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October 16, 2015



Does every **Will** have his **Grace**?

UTA doctoral student Eric Russell puts the pop culture claim to the test, scientifically speaking

by Tammye Nash, Page 7

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Cover design by Kevin Thomas

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Obituary



Alan Frakes, 70, died at his home in Dallas on Oct. 3.

Born in Lawton, Okla., Frakes moved to Dallas at 19. He began his business, The Frame House on Routh Street in Uptown, in 1967 and was one of the leading picture framers in Dallas for 47 years.

Frakes is survived by James Young, his spouse of 35 years. They were legally married in Clarkston, Wash., in 2012. He is also survived by two nephews, one niece and five great-nieces and -nephews.

A graveside service will be held at Greenwood Cemetery on Oak Grove Street (behind the LaTour Condominiums) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24.

A Community Picnic

The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle
Sunday, October 25
11:30AM - 2:30PM



Our goal is to bring the community together and get to know our neighbors, build community relationships, and enjoy a fun and relaxed afternoon! We want to let the community know that we are loving, fun and welcoming to all!

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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.

OCTOBER

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with guest Kevin Jennings, founder of GLSEN; **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., 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. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or rramirez@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Oct. 16-18: Beyond Vanilla XXV** Annual BDSM workshop weekend at the Dallas Marriott Las Colinas, features workshops, vendors, private play-parties, entertainment, a silent auction and a Saturday night keynote address by Dallas' own Hardy Haberman. General registration for the weekend is \$119; day passes are available. For a full schedule of events and more information visit BeyondVanilla.org.

• **Oct. 16: HRC DFW Federal Club** Monthly mixer from 6-8 p.m. at Renfield's Corner, 2603 Routh St. Rooftop reserved and happy hour extended. Valet parking available.

• **Oct. 17: Oak Lawn Band Presents "Freak Magic: A Symphonic Band Concert"** Free concert at 8 p.m. at North Dallas High School Auditorium, 3120 N. Haskell Ave.

• **Oct. 17-18: Old Oak Cliff Conservation League Home Tour** Self-guided tour of historic neighborhood homes benefitting member neighborhoods and area non-profits. \$20 pre-registration and \$25 day-of. Discounts available for seniors. For more information and tickets visit OOCCL.org.

• **Oct. 17: GLBT Leadership and Advocacy Program Scholarship Fund "Spooktacular" Fundraiser** LGBT leadership group hosts benefit for scholarship fund from 7-10 p.m. at ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. For tickets and more information visit Spooktaculardallas.org

• **Oct. 17: Impulse Group Dallas Launch Party** New chapter of AIDS Healthcare Foundation promoting safe sex launches it Wrap that Big D Up campaign with "sexy circus" at 129 Leslie in the Design District from 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

• **Oct. 17: Gaybingo: The Prancing Dead** Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center from 6-9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4458 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Oct. 17: "Freak Flag," A Queer Exhibition and Dance** QueerBomb event features live entertainment and dance party with five DJs with emcees Nikki Trash and Ida Mae Watergates at 8 p.m. at Red Light Lounge, 2911 Main St. Show at 9 p.m. Party at midnight. Costumes encouraged. 18 and older. \$10 suggested donation. Proceeds benefit Queerbomb Dallas 2016. Purchase tickets at Freakflag.eventbrite.com. For more information e-mail QueerBombDallas@gmail.com.

• **Oct. 17: Fourth Annual LGBTQ Summit** All day summit features speakers, workshops and breakout sessions by community leaders on topics including domestic violence, immigration, and the marginalized history of LGBT activism by people of color. Breakfast and lunch provided. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For more information contact Juan Contreras at JContreras@LULAC4871.org or 469-867-0613.

• **Oct. 18: Pegasus Squares LGBTQ Square Dancing Open House** First of two open houses hosted by Pegasus Squares, a LGBT Modern Western Square Dance club, hosts from 2:30-4:30 p.m. on Oct. 18 and 25 at the Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St. Ste. 103. No experience required. Singles welcome. For more information visit Pegasus-Squares.com.

• **Oct. 18: Great Gatsby Benefit for AIDS Interfaith Network** Roaring Twenties-themed benefit includes complimentary valet parking, open bar, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and live entertainment from 3-6 p.m. at the home of Faye C. Briggs, 5909 Desco Dr. For more information and tickets visit Bit.ly/1Flu06e.

• **Oct. 18: NO H8 Campaign Photo Shoot** Show your support for LGBT equality with the national LGBT equality campaign from 2-6 p.m. at the W Hotel-Victory, 2440 Victory Park Lane. \$40 for solo photos or \$25 per person for groups. Cash and credit cards only. E-mail info@noh8campaign.com.

• **Oct. 20: 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,

Pegasus Squares LGBTQ Square Dancing



The LGBT and ally modern western square dance group, offers two open houses for those interested in learning more about the dance form that originated in DFW region. No prior experience required. Interested parties may sign up for a variety of fall classes ranging from beginner to advanced. Dress casually and bring friends to this high-energy event.

Fort Worth. For more information contact Finn Jones by phone at 214-499-0378 or by email at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

• **Oct. 20: JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club** Monthly book club discussion meets every third Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. Open to all women. Free. For more information e-mail jewel@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Oct. 20: Dallas County Stonewall Democrats Meeting** LGBT Democratic group meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month at Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information call 214-506-3367 or e-mail Info@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org.
• **Oct. 22: Gray Pride: Senior Moments** Monthly Senior Moments series discusses topics and issues impacting LGBT seniors meets every third Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. Free. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail GrayPride@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Oct. 22: The Group** Support group for black men who have sex with men living with HIV meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at a private location. For more information call 214-455-7316.

• **Oct. 23: Purple Foundation Presents Purple Happy Hour** Catch up with friends and kick off the Dallas Halloween Block Party at the last Purple Happy Hour of the year from 6-8 p.m. at the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Oct. 24: The Queer: A Conversation** Five queer ministers and theologians speak for 15 minutes on various themes from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit On.fb.me/1RbIRrt.

• **Oct. 24-25: Dallas Showcase Classic Basketball Game** Basketball tournament bringing 30 national affiliates of the National Gay Basketball Association and hosted by Score Moore Lives and Dallas Alternative Basketball Association includes two days of competitive basketball and three nights of social activities at University of Texas at Arlington and Cedar Springs Tap House. Free. For more information contact tournament director Scott Moore at scoremoorelives@gmail.com.

• **Oct. 25: AIDS Outreach Center Hope Walk** Starts 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Park Pavilion, 2300 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. For more information visit AOC.org/walk.

• **Oct. 25: Pegasus Squares LGBTQ Square Dancing Open House** Second of two open houses hosted by Pegasus Squares, a LGBT Modern Western Square Dance club, hosts from 2:30-4:30 p.m. on Oct. 18 and 25 at the Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St. Ste. 103. No experience required. Singles welcome. For more information visit Pegasus-Squares.com.

• **Oct. 25: St. Thomas Episcopal Church Community Picnic** Family and LGBT-friendly event with a cook out, games and music from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. For more information contact 214-352-0410.

• **Oct. 29: Saddle Up for Social Studies Benefit for Samaritan House** Kick-off event for Texas Council on Social Studies benefit for Samaritan House features emcee Hondo, host of Impact Texas, and guest speaker Kinky Friedman from 7:30-9 p.m. at Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St. \$50. For tickets and more information call or e-mail Elvira Muñoz at 817-332-6410 ext. 195 or emunoz@samaritanhouse.org ■

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Dallas Employee Retirement Fund recognizes common law marriage

The Dallas Employee Retirement Fund recognized a common-law marriage on Tuesday, Oct. 13 that was filed in Tarrant County. It is the first common-law marriage fully recognized in the state of Texas.

Jim Fritsch and Bill Parker filed a common-law marriage that recognized their 23 years together. Fritsch is a retired city of Dallas employee. For Parker to continue to receive pension benefits if anything happened to Fritsch, they had to prove they were married at the time of the retirement.

The pension board recognizes Texas' informal common-law marriages equally with those marriages registered with a marriage license.

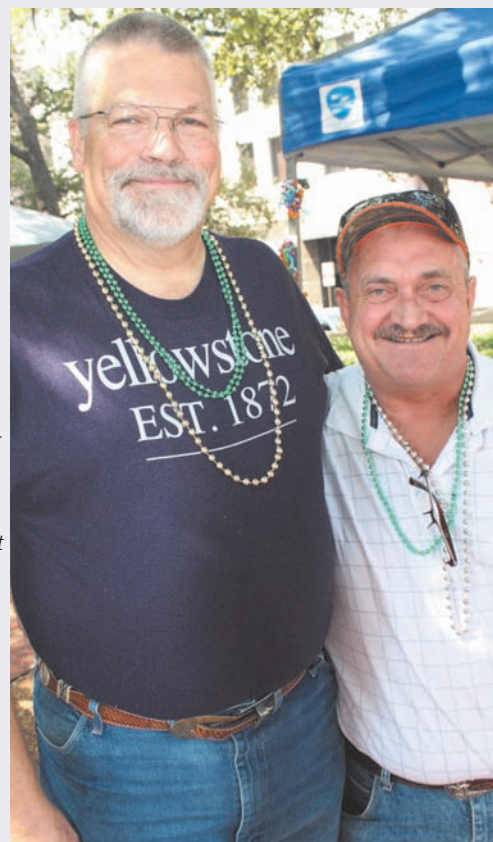
Tarrant County Clerk Mary Louise Garcia at first rejected Fritsch and Parker's petition for recognition of their marriage but she changed her position after a story appeared in the Dallas Voice.

