

'Probably the most important race still in play'

Fort Worth State Sen. Wendy Davis faces anti-gay challenger Mark Shelton

She authored fully inclusive anti-bullying bill; he voted to ban LGBT resource centers at Texas schools

■ TEXAS NEWS, Page 6



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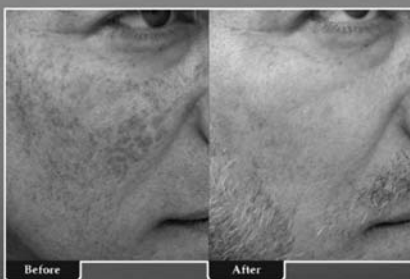
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WALK OF LIFE | Organizers said LifeWalk raised a record one-day total of \$415,000 on Sunday, Oct. 7. For more photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

FWPD arrests anti-gay protesters

Fort Worth police arrested two anti-gay protesters at the Tarrant gay Pride parade on Saturday, Oct. 6.

The arrested protesters were members of Kingdom Baptist Church in Johnson County, which has regularly staged anti-gay demonstrations in North Texas over the last few years.

Joey Faust, 46, and Ramon Marroquin, 33, were charged with interfering with public duties, a class-B misdemeanor punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a maximum \$2,000 fine. Faust is the pastor of Kingdom Baptist Church.

According to a statement from Fort Worth police, officers encountered a group from Kingdom Baptist Church at about 12:50 p.m. The officers "maintained separation of the protesters from the parade participants to ensure public safety and to prevent a breach of the peace."

Last year, several members of Kingdom Baptist Church were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for harassing parade attendees, and this year police announced they would increase their presence at the event.

— John Wright

Rainbow Lounge worker attacked

A bartender at the Rainbow Lounge said he was attacked in the parking lot of the Fort Worth gay bar early Monday, Oct. 8.

Adam Granados said he'd just gotten off work and was in the parking lot at about 1:15 a.m. when he was attacked from behind.

"Someone hit me in the back of the head and knocked me down," Granados said. "When I got up, he hit me in the face."

Granados, who suffered severe cuts and a hairline fracture to his eye socket, said he doesn't know if the incident was a hate crime, a simple assault or an attempted robbery. He doesn't remember the assailant saying anything. Since the attack occurred at the end of Fort Worth's gay Pride weekend, and he was wearing a Pride T-shirt outside a gay bar, he said he may have been targeted for his sexual orientation.

Fort Worth police spokeswoman Sharon Neal said the incident isn't being investigated as a hate crime because no epithets were spoken and no evidence such as spray-painted slurs was left, though she said hate may have been the motive. No suspects or witnesses have come forward.

Granados said the attacker tried to grab his phone but didn't get it. He doesn't know whether

the suspect was trying to steal the phone or prevent him from calling for help. The attacker fled by car as Granados made it back inside the bar.

Someone in the Rainbow Lounge called 911. Granados filed a police report and was taken to John Peter Smith Hospital.

A CT scan revealed a hairline fracture under his eye socket. He needed two stitches on the corner of his eye and three under his eye.

He also suffered scrapes and bruises. On Tuesday, he said, he has been able to open his eye slightly.

Anyone with information about the incident should contact the Fort Worth Police Department at 817-335-4222.

— David Taffet

Suspect twists officer's testicles

A club-goer was arrested early Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Havana Lounge on Cedar Springs Road for public intoxication, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer after squeezing the officer's testicles during an arrest.

Cory Weddington III, 19, was kicked out of the club, at 4006 Cedar Springs Road, around 4 a.m. when he was caught drinking, according to a Dallas police report.

Weddington allegedly refused to leave without his credit card, which he told police he left at the bar. Witnesses said they would retrieve his card when the club closed and return it to him. He became agitated and police told him to leave and gave him "several opportunities to leave with his friends," the report states.

When he did not listen, an officer tried to take him into custody, but he became combative. The officer was able to take Weddington to the ground with an arm-bar technique and took hold of his left hand, but Weddington reached up with his right hand to the officer's pants and began squeezing his testicles.

The officer put pressure behind his ear and told him to let go, but he squeezed harder, causing increased pain to the officer, the report states.

The officer then punched him in the face, but Weddington only squeezed more and began to twist his hand, causing the officer "extreme pain." Weddington only relinquished his hold after the officer punched him multiple times.

He continued to fight officers while being handcuffed, the report states. His credit card was later found in his pocket, along with another in his wallet.

— Anna Waugh

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'Fabulous ally' faces anti-gay challenger

State Sen. Wendy Davis vows to push pro-equality bills if re-elected; opponent Mark Shelton voted to ban college LGBT resource centers

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — State Sen. Wendy Davis has grown used to opposition as she's championed education, women's rights and LGBT causes in conservative Texas.

In November she'll face Republican Rep. Mark Shelton, who opposes the stances Davis has fought hard to turn into policy.

Davis became a Democratic hero last year when she filibustered education cuts and forced a special session. The Republican-led Legislature's redistricting plan targeted her, but after the plan was challenged in court, interim maps mostly restored her district.

Davis authored LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying legislation last year, but the LGBT protections were stripped from the final version that took effect this September. She told Dallas Voice recently that she plans to try to get the LGBT protections added if re-elected.

"I was disappointed that it wasn't as inclusive as we wanted it to be, and I was also disappointed that it wasn't as extensive as we wanted it to be," she said. "The whole point of the bill is to be inclusive of the entire community and not to exempt from the protection that it created any single member of our community."

Davis also helped derail a bill to ban transgender marriage from being considered on the Senate floor last year.

Shelton's record in the state House is less LGBT-friendly. Although he voted in favor of the anti-bullying bill after gay and transgender protections were removed, he also supported a measure that would have banned LGBT resource centers on college campuses.

Calls and emails to Shelton's campaign office seeking comment were not returned.

Shelton's campaign website mentions he has fought for "pro-family values."

Felipe Gutierrez, president of Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats, said "pro-family" means anti-gay.

"We understand what those words mean in code," he said. "We should have the same equality and rights."

Gutierrez said Shelton's voting record makes him anti-gay and he would not be good for the district. Tarrant County Stonewall has made Davis the primary beneficiary for the group's fundraising efforts this year.

Before running for Senate, Davis served on the Fort Worth City Council and helped add sexual orientation to the city's nondiscrimination ordi-



CUT BLOCK | Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, talks to delay passage of education cuts on the Senate floor in 2011. Davis' filibuster was successful and forced a special session. (Associated Press)

nance, something she still considers an accomplishment and would like to expand to the state.

"I think it makes very good sense to move in that direction on the state level as well," Davis said, adding that she would "most definitely" consider authoring a statewide Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

She also appointed the openly gay Joel Burns to the Fort Worth Zoning Commission. When Davis stepped down to run for Senate, Burns was elected to her old seat.

Burns told Dallas Voice this week that he worked closely with Davis on the new anti-bullying legislation and said it wouldn't have passed without her support.

"I support Wendy Davis because she is a trusted leader for all the Texans she serves, including the LGBT community," Burns said. "She understands that LGBT families ... are concerned about the same issues as all Texans and she is willing to stand up to Rick Perry and political ideologues who work against us."

Davis' race has been a hot state Senate contest, including a barrage of recent TV ads from both candidates. Davis' spots highlight her commitment to education, while Shelton's alleged the incumbent will raise taxes to fund abortions and that she profits by using her influence as a senator.

In the last campaign finance reports filed Oct. 9 that spanned July 1 to Sept. 27, Davis raised more than \$840,000, and she had more than \$1.5 million on hand after expenditures. Shelton's campaign received about \$607,000 in contributions and had more than \$566,000 after expenses.

Chuck Smith, interim executive director of Equality Texas, said the organization endorsed Davis earlier this year because "she's a fabulous ally and it's the most strategically important race in the Texas Senate."

"It's probably the most important race still in play this electoral cycle," because the Senate is much more conservative than the House, Smith said.

Davis' race is vital because of the Senate's two-thirds majority rule to move a bill to the floor for consideration.

With 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats as the current Senate makeup, adding another Republican would mean legislation could pass without any Democratic support.

Smith said Davis has worked with Equality Texas before on anti-bullying legislation and she has proven to be more than just an ally.

"She's a strong ally for equality, as well as being a strong ally for progressive causes in general in the Texas Senate," he said.

Davis also wants to support LGBT adoption and family legislation that Equality Texas has made a priority alongside employment nondiscrimination.

She said a gay couple in her district contacted her last year when they were prevented from adopting their foster child who came up for adoption.

The couple had been approved to adopt the child but was later denied.

"As I looked further into it, I was really disturbed that their orientation may have been behind the decision that was made to ultimately recommend their family," Davis said.

Davis said she got "very personally involved" and met with representatives with the Health and Human Services Department. The couple was eventually able to adopt another child.

While Davis' support for LGBT issues is strong, she said her goals to improve healthcare, education and the economy during the next session are relevant to all her constituents.

"I know that LGBT Texans care about our education and our economy just like everyone else does, so in terms of the issues I'll be working on most ardently as we move forward in the next session, it'll be very reflective of the things that I've already been fighting for and that I know are representative of everyone's concern," Davis said. ■

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Christopher (left) has lived with HIV since 2011.



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Hate crime victims plan to leave Clarendon

The gay couple who found a death threat — “Leave or die fags” — painted on their front porch in Clarendon, Texas, on Oct. 1 told Dallas Voice they now plan to move.

Joshua Harrison and Jeremy Jeffers said Thursday, Oct. 11, they’re planning on moving to Amarillo, which is 60 miles north of Clarendon, a city of 2,000 in Donley County.

But they hope to move to Houston or Dallas or even outside of Texas within a year because of the incident.

And they said although Amarillo isn’t a long-term solution because the area isn’t much more gay-friendly, at least it will take them out of harm’s way.

Jeffers said he and Harrison “just don’t feel safe here anymore” and plan to move by the end of October or whenever they can get their finances in order. They said nothing has happened since the incident, but they don’t want to wait.

“Every day has been really stressful with no money and worrying if someone is going to physically attack us,” Jeffers said.

Jeffers was fired from his job as a manager at Pizza Hut a few days before the threat, but he said he blames local Pastor Chris Moore, who took out an ad in the Clarendon Enterprise against homosexuality.

The couple believes the ad led to the death threat as well.

Harrison cleans houses with a relative, but he said clients started canceling after word of the death threat spread.

But leaving Clarendon means leaving the city Jeffers grew up in. Harrison moved to Clarendon to be closer to family a year and a half ago and met Jeffers shortly after that.

The two then began dating but said they’ve never experienced any verbal attacks in public for being gay, though they say a few people in town have posted negative things on Facebook about homosexuality.

Both say moving is not optional now.

“We can’t find work,” Harrison said. “We really don’t have a choice.”

The local sheriff acknowledged the incident as a hate crime, but the couple worries that the person responsible won’t be found.

Harrison said he plans to work with groups and schools in the future to prevent anti-gay incidents.

“I’ve pretty much decided that I’m going to dedicate my free time to speaking out against this hate and making sure that it stops,” he said. “This is ridiculous. We’re too evolved as a race to have hate like this still.”

