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Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes, Nicole Dimetman and Cleo DeLeon (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

Changing hearts and minds

In less than a month, a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit Court will hear arguments in three marriage equality cases, including one from Texas — DeLeon v. Perry. And the plaintiffs in the Texas case said Monday night, Dec. 15, that they are optimistic the 5th Circuit will rule in their favor.

The 5th Circuit, considered one of the most conservative of the 13 U.S. circuit courts, is set to hear arguments in the three cases on Jan. 9 in New Orleans.

"Maybe it will be 2-1, but I think they will rule in our favor," said Mark Phariss of Plano, who with his partner, Victor Holmes, and Austin lesbian couple Cleopatra DeLeon and Nicole Dimetman challenged Texas' ban on same-sex marriage. The two couples were part of the Freedom to Marry Town Hall held Monday night in Austin.

Evan Wolfson, president of the national Freedom to Marry organization, also participated in the town hall forum, along with Mark McKinnon, a former advisor to President George W. Bush.

The forum also celebrated the launch of Texas for Marriage (TexasForMarriage.com), a new organization dedicated to changing people's minds in Texas on the subject of marriage equality.

"It's really inspiring when you meet these families," said Texas for Marriage Campaign Manager Ward Curtin, adding that his organization's goal is to share the "stories of the hundreds of thousands" of same-sex families in Texas.

— Tammye Nash

Tarrant for Hillary hosts Ready for Hillary bus and rally

Tarrant for Hillary, a group of Tarrant County residents urging former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016, hosted the touring Ready for Hillary bus on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at Cowtown Diner in Fort Worth. Local elected officials including Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Fort Worth, Justice of the Peace Sergio de Leon, Fort Worth City Councilman Sal Espino and Haltom City Councilwoman Stephanie Davenport, spoke in support of a potential Clinton run.

— James Russell

Senate confirms first openly gay man as federal district judge in Texas

The U.S. Senate has confirmed Robert Pitman to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, making him the first openly gay federal district court judge in Texas, according to reports by LGBTQNation.com.

The Western District court had been vacant for six years. The vote to confirm Pitman came late Tuesday evening, Dec. 16.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican who has never been a friend of the LGBT community, is getting credit for Pitman being confirmed — but not because Cruz suddenly had a change of heart on LGBT issues.

To force a vote on what he called President Obama's "illegal executive amnesty" for immigrants, Cruz and Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, on Friday, Dec. 12, scuttled a bipartisan agreement that would have prevented weekend votes in the Senate. The ban on weekend votes would have meant the Senate would have run out of time before being able to vote on confirming more than a dozen of the president's judicial and executive nominees, including Pitman, who likely would not have been confirmed if they had been forced to wait until next year when the GOP will control the Senate.

But when Cruz and Lee sidelined the agreement, that opened the door for current Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., to call the Senate back into session on Saturday and get those votes through.

— Tammye Nash

MetroBall signs Belinda Carlisle as headliner

MetroBall, which takes place on June 5 at S4, has signed Belinda Carlisle of the Go-Gos as its headliner.

MetroBall benefits the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and over the past decade has raised more than \$275,000.

Carlisle was the lead singer for the Go-Gos, before beginning a solo music career in 1985. The Go-Gos became the first all-girl band to hit No. 1 on the charts by writing and playing their own songs.

Throughout the early 1980s, the Go-Gos remained one of the most beloved bands in America, with hit songs like "We Got the Beat" and "Our Lips Are Sealed" dominating radio and MTV. The discography of Carlisle's solo career includes seven studio albums, three compilation albums and 31 singles. Her memoir, Lips Unsealed, was published in 2010 by Crown Archetype.

Belinda has a gay son. Earlier this year she and her son, James Duke Mason, spoke to a PFLAG group about Mason's coming out. Duke is an actor, writer, candidate for the West Hollywood City Council and the grandson of the late British actor James Mason.

— David Taffet

DFW Film Critics name 'Birdman' best of 2014

The Dallas-Fort Worth Film Critics Association named the fantasy film *Birdman* as the top film of 2014 in its annual poll. The runaway favorite also took nods for its star, Michael Keaton, who won best actor; Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu for direction and screenplay; and for its cinematography. Second on the list was the Texas-based *Boyhood*, which took place over a 12-year shooting schedule.

The other films in the top 10 were *The Imitation Game* (No. 3), *The Theory of Everything* (No. 4), Texas-bred filmmaker Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (No. 5), *Whiplash* (No. 6), *Gone Girl* (No. 7), *Selma* (No. 8), *Wild* (No. 9) and *Nightcrawler* (No. 10).

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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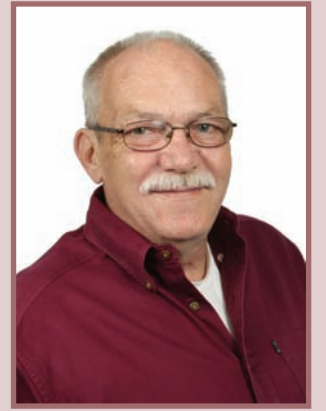
Death

Paul Lewis, born Jan. 19, 1945, left this life Nov. 28, 2014. He was preceded in death by his longtime friends Larry Payne, John Paul Manness and Karen Daley. He is survived by his partner of 27 years, Kenneth Jones, friend Billie Rains, his god-daughter Summer Siemans, and all of his Caven family and friends.

Paul left his mark on this community in many ways. He was the coordinator for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade for almost 20 years and served on many charitable committees throughout his career at Caven Enterprises. Most of all though, he took care of so many people that became sick with HIV/AIDS, whether getting them meals or actually taking them in to his own home. He had a heart as big as Dallas, but you had to get through that gruff exterior to see it.

He will be sorely missed by his friends and coworkers. There will always be an empty spot at the end of the bar at JR.'s, with a coffee with cream and two sweet and lows. We have truly lost an angel on this earth.

There will be a celebration of his life at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 1 p.m.



localbriefs

Celebration Church honors Halstead

Church.com.

Celebration Community Church honors Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead at its 11 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 21.

"We think he's built some bridges that have welcomed our community into City Hall," Celebration's pastor, the Rev. Carol West, said. "He was a strong driving force in the work the city has done with the LGBT community. We call him friend."

Celebration Church is located at 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth. Celebration-Community-

Mavs host gay night

The Dallas Mavericks invite the LGBT community to join the team for 70s Night with special discount pricing. Prices that normally range from \$21-\$72 are discounted to \$17-\$65. To purchase tickets, call Chelsey Lutz at 214-658-7192 or email chelsey.lutz@dallasmavs.com. Dec. 30 is the deadline to purchase discount tickets. The price is not valid at Ticketmaster or at the American Airlines Center box office.

pet of the week / HENNESSEY

Hennessey is a playful, 2-year-old American bulldog mix. She's been at the shelter for a long time, so her adoption fee has been waived. All she needs is a toy and a family. Please come visit her at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N. Westmoreland Road. Her ID# is A862823.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. They also offer discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, to any senior citizen that adopts a pet, and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices. Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.



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Dallas County considers FMLA policy for LGBT employees

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas County's LGBT employees came a step closer to equal benefits this week when the Commissioners Court at its weekly meeting on Monday, Dec. 16, discussed updating sick leave and leave of absence policies to include its LGBTs and other employees.

The city of Dallas updated its family medical leave policy earlier this year.

To remain in compliance with Texas law banning legal recognition of same-sex marriage, county officials propose allowing any employee to name one person as a "designated care recipient." But that maneuvering may be unnecessary because the anti-marriage-equality constitutional amendment the county is tip-toeing around has already been found unconstitutional in federal court. An appeal by the state of Texas will be heard by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan. 9.

The solution to extending family leave to LGBT employees and others who are not married is to allow an employee to name one designated care recipient, regardless of that person's age or whether that person resides in the same household. So gay and lesbian employees would be able to name a spouse.

Under the federal Family Medical Leave Act, employees may take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a parent, spouse or child. People with same-sex partners have been excluded from caring for their spouses under the act, although many employers have extended the benefit to them.

The problem for same-sex spouses in non-marriage-equality states is that the spouse is not recognized.

Under current Dallas County policy, leave may be granted at the discretion of the department head or elected official for up to three months in any 12-month period. No one has complained of discrimination against the county's gay or lesbian employees in regard to the policy, but the policy change would clear up any doubt.

Single people — gay or straight — might designate a close friend or relative as well, a provision included in the city policy that city attorneys believe kept the regulation within the challenged state law.

Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager for Resource Center, spoke to Commissioners Court about the policy.

"Those employees, by being able to designate someone for whom they serve as caregiver for the purposes of sick leave and leaves of absence, won't have to choose between their jobs and families they are committed to love," McDonnell said.

During the commissioners' discussion, there were no questions about allowing an employee to take time off to care for a same-sex spouse. Questions about who would be covered instead revolved around others who employees might designate, like an elderly neighbor.

Under FMLA, children are covered, but grandparents and grandchildren are not. Since grandparents often raise their grandchildren, commissioners questioned what would happen if employees could only name one child living in their house.

The director of human resources said she's have to get back to them on that one.

Commissioner Elba Garcia said the policy on family leave hadn't been updated in awhile and it was time to provide this benefit to all of the county's employees.

"We're delighted to continue to move forward when we can help families," Garcia said.

She called the briefing productive and said she expected the policy change to be approved after a 30-day comment period.

"All of the commissioners are delighted to see a policy that will affect all of the employees of Dallas County in a positive way regardless of any status," Garcia said. "The feeling I got from my colleagues is it's a step forward."

Dallas County's human resources department studied the issue and said the proposal could have a financial impact as more people asked for leave. Although FMLA leave is unpaid, some overtime might have to be paid to other employees. The unpaid leave might actually amount to a cost savings.

The recommendation was forwarded to other elected officials and department heads for a 30-day comment period. Commissioners are expected to vote on the issue in January. ■



FAMILY FRIENDLY | Dallas County Commissioner Elba Garcia, who led a drive to make Dallas the only county in Texas with nondiscrimination protections, is now trying to extend FMLA leave to care for same-sex spouses.

Planting hate

An Arizona man moved to Fort Worth, declared he's a pastor and posted a video he calls a sermon saying gays should be killed

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Donnie Romero recently moved to Fort Worth after being ordained by Arizona preacher Steven Anderson, who made national news on World AIDS Day when he released a video claiming we could have an AIDS-free world by Christmas if we killed all the gays.

