

'It's Raining Men' again with Martha Wash

Former lead singer of Weather Girls talks gay rights then and now
She drops her 1st album in 20 years and marks 30th anniversary of queer anthem with photo shoot

■ MUSIC, Page 26



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LGBT PERSON OF THE YEAR CD KIRVEN

Street activist is also at home
in the halls of power, fusing art
with her advocacy and bridging
the racial divide in the LGBT
community

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BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS | A small crowd gathered on an unseasonably warm Wednesday night at TMC: The Mining Company to watch the Cedar Springs Christmas tree lighting. Instead of a regular tree, three small wire cone trees will be on display this year surrounded by presents. DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence read a brief holiday bedtime story before lighting the trees. The Oak Lawn Band performed carols. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

PolitiFact checks Texas Values

A conservative group's claims that a bill to allow same-sex adoptive parents to have both names on birth certificates would affect everyone's records were mainly unfounded, according to research by PolitiFact Texas.

The nonpartisan politics fact-checking project analyzed claims Texas Values President Jonathan Saenz made on Austin's KTBC-TV Nov. 19 about HB 201 filed by state Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas.

Saenz said the bill would mandate a change in all birth certificates in the state, suggesting that the bill aims to grant gay couples special rights and would lead to two or three fathers listed on certificates in cases of polygamy.

But the bill would only apply to adopted children of same-sex couples, allowing both parents to have their names on the supplemental birth certificate. Texas law currently only allows one man and one woman to be listed on birth certificates, but the bill would remove that requirement from the Texas Health and Safety Code.

PolitiFact found Saenz's claims "mostly false" saying the potential wording of forms remained unclear after they consulted with a State Health Services representative, who said it's unknown whether "Mother" and "Father" would be replaced with "Parent 1" and "Parent 2" on forms for adopted children if the bill passes. Gender-neutral parent designation on birth certificates would raise the risk of distinguishing records for adopted children, which is prohibited under state law.

When contacted for a comment, Saenz referred us to a Texas Values blog post about the PolitiFact conclusion that praised the state for upholding his previous comments.

"We rightly voiced our concerns about HB 201 a few weeks ago and were viciously attacked by claims that we didn't have our facts straight," the post reads. "But now a state agency has confirmed, HB 201 will affect all birth certificates, requiring more than 20 forms to be changed to comply with this 'gay-rights' bill."

However, PolitiFact found "nothing in the proposal explicitly removes mother and father entries on certificates and it seems reasonable to us that any needed tweaks could be made without Moms and Dads vanishing from them."

Anchia said he would leave it up to the state agency to decide on the wording "in the way that is least disruptive but at the same time gets at the

intent of the bill" if it passes in the upcoming legislative session. This is his third time to file the bill, which has never made it out of committee.

"It could have more accurately been written that they were all false and that there's one small piece of it that's unclear," Anchia told Instant Tea, referring to the PolitiFact analysis. "Because the state agency didn't know one way or another, I think Jonathan Saenz was at the very best reckless with his use of the facts and at worst he was lying in a cynical attempt to scare people about the bill. And I'm really happy that PolitiFact called him on it."

"Other states do it effectively so there's no reason to suggest that Texas couldn't," Anchia said. "Kids deserve to have their family accurately represented on a supplemental birth certificate."

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith brought Saenz's comments to PolitiFact's attention. He said he was pleased the project called him out on his factual inaccuracies, disagreeing that any forms need to be changed.

He said the bill isn't requiring any forms to be changed. It's trying to revert the language back to before a change in 1997, when mother and father were only used but a gender for each wasn't specified.

"No one is asking for gender-neutral forms," he said. "It should be a quick administrative fix."

The birth certificate bill has gained a lot of attention recently. Smith said that was due to the opposition trying to cast an inaccurate light on the true intention of the bill, as well as Equality Texas' continued work in bringing the bill to the public's attention.

— Anna Waugh

Hideaway hearing postponed

A hearing scheduled for Friday, Nov. 30 on a liquor license for the Hideaway has been postponed. The neighborhood group opposed to the gay bar on Buena Vista Street reopening filed a motion to have the judge in the case recused.

According to a spokesperson for the Administrative Law Court that was set to hear the case, it has been reassigned and the new judge was looking for available dates in January. Hideaway owner Lonzie Hershner said someone from the neighborhood group opposing the bar reopening charged the judge with possible bias.

"They're just trying to push it out as far as possible," he said. "That was their last straw."

— David Taffet

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The cast of *A Christmas Carol*,
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Person of the Year: Cd Kirven

Street activist is also at home in the halls of power, fusing art with her advocacy and bridging the racial divide in the LGBT community

JOHN WRIGHT | Senior Editor
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Cd Kirven's first act of advocacy came as a 16-year-old growing up in South Dallas, when the verdict came down in the Rodney King beating.

Kirven had just gotten her driver's license, and she recalls that her father had given her a green Oldsmobile Cutlass.

"I remember being so angry," Kirven says. "I pasted '[Fuck] the police. Free Rodney King' on these poster boards on the side of my car. My dad was like, 'You're going to get yourself killed.'"

Just to make sure she didn't, he took away the Cutlass.

A year later, when she penned an article in a Dallas newspaper for teenagers, Kirven had seemingly learned to channel some of her angst.

The article was a critique of corporal punishment, which Kirven says was rampant in the overwhelmingly black Wilmer-Hutchins school district she attended.

"I took a picture of somebody getting paddled and their butt afterward bleeding," Kirven says. "I almost got expelled for doing that."

But the photo also helped the article get picked up by the Associated Press, making her the youngest author to have a story appear on the AP wire, which, in turn, led to a trip to Washington, D.C.

"I got to see that one person can really have an impact," she recalls.

Clearly it was a realization she took to heart, and 20 years later Kirven is making a bigger impact than ever as one of Dallas' most visible LGBT activists.

Known especially for her fiery oration, the 37-year-old Kirven has long been a fixture at gay-rights street protests. But she's also recently managed to span the traditional divide between the grassroots and the halls of power, serving on Dallas City Councilwoman Delia Jasso's LGBT Task Force and helping to organize the city's official LGBT Pride Month celebrations this June.

And bridging gaps seems to come naturally to Kirven, who's also an indispensable link between the African-American and LGBT communities — and who's successfully fused activism with art as a creator of queer-themed comic books, literature and film.

