Waiting Game

Texas marriage equality plaintiffs await court of appeals ruling

By David Taffet | Page 8
I closed my eyes, exhaled, and thought to myself: *remember this.*

Remember floating above the hills of Tuscany. The people we met—the friends we made. And, discovering that, sometimes, the grass really is greener.

It’s funny, I don’t remember a single thing from our Celebrity cruise—I remember *everything.*
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Plano mayor addresses anti-gay venom at rally

About 24 pastors and 100 spectators gathered at a library in Plano on Wednesday, Jan. 7, to denounce the new Plano equal rights ordinance and collect signatures to force the city council to either repeal the ordinance or call an election.

Opponents have 10 days to collect 3,800 signatures.

Liberty Institute attorney Jeff Mateer said the “unconstitutional” ordinance threatens religious liberty. Members of Collin County’s legislative delegation also pledged to pass a law that would outlaw any LGBT protections by cities.

Dave Welch, who heads the Houston Pastors Council, said his group collected more than 50,000 signatures and verified more than 30,000 in their failed bid to repeal Houston’s ordinance. He didn’t tell the group that fewer than the 17,000 required signatures were actually valid.

Plano Mayor Henry LaRosiliere spoke to reporters at Plano City Hall about an hour after the library rally. “It’s fair. It’s legal. It’s constitutional,” he said of the ordinance.

— David Taffet

An open letter to Sen.-elect Konni Burton, who blocked me on Twitter

Jan. 7, 2015

Dear Sen.-elect Konni Burton:

Next Tuesday, Jan. 13, you will be sworn into the Texas Senate. After more than a year of campaigning, you will become Senator Konni Burton, the Republican representing state Senate District 10.

You declared your candidacy in a video by criticizing your predecessor, Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, for her filibuster against anti-abortion legislation. Clearly you are willing to give criticism. But I’m concerned you may not be receptive to it. That’s why I’m writing you. It may seem small, but I couldn’t help but wonder why you blocked me on Twitter. Because I’m a reporter who critically wrote about your campaign? I knew journalism rankles feathers, but facts are facts.

I didn’t realize doing my job was such a threat. Of course, neither did Bethany Rodgers, a reporter with the Frederick, Md. News-Post, who was threatened with a lawsuit by Frederick County Councilman Kirby Delauter for using his name without his permission. #kirbydelauter

As of Jan. 13, you will be an elected official, #StateSenKonniBurton. You got what you wanted. Hopefully you’ll like an elected official, too.

— James Russell

1st Florida marriage license issued; couples marrying now

Karla Arguello and Cathy Pareto, one of six plaintiff couples in the marriage equality case Pareto v. Ruvin, on Monday became the first same-sex couple to receive a marriage license in Florida.

The two applied for the license Monday, Jan. 5 as soon as Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Sarah Zabel lifted her stay of her own ruling in the case, in which she declared the Florida marriage equality ban unconstitutional.

— Tammye Nash
Kathy Griffin
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A CHICKASAW COUNTRY DESTINATION
The SPCA of Texas is offering a new series of low-cost, walk-in pet vaccination clinics at its three North Texas-area Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinics throughout 2015. The monthly clinics provide an easy and affordable way for the community to help curb the spread of common and highly contagious illnesses in pets. Pet owners can also microchip their pets for $15 each. For more information visit Spca.org/calendar.

BTAC organizers accepting proposals

Organizers with the Fourth Annual Black Trans Advocacy Conference are now accepting proposals until Feb. 1. The fourth annual conference takes place April 27-May 3 at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel Visit the BTAC web site at bit.ly/14dyULS for more information.

Dallas Fire-Rescue accepting applications for officer trainee openings

Dallas Fire-Rescue is accepting applications for officer trainees between Jan. 4-17. Applicants must submit their applications online through the City of Dallas website at jobs.dallascityhall.org. The department also holds a job fair from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. on Jan. 15 at the Dodd J. Miller Training and Maintenance Auditorium, 5000 Dolphin Road. For more information call 1-800-510-FIRE or 214-670-0220.

Texas Air Shuttle opens waiting list

Texas Air Shuttle is now opening its wait list to prospective members in anticipation of its February launch. Created to provide a safe, reliable, VIP travel service for executives, business owners and super commuters, its all-you-can-fly membership approach eliminates stressful travel concerns like airport screenings, fees and overbooked flights.

Memberships range in price from $899–$4,900 per month depending on the type of membership selected. Texas Air Shuttle will maintain regularly scheduled air travel routes throughout Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Additional routes will be added as demand grows.

Open Audition for Season 10 of America’s Got Talent in San Antonio

America’s Got Talent will hold an open audition for its upcoming season from 8 a.m.–7 p.m. on Jan. 29 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 200 E. Market St, San Antonio. Auditions are open to all ages and any group size for the chance to compete for the million dollar prize and gain national exposure. To register visit Bit.ly/1yFGOex.

Meet Tabitha, a beautiful collie/shepherd mix who came to Operation Kindness from a local shelter. Tabitha is a young girl who is full of energy but who loves to snuggle. She is very friendly and will make a loving friend and companion. Tabitha has done well playing with other dogs her own size and did well when introduced to a cat. Come meet Tabitha soon and give her the loving home she deserves.

If you or 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-6 p.m.; Friday, noon-8 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is $110 for cats, $130 for litter, $150 for dogs, $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 25% discount.
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Texas marriage case, 2 others go to 5th Circuit

Supreme Court’s decision on whether to hear 6th circuit, Louisiana appeals could render 5th Circuit decision moot

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Three judges from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals are set to hear three marriage equality cases Friday morning, Jan. 9. But the 5th Circuit’s hearing could turn out to be a moot point if the U.S. Supreme Court — meeting at the same time — decides to hear a marriage case from Louisiana or one of six cases on appeal from the 6th Circuit.

Most marriage equality supporters were not hopeful about a positive outcome from the 5th Circuit, which is generally considered the most conservative appeals court in the country. But after the panel was chosen, some marriage equality supporters did find room for optimism.

Two of the three judges were appointed by President Ronald Reagan, and the third by President Barack Obama. The Obama appointee is expected to come down on the side of equality, and one of the Reagan appointees is expected to be solidly against. But the second Reagan appointee is considered a swing vote.

Reagan appointee Judge Jerry E. Smith is expected to vote for a state’s right to discriminate against same-sex couples. He was one of two judges who upheld a Texas law requiring abortion providers to upgrade to surgical centers.

In a case involving sexual harassment heard en banc (by the entire court rather than a three-judge panel), the majority found for the plaintiff. But Smith wrote a dissenting opinion saying the majority “take[s] a deep bow at the altar of the twin idols of political correctness and social engineering.”

While most court observers call Smith’s questioning from the bench fair and probing, his decisions don’t come down on the progressive side.

The second judge hearing the case is James E. Graves Jr., appointed by Obama and one of the newest members of the 5th Circuit. In one case, he sided with a woman seeking time-and-a-half pay for overtime work. In another, he ruled against Transocean in a dispute involving the 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

In 2013, the court found two Texas high school coaches in Kilgore immune from prosecution when they disclosed a student’s sexual orientation to her parent, because there’s no law stopping school officials from discussing a student’s private matters. Graves wrote the dissent in that case. He argued the U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts have recognized privacy rights under the 14th Amendment.

