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Protest planned outside anti-LGBT church



A YouTube program called Divine Disbelief, hosted by Susan Turpin and her partner Nathaniel Walters, is hosting a second Pride Month protest at NIFB (New Independent Fundamental Baptist) Stedfast Baptist Church, 5840 Jacksboro Highway in Fort Worth, on Sunday, June 30, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Divine Disbelief, Turpin explained, is “a show focused on news and happenings from a secular perspective.” She said they hosted a protest at the church Saturday, June 22, and are hosting the second protest this coming Sunday to “use our platform to express our vehement (yet peaceful) disagreement with the church’s anti-LGBTQ+ message that calls for the death of anyone who strays from their idea of cisnormativity and heteronormativity.”

Stedfast Baptist was the church home of pastor Donnie Romero, the jerk who, after a gunman massacred 49 people celebrating Pride at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12, 2016, called the victims perverts and pedophiles then praised the killer and said he would pray to God that someone would finish the job the shooter started. Romero stepped down as pastor earlier this year after admitting that he frequented prostitutes, used marijuana and gambled.

— Tammye Nash

Pride Month resolutions in Tarrant County

UPDATE: Later on Tuesday, June 25, the Watauga City Council also issued a resolution recognizing June as LGBT Pride Month.

Four days before the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court has declared June as National LGBTQ Pride Month.

The resolution Tuesday morning passed 3-2, with Democratic commissioners Devan Allen, the resolution’s author, and Roy Brooks and Republican County Judge joining them. Republican Commissioners J.D. Johnson and Gary Fickes abstained.

Per a review of court records, the resolution is the first acknowledging LGBTQ Pride Month. The court has been dominated by Republicans for decades, with the veteran Brooks serving as the lone Democrat. That changed last year, however, when Allen defeated Republican Andy Nguyen last year, giving Democrats a second seat on the court.

Fort Worth City Council unanimously approved a resolution earlier this month, with Councilwoman Ann Zadeh presenting the signed proclamation to a group of activists, including Herrera, former Councilman Joel Burns, and Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell.

— James Russell

HRC names new CEO



Human Rights Campaign has named nationally-recognized civil rights attorney Alphonso David as its new CEO.

David, 48, served as head of New York state’s Office of Civil Rights, and as a staff attorney for Lambda Legal, and he has served in the governor’s cabinet. He helped achieve marriage equality in the state three years before the U.S. Supreme Court’s Obergefell marriage equality decision. Under his counsel, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed executive orders banning conversion therapy for minors and put in place protections for transgender New Yorkers by expanding Medicaid to cover transition-related care and making it easier to correct birth certificates.

David has also helped craft policies to combat HIV and fight housing discrimination, and he has worked for reproductive justice.

— David Taffet

Imprint announces an inclusive season of trans actors and more

Imprint Theatreworks has announced its third-season lineup, which includes three regional premieres, a world premiere and the return of a festival of local plays.

The 2020 season begins with *Puffs (The Play)* by Matt Cox, an inventive play about seven years in the life of a particular school of wizardry and magic. Jan. 9–25.

Next is the 3rd Annual First Impressions Festival for Local Playwrights (Feb. 25–29), followed by a newly-devised play called *Here*, created by locals Ashley H. White, Adam C. Wright and Nate Collins, combining comedy, nostalgia, movement and music (April 23–May 2).

Southern Comfort, a regional premiere musical based on the Sundance documentary about a transgender man in Georgia, which will be cast with trans actors (June 5–20).

Rapture, Blister, Burn: Two friends from grad school take different paths, only to reunite years later in a cat-and-mouse game of who has the better life, and who will take the ultimate prize (Aug. 7–22).

American Psycho is a musical from *Spring Awakening* composer Duncan Sheik and out playwright Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, based on the Bret Easton Ellis novel (Oct. 28–Nov. 14).

Performances will be at the Bath House Cultural Center. Tickets and more information available here.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Equality Texas names Angela Hale acting CEO



Equality Texas Interim Executive Director Samantha Smoot is stepping down at the end of the month, and Angela Hale will step in acting CEO until a permanent CEO can be chosen.

The LGBT lobby organization is in the middle of a national search for a new permanent CEO, and Smoot said her staying another month won’t get them closer to finding her replacement. Smoot stepped in just before the beginning of the legislative session when Chuck Smith stepped down.

Elizabeth Myers, chair of the board for the Equality Texas Foundation thanked Smoot for her “six months of exceptional service and leadership,” saying Smoot, “leaves the organization in a stronger position to advocate for full lived equality for all Texans.”

Myers expressed her confidence in Hale’s ability to lead the organization forward as the search for a permanent CEO continues. She said, “Angela’s years of dedication to the LGBTQ rights movement and to Equality Texas make her the perfect candidate to lead the organization through this transition.”

Hale is a Dallas native, a former Emmy Award-winning TV reporter and veteran journalist at CBS KTVT Channel 11 in Dallas Fort Worth, and is the managing partner of Red Media Group, a strategic communications and public affairs company.

— David Taffet



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THE GAY AGENDA



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

JUNE

• June 28: 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising

• June 28: Third Annual Transgender Pride

Focusing on recognizing the trans women of color who participated in the Stonewall Riots in 1969, and will include a resource fair, speakers addressing topics of interest to the local transgender family, and presenting of an award to an outstanding cisgender ally at 7 p.m. on the seventh floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Public Library, 1515 Young St.

• **June 28: Denton Pride Block Party** Denton Pride Foundation is holding the Denton Pride Block Party celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, from 3-10 p.m. For details see the Denton Pride Block Party event page on Facebook.

• June 29: Dallas Wings Celebrity Serve

Dallas Wings celebrate Pride Month fundraiser for Coalition for Aging LGBT with drinks at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. with live auction following dinner in Wings Practice Court A, College Park Center, 600 S. Center St., Arlington. \$100. Table \$800. For more information visit Wings.WNBA.com

• June 29: United Court

USO Show benefits Dallas Hope Charities from 6-10 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. For more information visit DallasCourt.org

• June 30: Prime Timers

Games at 2 p.m. hosted by Rick at 3915 Mediterranean St., Rockwall. For more information visit PrimeTimersWW.net

• June 30: United Court

Drag Bag benefits GDMAF and SSC Fund from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. For more information visit DallasCourt.org.

• June 30: 50 Years of Pride party

Celebrating 50 years of Stonewall Pride with 50 years of music from the 70s to now with DJ Jay Dallas. Doors open at 9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. PartyAtTheBlock.com.

• June 30: NYC Pride

JULY

• July 2: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit ClassicChassis.com

• July 2: TAG Ladies' Dinner Group

Tyler Area Gays' Ladies' Dinner Group meets at 6 p.m. at Little Italy, 3320 S. Broadway Ave. in Tyler, for dinner. Menu available at LittleItalyTyler.com. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

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@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 pegassussquares@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-



Dallas' third annual Transgender Pride celebration, focusing on the trans women of color who participated in the Stonewall Riots, is tonight (Friday, Jan. 28) at the J Erik Jonsson Public Library. See listings for details.

• July 2: Prime Timers

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane. For more information visit PrimeTimersWW.net

• July 4: Independence Day

• July 6: UCLE Fundraiser

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "Red, White & Duckies," a fundraiser for Dallas Hope Charities, from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 8: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m.

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; **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.

at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org

• July 9: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Empress of China, 2648 N. Beltline Road, Irving. For more information visit PrimeTimersWW.net.

• July 10: UCLSE Game Show

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire holds its club night with the Game Show from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• July 12: Be On Stage

Black Tie Dinner and Performing Arts Fort Worth bring back the one-of-a-kind party held on stage from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. \$30. BlackTie.org.

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.

• **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 former Texas state Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt; **The Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors** meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Grauwylar Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St.; **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**

• **July 16: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas**

Largest Democratic club in Texas meets at 6:30 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave. For more information visit StoneWallDemocratsofDallas.org

• **July 18: GALA Happy Hour**

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, Plano. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org

• **July 18: TAG Youth Support Group**

Open to youth of all ages from 5-7 p.m. at Tyler Public Library Taylor Auditorium, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler. For more information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

• **July 19: Til Midnight at the Nasher**

Music, movies and moonlight from 6 p.m.-midnight at the Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

• **July 19: A Night of Seeing Stars**

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "A Night of Seeing Stars," from 7-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits Tucker's Gift. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• **July 20: Three-Ring Gaybingo**

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

• **July 20: Christmas in July**

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents "A Night of Seeing Stars," from 6-9 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits the SSC Fund. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• **July 21: UCLSE TurnAbout**

The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents its UCLSE TurnAbout Show from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Benefits Dallas Hope Charities. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

AGENDA, Page 12

pet of the week / BABY GIRL & SCRUFFY



Meet **Baby Girl** and **Scruffy**, two best friends looking for a home together. Baby Girl is a 7-year-old female Chihuahua mix, and Scruffy is a 7-year-old, male terrier mix. They were surrendered to the SPCA of Texas when their owner's health declined, but now they're ready to find a new home. They are very sweet, affectionate and playful. They love to be held, go for walks, learn tricks for treats and be around people. They walk well on their leashes but don't mind being carried either. They can be a little sassy around other pups, so these two would

prefer to rule the house all on their own. If you're looking for a couple of cute little pups to cuddle with, they're the ones for you! Baby Girl and Scruffy have been spayed/neutered and microchipped and have received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet them today.

Baby Girl and **Scruffy** are waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Russell H. Perry Animal Care Center in McKinney, 8411 Stacy Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$125 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and \$60 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. 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 fight continues: Honoring our transgender heroes

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

June 26, 2015 — It was a Friday, the day that the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Obergefell, et. al. vs. Hodges*, declaring marriage equality the law of the land. And from coast to coast, the LGBT community celebrated.

We had won!

Some 12 years earlier, the Supreme Court justices had struck down not just the Texas sodomy law but all sodomy laws criminalizing private, consensual same-sex conduct with their decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. So the marriage equality ruling was the final nail in the coffin of anti-LGBT discrimination

and equality.

At least, that's what some people seemed to think.

But in truth, the fight was — and is — far from over. Anti-gay and -lesbian sentiment just went underground for a while, with opponents of equality finding quieter, less obvious ways to try undermine equality, and at the same time, turning the most visible brunt of their furious bigotry on the most vulnerable segment of the community — transgender people, especially transgender women.

It started with the so-called "bathroom bills" introduced in state legislatures around the country. Proponents claimed they were just trying to keep women and girls safe from predators in public restrooms. But reasonable people could easily see through the façade and see

these bills for exactly what they were: blatant attacks on transgender people, mainly trans women, intended to limit their ability to live productive, fulfilling lives as their authentic selves.

Then Donald Trump took the presidency, and the bigots began throwing open *their* closet doors, bringing their hatefulness out into the light of day, reassured by the knowledge that their hate and prejudices were shared by those who had seized power in Washington, D.C. And once again, it was transgender people who bore the brunt of the backlash.

The National Center for Transgender Equality has documented at least 37 actions the Trump administration has taken during his tenure in the White House that specifically target the transgender

community, along with several other actions that, while not specific to the trans community, also cause harm to trans people and other at-risk populations.

Trump got started on attacking trans people early in his presidency. Less than a month after his inauguration, his administration withdrew landmark guidelines, issued in 2016 by the Obama administration, explaining how schools must protect trans students under federal Title IX law. Since then, Trump's administration has undermined requirements in the Affordable Health Care Act requiring discrimination-free medical treatment for trans people, withdrew proposed Housing and Urban Development policies that would have protected LGBT people from discrimination in housing services, told the staff at the Centers for Disease

This week's cover: Sasha Andrews

This week's cover, for our special issue commemorating National Pride and the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, features transgender entertainer Sasha Andrews.

Sasha was born and reared in Brownsville, Texas, and she started her career as a showgirl more than 10 years ago and in the years since has won the both the Miss Texas USofA and the Miss Texas Continental titles.

Sasha moved to Dallas two years ago and is now part of the cast at the famous Rose Room inside S4.

This week's cover featuring Sasha Andrews is the last in Dallas Voice's series of special covers honoring transgender people and drag queens, which we began last fall.

The series began with the cover of our special 2018 Dallas Pride Issue on Sept. 14, commemorating the 25th annual Dallas Pride festival and Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, and it concludes today, June 28, 2019, with our special National Pride issue commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the event widely considered the birth of the modern LGBT civil rights movement. We chose to honor trans people and drag queens with this series of covers because, while they are the members of our community most often targeted for discrimination and violence, trans women and men and drag queens are also the ones who have been at the forefront of our fight for equality all along.

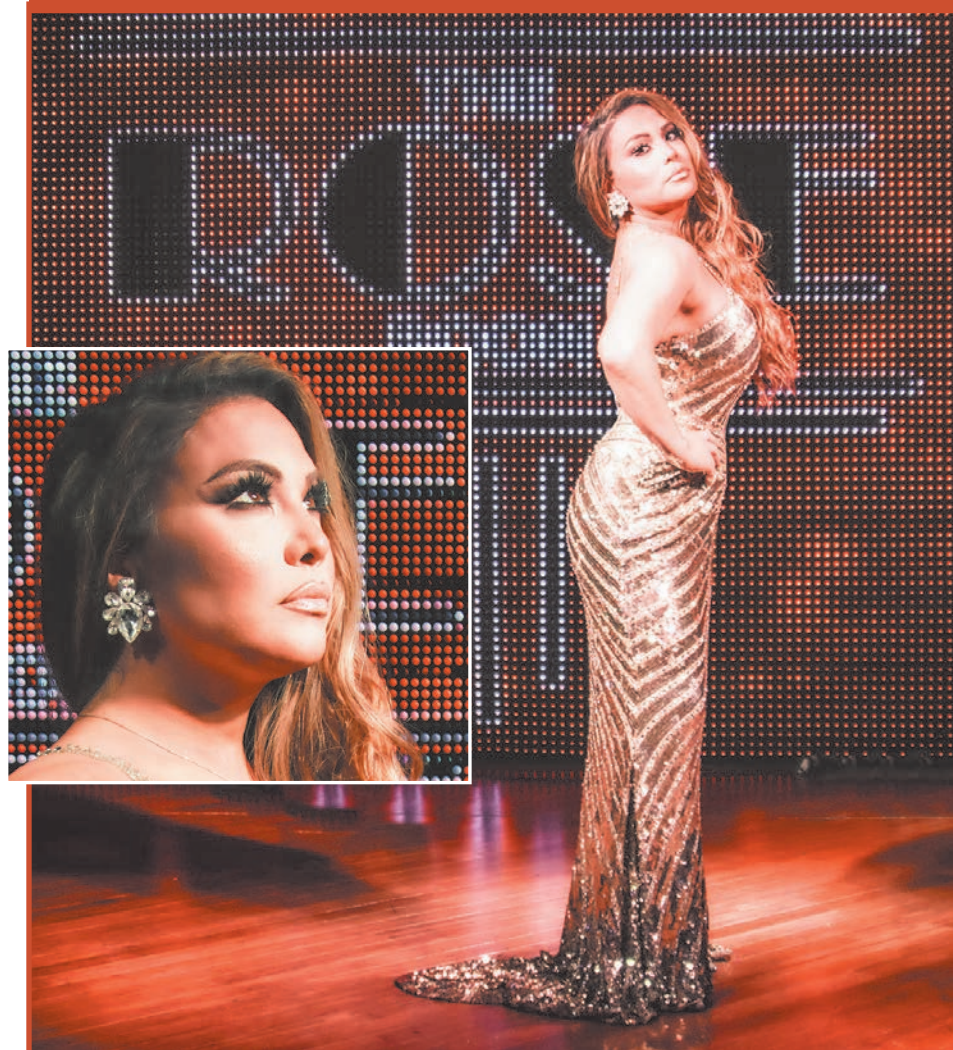
There were, of course, the Stonewall riots, where it was the butch dykes (many of them

what we would now consider trans men), the trans women and the drag queens who stood up and fought back — people like Stormé DeLarverie, Marsha P. Washington, Sylvia Rivera and others. And it is the drag queens who have long been at the forefront of efforts to raise funds for our community to support and care for its own, especially in the darkest days of the AIDS epidemic.

But there is also a lesser-known incident in our LGBT history in which the trans people were the ones who fought back first. It was the Compton's Cafeteria Riot.

Compton's Cafeteria, located in San Francisco's Tenderloin District, was one of the few places even in San Francisco where transgender people could congregate publicly. Thanks to widespread transphobia, they were unwelcome most everywhere else — even in the gay bars. But even at Compton's they weren't really welcome or safe; management at the cafeteria would often call police to roust the trans women and the queens, and the cops would harass them, often arresting them for the crime of "female impersonation." The cafeteria management even implemented a "service fee" targeting the trans folk.

The trans community responded at first, in 1966, with a picket that, while ultimately unsuccessful, was one of the first demonstrations against anti-trans police violence in San Francisco. But one hot August night in 1966, when police came again to roust the trans folk at Compton's, the trans folk fought back. An officer tried to arrest a trans woman, and she threw her coffee in his face — and the riot began.



Control and Prevention that they are not allowed to use the word “transgender” and other words, rolled back policies requiring trans people in federal prisons to be housed according to their gender identity, not their gender assigned at birth, and more.

One of the administration’s most high-profile attacks on transgender people, of course, has been Trump’s efforts to ban transgender individuals from serving in the U.S. military, a ban Trump announced via Twitter just days before an Obama-era directive allowing trans people to serve openly was set to go into effect.

As proven by the most recent session of the Texas Legislature, the “bathroom bills” that had swept legislatures across the country are being replaced by a wave of “religious freedom” bills that would allow businesses and individuals, including healthcare professionals, to refuse service or treatment to others — usually LGBT people, especially trans people — based on “sincerely-held religious beliefs.”

And violence against trans people continues unabated. Between Jan. 1, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2018, at least 99 transgender people — mostly trans women of color — have died violently. Since Jan. 1 this year, at least 10 trans people — all black trans women — have been murdered, two of them — Muhlaysia Booker and Chynal Lindsey — murdered right here in Dallas.

So as we reflect on the 50 years since a group of trans women, butch dykes, drag queens and others decided they had had enough and fought back against harassment, thus launching the modern LGBT rights movement, let us remember that we still have a long, long way to go.

The fight continues. ■

People were throwing dishes and furniture. The restaurant’s plate-glass windows were smashed out. Cops called in reinforcements, and the fight spilled out into the streets. All the windows in a police car were broken out. A sidewalk newsstand was set ablaze. Cops trying to force rioters into paddy wagons discovered that this time, the trans folk weren’t going quietly.

The riots continued the following night, with other people from the LGBT community, along with the hustlers and other street people joining in. The cafeteria wouldn’t let any trans folk back in and ended up with their newly-installed plate glass windows once again shattered.

Just as the better-known Stonewall riots three years later marked a turning point for the LGBT rights movement, the Compton riots were a turning point for San Francisco’s transgender community, and in 2017 the city of San Francisco recognized the Compton’s Transgender Cultural District, the world’s first legally recognized transgender district.

Our covers

Since the Sept. 14, 2018, Pride issue cover, which featured Cassie Nova (aka James Love) as our own LGBT Betsy Ross stitching up a rainbow flag to lead our Pride revolution, Dallas Voice has had six more special covers honoring

our trans and drag communities. You can see them pictured above.

Our Halloween Issue featured drag performer Jenna Skyy (aka Joe Hoselton) in a horror makeup she created. Our Thanksgiving Issue featured local trans activist Krista De La Rosa as our interpretation of a modern-day June Cleaver. Our New Year’s Eve issue featured trans man and filmmaker/activist Angel Martinez as The Old Year 2018 and his niece “Minnow” as Baby New Year 2019. Our Valentine’s Issue featured trans writer/entertainer/actress Krystal Summers as our very own Valentine’s pin-up, And our Easter Issue featured local entertainer Fantasha Suggs hopping down the

bunny trail.

And of course, the final cover in our series features Sasha Andrews paying tribute to the trans women of color, such as Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who have been, and still are, at the forefront of the fight for equality.

(The special series honoring trans people and drag performs was conceived by Dallas Voice Advertising Director Chad Mantooth and Managing Editor Tammye Nash. Mantooth recruited cover models. Nash did the photography. And Art Director Kevin Thomas executed the graphics. We offer a very sincere thank you to everyone who participated in this project.)

— Tammye Nash





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AGENDA From Page 9

• July 22: 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.

• July 23: 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. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org

AUGUST

• Aug. 6: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit ClassicChassis.com

• Aug. 12: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org

• Aug. 15: TAG Youth Support Group

Open to youth of all ages from 5-7 p.m. at Tyler Public Library Taylor Auditorium, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler. For more information visit TylerAreaGays.com

• Aug. 15: GALA Happy Hour

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, Plano. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org

• Aug. 17: Gaycation Gaybingo

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

• Aug. 18: Til Midnight at the Nasher Music, movies and moonlight from 6 p.m.-midnight at the Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

• Aug. 19: 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.

