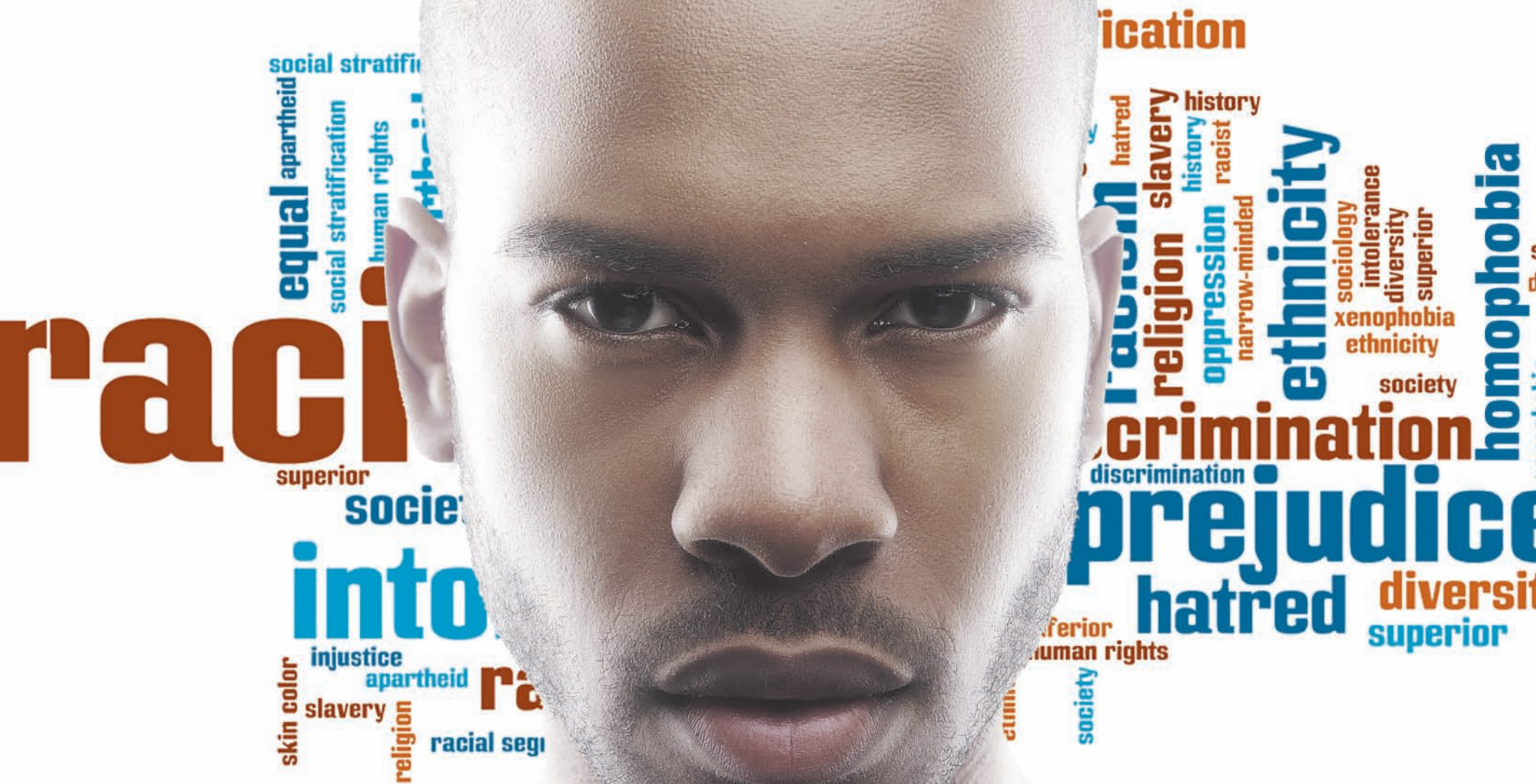


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Page 32 | Issue 13 | FREE | Friday, August 7, 2015



The End of Bigotry?

From #LoveWins to #BlackLivesMatter, true equality is an ongoing struggle in the LGBT community • By Mathew Shaw • Page 8



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10



11



14

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 8 The end of bigotry?
- 10 Equality Vodka is distilled for a cause
- 11 Judge rules for new death certificate

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 14 Boy George reunites with his band
- 16 Theatre 3 opens its new season
- 18 Firecrust does Neapolitan pizza right

■ ON THE COVER

Graphic Design by Kevin Thomas and Craig Tuggle

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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More than 1,200 people attended Dallas Voice's Wedding Party & Expo at the Hilton Anatole Hotel on Aug. 2 that featured 90 vendors, a fashion show, a performance by the Turtle Creek Chorale and additional entertainment.

Houston City Council fails to repeal HERO, sending measure to ballot

The Houston City Council voted 12-5 on Aug. 5 to not repeal the city's nondiscrimination ordinance, paving the way for a November ballot referendum.

The decision follows last month's Texas Supreme Court order halting enforcement of the city's sweeping nondiscrimination ordinance.

The ordinance bans discrimination on a variety of protected classes including sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations, housing, city employment and city contracting. Violators could be fined up to \$5,000.

After the ordinance passed on a 11-6 vote last year, it faced immediate opposition from religious and social conservatives who halted the law's enforcement through lawsuits and appeals.

The state court's decision sided with HERO opponents, stating the city council overstepped its boundaries when it invalidated a petition to repeal the ordinance via ballot referendum. The city ruled petitioners did not gather enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

"Any enforcement of the ordinance shall be suspended, and the City Council shall reconsider the ordinance. If the City Council does not repeal the ordinance by Aug. 24, 2015, then by that date the City Council must order that the ordinance be put to popular vote during the Nov. 2015 election," according to the court's decision.

The opinion additionally faulted city staff for not verifying differing signatories not having an appeal process when a petition is rejected.

— James Russell

Craig James sues Fox Sports for religious discrimination

Craig James, who ran for the U.S. Senate Republican nomination against Ted Cruz, has sued Fox Sports after he was fired from his analyst position after just one day on the air.

During the Senate debates, James said he would never ride in a gay Pride parade, as the third contender for the nomination, former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, had. He said during the debates that being gay is a choice.

Fox Sports said James said things that wouldn't be appropriate in the workplace and called him a polarizing figure.

— David Taffet

Bill to stop issuing marriage licenses advances in Alabama

A state senate committee advanced a bill that would stop probate judges from issuing marriage licenses in Alabama.

Several probate judges have already stopped issuing licenses to all couples so that they're not providing those licenses to same-sex couples. Gay and straight couples in those areas must now go to different counties to get licenses to marry. The state senate bill would end the practice of issuing marriage licenses. Instead, couples would go to the same probate judge and sign a marriage contract.

What isn't clear is why issuing a marriage license in some way supports same-sex marriage and filing a contract signed by a same-sex couple doesn't support same-sex marriage. Also not clear is whether the federal government would recognize these marriage contracts rather than marriage licenses.

— David Taffet

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Family PRIDE Zone

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Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!

Family PRIDE Zone is a family friendly outdoor space in conjunction with the Festival in the Park, held on **Sunday, September 20th** from Noon to 7pm. The Festival in the Park is held with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, a Dallas Tavern Guild event.

A fenced off safe space will be created in Reverchon Park inside the gates of the main Festival in the Park. Security professionals will staff our entrance. Park entrance fees are \$5 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

The Family PRIDE Zone will include food, games, entertainment, vendor booths and much more.

For more info, visit: dallasprideparade.com.
If you have questions, call Leo Cusimano 214.754.8710 ext. 114

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THE GAY AGENDA

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

AUGUST

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is Erin Moore; **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 St., ste. 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.

• **Aug. 1-14: Youth First Art Show**
ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 7: Youth First Art Show Young Professionals Advisory Council Reception**
Learn about YPAC and ways to support Youth First from 6-8 p.m. at ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 11: Ed-U-Care Building Bridge Network: "Awareness - The Care Needs of LGBTQ Older Adults"**
Training group for caretakers of LGBT seniors hosts a dinner followed by screening of the movie *Gen Silent* and LGBT senior and caretaker needs 6-8:30 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. For more information and to RSVP e-mail Sharyn Fein at educaredallas@gmail.com.

• **Aug. 12: Jenny Block Book Launch Party**
Dallas Voice contributor Jenny Block hosts a party for her new book *O Wow! Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm* at 7 p.m. at Komali, 4152 Cole Ave. Copies available for purchase at Tinyurl.com/owowbook.

• **Aug. 13: Savor Dallas Toast of the Town Series: Jameson, Dude!**
Goody Goody Liquor sponsors year-round events hosted by Dallas chefs pairing signature dishes with a variety of alcohols. Dude, Sweet Chocolate's Katherine Clapner and Jameson Irish Whiskey Brand Ambassador Darren Mooney partner this month for a chocolate and whiskey pairing at

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• **Aug. 14: 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 Lake House Bar & Grill, 7510 E. Northwest Highway. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

• **Aug. 15: Dallas-Fort Worth Gay for Good Volunteer Project**
DFW Gay For Good's monthly volunteer project meets 10 a.m. at Promise House, 224 W. Page Ave. Register at Bit.ly/1g9j0bk. For more information contact Duncan Smith at 214-957-7300 or at G4G.DFW@gmail.com.

• **Aug. 15: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Presents Family Connections Seminar** on LGBT family topics includes workshops on effective communication skills, education, health, wellness and more from 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. at Artes de la Rosa Cultural Center for the Arts at Rose Marine Theater, 1440 N. Main Street, Fort Worth. Free but registration required. To RSVP visit Bit.ly/1I552P9.

• **Aug. 15: Lambda Legal's Sixth Annual Landmark Dinner**
6 p.m.–2 a.m. at the Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce St. For more information, call Roger Poindexter at 214-219-8585 ext. 224 or email rpoindester@lambdalegal.org.

• **Aug. 18: 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 email at sfynn.jones@gmail.com.

