The Tradition Continues
TGRA’s 35th annual rodeo is this weekend at Mesquite’s Resistol Arena
by Tammye Nash, Page 8
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Trans woman murdered in SC

Sasha Wall, 29, a transgender woman, was found Easter morning, shot dead in her car with the motor running on a rural road northeast of Columbia, S.C. She had been shot multiple times in the neck and shoulder.

Wall is the eighth transgender woman known to have been murdered so far in 2018.

Police suspect that Wall was a victim of domestic violence rather than a random attack or hate crime. Because of the violence apparent at the scene, the sheriff told the local Fox affiliate that what it shared is information displayed publicly on profiles. The company also defended what it had done by saying it looked like the attacker was very angry. From the evidence, the shooter was either in the car or standing right outside with the door open. The Columbia newspaper, The State, and Fox46 mis-gendered the victim.

Costa Rica's new president wins election by supporting marriage equality

Costa Rica’s new president, Carlos Alvarado, a novelist and former cabinet minister, won in a landslide victory over the weekend, with marriage equality as the main issue. His opponent, a conservative religious singer and pastor, who campaigned on a platform opposing marriage equality and abortion, received about 39 percent of the vote.

Earlier this year, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled its member nations should allow same-sex marriage. The court, which is based in Costa Rica, upheld human rights for the Organization of American States.

The presidential election became a referendum of the issue. In the first round of voting, the conservative candidate came in first place, but supporters of the other candidates rallied around Alvarado in the runoff, according to Time.

Recent polls showed a majority of Costa Ricans oppose same-sex marriage and pollsters expected a tight election.

Grindr will stop sharing user HIV info with third parties

Grindr has changed its policy on sharing users’ HIV info with third parties, but the company said this wasn’t a security breach like Facebook’s. The information was shared, not sold, and even though the information that was shared was encrypted, this could still be a HIPAA violation.

The dating app shared the information with two outside companies that helped Grindr test its performance, according to Grindr’s chief technology officer who spoke to the Los Angeles Times.

Grindr’s spokesman said although it does share some user information with advertisers, HIV status is not among the content users include in their profiles that is distributed. The company also defended what it had done by saying that what it shared is information displayed publicly on profiles.

Grindr was founded in 2009 by Joel Simkhai and has more than 3 million users. Simkhai sold a majority stake in the company last year to Kunlun Group Ltd., a Chinese gaming company, and stepped down in January when he sold Kunlun his remaining shares in the app. — David Taffet

Salman found not guilty in Pulse massacre

Noor Salman was found not guilty of aiding her husband, Omar Mateen, in the Pulse nightclub massacre that left 49 dead and more than 50 others wounded.

She had been charged with aiding in a terrorist act and lying to the FBI.

The defense claimed she was a victim of abuse. Salman admitted not being completely truthful to the police and FBI, but claimed it was fear that held her back.

Her attorneys blamed that on her low IQ and long hours of interrogation. The Orlando Sentinel reported defense attorney Linda Moreno said in her closing argument, “Why would Omar Mateen confide in Noor, a woman he clearly had no respect for? She was not his peer, she was not his partner, and she was not his confidant.”

Had she been convicted, she could have faced life in prison.

— David Taffet

Costa Rica's new president, Carlos Alvarado.
Are you PrEPed for summer?

Spring is here so you are probably thinking of getting on that diet and hitting the gym harder to get your Summer body in shape. In order to get fully in shape you may want to get on PrEP as well. The HELP Center is the only PrEP clinic in North Texas that provides access to PrEP free of charge.

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April 6-8: Deep Ellum Arts Festival
Six blocks of Main Street in Deep Ellum are transformed into an arts festival from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Sunday.

April 7: Different Strokes Golf Association
DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 9 a.m. at Bear Creek East, 3500 Bear Creek Court. $60 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

April 7: No Tie Dinner: A Night to Remember
Presented by Purple Foundation, and benefits AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. $75-150. Tickets available online at NoTieDinner.org.

April 7: TWCD Gala
The Women’s Chorus of Dallas holds a gala at 7 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets are available at TWCD.org.

April 7-8: Texas Tradition Rodeo
Texas Gay Rodeo Association hosts its 35th annual Texas Tradition Rodeo Saturday and Sunday at the Mesquite Arena, 1818 Rodeo Drive in Mesquite. Stay tuned for details. (The rodeo was moved from the initially-announced location in Denton.)

April 7: Scarborough Faire
The annual Renaissance Faire opens and runs through May 28.

April 7: Grace Project Clothing Drive
Clothing drive from 10 a.m.-noon at Legacy Counseling Center, 4054 McKinney Ave.

April 7: University of Drag
Learn more about the art of drag at 4 p.m. at Resource Center, 5950 Cedar Springs Road.

April 8: Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes
The Turtle Creek Association hosts the Tour of Homes, featuring five residences along the Turtle Creek Blvd., from 1-5 p.m. Tickets are $54 each for non-association members and $45 each for members through March 31. Prices go up after that date. Parking will be available at 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd. For information visit TurtleCreekAssociation.org.

April 8: Goddesses of the Galaxy Ball
Miss Gay Dallas State and State at Large from 6-9 p.m. at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St.

April 9: Dallas Cultural Plan
Creative Conversation is an annual panel launched by Mayor Mike Rawlings for Dallas Arts Month from 6-8 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Free with ticket at ticketdfw.com/whats-on/2018.

April 9: Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats
State Rep. Mary Gonzalez is the speaker at 7 p.m. at the Women’s Club of Fort Worth, 1316 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

April 9: Resource Center tour
Resource Center CEO Ceece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center’s community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

April 10: PFLAG Tyler
PFLAG meets at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway Ave., Ste. 100, Tyler. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

April 10: North Lake College Pride
Pride sponsored by the Gay-Straight Alliance. Information from community diverse organizations from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at North Lake College, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving.

April 11: The Power of Empowerment
Prism Health opens its new East Dallas Empowerment Center from 6-8 p.m. at 3910 Gaston Ave. #125.

April 12: PFLAG Dallas
PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383.

April 12: GLBT Chamber new member showcase
Meet the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce’s newest members at the new member showcase and business connections mixer from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn Dallas Market Center, 7235 N. Stemmons Freeway.

April 13: Compassion Fatigue Symposium
Ed-U-Care presents a program for caregivers from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.

April 14: Family Fun Day at the Dallas Zoo
Free admission to the Dallas Zoo for residents of Districts 1, 2, 6, and 14 (The 4 Amigos — Griggs, Medrano, Narvaez and Kingston) from 9 a.m.-noon at the Dallas Zoo, 650 S. R.L. Thornton. Parking is $10 or take the Red Line.

April 14: HRC Federal Club spring luncheon
From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at

Obituary

Timothy Ross Bratcher passed away peacefully on March 24, 2018, in Dallas. Tim was born Jan. 15, 1971, in Lubbock, grew up in Conroe and graduated from Oak Ridge High School. He attended Texas Tech University and Sam Houston State University and worked as an IT professional.

He was currently working at UT Southwestern Medical Center-Dallas in cardiac research. He was a board member of Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History in Houston. Tim was also a member of the Empire of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star–Houston, for which he helped raise money for Houston HIV/AIDS and LGBT youth. He was an active participant in various other civic activities supporting the LGBT community and was on the board of Tucker’s Gift-Dallas, an organization that helps HIV/AIDS patients care for their pets.

He is survived by his parents, Burt Bratcher, Rosalyn Maxwell and stepfather Jimmie Maxwell; and his sister, Tara. His very loved dog, Mojo also survives him.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Tim’s name may be made to Tucker’s Gift, Hope Hospice New Braunfels, Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History in Houston, or Turtle Creek Chorale in Dallas.

- **April 15: Crawfish Boil**
  Benefit for OutLast Youth from noon-5 p.m. at Deep Ellum Brewing Co., 2823 St. Louis St.

