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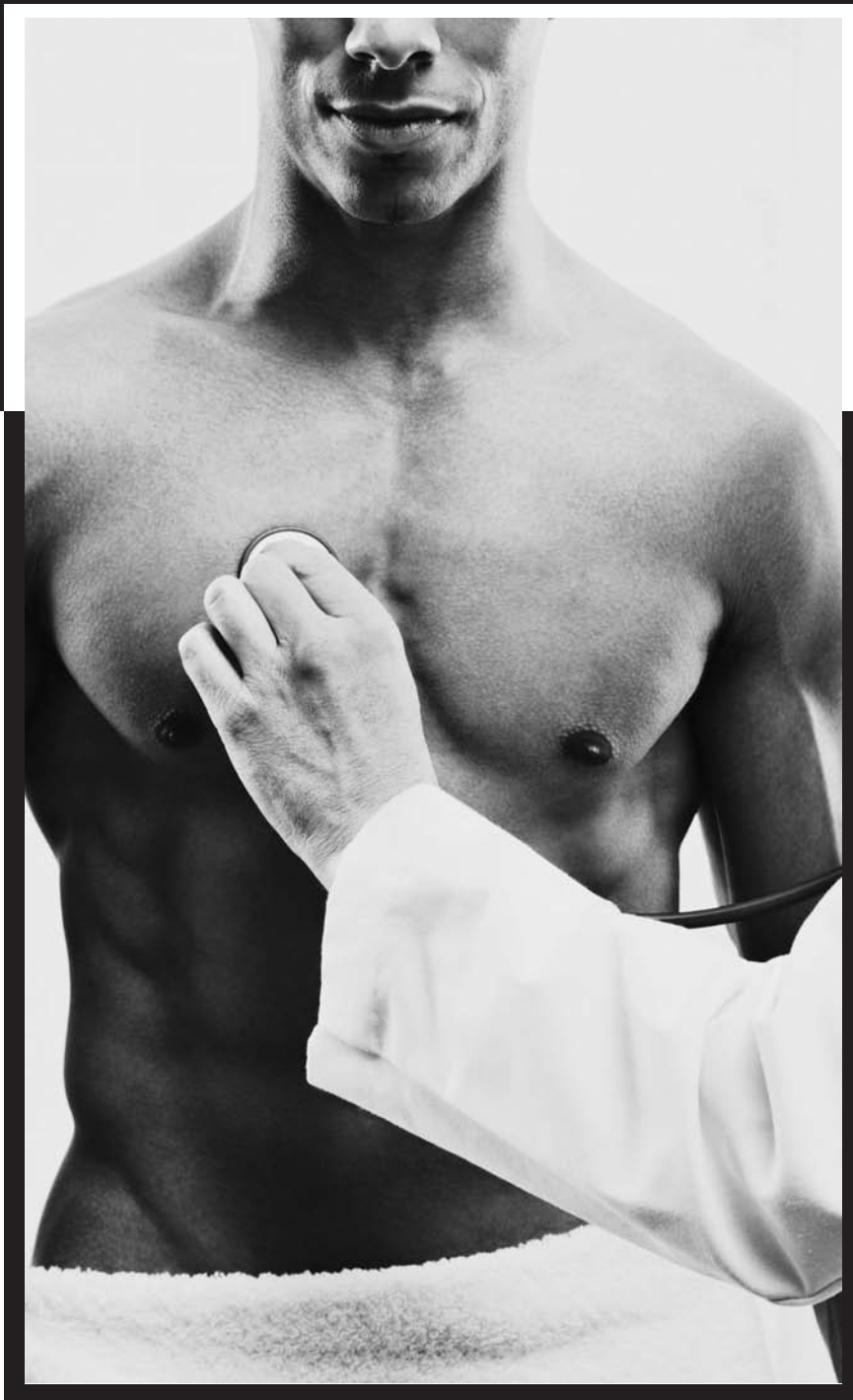
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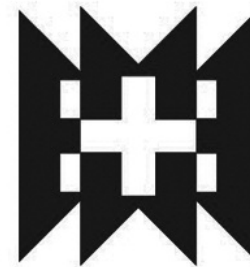
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headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Anglin talks about BTD's history
- 9 Alex Newell plans to steal the show
- 10 TDOR honors trans murder victims
- 12 FWPD's Chief Halstead resigns

LIFE+STYLE

- 18 Melissa Etheridge talks about M.E.
- 20 Anne Rice discusses Lestat's future
- 22 Rusty Bell designs for boys and bears

ON THE COVER

Cover design by Kevin Thomas

departments

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | Pet of the Week | 27 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 31 | Cassie Nova |
| 16 | Texas Voices | 32 | Scene |
| 18 | Life+Style | 35 | Classifieds |

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Guns, God and gays: first day of pre-filing for upcoming Lege

Monday, Nov. 10, was the first day for Texas legislators and members-elect to pre-file legislation for the 84th legislative session. This means you get to see just how crazy some of your new and returning elected officials really are. Don't worry everyone, the first day of pre-filing didn't bring out the worst of your electeds just yet. Rep. Bill Zedler, R-Arlington, only filed a handful actually, so the worst is yet to come.

As of mid-afternoon, legislators pre-filed 336 bills.

Rep. Walter "Four" Price, R-Amarillo, filed four bills commemorating the National Day of Prayer, Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. Rep. Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford, filed HB 195, loosening restrictions on gun toting. Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, is gonna keep abortionists out of the classroom with HB 205.

But wait! LGBT people were recognized by our allies!

Out Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, filed HB 70, an anti-bullying bill preventing discrimination against and harassing of students in public schools based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, filed HJR34, one of many bills targeting the repeal of Texas' same-sex marriage ban. As the Voice reported, Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, filed HB 130, repealing Texas' same sex marriage ban. The identical SB 98, was filed by Sens. Juan Hinojosa, D-McAllen, and José Rodríguez, D-El Paso. Sen. Rodríguez also filed SB 148, repealing language condemning homosexuality in the state's health and penal codes.

— James Russell

Drag queens wanted for open casting call in Austin

Calling all drag queens: Are you looking to become a star on the small screen? Then you just might want to head to Austin on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Vicky Boone Casting is conducting a regional search for drag queens to play lead roles in an upcoming HBO pilot, called Mamma Dallas and created by writer/filmmaker Mike White of *Enlightened*, *Chuck & Buck* and *School of Rock* fame.

There will be an open casting call Saturday, Nov. 15, from 2-6 p.m. at Bout Time II, 6607 I-35 in Austin, to cast the lead part of "Liberty Bell."

According to the press release from Vicky Boone Casting, Liberty Bell "appears to be an attractive, sexy woman with a flirty side — but she's not, really. Born Albert De Lorio, Liberty is a drag queen with an ebullient, chatty, upbeat personality, but she leads an unpleasantly seedy life ... a life that she plans to turn around with a little re-invention and identity theft."

The filmmaker is looking for a 30-something male of open ethnicity to play the role.

You don't need an appointment for the open casting call, and people will be seen on a first-come, first-seen basis. Anyone who is cast will be compensated "on the scale of professional actors."

Those interested in auditioning may email a picture in advance to vbcfeatures@gmail.com with the subject title "Mamma Dallas" and include their name, resume, best contact info and current city of residence.

Interested parties are also encouraged to create

free account on actorsaccess.com.

Shooting for Mamma Dallas begins March 2015. (And given recent news about a scammer working Oak Lawn and posing as a "modeling agent," let me include this info to establish Vicky Boone Casting's bona fides: The agent has done regional casting for such films as *The Tree of Life* starring Brad Pitt, *Ain't Them Bodies Saints* starring Rooney Mara, *Parkland* starring Paul Giamatti, *Men, Women, and Children* starring Adam Sandler and Richard Linklater's upcoming *That's What I'm Talking About*.)

— Tammye Nash

Only 8 precincts in Dallas voted against nondiscrimination

Here's how Dallas voters in Dallas county voted for non-discrimination:



The red areas are the only places where the majority voted No. It was about 80 votes.

Thanks to Andrew Fisher who made this map, above, of how Dallas voters approved a Dallas city charter amendment on nondiscrimination. Only eight precincts voted against the proposal and were located in southwest Dallas at Dallas Baptist University, in Oak Cliff at the junction of I-35 and 67 better known as Christ for the Nations Institute and in a high concentration of trailer parks in southeast Dallas.

That means all precincts in north Dallas, far north Dallas and far far north Dallas, where the concentration of Republican voters are and where most of Governor-elect Greg Abbott's votes came from, voted for the proposal.

"Feels pretty good to live in Dallas today, guys," Fisher wrote on his Facebook page.

The proposal places sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in city employment into the Dallas city charter. Both have been protected by city ordinance since 1995. This overwhelming approval contrasts sharply with the protests going on in Houston against a city nondiscrimination ordinance that passed earlier this year.

— David Taffet

Burglars break into Flower Reign on Cedar Springs

One or more burglars broke the front door lock to enter Flower Reign by Shane Walker on Cedar Springs Road at 4:09 a.m. on Friday Nov. 7.

Computers, phones and a cash box were taken. Owners Shane Walker and Bill Fulmer said they're looking forward to the restaurant opening next door and Liquid Zoo, a new bar, opening across the street. Both will have later hours and bring more activity to that end of the street.

If anyone saw any activity in the store around that hour, please contact Dallas police detectives in the Northwest Division at 214-670-6179 and reference case #267612-2014.

— David Taffet



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localbriefs

TCC tickets on sale

Tickets went on sale for the Turtle Creek Chorale's 35th anniversary concert on Feb. 7 at City Performance Hall. Longtime conductor Tim Seelig, who now conducts the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, returns for one show only.

Tickets are also on sale for the annual Christmas concert, *Jangled*, running at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 18-20 and at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 21 and *Jangled — A Family Event* at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 20.

Purchase seats online at Tickets.TurtleCreek-Chorale.com or by phone at 214-526-3214.

Last Gaybingo of the year

Eric Way is the special guest for the final Gaybingo of the year. Home for the Holidays will be the charitable raffle partner.

In the spirit of giving, bring items to help stock the food pantry including canned meats, soups, ramen noodles, canned fruits and vegetables, juice boxes and condiments. Pop-top cans and individually packed, single-serve items work best.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the party starts at 6 p.m.

Stonewall holds elections

Dallas County Democratic Party Chair Darlene Ewing gives an election recap to Stonewall Democrats of Dallas at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 18 at Ojeda's 4617 Maple Ave. Officers for 2015 will be elected.

November GALA happy hour

Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas holds its third Thursday happy hour at 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Nov. 20 at Bonnie Ruth's Bistro at Watters Creek, 916 Garden Park Drive, Building A, Allen.

This week in marriage equality

A U.S. district court in Mississippi heard a marriage case on Nov. 12. The judge pressed attorneys for the state on whether state interests outweigh the interests of same-sex couples who want to marry. The judge is an appointee of President Barack Obama.

The U.S. Supreme Court lifted a temporary stay on marriage in Kansas. Gov. Sam Brownback, however, said the ruling only applied to two small counties from which county clerks were defendants. Couples have begun getting married in the state.

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson has appealed a federal judge's ruling striking down the state's ban on marriage for same-sex couples. Wilson, who said that he has an obligation to defend state laws, appealed the ruling to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Earlier this year, the Fourth Circuit struck down Virginia's ban on marriage equality.

The Hawaii Supreme Court is set to hear a same-sex marriage appeal in court, even though marriage equality has been legal in the state for almost a year.

pet of the week / BRODY

Brody is a young terrier mix that was transferred to Operation Kindness from a local shelter. He was adopted but his new family did not have enough time for him. Brody is a great dog with an upbeat personality. He is still young and needs lots of exercise and a regular outlet for his puppy energy. Brody would do well with an active individual or family. He still has some growing to do, as he is just seven months old. He would not be a good dog for an apartment because he needs room to run and play. Brody is such a happy and fun young guy, and he is sure to bring lots of joy to his new family. If you have the time and energy to keep up with an energetic young dog, come visit with Brody today to see if you are that special someone he is waiting for.

Brody and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.



