



dallasvoice

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Starting the conversation

North Texas lags behind when it comes to services for aging LGBTs

By David Taffet, Page 8



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12

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Aging: Starting the conversation
- 9 Gay TI exec attacked in Austin
- 10 Profiles in Pride: Richard Curtin

LIFE+STYLE

- 14 BWDP: A year after its founder's death
- 17 The sleeper movie of the summer
- 18 Neon Trees' gay front man Tyler Glenn

ON THE COVER

Design by Kevin Thomas



14



18

departments

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 21 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 24 | Cassie Nova |
| 12 | Texas Voices | 25 | Scene |
| 14 | Life+Style | 27 | Classifieds |

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Councilman Adam Medrano, second from left, presented Josh Rudner, left, and Carmarion Anderson each with a Community Award and Councilman Lee Kleinman with a Leadership Award for their work for the LGBT community over the past year during a reception in the Flag Room outside Dallas City chambers at Dallas City Hall on June 10.

Dallas City Hall celebrates Pride

Councilman Adam Medrano proclaimed June Pride Month in Dallas on Wednesday, June 10 outside the Council Chambers at City Hall. He presented the proclamation to the city's new LGBT Employee Group, CAPE.

Community Awards were given to Josh Rudner, a 16-year-old Greenhill School student and to Carmarion Anderson who has organized in communities of faith.

Ally Awards went to Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins and Councilwoman Carolyn Davis who served on city pension boards.

"None of this could have been done without the resolution," Medrano said, referring to the resolution, proposed by the LGBT Task Force and brought to the council by Allen, that set in motion all changes to city policy to equalize all policies.

— David Taffet

Dallas County Clerk will extend hours after Supreme Court rules

Dallas County Clerk John Warren told Dallas Voice he will extend hours to issue marriage licenses if the Supreme Court rules in favor of marriage equality.

Warren couldn't say exactly what those extended hours will be or how soon after the ruling he will open the office to issue licenses to same-sex couples. That, in part, depends on the wording in the

ruling that may give the remaining states time to prepare. However, when the court lifted the stays in a number of states in October, marriage began immediately in most cases and within a few days in other cases.

— David Taffet

Defense Department extends nondiscrimination ordinance to GLB – but not T – troops

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced today that the department has extended its nondiscrimination ordinance to include GLB soldiers.

While the ordinance amends the military's equal opportunity policy to prevent GLB soldiers from discrimination and harassment, it does not include gender identity or expression. Transgender service members are unable to openly serve, despite the 2010 repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, which barred lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals from serving openly. The repeal additionally did not include nondiscrimination protections for trans soldiers.

"This long overdue and critical change to the military equality opportunity program will help ensure that LGB service members are treated fairly with the dignity and respect they deserve," said American Military Partners Association President Ashley Broadway-Mack.

— James Russell

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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? E-mail your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

JUNE

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guest is Broadway producer Terry Loftis; United

Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce Street, Suite C; Fuse game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; Fuse Connect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.

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Obituary

Paul Klintner, previous co-owner of DeWayne's Oasis Bars in Dallas, Texas and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 29.

He is survived by his spouse of 20 years, DeWayne Willingham.

A celebration of his life was held at Club Cherries, 2506 Knight Street on Saturday, June 6.



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• **June 1–30: Dallas Public Library
#LGBTBookMonth**

Follow @DallasLibrary on Twitter for a new book recommendation every day in honor of the American Library Association's GLBT Book Month, a nationwide celebration of the authors and writings that reflect the lives and experiences of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

• **June 12: Congregation Beth El Binah** celebrates the ancient Biblical holiday LGBT Pride Shabbat 7:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan. For more information visit Bethelbinah.org.

• **June 12: High Tech Happy Hour** Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100. For more information e-mail [Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com](mailto:Paul.von.Wupperfeld@pavw@ti.com).

• **June 13: Bahama Beach LGBT Day** Mention LGBT Day and receive the \$9 reduced admission price at Bahama Beach Ultimate Waterpark, 1895 Campfire Circle. 214-671-0820.

• **June 14: SPCA Paws Cause 2015** 20th anniversary celebration of SPCA fundraiser for SPCA of Texas' Mary Spencer Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic at Village Fair from 6–9 p.m. at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive. Tickets are \$150 each. Limited quantity. For more information, visit Pawscusedallas.org.

• **June 14: Fifth Annual North Texas Gay Pride Festival** Family-friendly festival features entertainment including former McKinney resident Hollie Cavanaugh and Jane McGarry of WFAA as well as games, photo booths and vendors from 1–5 p.m. in downtown McKinney, 218 E. Louisiana. Benefits Collin County's Hope's Door, an organization offering domestic violence resources and services. Tickets are \$5 per person beginning May 1 at NorthTexasPride.org on or \$10 per person at the gates. Children 12 and under are free. For more information visit NorthTexasPride.org.

• **June 16: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas Monthly Meeting** Socialize at 6 p.m., meeting with special guest speakers Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel and Dallas County Democratic Chair candidates Carol Donovan and Tex Quesada at 6:30 p.m. at Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. All are welcome.

• **June 16: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting** Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7–9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

• **June 18: Urban Engagement Book Club: *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas Piketty** 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. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

• **June 18: Pride Party in Plano** Celebrate pride and toast the pending Supreme Court decision on marriage equality with GALA North Texas from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at the Blue Martini Lounge, 7301 Lone Star Drive, A-110, Plano. Event includes half price discount drinks, free appetizers and raffle prizes. For more information visit On.fb.me/1PR9HrD.

• **June 19: Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance and Trans Pride Initiative present "Hard Conversations: One Organization's Journey Toward LGBT Competency"** Leaders with Fort Worth's ACH Child and Family Services discuss the process and results promoting LGBT youth acceptance. Noon–1:30 p.m., in the Oak Room of the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak St. Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP call or e-mail David Gruber at 469-222-0047 or david.gruber@mdhadallas.org.

• **June 19: Dallas Juneteenth Festival** Free event and festival features vendors, games, food, live music and games from noon–5 p.m. at Martin Luther King Community Center, 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. For more information call LaRhonda Bacon at 214-670-8419.

• **June 20: Stonewall Democrats of Central Texas' Pride Rally** In anticipation of the Supreme Court's decision on marriage equality, experts and speakers on marriage licenses will talk about the legal process for obtaining marriage licenses and more from 1–3 p.m. at the Bell County Courthouse, 101 W. Central Avenue, Belton.

• **June 20–21: Juneteenth Pool Party and Unity BBQ** UBE and Dallas Southern Pride partner for a



Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel will speak at a special meeting of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, along with county chair candidates Carol Donovan and Tex Quesada. Daniel, a staunch LGBT ally, is up for re-election in 2016.

pool party from 5–10 p.m. on Saturday, June 20 at Bungalow, 3121 Ross Ave. with a poolside fashion show, UBE Cabana and swag and apparel. \$10. Unity Barbeque from 2–7 p.m. at Stone Tables Pavilion, 650 East Lawther Drive. For information visit UBEDallas.org/Juneteenth.

• **June 20: We Do Preview Screening at CoH** New documentary film about the stories of three LGBT couples, their journeys for legal recognition of their relationships and the impact that the pursuit of marriage equality has on their lives. 6 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Free with \$5 suggested donation. For more information e-mail Todd Whitley at tduibt@yahoo.com.

• **June 20: Girls Rock Dallas' Summer Splash Party** Fourth annual Summer Splash Party from

3–5 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 8500 Arturo Drive. Free event open to all families with bake sale and entertainment benefitting scholarships for weeklong summer day camp for girls ages 8–17. For more information visit GirlsRockDallas.org.