— David Taffet

Former Dallas DA employee files petition to remove Hawk from office

A petition to remove Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk was filed by a former employee on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Cynthia Stormer was the chief of the DA's Administrative Division from March to September 2015, when Hawk fired her. She had previously worked as chief of the Mental Health Division and as the DNA



Jim Fritsch and Bill Parker

attorney with the Conviction Integrity Unit.

Stormer was one of numerous high-level officials at the office who was fired by Hawk, a first-term Republican.

Hawk returned to work last week after two months in a mental rehabilitation hospital.

In her affidavit, Stormer describes Hawk as erratic and unstable.

— James Russell

Gallo's new AIDS vaccine to begin human trials

Dr. Robert Gallo, the man who in 1984 first proved that AIDS is caused by HIV and who now runs the Institute of Human Virology, has spent the last 15 years developing an AIDS vaccine. And now that vaccine is about to begin tests in humans, according to an article in Science magazine by Jon Cohen.

The Phase 1 trial will involve 60 volunteers and will focus only on testing the safety of and immune responses to the vaccine. It is being held in collaboration with Profectus BioSciences, a biotech that recently spun off from IHV.

There have been more than 100 AIDS vaccines tested over the years, but Science notes that Gallo and his team have developed a vaccine with "an unusual method of protection."

The vaccine development team is being led by George Lewis with IHV, and includes Anthony DeVico and Timothy Fouts.

— Tammye Nash

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



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Every Will has his Grace

Eric Russell looks at the relationship between gay men and straight women through the lens of scientific experimentation

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor

nash@dallasvoice.com

Every Will has his Grace, right? At least, that's what pop culture tells us. "Straight woman with her gay best friend" is a trope that dates back decades in TV and movies. It probably dates back centuries; I mean, Cleopatra probably had her gay friend with whom she shared all the dish on Caesar.

It's always been that way, right? Everybody knows that gay men and straight women always get along better.

Everybody knows it, maybe. But no one has ever put that to the test, scientifically speaking. Not until now. Now Eric Russell is changing all that.

Russell is a doctoral student in experimental psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington. He recently successfully defended his master's thesis — and earned his master's degree — presenting the results of his scientific experiments on just that topic.

"I have always been interested in the whole 'Will and Grace' phenomenon," Russell said. "So for my master's thesis, I decided I wanted to hone in on the psychological perspective" of the interactions between gay men and straight women.

"Who hasn't heard about how straight women always get along better with gay men?" he continued. "What I wanted to do was actually study that relationship in a laboratory setting. Nobody has done that before."

"Past literature and popular culture have suggested that a strong, interpersonal bond quickly develops between straight women and gay men," Russell points out in his thesis, titled, "How Well, and How Quick, Do They Click? Initial Dyadic Interactions Between Straight Women and Gay (vs. Straight) Men."

Then he continues, "However, research has not yet explored whether this phenomenon can be observed in their initial interactions. The current study was developed to redress this gap in the literature by experimentally examining the unique connection between straight women and gay men as it emerges."

("Dyadic," by the way, simply means the researchers were examining interactions between two people.)

Russell explained that his experiment was designed to allow him to study the interaction between sets of two people in a laboratory setting,

without letting them know what was really going on. He used a "cover story" to get his subjects into the lab, so none of them knew the real purpose of the experiments beforehand.

Russell brought in 58 straight women and 58 men, all of whom were "complete strangers" to each other. Half of the men were straight and half were gay.

Each woman was paired with a man, and each

pair engaged in two five-minute interactions. For those straight woman-gay man pairs, the woman did not know before the first interaction that the man was gay. But that info "was made salient to them immediately before the second interaction period."

Throughout the experiment, audiovisual recordings were made of each pair and their interactions, without them knowing about it. The ex-

periment ended with the pairs completing "measures assessing their overall level of rapport and comfort level" with their interactions. And when all was said and done, each person was "debriefed," he said, and told what was actually going on.

"Most of them were totally cool with it and we were able to get them to sign a waiver to let me use the recordings. Most of them signed," Russell

GRACE, Page 13



Eric Russell and Katie Rose Watson

Arlington is embracing its LGBT community

As the city has grown to be the 50th largest city in the country, Arlington is slowly catching up in areas of diversity

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com



When the Municipal Equality Index comes out in November, Dallas and Fort Worth will fare well. But for the most part, surrounding cities will not.

Plano passed a nondiscrimination ordinance that was well intentioned but lacks protections for the trans community.

In 2013, Irving received a score of 10. Last year, that city dropped to 0. If the school district's and mayor's approach to a creative and smart Muslim student is any indication of Irving's level of tolerance, its score should remain where it is.

But on the south side of the Metroplex, Arlington has been quietly working to become a place that welcomes everyone. Last year's MEI score was 11 — 10 points for reporting hate crimes and 1 point for "leadership's public position on LGBT equality."

But local activists say that score doesn't reflect what's actually going on in the city.

That's important to the LGBT community for a city as large as Arlington, the third largest city in the Metroplex. With a population of 380,000, it ranks seventh in Texas and 51st in the U.S. (Last year, Arlington ranked 50th, but New Orleans continues to regain population each year as it recovers from Katrina and passed Arlington by a few hundred residents this year.)

To put the city's size in perspective, Arlington has a larger population than other Major League Baseball cities St. Louis, Pittsburgh or Cincinnati. And each of those cities is the center of its metro-

politan area.

Arlington, on the other hand, grew as a suburb that took advantage of its convenient location between Dallas and Fort Worth and proved a good place to locate attractions like Six Flags Over Texas, close to both cities. Monitoring diversity policies in the bedroom community wasn't something most people thought about — until Arlington recently began popping up on lists of largest cities in the U.S.

"There have been measurable improvements in work done in the city," Fairness Fort Worth President David Henderson said.

That work actually dates to 2012 when University of Texas at Arlington hosted a White House LGBT Conference on Safe Schools and Communities. Then-Attorney General Eric Holder was the keynote speaker for the event the city helped host. City officials attended and took note.

While Arlington City Council hasn't yet added sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's EEO policy for city employment by ordinance, they've added it in practice.

On the human resources page of the Arlington city website, it says, "Each day we work to bring these values to life by valuing the whole range of human differences, including age, ethnicity, education, sexual orientation, work style, race, gender and more."

Henderson said the city hasn't just added hol-

low words to its website. "Arlington reached out about more than one employee considering transitioning" on the job, he said.

The city contacted Fairness Fort Worth to discuss best practices to allow the employees to transition on the job and how to answer questions or concerns fellow employees may have.

The city also contracted with Fairness Fort Worth to provide cultural competence training for its police department and parks and recreation staff. Henderson said about half the city staff has participated in the ongoing training sessions.

Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson told Dallas Voice this week, "We are excited to be able to facilitate this comprehensive training program that reinforces our oath of office and commitment to provide equal protection under the law for all persons. The Arlington Police Department strives to promote equality and respect by providing procedural justice in both police-citizen encounters and in the workplace."

In addition, Arlington Police Department Assistant Chief Jaime Ayala participated in this month's Tarrant County Pride parade along with other members of his department.

That cooperation between APD and the LGBT community began several years ago after a group of teenagers vandalized several cars in an Arlington neighborhood. One of the targeted vehicles had a family sticker indicating it belonged to a les-

bian couple.

"We built relationships as a result of that hate crime," Henderson said.

Those relationships have grown to include Chief Johnson inviting Henderson to participate with him in visiting neighborhoods with him on National Night Out and communicating with him when groups like Westboro Baptist Church have visited Rangers and Cowboys games.

DeeJay Johannessen, executive director of Health Education Learning Project, lives in Arlington and would like to see the city's elected officials be more proactive. He called on Arlington leaders to make the city a safe environment for its employees and citizens. (Johannessen's partner, Chris Hightower, ran for city council in 2011 as an out gay man, losing by a narrow margin in a runoff.)

Johannessen said Arlington's four largest employers — the Dallas Cowboys, the Texas Rangers, General Motors and Arlington ISD — all have nondiscrimination policies. He believes the city will step up and add protections only when businesses force it to do so.

Current negotiations with the Texas Rangers may be the tipping point. Arlington wants to keep the team but Dallas, with nondiscrimination protections in place, would love to move it to a downtown Dallas location.

Arlington is one of only two major league baseball hometowns without some form of LGBT

APD Assistant Police Chief Jamie Ayala, left, marched in this month's Tarrant County Pride Parade. Founders plaza in Arlington, far left. APD Police Headquarters, below. (Photos by Tammye Nash and Cassie Quinn)

nondiscrimination ordinances in place. Major League Baseball already includes nondiscrimination policy for the league.

Arlington Independent School District already has protections in place.

Johannessen said he's spoken to AISD trustees who are very serious about stopping bullying. The Texas anti-bullying law was written by former Arlington state Rep. Diane Patrick.

In its Student Code of Conduct under misbehavior, "Statements or acts demeaning to a person's race, gender, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity" are listed as discrimination.

Sexual orientation is also included in the AISD nondiscrimination statement. Gender identity is not mentioned in the 109-page manual.

Johannessen said Arlington is in negotiation with MGM Resorts to build a hotel and convention center in the city's entertainment district. For the last three years, MGM Resorts earned a perfect score on the Corporate Equality Index. That company is less likely to expand to a city without protections for its employees and visitors it's helping attract.

Johannessen suggested the city take baby steps.

Under Arlington's city charter, nondiscrimination protection for city employees could be added administratively. That's how Grand Prairie added protections that were in place for several years before anyone even noticed.

