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road for

hope

*Oklahoma couple travels to Dallas
for cancer treatment
by David Taffet, Page 8*

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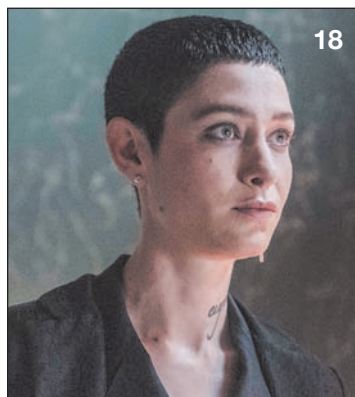
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Susan and Christie Terry-Ball of Oklahoma. Photo by David Taffet.
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Dallas Pride Weekend is making tracks to June 1st & 2nd... AND SO ARE WE!

Our BIG Dallas Pride issue of Dallas Voice that has been in September is now publishing on May 31st... just in time for June Pride Month!

We're also excited to announce that we're in production for the **Stonewall 50 - World Pride** special edition of Dallas Voice coming to newsstands on June 28th.

Contact us to save your space in both of these LARGE issues!
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DALLAS 2019 PRIDE

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Senate passes discriminatory SB 1978



The Texas Senate quickly passed Senate Bill 1978 on Wednesday, May 15, just two days after Senate rules were suspended to allow Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's

minions to force the bill out of committee without any hearings or actual debate. Equality Texas Interim Executive Director Samantha Smoot is pointing out that SB 1978 has its roots in a nation-wide effort to roll back LGBT protections.

SB 1978 is the Senate's companion bill to House Bill 3172, shot down on the House floor last week thanks to parliamentary tactics by lesbian state Rep. Julie Johnson and the LGBT Caucus. While HB 3172 had been significantly watered down in committee, SB 1978 made through the Senate in all its full anti-LGBT glory.

Both measures are known as the "Save Chick-fil-A" bills because right-wingers are irate that the fast-food franchise is being rejected in some places — like the San Antonio airport and the campus of Trinity University — because of its owners' donations to anti-LGBT efforts nationwide.

Both bills — HB 3172 and SB 1978 — are "no home-grown effort to help Chick-fil-A," Smoot said in a statement released via email this morning. "Instead, they are part of an insidious, coordinated strategy to advance anti-LGBTQ messages and discriminatory public policies."

She continued, "These bills were crafted based on strategy and specific language outlined in 'Project Blitz,' a national far-right initiative to propagate model anti-LGBTQ legislation."

After SB 1978 passed the Senate on Wednesday, it moves to the House, where it's expected to go to committee for an actual hearing.

— Tammye Nash

Erykah Badu joins DSO for concert (during Pride Month, no less!)

Dallas' funkier queen, Erykah Badu, has



been a badass fashionista, ally and devoted hometown girl for decades, performing at all sorts of venues, from Deep Ellum clubs to event spaces to arenas. But the

Grammy winner's eclectic style now arrives at the Meyerson Symphony Center.

Badu will join her local symphony, the DSO,

for a one-night-only concert on June 21. Tickets are now on sale.

"Badu's roots are in South Oak Cliff, and the DSO is committed to launching an important music program for students in Southern Dallas," says Kim Noltemy, president & CEO of the Dallas Symphony Association. "Beginning this summer, we will provide free access to music lessons and instruments to hundreds of children. Badu is emblematic of the power of music education in childhood and the paths it can create."

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Additional vendor space added for Miller Lite Music Festival on Pride weekend

Due to high demand, Dallas Pride organizers announced that officials at Fair Park have been able to provide additional space for vendors during the Miller Lite Music Festival at Fair Park on June 1.

"We are almost at 150 spaces already, which is the biggest we have ever had by far, but we hope to add even more and make this the biggest festival ever by a wide mile," Pride Committee member Adam Lynn said.

But remember that even with the extra spaces being added, vendor booth space is limited. So, if you want a booth for your business or organization, visit DallasPride.org/registration now to register or to get more information.

The festival is the first day of the 2019 Dallas Pride weekend celebration and is being held at Fair Park. Admission is free for children under 12, \$5 for those ages 13-18 and \$10 for those ages 18 and older. Get your tickets in advance here.

The 36th annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade will be held the next day, Sunday, June 2. Admission to the parade is free.

Parking at Fair Park is \$10, but the DART Rail Green Line does go to the park.

— Tammye Nash

Ferrell stepping down from DTC post

Joel Ferrell, who has served on the creative team of the Dallas Theater Center since 2009, most recently as associate artistic director under Kevin Moriarty, will depart from the team at the conclusion of the current season, the DTC announced this week in a statement. Ferrell will continue to be an artistic associate and to direct shows on an as-needed basis. He is already set to direct the annual production of A Christmas Carol in the fall.

Ferrell has been a driving creative force in North Texas for decades, notably with Casa Manana before coming aboard at DTC. He has also worked at companies like Second Thought Theatre and has been honored with many citations from the Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum. His upcoming projects include a production of Sweeney Todd at Fort Worth's Circle Theatre.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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THE GAY AGENDA



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

MAY

• May 17: Federal Club Happy Hour

The DFW Federal Club holds its monthly happy hour from 6-8 p.m. at Amberjax in Trinity Groves. Happy hour prices on beer, wine and cocktails, and complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

• May 18: Rocket Man Gaybingo

Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

• May 18: I Stand Corrected
QCinema presents the film I Stand Corrected at 1 p.m. at Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3800 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Tickets at Qcinema.org.

• May 18: LGBT Silver Pride Prom

The third annual LGBT Senior Prom, with the theme is the Silver Days of Disco, will be held from 7-10 p.m. at Erik Jonsson Library, 1515 Young St. Free underground parking accessed off Wood Street. Free to those over 60. \$10 for 21-59 in advance at EventBrite, or \$15 at the door. Features a DJ, complimentary food and an open bar. Must be 21 or older to attend

• May 18: Different Strokes Golf Association

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 9:30 a.m., at Sherrill Park, 2001 Lookout Dr., Richardson. \$65 Includes golf, cart, range balls, prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or email communications@dsgadallas.org.

• May 18: Religion and Spirituality in Dallas

The Dallas Way presents non-judgmental look at the way religion and spirituality has impacted the history and dynamic of the LGBT community. Lunch provided. Noon-3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Free.

• May 18: Miss Ageless Pride Texas 2019

Miss Ageless Pride is sponsored by AARP and benefits Ed-U-Care. This pageant features the talent of glamour queens ages 45+ from 6-10 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

• May 18: A Night in Agrabah

Impulse Dallas presents A Night in Agrabah, from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Road in Fort Worth.

• May 18: Hope Squared Art Show and Auction

HOPE Squared, an art fundraising event featuring local artists, benefits research and support for those diagnosed or

affected by prime of life brain diseases, holds an auction from 2-5 p.m. at Belmont Village, 3535 N. Hall St. Complimentary valet. RSVP at 214-559-5408 or email kshankle@belmontvillage.com.

• May 19: Unity in the Community

Impulse Dallas and Artitude host a painting party for the mural dedicated to the trans community in the parking lot next to Havana, 4012 Cedar Springs Road, from 1:30-5:30 p.m.

• May 20: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall

Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall meets at 7:30 p.m. at Harry Meyers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St., Rockwall. For more information, contact Patti or Heidi at sdrockwall@att.com.

• May 21: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Largest Democratic club in Texas meets at 6:30 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

• May 22: Prime Timers

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Applebee's, 4654 S. Cooper St. (at I-20).

• May 23: DPD LGBTQ Town Hall

Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall, Asst. Chief Angela Shaw and Det. Laura Martin speak at a town hall meeting from 6:30-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• May 23: The Future of Sexual Healthcare

Dr. John Carlo and Dr. Rasha Ghurani speak at the opening of Prism Health NTX's new facility from 6-7:30 p.m. at 2801 Lemmon Ave. Suite 200.