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly**
  at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week’s guest is Dallas Police liaison Amber Roman; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Core Group Meeting**
  every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect**
  every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcescenter.org. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasusquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners**
  meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride**
  support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA**
  meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men’s meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**
  meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVs in Spayse**
  news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

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The Texas Gay Rodeo Association is moving uptown (so to speak) this year as the members get ready to stage their 35th annual Texas Tradition Rodeo this weekend at the 5,500-seat Resistol Arena, home of the Mesquite Pro Rodeo.

Tickets are $10 per person per day, available at the gate.

Rodeo weekend began Thursday night with the TGRA Royalty competitions at Sue Ellen’s, and continues today (Friday, April 6) with horse check-in beginning at 8 a.m. and contestant/volunteer registration from 5-8 p.m., both at the arena. Barrel racing exhibition rides start at 3 p.m. at the arena, and the Texas Slide Barrel Racing Competition begins at 7 p.m.

The competition gets underway in earnest at 8 a.m. Saturday with calf roping on foot, followed by steer decorating, mounted roping, team roping and steer riding.

The Grand Entry steps off at noon, and is followed by what Rodeo Director (and TGRA-Dallas Chapter President) Boogie Hood calls “the spectator events:” ranch saddle bronc riding, chute-dogging, pole bending, goat dressing, barrel racing, flag racing, the wild drag race — then finishing up with the granddaddy of rodeo sports, the bull riding. Saturday night at 7 p.m., there will be a TGRA fundraising event at The Hidden Door, and on Sunday night, at the end of competition, awards will be presented at the arena.

Throughout the weekend, there will be a wide range of vendors on hand and entertainment in the 8 Second Club all day both Saturday and Sunday. Prism Health representatives will also be on hand to offer free HIV testing.

Ranch Hand Rescue, an animal rescue and rehabilitation organization with its headquarters in Denton and a facility in Argyle, is one of the rodeo beneficiaries, as is a new safe house for young men who have been victims of sexual abuse. That facility, Smith said, is only the second of its kind in the nation. Ranch Hand Rescue will also have a presence at the rodeo.

Hood and TGRA State President Tim Smith — who also happens to be Hood’s partner of 18 years — said that while the 35th annual annual rodeo has all the old favorites, TGRA is ever-growing and evolving. The “ranch saddle bronc riding” is one example.

It is, Smith explained, a new event — added last year to the TGRA lineup — designed to be more “flashy” and to ramp up the excitement in the crowd.

In the traditional bareback and saddle bronc riding competitions, the rider can only use one hand to hold on to the “rigging” if their free hand touched the horse in any way, the rider was disqualified. But “ranch” saddle bronc riding has no such restriction. Riders can use both hands to hold on and to encourage the horse to bigger, better bucking. They also often spread colored powder over the horse’s rump that will spray into the air as the animal moves and bucks.

“It’s an up-and-coming event in all the rodeos, including mainstream, that’s been approved by the [International Gay Rodeo Association] for our events. Last year was the first time we had ranch saddle bronc riding,” Smith said. “It’s just a lot more showy and a whole lot of fun for the audience to watch.”

TGRA, like other LGBT-focused rodeo organizations as well as mainstream “western lifestyle” organizations and events, has been struggling to draw in the younger generation, Smith said. “But,” he added, “we are finding new and better ways to do that.”

In 2015, TGRA held its rodeo at the Fair Park rodeo arena, because the site originally intended — Texas Horse Park at the Trinity — wasn’t yet finished. But the next year moved to the Horse Park — and the event lost money.

So in 2017, TGRA took a large leap of faith and headed north, holding last year’s event at the Diamond T Arena in Denton, despite the dire warnings that a gay rodeo wouldn’t be welcome in that more rural setting.

Instead, Smith said, TGRA was welcomed with open arms.

“At first, we didn’t know how it would go over. But the locals — oh my god! They were wonderful! The support and the sponsors we got from the community there, the straight community — it was just amazing,” Smith said. “The Juicy Pig [a barbecue restaurant in the middle of town] came to us asking if they could sponsor us. Everything was sponsored — all the buckles, everything.”

“It opened our eyes to marketing in a new and different way,” he continued, saying that the LGBT-focused organization learned a lot about finding support in the mainstream community. So when TGRA officials learned this year that the Diamond T would no longer be available — that it had planned to hold the rodeo there again this year — they decided to go big. That’s how the Texas Traditions Rodeo ended up at one of the most famous rodeo arenas in the state.

“The Mesquite arena has been great,” Smith said, explaining that TGRA gets proceeds from ticket sales, concession stand sales and beer sales this year, and it’s the beer sales that help bring in the profit. Those attending will have to pay for parking, and that money doesn’t go to TGRA, “because they already have a contract with someone to handle parking,” he explained.

Smith also noted that the IGRA Finals rodeo for this year will also be held at Mesquite’s Resistol Arena.

Smith said that TGRA — like other LGBT and mainstream “western lifestyle” organizations — has struggled in recent years to get younger people involved and active. “We’ve been selling an old product in old ways,” he said. “Now we are creating new product and marketing it in new ways. It’s been a big challenge, and we have struggled trying to reach a new and different crowd. But we are doing it.”

TGRA now uses social media more extensively to get word out, and “we hold rodeo schools, where the seasoned cowboys and cowgirls teach classes and give hands-on instruction to newcomers,” he said.

He explained that the Red River Rodeo Association — a contestant focused LGBT rodeo organization in Texas — helps TGRA in holding the rodeo schools.

Smith and Hood also said that they hope TGRA’s commitment to community service will also draw in new members who care about helping and promoting the LGBT community.

“That’s how we got started back in the 1980s, after all,” Smith said. “We were trying to raise money to help people with AIDS.”

He explained that each of the five TGRA chapters — Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio — hold fundraising events all year to help pay for the state rodeo. Then the state rodeo takes all of its proceeds and distributes the money back to the local chapters.

“The idea is to be able to get enough sponsorships and to bring in enough money that we can send all the money each chapter raises back to them, plus some,” Smith said. “Then the local chapters distribute that money to the beneficiaries they have chosen in their city.”

The state rodeo gives other nonprofits a chance to raise money for themselves: Different organizations staff beer booths and concessions at the rodeo, and while the money from the sale of the food and drink goes to TGRA, those staffing the booths get to keep their tips for their own organizations.

“Community service has always been a very important part of our mission,” Smith continued. “Back in the day we would go out in our whites [the white dress shirts emblazoned with the TGRA logo] to help out at events. And we have always been a big part of the Pride celebration in Dallas. We help out with the parade, and we man the beer booths. That’s always been one of our biggest fundraisers for the rodeo.”

And, Smith and Hood stressed, you don’t have to be a seasoned cowboy or cowgirl to be a TGRA member.

“You don’t even have to know how to ride a horse. You can learn at rodeo school, if you want, but you don’t have to,” Smith said. “There’s room for everyone in TGRA.”

TGRA annual dues are $25/person. For information on how to join, visit TGRA.org.
A coalition of Plano residents on Wednesday submitted a petition calling on the city to hold an election to recall Place 7 Councilman Tom Harrison, in the wake of a number of what they say are racist and bigoted posts on Harrison’s Facebook page.

Harrison has apologized for any “unintentional hurt” he may have caused, but he has refused calls by other city council members, including Mayor Harry LaRosiliere, to resign from his seat, despite unanimous vote by the other council members to censure him.

David Smith with One Plano Our Plano, the organization seeking Harrison’s ouster, said the group needed to have 2,791 verified signatures on the petition to force a recall, and they submitted 4,425.

City spokesman Steve Stolar explained that the Plano City Secretary’s office now has five days to validate the signatures and then report to the City Council. He noted that One Plano Our Plano submitted 568 pages full of signatures on the petition.

