

Party platforms evolve on LGBT issues

Democrats add marriage equality; Republicans remove anti-gay planks

But spokesman says changes don't mean Texas GOP's stance has shifted on gay rights

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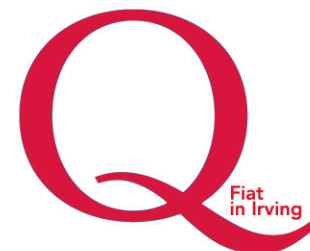
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mir·a·cle [mir-uh-kuhl] noun

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Vandals spray-paint anti-gay slurs on lesbian couple's car in Arlington

Arlington police say they are close to identifying the suspects who vandalized a neighborhood including spray-painting anti-gay slurs on a lesbian couple's SUV in the early hours of Sunday, June 10 — but as of Thursday they had made no arrests.

The lesbian couple were among the victims of 10 incidents in the 1100 block of Crowley Road over the weekend. Their SUV had the words "faggot" and "queers" spray-painted on it.

Tiara Richard, a spokeswoman for the Arlington Police Department, said the targeted residences had spray-painted images and words on the houses and vehicles including derogatory images, drug references, accusations of sexual assault and even a message aimed at police.

Richard told Instant Tea that although the incident involving the lesbian couple "looks like a hate crime," it's too soon to say that definitively.

It's up to the district attorney's office to decide whether to prosecute cases as hate crimes in Texas. However, law enforcement agencies do classify cases as hate crimes for the purpose of reporting them to the FBI each year.

But Richard said the determination about whether to report the incident as a hate crime to the FBI won't be made until the investigation is complete.

"When it comes to criminal investigations, we let the investigation tell us what something is," Richard

said. "We don't make determinations on the front end of what something is.

"It looks like a hate crime," Richard added. "It looks like this couple was targeted because of their sexual orientation, and that's a big element of the investigative process, and that's part of what we'll look into. However, until an investigation is complete ... they're not going to call it something that we may in the investigation find that it's not."

Arlington police are also working with Grand Prairie police after 10 residences in Grand Prairie were targeted by vandals early Tuesday morning. GP police spokesman Lyle Gensler said the graffiti was similar to the Arlington cases because both included spray-painted drawings of penises. He said police are working to determine if the cases are linked.

Tom Anable, president of the LGBT advocacy group Fairness Fort Worth, said he was pleased with the Arlington Police Department's response.

"We're going to let them investigate and see where they go," he said. "I'm comfortable with the track they're taking. The victims are comfortable with the way they're going."

As for the hate crime classification, Anable said sexual images and words targeted both straight and LGBT residents in the neighborhood, so the motive of the vandals is not yet clear.

Equality Texas Deputy Executive Director Chuck Smith said there is a basis for police to investigate the incident involving the lesbian couple as motivated by bias based on sexual orientation. He said the culprits may know the residents in the neighborhood consid-



ering what they wrote on the lesbian's vehicle.

"It is fair to say that it was one large or continuous act of vandalism," he said. "Within that, if some of the specific targets were motivated by some sort of bias, then there certainly is a basis for an investigation of any particular house or any particular target that might suggest bias motivation."

Criminal mischief is classified as a misdemeanor, but its class varies on the amount of damage caused. If the damage exceeds \$1,500, it is classified as a state jail felony. Richard said the total damage

from the incidents was still being calculated.

Arlington police didn't report any hate crimes based on sexual orientation in 2010 or 2009, according to the FBI's hate crime statistics. The city saw two sexual orientation-motivated hate crimes in 2008, one in 2007, and none in 2006.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact Detective Julianne Armendariz at 817-459-6054 or call the Arlington Police Department at 817-459-5600.

— Anna Waugh



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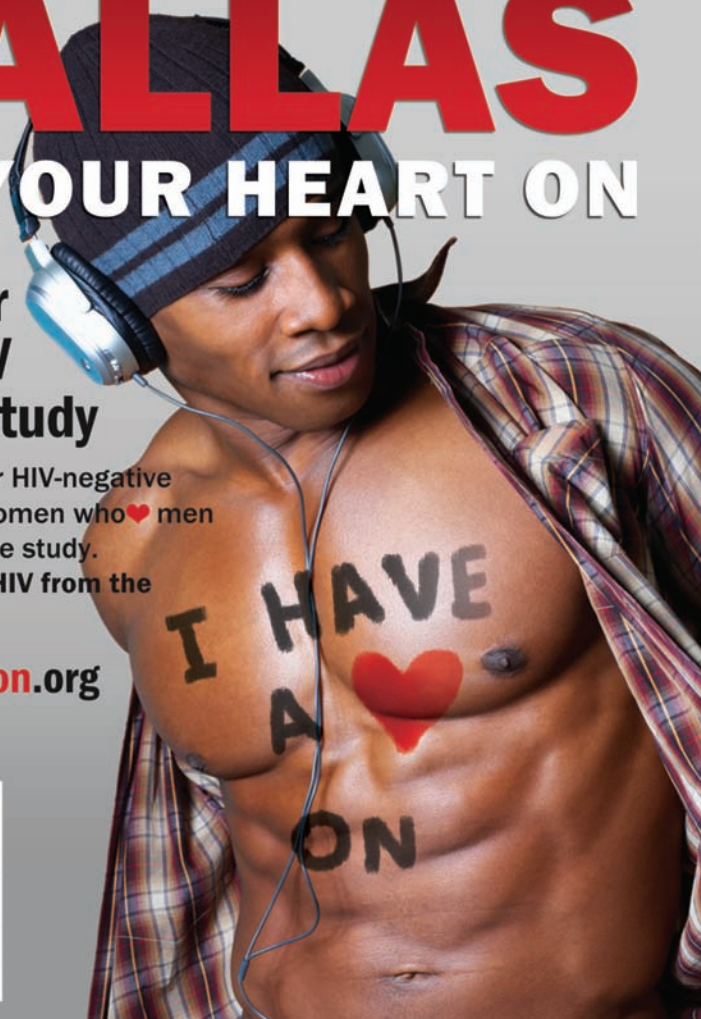
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TX party platforms evolve on LGBT issues

Dems add marriage equality while Republicans remove some anti-gay language — although a state GOP spokesman downplays the changes

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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LGBT advocates from both sides of the aisle were celebrating this week after successful state conventions.

On the Republican side, some of the virulently anti-gay language from previous platforms was removed from or tempered in the 2012 version.

Meanwhile, Texas Democrats added marriage equality to their state platform, revised rules to include gender identity and selected a record number of LGBT people to attend the national convention in Charlotte in September.

“I think it’s progress,” Metroplex Republicans President Rob Schlein said of the changes to the GOP platform. “Had there been more time to address the convention, we might have been able to get rid of more of it.”

But Chris Elam, a spokesman for the Republican Party of Texas, suggested the changes weren’t intended to reach out to LGBT Republicans, but rather to make an “unwieldy” platform more concise.

“Sometimes less is more,” Elam said, adding that reaching out to LGBT Republicans is “not what I read the platform as saying.”

Elam then quoted one of the anti-gay passages that remains in the Texas GOP platform.

“We affirm that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society and contributes to the breakdown of the family unit,” Elam said.



MAKING THEIR STAND | LGBT Democrats — including Patti Fink, Erin Moore, Noel Freeman and Meghan Stabler — line up to speak in support of the marriage equality plank on the floor of the Texas Democratic Party Convention in Houston last weekend. (Antonia Padilla/Dallas Voice)

Gone from the new GOP platform is opposition to the legalization of sodomy that appeared in 2010. Also missing from this year’s platform is the call to make it a felony to issue a marriage license or for a civil official to perform a same-sex wedding in Texas.

“Some people are going to hang on to what’s

there,” Schlein said. “I think we’re moving in the right direction.”

Schlein said that all the bad language didn’t go into the platform in one session and it’s not going to all come out at once.

But Elam said the platform is “clear” on its position on homosexuality.

‘Let’s support the president’

Fresh off a state convention that embraced the community with supportive language from the rules committee and in the platform, LGBT Democrats are looking forward to the convention in

■ PLATFORMS, Page 12



Anthony Chisom

AIDS Walk chair resigns as beneficiaries await checks

Former ED of Anthony Chisom AIDS Foundation steps down, alleges Chisom has failed to account for funds raised during event in March

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Three months after the South Dallas AIDS Walk, no accounting of the event’s finances has been released, but checks have been promised to beneficiaries.

Auntjuan Wiley resigned as executive director of the Anthony Chisom AIDS Foundation, the lead agency for the AIDS Walk, on June 6, after Chisom failed to account for money collected dur-

ing the March event and stopped returning phone calls. Wiley also resigned his position as chair of the AIDS Walk.

Wiley, whose positions were unpaid, said he’s been asking Chisom for the financial reports for more than a month. After last year’s walk, Wiley said the event’s finances were reported in a timely manner. This year, he said he’s seen Chisom once and spoken to him on the phone just twice since the walk. They used to meet weekly.

“Therefore, I’m resigning effective immediately,” he said.

Wiley had been with the organization since August 2010. After Wiley resigned, Chisom contacted the beneficiaries of the walk and told them that checks would be sent this week.

Chisom didn’t return phone calls seeking comment.

As of press time, no checks had been received by the beneficiaries.

Derrick Spillman of DFW Pride Movement, a beneficiary of the walk, said he’s spoken to Chisom twice since the walk and was told both times that figures were being finalized.

Kirk Myers, founder and CEO of Abounding Prosperity, another beneficiary, said he participated in the AIDS Walk because his is the only AIDS organization based and located in South Dallas.

Myers said he wanted community exposure but wasn’t looking for a large monetary return. He said that he saw things being done improperly from the beginning of his organization’s involvement.