• **Aug. 20: Resource Center's Young Professionals Advisory Council Back-to-School Benefit**
Giving circle for professionals up to 45 years hosts a back-to-school benefit for Youth First 6–8 p.m. at The Goss-Michael Foundation, 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. For tickets and more information visit Myresourcecenter.org/ypac.

• **Aug. 20: Urban Engagement Book Club: Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class by Ian Haney Lopez**
CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local



Youth First Youth Reception Art Show

The youth and young adults of Youth First have been pumping out a lot of creative talent recently. Between now and Aug. 14, they're displaying their latest work at the ilume Gallerie. If you love the art or seeing a promising young talent in your midst, then there are a few ways to continue its programming.

On Friday, Aug. 7, learn about ways to support Youth First at an event hosted by the Young Professionals Advisory Council Reception from 6–8 p.m. at ilume Gallerie. Then purchase a copy of the Rainbow Review, a collection of original artworks, poems and short stories by Youth First participants available exclusively online at CreateSpace. All proceeds benefit Youth First. Copies are available online at Createspace.com/5550602.

social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. For more information, visit CitySquare.org.

• **Aug. 21: Q Cinema 17 Sneak Peek**
Check out the line-up for Fort Worth's 17th Annual QCinema International Film Festival and enjoy complimentary appetizers and cocktails 7 p.m. at Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main Street, Fort Worth. Doors open at 6 p.m. Ticket prices vary. To purchase tickets and more information visit Bit.ly/1I2cdKa.

• **Aug. 15: Gaybingo: Pigskin**
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 email Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Aug. 16: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Meeting**
Tarrant County Pride's monthly meeting at 3 p.m. at the Barron House at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Aug. 22: Razzle Dazzle Dallas bus trip to Winstar Casino**
First of three bus trips to Winstar Casinos from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. benefits Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Home for the Holidays and The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. \$75. Party bus will include adult beverages and soft drinks, snacks, entertainment and raffle prizes. Leaves from Cedar Springs at 8:30 a.m. and Collin Creek Mall at 9 a.m. For more information and to register, visit T.co/r7voNP2HBu or email Info@razzledazzledallas.org.

• **Aug. 22: GALA's Fifth Annual Party on Lake Lewisville**
9 a.m.–1 p.m. aboard the 105-passenger Chaminox II party boat on Lake Lewisville. Tickets include lunch, drinks and entertainment by DJ Little Chalupa. Tickets available at GALANorthTexas.org.

• **Aug. 27: Out & Equal Dallas-Fort Worth 'One Night in Monte Carlo' Fundraiser**
Annual fundraiser for local chapter of LGBT workplace inclusion group includes appetizers, drinks, a live auction and music 6–8 p.m. at Times Ten Cellar, 6324 Prospect Ave. Tickets are \$35 online or \$40 at door. For tickets and more information visit Conta.cc/1g9ofy3.

• **Aug. 28–30: Family Equality Council at Austin Pride**
Family Equality Council plans to partner with the Austin community again next year to create additional family-friendly spaces where parents and prospective parents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer, along with their children and other allies, can celebrate, make new connections, and reflect on the equality movement. For more information, visit Familyequality.org/get_involved/events/pride_celebrations/austin_pride.

• **Aug. 30: Annual Stonewall Democrats of Dallas Fundraiser**
Test your political knowledge and raise money for the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas with host Edna Jean Robinson, 3–6 p.m. at the Round Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. \$20 suggested donation at door. \$20 tickets. Various sponsorship levels available. Order tickets at StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org/donate.

SEPTEMBER

• **Sept. 1: 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 email at sfynn.jones@gmail.com.

• **Sept. 3: Fort Worth PFLAG meeting**
Meets every first Thursday of the month from 7–9 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information, call 817-428-2329 or visit PflagFortWorth.org.

• **Sept. 4–7: Equality Texas Splash Days**
Weekend circuit event in Austin benefits Splash Days beneficiaries AIDS Services of Austin, Equality Texas and Project Transition. For tickets and more information visit Splashdays.com.

• **Sept. 5: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting**
Meets from 7–8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information, email info@dfwtgladies.org or visit DFWTGLadies.org.

• **Sept. 11: 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 Sambuca Uptown, 2120 McKinney Ave. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

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• **Sept. 17: The Dallas Way Presents 'Outrageous Oral': Salute to the Gay Pride Parade**
The GLBT history project presents another segment of Outrageous Oral series with Evilu Pridgeon, Patti Fink, Chris Luna and Kathy Jack. Michael Doughman serves as emcee. Doors open at 6 p.m. and program starts at 7 p.m. at the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. For more information, call 505-400-4405 or visit TheDallasWay.org.

The end of BIGOTRY ?

Despite advances in gay rights, race is still at the forefront for black LGBT Texans

MATHEW SHAW | Contributing Writer
mathews.yb@gmail.com

The Supreme Court's marriage equality decision may have been handed down more than a month ago, but for Carter Brown, a black transgender man, there are still more fights to be fought.

"I see marriage equality as a separate entity," Brown said. "I don't see marriage equality in the same sight as fighting for someone's life. Black people are fighting for their lives to matter."

Brown is the founder and executive director of Black Transmen, the first national nonprofit organization created by black transgender men and transgender women.

Marriage equality is not a priority for the black LGBT community because of other issues they have to face, Brown said. For him, the intersection of his trans identity and his racial identity puts him in a position where he has to try to protect

himself from anti-transgender bias as well as racism, which affect his ability to be employed, secure housing and even his safety.

Brown said he feels more oppression as a black man than as a black transman not only because he feels liberated by his transgender identity, but also because of how he feels society responds to him as a black male as opposed to as a black female.

"I feel like I have to work harder to prove my skills and intelligence as a black man than maybe as a black female," he said. "I believe that society expects black females to succeed in corporate America, but black men ... they have to work twice as hard."

Craig McNeil, Dallas County assistant district attorney, said his race is more apparent to people than his sexual orientation.

"When I'm in the courtroom and I'm wearing my tie and my suit, people see me as a lawyer," McNeil said. "But when I'm out at the grocery store and I'm wearing a T-shirt and flip flops, people see me as a black guy, and that can be a negative impression for them or not."

Even though he's a lawyer with a badge, McNeil said he's mindful of what he's doing if he gets pulled over by the police.

"That's something I learned as a young man — 10 or 12, your parents give you the talk," he said. "You gotta treat the police with respect and dignity or they're going to hurt you. I think every black child, especially sons, gets that talk."

Fort Worth resident Bianqua Hunter, however, said it's harder to deal with being gay than being black.

"At least when I'm black, I have the support from the rest of my black community," Hunter said. "But if I'm lesbian, then I might lose those people as well."

When her mother found out she was a lesbian, she did not talk to her for two years, time she can never get back because her mother is now deceased.

"My mother disowning me; that's something that impacted my life," she said. "It actually made me question my identity at the time. I wondered, 'Is there a way I can not be gay? To not pray this away? What can I do to not be gay? If I go marry a guy who's great to me, will that make me better?'"



Black Transmen founder Carter Brown, above, and Living Faith Covenant Church pastor Alex Byrd, below.

But then I realize I would be living for everyone else and not myself, so I would make everyone else happy but I would be miserable."

Gay black men, however, have a harder time being accepted in the black community than do lesbians, she said.

"As a lesbian, you're going to be accepted faster than a gay male in the black community because as a male you're now a sissy, you're not a man," she said. The reason for this is because lesbians can still bear children.

"During the time that my mom didn't talk to me, if I gave birth to a child, I know that would have ended her stubbornness," she said. "She would have welcomed me back in because there was hope that I might be straight."

Furthermore, a black woman can be bisexual, but a black man cannot.

"There's no such thing as a black bisexual male," she said. "The way they look at it, you bent over, you let a male touch your parts that weren't supposed to be touched, you're gay. No real man does that."

The reason bisexual women have an easier time is because they fulfill a fantasy for men, she said.

"Every guy has a fantasy of two women, so when a guy hears that you're bisexual, their first thought is, 'Oh, can I join?'" she said. "Her female friends who can understand the curiosity of another woman, they're going to accept her, too."

Alex Byrd, co-pastor of Living Faith Covenant Church in Dallas, who identifies as bisexual, said there is a super-imposed rift between his black identity and his LGBTQ identity.

"There are thoughts between those two communities that pit my blackness against my gayness, if you will, as if I'm supposed to be one or the other," Byrd said. "It comes, I believe, from the practice that to be gay is to be a white male. A white gay man is the model of what gay is."

Brown said racism in the LGBT community works by separating each other.

"At the top of the chain is gay white men," Brown said. "And then at the bottom of the chain still is black trans people. Once people claim their gay and lesbian identity, then they stick to those communities."

Denton resident Christian Watkins noted the lack of inclusiveness in advertising made by and for the gay community.





Christian Watkins, above, and Bianqua Hunter, below.

"There's not a lot of blacks included in the advertising," Watkins said. "There's not a lot of Asians included in the advertising."

Watkins has personally experienced rejection on account of his race and has heard stories from other people as well.

"I've had people [on Grindr and Jack'd] outright block me because of my race," he said. "On their profiles, they'll blatantly say no to certain ethnic groups."

McNeil, however, said he is not bothered by the lack of inclusiveness because he lives in an urban community.

"We're kind of our own culture in the LGBT community," McNeil said. "Everybody who doesn't have a six pack and blonde hair is about 65 percent of everyone else. Every part of our society is represented by someone who's not really repre-

sentative of the culture as a whole."

As far as the black community accepting family that are LGBT, Brown thinks there's still a lot of work to be done. Black people were oppressed even in religion, and the only time they could find fellowship was on Sundays at church where they would listen to a white man preach about how slaves should stay in their place.

"The black community has a long, long history of religious abuse," he said. "And a lot of black people grow up in spiritual households or have a strong spiritual influence in some form or another."

Other people's flaws and sins are not magnified like gays' and lesbians' are, he said.

