

Obama: DOMA unconstitutional

President instructs DOJ not to defend anti-gay-marriage law in court

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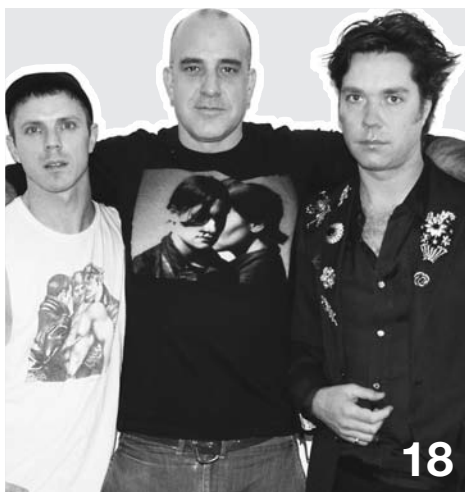
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Equality Texas sets LGBT lobby day for March 7

Equality Texas hoping for more than 400 to participate in lobbying effort; Stonewall Democrats, TENT planning weekend gatherings

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Equality Texas is calling on the LGBT community and its allies to converge on Austin on March 7 to lobby the Texas Legislature on a slate of already-filed bills.

Bills filed include anti-bullying legislation; a bill to prohibit of insurance discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; a bill allowing both same-sex parents to be listed on an adopted child's birth certificate; a bill banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; and a bill to repeal Section 21.06 of the Texas



Dennis Coleman

Penal Code, the sodomy statute that has been ruled unconstitutional.

In addition, Rep. Garnet Coleman of Houston has filed a joint resolution to repeal the state's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Coleman has filed a similar resolution in each legislative session and, as in past sessions, the resolution is not expected to pass.

Dennis Coleman, executive director of Equality Texas, asked that people planning to attend the lobby day pre-register on his organization's website. Those who do register in advance and indicate an interest in a particular bill will be sent to offices of legislators who will hear those bills in committee.

The day begins with registration at 7:30 a.m.

followed by a press conference at 9 a.m. Rep. Garnet Coleman and the parents of suicide victim Asher Brown are expected to speak.

Dennis Coleman said that an hour of orientation is meant to put people at ease, teach them to simply tell their own stories and put together small groups of people that pair first-timers with more experienced lobbyists.

"Lobbying is about telling your own story," Dennis Coleman said. "You never know who you'll meet."

Legislators are lobbied daily, Dennis Coleman said. Sometimes the lawmakers are in their offices and receive constituents. Other times those constituents meet with the lawmaker's legislative director. He said that senators and representatives who are allies need to hear support from their districts, but opponents need to hear from the LGBT community as well.

He said Equality Texas is working with legislators on bills that would benefit the LGBT

■ LOBBY Page 6

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Leppert tries to distance self from gay-loving Dallas past

On the same day that he announced his resignation, Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert started pandering to social conservatives as he prepares to seek the Republican nomination for Kay Bailey Hutchison's U.S. Senate seat in 2012.

On Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 23, Leppert sent out an anti-gay Twitter message in response to the Obama administration's announcement that it will no longer defend a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act in federal court.

"Another mistake from Obama on DOMA," Leppert wrote on Twitter. "We need leaders in Washington to stand for the principle of marriage between one man and one woman."

Clearly, Leppert is anxious to distance himself from his record in Dallas, where he hired an openly gay chief of staff, Chris Heinbaugh, and appeared in two gay Pride parades. Being a big old fag-lover could seriously hurt Leppert in a statewide Republican primary, so he'll have to work hard to prove how much of a bigot he is.

Leppert's tweet is utterly disgusting, but it isn't at all surprising.

— John Wright

Police Blotter

- A woman who left her vehicle in the parking lot of the Black-eyed Pea early Saturday, Feb. 19 because she was "unable to drive" returned later in the day to find it stolen. The woman left her Acura RSX in the parking lot at 3857 Cedar Springs at about 12:30 a.m., according to a police report. She reported the vehicle stolen at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Inside the stolen vehicle valued at \$9,000 were the woman's purse, her keys and a Droid mobile phone.

- A woman reported that a man asked her to dance at Station 4 early Saturday, Feb. 19, then reached into her back pocket and took her credit card before running up more than \$700 worth of purchases, police said. The suspect approached the woman at 2 a.m. inside the nightclub at 3911 Cedar Springs. He asked her to dance and "at the beginning everything was fine," she told police. But when the suspect started reaching into her back pockets, she felt uncomfortable and asked him to stop. When he continued she pulled away and went to the bathroom, where she noticed her credit card was gone. She didn't report the incident to club staff right away, but called police on Saturday afternoon and told them the suspect had spent more than \$700.

- Amico's Pizza at 4032 Cedar Springs reported that someone broke into the restaurant late Thursday or early Friday, Feb. 18 by climbing through the duct system from an adjoining business, then dropping down through the ceiling. The suspect made off with an unknown amount of cash. The owner of Amico's told police that "this has been going on for some time" and that on this occasion, he noticed footprints on the shelves and saw that the suspect had entered through the duct system.

— John Wright

Taking a stand for freedom

Russian activist hopes U.S. tour will focus attention on gay rights battle in his country, and that international attention will keep LGBTs there safer

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

A tide of revolution is sweeping the Mideast and Africa right now, proving to the world that citizens can stand up to unfair governments and make a difference. That's a lesson that Russian gay activist Nikolai Alekseev has been intent on proving for more than five years, many times at great risk to his own personal safety.

Beginning in 2005, Alekseev has each year organized LGBT Pride celebrations in Moscow where he lives, and each year those celebrations have been banned in city officials there. But Alekseev and his colleagues have forged ahead, each year holding their events anyway.

Alekseev eventually filed suit in the European courts against Russian government officials, claiming that they were violating LGBT human rights by banning Pride events. Last year, the courts ruled in Alekseev's favor, but last month the government officials asked the courts to reconsider the ruling, and the Moscow mayor vowed to once again ban Pride events planned for May.

Last Sept. 5, Alekseev was arrested at Do-



Nikolai Alekseev

modedovo Airport in Moscow as he was preparing to board a Swiss Air flight to Geneva. There was at the time no clear information on who had taken the activist from the airport, why he was taken or where he was being held.

Interfax Belarus news agency reported that Alekseev had sent texts saying he was seeking political asylum in Belarus and was dropping his lawsuits in the European courts. However, friends and associates questioned those reports, saying that such statements were out of character, and helping focus international attention on

his situation.

Alekseev finally resurfaced in Moscow, where he told his colleagues he was never in Minsk, never sent the texts and had no intention of dropping the lawsuits.

This month Alekseev, with the help of the Gay Liberation Network based in Chicago, is touring seven U.S. cities in hopes of raising awareness on the ongoing gay rights struggle in Russia. Prior to his visit to Dallas next week, Alekseev answered some questions, via e-mail, for Dallas Voice.

Dallas Voice: What happened that made you willing to put your personal safety on the line to fight for LGBT rights in Russia? Was there a single event or was it a culmination of things?

Alekseev: I never really thought about it, in fact, when I started and even after. If we go back to the origins, there was my dismissal from Russia's most prestigious university where I was studying for my Ph.D., simply because I wanted to make my research on same-sex marriage issue. The faculty believed that it is not an appropriate topic for the Moscow State University.

But I am a person with principles and they were not able to persuade me to change this topic. So they sacked me. I sued them and I lost in Russia. Well, I had little hope to win. But now the case is pending with the European Court of Human Rights.

Working on this research made me look into

■ ALEKSEEV Page 8

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Lesbian activist protests bank profits

Local activist Dawn Meifert said her group, Dallas Uncut, will protest outside Bank of America at 6300 Mockingbird Lane on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 8:30 a.m.

U.S. Uncut, begun in Jackson, Miss., protests businesses that have paid no income taxes but have reaped large financial gains for executives and stockholders. Their slogan is, "You Caused This Crisis. Now YOU Pay."

Meifert said she formed the Dallas chapter this

week and will be participating in protests against the bank along with groups in more than 30 cities across the country, from Boston and New York to Los Angeles and Honolulu.

Meifert said she expects to be out at the protest location for about two hours, handing out information about how the bank received \$45 billion in bailout money while funneling money through accounts in 115 offshore tax havens and offering below rate loans to politicians while refusing to use the bailout money for loans.

For more information, visit USUncut.org.

LOBBY

From Page 4

community and hasn't had to spend much time this session fending off discriminatory legislation.

Local representatives have taken the lead in proposing much of the positive legislation.

Sen. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth submitted a bill prohibiting bullying in public schools. That law would also address cyberbullying.

Rep. Mark Strama of Austin filed similar legislation in the House.

Rep. Roberto Alonzo of Dallas wrote HB 208 that would prevent insurance discrimination. The bill would keep insurance companies from refusing to insure, charging a different rate or limiting coverage in amount, extent or kind because of bias or prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Dallas Rep. Rafael Anchia authored HB 415, the bill that would repeal language that states that only a mother and father may be listed on the birth certificate of an adopted child.

Lobbying will begin at 11 a.m.

"That should give people a chance to visit about three offices before lunch," Coleman said.

Equality Texas is providing a continental breakfast in the morning as well as lunch. After lunch, constituents will visit offices until 3 p.m. followed by a one-hour debriefing session.

Coleman said more than 200 people are already registered but he's hoping for 400. Among those participating are members of Stonewall Democrats who will be in Austin for a weekend conference.

Arizona state Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, who is openly bisexual, will be the opening keynote

LOBBY, Page 8

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LOBBY

From Page 6

speaker for the Texas Stonewall Democrats Caucus statewide conference on March 5.

The conference takes place at the Hilton Garden Inn on 5th Street. Among the weekend's other highlights, Mara Keisling, executive director of the

National Center for Transgender Equality, will lead a roundtable discussion on transgender issues on Sunday morning. On Sunday afternoon, the Transgender Education Network of Texas will hold its second Transgender Caucus, also at the Hilton Garden Inn.

To register for Lobby Day, visit EqualityTexasLobbyDay.com.

ALEKSEEV

From Page 4

activism. Quickly I understood that gay activism did not really exist in Russia. So I thought I could have an impact there. Then I came up with this campaign for Moscow Pride. It quickly became a hot topic for the media because the mayor immediately chose to confront us and try to scare us. But I was still so angry that I could not complete my Ph.D., that not the mayor or anyone else could frighten me.

Everything came very quickly after that. We had the first Pride. It was banned; I was arrested. We managed to put our cause in front of the media and, as a result, in front of the society. That was the aim.

After, we launched several other campaigns on freedom of association, same-sex marriage, the [men who have sex with men] blood ban.

We managed to change one thing: The MSM blood ban was repealed after our actions.

DV: Has there been a specific incident in which you feared for your own life, or the lives of family and close friends?

Alekseev: Russian authorities like to pressure people. Some of our activists were pressured. The police ringed their doors, told their parents that they were arrested while taking part in "illegal actions of faggots" and that next time there could be consequences for them or for their other children. Sometimes, it created dramatic outings.

My family doesn't really care. My parents are retired. The only thing one could do is cut their \$200 a month pension. Not a big deal.

And when police ring our doors or sometimes call by phone, it became my dad's best moment of the day. He likes to drive them nuts!

