

The LGBT Guide to Election Night

An hour-by-hour look at what to watch for as the results come in
The White House, marriage equality in four states and much more will be on the line Tuesday

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The most **INTERESTING** trans man in the **WORLD**

Chaz Bono reflects on coming out to Sonny and Cher, appearing on 'Dancing with the Stars' and even his love life as he prepares to headline the 31st annual Black Tie Dinner

PLUS: Kuchling Award winner Lucilo Peña

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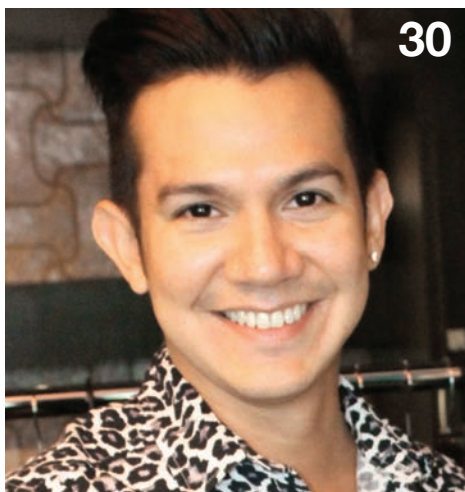
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WALK OF FLAME | Spectators cheer on participants during the Costume Promenade at the Halloween Street Party on the Cedar Springs strip on Oct. 27. For more photos from the Street Party, visit DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

Record number of Texans back legal recognition for gay couples

A University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll this week showed nearly 70 percent of Texans support legal recognition for same-sex couples – the highest percentage since polls began asking the questions in 2009.

The Tribune's poll showed 36 percent support same-sex marriage and 33 percent support civil unions, for a total of 69 percent in favor of relationship recognition. Although with 25 percent against marriage or civil unions, the data could be interrupted as 58 percent against same-sex marriage.

Still, the findings in support of relationship recognition are 6 points higher than the second-highest result in February 2010, when a Tribune poll found 63 percent of Texans supported relationship recognition, with 28 percent in favor of marriage and 35 percent supporting civil unions.

The new poll is also 9 points higher than a Tribune poll from this February, which showed 31 percent supporting marriage and 29 percent favoring unions, totaling 60 percent in favor.

Erin Moore, who serves as co-chair of National Stonewall Democrats Leadership Council and was a member of the national Platform Committee, said polls are not a good basis for argument, but help get conversations started.

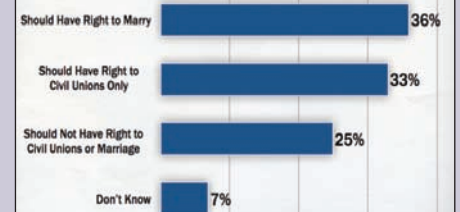
"I think it's a great gauge of attitude, but I don't think we should use it as ammunition for a basis for any sort of argument," she said.

Moore said she questions the new poll because the percentage for marriage equality and civil unions were equal, as it has been in past years. She said she worries if people are against relationship recognition but choose civil unions to not appear bigoted.

"I wonder how much of that is support and how much of that is let me pick the non-bigoted answer but still not say I'm in favor of marriage," she said.

As for the 9-point jump in support from February and the highest percentage in favor of marriage equality, Moore said that high a jump is a "significant shift" and that President Barack Obama's

What is your opinion on gay marriage and civil unions?



SOURCE: University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll Oct. 2012 MOE = +/- 4.22 percentage points

public support for same-sex marriage and local efforts have helped the movement.

"What I attribute it to is that we're continuing to do our work and get out into communities and to let people know that separate but equal doesn't work in that we are full-fledged citizens who deserve rights that everybody else has, and that word is getting out," she said.

In May 2011, a Tribune poll found 61 percent of Texans supported gay relationships with the support split between 30 percent backing marriage and 31 percent favoring civil unions.

A Texas Lyceum poll in October 2010 found that Texans supported gay relationships by 52 percent. More than half at 28 percent supported marriage equality and 24 percent supported civil unions.

An Equality Texas poll released in December 2010 asked Texans 12 questions related to LGBT equality.

The survey didn't give an either/or option, but rather asked each question separately, resulting in 43 percent supporting gay marriage and 63 percent favoring civil unions.

In 2009, a Texas Politics Poll found 61 percent of people supported relationship recognition, with 29 percent for marriage equality and 32 percent for civil unions. A Texas Lyceum poll the same year found 57 percent in support, with 25 percent for marriage and 32 percent for civil unions.

— Anna Waugh

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The most interesting trans man in the world

Chaz Bono reflects on coming out to Sonny and Cher, appearing on 'Dancing with the Stars' and even his love life as he prepares to headline the 31st annual Black Tie Dinner Saturday in Dallas

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Chaz Bono says there was a big difference between coming out as a transgender man three years ago and coming out as a lesbian 15 years ago.

"Not even in the same ballpark," he said.

When Bono came out as a lesbian, his mother, Cher, had difficulty accepting him and they didn't speak for about a week. When he came out as a trans man, she didn't speak to him for almost a year.

"When I started transitioning, although she tried to be incredibly supportive, it hit her when my voice started to change," he said.

Their relationship is much better now. But, Bono said, his mother's still not completely comfortable with the idea.

Bono will be in Dallas to receive the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award at Black Tie Dinner on Nov. 3. The award is presented to an individual, organization or company that has made a significant contribution of national scope to the LGBT community.

Black Tie Dinner co-chair Chris Kouvelis said of Bono's coming out that "the courage it took to do that on a national stage" made Bono an inspiration "not just to the transgender community but to the entire LGBT community."

Bono is the first transgender person to receive the Elizabeth Birch Award, and his selection marks something of a progression. Five years ago, a group of trans activists walked out of the dinner to protest the Human Rights Campaign's support for a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that didn't include trans protections. HRC is the primary beneficiary of Black Tie.

In yet another signal of that trend, Vice President Joe Biden this week called transgender discrimination "the civil rights issue of our time."

Bono has become probably the best-known female-to-male transgender activist in the world. Last year he appeared on the reality TV show *Dancing With The Stars*. But before that, he made the film *Becoming Chaz*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. A new film, *Being Chaz*, will be seen later this month on Oprah Winfrey's network, OWN. Bono's book *Transition: The Story of How I Became a Man* landed on the New York Times Bestseller list.

Chaz said he struggled with his gender identity from the time he was a little girl appearing on his parents' TV show, *The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour* — rebelling against appearing on the air in Bob Mackie dresses.



SONNY'S BOY | During his transition, Bono said he turned primarily to his father's side of the family for support. And Bono, a Democrat, recently co-hosted a political fundraiser for his stepmother, Republican California Congresswoman Mary Bono-Mack. (Courtesy of Chaz Bono)

"Part of the reason I didn't realize I was transgender when I was a kid was there was no information about it," he said.

During puberty, he realized he was attracted to women.

"I knew about gay and lesbian people," he said. "I knew a lot of gay and lesbian people. I thought that must be what I was."

After coming out publicly as lesbian in 1995, Bono said he realized he wasn't quite like other lesbians and began to understand he was a man. But it would be another decade before he began his transition.

"I was so fearful of it destroying my life," he said.

After *Dancing With The Stars* began, Bono received death threats on Twitter. He beefed up his personal security, and he noted that his mother was among his biggest defenders online.

But during his transition, Bono said he turned primarily to his father's side of the family for support.

"They were really there for me when I was transitioning," he said. "We're very close."

He said that when his father — a Republican congressman from 1994 until his death in 1998 — was in office, they let politics get in the way of their relationship.

"We didn't speak the last year of his life," he said.

But after his father's death, his father's wife, Republican Mary Bono-Mack, won election to fill the seat and has been re-elected to the Palm Springs district ever since.

Bono remained close with his stepmother, his brother Chesare, sister Chianna and her stepmother's new husband, Florida Republican Congressman Connie Mack.

Although Bono said he's always been a Democrat, he described a family dynamic common in many families with an LGBT member.

"With Mary, we've always respected each other, respected each others' differences and deeply love each other and really have that not be an issue," he said.

Chaz raised eyebrows among some LGBT Democrats earlier this year when he co-hosted a fundraiser for his stepmother's re-election campaign. However, he noted that she frequently breaks ranks with her party on LGBT issues and described her record on equality as "pretty good."

"I think if there were more Republicans like her, it would be a very different party and we'd see a lot more getting done," Bono said.

Bono's relationship with his stepmom is one example of how he's taken a difficult family dynamic and made it work.

And he approached his season on *Dancing With The Stars* the same way, describing it as his "absolute favorite" thing he ever did professionally, as well as the biggest challenge he ever took on. He called the experience emotionally hard with weeks filled with physical exhaustion and pain.



VOLUNTEER WITH VISION | Shown in front of Dallas' One Arts Plaza, a project he oversaw as president of the Billingsley Co., Lucilo Peña has used his architectural expertise to benefit the LGBT community, including helping to design HRC's headquarters building in Washington. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Kuchling Award recipient is an architect of change

Longtime HRC board member Lucilo Peña now building bridges between the LGBT community and mainstream organizations in Dallas

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Lucilo Peña has two loves: architecture and volunteerism.

So in 2000, when his two loves were brought together after his next-door neighbors asked him to volunteer with the Human Rights Campaign, he was all in.

He began volunteering with HRC when the organization was building its new headquarters in Washington, so he was asked to get involved with the building committee. But he also joined the real estate, building design and art committees. He helped oversee everything from planning and construction to finding LGBT artists to contribute their works for the building.

"Basically I had a daytime job and a nighttime job," Peña said of the time volunteering with HRC

31st annual Black Tie Dinner

Featuring keynote speaker Meredith Baxter, Media Award winner J.C. Penney, Elizabeth Birch Equality Award winner Chaz Bono and Raymond Kuchling Humanitarian Award winner Lucilo Peña. This year's theme is "Affair of the Heart" — celebrating the passion that drives the people and organizations behind the annual fundraiser, set for Saturday night at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. For more info, visit BlackTie.org.

while he was president of Billingsley Co., a position he's held since 1996.

Along with serving on those national committees for almost a decade, Peña also became involved in HRC locally, raising funds for various committees, and he was co-chair of the national and local HRC Major Donor Committee.

But after ending his volunteer roles with HRC to shift into a supportive role, Peña began creating awareness of the LGBT community through other organizations.

"Once I rolled off from HRC, I have really fo-

■ PEÑA, Page 19

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localbriefs

Stonewall Dems host Election Night watch party at Round-Up Saloon

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will host an Election Night watch party at the Round-Up Saloon along with DFW Pride Movement, Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats and LULAC — The Rainbow Council.

The groups will begin to gather at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6 when polls close in Texas and early voting returns are released.

The Dallas Democratic Party will hold its Election Night Watch Party at the Reunion Hyatt in Downtown Dallas.

Stonewall Democrats President Omar Narvaez said he expects a number of candidates to stop by the Round-Up throughout the night, as well as the Hyatt.

Both parties are free and the public is invited.

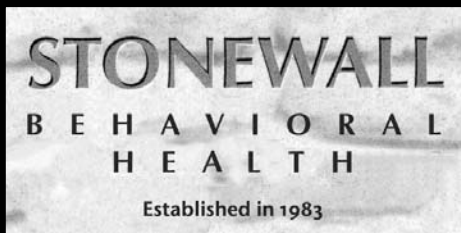
The Dallas Republican Party Election Watch Party will be at the Hilton Dallas Lincoln Center across from the Galleria. To attend, email rsvp@dallasgop.org.

Early voting ends Friday, Nov. 2.

For a list of Election Day precinct locations in Dallas County, go to DallasCountyVotes.org. For Tarrant County, go to TarrantCounty.com/Evote, and Collin County, go to co.collin.tx.us/elections.

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Death

Roland B. Maldonado, born Aug. 20, 1960, passed away suddenly in his sleep Oct. 4, 2012, at his home in Richardson.



Maldonado held associate degrees from El Centro and Brookhaven colleges. He was employed at Brookhaven for many years as assistant to the dean and in various other administrative positions.

Maldonado was very active in community events and was a past member of the choir at Cathedral of

Hope for many years. He was most recently a member of the choir at Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church, which he and his partner Michael Morton attended.

Anyone who knew Maldonado was a recipient of a very special gift of laughter, hope, compassion and love. He will be missed by all, but our lives were better because of knowing him.

He is survived by his father and mother, Pete and Mary Maldonado of Sweetwater; his sister, Teresa; his twin brother, Ronald; scores of nephews and family; and longtime partners Michael Franques and Michael Morton. He was interred Oct. 8 at Sweetwater Cemetery in Sweetwater.

A joyful memorial celebration of Maldonado's life will be at 2 p.m. Nov. 10 at Cochran Chapel United Methodist Church, 9027 Midway Road, Dallas. All are welcome.

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Shanahan was talented pianist, dear friend

Gay accompanist who died Oct. 27 had been a fixture at clubs, church services, funerals and HIV/AIDS benefits in Dallas for 30 years

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Buddy Shanahan, a pianist who'd performed for 30 years in Oak Lawn, was found dead at his home on Sunday, Oct. 28. He was 50.