For her tireless advocacy in 2012 — from responding to Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings refusal to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage in January, to staring down Commissioner Mau-





GRASSROOTS TO SUITS | Kirven is best known for fiery speeches at protests like the one outside an ExxonMobil shareholders meeting in 2010, left. But this year she also spanned the traditional divide between direct action and the halls of power, helping to plan Dallas' official LGBT Pride Month events, above, as a member of the city's LGBT Task Force. (Photos by David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

rine Dickey prior to a vote on domestic partner benefits in October — Kirven is Dallas Voice's LGBT Person of the Year.

The art of activism

When Kirven graduated from Texas Women's University with a degree in broadcast communications, she planned to pursue a career path along the lines of the corporal punishment article she wrote in high school.

"I was gonna be the next Oprah — until things happened," she says. "You graduate, and you've got all those student loans."

So she went to work for a utility company, eventually becoming a project manager before getting laid off several years ago.

"Then this activist stuff just kind of took over my life," she says.

Kirven says she came out as lesbian in her early 20s — a difficult process because church was huge in her family and she considers herself a very spiritual person.

"I had to get right with God first before I took this journey," she says.

But her coming out as an LGBT activist wouldn't happen until her early 30s when, after she helped organize a fundraiser for the AIDS food pantry, she was asked to speak at a rally in City Hall Plaza protesting passage of California's Proposition 8 in November 2008.

It grew into one of the largest LGBT rallies in the city's history, but because street activism had experienced something of a lull, the public address system cobbled together by organizers malfunctioned. Unlike other speakers, though, Kirven's voice didn't require amplification.

"People were speaking, but it didn't seem like there was any passion behind it," Kirven says. "I got up and tried to say how I felt."

It worked, to say the least, and since then Kirven has been invited to speak — or scream, as it

were — at virtually every major LGBT rally.

"I think it comes from this intense anger that I had, being able to actualize those feelings," she says of her gift. "I haven't taken any speech classes. I think it just comes from a passion from being tired of taking it as a woman, an African-American and a gay person."

Around that same time, Kirven — who says her dream has always been to tell queer stories through film — completed a documentary about same-sex domestic violence. The first LGBT film shot entirely on a cell phone, it played at festivals around the country. Shortly after the film was released, Kirven says she went through a nasty breakup with her girlfriend and became a victim of domestic violence herself.

"I had to go through that same experience that the people I talked to went through," she says. "It was a real eye-opener for me."

But it wouldn't be the only time Kirven's activism has collided head-on with her private life.

Just this year, she lost custody of her 6-year-old son to another ex, the boy's biological mother, following a bitter court battle. Kirven says she's raised the boy alone, but her ex pretended to have gone straight, and the judge was biased against her because she's a butch lesbian.

"It's pretty horrific," she says. "I just want to make sure no other woman has to go through this again. Sometimes I can't even think about it, because I have to know that he probably thinks I abandoned him."

Although this year has been difficult for Kirven personally — she also recently lost her grandmother — she's thrived as both an activist and artist. But sometimes the two opposing forces have met.

When Kirven was volunteering at a breast cancer screening for masculine women and transgender men and women, a lump was discovered in her own breast, and now she needs a biopsy.

■ **KIRVEN**, Page 18

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Dallas Tavern Guild distributes over \$20K to Pride beneficiaries



Members of the Dallas Tavern Guild distribute funds raised during Dallas Pride 2012 to representatives from beneficiary organizations at the Round-Up Saloon on Thursday, Dec. 6. The Pride beneficiaries are AIDS Services of Dallas (\$3,800), AIDS Arms Inc. (\$1,600), AIDS Interfaith Network (\$2,400), Legacy Counseling Center (\$3,300), Resource Center Dallas (\$2,300) and Youth First Texas (\$7,500). (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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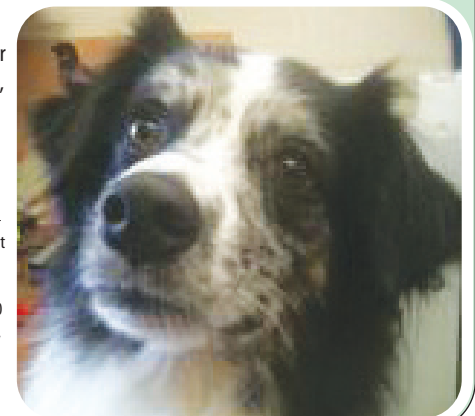
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DPD: Lesbian officers' Chick-fil-A complaint can't be sustained

Internal affairs investigation fails to determine whether sergeant made inappropriate comments, but he'll be permanently reassigned anyway

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

An internal affairs investigation has failed to determine whether a Dallas police sergeant made inappropriate comments to two lesbian officers on Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day on Aug. 1.

DPD Assistant Chief Michael Genovesi told Dallas Voice the investigation was recently completed, yielding a "not sustained" outcome, which means investigators couldn't prove whether the alleged action took place. While some may view that determination as meaning the allegations were unfounded, Genovesi said it's a common outcome when other officers or witnesses are unable to verify complaints.

"People interpret when we say it was 'not sustained,' they interpret that to mean the guy was innocent. And that's not what it is," Genovesi said. "A lot of folks take that to mean you're either covering up, you didn't take it seriously, all that stuff."

Genovesi said the complaint focused on a brief conversation between Sgt. Mark Johnson and two lesbian officers that took place prior to a detail meeting led by Johnson in the Southeast Patrol Division.

Johnson, a 12-year-veteran, allegedly placed a Chick-fil-A bag in front of the officers and made comments about having eaten at the restaurant, but "there was nobody else there to either support or refute that," Genovesi said. Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day was organized to show support for the restaurant chain's opposition to same-sex marriage.

Genovesi said investigators took statements from the officers, Johnson and others who attended the detail meeting — which the officers left because they felt targeted by Johnson — but no independent witness overheard the comments beforehand. Not sustained outcomes are common because many complaints involve brief interactions that aren't overheard or observed.

"There's discrepancy in what they say between one side and the other side. What happened in the detail, there was nothing really untoward there," Genovesi said. "The bigger issue was what happened or the conversation between he and the two officers prior to the start of the detail."