• Aug. 20: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Largest Democratic club in Texas meets at 6:30 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave. For more information visit StoneWallDemocratsofDallas.org

• Aug. 27: 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. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org

SEPTEMBER

• Sept. 2: Labor Day

• Sept. 3: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit ClassicChassis.com

• Sept. 6: Excellence Awards luncheon

Recognizing LGBT business and community leaders from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

• Sept. 9: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org

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Stonewall: A personal memoir

The rebellion didn't end after a few June nights, thanks to the Gay Liberation Front

MARK SEGAL | Special Contributor
mark@epgn.com

That night, standing in Stonewall, I could not have imagined what the next few hours would do to change the gay and lesbian community around the world. I doubt anyone else could have known. How could we have known, on June 28, 1969, that we'd be participating in history?

It started when the lights flickered on and off, alerting the patrons that something was imminent, though I had no idea what. It was just my second month in New York, my second month walking Christopher Street, my second month being an out and proud gay.

Looking over at my friend, I asked what was happening. He answered nonchalantly, "Oh it's just a raid." As an 18 year-old, new to everything, his words were frightening to me.

The police barged in, pushing around anyone who was in drag or stereotypical-looking. They hurled insults and hurled people around.

Anyone who looked like they were successful, anyone who had a few bucks, was forced to take out their wallets and, in the bright light, give their money to the cops, who slid the bills in their pockets. Welcome to Extortion 101.

They robbed us in plain sight, and we had no possible recompense. That is how they felt about us. That's how they felt they could treat us — any way they wished.

As this was happening, they began to clear the bar by carding people. To this day I don't know why they were carding, since it was an illegal bar and drinking age didn't matter. But that was the procedure.

At 18 and fresh from Philadelphia, I looked like the boy next door. They had little use for me, and I was one of the first to be carded and let out. And I was glad about that.

But as I came out, I saw an obvious difference in what certain clientele were doing. Those with family ties, those with a good job, those on the fast track to a professional career — they all ran for the subway as soon as they could get out that door. But people like me, a street kid living at Sloane House YMCA on 34th Street, and others who today you'd call trans — we just stuck around.

We had nowhere safe to go. Our safety was with each other, right there, watching what was transpiring.

Eventually there were more of us outside, and inside the bar remained only the police and employees. Those of us who stayed formed a semi-circle around the double doors into the street. My memory tells me that there were between 50 and a hundred of us.

The doors opened, and the police shouted out a few insults and told us to disperse. We didn't.

They opened the door a second time and again spewed insults, demanding we disperse. We didn't, and this time, we yelled insults back at them.

They closed the door, and at that point, people picked up whatever there was around them — stones, discarded soda cans and bottles.

For the first time in history our community wasn't just fighting back. We had imprisoned our oppressors, the police. They were now our prisoners.

This continued for some time, and it was awhile before police's re-enforcements came to their rescue. It is my belief that the reason for the slow re-enforcements was the officers inside that gay bar were too embarrassed to call their station house and have to tell their fellow officers, "We're trapped and surrounded by angry fags and dykes. Please save us."

The fact that we had them trapped created a certain joy on the street. People began to run to other bars in the area; passersby turned their heads as they came



Mark Segal, now publisher of Philadelphia Gay News, was 18 years old and newly-moved to New York City that night that the police raided the Stonewall Inn and the patrons decided to fight back. He spent the next year on the front lines of the fight for equality with the Gay Liberation Front. (Photos courtesy of Mark Segal)

around the corner.

While this riot was happening, Marty Robinson, who had created something called The Action Group, came up to me with chalk, telling me, "Write on the walls and street: 'Tomorrow Night, Stonewall.'"

I have no idea where he got the chalk, but I'm thankful he got it. That chalk was a catalyst for much more than one night of rebellion.

From the river to Greenwich, all along Christopher Street, I wrote: "Tomorrow Night, Stonewall."

People ran and screamed and laughed. It was a joyous evening. We were fighting off 2,000 years of oppression, though we didn't realize it in that moment.

Amid the joy and the excitement, I had a light bulb moment. Standing across the street from Stonewall, watching everything happening around me, I thought

to myself, "Black people are fighting for their lives, Women are fighting for their lives. Latinos are fighting for their lives. What about us? What about me?"

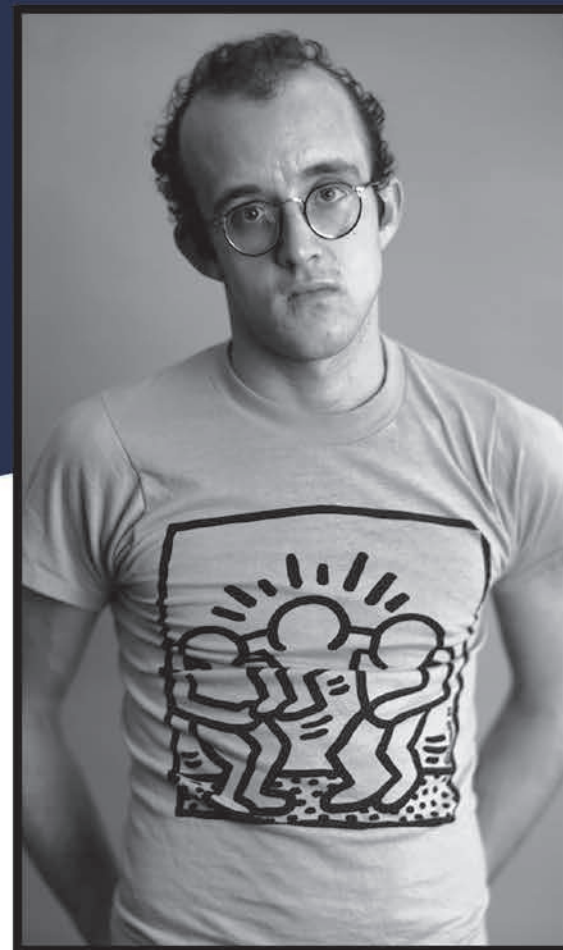
It was at that point that I finally knew what I'd do for the rest of my life: I would be something that didn't exist yet, something that didn't have a title, something that had no salary. I would be a gay activist.

I didn't know — and I didn't care — how difficult it would be. All I knew in that moment was that I found what I was meant to do.

I was at a riot that started a revolution, and I would be a part of that revolution.

In the commotion, I saw a window broken. I didn't see any Molotov cocktails. I saw a feather boa being put on the statue of Gen. Sheridan in Sheridan Square. I wasn't there when anyone was

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A city of contrasts

10 years after the Rainbow Lounge raid, where is Fort Worth now?

AUBREE CALVIN | Special Contributor
aubreecalvin@gmail.com

When I talk to my students about civil rights, there are always noticeable gaps in their base knowledge level once the conversation moves past Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and the basic story of black-white segregation.

Many don't know about the Stonewall Inn or the national gay rights movement, and most are unfamiliar with the Rainbow Lounge raid, a joint raid by Fort Worth police officers and agents with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission on a then-newly-opened gay bar on Jennings Street in Fort Worth.

The raid took place in the wee morning hours of June 28, the actual 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Several people were arrested inside the bar, and one young man, Chad Gibson, ended up in the hospital with a serious head injury incurred while in custody. Some said he fell and hit his head on the sidewalk outside after being handcuffed and taken from the bar, while others said he was injured when officers inside the bar grabbed him and threw him to the floor.

Although the incident made headlines around the world, this local event is not typically taught in high school classes, and I would dare say that many of my colleagues at the college level don't teach it either.

It would be too easy for me to get frustrated with the public school teachers for not teaching about this local event, but then I remember my own secondary education. Growing up as a black kid

in Oklahoma, I never learned about the Tulsa Race Riots or any local minority rights history until I went to college.

The truth is, our education system has a real blind spot when it comes to learning about local history and politics. Municipal civic issues will never show up on a national test like the SATs, ACTs or advanced placement exams. And they can't be covered on standardized tests that kids across the state will take. So, it is not surprising that my students have no frame of reference for local civil rights activism.

And that's a real shame, because this incident is not only an important piece of local LGBTQ rights history, it is also an example of how a city properly responds after the protests and rallies end, and after the national media has moved to the next story.

Since the 2009 incident, Fort Worth has made measured strides to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ community. It is not a stretch to say the city has come a long way in 10 years.

You can see it in symbolic gestures like Mayor Betsy Price headlining Tarrant County Pride Week events, the city council issuing Pride proclamations, and the Fort Worth Police Department openly recruiting and highlighting gay officers.

City leaders have spent 10 years saying the right things in meetings and forums to create the sense that this is a community that cares about its non-heterosexual residents.

The city expanded its anti-discrimination policies to include gender identity (sexual orientation has been protected since 2000); city officials and all police personnel have had to attend mandatory cultural sensitivity training, and there is a task force and LGBTQ police liaison officer. And after the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, FWPd went to gay clubs in Fort Worth to get a better understanding of the physical layout of the buildings so they could be prepared in case any emergency came up.

These are concrete, forward-thinking ideas that exemplify how much the city wants a positive relationship with the Tarrant County queer community. These smaller, day-to-day actions — the minutiae of governing, if you will — won't show up in history or government textbooks. We often don't see that for every



This iconic photo taken by Chuck Potter during the Sept. 28, 2009, raid on the Rainbow Lounge allegedly shows the arrest of Chad Gibson, the patron who suffered a severe head injury that left him hospitalized.

big march, rally, riot or protest, there are hundreds of post-event hours dedicated to turning words into actionable plans.

The city has done so much that on the 2018 Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, Fort Worth scored a 100. That is the highest score of any conservative city in Texas. To put that in comparison, it is on par with Dallas, while Denton scored a 52 and Waco a dismal 22.

Recently, I was fortunate enough to attend an LGBTQ Community Police Forum hosted by the non-profit One Safe Place, a forum that came about because interim Fort Worth Police Chief Ed Kraus was concerned the LGBTQ community was fearful after the recent murders of trans women in Dallas.

The room was full of the city's top law enforcement brass, leaders from local LGBT community groups and a few owners of gay-oriented businesses. The consistent message given from Chief Kraus and Councilwoman Ann Zadeh was that Fort Worth is a city that is open, welcoming and protective of all citizens.

Sitting in that room, I believed every word was sincere. And I believed it because the city has taken those words and spent the last 10 years turning them into policy.

That's not to say there isn't work to still be done. City health benefits still don't cover most transgender-associated

medical costs. And Kamika Anderson, a lesbian city water department employee, has a lawsuit against the city for on-the-job sexual assault and harassment.

I don't know if all of the hard work and collaboration between the city and the non-profits have trickled down to the average citizens, either LGBTQ or straight. I don't know if the city isn't touting its success loudly enough or, as is often the case, if news of the queer community in Fort Worth is sidelined in favor of more sensational Dallas issues.

Good government is rarely news worthy. And if you want further proof that the message isn't getting out, that community forum that I attended was largely government officials talking to organizational leaders. The public was not there to hear Chief Kraus' message.

When Finn Jones, executive director of Transcendence, says his last trans support group had 60 trans men and women there fearful for their lives and asking about self-defense classes and CHL licenses, the message isn't getting out.

When I hear in online queer groups time and time again that Dallas neighborhoods are more welcoming to non-hetero families, the message isn't getting out.

As someone who advises young queer college kids, I can tell you that many of the young gay and trans kids in Tarrant County are plotting their escapes to Austin and Houston, because they think their home town won't accept them for who they are. My queer students are taking their talents to other cities because they think they can't be employed and be open about who they are in Tarrant County.

Election after election, Tarrant County sends a mostly-Republican delegation to the Texas State Legislature. And those locally-elected officials are co-sponsoring and voting for anti-LGBT bills that still hinder full equal treatment of the queer community. Of the 15 House and Senate members that represent the county, support for SB 1978, the Save Chic-fil-A religious bill, was an overwhelming 11-4 along strict partisan lines.

It creates two different and conflicting messages: There are the progressive actions of the local officials contrasting with the conservative votes in the Legislature and actions of the general public.

I don't know which one represents the true Fort Worth, but I think in the next 10 years, we're going to find out. ■

Aubree Calvin is an Assistant Professor of Government at the Northwest Campus of Tarrant County College.

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Mesquite stages its first Pride event

Suburb outdoes Dallas in number of rainbow and transgender flags decorating the lobby of their City Hall

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Rainbow and transgender flags filled the lobby of Mesquite City Hall for a first-ever Mesquite Pride celebration on Friday, June 21. And parking was at a premium as a crowd filled the lobby and balcony areas of the city hall as city, county and state officials participated in the celebration.

Police considered online threats made against the event serious enough to assign a large number of officers, but those officers appeared to be just enjoying the gathering at the city hall, which shares a building with Mesquite police headquarters.

Mesquite City Councilman Jeff Casper coordinated the Pride event. He is also responsible for enacting a nondiscrimination policy in the city. Mesquite Mayor Stan Pickett also attended.

The June 21 program began with the children's choir of Mesquite's St. Stephens Church performing. St. Stephens is one of the United Methodist churches protesting the denomination's refusal to accept its LGBT members equally by covering up "United Methodist" on its sign and exploring options to leave the denomination.

In his welcoming remarks, Casper mentioned that progress was incremental. While some steps are small, this was a giant coming out leap for Mesquite, a city often thought of as redneck by outsiders.

That may be because of the city's most famous attraction, the Mesquite Championship Rodeo, which opened in 1946 and is held each year in the Mesquite Arena. But even the rodeo arena has hosted the

Texas Gay Rodeo Association's annual Texas Traditions rodeo event.

People who had attended Pride at Dallas City Hall a few weeks earlier marveled at the lobby in Mesquite, which was decorated with an array of rainbow and transgender flags flying from the balcony and rainbows of balloons festooning the lobby.

Resource Center's Rafael McDonnell joked that Dallas was going to have to up its game to match Mesquite's effort.

Event organizer Sarah Key is a third generation Mesquite resident. Her mom and other members of her family were Mesquite teachers, and she and members of her family graduated from high schools across the city.

"I'm the essence of a Mesquite kid," Key said in her welcome speech as she outed herself to the crowd. "I'm a proud member of the LGBT family ... and now the whole town knows."

"I feel safer," Key said of the event's impact.

Two Eastfield College officials spoke — Dean Katy Launius and Chris Schlarb, advisor for the school's LGBT student group, Prism.

Schlarb said Prism members marched in their first Pride event when they participated with other Dallas County Community College student groups in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade earlier this month. For some of them, he said, it was the first time in their lives they felt like they belonged.

"That," he added, "is the importance of Pride."

Launius said Eastfield College marked



Mesquite Pride attendees filled the lobby and balcony of Mesquite City Hall (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



ing Pride in Mesquite. All five commissioners signed the proclamation, which is new for Dallas County Commissioners Court. Former Commissioner Mike Cantrell had refused to attend any recognition of any LGBT organization or event and had refused to sign proclamations honoring those events and organizations. But Cantrell was replaced by Commissioner J.J. Koch, who has been more inclusive.

"Everything I support must look like Dallas County," Daniel said, describing her district and the county as a diverse and including a large LGBT community.

She said Dallas County has the right policies in place, and her job is to make sure laws are enforced and the behaviors match the policies. She used as an example Marriage Equality Day, the day the U.S. Supreme Court's decision declaring same-sex marriages to be legal nationwide went into effect.

"Dallas County showed support and leadership," Daniel said. Many couples came to Dallas County to get their marriage licenses and get married by Dallas County judges, because they knew they'd be welcomed here.

Leslie Garza from the office of state Rep Victoria Neave, whose office covers a large portion of Mesquite, delivered a proclamation from the state recognizing Pride in Mesquite.

As polished as the event was, the only thing surprising about it was that it was a first for the city.

LGBT History Month with events on campus and recently opened the Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity. In addition to "identity development programming" and a "diversity leadership initiative," Eastfield's LGBT center addresses emergency student aid and has emergency mobile and on-site food pantries that students may need especially when facing family crises related to coming out.

Phillip Clark, the new LGBTQ+ community liaison for District Attorney John Creuzot, spoke at the event about efforts the D.A. is making to make sure all people are being treated equally.

County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, whose district includes portions of Mesquite, read a proclamation recognizing

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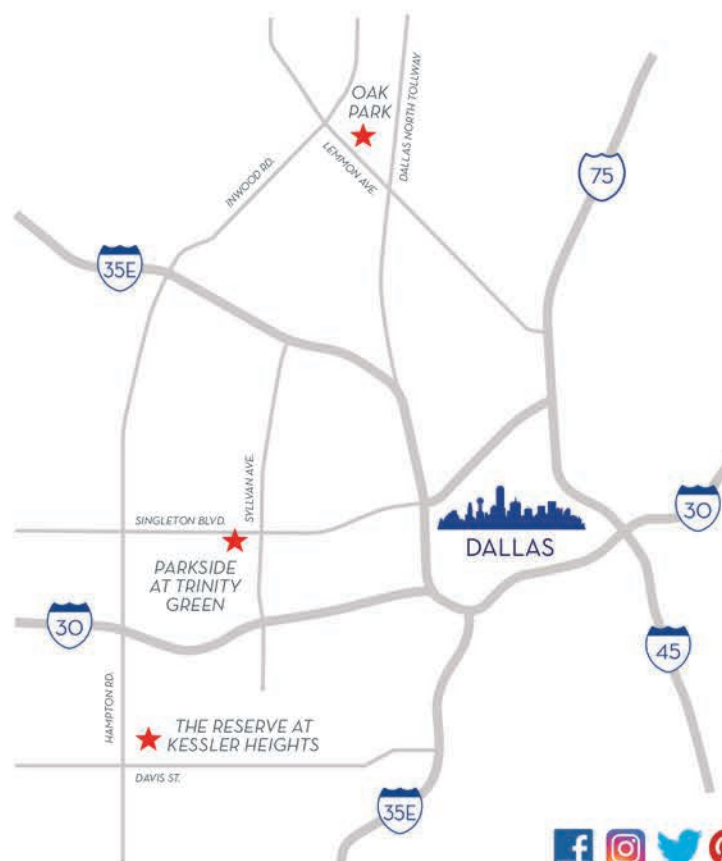
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Prism Health opens new PrEP clinic in Oak Lawn

NICK TOTIN | Contributing Writer
ntotin@gmail.com

Prism Health North Texas has opened a new clinic offering PrEP services and STI testing and treatment in Oak Lawn.

PrEP, sold as brand name Truvada, is a medication known to reduce the risk of HIV infection when taken consistently, according to the Center for Disease Control.

The new clinic, which opened in May and is located at 2801 Lemmon Ave., was designed by Prism Health to create a convenient and accessible access to PrEP services in the community where the new center is located.

"We wanted to make sure we had a space that was unique to the patients that we would serve there," Dr. John Carlo, CEO of Prism Health, said. He said the clinic was designed to create convenience for clientele, with an on-site laboratory and partnerships with local pharmacies to ensure consistent distribution of PrEP medication.

The pharmacy partnership is one part of Prism Health's movement to end the stigma about both using PrEP and the community living with HIV/AIDS. Carlo said that because PrEP is also a part of HIV treatment, pharmacists don't always have full knowledge about PrEP as a preventative care, which means clientele can encounter issues picking up their prescriptions.

"Some pharmacies still don't understand that PrEP can be outside HIV," Carlo said, "We want to make sure we have a close relationship with pharmacists who know what they are doing."

Prism Health was previously known as AIDS Arms. In 2017, Tori Hobbs, chief marketing and development officer, led the organization through their rebrand-



Dr. John Carlo said Prism Health North Texas' new clinic is designed specifically to make patients feel comfortable.



ing in order to more adequately represent the expanding areas of service the agency wanted to offer the community.

For Hobbs, the expansion is part of what sets Prism Health apart. "It's easy to stay in the same space and continue to do what you've always done but that is not how this organizations chooses to operate," she said. "We are always asking what else we need to be doing to make sure that we are meeting the community needs."

Earlier this year, Prism conducted a survey of 400 Dallas-Fort Worth residents, 200 of whom self-identify as LGBTQ.

"What we learned from our survey is that about half of the population in our area still doesn't have the knowledge about HIV and prevention," Hobbs said,

and 32 percent of the surveyed group believes there is a cure for HIV. (Although there are treatments for HIV, there is currently no cure.)

The survey results also indicated 64 percent of respondents are not personally concerned about contracting HIV.

Education about HIV and AIDS is part of Prism's expanding mission and part of the challenge facing the community, said Wynn Hawker-Boehnke, marketing and communications coordinator for Prism Health, nothing part of the challenge comes from the fact that "the youth of today did not grow up in the epidemic."

In 2016, more than 64 percent of new HIV diagnoses in Texas were in people younger than 35, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"People think it doesn't apply to them. But they need to know how to reduce their own risk," Hawker-Boehnke said.

Opening the Oak Lawn location allows Prism Health the opportunity to work within the community to offer preventative services like PrEP in a more approachable and accessible way, Hobbs said.

"We don't want you walk off the elevator and feel like you're in a usual doctor's office or medical facility," she said, explaining that the space was designed to be welcoming and give clientele peace of mind during their visit. ■

The Oak Lawn Prism Health location is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clinic offers evening hours until 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month.

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Out in engineering

What used to be a conservative, male-dominated field is opening up

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Wendy Lopez grew up in a tiny little town in South Louisiana, the youngest of the six kids in her family. When she reached her senior year in high school, one of her favorite teachers asked if she planned to go to college.