Now Romero has introduced himself to North Texas by posting a video last week espousing a similar message of violence and hate. Romero claims to lead Stedfast Baptist Church, located at 2501 True Ave., Fort Worth. A search found nothing more than a dilapidated house at the address.

In his YouTube video that appears to be filmed with Romero standing in front of a podium placed in front of a blank wall, he declares: "I'm not going to let these dirty faggots in my church. They are all pedophiles."

Romero does not, however, explain why he thinks any gay person would want to go to his church.

In his video, Romero claims gay people in Genesis and Deuteronomy rape and hurt other people, and he uses that as justification to call for gay people to be killed today.

The Rev. Carol West of Fort Worth's Celebration Community Church said she considers Romero's video alarming.

"I think it's sad when people use religion as a weapon," West said. "I don't care how you hide behind God, it's still hatred and bigotry."

She said she thinks his words border on being a hate crime. "We have a right to say what we think, but when we start infringing on other people's rights, we've crossed a line," she said, calling his video a direct threat.

West also said that while Romero *may* be crossing a legal line, he is *definitely* crossing a moral line: "He's inciting other people to violence."

West compared Romero's "sermon" to rhetoric from the Westboro Baptist Church, which is known for its "God hates fags" campaign. She said she thinks Romero may be worse than Westboro's Phelps clan.

While Westboro protests at military funerals and against any groups that are pro-gay, West said that church doesn't cross the line by inciting violence. They declare that anyone who supports the LGBT community will go to hell, but they don't encourage illegal action to send LGBTs or their supporters to hell sooner.

West also said she doesn't believe Romero should be considered a pastor, and that she hopes the IRS will not consider an application from his supposed church.

"If you're a leader and no one's following, you're just taking a walk," West said.

The Rev. Steve Sprinkle, a Baptist minister, is director of field education and supervised ministry and professor of practical theology at Brite Divinity School.

"Baptist churches have family trees," Sprinkle

said. "Donnie Romero is an example of bad fruit on the tree."

Sprinkle said congregations ordain ministers in the Baptist church. If an individual Baptist church is part of a larger convention or association, that convention or association may require the individual churches to meet higher standards, he explained. But as a radically free Baptist, Sprinkle said, Anderson in Arizona is free to ordain any of his followers to plant around the country to spread his version of religion. Once he has ordained Romero and Romero has formed his own church, only Romero's own congregation can defrock him.

"There's nothing to prevent him from calling himself a pastor or his church a Baptist church," Sprinkle said, "but that doesn't make it true."

Sprinkle called Romero a "jack-leg preacher,"



Pastor Donnie Romero

meaning someone who is self-appointed and self-endorsed with no one listening to him. He said the video is more a recruiting tool than a threat.

"He's poking around looking for others who hate like he does," Sprinkle said of Romero. "I denounce the guy and do not consider him to be a minister of Jesus Christ."

Candy Marcum, a licensed professional counselor, said she wonders about Romero's mental stability and whether he's dealing with his own coming out issues.

"Who would care that much unless he has something going on himself?" Marcum said.

She said the North Texas LGBT community is very religious and most LGBT North Texans were raised in religious households.

"When a faith-based leader comes out publicly against GLBT folks, it puts many of us in a quandary," Marcum said. "The quandary is, 'I am a child of God and there is a faith-based leader who says God does not love me. As a matter of fact, God hates me and wants me put to death.'"

Marcum called that a jarring juxtaposition that causes shame and makes individuals feel unworthy. But she also said she wonders if Romero isn't just dealing with those issues himself.

■ HATE, next page

Legislators file joint birth certificate bills for LGBT parents

Anchia, Garcia said bills would address inequities, not create new rights

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, and Sen. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, filed companion bills Wednesday, Dec. 17 that would allow adopted children in Texas to have the names of both parents listed on their supplemental birth certificates, regardless of the parents' gender.

Both bills would amend the Texas Health and Safety Code, which requires the supplemental birth certificate of an adopted child to be in the names of the adoptive parents, but allowing only one female parent and one male parent.

"Texas families come in all shapes and sizes, including those formed by adoption. An adopted child needs to have a birth certificate that accurately reflects the child's family," Anchia said in a statement. "Texas laws should protect and support the rights of children and families — not hinder them."

"This bill removes an unreasonable obstacle to some children getting the important legal documentation they need," Garcia said. "A birth certificate is vital and should accurately reflect both parents. Neither these children nor their parents should be burdened with an incomplete birth certificate that omits a loving parent."

Under the current law, adopted children of same-sex couples are denied accurate birth certificates, which can cause difficulty in obtaining a passport or Social Security card or in registering for school, the lawmakers said. Same-sex parents must carry and present documentation proving their legal parentage for medical care, school enrollment and international travel, they said.

Without a birth certificate, the child is left in legal limbo and can never have the same recognition of family status that is afforded other adopted children, both Anchia and Garcia said.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith praised the bills. "A birth certificate describes the relationship between parents and their children, not the relationship between parents. Whether or not you approve of the parent's relationship, it is cruel to deny a child accurate documentation," he said.

The lawmakers stressed that their bills do not create any new rights, privileges or relationships.



Rep. Rafael Anchia

According to the 2010 US Census, more than 9,000 same-sex couples are raising children in Texas. Among them are Felissa and Jeri Beasley of Wichita Falls. They know the stress it takes to have both parents listed on the supplemental birth certificate first hand.

It took the couple three years to make sure both of their names were on their children's birth certificate.

Felissa Beasley retired from the military so she could take care of her family, including Jeri Beasley's two children. But before Felissa could be a recognized parent, she had to change her last name, submit adoption papers and deal with endless paperwork.

"The driving force was for one specific moment, when I won't even be alive," Felissa Beasley said. She cited her funeral as an example. As a veteran, the American flag at her funeral would not go to her wife and children under current Texas rules.

"Texas should encourage family stability by ensuring parents are recognized and valued for the influential role they have in their children's lives," Smith added. "Being a parent is the hardest job anyone will ever have; the state shouldn't make it harder."

This will be the fourth consecutive legislative session that Anchia has filed this legislation. This is the first time the bill has been filed in the Senate.

— "Hating himself because he might be gay."

Fairness Fort Worth President David Henderson said Romero is looking for a fight — if only to bring himself money and attention, and that LGBT people should give him neither.

"He's sick and we need to put a stop [to his antics]," Henderson said. "But there is a right way and a wrong way. It's one thing to simply be angry and call out how wrong he is, but what will hold the day is to demonstrate how right we are."

Dallas Voice notified Fort Worth Police about Romero, police officials said they now have the preacher on their radar, but Public Information Officer and LGBT Liaison Tracey Knight declined to comment further.

James Russell contributed to this report

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■ HATE, From Page 8

Marcum described coming out as a four-step process: "Stage One: I think I might be gay/lesbian and I must not tell anyone. Stage Two: I hate myself for being gay/lesbian and I hate anyone else who is gay or lesbian. Stage Three: There is a whole world out there that is gay and lesbian. I want to be part of that community. I start telling people about my sexual orientation. Stage Four: There is more to me than being gay/lesbian. I am a part of a larger community. I want to give back."

Marcum called the suggestion that Romero is a closeted gay man conjecture on her part, but said it is conjecture "based on a theoretical possibility." She said if Romero is gay, he's stuck in stage two

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Holiday spotlight: Linze Serell's Toys for Tots Drive



Linze Serell

Linze Serell does not sleep in the morning after she hosts the biggest Christmas show of the year at Garlow's in Gun Barrel City. Instead, she gathers up her fellow entertainers and they hit the local Wal-Mart at 5 a.m. to start buying Christmas gifts for underprivileged children with the money they raised the night before.

Serell — aka Bill Lindsey — has been hosting her annual Toys for Tots drive and benefit show for eight years now. It benefits the Cedar Creek Lake-area Toys for Tots effort.

Serell and Sable Alexander (Michael Champion), her partner of 26 years, live in Wylie in Collin County, around a two-hour drive from Gun Barrel City in Henderson County. It's a trek to get there, but Serell says the effort is worth it.

"The kids get very little help from the outside but the children need their dream of Santa," she said.

When fundraising begins in July, Serell reaches out to Facebook friends and relies on word-of-mouth efforts to collect cash, checks and Wal-Mart gift cards as well as toys. Tough economic times pushed her to fundraise until the very last minute this year, but she still raised nearly \$10,000.

And the drive's not over yet. Locals have one more chance to donate an unwrapped toy or Wal-Mart gift card at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19 at Best Friends Club, 2620 E Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.



Holiday Calendar

DECEMBER

p.m. and Saturday–Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Through Dec. 20: Gauge Xavier's Annual Coat Challenge

Dallas Bears member Gauge Xavier challenges you to donate new or gently used winter clothing to the local charity of your choice, preferably one that does not resale the item. <http://on.fb.me/1Begw3s>.

Through Dec. 24: 16th Annual CoH Christmas Gift Wrap Service

Drop off gifts in the reception area at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, before Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services throughout December and they will be wrapped and ready for you when you leave. Purchase gifts at Sources and use the CoH Gift Wrap Service to receive a \$2 Sources gift card.
5:30–8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17. 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, 14, 21. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Contact Paul Kolasci at paulkolasci@gmail.com to make an alternative appointment.

Through Dec. 21: Turtle Creek Chorale presents Jangled

Holiday program includes a family version at the Saturday matinee. Friday–Saturday at 7:30

Dec. 19: Project Tyler Area Gays Annual Dinner & Canned Food Drive

Join Project TAG members gather for a holiday meal and canned food drive at 7:00 p.m. at Jake's on the Square, 111 East Erwin Street, Tyler. No RSVP required. Call 903-330-8901 or e-mail info@tylerareagays.com for more information.

Dec. 20: 23rd Annual Lights of Love

7 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

Dec. 20: Salvation Sisters

The DFW Sisters stage The Salvation Sisters, a take-off on the Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing, 8:30–11 p.m. in front of Hunky's, 3930 Cedar Springs Road. Proceeds benefit HIV services.

Dec. 20: GEAR Holiday Celebration

Join GEAR for a new take on the white elephant gift exchange. Unwrap a gift for yourself or steal a better one from someone else. A wrapped gift valued between \$5–\$20. Please, no gag gifts. Call 214-540-4498 or email gear@myresourcecenter.org for more questions.

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Dec. 21: Advent Love Sunday Service and Christmas Concert: Unspeakable Joy!
Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, celebrates Advent at the 9 and 11 a.m. services, and holds a concert at 7 p.m.

Dec. 22: Ring in the Holidays with Leslie Jordan
Benefit for Legacy Counseling Center at 8 p.m. at Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St. Suite 168. Tickets at LegacyCares.org.