• May 25: Dixie Longate Has No Instructions

QCinema presents Tupperware saleswoman Dixie Longate's show at Scott Theater, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Tickets at Qcinema.org

• May 25: Prime Timers

Pool party hosted by Steven Shaw. BYOB, towel, folding chair at 5 p.m. at 9902 Wood Forest Drive.

• May 26: Prime Timers

Games hosted by Jason at 2 p.m. at 503 Shoreview Drive, Rockwall.

• May 28: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• May 28: Family Night at Durkins Pizza

GALA family night's 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n' roll and pizza; and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is Carter Brown of the Black Transmen Inc.; **Silver Pride Project Coffee and Conversation** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Monday at Oak Lawn Library and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday at Grauwylar Library; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; **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; LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Front-runners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Turtle Creek Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and ev-

ery 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; **Thrive 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.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

• **May 29: Prime Timers**

Dinner at 5 p.m. at Big Al's Smokehouse BBQ, 3317 Inwood Road.

JUNE

• **June 1: Miller Lite Music Festival**

The Pride festival moves to the Esplanade in Fair Park.

• **June 1: Bloomin' Ball**

Annual dinner and silent auction benefiting AIN from 6 p.m.-midnight at Renaissance Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. Tickets at eventbrite.com.

• **June 1: Family Pride Zone**

Pride Train, face painters and glitter tattoos, bounce houses, gigantic slides, ventriloquist Dennis Lee with Nana Puddin', The Micro Chicks, Wild Life on the Move from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Esplanade at Fair Park. Park admission \$10. Under 13 free.

• **June 2: Pride is a Protest March**

March from Dallas City Hall to Fair Park at noon.

• **June 2: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**

The Pride parade moves to June and to Fair Park. Begins at 2 p.m. Free appetizers, game tables, for GALA's third Thursday happy hour from 5-8:30 p.m. at Henry's, 5741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100.

• **June 4: Classic Chassis Car Club**

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

• **June 7: MetroBall 14**

Maxine Nightingale, Robin S and Lisa Lisa headline the 14th annual Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund fundraiser at 7 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at GDMAF.org.

■ **pet of the week / VERVAIN**



Meet **Vervain**, a 1 1/2-year-old, black- and-white pit bull mix weighing 58 pounds. She's a sweet, playful gal who loves everyone she meets and is quite the social butterfly. She's friendly, loving and very smart. While in a foster home, she learned routines very quickly and proved to be a great houseguest. She is crate-trained and house-trained, and she knows basic commands. She does fine when left alone and is happy to hang out on the couch and watch TV. She also enjoys going for runs, playing with toys and cuddling

with people. She's a tripod and only has three legs, but that doesn't hold her back one bit! If you have another dog at home, bring them for a meet and greet to see if they get along. Vervain has been spayed and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today. #167458

Vervain 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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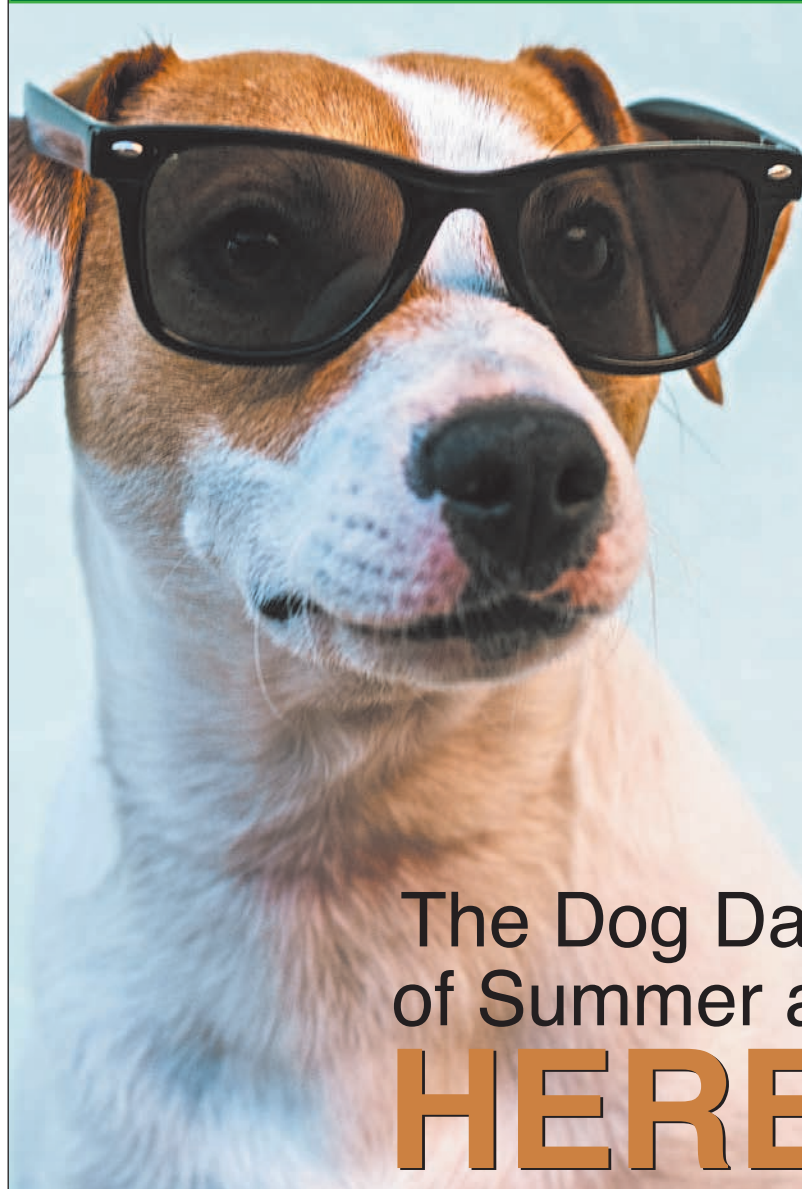
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On the road for hope

Woman undergoing chemo and her wife are helping spread the word about American Cancer Society's upcoming housing for cancer patients

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Christie Terry-Ball wasn't feeling well last summer, she decided it was time for her annual check-up. She was tired, she said, and occasionally feeling some pain. It was nothing to really worry about, she thought, but it was probably smart to get it checked out.

"Then, bam!" she said.

She went to Durant, Okla., to see her doctor, who did a sonogram and told her to come back the next week for results. But by the time she got back to her home in Hugo, Okla., the doctor had called to tell her to come back in the next day.

Not expecting the news to be good, Christie's wife Susan took the day off to go back to Durant with her. They were right; it wasn't good news.

"There's no good way to tell you this," the doctor said. "You have cancer."

There might not have been a good way to break the news, Christie joked, but there may have been better ways.

The doctor in Durant gave Christie a choice: She could see a specialist at Medical City in Dallas, or she could see a specialist at Baylor in Dallas. After doing some online research, the couple decided to go with Baylor's specialist.

Two weeks later, they were in Dallas, where Dr. Colin Koon at Texas Oncology-Baylor did a biopsy that confirmed Christie had uterine cancer that had metastasized. He found two cancers — one

a stage 3 aggressive form and another the doctor considered less worrisome.

Christie had a complete hysterectomy at the end of October. Then she underwent monthly chemotherapy treatment for six months to kill the cancer that had moved to the lymph nodes and a lung. Finally, she endured five-and-a-half weeks of daily radiation to keep the cancer from coming back.

Friends become a couple

Susan and Christie had been best friends for years, and both were married to men and had children when Susan broached the subject of taking their relationship to a different level: "I like you," Susan told Christie.

The first time the subject came up, Christie brushed it off, saying they had their children to consider. So when Susan's youngest child turned 17 and was about to graduate from high school, she brought up the subject again, telling Christie, "I can't stay in my marriage."

By then, Christie was at a similar point in her life, and their friendship turned into more. Today, the two have been married to each other for more than two years.

Susan and Christie aren't the only same-sex couple in Hugo, but they still keep their relationship as private as possible. That means making some choices about certain things — like where to go to church.

"We could have gone to church in Hugo," Susan said. "But it wouldn't have been a good idea." Instead, they make the two-hour trip from Hugo to Dallas to attend services at Cathedral of Hope as often as they can.

