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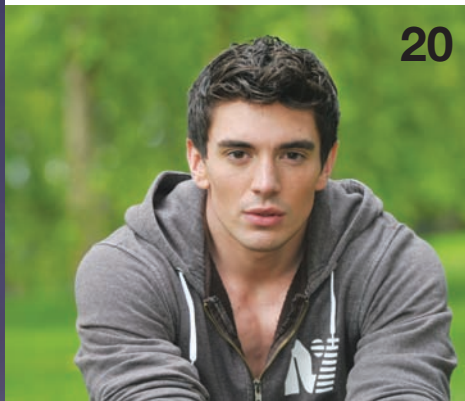
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Casey Williams, right, and his husband Jarrod.

Dallas Voice contributor gets hitched in Indiana

Casey Williams, Dallas Voice's automotive reviewer (including one of our favorite features, his witty Butch v. Femme headlamp-to-headlamp pairings) is officially married. Casey, who now lives in Indiana, took advantage of the state's recent entrance into the marriage equality fraternity and wed his longtime partner Jarrod yesterday.

"[The federal judge's ruling] will probably get [stayed], but there's nothing they can do about our marriage ... finally!" he said.

It's been a momentous few days for Casey in other ways. He and Jarrod are back at the courthouse today to finalize the adoption of their child. Still, he insists he will not review only cars with Baby On Board window stickers.

Congrats, Casey and Jarrod!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Rawlings votes for marriage resolution at mayors conference

At its meeting in Dallas, the Conference of Mayors overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling on the federal courts to end marriage discrimination against same-sex couples.

Among the mayors submitting the resolution were the mayors of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Antonio and Phoenix.

While Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings was not one of the sponsors, his spokesman, Sam Merten, said he was not present when the vote was taken but instructed U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO Tom Cochran to have the record reflect he voted in favor of the resolution.

"I have personally supported marriage equality for

years and was glad that I had the opportunity to cast my vote in favor of this resolution," Rawlings told Dallas Voice.

Rawlings has told Dallas Voice in the past he supports marriage equality but wouldn't sign the Freedom to Marry pledge that other Top-10 city mayors signed.

— David Taffet

Tenth Circuit upholds marriage equality in Utah

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the lower court ruling in the Utah marriage discrimination case — Kitchen v. Herbert — that the U.S. Constitution guarantees same-sex couples due process and equal protection.

This is the first ruling by an appellate court since the landmark U.S. v. Windsor case was decided last June, striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act and instructing the federal government to recognize marriages of same-sex couples.

"Today's decision by the Tenth Circuit affirms the fundamental principles of equality and fairness and the common humanity of gay and lesbian people," said Peggy Tomsic, one of the attorneys in the case. "As the Court recognized, these families are part of Utah's community, and equal protection requires that they be given the same legal protections and respect as other families in this state. The Court's ruling is a victory not only for the courageous couples who brought this case, but for our entire state and every state within the Tenth Circuit."

The 10th Circuit also heard the Oklahoma marriage discrimination case the same day, and is expected to hand down its ruling in the case any time now.

— David Taffet



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localbriefs

National HIV Testing Day

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day. AmFAR — the American Foundation for AIDS Research — estimates that of the 1.1 million Americans with HIV, 20 percent don't know they are a carrier and many of those who have tested positive didn't find out until years after they were infected.

Greater Than AIDS has been out in full force this month with 10,000 new "I Got Tested" billboards and national TV and radio spots. Early diagnosis and treatment improves health, extends life and helps prevent the spread of the disease.

Free testing is available on Cedar Springs Road at Out of the Closet and the Nelson Tebedo Clinic. Dallas County Health Department, AIDS Arms and Abounding Prosperity also offer free AIDS testing.

Stonewall at the convention

In reaction to the Texas Republican Party platform that calls for reparative therapy for gays and lesbians, the LGBT caucus, Texas Stonewall Democrats, have been attending the Democratic Party Convention under the banner "We don't need fixin'."

The convention continues through Jan. 29 at the Dallas Convention Center. While other cau-

ses have been assigned conference rooms for their meetings, Texas Stonewall Democrats was assigned the main convention floor on June 27 at noon for its caucus.

Queerbomb Dallas Main Event

Queerbomb Dallas's Main Event, billed as Dallas' non-corporate Pride event, begins June 28 with a rally, then continues with a procession and ends with a dance party.

Gather at Julius Schepps Park, on Henry Street at Canton Street in Deep Ellum at 7 p.m. for the Speaker's Corner. The rally begins at 8 p.m. with DJ Collin Bass and emcee Meg Hargis.

The procession steps off at 9 p.m. and proceeds into Deep Ellum down Commerce Street to Hall and then onto Main Street.

The Queerbomb Ball takes place at The Quixotic World, 2824 Main St. Austin's DJ Boyfriend spins for the event that continues until 2 a.m. Free.

LGBT Pride Month Day of Giving

Members of the LGBT community will volunteer at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N. Westmoreland Road on June 28 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. They will do a variety of chores from cleaning windows to making dog treats. ■

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Rainbow Lounge raid: Five years later

Impact of the raid on a Cowtown gay bar in 2009 continues to be felt in Fort Worth and beyond

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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It was just after midnight on July 29, 2009 — officially, the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York, the 40th birthday of the modern gay rights movement — when a team of agents with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and officers with the Fort Worth Police Department went into the newly opened Rainbow Lounge.

What ostensibly started as a bar check quickly became a bar raid. More than a dozen patrons were detained and taken outside the club for questioning. Seven were handcuffed and arrested for public intoxication and other charges. And as horrified patrons looked on, a young man named Chad Gibson was thrown to the floor and handcuffed.

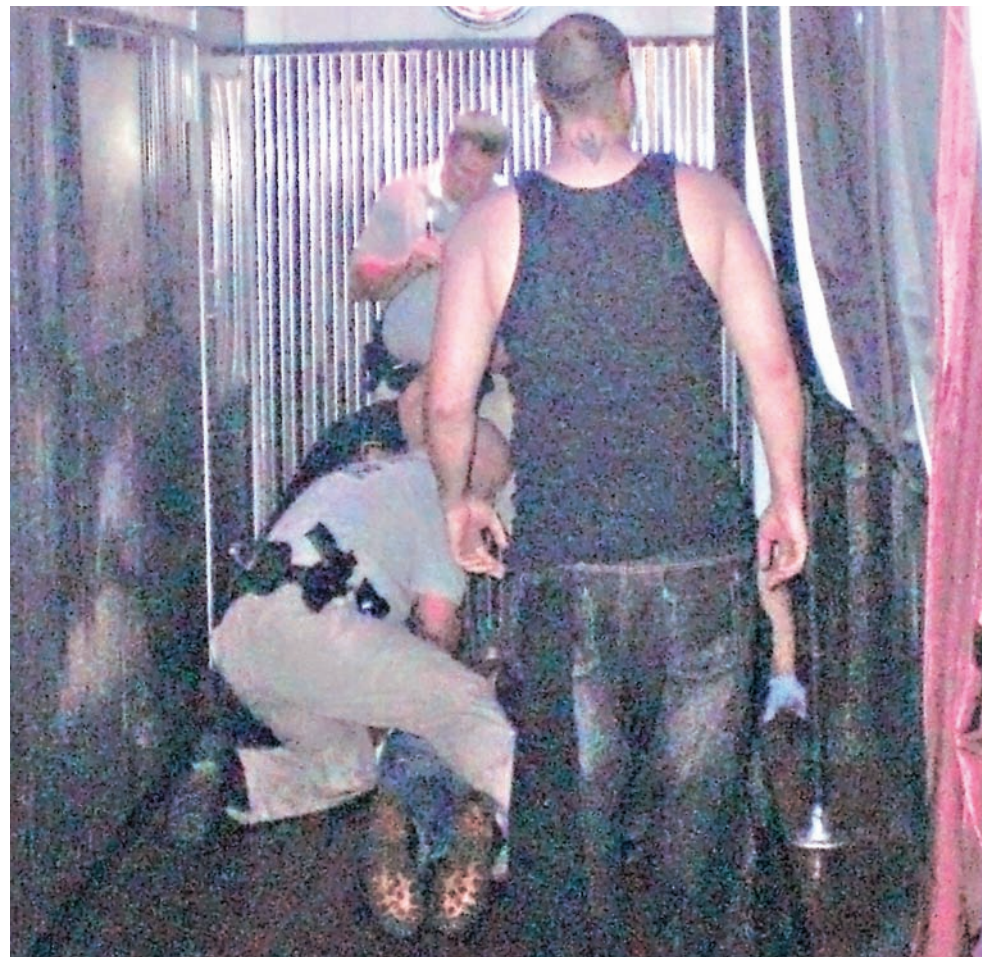
Witnesses inside the bar — including activist and Q Cinema founder Todd Camp and an accountant named Tom Anable who was there checking receipts for the bar's owners — said that TABC agents' assault on Gibson was unprovoked. They said the agents grabbed the intoxicated man and slammed him facedown on the floor, banging his head on the edge of a raised platform near the back of the bar, before handcuffing him and taking him outside. Agents said that Gibson stumbled and fell of his own accord outside the bar, hitting his head on the concrete sidewalk.

Either way, Gibson ended up hospitalized with a head injury, including bleeding in his brain. And the city of Fort Worth and the TABC ended up at the middle of an international uproar within hours, thanks to the power of the Internet and social media.