Dec. 24: Beth El Binah goes out for Chinese
The LGBT Jewish congregation fulfills the biblical commandment to eat Chinese food on Christmas at 7:30 p.m. at Thairrific, 4000 Cedar Springs Road #E. Everyone welcome.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Communion Service
7 p.m. at Agape Metropolitan Community Church, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth.

Dec. 24: Cathedral of Hope holds four Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy Communion Services.
Family worship at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Spanish language service at 7 p.m. in the International Peace Chapel. English language services at 9 and 11 p.m. in the sanctuary. All at CoH, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

Dec. 26-27: Lights All Night 2014
5th anniversary Lights All Night electronic music festival featuring over 40 DJs. Doors open at 5 p.m.-2 a.m. at Dallas Convention Center.

Dec. 26: CinéWilde and Trans Pride Initiative mixer and movie
Trans Pride kicks off its effort to open a community center with shelter space with CinéWilde at 8 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W.

Jefferson. Enjoy live entertainment, a white elephant gift-giving game and winter cocktails before screening the 2003 anime film Tokyo Godfathers. Tickets are \$10.50 but donations are encouraged. More information at On.fb.me/1so5gJF.

JANUARY

- Jan. 2: Viva Dallas Burlesque D.C. versus Marvel**
The largest burlesque show in Texas hosts DC versus Marvel, an epic battle of tongue-in-cheek comic book-themed burlesque performances at 9 p.m. at Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Rd which is closing. Doors open at 8 p.m. Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. Purchase tickets at www.VivaDallasBurlesque.com. Must be 18 years or older to attend.
- Jan. 10: Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story**
Bamby Salcedo and Dante Alencastre show their film and lead a discussion hosted by Trans Pride Initiative at 4 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Tpride.org.
- Jan. 19: 10th Annual MLK Symposium**
Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture presents the 10th annual MLK Symposium featuring the premiere of a play adapted from King's "Letters from a Birmingham Jail" 7-9 p.m. at Dallas Institute, 2719 Routh Street. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$10 for teachers and free for students. Purchase tickets at Bit.ly/1wCJNBZ. Call 214-871-2440 for more information.
- Jan. 20: Coming Out Workshop**
Jim McBride and the Rev. Jane Graner lead a seven-week coming out workshop on Tuesday evenings through March 3. 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 214-284-9194 or jmcbriedallas@sbcglobal.net. Free.

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New Year's Eve Events

Dec. 31: Alexandre's NYE Party with Andrea Dawson & Band
Free champagne toast at midnight. No cover. Party hats and favors provided. 9 p.m.-close.

Dec. 31: Full Circle Tavern's "Mad Hatter" Two Year New Year!
Full Circle Tavern, 1319 S. Lamar Street, hosts "Mad as Hatters" for their 2nd annual New Years bash. Dress your head in its' most interesting attire and ring in 2015 with your favorite staff, friends and fools - All inclusive dinner, cocktails, live DJ, party favors and complementary champagne at midnight. RSVP at 214-208-3435.

Dec. 31: DJ Christopher J at the Grapevine
DJ Christopher J (of super 80s band Berlin with Terri Nunn) will be spinning from 7 p.m. at the Grapevine Bar, 3902 Maple Ave. Cover is just \$1 and can be purchased at the door.

Dec. 31: Round Up Saloon NYE 2014 Masquerade Ball
Round Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs, presents the NYE 2014 Masquerade Ball. Tickets are \$15 pre-sale and \$20 at the door. Catered buffet, breakfast after midnight, cash balloon drop, champagne and party favors included. Contact 214-522-9611 for more information.

Dec. 31: Club Dallas New Years Eve Party
Event begins at 11p.m. with a champagne toast at midnight at Club Dallas, 2616 Swiss Ave.

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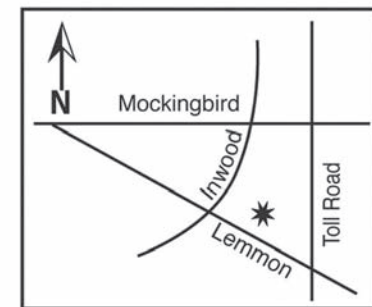
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With friends like Plano ...

'Nondiscrimination' ordinance leaves the Ts twisting in the wind, and LGBs let it happen

In the politically correct times in which we live, if you are a savvy city council and wish to permit and condone discrimination against a marginalized class of people, what is the safest way to do that? With a "nondiscrimination" ordinance! Brilliant!

Then, simply render this ordinance meaningless by exempting a wide group of organizations.

That is exactly what the city of Plano recently did.

In granting "equal rights" to its citizens — well most of its citizens — Plano exempted religious organizations, nonprofits (except for city contractors) and political, educational and governmental organizations.

As someone who is transgender, I have a real problem with this spiffy new gift to humanity. One is the clause stating, "Restroom access will be based upon physical anatomy."

Yeah? How's that work? Will a guy, who'd been a guy all his life but had some sort of industrial accident that cost him his penis, have to use the ladies room? Or will someone who identifies as female and has always done so and lives her life as a woman be subjected to an examination to determine said anatomy?

Is everyone entering a public restroom in the fair city of Plano subject to an examination of their "anatomy"? Or just certain people?

Isn't that inherently discriminatory? Of course it is. It's equally ridiculous.

What in creation are y'all so afraid of? I've been peeing in the ladies room for years without incident. Hell, I've probably peed next to you and you never knew.

I'm not scary. I'm not there to attack you or mess with your kids. I'm there for the same reason as you: to pee.

Do you have to look in your pants every time you head for the bathroom so you know for sure what gender you are? Of course not. You just know. So do I.

Unless businesses in the city of Plano station people at every single public restroom door and physically verify the anatomy of EVERY SINGLE PERSON entering a public restroom, then you are profiling and likely violating the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause.



Leslie McMurray
Contributing Columnist

Besides, it's already against the law for perverts to accost someone in the bathroom, or anywhere else for that matter. If you are really that concerned about restroom or locker room attacks, then instead of stationing the bathroom police outside to check anatomy, why not station security guards inside to protect the peeing public? Because safety isn't the real issue, that's why!

What's it going to be Plano?

I am a transgender woman. I was assigned male at birth but have transitioned and now live my life as a woman. I didn't set out to be an activist, but I just can't sit silently while people like you, who are short-sighted at best and malicious at worst, sit in your high-backed, comfy chairs and sign documents that make my life more dangerous and difficult than it already is.

As I write this, I'm wearing a yellow, floor-length chiffon skirt and purple peasant blouse. My brown hair falls in curls below my shoulders. I'm wearing make-up suitable for work. Are y'all really going to make me use the men's room? Who is in danger then?

Think about it.

But I suppose I am blessed. Because if you want to check my anatomy, what you would find is the prettiest little vagina that money can buy. Now what? Can I just go pee in peace? Or do we need to give the bathroom police the "ACME Instant Chromosome Tester."

Where does this silliness end? Is your paranoia more important than my human dignity?

You know what are typically a "nonprofit agencies" that would be exempt from having to treat everyone equally? Emergency shelters! Yes, these are often segregated by gender. So, you going to make me bunk with the guys? Really?

The reality is that there aren't enough transgender people in your fair city to matter politically. But dammit, we matter as human beings! And we deserve to be treated with the same dignity and respect as anyone else.

It also saddens me that the transgender community is once again left behind and twisting in the wind as the "we got ours" attitude prevails once more. Not one organization that claims to represent LGBT interests stood up and cried foul. The LGB train left the station, again leaving the little "T" far behind. "We'll come back and get you later," they say.

Not good enough.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

Speak up — while we still can

LGBT voices conspicuously absent in the debate over Garner incident, other tragedies

The recent spate of stories like the tragic Eric Garner incident in New York City have sparked protests and outcries across the country. Some point to the endemic racism of our country as the cause, while others turn a blind eye and believe "If you don't do anything wrong, you have nothing to worry about."

There is most likely some truth to both those positions. But that is not my point.

Amidst all the voices calling for change and justice I hear a chilling absence: That would be the voices of LGBT people.

It was not too long ago when gay bars were routinely raided by police for the flimsiest of reasons. Lesbians and gay men were harassed because their sexual orientation was declared illegal. Transgender people were arrested for "impersonating a person of the opposite sex," and I watched drag queens as well as transgender women hauled away by Dallas police in the early 1970s for not wearing sufficient articles of clothing deemed appropriate for their biological sex.

Those were sad times, and thankfully, now just a historical footnote. But such mistreatment didn't end without people standing up and declaring, "Enough!"

The growing fear that we are moving into a "police state" is something of which LGBT people should take note.

An offense like the one of which Eric Garner was accused — selling loose cigarettes — should have been handled with a citation. Instead, the officer wrestled Garner to the ground and choked him to death.

The incident was caught on video, and in that video Garner can clearly be heard crying, "I can't breathe." But the officer continued to choke him until he stopped "resisting," or in reality until he stopped breathing.

The Eric Garner case is but one of many in recent days and it should make LGBT people take notice. The additional moves by some legislators to make taking video of police a criminal act is even more troubling. Without witnesses, there is

■ **SPEAK UP**, next page

■ **SPEAK UP**, From previous page

no accountability and though I sincerely believe the majority of law enforcement personnel are ethical and trustworthy, those who are not cannot be allowed to abuse their authority in secret.

Just as troubling are statements like these by Officer Sunil Dutta of the Los Angeles Police Department: "If you don't want to get shot, tazed, pepper-sprayed, struck with a baton or thrown to the ground, just do what I tell you."

Funny, but that sounds distinctly like it is in direct opposition to the rights we were taught in school are guaranteed us as U.S. citizens by the Constitution.

Again, I do not make any blanket accusations that all police are brutal thugs who misuse their authority to abuse citizens. But I do find this trend very disturbing and something we, as a nation have to address. Add to that the "militarization" of police departments, prompted by the military selling them surplus gear, and you have a very lethal combination.

When police start looking and behaving like an occupying army, they look at citizens as the enemy. As citizens, we have a right to demand that

our police fulfill their original purpose: to "protect and serve." Once that changes to "demand and control," we are all in trouble.

Police acting like an army sets up an automatic resistance by citizens. In a country founded on freedom, everyone bristles at seeing heavily-armed police and armored vehicles patrolling the streets. That kind of imagery is not what anyone wants, yet it is common in some municipalities. Flak jackets and helmets might be the proper gear for a SWAT team, but not for the officers on the street.

It's time for people to have a real conversation about this. It's time for law enforcement to stop circling the wagons and sit down with citizens and find out what is going wrong.

