

Rawlings backs marriage equality

But Dallas mayor won't sign pledge
Says he wants to keep personal views, city business separate

■ Texas News, Page 6



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Esther Garatie

Nurse to retire after VA hospital upholds lesbian vet's complaint

The Dallas VA Medical Center has substantiated allegations that a nurse discriminated against a lesbian Marine who sought mental health treatment, and the nurse will retire effective Saturday, according to a statement released by the hospital Thursday, Jan. 19.

The nurse, Lincy Pandithurai of Cedar Hill, had been placed on administrative duty pending the outcome of the hospital's investigation into a complaint from 28-year-old Esther Garatie of Irving. Garatie, a former Marine lance corporal who was honorably discharged in 2006, said she sought treatment for severe depression and possible post-traumatic stress disorder — including thoughts of suicide — on Oct. 12.

Garatie alleges that during a two-hour tirade, Pandithurai told her she was living in sin and said that was the reason for her mental health issues. Garatie said the nurse advised her to accept Jesus and become straight.

Monica Smith, a spokeswoman for the VA Medical Center, said in a statement Thursday that the hospital's Administrative Investigative Board had completed its investigation.

"The board was able to substantiate material portions of the veteran's claims," Smith said. "VA North Texas Health Care System will continue to provide an environment where veterans can receive the physical and emotional healing that they desire and deserve. As such, we remain committed to respecting diversity and providing the best possible care to all veterans. Our commitment to equal rights remains strong as we practice our core values of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence. Ms. Pandithurai will retire from federal service effective January 21, 2012."

As of Thursday afternoon, a Change.org petition calling for Pandithurai's termination had almost 20,000 signatures. Garatie also filed a complaint with the Texas Board of Nursing.

— John Wright

Lesbian coach settles with Waxahachie charter school

A lesbian teacher and coach reportedly has reached a settlement with the Waxahachie charter school where she accused administrators of firing

her due to her sexual orientation last year.

"Due to ongoing inquiries from the media and public, LifeSchool of Dallas and Nichole Williams are issuing the following joint statement," reads an email sent to Dallas Voice by Williams' fiancée, Jen DeSaegher. "Ms. Williams and LifeSchool have discussed and amicably resolved all concerns related to Ms. Williams' previous employment with LifeSchool. Both LifeSchool and Ms. Williams would like to thank students, parents and the community for their support, encouragement and involvement. The LifeSchool leadership team wishes the best for Ms. Williams' and her future endeavors. Likewise, Ms. Williams would like to thank LifeSchool and its students and parents for the opportunity to coach and teach."

The statement provides no further details.

Williams, 26, taught 9th-grade geography at Life School Waxahachie, one of the charter school's five campuses in North Texas. She also served as varsity girls basketball coach and assistant volleyball coach. As we reported, Williams was terminated a day before the basketball season began in October. She filed a grievance with the school alleging she was fired based on her sexual orientation, which reportedly became known to administrators after DeSaegher began attending volleyball games this fall.

Parents and students rallied in support of Williams, submitting a petition to the school calling for her reinstatement and demanding to meet with administrators. Although Williams initially sought reinstatement, she later said she would settle for severance pay and removal of the termination from her personnel file so she could resume her career elsewhere.

With the help of public pressure, Williams apparently managed to negotiate a settlement even though she had little legal recourse. Texas is one of 29 states that lack bans on anti-gay job discrimination, which isn't prohibited by federal law, either. And, although case law generally protects gay teachers at public schools, experts say courts have ruled that those provisions don't apply to charter schools, even though they're taxpayer-funded.

— John Wright



Nichole 'Nikki' Williams

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HISTORY BUFFS | The newly appointed board and officers of The Dallas Way are, from left, back row, Jay Forte, Mike Grossman, Stan Aten, Robert Emery, Ann Faye, Mike Anglin, Evilu Pridgeon, Bruce Monroe and Buddy Mullino; and from left, front row, Rebecca Covell, Carl Parker, George Harris and Jack Evans. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

LGBT history project comes into focus

The Dallas Way elects board and officers, unveils model 1-page entry

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For almost a year, members of Dallas' LGBT community have been meeting informally to begin a project to collect and archive the community's history.

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, The Dallas Way formalized itself by electing a board of directors and officers and filing for nonprofit status.

A year ago Jack Evans, now president of The Dallas Way, and his partner George Harris celebrated their 50th anniversary. The couple told their story in the Dallas Voice and on the radio, and Evans concluded that the interest people showed was really an interest in the broader topic of Dallas LGBT history.

The Dallas Way board member Robert Emery said, "We need to focus and clarify and collect our history to strengthen our community and to be a source of inspiration for the young."

Bruce Monroe, who served as president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance in the early 1990s, created a Facebook page to promote the group and begin collecting stories.

Emery said the final account of the events, groups and people that make up Dallas LGBT his-

tory will be scholarly studies compiled and approved by a committee.

Emery's vision for the group is that The Dallas Way will accurately tell the story of the community and be a reliable source for researchers in the future.

"If you see our stamp in an archive, we hope that will be the definitive story on that subject," he said.

Writing the history of the community may seem like a daunting task, but Emery said each entry will be just one page.

"I'm not asking you to write a book," Emery said. But he added that keeping some entries to one page might prove just as difficult as writing a comprehensive history.

Attorney Rebecca Covell, who was also elected to The Dallas Way's board on Tuesday, called each entry "a gay wiki page."

One of DGLA's founders, Mike Anglin, produced the group's first entry — the story of Bill Nelson. Anglin's one-page document summarizes the contributions of the man for whom the health clinic on Cedar Springs Road is named. But Anglin said that links in the article will refer readers to additional one-page stories — Nelson as the first openly gay man to run for Dallas city council, his Cedar Springs store Crossroads Market, how the food pantry began as a shelf in Crossroads Market and many other contributions he made to the community.

To research the story, Anglin called Nelson's

mother, Jean, who is now in her 80s and lives in Houston. She told Anglin she was relieved that he contacted her because she wanted her son's memory preserved. She sent him boxes of photos and other memorabilia of his activist work — from a laminated copy of a Dallas Times Herald magazine cover to a mock-up of the quilt panel she designed for her son and his partner, Terry Tebedo.

Board member Stan Aten contacted the University of North Texas, which agreed to work with The Dallas Way to help archive and digitize the material.

Two high school students attended Tuesday's meeting who are members of the Booker T. Washington and Greenhill School Gay Straight Alliances.

Booker T. senior Truett Davis said he became interested in learning about the Dallas LGBT community beyond his GSA when DGLA President Patti Fink and Resource Center Dallas President and CEO Cece Cox spoke at his school.

"This will give perspective to young people about what has taken place," Davis said. "This will tell us what has taken place and help us solve problems in the future. What's already been done is important."

The Dallas Way meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Park Room, Park Tower Condominiums, 3310 Fairmount Street at 7 p.m. Interested community members are welcome to attend a meeting or contact the group through its Facebook page.

Rawlings 'personally' supports marriage

Dallas mayor won't sign pledge but says gay couples should have the right to wed

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Although he declined to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage this week, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings declared Thursday, Jan. 19 that he personally supports the right of gay and lesbian couples to wed.

Rawlings has elected not to join a group of more than 75 mayors from across the country who've signed a pledge circulated by the group Freedom to Marry in conjunction with the U.S.

Conference of Mayors meeting this week in Washington, D.C.

Under fire from the LGBT community for not signing the pledge, Rawlings explained that since becoming mayor last year, it has been his policy to avoid partisan political issues or social debates that don't directly impact city government.

"This one obviously was very difficult for me, because I personally believe in the rights of the gay community to marry," Rawlings said Thursday in an exclusive interview by phone from Washington, where he was still attending the conference. "I think this [same-sex marriage] is way overdue and we need to get on with it, but that's my personal belief, and when I start to speak on behalf of the city of Dallas ... I've got to be thoughtful about how I use that office and what I want to impact, and that's why I decided to stay away from endorsing and signing letters like that."

Daniel Cates, North Texas regional coordinator



Mayor Mike Rawlings



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localbriefs

RCD's Cox joins board of national LGBT community centers group

Cece Cox, executive director and CEO of Resource Center Dallas, has been selected to serve on the board of directors of CenterLink — the national association of LGBT community centers.

"We have had numerous successes at the center in recent years, and it is an honor to be able to share them with my fellow CenterLink board members," Cox said. "I am also excited to interact with the leaders of other LGBT community centers around the United States, as the Center prepares to build its new home in two years."

"Our board members are without a doubt the most visionary and dedicated leaders in the LGBT community," said CenterLink Executive Director Terry Stone. "Their experience, commitment and leadership are driving forces in our work to assist centers in building a movement that honors and promotes full human rights and dignity for all LGBT people. We are thrilled that Cece has joined the CenterLink board."

As a board member, Cox will work with CenterLink to oversee its strategic direction while guiding the organization as it strengthens linkages, and advocates empowerment, self-reliance, inclusion and diversity among the community centers in the coalition. She joins leaders of LGBT community centers from Las Cruces, N.M., to Los Angeles and St. Petersburg, Fla., to Philadelphia.



Cece Cox

Cox has more than 25 years experience in executive management and leadership, both in the nonprofit and private sectors — including law, journalism, business consulting, arts and advocacy.

Cox joined the Center in 2007 as associate executive director for LGBT programs, and was promoted in 2010 to executive director. The title of chief executive officer was added in 2011. ■

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Jessica (and Jeffrey)

Jessica, pictured, and Jeffrey are brother and sister and are about 8 months old. Although they look like lambs, they're probably Shepherd mixes. They came from a neglected litter in a backyard in West Dallas. Apparently, these were the last two that were not stolen by neighbors. The owner was tired of Jeffrey and Jessica and decided to turn them out on the street on Christmas Eve. These adorable two are learning to walk on leash, but incredibly friendly with anyone who want to pet their furry heads. Jeffrey and Jessica can't wait to run and play with their new family and friends.

Many other great dogs and cats are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, situated at 3201 Earhart Drive, one street south of Keller Springs and two blocks west of Midway Road, in Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days a week: Monday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The adoption cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount. For more information, call 972-418-PAWS, or visit OperationKindness.org.



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SIGN OF SUPPORT | Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings throws beads while riding on the city float in the 2011 gay Pride parade. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

■ **MARRIAGE**

From Page 6

for the LGBT direct action group GetEQUAL, responded that if Rawlings really supports marriage equality, he should sign the pledge, which was set to be formally released at a press conference Friday morning, Jan. 20.

"I think he's doing the same thing that a lot of politicians do, and that's saying what he needs to say to get the LGBT vote," Cates said.

After Dallas Voice reported on its website Wednesday night that Rawlings didn't plan to sign the pledge, Cates launched a Facebook page and an online petition encouraging people to contact the mayor by phone, email and fax, and ask him to change his mind.

Cates said he may also organize a marriage demonstration outside City Hall in February — but was still hoping Rawlings would reverse course and sign the pledge on Friday.

"If he supports us, we need him to put his money where his mouth is," Cates said. "Otherwise what he's proving to me, personally, is that he supports us when it's going to get him votes or money."

During his campaign last year, Rawlings said during a candidate forum that he voted against Texas' 2005 constitutional amendment banning both marriage and civil unions. But before Thursday, the closest Rawlings had come to publicly endorsing same-sex marriage was in an interview with Dallas Voice during his campaign, when he said he felt the issue was "irrelevant" and "we should get beyond it and let

people do what they want to do."

Paula Blackmon, Rawlings' chief of staff, said Thursday afternoon that 50 to 60 people had contacted the mayor's office about the marriage pledge, with the vast majority saying he should sign it.

"People are communicating with us," said Blackmon, who compared the public response to outcry over the city's handling of the Occupy Dallas protests.

Rawlings said in addition to the LGBT community, he was getting pushback from his son and daughter, who he said were raised to reflect his personal beliefs about marriage equality.

"I'm catching a lot of grief in my family right now, just so you know, so I respect how people are feeling about this issue, and I understand it," he said.

Other mayors who've signed the pledge include Michael Bloomberg of New York, Rahm Emanuel of Chicago, Annise Parker of Houston, Jerry Sanders of San Diego, Thomas Menino of Boston and Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles.

Jackie Yodashkin, a spokeswoman for Freedom to Marry, said the full list of mayors who've signed the pledge would be revealed during Friday's press conference to kick off the campaign, called Mayors for the Freedom to Marry.

However, Yodashkin told Dallas Voice that as of Thursday, Houston's Parker and Austin's Lee Leffingwell were the only ones from Texas who'd signed the pledge. About 20 mayors from Texas, including Fort Worth's Betsy Price, pre-registered for the Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, according to the website. ■

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BUSINESS DRIES UP | Owner Leo Bartlett said low lake levels caused by the ongoing drought resulted in fewer visitors to the area, forcing him to shut down his club for good. (David Webb/Dallas Voice)

Saying goodbye to Friends

Nationally known Cedar Creek Lake bar closes after 15 years

DAVID WEBB | Contributing Writer
davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com

GUN BARREL CITY — For 15 years Friends was the little gay bar that did it all in the most unlikely of settings, but it came to a sad end just before Christmas.