“They didn’t even have proper permits to walk

■ WALK, Page 10



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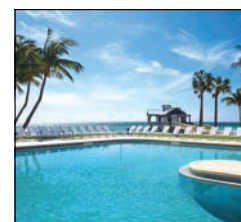
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■ texasnews

Death

Doris Archer and Jean Heath celebrated a 50-year relationship ending with Archer's death on March 19, 2012.

They enjoyed the many years entertaining their family, playing penny poker, celebrating events, the birth and birthdays of their numerous nieces and nephews, gardening, cooking, helping others, and traveling the U.S. in their RV.

Archer was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and a brother. She is survived by three sisters, Anna Calvin, Pamela Archer and her "loving" twin sister Deloris Draper; numerous nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

Archer was a teacher who began her career in Wichita Falls, where she met Heath, a nurse anesthesiologist. They moved to Lewisville in 1986 to be near family, and Archer continued teaching until her retirement in 1993.

Her zest for life and outgoing personality made a lasting impression on her students and friends. She will be remembered for her beautiful smile and warm friendship making everyone feel special. She buzzed all over her church before and after services hugging old friends and making new ones. She loved her time gardening, and caring for her many cats, turtles and any animal needing a home.

Since Archer was an educator, she donated her



body to UT Southwestern Medical School to be used for the teaching and training of future doctors — a true servant spirit.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 16, with the Rev. Dawson Taylor officiating, with a musical tribute given by the music department at the Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas.

■ pet of the week / LEXIS

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Bishop unlikely to allow same-sex blessings in Dallas Episcopal diocese

National church expected to OK ceremonies, but heavily gay parish hasn't requested permission from conservative local leader Stanton

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
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The heavily LGBT congregation at The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle likely won't be able to bless same-sex relationships even if a resolution allowing the blessings passes at the July General Convention in Indianapolis.

Bishops will decide whether to allow the blessings in their dioceses, making Dallas parishes doubt that they'll be performing them anytime soon.

The Rev. Stephen Waller, openly gay rector at St. Thomas, said he hasn't even requested permission from the Dallas bishop to perform the blessing because he doesn't think it would be granted.

"We would not be given such permission by our diocese," Waller said. "I can't speak for the bishop, but I suspect he will toe the line and not grant permission. Our bishop has been pretty clear that he didn't want to do that."

Dallas Diocese Bishop James Stanton didn't return calls this week requesting a comment about the resolution.

Despite the Episcopal Church moving forward in its acceptance of LGBT members — ordaining openly gay priests in the '90s and later a gay bishop in 2003 and a lesbian bishop in 2010 — the Dallas diocese has remained conservative.

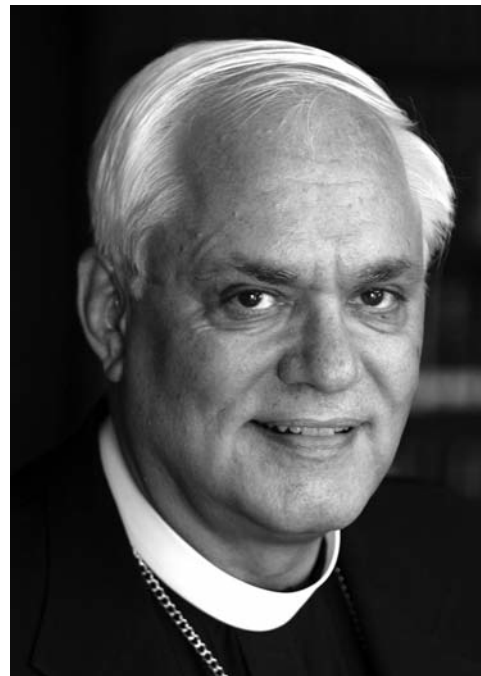
Although Waller won't be at the convention and is unsure whether the resolution will even pass, he said it is something he will wait for the church to decide on before moving forward.

"This is a decision the church has been working on for years and years and years," he said. "I want the church to continue to do its work until it comes to some common mind about it, so that's what I'm waiting on is for the church to speak at convention."

Katie Sherrod, a spokeswoman for the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, will represent the diocese as a deputy at the convention.

Each diocese will send four clergy delegates, known as deputies, and four lay people to the convention July 5-12 along with the bishop. Sherrod said each deputy is expected to vote based on their conscience, not how their diocese wants them to vote.

Sherrod said Episcopalians have always been



James Stanton

more progressive among Protestant faiths, passing several similar resolutions in part since 2000. This year, she expects it to pass.

"I hope and I truly do expect this resolution will pass and I think so because the groundwork has been so carefully laid down in the church," she said.

In the '70s, the general convention passed a resolution that stated gay people were children of God and deserve pastoral care the church offers, she said. Advocates within the church for the full inclusion of LGBT people have been expanding the acceptance ever since.

"What we are trying to do is include in as many ways as we can all of the people of the church in the life and worship of the church, and that includes our LGBT members as well," Sherrod said.

The resolution titled "Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships" was proposed by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

Sherrod said it explicitly outlined that the blessing would be allowed in states where gay marriage or civil unions were allowed, but instead changed it to include all states based on the local bishop's permission.

The blessing symbolizes the sacrament of marriage, Sherrod said, and doesn't legally bind the couple. Instead, it holds the committed couple up

■ **BISHOP**, Next Page



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■ **BISHOP**, From Previous Page

in the church and blesses their union, she said.

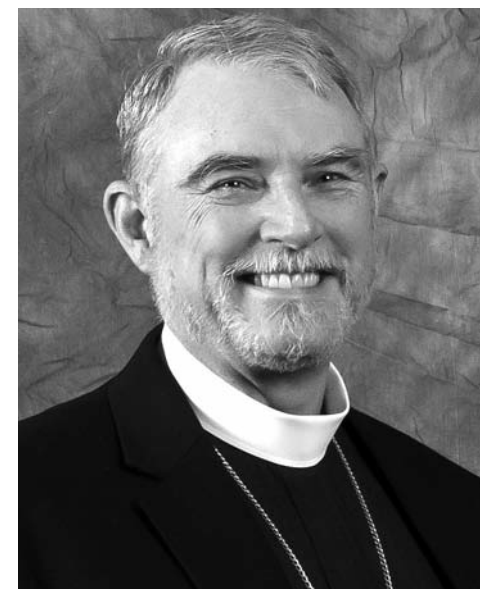
The Fort Worth diocese broke apart in 2008 when its former bishop left the church because of its highly conservative, anti-gay views, Sherrod said. While the diocese is still wrapped up in a legal battle for the title of the diocese and its property, it has a provisional bishop, the Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl.

Ohl wrote in an email to Dallas Voice that he would handle the blessings on a case-by-case basis. He didn't mention if he would vote for or against the resolution.

"If the resolution passes, it will not go into effect until January 2013. I will be retiring (for the second time) in November at our diocesan convention. It will be up to the next provisional bishop of the diocese to decide whether and how he or she will make use of the generous pastoral care referenced in the resolution," he wrote. "In the meantime, I have told our clergy that all cases involving such blessings will be handled on a case by case basis while I am in office."

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, bishop of the Texas Diocese, granted permission to perform the blessing to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Houston's heavily gay Montrose area and to St. David's in Austin. They may perform them beginning in December after they complete a congregational study, spokeswoman Carol Barnwell wrote in an email.

Barnwell added that while Doyle plans to vote against the resolution, his response was based on



Wallis Ohl

pleasing both opinions within the church after he wrote a 120-page paper detailing the rites. She added that about only nine of the diocese's 153 churches are expected to perform them.

"With what we learn from these two churches we will refine how we offer blessings and allow more churches to offer them," she wrote. "Most of our churches will opt to take no action, whether to request the ability to offer blessings, or state that they will not offer blessings. A majority of our diocese is very traditional, even though we do have more liberal members/congregations." ■

■ **WALK**, From Page 6

in the street," Myers said.

Myers said he's more concerned with an accounting of the walk than receiving a check.

The week before the walk, Dallas Voice reported that the 501(c)(3) nonprofit status of the the Chisom Foundation had been revoked the previous year for failure to file required annual financial statements.

Chisom told Wiley at the time that he had just discovered the reports had not been filed. He claimed an accountant who was supposed to file the paperwork had disappeared and that he was working to restore the organization's status.

When it was revealed that the Anthony Chisom Foundation had lost its 501(c)(3) status, Myers said the AIDS Walk didn't address it properly.

"People needed to be notified that their donations would not be tax deductible," he said.

Myers said that Chisom has had plenty of time to release a full financial accounting of the event that he estimated grossed \$15,000-\$20,000.

"If they had \$20,000 in pennies, they could have counted it by now," Myers said.

Wiley said he stuck with the organization because of the beneficiaries after learning that the nonprofit status of the sponsoring organization had been revoked — because the walkers and sponsors were expecting the event to take place.

Wiley said he had no access to the financials of either the foundation or the walk.

However, he said he's seen files from the foundation and estimates 100 people had been helped in the past two years by the Chisom Foundation.

The Chisom Foundation provides temporary financial assistance to pay rent, utilities or transportation costs.

But Wiley said he did not know where the money to make those small grants came from or how the organization was sustained.

Wiley said he would like to reorganize the walk next year. He said Dallas City Councilwoman Carolyn Davis suggested he rebrand it as AIDS Walk South Dallas and incorporate as a separate entity.