"The black church will find out someone is gay or lesbian or transgender, they've been known to

BIGOTRY, Page 13



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Cocktails for a cause



Josh, a bartender at JR.'s Bar & Grill, pours a martini made with Equality Vodka. The founders of the spirits maker donate a portion of proceeds to help gay causes. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Equality Vodka was created by 2 straight guys who want to right the injustice they've seen around them

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Doug Jacobson, 66, lived through the devastation of the AIDS crisis in West Hollywood during the '80s. Recently, he went to a college reunion of his college drama department.

"Very few gay men made it to the reunion," he said. "I had to stop asking about people."

Bert Gallagher's experience with the LGBT community is more recent. Gallagher, 42, credits being invited to his first Lambda Legal event as his indoctrination into the discrimination.

From those backgrounds, these two men decided to do their part. Together, they created Equality Vodka, a Texas-based spirits brand with a mission: A portion of all sales goes to Lambda Legal to help fund its precedent-setting litigation on behalf of the LGBT community.

What's surprising talking to the two men isn't their dedication to ending discrimination or committing their company to be part of that fight; many people in the LGBT community have done that. What's surprising is that both men are

straight.

Explaining some of his outrage, Gallagher uses Texas' right-to-work laws as an example. He said that sounds like someone has the right to work.

"It's a right to discriminate," he said. "They can fire you if they find out you're gay. That boggles my mind. How can you do that to my friends?"

He started ticking off ways his friends have experienced discrimination.

"They won't recognize both parents [on a birth certificate]," he said. "The doesn't make any sense."

When he first learned those things, it was a wake-up call. "There are more people behind us with more money to undo what we're doing," he said. That's why Lambda Legal's work is so important.

While Gallagher is outraged, Jacobson gets more emotional talking about the friends he lost. At one point he said he couldn't talk about it anymore.

"If you experience that and turn your back on it, you're not much of a person," he said.

Although they live in San Antonio, Gallagher and Jacobson launched Equality Vodka in Dallas. Market research pointed to Dallas being the strongest and most organized gay market in Texas. Not only did Lambda Legal have a local office in Dallas, but they have worked with The Red Party,

a non-profit that raises money primarily for Legacy Counseling Center. And more simply, Jacobson said, "It's where we felt most comfortable as business owners."

Jacobson and Gallagher got into the liquor industry almost by accident.

"It's funny," Gallagher said. "You never know where life's going to take you."

The two owned a magazine in San Antonio. An alcohol company not only paid for the back cover, but provided the liquor for them to throw parties for their readers.

"We got the idea to start our own product," Gallagher said.

So they researched manufacturing, licensing and distributing and came up with their first vodka, Hudson Ferus.

"Dallas treated us so well," Jacobson said.

They tested recipes for an extra-fine premium vodka and while marketing their Hudson Ferus brand, Gallagher had made his connection with Lambda Legal.

One day he showed Jacobson a mock up of the Equality Vodka bottle and suggested, "Why don't we help?" Jacobson said he had tears in his eyes. After living in West Hollywood and losing so many friends to AIDS, he vowed that someday he would do something to help make a difference.

Using their experience with their first vodka

brand, they tested and reformulated a new product they called "ultra-premium, clean and clear."

They researched producing it themselves but learned that small distillers couldn't control the quality as well as a national manufacturer. While the first bottle might be perfect, the next might have impurities in it that ruin the taste. So they contracted with a company in New York to produce their brand.

Gallagher said unlike many companies that promise a percentage of profits going to a cause, they've built that into the price structure of their product. Because of federal taxes and state regulations, every bottle is accounted for. A certain dollar amount per bottle sold goes to support Lambda Legal.

After Equality Vodka was launched last summer at Lambda Legal's Landmark Dinner, distribution for the first year has remained mostly in Dallas. Now they're ready to expand to other cities in Texas and into the New York and California markets. When it comes to alcohol, each state has its own regulations and licensing requirements, so interstate expansion — especially for a small company with limited staff — can be a slow process.

In Dallas, Gallagher said, the brand has expanded beyond Cedar Springs Road by word of mouth as customers have asked for it in restaurants around the city. ■

Until death do us part

Lawsuit seeks to amend a death certificate and charges AG with contempt of court for ignoring Supreme Court ruling



James Stone, left, married John Hoskins in New Mexico last August. (Courtesy John Stone-Hoskins)

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Six months after his husband died, a Texas man is still fighting for legal recognition on his relationship.

Just hours after John Hoskins filed a motion to intervene against the state of Texas for refusing to amend his husband's death certificate, U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ordered the state to issue the amended document.

The motion was filed on Aug. 5 by attorney Neel Lane, who represented two couples in the Texas marriage-equality case. In February 2014, Garcia ruled the Texas constitution's marriage amendment was unconstitutional. That decision was stayed pending appeal, but affirmed by the Fifth District Court of Appeals after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

"Texas denied them the dignity and respect they were entitled to," Lane said.

At a press conference after filing the petition, Lane held up the death certificate issued to Hoskins and pointed to the blank line for spouse. "That blank spot erases everything represented by their marriage," he said.

The motion not only asks that an amended death certificate be issued, giving Hoskins the right to inherit his husband's estate, but asks that Kirk Cole, interim commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, and Attorney General Ken Paxton be held in contempt of court.

Garcia insisted Texas issue the new death certificate immediately, and gave Cole and Paxton until Aug. 10 to submit written responses to the charges of contempt. They must appear in his San Antonio court on Aug. 12.

Mark Phariss, a plaintiff in the Texas marriage-equality case, said Garcia's quick ruling indicated the judge will make sure same-sex

couples have the right to all of the benefits of marriage in Texas, and he's not going to be tolerant of those who try to obstruct full implementation of the *Obergefell* marriage-equality decision.

Hoskins and his husband James Stone were legally married in New Mexico in August 2014, on their 10th anniversary. Stone, 32, committed suicide in January in Conroe after a battle with Sjogren's Syndrome, a genetic autoimmune disorder.

Because the death occurred before the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 marriage-equality ruling, Texas listed Stone as single and referred to Hoskins as "significant other" on the death certificate.

After the *Obergefell* decision, Hoskins took his husband's death certificate to a state health department office to have it amended. He was told by the clerk that they were awaiting instructions on amending vital records, but to check back in a week.

Hoskins said when he returned to the office, he was told they were not going to amend the certificate.

"We shared a last name," Hoskins said. "Conroe police referred to me as the husband in the police report."

But when the certificate was issued, Texas refused to list him as husband or to acknowledge the name they had changed to Stone-Hoskins.

He said he gave the state multiple opportunities to amend the document and that has caused emotional stress.

Hoskins was recently diagnosed with advanced-stage cancer and said he may not have more than two more months to live.

"I may only have a very short time to live and I want to see this accomplished and this death certificate amended before I die," he said.

And it looks as if Garcia will make sure his wish comes true. ■



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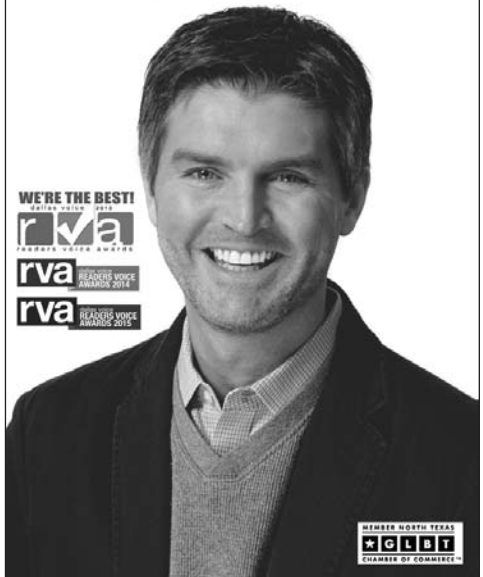
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James Russell Staff Writer | 124

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Photo courtesy StephGrantPhotography.com

Tongue clucking over Exxxotica conference is sexual repression masquerading as something else

I'm hoping to get to walk through my first picket line this weekend. Exxxotica is coming to Dallas, and so many people have their panties in a wad about it, I can hardly believe it. We have homeless people melting in 100-plus-degree heat. We have hungry people who can't feed their children. We have people who have been out of work for months on end. We have young people killing themselves because of bullying.

And Dallas is upset because porn stars and sex toys purveyors are going to be descending on our fair city and (*gasp!*) helping people to improve their sex lives.

Conservatives are, as usual, using their favorite weapon of choice: Distraction. Instead of saying what they really mean — "We're prudes and we want to control what consenting adults can have access to because we want everyone to follow our religious agenda" — they start shouting hot-button issues that they know will incite liberals and conservatives alike. This round's distracting issue of choice: sex trafficking.

Very few social issues horrify me more than sex trafficking. It's a despicable practice of the lowest degree, degrading, humiliating and dehumanizing to women and children. Those involved in it



Jenny Block
Contributing Writer

should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and those victimized by it should be rescued and sheltered and supported in every way to help them recover and resume a normal life.

But sex trafficking is not the same as sex between consenting adults or even

pornography. This is not a conference about how to sign up to be sex-trafficked. It's a conference about sex and having sex and what it's like to be in the adult industry — to choose to be a part of the adult industry.

It's like saying fast food is disgusting so I can't go to any kind of restaurant any more.

Personally, I can't wait to go. I'll have a booth there where I'll be signing my new book about how to have killer orgasms. I'll be doing three seminars. One about my new book *O Wow: Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm*, one about my old book, *Open: Love, Sex, and Life in an Open Marriage*, and one about — go figure — sex positivity in the media.

As a lesbian and outspoken feminist, you might expect me to be opposed to pornography. But I see

what happens at events like Exxxotica differently. Everything I will be doing and talking about will be about sex positivity and consenting adults. In a way, it's designed to help avoid things like trafficking by bringing sexuality out of the darkness and into the light where it belongs. If we supported people's natural urges instead of shaming them, there would be less of a need for prostitution and trafficking in the first place.