Detective Laura Martin

During the detail meeting, Johnson read an announcement sent out by Genovesi concerning how officers were to handle a gay kiss-in counterprotest planned at Chick-fil-A restaurants two days later. The two officers left the meeting because

Johnson was looking at them while reading the announcement.

"A lot of people on both sides — forget police officers — a lot of people on both sides take significant issue with both positions, whether in opposition to or in support of Chick-fil-A," he said. "The fact that he announced that in detail, I think one of the female officers took exception because I think she thought he was still needling from the prior conversation."

Genovesi said it's possible that anything said could have been misunderstood, but Johnson will be permanently reassigned. He was assigned to the jail pending the outcome of the investigation.

Both parties will be informed of the outcome, but Genovesi said it's uncommon that they sit down and discuss the incident. And Johnson will likely be moved back to patrol but to a different division.

Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager at Resource Center Dallas, said the complaint may follow Johnson and the officers, and DPD is missing a chance to sit down and address the possible misunderstanding.

"I think that probably some dialogue would be appropriate between the two parties in terms of what happened to try and air it out for both sides," McDonnell said. "There wouldn't have been a complaint made if the two lesbians officers didn't have a legitimate concern."

Detective Laura Martin, DPD's LGBT liaison, said it's challenging to prove discrimination when there are no witnesses, adding that she was glad the police chief acted quickly and transferred Johnson during the investigation.

"The good that came out of it is the chief addressed it immediately and transferred him out just in case there was an actual problem and didn't just ignore the matter," she said. "If nothing else, it sent a pretty clear message through the entire department that that kind of behavior is not going to be tolerated. We're going to look into complaints like this." ■

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Did iPad theft lead to gay man's slaying?

Shaun Walsh asked Nathanael Gehrer to return a friend's tablet before Gehrer murdered Walsh in his Carrollton home, neighbor says

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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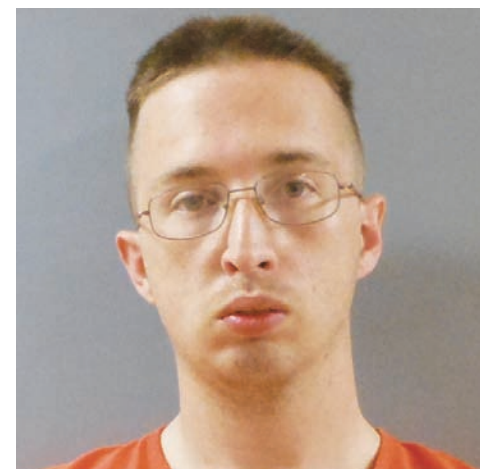
CARROLLTON — A day before Shaun J. Walsh was brutally murdered, he and Nathanael Gehrer visited a mutual friend's house.

During the visit, the friend accused Gehrer of stealing his iPad, according to one of Walsh's neighbors who asked not to be identified.

Later, after Walsh tried to convince Gehrer to return the iPad, they got into an argument that ended with Gehrer brutally murdering Walsh by stabbing him multiple times and beating him with a baseball bat.

Carrollton police arrested Gehrer, 25, on Tuesday in connection with the murder of the 22-year-old Walsh — whose legal name was Dustin Reeb.

Walsh's housemate, Tony Adams, found his body when he got home from work at about 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, according to police. A num-



VICTIM KNEW SUSPECT | Shaun Walsh, left, a 22-year-old whose legal name was Dustin Reeb, was found beaten and stabbed to death in his home last week. Carrollton police arrested 25-year-old Nathanael Gehrer, right, in connection with the crime.

ber of items had been taken from the house. Police found the knife tossed behind a water heater.

Adams gave police several names of people he suspected could have committed the murder and was never himself considered a suspect, police said.

On Monday, Carrollton police went to JR.'s Bar

& Grill on Cedar Springs Road and questioned bartenders about whether they had seen Walsh on Friday and if they remembered him leaving with anyone.

When Gehrer tried to pawn the items taken from the house, police tracked at least one of the items to Adams and Walsh. It's not clear whether

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the iPad was among those items.

Gehrer has been arrested a number of times in Dallas on charges including assault, domestic violence, theft and criminal trespass. His most recent arrests were in September and June this year. He was being held in the Carrollton Municipal Jail.

Dallas police Detective Laura Martin said she contacted the FBI the day before the arrest and put them in touch with the Carrollton Police Department to offer any assistance they might need under the the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. But Martin speculated before Gehrer's arrest that the bloody, violent scene indicated the victim knew his assailant. She said random break-ins or targeted hate crimes typically aren't so brutal.

Originally from Enid, Okla., Walsh has lived in the Dallas area for about three years.

Howard Korn, from Frisco Community Theater where Walsh has performed, called him a nice young man.

"It shook us all up," Korn said.

Daniel Shipman knew Walsh from Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas. He said Walsh had Asperger syndrome.

"Shaun deserved the gentlest compassion anyone could give," Shipman said. "He was very vulnerable."

Asperger is often described as a high-functioning form of autism. Most people with Asperger have difficulty interacting socially. Shipman said

Walsh's communication skills didn't flow normally.

"He couldn't handle being touched unless it was exactly his way," he said. "I can picture how something could go wrong so fast."

After coming out, Shipman said Walsh was estranged from his family but earlier this year he reunited with his mother and spent a month with her in Oklahoma.

Walsh's mother, Karen Reeb-Doss, commented on the Dallas Voice online post about the murder earlier this week.

Reeb-Doss wrote that she wanted to "thank all for your prayers and help and especially want to thank Tony for being there for my son during his time in living in that area. I will miss my son and thanks to all who knew and loved and cared for him."

Among his friends at church was Buddy Shanahan, who played the piano for MCC each week until his death in October.

"When Buddy died, it really hit him hard," Shipman said. "He wrote on his Facebook, 'Can't wait to see you at the gate.'"

Shipman said that Shanahan would play at the church and then go outside to smoke. Walsh would follow him out and talk to him in the parking lot.

"Buddy was really sweet with him," he said.

Shipman said that although Walsh was awkward socially, he got along well with kids and he

was close with an autistic boy in church.

The Rev. Colleen Darraugh, pastor of MCC of Greater Dallas, said that Walsh was an artist and loved drawing with kids at church.