Getting back to normal

After Christie's hysterectomy last October, Susan went back to work as an admin at a drug and alcohol treatment center while Christie was still in the hospital in Dallas. Christie returned to her job as



Christie, left, and Susan Terry-Ball. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

If you are going out of town to receive cancer treatment and want to find out if there is a Hope Lodge near your hospital, or if you need help arranging an affordable hotel stay, call the American Cancer Society at 800-227-2345.

a Choctaw County Jail administrator as soon as she recovered from the surgery and between chemo treatments.

Christie said her employees were very supportive during her chemo treatments. "I gained 20 pounds taking chemo," she said, because everyone at work was feeding her.

"Her employees texted me: 'She just ate.' 'She just took her meds,'" Susan said.

Her doctor's one restriction was that Christie shouldn't go into the jail and have contact with inmates because of fear of infection.

Then came the radiation treatments — five days a week for five-and-a-half weeks. They're in the middle of that treatment now. Because it wasn't practical to travel back-and-forth to Hugo every day, the couple are staying at a long-term suite hotel in Dallas. In addition to the hotel bill, they have meal and transportation costs, which have included some car repairs.

It is a situation many people who have to travel for cancer treatment face. Now the American Cancer Society is working on a way to alleviate some of that stress — and some of the expenses.

Joy Donovan Brandon, director of communications for the American Cancer Society, South Region, said her organization broke ground earlier this month on Hope Lodge near Baylor on land do-

nated by the hospital.

Hope Lodge will give cancer patients and their caregivers a home away from home while they are in Dallas receiving cancer treatment at any hospital in the area. To qualify to stay at Hope Lodge, the patient must live at least 40 miles from the facility.

The new building will have 50 private guest suites and will offer up to 18,000 free room-nights a year once it opens in 2021.

Around the country, there are already more than 30 Hope Lodges built by the American Cancer Society, including two in Texas: one already open in Lubbock and one under construction in Houston.

Susan and Christie said they feel isolated at times in the hotel where they're staying. Hope Lodge will help others avoid that isolation. Brandon said there are a variety of activities offered for residents at Hope Lodge in Lubbock. Groups do crafts; someone comes in to entertain residents by playing piano; there's a library, a dining room, a living room and a meditation garden.

But most importantly, Hope Lodge is a place where people sharing a common experience can get together. Caregivers support other caregivers, and patients help other patients get through their treatments.

Susan said she had already used up all of her paid sick time by the time they came to Dallas for the six weeks of radiation treatments. So, she's taking off using unpaid Family Medical Leave Act — or FMLA — time. Christie has used her paid sick time and vacation time as well.

Martin pleads guilty to theft of \$3m-plus

Former Dallasite is still facing theft charges in Travis County

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Former Dallas resident John Wright Martin has pleaded guilty to three counts of felony property theft and one count of felony forgery, and has been sentenced to 12 years in prison on each of the property theft charges, and 12 months on the forgery charge.

As of Thursday, May 16, he remained incarcerated at the Collin County jail.

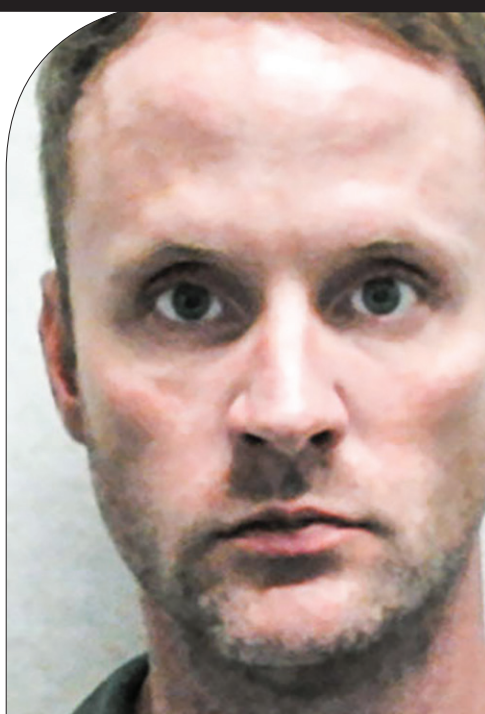
Those charges are all related to money Martin embezzled from his former employer, Kristy Pitchford, owner of Nerdvana restaurant in Frisco and wife of Gearbox Software CEO Randy Pitchford. Martin worked as Kristy Pitchford's personal assistant at the time of the thefts and the forgery.

Martin pleaded guilty to a felony bail jumping charge out of Collin County — he failed to appear for trial on the property theft and forgery charges last August — and was sentenced to five years on that charge. He was also sentenced to five years in prison in connection with having his probation revoked on a previous charge out of Collin County of driving while intoxicated/third or more offense.

He will get credit on the various charges for as many as 193 days in time served.

Dallas Voice has reached out to the Collin County District Attorney's Office for clarification on whether Wright will serve the sentences concurrently or consecutively, and when he might be eligible for parole. As of press time Thursday, May 16, that office had not responded.

In addition, a spokeswoman for the Travis County District Attorney's office said Wednesday, May 15, that her office has felony property theft charges pend-



ing against Martin in connection with the theft there of a Cadillac Escalade valued at between \$80,000 and \$90,000.

Martin began working for Kristy Pitchford in early 2014. At the same time he worked for her, Martin was beginning to build his own interior design company. By October 2016, he had stopped working for Pitchford to focus on his own business.

During that time, Martin purchased a large home in Frisco, near the Pitchfords' home, and made large donations to LGBT community events, including Black Tie Dinner and DIFFA's Dallas Collection. He said at the time that the money came from an inheritance left to him by his grandfather, but it has since been determined that the money had been embezzled from the Pitchfords.

Although Kristy and Randy Pitchford did not discover until February 2017 that Martin had embezzled money from them, and they did not discover the true extent of his thefts until 2018, the Pitchfords believe Martin likely started taking money soon after he was hired.

In February 2018, the Pitchfords won a civil suit against Martin, with Judge Bruce McFarling ordering Martin to pay the couple more than \$2 million in damages. The settlement in that case included the home Martin bought in Frisco. ■

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Protests greet Bolsonaro in Dallas

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Dallas area activists turned out for two separate protests this week in response to a visit by notoriously homophobic Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro participated in a private luncheon Thursday at Old Parkland, at the corner of Maple and Oak Lawn avenues.

Bolsonaro's visit to Dallas came about a week after his visit to New York City — where he was to receive an award from the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce — was cancelled because venues there refused to host the event and because NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke out against Bolsonaro.

Initial reports indicated that the World Affairs Council of Dallas and Fort Worth, led by openly-gay board chair Jorge Baldor, had invited Bolsonaro to Dallas, and that he would receive the award from the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce at an event here. Baldor, however, told Dallas Voice on Wednesday, May 15, that reports he and the council had invited Bolsonaro to Dallas were "a goddamn lie."

"He invited himself," Baldor said of

Bolsonaro's trip to Dallas. "World Affairs Council did not issue an invitation," Baldor said. "I personally did not issue an invitation. I do not want him here."

Baldor said the World Affairs Council was involved in the city because the council has a contract with the city of Dallas to host foreign dignitaries, but there were no public events planned for Bolsonaro, and "He is not getting an award."

Several current and incoming Dallas City Council members this week issued an open letter urging the World Affairs Council to cancel the event, and urging Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings not to attend the event. Rawlings confirmed Wednesday that he would not be attending the luncheon and would not meet with Bolsonaro.

After news of Bolsonaro's planned visit to Dallas broke last week, Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell sent a letter to the council asking them to rescind the invitation to Bolsonaro and not participate in any events with him. The council's president and CEO, James Falk, responded in a letter saying that despite Bolsonaro's controversial record, his ap-



belief that free speech and diverse arguments ought to be heard and evaluated on their substance. The council serves an integral role in that marketplace, and we are very conscious of our position and the values of North Texas."