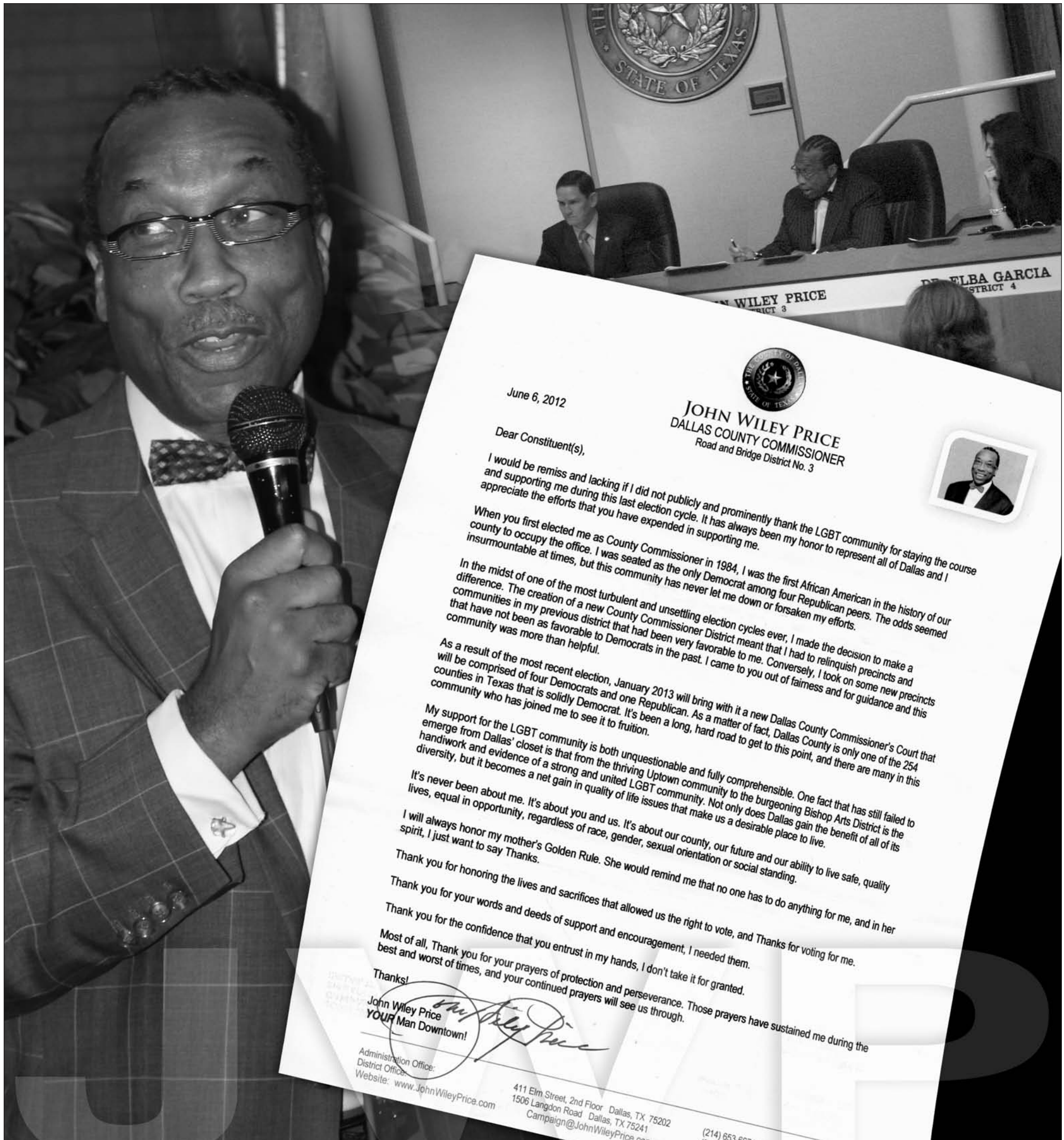
Myers said that he'd like to see new leadership but thinks Wiley could continue to have some involvement in the event.

Local attorney Chad West said unless money was stolen by someone at the Chisom Foundation, he doesn't think anyone could be charged with criminal activity.


A donor could sue the organization for misrepresenting itself as tax-exempt.

However, a corporation that contributed to the walk could retain the tax exemption by writing the money off as advertising rather than as a donation.

"A director who fails to maintain an organization's tax exempt status may be liable to the organization for breach of fiduciary duty, a civil action," West said, adding that a board member could bring action against Chisom. ■



June 6, 2012


JOHN WILEY PRICE
DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER
Road and Bridge District No. 3



Dear Constituent(s),

I would be remiss and lacking if I did not publicly and prominently thank the LGBT community for staying the course and supporting me during this last election cycle. It has always been my honor to represent all of Dallas and I appreciate the efforts that you have expended in supporting me.

When you first elected me as County Commissioner in 1984, I was the first African American in the history of our county to occupy the office. I was seated as the only Democrat among four Republican peers. The odds seemed insurmountable at times, but this community has never let me down or forsaken my efforts.

In the midst of one of the most turbulent and unsettling election cycles ever, I made the decision to make a difference. The creation of a new County Commissioner District meant that I had to relinquish precincts and communities in my previous district that had been very favorable to me. Conversely, I took on some new precincts that have not been as favorable to Democrats in the past. I came to you out of fairness and for guidance and this community was more than helpful.

As a result of the most recent election, January 2013 will bring with it a new Dallas County Commissioner's Court that will be comprised of four Democrats and one Republican. As a matter of fact, Dallas County is only one of the 254 counties in Texas that is solidly Democrat. It's been a long, hard road to get to this point, and there are many in this community who has joined me to see it to fruition.

My support for the LGBT community is both unquestionable and fully comprehensible. One fact that has still failed to emerge from Dallas' closet is that from the thriving Uptown community to the burgeoning Bishop Arts District is the handiwork and evidence of a strong and united LGBT community. Not only does Dallas gain the benefit of all of its diversity, but it becomes a net gain in quality of life issues that make us a desirable place to live.

It's never been about me. It's about you and us. It's about our county, our future and our ability to live safe, quality lives, equal in opportunity, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or social standing.

I will always honor my mother's Golden Rule. She would remind me that no one has to do anything for me, and in her spirit, I just want to say Thanks.

Thank you for honoring the lives and sacrifices that allowed us the right to vote, and Thanks for voting for me.

Thank you for your words and deeds of support and encouragement, I needed them.

Thank you for the confidence that you entrust in my hands, I don't take it for granted.

Most of all, Thank you for your prayers of protection and perseverance. Those prayers have sustained me during the best and worst of times, and your continued prayers will see us through.

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■ texasnews

■ PLATFORMS, From Page 6

Charlotte — and they're fired up to try to add marriage equality to the national platform.

The rules committee added gender identity to its statement of principles, which bans tests for membership based on a list of characteristics such as race and ethnicity.

A separate sentence was added prohibiting discrimination based on characteristics including sexual orientation and gender identity "in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs."

Former Texas Stonewall Democrats President Dan Graney proposed the rules changes.

Dallas transgender activist Pam Curry sat on the rules committee. She wasn't surprised that the changes passed but was delighted by the complete lack of controversy.

"There was not a squabble," Curry said. "It was perceived by everyone as long overdue."

Curry said it's noteworthy that the changes are to the fundamental principles of the party at the top of the document, not just tacked on as an obligatory nondiscrimination policy toward the end.

Meanwhile, the platform committee added marriage equality and pro-adoption planks that were passed by the convention nearly unanimously.

Chuck Smith, deputy director of Equality Texas, said outgoing Texas Stonewall Vice President Erin Moore, who served on the platform committee, was instrumental in adding those planks.

"She worked her butt off to get that passed," he said.

Smith said Moore attended a number of meetings in Austin prior to the convention armed with studies and statistics that convinced other committee members that Texas Democrats support equality.

Looking forward to the national convention, Smith said, it was telling that Wisconsin and Montana added marriage equality planks to their platforms last weekend as well.

"We're part of the larger march to equality," he said. "It's going to happen."

Moore will be carrying that equality message to the national convention as a member of the national platform committee. She was recommended by the Texas members of the Democratic National Committee and the state party chair and appointed to the national committee by the President Barack Obama re-election campaign.

Outgoing party Chair Boyd Richie was the only state chair who didn't come from a state that already had relationship recognition to endorse adding marriage equality to the national platform, Moore said.

Richie's recommendation of Moore to the Obama campaign reflected his support of the issue.

Moore said she wants to do more than just make sure marriage equality is included in the state and national platforms.

"I wanted to make sure we made the strongest statement we could," she said.

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Patti

Fink, Moore's partner, said she cried when she saw the floor vote on adding marriage equality was nearly unanimous.

"It's really wonderful to say Texas Democrats support all families," she said.

She called the platform, which contains a number of other progressive points such as abolition of the death penalty, support for strong public education, high-speed rail and a statement that corporations are not people, a reaction to the extremism in the Republican Party.

What was so exciting about the vote, she said, was the support coming from across the party.

"It didn't matter if you were white, Latino, African-American," she said. "I've been in Texas politics a long time. There's been a progression, but this was overwhelming."

Juan Ayala, who's openly gay and was elected as an at-large national delegate, said that the inclusion of marriage equality shows how important LGBT voters are to the party. He's been active in party politics for 20 years.

"I've seen it building and building and seen the role of the LGBT community grow year after year," Ayala said.

Tom Elliott, elected as a national delegate representing Austin, learned politics as a graduate student at Southern Methodist University where he campaigned to add an LGBT student senate seat. Now, he's the Travis County Democratic Party's administrative director.

Elliott decided to run to become a national delegate two weeks before Obama announced his support for marriage equality.

Elliott said he initially wanted to show the president that the base supports equality. But once Obama made his statement, he said his focus became, "Let's support the president."

At least 32 members of the LGBT community will be going to the national convention in Charlotte as delegates, committee members or elected officials.

Elections were held at the convention to fill a number of positions.