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A history of Black Tie charity

Thomas, Anglin and Kuchling discussed how they could turn HRCF's rep down before deciding to say yes — but still do it 'the Dallas way'



DAZZLE | Ray Kuchling, back row left, John Thomas, back row second from right and Mike Anglin, front row right, became close friends as they worked together on the Razzle Dazzle board. They later created Black Tie Dinner together. (Photo courtesy Mike Anglin)

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In 32 years, Black Tie Dinner has raised more than \$18 million, distributing the money among more than three dozen organizations.

But it all started one day in the spring of 1982 when John Thomas called Mike Anglin and Ray Kuchling and asked them over to his house to meet his friend, Jim Foster from Washington D.C.

Foster had a proposal to make. He'd been hired as national fundraising coordinator for a new organization called the Human Rights Campaign Fund that would be lobbying Congress for gay and lesbian equal rights. He wanted the Dallas community's help.

Thomas had known Foster when they lived in South Florida and worked together to fight Anita Bryant's anti-gay ballot initiative. Because of that connection, Dallas was Foster's first stop in his efforts to start raising funds.

Anglin said recently that what Thomas knew but didn't share with him or with Kuchling was that Foster had been active in San Francisco politics where he had been Harvey Milk's political nemesis.

At their meeting, Foster explained to Thomas, Anglin and Kuchling that he had a strategy to raise

the money needed for his new national organization. He was going to the largest urban areas around the country to get community leaders to host a big, fancy banquet, charge \$150 per ticket and send the money left over to HRCF.

Foster told the Dallas community leaders he was prepared for resistance, then he stepped out of the room for the three to discuss.

"How do we tell this guy no?" Anglin asked Thomas and Kuchling.

Anglin said in a recent interview that the Dallas activists were already stretched pretty thin after having just launched Razzle Dazzle Dallas and the Turtle Creek Chorale. Both organizations were struggling and needed money. And every Monday the three had their Dallas Gay Alliance meetings. The Baker v. Wade case challenging the Texas sodomy law was ongoing and its legal costs were mounting.

"There wasn't room for more," Anglin said.

But as the three talked, Anglin said he remembered something his grandmother from North Carolina used to say: If you want something done, find a very busy person to do it.

After talking about why they shouldn't stage the dinner, Anglin said they goaded each other into the possibility of saying yes.

"I will consider adding it to my plate, but only if

you'll be on the steering committee and get it done with me," Thomas said.

Anglin said they'd need a bigger boat. They were going to have to plug into a larger group, including financially comfortable people in Dallas' LGBT community. The only way to do it was to lock in the support of Dick Weaver, Anglin said.

"We threw a cocktail party in my living room," recalled Weaver, who invited friends to come over the next night.

"I didn't know if anyone would show up," he said. "Everyone invited did. That got the ball rolling."

Several people agreed to be on the board. Others said they didn't care to serve on a board, but they'd buy tickets or sell tables.

"That's all I needed to hear," Anglin said.

But there was one sticking point. Foster said his concept was for this to be an HRCF event — owned and controlled by D.C.

"We had to explain to him Texans had this thing," Anglin said. "We don't like following directions from D.C."

Anglin told Foster Dallas would do this dinner.

"We hope to make enough money to send you proceeds," he said. "But this is going to be a locally owned and controlled project."

Today, with about 50 dinners held to support HRC around the country, the Dallas dinner remains the only one locally controlled.

The first year, 140 people attended the dinner held at the Fairmont Hotel and Dallas sent HRCF \$6,000.

"That first dinner was mostly men rattling around in that big ballroom," Weaver said.

The second year, Dallas was beginning to deal with AIDS, so proceeds were split between HRCF and the newly-created Foundation for Human Understanding, now known as Resource Center. Attendance increased by 100 and proceeds that year more than doubled, so HRCF got a small increase in funds.

By the fourth year, the board of the Dallas dinner made a proposal to the community. Other nonprofits were offered the chance to benefit from the event. Of the \$150 ticket cost, \$50 would go to the cost of staging the banquet. Another \$50 would go to HRCF and the remaining \$50 could be designated to a local nonprofit.

"Tickets were flying out the door," Anglin said.

The Turtle Creek Chorale, Metropolitan Community Church (now known as Cathedral of Hope) and the now-defunct Oak Lawn Counseling Center and Texas Human Rights Foundation each received a portion of the \$43,700 proceeds.

At the second dinner, John Thomas announced that a "humanitarian award" would be presented at the dinner each year. Weaver said they waited for Thomas to sit down before announcing Thomas was the award's first recipient.

In 1991, not long before Kuchling died, the committee decided to name the award after him. When the committee met, Weaver said they also decided to award it to Kuchling that year. The following year, after Kuchling had died, his parents attended the dinner and presented that year's Kuchling Award to Reed Hunsdorfer and Lory Masters.

Over the years, the dinner has developed into a much more elaborate affair:

The first dinner journal, which was 20 pages, was printed in 1986. Last year's journal was 128 pages and hard cover. Table captains and co-chairs were terms adopted by Black Tie in 1988 as the structure of the dinner became more formal.

In 1989, a raffle and the silent auction — or "y'all's little garage sale," as Gov. Ann Richards referred to it when she spoke at the 1995 dinner — were added. The name Black Tie Dinner replaced the term Dallas Dinner Committee in 1990.

Attendance topped 1,000 for the first time in 1990. By 1992, more than 2,000 people participated and in 1995, 3,000 people.

The beneficiary video became part of the dinner in 2002.

In 2013, Wendy Davis, who had just announced her candidacy for governor, was a surprise speaker. She posed for photos at a special reception before the dinner and asked everyone there to hold off posting the pictures to Facebook. Once on stage, she told everyone to bombard social media and thousands of pictures of attendees with Davis went viral.

Proceeds from the 25th anniversary dinner in 2006 were a record \$1,350,000.

This year, the ticket price was raised from \$300 to \$400. With that pricier ticket, proceeds could approach record levels again.

Weaver, who's always looking ahead, said the 50th anniversary dinner is just 17 years away and he is already looking forward to it. ■

33rd annual Black Tie Dinner

Nov. 16, 2014
Sheraton Dallas, 400 N. Olive St.

Kuchling Award winner: Mike Anglin

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Northaven United Methodist Church
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Turtle Creek Chorale
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From 'Glee' to BTD: Alex Newell plans to steal the show



JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Alex Newell says he loves Human Rights Campaign fundraisers. So the 22-year-old star of *Glee* couldn't pass up the opportunity to perform at Dallas' Black Tie Dinner, the nation's largest such event benefitting HRC, on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Unlike a lot of celebrities at benefits, however, Newell just doesn't perform for the audience and then leave. At HRC fundraisers, he not only entertains a crowd, he meets them, too.

"You don't sit down and spend time with other people" at other events, he said by phone. "[At HRC fundraisers] I get the opportunity to spend time with the people I appreciate."

Newell first earned accolades as a runner-up on the Oxygen network's *Glee Project*, a reality audition TV show for the hit Fox musical comedy series. Newell initially was only slated to appear as Wade "Unique" Adams, a trans student, for a few episodes of season four. But he proved so popular he was promoted

to the main cast for the fifth season.

Newell does not identify as trans himself, but he still finds Adams relatable: She shares the anxieties of other high school students. Unique is just trying to find herself, Newell said.

Playing trans is a rare opportunity, and Newell said he has gotten a lot of attention for the role. He also described hearing from grateful parents and teachers who are inspired by his character.

"I love hearing the compliments because I know my work is reaching audiences," he said.

The compliments aren't just a "breath of fresh air," Newell said. They are also reminder he's doing what he loves — and doing it right.

"I've always been a performer at heart. Since I was a junior in high school, I always wanted to sing, act and dance on a TV show," he said.

Glee may be ending its run but the energetic Newell isn't planning on retirement. Between a forthcoming solo album and a schedule of many more HRC fundraisers, he'll still be doing everything he loves but mostly now in front of a live audience. ■



YEAR	ATTENDANCE	DISTRIBUTION	TICKET PRICE
1982	140	\$6,000	\$150
1983	248	\$12,400	\$150
1984	330	\$33,000	\$150
1985	437	\$43,700	\$150
1986	430	\$47,000	\$150
1987	405	\$40,500	\$150
1988	689	\$68,900	\$150
1989	862	\$86,200	\$150
1990	1,162	\$136,000	\$150
1991	1,412	\$158,950	\$150
1992	2,050	\$218,850	\$150/\$175
1993	2,390	\$257,180	\$200
1994	2,440	\$284,020	\$200
1995	3,080	\$342,895	\$200
1996	2,542	\$352,761	\$200
1997	3,068	\$450,133	\$200
1998	3,100	\$596,495	\$200
1999	3,200	\$653,581	\$200
2000	3,110	\$603,050	\$200
2001	3,300	\$822,326	\$250
2002	2,950	\$700,000	\$250
2003	3,230	\$865,000	\$250
2004	2,770	\$1,120,000	\$300
2005	3,060	\$1,240,000	\$300
2006	3,128	\$1,350,000	\$300
2007	2,924	\$1,270,000	\$300
2008	2,705	\$1,190,000	\$300
2009	2,500	\$1,040,000	\$300
2010	2,908	\$1,155,000	\$300
2011	2,920	\$1,142,000	\$300
2012	2,925	\$1,050,000	\$300
2013	2,720	\$930,000	\$300
2014			\$400
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To honor their memory

TDOR events Sunday in Dallas will memorialize the at least 71 trans women and men murdered in the last year

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Janette Tovar died on Oct. 15, 2012, at the age of 43. Her boyfriend, Jonathan Stuart Kenney, 27, allegedly assaulted her.

Witnesses saw the couple fighting early in the morning in the 800 block of West Davis Street in Oak Cliff. Kenney allegedly slammed Tovar's head against concrete. After they returned to their home in the 900 block of W. Eighth Street, three blocks away, he allegedly continued to assault her.

Hours later, Kenney found her unresponsive and called 911.

Kenney provided a statement to the police admitting that he slammed Tovar's head into the concrete and continued assaulting her at home.

Although Kenney was originally arrested on murder charges, the charges were lowered to assault because prosecutors did not feel they had the evidence to prove murder. Kenney has a court date set for Jan. 22.

Before her death, Tovar told friends about the violence at home. Friends said they had seen the couple argue, but had not witnessed violence. Others said they didn't want to get involved in a murder.

One, who was with the couple the night before the assault, was engaged and not supposed to be out that night. She was worried about her own relationship and declined to answer questions.

So rather than get involved, people let someone who allegedly killed their friend get away with murder.

Tovar was transgender, and unfortunately, those who assault and kill trans women and men get away with it far too often.

While Tovar's death was tragic and her killer isn't likely to be convicted of her murder, we do know what happened. But in most trans murders, the cases remain unsolved. And in many places, the cases are hardly investigated.

But that doesn't mean the victims are not remembered and honored. This year, Thursday, Nov. 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance. Events in Dallas to honor TDOR will be held Sunday, Nov. 16.

Gwen Smith, a trans woman, held the first Transgender Day of Remembrance in 1999 to remember Rita Hester, another trans woman who was murdered a year earlier.

Hester was a trans activist who lived in Boston. On Nov. 28, 1998, she was attacked in her own apartment and stabbed 20 times. A neighbor called police and Hester was rushed to the hospital, but she died just after she was admitted.

Hester's murder — like the murders of so many other transgender people — remains unsolved.

Since then, TDOR remembrances have taken place around the world. The ceremonies include a memorial to trans people who have been killed since the last TDOR commemoration.

This year's list includes 71 names so far.

The cause of death is often violent — the trans victims are stoned to death, thrown from moving vehicles, run over, dismembered, pushed off a moving train. Some of the victims are simply listed as



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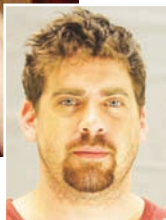


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JUSTICE NOT SERVED |

Jonathan Kenney, below, has a Jan. 22 court date on charges related to the death of Janette Tovar, left. The Rev. Carmarion Anderson, previous page, is keynote speaker at services Sunday honoring trans women and men who were killed in the last year. MosaicSong, right, will perform.