And it's time LGBT people take notice and join the conversation.

We need to remember that resistance to police authority by LGBT people at Stonewall eventually led to more rights. Luckily, in the 1960s police were more reluctant to use deadly force. Otherwise, today, I expect we would be calling it the "Stonewall Massacre."

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.



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12.19.14 ■ dallasvoice 13

More is Leslie

The irrepressible Leslie Jordan returns to North Texas for an evening of fairy tales

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Leslie Jordan is sitting at a Starbucks near his home in Los Angeles — one of three he calls his “office” — when he interrupts our conversation to remark on someone who just passed in front of him.

“I can’t even describe [what I just saw], except to say that’s the saddest woman I’ve ever seen in a miniskirt. I could have probably gone to my grave without seeing that vision,” he sighs.

That kind of scattershot playfulness is exactly what has made the Emmy Award-winning actor such a popular figure in our culture — from *Will & Grace* to *The Help* to his collection of solo shows and personality-driven one-man performances, he’s a force to be reckoned with.

Jordan is so omnipresent in supporting roles and scene-stealing appearances (he was last seen on British TV in the celebrity version of *Big Brother*), you might think

the man best known to gay audiences for his flamboyant turns as the drag-addicted Brother Boy in Del Shores’ *Sordid Lives* properties packs in audiences in his adoptive home town of L.A. But he keeps returning to the hallowed ground of North Texas every December for a charity show — a fundraiser for Legacy Counseling Center, which takes place at Theatre 3 Monday.

“I rarely perform out here — [my audience for my solo shows] is like 70 people that I begged to come! But this little event in Dallas is sold out!” he exclaims.

The pixieish, molasses-voiced scamp does stay busy, however; he’ll barely be in Dallas 24 hours before heading for Canada.

“I leave for Edmonton the next day. I saw I could either do Christmas in Dallas or spend it in the snow ... so I chose the snow! I’ll be by myself, but what else is new? I’d really rather be alone,” he says, noting his close friends have nicknamed him “the Gregarious Recluse.”

“I love traveling alone, but I’m spoiled. I went home to Tennessee for 10 days [around Thanksgiving], and was just gonna relax. Then my mother said, ‘Let’s go visit my brother Buddy!’ ... as if we were going to the store for milk. He lives in Pompano Beach! Five days later, we hadn’t even hit Ocala — we’d drive three or four hours and she’d say, ‘Let’s just get a room at the Hilton Garden Inn and stop.’”

And it’s not just Christmas that he’ll be going solo — for the first time in years, “I don’t have a gig on New Year’s Eve! I suspect [I’ll be asleep for most of it] — at 6 o’clock the curtain goes down if I’m not being paid,” he says. “But I open in Puerto Vallarta on Jan 3. [for a run of several weeks]. I have not had a

steady job since 1992 and I don’t quite understand why. I think the industry I grew up in is kinda gone. But on it goes! It’s such an amazing life,” he says.

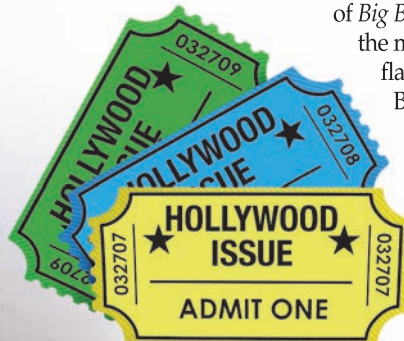
Amazing all the more because Jordan, now 60 and proud of it, wasn’t sure he’d ever hit middle age at all. He’s been clean and sober for more than a decade, so New Year’s Eve holds — and held — little appeal. “To us professional drunks, [NYE] didn’t matter. It was amateur night. I usually would take a break on Dec. 31 from drinking!”

Jordan also rejects another time-honored year-end tradition: the New Year’s resolution.

“I don’t make those,” he says; “I make *daily* resolutions. It’s such a simple formula: Diet; exercise

RING IN THE HOLIDAYS

Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Dec. 22. VIP dinner at 6:30 p.m. Curtain at 8 p.m. \$50–\$150. LegacyCares.org.



■ LESLIE Page 17

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE | Dallas is like a second home to Leslie Jordan, who returns to North Texas for his usual December solo show — a fundraiser for Legacy Counseling Center.

Still Richard

As the Alzheimer's drama 'Still Alice' garners acclaim, its makers, gay couple Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer, deal with their own health tragedy



STILL HERE | Julianne Moore stars as a vital woman beset by a disease — a story that resonates with the directors who adapted the book 'Still Alice' to the screen.

Partners in life and filmmaking, Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland may have bestowed Julianne Moore with a role that could finally net her an Oscar. Adapted from Lisa Genova's novel of the same name, *Still Alice* stars Moore as Alice Howland, a Columbia University linguistics professor stricken with early onset Alzheimer's disease. While her husband John (Alec Baldwin) and three grown children (Kristen Stewart, Kate Bosworth, Hunter Parrish) rally in support, Alice struggles with losing everything that defines her.

It's a powerful, moving, suspenseful, humane tale, and more than a bit personal for Glatzer and Westmoreland: In 2011, Glatzer was diagnosed with A.L.S., which has since progressed to the point where he's relegated to a wheelchair, uses a feeding tube and communicates via typing with a toe on his iPad. The couple has been uplifted by the awards buzz — and the A.L.S. Ice Bucket Challenge videos by Moore and Stewart, among others — and they maintain a sense of humor and optimism. Regarding the feeding tube, Glatzer quips, "Food is so blasé."

Based in Los Angeles' Echo Park neighborhood, the setting for their breakout 2006 Sundance Film Festival award-winner *Quinceañera*, the couple first collaborated on 2001's *The Fluffer*, a drama set in the gay porn industry (Westmoreland directed several X-rated gay porn films previous to that). They executive produced 2008's Dustin Lance Black-scribed Pedro Zamora biopic, *Pedro*, while 2014 also saw release of their under-the-radar Errol Flynn biopic, *The Last of Robin Hood*, starring Susan Sarandon and Kevin Kline.

In this interview, the U.K.-born Westmoreland — with New York-reared Glatzer nearby and chiming in — discusses *Still Alice*, A.L.S. and the possibility of hitting the red carpet this winter.

— Lawrence W. Ferber

Still Alice is now playing in limited release in New York and Los Angeles. It is scheduled to open in North Texas in January.

Dallas Voice: What compelled you to take on *Still Alice*? Wash Westmoreland: It came to us at a very pertinent time. Richard had the first indications of A.L.S. in 2011, and we were dealing with a lot of medical stuff. We were approached to adapt the novel in late 2011, and at first it was like so many of its situations were similar to what he was going through — not just in terms of the neurological examinations Alice has at the beginning, but

also the barriers the disease puts between you and the world. As we got more and more into it, we thought, "This is why we should be doing this movie right now," and it's such a beautiful story and brings hope into a dark, difficult place, which we needed as well.

What were the biggest changes made to *Still*

■ WESTMORELAND Page 24

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Divine intervention

Bette Midler chats about support from gay fans, wigs and her hot new CD

Before the whole world knew her as “The Divine Miss M,” Bette Midler was ours. In the early ’70s, bawdy, belt-y Bette was performing for the NYC bathhouse boys, and don’t think she’s forgotten it, either. “I mean, if I had a nickel for everybody that said they saw me at the baths,” says Midler in our recent interview, “I would be Joe Billionaire by now!”

Midler would go on to global fame, reaching beyond music to become a celebrated name in film, television and on the stage, winning Grammys, Golden Globes, Emmys, two Oscar nominations and a special Tony Award. And now, the eagerly awaited return of one of show business’s most versatile performers has arrived with the release of her first album in eight years, *It’s the Girls!*, a tribute to some of the greatest female harmonies in history.

Midler talked about the anticipated tour she’s about to launch in support of this latest effort — and the truck full of hairpieces she’s schlepping along (“Cher has 55 wigs; why can’t I?!”). She also touched on her early support of the LGBT community, the degradation of the word “diva” and her plan to avenge Mae West for sending her a cease-and-desist order.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: You know how much we gays love our girls. How much do you keep your gay following in mind when you make music, particularly with *It’s the Girls!*?

Bette Midler: To tell you the truth, it really didn’t cross my mind. The music I chose is music I had a lot of affection for. Some of these songs I’ve known since I was a little girl. I feel like if I have a strong feeling for this music, people will also have a strong feeling for it. The truth is, you cannot pander. You have to go with your gut and your heart and be true to yourself, and hope that people like it. They generally do.

You were welcoming to the gay community at a time when many weren’t. When you look back at your early support for the LGBT community, what do you recall as being the moment that galvanized you to stand up as an ally? I had been in the theater for a long time, from the time I was a young person, and I’d always known gay people — and they were just, like, gay people! Just ordinary friends. People that you knew, and that you never thought twice about. You didn’t think of them as being different, although looking back on my high school years, I think there were a lot of people in my high school — this is so many years ago; this is 50 years ago — who probably were gay and didn’t ever talk about it. As a matter of fact, one of the kids that I went to school with, an enormously popular guy — really funny, really

wonderful — who was in my Latin class, wrote me before he passed away from AIDS to tell me that he had been gay and that he had contracted AIDS.

So, I mean, what was the moment when I said that it was time to stand up? Oh my god — it never occurred to me *not* to. These were friends of mine, people that I had worked with, people that I had danced with, people I had broken bread with my whole life ... so it never occurred to me *not* to. You do what you do because there’s nothing else to do. There’s no other option.

But to stand up for people who were seen as pariahs —

that was taboo then. Did you experience any backlash for supporting gay people at the time? You know, I might have, but I was very well-protected in those days. I actually did not feel it. I remember the first big benefit that anyone had done for gay rights [A Star Spangled Night for Rights in 1977]. I remember the poster, and it was at the Hollywood Bowl. Lily [Tomlin], Richard Pryor and Tom Waits were on the program, but nobody ever said LGBT then. That didn’t exist.

So that night, Tom Waits sang “Standin’ on the Corner” and then Richard Pryor came out and Richard Pryor started off great. I don’t even know if this is in your history books or anything, but he started off great and then worked himself up into a real frenzy as only he could. He said that the gay

community had never supported civil rights and, “Where were you when we were riding and they were kicking us to the curb and we were being fire-hosed?” Then he said, “You all can kiss my rich, black ass!” and he stomped off the stage. And I had to follow him! I mean, I’m just stripping it bare, but imagine what happened. So I went out and said, “You all can kiss my rich, white ass,” and of course then everything was much better, but it was such a curious evening.