A city-wide ordinance would have to be voted on by the city council. That's less likely to happen, Johannessen said, because council members would be afraid of losing their seats.

While it looks like Arlington should receive a higher score on the MEI than it received last year, city spokesman Reginald Lewis said the city has never disputed its score.

Arlington should receive points for its school district's enumerated anti-bullying policy and bonus points should be awarded for city departments helping employees transition on the job. But Lewis said his understanding was that the score was derived from a survey taken by the organization in Washington and couldn't be challenged.

Whether or not Arlington does get credit on this year's MEI for work done to improve the lives of its LGBT residents and people who work in and for the city, lots of work needs to be done and Henderson said Fairness Fort Worth will continue to do what it can to help. ■



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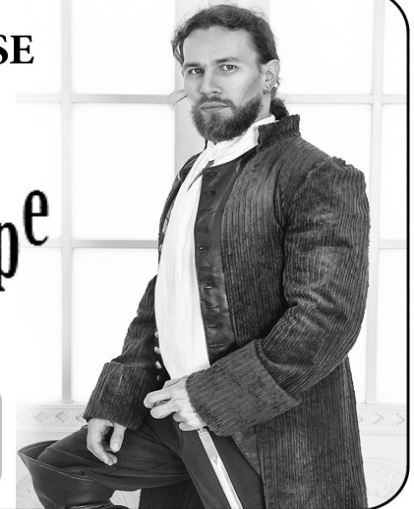
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Old Oak Cliff Conservation League shows off history with home tour

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

It takes a lot of work to show off other people's homes, especially homes that took a lot of work to renovate.

So imagine showing off other people's renovated homes as annual fall home tour director for the expansive Old Oak Cliff Conservation League. The umbrella organization of 30 member neighborhood associations covers nearly 10,000 residences.

What better way to manage the personalities and diversity of the region than form a committee?

Philip Leven heads the committee charged with planning the league's annual home tour, now in its 42nd year.

Leven hasn't been chair for that long — it's only

his second year — but the Hampton Hills resident said the process of picking and choosing entrants works. And it's not that hard to get people to recommend potential sites for the tour.

"We rely on people to recommend themselves or others, but we're not above knocking on someone's door [if we like their home]," he said, referring to the planning committee's dedication to the tour. "We start early in the year, around March or April, and we'll look at 15 to 20 homes and pick 10," he said.

The goal is to show off as much as diversity as possible in the neighborhoods.

"It doesn't have to be a historic home or a million-dollar home," Leven said. "The home just has to be interesting." (Cookie cutters need not apply.)

Homes, however, do not have to be houses. In the past, tours have included condominiums, apartment buildings and even community and commercial spaces.

"We've included churches if they have cool architecture, and commercial spaces [for the same reason]," he said. "We like to include good exam-

A potential development, pictured top in artist's rendering, has residents of Oak Cliff concerned it will change the area's character. Homes on the tour, above and top right on the next page, reflect the neighborhood's character.



ples of smart design.”

This year, homes span a century of key American design movements.

There’s the 1913 Craftsman-style bungalow in Winnetka Heights. It had sat abandoned for a decade until 2003, when the current owner purchased it after seeing it on the tour. The craftsman bungalow has been refurbished and includes an impressive art collection, including works by the influential group of Dallas artists known as the Dallas Nine.

Then there’s the remodeled East Kessler split-

level ranch home built in 1952. It was a home in need of repair. The owners brought life to the home using the Eastern Wabi Sabi philosophy, which acknowledges imperfection and transience, and natural elements.

There’s a special addition to this year’s tour. It costs a little extra, but it’s worth checking out. The home built in 2014 in the Villas at the Belmont development behind the Belmont Hotel, provides an unrivaled view of the city.

The add-on is this year’s “premium home.”

The tours are self-guided but not isolated.

Homeowners sometimes prefer to not be around during the tour. Thankfully organizers have planned in advance should that be the case.

“We often assign a person from the league and ask the homeowner for help from friends and family. They serve as docents, providing history and context,” he said.

The tour doesn’t just give design lovers and peeping toms a rare opportunity to see homes. The money it raises goes toward a good cause, too: All ticket proceeds go to member neighborhood groups and area non-profits. Past recipients in-

clude AIDS Arms.

“It’s our biggest fundraiser of the year,” Leven said.

Neighborhoods and non-profits must apply for funds, but there’s often plenty cash to go around.

The tour also gives the league another opportunity: The tour fits perfectly into the league’s mission to promote and advocate for the multiple member neighborhoods.

Most recently, that advocacy has extended to listening to neighbors concerned over a proposed development in Bishop Arts by local firms Alamo Manhattan and Good Fulton and Farrell. Some are worried the development of multi-story buildings reflects a trend of future developments in the area.

One flyer described the development as indicative of city zoning laws allowing for “sidewalk-to-sidewalk, city-block-wide, out of scale, excessively tall buildings.” Developments lacking human scale do not reflect the character of the neighborhood.

That’s where the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League comes in.

“Our goal is to always to listen neighborhoods,” Leven said. And to show the neighborhoods off, too.

The 42nd annual Old Oak Cliff Conservation League Home Tour runs Oct. 17-18. Tickets can be purchased online at OOCCL.com. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for admission to the Premium Home during the tour.

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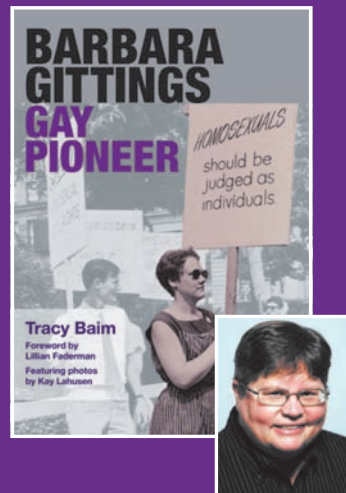
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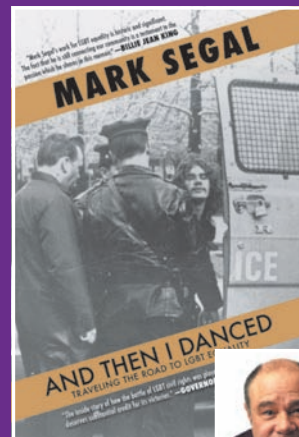
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A quarter-century of kink

Beyond Vanilla started 25 years ago as a small safe-sex workshop

It was a Thursday night in 1990 and I had decided to attend a meeting at the Resource Center presented by the unlikely pairing of the Dallas County Health Department and a group called the Disciples of de Sade. It was a class to explore ways to keep sex hot while keeping it safe.

I had pretty much expected another “Here’s how you use a condom” session, but the presenters intrigued me. They were mostly a group of gay men in the leather community who wanted to educate people on the many activities that make up BDSM (Bondage, Discipline and Sado-Masochism) that were actually quite safe when it came to transmission of disease.

At the time the only disease anyone seemed concerned about was HIV/AIDS, and after several years of “condom-only” sex many men were looking for safe alternatives.

What was covered was a bit tame to me; after all, I already had some experience in the realm of kink. Still the idea that sex could be spiced up and still remain safe was a good message.

It was so good that what started as a one-night-a-week workshop has now become a full week-end of kink and entertainment. That is a quarter-century of kink, and it is stronger than ever.

Beyond Vanilla, presented by the National Leather Association-Dallas Chapter, still features safer-sex alternatives, but it has expanded to in-

clude much more. Every aspect of Leather/BDSM/Fetish/Kink is explored, and often in hands-on ways.

If asked in 1990 if I expected to be seeing an event like this 25 years later, I would have laughed. Heck, I had real doubts whether I would even be around 25 years later. All gay men did.

I have participated in Beyond Vanilla for most of those 25 years, though in the early days as an attendee and not an organizer. In later years I helped plan and expand the event to a full day of workshops at what is now Resource Center. One year it even featured a fetish fashion show, of which there is apparently video still hanging around. I have yet to find it, but I feel sure it will surface (hint, hint).

Finally, the event outgrew Resource Center, and we moved it to a hotel venue. It was a big step and a financial risk for NLA-Dallas.

That first year, in a now-defunct hotel on Mockingbird Lane at Harry Hines, we brought in a fair-sized crowd. And from that day forth, we never looked back.

Beyond Vanilla was a success. It didn’t just support itself; it fulfilled our mission to educate and welcome anyone with a sincere interest in what we now call “kink.”

It was a pansexual event, meaning we welcomed gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, straight and pretty much anything in between. It was a paradigm shift for the leather community.

What had started as mostly gay men and lesbians was now much closer to the demographic of the population at large. Turns out lots of people were hungry for the information we had to share.



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

In fact, we began attracting lots of new folks — both straight and LGBT — long before *50 Shades of Grey*.

Unlike that book, Beyond Vanilla gives attendees a much better sense of what real BDSM was about and how to do it safely.

This weekend, we expect hundreds of kinky folks to attend the workshops, entertainment and vendor market. There will be lots of information for just about any kink that consenting adults might engage in, and a chance to try out new toys and share new experiences during the private play-parties that are now part of the event.

And oh yes, I almost forgot one thing: It seems that after a quarter-century, some folks wanted to hear me run my mouth off. So the current organizing committee asked me to keynote the event.

The idea that I would be doing this still amazes me; 25 years ago I had trouble looking forward a few weeks, much less a quarter-century. The fact that I am still around, still coherent and as much a curmudgeon as I aspired to be is testament to the power of leather!