The initial responses by city and state officials sparked even more outrage: In his first statement to the press regarding the incident, Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead suggested Rainbow Lounge's gay patrons had provoked the response by groping officers and making sexual advances. Those same leaders soon began working to mend fences.

Within days, a group of LGBT community leaders — including Camp, Anable, attorney Jon Nelson and church leader the Rev. Carol West — had formed Fairness Fort Worth. Initially intended to coordinate community response to the raid and resources for those who were arrested, FFW soon morphed into the city's first LGBT activist/educational organization, using connections with city leaders such as gay Councilman Joel Burns and lesbian Human Relations Commission member Lisa Thomas to reach out to Halstead and other city officials.

With an astounding speed to those used to



ROUGH HANDLING | Witnesses said TABC agents and Fort Worth PD officers injured Chad Gibson when they threw him to the floor inside the bar and handcuffed him. (Courtesy photo)

working for years for progress, Halstead had appointed his department's first-ever LGBT liaison officer, Sara Straten. The City Council approved a wide-ranging nondiscrimination ordinance that surpassed Dallas' similar ordinance by including protections for transgenders. Policies and procedures were changed. The FWPD officers involved in the raid were reprimanded for failing to follow procedures; the TABC fired three agents and reprimanded two others for their parts in the affair.

Carolyn Beck, spokeswoman for TABC, said this week that the impact of that night in Fort Worth continues to be felt at the agency — and that's a good thing.

"I think we have more direct and open lines of communication with the LGBT community, especially in the Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington area," she said. "I am still in touch with some folks I met as a result of the Rainbow Lounge incident and value those relationships for personal and professional reasons. We are a better organization than we were five years ago, and I expect that we will continue to evolve and improve as we find better ways to work with the people we regulate and keep all communities safe."

The Fort Worth City Council also initiated sensitivity training not just for its police officers, but

for all its employees, as did TABC.

It all happened very fast. But five years later, the question is, has it lasted? Has even more progress been made? Current Fairness Fort Worth President David Mack Henderson said this week, the answer is yes.

"Not everything we have asked for has come to fruition," Henderson said. But yes, it is better now, because there is an organization in place here that builds bridges. As long as there is an open dialog continuing, we will make progress.

"When Fairness Fort Worth started out, we were doing what I call brush fire work. But we were also laying the groundwork for something more lasting. That was our biggest success — our ability to create dialog and keep it going."

In those initial hectic months, LGBT activists led by FFW presented city officials with a list of 20 items they wanted to see accomplished. These days, Henderson said, "some of those items have cobwebs on them."

He pointed specifically to the demand that city officials include support for LGBT rights in its legislative agendas at the state and federal levels. For the first couple of years after the raid, Henderson said, the city followed through. "But recently, that language has disappeared. We want to get it back

in there. Some of these things, like the legislative agendas, require maintenance. We as a community have to be vigilant to make sure the city keeps its commitments."

Another area in which there has been progress made, but there is still progress needed involves health insurance benefits for the city's transgender employees. Henderson said city officials have just recently clarified where those benefits stand.

"We have yet to get full health insurance coverage for the city's trans employees. The actual gender reassignment surgery is not covered," he said. "But we have been able to clarify what coverage is offered. This was a matter of equity and current medical need. The city did its homework and they have confirmed that the health plan covers services for transgender employees that would be available to employees of either gender and that are medically necessary."

That means that trans employees who need hormone treatments can get those treatments. It also includes preventative screenings, such as prostate cancer screenings for male-to-female trans employees.

Sensitivity training for city officials has continued and even expanded to Arlington, Henderson confirmed this week. He said FFW recently began LGBT awareness training for all of the Arlington Police Department's employees — sworn officers and civilians. The response so far, he said, has been "very, very good."

"Fairness Fort Worth has been contracted to provide the training and we are actually being compensated for that work," Henderson said. "The corporate world has long known that there is real value in this kind of work and has been willing to compensate those that provide it. It is nice to know that government agencies and others are beginning to recognize that value, too."

There's more. Henderson said that FFW is now able to work directly with Fort Worth Independent School District schools to deal with situations involving bullying. "People know to call us now. Because of our reputation, we can get in the door and we can help these students in crisis situations," he said.

FFW also has access to make sure that FWISD students trying to form gay-straight alliances in their school are allowed to do so, and that they have access to all the same resources as other school groups. The number of GSAs, he said, "is growing exponentially" in Tarrant County, even in the junior high and middle schools.

And FFA has recently undertaken a new project to "provide comprehensive information to all areas high school principals. Not everyone has gotten the memo that the times and the laws have changed. We are here to make sure they know, that they read the laws and that they follow them."

Fairness Fort Worth is moving in new directions, too. The organization has invited experts from



TAKING A TOUR | Resource Center Chief Operating Officer Marisa Elliott, left, takes White House Director of National Drug Policy Michael Botticelli on a tour of the facility before he spoke to counseling students and professionals during his trip to Dallas this week. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

A 'unique' partnership

Director of National Drug Policy Botticelli visits SMU counseling program at Resource Center

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center got a high-profile visitor this week when the White House's Director of National Drug Policy Michael Botticelli dropped in for a tour of the facilities. Botticelli, who is gay and in addiction recovery, visited the center after contacting Southern Methodist University officials about the school's partnership with the Resource Center in offering what he called a unique a counseling program for LGBT people.

Botticelli visited Resource Center on June 23 and, later in the afternoon, spoke to students in SMU's counseling program. After touring Resource Center, he said the work with SMU was a "nice partnership" and something he has rarely seen around the country.

Botticelli said his interest is related to the process of moving the Obama White House's drug policy from a punitive criminal justice solution to putting people in treatment. Since addiction rates in the LGBT community are higher than the population in general, he said he likes SMU's focus on delivering culturally competent therapy.

Botticelli said he is impressed by the LGBT track taught at SMU complimenting the addiction and recovery counseling offered in the program. Sabine Rakos directs the partnership program that places SMU counseling students as interns at Resource Center.

Rakos said most schools offer therapists a course in multi-cultural counseling. That might include one chapter and a single lecture on coun-

seling LGBT clients. She said that leaves most students confused about the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation.

At SMU, students in the LGBT track take three courses: affirmative therapy with lesbian, gay and bisexual clients, affirmative therapy with transgender clients and affirmative therapy with LGBT families and couples.

Rakos said the courses address specific problems facing the LGBT community, including substance abuse, major depression and anxiety disorders. Her program helps counselors understand what they're seeing in the field, she said.

"Someone going through a coming out crisis is often diagnosed bipolar" and, inappropriately, prescribed drugs, she said. In another example, she said, counselors untrained in LGBT issues often determine that if the client were to be less feminine, he wouldn't be bullied.

Rakos said her program breaks down heteronormative stereotypes of what a family should look like and teaches a range of what healthy relationships may look like.

Over the past five years, good research has been done in the LGBT community to create culturally responsive strategies for treating people. Rakos said just being gay-friendly isn't enough: a counselor working in the LGBT community needs to be LGBT-informed. She said she heard recently that a counselor who billed herself as "LGBT-friendly" asked a client if he was the man or the woman in the relationship.

Students take the LGBT track for a wide variety of reasons, Rakos said. About a quarter of the students currently in the program are LGBT. Others have a gay sibling. So for many of the students, the issue is personal.

"We're living in a more open society, and they see the struggle of their friends," Rakos said.

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ONE YEAR LATER | One year after the Rainbow Lounge raid, Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead, center, visited with FFA members the Rev. Carol West and David Mack Henderson during an event at the bar. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

■ **RAID**, From Page 8

Washington, D.C., to come to Fort Worth to “educate our community on the provisions of the Affordable Care Act for LGBT families.”

And in the fall, around the time of the Dallas and Fort Worth Pride celebrations, the organization will stage a fundraiser to honor community members “who have made a difference and who continue to pay it forward,” while at the same time launching FFW’s Legacy Project, which will begin building the resources necessary to provide LGBT community programs in Tarrant County, Henderson said.

There have been setbacks, for the community and at the personal level for many of those involved.

Anable — who had for most of his life stayed out of the realm of activism — was energized by what happened that night at Rainbow Lounge and almost overnight became one of the city’s most out and most outspoken LGBT activists. In January 2010, when FFW incorporated, Anable became the organization’s first president, eventually selling his CPA firm to focus on activism full time.

But a little more than two years later, in August

2012, Anable was dead by his own hand.

“Tom was so closely affiliated with Fairness Fort Worth, that ever since he died there have been rumors it was because of his role with the organization or his activism. But that isn’t true,” Henderson said.

“His death had nothing to do with his work with Fairness Fort Worth. It’s easy to conflate the two, but Tom had his own demons long before Fairness Fort Worth ever came along. Unfortunately, he couldn’t find a better solution for fighting them.”

But there have been many personal victories, too. Tori Van Fleet Kujala, a forensics expert with the Fort Worth PD, became one of the faces of LGBT rights in Tarrant County when she came out at a Fort Worth City Council meeting as a trans woman during the effort to pass a trans-inclusive human rights ordinance. It was a hard decision to make, she said, but it’s one she doesn’t regret.

“It got me into advocacy and helped me accept me and speak to people about my being transsexual,” Kujala said. “You can say that I’m the happiest girl in the world. I’ve got a life and a job that I love, and a husband that loves me dearly. Life is wonderful for me in Fort Worth.” ■

■ **UNIQUE**, From Page 9

Others are specializing in substance abuse. The incidence of substance abuse in the community is high so, during their fieldwork, those students have found they will be dealing with people who are LGBT.