Adams, who did the lighting and sound for the church, performs, directs and does technical work with Frisco Community Theater. For a recent production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Adams designed the sound in addition to acting. Last June, Adams directed the company's production of *The Sunshine Boys* and Walsh had a featured role.

"He was so proud to be acting in the play," Darraugh said.

Darraugh described the murder as brutal and said the house would be unlivable until a professional crime scene crew cleans it up.

After police released the house as a crime scene, a crew began work on Wednesday removing bloody carpets and furniture and priming blood-stained walls.

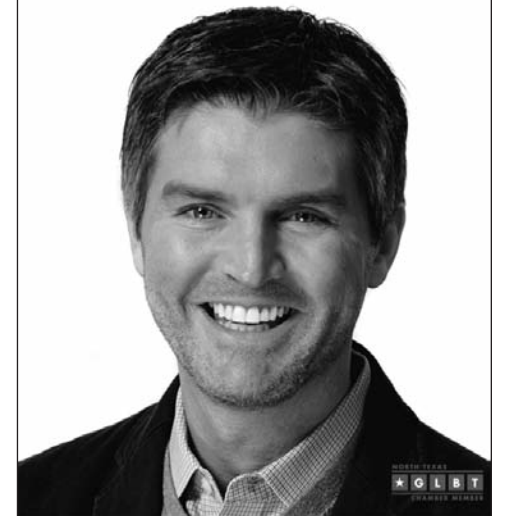
She said that professional crime cleanup is expensive and the church's Benevolent Fund was accepting donations to help Adams with the cost of the cleanup and replacement.

Darraugh said that with Shanahan's sudden death in October and the murder last week, the church is reeling.

Adams declined an interview for the article, but in a message he said, "I have not stopped crying since I found him Friday." ■

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FINALLY FIRST | Jane Abbott Lighty, left, and her partner of 35 years, Pete-e Petersen, raise their right hands as they take an oath while receiving the first marriage license for a same-sex couple in King County Thursday, Dec. 6, in Seattle. (Associated Press)

Gay couples line up for licenses in Washington; weddings begin Sunday

Marriage equality also coming to Maine on Dec. 29 and Maryland on Jan. 1 as LGBT community celebrates fruits of 2012 election

279 licenses had been issued and the line was gone.

"We knew it was going to happen, but it's still surreal," said Amanda Dollente, who along with her partner, Kelly Middleton, began standing in line at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Washington state now joins several other states that allow gay and lesbian couples to wed. Gregoire and Secretary of State Sam Reed certified the election on Wednesday afternoon, as they were joined by couples who plan to wed and community activists who worked on the campaign supporting gay marriage.

Because the state has a three-day waiting period, the earliest that weddings can take place is Sunday. Same-sex couples who previously were married in another state that allows gay marriage, like Massachusetts, will not have to get remarried in Washington state. Their marriages will be valid here as soon as the law takes effect.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Two by two, dozens of same-sex couples obtained their marriage licenses in Washington state early Thursday, Dec. 6, just hours after Gov. Chris Gregoire signed a voter-approved law legalizing gay marriage.

King County, the state's biggest county, opened the doors to its auditor's office in Seattle just after midnight PST to start distributing marriage licenses. But hundreds of people had lined up hours earlier, snaking around the downtown Seattle building on a chilly December night. By 6 a.m.,

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"This is a very important and historic day in the great state of Washington," Gregoire said before signing the measure that officially certified the election results. "For many years now we've said one more step, one more step. And this is our last step for marriage equality in the state of Washington."

Last month, Washington, Maine and Maryland became the first states to pass same-sex marriage by popular vote. They joined six other states — New York, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont — and the District of Columbia that had already enacted laws or issued court rulings permitting same-sex marriage.

Referendum 74 in Washington state had asked voters to either approve or reject the state law legalizing same-sex marriage that legislators passed earlier this year. That law was signed by Gregoire in February but was put on hold pending the outcome of the election. Nearly 54 percent of voters approved the measure.

The law doesn't require religious organizations or churches to perform marriages, and it doesn't subject churches to penalties if they don't marry gay or lesbian couples.

King County, the state's largest and home to Seattle, and Thurston County, home to the state capital of Olympia, opened at 12:01 a.m. Thursday to start issuing marriage licenses.

Asked whether the middle-of-the-night marriage license roll-out was necessary, King County Executive Dow Constantine said, "People who have been waiting all these years to have their rights recognized should not have to wait one minute longer."

In Seattle, the mood was festive. Volunteers distributed roses, coffee and fruit. Couples canoodled to keep warm. Champagne was poured. Different groups of men and women serenaded the waiting line, one to the tune of "Going to the Chapel."

"We waited a long time. We've been together 35 years, never



GETTING BETTER | Among those getting marriage licenses Thursday was activist Dan Savage. "It's been a long fight but it ain't over," he said. "We still have to fight [the Defense of Marriage Act] and there's 41 other states where same-sex couples aren't allowed to marry."

thinking we'd get a legal marriage. Now I feel so joyous I can't hardly stand it," said 85-year-old Pete-e Petersen, who with her partner, 77-year-old Jane Abbott Lighty, were the first to get a license.

After meeting 35 years ago on a blind date in Sacramento, Lighty and Petersen will get married on Sunday. The couple has been out buying shoes and clothes for their wedding.

Maryland's law officially takes effect Jan. 1, but couples could start picking up marriage licenses on Dec. 6, as long as the licenses have an effective date of Jan. 1. Whether clerks of court issue a post-dated license is up to them, however. They are not required to do

so. Maine's law takes effect on Dec. 29. There's no waiting period in Maine, and people can start marrying just after midnight.

In addition to private ceremonies that will start taking place across Washington state this weekend, Seattle City Hall will open for several hours on Sunday, and several local judges are donating their time to marry couples. Aaron Pickus, a spokesman for Mayor Mike McGinn, said that more than 140 couples have registered to get married at City Hall, and weddings will begin at 10 a.m.

Washington state has had a domestic partnership law in place since 2007. The initial law granted couples about two dozen rights, including hospital visitation and inheritance rights when there is no will. It was expanded a year later, and then again in 2009, when lawmakers completed the package with the so-called "everything but marriage" law that was ultimately upheld by voters later that year.

This year, lawmakers passed the law allowing gay marriage, and Gregoire signed it in February. Opponents gathered enough signatures for a referendum, putting the law on hold before it could take effect.