A sudden heart attack was suspected but the coroner ruled Shanahan's death "unexplained."

Tests to determine cause of death could take up to two months.

Shanahan was known for accompanying singers on the piano at Oak Lawn clubs, appearing at benefits and performing at churches.

As gifted as he was, he didn't learn to play the piano until he was 18 and a student at the University of North Texas. Once he began performing, he never did anything else professionally.

"Without question, Buddy was one of the most talented pianists/accompanists I have ever had the privilege of knowing," said Tim Seelig, former



Buddy Shanahan

artistic director for the Turtle Creek Chorale.

Shanahan worked with the Chorale and its small ensembles on many projects for years. The first major project he did for the group was as arranger and keyboard player on the CD *Personals*. He collaborated with Seelig on the CD *Two Worlds*.

"He didn't really need music. It just came pouring out of his soul. Give him a key and the tempo,

and he was golden," Seelig said.

Jerry Nicholson coordinated entertainment at Bill's Hideaway on Buena Vista Street. He said he hired Shanahan in 1989, and he performed there three to four times a week until the bar closed in 2009. Before that, Shanahan was a regular for 10 years at John L's, a show bar on Wycliff Avenue where The Brick is now.

Nicholson spoke to Shanahan the day he died and said he sounded fine.

Singer Gary Floyd met Shanahan in 1987 at John L's. Along with Jim Caruso, they formed a group called Wise Guys. In about 1992, the trio performed at Carnegie Hall in New York.

"He was as remarkable a friend as he was a musician," Floyd said.

Shanahan was scheduled to play for singer Denise Lee at Woody's on Oct. 28. When he didn't appear, Lee called Shanahan's friend, Paul Allen. Singer Anton Shaw met Allen at Shanahan's house.

Allen had a key and went into the apartment, where he found Shanahan in a chair clutching his cell phone. Shanahan had tried to call Allen and another friend about 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Police believe that's when he died. The coroner told

■ SHANAHAN, Page 14

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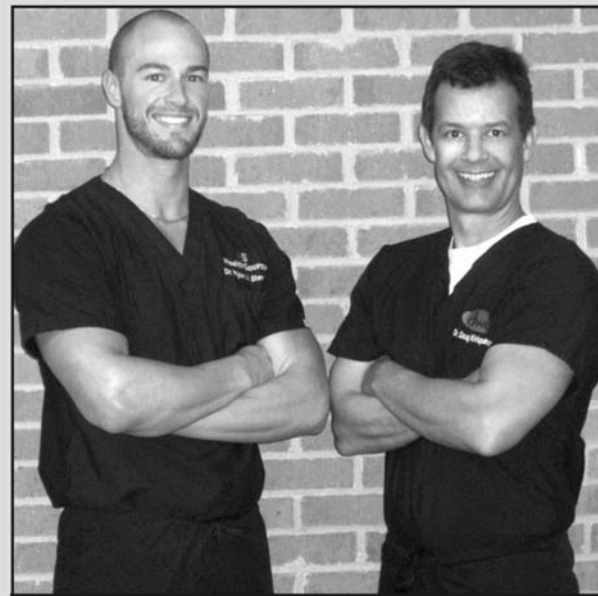
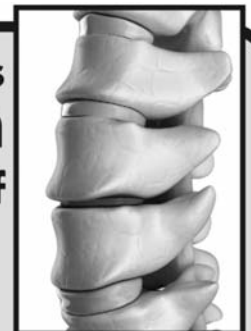
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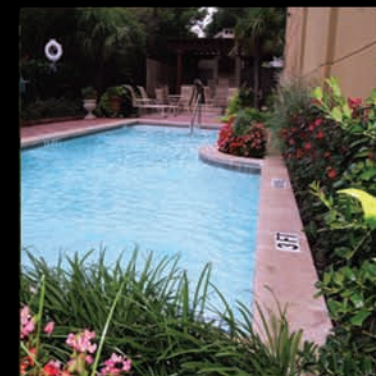
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'We're not there yet, but it's a great step'

LGBT advocates say they'll continue to push for full insurance equality after Dallas County approves health subsidies for domestic partners

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

LGBT advocates rejoiced this week when Dallas County commissioners approved a subsidy program for domestic partners of county employees, but some said the fight for full insurance equality isn't over.

Commissioners approved the plan on party lines, with Democrats Clay Jenkins, John Wiley Price and Elba Garcia voting in favor, and Republicans Maurine Dickey and Mike Cantrell opposing it.

The plan covers opposite- and same-sex partners who are 18 and don't have access to health-care through their employer. They must also sign a domestic partner affidavit and provide two documents proving that they have lived together for at least six months.

Effective Jan. 1, partners who have purchased private insurance will be eligible for the subsidy. The county will reimburse employees for 45 percent of their partners' insurance or up to \$295.78 monthly — the amount the county contributes toward employees' coverage — whichever is less.

Ken Upton, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Dallas office, said the county's plan is good for people who have no other access to healthcare, but it's difficult to find insurance if someone has a pre-existing condition or can't afford a private plan even with the subsidy.

"The problem with the voucher is that it puts you on the open market for private insurance," he said, adding that until the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented in 2014, insurance companies can refuse to cover someone with a pre-existing condition. "And the voucher's not worth anything if you can't find insurance, so it's certainly not a substitute for being able to be added as a dependent on an employer's plan."

Upton also noted that the subsidy will be taxed because the Defense of Marriage Act prohibits the IRS from recognizing same-sex couples. He said some companies who offer DP benefits will pay same-sex couples more to offset the taxes. Dallas County is not doing that.

But Upton added that with all the obstacles commissioners faced, they should still get credit for making the plan happen, even if it can be improved in the future.

"If that was the only route they had, the people who voted for it should be commended for find-



DICKEY MOVE | Lesbian activist Gd Kirven suggested sensitivity training for Republican Commissioner Maurine Dickey after Dickey called Kirven a 'he' during Tuesday's meeting. (DV file photo)

ing a way to make something available," he said. "I think it's a good business acknowledgement for the government. I think they do deserve a lot of credit. It's a step forward that they should be commended for. We're not there yet, but it's a great step."

Jenkins and Garcia originally wanted to offer the benefits through the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative, a multi-county partner agency, but Denton and Tarrant counties were against it. Because the county is part of the co-op, every member has to offer the same healthcare options to keep costs down, so Denton, Tarrant and Parker counties, and the PEBC's other members, would have also had to add the benefits if they were approved.

Planning then began on a plan outside of the co-op, which led to the subsidy option. Garcia said the plan was the only way to offer DP benefits without going through the PEBC.

Garcia said she was happy the plan passed because of the hard work put into finding a solution. She said she got around 200 emails in support of the county offering DP benefits when the planning began in August and about 15 against the endeavor.

"I think the court showed that this was an issue about equality and justice for all our employees," she said. "I think it puts Dallas County in the position of competing."

■ DP BENEFITS, Page 15

A heartfelt thanks
to the men and women of the
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■ **texasnews**



POLICING WITH PRIDE | Cpl. Tracey Knight, an 18-year veteran of the force, has a partner of 10 years and a 4-year-old daughter. (Logan Carver/Dallas Voice)

FWPD hopes new LGBT liaison officer will last

Cpl. Tracey Knight, 3rd person to hold position since Rainbow Lounge raid, says she's in it for the long haul and wants to focus on gay youth

LOGAN CARVER | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — Cpl. Tracey Knight knows what it's like to be openly gay in Fort Worth — and what it's like to patrol the streets as one of the city's police officers.

In her new role as the department's LGBT liaison officer, she hopes to bridge the gap between the LGBT community and a police department committed to improving a somewhat tenuous relationship following the 2009 raid of the Rainbow Lounge.

"I think it's no secret that we've had some issues in the past here at Fort Worth," Knight said. She has been out for roughly 10 years and wants to help dispel what she says is a misconception that the department is anti-gay.

"Just with the [LGBT liaison] position alone and with the chief's stance, I really think people are understanding what we're like here," she said.

Knight has been in the position since Tarrant

County Gay Pride Weekend and is the department's third LGBT liaison officer in as many years.

She takes the reins from Kellie Whitehead, who served for a year after Sara Straten spent two years as liaison.

Fort Worth police Chief Jeffrey Halstead said Knight played an integral role in establishing a multiculturalism and diversity recommendation committee about a year ago, and her work with that committee served as a natural segue into the liaison position.

Knight brings to the table excellent leadership and communication skills and is well respected within the department, Halstead said. She will be a crucial asset in what he says is the most important position to continue to improve the relationship between the gay community and the department, post-Rainbow.

"We're looking for this to be more of an investment," Halstead said. "We know that we have learned a lot in the last three years; what we want with this one is more of a long-term position."

Halstead said the liaison turnover wasn't intentional, but was expected as the program got off the ground.

Knight said she's in it for the long haul.

"I'm going to be here as long as I can," she said. "Even if I promote, I'm going to remain a part of

the liaison position in some way, form or fashion.”

Jon Nelson, president of Fairness Fort Worth — the organization largely responsible for the establishment of a liaison officer — said the group has had a great working relationship with the previous two liaisons and that he looked forward to working with Knight.

“I’ve met Tracey, and I’m very confident that that strong relationship will continue and perhaps get even stronger,” Nelson said.

Knight, 41, is a nearly 18-year veteran of the department who spent most of her career in special operations assigned to narcotics and gang units.

She said she is excited about the LGBT liaison position because it allows her to have a closer relationship with both the gay community and the community at large.

“This is a bit of a cliché, but it is true: The whole reason I became a police officer is to help people,” Knight said. “I really feel as if it’s a calling.”

Knight graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with degrees in criminal justice and sociology and also earned her master’s in public administration from UTA.

She worked as a patrol officer for more than a decade before taking the test to promote to detective.

Knight said her new job will still involve long hours and lots of callouts, but the nature of those calls will be different. Gone are the days of undercover work and chasing drug dealers in foot pursuits.

“I did that. I enjoyed it. I think I made a difference doing that, but now there’s younger officers that are doing that position now,” she said, affably

adding that she’s not old by any stretch of the imagination.

Knight is one of the department’s public information officers, charged with handling media relations duties on a rotating basis. She is also a hostage negotiator.

She said her negotiation skills help her relate to people and could aid in her new assignment. Most negotiations involve people who need an understanding, empathetic person to talk them down, she said.

The message she conveys in those instances can be applicable to despondent LGBT youth, Knight said.

“Things do get better,” she said. “I’m not saying they’re going to be perfect, but it gets better than it is right now.”

LGBT youth will be Knight’s primary focus, she said. Her goal is to open the lines of communication between young people and the police department and also to show them, “Hey, I’m a police officer and I’m gay.”

One of the things Knight is most enthusiastic about is a new department-sponsored program that provides a safe place for gay youth and allies to talk, learn marketable life skills and just hang out.

When she’s not in uniform, Knight enjoys spending time with her partner of 10 years and their 4-year-old daughter. Her home life revolves around going to the park, swim lessons and dance classes.

“That’s life now, and it’s fantastic,” she said. ■

LGBT liaison Cpl. Tracey Knight can be reached at Tracey.Knight@FortWorthTexas.gov or 817-392-4203.

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Auguste Rodin, *The Age of Bronze*, ca. 1876, Plaster, 71 1/2 x 25 1/2 x 21 1/4 in. (181.6 x 64.8 x 54 cm).
Photo: David Heald. Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas

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SWINGLE-MUMEY | Clinton Swingle and Brian Mume, pictured with Tanner and Digby, planned to celebrate their 15th anniversary on Wednesday, Nov. 7, with a trip to New York City. Swingle is from Ohio, and Mume is from Iowa. Both have been in Dallas for more than 20 years, and they live in East Dallas. Swingle is a nurse practitioner, and Mume is a computer programmer. The couple met at First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

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■ texasnews

■ SHANAHAN, From Page 9

Allen he had been dead almost 24 hours before he was found.

Allen said Shanahan had been hospitalized three times in the last year but seemed to have gotten his health under control.

Lee said she and others won't be singing at the funeral because they would have no one to accompany them.

"Who wants the pressure of playing piano at Buddy Shanahan's funeral?" Lee said.

Shanahan has been her principal accompanist since 2001 after she sang at an open mic night at The Hideaway. She said he had an opening in his schedule, asked her to perform one night and they've worked together ever since.

"Buddy was the only one who didn't know how good he was," she said.

Saxophonist Rusty Johnson, who played at Alexandre's in Shanahan's final show on Oct. 26, had a similar story. He first heard Shanahan at Cathedral of Hope. Afterward, they went out to eat, and Shanahan took him to The Hideaway for open mic night.

"I owe everything to him," he said. "He was solely responsible for giving me my start."

He called Shanahan's death a blow to the community.

"Buddy took me under his wing," Johnson said. "I never heard anyone play keyboards like that."

Singer Sandra Kaye agreed.

"He outplayed anybody in town," Kaye said by phone from Shanghai, where she has been appearing since April.