Virginia Laney is finishing her masters in counseling at SMU and co-facilitates a support group for people with HIV at Resource Center as part of her internship. She said her interest began with LGBT friends of hers.

“Coming here has taught me about the diversity within the gay community,” she said, speaking between appointments with clients at Resource Center. She added that she’s learned to push past her own biases.

“Each person is unique, with their own story,” she said. “Who you are should be celebrated.”

In the HIV support group, interns have come and gone since the group began several years

ago, Laney said. What she loves about the group is they get to help train the therapist.

Laney said she enjoys the interaction as people in the group help each other with resources and talk about what works for them. She’s learned what works and what doesn’t work in HIV treatment, especially for those who may be marginalized. But she said she loves that members of the group taught her to be a better therapist as they’ve opened themselves up to her.

SMU’s partnership with Resource Center is about five years old and began with a friendship between the center’s CEO, Cece Cox, and SMU Dean David Chard. Counseling interns already serve about 300 clients a year, and the program is expanding to work with Youth First. Rakos said that presents a variety of new issues in dealing with LGBT youth who are coming out younger than ever. ■

To contact SMU’s program at Resource Center, call 214-393-3680.

Remembering the real Sally Ride

Author Lynn Sherr writes about how the American astronaut kept her private life very private

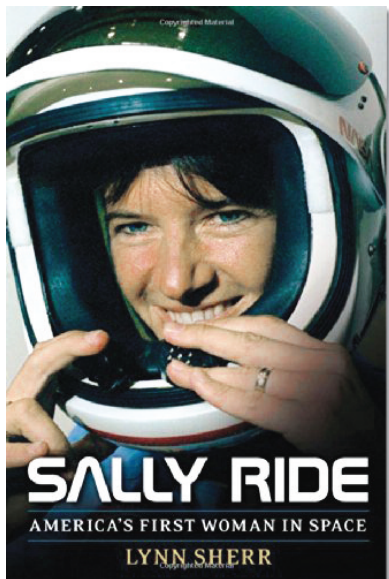
DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Sally Ride made history in 1983 when she became the first American woman in space. But when she died in 2012, it was one line in her obituary that dominated the news: "She is survived by her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy."

The heroic astronaut was a lesbian and no one, outside of a small circle of friends and family, knew it. She kept quite a few things about her life private, including her final illness.

One of those surprised by the revelation was ABC broadcaster Lynn Sherr. Sherr had been covering Ride since NASA recruited its first group of women into the astronaut corps. Over the years, the two had become friends, but she had no idea Ride and O'Shaughnessy were in a relationship and she didn't know about Ride's cancer until the day she died.

Ride fiercely guarded the truth, Sherr discovered while writing the new biography *Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space*. When Sherr was in California in the spring of 2012, she called Ride to plan a get-together. The day they were supposed to meet, Ride



phoned Sherr to say she had the stomach flu and had to cancel. It was only after Ride's death that Sherr learned from O'Shaughnessy Ride was, in fact, weak that day from a round of chemotherapy.

Sherr said Ride lived her life on five-year plans. In college, Ride had a relationship with another student named Molly. The two loved each other, Molly told Sherr after Ride's death, but they had no plans for the relationship to extend beyond college. Both expected to marry and have children.

After joining NASA, Ride married fellow astronaut Steve Hawley. Their marriage lasted five years.

When O'Shaughnessy and Ride got together, O'Shaughnessy was ready to commit for the rest of their lives. Ride could only promise five years, so every fifth anniversary O'Shaughnessy would ask Ride if she was ready to re-up for another five.

With the revelation of Ride's sexual orientation after her death, more criticism came from the LGBT community than from conservatives. Gays and lesbians saw it as a missed opportunity to show what members of the community could accomplish. O'Shaughnessy didn't see it that way

— the two were too busy accomplishing other things.

Ride joined NASA as part of the first group of astronauts that wasn't white, military, crew-cut, Christian males, so she understood she was joining an agency that was quite traditional. NASA's culture was to present a wholesome image of each of its astronauts. Although many were divorced, that was something never mentioned in official biographies.

As late as 1990, the agency tried to ban gays from the agency. Since that time, things have changed, and today NASA has an active LGBT employee resource group.

After leaving NASA in 1987, Ride became director of the California Space Institute and a professor at University of California San Diego. Later, she and O'Shaughnessy wrote children's books, and she became president of Sally Ride Science to

encourage girls to take an interest in math and science.

Sherr said Ride was discrete about her personal life so that she could reach more girls. Ride was afraid parents in places like Texas would refuse to allow their daughters access to her science materials if they knew she was lesbian.

Despite that, Ride didn't quite live her life in the closet, either. Among her friends was out tennis legend Billie Jean King. The two met when Ride joined the tennis circuit after college. Sherr said she believes King's experience with a palimony suit that cost her all of her endorsement deals

contributed to Ride's desire for privacy.

During the 1960s, each of the original seven astronauts became household names. Other than names remembered from the Challenger and Columbia disasters, Sally Ride's is about the last name widely known from the astronaut corps. Although any of the six women hired by NASA could have been the first American woman in space, Ride had a special way of relating to the public. While she joined NASA to do scientific work, she understood that once chosen to be the first American woman in space meant becoming a role model.

Before her first flight, Ride endured questions like, "Do you weep when things go wrong on the job?" After the Challenger disaster, she was the first person appointed to the investigating commission because of her expertise and her ability to relate to the public that would help NASA regain its credibility.

In Sherr's account, Ride's contributions to science and space exploration add up to a list of achievements for which the LGBT community can take pride.

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viewpoints

A new age of oppression emerges

Identity politics harm the oppressors as well as the ones they target

There are more than 7 billion people living on this planet, with only an estimated 318 million residing in the United States of America, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Despite only housing 4.5 percent of the world's population, the U.S. government has positioned itself to police the world and dictate the lives of others. This mentality has seeped down to all levels of government and community life, even plaguing us at the individual level.

It's a game I like to call identity politics. In most cases it primarily oppresses the targets. But in truth, it affects everyone involved.

We've been doing it this way so why change it? "Don't do that because of this." "You should live like this because of that." I see, hear and read about it happening all time.

Since the beginning of the same-sex marriage debate, many opponents have argued that the institution of marriage has since its inception been a union between one man and one woman. I'm guessing those people never heard of evolution — but that's a topic for another conversation.

The Texas GOP recently voted in favor of



Jalencki Brown

Contributing Writer

that gays and lesbians are broken and can be fixed. But who the heck are they to say LGBT people need fixin'? As a gay man, I don't feel one bit broken.

I've always wondered why so many people feel the need to tell others how they should live their lives. I can empathize when there is a need to protect other people's safety. But there's absolutely no harm to anyone, what is the problem?

LGBT people have always been, and the world hasn't stopped spinning. The 20 states that have approved same-sex marriage all still seem to be operational with no harm to the masses.

One of the most disparaging campaigns I've

“reparative therapy,” a practice that, it's proponents claim, converts homosexuals to heterosexuals. On top of that, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who is Republican, has likened gays and lesbians to alcoholics.

Such statements and actions imply

seen recently in identity politics is the war on Beyonce's baby daughter, Blue Ivy, and her hair. There has been lots of Internet chatter and memes poking fun at Blue's hair and taking jabs at Beyonce and Jay-Z for allowing her hair to exist in such condition. Some are even calling it child abuse. A petition calling for the toddler's parents to comb her hair surfaced on the site change.org.

I support natural hair. I wear my own hair that way. So I didn't see a problem with baby Blue's hair. But I'm also quite familiar with the questionable comments and nasty stares as I get on occasion as a result.

In my opinion, the real problem behind all of this is ignorance. And ignorance is a form of oppression.

But ignorance is only a problem if it goes untested.

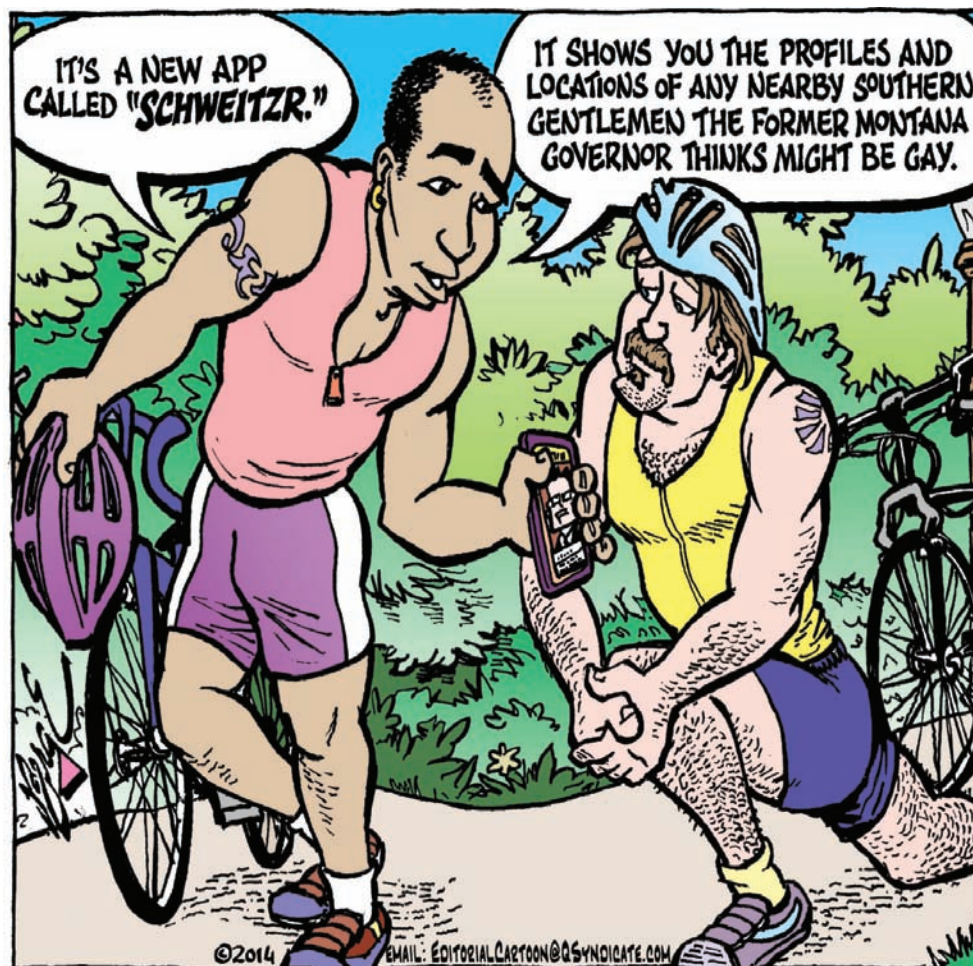
People too often reject the unfamiliar and project the familiar because what's familiar is comfortable. Whether it's religious and philosophical beliefs, academic standards, behavioral norms, or fashion choices, most people only draw from their own experiences. It's almost like they're trying to create other people in their own image, as if they're a deity.

