Black Tie Dinner lights up Saturday
by Tammye Nash, Page 8
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Kennedy Davenport needs your help

When we interviewed Drag Race contestant and local drag diva Kennedy Davenport earlier this year, we talked about how she was still living in the same Oak Cliff home where she grew up. But recently, that situation was called into question. Following the death of her father, Kennedy continued to pay the mortgage, but now the mortgage company has called in a balloon payment of $33,000 due around Dec. 15. So Kennedy has started a GoFundMe page asking for fans' support in raising the money so that she and four other family members can stay in their home. After less than a week, Kennedy had already raised approximately half of the money (impressively, from about 550 donations), but there's still a way to go.

– Arnold Wayne Jones

DOT offers clarification on nondiscrimination policy

Existing nondiscrimination policies covering public transportation already include protections for transgender people, according to a statement issued Monday, Nov. 9, by the federal Department of Public Transportation, at the request of Dallas' Trans Pride Initiative.

Nell Gaither, president of Trans Pride Initiative, said DOT issued the statement after her organization and Resource Center submitted a joint inquiry seeking clarification in June, as part of their efforts to help a Dallas trans woman who had encountered discrimination from employees in the Dallas public transportation system.

The woman "had been harassed, being called 'sir' and 'mister' in order to publicly out her" after she showed her state identification, Gaither said. "That's not only harassment, it can put her safety and her life in danger."

"Staff were victim blaming," Gaither said. "At one point, a manager reviewing the issue stated that the trans woman was 'confusing' the person who harassed her by not getting her ID changed. 'That's not an appropriate response.'

The statement issued Monday only addresses gender identity, possibly because case law around sex discrimination as it applies to sexual orientation is less clear, Gaither said. "We will continue to advocate for sexual orientation protections to be specifically added, but we certainly think [the] announcement is worth celebrating."

– Tammye Nash

Two suspects connected to Katy Trail robberies arrested

Dallas police have arrested two suspects connected to a robbery on the Katy Trail. Daray Robinson, 21, and Jamaciay Smith, 17, were arrested on one count each of aggravated robbery.

Robinson admitted to his involvement in one robbery, which occurred on Nov. 1. On Monday, Nov. 9, the department released video footage showing a suspect trying to use a victim's debit card after a hold up. Police were able to trace the transaction back to the pair. Police suspect the men may be connected to at least five other robberies along the trail, including in Reverchon Park.

Police ask anyone with information on these recent incidents to call the Dallas Police Robbery Unit at 214-671-3584 or Crime Stoppers at 214-373-8477.

– James Russell
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Alex is a domestic shorthair mix that is about a month old. He is black and white and weighs about 2 pounds right now. He has been at Operation Kindness since Oct. 26 and is ready for his forever home.

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.

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.

NOVEMBER

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNOM-FM; 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 214-580-4500 or rramirez@myresourcecenter.org.

• Nov. 13: High Tech Happy Hour Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle at the Quadrangle, 2800 Routh St.

• Nov. 13: TCGPWA Holiday Prize Bingo Enjoy bingo, drinks and do some holiday shopping at 6 p.m. at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, 953 E. Avenue J, Grand Prairie. $20 buys two bingo cards for 15 rounds of bingo. Proceeds benefit Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association. For more information visit On.fb.me/1LImRcd.

• Nov. 14: Black Tie Dinner: Ignite the Night The 33rd annual dinner benefitting Human Rights Campaign and local organizations features Well Strung, Ty Herndon, Berry Who
and Dana Goldberg. Honorees include Jim Obergefell, John Arthur and The Trevor Project. Legacy Counseling Center’s Melissa Groves receives the Raymond Kuchling Award. Dallas Sheraton Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. For more information visit Blacktie.org.

- Nov 15: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Meeting
Tarrant County Pride’s monthly meeting at 3 p.m. at the Barron House at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

- Nov 15: Transgender Day of Remembrance Service at CoH
Service from 6:30-8 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Rd.

- Nov 17: Toast to Life
Take a sneak peek of what’s to come at the Mad Hatter’s Ball from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Villa O, 4514 Travis St. Ste. 132.

- Nov 17: 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 ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. Open to all members. Free. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

- Nov 17: 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.

- Nov 17: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFA Meeting
Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information contact Finn Jones by phone at 214-499-0378 or by email at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

- Nov 19: Gray Pride Coalition for LGBT Aging Survey Results
Coalition for Aging LGBT’s chair and commissioner Cannon Flowers and coalition representatives presents present their survey findings. New Gray Pride advisory council members will also be in attendance. Every third Thursday of the month. Free. 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail GrayPride@myresourcecenter.org.

- Nov 19: Urban Engagement Book Club: Border Insecurity: Why Big Money, Fences, and Drones Aren’t Making Us Safer by Sylvia Longmire
CitySquare’s monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

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Coalition for Aging LGBT’s chair and commissioner Cannon Flowers and coalition representatives presents present their survey findings. New Gray Pride advisory council members will also be in attendance. Every third Thursday of the month. Free. 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail GrayPride@myresourcecenter.org.

- Nov. 17: “Let Talk About It”: Answering Parents Questions
Question and answer session for parents hosted by Alexandria’s Hope Advocacy Center hosted by Hebrew Woods with guest speaker Carter Brown. 1-5 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information call or e-mail 469-850-2411 or alexandriashope2015@gmail.com.

- Nov. 21: “Hope Will Rise” Concert
Fall concert for family violence awareness group at 7 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Benefits The Family Place. For tickets and more information visit Bit.ly/1OznpUX.

For Real Live Connection Clothing, Food and Toiletry Drive
From now through Nov. 20, Real Live Connection in coordination with various venues hosts clothing, canned good and toiletry drives for LGBT and allied youth ages 13-19. Donations will be distributed at Gobble ‘til ya Wobble: A Real Thanksgiving Dinner and Celebration With Others, 2-7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22 at the Cosmopolitan Congregation of Dallas, 1812 N. Haskell Ave., Ste. 100. Donation drop locations include:

- Cosmopolitan Congregation of Dallas, 1812 N. Haskell Ave., Ste. 100
- Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road
- Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road
- Thaírrific, 4000 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. E
- UPS, 3824 Cedar Springs Road
- For more information contact PR@RLC365.org.

AIDS Arms Holiday Toy and Food Drive
From now through Dec. 10, AIDS Arms is collecting non-perishable food and unwrapped toys for families and for children ages 1-17 years. Drop off donations at AIDS Arms, 351 W. Jefferson Blvd. Ste. 300. For more information call or e-mail Neacy Turner at 214-521-5191 ext. 3336 or ntturner@aidsarms.org.

Family Place Critical Needs Drive
The Family Place hosts a toiletry, grocery bag, office supply and more drive for its Safe Campus residents. Donations will be taken at the Resounding Harmony concert on Saturday, Nov. 21, other drop locations include:

- United Methodist Church of Preston Hollow, 6315 Walnut Hill Lane, Oak Lawn
- United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.
- The office of Gretchen F. Toler, M.D., 5477 Glen Lakes Dr., Ste. 150
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 700 E. Ovilla Road, Glenn Heights
- Mockingbird Swim & Total Fitness, 6465 E. Mockingbird Lane, Ste. 500
- Greenland Hills United Methodist Church, 5835 Penrose Ave. For more information call 817-913-9978.
When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling on June 26 declaring marriage equality to be the law of the land, the LGBT community rejoiced. To many, that victory meant the war had been won.

But now, nearly five months later, the euphoria has begun to wear off.

And things like the Nov. 3 vote defeating Houston’s wide-ranging equal rights ordinance have begun to reinforce the reality that while we claimed victory in a huge battle this summer, the war for equality most definitely rages on.

This weekend, organizers of Dallas’ annual Black Tie Dinner hope to get the fire relit and burning brightly.

Black Tie Dinner — complete with live and silent auctions, award presentations, speakers and entertainment — is being held Saturday night, Nov. 14, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. A limited number of individual tickets are available, for $400 each, until midnight tonight (Friday, Nov. 13) through the Black Tie website, BlackTie.Org.

The weekend begins tonight with the B4 Black preview party from 8-10 p.m. at the hotel. The party is free and open to the public, and those attending will have a chance to preview — and even bid on — silent auction items.

The theme for the 34th annual fundraiser is “Ignite the Night,” and dinner co-chair John Lawrimore said this week that Black Tie Committee members are focused on “re-igniting the community. We still have a lot of work to do, a lot of goals we are working to reach. The focus of Black Tie this year is re-igniting the passion we need to get that work done and reach those goals.

“Our greatest enemy is complacency,” Lawrimore added. “We have made such huge strides this year, but the vote in Houston shows us how easily that progress can be lost. We have to keep it going.”