The fifth day from the day the petition was submitted will be next Monday, April 9, the day of the council’s next scheduled meeting, and he said City Secretary Lisa Henderson will likely report to the council at that meeting.

If at that time Henderson has validated at least 2,791 or the 4,000-plus signatures submitted, Harrison “will have one last chance to resign on his own, and if he doesn’t, the city council has no choice but to set the recall election,” Smith said.

Stolar said that the efforts to oust Harrison began after he shared a meme on his Facebook page calling for President Trump to “ban Islam in American schools.” When that post was made public, Stoler said, LaRosiliere and other council members called for Harrison to resign immediately.

When he refused, the council voted to censure him.

Stoler also noted that other posts on Harrison’s Facebook page have surfaced, including one he re-posted May 25, 2017 — originally dated May 19, 2017, the day that a statute of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was removed from public display in New Orleans — that shows a photo of Lee with the declaration, “New Orleans may be taking his likeness down, but we true southerners will honor him today.”

Another one, shared by Harrison on Nov. 5, 2016, includes a photo of African-Americans working in a cotton field and a photo of African men with their hands chained behind them and chains around their necks. It reads: “In the 19th century all slave owners were Democrats. In the 21st century, all slave owners are Muslim. Their allies are the Democrats. Democrats: Supporters of black slavery then. Supporters of black slavery now. That’s a fact.”

Harrison said Wednesday, through a spokesman, that he is “neither a racist nor a bigot,” that he has plenty of supporters who believe in his brand of conservatism, and that he is confident he would win the recall election “and win it handily.”

Also according to the spokesman, Harrison claims that he has never seen some of the posts being attributed to him, and that, “Anyone that knows me will attest to me not being ‘anti’ anything.”

Smith said that One Plano Our Plano was able to collect petition signatures quickly and in large numbers because the recall effort is an “all-volunteer, citizen-led” effort. He said that large numbers of voters oppose the kind of bigotry that Harrison’s Facebook posts evince and that Harrison’s views do not reflect the attitude of the city of Plano and the majority of its residents.

“Bottom line — open bigotry has no place on our city council,” Smith said.

Stolar explained that each of Plano’s eight city council members holds a specific place on the council — including the mayor, who holds the Place 6 seat — but that all eight are elected at large, which means residents across the city vote on all eight seats. Only candidates/council members in Places 1, 2, 3 and 4 are required to live in the specific district designated by their Place numbers, but even they are voted on city-wide.

Plano council members serve four-year terms and are limited to two terms. Stolar said Harrison was elected in 2015, and that the number of valid signatures required on the petition is based on 30 percent of the number of votes cast in the 2015 council election.

Senior Staff Writer David Taffet contributed to this report.
Black Tie announces 2018 beneficiaries

One new beneficiary is in; one old one is back, and three of last year’s recipients are gone from this year’s Black Tie Dinner’s list of grantees.

One national and 18 local non-profit organizations will participate in and receive funds from the 37th annual gala that will be held at the Sheraton Dallas on Nov. 3.

Black Tie also announced its theme for this year’s dinner and introduced its new development director at a kick-off event held Thursday night, April 5, at The Hall on Dragon and underwritten by Eighty Three Creative Inc.

The new kid on the beneficiary block is Trans Kids and Families of Texas. The returning beneficiary is The Women’s Chorus of Dallas, who was a recipient as recently as 2016, but wasn’t among last year’s grantee organizations.

DFW Trans Kids and Families was founded by a few families in 2015 to support their transgender or gender expansive children of all ages in the DFW area. Its nonprofit status is registered as Trans Kids and Families of Texas.

The organization holds monthly socials to connect families that support each other and their kids as they transition. They provide peer-to-peer and online support and offer medical, counseling and legal referrals. They offer help with the expense of transitioning and other related needs.

This year, Trans Kids and Families of Texas began a scholarship program for graduating high school students. “Our group has been growing pretty rapidly over the last three years,” said founder Melissa Ballard. “We have about 600 members. We want to provide ongoing support, and that’s what Black Tie will help us do.”

After a year’s absence from the beneficiary list, The Women’s Chorus of Dallas returns this year. “We are so grateful to Black Tie for assisting us with fulfilling our mission,” said Ann Rathbun, general manager of The Women’s Chorus of Dallas.

Rathbun said TWCD has a gala on Saturday, April 7 at 7 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel as well as its Mother’s Day concert at 2 p.m. on May 13 at the Texas Discovery Gardens. Tickets to both are available at TWCD.org.

Three beneficiaries not returning this year are AIDS Interfaith Network, now known as Access and Information Network, Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas and the Trevor Project. Trevor and SCCenter didn’t apply this year.

Trevor, a national LGBT teen crisis hotline, had hired a full-time development director for the region to do fundraising across an area that generates the largest portion of its hotline calls. He left later in the spring, so the agency had to hire someone just to coordinate the beneficiary requirements — table sales, raffle sales, collecting auction items and providing volunteer hours.

BTD Co-Chair David Gifford-Robinson explained that AIN was undergoing some reorganization.

Human Rights Campaign Foundation remains the national beneficiary, as it has been since the inception of Black Tie Dinner.

Black Tie Dinner supports a variety of organizations throughout the Dallas LGBT community. Four of the agencies are HIV-related, four are youth- or family-oriented, and four are religious organizations. Three are cultural organizations, and three are legal or legislative organizations. Among those 18 agencies, several overlap in services provided — Legal Hospice of Texas is both a legal and HIV services agency. Among Resource Center programs are those addressing issues related to HIV, youth, family and more.

Returning beneficiaries are AIDS Outreach Center, AIDS Services of Dallas, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cathedral of Hope, Celebration Community Church, Congregation Beth El Binah, Equality Texas Foundation, Lambda Legal, Legacy Counseling Center, Legal Hospice of Texas, Northaven UMC, Promise House, Rainbow Roundup, Resource Center, Turtle Creek Chorale and Uptown Players.

The theme of this year’s Black Tie Dinner is “Visible.”

“It is imperative to the progress of the overall equality movement that we each show up everyday and are Visible in our workplaces, homes and communities,” said Gifford-Robinson.

Black Tie also announced hiring Tony Velucci as the new director of development. Velucci has held development positions with Spooner House that provides shelter services in Shelton Conn., the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA and the Archdiocese of New York. Most recently, he served as the assistant director of development for Vogel Alcove in Dallas. Black Tie beneficiary Congregation Beth El Binah was one of the founding organizations of Vogel Alcove.
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A couple walking from S4 on Cedar Springs Road to Grapevine Bar on Maple Avenue early Saturday morning, March 31, were attacked by a man with a gun. A similar attack earlier in March may have been committed by the same man, police say, but this time one of the victims ran the attacker down and got his license plate number.

Zohar Wolf said he and his husband were holding hands as they walked toward Maple Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. that Saturday. Wolf told Cardenas he didn’t feel safe walking there because of previous attacks in the neighborhood. But Cardenas told his husband it would be OK.

“All of a sudden, somebody jumped from the left side of us shouting, ‘Fuck you! Fuck you! Give me your money!’” Wolf said.

“He grabbed Zohar around the neck and pointed a gun at me,” Cardenas added.

Cardenas had researched what to do if attacked on the street. He said that he had read to throw his cell phone under a parked car to make it difficult for the robber to get. Wolf threw his phone, but it landed on the sidewalk. The attacker picked it up along with his wallet containing credit cards and identification.

Cardenas said he kept his eye focused on the gun, which he said he thinks was an LG Ruger.

“My immediate reaction was to get the gun from being pointed at me,” Cardenas said.

He grabbed his arm and pointed his arm away from him. The man shot down into the ground.

“I shouted, ‘Take it all,’” Cardenas said.

