

# 'The Cal Ripken of Cirque du Soleil'

Gay North Texas native Mark Ward is a circus workhorse  
The former ballet dancer and current 'Quidam' ringmaster hasn't missed a show in two decades

■ STAGE, Page 20



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## SHINING BRITE

Fort Worth divinity school affiliated with TCU continues to chart a remarkably LGBT-affirming course by appointing out lesbian Joretta Marshall as its dean

■ Page 13

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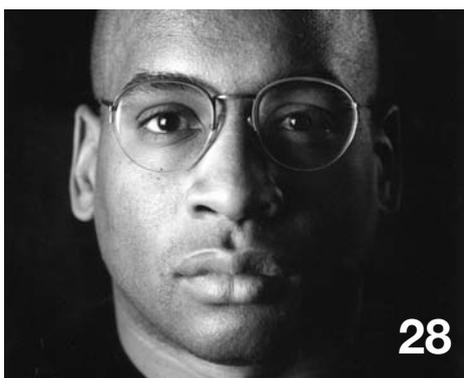


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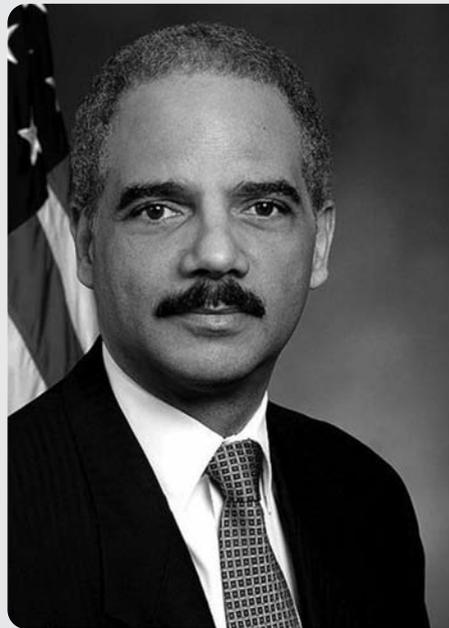
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**GUEST SPEAKERS** | U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Valerie B. Jarrett, a senior advisor to President Barack Obama, are scheduled to speak at the Safe Schools conference.

### White House LGBT Conference on Safe Schools set for N. Texas

The next White House LGBT Conference will be at the University of Texas at Arlington on March 20 and will focus on safe schools and communities, according to an announcement from the White House on Thursday afternoon, March 1.

The event is the third conference in a series of several the White House launched in February. It will be hosted by the U.S. Department of Justice in partnership with UTA's College of Liberal Arts Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the College of Education and Health Professions.

U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. and Valerie B. Jarrett, senior advisor to the president, will speak at the event, according to a White House release.

"The White House LGBT Conference on Safe Schools & Communities will provide advocates, community leaders, and members of the public an opportunity to engage with the Obama Administration on efforts to ensure safety and security for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in schools and communities throughout the country," the release states.

"Participants will receive updates from Administration officials, connect with Federal government resources and opportunities through workshop sessions, and provide valuable feedback through the 'Open Space' process."

This is the third conference after the White House Office of Public Engagement launched the series focused on LGBT Americans. The first in the series, the White House LGBT Conference on Health, was in Philadelphia Feb. 16 and focused on issues like access to care, aging, mental health and substance abuse with remarks by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

The White House LGBT Conference on Housing and Homelessness is scheduled for Friday, March 9. That event is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Ruth Ellis Center and will feature remarks by HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan focusing on housing and homelessness issues that impact LGBT Americans.

— Anna Waugh

### GetEQUAL Day of Action yields 108 calls to Dallas mayor's office

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings' office received 108 phone calls Friday, Feb. 24, from people urging him to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage, according to Chief of Staff Paula Blackmon.

The calls were part of a Statewide Day of Action organized by GetEQUAL.

"It was steady all day," Blackmon said.

Asked whether the calls had convinced Rawlings to change his mind and sign the pledge, Blackmon said, "Not to my knowledge."

She added that, as Rawlings has previously stated, the mayor plans to meet with LGBT leaders in the near future to further discuss what other things he can do to support equality. Rawlings claims he's personally in favor of same-sex marriage but doesn't want to get involved in divisive social issues.

Daniel Cates of GetEQUAL, who organized Friday's Day of Action, said he's proud of the number of calls it generated. "I think it's probably a lot more calls than they usually get on any issue," Cates said. "I think 108 calls is respectable. Each one of those calls I think represents thousands of people who didn't call in, and if they're smart, they [in the mayor's office] realize that."

Cates said he believes Rawlings is proving that he isn't listening to what people have to say about the marriage pledge. The LGBT community can no longer trust the mayor, who shouldn't be considered an ally, Cates said.

Asked whether he agrees with other activists who've suggested the marriage pledge has become like kicking a dead horse, Cates suggested he's ready to move on but won't drop it completely — partly because that's what Rawlings has hoped for the whole time.

"The fact is we do have bigger fish to fry," he acknowledged. "We do have more important things to worry about, and if Rawlings isn't going to join us, then that's fine. But he needs to know that we are going to continue to remind him about this. It's always going to be there haunting him. This is going to be a permanent strain on his relations with the LGBT community."

— John Wright

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# 1st suspect gets 8 years for brutal gay-bashing in Reno

James Laster admits to hate crime in Burke Burnett's beating; LGBT advocate calls prosecutor's decision to seek classification a victory

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

PARIS — One of three suspects in a brutal gay-bashing in East Texas last fall has been sentenced to eight years in prison.

James Mitchell Laster, 33, pleaded guilty to ag-

gravated assault with a deadly weapon, including a hate crime enhancement, and was sentenced to eight years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on Thursday, Feb. 23, Lamar County District Attorney Gary Young confirmed this week.

Young said Laster "pled true" to the hate crime allegation, which means the aggravated assault charge was bumped up to a first-degree felony. Laster must serve a minimum of four years before he's eligible for parole, Young said. He declined further comment.

Chuck Smith, deputy director of Equality Texas, commended Young's office for pursuing the case as a hate crime. Since Texas' hate crimes law was



James Laster

passed in 2001, only about a dozen cases have been prosecuted using it, Smith said.

"He got it in a plea deal, but he still got someone to plead to a hate crimes designation, and that is a victory for using the law in the way that it was intended, and finding a prosecutor that will do so," Smith said. "I

consider that a victory. That's important to the community, it's important to the victim. I would contend that that's more important than whether

he got eight years or 10 years or 12 years. I'm pleased that the district attorney successfully put somebody away using the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act."

Laster was one of three suspects charged with multiple counts of aggravated assault, in addition to hate crime enhancements, in the beating of 26-year-old Burke Burnett.

Burnett, who's gay, suffered second-degree burns and needed more than 30 stitches following the attack at a private Halloween party in Reno, a small town just east of Paris and 100 miles northeast of Dallas, in the early morning hours of Oct. 30.

■ RENO, Page 12

# Taking a stand

LGBT advocates laud gay Judge Tonya Parker's decision not to perform marriages, but she calls resulting media attention 'an incredible distraction'

**ANNA WAUGH** | Staff Writer  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

A week after making national headlines over her refusal to marry straight couples until marriage equality arrives in Texas, openly gay Dallas County District Judge Tonya Parker is focusing on the work in her courtroom.

The national attention brought hundreds of emails, creating an "incredible distraction from my duties with the court," Parker said, declining to do a longer interview with Dallas Voice. "I don't want to distract from doing the things I am responsible for."

Parker, who is the first openly LGBT person elected judge in Dallas County and is believed to be the first openly LGBT African-American elected official in the state's history, told an audience at a Stonewall Democrats of Dallas meeting on Feb. 21 that she doesn't — and won't — conduct marriage ceremonies until same-sex couples can legally wed in the state.

Parker said she refers couples to other judges to perform the ceremonies because "it's kind of oxymoronic for me to perform ceremonies that can't be performed for me" and uses it "as my opportunity to give them a lesson about marriage inequality in this state because I feel like I have to tell them why I'm turning them away."

The Dallas Voice YouTube video of Parker's comments at the meeting reached more than 27,000 views in a week and hundreds of stories — from the Washington Post and the New York Daily News to London's Daily Mail — mentioned Parker's comments, leading to the massive number of media calls and emails to her office.

Responding to supportive and critical comments, Parker posted a statement on her Facebook page on Saturday, Feb. 25, stating that "Nothing would demean the integrity of our courts and judiciary more than if I went around believing and, worse, acting as if I am 'above the law.' I do not and am not. Simply put, I am not required to perform marriage ceremonies. As a civil district judge, I have that privilege. I have not exercised, and will not exercise the privilege as long as the state law limits my ability to conduct the ceremonies equally."

According to Chapter 3 of the Texas Family Code, a district judge is among the judges and religious leaders allowed to perform marriages and "may conduct the marriage ceremony."

The term "may" is defined in the terminology section of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct as a term that "denotes permissible discretion or, depending on the context, refers to action that is not covered by specific proscriptions."

When asked about the Facebook statement, Parker said she wanted "to just make sure that people understand that I don't view myself as being above the law and just to respond to that because I'm very troubled by any perception that I am doing something that flies in the face of my oath and my duty to apply the law of the state of Texas where I have a duty," she said. "I just want people to understand that I'm not violating the law and I think that my initial statement, as well as the one I posted on Saturday on Facebook, I think that well explains where I am on those two things."

Despite repeated requests, Parker has never agreed to do an in-depth interview with Dallas Voice, either before or since being elected in 2010.

■ STAND, Page 10



**IN THE GLARE OF THE SPOTLIGHT** | Dallas County District Judge Tonya Parker, shown at a dedication for the Cathedral of Hope's Interfaith Peace Chapel shortly after she was first elected in November 2010, declined a request for an interview this week but said she wanted to clarify that she doesn't consider herself 'above the law.' (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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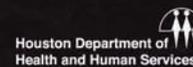


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## Deaths



**Lloyd Button**, 57, of Irving and Henderson, Nev., formerly of Freehold, N.J., and Middlesex, N.Y., died Feb. 19 in Irving. For the past five years, he worked for Citigroup in Irving as a senior technical analyst and was previously vice president of technology for

Merrill Lynch for 16 years in Jersey City.

Button had a passion for life, great respect for law enforcement and was a very warm-hearted, caring person. Lloyd and his friend Jim's normal Saturday night started at Cyclone Anaya's, his favorite Mexican restaurant, then went to the Round-Up Saloon to visit with friends and do a little two-stepping. Some evenings would end at the Eagle or TMC.

He was preceded in death by his spouse of 15 years, William J. Gaydos, and his parents Lloyd A. Button and Dorothy Waterman Button. He is survived by sister-in-law Jodie and husband Joseph Sammartino of Queen Creek, Ariz.; sister-in-law Denise and husband David Kelter Sr. of San Tan Valley, Ariz.; special friend Jim McMillan, of Lone Oak, Texas, and several nieces, nephews and cousin.

A memorial service/visitation will be held on Feb. 29 at the Aria Funeral Home Chapel, 1820

N. Beltline Road, Irving, from 1–3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at [www.leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org) or the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund at [secure3.convio.net/nleomf/site/Donation](http://secure3.convio.net/nleomf/site/Donation).



**Henry Lee Harter**, 55, a brother, uncle, son, cousin, nephew and a friend, formerly of Billings, Mo., was found dead in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sunday, Feb. 12.

He was born Aug. 30, 1956, in Springfield, Mo., to C.J. and Betty Huber Harter.

Harter was a 1974 graduate of Billings High School, and was a self-employed estate consultant. He loved life, traveling and having a good time.

In 1995, Harter moved to Dallas with his best friend, Andy James. He worked at Bill's Hideaway for nine years and then at Phases Bar. He will be sorely missed by all those he worked with and served.

He was preceded in death by his dad, C.J. (1991), and a niece and a nephew.

He is survived by a loving mother, Betty Harter; four sisters and two brothers, all of Billings, Mo.

A memorial graveside service was held in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Billings. Online condolences may be shared at [MeadorsFuneral-Home.com](http://MeadorsFuneral-Home.com).