Kaye began performing with Shanahan in 1986 at John L's. She said at the time he looked like Wally Cleaver.

"He was so cute and sweet," she said.

She performed at one of the earliest AIDS fundraisers in Dallas with Shanahan at the home of Judge Jerry Birdwell. It raised about \$60,000.

"Buddy and I agreed that we would not accept money for performing a service for anyone who died of AIDS," Kaye said.

She called the number of funerals she and Shanahan performed at "astronomical" and said they did regular benefits for the AIDS Food Pantry.



Buddy Shanahan at Bill's Hideaway in 1999

Lee rattled off a list of benefits Shanahan performed with her for AIDS Arms, the Soupmobile, Genesis Women's Shelter and the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk she did with Floyd. Their last was for Legacy Counseling Center at The Brick, just a week before his death.

David Hearn, treasurer for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, said Shanahan performed a fundraiser for the organization with Mark Allen Smith.

The Rev. Jo Hudson said Shanahan worked with three different groups at Cathedral of Hope. Sundays he was the accompanist for Congregación Latina, Wednesday nights for the band for the gospel choir and for the Praise ensemble Voices of Hope. He first visited the church in 1993 and became part of staff in 2007.

"He was a phenomenal musician," Hudson said. "We were great beneficiaries of his musical talent."


He also performed at Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas at the Sunday morning service before heading to Cathedral of Hope for the afternoon Spanish service.

Floyd said that the religious track in Shanahan's career wasn't always as successful. In the 80s, he played for a Pentecostal church in Dallas.

"They fired him because not enough people got healed when he played," Floyd said.

Shanahan is survived by one sister. He was preceded in death by three partners. Two died of AIDS complications and one in a car accident.

Donations may be made to Cathedral of Hope to cover expenses. A funeral will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4, at Cathedral of Hope. ■



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■ DP BENEFITS, From Page 11

Jenkins said commissioners will be evaluating the pros and cons of remaining in the PEBC and looking at insurance rates from other potential providers. Commissioners would have to vote to leave the PEBC and approve a new provider.

But Jenkins said there are certain dates that PEBC members have to follow to leave the co-op, and those who are leaving must give a year's notice.

So, the earliest Dallas County could start offering employees and their domestic partners full coverage would be some time in 2014.

"My guess is, based on the past and public statements made, that people would like to see a uniform policy that, if we could do so, where our domestic partners are fully covered to the extent of all other family members," Jenkins said.

Lesbian activist Cd Kirven spoke at Commissioners Court on Oct. 23 to encourage commissioners to approve the plan. Prior to that, she called Price to speak to him about supporting the measure.

Commissioner Dickey interrupted the meeting after a speaker finished addressing the court on Oct. 30 to request that a man stop taking pictures of her. Kirven was the one taking pictures of the speaker.

Commissioner Price continued to correct Dickey's reference to Kirven as a he, and Kirven

 **online exclusive**

Watch video of the exchange between Commissioner Maurine Dickey and activist Cd Kirven at TinyURL.com/c6sfocc.

stood up and clarified that she was taking pictures of the speaker, not Dickey, and apologized.

Kirven said the incident "baffled" her because Dickey knew from the week before when she spoke that she was a woman. She said Dickey made a comment the week before when she was speaking to Price before the meeting. Dickey asked what she was doing but referred to her as a he, interrupting her and Price's conversation. She said she told Dickey that she was a she, but Price told her to ignore Dickey and they continued their conversation.

Kirven said she thinks Dickey's lack of respect for continuing to refer to her as a man calls her professionalism as a public figure into question and she offered to schedule sensitivity training with the Resource Center Dallas if Dickey reached out to her. She said she doubts the commissioner will take her up on the offer.

"I don't want her odd behavior to overshadow our huge win in getting all families included in Dallas County as part of health benefits," Kirven said.

She said that while LGBT organizations helped commissioners with the plan, negotiations will continue to explore other options in the upcoming year to make the plan more equal, such as leaving the PEBC.

"I think it's a good beginning," she said. "There are plans to review whether they should stay in the co-op. They are reviewing all outside options for next year to make it completely inclusive. Dallas County is committed to equality."

Kirven said she thinks the county should leave the co-op if a better healthcare company can be found with comparable benefits to what employees are now receiving.

"They (the PEBC) are dead set against inclusively," she said. "I think [the county] will leave because they want to be more inclusive."

Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager at Resource Center Dallas, helped give the commissioners data on counties and cities across the nation that offer DP benefits.

He said he was impressed with the commissioners being able to approve a plan in a few months, and the county now has a year where domestic partners will be covered to consider its options of making the benefits more equal.

"This is giving them time to negotiate with insurance companies to see if they can find a better deal outside of the PEBC," he said. "Given the time frame it's what we were able to do right now." ■

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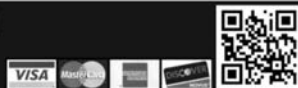
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The LGBT guide to Election Night 2012

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

It's a close race for the White House, a close race for Tammy Baldwin's bid to become the first openly gay member of the U.S. Senate, five unpredictable outcomes on marriage-related votes, and an openly gay caucus in Congress that could total either three or six by the end of the evening.

The stakes and the consequences of the results are so high that many LGBT people will be staying up late Tuesday, Nov. 6, to watch it all unfold.

The National Election Pool, a coalition of mainstream media organizations that conduct exit polling to project results, is doing things differently this year to accommodate the increase in early voting.

As a result of their modifications, the Pool says projections may trickle out more slowly this year than in the past. But this guide will give political enthusiasts some idea of when the most important results will start becoming apparent. All times are Central:

- **6 p.m.:** Polls close in the first six states, including the crucial swing state of Virginia. All six states hold a total of 60 electoral votes and, chances are, 44 will go to Romney and 3 to Obama. The wild card is Virginia, with 13 electoral votes that have been hard to predict for weeks. If they go to Romney, Democrats will need to get a drink. But if they go to Obama, Republicans might start pacing. Another important race in Virginia will be the outcome of the race for Virginia's open U.S. Senate seat. If pro-gay Democrat Tim Kaine wins, another sigh of relief; but if anti-gay George Allen wins, Democrats will have to start worrying about the majority in the Senate.

Best case scenario: Romney wins Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina, and Obama wins Vermont and Virginia.

Electoral count: Romney 44, Obama 16

Senate marker: Good news if Kaine beats Allen

- **6:30 p.m.:** The most important news to listen for at 6:30 is who's winning Ohio. This has become perhaps the most important of the battleground states and its 18 electoral votes are seen as absolutely critical to Romney's chances of counting up to 270 — the total of electoral votes needed to win the White House.

Best case scenario: Romney wins North Carolina and West Virginia, and Obama wins Ohio.

Electoral count: Romney 64, Obama 34

- **7 p.m.:** Seven o'clock is when the Big Kahuna of electoral votes comes flooding in — 210 in all. Of those, 96 are expected to go to Obama, including 20 from Illinois. Romney is



MOMENT OF TRUTH | If all goes well, we'll learn that President Barack Obama has won a second term at about 10 p.m. Dallas time.

likely to pick up 81, including 38 from Texas. The big question is who will pick up Florida's 29 and New Hampshire's 4.

Also at 7 p.m., polls close in Maine and Maryland, where voters are being asked to determine whether the state can begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. LGBT supporters want a "Yes" vote on Question 1 in Maine and a "Yes" for Question 6 in Maryland.

And the U.S. Senate race between incumbent Republican Scott Brown and Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren has been seen as a very important factor in determining who will control the Senate.

Likely scenario: Romney 174, Obama 134

Best case scenario: Maine votes "Yes" on Question 1 and Maryland votes "Yes" on Question 6

Best Senate scenario: Warren beats Brown

Best House scenario: Openly gay U.S. Rep. David Cicilline wins re-election from Rhode Island and openly gay Richard Tisei wins his bid for a U.S. House seat from Massachusetts' 6th Congressional district, becoming the only openly gay Republican in Congress.

- **8:30 p.m.:** Arkansas' six electoral votes will almost certainly go to Romney.

Likely scenario: Romney 180, Obama 134

- **9 p.m.:** This is when the second-largest number of electoral votes come online. Romney will likely pick up 30, Obama will pick up 60. The

question marks are Wisconsin and Colorado, with 10 and 9 respectively.

Add to Wisconsin this twist: Liberal openly gay U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin has a real chance of becoming the first openly gay person to be elected to the U.S. Senate. She's in a very tight race against popular former Gov. Tommy Thompson.

And add to Minnesota, with 10 electoral votes, a vote on a ballot measure — Proposed Amendment No. 1 — to amend the state's Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Except for the ballot measure, which can attract a large turnout from conservatives, Minnesota can lean Obama.

Best case scenario: Romney 210, Obama 213

Best Senate scenario: Baldwin wins

Likely scenario: Minnesota votes "Yes" for Proposed Amendment 1

Best case scenario: Openly gay State Rep. Marc Pacon wins Baldwin's old seat, openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis wins re-election from Colorado, newcomer Sean Maloney wins a U.S. House seat from New York's 18th District, and newcomer Kyrsten Sinema, who's bisexual, wins the U.S. House seat from Arizona's 9th.

- **9 p.m.:** Only 27 electoral votes are up on the boards after 10 and Romney has a good hold on 15 of them. Up for grabs are six electoral votes in Iowa and six in Nevada. Obama has campaigned heavily in both states and has a good chance to pull those to his column.

Also of interest is the vote on Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins who — like three colleagues before him — must survive a retention vote but one in which anti-gay forces are determined to oust him.

Best case scenario: Romney 225, Obama 235

Best case scenario: Wiggins wins

- **10 p.m.:** This is the hour when, if all goes well in the first three hours, Obama takes the White House with the electoral escort of California's 55 electoral votes, putting him well over the 270 needed. In fact, at 10 p.m., Obama will likely rake in 78 electoral votes — from California, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii. Romney will pick up a total of only seven, from North Dakota and Idaho.

Also of interest in this hour will be the vote in Washington State on Referendum 74. A Yes vote will preserve a marriage equality law the Legislature passed earlier this year.

Best case scenario: Romney 232, Obama 313 (securing the White House)

Best case scenario: Washington votes "Yes" for Referendum 74


Best case scenario: Openly gay Democrat Mark Takano wins the U.S. House seat for California District 41, representing southern California. His victory could, if Mark Pacon wins Baldwin's seat, bring the openly gay caucus in Congress back up to four (with the loss of retiring Rep. Barney Frank and Senate hopeful Tammy Baldwin)

- **11 p.m.:** Alaska's three electoral votes will come in for Romney, but the party will be over.

Best case scenario: Romney 235, Obama 313. ■

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coverstory

■ **BONO**, From Page 6

"Once you're there, you don't want to go home," he said. "I was pushed to places I've never been before."

Bono had absolutely no previous dance experience. He said he went through a week of excruciating ankle and knee pain. The second week of the show was the toughest to get through.

"My body went through a phase where it said no, no, I'm not doing this anymore," he said. "Everyone told me my body would adapt to it and it did."

He said the best part of the experience was the camaraderie. He was completely accepted on the show and became close with some people in the cast. After years of working for LGBT national organizations, he said there was even something nice about working with a group of straight people.

And performing as a man came quite naturally. "I would have never done the show before I transitioned," he said. "That wouldn't have been an option for me because I always acted like a man."

He called the show of support, in response to those who were "freaking out" about a trans person on the show, overwhelming. Once the show began, he said he felt like he was in the middle of something much bigger than just himself.

"I knew the longer I could make it on the show,

the better it would be for the trans community and for broadening people's minds," he said.

And helping other people is why Bono made his films and wrote his book. He described the writing experience as harder emotionally but described himself as "not one of those very emotional people."

But he said he wrote the book and made the films for several reasons.

During the period he knew he was transgender but was afraid to transition, he watched a lot of documentaries.

"Those really helped me," he said. "I wanted to give back in that way."

He also wanted to tell his story and have control over how it was told. And he said that doing the documentary was fun.

"I loved the people I was working with," he said. "It didn't feel invasive."

But writing the book was emotionally harder to do, even though he had already written two books.

"I had to go through my whole life with a magnifying glass," he said.

He said when he began working on the book, he already had his breasts removed and people were beginning to see him as a man. Before that, he said, he was in denial. While he wrote, he was going through a period of mourning how difficult his life had to be.

"I felt so good, but it had to be so late in my life

and I had to wait for years," he said. "I wasn't ever going to experience life as a young man. I was only going to grow old as a man but I wasn't going to grow up as a man."

But Bono is positive about his future.

A year ago, he and his partner Jennifer Elia ended a six-year relationship, and he hasn't dated much since then.

"Within my own circle of friends, most of my friends are lesbians or gay men," he said. "For years, that's where I was. It's not always the best place to meet [straight] women."

But as he entered the straight community, he realized his past relationships didn't work out because he was with women who had expectations of being in a relationship with another woman. And he came to understand himself as a man who thought he was a lesbian, not a lesbian who became a man.

One of Bono's close friends in the trans community is a gay trans man who works for one of the national transgender organizations who met his partner about a year into his transition.