Friends owner Leo Bartlett sent out a message on Facebook Dec. 20 saying he was closing the iconic gay bar, and he never unlocked the doors for business again. Situated in the middle of one of the most conservative areas of the state, the humble little private club had featured charity drag shows and raised many tens of thousands of dollars — benefiting homeless animals, the elderly, the poor and HIV patients — for years.

Known not only throughout Texas but literally around the world, Friends often saw visitors from far away who had read or heard about the bar. Reporters for major mainstream U.S. newspapers like the Washington Post contacted the bar's management for comments on LGBT is-

sues. In 2007, Out magazine named Friends one of the top 50 gay bars in the world, saying the atmosphere was the friendliest in the state, the fish tank was filled with well water and the drag queens' hairdos tended to be big, much like they were.

In a clever complement to the drag shows, a local theater group known as Friends Players put on variety shows that were well attended by the lake's gay and straight residents alike. The entire cast, including performers in full drag, traveled down the road to the American Legion Club a couple of times each year to put on performances.

But now, the music, acting, dancing and laughing are just memories for Bartlett, who opened the bar door late one afternoon this month to allow a few customers to retrieve several pieces of personal property. The walls that once were covered with pictures of bewigged drag queens wearing tiaras are now bare.

"It's all over," Bartlett said as he stood in the sunlight flowing through the open door into the dark bar. "I said my goodbyes on Facebook. It's

■ **FRIENDS**, Next Page

■ FRIENDS, From Previous Page

all there to read. I've thanked everyone. There's really nothing else to say."

Bartlett said sending out the Facebook message was painful for him, and he didn't want to have one last party in the bar to mark its closing, although many former customers had hoped he would.

"It would just be a funeral for me," said Bartlett, who noted the bar's net revenue had been on the decline for about three years, just as with many other lake businesses. "I didn't see any point in that. I've already said my goodbyes."

Bartlett said economic conditions on the lake led to Friend's closing, and he didn't blame it on the competition from a new gay bar, Garlow's, that opened nearby two years ago. He disputed the popular opinion among some members of the lake's LGBT community that there weren't enough customers on the lake for two gay bars, and that the newer, more attractive Garlow's had stolen his customers.

"There were enough customers," Bartlett said. "There just wasn't enough participation. If you talk to the owners of the straight bars, you will hear the same thing from them. Everybody is having trouble."

The lake has a sizable LGBT community made up of retirees, Dallas commuters and natives, but many just don't enjoy the bar scene. The gay and lesbian population increases greatly on weekends, holidays and during the summers when LGBT second-home owners are in residence, but many of them also prefer not to go out to the nightclubs.

Last summer's drought — which caused the lake to drop almost 8 feet, leaving boat docks sitting in sand and beaches where water once stood — finished Friends off, Bartlett said. People avoided the lake, and that made all of the lake's businesses suffer, resulting in several businesses shutting down in 2011, he said.

"It was time for me to close," said Bartlett, who also separated this year from his longtime life partner who had helped him run the bar. "It was 15 good years. That's what is important."

For many customers though, the closing has left a void, and some seem almost resentful about it. Many of Bartlett's customers would not go to Garlow's out of loyalty to Friends, but others who went to both bars are also disappointed. And some who didn't go to Friends at all also expressed dismay.

Friends' closing is a loss to the lake's LGBT community, said Troy Lueth, who with his life partner owns a bed and breakfast in nearby Ben Wheeler. The couple once participated in the Friends Players productions and visited the bar socially as well.

"I think it is sad," Lueth said. "I never like to see a business fail, and it was part of the history of the area and held a lot of memories for me and others."

For Jennie Morris, another former member of Friends Players, it is more personal. She also went there socially to meet with her friends.

"I feel like I lost a good friend, really, and one of my major connections to the community," Morris said. "As a member of Friends Players it has



Leo Bartlett

left a pretty big hole there, too. Friends was my Cheers, I guess — a place where everybody knows your name. Friends was safe, comfortable and like an old flannel shirt — just home."

Several former customers of Friends declined to comment for the story, saying they had mixed emotions. Some people complained that Bartlett ran the bar too much like a nonprofit organization rather than a business, and blamed its closing on that.

Michael Slingerland, owner of Garlow's, said he was shocked when he first heard about Bartlett announcing the closing of Friends. Slingerland formerly worked part time at Friends as a bartender before opening his own business, which appears to be doing well.

"We've talked about it a lot here," Slingerland said. "It's really sad."

Slingerland said he had hoped for a cooperative effort between the two bars that would have helped both prosper, but that never happened.

"We could have helped each other out a lot," said Slingerland, who envisioned back-and-forth traffic between the two clubs.

Regardless of what factors led to the closing of Friends, it is now a reality that the bar is gone for good. Although Bartlett has said he has no plans to return to his native Arkansas, he is exploring other options for his future life in the Cedar Creek area.

"I'm thinking about a number of things," said Bartlett, who acknowledged being a "hermit" since he announced the closing.

In the meantime Bartlett has listed the building for sale or lease with a gay Cedar Creek Lake real estate agent. The ad might run something like this: "Little private club with an unusually intriguing past available for new operator and members." ■

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coverstory

So big

Making a stage musical of 'Giant,' Edna Ferber's iconic novel of Texas, has been a mammoth undertaking, but a powerhouse team resolved to bring this premiere to the Dallas Theater Center

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

Let's get this out of the way up-front: *Giant* is the gayest Hollywood film of all time. No really, think about it: Rock Hudson, Sal Mineo and James Dean (all oiled up and rolling around), with Liz Taylor playing beard to all of them while Mercedes McCambridge lurks in the background? Gay, gay, gay, gay, gay. Why, it's a wonder no one has made a musical about it already.

And now, they have. And you can thank the gays. Again.



OUT OF HER COMFORT ZONE | Dee Hoty is playing the character least like herself in 'Giant' ... and she likes the challenge.

"I never thought about that," says Michael John LaChiusa, composer and moving force behind the new stage adaptation of *Giant*, which began previews at the Wyly Theatre this week. "There's no getting around it. There were lots of butt shots in it. And they were damned sexy."

Everyone can agree on that. Indeed, for Texans gay and straight, *Giant* — the film — has always been a unifying experience. Covering more than 30 years in the lives of old-school wildcatters, it has fame, fortune and failure; love, requited and un-; boom and bust; death and intrigue; big parties, sweeping landscapes and drunken oilmen. There's even a gusher scene that forever created the myth of the "big strike." That's a lot to be proud of. *Giant* was Dallas before anyone heard of J.R. Ewing.

The movie, at least.

Today, the book doesn't enjoy anything near the reputation of the film, even though author Edna Ferber was one of the most popular novelists of her day. Like Booth Tarkington and Pearl Buck, audiences and critics acclaimed Ferber's work in the first half of the last century, but her works simply haven't endured as literature. Though maybe they should have.

"I intentionally did not read the book [before seeing a reading of *Giant*] so I could go in without any preconceived notions," says Michael Greif, the Tony-nominated director helming the massive new production. "After that, and the real excitement about moving forward with the show, I finally read the novel. It was an unbelievable treat — just a great read."

In fact, in adapting the story to the stage, LaChiusa and librettist Sybille Pearson made the decision to follow the book, not the movie. That's a daring move for a million-dollar-plus musical set to make its official world premiere in Texas.

"It's a remarkable book that captures the beauty and sometimes cruelty of this great state," says LaChiusa about that decision. "It spoke to me — the story of a marriage over the course of 25 years, and the oil [culture] and Mexican immigrants and who owned the land. I realize the iconic nature of the movie, but if people are gonna come to see the show and expect 10,000 heads of cattle [onstage], they aren't gonna get that."

Which itself raised an issue: How do you take a book (or a movie) with a name like *Giant*,



MAJOR PROPS | After almost five years, all the elements of the musical adaptation of 'Giant' have come together, from the final orchestrations of composer Michael John LaChiusa, pictured, to the massive set, dominated by a huge water tower. (Photos courtesy Karen Almond)



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Marriage bills to be debated in Wash. state

Public hearings on House, Senate measures set for Monday

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

OLYMPIA, Wash. — A bill to legalize same-sex marriage has been filed in the Washington House as a companion bill to the measure filed last week in the Senate.

The House bill, requested by Democratic Gov. Chris Gregoire, is sponsored by Democratic Rep. Jamie Pedersen, of Seattle.

The House version of the legislation, which was filed late last week and officially introduced Tuesday, Jan. 17 has 49 Democrats signing on in support and one Republican. Democrats hold a 56-43 majority in the House, and the gay marriage measure already has enough support to pass that chamber.

The Senate is still short of the 25 votes needed for passage there. Sen. Ed Murray is the sponsor of the Senate bill, and 22 other senators, including two Republicans, have signed on in support.

Both the House and Senate will have public hearings on the bills on Monday, Jan. 23.

Zach Silk, campaign manager for Washington United for Marriage, said in a statement on Friday, Jan. 13 that the House bill represented “the next step towards making the promise of equality a reality in Washington State.”

“The introduction of this bill not only recognizes the value that lesbian and gay families in Washington make to our united community, but also upholds the longstanding tradition of the separation of church and state in this country,” Silk said. “Marriage is about dignity, commitment, love and respect — it is the ultimate expression of a pro-family society. The foundation of marriage helps us build stable families, and now is the time to recognize the importance of treating all families in Washington State equally.”

Washington state has had a domestic partnership law since 2007. An “everything but marriage” bill was passed in 2009, greatly expanding that law. Opponents later challenged it at the ballot box, but voters upheld the law. Nearly 19,000 people in Washington are registered as domestic partners.

Under the bills being considered by the Legislature, people currently registered in domestic partnerships would have two years to either dis-



BACKING EQUALITY | Gov. Chris Gregoire speaks at a news conference where she said that she wants Washington to become the seventh state in the nation to make same-sex marriage legal, on Jan. 4 in Olympia. (Associated Press)

out of fear they could lose certain pension or Social Security benefits.


At this time, six states plus the District of Columbia recognize marriage for same-sex couples under state law: Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. Nine states — California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington — provide same-sex couples with access to the state level benefits and responsibilities of marriage, through either civil unions or domestic partnerships. Same-sex couples do not receive federal rights and benefits in any state.

The anti-gay National Organization for Marriage (NOM) has pledged \$250,000 to work against Republicans who vote for a proposed gay marriage law in Washington state.

“It’s fairly incredible that some legislators would try to legalize homosexual marriage so soon after giving same-sex couples all the rights and privileges of marriage through domestic partnerships,” said NOM President Brian Brown in a statement. “This effort proves that the question is not one of rights but preserving marriage as a child-focused institution that has served families since the dawn of time.”

solve their relationship or get married. Domestic partnerships that aren’t ended prior to June 30, 2014, would automatically become marriages.


Domestic partnerships would remain for senior couples in which at least one partner is 62 years old or older. That provision was included by lawmakers in 2007 to help seniors who don’t remarry



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Hilger is the training and marketing consultant for the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Tarrant County. She provides quarterly education and writes a monthly email column about issues, programs, resources, and community and regional events.

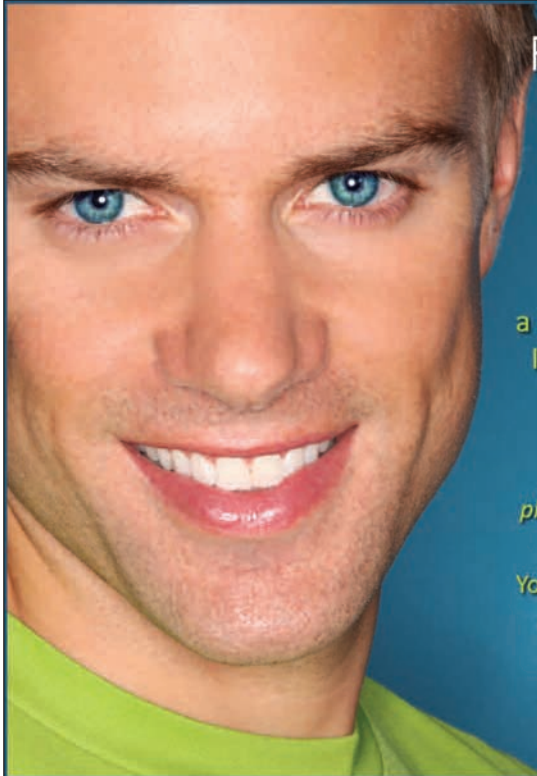
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From loving 'the sinner' to loving your sister

Evangelist Jay Lowder of Wichita Falls makes waves by preaching acceptance of gays

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

WICHITA FALLS — Jay Lowder believes that no matter what, you should love and accept people. He calls the idea of loving the sinner and hating the sin hypocritical.