— Anna Waugh

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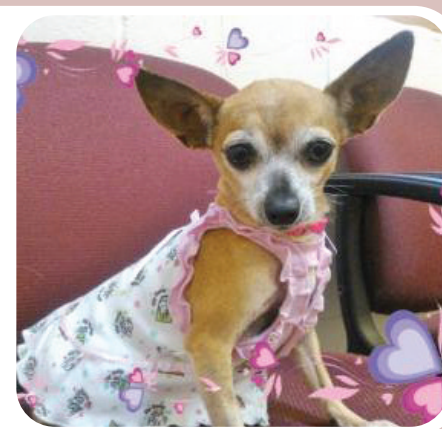
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LGBT groups target Boy Scouts' donors

HRC says it may start penalizing corporations for gifts to anti-gay organization, which received \$315K from local United Way in 2012

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

IRVING — After appealing to the good will and fairness of the Boy Scouts of America to lift its ban on gays, LGBT advocates have a new tactic: Go after the organization's major funders, from Fortune 500 companies to the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas.

And so far, the new strategy seems to be working.

The group Scouts for Equality, founded by former Eagle Scout Zach Wahls, recently convinced Intel, the Boy Scouts' largest corporate funder, to cut off support for Scout councils that don't have LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policies.

And this week, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign told Dallas Voice that HRC is looking at ways to penalize companies for contributions to organizations like the Boy Scouts in the annual Corporate Equality Index.

Under Intel's new rule, local Boy Scout troops and councils that do not discriminate and refuse to comply with the official Boy Scouts policy are still eligible for funds.

BSA stands to lose \$700,000 a year from Intel. "We have no problem with councils that have stated nondiscrimination policies," said Wahls, a straight ally who was raised by two moms.

Since the Intel victory, Scouting for Equality has picked its next target — UPS, which gave the Boy Scouts \$167,000 in 2010.

Although UPS is not the next-largest funder of the Scouts, Wahls said the company is highly visible, the Christmas package delivery season is approaching and of its total donation, \$100,000 went directly to national headquarters.

Other major funders of the Boy Scouts include local United Way chapters, which may or may not take the Scouts' ban on gays into account.

"Some United Ways are doing that by their own volition," Wahls said.

The United Way of Metropolitan Dallas gave \$315,846 to the Boy Scouts Circle Ten Council in 2012. The Circle Ten Council does not have an LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policy.

"The welfare of the individuals served by United Way of Metropolitan Dallas is always our highest priority," United Way of Metropolitan Dallas spokeswoman Michelle Frith wrote in an email. "As an organization, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas adheres to an anti-discrimination policy for its hiring practices. While we require our grantees to comply with all related federal laws, we do not require anyone to adopt our own internal operating policies."

By adhering only to federal policies, United

Way of Metropolitan Dallas allows the organizations it funds to discriminate against the LGBT community.

Andy Smith is the director of corporate philanthropy for Texas Instruments and served on the board of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas in 2011.

Smith, who's gay, said Texas Instruments does not fund the Boy Scouts.

He said Texas Instruments has a long history with United Way dating back to TI founder Erik Jonsson, who helped create and served as the first president of the local United Way. TI is often the United Way's largest contributor.

"We made it clear to United Way our position on the Scouts," Smith said.

While giving money to the Boy Scouts this year, the United Way also decreased its contributions to two local HIV/AIDS agencies.

In 2011, Resource Center Dallas received \$383,409 from the United Way for its dental and nutrition programs. AIDS Arms was granted \$772,548 for access and retention to HIV medical care. This year, RCD received \$330,000 and AIDS Arms \$335,000.

Partially the shift in funds from AIDS was a decision by United Way to move money from healthcare to basic needs. Resource Center got more money for its nutrition program this year. The cut in United Way funding was to RCD's dental program. And other healthcare recipients like Children's Hospital lost \$1 million.

Frith said the money for the Boy Scouts is earmarked for two programs: A youth development program to help boys in elementary school learn skills to succeed in high school, and a career development, leadership and life skills program.

But, because of Boy Scouts policies, if any of the children involved in those programs were gay, they presumably would be thrown out.

The Boy Scouts do not release a list of its donors. The American Independent News Network did research to find the corporations that made the largest gifts to the organization. No local companies were on the list, despite its national headquarters' Irving location: Not companies like Texas Instruments or AT&T with their perfect Corporate Equality Index scores. Not even companies like ExxonMobil, which has the lowest possible score on the CEI and whose CEO is a former president of the Boy Scouts.

Plano-based J.C. Penney has an 85 percent CEI rating for 2012. Boys and Girls Clubs and 4H Club were monthly charity partners for J.C. Penney this year. The Boy Scouts were not.

Irving-based Kimberly Clark with a 90 percent score also supports Boys and Girls Clubs but not its neighbor Boy Scouts of America.

AT&T, whose CEO serves as the current president of BSA, also does not list the Boy Scouts as a beneficiary of its "sustainability and philanthropy giving."

In its rating system, HRC deducts points from



Andy Smith



Eric Hay

companies that work against equality.

"Currently the CEI deducts points from companies that donate to groups whose explicit mission is to oppose LGBT equality," HRC spokesman Michael Cole-Schwartz said. "While it does not currently address the issue of companies that support institutions which have their own policies that discriminate against LGBT people, we are exploring how to incorporate this kind of criteria in a systematic way."

University of Texas senior Eric Hay grew up in Plano and was part of a Circle Ten Council troop. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, became a troop leader, a Brotherhood member of the Order

of the Arrow, and a Texas scout camp staff member.

But Hay would have been denied had anyone in his scouting organization learned he was gay. So he started a Change.org calling for the Circle Ten Council to oppose the national anti-gay policy.

In his petition, Hay describes himself as bisexual. "I remember scouts mostly reinforcing values my parents already taught me, and doing so in a fun and constructive environment," Hay wrote to Dallas Voice. "For example, campouts taught me to be self-sufficient and willing to help others while enjoying the outdoors."

Valuing his Scouting experience, he said he believes all youth should be allowed to experience it. "When I earned the rank of Eagle, I believed in what it stood for," he said. "It stood for years of developing as a man. For me, it was recognition that I had lived the Scout Law."

Hay said if the Boy Scouts really stand for everything they say they do, then they should give others a chance to act as he did — honorably and with decorum — and not discriminate. Hay's petition is at TinyURL.com/9d29yul. ■

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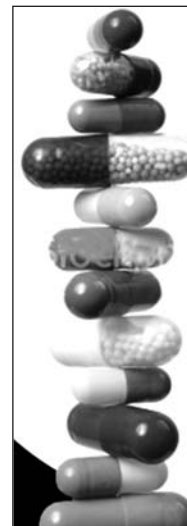
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Commissioner Price backs DP benefits

Dallas County plan now appears to have 3 votes needed for passage; DART also weighs health insurance for gay partners, but DISD can't

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price confirmed his support this week for offering domestic partner benefits to gay and lesbian county employees.

Price told Dallas Voice on Thursday, Oct. 11, that he was approached several months ago about his support for DP benefits.

"It's been tossed in the air, and I've said I'm supportive. I said that, and that's my position still," he said. "I'll vote for it. I'll be in the affirmative, and we'll move forward."

County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioner Elba Garcia, the other two members of the court's Democratic majority, started working on a plan to offer the benefits in late August after members of the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative refused to allow the county to offer them.

The plan focuses on providing the benefits outside of the PEBC, a multi-county government partner agency designed to help keep the cost of health insurance affordable.

Garcia said this week that the plan passed through a review of the county's Human Resources Department with two changes and is currently under review by the legal department. She declined to comment on the specifics of the plan until she sees the final version, but said it is a separate plan outside of the PEBC.

"It's moving forward. I feel very good that we've moved this fast," Garcia said. "I feel confident that it's going in the right direction."

Garcia said she hopes to have a final plan within two weeks to present to the Commissioners Court.

Price said he is waiting to view the final plan so commissioners can approve it. He said he has received emails from constituents and others asking him to support the measure, but he has ignored them because he was always in favor of adding DP benefits.

"It's just an equity issue, that's all," he said. "You do the same thing for all your employees. What they do in their relationships, that's their business. Whatever we give all of our employees, we should give to all of our employees. That's a very basic equity principle."

DP benefits are moving forward with Dallas Area Rapid Transit as well, although the final outcome at DART is less clear. At an Oct. 9 meeting,



ON BOARD | Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price says he's received emails from constituents and others asking him to support the measure, but he has ignored them because he was always in favor of adding DP benefits.

the DART board's administrative committee requested a formal proposal and more information about cost and implementation from other cities and states.

The proposal is expected to be presented to the committee in November. If approved, it would then proceed to the full DART board.

Andrew Moss, the former DART police officer who started a petition in July calling for the agency to add DP benefits, said he was happy the committee is discussing it.

"I am so thrilled that DART is listening for the first time," Moss said.

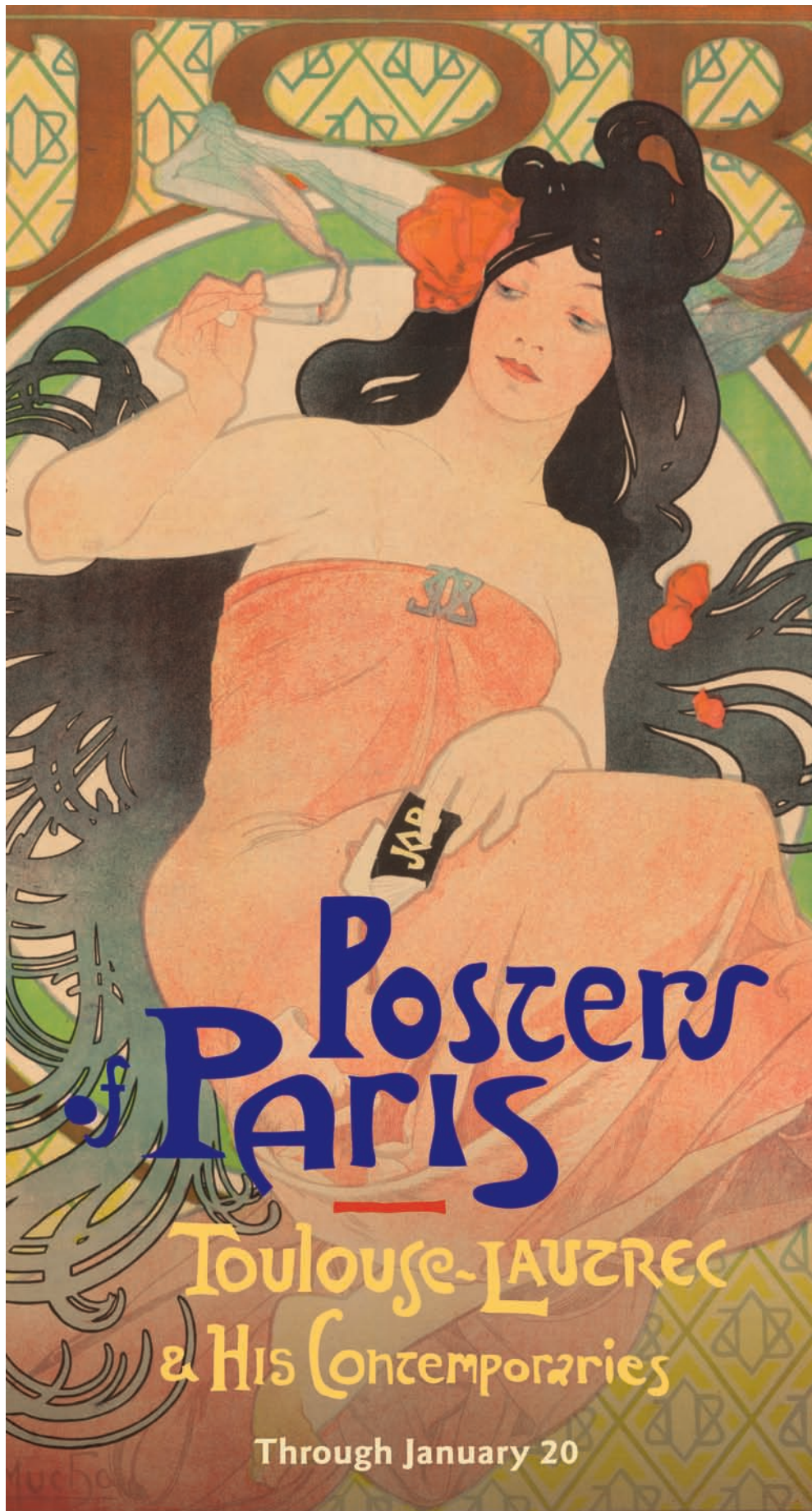
Moss quit working because of health issues and wanted to be added to his husband's insurance since he still works for DART. When Moss found out the benefits would not be offered, he started the petition. His COBRA expires in December, but he said he's hopeful the board will add the benefits after his efforts.