There are nearly 10,000 domestic partnership registrations with the secretary of state's office. Most same-sex domestic partnerships that aren't ended prior to June 30, 2014, automatically become marriages, unless one of the partners is 62 or older.

That provision was included in the state's first domestic partnership law of 2007 to help heterosexual seniors who don't remarry out of fear they could lose certain pension or Social Security benefits.

Among those getting marriage licenses Thursday was gay rights activist Dan Savage, who will marry his partner on Sunday with other couples at Seattle City Hall.

"It's been a long fight but it ain't over," he said. "We still have to fight (the Defense of Marriage Act) and there's 41 other states where same-sex couples aren't allowed to marry." ■



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AIDS Healthcare Foundation opens Dallas clinic

Largest provider of healthcare to people with HIV debuts 2nd facility in Texas at Medical City, targeting underserved area of N. Dallas

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation dedicated a new clinic at Medical City in North Dallas on Monday, Dec. 3 — its second clinic in Texas.

This week, the clinic began setting appointments, and the first patients will be seen Dec. 10. In August, an AHF Magic Johnson Clinic began serving Fort Worth, sharing a building with AIDS Outreach Center.

Rather than partner with an existing agency, as it did in Fort Worth, AHF opened its Dallas office in an area of the city that has not traditionally been well served by AIDS organizations centered in Oak Lawn and Oak Cliff.

Bret Camp, regional director for AHF Texas who previously worked at Resource Center Dallas, said the new facility will serve an area of North Dallas that is hard hit with new HIV infections.

Northwest Dallas around Forest Lane and LBJ



INSTANT IMPACT | AIDS Healthcare Foundation testing counselor Boyd Bowen administers an Insti test HIV screening during the clinic's grand opening on Monday, Dec. 3. Using a small blood draw, the Insti test returns a result in about a minute. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



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Freeway has one of the highest rates of new HIV infections in Dallas.

Camp also expects a number of the new clinic's patients to come from Collin County, which is not served by a public hospital. Many uninsured people go to Parkland hospital's Amelia Court in Dallas or John Peter Smith hospital in Tarrant County for primary healthcare.

Camp said another reason for the North Dallas location is that southern Dallas is already well served by AIDS Arms' Trinity Health & Wellness Center in Oak Cliff and Peabody Health Center in South Dallas.

Medical City was not known for treating HIV. Camp said the prominent location given to AHF in the hospital complex shows the priority it places on the practice. The office is located off the main lobby entrance of Building B.

The new clinic has four exam rooms with room to grow. Camp said the office has a capacity for 800 patients with ability to grow to 1,400.

"Because we're in the hospital, we're developing relationships with a variety of specialists," Camp said. "There are lots of options at Medical City."

At its grand opening, AHF testing counselor Boyd Bowen demonstrated a new instant HIV test. The Insti test is manufactured in Canada and has been used there for about eight years. Using a small blood draw, it returns a result in about a minute. Insti only tests for HIV-1 antibodies. AHF



FAMILIAR FACE | Longtime Resource Center Dallas employee Bret Camp, right, shown at the clinic's grand opening this week, is AHF's Texas regional director. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

has been using Insti for four years in Mexico, India and Africa and introduced it in the United States in September at an event in West Hollywood.

Wayne Chen, AHF's acting chief of medicine,

said AHF's goal is to find a cure.

"We translate scientific research into human clinical trials," Chen said.

He said they are involved in finding new ways for the immune system to contain the virus, new forms of gene therapy and vaccine development.

AHF operates 21 other clinics nationwide — 11 in California, six in Florida, two in Washington, D.C. and one in Georgia. Camp said the organization is planning additional clinics in Texas and is currently considering locations in Austin and San Antonio.

"AHF's 2013 goal in Texas is to identify underserved areas and provide services that complement what's in existence," Camp said.

In San Antonio, AHF has already teamed with the San Antonio AIDS Foundation by providing a mobile HIV testing van in September.

"They had a robust testing program but were horribly underfunded," Camp said.

Shannon Hilgart, interim executive director of the AOC in Fort Worth, said AHF has been a good partner for her agency and is already serving a number of her clients.

She said the opening of the pharmacy at AOC has been delayed.

The licensing process in Texas, she said, takes longer than in other states where AHF operates. But she expects the pharmacy to be open soon. ■

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HER HONOR | Former state Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt, a pioneering LGBT ally, presents the Distinguished Democrat Award to Judge Tonya Parker at the Round-Up on Monday. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Stonewall Democrats honor Garcia, Jenkins for DP benefits

Mary Clare Fabishak, Erin Moore, Tonya Parker, Hunky's Hamburgers also take home awards during group's annual holiday banquet

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

After more than a year of planning and obstacles, Dallas County commissioners added domestic partner benefits for county employees.

County Judge Clay Jenkins vowed to members of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas that he would pursue a plan this year after the county budget prevented the benefits from being added last year.

For Jenkins' continued effort and success when the benefits passed 3-2 on party lines in October,

Stonewall awarded him and Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia special recognition awards at its annual holiday party Monday, Dec. 3.

When the healthcare co-op the county is a member of wouldn't allow the county to add DP benefits, Garcia spearheaded the plan to offer them outside of the co-op.

"Judge Jenkins had said when he was elected that he would make it happen and he made sure that he put Dr. Garcia in charge of this project," Stonewall President Omar Narvaez said. "And together they made that happen."

Narvaez said he was proud that the passage of DP benefits made Dallas County the only county in Texas with the benefits and a fully inclusive nondiscrimination policy.

"That is history," he said.

Jenkins took home the coveted Pink Pump Award last year for the court's passage of the

nondiscrimination policy and Parkland hospital adding DP benefits. The court appoints members to Parkland's board.

This year, the bedazzled Pink Pump went to Mary Clare Fabishak for her outspokenness on LGBT rights during her run for state representative for House District 115.

Fabishak said she was honored by the award. She joined Stonewall in January while she was a candidate and said that the group helped her become a stronger, more educated ally.

"I was stunned because I grew into all my knowledge of Stonewall," she said. "I was supportive of gay issues, but I learned so much more about the issues coming to Stonewall meetings. I just think all the issues are civil rights issues."

Stonewall Vice President Michael Wetter called Fabishak's work "nothing short of amazing for our visibility."