Glen Maxey was elected to be one of 10 Texas members of the Democratic National Committee. He replaces lesbian former Houston City Councilwoman Sue Lovell. Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez also serves on the DNC but was appointed to that position in addition to the 10 elected members.

The State Democratic Executive Committee selects one male and one female from each state senatorial district. At least two new gay members from Dallas were elected to SDEC positions — Paul Tran from District 23 and Michael McPhail from SD 9.

Also at the convention, the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus elected new officers. Eli Olivarez of Brownsville was elected president. Olivarez founded and served as president of Stonewall Democrats of the Rio Grande Valley.

Carol Cappa from Tarrant County, previously the group's secretary, is the new vice president. Replacing Cappa as secretary is Jay Narey from Dallas, who has served as an officer of Stonewall Dallas. Shaun Nelson of Houston will continue as TSDC treasurer.

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- 3) To remind everyone that National HIV Testing Day is as much about reducing stigma as it is about getting tested.



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viewpoints

Yes we can ... say 'I do'

President Obama's leadership opened floodgates that ultimately led to marriage equality plank in Texas Democratic Party platform

Thank you, President Obama. When the president said he supported marriage equality, the floodgates of support opened and gave the go-ahead for progressives in the Democratic Party and fair-minded Americans everywhere to take one more step toward equality for all. Real leadership is powerful and empowering — in a president, in a party and in voters.

While the president's statements of support for marriage equality came a day after an anti-gay marriage amendment passed in North Carolina — the state where the Democratic National Convention will be held in September — the immediate impact of his voiced leadership on marriage equality was huge and widespread, particularly among African-American voters who have typically opposed marriage equality:

- Ten days after President Obama spoke out in support of marriage equality, the NAACP — the nation's largest and oldest civil rights organization — voted overwhelmingly to endorse marriage equality.

- Polls in Maryland — where a voter referendum is on the November ballot essentially to ratify or reject a marriage equality bill already passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor showed an equally dramatic shift in opinion among African-American voters: From 39 percent to 55 percent in support of marriage equality, and opposition dropping from 56 percent to 36 percent.

- Nationwide polling conducted just days before and after the president spoke out reveals that 59 percent of African-American voters now support marriage equality, a jump of 18 percent. And among ALL American voters, 53 percent believe that marriage equality for same-sex couples should be legalized, a distinct "evolution" from just 39 percent in 2006.

It's been breathtaking to witness. Yet, within my party in Texas, support for marriage equality hasn't always been so clear, depending upon who you talk to and when. A big sign for me that change was in the air was the TDP announcement in early May that our outgoing State Chair Boyd Richie had joined 10 other state Democratic Party chairs in supporting marriage equality.

And when we gathered in Houston, this year's Texas Democratic Party Convention had a decidedly different tone, feel and energy than past con-



BOYD BEHIND US | An LGBT delegate holds a sign in support of marriage equality while outgoing Texas Democratic Party Chairman Boyd Richie — who came out for marriage equality before Obama in May — speaks during the party's state convention in Houston last weekend. (Courtesy of Patti Fink)

ventions. It was less "old school" and much more "let's DO something." With this spirit, a large group of dedicated people worked to get the Texas Democratic Party Platform to include marriage equality, same-sex parent adoption, decriminalization of marijuana, and repeal of the death penalty. The LGBT members and straight allies on the State Democratic Executive Committee worked long hours persuading people, serving on committees, running for seats and marketing the idea of the Texas Democratic Party standing for something instead of trying to appease and play nice.

A remarkable thing happened along the way. Delegates to the convention not only supported the ideas, they were elated that something was being said. "It's about time" was a common remark. And when individuals running for various positions within the Party were asked if they support marriage equality, the responses were time and again unanimous — "Yes!" "Definitely!" "Absolutely!"

For the first time in my memory, the platform got applauded and cheered when presented. Additionally, a record number of 33 LGBT Texans are going to the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.; 26 delegates, two alternates and five members of national convention committees.

What does all of this mean? Is it just empty rhetoric? The platform is the marching orders for

candidates. It defines what each party believes. While the Texas Democratic Party Platform calls for "full inclusion of all families in the life of our state, with equal respect, responsibility and protection under the law, including the freedom to marry," the platform of the Republican Party of Texas states: "We oppose the recognition of and granting of benefits to people who represent themselves as domestic partners without being legally married." Texas Democrats want to strengthen the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act and the federal Matthew Shepherd Hate Crimes Prevention Act; Republicans want to repeal them. The differences are clear.

Perhaps more meaningful than what the platform signals for candidates is what the platform says to Texas voters.

We can now point to a document that represents all of us. A document that says we believe in supporting you. A document that says we hear you and now we are going to do something about it. It is a platform in the truest sense: People can stand upon it and announce, "This is me. This is what I believe."

In a time when the Tea Party is driving the Republican Party farther and farther to the right and moderates have no voice, the Democratic Party is rediscovering its base, its values and its leadership. This platform loudly and proudly states that we believe in equality for all.

Thank you, President Obama.
Erin Moore is leadership council co-chair for National Stonewall Democrats. She can be reached at ErinMoore@aol.com.



Erin Moore
Contributing columnist

The beginning of a more inclusive Texas Republican Party

Removal of anti-gay language from state GOP platform resulted from years of hard work by groups like Metroplex Republicans of Dallas

I'm happy to report that the Texas Republican Party has removed several anti-gay planks from its 2012 platform. While a couple of passages still remain, another chance in 2014 gives me hope!

Today marks the beginning of a more inclusive Texas Republican Party that has removed several anti-gay planks about banning gay scouting and gay adoption, and linking pedophilia with our sexual orientation. The core members of Metroplex Republicans have worked for years at all levels within the party to affect this change. From seeking allies at party events, to attending conventions at precinct, senate district and state levels, we have advocated for removal of all anti-gay language for a long period.

Over time, we have had many spirited conversations with delegates, candidates and elected officials about our Texas platform. We have heard for years from Republican candidates that they

didn't agree with some of the unfair language in the "Strengthening Families" section, and we have always known it was a tiny group of myopic volunteers who controlled the committees that create our party platform.

Our greatest weapon against this small group is simply exposing their embarrassing language to a wider political audience. We are convinced that more Democratic activists are aware of the language than Republicans. We recall countless times when fair-minded Republicans expressed disbelief and shock when learning the language was in our platform.

There is no doubt that time is on our side. More and more of the younger delegates see the gay issue as one of liberty. And, even some of the older delegates have softened their stance as they have learned about our community, or have gay grandchildren or friends.

I give a lot of credit to our members' persistent efforts in posting opinions on Facebook, giving us an opportunity to engage with people who think differently. I have seen so many times

where respectful discussions online can cause people to think and rethink about their attitudes toward gay Americans.

Platform changes of any kind are difficult. And, once a plank is put in, it is even more difficult to get it removed. I appreciate the efforts of so many allies that helped turn our platform in the right direction.



Rob Schlein
Contributing columnist

Poll after poll reveals there is a widening gap between the written Texas platform and the beliefs of rank-and-file Republicans regarding gays, as well as others issue. Our members are always welcome at Republican events and treated cordially.

As a matter of fact, Metroplex Republican meetings are becoming a "must stop" for most local candidates seeking support and volunteers. Thus, when gay people ask

the question about how one can be gay and Republican, my response is that we do it with an understanding of how the platform comes about, and that at its core, our party and our candidates stand for liberty and freedom — good for all Americans, including gay people.

Metroplex Republicans is happy with the progress made this convention to begin to create a platform that more accurately reflects the very real changes within our party.

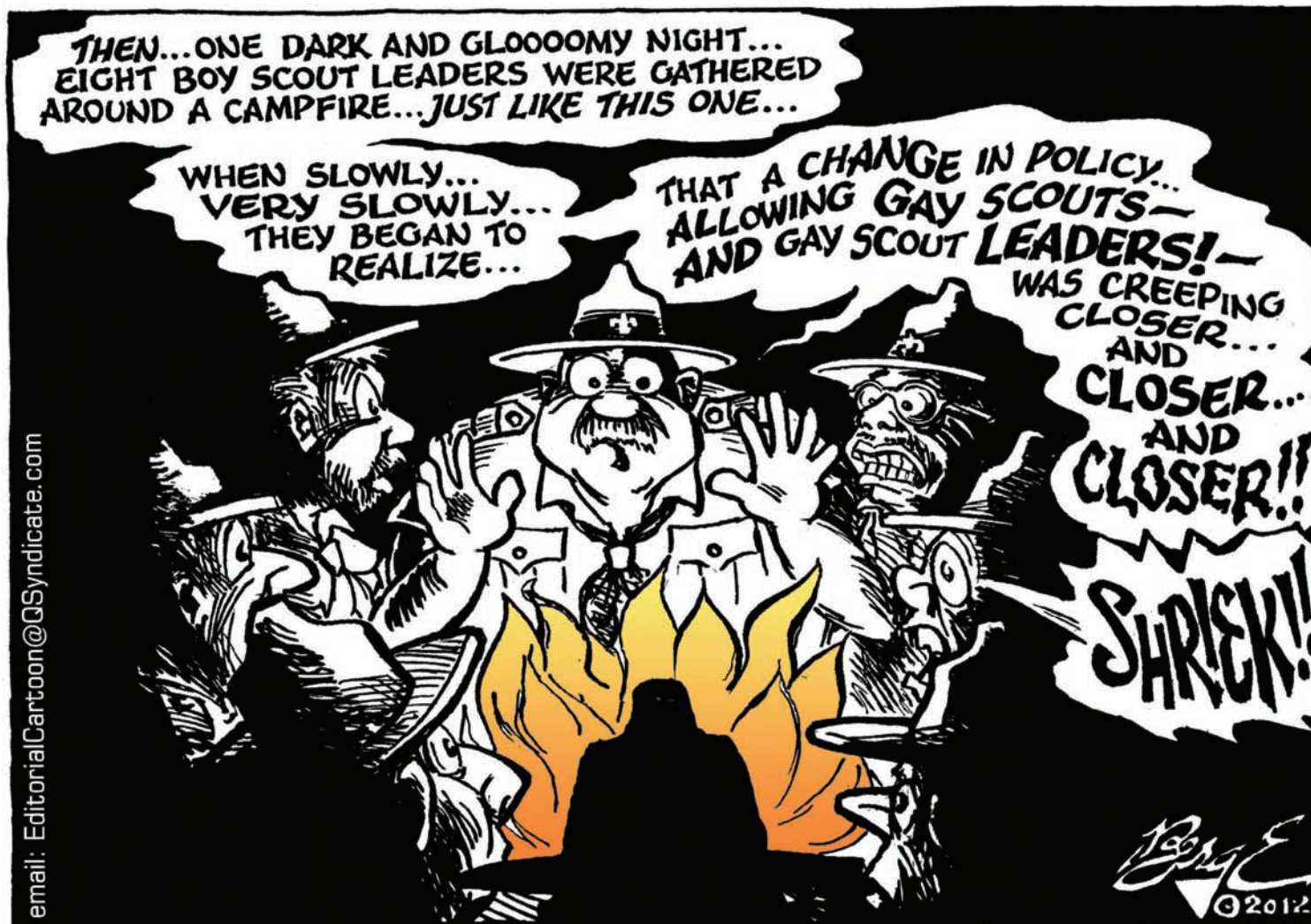
We aren't kidding ourselves — we know there is much work yet to be done. But the 2012 platform compared to the 2010 version is light-years ahead.