Instead of people projecting their own identity — or reality if you will — onto others, I think it'd be best to see things from others' perspective. See the bigger picture by choosing not to judge. Ask respectful questions if you need understanding.

Those who feel they can tell others how to live their lives not only oppress the people their campaigning for but also oppress themselves. When you rid people of the opportunity to be their authentic self, you forgo the opportunity for creating an authentic experience with them.

I am asking you to join me in calling for love and acceptance for all 7 billion people in the world today. Be a liberator, not an oppressor. ■

Jalencki Brown is United Black Element program coordinator at Resource Center.



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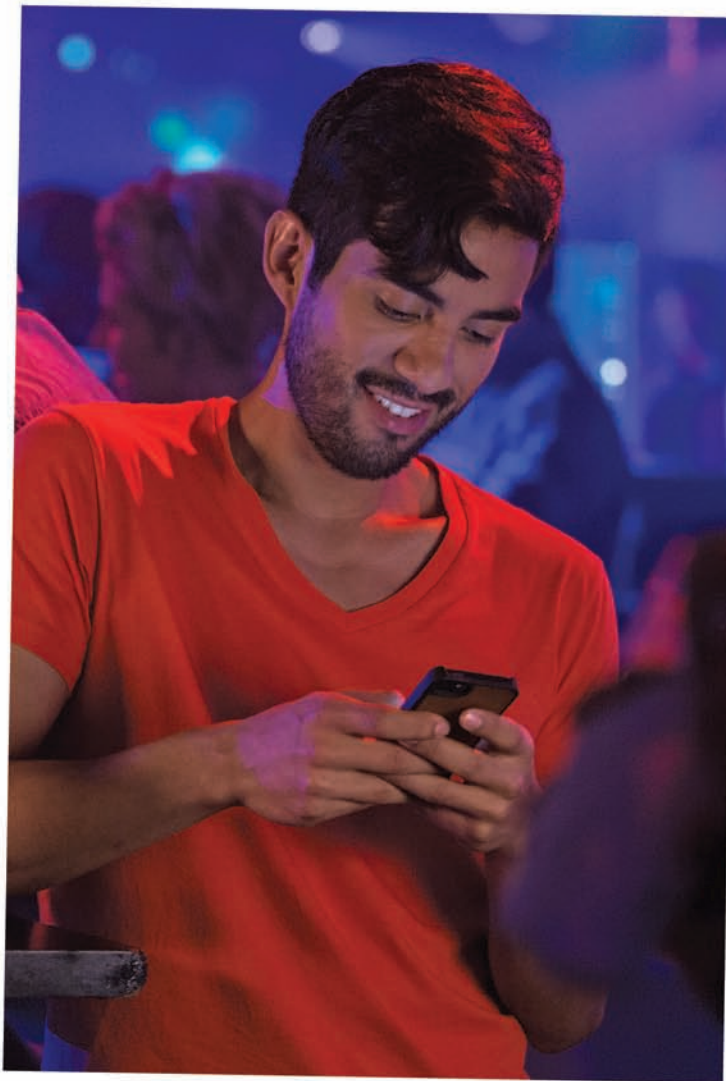
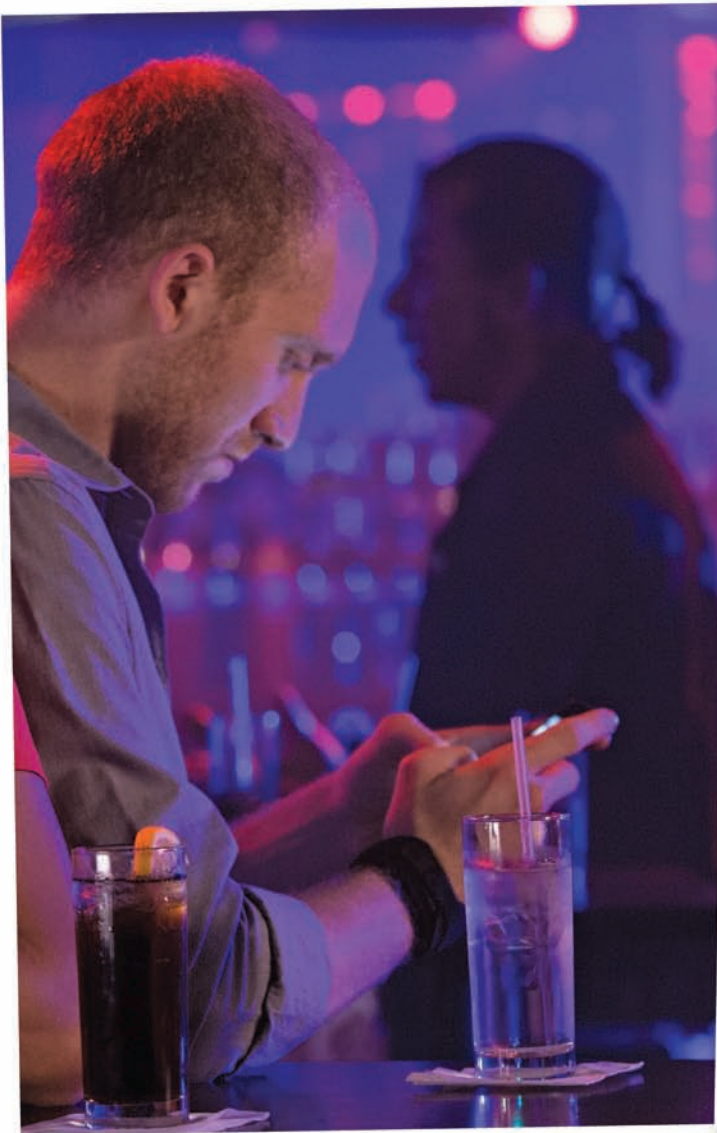
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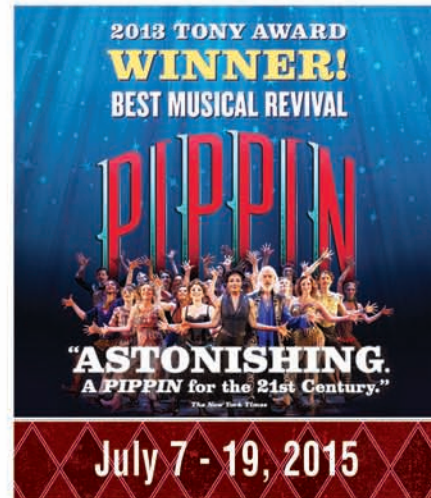
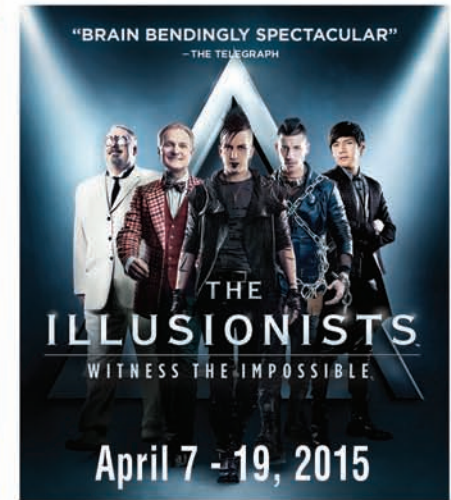
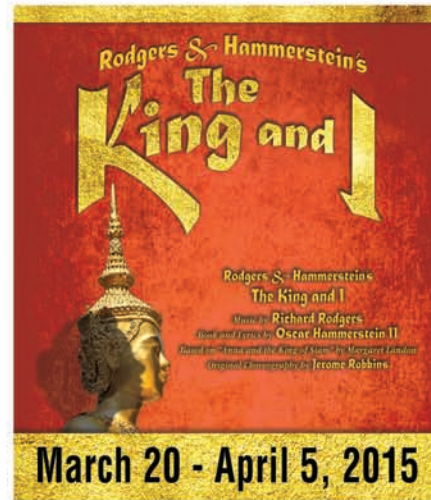
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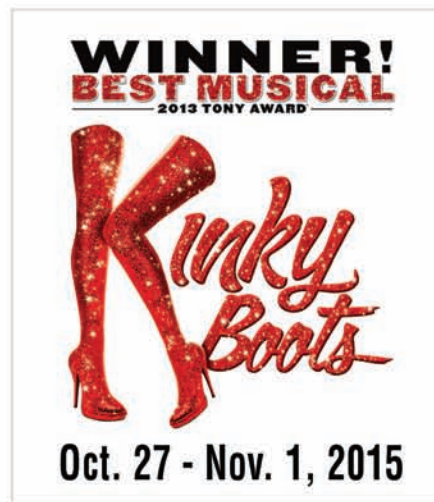
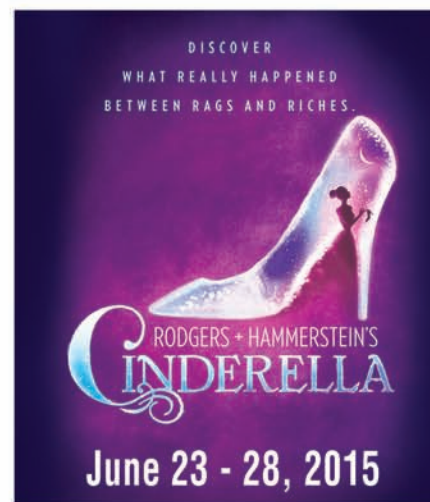