Despite being one of the newer members of the court, Graves doesn’t defer to the court’s older, more conservative members.

Judge Patrick E. Higginbotham, appointed by Reagan, is considered the swing vote on the panel.

In a decision last year, he ruled University of Texas’ race-conscious admissions program is legal because it is a narrowly tailored as part of a broader policy and can increase diversity within minority groups. Conservatives wanted Higginbotham to throw out any race-based university admissions.

He upheld the legality of the display of the 10 Commandments monument on the Texas Capitol grounds on the basis of its secular history. Conservatives would have preferred a win based on religious freedom.

In 2000 and 2006, Higginbotham changed voting districts that forced a number of liberal Democrats out of office. The new boundaries were seen as much fairer than the maps drawn by the Texas Legislature, but he stuck to the Legislature’s intent to gerrymander and drive Democrats from office. Both sides saw his new maps as a compromise and neither side was particularly happy.

The three cases that will be heard by the three-judge panel Friday are similar, although the U.S. district court in Louisiana upheld the state’s right to exclude same-sex couples from marriage while the Texas and Mississippi courts struck down discrimination.

Two couples are party to DeLeon v. Perry, the Texas case. Plano couple Vic Holmes and Mark Phariss sued the state for the right to marry, and their case was consolidated with the lawsuit filed by Austin couple Cleo DeLeon and Nicole Dimetman asking that the state be made to recognize their wedding in Massachusetts.


The court set the Jan. 9 date for the hearing after Dimetman asked for an expedited hearing, because she is pregnant and would like a decision before the baby is born to avoid the extra costs of adoption by her wife.

The Mississippi and Louisiana cases are similar. In Mississippi, Campaign for Southern Equality v. Bryant involves two couples, one of which wants to marry in Mississippi and the other of which wants their Maine wedding recognized in the state. U.S. District Court Judge Carlton W. Reeves ruled in November that Mississippi’s 2004 law banning same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

In Louisiana, Judge Martin Feldman became the first federal judge since the June 2013 U.S. v. Windsor decision — which struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act — to rule that a state has a right to discriminate. In October, Lambda Legal signed on as a counsel on that case and asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review it.

While the 5th Circuit hears oral arguments on its three cases, the U.S. Supreme Court will be meeting in private conference to decide whether to hear a marriage equality case this session.

In October, the justices decided not to hear any of the cases that had then been appealed to the court. Judges in all those cases — both at the trial court level and the appellate court level — had ruled in favor of marriage equality, and the Supreme Court’s decision not to hear those appeals triggered a wave of new marriage equality

WAITING ON THE COURT | Texas marriage equality plaintiff couples Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman of Austin and Victor Holmes and Mark Phariss of Plano, leave the U.S. Federal Courthouse in San Antonio last year. They are in New Orleans this week for the 5th Circuit hearing on their case. (Eric Gay/Associated Press)
Purity versus compromise

Tea Party fave Turner challenging more moderate incumbent Straus for speaker’s seat

At the opening of the 84th legislative session Tuesday, Jan. 13, legislators’ first vote will be on the record. That wouldn’t be unusual were it any other vote on legislation. But the first vote is a contested race between two very different Republicans for speaker of the Texas House.


Speakers’ races are usually conducted by voice vote, which leaves dissenting legislators immune to criticism. But because their vote will be in the legislative record, a bevy of special interest groups, Republican leaders and others will be watching closely.

Matthew Esbaugh-Sohna, an associate professor of political science at the University of North Texas, said the contested race is ultimately less about leadership and more about symbolism.

“The speaker is the most important bureaucrat in the House. Straus is the kind of guy you’d call a ‘governance speaker.’ He knows you can’t be ideological because you have to build coalitions,” including with Democrats. Turner’s campaign is an ideological campaign that says, ‘Let’s make a statement.’ It’s also the Tea Party trying to let Straus know, ‘We can be a thorn in your side.’”

He added Turner’s challenge is similar to the ultimately unsuccessful Tea Party challenge to U.S. Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

It only takes 76 votes to elect a speaker in the statehouse. Turner doesn’t have nearly that many votes. As of press time, Straus had received the backing of the majority of his caucus.

But the GOP’s votes aren’t the only votes that matter; the Democrats, despite losing two seats in the past election, still play a key role in the speaker’s race. Which is why Esbaugh-Sohna said he doesn’t anticipate any Democratic defections.

Indeed, Straus’ willingness to work with and appoint Democrats to lead committees is among the biggest gripes among his detractors. They argue Straus works too closely with Democrats and has blocked key priorities, including school choice and border security legislation.

The record vote will also matter for more than historical reasons. Numerous organizations, including the anti-LGBT Texas Eagle Forum, back Turner. They’re keeping their own records, too, with plans to deduc points from their scorecards.

Straus has always taken heat from the Tea Party. He ousted incumbent Speaker Tom Craddick of Midland in 2009 with the help of 11 Republicans and 65 Democrats. Among them was Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth.

When asked about the race, Geren dismissed Turner’s candidacy. “There is no speaker’s race. A race is a competition and there’s no competition,” Geren said.

Esbaugh-Sohna compared Turner’s candidacy to Fort Worth Democratic Sen. Wendy Davis’ 2013 filibuster against new regulations on abortion, which jettisoned her to national acclaim.

“When you make a stand, you get noticed. It’s an effective strategy to get out the news,” he said.

— James Russell

Johnson files job protections bill

Rep. Eric Johnson (D-Dallas) this week filed an employment protection bill in the Texas House of Representatives that includes sexual orientation and gender expression.

Current Texas law protects workers against discrimination based on race, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability.

“Every Texan should have the opportunity to work hard and provide for their families,” Johnson said. “Right now the law allows someone to be fired simply for being him or herself or for whom they love. This is a civil rights issue.”

The Legislative Budget Board, which analyzes the cost of proposed legislation, estimated 500 credible cases of discrimination could be reported each year.

Resource Center spokesman Rafael McDonnell said that even in Dallas and Fort Worth, which have nondiscrimination ordinances, the only way to strengthen protections is through state legislation.

“This is long overdue for Texas to have,” McDonnell said.

Fairness Fort Worth President David Mack Henderson said passing the bill would be an uphill battle in this legislative session.

“We all know this is going to be a difficult legislative session,” Henderson said. “We need to keep the flame alive. Kudos to [Johnson] for carrying the torch.”

At a rally on Wednesday, Jan. 7, opposing the new Plano nondiscrimination ordinance, Collin County representatives vowed to file legislation making local nondiscrimination ordinances illegal in Texas. The reasons ranged from “there is no discrimination in Plano” to “Christians are being persecuted.”

Johnson said he filed the bill on Jan. 8 in honor of the anniversary of Harvey Milk taking office in San Francisco. Milk, one of the first openly-gay people in the U.S. elected to public office, passed the first nondiscrimination ordinance. Since then 21 states and hundreds of cities have added sexual orientation and many have also added gender identity and expression to their employment laws.

Polls show more than 75 percent of Texans support employment nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation.

“The Legislature is lagging behind the people of Texas in this issue,” Johnson said. “We need to catch up.”

In Congress this week, the Respect for Marriage Act was introduced by a bipartisan group of representatives and senators to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

— David Taffet

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JANUARY
• Jan. 10: Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story
  Bamby Salcedo and Dante Alencastre show their film and lead a discussion hosted by Trans Pride Initiative at 4 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Tpride.org.