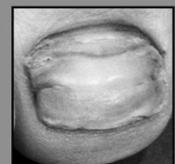
## pet of the week / HANK

Hank is a great little dog who was transferred from a local shelter. He had been adopted, but returned due to a family emergency. He currently weighs 20 pounds as an adult dog. His previous family says he loves to be around people and kids, too. Hank can sit, dance or do circles for treats. Also, for your entertainment, he will speak and howl along with you. Hank does not enjoy the company of cats and can become jealous of other dogs. We would encourage a dog introduction if you have any canines at home. Hank would like to live in a home he can call his own.

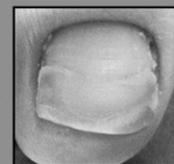


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**'GAY SUPER BOWL' ADS** | Ellen DeGeneres is shown in a Western outfit in a J.C. Penney commercial that aired during the Oscars — otherwise known as the gay Super Bowl — on Sunday, Feb. 26. The ad was one of five that premiered during the awards for the company's new 'Fair and Square' pricing campaign.

## Despite hate group's boycott, J.C. Penney debuts Ellen ads

Plano-based company says it's 'extremely proud' to partner with DeGeneres after commercials premiere during Oscars

**ANNA WAUGH** | Staff Writer  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

PLANO — The 84th annual Academy Awards served as J.C. Penney's launching pad for its new "Fair and Square" ad campaign featuring gay talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres.

Despite the upset from an anti-gay hate group after DeGeneres was named a company partner, a spokeswoman said Plano-based J.C. Penney is thrilled to have the lesbian comedian represent the company during its new branding.

"As we focus on being in sync with the rhythm of our customers' lives and operating in a 'Fair and Square' manner that is rooted in integrity, simplicity and respect, we couldn't think of a better partner than Ellen DeGeneres," J.C. Penney spokeswoman Kate Coultas wrote in an email to Dallas Voice. "We are extremely proud to have her on our team."

J.C. Penney announced Jan. 25 that DeGeneres, who was a store associate in her teens, would be the company's brand partner as part of the company's brand transformation. Shortly after the announcement, One Million Moms, which is affiliated with the American Family Association, began a boycott of the store, demanding they fire DeGeneres because she is gay. The AFA is considered an anti-gay hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Funny that JC Penney thinks hiring an open homosexual spokesperson will help their business when most of their customers are traditional families," One Million Moms wrote on its website. "More sales will be lost than gained unless they

replace their spokesperson quickly. Unless JC Penney decides to be neutral in the culture war then their brand transformation will be unsuccessful."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation responded with a "Stand Up for Ellen" petition that generated more than 24,000 signatures in a few days and a little more than a week after the initial announcement of the partnership, J.C. Penney refused to give in to the anti-gay hate group, announcing that it was keeping DeGeneres.

But One Millions Moms didn't stop, releasing a message on the group's Facebook page that read: "By jumping on the pro-gay bandwagon, JC Penney is attempting to gain a new target market and in the process will lose customers with traditional values that have been faithful to them over all these years."

DeGeneres then addressed the statements on her talk show, pointing out that the group has only 40,000 followers on Facebook and explaining that she stands for traditional values.

"Here are the values I stand for: I stand for honesty, equality, kindness, compassion, treating people the way you want to be treated and helping those in need," she said. "To me those are traditional values. That's what I stand for."

The audience of the Sunday, Feb. 26, awards show saw five commercials with DeGeneres in them highlighting the fact that company changes are on their way and addressing coupons, returns, pricing and sales.

"Fair and Square" is a new pricing strategy with three types of prices, the company outlines on its website. Regular prices are offered every day, month-long values are for items customers currently need and best prices, which are the lowest prices offered on the first and third Friday of every month as stores clear space for new merchandise.

■ ELLEN, Page 11

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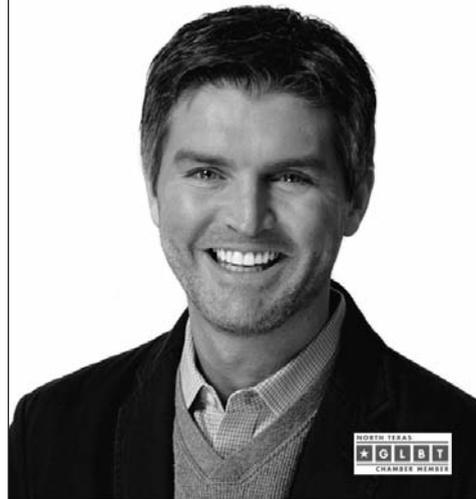
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**texasnews**

■ **STAND**, From Page 6

Parker also isn't believed to have sought an endorsement from the Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a political action committee that backs openly LGBT candidates nationwide.

She does now appear on the group's list of out officials, who are placed there if the Victory Fund confirms that they are out or if a news article mentions them being open, spokesman Denis Dison said.

The organization that backs LGBT candidates is projected to endorse a record number of 200 LGBT candidates this year, up from 164 in 2010 and 112 in 2008, and has already selected 77 to endorse, Dison said.

"Our numbers have been going up consistently," he said. "And you just have more candidates running who are running openly now."

Declining to comment on whether Parker sought the Victory Fund's endorsement in 2010 because the group doesn't talk about candidates until they're endorsed, Dison said candidates are always encouraged to be honest when questions of their sexual orientation arise — before moving on to talking about the issues.

"The overall advice is to remember that you're running to represent an entire community and the things that matter to that community are the things that are going to get you elected," he said.

During her remarks at Stonewall Democrats last week, Parker also said she adds the term "partner" to the Supreme Court directions for jurors that outline that they cannot discuss cases with their husband or wife, something Harris County 215th District Court Judge Steven Kirkland said he also does.

Kirkland, the only other out district judge in Texas, was a municipal court judge in Houston from 2001 until he was elected as a district judge in 2008, with support from the Victory Fund. He is also among the four Texas candidates out of the 77 the group has endorsed this year.

Kirkland said he's never heard of any judge, gay or straight, declining to perform marriages. He said he's conducted marriages in the past because many of the couples were friends.

"I do that as a gift to them," he said. "It's something that I can give them and I'm happy to do it and I love being a part of that process."

While "judges have an obligation to make sure the courtroom procedures and proceedings are done in an unbiased manner," Kirkland said Parker "found a really eloquent way to make a point on marriage equality and I applaud her eloquence."

He said he conducts his courtroom with inclusiveness and often speaks to student groups about being an out judge as his way to help the LGBT community.

"Each of us have our own path to walk, our own way of being a judge, and each of us have our own way of contributing to our community as a judge and I'm proud of Tonya for picking her way," Kirkland said.

Openly gay Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons, who works closely with judges and oversees court records, said he supports the efforts of LGBT officials to address LGBT issues affecting part of their constituency.

"It is important to have people within the insti-



**CONCURRING OPINIONS** | Openly gay Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons called Parker's decision not to perform marriages a 'pretty gutsy' move that 'speaks well of her character.'

tution, within the political subdivision, who are willing to say, 'Hey, this is important. This needs to be done,' and make it an issue," he said.

Fitzsimmons was endorsed by the Victory Fund in 2006 and again in 2010, and he was the first Dallas County department head to implement a non-discrimination policy that included sexual orientation after coming into office in 2007. He added transgender employees to the policy a year later, he said. He's also been an outspoken advocate for Dallas County to add domestic partnership benefits.

"I'm not making laws and those kinds of things, but I'm part of the county establishment," he said of his influence.

Calling the authority to perform marriage ceremonies in Texas "inherently discriminatory," Fitzsimmons said Parker has a choice about whether to do so.

"You can't fault her for that. It's pretty gutsy to be out there and do that, so I think the community is justifiably proud of her and proud of her gutsiness," he said. "Not everybody would do that, so it speaks to her character and it speaks very well of her character."

Lesbian activist Pam Gerber has known Parker for about seven years through their involvement in Stonewall Democrats together. Gerber said she is "consistently impressed with [Parker's] factualness and her pragmatism," calling the judge's decision one of "the utmost integrity."

The risk that the decision will possibly harm her at re-election time is slight, Gerber said, as Parker's stand is "very consistent."

"I think that if she runs for office, she might lose a few votes, but those are votes that she probably wouldn't want to have anyways," she said.

Dennis Coleman, executive director of Equality Texas, met Parker nine years ago at a Lambda Legal event and said she's probably garnered support among allies from the widespread news, adding that marriage equality cannot be won "with just gay votes alone."

"It did not surprise me at all," Coleman said of Parker's stand. "I always found Tonya to be a very smart and articulate woman and lawyer and a very strong advocate, not only for LGBT issues but also for other issues. I'm very proud to know her and for what she's doing."

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■ **ELLEN**, From Page 9

The idea behind the new strategy is instead of “inundating the customer with a relentless series J.C. Penney will host 12 promotional events each year, on a monthly calendar,” according to the company’s website. “Each month will include even better values on the things customers are looking to buy during the month and a host of exciting products and services that are unique to the month.”

In the ads that premiered during the Oscars, DeGeneres is seen in a changing room with various people moving in and out of the rooms, with the tagline “stay tuned to see how things are changing.”

Another ad shows a current DeGeneres showing up to a sold out shoe sale at 8:20 a.m. Store associates tell her the shoes are gone because the sale began at 6 a.m. She then asks, “Has it always been this way?” before being transported back into a 1950s era family and asks if the sale is all day. The tagline that follows is “No door busting, just great prices all the time,” followed by the now iconic phrase “That’s fair and square.”

Additional ads show a modern day DeGeneres overwhelmed with dozens of coupons before wondering if there were always so many coupons and envisioning western times and coupons, sending the message that J.C. Penney customers can expect “no coupons, just great prices.”

Another shows the confusion of a Victorian Era DeGeneres as she asking a store clerk why prices are always followed by 99 instead of the nearest dollar, with the tagline “no games, just great prices.”

And the last commercial shows a Roman DeGeneres trying to return a toga without a receipt etched in stone, which tells customers that they can “return any item, any time.”

One Million Moms is now trying to force Toys ‘R’ Us to remove Archie comics from its stores because it features the marriage of a gay character.

Requests for comment from Toys ‘R’ Us and One Million Moms were not returned.

All of the Ellen ads can be watched on J.C. Penney’s channel at Youtube.com/user/jcpenney. ■

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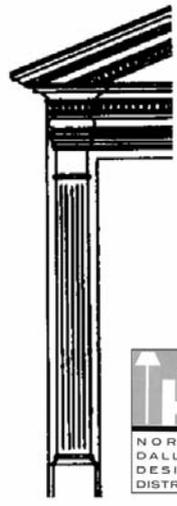
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**BEATEN AND BURNED** | Burnett, shown hours after the attack, said the three suspects yelled anti-gay slurs as they sucker-punched him in the eye, stabbed him in the back and arm with a broken beer bottle, and threw him onto a lit burn barrel.

■ RENO, From Page 6

Burnett said his three attackers yelled anti-gay slurs as they sucker-punched him in the eye, stabbed him in the back and arm with a broken beer bottle, and threw him onto a lit burn barrel. The case made national news after graphic photos of Burnett's injuries were posted on Dallas Voice's website.

Burnett, who moved to Houston after the attack, couldn't be reached for comment this week. The other two suspects in the attack, 25-year-old Micky Joe Smith of Brookston, and 33-year-old Daniel Shawn Martin of Paris, are still awaiting trial, according to online Lamar County court records.

Don Haslam, a Paris attorney who's representing Burnett in the case free of charge, said he discussed Laster's sentence with his client this week.

"I think Burke is satisfied and he's ready to

move on to the next one," Haslam said. "I think it's fair to say that Burke is working consciously to put this behind him and move on, and successful prosecutions, including the [hate crimes] enhancements, are helping in that regard. He sees one down and two to go, and I think he's ready to get all three done."

Haslam agreed with Smith that the hate crimes designation was an important aspect of Laster's plea.

"It's a recognition that he was victimized because of his orientation, and I think that's important to Burke," Haslam said. "It's important to us as a society to have a means of acknowledging that kind of victimization."