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Grand standing

A sit-down with out musician Steve Grand, after a year of stardom

LIFE+STYLE
music

When we last sat down with gay singer-songwriter Steve Grand last July he was making national headlines for his music video “All-American Boy,” which soon logged more than a million views on YouTube. The song — a sweet, catchy, country-influenced number — was nice, but Grand sang the heck out of it ... *and* was easy on the eyes.

Less than a year later, with a couple more songs and music videos under his belt, Grand launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for his debut album. Grand quickly exceeded his goal, raising nearly \$120,000 in record time (\$40k more than he even asked for). Such a feat speaks volumes about his talent and his devoted fan-base, known affectionately as the GrandFam.

Grand — who was one of the Out 100 in 2013 and is still as down-to-earth as they come, and who was recently announced to be the live entertainment at the Black Tie Dinner this fall — took a break from recording his debut disc to answer a few questions.

— Gregg Shapiro



Dallas Voice: Around this time last year, your video “All-American Boy” reached a million views on YouTube and you were getting national attention. When you look back on that time, what stands out? Steve Grand: It’s hard to [name just one thing], there’ve been so many incredible things that have happened. One [is] the continued support of my fans, who I love so much. When I was on my little tour they came out in droves. It was so incredible to meet them at each and every show. I remember a specific show in San Diego at Urban Mo’s; we packed the place. Everyone brought such great energy to the room and there was so much love in the room and this outpouring of support. It felt like a little family. It’s been so great to meet people like that and hear the stories that they’ve shared with me and watching the fan-base grow every single day. I started my Facebook page when my video went up on July 2 and [a couple of days ago], it passed over 100,000 “Likes.” The GrandFam, as I love to call them and they love to call themselves, has grown so much. It’s not the number that matters to me, it’s that they’re still the most incredible, loving fans. They’re so positive and supporting of each other. That’s something I’ve been so blessed to witness. Not only are they there to support the music, but they’re there because they care about each other.

What makes you say that? It’s apparent if you go on my [Facebook] wall. They write to each other. People have made friends on my wall. It’s a really beautiful thing to watch. There’s so much love.

After years of work, you became an overnight sensation. Were you prepared for all the scrutiny? It’s something you can’t prepare for. You can think about it all you want and study it from the outside to a degree, and that might help. But, no, I certainly didn’t expect this. I didn’t expect this to the degree that it’s happened. I take it day by day. I stay focused on all I have to be grateful for, which is really a lot. I get to pursue my dream. I get to wake up every day and do something that I love. For that, I feel so blessed, so humbled. For that, I also feel that honoring the relationship that I have formed with my fans is the most sacred thing to me.

Who did you get to meet and places did you go that you hadn’t before? Very early on, I met Edie Windsor, not too long after the repeal of DOMA. It was amazing. She is a hero and an inspiration to me. I played [at the Out 100 Awards] and she spoke. She received the big award and her speech was so moving. She spoke about how before the AIDS crisis, gay

men and lesbians were kind of separate — they segregated themselves. But she remarked on the bittersweetness of the fact that it took a crisis to bring them together. I thought there was something beautiful about the way she talked about a community coming together to fight a bigger battle. I’ve also met Mariah Carey and Elton John. I did a show with Lance Bass — he’s an extremely sweet guy. Elton has been my musical hero since I was a little kid. As a big piano rock fan, it was so exciting — I got to meet him before a show and give him a hug. He knew who I was and he said he was keeping an eye on me; that was really exciting.

I’ve been so many places I’ve never been before. I didn’t do a lot of traveling growing up, [and] even after that, when I was in college and after college I certainly didn’t have the money. Struggling as a singer/songwriter and playing at churches just to get through the week. It’s been incredible to be able to go to all of these places all over the country and play and have people show up. People who have been moved by my story or are interested in hearing me live. There’s always so much love and support. It’s something I don’t ever take for granted when I get before an audience. I know what it’s like. That feeling of getting on the stage and trying to win over an audience, which I did for a long time, especially in that year before “All-American Boy,” when I was playing in a jazz club in Chicago and every night I played it was a new challenge to win over that audience — just me and the piano and the microphone. That’s all I had to work with to win the audience over and to try to get them to respond to the music. I never take it for granted when I get in front of an audience who is excited before I even play my first note.

Were you offered any work outside of music, such as on TV in *Glee* or in a movie musical? Yes, there have been some offers relating to film and people doing their own small or big budget projects. People have asked me if I want to act, but right now I just want to focus on my music. My fans know that. You can only take on so much. You can only stay focused on so many things at once. I’m working hard every day. We really have to get this [album] out for the fans. Of course, the quality has to come first. I’m doing everything I can to make sure that this album comes out in a timely manner.

I’m glad you mentioned the album, because since last July, you’ve released two more singles, “Stay” and “Back To California.” Do you

plan to include those songs, as well as “All-American Boy” on your forthcoming album? Yes. It’s part of the whole story. I have a whole library of music to choose from. I’ve been writing songs for a long time. The whole album will be 12 [original] songs, but those ones have to be on there. Granted, I’ve released them already, and I know that people have moved on from the idea of an album because the industry is changing and technology has changed the way people consume music. But I feel like my fans deserve that from me. I want to show them a full body of work, where each song stands alone and together they all tell a story and a bigger picture.

Fan-funded albums are all the rage. Why did you decide to go that route? I wanted my fans to be my label. They’ve given me so much support and love. They’ve amazed me every single time with each song I’ve released. I promised them, from day one when I first started doing these interviews, that I would keep my music and message as pure as possible. I don’t want anything getting in the way of that. I’m staying independent for that reason. It’s meaningful for them to be a part of seeing this album come to fruition and being a part of the reason that this album has come to be, through their support and generosity. I think that’s special for them.

What does your family think of your meteoric rise? They’re having a great time with it. They’re so happy for me and so proud of me. It’s a beautiful thing. This life has been such a journey in so many ways. One of them is watching my parents do a 180 in many ways in life. Faith and religion was all tied with what it meant to be a good person. It was part of their culture and where they came from. What they were taught to believe from their faith was that homosexuality was a sin. They can’t help that that was the environment in which they grew up, that that was their world. But, because of me, it’s a testament to a parent’s love that because of their own son, they were able to re-examine these beliefs that they had held for so long. They’re in midlife and I don’t think people appreciate how difficult it is for people at that point in their lives to totally re-evaluate their value system. That’s a really big deal. That’s why I say it’s a testament to the power of a parent’s love. That has been one of the most special things about all of this for me.

I would be remiss if I didn’t ask: Are you single or do you have a boyfriend? [Laughs] I’m married to my career. That’s all I’ll say.

Sam I am

Soulful Brit singer answers the question: What if Adele became Aaron Neville?

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

How's this for creative viral marketing: Release an album, and just as you do, leak a YouTube video of you singing a cover of a Whitney Houston song. Then don't include that song *on* the album.

Watch the resulting frenzy.

That's what it's been like for 22-year-old singer-songwriter Sam Smith, whose debut album, *In the Lonely Hour*, dropped just as a moody, down-tempo version of "How Will I Know" turned the pudgy Brit into an Internet sensation. But for music fans familiar with a few singles he's released since 2012, it came as no surprise that he could shame Whit: The boy has pipes. (Witness his recent appearance on *The Late Show* that left the usually unflappable David Letterman gobsmacked and speechless.)

Smith's paradoxical sounds — a throaty falsetto, if that makes sense, the kind Aaron Neville has perfected — grabs your eardrums like a lariat ropin' a steer at the rodeo. It's ethereal and as piercing as frostbite. Emotionally, he's in touch with his wounded soul (his album was inspired by a romantic devastation of unrequited love for another man. That man's probably kicking himself about now.)

In the Lonely Hour is a personal album that mixes driving disco beats with lush orchestrations, all anchored by the powerful vocal prowess Smith displays. There's no clutter to his voice, despite the vocal runs. He's controlled and precise, and each song has a character that unites even the disparate styles.