• Jan. 10: Bruce Wood: A Retrospective
  A new exhibition celebrating the life and creative contributions of the renowned Fort Worth dancer, choreographer and creative genius, opens with a reception 7–9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9 at the Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W Main St, Arlington. Exhibit runs Jan 10–Feb. 15. Tuesday–Saturday 10:00–5:00 p.m. Sunday 1–5:00 p.m. Admission is $8 for adults, $5 for students and seniors. Children 12 and under are free. Call 817-275-4600 or email ama@aronlintonmusuem.org for more information.

• Jan. 15: Little Black Dress Party
  Legal Hospice of Texas fundraiser 6:30–9 p.m. at ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. $10.

• Jan. 15: Roast and Toast for Lon Burnam
  Join numerous special guests for a roast honoring retiring LGBT ally Rep. Lon Burnam for his 18-year record of public service from 7:30–10 p.m. at South Street Patio, 400 E. South Street, Arlington. Proceeds benefit Downwinders at Risk. Purchase tickets at Bit.ly/1Kby93.

• Jan. 19: 10th Annual MLK Symposium
  Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture presents the 10th annual MLK Symposium featuring the premiere of a play adapted from King’s “Letters from a Birmingham Jail” 7–9 p.m. at Dallas Institute, 2719 South Street. Tickets are $20 for general admission, $10 for teachers and free for students. Purchase tickets at Bit.ly/1wCJNBZ. Call 214-871-2440 for more information.

• Jan. 20: Coming Out Workshop
  Jim McBride and the Rev. Jane Graner lead a seven-week coming out workshop on Tuesday evenings through March 3, 7–9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 214-284-9194 or jmbridedales@sbcglobal.net. Free.

• Jan. 24: Tyler Area Gays Winter Ball
  Join the Tyler Area Gays for their “Viva Las Vegas” Winter Ball from 7 p.m. – midnight at the Holiday Inn South Broadway, 5701 South Broadway Ave., Tyler. DJ, dance floor, casino games, heavy hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar and a contest for best Las Vegas entertainer looks like with prizes. All tickets will include a stack of casino chips. Tickets are $35 adult, $30 student until Jan. 18 or $40 at door. Tickets available at Tylerareaqays.com/viva-las-vegas.html.

• Jan. 30–Feb. 7: Couple Communication Workshop
  Candy Marcum, LPC and Jimmy Owen, LPC conduct a two-weekend workshop for couples. 5-7 p.m. on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 and 10 a.m.–noon on Jan 31 and Feb. 7 at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 260. $440 per couple. 214-522-1278. Candy@CandyMarcum.com.

FEBRUARY
• Feb. 7: Turtle Creek Chorale
  35th Anniversary Concert
  Tim Seeley conducts this performance. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at Tickets.TurtleCreekChorale.com or at 214-526-3214.

• Feb. 7: Night Circus Masquerade Ball
  The Women’s Chorus of Dallas annual fundraiser. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

• Feb. 14: LGBTQ SAVES Youth dance
  Valentine’s dance for youth 7–10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E California Way, Forest Hill. For more information visit LGBTQSaving.weebly.com or e-mail LGBTQSaves@gmail.com.

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

• Feb. 28: 17th Annual Toast to Life: Voodoo on the Trinity
  What do you get when you mix a bunny with magic? You get “Voodoo on the Trinity,” the theme of Resource Center’s annual Toast To Life fundraiser. DJ Lady Bunny will provide entertainment. The fundraiser begins 7 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 N Riverfront Blvd. For more information, visit bit.ly/1BUUp2w.

MARCH
• March 21: Tarrant County AIDS Walk
  Registration at 9 a.m. $20.

APRIL
• April 27-May 3: National Black Trans Advocacy Conference & Awards Gala
  Black Transmen Inc. presents their fourth annual national conference from April 27-May 5 at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, 8250 N. Central Expressway. This year’s theme is “Thinking & Speaking A Better World.” Limited scholarships are available. For more information and a full schedule visit Blacktrans.org/conference.html.

OCTOBER
• Oct. 5 – 8: Out & Equal 2015 Workplace Summit

The Gay Agenda

spotlight:

Bruce Wood: A Retrospective at Arlington Museum of Art

The Arlington Museum of Art, probably one of the most innovative small museums in the region, presents a long-overdue exhibition honoring Bruce Wood, the renowned Fort Worth choreographer who died in 2014.

Opening Jan. 10 and running through Feb. 15, Bruce Wood: A Retrospective features videos, photographs and other memorabilia from Wood’s two dance companies: the late Bruce Wood Dance Company and the current Bruce Wood Dance Project.

Chris Hightower, executive director of the AMA, exhibition curator and a friend of Wood’s, said in a statement Wood was a visionary and transformative dancer. “Bruce created more than 80 compositions that re-shaped the world of modern dance. Through his work he sought to bring innovative and unconventional productions that inspired and challenged his audiences,” Hightower said.

Wood wasn’t always appreciated by his hometown of Fort Worth. The BWDC was one of the original resident companies when Fort Worth’s Bass Performance Hall first opened. But sparse attendance, a dearth of community support and high overhead costs ultimately forced Wood to shutter his company.

Exhibit runs Jan 10–Feb. 15. Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 1–5 p.m. Admission is $8 for adults, $5 for students and seniors. Children 12 and under are free. Call 817-275-4600 or email ama@arlingtonmuseum.org for more information.

Volunteer greatness

Cece Cox, CEO of Resource Center, recently presented the Martha Dealey Volunteer of the Year Award to Michael Chau in recognition of his significant contributions to the center, including volunteering with the hot meals program and participating in special events. Chau and other volunteers were honored at the annual volunteer appreciation party Dec. 11. Others recognized at the event were: Fred Seufert, who received the Randolph Terrell Community Service Award, given to a group or individual for exceptional service to the LGBT community and/or people with HIV/AIDS; Nicky Bell, who received the Suzanne Wilson Award as the most significant volunteer in Client Services; Jamet Dawson and Vincent Fabello, co-recipients of the John Thomas Award as the LGBT Community Center’s most exceptional volunteers; Doug Wheeler, who received the Bill Nelson Award as the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic’s outstanding volunteer, and Alex Thompson, who received the Bruce Long Award for outstanding development department volunteer. Roger Lippert was recognized for donating the most time — 2,048 hours — in 2014, and 12 volunteers were honored for contributing more than 600 volunteer hours in 2014. More than 1,350 people gave more than 56,500 volunteer hours to Resource Center in 2014, valued at $1.2 million.
City diversity officer reports a year of progress to city council committee, with several issues currently under study

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Progress on LGBT equality in the city in 2014 was among the first issues of the new year addressed by Dallas City Council. Dallas Ethics and Diversity Officer Cheryl Orr made a presentation to the Budget, Audit and Finance Committee on Monday, Jan. 5.

Councilman Jerry Allen, who chairs the committee, thanked the LGBT Task Force for its work and practical recommendations, and spotlighted the passage of a resolution in March instructing city staff to review all policies and ordinances to make sure LGBT employees were being treated equally.

Councilman Philip Kingston, who is a committee member and was a sponsor of the resolution, complimented city staff for their work updating policies. He said people working at City Hall understood what the council’s intent was.