I think Stonewall ... was the first time [the gay community] fought back, but, you know, in history everyone says, “I was there.” I mean, if I had a nickel for everybody that said they saw me at the baths, I would be Joe Billionaire by now! I would be playing at Madison Square Garden instead of a rickety-tickety little bathhouse on 73rd Street! OK, let’s move on. I really do think that this big fundraiser in the late ’70s was a little shot across the bow too, and then not long after that, in the middle ’80s, AIDS came down and it was so horrible and, even though he knew so many gay people, Ronald Reagan did nothing. *Nothing!*

If a gay fan approaches you, which of your projects would they most likely mention? You wanna know the truth? *Hocus Pocus!* Honestly, I cannot believe what happened with *Hocus Pocus*. I’m just dumbfounded by the number of people who mention *Hocus Pocus* — and they’re young people!

Was your Halloween costume from this year, when you went as your *Hocus Pocus* charac-

ter, Winifred Sanderson, the closest we’ll ever get to a sequel? I tell them all you must write the Walt Disney Company because I don’t have anything to say about it — but they do!

But you’d be up for it? Oh, yeah. The girls and I have talked about it, and we all laugh and say, “Yeah, we’ll wait for *that* phone call.” But sure, we would all do it. We had a wonderful time.

***It’s the Girls!* celebrates and honors female performers who branded a very particular image. I mean, they definitely were not twerking.** Ugh. I don’t know what to tell you. I just saw that Jennifer Lopez video with Iggy Azalea — “Booty booty booty...” — and oh, girls, please! What can you say? Girls ... please.

How do you compare the girl groups from the era you’re channeling to what you’re seeing now? It was a really wholesome era in retrospect. It was sexy, but it was not blatant. It was intriguing and it was mysterious because it wasn’t flat out in your face. It was also supremely elegant. You know, I talk about this with my girlfriend Toni Basil, another gay icon: Those voices, the black voices, were not familiar to white ears. They simply never heard those voices singing harmony before. You never really heard those really strong, vibrant black girls singing until The Shirelles, The Crystals, The Chiffons and then the Motown girls, and the girls who came after: Sister Sledge, The Emotions and down the line. The Honeycombs? Is there a group called The Honeycombs? I personally wanted to cover [The Weather Girls] “Two Tons o’ Fun” but everyone said, “No, no, you can’t cut that,” so I didn’t.



You cover TLC's '90s pop hit "Waterfalls," which famously dealt with HIV/AIDS and safe sex. What significance does that song have for you? The first time I heard it I was really struck by it because it seemed like such an important song. To me, it was one of the saddest songs I'd ever heard on pop radio. So, I wanted to do a stripped-down version of it because I really wanted the story to be clear. I had thought about it for a long time, and when I first heard it, I was so moved by it. I shed a tear myself, and I always use that as a kind of litmus test. If it really moves me, I can bring something to it; I can make it my own.

What about the song in particular hit you? Did you know the original song was inspired by the AIDS-stricken and promoted safe sex? I do remember that, but it was a dance song. It was for the dance halls. It was for the discos, and yet it really is a song about the mother who can't do anything, who's completely helpless in the face of this. I felt that, and that's the way I wanted to interpret it. I think it worked out wonderfully.

You've been a self-proclaimed diva. In fact, your 1997 HBO special was called *Diva Las Vegas*, and during your Las Vegas spectacle at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace, *The Showgirl Must Go On*, you said you were the "People's Diva." At this point, has the meaning of the word "diva" changed so much that you no longer identify with it? It's a word that is just so overused that it's really lost all currency. I no longer has any meaning at all. Any old slob on the Internet can say, "Well, I'm a 'diva,'" and have some people believing it, but not me. In the old, old, old days — you know, during the Civil War when I was just a child — it meant "the star." It was an opera term, and it meant a female opera singer who really could carry the whole opera, and it has been so degraded now. It's a shame because it really was a wonderful word.

What does "diva" mean to you now? It means nothing. It has absolutely no meaning at all. "Divine" still has meaning because there's still a church, but "diva" has absolutely no meaning at all.

When you hit the road for your first tour in 10 years, how many wigs are you bringing along with you? Oh my god — I have a truck! I have a whole truck. Well, Cher always does. Cher has 55 wigs; why can't I? To tell you the truth, I have been wearing wigs since, let's see, the very, very old days. Since I first started making motion pictures — movies! — I've always worn wigs. Always, always, always. It really does spare you. It really is a

time-saver, and I really enjoy them. And I love makeup and hair. I just love it, love it, love it! I love becoming somebody that I'm not. As they used to say about Mae West: "A little old lady used to come in onto the set and go into the trailer, and four hours later Mae West would come out." It's really kind of like that.

A lot of drag queens would agree with you and Mae. What advice do you have for a guy who wants to dress in Bette drag? A good pair of shoes — a *really* good pair of shoes — because you'll really hurt yourself. You'll hurt your joints. And a serious undergarment. And if your panties fall down all around your feet, step out of them and keep on singing.

That's good advice even if you're not a drag queen. [Laughs] Well, I've been accused of [being a drag queen] many times! But I take it with a grain of salt. To me, it's a supreme compliment.

Any chance you'll revisit songs by The Sander-son Sisters or the ladies of *The First Wives Club*? They are, after all, girl groups. I really do have to think about this. If I go out around Halloween, I'll have to put some effort into it. I've got some surprises up my sleeve.

You mentioned Mae West, and it was announced in late 2013 that you were cast as Mae in an upcoming HBO biopic. How's that project coming along? I'll tell you something: The script just came in, but I haven't seen it. I'm waiting for the director, Billy Friedkin [*The Exorcist*, *The Boys in the Band*], to make his notes, and then he's gonna hand it off to me and we'll see what happens.

I'm really looking forward to it because I've been reading and doing my due diligence. She's such a fabulous — she's so fucking nuts! I mean, she was so insane. And you know, when I started my career all those many moons ago, I used to do an impersonation of Mae West, and I did it on the Johnny Carson Show — my very first Johnny Carson Show — and she sent me a letter telling me to cease and desist, which I swear to god I still have.

I didn't understand it at the time. I thought, "What's wrong with her?" Now that I've done all the reading and am of a certain age, I totally get it. She was protecting what she had made. She was protecting her creation. That was practically a trademark and she didn't want anyone to mishandle her creation. Ultimately, she was right. So I bowed to her wishes; I ceased and desisted. And I think it's so amusing. [Laughs] After all that, if the script actually comes to the point of doing it, it certainly would be revenge. Take that, Mae!

to female] 'he.' I said, 'When he acts like a lady, I'll call him a lady! It was a mess. It will figure in my spiel on Monday night.'

His journey from fast-burning candle to Emmy-winning senior hasn't gone unappreciated, either.

"Sometimes I wonder, what if I never found a recovery program? Would I bang through life? I'm closer to my authentic self — I'm happier than I have ever been. I wanted to be a gay Hugh Hefner with seven beautiful blond boys crawling all over me. My life is so not like that! But all that looking to others to find happiness. That has all abated with me. I was complaining to a friend I have to go to Puerto Vallarta for three weeks. He said, 'Fuck you.' It really is a wonderful life."

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■ LESLIE, From Page 14

— swimming, which is easy cuz all these hotels have indoor pools — a recovery meeting here and there and my life is wonderful. This year, I did promise myself I'll eat a little better and feel better. I kinda forget I'm 60. I think it's just [adhering to] moderation in everything."

A fine policy, but it hasn't stopped him from causing a stir almost everywhere he goes. Take, for instance, his stint on the U.K.'s *Big Brother*.

"It was a nightmare!" he rants. "I spat on Gary Busey and a French stripper cut up my underwear. And I got kicked out for bad behavior! I got accused of being trans-phobic! I've had five friends who have [transitioned], but I kept calling [a fellow contestant transitioning from male

What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John’s wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breast-feed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis).

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone
- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafegot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergorate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?**Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:**

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone[®], Pacerone[®])
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor[®], Caduet[®])
 - bepridil hydrochloride (Vasacor[®], Bepadin[®])
 - bosentan (Tracleer[®])
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol[®], Epitol[®], Equetro[®], Tegretol[®])
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin[®], Prevpac[®])
 - clonazepam (Klonopin[®])
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene[®], Tranxene[®])
 - colchicine (Colcrys[®])
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium[®])
 - digoxin (Lanoxin[®])
 - disopyramide (Norpace[®])
 - estazolam
 - ethosuximide (Zarontin[®])

- flecainide (Tambacor[®])
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent[®], Flonase[®], Flovent[®] Diskus[®], Flovent[®] HFA, Veramyst[®])
- itraconazole (Sporanox[®])
- ketoconazole (Nizoral[®])
- lidocaine (Xylocaine[®])
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal[®])
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal[®])
- phenytoin (Dilantin[®], Phenytek[®])
- propafenone (Rythmol[®])
- quinidine (Neudexta[®])
- rifabutin (Mycobutin[®])
- rifapentine (Priftin[®])
- risperidone (Risperdal[®], Risperdal Consta[®])
- salmeterol (Serevent[®]) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus[®], Advair HFA[®])
- sildenafil (Viagra[®]), tadalafil (Cialis[®]) or vardenafil (Levitra[®], Staxyn[®]), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca[®]), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek[®])
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend[®])
- warfarin (Coumadin[®], Jantoven[®])
- zolpidem (Ambien[®], Edlular[®], Intermezzo[®], Zolpimist[®])

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

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Magic to do

Sorcery and song dominate a rich holiday season of moviegoing: 'The Hobbit,' 'Into the Woods,' 'Annie,' 'The Imitation Game,' 'The Gambler,' 'Unbroken'



LIFE+STYLE

screen

SIT, A SPELL | A Witch (Meryl Streep) enlists a Baker (James Corden) to do her dirty work in the fractured fairy tale of Sondheim's 'Into the Woods,' left; in 'The Imitation Game,' below, Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch, center) and company do the near-impossible: Make math look interesting.

for the modern age, not a period piece stuck in the past.

Like *Into the Woods*, this *Annie* has evolved for its new medium. New York City is portrayed as rough-edged but not scary — an idealization that sets the tone for family-friendly approachability early. It's confectionary and aggressively upbeat and corny — since when has *Annie* ever *not* been all of those things?! The songs are all mostly there, though often rewritten with fresh lyrics and re-orchestrated with a hip-hop sensibility befitting the contemporary audience. Wallis is a delightfully perky presence, Foxx adds some Al Green soul to his part and Rose Byrne strikes the perfect pitch moderating the two. Purists may scoff; the rest of us will just have a good time.

