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Idina Menzel.

Photo courtesy Idina Menzel via Turtle Creek Chorale.

Design by Kevin Thomas.



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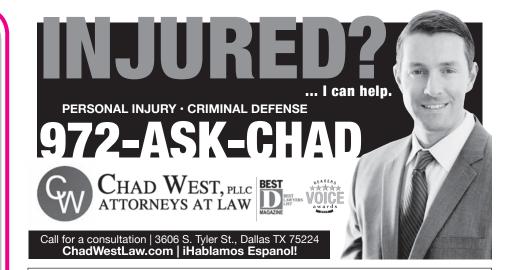
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Equality Texas releases legislative scorecard



Equality Texas has released its scorecard for the 86th legislative session, with scores reflecting how lawmakers voted on issues of importance to the LGBT community.

It's no surprise that Reps. Julie Johnson, Jessica Gonzalez, Mary Gonzalez, Celia Israel and Erin Zwiener, who are the LGBT members of the legislature and who founded the first LGBT Caucus in the Texas Legislature's history, all scored A+.

Also scoring A+ were Rep. Rafael Anchia, who represents parts of Oak Lawn; Rep. Ana Maria Ramos, who represents parts of North Dallas; Rep. Michelle Beckley of Carrollton, and Rep. Chris Turner of Arlington.

Allies Turner and Anchia are members of the LGBT Caucus.

Rep. Sarah Davis, who represents the Montrose area of Houston, was the only Republican to score an A+. Dallas County's only two Republican representatives, Angie Chen and Morgan Meyer, each scored a D. Meyer's District 108 includes parts of Oak Lawn.

Rep. Harold Dutton from Houston was the only Democrat to score an F.

Only four of the 31 senators scored an A+, while 19, including all Republicans except one, got an F.

Sen. Royce West of Dallas scored an A. Eddie Lucio of Brownsville was the only Democrat to score an F. Republican Sen. Kel Seliger from Amarillo earned a B+.

The full scorecard can be found at EqualityTexas.org.

David Taffet

Victory Fund endorses Shawn Terry



The LGBTQ Victory Fund has endorsed Democrat Shawn Terry in his March 2020 primary race for Texas House District 108, which includes parts of Oak Lawn. That seat is currently held by Republican Morgan Meyer, who narrowly defeated Democrat Jo-

DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea

anna Cattanach in the 2018 general election. Cattanach is running again in 2020.

Victory Fund is the "only national organization dedicated to electing LBGTQ leaders to public office.

Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Victory Fund's president and CEO, announced the endorsement, saying, "Shawn's commitment to ensuring that every Texan has a fair shot at a good job, quality healthcare and great education makes him the best candidate for House District 108. Shawn is committed to a Texas that respects all its citizens and provides every Texan with opportunity."

Terry said he is "so grateful" to have the organization's backing. "Not only do they have a rigorous vetting process, but our campaign is also among the first legislative campaigns in the country to earn their endorsement for the 2020 elections. I look forward to advancing the cause of equality as District 108's state representative," he said.

That same day, the organization also announced endorsements for Eliz Markowitz, running for Texas House District 28, just west of Houston, and Houston City Council candidates Nelvin Adriatico, Shelley Kennedy and Isabel Longoria. Victory Fund endorsed Houston City Council candidates Robert Gallegos and Nick Hellyar earlier this year.

- Tammye Nash

Prescher releases video on bullying

Watauga City Councilman Scott Prescher



of Watauga released a video about bullying this week, ahead of his city becoming the first city to officially enter the Tarrant County Pride Parade taking place in downtown Fort Worth on Oct. 5.

Prescher wants LGBT kids in his city and anywhere else to know that he's just like they are, and he supports them. But his message isn't about him. It's about his city, which is why he titled the video "Watauga Texas — Where Everyone Belongs."

He says that kids kill themselves because they get the message they don't matter, but "Watauga knows better." Everyone belongs, he says.

And what can people in the area do? Save a life by marching with Watauga in the parade on Saturday.

Save a life and have some fun. Did I mention how much fun Fort Worth's parade is?

David Taffet



LifeWalk

10.6.19

Thank You LifeWalker

REGISTER NOW LIFEWALK.ORG





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.

OCTOBER

• Oct. 4: Suzanne Westenhoefer

QCinema presents comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer at 8 p.m. at Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth. Info and tickets at QCinema.org.

• Oct. 4-5: QCinema

QCinema's 21st annual LGBT international film festival including comedy, films, food and fun runs through Sunday at Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth. \$10-100. Info and tickets at QCinema.org.

• Oct. 5: Tarrant County Pride Parade and Festival

The Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association's annual Pride parade begins at 11 a.m. in downtown Fort Worth, stepping off south down Commerce Street from Weatherford Street. The parade disbands at Commerce and Lancaster Avenue, near the entrance to the Festival at Fort Worth Water Gardens at end of parade route. There is a nominal admission fee to the festival. For more information visit TCGPWA.org.

• Oct. 5: Pet Palooza

Northaven UMC and Friends of the Northaven Trail host Pet Palooza including costume contest. Grand prize is an oil painting by local pet artist Renee Robison. Parade of pets up and down the new Northaven Trail followed by blessing of the pets by Northaven staff from 10-11:30 p.m. Parking at Northaven Church, 11211 Preston Road.

• Oct. 5: Texas Latino Pride

Live music festival from 2-10 p.m. at Longhorn Ballroom, 216 Corinth St. Info at Facebook.com/TexasLatinoPride.

• Oct. 5: Opening Arts Reception

Connections: New work by Michael Duncan. Opening artist reception from 3-5 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Exhibit runs Sept. 30-Oct. 10.

• Oct. 5: Friends with Benefits Fundraiser

Double Wide holds a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood and Texas Equal Access Fund with live music, silent auction and more from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. at Double Wide, 3510 Commerce St. \$10. Double-Wide.com.

• Oct. 5-6: Turtle Creek Fall Arts Festival

Two-day arts festival featuring local and regional artists and crafters, live music, food trucks and more from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and

A BUSY WEEKEND



The weather finally seems to be cooling down in North Texas, just in time for one of the busiest weekends of the fall. Highlights include The Tarrant County Pride Parade (pictured), beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, on Commerce Street in downtown Fort Worth, and the Pride Festival, also beginning at 11 a.m., at the Fort Worth Water Gardens. The Tarrant County Pride Picnic is Sunday, Oct. 6, at the 7th Street Pavilion in Trinity Park. Texas Latino Pride Music Festival is from 2-10 p.m. Saturday at Dallas' Longhorn Ballroom. And on Sunday, LifeWalk begins at 11 a.m. at Turtle Creek Park. For details on these events and more, see listings.

11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. For information visit TurtleCreekArtsFestival.com.

• Oct. 6: Tarrant County Pride Picnic

Annual Pride picnic in Trinity River Park. Because of construction, the picnic has moved north to the 7th Street Pavilion. For more information visit TCGPWA.org.

• Oct. 6: LifeWalk

Annual walk to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS benefits local HIV organizations at 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Turtle

Creek Park, 3400 Turtle Creek Blvd.

• Oct. 6: Angela's Halloween Drag Brunch

Costume contest and more at Angela's Halloween Drag Brunch. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. at El Noa Noa Tex-Mex, 1915 N. Central Expressway, Plano. Tickets at PlanoDragBrunch. Eventbrite.com.

• Oct. 7: Last Day to Register to Vote

• Oct. 8: Kol Nidre

Beth El Binah Kol Nidre service

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 Lambda Legal Senior Staff Attorney Shelly Skeen; Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors meets Mondays from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road, Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwyler Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St. Wednesdays for Breakfast Club from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave. and Thursdays for Rainbow Rec from 10 am.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.; Unwired Group of

Crystal Meth Anonymous meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center. 2701 Reagan St.; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@ myresourcecenter.org; LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St.

For more info, email pegasussquares@ gmail.com; Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run at Oak Lawn Park, near the intersection of Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; Leadership Lambda Toastmasters practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays 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 noon, 6:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 6525 Inwood Road.

Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex** Addicts Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; Leadership Lambda Toastmasters gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; DVtv in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

begins at 7 p.m. at 11211 Preston Road. Everyone welcome. Tickets not required. BethElBinah.org.

• Oct. 8: Grief group

Grief group for persons who have lost a same-sex spouse meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit MyResourceCenter.org.

• Oct. 8: Pathfinders

Pathfinders group is a community resource for trans masculine individuals (including non-binary trans masculine people and binary trans men), age 18+ in the North Texas/DFW area. Meets the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Oak Lawn Library Auditorium, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• Oct. 8: Prime Timers Dinner at 7 p.m. at El Fenix, 5622 Lemmon Ave. RSVP to 214-218-0912.

• Oct. 9: Yom Kippur

Beth El Binah Yom Kippur services begin at 10 a.m. and run through sunset followed by break the fast at 11211 Preston Road. Everyone welcome. Tickets not required. BethElBinah.org.

• Oct. 9: Teen Pride Steering Committee

Teen Pride is looking for volunteers to join the steering committee. Meet with board members from 6-9 p.m. at Meadows Conference Center, 2900 Live Oak St.

• Oct. 10: Preston Hollow **Democrats Meeting**

Join the Preston Hollow Democrats in a meeting featuring candidates for the

AGENDA, Page 17

pet of the week / KITTY GIRL

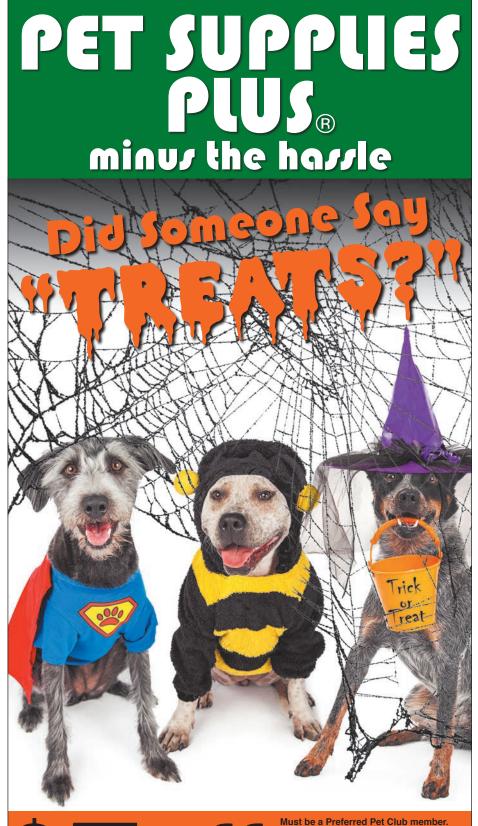


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Idina Menzel to headline Chorale gala

TCC begins 40th season remembering its history and opening its future with a new partnership with schools

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

urtle Creek Chorale officials have announced that they signed Broadway star Idina Menzel to headline Rhapsody, a gala performance on Feb. 22 in the grand ballroom of the Statler Dallas.