"I told her yes, I was thinking about it, and then she asked me, 'If you go, what would you study?' The only real role model I had then was her, so I said, 'I think I'll be a teacher,'" Lopez recalled. "But she told me, 'No. don't be a teacher. Be an engineer.'"

"That short little conversation changed the whole trajectory of my life."

Lopez followed her teacher's advice, becoming the first in her family to go to college. She attended what was then known as University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette) and studied engineering — one of only three female students in the USL School of Engineering at the time. Before she left the school, she had earned both her bachelor's degree and her master's degree in engineering.

After she graduated, Lopez got a job as a design engineer with a company there in Lafayette. She eventually moved to Texas and got her first job as a project director, and in 1988 at the age of 29, she started her own company.

"I look back now and think about the fact that I started my own company when I was 29, and I think, I must have lost my damn mind! What was I thinking?" Lopez laughed.

But hindsight is 20-20, and it's easy to see today that she made the right deci-

sion: 20 years after she started the company (Wendy Lopez and Associates at first, then later LopezGarcia), with 225 employees and jobs in "all the major cities in Texas," Lopez sold the company to URS Corporation, which at the time was the largest engineering firm in the United States. Then six years after that, AECOM — an American multinational firm with about 87,000 employees worldwide and listed at number 164 on the 2018 Fortune 500 — bought out URS.

"AECOM is probably the largest infrastructure [engineering] company in the world," Lopez said. "We do design, planning, construction, operations, financing — it's a full package infrastructure company."

Lopez is the senior vice president and transportation business line leader AECOM, which means that she "runs the transportation business for the central region — from Arizona to Alabama, and from Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico up to Canada, 22 states dab in the middle of the U.S."

Lopez said that when she sold her company to URS, she stayed on. Then when URS sold to AECOM, "I had a two-year agreement to stay around [and help with the transition]. Now it's been 10 years."

Her job with the company, she said, "is on the design side — design and planning," and it includes designers, planners and scientists who design highways, bridges, airports, transit facilities such as the DART light rail and bus services, and aviation facilities.

"Some of my staff were involved in the downtown Dallas horseshoe project, where they just redid the connection between I-30 and I-35E," she explained. "That's all been under construction for a while now. It was a big design/build job. It was led by a contractor, but we helped, too."

Lopez and her staff also handle the program management at DFW International Airport, which includes designing and building airfield projects, runways, taxiways and even the international parkway providing access to the airport



Wendy Lopez

from both the north and the south sides.

Lopez worked for two different private engineering firms before she started her own company. After owning her own company for 20 years, she has worked for two of the largest publicly-traded engineering firms. But her career path really isn't very common for women in engineering and especially not for openly-LGBT people.

Thankfully, though, that seems to be changing throughout the STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — fields, she said.

"Engineering is still very much a male-dominated field. But it is getting better," Lopez said. "When I was in college almost 40 years ago, there were three of us women in the whole engineering school. I was recently invited back to the university to be inducted into their Wall of Honor for engineering, and during the ceremony, they thanked the students who were very involved in planning the Wall of Honor ceremony, naming them and asking them to stand. I couldn't help but acknowledge the fact that so many young female students

were responsible for that day. It was a good moment, a very good moment for me as a female engineer."

The field is also changing for LGBT engineers, too.

"Most engineering companies are actually small businesses, and very, very conservative. In the two jobs I had before starting my own company, I think some of the people knew I was gay, but I certainly wasn't out at work. Nobody talked about it," Lopez.

When she owned her own company, Lopez said, she was less concerned about who knew she was a lesbian. "I was certainly out then, though maybe not waving rainbow flags all over the place" since she still had to work in a conservative atmosphere" she said. "But then we sold to URS. URS was headquartered in San Francisco, and you'd think it be a much more liberal company. It wasn't. Going to URS was almost like going back in the closet."

Then came AECOM and a whole new world.

"It's one thing to talk about support for your employees, but at AECOM we really do celebrate diversity. We encourage inclusion. All [Pride] month long, we are having people coming to talk about different things. We have little luncheons. Most of the time it seems like there are more allies in the room than LGBT people, but that's ok, too."

"For example, we had a couple from PFLAG come in to talk about supporting your children and family members [who are LGBTQ], about finding resources and so on. That's good for employees who have [LGBTQ] children and other family members and friends," she continued. "Last week a woman named Portia from Silver Pride came in to talk to us, and today we have a drag queen coming in."

Considering that URS was headquartered in San Francisco, one of the gayest cities in the world, and AECOM's headquarters are in Los Angeles, Lopez said, "you'd think that URS is probably more progressive. But it wasn't at all. When the Supreme Court handed down the marriage equality ruling [on July 26, 2015], our [AECOM] CEO immediately sent out [an internal social media post]

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DHC adding beds to youth shelter

Nurturing those in need with housing and meal programs is the focus of Dallas Hope Charities

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

As Dallas Hope Charities approaches its first anniversary, the organization is about to triple the number of beds in its LGBT shelter.

A year ago, Cathedral of Hope spun off some of its ministries and formed a new nonprofit organization that could take advantage of its secular and independent status while still benefiting from a strong relationship with the church.

Its first new project was a shelter for LGBT youth. The program is designed for youth ages 18 to 24 who may live at the facility up to a year. According to DHC Executive Director Jason Villejo, DHC began operating a two-bed house that helped six youth during its first year in operation.

Several residents had timed out of the foster system; one had been adopted, but both parents passed away, and he found himself back in the foster system and then timed out at age 18.

Villejo is proud of one successful resident. DHC teamed up with the Year Up program at El Centro College, a 12-month program has a student take classes in IT or business for six months and then enters an internship program for six months. The internships are in partnership with local companies located throughout the city.

One student who was participating in the Year Up program found her grades slipping because of issues with unstable housing. El Centro contacted Villejo, who was able to offer a bed for up to a year.

That student is completing her internship at Top Golf's corporate headquarters on Central Expressway, and she's



Jason Villejo, left, accepts a check for \$100,000 from Harvey Meissner, president and general manager of The Hidden Door, representing The Anthony Bobrow Trust.

been offered a full-time job that will pay over \$30,000.

Another resident is about to leave as well. That one was already working and living at home. When the family found out about their child's LGBT status, they kicked her out of the house. Villejo said she needed a place to stay while saving paychecks to be able to afford her own apartment.

Villejo said two residents were on the waiting list for Promise House's LGBT residence. Others were referred from City Square and other partners DHC developed over the past year.

He said a new two-bedroom residence will open over the next few weeks, allowing DHC to house four more young people at once, thanks to a recent \$100,000 donation from the Tony Bobrow Foundation that made the new residence possible.

A part-time house manager has been hired who will do case management and keep residents on track to go out on their own within a year.

Another program DHC inherited from the church is BACH — Breakfast at Cathedral of Hope. That Saturday breakfast program currently costs \$4,000 a month. Last year, it served 36,000 meals to the homeless. But, Villejo noted, "The breakfast program is struggling financially."

YOUTH, Page 29

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Making history: Tarrant County Commissioners Court honors Pride Month



Proclamation is first of its kind for the county; Fort Worth, Watauga also issues proclamations

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
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Four days before the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court signed a resolution declaring June as National LGBTQ Pride Month.

The resolution on Tuesday morning, June 25, passed 3-2, with Democratic commissioners Devan Allen, the resolution's author, and Roy Brooks and Republican County Judge B. Glen Whitley voting in favor.

Republican Commissioners J.D. Johnson and Gary Fickes abstained.

Per a review of court records, the resolution is the county's first acknowledging LGBTQ Pride Month. The court has

been dominated by Republicans for decades, with the veteran Brooks serving as the lone Democrat. That changed last year, however, when Allen defeated Republican Andy Nguyen, giving Democrats a second seat on the court.

"This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall raid and subsequent riots in New York. It's a milestone year for the LGBTQ liberation movement and one that needs to be recognized as one to champion and advocate for equality and freedom from discrimination," Allen said in a statement. "Tarrant County is an increasingly diverse and vibrant community. As commissioner, I remain committed to ensuring that our residents and neighbors know that we are a welcoming one as well."

Tarrant County LGBTQ community leaders praised the resolution — even when a reporter was the first to inform them of it.

Sharon Herrera, executive director and founder of youth support group LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S., was among those taken by surprise. The proclamation shows "HOPE for our LGBTQ youth," she wrote via

Tarrant County Commissioner Devan Allen authored the first resolution the Commissioners Court ever passed recognizing June as National Pride Month.

Facebook. “Now let’s walk the talk and help build a safe place for them!”

DeeJay Johannessen, executive director of the Health Education Learning Project in Fort Worth, knew about the vote and was delighted by the margin.



“We are happy with the county’s passage of this proclamation and understanding of the need to support all citizens and



YOUTH, From Page 26

Before, the program was supported by donations to the church. Now, on months with a fifth Sunday, a second offering plate is passed to support DHC.

But donations are coming from new sources. The United Court of the Lone Star Empire is raising money for the organization this week at one of its shows at the Hidden Door. The Dallas Bears recently gave the group a check for almost \$900, and at Intuit in Plano, the company matched funds raised at an employee drag bingo and donated \$2,400. And a newly hired grant writer is applying for funds from a variety of sources.

Villejo has focused the mission of DHC on feeding and housing those in need. As part of that focus, its logo was

combat all hate crimes wherever they may exist,” he said. “We look forward to a time when this vote is unanimous.”

The Commissioners Court is the third government entity in Tarrant County to commemorate Pride. City councils in Fort Worth and Watagua, northeast of Fort Worth, recently passed resolutions, also.

Watagua Mayor Arthur Miner, who was elected in May, delivered the proclamation on June 14 at City Hall. Last November, Watagua elected Scott Preschel to the council. He’s the city’s first openly-gay elected official.

The Fort Worth resolution earlier this month passed unanimously, with Councilwoman Ann Zadeh presenting the signed proclamation to a group of activists, including Herrera, former Councilman Joel Burns, and Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell.

The city has scored a 100 on the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index, which measures a city’s commitment to protecting the LGBTQ community. It is the only city in Tarrant County to receive a perfect score, according to the Index, which does not include all cities in its surveys. Arlington came second, scoring 48 points. Watagua was not among the cities surveyed.

No official measurement for county protections for LGBTQ exists. ■

redesigned with a roof over the name and a fork in the “O” in Hope to signify home and meals.

Several programs such as tutoring at Maple Lawn Elementary across the street from the church have been turned back over to the church. Members who were working with students will continue to do so.

“We were too scattered,” Villejo said of the reason for that change.

With his new focus, Villejo said it will be easier to tell the story of Dallas Hope Charities and raise funds to keep its programs running. ■

To find out more about Dallas Hope Charities or make a donation, visit DallasHopeCharities.org.



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Making an impact

AIDS United's Southern HIV Impact Fund is giving organizations the money they need to make a difference

MAT SHAW | Contributing Writer
mathews.yb@gmail.com

Since 1988, AIDS United has provided more than \$104 million to local communities to fight the HIV epidemic, targeting the nation's most vulnerable communities, including gay and bisexual men, people of color, transgender individuals, drug users, sex workers and those living in the South.

"Central to our work is a deeply-held commitment to health equity and an intersectional approach to addressing the social determinants and disparities that drive the HIV epidemic in the U.S.," said P.J. Moton-Poole, program manager for AIDS United. "Our guiding North Star is, and always will be, the voices and the needs of people living with HIV."

The organization is one of the few national organizations led by a gay man of color living with HIV, a fact they are proud of, Moton-Poole added.

Now a new program launched by AIDS United targets the South for funding to fight the virus. In 2017, the year it was launched, the Southern HIV Impact Fund granted \$2.65 million to 37 organizations in nine deeply-impacted states: Alabama,



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According to the organization's website, HIV funding in the South decreased by \$2 million between 2015 and 2016. In addition, 44 percent of people living with HIV reside in the South.

Seven organizations in Texas benefit from AIDS United funds, two of which are in Dallas. Abounding Prosperity Inc., which provides health services to gay and bisexual black men and black trans women, and The Afiya Center, which addresses the sexual and reproductive health of black women and girls, are the two Dallas organizations that receive the funds.

"Both of these projects fill significant gaps in needed services and support Dallas' black communities," Moton-Poole said. "The Southern HIV Impact fund is proud to support the important work of these incredible organizations."

There are about 18,000 people living with HIV in Dallas County, according to

data from the Texas Department of State and Health Services. The Dallas area also has the highest rate of HIV in the state, Moton-Poole noted.

Other grant-making programs AIDS United sponsors to help bring health equity are Transgender Leadership Initiative, which helps build grassroots leadership within transgender communities, and Syringe Access Fund, which supports reduction in shared syringes and ensures their safe disposal.

According to Syringe Access Fund's website, infected needles result in up to 5,000 cases of HIV and about 10,000 cases of hepatitis C. The fund plans to invest close to \$2.4 million in 62 organizations across 32 states to support HIV and viral hepatitis prevention efforts between 2018 and 2020.

Transgender Leadership Initiative supports eight organizations across the country to "amplify the power of transgender people to address the HIV epidemic and make a difference in their communities," according to their web-

site. Some of their initiatives include creating a statewide trans youth advisory council in Michigan and training for recently incarcerated trans people.

In addition, the People Organizing Positively Initiative supports 10 organizations across the country to address stigma and encourage engagement in HIV care. Their work ranges from leading a multistate initiative to empower women living with HIV, helping leadership development in people with HIV through advocacy and storytelling and mobilizing to address HIV criminalization.

"As a matter of principle, we also believe that people living with HIV and those from affected communities should lead our movement to end the HIV epidemic," Moton-Poole said. "All of our strategic grantmaking initiatives require capacity building components, to ensure sustainable and diverse leadership to propagate a more durable movement to see us over the finish line and end this epidemic."

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STONEWALL, From Page 15

arrested, but I was there each and every night that followed, along with all of us who would later call ourselves Gay Liberation Front.

It was the members of GLF who wrote on the street that night, members of GLF who stood proudly at the front doors of Stonewall the second night to hear Marty Robinson and Martha Shelley speak, members who understood the changes we were demanding, not asking for.

The third and fourth nights were filled with organizing and a circus atmosphere that continued throughout the entire week. We were joyous, since from the ashes of Stonewall came the Gay Liberation Front, a group that would turn our community and the world upside down.

Also, from the third night on, leafletting began on Christopher Street. For the first time we were united, and for the first time we were a diversified community.

Let's make this clear: Before GLF, you didn't see anyone but white men in suits and ties and white women in dresses representing the LGBT community. Those earlier organizations wouldn't have anyone else as spokespeople.

That is why I was in The Action Group. Mattachine didn't want me, a youth of 18, in their office since they felt they could be raided for corrupting the morals of minors.

And drag queens, people of color? They were ignored by those groups.

But we in GLF welcomed all. From lesbian separatists, to radical fairy collectives, youths, street kids and yes drag queens — they were all GLF. You may have heard about a couple of our members: Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. They were welcomed, too.

GLF is the most important LGBT organization to have ever existed, because we made more change in one year for this community than any other organization has since. And we also were certainly the most dysfunctional — and we are all proud of that!

That first year, from Stonewall to the first Gay Pride in 1970, was pure magic, and it made our community what it is today. It changed our lives in so many ways that no organization had before.

We would no longer be invisible. We were out, loud and proud of who we were, and we would no longer accept society's labels. We would tell them who we were.

We were not "homosexuals." We were gay men, gay women, lesbian, dykes,

drag queens.

Not only would we be open about who we were, we'd also be in your face to fight for our rights instead of merely pleading for them. This was all revolutionary, since 99.9 percent of our community was in the closet, and in 1969, before GLF, there were only four types of places to go — illegal gay bars, cruising areas, private parties and secret meetings of organizations, which were hidden so the police would not raid them.

But GLF advertised our meetings. We advertised that we were going to have a dance — women dancing with women, men dancing with men, and not in an illegal bar but in public. We dared the police to raid us, and they were afraid to.

That was rebellious!

We also publicly took back our street Christopher Street by leafletting every night and facing off against the police. We did legal alerts, medical alerts, notices to gather for our next demonstration, handouts for Gay Youth meetings, a hotline, the nation's first trans organization, and the nation's first LGBT Community Center. And if all that were not enough, we were the organizers and marshals for that very first Gay Pride march in 1970, which was called Christopher Street Liberation Day March, originally dreamed up by Craig Rodwell and Ellen Broidy.

Stonewall was not one night, it was a year, and GLF was its spirit. That spirit of rebellion transformed our world.

Before Stonewall, less than a hundred out people represented us, all white men and white women, no diversity allowed. One year later at Gay Pride, people of color, trans people and youth gathered under a grassroots movement that welcomed all segments of our community. We were not 100 picketing once a year; we were now thousands.

I wasn't just at Stonewall. More importantly, I was with Gay Liberation Front. Stonewall and GLF are synonymous. One night led to one magical year. A year that changed the world. ■

Mark Segal is publisher of *The Philadelphia Gay News*, and last year his personal papers and artifacts, including some from this article, were inducted into The Smithsonian Institute American History Museum in Washington, D.C. His memoir — *And Then I Danced, Traveling The Road To LGBT Equality* — was named book of the year by the National Lesbian Gay Journalist Association.



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Cedar Springs getting 10 rainbows



Four rainbow crosswalks will be installed at the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Crosswalks have been in and out of neighborhood design plans for years

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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The Dallas City Council voted on Wednesday, June 26, to approve a plan for 10 rainbow crosswalks and other upgrades to Cedar Springs Road.

Former Councilmembers Pauline Medrano and Angela Hunt gave portions of their allotment from a bond election to upgrade the LGBT entertainment district. Since then, designs have been drawn up, argued, turned down, redrawn and refined.

This week two proposals passed the Dallas City Council on the consent agenda. One proposal includes most of the streetscape improvements and markers. The other is for crosswalks that will be paid for privately.

Bond money may only be used for improvements expected to last 20 years or more. Crosswalks are expected to last about 10 years.

The cost of installing 10 rainbow crosswalks will be \$128,250. Former Dallas City Councilman Chris Luna is spearheading the fundraising and has already raised \$70,000 toward the project. His

goal is to raise \$160,000, which would include funds for maintenance.

Costs of rainbow crosswalks vary. In Atlanta, one intersection with four rainbow crosswalks cost \$196,000.

Among the funders so far are the Cedar Springs Merchants Association, Round-Up owners Alan Pierce and Gary Miller as well as the bar itself, The Dallas Foundation and Communities Foundation of Texas. Dallas Pride, Texas Instruments, Lisa K. Simmons and Luna are the other major donors.

The crosswalks will run from Douglas Avenue to Oak Lawn Avenue. One will be painted at Douglas Avenue in front of Kroger. The next two are at Knight Street, but because Knight jags at Cedar Springs Road, one will cross in front of the Oak Lawn Branch Library and the other in front of Cedar Springs Tap House.

Next are four crosswalks at Throckmorton, an intersection also known as the Crossroads. One crosswalk will cross at Reagan in front of Cafe Brazil. Finally, one crosswalk marking the beginning of the district will be painted at the monument crossing to the Melrose Hotel.

The additional three crosswalks at that intersection will be realigned. From the monument to the Centrum, the crossing will be perpendicular making the walk shorter and pushing stopped traffic on Oak Lawn Avenue back a bit. Those will be painted in white.

Luna said that once construction begins — current projected start date is

RAINBOWS, Page 36

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DART's ads POP



DART team members show off their Ad POP Award from the National LGBT Media Association. The Ad POP Awards "reward the best representations of LGBT advertising in online and print campaigns, as placed in regional LGBT newspapers in its member cities," the association noted. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)



RAINBOWS

From Page 35

September — the project is expected to take six months. Crosswalks will be the last thing done. That's so that other construction doesn't destroy the newly-painted walkways and so utility companies have time to get any expected underground work done first.

The North Texas Chamber of Commerce will be responsible for the maintenance. Money raised for the project above the initial cost will be held by the Chamber.

Vandalism and utility work have been problems for rainbow crosswalks in other cities. Within a year of Atlanta installing its \$196,000, one-intersection rainbow crosswalks, underground AT&T utility work cut right through one lane of the walk and was replaced with blacktop. The city is looking into replacing the rainbow.

In Toronto, two people painted black swastikas over its four-year-old painted crosswalk last August. The crosswalk was quickly cleaned up because the paint used in Toronto is actually a long-lasting plastic laminate that will also be used on the Cedar Springs Road crosswalks, according to Luna.

A payment of \$125,250 is due from the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce by Jan. 31, 2020 to the city of Dallas. If payment in full is not received, the rainbow crosswalks will be deleted from

the contract and the street enhancements and will not be installed.

Luna said he didn't think there would be a problem raising the additional funds. He said a number of companies that are likely to contribute haven't been contacted yet and a Fundrazr campaign has just been launched.

In Atlanta, a GoFundMe raised about \$45,000 toward its much-higher costs.

The cost of additional street improvements coming from bond money is \$1,247,485.16. According to the plan voted on by the Dallas City Council on Wednesday, that money will be used for "landscaping, barrier-free ramps, continental style crosswalks, decorative paving, traffic signal design, pocket park plaza, gateway treatment and neighborhood signs at Douglas Avenue and Oak Lawn Avenue."

Bidding on the contract has closed. Four contractors submitted bids and Gibson & Associates of Balch Springs won, coming in at the amount allocated for the project. The highest bid would have cost more than \$2 million.

