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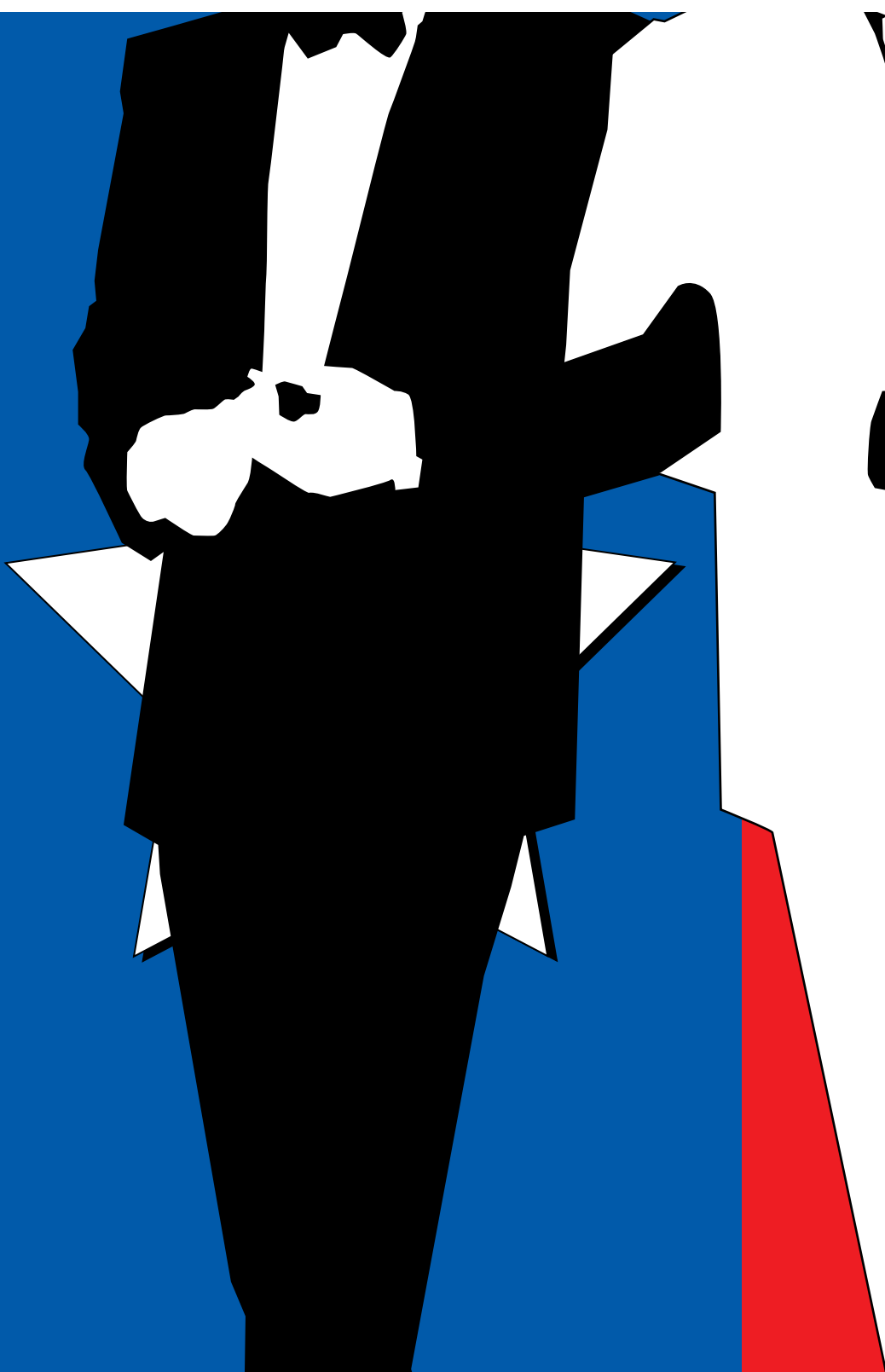
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When

WILL

marriage equality

come to

Texas?

Despite recent victories in 4 states, experts say it could be 10 years before Texas legalizes — or is forced to recognize — same-sex marriage

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OUT IN THE OZARKS | The Mardi Gras parade in Eureka Springs is just one of the many gay-friendly celebrations in the tourist destination, known as 'the San Francisco of Arkansas.'

Eureka Springs is 1st city in Ark. to endorse marriage equality

Eureka Springs on Monday, Nov. 12, became the first city in Arkansas to endorse marriage equality, according to a report from retired journalist Michael Walsh, a resident who authored the city's domestic partner registry five years ago.

In an email to Dallas Voice, Walsh said he was one of two leaders of a low-profile campaign to persuade the City Council to adopt the marriage equality resolution who spoke in favor of it at Monday's meeting.

Lamont Richie, a former city official and currently a Carroll County Quorum court judge, was blunt about the resolution's intent.

"This will put you on record as supporting marriage equality," Richie told the council.

Although no opponents of marriage equality appeared at the meeting, Richie anticipated conventional arguments against the notion. "I disagree with the conclusion that someone else's religious belief should deny me and my partner of nearly 28 years the choice to enter into a legal relationship."

Walsh said he told the council: "True equal marriage rights are a long way off in Arkansas and the South. We know that. But the resolution before you is powerfully symbolic and potentially influential. Tonight, you can jump-start history."

Before his comments, Walsh submitted a 33-page list containing the names of more than 700 supporters, including former Eureka Springs Mayor Dani Joy and Arkansas state Rep. Kathy Webb.

Of the petitioners, Walsh said, "They know Eureka Springs is the only city in Arkansas that can do this and, certainly, the one city that should."

Without discussion and with one council member voting "present," a four-member majority approved the measure.

Eureka Springs, population 2,300, a thriving tourist town listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is often called "the San Francisco of Arkansas," as much for the high-visibility rainbow flags adorning downtown storefronts and its disproportionately large gay and lesbian population, as for its steep and narrow streets, reproduction trolleys and turn-of-the-century Victorian homes.

Long a destination for gay and lesbian vacationers, the town has three "Diversity Weekends" each year and more than 50 gay-owned businesses.

The Eureka Springs resolution comes less than six weeks after the Austin City Council took similar action. Both Arkansas and Texas have state constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage.

— John Wright

FFW's Jon Nelson calls on USAA to add LGBT protections

Fairness Fort Worth President Jon Nelson used this Veterans Day to impact change at United Services Automobile Association.

USAA is a Texas-based company that provides banking, investing and insurance services to people and families of those who have served in the U.S. military.



Jon Nelson

Nelson is an Army veteran who served as a combat infantry officer in Vietnam. He is a policyholder with USAA, which doesn't offer its employees or policyholders LGBT protections.

He wrote to CEO Gen. Josue Robles this week to encourage him as a gay veteran and policyholder to consider adding policies that covered everyone USAA employs and insures.

"When I was in the Army, I was taught to lead by example," Nelson writes. "It's time USAA did so by changing its policies and procedures to acknowledge, provide for and protect those LGBT policyholders and employees. These changes that USAA, just like American Airlines and others, make will send a clear message."

In related news, USAA received the worst possible score of zero on the Human Rights Campaign's annual Corporate Equality Index, which was released this week.

— Anna Waugh

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When will marriage arrive in Texas?

Despite recent victories in 4 states, experts says it could be 10 years before Texas legalizes — or is forced to recognize — same-sex marriage

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Proponents of marriage equality in Texas may have a long time to wait.

Experts say it could take a decade or longer before same-sex marriage becomes legal in the Lone Star State.

Recent momentum from voters in Maine, Maryland and Washington approving marriage equality — and Minnesota voters defeating a proposed amendment to ban it — has led many to hope that other states will soon follow suit.

Ken Upton, a senior staff attorney in the Dallas office of Lambda Legal, the national LGBT civil rights group, said Oregon is hopeful to pass marriage equality in 2014. But he said it's harder to raise money and draw voters to the polls in years when a presidential race isn't on the ballot. Upton said New Jersey, Rhode Island and Hawaii are also in line to add marriage equality, while others like Colorado are positioned to add civil unions by as early as next year.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether to hear a lawsuit challenging Proposition 8 — California's amendment banning same-sex marriage — and several cases challenging the Defense of Marriage Act at the court's conference Nov. 30.

Upton said many people think the court will hear the Prop 8 case. But if not, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision declaring Prop 8 unconstitutional will be upheld. However, that decision applies only to California.

If the court hears a DOMA case, Upton said marriage equality advocates expect Section 3 of the law, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, to be struck down.

Section 2 of DOMA, which allows states to ignore same-sex marriages from other states, isn't being challenged in the pending cases, although a bill has been introduced in Congress to repeal the entire law.

A decision striking down Section 3 of DOMA would force the federal government — but not states — to recognize marriage for benefits like taxes and social security.

"I think that the overwhelming expectation is that they will probably strike down DOMA, although you never know," Upton said. "They might not. No court has upheld it yet, so there does seem to be kind of a momentum behind getting rid of it."

If DOMA is struck down, questions will be



FOLLOWING THE NORTH STAR STATE | Members of Minnesotans United for All Families cheer as election results show a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage being defeated Nov. 6 in St. Paul. Repealing Texas' marriage amendment would require a two-thirds majority of the House and Senate, as well as a majority public vote, which is why experts believe marriage equality is more likely to come to the state through a Supreme Court decision. (Associated Press)

raised about states that don't recognize same-sex marriages and if it matters where a couple lives to receive federal benefits, Upton said. Those questions won't be answered until after the decision has been handed down.

One thing is clear, though: Contrary to popular belief, a favorable DOMA ruling wouldn't require states like Texas to recognize same-sex marriage.

"I'm not sure this is going to completely answer all the questions if the court takes it up, but it's going to move us a lot further down the road," Upton said. "In terms of marriage, it won't have any affect on that. The Supreme Court's decision in DOMA cases is not going to tell states they do or don't have to marry someone. It's just going to tell the federal government if you're legally married, you have to recognize it."

Texas and the other states with marriage amendments have two potential paths to marriage equality — repeal the bans before passing marriage equality legislatively or at the ballot box, or await a future Supreme Court ruling forcing them

to recognize same-sex marriages.

Most advocates believe the court will force Texas along with other holdout states to recognize same-sex marriage in about a decade as more and more states legalize the practice.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said the likely outcome would be a majority of states approving same-sex marriage, leading Congress or the Supreme Court "to make a decision on a national level."

"I don't think it'll be all that long," Smith said. "I think it's certainly probable within a five- to 10-year timeframe."

Smith said Texas' marriage amendment could be repealed, but it would take educating voters, as well as electing more politicians who support marriage equality. Repealing the amendment would require a two-thirds majority vote of both the state House and state Senate to place it on the ballot, then approval from a simple majority of voters.

"It is possible if there is intense, on-the-ground work convincing Texas that public opinion is on

our side," Smith said. "So it would be a significant amount of electoral change in order to legislatively change marriage in Texas. That's not impossible, but it just takes work."

State Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, has filed a bill the last several legislative sessions to repeal the amendment. He said he had to start filing the bill so "people would have something to rally around and continue to push for change."

"It's strategic, but makes sense," Coleman said, adding that marriage equality will eventually come to Texas. "We know it's going to happen."

Coleman said having a bill pushing for repeal is an alternative plan instead of waiting on the high court. While he hasn't been able to get the bill out of committee, he said the important thing is that the process has been started and will only gain support with changing demographics in Texas and new lawmakers in Austin.

Upton said he doesn't think "there will be a legislative solution soon" with a conservative Legis-



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Shehnaz Zaman Sarmast, MD, FAAD

Board-Certified Dermatologist grew up and educated in Texas. She received her doctorate of medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio where she was inducted to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.