Beyond Vanilla runs Oct. 16–18. Information is at BeyondVanilla.org.

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



said. "And a lot of the gay men were very interested in it. They wanted to know more about what we were doing, and they wanted to know what we found out."

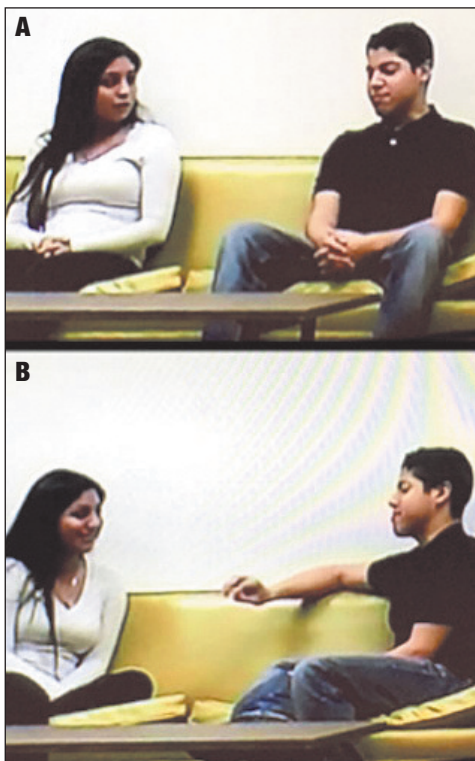
What Russell found out is that, yes, straight women are, indeed, more comfortable with men they know to be gay.

In his experiment, the women paired with gay men didn't know the men were gay in their first meeting. They found out just before their second meeting, and afterward the interaction between the women and the gay men in that second meeting was noticeably different.

As Russell notes in the synopsis of his thesis, the straight woman/gay man pairs "exhibited more intimate behaviors such as orienting their bodies more towards one another, maintaining longer eye contact, displaying more positive affect and spending more time engaging in intimate conversations."

In addition, he said, the women in those pairs "reported feeling more comfortable and reported a greater desire to befriend their interaction partner" compared to the women paired with straight men.

"Not only do these converging findings capture the special connection between straight women and gay men in its earliest formative moments, but they also suggest that sexual orientation has a strong influence on the initial interactions between opposite-sex individuals,"



Photographs depicting body-orientation differences of a SW-GM dyad from the *first* interaction period (male sexual orientation is ambiguous, A) to the *second* interaction period (male sexual orientation is known, B).

he concludes.

Now that he has proven the "Will and Grace" effect exists, and earned his master's degree with that proof, Russell said he intends to stay with the theme in his bid to add "Ph.D." after his name.

"So yes, now we have proof it happens. Now I want to find out why it happens," Russell said.

There is one possible part of the "why" that seems obvious: Gay men have no sexually-based ulterior motives in their friendships with women, whereas straight men often do. But Russell thinks there might be more to it than that.

"It sounds kind of crazy maybe, but I feel like gay men and straight women are evolutionarily programmed to be there for each other in these relationships," he said. "Straight women can rely on gay men in a way they really can't with straight men or even with straight women."

No matter how close they may be, Russell suggested, straight women are always in competition, in one way or another, with other straight women for men in the mating pool. But gay men are fishing in "a different mating pool all together," alleviating some of the tension that might otherwise exist between them and their straight female friends.

Now he just has to devise a scientific experiment to help him prove that theory.

Russell, an Austin native, earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. He completed his under-

graduate work there in 2012 then went back to Austin to spend a year volunteering at UT-Austin to get some more research experience under his belt before coming back to North Texas and beginning his doctoral program in 2013.

He said that he has always been fascinated by the friendships between gay men and straight women, and that experimental psychology gives him the chance to "try and tease that apart and look at it from an experimental standpoint," and to use the experimental process to legitimize the age-old cultural legend.

And yes, he acknowledged, he has his own Grace — well, two of them actually — that have helped him along the way.

"I have two really good female friends who have both really inspired me — Lindsey Ethington and Katie Rose Watson," Russell said. "In fact, Katie has been helping me publicize my master's thesis and get it published."

Even after he has received his doctorate, Russell said he doesn't intend to set aside his work on the "Will and Grace" effect. "Right now, I am considering working part time in academia once I get my doctorate. But I also want to continue expanding this work, maybe look into other relationship tropes, say between gay men and straight men, or lesbians and straight men, or gay men and lesbians.

"There's a lot left to learn, and a lot of work left to do."



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A life in the theater

Texas legend Jaston Williams reflects on a career trodding the boards in his new one-man show 'Maid Marian in a Stolen Car'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

If you live long enough, hopefully you'll be blessed with great experiences. For theater people, those experiences often make for incredible stories ... literally *in-credible*. Take, for instance, the time Jaston Williams — the legendary Texas actor, playwright, raconteur and co-creator of the fictional West Texas town of Tuna featured in a series of outlandish comedies — was in Taos, N.M., doing "a radical lesbian hippie theater" adaptation of *Robin Hood*.

"The woman playing Maid Marian was crazy even by our standards," he recounts. "Someone got the idea that she and I should dress up as clowns and go to the town square and stir up business. Well, Taos was not a clown-friendly venue. We're just all out of our minds." On the way there, the woman noticed a police prowler and violently veered off the road. The car they were driving, it turned out, was stolen.

So begins Act 2 of Williams' latest creation, the solo show *Maid Marian in a Stolen Car*, running at the Eisemann Center this week for five performances. In addition to the title story, Williams re-enacts how his mother dealt with this flamboyant barefoot 6-year-old, skipping down the street imitating Betty Hutton singing "You Can't Get a Man with a Gun" ("Mother was very, very concerned," he says), his obsession as a teenager with French absurdist theater ("which was rare in West Texas ... or anywhere"), his first professional job as an actor (more on that later) and even meeting one Joe Sears, and creating the characters of an entire town while sitting in a large oak tree in San Antonio ("We engaged in behavior now totally legal in Washington state and Colorado").

But these tales are more than anecdotes, more than monologues. They are, in fact, the point of his play: A valentine to the artists and craftsmen and fellow travelers in the world of make-believe.

"It's about us — about theater people," Williams says. "About having the bug when you're a kid. About the scrawny boy and his best friend, the big-boned girl, and how we find our safety and ourselves in this world. It's about how, despite all our frailties, we are good people. I have had a life in the theater and I have been around really good people — not everyone can say that."

Among the good people Williams has been blessed by are two



DRAGGIN' SLAYER | Jaston Williams says his new solo show, 'Maid Marian in a Stolen Car,' is a paean to theaterfolk.

who recently passed away: Larry Randolph and Theatre 3 founder Jac Alder.

"I've never seen anyone surrounded by as much love and care at the end of his life as Larry," he says. "And losing Jac — my goodness. Jac and I talked when I worked there doing *Tru* how [odd] it was we had never worked together. I had dozens of lunches with Jac; he was just the most unassuming man. When I

heard he was gone, it just knocked my lights out. I was looking forward to coming back to have lunch with him. It teaches you, be grateful for what you get and take care of it."

Among the most precious memories Williams has of his career was one of the earliest: He was 21, in his first paid acting gig, and the theater company he was with was performing *Hamlet* in front of high school kids. One day, someone accidentally booked two

rival, largely Hispanic schools to see the show at the same time. Initially, the vibe was tense. Then something remarkable happened.

"We had these rival schools and these white white people onstage," Williams says. "But they understood the play in a way we didn't — they understood the intrigue, the violence, the betrayal. You get a few of those performances in your life — ones that change you. It was as good a day as I've ever had in the theater."

Williams wrote down those experiences years ago in a monologue and set it aside. Then about a year ago, he revisited it, as well as other adventures in underground theater, the invention of characters like Aunt Pearl and Didi Snively and more. Then he paired up with director Sarah Richardson, who helped transform these stories into a cohesive play.

"I've worked with a lot of good directors in

my life, but she is truly amazing," he gushes. "She took what were basically monologues about the theater and formed them into a real play. I am overjoyed with this work and so happy we're taking it to Dallas."

There's something else that makes Williams happy as well: The Supreme Court's decision on marriage equality, which has — finally — legitimized his marriage to his long-time partner Kevin.

"We've been married since 2007 in Canada, but Texas finally caught up with us," he says.

"Rick Perry can kiss my ass! We were both legally parents to [their adopted son Song] but the amount of money and paperwork required to take care of that was incredible. Now we've got our rights *and* screwed a lawyer at the same time. It's amazing."

Hmmm.... Sounds like it might even make a good play someday. ■

MAID MARIAN...

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REVIEW: 'Harbor'

Kevin (Kevin Moore) and Ted (Chad Peterson) epitomize one of the many gay stereotypes: The happy, 30-something male couple living a page out of the Pottery Barn catalogue — oozing understated good taste, drinking appetinis with abandon, making "brunch" into a verb. It's so idyllic, it makes you sick ... only you're actually jealous of the easy domesticity.

But without conflict, there's no drama, so in drives Donna (Cara Statham Serber), Kevin's trashy, grifting sister with 15-year-old daughter Lottie (Kennedy Waterman) in tow. Donna wants *something* — we're not sure what until the end of Act 1 — and throws a monkey wrench into Kevin and Ted's wedded bliss ... or perhaps revealing the tense underbelly of the relationship that has festered unnoticed for years.

It would be wrong to say that *Harbor*, the season-ending comedy from Uptown Players, sneaks up on you; from its mildly profane opening scene, it declares itself a bold attack on the conventions of polite situation comedy. But if there's something to offend everyone, there's also something to delight them. This is a thoughtful contemporary rib-tickler with just enough pathos to elevate it above the expected.