“People bought into the idea,” he said. Orr noted the controversy over an equality ordinance in Plano and compared that to the Dallas resolution that has been implemented without contentiousness.

Other highlights in 2014 included the expansion of family leave benefits so that LGBT employees, as well as single employees, could request time off to take care of a spouse or another designated person. Dallas County is now working on a similar policy for county employees.

The marshall’s office rewrote its no harassment policy toward LGBT detainees, Orr said. The city also improved its Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index score by 10 points.

Voters added sexual orientation and gender identity protections to the city charter in 2014. That amendment got more votes than any of the other ballot proposition and won in all but eight precincts.

Another milestone is that the city hired Orr as a diversity officer and included LGBT issues among her responsibilities.

The two negatives for the year were lack of progress equalizing benefits for LGBT employees with the city pension and the police and fire pension funds.

Cheryl Richards, Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau senior vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer, told the committee the city is actively working to bring LGBT conventions and meetings to Dallas.

Over the past two years, 33 LGBT conventions and meetings have been held in Dallas with a $37 million impact on the city. One of the largest LGBT conventions — Out & Equal — returns to Dallas in October.

Dallas Human Resources Director Molly Carroll filled out the city’s MEI survey for Human Rights Campaign Metropolitan Equality Index. She told the committee that the 10 point increase included two points for the change to the family leave policy and three points for the city’s relationship with the LGBT community. Bonus points were given for the community’s visibility.

Committee member Tennell Atkins wanted to know how to earn 100 percent. Austin is the only city in Texas with a perfect score. Dallas rates the state’s second best score.

Orr said points were lost for having no domestic partner registry or human rights commission.

LGBT Task Force member Nell Gaither said points were also lost for the city’s trans health benefits.

Councilman Tennell Atkins asked about a partner registry. Orr said that’s more of a county function and the city would have to reinvent the concept. Members of the LGBT Task Force who attended said that if the Supreme Court acts this session, the idea will be moot by the end of its term in June.

Councilman Adam Medrano, who is not on the committee but attended the briefing, said it was an honor to chair the LGBT Task Force and thanked the committee for its support on LGBT issues.
In no hurry over resolutions

Once you retire, tasks that once seemed so important lose their urgency

One of the best things about retirement is the ease in which movement from one year to the next takes place. I get in no hurry to do anything, because it’s all optional.

Last night, I stayed up until 4 a.m. watching Netflix movies because of my clear schedule this week. The night before I stayed up until 6 a.m. Of course, that left me sleeping during the day, but it mattered not. Most everything would wait until I got around to it.

I used my car for the first time in 2015 almost a full week into the New Year because I realized that when I went to the grocery store on New Year’s Eve, I forgot to buy dog food. With two ravenous mouths to feed every morning, I conceded it was time to hit the road again.

Mickey the Schnauzer and Lucky the Jackshund get really testy when breakfast doesn’t hit the floor within 10 minutes of our getting out of bed, so I decided not to dally any longer. I had just emptied every morsel out of the dog food bag to fill their bellies.

After spending two days in my pajamas, I finally hit the shower and got dressed. On the way across Cedar Creek Lake to Walmart, it occurred to me I no longer drove quite as fast as I did when I worked full-time. The slower speed gave me a chance to truly enjoy the scenery and eat and drink less so I would look better. I’ve always wanted to lose their urgency once seemed so important.

Resolved:

Once you retire, tasks that once seemed so important lose their urgency.

One of the best things about retirement is the ease in which movement from one year to the next takes place. I get in no hurry to do anything, because it’s all optional.

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After spending two days in my pajamas, I finally hit the shower and got dressed. On the way across Cedar Creek Lake to Walmart, it occurred to me I no longer drove quite as fast as I did when I worked full-time. The slower speed gave me a chance to truly enjoy the scenery and eat and drink less so I would look better. I’ve always wanted to lose their urgency once seemed so important.

Resolved:

Once you retire, tasks that once seemed so important lose their urgency.

One of the best things about retirement is the ease in which movement from one year to the next takes place. I get in no hurry to do anything, because it’s all optional.

Last night, I stayed up until 4 a.m. watching Netflix movies because of my clear schedule this week. The night before I stayed up until 6 a.m. Of course, that left me sleeping during the day, but it mattered not. Most everything would wait until I got around to it.

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Embracing your inner — and outer — daddy

Is gay culture shifting away from its obsession with youth?

I was sitting at JR’s having a beer once, waiting for a friend to arrive. I turned and caught the eye of the young man sitting next to me. I estimated he was about 26. “Hey,” I said with a nod. He gave me the “gay sigh” — you know it, the “not this again” force of air that says “Calm down!”

“Sorry, not into daddies,” he said.

I was 32.

In gay culture, as we mostly know, over 30 is “old.” And gays are all about young’uns, right? Well, sort of.

True, a lot of 20somethings like to date other 20somethings. Some are OK with 10 years up ... max. And of course, there have always been chasers — chubby-, daddy-, bear-, leather- or other. At 32, I felt too young to be a daddy. I also didn’t take too much offense (I had a boyfriend) because I knew, in four years tops, this kid was gonna be 30 and someone was gonna give him the gay sigh.

Karma’s a bitch, y’all.

What was strange was, at 32 — and 35, and 39 — I was not getting many complimentary stares (I was also not on the market, and Grindr was still years away). Then, at 44 — single and looking to mingle — I started getting hit on. There were older guys (50s and 60s) who would hit on me of course, but far and away the most propositions came from guys (50s and 60s) who would hit on me of course, of course. I was 32.

I was officially a daddy. And I liked it.

I created a word for myself — a “cougay” — to reflect my dating of younger men. But the truth was, I was not one of the youth-obsessed gays. I wasn’t seeking them out, they were seeking me. Some were close to my age (late 30s/early 40s); others were older (50s and 60s) who would hit on me of course, but I wasn’t seeking them out, they were seeking me. Some were close to my age (late 30s/early 40s); none I was seriously interested in happened to be older. And they kept coming at me.

I don’t know what that is. I was always very clear: I am not your sugar-daddy; I am, at best, a Splenda-daddy. I won’t pay your rent, but you can...
My life has been more biblical than I deserve," Jaston Williams drawls from his home in Lockhart, Texas, demonstrating a scathing wit that has made him one of the true legends of Texas humor. With his professional partners Joe Sears and Ed Howard, Williams is co-creator of the Tuna Trilogy, a series of (now actually four) plays set in the third-smallest town in Texas, in which all the residents are portrayed by the same two actors.

But Williams' cleverness — and talent — have always extended beyond those classics of Texana. He's an experienced author, playwright, monologist and actor in others' plays, as he's about to show North Texas audiences (again) in his one-man show Tru, now playing at Theatre 3.

Williams' own sense of humor serves him well in the show, about a few days in the life of Truman Capote, a towering figure in American letters who helped invent the modern style of journalism and reinvented the novel, but whose gifts were largely squandered to booze and bad behavior. It's a plum role, and one not often performed.

Nevertheless, this isn't the first time Williams has taken on the part, but which won its star, Robert Morse, a much-deserved Tony Award in 1990, which has been rarely revived in the years since — indeed, Williams was the first.