I hear so many people say that they go to prostitutes or even strip clubs or — if nothing else — cheat on their partners because they are unable to be their whole sexual selves because they are ashamed to talk to their partner about what they want. The goal of expos like these is to educate people and empower them to be able to communicate and play with their partners. Sure, there are going to be porn stars of nearly every variety and genre and some extreme stuff that not all of everyone will be interested in. But who cares? Take in what interests you and leave the rest and, for God sake, stop taking it all so damn seriously. It's sex.

And if you don't like the expo, here's a solution: Don't go. Problem solved.

It's basically going to be a perfectly innocent weekend of dirty fun. Contests where you have to name as many sex positions as you can in 15 seconds to win a trip. A twerking contest. A little kink and fetish and bondage. A little fun. Exactly what sex is supposed to be.

Newsflash! Sex is not just for making babies. It's

supposed to be enjoyable. It's supposed to be wet and noisy and silly and raucous and romantic and thrilling and any combination of all of those things. What it is not is lurid and disgusting and something to be ashamed of. It's a healthy, natural behavior that is being attached to appalling criminal behavior in order for conservatives to continue to push their Bible banging agenda and, honestly, I can't take anymore.

I find nothing more boring and exhausting than hypocrisy.

Conservatives want to tote their guns and shoot our lions and control what women can do with their bodies. They want to teach their creation fantasies in our schools and not pay taxes. But they don't want people to use their brains and live au-

thentic lives and have hot sex that just might include a little porn and more than a few batteries.

So, I'm going to go something every political this weekend. I'm going to attend Exxxotica. I'm going to speak at Exxxotica. And I'm going to promote healthy sexuality at Exxxotica and not be distracted by noise being create to serve other people's personal political agenda.

Oh, and I'm going to get my photo taken with Jesse Jane. I just love her, don't you? ■

Jenny Block is an author and Dallas Voice contributor who will be attending Exxxotica at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 500 N. Griffin St. Aug. 7-9. Block will appear Aug. 7 at 7:15 p.m., Aug. 8 at 4:30 p.m. and Aug. 9 at 5:15 p.m. You can learn more about her at TheJennyBlock.com.



BIGOTRY, From Page 9



Dallas County Assistant D.A. Craig McNeil.

cast that person from church," he said. "However, the church will turn around and take up a collection to have another church member get their family member out of jail for a crime they've committed, or the pastor's probably having an affair with somebody in the church and no one's condemned to Hell for that."

Brown believes homophobia is different in the black community because of how black men are expected to behave.

"The black community is more matriarchal, however men are still expected to be very macho, very hypermasculine," he said.

Byrd disputes that. "There is no credible data that can prove [the black community as any more homophobic than any other commu-

nity]," he said. "Why are African Americans singled out as being more homophobic? My theory is that a narrative has been created around that issue, and I'm not sure that it did not come from the African American gay community."

Byrd said the narrative came as a result of black LGBT people talking about their experiences with the larger black community, and that resulted in the idea that the black community is more homophobic.

"The African-American gay community often will use that narrative to give them more speed toward that goal line," he said. "So if I'm oppressed by white folks and I'm oppressed by my own folks, then I'm more oppressed."

Watkins believes things have improved over the years, saying that even his mother has acknowledged coming a long way since his coming out.

"I grew up in church and I know who I am and I know who God created," he said. "I am beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image. No man, no woman, no doctrine can keep me from believing that."

Brown said he's seen a magnitude of progression on race relations in America. For there to be more progress, he said that people with privilege need to understand what their privilege means and use it to help others.

"Privilege doesn't exactly mean giving away all your money or changing your neighborhood or your neighbors," he said. "Privilege should mean recognizing that you have privilege and should actually care enough to give back to those who have less privilege."

Ways that privileged people can give back include helping minority schools, building a shelter for trans people or using one's business to offer services to the LGBT community.

Even those without privilege have more they have to do, Brown said. "I'm specifically speaking of those who just complain. We need everybody to take action, to put in some work so we can collectively make the changes that we want to see in the world." ■



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Join the Club

Boy George dishes about reuniting with his old bandmates from iconic '80s group Culture Club

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music



The falsetto is gone. When Boy George sings now, a rich tone resounds. He refers to it as “the voice of experience.” The voice, once fluttery and high, can be traced back to the early '80s by way of a long, glittery trail that George blazed as frontman for Culture Club. The band formed in 1981, at the onset of a second, MTV-aided British invasion, and the foursome turned out a treasure trove of sonic gold, most notably “Karma Chameleon” and “Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?”

Within a few years of their emergence, Culture Club was a bona fide act of great significance. Instantly, they became the first band since The Beatles with three songs from their debut album, 1982's *Kissing to be Clever*, to reach the Top 10 on Billboard's Hot 100. And it wasn't just music they were influencing. It was fashion. It was politics. It was gender. It was the queer community as a whole.

Now Culture Club is back. After more than 12 years apart, the original members are reuniting for a tour and a new album — their forthcoming LP, *Tribes*, their first album together since 1999's *Don't Mind If I Do*.

George (né George O'Dowd), now 54, recently rang to sound off on a smorgasbord of topics: Culture Club nostalgia, the Madonna vs. Lady Gaga rivalry, his massive hat collection and the lack of any pop star “stand outs.” ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Why is now the right time for Culture Club to reunite?

Boy George: The idea first started about four years ago. With all the different management, and just so many complications, it's taken this long to actually get everybody together. When I suggested it four years ago it seemed like a really simple idea; it turned out to be quite complicated! [Laughs]

Now we've gotten into rehearsing, and we recently did *Today*, although we didn't have Jon [Moss] there, but it was our first live thing together in a while. The thing about Culture Club, but also just bands in general: The fun is always the playing and the recording and the writing. It's the other stuff that's kind of boring.

Culture Club makes the most sense when we're on stage and concentrating on what we're doing musically. [The tour is] gonna be interesting. It's as much a surprise for me, but obviously, we know there's a lot of affection out there for what we are collectively.

Do people expect you to be the same band you were 20 years ago?

Are you still the same band? I don't think anybody expects me to be what I was 20 years ago. If they do, they're deluded. [Laughs] I've never spoken to anybody who said, “You're nothing like you were 20 years ago.” There are some people in the world who believe you could be suspended in animation, I think, but we all get older and we all develop. And, in fact, I think I'm a very different performer. I actually prefer what I do now.

Why is that? I like the noise that I make now because I feel like I've earned it. I feel it's a voice of experience. I feel I'm more connected to

what I do. Vocally and emotionally I'm more connected to my life, full stop, and I'm kind of happy with who I am.

There's always room for improvement, of course, but I don't have the sort of insecurities that I had when I was a younger man. People say to me, “You were so confident!” I probably appeared confident but, perhaps underneath, I wasn't. I think life is about growing into yourself, accepting who you are and maybe having a better relationship with who you are, sort of liking yourself, and I think I'm closer now than I've ever been.

How long did it take you to reach that point? It takes a long time to get there, but you know, some people just don't get there. And I don't know how you get there, and I don't know how you know you're there, but you operate with a sense of peace. In life, it's very easy to do what you've always done. It's very easy to slip back into bad attitudes, bad habits and personality traits.

Speaking of bad habits, you've been very vocal in discussing your drug and alcohol use early on in your life. These days, what's the wildest you get? What's a typical night for you like now? Obviously I don't think of those past things as being wild days — I just think of them as being quite negative. I was talking about this last night at dinner. I think what you learn as you get older, if you're smart, is that the joy is in the mundane things — the small things, like being with your family, taking a walk, having coffee with friends, having meals with friends, good company. It's like that saying, “the devil is in the detail” — sometimes I have the most fun when I'm just walking around with no set plans. Because there's so many special effects in my life in terms of the career thing and traveling and all of that kind of excitement, I counterbalance it with sheer

BOY II MAN | At 54, George isn't a boy anymore — he's a mellower musicmaker... but still happy to sound off. (Photos by Dean Stockings)



ordinariness in a way, and that's where I have the most fun sometimes.

How did your signature look come to involve hats? Going to clubs as a kid, we were always trying to over-exaggerate our look — a hat is definitely a way of over-exaggerating an outfit! Back then I was sometimes doing a kind of Carmen Miranda thing and wearing a turban! It was just basically plundering every kind of theatrical idea you could imagine, and hats — I just love hats. Hats have to wear you. You can't buy somebody a hat because that's like buying somebody a haircut.

How many hats would you say you have? I have quite a few that I can't wear anymore because they're damaged, but I refuse to let them go. [Laughs] I have about 40 wearable ones, and I'm always adding new hats to the collection.

You must have a hat room. They're scattered around. Also: They're a really good thing to give to auctions. People are always asking me for things for charity, so I'm always giving them to people to sell.

How many different hats do you wear onstage? At the moment I've got a few that I'm gonna try out. The thing about stage costumes is, they seem like a great idea until you put them on. Trying to dance around in them in the heat — the hat makes that decision for you. But I've got some quite fierce looks for this tour, and I'm gonna up the ante. I think it's quite important, because at the moment everybody looks like everybody else. Everybody in a band seems like they're in the audience. You look at a band on stage and you say, "Oh, it's really nice that they're on stage and they've wore their gym clothes to the gig." [Laughs] There aren't really many artists — just a lot of backroom boys pretending to be artists. A lot of producers who become pop stars. But there really aren't many artists around or anybody that stands out. It's a weird time for pop culture, and I suppose you can only measure current pop culture by what it was like when you were doing your thing. So, I'm always gonna measure it by what I've grown up with: David Bowie, Annie Lennox, Prince, Madonna... Of course I'm gonna measure it by that, and I don't see any of that around at the moment. I mean, Gaga, Nicki Minaj and Rihanna — they're working a bit of a hot look. More the girls.

What do you think it says about the current state of the music industry that Gaga ended up toning down her image? Actually, what I think is interesting about Lady Gaga is she's an incredible theatrical vocalist. She has a whole Judy Garland / Liza Minnelli thing going on, and I'm actually more of a fan of what's she's doing now than... I

mean, I loved what she did in the beginning. It was great. I remember seeing her on TV and thinking, "What's she got on now?!" [Laughs] But in terms of her musicality, what she's doing now is amazing.