Mitzi Lemons, this year’s other co-chair, said organizers are delighted to have Houston Mayor Annise Parker as a speaker at the Saturday night dinner. Parker — who became the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city when she was elected to her first term in 2009 — should bring an in-depth view of what happened with the HERO vote and is in a unique position to rally the community to continue the fight.

Lemons said that Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings will also attend the dinner, but that Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price is unable to attend because of a prior engagement.

“We are glad to have Mayor Parker and Mayor Rawlings attending the dinner with us this year,” Lemons said. “It is very important to have our local elected officials participating in our community and supporting us.”

Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit that led to the Supreme Court’s marriage equality ruling in June, will also be a featured speaker at the dinner on Saturday night, along with Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the national beneficiary of Black Tie Dinner.
After Houston victory, opponents target Dallas

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Last week, opponents of Houston’s Equal Rights Ordinance successfully repealed the nondiscrimination ordinance on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, in a lopsided 61 percent-to-39 percent vote.

The ordinance would have prohibited discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation on the basis of a variety of protected classes, including race, gender, pregnancy, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability and military status. Religious institutions would have been exempt, but violators could have been fined up to $5,000.

Opponents, organized under the banner of Campaign for Houston, focused on one message: that the ordinance would allow men to use women’s bathrooms. The message was meant to stoke up an anti-trans panic that women and children could be raped or assaulted in public restrooms.

After declaring victory in Houston, anti-LGBT activists have turned their sites on Dallas, where the city council this week voted unanimously to revise the city’s nondiscrimination ordinance to include gender identity and expression.

That vote, taken at the council’s regular weekly meeting, came after a year of deliberation and meetings by the city’s LGBT Task Force.

In testimony before the council, LGBT Task Force members argued that the amendment clarified the language of the nondiscrimination ordinance, approved by the Dallas City Council on 13-2 vote in 2002, which protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Before Tuesday’s amendment, gender identity and expression were lumped in as part of the definition of “sexual orientation.” Now the language states plainly that gender identity and gender expression are protected classes.

It also affirmed the right of individuals to determine their gender based on their perception of their gender.

The council also removed a dated provision allowing landlords to decline renting rooms to a same-sex couple if the property shares common spaces.

But opponents of LGBT equality — like Texas Values’ Jonathan Saenz and Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick — are trying to seize on the momentum from the Houston referendum to bring the fight to Dallas. They inaccurately described it as a “bathroom ordinance,” utilizing the same terminology as HERO opponents used in their winning campaign.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, state Sen. Don Huffines, a Dallas Republican who lives in Highland Park, chimed in on Twitter.

“Houston voters soundly said NO to men in women’s bathrooms. Dallas’ new sneak-attack
LGBT ordinance must be repealed & carefully re-reviewed,” reads one of many tweets from Huffines’ official Twitter account.

In a statement to the Dallas Voice, Huffines denounced the LGBT Task Force and called the amended language HERO with another name.

 “[The] LGBT ordinance is the product of an obscure city task force and a closed-door meeting, which are insufficient public vetting for a social policy change of this magnitude. Houston voters had many months to review their similar proposal, and they were afforded the opportunity to vote directly on the proposal, which they rejected,” Huffines said in the statement. “Civic participation and public scrutiny have been lacking in this process, which is why the LGBT ordinance adopted [Tuesday] must be debated and discussed by the residents and voters of Dallas.”

When asked for clarification about repealing the ordinance, Brent Connett, a spokesperson for Huffines, said the council should repeal it.

“[The] Nov. 10 ordinance could be repealed by a vote of the council, in the same manner in which it was adopted,” Connett wrote via e-mail.

Calls to Lt. Gov. Patrick’s office seeking were not returned as of press time.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and Dallas Councilman Philip Kingston both publicly chastised Huffines and Patrick liars.

Kingston’s not one to mince words. He outright called Huffines and Patrick liars.

“The lieutenant governor is infamous for fostering mob mentality against the interests of minorities. In Dallas we believe in equal protection under law,” Kingston said.

Houston response

Fran Watson is a long-time Houston resident who served as a faith community organizer with Houston Unites, which backed HERO. After the Supreme Court affirmed marriage equality nationwide in June, HERO opponents changed tactics, forcing supporters to change tactics, too.

“We had to switch gears after [the Supreme Court ruling]” Watson said. “Every time they said ‘bathroom ordinance,’ we’d have to [work harder]. There was a lot of confusion. The opponents vilified transgender people and used fear tactics.”

Watson said she had anticipated a close election, but instead fear won.

“We talked to so many people and got out the vote. But we didn’t realize it would be such a loss,” Watson said.

Chuck Smith, executive director of the statewide LGBT advocacy organization Equality Texas, said the fear-mongering around Dallas’ decade-old ordinance is just political pandering.

HERO opponents are simply trying to import their strategy to Dallas, Smith said.

“What I see is an attempt to reiterate the lies that seemed to work in Houston. It’s incumbent upon us to fight back with facts,” Smith said, adding that Dallas officials are doing the right thing.

“Dallas is combating the lies that are spreading. It’s important to continue to make the point that gender identity and protection have [always] been protected. It doesn’t impact enforcement, change who it protects or provide new protections,” Smith said. “Any assertion to the contrary is factually inaccurate.”

In Houston, Watson said the strategy going forward also involves educating the public.

“The grassroots are already coming together to talk about what’s next,” Watson said.

A mayoral run-off in December pits HERO supporter and state Rep. Sylvester Turner, a Democrat, against Bill King, who is skeptical of HERO and is cultivating the conservative Republican vote.

Watson noted the LGBT community is excited about the re-election of out gay councilmember Robert Gallegos. Another out gay incumbent Mike Laster is headed to the December run-off.

But efforts to protect LGBT Houstonians do not end with the city council.

Watson said like many other HERO supporters, she’s falling back into her former role.

She won’t be paid, but she will still be organizing.

“I’m going back into my old role now. I’ll use the relationships we cultivated to continue to educate the public about [LGBT issues],” Watson said.
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Melissa Grove, executive director of the Legacy Counseling Center and Legacy Founders Cottage, will receive the 2015 Kuchling Humanitarian Award, honoring her more than 20 years of work with the organization that offers counseling services and hospice care for people with HIV/AIDS.

“Melissa Grove has provided what seems like a lifetime of leadership and commitment to Legacy over the years,” Lawrimore said earlier this year in announcing the award. “From instituting the Founders Cottage to opening new housing programs to putting together the largest conference in the nation for HIV-positive women, Melissa continues to touch people living with HIV/AIDS in unimaginable ways.”

The 2015 Elizabeth Birch Award will be presented to The Trevor Project, the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBT and questioning young people ages 13-24.

Jeff Olde, executive vice president of programming and development with E! Entertainment Network, will receive the Black Tie Dinner Media Award on Saturday night, in recognition of his work on E!’s documentary series I Am Cait, which followed the transition of Caitlyn Jenner.

Lemons said Olde “has brought honest, educational and compelling attention to transgender issues” with the series on Jenner. She added, “Jeff’s role in leading this project from its inception to its reality will have a lasting impact on real lives as well as open the hearts of those who, until now, just could not understand. It is a privilege for Black Tie Dinner to honor him.”

Black Tie Dinner will have “a wide variety of people on stage this year” beyond the array of speakers and the award winners, Lawrimore said, pointing to the entertainment lineup that begins with comedian Dana Goldberg as emcee for the evening. Goldberg won rave reviews as emcee of the 2014 dinner.

Also on hand to entertain will be the New York City-based string quartet Well Strung, which creates a unique sound by blending classical music with today’s pop music; country music star Ty Herndon, who came out as a gay man last November; and RCA recording artist Betty Who, an Australian performer who has opened for Katy Perry and Kylie Minogue.

About half the proceeds from Black Tie Dinner each year go to HRC, and both Lemons and Lawrimore noted that funds from the Dallas event go to the HRC Foundation instead of toward paying for lobbyists. The foundation is a tax-exempt non-profit that has programs focused on LGBT families, religion and faith, workplace equality, youth and education issues and LGBT equality around the world.

The other half of Black Tie proceeds are divided between local LGBT and HIV/AIDS nonprofits. This year’s local beneficiaries are AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Outreach Center, AIDS Services of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, Celebration Community Church, Congregation Beth El Binah, Equality Texas Foundation, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Legacy Counseling Center, Legal Hospice of Texas, Northaven United Methodist Church, Resource Center, Turtle Creek Chorale, Uptown Players Inc. and Women’s Chorus of Dallas.

Dallas Black Tie Dinner is the largest event of its kind in the country, and is the only HRC fundraising dinner that also benefits local organizations.