After he picked up Wolf’s phone and wallet, the man ran down Reagan Street toward Dickason Avenue and ducked into an alley behind an apartment complex. Cardenas asked Wolf if he was OK. Wolf said he was, and Cardenas took off in pursuit.

While chasing the robber, Cardenas called 911, and the dispatcher told him not to follow the attacker. Cardenas told the operator that since police weren’t there, someone had to chase the attacker.

“All she kept telling me was not to chase him,” Cardenas said.

But he continued down the alley and saw the attacker jump into a pickup. He got close enough to read the operator the license plate number.

The attacker saw Cardenas chasing him and talking on the phone. He started the engine and put the pickup in reverse to run Cardenas over, but Cardenas jumped behind a telephone pole so the attacker couldn’t hit him without slamming his car into the pole. The attacker put the pickup in drive and sped off down the alley.

From his phone, Cardenas put Wolf’s phone into lost mode, and he could tell it was still in the area. Wolf had been shouting for help. Someone came out of one of the apartments and helped them find his wallet and phone down the alley.

When the police arrived, they took fingerprints off the phone screen and credit cards.

The assailant got away with nothing.
and, Wolf realized after the attack, he actually had cash in his other pocket.

On March 8, there was a similar attack. Police aren’t able to say they’re related yet but are investigating all leads and evidence to see if they are, according to Dallas Police Liaison Amber Roman.

According to the police report, at 1:30 a.m. on March 8, the victim and his friend were walking back to their car from one of the bars on Cedar Springs Road. The attacker approached him, pointed a gun and demanded his property.

“The suspect then pointed the weapon at the ground and fired once,” the victim said in the police report, identical to what happened to Wolf and Cardenas.

There was a struggle, the victim’s friend began to help and the attacker fled.

About 30 minutes earlier, there had been an attack in the 4200 block of Maple Avenue near the bars Marty’s Live and Liquid Zoo.

Crimestoppers offered a $5,000 reward for information leading to an arrest, but those crimes went unsolved.

Roman said police are checking the license plate and who the car is registered to, but that’s not definitive evidence because the car or the plate could be stolen.

Roman’s advice to the community echoed that of the 911 operator: Pursuing an armed attacker is not a good idea.

When Cardenas ducked behind the telephone pole, he wasn’t necessarily safe, she said. The assailant could have reached out of the car or stepped out of the car and shot him.

“When the aggressor feels like they’re being attacked, anything can happen,” Roman said.

She said even though the attacker shot toward the ground, any of them could have been hit by shrapnel or the bullet could have ricocheted.

“The most important thing is, don’t jeopardize your own safety,” she said.

She also repeated a number of suggestions that circulated around the neighborhood two years ago when the LGBT community felt it was under siege after a series of attacks on people walking from the bars on Cedar Springs Road to their cars or walking home. The recent attacks are not related to those, Roman said.

Roman suggested walking in pairs. “Be cognizant of the area,” she said.

She said Cardenas and Wolf were walking from Cedar Springs Road to Maple Avenue. During the day, it’s a short walk through a neighborhood of apartments and houses. At night, however, when there’s no activity on the street, it’s safer to drive between the two areas.

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Staying sexy and staying safe

Fact: Gay men get old. But many want to remain sexually active, and maintaining that sexual activity is vital to our identity. And yet, sexual activity at an advanced age is viewed as inappropriate in American culture overall.

Fact: Gay men often fixate on the type of man that appeals to them sexually.

Fact: Older gay men are often taken advantage of in sexual situations.

How do we address the problems? We wake up and face reality. All beauty fades.

Many older gay men are blessed with genes that let them retain an animal magnetism that appeals to other (younger) gay men. But the clear majority (I include myself) show our age. If we take an honest look in the mirror, we’ll see an ordinary older man, much like our father. That takes some serious adjusting.

Many of us moved through our lives with above average looks, making it possible to attract pretty much anyone we set our gaze on. But that “gaze” from other men eventually excludes us. At some predictable stage, every gay man becomes invisible on the sexual market.

That, too, is a fact in this youth-focused subculture of men.

Another biting reality is that any attention given to older gay men by, say, men in their 30s is suspect. Rare is the heart-of-gold daddy chaser. No, the motive is usually darker. There are men completely void of decency that see us as prey. They will lie. They will hustle. They will do anything to get an older gay man alone.

These men are often not even gay themselves. They are just predators that see us as weak because we’re gay ourselves.

Too often, the older gay man succumbs easily to the overtire, refusing to face the reality of who they have become. In their mind’s eye, they are still hot, still on the market.

Hook swallowed. The end.

Sometimes, after a few drinks, some cash, the predator is gone, taking nothing with them but another chunk of their target’s dignity. Other times, the shark senses the loneliness and isolation. He attaches; he moves in. Any available bank account pays for his cigarettes and meth. And, in a worst case scenario, the older man is murdered, his home ransacked and his possessions pawed — in the end, a pathetic tale.

So what can we do to avoid that pathetic end. Here are a few suggestions:

1. First on my list is to hire a sex worker. You enjoy sex with a specific type and age of man. Great. Most do. Professionals regularly entertain an older clientele. They are respectful and highly accommodating. You get what you pay for, and you get exactly what you want. Your upfront cost is a guarantee that you will not be nickel- and dimed into poverty by a low-class hustler.

2. Consider becoming involved with both the leather and bear communities. These men are far more fluid in their attitudes about age than in the mainstream gay culture. Younger men’s involvement with older men is highly encouraged and practiced. Leathermen have developed a unique respect for each other, and each average gay man should borrow from their system.

These men inhabit a much more secure environment because of their ability to clearly acknowledge boundaries. There is much to borrow from this world that could ensure one’s safety.

3. Make CraigsList absolutely off limits. It is extremely dangerous for older men, and it is nearly if not totally impossible, to get information on someone met through CL.

4. Grinder, Scruff, Adam4Adam and all the other sexual hookup apps are worth a consideration. The offers on those sites are for the casual encounter one seeks. But the risk of being targeted is still extremely high for older men. It might be possible to get information on someone you met on these apps if some violent incident happened. But it would be after the fact, and the damage would be done. These sites must somehow be held responsible for the risk inherently involved. Subscribers must demand they institute safety measures.

5. Revisit bathhouses. You could be pleasantly surprised. There’s even a slim opportunity of hooking up with younger men. Whomever you encounter, it’s a safe environment to play in. (Spoiler note: The tweaked-out drug crowd never left and are still drawn to these clubs.)

Sexual intimacy. Anonymous sex. Hot encounters — All of that is available to us as older gay men. Let’s not retire into total irrelevancy. We are sexual beings, and we should remain as such.

For us to get to that will take a level of honesty we have suppressed since the beginning of the “family values” assault launched on our community.

To counter the homophobia, we focused on our own credibility as family. But in the process, we began to mimic the heterosexual in some unhealthy ways.

We are not heterosexuals. Sexually we are another species — men who have sex with each other; women who have sex with one another. Let’s own that once again. We couple, we marry and, in doing so, we create loving and long-lasting bonds.

We are not our heterosexual relatives and neighbors. We are different. We need to shed the ridiculous notion that we are made in their image.

And as we age, we need to be realistic and safe. We are not statistics. We are not crime scene outlines. Older gay men do not need the embarrassment of sitting in a police station or some adult protective service office having to explain to someone the need to engage in high-risk sexual behavior that has landed them in these rooms as victims.

We are proud men never seen in such numbers ever before. We have survived prejudice, violence and disease. We have been involved with the advancement of human rights for all people. We have helped define LGBT culture. The threat of violence increases for gay men as we age. We have always known that. Part of our legacy is ending that, and that is a goal we can achieve.

So, in the words of Ru Paul, “Don’t f**k it up!”