As for my own life, of course I had fears. But the more you are in this fight, the less you think about it.

I know that my phone is constantly being illegally [tapped] and that I was followed several times while preparing the Pride events. In May [when Pride is held each year], I have to move from place to place to make sure I am not arrested before the day of the Pride. This has a huge psychological impact.

DV: What happened when Russian officials abducted you from the airport? Why do you think they let you go?

Alekseev: The only aim was to scare me and to pressure me to withdraw our historic case from the European Court of Human Rights, which at that point was in its final stages. Ironically, just two weeks after that, the judges met privately and decided the case in our favor.

ALEKSEEV IN NORTH TEXAS

- Thursday, March 3, 3 p.m., in Weatherly Hall at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, 2855 South University Drive in Fort Worth.
- Friday, March 4, 7 p.m. at the Interfaith Peace Chapel, Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas.

During detention, I had to bear every possible verbal insult towards gay people, which was far from being very pleasant. But when I returned and saw all the international solidarity I was amazed. So many people did protests around the world and so many people sent messages of support. At this point, I understood that international LGBT solidarity really exists and that it is not an empty word. But we should realize that it should be expressed not only at such difficult moments but every day in our fight for gay equality. I think this media and international attention saved me then.

DV: What do you hope to accomplish with this visit to the United States?

Alekseev: In short, I'd like to give people a message that wherever they are, they can make a change.

It's not about supporting a cause by giving money. I don't come here for that. I don't need financial support. I have food at home and I don't need to get paid for the ideal I pursue.

I'd like to explain to people that if all of them stand at the same time, they can really achieve something. American activists are often seen overseas as being self-centered and not interested in international issues. Perhaps this has to do with a fear of being seen as too colonialist.

You know, if 1,000 Americans sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton before her trip to Russia in 2009, I doubt she would have quietly dedicated a statue to an American gay poet hand-in-hand with the homophobic then-mayor of Moscow, Luzhkov.

That was very close to the place where weeks before we were arrested for trying to stage our fourth Pride. She made a very good advertisement for him, which was used against us at that time by his PR team. She did not challenge him on his homophobia while she said she cares for LGBT rights and wants to put it forward in her diplomacy. I saw how she cared.

This should not repeat in Russia or elsewhere. I know some usually say "We cannot care for all the world," but often it's the same people who care for nobody! When you want to change things, you don't pick and choose usually. You just follow your instinct.

Obama: DOMA unconstitutional

DOJ notifies 1st Circuit Court government won't continue to defend anti-gay-marriage law

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@me.com

The Obama administration announced Wednesday, Feb. 23, that it has concluded that one part of the Defense of Marriage Act will not be able to pass constitutional muster in the 2nd Circuit, and that DOJ would not defend that part of the law in two pending cases in that circuit.

It was a dramatic, unexpected and significant move by the Obama administration and one that could trigger maneuvers by DOMA supporters to appoint an intervenor to defend the law.

But beyond the eventual legal consequences of the announcement, the political impact was characterized by most LGBT leaders as historic and monumental.

NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendall said, "The president's leadership on this issue has forever changed the landscape for LGBT people in

this country," said Kendall. "For the first time, the president and the Department of Justice have recognized that laws that harm same-sex couples cannot be justified. This is the beginning of the end, not just for the mean-spirited and indefensible Defense of Marriage Act, but for the entire panoply of laws that discriminate against same-sex couples."

Ken Upton, an attorney with the South Central Regional Office of Lambda Legal in Dallas, said that while the long-term implications of the decision are huge, the DOJ's move has no real immediate impact in Texas.

"It's very important. It does change the dialogue," Upton said. "For the first time the federal government is talking about DOMA being presumptively unconstitutional."

He said that it changes the conversation on who has a burden to defend discrimination. Any discrimination based on sexual orientation, the administration has now said, is suspect and should be presumed unconstitutional.

"If we see courts side with these cases," he said, "It makes it easier to get courts in Texas to see it that way. And if it's a federal case, the DOJ has

great weight."

He said that even if DOMA were repealed it would not have an immediate effect in Texas. While couples could begin receiving federal benefits, a court would have to still declare state DOMAs — including the one in Texas — unconstitutional for those laws to be discarded.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced Wednesday that the Department of Justice would not defend the constitutionality of Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act in two of the four cases where that section of the law is currently under challenge. Those two cases are Pedersen v. OPM, filed by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and Windsor v. United States, filed by the ACLU.

Two other cases — in the First Circuit — also challenge Section 3, which prohibits federal recognition of any same-sex marriage, as does a more narrow case, Golinski v. OPM, in the 9th Circuit, at the district court level.

DOMA Section 2, which enables states to ignore valid marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples from other states, has not yet been challenged in court and Holder made no reference to it. ■

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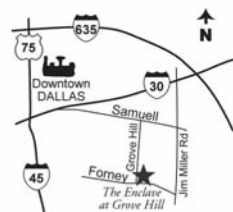
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businessnews

The Village comes to Big D

Store features an eclectic array of items from art to clothing created by owner Tom John

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When clothing designer Tom John moved to Dallas, he found himself missing his Greenwich Village hangouts. So he decided to recreate that Village atmosphere here in Big D, and thus was born John's new Bryan Street Traders in East Dallas.

John's career as a designer started back in the 1970s in Mexico where he designed jewelry and swans made of papier-mache and wood that he sold to upscale galleries in Manhattan.

Then he started designing clothing made from hand-woven cotton found only in Mexico, turning peasant designs into high fashion and creating a clothing line that was an instant success. In the 1980s, his clothing was featured in magazines such as Exercise for Men Only.

John ended up in Dallas because the area's airport allowed him to commute easily between Guadalajara and New York. And since 1990, he has manufactured his garments here. Although the wholesale cost, he said, was a few dollars more than producing in Mexico, he saved in shipping and travel costs.

In describing his creative process, John explained, "I see it in my head and an artist draws the pattern." Then the pattern is cut and sewn into a test garment and John uses that to decide if that was what he had in mind.

Changes are made if necessary, and then the pattern is sized. John's new store features his shirt designs that run in sizes up to 5X.

From his women's rack, John pulled one dress that he said comes from his very first design — a cream-colored dress that he said he based on a design from a 1951 Sophia Loren film.

But Bryan Street Traders is more than clothing. John described the array of items as "retro, vintage chic, eclectic."



ECLECTIC BOUTIQUE | Designer Tom John shows off some of the 'retro, vintage chic, eclectic' items for sale in his new shop Bryan Street Traders. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

The offerings range from art to jewelry, from furniture to an array of household items.

"I have 'pickers' who find things," John said, describing how he assembled his assortment of merchandise, "But we don't buy off the street."

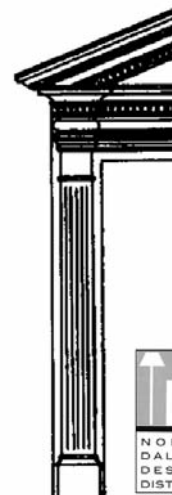
One customer in the store brought a straight-edge razor up to the counter.

"The razor is from Sheffield, the oldest metal-working factory in the world," John explained and with a magnifying glass found identifying marks on the piece.

"Everything in the store is authentic," he said.

The store is located just off Peak Street in an area just being redeveloped with new restaurants on the corner and apartments on the block. ■

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PLAYING FOR OUR TEAM | Stephen 'Cougar' Mitchell, lower right, is one of several straight members of the predominantly gay Dallas Diablos Rugby Football Club. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Straight in a gay world

Mitchell, Bengston, Hershner, Giles are just some of the non-gays who have found careers, friends and family within the LGBT community

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Stephen Mitchell has the world's worst gaydar. And he has the story to prove it.

Mitchell, 24, started playing rugby when he was working in Antarctica three years ago. "I fell in love with the sport and every city I move to, I try to join a club," he said. When he wound up in Dallas, he Googled local rugby teams. The Dallas Diablos' site promoted a non-discrimination policy and welcoming attitude that Mitchell liked.

"The Diablos were one of three teams that prac-

ticed closest to me, but you wanna show up and feel you fit in well," he said. "I thought, that sounds like an awesome group of people!"

After attending two practices, he felt accepted and comfortable.

But Mitchell must not have read the website *too* thoroughly. It wasn't until about a week on the team, after his first game, that he realized most of the members were gay.

"With rugby, on the field it doesn't matter whether you're young, old, your orientation, race — you're there to have fun. Then we had [my] first team dinner, we were drinking and having fun and after I while I noticed a couple guys were sitting real close to each other. Then they started holding hands. I said, 'Ummm, are you guys gay?' I hadn't noticed anything. But when they get drunk, the queen comes out."

Mitchell, who goes by Cougar to his teammates, has been a hooker for the Diablos for a year

■ STRAIGHT, Page 12

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coverstory



25 AND COUNTING | Chris Bengston started as a bartender at Caven more than a quarter century ago. She was the first employee to give birth while at the company. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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STRAIGHT

from Page 11

and a half now, and although he's straight, he loves being on the team.

"We're a good, strong bunch of guys, but our club is more socially focused instead of athletically focused. We're more about being a family," he said.

He's hardly the token straight guy. As much as 20 percent of the Diablos male members, including the team captain, are straight. In a society fast changing its views on homosexuality, finding straight people intimately involved in the gay community has become far more common.

Chris Bengston, who became part of the gay community before Mitchell was born, was a pioneer in gay-straight alliances. But Bengston initially felt the sting of discrimination from the gay community against her as a straight woman.

In 1983, Bengston and three friends — two straight women and a gay man — moved to Dallas from Peoria, Ill. They secured apartments at Throckmorton and Congress, just down from the Strip. Since she didn't have a car, she frequented the bars on Cedar Springs Road with her gay buddy.

Even though it was a quarter-century ago, Bengston felt comfortable being among gay people and became friendly with many of the staff. She asked Frank Caven, owner of Caven Enterprises which ran several clubs, for a part-time job, but he brushed her off.

Then, on Halloween 1985, she got a phone call from the manager of 4001, a club where Zinni's Pizza is now located.

"He said, 'I really need your help. I am short of staff tonight. No one knows I'm bringing you in,'" Bengston recalled.

When Caven saw her, he blew up; the only straight woman he'd ever let work there was his own niece.

But Bengston showed mettle and was put behind the bar at a different club, the Old Plantation. It was a more mixed crowd — gay, straight, men and women, Caven said; 4001 was for *men only*.

Despite the initial resistance to her, Bengston wasn't fazed. Soon this part-time gig became a full-time job; she eventually quit her job at an advertising agency and made Caven her career.