"I did it the first time more than a decade ago," he explains. "[Dallas actor and director] Larry Randolph and I wanted to do something together and I talked to Jay Presson Allen, who was a big Tuna fan, and who wrote [Tru]. I contacted her agent who said she hadn't released it to anybody, but she said, 'I'd love for Jaston to do it!' I think I was the first one outside of Bobby Morse on Broadway."

Williams' interpretation — and his insight into the man he's portraying — has changed since the first time he mounted it.

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"Back then we were much more aware of the humor of the play, but when we revived it back at Zach Scott Theatre [in Austin] a decade later, both of us had kind of grown into it. It's also heartbreaking and scary. It's really about a guy trying to get through a day without having a drink. I think that time around we truly nailed it."

That was in 2013. Last winter, when Theatre 3 founder Jac Alder
approached Williams about putting it on in Dallas, he jumped at the chance to reunite with Randolp, his good friend and former acting coach. But Randolph died last summer, and this third attempt has taken on a life of its own.

“This was Larry’s production, and we lost him, so we have been trying to recapture what he did,” Williams says thoughtfully. “We had all his blocking and intricate stuff and the folks at Theatre 3 have been very patient at letting me remember. I hope those who knew what a great artist he was will come see it, and see that his work has outlived him. It’s a very emotional thing for me because Larry was my acting teacher since I was 18.”

Williams sentiment for the show (and his friend) mirrors his own appreciation not just for Capote the man and literary lion, but for the period in culture he represented.

“He had such an amazing wit. It is so much fun to research him. I’ve read Answered Prayers and A Christmas Memory, as well as read the biography by Gerald Clark, which has such insights into [Capote]. There’s a wonderful section where [Tru] got into a big fight with Mary McCarthy not long after Breakfast at Tiffany’s came out. She said [something like], ‘Our literature has become the reflection of a mirror on a whore’s ceiling,’ Capote responded, ‘If anyone knows what a whore sees when she looks at the ceiling, it’s Mary McCarthy.’ That’s what I miss in the old days — these great literary feuds. We’ve gone from Dorothy Parker to Chelsea Handler and it’s not a fair trade.”

The play centers around the initial publication of stories from Answered Prayers, in which Capote dished about the highest levels of New York society, telling all the secrets his friends thought he would keep in confidence. The reaction against Capote at the time devastated him; one suicide was even directly attributed to his story. (The suicide victim was one of those people who nobody missed but they hated to see her go anyway,” Williams says.)

Although he never met Capote, the two have an unusual personal connection. Capote famously wrote everything in longhand in a tiny, identifiable script. A few years ago, Williams was in a friend’s antique store in Lockhart and purchased a used book about Edie Sedgwick “for a few bucks. I got home and saw an inscription and I thought, ‘That looks like the signature is Tru.’ I looked up the woman [it was inscribed to] and she was former editor of the Washington Post and it was indeed a gift from Capote.”

Such stories delight Williams, although he knows the author is not the pop culture figure he was in his heyday. For many, Capote is a vague figure (he died more than 30 years ago, and may know the author is not the pop culture figure he was in his heyday. For many, Capote is a vague figure (he died more than 30 years ago, and may know the author is not the pop culture figure he was in his heyday. For many, Capote is a vague figure (he died more than 30 years ago, and may know the author is not the pop culture figure he was in his heyday. For many, Capote is a vague figure (he died more than 30 years ago, and may know the author is not the pop culture figure he was in his heyday. For many, Capote is a vague figure (he died more than 30 years ago, and may know the author is not the pop culture figure he was in his heyday. For many, Capote is a vague figure (he died more than 30 years ago, and may know the author is not the pop culture figure he was in his heyday. 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Inherent Vice

Paul Thomas Anderson is one of those newish breed of filmmakers (along with David O. Russell, J.C. Chandor, Bennett Miller and Jason Reitman) who strikes me as self-consciously trying to be unartiste. (Gus Van Sant, on the other hand, doesn’t need to try; he just is.) His films feel calculated and bizarrely inorganic, even when they are good. But it’s been since 1997’s Boogie Nights — his second feature — that he’s actually been entertaining … until now.

Inherent Vice, Anderson’s seventh film, is the first-ever film adaption of a work by reclusive, quirky novelist Thomas Pynchon, himself a legit literary artist. Pynchon’s rangy, pun-filled prose lives in its verbiage, so finding a visual cognate is no small feat, but Anderson has done just that, striking a whimsical but mysterious tone that drives the roving plot.

Anderson isn’t known for his comedy chops (his last attempt, Punch Drunk Love, was Adam Sandler’s least funny film, and that says something), but he and Pynchon seem to be in synch will this period piece. Set in the early 1970s during the waning days of hippie drug culture, it revolves around pothead private detective Doc Sportello (Joaquin Phoenix, as strange as ever but more accessible) and his quest to track down a former lover. It’s a formulaic plot as old as Dashiell Hammett (and as recent as The Big Lebowski).

The film runs a meandering two-and-a-half hours, with turns of cameos and off-type performances from Martin Short to Owen Wilson to Reese Witherspoon. The key to enjoying it all? Don’t get caught up in the plot, but in the characters and the pacing and droll satire. This is a thinking person’s comedy, a lampoon aimed at adults, not teens. Revel in it while you can. (Now playing at Angelika Mockingbird Station.)

Selma

Martin Luther King Jr. is as close as America has ever come to a genuine secular martyr and voice of conscience, a Nobel Peace Prize winner struck down at 39 but whose legacy is almost unfathomable. His influence on the Zeitgeist echoes as strongly today as it did 50 years ago, when he led a march on Selma, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to black Americans. The racist reaction so shocked the sense of those who saw it that even non-activists whites joined his cause.

Selma magnificently captures the humanity and political savvy of King (an Oscar-worthy David Oyelowo) while reminding us that as many strides as we have made, there’s still a long way to go. (Look for a film called Fugerson a decade from now.) Ava DuVernay makes an auspicious feature directing debut, gracefully underplaying the scenes of violence with such restraint (no mawkish underscore or slo-mo blood-letting) that the courage of the people who stood firm against the state quakes you. Selma is not just a history lesson; it’s a monumental reminder of the majesty of the human spirit. (Now playing at Angelika Mockingbird Station.)

Mr. Turner

British director Mike Leigh specializes in improv-style films about contemporary themes … except when he wanders into tightly-constructed 19th century biopics like Topsy-Turvy and, now, Mr. Turner. The man in question is landscape J.M.W. Turner (Timothy Spall), often considered Britain’s greatest artist, who pre-figured the post-impressionists with his blurred visions of seascapes and countryside. He was a modernist before it was acceptable, and a curmudgeonly old sod at that.

Spall digs deeps into Turner’s interior life, and Leigh makes the solidary act of painting feel cinematic, although the pacing drags and the de-nouement falls sudden and stiffly, as if, unlike Turner’s famed locomotive, the film simply runs out of steam. (Now playing at Landmark’s Magnolia.)

— Arnold Wayne Jones

PULP FICTION | Owen Wilson, left, makes a clever cameo, but Joaquin Phoenix carries ‘Inherent Vice.”
Kid tested, mother approved

My mother drove my grandmother around in her Mercedes for years, so she knows what a world-class German car is like. But because my father worked at General Motors for 30 years, she'd never owned anything but a GM. So when I left her and my daughter in the ML400 while hopping into a coffee shop, I thought nothing of it.