Longtime lesbian activist and former Dallas Stonewall President Erin Moore was recognized with a distinguished service award. Moore serves as co-chair of the National Stonewall Democrats Leadership Council and was a member of the national Platform Committee that added marriage equality to the platform.

"She has been on the forefront of bringing equality issues up to the table," Narvaez said. "She has done so much and given so much."

Moore joked that she isn't dead yet and still has more work to do.

"I have never been more proud to work for another organization than Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for everything that you guys do," Moore said. "This means the world to me. Thank you all for all you do."

Other award winners were:

- Haryette Ehrhardt Distinguished Democrat: Tonya Parker;
- Buck Massey Member of the Year: Dub Windsor;
- Ally of the Year: Hunky's Hamburgers; and
- Christy Kinsler Board Member of the Year: Pauline Bourqui. ■



PUMPED UP | Erin Moore, who received a distinguished service award, holds the Pink Pump Award, which went to Mary Clare Fabishak. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

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■ KIRVEN, From Page 7

But Kirven said the biopsy will have to wait a few more weeks, because first she wants to attend activism-related engagements in Boston and Virginia.

Meanwhile, her comic book about a black lesbian superhero, *The Tao Diaries*, is taking off. She recently returned from Los Angeles' Comikaze, where the book sold out.

Kirven said she's now honing her focus on "art as activism." She wants to help the state and national chapters of GetEQUAL integrate art into their work because she thinks it can attract more young people to the LGBT movement and help it grow into a full-fledged civil rights struggle.

"You can't change people's minds; you can change their hearts. And that's why I feel like art as activism will help us evolve," Kirven said. "I think art can help translate our everyday lives into a thing where you can see it's no different from racism, it's no different from sexism, it's no different from discrimination based on disability."

Face of the community

Kirven has been involved with GetEQUAL — the national LGBT direct action group — ever since she met fellow Dallasite Mark Reed at a rally on Cedar Springs in 2009. Reed, a national board member for the group, was among the chief organizers of the March for Equality in Washington, D.C. later that year.

In 2010, Reed and Kirven returned to D.C., and Kirven was arrested in a sit-in at House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office to demand a House vote on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. She was sentenced to six months of probation.

"Until you're sitting behind bars and you didn't do anything wrong — I'm sitting behind bars because I want you to vote on ENDA so that people can't be fired — it really made me appreciate the sacrifices that were made by people like Martin Luther King, or people in the women's rights movement," Kirven says.

A few weeks later Reed, who posted Kirven's bond, would get arrested for chaining himself to the White House fence in a protest calling for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

"We certainly have seen from the civil rights movement how direct action and nonviolent civil disobedience can be an effective way to create change," Reed said. "It takes a lot of courage to do those type of actions. What [Kirven] can do is, she's not afraid to speak her mind and to stand up for equality and she does it in a way that encourages other people to also take a stand with her, and the more you can get people to take a stand, the more you can create change."

But even within GetEQUAL, Kirven has made waves. At one point she broke off from the group, launching her own organization called GetEQUAL Now with a focus on addressing racial discrimination within the LGBT movement.

"We're back on speaking terms," she says of her relationship with GetEQUAL.

"I'm never going to fully let that go," Kirven says of GetEQUAL Now, "because I really feel like

we haven't addressed the problem head on. [But] I feel like my role right now is to be that person of color alongside the other activists."

Kirven, also one of the founders of DFW Pride Movement, a black gay Pride group in Dallas, says she'll be rejoining that organization's board in 2013.

"I think LGBT people as a whole are fantastic, and the whole separation between us doesn't make any sense to me, because I spend time with each community, and we're more alike than we are different," Kirven says. "We just don't see that. Once we do that, our movement will escalate at a rate — you have no idea. But until we do that, it's so easy for the heterosexual community to throw something in the middle and separate us, because we're already so segregated."

DFW Pride Movement Executive Director Derrick Spillman said Kirven has made mainstream groups more aware of the concerns of the black queer community.

"She is the voice and the face for the African-American community when it comes to advocating for equality," Spillman said. "What I love about her is the fact that she has balls, meaning she is bold and she's willing to stand in the face of adversity, and she's going to represent us and represent us well."

Weighing her future

At the outset of 2012, Kirven was among approximately 25 LGBT leaders who gathered at Resource Center Dallas for a closed-door meeting with Mayor Mike Rawlings, after he angered the community by refusing to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage.

The activists took turns speaking as an emotional conversation made its way around a semi-circle in front of the mayor. Some held up pictures and talked about getting married in other states, or fearing they wouldn't be able to see their sick partners in the hospital.

Kirven, one of the few who was there without a partner, waited with photos of her own family under her seat, planning to show them to Rawlings and talk about how her mother and brothers are so accepting despite their church background. But as she watched Rawlings listen to the other activists, Kirven didn't sense that the mayor was taking it in.

"I just told him," Kirven recalls. "I said: 'I'm not gonna show a picture of my family to someone who can't appreciate their importance. I think what we should be doing as a community is finding a candidate, putting him up against you and making sure you lose.' He looked at me like I'd lost my mind."

Reflecting on the experience, later chronicled in a profile of Kirven that appeared in the Dallas Observer's People Issue, Kirven says she's comfortable with the role.

"I used to hate it so much — the stereotypical angry black woman — and now I've grown to embrace that because I've started to look at the movement as more of somebody has to be that agitator, somebody has to be the person they hate," she says. "Somebody has to be that person for the



DIVERSE ARTIST

Kirven's comic book series about a black lesbian superhero, 'The Tao Diaries,' has been well received. But her first love is filmmaking, and she's working on a screenplay for what she called a gay version of 'The Big Chill.'

other people to be able to make headway."

Kirven says she's spoken to Rawlings since, and she now serves on the city's LGBT Task Force. But she was actually invited to join the Task Force because of her work on a different issue.

Kirven was friends with one of the leaders of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women, and when female firefighters sued the city for sex discrimination a few years ago, she threatened protests and put together a drag show benefit before the city settled.

"I'm not just a gay rights activist," she says. "I'm a woman, too. I'm a black person, too. Those issues mean a lot to me."

As an LGBT Task Force member, Kirven planned one of this year's four weekly LGBT Pride Month events in June — a kickoff in the City Hall Flag Room that featured performances by both the Turtle Creek Chorale and spoken word poet Lady B Smoove.