• **June 20: Gaybingo: Super hero/villain** Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6–9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4495 or e-mail Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• **June 21: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Monthly Meeting** Meets at 3 p.m. at the Baron House at Celebration Community Church, 908 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Worth. For more information e-mail Richard Tinker at Tink2uwithu@aol.com.



Cannon and Rafiq Salleh Flowers

Starting the conversation

2 seminars Saturday in Dallas address questions in the neglected issues of LGBT aging

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas's LGBT community rarely lags behind other cities in organizing. But in LGBT senior services, the North Texas area is just getting started.

On Saturday, June 13, two events take place relating to caring for LGBT elders. Cannon Flowers has organized a Senior Summit that begins in the morning at Senior Source on Harry Hines Boule-

vard. They plan to discuss everything from services for the elderly to building our own assisted living center in Oak Lawn.

In the afternoon, Cathedral of Hope presents a free seminar focusing on keeping seniors in their homes longer. Jon Nelson coordinated the event at Cathedral of Hope. His company, Home Helpers of Rockwall, focuses on in-home, non-medical care.

"If you don't have kids, who do you turn to" to care for you when you get older, Nelson said.

He said since many people in the LGBT community are estranged from their families, they have no one to get them to medical appointments or help them with shopping.

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North Texas man attacked in Austin



Andy Smith

Oil company president arrested for attacking gay Texas Instruments executive

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Andy Smith and Paul von Wupperfeld were walking south along Austin's Colorado Street on April 18, at about 10:25 p.m., when a truck "came barreling out of the parking lot on our left, almost hitting us," Smith wrote in his statement to Austin police. "I hollered out, 'you nearly hit us.' To which the driver replied, 'Fuck you faggot.'"

Smith responded, "What did you say?" "Fuck you faggot," the man answered. He stopped his truck in a lane of traffic, got out and the exchange escalated.

Smith told him he couldn't call them that. "You make me stop," he said. "I'll kick your ass."

Smith wrote that he thinks he said, "What are you going to do? Hit me?"

Before he was knocked unconscious, Smith wrote, he remembered seeing a mean look on the man's face.

Von Wupperfeld, Smith's husband, continued the narrative in a separate statement to police.

After hitting Smith, Von Wupperfeld wrote, the man ran to his car and drove off. But he stopped to see what happened. By the time von Wupperfeld reached Smith, he told police, Smith's "face was swollen and bloody from where he had been punched, with cuts on his nose, right cheek and chin. He was unconscious for around 30-45 seconds. When he came around he was groggy and disoriented."

A number of witnesses saw the assault and took video with their phones. Police were called and responded quickly.

Smith and von Wupperfeld declined to comment for this story, saying they don't want to jeopardize the prosecution in the case. They did not, however, object to Dallas Voice publishing the facts of the incident, in hopes that it will be a warning to others in the LGBT community to be safe.

Pictures taken at the scene included the license

plate number on the pickup driven by the man who attacked Smith, allowing police to trace the pickup to Anthony Fera, president of an Austin-based oil company. He's best known as the father of University of Texas Longhorn football team's 2013 star placekicker.

Fera has been arrested several other times in Texas and Pennsylvania.

Austin Police Det. Jason Barto said evidence has been sent to the district attorney's office and it's up to them to present evidence to the grand jury to decide whether to add hate crime charges.

Rafael McDonnell, Resource Center communications and advocacy manager, said this week he worries that this sort of thing might happen more as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares for its marriage equality ruling.

"The LGBT community has some bubbles — Oak Lawn, Montrose — places like that where we can feel perfectly safe," McDonnell said. "The sad fact is the rest of the state isn't necessarily like that."

He said the coverage surrounding Caitlyn Jenner's transition is bookended with coverage of the Supreme Court's ruling.

"Those are major visibility events for the LGBT community," McDonnell said. "There's lots of discussion. Those who are not supporters might feel the need to lash out."

During times of higher visibility for the LGBT community, attacks based on hate may rise. McDonnell recommended that as the community celebrates a high-profile athlete transitioning and the same-sex couples gaining freedom to marry, everyone should be vigilant.

"People should take whatever steps they need to take to make sure they're safe," McDonnell said.

He suggested walking in groups after dark, taking self-defense classes and having a cell phone available to call for help. Use common sense, he said.

But McDonnell believes a lot of the anger will subside as more and more opponents realize marriage equality doesn't affect them or whether an athlete comes out as transgender doesn't affect them.

"It's the last gasp of dinosaurs," McDonnell said. ■

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PROFILES IN PRIDE:

Richard Curtin

Zippers owner is also known as Edna Jean, fundraising queen

L G B T



Richard Curtin aka Edna Jean Robinson.
On left with Patti le Plae Safe

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Someone recently recognized Richard Curtin outside of the hospital because they recognized his drag persona, Edna Jean. In a snap, Edna Jean belted out hello in her sassiest Southern drawl.

She suuuuuurreeeee was Edna Jean — the fundraising drag queen who's been a fixture in Dallas since 1989.

Outrageous, outlandish and dramatic, Edna Jean pushes the limits of her duty. She's not just there to entertain, or to just fundraise, but to inspire. Curtin thinks she's a junkyard beauty, "the queen of outrage."

But Edna Jean was born during a more tragic time, out of Curtin's involvement with the Turtle Creek Chorale and Dallas Theater Alliance. She defined what it meant to be a "charity queen."

Edna Jean and others "brought the community together to raise money for the abandoned and forgotten, money for the living and the dead," Curtin said. And she was born as much out of spectacle as compassion. During the AIDS crisis, there was no other way but to be compassionate.

"We were taught compassion, empathy and love during that time because we were forced to. So many of us were dying and the government didn't care," Curtin said. "We had to teach ourselves to live out loud and demand our rights. The ones who were standing had to fight. It was a war zone."

The AIDS crisis was a time of crisis and tragedy, yes. But it also laid a foundation for the many victories to come.

"Everything that's happening today is because of the 1990s. We saw what happened when we weren't granted hospital visitations or when our deceased partner's parents would come in and decimate their lives. The laws would allow that. It was perfectly legal."

Curtin was reminded of the discrimination when his partner, Jack D. Bliss, passed away in 2010. Because same-sex couples were not recognized then, his partner of 26 years became in death just his "friend."

While he's still outraged, he's still a fighter too. Curtin said he couldn't afford to be down for long. He had to fight.

Curtin credits his drag sisters for getting him back up. "My Rose Room [at S4] girls helped me get up and back to work. I had to get up and keep moving."

And he got that opportunity soon enough.

Bliss was sick, and his business partner knew

it. So two years before Bliss's death, co-owner and business partner Robert "Big Bob" Pollack, bought Bliss' share of in the nightclub Zippers. But what Curtin didn't realize was that he'd inherit Zippers when Pollack died in October 2013.

Fortunately Curtin was a bar veteran. Earlier this year, after 21 years, Curtin left his role as S4's show director and general manager to revitalize his own nightclub.

"I'd been in the business such a long time that it made sense," he said of the move.

But to maintain the community institution Zippers had become required some investment.

"It had been overlooked. Sort of like our community, it became neglected. But it's a part of Dallas history," Curtin said of the bar.

When looking to update the bar, he also looked back at the bar's history. It now has a piano — again — as well as a female bartender. And of course, drag shows.

"As the world evolves, our bars and communities will too," Curtin said. He said the changes at Zippers reflect larger shifts he has seen in the community overall.

"We have a little less community today than 20 years ago. I miss the days of going to gay bars and just seeing gay men. But I say that with some restraint. Where would we be without our straight allies? We wouldn't be here without them," he added.

"The younger generation," Curtin continued, "has forgotten its history."

The historic changes made in the LGBT community, born out of outrage and a commitment to equality, shouldn't be taken for granted either.

"You need to demand your rights, not expect it. Be passionate," Curtin said. "I don't want [this] generation or any other after that to go through the AIDS crisis again. I don't want to see another ward of sweet 20-year-olds dying."