The event was announced at the opening concert of the chorale's 40th season on Sept. 29 by the gala's co-chairs, Robert Emery and Kay Wilkinson. Ambassador Ron Kirk and Matrice Ellis-Kirk are the honorary co-chairs.

Mike Dilbeck, the chorale's director of development, said Rhapsody will be a fundraiser on a scale never before attempted by the chorale. "We wanted to create something special and unique as a performing arts organization," he explained.

That means the audience will be seeing a concert performance in a warm environment rather than seated in the rafters of the American Airlines Center and seeing a full set rather than three songs usually performed at a seated dinner, he went on.

The Statler is the newly-renovated hotel and apartment building once known as the Statler Hilton. At the time it opened in 1956, it was the largest hotel in the Southwest, and its grand ballroom became legendary. Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, the Jackson 5, Perry Como, Desi Arnaz, Cher and others have performed on its main stage.

Menzel has been an LGBT community favorite ever since she appeared in the original Broadway cast of *Rent* and won a Tony Award for her performance as El-



Idina Menzel

phaba in Wicked.

She starred as the voice of Elsa in the Disney animated film *Frozen*, in which she sings "Let It Go." The song won the Oscar for best original song and the Grammy for best song written for visual media.

Menzel has two films opening this fall: *Frozen* 2 opens in November with Menzel reprising her role as Elsa, and she stars with Adam Sandler, Eric Bogosian, Lakeith Stanfield and Judd Hirsch in *Uncut Gems* opening on Christmas Day.

Menzel has several solo albums, including one that debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Holiday Albums chart and put her in a Top 10 spot on the Billboard Top 200 Album Chart. And at Super Bowl XLIX, she sang the national anthem.

On TV Menzel has appeared in the Lifetime remake of *Beaches* in the role of CC, originally played by Bette Midler. In *Glee*, she played Rachel's biological mother.

Dilbeck, who was already a fan of Menzel, said she was recommended after she delivered a powerhouse performance at the 50th anniversary of Houston's Theater Under the Stars. "She blew them away," he said.

Dilbeck said Rhapsody will be a celebration as much as a concert. Few arts groups make it to their 40th anniversary, he said, marveling at TCC's endurance through adversity. The AIDS crisis took a severe toll on the chorale, which lost as many members to the disease as the chorale has on its current membership roster.

The chorale was founded in 1980 when three men — Don Essmiller, Phillip Gerber and Rodger Wilson — met over drinks at a bar on Fitzhugh Avenue with Harry E. Scher and Gerard Huber to discuss the gay men's chorus that had been recently formed in San Francisco. They decided to each choose five pieces of men's choral music and meet again. With Scher at the piano, they sang all 25 pieces of music and chose the ones they liked best.

Next they posted fliers around Oak Lawn (before the internet and Dallas Voice, that's how community information got out) and announced the formation of the Turtle Creek Chorale. Because Dallas police

at the time were still raiding bars, the organization's name was chosen to avoid reprisals by employers, fear of physical violence and even family rejection.

About 38 men attended that first meeting, according to Turtle Creek Chorale historian Pat McCann, who wrote an account of the formation of the chorus.

The group's first performance took place just a month after the first rehearsal, after the chorale received an invitation from the Dallas Gay Political Caucus to perform at an event at Trinity United Methodist Church, an historic building in downtown Dallas that was destroyed by fire less than a year later.

Then on June 24, 1980, the chorale gave its first public performance at Caruth Auditorium on the SMU campus. Tickets were \$2.50, and the concert sold out.

Famous singers who have performed with the chorale over the years include Betty Buckley, Nell Carter, Carol Channing, Jennifer Holliday, Angela Lansbury, Melissa Manchester, Liza Minelli and Dionne Warwick.

When the Dixie Chicks performed with the chorus in 1991, they were a lo-

cal band that often sang at Sue Ellen's on Sunday afternoons. That same year, Ann Richards appeared with the chorale. She went on to become governor later that year, and the Dixie Chicks have made a go of it as well.

Until the Meyerson Symphony Center opened in 1989, the chorale performed in a number of different venues, including the auditorium at El Centro College, the Irving Performing Arts Center and Caruth.

Since its founding, the chorale has become the most recorded men's chorus in history. It's won two Emmy Awards, and beginning with its June concert earlier this year, began a new educational component working with students in area high schools.

About 100 chorale members participated in its first educational program in September at Sunset High in Oak Cliff. About 300 students in arts programs participated in the kickoff of the You Are Light Project.

The project grew out of the chorale's You Are Light June concert when members shared their experiences with bullying, attempted suicide and other issues.

Artistic Director Sean Baugh said, "There's nothing more frightening than singing for 300 high schoolers." He said he had no idea how they'd be received. But that fear evaporated when he found the students to be the most attentive audience he'd ever performed for.

For this midweek performance, so many members of the chorale participated after Baugh asked them, "How different would your lives be if you had 100 gay men singing for you in school?"

Baugh said at first they planned to have members tell their stories. But then they decided to give them more specific information, tools and resources.

"If you see a friend hurting on Facebook, Instagram or whatever, here are the steps to take," he said.

Since the program, students who participated have been writing about their experience, and he's heard the reaction has been exuberant. Baugh said one change he'll make next program is to include a few moments of levity.

Funds raised from Rhapsody will, in part, fund the chorale's new educational outreach. Baugh said he sees You Are Light as a new, permanent program of the chorale.

Rhapsody takes place at the Statler Dallas on Feb. 22. Tickets range from \$350-2,500 and are available at RhapsodyDallas.com.

Phil Johnson:

A life of service and creativity

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

hilip "Phil" Johnson, the man known for decades as the official historian of North Texas LGBTQ community, died Monday, Sept. 23, at Landmark of Plano Retirement Home. He was 94 years old.

Phil Johnson was born May 1, 1925, in Dallas. He was the son of Easter Lily Young Johnson and Francis Xavier Johnson, and he had two younger sisters, Francis Melba Johnson Cook and Mary Ruth Johnson Fields.

To say Phil lived a remarkable life is a huge understatement, a fact that becomes even more apparent to those privileged enough to read through the autobiographical "scrapbook" he compiled over the years. That scrapbook is being donated to the Phil Johnson Historic Archives and Research Library, which is now part of the University of North Texas' Archives and Special Collections, and will available online when it has been digitized.

Phil's scrapbook provides an unflinching view of life for a gay child born into a poor family and growing up during the Depression.

"We were poor, God knows, and down-trodden," he wrote, adding, "But poverty made us strong."

He also recalled how he and his sisters grew up listening to his grandmother, mother and aunt as they sang, and watching his Aunt Katy dance: "[We] may have come from poverty, but we were introduced to song and dance early. In that respect, we were rich. Wealthy."

But he didn't hold back in describing the flaws — in his family and himself. He wrote of his mother's unhappiness and his father's emotional coldness. And he described himself as a "very disturbed youth, always difficult to get along with," who graduated 326th in a senior class of 325.

"All of us," he wrote, "products of our time."



Phil wrote in his scrapbook of how the family pulled together to survive the hard times, of how he danced for the passers-by, using tap-dancing moves his Aunt Katy taught him, as his "Uncle Fat" sold newspapers on a street corner along Dallas' Theater Row.

The Hippodrome, he said, was once the shining star of Theater Row and home to the best of vaudeville shows. But by the mid-1930s, vaudeville was fading away, and so was the Hippodrome. By that time, the Hippodrome had become a shabby burlesque hall, and Phil's Aunt Katy was one of the dancers. But during her breaks, she would bundle up and head out to the street corner to watch her nephew dance as her brother played the Jew's harp.

"More than half a century has passed" since those days, Phil wrote. "Uncle Fat, Aunt Katy and the Hippodrome are gone. Except for the Majestic, so is Theater Row. But the kid with the runny nose, although ancient and withered, still dances."

After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School, Phil joined the U.S. Army to serve in World War II, reaching the rank of T/5. He worked with the USO to provide entertainment for the troops, where he met entertainment

PHIL, Page 14





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Hanging in the balance

SCOTUS to hear cases that will determine whether LGBT people are protected against discrimination in the workplace

NICK TOTIN | Contributing Writer ntotin@gmail.com

he Supreme Court on Oct. 8 will hear arguments in three cases over whether Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act includes protections for the LGBTQ community against workplace discrimination. The Supreme Court will hear two consolidated cases — Zarda v. Al titude Express and Bostock v. Clayton County — which will jointly determine if discrimination on









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U.S. Rep. Colin Allred speaks on LGBTQ issues during a panel discussion hosted by Equality Texas in September. (Courtesy Colin Allred)

the basis of one's sexual orientation is a form of sex discrimination. Additionally, *Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC* will determine if anti-transgender discrimination is a form of sex discrimination.

Donald Zarda's estate is suing Altitude Express after the gay skydiver, who has since died, was terminated from his job for being gay, and Gerald Lynn Bostock, a municipal worker, is suing on the basis of anti-gay discrimination within Clayton County in Georgia. Aimee Stephens sued Harris Funeral Homes after she was fired for coming out as transgender.

The decisions in these cases will directly impact sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination in the workplace. However, other federal laws could also be impacted based on how narrow or broad the court's opinion is.

Currently, only 20 states offer state-level protections against workplace discrimination for LGBTQ people.



In a statement about the upcoming court decision, Diana Flynn, litigation director for Lambda Legal, wrote, "Consider, for example, two office workers: Both have pictures of their wives on their desks. The boss fires one of them for this, but compliments the other for the photo. Why on earth this difference?"

Flynn is optimistic about the outcome based on previous rulings that regarded the definition of sex in Title VII.