"We're embarrassed. I'm embarrassed and the community leadership is embarrassed," he added. "It's not how this community wants to be perceived, and it's not how this community wants to be."



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# Shining Brite

Fort Worth divinity school affiliated with TCU continues to chart a remarkably LGBT-affirming course by appointing out lesbian Joretta Marshall as its dean

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — Joretta Marshall insists that her appointment as vice president and dean of Brite Divinity School doesn't represent the first time a seminary has named a lesbian to such a position. After all, Marshall also served as dean at her previous institution.

When Brite President D. Newell Williams heard that her story would be on the cover of the Dallas Voice, he beamed, "We think she's front page."

And Williams, like everyone else at Brite, insisted that Marshall's appointment wasn't controversial — although he did qualify that by adding, with a sidelong glance and a smile, "Yet."

Elaine Kellam chairs the Brite Board of Trustees and headed the search committee. She said that be-

tween 40 and 50 candidates applied for the position.

"We were looking for a highly qualified scholar," Kellam said. "Someone who is well respected, well published and experienced as a dean. Sexuality was never an issue."

Current Brite Vice President and Dean Nancy Ramsay said, "She's terrifically qualified. We're delighted she'll be our next dean."

As dean, Marshall's goals are clear.

"I don't want anyone to have any question where Brite stands on global justice, racial justice or GLBTQ issues," she said.

She mentioned programs like the Carpenter Initiative in Gender, Sexuality, and Justice — a multi-year series of programs on gender, sexuality and justice. A five-year grant will allow the school to

■ BRITE, Page 14



DEAN'S TO-DO LIST | Joretta Marshall said one of her goals is for no one to "question where Brite stands on global justice, racial justice or GLBTQ issues." (Photo illustration by Kevin Thomas/Dallas Voice)

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## coverstory



**THE CROSS HE BORE** | Associate professor Stephen Sprinkle, right, shown at a rally following the Rainbow Lounge raid, said it was “pretty lonely” as a gay faculty member at Brite in the 1990s. Sprinkle views Marshall’s appointment as vindication. (Dallas Voice file photo)

■ **BRITE**, From Page 13

offer programs for churches, exhibits, panel discussions and conferences on LGBT issues. Last year, Marshall was named its director.

On Feb. 28, Marshall hosted a panel to discuss the dangers of reparative therapy. She said that Brite must do more than just teach that reparative therapy is dangerous — it must also offer alternatives in LGBT pastoral care. But she also said it’s imperative to teach ministers the school sends into the community how to address the church next door that may offer the discredited treatment.

Marshall credits associate professor Stephen Sprinkle, Brite’s director of field education and supervised ministry, with pioneering much of the school’s attitude on sexual orientation. Sprinkle, who is openly gay, was hired in 1994.

He said Brite has played an important liberalizing role on the Texas Christian University campus — on race, women’s issues and on LGBT acceptance.

“We’re the friendly conscience of education in Fort Worth,” he said.

But Brite, which dates back to TCU’s founding in 1873 and has been an autonomous institution since 1914, hasn’t always been progressive in the area of LGBT inclusion.

In the early 1980s, when William Countryman, an Episcopal priest on the Brite faculty, came out, he was forced to leave the school. Later that decade, openly gay student Allen Harris had his ordination in Disciples of Christ opposed by the then dean of Brite.

Sprinkle said that before he was hired, things began to change.

“They made a quiet decision to allow gay and lesbian couples to live together in married student housing,” he said. “Les Perdue, [former] president

of Brite, broke all that ground.”

Sprinkle was hired as an openly gay man with full support of Brite’s administration, if not TCU’s.

“There were times when it was pretty lonely,” he said.

He sees the elevation of Marshall as vindication and said he’s proud the school is willing to take risks.

Kellam is also proud of the choice, but doesn’t see it as a risk.

“No one else was as well qualified,” she said.

Kellam said they simply chose the best candidate and as a bonus, she’s already on campus, saving the institution the year of adjustment someone coming from the outside would face.

Williams also dismissed any idea of controversy surrounding the appointment.

“Several members of the faculty and several trustees have normalized sexual orientation,” he said.

Marshall is an ordained United Methodist minister. She said that as a lesbian in a long-term relationship, charges could be brought against her by that church.

But she maintains membership in the Rocky Mountain Conference, where a woman serves as bishop, rather than in the more conservative Southwest Texas Conference.

Normally if charges are filed against a minister in the Methodist Church, those charges are brought within his or her own conference.

“But I’m waiting for the other shoe to drop,” Marshall said.

She described her career path as if she’s avoided controversy through the years.

“I followed the open and affirming route,” she said.

■ **BRITE**, Page 16

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## coverstory



**OUTSPOKEN** | Marshall, shown at a panel discussion on the dangers of reparative therapy this week, said as a Methodist minister in a lesbian relationship, she risks discipline. But she said she's taken the "open and affirming route" in the church. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

■ **BRITE**, From Page 14

Marshall said she has steered her career more toward academics, although after several years as a college chaplain she served as pastor to a small congregation in her native Wisconsin soon after graduating divinity school in the 1980s. The Wisconsin church remains dear to her heart.

"The issues I was concerned about were, 'What does it mean to be a church that stands for justice?' After all, I grew up a child of the 60s," she said.

In 2007, Brite hired her as professor of pastoral theology, pastoral care and pastoral counseling. She came from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, where she served as academic dean from 2001 until 2005.

Before that, she was associate dean for academic affairs from 1998 until 2000 at Iliff School of Theology in Denver.

She moved to Fort Worth with her family — her sister, her mother and her longtime partner, Joy Allen, who is a counselor.

Marshall first realized she wanted to be a minister in fifth grade. She's glad her mother didn't discourage her or explain that women — at the time — weren't ordained. By the time she was in school women were already serving in the ministry and she pursued her dream.

While she speaks gently and affectionately about her love of God and religious faith, she also approaches her work with some mischievousness.

"There's something subversive about teaching students who are going to become parish pastors who can change institutions," she said. "You're transforming students who are going to be leaders. It's an incredible gift to be able to do that."

She said that's part of what's kept her in theological education.

"It would be easy to give up on the church and let the hurts and the pains of the church — especially for LGBTQ communities — overwhelm any good feeling I have for the church," she said. "But I really do believe there's a way the church can move the world to greater justice, to greater peace

and toward greater wholeness."

Kellam said one of the factors her committee considered was the candidate's published works. Much of Marshall's writing concerns pastoral care for the LGBT community.

Her book, *Counseling Lesbian Partners*, teaches pastors to consider the dynamic of two women in a relationship. She said she specifically geared it toward lesbian relationships and said gay male relationships have a completely different dynamic.

Another book is on forgiveness. She said the idea for that one developed after she was asked to talk to a PFLAG group about issues of forgiveness around the holidays.

"How do you forgive someone who wants to harm us?" she asked. "Sometimes it's about holding people accountable. How do you forgive a church that continues to make it unsafe? Or tolerance that is really a notch away from hatred? Culture encourages forgiveness when we ought not give it so fast."

Marshall is always quite thoughtful in her discussion of God and religion. She compared her approach to that of more fundamentalist denominations.

"We don't have quick answers to hard questions," she said.

While Marshall is not the first lesbian dean of a divinity school, her appointment is noteworthy. In addition to her own previous appointments at other schools, seminaries in Berkeley, Calif. and Chicago have had openly gay deans.

But naming Marshall dean of a divinity school in Texas is certainly surprising — at least for anyone who hasn't followed the progress at Brite.

Earlier this year, the school was named to a list of religious institutes that prepare clergy to address sexuality issues. Just 20 seminaries, divinity and rabbinical schools appear on the list. Brite is the only one named in Texas or in any of the surrounding states.

Marshall's appointment is effective June 1. And in her new position, she intends to continue pushing Brite to the forefront of progressive religious education. ■

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viewpoints

C'mon, Craig, you're better than that

Senate hopeful James resorts to anti-gay tactics despite long career working with gays in media — and hiring one as a campaign consultant

In the fall of 1991, I was the afternoon news editor at an all-news radio station in Dallas. We had an opening for an evening sports talk show host. The station hired a former college football player from Southern Methodist University who'd recently retired from the NFL.

His name was Craig James, and now he wants to be the next U.S. senator from Texas.

For two years, I did newscasts during his show. Somewhere at home, I have a coffee mug adorned with photographs of myself, James and everyone else working at the station in 1992. James left the radio station one year later to be a sports anchor for a Dallas TV station, and then moved on to CBS Sports and, finally, ESPN.

Over the years, I'd occasionally see him on TV as a college football commentator, and I shook



**Rafel McDonnell**  
Contributing Columnist

my head when the stories came out about his efforts leading up to the firing of Texas Tech's football coach. I passively watched when James announced he was running for the U.S. Senate.

That changed last week. At a Republican candidate debate sponsored by the Eagle Forum, James said being gay is a choice, said he strongly opposes the rights of LGBT people to marry and added that the nation is, in his words, "sliding down a slope that is going to be hard to stop" because former Dallas mayor and fellow U.S. Senate candidate Tom Leppert marched in a Pride parade.

I have a message for my former colleague: You're better than that. Stop with the cheap shots and demeaning language against the LGBT people of Texas.

Surely, in the 20 or so years James has been in the media, he's worked with any number of LGBT people, including me. They've been beside him on-camera and behind the scenes. Did their personal lives matter to him if they edited his scripts or ran camera on the set? Are LGBT people not worthy of respect? Would he rather we lose our jobs because of who we are and whom we love? Are James' words of exclusion those of somebody running for an elected office that purports to represent all Texans?

Last month, the Dallas Morning News reported that the James' Senate campaign had hired New York-based political consultant Arthur Finkelstein. He's an openly gay man who



**LOSING GAME PLAN** | Recent polls indicate that James' candidacy isn't resonating. (Associated Press)

married his partner in a civil ceremony in Massachusetts in 2005. The campaign is happy enough to pay for Finkelstein's political advice, but if James is to be taken at his word, he has no regard for Finkelstein's family. How does someone reconcile the two positions?

This isn't the first time James has spoken about the marriage issue. In early February, he was interviewed on a Houston radio station. James stated that he doesn't judge people and isn't in favor of gays and lesbians getting married, but doesn't support the existing ban on LGBT marriage approved by Texas voters in 2005. James also said that it should be up to the military to decide the fate of the defunct "don't ask, don't tell" policy. It's a nuanced position that makes me wonder if this is what somebody told James what to say, or if this is what he believes in his heart. Which is it?

Based on recent polling, the James' candidacy isn't resonating, and some political observers speculate it's just a prelude to a 2014 statewide run.

Texas is changing, and the James campaign should realize this. Younger voters are more supportive of LGBT issues than previous generations. A statewide poll conducted by Equality

Texas in 2010 shows seven out of 10 Texans favor employment nondiscrimination for LGBT people. Those numbers include a majority of Republican voters, rural and urban voters, and people who attend weekly religious services. Support for marriage recognition is also growing, and is strongest among Texas' younger voters. It may not be the majority position now, but that day is not too far down the road.

I remember Craig James as a charismatic guy back in the radio station days. He came across as genuine and likeable — characteristics that have allowed him to work in the media for two decades. He was also a man of strong opinions — that's what commentators are paid to do. Words have meaning, and James knows that. The campaign should remember that if they win this or any future political race, James would represent a broad constituency including people he may not agree with or those who may not back him at the ballot box. Stop using the LGBT community as a wedge issue to appeal to a shrinking pool of potential voters. It's not working now, and it's less likely to work in the future. ■

*Rafael McDonnell is communications and advocacy manager, Resource Center Dallas. He can be reached at RMcDonnell@rcdallas.org.*

# More and more allies putting skin in game of LGBT equality

UCC pastor who voted for marriage resolution, lost 72% of members shows some are willing to do what's right regardless of consequences

**I**n the struggle for LGBTQ equality we sometimes forget that we have a lot of allies in the straight world.

Now I've been critical of some of these folks in the past. They are like people who stand by the craps table in Las Vegas, cheering when the shooter makes the point and sighing when he loses, but their money stays in their pockets. They have no skin in the game. Many of our allies offer their moral support in an emotional way, but it has little effect on them whether we get equal rights or not. They never placed a bet and risk nothing, so it's no wonder I sometimes dismiss their good wishes.

