vidal
- 38 Ambient rocker Brian
- 39 Start of a song title from 20-Across
- 42 More adept
- 44 Wife of Buck's Wang
- 45 Blows one's top
- 47 Where to vote against

homophobic candidates

- 49 Elizabeth Perkins' *Weeds* role
- 50 End of title
- 55 Maupin's \_\_\_\_ of *You*
- 56 \_\_\_\_ la vista, baby
- 57 Pointing to it is the little hand's job
- 59 "The thing," to Hamlet
- 60 Fruity-smelling compound
- 61 Primal impulse
- 62 Welcome bedroom sounds
- 63 Nasty type
- 64 Went right with your stallion

### Down

- 1 Subj. for some aliens
- 2 Honey-pot lover
- 3 Fortune-teller's opening
- 4 1972 Minnelli musical
- 5 Leather bands
- 6 Hot dish holder
- 7 Sat for *Just Us Boys*
- 8 Declare firmly
- 9 New Ager John
- 10 Moor jealous of his partner
- 11 Dentist's mouth penetrator
- 12 Hard to penetrate
- 13 Melina's *Providence* nickname
- 21 Some E.R. cases for Dr. Callie Torres

- 22 Webzine
- 25 Bend over
- 26 The sound of music
- 27 Deity identified with Diana
- 28 "Got ya!"
- 29 Legal matter
- 31 Seventh notes to Debussy
- 32 Gets hard
- 33 R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_\_ Love"
- 34 Arrange by penile length, e.g.
- 36 *The Guardians* writer Castillo
- 37 Architect Maya \_\_\_\_
- 40 Shots from Mauresmo
- 41 \_\_\_\_ *Enchanted*
- 42 Tibet setting
- 43 Hairy embrace?
- 45 Of the season after Mardi Gras
- 46 Owner of an "arsonist" cow
- 47 Former *American Idol* judge Abdul
- 48 Winfrey of *The Color Purple*
- 49 \_\_\_\_ del Sol
- 51 Class for future AZT makers
- 52 Cushiness
- 53 Went lickety-split
- 54 Likely to break the condom, perhaps
- 55 Cruising area
- 58 Checkers side





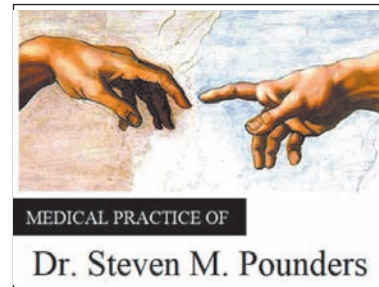
## Remember to wrap it before you tap it! (And don't forget to take your PrEP)

Dr. Steven M. Pounders is excited to announce a new Saturday PrEP clinic starting on September 8th! If you haven't heard about PrEP, it's a one pill a day regimen that can help stop you from contracting HIV.

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