"Well, assume further that it was John that got the compliment, and Jane that received the pink slip. What could be clearer than that the firing of Jane was based on her sex?" Flynn wrote. She

continues by highlighting the outcome of *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services,* in which the court ruled that Oncale was protected by Title VII.

The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 5 — The Equality Act, an historic bill that offers federal protections for the LGBTQ community in employment, housing, credit, education and more. The bill passed the House 236-173 on May 17 this year but has not been brought to the Senate floor by Majority Leader McConnell for a vote.

U.S. Rep. Colin Allred of North Texas believes that Congress passing the Equality Act is the best solution in the fight for LGBTQ rights for the community.

"We have to move to an affirmative model. Civil rights work has used the courts to defend the territory that we've gained," Allred said during a panel hosted by Equality Texas last month. "We have to affirmatively put these things into legislation. That's why things like the Equality Act will take out any ambiguity that a court could find."

This will be the first time the court will hear a case related to LGBTQ issues since the retirement of Justice John Kennedy in 2018. The shifted make-up of the court has created cause for concern among pro-equality activists who are preparing for a fight should the ruling be against the LGBTQ community.

"Our senators should hear from every single Texan who believes in equality. [The Equality Act] passed the House with bipartisan support, so you can't say it was just a partisan bill. We have to put the pressure on and make sure that our voices are heard," Allred said.

Although the court will hear arguments in October, it will likely be many months before the opinion is released on these cases.









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PHIL, From Page 9

legends such as Bob Hope. Upon being discharged from the service, he returned to Dallas where he went to work for Parkland Hospital, opened a dance studio, gave piano lessons and worked with local high school theater and dance departments and drill teams.

He became an accomplished ballet dancer, traveling to New York City where he danced at Carnegie Hall. After returning to Dallas, he went to work at SMU, which gave him the chance to take classes at the university and fostered his love for education. He continued to take classes from various colleges and universities well into his 80s. In the early 1960s, Phil worked with Six Flags Over Texas to coordinate and establish their first-ever live show, known as The Phil Johnson Dancers.

Phil was also a legend in the North Texas LGBT community as the community's ambassador and its historian, and was known for asking, "How can we have a future if we do not know our past?"

In 1953, Phil joined The Mattachine Society, the first gay organization in the U.S. On New Year's Eve 1965, he helped create The Circle of Friends, Dallas' first LGBT organization, which then formed alliances with non-gay ministers and neighbors to help prevent harassment and discrimination against the LGBT community at a time when gay people still faced possible jail time of up to 15 years if they were convicted under the Texas sodomy law.

Under threat of arrest, Phil helped organize Dallas' first LGBT Pride parade, and on June 24, 1972, he led the parade down Main Street in downtown Dallas. That was the same year he participated in a demonstration at the American Psychiatric Association's conference in Dallas, petitioning the APA to remove homosexuality from its list of mental diseases. There is a famous photo that shows Phil dancing with activist Frank Kameny at that conference. The APA removed homosexuality from the list the following year.

Phil also helped found the Dallas Metropolitan Community Church, now known as Cathedral of Hope UCC, the largest LGBT church in the world, and he published Dallas' first LGBT newspaper. At an event in 2008, he acknowledged, "Yes, I have marched in every March on Washington except one, and yes, [I've] risked being arrested on the Supreme Court steps.'

Phil also helped organize The Trinity River Aquatic Club (TRAC), which later became part of Team Dallas, the group of athletes that participated in several Gay Games events, and he participated in Cheer Dallas. As a member of TRAC and Team Dallas, Phil competed in the Gay Games as a swimmer, winning five gold medals his first time competing. He noted that he won because he was the only competitor in his age bracket. But when he tried to turn down the medals because of that, organizers said he deserved the medals because he was there competing when others his age could not.

Phil was a talented storyteller and writer, and often contributed to the magazine This Week in Texas and to Dallas Voice as both a writer and a source. His talents, his dedication and his love for his community made him a legend in the LGBT community.

Phil was preceded in death by his sister Francis Melba Johnson, his niece Debera Creech and his nephew, Gary Cook. He is survived by his sister, Mary Fields of Plano, and his nieces, Gwynn Kruger of Emory, Kathy Parks of Dallas, and Teresa Lambright of Plano; and numerous great-nieces and -nephews, and a legion of friends and admirers.

Several years ago, Phil registered with the Willed Body Program at UT Southwestern Medical Center, representatives of which picked up his body from the nursing home shortly after his death. His body will be used for medical research and teaching, then cremated and his ashes buried at sea by being spread on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico off the Texas coast.

While not exactly as he once described, his body was used as Phil wanted when he once said: "When I am gone, anyone needing a kidney, a spleen or a bone, all free of sexually-transmitted disease, are welcome to mine. Then kindly cremate what's left, dump the ashes in a whole and drop in a pecan and some dirt, so I can continue to benefit the world for many years thereafter."

He added, "If those of us who have gone before helped pave the way for you, then I ask you to do something anything — for those who will follow, because there is so much yet to be done."

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Our Queer Art: Interviews, Profiles, and Stories of Queer

Bridges to the self: Gloria Anzaldúa and 'threating' on

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Editor's Note: In honor of LGBTQ History Month, Dallas Voice presents week one of a four-week series by contributing writer Brandi Amara Skyy.

Creatives

was introduced to Gloria Anzaldúa's body of work in grad school by my professor and thesis advisor Dr. AnaLouise Keating, who had co-edited the this bridge we call home anthology with Anzaldúa and is currently one of Anzaldúa Trust's trustees. I was a 27-year-old know-it-all rebel-with-a-cause (equality for my LGBTQ community by any means necessary) who was resistant to Anzaldúa's work because I felt, at the time, her activism was too passive-aggressive for my radical tastes.

I couldn't have been more wrong.

Anzaldúa was radical in ways that have taken me years to understand ways that I'm still trying to digest.

Gloria Anzaldúa was a queer, brown, radically inclusive feminist who was taking action, writing and theorizing about the kinds of things we, as a society, are just now trying to flesh out, act out and live out. The deeper we go into conversations about intersectionality, multiple genders and liminal/in-between spaces (what Anzaldúa referred to as nepantla — "a Nahuatl word meaning tierra entre medio") the more I see the long-lasting impact of her work.

Whether it's topics of immigration, queerness, borderlands, inclusivity or color and culture politics, there is not a crevice of activism in our current culture that Gloria Anzaldúa has not impacted or helped shape and bring into form.

And yet few outside of academic circles know her name, much less the impact she had in our activism even though everything we as a society are just now waking up to are the very things Anzaldúa was writing on and mobilizing for more than three decades ago.

Anzaldúa was born in Texas, in the borderlands of the Rio Grande Valley, and later moved to Austin to write and study. Much of her work covered the terrain of borderlands and bridges and how one lives, connects and creates in those



Brandi Amara Skyy TrendingTEA

more cultures edge each other, where people of different races occupy the same territory, where under, lower, middle and upper classes touch, where the space between two individuals shrinks with intimacy."

It was in that intimacy of the space between, the nepantla (however uncomfortable), that Anzaldúa made her home. And it was in the bridging of these spaces, of being a nepantlera (someone who bridges), that she made her life's work.

In the 1981 anthology, This Bridge Called My Back, co-edited with Cherrie L. Moraga, Anzaldúa bridged whitewashed feminism for the first time with the voices and stories of oppression from women (all-inclusively) of color and their life experiences. This Bridge was the first anthology to shift the narrative away from white feminism and center on the theories of women of color in all their diversity. It was a feat of connectivity and solidarity in strife, not sameness, that we are still arguing over and trying to re-forge today.

But it wasn't just her work within the borders of race and gender that left a dent in our cultural social-political landscape. What impacted me the most is her groundbreaking work and forward-thinking theories and praxis of nonbinary queerness and spaces. These are all the things we are struggling to create space for in mainstream narratives today - nonbinary, nonconforming, genderless genders, labelless-ness — and she was writing and fighting to create it when most of our radicalness was in its infancy.

Anzaldúa wrote in the essay "La Prieta" in This Bridge, "They would chop me up into little fragments and tag each piece with a label...who, me confused? Ambivalent? Not so. Only your labels split me."

These words have been a powerful reminder that as someone who lives in the intersection of many communities and issues that I still remain whole. We still remain whole.

But it also reminds me we are part of a lineage of activists who fought the same battles we are. Maybe we will be the generation that changes the world. Maybe we won't. The most important thing is that we keep trying.

Gloria Anzaldúa died in 2004 from complications of diabetes as she was developing a new theory of a queered Conocimiento. Conocimiento is her seven-phase theory of spiritual inquiry that takes into account all the complexities we journey through to reach new realms of understanding. "Change ourselves, change the world" was always the heart that beat life into all her writings and theories.

As I thought about who I would like to profile to kick off this series, hers was the only name that popped into my head. Part of me knew it was way past time that I made my peace with her, but a bigger part of me was excited to introduce readers to a queer writer, activist and nepantlera that has influenced and changed my life as an activist, writer, artist and human. She is as rooted in my genetic make-up as my DNA code.

And it didn't take me long after I graduated to understand that what I was trying to build, the art I was trying to create, the impact I was trying to have, she had given root to.

"We are the queer groups, the people that don't belong anywhere, not in the dominant world nor completely within our own respective cultures. Combined we cover so many oppressions. But the overwhelming oppression is the collective fact that we do not fit, and because we do not fit we are a threat," she wrote, also in "La Prieta." Here's to threating on for many generations to come!



Court of Appeals 5th District of Texas, Texas Supreme Court, and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at Walnut Hill Recreation Center. For more information visit ThePHD.org.

• Oct. 11: A Double-Minded Man reading

Author Bill Prickett reads from his novel *A Double-Minded Man* based on his own involvement and leadership in a so-call ex-gay ministry at 3 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• Oct. 11: DFW Pride Happy Hour – OUT in DallasSouthernPride.com Join the OU LGBTQ Alumni Society

and the Texas Exes Pride Alumni Network for the fifth annual OUT in Dallas Happy Hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

- Oct. 12: Leslie Jordan Over Exposed The award winning actor and comedian Leslie Jordan comes to the McFarlin Auditorium to help raise money for Legacy Counseling Center.

 Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at eight. Tickets available at Leslie Jordan Dallas.com.
- Oct. 12: Slamming the Tide of Hate Rep. Colin Allred, Congregation Beth El Binah's Rabbi Holly Cohn and leaders of CAIR participate in a Texas Islamophobia Conference from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Southern Methodist University, Hughes-Trigg Student Center, 3140 Dyer St.

• Oct. 12: Name and Gender Marker workshop

Resource Center in partnership with UNT Dallas College of Law, Black Trans Advocacy and LULAC 4871 host a transgender name and gender marker workshop from 1-4 p.m. at J. Erik Jonnson Library, 1414 Young St., Third floor. Free, but register at NameChangeWorkshopOCT2019. eventbrite.com.

• Oct. 12: Prime Timers

Brunch at 11 a.m. at Mama's Daughters diner, 6509 W. Park Blvd., Plano. RSVP to 214-218-0912.









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commUNITYvoices

Jeffress and Trump: birds of a bigoted feather

f you've been following the news at all the last couple of weeks, you may have noticed that there have been huge protests against the political failure to address climate change, led by young people, happening across the globe.

You may have also noticed that impeachment proceedings have begun against Donald Trump, prompting him to retweet threats about civil war, showing once again that comparing Trump to a child is an unfair smear of children.

Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church here in Dallas as well as a Fox News contributor, has declared: "The only impeachable offense President Trump has committed was beating Hillary Clinton in 2016. That's the unpardonable sin for which the Democrats will never forgive him. And I do want to make this prediction this morning: If the Democrats are successful in removing the president from office, I'm afraid it will cause a civil war-like fracture in this nation from which this country will never heal."

And Trump, who literally does nothing but watch TV all day, couldn't tweet these words out fast enough.

Now, I'm no history major, but I seem to remember the Civil War being a BFD in this country. Maybe, just maybe, it's not a threat the goddamn president should be gleefully repeating.

But repeat it he did, and folks who were spared having to know who Jeffress is or hear his name are spared no more. And guess what? He has a long history of being super anti-LGBTQ.

In 2013 he said that God "thought [sex] up for our enjoyment" and "gave us the equipment to enjoy it with."

To show why gay sex was wrong, he used an analogy about plugging in a TV: "In the instruction manual it said, 'Now plug this into a 120 outlet.' Suppose I said, 'Oh, I'm not going to follow those instructions; those are antiquated instructions. I'm going to plug it into a 220 outlet. It's my TV and I can do whatever I want to with it.' Well, it is my TV to do what I want to with it, but I'm going to



D'Anne Witkowski Creep of the Week

blow that TV into smithereens if I put it in a 220 outlet."

Just in case you aren't following, in this analogy the TV plug is a penis; a 120 outlet is a vagina, and a 220 outlet is a

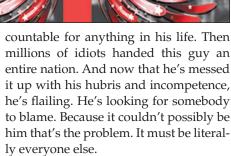
Also, in case you weren't aware, anal sex does not typically result in a penis being blown into smithereens. I think that's probably oral sex. But I'm a lesbian, not a Baptist preacher, so what do I

Jeffress has also said that gays and lesbians are "abnormal," live "a miserable lifestyle," and that they "brainwash ... the public to feel guilty of their bigotry toward homosexuals" through shows such as Will & Grace. He called sex between same-sex partners "a filthy practice," and in 2011 he said, "It's a fact that [AIDS] is a gay disease" and used this "fact" to support keeping gays out of the military.

Jeffress has also said really hateful and ignorant things about Jews and Muslims. Surprise, surprise.

And this is who the president is turning to during this time of crisis. This hateful man's words are the words the president amplifies as the impeachment inquiry begins. This man believes that Jews are going to hell, that Islam is a religion of pedophilia and that Mormons are cult members — but he thanks God for Trump.

While there are observers who seem surprised that Trump is wildly spinning out of control. I am not one of them. This is a man who has never been held ac-



There's no telling what will be happening by the time you read this column, as the news cycle is more like a news cyclone tearing through the U.S. and leaving everything in its wake in shambles. And still, Republicans call both the news — and climate change — fake.

I don't even know what to say anymore. This is not normal. And, honestly, I don't know if anything will ever be nor-

We have an entire political party aiding and abetting the most corrupt and incompetent president this nation has ever seen.

I was driving behind a pickup truck recently with a bumper sticker that read, "Trump 2020: Make Liberals Cry Again." I suspect he placed that sticker before the impeachment story broke. And I suspect that nothing will happen to make him remove that sticker.

There are bad people in this world. The president is one of them. Things are going to get worse before they get better.

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.

Tegan without Sara

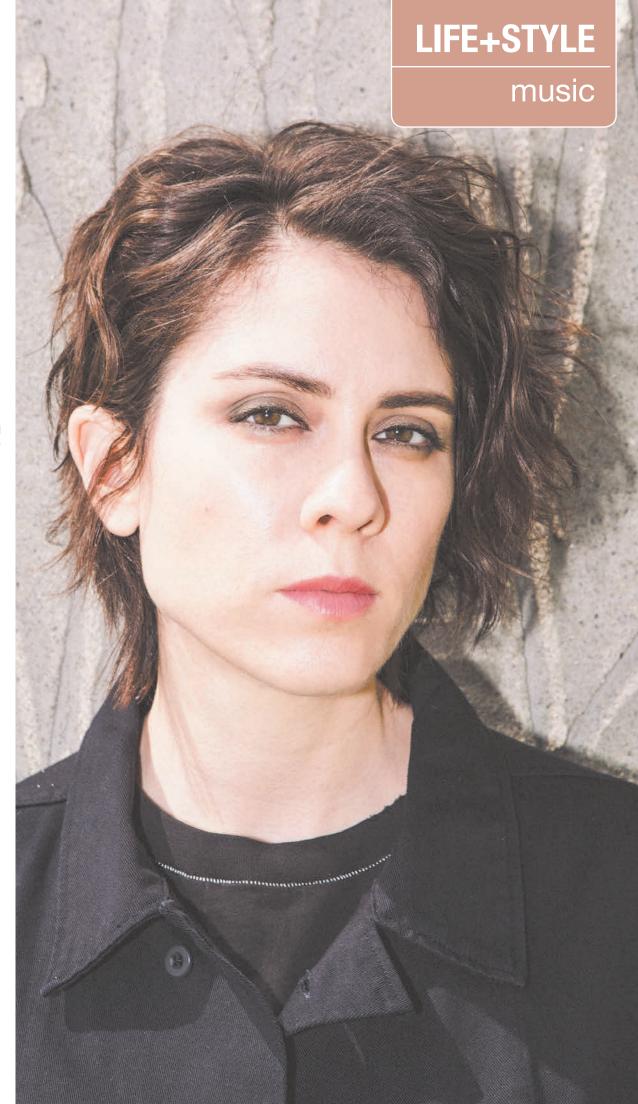
A new album, a new memoir — a chat with half of the queer twin duo

Tegan and Sara's ninth studio album, Hey I'm Just Like You (Warner Records) came to be in a fascinating way. While doing research for their just released memoir High School, they discovered previously lost cassette tapes of early songs that they rerecorded for the new album. These songs, in combination with the memoir, present a fully fleshed out portrait of Tegan and Sara and function as much as autobiography as they do as art. As revelatory as anything they'd previously done, including the challenges of being a twin ("We carried each other's wins and losses, fair or not"), the book and album pairing are each well worth exploring for fans and newcomers alike. I spoke with Tegan about the book and the album shortly before the twin duo embarked on their current multi-city concert tour.

— Gregg Shapiro

Dallas Voice: why was now the right time for you and Sara to write your memoir High School? Tegan Quin: I think it's been enough time. I think I can bear looking back at these photos [laughs]. People are always asking to hear about the beginning of our career, and that was sincerely when it started. It also felt like that was an era people are interested in hearing out. We had to start there. Because our career started in the '90s, it wasn't documented in the way things are documented now because of the internet and social media. It felt like a great era to mine for stories and revelations. It felt like something our fans would attach to because they hadn't heard much about it. Also, queer stories aren't told enough. Queer female stories are even less likely to be told. There isn't a ton of music memoirs or memoirs about being gueer with women at the forefront. Sara and I felt like we had the opportunity. People are interested. We should take advantage.

Were you or are you journal and diary keepers, and if so, is that how you were able to construct the book? Yes, we were journal and diary keepers. I have to admit that most of the journals were swapped back and forth. My best friend Alex [is] in the book, she and I spent two years passing a journal back and forth because we didn't go to the same high school. Generously, our friends donated all of these notes and letters and journals and books that we had all shared. We were [then] able to pull a lot of the dialogue, a lot of the emotional milestones that happened. Some of our first relationships and some of the heavier moments were pulled right from those pages. We're also still friends with most of the people that we wrote about in the book. We had the opportunity to interview with them. I had almost 20 hours of interview time with a lot of the main characters. I was able to use their perspectives and not just write from memory. And we had 25 hours of VHS footage. I think we were able to totally capture our voices and personalities in a way that, had we not documented, would have been harder. We have stayed in touch with all these people. It wasn't like, "I'm going to go back and write about high school." I vaguely remember that time. We've been talking about it as friends [laughs] for two decades. It was a topic we care about. It was an era that [laughs] we still talk about a lot. For a lot of people, high school wasn't that memorable. It was





memorable for us because it was when we figured out we were gay. It was also when we figured out we were artists and creatives and we started our band. It was a memorable time for us.

Were you at all concerned about your parents' reactions to some of the revelations about drug use and sexual exploration and such? I wouldn't use the word concerned, but we were definitely respectful about what we shared and didn't share. There's a lot that didn't make the book just out of courtesy. We always tried to keep in the forefront of our minds that we were telling our story, not someone else's story. We wanted to address the fact that my mom and Bruce [their mother's partner, whom Tegan and Sara referred to as their stepdad] separated at the end of high school, but we didn't want to get into the reasons why. We wanted to talk about the fact that we had done a lot of drugs, but we wanted to acknowledge that my mother had been a single parent and then Bruce moved in with us and my mother went back [to school] to get her master's and had to work evenings. It wasn't like we were doing drugs under her nose because we were dicks. She worked hard and did the best she could. We tried to be respectful, but right from the beginning we said it was an important story to tell. We felt like it would be purposeful in that it would touch and effect people and provide representation for a community of people who don't often have it. In general, I think everyone is glad we did it and, in general, understood why we wanted to do it [laughs]. I think there were some tears, for sure. It's hard to go back to that time for everybody.