Neither Curtin nor Edna Jean is doing as many AIDS fundraisers as they used to. Now they have time to raise money for other causes, even some outside the LGBT community — like Sam Houston Elementary School's Reading is Fundamental program.

And while the future is never certain, Curtin said he's definitely optimistic: "I'm liking 2015. The future looks fantastic! And when marriage equality comes, I can't wait to rub it all in Rick Perry's and Ted Cruz's noses."

It may sound outrageous, but Curtin said that's what Edna Jean is about. "I'm proud of the crazy stuff I've done. I wear it as a badge of honor." ■





Jon Nelson and Tony Nguyen

■ **CONVERSATION**, From Page 8

"All information shows if you stay in your home longer, you will live a healthier and happier life," Nelson said. But that can be difficult for LGBT seniors who have no one to turn to for help.

In addition to Nelson, three experts will make brief presentations during the seminar, including an attorney who is an elder care specialist, a certified financial planner and a geriatric care manager.

Keeping elders in their homes longer is just one piece of the puzzle. For those who can no longer live alone, other options must be available, including assisted living options that keep LGBT elders engaged and connected to their community and nursing care where LGBT seniors remain safe.

"We need to have a conversation in the Dallas LGBT community on aging," Flowers said.

He said that conversation has never taken place here.

Flowers has been in touch with SAGE, Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders, a New York-based organization that has been working with the older LGBT community since 1978 and has grown into a national organization with affiliates around the country. But SAGE has no Texas affiliates.

SAGE spokeswoman Kira Garcia said SAGE operates five senior centers in New York City that provide a connection to social services, support groups, speakers and classes. Social programs include help for those who can't make it to the center themselves.

In addition, SAGE does advocacy work on the city, state and federal level. Garcia said currently the group is working on a White House summit on aging, making sure LGBT issues remain included. Earlier this year the White House held a conference specifically concerned with LGBT elders that Flowers and people from SAGE attended.

Housing is a prime concern for the elderly. How assisted living and nursing facilities deal with LGBT residents causes many to fear for their own safety. Many return to the closet to protect themselves.

Most facilities say they welcome LGBT residents but none in the Dallas area offers any programs specifically for their LGBT residents.

"Inclusion or tolerance is not enough," Garcia said.

She said little things like showing a movie or having a conversation about an LGBT issue combats isolation and keeps an elderly resident connected.

Serena Worthington oversees SAGE's affiliates program. Currently there are 27 chapters located in 20 states. The closest chapters to Dallas are SAGE Tulsa and Sage Albuquerque.

Many of the steps to becoming a SAGE affiliate, as Worthington outlined them, are things Flowers and his committee have already done in preparing

for this weekend's senior summit.

The first step, Worthington said, is to "take the pulse of the community." That may include a needs assessment, focus groups and community meetings.

Step two is to "understand how to get there." Get to know other providers, what networks already exists and informal groups already catering to LGBT seniors. Then find out what programs and services are offered and figure out if those can be incorporated or adapted for the LGBT community.

One of SAGE's successful programs is training providers in the community, a program Worthington calls the community ambassadors program.

Taking what's already available — Resource

Center and DGLA police training programs — and adapting and offering them to elder care providers such as nursing homes could change a facility from tolerant and accepting to nurturing its LGBT residents.

Worthington said one of the benefits of working with SAGE is sharing the collective experience of the only national group of people working with LGBT elders.

Meanwhile, Dallas takes its first major step in providing care for LGBT elderly. Flowers hopes to leave the summit with action items to get going.

He said he's looking forward to having this conversation with about 100 people scheduled to attend the summit and begin to answer the question: What does the future look like for us? ■

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Raul Juarez Intern | 126

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Real progress. Real Pride



June Pride means so many different things to different people. For many, it's just a symbol of the LGBT movement for equality — how far we've come and all the work left to do. For others, it's an actual event, a real celebration of who we are, where we've been, where we're going.

At Dallas City Hall on Wednesday, June 10, June Pride was all of those things — and more.

For the fourth time in as many years, the Mayor's LGBT Task Force joined others from our community, city staff and Dallas City Council members this week in the Flag Room to kick off June Pride at the city of Dallas. All of the usual festive trappings of our new tradition were there — a rainbow flag prominently among the many other flags at the front, colorful cakes and refreshments at the back, and a giant rainbow flag hanging in the main lobby at 1500 Marilla.

But there was one big difference: the room was full this year.

After years of talking about how to get one



Patti Fink
Special Contributor

Diversity Officer Cheryl Orr.

Dallas CAPE has already elected officers, established a website (DallasCAPE.org), already issued its first newsletter and expects to grow significantly as the city's 13, 500-plus employees in more than 60 departments learn about it.

For years, we've been talking about the difference between having good policies in place and

starting, the newly-formed LGBT employee resource group at the city of Dallas gathered with us! With several dozen members already, Dallas City Association for Promoting Equality (CAPE) formally organized last month, facilitated by the city's new Ethics and

making those good policies real for city employees. Workplace protections on paper often do not actually translate into a safe positive work environment where all employees feel supported and protected in being who they really are.

And while the city still has much work to do in making good employment policies real in some departments and benefit programs, the fact that Dallas CAPE is up and running now is a real indicator of real progress for city employees.

Councilman Adam Medrano chairs the LGBT Task Force, and his solid leadership of our fluid group has witnessed amazing realness for the city's LGBT employees, residents and visitors in his two years at the helm. Adam has worked tirelessly in leading his fellow councilmembers, city staff, the Task Force and others together to get real results, and in the year since our last June Pride kickoff, there is more realness than ever before. He presented this year's Dallas Mayor's June Pride Proclamation to Dallas CAPE, and then presented the LGBT Task Force's second annual

Spirit of Equality awards.

Last year's recipients included staunch LGBT advocates and councilmembers Philip Kingston and Scott Griggs (Ally Award winners), who championed our equality at every turn, along with perhaps the biggest single driver of our successes, Councilmember Jerry Allen (Leadership Award winner), who helmed the Budget, Finance and A u d i t

Looking back I can remember much darker days when the road ahead seemed fraught with much more than Dallas potholes in our way; when we could count our allies at Dallas City Hall on one or two hands.

And now, even without an openly-LGBT elected official at the horseshoe, we don't have enough fingers and toes to count the real support — the very real advocates — we have in our city government today. As we posed for a photo Wednesday, Jerry Allen stood behind me with his

hands on my shoulders, and as we wrapped up he said, "Of all the things I've done, this is my proudest moment."

I was in tears as he quietly scooted away to continue the city's business.

Be proud, Dallas; 2015 is a banner year for walking the walk, for actions over words, for making and keeping it real in the lives of our LGBT brothers and sisters at the city of Dallas.

And with a Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality in the next week or two, 2015's June

Pride has never been more real for so many.

Whether you lean symbolic or tangible, be proud this month. And if you want to make it real for those who make it real for us, send a loud proud real note of thanks to them. Let them know that they are our proudest moment. ■

Patti Fink is president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, a member of the Mayor's LGBT Task Force, and a longtime LGBT rights advocate. She is also co-host of Lambda Weekly, the LGBT radio program that airs each Sunday at 1 p.m. on KNON 89.3 FM.



Committee and zealously propelled the Dallas LGBT Equality Resolution and its directives through to stunningly profound success.

The Community Award honored Cathedral of Hope last year.

This year the Leadership Award went to Councilmember Lee Kleinman, who out of seemingly nowhere clamped down on the cause for equal pension benefits and didn't let go until it had become real — tangibly real — for the spouses of the city's LGBT employees on not one but two pension boards, the Dallas Police and Fire Pension Board and the civilian Employees Retirement Fund board.