Director Coy Covington has assembled a stellar cast in this intimate and beautifully modulated production. Serber exceeds at playing subversively decadent women (she's been Janet from *Rocky Horror* and one of the double-wide denizens of *Great American Trailer Park Musical*, if that tells you anything); she doffs off the rudely homophobic zingers without a blush. Moore and Peterson also have legit comic chops as well as lived-in ease to their relationship. You accept the surprising turns the plot ultimately takes because you believe the characters.

Almost outshining them all, though, is Waterman — still in high school, but more than able to hold her own. Her phone call to her biological dad is rendered authentically and heart-breakingly, without getting mawkish. It's just one of the many sophisticated moments in *Harbor* well-showcased in this enchanting production.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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L+S stage

A 'Whale' of a show



Leyva shines in L.I.P. Service production

MARK LOWRY | Contributing Writer
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FARMER'S BRANCH — Gay men don't all look like Abercrombie and Fitch models. But on the flip side, even fewer look like Charlie, the central character of Samuel D. Hunter's beautifully crafted 2012 play *The Whale*.

In fact, very few people in general are like Charlie, who "has always been big" but is now approaching 600 pounds and perennially on the verge of a heart attack.

That he is gay, and that the loss of his lover contributed to a downward spiral that caused the intense weight gain, is just one facet of this intriguing character. He earns money by teaching and grading college essays on literature. In this play, he focuses on *Moby-Dick* (another thread in the story brings up Jonah and the Whale).

As sensitively played by Jason Leyva in the play's North Texas premiere by L.I.P. Service, using the Firehouse Theatre in Farmer's Branch, Charlie is a character who's easy to love — and easy to be frustrated with. How could someone with so much to give — with his mind, his heart — do such a thing to himself?

Hunter — the Idaho native who local audiences will hear from soon when the Dallas Theater Center performs the world premiere of his *Clarkston* in December — doesn't judge Charlie. He leaves that up to the other characters: his friend and nurse Liz (Amy Cave); a sympathetic Mormon missionary, Elder Thomas (R. Andrew Aguilar), who shows up



Jason Leyva, top, as Charlie; Taylor Donnelson, left, as Ellie with Amy Cave, right, as Liz.

at the right time at Charlie's door; Charlie's ex-wife Mary (Leslie Boren); and most significantly, their daughter Ellie (a terrific, angry Taylor Donnelson), who's now 17 and hasn't seen her father since she was a toddler.

Director Danny Macchietto's biggest casting misstep is using Aguilar, a hulking man in his late 20s who can't pass for 19, especially in the scenes with real teenager Donnelson.

While there is some uneven acting in the ensemble (a problem that plagues most LS productions), the draw here is the astonishing performance by Leyva, wearing a gargantuan fat suit and moving like someone with that kind of morbid obesity. There's so much nuance in this performance of a man who can't move around much, and has no real explanation for what led to this situation.

It's an amazing feat, physically and emotionally. ■

The Whale
 Firehouse Theatre,
 Farmer's Branch, Through Oct. 24
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The spy who went into the cold

Part political thriller, part legal drama, 'Bridge of Spies' kicks off Oscar race



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

In *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, his fifth feature film as a director, Steven Spielberg portrayed the bad guys as grinning, sadistic Nazis who craved supernatural power to achieve world domination. *Bridge of Spies* is Spielberg's 28th feature, and my, how his perspective has evolved. Once again, the bad guys are German (as well as Russian); once again, the fate of the world may be at stake. But this time, there's shadow and gradation and subtlety. "Don't trust anyone," one undercover Nazi ironically warns Indiana Jones in *The Last Crusade*. That could well be the watchphrase for *Bridge of Spies*. Only this time, there's genuine dread if it's true.

Based on actual events, *Bridge of Spies* is a deeply moral and principled film about a man of principles. We first meet Jim Donovan (Tom Hanks), a New York insurance attorney, as he parses language with an opposing counsel, explaining coolly, logically but forcefully the meaning of language and how profoundly we need to treat idea and words. Donovan is then unexpectedly tapped to defend Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance), a Soviet agent spying on the U.S. There's no doubt that Abel is guilty (to us, at least); there's also no doubt that he's entitled to a strong defense, and no one will accuse Donovan of being a toady for the powers-that-be. He'll fulfill his lawyerly obligations, even at great personal cost ... and even as everyone from the trial judge to the C.I.A. lobby to ensure Abel is executed.

At the same time, Francis Gary Powers is shot

down in his U2 spying over Russia. The idea of an exchange of political prisoners is proposed, but due to the vagaries of Cold War diplomacy, there can't be any "official" government involvement. Donovan is again enlisted to do his duty, though he sees his duty as very different from what the politicians expect.

Spielberg, of course, has often addressed serious issues in his films (*Raiders* is meant to be popcorn entertainment), and from *Schindler's List* to *Munich* to *Amistad*, the humanity of govern-

ments has been a recurring theme in his films. But *Bridge of Spies* may be his most sobering look at the morality of a man's character he's yet tackled. Fine points of attorney-client privilege, the Fourth Amendment and high-level

diplomatic negotiations fraught with unspoken intrigue aren't especially cinematic or even populist, but Spielberg gives them heft without resorting to treacly underscoring. Indeed, aside from the fluid camera movement and the emotional resonance, this is as un-Spielberg as a film can look: Washed-out colors to the point of black-and-white; grainy film stock that conjures found newsreel footage. It can be as cold as the Cold War itself.

And yet Hanks warms it all. His doughy face and laconic demeanor have rarely served him as well in a role who has to be Everyman yet somehow also Better-than. No one can preach without sounding preachy like Hanks, who brings a Columbo-esque quality to Donovan. *Bridge of Spies* almost reinvents the spy thriller single-handedly, and it is the first must-see film of the Oscar season. ■

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BRIDGE OF SPIES

Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance.
Rated PG-13. 140 mins.
Now playing in wide release.

SPY GAME | Tom Hanks doesn't know who to trust in the moral political thriller 'Bridge of Spies.'

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L+S halloween

Caitlyn & Carly & Kim... oh my!

Just in time for All Hallow's Eve, Coy Covington shows us some scary looks

Halloween — or as it's known around here, Gay Christmas — is a *spookkkky* time of year, and there's nothing spookier than some of the celebrities vying for our attention lately. From politics to pop culture to religion, there are some kooks out there that give Jason and Freddy a run for the money in terms of being downright frightening.

To mark this era of insanity, and to generate some clever costume ideas before you go trick-or-treat-ing, we enlisted our favorite chameleon, Coy Covington, to create a few looks for us exclusively, celebrating the good, the bad and the ugly ... though we're not really sure which is which. Boo! ■


— Arnold Wayne Jones



Shrill politico Carly Fiorina

The most critical aspect of pulling off any Halloween look is attitude. Carly is easy because all you need to do is look mean, act mean and speak with anger and ignorance. A thin snake-like lip is a must for spewing venom in that famous Fiorina fashion.

Photography
and styling by
Coy Covington and
Arnold Wayne Jones



GOP reality star Caitlyn Jenner

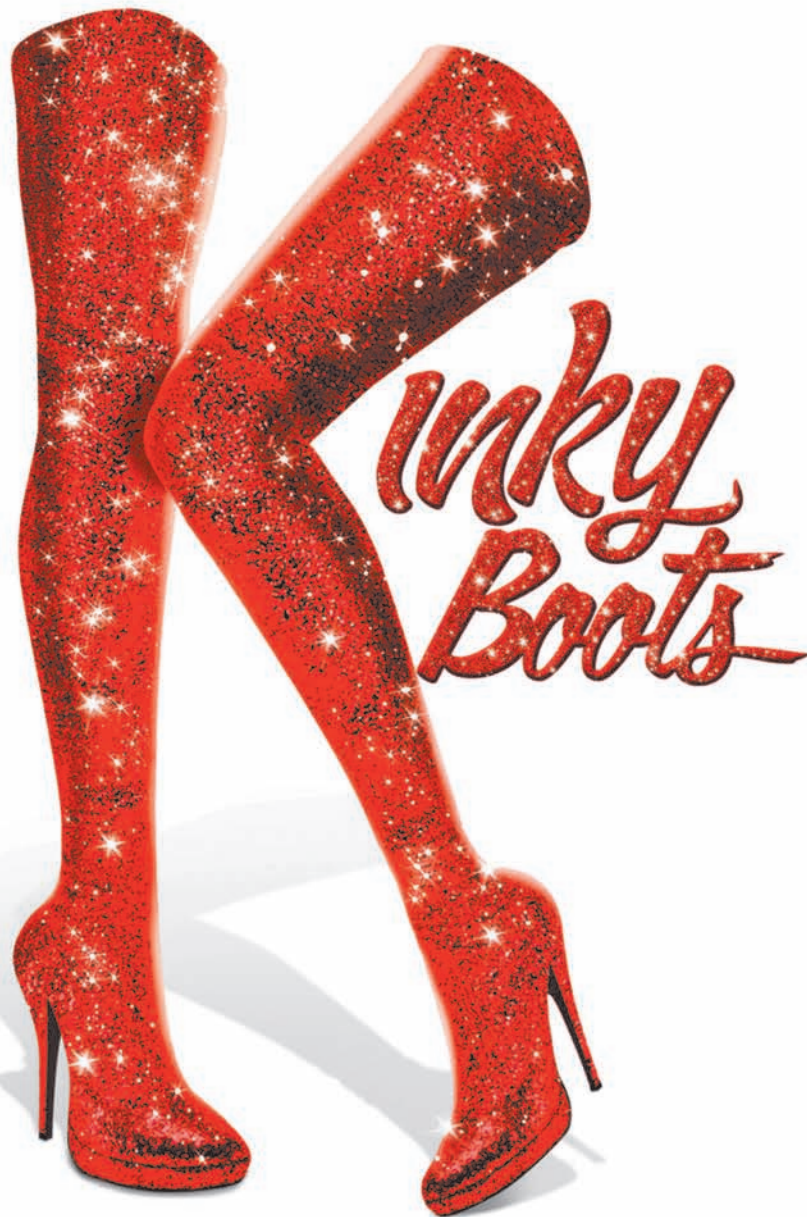
Want to recreate Caitlyn a la her Vanity Fair cover? At 65, Cait has had major work done so they play that to maximum effect. My technique includes applying surgical tape to sagging areas of my face and aggressively stretching the tape around my head. After achieving the desired pulled and puckered look, I lavishly applied foundation and powder. I may not be a dead ringer for Cait, but I do look like a woman of a certain age who has been under the knife a few too many times.