One of the most important reasons we remain Republicans is our belief in other core principles of our party — particularly economic and fiscal policy. I believe we cannot truly have equality without prosperity. Thus, I am hopeful that with the election of a President Mitt Romney, unemployed and underemployed gay people can soon become empowered with economic freedom. Economic freedom and equality go hand in hand. By staying focused on these issues, Romney can increase support in the gay community from the 30 percent garnered by John McCain.

In debates, Romney has made it clear that he stands with us in the areas of employment, hospital visitation and the passage of property to our partners. Plus, I feel confident that the Supreme Court will soon settle in our favor the other issues that concern many of you who read this newspaper — the Defense of Marriage Act and same-sex marriage.

As I have stated on these pages before, I will proudly advocate and support our Republican nominee for president. Today, I can do that with additional pleasure having returned from the 2012 Texas GOP Convention proud that we made a difference and proud of many of my fellow Republicans.

Rob Schlein is president of Metroplex Republicans of Dallas. He can be reached at RobSchlein@aol.com.



TO SEND A LETTER | We welcome letters from readers. Shorter letters and those addressing a single issue are more likely to be printed. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, but we attempt to maintain the writer's substance and tone. Include your home address and a daytime telephone number for verification. Send letters to the senior editor by e-mail (editor@dallasvoice.com).

Speak **out** poll

CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE AT DALLASVOICE.COM

Does the Texas GOP's new platform mean the party is more gay-friendly?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Has Dallas' ban on anti-LGBT discrimination been effective?

- Very effective: 5 percent
- Somewhat effective: 27 percent
- Not effective: 49 percent
- Unsure: 20 percent

117 votes cast

Get

One of Texas' artistic treasures, choreographer Bruce Wood continues to amaze the dance world

Get

Bruce Wood

GREGORY SULLIVAN ISAACS | Contributing Writer
gregoryisaacs@theaterjones.com

The three male dancers are all entwined as they gracefully move under and around each other. "Keep moving. Don't let go. Keep moving," Bruce Wood shouts, "or you'll get stuck."

Wood — for a decade, the Fort Worth-based founder and artistic director of the Bruce Wood Dance Company, one of the most acclaimed modern dance

troupe in the Southwest — is rehearsing his new show. It's a welcome development; Wood had been sorely missed ever since he closed his eponymous troupe five years ago.

That company achieved international acclaim based on his highly creative choreography; he's up to more of it now. This performance marks the second season of his new company, now called the Bruce Wood Dance Project, launched last year, largely through the efforts of his producer and patron, Gayle Halperin.

"Bruce is the 'real thing,' as my friend and ballet teacher Kim Abel says — and I do not say that lightly," coos Halperin. "Bruce has that special gift to create meaningful, intelligent, moving and exquisitely structured works that pinpoint different episodes in our lives. His works are about people and their relationships. He's able to take a feeling and transform that into a dance work that makes the hair on your arms stand up and leaves lasting after images."

For Halperin — and anyone else in love with dance — having him back at the helm of a local troupe (this time, he's based in Dallas) is exciting — already, it's another jewel in the city's diadem of arts organizations.

"I'm calling it a 'dance project' instead of a 'company' because these two seasons of performances are just the beginning," says Wood. "We will see where it goes. We are doing two completely different programs on four alternate evenings."

The complex program of six dances reconfigured over four performances is a big undertaking for a relatively new company, but Wood never backed away from a challenge. "Two programs means twice the work," he says, "but the rewards are doubled as a result."

Besides, he is not doing it all

himself. As part of his efforts to create a vibrant dance environment, Wood invited Joshua Peugh to join him as associate choreographer — the first time he's ever done that in a storied career.

"I saw a video clip of his work with the Dark Circles Contemporary Dance Company in Korea, which he co-founded. It was just wonderful. He had that special spark that can't be taught but that you can spot instantly," Wood says.

Peugh, a Southern Methodist University graduate, was stunned to hear from Wood.

"Here was this giant of modern dance — one of my idols — sending me an email completely out of the blue, asking if I would consider coming to Dallas to choreograph some dances for his new project," says Peugh, who is also dancing

with the company. "I was amazed. The first thing [I did was], I got was a plane ticket."

The two choreographers couldn't appear more different. Peugh is slender and lanky, slightly exotic and even younger than he actually is. Wood, by contrast, is compact and buff, a muscular, graceful fireplug with years of experience etched into his still-handsome face. Their choreographic styles are just as divergent.

"I leave him alone to do his work," says Wood about his new role as a mentor. "Of course, I am always here for him to bounce ideas around or offer some possible solutions on a place where he might be stuck. But I try to stay out of the way."

But Wood still exerts his own artistic imprimatur on the company. He assemble a group of dancers unlike those found in the traditional *corps de ballet* — gone is the matched line of slender swans and princes. Instead, his dancers represent a range of physical types and personalities.

That dichotomy is readily apparent to company member Harry Feril. A local boy who is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Feril has a linebacker's build capped with a wispy buzz of reddish-blond hair and a day's stubble framing his broad shoulders. He looks like he could break Peugh in half. Yet their connection and affability with each other is evident.

"I had to make a choice between professional football and ballet," Feril says. The decision meant that he had to change his body as well as his career goals. "In football, I was working toward strength, but in dance the goal is flexibility. You still need strength, but it is a very different kind."

■ BRUCE, Page 20

THE HUMAN FORM | Choreographer Bruce Wood, pictured, is still in fine shape from his days as a dancer for the New York City Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. He has never shied from exploring the muscular beauty of the male form in his works, including one getting its world premiere this week.

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Jerseylicious

Hetero musical 'Jersey Boys' get a dash of gay from hunky Barry Anderson

One of the surprising facts you learn from *Jersey Boys* — the mega-hit musical about the founding of '60s rock group The Four Seasons — is that the songs that helped define romantic melodies for scores of straight folks were co-written by a gay man.

Bob Crewe, lyricist and producer for the band, is played in the national tour (settling in at the Winspear for a month-long run) by actor, budding songwriter and fellow member of the gay community Barry Anderson. Anderson spoke about touring as the iconic musicmaker.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: The tour of *Jersey Boys* will set you up in Dallas for more than a month.

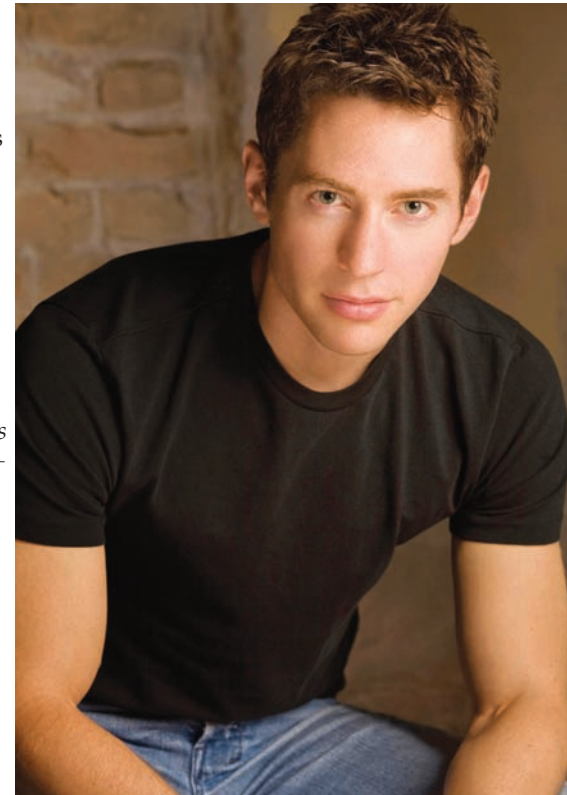
Do you enjoy touring? Barry Anderson:

This is my third tour. I did a bus and truck of *My Fair Lady* about 10 years ago, and we played some towns for one night only. In 2009 I did *Legally Blonde* for 18 months [after being in the Broadway production]. Two years of *Legally Blonde* is a lot of pink. We brought it to Dallas, so I've experienced the spectrum. I appreciate so much more the longer stints. On this tour we're playing great cities. There's so much to do. Over five weeks, we get four Mondays off to explore and see some of the fun things to do. I do enjoy touring because we get to bring the show to a part of the country to see how certain things play in certain regions. Audiences gravitate toward different things. You sacrifice being away from home and that stability, but it's a great opportunity to travel while working.