"He said, 'Look, when I started dating, I knew there was a segment who was dick crazy and they just weren't going to be with me,'" Bono said.

He understands that some straight women won't be comfortable with him intimately but he thinks many others don't care. So Bono is optimistic about his life as a straight man. "There's somebody out there for me," he said. ■

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■ PEÑA, From Page 7

cused on being in various other organizations but being very out and creating programs whereby the LGBT community can participate more actively in these cultural institutions," he said.

Peña is the Kuchling Humanitarian Award recipient for the 2012 Black Tie Dinner, an honor he called humbling.

Chris Kouvelis, co-chair of BTDD, said Peña stood out among candidates for the coveted award because he links so many mainstream organizations to the LGBT community.

"He is so involved in so many organizations and so many of those organizations are not typically LGBT organizations, but he brings the LGBT community along with him," Kouvelis said. "He brings awareness of the LGBT community to the organizations that he represents. They know that when they get Lucilo Peña, they're getting a representative from the LGBT community."

Peña serves as vice president of the Dallas Museum of Art Board of Trustees. He's a member of the board's Executive Committee and chairman of its Building Committee. In 2006, he created the DMA/Gay & Lesbian Fund for Dallas Bundling Program, which has raised more than \$300,000 to date for sponsoring various exhibitions at the museum.

He also helped create the AT&T PAC/Gay & Lesbian Fund for Dallas Bundling Program for the

Capital Campaign as a member of AT&T Performing Arts Center's Board of Directors. He said the PAC ensures that the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Dallas will be permanently recognized as a \$150,000 donor to the campaign through signage on site and in all the center's playbills.

Peña also serves on several boards for other organizations, including 2x2 for AIDS and Art, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas Architecture Forum, Cornell University-College of Architecture and Resource Center Dallas' Capital Campaign Building Committee.

He said many of the organizations were thrilled to give the LGBT community more of a voice, and he's improving people's perception of the LGBT community.

"I think that when you hear the words gay and lesbian, usually it is in a political or sexual context, and I think that when you hear the words gay and lesbian in a philanthropic context that straight people that go to the museum or go somewhere else and they see this was brought to us by the gay and lesbian community, all of a sudden it makes you a part of the community," he said. "I think as a society LGBT today is far more mainstream than it's ever been, and therefore we need to fully participate in a mainstream way."

Peña is Cuban and was raised in Venezuela. He came to the U.S. for college and moved to Dallas for a job after graduation.

A month after he moved to Dallas, he met his

partner, Lee Cobb. The couple celebrated their 30th anniversary in April. Cobb is involved with the Gay and Lesbian Fund and is on the board of TITAS, the resident dance company at the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

After living in Dallas for several years, Peña took a job in Spain before moving back to work for Billingsley Co. in 1996.

He's overseen several projects for the company, including One Arts Plaza. He said he loves his job and that most of his volunteer work now focuses on using his expertise and reaching out to the LGBT community.

"I think getting a piece of raw land and saying what can we do here and thinking about it from an architecture perspective, a master planning perspective, how to add value to the whole process, is very exciting," he said.

Peña said he finds fulfillment in volunteering and adds jokingly that he has become "shameless about asking people for money."

More seriously, though, Peña said that he thinks he can help the younger LGBT generation with his efforts to bring positive attention to the causes and organizations that are important to the community.

"There's so many youth that are going through so many issues that we all went through when we were younger," he said. "And if I'm in a position to try to make a difference, then shame on me if I don't."

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viewpoints

GOP makes Romney look sane

Republican presidential nominee may not be quite as repugnant as other extremists in his party, but he's still a rotten apple in a bad barrel

In this election cycle, much of America has been riveted by the eye-popping extremism of several Republican candidates. Donald Trump, the rich builder turned ridiculous "birther," is the posterboy for the sickness that has seduced the modern GOP.

While Trump gets headlines, there are plenty of Republican head cases. In Colorado, Rep. Mike Coffman claimed at a fundraiser that President Barack Obama was "just not an American." This thinly veiled racism was echoed by Mitt Romney's campaign co-chair John Sununu, who claimed that Obama is "lazy" and his policies are "foreign," and said, "I wish this president would learn how to be an American." Sununu's despicable comments reached an all-time low when he suggested that Colin Powell endorsed Obama because he's black.

"Frankly, when you take a look at Colin Powell, you have to wonder whether that's an endorsement based on issues or whether he's got a slightly different reason for preferring President Obama," Sununu said in an interview on CNN. When pressed on what those reasons might be, he replied, "Well, I think when you have somebody of your own race that you're proud of being president of the United States, I applaud Colin for standing with him."

In an election where the Romney campaign is heavily dependent on maintaining a large lead among white male voters, Sununu's divisive and twisted words contained a diabolically coded message: If black people vote based solely on race, white voters can be excused for doing the exact same thing.

According to Think Progress, "Romney has never publicly rebuked Sununu's racial remarks, though Sununu has previously issued retractions of some of his statements." The larger question is why is Romney allowing this corrupt, race-baiting slob to play a prominent role in his campaign?

Of course, the one issue where the GOP's insanity is most prominently on display is abortion. The "legitimate rape" comments by Missouri Republican Senate hopeful Todd Akin encapsulate what a large number of social conservatives actually believe. While Akin was panned, Republicans penned platform language calling for a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion that did not include an exception for cases of rape or incest. It seems that Akin's sin was his sincerity and his gaffe was not playing the Republican game of obfuscating wacky ideas.



ANTI-CHOICE CHOICE | Mitt Romney's choice of anti-abortion stalwart Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate underscores his commitment to having big government make deeply personal decisions that are now reserved for women and their doctors. (Associated Press)

Now Republicans are hiding behind the terminally eroded authority of the Roman Catholic Church. On ABC's *This Week* on Sunday, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich defended Indiana Senate candidate Richard Mourdock's statement suggesting that pregnancies resulting from rape were "intended" by God.

"My response is, if you listen to what Mourdock actually said, he said what virtually every Catholic and every fundamentalist in the country believes, life begins at conception," Gingrich said.

The former speaker does have a point about the base sharing Mourdock's worldview. But any political party that gets its moral direction from Rome or a roaming philanderer like Gingrich with his penchant to leave sick wives shouldn't be taken seriously.

One downside of the GOP's circus-like sideshow is that it allows Mitt Romney to appear sane and rational by comparison. In reality Romney is a nasty individual with radical ideas who seems to have little regard for animals, women, minorities, gays and 47 percent of Americans whom he regards as bums who can get their healthcare in the emergency room.

As a lover of animals, his mistreatment of Seamus the dog, the pet he strapped to the top of his car when he took the family to Canada in 1983, is inexcusable and shows a capacity for cruelty.

In terms of women, he said as little as possible to tamp down the aforementioned abortion nuts. He vows to appoint Supreme Court justices like Antonin Scalia who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. His choice of anti-abortion stalwart Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate underscores his commitment to having big government make

deeply personal decisions that are now reserved for women and their doctors.

When it comes to gay people, Romney's malice is both personal and political. While in high school, he joined some friends in tacking and pinning down a gay student to cut his hair with a pair of scissors while the victim sobbed. Today, all the students involved in the assault are remorseful — except for Mitt Romney, who mysteriously can't seem to recall the incident. As governor of Massachusetts, Romney inhumanely put gay parents through bureaucratic hoops to get accurate birth certificates for their children.

While Romney is not at the bottom of his party's foul barrel, let's not forget that he is still a rotten apple.

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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The mighty Quins

Dallas Harlequins' new women's team is kicking ass ... while behaving like ladies

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

Molly Whitman's love story begins, as all great love stories do, with a cleat to the face.

It was the first semester of her first year at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., and Whitman decided to try out for the women's rugby team, and quickly fell head over heels over face over bum for the sport. It was a bold decision in many ways; rugby isn't as well known in the U.S. as it is internationally, and certainly the sport — which proudly embraces anthems like “no blood no foul,” “organized violence” and “no opponents, only victims” — isn't among the more ladylike endeavors.

Then again, you probably haven't met too many ladies like Whitman.

A law student with a passion for bloodsport, Whitman is petite and pretty, with a disarming smile and a girlish countenance. At least, until she puts on her uniform and grabs a ball. That's when she means business.

“It's definitely a bold, fast-paced game,” she says. “We like to say football is for pussies, though I'm sure no one in Dallas wants

to hear me say that.”

Whitman's love of the game developed throughout her college career. She spent one year abroad studying in France, where she also joined a French league. She calls the experience eye-opening.

“[Women's rugby] felt so much more legit there,” she says. “The team I played on was the No. 1 women's team in France at the time. We traveled around, and it let me see what rugby could be.”

After college, she continued to play on club teams. Rugby is also how she began her *second* love affair.

She met her girlfriend, Sarah Hoffman, after Hoffman started playing for the Holy Cross team right as Whitman graduated. “You could say we played for the same team,” Whitman laughs. “We hung out with the same folks so I eventually asked her out.” Since Hoffman was originally from Dallas, they moved here about two years ago when Whitman enrolled at SMU's law school.

Almost as quickly, Whitman signed up to play on the women's side of the gay Dallas Diablos ... until last May. That's when she

decided she wanted to take women's rugby in Dallas to a more competitive level.

Technically, Whitman is co-captain (with Esther King) of the women's division of the Dallas Harlequins Rugby Football Club, but around the pitch, they are just known as The Lady Quins.

It's a major advance for women's rugby in the area. Whitman's team is affiliated with the Dallas Harlequins, a storied Dallas men's team that has been one of the leading rugby teams in the nation since forming in 1971. But in that time, the Harlequins have never had a women's side.

“I called them up and they said they'd always wanted a women's club but didn't know how to go about starting it,” Whitman recalls. So she took it upon herself to begin recruitment.

The resulting Lady Quins is a new team (not even six months old) and a young one (many of the players have never competed in rugby before), but Whitman is already very active in the community. They informally introduced themselves to Dallas when

■ QUINS, Page 24

SCRUMTASTIC | Lady Quins players Tiffany Thomas (prop), Alicia Chang (wing), Jacey Cardwell (flyhalf/inside center), Rhea Fuentes (outside center/hooker), Molly Whitman (hooker-prop) and Bria Downey (scrumhalf, on ground) give a new meaning to what rugby players look like. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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ACT LIKE A LADY | Chang, Whitman, Downey and Thomas (on ground) and Fuentes and Cardwell (on uprights) practice twice a week at Glencoe Park. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

■ QUINS, From Page 22

they marched in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade during Dallas Pride. Although the Quins are not specifically a gay team, they have many lesbian members, and women of all backgrounds, ages, creeds, colors and orientations are welcome.

"I had never played team sports before, so it seemed like a neat personal challenge," says Alicia Chang, a newcomer to the game. "I had the idea it would be a positive — and humbling — experience. And rugby is particularly appealing because it's quirky.

"We have about 15 players attend [twice-weekly] practices," Whitman says. "We're in the middle of our fall season, and we plan to grow." Her goal, she says, is to within five years compete at the level of the Austin Valkyries, one of the most competitive

women's teams in the U.S. And that means generating interest from women looking to, as their motto goes, "act like a lady, play like a Quin."

"One of the great things about rugby is, in this country we didn't grow up watching it on TV and playing it in gym class, so there aren't any expectations," she says. "No experience is necessary — we are constantly seeking new players. All we require is enthusiasm. Another thing that's awesome about rugby is how you kick the shit out of the opposing team [on the pitch], and when it's over you share a beer with them and sing rugby songs," says Whitman.

Sounds like rugby is the perfect sport for an aspiring lawyer.

New members always welcome. Practices are at Glencoe Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, visit Quins.com and look the for the women's team link.



Pomp and circumstantial evidence

Dallas Opera's 'Aida' is staid, but star makes it worth it

Among the great legends of opera are the performances of *Aida* that have including live animals — in some instances, actual African elephants — onstage during the “Triumphal March” at the end of Act II of *Aida*. Is there anything that makes grand opera seem more grand than the unexpected presence of livestock? It's the Texas Fair moved indoors.

It's unreasonable to expect the Dallas Opera to sully its still-newish Winspear Opera House with the tactical nightmare of prancing pachyderms; you can't fault it for that. But you can fault it for not at least trying to wow us with some sort of pageantry. This is, after all, Verdi's best loved (if not best) work, one where even the slave girl Aida is actually an Ethiopian princess; there's more royalty in this show than onstage at the Rose Room on a Saturday night.

So when director Garnett Bruce settles for risers of onlookers having nothing to look at, you feel slightly cheated. We want pomp, not pom-poms. (The Act 1 backdrop with expressionless, two-dimensional line-drawings of the Great Pyramids only magnifies the artifice. Is this Luxor or the Luxor Hotel and Casino? Heck, even Vegas does authenticity better.)

Then again, who needs visual stimulation with you have something better: Aural ecstasy, courtesy of soprano Latonia Moore as Aida. Even after tenor Antonello Palombi's stirring rendition of “Celeste Aida,” once more steps out, the first note from her voice declares the presence of major talent in the opera world. She simply dominates the show musically, demonstrating both power and dexterity. Whether soulfully alone, in a duet with Palombi or powerhouse baritone Lester Lynch as (as her father) or in the stunning counterpunctual multi-voice pieces, Moore stands out.