That skepticism changed for me a couple of weeks ago while I was attending church. Our pastor, the Rev. Jo Hudson, made an extraordinary appeal. She had received a letter from a congregation of the United Church of Christ in St. Paul, Minn., asking for monetary help from other congregations in the denomination.

I suspect this kind of thing happens from time to time, but we as a congregation had never been privy to the details of such a request. The story is worth repeating. The Rev. Oliver White of Grace Church explained that back in 2005 he attended the general synod of the UCC in Atlanta. That was a historic denominational conference. At that event a resolution was passed by an 80 percent margin to affirm "equal marriage rights for all people, regardless of gender." That made the United Church of Christ the largest Christian denomination to officially support same-sex marriage. White voted in favor of that resolution.

Though he may not have known it, White moved from the sidelines of the equality game and placed his bet on the table. When his congregation learned of his vote, they responded. Seventy-two percent of church members left the congregation within a few months as a direct response. Now, after struggling with debts, the predominantly poor and African-American congregation is saddled with an equity loan to survive. Because of their credit difficulties the interest on the loan was a staggering 23.5 percent, the highest possible interest rate that can be legally charged in Minnesota.

White and the members of Grace Church who stayed in the congregation have skin in the game,



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

and their survival as a church is in jeopardy.

Needless to say, this story has made me examine my attitudes toward our allies, especially the ones who not only stand by us emotionally, but those who risk their own well-being to assure us rights which really have no bearing on them at all. Those are real allies, not just a cheering squad.

This story reminds me of something that happened when I was a child. At that time I was attending Temple Emanuel in Dallas. I was raised in a Jewish home and later converted to Christianity. Our rabbi was a well-known Dallasite named Levi Olan. I remember many Friday nights listening to his sermons as he preached against the evils of the Vietnam War and about the fight for civil rights. His views won him the nickname "the conscience of Dallas" but also ruffled the congregation on a regular basis. I know of several who left the Temple because of his

stance against the war and his support for civil rights. Rabbi Olan never questioned the consequences if he believed something was the right thing to do. That is the kind of ally anyone would be glad to have.

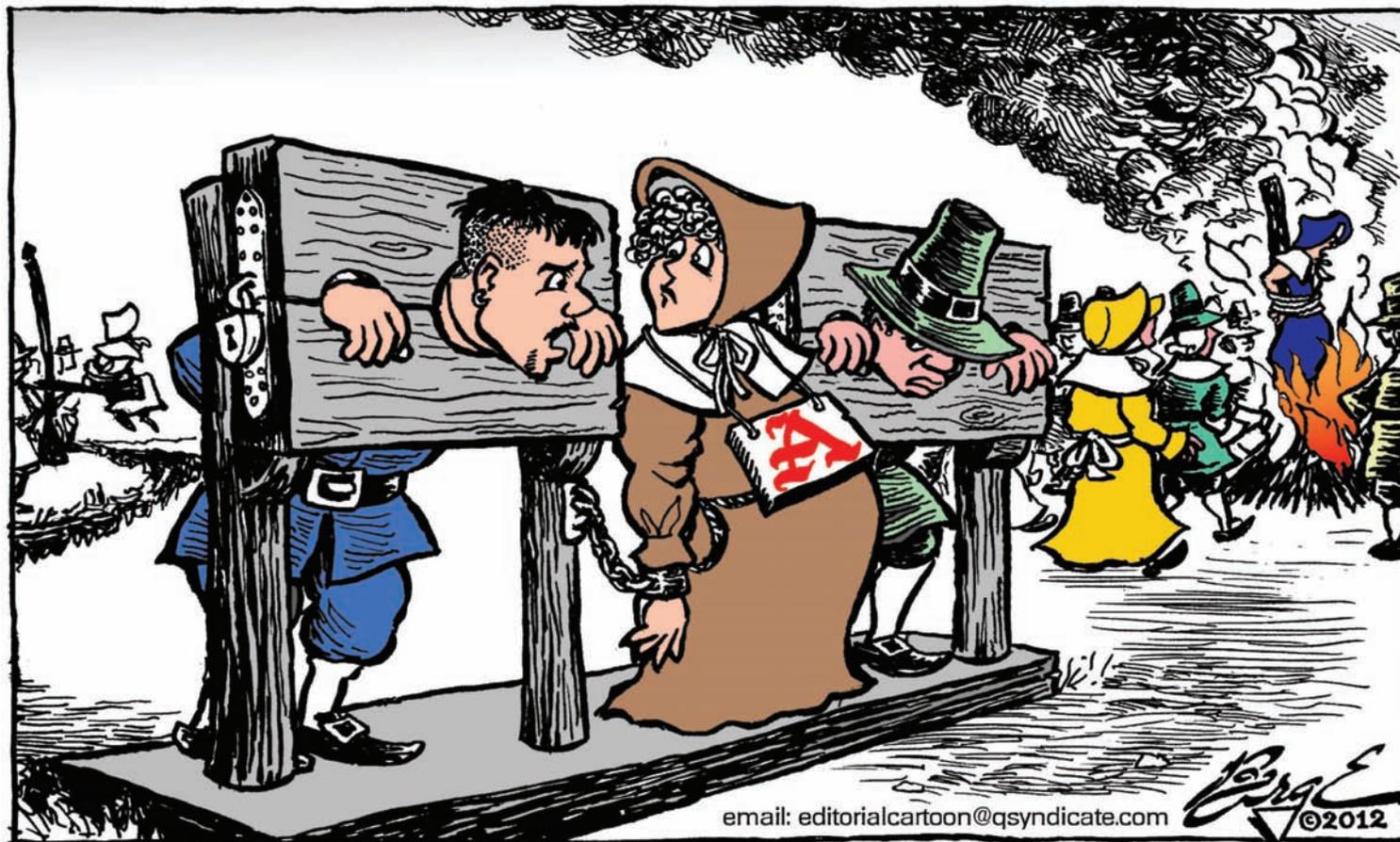
So I guess my point is this: I apologize. I'm sorry if I doubted the convictions of some of our allies and especially those who actually put their money where their mouths are.

To compare the fight for equality to a craps game is a very imperfect analogy. The truth is, though there is a lot on the line, the actual outcome is not something governed strictly by chance. More and more people have come to support our cause because they see it is the right thing to do. Because of that they are willing to risk more than just their opinions; they are actually getting into the game. Legislative bodies across the country are starting to pass measures that assure greater and greater equality for LGBTQ citizens, even though they face real consequences for their actions.

Government officials across the nation are making their voices heard that discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity is wrong. More telling is the number of clergy, even those with few LGBTQ congregants, who are standing up and speaking out for equality like the Rev. Oliver White. They are placing their bets with us on the table and history is tilting the odds in our favor. ■

*Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blot is at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com).*

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# Lord of the ring

As ringmaster for more than a decade, gay North Texan Mark Ward keeps Cirque du Soleil's 'Quidam' on track

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



Mark Ward will admit his career — his life — has surprised even him.

Growing up as a gay kid in Denton, he played sports, especially gymnastics, but really wanted to dance — especially after he saw Baryshnikov fly through the air with grace and power on TV. But that remained a pipe dream.

"I didn't know any black-Latino kids doing that," he says.

Then in high school, a teacher noticed he stood with a duck-footed stance endemic to ballet dancers. The teacher "tricked me into joining a ballet class," he says. "Then they coerced me with money to keep auditioning ... until I got a scholarship to the Dance Theater of Harlem and American Ballet Theater. I haven't stopped working since then."

But Ward is actually luckier than most ballet dancers. At 46, he's still going strong at his profession ... although it's been years since he's had to pirouette *en pointe*.

Since 1999, Ward has played John, the ringmaster in Cirque du Soleil's show *Quidam*; he's been with Cirque since 1993.

And in that entire time — now nearly 20 years — he has never. Missed. A performance.

Not once.

It's a remarkable achievement, unique among all the artists working in all the Cirque shows throughout the organization. It makes Ward the Cal Ripken of the circus.

"I've been called that before," he says with a wry sigh.

And he has no plans for slowing down. A friend of his, a prop mistress, had a similar record among the crew until one day her boyfriend wanted to go to dinner. She said yes, and missed her first show in ages.

Ward jokes that he doesn't have to worry about that — he has never been in a relationship; instead, "Cirque du Soleil is my relationship. It's just a way of life." (He is starting to date, finally, in his 40s. "I keep hoping to find some mature, out, masculine gay man but I keep getting asked out by guys who are like 19 or 25 years old," he laughs.)

It's an incredible dedication to a company that he'd never even heard of until the call came in asking him to join them.

"The call came at like 6 in the morning," he recalls. "I said, 'What's wrong with you? Call back!' But once I went [to Cirque's facilities] I was blown away to see so many different cultures and artists." He was immediately hooked.

Running away to join the circus, even as an adult, proved to be an oddly liberating and fanciful adventure.

"I still think that fascination with running away with the circus is present," says Ward. "We still pay homage to those traditional circuses because that's how we got here."

Ward has spent all 13 years with *Quidam* as the ringmaster,

performing 300 shows a year (one 12-month period in Japan, they did a staggering 516 shows), but he insists that while the structure has remained, he has enjoyed watching as the show's spirit changes.

"*Quidam* is so great because it's the most human of the Cirque shows," he says. "We can rotate another act in, and when you do that, you change the dynamic of the group."

Each bit of new blood brings their own thing to the show. You want to allow them to do that — we don't want to bottle up our talent. Sometimes an act will do something, and you think, 'wow, that's so sexual,' then another will do it and you respond to it emotionally. You can come back every night and see something you didn't before."

When Ward isn't performing with *Quidam*, he makes his home in Buenos Aires, where he has lived since 2006; he even has dual citizenship. So the performances next week in Frisco, near his hometown, are especially meaningful for him.

"My sister lives in Denton but I have a lot of friends coming to see the show, some I haven't seen in 25 years. Some coming up from Mexico, or other places in Texas — even France. That'll be weird. It's quite the emotional time."

Not enough to make him miss a show, though. He does have his priorities. ■

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# Miller time

Up-and-comer Ezra Miller, who plays gay onscreen and off, embodies the bad seed in Swinton art film

Ezra Miller plays a bad, bad boy in *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, director Lynne Ramsay's adaptation of Lionel Shriver's chilling novel about a sociopathic teen and his tormented mother, Eva. As Kevin, Miller exudes undiluted malice — with assist from his exotic, sculpted features — while Swinton, who helped develop the project, turns in another devastating performance.

Miller's own mother was moved to tears when she saw *Kevin* with him at its Cannes Film Festival world premiere last May. "I never heard her cry this particular way before," Miller recalls, "and it was the first testament to the possibility that the performance and film had been a success."

Mind you, the 18-year-old Miller has already played his share of provocative young characters whose antics would inspire premature grey hairs in most parents, including a prep school kid with a taste for violent Internet porn in 2008's *Afterschool*, Chubby-chasing horn dog in 2009's *City Island* and gay teen in 2010's *Every Day*.

Via telephone, the New Jersey-born actor, who also plays drums in band Sons of An Illustrious Father (which recently released their second album, *One Body*), dished about how Swinton measures up as a mom, his June 2011 bust for marijuana possession, and being gay (again) in the upcoming *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*... as well as off-screen. ■

— Lawrence Ferber

**Dallas Voice: You make poor Tilda's life a misery in *Kevin*. What would it be like to actually have Tilda as your mother?** Ezra Miller: It would be amazing. Honestly, having Tilda as a mother would be a beautiful, lovely, wonderful experience. She has two children and they're absolute angels, really wonderful people, and it seems like they're being raised right. They stay away from technology, they have vivid imaginations, they play all the time. It would be very dreamy and quite the polar opposite from the relationship our characters had in the film.