The Ally Award went to Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins and Councilmember Carolyn Davis, both of whom joined Lee in persuading reluctant and at times recalcitrant pension board members to eliminate this pivotal disparity.

The Community Award went to young Josh Rudner and the Rev. Carmarion Anderson (a whole other op-ed on their amazing contributions!).

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After Bruce

A year after its founder's death, the Bruce Wood Dance Project continues to spread a legacy of art

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

A moment from the world premiere 'Whispers,' photographed by Brian Guilliaux.

The news hit almost exactly a year ago. Two weeks before the world premiere of a new piece called *Touch*, Bruce Wood — the renowned North Texas choreographer — had died suddenly, succumbing to complications from AIDS. His death devastated countless fans in the arts community here and worldwide. But for the members of the Bruce Wood Dance Project, the sadness was more than overwhelming; it left everyone in a state of spiritual limbo.

Dance is perhaps the most ephemeral of the arts; would Wood's legacy continue?

For Gayle Halperin, Wood's friend and producer, there was never a question that it would. The company would perform that concert ... and it would continue. Halperin quickly appointed Kimi Nikaidoh, who had danced with Wood's companies on and off for years, as BWDP's new artistic director. That first performance would be a memorial; beyond that, the company's continuation would be the celebration of his work.

Running any arts organization is a challenge, but for the last year, Halperin, Nikaidoh and their colleagues have demonstrated incredible commitment not just to preserving Wood's legacy, but expanding it. *5 Years*, the new performance that opens the latest season of the Bruce Wood Dance Project on June 19, represents the fulfillment of a promise.

"This is not a memorial — we did that," Nikaidoh says. This performance needed to signal a change and establish that the Project could thrive without Wood at the helm. That means a program that consisted not merely of selections from Wood's catalogue of approximate 60 original works but a world premiere commission by company member Albert Drake.

Turning over responsibility for a major new work to a young dancer — one of the stars of BWDP since he joined five years ago — was a leap of faith, but one Nikaidoh was willing to make. When she began preparing for the current concert, she had an idea of what she wanted but everything was on the table. "You're never sure the [talent pool] you'll have access to, including how many men will be available, which is a constant in the concert dance world," she says.

The company opened up its auditions in the spring; 44 dancers showed up; some who didn't secure spots asked to come on nonetheless as unpaid apprentices.

With a company of 17 dancers, Nikaidoh quickly settled on a program that would include *Requiem* (set to Mozart's orchestral masterpiece, a work that has never been performed in Dallas before) and Wood's popular *Polyester Dreams*. But for the middle piece, she turned to Drake.

"[Before he died], Bruce had said he wanted to give both Kimi and Albert a chance to [create new works]," says Halperin. And Drake's vision for the piece impressed everyone.

"I started with a grand idea," says Drake about his process. "Then I needed to find the music that complemented that idea. They I needed to find the movement to complement the music." The result is *Whispers*.

The "grand idea," Drake admits — while culled from his own life — is difficult to articulate, though he calls it "an introspective piece about the relationship to the subconscious ... basically, what is the meaning of happiness?" he says. A grand idea, indeed. But for anyone who has seen one of Bruce Wood's concerts, a theme that dovetails beautifully with the company's mission, "to make dances for people and about people," Nikaidoh says.

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■ BWDP, From Page 14

Whispers involves eight company members, including Drake himself and Nikaidoh. So what was it like for the artistic director to also take a part in someone else's piece?

"My main concern about dancing with the company was, how would it be for the other dancers? But my sense has been that it's



pretty seamless. Albert is a very easy person to work with. He's that [ideal] mixture of talent, honesty and humility that makes him so giving. I totally trust his aesthetics and his judgment."

It's also clear that Drake has been deeply influenced by Wood's tutelage, who trained him for fully half his dancing life.

"Everything I do, I can hear Bruce yelling at me, 'Why are you doing that?'" Drake laughs. "Bruce used to say, 'Popularity or purpose: Choose one, because it's rare you'll have both.'"

Stepping into his mentor's slippers, though, has given Drake pause, though he thinks he's in enough shock that the gravity of it — continuing a legacy *and* making his big-time debut as a choreographer — hasn't fully sunk in."

"I'm kind of lost — I don't know what I feel," he says. "I [cycle] between nervousness, excitement, discouragement, numbness and a limbo state. I probably won't feel the pressure until dress rehearsal. And then the Sunday after it's all over, I'll probably wake up and say, 'What just happened?'"

Whatever happens, the Bruce Wood Dance Project is determined to spread the artistic gospel of its founder and visionary.



PUTTING IT TOGETHER | Albert Drake, far left, demonstrates a movement he wants from his dancers; above, the company executes a tremendous leap. (Photos courtesy Sharen Bradford)

"We're planning already for our November show," Nikaidoh smiles, "but I'm not gonna tell you what the program will be, though there will be something on the classical side from Bruce's [repertoire], a guest choreography and one more funky, celebratory piece that I will create."

We'll all just have to wait until the fall to find out. But even with Bruce gone, it will certainly be worth the wait. ■



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Death & the maiden

The sleeper of the summer, 'Me and Earl and the Dying Girl' comes of age

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Chances are, if you're a movie buff, you've been hotly awaiting this weekend so you could see one of the best moviegoing experiences of the summer. And you're right. But probably for the wrong reason.

Yes, yes, *Jurassic World* is primed to claw its way to the top of the box office list, but for the most exhilarating emotional ride of the summer, nothing's gonna beat *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*.

OK, so the title doesn't sound exactly like a studio tentpole, a crowd-pleaser to make the heat go away for a few hours and get the blood pumping. And truth be told, the "ride" part is less chills and thrills, more ups and downs. But trust me: This is the coming-of-age movie for people who hate (and who love) coming-of-age movies. And movies in general.

That's certainly true of Greg (Thomas Mann) and his buddy Earl (RJ Cyler). Middle-class pals since kindergarten, Greg and Earl hang out more

because of geography and their mutual appreciation for obscure documentaries and classic cinema than for their pursuit of girls. Most of their free time is spent adapting films like *Citizen Kane* and *Midnight Cowboy* into spoofy one-reelers with names like *Senior Citizen Kane* and *3:12 pm. Cowboy*. Now seniors, both have coasted through school by remaining under the radar — not joining any cliques, not making any waves, not cultivating any real friendships. They're happy ciphers.

Until Greg's mom (Connie Britton of the trifecta of *Friday Night Lights*, *American Horror Story* and *Nashville*) insists he befriend a classmate, Rachel (Olivia Cooke), who has been diagnosed with leukemia. She nags him into being a good person in the way only well-intentioned but tone-deaf moms can: Hang out with her — you know, for Jesus and whatnot. What starts as an assignment blooms into a relationship, with Earl committing them both to making a movie for and about Rachel.

That's all you need or should know about *Me & Earl*, which, despite a dearth of plot twists



BEST OF THE YEAR | Resonant, emotional but never cloying, *Me* (Thomas Mann, center), *Earl* (RJ Cyler, right) and the *Dying Girl* (Olivia Cooke, left) turns the teen tearjerker into a brilliant homage to the movies.

(hey, the title says a lot, as does the opening line), is nevertheless one of the most surprising delights of the season. The director, Alfonso Gomez-Rejon (a TV veteran from *Glee* and *AHS*, with only his second debut), employs a breathtakingly creative but subtle visual style, and teases from his cast (which also includes quirky

cameos from Nick Offerman, Molly Shannon and Jon Bernthal) heartfelt but never cloying performances, thanks to Jesse Andrews' sunnily nuanced script (adapted from his own novel). There's not a dinosaur in sight; there doesn't need to be. Feelings this authentic don't require any CGI.