Gary Bellomy is a longtime Dallas activist working on issues of LGBT equality, HIV/AIDS services and family violence prevention. He is a war resister and a Trump resister.
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The other ‘other Tyra’ interview
Fans of RuPaul’s Drag Race will recognize the phrase “the other Tyra” — a reference to Season 2 champ Tyra Sanchez. And there really are two Tyras … only both have the last name Banks.

The first Tyra is the supermodel — the first African-American woman to grace the cover of Sports Illustrated’s Swimsuit Edition, the host of America’s Next Top Model who popularized terms like “smizing” (smiling with your eyes) and all manner of variations on “tooch” (booty, poochie, juicy), and who held headshots like Oscar envelopes. The second Tyra is Ms. Banks — the entrepreneur who took a course at the Harvard Business School for running an empire … which she now does, while teaching her own class at Stanford.

So which one am I talking to today?

Of course, I’m talking to both … and a mother, daughter, author (of, among other, her new book Perfect Is Boring: 10 Things My Crazy, Fierce Mama Taught Me About Beauty, Booty and Being a Boss) speaker and all kinds of other qualities that make Banks so identifiable and attractive to millions of her fans.

A few thousand more will get to experience Banks in person next week, when she launches a book tour with a live onstage conversation about her life. (Tickets to the appearance include a signed copy of her book.)

We called up Banks — she was eating Chinese food and taking care of her son while we chatted — to get a preview of her event, her book and her life as an imperfect businesswoman.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: What’s the professional accomplishment in life you’re most proud of? Tyra Banks: I’d say it was being “first” in so many different things — whether the first black woman to have a Victoria’s Secret contract, or be on the cover of Sports Illustrated or the female model of any kind to be on the cover of GQ, even to create the first fashion-based reality show. Those “firsts” mean a lot to me, which I didn’t realize until I went to Harvard Business School [for a three-year program on entrepreneurship] and my marketing professor did a case study on me. Of course, being first means you make a lot of mistakes. I’ve been first on things that didn’t work. Fortunately, people tend to forget about those.

Your mother was the inspiration for your book, and will be appearing with you in Dallas. What’s your relationship been like? We really are close. There’s no such thing as a taboo subject with her — she even embarrassed me a lot by bringing up [discussions] on boys and sex and relationships. Usually a kid doesn’t want to talk about something, so she being so raw and real helped me not experiment with sex and other things too early. She’s hilarious and at times can curse like a sailor or be the holiest person in the world. On that part she’s always been a very good friend. But she doesn’t go to the clubs with me and she doesn’t like me to talk back!

She was also your manager when you started modeling at 15…. Yes, she was the one who told me to plan to leave modeling early, because I wasn’t going to be some hot supermodel forever. She was my Kris Jenner — she guided me a lot and protected me.

You’ve been a long outspoken ally of the gay community. How did that passion develop? Maybe being in the fashion industry Starting when I was very, very young. To see so many people disenfranchised and abolished from their households or excommunicated while I was holding Thanksgiving dinners for those “orphans.” Then it ballooned into something bigger. Perhaps being a black woman and understanding the struggles made me feel a kinship [with the gay community]. I also have gotten credit for stuff I took from the gay community, like saying “fierce,” which the gay community in New York started! I just [popularized it].

You have created a host of catchphrases, though, like smize. They do seem tongue in cheek to an extent, but also you treat them so seriously … although maybe mock-seriously? A lot of the things I do on America’s Next Top Model I am in on the jokes. I say it’s like the Flintstones vitamins of my childhood, which taste so good, but there are vitamins in it, so it’s good for you! There’s fun and camp with “smize,” a word I trademarked but introduced it in the most camp way: SuperSmize was a superhero — pretty Wakanda thank you very much! — and I had a cape and laser beam eyes. I knew it was ridiculous but I also knew how to make it stick. Over time, I knew it wouldn’t be as much of a joke. I overhear people talk about smizing in bars now!

Will you be doing another cycle of ANTM? Any chance men will be coming back? How great was that? That was so fun. We have a new partner with VH1, who wanted it to be just girls, but I hope I will be allowed to bring men back. ANTM I’m sure will be coming back, along with America’s Got Talent, which I’m hosting again, starting May 29. And in 2019 I have some pretty massive things I will be launching. So I may be talking to you again next year!
When you have seven Grammys and an iconic voice that can drop to ocean depths, it’s your god-given right to also have a no-wings-in-my-dressing-room policy. This is Toni Braxton in 2018, still decrying the existence of pungent food in her midst before a concert. But sex? Cigars? Alkaline water? Unbreak Ms. Braxton’s heart with any of the above.

While talking about her first solo album in eight years, *Sex & Cigarettes*, the 50-year-old R&B diva was in tell-all mode when discussing her appreciation for the current generation’s outspoken female artists, the Mariah and Janet duets that could’ve been (thanks a lot, bankruptcy and babies), and her secret — hint: nose job — to hitting those famous notes.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: That album cover, Toni. You’re on fire. Toni Braxton: Thank you. I feel good about it. You know, I was hungry while I was doing that. That was a little hard. But I love the album cover. I thought [photographer and director] Randee St Nicholas’s choice of lighting was really superb.

How would you describe your mood there? It’s self-explanatory with that title: I’m feeling like sex and cigarettes. I feel sexy, like I need a puff afterwards.

You puff? I smoke cigars once or twice a year. Every year for my birthday I do, and sometimes around the holiday. It’s not my friend to smoke, with lupus and all, but you have to
have a vice or two. A nice stogie, something I can chew. Something really hardy.

You’re known to have a deep voice, so a few puffs can’t hurt. My voice is naturally smoky, but when I do the cigars, it’s for my birthday and I try not to work on my birthday. Even if I do, after my show I do a little puff-puff. Not a puff-puff-pass.

Some of your social commentators aren’t keen on what you’re wearing. One person wrote, “We as older women have to set an example for younger women.” Oh, that’s cute. It doesn’t really bother me. I think if you look good, you can wear it. Any age. For me, personally, I don’t wear midrifts. I think I’m too old to wear midrifts. Each his own. It’s just me, my body shape, I’m sure. But I work hard on my body, not just because I’m older, just because I like to be in great health. And it’s OK for people to have their opinion. I have my opinion too on things that I probably shouldn’t. I would never post it.

Can you talk about the pressure on you and other women to dress and look a certain way, and has those industry expectations changed with age? Gosh, you know, I feel forever 25. It’s kind of weird. Parts of me are 25, probably! I feel good about myself. In this industry, I would be disappointed if women said that. I mean, guys don’t know, but women — we should embrace each other. I look at Madonna. She’s still doing it and Madonna’s almost 60. Who cares. Or look at me, Janet or Halle Berry. We’re all in the same group. So, I think it’s all about how you feel about yourself, but I like that they’re talking and saying that. I like that now people look younger than their age. I think that people really see people and are thinking age less and aren’t thinking numbers. Numbers, to me, just determine how long you’ve been on the Earth. But I’m OK with it. The women’s movement to me is great. I’m excited about that part.

Yeah? I’m really excited about that because my generation in the ’90s, when I peaked, when my career was at its highest, we were taught to be a little aloof. You had to be mysterious. The younger generation, which I love, they’re my favorite because they speak as loud as they want. They’re like, “We will not be missed.” Rihanna, she’s my favorite. I just love that about the new generation. It’s just nice to live your life out loud.

How are the #MeToo stories resonating with you? I think it’s good, I think it’s about time. It not only affects women, though. I mean, I’m glad about it for women, but I’ve heard guys who’ve been in situations where they can say “me too,” but guys feel like they can’t say it. I like that people are being able to speak out about things that have happened to them, like, “We’re not having it anymore.” But as a woman, I’m proud of my species.

Do you have a #MeToo story? I don’t have a #MeToo story, thank goodness. I have friends and close friends who have stories like that. Most of them have chosen not to talk about it because they have kids and they’re like, “It’s behind me, but it happened to me too.” But I’m very lucky that I don’t have any stories like that.