Religious fashion disaster Kim Davis

The easiest ... and most fun. All that is required is a long brown wig, glasses and an ugly blue blouse/ black tank top outfit ... and an uglier heart. Stay up all night and drink heavily to achieve puffiness. No makeup needed (you don't even have to shave) — Kim has no eyebrows, no lips, no neck and no compassion.

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Mercedes-Benz's iconic silhouette houses a serious performance vehicle

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

Since the mid-'50s, Mercedes-Benz sports cars have been some of the most desirable in the world. We're talking about the 300SL Gullwing, McLaren-developed SLR, SLS AMG Gullwing and now, the AMG GT-S. All have been sexy as sin, but from styling to technology, the latest takes the three-pointed star to different tracks.

I could probably just show you a photo of the car's exterior, posterior and end this review now. That long sculpted hood, LED headlamps and giant star in the grille make me want to wet-smooch it. And, I could ogle that same hood all day from behind the wheel where it seems to stretch for the horizon. It all looks serious planted over 19-in. front/20-in. rear alloys in front of red AMG brake calipers. Around back, the look is all Porsche with a round rump, dual exhausts, retractable spoiler and thin LED tail-lamps. I vibrate in its presence.

If you want a comfy car for long trips and daily commutes, the "regular" Mercedes SL is a better choice than the GT-S. However, given it is one step removed from a racecar, the GT-S' cabin is plenty luxurious. Deeply-bolstered and heated Nappa leather seats grip your sides no matter the drive, while dual-zone automatic climate control, divine Bester audio, and joywheel-controlled infotainment system ease longer journeys. Navigation, USBs, Bluetooth calling/streaming audio, lane keep assist and blind spot warning are all part of the deal. Bumper beepers keep you from nuzzling curbs too closely.

Behind that big chrome emblem whumps a 4.0-liter Bi-turbo V8 engine that conjures 503 horsepower and 479 lb.-ft. of torque — connected to the rear wheels through a paddle-shifted 7-speed automated transmission. Auto start-stop technology (which, praise Karl and Gottlieb, can be defeated) pauses the engine at rest to help deliver a relatively economical 16/22-MPG city/hwy. To put all of this in perspective, a 1989 560SL — Mercedes' top sports car at the time — with its 1.5-liter bigger engine, generated 227 horsepower and 14/17-MPG



city/hwy. It's been a busy quarter-century for the German automaker.

Drivers can also configure the car with a console knob that turns through Comfort, Sport, Sport+ and Race modes. Each makes the throttle more sensitive, shift points more aggressive, suspension stiffer, steering heavier and stability control less intrusive than the one before. It also adjusts the throttle sound. You can stealth out of the neighborhood in Comfort or Sport, but select one of the others and the throttle summons demons from the third ring as it blips before

downshifts and rips the atmosphere. Bless me! There's also an individual mode that lets you customize the settings.

If I could configure the car anyway I chose, I'd make a couple of adjustments. I'd love a

heads-up display, simpler infotainment controls and slightly softer seats. Despite Mercedes targeting the Porsche 911, the GT-S is more of a German Corvette. It's more high-speed projectile than sports car. GT-S owners will dream of a Corvette's roomy trunk. I'll get back to you if I think of other complaints, but you may have a long wait.

The GT-S is a stern master with hard seats and stiff suspension, so I wouldn't plan to drive it every day. It's a weekend toy — ideal for L.A. socialites, professional athletes and Middle East potentates. And, to those, it anchors Mercedes' supercar legacy for the next generation.

Plan to mortgage the manse for at least \$129,900 or \$146,330 as-tested. Compare it to the Porsche 911, Corvette Z06, BMW i8, Aston Martin Vantage and Jaguar F-Type. ■

'16 AMG GT-S
Mercedes-Benz. 503 hp, 4.0 liter TTV8. 16/22-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$146,330.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Friday 10.16 —
Sunday 10.18

This is your final weekend to enjoy the State Fair of Texas

The State Fair of Texas ends its 2015 run Sunday, which means this weekend is your last chance to fill up on the latest Fair fried delicacies. Gates open each day at 7 a.m., and fair buildings and exhibits are open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. The Midway is open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission tickets are \$18.

DEETS: Fair Park, 3921 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. BigTex.org.



Saturday 10.10

Play dress-up with Alyssa Edwards at Gaybingo

It's the Halloween version of Gaybingo, with *RuPaul's Drag Race* alumni Alyssa Edwards leading "The Prancing Dead." So sashay your way on down to The Strip for a chance to win your share of \$2,500 in cash and prizes.

DEETS: The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. play. \$25-\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

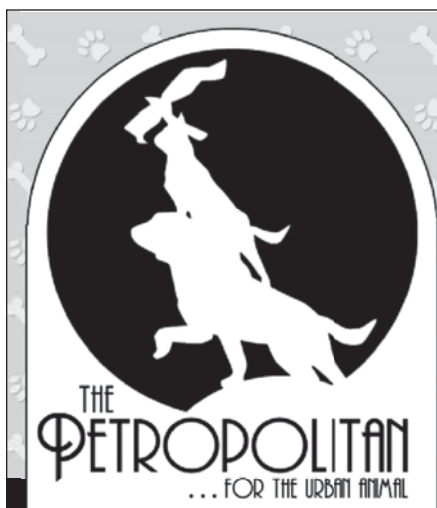


Sunday 10.19

Learn how to live meat-free at the Texas Veggie Fair

If just eating a meat-free diet isn't enough for you, then head to Reverchon Park for Texas Veggie Fair on Sunday, a free event celebrating plant-based lifestyle options of every kind, from food to clothing and more.

DEETS: Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. TexasVeggieFair.com.



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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

The Droll. A world premiere, about a world where theater is illegal, launches Undermain's 32nd season. *Final weekend.* Undermain Theater, 3200 Main St. Undermain.org.

The Whale. Jason Leyva plays a 600-lb. gay man in this production. Reviewed this week. Firehouse Theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Through Oct. 24. LipServiceProductions.info.

Faust. Wonderfully inventive modern adaptation of the classic tale. Presented by The Drama Club. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Oct. 24. TheDramaClub.org.

Blu. Part spoken word, part hip-hop epic poem about a queer Latina couple raising a family amid violence. Presented by Cara Mia Theatre Co. *Final weekend.* Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

Creep: The Very Very Sad and Unfortunately True and Completely Fabricated Tale of Jack the Ripper. The world premiere of the original musical by Dallas' Donald Fowler. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Oct. 25. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Dear Liar. Queer playwright G.B. Shaw and Mrs. Patrick Campbell shared a legendary correspondence, brought to life in this epistolary play. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Oct. 24. WingSpanTheatre.com.

The Ghosts of Sleepy Hollow. A world premiere



ART WITH A POP | Ushio Shinohara demonstrates his Boxing Painting Friday, Oct. 16, at 9 p.m., as part of the Dallas Museum of Art's "International Pop" exhibit.

presented by Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Oct. \$14. DCT.org.

Harbor. This family comedy closes out Uptown Players' 2015 season. Kalita Humphreys Theater. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Oct. 25. UptownPlayers.org.

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill. Denise Lee plays blues giant Billie Holiday giving her last-ever concert before her tragic death at 45. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 1. JubileeTheatre.org.

The Mountaintop. Play about the final hours of Martin Luther King Jr. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Nov. 15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Bad Jews. A relationship comedy about family. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 1. StageWest.org.

FINE ART

N.S. Harsha: Sprouts, reach in to reach out. A site-specific mural, the first in Dallas for the Indian artist, transforms the main corridor of the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 21. DMA.org.

International Pop. A survey of pop art, the distinctive modern movement of the 1960s. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 17. DMA.org.

Best Books Ever Written: Texas. Artist/collagist Stuart Sheldon premieres the capstone of his new series of collages, including works in celebration of Texas authors and marriage equality. *Final weekend.* ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. ilumeGallerie.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. *Final weekend.* Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 10.16 COMMUNITY

State Fair of Texas. The country's biggest fair closes this weekend. Howdy, folks! Fair Grounds at First Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Through Oct. 18. BigTex.org.

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

COMIX

Dallas Comic Con Fan Days. Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. Friday–Sunday. DallasComicCon.com/tickets.

FILM

Dallas VideoFest. The 28th annual festival of interesting and different video and film concludes this weekend. Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. VideoFesto.org.