The Imitation Game

What Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) did during World War II might seem to be magical. A mathematician with few social skills (think of him as Sheldon Cooper with an Oxford accent), he decoded the Nazi's Enigma program at a time when the thought of a "computer" (they used to be called "turning machines") had not much advanced past the abacus. But his genius was no match for the provincial ideas in England during the 1940s and '50s. Turing was gay, and that was a serious crime. The penalties for it

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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The year got off to a slow start, movie-wise. From New Year's Day until the end of summer, only one film — *Boyhood* — really stuck out. Now there's a glut of holiday releases (some predictably good, some surprising) and the quality is out in force. There's something for every taste to entertain you.

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies

The final (well, there's still *The Silmarillion*) installment in Peter Jackson's double-trilogy of J.R.R. Tolkien is the shortest of all the films, and a satisfying climax to the journey of Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and friends, as elves, orcs, humans and dwarves gather for a battle royal for the future of Middle-earth.

Jackson has become a pro at these movies (17 hours worth!), and there's a rhythm here that feels organic, even as the special effects tend to overwhelm (but do not entirely squelch) the performances. The series is about a sense of wonderment, and while the VFX have lost their ability to surprise, there's no denying that you get what you come for.

Into the Woods

Gandalf isn't the only one with a touch of magic at his fingertips. A Witch (Meryl Streep) has cursed a Baker (James Corden) and his Wife (Emily Blunt) with childlessness unless they can recover a list of goodies from the forest for her

nefarious purposes. On the way, we meet Cinderella (Anna Kendrick) and her Prince (Chris Pine), Red Riding Hood and a Wolf (Johnny Depp), Rapunzel, Jack (Daniel Huttlesstone), his Mother (Tracey Ullman) and, of course, a wicked Giant (Frances de la Tour).

Stephen Sondheim's wonderfully fractured fairy tale musical has been a charmer for decades, but its mix of fantasy, childlike wonder, sarcasm and a sung-through score have always made it a challenge to translate from stage to film. (The stage production usually emphasizes the artifice and campiness of the story, with a stuffy narrator poking the audience in the ribs.) But in Rob Marshall, Disney has found the ideal director to adapt the show — losing, perhaps, some of its lighthearted coyness but scoring with its spectacular production values and searing message.

It helps that Marshall has assembled a cast that really can sing Sondheim right — Streep has proven herself a singer before, but Kendrick, Pine (in a delightfully hammy version of "Agony") and the astonishingly gifted Huttlesstone deliver the kind of show-stopping performances that typically would have live audiences on their feet. It's not for little kids, but fantasy-loving adults and theater queens of all ages will be transfixed.

Annie

I have been surprised at how much pre-release blowback has been expressed to me by friends and acquaintances about *Annie*; most think it "looks terrible." Funny, but the 1982 film version

(very faithful to the source material) actually *was* terrible, so anything should be an improvement. Does this version — with an African-American Annie (Quevanzhane Wallis), foster-care kids instead of an orphanage residents and hot-to-trot Miss Hannigan (Cameron Diaz who, truth be told, really does overdo it) — stray from the 1977 musical? Oh, my, yes. But think of it as a reboot





DOUBLE DOWN | Mark Wahlberg acquits himself well in this retro thriller.

were staggering — even for the man who saved the Allies' asses.

To appreciate just how compelling the film is, consider this: It makes doing math seem *cinematic*. That's a feat not accomplished since Julia made writing look interesting, and it speaks to the film's fluid, poignant discussion of social issues — not just homosexuality, but sexism, class structure, honor and the morality of allowing people to die for a larger goal. *The Imitation Game*

— led by Cumberbatch's fierce defiance and Keira Knightley's best performance since *Atonement* — is incalculably meaningful.

The Gambler

Can we pinpoint the moment when Mark Wahlberg went from gay boy Soloflex poster model to serious actor? We might place it in this film: When Wahlberg steps before a classroom, lecturing students about the fine art of novel writing, it could be a moment to laugh, like when Denise Richards

played a nuke-u-ler scientist in a James Bond movie. But we don't snicker, because his character seems real, lived-in and badly, badly damaged. A rich boy with a gambling addiction, Wahlberg's character is on a suicidal path that's often painful to observe. It's like *Leaving Las Vegas*, only blackjack, and not booze, is his poison of choice.

Based on a 1970s James Caan film, *The Gambler* was not really in need of a remake, which is

partly what makes it engaging. Watching someone gamble self-destructively (doubling down on huge bets that you know will eventually go south) is incredibly cinematic and just as stressful. It doesn't take car chases to get the blood pumping, just stakes that increase until you fear for the characters.

William Monahan (Oscar winner for *The Departed*) has fashioned a compelling adaptation of James Toback's original script, full of genuine ideas and an air of mystery behind the characters, who are fleshed out by a strong cast (Jessica Lange, Michael Kenneth Williams, John Goodman). This isn't a great movie, but it's unexpectedly good at times. Call that a safe bet.

Unbroken

Scott Rudin's bitchy emails aside, you can't really call Angelina Jolie talentless; she's delivered fine performances, and while her feature debut as a director — the Serbian-language war drama *In the Land of Blood and Honey* — looked like it might be a pretentious vanity project, it was powerful and deftly handled. The same is true of her latest, which shows Jolie may be the ballsiest filmmaker in Hollywood.

With its nerve-wracking scenes of violence, war and torture, *Unbroken* is a potent kick to the teeth, made more striking because it's based on a true story — Olympian Louis Zamperini's survival from a Japanese POW during WWII. Part *Chariots of Fire*, part *Killing Fields*, Jolie elicits powerful work from Jack O'Connell as Louis, but especially Miyavi as his chief torturer. ■

RELEASE DATES FOR MAJOR HOLIDAY FILMS



Now playing

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
Annie
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb

Opening Dec. 25

The Imitation Game
Into the Woods
Unbroken
The Gambler
The Interview
Big Eyes

Opening Jan. 9

Mr. Turner
Selma, pictured
Inherent Vice

Opening Jan. 16

American Sniper
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■ WESTMORELAND, From Page 15

Alice in translating it from a novel to a screenplay and film? One of the most obvious changes was she's in Boston and a Harvard professor in the book, and we shifted it to New York and made her a Columbia professor. It made a lot more sense to shoot there. There were certain storylines we would have loved to include, but it would have made it a miniseries. When you're adapting a book, it's like you have nine puppies and can only keep five. [In the book] Alice forms a support group, there's a Ph.D. student she was very close to ... these were things we had to make hard decisions to not include to focus on her family. We had to distill what would be the true essence of the film for the big screen.

What was the atmosphere like on set? It was cold! The house we were in didn't have any heating, so in between takes we were all putting on coats and drinking warm broth. But as far as how everyone got on, it was very warm. Alec and Julianne are old friends. The scenes were so heavy, you needed, in between, to have some kind of break. Kristen is a wonderful, down to earth person to work with and you almost forget there are 50 paparazzi camped outside for her. The whole crew bonded. Seeing Richard on set every day typing with one finger, determined to be part of this enterprise, sort of brought this special feeling to the set. Also the fact Julianne was giving such a magnificent performance just radiated out, so even the guys on the grip truck outside knew something important was happening on this film.

Alec recently executive produced *Compared To What*, a documentary about openly gay former

congressman Barney Frank. How was working with him? He was terrific. It's great to see him doing something like this. Before the movie, he wrote that he's always being offered big comic characters or heavies, and it's nice to play a normal guy in love with his wife who can't bear to see her disappearing.

What is your creative process as husbands like?

Are there many disagreements? Well, we disagree about everything and we resolve it. When we write, we are completely honest with each other, so neither of us has to wear kid gloves to express what we think about what the other person is thinking. Hopefully, by being pretty raw and honest in the writing stage, by the time we get to the directing stage, we're on the same page and have hashed out all our differences.

How do you both feel about all the Oscar buzz

for Julianne's performance? It's just unbelievable. When we went into the Toronto International Film Festival to premiere the film in September, it was very under the radar. We had a Monday afternoon screening and the response was so tremendous — standing ovations, huge emotional connection. Then Sony Classics picked us up and the "O" word started being used and it just exploded. I've never seen anything like it. This great love for Julianne that's built up over her whole career, that's focusing in on this moment, and it's bringing so much buzz to the movie. It's a filmmaker's dream. Very exciting. Richard is convalescing after a New York hospitalization and I'd say he's on hit movie therapy. It's a huge uplift and shot in the arm.

Stephen Hawking, who lives with A.L.S. and is in his 70s now, is subject of biopic *The Theory of*



IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH | Wash Westmoreland, standing center, with his husband, Richard Glatzer, who now uses a wheelchair since his diagnosis in 2011 with A.L.S.

Everything, which is also getting serious Oscar buzz. We just saw it, and it was very good. I shouldn't say this, but I hope we run into him on a red carpet ... but that would be counting our chickens before they hatch.

Is there an organization or specific person working on a promising outside-the-box treatment or cure for A.L.S. that people can donate to or otherwise help support? There are loads of people working on all kinds of promising treatments. What's happening right now is, there's a

sense there could be a huge breakthrough. In the '90s, there were a handful of people working on A.L.S.; now there are hundreds and the money raised from the ice bucket challenges could be decisive in actually finding a breakthrough. We feel like we just have to hang on. You saw the example of how people living with HIV in the 1990s, were allowed a second lease on life with the advent of the drug cocktails. We think of that in relation to A.L.S. Possibly within years, there could be a similar moment. That keeps us going. That's hope. ■

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Friday 12.19

Getting 'Red' with Belvedere at S4

Belvedere Vodka has teamed with Station 4 to present a pre-Christmas music show that also benefits HIV/AIDS research and treatment. DJ Zeke Thomas, pictured, and rising artist Laurieann "Harlee" Gibson will provide the entertainment at the party, with 50 percent of profits from the sale of Belvedere Red going to HIV nonprofits. Dance the night away, imbibe and do your part! Merry Christmas!

DEETS: Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m. doors. Station4Dallas.com.

Sunday 12.21

TSO rocks Christmas with concerts at AAC

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra is best known for its electric spin on holiday music, which is nowhere more apparent than in their newest CD, *The Christmas Attic*. You can hear tracks off that album, as well as some of their other classics, and still be in the mood for Santa to come down your chimney at one of two concerts delivered on Sunday.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. LiveNation.com.