"Just because I was straight, the fact I was working in a gay bar didn't bother me in the

■ **STRAIGHT**, Page 14



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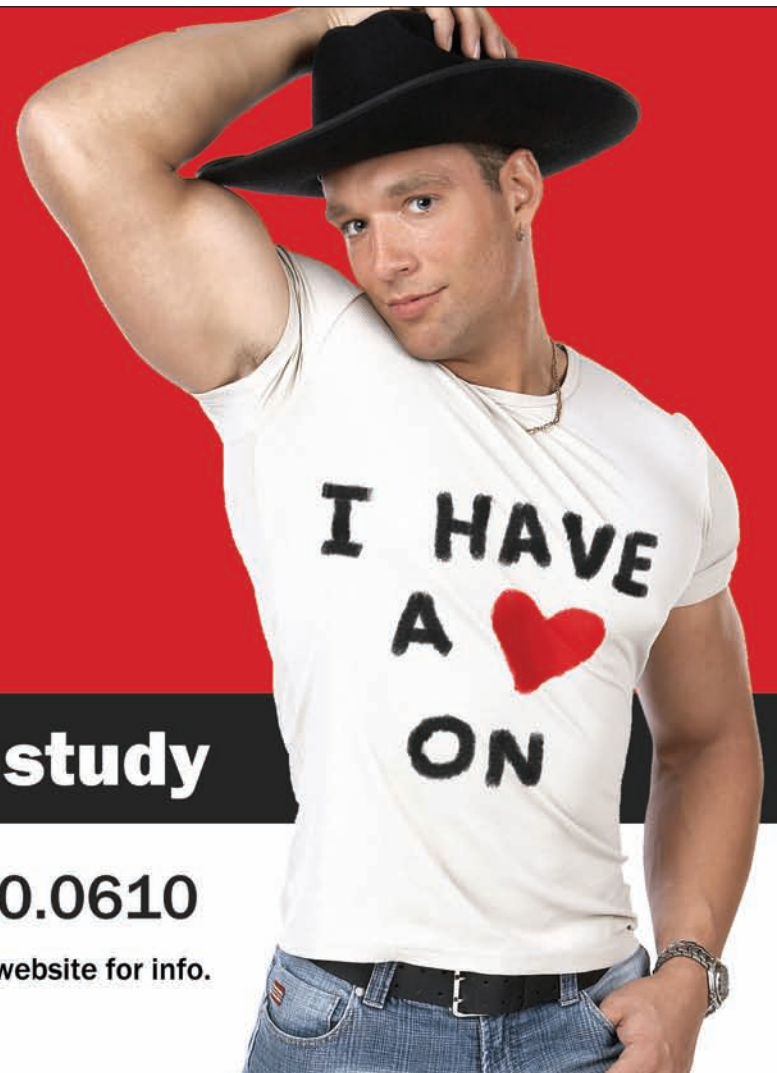
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A LOT TO LEARN | Tony Giles, right, knew nothing about the gay community when he began working as a trainer; he now estimates 95 percent of his clients are gay. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

STRAIGHT

From Page 12

least," she said. "We had a gay bar in Peoria we used to hang out at, and I had been partying in the clubs for over a year before I started working there. To me it was a no-brainer."

Bengston, now 62, was the first Caven employee to give birth while working for the company.

"I cannot even tell you the amazing support I received. When I had my son, they had an article in [the Voice]; they held a baby shower in the old Rose Room. My best friends are in the community," she said.

Still, she recognized the stigma associated with being straight in a gay world: "When I would meet people and they would ask me what I did,

■ **STRAIGHT**, Next Page

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STRAIGHT

From Page 14

I'd say I work in a nightclub. I told my son, Alex, never to say I worked in a gay bar when he was in school."

Things are much better now — but we still have a long way to go as a society, Bengston said.

"It's so mixed now: gay, straight, male, female, every color you can imagine," she said. "But people still ask me, 'Do you really think they're really born that way?' We all try to say we're sophisticated and have come a long way, but we're not as far along as we think we are."

To look at Lonzie Hershner — 300-plus pounds of tattooed Texas beef — you might assume he'd be the kind of guy who'd beat up gays. You'd be wrong. Like Bengston, Hershner has enjoyed a career catering to the gay community.

The gay clubs Tin Room and Drama Room, the straight club Chesterfield's and the soon-to-open Marty's Hideaway were family-owned by Paulette Hershner and her sons, Lonzie and Marty. When Marty, who *was* gay, died unexpectedly last year, Lonzie took primary responsibility for keeping the bars going. That he is straight didn't matter.

"It's just been such a big part of my life for so long," says Hershner, whose mother first bought the Tin Room 14 years ago, when it was a redneck bar called Judge Roy Bean's Saloon. Marty was instrumental in converting it to a gay club. That was 10 years ago, and Hershner has felt like part of the gay community ever since.

"It's such a comfort zone for me," he said. "I have a house on Maple Springs — it's my neighborhood. These guys are my friends."

Marty was 22 when he came out to Lonzie, and was petrified his big brother would reject him. But Lonzie was completely accepting.

"It was OK with me," he said. "He's family."

Because Marty was "the face of the Tin Room," a lot of customers didn't know Lonzie was his brother ... or a co-owner ... or straight.

"They thought I was a bear," Hershner said with a laugh. "They call me Butch." But just as big a deal as being accepted by the gay community is the acceptance of Hershner's straight friends and extended family.

"I have a fiancé and she's cool with it," he said. "I get her lap dances from our dancers. Her own sons can't wait 'til they turn 18 so they can dance at the Tin Room."

For a dozen years, Tony Giles has been a fixture in the Dallas gay community, both as a personal trainer and (under his stage name, Tony DaVinci) as a model for Playgirl and other magazines and as a performer in solo adult videos. He's now completely comfortable among his clients and fans (he and his girlfriend attended Pride last fall), but it wasn't always that way.

"Before I began in training over at the Centrum [gym] in 1999, I had no prior exposure to the gay community," he candidly admitted. "My first day of training was interesting because everyone said 'Don't go back to the steam room!' As a straight guy, I was afraid and intimidated."

Now, Giles estimates that over his career, easily 95 percent of his training clients have been gay.

"When I'm talking to other trainers, they kind of envy me that I'm training in the gay community because I'm busy and keep a good retention rate of clients," he said. "When you're training a straight guy with a wife and children, he gets distracted — he's not consistent. In the gay community, you get that client that wants to work out more times a week and go that extra mile. He's not your seasonal client."

Getting there involved a steep learning curve.

"As a straight guy diving into the gay world, I learned a lot," he said. "Not every gay guy wants to fuck you; not everyone talks with a lisp or dresses feminine... although my first

day [at the Centrum], there was a guy wearing pink shorts and a pink bandanna!"

Working in the gay community opened his eyes a lot to wrong notions he had about orientation.

"Before, I thought being gay was a choice — a rebellious thing or a learned behavior. And now I know it's not! I educate people on this all the time — I argue with [straight] people who say otherwise. You're born the way you're born."

Giles knows that in his field — he's also a competitive bodybuilder — there are some pre-conceptions people attach to men who work their bodies.

"I had this guy come up to me at Gold's today and say, 'I'm not gay but your biceps are really bulging today.' I thought, 'You don't have to say you're not gay! It's OK.'"

Giles, Bengston, Mitchell and Hershner all cite the friendships and affection they receive from their gay friends as the primary reason they feel at home in the gay community.

"I didn't grow up gay, but I feel guys who do don't have a sense of belonging," said Mitchell. "This team really provides them a family and a sense of belonging. That's one of the reasons I stuck around. I saw how these people created a home. It's pretty powerful." ■

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Watching the hypocrites self destruct

As the dirty little secrets of 'family values' politicians and religious leaders come to light, the scandals help the cause of LGBT equality

The new year is well underway, but it's like Christmas just keeps coming for the LGBT community in terms of our enemies destroying their credibility by performing what amounts to high dives into empty swimming pools.

Just a few weeks ago we saw New York Republican Congressman Christopher Lee hastily resign after the website Gawker.com published an expose about the congressman's attempts to



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

hook up via Craigslist.

The website revealed Lee had emailed a shirtless picture of himself to a woman, along with the lie that he was a single lobbyist, rather than declaring his true identity as a married father and elected public official.

Now, the National Enquirer is treating us to an expose alleging that married Republican Speaker of the House John "Cry Me a River" Boehner engaged in at least two affairs with mistresses. It would seem that Boehner, who created a sensation tearing up on a *60 Minutes* broadcast while discussing his rise to political fame, really has something to cry about now.

I would say that these fellows who portrayed themselves as champions of family values had exhibited a level of stupidity in their behavior that defies reason and distinguishes them as clowns without comparison — but I can't. Because this is a story that we have seen play out time and time again.

For naysayers who criticize the sources of these exposures: Remember, when it comes to really distasteful news, it usually surfaces in alternative publications before the mainstream media dares to pick it up. A case in point would be the exposure of former presidential candidate John Edwards's infidelity that was revealed by the National Enquirer.

While Edwards wasn't an enemy of the LGBT community, he was a champion of family values. So it's only fair to point out that stupidity and compulsively destructive behavior obviously know no political boundaries.

It's hard to figure out why a prominent public official would secretly engage in an activity that they publicly condemn. But they just keep on



CHOKED UP | Republican Speaker of the House John Boehner has become known for getting so emotional during interviews that he starts to cry. If stories about his affairs by the National Enquirer are true, he has something to cry about.

keeping on — to our enormous benefit. There's nothing that turns off people and awakens them to the truth more than a good dose of reality via the exposure of false prophets' hypocrisy.

My first recollection of this type of hypocrisy dates back to 1981 when I read *The Gentleman from Maryland, The Conscience of a Gay Conservative* by former Congressman Richard Bauman. Bauman, who by day railed against gay rights and by night cruised Washington, D.C., gay bars, lost re-election in 1980 over a scandal involving a gay prostitute.

Since then it has been one revelation after another involving foes of the gay rights movement. Who could ever forget the 2007 scandal involving former Idaho Sen. Larry Craig when it was revealed that several months earlier he was arrested in a vice squad sex sting in a Minneapolis airport men's restroom? The married politician's denials of guilt and attempts to explain away his behavior made him the laughing stock of the country for awhile.

Over the years, straight Americans' acceptance of gay and lesbian people has steadily grown, and I suspect at least part of the reason for that has been the exposure of the secret lives of political and religious celebrities who denounce homosexuality and bisexuality as aberrant behavior.

It's sort of like a housewife who is leading a fight against an ordinance that would allow liquor sales in a community getting busted for drunken driving while ferrying the neighborhood's kids home from school. Her motives suddenly become suspect.

Of course, we can't thank our foes for all of our good fortune. The relentless fight by gay activists during the past 40 years has had a tremendous impact on public perception about who we are and what we want.

The battles for parental and marriage rights, along with other nondiscrimination goals, have led many people to realize that many members of our community are in fact champions of family values. Our families just happen to look a little different sometimes, but they are essentially the same as the one next door.

It's been a wildly successful formula for achieving gay rights since the birth of the movement in 1969, and I'm sure the success is going to continue. And for that we can thank ourselves and our foes who just can't seem to help being true to their real natures. ■

David Webb is a freelance reporter and former staff writer for the Dallas Voice. He has reported on LGBT issues for the mainstream and alternative media for more than two decades. E-mail him at david-waynewebb@yahoo.com.

Feedback

More on District 14

I appreciate your having published my letter in the Feb. 18 Dallas Voice ("Looking at District 14"). And in the interest of fairness, I want to add two more sentences about Angela Hunt.

Angela is not just the incumbent, she is a good friend to the LGBT community, standing by us, parading with us, even proposing a creative funding option when the city erased four of our local HIV/AIDS outreach/education/prevention programs from the 2010 budget.

Incumbent Angela Hunt and challenger James Nowlin — come on, lucky fellow District 14 residents! Register and vote!

