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Gay rapper Cazwell  
brings the boys  
to the club

By Arnold Wayne Jones

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Texas marriage equality lawsuit plaintiffs, from left, Nicole Dimetman, Cleo DeLeon, Vic Holmes and Mark Phariss. (Erin Moore/Dallas Voice)

### Day of Decision rallies planned in Dallas, FW, around the state

If and when the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals hands down a ruling in the three marriage equality cases — including a case from Texas — in which the court heard oral arguments on Jan. 9, Day of Decision rallies will be in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Houston and San Antonio — whichever way the court rules.

The rallies will begin at 6 p.m. the day the ruling is issued.

The Dallas rally will be held at Cathedral of Hope-UCC church, 5710 Cedar Springs Road. Plano couple Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes, one of the two plaintiff couples in the Texas marriage equality case, are expected to be at the Dallas rally.

The Fort Worth event will be held at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave.

— Tammye Nash

### Legislators believe in liberty and freedom, but not for you

In the Texas Legislature, your elected officials talk about freedom for all —but they really mean for a few.

On Feb. 4, Sen. Konni Burton, a Colleyville Republican, filed S.B. No. 440, which says that “a county or municipality may not prohibit hydraulic fracturing treatment of oil or gas wells.”

The bill presumably targets the controversial hydraulic fracturing (commonly known as “fracking”) ban approved by Denton voters in November.

Meanwhile Sen. Don Huffines, a Dallas Republican, filed S.B. 343 last month, a bill that would overturn local ordinances protecting LGBT people, including those in all of Texas’ major cities.

An action alert sent by Equality Texas called Huffines’ bill harmful.

“SB 343 would restrict the ability of local elected officials to pass or enforce ordinances, rules or regulations that are not identical to state protections, restricting local governments to only protecting the attributes covered under state law:

race, color, religion, sex, familial status, or national origin,” according to the group.

— James Russell

### ExxonMobil adds sexual orientation, gender identity to EEO policy

After 15 years of fighting shareholder resolutions, ExxonMobil added sexual orientation and gender identity to its nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policies.

Media relations manager Alan Jeffers confirmed the policy in an email to Dallas Voice:

ExxonMobil’s U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity and Harassment in the Workplace policies have been updated to include sexual orientation and gender identity, which is consistent with ExxonMobil’s long-standing practice of listing enumerated protected classes as defined by federal law.

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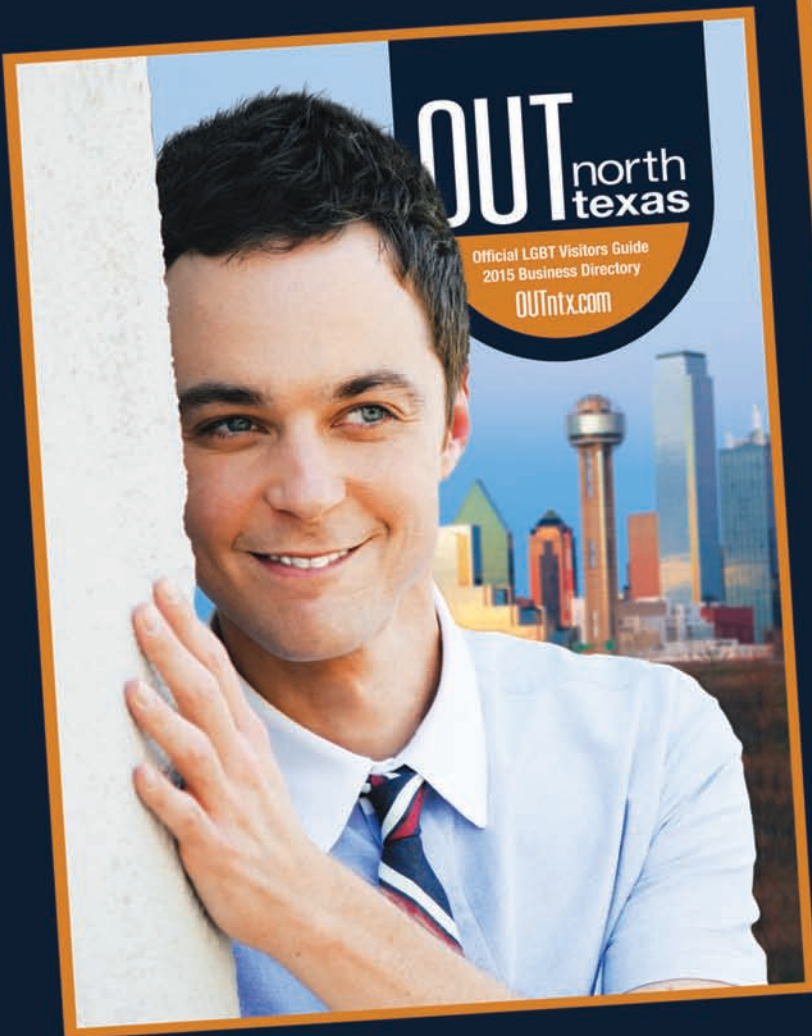
— David Taffet

### Annis Parker named 7th best mayor in the world

The World Mayors Foundation published its list of the top mayors. Only one U.S. mayor made the top 10 list — Houston’s openly lesbian Mayor Annis Parker. She ranked No. 7.

“It’s a great honor to be recognized for doing what I love for a city that I dearly love,” Parker told CultureMap Houston. “Being mayor of Houston is the best political job in the world. It provides the opportunity to shape the future of one of the great American cities. I am humbled that others view this work as worthy of being right up there with the accomplishments of my mayoral colleagues around the world.”

— David Taffet



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## localbriefs



### Cathedral confirms new members

UCC Cathedral of Hope is holding its first joint membership class ever between the Spanish- and English-speaking congregations. A total of 47 new members will be confirmed as members on Sunday — 30 members from the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. English-speaking services and 17 from the 1 p.m. Spanish-speaking service.

### Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day events

To mark National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Dallas County Health and Human Services is offering free testing for HIV and other STDs on Friday, Feb. 6 at West Dallas Multipurpose Center, 2828 Fish Trap Road. DCHHS health educators will also be onsite providing education on HIV/STD prevention and treatment.

"We are using every resource available to us in order to raise awareness among our citizens about HIV and STD testing, treatment, and prevention,"

said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "We appreciate our community partners who are always willing to provide a space for us to be present in the community."

Also marking National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Trinity K. Bonet from RuPaul's Drag Race appears at Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road, 3-7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7. Bonet holds a meet and greet offering free HIV tests. Also appearing are Tre Maasai and De-cameron Foxx.

### TC Stonewall Dems to swear in board

The TCSD welcomes Finn James as a guest speaker at its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Feb. 9 at Tommy's Hamburgers, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth. The Hon. Sergio De Leon will also swear in new board members. For more information contact TCSD President Felipe Gutierrez at 817-713-7426.

## pet of the week / LILY

Lily is a sweet 1-year-old pit bull mix. She's very loving and is just waiting for a person to call her own. She's been at the shelter more than three weeks, so her adoption fee has been waived. Ask for Lily, A871567, at Dallas Animal Services. The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Mon-Sat, and noon-5 p.m. on 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](http://DallasAnimalServices.org) or find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices](https://www.facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices). Photo by Judi Burnett.



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# No welcome home

**WWJD** | James Stone wanted to be buried next to his father in a Mountain Home, Ark. cemetery. But, pastors in Clarkridge, where his family is from, refused to perform his funeral. (Courtesy Jay Hoskins)

The church where James Stone grew up refused to perform his funeral but members attended to cause the family additional grief

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Vicki and Jerry Oels and other members of Clarkridge Church of Christ attended the funeral of a gay man in Mountain Home, Ark., they may have gone a step beyond even Westboro Baptist Church.

The members of Westboro stand across the street with their silly signs, but never really approach any of the mourners. The Oels — and others from Clarkridge Church of Christ — actually attended the funeral and stood graveside within feet of the mourners. The couple then handed an envelope to the chaplain who performed the service, to the dead man's mother and to the dead man's husband. In each envelope was a "sympathy" card, along with 18 pages of hate-filled rhetoric telling the dead man's friends and loved ones they're going to hell.

Jeremy Liebbe, the chaplain who performed the funeral service for 32-year-old James Stone, said he knew something was up when he saw the smirk on Jerry Oels' face throughout the service. Liebbe said he opened the envelope they gave him already expecting the hateful literature that was inside.

Liebbe said his response to the Oels was, "If you think I'm going to hell for this I'll see you there, because you'll be there before me."

Liebbe, who originally reported the story to Dallas Voice, said initially that the churches contacted were in Mountain Home. The churches were actually in Clarkridge, an unincorporated area about 10 miles away.

Jay Hoskins, Stones' widow, said most of the people who attended the funeral refused to step into the tent and take a seat. Only seven of the dozen chairs were occupied, even though about 30 people attended.

"To have these idiots show up and do this was the most awful and cruel thing that they could have been done," Hoskins said.

Hoskins described his husband as having been bullied all his life, beginning when Stone was in fourth grade and continuing until he dropped out of high school at age 16.

Stone got his GED and went to college.

Hoskins said Stone was so distraught when his father died he tried to commit suicide, but he maintained a close relationship with his mother.

Hoskins and Stone met online in 2004. When Stone introduced Hoskins to his mother, it was the first time he ever introduced her to anyone he was dating. That was how he confirmed to her he was gay.

Hoskins said when he first saw Stone, it was love at first sight and was the first time he ever felt loved and accepted.

Stone moved to Paris, Texas to live with Hoskins. The couple was living in Conroe, Texas along with Stone's mother, Joan, when Stone died.

Last August, on their 10th anniversary as a couple, Hoskins and Stone were legally married in New Mexico.

Hoskins said Stone suffered from Sjogren's Syndrome, a genetic autoimmune disorder. He was taking a new prescription that Hoskins believes



may have caused a severe psychotic episode. On Jan. 19, he and Joan Stone were out of the house and when they came home, they found Stone dead. He had hung himself.

Hoskins, who is trained as a paramedic, was unable to revive his husband.

Montgomery County did its part to make the death even more difficult for Stone's mother and husband.

Since Texas doesn't recognize same-sex marriages, Joan Stone gave Hoskins power-of-attorney out of respect for her son's wishes and because of her own health problems. The county refused to accept it and insisted her signature appear on documents as next of kin. Hoskins is listed as "person providing information."

The death certificate issued by the county lists Stone as single.

Next, Hoskins contacted the church where Stone grew up about doing the funeral. Stone wanted to be buried next to his father in the family's cemetery plot in Mountain Home.

From Texas, Hoskins called the only churches he knew in Clarkridge — Clarkridge Church of Christ and Clarkridge Baptist Church.

According to the Baxter Bulletin, the local newspaper in Baxter County where Clarkridge and Mountain Home are located, the pastors of both denied being contacted.

Hoskins said he was told by both churches that they would not perform a funeral for someone who is gay.



The Rev. Jim McDonald is a rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Mountain Home, and he said he or someone at his church certainly would have assisted.

"I don't know what church or churches were contacted, but I assure you the family would have received a different response from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church," McDonald wrote in a comment on a blog post about the situation at DallasVoice.com.

The Rev. Eric Folkerth of Northaven United Methodist Church in Dallas said he couldn't imagine a UMC church not offering a grieving family some solace and assistance by performing the service or, at the very least, referring the caller to someone in the area who would. He said it's what any decent human would do and certainly anyone who called himself a pastor should do.

"It should not be hard to go to a funeral and support a grieving family, no matter who died," Folkerth said.

Since Hoskins wasn't from the area, he said he didn't know who else to call. So he contacted Liebbe, a former police officer. The two men had worked together in Hunt County, and Liebbe was the first person Hoskins introduced to Stone after they became a couple.

Liebbe, who said he does "occasional chaplain work," added that he has taken basic course work in interfaith studies and services, which he used as a police officer.

"In police work, I learned to give comfort and steer someone toward counseling," he said of his chaplain's training.

So Liebbe traveled to Mountain Home, near the Missouri border, to perform his friend's funeral.

After the service, Liebbe said, Hoskins and Joan Stone had hoped to have fellowship at the community firehouse. Stone's father built the firehouse, according to Liebbe, and it's custom for them to open the building after funerals for people from the town who have requested it.

Arrangements were made for the fellowship time at the firehouse. But a couple of hours before the funeral, it was canceled. Stone's aunt, Ruth Strain, had booked the firehouse and Hoskins found out this week it was Strain who canceled the dinner. Commenters on Dallas Voice claim it was other church members who canceled the reception. Whether or not those other church members were involved, their comments seemed to take pride in hurting the grieving family.

A representative from the firehouse called Hoskins this week to apologize for the misunderstanding and confirmed it was Strain who canceled. He said Hoskins and Joan Stone were welcome anytime and they'd be happy to cook them a dinner.