Meanwhile, Dallas Independent School District employees aren't likely to have DP benefits any time soon.

After Pflugerville ISD made headlines this week as the first school district in Texas to offer the benefits, DISD spokesman Jon Dahlander explained that DISD can't offer DP benefits.

DISD's health insurance is through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas' ActiveCare program. Howard Goldman, a spokesman for the Teacher Retirement System, said state law prohibits the TRS from offering DP benefits.

About 90 percent of Texas school districts use TRS ActiveCare. But Pflugerville ISD switched to a self-managed plan a few years ago. ■



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Polls suggest votes on marriage will be tight

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

Anti-gay activists opposing marriage equality are counting in fives. They're distributing videotapes to pastors laying out a five-step plan-of-action for each church. They're distributing another video offering five reasons voters should defeat marriage equality ballot measures at the polls. And they've got their eyes on five votes Nov. 6: four statewide ballot measures and one Iowa Supreme Court justice up for a retention vote. Here's how things are stacking up:

MAINE: Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council has distributed a video aimed specifically at pastors, giving them a five-point action plan to implement in their churches to defeat Question 1. The five steps are: Recruit a leader, hold a voter registration event by Oct. 14, deliver a "Vote No on 1 Sunday" sermon, collect an offering for ProtectMarriageMaine.com, and push to get congregants to the polls to vote no on Nov. 6.

There are 19 political action committees in Maine listed as providing funds on the state's same-sex marriage initiative, Question 1 — 12 in support of its passage, 7 opposed. To look at their totals, one might expect passage to be a slam dunk: \$4.7 million in support of same-sex marriage, \$697,000 against.

The latest poll by the Portland Press, Sept. 12-16, looks good, too: 57 percent in favor, 36 percent opposed, 7 percent undecided — numbers which were essentially unchanged since June. The latest poll by Public Policy Polling, Sept. 17-18, showed 52 percent favor allowing same-sex marriage while 44 percent oppose, and four percent are undecided.

But the pollster says this is "a very close race." "Our experience in polling gay marriage is that if people say they're undecided it usually means they're opposed to it," said Dean Debnam, president of Public Policy Polling.

And many LGBT activists suspect that the National Organization for Marriage is pouring a lot more into the contest than they are indicating on state campaign reports. As of the latest of those reports, NOM claims to have given only \$252,300. NOM has been in a court battle for several years now, seeking to circumvent Maine campaign reporting requirements. It lost its most recent battle before the U.S. Supreme Court, but the organization is still fighting the state law with the state ethics commission over the 2009 marriage ballot battle. On the pro-marriage equality side, there are some new major money players this time around. The Freedom to Marry Maine group has pitched in more than \$1 million and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders has raised \$218,000, to supplement the \$3.4 million raised by the pro-Question 1 group Mainers United for Mar-

riage. If they're successful in passing Question 1, the marriage equality law would go into effect 30 days after the governor proclaims the results of the election.

MARYLAND: The latest poll in Maryland found that support among African-American voters had increased significantly between January and September — from 33 percent then to 44 percent now. The Gonzales Research group that conducted both surveys noted that a majority of African-Americans (52 percent) still say they'll vote against marriage equality, but the improved numbers, it said, suggest "public pronouncements in the interim from the President and others have had an ameliorative impact for proponents."

This matters in Maryland. Thirty percent of the state's population is African-American, compared to 13.5 percent of the population nationally, and low single digits in the other ballot battle states this year. And that's why the support of the NAACP is seen as critical to preserving the legislative victory won for marriage equality in February. The group launched its own radio ad Oct. 8, featuring its chairman emeritus Julian Bond telling voters that voting for Question 6 is "the right thing to do."

"Maryland's gay and lesbian families share the same values and they should share in the right to marry," Bond says.

Overall, the polls in Maryland promise a tight contest. The latest indications are 51 percent for Question 6 (for marriage equality) and 43 percent against, with 6 percent undecided. That lead offers no real comfort. If the 6 percent undecided vote "No," as Public Policy Polling warns, it's a loss. And historically, most polling prior to similar ballot measures has shown a pro-equal rights position winning, only to have a flip-to-loss on election day.

MINNESOTA: Polls in Minnesota have been roller-coasting on the issue. A Minnesota Star-Tribune poll of 806 likely voters in May 2011 found only 39 percent for and 55 percent against a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, with 7 percent undecided. But by November of 2011, it was 48 percent for, 43 percent against, 9 percent undecided.

The latest Star-Tribune survey of 800 likely voters, between Sept. 17 and 19, showed a "statistical dead heat." Forty-nine percent would vote "Yes" for the constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, 47 percent would vote "No," and 4 percent said they were undecided. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The Star-Tribune said the strongest support for the ban lies in the suburbs, a reality that seems to echo the tribulation of California's Proposition 8.

An exhaustive analysis of pre-election polls and

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PASTORAL SUPPORT | The Rev. Michael Gray, a Methodist pastor, speaks Sept. 10 outside City Hall in Portland, Maine, in support of a ballot question to legalize same-sex marriage. (Associated Press)

voting on California's same-sex marriage ban found that the votes of more than half-a-million parents with kids living at home were prepared to vote against Proposition 8, sending it to defeat. Then, in the last weeks of the 2008 campaign, proponents of the ban saturated the airwaves with advertisements that warned parents that the legalization of same-sex marriage would require public schools to teach children that same-sex marriage is a viable option for them. The No on 8 campaign failed to respond directly and quickly to that claim, said the study's author David Fleischer, and the parents' votes were converted to "Yes." Proposition 8 passed 52 percent to 48 percent — or barely 600,000 votes in an election in which 13.7 million votes were cast.

But Minnesota's constitution has a quirk. It requires that amendments must be passed by a number of votes that totals a majority of all ballots cast. That means that anyone who votes for president and some of the other offices on the ballot but does not vote on Proposed Amendment 1 will be counted as a "No" vote on Proposed Amendment 1. So, if 100 people go to the polls, it would need 51 "Yes" votes to pass, even if only 60 people voted on the marriage measure and a majority of 60 would total only 31.

WASHINGTON: In Washington State, the Preserve Marriage Washington coalition seeks to overturn the Legislature's approval of marriage equality by offering five reasons the state doesn't need to approve same-sex marriage. They are:

- "same-sex couples already have the same legal rights as married couples,"
- "children do better when raised by a married mom and dad,"
- "anyone who does not comply with the new definition of marriage will face legal consequences,"
- "public schools will have no choice but to teach this new genderless institution," and
- businesses, like Chick-fil-A, doctors and others "will risk their state licenses if they act on their beliefs" against same-sex marriage.

Anti-gay activists in Washington State are going for the Prop 8 jugular. In ads that began airing Oct. 8, they claim passage of Referendum 74 will mean homosexuality will be taught in schools.

"Whenever schools educate children about marriage, they have no choice but to teach this new genderless institution," says one ad, "Conse-

quences of Redefining Marriage."

"In Massachusetts, kids as young as the second grade have been taught homosexual marriage," claims the ad, being aired by Preserve Marriage Washington.

"Everyone in Washington must comply with the new definition of marriage or face negative consequences. Anyone who does not accept this new definition of marriage will soon find themselves at odds with the law and facing legal consequences." Among those negative consequences, it claims, is Catholic Charities loss of "its adoption services" when Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriage.

In truth, of course, Catholic Charities voluntarily gave up its adoption services after the state government said it could no longer fund the organization because it was violating a state human rights law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination.

But voters cannot be expected to know or look for the veracity of certain claims in a fast-moving TV advertisement.

IOWA JUSTICE: Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins was one of seven justices who voted unanimously that the state Constitution guarantees same-sex couples equal protection under the law. Three of those justices were up for their retention votes in 2010 and were ousted. Now, Wiggins is due a retention vote and press reports in Iowa say it's a fierce fight once again — even three years beyond the landmark decision.

The usual suspects are back to try and defeat the justices: Bob Vander Plaats, NOM, and even failed Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum. Santorum rode a "NO Wiggins" bus around the state late last month, and made stops to tell voters a vote against Wiggins is "vitally important."

"Seven individuals decided to change the entire fabric of the state of Iowa," said Santorum, at a stop in Des Moines Sept. 24.

He suggested that by removing Wiggins and having four new justices on the court, opponents of same-sex marriage could "maybe even reverse this horrific decision."

The Des Moines Register reported Oct. 3 that 49 percent of likely voters polled said they would vote to retain Wiggins, 41 percent would vote to remove him, and 9 percent were undecided. ■

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viewpoints

Gay rights and the 'None' percent

Anti-LGBT teachings have driven many away from fundamentalist churches, helping to fuel increase in those with no religious affiliation

A new poll by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life reveals that a record number of Americans (19.3 percent) have abandoned faith and now consider themselves unaffiliated with any particular religion. According to USA Today:

"This group called 'Nones,' is now the nation's second-largest category after Catholics, and outnumbers the top protestant denomination, the Southern Baptists. The shift is a significant cultural, religious and even political change. ... Today, the Nones have leapt from 15.3 percent of U.S. adults in 2007. One in three (32 percent) are under age 30 and unlikely to age into claiming religion, says Pew senior researcher Greg Smith. The new study points out that today's Millennials are more unaffiliated than any young generation ever had been when they were younger."

If you want to understand the reasons behind this trend, take a moment to read a disturbing letter that Twin Cities Catholic Archbishop John Nienstedt sent to the mother of a gay son. In it, the holy man told the mother that her "eternal salvation" might depend on whether or not she embraced the anti-gay teachings of the Catholic Church, thus rejecting her own child.