Phyllis Guest, Dallas

Leppert's Tweet on DOMA decision

Responses to an Instant Tea blog regarding soon-to-be-former Dallas mayor — and possibly-soon-to-be congressional candidate — Tom Leppert's Tweet criticizing President Barack

Obama's instructions to the Justice Department to no longer defend sections of the Defense of Marriage Act:

As a recent new resident to Dallas from Iowa, as well as a civic/community activist for the LGBT and other diverse communities, this is just plain awful and beyond ignorant of Leppert. Lord, I guess stupid exists all over this country. I'm sure those in Dallas are smarter than Leppert's way of thinking.

Carlos

He's been reading Sarah Palin's playbook really closely:

1. Quit your job early — check
2. Say ignorant things about the LGBT community — check
3. Look stupid and incompetent on TV and lose your election — in progress.

Michael

In his first step towards candidacy, Tom

chooses to come out of the gate with divisiveness. He questions the leadership skills of our president, yet his embracing the gay community when it was politically convenient only to abandon those who embraced him when it no longer serves his purpose shows a total lack of integrity. Tweeting Tom has let his hypocritical fingers expose him as just another political opportunist whose own idea of leadership is to follow whatever it takes to get elected. So disappointed. So unnecessary.

John McGill

Helen Keller could see through Tom Leppert. I'm glad he's gone!

Okln

I don't think anyone who had an ounce of knowledge of local politics ever believed that Tom Leppert was any sort of "friend" to the local GLBT community. One need only re-examine all the shenanigans which went on in the election vs.

Ed Oakley to find your answers.

Kevin Hollingsworth

Disgusting. So when's rally? I'm in.

Scott Stevenson

Sad. Very sad. I can't tell you who I will be voting for in the upcoming Senate election, but I do know who I will NOT be voting for!

Charles Goodman

I call bullshit on this. Now you see why he joined the First Baptist Church of Dallas — pandering to that crowd early for votes. I attended a lunch two years ago when the Dallas gay chamber hosted a press tour. Tom Leppert attended and spoke so highly of the LGBT community and blah blah blah. Politics as usual. You sorry SOB.

Uncle JoJo

Leppert is an opportunist. It was obvious when he took office and it still is. He will say and do whatever he needs to gain what he wants. His benevolence toward the LGBT community was a step of expediency. It avoided any direct conflicts and kept him from gaining any strong enemies. On a local level, the LGBT community in Dallas has clout. On a state level, not so much. And so, under the bus we go.

Hardy Haberman

I'm just left wondering why he was invited to participate in not one, but two gay Pride parades. Anyone who pays attention to politics could see this day coming from a hundred miles away and knew that Leppert was not a true friend of the community. I guess the upside is that maybe this will come back to bite him in the ass. If there's going to be hate in office, I'd rather it be the hate I know than the hate that's trying to be my friend.

Wonk

TO SEND A LETTER | We welcome letters from readers. Shorter letters and those addressing a single issue are more likely to be printed. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, but we attempt to maintain the writer's substance and tone. Include your home address and a daytime telephone number for verification. Send letters to the senior editor, preferably by e-mail (nash@dallasvoice.com). Letters also may be faxed (214-969-7271) or sent via the U.S. Postal Service (Dallas Voice, 4145 Travis St., Third Floor, Dallas TX 75204). All letters become the property of Dallas Voice.



"WATSON, HONEY—I THINK YOU BETTER JUST STICK TO 'JEOPARDY.'"

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Will you attend LGBT Lobby Day in Austin?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Is Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" your LGBT anthem?

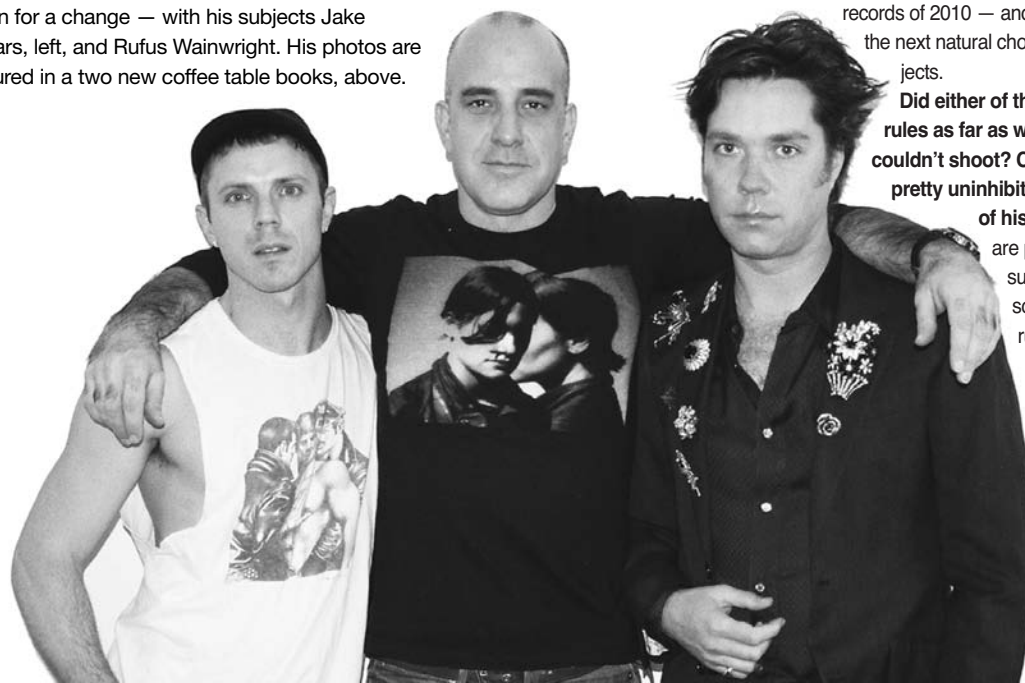
- Yes: 37 percent
 - No: 54 percent
 - Unsure: 9 percent
- 228 Votes cast

A gay in the LIFE

Photographer Tim Hailand's intimate access to gay musician Jake Shears and Rufus Wainwright makes for racy coffee table decor



ALL ACCESS PASS | Pictured right: Queer photographer Tim Hailand, center, got his snapshot taken for a change — with his subjects Jake Shears, left, and Rufus Wainwright. His photos are featured in a two new coffee table books, above.



Out photographer Tim Hailand gets way behind the velvet rope — heck, he crosses through the bedroom door — with his *One Day in the Life of...* photography books. His first, 2010's *One Day in the Life of Daniel Radcliffe*, tracked the extremely gay-friendly actor from morning (waking up in bed!) till nighttime, but he gets even racier with two books that came out this week, both featuring queer musicians: *One Day in the Life of Rufus Wainwright* and *One Day in the Life of Jake Shears* (Hailand Books, \$35).

These are coffee table books you might not want sitting out when mom's bridge club comes over. Both tomes feature Hailand's intimate black-and-white images of his subjects (Shears is especially open to getting naked in front of the camera) as they prepare for evening concerts, which are documented in full color. Each book's photos are accompanied by text from the subjects, with Elton John providing an intro and Kylie Minogue an afterword to the Shears book.

Hailand has snapped for dozens of international magazines, chronicling a bevy of queer icons, from U.K. pop gods the Pet Shop Boys and cult artists Gilbert & George to transgender actress Candis Cayne and singer/performer Justin Bond. A portion of the books' proceeds will go to charities determined by Shears (the Elton John AIDS Foundation) and Wainwright (the Kate McGarrigle Fund).

Hailand talked about his unfettered access, the challenges of shooting 2,000 photos over 14 hours and who's next in his dream-list of subject.

— Lawrence Ferber

Visit OneDayintheLife.org for more information or to place an order.

Dallas Voice: Can you elaborate on the genesis behind this project and your choice in subjects?

Hailand: I'm very much inspired by great performers — those who seem to be able to do what I can't do. After shooting Jake Shears for *V Man* five years ago, I decided to expand upon this "one-day-long" portrait concept and use it for my own work. Dan Radcliffe is a friend, and the book arose out of our friendship. As a person, Dan is incredibly charismatic and super smart — wise beyond his years. He's also very curious, as most smart people tend to be. Rufus and Jake have been friends of mine for quite some time, and I've been photographing them over the years both onstage and off. I love their work — Scissor Sisters' *Night Work* and Rufus' *All Days are Nights: Songs for Lulu* were my favorite records of 2010 — and they just seemed the next natural choices as book subjects.

Did either of the guys dictate rules as far as what you could and couldn't shoot? Clearly Jake was pretty uninhibited — we see a lot of his butt.

The books are portraits of each subject, of their personalities. No real rules were set up, but I'm always sensitive to and respectful of any subject's sense of self and what I perceive to be their boundaries.

Did you always plan to shoot on the day of a concert or did you



consider another occasion? We wanted to choose a day that has a creative crescendo, that captures the height of their creativity. That's why the book moves into color at that "high creative" point of the day. They're all performers, so we wanted to capture what they do best.

What was the biggest challenge as far as shooting Rufus' day? Shooting one person for 14 hours is demanding in itself — staying both focused and flexible at the same time, going with the flow, and capturing what I perceive to be the rhythm of that particular person's day. It's both an exhilarating and exhausting process, as it requires much psychic energy, but I'm very pleased with the end results.

How many shots did you take of each subject? Did any photos that you loved not make it into the books? Probably somewhere around 2,000. In editing the book, I chose images that best told the story of that subject, of that day. I think my favorite images made it into each book, although there are a few that probably stand on their own.

Does being queer yourself somehow affect your choices in subjects or what you draw out of them? It's funny you should ask, as I recently met with a heterosexual wrestling coach who's a big advocate of LGBT acceptance, and in looking at my photos, I asked him if one could detect the "queer gaze" of the photographer. He didn't think so. I think I photograph those that I'm attracted to, sometimes sexually, sometimes in terms of inspiration. I'm interested in those who occupy the space in between — those who are a bit of an outsider to mainstream culture, but are ultimately the true creators.

Who else is on your wish list for future *One Day* subjects? The next confirmed subject is theater director Robert Wilson. I'll be documenting his new opera, *The Life and Death of Marina Abramovic*, in July, which will also feature Marina Abramovic, Antony Hegarty [of Antony and The Johnsons] and Willem Dafoe. I'm very excited about that project! Kylie Minogue lent her words to Jake Shears' book, and I'd like to make a book with her, so I'm working on that possibility now. I'd also like to do a book with Lady Gaga, Marc Jacobs, David Bowie and heavyweight boxing champion Wladimir Klitschko. I already shot a day with Welsh rugby legend Gareth Thomas [who came out in 2009].

Jerrett on the BLOCK

Being single and available doesn't calm DIVA member **Jerrett Walters** about his first bachelor auction

Jerrett Walters is about to go on the auction block, and one thing is racing through his mind: "What did I get myself into?"

This is only his second season with DIVA, the Dallas Independent Volleyball Association, and they already have him selling himself.

Walters, 25, will join about 10 of his teammates for the annual DIVA Bachelor Auction Sunday. The event is a fundraiser for the team — a good cause. That's why Walters agreed to do it. But he has his misgivings.