**Have you had any bad seed moments in real life?** I remember I put chewing gum in my friend Devon's hair when I was in, I dunno, second grade. I did it for no reason. It was one of those things where you're holding chewing gum in your hand and see the hair and do it. I remember my parents were very horrified. Kids naturally, in the exploration of life and your own capacity as a human being, discover how to lie and

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**COLD AS ICE** | In 'We Need to Talk About Kevin,' a mother (Tilda Swinton, rear) looks back on how her son (Ezra Miller) became a sociopathic spree killer.

hurt and deceive and manipulate and have to do it. Flex their muscles.

**Tilda played another mother in crisis in *The Deep End*, in which her gay son gets caught up with dangerous characters. Did you watch that prior to working with her?** I had seen that film before I was considering this one, but didn't refer to it in the work. One of the most important things about working with an actor you know the work of is, to the best of your ability, to forget about it. Those characters and situations are irrelevant. You're creating a story with someone who, in my mind, is a real person to my character. That was just my mother, Eva. To actually detach all associations of other characters she's played it's a natural part of the objective and easy because she carves a lot of distinction into each of the characters she plays.

**I read in an interview with Lynne Ramsay where she said you were underage and lied about it when cast in the film. That is a bold-faced lie! They made a mistake. They just assumed I was of age.**

There was a sheet in the casting director's office that said, "Write down your birthday if you're under 18," and I wrote down my birthday. I admitted it. They've been trying to blame me for it since. You can't believe everything Lynne Ramsay tells you.

**Was that a big problem?** I think they did have to make some accommodations and get a general verbal agreement from me that I would be willing to work any and all hours to make this film possible. I think the initial concern was trying to accommodate the hours [since minors have limited working hours]. But I voiced great determination to be part of this film and think that commitment comforted them enough.

**You play gay in *Wallflower* as Patrick, older brother to Emma Watson's character and friend to the protagonist, Charlie. What can you tell us about that character?** I can tell you he's an outstanding, charismatic, prideful young lad who has a beautiful ability to transform his circumstance into one of levity. He can make light of any situation, which I came to admire. He almost has this internal mechanism to bring the light out of any given situation.

**Does Patrick have a boyfriend?** Yes! He has a boyfriend whom he keeps secret, because the boyfriend's closeted and ashamed. He's the high school quarterback. One of those.

**It was nice to see you play a well-adjusted, kind gay kid in *Every Day*.** Right! He was a good, friendly character. People keep telling me I'm always playing one character. There's a range.

**Tom Hardy said, when asked about whether he had gay sexual experiences, "Of course, I'm an actor, for fuck's sake." Do you, umm, agree with Tom in your own life?** "Of course! Many! I've had many, you know, *happy ending sleepovers*' in my early youth — my period of exploration. I think that's essential. Anyone who hasn't had a gay moment is probably trying to avoid some confrontation with a reality in their life.

**Do you have some gay moments still to come? Is there any hope for the guys crushing on you?**

I'm not sure. Perhaps. I keep my options open. My spectrum remains broad. I've been in love with a lot of girls lately but that doesn't necessarily suggest anything definite about the future.

**In June you were arrested for marijuana possession, about 20 grams of it, and ultimately let off. I was shocked to read about the arrest — mostly because I keep forgetting they actually prosecute people for marijuana possession.** Right? They shouldn't. It's a ridiculous law based on ridiculous things. But I think people are coming around. Medicalization of marijuana is happening in more and more states. Of course, there is one sweeping issue, which is nonviolent drug convictions constitute a lot of what puts people in jail in this country and the prison industrial complex is one of our last booming industries. Pot also stands to take a lot of money away from the pharmaceutical industry. It's a painkiller and dopamine inhibitor. It serves all of these functions that there are all these harmful, extreme drugs prescribed to serve. So there's money to be made in the continued illegality of that plant. But I feel no shame. It's a plant. Everybody knows what pot is. And I don't care. It was a very enlightening experience to see the way the chief of police called the media and it all results in me handing money to a judge in the form of a fine. Yeah. My journey in the legal system.

**There's a website dedicated to hotties' mugshots, ([hotandbusted.tumblr.com](http://hotandbusted.tumblr.com)), so perhaps we can at least make sure yours gets up there.** Yeah, I hope so. I hope I make that cut.

#### ...TALK ABOUT KEVIN

Tilda Swinton, Ezra Miller. Rated R. 110 mins. Opens March 2 at the Angelika Film Centers at Mockingbird Station and Plano.

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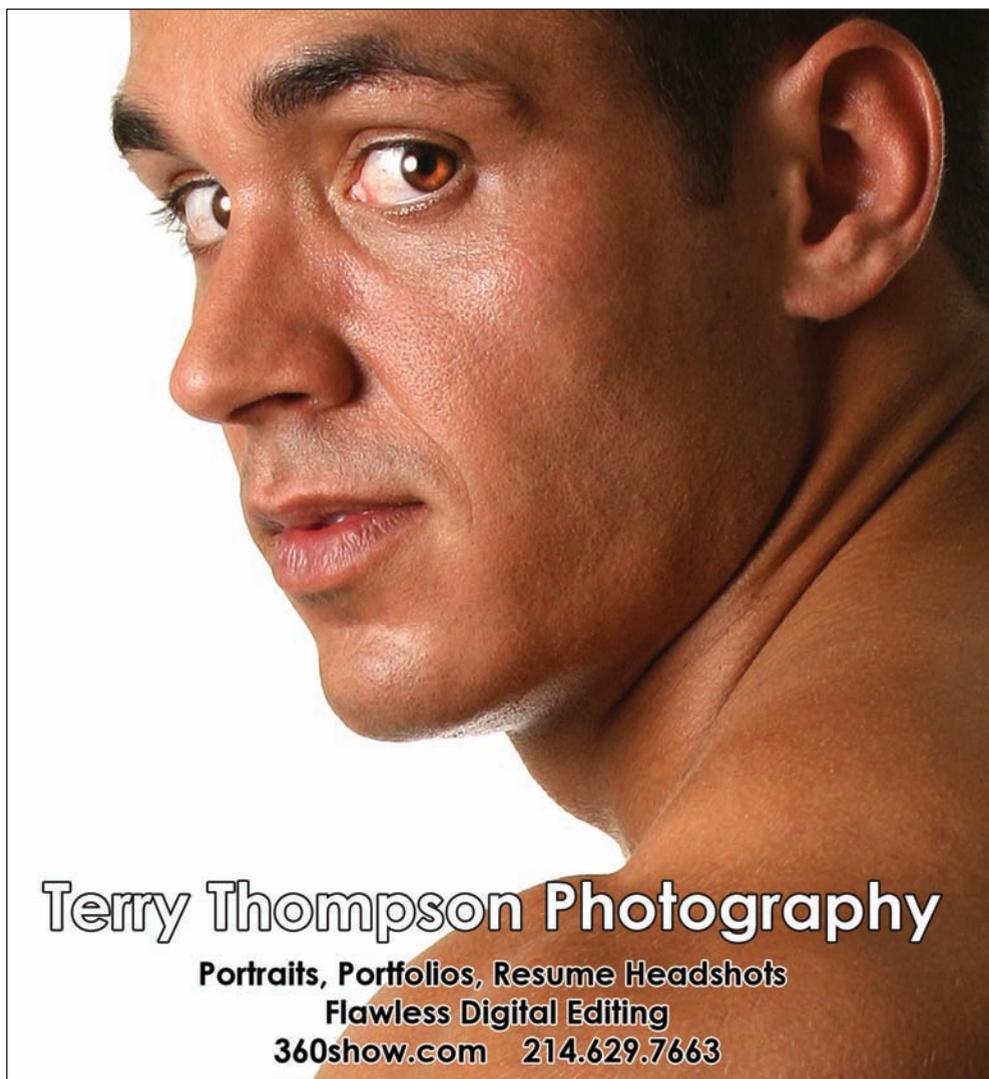
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# Fields of gold



Pop goes wild on CDs by queer-centric bands Magnetic Fields and Xiu Xiu

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
[lopez@dallasvoice.com](mailto:lopez@dallasvoice.com)

The strongest talent of Jamie Stewart, the queer frontman for the group Xiu Xiu, is unifying his way-out-there compositions and lyrics into fringe pop. The band's 2010 disc *Dear God, I Hate Myself* was an exercise in strange sophistication, but Xiu Xiu outdoes itself, hitting back hard with eccentricities that flay the listener, on the new CD *Always*, which delivers even more "what the fuck am I listening to" moments.

*Always* kicks off on the accessible "Hi," also its first single. The heaviness in its blunt drumbeats is a Xiu Xiu signature, as is Stewart's breathy voice, which sounds like he's always gasping for air. Even though he sings about a crocodile and a



hippopotamus, "Hi" manages to be an exciting opener that displays the band's quirkiness at its best.

Second single "Beauty Towne" is a polished beauty of electric beats. Released as a postscript to the band's "Clowne Towne" from 2004's *Fabulous Muscles*, the song is laden with sound, but its melody is inviting.

It's when Stewart shifts into total provocateur mode that he and the band become an acquired taste. "I Luv Abortion" is Stewart at his most unhinged, but the song is a hot mess. His rampant yelling over a disarray of noise may address a political issue, but it's so offensive in its makeup that it forced me to click fast to the next song.

Objectified Chinese migrant workers were the inspiration for "Factory Girls," a sleepy track that wants to say something more, but the vocals get muddled. The two-minute-plus track disap-

■ GOLD, Page 27

**DOLL FACE** | Xiu Xiu's gay frontman Jamie Stewart returns with a whole lot of oddness going on with misguided political statements amid some visionary alt-pop in the band's latest release, 'Always.'



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Hosted by Jazsmyne Kelli

SOPHISTICATED MONDAYS at 11:30PM  
Hosted by Shemar Collins Dupree

### WEDNESDAY

BEST CHEST CONTEST at 11:00PM  
Hosted by Olivia Oasis

### THURSDAY

STRIP-OFF CONTEST at 11:00PM  
Hosted by Olivia Oasis

### SUNDAY

THE UNTOUCHABLES Show at 11:30PM  
Hosted by Loretta Davenport

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# Like virgins

Turtle Creek Chorale channels its inner Madonna — and other women throughout history — for its latest concert

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Trey Jacobs knew exactly who he had in mind when forging the concept of the upcoming Turtle Creek Chorale concert *Madonna to Madonna: The Ageless Strength of Women*. The show was conceived to feature music that honors women from the Virgin Mary to the queen of pop. Iconic as they are, Jacobs looked to high school for the women who made him the person he is today — besides Mom, of course.

“As a musician, my role model was my high school choral director Jane Price,” says the TCC’s interim conductor. “She taught me how to express emotion through music.”

Thus, Jacobs will take a cue from Madge and express himself with a selection of Madonna songs — and then some.

Jacobs took over the chorale after the season outline had already been set. Running the gamut of women throughout history, from antiquity to the contemporary, was not his idea. But he expanded the idea to make his own mark.

“There was no music selected yet,” he says. “For me, it was about trying to pair [the idea] with a concept that would resonate with people. And it became this show that truly honors women.”

With a set-list that goes from Rachmaninoff to Shania Twain, the chorale teams up with some special guests for a unique experience. Enlisting the help of local singers Patty Breckenridge and Sally Vahle, New York musician Nisha Asnani and Cathedral of Hope’s the Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, the ladies add the appropriate feminine touch to the show.

While people are scrambling to get loan approval for Madonna tickets in October, there is a distinct curiosity for how the TCC boys will be pulling off some of her greatest hits. There will even be some “chorale-ography” involved.

“They’ll be singing ‘Open Your Heart,’ ‘Dress You Up,’ ‘Papa Don’t Preach,’” says Joe Rattan, who also does the chorale’s marketing. “Oh, and ‘Vogue.’”

Rattan and Jacobs confirm that the TCC men will, in fact, be voguing.

Clearly Madonna is a big draw for any gay event, but both men are sure to note that the inspiration of this show isn’t just about the material girl or even just about the Virgin Mary.



**STRIKE A POSE** | The chorale gets into the groove Sunday performing Madonna songs, but the concert honors many women throughout history.