For more information, visit BlackTie.org.
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Event brings in nearly $100,000 more than in 2014

LifeWalk set a few records for its 25th anniversary in October.
Leaders of the largest HIV/AIDS walk in North Texas announced at a ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 10, that volunteers raised a record-breaking $687,330, exceeding last year’s haul by $94,000.
The final total for LifeWalk 2014 was $592,628.
The impressive haul also beat the walk’s goal of $600,000.

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LifeWalk had already bested other records. On Sunday, Oct. 4, the day of the walk, participants brought in $527,000 “and counting,” according to Tori Hobbs, chief development officer for AIDS Arms, the AIDS service organization that presents the walk each year.
That total set a record for funds raised as of the day of the event.
Additionally, two teams each raised more than $100,000, a first in LifeWalk history. Guys & Dolls LifeWalk Team raised an estimated $136,000, and

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The 2015 LifeWalk fundraising total (facing page, top) surpassed the 2014 total by more than $94,000. Terry Bax, captain of Team Clover (facing page, bottom), accepts a fundraising award from 2015 LifeWalk Co-Chair Robert Ruiz. The Guys and Dolls LifeWalk team (above) included Kevin Hamilton, Dan Gueths, Jay Nolen and Ivan Banditt. Emcee Ron Corning and Lee Davenport (below) took on as Howard Okon, owner of The Brick, draws the name of the winner of a Hawaii vacation donated by The Brick.

(Photos by Chuck Marcelo)

The 2015 LifeWalk fundraising total (facing page, top) surpassed the 2014 total by more than $94,000. Terry Bax, captain of Team Clover (facing page, bottom), accepts a fundraising award from 2015 LifeWalk Co-Chair Robert Ruiz. The Guys and Dolls LifeWalk team (above) included Kevin Hamilton, Dan Gueths, Jay Nolen and Ivan Banditt. Emcee Ron Corning and Lee Davenport (below) took on as Howard Okon, owner of The Brick, draws the name of the winner of a Hawaii vacation donated by The Brick.

(Photos by Chuck Marcelo)

bringing their 19-year total to $900,000. In just their third year, Team Clover raised $102,753.

Other teams rounding out the top five were MAC Cosmetics with $49,302, Team Sugarstix with $46,199 and Green Team, in its 24th year, with $40,131.

Terry Bax, captain for Team Clover, said he was committed to winning not just the walk but also the fight against HIV and AIDS.

“I have met so many people and made new friends while we all made a huge difference. Together we will conquer!” he wrote in a text.

The numbers floored walk co-chairs Robert Ruiz and Doyle Carnahan.

“A huge thank you to a very generous community that stepped up and supported the numerous LifeWalk events from car washes to drag shows,” Ruiz said in a statement.

“In addition to the amazing community support, we are grateful to a wonderful steering committee that is so dedicated and committed to making LifeWalk a huge success year after year,” co-Chair Doyle Carnahan added.

In a statement, Dr. John Carlo, CEO of AIDS Arms, praised the efforts of volunteers.

“What an amazing achievement by the volunteers, sponsors and walkers this year. LifeWalk is an important reminder that HIV and AIDS has not gone away. [Funds raised] support life-saving HIV medical care and other services for those most vulnerable in our community,” he said.

AIDS Arms’ partner organizations in the walk are the Afya Center, AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Services of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope, Dogs Matter, Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, Resource Center, Turtle Creek Chorale, The Women’s Chorus of Dallas and University of Texas Southwestern’s Community Intervention and Prevention Unit.

— James Russell
The local chapter of the national Mister Friendly movement launches today (Friday, Nov. 13) at the Cedar Springs Tap House, joining a dozen other chapters of the organization that targets the stigma of HIV.

Chapter co-founder and Dallas Bears President Gauge Xavier first learned about the national Mister Friendly organization at the 2011 Texas Bear Round Up. Mister Friendly founder Dave Watt was there, distributing information and swag, encouraging people to get involved in the group and in HIV awareness in general.

Watt founded the group while running for Mr. Michigan Leather seven years ago. He gave a speech about HIV, staying upbeat, and, most importantly, smiling.

"Too much of the messaging around the stigma of HIV is negative," Watt said.

Xavier was attracted to the goals, strategy and structure of the national group.

For one thing, chapters do not have to adhere to a bunch of rules. They simply must hold four events a year, whether fundraisers or socials, and fulfill the group’s mission of combating the stigma.
Watt, who lives in Michigan and has worked with AIDS service organizations for most of his adult life, said the structure encourages participation.

It also allows organizers to tackle local issues. After all, those living with HIV in St. Louis, Mo. may not have the same needs as those living in Dallas.

Locally, Xavier said, Mister Friendly members are focused on reaching populations most susceptible to contracting HIV — people of color.

According to Texas Department of State Health Services, people of color, and particularly young men of color, are most likely to contract HIV. Currently the state only estimates the rate of gay and bisexual men living with HIV or AIDS and does not track data based on gender identity.

It is estimated 80,073 Texans report living with HIV in 2014. Of those known cases, 37.3 percent, or 29,895, of black Texans report living with disease while 30.7 percent, or 24,607, of Hispanic Texans report living with HIV.

But the ultimate goal, Xavier said, is to reach all communities.

If the number of local Mister Friendly chapters, known as teams, is any indication of the movement’s success, the strategy and structure work. People like socializing, making friends and getting to know one another. Communication and personal bonds ease the stigma of HIV.

Ahead of its official launch, Team Friendly DFW announced it is partnering with Resource Center. Xavier said the partnership was born when he approached Rafael McDonnell, Resource Center’s communications and advocacy manager, about a possible collaboration.

McDonnell and center staff agreed a partnership would be a good move for the center. Currently its HIV awareness work has been in the areas of strategy and advocacy. Team Friendly’s anti-stigma message blends in perfectly with the center’s current work, which is mostly focused on advocacy.

“We serve as a resource for information about HIV testing and awareness, but we have been looking to expand our programs and message,” McDonnell said.

Just as important, Team Friendly DFW’s strategy affirms what Resource Center’s research has shown: Networking and peer support encourage HIV awareness.

“We’re designed to reach people where they are, the people who aren’t ready to talk about their status,” Xavier said. “We want to give people the resources they need to feel comfortable.”

That could mean privately counseling and supporting someone who may be HIV-positive, or accompanying someone to a clinic for testing.

While the idea was born at the intersection of the leather and bear communities, chapters are encouraged to reach out to all populations.

Regardless the gender or ethnicity or race of whom you address, Watt said to never forget one thing.

“Start a conversation about HIV with a smile,” Watt said.

For information on Team Friendly DFW visit TeamFriendlyDFW.org or email info@TeamFriendlyDFW.org.
They bought the lie

I used to live and work in Houston. I spent nearly five years there, co-hosting the “Morning Buzz” on the alternative station, 94.5 The Buzz.

The people I met in Houston were warm, welcoming people who seemed like they had good heads on their shoulders. I formed a charity, called “Santa Letters,” to bring Christmas to kids who wouldn’t otherwise have one, and our audience gave generously. The people of Houston are good people.

But when it came to the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance — HERO — they just got duped.

They bought the lie.

Maybe they were too busy helping their neighbors or actually doing the research or read the ordinance. Or maybe they were just too busy to vote; voter turnout on Nov. 3, when HERO was defeated by a huge margin, was only 8 percent. Either way, there will be a high price to pay.

The defeat of HERO, in addition to making the Bayou City a laughingstock to other Americans, could well end up costing the city vast sums of money; equality is good for business while bigotry isn’t. Ask the NCAA about that.

As it was written, the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance would have prohibited discrimination based on sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, familial status, marital status, military status, religion, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or pregnancy in employment, public accommodations and housing.

Perhaps I should offer up an apology to all those other groups for screwing things up for them? Because this proposition became about one thing only: People like me using the restroom.

You won’t get fair treatment in Houston because people are scared of me using the bathroom.

I apologize, pregnant women. You are set up for discrimination in Houston because of me. I wish it weren’t so.

Among those who opposed HERO were Baptist Ministers Association of Houston, Houston Area Pastors Council, Houston Ministers Against Crime, AME Ministers Alliance of Houston/Gulf Coast, Northeast Ministers Alliance, South Texas Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship, South Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God and the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.

That’s really rich. I wonder what Christ thinks about those who claim to do His work using lies and scare tactics to deny others basic human rights.

They painted transgender people as being a danger to children. That’s quite interesting. I looked for one single instance of a trans woman causing a disturbance in a women’s restroom — just one example, anywhere. Guess what? It just doesn’t happen. It’s a lie. A myth.