Talk about family values!

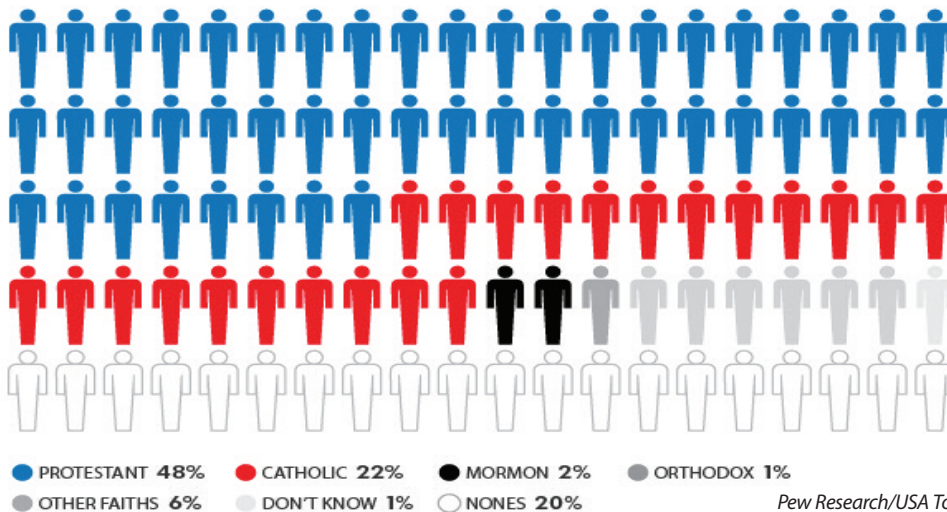
Such a callous admonition might have worked in the past when people had little education. It may have resonated in bygone eras where gays and lesbians were invisible and easy to demonize as "the other." It could have held sway had the Catholic Church's credibility not been in tatters after spending more than \$2.5 billion to help right the wreckage wrought by pedophile priests and their enablers.

While Nienstedt's arrogance and cruelty stands out as particularly odious, it isn't just Catholicism that is in decline. In a world that is increasingly more complicated, with infinite possibilities and pitfalls, as well as seemingly unlimited access to information, the idea that one faith owns absolute truth is a notion that is slowly becoming obsolete.

I, for one, believe that the 19.3 percent figure for "Nones" is too low. A substantial number of people only identify themselves in surveys as belonging to a particular faith for one of three reasons:

- Habit: People over 30 were brought up in a world where everyone was presumed to have a religious affiliation as both a mark of faith and cultural identity. So, when asked whether they belong to a faith group, they reflexively check the box, with little thought to their own belief system

RELIGIOUS BREAKDOWN OF U.S. ADULTS



or actual adherence to the religious convictions they claim. As the Nones make themselves more visible, it gives these folks a new box to check — and many of them will.

- Fear: For centuries, it was dangerous for people to acknowledge their genuine beliefs. "Today, there's no shame in saying you are an unbeliever," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Albert Mohler complained in USA Today. With people like Mohler losing their ability to ostracize and impose social consequences, millions of people finally have the ability to "come out" and exercise their freedom from religion.

- Politics: Even today, if an ambitious person wants a successful career in politics, it is easier to fake having faith, than acknowledge being a non-believer. The result is that politicians appear significantly more devout than the general population. Once this taboo falls, which is likely to occur in the next decade, it will open the door to a more honest dialogue about the role of religion in public life. Of course, this can't happen soon enough, with the Religious Right arduously working to demolish the separation of church and state.

Religious extremists have long claimed that the acceptance of homosexuality would bring down the fundamentalist church — and they have been proven correct, albeit not for the reasons they proffered. The downfall occurred not because gay people stopped heterosexuals from reproducing or recruited their children. Not because LGBT individuals hated families, which they had always been a part of. Not because homosexuals despised faith — because the abundance of deeply religious gay people proves this is not true.

The fundamentalists undermined their legitimacy by worshipping homophobia long after it

had been exposed as a false God. In this unholy obsession, the sacrifices left bleeding at the altar were truth and justice. When people see their own sons and daughters and friends and co-workers coming out, it creates a crisis of credibility for religious institutions. It leads to countless situations where mean-spirited men like Nienstedt demand blind, irrational obedience and say take it or leave it — and more people are now following their consciences and walking away.

I'll conclude with this: The political coalition of the future is non-dogmatic mainstream people of faith and the Nones. In the coming decade, these two groups will forge bonds and create a dynamic force that rivals the holy book literalists who today hold power disproportionate to their numbers. This will be a much-needed correction to the outmoded ideas and celebration of ignorance that is holding back our nation's promise and progress.

Wayne Besen is founding executive director of Truth Wins Out, a Vermont-based nonprofit organization that fights anti-gay religious extremism. He can be reached at WBesen@TruthWinsOut.org.



Wayne Besen
Contributing Columnist

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Back & forward

Melissa Etheridge willingly addresses the complexities of life — in her music and personally

JONANNA WIDNER | Contributing Writer
jonanna.widner@gmail.com

A NEW POINT OF VIEW | A turbulent few years have provided ample fodder for Melissa Etheridge's new album, which she comes to Dallas' Majestic in support of on Saturday.

It was soon after a contentious presidential campaign that Melissa Etheridge came out publicly as lesbian. That was nearly 20 years ago, but it can be easy to forget how different the world was then — a time when coming out could adversely affect album sales, alienate a fan base or outright destroy a career.

Or so everyone thought. Once Etheridge came out, none of those apocalyptic fears came to fruition. In fact, the singer-songwriter went on to sell millions of albums, win two Grammys and earn fans worldwide — gay, straight and in between. She solidified her stardom rather than marginalizing it and became, for many, something more: an icon, a role model.

Still, those two decades have been anything but smooth sailing for her. There have been highs — hit albums, an Oscar, four children (young twins and two teenagers) — and lows — some not-so-hit-albums, two very difficult breakups, battling (and overcoming) breast cancer and chemotherapy — all of which took place in a very public way. Etheridge wasn't just a rocker; she was The Most Famous Lesbian In Music.

Her new album, *4th Street Feeling*, has the feel of someone who has been through a harrowing journey and is looking back on it — not just on the past 20 years, but on the time before. Yet it simultaneously looks forward. It's a complicated album, but, Etheridge

seems lately to have come to peace with the complexities of life.

"There's a lot of different emotions on the album, a lot of different points of view," says Etheridge in a telephone interview before her arrival in Dallas for a concert at the Majestic Theatre on Saturday. "There's a lot of joy, sure, and a lot of looking forward, and also some looking backward and some cathartic parts."

Such a melange works: *4th Street Feeling* is Etheridge's strongest work in years, both lyrically and musically.

Etheridge culled from her childhood memories for much of the album's material, and this is when the songs work best, when the imagery paints a picture of a kid growing up in the gritty 1970s in Leavenworth, Kan.

"I've found that as I get older my memories become more alive, like they can change, take on different thoughts and feelings," she says. "When I was much younger, I couldn't wait to get out of my hometown. And now I think, 'Wow that was a great time.' I'm looking back and incorporating that in my life and feeling that it's OK to embrace that now."

Much of that looking back takes the form of very specific imagery on the album: The title track is named after a street in Leavenworth, and references to old cars pepper the lyrics (the line "I got my old man's Delta 88" leads off the CD, and the title

track recalls "when everything I had/could fit in my Chevrolet.")

Musically, there are departures from what Etheridge's fans may expect.

"Along with looking back lyrically, the music takes on that feeling, that kind of '70s soul. The influences are very clear," Etheridge notes. "The beautiful thing, when I grew up, was listening to that one AM station in the '60s and early '70s. They used to play Led Zeppelin, then Marvin Gaye, then Tammy Wynette. I got to know all that music — I didn't know there was anything separate."

Despite all its nostalgia (tinted with a smidge of anger: "A Disaster" and "Be Real" make it clear Etheridge still has a few things to say to her exes), *4th Street's* secondary theme trends forward, toward acceptance and — dare we say it — happiness. "Falling Up," with the line *My heart is heavy / but the rest of me is fine / So here's to me / let's drink a cup / I'm falling... / falling up*, reflects the attitude of someone who has turned 51, who can hold the contradictions of life in perspective.

"It's my life," Etheridge says, her voice gathering steam across the line. "It's the ups and downs, it's the ins and outs, it's the great story of my life. I'm grateful for every lesson I've learned, and I've got so many more to go. I'm grateful for it all." ■

MELISSA ETHERIDGE

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'Skin' tight

Gay Austinite Amy Cook drops heartfelt thrills on 'Summer Skin'

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
rlopez5428@yahoo.com



SUMMER SKIN
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As the music capital of Texas, we've come to expect good stuff to come out of Austin. So when even that city can surprise us with stellar, that's saying something. And while Amy Cook is technically from California, she's done the Austin music thing for the past eight years, releasing albums and making friends. But even with help from the likes of Robert Plant and Meshell N'degeocello on her newest album *Summer Skin*, the indie lesbian never gets lost in their shadow and instead shines brightly on 11 tracks.

Skin begins with the lush "Waiting 4 the World

2 End" opening the album with a peppy beat and honest grit. Cook mixes Britpop and Lilith Fair earnestness into this very now track. There is a relative simplicity to her approach with voice and instrumentation. There aren't frills here but that's not to say there isn't a wealth of complexity involved. "Waiting" takes on the responsibility to say *Skin* has much to say — and subsequent songs don't let down.

She refrains from drama queen flair on "Sun Setting Backwards," a track that details the deterioration of a relationship. The melody is effective, though without the hardness of lesbian contemporaries Brandi Carlile or Melissa Etheridge. Cook plays more in the key of Jason Mraz, exuding patience and delicacy. When she croons that everything is upside down, there's pain that isn't immediately evident, but buried down and can only escape through her singing.

Pardon another lesbian reference, but "It's Gonna Rain" recalls that languid feeling of k.d. lang's *Ingénue*. It's light but the quiet harmonies drip when Robert Plant throws in his backing track adding a wonderful weight to the track.

Summer Skin's strength is its consistency. Listening to the album feels like finding a diary you can't help but read (or in this case, listen to). It's a thrill ride because of it.



HONORARY TEXAN | Amy Cook's not an Austin native, but the California transplant adds a welcome sound to the Texas music scene.

Cook displays humor throughout. She gives a great opener on "Hello Bunny," telling the character to *run for your life, it's a cruel world / better get you some money and a bowie knife if you can*. The song holds up to that quirky tone with tickling guitars. Cook handles it well with both a wink and complete devotion to the track.

The album winds down with a relaxed pace. On the dreamy notes of "Levee" and "When I Wake Up," her initial grit is smoothed out; she may even lose some listeners as *Skin* fades into a lull but hardly fades away. You can almost miss her clever lyrics, but Cook makes that OK. The spirit of *Summer Skin* doesn't need to be rushed but rather seeps in like musical osmosis.

Glitter rock's Diamond Rings plays Dallas

All that glitters is not necessarily gold — sometimes, it can be Diamond Rings.