First off, Walters, a graduate student in journalism at UTD, has never even *attended* a bachelor auction, let alone been the subject of one. In addition, though he's single and dating (no one in particular at the moment), he's not sure what being "won" will mean.

"Standing on that block, waiting for people to judge me, taking my control away ... I'm not a fan," he says. "I have friends positioned in the audience to bid on me," guaranteeing a certain minimum bid to soothe his ego. But they are under strict instructions: "If [I'm being bid on] by a cute boy, *let* him bid — I don't care if I go for a dollar."

Walters isn't exactly sure what the full package he's being bid on will entail, but he specified that he wanted a group date, and knows it'll take place this Wednesday, March 2 — just a few days after the auction.

So what is he looking for on a fun date? "Something random," he says. "Be yourself and be fun without the pressure of a first date. And not a classic-dinner-and-a-movie date. Let's go bowling or talk about golf."

Or, maybe, volleyball. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

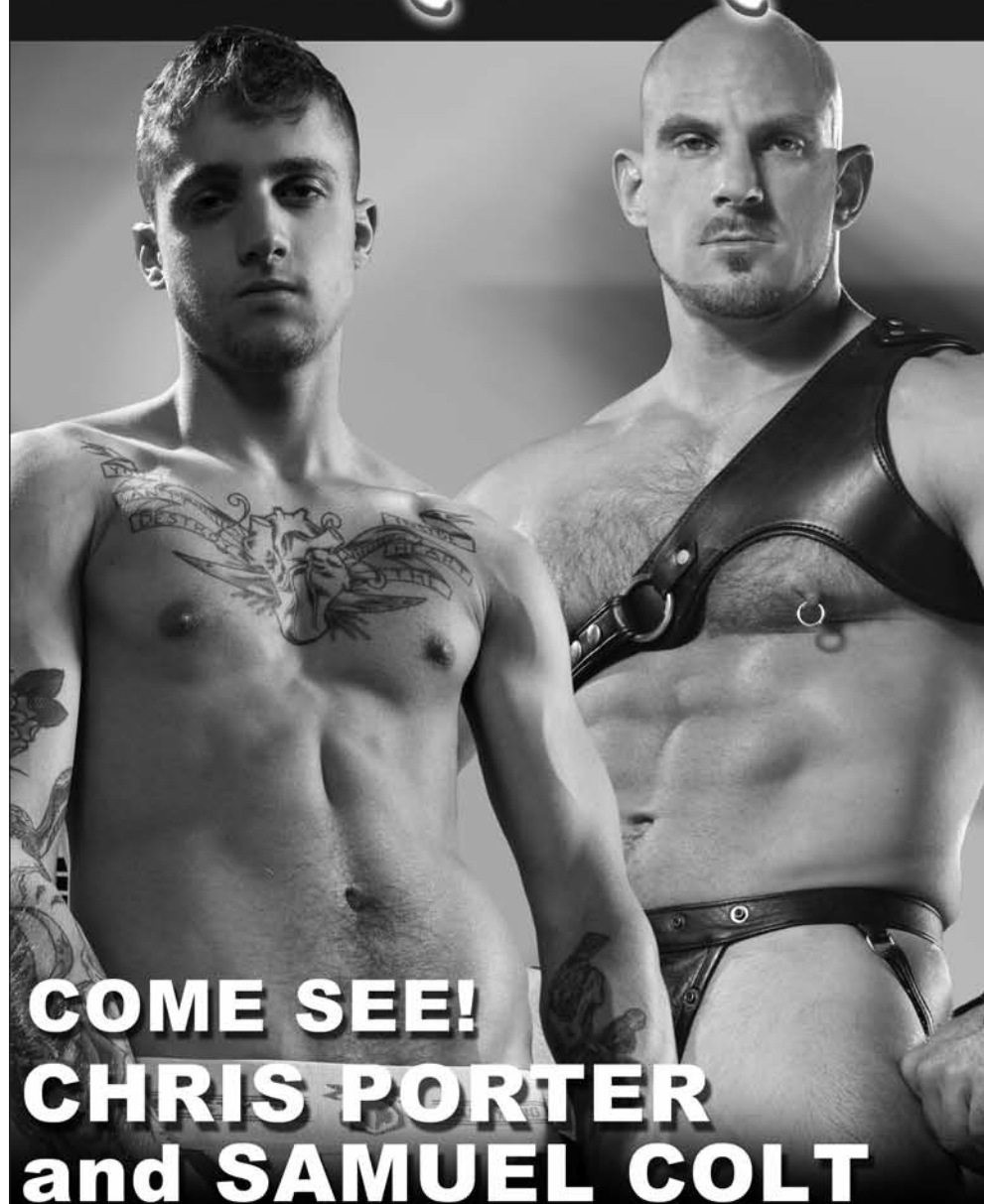
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DATE A DIVA | Walters started playing volleyball two years ago. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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Your son'll come out, tomorrow

What's a straight guy doing mocking a classic with the word 'Trannie'? Making people laugh, that's what

MARK LOWRY | Contributing Writer
marklowry@theaterjones.com

It's a beloved tale of musical theater: girl escapes orphanage, goes on quest for her parents, sings about tomorrow and ends up with a life of luxury and love — not to mention a spiffy red 'fro — with her new Daddy.

Make that *two* daddies. *Trannie*, a full-out parody of the aw-shucks family musical *Annie*, makes its world premiere this weekend in a tiny shed in the shadow of Grapevine's squeaky-clean Main Street district.

The show follows the adventures of a transvestite (*not* transsexual) who leaves behind her prostitute pals and searches for the men who gave her up when gay couples were denied adoption rights. She sings in a nightclub called the Manhole, eventually discovering her dads, thanks to a cherished pearl necklace they once gave her.

Songs in the show include "I'm Gonna Come Out Tomorrow," "It's a Knocked-Up Life," "S.T.D." and "Sleazy Street," which any musical

queen will recognize as trash parodies of *Annie* hits. But despite being created by a heterosexual man, this is not a case of straight folks making fun of the T in LGBT. Nor of the G, L or B.

"I've been on the phone with my gay friends about this for a year, asking them 'Can I write this?'" says Matthew Lord, the straight guy who created it. "I didn't write this lightly. But I decided that if everybody wrote to whom they are, then nothing would ever get written."

Lord grew up in San Francisco in the '70s and '80s, using his vocal talents to make a career of musical theater and opera. He has performed at the Met, originated a role in

Andre Previn's opera *A Streetcar Named Desire* and, as Nero, made out with three countertenors nightly in a production of Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea*. But he's best known as a founding member of the locally based 3 Redneck Tenors. That group, which made it to the semi-finals of *America's Got Talent* in 2007, performs opera, Broadway and popular as trailer-dwelling mullet-heads, so satire is in Lord's veins.

As for credibility with the gay community, he

knows he has nothing to worry about.

"I was one of two straight men in the San Francisco Opera chorus in the '80s, I would go to their birthday parties at The Stud," he says. "I grew to have this incredible understanding of *not* understanding why the rest of the world [didn't accept] homosexuality. Except for the sex part, I'm as gay as they come."

Trannie was born from a casual conversation after Ohlook, Lord's theater company, had performed *Annie*. The theater is a school that performs more traditional musicals, but also does a late-night series with shows like *Evil Dead the Musical*, *Reefer Madness* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Ohlook's two-time Rocky was Jeff Walters, now Clay Aiken's boyfriend).

For anyone upset about the use of the un-P.C. title, it's all in good fun.

"Trannie is the most sane character in the show," Lord says, adding that it addresses issues like prostitution, homelessness and closed-minded politicians. "It makes fun of everything and it makes fun of nothing, you know what I mean? There's nothing hurtful in it."

Well, there are slams at the Bush administra-



SLEAZY STREET

Redneck Tenor Matthew Lord takes more potshots at the Bush Administration than gay people in his parody of 'Annie.'

tion, with a parody of the *Annie* song "We'd Like to Thank You Herbert Hoover," substituting the lyrics for the policies of George W. Bush.

Will it be irreverent, filthy and touching? Yes, yes and that's the plan. Will it be funny? Bet your bottom dollar. ■

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March 3-13, 2011

Out of the Loop Fringe Festival Performance Schedule

THURSDAY • MARCH 3

7:30pm (MS) \$15 Faye Lane - *Beauty Shop Stories*
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Broken Gears Project Theatre -
The Magdalen Whitewash
7:30pm (SC) \$10 *Taking Chances - A Cabaret with Marjorie Hayes*

FRIDAY • MARCH 4

7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$15 Faye Lane - *Beauty Shop Stories*
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Second Thought Theatre - *The Lesson*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 David Lee Nelson...*Status Update*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Nouveau 47's FTP Comedy - *Inside the Loop*

SATURDAY • MARCH 5

11:00am (MS) \$10 *Debutante Warriors: Girl Power in 3D*
12:30pm (SC) \$20 Playwriting/Storytelling workshop with Faye Lane
(not included with Loop pass)
2:00pm (MS) \$10 Cordes & Parr Productions - *The Great White Way*
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Rite of Passage Theatre Company - *Technically Related*
5:00pm (MS) \$10 *Points of Departure: Sarah Gamblin & Friends*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Second Thought Theatre - *The Lesson*
7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$10 Muscle Memory Dance Theatre -
Black is the Color of that Kettle
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Blacken Blues Theater - *Acts of Love*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 *Taking Chances - A Cabaret with Marjorie Hayes*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Dallas Poetry Slam

SUNDAY • MARCH 6

2:00pm (MS) \$15/\$10 (\$15 for both or \$10 for one show)
Ellie Leonhardt - *Pixel Dances* and
Satellite-Dance Collective -
Water's Edge and Eclipse Project
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Broken Gears Project Theatre -
The Magdalen Whitewash
2:00pm (SC) \$10 Rhythmic Souls - *Tap This*
5:00pm (MS) \$10 Greyman Theatre Company - *Dani Girl*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Audacity Theatre Lab - *I Have Angered a Great God*
5:00pm (SC) \$10 David Lee Nelson...*Status Update*
7:30pm (MS) \$15 Faye Lane - *Beauty Shop Stories*
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Rite of Passage Theatre Company - *Technically Related*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 *Taking Chances - A Cabaret with Marjorie Hayes*

TUESDAY • MARCH 8

7:30pm (MS) \$10 TBA
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Blacken Blues Theater - *Acts of Love*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 David Lee Nelson...*Status Update*

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 9

7:30pm (MS) \$10 Cordes & Parr Productions - *The Great White Way*
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Audacity Theatre Lab - *I Have Angered a Great God*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 Rocketship Productions - *Dark at the End of the Tunnel*

THURSDAY • MARCH 10

7:30pm (MS) \$10 Greyman Theatre Company - *Dani Girl*
7:30pm (ST) \$10 Second Thought Theatre - *The Lesson*
7:30pm (SC) \$10 Rocketship Productions - *Dark at the End of the Tunnel*

FRIDAY • MARCH 11

7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Lauren Weedman - *No...You Shut Up*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 Stacey Smith - *Confessions of a Chubby Tomboy*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Nouveau 47's FTP Comedy - *Inside the Loop*

SATURDAY • MARCH 12

2:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Audacity Theatre Lab - *I Have Angered a Great God*
2:00pm (SC) \$10 Rocketship Productions - *Dark at the End of the Tunnel*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Rite of Passage Theatre Company - *Technically Related*
5:00pm (SC) \$10 Stacey Smith - *Confessions of a Chubby Tomboy*
7:00pm (LB) Free TBA
8:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
8:00pm (ST) \$10 Lauren Weedman - *No...You Shut Up*
8:00pm (SC) \$10 Rhythmic Souls - *Tap This*
10:00pm (ST) \$10 Nouveau 47's FTP Comedy - *Inside the Loop*

SUNDAY • MARCH 13

2:00pm (MS) \$20 Robert Wuhl - *Assume the Position*
2:00pm (ST) \$10 Lauren Weedman - *No...You Shut Up*
2:00pm (SC) \$10 Stacey Smith - *Confessions of a Chubby Tomboy*
5:00pm (MS) \$10 *Debutante Warriors: Girl Power in 3D*
5:00pm (ST) \$10 Broken Gears Project Theatre -
The Magdalen Whitewash
5:00pm (SC) \$10 Rhythmic Souls - *Tap This*
7:30pm (MS) \$10 Dallas Cabaret Artists - *That's Life*

LB = Theatre Lobby

MS = Main Stage

ST = Studio Theatre

SC = Stone Cottage

*Some productions may contain adult language, sexual situations, and/or violence.
Please consult the box office for content information regarding a particular production.