Gibson is expected to begin work in September and complete construction in March 2020.

Since the parade was moved off the Strip this year, the only other street event that may be affected is Halloween on Cedar Springs Road.

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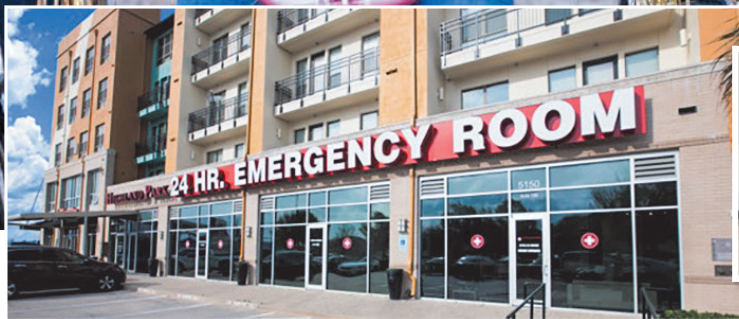
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Dallas Bears, BearDance present donations



FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Dallas Bears held their annual Anniversary Dinner and Awards event Saturday, June 22, at Dallas Eagle, where they handed out a grand total of \$78,754 to six different community organizations, and recognized Dallas Bear members for their contributions to the organization and the community.

The donations came from money raised during Texas Bear Round-Up 24: Best Little Bear House in Texas and the corresponding Hard Candy Bear Dance held in March. Members of Dallas Bears and the organizers of Bear Dance were celebrating 10 years of partnership this year, as the Dallas Bears host the largest bear run in the nation along with the best bear dance held the same weekend by the BearDance organization. In the spirit of that partnership, BearDance President Dr. Mark Trimble and Dallas Bears President Wayne Davis presented checks to recipients together. Recipients were Dallas Hope Charities (\$877 raised by Mr. TBRU boy Kage at his event); Resource

Center's Nutrition Programs (\$877 raised by Mr. TBRU boy Kage at his event); AIDS Services of Dallas (\$5,000 raised at the Spanke Studer Memorial Teddy Bear Auction); the Sharon St. Cyr Fund (\$18,000); Resource Center's Youth First program (\$18,000); and the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund (\$36,000).

Those recognized with awards during the anniversary celebration were:

- James Davenport: Bear of the Year.
- Members of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire: The John "Spanke" Studer Memorial Award for Community Service.
- Mike Henry, Chris Franke and Bob Hollenbeck: the President's Award for Dedication and Service.
- Penny Cilyn, a.k.a Gary Allinger: Special Service and Friendship Award.
- Dallas Bears President Wayne Davis: Special Service Award for 18 Years of Leadership and Service.

Partnership awards went to BearDance, Brian Ruby with Hyatt Regency Dallas, host hotel for TBRU, and Brenda



Sayegh with Connections Housing.

Receiving Lone Star Award for Tenured Leadership and Service were Rob Meade for more than 15 years of service and Nino Ciraulo for more than 10 years of service. Both men are retiring from active service.

Dallas Bears board of directors for the 2019/2020 Bear Year were also installed at the event. They are Wayne Davis, president; Mike Henry, vice president; Kevin Steele, secretary; Patrick Sweeney, treasurer; Randy Flores, charitable events; James Davenport, social events, and McKenzie Moraven, membership events.

Dallas Bears and BearDance are also already gearing up for March 2020, when Dallas Bears will host the TBRU Silver Jubilee. The TBRU 25 theme is "A Roman Holiday," and BearDance will hold its annual event again during TBRU weekend. ■



WENDY, From Page 24

congratulating all the LGBTQ employees on finally being able to live a full life and be legally married if they wanted. Sure, there are still some very conservative people in the company, and he got some blow-back for it. But that didn't make him change his mind or pull the post down.

"I never thought I would see the day that would happen," Lopez added. "I was so very proud of our company."

When Lopez was just starting her career, "Being a woman in the engineering field took a lot of guts," she said. "To further come out as a lesbian — well, it took me a long time to get there. I didn't come out until I owned my own company and it was pretty safe.

"But when I think about where I have been in my career, and then I look at the young people today, it gives me hope," she continued. "Young people today just don't see the differences in people the way we did when I was young. They say, 'Meet my friend,' not 'my gay friend' or 'my black friend' or 'my Muslim friend' or any of that. It's just 'my friend.' They just don't have a lot of the hang-ups the generation before [mine] did, or even that [my] generation has."

Lopez described participating recently in the OSTEM — Out in STEM — conference, where young LGBTQ engineering students getting ready to start their careers went to participate in workshops and symposiums. The event also included a job fair.

"Kids would come by the booths looking for jobs, and you could talk to them about your company and why they should apply there. This one young man came by our booth when I was there — tall, thin, good-looking. He was telling he wanted to be a design engineer and build bridges, and I was telling him that was my department at AECOM, and he should definitely apply with us.

"Then, I looked down at his feet, and he was wearing a pair of pumps," she laughed. "he just laughed and said, 'I forgot my boy shoes at home!'"

"Things like that make me hopeful. I am hopeful things are steadily improving," Lopez concluded. "When you look at what's happening right now on the national and international stage, it can really bring you down. But when I look to the future, I have hope." ■

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Pushing up to equal

Dallas County D.A.'s LGBT liaison is focused on equal, not special treatment

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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We can't assume we're going to be treated equally in the criminal courts building," Phillip Clark, LGBTQ+ liaison to Dallas County District Attorney John Creuzot, noted this week.

While treating every person who's a defendant or witness equally is a goal, assistant D.A.s and other employees bring their own experiences with them, Clark said, so Creuzot has re-instated liaison positions within the office, including one for the LGBTQ+ community.

Clark said he's not suggesting any special rights for anyone, but sometimes "we have to give a push to get them up to equal."

Creuzot, he said, gave his office a fresh start.

"He invited me to make of this role as I could," Clark said. "We opened with a quick response on two House bills," that were being considered in the Texas Legislature.

Resource Center had contacted the D.A.'s office, and Creuzot responded with letters to two committees hearing bills relating to prosecuting crime. One regarded eliminating the "gay panic" defense. That's when a defendant claims he committed a murder or other offense because he suddenly found out the victim was gay.

The other bill would have extended Texas' hate crime law to include gender identity and expression and would have corrected language that uses the term "sexual preference." That wording

was a compromise Equality Texas and House Democrats worked out to attract a number of needed Republican votes at the time.

The state hate crime law is penalty enhancement legislation that increases punishment by one felony category if the motive of the crime was hatred against certain categories of people. Including transgender people as a protected category just gives a prosecutor another tool to use, Creuzot argued.

Both bills died in committee, but Creuzot's support was noted by committee members and members of the LGBT community.

To aid him in his work in "bringing LGBT people up to equal," Clark is putting together two boards. An LGBTQ+ task force will be made up of assistant D.A.s. Clark said he thought he'd find only a few people would want to become involved, but more than 20 have expressed an interest, mainly because of a case or someone they've met.

The other is a community advisory board that will be made up of a broad range of people from around the county to keep the D.A.'s office current on issues and trends in the LGBT community.

Clark envisions prosecutors using the task force as a resource in dealing with LGBT victims, witnesses and defendants.

"This is not because there's a streak of problem prosecutors," he said. "It's to address the general concept of doing our jobs better."

Anyone coming into the D.A.'s office as a witness is nervous, Clark explained. He's seen transgender people come in



Phillip Clark

feeling additional pressure. He described one instance where someone arrived in her assigned gender rather than as she usually presents.

He said if a transgender witness comes into the office, everyone may not have experience putting that person at ease. It's OK to ask what name and which pronouns that person prefers. Someone with little experience might skirt around the issue, making everyone uncomfortable, rather than politely and simply asking.

Again Clark stressed that there hasn't been a streak of disrespect, but sometimes "people don't know what they don't know." So part of his position he sees as cultural competency.

Although Clark couldn't discuss any upcoming cases, there have been two arrests in murders of black trans women in the last month. The murders got national coverage, and the trials are expected to be closely watched as well.

Members of the gay and trans communities may be witnesses in both cases. In the investigation into Muhaysia Book-

er's murder, someone who saw her get into a light-colored, early 2000s Lincoln LS that belongs to the man accused in the case. That person is likely to be called as a witness.

Fewer details of what led to an arrest in Chynel Lindsey's murder have been released.

Speaking in general, Clark said it was important for people in his office to get to know trans terminology.

Dead-naming or incorrect pronoun usage "can blow up a witness interview," he said.

Detecting biases during jury selection can also make a difference. The D.A.'s office doesn't want to lose a case because members of the jury discount testimony of gay or trans witnesses or feel a victim deserved whatever happened.

"We don't want a jury that will use it [LGBT status] for or against a defendant," he said. "A person's status can't affect your view of them as witnesses or defendants."

Clark said he expects the task force to be a place where assistant D.A.s can "bounce ideas and learn ways to approach these issues." He said a major focus is case integrity. For an LGBT defendant, that may mean reducing the chance of an appeal based on animus.

For prosecution witnesses, Clark wants someone testifying for the state to know they've been treated equally to any other witness. What he can't assure, he said, is how the defense attorney will treat the witness, "But I can make the witness aware the defense attorney may not be respectful," he said.

Clark said the defense attorney may try to rile up the witness to affect the jury or simply be speaking disrespectfully out of ignorance.

As more cases involve LGBT defendants, witnesses and victims, Clark wants to make sure assistant D.A.s present their cases respectfully, learn how to use that respect to find additional witnesses, make introductions to allay wariness on the part of witnesses and know how to deal with family members who may or may not have been supportive.

Clark said special treatment isn't what his office is about. It's just about equal treatment. And that's where he will focus his efforts.



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Shakin' it for Pride Month

Gays and rainbow flags are offensive, but Nazis are OK?

June is Pride Month.

And that means anti-LGBTQ folks are losing their god-damn minds.

I attended Motor City Pride in Detroit

recently with my wife, our son and my wife's 69-year-old aunt. It was a family affair.

There were rainbows galore, men holding hands with men, women holding hands with women, transgender and genderqueer people holding hands with men or women or with whomever they wanted — because it's Pride, and love is love, damn it!

Oh, and there were Nazis, too, complete with swastikas and guns, because open carry is legal in Michigan. Yes, that's right. In Michigan, an LGBTQ person has no right to be free from discrimination, but a Nazi has a right to carry guns out in the open. As a state, our priorities are pretty fucked up.

Thankfully, my family didn't encounter the Nazis. We were too busy at the kids' tent learning about fossils from a man in a lab coat named Dr. Dinosaur. My son got to hold fossilized dinosaur poop. Definitely the highlight for him.

The Detroit Police Department got a lot of criticism for "escorting" the Nazis, though in their defense their goal was to keep the Nazis and the Pride celebrants separate to prevent violence, which they achieved. Ideally, the police would have told the Nazis to GTFO, but that's not their job because of freedom of speech.

Though I'd like to point out, that marching with guns and screaming that LGBTQ people should die is not free speech, it's an incitement to violence, which is not protected by the first amend-

ment and should not be protected by the police or any other governmental entity. But that's not where we are as a society yet.

The Nazis reportedly destroyed a rainbow flag while trying to disrupt Motor City Pride. Thankfully, there were more flags where that one came from.

Also thankfully, the Trump Administration is protecting embassies worldwide from Nazis ... Wait, no, I'm sorry. That's my mistake. Let's try this again: The Trump administration is protecting embassies worldwide from rainbow flags.

Under President Obama, U.S. embassies were allowed to officially raise a rainbow flag during June. Under Trump they are not. Rainbow flags aren't banned from embassy premises, but they are conspicuously absent from the official flag pole.

And that absence is definitely intended to send a message. And anti-LGBTQ Trump supporters and self-proclaimed Christians are getting that message loud and clear.

Franklin Graham thanked Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "for making the decision not to fly the gay flag over our embassies during June in recognition of gay Pride month. That is the right decision. The only flag that should fly over our embassies is the flag of the United States of America. The gay Pride flag is offensive to Christians and millions of people of other faiths, not only in this country but around the world. The U.S. flag represents our nation — everyone — regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation."

The rainbow flag isn't offensive to Christians, but it is offensive for people to use their religion as a weapon against people they don't like. So, I can see that while Graham would be offended, many LGBTQ and allied people of faith are not



offended by a rainbow flag. They are offended by bigotry though.

"Most people don't know that these State Department folks are defying the president of the United States and flying the rainbow flag," right-wing pastor E.W. Jackson railed against anyone at the State Department who dare display a Pride flag, calling the rainbow flag "an accursed thing."

He continued, "The rainbow was given to us by God as a sign that he would not destroy the earth by water again, and you're going to appropriate that as pride in homosexuality? Are you kidding me? Talk about blasphemy. Talk about arrogance. Talk about boldness. Talk about shaking your fist in God's face."

If the music at Pride festivals around the world is any indication, there's a lot more shaking than fists. But I get Jackson's point. Then again, it's nice to see that he's so worried about floods. I'm sure his sermons on global warming are lit.

If only the Christian right got as worked up over Nazis as they do over LGBTQ people. Imagine a world where Graham said, "Nazis are offensive to Christians and millions of people of other faiths," or where E.W. Jackson said, "Talk about shaking your fist in God's face," and he was talking about hateful Nazis, not about peaceful LGBTQ people.

Until then, we'll keep shaking our fists — and our asses — and refusing to apologize for who we are.

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 over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.

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The 'Rainbow' connection

How a musical about the murder of a gay teen gained momentum in Dallas

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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LIFE+STYLE
stage

It is a warm spring evening deep inside the sweaty halls of the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and about 50 people have flashed back to their teen years to find a seat in the black box theater. Most of them are theaterfolk — actors, singers, directors, producers — specially invited by one of their own, Terry Loftis, for an exclusive event.

The lights dim and a young boy runs onto the stage to happily don a pair of kinky boots and sashay around prodigiously, flamboyantly gay. He flirts and flits for a few moments, and is then gunned down in the back of the head by a classmate. A pop gospel song plays. And the rest of the story begins.

It will repeat itself the following night.

These audiences are getting an early look at a brand-new musical inspired by the actual, horrific murder of Larry King, a gay (possibly trans) teen in California in 2008 called *Living Over the Rainbow*, conceived of, written and composed by a cisgender lesbian life coach named Roz Esposito with no prior experience as a composer or librettist for musical theater.

It's all so unlikely that this pairing of circumstances would lead this far down the line. But unlikely things happen all the time in show business.

I started college as a theater actor, and I was with the Groundlings so I'd written sketches and developed characters. I've written songs, but never a musical or a play," Esposito says. So yeah — totally new to her, especially at the level it has gotten to now.

But it's not as if she had a choice — at least in her mind.

"In 2008, I picked up the paper and saw a picture of Larry, and it just jumped off the page at me. I was completely taken with him." Initially, she and a friend made a short documentary film about the killing. But that wasn't enough.

"I'm very spiritual. I kept thinking 'What does the soul have to do to move

After Terry Loftis, standing, read 'Living Over the Rainbow,' he reached out to author Roz Esposito, seated, about getting the musical ready for Broadway. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)

on?" This [story] was touching on everything that was important to me: LGBT, human rights, forgiveness, spirituality. The universe tapped me on the shoulder and said "This is a musical."

Theater — good theater — doesn't just happen. Sure, you can throw on a cape, stand on a stage in your backyard and invite your friends over to watch you improvise, but the world of professional musicals is far more complicated. It starts, of course, with an idea, a script, a score. Then someone with money needs to show an interest. There are rewrites and suggestions and feedback. But it's all still just words and notes on a page until someone ponies up some cash to get actors to bring life to the characters, musicians to play those notes, a director to work out the mechanics and ultimately an audience to absorb it.

What's taking place at Booker T. those nights in April is one of the necessary steps in that process called "mounting a workshop." This seemingly impromptu guerilla production actually cost thousands of dollars to put up and employed dozens of experienced professionals to make happen, even for just two nights in front of non-paying customers.

It's common in professional theater, but perhaps less expected on this scale done independently in Dallas. That is, until we had our own Tony-nominated Broadway producer in town to get the job done.

Loftis came by his producer title unexpectedly. Barely four years ago, he was just a man with a passion for the arts. A singer and patron of live performances, he had raised money for causes for much of his adult life. But when he was asked by a friend to put together investors for the new Kander and Ebb musical headed for Broadway, he agreed ... despite his lack of experience as a New York theater producer. His efforts landed him a co-producer credit on *The Visit* with Chita Rivera and Roger Rees; within a few months, when the list of Tony nominees for best musical was announced, Loftis' name was read out. (*The Visit* lost to the team from *Fun Home*.)

Rather than being a one-off experience, Loftis was smitten with the process. Two years later, he was back on Broadway with the original musical *Bandstand*; now, he's an outright impresario, serving as vice president

of investor development for the Broadway Strategic Return Fund, which has had a hand in lining up investors for Broadway productions like *The Cher Show*, *Pretty Woman The Musical* and *Hadestown* — big, splashy tentpoles all.

But Loftis maintains a personal interest in smaller, more intimate works as well. Which is what drew him initially to *Living Over the Rainbow*. (He's working on this independent from his day job as the interim lead producer.)

He happened upon the script in a way that almost seems like a Hollywood cliché.

"I got the book through Mel England, an actor in L.A. and New York who knew Roz. I was staying with [Mel] in New York, and he slipped [the script] into my bag," Loftis says. He discovered it in the airport. "I read it on the flight back to Dallas, and before I had listened to any of the demos of the score, the story kind of shook me. I could relate to that character — I went through the verbal and physical bullying. [Reading it brought] this huge influx of emotions and identity and not having anyone to talk to. That whole connection of me being gay in an all-black neighborhood where everything I had experienced in middle school would escalate. But I had a shitty time in school — this poor kid lost his life for just being who he was."

It took a few months before Loftis and Esposito could meet in person, but when they did, the connection was made.

"We immediately bonded and fell in love with each other," Loftis says of Esposito, a wild-maned redhead. Loftis gave her his notes about the script and the score; they decided amongst themselves that it would be important for the director to be gay or lesbian or have some personal familiarity with queer subject matter. Loftis reached out to friends and mentors in the New York theater scene.

All of this "takes place really quick — they will say 'I've got four people you have to talk to about this,' and you call them," he says. He selected a music director; he began to assemble a cast, especially the leading role.

This was in early 2017; by the summer of 2018, Loftis had signed Uptown Players as a co-sponsors of the project.

"We looked at the script, and it fit our mission really well," says Craig Lynch, who with Jeff Rane founded Uptown Players. "For me it was the message of bullying and forgiveness [that resonated]

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A fruity idea

Dallas' campiest new food truck blends healthy eating with a dash of queer sass

If necessity is the mother of invention, hunger is the mother of food trucks.

That's how it worked out, at least, for Marisa Diotalevi.

About a year ago, her teenaged daughter was pecking for a snack. What to eat? Tacos? Sandwiches? Funnel cake? Everything, it seemed, was fried or fattening or at least not the healthy snack every mom hopes to give her kid. Mom suggested fruit.

Great idea, her daughter agreed — but from where?

And almost like that, Diotalevi became a mother for a second time.

She saw an opening in the market for healthy, delicious and reasonably-priced snacks, and a food truck seemed like the perfect to bring her idea to the people.

The Fruit Bowl, which has driven the byways of North Texas since March, serves a choice of seasonal three fruits — strawberry, mango, kiwi, banana and a host more — in three sized bowls, plus offers optional add-ons like yogurt and complimentary toppings like chocolate sauce or honey. (Hey, it's fruit — it can still be healthy with chocolate!). But perhaps nothing sets it apart more than Diotalevi herself.

A comedian and actor of long-standing in North Texas, she's known for her wit and wackiness, which she imbues in the truck: It's decorated in Day-Glo orange, plastered with Diotalevi's face, festooned with a Carmen Miranda-esque fruit headdress. She wears a kitschy apron when serving customers. No truck has ever looked gayer... or more inviting.

Hey, if there's one thing the LGBTQ community knows about, it's how to camp it up. And fruits for the fruit? Well, that was basically a no-brainer. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Follow The Fruit Bowl @rolloutthefruit.



In a spider's web

A winning 'Yesterday,' a nasty 'Midsommar' and Spidey 'Far from Home'



With Himesh Patel in the lead, 'Yesterday' could just as easily be called 'A Star is Born.'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

One of the joyous dividends of *Rocketman* is how it reminded us of the breadth of great music Elton John produced merely by running through his catalogue (and only about half of that). *Yesterday* — the wonderfully joyous valentine to Britpop from director Danny Boyle and screenwriter Richard Curtis — accomplishes a similar feat with the songs of The Beatles, only without the constraints of the biopic format.

That's because *Yesterday* isn't about The Fab Four themselves, but the wonder that is their output — the best pop songs ever produced by a single band (which they did over the course of six years). The plot posits the question of whether true genius transcends an era — is a great work of art great, even if we attribute it to someone else half a century later?