“unknown woman.”

One unknown woman was found in Sao Paulo, Brazil with her eyes removed.

Two transgender women were murdered in Baltimore in June. Both died of massive trauma. One woman’s body was left in a field. Two weeks later, the other was found in an alley.

Last December, two trans women were killed in Cleveland one day apart. One died of a gunshot to the head, the other of blunt force trauma to the head.

An eight-year-old trans girl was beaten to death by her father for refusing to cut her hair, liking women’s clothing and dancing.

Of the transgender murders that took place in the U.S. over the last 12 months, none seems to have been solved.

Local TDOR Chair Oliver Blumer said a local trans woman who died recently will be remembered.

“This year we’re memorializing a young trans woman from Eules who was bullied and committed suicide,” Blumer said.

He said the woman was 18 and still in high school. She changed schools, but the bullying continued until, in May, she took her own life.



Before the 7 p.m. service at Cathedral of Hope, a candlelight vigil takes place on The Strip on Cedar Springs.

Participants in the vigil will meet at Cathedral at 5 p.m. and then drive in groups down Cedar Springs. At 5:45, they will begin to line the street and light candles. They’ll be silent and direct any questions to volunteers along the route, said GEAR coordinator Blair High. At 6:30 p.m., the vigil ends and participants return to Cathedral for the service.

Blumer said doors open for the memorial service at 6:30 p.m. Because so many of the trans victims this year are from Brazil, he said, one of the people reading names is a Portuguese speaker.

Carmarion Anderson is the keynote speaker. MosaicSong and The Transcontinentals will perform.

High said personal safety is something the trans community takes very seriously. She said she hesitates before planning anything outside of the city.

“If there’s a concert at Winstar I want to go to, I think twice,” she said. “There’s a chance I could get hurt going to Oklahoma.”

The Transgender Law and Policy Institute compiled some statistics of the rates of violence and discrimination against the trans community.

Among trans woman, 83 percent reported verbal abuse and 37 percent experienced physical abuse because of their gender identity or expression.

Discrimination is also rampant. Housing discrimination was reported by 37 percent of trans women and employment discrimination by 46 percent. One in five trans women is without stable housing or is homeless and 52 percent are without health insurance.

Trans men reported similar treatment. Verbal abuse was reported by 85 percent of trans men and 30 percent experienced physical violence.

Employment discrimination was reported by 57 percent and housing discrimination by 20 percent. Fifteen percent were without stable housing or were homeless and 41 percent had no health insurance. ■

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GOODBYE TO AN ALLY | The Rev. Carol West, left, and retiring Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead formed a tight bond after the 2009 Rainbow Lounge raid.

Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead to retire'

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead announced his retirement on Tuesday, Nov. 11, leaving behind a legacy praised by many LGBT community leaders, who applauded his commitment to the LGBT community.

"He was one of the best things to happen to Fort Worth and the city's relations with the LGBT community," said the Rev. Carol West.

Fairness Fort Worth's David Henderson called the chief a friend. "Rarely have I encountered a public servant willing to own up to issues, take full responsibility for his team and then sincerely work to change an entire culture for the better," Henderson said.

It wasn't always rosy with the LGBT community, however. In 2009, Halstead was just six months on the job when Fort Worth

police and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents raided a newly-opened gay bar called Rainbow Lounge, on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Officers handcuffed seven patrons during the raid, and one patron, Chad Gibson, ended up hospitalized with a serious head injury that caused lasting damage.

Halstead was internationally panned for suggesting within a couple of days of the raid that the Rainbow Lounge's gay patrons had provoked the response by groping officers and making sexual advances. His defensive response infuriated many LGBT advocates.

Henderson, now president of Fairness Fort Worth, which was formed in response to the raid, summed up the perception of Chief Halstead at the time as "the emblematic villain of the Rainbow Lounge raid."

West, along with a delegation including QCinema leader Todd

Halstead praised by numerous local LGBT leaders in face of obstacles

Camp, accountant Tom Anable, and attorney Jon Nelson quickly arranged a meeting with the chief to discuss their concerns.

"I was ready to take the streets before the meeting," West said. But she added, she left convinced that ignorance, not Halstead, was the real enemy in the unfortunate raid.

Instead of digging in his heels, West said she found Halstead to be someone deeply seeking redemption.

"When I listened to him, he came across as real," West said.

Halstead quickly appointed his department's first-ever LGBT liaison officer, Sara Straten. The officers involved in the raid were reprimanded, and the entire department is now required to attend mandatory LGBT sensitivity training.

But changes were not just confined to the police department. The Fort Worth City Council approved a wide-ranging nondiscrimination ordinance. The city's Human Relations Commission passed a resolution supporting transgender protections, and the Fort Worth Independent School District approved a sweeping anti-bullying policy.

Sharon Herrera, a school district employee and current human relations commissioner, said she was sad about Halstead's departure. "He supported LGBTQ Saves [and its] work with LGBTQ youth. He provided free security for every event. We worked well together," she noted.

Halstead was hired by the city after serving in various roles in Phoenix, Ariz., and the Rainbow Lounge raid was not the only problem to happen early in his tenure. In the same year, he faced an internal scandal after numerous police executives, including his chief of staff, were arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Halstead also had a rocky relationship with other city constituencies. In 2011, a group of community members with the Black, Brown & Tan Caucus and the Community Leaders Coalition called for his resignation after a Tarrant County grand jury did not indict a white police officer who shot and killed Charal Thomas, a black man.

This past summer, Halstead faced mounting criticism following a report, known as the Coleman Report, revealing race-based harassment within the department. The city's Black Law Enforcement Officers Association called for his resignation and the Latino Peace Officer Association remained neutral.

At the Tuesday press conference, Halstead denied rumors he was pressured to resign by Mayor Betsy Price. Sources close to the Dallas Voice, however, said a long series of missteps culminating in the Coleman Report led to his departure.

Halstead said he plans to go into the private sector as a consultant to police departments. According to Texas Secretary of State records, he established a consulting business this past summer.

He and his wife, a native Texan, will remain in Fort Worth.

Corporal Tracey Knight, the department's current LGBT liaison, worked closely with Halstead. She said she will remember his legacy as much as the man himself.

"The policies that he and other city leaders have put in place regarding equality will be a shining legacy for all to remember the leader, visionary and friend that he is to us all," she said in a statement.

Personally, she added, she'll miss his camaraderie — and his corny jokes.

"On a personal note...it is because of him that my wife and daughter are now on my health insurance so in the words of my six year old," Knight said. "Thanks Chief-ee!"

Six years after he was hired, Halstead's leadership and willingness to work with Fairness Fort Worth and others have transformed the city from an embarrassment to a leader in LGBT equality. Once the enemy, the police chief leaves behind an impressive legacy for LGBT people within the department and city government as a whole. ■

LGBT protections still lacking in Texas



Rafael McDonnell, top, Nell Gaither, left.

Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth top Texas cities in HRC Municipal Equality Index

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

A new report assessing LGBT inclusion in municipal law and policy released on Wednesday, Nov. 12, revealed only three of the 22 surveyed Texas cities achieved perfect or near perfect scores.

The Human Rights Campaign's 2014 Municipal Equality Index assessed data from 353 cities across the nation. The cities researched for the 2014 MEI include the 50 state capitals, the country's 200 most populous cities, each state's four largest cities, the city in which each state's largest public university is located and an equal mix of 75 of the nation's large, mid-size and small municipalities with the highest proportion of same-sex couples.

Texas' largest cities were most likely to have pro-LGBT policies; few small or mid-sized Texas cities have advanced on LGBT issues.

The average score for cities in Texas is only 28 points compared to a national average of 59 points.

Austin was the only Texas city — and one of 38 nationwide — to receive a perfect 100-point score. Dallas came in second in Texas with 91, and Fort Worth was third with 83 points.

El Paso's 52 points, Houston's 54 and San Antonio's 72 rounded out the list of the top six cities in Texas.

Plano received the highest score — 22 points — of any suburb in the state. In the Dallas/Fort Worth region, Arlington, Garland, Grand Prairie, Irving, McKinney and Mesquite all scored between 0 and 11.

Cities are evaluated based on 47 criteria grouped under six broad categories: non-discrimination laws, relationship recognition, employment policies, including transgender-inclusive insurance coverage, contracting non-discrimination requirements, and other policies relating to equal treatment of LGBT city employees, inclusiveness of city services, fair law enforcement practices and leadership on matters of equality.

Inclusive municipal policies are critical to safe-

guarding LGBT people in a state like Texas, which lacks any comprehensive statewide legislation barring discrimination or relationship recognition.

While Texas cities racked up points for protecting residents from discrimination and recognizing same-sex couples, Dallas and Fort Worth, in particular, still do not provide transgender-inclusive coverage or require contractors to provide equal benefits to same-sex couples.

"Dallas has the potential to be at 100-percent if it chooses to tackle transgender-inclusive health insurance and requiring city contractors to provide equal benefits to same-sex couples," said Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager for Dallas' Resource Center.

Dallas earned nearly nine more points from the previous year, while Fort Worth declined by eight points.

This year's new criteria included providing for LGBT youth and protections for homeless LGBT youth, both of which contributed to Fort Worth's slipping in the ratings.

Fairness Fort Worth's David Henderson said the measures were "a little sloppy" especially given he and other local advocates "hold up the MEI and its sister publications as a standard when negotiating with providers."

Nell Gaither of the Trans Pride Initiative was just as critical towards the MEI but for different reasons. She supports the work of the MEI but questions what she sees as treating LGBT people as a "monolithic entity" and trusting in bureaucrats to successfully implement policies.

"It provides only a limited picture of the actual state of equity for folks in gender and sexuality diverse [GSD] communities," Gaither said of the MEI. "Just looking at policy means placing 100 percent trust in administrators to implement properly, and we know there is not always a great deal of enthusiasm to implement benefits for marginalized populations. When there are other intersections, enthusiasm can wane even more."

More importantly, said Gaither, "policy does not necessarily reflect lived experience, and no one verifies that these policies are adhered to or that there are effective and accessible mechanisms for addressing breeches of policy."

Michelle Stafford of the Transgender Education Network of Texas took a broader perspective, shining light on the gaps between the state's big and mid-sized cities.

"As a fifth generation Texan, the MEI is both encouraging and heartbreaking [to me]. It is encouraging in that a few of our major cities are showing progress and are making efforts in the right direction. But it is heartbreaking because in this state that prides itself on its friendliness and on the right of the individual to express himself, so much of the LGBT population living in Texas continues to live in fear of expressing who they really are."

Chuck Smith of Equality Texas in a statement said the fight for equality is not over.

"The MEI scores ... prove that through our efforts continued progress is achievable. ... Protecting Texans from discrimination in the communities that they call home is a high priority for Equality Texas, and one that we will devote significant resources to for the remainder of 2014 and into 2015." ■

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PRIDE Calendar

November

- **Nov. 14: Wanda Sykes with Keith Robinson**
Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. Tickets available at TicketMaster.com.
- **Nov. 15: Black Tie Dinner**
Dallas Sheraton Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. \$400. 6 p.m.–midnight. BlackTie.org.
- **Nov. 15: AIDS Outreach Center Garage Sale**
Donations accepted 7 a.m.–4 p.m. on Nov. 13 and 14 at AOC. No pick ups available. Garage sale on Saturday from 8 a.m.–noon at 400 N. Beach St., Suite 100, Fort Worth.
- **Nov. 15: Double feature**
Daniel Karslake's For the Bible Tells Me So and Every Three Seconds with a talkback with Karslake benefits AIDS Outreach Center's Sandy Lanier Nutrition Center. 12:30-5 p.m. at Kimbell Art Museum Piano Pavillion, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. \$20 or \$15 with a donation of five shelf-stable food items.
- **Nov. 16: Transgender Day of Remembrance Spirit Walk**
Walk begins at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road at 6:30 p.m. Entrance of walkers and memorial at Cathedral of Hope at 7 p.m.
- **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance**
Screening of the documentary Valentine Road at 4 p.m. Panel discussion at 6 p.m. and candle-light vigil at 7 p.m. at Willis Library Forum, 1506 Highland Ave., Denton.
- **Nov. 20–Dec. 20: Story Corps**
The Dallas Way participates in recording, pre-

serving and sharing the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs. Appointments can be made on Nov. 6 at 800-850-4406 or at StoryCorps.org. The recording booth will be in front of the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. StoryCorps.org.