I think one of the things that has helped make *Jersey Boys* such a hit is that it's a musical that hetero men can enjoy. Yes, *Jersey Boys* is certainly a show straight guys don't mind going to see. Overwhelmingly, people leave having been educated so much. I always hear, 'I never knew that about that group.' They know only the songs. It's usually a blank slate — a *Behind the Music* kind of show and a really good biography. What's been fun for us is, all the characters existed. It made re-searching it all very doable. Several days of rehearsal were just doing dramaturgy — about the band, and Italian-American culture. It was like jumping back to a college course in a way.

Did you have any direct contact with Bob Crewe, who you play? I have not, and only because we've gotten word he's in declining health. He doesn't travel much anymore.

I've heard that the show downplays his role in the group. But Crewe is even credited as the sole lyricist of the entire show. Without a doubt he was instrumental in creating the sound that became their signature. He was writing specifically for them, and was definitely in the studio and had a direct hand co-writing the songs with Bob Gaudio. Perhaps if the show were four hours long we could delve more into his story. But in our play, he provides a lot of laugh



ONE LIVE CREWE | Barry Anderson not only has Bob Crewe's model-looks, he also writes music.

lines, which for me is a blast. And you do get a sense for his talent behind the scenes.

Bob Crewe has been described as devastatingly handsome — obviously you were typecast — but also had a unique career. He had such a varied career. He recorded as a soloist early on, he studied design, he was a fashion model. It sets him apart in his mannerism and his own aura — he was always described as very refined whereas the other guys were a little rough around the edges. He was stylish and a bit on the eccentric side. It's just a blast to have fun with all that and be different. You feel like you're watching a movie.

In the play, they call him "flamboyant" which we all know is code for

gay. Ha! Yes. In the show, Bob Gaudio's character addresses the audience and says, "This is the '60s — people just thought Liberace was theatrical." Back then, people knew but didn't talk about it. I think that's another thing people don't think about [the Four Seasons]: This flamboyant gay man was creating all of the songs that working class straight guys were playing on the radio all that time. It's another interesting factoid. Everyone that kind of knew him said he had no apologies about his sexuality. He has to this day been very vocal in support of the gay community. I like to give that to the audience. But at the same time, I think by the end of the play it's not even an issue.

I think it's funny that a lot of songs sung at sporting events — like "We Are the Champions" — were written by gay men. Yes, well, those big anthems are all pretty dramatic, so it kind of makes sense.

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Bad hair gay

Adam Shankman, the gay director of 'Rock of Ages,' is a big tease

Adam Shankman's last film, *Hairspray*, was a musical set in an earlier decade that explored the transformative, social relevance of rock-n-roll. His newest, *Rock of Ages*, does basically the same thing, only the decade is different (the '80s instead of the '60s) and the rock? Well, the hair's just as bad. Shankman discusses a gay on-set bromance and working with Tom Cruise (and no, those are *not* the same thing).

— Arnold Wayne Jones



THEY CAN'T FIGHT THIS FEELING | Shankman, center, says directing the gay kiss between Russell Brand, left, and Alec Baldwin, right, was one of the easiest things he had to do on 'Rock of Ages.'

Dallas Voice: Where were in you 1987 and what were you listening to? Shankman: I was in New York screaming toward the end of my misbegotten youth, going to all the clubs. Back then I was listening more to Prince and Madonna and Janet Jackson. I had the most horrible hair ever. I tried to go with fashion; now I'm grateful for every hair that is still on my head.

In *Rock of Ages*, you kinda ignore other forms of pop at the time — you even make funny of boy bands. Lance Bass looked at me [at a screening] and said, "What's so bad about being in a boy band?" I said, "Nothing for you!" We were going for New Kids on the Block [for the boy band scenes]. [Choreographer] Mia Michaels said to me, "You are *not* making

me do this!" I told her, "Not only are you doing it, but do *not* make it look pretty." That was even filmed on the same set as the "Opposites Attract" video from Paula Abdul.

But I was telling a very specific story about a very specific time and place. But there's a fleeting scene when [some characters] go to Venice Beach, and if you look, everyone is dressed differently. But this movie is about the Sunset Strip.

There are no doubt going to be comparisons to your last film, *Hairspray*. Both are period pieces focusing on a specific kind of music with social implications. Do you see that? There are *massive* similarities, not the least of which is, at the end of the day, both are about joy and happiness. I just want

people bopping in the aisles. I can even use *Hairspray* song titles to describe *Rock of Ages*: "You Can't Stop the Beat" is how man can't end rock and roll. These people just wanna rock. "Without Love" is about sticking to your guns and you end up in a love place. That's true of all the different love stories.

A plot point in the play I was pleased to see in the final film was the love story — including a kiss — between Russell Brand and Alec Baldwin. Did you ever consider taking that out, or was it something there was pressure to take out of a mainstream Hollywood summer movie? Oh, God, absolutely not. It's a fan favorite part of the play. And it works because those characters are so sweet and to-

■ BAD, Page 20

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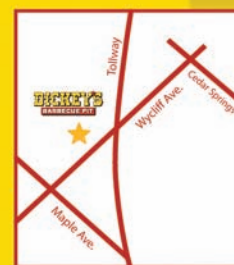
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L+S screen

■ BAD, From Page 19

tally deserve to be happy. I talked Alec into *being* in the movie by telling him what this is gonna be. I explained how you founded this club in the 1960s and you've been smoking so much pot and having so much fun that you didn't realize you were gay. And Russell and Alec were madly in love. You wanna talk about a bromance! That kiss was *not* hard to get out of them.

Was it as freaky for you as it was for me to think that, in 1987, Tom Cruise basically was the superstar that Stacie Jaxx is in the film, and that he still is? Yes! A lot of the reasons I went to Tom [for the role] is because no one will understand what it was to be that famous in the period and to know those people like he would, even though to

my knowledge he has never taken a drink or done a drug. He loves what he does.

The first time we see his character, he's wearing a leather studded jockstrap with a dragon on it — how did you convince him to wear that? He convinced *me!* We saw in a picture the lead singer of a band called W.A.S.P. wearing a codpiece like that and he said, "That's what I want to do!" He started pushing the envelope.

online exclusive

For new reviews of *Rock of Ages* and the play *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, visit DallasVoice.com.

■ BRUCE, From Page 16

Both agree that there is little time for social life for a dancer. Neither is in a relationship (Feril is straight, Peugh gay) and both said that dance is their life partner at this point.

"It is hard for someone to understand that being a dancer takes up most of your life. You do technique classes in the day and rehearse for the performance at night. It is all so physical, pushing you body to its limits on a daily basis, that when you get home, all you want to do is rest," says Feril. Wood concurs.

"Dancers have a very limited time to make a career," he says. "You have to give your life over to the dance. Remember that, in most cases, is over for them by the age of 35. You have to dance while you can and live later."

And "dance while they can" is what they are doing. Wood has set a gigantic goal for the next outing of his company, presenting multiple evenings of major works: Three world premieres (two by Wood) and three revivals. Peugh will be debuting a piece called *Slump*, which he describes it as "a zany and dark comedy about human courtship and its persistent repetition." One of Wood's premieres, *My Brother's Keeper*, is "a study of iconic male relationships" — father/son, brothers and perhaps more.

Wood has never hesitated to push sexual boundaries in his work, often exploring the beauty of the male form with grace and longing.

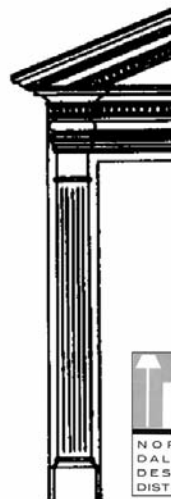
Program 2 will include two revivals — "Follow Me," commissioned by RiverCenter for the

Performing Arts in Columbus, Ga., is a tribute to the soldiers at Fort Benning, and another based on Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 3 in E-Flat Major." This rarely heard composition was begun as a symphony that the composer abandoned, only to be published after the composer's death as a single-movement *Allegro brillante* for piano and orchestra. George Balanchine took a pass at it in 1956 for the New York City Ballet; Wood's version will be completely different.

"His range is extraordinary," says Halperin. "Really gifted choreographers are few and far between that have such a profound impact; Bruce is one of those. He has so much to contribute to the quality of life in our region and especially to tomorrow's dancers. I feel that we need to take advantage of that, champion and support his artistry."

Wood knows all about embracing gratitude and moving forward. He demonstrated his gratitude and embrace of beauty as a participant in the highly successful *A Gathering: Dallas Arts Community Reflects on 30 Years of AIDS*, held at the Winspear Opera House last December.

"I have been open about my HIV status and active to advance public awareness," Wood says. "I hope that others will see my life, and continued work as a choreographer, as an example of always moving forward with your dreams of beauty, with gratitude, no matter what happens. I am reminded of a line in a short poem by DH Lawrence that said, 'I never saw a wild thing feel sorry for itself.' Great advice, I think." ■



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LIFE+STYLE

father's day

Trans parent

Jenna Sky's mom isn't the only supportive parent in the Hoselton household

Last month, we profiled Joe Hoselton aka Jenna Sky and his mom, Carmen — a supportive mother of her drag diva son. Well, Carmen wasn't the only parent in the Hoselton household who thinks Joe does a great job in a dress. Proud papa Jim Hoselton could not be more pleased by his boy's skill at becoming a girl. We asked Jim to weigh in on what it's like having a son (Joe) who becomes a de facto daughter (Jenna) for crowds of drag fans.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: How long have you been married? Jim: 48 years. All my celebrations I have are in April: One son was born on the 2nd, one on the 9th, one on the 11th and my wedding anniversary is the 10th.