Going back to the elusiveness of ’90s artists: Did that stop you from being yourself? Early on I was allowed to be myself and express myself through fashion. I always kind of pushed the envelope on my sexuality. I think it’s definitely different rules for women compared to rules for guys. And we had to ride the wave a little bit, the women of our generation, and if we said anything, we were being a bitch. Of course now it’s just a term of endearment: “That bitch is hot.” And even now the word “diva” is coming back in style, and it’s OK to be a diva. It’s a great moment to be a girl.

Are you a diva? Oh, all of us are sometimes, absolutely.

What are you most diva-ish about? I am very, very particular about my stage when I go on stage. I don’t like having to adjust my mic when I first start performing. I think it’s tacky. Instead of starting off singing, you gotta adjust your mike because they think you’re 5-foot-6 and I’m 5-1 and three-fourths. You would think my people would know that but sometimes they forget.

That doesn’t seem like too much to ask for. Not like you’re requesting a specific brand of water. Well, I’m particular about that too sometimes. As long as it’s alkaline high, but I think the world is about that water now. But they know that, so they get it. I don’t really have this big rider. I don’t have anything like that. But I don’t like food in my room. Do not have food in my room! I do not want to go on stage smelling like food. Some people have food, like wings; they want food before they perform because some

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This year commemorates your 25th year in the music business, as your self-titled debut album was released in 1993. I was a little gay boy when I bought it on cassette tape. You did not say cassette tape. That’s taking me back.

What don’t people know about the making of your debut? Well, it was just before I got my nose job. Might be too much information, but yeah. We didn’t finish the album, so I was singing with a fresh nose job, which is virtually impossible because it hurt so bad — you can’t really move it. Well, I don’t know how they do nose jobs now. I think they do it from the inside — well, that was from the inside too, but you had to wear this little thing on it and after they took it off, it was so sore. You can’t hardly move under your nose and in between your lips, and I remember it was really difficult to sing.

Did it become easier to hit the high notes or the low notes after the nose job? The higher notes got easier. I mean, I had rhinoplasty surgery, but I also had sinus surgery — I mean, everybody says that, but it’s really true. But I had a nose job. Mine was a nose job. But I lucked out and my doctor fixed my sinuses as well. I didn’t go in there for my sinuses and they fixed my nose — no. I went in to get my nose fixed and in the interim they fixed my sinuses. So, I’m telling the truth, truth: I went in for a nose job. OK, pumpkin?

What else? The jeans [on the cover] were really too big for me and they were pretty much cabled in the back. That was a true story. So many little tidbits I could tell.

Why did we get a Whitney and Mariah duet and never a Mariah and Toni duet? You know, Mariah had reached out to me about doing a duet, but unfortunately, it was just before I knew the bankruptcy was gonna happen [Braxton filed for bankruptcy in 1998 and 2010], but no one in the world knew. So when she asked me about doing a song together, immediately I wanted to say yes, but I couldn’t because what was about to unfold.

Why aren’t you calling her right now? I’m gonna have to do that. There was talk about me and Janet doing a song together on this particular project, but she was pregnant. But my people had talked about it: ‘Perhaps you and Jan should do a song together.’ But, hey, maybe me and Mariah. We were neighbors for a second, so I probably should’ve reached out to her then, but it’s never too late. You’re actually gonna spark me to maybe talk to her about doing a remix or something. That’s actually a really good idea.

What advice would “Sex & Cigarettes” Toni have for the Toni of 25 years ago? “Sex and Cigarettes” Toni would tell the Toni of 25 years ago to have more sex and smoke more cigars and have fun. And don’t be afraid to be a bitch.
Art for artists’ sake

Quirky writer-directors delve into creativity, humor and horror

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Final Portrait. In 1964, a gay journalist named James Lord (Armie Hammer), staying in Paris, agrees to sit for the ageing artist Alberto Giacometti (Geoffrey Rush) for a portrait — a sitting, the maestro insists, that should take no more than an afternoon. Weeks later, having irritated his boyfriend back in America to no end with one postponement after another, Lord still hasn’t seen the completed work. How hard can it be?

Frustration with “the artist” is a recognized subgenre in the category of movie biopics, whether writers (Julia, Midnight in Paris, Before Night Falls), musicians (Shine, Bird, Inside Llewyn Davis), sculptors (Camille Claudel) or especially painters (Pollock, Lust for Life, Basquiat, The Agony and the Ecstasy), and are usually filled with shop-worn tropes: Mental instability (often fueled by alcohol or drugs), tragic outcomes, under-appreciation in their lifetimes. But Final Portrait contains virtually none of those. (It does include a fourth — sexual voraciousness — but ah, well.) Giacometti is quirky and infuriating, often impenetrably so, but Lord is his willing victim, an observer oddly intrigued at being the observed, whose growing anger is mollified by the idea that the process is the art.

None of these insights are especially groundbreaking; Final Portrait is not a groundbreaking movie. It is, though, a firmly entertaining one for what it is. It starts off at the edge of experimentalism: For a while, the images are abstractly composed and edited so that the camera is rarely focused on the person talking. It conjures a dreamy internal monologue. But that eventually gives way to quaint set-pieces with Lord on the phone to the...
U.S., changing his travel plans, his eyes darting as he wonders what he got himself into. And Hammer, already pretty to look at, makes for a welcome object of our gaze.

But the film largely belongs to Rush. Rush’s film career didn’t begin until he was in his 40s, and has since been a study in unsettling character parts. His face is an amorphous glob, somehow resembling a basket of soiled laundry bewitched with eyes. His nose is bulbous, his jowls pendulant. (If you’ve ever seen Giacometti’s more famous works — his rough-hewn, elongated brass figurative sculptures — you’d swear they were all modeled by Rush himself.) Giacometti lives in a world of narcissistic desires projected into the real world as a legacy of “art” — selfish, but also affectless. He’s a spendthrift and a misery, abstruse but empathetic. The film is, at heart, a comedy, a valentine, not a tragedy. There’s a loving lightness to it all.

That tone rests with the writer-director, Stanley Tucci — best known, of course, as an actor, but with a small yet enviable catalogue of films behind the camera. Tucci is a master of parsing the artistic temperament, whether it’s of a chef (Big Night) or a self-appointed essayist (Joe Gould’s Secret) or comedians (The Impostors). His is an impressively thematically-unified body of work that doesn’t go for big, showy insights but small, intimate ones. Final Portrait is another stave in his cask of creatives mid-creation. It’s what indie filmmaking was meant for. Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.

A Quiet Place. Another writer-director better known as an actor is John Krasinski — beloved as the goofily romantic Jim from The Office, but more serious in the family comedy-drama The Hollars and the environmental drama Promised Land. Like Jordan Peele, he has apparently found that horror-thrillers are a legitimate avenue for exploring his craft. In A Quiet Place, he shows that less can often be much more.

We’ve been acclimated to monster movies where weak humans cower in the shadows because the behemoths possess superior sensory skills, from T. Rexes attracted to movement to zombies who can smell living flesh from 60 paces to aliens who stalk best in total darkness or who sense body heat. In A Quiet Place, the Abbott family members (we only learn their names on the closing credits) walk with flashlights at night and openly during the day, undaunted at the prospect of being seen. That’s because the predators who have apparently taken over the earth are blind and noseless, but their ears? Well, they have something akin to mother hearing — make a sound, and they descend on you like Mueller on Trump associates. And when your enemy is a nine-foot tall praying mantis with rows of razor teeth, one peep is all it takes.