Hoskins said he's afraid of putting up a grave marker in the Mountain Home cemetery because he worries it will be desecrated or stolen.

"But James wanted to be back home and buried next to his dad," Hoskins said.

After the funeral, Joan returned to Conroe with her son-in-law and Hoskins plans to continue taking care of her rather than sending her back to Arkansas to live with her other sons.

Over the loss of his husband, he's inconsolable.

"I don't know how I'm going to go on without him," Hoskins said. "He grew up in a backwards town and couldn't be himself. He hated how cruel people could be." ■



# We never expected we would get old

Local activist among those attending White House conference on LGBT aging, as Dallas community again strives to meet the needs of the elderly

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas has a reputation for having one of the most organized LGBT communities in the country. Whatever it was, Dallas had a group for that. From civil rights to religious groups of every denomination, from the Gay Gun Lover's Club to book clubs, professional groups and sports clubs, Dallas organized.

When the AIDS crisis hit, the community organized in full gear.

But when it came to services for the elderly, we failed. We just never expected to get old.

Services for people with HIV were based on care for the elderly, but during the AIDS crisis, as people ran from one funeral to tend to someone else who could no longer take care of himself, no one thought about the future. No one had time to worry, "Who will take care of me when I get old?"

But Robert Emery said he's been thinking about just that for quite some time.

"We have been working on [LGBT elder care]

since 1999 in different permutations," Emery said.

The need for such services were highlighted in dramatic fashion in 2010 when a social worker from the Dallas Police Department's Crisis Intervention Unit called Dallas Voice for help in locating family or friends of longtime community activist and former political candidate Jack Borden. He was having health and memory problems and was living on the streets.

No family could be located, and Borden was placed in a nursing facility where he died alone.

In 2011, local activist Cannon Flowers spearheaded the effort to circulate a questionnaire to try to determine the LGBT community's needs and concerns. The first question was, "What do you think is the most pressing need for the aging LGBT community?"

Of those who responded, 85 percent said the top priority was transitional/senior living facilities where LGBT equality is respected.

Emery has been involved in some bold attempts to acquire properties to house senior services. In 2005, he was involved in an attempt to purchase Old Parkland Hospital, before Harlan Crow scooped up the property.

Last year, a group tried to purchase ParkGate on Wycliff Avenue at the Tollway entrance, which once served as Braniff Airlines' stewardess school. The property was used as an assisted living facility for years, but had closed.

■ OLD, Page 11



HEADED TO D.C. | Dallas activist Cannon Flowers, left, pictured here with his husband Rafiq, will be attending the White House Conference on LGBT Aging on Feb. 10.

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# Game on: House committee appointments revealed



Rep. Molly White, R-Belton

Friendly faces fill top committees,  
Straus critics sidelined

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Staff Writer  
russell@dallasvoice.com

If elections have consequences then 19 representatives who voted for a more conservative candidate in the Texas House Speaker's race surely learned their consequences on Wednesday, Feb. 5 when four-term House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, released committee appointments.

Straus, a San Antonio Republican, defeated Rep. Scott Turner, R-Frisco, to claim his fourth term as the House's top leader. Turner received 19 votes to Straus' 127. When committee memberships were released, those 19 officials, all of whom represent the hard right of the GOP, were appointed to few committees where they may have little relevance.

Case in point: Rep. Molly White, R-Belton, who voted for Turner. The freshman representative from a rural area landed spots on Urban Affairs and Homeland Security and Public Safety.

Meanwhile, Rep. Eric Johnson, a Dallas Democrat and LGBT ally who backed Straus, was assigned to Calendars, Economic and Small Business Development (vice chair), and Homeland Security and Public Safety.

According to Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha, an associate professor of political science at the University of North Texas, committee assignments matter. But he couldn't say whether White's and others' assignments were rooted in revenge.

Generally, committee assignments serve two roles. One is to "benefit the legislator for re-election. The best way to ensure a legislator's re-election is to serve on a committee relevant to his or her constituents," Eshbaugh-Soha said.

■ **MOLLY WHITE**, Next Page

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From that attempt, a new non-profit group called SafeHaven formed. Its goal is to purchase property in Oak Lawn to build a 16-unit assisted-living facility and grow from there.

To research what's out there, Emery said he's visited the majority of assisted-living facilities in the Dallas area. He made appointments by saying he is looking for a place for his mother.

"I present myself as if I'm looking for my mom," he said. "Then I drop the notion it's my mother and her partner."

If it's a facility with single rooms only, he suggests she recently lost her partner.

Then he asks the question: "Is my mother, who is lesbian, welcome here?" The answer is usually yes. So he asks what activities they have that she'll be interested in. The answer has been a resounding: No specific activities.

"You can be as gay-friendly as you want, but if there's no activity for me, I'm cut off," he said.

Even worse, he said, there are no programs in place to protect LGBT residents from bullying by staff or other residents. So many people who have been out all their lives have to go into the closet when they enter a senior facility.

Emery said SafeHaven's motto is "respect and protect." That includes respecting the lives of LGBT people by encouraging them to continue to participate in the community as much as they can and being their authentic selves while protecting them from any physical harm.

Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders, known as SAGE, is a New York-based organization addressing the needs of the elderly. This week, the organization launched a national initiative and identified several strategies to expand housing opportunities for LGBT older seniors.

In addition to building housing, SAGE proposed training existing housing facilities to provide housing in an LGBT-welcoming, non-discriminatory manner. Public policy must bar discrimination against older LGBT people.

SAGE also suggested educating older LGBT people in how to look for LGBT-friendly housing and how to exercise their rights.

Flowers has also been working on issues of aging in the LGBT community for a number of years, and on Feb. 10, he will be attending a White House conference on LGBT aging. He said he expects the major focus to be on housing.

In addition to providing housing, Flowers said he'd like to see a buddy program initiated.

During the height of the AIDS crisis, Oak Lawn

Community Services ran a program called The Buddy Project. A caregiver was paired with someone with AIDS and several times a week or more, the buddy would help with errands, get to the doctor, make sure he had food and more.

Flowers said a program like that might have avoided someone like Borden suddenly finding himself homeless and no longer in a position to know where to turn or what to do.

Flowers said he hopes to tap into a wealth of information at the White House conference.

"The reason I'm going is I know there's a need not only in North Texas but across the country," Flowers said. "I want to see what that need is, what sort of funding we need to address it and maybe find some likely sources of funding, both from the government and private foundations."

He said he hopes to meet some people who've had success elsewhere caring for their aging LGBT populations and exchange ideas.

"There's no reason to re-invent the wheel," Flowers said.

Community activist Kay Wilkinson is concerned about keeping the elderly actively engaged and wants younger members of the community to interact with older community members.

"As we age, unless we have a great network, we tend to isolate," Wilkinson said.

She also recalled the Buddy Project with fondness, noting that she had buddied with five people with HIV/AIDS. "When you volunteered with the Buddy Project, you got so much more out of it than the person you were serving," she said.

Willkinson said as people age, they may have more trouble with mobility. Shopping for healthy food may be something LGBT seniors need help with. Socialization is another problem she'd like addressed.

"During the AIDS crisis, we banded together and got it done," Wilkinson, adding that she sees the same thing happening with services for the elderly. "Keeping actively engaged is the best recipe."

Emery said he believes SafeHaven's current plan for a home for elderly LGBT people in Dallas will come to fruition. He said talks with investors are progressing as well as negotiations on acquiring property. It's not a glamorous topic, he said, but the survey showed people in the community are concerned about it.

"No one wants to talk about this, but they'll be thrilled it's there," Emery said. "We better take care of ourselves, because we have no one else to take care of us." ■

The other reason for committee appointments "is for partisan/political benefits or seniority," he noted.

More experienced legislators may have developed a specific field of expertise or, just as crucial, they may have collaborated with Straus on legislation or helped him or more powerful colleagues politically.

In White's case, there is an issue that might affect Belton that does, in fact, fit with Urban Affairs, that she expressed interest in working on this session," he added.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick released Senate committee assignments last month, plopping a large class of conservative freshman senators into plum posi-

tions while booting Democrats from their perches in others.

While the Senate is more conservative this session, the House appointments are good news to Daniel Williams, legislative specialist for Equality Texas. (He previously told the Voice he anticipates a friendlier House than Senate.)

"We've known for a long time that this would be a defensive session. Every legislative session has a flavor, has a theme... the 84th regular's theme is defense."

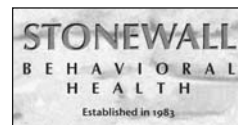
Still, Williams said, "There is a lot to be hopeful about in some of the ways House committee assignments came down. I'm confident that, with hard work by our allies, we will be successful in defending Texans from the attacks coming from extremist, reactionary members of the Legislature." ■

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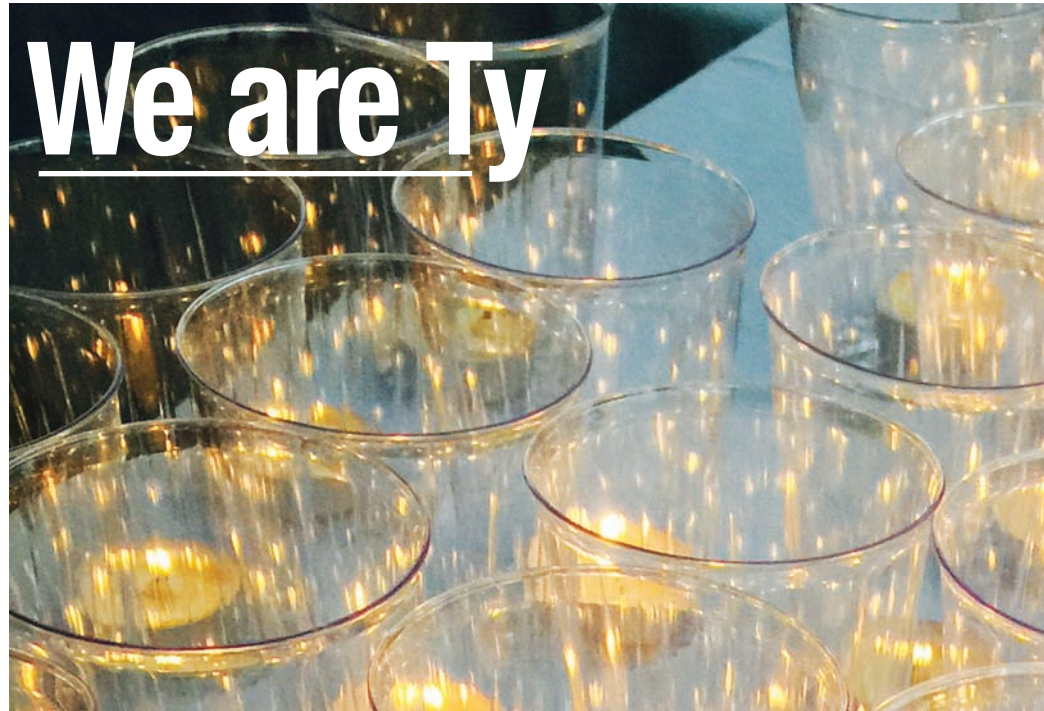
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**We are Ty**

Gathering to honor murdered trans woman offers solace, hope

**TODD WHITLEY** | Special Contributor  
[nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com)

I don't understand. I admitted as much to the family, friends and others gathered at Bergfeld Park in Tyler to honor Ty "Nunee" Underwood. I just don't understand the kind of senseless violence that has forced us, yet again, to gather in memory of someone taken from us unfairly.

And I got the sense that many of the people gathered there felt the same way, whether Ty Underwood died in a "hate crime" or not.

I watched as a diverse community came together, holding candles and wearing handmade nametags declaring "I Am Ty" — transgender and gay and straight, black and white and Latino, young and less so. They were all there to try and make sense of what had happened, to process their grief, to show support for Ty's family and for the transgender community.

The first to arrive at the vigil was a young, gender-queer Latino student from the local community college who came alone, telling me, "I needed to be here."

Later, I met a passel of gay and lesbian millennials who drove from Nacogdoches because they'd heard about the vigil and wanted to show their support. I chatted with several women who had worked with Ty at the nursing home, and they told me how joyful and smart Ty was and how the residents loved her.

I met several young, black, transgender women; one said she was scared but that she was encouraged that people were motivated by love to come to the vigil.

I watched a 7-year-old, freckle-faced boy named Isaac walk up to Ty's grieving mother, hand her a bouquet of tulips and give her a hug.

I heard a queer minister tell the crowd, "I am incredibly moved to be here tonight because looking at Ty's life from a distance, I can tell she lived her life authentically. I believe the way she lived her life tells us much about what it looks like to ... be who God has created us to be. I want to encourage you tonight: Don't let any church, don't let any

pastor, don't let any religion tell you that you have to be anything other than what God has called you to be. God is right. They are not."