When is the first time you saw Joe turn into Jenna? It was at Gay Bingo. I knew he did it and saw some photos before, but that was the first time I saw him perform.

What do you think of Joe's drag show? He's talented. When he was 5 years old, he had never been onstage before, but someone got sick who was supposed to talk [in front of a crowd]. Joe got up and took over and has been a natural when you put the lights on him ever since. So he didn't really surprise me that he would [do Jenna so well].

When he's Jenna, he's taller than you. Yes, I'm not quite used to that.

Do you have a favorite Father's Day memory with any of your sons? I don't have any, because I have had too many great ones.

You have three sons.... Yes, and they are all completely different. I tried to raise my kids very independent. Everyone's good at something and whatever you do well, you've got to pursue your own talents. What makes you happy makes everyone around you happy.

That's what every gay kid wants to hear from his dad. Thanks.

PROUD PAPA | Jim Hoselton always knew his son Joe would thrive in the limelight — he just didn't know it would be as drag diva Jenna Sky. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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Colleen Borsh and Aja Martin enjoying Ernesto Neto's *Kink*, 2012. Aluminum, crochet, polypropylene balls, air, wood, felt, and rubber, 14' 3" x 66' 8" x 13' 8". Courtesy of the artist and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York. Photo: Kevin Todora

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Friday 06.15

Shore thing

Del Shores returns to expound on the hilarity that is his life. He's found his knack for stand-up comedy through storytelling rather than joke-punchline-repeat. And he assures nothing is off limits in *Naked. Sordid. Reality.* Which we take to mean he isn't done talking about his recent breakup with singer Jason Dottle. Oh, we're there.

DEETS: The Rose Room (inside S4), 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. \$10-\$30. DelShores.tix.com.

Friday 06.15

Forget the IMAX

The inaugural Oak Cliff Film Festival gets underway showcasing local and statewide films with a few national and international screenings to boot. But the real gem may be all the cool venues the OCFF is home to. The historic Texas Theatre, the Kessler Theater, Bishop Arts Theater and the Belmont Hotel all screen films through the festival to make for a different feel. You know, the way Oak Cliff likes to do it.

DEETS: Various venues. \$10 per film. Through June 17. OakCliffFilmFestival.com.

Tuesday 06.19

Queen jubilee

Cover bands get a bad rap and frankly, most should, but the Queen Extravaganza is more than four guys playing Freddie Mercury and company's catalog. The tribute show is an throwback experience and dare we say, the band is hotter.

DEETS: Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. \$32.50-\$49.50. AXS.com.



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LADY ROCK | Patrice Pike performs Sunday at Sue Ellen's.

FRIDAY 06.15

COMMUNITY

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

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

THEATER

2 Couples 2. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. 8 p.m. Through June 30. \$18-\$22. MBSProductions.net.

Oklahoma! Lyric Stage presents the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. Irving Arts Center Carpenter Performance Hall, 3333 N. MacArthur Boulevard, Irving. Through June 24. \$25-\$50. LyricStage.org.

SATURDAY 06.16

COMMUNITY

DFW Prime Timers Prime Beefer. The group meets for a potluck dinner and swim at a member's residence. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

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

ART

East Dallas Gallery Day. Deep Ellum and Expo Park galleries open their doors for a day of art and to kick of the summer season. Noon. For more information, visit DallasGalleryDay.com.

SUNDAY 06.17

COMMUNITY

DFW Prime Timers Prime Games. The group meets for board game play at member's residence. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

Unemployment Support Group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2:30 p.m. CareerAssistanceMinistry@gmail.com.

CONCERT

Patrice Pike, Heather Knox. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 5 p.m. \$5. SueEllensDallas.com.

MONDAY 06.18

COMMUNITY

United Black Ellument's Hot Topics. A discussion group for black gay and bi men, 18-29. U-BE in Deep Ellum, 3116 Commerce St., Ste. C. 7 p.m. UBEDallas.org.

Mindful Monday Meditation hosted by Fit for Faith. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

TUESDAY 06.19

COMMUNITY

Juneteenth Celebration. The city's annual event is a family-friendly event that features local live music, food and informational booths. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd. Free. Noon. MLKCelebrationDallas.org.

JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets on the third Tuesday.

ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for meeting dates if they change due to author's availability. RCDallas.org.

WEDNESDAY 06.20

COMMUNITY

Outstanding Beautiful Brothers (O.B.B.) is new support group to enhance the quality of life for young black men who have sex with men living with HIV, by providing a safe and confidential space to offer support, empowerment and education. Call 214-702-6511 for information and location. 7 p.m.

DFW Prime Timers Prime Lunch. The group meets at Gio's New York Deli, 12817 Preston Road, Ste. 129. Noon. Call 972-504-8866 for more information.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Kirk Myers from Abounding Prosperity. 89.3 KNON-FM at 7 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

THURSDAY 06.21

COMMUNITY

Free Third Thursdays. Trinity River Audubon Center, 6500 Great trinity Forest Way. 9 a.m. Free. TrinityRiverAudubon.org.

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Doug Savant turns 48 on Thursday. The actor was most recently seen as Tom Scavo on *Desperate Housewives* which finished its run this year. He gained attention though as Matt Fielding on *Melrose Place* in the mid-90s. His character was noted as one of the first out characters on network television, but a planned onscreen kiss never made it past censors.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Go shopping for clothes. If money is tight, hit the thrift shops. Your imagination is better than any amount of money. Good as your own queer eye is, a friend's encouragement will help.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

New insights are a little scary, but best to look deeper and find out what they're really about. Irritation with other people, awful and annoying though they are, is more about you than them.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

You need private down time. Plans with friends need canceling, but that's OK. New creative efforts can cure social ennui, but the real answers are deep inside you.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Measure your words carefully and just keep putting one foot in front of the other. Let people take or leave what you have to tell them. They'll eventually realize you were right.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your efforts to smooth out problems at home will only backfire. If you really want things to be nice, be a good listener and get a sense of how you can improve your own self and your actions.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Being responsible for a problem does not mean being at fault. How much responsibility you take is hard to judge. Overdoing it is self-sabotage. Gauge your capacities carefully.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Eagerness to explore new sexual techniques improve your relationship. Even without pursuing new pleasures the suggestion can open up conversations that build greater intimacy.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Job critiques determine your ability to profit from them. There's always room for improvement. You don't have to agree with every criticism, but listen and think carefully before responding.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Efforts at having fun get you into trouble — unless you're considering skydiving. How much trouble can you handle? You might find arguments fun, but your opponent is probably not amused.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

"Family fun" doesn't have to be an oxymoron, but efforts seem easily misunderstood. Listening rather than pushing helps. Try out some new restaurants with adventurous friends.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Avoid verbal one-upmanship. You'll just hurt feelings and have to eat your words. Instead, figure out what needs work in your relationship. Listening to your partner will help.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Arguments over money arise easily, especially over silly details like splitting a lunch check. There are more important things. Think about what truly matters and you may surprise yourself.

THIS WEEK

Pride festivities peak annually when the sun enters Cancer, the sign of family and community. This year, issues of spirituality and religion come up to help affirm LGBT spirituality, leading to deeper questions about our individual and collective identities.

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

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WOLVES' BASEBALL FIELD...
 DELIA? HUH?
 I'M MINDY PRESTON.
 SNAX
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WE MET AT THE MINOR LEAGUE AWARDS DINNER LAST FALL.
 OH... RIGHT.
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SHORTLY...
 SO, DELIA... WHAT'S IT LIKE DATING BRAD? HE IS BY FAR THE HOTTEST GUY ON THE TEAM!
 KAREN! I DON'T THINK GARY WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!
 NO, HE WOULDN'T. BUT IT'S TRUE!
 YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

WELL, UM... BRAD'S A GREAT GUY.
 WHAT, NO DETAILS? I WANT DETAILS!
 WOULD YOU GIVE HER A BREAK, KAREN? YOU'RE GONNA SCARE HER AWAY!
 OKAY, AT LEAST TELL ME HOW YOU DEAL WITH IT WHEN HE'S ON THE ROAD... WITH ALL THOSE WOMEN CHASING AFTER HIM!

TRUST ME... I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT BRAD ISN'T SLEEPING WITH ANY WOMEN WHEN HE'S AWAY ON THE ROAD.
 MY TIM SAYS I JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT MEN NEED TO ROAM.
 AND YOU BUY THAT?
 MMM... CONFIDENCE. I LIKE THAT.
 NO MAN WOULD EVER DARE DICTATE TO ME WHAT I "HAVE TO ACCEPT".

LATER...
 YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY TIM GRIFFIN'S GIRLFRIEND DUMPED A BAG OF HORSE MANURE IN THE FRONT SEAT OF HIS CAR?
 NOT A CLUE.
 UH-HUH...

Website - www.kylecomics.com

E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com

bitter girl

off the charts

I'M A LIBRA, I CAN ONLY DATE AIR SIGNS.

I'M A SCORPIO, I CAN ONLY DATE PISCES.