I was in bed a few months ago — I had to get up really early the next day — and there was an advertisement for Gaga and Tony Bennett. There was a show on TV and I said, "Well, I'll watch a bit of it and then I'll go to sleep." I ended up watching the whole thing and being gobsmacked by how great she was.

How fair are the comparisons to Madonna? I'm not saying this to diss Madonna at all — I mean, Madonna doesn't have anything to prove to anyone; she's Madonna! — but I really felt all those comparisons were a bit stupid. Of course someone like Lady Gaga, who's younger than Madonna, is gonna be influenced by Madonna. It's a complete compliment. That's how you have to view it. Whenever I see anybody working a look that I might've had back in the day — I've done it. Why do I need to get upset about it?

As someone who's always stood for gender fluidity and gender expression, what are your feelings on Caitlyn Jenner? I think it's amazing, but there are a lot of other people being overlooked, like Candis Cayne. Caitlyn Jenner is getting the limelight because of the Kardashians, but there are a lot of people who have made that transition — her transition — possible.

I feel in a way we're starting to, in part, live in a world I always wanted to live in. When I started my career, I was very naive. I wanted to change the world. I wanted to live in a world where it didn't really matter if someone was gay or straight, transsexual, lesbian, whatever — and we're certainly getting closer in some areas.

You gotta remember that myself and Caitlyn Jenner live in a celebrity bubble to a certain extent, and there are different rules in that celebrity bubble. But I think it's great. I think it's always wonderful when someone is allowed to be who they wanna be no matter how long it takes. I think that's a beautiful thing to watch. When I saw that interview with Diane Sawyer, I was quite tearful.

I have to say, though: There's a daisy chain of people who affected change long before I was around, like Oscar Wilde and Quentin Crisp. There are people no one knows about from the Victorian time. I'm always kind of coming across drag queens and Bohemians who were around 100 years ago who were a part of that daisy chain. So, I think it's amazing that we're edging toward the kind of liberalism that I always dreamed of.

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

When you see a “classic” of theater for the gazillionth time, which is probably a close estimate for me of my experiences with *The Glass Menagerie*, you kind of lose your ability to be excited, or discover something new. Is it really possible another production can reveal for you something you haven’t seen before? Of course, that’s no reason *not* to see it — this is probably someone else’s first time, and they haven’t become as jaded as you ... yet.

Which is why two things began to astonish me watching Theatre 3’s season opener of Tennessee Williams’ famed memory play. First, I don’t recall laughing as much in prior versions of *Menagerie* as I did here. Maybe that’s because the humor is mostly front-loaded: By the time of the final fade-out, when the tragic romance between fragile, twitterpated Laura Wingfield (Alison Pistorius) and her gallantly pleasant gentleman caller Jim O’Connor (Sterling Gafford) sinks in, you’re usually too enervated to remember the laughs of the first half. But this time is different; this time, the overbearing mom Amanda (Connie Coit) lingers — not just as a nosy harridan, but as a quick-witted ageing belle

at her wit’s end. The moment when she walks out at the top of Act 2 in an ornately inappropriate gown, looking like a cross between Baby Jane and Miss Haversham, is the last great guffaw before tenderness takes its place, and then itself falls to Williams’ cynicism.

And that’s the point at which I made the second great discovery of this production: As I have gotten older, I find myself siding more and more with Amanda. Oh, sure, she’s the stereotype of the meddling mother — the kind who, pop psychologists will tell us, turned her beleaguered son Tom (Blair Baker) gay from excessive maternal smothering. (Hey, he’s going *somewhere* when he says he’s headed for the movies ... and we know he doesn’t wanna tell mama.) While Amanda has, in the past, always entertained me in an “at least she’s not my mom” manner, this time I feel Laura and Tom would do well to shut up and take her advice for a change. There’s a frustration factor, not unlike the one between Felix and Oscar in *The Odd Couple*, that was there all along, but unseen because Williams’ sympathies clearly lie with his surrogate, Tom. And Tom is really the worst of the bunch. Sure, by the end he’s self-flagellating and superficially remorseful, but never truly apologetic. That would entail thinking of someone other than himself.

SUPREME | Diana Ross never sounded more like Diana Ross than in the jukebox musical ‘Motown,’ now at the Winspear, above; Theatre 3’s ‘Glass Menagerie,’ opposite, finds unexpected humor in a classic.



The indulgent *artiste* is the most banal of literary devices (Tom is the weak spot in the show, almost always), but even if it weren't, Coit, Gafford and Pistorius take turns stealing the limelight. Laura is the most repetitive of the characters, whose debilitating shyness keeps her remote and isolated from us, but Pistorius' scaredy-cat performance tugs at our pathos. Gafford, who was impressive earlier this summer as the likeable lug in Uptown Players' *The Nance*, is equally adept at projecting Jim's well-intentioned but reckless affability.

Coit, though, grabs the lion's share of our attention. Her genteel Southern lady living in lower-class squalor is amusing yet frightened. The real tragedy of the Wingfields isn't having an unmarried daughter; it's knowing that the future for yourself, however short, is bleak. It's a metaphor for ageing itself. Maybe that's why I finally get Amanda. It's a terrible thing to know better, and not have anyone take you seriously.

You're not meant to take **Motown The Musical**, which has another week in its run at the Winspear, all that seriously. This is a book musical in only the sketchiest sense: There is a plot, and characters and a point of some degree, I suppose. But it's really just a framework around which to hang the soundtrack of the modern rock era — the music of Detroit.

It's too bad that the full story of the birth of Berry Gordy's (Josh Tower) record label, which transformed the sound of the '60s by bringing "race music" to the masses, is given short shrift. Sometimes it feels like every other Broadway show is a jukebox musical about the craft of writing the perfect three-minute pop song (*Jersey Boys* and *Beautiful*, to name just two). But aside from being an impresario and apparently bilking his artists out of millions (an allegation that gets clouded over in a fog of R&B music), we don't really come to know Berry Gordy. The

thrust of the plot is whether he'll show up for a 25th anniversary TV special held in his honor. You've achieved some rarefied ether if your greatest worry is whether to accept tributes from an adoring public.

But — and I can't stress this enough — *who the hell cares?!?!* No one, least of all the Gordy family, is coming to see *Motown* for the insights into character. We come for the singing, for the dancing, for the music. *Jersey Boys* takes a good 45 minutes and 15 songs before it stumbled into the Four Seasons' actual hits; *Motown* takes less than 45 seconds. It launches into the score with such vigor and energy, it's more cover-band concert than Broadway musical. When Allison Semmers takes to the stage as Diana Ross, you feel like you're seeing the real deal. It's a lovely fake-out of faux Supremes, Jackson 5s, Stevie Wonders and Marvin Gayes. The fun is infectious.

I didn't expect to be able to recommend anyone see **Jerry Springer: The Opera** up at the weirdest suburban theater company in America, Grapevine's OhLook. It's a late-night show (curtain is at 11 p.m.) in a cramped space sandwiched in a strip mall; audience members enjoy drinking in their seats and hooting along with the raucous show, based (obviously) on the salacious talk show. It's *Rocky Horror* with few costumes and no throwing of toast.

So far. The show has been a hit, so they extended it one more weekend. If you can shoe-horn yourself into a seat, or even a pillow on the skirt of the stage, I encourage you to do so, because who knows when you will get a chance to see this hilarious but surprisingly operatic musical again? It's a vulgar and profane examination of celebrity culture and the coarsening of society told with wit and anger with a guerrilla-theater sensibility. How often can you say that about opera? ■

ON THE BOARDS

THE GLASS MENAGERIE at Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. Through Aug. 23. Theatre3Dallas.com.
MOTOWN THE MUSICAL at The Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Aug. 16. ATTPAC.org.
JERRY SPRINGER: THE OPERA at OhLook Performing Arts Center, 1631 W. Northwest Highway, Grapevine. Friday-Saturday. OhLookPerform.com.

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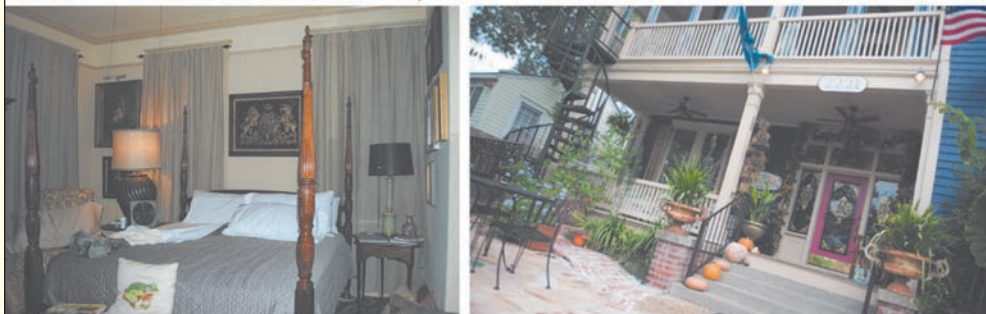
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Despite its fast-casual roots, Firecrust does traditional Neapolitan pizza right

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Americans don't understand pizza.

There. I said it. And I'm glad I did.

It's not that we can't appreciate it. In fact, pizza is so idiosyncratic, in many ways it's a pointless boondoggle to even write a review of one pizza joint over another. We like what we like, and we don't have to explain ourselves.

But our debate is all wrong. We argue about the additions and benefits of deep dish over thin crust; we scoff at (or champion) dessert pizzas; we rail against people who have black olives, and always insist on extra cheese. Thirty years ago, we convinced ourselves that putting pineapple on pizza made it Hawaiian. I'm not sure Hawaiians feel the same way. And I'm sure Italians don't.

And Italians have virtual veto power over what's called "pizza." They invented it. They named it. And what they make in Napoli — or Tuscany or Rome, for that matter — is not exactly what we're used to here in the states.