- **Nov. 21: Marc Veasey's second annual 33rd Congressional District Job Fair**
Mountainview Community College, Building E Lobby, 4849 W. Illinois Ave. 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Free and open to the public.
- **Nov 23: Gobble til ya Wobble**
A Thanksgiving dinner and celebration for LGBTQ youth, young adults, allies and families. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6–8 p.m. Facebook.com/RLConnection.

December

- **Dec. 1: World AIDS Day**
- **Dec. 1: Night of a Thousand Names**
CURE honors The Names Project Foundation, Dr. Steven Pounders and Dr. Louis Sloan. Noah's Event Space, 2151 N. Greenville Ave., Richardson. 6 p.m. CUREnTX.org.
- **Dec. 4: Red Ribbon Bash**
Resource Center and Hotel Lumen honor World AIDS Day. Silent auction, chef-crafted bites and signature cocktails. The Lumen Hotel and Front Room Tavern, 6101 Hillcrest Ave.
- **Dec. 22: Ring in the Holidays with Leslie Jordan**
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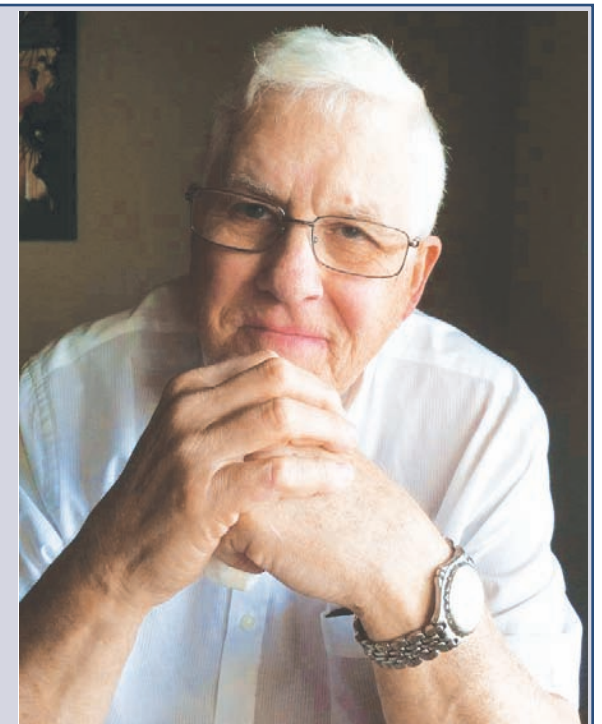
Ed Shellhorn died Oct. 14. A memorial service was held Oct. 17 at the Cathedral of Hope.

His life was spent committed to his family, lovingly raising five children with care and compassion.

In his career, Ed Shellhorn served as a newscast director at Channel 4 and Channel 8. But in his personal time with family, he had a passion for hiking the Canadian Rockies, the pictures he took and the campfires he built.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Young; and his children, Dana Lund-Hawkins, Robin Jones, Kristen Whisler, Heather Behlmer and Eric Shellhorn.

The family expressed gratitude for the kindness friends have shown them in our hospice journey.





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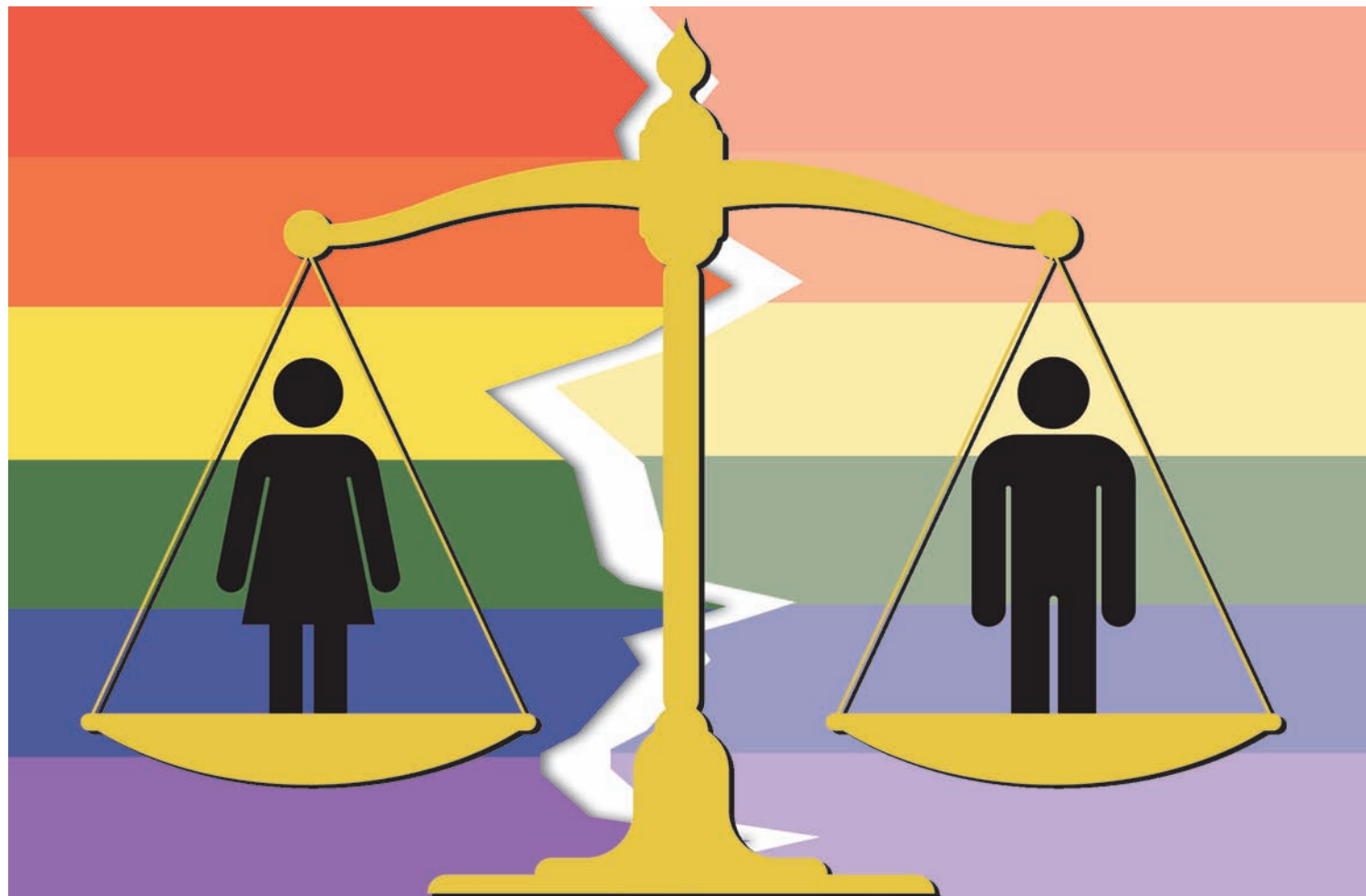
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“He-man, woman haters”?



Why aren't gay men stronger allies for our lesbian sisters?

Since coming out, I always thought — perhaps naively — that gay men and lesbians were natural allies: We face similar societal disdain. We are often bullied and marginalized by heterosexuals. People use religion to ostracize and discriminate against us.

But it seems that lesbians and gay men don't really get along all that well — or that we just do an awful lot of ignoring each other.

What is it that separates us? Beyond body parts and varying degrees of femininity and masculinity, what is the source of the divide among the predominant genders within the L and G of LGBT?

All of us were born of women. Many gay men have sisters, aunts, female friends — and some of us have even had wives. Although neither gender prefers to date the other, our non-heterosexuality should be the one thing that binds us.

And yet, it seems that in some ways it is actu-

ally what divides us.

I understand, to an extent, social segregation — the need and desire for “boy places” and “girl places.” (Neither of those places, by the way, make room for gender non-conformers and trans people; but that's another article.)

I understand the need for gender-specific groups such as The Handsome Father, which was formed to help gay fathers, who are the minority of genders raising children and can get lost in mothers-only groups and spaces, find community.

But I don't understand why men — straight and gay — are paid more than women. I don't understand why men in power appear to be hell-bent on taking choices away from women. And I don't understand why gay men aren't naturally staunch allies for our lesbian sisters.

This isn't to say that all gay men are unfriendly toward lesbians or don't have lesbian friends. Though, this line of reasoning makes me think of when people jump to defend themselves against an accusation of racism or homophobia by saying, “But I have lots of [black/gay] friends!”

You'd think, knowing our history, we would

have an undeniable reputation for supporting women; but we do not. When a generation of gay men was dying of AIDS, the women — lesbians in particular — cared for us when no one else, not even our mothers, would. Maybe we've forgotten that history or just don't know it.

I do not believe, as Rose McGowan recently asserted, that gay men are misogynistic. But I do think we're generally indifferent and disinterested.

We don't have to deal with pregnancy. The majority of us aren't raising children. We're not victimized by men anywhere near the extent they are. And even though we experience discrimination because of our sexual identity, we're still privileged in society over women with regard to job opportunity and pay.

Maybe part of the divide is being OK with the fact that without doing a thing, we earn more simply because of our gender and that no one is outright attempting to impede our right to do sexually with our bodies what we want. Maybe it's because we unwittingly fall in with our heterosexual counterparts using disparaging words to describe women or things about them we don't like.

Maybe we secretly feel guilty for our own complicity or because we don't outwardly care



Todd Whitley
Contributing Columnist

more.

Since moving into Dallas' "gay ghetto," I'll admit that I myself generally associate with my gay male friends more than my lesbian friends.

Part of that is simply adjacency; my lesbian friends don't live in the gayborhood. And when we do go out to the bars — even with women in tow — we're generally always at one of the predominately male establishments versus the single lesbian choice.

I understand that there are sociologic differences in how women and men form community, interact within it and relate to one another. I also understand more and more the role privilege plays in where men and women live, the choices each makes and the options available to either group.

But what am I doing about it? And why should I care?

The National Center for Lesbian Rights exists to fight for the rights of all LGBT people while empowering lesbians in leadership. But the organization also covets the participation of those Executive Director Kate Kendell refers to as "the very best men." In remarks she made in her recent visit to Dallas, Kendell suggested, "You cannot grow up in this culture and not be homophobic, racist, or misogynistic. ... But you can fight [those attitudes], every day."

Look. I know most of us aren't "he-man woman haters," but sometimes, I believe being lukewarm can be worse than taking no definitive stand at all. I can't for the life of me understand — again — why one group who experiences oppression doesn't vociferously come to the aid of the group that does.

And instead of using our privilege as men to separate, why the hell aren't we gay men using it to empower and advocate on women's behalf?

Some would call this attitude being a feminist. And I sure hope so.

I hope my gay brothers — many of whom naturally imbue a greater sense of the feminine than

most of their heterosexual counterparts (something writer/activist Tyler Curry says we should embrace) — will become full-fledged feminists and exert their influence within our society for more than just their own rights.

And I hope the solidarity we can achieve brings our communities together in a way that hasn't ever been seen — not the result of tragedy but the outcome of mutual respect and diligent support for one another.

A place where men listen to women instead of making excuses or getting defensive. Where gay men stand with lesbians on issues that are every bit as crucial to lesbians today as HIV/AIDS was to gay men in the 1980s and '90s. Where we go beyond having a drink together at Sue's or two-stepping at the Round-Up and become staunch advocates in every space of our society.

And when we do, what a marvelous thing we model for the greater community of women and men, regardless of where one falls on the gender spectrum.

I've said before that the LGBT community holds a lot of power to effect change in society at large. And here's another way — by exhibiting a better way to be: equal, free from the impositions of gender that divide us, marching arm in arm, united, undeterred, unbreakable.