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Out in NEON

Dallas Voice: For the few uninitiated, say something about the genesis of the name of the band. Tyler Glenn: I was with friends in high school and we would hang at a burger establishment called In-N-Out in California. It was one of the older, more original ones. They had these palm tree lights. We thought Neon Palm Trees sounded like a cool band name. I always kept it in the back of my mind [laughs]. Unfortunately, we are kind of tied to fast food [laughs].

Were other names in contention? There was always a list of names that my guitar player and I had, but a lot of the names were either too dark and serious for the type of music that we wanted to make or a lot of them were [the names of] smaller bands that I thought no one knew. I don't know what I was thinking. "No one knows this band, so we'll have this name." It was very immature of me. I don't think there were any viable options, really.

Neon has been a popular component of bands' names — Neon Trees, Neon Indian, Neon Hitch, Neon Neon. Why do you think that is? Yeah! I don't know. That was definitely a concern. We had had our name for a long time. We had been a band before we put out our first record for quite a while. When we put out our first record in 2010, that's when Neon Indian put their record out, and then Neon Hitch. We found out that that is actually Neon Hitch's name. Her parents gave it to her. She couldn't go changing her name [laughs] and we couldn't fault her for that. I don't know the answer; maybe the connotation with new wave music or something.

Speaking of new wave music, on *Habits*, Neon Trees' full-length major-label debut, there is a song titled "1983" which is followed by the song "Girls and Boys In School," which recalls New Order in 1983. Can you please say something about the both the musical significance of the year 1983 and the band New

Neon Trees' gay frontman Tyler Glenn is a nice guy: Funny, smart and thoughtful, he's the kind of artist who makes the interview process an enjoyable one. So it's not all that surprising that Tyler's band also comes off as funny, smart and thoughtful, especially on its latest CD, *Pop Psychology*. A more personal effort than the quartet's previous releases, many of the songs involve serious subject matter. Still the music is buoyant and brilliant dance-pop that elevates the songs and the mood — sort of a musical anti-depressant.

Before Neon Trees returns to Dallas in the intimate space of the Granada Thursday, Glenn talked about the band's name, being pigeonholed in a genre and his fans' reaction to his coming out (hint: it's not what expect). ■

— Gregg Shapiro

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Tyler Glenn, second from left, with Neon Trees.



Tyler Glenn, out frontman of Neon Trees, shares some of his 'Pop Psychology'

Order for Neon Trees? The song 1983 is about the year I was born, but it's not really about the year. The song's more about maintaining that level of innocence before love gets tainted, for me anyway. I think the song definitely took a more literal approach in the music video. I think listeners looked at us and thought, "Oh, they love the '80s" [laughs]. But I think the song was more a nostalgic thing for me, in terms of innocence and youth. New Order has always been a massive influence on the band. I love their hybrid of electronic music and the roots of it and how it started as a band back with Joy Division, when it was more guitar-based, I thought they did that really well. And Peter Hook's bass-playing is timeless. I've always been highly influenced by that band, for sure.

Back in 1983, radio and MTV were the main places to hear cool music, such as New Order. Now bands have to find other ways to get exposure, including having their music used in advertisements. Neon Trees were fortunate enough to have a song, "Everybody Talks," from the *Picture Show* disc, featured in a Buick commercial. What did that experience mean to you? I loved that they put us in it, so it felt like we were being used as more than just a song over a bunch of shiny cars. I think there was a quirkiness to it that was very much us. I was happy with the finished commercial. To this day, [some] people recall it as a Neon Trees commercial. It was crucial in propelling the song from just a modest radio hit to one of the bigger songs of that year. I loved how it worked. It doesn't always happen that way when you license your music. It was a cool opportunity.

You've been "openly Mormon" for a long time, but came out as gay last year. What has the reaction been since you came out? It's been way more interesting than I expected. I didn't think it would still be something I would be talking about,

but I'm happy to because I think people are intrigued with my point of view revolving around my faith as well. I'm happy that I've been able to do it in a really honest way. The reaction has been really nice. The worst things I heard were maybe from gay atheists [laughs], because they were OK and excited about me coming out, but they were mad at me that I'm still religious.

Three albums in four years would be considered prolific in anybody's book. Is that kind of productivity part of Neon Trees' long-term plans? Yes. I think we get bored if we're not putting out new stuff. We've always been into the old model of bands putting out [records yearly]. If we could, I would love to put a record out every year. I also feel like — I don't know if it's everyone's label — but our label puts a lot into the first song and they put a lot into the record release, but they don't do much past that. If we have to write a new record every time to get attention from our label [laughs], I'm okay with that. I'll continue to write records.

The songs on *Pop Psychology* are as colorful as the artwork for the album. Please say something about that sonic shift. I set out to make a really dark record. When I started writing the third album I was talking to my therapist a lot. I still do. But I was just talking to her and getting through some stuff. What I was writing lent itself to that sort of theme. By the time it came to hunker down and make a focused body of work, I was in a really happy place. I didn't want [the record] to reflect where I'd been, but where I was at [during] the current time. I was interested in writing something colorful and anthemic and celebratory. The themes — it talks about identity and the troubles of finding love with technology — that I set out are still there, but I think it reflects a more colorful view on love. I also love the *Pop Psychology* name. I thought it was a great name for a record and it fits everything about it.

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Friday 06.12 — Sunday 06.14

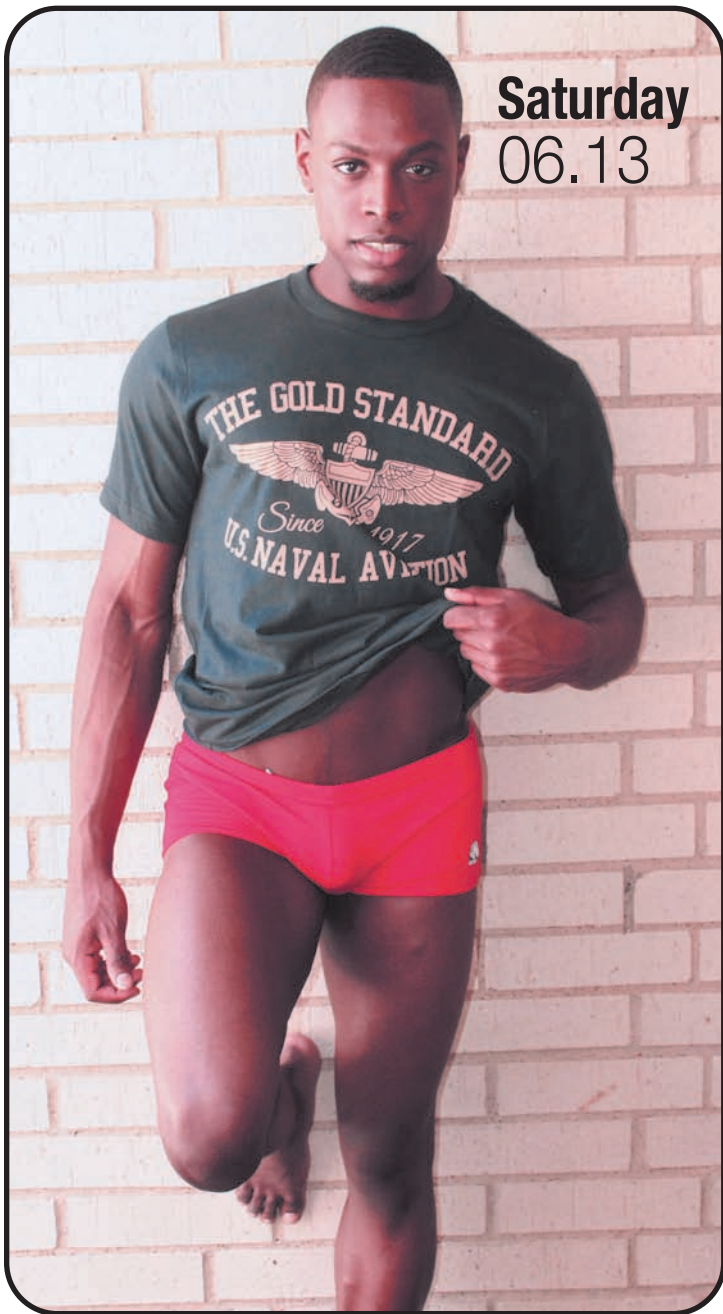
Taste of Dallas expands the foodie experience with Taste the Difference VIP package

For nearly 30 years, Taste of Dallas has exposed North Texans to the great variety of eateries, from taquerias to tapas joints, pizzerias to diners. But this year, the three-day festival of food is offering something special: A VIP experience called Taste the Difference. Organized by Scott Jones, the special ticket entitles entrants not only to all the regular T of D food booths, but also some of the highest of high-end cuisine inside the Centennial Building, with selections from Dean Fearing, Scott Gottlich, Blythe Beck, Omar Flores, Abraham Salum, Uno Immanivong and more.