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Finding George

Oscar-nominated composer George Fenton gets Dallas ready for the 'Gay Super Bowl'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

You might never think that a grand epic movie like *Gandhi* would have anything in common with the Kate Hudson rom-com *Fool's Gold*, *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Hitch*? But from drama to comedy, the baton of Oscar-nominated film composer George Fenton has touched those films and many varied others. He's definitely the versatile type.

"As a composer, you always project yourself into what meager little project you're working on into a higher echelon," Fenton says with a laugh.

This weekend, Fenton performs with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for the Masters of Film Music concert, which features a selection of scores he has composed for films throughout the years. But after years of creating music and getting sizeable acclaim for it, he hints at some slight insecurity. The British composer is really just concerned if the audience is going to have a good time. Or he's just a very humble guy.

"What I've tried to do is make a program that works sort of as a variety show," he says. "I hope it makes a good evening. You never can quite tell what the dynamic of evening will be."

Fenton has been nominated for five Oscars since 1983, for his original scores to *Gandhi*, *Cry Freedom*, *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Fisher King*, as well as original song for *Cry Freedom*. With such illustrious cred, he'd likely have an opinion on this year's crop of music nominees going into this weekend's Gay Super Bowl, aka the Oscar ceremony. Maybe. But he's not sharing.

"I'm not going to predict who wins. They are all worthy," he says diplomatically. Fenton is more excited about the direction film scores are going. From the innovative modern tone of *The Social Network* to A.R. Rahman's follow-up nomination for *127*



WITHOUT BATON AN EYE | Film composer George Fenton is best known for his Oscar-nominated work on 'Gandhi.' He joins to DSO this weekend.

Hours from his prior win for *Slumdog Millionaire*, Fenton sounds refreshed by "new" composers and basically those with balls to do something different.

"There hasn't been enough courage to just take a shot at something different so I welcome this approach to movie music," he says. "One of the great problems faced by people writing movie music is being employed to write to such a large expectation. Scores have generally been slightly stark for a while."

GEORGE FENTON

with Dallas Symphony Orchestra.
Meyerson Symphony Center,
2301 Flora St. Feb 25-27.
\$38-\$117. DallasSymphony.org

In addition to the music performed with the DSO, film director Andy Tennant will provide guest narration. Known mostly for romantic comedies, Tennant has collaborated with Fenton on five movies, including *Hitch*, *Fool's Gold* and *Sweet Home Alabama*. Fenton knows the films are "quite light," but he figured on one thing. "Well, since I asked him to come down and introduce things, I thought I'd better include some music from his films," he laughs. "So I'll likely have some music from *Ever After* and *Anna and the King* along with other films like *Liaisons* and *Stage Beauty*."

He'll also be introducing a new work for the show that strays away from the world of film. Fenton scored the popular mini-series *Planet Earth* and *Blue Planet* and in similar fashion, he'll be

■ **GEORGE**, Page 24

Oscars not exactly gay heaven, but we'll take it

Many gays are still smarting from the upset victory of *Crash* over *Brokeback Mountain* at the Oscars five years ago, but somehow, the lack of a clear frontrunner among many of the gay-content pictures this time around doesn't feel as dramatic. Still, here would be the ideal queer surprises at the awards (they air Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on ABC).

Best picture, best original screenplay: Lisa Cholodenko's lesbian family film *The Kids Are All Right*, is up for four awards, including best picture, which it won't win. But Cholodenko and her co-screenwriter Stuart Blumberg have an outside shot at a writing award. They are up against the favorite, David Seidler for *The King's Speech* (which also has the momentum for best picture). Then again, Seidler's other screen credits include several animated films and a made for TV movie with Liz Taylor. It's not like giving it to the lesbian would insult his art. And if *King's Speech* does beat *The Kids* ... well, everyone can root for a queen, and there are several in that movie. And gay uber-producer Scott Rudin is twice nominated, for *The Social Network* and *True Grit*. Pretty good odds.

Best actress: For a time, Annette Bening, pictured above, seemed a strong sentimental favorite to win as the totally gay half of the complex relationship in *Kids*, but Natalie Portman has come on strong with her SAG and Globe wins for *Black Swan*. Still, Portman's character has same-sex fantasies about her dance rival Mila Kunis, so the LGBT community can claim a victory if either wins.

Best supporting actor: Mark Ruffalo as the straight dad in *Kids* is a longshot, as is Jeremy Renner, the villain in *The Town* (and, if Perez Hilton is to be believed, gay himself). They'll probably lose to Christian Bale in *The Fighter*, but any would add a little hottie beefcake to the acceptance podium.



Live action short:

Here's an office pool tie-breaker you can get behind. Among the largely *un*-gay short film nominees is *God of Love*, pictured, a Jim Jarmusch-esque comedy about a homely man who acquires the power of Cupid. He uses it to



seduce women ... and at least one man. It's quirky and fun, and among a perfectly fine slate of nominees, the stand-out.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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The Crossroads' Mardi Gras Party returns with special guest Cazwell in one Midnight show at



Station 4, singing his hits "Ice Cream Truck", "I seen Beyonce at Burger King", and "Get my money back". Aerialist Amber Monson returns to Sue Ellen's

for amazing shows over Sue's dance floor. There will be fun and surprises at JR's and TMC as well, with butt sketch artists, face painters, plus masks, beads and more. 18 and up admitted at Station 4. Discount cover (21+) at Station 4 until 10:30pm. Cruisin' the Crossroads drink specials remain at regular times in all four clubs. No free cover; no passes. The event benefits the Resource Center of Dallas.
www.partyattheblock.com

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Wine & Cheese reception with the artists: April 2, 2011, 7:30pm-10:00pm. Open to the public!

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■ **GEORGE**, From Page 22
 playing parts from his latest work, "From a Disappearing World" inspired by the Arctic. Thinking it was from a newfound fascination with the nature work he had been doing, the four-part piece was merely representative of a trip he took there. Either that, or he was just figuring what to write for this performance.

"I was asked to write something for this show but I was like what kind of piece do I write?" he says.

He either underestimates himself or delivers that cheeky humor as only a Brit can do.

"When I came away from the trip, I thought I could write about its aspects so it's four sketches that convey what it actually is," he says. "I can't imagine why I would do that."

Since he wouldn't predict which music Oscar nominee would win, he did deliberate on which of his nominations he should have won for.

"Well, in my humble opinion, all of them." Cheeky. ■

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR | Fenton names Bernard Herrmann's scores to Hitchcock films, Ennio Morricone's for Sergio Leone and Michel Legrand's for 'Atlantic City' among his favorites.



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LIFE+STYLE

couch potato

DEALING with it

Even with Lady Gaga's advice, poker face does nothing to help the couch potato know when to hold 'em and fold 'em in gay card sharp traveling tourney

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Playing for money without *really* playing for money is my kind of betting. With gas at three bucks a gallon, my wallet is screaming for help, but Pocket Rockets turns me into one high roller. All I really have to dole out is a couple of bucks for drinks and put on a poker face for some Texas Hold 'em action at three clubs around the gayborhood. The best part — total exhilaration — comes even when my ass is handed to me by my opponent's full house.

"We go out of our way to make sure people are comfortable in poker setting," says owner Jeff Tiller. "It's just about fun."

At Sue Ellen's on a recent Tuesday, I got my game on. Activities that involve sitting while partaking of alcohol are ideal for the dedicated couch potato. The cardio behind it is just my speed at the deal ... but seriously, poker is stressful. Thinking it would be all drinks and laughs, the "fun table" was just as serious as the tournament final table dealing across the dance floor. I'd played Texas Hold 'em once before at some friends' loft. Once. And that was three years ago. Without Cliff's Notes in hand, I was about to be "that guy." But once people figured I *was* the speed bump, they all pitched in to help.

"Lots of people are intimidated by poker, but we're really friendly," Tiller assures. "[My partner, Aaron Ahamed and I] were nervous our first time. The one thing we do at our league is, we emphasize good sportsmanship. I really feel that enables us to bring in new players."

By day, Tiller is a yoga teacher and licensed massage therapist, but his interest in poker got him started on the path with his new company.

Poker isn't new to Dallas gays: The Round-Up Saloon hosts a Wednesday tourney that goes on hiatus for a while after each championship. Pocket Rockets, however, runs continuously, offering prizes each night (which I didn't win).

Tiller says up to 45 players will play on any given night, which (as of now) takes place four

times a week. Along with Sue Ellen's on Tuesdays, Pocket Rockets hosts poker tourneys at TMC: The Mining Company on Thursdays and at the Brick Saturdays and Sundays. Tiller and Ahamed plan to keep players going at each of those venues while adding more.

"We're making an effort to get out there, be involved," he says. "We started going and went to a couple of other leagues and thought how nice it'd be to put emphasis on gay community."

My night of play, despite my half-hearted efforts in true CPAJ style, left me a total loser. My first plan of attack wasn't working: Fold and never bet until people fell out of the game. This was not a good idea. Confusion led to checking which led to unfortunate bets. When I looked down I had less than 10 chips — just over a \$1,000. This was the inevitable "fuck it moment" and I went all-in with a hand that I felt confident about ... too confident as it turned out.

With an ace and a queen in hand and an ace and queen on the table, I had a strong two pair hand. I was edging, trying not to jump ahead to do my "in your face" dance. Something about a side bet would have put me back on track but another player won with his ace and king, also mirrored on the table. One other player had his ace but a weaker hand. It was climactic and the table rallied with "ohhhs" as each hand revealed.

"Yeah, there's that drama because queens are playing," Tiller says. "Some people take their game so seriously that you'd think the Super Bowl was going on. You can't help the drama."

I have no idea what he's talking about. Going in as a novice, margaritas and beers obviously did not affect my judgment, but Tiller still gave me tips on how to be ready for the next time.

"Sense you're players and if they are cute, that could work in your favor," he says. "You can distract with flirtation and then all of the sudden take him out. And glute exercises, because sometimes you're sitting for hours at a time."