In Merger Poem, artist Judy Chicago wrote:
"And then all that has divided us will merge.

....
"And then both men and women will be gentle.

"And then both women and men will be strong.

"And then no person will be subject to another's will."

He-man women-lovers, unite! ■

Todd Whitley is a local activist and communications manager for Equality Texas. He can usually be found tweeting (@toddwhitley), holding a picket sign, thrift store shopping or eating Tex-Mex. Read his blog at tdub68.wordpress.com.



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The letting go

Melissa Etheridge: On her new CD, reinventing her career and her proudest moment as a pioneering gay icon

It's been more than 20 years since Melissa Etheridge, after declaring herself a lesbian at an inaugural ball for President Clinton, came out on record. Released in 1993, the artist's benchmark album, *Yes, I Am*, would signify a giant leap forward for the LGBT community — and, also, Etheridge's career.

The LP, her mainstream breakthrough, came before *Ellen*, before *Will & Grace*, before Laverne Cox graced the cover of *Time*. Putting her career on the line, Etheridge still stood like a pillar of hope, valiance and torch-carrying fortitude. And it wouldn't be the last time.

Taking another shot in the dark with *This Is M.E.*, a DIY disc released on Etheridge's own label, M.E. Records, the 53-year-old goes independent for the first time since signing with Island Records in the mid '80s.

Catching up with Etheridge one recent afternoon — she's crunching on some granola, which is so very Melissa Etheridge-y of her — the rocker discusses how “flat lining” influenced her decision to go indie, why she stopped reading her own press and which hit she was “forced” to record.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: The album is called *This Is M.E.*, a play on your initials.

But how about nicknames — do you have any of those? Melissa Etheridge: I don't. I pretty much answer to whatever anybody calls me.

Especially if that person is Linda Wallem, your wife. Exactly. “Yes, dear!”

To quote one of your songs, was the process of making this album like “the letting go”? That was exactly it. Thank you so much for seeing that, because last year I did cut all the strings. All of them — every single one. I gutted my whole team that I had behind me for 20-plus years. I just said, “Look, it's time. I need a new model. I need a new way of doing this.” I completely flat-lined and had no interest in just business-as-usual. In doing so, I went and talked with and interviewed a bunch of managers, record companies, lawyers, agents and dozens of people, and I found out a lot about me in doing so. I got a new view of what other people in the business think about me and my business and [learned that] I don't need those old structures anymore. Because of the new technology, I can reach my fans. I have a fan base, I have social media, I can let every single one of them know. I can sell just as many records as I had been selling with a record company, and I can own my record. I could take charge of this, and I don't have to answer to a record company.

Was it something you regretted not doing sooner? Because I bet you wished you owned the rights to “Come to My Window.” Absolutely. You have to just look ahead, though. You can't look back and go, “Ah, all those songs!” That's just the way it is.

What's the best part about being your own boss? The responsibility. There's no one I can blame. I have to believe in every single one of these songs. In the studio, working with each of these producers and

musicians, I was taking full responsibility for every single note on this album.

Had you been feeling a lack of support from your label? Oh yeah. From *Lucky* in 2004 and on, the record industry was, every year, falling in huge amounts and getting less and less, and also, those albums were not incredibly commercial albums because they were introspective. I was investigating myself and my own spirit and thoughts, and so those albums weren't gonna be big commercial hits, so they didn't get a lot of attention.

On *Lucky*, with the song “Meet Me in the Dark,” you actually addressed this sense of abandonment you were feeling at the time regarding the label's lack of support. Isn't that right? Exactly — I did. I sat down and said, “I'm gonna write this song for those people who listen to albums to find that song that's just special.”

Was it then that you first started thinking of career alternatives? Yeah, indeed.

What kind of pressure were you experiencing from the label? At the time, were they forcing you to make radio hits? Well, there's only so much you can do with me. I am what I am, and I know that on *Lucky* the song “Breathe” was not my song at all. That was one that the record company came to me and said, “Look, we think this could be a hit.” I did something that I will never do again. I like the song — it's a great song — but I really felt like I was doing something I didn't wanna do. I got cancer afterwards and went, “Never again.”

■ ETHERIDGE, Page 25



I GOTTA BE M.E. | Melissa Etheridge is without a label ... and labels are something we could use less of.



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L+S books

Rice queen (of the damned)

Literary royalty comes to Dallas as Anne Rice promotes her long-awaited new novel, 'Prince Lestat'

No pretenses here: I am unabashedly a huge fan of the fiction of Anne Rice. Have been for years. Her first entry in what is now called The Vampire Chronicles began in 1976 with the release of *Interview with the Vampire*, but it took the better part of a decade before she followed it up, with *The Vampire Lestat*, in 1985. By the late-1980s, however, her dark, romantic, and highly sexualized universe of the undead had caught on, and her name became synonymous with a kind of glamorous, brooding fiction about supernatural characters.

The length of time between her last installment in the Chronicles (2003's *Blood Canticle*) and her newest (*Prince Lestat*, released just last month) is the longest gap between books in the canon since the initial two ... and has fans licking their fangs in anticipation.

We chatted with Rice — who attended high school in Richardson, where she met her future husband, the late poet Stan Rice — before her appearance Tuesday signing copies of her new book.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: You've come back to Lestat and the vampires after a 10-plus year absence. Do you expect to write about them again? Or is *Prince Lestat* likely to be the last one? Anne Rice: Absolutely [I intend to come back to them]. I see at least two more books continuing the story of *Prince Lestat*. There's a lot happening as the book ends, and many open doors.

I don't want to include any spoilers for fans who haven't read *Prince Lestat* yet. But there are two new characters very closely tied to Lestat that are introduced. Can we perhaps expect to see them as main protagonists of books yet to come? Yes, and just about all the characters introduced will be developed more and there will be more to talk about. Much more.

INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE (AUTHOR) | Novelist Anne Rice stepped away from Lestat and his friends for a decade. Now she's back, and bringing her bloody pen to Dallas for a booksigning this week. (Photo courtesy Derek Shapton)

If you write more vampire books, will you stay with the characters we already know, or do you think there will be all new characters to come? Or maybe you will take a character that played a small part in a previous book and focus on them specifically, like you did with Marius and Armand and Pandora, for example. I want to continue with large-scope books, involving these characters and perhaps more new ones. That's my approach now. I don't want to return to the memoir books focusing on one character now — but maybe later on ... much later on.

What about the world of The Witching Hour series? Will there be more books and Rowan and Michael and their family? I wouldn't say no, but right now my mind is on Lestat and his friends. Some day maybe I can revisit the witches.

All of your books, whether part of a series or stand-alones like *Servant of the Bones* — which, by the way, is one of my favorites — involve very lush, very fully realized worlds all their own, and many of them span great stretches of time. How much time do you spend researching to really “get it right” when it comes to the historical times and places that you write about? How important is it to get historical details “right?” Or do you prefer to create your worlds with a history of their own?

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Research is very key with me — very — and often it's not simply a matter of acquiring info; it is inspiring. Discovering a city, for instance, in ancient times, can inspire [me to write] a story or convolution in the existing story.

I know you have probably grown a bit tired over the years with all the questions about the “homoeroticism” in *The Vampire Chronicles* and other books. But I am still gonna ask: Do you think that the homoerotic elements of the *Vampire Chronicles* are really what has made them so popular in the LGBT community? Or do you think it is

more the fact that you have made the heroes, or anti-heroes, of your stories be the ultimate outsiders, and that LGBT people identify with the outsiders? As I understand it, what made the books popular with gays is that they involve no gender prejudice, no condemnation of same-sex love and relationships. They are without any bias at all and they present same sex relationships as having the same dignity, integrity and depth as any other relationship.

Your son, author Christopher Rice, of course is gay. What's your own relationship to your gay fans? I love the gay readers. Their reviews have been some of the very best. ■

The return of the Prince

Anne Rice's latest installment in the *Vampire Chronicles* brings her characters into the (technological) light

Prince Lestat by Anne Rice, (2014, Alfred A. Knopf), \$29; 464 pp.

It had been 12 years since I last picked up a new addition to Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles* series (I somehow missed 2003's *Blood Canticle*), so when the review copy for *Prince Lestat* arrived in my office, I was practically giddy with excitement.

And I am glad to say, I was not disappointed.

Full disclosure: I went into this already a huge fan of Rice. I have been since I first read *Interview with the Vampire* 10, these many years ago. So I am sure there are folks out there who won't like *Prince Lestat*, and who might say I lack critical objectivity, questioning the validity of my opinion. But to hell with them — I'm right. It's a fabulous book.

Prince Lestat shares that epic, sweeping sense of romantic history — historic romance? — that fills each of Rice's books, whether she is writing about vampires or witches or castrati or ghosts or Christ. That is one of the things I love most about her work: the way she can create such a specific sense of time and place, with characters that are so much a part of that time and place (even if they are the outsiders), and at the same time make you feel how it all fits into the world at large.

Her stories and her characters have always been both intimate and grand, personal and public, fantastical and historical. That remains true in *Prince Lestat*.

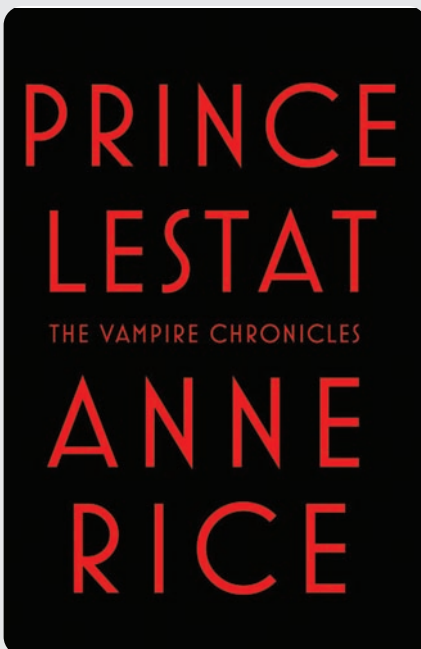
There are some differences, though, between this new novel and earlier *Vampire Chronicles* tales. While the other installments have usually spanned centuries, *Prince Lestat* is more rooted in the present. It is about what's happening now, in this high-tech age of eternal daylight where nothing stays secret for long, to creatures who have lived for centuries in the shadows by always keeping their secrets safe.

I love the way Rice has reached into the seemingly inconsequential details of previous stories to bring back characters that we, perhaps, didn't even notice as distinct characters the first time around, and the way she has wrapped up some ongoing storylines (Where did the Talamasca come from?), while at the same time opening up some most intriguing new ones. (Don't ask; I won't tell. No spoilers here.)

My wife does not like Rice's books — her writing style is too florid and, in a sense, dense for her tastes. But it is in part those exact attributes that draw me to Rice's books. The style fits the dramatic, passionate and intricate lives of the characters whose stories the author tells.

That drama and passion continue in *Prince Lestat*, which is, I believe, a feast for Anne Rice fans. And while I don't expect it to win over my wife, I do think it will create new Rice aficionados, who — like me — are already waiting for the next *Vampire Chronicles* tale to come out.

— T.N.



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Body conscious

Dallas designer Rusty Bell realized that not every gay man looks like a runway model, so he came up with Thrlll, a line of menswear for boys and bears alike

J. DENTON BRICKER | Contributing Writer
dentonbricker@gmail.com

When Rusty Bell first started dating his boyfriend Corey, he was shocked to discover that Corey hated — *hated!* — wearing underwear. It was confining — an uncomfortable chore.

As a designer specializing in men's undergarments, this came as a blow to Bell. (Corey wouldn't even wear *his* creations!) For Bell, underwear presented opportunities: for a splash of color or a flirtatious, fun accent, especially when wearing conservative business attire. And a key was stylish *comfort*: That extra layer helps keep jeans fresh in Texas heat, and outer garments even slide over it better.

Rather than take offense, Bell took Corey's resistance as a challenge. And what started off as a quest to "fix" a problem has rapidly grown into a unique, emerging menswear brand.