That's been the philosophy of John O'Regan (he goes by John O), the 27-year-old Canadian rocker who started as a frontman for the decidedly un-glam post-punk band The D'Urbervilles before striking out on his own in 2010 with the release of *Special Affections*, his debut full-length disc under the name Diamond Rings. Now, exactly two years later, he's having a banner year — heck, a banner month. His new disc, *Free Dimensional*, drops in two weeks, and that will be quickly followed by his network television debut on *The Late Show with David Letterman*.

The cherry on the top, though, has to be his appearance in Dallas ... if not for him, then certainly for the out musician's Texas fans. He opens for Stars at the Granada on Saturday ... which means you can see him before a lot of America does on TV. Even better: You can win two free tickets to see the show. Visit DallasVoice.com and check out the Instant Tea blog asap to enter. But hurry! The contest ends quick!

— A.W.J.

Diamond Rings and Stars, Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. Oct. 13. Doors open at 7 p.m. \$24. GranadaTheater.com.



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YOU BE THE X-MEN AS ASTONISHED | This year, longtime gay superhero Northstar married his same-sex partner (an interracial marriage, too — just to piss off all the bigots), but to get the latest issue from Richard Neal's Zeus Comics, you'll have to drive to Inwood Road — the Lemmon Avenue store has moved.

Zeus moves

Gay comic store relocates to Inwood

Everyone knows the Design District is an up-and-coming area for galleries, furniture stores and lately restaurants ... but comic book shops? Well, it is now.

About two weeks ago, gay-owned Zeus Comics — long located along Oak Lawn, then later moved to Lemmon Avenue across from Whole Foods — picked up and headed over to Inwood Road near the intersection of Irving Boulevard, just on the outskirts of the Design District. And owner Richard Neal is already happy about the move.

"Our customers have followed us," he says. "We are already getting more foot-traffic, and we haven't even moved our sign yet."

Neal — who sells all kinds of comics, but is especially proud to feature many that appeal to the gay community, including DC's new Earth 2 imprint with a gay Green Lantern and specialty compendia like *No Straight Lines: Four Decades of Queer Comics* — says the move also doubled the public floor-space, meaning he'll have more room for T-shirts, toys, graphic novels, maybe even a little chocolate counter for folks to nosh on. He hopes to make Zeus not just a place where comic book nerds gather for the weekly Wednesday releases, but a place where people can hang out and browse.

If you want to see it though, you have to go in — Neal's web series, *The Variants* (set in the comic book store) finished filming before they packed up and moved.)

There's still some work to do — inventory is still being shelved, and the glass display cases need to be assembled — but it's not too soon to stop in. But how exactly do you find it without the sign in front? Easy — just look for the Batsign in the window. Just like the superheroes do. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Zeus Comics and Toys, 1334 Inwood Road. Open Tuesdays–Sundays. 214-219-TOYS. ZeusComics.com. The Variants uploads new webisodes every Wednesday at TheVariants.com.

QUEER CLIP: 'ARGO'

The cojones it took CIA operative Tony Mendez (Ben Affleck) to march into Tehran at the height of the Islamic Revolution and march out with six American embassy workers should put him in the Testicle Hall of Fame, though the true story of *Argo* was classified until about 15 years ago. Affleck pulls double duty as the star and director in this slick, well-paced grassroots thriller with a distinctive '70s vibe. As a director, his best achievement is conjuring the different worlds it took to pull this off — the flash of Hollywood, the somberness of D.C. and the horrors of Iran when Americans were persona non grata. Huh — other than the haircuts, it seems not much has changed. — A.W.J.

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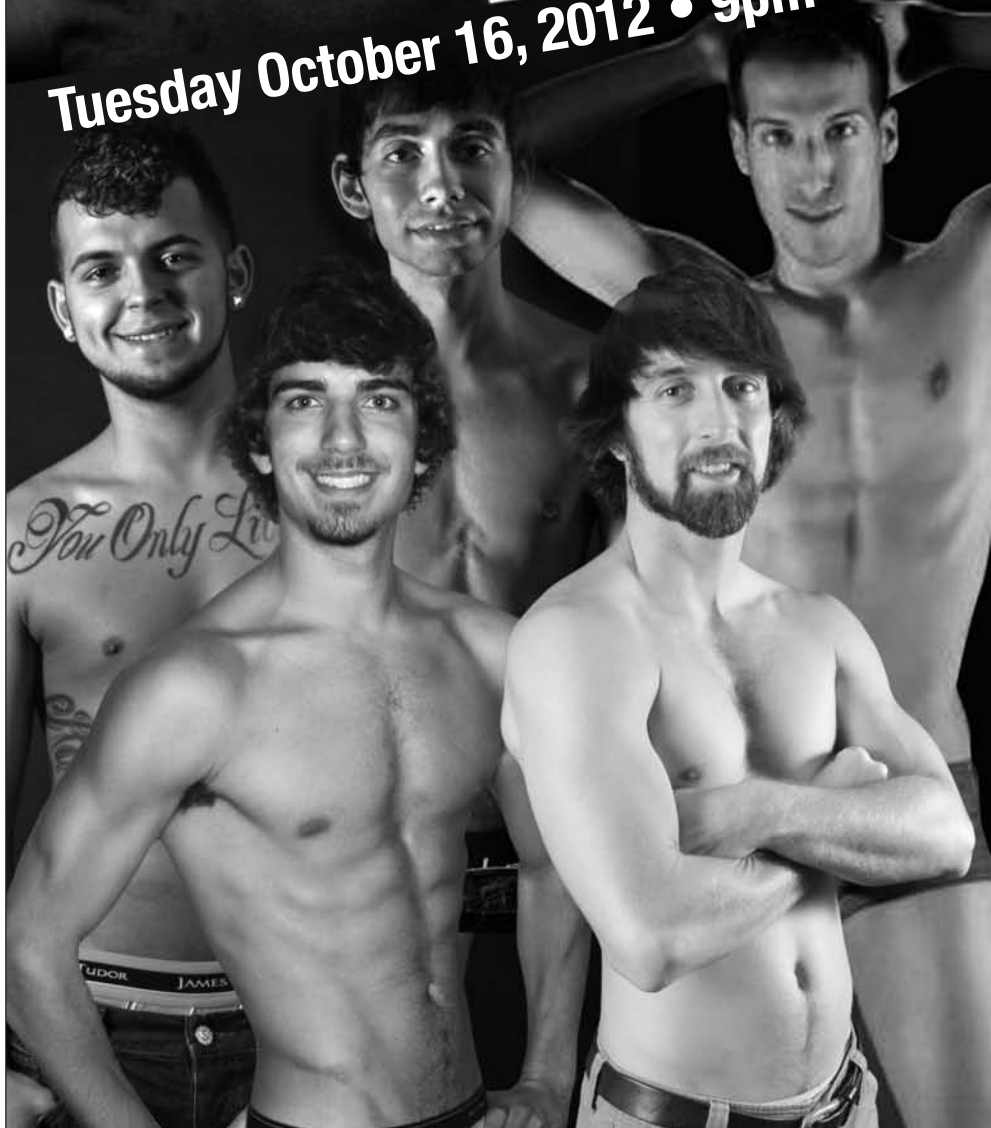
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Swamp things

Dark sexual longing adds weight to the evocative mystery of 'The Paperboy'

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

The mark of a successful period piece can be how tactilely evocative the setting feels, even if you haven't been there. Tom Tykwer did it masterfully in *Perfume*, conjuring the aromas of 18th century France, and Stephen Frears made you feel the face powder in *Dangerous Liaisons*.

In *The Paperboy*, by the time you realize that director Lee Daniels has made you feel the bites of mosquitoes on the back of your sweat-drenched neck, you're all-in. But you don't have to wait until then to become hypnotized by this poignant and unique tale of taboo sexual longing pinched between the tongs of racism and violence.

It's a sweltering summer in 1969 in Moat County, Fla., a rural back-swamp where even the sheriff got so corrupt, someone slit his belly until he dragged his guts along a mile of dusty road. Redneck poster boy Hillary Van Wetter (John Cusack) has been convicted of the crime and sentenced to death, but crusading reporter Ward Jansen (Matthew McConaughey) isn't satisfied that justice has been done. Ward has a Pulitzer under his belt and returns to his hometown with his arrogant black colleague Yardley (David Oyelowo) to find out what really happened.

The Paperboy hints at movies as diverse as *The Help* and *A Time to Kill* and *Just Cause* (a dreadful

"thriller" also set in a drecky bayou), but Daniels and his co-writer, Pete Dexter, have pieced it together with a collagist's sense of order. It suggests and skips and twists the narrative, turning potentially comic moments (Nicole Kidman urinating on Zac Efron!?) into intensely frightening ones. If you feel unsettled and a little confused, well, imagine how the characters feel living through it.

Efron plays McConaughey's younger brother, an athlete with the soul of a poet trapped in a dead-end job working for his father's newspaper. He lusts after Van Wetter's prison-correspondence fiancée (Kidman, effectively trashy) while idolizing his enigmatic brother.

Sure, it's nice that Efron spends most of his scenes in his underwear, but the biggest revelation is how sensitive and complex an actor he has become, holding his own against Kidman and McConaughey (in his most shocking role — though savvy viewers will see the twist to his character coming early on). Macy Gray, as the housekeeper who recounts the story, shows depth as well, though Cusack, while creepy, fails to convey the inherent menace the role calls for.

Daniels, who won an Oscar nom directing *Precious*, has another film to be proud of here — one just as dark and challenging, but ultimately rewarding. ■

BOGWATERGATE | A crusading journalist (Matthew McConaughey) and his younger brother (Zac Efron) search the swamps of Florida for evidence of a murderer's innocence in 'The Paperboy.'

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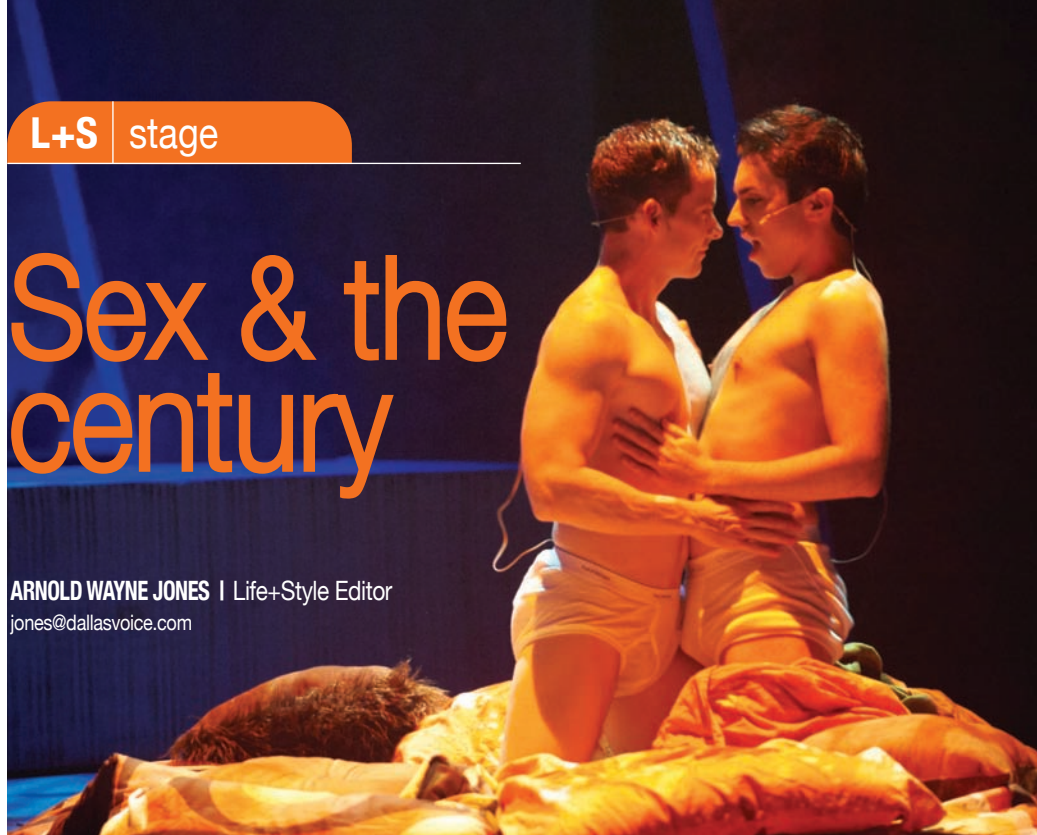
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L+S stage

Sex & the century

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



Dark and clever, erotic and funny, 'Hello Again' is a thinking man's musical

Beneath a streetlamp by the dock around the turn of the last century, a naive young doughboy approaches a lady of the evening. They engage in an acrobatic and explicit romp, but when it's over, they both seem uncomfortable and awkward. A few minutes later, the soldier is back, only this time he's a horny bastard who just wants to sleep with a WAC before he ships out to Guadalcanal in the early '40s. When the deed is done, he seems satisfied, but she feels rightly used.