The Rev. Jeff Hood, minister of social justice for Hope for Peace & Justice, then ended his remarks with an admonishment to pastors, priests and other religious leaders across Texas to "Do right by those who are different," to "Stop persecuting people" and instead just love them.

Another faith leader, Cathedral of Hope Associate Pastor and straight ally the Rev. Mike Wright-Chapman reminded the group that "Ty and every person are God's beloved children, designed by a God who values and delights in us in all our diversity."

You could almost feel aching hearts beating together at this reassurance.

Yadi Martinez, Cathedral of Hope's minister of youth, young adults and missions, called for increased solidarity with transgender people by the at-large gay community. "May the L, G, and B embrace our transgender brothers and sisters and together find equality for all," she said.

My heart broke when I heard Ty's siblings share memories of Ty, talk of the void they now felt because of her absence and of their very real hope for swift justice.

And I heard a prominent statewide transgender voice — Transgender Education Network of Texas Director Michelle Stafford — remind us all that we have a responsibility to honor Ty's memory and a responsibility to "love those around us" instead of reacting in kind.

Stafford left us with this thought: "Family, friends, transgender community and allies — hate is the enemy. Love is the answer."

By the time I spoke at the gathering, a damp drizzle had covered the park. I looked out across the diverse crowd that wrapped around Ty's family like a warm quilt, lovingly pieced together from disparate pieces of fabric.

I saw young children, oddly still, as if soaking in every word. I saw straight allies, young gender-queer students, lesbians and gay men. I saw lots of white people.

I reminded them all of the words on the tags we wore: We are all Ty: Young Isaac, Artimus from Nacogdoches, Chantal, me, each one of the people present in that very moment.



**IN MEMORY** | Carlucia Ford, sister of murdered trans woman Ty Underwood, speaks at a candlelight vigil in Underwoods memory this week in Tyler. (Photos courtesy Todd Whitely)



Briefly, we were one.

There is so much about the murders of Ty and other transgender people I will likely never understand. But bearing witness to so much love and solidarity amid the palpable grief and anger and sorrow, I understood with greater clarity my own purpose and also the source of my hope.

If we as a community strive more diligently to follow the model of this group of people — embracing everyone regardless of our differences, standing for one another, recognizing that divine spark within each human soul — perhaps some day, no one will dare bring harm to anyone in our family for any reason, particularly because of whom we love or how we express our gender.

I am Ty. We all are. ■

### Investigation continues into trans woman's murder

Ty Underwood, a 24-year-old transgender woman murdered Jan. 26 in Tyler, was memorialized Wednesday night, Feb. 4, at a gathering in Bergfeld Park in Tyler as Tyler police continued their investigation into the woman's shooting.

Tyler Police Department Public Information Officer Don Martin said Tuesday, Feb. 3, that police there do have leads they are investigating, but had no new information they could release at the time. "There are some things coming up, and if those things come through, we hope to be able to make an announcement" soon, Martin said.



Underwood's friends and family have said they believe her murder was an anti-trans hate crime, although police have so far not designated it as such. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call

the Tyler Police Department at 903-531-1000 or Tyler-Smith County Crime Stoppers at 903-597-2833.

Underwood worked at a nursing home, and friends and family members said she planned to go back to school to become a nurse. She died early Monday morning, Jan. 26.

Police said a woman called police to report the accident, saying her children had heard gunshots, after Underwood's car crashed into a telephone pole in the 400 block of West 24th Street in Tyler. Police said they believe Underwood was trying to escape in her car after being shot when the accident occurred.

Underwood died at the scene. She was originally from Lufkin, and funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 31, at Woods Memorial Chapel Church of God in Christ in Lufkin, under the direction of Colonial Mortuary and Cremation Services. Underwood was cremated.

— Tammye Nash

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## THE GAY AGENDA

### FEBRUARY

• **Feb. 6: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

The Afiya Center's second annual "Get tested. Grab a bite" free and confidential HIV and syphilis testing and education event from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. at the Afiya Center, 501 Wynnewood Village Ste. 213. Contact 972-682-5571 or info@theafiyacenter.org for more information.

• **Feb. 7: Turtle Creek Chorale 35th Anniversary Concert**

Tim Seelig conducts this performance. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at Tickets.TurtleCreekChorale.com or at 214-526-3214.

• **Feb. 7: Night Circus Masquerade Ball**

The Women's Chorus of Dallas annual fundraiser. 7 p.m. at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

• **Feb. 9: Resource Center's Young Professionals Advisory Council Mixer**

Meet with the members of Resource Center's young professional group (45 and under) fundraiser benefitting Youth First. 5:30–7 p.m. at Kitchen LTO at Trinity Groves, 3011 Gulden Lane, Ste. 108. Learn more at Bit.ly/1zb3RNa.

• **Feb. 9: Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County monthly meeting**

Guest speaker James Finn and swearing-in of board members by Justice of the Peace Sergio De Leon at 7 p.m. at Tommy's Hamburgers, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth. Contact Felipe Gutierrez at 817-713-7426 for more information.

• **Feb. 10: Denise Lee Onstage presents vocalist Terry Loftis in Love, Passion & Valentines**

Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. \$25. UptownTheaterGP.com/tickets.

• **Feb. 11: Lambda Legal's Mix and Mingle**

Learn about Lambda Legal's recent victories 5:30–7 p.m. at Sambuca, 2120 McKinney Ave.

• **Feb. 12: LCR-Texas Lobby Day**

Check in with Log Cabin Republicans in the Capitol Rotunda at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast provided. Meet lawmakers 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m. Lunch provided at noon. Happy hour at 6 p.m. at Rain, 217 W. 4th St., Austin.

• **Feb. 13–15: Texas Home & Garden Show in Fort Worth**

Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. Feb. 13–15. Mayor Price speaks at 3:30 p.m.

• **Feb. 14: Dannee Phann Productions presents Second Saturday: Adore Delano!**

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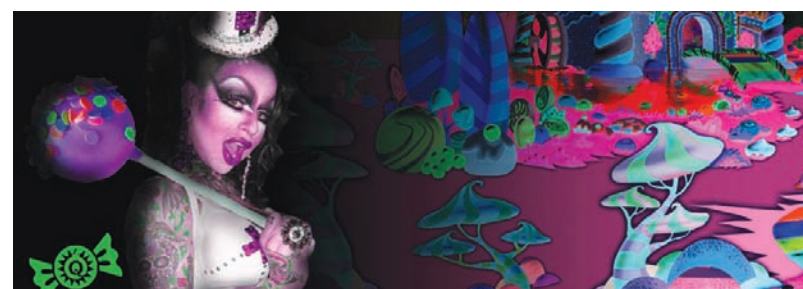
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## Gay Agenda Spotlight: Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras and more



**SPOTLIGHT**

Valentine's Day may be a week away, but with all that's going on (including some delicious options highlighted in Life & Style this week) it would help to plan in advance.

If you're the club-going type, check out previous RuPaul's Drag Race contenders at 9 p.m. at the Brick & Joe's. Are you more into fabulous radical affairs? QueerBomb Dallas' QueerBomb L.U.S.T. 2015: Queer Candy from 9 p.m.–2 a.m. at the Texas Theatre may be your thing. Emceed by Nikki Trash, the party includes carnival games, drag queens, a photo booth, asexual hangout area, spanking booth and more. A \$10 donation is suggested.

Single? Not into lovey-dovey stuff? There's plenty of other stuff going on, too. Numerous Mardi Gras celebrations coincide with the most romantic day in February. Begin your weekend at 9 a.m. on Feb. 14 with Dash for the Beads, the Mardi Gras-themed race, walk and festival in Kidd Springs Park. Then head over to the Mardi Gras Oak Cliff Parade at 4 p.m. in the Bishop Arts District.

If nothing else, Feb. 15 is your last chance to check out Bruce Wood: A Retrospective at Arlington Museum of Art. Admission prices vary. \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors.

RuPaul's Drag Race entertainers perform at 9 p.m. at the Brick & Joe's, 2525 Wycliff. Ticket prices from \$20-\$150. Tickets at [Bit.ly/adoreatbrick](http://Bit.ly/adoreatbrick).

• **Feb. 14: LGBTQ SAVES Youth dance**  
Valentine's dance for youth 7-10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E California Way, Forest Hill. For more information visit [LGBTQ Saves.weebly.com](http://LGBTQ Saves.weebly.com) or e-mail [LGBTQ Saves@gmail.com](mailto:LGBTQ Saves@gmail.com).

• **Feb. 14: Dash for the Beads**  
Oak Cliff Mardi Gras-themed walk, run and festival benefits local area schools to help promote healthy eating and physical activity. 9:30 a.m. at Kidd Springs Park. Register online at [Bit.ly/1tZ0txv](http://Bit.ly/1tZ0txv).

• **Feb. 14: QueerBomb Dallas' QueerBomb L.U.S.T. 2015: Queer Candy**  
9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W Jefferson Blvd. \$10 donation. [Bit.ly/lustparty](http://Bit.ly/lustparty).

• **Feb. 15: Mardi Gras Oak Cliff Parade**  
Bishop Arts District at 4 p.m.

• **Feb. 15: Mr & Miss Charity America's Red & Pink Ball**  
6 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings, Fort Worth. Benefits Home for the Holidays. Contact Linze Serrell at [sablelindsey@aol.com](mailto:sablelindsey@aol.com).

• **Through Feb. 15: Bruce Wood: A Retrospective**  
A new exhibition celebrating the life and creative contributions of the renowned Fort Worth dancer, choreographer and creative genius at the Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W Main St, Arlington. Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-5:00 p.m. Sunday 1-5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Children 12 and under are free. Call 817-275-4600 or email [ama@arlingtonmuseum.org](mailto:ama@arlingtonmuseum.org) for more information.

• **Feb. 17: Equality Texas Faith Advocacy Day**  
Lobby legislators in Austin about issues facing LGBT people. First of three EQTX's lobbying days at the Capitol. Co-sponsored by the Texas Freedom Network. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration required. Register at [EqualityTexas.org](http://EqualityTexas.org).

• **Feb. 19: Gray Pride The Good, The Bad and the Ugly: Texas Legislature 2015**  
Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell takes a look at the Texas Legislature and legislation that could impact LGBT Texans.

• **Feb. 19: Urban Engagement Book Club: Tomlinson Hill by Chris Tomlinson**  
CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. More information at [CitySquare.org](http://CitySquare.org).

• **Feb. 21: Chi Tau Epsilon Dance Honor Society Benefit Concert**  
Texas Christian University's Chi Tau Epsilon Dance Honor Society hosts their annual benefit concert for AIDS Outreach Center at 7:30 p.m. at Studio Theatre at Erma Lowe Hall, 3000 South University Dr., Fort Worth. Call 817-257-4255 for ticket information.

• **Feb. 21: Dallas-Fort Worth Gay for Good Volunteer Project**  
DFW Gay For Good's Habitat for Humanity volunteer project from 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 2606 Wilhurt. Arrive between 7:45-8:00 a.m. Register at [Bit.ly/DFWG4G21](http://Bit.ly/DFWG4G21). Contact Rob Peters at [robpeters70@gmail.com](mailto:robpeters70@gmail.com) or 781-472-0745 for more information.

• **Feb. 21: Miss Gay Texas Pageant System's Miss Tri City State and State-at-Large Pageant**  
The system that promotes both female impersonation and community support holds a themed pageant and fundraiser to benefit AIDS Arms Life Walk. Categories include presentation, performance and more. Male interviews begin at 2 p.m. and show begins at 8 p.m. at Garlow's, 308 E. Main Street, Gun Barrel City. \$75 entry fee. Contact Sable Alexander at [sablelindsey@aol.com](mailto:sablelindsey@aol.com).

• **Feb. 21: Fit4Life Calendar Launch Party: Benefiting Dallas Red Foundation**  
Fit4Life 2015 calendar launch benefitting the Dallas Red Foundation and HIV/AIDS research 7-9 p.m. at ES Collection, 3926 Cedar Springs. Complimentary cocktails. More information at [On.fb.me/1zbd742](http://On.fb.me/1zbd742).

• **Feb. 21: Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County Strategic Retreat**

• **Feb. 21: Gaybingo**

• **Feb. 22: He Said/She Said**  
The Human Rights Campaign Dallas Fort Worth presents the inaugural He Said/She Said fundraiser, a new twist on the Her HRC event. Events include trivia with cash prizes, HRC Bachelorette and/or Bachelor live auction and a drag show to cap off the day. Cassie Nova and Jenna Skyy host. 2 p.m. at Sue Ellen's.