HERO opponents’ slogan was “No Men in the Women’s restroom.” But see, the thing is, I agree 100 percent! I don’t want men in the women’s room either! But it’s people like me the HERO opponents were talking about.

The thing is, I’m not a man. Neither are other transwomen. We are all women, and we have just as much a right to be in the women’s restroom as any other woman.

Where is there concern over women being raped on college campuses across America? I heard not a word.

Now state Sen. Don Huffines here in North Texas is adding his own willful ignorance to the show. In speaking about the Nov. 10 unanimous vote by the Dallas City Council to clarify the wording of Dallas’ equal rights ordinance to make clear that it offers protections based on gender identity and gender expression, Sen. Huffines tweeted: “Repeal Dallas’ new LGBT ordinance immediately. It was not reviewed or thoughtfully considered by the public.”

Here’s what I want to know Don: Are you just ignorant or are you a liar? Does your pastor know about you playing fast and loose with the truth? Or is “bearing false witness” not a big deal at your church?

Let me help you with the facts:

• Dallas’ ordinance has been in place for 13 years. In that time there have been zero problems with trans women in restrooms.
• Some 224 cities across America have equal rights ordinances, according to the Human Rights Campaign. None have experienced problems with transwomen using the restroom. None.

The revision approved by the Dallas council had been available for public comment for a year. Don, I understand that it would be hard to whip up hatred by coming out against equal rights to housing, access to healthcare and employment protection. So instead you manufacture a problem where none exists, and use it to try to drive a wedge between the people of Dallas. We see right through you, you fear-mongering liar.

Your website says you bring “all Texans together to achieve unimaginable prosperity through limited government and cherishing our liberty that God alone has bestowed upon us.”

Surely, trying to control what a 57-year-old woman uses the restroom fails miserably when it comes to your commitment to “limited government.”

Now, the danger some clergy members pose to children is well documented and also thought to be vastly under-reported. A recent study showed more than 150 instances of clergy from all denominations (except Jewish rabbis) involved in molestation of children.

That’s not to say all clergymembers are dangerous. Most aren’t. But when those in the church business hold up signs that paint transgender people as a danger in bathrooms . . . Well, my mom had a saying for that: “Me thinks thou dost protest too much.”

The fact of the matter is, your kids are far more likely to be molested by someone you trust. Consider this: I found a website with 13 pages of female teachers that have engaged in sexual misconduct with their students. A quick search turned up more than four dozen male teachers charged with molesting students — just in 2014 alone!

Most police are there to help, but again, your child is statistically more likely to be abused by a police officer than by a trans woman. Anyone remember the Jerry Sandusky scandal at Penn State? That was in the men’s locker room.

Here’s another interesting statistic pulled from Twitter: More U.S. senators have been arrested for sexual misconduct in bathrooms than have trans women.

The National Center for Transgender Equality has “not heard of a single instance of a transgender person harassing a non-transgender person in a public restroom. Those who claim otherwise have no evidence that this is true and use this notion to prey on the public’s stereotypes and fears about transgender people.”

Not to say that there isn’t danger lurking in bathrooms. It’s just that it is the trans people who are in danger.

In March of last year, police investigated the physical and sexual assault of a transgender teen who said he was attacked in a bathroom at a suburban San Francisco public school where another transgender student had reported being the target of bullying.

In April 2011, trans woman Chriissie Lee Polis was viciously attacked by two teenagers as she entered the women’s bathroom at McDonald’s. Polis was dragged across the floor by her hair and repeatedly kicked and punched to the point where she had a seizure, while employees and others looked on.

I understand that middle America isn’t going to figure this out overnight. It will likely take years. But I’m just not that patient. I’ll be damned if I’m going to let anyone define my gender for me and tell me which bathroom I am permitted to use when their decision may put me in grave physical danger.

Worse, when ordinances like HERO are defeated, it sends a terrifying message to transgender kids: You are not welcome in this city, your identity is not validated. That message can and has cost lives. Please stop it.

It’s frustrating that it is so easy for those on the religious right, who have no shame, to lie to people’s faces and so easily defeat something as important as HERO with lies. The truth is, I’m no threat to your kids. I just need to use the bathroom.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blog at leslimichelle44.wordpress.com.
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How does Kylie Minogue make the yuletide gay? “By singing about it,” she says, giggling the cutest Kylie giggle. And then she does just that — she sings.

The song? “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” which the Aussie icon spontaneously launches into via phone, putting special emphasis on those “gay happy meetings.” Opening her first holiday album, Kylie Christmas, the frosty favorite is one of 13 songs bound to bring a little extra joy to the world.

“Christmas is a fun time to be over the top, that’s for sure,” Minogue says, before stating what every gay man from here to the North Pole already knew: “I deal in glitter.”

— Chris Azzopardi

Holiday fever

Kylie Minogue on her hot Christmases, loyal gay fans and the lucky fella she’ll be kissing under the mistletoe this year

Dallas Voice: First things first: Have you been naughty or nice this year? Kylie Minogue: Good question! I’d like to think I’ve been … how can I say this? The right percentage of both.

How about that time you writhed on a medicine ball during your video for “Sexercise?” That was a little bit naughty. But a lot of nice. We want nice.

What were your Christmases like as a kid? Hot! Over the years, my family has embraced Christmas more so in Australian fashion — we haven’t totally let go of European or British tradition, which most people have a link to in that there is still a roast — even if it’s roasting outside, there’s still a roast in the oven. But I would say, same as the rest of the world. Get up, open your presents, run around. Eat too much. The only difference is, we end up in our swimming suit, jumping in the pool, standing around a barbecue.

Do you like a hot or cool Christmas? I like them both. They’re so different. I don’t remember when my first cold Christmas was, but that I found it very weird. People who’ve never had a hot Christmas — because most of the world associates Christmas with the cold — just cannot get their head around it. Even when we were recording, all the Brits are going, “Don’t you think it’s weird recording in June, July, August? It’s summer.” I’m like, “Not really — makes sense to me.” I love it.

How did you make it feel like Christmas in the studio? Basically we just decorated the studio. The studio was full of fairy lights and Santa hats and Christmas candles. We did not hold back.

Did you get dressed up for the occasion? I went Christmas vibes — I didn’t go for full “sexy snow sleigh” album cover. We did have a sleigh in the studio. We had about five huge Christmas trees, giant crackers, toy soldiers and tinsel. Every day we were in there, it was more and more. It was really festive. It felt like Christmas. And I’m glad the world’s catching up — it’s been Christmas since June!

When it comes to presents: giving or getting? Giving. I know it sounds cliché, but I love when you’ve got something for someone and they’re gonna understand your humor or get it, or it’s something they wouldn’t get for themselves. I especially like the wrapping.

Who are some of the gays in your life that you spend the holidays with? There’s normally a few around. I mean, my Christmas is different every year. Last year I was in Los Angeles. I feel really odd answering this question… like numbering them! Let’s just say there’s a smattering. More sparkle!

What is the craziest Christmas gift you’ve ever received from a fan? Oh, I don’t know. I can’t think of one. Nothing that alarmed me. Maybe this year will be different now that I’m Miss Christmas.

If you could kiss anyone under the mistletoe, who would it be? Awww — that would be my boyfriend [actor Joshua Sasse], for sure! It will be our first Christmas together, so Christmas is even more special for me this year. I better order the mistletoe!

Get on that, Kylie. Note to self: mistletoe.

What do you make of headlines that draw attention to the fact that he’s 20 years younger than you? I understand it’s bound to happen because that’s a fact, but I just cannot express to you enough that it just doesn’t factor — it really doesn’t. I mean, I was surprised myself, but who you’re attracted to or who you fall in love with is beyond any kind of boxes that society puts you in.

And you know what, I hate boxes. I hate feeling that I’m restricted in any way, and definitely when it comes to love. You should love who you love.

Of course there’s been those headlines, but people seem...
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Robert L. Camina has earned a reputation as much for being an activist as for being a filmmaker. Camina had already made several narrative shorts and features when, in 2009, he began documenting the Fort Worth Police Department’s controversial conduct at a Cowtown gay bar on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The result was the award-winning 2012 documentary *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge*. But the out indie filmmaker still considers himself “a storyteller first and foremost.”

While he never set out along a career in pursuit of compelling, historical LGBT events, that’s where he has been headed. The stories, it would seem, found him. “What inspires me are stories of the human condition that haven’t been told before,” Camina, 42, explains. “I like stories that grab my attention or touch my heart and can resonate. When that story taps you on the shoulder, that’s what you have to go after.”