The dominant genre, if you want to label it, is pop R&B and blue-eyed soul. It's old-school, but not for oldsters.

Smith's mouth enrobes the microphone, so each breath feels like a gasp, each ache a whisper shared by just you and him. It's an old torch-singer trick — Billie Holliday was the best at it, but check out Norah Jones, Chet Baker and many others for examples — that fuses intimacy with universality.

There's a lot of pain here. "Good Thing," which most obviously captures the pain of rejection, is the early stand-out. *For a moment I believed you loved me too / But life is never like that and you were never strong / so much of a good thing won't be good for long* Smith intones, resigned but still



wounded.

Here and elsewhere, many of the riffs conjure a hodgepodge of other artists — Neville as noted already, but also Sylvester (on the disc opener "Money on My Mind," which snares you with the hypnotic refrain *I do it for the love*) as well as Adele (an early-20s Brit wailing

about love? Come on!), Amy Winehouse and even '80s-era arena rock (the gospel-tinged chorus on "Stay with Me" made me think of Foreigner circa *Agent Provocateur*, but held closer to the vest).

Not all the tracks pack the same punch. "Like I Can," on which he whines *He'll never love you like I can can can*, is a familiar sentiment without a great musical hook, but "Life Support," which is mixed with a complex syncopated backbeat while

Smith's voice scales the upper ethers of countertenor and crawls the trench of baritone, keeps you guessing from bar to bar. The breathy anticipation of "Lay Me Down" could be inserted into a love scene in any good stage musical and win its singer a Tony Award.

The official disc boasts 10 tracks, but the deluxe edition includes an astonishing five more songs. The best of the extras is probably the acoustic mix of "Latch," but "Reminds Me of You" gets your head bopping on the rhythmic chorus and he also features on a song led by Naughty Boy also included here.

Smith isn't playing it safe in any way, making a debut with collaborations, extras and out gay messages. It's as if he can't contain himself, destined to infect us with his special misery. I, for one, am now proudly a carrier. ■



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L+S advice

Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com

Dear Howard,

I recently visited a former college roommate of mine from UT now living in Denver. After a few six packs and tokes, we got to talking about sex. Then he started bragging that he's been to bed with over 1,000 men since he was 16. We're both now 32. I've had sex with less than a tenth his number. Should I consider an intervention for him — for sex addiction, I mean? — Jake M.

Dear Mr. M,

Exactly *how* sexually undesirable are you, Jake?

Let's break down the statistics here: A single gay man of 32, who has been sexually active since 16, would only be averaging 62 trysts per year to equal 1,000 partners; or, fewer than six penises per month. Hell, Jake, take it from a former New Yorker, where six penises per *week* isn't remotely unusual: If you ever stage an intervention for someone's "sex addiction," then you need to first take a hard look in the mirror regarding why your green-eyed jealousy has superseded a long-term friendship.

Dear Howard,

I started dating a guy a lot older than me that I met at a leather bar. I have to be his submissive and let his buddies play with me if he wants them to. All of them wear different colored handkerchiefs in their back pockets. I've been ordered to memorize what each color means. I've no idea what my Master is even talking about. Help? — Noel

Dear Noel,

First, slave boy, your grammar sucks: "I started dating a guy a lot older than *I whom* I met at a leather bar," is how your opening salvo should read. Second, it's the fault of your old "Master" for not clueing you in on back-pocket colored handkerchiefs: FYI, they're a '70s retro-throwback which, for some *totally* unfathomable reason, seems to be making a kitschy comeback of late. Still, as with everything else now of our 21st century that has supposedly been made so much user-friendly and easier, one practically needs a master's in masochism just to know even the names of all the new handkerchief colors, say nothing of the sexual proclivities each color represents.

Hankies worn on the left mean you're a "pitcher;" hankies on the right, a "catcher." A black handkerchief represents heavy SM, grey is bondage, red is FF (look that up!), blue is bare-back, lilac is fondness for dildos, yellow means



you're into water sports, peach is C&B torture, orange-beige is anything/anytime ... and on, and on and on.

For a complete list of color codes' meanings, visit MenOfPalmSprings.com/abbreviations.

Dear Howard,

I have a dirty question—literally. I won't be offended if you consider it *too* filthy to answer, but I would appreciate hearing what you have to say on this topic. Here goes: I've been dating a guy recently (conservatively handsome and clean-cut) who I *really* like a lot, but out of nowhere the other night he straddled my face and devilishly asked if I ever get into "nasty sex," which of course I enthusiastically panted, "Sure!" And that's when he dropped his "bomb" on me — for real, if you know what I mean. The freaky thing, though, Howard, is that I wasn't repulsed; instead, I was more, oh, curiously ... turned-on than anything else. What does that say about me? How taboo is this? Am I a *total* sexual deviant? — David

Dear David,

Oh, crap. OK, I knew this question had to be just a matter of time: Dave, there are only two *totally* deviant sexual taboos: 1. Non-consensual sex; 2. Sex with a minor. Everything else, dear dirty, filthy boy, is wide open; just as the bumper sticker states, "It's Only Kinky the First Time."

Granted, scat isn't exactly everyone's cup of bedroom tea, or even many people's; nonetheless, as long as you're both over 18 and consensually agreeable, all anyone else outside your bedroom truly may request (with any legitimate say in the matter) is that you both *please* wash up before heading back out into the public again afterwards.

Have a question about etiquette, love, life or work that needs an answer? Send your problem to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer it.



Bare essentials

Documentary about famed Dallas male strip club LaBare has heart ... and other body parts

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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There comes a moment during the new documentary **LaBare** — it will be different for everyone — when you suddenly realize something: You're grinning ear-to-ear, and your facial muscles are beginning to ache. You wonder: How long have I *been* like this? Has anyone been looking at me, and how goofy I must seem?

Of course, no one is looking at you. There are better things to see on the screen.

Starting in 1978, the Dallas strip club LaBare gave straight women (but few gay men) the opportunity to ogle flesh in the way straight men had done for decades at titty bars. LaBare became legendary, like Chippendales, for objectifying men for the pleasure of horny women.

The club thrived on upper Greenville Avenue until 9/11, when it fell on hard times. It was reborn a few years later with a new location and new owner, but the same sex appeal. The formula works.

And why wouldn't it? Watching male strippers (do they prefer exotic dancers?) work a crowd is like watching a puppy at a dog park, sniffing and wagging its tail in joy. They are almost hypnotically adept at seducing *everybody*, even total strangers. They look their fans in the eye and they repeat their names back to them. They smile. And they are completely aware that they are beautiful.

Beauty could be in the eye of the beholder here. The granddaddy of the strippers, Randy "Master Blaster," has been shaking his Speedo-clad ass since 1979, and he's still in great shape — the longest-serving continuous male stripper in the world, according to Guinness. But Randy is a far cry, stylistically, from the twinkie newcomer Channing, or even the exotically overmuscled David. There's something for every taste here.

Joe Manganiello, the actor best known for playing the often-shirtless (and occasionally pantless) Alcide in *True Blood* and for his supporting role in the male stripper feature *Magic Mike*, produced and directed *LaBare*, and it's an impressive debut. The film is a hoot — surprisingly funny, occasionally sentimental, adequately insightful and chock full of manmeat. And since LaBare discourages male patrons (they're exiled to the back of the club, and don't even consider a gay bachelor

party there — all men who do enter must be accompanied by a woman), this might be the closest you'll ever get.

It's a disappointment of the film, in fact, that it never once delves into, or even acknowledges, its gay appeal. LaBare is touted as the "only" all-male stripper revue in North Texas, but that implicitly excludes gay clubs. And perhaps, as implied, every dancer within its cast of two dozen is a heterosexual, though ... well, let's just say some of the guys might look familiar to you.

Does that make the film bad, though? Heck, no. Nothing about *LaBare* is homophobic, really — it just approaches its theses from the perspective of women interested in men, and men who like to perform for women. In that way, it makes some interesting points about male-female relationships, about the feminist position that female strippers are exploited by men (the guys here don't seem exploited to me) and even makes a case for why these guys deserve respect for their performing skills. It's entertaining ... and the fact there's nudity is just a bonus.

There's an appalling *lack* of beefcake in **Transformers: Age of Extinction**. Here's my rule: If you are gonna make a *three-hour* action film with Mark Wahlberg, his shirt has to be off a minimum of 15 seconds. But this steroided Michael Bay picture, the first-ever shot with an IMAX digital camera, is a big nothing — noisy, unrelenting action that makes no logical sense. The tropes it trades in have no currency in the marketplace of ideas: Wahlberg is a Caratacus Potts-like failed inventor, but he's really just an over-protective dad; Kelsey Grammer is a Cheney-esque CIA ghost who does everything but twirl his moustache and tie Wahlberg's daughter to the train tracks. It's exhausting to watch the digital transformers (they don't operate in a physical world, which was always the pleasure of the toys) so it's impossible to feel for them. And why do robots smoke cigars, speak in broken English or have beer guts? I guess because they are war-movie stereotypes everyone can identify with. But I can't imagine anyone past puberty being fooled by this. Then again — for better or worse — brainless movies are what summer is about. No use in fighting it. ■



LaBARE

Directed by Joe Manganiello.
Rated R. 90 mins. Now playing
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and Studio Movie Grill.

online exclusive

To read an interview with *LaBare* director Joe Manganiello and reviews of more new movies, visit DallasVoice.com.