Bell's startling discovery was compounded by the epiphany that many in the gay bear community shared Corey's opinion. That led to the creation of Thrlll, which Bell named after his generational suffix.

"I would ask friends what kind of underwear do you buy and these huge guys would wear an XXXL on top and an XL on bottom," says Bell. "Obviously, there were a lot of fit issues. I thought maybe there isn't enough variety of fun brands for larger sizes. Andrew Christian, NastyPig and PUMP all go up to XL only. Where do you go from there?"





STRAPPING MEN | Bell, right, and his husband Corey, show off some designs at a recent marketplace at the Dallas Eagle, above; opposite and below, some of Bell's sexy, plus-sized designs for all gay man body types (heterosexuals welcome, too).

ThriIII offers jocks, bikinis and boxer briefs in vibrant prints and solids in sizes from S to XXXL, which is indicative of how Bell's work consistently demonstrates that he isn't afraid to ask the hard questions before implementing innovative designs to help answer them.

From underwear, Bell naturally leapt into creating lounge/street wear and he started with a yoga pant specifically for men.

"All of the girls run around in these black, stretchy yoga pants everywhere," Bell observes. "I really thought that men needed their own version of everyday lounge pant that you can wear to the gym, outside the gym and just have fun with." His designs ensure such fun, employing bright colors and slightly sheer fabrics. The Yo-ga'll is another yoga centric product he offers: Think of a cross between oversized overalls and

a playful yoga pant with deep cut sides to show off those obliques.

"It looks amazing on everybody that puts it on," Bell says. "It's so comfortable, breezy, and I love the fact that it shows a little side hip without full blown exposure. If you wear a great pair of underwear you even get a little flash of color. Showing hip is the male version of side boob."

His forays in yoga designs led to the creation a shortened, streamlined version of the long john in the commanding prints he is known for.

"I call them shortjohns," Bell grins. "They are somewhere between longjohns and Bermuda shorts with pockets but it still has the fitted pouch in the front. It's a little risqué but still fun. You can wear it in or out."

■ **THRIII**, Next Page



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L+S fashion

■ **THRILL**, From Previous Page

The length makes them more practical and wearable in the mild Texas winters. The black graphic waistbands seen on his underwear also work well here, grounding the lively print while also lending the ThrIII brand further cohesion and fluidity. Bell upcycles a certain amount of special fabrics that speak to him, which ensures that collections are of a limited nature.

Bell's eye-catching short-sleeved sequin hoodie is another standout amongst his product lineup.

"I love that I started off with matte sequins so it wasn't shiny or glossy but still had a great texture to it. If you put a really masculine guy into sequins it actually works well," Bell says. "It doesn't add a feminine aesthetic like you would think. It's kind of sporty but also a little glam. We started with black and then green."

He knows that his clothing requires a certain confidence to wear but also reminds us that the tradeoff in fashion also make us feel good too. For example, the sequins may or may not require courage but the fit that hugs you in all the right ways makes you feel great.

Bell's bold designs push the street/lounge aesthetic but they're supposed to. Bell is familiar with Dallas and its sometimes conservative fashion tendencies and yet encourages us to grow.

"I would like to push the envelope as far as what people are digesting," he says. "In Dallas, we typically stick to a more standard color, design or cut because that is what we know and it is safe.

There are of course exceptions and different stages of this. I want to see the Dallas customer, my customer, whoever decides to wear this, feel the freedom of being able to jump into what they want to wear and how they want to wear it."

Bell officially launched his brand this spring with a fashion show during Texas Bear Round Up, and he also made a strong showing at the Pin Show. He's also been driving cross-country to have a presence at gay Pride events all over the nation, including Orlando, San Diego and Denver. He's kept the ThrIII brand available online and at Skivvies, and the line also includes leather and wool vests, leather and sequin track jackets, pink leopard basketball shorts, swimwear (think water proof sequins), and he even does custom work upon request.

Add to all of this: Bell is studying for his Ph.D. in art education, while also working full-time at Wade College as a professor of fashion design



while serving as design division director.

How does he balance it all?

"Segmentation of what I have is really wonderful," he says. "I used to produce three different lines out of the house which was extremely difficult especially with our dogs. And school is just a sprinkling here and there."

And Corey — now his husband, and a staunch defender of his underwear — is still integral to his work, actually managing the business side of ThrIII and providing an anchor.

"He helps me edit down and we balance each other out," Bell says. "Don't get me wrong: sometimes there are emotions and things that come into play. But in the end [those] contradictions work well for us."

Relationships, like fashion, are all personal style.

■ ETHERIDGE, From Page 18

At this point in your career, you're embracing solitude. Yes, I am.

How have all these changes reshaped how you approach music and how you approached this album? It's reinvigorated my love for the industry and the art form beyond just singing and performing, but actually with the writing and the producing and creating of these songs. My god, I think there are at least five different producers on this record *and* I worked with others that didn't quite work out. I got to work with all kinds of people. I threw out to my management, "Think outside the box," and that's how I ended up with RoccStar and Jerry "Wonda."



Is it easier to write with a broken heart or a happy heart? Well, it's not easy to write in any situation, but it depends. I think one has to learn how to make any personal state a state that one can create from. I can write "Who Are You Waiting For?" — which is both. Yeah, I was brokenhearted and smashed and lifted up, so I can create from both. I can create from an old memory of, "You done me wrong," and write "Ain't That Bad." That's the craft of writing. You give me even a mundane subject and I will craft a human experience around it.

Tell me the story behind the first song you wrote for the album. There are two. I wrote them by myself before I brought them to a producer and those were "Who Are You Waiting For?" and "A Little Hard Hearted." For those two, I sat down the way I normally do: I actually

sat down at the piano because I like writing on the piano; it brings out different musical things than if I write on the guitar. So "A Little Hard Hearted" was actually more of a ballad than it ended up being. But yeah, that was one of the first ones. It was like, "I don't wanna be broken any more. I wanna move on," which is what we've done. With [my ex-wife] Tammy [Lynn Michaels], both of us have worked really hard to put all the crap behind us and just be two loving households that can work together for the kids.

How did you deal with the tabloids that pitted you two against each other? I just didn't go online for a couple of years! [Laughs] I don't look at that stuff because it's this sense of, I have no control over what people are thinking. I know what my truth is and there's no way I

■ ETHERIDGE, Next Page

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■ ETHERIDGE, From Previous Page

can convince other people of it. They're gonna believe whatever they believe, and I just have to move on through this. Time will always tell, and the truth always comes out, so I'm just gonna be the best person I can be and move on. I could get stuck in that. And that's like a whirlpool. That'll just suck you right down into it.

Have you ever read your own press? Googled

"Melissa Etheridge"? Oh, sure. Eight times out of 10, it's a pleasant experience. Other times it's, "I didn't need to see that."

Having spent so much of your life on stage — how has that changed for you? How is getting out on stage different now than it was when you first got out there? I'm different. I mean, I've been on stage

since I was 11 years old, so I went through a lot of being on stage when no one knows who you are, being on stage when you're singing other people's music, being on stage when no one's paying attention — I know that.

I also know the wonderful feeling of being on stage when people are expecting something. I was always thrilled when I walked on stage and someone paid money to come see me. Now when I walk on stage, I haven't even sung a note and people are going crazy. That's just ... that's a dream come true. To start a song and people know it — I love it, love it, love it.

Was that something you imagined for yourself as a kid? Are you the artist you set out to be? Yeah, I knew that I wanted to be a singer/songwriter. I knew that I wanted to write the songs too — that it was im-

portant that that be a part of what I do — so I'm very happy that when I start these songs that I've written, people know that. So yes, I am.

Knowing all you know about yourself now, what would you tell the Melissa Etheridge of the '80s?

"Hey, you can relax. Don't worry. Don't get all worked up about it, because it's all right — you're gonna make it." The best part of the whole thing is the journey — it's actually the getting there, not the being there. It's who I met in the process, and the memories. Just the whole experience is what it's about, and I'm so grateful for it.

As one of the first out public figures, what's your proudest moment as a gay icon? It's when a teenager or a successful 27-year-old will come up to me and say, "Thank you. You saved my life. If it weren't for you, I would've never come out and been able to

live the life I've lived." And what can I say? That's worth everything.

Every single person who makes that choice to stand up and present him- or herself in life as who they are — every single time one person does that — it changes the world. It goes out and it changes others, and if they're doing it in public and living their truth — I mean, come on, Ellen and Michael Sam! — they change the world.

What do you want your legacy to be? I would love for it to be, "Hey, that Melissa Etheridge, she just changed the world a little bit." That maybe — because I was here — life was great for some other folks, you know? That'd be nice.

Which song of yours will likely be played at your funeral? [*Sings creepily*] "Cooooome to my windooooow." [*Laughs*] I really haven't thought about it. That's one thought I haven't thought about! I'll leave that up to you guys, OK?

In 2002, you released your memoir *The Truth Is...: My Life in Love and Music*. Would you consider writing another? Oh, yeah. That one was just the first third of my life. I have much more to write about. Life happens so quickly that I haven't even jotted anything down, but I think about it all the time. The next book I'm gonna write, I will have sat down and taken a large chunk of time to write it because I think it deserves that.

What would you call this second book? Something like, *The Truth Changes*, because it does! With my mother and my sister, I certainly don't hold the same sort of angst that I used to at all. That's so far away from me. I can look back and tell a story that I told and I look at it a little differently now, because I've learned more things and I'm a different person. ■

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Tuesday 11.18

Learn about 'Elf' respect at Bass Hall with this new musical

Buddy isn't the brightest penny in Santa's workshop. He hasn't seemed to notice that he's way taller than all the other elves, and just plain bad at making toys. So when he learns that he was adopted, he sets off on a quest to re-enter the world of mortals. The Will Ferrell movie comedy *Elf* gets the B'way treatment in this musical adaptation, which launches the North Texas holiday-themed theater season. Presented by Performing Arts Fort Worth.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 252 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Nov. 18–23. BassHall.com.

Friday 11.14

Purple Party sweeps away the chill with DJ Eddie Martinez headlining at Spin

Eddie Martinez is known to his resident New York fans as a mesmerizing DJ, whose eclectic style and pulsating remixes of Gaga, Bey and Kylie have made him one of the hottest spin doctors on the circuit. He'll bring his masterful mixes to the floor of Station 4 this Friday, paired with local DJ Paul McElroy, for a pounding set at Spin, the Purple Party's fall fundraiser. It's an excellent way to get yourself moving and shake off the chill of winter.

DEETS: S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m.–4 a.m. PurpleFoundation.org.



Friday 11.14

Danielle Georgiou Dance Group gets 'Nice'

Danielle Georgiou founded her dance troupe three years ago to bring a feminist perspective to dance, filtered through the lens of metatheater and German Expressionism. She explores what it means to be "nice" — for good and bad — in her new work, presented in the Wyly's Studio Space as part of the new Elevator Project Series of edge performances.

DEETS: Wyly Theatre. 2400 Flora St. Through Nov. 23. ATPAC.org.



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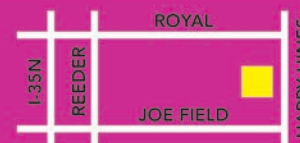


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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

The Arsonists. A new translation of the dark comedy by gets its regional premiere, courtesy of Kitchen Dog. *Reviewed this week.* The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through Dec. 13. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Cabaret. The musical about the decadent life of Sally Bowles and company in Weimar Republic Germany. *Final weekend.* Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland. \$23-\$27. GarlandCivicTheatre.org.

Driving Miss Daisy. Joel Ferrell directs this Pulitzer-winning comedy-drama. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Fellowship! A spoofish send-up of *The Lord of the Rings*. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 22. CircleTheatre.com.

The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls. The glitz and corruption of modern Russia are satirized in this modern dark fantasy. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Dec. 6. Undermain.org.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in Theatre 3's downstairs space where the audience helps solve the crime. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Theatre3Dallas.com.

COMEDY

The Second City 55th Anniversary Tour. The Chicago-based comedy improv troupe returns to Dallas. Presented as part of the new Off-Broadway on Flora Series. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday-Saturday. ATPAC.org.