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox, however, responded with a letter to Falk noting that not all speech is protected as free speech.

"We are in agreement that free speech is a valuable and laudable concept. But free speech also comes with responsibilities and consequences. Brazilian president Bolsonaro has a history of danger-



The Rev. Michael Gregg and the Rev. Tim Schaefer of Royal Lane Baptist Church and the Rev. Neil Cazeras-Thomas of Cathedral of Hope protested Bolsonaro's visit. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

pearance in Dallas fell under the council's "mission of education, engagement and an open exchange of ideas."

Falk added, "Some of our speakers unavoidably will involve political controversy, but if you eliminate controversy, you lose an opportunity for public awareness. Our mission is grounded in a

ous, reckless and inciteful comments towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities — comments that are of such egregiousness they trump free speech. For the World Affairs Council to passively dismiss those statements in the name of 'public awareness' does a grave disservice to the Council, the North Texas LGBT community and the region's efforts to tout itself as a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community." ■



HOPE, From Page 8

To help pay the hotel bill and other expenses, Christie's daughter and Choctaw County jail employees have done bake sales and raffles and have solicited contributions from local businesses.

While Hope Lodge won't be finished in time to benefit Susan and Christie, they're among the project's biggest supporters. Susan said that fortunately, Christie has good insurance that will

cover the medical expenses. But lodging, food, transportation and car repairs have cost them thousands of dollars out of pocket and have caused untold stress at a time when the women should have been focused solely on Christie's health.

The road to hope and health

Christie said Dr. Koon has been a bless-

ing because of his kind bedside manner. She said she's amazed at how much time he's spent with her and how patient he's been explaining procedures.

Both women have said the support they've gotten from their new friends at Cathedral of Hope and others in the community in Dallas has overwhelmed them and kept them positive.

At one point during her treatment, Christie told Susan she hadn't seen her cry. Susan replied, "I love you very much. I can't cry in front of you."

Susan said she actually has done a lot

of crying, but never as much as last week after a story about the groundbreaking for Hope Lodge and how it would have helped the couple that aired on WFAA Channel 8.

Susan said she needed a haircut so she went to Supercuts on Lemmon Avenue. Christie was tired from a radiation treatment and waited in the car.

After her haircut, when Susan tried to pay, her hair stylist refused to take her money: "I saw you on TV," she told Susan, adding that all she wanted was to give Christie a big hug. ■



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Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues), \$130. Contact Dallas Voice at 214-754-8710 x110.

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Pride is a Protest!

It's time to take our Pride celebration back to its roots: visible and defiant

We all know this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City. Most of us also know that the first predecessors to today's Pride parades began the following year, on the first anniversary of the riots. Several major cities held parades and marches on June 28, 1970. These events were not the beginning of the gay rights movement, but they marked a tremendous change in tone, goals and effectiveness. It was at that point in history that advocates for gay rights turned away from polite, quiet attempts to make society accept "us" as "just like them."

Post-Stonewall activism was all about being loud and proud of who we truly are. Pride celebrations back then were all about two things: visibility and defiance.

Visibility was important because we needed to show the world how many of us there were. People are more comfortable ignoring us when they think we are few. People are more apt to discount our existence as mental illness or passing fads when they don't realize that we are in every corner of society, in every profession, in every locality. People are more able to hate us when they are unaware that we are members of their communities, schools and churches, their friendship circles, and even their families.

Pride was in part about coming out of the closet as a community and telling the world that we are here, and we are queer.

Defiance was important as well, because society wanted us to live in shame and hiding. They were afraid of us because they didn't understand us. They shamed us into the closet where we hid our true selves from them for near eternity. What began at Stonewall was a sense of defiance against the very notion that we ought to be ashamed of who we are, who we love and what we do to express our love. We finally decided to stand up and fight back.

Fast forward 40-some years, and travel to Dallas, Texas. What have we here? A city that is a liberal safe haven, in many



Jayla Wilkerson
Contributing Columnist

this city has tremendous local protections for the LGBTQIA+ community — protections the state is working to take away as we speak.

We have the colors of the rainbow flag light up the skyline annually to celebrate Pride. We have gay city council members, the largest LGBTQIA+-inclusive church in the world, a thriving gayborhood and a true sense of acceptance for most of us, compared to other cities in this part of this country.

And we have a Pride Parade scheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2019, at 2 p.m. . . . in the biggest closet in the city . . . on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Why? How did this happen?

A lot of factors went into moving our Pride parade and celebration from Cedar Springs to Fair Park. A big part of it is money. We were told that we could no longer hold the parade on Cedar Springs because the crowd is too big for the area (a great problem), and the roads will be under construction this year.

Fine. The parade never belonged in the gayborhood anyway. What do we accomplish by screaming "support gay rights" to gay people? Parades belong downtown. The first parades in Dallas were downtown. That's where they need to be to have the biggest impact, to serve their purpose of visibility.

But it would be far too expensive to hold the parade in downtown Dallas, so it will be held in Fair Park — visible only to those who choose to be present there.

Visibility, then, is dead for the LGBTQIA+ community in Dallas, right? One might suppose it is no longer needed anyway; gays have all the rights straights have now — with marriage equality and employment protections

most places, right? Wrong! Visibility is alive and well — as is the need for it among many in our community.

It is true that the situation in society has vastly improved over the past 50 years for affluent, white, gay men. Meanwhile, they are only a small part of our community, and there is much more work to do.

The transgender community is being attacked at every angle. The federal government is trying to force us out of existence, and the Texas government is helping. Local governments are doing precious little to protect us, and they are losing the power even to do that.

We need change in the way society treats us on an institutional level and on a very personal level. We need employment protections, but we also need employment opportunities. We need the freedom to marry, but we also need people who date women to recognize that trans women are women, and those who date men to accept that trans men are men so that we can build the relationships that might lead to marriage.

We need protections against housing discrimination, but we also need trans-inclusive policies at homeless shelters. We need people to stop murdering us because of who we are, and we also need police and other authorities to stop harassing us, misgendering us, dead-naming us and housing us according to our genitalia in direct contradiction of federal law.

We need the citizens of Dallas to know who we are. We need huge societal changes. We need visibility like never before. That is why we MARCH!

Transgender Pride of Dallas is hosting a "Pride is a Protest" March before the parade on June 2. We will rally at City Hall at 11:30 a.m., then march from there through downtown Dallas, through Deep Ellum, to the gates of Fair Park. We will arrive by 1 p.m. and have an hour to settle in before the parade begins.

We will be loud, proud, and visible! We will remember our sisters, trans women of color, who were instrumental in making the Stonewall Riots the turning point we needed in the history of the gay-rights movement. We will bring the Protest back to Pride in Dallas, Texas. Join us!

Jayla Wilkerson is founder of Transgender Pride of Dallas.

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Braver than before

Sara Bareilles talks bold political convictions, her 'ride or die' lesbians and meeting a Drag Racer



Sara Bareilles wanted to see herself be brave. Of course, she summoned you to do the same atop a bop that wouldn't take no for an answer, but she's been a work in progress herself. She followed her own be-bold guidance for her fifth solo album, *Amidst the Chaos*, making timely feminist assertions ("Armor") and using coded language to write songs that could be about love but were actually written, mournfully, longingly, with a specific loved one in mind: Barack Obama. *Amidst the Chaos* is Bareilles' first studio album in six years, the last being 2013's *The Blessed Unrest*. (She also wrote the music and lyrics for Broadway's *Waitress the Musical*, which opened in 2015.)

Recently, Bareilles spoke candidly about fearlessly (and finally) speaking her mind, backlash from Trump supporters who are refusing to listen to her new music and criticism that allies shouldn't sing about the LGBTQ community. But first, drag queens...

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: You recently had a meet-up with Nina West, a contestant on this season's *RuPaul's Drag Race*, outside the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, home to *Waitress*.

Sara Bareilles: I sure did.