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Saturday 06.28

Jett Adore headlines Burlesque show at Texas Theatre

If you've heard of "boylesque," chances are you've heard of Jett Adore, one of the breakout male stars in an art form dominated by women. His hot bod, which he teases in his stripping routines, will be on display alongside the ladies (and other men) in Texas Burlesque's tribute to the men and women of the 1950s and '60s, with classic archetypes of the era (naughty secretaries, anyone?).

DEETS: Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Doors at 8 p.m., curtain at 9 p.m. \$20-\$25. TexasBurlesque.com.

Friday 06.27

Documentary 'Big Joy' has one-night-only showing at the Texas Theatre

The Texas Theatre is busy this week with intriguing programming — not just live shows (see above) but films as well. On Friday, *Big Joy*, a new documentary about James Broughton (pictured left), a queer experimental filmmaker and poet in the 1960s, makes its North Texas debut after playing at SXSW. If you don't know much about Broughton's contribution to the sexual liberation movement, this is your chance to learn.

DEETS: Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 9:30 p.m. \$10. TheTexasTheatre.com.



Friday 06.27

Del Shores gets more sordid at the Rose Room

In his movies, TV shows and plays, Del Shores vigorously skewers religious fanatics, homophobes and hypocrites by having his characters attack them. In his standup, Shores does the same thing, but the only filter is how much he's got time to say it. The Texas native returns to his favorite venue, the Rose Room, for more sordid stories of his adventures in Hollywood and church.

DEETS: The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. \$10-\$30. DelShores.tix.com.

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CASSIE NOVA

Dallas' reigning queen of drag dishes on Big D, and answers your questions in *Ask a Drag Queen.*



Check her out!
Page 28

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calendar highlights



DICK'S AFTER DARK | It doesn't get dark in Dallas until 8 p.m. in the summer, so it makes sense to start a new party, Dick's After Dark at BJ's, with a launch starting at 9 p.m. Saturday. It's free, but you have to RSVP to ensure your spot!

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

By the Way, Meet Vera Stark. A play by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through July 13. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Hope & Gravity. A new play about nine people, strangely connected to each other. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through July 19. CircleTheatre.com.

Good People. A comedy by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Rene Moreno. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

John XII. Mark-Brian Sonna's racy 2009 play about the notorious pope. *Final weekend.* Stone Cottage Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. MBSProductions.net.

Les Miserables. The Dallas Theater Center closes out its season with this modern classic. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. June 27–Aug. 17 (in previews through July 3). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in T3's downstairs space. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Through July 20. Theatre3Dallas.com.

SPOKEN WORD

Queerly Speaking: The Rainbow in Our Clouds. The South Dallas Cultural Center pays tribute to the late Dr. Maya Angelou with a program of songs, poems and movement, presented by the Fahari Arts Institute. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 9 p.m. \$5 donation at the door requested.

SATURDAY 06.28

PRIDE

Queer Bomb. Billed as Dallas' non-corporate Pride event in Deep Ellum, includes a rally, procession and dance party. Starts at Julius Schepps Park, Henry and Canton streets, 7 p.m. Queerbomb Ball, The Quixotic world, 2824 Main St. Free.

COMMUNITY

Dick's After Dark Launch Party. The same folks who give you the monthly Friday gay mixer launch this men-only late-night party. BJ's NXS! 3415 N. Fitzhugh Ave. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Free with RSVP at DicksAfterDark.com.

BURLESQUE

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FRIDAY 06.27

COMEDY

Del Shores: More Sordid Best. The playwright and director (*Sordid Lives*) turned standup comic brings his uninhibited stories of life in Hollywood — and his unabashed battles with bigots and the religious right — back to the Rose Room, with Edna Jean Robinson opening. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. \$10–\$30. DelShores.tix.com.

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Burlesque Peepshow presents this tribute to the 1950s and '60s with classic burlesque characters, and with boylesque male star Jett Adore performing as well. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Doors at 8 p.m., curtain at 9 p.m. \$20–\$25. TexasBurlesque.com.

FINE ARTS

Group Show 2014. Craighead Green Gallery presents its collection of current artists, with the artists in attendance. 1011 Dragon St. 5–8 p.m.



In brief: 'By the Way, Meet Vera Stark'

The first act of *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* — playwright Lynn Nottage's play about the African-American experience in the 1930s, as lived by black women on the fringe of the movie business in Hollywood — is an intriguing and unexpected comedy played with wit and a veil of pathos. Vera Stark (Yolanda Williams, pictured center) is a housemaid to a popular young starlet — "America's Sweetie Pie," Gloria Mitchell (Lee Jamison, right) — who dreams of getting her own break in the movies. It seems unlikely, and not just because good roles for African-Americans are hard to come by; any roles are scarce. Those that are available usually revolve around slavery, or call for Steppin Fetchit-like stereotypes, or are maids (which Vera actually has some experience with). But Vera is savvy and educated and has self-respect. She knows black people aren't the sum-total of white screenwriters' limited imaginations, and she wants to nab a juicy supporting role in an upcoming Civil War epic that Gloria is angling to star in. But how can she even get an audition?

There's a lot going on under the surface in the first half of the play, where even the "liberal" white hierarchy (a European director played by Aaron Roberts; a social-minded studio exec played hilariously by Paul J. Williams) deceive themselves into thinking they "get" what it's like to be black. The director is such a smug navel-gazer, he can't even see the "Brazilian" woman he's been dating (Raven Garcia, left) is really a fair-skinned black woman with a phony accent and a good hair style. The play always seems to be about to get rolling, and it whets your appetite for Act 2.

And that's when things go swiftly to hell.

Nottage's at-first sophisticated and thoughtful glimpse of black Hollywood devolved into an over-the-top, not-very-funny sitcom that's overplayed so appallingly, you keep expecting the script to reveal

TUESDAY 07.01

FILM

My Fair Lady. The hit musical, winner of eight academy Awards, with two "confirmed bachelors" turning a Cockney flower girl into a society maven. Part of the Tuesday New Classic series. Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village. 7:30 p.m.

it's all a put-on. But that never happens. Whereas Act 1 takes place entirely within a week in 1933, Act 2 is set decades later at a symposium dedicated to analyzing the films of the now-respected pioneer Vera Stark. With "clips" from her final TV appearance on an annoying 1973 talk show, a panel of film and race experts pontificate about who Vera really was, why she eventually disappeared and what her real legacy was.

It could be the hand of the director, Bruce R. Coleman, or the actors, but it feels like the blame for the disastrous turn it takes lies primarily with Nottage. After making cogent, subtle arguments about the shadow of racism and the limits of ambition in the first half, in the second she turns her guns on everyone: On pompous African-American academics who argue with pretentious jargon about side issues while missing what's in front of their eyes; on the blinders modern-day viewers allow themselves to wear when watching older movies under the guise of "it was another time;" on black women who manage to "pass" for white and ignore their true heritage; on the frivolity of celebrity culture; and on Vera herself, who seems to be some kind of combination of Hattie McDaniel, Eartha Kitt, Dorothy Dandridge and Lola Falana. It's simply all over the place. (Nottage's history is likewise a jumble, with sloppy, inaccurate "lessons" about pre-code films, the Academy Awards and more.)

The actors all do good work in Act 1 (especially Jamison, Williams and Stormy Demerson as Vera's saucy best friend), but by the end, they've all been strangled by Nottage's heavy hand. A smart, poignant tale implodes due to excess and poor judgment, made all the more disappointing because it had such promise.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through July 13. Theatre3Dallas.com.



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Cassie Nova

Karma chameleon: This diva can take it as good as she gives

Hey, y'all. It's me, Cassie Nova, superstar of the Rose Room and all around badass! I'm here every other week to answer some of life's most difficult questions.

Just kidding. I'm really here to talk a little B.S. and entertain. So once again, this disclaimer: What is said here is all in good fun. If you take this seriously, it could cause hemorrhoids.

Apparently, I have a potty mouth. Cursing has been such a part of my vernacular for so long that I don't even realize how much I do it, bitches ... that is, until I get around children or church people. I'm not ashamed of it. It is part of my charm, my wit. There is nothing like a well-placed F-bomb or the satisfaction of screaming "Dammit!!" at the top of your lungs. I've heard it said that people who cuss a lot don't have the intelligence to properly express themselves, so I guess I am comfortably a moron.

Here is my first question:

Dearest Cassie Nova, You say some pretty awful things to people while you are on stage. Do you believe in karma? Sincerely, Judy.

Well Judy, first ... Ouch! But the answer is: *Hell, yes!* When I walk into a room and people stop talk-

ing, I know I probably deserve it. Don't dish with others if you can't take it when others dish about you.

When I was a kid, I spent my summers at my grandma's house in Mineola, Texas. She would take us to Lake Holbrook. One day, while at the beach area, I saw this little boy wading through the water.

He was hunched over running around in circles, splashing around like a crazy person. I looked at my sister and said, "Look at that poor retarded boy!" Not exactly politically correct, but that is how we talked in the '80s. Anyway, about an hour later, I was standing in the shallow water. I looked down and saw a little fish swimming in

the water. I thought to myself, "I'm gonna get that fish!" So I started chasing it around, hunched over, running around in circles and splashing like a crazy person. Suddenly, I hear a woman on shore say, "Look at that poor retarded boy!" She was talking about me, of course. My face cracked and shattered, and in my head I heard Grandma say, "What goes around, comes around." So yes, I believe in karma, Judy. Thanks for the reminder.

Question No. 2!