Lenelle Jerome MS, RN, FNP-BC

Certified Family Nurse Practitioner with 4 years specializing in dermatology. She earned both a masters and bachelors of science in nursing from SUNY Health and Science Center. As a student Lenelle received coveted awards for Clinical Excellence and for Academic Excellence.

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DANCE BENEFIT MAKES RECORD DONATION | Members of the Purple Foundation present a check for \$60,000, the largest in the organization's 12-year history, to AIDS Services of Dallas, from proceeds from the 2012 Dallas Purple Party. "2012 was a great year for us," said Purple Foundation President Blake Baker. "We've already started working on 2013 and we expect it to be even bigger." Dallas Purple Party is one of the biggest all-volunteer dance benefits in the country. For more info, go to www.purplefoundation.org. Pictured from left are Josh Dearborn, Sara Fangmeyer, Ernesto Herrera-Brito, Kris Hobson, Travis Foster, Don Maison (AIDS Services of Dallas), Denver Nash, Blake Baker, Jim DiMarino, Rich Hill, Chris Huffstutler and Jason Shaw.

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Trans woman fights for right to see son

Jessica Lynn's ex-wife is trying to terminate her parental rights in Collin County court, arguing that visitation would be dangerous to 13-year-old's mental health

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

PLANO — Jessica Lynn hasn't seen her youngest son in three years. The separation was helpful while Lynn, who lives in California, transitioned after her ex-wife moved to Plano to be near family in 2009.

But now Lynn has completed her transition, having had gender reassignment surgery in 2010, and she thinks enough time has passed to tell her 13-year-old that his father is now a woman.

"I'm happy. I'm content," Lynn said. "I would like to see my son."

But Lynn's decision to tell her son the truth prompted her ex-wife to file paperwork about a month ago seeking to terminate Lynn's parental rights on grounds of emotional abuse and abandonment.

In an affidavit filed by Lynn's ex-wife for a temporary restraining order in Collin County family court, she writes that the child "is not aware of the sex change of his father" and that Lynn's threat to come to Texas to "exercise visitation" would have an "irreparable" emotional impact and be "dangerous to the mental health and emotional well-being" of their son.

J. Ryan Nordhaus, the attorney representing Lynn's ex, did not return calls seeking comment. The name of Lynn's ex is being withheld to protect the privacy of their children, who have the same surname as their mother.

After Dallas Voice contacted Nordhaus, he filed for a gag order about the case, which has since been issued, preventing the parties from further discussing the matter publicly, according to Lynn's attorney, John McCall Jr.

McCall and other experts say there's little case law on custody and transgender parents in Texas, but situations like Lynn's are expected to become increasingly common as more transgender parents decide to live authentic lives and fight for parental rights.

Putting fatherhood first

Lynn and her ex married in California in 1991 and divorced five years later. Two boys, now 19 and 21, were a product of that relationship. Their youngest son was born after the two reconnected several years later.

Lynn said her ex knew about her feelings of being trapped in the wrong body since before they were married. Lynn had decided to transition before they wed, but her ex got pregnant, so they married and she lived as a husband and a father. Then Lynn was going to transition again when the two reconnected, but her ex became pregnant with her youngest son, and she again put her transition on hold.

Lynn said the couple shared custody of the two older boys when they divorced and later bought a house together when their third son was on the way. But after three years, she said her ex left and took all three boys with her, leading to a four-year custody battle.

The custody hearings ended in 2007 with Lynn granted primary custody, but the couple shared responsibly in raising the boys. They then reunited as friends and Lynn began discussing her transition with her ex, who expressed support, she said.

A family in transition

In 2009, Lynn's ex moved to Plano to be near family, but the oldest son stayed in California with Lynn. While Lynn maintained a close relationship with her other sons, with phone calls to her youngest and the middle son coming to California a few times to see her, she wanted to tell her youngest who she really was.

Lynn admits she thought her son was too young to

FINALLY READY

Jessica Lynn said her ex-wife knew about her feelings of being trapped in the wrong body since before they were married. Lynn even planned to transition before they wed, but her ex got pregnant, so they married and she lived as a husband and father. Lynn admits she thought her youngest was too young to discuss her transition when he was 10, but she said she thinks it's time now. (Terry Thompson/Dallas Voice)



discuss her transition when he was 10, but she said she thinks it's time now.

"I wanted to get to a certain point before visits," Lynn said. "I think he was ready about a year or so ago."

Although there is little case law on the subject in Texas, Lynn's predicament is not unique among trans parents.

Meghan Stabler, a trans board member for the Human Rights Campaign board who lives in Round Rock, said she went through a long divorce with her ex-wife. Stabler said her ex argued that because she was transgender, allowing her to have joint custody would constitute emotional abuse to their daughter.

She said that while her daughter knew about her transition, judges sided with her ex for custody during the legal process and allowed her ex to take their daughter to live overseas. The distance tied up the custody and divorce for years.

"They thought what I was doing was cruel and unreasonable," she said.

By the time the divorce was final, Stabler's daughter was no longer a minor, but she said the two maintained a close relationship despite the distance with annual visits.

Stabler said she knows many people who fear losing their children when they transition, but tells them to try to resolve custody before they transition. She said the issue lies more with the exes and not with the kids, who still love their parent.

"I've seen a lot of people who transition with fear that they'll lose their kids," she said. "It just takes a little bit of extra time, but a kid really looks past what is happening and sees the love of the parent."

Uncharted territory

McCall said there are no grounds to terminate Lynn's parental rights because they can't prove abandonment or emotional abuse because she's maintained a relationship with her son.

Although there is little case law on transgender custody battles in Texas, McCall said the Texas Family Code is clear in its protection of parental rights in a safe environment.

"There's not any case law in Texas on transgender custody," he said. "The family law protects parents, and you're looking at a parent. ... This case is like any other. We have two parents fighting over a child who love this child."

McCall said Lynn's situation is similar to someone who's had an amputation and appears vastly different afterward.

He said time and sensitivity are needed before telling the person's children, but the person is still the same parent the children knew before the change.

"Jessica is no different than anyone who's had dramatic changes to their body," he said. "They're still the same person."

Angela Oaks, a Houston family law attorney, has only handled one transgender custody case, which involved a divorce. She said the father was transitioning and the mother was fighting to prevent him from having custody. But the children, ages 6, 10 and 14, all knew about his transition



John McCall Jr.

and the judge ultimately sided with the father.

Oaks said Lynn's case is an enforcement issue because she was granted primary custody in a former custody battle and being trans doesn't mean her parenting has changed.

"Somebody, whether it was a judge or a jury, looked at these two parents and decided that dad, male at the time, was the best parent," she said. "That didn't have anything to do with the sex at the time. That had to do with his parenting ability. And now that dad is a woman, her parenting ability hasn't changed."

Oaks handles a lot of same-sex parent cases where one parent isn't biologically related to the child and has to prove their standing. But she said Lynn will always be her son's father.

"Dad is always going to be dad, no matter whether dad is male or female," she said.

But while there are several cases for same-sex custody battles, "there's just nothing out there for transgender," Oaks said.

"I don't know if transgender parents are just now deciding that society is ready to take on these cases," she said. "And before they just said, 'OK, if I transition now, I have to lose my children.' So either they did that or they didn't transition."

Visitation on hold

Lynn will continue to have unlimited phone access to her son until the case is determined, and she's offered to pay for a counselor to help tell her son about her new identity.

McCall said the next step is unclear because Lynn will have to be evaluated by a clinical psychologist to determine whether she's mentally stable to have access to her son. He said the earliest they would reappear in court would likely be January because of the holidays and the court process.

But he said it may come down to needing an attorney or therapist to represent the son to determine if he is mature enough or ready to learn about his father. And eventually, the lawyers will work out a plan for visitation.

"At some point the kid is going to learn about his dad," McCall said.

Oaks said Lynn's defense should focus on the child instead of her being trans. She said telling the child with counseling is better than completely removing a parent from her son's life.

"Take the transgender issue out of the spotlight and focus it back on the best interest of the child and how the child needs two parents," Oaks said. "Male or female, that child is going to lose out if they don't know their parent."

Lynn said she doesn't want to rush telling her son, adding that she thinks he's old enough and she feels confident now that her transition is complete to see him.

"I love him to death and I miss him," Lynn said. "It's time to tell him." ■

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2 new TX congressmen back ENDA, DOMA repeal

3 other incoming Democrats from the Lone Star State fail to respond to questions about co-sponsoring key pieces of pro-LGBT legislation

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Two newly elected members of the Texas Democratic congressional delegation pledged this week to co-sponsor two key pieces of pro-LGBT legislation — the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Respect for Marriage Act.

But it remained unclear whether the other three new Democratic members of Congress from Texas would co-sponsor ENDA, which would ban anti-LGBT job discrimination, and the RFMA, which would repeal the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act.

Come January, Texas will have a total of five new Democrats in Congress — two who'll represent newly drawn districts, two who'll replace fellow Democrats and one who defeated a Republican in the state's only swing district. The five will give Texas a total of 12 Democrats in Congress, along with 24 Republican representatives and two Republican senators.

"I would proudly sponsor ENDA," said U.S. Rep.-elect Marc Veasey, a Democrat who'll represent the newly drawn District 33 in Dallas and Tarrant counties.

Asked about DOMA repeal, Veasey added: "Oh, God yes, I'd be all for sponsoring that."

The campaign offices of all five newly elected Texas Democrats were contacted for this story.

However, only Veasey and Matt Sutton, campaign spokesman for Rep.-elect Beto O'Rourke of El Paso, had responded by press time to the newspaper's questions about co-sponsoring ENDA and the Respect for Marriage Act.

Sutton said he was unable to arrange an interview with O'Rourke right away because he was in Washington for orientation.

"I can, however, tell you, he has been a staunch supporter of equality, and would support ENDA and the Respect for Marriage Act," Sutton said.

O'Rourke, a former El Paso city councilman, ousted incumbent Rep. Silvestre Reyes in the Democratic Primary.

O'Rourke featured a video on LGBT rights on his campaign website and was a strong supporter — and later a defender — of the council's decision to offer domestic partner benefits.

"They have no more choice to be gay than I have in having brown hair or a funny nose," O'Rourke once told anti-gay protesters at a City Council meeting, according to media reports.

Human Rights Campaign spokesman Michael Cole-Schwartz said ENDA and Respect for Marriage are the two main bills his organization would address with members of Congress in the next session.



NEW CONGRESSIONAL ALLY | U.S. Rep.-elect Beto O'Rourke, D-El Paso, was a strong supporter of offering domestic partner benefits when he served on the El Paso City Council. A spokesman for O'Rourke's campaign confirmed this week that he plans to co-sponsor the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Respect for Marriage Act. (Courtesy of Beto O'Rourke campaign)

Cole-Schwartz called it critically important to build support through adding sponsors even if legislation isn't expected to pass in the Republican-controlled House.

"Passing big pieces of legislation takes a long time," he said. "The first step in reaching the end goal is getting sponsors."

The other newly elected Texas Democrats in Congress are Joaquín Castro, Pete Gallego and Filemon Vela.

LGBT advocates in San Antonio said they're hopeful about Castro and Gallego, who'll both represent portions of the Alamo City.

Castro, the brother of San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, has served in the Texas Legislature since 2003. The brothers came into the national spotlight at the Democratic National Convention in September.

The mayor is known among the city's LGBT community as the first in San Antonio to march in a Pride parade and for leading the fight on City Council for domestic partner benefits.

However, his brother hasn't shared the same popularity among the LGBT community.

Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio President Elena Guajardo said, "There's been some concern

about him," adding that her group chose to endorse him anyway.

Dan Graney, the former president of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus who lives in San Antonio, said, "He seems timid on the record supporting marriage equality."

At issue are two particular votes while he served in the Legislature.