You're like, "I know. I was there." You didn't forget. Of course not! You don't forget that! It was amazing. I was

still in the show at the time, and it was the day they announced she was joining the cast, and I walked outside — I was going to physical therapy for my shoulder — and she is so fierce, and she was wearing that pink, yellow, super bright dress, and she's underneath the marquee. I'm like, "Give that to me please!" So we just had this beautiful, sweet little meet-up, and then she sent a whole box of goodies, and I shared it with the cast, and I got my Nina West t-shirt.

You have a Nina West shirt now? I sure do! There's an amazing array of T-shirts. Like whoever does that merch is on point.

Now all the queens are gonna be sending you drag queen T-shirts. You're gonna have a whole closet full of them. I'll take it. Are you kidding me? That's all I'm gonna wear this year.

Does this mean you're a *RuPaul's Drag Race* fan? I am, although I'm not gonna pretend like I watch it every time. I feel like I stay up to date on it because my friends watch it. You sort of keep an eye on it. Like, I love that it exists, and it makes so many people so happy, and I love it.

Now, after Nina, there's basically a gay movement to get you on the show to be a judge. Oh my god, I would love to.

If you were a judge on the show, what kind of judge would you be? Are you qualified to judge drag? No — let me just tell you what I know about myself: I am a terrible judge, and I learned this when I was on *The Sing-Off*,

because I was a judge for one season on this a cappella competition show, and who does not want to ever give criticism? Sara Bareilles. It is not why I am on this earth! Other people are good at it; I am not. I am all about, I wanna love you up! I wanna make you feel great! I wanna pick out all the things I'm excited about who you are! I'm not a good person for, like, constructive criticism. I'm so uncomfortable. I'll just be a really sweet judge.

Shifting to the new album, and given its subject matter, was the LGBTQ community on your mind while creating it? Always. That community is just braided into the fabric of my messaging and my intention, always. And beyond. Really, for me, the pivot point was the election and wanting to turn back toward music and talk about the way I was feeling about the world with music again, with my own personal music.

The thing that's been so hard to witness is this total absence of compassion and inclusivity, and it's really jarring to watch this soul-crushing nature of so much agitation and anger and blame. I'm having a hard time with it. It's really, really hard to metabolize as a person, and so I definitely turn toward music to parse those ideas out and put them somewhere and try to make sense of it. But on a macro level and a micro level, this last handful of years has felt very chaotic.

Though they're disguised as love songs, some of these songs were written about Obama, like "No Such Thing" and "If I Can't Have You." In turn, they've turned



off some Trump supporters. One comment on a Variety article read, "I am deleting her from my playlist. She loves a president that literally destroyed the healthcare for my family and millions of others because he's 'cool.' Another idiot who has no concept of the real world." You must've known some of these songs would polarize your fan base. Why sing them anyway? Because they're true for me. I think that one of the things that has happened to me in the last handful of years is that I have stopped feeling fearful of displeasing people with my truth. I think as a young artist I felt very aware of never saying anything that was controversial or wasn't sort of milque-toast-y in the sense of steering clear of anything political.

On some level, I'm not a policy wonk. I can't break down to you the ins and outs of every point of what's happening politically, but I am learning, and I am curious, and I have questions. And I'm not fearful of losing a fan who doesn't care for my belief system. It's OK. You don't have to listen. I still wrote the song for you, but it's OK. I don't need to be angry about that at all. It doesn't even ignite any of those feelings toward me.

I feel sad that we're watching the healthcare system get dismantled. Whoever that person is, I want your family to be taken care of. I really do. And I just happen to believe that another system is the better way. But it's OK. If it's too triggering to listen to my music because I don't have the same politics, then that's OK.

Then there are songs of yours like "Brave," where you ignited a positive

sense of self-empowerment within the LGBTQ community. Did that song take on a different shape and life after it was unleashed? It did. My goodness! That was one of the greatest sort of movies I ever got to watch: Where is "Brave" gonna go? I did not anticipate that that song would be so mutable and malleable and turn into so many different things for so many different people. As a songwriter that is the deepest hope and wish for the thing you make: that it's going to land in the hearts and the hands of the people who need it for whatever they need it.

So I love singing that song still. I love the connection it makes with the fans. I really believe in the message. I still turn to that message personally all the time, with an attachment to the outcome: Can I just be my bravest self? Can I be my most authentic? Can I be my most truthful? That's the goal.

I read a column in The Guardian around the time "Brave" came out about Macklemore's "Same Love" and "Brave" that addressed straight allies expressing their solidarity, and the article asked allies to "now make room for us to sing our own stories." Is this a sentiment from the community you've been made aware of, and as an ally, how do you feel about it? I think we're in this really delicate time, understandably, of people wanting to claim their own story. My feeling, as an artist and as a writer: Your job is to sort of crawl into that radical empathy space and hopefully, with the best of intentions, just amplify a message. It's not that I would ever hope to take the place

■ BRAVER Page 20

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L+S stage

Cool & 'Cruel'

Out actor David Wright goes retro camp in 'Cruel Intentions'

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

Let's just start with the fact that the cult classic movie *Cruel Intentions* is now a Broadway musical. This shouldn't surprise anyone familiar with the many other teen/20something films that have received the same treatment: *Legally Blonde*, *Mean Girls*, *Bring It On*. But the campy, bored-Angeleno update to *Dangerous Liaisons*, which starred Reese Witherspoon, Ryan Phillippe and Sarah Michelle Gellar and centered on deflowering and outing, actually seems more conducive to opera than Broadway — that is, until some fabulous '90s hits are thrown in the mix as the show's score.

Which is all fine with David Wright. Wright plays the villainous Blaine Tuttle, the school's bitchy queen who

manipulates straight boys into sticky situations. Although Wright, 26, has a lengthy performance resume, Blaine is his first lead role.

"I'm usually hired as a dancer and gymnast, but this also comes full circle for me," he says. "This has pushed me as a performer with my Hollywood training, and I'm very familiar with the songs. My character sings Britney and some boy band songs that I knew. So I'm loving the show."

Wright grew up in Los Angeles but is now based in New York City. He came upon the audition fortuitously when a friend recommended him. Wright clearly struck a chord when he sang and danced to Britney Spears' "Sometimes," who he declares, with a Marie Kondo flair, sparks joy in him. And it worked.

"It's such a truly incredible experi-

CRUEL INTENTIONS
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ence — this being the first time I can work with the director to develop the character on my own,” he says. “And then that feeling of going onstage. I think that mental block to step up has been released, and I’m stepping into my moment.”

He wasn’t the intended audience when the movie came out in 1999 — Wright was only 6 at the time. But as happens with cult entertainment, he became familiar with it via osmosis. And when he finally did watch the movie, it triggered something in him: He bluntly admits it was one of the first times he remembers realizing that he was attracted to men.

The ‘90s was an interesting time cinematically for queer characters. While there was an influx of representation, characters were often diabolical. Sharon Stone’s Catherine Trammell in *Basic Instinct*, Ted Levine’s Buffalo Bill in *The Silence of the Lambs* and Tommy Lee Jones’ Clay Shaw in *JFK* were perhaps the most culturally significant. But Joshua Jackson’s Blaine resonated with GenXers specifically. And for the musical, Wright explains that subtle differences were made to keep the ‘90s

feel but in a 2019 vein.

“The creators [Lindsey Rosin and Jordan Ross] wanted to be careful with everything — and me, too. The [plot of the movie] might be a sore subject, so there were careful adjustments in this time of the #MeToo movement, racism and gay rights,” he says. “It’s still scandalous, but we also have the freedom to be mindful but to make our characters the strongest we can.”

And Wright insists that his Blaine is different than the Blaine of the film. He contrasts his interpretation as being more comfortably out than in the movie. But he’s still the mischievous one.

“He’s still a bad guy, but I bring a sweeter side to him,” Wright says. “He’s made some mistakes, but ironically, he has a happy ending.”

Wright loves Blaine as any actor loves his character ... but he also has some conflict. Wright is a bubbly personality who sounds like the friendliest guy.

“I do love him and what I’ve had to go through personally as an actor, but as a person, we would not get along,” he says. “He would not be in my circle of friends.”