Lowder is an unlikely person to have those views. He is president and founder of Jay Lowder Harvest Ministries Evangelistic Association based in Wichita Falls and is married with three children.

Lowder knows his views — recently featured on ABC News — are out of the mainstream of evangelicals.

"I take some heat for it, and I really don't care," he said.

When he was 18, he said he got a call from a friend.

"Hey, Jay, there's something you need to know," Lowder said the caller told him. "You're

■ **LOVING**, Page 16



ACCEPTING NOT JUDGING | Jay Lowder has gotten a lot of heat for his position that people should worry about their own sins rather than the sins of others. (Photo courtesy Jay Lowder Harvest Ministries)

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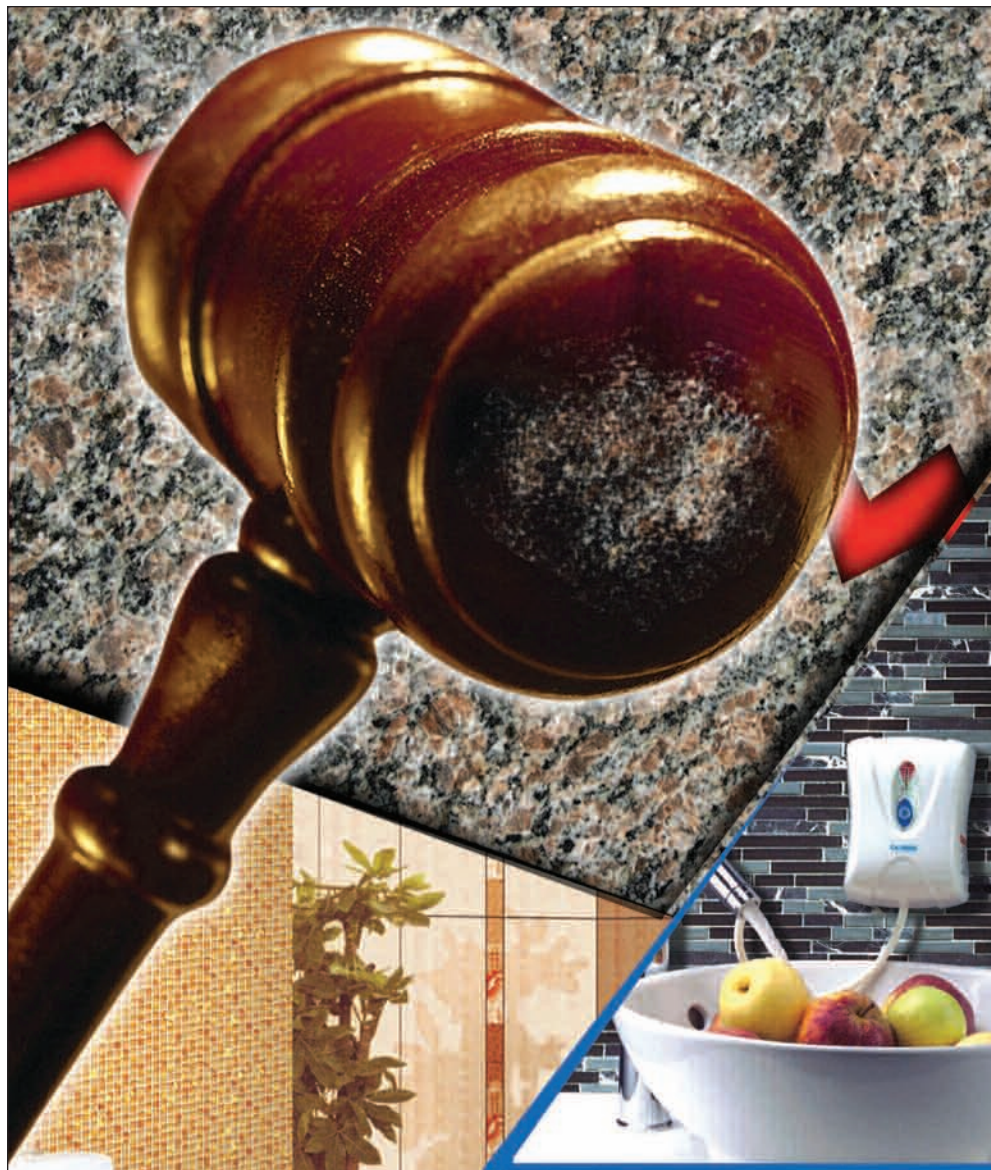
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From Page 15

sister's gay."

He said that news was devastating for someone raised as he was.

Soon after receiving the news, he was driving. He said he saw his sister headed in the other direction. He made a U-turn and caught up with her.

"Harsh words were spoken," he said. "I told her she was selfish and I hated her."

She told him it was her life, and their relationship was severed.

"I became a Christian at 21," Lowder said. "The moment I became a Christian, I no longer hated her."

But his acceptance of his sister wasn't qualified by the "love the sinner" philosophy common among fellow evangelicals.

He told her he was a Christian, that he had never accepted Christ before and was sorry about the way he acted toward her. He admitted he had been judgmental and rude.

"I wanted to be close," he said. "I loved her."

Lowder said Jesus didn't denigrate people. He said Jesus didn't say to Mary Magdalene, "You're a whore."

"He made her heart the issue," Lowder said.

In describing himself as an evangelist, he called it "the height of insanity" to be driving people away from Christ.

"The purpose of what I do is not to alienate people," he said. "It's to know and have a relationship with Christ."

He still holds his convictions, he said, but there's a way to approach people. People who cling to the "love the sinner, hate the sin" line use colloquialisms that sound spiritual, he said — but they use them to hate people.

But he said that Jesus taught, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." So rather than focus on other people's sins, he said, religious people should focus on their own sins.

"Pull the speck out of your own eye before you pull it out of anyone else's," he said. "If I tell a lie to my wife, that's a sin. Breaking a commandment is breaking a commandment."

He believes the commandments regarding homosexuality are no more or less important than



Jay Lowder

any others. And he believes there's a line between trying to rectify a situation and pointing fingers.

"I could go to a heroine addiction clinic and tell them not to do it," he said. "But I've never struggled with it."

He used the blunt analogy but then makes it clear he doesn't think his sister has some sort of addiction. He just wants to make it clear that he's not going to be judgmental.

He said that a Christian's primary responsibility is to love other people.

"Don't go around bragging about loving God if you don't love other people," he said.

Which brings him back to talking about his sister who lives in Dallas.

Last Thanksgiving, he said that she came to Wichita Falls for Thanksgiving, for the first time in at least 15 years. He said the family reunion was such a happy event that they begged her to come back to spend Christmas with them. "My sister was back," he said. "My dad was at the kitchen table, and that was the first time I saw him cry."

Today, he only describes his sister in glowing terms.

"You won't find a better person in the city of Dallas than my sister," he said.

And he said their relationship remains close.

"If something happened to her, I'd be the first one she'd call," he said. ■

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A disgraced Perry returns to Texas

Governor finally bows out of GOP race, but only after making mockery of himself and our state

After months of holding their breaths in dread of what Rick Perry might do or say next on the national stage, Texans are now witnessing the ignominious return of their governor to the state.

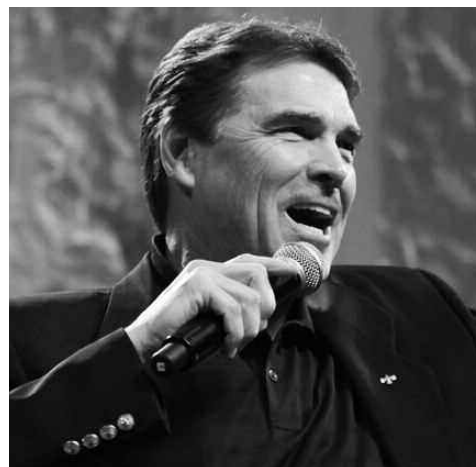
Everyone knew Perry would eventually be on his way back, but clarity suddenly and inexplicably has also come to the befuddled candidate earlier than expected. Just two days before the South Carolina primary Perry announced Thursday, Jan. 19 at a press conference he was finally giving up his fruitless bid for the presidency. "There is no viable path forward for me in the 2012 campaign," he said to a national audience that undoubtedly chanted back to the television screen, "It's about time!"

When Perry gets back to the \$10,000-per-month rented house afforded him by state taxpayers, he will be regarded by most Texans in a vastly different light from when he left after announcing his presidential political ambitions in August. Once the pride and joy of conservatives here, Perry had fallen to third in his home state behind Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich, according to Public Policy Polling, a Democratic group that polled 559 Texas Republican primary voters Jan. 12-15.

The same poll results suggest that for once Republicans and Democrats agree strongly on something — Perry has fractured the state's image with a multitude of missteps and misstatements that often bordered on the surreal. Of Republican voters 39 percent said they viewed Perry's candidacy as having cast the state in a negative light, in comparison to 13 percent that viewed it as a positive, according to the poll.

In contrast Texas Congressman Ron Paul, whose libertarian philosophy led to his being pegged as a "fringe" candidate by the media, fared much better than Perry. Only 28 percent of Republican voters said Paul's candidacy has hurt the state's image, while 19 percent said it was an enhancement.

As a practical matter, the poll results only confirm what had already become obvious to many people who were accustomed to hearing strong support for Perry during casual political debates. The most ardent of former Perry supporters ap-



Gov. Rick Perry

parently are too embarrassed to speak up for him anymore. Many people clearly are wondering how Perry's inability to think and talk at the same time had gone undetected for so long before God told him to run for president.

Even prominent gay Dallas Republican Rob Schlein — who vowed early on he would vote for Perry if he was the Republican nominee for president regardless of the governor's legendary anti-gay rhetoric — took to bashing Perry on Facebook because of the candidate's poor performances. The loss of support from Schlein — who recently vowed he would vote for the ultra-conservative Rick Santorum if he becomes the nominee — illustrates just how far Perry's political fortunes have sunk.

To make the situation even more annoying, Perry's candidacy has cost Texas taxpayers quite a bit of money for his protection while on the campaign trail. Security costs for Perry incurred by the Texas Department of Public Safety amounted to about \$400,000 per month, according to a Texas Tribune examination of the agency's records.

The financial analysis would suggest that Perry's decision to continue on with his presidential campaign after coming in fifth place in the Iowa caucus cost Texans another needless several hundred thousand dollars in security costs. His resolve to proceed in New Hampshire and South Carolina after strongly hinting following the Iowa thrashing that he was about to give up and head home left many Texans bewildered.

In Perry's campaign speeches he pointed toward the South Carolina primary as the deal-breaker for him if he could not get the state's conservative religious voters behind him. Presumably it finally dawned on Perry that he was in store for another humiliating failure, seeing as how he was in last place in the polls with only about 6 percent supporting him, after the conservative religious establishment decided in a meeting in Texas last weekend to throw its support behind Rick Santorum.

In making the announcement he would drop

out of the race and that he would endorse Newt Gingrich, Perry said, "I know when it is time to make a strategic retreat." That was a statement that many will likely view as humorous, given the governor's apparent long delay in coming to that realization.

In fairness to the governor, it's no doubt a difficult task for a political candidate who has never before lost an election to return home in disgrace. It doesn't help matters much that while Perry was on the campaign trail a gay former Texas legislator, Glen Maxey, published a book with anonymous sources claiming the governor is a closeted hypocrite who engaged in a past secret homosexual life. The governor's campaign denounced the book as a pack of lies, but the publication of a book expanding on the rumors that have plagued him for six years must at the very least be frustrating — even if they possibly did happen to be true.

As the longest-serving governor in Texas history with 11 years under his cowboy buckle belt, Perry destroyed his reputation as a strong governor on the presidential campaign trail. He went from double-digit frontrunner status ahead of Mitt Romney — the likely nominee barring a new surge by one of the other three candidates in the up-and-down race — to last place.

Ever the optimist, Perry declared with his wife and son by his side that he wasn't disenchanted and he wasn't discouraged to be packing up and heading home. He declared that he felt rewarded for having followed the "calling" to run for president. "And this I know, I'm not done fighting for the cause of conservatism," Perry said. "As a matter of fact, I have just begun to fight."

It appeared that at the end of the announcement Perry was again drifting off into that mindset that got him into the race in the first place. It was unclear where Perry planned to wage that fight now that his campaign is over, but he assured viewers, "Things are going to be good no matter what I do."

Maybe he was referring to the luxury in which he and wife Anita undoubtedly will be living for the rest of their lives, because it's not likely to be a continuation of his successful political career. Or maybe he is hoping for some sort of political appointment or an opportunity from the business leaders he has courted as governor.