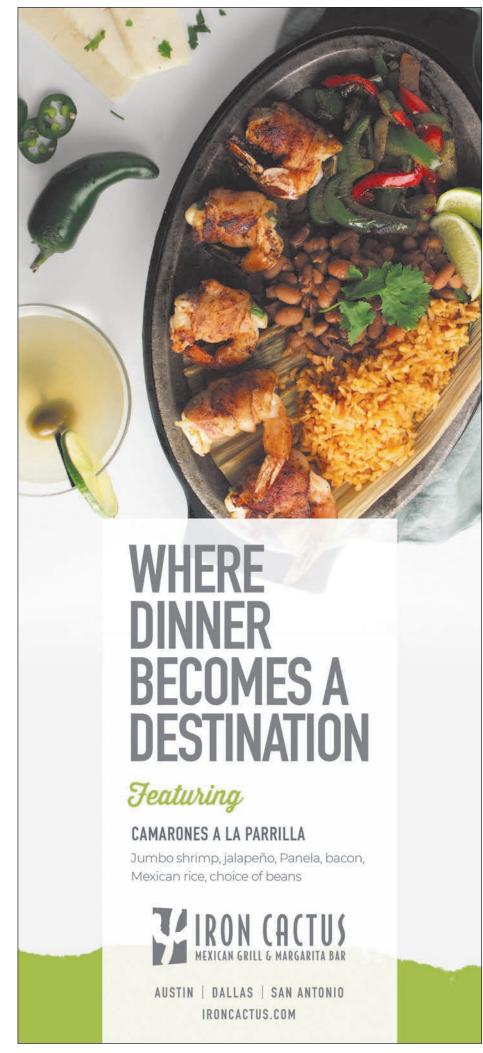
One of the things you wrote about was the sensation of writing one of your first songs, "I felt a glow of purpose." Do you still feel that way when you are writing songs? Yes. I think I do feel that way. I don't know if I feel when I'm writing the song, but I feel it when I'm able to record it and demo it, listen back to it and share it. I still get a kick and a high from writing. I think being a creative is

still the best part of my job. My career is many jobs. I'm a creator, I'm an influencer, I'm a content creator, I'm a musician, I'm a businesswoman, I'm a merchandise company. I feel like I wear many hats. I do think being a proper creative, sitting down and writing music, is the best part of what I do. I don't know if I still feel the joy that I felt as a young person. But I do think that going back and listening to those songs, and now rehearsing them and preparing them for this record and for playing them live, I am getting a bit of that same joy. There's something powerful about singing songs from that era because they're so raw, direct and honest. I'm certainly trying to tap back into that joy [laughs].

I'm glad you mentioned the multiple things that you are and how you referred to it as many jobs. In your section of the epilogue, you wrote about convincing your grandfather to lend you the money to make your first album by telling him you weren't "just going to be artists," you "were going to be business owners." Does that have anything to do with the title of the 2000 Tegan and Sara album This Business of Art? Yes, because it was not cool to be into the business. We had our hands slapped a lot during that time. We had had management for a very short period. We decided that it wasn't the right relationship. We were unrepresented when we signed a record deal. We went on to manage ourselves for two years and build our career on our own. There were a lot of people in the industry who said we should focus on the creative and not the business. I thought that was ridiculous. I'm not saying that people were trying to take advantage of us, but we were young women. That time period, pre-social media, pre-influencers, you were supposed to keep them separate, not be involved in the business side. As an artist, you shouldn't care. It was uncool to think of yourself as marketing as well as being an artist. For me and Sara, that felt emphatically incorrect. If I care about art, I should care about the business. It's my art, it's my songs. I should be the one to decide where it goes, what it looks like, what venues I play. If I can't tell you what my record deal contains, then I'm just an idiot. We must know everything. This Business of Art was a cheeky F U to the industry saying, "We know what's up. We're in control and we're not going to be manipulated."

Something I found fascinating was the influence of Smashing Pumpkins on you and Sara. Have you met Billy Corgan and does he know the impact he had on your lives? It's a funny story. We have met Billy Corgan. We were 24 and out promoting So Jealous. "Walking With a Ghost" was climbing the charts on alternative radio. It was our first time ever

■ Tegan Page 29





Pride comes late in Palm Springs; this year, it's Nov. 1-4. (Photo courtesy PSPride)





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ED WALSH | Contributing Writer edwalsh94105@yahoo.com

alm Springs proves that last does not necessarily equal least. The Southern California desert city will be the final U.S. city to celebrate Pride this year. As the last Pride of 2019, it is also one of the last events that will honor the memory of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. But even beyond that, the city hosts tons of events year-round, and — along with Key West, P'town and San Francisco — is one of the most queer-welcoming towns in America.

The cooler fall, winter and spring weather are good times of year to experience the spectacular desert landscape in Palm Springs. Most days are still comfortable for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. November weather in Palm Springs is near-perfect with warm sunny days and cool nights. By mid-fall,

the regular 110-plus temperatures of the summer (but hey — it's a *dry* heat) gives way to highs in the low 80s. The weather is ideal for the many outdoor activities planned for Pride.

PS Pride is given center stage in this uber-gay resort town, with an opening parade on downtown's main drag, Palm Canyon Drive, and a festival that runs Nov. 1-4. An estimated 140,000 people attended last year and organizers expect even more this year. (If you want to be part of it, round-trip flights from Dallas/Fort Worth are currently running a little over \$300. American offers three-hour nonstop flights from DFW.) For more information on Pride, check out PSPride.org.

Some Pride attendees get the party started early. Palm Springs Leather Pride week begins Oct. 24. This year, Pride starts the day after Halloween, which is celebrated with a block party on E. Arenas Road, between Indian Canyon Drive and S. Calle Encilla, the city's gay business block, where most of the city's gay nightlife is situated.

Still, autumn is just one time to visit PS; the town's two biggest gay events happen in April. The Dinah (TheDinah.

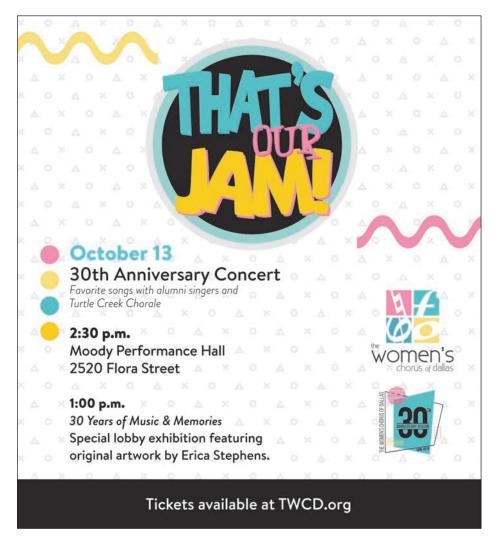
com), April 1–6 in 2020, bills itself as the "largest and most famous girl party music festival in the world." The men take their turn later that month with the world-famous White Party (JeffreySanker.com) April 24–27. If you plan on going to either event, book your hotel now.

Attractions

Desert Adventures (Red-Jeep.com) offers a number of excellent tours that include Indian Canyons and the Joshua Tree National Park. Desert Adventures' three-hour San Andreas Fault tour includes a short hike through a desert oasis as well as a very unique jeep ride through a narrow rock canyon that was created by shifting seismic plates. The tour includes a walk through an even narrower rock canyon where tour groups have to squeeze through in single file. If you want to try your hand at horseback riding, Smoke Tree Stables (SmokeTreeStables.com) offers easy guided rides through spectacular desert landscape. One of the tours goes through two of the three Indian Canyons oases as well as the surrounding hillsides.

Thanks to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (PSTramway.com), in the winter you can sunbathe by the pool and play in the snow all in the same afternoon. The tram takes just 10 minutes to get from the tram station to the snowcapped summit of Mount San Jacinto. If you prefer a more urban experience when you travel, check out downtown. Downtown Palm Springs still celebrates every Thursday evening with a street fair known as Village Fest (VillageFest. org). The street is packed with food booths, local vendors and street musicians. A museum trail, located in the heart of downtown, is a good introduction to desert hiking. A new street, Museum Way, gives visitors to the city's main drag, North Palm Canyon Drive, a view of the Palm Springs Art Museum (PSMuseum.org). Many tourists have missed the world-class museum because they never knew it was there. One of Palm Springs' most talked about art exhibits is free 24/7. Babies on the Move is on an empty-lot across from the Rowan and features 10 eight-foot tall sculptures of babies. The babies are scheduled to be there until early 2020, when a residential

■ TOWN Next Page









■ TOWN From Previous Page

building will be built on the lot.

One of the newest and gayest things in Palm Springs is in the air. The nonprofit LGBT radio station KGAY debuted the day after Christmas last year. "The Pride of the Valley" can be heard on 106.6 FM.

Accommodations

One of the biggest draws for visitors to Palm Springs is the city's 15 gay resorts (16 if you count the CCBC resort in neighboring Cathedral City). Although it's common for mainstream hotels in Palm Springs to charge a resort fee, most of the gay resorts do not, despite all the extras. In comparing prices of hotels, be sure to check the resort fee charge, which can be hefty in the mainstream hotels. Among the gay hotels that charge a resort fee are CCBC, Santiago and Hacienda Warm Sands, but Hacienda's fee is inclusive of all tips.

All are male-only resorts, and clothing optional. (The last lesbian resort, Casitas Laquita, closed a few years ago.) With the exception of All Worlds, all offer free continental breakfast and free WiFi; Santiago, Hacienda and Vista Grande even offer a free lunch. InnDulge, Vista Grande and the Bearfoot Inn all throw in a nice perk: free use of the WorkOut Gym, a great small gym that unabashedly promotes itself as gay. The gym also sells day, week and weekend passes, so you can still check it out if you are not staying there.