“The show runs the full emotional gamut,” Rattan says. “It’s very touching, there are some funny moments. Trey really breathed life into it to be this and has done a wonderful job. The guys are excited and inspired by what they are singing and I’ve been moved by what I heard.”

Jacobs assures that a concert about women by men won’t miss the point.

“I had talks with the chorale and many of them would talk about these female role models,” he says. “Sometimes it was a strong character from a movie or musical, or more personal, but it was fascinating to hear all these different men talk about women in such reverence. That’s what this is about.”

## MADONNA TO MADONNA

**Meyerson Symphony Center,**  
2301 Flora St. March 4, 8 p.m.  
\$16-\$65. [TurtleCreek.org](http://TurtleCreek.org).

Thirteen years have passed since The Magnetic Fields last album — a three-CD collection called *69 Love Songs*, which also became the band’s defining CD and showcased the writing brilliance of its gay leader, Stephin Merritt. While the just-released *Love at the Bottom of the Sea* may not achieve similar iconic status, the new album is pure delight.

Perfume Genius’ latest was in the early running for gayest album of the year, but The Magnetic Fields is already ahead. Merritt writes straightforward lyrics without gay sensibilities ever becoming gimmicky. His unrequited love song “Andrew in Drag,” about a straight man facing some of love’s complications, has a tender honesty. When Merritt’s deep voice chimes out *I’ve always been a ladies’ man/and I don’t have to brag/But I’ve become a mama’s boy for Andrew in drag*, the romance behind that is sweeping with-

out the tune ever forcing it.

The band turns on its own eccentricities with fun flair in tracks like “Your Girlfriend’s Face” about a somewhat jealous lover’s attempts to get revenge (*Cause I’ve hired the fixer for her too/For stealing my lover and making me blue*) and “Infatuation (With Your Gyration),” an ode to a dance floor crush.

Merritt isn’t selfish with the vocal duties, allowing bandmates Shirley Simms and Randy Walker some time on the microphone, but he smartly saves some of the sweeter tracks for himself except for the adorable “I’d Go Anywhere with Hugh,” which goes to Walker.

While the band has gloriously added major synth elements on this venture, some of *Love* still plays with a lo-fi feel. They refrain from overthinking their music but turn love notes into gushy, but addictive tunes.

## ■ GOLD, From Page 24

pears in its lack of vision and all we remember is the emphasized line *no need to fuck yourself in the ass*, and the intended but missed poignancy of the final line *Thank you for making this purse*.

Despite efforts at topicality, *Always* works everywhere else. There is no denying Xiu Xiu’s conviction to its brand of quirky sound. Just don’t mistake quirk for cute. Xiu Xiu has a mysterious darkness about them that’s masked in fascinating musical innovation.



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# Made in AMERICA

Gay artist Glenn Ligon rediscovers his country — and his art — with new retrospective at The Modern

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Artist Glenn Ligon's simple "I Am a Man" was created by fixing stenciled black letters on a white background. The work is easy to underestimate because, while from afar it looks simply like a sign, up close, it conveys power beyond its simplicity.

Ligon is similarly cast. With his quiet demeanor, he may be easy to overlook, but on closer inspection, silent strength emanates from him.

Glenn Ligon: America is a mid-career retrospective of the gay artist, covering 25 years of his



work. From stencils to photographs to coloring-book art, the exhibit, at the Modern in Fort Worth until June 3, delivers a spectrum of emotions that come with being black — and gay — in America.

"Over the years, these have been my explorations," Ligon says. "In some instances, this exhibit has made me go back and look at my earlier works which I hadn't done in a long time."

Interestingly, his text-based paintings of Richard Pryor punchlines stirred up uneasy feelings when he revisited the language. Ligon, who created the works years ago, found fear in Pryor's words like "faggot" and "motherfucker." At the same time, the comedian was a beacon for him as a black man, even with seemingly homophobic rants.

"There was this man, this famous man, commenting about homosexuality in ways that were actually positive," he says.

Pryor's language is strong in these works, but to take them too seriously undermines Ligon's point. They were meant as jokes after all, and the artist hopes that political correctness doesn't override both a sense of humor and a deeper look at the meaning.

"People shouldn't be afraid to laugh if they think it's funny," he says. "Pryor was a funny man. These can look at the power of certain words or the power we give them."

The most charged of these words is "nigger." Ligon's work is bold and speaks the language of frustration, of identity and of sex. To only see the word is to misinterpret his work as that of the "angry Black man" — far from it. In his iconic black and white stenciling on door panels, he takes lines from African-American authors and repeats them from top to bottom as the paint gives way to blur. Diverse tones come from the likes of rap group N.W.A. ("Wrong nigga to fuck

with") to novelist Zora Neale Hurston ("I am not tragically colored"). The question becomes if the word "gay" or "faggot" could be easily swapped in those same sentences.

"Well first, I would never change another person's writing. These are from their published works," he says. "But it's an interesting question. The viewer could definitely see him or herself in there depending on their background."

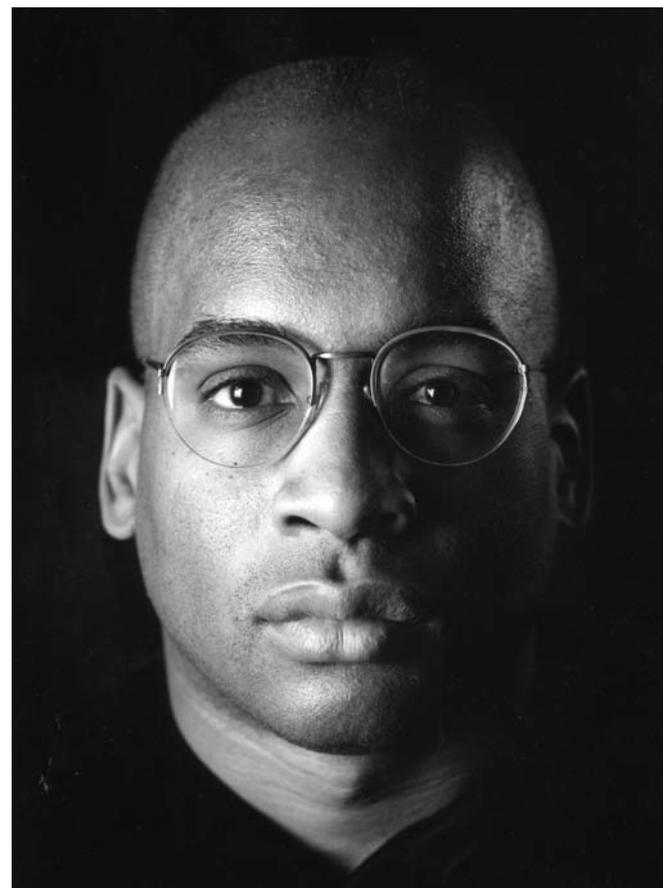
Ligon brings a fascinating aspect to his art that leans more to the queer. His Red Portfolio, akin to his stencil work, uses the power of words to make an

image, but it's the viewer who creates its intensity. Taking the Rev. Donald Wildmon's campaign tool of descriptions of photographer Robert Mapplethorpe's works, Ligon retooled those into art to bridge the gap between

words and images. Wildmon was denouncing the National Endowment for the Arts use of grants on art considered obscene.

"He would send these to people as a way of censoring Mapplethorpe's art," Ligon laughs. "So someone from his church or a high-profile politician would open an envelope or see the postcard with 'A photo of a man with a bullwhip inserted in his rectum,' typed onto it. That's it. And it's almost worse that way because these people would only come up with possibly the worst version of that image in their heads."

He echoes Mapplethorpe's work in the final piece of the exhibit. The photographer's 1986 *The*



**BLACK POWER** | Artist Glenn Ligon, above, turns words into powerful art on display at The Modern. A protest sign is turned into the subtle painting, 'I Am a Man,' left.

*Black Book* contained all nude pictures of black men in a variety of poses, but caused outrage because of a few particular depictions. Each page is framed and accompanied by quotes from activists, religious leaders and even the subjects themselves. The result is the poignant and powerful *Notes on the Margin of The Black Book*.

Whitney Museum of American Art curator Scott Rothkopf, who organized the show with The Modern, sums up Ligon's retrospective appropriately and perhaps is more willing to talk up his work than the artist himself: "With this exhibition, we can look back and appreciate Ligon's work that emerged from the culture wars in this country," he says. "We can appreciate the subtle nature that adds to its social relevance. Regardless of white or black, straight or gay, man or woman, the work addresses all Americans."

Ligon releases a small, prideful smile. ■

## GLENN LIGON: AMERICA

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Through June 3. [TheModern.org](http://TheModern.org).

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L+S dining

# Social norms

Top Chef Tiffany Derry's Uptown eatery Private | Social experiments with a new culinary model, but its old-school touches are just as memorable

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

From the start, the essential conceit of Private | Social — the one that gave it its name — was either a curious experiment or a genius culinary innovation: The restaurant was intentionally bipolar, both physically and conceptually. When you enter, the left of the house is "private" — that is to say, swanky dining behind a peculiar but intriguing bead-curtain, with intimate tables, a discrete area for small groups and elegant service.

To the right when you enter is a different story: Open with windows and banquette seating; the space is dominated by a large bar. It's easy to mingle here, whether for happy-hour drinks and app, a place to cool it until your "private" table is ready or even as where you'll stay for dinner.

Left: organized, right: creative ... get it? It's a restaurant that could have been designed by a neurologist.

But the differences at Private | Social don't end there. The menu is *also* split, with "private" representing fine-dining plated options and "social" shared plates, which are generally less expensive. *And* you can order the "social" menu in the "private" dining area and vice versa.

It's an intriguing idea that, for me, has never really caught on. I stick to the "private" on the left when I am feeling like a one-percenter, the "social" on the right when my proletarian bent takes over. But even if I don't buy into the idea, the food on both sides is admirable.

I get what Tiffany Derry — the exec chef, co-owner and former reality show fan favorite — is doing: She wanted a restaurant to appeal to all groups, from snooty white tablecloth foodies to pub-crawling butterflies. And Private | Social

does that, to an extent. But where it succeeds best is in the execution of elegant dishes.

Derry's background is in cooking seafood, and while she won't label Private | Social a seafood restaurant *per se*, a glance at the menu reveals her predilections: Hiramasa (a yellowtail amberjack), clams, monkfish, scallops, arctic char, sushi rolls, fish tacos. Even the items that aren't fish suggest Asian flavor profiles. The luncheon ramen noodle bowl is an excellent example: Hints of nori imbue the broth with an aura of fishiness, though cinnamon eventually dominates, melding effortlessly with the smokiness of Berkshire pork and the creamy heartiness of a beautifully poached egg.

Pork (a chef's favorite protein) figures its way onto a number of plates. My favorite use may be on the pork buns (which she cannily calls "Top Chef" pork buns, a nod to her use of them on the TV show). Presentation is like a jewel-box of edible heaven: Steamed buns are as soft and airy as meringue, but cradle the crispy strip of pork and cilantro slaw, like a pig's ear returning home. As bites of spicy-tangy sandwich minis go, you couldn't do better.

Kudos to Derry as well for finding inventive ways to approach traditional dishes. Her version of yellowtail carpaccio cured pastrami-style, brined and smoked, leaving the flesh cool and tender, the edges dabbled with a thin crust and spicy pickled chile.

The white sturgeon (no longer on the menu) won't be missed; the fish was well-cooked but the so-called "chowder" — a hint of liquid drizzled atop Oscar-style, with a dusting of pancetta and carrots on the bottom does not a chowder make, though the smokiness was arresting. (Not so the promise of licorice, which was virtually undetectable.)

Don't brush off the non-fish items, though; they are among some of the best executed on the menu. True carnivores won't want to miss the roasted marrow. Served in two thick bone halves, the dish has the consistency of pate but the taste of a nutty, meaty cauliflower, with a likable vinegar finish. Even better is the wild boar, which Derry added only recently. The meat literally fell from the bone at the softest touch. Charred but moist inside, with a shredded slaw of Brussels sprouts and a German potato salad, it made for a wholly balanced meal, remarkably not over-heavy.