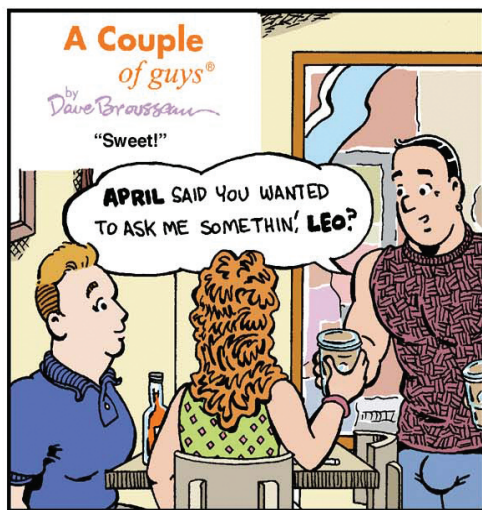
Dearest Cassie Nova, Drag is becoming more and

“Dearest Cassie Nova: Are ‘tranny’ and ‘she-male’ old-school and out of fashion or just terms of endearment?”



more popular in today's culture. New girls appear out and about every week. I was wondering if you had any tips for all new and upcoming queens to help make sure everyone looks their best? With love, Whitney Rains.

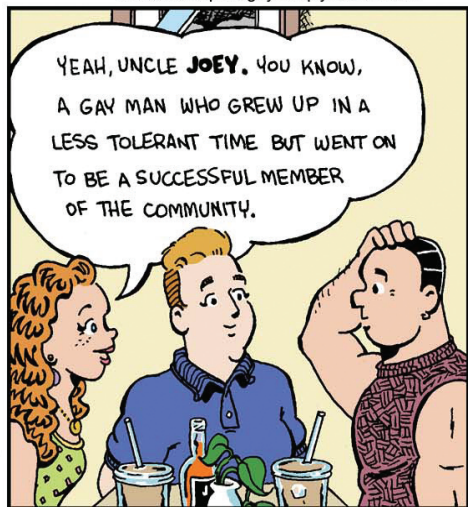
Hello Whitney! The best advice I could give is to do everything yourself. Don't rely on anyone else doing your makeup or hair — you learn faster by trial and error. Practice, and ask the other "girls" questions. Most drag queens love to share the things they have learned. Remember, with drag, more is always better. Thanks!
Dearest Cassie Nova, As



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someone who has raised oodles of money for charities and been in the business a while, I wanted you to weigh in on the "tranny" word feud that's going on. We have trans friends and many of us have referred to ourselves as trannies-in-training and such, but never out of hate. The "You Got SheMail" controversy on RuPaul's Drag Race has us all talking. What's your opinion on this topic? Are "tranny" and "she-male" old-school and out of fashion, or are they just terms of endearment? Thanks, Tony Valdez.

Tony, Lately people get so upset about everything. It's exhausting trying to be so politically correct. I am not a transgender person, so I cannot begin to know what my trans sisters find offensive. I also cannot tell them how they *should* feel. But at the same time, they are just words, and I do not give words power. If the tone is offensive, be offended! Otherwise, try to remember it's just a word. Then again, what do I know ... I'm just a drag queen.

This week in drag gossip, I give a big shout-out to **Edna Jean Robinson**. While in San Antonio last week, she had her first "session" with a "papi." Someone is single and ready to mingle. (I ain't mad atcha.) Also, congrats to **Michael LeMasters** on his recent win at Mr. Gay Texas USofA, even though he was a complete bullet to the brain in the dressing room last Saturday night. You kept the Texas crown here in Dallas! Great job.

I can't be at all places at all times, so if you have some juicy gossip, know of someone who needs to be called out or have a question you have always wanted to ask a drag queen, send me an email!

XOXO — Cassie Nova, Superstar. ■

If you have a question to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen — or just have some juicy gossip to share — email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



Boys' night out at Alexandre's.



Alissa and Erin at Sue Ellen's.



Bryce and Richard at TMC: The Mining Company.



Dan at Barbara's Pavilion.



Edna Jean at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

Making the SCENE the week of June 27–July 3:

Alexandre's: Carlos Saenz on Friday at 10 p.m. **Bad Habits** on Saturday at 10 p.m. **Voice of Pride** preliminary on Tuesday at 9 p.m. **Lala Johnson** on Wednesday at 9 p.m. **So Strung Out with Spencer West** on Thursday at 9 p.m.
BJ's NXSI: DJ Serb and Sweet Leaf spin for **Friday Night 4Play** on Friday. **Shut Up and Glow Me Summer Seduction** on Saturday.

Club Reflection: **Imperial Court de' Fort Worth/Arlington** cookout on Sunday at 4 p.m. **Victoria Lynn's annual P.J. Party** on Sunday at 7 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: **United Court of the Lone Star Empire Wild, Wild West Show** on Friday at 8 p.m. benefits **Resource Center Nutrition Program**. **National Leather Association** presents **Leather Perspectives** on Saturday at 2 p.m. **Marshall Styers** and **Craig Bolson** present the **United Court's** fifth annual **Diva/Devo** contest and show on Saturday at 7 p.m. benefiting the **Sharon St. Cyr Fund**. **Jeffrey Payne** hosts **Boots are Made for Walking** — ILSB and ICBB auction and entertainment on Sunday at 7 p.m.

Pekers: **Trixie Lynn**, **Sable Alexander** and **Linze Serell** host a show to benefit **Miniature Schnauzers of North Texas** on Sunday at 8:30 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: Karaoke in the parlor on Monday–Thursday from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sue Ellen's: **Jason Huff and the Ignition** on Friday. **Marisela the Voice** on Saturday. **Caliko Jak** on Sunday. **Bella & Darla** on Wednesday.

The Rose Room: **Del Shores** performs on Friday at 8 p.m. **Voice of Pride** preliminary on Sunday at 9 p.m. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos.

LIFE+STYLE

scene



Andrew and Antonio on The Strip.



Dirk, Charley, Mason and Wesley at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Joe and Melissa at Grapevine Bar.



David, Beau and Andrew at TMC: The Mining Company.



Serena Smuckers at Club Cherries.



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AIDS Arms has a challenging opportunity for a Social Worker or Psychologist to provide a range of care coordination services for HIV positive homeless individuals diagnosed with mental health and substance abuse disorders. Interested candidates should complete an online application at <https://aidsarms.companycareersite.com/>

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- assessment of household financial health
- personal case management including the creation of a realistic household budget
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The target household for this program is low-to-moderate income with a realistic expectation of:

- 1) moving from financial distress, e.g., partial bill payments, use of payday/title loans, lack of checking account necessitating the use of fee-based check cashing facilities to,
- 2) parity, or being able to make full bill payments on time, every time, to
- 3) being in a position to start saving.

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www.dignitydallas.net

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Where: Resource Center 2701 Reagan St. Dallas, TX 75219
When: Mon, June 30th, 5:30-7:00pm Watch online: live.dallasda.com

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Meeting Type:
Open, Sharing, Steps, Welcoming
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q-puzzle

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Words to Live Bi

Solution on page 27

Across

- 1 Be a sitcom
- 6 Aid's partner
- 10 Mardi ____
- 14 Had title to
- 15 Festive fete
- 16 C&W gay fave McEntire
- 17 Start of the disadvantage of being bisexual, per Bernard Manning
- 20 Soft seat
- 21 Area of Amelia Earhart
- 22 Uncle Sam's mail org.
- 24 Linked with
- 25 Barbra's *Funny Girl* guy
- 28 Bird over P'town
- 31 Causeless Dean character
- 33 Playground retort
- 34 Article for Frida
- 37 Light, woody material
- 38 More of the disadvantage
- 39 *Gone with the Wind* guy
- 41 Porky's place
- 42 E.M. Forster's *Where Angels Fear to ____*
- 44 Guy with three ho's?
- 45 Earphones
- 47 1966 Joe Orton play
- 48 Go back to homophobic views, e.g.

51 *Rocky Horror's* ____ Raff

- 53 Worshipping Caleb Johnson, perhaps?
- 56 A.D. part
- 60 End of the disadvantage
- 62 Andrew Van de Camp, for one
- 63 First name in stunts
- 64 Hamilton Burger to Perry Mason, usually
- 65 Alan of *And the Band Played On*
- 66 Opening for cheap
- 67 Make noise in bed

Down

- 1 Crowds at the Stonewall riots
- 2 ____ bit (slightly)
- 3 Body of soldiers
- 4 Old people may take them out for a blow job
- 5 Rims
- 6 Hawk-chicken difference
- 7 Like California, in Mexico
- 8 How far up it goes (abbr.)
- 9 *Annals* author-historian
- 10 Fairy-tale daughter
- 11 Took advantage of a decorator
- 12 Monks' head
- 13 Decline

- 18 Muscle Mary stat
- 19 Suit makers
- 23 Like drag queen nylons of old
- 25 Heavenly balls
- 26 Sexual partners, crudely
- 27 With skill
- 29 Calculation for carpet layers
- 30 It may be reassigned
- 32 Toward the side
- 34 Host before Fallon
- 35 Comics dog that goes either way?
- 36 9 inches, e.g.
- 40 One butt cheek?
- 43 Shook up
- 45 Montana's capital
- 46 Like half of the Odd Couple
- 48 Gay rodeo accessory
- 49 Ford lemon that was not fruitful
- 50 Promised
- 52 Birdcage dwellers
- 54 Sitarist Shankar
- 55 North Sea feeder
- 57 Britney Spears' "____ Curious"
- 58 Not e'en once
- 59 Opening noted at the office
- 61 Short-order sandwich for porkers?



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