One of Palm Springs best resorts, InnDulge (InnDulge.com), attracts a very loyal following even in the slower summer months. It's owned by couple Jon Jackson and Sandy Miller, who make everyone feel like family. The nightly free happy hour is a great way to meet fellow guests. Sandy has a knack for remembering names and is great at introducing guests to one another. InnDulge, like most of the Palm Springs gay resorts, attracts guest from all over the world. It is also home to a wonderful play, *Electricity*. The two-actor show is set in a hotel room in the resort and follows the lives of two men from their class reunion in 1983 to 2013. Before the play starts, the audience is invited for a wine and cheese reception in the lobby, and each audience member is given a name of a character referenced in the play. The actors interact with the audience in character before the play begins. Be sure to check out the play even if you are not staying at InnDulge.

The Triangle Inn (Triangle-Inn.com/ triangle-inn-palm-springs) is a great example of why the gay resorts enjoy a big repeat business. Married couple Michael Green and Stephen Boyd have owned the property since 2000 and live on site. That personal touch shows in the quality of the resort. Triangle also has a very unique offering. You can rent the stunning house that adjoins the property with its own private pool with all the privacy you desire, and you can also wander over to mingle with the hotel guests if you desire.

Santiago (SantiagoResort.com) is kitty-corner from Triangle and has undergone extensive renovations in recent years taking an already beautiful property up a notch. The two-story resort



Clothing optional resorts like InnDulge, pictured, are a draw. (Photo courtesy Ed Walsh)



A float at last year's PS Pride. (Photo courtesy Larry Matsui), above, and a band marching in PS Pride in 2018 (Photo courtesy Rex Hoss), below.



overlooks a huge pool and spa and is reminiscent of a Mexican hacienda. The resort offers bicycles for guests and is an easy half-mile walk or bicycle ride to the heart of downtown. (For more information and a complete list of the gay hotels in Palm Springs, visit the city's official travel website, VisitPalmSprings.com, and click on LGBT.)

Nightlife

Gay nightlife first took hold in downtown Palm Springs in 1991 with the opening of StreetBar on E. Arenas Road on what has now become the city's gayest block. But nightlife options are not limited to that block. Just south of downtown, on the edge of the Warm Sands neighborhood on Sunny Dunes Road, is the leather/bear bar Tool Shed and just east of that is the gay store Q Trading Company and Gear Leather

and Fetish. On the north end of the city, be sure to check out Toucans Tiki Lounge. The bar has a popular tiki-themed dance floor and live entertainment. The second, fourth (and fifth) Sundays welcome the very popular drag review Tommi Rose and The Playgirls.

E. Arenas is home to Hunters nightclub, the video bar Quadz, the piano bar Stacy's, the fabulous bar and restaurant BlackBook, the

modern glass-walled Chill bar, and the new kid on the block is Eagle 501 bar, a Levi-leather bar that replaced Score. Shopping options on the block include GayMart, Bear Wear Etc and Rough Trade Leather and Gear.

You can find four gay nightspots in Cathedral City: Barracks, Trunks, Studio One 11, and Runway, which recently opened at Cathedral City Boys Club. By the way, CCBC is the only gay resort in the Greater Palm Spring Area that is outside of the City of Palm Springs.

Since Delilah's closed and eventually reopened as Studio One 11, there are no full-time lesbian bars in Greater Palm Springs. Search Velvet-PS and HerShe Bar Palm Springs in Facebook for a list of special events geared towards gay women. Velvet and Her/She Bar Palm Springs host events at various bars in Palm Springs and Cathedral City.









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Disaster artists



Joaquin Phoenix as the troubled soul who becomes 'Joker.'

Genius takes on different forms in 'Joker' and 'Dolemite Is My Name'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

n the original DC Comics creation, The Joker was one of Batman's better nemeses, known as the Clown Prince of Crime. He was a trickster, maybe a bit mad, but there wasn't much subtance to it. (Remember Cesar Romero's version on the 1960s sitcom.) But Vietnam and Watergate and 9/11 have made even our comic book villains avatars worth deep-seated psychological investigation; Heath Ledger's take was as a man without a past — pure id, the embodiment of chaos. What backstory could justify his embrace of self-destructive anarchy?

The answer comes courtesy of an unlikely source: writer-director Todd Phillips, he of Borat and The Hangover series. That pedigree hardly prepared me to consider his capacity for introspection, even a style as disconcerting as *Joker*.

In Joaquin Phoenix, Phillips has found an equally improbable actor to portray the laughing miscreant, a mentally ill party clown named Arthur Fleck, who's loaded up on Thorazine, Clonazepam and so many other pills he rattles when he walks. Arthur is one of the faceless (almost literally — he's masked behind white pancake) denizens of 1980s Gotham brutalized by a city seized by garbage strikes, vandalism, gang violence and urban decay. He's a victim as much as anyone ... perhaps more so, because he's sick. He's a study in repressed rage and the volcano that bursts forth when that rage needs a release valve.

In that way, Arthur is a kind of Bernie Goetz, a vigilante embodying the frustration of the 99 percenters. But in another, he's a dangerous psychotic... a Travis Bickle. And indeed, the presence of the real Travis Bickle, aka Robert De-Niro, draws inescapable comparisons of Joker to Taxi Driver as well as The King of Comedy. You detect a lot of cognates in Phillips' construct, in fact, which at first seem derivative but which ultimately add more depth; Network and Psycho are also patently alluded to, and even the billionaire industrialist Thomas Wayne comes off as a Trumpian capitalist who treats citizens like detritus (begging the question: Did he get what he deserved?) The power of the film grows with Phoenix's disturbingly brilliant performance (that chilling laugh!) and Phillips' unrelenting bleakness with underlying satire. The message of Joker seems to be, when a city's on fire, let it burn.

By the time Rudy Ray Moore was 45 in the early 1970s, he had done precisely nothing of note in his life, despite his best efforts to be famous for ... something. Then he stumbled on a concept

for his lame standup routine: Creating the character Dolemite, a rhyming, obscene pimp whose vulgarity struck a chord with urban audiences. He decided to ride the wave of popularity and produce and star in his own comedic Blaxsploitation movie, despite knowing zero about filmmaking. The result, *Dolemite*, became a cult hit and spawned a half dozen more schlocky action comedies.

"The accidental genius" should probably be considered a genre in and of itself — movies about "creatives" whose fearlessness combine with ignorance, a trace of passion and enough money to turn out something sensational almost despite their own efforts. Screenwriters Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski have waded through the swamp of darkly comic Horatio Alger tales before, with Ed Wood, The People vs. Larry Flynt, Big Eyes and Man on the Moon, and only the subject of the last one (Andy Kaufman) could be considered the result of intentional talent rather than charlatanism; add to that catalogue *Dolemite Is My Name*. Even more than their other films, this one calls to mind another one they did not write, The Disaster Artist,



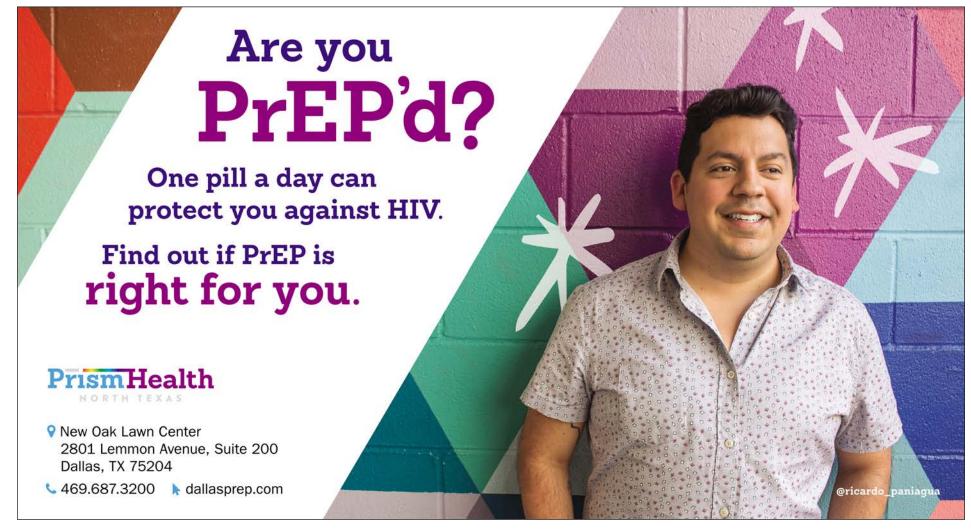
Eddie Murphy has aged into his perfect role: A ballsy hustler with a pimp swagger and a foul-mouthed standup set in 'Dolemite Is My Name.

being about a first-time filmmaker who achieves unlikely heroic status, only Rudy Ray Moore, played by Eddie Murphy, is less of a buffoon that Tommy Wiseau; he's scrappy and naive, but he does have a skillset at making people laugh... not unlike Murphy himself.

He's been playing a variation on this character since he shot to stardom in the

early '80s — the overly confident, fast-talking hustler destined either for riches or panhandling, but nothing in between. Murphy has aged into the persona with his charisma and some acting chops intact. His performance is magnetic, even if this style of biopic is reductive (the hero always seems to "discover" a path that should have been obvious).

He's great, but it's actually Wesley Snipes as the pompous self-important director who steals his scenes with a combination of being seemingly drunk and effete. If the story spins out predictably, it nevertheless managers plenty of laughs and reminds some of us a time when Eddie Murphy was comedy. It's like getting two rediscoveries in one.



L+S halloween

It's the Great Pumpkin, Dallas!

Arboretum debuts Peanuts kids in pumpkin village

he Dallas Arboretum has hosted its themed pumpkin patch display — where more than 100,000 gourds of the squash variety are turned into a colorful vegetable village — for 14 years, and each year organizers pick a theme, whether Peter Pan or The Wizard of Oz. But while a theme based



dazzling pumpkins. But you have to act quickly — this year the village, which usually runs through Thanksgiving or so, ends precisely on Oct. 31, and like the Great Pumpkin himself, when Halloween ends, so do the Peanuts kids.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. 8525 Garland Road. Through Oct. 31. DallasArboretum.org.

on the Peanuts characters and the Great Pumpkin would have been a natural fit, it never happened due to licensing rights for Charlie Brown and Co.