"My week, I wanted to make sure it was a multicultural representation of our community," she says.

And it's not surprising that Kirven has become the go-to person when it comes to reaching out to African-American elected officials on LGBT issues. When County Commissioner John Wiley Price was the swing vote on domestic partner benefits this fall, Kirven locked up his support. She says it helped that Price was once a street activist himself.

"We connected, and I think he saw a little bit of himself in me," she says, adding that she's now working with DART board members on DP benefits. "It usually works. I usually connect with

them and change their minds."

When DP benefits finally came up for a vote at Commissioners Court, Kirven took center stage in one of the most memorable moments of the year.

Anti-LGBT Commissioner Dickey called Kirven a "him" and requested that she stop taking photos from the audience. Kirven notes that she had addressed the court a week before, so Dickey knew she was female.

The incident, captured on video by Dallas Voice, made national news. Kirven would later publicly offer LGBT diversity training to Dickey, who never responded to the gesture.

"She knew exactly what she was doing, and I hate the fact that her bizarre behavior overshadowed the triumph that the community made together," Kirven says of Dickey, adding that as a butch lesbian, the insult didn't phase her. "She didn't get the reaction she thought she was going to get."

Kirven's success as an activist has led to requests for her to run against anti-gay incumbent Vonciel Jones Hill for City Council in 2013, but she says that's unlikely. Kirven says she's also considered running for Congress, when U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson retires.

But her first love will always be filmmaking. She's working on a screenplay that she describes as a queer version of *The Big Chill*, and she plans to volunteer again this winter at the Sundance Film Festival.

"I'm at a crossroads of being a filmmaker or a politician," Kirven says.

She might have enough energy and passion to do both. ■

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viewpoints

Ex-gay therapy isn't free speech

In blocking Calif. ban on practice from taking effect, judge wrongly suggests 1st Amendment protects harmful efforts to turn kids straight

In an odd court decision released Monday, Dec. 3, federal Judge William Shubb temporarily blocked California from enforcing a groundbreaking law that prohibits anti-gay therapists from trying to turn gay minors straight. However, the order was quite narrow, applying to only the three plaintiffs that sued to overturn Senate Bill 1172.

"Even if SB 1172 is characterized as primarily aimed at regulating conduct, it also extends to forms of (conversion therapy) that utilize speech and, at a minimum, regulates conduct that has an incidental effect on speech," Shubb wrote.

It seems that judge is a bit confused about the First Amendment. He appears to believe that it gives mental health providers license to say whatever they want even if it is not in the best interest of clients. Such thinking makes a mockery of medicine and fails to distinguish between normal lay people and trusted practitioners. It treats medical and mental health experts as if they are op-ed columnists or talk radio hosts, with their personal views superseding their professional opinions.

Apparently, the judge seems blissfully unaware that the toxic words of a biased shrink can sometimes be as harmful as a scalpel in the wrong hands. The wounds of "ex-gay" survivors are real, they are devastating, and they can sometimes last a lifetime. It seems that the judge, however, believes words are just words, regardless of intent or content or the entrusted authority of those delivering them.

Shubb appears unduly concerned that enactment of SB 1172 might disrupt the livelihood of

Christian therapists Anthony Duk, Donald Welch, as well as Aaron Bitzer, a so-called "ex-gay" who is studying to become a reparative therapist.

"Because plaintiffs have also shown that they are likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of an injunction, that the balance of equities tips in their favor, and that an injunction is in the public interest, the court grants plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction."

However, their careers should be derailed, in the same way disbaring a crooked attorney or imprisoning a financial whiz that creates illegal pyramid schemes should affect their job prospects.

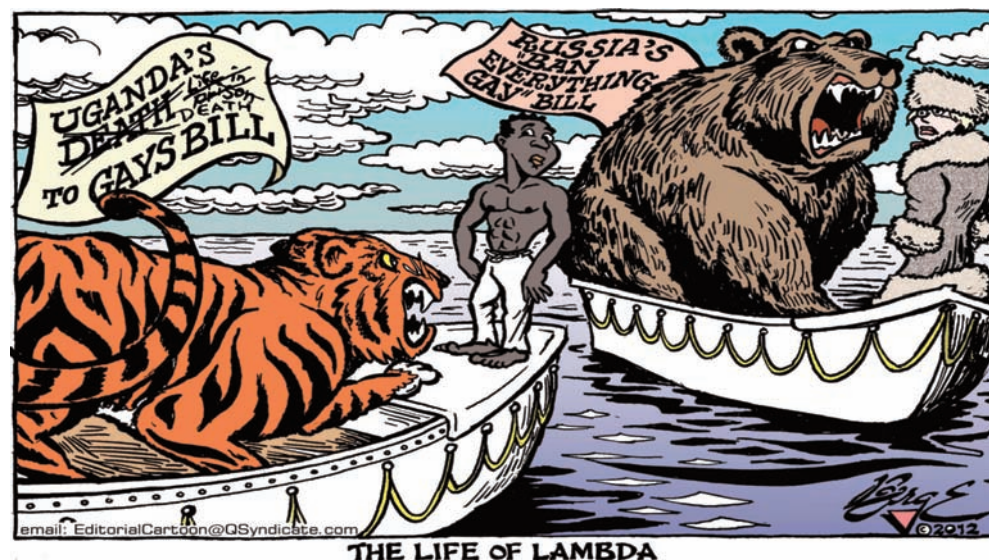
Without a doubt, reparative therapy brazenly stands in direct opposition to standard mental health guidelines. It erroneously portrays homosexuality as a mental illness and gay people as mentally ill. To quote convicted felon Arthur Abba Goldberg of Jews Offering New Alternatives to Homosexuality, "Every person that we work with is really a heterosexual person who may have a homosexual problem."

The question is why Shubb would imprudently enable such embarrassingly unprofessional conduct? Does he think its reasonable or responsible for "therapists" billing themselves as experts to tell vulnerable 13- and 14-year-old gay kids that they are nuts and suffering from a curable malady?

Furthermore, I'd like to know specifically which part of reparative therapy the good judge endorses. Is it the part where a client is made to pretend that oranges are testicles and then suck out the juice to ingest his manhood? Is it the practice of telling clients to get naked in front of a mirror and touch themselves to help with body image issues? Is it the idea of male clients calling friends dude and drinking Gatorade to increase masculinity? Is it the creation of a "masturbation action plan" to help with same-sex urges?"