In his freshman year in the House in 2003, Castro was absent from a vote on a bill that barred Texas from recognizing any same-sex relationship from another state. He didn't say how he would have voted.

In 2005, he voted "present, not voting" on the resolution that put Texas' constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage on the ballot.

During the recent election cycle, he told the LGBT news website QSanAntonio he would change both to "no" votes if he could go back in time.

Guajardo said Castro told her group he was in a swing district during his first term and was afraid of his constituents' reaction.

Graney said Castro told Stonewall that while in the Texas House, he was busy with his law practice, as well as his brother's mayoral campaign.

But as a U.S. congressman, he would stand squarely on the side of equality.

Guajardo compared Castro to Rep. Lloyd Doggett, whose new district boundaries include portions of San Antonio for the first time.

"Lloyd Doggett came into town and didn't take us for granted," she said.

She said he called her and invited her to breakfast to discuss her group supporting his campaign and arranged to visit the San Antonio AIDS Foundation.

She said Doggett showed a genuine interest in representing his new constituents.

Castro was originally going to challenge Doggett for the seat, but when Rep. Charlie Gonzalez decided to retire in a neighboring district, he moved to that race.

But Guajardo said Castro pledged to be an ally and thinks his record in Congress will match his brother's in the city.

"He said he'll be our friend," Guajardo said. "We'll hold him to his word."

Gallego's district, larger than many states, runs 550 miles from West San Antonio to eastern El Paso County. He won without Stonewall's en-

■ CONGRESS, Page 14

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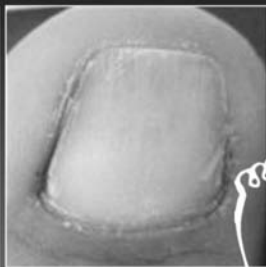
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QUESTION MARKS | Congressman-elect Marc Veasey, bottom left, says he'll co-sponsor both ENDA and the Respect for Marriage Act, but three other incoming Democrats from Texas — Joaquin Castro, clockwise from top left, Pete Gallego and Filemon Vela — did not respond to questions about the two bills.

■ **CONGRESS**, From Page 12

dorsement but Graney said he expects him to generally be an ally.

"Even though his campaign manager indicated he wanted our support, Pete failed to respond," Graney said.

Gallego never returned a Stonewall questionnaire and without one, the group will not endorse. Another candidate got the endorsement in the primary and no recommendation was made for the general election, in which he defeated Republican incumbent Francisco "Quico" Canseco.

"Hopefully, we'll develop a relationship," Graney said.

Gallego voted against Texas' 2005 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, but placed a note in the House Journal saying that his vote against the marriage amendment was because it also outlawed civil unions.

"I fully agree that the institution of marriage should be limited to one man and one woman," Gallego wrote. "I supported the Defense of Marriage Act, which is current Texas law. If that were the issue before us today, I would vote the same way again. However, in its continuing zeal to protect the institution of marriage, the legislature now infringes on the contractual rights of both men and women. For example, common-law marriages between men and women are in essence civil unions — but the Chisum Amendment bans

civil unions between men and women — and not solely between individuals of the same sex. This is an unnecessary and improper governmental intrusion into the rights of individuals."

Vela's Brownsville office said they would pass along emailed questions about his support of LGBT issues but he did not respond before deadline.

He is married to Rose Vela, a Republican judge on the 13th Court of Appeals. His mother served as mayor of Brownsville and his father was a federal judge appointed by President Jimmy Carter. A cousin has worked in the Clinton and Obama administrations.

Despite his family's ties to the Democratic Party, he was accused of being a Republican because of his wife's affiliation. This is Vela's first election and he is not on record on LGBT issues.

Seven of the nine current Texas Democrats in Congress are co-sponsors of ENDA — Doggett, Gonzalez, Al Green, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Sheila Jackson Lee, Ruben Hinojosa and Reyes.

No Texas Republicans are sponsors. In the last session, the bill had 171 co-sponsors.

Five of the nine current Texas Democrats in Congress are co-sponsors of the Respect for Marriage Act — Doggett, Green, Lee, Johnson and Reyes.

The Respect for Marriage has 157 co-sponsors nationally. No Republicans from Texas are co-sponsors. ■

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SOBERING ASSESSMENT | Pioneering Dallas lesbian activist Louise Young, right, who married her partner of 41 years Vivienne Armstrong in California in 2008, said it's difficult to envision Texas approving marriage equality by a popular vote. 'I can't even perceive the time when it possibly could, if ever,' she said.

■ **MARRIAGE**, From Page 6

lature and uncooperative governor.

"There is some momentum in the cities that tell us that Texas may be able to get rid of all or part of the constitutional amendment sometime in the future, so I wouldn't rule it out," he said. "I don't think we're there for quite a while."

With public opinion changing, Upton said Texas could add civil unions, like other states that aren't yet ready for full marriage equality have done, after repealing or changing part of its amendment, which prohibits the state from recognizing anything "similar" to marriage.

"It's certainly possible that you could see the demographics change in Texas and that's over the next four to eight years where you might be able to get rid of the constitutional amendment," Upton said. "At least that would open up the playing field for a Legislature in the future to do something, even if maybe it's only civil unions or some limited domestic partnerships, which would give some benefits."

Pioneering Dallas lesbian activist Louise Young married her partner of 41 years in California in 2008 — before Prop 8 passed. She said she was pleased with the recent marriage wins that marked a "very important turning point in the movement," but added that she thinks the Supreme Court will ultimately decide whether Texas should have marriage equality.

"If left up to the voters, I don't think that marriage equality would ever come to Texas. Ever," Young said. "I can't even perceive the time when it possibly could, if ever."

Michael Diviesti, GetEQUAL Texas state co-ordinator, is slightly more optimistic. He said marriage equality could come to Texas in five years if Section 3 of DOMA is struck down. He said once married same-sex Texas couples have federal rights, it will be a short time before they challenge

“*It is going to happen. It may be that Texas is one of the last holdouts along with Mississippi and Alabama and it'll only happen because the Supreme Court finally addresses it.*”

Ken Upton
Senior staff attorney, Lambda Legal

state law for more rights.

"I think removing DOMA at the federal level could catapult and fill the courts with LGBT Texans fighting to get rights," he said. "We're going to keep pushing our government just in case."

Upton said the recent marriage victories help Texas indirectly because they demonstrate how equality boosts revenue and business, with a combined \$166 million in revenue expected from marriages in Maine, Maryland and Washington.

"The fact that we're seeing good results is helpful just because it kind of creates national momentum," he said. "It only helps Texas right now indirectly. It creates more pressure to compete."

Upton said over time people may leave Texas to move where their relationships are valued and legally binding. At least until the Supreme Court makes all states recognize them just as it did with interracial marriage and sodomy laws.

"It is going to happen. It may be that Texas is one of the last holdouts along with Mississippi and Alabama and it'll only happen because the Supreme Court finally addresses it," Upton said. "Eventually enough states will have protections for gay people that the Supreme Court will say there's no good reason for treating them differently so we're going to strike down the rest of them." ■

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viewpoints

Petraeus probe harkens to DADT

After most progressive election ever, U.S. reverts to sexual Victorianism with a sex scandal reminiscent of witchhunts against gay soliders

The chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, is in a huff because she was kept in the dark about CIA Director David Petraeus' affair with Paula Broadwell, a former military officer and his biographer.

"... A decision was made somewhere not to brief us, which is atypical," the California Democrat told NBC's Andrea Mitchell. "This is certainly an operationally sensitive matter. But we weren't briefed. I don't know who made that decision."

Feinstein has loudly and repeatedly vowed to investigate.

We will all soon learn whether this incident is a witchhunt of a warrior who served his country heroically, or the downfall of a careless man who allowed loose lips and sexy hips to sink ships.

No matter the outcome, Washington's vultures of voyeurism will lead a surge of piety that easily surpasses the firepower used in Petraeus' military surge.

We've been here before, when political piranhas swarmed Capitol Hill to devour President Bill Clinton. His indiscretion with Monica Lewinsky was blown out of proportion until it became a national obsession that drove the Washington establishment to temporary insanity. Normalcy was only restored to the beltway through the lev-

ity of Hustler magazine's Larry Flynt, who exposed moralizing hypocrites, and the levelheadedness of the American public who stood by Clinton at the gallows.

In my view, the FBI initially showed sound judgment in not rushing to judgment on the CIA director. Unless the FBI could prove that national security was being compromised, there was no compelling interest for Feinstein and others to know that Petraeus was schtupping his biographer.

Instead of worrying about real issues, like the fiscal cliff, the sluggish economy, stalled peace in the Middle East, the deterioration of Russian civilization, Uganda's "kill the gays" bill, Iran's nuclear ambitions, the European economy, income inequality, and a shrinking middle class, busybodies on Capitol Hill will spend precious time and resources investigating why they didn't have a sneak preview of Petraeus' sex life. (And Congress wonders why it has a single-digit approval rating.)

The most offensive part of this scandal is that an FBI source first informed House Majority Leader Eric Cantor on Oct. 27. While Petraeus was off fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, Cantor was undermining America by consistently placing party ahead of country. Instead of playing the dutiful role of loyal opposition, Cantor habitually engaged in disloyal obstructionism, holding the nation's business hostage with his co-conspirator Sen. Mitch McConnell, who spent the last four years working to unsuccessfully deny Obama a second term.

If Petraeus had been divulging state secrets in a brothel staffed by Iranian spies, he would still

be doing significantly less damage to American interests than Cantor and McConnell do on any normal day on Capitol Hill. At least Petraeus was getting the peoples' business done, which is more that we can say about Cantor and McConnell.

When I turn on the television, it is wall-to-wall coverage of holier-than-thou reporters and pundits raising hackles and howls about Petraeus' unseemly behavior. The breathless bloviators appear absolutely astonished that a powerful public official had sex outside of marriage.

Does it not seem rather incongruous, and a bit jarring, that only a week after the most progressive election in memory, we are descending into sexual Victorianism? As if America moved too far, too fast, with legalizing pot and gay marriage in some states, while expunging various cave-man from Congress, so we needed a human sacrifice to show that we have an old fashioned bone left in our body politic.

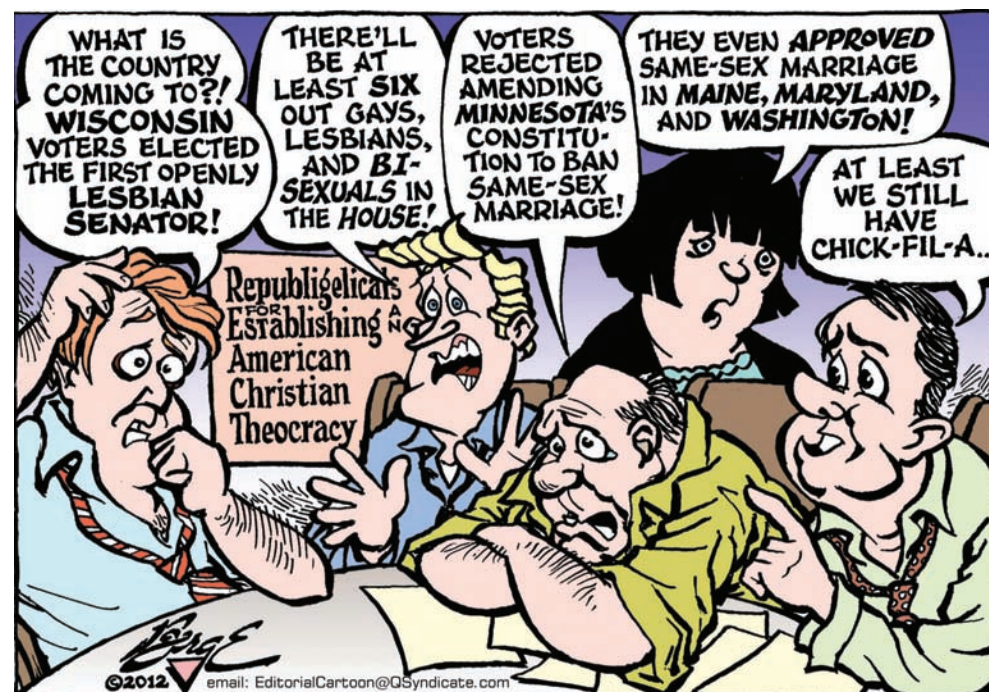
As a gay person, I'm admittedly sensitive to overarching government investigations into peoples' sex lives. Just a couple of years ago, good service members were humiliated and drummed out of the military because of their sexual orientation. In the name of national security, nosy investigators routinely revealed unnecessary details and divulged specific sex acts in an ignoble effort to destroy good people. Such personal disclosures are violations of privacy and should be exceedingly rare — done only when absolutely necessary.