*Upstairs Inferno,* Camina’s second LGBT-themed documentary, is the heart-wrenching story of a 1974 arson at the Upstairs Lounge, a gay bar in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The horrifying blaze claimed the lives of 32 people. But because most of the victims were gay, local government officials and religious leaders refused to address — or even publicly acknowledge — the tragedy. (The doc will receive its official Dallas premiere Thursday at the Magnolia Theater.)

The chilling facts of this largely untold atrocity immediately grabbed Camina’s attention. “What I hoped to achieve was to bring light to this story,” Camina says. “It is one of the benchmark moments in LGBT history, but it’s not part of our popular narrative. It’s a hidden story, and it’s been hidden for over 40 years. Many consider it the largest gay mass murder in history.”

Though the tragic event had been the subject of several written historical accounts, Camina
was not satisfied with the way in which the facts
had been preserved. The texts lacked emotion;
they failed properly to humanize the event. He
resolved to remedy this injustice by painstakingly chronicling the event with news photos
and interviews with witnesses and survivors.

“When it was written about, it was written in
a cold, stoic, factual way,” Camina says. “I
wanted to breathe life into these people. These
were human beings first. They were more than
names on a plaque, more than names in a news-
paper. I wanted people to understand the mag-
nitude of the loss. My goal was to honor the
people whose lives were cut short by this horrific
crime and those who were left behind.”

Camina felt a sense of urgency in capturing
eyewitness accounts of this tragedy. Not only
did he desire to preserve all available first-hand testimony, but he also wanted to offer a platform
from which the survivors could at long last freely speak. Survivors were given an opportu-

“Let’s face it, fewer and fewer people are
around to tell the story,” Camina says. “And
once survivors and those who were touched by
the fire pass away, the memories of those who
passed away in the fire are gone, too. Most of
them were ready to talk immediately. Some were
a little more hesitant because it is painful to talk
about it. But in the end, they spoke to me, and
they said it was cathartic.”

Camina’s first interview was with Metropoli-
tan Community Church founder the Rev. Troy
Perry. Because the New Orleans MCC had tem-
porarily used the Up Stairs Lounge as a meeting
place, many, including Perry, originally feared
that the fire was connected to church arsons in
other cities. Perry was one of the first clergymen
to arrive and to offer community support. The
reverend’s gripping interview lasted four hours.

“His emotions were so raw and so honest that
I don’t think there was a dry eye in the house
when we finished that interview,” Camina re-
gays died at the hands of an arsonist more than 40 years ago.
calls. “We just had lumps in our throats. It was just the most powerful way we could start off production.”

One jarring, if not grisly, aspect of the film is Camina’s use of graphic photographs. A particularly gruesome image is that of the charred body of William Larson, pastor of the New Orleans MCC and a bar patron who burned to death while attempting to escape the fire through a barred second-story window. The disturbing image is one Camina feels is iconic to this forgotten history.

“The reasoning for putting in those realistic images is to show just how insane it was that the mayor, the governor and religious leaders turned their backs to this community,” Camina explains. “It’s one thing to hear there were badly burned people or to hear that flames were swelling. But to see it puts you in the moment and infuriates you even more.”

Camina acknowledges that LGBT communities are the film’s primary target audience. Yet he also knows the documentary offers compelling insight into the human condition and therefore has strong crossover appeal. He has not limited screening of the film only to gay film festivals. In fact, the film’s Texas debut was at the recent mainstream Austin Film Festival; the Austin American-Statesman named it one of the festival’s 10 best films.

“I had a poster at the AFF for people to sign with their thoughts as a commemorative item for me to take away,” Camina says. “Someone wrote, ‘Changed my view towards the LGBT community. Thank you for making this film.’ So, that’s why we do what we do — [to change] one heart, one mind at a time.”

Despite his recent success, Camina longs to return to his lighter-hearted filmmaking roots. In stark contrast to the dark nature of Camina’s two documentaries, the filmmaker’s previous works, including the short films Martini the Musical and Hunter4Love, were comedies.

“I’m looking forward to making people laugh again, really,” Camina says. “I’ve opened up my audience widely with Raid on the Rainbow Lounge and now with Upstairs Inferno. People have a perception of me as a very serious person. And I am when it comes to the subject matter. But I do like to make people laugh, and I do look forward to the next opportunity to show that side of me.”

Ricky Everett, a survivor of the Up Stairs Lounge fire, will attend the Dallas screening and participate in the post-screening Q&A session.
Judas priests ‘Spotlight’ shines on the dark corners of a conspiracy

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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In the summer of 2001, “Google” was not yet a verb, Osama bin Laden was alive and not on every American’s enemies list, Justin Bieber was still confined to Canada and the legacy newspaper industry still had some muscle. In fact, despite worries that “this new Internet thing” might trigger staffing cuts and decreases in revenue, editorial integrity was still a thing (TMZ and Buzzfeed were five years away).

That’s the important context you need to know going into Spotlight, a film likely to get loads of loving reviews from journalists (including this one) who think to themselves, “Yeah, that’s the profession I’m a member of!” even as we work on stories like “Six things not to put in your Grindr profile.”

The film is set mostly in the newsroom of The Boston Globe. A new editor (Liev Schreiber, in his most restrained performance to date) — Jewish and an outsider — has come to run the large daily in the vastly Catholic and insular New England capital. He’s not one to go-along-to-get-along, and so when he hears about a potential story — that Catholic priests, who have been known to molest parishioners, may be the tip of a conspiracy that could go as high up as the archdiocese’s Cardinal Bernard Law — he sets his investigative unit, Spotlight, on the trail of the story. The team’s editor, Robby (Michael Keaton, who could be in a run again for an Oscar), is skeptical about the decision — how will readers react if the paper of record is perceived of as targeting a beloved institution — but he also knows a good lead when he hears one. He sets his team (Mark Ruffalo, Rachel McAdams, Brian D’Arcy James) on the story.

Six months later, when Spotlight published its first of 200 articles about widespread sex abuse among the clergy, all the effort proved worth it; the Globe later won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative journalism.

It’s an inspiring tale to be, sure, but if Spotlight were just some masturbatory good-ol’-boy’s movie, backslapping journalists for being brave, it would not resonate with half the power it does. Director/ co-screenwriter Tom McCarthy pulls as much from The Verdict as he does All the President’s Men; there’s a compelling mystery at the heart of Spotlight, one that the Globe staffers, in 2001, can’t fully bring themselves to embrace. All lapsed Catholics, even they can’t quite imagine the emotional wallpaper that is the church could have betrayed not just them, but vulnerable children … and in the most shocking ways possible. It gives shape to Nietzsche’s aphorism, “If you gaze long into the abyss, the abyss will also gaze into you.”

McCarthy lets nuance and subtlety (a quick glance at an adult victim’s needle marks, a pained, suppressed reaction by the reporters upon hearing horror after horror recounted to them and trying to remain objective) do all the heavy lifting. There’s no need to be mawkish when the facts speak for themselves.

Indeed, the film is at its most predictable when Ruffalo — usually among the most laconic of actors, but squirrelly and fidgety here — becomes indignant at the idea of getting the story correct, not just quick. It’s a lesson countless journalists in the current environment could take to heart. While Keaton is largely the fulcrum of the story (a third-act confrontation with a source produces chills), this is an ensemble piece filled with lovely supporting performances (Schreiber and McAdams, but also Michael Cyril Creighton as a gay man victimized by a priest) that creates an authentic universe in which very human people do their best to make a difference. It’s the fall’s best film so far.

Michael Keaton plays a dogged editor and Mark Ruffalo a tenacious reporter in ‘Spotlight,’ the fall’s best film so far.

ARNOlD WAyNe JONes  | Executive Editor
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Spotlight

Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams, Liev Schreiber.

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I’m coming!” Leslie Jordan shouted. But it’s not what you think. Jordan — the Emmy Award-winning actor (*Will & Grace*), film star (*The Help, Sordid Lives*), playwright, raconteur and inimitable personality — isn’t getting orgasmic … but he is excited to be returning to Dallas, a sort of home-away-from-home for the well-traveled bon vivant.

“It all revolves around Joe Pacetti,” Jordan says. “It’s Joe’s 60th birthday and he wanted to have everyone in town to this very black tie, very bejeweled event.” But rather than just attend a party, the two decided it was a great opportunity for Jordan to perform, and raise funds for one of Pacetti’s favorite charities: Legacy Counseling and Founders Cottage. The timing was good, too: Melissa Grove, executive director of Legacy, is this year’s recipient of the Kuchling Award.

“Poor Melissa has [handled] it all — she is my champion,” Jordan says. “They really went out on a limb for me.”

In many ways, Dallas was lucky to get Jordan for this big event at the Majestic Theater on Nov. 21. He’s not the struggling actor he once was, but a senior statesmen of queer comedy … and one of its most outrageous.