Friday 12.19 —
Sunday 12.21**TCC performs Christmas concert, Jangled**

It's one of the more cherished traditions in Dallas — the Turtle Creek Chorale's annual Christmas concert, which includes everything from solemn and spiritual hymns to traditional carols to the campy fun that we associate with a TCC concert. Back this year as well is the poinsettia tribute to fallen members, which opens its doors to attendees to make a tribute in honor of their own friends and family.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20 (family concert) and 21 at 2:30 p.m. TurtleCreek.org.

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calendar highlights



ELECTRIC REINDEER | The Trans-Siberian Orchestra performs its electric-rock Christmas anthems at two concert Sunday at the AAC.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

HOLIDAY SHOWS: CONCERTS, BALLET, THEATER
Christmas at the Dallas Symphony. Holiday concerts with Lawrence Loh conducting and the Lay Family Concert Organ played by Mary Preston. Meyerson Symphony Center, 1601 Flora St. Dec. 20–21 at 2:30 p.m. MyDSO.com.

The Nutcracker. Tchaikovsky's holiday classic, presented by Texas Ballet Theater, moves to Fort Worth. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 27. TexasBalletTheater.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque-Q Nutcracker! A local tradition, this comedy from Mark-Brian Sonna pokes fun at small-town Texas life, pole dancers and Tchaikovsky. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Dec. 28. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's annual tradition, with Chamblee Ferguson as Scrooge and Lee Trull directing Kevin Moriarty's 2013 adaptation. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Ebenezer Scrooge. Presented annually by Pocket Sandwich Theatre for more than 30 years. 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Dec. 23. PocketSandwichTheatre.com

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge. A comic twist on A Christmas Carol. *Final weekend.* Richardson Theatre Centre, 518 W. Arapaho Road, Richardson. RichardsonTheatreCentre.net.

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. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle.

Through Dec. 21. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Sunday. TheatreArlington.org.

Jubilation II: The Colors of Christmas. A family-friendly holiday revue. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 28. JubileeTheatre.org.

Beauty and the Beast. A traditional British Christmas panto, with a cross-dressing comic foil. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 28. Theatre-Britain.com.

The Santaland Diaries. Adaptation of David Sedaris' short story about being a gay Macy's elf. Studio Theatre of Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 28. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical. The residents of Armadillo Acres celebrate the season. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Jan. 4. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Miracle on 34th Street. Dallas Children's Theater stages this adaptation of the seasonal movie favorite. *Final weekend.* Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. \$15–\$28. DCT.org.

Frosty and Friends. A puppet version of the classic, especially for smaller kids. *Final weekend.* Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. DCT.org.

THEATER

The Explorers Club. A knockabout farce set in the age of exploration at the end of the 19th century. With Mark Shum, John-Michael Marss. A co-production of Stage West and WaterTower Theatre. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Jan. 4. StageWest.org. WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Jan. 16–Feb. 8. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Once. The Tony Award winner for best musical, based

on the film, follows the hesitant romance between an Irish busker and an immigrant girl. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 17-28. 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. 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. 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 Saturday. DallasContemporary.org.

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.

FRIDAY 12.19

CONCERTS

Jangled. The Turtle Creek Chorale performs the first in its series of holiday-themed music under the baton of acting music director Sean Baugh. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 19-21. TurtleCreek.org.

Red Party presented by Belvedere with DJ Zeke Thomas and Laurieann Gibson. Wear red and dance the night away! (With every bottle of Belvedere Red sold, the vodka company will contribute 50 percent of the profits to fight HIV/AIDS.) Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m. doors. Station4Dallas.com.

Local Honey. The ninth annual holiday mix show, with local musicians bringing their songs to the Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Parkway. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show. \$25.

COMMUNITY

Dick's Happy Hour: Retro '80s Edition and Toy Drive. The gay mixer with DJ Silver suggests bringing one unwrapped toy as a donation. LeVu, 2505 Pacific Ave. 6-10 p.m. RSVP at DicksHappyHour.com.

SATURDAY 12.20

HOLIDAYS

Unsilent Night: Community Caroling Event. Contemporary Dance/Fort Worth presents a performance of Phil Kline's audience participation caroling event where people serve as musicians and dancers. Go to UnsilentNight.com to download music and learn more. Meets at Magnolia Green Park, 1201 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY 12.21

CONCERTS

Trans-Siberian Orchestra: The Christmas Attic. The orchestral group known for its seasonal arrangements performs its Christmas-themed rock opera twice this day. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. LiveNation.com.

MONDAY 12.22

PERFORMANCE

Ring in the Holidays with Leslie Jordan. The comedic actor performs as a benefit for Legacy Counseling Center. Sister Helen Holy serves as mistress of ceremonies and Vince Martinez performs the musical entertainment. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Dec. 22. VIP dinner at 6:30 p.m. 8 p.m. curtain. \$50-\$150. LegacyCares.org.

TUESDAY 12.23

FILM

Miracle on 34th Street. Perhaps the best Christmas movie ever, and one of the best films from the 1940s in any genre, is this charming but never cloying magical comedy about a Macy's Santa (Oscar winner Edmond Gwenn) who may be the real deal. With a very young Natalie Wood. Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 12.24 — CHRISTMAS EVE

WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Services. Many local churches will offer dusk, candlelight and/or midnight services, including the Cathedral of Hope (services at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.), 5910 Cedar Springs Road. CathedralOfHope.com.

THURSDAY 12.25 — CHRISTMAS DAY

FRIDAY 12.26

COMMUNITY

Honey Pot Midwinter Dream. Party and fundraiser for bearish dudes. With DJs Perry and Woofy. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 9 p.m.

CONCERTS

Lights All Night. The big EDM concert, featuring dozens of acts including headliner Skrillex, performs a two-day show. Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. Dec. 26-27. \$85-\$225. LightsAllNight.com.

this week's solution

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Billy Masters

This week in porn scandals

Gay porn star **Bruno Knight**, pictured, ran into trouble when trying to fly out of LAX this summer. While rushing to catch a flight to London, he was detained by DEA officers. Turns out, they had been tipped off that the porn pup would be smuggling 226 grams of crystal meth out of the country ... in his ass! That's a helluva lot of crystal to be shoving up one's bum. Given the quantity of the drugs, the charges were possession with intent to sell — an offense which could have landed him in jail for 20 years. Still, he swore he wasn't a drug dealer. His defense was that he's simply a drug addict and was desperate to bring the meth into London, where apparently they don't have the Internet or *Breaking Bad* repeats to show you how to make it in your own kitchen. The judge was moved and gave Bruno a mere two years

in the pokey. It's been pointed out that one of Knight's most memorable flicks was *Security Control*, where he played an officer who strip searches a guy for drugs. Once again, art imitates life ... which imitates porn.

It was recently reported that a rookie firefighter with the FDNY has a past doing gay porn ... which seems to be a prerequisite of any member of the New York fire department by the looks of them. **Jonathan Jesensky** is a former Marine who served in Iraq, and has worked as an EMT for the past two years. (Sounds like someone I'd want protecting me with a long hose.) Days after he officially became an FDNY rookie (after being valedictorian of his class), it was revealed that he did about a dozen gay and bisexual porn flicks under the name **Jonathan West** (we hear he's gay-for-pay). His body of work includes such classics as *Paramedics* and *Semper Bi* (once again, art imitating life, imitating porn). What's interesting about this story is that when the media contacted his superiors, they said he had already told them when he was hired two years ago. "The legal



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department is aware of his work history," said an FDNY spokesperson. The press tracked down several of Jonathan's new colleagues — some who have met him and some who haven't. It seems that the people questioned said they didn't care what he did in the past, so long as he was good at his job. Once again, firemen are setting a good example for everyone.

Time for some last minute Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions. Our first item is something that will not only make your spirits bright, but will also raise money for a great cause. Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS has a limited edition **Liza Minnelli** holiday ornament. Liza, who is recovering from back surgery, said, "I'm simply delighted and so honored to be immortalized with such a wonderfully crafted ornament. I'm especially proud to help support Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, an organization that has been very dear to my heart for more than two decades." Previous legends in the ornament series are **Julie Andrews, Carol Channing, Angela Lansbury, Bernadette Peters, Chita Rivera** and **Gwen Verdon**. Liza's six-inch glass likeness features her in a red sequin outfit and hat, circa 1977. To order the ornament, head on over to BroadwayCares.org.

I firmly believe that a thoughtfully selected calendar is a perfect gift. This year, we've got some great options for you. First up is the **Warwick Rowing Club**. The lads started getting their kits off to raise money for new equipment in 2009. Since then, like the *Calendar Girls* before them, they've branched out into other directions — and raised close to half a million dollars! This year, the sexy students are raising

money to fight homophobia in sports. They'll also help you break a sweat! Check out their wares at WarwickRowers.org.

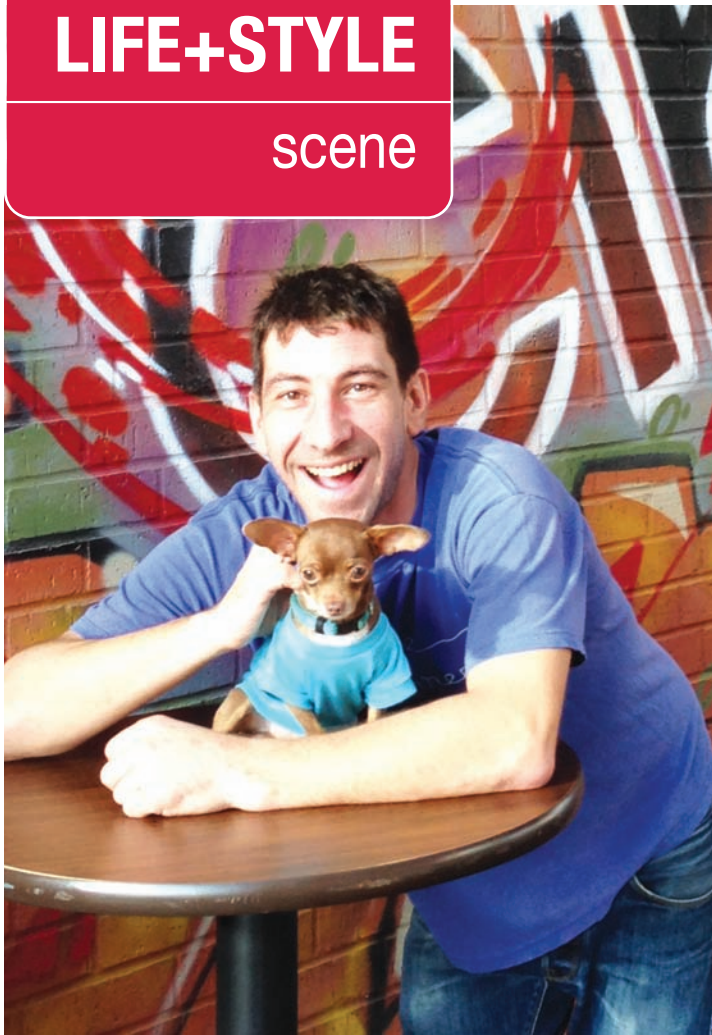
A perennial favorite of my readers is the annual calendar of naughty Orthodox priests. For the third year in a row, we get to see the pious and members of their flock nude, or at least partially nude. Having been raised in the Eastern Orthodox faith and attended services in churches around the world, I must say I've never seen anyone who remotely resembles these guys in (or out) of their vestments. They can be found at Orthodox-Calendar.com.