I'm not condoning Petraeus' actions, but I am urging caution. We need legitimate factual examination, not faux titillation. We need prudence, not Ken Starr-like prurience. Sen. Feinstein, and the rest of us, only needs to know whether the former CIA director jeopardized national security. That is all we are owed — and the messy details should be left to Petraeus and his wife to sort out.

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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Calendar guys

Dallas' gay communities, from hairy to the big-haired, raise money for charity with calendars

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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When you talk about a gift that keeps on giving — throughout the year — nothing fits the bill better than a wall calendar: 12 months (sometimes more!) of art that's actually useful, too. Savvy shoppers can choose the perfect fit for folks on their list: Kittens or sports teams or mountain ranges or cartoons.

But for gay Dallas, there are even more choices — very queer and very local.

That's how Giovanni A. Ramirez and Tom Rubeck settled on the theme for their calendar. A few years ago, as Ramirez was leaving high school and exploring his sexuality, he was

searching for a community to belong to.

"I was looking for a spot to be in," he says. "That's when I discovered the Dallas Eagle. It was a little intimidating and I felt a little out of my element because I was much younger than most of these grown men. But they said, 'You look a little nervous,'" and made him feel at home.

Still, Ramirez initially eschewed being labeled a bear himself.

"Me being [in my early 20s], I was in no rush to be classified as something. [I thought], to fit into the bear category, you have to have these features. But being a bear had nothing to do with size. One thing about the bear community: It doesn't matter your shape, size, color or background; they will welcome you. Not everyone was fit and not everyone was hairy, though a majority had facial hair. But it was a sense of community [I enjoyed]. It doesn't phase me one bit to be called a cub now," he says.

In fact, he embraced it so much that when Rubeck approached him about modeling, Ramirez got an idea: Turn one vanity photo shoot into something bigger, and give the proceeds to charity.

"I thought it would be really fun, to be doing something different not just with myself but with my friends," Ramirez says. The result is *Boyish to Bearish*, which launched in September.

Rubeck, a hobbyist photographer and videographer for 20-plus years, saw Ramirez on a social media website and asked him to pose. "He said, 'I've always wanted to do a calendar with my friends.' I said, 'Cool — let's do it for charity.'"

From February to April of this year, they shot a series of sessions with friends of Ramirez's and others tracked down via Facebook. The original idea was to have 12 to 16 models, each with a birthday in their month. "But of the original models, seven all had birthdays in July!" Ramirez says. Instead, the calendar advanced from cubbiest to most ursine.

"We played with the name — originally the title was *Bearishly Dallas*. We obviously didn't want to get the bear community incor-



BEAR WITH THEM | Photographer Tom Rubeck, above center, teamed with Giovanni Ramirez, above left, and model Alex Sosa, above right, to put together 'Boyish to Bearish,' a calendar benefiting Home for the Holidays featuring Dallas-area men who have embraced their ursine identities (inset left); meanwhile, DIVA has just launched its first-ever Miss DIVA calendar, inset right, to help raise money for the Dallas food pantry. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

rect," Ramirez says. The current title reflects the scope of sexy, bearish men — from thin young otters to grey wolves. Just doing the calendar exposed them to interesting subsets of the gay world.

"There was some terminology I have never heard before, like she-hulks [hyper-masculine men who sound very feminine when they talk] to gingers [redheads]," he says.

If the sales are good enough, Ramirez and Rubeck might make the calendar a regular thing, especially if they can donate a sizeable bit to Home for the Holidays Texas, a charity that provides funds to those living with AIDS to visit their families during the holidays.

"It's basically a way to give back to the Dallas community," Ramirez says.

For the folks at DIVA — the Dallas Independent Volleyball Association — a calendar sounded like a good idea, too ... only they didn't want bears. They wanted babes.

Well, sort of.

DIVA has just released its first-ever calendar, the 2013 Miss DIVA Charity calendar, which contains drag divas from the sports organization's history of fundraising.

"For about 10 years now, the Miss DIVA Pageant has donated



the proceeds [from its drag fundraiser] to the AIDS food pantry," says Bud Polston, public relations officer for the group. "This year's Miss DIVA, Sophie Pilla, is having a calendar developed with the help of several former Miss DIVAs and some guys who play in our league."

The group launched the calendar just last week, but it will be on sale for the rest of the year. Proceeds from sales will benefit the food pantry, an especially appropriate gift during the holidays. ■

Calendars are available at: Boyishtobearish.com (or email boyishtobearish@yahoo.com). Price: \$20 (plus \$5.30 to ship, and DivaDallas.org. Price: \$15.

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A LITTLE MONKEY BUSINESS

We love antiqueing. (Hey, we're gay — big surprise.) Part of the fun is discovering unique and kitsch collectibles, which you can do at the Antique Gallery of Mesquite. That's where we found this "monkey" lamp, adorned with hear/see/say-no-evil primates (\$29). How appropriate that Darwinian symbols also throw a little light on things.

Available at Antique Gallery of Mesquite, 3330 N. Galloway Road, Suite 225, Mesquite. 972-270-7700. AntiqueGalleryMesquite.com.

HOUSEWARE HUMOR

Potter and housewares designer Jonathan Adler proudly brings a gay sensibility to his work that results in something unusual: Sophisticated kitsch. (We know!) Where else could you find one-of-a-kind creations that are not only well made, but endlessly clever. Personally, we know few folks who wouldn't enjoy a brass corkscrew shaped like a handlebar moustache (\$98); or for a more feminine touch, the Georgia Cookie Jar, adorned with nipples (\$225). Hey, it's a reminder to drink milk with your cookies.

Jonathan Adler, 4525 McKinney Ave. 214-484-9726. JonathanAdler.com.



ART FOR ITS OWN SAKE

Some gifts look like works of art. At the Dallas Museum of Art's gift shop, they really are. Take the current exhibit of stellar French poster art from le belle époque — you don't need to leave it there, you can stop off in the DMA store and grab these fragrant candles, bedecked with images from the exhibit. Available in scents including leather, green tea, currant and cedar, art never smelled so sweet. (\$35)

Available at the Dallas Museum of Art Store, 1717 Harwood St. DM-Art.org.



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home and hearth

TONIGHT WE DINE!

There's eating — that's what you do out of a can over a sink in your underwear. Then there's *dining*, and that requires a formal setting. We like the Clarise Contemporary set from Homelegance in white. Modern and fresh, it's big enough to seat four comfortably but sized to fit any space, from a kitchen nook to dining room. We'll raise a glass to that! (Set for \$498)

Available at Venetian Furniture, 122 Leslie St. 972-241-6700.
VenetianFurniture.com.



LIVING ORNAMENTS

A terrarium Christmas tree ornament?! The irony gods are working overtime with this one, putting a tree on a tree. Well, not a tree maybe, but this clear bulb filled with mosses, pebbles and other greenery come in an array of colors and styles — each a one-of-a-kind creation. It's the gift that keeps on growing! (\$9.99 and up)

Available at North Haven Gardens, 7700 Northaven Road. 214-363-6715. NHG.com.



THIS PEN IS MIGHTY

Just as there is "meat," but there is also filet mignon, Lone Star Artisans don't just make "pens" — they make "writing implements." You need more heft to describe the Cambridge rollerball pen they handcraft in Plano. Carved from Amboyna burl and cast with titanium gold, each pen is a minor work of art, coated up to 10 times in a process that produces a fine gloss and makes writing a joy with each one-of-a-kind instrument. (\$275)

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Pictured below:
The cast of *A Christmas Carol* 2010. Photo © Linda Blase.
Brian McEleney as King Lear. Photo by Mark T. Turek.

Holiday Gift Tix Starting at **\$45!**



Share the excitement of live theater this holiday season!

Weekday Gift Tix are available for \$45 and weekend Gift Tix for \$55. Each Holiday Gift Tix purchased can be redeemed for one ticket to any DTC show this season. And Holiday Gift Tix are redeemed for the best available seats, so you could end up with the best seat in the house! Holiday Gift Tix can be purchased and redeemed by calling the AT&T Performing Arts Center Box Office at **(214) 880-0202**.

Dallas Theater Center's Holiday Gift Tix are the best (and most flexible) gift for the busy theater-goer in your life. Buy a bunch, buy a couple—either way, we'll see you at the theater!

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A SOCIAL LUBRICANT

Karen Shapiro is a ceramic artist who, like Warhol before, turns everyday objects into artist impressions. Only she's not working with soup, but sex. Using a low-heat raku kiln, Shapiro hand-crafts vintage packages of things like KY Jelly and Trojans condoms into oversized (as big as two feet across!) novelties that pay homage to classic packaging. (\$900–\$950)

Available at Iota, 3107 Knox St. 214-522-2999.

ORNAMENTAL, MY DEAR WATSON

Houston artist Blakely Bering uses metallic paints on resin to create her artwork, including her series Cross, featuring a range of representations of the crucifix. A sacred and inventive evocation of the season, several sizes are available in a diversity of styles. (\$185–\$285)

Available at Jones Walker Home, 1531 Dragon St. 469-916-5500. JonesWalkerHome.com.



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Some people want a bed that makes them feel cozy; others prefer a — shall we say? — more useful place to lay down. The bondage bed from Steel Life Designs is the perfect gift for the BDSM devotee in your life. Engineered for all kinds of play, these beds are meant for heavy-duty action, and can be customized to suit your particular erotic needs.

Available from full to California king. (\$1,100–\$3,500)

Available at Steel Life Designs, Dallas World Trade Center on Stemmons Freeway, Suite 14395. 469-235-4664. XXXtremebeds.com.



LOUNGE LIKE DON DRAPER

We love the retro chic from the 1960s ushered in by shows like *Mad Men*, and nothing recalls the mid-century look so well as the Dean Chair from Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams. Inspired by vintage racers, its stainless steel frame hugs a variety of colors. Start your engines ... and grab a martini. (\$1,495)

Available at Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams, 4519 McKinney Ave. 214-753-8700.





body and soul



REDEFINING THE SIX-PACK

All gay men enjoy a six-pack ... and not just their abs. (Though those especially.) But at Two Corks and a Bottle, you don't grab a brewski, but a sixer of wines. Put together the perfect selection from an array of fruit wines (peach, orange, etc.), and you get a special carrying case and 25 percent off — that's just \$45 for six bottles. And no one says you *have* to give them all away. Hey, you deserve a sip for yourself for coming up with the idea. Cheers!

Available at Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. 214-871-9463. TwoCorksandaBottle.com.



SMOKIN!