“I could take this one home,” she said when I got back. “Usually when you tell me the price of your cars, I think, ‘I wouldn’t pay that, even if I could afford it.’ But, this one, I would. There’s nothing I don’t like about it.”

It’s an easy car to like. The interior of our ML came in auburn brown and black leather. Heated and ventilated front and rear seats and a heated steering wheel take the sting out of any weather. My mom also liked the retractable panorama glass roof, divine Harman/Kardon audio system, and matte-sanded ash wood trim.

While my mom didn’t realize it at first, the ML is loaded with technology. Navigation, rearview camera and Bluetooth/audio streaming are as expected, but our ML also came with a surround-view camera system, lane keep assist, radar-guided cruise control and forward collision avoidance systems. She never even noticed the joywheel-controlled infotainment system.

Mom was also struck by the exterior — especially the steel gray metallic paint. She’s a big fan of blue. Add 20-in. AMG 5-spoke alloy wheels, chrome door handle surrounds and chrome valance in the rear to sport it out. There’s no missing the big three-pointed star that dominates the grille, LED driving lamps or the rear fender creases taken from the half-century passed Ponton models.

Mother is a lead foot, and if she had been behind the wheel, would surely have earned a ticket. The truck’s 3.0-liter biturbo V6 delivers 329 horses and 18/22-MPG city/hwy. A 7-speed automatic transmission is super smooth and optimizes fuel economy. The vehicle’s size and all-wheel-drive aren’t exactly ideal for counting calories, but start/stop technology helps save dollars. Step on it off the line or hauling down the freeway and you’ll know a Mercedes is pushing your bum.

The same is true of the chassis. The adjustable 4-wheel independent suspension can be set for Comfort or Sport, the former providing an old-world wafting Mercedes ride while the later reminds you who owns AMG. In either mode, the big wagon is composed over any surface, although Sport will rattle your teeth on rough roads. Need to ford a stream or whisk through a foot of snow? Raise the suspension and go forth.

If you don’t want to take my or my mother’s word for it, Mercedes has a slightly higher endorsement. An ML is among the Pope’s official fleet. While his predecessors did not quibble over cost, Pope Francis may balk at the ML’s base price of $48,300 (a whopping $79,310 as tested). One ride and he may decide it’s too heavenly to pass up.

Competition comes from BMW X5, Cadillac Escalade, Range Rover Sport, Audi Q7 and Jeep Grand Cherokee.
Puerto Vallarta is a fast-growing city on the Pacific Coast’s fabled Mexican Riviera. PV’s historic downtown (El Centro) is hemmed in by the verdant slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Just south of El Centro, in Zona Romantica, you’ll find a bustling gay scene comprising trendy cocktail bars, hopping dance clubs, scene-y open-air restaurants and inviting hotels and condos – just steps from the beach.

Despite its growing popularity, the city is still a relative bargain compared with the U.S., the Caribbean and other Mexican resort areas. On nearly any budget, you can eat well and stay in a comfortable room near the beach in this inviting, friendly destination that’s now one of the hottest LGBT resort communities in the world — a favorite place both to vacation and retire to.

With a population of roughly a quarter million, Puerto Vallarta no longer bears much resemblance to the carefree and isolated fishing port that provided the 1963 location for film of Tennessee Williams’ The Night of the Iguana. In recent years, PV has developed into a world-class gay mecca. Resources for LGBT visitors are many, including GayGuideVallarta.com and GayPV Magazine (GayPV.mx).

Zona Romantica is a compact patchwork of hilly lanes tucked beneath the Sierra Madre foothills. The neighborhood fringes Los Muertos Beach, and narrow auto and pedestrian bridges connect the district with El Centro. The beachfront location of Zona Romantica, as well as its elegantly faded veneer and historic charm, accounts for its ever-increasing draw among gay visitors and bohemian types. It’s a neighborhood that celebrates its diversity — everyone is welcome, but especially during the bustling high season (generally June through September), when highs often reach the low 90s and humidity can sometimes be oppressive. Puerto Vallarta receives far fewer visitors off-season, and some businesses close for extended periods in summer.

If you’re a fan of outdoor activities or are interested in some of the many side excursions available from this area, book a trip through the gay-friendly outfitter Vallarta Adventures. One excellent tour option is the company’s thrilling Extreme Zip Line Adventure, a tree-top canopy tour, off-roading trip and waterslide experience in a high-jungle adventure park. The company also offers tours of secluded beaches like Yelapa and Las Caletas, as well as whale-watching, snorkeling, sailing trips, and up-close encounters with bottlenose dolphins and sea lions.

Where to eat
PV has dozens of outstanding restaurants as well as a slew of hip bars, and the scene is continuously evolving. At the upper end, don’t miss Cafe Des Artistes, a sumptuous spot with refined service and deftly prepared contemporary cuisine. For authentic regional Mexican food served in a charming, warmly furnished dining room, try lesbian-owned El Arrayan, where you can sample everything from duck carnitas in an orange-guajillo chile sauce to roasted crispy Oaxacan crickets sautéed with tomatillo-avocado salsa.

Along the beachfront, Daiquiri Dick’s is a picturesque spot for a leisurely brunch or lunch, with or without a potent cocktail, and overlooking the water on the north side of El Centro, open-air El Barracuda serves superb, fresh-caught seafood, such as shrimp al pastor tacos and blackened rare-seared tuna steak.

Just inland from Zona Romantica, the less-touristy Colonia Romantica is a few wonderfully romantic restaurants, including the famed Red Cabbage Cafe, an art-filled dining room that’s known for some of the best mole and other classic Mexican dishes in the city, and dapper Casa Naranjo, which serves consistently delicious and inventive Nuevo Latino fare.

You’ll find dozens of mostly casual, affordable spots in the heart of Zona Romantica, many along the “restaurant rows” of Basilla Badillo and Olas Altas, which intersect a block from the beach. Reliable options along the latter street include Café San Angel for burgers and tapas, Kabuki Sushi Bar for Japanese food, and The Swedes Bar & Bistro for European classics with a Scandinavian flair. Along Basilla Badillo, check out intimate and lively Joe Jack’s Fish Shack for first-rate seafood, El Mole de Jovita for expertly prepared regional Mexican cooking, and Boccon di Vino for modern Italian fare in a romantic dining room.

Gay nightlife and beach scene
When the mood to socialize strikes you, keep in mind that dance clubs don’t get going until late, and they keep pulsing into the wee hours. Socializing over beer or cocktails begins for many visitors quite early in the day at, for instance, one of the beach clubs along scenic Playa Los Muertos (a few blocks south of Zona Romantica’s stunning pier, which glows at night with colorful lighting). At three très gay spots along here — Blue Chairs, Manta Mar and Ritmos Café — you can enjoy hobnobbing, dining and eating while lazily under a thatched beach umbrella overlooking the sea.

Early in the evening, head to one of lounges and cocktail bars along Olas Altas and the surrounding blocks. These include convivial lesbian-owned Apaches bar, the jazz club and piano cabaret Garbo, trendy Sama bar, festive La Cueva Cantina and friendly...
VOTE at dallasvoice.com/RVA

by 01.31.15 for your local favorites!