One thing is for sure, the "God and Country," Bible-thumping proclamations that kept winning Perry re-elections to the governor's office failed him on the national stage for president, and it's a pretty good bet that it will never again serve him quite as well in Texas politics. And it's a good thing for the governor that he became wealthy as a career office-holder because his political eulogy is now being drafted by pundits nationwide. ■

David Webb is a veteran journalist who has reported on LGBT issues for the mainstream and alternative media for three decades. Email him at davidwaynewebb@hotmail.com.



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

Houston pastor Joel Osteen and feel-good homophobia

Lakewood Church leader part of new breed who couch anti-gay teachings in forgiveness, love

When the Michele Bachmanns or Glenn Beck's of the world do their public rants about rampant homosexual perversion and the decay of American values, I'm happy to let them talk.

As painful as it is to keep the free flow of ideas going, it is important to let people fly their colors. This way you know where they stand and you get to fly your own big neon flag in response. When activists called to have the Mormon church's tax-exempt status yanked for its role in California's Prop 8, I took the church's side — not because I approved of their bully tactics, but because I didn't want to see other churches lose their right to fight for us one day.

So you'd think I'd be OK with Houston megachurch pastor Joel Osteen's recent remarks recently to Oprah Winfrey: "I believe that homosexuality is shown as a sin in the scripture. I do."



Joel Osteen

I'm so not OK with this I almost foam at the mouth whenever I think about that nuclear white Osteen smile.

True, Osteen was just sick about having to say that we're sinners, and almost apologized for it. He went out of his way to opine that Christians make too big a deal about homosexuality and that it's about as sinful as being prideful or fibbing. I'm glad that my marriage

only offends God somewhat.

I've heard that Osteen has a big gay following, and I know one of those fans well. Once I emailed him to report that Osteen called homo-

sexuality "not God's best" on Larry King. My friend wrote back, "Well, nobody's perfect. You take what's good and leave the rest." He continues to be inspired.

This all sounds reasonable, and you could argue that my friend was reminding me of my own professed philosophy about free speech and religion. And yet I shrieked out loud when I read his email.

The reason Fox News gets a pass but Osteen has incurred my wrath is because his message is so insidious. It's feel-good homophobia, so couched in God-loves-you talk that Osteen avoids all responsibility for the fact that real people take his words to heart. Not everyone can "leave the rest" as my friend does.

Whenever Osteen answers the question about homosexuality he hems and haws, but always comes to the apparently painful conclusion that the Bible is unambiguous about it. He's quick to add that he does love gay people, welcomes them in his church, doesn't judge, that there are worse things to be, etc. The message that it's still a sin to be gay gets quickly obscured by smiley

faces and glitter glue for hope.

Curiously, Osteen is rarely willing to take a stand on any other issues. He's gotten criticized by the religious right for staying out of politics and being unwilling to talk about sin as much as he talks about positivity. It's all about being "the best you can be" — God's plan for you. When Mike Wallace asked Osteen if he thought Mormons were true Christians, he humbly responded, "I haven't



Abby Dees
Thinking Out Loud

really studied them or thought about them...I just try to let God be the judge of that. I mean, I don't know" and "I'm not one to judge the little details of it."

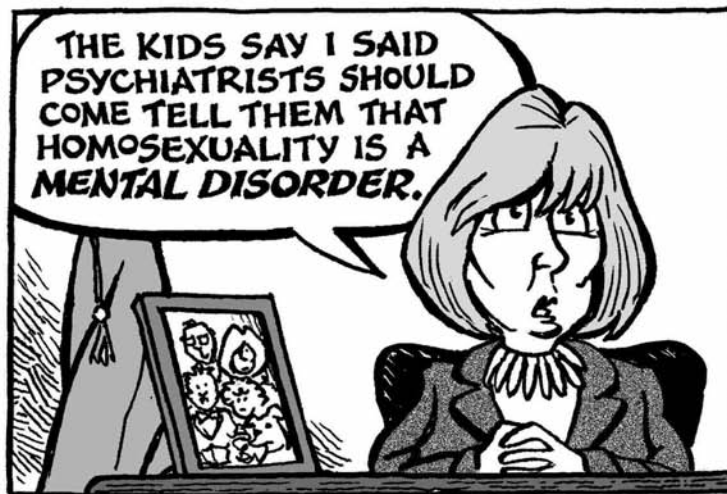
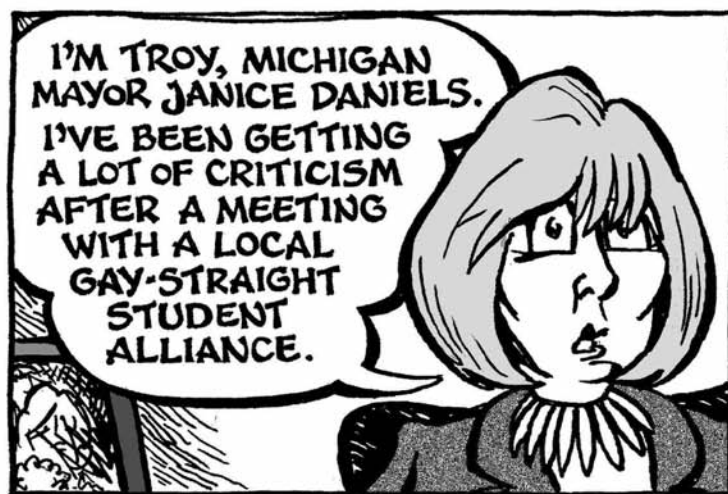
Hmm. Why so vague about the folks who have an entirely different set

of scriptures, but so damned clear on the disappointing truth about homosexuality? Perhaps some serious re-examination is in order.

Another pastor whose language and selective choice of issues is spookily similar to Osteen's is the purpose-driven Rick Warren. Also a proclaimed political abstainer, he encouraged his flock to vote against same-sex marriage and has disturbing ties to the recent wave of anti-gay policies in Africa. Warren still insists that he loves gay people and works closely with "a number of gay organizations," though no one ever asks which ones. These men are entitled to their opinions, but it's time to call out the hypocrisy of this new breed of influential pastors who want us all to bathe in the light of God's forgiving love. Except that LGBT people must still deny how God made them if they want "God's best" for themselves.

California-based writer Abby Dees is the author of 'Queer Questions Straight Talk.' She can be contacted through her website QueerQuestionsStraightTalk.com

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RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

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- Higher turnout: 9 percent
- Lower turnout: 50 percent
- No affect: 41 percent

76 Votes cast

SIZE does matter

LIFE+STYLE

fashion

Dallas graphic designer John March turned his eye toward apparel with Big Ol' Boy, his clothing line for bearish gents

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

When John March wants something done right, he does it himself — or rather, if he wants it to *fit* right, he makes it himself.

March was frustrated that comfortable clothing options for him and his bear friends were limited and hardly any fun stylewise. Most men would just, ummm, grin and bear it, but not March: With a few ideas and determination, he set out to create a line that offered quality clothes with some winks along the way.

"Bears, muscled guys and bigger men tend to be an underserved market when it comes to clothing," March says. "Part of my marketing theory was to start with bears because I think of myself as a member of the community and I think I have an idea of what they like."

A graphic designer by trade, March didn't see much out there that was all that appealing from a design standpoint. At big and tall shops, apparel for larger men was either of poor quality, way overpriced or both. In essence, bigger men were sort of held hostage by not having anyone willing to make stylish clothes that fit.

That was the genesis of Big Ol' Boy.

With some humor and a stockpile of sketches, last spring March started his online store of shirts and caps that cater to big guys. Ever since, he's been making an impression in the community and beyond.

"We've had lots of women calling orders in for their own big boys," March says. "There are companies out there that cater to bears, but it's just sort of generic. I think we've seen that people embrace the idea of a brand and by creating an overall brand geared toward bears and big men, then they might appreciate the fact someone is thinking about them."

Currently, March's line is composed of short- and long-sleeved tees with whimsical designs.

LOVE THIS T

Making activism fashionable, Revenge Is has created the "All Love Is Equal" tee (also a tank). Made of eco-friendly materials, the line means to spread the gay-friendly message that all people should have the right to marry ... and look hot while saying it. Five percent of net sales benefit Marriage Equality USA.
RevengeIs.com.



Sport graphics and slogans such as "Big Ol' Jock" with a jockstrap image or "Big Ol' Biker Boy" that takes a spin off the Harley-Davidson logo have proved popular with his gay following. But his biggest seller is a Tabasco-like label with "Hot Stuff Spicy & Saucy" sprawled across it. You'd almost think he'd get sued for copyright infringement.

"Fortunately, I know enough about trademark and copyright laws to do this," he says. "But I did check with my lawyer. The difference is that I'm using this as parody and not on a competing product. But I wanted to use images that are rooted deep in our sensibilities like the logo or constellations for the Ursa Major shirt."

Of course, March targeted what he knew, and teamed up with the guys of BearDance and the Dallas Bears for this year's Texas Bear Round Up. It was obvious but also a stroke of genius.

"The feedback has been great," he beams. "We did sell some at the TBRU vendor market and we did well with the BearDance events. I plan to work with them in the future."

March recently added to the Big Ol' Boy with a new line of polos — his first addition to the brand. With more than 300 design concepts in his catalog, he expects to introduce a new graphic tee on a consistent basis.

"With the polos, guys can wear them to work," he says. "We have other ideas for items beyond that even. With each new item, we want to grow to a point to offer a wide range of items, build a community of loyal customers and listen to what they want."

Although he wouldn't consider himself a fashion designer, he does include himself as a client, which helps in creating his looks. With a group of friends as his sounding board, he would say that Big Ol' Boy very much reflects his sensibility — even if he is more a preppy than a T-shirt guy.

This being his first business venture, March had to learn fast. Whether it was translating graphic art onto fabric or learning the benefits of ringspun cotton, he's found his groove.

"I would like people to discover this sort of organically," he says. "Maybe they'll see the shirt on somebody or run across it online. Sure I may not be much of a T-shirt person, but now I get to make my own and I've never seen one I didn't like!"

To see the collection, visit BigOlBoy.com.



THE ORIGINAL BIG OL' BOY
March, left, was tired of having no fashionable choices in large-sized clothes; his line of tees and caps have given bigger men a reason to shop.
(Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier

Through February 12

DallasMuseumofArt.org

The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk is organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in collaboration with the Maison Jean Paul Gaultier.



The exhibition in Dallas is presented by Cadillac. Additional support is provided by the DMA's Junior Associates Circle with funds raised through An Affair of the Art 2011: *Maison de la Mode: House of Fashion*; NorthPark Center, Forty Five Ten; BBVA Compass; Beauté Prestige International; and Roche Bobois. Air transportation in Dallas is provided by American Airlines. Promotional support provided by Catwalk by TIGI.

Maison de la Mode  NORTH PARK  CATWALK

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors and by the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Image (detail): Jean Paul Gaultier, *Punk Cancan* collection, cancan-style ruched tulle strapless dress with "whirl of legs" lining, haute couture spring/summer 2011, photograph © Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier



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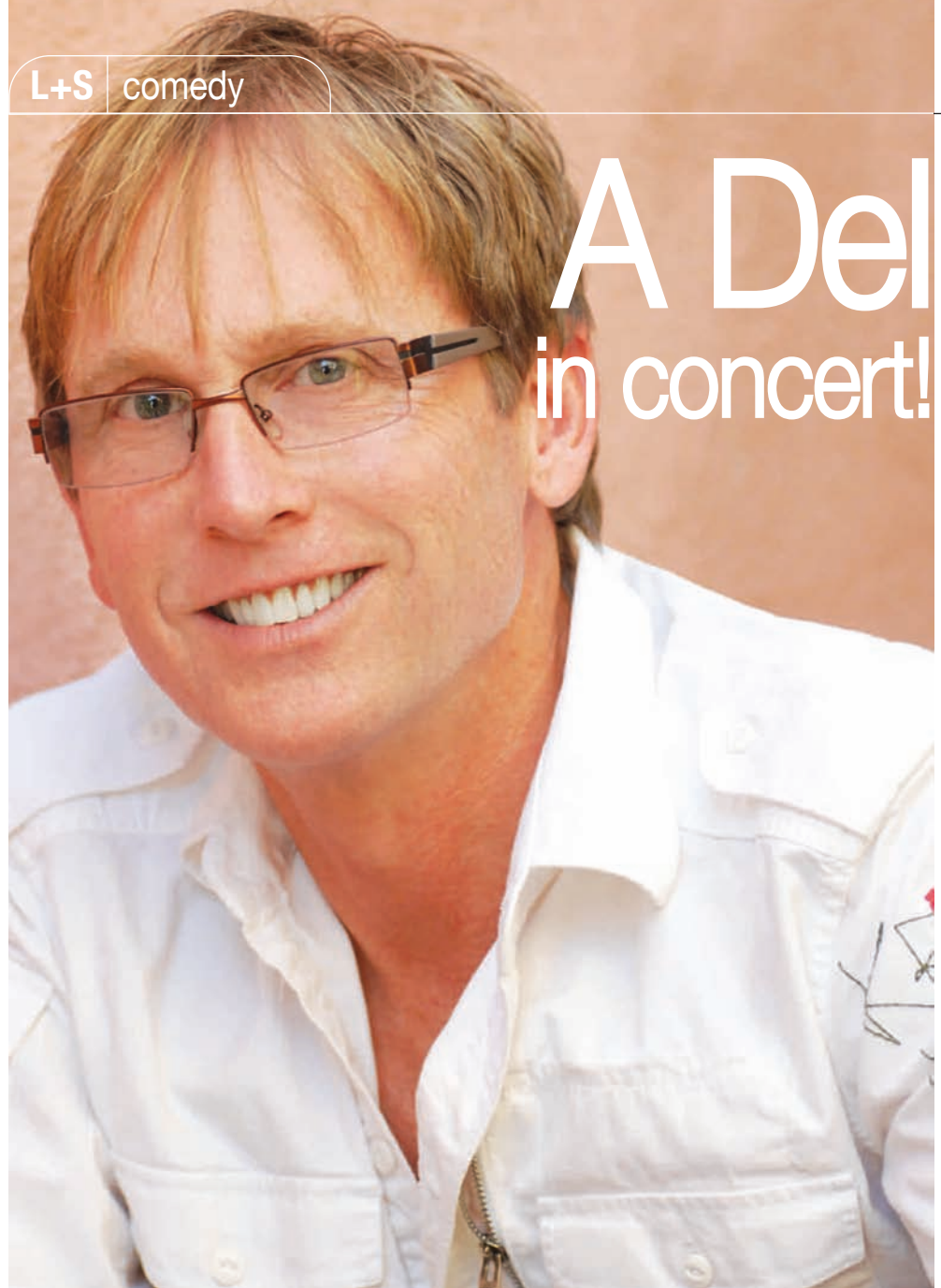
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L+S comedy



A Del in concert!

(And he won't cancel!) Shores returns to his native Texas bruised but busy

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Already, 2012 looks to be a busy year for Del Shores. That wasn't among his New Year's resolutions, but it has ended up being a blessing for him right now. Having something to do distracts him from those empty moments. After separating less than two months ago from his partner of almost 10 years, singer/actor Jason Dottley, spending quiet times alone was the last thing Shores wanted.

"With something this tragic, I have to stay busy," he says. "This is a huge tragedy in my life. The depression comes in so I'm taking care of myself by writing or preparing other works. Just keeping occupied is so important. I couldn't survive otherwise."

As irony would have it, 2012 could end up being Shores' biggest year yet. The Winters, Texas, native kicks it off in the Rose Room with a standup performance Jan. 27. For this show, he specifically returned to Dallas to film his per-

formance for an upcoming DVD release. And for good reason: He feels the love here.

"I'd rather just go to Dallas," he says. "I have the hugest fan base there and I should go back to the city that loves me the most to film the show. I love it so much."

Just a year ago, Shores started a new phase of his career by adding "standup comedian" to his resume with a performance of his new act, *Sordid Confessions*, at the Rose Room. In fact, he's less a comic than whip-smart storyteller, but he acknowledges that audiences who saw him last year should expect new stuff this time.

Does that mean he's adding some of his recent personal drama to the bit? Not just yet.

"I haven't yet put anything about it in my show," he admits. "I can't pretend that the elephant isn't in the room, but I don't plan to disrespect what we had ... not yet at least!"

The closest he plans to get right now is recit-

NATIVE SHORES | Winters provided the backdrop for Del Shores' comedy, but his Hollywood connections include directing Oscar hopeful Octavia Spencer in her next film role. (Photo courtesy Alan Mercer)

ing some letters of support he received after he announced his divorce publicly last November. They were genuinely heartfelt, but hilarious enough to add to the show.

Shores is also writing the screen adaptation of his play *Yellow*, and is completing a new play about four women called *This Side of Crazy*. He's also collaborating with his *Sordid Lives* star (and long-standing best friend) Leslie Jordan on the mockumentary *The Happy Hullisters*, about a gospel family hanging onto their last shred of fame. The plan is to begin shooting it in Dallas starting in June; Tony Award-winner Levi Kreiss and comedian Caroline Rhea (who MC'd this year's Dallas Black Tie Dinner) attached to the project.

"I'm getting my acting company back together for this. And I'll be in the *Hullisters!*" Shores beams. "I am embracing the actor in me. I'm still in negotiations to do one more *Sordid Lives* film that would be a sequel to the movie, but a prequel to the series. And I'm hoping to open [the play] *Yellow* in Dallas as well. Maybe I'll be busy for the next two years!"

Shores is also in post-production of his play-turned-movie *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife* starring newly-minted Golden Globe winner and likely Oscar nominee Octavia Spencer. Spencer is reprising her role she originated onstage for the play as LaSonia (pronounced "lasagna") Robinson. Shores admits that if she wins an Oscar it could help his movie, but he was already suitably moved by her Globes win.

"This couldn't have happened to a better person," he says. "When she won, my daughter and I were sobbing like Mexican women at a funeral."

When Shores posted a note on his Facebook page last November (it began, "It saddens me to inform you that Jason Dottley and I are divorcing"), the obvious question among his friends was, "What

happened?" But even Shores doesn't quite seem sure. Soon after his announcement, Shores received notes of support, but also some not so friendly. That added to the shock of his marriage ending. (Dottley was contacted for this piece but declined to comment.)

"We were this couple held up to the light as an example of gay marriage in a working relationship," he says. "I had no idea this was coming. My marriage ended, just like straight people. I had to start a process of healing."

But were there no signs, no inkling of what was to happen? Shores searches for the words, but stammers as he decides whether to answer and what to say. And then finally:

"Let me put it this way," he begins, "I've been working in the entertainment business for a really long time, I get a lot of actor-auditions. For some, I come up with reasons I don't cast certain ones, but the bottom line is, 'I don't want you to play this role.' And so no matter what was said or the reasons behind it, the bottom line was Jason said, 'I don't want to be married to you anymore.' And there was no negotiation on any level."

For a moment, he pauses. That inevitable lump jumps into his throat and one of Texas' funniest funnymen all of a sudden isn't laughing.

"There is never a great day," he admits, choking up. "There are partial good days but good days ... not yet. It happens."

Creative types have the luxury of turning pain into their art and it's easy to imagine Del Shores turning this pain into a comic masterpiece. He insists he'll heal and move on. Eventually. Born gay into a Southern Baptist family in Texas, life hasn't always been the easiest. And at the very least, he may take the advice of one fan, a straight woman, who wrote him.

"She told me there was one thing good about a breakup," he says, "New dick!"
Badum-bum.

SORDID CONFESSIONS

The Rose Room inside Station 4,
3911 Cedar Springs Road. Jan. 27
at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$10-\$30.
DelShores.tix.com. 800-595-4TIX.

TASTING NOTES: Central 214 gets a makeover

There's more than coffee brewing over at **Central 214**, the schmancy restaurant inside Kimpton's **Hotel Palomar** and a frequent hang for the gay crowd.

Last fall, longtime exec chef **Blythe Beck** left unexpectedly. She was replaced last month with **Graham Dodds**, pictured, formerly of Oak Cliff's popular **Bolsa**. Word came this week both of Dodds' new menu and that the restaurant will undergo some other major changes this spring — though we don't know what those are, other than Dodds calling them a "face-lift ... that will marry the food and dining atmosphere."

We *do* know that Dodds will be incorporating some of his Bolsa ideas into the new concept: Local farm suppliers, seasonal updates and drawing his inspiration from the availability of fresh ingredients. And it also looks to be a total makeover: Starters, entrees, desserts ... even the bar menu. Among the additions: "Popcorn" sweetbreads (as an app!), blue cheese terrine and pear with honeycomb, crisp (!) gnocchi with the oxtail ragout, paprika-honey glazed lamb *breast* (interesting) with cannellini beans and a chocolate-cranberry pavlova.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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■ BIG, From Page 12

renowned for its scope and ambition, and put it within the confines of a stage?

Certainly its length — at least initially — echoed its title. When LaChiusa first accepted the commission more than three years ago, the production originally mounted in Northern Virginia clocked in at close to five hours — even *Hamlet* has more down time.

"We've shortened it vastly," LaChiusa says. "When I first dove into it, we went in without any restrictions. After that, we thought we wanted it to have a future life — a four-and-a-half hour musical with two intermissions appeals only to a certain audience who have time to invest in that."

It now runs closer to three hours (a 90-minute first act and 75-minute second act, plus just one 20-minute intermission), but LaChiusa doesn't think it has suffered any loss. Rather, he says it has been streamlined in terms of story and music. "It still maintains its epic nature and the sprawl is still intact," he promises.

For actor Miguel Cervantes, in fact — who plays Angel (the Sal Mineo role for the film) and his father — the changes over the course of the nearly five years he has been associated with *Giant* have felt organic.

"Five or 10 of us have been with it from the beginning and we just look at each other thinking, 'Wow, it's incredible how this thing has changed,'" he says. "But I have the same lines basically since the beginning — well, there was another verse in some of the songs but my arc has stayed pretty much the same."

Cervantes, a Dallas native who has worked in New York for about a decade, was not familiar at all with *Giant* — the book or the film — until the

first audition for a workshop of *Giant* before it opened in Virginia (he was not in that actual production due to another commitment). It wasn't until last week, however, that he's heard the music with full orchestra, which will no doubt really impact his perception.

"Michael John has always talked about what an enormous part the music has to play," Cervantes says. "You can't put this huge sweeping land onstage so you have to do it through the music, and I've never really heard it! I can only imagine how it's gonna change then."

That's one thing everyone seems to be in agreement on.

"The difference between a stage musical and a movie is that in theater, the [movie] close up is the song," LaChiusa says. "The song provides the internal life of what the characters are expressing."

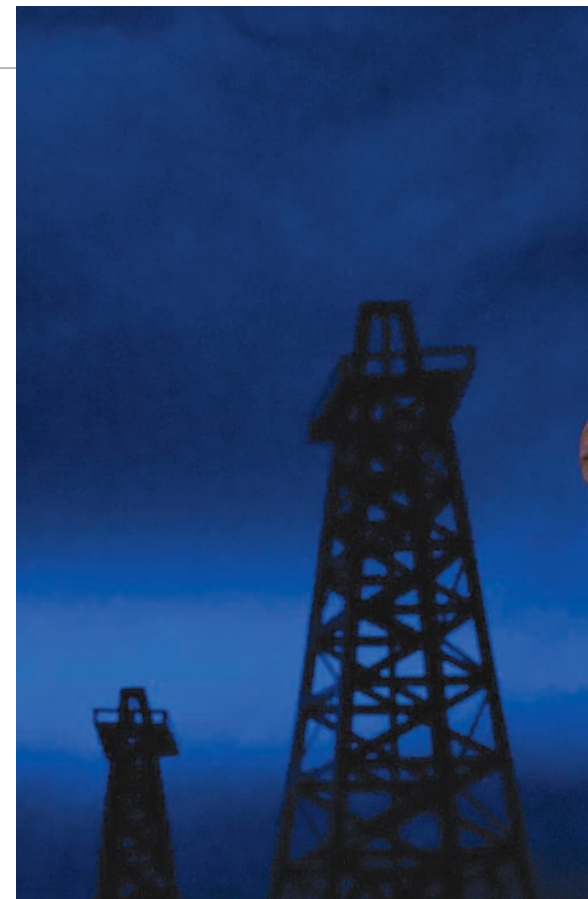
In the case of *Giant*, though, it has to convey the vastness of Texas itself as well.

"Through the score, I can evoke that sky and the plains as well as the internal life of those people," LaChiusa says.

"I think the grandeur is taken care of a lot by the incredible score," adds Greif. He knows something about incredible scores: He directed the original Broadway productions of *Rent* and *Next to Normal*. LaChiusa "has written a spectacularly epic score that is about enormous emotions and expressions. It really takes care of that."

As a director, it was when Greif started working with the designers that he knew he'd need to bring sweep as well. A huge water tower makes up a major set piece, and backdrops convey the breadth of the land. But ultimately, it's the music that sells it.

"As an audience, we understand the epic nature and the importance of the land not from a visual depiction of it but through the characters' perspective: The size of that struggle and the size is appropriate to that epic scale. This really feels like a great classic American musical — it really



TWO GENERATIONS | 'Giant' is so sweeping, Dallas native Miguel Cervantes plays two characters — a man and his own son — in the musical. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)



THE ORIGINAL J.R. EWING? | Broadway veteran Aaron Lazar plays Bick, a budding land baron and oil tycoon, in DTC's 'Giant' musical, which is in previews until its world premiere official opening Jan. 27. (Photos courtesy Karen Almond)

is in that canon," says Greif.