Nadia Krasteva, as the spurned Amneris, pales by comparison. Her voice isn't as strong, and her performance lacks a sense of royal treachery. She relies on continuous adolescent petulance more than genuine betrayal — *Mean Girls* with asps.

Ah, well. The show's not called *Amneris*. And once you experience Moore's exquisite rendition, you'll understand why.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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APRES TUNA, LE DELUGE | Jaston Williams may have said goodbye to the Tuna plays, but he's busier

When Jaston Williams and his creative partner of 30 years, Joe Sears, announced this summer that they would no longer tour with the *Tuna* plays — a “four part trilogy,” as they call it, set in the tiny Texas town of Tuna — some people probably sighed with sadness that they would never see these master comic actors at work again.

Williams was not one of them. He knew better. “*Tuna* had a helluva run and I can never be grateful enough for it and the people it reached and what it provided me,” he says from his home in Lockwood, Texas. “The trick with the *Tuna* plays was doing something very difficult and making it look easy. It takes a toll on you. You ask yourself, ‘What is this now in my life and what is this preventing me from doing?’”

And he had an answer.

First off, Williams is happy to be able to spend Christmases at home with his family rather than doing backstage quick-changes from one red-neck to another. But even more importantly, he finally gets to pursue some projects that have long been relegated to the backburner.

In the winter, he'll revive the one-man play *Tru*, in which he gets to play Truman Capote, with Dallas' Larry Randolph directing. And this weekend, he's *Cooking with Gasoline*.

That's the name of Williams' newest work, a

trilogy of autobiographical stories that ramble down memory lane while exploring what it means to be male.

“It's about my experience in the Boy Scouts in the Panhandle, but it's really about what it means to be a boy — raising, being, adopting and how boys can save each others' lives,” Williams says.

Williams admits the questionable behavior of the fellas in his troop — called the Flaming Arrows — wouldn't exactly get them featured in *Boy's Life*.

“The Boy Scouts motto is ‘be prepared,’ but they didn't say be prepared for *what*,” he says. “Most Scouts [bragged] they could start a fire with one match; we'd pour gasoline on a pile of wood and somebody would toss in a cigarette.”

Their raucousness eventually proved too much for their Scoutmaster. “He had two daughters and always wanted sons so he worked out his father-son issues in Scouting,” Williams says. “After a year-and-a-half, he packed up and moved to Oklahoma.”

Williams has reached an age where his perspective has softened the actions of his youth.

“It was just as the Beatles were happening and life was changing drastically in small towns and we knew there was something else out there,” Williams opines.

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Now that 'Greater Tuna' is no more, Jaston Williams strikes a match with his autobiographical one-man show 'Cooking with Kerosene'

than ever with his newest one-man show, about his troublemaking youth in the Texas Panhandle.

"The first Scout camp we went to was disastrous," he says. "They have these guys, young men, who serve as counselors — quiet boys, between the ages of 17 and 20 with big calves. If you're spending your summers at that age in the woods then you weren't lookin' for women." The Flaming Arrows (aptly named) didn't make it easy on them.

"We recruited every thug in town for our troupe. They decided everyone should put on some performance that summer; we wanted to do a drag strip tease and they ended up canceling the evening entirely."

But the stronger message is one of community and a begrudging maturity.

"We were against the grain, but underneath it all we were good kids; it wasn't that we didn't have hearts," he says. "At summer camp one year, one boy's brother was killed in an auto accident and we counseled him — and we were good. A lot of what this whole evening is about is the sanctity of boyhood."

It's personal for Williams; he and his partner are adopted parents to a special-needs teenager, and Williams was inspired by the strength of boys across the world when he visited Guatemala years ago.

"I spent about a week there but a friend of mine and I ended up on an active volcano with a bunch of German tourists," he recalls. They genuinely feared that they might be caught in a lava flow, when "this barefoot boy, about 11 or 12 year old, just kind of appeared out of nowhere and helped us down the mountain. He knew every rock on that path and knew just what he was doing. Watching him reminded me about my childhood and how you find those things that connect you."

Cooking with Gasoline was the result.

"I opened it in Galveston at the Grand Opera House last summer to packed houses — people went nuts for it," he says. He brings the show to

Fort Worth's Casa Manana Theatre for two performances on Saturday (a matinee and evening show). And in some ways it couldn't be further from *Tuna*.

"*Tuna* [is well-observed], but all my stories really happened!" Williams insists. "I am so grateful for *Tuna*, have a lot more stories to tell and I didn't want to tell them through *Tuna*. And [*Cooking with Gasoline*] gets into something I love about Texans, which is that we are great storytellers. That's an art form."

It certainly is whenever Jaston Williams tells a tale. ■

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American dreamers

Idealism, from the Founding Fathers in '1776' to pro wrestlers in 'Chad Deity'

As sports go, pro wrestling is certainly the chattiest. Golf is a game of whispers, baseball of nods, tennis of grunts and football of shouted play, but wrestling? It's about talkin' smack. It's the most theatrical of athletic enterprises, if you don't count the gymnastics closeted movie stars go through.

You might not realize *how* talky and theatrical until you see a talky piece of theater like **The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity**, a dandy and sly play at the Wyly set in the world of pro wrestling. For Mace Guerra (Alex Hernandez), the protagonist who narrates much of the play, the sport is an art form: A combination of ballet, bodybuilding and Barnum. Where his brothers enjoyed watching the WWE's stars, Mace reveled in the skill it took to be their opponents. He was that rare kid who rooted for the Washington Generals to beat the Harlem Globetrotters.

All that makes Mace a virtual nonentity in the AWA, whose star, Chad Deity (Corey Jones) has more braggadocio than P. Diddy in a Hennessy commercial. He's one of those heroic villains of the sport, trash-talkin' but also embodying successful consumerism in its most blatant form.

Which is part of what makes the play *Chad Deity* so compelling (well, that and a host of well-built men in bikini briefs who don't expect you to put dollar bills in their G-strings). Playwright Kristoffer Diaz sets up a delicious series of dialectics — race vs. race, ethics vs. celebrity, steak vs. sizzle — and juggles them all,

while staying within the framework of a "fake" sport. (It doesn't feel fake when the floor shakes during a powerbomb.)

Hernandez, as sculpted and compact as a Henry Moore statue, has a sexy Wolverine vibe going for him, but also has mastered Diaz's street patois to give wrestling a dreamy lyricism. As Deity, Jones' shiny head, cape and dominance make him seem like an African-American version of Ming the Merciless. Aly Mawji, as the Bengali hustler who tries to turn wrestling's stereotypes on its head, gives a jolt to the more expository scenes.

Add to all of this an actual wrestling ring as a set (with moving seats!) and the necessity for audience participation, and this production captures both the thrill of the sport and the inherent flaws of our current culture. The American dream has become more about being American than having dreams.

That's not so for the characters in *1776*, Lyric Stage's latest full-on revival of a Broadway classic. Back then, even defining what an "American" meant was subject of congressional debate. For obnoxious John Adams (Brian Gonzales), pensive Thomas Jefferson

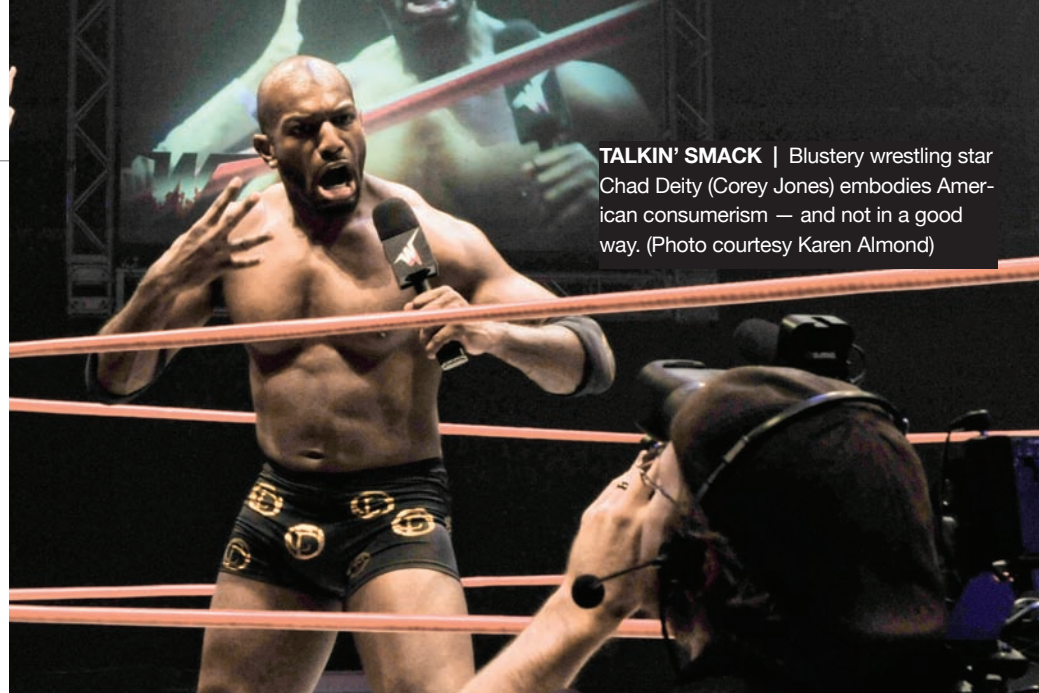
(Bryant Martin) and wily Ben Franklin (David Coffee, perfectly cast), it required a declaration.

Sherman Edwards' songs are a hodgepodge of operatic (some good, but jarringly slow) and amusing barbershop harmonies ("The Egg," "But Mr. Adams"), but it's not exactly radio-friendly pop. That would be OK if there weren't huge passages *without* music (after a quick succession of four numbers in Act 1, there's nothing but speechifying for 40 minutes). Sometimes, in the name of verisimilitude, *1776* becomes the dry political debate it portrays.

But damn if you don't feel a little more patriotic by the end. With the election around the corner, you can't help but observe the behavior of these "fine conservative men" who oppose independence and think where we would be if we didn't embrace a bit of liberalism in our national characters.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

TALKIN' SMACK | Blustery wrestling star Chad Deity (Corey Jones) embodies American consumerism — and not in a good way. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)



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L+S fashion



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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Sew it black

When Jim Duran couldn't find good menswear, he designed his own

As a fashion-conscious gay man with a forward-looking sense of style, Jim Duran has always been on the lookout for the Next Big Thing in design. As a loyal Dallasite, he hoped to find it locally. He discovered cutting edge women's fashions easily, but when Duran searched for the same in menswear ... well, he came up short.

"I had trouble finding pieces I'd want to wear," he sighs.

So he did what any enterprising fashionista would do given his background: He designed his own.

BLKLN LAUNCH SHOW

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It wasn't even a year ago when Duran first got the itch to create a line of menswear that was both fashionable and wearable, body flattering and comfortable (few finely-fitted pieces), at home on the runway or the sidewalk. And

later this month, the debut collection from his label, BLKLN ("Black Line"), will launch.

ONCE YOU GO BLACK ... | Designer Jim Duran fits his model with a silver denim biker's jacket — one of the 20 or more pieces that will launch his new label, BLKLN. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

As the name suggests, Duran has stuck with a monochromatic color scheme: White, black, silver and (dare we say it) 50 shades of gray. As it evolves, he may add more color components but "I always want the base color to be black," he says. (Hey, once you go BLKLN ...)

And it's all for men — more or less.

"My background is in women's fashion, but I started to build a collection that could appeal to anyone who appreciates my aesthetic," he says.

Duran admits his aesthetic isn't traditional — he wanted to offer Texas men a new perspective.

"It's different for Dallas, which seems formulaic [in terms of men's fashion]. I wanted to give people like myself an option to go edgy. I didn't design for the typical Southern beefcake. I like tattoos. There's definitely an androgynous look, but it's very minimal, very streamlined, very rock 'n' rock."

To Duran, that means such motifs as leggings, extended tanks (one long enough to be worn as a dress, if someone chose), sheer fronts and silver denim, both in jackets and pants.

"A lot of this line was inspired by the fabrics themselves. I'll look at it and say, 'I can make that pop.' So I'll sketch a look with a single focal point, then I intermix the pieces to create a 'look,'" he explains.

After the sketching comes the patterns, the construction, the manufacturing and more details than he can count (Duran works with a design director in charge of the actual sewing).

Starting from scratch to create a line targeted exclusively at men (womenswear designers are everywhere) took fortitude, but also a belief that Duran could not only design a product with a point of view the market needed, but that he could construct such a line in a way he'd be proud of.

And while launching his own label is new to him, Duran says he wasn't caught off guard by too many of the bumps in going from idea to market. One of the only surprises was resourcing. "Something as simple as a zipper was hard to custom order" to his specifications and standards.

"I want to make a quality garment," he says. "I want you to appreciate the aesthetic without worrying about the quality."