YOU CAN WIN $500 cash, dinner for two at Dish and a pair of tickets to “Chicago” at Bass Hall!
Los Amigos. One of the swankiest and trendiest bar options, La Noche is a gorgeous bi-level lounge with a highly popular upstairs patio. Across the street, CC Slaughters is a hot spot for late-night dancing, and Spartacus Spa is the top gay sauna in the city. And within a few steps of this bustling intersection, you’ll also find Paco’s Ranch, a fun option for late-night drinking and dancing; and Wet Dreams, which, as its name suggests, showcases buff dudes stripping in showers. Fans of male strippers should also be sure to check out the hot roster of talent at Antropology a few blocks north.

Other nightlife highlights include one of the campiest bars in town, Reinas, which is decorated as an homage to the British royal family; the Act II Stages complex which includes a theater, piano bar and cabaret that presents both local and internationally renowned touring acts, musicals and concerts; Diva’s, with its well-attended, dishy drag shows; and Club Enter, which is arguably the top PV venue for late-night dancing, with an emphasis on electronica.

Where to stay
In Zona Romantica, visitors can choose from a nice mix of gay-friendly options. If you’re on a budget and seek a clean, comfortable and friendly gay property in the center of the action, check into the 28-room Hotel Mercurio, which is just steps from many gay bars and restaurants (and two blocks from the beach), and offers compact but pleasant rooms and a youthful, social vibe — there’s always plenty of frolicking going on around the pool, and the staff is super-friendly. A handsome, contemporary property that’s also in the center of the action, Olas Altas Suites has three types of reasonably priced units, all of them with full kitchens, flat-screen TVs and attractive, well-chosen furniture. The best units have balconies.

A short walk north of Zona Romantica in the historic Old Town, gay-owned Villa David is the only clothing-optional men’s property in PV. This historic hacienda with a tree-shaded pool and courtyard has 10 beautifully appointed rooms – the vibe here very much captures the city’s Spanish Colonial heritage.

Puerto Vallarta is also home to one of the most alluring, dramatically situated gay resorts in the world, the stellar Casa Cupula, which excels as much at its stylish accommodations as it does at its staff, who are friendly, knowledgeable and charming. The 20 rooms range from cozy, more economical rooms to ultra-plush suites with magnificent ocean views and private soaking pools. The on-site restaurant Taste serves outstanding Latin-Asian-Mediterranean–fusion fare and is popular both with hotel guests and visitors staying in town. Facilities include a well-stocked gym, a pool and a large open-air lounge with adjacent computer room. The property tumbles down a hillside high above Zona Romantica, a 15-minute walk from the gay beach.

Most gay travelers opt to stay in or near Zona Romantica, but if you’d prefer to chill out at a large mainstream resort that’s a bit far from the fray, you’ll find plenty of swanky options north of downtown, around the marina. The stylish Westin Resort & Spa occupies a gorgeous stretch of beachfront. A 45-minute drive up the coast in a once-sleepy fishing village that’s now a chic resort, the Four Seasons is one of the most luxurious getaways on Mexico’s Pacific Coast. This secluded compound of beautifully appointed casita-style rooms is perfect for a special getaway. Amenities include an inviting spa, two outstanding golf courses, plus tennis, uncrowded beaches, stunning pools and fine restaurants.

The Four Seasons is still close enough to Puerto Vallarta to venture in for dinner or clubbing, and it’s just a quick 30-minute hop down the coast from the laid-back surfing village of Sayulita, a bohemian, artsy community with a growing LGBT following and even a couple of gay-owned vacation retreats, including chic Casa Brava guest house and the eco-conscious Xocotla bluff-top hideaway with four inviting apartments.

— Andrew Collins
Thursday 01.15

Marvel brings superheroes alive in Dallas — Part 1

We always knew Dallas was marvelous, but now it's Marvel-ous. The first of two Marvel Comics-themed shows, The Marvel Experience, opens Thursday at the Cotton Bowl. A theme-park-like expo, with a ride, exhibits and behind-the-scenes looks into Stan Lee's Universe.


Fashion Cited kicks off with Little Black Dress Party at the ilume

Legal Hospice of Texas' big spring fundraiser is a fashion show, but before that happens, some lucky designer has to win the Little Black Dress contest, and this party at the ilume is your chance to see what local fashionistas have come up with and vote on a winner, all while supporting a worthy cause.

DEETS: ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave, 6:30–9 p.m. $10 donation requested. LegalHospice.org.

Saturday 01.10

Drag Racer Bianca blasts into The Brick

She was the first out-and-out comedy queen to take the top prize on RuPaul's Drag Race, and you can see why when Bianca del Rio brings her shtick back to Dallas for the monthly Second Saturday at Joe's/The Brick. Don't expect lip synching or gymnastic dancing from this seasoned performer — just expect to laugh a lot.

DEETS: The Brick, 2525 Wycliffe Ave. 9 p.m.
**ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING**

**THEATER**

**Another Murder, Another Show!** The latest of Pegasus Theatre’s In Living Black & White shows, where makeup and lighting make the play appear to be an old black and white film. Harry Hunsacker is back in this spoof of mystery films. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 5231 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Jan. 25. EisemannCenter.com.

**The Book Club Play.** A well-off woman who loves her book club allows a documentary team to film her and hilarity ensues in this modern comedy. Kaita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 1. DallasTheaterCenter.org.


**FINE ART**


**FRIDAY 01.09**

**COMMUNITY**

**High Tech Happy Hour.** The monthly gay mixer for techies and anyone else heads to Cook Hall inside the Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 5:30–7:30 p.m. Complimentary valet.

**GARDENING**


**SUNDAY 01.11**

**BROADCAST**

**The Golden Globe Awards.** The annual awards show that honors TV and film, and is seen as a harbinger for the Oscar nominations due later this month. Airs on NBC at 7 p.m.

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

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

**My Husband’s Not Gay.** TLC airs this reality special where several opposite-sex Mormon couples in Utah explain how, while the man lusts for other men, he’s happily married to a woman. Airs on TLC at 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY 01.10**

**SPORTS**

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

**SHOW**

**Blanca del Rio.** The Drag Race winner performs at The Brick, 2525 Wycliffe Ave. 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY 01.13**

**EXERCISE**

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

**FILM**

**The King and I.** Yul Brynner won an Oscar for this colorful musical adaptation of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark’s Magnolia in the West

**MONDAY 01.12**

**CONCERTS**

Matthew Polenzani. The tenor sings, accompanied by pianist Julius Drake, as part of the Titus Art Song Series, sponsored by the Dallas Opera. Caruth Auditorium on the SMU campus, 6101 Bishop Ave. 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org.

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WEDNESDAY 01.14

BROADCAST
Top Chef. This season, in Boston, with Padme, Tom, Gail and Richard Blais, returns. Airs on Bravo at 8 p.m.
American Horror Story: Freak Show. The creepiest season yet of the anthology series, returns. Airs on FX at 8 p.m.

FUNDRAISER
The Little Black Dress Party. A preview of Fashion Cited’s spring fashion show, with local designers interpreting the Chanel classic. ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. $10 donation. 6:30–9 p.m.

THURSDAY 01.15

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

EXPO

CONCERTS
Mario Fragoulis. The cross-over singer performs his jazz, pop and classical standards in concert. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

Live Music Series at Cook Hall. Zach Coffey performs at the restaurant inside the W Victory Hotel, 2440 Victory Park Lane. 9 p.m.–midnight. Complimentary valet.