But will Dallas audiences be convinced about the story's essential Texas character? It's a concern for many involved.

"I've always known we were coming here to open this," says Aaron Lazar, a Broadway veteran who plays Bick (the Rock Hudson role). "When I did *Light in the Piazza*, I knew that if Italians come and see the show and don't think I am Italian I'm not doing my job. So there was certainly an awareness on my part that we step it up and tell this amazing Texas story."

Although they only got to town after the new year, Lazar says many of the cast have already sought out "a real Texas experience while we're here."

It's the music, though, upon which the success of the show will likely hinge.

"Michael John is a genius and I don't throw that word around lightly," says Lazar. "There are very few people who can do what he does and this score is one of his absolute best. I'm so excited for him."

LaChiusa himself is understandably more trepidatious.

"I can definitely say I'm nervous because it is such a story Texans take to heart. And I'm prepared to face that trial by fire from audience and the likes of you," he jokes.

Still, he's had plenty of time to prepare over these many years. But significantly, it all comes down to opening night.

The *Giant* Dallas audiences will see is very different from the one that started three years ago, but also different from what it was just three

months ago. The process of mounting a show always poses its own challenges.

"Because we have actors and staging, those are all creative people who add their own element to the stew," LaChiusa says. "If you can tell something with a gesture or bit of lighting, we can take away [a line or a lyric] or change the key to fit an actor's voice better. You tailor the show for those things."

Especially when you have actors of the caliber of Dee Hoty, a three-time Tony Award nominee at home in the American Southwest: She originated Betty Blake in *The Will Rogers Follies* and had the lead in the ill-received *The Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public*. She was especially aware that Texas audiences would be looking for authenticity.

"Because of this iconic movie, I wanted to look at [*Giant*] but didn't want to look at it too soon. The first thing I did was read the book, which was pretty spectacular. I got a sense for how huge it all really was. My character [played by Mercedes McCambridge in the film] is kind of an enigma: She's the boss, but she's not. She's older and a maternal figure, but not [Bick's] mother. It's probably the most different role I've ever played from me — she is so contained. I am not in my comfort zone for this one," she says.

Time for worrying is pretty much over now. After about a week of previews, the official opening night is Jan. 27, and everyone will see how the years of work have paid off, and if the scrappy Wyly Theatre can convey the hugeness of *Giant*. But LaChiusa is sure of at least one thing that will leave bigger than it started: Him.

"You have such good barbecue here," he says. "I'm gonna gain like 10 pounds." ■

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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What's it like to, in one week, clock time on both major coasts in America's two largest cities? For New York in winter, it's all about theater; in Hollywood, it's about the movies (and the weather, a welcome break from the cold). And both have great places to eat.

First up: NYC. This time of year, the wind bites through you there, so a trip has to be based on the theater season, which is at its midpoint. Some of the hits have become apparent and new ones promise something great in the spring.

Follies isn't the not-to-miss Sondheim experience that *A Little Night Music* was last year — at least after Bernadette Peters took over for Catherine Zeta-Jones — but it *is* all Bernadette, without replacement — though she shares the limelight with Jan Maxwell, who almost steals the show. Seldom staged because of its huge cast, elaborate costumes and sets, *Follies* is a nostalgic take on the fate of musical theater as viewed from 40 years ago; little has changed.

But it also crystallized Sondheim's peculiar thematic preoccupation *with* nostalgia. See it, and you instantly realize how many of his shows are about the wistful, bittersweet resignation from looking back on one's youth: In *Follies*, the younger selves of the ageing chorus girls; in *Sweeney Todd*, a life lost to a corrupt judge; the rekindling of a long-dead romance in *Night Music*; the simplicity (or not?) of the fairy tale world of *Into the Woods*. This production is a wonderful reminder of that and much more, beautifully performed by an exceptional cast.

Follies closes this weekend; not so Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, which officially opened last week. The quintessential American opera, set along Charleston's Catfish Row, it evokes rural life through the sound of the spiritual mixed with honkytonk abandon. This new production, with the incomparable Audra McDonald in the lead and Dallas' own Cedric Neal among the company, was the only show every employee at the TKTS booth unconditionally recommended ... and for good reason. Get up and see it.

Both of those shows are revivals; original musicals are in short supply this season — at least those with any staying power. *Bonnie & Clyde* and the Dallas-bred *Lysistrata Jones* died quickly (the latter despite a rave in the *New York Times*; still, look for Liz Mikel a possible Tony nominee in May). *Spider-Man: Turn off the Dark* continues to draw crowds in amounts equal to the contempt held by the theater community, but it has been around since 2010 thanks to a record-setting six months of previews.

The big new musicals of the season have yet to open: *Rebecca*, *Once*, *Newsies*, *Ghost* and the pastiche *Nice Work if You Can Get It* (more Gersh-



BERN THE FLOOR | Bernadette Peters returns to B'way for more Sondheim in the smash revival of 'Follies.' (Photo courtesy Joan Marcus)

win). So go up now for some plays, which are significantly less expensive to see and good seats are more readily available.

Another revival, Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*, isn't totally successful, although its tight second act — featuring a tremendously devilish performance by Jim Dale as a sleazy preacher in South Africa trying to trick an old lady into giving up her house — nearly vindicates the logy first act, which prattled on endlessly and without seeming point. By the end, though, you realize the message of faith versus religion versus spirituality, plus you get to see a classic theater actor, Rosemary Harris, onstage right next door to *Spider-Man* (she played Aunt Mae in the film versions — how's that for coincidence?).

The best *new* plays now running should be on any theatergoer's list. *Seminar* is Theresa Rebeck's smart, fast-paced comedy about a pompous but oh-so-perceptive writing teacher instructing four aspiring novelists about how bad they really are ... and how they could be great. As the sardonic anti-hero, the magnificent Alan Rickman commands the stage. At a climactic point, he delivers a monologue that could have seemed trite and mawkish, except that Rebeck's writing is so strong and he's such an accomplished actor it works wonderfully. Hamish Linklater provides a terrific foil, and Lily Rabe, as a tart upper-class dilettante, handles Sam Gold's bullet direction masterfully. No one even



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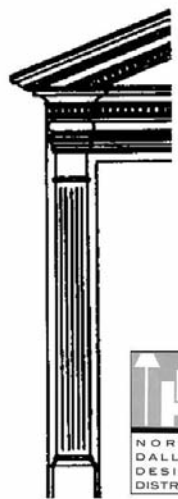


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pauses for the laughs. That's a good way to get audiences back — so they can hear the jokes they missed this first time.

David Henry Hwang returns to Broadway with his best play since the gender-bending *M. Butterfly*. *Chinglish* (which closes Jan. 29) pits a plainspoken Midwesterner against the opaque business customs and complex social rules of China, but the point is broader. The problem of communication is not just between two cultures, but between men and women, and business-folk trying to gain an edge. Intelligently plotted and sharply directed by Leigh Silverman (the use of supertitles projected on the dazzlingly versatile set is inspired), it benefits from a memorable performance by Jennifer Lim as a canny Chinese functionary.

Of course, a theater trip to New York necessarily includes more than theater: You have to eat while you're there, and the tradition of the pre- and post-theater meal is as honored as the show itself. It's easy to get stuck along the stand-bys around Times Square (I always stop by John's Pizzeria), but two newish restaurants — one far uptown, one far down — make for inventive off-the-beaten-path dining experiences.

Public, a Michelin-starred resto in Nolita, boasts something few Midtown restaurants can: space. Inspired by a public high school: Its dining rooms are lined with card catalogues, its security-glass doored bathrooms so authentic you expect to get a swirly, its menus presented on clipboards in a style that calls an exam paper (for a minute, I worried the waiter would grade me on how well I ordered). If it were all gimmick and no follow-through, these conceits would probably seem annoyingly twee, but they take a back-seat to the food.

Its fusion dining from chef Brad Farmerie, with diverse dishes like roasted foie gras on a buttered brioche that's richly flavorful, both fruity and salty; the scallops, while not fully caramelized, were so well-dressed with a miso salsa as to make you forgive that. For entrees, the Chatham cod's fleshy, moist but well-charred

preparation is not to miss, nor are the medallions of rare venison on a chewy blue cheese mash evocative of gnocchi. Add a great wine list, and Public is the perfect out-of-the-way find that makes a New York trip fun.

Red Rooster from celebri-chef Marcus Samuelsson is out of the way in a different direction. Born in Africa but adopted by Swedes, Samuelsson gained fame at Aquavit, which made Scandinavian food hip. Now, he's embraced the food of the African-American community.

He dropped Red Rooster, which opened about a year ago, in the middle of Harlem at the famed intersection of Lenox Avenue and 125th Street (the Apollo Theater is around the corner), giving neighbors, savvy downtowners and adventurous out-of-towners a polished (if slightly pricey) take on down-home cooking.

Samuelsson offers up droll reinventions of soul food classic like must-have "yard bird" (that's just chicken — \$24) fried in a crisp batter that has hints of cinnamon, perched on a bed of cheesy mashed potatoes and with a spicy-spicy house sauce that could bring out the secret flavors in a rice cake.

His Helga's meatballs (\$24) are equally delish, a kind of strange take on Thanksgiving with a lingonberry relish and paper-thin but crunchy housemade pickles, served alongside dill potatoes. It's remarkable, how this comfort food warms you even though you'd never had it before. Hint: Start your meal with a side of mini tacos and tostadas (\$9), four bite-sized bits of ceviche that are the perfect way to whet your appetite.

The bar is exceptional both in appearance (a bulbous horseshoe, topped in shiny copper) and substance — a drink menu worth repeated visits. Try the flight of craft beers (\$9), or the Brownstoner



GRADE A | Public, a Michelin-starred restaurant in Nolita, offers great food in a high school themed setting. (Photo courtesy Public)

(\$12), a dazzling modification of the Manhattan. There's even live music some evenings, giving you the true Harlem experience without having to brave a pub-and-club crawl in the frigid cold. ■

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The Oscar race!

Need a jump on the office pool? We handicap the year's likely nominees

The Academy Awards will announce their nominations on Tuesday morning ... and I'll be there. Yep, after years of writing about the Oscars, I'll finally attend them (in part) while watching from the Academy auditorium as this year's crop will be winnowed down to five (and for best picture, perhaps more) in each category.

And while some seem to be sure things, in some ways it's a wide-open year. No one film, or even two or three, seem likely to dominate, the way last year's *The King's Speech*, *The Social Network* and *True Grit* did, or how *Avatar* and *The Hurt Locker* looked to dominate in 2009... and did.

Will *The Help* manage multiple acting nomi-

nees in addition to best picture and even director? Will the excellent *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* surge near the end and get more than its lukewarm reception so far would indicate? Could *Ghost Protocol* actually surprise people? (The last seems unlikely, except in craft categories.)

There are some promising gay-interest nominees in addition to *Tattoo*: *Shame*, *J. Edgar*, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *Beginners* (Christopher Plummer seems a lock to win), even *My Week with Marilyn*.

Here then are my predictions in the major categories (listed roughly in their likelihood of being among the nominees).

And look on Instant Tea Tuesday or follow me on Twitter @CriticalMassTX, where I'll live tweet the experience at the Academy. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones



GAY FOR PLAY | Christopher Plummer (center), as a man who came out in his 70s, is a sure-bet for a best supporting actor Oscar nomination Tuesday.

Terrence Malick, *The Tree of Life*; Woody Allen, *Midnight in Paris*; David Fincher, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*; Steve McQueen, *Shame*; Steven Spielberg, *War Horse*.

Actor: George Clooney, *The Descendants*; Jean Dujardin, *The Artist*; Brad Pitt, *Moneyball*; Michael Fassbender, *Shame*; Leonard DiCaprio, *J. Edgar*; Michael Shannon, *Take Shelter*; Gary Oldman, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*.

Actress: Meryl Streep, *The Iron Lady*; Glenn Close, *Albert Nobbs*; Viola Davis, *The Help*; Michelle Williams, *My Week with Marilyn*; Tilda Swinton, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*; Charlize Theron, *Young Adult*.

Supporting Actor: Christopher Plummer, *Beginners*; Albert Brooks, *Drive*; Kenneth Branagh, *My Week with Marilyn*; Arnie Hammer, *J. Edgar*; Andy Serkis, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*; Jonah Hill, *Moneyball*; Viggo Mortensen, *A Dangerous Method*; Patton Oswald, *Young Adult*; Jim Broadbent, *The Iron Lady*.