That's the dilemma faced by Jack Malik (Himesh Patel), a struggling singer-songwriter in England. His friend and manager Ellie (Lily James) is about his only fan, and he determines to quit his dream and settle into a boring life of teaching. Then something supernatural happens — a worldwide blackout, where the planet goes entirely dark for 12 seconds, during which time Jack is struck by a bus. When he awakes, he realizes he's the only man alive who remembers the songs of John, Paul, George and Ringo: "Hard Day's Night," "When I'm 64," "Let It Be" ... they don't exist on Earth 2.0 unless Jack makes

them exist.

And he does. And people love them. And he begins to wonder who he really is — a great artist, or a hack plagiarist.

Yesterday is an amazingly wonderful jukebox musical that undermines the very precepts of what we think of a musical being — not about the creative process, or the use of songs as exposition, but something more meta: Can some unknown guy produce the great pop album of all time merely by recalling those who actually did it first?

The film benefits immeasurably from the presence of Patel who, despite jokes about his appearance and lack of charisma, radiates likeable charm and even a self-deprecating sex appeal. He also sings the hell out of the songs. Lily James has her best role yet as his devoted but conflicted manager who also longs to be considered a serious romantic object. Joel Fry score all the extra points as Rocky, Jack's stoner friend and loveable loser (think Rhys Ifyans in *Notting Hill*... not coincidentally, also written by Curtis). The one false note in the cast is Kate McKinnon, who — despite being razor sharp — feels like a character from a different movie. She's the lone American in the principal cast, and she projects an appalling Americanness, but the way everyone else relates to her doesn't ring true.

The denouement also doesn't quite work for me (happily, it doesn't follow the it-was-all-a-dream arc), but I defy

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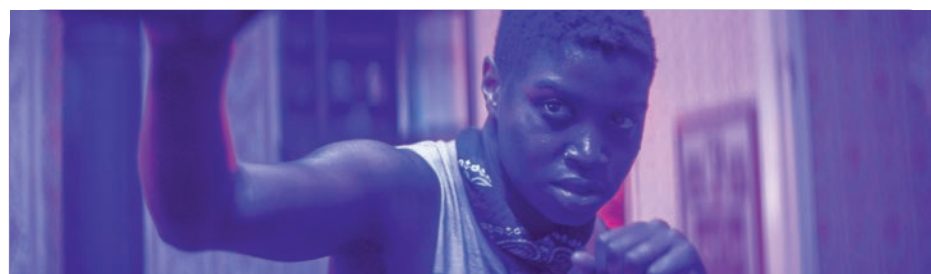
you not to choke up at key moments in the last 20 minutes. *Yesterday* somehow taps into our musical Zeitgeist and remind us how culture binds us together more than it tears us apart. It's a sobering message in the Trump era.

Now playing.

Writer-director Ari Aster's feature debut last year, *Hereditary*, was an unexpected masterpiece of uneasy dread. Aster began his story with a family tragedy — the death of a parent — and without relying on the tropes of most horror films, he slowly, unrelentingly drew out the misery and the mystery: Was the heroine going crazy? Was her son? The Act 1 twist (another

sudden death, for which the audience is completely unprepared) seemed to alter the syntax of the story we were anticipating. By the time of the resolution, the slow-burn had become a conflagration. We, like the proverbial frog in a pot of boiling water, had unwittingly allowed ourselves to be swallowed alive by the filmmaker's emotional mind-fuck. Like a great magician, he told us what was coming, but still managed to surprise us.

It's from that standpoint that I went into *Midsommar*, Aster's follow-up, willingly denying myself any context. I wanted him to lead me down the primrose path again and pull my footing from under me. There's a primrose path



THE QUEERING OF HORROR

The horror genre has been gaining in legitimacy for decades, but has really exploded in recent years, making genuine inroads into the public consciousness, often by overlaying a horror element to serious social issues. Black Lives Matter, mental illness and people with disabilities have worked their way into plots of *Get Out*, *Hereditary* and *A Quiet Place*. And one local production company seeks to expand that scope even further.

Producers Brock Cravy and Deidra Armstrong have just announced the formation of a Dallas-based studio named The Contested Edge, with the commitment to producing horror, fantasy and sci-fi films that embrace queer characters and storylines.

"Being gay isn't as taboo as it once was, except when it comes to writing gay characters," Cravy explains when announcing the production house's launch. The Contested Edge hopes to steer clear of the stereotypes gay characters are often relegated to in genre pictures: flamboyant queens, flirtatious friends hitting on straight men, brooding dark souls. "We want to demonstrate that you can have characters who are gay without this one trait defining their entire storyline," he says.

Their first film, the short *Momma* — which Cravy describes as "a dystopian neo Western horror" — will drop in the fall, featuring a black trans hustler, followed by the development of a queer zombie picture. "What's really exciting about *Momma* is the crew. We put lesbians and women of color in positions of leadership and creative spaces. I have never worked with such a diverse cast and crew."

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Learn more about them at ContestedEdge.com.

here, all right, but one lined with thorns and annoying mosquitoes. Rather than rediscover the language of horror, he seems enslaved to its tropes.

It doesn't start out that way. The first 10 minutes represent a devastatingly smart short: Dani (Florence Pug), a high-strung college student, gets an upsetting email from her sister that sets her on edge. She calls her boyfriend Christian (Jack Reynor), who is over her family histrionics, for comfort. But his platitudes prove false — the news is bad... worse, in fact, than you can imagine.

Dani spirals into a depression as Christian — egged on by his bro-ey classmates — considers dumping her. Instead, he guiltily invites Dani to join them on their summer jaunt to Sweden, presumably to allow buddy Pelle (Vilhelm Blomgren) to visit his remote village and for studious Josh (William Jackson Harper) to research his thesis, but also to whore around Europe. But Pelle's home, despite its bucolic, communal placidity, exudes impending evil.

The main problem is, that brooding threat kicks in about 20 minutes in, and there are more than two hours to go. Aster doesn't dole out the terror

in teaspoons, but catapults his themes from far off. You get a definite Wicker Man vibe (informed by *Get Out*) even before they arrive in the village, and — spoiler alert — that's exactly what you get at the end. No real suspense, no real insight, tons and tone of needless gore. (The gruesomeness of *Hereditary* was shocking but minimal; here, it's scattering like seed on a field.)

There are nods as well to *Sweeney Todd*, Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery*, *Se7en* and many other (oc)cult precursors. But unlike, say, *Suspiria*, which burrows under your skin with artsy manipulation, *Midsommar* merely withholds information that any normal character would inquire about in order to startle you, and it does so with sluggish pacing. In the end, it all feels pretty anti-feminist, the manifestation of a male ego bruised by a woman. Aster's not only experiences the notorious sophomore curse, he's sophomoric getting there.

Opens July 3.

It follows logically that the first Marvel entry after the events of *Avengers: Endgame* — wherein we suffered (spoiler!) the death of Tony Stark — would focus on Tony's lap-doggy protégé, Peter



A cult lures strangers into its fold in Ari Aster's unpleasant 'Midsommar,' opposite; above, Spidey swings through London.

Parker aka Spider-Man (Tom Holland) coming to terms with his grief. Spidey has always been the most hormonally convoluted of Marvel's superheroes — adenoidal, goofy, stupidly fearless but also kick-ass. But he feels emotions like a teen, as well; a sixth sense can't replace experience and perspective. That's already a lot to digest, but the filmmakers also took this opportunity to introduce fan-fave villain Mysterio (Jake Gyllenhaal) into the mix, potentially overloading Peter (and us) with a surfeit of expectation.

The result? Almost nothing. *Spi-*

der-Man: Far from Home offers no emotional resonance (he's more interested in banging MJ than coping with his loss), the jokes fall flat (I cracked a smile maybe twice) and the actors seem as embarrassed by it all as we do (Gyllenhaal and Samuel L. Jackson are measurably terrible). Coming on the heels of probably the best-ever superhero film (and the astonishing appeal of the animated *Into the Spider-Verse*), this poorly written and dull movie is the worst yet in the MCU by far.

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Mouse & Mary Ann, together again (for the first time)

Newcomer Murray Bartlett and veteran Laura Linney take up residency (again) on Barbary Lane

A recent internet meme featured Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling bemoaning the difficulty of killing off so many characters, while *Game of Thrones* series author George R.R. Martin calling her “adorable” in response.

Gay writer Armistead Maupin has a lot in common with both Rowling and Martin. All are authors of popular book series with many twists and turns (in Maupin’s case, it’s the beloved queer *Tales of The City*, which he began in 1978 and concluded in 2014). They populate their books with a wide assortment of characters, some loveable and some despicable... and many killed-off characters. And all three have made the leap from the page to the screen.

In that regard, Maupin’s journey is more circuitous. Unlike the efficiency of the *Potter* and *Thrones* sagas, *Tales of*

the City launched in 1993 on PBS, got revived for two stints on Showtime in 1998 and 2001, and finally hit series No. 4 this month with the latest *Tales*. All three have starred Olympia Dukakis as Anna Madrigal, the legendary trans landlord of 28 Barbary Lane, and Laura Linney as Mary Ann Singleton, the naïve young woman from Ohio who was forever changed when she relocated to San Francisco. New to this incarnation is handsome, out Australian actor Murray Bartlett as Michael “Mouse” Tolliver, the third actor to assume the role. We spoke to Linney and Bartlett about their difference experiences on the show, and what *Tales* has meant to them as participant and viewer. ■

— Chris Azzopardi and Gregg Shapiro

Dallas Voice: Laura, when did you first become aware that, with *Tales*, you were part of something that was so deeply affecting to members of the LGBTQ community? Laura Linney: Well, I’m glad I didn’t know when the project first came to me. I’m really glad I didn’t understand how broad the reach and how deep the

reach was of Armistead’s work. I’m sure it would’ve completely intimidated me — and I’m sure I wouldn’t have handled it terribly well — so I’m glad that I was somewhat ignorant when I first started to make the series. But it became very clear to me shortly after we finished just how loved these stories are, and the more I got to understand and know Armistead, the more I understood that phenomenon. He’s truly a great man.

How did you know that the show had this weight? Linney: I just noticed that everyone was very happy to see me all of a sudden! Honestly, I would walk down the street and people would just be very happy and it was really wonderful. It’s been a real joy.

Did it feel daring to you at the time?

Linney: Not to me! I think it was daring to other people, but not to me. To me it just felt like family and home.

It sounds like you had exposure to the community at a very young age, even before *Tales*. Linney: I did, through the kind, wonderful people I grew up around. I think just people who I loved and loved me, and I never even realized that there was a discriminatory land out there until I realized that there really was.

***Tales of the City* has made you a bit of a gay icon, hasn’t it?** Linney: I wouldn’t say full-blown icon. Like, mini. I’m sort of like a mini icon.

A half Cher? Linney: A quarter Cher, maybe. Not even. A fifth Cher. Cher is a big deal! But it’s something I’m so proud of, and it’s really just a tremendous gift.

Murray, what was it about the character of Mouse that made you want to portray him? Murray Bartlett: I love the *Tales of the City* books. I have a huge affection for all of the characters, including Michael, from the ‘90s. I guess what I love about him, particularly now, is that he has been through a lot. He went through the AIDS crisis and thought he was going to die and lost a lot of the people that he loved. He faced his own mortality. He went through a hugely challenging and transformative time and he’s managed to keep this beautiful kind of buoyant spirit that he has, this boyish spirit. I really love that about him. It’s difficult to do that. I think a lot of people become cynical and jaded. He’s definitely come through a little damaged [laughs] and he’s definitely got some baggage but that buoyant spirit is still intact, and I really love that.

What were the challenges and rewards



of stepping into the role played by two other actors in previous iterations of the series? Bartlett: I didn't really think about that too much. Before we started, I went back and read all of the books. I tried to let Mouse jump off the page. Let Armistead give me Mouse through the books. I think maybe one of the reasons I didn't give it much thought is that two decades have gone in between. A lot has happened. Mouse still has the same spirit, he's still essentially the same guy, but he's transformed in terms of all the stuff he's gone through. I felt like, as happens after a couple of decades, you are a kind of reformed character in a lot of ways. I felt like I didn't have to be too concerned about what had come before and just go back to the books and get the essence of him and run with it.

What does being part of such a beloved series, including both the previous TV productions on PBS and Showtime, mean to you? Bartlett: It's been beloved to me [laughs]. I have such a personal connection to it. I think for many of us that saw it in the beginning, or came to the books in the '70s, '80s, '90s and beyond, is that they really struck a chord that wasn't being struck. These LGBTQ characters finding family and living a wonderful, joyful life, with all the trials and tribulations of their everyday lives. Fully fleshed out, real characters that were experiencing joy and pain. A trans character, like Anna Madrigal, that was not a tragic figure. She's a wise, benevolent, compassionate, wonderful inspiring woman. I think it was groundbreaking at the time, and I think it's still groundbreaking in that we're still kind of at the beginning of LGBTQ representation on television and on film. Being part of that wave and being part of this beautiful world that Armistead created that is so compassionate and human and full of love; I feel like we need more of that in the world always, and especially now. It feels like such a privilege

to be part of that.

When you drive up to 28 Barbary Lane again during the revival's premiere episode, you enter it almost like Dorothy enters Oz. During that shoot what were you feeling? Linney: Oh, you know, it was just great fun and you're thrown back to 25 years ago. You realize how much is the same and how much is different, how much you were the same and how much you've changed.

What's your best behind-the-scenes story from the revival? Linney: You know, it's just people. It's about being able to do this work with people who I have such a long connection with. It's being able to giggle with Armistead looking at the monitor and watching it come back to life again. It's about being with Olympia, who is 88 years old and remarkable. And then it's about Paul Gross [portraying Brian Hawkins, Mary Ann's ex] and Barbara Garrick [WASP socialite DeDe Halcyon Day], and it's also about this wonderful younger generation of people for whom the series is really for now. You know, there's this sense of passing the baton onto a younger, and in some ways very much more evolved, group of LGBTQ people and a community that has expanded in a way that did not exist when we did the first series.

Murray, as a newcomer, what was it like to work with Laura Linney and Olympia Dukakis? Bartlett: Just, you know, magical. Complete joy and very surreal. Especially initially, because, I think I'd seen Olympia in things before, particularly *Moonstruck*. But I don't think I'd seen Laura before I watched *Tales of the City*. I have a strong association with those women and those characters in *Tales of the City*, so it was very surreal being onset the first few times with them. They are those characters to me. I was a little

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ed]. And Roz's music was also snazzy and catchy. It was something we decided we could invest in and get on the ground with [a New York-bound] production." They helped finance a basic reading in July of 2018 in Irvine, Calif. After that is when the real work began.

It took Esposito a long time to get there. She speaks in the free-spirited, bohemian style of a flower child. She doesn't write her music, she downloads it, as if tapping into the energy of the cosmos. From the initial idea in 2008, it took her until about 2015 before she was willing to show her work, even to friends.

"The first reading I ever did was with about 15 invited people in a friend's living room," she recalls. "Ten minutes into it, I wanted to slit my wrists. Then a few years later, when more music was written, we did it in front of about 30 people, and it was beginning to fit into place. People were over the moon about it."

That's around the time her friend Mel England mentioned he had connections in New York theater and would be willing to slip a copy to his friend Terry Loftis.

Nine months after the first reading, Loftis has raised money from investors to help finance the Dallas workshop (even so, he self-financed about two-thirds of the expenses). The original director was dropped, and seven days before that first performance, Loftis brought in Terry Martin, former artistic director of WaterTower Theatre, to take over. And even in front of small, invited audiences, the tension is high.

"The show goes up, and it's outside you," Esposito says. "We had two weeks [to get the workshop mounted] — we'd work on the script during the day and with the actors at night. There was a stage manager — a real stage manager! This is what a production Off-Broadway is like."

"Opening night of a workshop, it is probably 60 percent butterflies in anticipation and 40 percent 'holy shit, what the hell am I doing?'" Loftis says. "As a producer, you have to buy into the vision of this hippie first-time playwright and she has to buy into me as someone who, despite New York experience, has never produced something from its infancy. Fear comes into it — in fact,



Dylan Mulvaney plays the murdered teen in the workshop mounted in Dallas this spring. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)

the fear aspect is the same as opening night of a Broadway show. Until you're actually watching the audience, seeing if they are clicking with the beats of the story, it's a nightmare."

The first night was a success; the second made Loftis more nervous.

"The audiences were completely different," he recalls. "The first night, the cast was in synch as was the audience, but the second night, while the audience was bigger, there were some moments that didn't happen. I think we didn't pull off two specific scenes. Even so, the feedback was incredible ... and incredibly valuable."

The next day, Loftis held a conference call with the principals (Esposito, Martin, the music director, Jeff Rane from Uptown Players) and "we ripped it apart, scene by scene, and collectively made recommendations about changes." Was it content or the actors performing it that wasn't working? What was best? Worst? "That's a grueling, painful process. There were changes to the book, some to the score — for example, we felt the angels had too much going on musically, so we turned the focus to Larry and [his tormentor] Brian and cut two of the angels' songs. The next version will have a lot more emphasis on the background of the main characters: how did Brian get to be violent, how did Larry get kicked out of his home for coming out?"

"I've been through it, man — I've been rejected [in my career], but I'm

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Wardrobe malfunction

Stylist finds passion in working with trans women to find the right fit

Clothes can easily be taken for granted: A cisgender man buttons up his shirt before work. A cis woman puts on her slingbacks before a night out. Clothes are comfortable and also reflect who we are — preppy, curvy, slender, conservative, whatever. When something doesn't fit right, we pick the next size or buy a new article.

For a trans man or woman, those options are quite different... and it's not always about the fit or style. Lyndsey

Duff discovered that there are no clear guidelines for the trans community when it comes to finding the right garment, so she's trying to do her part to help.

"I realized it was something that wasn't being represented in the fashion community or in any influencer community. Everyone may be inclusive but they aren't talking about it," says the 28-year-old.

Meaning that shops and clothing lines may be supportive of the LGBTQ community with rainbow collections or reassuring Instagram posts but aren't doing much more beyond that. Addressing transgender wardrobe issues was something Duff never found — and she should know.

Duff is a stylist at Nordstrom at NorthPark Center, helping shoppers select just the right pieces that are stylish, comfortable and cut perfectly to fit. But it was a customer interaction in Austin prior to moving to North Texas that changed everything for her.

"There was a situation where a mom had called for her daughter who was transitioning," Duff says. "It turned out to be a really intense experience helping this trans woman find clothes who represented who she is. I saw her mom get so vulnerable in her reaction to seeing their child be happy. I fell in love with that."

Duff found purpose that day and hopes to continue that here in Dallas. She's discovered the layers that can go into the shopping experience for a transgender person.

"There are no guidelines. Going from one body structure to another and trying to



Stylist Lyndsey Duff, above, is passionate about helping everyone, including in the trans community, look their best; left, Eva, one of Duff's trans clients.

find who teaches that is difficult," she says. "And on top of that, some people may feel unsafe shopping for clothes. I can't even imagine going through that."

So Duff invites shoppers to stop in to see her. She's primarily worked with





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A Stonewall 50 soundtrack

LIFE+STYLE

music

10 albums from artists made possible by kicking open the closet door

Looking for just the right soundtrack for your observance of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots? Consider any or all of the following albums by LGBTQ artists to provide the music for your queer ears.

If you only know punk belter **Tyson Meade** from his time as front-man of the purr-fect '90s alt-rock band Chainsaw Kittens, then you only know part of the story. Meade's four solo albums, beginning with 1996's *Motorcycle Childhood* are all worthy of your attention. His amazing new release *Robbing the Nuclear Family* (Shaking Shanghai), with an incredible cover image that must be seen, has all the components we've come to expect from Meade and then some. "He's the Candy" (from which the album's title is drawn) will kick your sweet ass into next week. The daring musical diversion of "Tentatively Ahmed" pays off in a big way, lifting listeners out of their seats onto their already dancing feet. "Tiniest of Guys (Troy's Theme)" lightens the mood in every way imaginable, while "Daphne Come Out" takes a more serious tone and "Motorcycle Boy #3" will rev more than a few listeners' engines.

Jonny Pierce of **The Drums** has come a long way since 2005. At that time, he was a member of the short-lived electro-pop act Elkland, releasing one album on Columbia Records. A few years later, Pierce and other Elkland

members regrouped as The Drums. *Brutalism (Anti-)*, the fifth full-length album under The Drums moniker, finds Pierce on his own. The nine songs maintain The Drums' love of synth-beats and keyboards, and the bliss feels gayer and more intimate than ever, even in the face of struggle. Whether or not you choose to pay close attention to his lyrics (which you should), Pierce still wants you up and dancing on songs such as "Body Chemistry," "Pretty Cloud," "Blip of Joy" and "626 Bedford Avenue." Pierce also allows you a chance to catch your breath on "Nervous" and "I Wanna Go Back."

In 2016, after completing and re-releasing the final part to the ambitious and taxing three-album *The Family Tree* song cycle, gay singer/songwriter Ben Cooper (of Electric President fame), aka **Radical Face**, busied himself with various projects, including a relocation from Florida to California and going into therapy. The result is the new Radical Face album *Therapy* (Bear Machine), featuring exciting new musical arrangement experimentation. This is best exemplified in the stunning songs "Better Days," "Guilt" and "Doubt." Be forewarned, this is not an easy listen. Essentially a musical psychotherapy session, as in the case of the powerful "Personal Giants" and "Dead Ends," nevertheless, you can feel the healing beginning.