Ever since Dallas banned smoking in many places, cigarette smokers know how us cigar smokers have always felt — isolated. Few businesses even allowed cigars to burn in their establishments. And they are *insane*. Cigar smoke is soothing and lovely, and a Cohiba is not a nicotine delivery device so much as a gentle friend. Cigar smoking is an art form, meant for the connoisseur in your life, and Blue Smoke can hook you up with some nice La Aurora from the Dominican Republic (\$17.99 each, or \$143/box). Hey, smoke 'em if ya got 'em! (And this is where to get 'em.)

Available at Blue Smoke of Dallas
4560 W. Mockingbird Lane, suite 102.
469-358-2706.
BlueSmokeofDallas.com.

OFF THE CUFF

Women wear bracelets; men wear cuffs. At least, that's what we tell Mom every Thanksgiving. And the unique styles of cuffs designed and made by local artist Matt Preston make them something more. Handmade from leather and brass, each is a one-of-a-kind creation that adds a personal touch and sense of fashion to a bare wrist. Or a bear wrist — hey, they are leather. (\$38–\$65)

Available at Dolly Python,
1916 N. Haskell St. 214-887-3434.
DollyPythonVintage.com.



WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

A lady needs her beauty sleep, and nothing facilitates that better than a Dreamstate sleep mask. Comfortable but snug, it blocks out light so you can rest soundly and get your full eight hours ... all while looking like a movie star. (\$20)

Available at
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2928 N. Henderson St.
214-370-8010.





BEARS GONE WILD

Ah, nature! Walking through the habitats of species and observing their behavior including mating rituals. Who doesn't need a good field guide for that? And that's what *Guide for the Modern Bear* does ... only it's referring to gay bears. Learn to identify the difference between a tiki bear and a club bear! Understand the appeal of the elusive ginger bear! And how did otters get into a bear guide? It's all here. (\$19.99)

Available at Amazon.com.

SPRINKLE A LITTLE JOY

No one doesn't like Sprinkles cupcakes — or at least, we don't wanna be friends with anyone who doesn't. And you can enjoy those tasty treats with holiday spirit with the Joy Box, an assortment of one dozen frosted delights — three each of chocolate peppermint, vanilla peppermint, cocoanut and red velvet. (\$39)

Available at [Sprinkles](http://Sprinkles.com)
4020 Villanova Drive.
214-369-0004. Sprinkles.com.



HOT PURSE-UIT

Whether you're shopping for a real lady or a drag queen, no girl could resist an opera bag from the Santuzza Ginkgo collection. Made by hand in the U.S., these stainless steel and mesh purses are available in a variety of styles, from big pocketbook to elegant clutch. And you can always slip a little something extra inside ... we're not sayin' what, we're jus' sayin'. (\$185-\$350)

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214-522-6886. NuvoDallas.com.



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4001 Cedar Springs Road.
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SkivviesMensUnderwear.com.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

Not all your appeal can be contained on a Grindr profile — a little in-person contact will always seal the deal. And there's no better way to give yourself an advantage than



with Max 4 Men Body Rituals, a personal care line infused with pheromones. With an assortment of erotic accoutrements, from cologne to shaving cream to "arousal" gels, you'll turn an encounter into something for the history books. (Products range from \$7.99 to \$15.99)

Available at Alternatives of New Fine Arts,
1720 W. Mockingbird Lane.
214-638-0765.



GIVE THE GIFT OF BROADWAY!

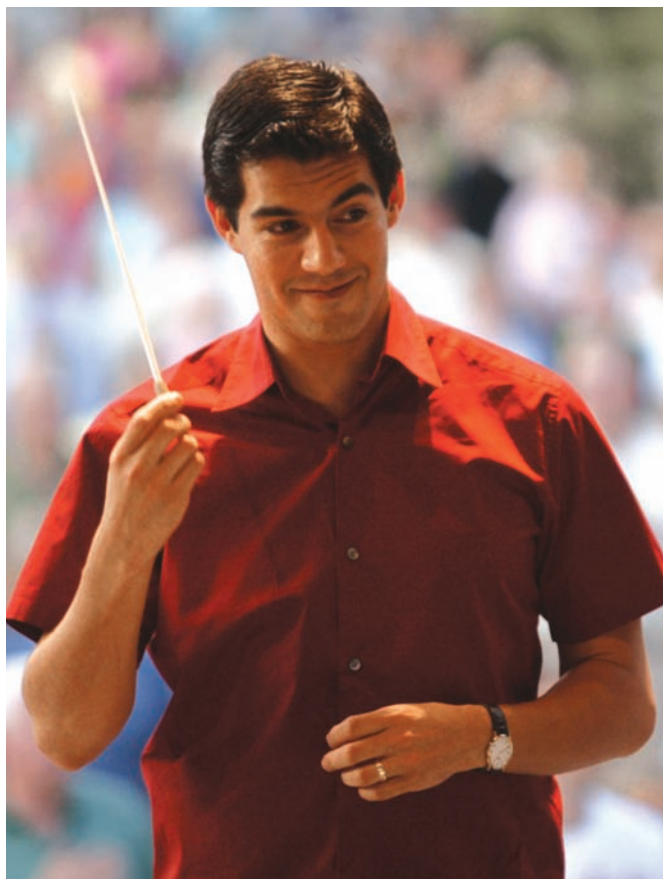
Dallas Summer Musicals' upcoming season is just about the gayest they've ever mounted — and that's saying something. With *Mary Poppins*, *Wicked*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *Sister Act* among the entries, getting the theater queen in your life season tickets would literally be a way to stretch your gift from now until the State Fair next October. With tickets to all seven shows as low as \$125, you could even get yourself a pair and make it a regular date night.

DallasSummerMusicals.org.

I HEAR A SYMPHONY

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its remarkable centennial season, and what better way than offering a 10 percent discount on three upcoming concerts? In addition to the New Year's Eve concert, you can join gay faves Bernadette Peters (Jan. 5) and be a friend of Dorothy with *The Wizard of Oz* (Jan. 25–27), performed with full orchestra at the lovely Bass Hall.

Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra at Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 817-665-6000. FWSymphony.org.



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Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec and His Contemporaries is organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum. Air transportation in Dallas is provided by American Airlines. The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors, the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Image (detail): Leonetto Cappiello, Maurin Quina, 1908, color lithograph, Milwaukee Art Museum, Purchase, Peer Birch Memorial Fund, M2008.88, © Artists Rights Society (ARS) / ProLitteris, Zürich, Photo by John R. Glembin, Milwaukee Art Museum

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No Christmas would be complete without a performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and Texas Ballet Theater never disappoints. Not only can you get tickets to see a performance at Fort Worth's Bass Hall or Dallas' Winspear and Wyly, but a subscription for the remaining shows includes the spring presentation of *Lambarena & Volontaires* as well as the TBT Festival. (Packages start at \$33)

The Nutcracker
Winspear Opera House (Nov. 23-Dec. 2)
and Bass Performance Hall (Dec. 7-23)
TexasBalletTheater.org.

TICKET TO RIDE

The only thing better than theater tickets for that drama queen in your life is tickets they can pick themselves. The Gift Tix from Dallas Theater Center are the most flexible way to give the gift of theater: For \$45 weekdays (\$55 weekends), you can give your giftee the flexibility to trade in the coupon for best-available tickets to any show of the season, from *A Christmas Carol* (starting next week) to *King Lear* and more.

Available at DallasTheaterCenter.org or 214-880-0202.



IT'S A WONDERFUL GIFT

It's a Wonderful Life is as much a holiday tradition as eggnog and coming out to your cousin after one too many hot buttered rums. But you don't need to watch the old Jimmy Stewart movie for a gazillionth time — you can see WaterTower Theatre stage the radio play version as its Christmas show. Running Nov. 24 through Dec. 16, five actors play all the familiar roles in this heartwarmer about the spirit of the season. Tickets start at \$30.

WaterTower Theatre,
15650 Addison Road, Addison.
WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**HAVIN' SOME FUN IN THE BACK SEAT**

If you've got kids in the back seat, you'll wanna take a tablet ... not of aspirin, but an iPad. And with an AudioX Rear Seat Entertainment mount from Alta Mere, it's like having a built-in DVD player. And hey, let's face it — it's not just for kids. Guys love gadgets, and this sturdy, secure but flexible car accessory is pretty sweet. (\$159)

Available at Alta Mere, 4302 Lemmon Ave. 214-521-7477.
AltaMereDallas.com.

**ALL THAT JAZZ**

For the smooth music lover on your list, the holidays give you the perfect opportunity to enjoy two gay-fave musicians. First, out sax player Dave Koz brings his take on the holiday spirit to Bass Performance Hall with his Christmas extravaganza on Dec. 12. Then on New Year's Eve, pianist Jim Brickman rings in the new year with a concert at the Winspear Opera House, sure to make sure your 2013 gets started right.

Dave Koz, Dec. 12.
Available at BassHall.com.

Jim Brickman, Dec. 31.
Available at ATPAC.org.

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As every gay person knows, the best reason to have a four-fou dog is to have someone to play dress-up with and not seem creepy. We've gotten our dogs sweaters and collars and leashes and even perfume ... and now we have hair extensions. (Well, furr.) Pup Feathers are handmade extensions to turn your plain pooch into a fierce diva dog. Offering 25 designs with rhinestones, charms, American flags, even Christmas ornaments (how festive!), it's the perfect wardrobe accessory for Rex. Or Regina. (\$12-\$20)



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OK, so these aren't specifically directed at the smelly pets in your life, but let's face it: The cat's litter box (and Rover's constant place inside the house during winter) means you're probably dealing with, umm, bathroom odors. But Poo-Pourri provides an effective counter to that. Available in candles, oils and sprays in a variety of scents (including those right for the holidays), these odor-fighting products deliver on that adage what happens in the bathroom, stays in the bathroom. (\$5.95-\$19.50)

Available at Poopourri.com.



ONLINE GIFT IDEAS!

The gift ideas don't stop here! Check out the Instant Tea blog and the Life+Style section on DallasVoice.com. Every weekday for the rest of November, we'll post additional suggestions for gifts to give to that hard-to-shop for person in your life, from furnishings to food to something to spice up both your lives!

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L+S dining



Some- one's in the kitchen

Not sure what to do for
Thanksgiving dinner?
Queer in the Kitchen
has some fab recipes

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Like many good gayboys, Kyle Tatum and John Boerger grew up in their mothers' kitchens ... only they liked to cook more than their families did.

"I grew up in a big family and we'd make something cheap easy and would feed the seven of us," says Boerger. "I was a picky eater, so my mom said, 'If you want something other than what I'm making for dinner, there's the kitchen.'"

Since then, Boerger and Tatum (both hairdressers by day) have savored the personal pursuits of braising, baking and simmering; when they met several years ago, they bonded over their mutual love for TV chef Ina Garten.

Then about a year ago, they decided they wanted to share their love of food with the world, "so we decided to write a cookbook!" explains Tatum.

Bad idea.
Well, not bad, just expensive. What they *really* wanted to do was share their huge archives of recipes — some stolen from family members,

some culled over years of trial-and-error, and most personalized with a sassy gay twist — with others. And if a book was out of the question (at least for now), there was always the web.

And so QueerInTheKitchen.com was born.

Barely a month old, the website started as a lark — a way for Boerger and Tatum to let their friends and family in on the secrets of entertaining with food. But already, it has grown beyond what they imagined.

"Facebook has put us all over the map," Tatum says. "We are getting [viewers] popping up as far away as the Philippines!"

There's hardly a better time of year to start the site; with the holidays upon us, QueerInTheKitchen.com has spent the last few weeks planning comfort-food recipes of classics. And they have some advice for how you can have a Thanksgiving feast that's more fun than infuriating.