Still, stylistically, Firecrust — the Uptown in-and-out pizzeria located in Knox Village — gets it about as traditional as a Neapolitan pizza comes in the fast-casual sector of American dining. This isn't artisanal Italian cuisine, of course; but pizza counts as an entire food category on its own. We judge it by softer criteria. Getting in quick is part of the charm, but it shouldn't boil your tongue; the cheese must be mild but creamy; the ingredients fresh. Get that right, and you're on your way.

■ PIZZA Page 20

BUILDING BLOCKS | The 'original' pizza, the margherita, forms the basis of many Neapolitan-style pies at Firecrust, including the porktacular Siciliana, pictured above. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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■ PIZZA, From Page 18

The question is, how closely does Firecrust come to achieving what it sets out to do: Recreate a traditional style for American taste buds? *Ben fatto*.

There are actually many regulations to creating the Neapolitan classic — the margherita pizza: it can't be more than about a foot in diameter, and must be hand tossed (and never rolled mechanically, or even with a pin). It has to be thin in the middle, and cooked in a wood-fire oven. And that oven has to be *hot* — we're talkin' 900 F, here — and the cook time, despite what it says on that box of DiGiorno that's in your

freezer, is very, very short: 90 seconds (typically 45 seconds one side, turned, 45 on the other). Any variation and it stops being "real" Neapolitan pizza. Whatever that means.

They've got the method down pat at Firecrust, including traditional recipes for the basic margherita, the progenitor of the modern Italian pizza. Made up of the colors of the Italian flag (green basil, white mozzarella, red tomato), it provides the clean, simple freshness that genuine pizzas represent to most aficionados. The mozzarella is *fior di latte* (cow's milk, not the more authentic *bufala*) served and spheroid dollops, not shredded like grass clippings across every corner of the dough. The cheese isn't meant to obscure

the colors of the sauce and herbs, but rather to complement and accentuate them.

Of course, the margherita isn't the be-all and end-all of pizza (although, Chicagoans' insistence notwithstanding, you shouldn't expect something thick and doughy). From that base, however, you can add all of the accoutrement your North American palate has grown to enjoy. One of the pleasures of pizza is that, while there is a traditional style, it's literally peasant food, originally served to poor people in the way tacos or Yorkshire pudding were, which have taken on their own sensibilities.

Firecrust offers plenty of variations. The Sicilian (\$10.75) is loaded with pork (Italian sausage,



ham, prosciutto); I enjoyed the saltiness from the fire-roasted pig meat, plus the brininess from the mozzarella. The stark white pizza (\$5.75), made without red sauce, is a fine variation, as is the cheese-less marinara (\$5.50). The staff is perpetually pleasant

Dessert creations, like the s'mores calzone (a doubled-over pizza oozing sugary goodness), would be unheard of outside American shores, I suspect. But who doesn't like a little sweet pocket of crust and cream? Tradition is one thing, but creativity is the American way. ■

Firecrust, 4447 N. Central Expressway. Open daily 11 a.m.–11 p.m. FirecrustPizzeria.com.

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TASTING NOTES

The benefits of marriage equality just keep coming! **Villa-O**, the Travis Walk Italian staple, has offered "girls night out" specials for years. Now it's time to include the guys. Thursdays now offer men *and* women the same food and drink specials: Signature cocktails for \$7, wells and domestic beers for \$4 and select appetizers 50 percent off from 4 p.m. to close.

The travel company **Butterfield & Robinson** has partnered with **Savuer** magazine to design some upcoming gastronomic tours of the world this fall. Travelers will be given the chance to meet and dine with chefs, good with local food artisans and enjoy offbeat epicurean adventures. Planned trips include Peru (Oct. 19–26), New Orleans (Nov. 12–15) and Sonoma/Napa (Nov. 19–22). More information is available at Butterfield.com.

Richard Graff, the opening executive sous chef at **Gemma**, is now the executive chef at the **Meddlesome Moth**. The gastropub and taphouse will continue to serve a chef-driven menu of shared plates. **Oak**, Meddlesome Moth's neighbor in the Design District, has a new power lunch special Monday–Friday (2 courses for \$20), plus a Friday only surf and turf concept: a lobster and pork rib roll for \$18. OakDallas.com.

New to Uptown: **Winslow's** celebrated its grand opening last weekend, and continues to serve everything from brunch to cocktails. **Citizen**, a new "experiential lounge," has set a fall opening. Located on Fairmount, it will serve cocktails as well as a menu designed by **Rodman Shields**.

Restaurant Week is upon us, but some restaurants not on the list are still offering dinner specials. **India Palace** has a three-course dinner available Aug. 10–16 for \$35 that includes a complimentary glass of wine. It's located on Preston Road at LBJ.

— A.W.J.



Saturday 08.08

Will Drag Racer Raven really be in Dallas this weekend? You bet

OK, even we are amazed how many contestants from *RuPaul's Drag Race* have visited Dallas lately, but hey, we ain't complainin'! The latest is Raven, who will be attending as part of the Vegas Nights, a fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund/MetroBall LifeWalk Team. There will be blackjack tables, poker, prizes, boys and a show headlined by Miss Thang. You can put money on it — it'll be a hoot.

DEETS: The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 6 p.m. doors and game play; 8 p.m. curtain.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets

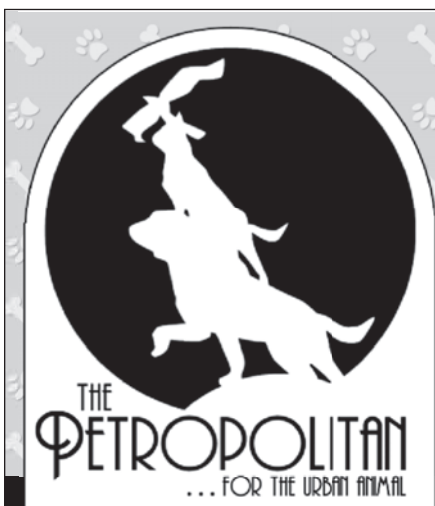


Saturday 08.08

D'oh! Dark comedy 'Mr. Burns' gets its regional premiere at Stage West

We're tending our fingers and saying "excellent!" at the chance to see *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play*. A regional premiere, this dark comedy is set after an apocalyptic catastrophe where the survivors perpetually reenact episodes of *The Simpsons*. Opening night is Saturday, but it runs through Sept. 13. Ay caramba!

DEETS: Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 13. StageWest.org.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Catch Me If You Can. Uptown Players presents the Tony-winning musical, based on the Steven Spielberg film, and written by the team that created *Hairspray*. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

Jerry Springer: The Opera. Edgy OhLook mounts the regional premiere of this odd and hilarious opera about the salacious talk show host. The show has been extended this weekend by popular demand. OhLook Performing Arts Center, 1631 W. Northwest Highway, Grapevine. Friday and Saturday at 11 p.m. OhLookPerform.com.

One Minute Play Festival. Kitchen Dog Theater presents the second annual collection of brief plays by local writers, including John Michael Colgin, Jonathan Norton, Marco Antonio Rodriguez, Jeff Swearingen, Tom Sime and Matt Lyle. Green Garson Theatre on the SMU campus, 6110 Bishop Ave. Saturday–Monday at 8 p.m. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play. Regional premiere of the dark comedy about a post-apocalyptic world where *The Simpsons* has become a cultural touchstone. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Aug. 7–Sept. 13. StageWest.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: Macbeth. A follow-up to the hilarious spoof of *The Nutcracker*, this time with the dim-witted conservatives mounting Shakespeare's shortest, bloodiest tragedy. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 16 (extended). MBSProductions.net.

The Glass Menagerie. The first show of Theatre 3 new season — and the first without the late Jac Alder's leadership — is this classic Tennessee Williams drama.

Reviewed this week. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Aug. 23. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Othello. The final show of Second Thought Theatre's season is Shakespeare's classic tragedy of jealousy and revenge; directed by Joel Ferrell. *Final weekend.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

Motown The Musical. Musical about the early days of the record label that defined a genre of music. *Reviewed this week.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Aug. 16. ATTPAC.org.

The Color Purple. Alice Walker's novel about racial and sexual liberation adapted for the musical stage. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 23. JubileeTheatre.org.

Curtains. A light-hearted musical mystery set in the theater world; directed by B.J. Cleveland. Presented by ICT MainStage. *Final weekend.* Irving Arts Center's Dupree Theatre, 2222 N. MacArthur Blvd. IrvingTheatre.org.

Sweet Charity. The buoyant musical about a girl unlucky in love boasts a book by Neil Simon and score by Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 16. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

I'm Always on My Mind. A world premiere one-man show about a narcissist who doesn't realize it... yet. Theatre 166, 2425 Parker Road, Carrollton. Through Aug. 28. Eventbrite.com.

CIRCUS

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey: Legends. The world-famous Greatest Show on Earth settles into North Texas. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave., Through Aug. 9; Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St. Fort Worth, Aug. 12–16. Ringling.com.

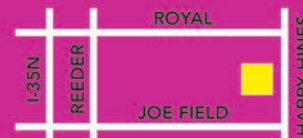
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ORGASMIC EVENT | Jenny Block, who writes an op-ed piece in this week's edition on the Exxxotica conference, will sign copies of her new book 'O Wow,' about the art of the orgasm, at a launch party at Komali Wednesday.

FINE ART
Digital Photography. The ilume Gallerie opens a group exhibit of digital photos from five artists. The opening

night artists' reception is a benefit for a fund set up in honor of one of the artists, who was murdered in 2013 during a robbery. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, ste. 107. Through Aug. 11. ilumeGallerie.com.

CHAOS!!! 2015. A curated exhibit of small works from more than 100 guests and gallery artists. Ro2 Art Downtown Gallery, 110 N. Akard St. Through Sept. 12. Ro2Art.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 08.07

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 08.08

SPORTS

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

TUESDAY 08.11

FILM

Harvey. One of the most charming fantasy-comedies of

the 1950s, with James Stewart as a sweet-natured alcoholic whose best friend is a 6-foot-tall invisible talking rabbit. Josephine Hull won an Oscar as Stewart's fretting sister — and rightly so. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie 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.