DANCE

Danielle Georgiou Dance Group: Nice. The new Dallas-based troupe, which focuses on feminist themes presented through the prism of metatheater and German Expressionism, stages this fall series, interpreting the social convention of being thought "nice." Presented as part of the Elevator Project Series. Wyly Theatre Studio Space, 2400 Flora St. Through Nov. 23. ATPAC.org.

FINE ART

Isa Genzken: Retrospective. The German modern artist gets a rare and dazzling retrospective. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 4, 2015. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Bouquets; French Still Life Painting from Chardin to Matisse. A reexamination of the painting of flowers in the 19th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 8, 2015. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Mario Testino: Alta Moda. The famed fashion photographer turns his lens on the ordinary, indigenous residents of Peru. Dallas Contemporary, 161 Glass St. Through Dec. 20. DallasContemporary.org.

Cecelia Feld. A show of the Dallas collagist and multimedia artist. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, ste. 107. Through Nov. 29. ilumeGallerie.com.

The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion. Stunning couture from three of Japan's most iconic fashion designers: Miyake, Yamamoto and Kawakubo. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Feb. 22, 2015.

Monumental Works. A group show of large format paintings. Kirk Hopper Fine Art, 3008 Commerce St. Through Nov. 29. KirkHopperFineArt.com.

Harvest. A group show of four visual artists, including Charles Coldewey, Tom Ortega, Cecilia Thurman and Janna Tidwell. Mary Tomas Gallery, 1110 Dragon St. Through Nov. 15. MaryTomasGallery.com.

NOBODY'S PERFECT ... | ... but Chrissie Hynde comes close. The rock goddess performs live at the Winspear Tuesday.

FRIDAY 11.14

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour. The monthly mixer for gays in the tech field (and everyone else) moves to Capitol Pub, 2401 Henderson Ave. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Black Tie Preview Party. Check out the items for auction at the event Saturday. Sheraton Dallas Downtown Ballroom, 600 N. Olive St. 8-10 p.m. BlackTie.org.

Purple Party: Spin. New York DJ Eddie Martinez joins Dallas' Paul McElroy at this fall edition of the charitable dance party, which raised money for local HIV organizations. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 9 p.m.-4 a.m. \$7-\$10. PurpleFoundation.org.

SATURDAY 11.15

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. The final event of the year, this monthly (except December) fundraiser for the Resource Center goes out with a chill, with the theme Winter Wonderland. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. first game. \$25-\$40. MyResourceCenter.org.

Holiday Toy Drive & Industry Mixer. The fourth annual event benefiting Big Brothers/Big Sisters and presented by The Heads with Hearts foundation. 500x Studio, 4002 Eastside Ave. 7-9 p.m. TheHeadsWithHearts.org.

Black Tie Dinner. The big social event of the year, a fundraiser not only for the national organization of the Human Rights Campaign but also many local charities. Sheraton Dallas Downtown, 600 N. Olive St. Starting at 6 p.m. BlackTie.org.

TUESDAY 11.18

FILM

Grand Prix. The preeminent racing movie of the 1960s, John Frankenheimer's exciting action film won three



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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

Oscars. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. only.

THEATER

Elf. The stage musical adaptation of the popular film comedy about a non-magical creature working at Santa's workshop. Presented by Performing Arts Fort Worth. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Nov. 18–23. BassHall.com.

CONCERTS

A Night with Chrissie Hynde. The lead singer of The Pretenders and all-around coolest chick in rock will perform hits from her entire catalogue. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

WEDNESDAY 11.19

BROADCAST

Top Chef. This season, in Boston, with Padme, Tom, Gail and Richard Blais. Airs on Bravo at 8 p.m.

American Horror Story: Freak Show. The creepiest season yet of the anthology series. Airs on FX at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY 11.20

BROADCAST

Project Runway All Stars. Returning contestants compete. Airs on Lifetime at 8 p.m.

COMEDY

Last Comic Standing Live. Alums of the reality show bring their live show to Downtown. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. VIP packages available. ATPAC.org.

THEATER

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration. Lesbian playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner Paula Vogel (*How I Learned to Drive*) wrote this show, with music by Daryl Waters, about the holidays while all of the union was at war with itself. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Nov. 20–Dec. 14 (in previews through Nov. 27). Theatre3Dallas.com.

FUNDRAISER

The Holiday pARTY. Artreach-Dallas hosts its annual holiday "party for the arty," which showcases Christmas trees and fanciful wreaths from local designers and artists. Proceeds benefit Artreach's mission to serve the underprivileged, elderly and disabled. 129 Leslie St. 6:30–8:30 p.m. \$75.



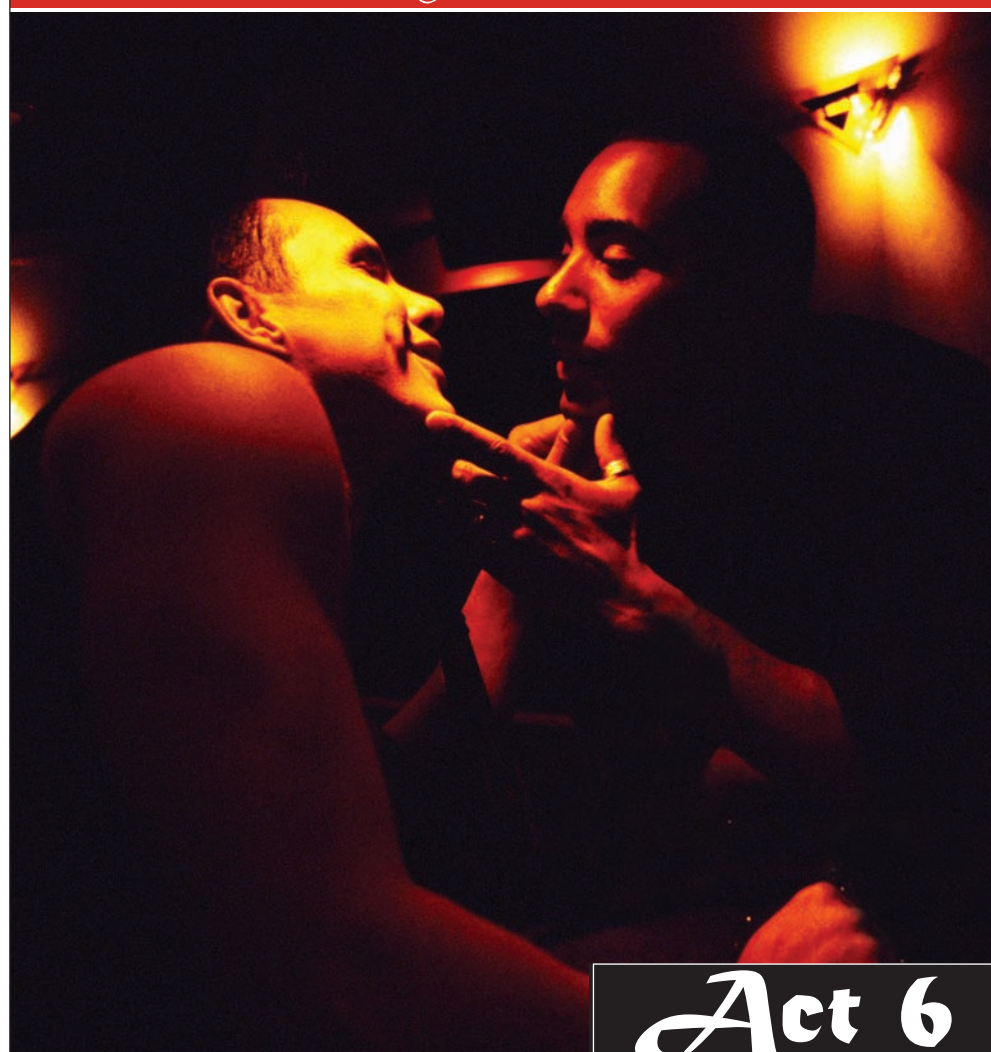
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REVIEW: 'The Arsonists,' Kitchen Dog's farce of the mind

Gottlieb (Max Hartmann) is an unscrupulous businessman in such denial, he doesn't worry a bit that a key employe he cheated out of a future committed suicide because of the betrayal. He's happily removed from the realities of how hard life is for the 99 percenters, clucking his tongue that a group of arsonists appear to be targeting the wealthy. How do his peers allow themselves to be so deceived by criminals? Until one day, Joseph (Jason Kane), a brutish thug, shows up on his doorstep with a ludicrous sob story and, via intimidation and guilt, wheedles his way into Gottlieb's life to plan yet another act of terrorism ... just for the hell of it, apparently.

The late Swiss intellectual Max Frisch made his rep as a playwright 60 years ago with **The Arsonists**, but this newish translation — getting its regional premiere from Kitchen Dog Theater — gives ample legroom for theater companies to make of it what they wish. In KDT's case, they've turned it into a vaudeville — a farce of the mind that relies on stabs of original music, word play and subtle psychology to burrow under your skin about the nature of society and man's capacity for self-deception. "They can't be arsonists — they don't have matches," Gottlieb reasons before turning over his Zippo to a scary crew of villains (which now also includes Michael Fererico, who has perfected the art of turning whiny nebbishes into intense comic foils).

This is prime real estate for director Tim Johnson to trod over, combining his affection for absurdism with dark insights into the psyche that can be arresting between blurts of laughter. The cast is top-notch, including Jenny Ledel as a passive-aggressive maid whose frustration with her employer mirrors the audience's ... and her inability to show him the light reminds us that sometimes, mankind is simply beyond helping itself.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Now playing through Dec. 13. KitchenDogTheater.org.

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Cast members of DTC's *A Christmas Carol* 2013. Photo by Karen Almond.

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Cassie Nova

Cassie introduces a new feature: Her Random Thoughts. Be afraid

Hi-ho, everybody! Last weekend, after my show in the Rose Room, a guy cornered me and said, "I would love to know the things that run through your brain." I asked what he meant. He just looked at me and laughed and said, "Cuz you ain't right ... the stuff that comes out of your mouth. I can only imagine the things you filter out."

Surprise dude! I usually don't filter out *anything*. If I think it, I usually say it. But that conversation gave me an idea. I will write down my most random thoughts for a new segment I'm gonna call Cassie's Random Thoughts. I hope this gives you an insight into my mind, but please don't judge.

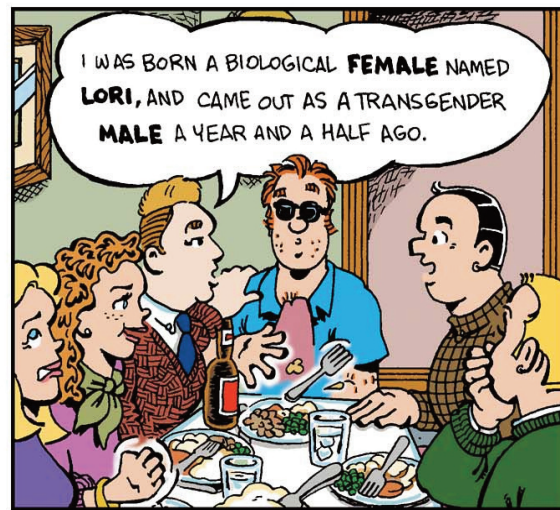
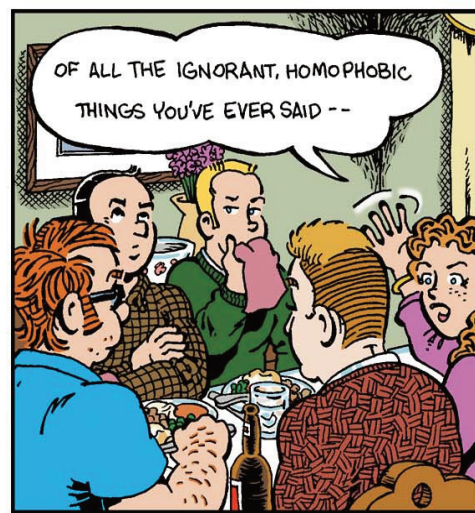
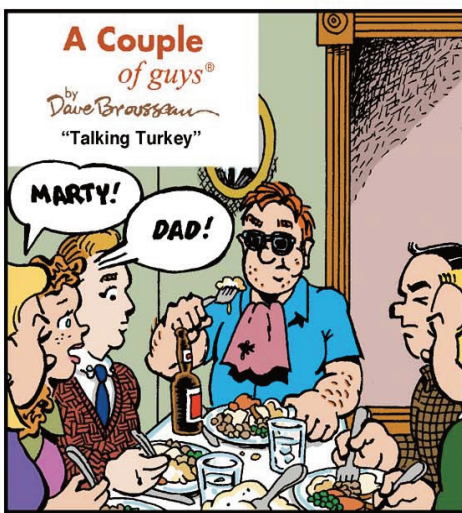
- I wonder if Napoleon Dynamite has a big dick.
- I wish I were a cartoon.
- Why are they called apartments when they are connected?
- I kinda don't hate the way a skunk smells.
- I pee sitting down because I'm lazy.
- Alex from Target is adorable and probably gay.
- Shouldn't Jesus have a license if he is gonna take the wheel?
- I wonder if I think about penis as much as straight guys think about boobs.
- I want a pig.