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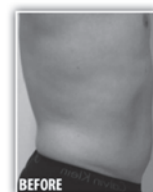
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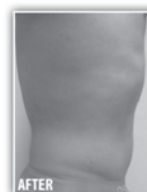
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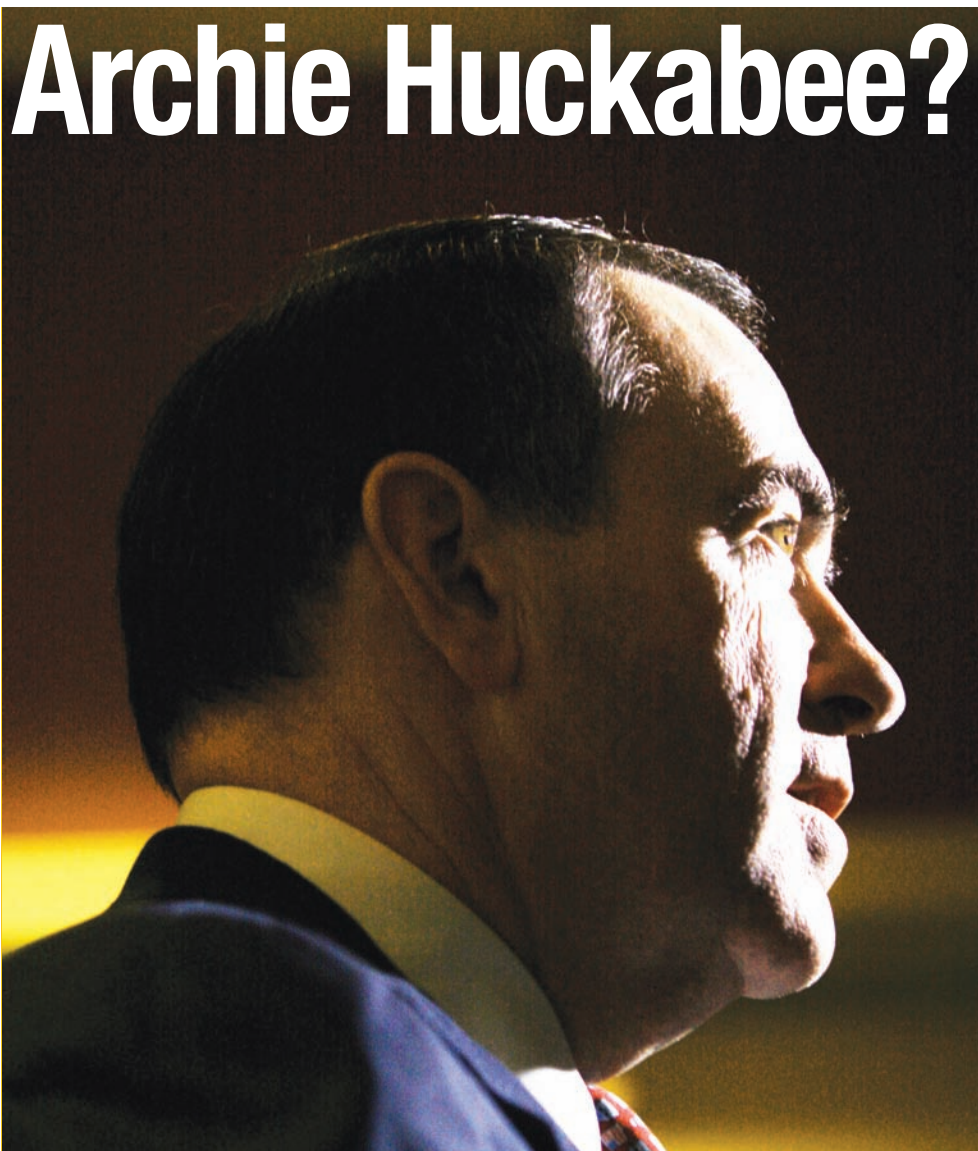
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Presidential candidate's anti-gay bigotry sounds like something out of a 1970s TV sitcom

If television executives ever decide to remake the wildly-successful 1970s-era *All in the Family* sitcom to address this century's issues, I sure hope they will borrow some material from today's 2016 Republican presidential hopefuls — especially former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

When I watched Huckabee's recent interview on CNN about LGBT people and same-sex marriage, I felt like my TV and I had slipped back in time. His remarks comparing LGBT people living their lives to straight people cussing and drinking alcohol sounded just like something Archie Bunker might have said.

"People can be my friends who have lifestyles that are not necessarily my lifestyle," Huckabee reasoned to CNN's Dana Bash as he sidestepped a question about whether he believed people came by their sexual orientation through heredity or choice. "I don't shut people out of my life because they have a different point of view."

Gee thanks, Mike, I thought. That's a relief. I'd hate to think I couldn't hang out with a fun guy like you.

Usually, I would switch channels at that point, but I sensed more incredible observations yet to come from the Baptist-pastor-turned-politician. Sure enough, he went on in his ill-fated attempts to further enlighten the CNN host and her audience with his broad-mindedness.

"I don't drink alcohol, but gosh, a lot of my friends — maybe most of them — do," he said. "You know, I don't use profanity, but believe me, I've got a lot of friends who do. Some people really

like classical music and ballet and opera — it's not my cup of tea."

I suppose the reference to the high arts sort of tempered the comparison to foul-mouthed boozing, but it failed to make any more sense to me.

Again, it reminded me of Archie, the outspoken, conservative, backward Protestant bigot whose observations so stunned the other characters in the show they stared at in him silence. I envisioned his daughter, Gloria, and her husband, Michael,

rolling their eyes, and his naïve wife, Edith, cocking her head in confusion as laughter echoed in the background.

The satirical scenes in *All in the Family* put issues like racial and religious bigotry, male chauvinism and anti-homosexual and -transgender bias in perspective for many Americans. Many people got it, and probably quite a few saw themselves in the depictions. I suspect the show led to a lot of re-evaluations of long-held beliefs.

The sitcom preceded the issue of same-sex marriage by three decades, but *All in the Family* did address interracial marriage. Through humor, the show illustrated the absurdity of skin color dictating whom people could marry. In one of the show's episodes Archie and Edith discussed the "mixing" of races:

Archie: "This mixing the colors, before you know it, the world's gonna be just one color."

Edith: "Well, what's wrong with that, Archie?"

Archie: "Can't you use your head? How the hell are we gonna tell each other apart?"

The absurdity of Archie's argument made an unspoken point: Why would anyone care about whom others marry?

It came as no surprise Huckabee held a hard line on same-sex marriage in the CNN interview, saying that the Bible forbids homosexuality. "This is not just a political issue," he said. "It is a biblical issue. And as a biblical issue — unless I get a new version of the scriptures, it's really not my place to say, OK, I'm just going to evolve."

Most conservative Republicans would likely agree with Huckabee on this issue. But I could see the statement coming out of Archie's mouth if rewritten to reflect how a blue-collar worker talks. Archie would think like Huckabee about the issue of same-sex marriage, the last big culture barrier of our time to overcome.

The good news is that times are changing, similarly to how it happened in the late 1960s and 1970s. In earlier days, white bigots used the Bible to justify discrimination against black people and others who didn't look like them. Today, they've found new scapegoats, such as LGBT people and immigrants, to target.

More and more conservative straight people I know tell me they are tired of politicians who brandish the Bible at them and focus their attention on abortion and same-sex marriage. Instead, they've expressed concerns about issues such as the economy and the consequences of worldwide political unrest that also worry most LGBT people. None of the Republican candidates appear to be generating much interest among the conservative voters I know.

Ultra conservative politicians seem to be out of touch with the majority of Americans, and that is why the White House could be out of reach for Huckabee and others like him in 2016. Maybe the humor of a revamp of *All in the Family* might clue them into what does and does not really concern most Americans today, although for now I'd rather they stay in the dark — at least until after the 2016 election.

David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than three decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.



**David Webb**  
The Rare Reporter



# Why the Middle East matters to LGBT Americans

Americans tend to ignore news about people who don't look or sound like us. Here's why that needs to change

I suspect most Americans are watching events in the Middle East with one eye closed and the other on the latest sports event. In other words, we don't care unless it involves Americans.

I don't think this reflects a wanton ignorance, just the long-term effects of a news media that only run stories that "connect" with viewers and readers. The end result is if the people involved don't look like us and don't speak English without a foreign accent, it's relegated to the back pages or not seen at all.

This is why the Ebola epidemic ravaged several West African nations without much press — until someone in this country got sick. Then it connected!

Of course, there were just a few isolated cases in this country and there never was a real threat. But it was here! Now that's news!

The same is true for LGBT Americans. We are more likely to follow stories that have an LGBT spin. Discrimination is a bad thing, yet it goes on every day. But when it is against one of us — well, that's a different story. I fall prey to this just like



anyone else.

So let me put this before you — and here's a warning: It's not going to be pretty. (I guess that is what is called a "trigger" warning?)

I ran across a picture of a frightened man sitting in a cheap plastic chair. Behind him were three men dressed in black, their faces covered with masks. In the background was a skyline.

Strange photo — until you read the caption.

The cowards with their faces covered were members of ISIS, the alleged Islamic State in Syria. The man in the chair was accused of having a "homosexual affair," and he was going to be punished by being shoved off a seven-story building.

Got your attention now?

The war in the Middle East is far from over. We just came home, or at least some of us did. Mean-

while we have left chaos behind, and as one dictator after another finds his regime crumbling, the militants of ISIS are stepping in and offering their version of "civilization." They claim to practice the much-talked-about Sharia law, but what they do mostly is hold kangaroo courts and kill people.



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

regime.

And what about ISIS? Well they are an inconvenient by-product of the clash, opportunists who found a niche once the dictatorial rule of Assad was shattered.

Sound complicated? You bet it is. And it is only going to get more so.

Now there is talk of arming the "rebels" and essentially fueling the campaign against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Apparently, the thinking is by putting more guns in the hands of the "good guys" we can defeat one set of "bad guys."

In the meantime, the vacuum that is being created is quickly being filled by ISIS. And that is bad news for everyone, especially LGBT Syrians. It's a difficult situation and there is no simple solution.

And that is why it holds such a minor place in the minds of Americans. We like simple black-and-white issues. We are addicted to the whole binary paradigm. It permeates our understanding of the world and of human behavior — and it's completely false.

When it comes to these issues there is no binary, no simple "good vs. bad." There never has been.

Just as sexual orientation is a continuum instead of firm categories, so are the issues of right and wrong in world politics. If we are to be rational, informed citizens we need to try to understand the nuances of the big issues as well as the small. That takes work; it takes self-education, and most of all, it takes attention.

If we fail to pay attention to world affairs, we risk seeing them play out here in our country. Remember: There is a large group of Americans who want to rule this country based on "Biblical Law," and that law is almost word for word the same as the religious law being professed in Syria.

If that isn't an LGBT connection I don't know what is. ■

*Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com).*

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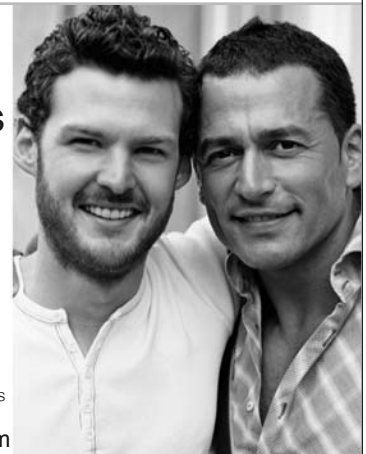
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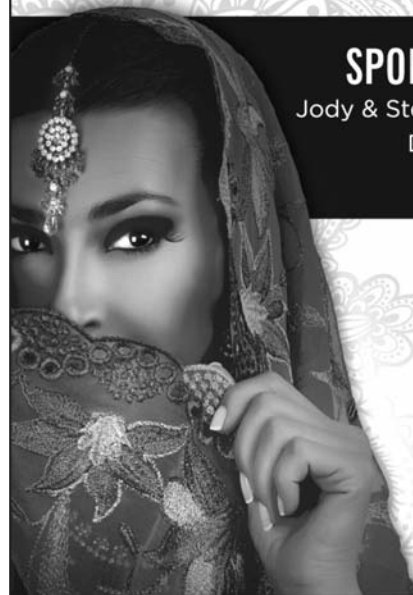
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# His 'Ice Cream Truck' brings the boys to the yard

Gay rapper Cazwell knows his market — and he's happy to serve it

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

If you've been in a gay club in the last five years or so, chances are you know who Cazwell is. Long before even Frank Ocean or Fly Young Red, Cazwell was the gay rapper — an urban party boy with killer tats and a muscular build whose catchy, goofy raps delight listeners and especially viewers with his cheeky sense of sex appeal.

"I like playing Texas in general but Dallas in particular — I always feel the love," Cazwell says in a voice equally tinged by Noo Yawk and Worcester, Mass. — "the trashy area," he says. He's bringing his flirtatious musicality back to S4 on Feb. 14 for a concert. "S4 has been like family for me. I always get a lot of love from there and a receptive audience, and that's all a performer really wants. I don't know what it is. I think the people in Dallas really just like to party so if you bring a good energy, they are definitely [receptive]."