WEDNESDAY 08.12

BOOK SIGNING

O Wow: Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm. Dallas Voice contributor Jenny Block will appear and a signing and launch party for her new book. Komali, 4152 Cole St. 7-10 p.m.

FINE ART

Youth First Second Annual Art Show. The Youth First program of Resource Center hosts its second show of art from young people. Sponsored by the ilume Foundation for the Arts. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, ste. 107. Artists' reception, 6-8 p.m. ilumeGallerie.com.

THURSDAY 08.13

CABARET

Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

THEATER

God of Carnage. The volatile comedy about parents on

the edge. Presented by Our Productions. Studio Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Aug. 13-23. OurDallasProductions.org.

Streamers. David Rabe's award-winning drama about soldiers headed for Vietnam who react when one of their number comes out at gay. The Firehouse Theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane. Aug. 13-29. JasonLeyva.com.

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

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this week's solution

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Cassie raises a glass ... but what of?

Hear ye! Hear ye! I have just recently realized the awesomeness that is *wine*! Let me explain.

I have always been a fan of the liquor (insert lesbian joke here). Once I turned 21, I was cocktailled at every single show. I always said, I like my liquor like my dicks — hard! I have never been what we call a messy drunk. I would drink at the shows because it was what we did; we are at a bar, after all. Customers see us drink so they drink more. Many of our fans love to buy us shots, and it would be rude not to drink them. Still, no matter how much I drank, I was always able to do my job as an entertainer. I never got so wasted that I could not finish my show ... although a couple of times, I came close. I remember once drinking so much, I threw up right before I went onstage but *still* lip-synched the shit out of Lisa Loeb's "Stay."

I guess you could call me lucky because I have never once blacked out and not remembered the night before. A few times I wish I *could* forget some of the vile ridiculousness that has been spewed from my face hole. But nope, I have an elephant's memory even after a drunken rampage. I was also lucky that I never got pulled over while buzzed. Not that it happened a lot, but there were a few times I know I should not have been on the road, so thank you sweet baby Jesus.

But now I am in my 40s, and drinking three or four nights a week was catching up to me. My post-drinking recovery time was getting longer and longer,

even though I had the best hangover remedy (two Advil, a big glass of water and a banana before bed; worked every time). I would still feel like I had my ass kicked by Ronda Rousey the next day. I would spend the day bitchy, sore and easily annoyed. I guarantee you that after my husband reads this, he is going to ask me if I am hung over every day.

I decided it was time to slow my roll. For a while, I simply tried cutting back, but that didn't work. One drink would lead to seven and so on. I finally decided it was time to quit, so on Halloween of 2014, I had my last drink of alcohol during a show. It was pretty difficult at first; the easiest way to deal with drunk people in a bar is to be a drunk person. For the first few months, it was awful; I would go on stage on autopilot, just going through the motions. Then something clicked and I realized I was having fun again. My job really is a blast and it was great to see I didn't have to be wasted to enjoy it. I was finding that I didn't have to be shitfaced to be funny or to have fun.

Don't get me wrong, I was not cutting alcohol out of my life completely. I would still have the occasional beer or mimosa at a Sunday Funday or on the lake. I just wasn't going to drink during the shows. I am fortunate enough that I get to do a lot of shows, and so eventually I am sure my liver was going to go on strike or call social services for being abused.

So last week I was making dinner and the recipe called for half a cup of wine. Well, I am not one to waste anything, so I drank the rest of the wine. I've never been a huge fan of wine but this shit was good. Please don't judge me when I tell you how I served it — the most white trash way ever: over ice. It was transcendent. I don't think I have ever been able to drink and just chill with nothing to do. It is a completely different experience when you don't have to worry about a single thing. I didn't have to worry

about getting paid or paper work after a show. I didn't have to worry about performing. I didn't have to worry about driving home. I was able to just enjoy my buzz and not do a damn thing. I'm 43 years old, and I don't think I have ever truly enjoyed drinking as much as I did on that Winesday (which if what I will forever call Wednesday from now on). Winesdays are my new favorite thing.

I'm off on Winesdays and so I am going to enjoy a class of wine and just chill.

And now time for a question from the audience...

Hey Cassie! I miss seeing your show since I moved to Portland! Hope you're all doing fabulously.



My question might be a little serious for this, but I'm gonna ask anyhow.

I grew up in a hyper-religious household like a lot of us queers from the South. I'm talking speaking in tongues and everything. My father hacked into my MySpace account (now I feel old) when I was 16 and found out I was gay. My parents isolated me and tried to pray the gay away for two weeks until I ran away. I was headed for New York, but the cops arrested me at the bus station in Kentucky.

Anyway, I'm 25 now and I've been through a year of therapy over everything that happened to me. I have always wanted to write about it more and try to help kids in the same situation. The problem I keep running into is having to work 40 hours a week at a soul-sucking job and not having the time and energy to get it done, or even really started. I'm not expecting you to know what I'm supposed to do, but a fresh perspective typically helps me see something I've missed. Well, that's it for now. If nothing else, I got to vent! Thanks for reading! All my love, Corban.

My dear Corban, Your story is an important one. I think you should make the time to tell your story, even if it is only a post on Facebook, it could really help someone out there. When you are young there is nothing more comforting to a young gay person than to know they are not alone in their experiences. I guarantee there is someone out there right now going through the same bullshit you went through. Imagine how you would have felt knowing there is a light at the end of your all-consuming tunnel. If you haven't already seen it, watch Del Shores movie or play *Southern Baptist Sissies*. It is a beautiful moving story that will probably touch close to home. That feeling of isolation and loneliness you feel when you are going through that kind of stuff is awful and not to sound cliché but it does get better. I think it is important to share our stories with one another because you never know who it might help. Thanks, Cassie.

This world can be a tense, ridiculous place but there is nothing that a nice glass of wine served over ice, fresh from the box won't fix. Cheers bitches!

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.



LIFE+STYLE

scene



Friends on The Strip.

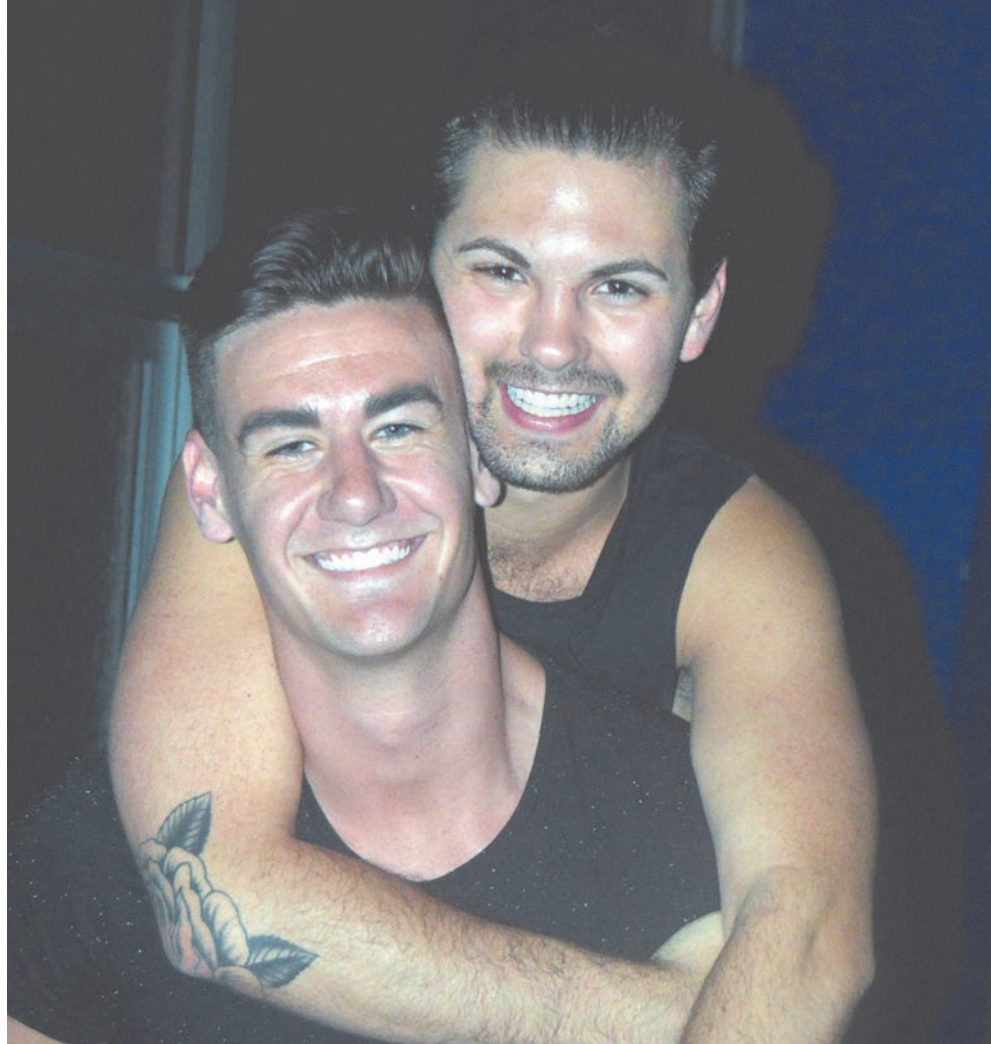


Laughing it up on The Strip.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Aug. 7-13**:

- **Alexandre's**: Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. Mi Diva Loca on Saturday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Alicia Silex on Thursday.
- **Best Friends Club**: The Brandon Steadman Band at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **BJ's NXSt**: Southern Trash Bash at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Brick/Joe's**: Markel and Buttercup at 11 p.m. on Friday. Team Metro Vegas Nights from 6-9:30 p.m. on Saturday. Blackjack and poker at 6 p.m. Entertainment with MC Sable Alexander and featured performer Raven at 8 p.m.
- **Changes**: Wall of Food show at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday. Cowtown Leathermen meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.
- **Club Reflection**: Texas Gay Rodeo Association cookout at 4 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. TGRA and Cowtown Leathermen game night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: Women in Leather social night at 9 p.m. on Friday. DFW Leather Corps meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday. National Leather Association club night on Saturday. LVPWA Auction at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Bear of the Month Contest on Thursday. Trivia Night with Mama Payne on Thursday.
- **Rainbow Lounge**: Miss Gay West Texas Pride USofA at Large on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon**: Project Funway returns on Monday at 9 p.m. for 10 weeks of competition. Miss Gay USofA Newcomer starring Kira Tic-Toc Daniels prelim nights at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's**: LifeWalk benefit Flashback Friday Dance Party at 8 p.m. on Friday. Mojo Dolls on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. and Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room**: Voice of Pride finals at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

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



Tyler and Cody at S4.