HALLOWEEN

Screams. The 20th season of the outdoor frightfest. Screams Park, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Fridays–Saturdays through Halloween. \$27. ScreamsPark.com.

Dark Hour Haunted House. Gay-owned chills attraction with multiple sinister-themed areas. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. Open select nights through Halloween. 7 p.m.–midnight. \$26-up. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com.

SATURDAY 10.17

SPORTS

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

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. The Prancing Dead, a Halloween-themed version of the monthly fundraiser featuring Alyssa Edwards. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$45. MyResourceCenter.org

MONDAY 10.19

DINING

Texas Veggie Fair. A vegan-based foodie event with trucks, entertainment, drinks and of course animal-free

foodstuffs. Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. TexasVeggieFair.com.

TUESDAY 10.20

FILM

The Seventh Seal. Ingmar Bergman directed this iconic morality tale about a Medieval knight and his confrontation with Death. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 10.22

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.

BROADCAST

Project Runway. The latest season of competing designers is underway. Lifetime at 8 p.m.

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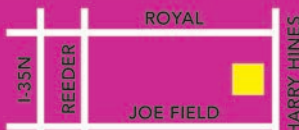
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Cassie Nova

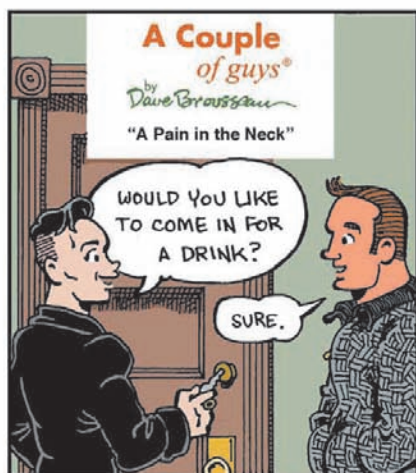
Cassie's life-changing Hawaiian trip!

Aloha, bitches! Not to be a braggart, but I just got back from a fabulous vacation in Maui. I have the best husband in the world. He came home a few weeks ago and asked, "I need a vacation, where do you wanna go?" I jokingly said Hawaii. When I came home that night he said our trip was booked. I was like, "No way." He was like, "Yes way!" It was a very Wayne and Garth moment, except our exchange ended with a kiss instead of an air guitar duet.

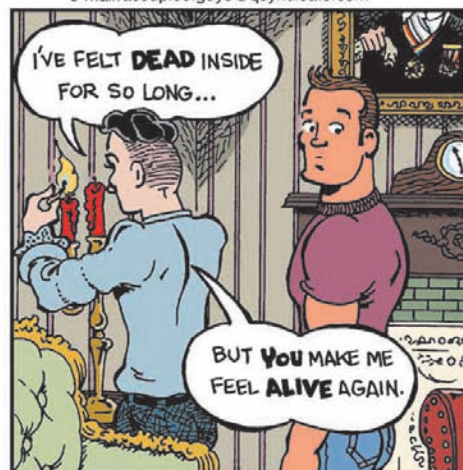
It really was a dream vacation. We did things that we have always talked about doing, including anal. Winky face! We went paddle-boarding (or should I say, we attempted to paddle-board). Standing on that thing is hard when you have the balancing skills of a drunk baby.

I was raped by a rogue wave that ripped off my swim trunks and had its way with me. One second I was fine, frolicking like you do when in the ocean, the next second I was tumbling in circles under water. I finally got my bearings and realized I was naked and my trunks were being washed onto the shore. Luckily, a nice old lady brought them out to me giggling the whole time. I let her get a look at the goods so we both got something out of it.

We had a great experience doing an ATV tour at Kahoma Ranch. Surprisingly, I really loved it. I felt so butch with my helmet, goggles and bandanna over my mouth. We looked like something out of *Mad Max*. We drove the ATV up the side of a mountain with a big group of vacationers. It started out in this dry desert area, kicking up red dust and dirt everywhere, but the further up we went the more lush and green it got. We stopped at this beautiful hidden oasis with two water slides that flowed into this big lovely pond surrounded by fruiting trees. It was what I picture the Garden of Eden probably looked like if it had a changing area. It even had peacocks that



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would walk right up to you and try to take your granola bar.

I have to say, as an effeminate gay man with very thin drag eyebrows and the kind of voice that is a great example of why there is a documentary called *Do I Sound Gay*, I am usually quite uncomfortable around a lot of straight people. Our adorable tour guides Justin (yes *both* of them were named Justin) made me feel very "included" in the day's events. When we got to the swimming hole, one of the Justins walked with my husband Jamie and me and answered a bunch of questions we had about the island and encouraged us to go swimming with everyone. Then he picked a guava off a tree and shared it with me. He put me at ease and made me feel like part of the group.

We put on our swim trunks and went down one of the slides. It was "refreshing," which is code for chilly. Talk about shrivel city! Cold water is the best tucker. We swam out to the floating platform in the middle of the pond and basked in the sun. We took a moment to take a mental snapshot to try to remember how good it felt to be there in that moment: Content, in love and happy. Corny I know, but its moments like that one that make some of life's harder parts easier to bear.

The ride back down the mountain was even more fun. There were more hills and turns that were surprising and exhilarating. It was like a roller coaster in the dirt. When we got back to the base camp, we were filthy. Every inch of exposed skin and our clothes were completely red-orange. We looked like big, gay Oompa Loompas. Later that day, when I cleaned up, the bathroom looked like the shower scene from *Psycho*, but in color, ribbons of red flowing down the drain.

That same day I had a God moment.

I have a small fear of sharks. I am one of those people that think if I am ever in a plane crash, we will crash in the ocean so a shark can eat me. I saw the movie *Jaws* when I was 5. I remember watching the movie in my aunt Zina's lap and clawing the crap out of her with my little kid nails. I didn't even like to sit in the bathtub after seeing that damn movie. It scared me and scared me.

Even as an adult, every time I am swimming in a lake and I am treading water, all I can think about is that iconic movie poster. I picture myself as that naked lady at the top of the poster with the giant shark, mouth open with a billion teeth below me about to swallow me up. I know it's stupid but that is the kind of shit that goes through my mind when I am in the water. So imagine my thoughts when Jamie said, "Let's go snorkeling."

My shark fear is not crippling but I do get anxiety. But we were in Hawaii so I was not going to let a childhood fear keep me from trying something new. We got our snorkeling gear and did it. I will admit that when I was above water looking out at the horizon, at nothing but endless ocean I started to have a small panic attack but I calmed myself down and went under water. I loved it. It was so peaceful and serene. The water was so beautiful and clear. We could see so many fish swimming around coral and rocks on the ocean floor. We saw a bunch of little striped zebra looking fish. A few that looked like Dory from *Finding Nemo* and whole lotta bright yellow beauties. It was so cool.

Then it happened! Jamie and I were above water talking about how awesome it was and how out of shape we are, when a dark shadow passed near us. My asshole immediately clenched and my heart raced as I prepared to live my life with only one arm or leg, if I survived at all. *Jaws* had come for me. Jamie looked under water and said, "Oh my God, it's a sea turtle!" Every bit of fear or anxiety left me. I put on my goggles and went under. There he was, the most beautiful creature I have ever seen.

Side note: Anyone who knows me knows I have an obsession with turtles and tortoises. I have three pet tortoises at home and love all things Testudine. I think it started as a kid when my mom told me she cried when she first saw me after I was born. She said I looked like a turtle. My grandmother told her to shut up. I remember the first time my mom told me that story, my Grandma Christine told me that turtles are beautiful. So I guess turtles remind me of my Grandma and how completely awesome she was.

We swam alongside that turtle for a while, following him as he came up for air a few times. He would look over at us every once in a while and didn't seem bothered or afraid of us at all. His pace never quickened. He just flew effortlessly through the water. He had the most beautiful eyes, brownish green with flecks of gold. I will never forget his eyes. Jamie and I held hands as we swam next to him. I had a moment of complete joy. No fear, just love. In that moment, I felt closer to God than I have ever felt in a church or anywhere else. I will never forget it.

After that experience, I am hooked. I can't wait to go snorkeling again, but we don't have a whole lot of options for that here in North Texas. I guess it is time to start saving for next year. I am going to try to do more things that scare me.

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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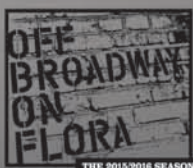


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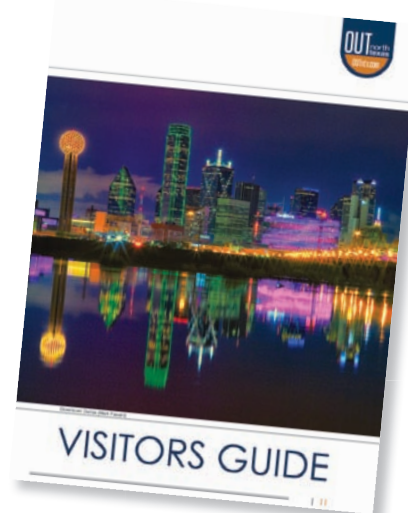
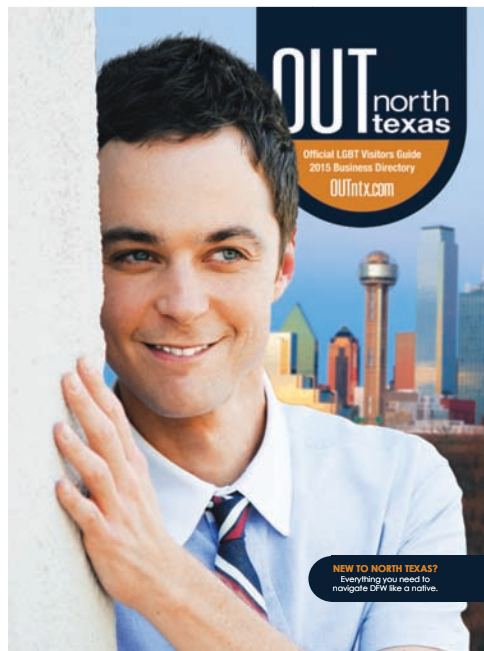
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Clay, Zerhoven and Melissa at Pekers.