Supporting Actress: Octavia Spencer, *The Help*; Berenice Bejo, *The Artist*; Carey Mulligan, *Shame*; Shailene Woodley, *The Descendants*; Janet McTeer, *Albert Nobbs*; Judi Dench, *My Week with Marilyn*; Jessica Chastain, *The Help*; Melissa McCarthy, *Bridesmaids*.

online exclusive

Read Chris Azzopardi's exclusive interview with likely Oscar nominee (and this week's Golden Globe winner) Meryl Streep at DallasVoice.com/category/Screen, and read Instant Tea Tuesday morning as Arnold Wayne Jones live blogs about the nominations from Hollywood.

Picture (up to 10 nominees this year): *The Artist*; *Hugo*; *The Descendants*; *The Help*; *Moneyball*; *Midnight in Paris*; *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*; *The Tree of Life*; *War Horse*; *Shame*; *Drive*.

Director: Michel Hazanavicius, *The Artist*; Martin Scorsese, *Hugo*; Alexander Payne, *The Descendants*;

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All entries must be received by Jan. 28; results will be announced on March 16. One winner will be drawn and two round-trip tickets (\$1,500 value) will be awarded. Dallas Voice is owned by Voice Publishing Co., Inc. Employees of Voice Publishing Co., Inc. are not eligible to win.

Saturday 01.21

GayBingo 2.0

Before heading out to 2012's first GayBingo, check out our online interview with new director Johnny Humphrey. He tells us some of the changes that are going down with this new version and they all sound good. Then, bust out that bingo marker and take no prisoners when your number comes up.

DEETS: The Rose Room (inside S4), 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. \$25. RCDallas.org.

Sunday 01.22

You'll be lookin' at country

Normally we have to venture to Fort Worth to see Loretta Lynn, because she seems to love her some Billy Bob's. This time, the legendary country singer graces Dallas and the opera house's acoustics should be ideal for every note of her signature songs. Classics like "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "She's Got You," won't just be sung, but instead painted with Lynn's twangy but heartfelt voice.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7 p.m. \$38-\$58. ATPAC.org.

Thursday 01.26

Too haute to trot

Turn up the volume on your outfit and head out to Dish, where DIFFA/Dallas will announce its Style Council Ambassadors for the 2012 Smoking Haute collection.

DEETS: Dish, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 7:30 p.m. RSVP at 214-352-6701.




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NO CANDY? | San Antonio band Pinata Protest comes to Dallas performing with queer musician Immigrant Punk at Fallout Lounge Saturday.

FRIDAY 01.20

COMMUNITY

Triangle Networking Tarrant, for gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses. Dos Gringos, 1510 University Ave., Fort Worth. 6 p.m. \$5. 817-496-3479.

Desiree' Dallagiaco. The author, teacher and performer speaks for WordSpace. Heroes Lounge, 7402 Greenville Ave. 8 p.m. WordSpace.us.

Oak Lawn Group for Gays Lambda (formerly CODA) meets on Fridays at the St Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 6:30 p.m. Call 214-868-7350 for more information.

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

ART

Divine featuring the art of lesbian artist Cathey Miller and Norbert Kox. Works by Click Mort are also featured in the upstairs gallery. Webb Gallery, 209 W. Franklin Road, Waxahachie. Through Feb. 5. WebbArtGallery.com.

Every Then...And Now featuring the art of R. Mateo Diago. Ro2 Art Downtown, 1408 Elm St. Through Jan. 28. Ro2Art.com.

Rob Pruitt. The New York artist has his first major exhibit in the country featuring his work of glitter panda paintings. Dallas Contemporary, 161 Glass St. Through March 18. DallasContemporary.org.

DANCE

American Ballet Theatre performs. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. Through Saturday. ATPAC.org.

THEATER

Frequency of Death! Pegasus Theatre brings back its annual black and white play that gives homage to old whodunit movies from the '30s and '40s. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Sunday. \$20-\$35. PegasusTheatre.org.

Giant. The Edna Ferber novel is translated into a new musical by Michael John Lachiusa and director

Michael Greif. Wyly Theater, 2401 Flora St. Through Feb. 19. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at a Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656 by David Ives. Yes, that is the name of the play which is the latest production by Stage West. When a man questions Jewish doctrine, regents determine his fate. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd. Fort Worth. Through Jan. 29. \$15-\$30. StageWest.org.

Woman in Mind. Director J. Alan Henna helms this Alan Ayckbourn comedy about a woman whose life is suddenly changed from boring to an ideal after being knocked out by a garden rake. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Through Feb. 4. \$21. IrvingTheatre.org.

SATURDAY 01.21

COMMUNITY

Ladies4Ladies. This is the inaugural women's event by Off the Leash Entertainment. Axiom Sushi Lounge, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m.

DIVA New Member Clinic. No volleyball experience necessary to play. The clinics are for new members to learn and improve on skills prior to the season. Wear athletic apparel and kneepads for comfort and safety. Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave. 2 p.m. DIVADallas.org.

Out & Equal DFW Regional Affiliate meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 11 a.m.

GayBingo. Big as Texas with hosts Jenna Skyy and Patti Le Plae Safe. The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. \$25. RCDallas.org.

DFW Prime Timers play bingo at private residence. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet at the recreation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

BROADCAST

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

MUSIC

Pinata Protest, Immigrant Punk. San Antonio band performs with out musician Rocio Aranda as Immigrant Punk opening. Fallout Lounge, 835 Exposition Ave. 9 p.m. \$6-\$8. PreKindle.com.

SUNDAY 01.22

COMMUNITY

First Community Church of Dallas worship services. The church is open and affirming. FCC of Dallas, 9120 Ferguson Road. 11 a.m. FCCDFW.org.

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

Whosoever Dallas Sunday services. 807 Fletcher St. 10:45 a.m. WhosoeverDallas.org.

Resounding Harmony holds weekly rehearsals at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. 7 p.m. Resoundingharmony.org.

MONDAY 01.23

COMMUNITY

Living the Questions is a course seeking relevance for Christianity in their own lives and in the 21st century. Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road. 8:30 p.m. Through Feb. 13. Northaven.org.

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.

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

The Women's Chorus of Dallas holds rehearsals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7 p.m. 214-520-7828. TWCD.org.

TUESDAY 01.24

COMMUNITY

JEWEL Writing Discussion & Exchange meets on the fourth Tuesday. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for the discussion topic and assignment for the month. RCDallas.org.

DFW Prime Timers Prime Diner at Rockfish Seafood Grill, 1166 Preston Road. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

QLive! Open Mike Night for comedy. Percussions Lounge, 426 S. Jennings Ave. 10 p.m. QCinema.com.

Q's Day Potluck. Casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-446-3395.

WEDNESDAY 01.25

COMMUNITY

DIVA New Member Clinic. No volleyball experience necessary to play. The clinics are for new members to learn and improve on skills prior to the season. Wear athletic apparel and kneepads for comfort and safety. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St. 7 p.m. DIVADallas.org.

Firedancers Dallas Tribe club night every fourth Wednesday at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7 p.m. Free. Facebook.com/TheHiddenDoor.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge every Wednesday. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Giancarlo Mossi, organizer of the upcoming GSA conference at Youth First Texas. With hosts David Taffet, Patti Fink and Lerone Landis. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 01.26

COMMUNITY

Healing and Hope Support Group reaches out to all who have lost a loved one and is the only known group open to include the gay community. Grace UMChurch, 4105 Junius St. 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Bill Bucher at 214-205-2317 or BillB4665@att.net.

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

The Rotary Club of Dallas-Uptown meets Thursday. All visitors welcome. Hully and Mo's, 2800 Routh St. 11:45 a.m. DallasUptownRotary.org.

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.

Brokeback Dallas. Support group for gay men married to straight women. St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6526 Inwood Road. 7:30 p.m.

this week's solution

G	O	L	F		P	A	N	S		T	I	B	I	A					
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Ellen DeGeneres turns 54 on Thursday. The comedian/talk show host has won 13 Emmys during her career while parlaying successful endeavors as a spokesperson for Cover Girl and voicing the role of Dory in *Finding Nemo*, set for a 3D release this fall. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also named her Special Envoy for Global AIDS Awareness in November 2011.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Old arguments highlight your need to reconsider ideals you've taken for granted. Be careful that shrewd insight doesn't push you to disillusion friends. You can be realistic and respectful.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your debonair wit could easily backfire. The line between incisive epigrams and rude bitchiness is too easy to stumble over. If you need to be naughty, find an appropriate partner and a room.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

It's very easy to talk your way into a hot little affair, but you may soon find it harder to get out of. Be sure of where the exits are before you step into anything.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

You're cranky, even aggressive, especially with colleagues. Obsessing over details can distract you from bigger issues and dangers. But do heed details that concern your health.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Being nice comes off as manipulative. Use your overactive charms to deal with problems in a straightforward fashion. Resist the urge to gloss over them. Flirtations lead further than intended.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Disagreements at home get out of hand, especially when you just settled the problem. Be as patient and diplomatic as you can. Your attention soon turns to more interesting problems.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

A new passionate fling probably seems a lot more serious than it really is. Or less. Either way it's sure to surprise you and probably a lot more people than you'd like to have know about it.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

It's too easy to react to others. Your natural instinct is to be a control queen, but more productively, try to see why your nerves are so raw. Vigorous exercise will help your balance and insight.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

A cautious approach to a problem will open to more possibilities. Take that inspiration to work to find ideas pointing to new methods. With a solid grounding, advance bold new techniques.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Hitting a plateau is a natural stage. Don't let it discourage you. Keep at whatever you're doing, although if you can figure out why you're stuck you may find better ways of doing it.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Frustration has more to do with your expectations. Brace yourself for problems to come back at you. Mouth off to friends who'll help you develop a better perspective.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

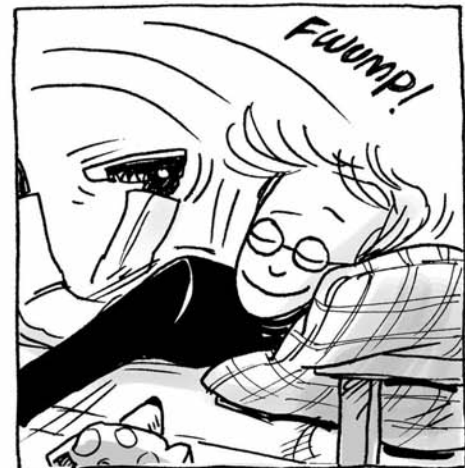
Talk with relatives about family health issues to get rude surprises to prepare your doctor than the other way around. Brush up on skills and get updated on technology that will help you at work.

THIS WEEK

Mars is turning retrograde and will backtrack through Virgo until April 13. In this period, recent pet peeves, critical arguments, bitchy outbursts and intestinal inflammations will come back to haunt you. Keep an eye on self-improvement without beating yourself up.