That means virtually the entire 90 minutes of the film are close to wordless; the noisiest things are the shrieks of terror by the audience. And there are lots of shrieks. Krasinski — who also stars with his real-life wife Emily Blunt — has constructed a tight genre film, though it might be more novelty than noteworthy if it only proved to be an exercise in discipline: “Can I keep a feature film going with only a hint of dialogue?” Even if that were its raison d’etre, it might be enough to recommend it, but the film addresses existential issues as well. How much sound do you make in a day? An hour? Heck, in 30 seconds? How do you not rattle pills in a bottle or chuckle at something amusing or creak a loose floorboard? How do you tell your spouse and kids you love them when three little words could be a death sentence? (The
his real-life wife Emily Blunt — has constructed a tight genre film, though it might be more novelty than noteworthy if it only proved to be an exercise in discipline: “Can I keep a feature film going with only a hint of dialogue?” Even if that were its raison d’etre, it might be enough to recommend it, but the film addresses existential issues as well. How much sound do you make in a day? An hour? Heck, in 30 seconds? How do you not rattle pills in a bottle or chuckle at something amusing or creak a loose floorboard? How do you tell your spouse and kids you love them when three little words could be a death sentence? (The logistics remind me of how the novel Memoirs of an Invisible Man explored the annoying mechanics of actually being invisible in the modern world.) There’s more shushing here than at a librarian convention.

Krasinski’s sad-eyed puppyness makes him a perfect conduit for worldless expression, and no one needs to be told Blunt is a resourceful actress, but it’s their kids — Noah Jupe (Suburbicon, Wonder) and Milliecent Simmonds (Wonderstruck) who turn in some potent performances as tweens with all their adolescent issues forced to grow up without foot-stomping or door slamming. A Quiet Place is terrifying, but the thrills aren’t cheaply achieved. Now playing in wide release.

Isle of Dogs. Since the 1990s, three directors — Robert Rodriguez, Richard Linklater and Wes Anderson — have basically defined Texas indie filmmaking, but of the triumvirate, Anderson has always seemed the most idiosyncratic and least Texas-y. He’s a world-builder, inventing fanciful locales within a recognizable universe with an unabashedly cinematic whimsy, whether it’s a gloriously pristine upper-crust NYC (The Royal Tenenbaums), a baroquely unlikely Eastern European resort (The Grand Budapest Hotel), a surprisingly comfortable train traversing India (The Darjeeling Limited) or impossibly prim runaways in New England (Moonrise Kingdom).

For his latest feature — like his Fantastic Mr. Fox, a stop-motion animation targeting adults, not Disney Channel kids — Anderson heads to Japan 20 years in the future, where the cat-loving mayor of the metropolis Megasaki banishes all domesticated canines to a garbage island, left to die so that his nefarious plans can be implemented. The mayor’s ward, a boy named Atari, sets off to rescue his beloved guardian, Spots (Liv Schreiber), and enlists a pack of dogs (voiced by Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton and others in the Andersonian orbit) to help him in his search.

The imagery in Isle of Dogs is charmingly wacky, from the cotton-ball dustups occasioned by dogfights to the stare-directly-into-the-camera perspectives to the Rube Goldbergian fascination with contraptions. But the humor arises from a heartfelt love of how flawed we all are, and acceptance of those flaws (one of the dogs is an inveterate gossip; one a dyed-in-the-wool anarchist, etc.). Their flat affect makes the jokes feel organic, the emotions fairly evoked.

Some critics have clucked their tongues at Isle of Dogs (which won the Headliners Award at last month’s SXSW) for “cultural appropriation,” which of course turns a blind eye (and deaf ear) to Anderson’s storied archness — almost always lacking in real-world textures, but instead forcing his stylized sensibilities on all his characters. Like Whit Stillman, characters in a Wes Anderson film — whether dogs, oceanographers or concierges — traffic in dialogue that feels crafted by hand and baked in a kiln, preserved, but delicate and precious. It’s not that he’s dising Japanese culture, it’s that he imposes his worldview on every culture. It’s Wes Anderson’s universe, we merely live in it. And living in a universe with Isle of Dogs is a very positive thing. Good boy. Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.
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Mozart’s ‘Don Giovanni’ closes out Dallas Opera’s season

George Bernard Shaw considered Mozart’s Don Giovanni among the greatest of all operas, though “Mozart” and “greatest” usually go hand-in-glove. And stage director Robert Falls’ colorful production of it is among the most acclaimed in recent memory. So adding a cast that includes Mariusz Kwiecien, Laura Claycomb, David Portillo and music direction by Emmanuel Villaume makes this the ideal production to close out the Dallas Opera’s season.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasOpera.org.

Welcome (back) to the Renaissance

This weekend trigger the 38th season when North Texas reverts to an era of autocratic rulers and wandering minstrels, betighted vagabonds and turkey-leg eating wenches. It’s Scarborough Renaissance Festival, the cosplay-and-fantasy camp where kids, adults and kiddly-adults explore a Medieval village, saying “verily” and “milady.” Each weekend now through Memorial Day is different (each has its own theme and special guests). You can even see a joust and saucy lads and lasses getting knighted! Cheerio!


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ARTSWEEK
THEATER
Dixie's Tupperware Party. Drag queen Dixie Longate hosts an actual Tupperware party with comic sass. McDavid Studio, 501 E. Fifth St., Fort Worth. April 6–8. (Followed next week by Dixie's Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull and 16 Other Things I Learned While I was Drinking Last Thursday.) BassHall.com.


FINE ART
First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone. An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherScultureCenter.org.


THURSDAY 04.12
CABARET
Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy’s Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

this week’s solution

TUESDAY 04.10
FILM
All the President’s Men. Before there was The Post, there was this true story of the investigation into the Watergate break-in that toppled the Nixon Administration. It couldn’t be more timely. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 04.11
THEATER
Dixie’s Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull and 16 Other Things I Learned While I was Drinking Last Thursday. Drag queen Dixie Longate’s solo show. McDavid Studio, 501 E. Fifth St., Fort Worth. April 11–15. BassHall.com.
CONGRATULATIONS 2018 BENEFICIARIES!

We encourage everyone to be VISIBLE in the community to help bring to light the positive progress of the equality movement and to raise funds for these important organizations.

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Turtle Creek Chorale
Uptown Players

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National Beneficiary

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation

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Ask Howard
How to do the wrong thing right

Proudly self-confessed social media hermit that I am, I emphatically don’t text and won’t read texts sent me, to say nothing of replying to them. “Delete” is the only teensy button I deign to obsessively punch. I shun Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, cameras of every sort — all pods, pads, apps and smartphones; Scruff, Tinder and Grindr (all three of the little pigs) go spuriously disavowed. I’m the J.D. Salinger of sex advice columnists. Thus, I could just kiss all you fellas for the tsunami of questions you’ve since submitted regarding a column I wrote in February pertaining to what I presumed was but a trivial topic: gay slang acronyms and abbreviations. Astoundingly, I have received a sizeable series of follow-up questions that even I — cloistered sex-Dumpster-diving researcher that I am — had never myself previously heard. I — the deified infallibleotreographer — “figging” to his Saturday’s playlist agenda on me, but I can’t tell if it’s meant to be my reward or punishment. With Master, the pleasure/pain pendulum can always swing either direction. — Bjorn Tobey

Dear Bjorn To Obey: Sweet mother of Mephistopheles, you boys are absolutely killing me here. The wonder, considering such twisted bedroom “agendas” you pervy little acolytes make me research, isn’t so much that dear Howard’s computer has now all but entered into a near-permanent state of blinking pop-ups forebodingly warning me, “YOUR SEARCHES ARE BEING RECORDED.” No, the actual wonder is why my unholy hard-drive hasn’t yet spontaneously combusted altogether. Fortunately, my spouse has now gone yawnningly un-shockable to whatever archetypal Ask Howard errands he’s assigned, such as me blasely chirping, “Oh, and while you’re out, find us an Asian market somewhere that sells whole entire ‘hands’ of fresh ginger root — not just those chopped-off fingers the regular grocery stores sell. And pick us up a new paring knife, too. A sharp one — we’re setting the bed ablaze tonight!” ("Yes, Lamby," he hollowly responds, numb and inured to whatever lunatic instructions I hurl him. That’s his adorably sweet nickname for me — Lamby… you know, because I’m such a manger-borne, bleeding innocent.) Here, all you virginal fresher-than-springtime deplorables, is the super-easy, three-step recipe for figging:

1. Peel a “hand” of ginger root into the shape of a small butt plug (the fig). 2. Insert into anus. 3. Scream.

So, remanding your reward/punishment query, Lamb Chops, I think we may safely eliminate any “reward” factoring into your weekend’s writing-in-misery list. Be grateful Master isn’t ordering you whip up any leftovers of my “world famous” lasagna last Friday I invited him by my place for just a smacked-out Cedar Springs street hustler, “I’ll call you this weekend," he soothes. "We’ll go out to a nice dinner." Then he’ll peck me a grind-and-grunt quickie, followed by a “good night, I’m sure as hell will be!” — Kasey with a K

Dear Sukkubus with a K: OK, so here’s the locoweed-lowdown on numeral 23: In a far, far away and too ludicrously occult-obsessed land of lurid enchantment called Gayville, 23 has unfathomably come to symbolize “riding the horned beast.” Now, whether one is actually required (please forgive my crude parlance here) to fuck himself via riding said succubi’s literal horns, or whether the beast is purely a hornier fucker in general (salivating to filthily destroy just any anus) is a trifle murky; regardless, in what passes online for mythological “truthiness” in nowadays’ jizzy jargon, the number 23 translates into a fetish for riding the “horns” of beastly tops. In gay-speak clarification: “How much hornier than the devil’s dick is a third size queen?”

Numerals 23 — the very dumbest urban legend ever spawned — amounts to nothing more than a fictional fantasy creation of author William S. Burroughs in his farcically demonic sendup of “numeroLOGY science” and the ridiculous convolutions created by “numerologists” to achieve their desired “results.” Burroughs intended his laughably hokum “23 enigma” to be an idiocy-personified articulation of the “laws of five” which (banish thee, Lucifer, now!) states that “all things occur in fives,” as indisputably proven by the numbers 3 and 5 added together equaling 8; hence, look in places you’re not supposed to, and you’ll discover demons you’re never supposed to see: Burroughs mockingly howled all the way to the bank.

The sole intrinsic significance, Kasey, and the (only unique quality of 23, is that number 22 precedes it and number 24 follows it. And that’s all the “enigma” amounts to — just a boringly ordinary, grotesquely insignificant, demon-free numeral. For more sneaky elucidation than Howard’s here, Kid Kinkubus with a K, you’ll need contact Beezelbub himself.

Dear Howard: I’m getting no tenderness or passion anymore from my supposed boyfriend. Not a shred. We’ve been dating five months now — the last three exclusive — and he says he loves me, but he only comes over for a grind-and-grunt quickie, followed by a “good boy” pat on my head while he “permits” me to lick everything clean until his heartache returns normal. Prison twinks receive more dignity. “I’ll call you this weekend," he soothes. “We’ll go out to a nice dinner.” Then he’ll peck me a sweet, heart-melting emollient in his escape, smiling over his shoulder, “You know, I just love you so much.” And so there, with his semen-scented breath I’ll stand, abandoned as a smashed-out Cedar Springs street hustler, shaking my head, going, WTF just happened here? — H.N.E.

Dear Honey: Girl, what happened is you just been breadcrambed — this year’s deviously newer, more psychopathically-improved (i.e., less morally cumbersome) extension of last year’s “ghosting” phenom, in which one guillotines all contact with whomever they’re “dating” just for the sociopathic fun of it. They’ll feign to continue lusting you on Instagram just barely enough to amorally ensure you keep chasing their trail of sex-baiting crumbs hysterically down a path of unrequited amorousness, leading absolutely nowhere… and, still, you all bewilderedly ask Howard, in tones beauteous of contempt, “But, why do you refuse participating in social media?” — Howard Lewis Russell

Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs a special spin from Howard? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.
Readers Voice Award drawing winner Susan Carson took friend and fellow musician Marcy along for the fun when she used her tickets to Dallas Summer Musicals production of Get On Your Feet.

Making the SCENE the week of April 6–12:

- **Alexandre’s:** Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. K-Marie on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday. Spencer West on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** Imperial Court Bar Crawl at 10 p.m. on Friday. Cowtown Leathermen meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.
- **Club Reflection:** Imperial Court Bar Crawl at 7 p.m. on Friday. Cowtown Leathermen cookout from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Heroes and Villains Party with DJ Blaine starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.’s Bar & Grill:** Asia O’Hara hosts a RuPaul’s Drag Race Season 10 watch party on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Jockstrap Sports Happy Hour benefits Dallas area gay sports teams from 6-9 p.m. on Friday. RuPaul’s Drag Race Season 10 watch party with Mr. Round-Up Greg Castillo and occasional visits by Kennedy Davenport through the season on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen’s:** Sable Alexander presents Goddesses of the Galaxy Ball — Miss Gay Dallas State and State at Large at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The 515 Bar:** Celebrate National Beer Day on Saturday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Imperial Court Bar Crawl at 10 p.m. on Friday. Investiture Buffet at 5 p.m. and ceremony and show at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

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Across
1 Scott of American Beauty
7 Subtle difference
13 Wonder Woman’s people
15 Drag queen’s application for lids
16 End of an SNL quip: “I may not be very good on camera, but ___”
18 IRS data
19 Actor Robert and family
20 South Beach’s Miami___ County
21 Lesbians in training, e.g.
23 More of the end of the quip
27 More of the end of the quip
32 Really queer
33 Phallic fish
34 Overwhelm with sweetness
35 Boobs
40 Atlas Shrugged author Ayn
41 Smith of Dawson’s Creek
42 Peruvian friends of Maya Angelou?
43 “Would ___ to you?”
44 Layers over Scarlet’s petticoats?
47 Some of them are gray
50 What a man may be made of, in Oz
51 Theater whisper
56 Offspring of a queen
57 Betsy, who was spoofed in the SNL quip
58 Words before were
59 Dr. Weaver portrayer Laura
61 Pinball wizard foul
62 Evita lyricist Tim
63 Bernstein manuscript, e.g.
64 Tubbies’ prefix
65 Harlan Greene’s What the ___ Remember
66 The brainy bunch
67 Fruit-flavored ice cream maker

Down
1 Nickname for Streisand
2 Iowa State city
3 Madeline of Young Frankenstein
4 Shooters from the land of the cut
5 Chaney of silent films
6 Mc Ardle once of Annie fame
7 Egyptian lake namesake
8 The NCAA Trojans
9 Served perfectly, to Mauresmo
10 Peter Pan pooch
11 Acceptance on the street, in slang
12 “___ On Down the Road”
14 Places for commercial intercourse
15 Kind of blitz
17 Lang. of Queen Esther
21 Bridal bio word
22 Sch. for Rev. Spahr
23 Make fun of
24 Noel but not Coward
25 “Take ___ leave it!”
26 Playfully insulted with wry humor?
28 Alanis, who played a doctor on Weeds
29 Russian river
30 “___ Get a Witness” (Marvin Gaye)
31 David ___ Pierce
32 O’Keeffe and Bonheur
33 Make fun of Noel but not Coward
34 “Take ___ leave it!”
35 Pose for Diana Davies
36 Example
37 Kate, who portrayed Betsy in the SNL skit
38 O’Keeffe and Bonheur
39 Ga., once
40 Atlas Shrugged author Ayn
41 Smith of Dawson’s Creek
42 Peruvian friends of Maya Angelou?
43 “Would ___ to you?”
44 Layers over Scarlet’s petticoats?
47 Some of them are gray
50 What a man may be made of, in Oz
51 Theater whisper
55 End of the end of the quip
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