When out singer/songwriter John Ashfield isn't releasing solo records (check out 2007's *Love Is Blue*), he's busy fronting San Francisco's **The Bobbleheads**. The quartet's new album *Myths and Fables* (Poppop) is significant in that it's the first time that the entire band lineup consists of gay members, including Pat Ennis on bass, Rob Harford on guitar and vocals, and Rob Jacobs on drums and percussion. The electric rock of "Until You Touch It" would fit in well on the latest Bob Mould album *Sunshine Rock*. Other highlights include "Anne Murray Centre," and the chewy bubblegum pop of "Listen You Know," "Like Oxygen," "Afternoon" and "Joey."



Thomas Lauderdale, above, founder of Pink Martini; left, the daring cover of 'Robbing the Nuclear Family'; below, Max Von Essen's CD of B'way standards; opposite, the artist currently known as Chris

All-female supergroup trios are all the rage. Have you heard the albums by case/lang/veirs (Neko Case, k.d. lang and Laura Veirs), Pistol Annies (Miranda Lambert, Ashley Monroe and Angaleena Presley) or I'm With Her (Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz and Aoife O'Donovan)? If not, you should. You also can't go wrong with the 2/3 queer trio **boygenius** (Lucy Dacus, Julien Baker and Phoebe Bridgers) and its self-titled six-song EP (on Matador), it either. In fact, the only thing wrong with is that there simply isn't enough of it. It's the very embodiment of "always leave them wanting more." With these few songs, it's difficult to pick favorites, so let's just say that you should listen to "Bite the Hand," "Me & My Dog," "Souvenir," "Stay Down," "Salt in the Wound" and "Ketchum, ID" repeatedly, because too much of a good thing is never enough.

For those who have been uncom-

plainly awaiting the day that out Broadway singer/actor Max Von Essen released his debut album, your patience has been rewarded. *Call Me Old Fashioned* • *The Broadway Standard* (LML Music), co-produced by Von Essen and Billy Stritch (who also plays piano on the album), is here! Drawing on jukebox





the three-plus-year wait. Working her French-vibe to its most exotic yet accessible degree, Létissier borrows liberally from the 1980s, synthesizing it through an exciting 21st century lens. You'll want to slip on your dancing shoes for songs such as the religious experience of "Doesn't Matter," the tush-shaking touché of "Girlfriend," the come-on of "Comme Si," the frustration of "Damn (What Must a Woman Do)" and the affordable thrill of "5 Dollars."

In the liner notes for *This World Is Too ____ For You* (Thesis & Instinct), lesbian polymath Emily Wells wrote, "These songs are about the human being interacting with the natural world." A queer musical statement on the climate crisis, the 10 tracks balance experimentation with accessibility. Even if this is not usually your cup

bio-musicals such as *Jersey Boys* and *The Boy from Oz*, as well as more traditional fare including *Evita*, *My Fair Lady*, *She Loves Me* and *An American in Paris*, Von Essen succeeds in making each and every one of the songs his own.

Thomas Lauderdale has gallons of talent. Not limiting himself to his role as leader of and primary songwriter of original material for Pink Martini, openly-gay Lauderdale has also made a name for himself through his collaborations with others, including gay writer Tom Spanbauer. On *Hotel Amour* (Heinz), Lauderdale teams up international cabaret chanteuse **Meow Meow** for a set of intercontinental tunes. Upping the queer quotient, Rufus Wainwright provides duet vocals on "À quoi ça sert l'amour," while other musical guests can be heard on "Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo" (The von Trapps), "Sans Toi" (the late Michel Legrand) and "Mau-si, süß warst Du heute Nacht" (Barry Humphries).

Pansexual freakpop diva Héloïse Létissier sure took her time releasing the second **Christine and the Queens** album *Chris* (Because Music), but after one listen, you'll agree that it was worth

of herbal tea, it's well worth drinking in "Hymn for the New World," "Eulogy for the Lucky," "Stay Up," "Misconceptions on Forever" and "Remind Me to Remember."

Here's something on which many LGBTQ people can probably agree; Scissor Sisters' should have been bigger than they were. Led by sizzling hot, ex-go-go boy Jake Shears, Scissor Sisters cutting edge approach to queer dance pop was as refreshing as it was razor sharp on its eponymous 2004 debut album, newly-reissued as a half-mastered vinyl LP (complete with Abbey Road Studios certificate). Far from being one-trick-ponies, Scissor Sisters turned Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb" into a certified dance anthem, added extra glitter to glam on the anti-drug "Return to Oz," added "Filthy/Gorgeous" to the lexicon, and ultimately did Elton John better than Elton himself on originals including "Mary," "Take Your Mama," "Music Is the Victim" and "Better Luck." If there is any justice in the world, a Scissor Sisters revival is just around the corner. ■

— Gregg Shapiro

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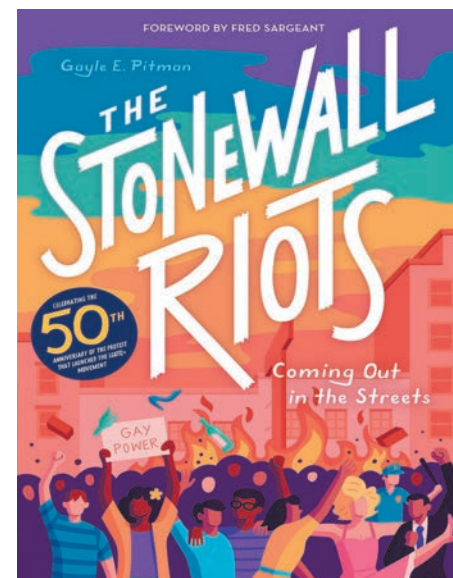
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L+S books

Carved in Stonewall



New books examine 50 years of queer history from varying perspectives

Fifty years ago, it was a busy summer. Nationally, everyone was glued to their TVs to watch men walk on the moon. Woodstock called to every hippie here, there and abroad. Charles Manson terrified Californians. And gay and lesbian folks watched closely as a little bar in Greenwich Village became a flash-point for rights.

If you are over age 60, you might have memories of the Stonewall Riots — vivid ones that may have become gauzy, or sketchy ones, perhaps, from the viewpoint of a child. If you're younger, the Stonewall Riots are undoubtedly just a story to you and there's a lot for you to learn.

To mark the anniversary of this event that altered so many lives, look for these new books.

***The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets* by Gayle E. Pitman (Abrams Books for Young Readers 2019) \$18; 208 pp.**

Ancient statues and classic paintings can tell you a lot about what people did long ago, and what they thought about, worshipped or just plain liked doing. But the same goes for more modern items, although some accounts get "complicated — especially if that story differs depending on who tells it," writes Gayle Pitman, author of *The Stonewall Riots*. That's what happened

— at least partly — in the tale of gay liberation: few records were kept, mainstream newspapers were mostly silent and key players died without memorializing their experiences. Even so, there are enough objects to tell a story.

Pitman begins with a basic history of Greenwich Village in New York City and the Jefferson Livery Stable, which housed horses long before it became Bonnie's Stonewall Inn (eventually dropping the Bonnie's). There's a possibility, writes Pitman, that the word "Stonewall" might have been "a coded welcome message to lesbians."

Back then, being queer meant almost certain persecution until a gay man named Harry Hay and three of his friends figured out that the best way to work against discrimination was to organize. They started the Mattachine Society in 1950, and Pitman includes a photo of one of their early meetings. Five years later, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon started the Daughters of Bilitis, an organization for lesbians.

And yet, the discrimination continued; by 1966, "resistance was in the air." African Americans had been fighting for civil rights for quite some time, and antiwar protests were just starting to coalesce. Small uprisings had been staged on behalf of LGBT people in California, while in New York, LGBTQ individuals were getting pretty tired of police harassment, Mafia shake-downs and raids on their hangouts, until on June 28, 1969, their simmering anger boiled over.

Do 10-year-olds have difficulty grasp-

ing happenings in their great-grandparents' day? If so, parents will be glad that *The Stonewall Riot* is written in the way that it is. Using everything from photographs, matchbook covers, clothing and other ephemera, Pitman makes gay history relatable for its intended (young) audience because kids are big on keeping mementos and special objects. Through the stories of selected items, Pitman explains the events surrounding the night of the riot and she draws a few threads between then and now, but she's careful not to be too hasty in filling in historical blanks. Those unknowns serve to leave kids hanging a bit, and they heighten the excitement and outrage of what happened.

***Indecent Advances: A Hidden History of True Crime and Prejudice Before Stonewall* by James Polchin (Counterpoint Press 2019) \$26; 256 pp.**

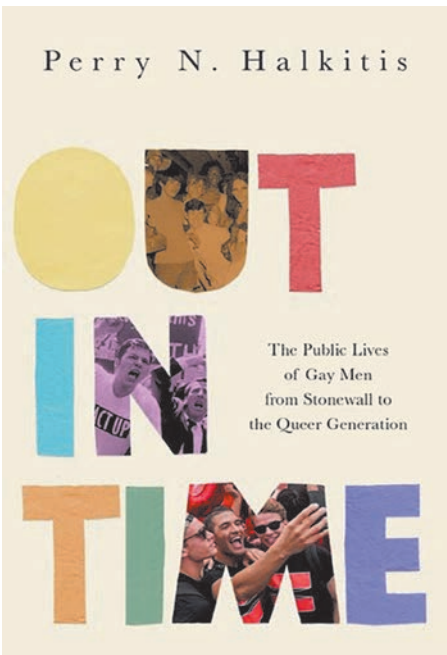
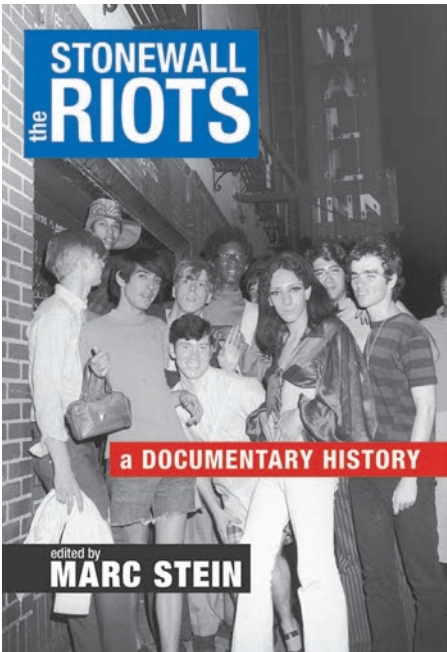
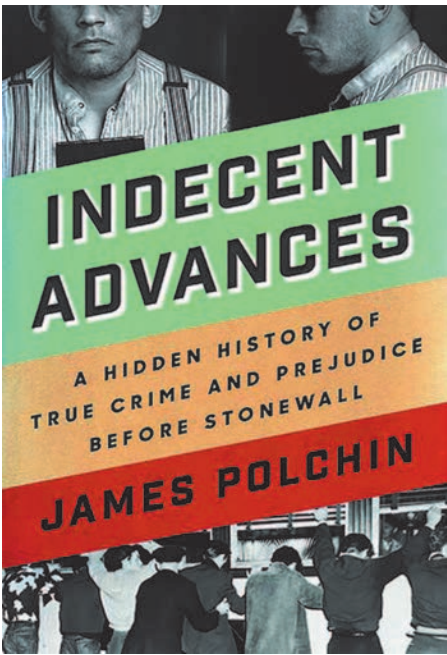
Beginning in the years before the Stonewall Riots, *Indecent Advances* takes a look at the crimes committed against gay men, long before equality and rights were a notion, let alone even being on the table.

Murder, of course, lines the pages of this book but you'll also read stories of harassment, assault and minor crimes that were embellished so that they could be charged as more serious. Polchin also looks at how criminal acts committed by and aimed at LGBT people came under controversy when attention was paid to one minority group's safety, and not to that of another group. This, the embedded presence of many (in)famous criminals, and other stories lightly linked to Stonewall make it a unique and interesting book.

***The Stonewall Riots*, edited by Marc Stein (New York University Press 2019) \$35; 341 pp.**

Because memories fade, opinions differ and people die, this book is a valuable resource to have. Editor Marc Stein has collected photographs, court transcripts, notes, newspaper excerpts and transcripts of documents that prove an intimate timeline for the years 1965 through 1973. His focus was on four major cities but he also includes documents that originated elsewhere; works of fiction also show up in this book. While it's primarily about gay men, lesbians and "transvestites" are inside its pages, as well. There is always more

■ CARVED Page 74



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Kyle 2.0

How Dallas native Kyle Ross went from drug addict to porn star to the subject of the YA bio ‘Twink’

In 2008, Kyle Ross was 17 years old, living in a tiny Tennessee town, digging through his mother’s medicine cabinet, searching for Xanax. In a few years, life would be different — he’d be a well-known model for Helix Studios (an adult film company) known for his wholesome good looks and his youthful body. He’d still be into the Xanax, but he’d be out of Tennessee, living life as someone sought after and, in some circles, famous. But that was the future. In 2008, he was stuck in a tiny burg, looking for tiny pills. He’d been uprooted from a great



life in Dallas to here. Ross’ unusual journey is chronicled in *Twink*, the second book in 13 Red Media’s Rise Up Series, written by Taylor Saracen. Despite the title, *Twink* isn’t erotica; rather, it’s Ross telling his

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story plainly to LGBTQ youth like he was, who often struggle as preteens and teens, and to let them know that they are not alone. (The Rise Up Series was started by Saracen, a former middle and high school teacher with a degree in applied psychology, to help to de-stigmatize less orthodox coming of age stories.)

"There are so many people out there in the middle of nowhere, who are going through the same thing," Ross says in a phone interview. "Or maybe their parents abuse them. Maybe their parents have thrown them out. I want them to be able to say 'Maybe I'm not so different.'"

At first, Ross was "different" in a privileged way — growing up in a wealthy suburb of Dallas, attending private schools. It was the mid-2000s and his mother was making \$300,000 a year, with his father not doing too badly himself. But Ross still faced the same intense difficulties so many in the LGBTQ community do at that age.

"I was struggling with myself and being OK with being gay," he says. "There were maybe two out kids in my school, and they were considered 'weird.' I used to think, 'I wish I was born a girl so this would be socially acceptable.'"



It didn't help when his mother suddenly lost her job, due to the financial meltdown. "My mom was full-fledged into her job. She was the breadwinner. She was so into it. She crushed it — it was her identity," Ross says. "Then her whole team got laid off."

His mother went into a tailspin, worsened by another stressor — Ross' parents got divorced.

"She went off the deep end," he now says.

When the family abruptly moved to rural Tennessee, Ross' mother claimed it was for financial reasons. In reality, she was desperately chasing an old boyfriend.

It wasn't all bad, but it wasn't great, Ross says. "It was absolute culture shock. The only thing to do there was go jump off the cliffs or go jump in the lake. I started stealing her Xanax, eventually taking so much I couldn't remember what I had for breakfast."

Eventually, the family moved back to Dallas, and back into their old home (mom had claimed she'd sold it, but it had still been there all along) but the damage was done. Ross' pill popping was going full bore.

Some of the healing had begun, however. For the first time, Ross visited the gayborhood, and began to find his own self. "I was that little twink dancing in the corner, and I loved all the attention," he says. "I had never felt like that before."

Yet like so many queer coming of age stories, it was still complicated. On one of those nights out, "someone asked me if I'd ever done gay porn. They told me

about Helix, and I applied. The next day I was on a flight to California. I never would have done that if I hadn't been addicted to Xanax. Who just takes a flight to California like that?"

It's the flight that changed his life yet again. Ross eventually defeated his addiction, and he's now moved into behind-the-scenes administrative and accounting work at Helix. They are skills he learned from his mother's business acumen. But the pair still have a complicated relationship.

In his plainspokenness and honesty, Ross' contribution to the Rise Up Series helps normalize what, really, is already normal. Who knows how his life would have ended up if his mother hadn't lost her job. But in the long run it kickstarted a series of events that landed him in a place to help other people. Ultimately, it also transformed him as well.

"I appreciate the person I've become," Ross says. "We were so spoiled growing up. My mom was killing it, buying houses, buying us whatever we wanted. We went from that to literally nothing. In the end, I'm a little bit less spoiled; I get along with people better. It did mold me into a much better person."

— Jonanna Widner

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Drawing Dallas

Dancer-choreographer
J. Alexander Langley
feels the music

MARK STOKES | Illustration

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Name and age: J. Alexander Langley, 29

Spotted at: Gaston and Washington avenues.

Occupation: Choreographer

A native Dallasite, J. Alex started dancing at age 13 at the Dallas Black Dance Academy and W.E. Greiner Exploratory Arts Academy, despite the stigma. "Growing up in an urban environment, I was told that boys don't dance." Seeing another boy dancing at Greiner motivated J. Alex to move from piano to dance. His studies at Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts earned him a scholarship to pursue a dance performance major at Point Park University in Pittsburgh.

Homecoming: After college, he returned to Big D and participated in the Bruce Wood Dance Project before joining DBDT: Encore (formerly Dallas Black Dance Theatre II), and stayed there for the next three years. In his third year with DBDT: Encore, he choreographed his first professional work called *Rhythm*, inspired by Puerto Rican music. This piece was selected to open the Black on Black concert, an annual DBDT performance event. During his tenure with DBDT: Encore, he began working with Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico as outreach instructor for underprivileged schools, where he taught modern dance, African, ballet and music theater.

He did commercial dance for several years, working with Holland America and Princess Cruise Lines as a production cast dancer. He currently works as the creative associate for Ballet Folklorico, as well as performing as a principal dancer in their professional ensemble. When he's not dancing or choreographing, J. Alex loves to sing, read and perform musical theater.

Future plans: J. Alex hopes to expand his choreography career with other professional companies, and "bring dance back to music" within his work, explaining his opinion that some dance is "too much into the dance. Dance shouldn't exist without music. Dance for me is borne from the music."

Quote: "If you're going to do something, don't do it half-way; either do it full-out or don't do it at all."





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So extra

Caddy's XT4 Sport —
a sassy crossover

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When my 5-year-old daughter gets especially sassy and demanding, my husband and I tell her she's "so extra." It's both a compliment and a nod to her attitudinal ridiculousness. Cadillac is showing similar behavior with the XT4, a compact crossover that's taking the brand into a broader array of vehicles. From grille to fins, it's very clearly the Cadillac of sassy little crossovers.

Stylists had to adapt Cadillac's tradi-



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tional design cues to an urban-friendly crossover more likely to attract Millennials than their parents — all without offending their empty nester parents. Our Sport model leads with a black mesh grille, LED headlamps and 20-in. alloy wheels. Cadillac has historically been known for sharp creases that finish with at least hints of fins. I could do without the cutesy horizontal elements being added to headlamps and taillights, but the power dome hood and vertical lighting connect the XT4 to all generations.

My favorite part of the XT4 is probably the interior with layered stitched materials on the dash and real carbon fiber trim on the dash and doors. Heated and ventilated front seats, heated rear seats and a thick heated steering wheel add comfort. Automatic climate control, Bose audio, dual-pane sunroof and front seat massagers go several better. Connect devices effortlessly with Bluetooth, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and 4G Wi-Fi. Cadillac finessed its infotainment system with a combination of

touchscreen and console-mounted joywheel. Safety is thoroughly considered. The head-up display, which can show navigation directions, is great for drivers, but so are adaptive cruise, forward collision alert, pedestrian detection with auto brake and lane keep assist. There's also a blind spot warning, around view camera and rear auto brake should the car detect an obstacle while reversing.

Tucked between the front fenders is a 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine delivering 237 horsepower and 258 lb.-ft. of torque, routed to the all-wheel-drive system through a 9-speed automatic transmission. Auto stop/start helps enable 22/29-MPG city/highway. The driving feel is a little light, but the adaptive electronic suspension and adjustable drive modes configure the chassis and powertrain for almost any environment. All-wheel-drive keeps wheels planted on curvy roads, but also make play of snowy streets.

It's not all perfect. A Cadillac of this price ought not have hard plastic door panels and console covers that rattle in their tracks. Somehow when driving, it's hard to escape the idea there's not quite enough substance between other compact GM crossovers and this



one. Both the exterior and interior are beautiful, but competitors set incredibly high standards. And, there's the price.

You can get a Mercedes GLC, with a 362 horsepower twin-turbo V6 caressed by AMG, for less money.

Cadillac had a real problem. In an auto market dominated by crossovers, it had only one — the XT5 — while key competitors have them in every size and profile. With the XT4, Cadillac finally has a sassy compact that's so extra, and if it is any indication, the 2020 XT6 full-size crossover will fortify the brand further. A base price of \$34,795 or (ahem) \$57,735 as tested, pits the XT4 against the Mercedes GLC, Infiniti QX50, Audi Q3, BMW X2 and Lexus NX.

Follow the writer on YouTube @AutoCasey.

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■ **WARDROBE** From Page 58

transwomen but will also work with transmen as well. Working with the backing of her employer, she brought the notion up to her HR department to talk about being socially aware with a particular customer demographic.

"They are already an open and welcoming company and were incredibly supportive. It's been amazing the strides they have gone through to help people feel safe," she says.

Customers begin by calling her for a phone consultation and to make an appointment. She will discuss expectations, wardrobes, colors, etc. Once the face-to-face happens, the session is entirely private.