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

JANE'S WORLD



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bitter girl

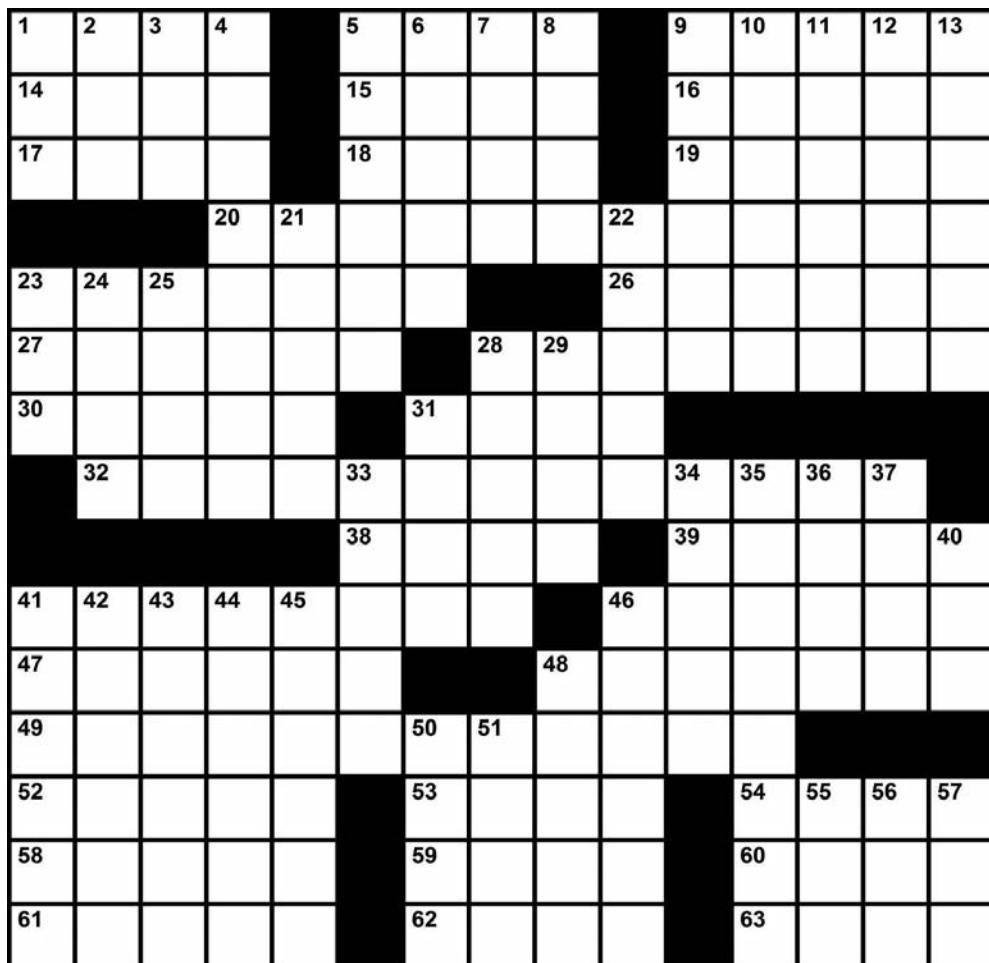
screen shame



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JOAN HILTY © 2012



Cut Stone

Solution on page 33

Across

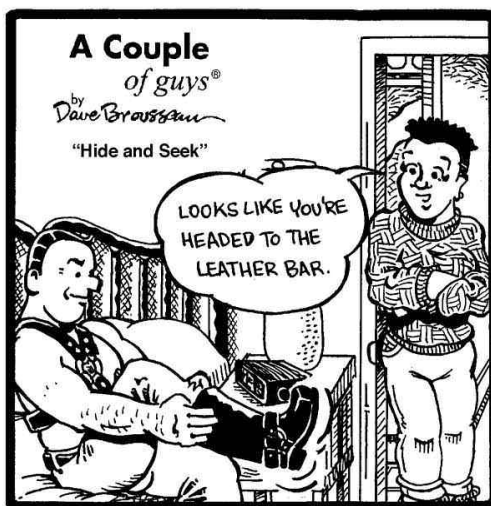
- 1 Spencer-Devlin's sport
- 5 Peter and more
- 9 Bone below the waist
- 14 Think tank output
- 15 Matinee figure
- 16 Erect
- 17 Elite Navy diver
- 18 Pro ____
- 19 Bear
- 20 "Oklahoma!," for one
- 23 Having a cool head
- 26 Couch potato's gadget
- 27 Using the mouth a lot
- 28 Used a number on
- 30 "Così fan ____"
- 31 Take the mound
- 32 Mayor killed with Harvey Milk
- 38 Roth offerings
- 39 LuPone Broadway role
- 41 Saint who delivers gifts in stockings
- 46 What the nose knows
- 47 Readily available

Down

- 48 Pink-flowered shrubs
- 49 Boston, after gay marriage was legalized
- 52 Speed skater Ohno
- 53 Muscle Marys pump it
- 54 Jackie's designer
- 58 "Buffy" extra
- 59 Ten-speed, e.g.
- 60 Rant's partner
- 61 Cooks, as fruit
- 62 Borscht veggie
- 63 Day, to Caligula

Down

- 1 Bunkmates on base
- 2 Poem of Sappho
- 3 Lush meadow
- 4 Stereotypical gay voice
- 5 Jack Sparrow activity
- 6 Proverb
- 7 Re or so
- 8 Kind of dunk, in Sue Wicks' game
- 9 Flipped a coin
- 10 Before the deadline
- 11 Guiding light
- 12 Like homosexuality, some say
- 13 Mixed up
- 21 Home fries source
- 22 Eurasian range
- 23 Thespians do it
- 24 Tough guy
- 25 Top of the head
- 28 "The Count of Monte Cristo" author
- 29 Boy with a bow who shot your beau
- 31 Greek queen of heaven
- 33 Comedienne Radner
- 34 Mr. DeMille of "I'm ready for my closeup"
- 35 Eisenhower's operation
- 36 Team in "A League of Their Own"
- 37 Sundance's gal
- 40 Numbskull
- 41 Itinerant folk
- 42 All worked up
- 43 Trim on Liberace's limo
- 44 Jean of the screen
- 45 Bulbs for a Feniger recipe
- 46 Upright, but not erect
- 48 What the boastful blow
- 50 Bee Gees family name
- 51 Toledo's lake
- 55 Troubadour's tune
- 56 Adam and Steve's beard?
- 57 Stone "cut" in three answers of this puzzle



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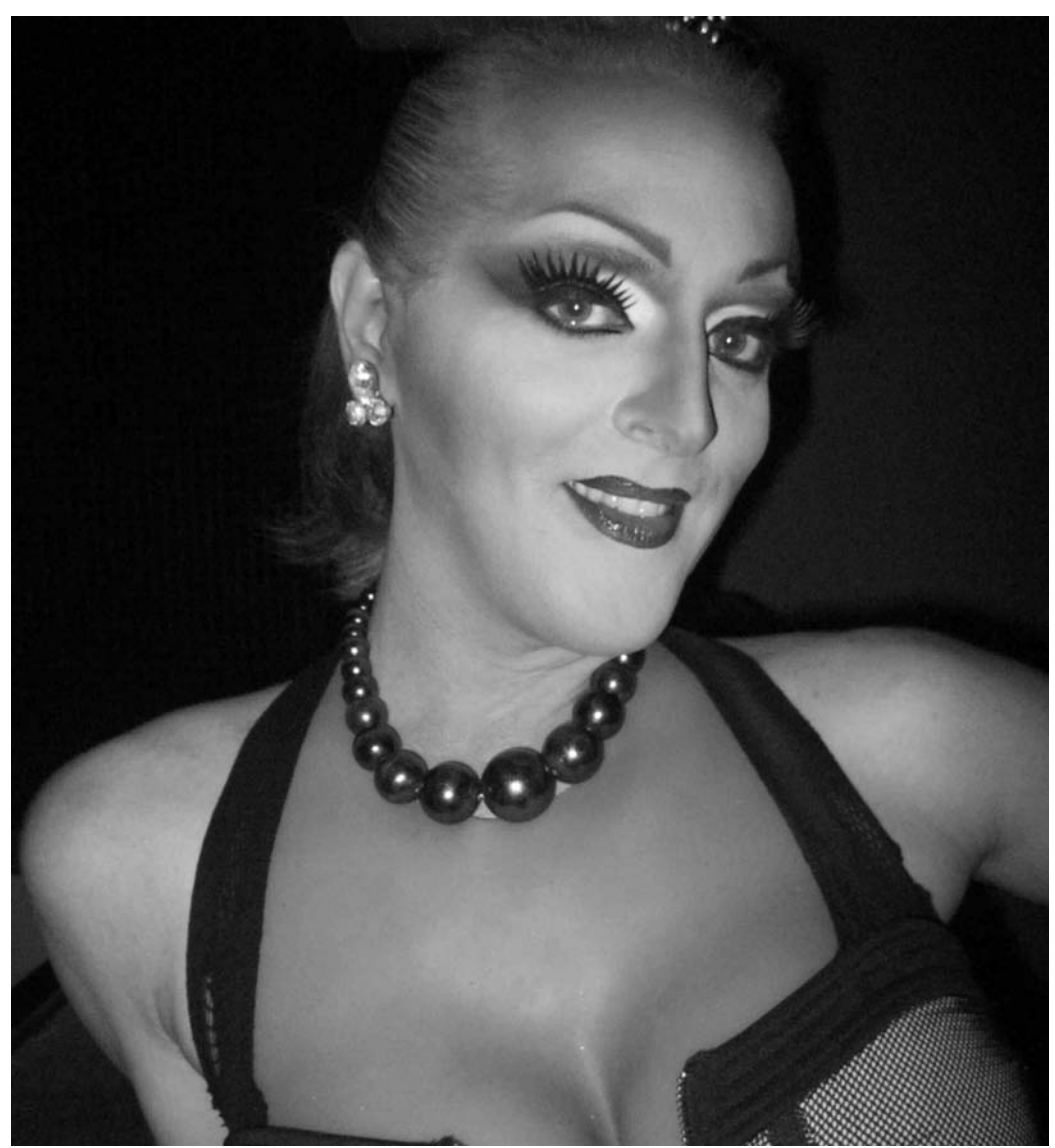
This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Shawn, Mike and Puddle at the Round-Up Saloon.

What's going on? Oh, just this and that. Now check it Think it's too early for white? **The Round-Up Saloon** would disagree. Their Sunday night party **ManCandy** presents **Snowball: The White Party 2012**. DJ Mickey does his video-music DJing and you just plan for that snow job Pick up jocks Sunday at **Woody's** when they host a double header of football watch parties. They put the **AFC and NFC championship games** on the big screens, but we say start your own touch football game during halftimes **Pocket Rockets** and **Hope for Peace and Justice** hosts their **Hold 'em High for Hope** poker tournament and mixer at **Axiom Sushi Lounge** on Friday **Panoptikon** brings back its **Disco vs. Retro** party with DJ 00. Any party that encourages roller skates and hula hoops goes straight to No. 1. The party goes down in the old **Club One** in **Deep Ellum** Don't forget your live music fix at **Sue Ellen's**. The club hosts **Ray Primm** and the **Chris Miller Band** on Friday. Talented **Tyla Taylor** croons the night away on Sunday. And get your own groove on with **Little Chalupa Karaoke** every Thursday **FairPlay Entertainment** presents **Frequency Blazing Blue Bash** at the **Brick** on Saturday. Which means wear blue. The night will also feature a performance by singer **Carly Waddell** Bust out that early Britney wear for the **Lizard Lounge's Invasion of the Naughty School Girls** with DJ **Johnny Funk** and **Titan** at the turntables Worry about sounding spot on at karaoke? No need for that at **Off-Key Karaoke** every Tuesday at **Cherries**. **Whitney Paige and the Cherry Girls Show** makes hump day a little more fun on Wednesdays Have a puff with the **Lone Star Cigar Men** Friday night as the group meets up at the **Dallas Eagle** ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



Jenna Sky in the Rose Room.



Ludy, Jett and Shannon at Alexandre's.



Page and Jackie at BJ's NXS!



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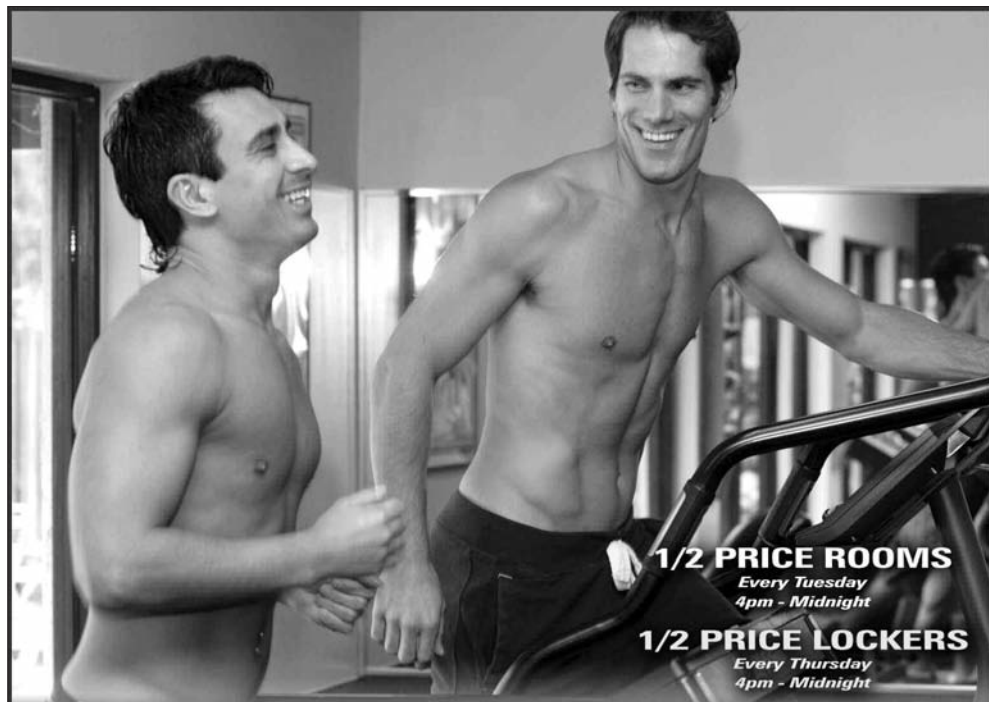
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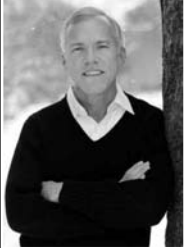


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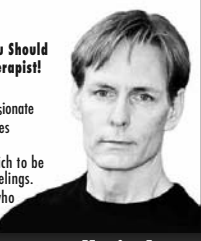
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