I wonder if Napoleon Dynamite has a big dick.
— Cassie Nova

Stephen King should write a book about evil mutant drag queens.
Where the hell are those sidewalk snails when it is *not* raining?
I hope aliens *do* exist and are not assholes.
I probably would not survive long in a zombie apocalypse — it sounds exhausting with all the running and the killing.
I bet Rick Perry has a micro-penis.
Now on to some questions.
To the wonderful almighty and all knowing, Cassie Nova!! I have a question for you!! I have decided, in my ultimate wisdom, to join the U.S. Navy. I soon leave for basic training (booty camp, because you get a big booty from boot camp). My question is: How should I celebrate my going-away party? I'm stumped and wanna make it a great memory.

Idea? Thanks, Soon-to-be Navy boy.
Well hello Navy boy! OMG! I have the best idea for you. You totally need to enter the Thursday night show in the Rose Room and do drag. Invite all your friends and make memories no one will ever forget. You can show the guys at booty camp your drag photos and say it is your girlfriend. Do it. I double-dog-dare you. If you won't do drag, come out to the Rose Room anyways, myself and the other girls will make sure you have a great time. Thank you for your future service. Cassie.
Dear Cassie, Is it bad that I do not go to bed when my boyfriend does? I mean, I do work later than he, but I always heard that's one of the best things to have between each other to make a relationship work. We've been together for five years now and

just wanted to get your advice. Best wishes love you! Joey.
Joey, One of my favorite things about having a husband is going to bed at the same time. I love cuddling up and the kiss goodnight (although I actually go to sleep a lot later than my man because I keep a late schedule). I either read for a while or watch TV with a set of headphones on so he can sleep. I call it my wind-down time. I truly feel it helps us stay connected. Good luck, I hope this helps. Cassie.
Hey Cassie! My girlfriend and I have been together for four years. She came out to her parents years ago but I'm her first serious girlfriend. Since her parents found out about me, I'm not allowed to any family celebrations or holi-



days and she can't mention my name or anything about me/us to them. I'm madly in love and I can't imagine life without her. We've lived together for three years and are saving to buy a house and are planning to start our own family. The holidays make me feel lonely because we have to celebrate separately. This is the one fight we constantly have. I want her to stand up for me to her parents and she wants to keep everyone happy. How can we fix this? How can I make them see how happy we are? Love, Holiday Heartbreak.

Dear Holiday Heartbreak, Girl, this is a tough one. Y'all have been together long enough that her family needs to realize that you and your partner are family. It's easy to say that it is time for her to give the family an ultimatum between the girl I love and the family that can't fully accept her. But the reality is dealing with family is not easy, but if they truly love her, it is time for the family to evolve. They don't have to love you but they should respect the love you have for each other. Remind your girlfriend: Holidays are for family ... whether blood or chosen ... but hopefully someday soon both. Till then, stay strong. Cassie.

- More of Cassie' Random Thoughts.
- I think I want to be cremated and made into a diamond when I die.
- I hope no one ever finds out I like Taylor Swift.
- Are the bumps on the side of the highway there so blind people can drive — you know, like Braille?
- I would be a horrible lesbian.
- I wish Linda Eder would come out with some new music.
- Skinny people always seem so unhappy.
- I wonder who from *Happy Days* had the bigger dick: Potsie or Ralph?
- Love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.
- If you have a question and want to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen — or just have some juicy gossip to share — email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



The Jack is back! Kathy Jack, left, has returned as manager at Sue Ellen's, and the fans, like these on the right, like it!



Cordero and Michael at Out of the Closet.



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Making the **SCENE** the week of Nov. 14–20:

Alexandre's: *Walter Lee* at 10 p.m. on Friday. *Shelia P and Infinity* at 10 p.m. on Saturday. *Mi Diva Loca* at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. *Alicia Silex* at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: *Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington* show at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Club Cherries: *Latino Night* at 7 p.m.–2 a.m. on Friday.

Club Reflection: *Cowtown Leathermen* cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. *Fall Frolic* fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Sunday. *Wall of Food* show at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: *Leather Corps* seminar at 2–4 p.m. on Saturday. *United Court of the Lone Star Empire* investiture and show from 5–10 p.m. on Saturday.

Round-Up Saloon: *Miss Gay Fire & Ice USofA* with *Jenna Skyy* co-hosted by *Jenni P* and *Celeste Martinez* at 8 p.m. on Sunday. \$10.

Sue Ellen's: *The Bright* on Friday. *Jason Huff & The Ignition* on Saturday. *Jessica Grai* from 3–5 p.m. and *Bad Habits* from 6–9 p.m. on Sunday. *Cami Maki* on Wednesday. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: *Kat Haygood*.



Party night at Station 4.



Anton and Renee get cozy with Bianca Del Rio at Station 4, left, and later a Bianca Del Rio fan captures a memory with his smart phone, right.

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Tony, Kevin and Peter at The Brick/Joe's.



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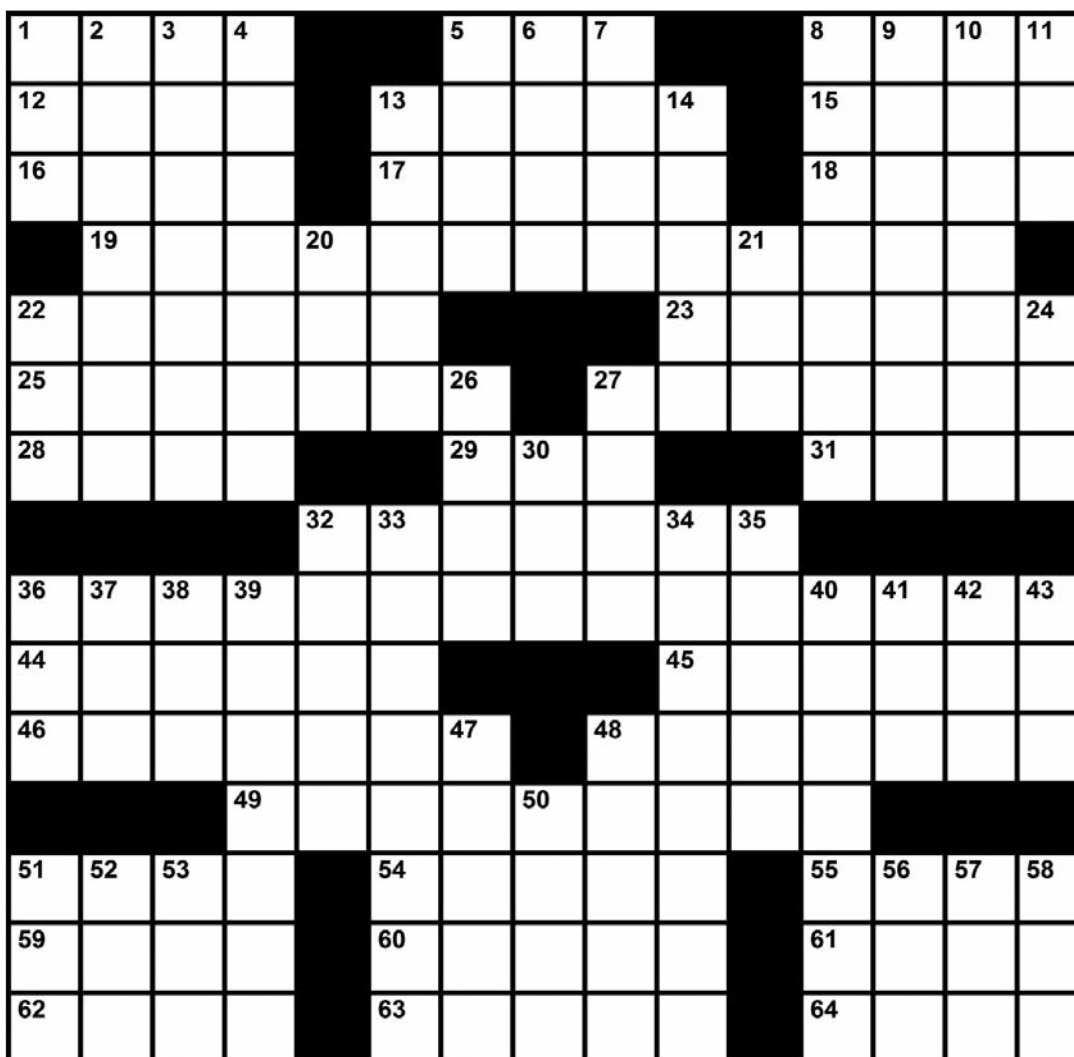
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 - LAMBDA GROUP
6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour
 - OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
7:30 PM, Wed; 1 1/2 hours
- Meeting Type: Open, Sharing, Steps, Welcoming to all, Safe for GLBT

q-puzzle



Shakespeare in Drag

Solution on page 28

Across

- Manhandle, with "with"
- Where to have cybersex
- Shoe bottom
- Engaged in
- Went without saying?
- Each
- Prepare for phone sex
- Story on the stand
- Elizabeth of *Transamerica*
- If the Bard had written a play about ___ in the Roman senate ...
- (With 23-Across) ... what would ___ have said to a friend ...
- (See 22-Across)
- Flying toy
- The Untouchables* Oscar winner
- "Etta ___" (old comic strip)
- First in a Latin threesome
- ___-sex marriage
- Capital of Venezuela
- ... when he saw him wearing a ___?
- Still waiting to go out
- Art of Cukor
- Daily allowance
- Heisman Trophy winner Tony
- Answer to the riddle

- Michelangelo's painting and sculpture
- Mishima, for one
- Make a hole bigger
- Eagles, but not leather bars
- Went up
- Zipped
- Red planet
- Gets a butt-whuppin', maybe
- Prissy hissy

Down

- Base for some wrestlers
- Frasier or Niles
- Like the Oscars, as sparkling celebs appear?
- Featured player
- Montgomery Clift's ___ River
- Islamic leader
- Neuwirth of *Chicago*
- Homo ___
- Where to go with your first mate
- Reach of the law
- Clean air gov't grp.
- Stroke with an upright stick
- Music of the the Village People
- Where to put your meat, in a deli

- ___ Francisco
- Stone film
- Seed spilled by some farmers
- Features of Disney's Dumbo
- Comedic actor James
- Where wrestlers lie together
- Like orange traffic markers
- Nevertheless
- Tales
- Drag queen's mini, e.g.
- Type of tent that may be erected
- Request to Sajak
- Country est. in 1948
- Cashes in, as coupons
- Butt plugs, e.g.
- Maiden name preceder
- Std. of a line through Auden's land
- Posed for Annie Leibovitz
- El Prado, for one
- Cover with cloth
- Antigay prejudice, e.g.
- It swallows plastic and spits cash
- Breakfast on Pluto* actor Stephen
- Seaman
- Many, many moons
- Jackie O.'s second husband
- Came upon

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