Anyone who gets as much attention for going shirtless as Cazwell does would naturally attract a particular fanbase, so it's no surprise the rapper is now venturing into a new enterprise: Underwear designer.

"I'm working with Geoffrey Mac — they made a clothing line for Sharon Needles and Adore Delano — because an underwear line has been a dream of mine," he says. "Gay men who buy underwear will love my designs — I think a lot of bottoms are gonna love it, especially those who like to show off their asses. The briefs are comfy and were inspired by my 'Ice Cream Truck' video."

"Ice Cream Truck" was Cazwell's breakout video, a racy explosion of abs and asses in creamsicle pastels that blew up online in 2010.

"I think the video was so popular because it was the first of its kind — people had not really seen videos in which the men were objectified," Cazwell says. "It was tongue in cheek. And it was a year before people started zeroing in on gay rap." And it almost didn't happen.

"'Ice Cream Truck' was the first time I didn't even try," he admits. "I always want [a single] to be a hit, but [in that case], I was asked to write a song for a friend who was making a movie. He wanted something super, super cute, but I was being really lazy about it. He said, 'Make the beat really childlike, like an from an ice cream truck.' I was in the studio and so resentful and only had 45 minutes left [of recording time]. I thought, 'No one is going hear this or see it — let's just

## CAZWELL LIVE

Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Feb. 14.  
PartyontheBlock.com.

■ CAZWELL Page 26

**KEEP ON TRUCKIN'** | Cazwell almost didn't even write 'Ice Cream Truck,' and now he's the king of sexy boy-toy videos



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
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# The 'Fire' this time

Jamie Morris, master of drag-spoof, washes ashore on 'Gilligan's Fire Island'

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful play. The author is a mighty playwright, Jamie Morris. His specialty? The spoof, where he takes a familiar movie (*The Silence of the Lambs*, *Mommie Dearest*) or TV show (*The Facts of Life*, *Designing Women*), turns his laser wit on the tropes that made the piece memorable in the first place, adds a touch of drag and *voilà!* Instant comedy (with appropriately campy names, such as *Mommie Queerest* and *Re-Designing Women*).

It is perhaps not surprising, then, that Morris — who makes his life in Las Vegas with his partner Christopher, a Cirque du Soleil performer — usually begins with the title.

"That goes back to my days in P'town, when you're trying to hook people on the street into your show," he explains over a tuna roll at Hypnotic Sushi on Oak Lawn. "They have to think the show is funny before they see it. Then comes the pressure to make it as funny as they expect."

That's the situation Morris is dealing with on his latest creation, *Gilligan's Fire Island*. Plainly combining the goofy '60s sitcom with the definite gay resort town, Morris sets the Skipper, Ginger Grant, the Howells "and the rest" at the

center of the action, where a new character (a gayboy on holiday) shakes things up with the character we've grown to know and love.

*Gilligan's Island* was already in re-runs when Morris first started watching it in the 1970s, but even then, he realized now, he saw the potential for something more.

"I didn't know it at the time, but I was not watching TV like every other kid in my West Virginia neighborhood," he says. "I was a character actor at heart even then. My own favorite character from the show is a toss-up between Ginger Grant — based on sheer fabulousness — and Mr. Howell, because as a kid, they were the easiest to mimic."

Having taken everything from compoene sitcoms to Oscar-winning feature films as his inspiration, the question for Morris is: Which is better source material — the good, the bad or the ugly?

"Whether trashy or good, it has to have iconic characters," he says. The young'uns might not be as familiar with specific episodes [of *Gilligan's Island*] as they are with the characters."

Still, the idea for *Fire Island* started a decade

## GILLIGAN'S FIRE ISLAND

Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, Feb. 13–March 14.  
UptownPlayers.org.

■ GILLIGAN Page 22

**SETTING SALE** | Chad Petersen and Michael B. Moore get the main drag roles in 'Gilligan's Fire Island,' while John Michael Colgin and Todd Richardson play the first mate and captain. (Photo by Mike Morgan)

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■ GILLIGAN, From Page 19

ago, long before he started writing world premieres for Uptown Players. Several people noted that his partner, who conjures Hollywood glamor in *Zumanity*, bore a resemblance to Tina Louise, who played Ginger. He came up with the title back then. So when Uptown called last summer to see if he had any ideas, he dusted this one off.

"I had the title, but I needed a premise," Morris laughs. The producers' only criticism: There wasn't enough drag. Yes, Ginger and MaryAnn are played (as all female characters are in a Morris play) by men, but Mrs. Howell is actually double cast — the same actor also plays Mr. Howell, which requires lightning fast costume changes.

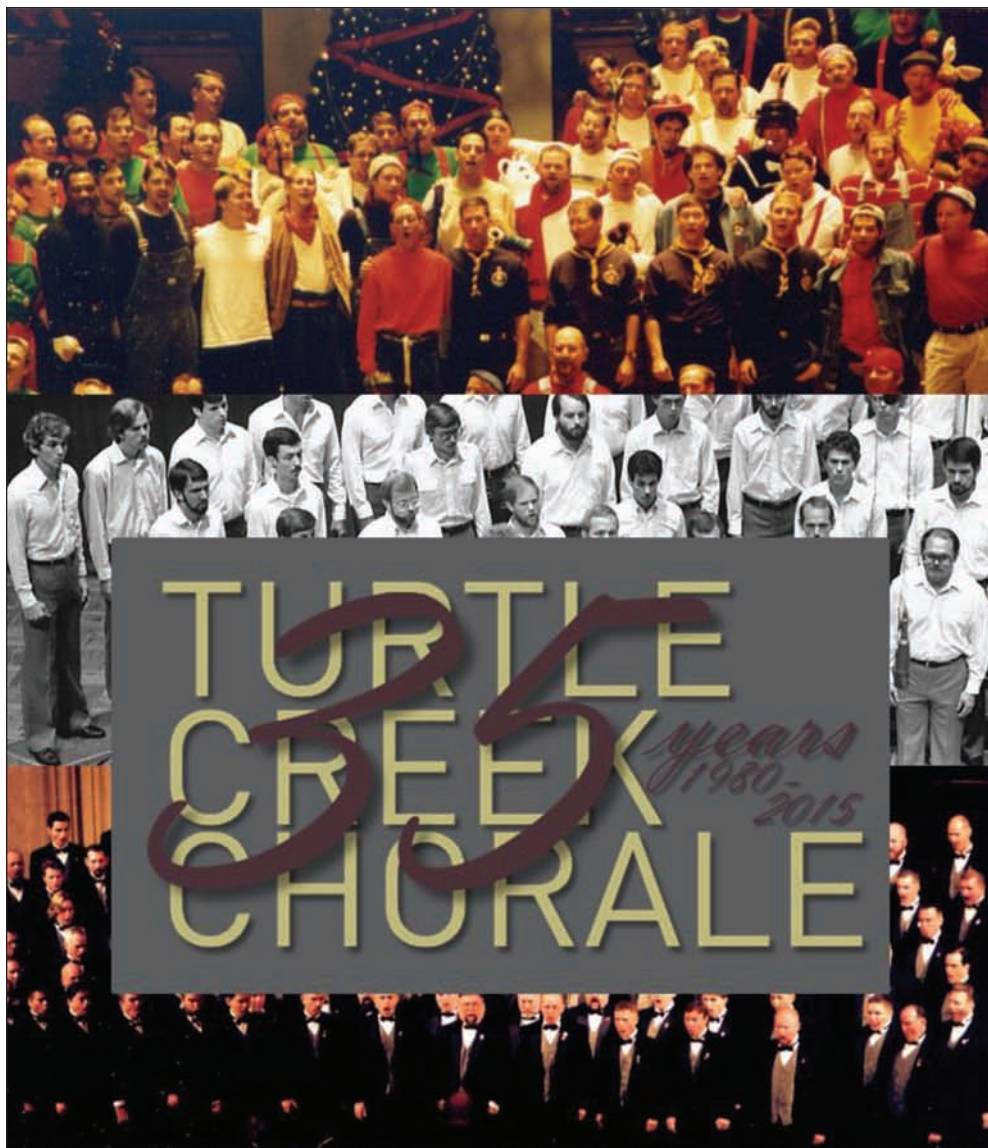
The advantage to working with Uptown on

all these shows — each of which takes place at the Rose Room inside Station 4 — is that Morris now writes not just with local talent in mind, but with the Rose Room stage and even Dallas audiences at the back of his head.

"Four of the cast members I have worked with in the past, and I hoped they would audition and be available, although we did not pre-cast it," he says. It turned out they did try out, and got the parts conceived around their skill sets. One actor who will not be appearing in the show this time, however, is Morris himself. For his last show, *Re-Designing Women* two years ago, Morris played the role of Julia Sugarbaker. This time out, he didn't write a role for himself.

"I suppose when I do it eventually, I'll play Mr. and Mrs. Howell," he says. "I keep saying I want to play Gilligan, but I know I'm too old."

Let's not say too old — just well-seasoned. ■



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#### STAGE BRIEFS: 'Sexy Laundry,' 'Stagger Lee'

In the African-American community, the folk song "Stagger Lee" sits alongside "Frankie & Johnny" or "Bonnie and Clyde" as an iconic murder ballad: The story of a brutish thug (Stagger) who kills a man named Chris for stealing his Stetson. It's been around more than a century, and everyone from Ma Rainey to Lloyd Price to Nick Cave has recorded a cover.

Its omnipresence across generations was the inspiration for playwright Will Power to use it as a jumping-off-point for his musical *Stagger Lee*, now getting its world premiere at the Wyly Theatre. Billy (Cedric Neal, pictured left) and his wife Deillah (Tiffany Mann) are the protagonists, a couple struggling to make a way for themselves but forever being kept down by everything from racism to their affiliation with Stagger (J. Bernard Calloway, pictured right), who Billy feels an affection for even as he sees how dangerous he is. The story follows the couple on their search for a better life, from their arrival in St. Louis in 1910 to the heyday of Harlem in the '30s, Chicago in the 1950s, Oakland in the '70s and Detroit in the '80s. And that's kind of the problem. Power has bitten off a huge chunk of history and tried to shoehorn it into a linear play: Chris, Deillah, Stagger and the rest never age or change; like *The Simpsons* or *Lestat*, they just show up in a different era with the same problems, at the same points in their lives.

The metaphor Power is looking for — that the travails of African-Americans are ongoing and destructive — is a valid one, but there's no thrust to the story. It sometimes feels more like a travelogue than a rumination on race. (It's also confusing occasionally because while the cast is African-American, they sometimes play white characters; it's hard to figure out when they are supposed to be racists and when they are just being vindictive black people.) But while the gimmickry doesn't quite work, everything else about *Stagger Lee* hits on all cylinders. This is an elaborate show, with a parade of well-designed sets and period costumes that conjure the eras they portray. It's also a large cast of 23, led by the ethereal voice of Neal. Neal was a staple on North Texas musical stages before hitting it big on Broadway and London's West End, and it's a joy to experience his wailing tenor again. On song after song, he soars and takes us with him. Mann also impresses, as does the entire ensemble, whose standouts include M. Denise Lee and Akron Watson.

Power's lyrics are sometimes not as well-honed as they could be, but the score (written with Justin Ellington) is rich with lovely numbers that director Patricia McGregor beautifully showcases. *Stagger Lee* has been a work-in-progress in Dallas for several years; it will surely continue to develop and evolve — that's the nature of theater — but has the bones to be an excellent musical, poignant and lovely and meaningful.

The script for *Sexy Laundry* at WaterTower's Studio Theatre is less edgy than *Stagger Lee*, but audiences may still find it cuts to the quick with its observations about relationships. Alice (Wendy Welch) and Henry (Bob Hess) have been married 25 years, and are in a rut. Alice organizes a weekend together at a schmancy hotel where they can engage in sexercises meant to revive the spark — what are each others' fantasies? How can we put some zing back in the bedroom? Of course, nothing goes as planned.

This premise has been around at least since the 1960s (Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite* devotes one act to it), and at first, *Sexy Laundry* feels safe and derivative, even though it manages a fair share of clever one-liners (which, in part, remind you further of Neil Simon). But author Michele Rimi offers up some pretty canny insights into the complexities of any longterm relationship (gay as well as straight), and there's a lot of nodding by audience members. The production also has two secret weapons: Hess and Welch, two masters of thoughtful romantic comedies who can turn the most humdrum situations into comic gems.

— A.W.J.

# A space oddity

Deeply flawed, but passably entertaining, 'Jupiter' hides its spoofish heart



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Sometimes, despite your better instincts to be wary, you give a movie a shot. External factors — a delayed opening date, a hurried February dump of a film that looks like it *should* be a summer tentpole — warn you off, but you go anyway. You have to.