Oh, snap!

GODS AND TWINKS



Cruel Intentions isn’t the only new-ish musical to touch on youth culture and opening this week in the Arts District. Young adult fodder seems to be the new trend for the musical stage, with *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and the *SpongeBob Squarepants* musical garnering massive audiences and snatching up trophies. But before either of them took to the stage, the Percy Jackson YA series got the theater treatment in 2014 with *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*.

The musical follows the titular character who discovers he’s part god,

part human and embarks on a quest to find Zeus’ missing lightning bolt before war breaks out among all those Greek gods you studied in school.

The teenager and his cohorts sing and dance their way to Camp Half-Blood with showtunes about minotaurs and school expulsion before taking a cross-country journey to clear Percy’s name, retrieve his mom from the Underworld and find Hades... who may have stolen The bolt — all while wearing fabulous winged shoes.

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L+S screen

Judge dread

Non-binary actor Asia Kate Dillon on her badass role in 'John Wick 3'



Asia Kate Dillon isn't a judgmental person, which makes their latest role something of a stretch.

"I really try hard to not assume anything about anyone," says the non-binary, pansexual identified actor, "unless I'm in a conversation with that person and they have space to tell me who they are — how they identify, or what they're interested in. I like to let other people tell me who they are."

The same cannot be said for Dillon's character, The Adjudicator, in *John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum*, the Keanu Reeves-led action franchise about a legendary former assassin forced back into a dangerous underworld of murder, betrayals and strict rules enforced by a powerful international assassins' guild, the High Table.

Directed by former stuntman/martial artist Chad Stahelski (who doubled for Reeves in *The Matrix* films), the series is beloved for its relentless action and evolving, inventive world-building, which includes Dillon's enforcer of violent High Table judgment.

Dillon, who embraced a non-binary gender identity after playing ground-

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breaking non-binary character Taylor Mason in Showtime's delicious finance world-set *Billions* — Taylor's arc continues on the current fourth season — and portrayed Brandy Epps in *Orange Is the New Black*, spoke about joining Wick World.

— Lawrence Ferber

Dallas Voice: Keanu came up with the role of The Adjudicator. How did the character evolve once you got cast? Asia Kate Dillon: Both Keanu and Chad had a vision for this character as someone who could walk into a room and unsettle anyone, including people who you don't think can be [unsettled], like Ian McShane's Winston and John Wick in particular — a character who could also give a deeper glimpse into the world of John Wick and the High Table. It's really fun to be a new character in an existing franchise and take people deeper into that world.

Alas, you don't get to do any physical ass-kicking yourself this installment. Disappointed? While the role of The Adjudicator doesn't pick up arms in this film, they use something else — a quiet intensity and power and confidence that was really fun for me to play.

You have a great, cringe-inducing scene with Laurence Fishburne's character, The Bowery King, who lords over flocks of rooftop pigeons. I've got to ask — was there a lot of pigeon pooping going on? It's funny. I don't think so. The pigeons are professional birds, very well trained, incredible to work with. Incredible costars.

One element of the Wickiverse is a switchboard through which people order assassinations, and I believe that I spotted at least one trans person in there. The Wick films are getting very queer with representation, aren't they? Totally. I was a fan of the first two, and one of the things I appreciated was the diversity. There are so many kinds of people — all sizes, colors, sexualities, ethnicities, cultural backgrounds. It feels like a more accurate reflection of the world than a lot of media is willing to portray, and this film adds gender diversity with my character. I think if you're making art and don't have queer, trans and people of color in your project you're not accurately representing the world.

Do you find that filmmakers are writing more roles to incorporate and represent non-binary and transgender identities today? Scripts are coming my way, and more non-binary and transgender characters are being written, but I'm just one example of what a non-binary identity can look like. I think there's an idea of a non-binary identity that is predominantly white-bodied and androgynous. Someone

born female and wearing pants on a red carpet is held up as someone who should be admired, but someone born male at birth, particularly a person of color, wearing a dress on the carpet is still going to be ridiculed. Some of these people receive death threats, people I know. We've made a tremendous amount of progress and the arc of history has long been for justice, but we have to keep fighting for justice and visibility for people on the margins.

Whose life story would you love to portray? The first name to come to mind is Mary Martin, who means something to

me in particular because she starred in a version of *Peter Pan* that was live action-to-tape that I watched over and over as a kid. I'd be fascinated to learn more about her life and play her.

The German word for empathy, *empathie*, is tattooed on your neck. Are you thinking of getting more ink? Oh yeah, for sure. There are so many I want. My lucky number is 37, so I know that's something I want.

I hear you're working on your first music project. Can you share some details? I've been a singer my whole life, and the time feels right to put my own music out. I

found a producer I'm excited to work with and the sound will be an amalgamation of all the music I love, going back to soul and the blues and rock and roll.

Although you're not a judgmental person, you play a judge in *John Wick 3*, so I'll ask: Would you come to a conclusion or two about someone wearing a MAGA hat? We're certainly living in a time in this country where the hateful rhetoric that's coming from 45's administration is having severe and very real consequences for people who have been historically marginalized and disenfranchised, so I would keep my distance because safety first!

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of an artist from the LGBTQ community, but do I certainly want to be on the team to amplify the message that inclusivity, diversity, acceptance, truth, advocacy are worthy to be talked about? Yes. To me it feels like it's diminishing the strength in numbers if the only people that can support the movement are people who are inside the movement. Then you're making your movement smaller.

And no movement in the history of movements has effectively moved forward with just a single group of people.

Yeah. I can relate it to the new feminist movement. One of the most important voices that need to speak up for women's rights are men. That's how we are going to amplify messages. So I completely understand the impulse of wanting to tell your own story. I think that's completely valid, and in terms of who I make music with or who I bring on tour, those are the things I can pay attention to. But I think to shut me out because I am straight is maybe a slightly mixed message to me.

I really appreciate your honest and eloquent answer. It's hard because it's delicate. I think it's good that you ask those questions. But for anyone to sort of have the idea that it's black or white, it's so personal for everybody, and I think that's the part of our life and our culture right now



that is creating so much tension. I always refer to it as the death of nuance. It's like there's no room for gray area. It's like you are or you aren't. It's all these really stark contrasts, and I think really where humanity exists is in that gray matter in between, just in the middle.

In 2018, you sent gay Twitter ablaze when you tweeted "It was never about a he," referencing your hit "Love Song" and its inspiration. Gay Twitter thought you were coming out. Though you did

eventually set the record straight, so to speak, how quickly were you made aware that many in the LGBTQ community thought you were coming out? Are you kidding me? My lesbians have been my ride or die since the beginning, so I knew they were just waiting for me [laughs]... But I also thought when I made that tweet that it's just a story I've told so many times, that I wrote it about the record label and that it wasn't a particular person, that I didn't think anything

of it. Then it was just delicious to watch the kind of aftermath of that. [Laughs]
And then your DMs filled up with messages from your loyal lesbians? Yeah! Well, there's been like a little campaign to get a female Dr. Pomatter for a long time [the doctor in *Waitress* who falls in love with the musical's female protagonist, Jenna], so it's something that I find delight in, and we're certainly open-minded about where the story goes and who gets to tell this story, so all the things are possible, I think.

Outside of *Waitress*, you usually write from an autobiographical place. Which song on *Amidst the Chaos* do you feel closest to? So my favorite song on the record is "Saint Honesty," but the song that I actually feel the closest to is "Someone Who Loves Me," because it deals with anxiety and depression and how you allow someone to see your pain, and that's been a very difficult journey for me in my life. So I think that's the song that probably feels closest to my skin. That's the one that kind of lives the closest to my heart. But also, I fucking love "Armor." I love getting to sing that song, so yeah, it's hard to choose. They're like your babies.

All artists say that, so I'm glad you were able to narrow it down. [Laughs] That's my answer today.