And so it goes, crossing nearly a century in *Hello Again*, Michael John LaChuisa's sexual operetta where folks — men and women, and sometimes men and men — get their rocks off but are still searching for something more.

If it sounds like your last weekend on the Strip, it's meant to.

This is a smarty-pants musical, where the central conceit (stolen from *La Ronde*) requires careful attention: The action doesn't happen chronologically, and while each of the characters recur in two adjacent scenes, they merely hearken their earlier counterparts; their identities morph across the ages — same name, different situation.

While that might sound not merely smart, but smarmy — characters as symbols rather than real people? — the success of the show rests precisely in its universality. Guys like sex, women like love ... but sometimes those roles reverse. Connecting is harder than it looks. (Maybe that's where the adage "love makes the torture of looking for it worth the effort" comes from.)

But while there's a doleful quality to *Hello Again* — and there's no denying that LaChuisa's point of view lingers on the lack of sexual fulfillment — the remarkable achievement of this production is that it *doesn't* leave you bitter or sad. There's comedy, sprightly music (though LaChuisa ventures occasionally into atonal mod-

ernism) and engaging performances that perk up this still-serious riff on adult themes.

No segment is funnier than the 1960s, when a spoiled, adenoidal college kid (Adam Garst) feigns injury just so he can play doctor with his private-duty nurse (Laura Lites), who cynically gets his rocks off only to leave him humiliated. That scene contrasts to one of the more poignant episodes, the 1950s, where a typical Eisenhower-era housewife (Beth Albright) married to a distant older man (Mark Hawkins) yearns for passion. It has Douglas Sirk written all over it.

Not all the scenes are winners. The 1920s, where a conniving actress (Stephanie Riggs) seduces a writer (Chad Petersen) into getting the script changes she wants, doesn't work musically or dramatically (it's thin stuff to begin with); Petersen is better playing the writer in the 1970s, sniffing coke and bugging a club kid (Peter DiCesare) in a disco in the pre-AIDS phantasm of gay culture.

That's hardly the only tauntingly erotic scene. Director John de los Santos cleverly gives each decade its own sexual energy, it's own "act" that shows the diversity of sex. There's fellatio, cunnilingus, missionary, doggie, sodomy, even impotence — it's as if the Kama Sutra got set to music. (I haven't seen so many boobs and asses since the Republican National Convention.)

It's a cliché to describe actors who drop trou as brave, but no other phrase really does justice to the bold fearlessness of the cast, whether it's Linda Leonard (still stunning past 50, and totally nude) or the vulnerability of beefy baritone Shane Peterman, touching in the closing scene, or DiCesare, perfectly coy as the clueless Titanic survivor. Their energy and commitment are so convincing, they are able to sell every scene and keep the story grounded, even as it could easily disorient you. Sex can do that sometimes. Or so I've been told.

HELLO AGAIN

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through
Oct. 21. UptownPlayers.org.

HEY, IT WAS THE '70S | Two disco queens (Chad Petersen, Peter DiCesare) do the horizontal hustle in 'Hello Again,' a mature, dark but also very familiar idyll on sex over the decades. (Photo by Mike Morgan)

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- Houston Chronicle



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DAVID CURRIER | Contributing Writer
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Gay couples will find New Mexico a welcoming and enjoyable destination for special occasion trips, a long weekend or even a regular vacation getaway.

For cruising, New Mexico gay life presents a less intense bar scene than other destinations; it's more tailored for couples. Coincidentally, you can rent tandem bicycles if your romance still creates that twinkle in your eyes and you are glued at the hips. But even if you want to venture out on separate sets of wheels, Albuquerque has more than 400 miles of bike-friendly trails. Santa Fe has about 50 miles in the business district area, but expands to mountain biking in the nearby hills, and you will find limitless places where romantic couples can peddle.

Friday nights at Hotel Albuquerque, check out the classy Casa Esencia with its glistening reflecting pool (strict dress code and a cover charge). Casa Esencia has several rooms which wrap around a central bar. This club, built in 1783, was originally a private home. Its Q-Bar is considered one of the most sophisticated spots in the city.

To introduce you to Albuquerque and the early history of the American Southwest, more than 15 museums covering nuclear science (Los

Alamos is 90 miles away), traditional and contemporary art, and holocaust issues including treatment of Native Americans should pique your interest. Or take a 20-minute ride to Petroglyph National Monument, and your American history lesson goes back 700 years. The 300-year-old San Felipe de Neri is ABQ's oldest Catholic parish. Visitors will be intrigued by the mixture of architectural styles of the adobe church.

New Mexico restaurants will impress diners since they tend to shy away from the starchy, fatty Tex-Mex cuisine that many Americans have come to expect. "Hot" is not typically on the menus; chefs focus on subtle flavors created from local ingredients. And gay-friendly New Mexicans won't be flustered to see same-sex couples sharing dishes or even occasionally feeding each other.

Do not underestimate your hotel's dining options, particularly if you've chosen the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. Cristobal's (a steakhouse) has a sophisticated air with a romantic vibe and a pricey but-worth-it menu.

Catch an early morning hot air balloon ride over the desert for a touristy but once-in-a-blue-moon experience. Balloon trips typically start before dawn, and rules require passengers to show up as much as two hours prior to departure to assist with inflating their balloon. We got to walk inside the balloon before it became engorged; it's a blast. You'll work up an appetite; if your balloon company does not include a meal (make sure it's "first class"), ask them if you should make a trip to the deli.

You can choose between a tandem "gondola built for two" to a more economical trip that may include up to 12 people. Push the envelope; several balloon companies offer inflight wedding services and many offer same-sex commitment ceremonies.



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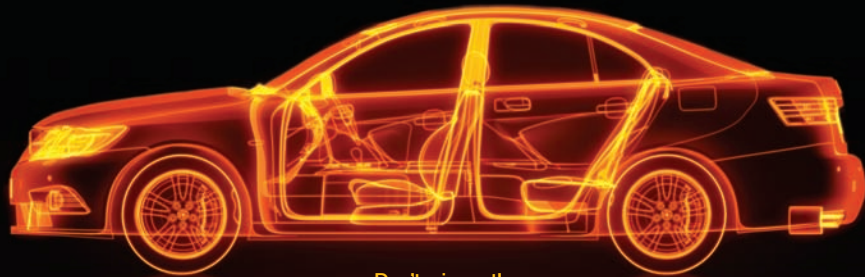
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Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com

Dear Howard,

I just acquired my 50th friend on Facebook, which has only taken me six weeks to do, but I feel so inadequate that I could almost scream! I know there are less fortunate people out there, who are lonely and have fewer substantive friendships than I, but who also have hundreds of Facebook friends; additionally, I know there are people out there who have boyfriends, but aren't even on Facebook at all. Heck, Howie, I have friends who have been in rock-solid relationships since before even this social media networking stuff began! So, why can't I find a man? — **Tilt-A-Whirl**

Dear Whirligig,

Friends, friends everywhere, and not a man to think: How many of your Facebook Fifty could you actually call were you, say, stuck on the side of the road with a flat tire and no spare? How

many of them would, oh, send condolences were one of your parents to pass away? Who among them would donate a kidney toward saving your life? Whirly, you might want to look the word "substantive" up in a dictionary; moreover, you need to quit confusing Facebook "friends" with friendships. Substantive relationships don't require vacuous competition. Oh, and the name's Howard, not Howie.

Dear Howard,

I recently served three years in prison. I was "non-voluntarily" introduced to sex with fellow males while there. Let's just say I found it not to be unpleasant, necessarily, and even became a *consenting* partner on several occasions. Now that I'm back in the free world again, I'm having sex again with only women. I don't wish to seek out guys, but might accept a come-on by a man. Am I gay, bisexual or just a horny bastard? — **Curious George**

Dear Georgie,

Door No. 3 (where the lovely Carole Merrill is standing) is your answer: horny bastard. Curious, why don't you hit your local library (a place where books can be acquired, and read, for free) and pick up a copy of *The Kinsey Report*. You'll discover that it is as rare for a man to be 100 percent heterosexual as it is for a man to be 100 percent homosexual. Human sexuality runs a spectrum, almost daily, like mercury in a thermometer: So, big deal, you enjoyed sex with

men during your prison stint, and found out you're not opposed to the raw allure of your own gender. Sexual attraction, after all, is about the individual, *not* the individual's genitalia.

Dear Howard,

I recently found out through the grapevine that the so-called "boyfriend" of my closest friend has been seen with someone else — and not just once, but several times — while my friend has been away traveling on business. Do I tell my closest friend that his boyfriend has been cheating on him when he's been out of town? — **Vince**

Dear Gladys Kravitz,

I take it that there is no love lost between you and your "closest" friend's unfaithful spouse versus sheer hearsay? Nosy is as nosy does: Unless your closest friend has the IQ of Forrest Gump, he is quite well aware of what his partner does privately when he's away; not only is your closest friend's private-life business *none* of yours whatsoever, Vincent, but you risk losing a dear



friendship via gossip and meddling.

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Saturday 10.13

Texas-OU weekend extends well beyond the Cotton Bowl

On the surface, the Texas-OU game is a neutral-stomping-ground rivalry of two powerhouse football neighbors. In reality, it's a Texas tradition whose effect is felt far beyond the gridiron. The game may be on Saturday afternoon, but after the final field goal, the real celebrating just gets going, with tons of fans, students and alums flocking into gayborhood for a night of whooping it up, college style. Be forewarned. And enjoy.

DEETS: Cotton Bowl at Fair Park, 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. Kickoff at 11 a.m. BigTex.org. Parties and celebrations across Dallas all weekend.