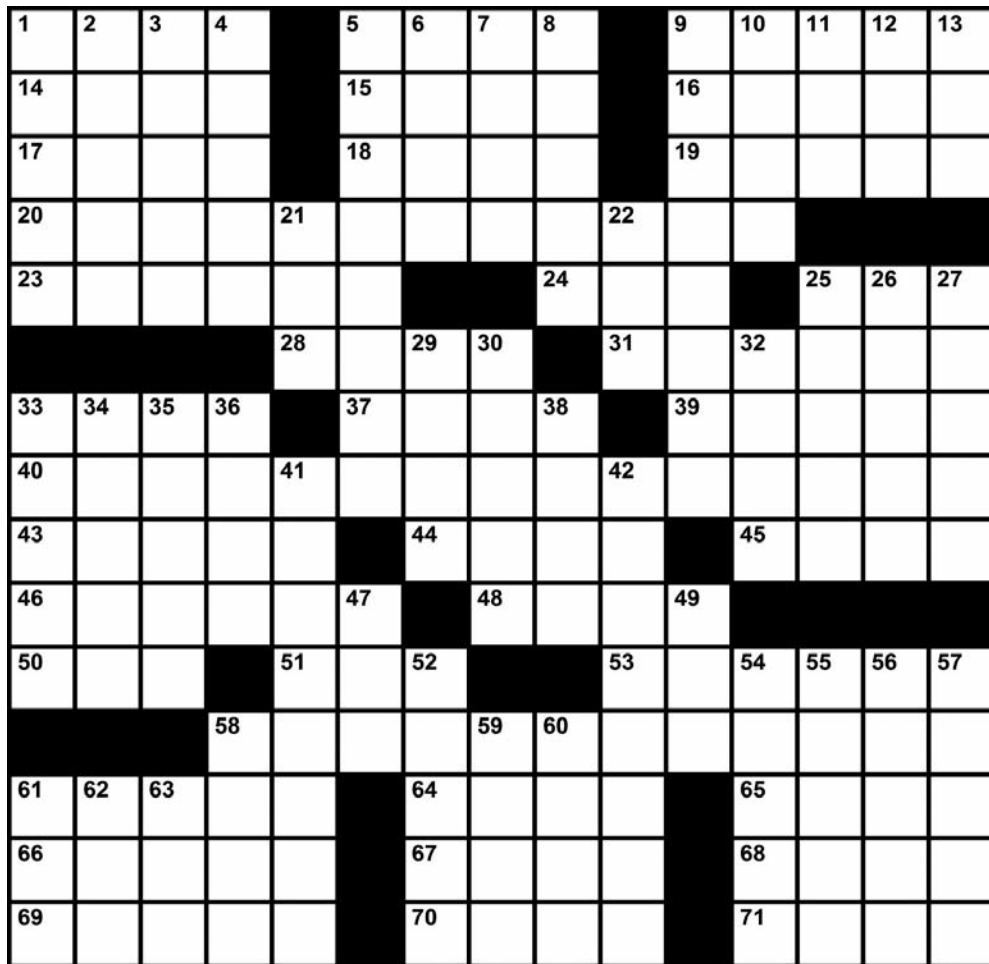
COME HERE,

I'M A LEO, I CAN ONLY HUNT IN THE WILD.

email: joan@joanhilty.net

www.joanhilty.net

JOAN HILTY © 2012



Dick Partner

Solution on page 25

Across

- 1 Hairspray list
- 5 Inmates
- 9 Group of sets, for Mauresmo
- 14 Suffix with leather
- 15 Cruising greeting
- 16 Marlon Brando's hometown
- 17 Province of Spain
- 18 Some Feds
- 19 Tibet neighbor
- 20 Portrayer of 40-Across in Liz & Dick
- 23 "Keep your pants on!"
- 24 Penn. neighbor
- 25 Rita's second name
- 28 Denial for Nanette
- 31 Dykes on Bikes, e.g.
- 33 Salty white stuff from the Greeks
- 37 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 39 Barracks boss
- 40 Gay icon and advocate
- 43 O'Neal of The Bad News Bears
- 44 Weighty volume
- 45 Stiff bristle
- 46 Accustoms
- 48 Kristy McNichol sitcom Empty ___
- 50 Courtroom VIPs
- 51 Louis XIV, for one

Down

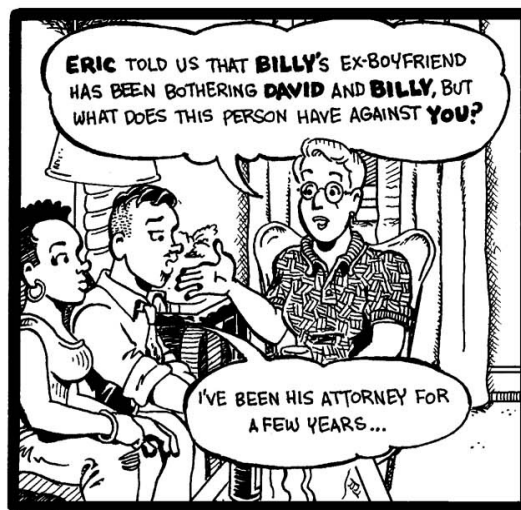
- 53 Decoration for skin
- 58 40-Across, for one
- 61 Web site?
- 64 Sometime defender of gay rights
- 65 9 inches, e.g.
- 66 Painter Kahlo
- 67 Moby Dick chaser
- 68 Sommer of film
- 69 LBJ, e.g.
- 70 Sperm homophone?
- 71 Cause of the Tin Woodsman's rust

Down

- 1 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
- 2 Gave head at home?
- 3 Alexander director Oliver
- 4 Sees to
- 5 Underground burial site
- 6 "Lions and tigers and bears, ___!"
- 7 Coward of Blithe Spirit
- 8 Meeting of the rite people
- 9 Da Vinci signature piece
- 10 Pious ejaculation
- 11 Draw from
- 12 Tea, on the Thames
- 13 Shakespearean prince
- 21 DC figure
- 22 The other woman
- 25 Cosmetician Norman
- 26 Inside tongue?
- 27 Former NFL player Tuaoalo
- 29 No, in Moscow
- 30 Joe of The Ruffian on the Stair
- 32 Boxes of calendars
- 33 Stale and then some
- 34 Writer Dykewomon
- 35 Shakespeare's Andronicus
- 36 Cûte d'___
- 38 Quaint sigh
- 41 ___ Idol
- 42 Like babies born without heterosexual activity
- 47 "Scram!" in Auden's land, with "off"
- 49 Half a drink
- 52 Newton, who got hit on the head by a fruit
- 54 Remote target
- 55 Property paper
- 56 Japanese industrial center
- 57 Aquatic mammal
- 58 Elton John Broadway musical
- 59 BenGay target
- 60 Decked out
- 61 Toward the rear, to sailors
- 62 Three, in Torino
- 63 B.O. buys



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Wang and A.J. at Station 4.



Ladies night out at Joe's/The Brick.



Leo, Sexy and Steven at the Hidden Door.



Dancers at Drama Room.

Places to be, people to see? We have that covered for you. ... **Woody's** has a busy weekend starting with **Mi Diva Loca**. The duo performs Friday night at the bar. The trio **Audio Alchemy** makes that hot summer night cool on Saturday when they play the back patio. The hunky jocks of **Demolition Crew** will serve up beefy hot dogs and other ballpark snacks at Sunday afternoon's **Extra Innings**. Later that night, Woody's will hold the **Does Your Father Know? Turnabout 2012** show. What's **Father's Day** without a men in drag? All donations and tips benefit **Youth First Texas**. ... Head north to the **Firefly Lounge** in Addison for this month's **Moscato Music Lounge's Summer R&B and Hip-Hop Explosion** show. Local artists, both LGBT and non, pack the night hosted by **CrisDee** and **Spaceship Ohayeses**. The roster includes **Taylor Pace**, **Miss Lady** and **Brandon Jackson** among many others. The night is also a CD release party for singer **U*Nique**. ... **DJ Blaine's Release** party goes down Saturday night at the **Dallas Eagle**. And Sunday night, the club hosts a preliminary round for the **2012 Voice of Pride**. See who the lucky fuzzball is at Thursday's **Bear of the Month** Contest. ... Head over to **Sue Ellen's** for the **Lauren Alexander Band's** performance on Friday. **Paco Estrada** jams it out on Saturday night. Rocker **Patrice Pike** returns to headline the venue on Sunday. Every Wednesday in June, catch artists in residence **Bella** and **Darla** perform. ... **The Brick** celebrates **Juneteenth Weekend** the huge **Friday Night Bash**. **DJ C Wade** is in the mix with special guests **Adeciya Iman**, **Fashay B. Ross** and more on the bill. On Saturday, the club is home to **One Night in Bangkok** with DJs **Brandon Mosses**, **Phil B** and **Mickey Briggs**. The evening benefits both the **Resource Center Dallas** and the **Turtle Creek Choral**. ■

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



The Dallas Blue Devils at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Alicia, Amber and Debra at Zippers.



Glenn at the Round-Up Saloon.

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Beyond simply advertising, though, these companies support us in many ways, including sponsoring community events and funding community-based charities in order to earn our loyalty.

Taking an annual pulse on market trends through surveys helps demonstrate the LGBT community's growing power, and influences positive change.

We respect your privacy. All personal survey data is held securely by Community Marketing, Inc., a gay-owned and operated, independent market research and communications firm based in San Francisco, and will not be sold to third parties or used for marketing purposes. CMI was founded in 1992 and is proudly NGLCC-Certified. Thank you!



Gay Market Research +
Development Lab™

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Lesbian Market Research +
Development Lab™



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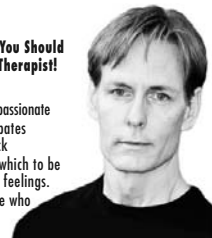
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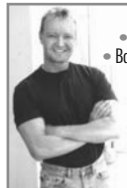
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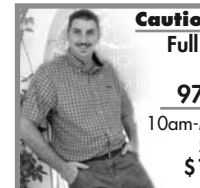
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