Wait, exercise? Ugh. ■
For more information, visit PocketRockets.com.



A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN | Flirting can be used to your advantage when playing poker in a gay league. Just ask Pocket Rockets founder Jeff Tiller. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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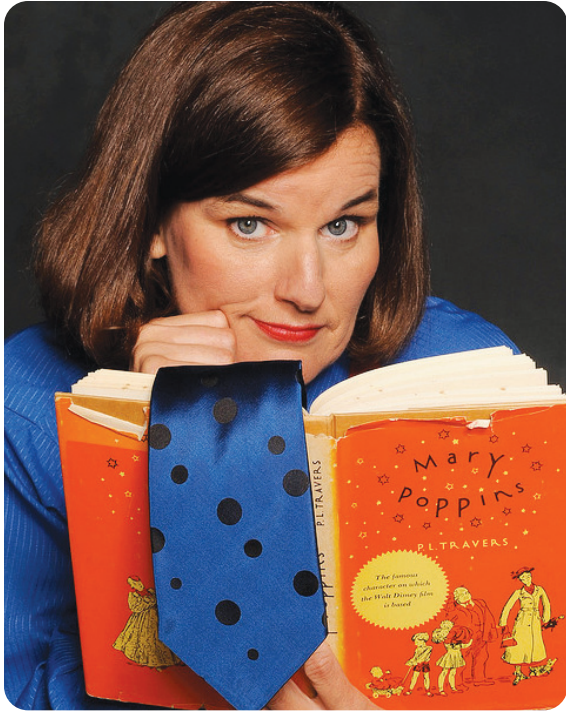
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Friday 02.25

Poundstoning the pavement

We love our Kathy Griffin and Margaret Cho, but Paula Poundstone was right there with them on the up and up. She's carved her own queer comedy path which comes this way. We give her props for her stand-up, but she's crazy hilarious each week on NPR's *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me* trivia comedy show.

DEETS: Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. \$31-\$106. PaulaInDallas.com

Sunday 02.27

Is that an Oscar in your pants?

One of these men (don't forget Javier Bardem, too) will walk away with a best actor Oscar. You can watch that at one of many gayborhood watching parties, but first, listen to Dallas Voice's Arnold Wayne Jones and David Taffet talk Oscar on Sunday's *Lambda Weekly* on 89.3 KNON at noon. We predict Colin Firth wins. Yeah, we said it.

DEETS: Airs on WFAA Channel 8 at 7 p.m. Red carpet coverage at 6 p.m. Oscar.com

Thursday 03.03

Be Out of the Loop by being in it

WaterTower Theatre knows how to give a theater festival. The Out of the Loop festival returns with 11 days of shows. Faye Lane's *Beauty Shop Stories*, pictured, is one of the opener shows and ends with a three-day run of Robert Wuhl's *Assume the Position*.

DEETS: WTT, 15650 Addison Road. \$10-\$20. Through March 13. WaterTowerTheatre.org.



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FRIDAY 02.25

COMMUNITY

Queerly Speaking by Fahari Arts Institute. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 9 p.m. \$5. FahariArtsInstitute.org.

Congregation Beth El Binah Shabbat service. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1784.

Business Network Collin County luncheon. Fox Sports Grille, 5741 Legacy Drive, Plano. 11:30 a.m. \$20. BusinessNetworkCC.org.

FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays–Fridays at 2 p.m. GetYourFuseOn.com.

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Fridays–Saturdays and Tuesdays–Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m. YouthFirst-Texas.org.

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets. Also on Mondays and Wednesdays. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30pm. CrystalMeth.org.

CODA, codependents support group. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

THEATER

Aresenic & Old Lace with Betty Buckley and Tovah Feldshuh. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 13. \$15–\$70. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare. Nouveau 47 Theatre, 1121 First Ave. Through Sunday. \$15–\$20. Facebook.com/Nouveau47.

Ovo. Cirque du Soleil's show plays at Dr. Pepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, Frisco. Through Sunday. \$45–\$250. CirqueDuSoleil.com.

Thank You For Being a Friend. Uptown Players presents their version of *The Golden Girls*. The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road (inside S4). Through Mar. 6. \$20–\$25. UptownPlayers.org.

SATURDAY 02.26

COMMUNITY

Rainbow Ministries International. Meets weekly. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m.

Legacy social group of adults 50 or older from Cathedral of Hope. Monthly event. 972-387-3345.

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., Maple Plaza, 5353 Maple Ave, #130 (Entry in rear of building).

FILM

Pretty Scary Blood Bath 2 Film Festival. This independent festival celebrates the women who make independent horror films. All short and feature films in this festival are written and/or directed by women. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 2–7 p.m. \$10. DOABloodBath.com.



GIRL GONE BAD | Rachel (Mia Ford), left, sees spirits but her friend Michelle (Sammi Hanratty) is becoming evil in her own way in 'Within' by Hanelle M. Culpepper. The film screens at the Pretty Scary Film Fest on Saturday.

BROADCAST

Cathedral of Hope worship service. Ch. 8 at 12:35 a.m. (Friday after midnight).

SUNDAY 02.27

COMMUNITY

Awakening Heart Community of Mindful Living. LGBT-Friendly "meditation and more" event. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Rd, Richardson. 5 p.m. AwakeningHeart.org

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

The ONE Church services. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 6 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

30/40Something social group meets. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m.

Gaymsters bridge club. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2 p.m.

Lesbianas Latinas. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 4 p.m. 214-890-6976.

Cowtown Leathermen cookout. Best Friends Club, 2620 East Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. Movie critic Arnold Wayne Jones talks up Oscars. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon. LambdaWeekly.com.

MONDAY 02.28

COMMUNITY

Log Cabin Republicans. Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

PFLAG Denton. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

Caffeine + Character. Cathedral of Hope youth meeting. Buli Café, 3908 Cedar Springs Road.

F.A.C.E., support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

BROADCAST

The Rick Vanderslice Show streams Monday–Friday from noon–2 p.m. on RationalRadio.org.

CABARET

Mama's Party. Amy Stevenson hosts the weekly cabaret featuring local stage actors and musicians. Contemporary Theater of Dallas, 5601 Sears St. 7 p.m. MamasParty.com.

TUESDAY 03.01

COMMUNITY

Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

Tuesday Night Fellowship with The ONE Church. Buffalo Wild Wings, 4140 Lemmon Ave. 7 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

Q's-Day Potluck. Casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday evening. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-887-4990.

Classic Chassis Car Club. Ojeda's 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-446-0606. ClassicChassis.com.

National Leather Association-Dallas meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

Cathedral Ringers handbell rehearsal. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:45 p.m. Contact Jeremy.crosswhite@gmail.com for more information.

BROADCAST

The 10% with Israel Luna and Richard Curtin streams every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

WEDNESDAY 03.02

COMMUNITY

Cedar Springs Wine Walk. Area merchants and eateries host customers with specials and wine. Cedar Springs at Throckmorton roads. 6 p.m. ShopCedarSprings.com.

Positively Straight meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. AOC.org.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every week at 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

Gay Teen Project. 909 W. Magnolia St., Suite 2, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-332-7722.

20Something social group at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:15 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

El Sol, an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. AOC.org.

THURSDAY 03.03

COMMUNITY

Choir and Orchestra rehearsals at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

F.A.C.E., support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

BROADCAST

The Jesse Garcia Show. Latino news talk and entertainment by the prominent gay and Latino local activist. Airs on KNON 89.3 FM Thursdays at 7 a.m. JesseGarciaShow.com.

Reckless After Dark. LGBT radio show hosted by Chase Brooks with Cat Michaels, and Auntie J. The show takes on all topics from gay rights to pop culture. Airs on FishBowlRadioNetwork.com every week at 5 p.m. ChaseBrooks.com.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Tommy Tune turns 72 on Monday. The legendary Tony award-winning dancer, singer, choreographer still keeps busy in the business. Not only does the Wichita Falls-born Texan return in March with performances in Dallas, he's also developing a musical based on the iconic club Studio 54 in the age of disco.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Your social instincts are sharp. Resist the tendency to fall back into the partying embrace of your home and community. Network! Hang out with people who can help you get ahead.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Being charming and innovative are great ways to promote yourself. The energy is there. Dress for the job you want, not the one you have, but don't shy away from your own sense of style.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Ask yourself what's the most beautiful country in the world (besides your own). Do some research and expand your aesthetic vision to open up a much deeper sense of yourself.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

New erotic exploration won't just spice up your sex life but helps you understand where your relationship needs to go — or where one should get started. Invite your honey to surprise you in bed.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Start a new conversation with your partner about old challenges. A breakthrough will require risks and experimentation, but probably not sexual. Review how the two of you share or divide tasks.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Redecorate your workplace to make it more efficient. Innovate your beauty and health regimen. Dance classes are fun and introduce you to new people. Try something wild and different.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Play with new ideas and images. The urge to be the best or to utilize these expressions professionally should take a backseat to expressing youthful visions and affirming your roots.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Call your mother, grandmother or an aunt. What starts out as a simple conversation can reveal a lot about your family and more about yourself. Keep it simple, direct and personal.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Grab keyboard or pen and paper; liberate your mind writing whatever occurs to you. Scrapbooking works. Review it a few days later and see what you can learn about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Set aside some money for a spontaneous indulgence or impulsive whim. Resist the urge to splurge on anyone else. This treat is for you! Get yourself something outré, so wrong that it's right.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Take time out — a long walk or a spiritual retreat — to think about who you really are deep inside and who you want to be. Then consider how best to make your outside match your inside.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Old traumas contain lessons, but better yet review your earliest feelings of love and beauty. Sure, age brings disappointments. So what? You can still keep those innocent ideals alive.

THIS WEEK

Venus entering Aquarius opens new aesthetic opportunities and challenges. Be daring and adventurous in your own presentation and your choices for entertainment and art. The North Node entering Sagittarius opens new challenges to look past apparently logical details to the fuller picture. Both are leaving Capricorn, so break out of old problems with new perspectives.

Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

301

Panel 1: ALL SET TO SEE "ROLE/PLAY"?
ACTUALLY, BREYER... MY MOTHER JUST CALLED.

Panel 2: UH-OH.
SHE NEEDS ME TO TAKE HER TO HER DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT.

Panel 3: I'LL DRIVE.
DON'T BE SILLY. THERE'S NO REASON WE SHOULD BOTH MISS THE MOVIE.

Panel 4: ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU ALREADY BOUGHT TICKETS TO THE MATINEE SHOW.

Panel 5: SHE'S NOT GREAT AT DRIVING IN THE SNOW.

Panel 6: I'LL GET RICHARD TO GO IN MY PLACE.
RICHARD?!

Panel 7: YES. I THINK HE COULD USE SOME COMPANY.

Panel 8: UM...
...I CAN'T GO TO THE MOVIES WITH RICHARD, KYLE.
WHY NOT?

Panel 9: HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'D REALLY RATHER NOT GO INTO IT.

Panel 10: HE LOVES ROB WILLIAMS' FILMS.
HE'S SEEMED SO... DISTANT LATELY.

Panel 11: I'D RATHER NOT SAY.

Panel 12: BREYER... TELL ME.