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Saturday
05.18

Legacy paints the town red with Legacy Rouge

For 30 years, Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage has served the HIV community with diligence and compassion, and to celebrate this milestone, the group is looking backwards... all the way to the turn of the last century. The Legacy Rouge: One Night in Paris party will sweep you off to a night in Paris with complimentary vodka drinks, their largest silent auction ever and a colorful production. VIP tickets offer even more perks... and all for a great cause.

DEETS: South Side Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar St. May 18. 7 p.m. Tickets from \$40. LegacyCares.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Saturday 05.18

LeeAnne Locken honored at pet adoption fundraiser

Gays love their pets like children; gays love LeeAnne Locken, so attending the 18th annual Wine on the Roof fundraiser for the East Lake Pet Orphanage seems like a no-brainer. Locken will be receiving the rescue group's annual John Labella Award, presented to those who are advocates for the care, treatment and adoption of dogs, cats and other four-legged friends. The party's theme is Paws Vegas, so think of Siegfried & Roy fashions... or your best Cirque du Soleil look. And, of course, enjoy the wine.

DEETS: East Lake Pet Orphanage, 10101 E. Northwest Highway. 7 p.m. WineOnTheRoof.com.



Friday 05.17 —
Sunday 05.26

B.J. Cleveland hears them 'Playing Our Song'

For years, B.J. Cleveland served as the artistic director for Theatre Arlington. And for the rest of this month, the in-demand actor, director and all-around theatrical impresario is returning to his old stomping ground in the two-hander musical *They're Playing Our Song*. Written by Neil Simon with music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager, it's based on the lives of its composing team. Cleveland will share the stage with Lori Roods Blondin.

DEETS: Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St. Through May 26. TheatreArlington.org.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Babette's Feast. Stage adaptation of the beloved comedy film. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through May 26. AmphibianStage.org.

Miss Saigon. Tour of the musical twist on *La Boheme*, set during the Vietnam War. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through May 26. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Raptured. A world premiere commission by Matt Lyle and Matt Coleman — a comedy about the end of the world. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Real Women Have Curves. Stage adaptation of the hit film about Latinas dealing with life and body issues. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

BALLET

Pinocchio. Texas Ballet Theater's story about the wooden puppet who became a real little boy. A joint production with the National Ballet of Canada. Performs in Dallas and Fort Worth. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 17–19. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. May 24–26. TexasBalletTheater.org.

FINE ART

Jonas Wood. Mid-career exhibition of the modern American painter. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through July 14. DMA.org.

Fortuny: Friends and Followers. Examination of the influence of the 19th century Spanish painter. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. on the SMU campus. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

FILM

South Asian Film Festival. Fifth annual event. Screenings take place at various venues around North Texas. Through Sunday. Visit DFWSAFF.com for details.

FRIDAY 05.17

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 05.18

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.

SUNDAY 05.19

BROADCAST

Game of Thrones. The series finale airs. HBO at 8 p.m.

MONDAY 05.20

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 05.21

FILM

Charade. One of the better romantic caper films that sorta seems like it was directed by Alfred Hitchcock but was really directed by Stanley Donen. Stars Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

THEATER

Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through May 26. APPTAC.org.

WEDNESDAY 05.22

THEATER

Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through May 26. APPTAC.org.

THURSDAY 05.23

BROADCAST

Project Runway. The design competition returns with two Dallas designers in the mix. Now back on Bravo. 7 p.m.

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.

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Girl on girls

Jenny Block on keeping the past in the past



At some point, you have to decide whether you are going to focus your life on looking backward or moving forward. I think about that a lot. I think about it not only in terms of my romantic relationship — my marriage — but also in terms of my familial relationships and friendships. It can be challenging to resist “healing” the wounds of the past with the relationships of the present. But the attempt is equal parts dangerous and impossible.

I wasn’t popular in high school. *At all.* I know, I know — I wasn’t doing myself any favors with debate team, drama club and a perm that wasn’t a good idea even in the ’80s. Because of feeling like a bit of an outsider back then, I can be super, duper sensitive now, taking things personally and responding to things in a way that is more representative of teenaged-me than adult-me.

When I do that, it always ends badly. It’s me overthinking past wounds and snubs and missing out on current opportunities. I fear being rejected so I don’t approach people. Thing is, that only makes people think I’m being standoffish. I don’t follow up with people because I assume they were just being

polite. Others even think I’m being just plain thoughtless or rude. I have to remind myself: These people are not the stupid kids I went to school with.

Some people do it with their parents, too. They have real or imagined wrongs and so take their frustrations out on their own children or parents. Not calling. Withholding grandchildren. Telling horror stories of their childhood that are miles from reality. I feel fortunate not to be guilty of that. My wife lost her mother too soon. With her support, I have formed a friendship with my mother for which I am eternally grateful, and I have a relationship with my 20-year-old daughter that even she and I recognize is fan-damn-tastic and far better than most (despite my having perfectly predictable empty nest aches).

When it comes to my wife, I have to catch myself. I can feel myself wanting to act out the past. The partners who failed me or were abusive or who were just not willing to meet me where I needed to be met appear like specters, beckoning me to battle them through her. Sometimes I feel myself appeasing them. When I do, it is always a disaster. I

hurt my wife, and I disappoint myself. But if I can recognize and fight it, I always feel super glad I did.

What does this look like? Well, maybe you had a controlling partner in the past and so, in the name of never being controlled again, you refuse to take any sort of suggestion from your partner, even if clearly the best course of action. Or maybe your last partner never did anything for your birthday, so you refuse to make a big deal of your current partner’s birthday. Or perhaps a past love demanded to always know where you are or what you were doing or what you spent money on, so you hide people and places and things that you have no actual need to hide.

In other words, progress is all about not cutting off your own nose to spite your face.

It can be incredibly difficult to leave our pasts in the past. In so many ways, we *are* our pasts — the sum total of our experiences. But it is how we choose to learn from and use those experiences that is a true measure of who we are — as people in general, and who we are as partners in particular. It’s not easy to let the past go. But it is no longer ours. It

is impossible to change. And the negative parts of them only serve us if we use them as learning launches, lessons that we gained and used to propel ourselves forward instead of holding ourselves back.

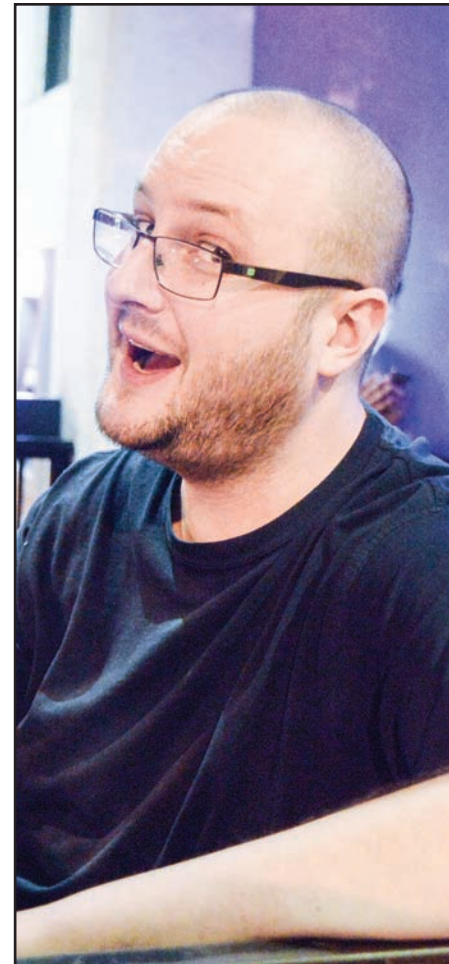
I don’t want to punish my wife for the sins of another. I also want to be gentle when she battles her own past relationships and experiences. We all fall and we deserve partners who are ready, willing and able to pick us up. Each day is a new chance to say, “Today I choose to look forward, to forgive my past and to remember that my partner loves me and chooses me and is not responsible for those in my past who did not.”

I’m lucky. My wife always stands by me. She is aware of my past and equally cognizant of her own. We are never perfect at leaving the past behind, but we are always conscious of it. And that is the commitment I challenge every couple to make: Focus your love and your life on moving forward not looking back. The past no longer belongs to us. But the future of our relationships is. Ours to shape.