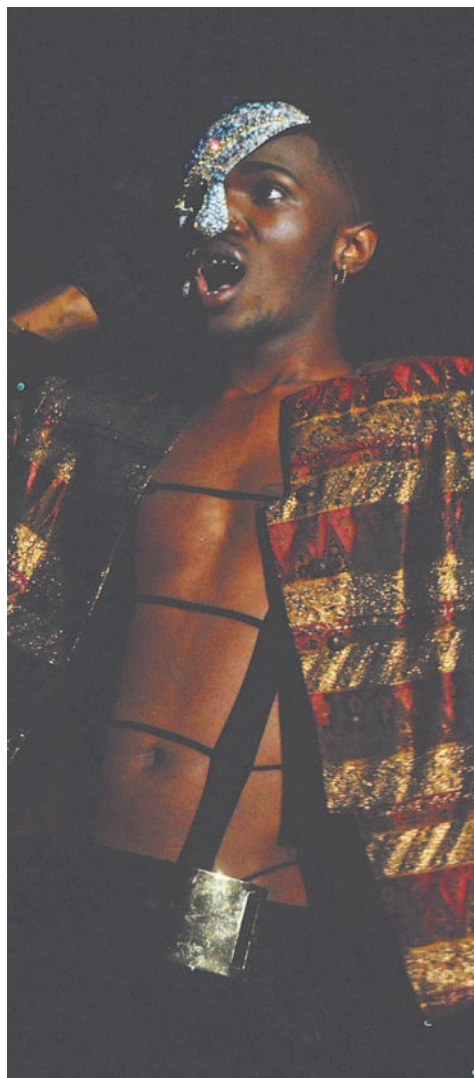
Miss Silver State State At Large 2015 Jazzmin St. James DeMonaco with Onyx Anderson, Miss Gay Texas State at Large 2015, at The Brick.



Miss Silver State State 2015 Kalia Lee Nix with Sapphire Ray Brooks, Miss Gay Texas State 2015, at The Brick.



Alexis Rayn and Chanel Champagne at S4.



Performer at S4.



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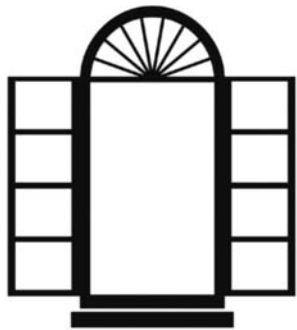
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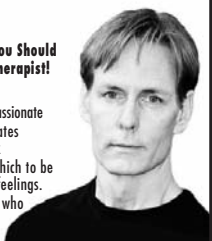
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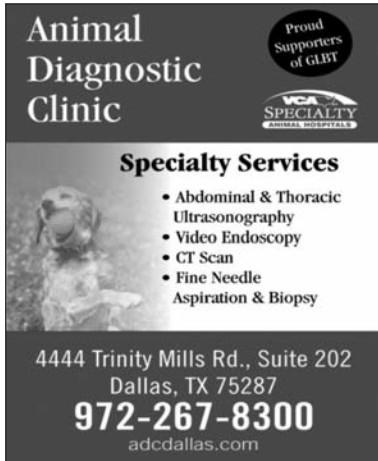
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Billy Ralph Wesson, Deceased, were issued on July 27, 2015, in Cause No. PR-15-01925-2, pending in the Probate Court No. 2, Dallas County, Texas, to: Jerry Love Wesson.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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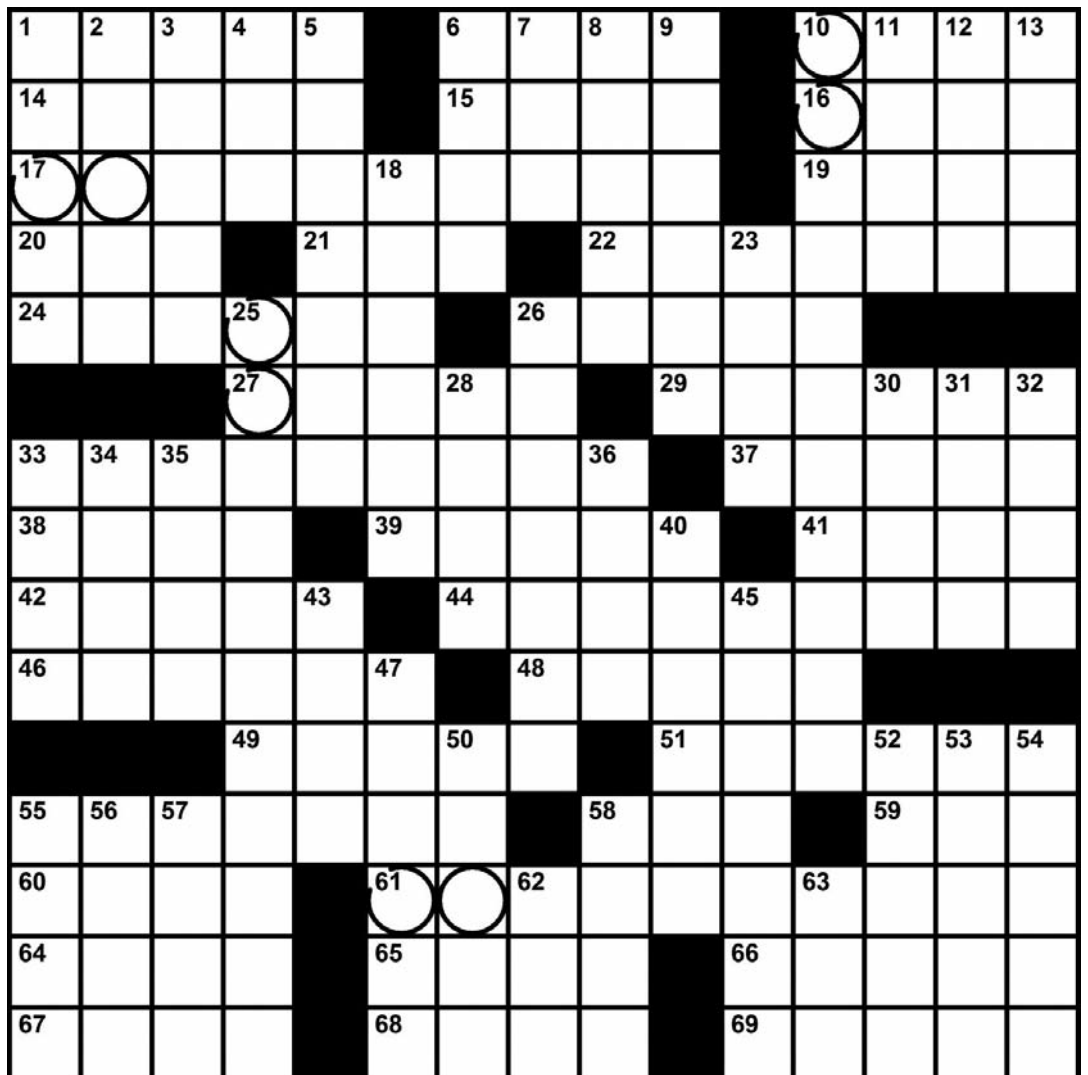
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q-puzzle



Take Him Back

Solution on page 23

Across

- To the rear
- Mary's little pet
- ___ and Clark
- It may slip over one's head
- Poet Khayyám
- Sculptor Stebbins
- Bold color choice by Frida?
- Greek
- Hrs. in Key West
- Village Voice columnist Hentoff
- First shot, for Amelie
- More cut and dry
- "Fiddle-___!" (Scarlett)
- Skip a syllable
- Minute part
- Sondheim musical
- Matt, who once dressed as J.Lo
- Sailors cruise on them
- In a state, in southern states
- Pound of verse
- Word before "ass"
- Like a tiny, limp member?
- Novelist Miller
- Queen in Kings
- Went up
- Truant Bueller
- Kurtz of *More Tales of the City*

- Women's patriotic org.
- Mouth-to-mouth pro
- Blades of grass, collectively
- Active partner that you want to see?
- Made a hole-in-one, to Sheehan
- Russian river
- Ex of "The Donald"
- Major or minor, to Bernstein
- What you lie on with burning desire?
- Pester, as Albert to Armand

Down

- Warhol's range?
- Blowhard's words
- One from the heart
- CBS forensic drama
- Where bitches hang out
- Senator Trent
- Latin I verb
- Home for Troy Perry
- Practices heterosexuality
- Dismissal order to Julius?
- One-time Atlanta arena
- Colorful computer
- Barneys event
- Over the top

- Rod attachment
- Elle Woods into S&M?
- He spreads your cheeks
- Day, to Caligula
- Greek liqueur
- Big name in soft balls
- "Nuts!"
- Italian wine city
- Frida's half-dozen
- Student org. for "family" and friends
- The like
- Ready for final assembly
- Patty Sheehan's supporters
- College town in Ohio
- Out of commission
- Fruity explorer?
- Raise the price of, at Barneys
- Words before "roll" or "budget"
- Patron of O. Wilde's homeland, briefly
- It may be grand, to Glenn Burke
- Home of the Baylor Bears
- Got a little behind
- James, who filed suit to be reinstated as a scoutmaster
- It tops many roads
- NASA outing

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