"We meet in a private dressing room that's spacious and comfortable and safe. I grab what the client needs and work with pieces to pull together an outfit they can walk away with and feel confident," she explains.

She also says that Nordstrom can be a resource for shoes, where many women's sizes go up to 14.

And the looks are across the board. She recalls one client who wanted to lean very feminine in her look whereas another preferred plain tees and skinny jeans.

"I feel like in their experience, they get robbed of trying to figure out the difference of what people expect them to look like and who they are. And women who don't feel like they are passing, that insecurity is prominent,

I'm sure. This has been eye-opening," she says.

Duff describes the experience as an educational one also for her clients. New to different sizes, she works on teaching basics of reading women's and men's clothing pieces and how they can fit on the body. She often finds that there is a tendency to overcompensate, but that comes without exploration of style. Mostly, Duff wants to teach transgender shoppers not to be afraid.

In turn, this has been a learning moment for her as well.

"I'm glad they can feel comfortable, and we open up this dialogue," she says. "Having this opportunity to work with these women who find their confidence in their bodies has taught me how to be more confident."

And for an all-over transformation, Duff has consulted with other departments in the store such as cosmetics and bra fittings. She says they've all been on board with helping her customers achieve their full look and perhaps even their truest selves.

"It's OK to explore and make mistakes and learn from them. I want people to know there is someone to help them," she says. "Being able to explore fashion with these women and be there for them has been the single best experience of my life." ■

Reach out to Duff on Instagram @thek-cencloset.

IN THE CLOSET



There are pieces that Duff recommends should be in anyone's closet. These can be a basic foundation for any wardrobe. Duff understands that perhaps not everyone does shop at her store but advises to try to get the best quality of each item for long-lasting wear and comfort.

"I feel like everyone should have a cardigan sweater — always. And then two pairs of jeans: one black and one regular," she advises.

Other items she suggests are a good tank top, a couple of quality tees or undershirts. For women, she recommends Bandeau undergarments, a bralette and the signature black dress that can be worn to any event. For men, at least one good suit.

— Rich Lopez

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■ **RAINBOW** From Page 56

resilient," says Esposito. "You sit at the computer in your skivvies [for years writing away], and you get it to the point where you present it to an audience, and then at the debrief [you hear it all]. But I saw what needed to be done. You never knew how to do it, but it gets done — you're gonna ask the universe to download it for you."

She's a collaborative person by nature, but it all rests on her shoulders — she's the author, composer and lyricist. And she knows what she likes.

"My whole thing about musicals that I love is that they have stand-alone songs. I come from the pop-song world and am always thinking about 'What I Did for Love,' 'Memory.' But I had to learn how to write different kinds of songs — I know what they are having listened to musical theater, but I've never had to write them. My musical director has been amazingly instrumental in [guiding me]."

She agreed that Larry needed more background. She remembered that he was abandoned by his mother at an early age, so she wrote a song called "Mama." She added another song. She continues to tweak it almost every day.

"When I sit down, I think, 'We need more detail, and we need it up front' and I find the spot, and I start writing into the script — the scene and the dialogue and the lyric. And sing the

music into a [recorder]. Then I sit at the piano and plunk it out."

The next phase will be doing either a full showcase run in a regional theater outside of Dallas — Los Angeles or perhaps even New York — or doing a concert version with a paid audience (and critics allowed) which is also when Loftis will invite other producers to gauge their interest.

"We could probably do a showcase within the next year and then based on any more work that has to be done, getting to Off-Broadway could happen very quickly. If this goes as well as I anticipate, all things being great, I would see it on Broadway in 2022 or 2023."

Esposito is all over that plan. But she has other ideas as well.

"Of course I'd love to see it be a big smash on Broadway and to make a ton of money from my art," she says. "But my vision is that the show needs to be done in high schools all over the country, because that's where it needs to be seen and heard. We have this disease of The Other — there's somebody other than you [that's bad]. Homophobia is just a disease of that [mindset]. I want *Living Over the Rainbow* to be a platform to go around and speak about this story. That's what's important." ■



REVIEW: 'THE VIEW UPSTAIRS'

Max Vernon's musical *The View UpStairs* kinda-sorta tells the story of the tragic arson that killed patrons in a New Orleans gay bar in 1973 — until the Pulse shooting, the largest mass-murder of gays in America history. But his preachy structure, banal songs and soft details make it largely forgettable... forgettable, at least, until Dallas' secret

weapon, Walter Lee, right, lets his pipes loose on late number called "Theme Song" and brings gospel fervor to what has been fairly programmatic show. That, the powerful ending and an amazing set design virtually rehabilitate this show. Call it the *deux ex Walter* effect.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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***Out in Time* by Perry N. Halkitis (Oxford University Press 2019) \$34.95; 288 pp.**

It's normal to want to compare the way things were in 1969 to the way things are now. *Out in Time* does exactly that with three generations of gay men to show that, while there are differences in social attitudes, health, legalities, and politics, there are also striking similarities in challenges and in gains. Done with mini-interviews woven through narrative to hold together the words of everyday people, this is an easy book to step into, with short chapters and browse-able segments.

Readers should note that these books are historically-based and may be on the scholarly side, eye-opening and quite entertaining. If you have keen memories of the summer of '69, what's here may pull you back 50 years. If you're too young to remember what happened then, these books on the Stonewall Riots will keep you busy *this* summer.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

nervous because I admire them so much and they're such fantastic actors. You want to bring your best. So, there's a little bit of nerves that come with that. But they're so gracious and so lovely. There was something about the fact that they are those characters to me, and because they are such great actresses, the scene starts and you just go for the ride. They're so wonderful to work with and those strong associations of those characters just kicked in for me.

Laura, what has it been like for you to be part of a show that has existed at various points in LGBTQ history? Linney: It's a remarkable, amazing experience. And it intersects with my own life at different periods of time as well. I mean, with Mary Ann, very rarely does anyone get to do something that spans over 25 years of their life. And it's amazing to see how our culture has changed, how our identity has changed, how our relationships and understanding of each other has changed, in some ways for the better and maybe in some ways for the worse. And it's also amazing to see a generational shift. What it was to be LGBTQ in 1990 is very different than 2019, and what it means to be either gay or trans or non-binary or queer. It's amazing to see things evolve.

Beyond informing mainstream audienc-

es, I think LGBTQ people of various generations and experiences can learn a lot about each other by watching this show. Linney: I hope so. That's really what we wanted. The entire writers' room was LGBTQ, our directors are all LGBTQ, and there is a sense of, "What can the generations learn from each other?"

In the new version, your character Michael is in a relationship with Ben (Charlie Barnett), a man much younger than he is. This aspect of their relationship comes up repeatedly, but never more than during the scene at the dinner party thrown by Michael's ex Harrison (Matthew Risch), where Ben is given a gay history lesson. As a gay man yourself, how did that scene make you feel? Bartlett: I haven't seen the show yet, but I love that episode. I think it's so beautifully written, mostly because it doesn't present a good and bad. It throws out the two perspectives of the older and younger generation, and it does such a beautiful job of not letting you take sides. You agree and disagree with both. I think that that is a beautiful way to approach a fiery issue and conversation. To show both perspectives and let people make up their own minds. It also shows how complex it is. I feel like I understand where the older generation comes from,

but I also understand where the younger generation comes from. They both have really good points and they both need to listen to each other because they have a lot to learn from each other. All the stuff that the older generation went through was epic. It's very important for younger queer people to understand what has come before. The older perspective comes from a place that is worth understanding. Likewise, the younger generation. We're moving forward in terms of gender identity and second gender identity and sexual identity and how we can express ourselves. Riding a wave into, hopefully, more openness. That has enormous value. We're at a very delicate stage of navigating through that and we need to be very sensitive. The older generation, at least in that episode, can tend to gloss over that a little bit. I love the way the writer and our team did such a beautiful job of straddling those two perspectives, allowing you to see both of them without telling you what to think about it.

This is a limited series, but is there a possibility that *Tales* could take us back to 28 Barbary Lane in the future?

Linney: Yeah, sure. We'll see. One hopes, but we'll see what happens. It certainly seems to have a life of its own, so that bodes well.

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Vannier Engineering | 972-867-9750
dvannier@vannierengineering.com

SURROGACY

3 Sisters Surrogacy | 3sistersurrogacy.com
877-976-9483

TITLE COMPANIES

Republic Title of Texas, Inc. | republictitle.com
3131 Turtle Creek, Ste. 101 | 214-528-8916

TRANSPORTATION

DART | dart.org
214-979-1111

TRAVEL AGENCIES

The Pauer Group, LLC - Randy Pauer
thepaugroup.com | 972-241-2000

VODKA COMPANIES

Equality Vodka | equalityvodka.com
20% of gross profits donated to LGBT orgs.

WEDDING SERVICES

LGBTWeddings.com | 844-899-LOVE x 501
Find qualified, wedding providers online.

The Abbey Estate | CelebrateAtTheAbbey.com
3314 F.M. 1446 | Waxahachie | 972-923-3333

The Business Directory is published once a month. If you are interested in being listed, please contact us at 214.754.8710 or by email at advertising@dallasvoice.com

OUT North Texas is published once a year and is the official LGBT Visitors Guide for North Texas. See our extensive directory online at www.OUTNTX.com

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AIDS/HIV SERVICES

ABOUNDING PROSPERITY
214-421-4800 | AboundingProsperity.org

AHF DALLAS WELLNESS CENTER
7777 Forest Lane, Ste. B122 | 972-383-1060

AIDS/HIV HOTLINE
214-559-2437

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK
AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER
Fort Worth, 76111 | 817-335-1994 | AOC.org

AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS
214-941-0523 | AIDSDallas.org

AMELIA COURT
214-590-5647 | ParklandHospital.com

GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND
972-743-6323 | GDMAF.org

HEALTH SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS
Plano | 972-424-1480 | HealthNTx.org
Denton South Ctr. | Denton | 940-381-2313
Elm Street Ctr. | Denton | 940-381-1501 x 5000

HEALTH EDUCATION LEARNING PROJECT
Fort Worth | 817-332-7722 | helpfw.org

LEGACY COUNSELING CENTER
214-520-6308 | LegacyCares.org

LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS
214-521-6622 | LegalHospice.org

NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH CENTER
214-528-2336 | MyResourceCenter.org

N. CENTRAL TX HIV PLANNING COUNCIL
Ft. Worth | 817-321-4743 | NoTexasAIDS.org

POSITIVE VOICES COALITION
Ft. Worth | 817-321-4742 | NoTexasAIDS.org

PRISM HEALTH NORTH TEXAS
214-521-5191 | PrismHealthNTX.org

RESOURCE CENTER
214-528-0144 | MyResourceCenter.org

RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY
214-521-3398 | MyResourceCenter.org

UT SOUTHWESTERN AIDS PREVENTION
Dallas | 469-291-2800

WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY
214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

EDUCATION

GLBT CHAMBER FOUNDATION
214-821-4528 | GLBTLeap.org

HEALTH EDUCATION LEARNING PROJECT
Fort Worth | 817-332-7722 | helpfw.org

LGBTQA PROGRAM at UT ARLINGTON
817-272-2099 | UTA.edu/lgbtqa

OUT@COLLIN CCCC
214-991-7851 | Out.Collin.edu

SMU ALLIES PROGRAM
214-768-4796 | SMU.edu/
WomenAndLGBTCenter

SPECTRUM
214-768-4792 | People.SMU.edu/Spectrum

UNT ALLY PROGRAM
940-565-2589 | multicultural@unt.edu

MUSIC

OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND
469-616-0138 | Info@oaklawnband.org

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE
214-526-3214 x 101 | TurtleCreekChorale.com

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS
twcoffice@tecd.org | TWCD.org

POLITICAL

DALLAS STONEWALL YOUNG DEMOCRATS
Facebook.com/DallasSYD.org

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS
LogCabin.org/Chapter/Texas-Dallas

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS
214-506-3367 | StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON
972-890-3834

TARRANT STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

PROFESSIONAL

ALLIANCE OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS
214-526-2085

DALLAS LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION
214-540-4460 | DGLBA.org

GLOBE
972-308-7233 | FedGlobe.org

LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS
214-957-2011 | lambdapride@freetoasthoast.us

LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS
info@leadershiplambda.freetoasthoast.com

LGBT LAW SECTION OF TX STATE BAR
LGBTLawTx.com | 800-204-2222 ext. 1420

N. TEXAS GLBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
214-821-GLBT | GLBTChamber.org

OUT & EQUAL DFW
Outandequal.org/dallas-fort-worth

SERVICES

BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.
972-865-2239 | BlackTie.org

COALITION FOR AGING LGBT - DFW
214-577-7976 | CFA.lgbt

FEDERAL CLUB
214-428-3332 | DFWFederalClub.org

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE
214-528-0144 | info@dglgla.com | DGLA.com

DALLAS LATINO PRIDE
texaslatinogaypride.com

DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE
214-405-5475 | DallasSouthernPride.com

DALLAS TAVERN GUILD
214-571-1073 | DallasPride.org

GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS
GLFD.org | 214-421-8177 | volunteers@glfd.org

COMMUNITY COUNCIL GREATER DALLAS
Health Insurance | 844-831-9600 | ccgd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF N. TEXAS
214-855-0520 | info@hrionline.org

JOHN THOMAS LGBT COMMUNITY CTR.
214-528-9254 | MyResourceCenter.org

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, SOUTHWEST REGION
214-219-8585 | lambdalegal.org

TARRANT COUNTY GAY PRIDE WEEK
president@tcgpwa.org | TCGPWA.org

SOCIAL

BATTALION MOTORCYCLE
commander@battalionmc.com | BattalionMC.com

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB
214-446-0606 | ClassicChassis.com

COUPLES METRO DALLAS
CouplesMetroDallas.com

DALLAS BEARS
DallasBears.org

DAMN
oaklvnguy@hotmail.com | DAMNmen.org

DFW FUSE
214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

DISCIPLINE CORPS
disciplinecorps.com

EAST TEXAS PFLAG
Tyler | 903-330-8901

FIREDANCERS
mikeykeith@cs.com | firedancers.org

FRISCO PRIDE
469-324-4123 | FriscoPride.com

GRAY PRIDE
5750 Cedar Springs Road | 214-528-0144

IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH
careteam@icfwa.org | ICFWA.org

JEWEL
214-540-GIRL | MyResourceCenter.org

LEATHER KNIGHTS
214-395-8460 | LeatherKnights.org

LVL/PWA CAMPOUT
Rick: campout@lvlpwa.com | LVL/PWA.com

MEN OF ALL COLORS
214-521-4765 | pulliam_preston@yahoo.com

NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOC. - DALLAS
info@nla-dallas.org | NLA-Dallas.org

NATIONAL TEXAS PRIDE FOUNDATION
NorthTexasPride.com

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON
214-662-4706 | Once-In-A-Blue-Moon.org

PEGASUS SQUARES
214-444-9696 | Pegasus-Squares.com

POZ DALLAS
pozdallas@gmail.com

PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH
972-504-8866 | information@primetimers-dfw.org

PROJECT TAG
903-312-2081 | TylerAreaGays.com

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB
214-941-8114 | RainbowGardenClub.com

RAINBOW ROUNDUP
info@rrup.org | rrup.org

REAL LIVE CONNECTION-TEEN PRIDE
469-666-7325 | rlc365.org

SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW
Singles.meetup.com/2049

SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB
214-289-1179 | Spectrum-MRC.com

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DFW
Groups.yahoo.com/group/sindallasftworth

UNITED BLACK ELLUMENT
214-760-9718 | UBEDallas.org

UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE
DallasCourt.org

VALOR LATINO
acarbajal@rcdallas.org | ValorDallas.com

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION
Twitter.com/WODDallas

SPIRITUALITY

AGAPE MCC
Fort Worth | 817-535-5002 | AgapeMCC.com

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Garland | AscensionTexas.org

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE
Dallas | 214-351-1901 | cathedralofhope.com

CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT
Farmers Branch | 972-245-6520 | COLight.org

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH
817-335-3222 | Celebration-Community-Church.com

CELEBRATION CHURCH ON THE LAKE
Mabank | 903-451-2302 | COTLChurch.org

CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH
Dallas | BethElBinah.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
214-520-9090 | CrossroadsCommunityChurch.us

DALLAS MEDITATION CENTER
972-432-7871 | DallasMeditationCenter.com

DIGNITY DALLAS
972-729-9572 | DignityDallas.net

EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Dallas | 214-824-8185 | EDCC.org

EPISCOPAL - ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
Dallas | 214-352-0140 | TheDoubter.org

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH CHURCH
Fort Worth | 817-921-5683 | FOL0church.org

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS
Dallas | 214-528-3990 | DallasUU.org

THE GATHERING PLACE
Dallas | 214-643-3250 | TheGatheringDallas.org

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dallas | 214-824-2533 | GraceUMCDallas.org

GREENLAND HILLS METHODIST CHURCH
Dallas | 214-826-2020 | GreenlandHills.org

HARVEST MCC
Denton | 940-484-6159 | HarvestMCC.org

HORIZON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Carrollton | 972-492-4940 | HorizonUU.org

KESSLER PARK UNITED METHODIST
Dallas | 214-942-0098 | kpumc.org

LESBIAN & GAY UNITARIANS
214-691-4300

LIVING FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
Dallas | 972-546-0543 | LivingFaithDFW.org

LUTHERANS CONCERNED
Dallas | 214-855-4998 | ReconcilingWorks.org

MCC OF GREATER DALLAS
972-243-0761 | MCCGD.org

MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Dallas | 214-352-4841 | MidwayHills.org

NORTHAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dallas | 214-363-2479 | Northaven.org

OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dallas | 214-521-5197 | oaklawn@olumc.org

PATHWAYS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Hurst | 817-803-5941 | PathwaysUU.org

PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Dallas | 214-623-8400 | PromiseUCC.org

ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH
Dallas, 75229 | 214-351-1401

ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST
972-279-3112 | GBGM-UMC.org/StStephen

THE ONE CHURCH IN CHRIST JESUS
Dallas | 214-462-5979 | GraceOasisChurch.com

TRINITY MCC
Grand Prairie | 817-265-5454 | TrinityMCC.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Dallas | uuc@oakcliffuu.org | OakCliffUU.org

UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY
Dallas | 214-826-5683 | DallasUnity.org

UNITY OF DALLAS
Dallas | 972-233-7106 | UnityDallas.org

WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH
Dallas | 214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

SPORTS

DALLAS DIABLOS
P.O. Box 190862, Dallas, 75219

DALLAS FRONTRUNNERS
FrontrunnerDallas.org

DALLAS INDEPENDENT VOLLEYBALL
214-578-6206 | DIVADallas.org

DIFFERENT STROKES GOLF ASSOCIATION
info@dsgadallas.org | DSGADallas.org

LOST SOULS RUGBY FOOTBALL
LostSoulsRFC.org

NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL
214-632-8512 | ntwsa.net

OAK LAWN BOWLING ASSOCIATION
Dallas | 214-358-1382 | OakLawnBowling.com

OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION
OLTADallas.org

PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOC.
972-879-7900 | DallasPSSA.org

RAINBOW ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE
817-540-0303 | rainbow_rollers_league@yahoo.com

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
214-346-2107 | TGRA.org

SUPPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS LAMBDA
Dallas | 214-264-0222 | DallasAl-Anon.org

BLACK TRANSMEN INC.
1-855-BLK-TMEN | BlackTransMen.org

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY N. TX
Dallas | 214-345-8230

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS
214-766-8939 (Dallas) | 817-834-2119 (Fort Worth) | CoDependents.org

DRUGREHAB.COM
drugrehab.com/guides/lgbtq | 855-668-8329

FAMILY PRIDE COALITION
817-881-3949

G.E.A.R Gender, Education, Advocacy & Resources 214-540-4498

GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF N. TX
GALANorthTexas.org

GAY LESBIAN ANGER MANG. GROUP
469-328-1980 | Marial33@gmail.com

LAMBDA GROUP NICOTINE ANONYMOUS
214-629-7806 | NICADFW.org

PFLAG-DALLAS
972-77-PFLAG | info@pflagdallas.org

PFLAG-FORT WORTH
817-428-2329

SEX & LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS
Men's Group | 972-458-7762 or 214-673-8092

SHARED HOUSING CENTER
Dallas | 214-821-8510 | SharedHousing.org

TEXAS ANTI BULLYING COALITION
214-632-1588 | txabc.org | stand4kind.com

STONEWALL NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
5910 Cedar Springs Road | Dallas

YOUTH FIRST
214-879-0400 | youth@myresourcecenter.org

Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

How in the hell are we already inhaling (or about to) the summer's winds of July? Wasn't Valentine's only yesterday? Every year at this time, I begin hearing an insipidly cloying television jingle looping through my head. This year — alongside baseball, hotdogs, apple pie and Chev'let — I've added an extra qualifier: You ain't truly American if you don't love a good PB&J.

First: Am I the only one here, or has our current regime wackily stumble-bummed onto the astounding feat of successfully spinning the very paradigm of time itself into some all Seussian/ dystopia? Even viewing our civilization dissolve safely from the distance of my television screen feels like I'm daily astride a ricocheting rocket through some threadbare, collapsing wormhole woven of Truffula trees and Grinch saliva.