Finally, a bit of troublesome news. Brace yourselves, because one doesn't deliver news like this every day. **Susan Boyle** — you know, the chick with Asperger's and a mustache — has her first boyfriend ... at 53 years old! According to that cagey minx, "It's very early days so we'll see what happens. I hope he visits." Visits? Is he in some sort of a facility where he needs to get a weekend pass? Or perhaps it's the other way around. Susan added, "I don't want to say any more about who he is right now as that would be unfair on him. All I'll say is we are around the same age and he was a very nice guy." With that description, I kinda think she's describing someone she met on a bus! But, good on you, Susie.

Send your queries my way and I promise to get back to you before Susan Boyle gets cast in the next *Peter Pan Live* ... as Nana!

Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

Have a question for Billy? Send an email to him at Billy@BillyMasters.com.



Joey, Dallas Voice's unofficial mascot, with Bobby at Full Circle Tavern.



Employees at BJ's NXS!



James at Pub Pegasus.



Casey at Sue Ellen's.



Cassie Nova at S4.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Dec. 19-25:**

Alexandre's: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Bad Habits** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Alicia Silex** on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: Ugly Christmas Sweater Party and Toy Drive at 9 p.m. on Friday.

Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen's Pet Paws and Christmas Family benefit cookout 4-7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Dallas Eagle: DFW Leather Corps seminar 2-4 p.m. on Saturday. **Back to the 80s Dance** with DJ Blaine at 5 p.m. on Sunday. **Miss Wanda's Birthday Celebration** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Round-Up Saloon: Annual Winter Party at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

S4: Belvedere Red Party fundraiser on Friday. **Winter Party** on Saturday.

Sue Ellen's: Bad Reputation on Friday. **CHIX** on Saturday. **Backhand Sally** on Sunday.

The Brick: Bad Boyz of Dallas at 11:15 p.m. on Friday. Free admission until 10 p.m. **Final TKO Mini-Ball** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. \$10 cover.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Fourth annual Favorite Things at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

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



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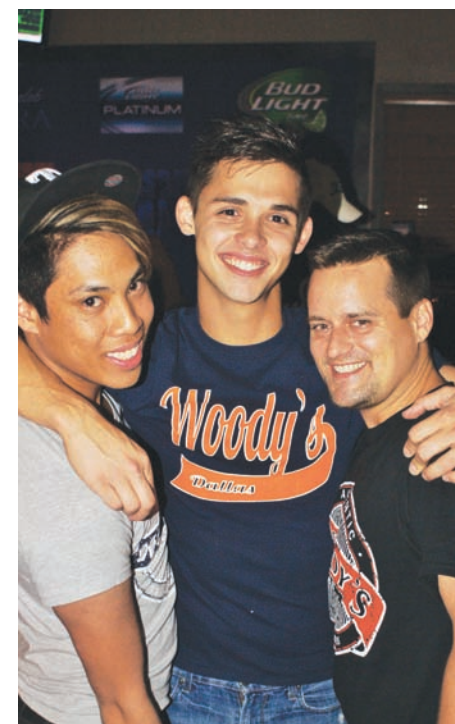
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Girlfriends dancing at Sue Ellen's.



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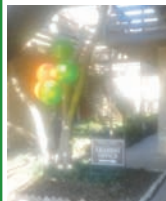
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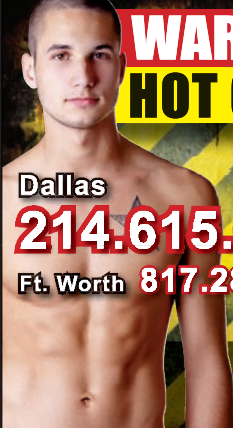
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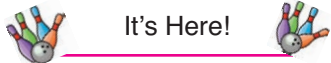
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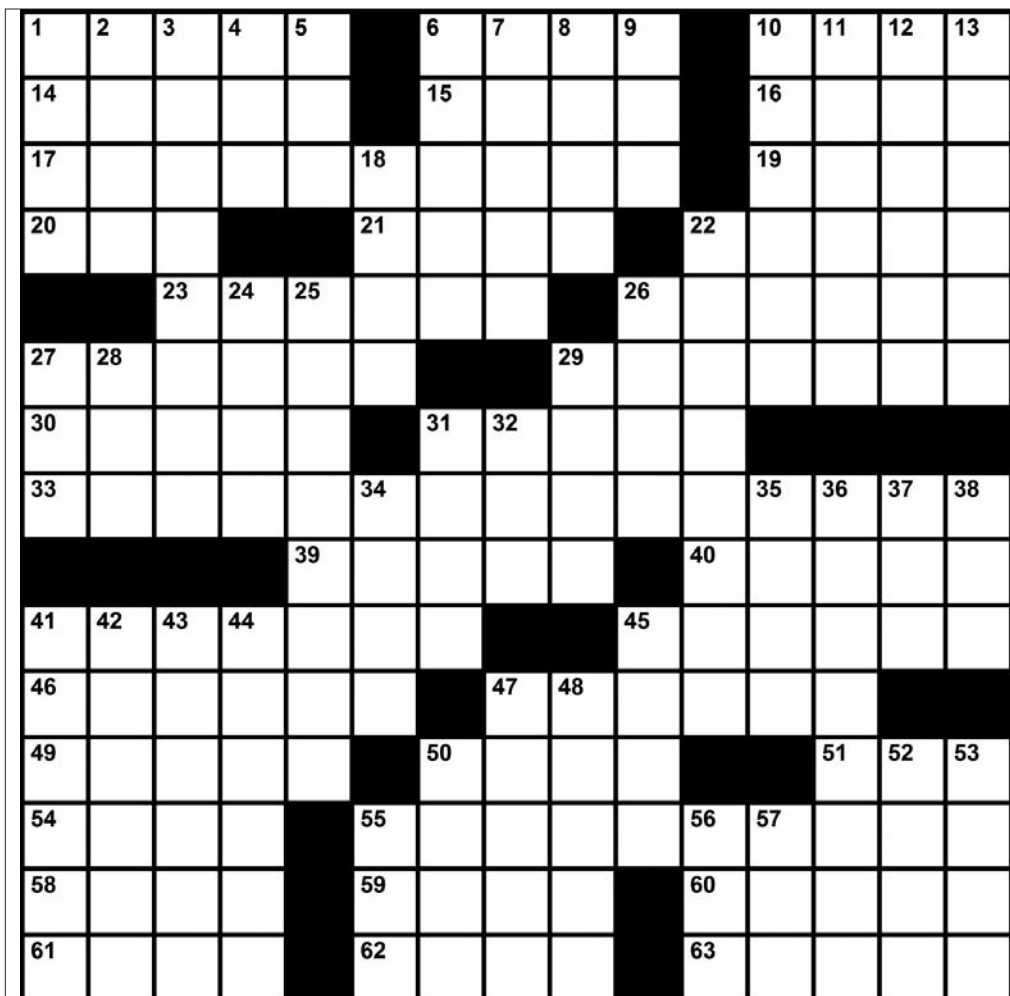
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q-puzzle



Missionary Position

Solution on page 27

Across

- 1 Vehicles for some dykes
- 6 Gladly, old-style
- 10 Bad bottom-line news
- 14 Not potent
- 15 Disengage, as a bra hook
- 16 "Just for the thrill ___"
- 17 Co-writer of 33-Across
- 19 *Bus Stop* playwright
- 20 Autumn mo.
- 21 Cross-dresser in a Kinks song
- 22 Co-creator Matt of 33-Across
- 23 Half of a pair of balls
- 26 Cut calories
- 27 Not digital
- 29 Cries over spilt milk
- 30 Game with straights and queens
- 31 Gay-friendly prez portrayer on TV
- 33 Broadway musical in which two missionaries are positioned in Uganda
- 39 Formal orders
- 40 Erect
- 41 Rice fields
- 45 Slapped on the butt, e.g.
- 46 Heads off
- 47 "Keep your pants on!"
- 49 Singer Jennifer
- 50 Daughters of Bilitis co-founder Phyllis

51 Coverage co.

- 54 Blows away
- 55 Actor who plays Elder Price in 33-Across
- 58 Triple X, for Caesar
- 59 Deity on *Xena*
- 60 Lubricated
- 61 Swirl around three men in a tub
- 62 Ironically straight singer Marvin
- 63 Nuts partners

Down

- 1 Bridle parts
- 2 As to
- 3 Old playbill from a Broadway show, e.g.
- 4 Mock tail?
- 5 Gas additive
- 6 Angry display
- 7 It's just over a foot
- 8 It comes out of your head
- 9 Negative joiner
- 10 Screw around
- 11 Memorable
- 12 Official seal
- 13 Real stallions
- 18 What you shake when you come quickly
- 22 Fraus to Frida

- 24 Naval Academy freshman
- 25 Russian pianist rated 76% gay at Gay or Straight.com
- 26 Regard as
- 27 In the cards
- 28 Type of drama in the land of Samurai
- 29 New York Liberty game officials
- 31 Biathlete's slats
- 32 How some like it
- 34 Rock group?
- 35 Part of APR
- 36 Cameron's husband on *Modern Family*
- 37 Verb ending
- 38 Beatty of *Roseanne*
- 41 Susan Feniger may pleasure it
- 42 Stated openly
- 43 Ride (on)
- 44 Somewhat formal
- 45 Harvey Milk portrayer Sean
- 47 "Yipes!" from Harvey Fierstein
- 48 Some people make it in bed
- 50 Byron poem
- 52 Come together
- 53 Cutlass, for one
- 55 Regret not spitting
- 56 It's corny
- 57 Carnival locale

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