Well, that drought has ended finally, with Linus, Snoopy, Peppermint Patty and friends welcoming families of all ages to wander through their grove of



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■ Tegan From Page 21

experiencing any mainstream attention. Elliott Roberts, who signed us, who was Neil Young's manager and sadly passed away recently, was briefly managing Billy Corgan. It was Billy Corgan's birthday and Elliott called the hotel where we were staying in Chicago and said, "They're having a birthday party for Billy. I'm trying to get you an opening slot on a tour of his. He's aware of you and he loves the song. Would you like to come to his birthday party and play the song?" Sara and I were like, "Oh my God, no!" I'm no different at 38 than I was at 24. I'm horrified to meet famous people, especially people that I respect and love. You get so nervous! We were so awkward about it. At the last moment we told everyone on our team that we were going to go by ourselves. We didn't want to show up with our gear. We're just going to go and say hi. They were all so mad at us because they thought we were stealing their opportunity to meet Billy. Our drummer was so mad. We get to the party and his tour manager knew who we were. He came over and said he would introduce us to Billy. He took us over and introduced us, saying that Elliott manages us. He said, "Hi." Like he had no idea who we were or if he did know he didn't say. We just spiraled. It was cute, I'm sure. We were like [gushing], "Oh my God, we love you so much! We've been obsessed with you since the nineties. One time we slept in a parking lot to get tickets to the Melon Collie and the Infinite Sadness Tour. We love you so much! We weren't sure if we should come. Elliott told us to bring our guitars, but we didn't want to. We left our band at the hotel. We hope it's okay if we come back with them." He just sort of stared at us and then he said, "Oh yeah, Elliott told me who you are. You can come back as long as your band's not weird." We told him they aren't weird and he said it was all right to come back with them. He walked off and we went back to the hotel. We told the band we can't go

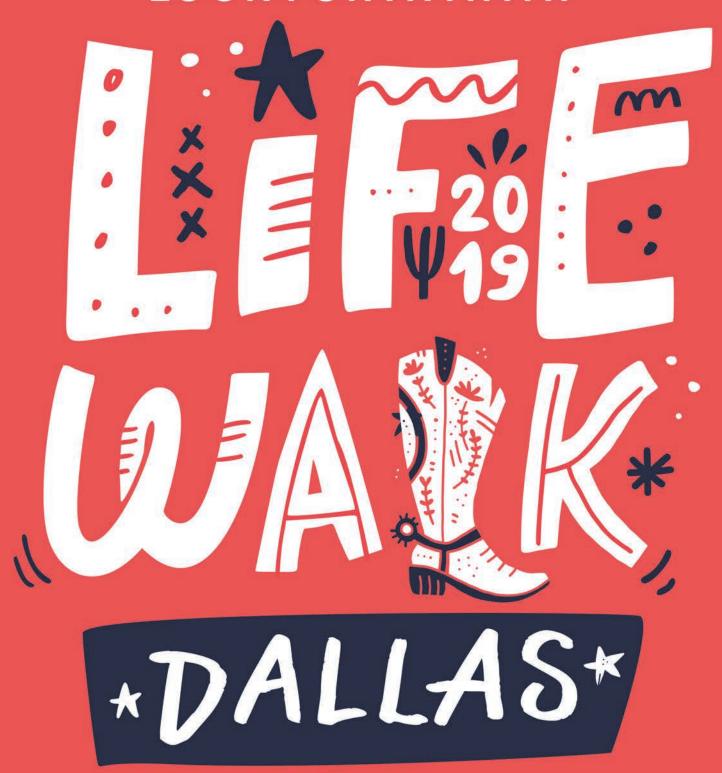


back. They were all so mad at us!

While working on High School, you and Sara unearthed lost cassettes of early songs that you then recorded for what would become the Hey I'm Just Like You album. Did you immediately recognize the Tegan of that time or did she feel like someone else to you? [Laughs] I did recognize me. If anything, I think what's been shocking about this process is how little I feel like I've changed. You go back and you think, "Oh my God, how silly or how ridiculous or how different or I've become so much better than I was." The truth is that, Sara and I, because of our queer identity and because we established that we were musicians in high school and started to build our career right away, I think a lot of our identity was developed at that time. That may not necessarily be common. I think a lot of young people find themselves in college or those first few years out of their parents' house. But I think probably as a product of being left alone a lot, a lot of responsibility was put on our shoulders, understandably. When I go back and see the journals and the videos and I hear the songs, I see a lot of the person that I am today. I'm proud of that. I think we were really advanced for our age and we had to grow up guick. I'm glad we established so much of who we felt we were during that time. I think that helped us get ahead.



LOOK FOR AVITA AT



AVILA PHARMACY



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Friday 10.04 – **Sunday** 10.27

Everyone's favorite Transylvanian vamps it up at T3

To begin its 58th season, Theatre 3 presents a spooktacular world premiere for Halloween. The version of *Dracula*, written by local playwright Michael Federico, offers an original, feminist take on Bram Stoker's horror classic. Told through the eyes of Dracula's mistress Mina, this tale follows the undead count of Romanian folklore and his lover in the darkest, bloodiest pocket of Transylvania.

DEETS: Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. Theatre3Dallas.com.



Friday 10.04 – **Saturday** 10.19

WingSpan presents Two by Beckett

WingSpan Theater Co. has always specialized on daring, feminist angles for theater and, for its 22nd season opener, is showcasing two thought-provoking one-act plays by Samuel Beckett. First, Jennifer Kuenzer takes the stage in *Footfalls*, a story about an unseen mother's will to help her lonely daughter endure life behind the door of a sickroom. Next, Susan Sargeant performs in *Not I*, a conceptual piece which follows a woman revealing vulnerable aspects of the human condition through her experience.

DEETS: Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. WingSpanTheatre.com.



Friday 10.11

East burgers for a cause

DIFFA Dallas has come up with a variety of fun fundraisers, but one of the most enduring is Burgers & Burgundy, which takes a culinary spin to raise money for those affected by HIV/AIDS. A dozen renowned chefs, including celeb chef

Actual Advanced Skin Fitness Patient

John Tesar, will serve delectable sliders paired with wines for this year's feather fete-themed event at Klyde Warren Park. Toss on your feather boa and grab some gourmet grub as DIFFA strolls into its 30th year fighting infectious disease across North Texas.

DEETS: Klyde Warren Park, 2012 Woodall Rodgers Freeway. 6:30 p.m. \$150. DIFFADallas.org.





advancedskinfitness.com

calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Dracula. A feminist spin on the vampire story, from Michael Federico and Christie Vela. A world premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Oct. 3-27. Theatre3Dallascom.

In the Heights. Lin-Manuel Miranda's other hip-hop musical, set in a mixed neighborhood of Manhattan during a hot summer week. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 20. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

A Love Offering. World premiere by local gay playwright Jonathan Norton. Directed by Tina Parker. Presented by Kitcen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Oct. 27. KitchenDogTheaterlorg

Red Chariot. A world premiere science fiction thriller by Gordon Dahlquist. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Oct. 13. Undermain.org.

Two by Beckett. WingSpan Theatre, which has always focused on challenging plays that address gender issues, celebrates its 22nd season with two one-act solo shows by Samuel Beckett: Footfalls (with Jennifer Kuenzer) and Not I (with artistic director Susan Sargeant). Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Oct. 27. WingSpanTheatre.org.

What We Were by Blake Hackler. World

premiere about three sisters coping with a history of abuse. A co-production with Second Thought Theatre, the production has moved to Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through Oct. 19. CircleTheatre.com

BALLET

The Sleeping Beauty. Sir Ben Stevenson, TBT's artistic director, celebrates 50 years in the U.S. (and 16 seasons with TBT) with this production of a Tchaikovsky classic. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Oct. 18-20. BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.org.

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. Through Oct. 27 (extended). DMA.org.

A Sampling of Contemporary

Portraiture. An exhibition of the work of five photographers producing compelling new examples of portraiture. Afterimage Gallery, 2613B Fairmount St. Through Nov. 4. AfterimageGallery.com.

FRIDAY 10.04

DANCE

Ronald Brown/Evidence. The acclaimed dance company performs, courtesy of TITAS/ Dance Unbound. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

SATURDAY 10.05

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

SUNDAY 10.06

COMEDY

Queer Queens of Qomedy. Poppy Champlin, Sandra Valls and KeLanna Spiller turn on the laughter for this lesbionic comedy set. Hyena's Comedy Club, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. \$25 general admission.

MONDAY 10.07

CABARET

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

TUESDAY 10.08

Singin' in the Rain. Often called the greatest movie musical of all time, this behind the scenes romp through early Hollywood is a delight and the pinnacle of MGM's dream machine. 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.

WEDNESDAY 10.09

CIRCUS

Circus Kerwich. Lone Star Circus presents its first-ever "under the big top tent" show for one week only. The Friday night performance is an intimate adults-only show. Dallas Farmers Market, 1010 S. Pearl Expressway (near The Shed). Oct. 9-13. LoneStadCircus.org.

this week's solution

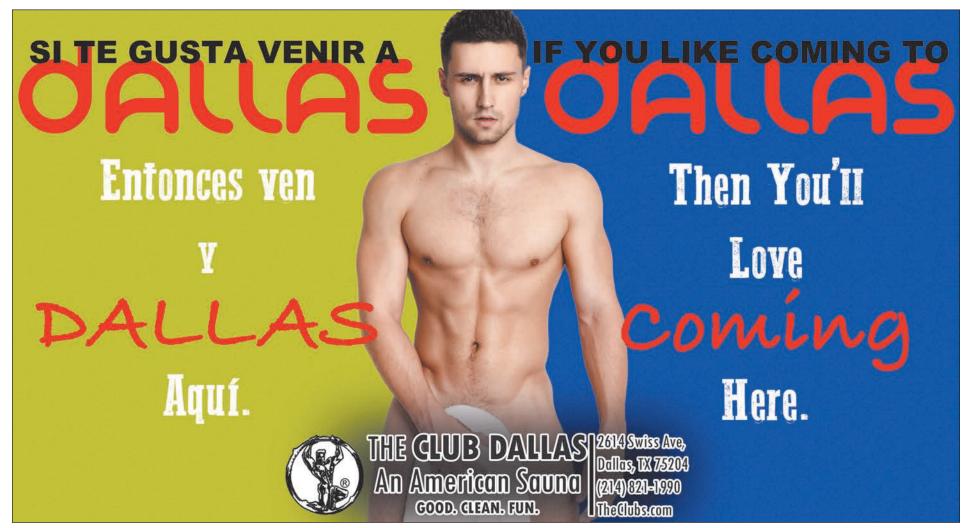


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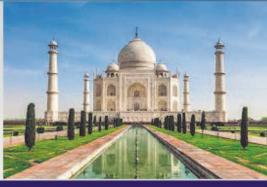
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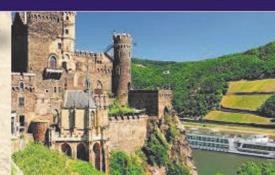
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POLITICAL

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214-528-0144 | info@dgla.com | DGLA.com

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Girl on girls

Jenny Block on spending time apart

I know a couple who only spent one night apart their entire 20-year relationship. I know another couple who spend two nights

of every week together and the rest apart for the whole of their 20-year relationship. Most couples I know are more like the former, very few like the latter. But one thing I am sure of is this: The majority of couples need room to breathe. Without it, they suffocate.