“Did you see that story about me at the Starbucks?” he asks of summer news event, where Jordan threw a drink in the face of a customer at the WeHo café, after hearing him make a gay slur: “There were 10 cop cars. It was total pandemonium! … and definitely the butchest thing I’ve ever done.”

Butchest, perhaps, but it seems Jordan is a magnet for hilarious escapades. His stint on *Celebrity Big Brother* in England was distinguished by a fierce confrontation with fellow houseguest Gary Busey, and he’s been in more than his share of fan scuffles over the years.

“Honey, I’ve had my penis grabbed a million times … and that was just yesterday!” he jokes. Seriously, he does recall one incident especially vividly.

“One time Delta Burke and I were appearing at a club, and someone had bought a live pig because Delta’s character on *Designing Women* had a pet pig … but we ain’t talkin’ some little pot-bellied pig, but a waist-high hog that got spooked! I’m only armpit level so that [scared me],” he says. Another time, he was appearing at club when some fans became a little too enthusiastic.
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to also think that we look like we should be together, so it’s not been as bad as it could’ve been... let’s put it that way.

As a public figure, do you feel people are more prone to put you in a box?

Oh, definitely. I remember it happening from quite a young age, and it would drive me crazy. I started in TV as an actress and began singing, and they’re so sort of close-minded: You’re an actress, not a singer, and then I was known for singing and finally I am a singer and they don’t understand that I still act. That was definitely the first time that that kind of notion hit me, and it just made no sense to me whatsoever.

In a broader sense, I hate being stuck in clothes, I hate being stuck in ideas. Maybe it’s being a Gemini — I need freedom! It’s like with the pony in the yard: If you close the gate, I will go wild; if you leave the gate wide open, I’m probably not going to leave. I just need to know that you’re not closing me in with anything physical or mental. It’s a very deep issue for me.

Christmastime evokes different emotions for different people. For you, what kind of emotions do the holidays trigger?

Excitement, then sheer panic because you think you’re ready but you’re not ready and then it all kind of creeps up on you. I think part of that panic is part of tradition, I guess. I would like to think this year I am officially ahead of the game. Also, wanting to be with family, if possible. And holiday — having a break. I would have to say one of the big pluses about a Christmas album is: At least I know when I’ll be finishing with promotion. December 25 I’m done! My work here is done!

How are some of these emotions presented on the album?

On the album, there’s the kind of toasty just-wanna-cuddle-and-wear-cashmere-sweaters vibe, which I didn’t have the last couple of years because I didn’t have a boyfriend, so that’s exciting. Then there’s the more emotional, bittersweet ones where you’re thinking about someone you love and you’re not with them, and I have that pretty much every year because I haven’t had a family Christmas in Australia for about six years and I’m not having one this year either. Then there’s the ones where everyone’s had a few drinks — Nana’s had a couple sherries — and everyone’s feeling very merry. Then it’s nap time, and you start again.

Earlier this year, and after releasing Kiss Me Once, you left your former management firm, Jay Z’s Roc Nation.

I was getting used to a new situation, and I loved it for all of those reasons. If I compare [Kiss Me Once] to making this album, it’s an unfair comparison. Within the confines of Christmas, you can’t do whatever you want — it’s a Christmas album — but I did learn some extremely valuable lessons through that, and my time there was well spent.

How will what you learned from that experience influence your approach to the next mainstream pop album you do? Assuming it’s pop...

Oh, it will be. I think when Christmas is done, the pop drug will come back... gosh, I mean, this album is pop-y anyway. But with Impossible Princess, I got that out of my system and then I did Light Years which had “Spinning Around,” and then to Fever, which was not quite as camp — it was more icy-pop. What I’m trying to say is that, after Kiss Me Once with Roc Nation, yes, I’ll do things differently, but I kind of do that after every album anyway. But I wouldn’t go around and work with so many people. I would try to be a little more streamlined. And I can say that because I did it and I learned a lot. Six of one, half dozen of the other.

When it comes to your career, your gay audience has been there every step of the way. It’s clear we have a special relationship. After all this time, how would you describe that relationship?

Strong. Genuine. Definitely funny at times. We get the same jokes, I’ll put it that way. And I never take it for granted. But you, for a long time, have been very loyal, and I feel like we’ve had a relationship for such a long time — and it’s a true relationship.
I don’t know if you can print this, but someone stuck a tongue in my ear and someone else put a finger in my bottom!’’ he drawls in mock shock. ‘‘The next day, I showed up with these two big Samoan bodyguards, and people were saying about me, ‘Who does she think she is — Mariah Carey?’ But I’m getting too old to deal with bar trash — I’m in recovery myself.’’

Still another time, a Facebook friend confronted him at Atlanta Pride. She explained that her ‘‘Daddy’’ had paid for her transgender realignment surgery. ‘‘She said, ‘After I had it all prettied up, I walked in on him, threw my dress up and said, Can you see my pussy now?’’’ quoting back one of Jordan’s most famous lines.

These are the experiences that only add grist to the humor mill that is Jordan’s storytelling prowess and have made his personal appearances events.

‘‘Somehow, over the past 10 years, throwing my pussy from one end of this country to the next, I have built a career as the most popular cabaret performer in America and I don’t sing a note,’’ Jordan crowed. ‘‘I leave Dallas for Puerto Vallarta [for several weeks of shows] — I appear in up to 44 venues per year. My management team tells me, ‘You have to stay in Hollywood and get work [in TV and movies] to keep your name out there — how much longer can you trot out Will & Grace?’’ But I tell them, my people, those who come to see me, couldn’t care less what I do in Hollywood.’’

People are always trying to put Jordan in a pigeonhole, but at 60, he’s defiant about marching — or maybe sashaying — to the beat of his own DJ.

‘‘The marketing people always ask me, ‘What is your new show called?’ and I’ll just make up a title — like Gin and Regret,’’ he says, quoting a line from his iconic Beverly Leslie character. ‘‘This time I told them to call it Not in My House … which is what I said to the boys who called us faggots in West Hollywood.’’

Even if he doesn’t fret over titling his appearances, he’s committed to delivering a good show to his fans. ‘‘It’s just me and a mike. I do plan beforehand, because I don’t want people saying, ‘Here she is, that same old story.’ And I’ve never had a complaint yet.’’

His Dallas show should include his most recent travails, but he’s sure he will end with a tribute to Joe Pacetti.

‘‘Joe will tell you that we met on a flight, but actually I met him in L.A. at a gala — all the elites were there, and he was at my table,’’ Jordan says. ‘‘The next time I saw him was at Parigi in Dallas, but I didn’t remember him! He said, ‘It’s wonderful to see you again,’ and I said ‘Isn’t it?’’’

It is, Leslie; it really is.

STAGE REVIEW: ‘The Sound of Music’

After years of review theater and film, I can honestly say I need to take a moratorium on some genres of performing arts: Shakespeare, Moliere, Anything adapting or inspired by Peter Pan; And — I hate to say it — Rodgers & Hammerstein. Honestly, few theater artists were as lushly thoughtful and transformative as the pair, but I have seen most of their 11 collaborations multiple times over just a few of the past years, and I need a break.

But I’m excited that my farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, goodbye to R&B (for a while, at least) is this new production of The Sound of Music, now at Fair Park Music Hall. Directed by Jack O’Brien (Great Scott, Hairspray) and stopping in Dallas on just the second leg of what promises to be a pre-Broadway tour, this version manages to reinvigorate the shopworn classic. It’s oddly refreshing, and unexpectedly powerful.

Our collective memories of The Sound of Music are largely shaped by the movie version, which came out 50 years ago. The movie deletes a few songs (including what might be one that sets the theme for the entire show, “You Just Can’t Stop It,” an eerily upbeat number about the coming Nazi storm), rearranges others and adds a few. It’s sentimental, sometimes bordering on dopy. But O’Brien’s tack — to cast an unknown college student as the novice nun Maria (Kerstin Anderson, pictured), put youngish Broadway star Ashley Brown in the role of the Mother Abbess and develop interesting, distinct personalities for the Von Trapp children (especially Brigitta) — ends up sending volts of energy into the show and reinvigorating it literally and metaphorically; if The Sound of Music is a monster, O’Brien is its Frankenstein.

The production moves with surprisingly alacrity, nimbly traversing more than two-and-a-half hours without letting one once look at your watch. That can be the magic of great theater: Forcing you to re-evaluate a familiar work with new eyes. For the first time in a long time, The Sound of Music is one of my favorite things.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
CRISP, REFRESHING TASTE.
Friday 11.13 — Sunday 12.06

Book your trip to Neverland ... in Downtown Dallas

I have to admit it: I’m over Peter Pan. Soooo many remakes, re-imaginings, behind-the-scenes and variations. I’m through. Except: The new Cirque du Soleil-style show Peter Pan 360, with actual flying in a portable 100-foot theater adjacent to the Arts District, looks pretty cool. But just this last time....