Panel 13: ALL RIGHT. RICHARD... MADE A MOVE ON ME.
WHAT? OH, BREYER...

Panel 14: ...HAHAHA... YOU KNOW RICHARD. HE'S ALWAYS JOKING AROUND. YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY!

Panel 15: HE RAMMED HIS TONGUE DOWN MY THROAT... HE PRACTICALLY TORE OFF MY T-SHIRT AND MY BOXERS... AND HE WAS BEGGING ME TO HAVE A SECRET ONE-NIGHT STAND WITH HIM.

Panel 16: IT WAS NO JOKE.

Panel 17: I... SEE.

Panel 18: OKAY... I'M DRIVING US TO YOUR MOM'S DOCTOR APPOINTMENT. I DON'T WANT YOU BEHIND THE WHEEL AFTER GETTING THAT NEWS.
I'M FINE. I... MIGHT NEED TO BREAK SOMETHING, THOUGH.

Panel 19: UH, YEAH... I'M DEFINITELY DRIVING...

Website - www.kylecomics.com

E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com

bitter girl

Panel 1: INQUIZZITION
YOU WENT BACK OUT ON A DATE WITH ASHLEY?
SHE ONLY DID IT AS A STUNT.

Panel 2: WHEN ARE PATSY AND ASHLEY NOT A STUNT?
SO, DIDJA DO ANYTHING?

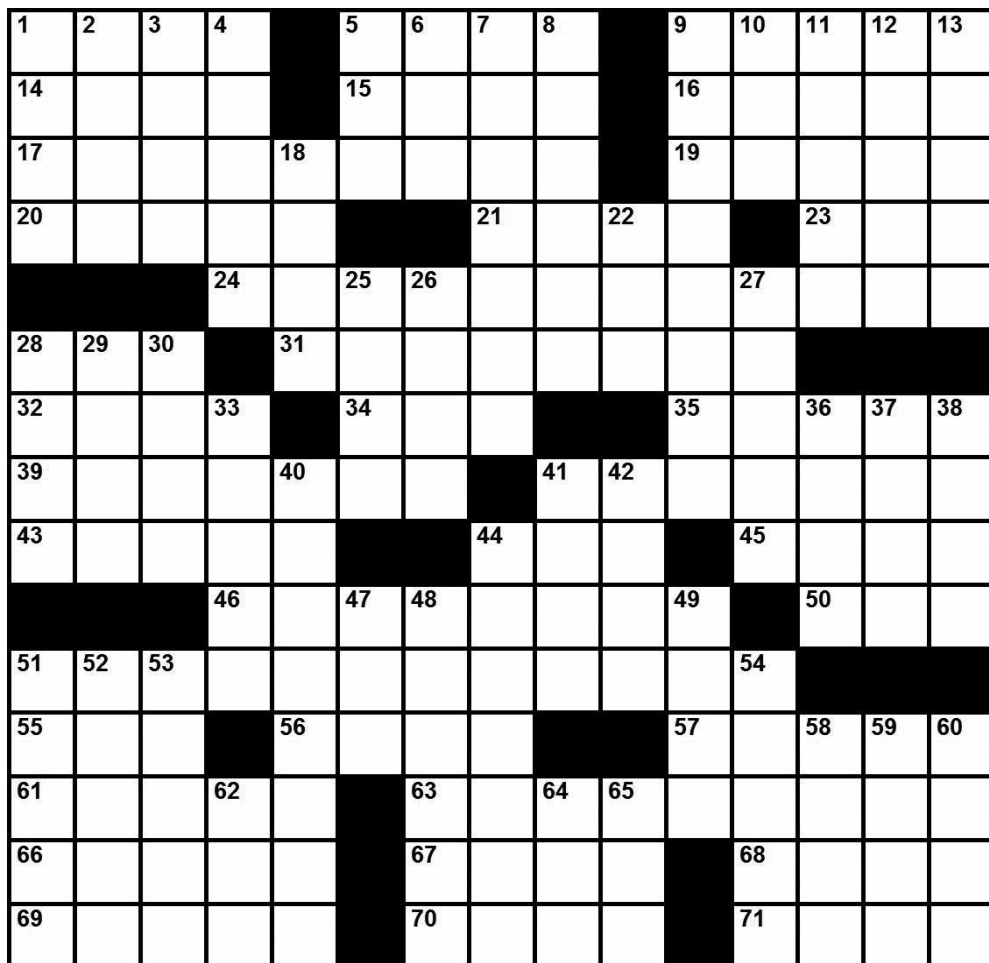
Panel 3: NNNNOOO...
I THINK "NNNNNOO"
...MEANS "OOOH YESSS!"

Panel 4: WHY AM I EVEN HERE?
STUNT CASTING.
BAM!!!

email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com

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That's a Fact, Jack

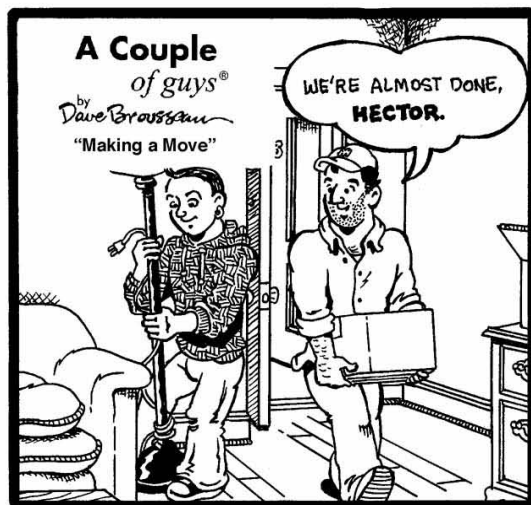
Solution on page 29

Across

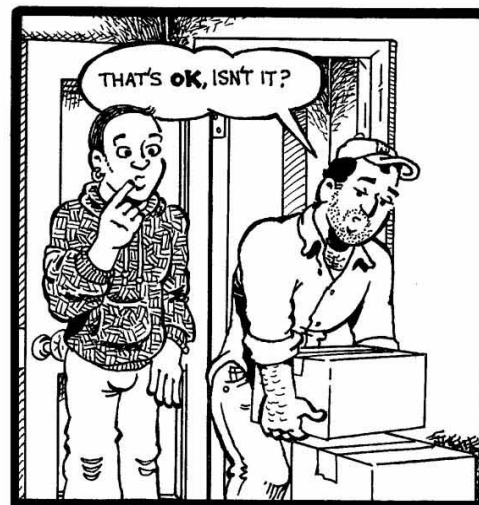
- 1 Bride and bride's vehicle
- 5 The d. of k.d. lang
- 9 Rock costar
- 14 Declare openly
- 15 Nastase of the net
- 16 Standing up straight
- 17 Character in 63-Across
- 19 Kind of blitz
- 20 Hit in the family jewels
- 21 Caesar's final reproach
- 23 What an octopus shoots off
- 24 Actor who played 17-Across
- 28 Come out on the beach
- 31 Tear up
- 32 AZT, e.g.
- 34 Break for Heather's mommies
- 35 Made less difficult to bear
- 39 With 41-Across, actor who played 51-Across
- 41 See 39-Across
- 43 Ventriloquist Bergen
- 44 Bottom line
- 45 Village People hit
- 46 Plant collections
- 50 Crazy like a fox
- 51 Character in 63-Across

Down

- 1 Be deficient in
- 2 Russian John
- 3 Oliver! request
- 4 One of the little hooters
- 5 Soft in the head
- 6 Home state of J. Nabors
- 7 Bug a phone
- 8 At the head of the line
- 9 Showed reluctance
- 10 Stuff from your shaft
- 11 Took advantage of a decorator
- 12 Danish topper
- 13 Vampire vanquisher
- 18 Nose activator
- 22 Sung syllable
- 25 Pre-kiss insert, perhaps
- 26 Chose not to swallow
- 27 Pisa place
- 28 Beat barely
- 29 Pitt of Inglourious Basterds
- 30 Hamlet
- 33 Poet Judy
- 36 Bottom lines
- 37 Letter abbr.
- 38 Time of decision
- 40 Isolated individuals
- 41 Greek queen of heaven
- 42 Islamic leader
- 44 Cover for locks
- 47 "Poppycock!"
- 48 Hag transport
- 49 Where to look, in Misty
- 51 Coins featuring Eleanor's husband
- 52 ___ Gay
- 53 Husband of a Duke
- 54 Fish stories
- 58 Guy that cruised with a pair of bears
- 59 Concert receipts
- 60 Baltic Sea tributary
- 62 Announcer Hall
- 64 "I'm a trisexual, I'll ___ anything once"
- 65 Put the whammy on



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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Ron and George at the Round-Up Saloon.



Warren and Dan at TMC: The Mining Company.



Marla, Mak at Chris at Drama Room.



T.J., Jay, Steven and David at Station 4.

Busy week? Need to let off some steam? We've been keeping an eye out for you You can always get your line dancing fix at the **Round-Up Saloon**, but on Sunday, get there for their **Seventh Annual Oscar Party**. Prizes, food and ballots can only add to the fun of watching celebs. Shake a stick at the **Pool Tourney** on Tuesday How is your spinning technique? No, not your exercise regimen. Dallas DJs should head to **Absinthe Lounge** on Saturday for **Open Tables** night. Best DJ of the night wins a nice bar tab. **DJ Zanni** finishes out the night Get your front row bar stool to see **Rachel Stacy** at **Sue Ellen's** on Friday. The reliable **Ciao Bella** performs on Saturday night followed by **Anton Shaw and Trouble** Sunday Help the **Dallas Woody's Saints** softball team by heading to **Genghis Grill** on Lemmon this Monday. Proceeds from the night will help those jocks for the next season Need some family fun time? Head to **Barter** in Denton this Saturday for the **Early Bird Show**. Out musicians **Immigrant Punk** and **Suzanne Kimbrell** perform. You'll even be home early We're not sure how clean **Messy's show Burlesque** is Saturday night at **the Hidden Door** Do you wanna get folked up? You can when **Dogdander** headlines Friday night at **Jack's Backyard** with **Camille Cortinas** and **Billygoat Brink** on the bill. Bringing the classic rock and the funk, party band **Middle Ground** performs Saturday night Get some **Totally Twisted Karaoke** every Saturday with hunky **Robert Olivas** hosting at **Peker's Bar**. **Linda Petty and the Main Event** perform Sunday night More in the mood for a movie? How about the **Pretty Scary Blood Bath 2 Film Festival**. The festival celebrates women behind indie horror with shorts and features screened at the **Texas Theatre** Cover your eyes and have fun with it. ■

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Jimmy and Bruce at Percussions.



Laura at Sue Ellen's.



Josslyn and Showmethemoney at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

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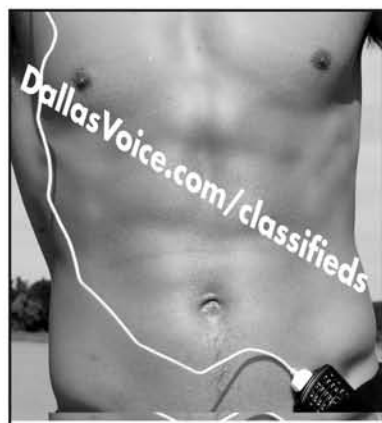

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