Laganja, Alyssa and Shangela — The Haus of Edwards — at The Brick/Joe's.



The Tallywackers crew at Latino Gay Pride.

Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 16-22:

- **Alexandre's:** Ashleigh Smith on Friday. Chris Chism on Saturday and Wednesday. Alicia Silex on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Essence Allure Collins Diamond Goddess benefit show on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Imperial Court show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. and Underwear Auction at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court of the Lone Star Empire candidate shows at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. DFW Leather Corps club night on Friday. MasT Dallas meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Zombie Walk on Friday.
- **Red Light Lounge:** Ida Mae Watergate hosts the Moonlight Freak Show on the Rooftop Stage for Freak Flag, a queer exhibition and dance at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear happy hour on Friday. Glenn Price hosts game night series with cash and prizes at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **S4:** Zombie Walk on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Dirty Little Freaks on Friday. Radio Love Bus on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. and Cami Maki Trio on Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Zombie Walk on Friday. ■

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



Girls' night out on The Strip.



Emy and Doob at Sue Ellen's.



Darek, Milessa and Robb at Gallery 3.

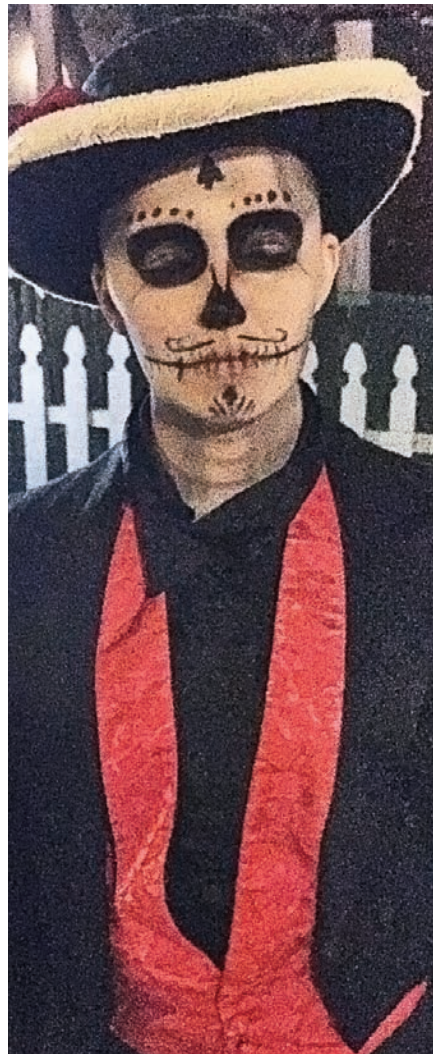


Lamont and Sarah at The Tin Room.



Ethan and Max at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.

Screams Halloween Theme Park in Waxahachie



Guys' night out at TMC: The Mining Co.

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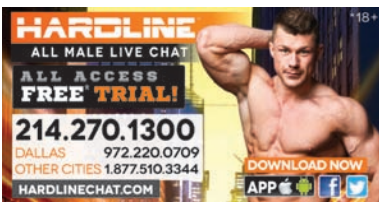
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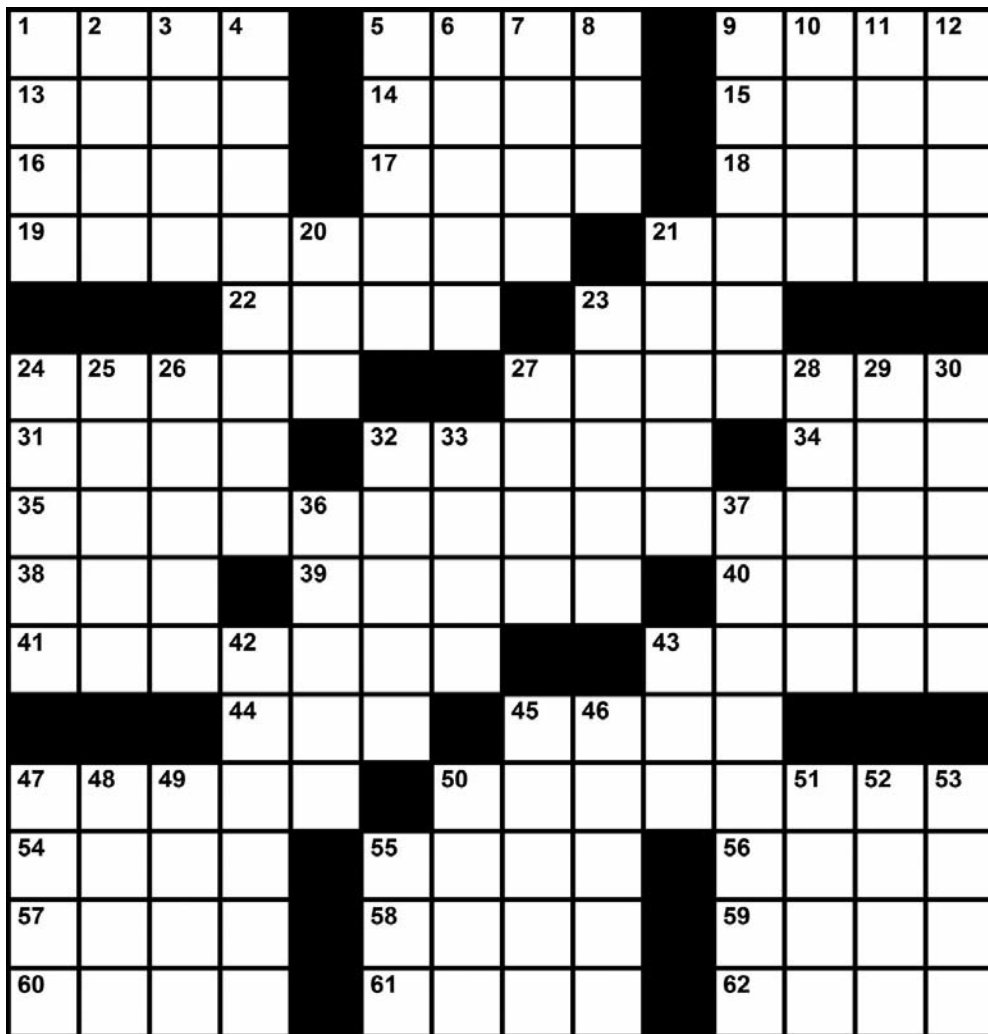
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Roomer Has It

Solution on page 23

Across

- 1 First man to say to a man, "You slay me!"?
- 5 Hard blow
- 9 Bean and Burke waved theirs around
- 13 Item on a docket
- 14 "June Is Bustin' Out All ___"
- 15 *Exotica* director Egoyan
- 16 "Doggone it!"
- 17 Go down
- 18 Zip
- 19 She was a roomer at Meredith Grey's house
- 21 She was a roomer at Meredith Grey's house
- 22 Peters out
- 23 Bambi's aunt
- 24 Producer Neil
- 27 Singer Etheridge
- 31 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 32 Pansy, e.g., to Pasolini
- 34 Silver screen computer
- 35 With 50-Across, group that Meredith Grey could join if she got rid of her roomers
- 38 "Can't Get It Out of My Head" rock gp.
- 39 Witherspoon of *Legally Blonde 2*

40 Palindromic male name

41 The guy you're seeing?

43 Ponders

44 They could come from Uranus

45 Susan B. Anthony dollar, e.g.

47 She was a roomer at Meredith Grey's house

50 See 35-Across

54 ___ Baldwin *Doesn't Love Me*

55 It brings out the flavor in your meat

56 De Matteo of *Desperate Housewives*

57 Triangle ratio

58 Reed in a Ned Rorem work

59 Word from a pen

60 What fluffers give

61 *Perry Mason* star Raymond

62 Catches on to

Down

1 Current band of the past?

2 Roseanne, once and again

3 Morales of *Jericho*

4 Cole Porter song from *Paris*

5 Singer David

6 Maurice of *Bewitched*

7 Sultry Horne

8 Threesome for Michelangelo

9 Japanese battle cry

10 The whole shebang

11 Tara portrayer Collette

12 Opponent of Tinkerbell

20 Metal container

21 Shoreline opening

23 Like Christopher Rice's stories

24 Surfer's need

25 ___ Gay

26 Scouting job

27 Shortens leaves of grass

28 Oral pleasures at a gay bar

29 Cook in a wok, maybe

30 Some opera queens

32 Ridges on Melissa's neck

33 Words said with a nod

36 Mount the soapbox

37 Elvis song about a real bitch?

42 Freed from frost

43 To me, to Hirschfeld

45 Pink, for one

46 Movie like Rock Hudson's

Gun Fury

47 S/M unit

48 Foundation for Humanity name

49 Warrior Princess of the boob tube

50 *Seinfeld* character from Pakistan

51 Canal traveled by New York ferries

52 Let out

53 Competitor of Barneys

55 Have a bawl



Dana Goldberg



Well Strung



Betty Who



Ty Herndon

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