Oxtail and rapini on doughy gnudi were likeable, and the insanely juicy lamb burger, available at lunch, was a smart tweaking of a traditional gyro with tzaziki sauce





**PASTRAMI ASIAN STYLE** | The show-cured yellowtail, above, takes on a tangy crust while keeping the fish flesh creamy; opposite, the pork bun is a menu standout.

and red onion. (I love shoestring fries, though these were disappointingly limp.)

The heart of the dessert offerings are gelati, which change seasonally and accompany many of the room-temperature items. The salted caramel offered something undervalued in gelato: chewiness, with a toffee-like depth. The chocolate decadence bar didn't wow me, but the chai gelato did.

Service is always good, but has yet to be outstanding. But the atmosphere — notwithstanding occasionally loudness overwhelming a “private” conversation — exudes a modern sophistication.

In some ways, Private | Social is old-school

fine dining with an update: Sleek, pretty, welcoming but not prissy about its cuisine. Uptown could use a place like this. ■

**OVERALL RATING** ★★★★★

**Private | Social**, 3232 McKinney Ave. Open weekdays for lunch and dinner, Saturday for dinner. 214-754-4744. [PrivateSocial.com](http://PrivateSocial.com).

Seafood and Asian influences peek out, but the wild boar and bone marrow are standouts.

**Food:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Atmosphere:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Service:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Price:** Moderate

**TASTING NOTES: EXTREME MAKEOVER EDITION**

**Lisa Garza**, the Dallas restaurateur (**Suze**) who nearly won *Next Food Network Star* a few seasons back, is back with a new eatery that opened just this week.

**Sissy's Southern Kitchen** is not so-named because a gay guy run the place — it's a reference to Garza's status as the older sister in a Southern family.

There is a strong gay connection, though: The locale. Garza, who has teamed again with her

**Suze** chef **Jeffrey Hobbs**, has transformed the old Hector's on Henderson space, and you won't recognize it from the redo: The style of food (gussied up home cookin') translates into the decor, which resembles a shotgun townhome in Charleston, S.C. Even the waitstaff wear homey garb that could have come straight from Billy Reid's closet: Print bowties, gingham dresses ... oh, and high-octane Arnold Palmers behind the bar. It's only open for dinner right now, but will eventually open for daily brunch — not lunch, *brunch*. Cool.

The **Warwick Melrose** is the de facto hotel of the gayborhood — a real landmark. And now, it's Landmark Restaurant has undergone a makeover. It's not just the entrance which is brightened up, or the refreshed overall look, or the new chef's table (pictured above), or the cleverly decorated private dining room dedicated to Dallas iconography (it really brings home the “landmark” theme). The menu has also been remade, with sizeable selections for lunch and dinner. (I'll have a writeup of the food soon.)

Bijoux is the French word for “jewels,” and for five years **Bijoux** has been a jewel of the Dallas dining scene: French-inspired cuisine in a beautiful setting. Now, the owners — chef **Scott Gottlich** and his wife, sommelier **Gina** — have done a makeover that will divide the restaurant into two zones: One featuring the same high-end prix fixe menu, a second offering more casual options ... and the casual area will dominate. The “classic” **Bijoux** menu (and style) will be offered in the chef's dining room. The restaurant has been closed since Sunday, and reopens March 2 with the new concept in place.

— A.W.J.



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Friday 03.02

What is he? A farmer?

There's a small part of us that misses the diabolical characters Alec Baldwin played in the '90s, but his turnaround as funny guy has been the best part of his career. Even amid the likes of Tina Fey and Tracy Morgan on *30Rock*, he's the funniest of them all as Jack Donaghy. Brinker International Forum brings him in for A Conversation with Alec Baldwin and we're kinda swooning.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$20-\$75. ATTPAC.org.

Friday 03.02

That's a whole lotta bull

Cowboys, cowgirls and the people who love them are all heading to Cowtown for this year's A Texas Tradition Rodeo. The Texas Gay Rodeo Association celebrates its 29th year with a grand schedule of competitions, live music by Chris Brade, entertainment by the Austin Baptist Women and Free Ho Lay Sisters, and even a rodeo school for newbies. Giddyup, y'all.

**DEETS:** Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. \$20. TGRA.org.

Saturday 03.03

Going green

Whether it's the Irish cuisine, the Celtic rock, cute dogs dolled up or ginger bears, the North Texas Irish Festival is a must. Hit up the green after work on Friday, but spend the whole day there on the weekend to take it all in.

**DEETS:** Fair Park Dallas, 909 First Ave. \$10-\$20. Through Sunday. NTIF.org.

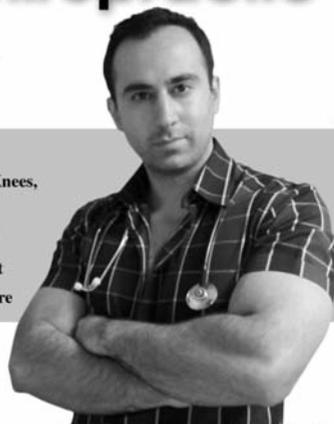


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## FRIDAY 03.02

## COMMUNITY

**Country and western dance lessons.** Line dancing and partner instruction. Promise Worship & Community Center, 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. Through April 27. 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

**Dallas Fresh Leather** meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

**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. YouthFirstTexas.org.

## DANCE

**Dallas Burlesque Festival.** Now in its fourth year, the festival will feature Michelle L'Amour, The Jiggles and boylesque star Bazuka Joe. The festival culminates in an awards show at Dish restaurant. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. Through Sunday. DallasBurlesqueFest.com.

**Festival of Black Dance.** The Black Academy of Arts & Letters (TBAAL) presents its 8th annual festi-

val. The show will feature Jamaica's Stella Marris Dance Company and the Dallas-based Happy Nia Dance Theatre. Naomi Bruton Main Stage, 650 S. Griffin St. 8 p.m. Through Saturday. \$10. TBAAL.org.

## THEATER

## Out of the Loop Fringe Festival.

WaterTower Theatre celebrates 11 years with this week of theater, dance, performance art and more. The 2012 schedule features several plays of LGBT interest including *A Most Happy Stella*, *Waking Up*, *The Screw You Revue* and more. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650, Addison Road. Through March 11. \$10-\$15 for individual tickets; \$55-\$65 for festival passes. WaterTowerTheatre.org/OutOfLoop.

**Rent.** The rock opera comes to Fort Worth for a one-week engagement. Casa Manana, 3101 West Lancaster Ave. Fort Worth. Through March 11. \$37-\$62. CasaManana.org.

**Tuna's Greatest Hits: 30 Years of Laughter.** Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Sunday. 8 p.m. \$44-\$55. EisemannCenter.com.

## SATURDAY 03.03

## COMMUNITY

**Dallas Blooms.** The famous flower festival returns for its 28th anniversary. With 500,000 spring blooms including tulips, pansies and violas, the festival has grown into a Dallas tradition. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Through April 8 \$15. DallasArboretum.org.

**Dallas FrontRunners** fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet under the statue at Lee Park at 8 a.m. They convene after for breakfast in the area. FronrunnersDallas.org.

**Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club.** Gamers meet to play and discuss role-playing games from sci-fi to fantasy. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

**Fuse: Core Group** for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2-5 p.m. 214-540-4435. DFWFuse.com.

## BROADCAST

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

## CONCERT

**Orchestra of New Spain** performs Handel's Water Music and Courcelle's Te Deum. Zion Lutheran



**GRUMPY OLD MAN** | 'The Screw You Revue' is just part of the gay cred at this year's Out of the Loop Festival at WaterTower Theatre.

Church, 6121 E. Lovers Lane. 7 p.m. Through Sunday. \$25. OrchestraOfNewSpain.org.

## SUNDAY 03.04

## COMMUNITY

**Interweave** meets for lunch. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano. Noon. 972-248-9343.

**Order of St. Francis and St. Clare** every first and third Sunday. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 12:30 p.m.

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

**Friends Associating and Relating**, LGBT social group meets for potlucks, game nights, and more. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

**Unemployment Support Group** meets weekly explores employment search and unemployment concerns and led by a professional career advisor. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2:30 p.m. CareerAssistanceMinistry@gmail.com

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

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

## MONDAY 03.05

## COMMUNITY

**Self esteem support group** provided by AIDS Outreach Center meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. AOC.org.

**DFW Prime Timers** play bridge every week at member residence. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for information on events.

**The Women's Chorus of Dallas** holds rehearsals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7-10 p.m. 214-520-7828.

## TUESDAY 03.06

## COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

**Sista to Sista** support group provided by AIDS Outreach Center. Meets every first, second and third Tuesday. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. AOC.org.

## WEDNESDAY 03.07

## COMMUNITY

**Marlee Matlin at Women's Symposium.** The Women's Center at SMU holds its 47th annual symposium with the Academy Award winning actress delivering the keynote address. Hughes-Trigg Student Center, 3140 Dyer Street, Ste. 315 (on campus). 11 a.m.-6 p.m. SMU.edu/WomSym.

**First Wednesday Wine and Pet Walk.** Cedar Springs merchants open their doors during an evening of community fellowship. Cedar Springs Road at Throckmorton St. 6 p.m. ShopCedarSprings.com.

**FUSE Activity Nights.** The "official FUSE hangout night" with games, food and more. 7 p.m. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 214-540-4435. DFWFuse.com.

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

## BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly.** LGBT radio for North Texas. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

## THURSDAY 03.08

## COMMUNITY

**Youth First Texas Gender Identity Group** for youth dealing with issues related to gender identity and gender expression. Youth First Texas, 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 7:30 p.m. YouthFirstTexas.org.

**Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association** monthly luncheon meeting. Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Noon. 214-540-4460.

**PFLAG Dallas.** Northaven United Methodist Church, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

**The Group.** Support group for HIV-positive black men. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Michael Irvin** turns 46 on Monday. Nicknamed The Playmaker, Irvin earned three Super Bowl rings with his time in the Dallas Cowboys. He became a broadcaster for ESPN and competed in the ninth season of *Dancing With The Stars*. Last year, he appeared on the cover of the sports issue of *Out* magazine talking about his gay brother and his stand for equality issues.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Financial ideas need correcting. Don't act prematurely. Listen to your partner's suggestions politely, but your friends really have the better insights.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

Your colleagues may feel the same way about you. Focus on improving your technical and interpersonal skills. Things will improve soon. Build a track record you can be proud of.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Stay within your budget, but let all other limits and constraints fly to the wind. Sharing your ideals and dreams with a potential sweetheart will boost your allure.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Wild impulsive ideas lead to true love or add juice to a relationship. Confess your wildest hopes and some will be fulfilled. Think ahead. Life gets crazy next week. Pay attention to details.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Bending over backwards will just get you a sore back. Open-mindedness is good, but study basic premises before adopting entire philosophies. You will be heard, so think before speaking!

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Tone down the charm and charisma at least a little bit. Others can easily make it out to be more than you intended, arousing jealousy and harassment suits.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Your naughty mouth can get you into trouble, delicious or otherwise. Tell the one you love what you'd really like to do when you're alone together. It could do wonders for your relationship.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

A flirtation with a co-worker or an exercise buddy could turn into something serious, unless you take it too seriously. Let it be fun and light. You need some fresh air and fun.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Getting rid of annoying twits may improve your life, but you probably still have some fences to mend. Make time for the folks who really matter.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Things seem to be backsliding now. Recalculate your direction. That will take a few weeks yet. Don't fret over immediate results. Keep your eye on the long run.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Why do siblings or neighbors drive you crazy? It's not about you. Work to understand and be sympathetic to their problems. On a power surge right now, you can afford to be generous.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Dissatisfaction drives the search for improvement; an open mind, some humility and a sense of humor will help you succeed. The comforts of home help you keep balanced.

**THIS WEEK**

Mercury is slowing down in Aries to turn retrograde while aspecting Venus and conjoining Uranus. Enjoy flirtations, but don't count on them to last. Any "inspirational notions" this week will blow up next week, but could lead to true genius by late April.