Sunday 10.14

Rufus Wainwright croons at Meyerson

From his self-titled debut album of doleful edge-of-pop tunes to his Hollywood Bowl tribute concert to Judy Garland, Rufus Wainwright has astonished audiences and critics with his quirky sensibilities and luscious, flamboyant way with any song. He brings some of that artistry back to Dallas this weekend with Live at the Meyerson, a concert of songs of his latest acclaimed album ... but there will surely be some surprises thrown in as well. That's how he rolls.

DEETS: Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$29. MeyersonLive.com.

Sunday 10.14

DMA opens new exhibit of Parisian poster art

The rise of entertainment meant the rise of advertising, and nowhere was that more exploited than in Paris in the late 1800s. And boy did the artists of the day — famously Toulouse-Lautrec, but also Jules Cheret, the father of the poster — take advantage of that. The Dallas Museum of Art's new exhibit of Parisian poster art includes original lithographs (and some watercolors) from le belle epoque in a rare display of familiar images ... only these are the originals.

DEETS: Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Oct. 14—Jan. 20, 2013. Special ticket price: \$14. DM-Art.org.



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calendar

FRIDAY 10.12

THEATER

The Addams Family. A musical adaptation of the campy '60s sitcom is the State Fair musical. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Reviewed in this issue. Through Oct. 21. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Ain't This Some Sh*t, a comedy about nuns (the Mother Superior is played in drag) competing on a reality TV show. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Friday–Sunday at 7:30 p.m. \$15–\$20. TECOTheater.org.

Avenue Q. Presented by Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2900 Routh St. It's an adult musical with puppets. Gay puppets. Having sex. Leave the kids at home. Through Oct. 28. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Children. WingSpan Theatre Co. opens its 15th season with this play written by A.R. Gurney, set off the coast of New England over July 4, 1970. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 Lawther Drive. Through Oct. 20. WingSpanTheatre.com. 213-675-6573.

Greater Tuna. Mesquite Community Theatre stages the campy, cross-dressing Texas classic. 1527 N. Galloway Ave., Mesquite. Oct. 19–Nov. 3. MesquiteCommunityTheatre.com.

Hello Again. Uptown Players' production of an adult musical by out composer Michael John LaChiusa. Reviewed in this issue. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Oct. 21. UptownPlayers.org.

Kooza. The latest Cirque du Soleil show, under the big top at Reunion Tower, 500 Memorial Drive. Through Oct. 28. CirqueTicketsOnline.com/Kooza.

The Mystery of Irma Vep, a Penny Dreadful, a satire by Charles Ludlam. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Oct. 19. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

FINE ART

Beyond the Lens: The Photography of Resistance and Liberation. A new exhibit featuring the photos of Faye Schulman opens at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through Nov. 25. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

On the Silk Road and the High Seas: Chinese Ceramics, Culture and Commerce. New exhibit of centuries-old pottery and sculpture, at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 27, 2013. CrowCollection.org.

BROADCAST

Broadway: The American Musical. A new six-part series about musical theater. Interviewees include Bernadette Peters, Patti LuPone, Stephen Sondheim, Harvey Fierstein, Tommy Tune and many more. Ch. 13 at 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY

TGRA 2013 Royalty Competition. Candidates competing for the titles of Mr. TGRA, Miss TGRA, Ms. TGRA and MsTer TGRA 2013 will hold their public pag-



'TUNA' FISHING | Mesquite gets a little gay (maybe for the first time!) with the Community Theatre's production of 'Greater Tuna.'

eat at the Rose Room, in the categories Western Wear, Public Presentation and Entertainment. (Winners will be announced Sunday.) Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., competition starts at 6 p.m.

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) for those wishing to quit using crystal meth meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler St., #108.

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

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

Lambda Pride Toastmasters. Regular meeting for improving communication and leadership skills. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. LambdaPride.FreeToastHost.us.

Congregation Beth El Binah Shabbat service. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. BethElBinah.org.

SATURDAY 10.13

COMMUNITY

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

Once in a Blue Moon, women's dance. DanceMasters Ballroom, 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. 7 p.m.–midnight. \$10. 972-479-0774.

FUNDRAISER

Evening Under the Stars, a kick-off party for the St. Jude Hospital's 50th anniversary celebration, features music by Big & Rich, plus an after-party in addition to a sit-down dinner. Omni Hotel Downtown, 555 S. Lamar St. Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. \$75 (after-party), \$250 (dinner). StJude.org.

CONCERTS

Diamond Rings and Stars. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. Oct. 13. Doors open at 7 p.m. \$24. GranadaTheater.com.

Melissa Etheridge, 1701 Elm St. Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. \$58–\$103. Ticketmaster.com

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas on its new day and time. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.



'BROADWAY' | 'La Cage aux Folles' is one of the musicals profiled in this weekly series, airing Fridays on KERA.

SUNDAY 10.14

COMMUNITY

TGRA Royalty Party.

Winners of this year's royalty competition will be revealed as reigning 2012 court steps down. The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m.

Expressions, a free gender support group for men and women led by volunteers. Sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. 214-540-4475.

Youth First Texas Collin County. Group for LGBTQ youth and allies up to age 22. North Texas Youth Connection — Allen Office, 201 W. Boyd Road. Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m. CollinCounty@YouthFirstTexas.org.

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

WORSHIP

Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship. LGBT-friendly "meditation and more" event. Inspired by Buddhist spirituality, all faiths welcome. Deaf interpretation provided. Dallas Meditation Center, 727 S. Floyd Road, Richardson. 5 p.m. Donations accepted. InterMindful.com.

The ONE Church, 2515 Inwood Road, Ste 213. Services at 11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

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

CONCERTS

Rufus Wainwright: Live at the Meyerson, presented by the DSO. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$29. MeyersonLive.com

MONDAY 10.15

COMMUNITY

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

Mindful Monday Meditation hosted by Fit for Faith.

this week's solution

M	O	M	S		I	N	D	Y		W	O	O	D	Y		
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P	A	L	L	S		E	L	L	E		D	R	A	T		



AND THE WINNERS ARE ... | The new royalty for TGRA 2013 will be selected following a public competition at the Rose Room on Friday, and the new court revealed at the Round-Up Saloon on Sunday.

Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

BROADCAST

Partners, the new gay-straight sitcom from the creators of *Will & Grace*, starring North Texas' Michael Urie. Ch. 11 at 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 10.16

COMMUNITY

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

Miracle Workers (formerly Peace Builder Leadership Team) meets in Fellowship Hall. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-506-3367.

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 10.17

ONLINE

The Variants. The locally produced web series *The Variants*, set at gay-owned Zeus Comics, launches a new episode every Wednesday for its new third season. TheVariants.com.

COMMUNITY

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

Legacy of Success Community Mixer encourages community networking and meets every third Wednesday. Catfish Blues, 1011 S. Corinth St. 6:30 p.m. LOSF.org.

THURSDAY 10.18

CONCERTS

Diana Sheehan. The local actress and torch singer continues the new Sammons Cabaret series (started last month with Gary Lynn Floyd). Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 8 p.m. \$35-\$40. 214-520-7789.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Sacha Baron Cohen turns 41 on Saturday. The writer-director-comedian shot to international stardom as Borat, but also played gay fashion journalist Bruno, pictured in character, in a popular feature film. Last week, he announced that his next project will be called *The Lesbian*, based on a true story about a billionaire trying to find a man to marry his gay daughter.



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

A creative partnership with a new person may be more enduring than expected. Romantic consequences are possible but demand more work. Heartfelt discussions help to clarify illusions.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Innovation is necessary, but if you get too clever, you'll only exacerbate existing problems. Keep communications open. If you can't be friendly, be tactful. Charm works.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Getting too comfortable with the wrong people tempts you to spill secrets. Focus on where you want to be in five years with the one you love. Follow that inspiration.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Have an appropriate outlet for your energy. The more you can sublimate it into your work the better, but be mindful of boundaries. What is more important: Your relationship or your career?

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Roleplaying will open up insights into your relationship. Confusion in other dealings requires an intuitive approach. Defend your turf at work but kind words are more effective than harsh.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Don't prolong disagreements. The sooner you finish them, the sooner you can move on. Fantasy play is one way to be intimate with your partner. Sharing intimate thoughts is necessary.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Playing too hard leads to injuries and/or confrontations. Don't feel you have to annihilate your opponent — what about having some fun? Lighten up. Find your softer side before it's too late.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Flirtations lead to something more serious, but take one step at a time. Even if it is a passing fancy, there's no reason you can't flirt back! Renegotiating loans and debts work in your favor.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Concern about your health or career make you defensive — don't be a grouch! Telling others to mind their own business isn't wrong, but must be handled with diplomacy.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Attend to serious domestic issues before they overwhelm you (they are feeling that way already). Stop putting so much pressure on yourself. Structure and discipline slow you down.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Taking yourself too seriously annoys others and leads to stress in you. If you're so smart, prove it by deferring to someone else's wishes, or reading a book that will challenge you intellectually.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Conversations may lead to unexpected depths. Someone you're attracted to may be ready to reciprocate. Raise the issue gingerly but be careful about how you read their reaction.

THIS WEEK

The sun is prompting you to enjoy romantic dreams, which may become realities. Keeping promises may prove hard to do, but you must try. The test of a relationship is not just in sticking to your obligations, but forgiving the broken ones.