"About a month ago, we held our fake early Thanksgiving," Boerger explains, and have

TASTY! | Kyle Tatum, above, and John Boerger, opposite, just launched QueerInTheKitchen.com, a web-site dedicated to putting gay twists on familiar recipes. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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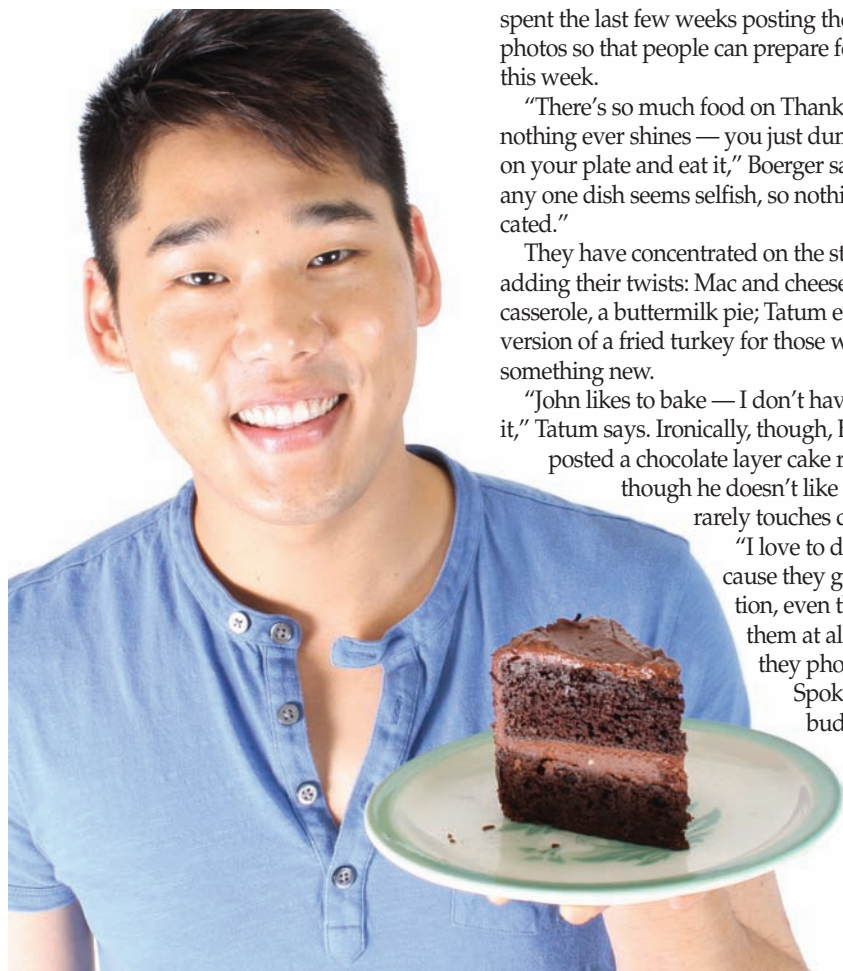
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spent the last few weeks posting those recipes and photos so that people can prepare for the onslaught this week.

"There's so much food on Thanksgiving that nothing ever shines — you just dump a lot of stuff on your plate and eat it," Boerger says. "To focus on any one dish seems selfish, so nothing is too complicated."

They have concentrated on the staples while adding their twists: Mac and cheese, green bean casserole, a buttermilk pie; Tatum even shares his version of a fried turkey for those who want to try something new.

"John likes to bake — I don't have the patience for it," Tatum says. Ironically, though, Boerger recently posted a chocolate layer cake recipe even though he doesn't like sweets and rarely touches dessert himself.

"I love to do desserts because they get the most attention, even though I don't eat them at all," he says. "And they photograph better."

Spoken like a true budding cookbook writer. ■

Visit QueerIntheKitchen.com or like them on Facebook for recipes and other cooking ideas.

Irish stewed

The history of stories between two women sharing a house under uneasy circumstances is a long one, from the sisters in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* to the mom-daughter duo of *'Night, Mother*. Add to it Martin McDonough's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, getting its latest treatment courtesy of Kitchen Dog Theater.



These tales never end — or start — well, as the estrogen levels tend to poison the atmosphere to the point where someone either suffocates or gasps for air in any way she can.

For the mother-daughter of *Beauty Queen*, it's Mag (Nancy Sherrard) and Maureen (Karen Parrish), holed up in a ramshackled cottage in rural Ireland. Mag is fat and lazy and snippy, and has used those qualities and a supreme selfishness to keep Maureen, who sees 40 in her rear-view, a spinster with a history of mental health problems. It's why Mag feels no compunction about tossing personal letters to Maureen into the fireplace and lying about them. Why should she have all the fun?

You know where it's headed — basically — long before it gets there. Maureen might as well be living in the Bates Motel.

The key, of course, to a dark comedy like this one is the recipe that balances humor and pathos and the explosions of violence that are McDonough's signature. In Kitchen Dog's version, however, the early scenes are marred by the actresses talking too fast in heavy brogues; like *Honey Boo*, you need subtitles to follow along, at least until the ear adjusts. It's hard to float on laughs when you're straining to hear the dialogue alone.

Then comes the betrayals by Mag which, if done right, feel like the height of cruelty; again, for those to work you need to feel like Mag has it comin'. But Sherrard has a patrician air about her that works against the character. Mag needs to be revolting and hateful, not a self-interested scamp with no super-ego. Until the very sight of her makes your skin crawl, you don't feel the full impact, despite naturalistic performances by the cast (including Drew Wall's patterned bouncing-from-the-ceiling unpredictability).

— Arnold Wayne Jones

The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through Dec. 8. KitchenDogTheater.org.

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L+S screen

Holiday film roundup

'Life of Pi' towers, 'Lincoln' sets us free and 'Anna' gets hung up on artifice



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

When it comes to movies, the period from just before Thanksgiving to Christmas Day is nearly as rampant with releases as the summer. The big difference? Films are concerned with generating acclaim as well as dollars, just in time for awards season.

That doesn't, of course, mean they *are* good, just that the studios have confidence that they might be *perceived* as such. Still, the slate is promising. Starting, of course, with **Lincoln**: Put Spielberg behind the lens of a Movie About Serious Issues, release it in December and you're baiting the Academy; stir in Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field and Tommy Lee Jones (five Oscars between them) and you might as well start writing the acceptance speeches.

And in part, that's what holds the film back. Set almost entirely during the furious five weeks before passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, when log-rolling usurped rail-splitting as Lincoln's primary skill. Desperate to get the slaves legally freed before the war formally ended, Lincoln set about sending his minions through Congress, promising political favors and simply guilting as many of them into voting for the amendment as possible to assure dignity for all mankind.

That's a noble cause under any circumstance, so why does Spielberg begin with an extraneous battleground scene as Lincoln (Day-Lewis), lit like his selfsame monument, sits Buddha-like as two black soldiers recount the simple elegance of his Gettysburg Address from memory. Why beatify Abe from the get-go, as if his legacy is not already known? It's the same flaw he made with last year's *War Horse*, where the Thoroughbred

Joey was shot as if he was born in a manger.

Mercifully, such forced reverence doesn't last too long; eventually the humanity of the 16th president manifests itself in his deeds. From there, screenwriter

Tony Kushner takes his most daring approach: Concentrating not on the life of Lincoln nor even the brutality of the Civil War, but the internecine inner workings of 19th century politics. There has rarely been a talkier film, but also one as defiantly confident in its audience's tolerance.

Not all of it works; a subplot about Robert Todd Lincoln (Joseph Gordon-Leavitt) goes nowhere, and the decision *not* to show Lincoln's assassination is a peculiar one. But Day-Lewis' toweringly evocative performance — rambling anecdotes told like parables in his thin tenor — puts you *right there*. Field (as Mary Todd Lin-

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
LINCOLN
 Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field,
 Tommy Lee Jones, James Spader.
 Rated PG-13. 145 mins.
 Now playing in wide release.

HOW WAS THE PLAY, DEAR? | Mary Todd Lincoln (Sally Field) consults the president (Daniel Day-Lewis) in Spielberg's evocative but talky biopic, 'Lincoln.'

coln), Jones (as an abolitionist congressman) and James Spader (injecting some modernism as a scalawag operative) do exceptional work, and cinematographer Janusz Kaminski's lighting of interiors is breathless to behold. With our own contentious election season just behind us, *Lincoln* reminds us how little things have changed ... and how poignant it can be when men stop serving their own selfishness and do something because it is right.

Whereas *Lincoln* begins by projecting its theme, **Life of Pi** does the opposite. For the first 30 minutes or so, director Ang Lee treats us to bucolic scenes of flora and fauna in exotic India, intercut with a prosaic kitchen conversation in Toronto between an aspiring writer (Rafe Spall) and the adult Pi (Irrfan Khan), who recounts an amazing journey he experiences as a teenager. It looks as if we might be subjected to *We Bought a Zoo 2*, or worse, *Best Exotic Marigold Hotel: The Sequel*.

Tsk-tsk, that's just Lee lulling us into a false sense of comfort. How grounded we feel on terra firma, which contrasts to being adrift — literally — when Pi (Suraj Sharma as a young man) is the sole human survivor of a shipwreck, forced to float in a vast glass of calm ocean waters, sharing his lifeboat with the only other ship's passengers: a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena ... and a ferocious Bengal tiger.

What follows is nothing like what preceded it: As soon as the typhoon engulfs the steamer, in a sequence that makes the entirety of *The Perfect Storm* look like a child's bathtub splashing, Lee never relents, generating both beauty and tension for longer than any craftsman filmmaker has a right to. Almost 90 minutes we endure the endless horrors and mystical transformation that Pi experiences in photography as ethereal and jaw-dropping as anything ever put on screen. *Life of*

★★★★★

LIFE OF PI
 Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan.
 Rated PG. 125 mins.
 Opens Wednesday in wide release.

Pi is equal parts wonder and wondrous, as magical and spiritual as a walkabout, but far more gorgeous. Sharma, a first-time actor, delivers a pitch-perfect performance, most of which is a *pas-de-deux* with a CGI jungle cat (itself so stunningly rendered as to make you question whether it could possibly be real). He's both our guide and our surrogate, and we feel every wave with him.

Life of Pi is the best kind of film: One that combines many elements expertly, but where the total exceeds the sum of its parts. As

an allegory about self-awareness, as an adventure yarn *a la Treasure Island*, as a travelogue and as a special-effect-laden blockbuster, it is gangbusters; but as the year's most fully realized vision of the bounds of cinema, there are few words for it. *Life of Pi* towers above all other films this year. It's one not to miss.

Keira Knightley, the beaver-toothed star of the latest version of *Anna Karenina*, is an actress I could watch for days. She's rapturous and, last year's unnervingly awful *A Dangerous Method* aside,

■ **ROUNDUP**, Page 40



STILL LIFE ON WATER | A young man adrift at sea (Suraj Sharma) forges an unlikely truce with a ferocious Bengal tiger in Ang Lee's 'Life of Pi,' the year's best film.



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L+S screen

■ ROUNDUP, From Page 39

a capable actress, at least when laced up in bodices: *Pride & Prejudice*, *Atonement*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*. (Seeking a Friend for the End of the World? No thanks.) She has conviction and she seems determined enough to convince you, as an actress, that you're not wasting your time with her.

But that's more or less how I felt by the time *Anna Karenina* was over. Director Joe Wright and scenarist Tom Stoppard have constructed the entire film around a conceit: That the societal conventions of 19th century Russian aristocracy (and, by extrapolation, our own) are as artificial and contrived as a melodrama performed on a stage. Indeed, what is society except a stage upon which the audience and actors are one and the same? Embassy ball or *Perils of Pauline* — it's also just entertainment ... though one has real-world consequences.

Anna is one of literature's most enduring tragic figures, a woman whose defiance of social norms eventually leads to her own undoing. "She did worse than break the law," snipes one matron, "she broke the rules." That's a thought-provoking and smart distillation of the story's themes, which are not dissimilar to those of a novel a century older, Choderlos de Laclos's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, although the villainous Mme. de Merteuil is seen as less sympathetic than poor Anna (though just why, I'm not so certain). The story is meaningful and the book a classic.