When it comes to sci-fi, the Wachowskis are legit royalty. They are the team, after all, who more than 15 years ago revolutionized the genre with *The Matrix*: Creating “bullet time,” mind-screwing audiences with a clever plot that transcended expectations. Yes, the two sequels were disappointing (though moneymaking) and yes, *Speed Racer* was a disaster of epic proportions. But their last film, *Cloud Atlas*, was a marvel of storytelling legerdemain, where VFX and character and plot and style stood on equal footing.

So I tried to keep my misgivings about **Jupiter Ascending** — gimmicky title (the lead character, played by Mila Kunis, is named Jupiter Jones), familiar look, the aforementioned “signs” — to myself. I went in open-minded. And I enjoyed myself. But I had to overlook a lot.

The story is a tangled pastiche of other sci-fi classics, from the inter-family intrigue of *Dune* to the bureaucratic surrealism of *Brazil* (subtly emphasized with the inclusion of Terry Gilliam in a cameo as a gruff functionary) to the Wa-

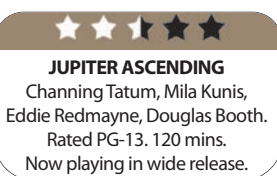
chowskis' own “the world is not what you think” *Matrix* trope to many, many more (including the duller parts of Episodes I through III of *Star Wars*). In fact, there are so many echoes of other films it begins to dawn on you: Don't think of this as science fiction *per se*, but as a spoof of the genre — overwrought, silly and melodramatic (sort of what *Inherent Vice* does with the private eye film).

The problem is, Lana and Andy Wachowski don't have a satirist's touch. They are technicians deep down, who generate fantastical ways of presenting their stories (Tatum basically Rollerblades through the air, and the android heads — half flesh, half mechanism — are off-handed dazzling) and often let the tone get away from them. The humor is mired

in rapid-cut editing and the presence of so many in-jokes that it starts to seem like they just don't “get it.” I think they get it exactly, but are like standups who blow the punchline: The structure is there, but the execution misfires.

Partly, that's due to the dour, relentlessly gloomy performance by Eddie Redmayne as the central villain (there are diminishingly few likeable characters in sight). His puffy, chapped lips, hooded eyes and somnambulant line-readings convey one message: “I hate being here.” Kunis and Tatum give more effort, but then, they are accustomed to being in trashy movies. Don't blame them for not carrying the picture — a comedy without jokes is a hard sell. ■

**SPOOF OPERA** | Stealing liberally from ‘Dune’ and ‘Brazil,’ ‘Jupiter Ascending’ includes a frequently shirtless Channing Tatum — thank heaven for small victories.



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# Tasting notes: Valentine's Day

Still planning a V-D dinner with your sweetheart? Here are our suggestions

Valentine's Day is one of the signal days of the year for dining out — especially for couples who are celebrating an anniversary or a milestone together. Restaurants know it, so they lure lovers with specials designed to encourage *l'amour*. Here's our rundown of gay-friendly establishments who hope to make your night memorable.

**TJ's Seafood Market & Grill.** "Make love, not dinner!" That's a message we can definitely endorse on Valentine's Day. And you don't even have to eat out! TJ's offers a sweetheart dinner for take-out (and 20 percent off the usual price). The package includes a board of smoked salmon, two salads, a surf & turf special, pistachio-crusted sea bass and bread pudding, all for \$90 total. Reservations are needed at both the Preston Royal and Oak Lawn locations.

**Stephan Pyles.** The chef's flagship restaurant has planned a four course meal (with choices) for \$95/person and optional wine pairings for an additional \$45. 214-580-7000.

**The Grape.** Long one of Dallas' most romantic wine bistros, the Lower Greenville restaurant will serve a three-course Valentine's menu all weekend (Feb. 13-15), prepared by chef de cuisine Sarah Snow, for \$65/person. 214-828-1981.

**San Salvaje.** My No. 3 new restaurant of 2014

offers a three-course menu with wine or cocktail pairings from \$60/person. 214-922-9922.

**Malai Kitchen.** The West Village restaurant offers up a five-course chef's tasting menu on Feb. 14 that includes oysters on the half shell, Panang curry short rib and pan-roasted halibut for \$55/person. 214-599-7857.

**SER.** Being atop the Hilton Anatole in the Design District offers majestic views of Dallas — a feast for the eyes — plus a dinner that includes four courses from ceviche to lava cake (\$95), as well as access to the Bubble Lounge for a la carte desserts and champagnes (included with dinner, or on its own for \$25). The meals are offered Feb. 13-15. 214-761-7479.

**Dish.** The Cedar Springs staple offers a four-course dinner (including dessert) with choice of beef tenderloin or almond-lemon sole for \$60/person. Dish-Dallas.com.

**Henry's Majestic.** Another impressive new restaurant for 2014 was this Uptown spot, which will serve a three-course dinner on Feb. 13 and 14 that includes entree choices of beef Wellington and scallops. \$75/person. HenrysMajestic.com.

**Steel.** The Oak Lawn sushi restaurant offers a three-course dinner Feb. 13-15 for \$65/person. SteelSushi.com.

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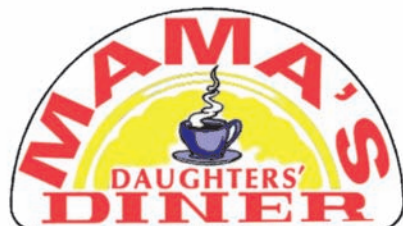
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**The Gin Mill** will serve up three courses (among them a New York strip or Bouillabaisse) for \$35/person Feb. 14. [GinMillDallas.com](http://GinMillDallas.com).

**Roy's.** The Plano locale of the Polynesian fusion pioneer will offer a one-night-only prix fixe four-course dinner highlighting Misoyaki butterfish and kobe short ribs in a red wine curry demi-glace.

**Grace.** Cowtown lovers deserve good food, too! Grace is offering a V-Day menu Feb. 13-15. 817-877-3388.

**Dallas Museum of Art.** The DMA isn't the first place you think of when you think dining, but for V-Day, in coordination with the opening of the new exhibit commemorating the art of Kazuo Shiraga and Sadamasa Motonaga, the DMA is hosting a cocktail party and full dinner on Feb. 14, including choices such as Szechuan seared scallops, hickory smoked sea bass and vanilla panna cotta. The price is \$75 for DMA members (\$90 for non-members) and there's an optional wine pairing. [DMA.org/tickets](http://DMA.org/tickets).

**Cantina Laredo.** From Feb. 12-14, North Texas locations offer a three-course menu for \$35 with optional cocktail pairings.

**El Chico.** Tex-Mex is never a bad idea, and El Chico offers a special Valentine's Day menu now through Feb. 15. Best of all? It's under \$30.

**Eureka!** the newly-opened burger bar in the West Village area, will celebrate Cupid with a raspberry chocolate kiss cocktail featuring Prichard's double chocolate bourbon, raspberry gomme syrup and red grapefruit for \$11, pictured above. It will be available Feb. 9-16.

**Kent Rathbun** online has desserts ready to order, including cakes (red velvet and white chocolate raspberry cheesecake, \$44 each) cake balls (\$27) and even a dozen hand-packed macarons (\$27) available at [KentRathbun.com/store](http://KentRathbun.com/store).

If Valentine's dinner goes well, you may be peckish in the morning, so consider limited-edition cherry crepes from **The Original Pancake House** on Feb. 14 and 15. [OPHDFW.com](http://OPHDFW.com).

As soon as Valentine's Day is over, Mardi Gras is upon us, and Uptown's New Orleans-themed spot is **The Quarter**, which will celebrate with \$3 Abitas and hurricanes and complimentary buffet from its McKinney Avenue rooftop deck on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 17. ■

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■ CAZWELL, From Page 18

do it.' So I came up with something really stupid."

That was in June, and he thought that would be the end of it. But then his management wanted him to drop a video in time for the July 4 holiday. "They said, 'Just grab your friends and make a cute video.'" The only thing he had ready was "Ice Cream Truck."

"We shot that entire thing in my apartment. Me and my boy Marco both throw gay parties in New York, so it was second nature to us that go-go boys would be a part of this. It wasn't a par-

ticularly booty-shaking song. It was on the brink of corny, but so cute you forgot how corny it was."

It became a huge hit. Since its release, the YouTube version of the video has received more than 4 million hits. It really helped put Cazwell on the map. And it also taught him a lesson.

"I had another video that I thought, this is relatable to mainstream *and* gaystream. It sounds like what people are playing and it runs really well on the dance floor. But it didn't get the reaction I wanted from my demographic ... though at least I *have* a demographic. So what I learned

is, if you don't care about what's hot and what people are listening to, but just be yourself, you have success."

Sometimes Cazwell admits, though, that he has been pigeonholed as the gay rapper who does sexy videos. He says that's not really true.

"It may seem like whenever I do a sexy video I only have only boy dancers in them, but sometimes I go away from the boys," he says. "The next three songs I'm dropping, though, are sexy themes in the realm of gay porn, which should make my demographic happy," he laughs. "I want my videos to *look* like the song sounds —



**LIKE FAMILY** | Cazwell calls the folks at S4 'like family,' so he'll be returning home for a concert on Valentine's Day. (Photo courtesy Michael Wakefield)

funny with a little bit of a story. For [the song] 'The Biscuit,' — which I will be performing at S4 — I went into the video with a different mentality. I'm not gonna worry about what people are wearing ... I mean, I like nice asses bouncing around. But I also want guys that can really dance. Hopefully the video will be done by Valentine's Day."

That's the day Cazwell will be performing in Dallas, which raises a question: How does his boyfriend feel about him being away on the quote/unquote "most romantic holiday of the year?"

"It's complicated what I have right now," he says. "I don't think he's gonna be jealous ... which makes it *more* complicated."

As much as he raps about love and relationship, Cazwell confesses to mixed feelings about the holiday in general.

"I don't feel any more pressure on Valentine's Day than I do on a regular date night," he says. "I think it's a lot of bullshit anyway. Most of these holidays where designed so we keep the economy going. I think it is nice and cute especially when a couple is celebrating their first Valentine's Day together, but by the fourth it's like, 'Oh, god — can't we just order take-out this year?' Valentine's is just a good reminder to buy something for the person in your life. I've always had a lot of breakups around Valentine's. I usually hope it's a couple of days before, so I don't have to waste money on a present. Right after Thanksgiving [through Feb. 14] is the best time to break up to save on presents — unless we're the same size, then I just keep it for myself."

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**Saturday 02.07**

## Drag Racer Trinity K. Bonet at Out of the Closet to promote HIV testing

February is Black History Month, and Saturday is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. To help promote understanding of the disease — and get free testing at the same time — former Drag Racer Trinity K Bonet will appear on Cedar Springs at Out of the Closet. Attend the meet-and-greet and learn your status! Sponsored by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

**DEETS:** Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road. 3–7 p.m.



**Sunday 02.08**

## DMA opens exhibition of avant garde Gutai art

Sadamasa Motonaga and Kazuo Shiraga were both post-war artists in Japan who were stars in the Gutai avant garde movement, but who otherwise have very different styles. A new colorful, bold and large-format exhibition at the DMA compares and contrasts their works, looking at both the similarities and differences that helped establish a major style in the years after the A-bomb, as well as the artists' work before and after Gutai.

**DEETS:** Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Feb. 8–July 19. Free. DMA.org.

**Friday 02.06**

## Third-rate Texas drag diva Lovely Uranus is back in 'Confessions'

Lovely Uranus (Mark-Brian Sonna) might not be a good drag queen, but she is Texas' most famous bad one! The saucy character is back, doling out advice and searching for the perfect man in *Lovely Confessions*, a world premiere production that follows the diva in a new series of adventures. Written by Alejandro de la Costa.

**DEETS:** Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Feb. 22. MBSProductions.net.



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## calendar highlights



COMIC CON | Fan Days returns to the Irving Convention Center Saturday and Sunday.

## ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

### 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 Marrs. This co-production with Stage West moves to WaterTower for the remainder of its run. *Final weekend.* WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Lovely Confessions.** Mark-Brian Sonna's lovable "most famous third-rate drag queen in Texas," Lovely Uranus, is back for more tutorials in love in her quest to find the love of her life. A world premiere by Alejandro de la Costa. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 22. MBSProductions.net.

**Sexy Laundry.** A long-time married couple try to spice up their lives with a weekend romantic getaway at a luxury hotel, but things don't go as planned in this farce, which reunited Wendy Welch and Bob Hess, Dallas Voice's co-honorees as Actor of the Year in 2014 for *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Jan. 31–Feb. 22 (in previews through Feb. 1). WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Stagger Lee.** Dallas Theater Center presents a world premiere musical by writer in residence Will Power, about how a folk song in the African-American community reflects the struggles across generations. *Reviewed this week.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Feb. 15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Tru.** Jay Presson Allen's play starring legendary Texas actor Jaston Williams as Truman Capote. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**My Name Is Asher Lev.** Circle Theatre kicks off its 34th season with this adaptation of the Chaim Potok novel. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through March 7. CircleTheatre.com.