JANE'S WORLD



Jane's World © Paige Braddock 2012

JanesWorld.us

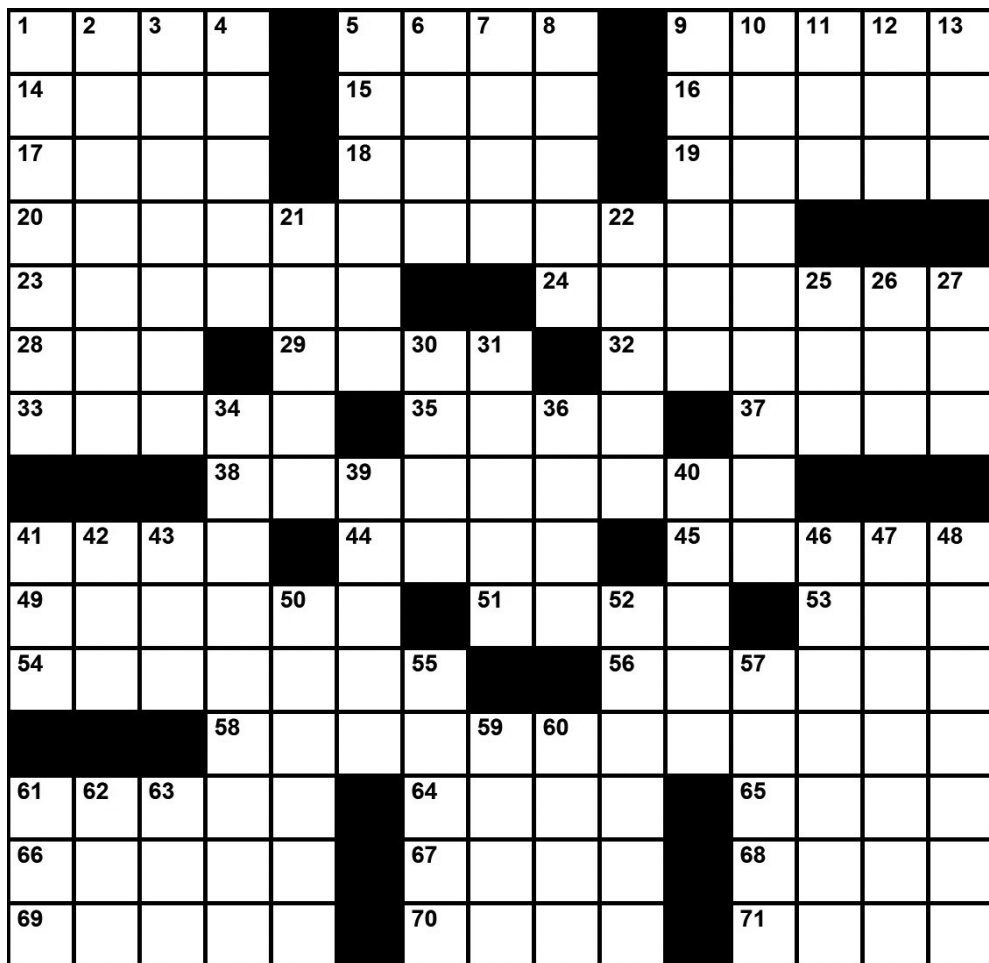
bitter girl



email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com

www.joanhilty.net

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Sesame Street Fight

Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 Funny Mabley
- 5 Memorial Day race, briefly
- 9 Erect member
- 14 Roasting place
- 15 *Brothers & Sisters* matriarch
- 16 Angelou poem, "And Still ___"
- 17 Hacienda room
- 18 Fly like an eagle or a falcon
- 19 Exasperates
- 20 With 38-Across, cutting support to PBS on the campaign trail
- 23 Got ready for porking?
- 24 Reel
- 28 Battery term.
- 29 Scott of Beautiful Thing
- 32 Come out
- 33 Former NFL player Tualo
- 35 Lion protest
- 37 "Viva, Las Vegas" middle name
- 38 See 20-Across
- 41 Island of Diamond Head Beach
- 44 American follower?
- 45 Siddhartha writer
- 49 Uranus, for one
- 51 Interstate rumbler

Down

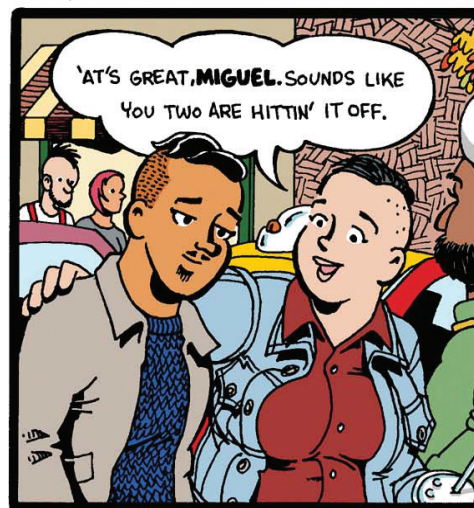
- 53 Beret or beanie
- 54 Ball whackers, in Ping-Pong
- 56 Have the attention of
- 58 Same sex couple effected by cracking down
- 61 Potpourri scent
- 64 Gave a pink slip to
- 65 "No" voter
- 66 Not quite erect
- 67 What either bride may wear
- 68 They come between Mauresmo and opponents
- 69 Necrophiliac's bedsheets?
- 70 "She" to Cocteau
- 71 "Nuts!"

Down

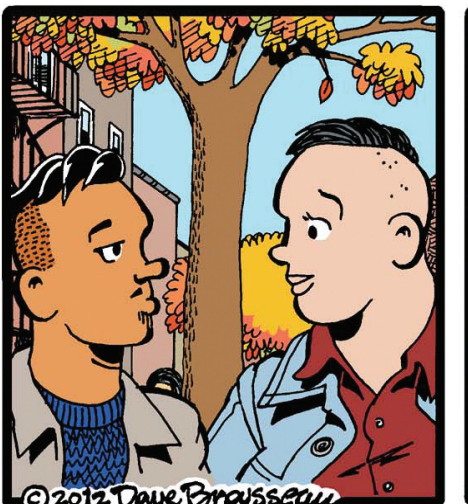
- 1 George once of San Francisco
- 2 They're essential for breeders
- 3 Hodgepodge
- 4 Eat between meals
- 5 Like some pitched balls
- 6 Common lunch time
- 7 Subject of *Wigstock*
- 8 Online exaggeration?
- 9 Home on the range
- 10 Fruity drink
- 11 Squeak silencer
- 12 Broadband connection, briefly
- 13 "Thumbs up!"
- 21 Let the Dead Bury the Dead author Randall
- 22 *SNL*'s Cheri
- 25 Warning from Toto
- 26 Id partner, to Frasier Crane
- 27 Stimp's boyfriend, perhaps
- 30 Wanting water
- 31 Shirt alligators
- 34 Sue Wicks' game, in slang
- 36 Ready and willing partner
- 39 Risky fellatio partner?
- 40 European white wine
- 41 Straight to gay (abbr.)
- 42 The Crimson Tide's st.
- 43 Was in bed with
- 46 Supermarket checkout item
- 47 John Henry Mackay's pen name
- 48 Olympian who makes points by touching the body
- 50 Succeeds a la Log Cabin
- 52 Stick your nose where it doesn't belong
- 55 Prevent, with "off"
- 57 Thou
- 59 Jump for Doug Mattis
- 60 Chicago producer Meron
- 61 Race unit
- 62 Suffix that changes Juan's gender
- 63 Like Abner, before Viagra?



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Jeffery and Zach at Alexandre's.



Friends' night out at Sue Ellen's.

DJ BJ from Austin will be in town this weekend spinning at **Best Friends Club** for the Texas-OU weekend party. ... **Mojo Dolls** play at **Woody's Sports and Video Bar** on Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. Then the bar opens at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 12 to watch the Red River Rivalry on the big screen. That night, **Ashley Dior** presents a barbecue and benefit for **Home for the Holidays** beginning at 6 p.m. ... Enjoy the bash before the clash at the **Round-Up Saloon**. Wear your team colors and sing your school fight song from 8 p.m. till 2 a.m. on Friday, then watch the game at 11 a.m. on Oct. 13. **TGRA** presents a **Chili Cook Off** in the parking lot from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 14 benefiting **TGRA Charities**. On Oct. 18, the **IGRA Rodeo** kick-off party begins at 8 p.m. ... **Cassie Nova**, **Krystal Summers**, **Valerie Lohr**, **Layla LaRue**, **Kelexis Davenport**, **Onyx** and **Vanessa Ross** perform in the **Rose Room** on Oct. 13. ... Win copies of **Elton John vs. PNAU Good Morning to the Night** at **JR.'s Bar & Grill** on Oct. 15 at 11 p.m. The **Barbra Streisand** CD release party takes place on Oct. 18 at 11 p.m. Win albums while supplies last. ... **Honey Pot Bear Fest** takes place at **Dallas Eagle** 1-6:30 p.m. on Oct. 21 with **DJ Matt Effect**. **Lipps LaRue** raises money for the **Sharon St. Cyr Fund** on Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. An evening with **Victoria Weston and Friends** begins at 8 p.m. on Oct. 14. ... Celebrate **Glinda's** 50th birthday 6-10 p.m. at the **Brick** on Oct. 13. Then come in for an after **Dallas Pride appreciation party** until 4 a.m. with no cover charge.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Guys' night out at the Round-Up Saloon.



Wes and Steve at the Dallas Eagle.



James, Candy and R. at Randy's Club Cherries.



Jose and Matt at Drama Room.



Dancers at Station 4.

Saturday, October 27

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HALLOWEEN 2012

THE STREET PARTY



The Costume Contests:
Wednesday October 31
Costume contests at JR's, S4 and Sue Ellen's at 11p; winners go to midnight finals at S4 to compete for cash and prize packages from our sponsors, including a weekend stay at Palomar Hotel in a Luxury Suite with breakfast for two each day, a \$500 voucher from the Globus Family of Vacation products, plus cash and much more! Don't miss the fun!

Saturday, October 27, 2012 7pm - 2am
in the 3900 block of Cedar Springs. Featuring the Costume Promenade, hosted by Edna Jean Robinson. Food, beer and other refreshments will be offered at 7 service booths. Be sure to catch the Live DJ and featured Rose Room performers in the back lot! Admission to the street party is free; all ages welcome, but beer sales to 21+ only. The event area will be fenced. In accordance with state law, no liquor may be taken in to the permitted area. Coolers are not permitted, and bags may be screened. Please be kind to our neighbors! Cruisin' the Crossroads suspended for this event.
No passes. 21+ only in the clubs.



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AIDS Arms, Inc. is looking for an accounting and grants compliance analyst. This position assists the CFO in all aspects of the grant process and responsible for day-to-day accounting functions. A Bachelors degree in accounting is required with knowledge and experience in the principles of not-for-profit accounting and grants compliance. Interested candidates should forward resumes to careers@aidsarms.org.

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AIDS Arms, Inc. is seeking an Assistant Clinic Administrator to provide oversight and management for all administrative functions for multiple clinic sites. This position requires a Bachelor's Degree in business or health administration or related field plus 5 years of administrative or clinic management. At least two years must have been in a supervisory capacity. Interested candidates should forward résumés to careers@aid-sarms.org

EMPLOYMENT

AIDS Arms is currently seeking a data management specialist for the STAYFree Program. This position requires a Bachelor's degree in business administration, information technology, or other related field. Must demonstrate expertise with MS Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and social media. A minimum of 2 years experience in performing data management activities is required. Interested candidates should forward resumes to careers@aid-sarms.org.

AIDS Arms, Inc. is seeking a Information Technology Specialist. Responsibilities will include support of workstations, printers, phone systems and copiers. An Associate's Degree from an accredited university or information technology technical school or two year's experience is required. Interested candidates should forward resumes to careers@aid-sarms.org.

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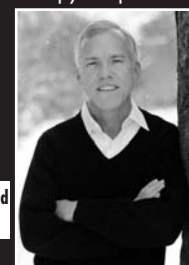
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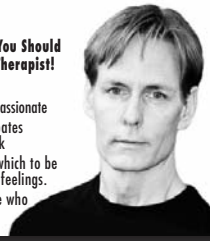


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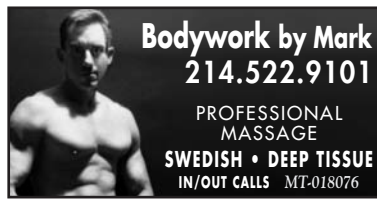
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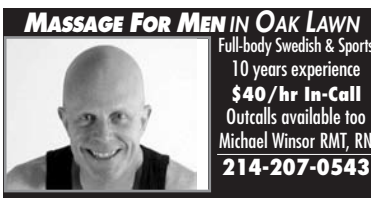
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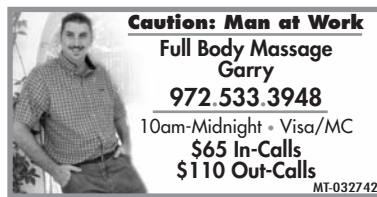


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