But Wright and Stoppard have mucked it up somewhat with their artifice. The film starts on a stage with false-front sets and obvious scene changes, much like a filmed play; that tech-



WAITING FOR HER TRAIN TO COME IN | Beaver-toothed Keira Knightley tries in vain to make 'Anna Karenina' exciting.

nique is never fully abandoned, however, and it's never clear why, especially once its point becomes repetitive — and more confusingly, after numerous detours into realism. Were they just trying to save money on location filming? Ultimately, it matters little.

Aside from the woozy loveliness of Knightley and Aaron Taylor-Johnson (as Vronsky), the comedic bravado of Angus McFadyen as Oblonsky and the kind of costumes for which Oscars were invented, it's a dull, sleepy-eyed affair that grows tiresome quickly. By the end, if Anna hadn't jumped under the train, I was ready to push her.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ANNA KARENINA
Keira Knightley, Jude Law, Aaron Taylor-Johnson. Rated R. 130 mins.
Opens Wednesday at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre.



Also at the movies...

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2, pictured — the finally film in the chastely sexy vampires-versus-werewolves series, opens Friday. Like *Part 1*, it is directed by the Oscar-winning gay scribe and director Bill Condon, who gave weight to Frankenstein filmmaker James Whale in *Gods & Monsters*. Also opening Friday is the foreign-language period romance **A Royal Affair**. And opening Wednesday: **Silver Lining Playbook**, a romantic comedy about mental illness starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence; and the Cold War action remake **Red Dawn**.

— A.W.J.

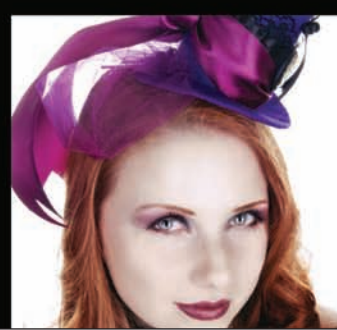
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TOP HAT

PHOTO CONTEST BEGINS!

Dallas Voice is searching for the **TOP HAT** in LGBT North Texas, kicking off our annual contest for the Readers Voice Awards. This year's theme is Top Hat, and we are asking readers to submit photos featuring HATS. The winner will be featured on the full page cover of the March 22, 2013 Reader Voice Awards edition and a **\$1,000 donation will be made in the winner's name to their favorite charity**. Use your imagination, and send your best Hat photos to TopHat@dallasvoice.com. Submission deadline is **Friday, December 7**.

Dallas Voice editors will chose the **9 TOP HAT** Finalists. Finalists will be given a Top Hat professional photo shoot. A model release will be required before publication. Results will be used for promotional materials and online balloting. Readers will pick the **2013 Top Hat in Readers Voice Awards** voting **Jan. 4 - 31, 2013**. Please include photographers name, email and cell phone, and a statement of model release if you have photographed a friend. "Top Hat" is a liberal term and all entries will be considered.





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Friday 11.16

NCLR shows its p-p-p-poker face

The National Center for Lesbian Rights, a 35-year-old foundation dedicated to serving lesbians through litigation and public policy, likes to lay all its cards on the table — literally. On Friday, members of the organization will go all-in with a reception and poker tourney. Local hosts Kelli Herd and Kim Deneau welcome the NCLR's executive director and deputy director for an evening of poker and blackjack, with proceeds benefiting the group.

DEETS: Tower Aqua Lounge at the Heights, 8066 Park Lane. Reception, 6–8 p.m., tournament, 8 p.m. \$100 suggested donation and \$100 card buy-in. RSVP at NCLRights.org/Dallas.

Friday 11.16

Stephen Petronio makes Dallas debut

The Stephen Petronio Company has been a force in dance for more than a quarter of a century, but it took until now to get them to Dallas. The gay-run troupe, which specializes in dizzyingly fast movement and overtly sexual artistry, arrives in the Downtown Dallas Arts District for a one-night-only recital, including a piece not done in the U.S. for a decade until this year, and a piece that had its world premiere in 2011.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

Saturday 11.17

GayBingo holds final game of 2012

Dec. 21 is just around the corner. Why should you care? You shouldn't ... unless you're a Mayan, and then you might believe the whole world is coming to an end that day, just like their calendar will. And so, for the final fundraising GayBingo of the year — and perhaps all time — the theme is Armageddon. Come as your favorite avatar of the end of the world — a mushroom cloud, a zombie, a HAZMAT suit, even a Karl Rove presidency ... wait, this just got *too real*.

DEETS: The Rose Room at Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Nov. 17. 5–8 p.m. \$25. RCDallas.org/gaybingo.



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OLD TIME RELIGION | The Chamber Chorus of the Turtle Creek Chorale performs two concerts this weekend of spiritual and gospel music.

FRIDAY 11.16

THEATER

42nd Street. The classic Broadway baby musical comes to Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. CasaManana.org.

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.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane. Oscar-winner writer/director Martin McDonagh's dark play gets a staging from Kitchen Dog Theater. *Reviewed in this issue.* The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Nov. 9–Dec. 8. \$10–\$30. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Complete Hollywood (Abridged). The team who comically abridged Shakespeare turns its sights on Tinseltown. Cox Playhouse, 1517 Avenue H, Plano. Through Saturday. RoverDramawerks.com.

Crazy for You. Theatre 3's newest musical goes into previews; opening night Nov. 19. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Nov. 15–Dec. 15. \$10–\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Nutcracker. Tchiakovsky's timeless holiday classic, performed with Kathy Burks' puppets at the Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Nov. 16–Dec. 21. \$14–\$40. DCT.org.

FINE ART

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

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

DANCE

The Stephen Petronio Company. The freewheeling modern dance troupe makes their Dallas debut. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.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: Finale. Ch. 13 at 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY

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.

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 11.17

COMMUNITY

GayBingo. The final game of 2012 takes on the theme of Armageddon! Proceeds benefit Resource Center Dallas. The Rose Room at Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$25. 5–8 p.m. RCDallas.org.

CONCERTS

Going Up to Glory: An Evening of Gospels and Spirituals. The Chamber Chorus of the Turtle Creek Chorale performs a concert of uplifting spiritual music, just in time for the holidays. Interfaith Peace Chapel at the Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. \$15. TurtleCreek.org.

FINE ARTS

Cedars Open Studio Tour. The 10th annual showcase of local artists. South Side on Lamar, 1409 Lamar St. Noon–6 p.m. Free.

COMMUNITY

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

BROADCAST

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



MI NOMBRE EN LUCES | Mi Vida Loca performs in the battles of the bands show My Name in Lights at the House of Blues Sunday.

SUNDAY 11.18

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.

CONCERTS

Going Up to Glory: An Evening of Gospels and Spirituals. The second night of uplifting spiritual music, performed by the Chamber Chorus of the Turtle Creek Chorale. Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 3811 Oak Lawn Ave. 7 p.m. \$15. TurtleCreek.org.

My Name In Lights battle of the bands competition. Dallas' popular duo Mi Vida Loca is among the bands competing in this contest that also includes performances by Beaty and the Beats, So-So-Topic and Jesse Rya. Mi Vida Loca will also debut its first single, "We Never Were." For complimentary tickets, email MelMic2000@hotmail.com. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 8 p.m. HouseofBlues.com/dallas.

COMMUNITY

The Set, a group of the Legacy of Success Foundation that serves as a safe environment for mature-minded SGL African-American men to create a community meets every third Sunday. The Jefferson Clubhouse, 1001 Ross Ave. 6-9 p.m. (cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m.).

Family Pride Coalition, a monthly support group for gay and lesbian parents and their children, meets at a private home. For time and location, 214-521-5342 ext. 1708.

MONDAY 11.19

COMMUNITY

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.

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 11.20

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's

traditional holiday show makes its final year's run at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in Uptown with Chamblee Ferguson once again in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Nov. 20-Dec. 23 (in previews through Nov. 29). \$15-\$85. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

COMMUNITY

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

JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets on the third Tuesday. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Visit website for meeting dates if they change due to author's availability. RCDallas.org.

WEDNESDAY 11.21

FILM

Opening date for Ang Lee's *Life of Pi*, *Anna Karenina* (both reviewed in this issue) and *Silver Lining Playbook*.

THURSDAY 11.22

FUNDRAISER

Turkey Trot. The 45th annual fun-run that raises money for the YMCA returns, as always, to Thanksgiving morning ... well before the food orgy begins. You can participate in the 8-mile or 5K-race. Starts at 9 a.m. For details, visit TheTrot.org.

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Billie Jean King turns 69 on Thanksgiving Day. One of the pre-eminent tennis players of all time, she won 36 Grand Slam titles in her storied career. She was outed via a palimony suit in 1981, but formally came out and became an advocate of gay rights after she retired.



SCORPIO Oct 21-Nov 20

The need to stay with it is an old habit that should be less of a concern than the need to stay in touch with yourself. If that sounds unreasonable, maybe it is — but you can't expect any situation to resolve itself if you lose touch with your own truth.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21-Dec 20

The ability to dream up the future has everything to do with whether or not you believe that the power to create it lives in you. Take the best of what's yours in the here and now; let that be the heart of what's next.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 20

It's a blessing that you have so much to buoy you up, because very soon others are going to be calling upon you for inspiration and other forms of support. Between now and then the mechanics of living will distract you from such obligations.

AQUARIUS Jan 21-Feb 20

Others keep reaching out. When you finally decide to pay attention to what's right there in front of you, you will see that you are not only loved, you are respected for your integrity and your accomplishments by everyone you know.

PISCES Feb 21-Mar 20

Right now the need for attention that will make you feel good about yourself is turning your life into a side show. As you try to impress people, keep in mind: It doesn't matter who notices.

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 20

There are many reasons you hesitate to let down your guard that will only make sense until you wake up and realize that you can't keep doing this. Whatever this means to you, the message is all about taking a novel approach.

TAURUS Apr 21-May 20

Letting go is one of those things that everyone does in their own way. You've let a little too much of the past bleed into the present and it's time to realize that the future will look exactly like it does now if you can't find a way to move on.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Others are bound to wonder why they seem to be last on your list. Your priorities would be easier to manage if the tendency to do it all wasn't such an all powerful aspect of your make up. Try to stay grounded.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 20

You've reached the point where it's time to let faith kick in and show you that imposing your will on anything stifles it and prevents it from being all that it can be.

LEO Jul 21-Aug 20

Tests will arrive in the form of relatives, authority figures or demands that force you to review the need to please and what it does for you in the long run.

VIRGO Aug 21-Sep 20

As long as you continue to remain in touch with yourself and are strong enough to speak your truth no matter what, you will be able to take the best of what is to be had from this circumstance, relationship or process. Deep changes are never cut and dry. You won't see what's going on here until time reveals a bigger portion of the truth.

LIBRA Sep 21-Oct 20

Don't misread people's intentions and don't let your pictures of how this should go interfere with what's actually taking place. Stay in the moment. Allow for timing changes and adjustments in schedules and priorities to show you how much easier it is to go with the flow.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

WELL, IT'S OFFICIAL, RUDY... YOU NOW HAVE A FACEBOOK PROFILE.

GOOD HEAVENS.

I DON'T KNOW THAT I'LL EVER MAKE USE OF SUCH A THING, BUT...

...I SUPPOSE I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, RICHARD.

YOU JUST WATCH. ONCE YOU'RE ON FACEBOOK, ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE FROM YOUR PAST WILL START SHOWING UP.

THAT SOUNDS RATHER UNSETTLING. ESPECIALLY BECAUSE MOST OF THEM ARE DEAD.