FUNDRAISER
The Little Black Dress Party. A preview of Fashion Cited’s spring fashion show, with local designers interpreting the Chanel classic. ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. $10 donation. 6:30–9 p.m.

this week’s solution

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What’s up with kids these days?

2015 is off to a bitch of a start. It’s not that anything bad has happened to me (knock wood), it’s just that I seem to get more easily annoyed than way back in 2014. I know I am going to sound like some old fart by saying this, but what the hell is with young people today? These youths have such a sense of entitlement. There is a lack of respect for others. Remember manners — do they still teach them anymore? I am totally against child abuse but some of these kids need their asses beat. I grew up with a healthy fear of my mother. Not just that she would whoop me, but fear that I would disappoint her. Do people care about things like that anymore? I miss kids saying “yes sir” or “no, ma’am” instead of “naw” and “yeah.” My mother had a glare that was worse than any ass-beating. She could give you a look that would make your butt muscles clench.

I am not saying I was a perfect child; I was not. I remember once, on Halloween, we stopped by M.E. Moses for some candy for the trick-or-treaters. I decided to steal this plastic witch head that had powdered candy in it. As I slid it into my pocket, the woman in line behind my mom said, “I think you had horrible coming out stories and I want to raise my son where he never has to ‘come out’ because he was never ‘in.’” I want him to love himself because sexual orientation doesn’t make a person who they are. It’s their character that makes them who they are and I want him to be a confident, strong individual who isn’t scared to be himself.

You are amazing at what you do and I can’t wait to come out and see another of your shows. Thank you, Janette.

Dear Janette, First let me say you are amazing for your son being raised in a nurturing environment. My mother says that she knew I was gay when I was 4. I didn’t know I was gay until the hormones kicked in when I was 12. From then on, I think I started doing a mental disconnect from my family because I thought when they found out I was gay, I would be on my own. My coming out story had its rough patches and it took me and my family a while to get to a place of acceptance. And I didn’t make it easy for them either — first I was gay, then I was a drag queen. Oy vey! But now the family dynamic is good. They even love and accept my husband, probably even more than me. Knowing your son has you and your acceptance of him, whoever he wants to be, makes my heart smile. But being gay, lesbian or transgender (especially transgender) is not an easy road to go. Bullying and suicide is a real problem for the young of our community, so please watch out for that. Keep doing what you are doing and thank you from every gay person, ever. Cassie.

Hi Cassie, I’ve found recently that I could actually fall in love with different guys at the same time. My question is: have I got a problem or are we just surrounded by fairy tales/religious bollocks? Thanks, Philippe.

Dear Philippe, Is that your name or is that what you do? Just kidding. It sounds to me that you are polysomorous. Your problem has nothing to do with fairy tales or religion. Well, some of it is religion. Your problem mostly is finding like-minded individuals that share your way of thinking. Your biggest problem will be jealousy. Good luck with finding a serious relationship with more than one guy at the same time. It’s hard enough to find one good guy. I could never be with a dude whom is in love with other guys. Call me old fashioned. C’est la vie, Cassie.

Cassie’s Random Thoughts: If you remove the “E” from selfish and add “SH,” you get selfish. Fried turkey is de bomb! If you stick a glow stick up your butt, can you use your penis as a flashlight? I love the cold weather but miss seeing my warm-weather-loving geckos outside my house. Pollen is flower cum. Sometimes I wish I lived in the Shire. Whoever said “Nothing tastes as good as being thin feels” never had a creme brulee.

Love more. Bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question and want to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen — or just have some juicy gossip to share — email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.
Making the Scene the week of Jan. 9–15:

Alexandre’s: The Filter Kings on Friday. Shesha P and Infinity on Saturday. Karaoke with Lil’ Chalupa on Sunday and Tuesday. Mi Diva Loca on Wednesday. Alicia Silex on Thursday.

Brick / Joe’s: RuPaul’s Drag Race winner Bianca del Rio appears at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

Changes: Cowtown Leathermen meeting at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Club Reflection: Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Imperial Court game night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Wall of Food show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: National Leather Association club night on Saturday. Leather Knights anniversary celebration and installation of new officers with beneficiary check presentations at 7 p.m. on Saturday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Cher-E-Cher at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

S4: DJ ATG and DJ Snow White on Thursday.

Sue Ellen’s: Heather Knox Band on Friday. Mojo Dolls on Saturday. Jessica Gral from 3–5 p.m. and Bad Habits from 6–9 p.m. on Sunday. Kelli and Jadyn on Wednesday. Karaoke with Lil’ Chalupa on Monday and Thursday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Heygood.
Wayne Smith and admirers at Liquid Zoo.

Steven, Robert and Andy at TMC.

Group at Havana.

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Solution on page 23

Across
1 Gay-friendly Hutcheson of
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5 ‘Enry’s fair lady
10 Gay-friendly singer of the
   Jonas Brothers
14 Invitation to a top?
15 Rock’s Pillow Talk costar
16 North Sea feeder
17 Baudelaire’s well
18 Gay-friendly comics
   creator Morrison
19 Capital of sterreich
20 With 22-Across, gay-friendly
   satirist and faux homophobe
22 See 20-Across
24 Canon camera
25 Colette’s king
26 Freddie Prinze role
29 James Beard cookbook meas.
32 Orderly display
36 Mane, to The Lion King’s Nala
37 Gay-friendly country singer Parton
39 Tubbies’ prefix
40 Xerxus deity
41 MacDowell of L’Oréal ads
42 Med. care grps.
43 Where to find Trojans
44 Tough nuts to crack
46 WSW opposite

47 With 49-Across, gay-friendly
   Scandal creator
49 See 47-Across
51 Go head to head
52 Queen’s “We ___ the Champions”
55 Fed. book balancers
56 Gay-friendly producer of
   The Fosters
59 Put in a position
61 Stars that shoot off
62 Love of Lesbos
64 Connine with a con
65 “Don’t even bother”
66 Title role for Jodie Foster
67 Delilah portrayer Lamarr
68 Gay rodeo target
69 Saving Private Ryan event

Down
1 Blow ___ (oral encounters)
   2 Like a top
3 Barrie buccaneer
4 Nags the hubby
5 Rims
6 Aftermath of love?
7 Broadway lyricist Gershwin
8 Silvery metal
9 The Maltese Falcon actress Mary
10 Experience at the
   Cathedral of Hope
11 Eurythmics’ “Would ___ to You?”
12 Good buddy
13 He got into Superman’s pants
21 Boo’s partner
23 Long, in Hawaii
26 An elf-made man?
27 Hard to bear
28 Like Button’s blades, at times
29 Collette of The Hours
30 Construction co. project
31 What a Muscle Mary wants to be
33 Got nostalgic about gay icons
34 Garbo line ender
35 Frida Kahlo’s sis
37 Carvey, who cross-dressed as
   the Church Lady
38 Linda Hunt’s
   The ___ of Living Dangerously
44 Rosie O’Donnell’s
   Exit to ___
45 “Beat it!”
48 Age of a new nonagenarian
50 Hover menacingly
52 Online exaggeration?
53 Stage show
54 Use a rubber
56 Agree
57 Chelsea Pines and others
58 Look at a hottie in a bar
59 Meredith Grey’s kid
60 Skeptical ejaculation
63 Cunning

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