As recently as my 2018 Independence Day column, I spoofed on our First Couple enjoying the capital's annual fireworks' display from The Truman Balcony: Melania I introduced as a patriotic vision, all a-swirl in a Pride lavender Thneed creation (her beaming smile uncharacteristically genuine for once) as she proudly commented to Our Oracle L'Orange that the color of her gauzily shimmering couture ensemble was, in fact, the exact Lorax-hued result of liquifying the American flag. Gracelessly spitting the half-wolfed briquette of his McDonald's apple pie over Truman's gracefully parabolic railing, our Tangerine-in-Chief winked, "Later, Mel, you can maybe liquefy me a little."

That was then. Currently, Voldetrump, back on the balcony, has far greater distractions of a State-level urgency than Mrs. Frigidaire blathering some more of her Slovenian-twanged nonsense. (Or is it Slovakia? Well, wherever country it was that he'd mail-ordered her from, he never could remember — one of those Eastern European, fallen-commie shitholes... Albania, maybe? Romania?) That the lovely shade of her Thneed was the result of pulping through a Cuisinart the symbolic lodestar unifying all 49 states (or is it 51 states? Or 47? However many of them there are, as if it matters beyond an electoral plurality) was all fine and good, but paled in comparison to what colorful fun he planned.

"Why not on just *one* day each year — this fourth day in the month of July, when the entire country jubilantly celebrates George Washington-Carver for chopping down a cherry tree and successfully lying to his pa that one of their slaves did it instead (thus he deserved being punished, the innocent slave did!) — why, then, on just this one day a year *can't* that crusty-flaked, French-fried brained Ronald McDonald patriotically reinstate cherry pies on his fuckin' Fourth of July menu... or at least deliver some redolent, steaming apple pies of a radiant, interior-warmth equaling molten lava to The White House — is that too *impossible* a civic duty to ask of one clown?" hisses L'Orange, glowering hysterically over Truman's ledge. "Can't *something* inside this

white-elephant's cum dump just ever run historically correct? And will *somebody* turn those damned shrieking fireworks off! Such noise, noise, noise! I cannot stand another second — and not even one cherry pie to watch 'em by anyhow!"

He turns to the First (ummm) "Lady." "Mel, just where in hell's red glare *are* the Washington-Carvers? Did they not receive our invitation? Or did they also choose just to deny my inaugural crowd being the largest in American history? And Miss Betsy Rose — Ross? Where's that prissy, little thimble-toting bitch? Are they all, to the cowardly last, a no-show here at my own... at *their* own 4th of July photo-op with me? And on such a perfectly-lit night out here on the balcony, too—blasphemy!"

He leans grimly over the railing again, his face a Rio Star grapefruit. "Boys, why dontcha grind up another couple of them Old Glories — and go find that dominoes-challenged Barron, too! When Betsy gets here, she can whip us up each a cape to match Mel's lilac number. Screw the Washington-Carvers. Who needs 'em? Thankfully, the country has me, then my succession of sons to follow in continuum, and Mel here to make it all look so pretty. Yes, if nobody else will, then at least we three can certainly pose proudly here tonight before a gallant America, unified together as one, and make it all *look* greater than nothing!"

Anyhow, dear readers, I'd intended this to be but pure tongue-in-cheek satire — a parody of a parody even, so over-the-top I went with last year's tableau. Yet therein lies the rub of satirizing a living character who possesses all the moral and mental heft of whipped helium: One can never flitter above it all quite lightly enough. Thus, in the vein of, "Don't keep repeating the same mistake over and over again to expect a different result," I thought that this year, rather than run the same old, "But, hey, wait, I've got a new Trump complaint," lineup of the man's apocryphal patriotism-fodder, how 'bout instead we all enjoy a bit of a holiday cooldown from the seasonal torpor, and veer toward an unusually refreshing direction — something happily reflective of simpler times, and summer days of haze when just a plain old messy peanut butter & jelly sandwich in one hand and a jar of lightning bugs in the other was all it took to put a smile of fulfilled bliss on one's face.

And for reasons obvious as baseball, hotdogs, apple pie and Chev'let, it's not too patently often that sweet Howard here receives any questions from, say, summer recess elementary school children — that is anyone under the age of 21 — and rarer still do too very many of my readers' personal peccadillos arrive to me via yellow magic marker on a pink sheets of construction paper in lettering two inches tall. Originally, too, I'd miscategorized this question under the title "heartrending" instead of its proper "heartwarming" file, where it should have been placed. I only blame myself for not being able to correctly decipher



the question I originally thought it asked me to answer (from the perspective of someone still learning what even the alphabet is):

Dear Howard: How do I make my perfect Daddy pee better today than a jellyfish? — **Cora L.**

Only through the uninvited assistance of a visiting friend's nosily rambunctious kindergartener (riffling higgledy-piggledy through my office cabinets!) did I suddenly behold this question's real wording, first sent to me a dozen years back — complements of this sweet tot, who instinctually lurched for the one beaconing pink sheet of paper amidst a sea of white, gave it a perfunctory once-over, and thrust it forth toward his mother, scowling, "I wish me had some peanut budder and jebwy sanwish, Momma." Thus, with said lunch menu request duly translated, let's get right goopy to it.

Dear Howard: How do I make the perfect peanut butter and jelly sandwich for my Daddy's birthday wish? — **Cora L.**

Dear Cora: Whoa, girl! Talk about leaping headfirst into the deep end! This here is some serious whitewater surf you're treading into. There is nothing harder in this world to perfect than the easiest recipe on Earth. Everywhere you turn, Coraline, there's always a different expert offering a better opinion about something of which he knows nothing about. There are three ironclad-inviolable rules for making the perfect PB&J: 1. The bread must be spongy. 2. The peanut butter silky. 3. The jelly must be grape. Simple as that. Nothing more. Yet everybody messes it up.

Inevitably, people make the gross mistake of presuming it can always be tweaked just a *little bit* better. It can't. Simple perfection means exactly that: Perfect can't be taken further. Ever. For instance, replacing smooth peanut butter with just crunchy leads you ... where? Nowhere but down a sideroad into brittle territory, and as everyone knows, Carol, one must always keep separate their brittles from their butters, for they are two entirely separate food entities. Once started down this twisted path, girl, there ain't no such thing as coming back home again. Before you know it, sweetie, open slaughter lets loose amongst jellies versus jam — Turkish apricot going in head-to-head combat against the grapes of Concorde, and ghostly whole wheat sealing marshmallowy white bread's doom is gonna happen eventually, no matter what outcome results ultimately from the jelly/jam battle. Then before you know it, Coraline, perfection personified has devolved into something of little more enchantment than the newest "cheat-day wicked" dessert menu listing of some Uptown health spa... which suddenly reminds me: I suppose I should have probably taken a holiday question or two from my gayer-than-a-spa-day hardcore base. But hey, it's Independence Day, and I'll independently write what I want to.

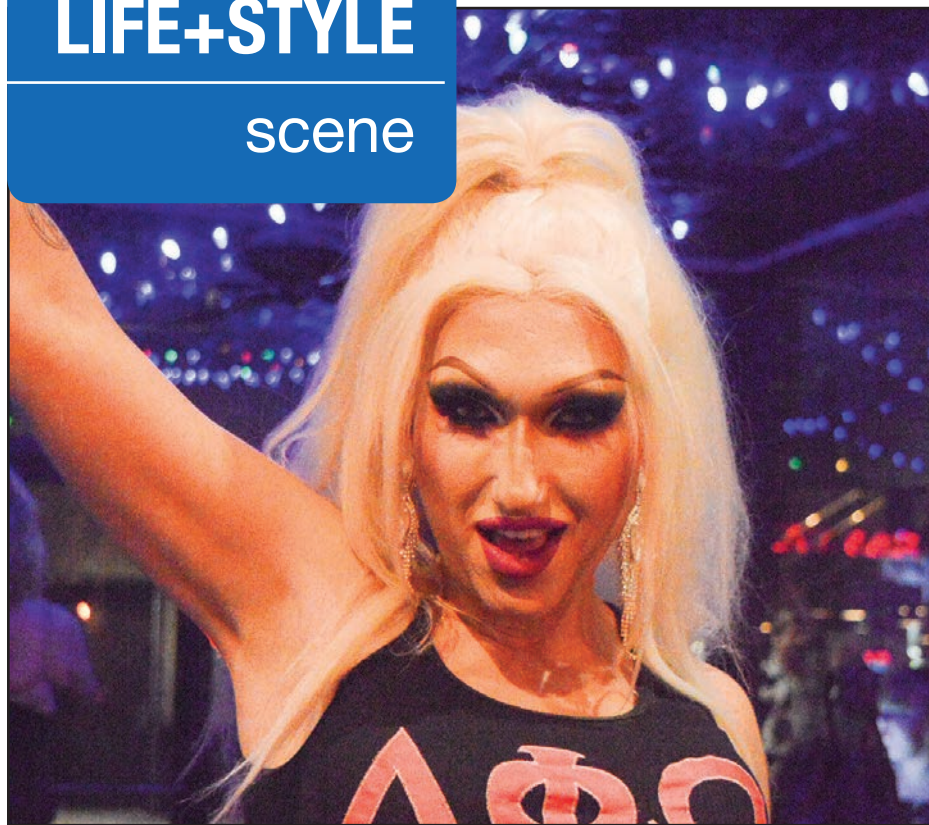
Make America great, everybody — Happy 4th!

— Howard Lewis Russell

If you have a question about life, love man-ners or anything else, send it to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it ... even a decade later.

LIFE+STYLE

scene



Bleach on stage at JR.'s

Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 28–July 4:**

- **1851 Club:** Kiana Lee hosts show at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **Alexandre's:** Filter Kings on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Hangover Brunch at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** Sapphire Tailor hosts Twisted Tuesday at 11 p.m.
- **Dallas Eagle:** ILSb-ICBB presents Red, White & Blue Balls from 5-10 p.m. on Saturday. United Court presents Drag in a Bag from 5–9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Show starts at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door:** United Court presents The USO Show benefiting Dallas Hope Charities. Help celebrate active duty military and veterans and enter the show. Patriotic songs preferred from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. T-Bear Club Night from 7-10 p.m.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Pekers:** Karaoke starts at 9:45 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** The Round-Up Hoe Down Dance Competition with Mike McKinney on Tuesday at 9 p.m. Saloon Star live singing competition at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. July Wine Walk at 6 p.m. on Wednesday. The Saloon Girls Drag Show and Lip Sync Contest hosted by Domita Sanchez at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **S4:** 50 Years of Pride party with DJ Jay Dallas with 50 years of music from the 70s to now on Sunday. Independence Day Party begins at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Vivienne Vermuth presents Galactic Goddesses on Saturday. Faron at 3:30 and Tyla in the evening on Sunday. Kylee O'hara Fatale hosts The Queerdom at 10:30 on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Desi Love Blake on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Special show on Wednesday.
- **TMC:** The Mining Company: Sasha Andrews hosts Fuego Latin Dance Contest at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Sunday. Troy and Spencer host 90s night starting at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **Zipper:** Unzipped Saturdays with DJ Rubix.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood**, **Chad Mantoath**,
Nicholas Gonzalez and **Stephen Mobley**



Transgender lives matter



TMC's hot dancers



Goofing off on The Strip

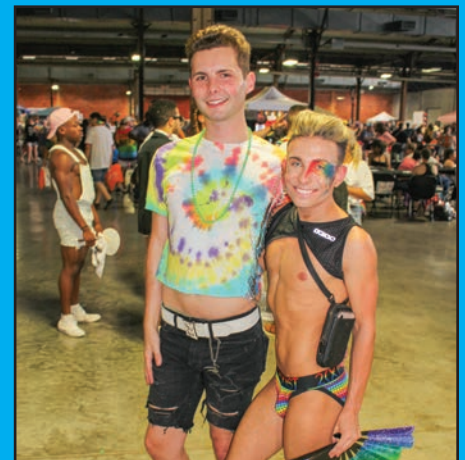


Karaoke time at Woody's



Tuesday Tease at Sue Ellen's

Dallas



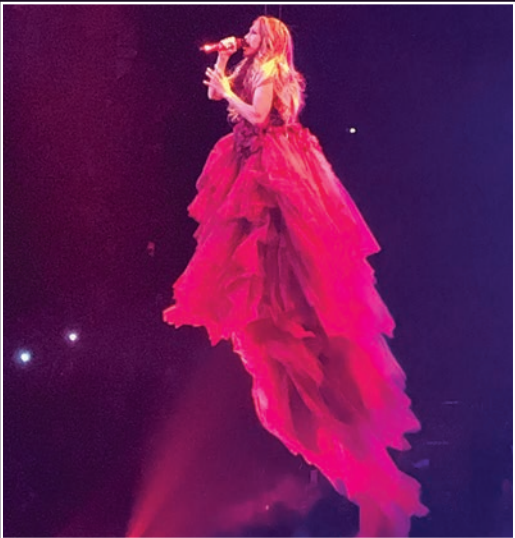
Pride



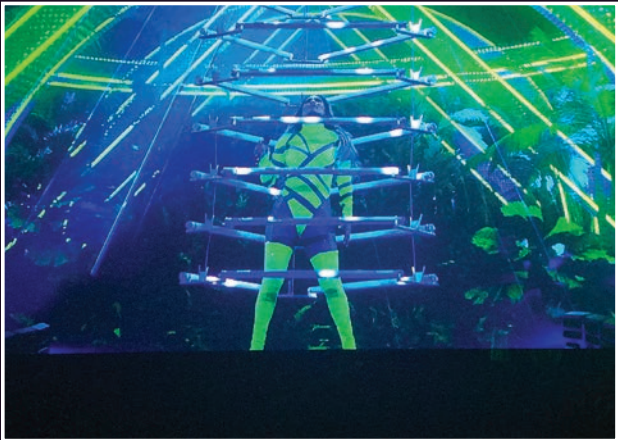
North Texas Pride



Pride Night at the DMA



J-Lo in Concert



Wednesday 07.03

Red, white and Kaboom!

With the 4th of July coming up, many of us cherish the traditions of spending a day mingling with loved ones, grilling hotdogs and downing boozy beverages. Then come nightfall, the day is capped when everyone's favorite patriotic pyrotechnics light up dark sky with streams of color. Several spots in DFW will have displays this Thursday, but the behemoth of local fireworks shows is celebrated a day earlier. Since 1985, Addison's Kaboom Town has attracted thousands who gather to enjoy its ginormous fireworks display. The event is free and will include food vendors, live music and an airshow. But try to arrive early — the space fills up fast.

DEETS: Addison Circle Park, 4950 Addison Circle Drive. Gates at 4 p.m., fireworks at 9:30 p.m. AddisonKaboomTown.com.



Wednesday 07.03 — Sunday 07.14

New play tackles modern take on birds and the bees

Audiences have a chance to see Cry Havoc Theater Company's newest production, *Sex Ed* — a play that addresses society's understanding of the birds and the bees and how the slogan rings in the minds of teenagers. Part of the Elevator Project Series, *Sex Ed* tackles subjects such as abstinence, consent and other issues facing teens in the evolving world of the post-MeToo era.

DEETS: Hamon Hall inside the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Friday 06.28

CineWilde screens remastered vogue doc 'Paris Is Burning'

The 1990 documentary *Paris is Burning* captured Harlem's ballroom culture, emphasizing the era's hidden drag and vogue scenes. If you're unfamiliar with the term "throwing shade," this film highlights a slice of New York City's underbelly, where mostly closeted gay black men secretly expressed their femininity. After two years out of print, director Jennie Livingston's iconic film is now available in a digitally remastered version. The film that inspired shows such as *Pose* and *RuPaul's Drag Race*, will screen for Pride Month as part of CinéWilde's LGBTQ film series.

DEETS: Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 9 p.m. TheTexasTheatre.com.



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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

The Armor Plays: Cinched and Strapped. Two feminist, empowered-woman plays by Selina Fillinger. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Ballad of Little Jo. Musical (based on the film) about one woman’s dream in the Old West. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?/Here We Go. Two one act plays by Caryl Churchill. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. *Final weekend.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

Les Miserables. The titanic musical drama based on Victor Hugo’s sprawling novel returns to North Texas. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.

Penny Candy. A world premiere commission from Dallas playwright Jonathan Norton, about life in Pleasant Grove. Produced by Dallas Theater Center. Wyly Theatre Studio, 2400 Flora St. Through July 14. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Reykjavik. Steve Yockey’s rolling world premiere play opens Kitchen Dog Theater’s New Works Festival, a collision of sex and



Steve Yockey’s sexy, scary, funny play ‘Reykjavik’ ends this weekend.

danger. *Final weekend.* Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway, ste. 180. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Unveiled: A One Woman Play. Five Muslim women (all played by the same actress, playwright Rohina Malik) sip tea and talk about their stories of faith, culture and prejudice. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The View UpStairs. Regional premiere of a musical about an arson in New Orleans that killed dozens of gay people. Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 7. UptownPlayers.org.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Sondheim’s masterpiece. Directed by Joel Ferrell. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through July 13. CircleTheatre.com

FINE ART
Dior: From Paris to the World. Retrospective of 70 years of the famed French design house. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through Sept. 1. DMA.org.

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

TUESDAY 07.02

FILM

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. One of the films that helped reimagine the Western for modern audiences as an action comedy with snark and heart. 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.

this week’s solution

M	U	L	A	N	G	A	R	P	C	E	D	E
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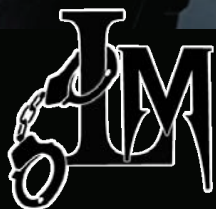


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q-puzzle

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64						65					66			

Maupin Up

Solution on Page78

Across

- 1 Disney film set in China
6 Robin Williams title role
10 Sign over
14 Carol's opening
15 Penetrating reed
16 Yoked beasts
17 Bear
18 Santa's got a long one
19 Lemon zest source
20 Armistead Maupin series now featured on Netflix

- 23 Auction actions
24 ___ Tin Tin
25 Flowing, for Bernstein
28 Like a Samurai
33 Put down
34 Vegetable soup bean
35 Airline to the land of the cut
36 "Enterprise" initials
37 She plays Margot Park in the series
40 Not in the pink
41 Muscle Mary stat
43 Gershwin and Levin
44 Word before "ho!"
46 Shot back
48 Scripture reading
49 *South Park's* Big Gay, et al.
50 Golden years org.
51 She plays Anna Madrigal in the series

Down

- 58 Sons of, in Hebrew
59 Make less difficult to bear
60 Nuts
61 Leather strap for a stallion
62 ___ and the Detectives
63 Our, to Vivien
64 Tolloed
65 Ms. Right-now
66 R.E.M. follower?

Down

- 1 Ditch in some Flynn flicks
2 Pac 10 school
3 Lounge about
4 They reproduce nonheterosexually
5 Bit in the Windy City Times, e.g.
6 Plays Sheehan's sport
7 Not much
8 ___ Hashana
9 *Hook* role for Robin Williams
10 Tee of *Cunt Coloring Book* fame
11 Go off, on Broadway
12 Say "She's just a friend" to a jealous lover, e.g.
13 Put a halt to
21 Rene Auberjonois role

- 22 Org. in many spy movies
25 Linney, who plays Mary Ann in the series
26 Buddy almost of *The Wizard of Oz*
27 Intense sounds in the sack
28 Holy war
29 Israeli author Oz
30 Disney's middle name
31 Round of fire
32 Page, who plays Shawna in the series
34 Old strings
38 Earhart's velocity
39 Male organs, in slang
42 Like Palm Beach palms in the wind
45 Kahlo's tongue
47 One with limbs spread wide
48 Batting instructor Charlie
50 "Hello" singer
51 Ready to go in
52 Reposed
53 Isherwood's ___ Camera
54 Words before "were"
55 Shakespeare's shrew
56 About, in memos
57 Penetrate slowly
58 Cold response

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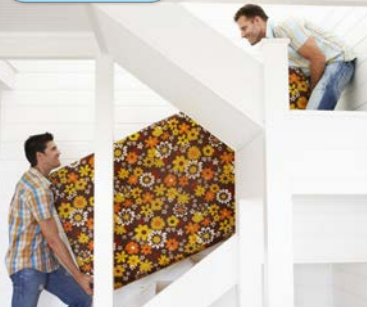
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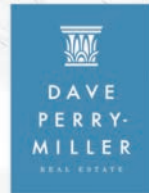
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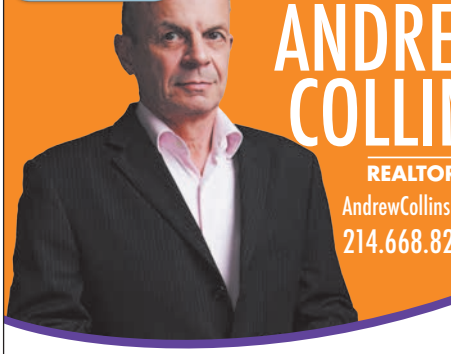
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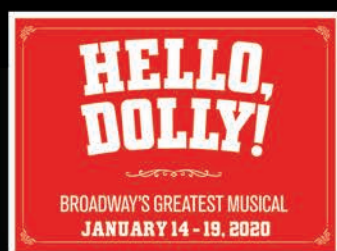


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