DEETS: Fair Park at the Centennial Building. Friday, 5–11 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–8 p.m. \$9 general admission; \$125 VIP admission (discounts available at TasteTheDifference.com). TasteOfDallas.org



Saturday 06.13



Red Party gets all wet with a dip in the pool

The Red Party's big event isn't until the fall, but you can jump right into the fundraising group — which benefits Legacy Counseling Center — with Red Gets Wet, the pool party that was postponed last month due to rain. The action takes place at a private residence in Preston Hollow (released to those who purchase tickets) and includes Equality Vodka cocktails, bites from Mi Cocina and lots of fun in the sun! Show your red Pride!

DEETS: Residence in Preston Hollow, 2–6 p.m. \$55. RedPartyDallas.org.



Friday 06.12 — Sunday 06.14

Turtle Creek Chorale goes Turtle-ly '80s with retro shows

What would we do without the '80s? Would you really want to live in a world where George Michael doesn't have two earrings, Michael Jackson never moonwalked and we never, ever heard it for the boy? ... I thought not. The Turtle Creek Chorale will school us on the wonderfulness of the decade with its retro Turtle-ly '80s concerts. And if you really wanna get into it, there will be a costume contest before each performance, with entrants judged on glitter, awesomeness, attitude and amount of hairspray.

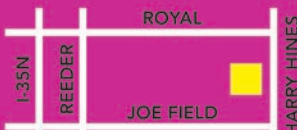
DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com

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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Dallas Solo Fest. The second annual collection of one-man (and one-woman) performance pieces, including such productions as Bremner Duthie in *'33 (a kabarett)* (about the Nazi closure of the Eldorado Club, the basis for Christopher Isherwood's stories that became *Cabaret*); *Moju'rmin'*. After, Brigham Mosley's "dream ballet for the queer, prodigal son;" and performances from local luminaries Jeff Swearingen (*An American Asshole in France*) and Van Quattro (*Standing Eight Count*). *Reviewed this week.* Presented by Audacity Theatre Lab. Margo Jones Theatre at Fair Park's Magnolia Lounge, 1121 First Ave. Through Sunday. DallasSoloFest.com.

Pride Month Summer Play Series: *Precious Little*. Echo Theatre, which produces plays by women for everyone, brings back its lesbian-themed Pride series with this piece, directed by Kelsey Leigh Ervi, from lesbian author Madeleine George, who also wrote *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence*. *Reviewed this week.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through June 20. EchoTheatre.org.

South Pacific. Lyric Stage concludes its 22nd season with this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic set in Hawaii, which explores issues of racism and love. Carpenter Performance Hall, Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd, Irving. June 12-21. LyricStage.org.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. Gay playwright Christopher Durang's brilliant Tony-winning play about family dynamics and a brother and sister both lusting after the same sexy but dumb young man. A Fort Worth premiere. *Reviewed this week.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through July 12. StageWest.org.

Manicures & Monuments. From local playwright Vicki Caroline Cheatwood, about a manicurist-in-training who clashes with a hard-headed manager at an Oklahoma retirement community where she volunteers. *Reviewed this week.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through June 28. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Dream Cafe. Brian's life as a single gay man is explored through six scenes, performed in a different order each night (as determined by the audience). A revival of Alejandro de la Costa's 2010 play. Contains nudity. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through June 21. MBSProductions.net.

Old Time Music Hall. Theatre Britain's annual revue (and fundraiser) featuring song, dance and comedy in the classic style of a London burlesque. *Reviewed this week.* Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through June 21. Theatre-Britain.com.

Rodgers+Hammerstein's Cinderella. The tuneful, lavish recent Tony Award-winner comes to North Texas. *Reviewed this week.* Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through June 21. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. June 23-28. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.



BEANE COUNTING | While the national tour of 'Cinderella,' with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane, is playing at Fair Park, Uptown Players prepares for the regional premiere of Beane's dark comedy 'The Nance,' opening at the Kalita on June 19 with B.J. Cleveland.

The Firestorm. A politician in an interracial marriage finds his campaign compromised by an episode of his past in this centerpiece mainstage production of Kitchen Dog Theater's annual New Works series. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through June 27. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Belleville. Drew Wall stars in this heartbreaking examination of a relationship in crisis, written by Amy Herzog and directed by Lee Trull. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. *Final weekend.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

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The Lady with All the Answers. Gay playwright David Rambo wrote this solo show about advice columnist Ann Landers. Starring Gene Raye Price. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through June 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: Turtle-ly '80s. The TCC concludes its season with this salute to the music (and style!) of the 1980s. Includes a retro costume contest at each performance. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. June 12-13 at 7:30 p.m., June 14 at 2:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

FILM

Oak Cliff Film Festival. Intimate arty film festival in its fourth year. Screenings at Texas Theater, The Kessler and Bishop Arts Theater. Through Sunday. For a complete schedule, visit OffCliffFilmFestival.com.

FINE ART

Love Makes a Family. A traveling exhibit of first-person stories and positive images of love and family from the LGBT experience, includes interviews by Peggy Gillespie and photos by Gigi Kaeser. Presented by the Family Diversity Project. Flor, 4527 McKinney Ave. Through Sunday. Free. FamilyDiv.org/exhibits/love-makes-a-family.

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. Through July 15. DMA.org.

Ruben Nieto: Decollage. The bold, colorful abstract

paintings of Ruben Nieto, influenced by the pop art movement (especially Roy Lichtenstein), mark a new series opening Saturday. Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1845 Levee St., ste. 110. Through June 20. CrisWorley.com.

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.

FRIDAY 06.12

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour. Monthly mixer of those in the tech field but open to anyone. Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

FOOD

Taste of Dallas. Annual celebration of the local dining scene, this year featuring a special VIP add-on called Taste the Difference. Fair Park in and around the Centennial Building. June 12-14. TasteOfDallas.org.

FILM

Movies in the Park. A free film series at The Shops at Park Lane every Friday in June, with screenings of *Jurassic Park* (June 12), *Zoolander* (June 19) and *Despicable Me 2* (June 26). 8:30 p.m. ParkLaneDallas.com.

SATURDAY 06.13

SPORTS

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

COMMUNITY

Red Party Pool Party. At a private residence in Preston Hollow. 2-6 p.m. \$55. Address when you RSVP at RedPartyDallas.org.

TUESDAY 06.16

FILM

Funny Girl. Hell, gorgeous! Barbra Streisand's auspicious film debut, which won her an Oscar playing comedienne Fanny Brice. 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. only.

THURSDAY 06.18

THEATER

Mass Appeal. Play about a young priest and the monsignor who challenges his perceptions. Circle

Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. June 18-July 18. CircleTheatre.com.