**In Real Life.** The third installment of Charlayne Woodward's trilogy of plays about an African-American actress making it in the 1960s and '70s. Directed by Tre Garret. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through March 1. JubileeTheatre.org.

**Uncle Vanya.** Dallas Actor's Lab presents the Texas premiere of this translation of Chekhov's classic, as part of the Elevator Series at the Wyly Theatre. 9th Floor Theater, 2400 Flora St. Feb. 5–22. TicketDFW.org.

### OPERA

**La Wally and Everest.** The Dallas Opera continues its season with two one-acts: The fourth Act from Alfredo Catalani's *La Wally* (set in the Alps) and the world premiere of Gene Scheer and Joby Talbot's *Everest*, about the doomed 1996 expedition. *Reviewed this week.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Feb. 7. 7:30 p.m. DallasOpera.org.

### BALLET

**The Merry Widow.** The Texas Ballet Theater teams with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra to provide live music of the rompish comedy. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Friday–Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday–Sunday at 2 p.m. matinees. TexasBalletTheater.org.

### CIRCUS

**Cavalía: Odysseo.** Dallas premiere of the new Cavalía, a Cirque du Soleil-ish show

featuring horses, as well as acrobatic performers. DrPepper Ballpark, 7300 Rough Riders Trail, Frisco. Extended run — now through Feb. 22. \$29.50–\$229.50. Cavalía.net.

### FINE ART

**Bruce Wood: A Retrospective.** The pioneering choreographer, who passed away suddenly last year from complications due to AIDS, has his life and work celebrated in this exhibition. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St., Arlington. Tuesdays–Saturdays. Through Feb. 15. \$8.

**Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shigara and Sadamasa Motonaga.** A side-by-side examination of the art of two of the post-war Japanese avant garde art movement known as Gutai, which sought not to transform matter but bring it to life with experimental techniques. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Feb. 8–July 15.

**Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine.** The DMA's conservationists restore this century-old display case of silver, lapis and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. 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.

**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 02.06

### COMMUNITY

**Panoptikon.** The (now) weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Door 9 p.m.

### FILM

**The Duke of Burgundy.** This strange, moody film about the bizarre sexual role-playing relationship between two lesbians screens nightly this week at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Ave. TheTexasTheatre.com.

## SATURDAY 02.07

### CONCERTS

**The Turtle Creek Choral: 35th Anniversary Concert.** Former artistic director Tim Seelig returns to lead the gay chorus on a generation of song. City Performance Hall 2520 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. TurtleCreek.org.

## COMMUNITY

**National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.** To promote testing and prevention, celebrities Trinity K. Bonet (RuPaul's Drag Race), Tre Maasai and Decameron Foxx will appear at a meet-and-greet and offer free HIV testing. Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road. 3-7 p.m.

**Night Circus.** A fundraiser for the Women's Chorus of Dallas. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7 p.m. TWCD.org.

## COMIX

### Dallas ComicCon Fan Days.

The celebration of comic books, manga, superheroes, cosplay and all things nerd returns to North Texas with scheduled celebrities including out actor John Barrowman (Torchwood, Arrow) and other hotties. Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. Feb. 7-8. DallasComicCon.com.

## SUNDAY 02.08

### FILM

#### The Oscar Nominated Documentary Short Subjects.

Three of the five films nominated this year for Academy Awards for short films, including *Our Curse*, *The Reaper* and *White Earth*. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Ave. 6:30 p.m. TheTexasTheatre.com.

### BROADCAST

**Downton Abbey.** The fifth season of the addictive drama about life among the aristocracy continues. Airs on KERA at 8 p.m.

**Girls.** The fourth season of the quirky comedy-drama about modern living, co-starring Andrew Rannells and Zachary Quinto. Airs on HBO at 8 p.m.

**Looking.** The second season of the drama about gay life in San Francisco, starring Jonathan Groff. Airs on HBO at 8:30 p.m.

## MONDAY 02.09

### EXERCISE

**Adult Broadway Butt Busters.** DTC artistic associate Joel Ferrell leads an hour-long cardio-centric fitness class based on B'way choreography for an eight-week session each Monday evening. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through March 2. 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$150. ATPAC.org.

### SPOKEN WORD

**Oral Fixation: Two Peas in a Pod.** True stories about couples of all kinds, including one delivered by gay teen April Schwartz-Larson. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St., Feb. 9; Texas Theatre, 230 W. Jefferson Ave., Feb. 11. 8 p.m. \$10. OralFixationShow.com.



**ORALLY GIFTED** | High school teen and queer homecoming queen April Schwartz-Larson performs at Oral Fixation on Monday and Wednesday.

## TUESDAY 02.10

### FILM

**All that Heaven Allows.** A classic potboiler from Douglas Sirk, starring Rock Hudson as a brutish gardener, Jane Wyman as a bored housewife and the wonderful Agnes Moorehead. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

### THEATER

**The Echo Room Presents: Her Song.** The encore engagement of Echo Theatre's show specifically created for Valentine's Day (and with a V-Day package available). Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Feb. 10-21. EchoTheatre.org.

## WEDNESDAY 02.11

### BROADCAST

**Top Chef.** Season finale. Airs on Bravo at 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY 02.12

### BROADCAST

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

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# Cassie Nova

Cassie schools clubgoers about how to attend a drag show

Hello all. I think it is time for a little schooling on the do's and don'ts of watching a drag show. Have you ever been to a show and had to deal with that annoying drunk who just won't sit his or her ass down? They think they have to dance with every entertainer, like it is their job? Well, it is *not* their job; it is that entertainer's time to shine. If you want to be in the show, there is a talent night on Thursdays. We love the enthusiasm of a great audience, but come on now — I don't want some random drunkie twerking and grinding up against me ... unless you got buns, hun. Tips are always appreciated, but a buck is not a payment for you to slur and slobber all over me.

Here is another bit of advice: Feel free to take lots of pictures, but don't get an attitude if we don't wanna take a selfie with you while we are performing. Drag queens are fickle, moody creatures and should be handled accordingly, like exotic zoo creatures with razor-sharp fangs. Oh, and if we *do* take a picture with you, never wrap your arm around the back of our necks. You might accidentally tug on a wig and turn my normal forehead into a Tyra Banks forehead (or is that considered a five-head?).

As for birthdays and bachelorette shout-outs, that's a tough one. Sometimes we are all about it. Other times there might be a really hot straight guy we have to embarrass, or a girl dressed so wretched we have to address it. The great thing about a drag show is the spontaneity. You never know who or

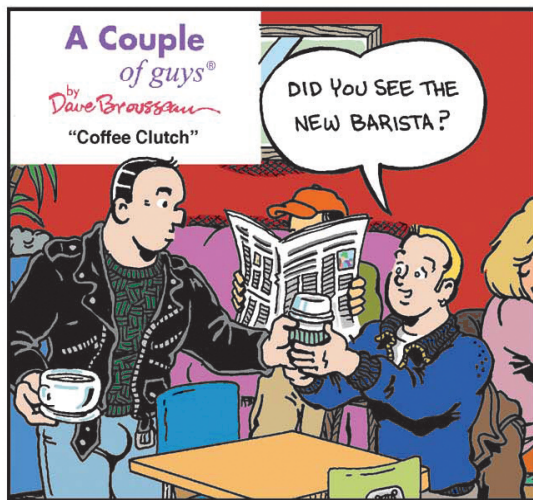
what will catch my eye that needs to be made fun of. Please keep in mind that all insults are made in good fun. If you ever get insulted by a master drag queen, take it with a grain of salt. You try tucking, taping and cinching and see if you don't get moody.

Actually, all of the above rules or suggestions can be considered null and void if the price is right. You would be amazed at what I can tolerate for a big bill. Twenty bucks will make me care so hard for your random co-worker's birthday or your straight friend's first time to see a drag show. Hell, I've done a lot more for a lot less.

Now let me help out some poor, unfortunate souls.

*Dear Cassie, I was talking to a guy I've known through a mutual friend for a few years. I recently moved back to Dallas and we came in contact again. We went on a date, everything went great and we both have the same feeling towards each other. I liked the guy — very nice, sweet and attractive.*

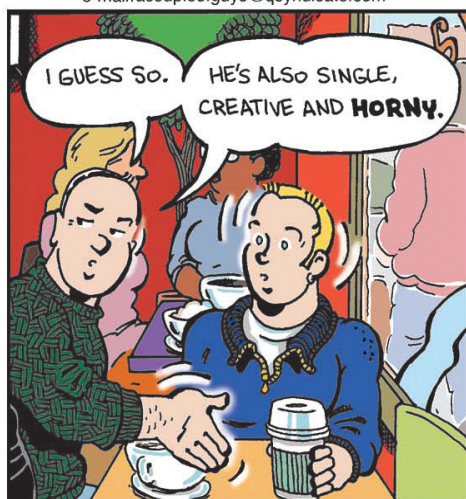
*Last week, I was out of town for a family emergency and he texted me, saying he hoped everything was OK, wished he was with me during that time, etc., which was really sweet. Then he asked how my family member was doing? I told him but he never responded, so I left it alone. The next day I texted him and again — nothing but crickets. On the third day, I texted saying "poor me, feeling ignored but have a great day at work." I was being sarcastic, but he replied saying he couldn't take it anymore — that I was looking for someone to text all the time but he's not the one to do that, so he was done. I responded that I was just joking and he replied calling me a piece of shit and "that's why you're single." I haven't apologized to him as I'm sure I hurt his feelings, but I want to. It's 2015 —*



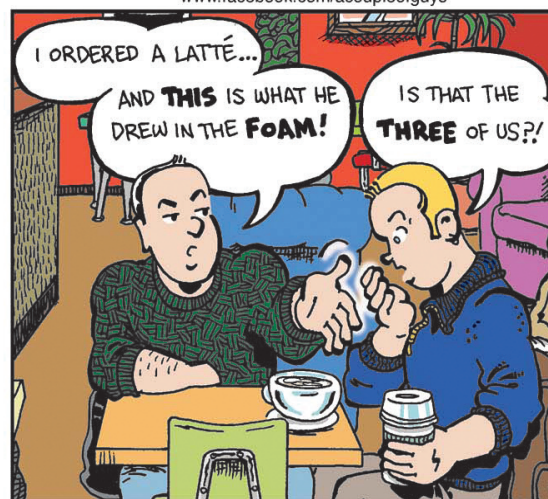
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everyone is on their phone and posting on Facebook all the time. I don't get it. He was a great guy but I guess the lack of communication [got to me]. I don't wanna sound needy because I'm not, but I'm all about communication. So Cassie, what is your advice on what I should do about the situation? Thank you for listening. Love, Shakeit14.

Dear Shakeit14, Your friend asked me for advice a few weeks ago so it is interesting to hear your side of the story now. I will tell you what I told him: Sarcasm does *not* translate well in a text. You both have a lack of very basic communication skills. He should be clear about when he can text you back and you need to chill on constant texting him and expecting an immediate response. You sound like you need constant reassurances that things are OK, but sometimes you need to take a step back from the situation before you say things out of anger. Your hurling of hateful names and insults make you sound like a dick. If you want to apologize you should, if only for your own peace of mind, but try an *actual phone call*. Say what you really mean to him without all the speculation that comes from a poorly-worded text. Oh and FYI, some people actually post to Facebook using a computer, not their phones. Cell phones are supposed to connect people, but sometimes they can drive you apart. If you really like him, ask him to meet you for coffee and talk it out. Good luck, Cassie.