Duran also isn't doing this as a vanity project, but as something he can customize for clients.

"Ninety-nine percent of the line is made so if someone wants a piece, I could put in an order made of the same fabric."

For now, Duran is focused on getting his BLKLN up and running with the launch party at the ilume on Nov. 13. Then comes the task of taking orders, getting his name out there and lining up local retailers interested in carrying his line. (He's on a first-name basis with many shops and has already fielded some interest.) But down the road, he has greater aspirations.

"Ideally, I'd love to be in Forty Five Ten — that's a dream [retailer] for all young designers," he says. "And one day, I'd love to dress Mick Jagger."

Hmmm ... fashion-forward androgynous menswear with a rock 'n' roll vibe? Sounds like a match. ■

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L+S books

Ain't that a shame

Growing up gay in a hetero world



The Velvet Rage: Overcoming the Pain of Growing Up Gay in a Straight Man's World by Alan Downs, Ph.D. (Da-Capo Lifelong Press, 2012) \$16, 252 pp.

To out or not to out? How do you know if you're at the point in your life to fling open the closet door and get your share of love and acceptance? In the completely revised, updated edition of Alan Downs' *The Velvet Rage*, you'll find a road map for the journey.

Is self-destruction inherent in gay men? Downs believes so, and he thinks he knows why: shame. Shame, he says, is the "fear of being unlovable." It's "not embarrassment over being gay; it is the belief that being gay is a ... symptom of your own mortally flawed psyche." And perhaps because it's a "secret [a man] cannot reveal," it often leads to self-destructive habits including suicide.

Shame starts in childhood. The first man you loved, says Downs, was your father. If he withheld acceptance, you turned to your mother and were "drawn to the feminine." This all led to a change in family dynamics, which might have taught you to hide "ugly realities" as a means of survival and avoidance, resulting in shame's accompanying rage.

To live a life of happiness, Downs says, there are three stages gay men must endure: The first is characterized by being overwhelmed by shame, which is often coped with by "splitting," or leading two discordant lives. Splitting helps to avoid shame, but it leads to a breakdown in relationships and a crisis in identity.

Stage 2 is marked by compensation for shame and a "belief that there is something fundamentally flawed," internally. This is where addiction and depression often appear, especially when former validation is no longer enough to "soothe the gay man's distress." Resolution of this takes "all gay men" to the next stage.

In stage 3, a gay man "seeks a better life for himself." Old self-destructive behaviors no longer hold interest. Relationship trauma (betrayal, abuse, abandonment and relationship ambivalence) is healed. Joy becomes possible.

Aside from the necessary generalizations, *The Velvet Rage* is pretty good. The beginning chapters may make readers feel like a bobble-head doll — nodding, nodding, nodding. That's eerie, because it may be very hard *not* to see yourself in

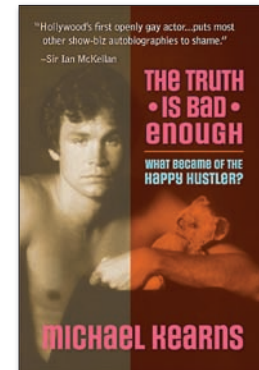


SHAME SPIRAL | Author Alan Downs, Ph.D., has revised his book about gay shame, 'Velvet Rage.'

at least some of what Downs portrays. What was most appealing about this book, though, are the last chapters. There, Downs helps readers along with his "Skills for Leading an Authentic Life," which are good strengths to cultivate, no matter where you are (or are not) on Downs' continuum.

Meant, perhaps, for a younger man who's just starting this journey, I also think this book has words of wisdom for older gay men, too. Its ultimate message is search for comfort and a more peaceful life. That's never too late to pursue.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



The Truth is Bad Enough: What Became of the Happy Hustler? by Michael Kearns. (CreateSpace 2012) 294 pp. \$16.

First he was a precocious boy, acting in and directing plays — and reveling in sex with older men — before he finished

high school. Then he was a serious actor, a serious drunk, a serial sexaholic, and, in the mid-1970s, a celebrated hoaxster, doing the talk show circuit as "Grant Tracy Saxon," alleged author of a fake memoir, *The Happy Hustler*, all the while selling his body to eager johns (and appearing in a couple of episodes of *The Waltons*).

Next came hard-won sobriety, AIDS activism, HIV infection, a series of searing one-man performances and of shimmering collaborations with his professional colleague, the late James Carroll Pickett.

Now, still acting and directing (and surviving), Kearns is reveling in his finest role — father to an African-American child he adopted more than 15 years ago. Kearns is unsparing in recounting his addictive days, candid about how his queer and AIDS activism impacted his Hollywood career and — in the final chapters — luminous in imparting the love he shares with his daughter, who now aspires to be an actor, just like dad. This multi-textured memoir shimmers.

— Richard LaBonte

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Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
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Dear Howard,

I don't believe in sex addiction, but I think I'm overly *fond* of having sex. Does this make any sense? I'm 36, and somehow *more* sex-crazed now than when I was even 16. Trawling for quickies is the driving force in my life. Seeking out sex comes above food, it comes above career, and it comes above family. I spend my lunch hour at highway porno arcades. I moved to rural Texas from San Francisco for the explicit reason of slowing my libido down. That sure was a big mistake — heck, I now score sex more regularly living 30 miles outside of Dallas than I ever did living just one block over from The Castro! The cruddy truth, Howard, is that I

I'm the last moralist, but to quote that most famously self-destructive sybarite Truman Capote, 'There is such a thing as life-saturation.'

enjoy wham-bam sex with strangers, and don't feel even one bit guilty, ashamed or remorseful. Why do you think this is?—**Titillated By Too Many Men**

Dear Tit-Too-Man,

First, let me praise you for chutzpah. Second, allow me to say that not just any hail-fellow perv can lay it all out there with barely so much as a flinch.

Personally, I'm with you to a point, Tit-Too — I don't believe in sex addiction, either, *per se*. I think "sex addiction" to be a crock of manure concocted by too many pseudo-psycho therapists to keep them in Mercedes-Benzes.

That said, I do believe one can overdose on too much of a good thing (your move to rural Texas from titillating San Fran being in support of my argument). Naturally, where sex is concerned, if a little bit feels good, then a whole lot feels a

whole lot better (at least in theory); however, it's not 1982 anymore.

There *are* repercussions out there these days that a shot of ol' penicillin just can't fix. I am the last moralist, God knows, but to quote that most famously self-destructive sybarite, Truman Capote, himself, "There is such a thing as life-saturation: the point when everything is pure effort and total repetition." If

nothing else, Tit-Too-Man, you may have reached "life-saturation" point.

Give it some thought.

Dear Howard,

I know your column is mainly for those who are emotionally downtrodden, but my situation is a little different and I'm interested, Ward, in what you have to say.

First, my stats: female, 52, lesbian, *skinny*. Yep, while most gal pals out there are constantly trying to shed those extra pounds, I'm forever trying to gain. Case in point, Ward, my high school yearbook nickname was, "Karen Carpetmuncher." I wish there was some magical witchcraft by which Rosie's extra heart-attack tonnage could be transferred to me. — K.C.

Dear K.C.,

I'm confused: Was there a question you wished to ask me, Karen, located somewhere within your backhanded, complimentary self-praising; or, were you merely trying to martyr-gloat that, at 52, you've still been able to retain, through no supposed effort nor exercise at all, the same lithe body you once boasted back in high school without actually succumbing to a self-induced, starvation heart attack thus far? And for future



reference, there's a "Ho" attached to the front of "Ward."



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Silly Lily



Tomlin chats about her new series, gay repression and rumors of retirement

Lily Tomlin launched her career more than four decades ago with a timeless clan of wacky characters that she established on NBC's sketch comedy show *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In*. But what if she had to be friends with Edith Ann, Ernestine or Susie the Sorority Girl?

It's something the Tony and Emmy Award winning comedian, writer and actress — who's starred on *The West Wing* and *Desperate Housewives* in recent years — never considered until now, making Tomlin rethink her entire career.

Tomlin sat down to dish on how, despite rumors, she has no plans to retire; missing "the sneaking around" before gay liberation; and what we can expect from her progressive, pot-smoking part alongside Reba McEntire in ABC's *Malibu Country*, her first major sitcom role since *Murphy Brown*. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Malibu Country premieres Nov. 2 on Ch. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Dallas Voice: Of all your iconic characters, do you have a favorite? Tomlin: They're like kids. You don't show partiality. It just seems wrong.

Would you want to be friends with any of them? Let me think. You're right. Golly — they're bad news! I don't know if I want to be friends with any of them! This is a startling awakening. No one's ever asked me that question. I was running through them really quickly and I thought, "Well, that one would be a handful, and this is a high-maintenance relationship."

Right! Could you imagine being friends with Edith Ann? Imagine having to be her mother! I had an Edith Ann puppet with eyes and a tongue — and everything was Animatronics — and we never did anything with her, but I was so wanting a kids show starring Edith Ann. Anyway, so she sits in a big old box right now. Poor thing. She's probably all deteriorated. But they sculpted the puppet head after me — the way I perform her — and it had a vague resemblance to me. It was always sort of spooky.

So, let me get this straight: Your characters are needy and they scare the hell out of you. You might want to rethink your career, Lily. [Laughs] Oh gosh. This has been revelatory. This one question is something I had never heard in my life and never

even contemplated.

You and your partner, Jane Wagner, have been together for more than 40 years, right? Yeah. It's been ... what is this? 2012? I have to think back. It's 41 years, but it'll be 42 years in March.

Back then, when you realized you were gay, people didn't even acknowledge it. Gay was taboo. Do you think that's part of the reason you and Jane have been together so long but haven't married? Because you never expected to? No, I don't think so. I guess it doesn't mean that much. With the concept of marriage, I've been a little too flippant and I've said things like, "I was hoping the gay community would come up with a better idea than imitating heterosexual marriage."

But no, I know plenty of people who married and who are pleased about it and are happy. I guess if we had any kids, it would mean something more. Neither of us is religious, so that means nothing to us. I'm proud and happy for it, for people who want to be married. I suppose symbolically it would've been nice if we had gotten married for anybody who's interested.

You talk about Jane as your partner to the press often now. Was that always the case? I used to talk about her all the time. I just talked about it natu-

DOPE SMOKING MA | Lily Tomlin renamed her progressive older gal after her own mother.

rally, but in those days people just did not write that way. When I was on the cover of Time in '77, my publicist had almost pulled off the old two-cover coup where you get Newsweek and Time. It's not even important anymore. For both stories, Jane would be there. It was nothing.

One story, I can't remember which one, said, "Lily lives alone in the Hollywood Hills." Another one said that we shared a house — me and writer Jane Wagner.

They knew we were a couple. They used to protect us. The journalists would protect us just like they would protect politicians in the old days.

You probably never imagined you'd be talking to gay publications like you do so often now. Is that different for you? Yeah, of course it is. We had The Advocate. Vito Russo, who was my good friend, did a piece on me in The Advocate. What year was that? Probably sometime in the '70s. And he didn't want to out me in a really big way that would bring any kind of repercussions on me at that time, because I was very, very popular from *Laugh-In*. I said to him, "Look, I want to do the piece with The Advocate but I don't want to lie. It's too embarrassing and too awkward to do that." I said, "I'm leaving it up to you. I'm not going to try to influence whatever you do." So in the piece, I do say to him, "Look, if we don't talk about the gay issue it's going to look very strange." And he kept writing in that vein. But it was never explicit; of course, I'd get a lot of flack for it, a lot of heat. People weren't that ... I want to say hip.

Isn't it amazing how much progress we've made since then? It's been remarkable. I mean, it's not enough if it's still an issue, but yeah — I've been just really dazzled by the activism and the refusal to disappear and be invisible. But I'll tell you: You miss a little bit of repression, just on the sexy side. The sneaking around. Any kind of taboo is always a little more titillating.

Your upcoming series, *Malibu Country*, features a flamboyant record executive played by Jai Rodriguez from *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and a next-door neighbor who's gay. Were you surprised that a show starring Reba McEntire, whose fan base tends to be ultraconservative, was so gay and progressive? Yeah, and I'm not sure where they're going to take the kid next door, but I hope Lillie Mae gets very political. I've sort of pitched that to them, to go in that direction with my character. She's just more enlightened than Reba, even though she's Reba's mother. She's just more open and expansive, where Reba is a little more Nashville and shut down. She'll definitely be more progressive.

You know, first of all, Reba. I'm not close friends with Reba or anything, but my brother lives in Nashville, and my mother and dad are both buried in Nashville, and so having those Southern roots, I know the culture very well. I've always liked Reba, but then I saw her in *Annie Get Your Gun* in '99 and she was drop-dead brilliant. People still talk about it. She was so alive in that role. I've never forgotten that. And be-



FIRST LADIES GO HEAD-TO-HEAD | Tomlin says Reba McEntire's brilliant performance in 'Annie Get Your Gun' sold her on returning to a weekly sitcom.

cause in the pilot Lillie Mae smokes dope, I thought this is a great chance to do an older person who's just really open to everything.