COMMUNITY

North Texas Gay and Lesbian Alliance hosts a Pride Party at Blue Martini Lounge at The Shops at Legacy, Plano. 5:30-8 p.m.

CONCERTS

Neon Trees. The hot pop group, with out frontman Tyler Glenn, performs. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show. GranadaTheater.com.

this week's solution

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Red Zone
Friday, June 19th
10:45pm

Cassie Nova

Thank you for the music (store)

Hello to all my minions and my hellions! I recently sat down and read some of my past columns and realized something I do a lot: Bitch about how the times they are a-changing, and how much better things used to be. I guess it's proof I am getting old, cuz guess what? I am doing it again.

Remember music stores? You young people won't know what I am talking about, but there used to be these brick and mortar buildings that only sold music, i.e., records, cassettes, then CDs. I miss them so much. Sound Warehouse, Tower Records, Oak Lawn Records were all my home away from home. Damn Internet ruins everything. The kids of today will never know the joy of shopping and searching through bins of music and finding that song by that

artist you loved. New music always came out on Tuesdays, and for certain artists, I would be at the store when they opened.

I remember my first boyfriend took me to Sound Warehouse on one of our first dates to buy me Mariah Carey's *Emotions* (on cassette and CD!). I always bought both because I had a cassette player in the car and a CD player at home. It was so romantic. He was excited, too. He bought Guns N Roses' *Use Your Illusion Vol. 1*. Yes, our musical tastes were very different. The only artists we both liked were Michael Jackson and Garth Brooks. The relationship was doomed. He had a nice weenie but I could not get past his heavy metal fakeness. Oh, the things you think are important at 19 seem so ridiculous when you are ... ahem ... older.

Sound Warehouse begat Wherehouse Music. Wherehouse Music begat Blockbuster Music. Blockbuster Music begat foreclosure. *C'est la vie*. It's the circle of life, or some bullshit.

Some of the best memories of my youth involved going to music stores. I remember my best friend's

dad telling us if we did all of the lawn work, he would take us to our local music store, which in our case, was miles away near Town East Mall in Mesquite. We mowed that lawn with enthusiasm, excited at the prospect of getting the new Debbie Gibson or INXS album. I was such a weirdo, I bought the soundtrack to the movie *Once Bitten*, a cheesy vampire comedy starring Jim Carrey. That damn cassette was one of my prized possessions. The music was awful, even by '80s standards, but I loved it.

On another trip, I found the soundtrack to the musical *The Pirate Movie* starring Kristy McNichol and the adorably sexy Christopher Atkins (looking back, I think he may have been one of my first crushes). I would drag out to every single one of those songs. Then there was one of my favorites, the *Grease 2* soundtrack. "Cool Rider" was one of my very first drag songs. I want a C-O-O-L- R-I-D-E-R! These were all cassettes I didn't even know I needed until I found them in a rack at a music store.

Not all of my music shopping memories are good. When I was just a little twink — back then we were called chickens — there was an independent music store that shall remain nameless. It was run by an old chicken hawk, and none of the records, tapes or CDs had prices on them. You had to ask said chicken hawk how much the thing you wanted cost. If you were a younger cute boy, you tended to get things cheaper. For years, I would bat my eyes and flirt and get things at a discount.

One day, I traveled north to this music store to find a copy of *The Groove Won't Bite* by Uncanny Alliance. My copy was stolen by a shady bitch at a show in Fort Worth at the Magnolia Station. Anyhoo, I walked into the store, sashayed around until I found it. I was so excited. When I asked the owner how much, he looked me over and said, "Gimme \$14.99 for it." Well, \$14.99 was about five dollars more than I had ever paid for anything there before, but I was just thankful they had it. My mistake was letting him know how hard it was to find that particular CD and showing my excitement in finding it. He then said, "I meant to say it costs \$29.99." I was like, "No queen — you cannot jack the price up just because you know how badly I want it." He said with a stank face, "Yes I can, if you want it it's \$29.99!" Well, I had a bit of a freak out. I proceeded to call him ever name in the book. I told him if I couldn't have the CD, no one could, and I threw it across the store hoping it would smash and break against the wall. Instead it just fell behind a row of imports. He told me he was calling the cops and I had better get my ass out of there. I did as I was told, but not before my middle finger cramped up from being over used. Not my finest moment. I guess that was the day I realized I was no longer a P.Y.T! I was just a P.T.

A few weeks later, a friend called me and said my picture was up at that music store, over the register with the word BANNED in red letters across the top. I was like, "Oh, bitch, I'm famous!" I had to see it for myself. So my partner-in-crime Robbie and I went on



an adventure. First stop was to the costume shop where we bought a fake mustache and a pair of Buddy Holly glasses. I donned my flawless disguise and we headed to the scene of the crime. I am sure I was fooling no one with my arched eyebrows and my glued on porn 'stache. I was so nervous I was shaking, but it worked. I saw the horrible picture of me and no one gave me a second glance. I made sure I stayed away from the asshat owner. At one point, Robbie looked at me laughing and pointed to my upper lip. Apparently, the left side of my mustache had come unglued and was flapping around. I felt like I was in an episode of *I Love Lucy*. I panicked and ran for the car. When Robbie came out of the store, he had the CD I had tried to destroy. He paid \$14.99 for it.

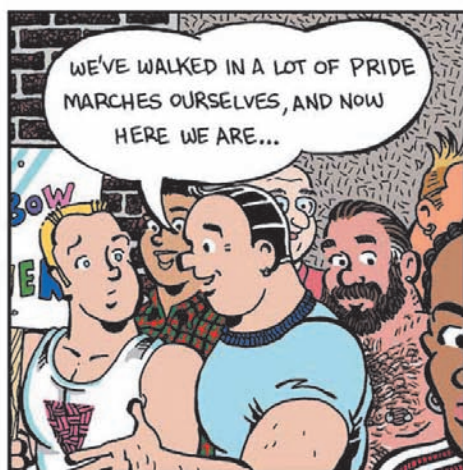
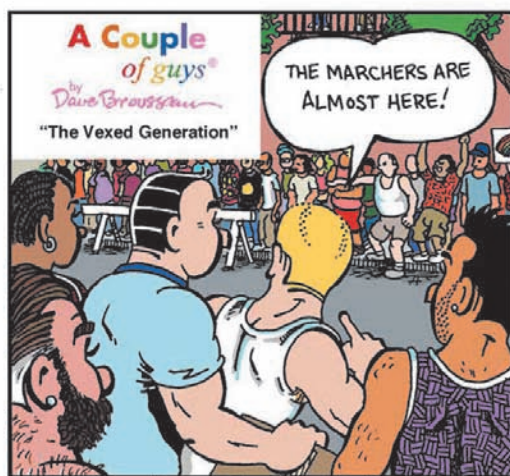
I ended up working at Wherehouse Music for four years until it was bought out by Blockbuster Music and worked there for two years more. I was working there happily when the Internet brutally murdered my longtime companion: the music store. I miss you my friend. I miss your midnight sales on new music. I miss your discount bins. I miss your free gifts with purchase. I miss the way the cellophane from a newly opened CD would stick to your clothes. I miss having my entire home decorated with CD racks, crates with albums and shelves of cassettes. I even miss how difficult it was to open a CD without a CD opener. Fond memories I will cherish forever.

Now days all your music is just a click away, super easy but not nearly as fun. Technology has robbed me of one of my favorite pastimes: cruising boys at the music store.

I'm sorry I didn't get to answer any of your questions this week, but I promise I will be back on track next time. If you have any ideas about things I should discuss or stories I should tell, let me know. Sometimes the most random things can spark my creative juices and inspire me. Send me a line or a thought of what you would like to hear about. Drag queen fact or fiction, it all runs together.

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

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



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Jacob and Rob at the Dallas Eagle.