DEETS: ThreeSixty Theatre, 2450 San Jacinto St. ATTPAC.org.

Friday 11.13
Saturday 11.14

Bruce Wood Dance marks 5 Years with classics, premiere

The Bruce Wood Dance Project has continued since the passing of its founder last year, and this concert — the second of the fall — marks the five-year anniversary of North Texas’ most interesting dance company. The program this weekend features a world premiere as well as a piece from Wood’s catalogue. Dallas Voice’s Arnold Wayne Jones and TITAS’ Charles Santos will lead the post-performance Q&As Friday and Saturday.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

Friday 11.13

Dixie Longate premieres new show at Fort Worth’s McDavid Studio

It was earlier this year that Dallas Voice broke the news that Dixie Longate, that dragtastic Tupperware lady (aka Kris Andersson), was putting together a world premiere solo show, and now is your chance to see it. The title alone tells you almost all you need to know: Dixie’s Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull (and 16 Other Things I Learned While I was Drinking Last Thursday). Yee-haw!


Friday 11.13

Masturbation is a sin... ...without the proper tools!

• HydroMax Pumps and LA Pump Systems sold here!
• Half Priced rentals on Tuesday & Thursday!
• All your favorite lubes including Wet, Uberlube and Swiss Navy!
• New Releases every Wednesday & Friday!
• All Male Theatre!
• 2016 Colt Calendars have arrived!
**HONEY BEARS** | The Honey Pot Bear Fest returns to Woody’s Sunday from 3–7 p.m. with live music, men of the Boyish to Bearish calendar and Jelt-O shots. (James Webster, WebJamStudio.com)

**SATURDAY 11.14**

**CONCERTS**

An Evening with Molly Ringwald. The iconic actress shows off her skills as a jazz singer. Eisemann Center for the Arts, 2551 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.

**COMMUNITY**

Black Tie Dinner. Sheraton Dallas Downtown, 400 N. Olive St. 5:45 p.m. (VIP only); 7 p.m. (doors open). BlackTie.org.

**SUNDAY 11.15**

**COMMUNITY**

Honey Pot Bear Fest. Happy hour and fundraiser featuring a vendor market, men of the Boyish to Bearish 2016 calendar, live music by Joseph Yazzie and more. $5 suggested donation at the door. Woody’s Sports and Bar.

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**DALLAS ORIGINAL BLACKOUT PARTY**

SAT. NOVEMBER 14

11pm-4am

Flash lights Provided.

**GLOW PARTY**

SUN. NOVEMBER 21

11PM-4AM

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- Must register on the date of the event.

Contest starts @ 3am Sunday Morning.

Underwear will be provided.

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**FRIDAY 11.13**

**COMMUNITY**

Black Tie Dinner Preview. Check out the items for auction at this preview event before the big gala on Saturday. Sheraton Dallas Downtown, 400 N. Olive St. 8–10 p.m. BlackTie.org.

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**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**


The Mountaintop. Play about the final hours of Martin Luther King Jr. Final weekend. Studio Theatre at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**OPERA**

Tosca. Puccini’s great romantic tragedy. Performed in repertory with Great Scott. Reviewed this week. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Nov. 14 and 20 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 8 and 22 at 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org.


**DANCE**

Bruce Wood Dance Project: 5 Years. The fall finale performance by the innovative dance company, featuring new works and revivals from the Bruce Wood repertoire. City Performance Hall, 2320 Flora St. Friday–Saturday at 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

**COMEDY**

Dixie’s Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull (and 16 Other Things I Learned Dixie’s Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull (and 16 Other Things I Learned...)


**PERFORMANCE**


**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.


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**this week’s solution**

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LORI AACHE SLUR
AMOK PREY TIRE
SOMEBWHERE IMIN
HOP TOIT ALICE
SHARKS EPA
AETNA PHONETIC
PARE CRAP MESO
SPARERIB BALL
KIM JARRED
THERESA PONY
HALOS ASTOUND
OSLO TABHUNTER
STEM ACAI AMAL
EONS WHOA CHOW
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TUESDAY 11.17

FILM

Lawrence of Arabia. One of a handful of truly satisfying epics, one of the most gorgeous films of all time with star-making performances by Peter O’Toole and Omar Sharif. Winner of seven Academy Awards. 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. only.

THURSDAY 11.19

CABARET

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

DANCE

The Show About Men. The excellent theater-dance experiment about what it means to be a man (including gay issues) debuted at the Festival of Independent Theatres this summer, and returns in a new venue. Eastfield College Performance Hall, 3737 Motley Drive, Mesquite. Nov. 19–22. DGDDanceGroup.com.

OPERA REVIEW: ‘Tosca’

Although Tosca premiered in 1900, the plot elements would not be out of place in a show on HBO. It has it all: lust, jealousy, murder, torture, betrayal, suicide. Paired with Giacomo Puccini’s gorgeous music, it is no surprise that Tosca has remained one of the most popular operas.

The action starts when Angelotti, a former consul turned political prisoner (strongly sung by bass-baritone Ryan Kuster), escapes with the help of his sister and hides in a church. There he encounters an ally, painter Mario Cavaradossi (Chilean tenor Giancarlo Monsalve). Cavaradossi is painting a portrait of Mary Magdalene, and admits modeling his work on the features of a beautiful blonde stranger who prays at the church. Nevertheless, he thinks only of his true love, the temperamental diva Floria Tosca (soprano Emily Magee).

Tosca, however, notices the resemblance in the portrait and grows jealous. Initially, Cavaradossi placates her, but then the sinister chief of the secret police, Baron Scarpia (impressive bass Raymond Aceto), arrives to hunt down Angelotti. Scarpia burns to seduce Tosca, so he purposefully incites her jealousy, and she falls for the ploy; Cavaradossi is implicated in a scheme and arrested and tortured.

Tosca is tricked into visiting Scarpia’s apartment and is manipulated as she hears her lover’s screams. Scarpia wants her, and she wants Cavaradossi’s life to be spared. She is visibly repulsed and filled with hatred for him, but Tosca’s discomfort fuels Scarpia’s attraction. She finally relents, and then sings a beautiful “Vissi d’arte, vissi d’amore,” before seeking her own revenge. Scarpia is one of the most odious characters in all of opera, so his undoing has emotional satisfaction. Still, Act 2 sees its share of overacting from Magee and Aceto in their lead roles, and the set looks tired and overused. Marie Barrett’s lighting design does nothing to improve the situation. Nevertheless, the strong female chorus (off scene, and led by chorus master Alexander Rom) shines.

In other places, the singing is a mixed bag. Monsalve’s delivery of the famed aria “Recondita armonia” sounded weak at moments, but he may have been overpowered by the loud orchestra. He is excellent, however, on “E lucevan le stele.” Campbell S. Collins III is clear-voiced and seems to have given everything he had. If you love classic Italian opera, Tosca is worthwhile, despite its shortcomings.

— Alicia Chang

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Nov. 22. DallasOpera.org.
Karma's a bitch (and so is Cassie!)

Friends, Romans, countrymen — lend me your ears. I have something very important for you all to hear. Just kiddin’ — I plan on rambling on and on about shit I think is important but probably has no real social relevance.

Some weeks when I sit down to write this column, I know exactly what I want to say. Then there are weeks like this one when I have no frickin’ clue what to say or what to write about.

I am always anxious to be relevant, witty, funny and heartfelt. I wish that I could just say, “Oh the words just flowed out of me like water,” but the truth is sometimes I struggle and over-think things. So the first time I remember being called a “faggot” was by my horrible cousin, Eddie Paul. He was a year or two older than me and a real jerk. I was about 11 years old and had no idea what the word even meant, but he said it with such hate and malice that I knew it had to be a bad thing. He was always getting into trouble and bullied everyone. He was also bigger than all of the other kids so he would usually get away with being mean to us. If anyone ever tattled on him, he would beat you up the first time you were alone with him. He really was the jerk-faced bully from every movie ever made and back then it was something you just had to deal with. We were playing Frisbee in the front yard at my aunt’s house near White Rock Lake and he would always throw it high and wide so I would have to chase it. As you may know, I am not and have never been really sporty, so after the fifth or sixth time I had to retrieve the Frisbee from under a car or in another person’s yard, I was fed up. I threw that damn disc and hard and as far as I could to make him go chase it for once. It landed in the middle of a rock garden that had a few large cacti clustered in the center.