The misnomer is that if you want any time apart, you are not really that in love with your partner; otherwise, why wouldn't you want to spend every living, waking, breathing moment together? I'll tell you why: Because if you do that, you don't have the chance to be your own person. And if you don't each have the opportunity to be your own person, you don't have anything to bring to the table. Not a thing.

I love my wife. A lot. I feel crazy lucky that we found one another. I feel that way for a lot of reasons. She's sweet. She's funny. She's ferocious when it comes to protecting me and all of the people she loves. She also gets that the more I am able to take adventures out into the world — to travel, whether for work or

play or volunteering — the more whole I am and the better partner I can be.

It's a direct correlation. It's a firm connection between my freedom to roam and my ability to love fully. And it's not just the "If you love something set it free. If it comes back to you, the love is true and if it never returns, it was never to be yours." I have zero interest in other people romantically or sexually. But I have 100 percent interest in

being in the world.

For me, that translates to traveling. For others, it might be a certain job or time alone with friends or some kind of volunteer work or extracurricular activity like playing softball or bowling on a league or talking about books every month over coffee. It's about time and space and letting your partner be

hey, every couple is different. That couple I mentioned who only spent one night apart would not have wanted it any other way.

But for most of us, to spend time apart — to honor separate interests, to grow and stretch and discover all kinds of things to bring home and share — that is one of the greatest gifts of being in a couple. Sharing is

ities and socializing together, such conduct says a lot about them or what they think of you. Where is the trust? Where is the interest in your growth and well-being as a human? Where is the love and the understanding? Where is their own self-worth? That is all rhetorical, of course. If your partner feels the needs to chain you up — or you feel the

need to chain up your partner

— you're missing the point.

No one can soar with clipped wings.

My wife misses me when I travel (she says!), and I miss her. When I overbook and am away more than I'm home, and when I am home but exhausted, she reminds me that too much of a good thing is not a good thing anymore. But mostly, being apart helps us to relish the time we're together, and that time apart crafts us into the people we are. When I'm not home, my wife can spend time alone with her friends and work on the boat and watch black and white movies and listen to her favorite '80s gay anthems.

Then, when I get home, we each have stories to tell and experiences to share and we are over the moon to see one another. Same goes for when she gets back from a work trip and I've been at the house keeping the home fires burning. It's good to be together and it's good to be apart and more than anything it's good to let your partner be who she or he is. If you don't, they won't likely stay. And if they do, you won't get the

best version of who they could be.

Let her go on that trip. Let him join that team. Let her try that hobby. Let him practice that sport. Just let go. Because there is one thing I know for sure: Holding too tightly has never breathed life into any relationship, it's only smothered it.

Have a topic for Jenny? Email her at GirlonGirls@gmail.com.



more than just your partner. It's about allowing them to be an individual.

If you think about it for even a minute, it just makes sense. If you are together every second of every day doing the very same thing, what is there to share, to talk about, to discuss, to explore? Yes, it's great to travel and play games together, to binge watch Hulu and take long walks as a couple. And

half the fun, but only half. You have to have something to share apart from the other's experience. Without it, you stagnate. And that is one of the scariest prospects of all, dulling to the point of losing the shine that made you the couple you once were.

And this is true without mentioning that if you're with someone who insists you stay home, you only travel with them, do all activ-

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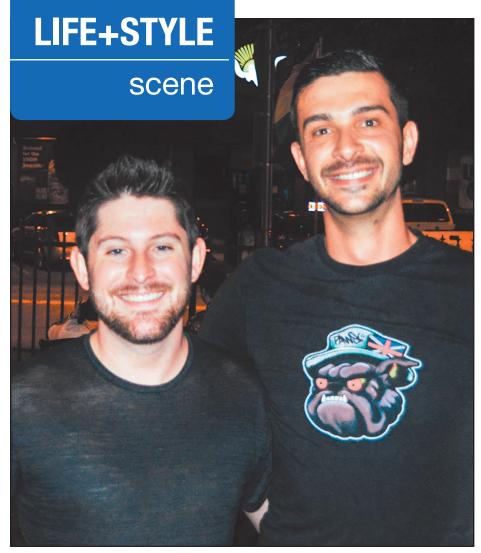


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Out on the Strip

Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 4-10:

- 1851 Club: Sapphire Davenport, Aundra Mikyles and Barbie Davenport on Friday.

 Candi Carroll, Kristie Davenport and Caress Riata on Saturday.
- Alexandre's: Girls' Night Out with Peggy Honea on Saturday. Karaoke with Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Sings Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- Cedar Springs Tap House: Tacos and Trivia from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday.
- · Club Changes: Divine Miss Divas Bond Girls at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.
- · Club Reflection: A Night at the Haunted Manor Show at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire Candidate Show from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Dirty Pop with DJ Drew G from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday.
 Dallas Diablos Cookout from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- Havana: Showtime at 10 p.m. on Thursday.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Dragula Season 3 Watch Party with Bleach at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Liquid Zoo: Cher-e-Oke from 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. on Friday, Saturday and Wednesday.
- Marty's Live: Miss Wanda from 9 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Dragula Watch Party at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.
 Drag Race UK Watch Party
 - at 9 p.m. on Thursday. Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- Sue Ellen's: Mescaline Americans and The Mojo Dolls on Sunday.
 Queerdom at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- The Rose Room: Ms. Gay Kickball Universe with winners from Houston, Dallas, Boston, Tucson and Denver at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays at TMC.
- Urban Cowboy: Evah Destruction's Dragula Viewing Party at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth



Biscuit and Brian at Woodys



Keeping things safe on the Strip



Enjoying a night out on the Strip





Keeping food tasty at Panda's



A friendly hug on the Strip

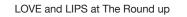


Bar industry smiles on the Strip











Hot on the TMC patio







Marissah Star at The Round-Up

Getting close at The Round-Up

Smiles for the camera



Mike, Jess and Brad on the Strip



Squad goals on the Strip



The gangs all hre at Woody's



Chillin' at TMC



Enjoying the evening at Sue Ellen's



Pouring up fun at TMC



Kelly at The Round-Up



TMC dancers

The HRC National Dinner in D.C.



Ricky Martin, above, and John Denby and friends in the house in D.C.



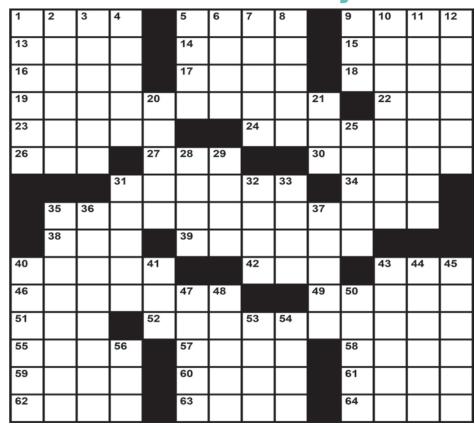






q-puzzle

Satan Satorially



Solution on Page 32

Across

- 1 Common connections
- 5 Go in only partway, at the beach
- 9 "How queer!"
- 13 Honeypot lover
- 14 Anal alternative
- 15 Etheridge concert series
- 16 Shirley's la Douce role
- 17 ___ Hari
- 18 Low-voiced lady
- 19 She plays Ms. Charlton in a fashion industry flick
- 22 Log Cabin org.
- 23 Pound poem part
- 24 Wireless inventor
- 26 "Can't Get It Out of
- My Head" band
- ny nead band
- 27 Young ___ (kids, to Gomer)
- 30 John, who is working on a musical version of a fashion industry flick
- 31 2009 James Cameron film
- 34 Bit of resistance on the circuit
- 35 She plays Ms. Sachs in a fashion industry flick
- 38 Long, in Hawaii
- 39 Like clothing after an orgy

- 40 With 52-Across, *The* ___ (fashion industry flick)
- 42 Pleased sound
- 43 R. Simmons' loss
- 46 "Fabu!"
- 49 Like Everett, as a movie husband
- 51 Bellows on the set
- 52 See 40-Across
- 55 Hertz competitor
- 57 Brisk pace
- 58 "___ a Kick out of You"
- 59 Sexy clothing material
- 60 Lohengrin soprano
- 61 Go downhill fast?
- 62 Concerning
- 63 Phillippe of Gosford Park
- 64 Staying power, in *Variety*

Down

- 1 Singly
- 2 Tom Wilkinson's trans film
- 3 Tile with pips
- 4 Commandment word
- 5 Orientation location, some say
- 6 Inland Asian sea
- 7 Bit spit out by a computer
- 8 Writer Dykewomon
- 9 Vowel for Socrates

- 10 Vidal's Live from ___
- 11 What a Subaru Forester gives a lesbian?
- 12 Visit casually
- 20 ___ Got Mail
- 21 Threesome for Marcella Hazan
- 25 Performer with a big mouth?
- 28 "Ixnay" and "No way"
- 29 RBI to Glenn Burke
- 31 Lover of Henry and June
- 32 Blade brand
- 33 Daughter of Uranus
- 35 Pub proprietresses
- 36 Stein, for one
- 37 What S&M people are as smart as?
- 40 Explorer Vasco_
- 41 Down in the dumps
- 43 A ___ of Their Own
- 44 Homophobe, e.g.
- 45 Stonewall candidate
- 47 What to scan in poetry
- 48 Before the cock rises
- 50 A dentist may stick it in your mouth
- 53 Lorca's pink
- 54 Gay-dog owner of *South Park*
- 56 *The L Word's* old network



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