Making the **SCENE** the week of June 12–18:

- **Alexandre's:** **Walter Lee** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Mi Diva Loca** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Chris Chism** at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday. **Lala J** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Softball team **The Brick Hastags** has an extra inning at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Changes:** **Imperial Court Show** at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** cook-out at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** chapter show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Wall of Food Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **National Leather Association Dallas** club night at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **United Court Of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Wild, Wild West Show** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Back to the 80's Dance** at 5 p.m. on Sunday. **Underwear Night** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Free HIV testing by the **Resource Center** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Project Funway** continues with host **Sasha Leigh Chambers** at 9 p.m. on Monday. **Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament** at 8 p.m. on Wednesday. **The Best Little Hoedown in Texas** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Party Raid Burlesque** kickoff on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3 p.m. on Sunday. **Bad Habits** at 6 p.m. on Sunday. **Caven Enterprises Benevolent Association** presents **All American King Pageant** on Tuesday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Voice of Pride** registration at 8:15 p.m. with show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Voice of Pride** registration at 8:15 p.m. and show at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Dallas Woody's **Casino Night** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Aftershock Extra Innings** at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Voice of Pride** registration at 8:15 p.m. and preliminary at 9 p.m. on Sunday. ■

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



Foam party at The Brick.



Staff at Zippers.



Edgar and Eddie at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.



Emy and Laci at Sue Ellen's.



Staff at TMC: The Mining Company.



Darryl, Phillip and JoJo at the Hidden Door.



Eric and Donnie at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Antonio and Big Daddy Dawg at the Dallas Eagle.



Tonia and Ariella at Sue Ellen's.



Greg and Brad at TMC: The Mining Company.



Ray Isaac and Rodd Gray on The Strip for MetroBall.



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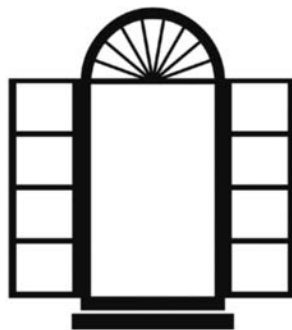
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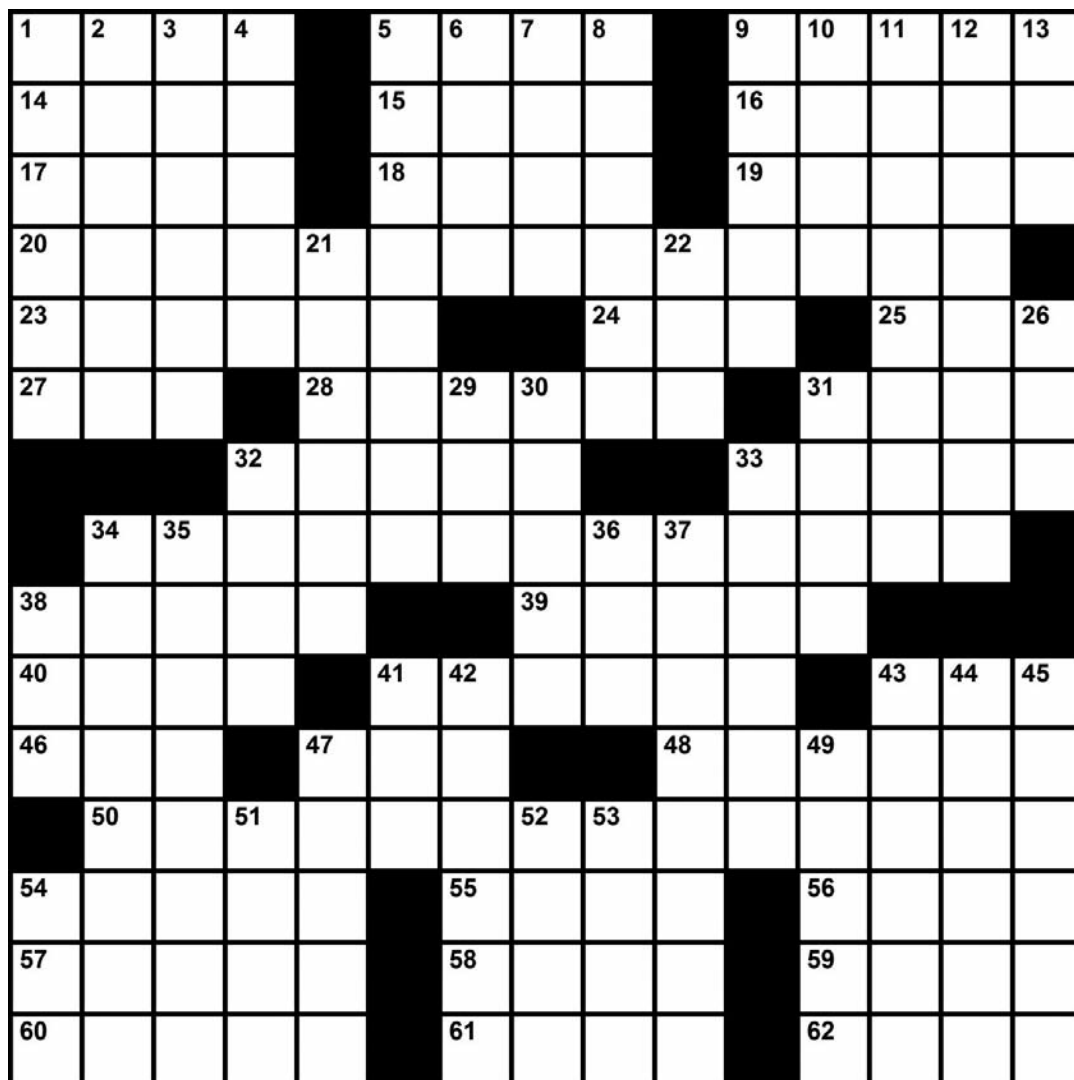
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q-puzzle



Vanity Fair Lady

Solution on page 23

Across

- Tennessee Williams *Summer and Smoke* heroine
- To ___ it may concern
- Snatch
- Billy Crystal played gay on this sitcom
- The English Patient* nurse
- Bones below elbows
- Bear's hangout
- Declare firmly
- Drop ___ (flirt, perhaps)
- Photographer who recently shot 34-Across for *Vanity Fair*
- Nervous gay man?
- Writer Harper
- Caesar's threesome
- Take a crack at
- Hole dweller
- Hunter and more
- Easter Island's owner
- Shankar's instrument
- Transgender celeb, formerly known as Bruce
- Grand lineup
- Charged
- Sport in which sweaty men embrace

- Diagram with a nocturnal bear, perhaps
- Telly network
- Popular fruit drink
- Verb ending
- Ms. Baker's stage name
- Reference preference of 34-Across
- Anne Frank account
- Casino call
- Turner of records
- Come together
- Woods of *Legally Blonde*
- Web surfer
- Shrek and others
- Told tales
- Guitarist Townshend

Down

- Not straight
- Get it while you're being serviced
- By and large
- Time for a shower
- Moby Dick's lubricant?
- Possess sexually
- R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- Two-toned cake
- Like a metrosexual
- K-12

- New member
- Hope-Crosby "Road" destination
- P-town clock setting
- Lincoln's four score
- On top of, in poetry
- A. Sharon's home
- Try to seduce, with liquor, e.g.
- Buck of *Eating Raoul*
- Salon offering
- "So long!"
- Type of tool
- Seeking hotties
- Type of quarterback
- Fruity spread
- Bewitched
- It hangs from your butt
- Uey from NNW
- Essential part of cornholing?
- S&M reminder
- Rupert Everett's hood
- Son in Jeremy Irons' *The Borgias*
- "But of course!"
- Still in bed
- Art deco illustrator
- Type of sci, in college
- Rub the wrong way
- Half of a foursome

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