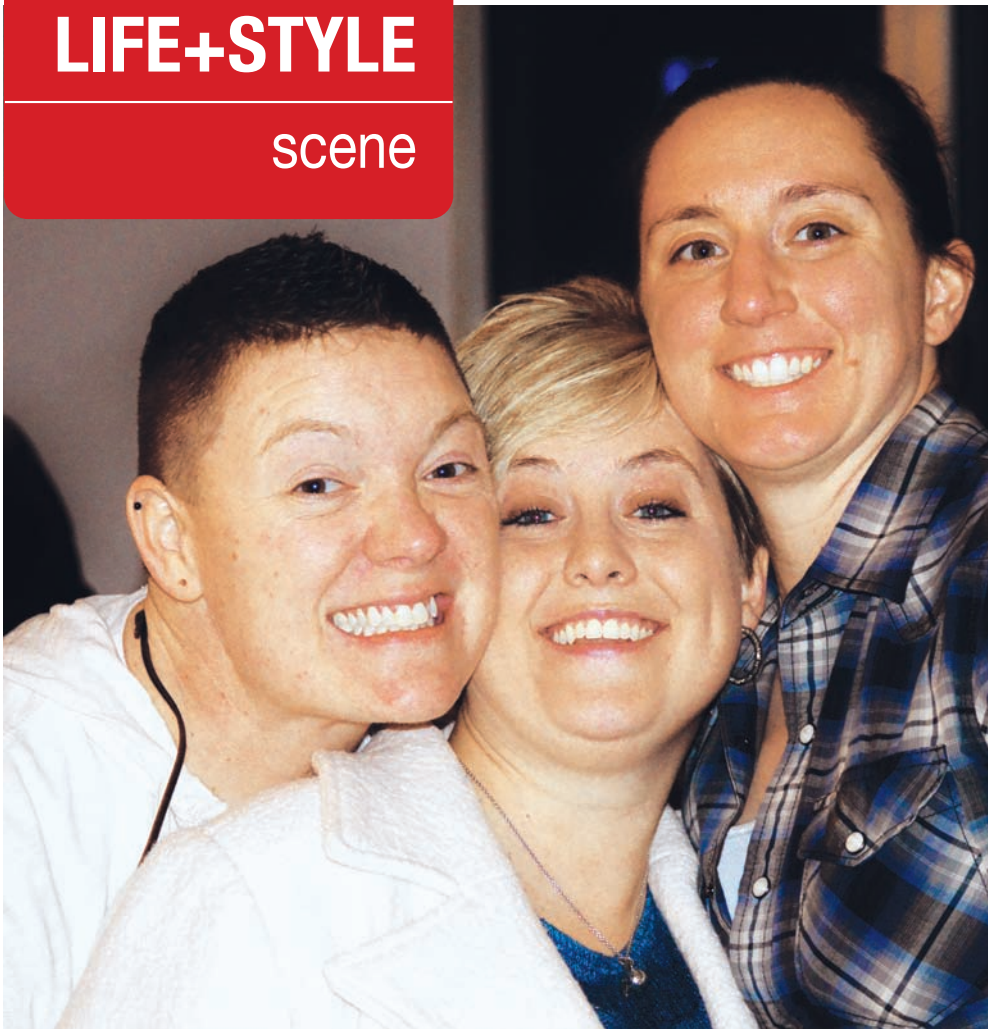
*Dear Cassie, Why are queens so mean? Signed, Zach.*

Dear Zach, Shut up, Bitch! Signed, Cassie.

Hope you all have a fab February. Remember, when you're at a drag show, keep an open mind, show respect and have a blast. We feed off your good energy like vampires feed on blood.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question and want to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen — or just have some juicy gossip to share — email it to [AskCassieNova@gmail.com](mailto:AskCassieNova@gmail.com).



Joy, Angie and Amanda at Sue Ellen's.



Jeffree Star and Chris at TMC.



Friends at a fashion show at The Brick.

Making the SCENE the week of Feb. 6-12:

**Alexandre's:** Liz Mikel at 10 p.m. on Friday. Alicia Sillex at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Mi Diva Loca at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Lala Johnson at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

**Brick/Joe's:** Anutha Sweet Production presents Toxic Tuesday Her & Her Pre-Valentine Day Party for the grown and sexy lesbians at 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. on Tuesday.

**Club Reflection:** Texas Gay Rodeo Association cookout at 4 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. TGRA and Imperial Court de Fort Worth Arlington game night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Wall of Food show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

**Dallas Eagle:** Leather Knights annual fundraiser Buy Daddy's Box on Saturday at 7 p.m. Dallas Bears and Leather Knights club night on Saturday. Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents Queen of the Closet at 5 p.m. on Sunday. TOP-MEN: Official Mr. Benson Trailer Kick-Off Party at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

**Out of the Closet:** Trinity K. Bonet appears at 3-7 p.m. on Saturday. Free HIV testing.

**Round-Up Saloon:** Terry Bucher presents the 26th annual Rent-A-Cowboy at 8 p.m. on Thursday benefiting the Round-Up Employees Benevolent Association.

**Sue Ellen's:** Burlesque on Friday. Jason Huff and The Ignition on Saturday. Jessica Grai at 3 p.m. and Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Marisela on Wednesday.

**The Rose Room:** Cassie Nova hosts C.E.B.A. Sweet Heart 2015 benefiting the Caven Employee Benevolent Association and the Donna Day Foundation at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday. Past CEBA Sweethearts Raquel Blake, Kamara Akcion, Nicole O'Hara Munro and Sassy O'Hara will appear. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/category/photos](http://DallasVoice.com/category/photos). Scene Photographer: Kat Haygood.



Krystal Summers at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Glenn at the Round-Up Saloon.





Landon, Bryan, Raunda and Steven at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Boys' night out at the Dallas Eagle.

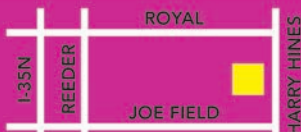
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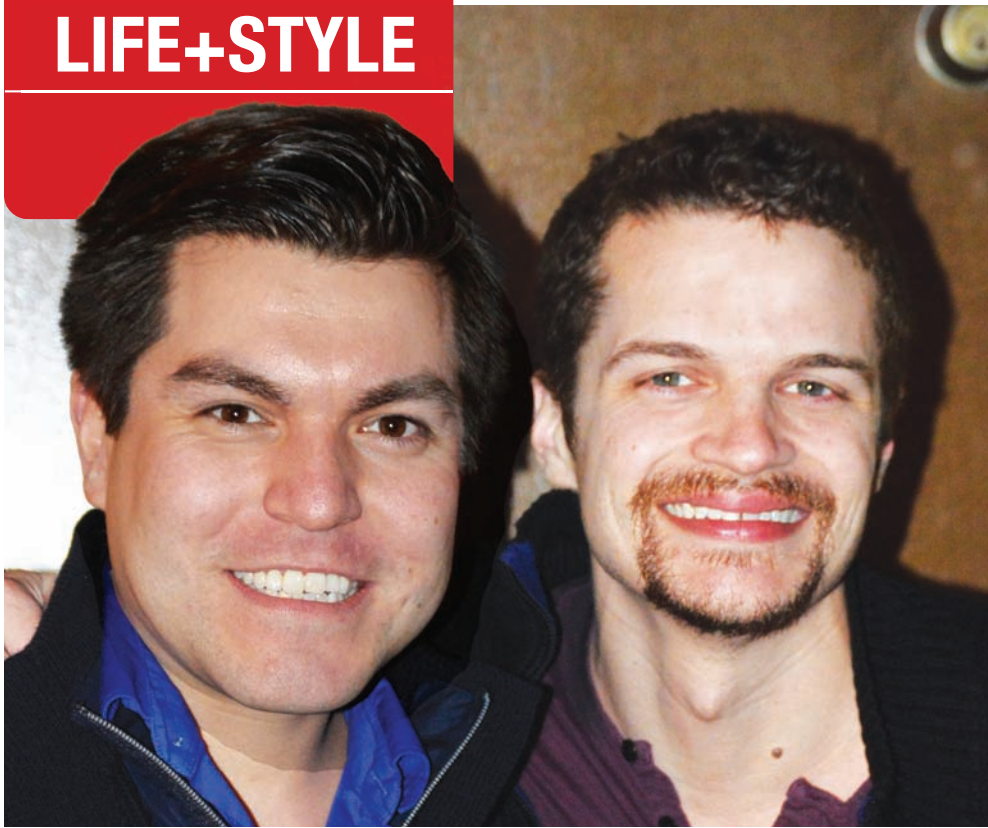
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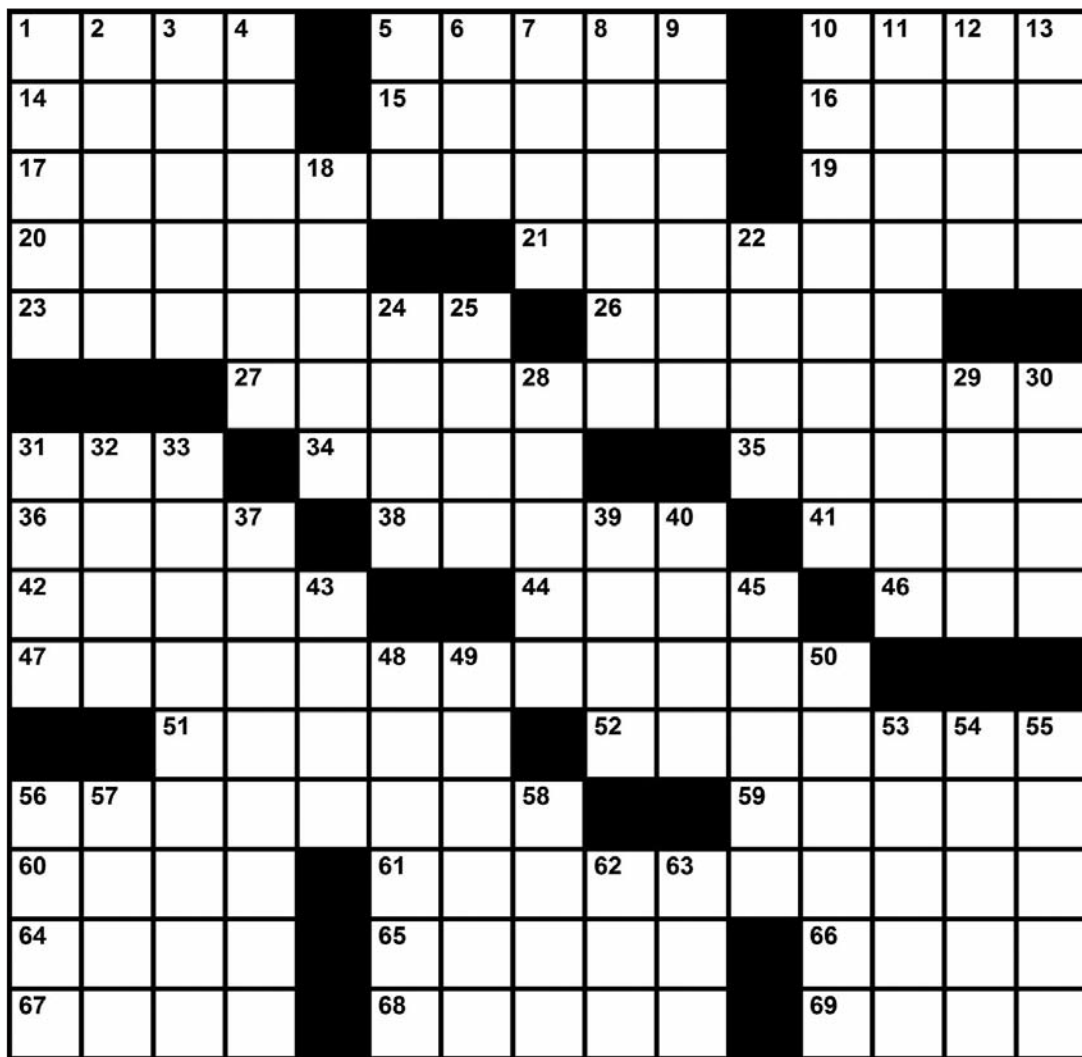
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## q-puzzle



## Even Stephen

Solution on page 29

### Across

- Manger for Mary's boy
- E with a queer orientation
- Biggest of three bears
- Columnist Barrett
- Richard Chamberlain's *The \_\_\_ Birds*
- Pigged out (on)
- Start of a quote from Cinderella's Prince
- "\_\_\_ no idea!"
- Head-oriented group
- They may be domestic
- Strutted one's stuff
- Where to find nipples
- More of the quote
- Math subj.
- Simba's Broadway love
- Enjoy the taste of
- Mouth-puckering
- Cross-dresser movie
- Sea bottom captain
- Nonmonogamous groups
- De Matteo of *Desperate Housewives*
- Do tailoring
- Sondheim musical of this puzzle's quote

- B. D. Wong, for one
- Queer form of an element
- Autobiographer of Alice
- More ready to get plucked
- You could get caught in it
- End of the quote
- Where to find a Russian river, once
- Grouchy guy
- Fast food pioneer
- Do-overs for Billie Jean
- X-Men* actress Berry
- The last word in film directing

### Down

- What Nick Malgieri might do to a pie crust
- One who gets your dinghy going
- Totally ridiculous
- Short-legged dog
- Castro Street, on BART
- X at a frat
- Where Dr. Arizona Robbins works
- Yule ring
- Mitchell of NBC News
- Guy up front
- Rubber cement and such
- Fruit homophone of a couple

- Gets the bottom line
- Blabbed away
- Billy Budd, and mates
- Online auction site
- Cut
- Reba's realm, for short
- Iditarod terminus
- What fruits do in orchards
- Italian wine center
- Love ending?
- Musician Ricky Wilson, for one
- Cocks
- Star Trek* counselor Deanna
- Many August people
- Direction from Stephen Pyles
- Prettify
- Leg and loin
- Agnes Moorehead role
- Stones' companions
- Type of queen
- Evita's married name
- How Homo sapiens stands
- Conquest of Caesar's
- Besides that
- Series ender
- Show with C. Kattan
- "Proud Mary" singer with Tina

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