So your character's name isn't Shirley anymore? I changed it. It's Lillie Mae. I changed it to my mother's name.

What about the character interested you? The gray wig? I built that wig! I had that wig made. Wigs always interest me. Haven't you ever heard of Wigstock? I'm kidding. I have a wig room; I have at least 50 to 70 wigs. I'm kind of a wig queen.

You come from a generation of female comedians that had a very family-oriented style of comedy. What's your take on this new wave of female comedians both in film and in stand-up who are just as vulgar and crass as men?

Guys have done it forever and so the girls just leveled the playing field. I like a much more cerebral kind of comedy. Well, sort of cerebral. But I still have no problem with it. I'm glad to see those girls make successful comedy. Because in the old days — I mean, Gilda [Radner] never got the chance to do the films that the boys did from *SNL*. I'm glad that these girls break that taboo, that obstacle that people have put up in front of them for years.

I remember I used to do a '50s teenager at a school dance and the first time I did it at the Ice House in Pasadena — this would be like '71 or '72, right after I got on *Laugh-In* — and I said "boner." And the owner of the Ice House was beside himself. He says, "Don't ever use that language on the stage again." The guys did anything they wanted, but they did not want to see women talking about anything that was the least bit — I don't know — *human*. I didn't listen to what he said.

Word is that you're retiring after this series, which you mentioned during the recent Television Critics Association panel. Is that true? I said it as a joke. Somebody in the audience asked me a question, something about playing a woman of a certain age; it was hard to hear. Maybe they were talking about how lately I've played all these mothers: I'm playing Lisa Kudrow's mother on *Web Therapy* and I just did a movie playing Tina Fey's mother. I also played McGee's grandmother on *NCIS*. [The person asked] something about playing women of a certain age, so I answered it as Edith Ann first and then I said, "Don't be surprised if this is the last project I do before I go to the motion-picture home." I was just kidding around.

So you're not retiring soon? I don't plan to.

Good to hear.

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Get your kicks

With Stampede 66, gay chef Stephan Pyles goes home

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

It hasn't even officially opened yet, but Stampede 66 may already be just about the hottest table in town. That's not actually surprising — at least when Texas' most famous restaurateur, Stephan Pyles, announces he's opening a new eatery.

Pyles hoped to open his latest concept — which has had soft opening with special benefit dinners and a VIP party — by this week, but next week is looking more likely.

He'll wait until everything is exactly as he wants it; after more than 35 years in Dallas dining, he's earned that right. Before the public gets to see it, he's redoing several tables (they were too high), repackaging his signature line of sauces (he wanted a different label) and waiting on a few more stars to be added to his night-sky trompe l'oeil ceiling (after all, they should be big and bright deep in the heart of Texas).

"Texas" dominates the idea behind Stampede 66 — much of it, even Pyles' own past.

"A lot of inspiration was taken from Star Canyon," he admits, referring to his mid-'90s restaurant that once occupied the Centrum Building along Cedar Springs and Oak Lawn.

It's been a while, though, since Pyles has explored cuisine on this side of Woodall Rodgers. A presence in Downtown for the past seven years — he's represented by Samar and eponymous fine dining spot — Pyles located Stampede 66 in Uptown. But really, he's gone hundreds of miles away.

"It is a coming home," he says.

Pyles grew up in Big Spring, learning to cook alongside his mom at the family's Phillips 66 truck stop. That "66" inspired the name of the new place, which echoes his youthful memories: The buttermilk pie recipe he stole from his mom (minus some sugar — "don't tell anyone," he whispers); the corrugated-steel pergola recalls Pyles' evenings spent fishing in the moonlight in West Texas.

"There's lots of my childhood in here, lots of the truck stop," Pyles says wistfully.

But also a good deal of sophistication and thoughtfulness. Hi-def projections on the walls show a loop of cowboy culture (shot this summer on a ranch in Uvalde) with Texana aphorisms. Guests enter to an assault of placards naming actual Texas cities, but arranged so as to make whimsical statements ("Needmore" on this map is next to "Cash"). But perhaps most telling of all is the menu: Not just the taco and tamale bar, but the sourcing is pure Texas.

"We're the only place in Dallas that will carry *only* Texas-appellation oysters," he explains — meaning the succulent bivalves will be identified by individual covers not just "Gulf oysters." All the beef is Texas bred cattle; there isn't any fowl on the bill that wasn't caught in the Lone Star State. That's taking the locavore movement to a new level.

Still, Pyles isn't worried.

"If you're [gonna do locavore], Texas is the best — there's a whole lot to choose from," he says.

Spoken like a true Texan. ■

GOD BLESS TEXAS | Stephan Pyles' latest restaurant, Stampede 66, takes inspiration from the Phillips 66 truck stop his parents owned in Big Spring — reflected in the vintage sign adorning a wall. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

online exclusive

To see a slideshow of exclusive photos from Stampede 66, visit DallasVoice.com and scroll down to Photos.



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Monday 11.05

Liz Mikel brings poetry and song to South Side on Lamar

What better way to get geared up for Election Day than with some fiery provocation in the form of poetry and song? Liz Mikel brings BlueMonday: Sexin in 'D' City to South Side on Lamar's Blue Room on Monday with ballads and steamy stories about sex from local female poets. It's all about love, sugar — and leave the kids (and prudery) at home.

DEETS: Blue Room at South Side on Lamar, 1409 South Lamar St. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Free, but donations kindly accepted.



Wednesday 11.07

Geena Davis to speak at Women's Foundation lunch

Ever since she helped redefine feminism with *Thelma & Louise*, Oscar winner Geena Davis has been an icon — and active spokesperson — for gender roles in media. She brings that perspective, as well as her movie-star charisma (she wowed at Black Tie a few years ago) to the Dallas Women's Foundation's luncheon on Wednesday. Hmm ... the day after the election ... we wonder what Davis might want to talk about. ...

DEETS: Hilton Anatole, 2201 Stemmons Freeway. Noon–1:30 p.m. \$350. DallasWomensFoundation.org.



Thursday 11.08

Gay playwrights turn their sights on marriage at Cathedral of Hope

Being a gay playwright is about as rare as being a gay florist or hairdresser, so it's no surprise that acclaimed authors like Dallas' own Pulitzer Prize-winner Doug Wright, Moises Kaufman and Paul Rudnick have taken it upon themselves to write short plays about gay marriage. What is a delightful surprise is that the Cathedral of Hope's Theater Ministry is putting them together for four performances of *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays*, starting Thursday. The regional premiere is directed by recent Houston transplant and gay theater veteran Joe Watts.

DEETS: Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Thursday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. \$15. CathedralofHope.com/gay-marriage-plays.

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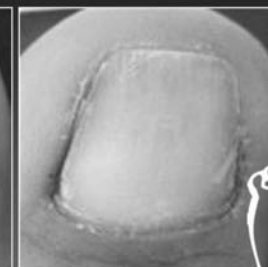
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SPIRIT OF '1776' | John Adams (Brian Gonzales) and Thomas Jefferson (Bryant Martin) plan the great treason of American independence in '1776,' presented by Lyric Stage. (Photo courtesy Steven Jones)

FRIDAY 11.02

THEATER

Avenue Q. Presented by Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. An adult musical with puppets. Gay puppets. Having sex. Leave the kids at home. Extended through Dec. 9. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Burying Our Father: A Biblical Debacle. Fred Cur-

chack writes and stars in this comic retelling of the story of Abraham. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Nov. 7. Undermain.org.

1776. Cheryl Denson directs this patriotic classic about the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. Presented by Lyric Stage. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. *Reviewed in this issue.* Through Sunday. LyricStage.org.

Complete Hollywood (Abridged). The team who comically "abridged" Shakespeare turns its sights on Tinseltown. Cox Playhouse, 1517 Avenue H, Plano. Through Nov. 17. \$16-\$20. RoverDramawerks.com.

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity. A play about professional wrestling. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. *Reviewed in this issue.* Through Nov. 11. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Theatre of Death. MBS Productions' annual catalog of creepy and dark plays with roots in ancient Spain. Stone Cottage Theatre, Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Saturday. \$18-\$25. MBSProductions.net.

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

Malibu Country. New sitcom co-starring Lily Tomlin as Reba McEntire's pot-smoking mom. Ch. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

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. Tonight: Episode 4. Ch. 13 at 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY

B4 Black Tie Silent Auction Preview Party. Bravo re-

ality star Madison Hildebrand hosts this event prior to the Saturday gala. Sheraton Downtown Dallas Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. 8-10 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.

Oak Lawn Group for Gays meets weekly. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 7 p.m. For more information, call 214-868-7350.

SATURDAY 11.03

CONCERTS

North Oak Cliff Music Festival. Kessler Presents organized this day-long outdoor music fest at Lake Cliff Park, featuring bands, food trucks and more. Lake Cliff Park, 300 Colorado Blvd. Nov. 3, noon-8 p.m. \$12-\$35. NorthOakCliffMusicFestival.com.

COMMUNITY

Black Tie Dinner. The annual fundraiser for the HRC and local groups serving the gay community. Sheraton Downtown Dallas Hotel, Austin Ballroom. 400 N. Olive St. 6 p.m.

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ation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling monthly program helps those who have lost an animal cope with their loss. Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center at 2400 Lone Star Drive. 1 p.m. 214-651-9611.

Cathedral Couples potluck dinner and social. For location, call 972-252-7124.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 11.04

WORSHIP

The ONE Church, 5427 Philip Ave. Services 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.

COMMUNITY

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

Friends Associating and Relating, LGBT social group meets for potluck dinners, game nights and more. Newcomers welcome. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

MONDAY 11.05

COMMUNITY

Leadership Lambda Toastmasters meets to improve public speaking and leadership skills. Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30-8 p.m. 214-543-5860.

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

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars. Favorite queens return for this competition. Logo at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 11.06

THEATER

Oral Fixation: Baby Steps. Stories about parenting and just leaving the nest. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$20. 214-443-2676.

COMMUNITY

FUSE Movie Night. For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m.

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

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

BROADCAST

Election night coverage. Among those providing

insight will be Wanda Sykes hosting NewNowNextVote on Logo, beginning as returns come in.

WEDNESDAY 11.07

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 a 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.

THURSDAY 11.08

THEATER

Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays. Nine short plays by leading gay playwrights (Paul Rudnick, Moises Kaufman and Doug Wright among them) on issues related to queer coupling. Directed by Joe Watts and presented through the Theater Ministry of the Cathedral of Hope. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Nov. 8-10 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. \$15. CathedralOfHope.com/gay-marriage-plays.

COMMUNITY

Standing on the Promises is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral Of Hope. The

only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for membership; A.A. is self-supporting through contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Tilda Swinton turns 51 or 52 (sources are mixed) on Monday. The Oscar winner for *Michael Clayton* is one of Hollywood's most outspoken advocates of gay rights, and she has played the parent of a gay child several times, as well as the sex-shifting hero(ine) of *Orlando*.



SCORPIO Oct 21–Nov 20

The sense that you haven't quite figured it out and the desire for more certainty will keep you guessing until you realize that life is a lot safer and more certain when you trust it enough to know that doing it perfectly involves following your bliss.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21–Dec 20

Instead of trying to push your agenda, you would do better to hear what other people have in mind and weigh their choices and concerns with your issues. If you are willing to hear them out, they will be much more receptive to you and your plans.

CAPRICORN Dec 21–Jan 20

Just as you were getting ready to break free, a series of interruptions and a lot of long standing issues made you lose sight of the fact that you had other plans. I am in no position to tell you how to do things, but you've got to find a way to fit yourself into your life.

AQUARIUS Jan 21–Feb 20

In order for you to be able to function within the uncertainties that are so much a part of your life right now, you need to be able to surrender to the thought that you could live without this.

PISCES Feb 21–Mar 20

For someone to whom regular walks on the wild side are therapeutic, you will incur no penalty by stepping out of the box every so often. The picture that comes to mind is one which includes you in a new setting, with a totally different outlook.

ARIES Mar 21–Apr 20

Life seems to be requiring more from you these days. You need to question the gap between who you think you are and who you turned out to be before you can get around the stuff that keeps you from being able to identify what you want.

TAURUS Apr 21–May 20

If we start blaming ourselves for what went wrong, we don't stop feeling responsible for everything until we get some distance on the people, places and things that were screwed up. Forgive yourself for being naive and for giving too many things the benefit of the doubt.

GEMINI May 21–Jun 20

If in the short run it looks like you have to give something up, in the long run you will find that you were smart to get back to square one. As you watch what was stressing you out disappear for good, you will be glad that you made this choice.

CANCER Jun 21–Jul 20

Your goals are taking shape and your personal life is reflecting a sense of wholeness that feels pretty good. This is a plateau. Take the time to breathe. Depending on your bio-rhythms, you should get to a place where what's next looks better than this.

LEO Jul 21–Aug 20

Those of you who are stuck in a situation where your life is too much at the mercy of what everyone else wants and expects will have to find a way to reckon with the part of your psyche that equates that with stability.

VIRGO Aug 21–Sep 20

Don't be surprised if you get a chance to find out how much easier everything goes when everyone gets to be themselves. You will be learning a lot about what happens when the people factor takes a back seat to the need to hook up with yourself.