Then he said it, “You stupid faggot, you throw like a girl!” My eye twitched in anger and a part of me snapped. While he was bent over retrieving the Frisbee, I started to run towards him. I shoved him face-first into the cactus. As you may know, I am not proud of what I did, and karma would eventually get me back. I backed up into that same damned cactus and got poked in the ass, and not in the good way. But the next time that Eddie Paul hit me, I fought back. He kicked my ass, but I got in a few good punches. We never fought again after that. I guess the point to my story is to stand up to your bullies before you get poked in the ass.

Dear Cassie, I was recently in L.A. and had the pleasure of meeting one of the sexiest guys alive. This guy has literally a million followers on Facebook and Instagram — that’s how sexy he is. We have been friends on Facebook for over a year but never hung out. He noticed I was in L.A. and we decided to hang out. I met him at his house then we went to a really nice club and he Uber’d us there. We held hands in the car and the physical attraction was definitely there. At the club, he kissed me in front of everyone and introduced me to people. We decided to go back to my hotel where we ended up having the most passionate sex ever and I learned a little about his life. He seems a little reserved, though, and my texts are always longer than his.

The next day we went back to his house and watched Netflix and I ended up letting him be the first guy to fuck me. It just felt so right. This was a week and a half ago, I don’t know if it’s normal for me to be falling this hard but I can’t stop thinking about him. He’s on a vacation right now without Wi-Fi, so I’m not hearing from him as much as I’d like to. He has told me he’s not looking for a relationship right now because he had trust issues with his ex and it ended badly. They were engaged and this was over a year ago. But then I’ll get texts from him that send mixed signals. Like I said I would be willing to put him first and he said, “Well at least you’d get to travel with me.” He told me he’s been pretty guarded and there’s a lot more for me to see. I asked him when I visit L.A. soon would he like to spend some time with me and he said yes and he looks forward to knowing me better.

So, Cassie, it’s like: What the fuck do you think is going on? Am I just obsessing? I really felt something I’ve never felt with a guy before and I’ve never had a serious relationship. I want him more than anything and the last few days I’ve had to pop my Xanax like candy because my anxiety has been so bad. Its two weeks until I see him but I haven’t heard from him in two days either because he doesn’t have good Wi-Fi on his vacation but it has showed he’s been online. Do I take him on a date and try to win him over when I’m there? What can I do to melt his heart when I visit LA that would make him feel special? I know most guys don’t like getting flowers. I’m definitely not going to be the first to text him anytime soon which is so hard for me. I’m scared of running him off. I wear my heart on my sleeve. Signed, Big D falling for L.A.

Dear Big D, You sound like that man’s dick has made you crazy. You my friend, have been dickmated! I get it — a good dick attached to a guy you are into has the power to turn a smart, rational person into a 12-year-old girl: Giddy, excited, anxious and paranoid. You get butterflies in your stomach and doubt in your head. You feel this strange need to be reassured that what you shared was as important and fabulous to him as it was to you. You might need to see the movie, He’s Just Not That Into You, just to prepare yourself.

I get that you don’t want to scare him away by being too into him but don’t be ashamed of your feelings — maybe try to reel them in a bit. Take deep breaths and try to pull back on the stalking. Don’t worry that just because he was shown to be online and didn’t text you that he is not thinking about you. Overthinking and what-ifs are poison to a relationship. Texting is not a good way to judge feelings. So reassured that what you shared was as important and fabulous to him as it was to you. You might need to see the movie, He’s Just Not That Into You, just to prepare yourself.

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Making the SCENE the week of Nov. 13-19:

1851 Club: Addison Foster, Raven Demoray, and Zimora Davenport at 10 p.m. on Friday. Tara St. Stone, Lana O’Hara, and Sapphire Davenport at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

Alexandre’s: Ashleigh Smith at 10 p.m. on Friday. Chris Chism at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Alicia Silex at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Brick/Joe’s: Rico’s “Dress to Impress” Birthday Bash on Friday. Purple Royalty Party on Saturday. One Night in Bangkok Kick-off on Sunday.

Changes: Wall of Food meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Club Reflection: Empress Starlight AIDS Benefit at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. TGRA-Cowtown Leathermen Game Night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Wall of Food meeting at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: DFW Leather Corps meeting at 2 p.m. and International Olympus Match Game at 7 p.m. on Friday. JR’s: Missed America with Cassie Nova on Monday.

S4: Free HIV testing from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Friday.

Sue Ellen’s: Ashley Bradberry Band on Friday. Kathy & Bella from 3-5 p.m. and Marisela Trio from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday.

Urban Cowboy Saloon: Grand re-opening celebration from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday through Sunday.
Ben and Sandy at The Rose Room
Swifty, Winston and Pandora at The Tin Room
Kyle at Club Stallions
Friends' night out
Mama Bear and her cubs
Kelexis Davenport
Rocky at The Round Up
Friends at JR.'s
Kyle at Club Stallions
Rocky at The Round Up
Friends at JR.'s
Friends' night out
Antonio at The Tin Room
Tending bar at the Round Up
Out and about in Oak Lawn
Wrapping up the 2015 LifeWalk

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**AIDS Arms, Inc.**  
is seeking a Medical Assistant (MA) with clinical experience. Candidates must have Hepatitis B vaccination prior to hire date.  
Interested candidates should complete an online application at https://aidsarms.com/careersite.com  

AIDS Arms, Inc. is seeking a registered nurse with HIV clinical experience to be a medical case manager. Bilingual in English and Spanish is preferred. Interested candidates should complete an online application at: https://aidsarms.com/careersite.com/  

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at 682-238-3442 for more info.
or visit pegasus-squares.com.

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Solution on page 33

From the Horse’s Mouth

Across
1 Petty of A League of Their Own
5 Be reminded of S&M, e.g.
9 Arc on Bernstein’s music score
13 Nuts
14 Hunted animal
15 Rubber on a rim
16 Start of a hopeful saying by
53-Across
18 Cole Porter’s “___ Love Again”
19 “Get your ass moving!”
20 Tolkein of 20th century Paris
21 More of the saying
24 West Side Story gang
27 Emissions-watching org.
28 Insurance giant
29 Like “kweer,” to spellers
34 Strip a fruit
35 More of the saying
36 “You’ve Made ___ Very Happy”
37 Part of Adam that was used to
make Steve?
39 Sport of Pam Parsons, for short
41 Shook up
42 End of the saying
47 Circles over Mary and Peter
48 Blow away
50 Norse port
55 Pansy supporter
56 Sometime defender of gay rights
57 Isherwood’s ___ Camera
58 Seemingly forever
59 Shout to Nellie
60 Stuff for oral gratification
61 ___ donna
62 In an early stage
63 Drop from a duct
64 Lesbos, for one
65 Opening for cock
66 Singer Williamson
67 Barely earns, with “out”
68 Language group including Zulu
69 Lover of Abraham
70 “___ were the days ...”
72 Place where you go straight
73 Per bottle of soda?
74 Suckers
75 Load
76 Gillette brand
77 ___ donna
78 In a early stage
79 Drop from a duct
80 Tesos, for one
81 Opening for cock
82 Singer Williamson
83 Barely earns, with “out”
84 Language group including Zulu
85 Lover of Abraham
86 “___ were the days ...”
87 Can’t help but
88 First name in talk
89 Inn array
90 Gertrude painter
91 Colorado neighbor
92 Sea bottom captain
93 Pull out your shooter
94 “I taught I ___ a puddy tat!”

Down
1 Unit of flagellation
2 Melville novel about a mutiny
3 Gambol
4 Tina dumped him
5 Insects that really suck
6 El Greco’s homeland
7 Ship, to seamen
8 Ball in the skull
9 Liquor source in Gomer’s Mayberry
10 Casino ceiling
11 Robert of Spenser: For Hire
12 Transsexual Richards
13 Dahl’s Willy
14 First name in talk
15 Inn array
16 Gertrude painter
17 Colorado neighbor
18 Sea bottom captain
19 Pull out your shooter
20 Ruck of Spin City
21 Place where you go straight
22 Per bottle of soda?
23 Suckers
24 Load
25 Gillette brand
26 ___ donna
27 In a early stage
28 Drop from a duct
29 Tesos, for one
30 Opening for cock
31 Singer Williamson
32 Barely earns, with “out”
33 Language group including Zulu
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35 “___ were the days ...”
36 Can’t help but
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38 Inn array
39 Gertrude painter
40 Colorado neighbor
41 Sea bottom captain
42 Pull out your shooter
43 “I taught I ___ a puddy tat!”

Outlook

1. "___ were the days ...
2. Gertrude painter
3. Colorado neighbor
4. Sea bottom captain
5. Pull out your shooter
6. "I taught I ___ a puddy tat!"

(q-puzzle)
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