Contact Jenny Block at GirlOnGirls@gmail.com.



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- **Alexandre's:** **Anton Shaw Band** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party** at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Divine Miss Divas: Ladies of the Night** at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Death Drop Friday** hosted by **Beyondshade Starr** from 11 p.m.-2 a.m. Call for table reservation.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court Leather Ball** from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. **Dirty Pop** with **DJ Drew G** on Saturday. **Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night** on Saturday.
- **Havana:** Thursday night **Showtime** at 11 p.m.
- **Hidden Door:** **United Court Club Night** from 7-11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Double Trouble** with **Bleach** and **Raquel Blake** at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. **RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party** with **Krystal Summers** on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** **Mi Diva Loca** on the patio on Friday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Rudeboy Dallas** with **Kickback Wednesday** from 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
- **Pekers:** **Lee Gonzalez's Going-Away Party** after 11 years from 5 p.m.-2 a.m. on Friday. **Smoky John's BBQ** from 5-7 p.m.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **The Beard Down Six-Week Drag Contest** — beard required — at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **S4:** **Miss Gay USofA Classic** on Sunday and Monday. **Miss Gay USofA Preliminary Nights** on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **The Tuxedos** and **Mescaline Americans** on Sunday. **Miss Ageless Pride Texas 2019** from 6-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Sasha Andrews** at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Woody's Oso Sexy** and **Lone Star Smash Extra Innings** from 4-7p.m. On Sunday.

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



Hanging with the wizard at Scarborough Renaissance Festival

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Wendy Davis at Stonewall Tarrant County

(and Felipe — with the giant gavel — is single, BTW!)





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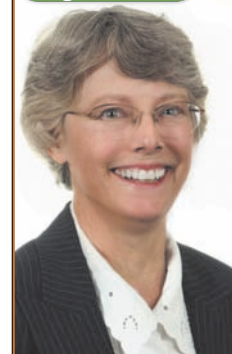


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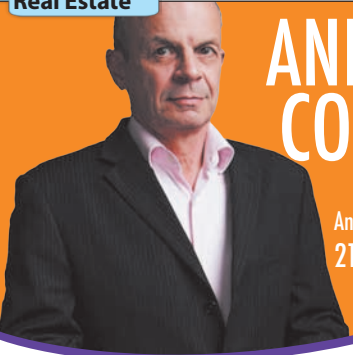
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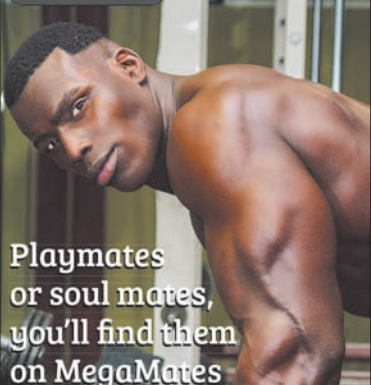
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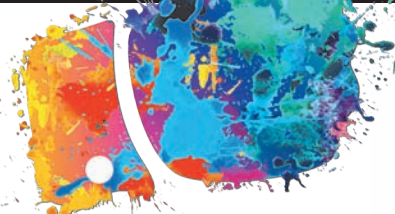
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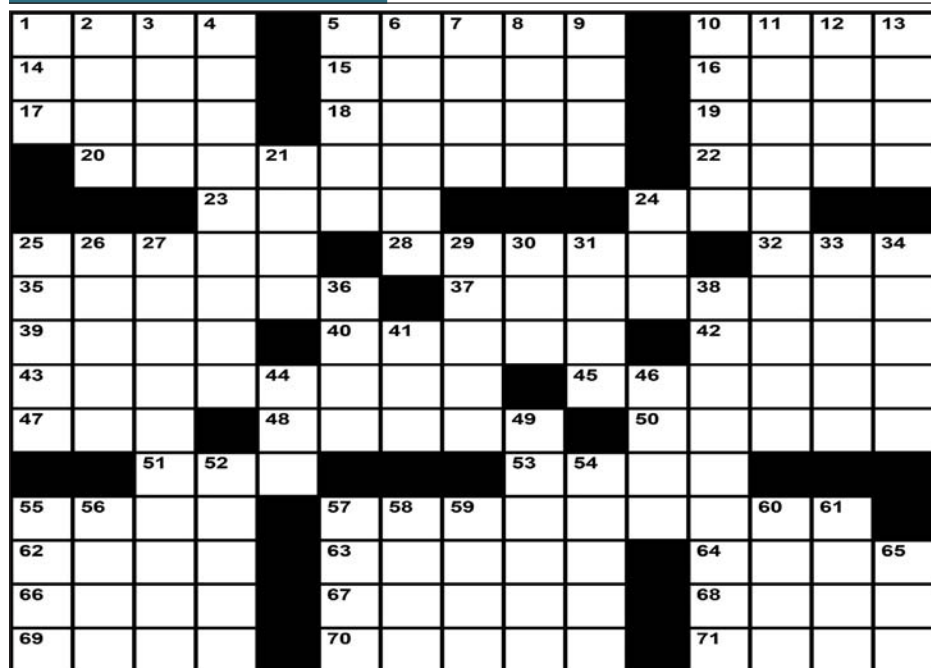


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Non-binary

Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 Rainbow banner
- 5 Mops a pirate ship deck
- 10 Panhandler's confession?
- 14 Gay activist Chaz
- 15 Eagle on a par five
- 16 Lacking manners
- 17 *Firebird* composer Stravinsky
- 18 Enjoying a hottie from afar
- 19 Healthy ___ ox
- 20 With 22-Across, series with Sheridan Pierce
- 22 See 20-Across
- 23 Beneath contempt
- 24 D. Feinstein's title
- 25 Had dinner at home
- 28 Nancy Botwin's older son
- 32 Always, to Emily Dickinson
- 35 Port in Scotland
- 37 Series with Yael Baron
- 39 Russian gymnast Korbut
- 40 Witherspoon, who played Elle
- 42 Comparison phrase
- 43 Series with Asia Kate Dillon
- 45 Castro, in San Francisco
- 47 Air quality watchdog org.
- 48 Lorca's shore
- 50 Boneheads
- 51 Last in a series

Down

- 1 G-man employer
- 2 HRC's equal sign, e.g.
- 3 At once, to queens of old
- 4 *Myra Breckinridge* author
- 5 One way to get to second base
- 6 "Now that you mention it..."
- 7 Diva's piece
- 8 Not straight
- 9 Nintendo rival
- 10 About to blow
- 11 The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce promotes them
- 12 Big cheese in Amsterdam
- 53 New York gay magazine, once
- 55 Series with Ser Anzoategui
- 57 Series with Izzy Stannard
- 62 Bad day for Caesar
- 63 Part of UHF
- 64 *The Music Man* setting
- 66 Employment extra
- 67 Beat at chess
- 68 *Three Tall Women*, for one
- 69 Abuse orally
- 70 Precipitates material for balls
- 71 Satisfy fully

- 13 Drag queen ___ Pool
- 21 Sup in style
- 24 Georgia once, but not O'Keeffe
- 25 Reader computer rogram
- 26 Bulb from Holland
- 27 New ___ (many Connecticut Sun fans)
- 29 That is, to Caligula
- 30 ___ *Mis*
- 31 Misrepresented stats, perhaps
- 33 First name in makeup
- 34 Stonewall disturbances
- 36 Switch suffix
- 38 Places for Amelia Earhart to land
- 41 Print measures
- 44 I, to Rilke
- 46 Jodie Foster's ___ *Driver*
- 49 Writer Tobias
- 52 Blow job and and other jobs
- 54 "Great balls of fire!"
- 55 W.H. Auden and k.d. lang
- 56 Nonheterosexual conception
- 57 Eats without one's dentures
- 58 *The Good Earth* heroine
- 59 Palindromic fellow
- 60 Marlene's Blue Angel role
- 61 Hit flies
- 65 Always, to Shakespeare

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