LIBRA Sep 21–Oct 20

As far as you are concerned, doing as little as possible to stir the pot will get you a lot further than any bold and dangerous moves. For now, do your best to play it cool and try not to make a fool of yourself.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

346

GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN. **GOOD MORNING, LANCE.**

OH, LOOK AT THE TIME... I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR MY WAXING!

I REALLY ENJOYED OUR CONVERSATION, DREW. **WE'LL TALK AGAIN, RICHARD.**

MMM... I HOPE SO! SOUTHERN MEN ARE SO... FINGER-LICKIN' GOOD!

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THAT CONVERSATION ENTAILED. **YA' JEALOUS?** **PLEASE.**

THE DAY I'M JEALOUS OF RICHARD RUBIN IS THE DAY I HURL MYSELF OFF THE CHRYSLER BUILDING. **DREW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH US THE OTHER NIGHT...**

I WASN'T APOLOGIZING. IF ANYTHING... YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE OFFERING REGRETS. **FOR WHAT?**

IF YA' SAY SO. **IT'S OKAY, LANCE. I FORGIVE YA'.**

YOU ACCUSED ME OF HAVING A "ROUTINE" BUT, IN ACTUALITY... **...YOU'RE THE MANIPULATOR. PLAYING IT HOT AND HEAVY ALL NIGHT...**

...AND THEN, WHEN I FINALLY RELENT AND SHOW SOME INTEREST... YOU RE-TREAT LIKE A VIRGINAL SCHOOLGIRL. **YOU'RE A GAMEPLAYER, DREW DANVERS. AND FRANKLY... I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SUCH NONSENSE.** **YA' GOT TIME FOR THIS?**

ONE SPECTACULAR KISS ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE THINGS. **YA' ADMIT IT WAS SPECTACULAR, THOUGH.**

PERHAPS I... OVERSTATED MY APPRAISAL. **NAH, I DOUBT THAT...**

Website - www.kylecomics.com E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com

bitter girl

IDEAL-O-LOGUE

PLEEEEEZZZ...

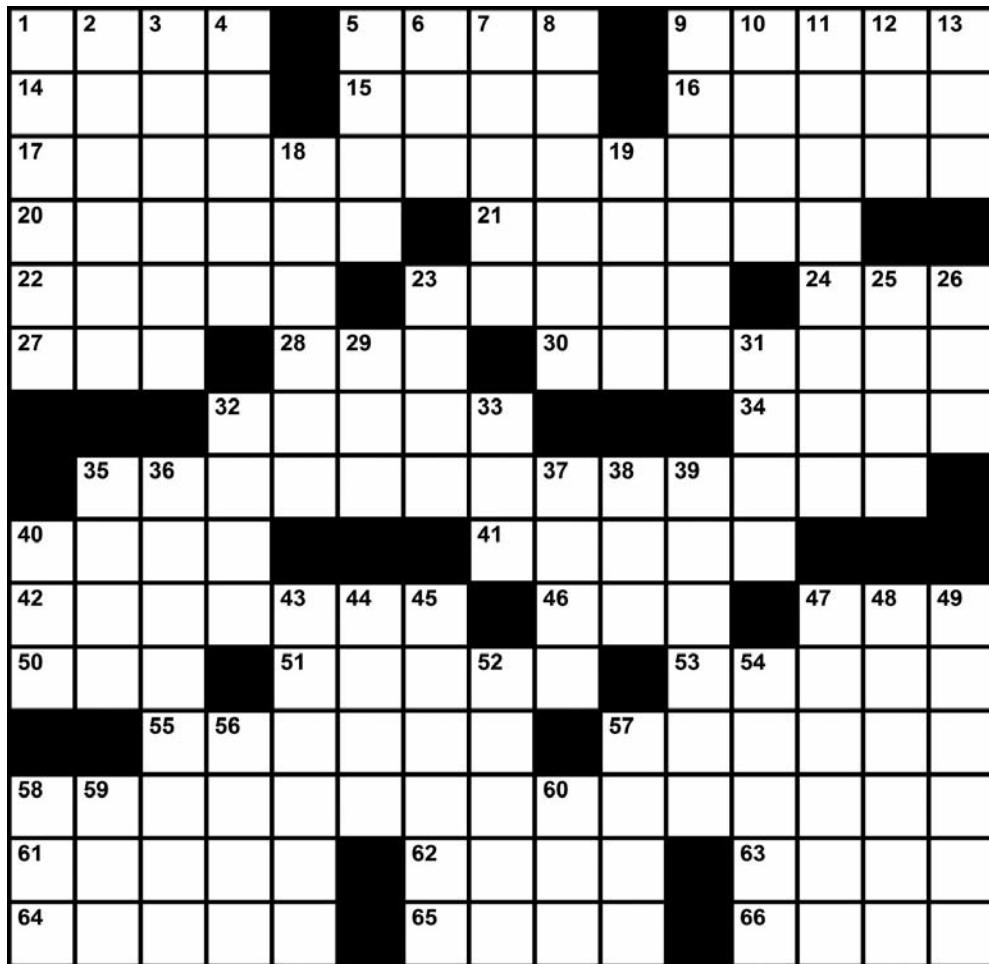
NO. I AM NOT GOING ON A RADIO SHOW WITH MY GIRL— **—WITH DEVI.**

I WON'T MAKE YOU PROPOSE. THIS'LL BE MAINLY ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE THING—TECH! **ABOUT HOW SOME JOBS ARE COMING FROM INDIA TO THE U.S. INSTEAD OF VICE VERSA?** **RIGHT! WITH A HUMAN INTEREST ANGLE!**

WELL... YOU'VE GOTTA TALK ABOUT HOW BIZ-PROCESS PATENTS ARE USING NEW APPS/DATA BASED ON DEAD OS... **HUMAN INTEREST.**

I DID YOUR ANTI-SPAM FILTERS AND I CAN UNDO 'EM. **OK OK OK— IT'S A DEAL.**

email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com www.joanhilty.net



Sexy Sorcerers

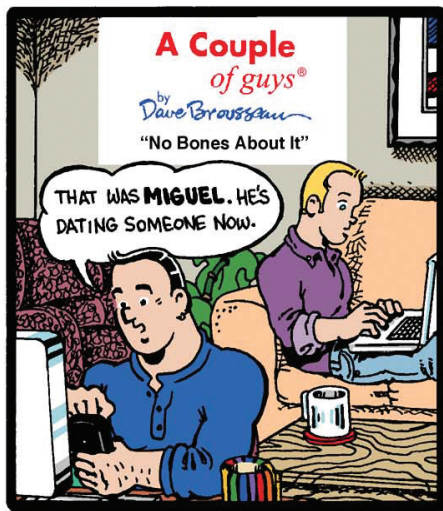
Solution on page 45

Across

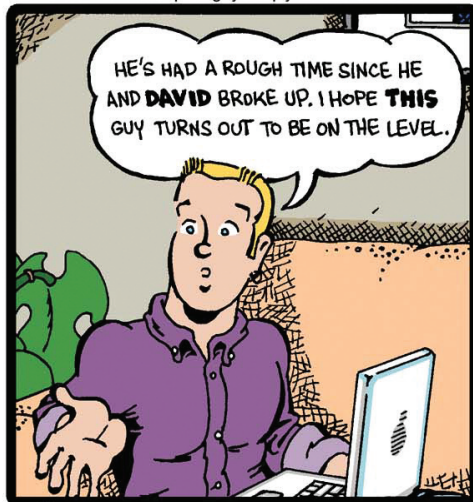
- 1 Nice Nellie
- 5 Head for
- 9 Petty squabbles
- 14 Actress Skye
- 15 *Spartacus* or *Ben-Hur*
- 16 Is het up
- 17 He played Cedric Diggory in the *Harry Potter* films
- 20 Gets a smile out of
- 21 Gung-ho
- 22 Q, and others, in *Scrabble*
- 23 With 51-Across, he played Jareth the Goblin King in *Labyrinth*
- 24 Pink-slip
- 27 Comics cry
- 28 Org. in many spy movies
- 30 Working in the theater
- 32 *The Celluloid Closet* author Vito
- 34 Just managed, with "out"
- 35 He played Merlin in *Camelot*
- 40 Griffin of game shows
- 41 Inundate
- 42 They may lie in bed with patients
- 46 Neighbor of Leb.
- 47 U-turn from NNE
- 50 Son of Prince Valiant

Down

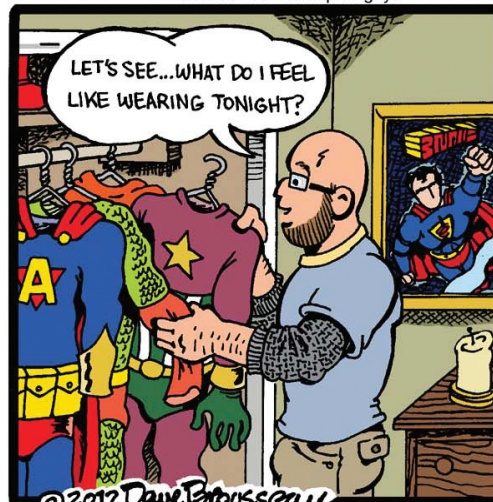
- 1 See 23-Across
 - 53 Word before organ
 - 55 Strolls leisurely
 - 57 Hugh of Life with Judy Garland
 - 58 He played Harry Potter
 - 61 In doubt
 - 62 Got in the game
 - 63 Harden
 - 64 *I Dream of Jeannie's* Barbara, and others
 - 65 Maker of some fruity flavors
 - 66 Xena deity
- Down**
- 1 Peter Pan opponent
 - 2 Bert, to Ernie
 - 3 Low-cost way to buy things
 - 4 They go down south for the winter
 - 5 Catches on to
 - 6 Like straight to gay (abbr.)
 - 7 It tops a queen
 - 8 Book size
 - 9 Ford classics, familiarly
 - 10 Island of Barrie's land
 - 11 Seafood dessert?
 - 12 Alice and Vera's coworker
 - 13 Digits used when the IRS gets its hand in your pocket
 - 18 Save from going to the bottom at sea, e.g.
 - 19 Watered down
 - 23 Bit of salt, for Stephen Pyles
 - 25 What Dorian Gray never does
 - 26 Beatty of *Roseanne*
 - 29 AOL, e.g.
 - 31 Take care of
 - 32 Say whether or not you're coming
 - 33 On vacation
 - 35 Raspberry that isn't a fruit
 - 36 What military guys may shoot off
 - 37 Former netman Nastase
 - 38 Shooter in Bruce Weber's field
 - 39 Tom Wilkinson film about a transsexual
 - 40 Degree for Andrew Tobias
 - 43 Where people don't sleep with the opposite sex
 - 44 Longtime NFL coach Chuck
 - 45 Turn sharply
 - 47 Gay porn site visitor, e.g.
 - 48 Sit on, in a way
 - 49 Potters' tools
 - 52 "Let me repeat..."
 - 54 Telepathic board that inspired James Merrill
 - 56 Bearing
 - 57 Some watch faces
 - 58 JFK preceder
 - 59 Hand job?
 - 60 Laurie Partridge portrayer Susan



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Hope you had a spooky **Halloween**. Go to DallasVoice.com for lots more pictures from the **Cedar Springs Street Party**. ... **Rupaul's Drag Race** comes to Fort Worth. **Mystique Summers, Jessica Wild, Kenya Michaels, Mariah Balenciaga** and **Penny Tration** will be at **Rainbow Lounge** at 11 p.m. on Nov. 3. Tickets are \$15. ... **Dallas Eagle** hosts **Gulf Coast Leather Sir/boy 2013** and **Community Bootblack Contest** on Nov. 2-3. The **Leather Knights** and the **Dallas Bears** host their monthly **First Friday Club Night** at 10 p.m. on Nov. 2. **Dallas Girls of Leather** meets at 4 p.m. on Nov. 3. ... **Jada Fox** appears with special guests at **Woody's** every Thursday at 11 p.m. ... **The Brick** welcomes the men of **Chaosmen.com** at 10 p.m. on Nov. 8 with video and book giveaways and more. ... For some midweek entertainment, **Anton Shaw** will be at **Alexandre's** on Nov. 7 and **Jason Huff** performs on Nov. 8. ... **JR's Bar & Grill** holds a **Chris Mann** CD release party on Nov. 5, a **Calvin Harris** new album party on Nov. 6 and an **Icona Pop** release party Nov. 8. Free CDs while supplies last. ... **Rock-A-Bully** at **Sue Ellen's** begins at 1 p.m. on Nov. 4 and runs all afternoon to benefit the pit bull rescues in the DFW area with live music from **Barefoot Hippies, Bandmates, Kick Back, Mojo Dolls** and **Catdaddies**. ... Line dance lessons with **Juanita** at the Round-Up Saloon begin at 8 p.m. on Nov. 7 and at 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 8. Beginner couples lessons start at 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 8. ... Nov. 6 is **Election Day**. Remember to vote. ■

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