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

**JANE'S WORLD**



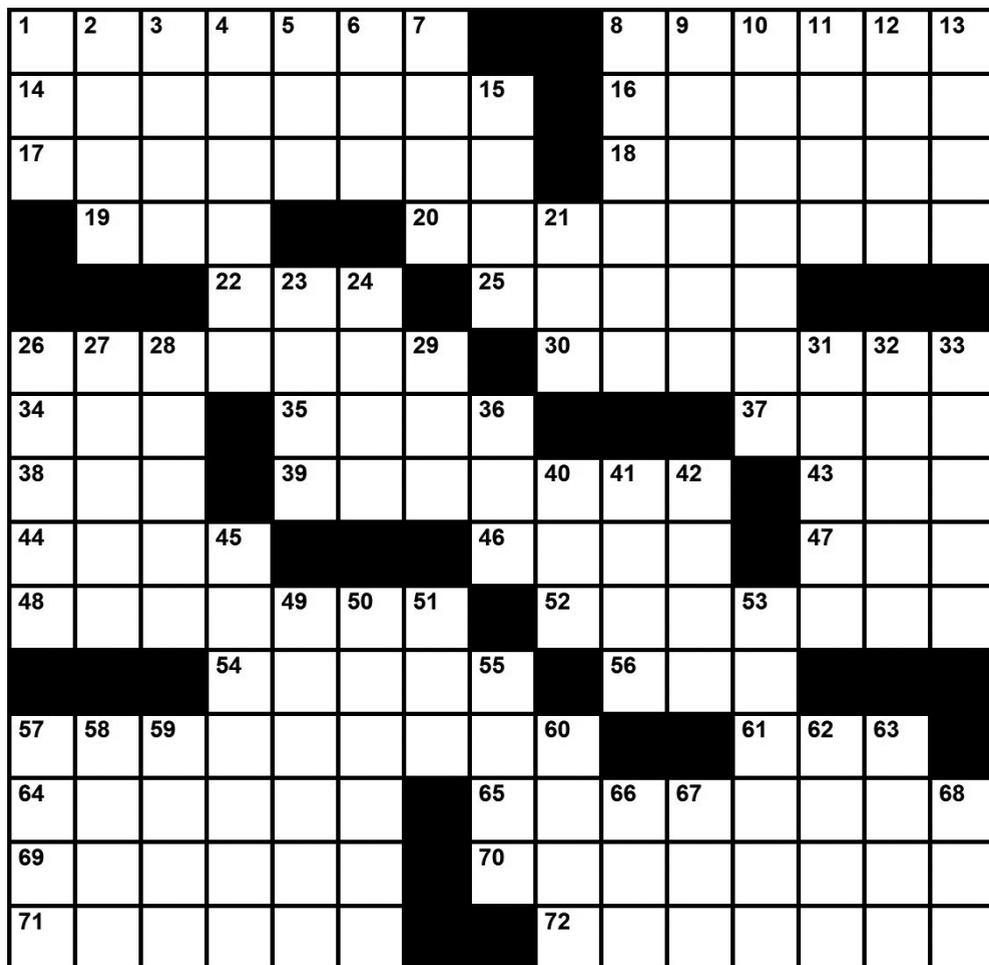
**bitter girl**



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# An Old Pro Among the Beginners

Solution on page 34

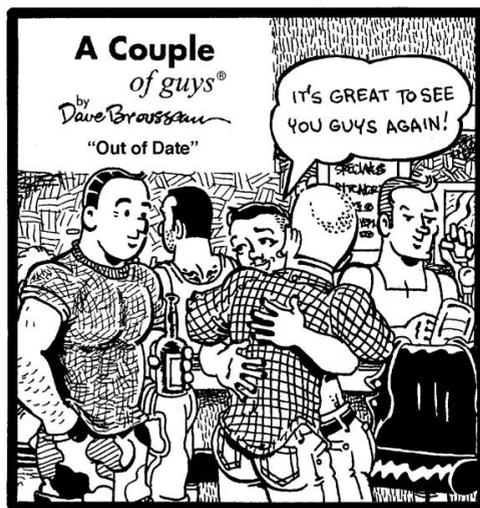
**Across**

- 1 Start of what 72-Across said to his Oscar
- 8 Vidal essay collection
- 14 Earhart and others
- 16 Black eye
- 17 Where motorists get off
- 18 "Lions and \_\_\_ and bears ..."
- 19 Flock tender, for short
- 20 More of the quote
- 22 Brian Boitano's milieu
- 25 Cut out
- 26 \_\_\_ Plain (lesbian-popular neighborhood in Boston)
- 30 Landscape blot
- 34 Shoshonean tongue
- 35 Language of Bangkok
- 37 "\_\_\_ she blows!"
- 38 Short one
- 39 More of the quote
- 43 Constellation over Rio
- 44 It serves Tel Aviv
- 46 Verlaine's mother
- 47 Image clarity, for short
- 48 Library section
- 52 Richard Chamberlain's Dr. role
- 54 Hotel staff

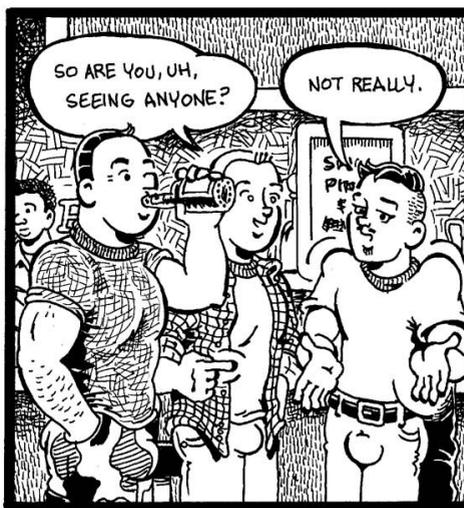
- 56 Giant ball-handler Manning
- 57 End of the quote
- 61 One that comes quickly, formerly
- 64 Thelma's lady friend
- 65 Has some
- 69 Art historian Raven
- 70 Not in a gay way
- 71 "Full" or "half" wrestling hold
- 72 Christopher, who won Best Actor for "Beginners"

**Down**

- 1 Women's patriotic org.
- 2 Spit it out, with confidence
- 3 Sophie B. Hawkins' "The Cream Will \_\_\_"
- 4 Riga's country
- 5 Señor suffix
- 6 Neither companion
- 7 What the fruits did in the orchard
- 8 Off the trail
- 9 Have sticky fingers
- 10 Like the top level
- 11 Top draft level
- 12 Griffin of game shows
- 13 Tongue of Wilde's land
- 15 Canadian comedian Mort
- 21 Wide shoe spec
- 23 Place for Maupin's tales
- 24 Radar blip
- 26 "Jesus Christ Superstar" setting
- 27 Not straight
- 28 It may be picked up in a bar
- 29 Track-and-field org.
- 31 Poet Frank
- 32 Like pinker meat
- 33 Tape over
- 36 Mac rival
- 40 Comics cry
- 41 Canal traveled by New York ferries
- 42 Title role for Jodie Foster
- 45 LGBT literary awards
- 49 Refuses
- 50 Myles of poetry
- 51 Reagan's Star Wars letters
- 53 Drop your guns
- 55 Bay Area bulls (abbr.)
- 57 "Six Feet Under" creator Ball
- 58 Folk history
- 59 Break in the action
- 60 He shot off at O.K. Corral
- 62 Take off the top
- 63 TV part
- 66 Fam. member
- 67 T, to a Greek
- 68 Neighbor of Leb.



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Brandon, Anthony and Aaron at the Grapevine Bar.



Chad, Ray and Eric at TMC: The Mining Copmpany.

This is the busiest weekend in the world so let's get it on .... TGRA's **A Texas Tradition Rodeo** highlights this weekend in **Fort Worth**. **Club Reflection** gets the weekend going with the super sexy **HomoRodeo.com Meet & Greet** on Friday night. Meet the hunky men of the website hosted by **Michael Castlow**. Don't miss out on the cowboy/cowgirl action at the **Rodeo Party** Saturday night .... **Best Friends Club** gets in the game with its **Second Annual Heffas in Dresses** events also on Saturday .... Lesbian singer **Mary Gauthier** performs at **Uncle Calvin's Coffeehouse** Friday night .... **Sue Ellen's** features **The Bright** on stage Friday night. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** perform Saturday night followed by **Kathy Corbin and the Barefoot Hippies** on Sunday. Put your singing voice to the test at **Little Chalupa Karaoke** every Thursday .... **Natasha Stoked** hosts the **Bad Bitch Bash** Saturday at the **Brick** where **DJ Damillakon** will bring the dubstep to the dancefloor .... **The Dallas Eagle** offers a double header weekend of DJs with resident **DJ Perry** on Friday night and **Blaine Soileau** on Saturday. Get prepared for the bears with **Growl** every Thursday night. It's like **Scruff** come to life .... Get glammed at **Glamorama** Friday night at **Beauty Bar** with **DJ Blake Ward**. **DJ Red Eye** hosts **Delorean Saturdays** every week .... Stroll along the strip at the **Cedar Springs Wine and Pet Walk** on Wednesday .... And do not – we repeat, do not miss **Leslie and the Lys** performing Sunday at **Bryan Street Tavern**. It's the best advice. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT [DALLASVOICE.COM](http://DALLASVOICE.COM).



Moses and Brenda at Station 4.



Kodi, Mac and Ali at the Rainbow Lounge.



Jacob and Jay at the Tin Room.



Erica and Jenny at Sue Ellen's.



Kyle, Scott and David at BJ's NXSt.

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# Classy +

## In the 'hoods

Your next new home might be in one of these very gay-friendly neighborhoods.

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer

Oak Lawn and Oak Cliff aren't the only gayborhoods in Dallas — they're just the most popular. But LGBT folks and families have found their place in and around several areas in Dallas and have spawned their own little gay district. If you're searching out your new home in Dallas, but still want the reassurance of "family"-friendly neighbors, these 'hoods have been popular among the community.

### Where the neon signs are pretty

Downtown has boomed in the last few years with renovations and resident-friendly developments focusing on high-rises. The Arts District, the DART Rail and the Farmers Market have helped to make the area a vital option for settling down. Plus, who doesn't want to put their interior design skills to work in a fab downtown apartment?

### Moving on up

The Uptown area spreads its high-rise developments a lot more than downtown, but has long been the go-to spot for modern and upscale living. Shops and restaurants are nestled among the wide selection of lofts, condos and even a few houses. The added neighborhood feel comes from its biker and walker friendly convenience.

### Like a rock

The East Dallas area of Lakewood and White Rock Lake is the gorgeous antithesis to the previous neighborhoods. The region includes pocket neighborhoods of charming old houses, looming trees and sprawling yards and, of course, the lake. The diversity is found in its selection of lakefront mansions to tiny cottage homes and everything in between and beyond all with a strong sense of community.

### Gimme an "M"

Lower Greenville is known for its live music venues and quirky shops and bars, the M Streets is a pocket of quaint 1920s-30s cottage style homes and booming McMansions. Perfect for small families and couples with pets, the neighborhood is cozy and comfortable. Downtown has boomed in the last few years with renovations and resident-friendly developments focusing on high-rises. The Arts District, the DART Rail and the Farmers Market have helped to make the area a vital option for settling down. Plus, who doesn't want to put their interior design skills to work in a fab downtown apartment?

### Out of the box

If you prefer suburban living, no worry. The gays have flocked to the large new homes of Frisco and its IKEA north of Dallas. Collin County has a few LGBT organizations based in Plano, one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. And the southern suburbs of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Waxahachie thrive on small city appeal with old, spacious homes and fixer-uppers, large green lots and growing retail and dining districts.

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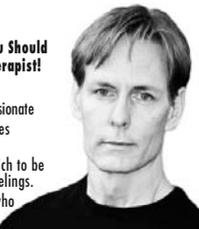
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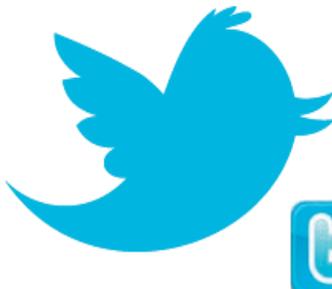
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