WE'LL SEE. I CAN'T IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN, RUDY... LIVING IN GREENWICH VILLAGE FOR THE GREATER PART OF THE LAST CENTURY!

YOU WERE THERE FOR STONEWALL... AND THE FIRST GAY PRIDE MARCHES!

MMM... INDEED I WAS. ALTHOUGH...

...I PREFERRED THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY BOYS OVER THOSE RAMBUNCTIOUS STONEWALL RIOTERS.

THE MATTACHINE BOYS WERE MUCH MORE WELL-BEHAVED. AND WELL-DRESSED.

AND YOU WERE WORKING IN A MANHATTAN ART GALLERY ALL THAT TIME?

YES, IN FACT...

HIS NAME WAS ANDY WARHOL. I SOLD THAT SKETCH SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND IT'S PROVIDED ME WITH A COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT INCOME EVER SINCE.

HOLY CANNOLI!

OH, LOOK... YOU'VE GOT YOUR FIRST FRIEND REQUEST ON FACEBOOK!

THAT'S A BIT FORWARD OF THEM, ISN'T IT? WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN INTRODUCED.

... IN THE LATE 1950'S, A YOUNG ARTIST ABOUT MY AGE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME ONE OF HIS ROUGH SKETCHES.

GET USED TO IT, SWEET-CAKES...

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bitter girl
passenger heat

YOUR I.D., MS. TERAN... THAT'S A LOVELY PICTURE.

BEEP!

BODY SEARCH! I GOT IT!

NO, I GOT IT! MINE!

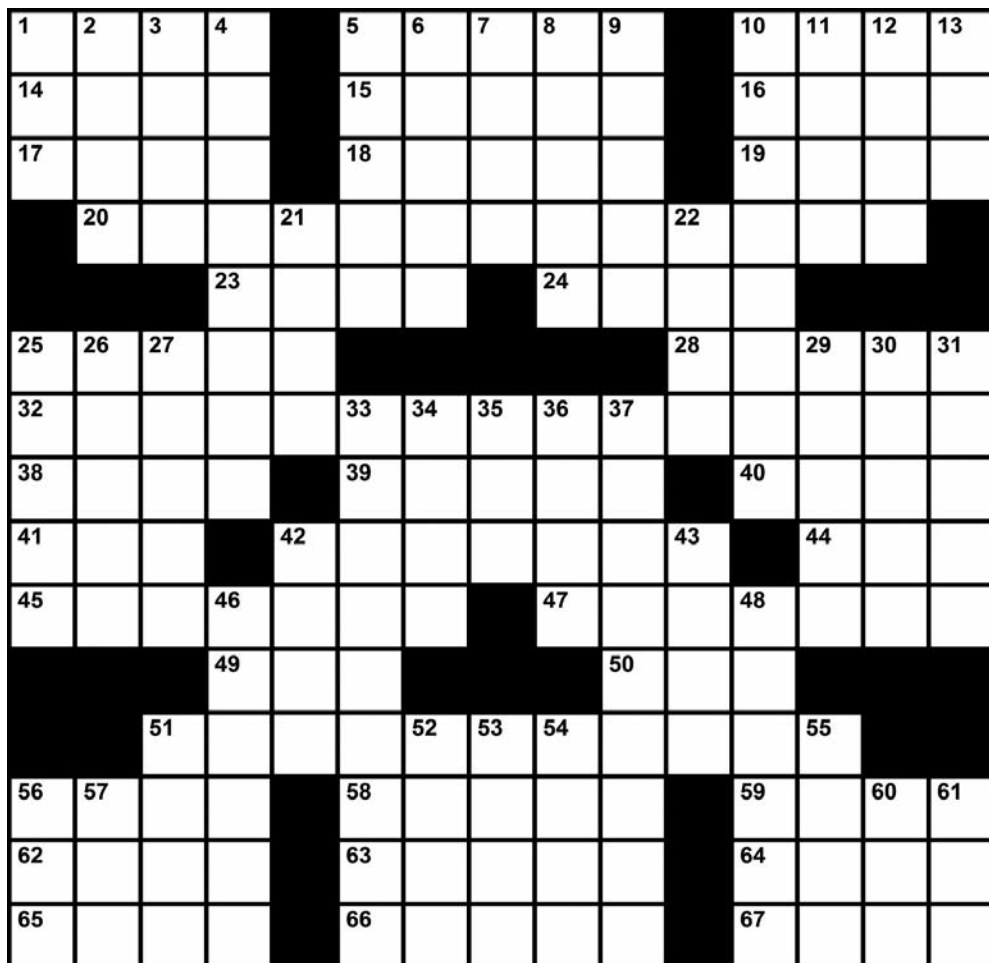
LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE I CAN GET FOR YOU.

#fwump

SHOULD'VE CHECKED HER WITH THE LUGGAGE.

HUH, LUGGAGE HANDLER CHICK'S WAVING AT ME, HI!

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



Ian as We Speak

Solution on page 45

Across

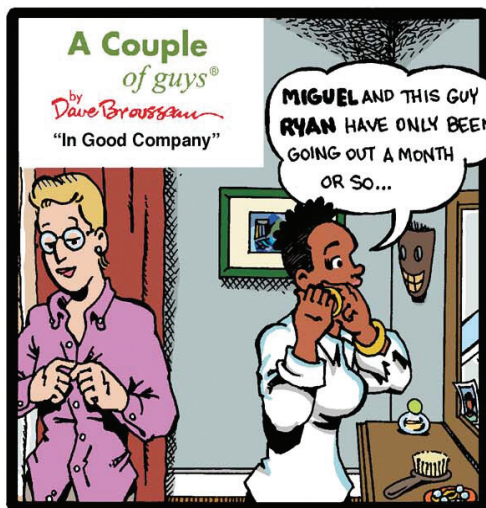
- 1 Testy response, or testicles
- 5 Antislavery author
- 10 Made it to second base, so to speak
- 14 Stage piece
- 15 Part of a makeup kit
- 16 Kitchen foray
- 17 First name in lesbian fiction
- 18 Gay porn director Francis
- 19 Java vessels
- 20 Janis Ian song about biracial love
- 23 Little fairies
- 24 Leave as is
- 25 "That's a wrap!"
- 28 Bring shame to
- 32 After 20-Across, book about Janis Ian
- 38 They're performing, in *Fame*
- 39 Barbeque locale
- 40 Peril for Patty Sheehan
- 41 Nero's thus
- 42 Pink slip actions
- 44 "Proud Mary" singer Turner
- 45 Dickhead
- 47 *Lake Wobegone Days* author
- 49 Shakespeare's dusk

50 Three, in Napoli

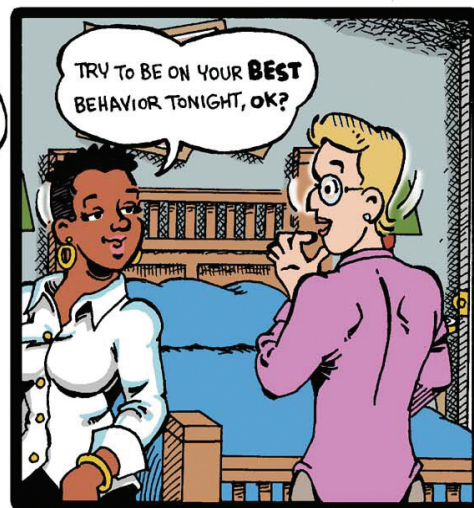
- 51 Janis Ian song about teenage angst
- 56 "___ Let the Sun Go Down on Me"
- 58 Cosmetics name
- 59 Where orientation is determined, some say
- 62 Actress Skye
- 63 Turner that goes either way
- 64 Tibet's setting
- 65 Moved one's ass
- 66 Comes over
- 67 Winetaster's guess

Down

- 1 *Morning Edition* aier
- 2 *Exodus* author Leon
- 3 The Tin Man's best friend
- 4 "O beautiful for ___ skies" (Katharine Lee Bates)
- 5 What hibernating bears do
- 6 Fouls, to the Pinball Wizard
- 7 Nothing but
- 8 Houdini's birth name
- 9 How Homo sapiens walks
- 10 Gay nocturnal flyer?
- 11 Banjoist Scruggs
- 12 Swedish soprano Jenny
- 13 Scores by David Kopay
- 21 "___ the end of my rope!"
- 22 Enjoy phone sex
- 25 Stock up on
- 26 Line from Porter
- 27 First-rate mate
- 29 March follower
- 30 Plumed military cap
- 31 Keyed up
- 33 Willa Cather classic
- 34 Setter's sound
- 35 "When I see ___ will believe ..."
- 36 Porking noise?
- 37 Eager beavers
- 42 Montagues, to Capulets
- 43 k.d. lang record label
- 46 Made a profit of
- 48 Street named for writer Harper?
- 51 Shakespeare's Hathaway
- 52 Brandy bottle letters
- 53 Sundance's Place
- 54 It's a gas on Broadway
- 55 What Sam twitched on *Bewitched*
- 56 Bad-mouth
- 57 Caveman of comics
- 60 Woody's ex
- 61 Stonewall Inn, for one



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Frank, B.J. and Daniel at Station 4.



Marty, John and David at the Dallas Eagle.

Armageddon Gaybingo, the final game of the year, begins at 5 p.m. on Nov. 17 in the **Rose Room**. Bring four pop-top canned food items and get a free dobber. ... DJ **Brandon Moses** and DJ **Mickey Briggs** spin at the **Thanksgiving Eve Party** on Nov. 21 at **The Brick**. ... **Ms. TX USofA '13 Sasha Lauren** presents **A Night Of Royalty** on Nov. 17 at **Randy's Club Cherries** featuring a battle of the titles — **Mr. TX USofA '10 Mark Anthony** vs. **Mr. USofA '07 Jordan Mathews**. **Mr. Top of TX '12 Patrick Mikyles** will also be on hand. ... **Kristen Majors** and the **Funk Soul Muthas** appear at **Alexandre's** on Nov. 17. Later in the week, **Anton Shaw** takes the mic on Nov. 21 and **Andrea Dawson** on Nov. 22. ... A weekend of music at **Sue Ellen's** begins with **Tres Medlock Band** on Nov. 16, followed by **Paco Estrada** on Nov. 17 and **Ciao Bella** on Nov. 18. ... **JR.'s Bar & Grill** presents an album release party for **Christina Aguilera's Lotus** on Nov. 19. Win free CDs while supplies last. Nov. 20 is the **Christmas Music Party**. Win copies of **Tinsel and Lights**, the brand-new Christmas album from **Tracey Thorn** plus **A Very She & Him Christmas** featuring Christmas classics from **Zoey Deschanel** and **M. Ward's She & Him**. ... **Leather Knights** and **DFW Sisters** begin their annual **Angel Tree Project** for the residents of **AIDS Services of Dallas** at the **Dallas Eagle**. ... **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** serves Thanksgiving dinner at the **Round-Up Saloon** from noon to 4 p.m. on Nov. 22. ... Have a happy Thanksgiving. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Johnnie and George at Havana.



Beckie and Deanna at Sue Ellen's.



Charles, Robert and Ben at Club Reflection.



Michael and Jay at the Round-Up Saloon.



Chelsea and Kayla at Best Friends Club.

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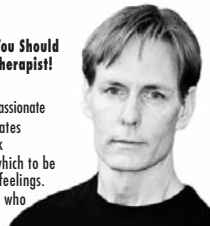
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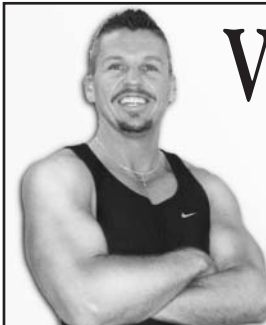
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