Wayne Besen
Contributing columnist



Maybe it's the technique where clients are told to wear a rubber band and snap it on their wrist whenever they find someone attractive? Or, possibly, he thinks it's healthy to give exorcisms to LGBT youth?

It could be that he identifies with the part where male clients tell their wives, "I need to be the man of the house. Let me be the man of the house. Dominant women only demasculinize men." Or, maybe, Judge Shubb is attracted to the exercise where a client severely beats an effigy of his mother with a tennis racket while deliriously screaming her name?

Shubb should fully understand that when he protects reparative therapists he is wholeheartedly promoting and endorsing such outlandish quackery. It becomes particularly damaging when such demented "therapeutic" techniques are practiced on LGBT youth.

Finally, Shubb appears sympathetic to the dangerous argument that faith-based doctors are entitled to get a free pass when it comes to ethical and humane treatment for its adherents.

"This court would be hard-pressed to conclude that SB 1172 is content- and viewpoint-neutral," wrote Judge Shubb. "Accordingly, because it appears that SB 1172 lacks content and viewpoint neutrality, it is likely that it must ultimately be assessed under strict scrutiny."

What an absolutely silly argument. Our laws make the distinction between dangerous religious viewpoints, such as the idea that man should be put to death if he engages in homosexual acts, and civil laws that protect LGBT people from stone-throwing zealots. The same is true for reparative therapy, in that a therapist can personally hold antiquated views, but he is not entitled to inflict barbaric practices at the expense of his client's mental health and well-being.

This trial is not over. If Shubb wants to protect his legacy, he will stop providing a platform for such lunacy disguised as legitimate therapy. ■

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.

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Ian femme-ing

'70s pop icon **Janis Ian** is proud to have grown with the times

JONANNA WIDNER | Contributing Writer
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There's perhaps no other better way to note how the world has changed than talking to iconic singer-songwriter Janis Ian right after Election Day. We spoke over the phone on Nov. 7, less than 24 hours after the first African-American president, Barack Obama, was elected to a second term.

"It's a great day!" Ian says early in the conversation.

The event serves, perhaps, as a fitting bookend to Ian's story, which started when she was 13, penning the song "Society's Child (Baby I've Been Thinking)" about an inter-racial relationship. That song was released in 1967, and when Ian performed it she was often booed off stage, pelted with verbal abuse and epithets such as "n*gger-lover."

So yes, some things have changed — to some extent at least. Her audience will no doubt be much friendlier when she performs in Hamon Hall at the Winspear Opera House Saturday.

"I'm happily surprised," Ian says. "I didn't think Obama would get as much of the popular vote that he did. We're a young country and people forget that. The fact that we grew up enough to elect a black man is great."

Growing up has been a theme in much of Ian's work. She's best known for her 1975 Grammy-winner "At Seventeen," a deeply personal, melancholy vocal account of what it's like to grow up ostracized for not fitting into societal norms of what's attractive. When I note that, upon looking back at her old album covers and promo photos, Ian actually looks pretty darn cool, she laughs.

"Well, I don't know about that," she says. "I do know that you get older and you realize that that's not what people love or hate about you."

Ian's feelings about her own appearance during her adolescence are well documented. She was brown-eyed and curly-haired, her skin was bad, and she was short, while the popular girls were tall, blonde and smooth-faced. It's tough enough to live in that dichotomy, but, as a lesbian at a time when lesbians didn't come out, Ian's outsider status was even more complex.

Ian didn't come out publicly until 1993, when she released her comeback album, *Breaking Silence* (the title track actually was about incest, not being in the closet). "I was out to the music industry, out to everyone I knew," she says, "but the suicide rates of gay teens were so high, that's what convinced me to come out very publicly."

For Ian, 1993 wasn't just about coming out. Although her body of work is some of the best American songwriting ever produced, Ian had been stigmatized as a one-hit wonder. *Breaking Silence* was a way for her to make a point.

"I was coming back with a lot to prove, to prove that I could still write good songs, that you don't have to have a hit single to be successful, that I didn't have to look a certain way. People like Ani DiFranco were out there doing those things, but not when I started," she says.

It's here that Ian's career took a surprising side route, as she began to appear on Howard Stern's radio show.

They were an odd match, but, weirdly, maintained a rapport and comic chemistry. "It was cool in the sense of, how many times do you get to sit in the boys locker room," Ian laughs, "but, you know...." She laughs again and switches gears. "Despite all the lesbian jokes he made, Howard still tried to be respectful."

That's the thing about Janis Ian: Her scrappiness has never ceased, nor has her commitment to vocalizing her opposition to what's unjust in



THE OTHER JANIS | From her Grammy-winning hit 'At Seventeen' to parrying with Howard Stern, Janis Ian has maintained a scrappy individuality from early fame to grande dame status.

the world. But along the way she's made some unexpected, and sometimes contradictory, bedfellows. She's been known as one of the first artists to embrace the potential of the Internet, yet her relationship with the medium remains tricky.

"The Internet has changed a lot, because a lot of people have access to so much, and it's leveled the playing field," she says. "But a lot of it has leveled the playing field to the point that a lot of

really awful stuff gets heard."

And yet, getting heard is still what it's all about. So many years after "Society's Child" and "At Seventeen," you get the feeling that Ian might finally have found a space in which to reconcile her own artistry with that difficult demographic of "the beautiful people."

"I'd still much rather have Celine Dion sing 'At Seventeen,'" she notes wryly. "Then a lot more people would hear it." ■

JANIS IAN

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L+S profile



Looks familiar

Dancer Joel Mendoza became a Pride Parade poster boy without even knowing it

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

Joel Mendoza was an Internet celebrity for months ... and didn't even realize it. If his face doesn't look familiar, don't feel bad — it wasn't his, umm, face that made him a star. Think lower. Lower. Yeah, you got it. As one of the dancers who performs at the Tin Room, Mendoza became one of the marchers last September in the Alan Ross Texas

Freedom Parade. Well, marchers isn't quite the word for it. He stood on the float performing for the crowds on that drizzly Sunday afternoon. He also caught the attention of Dallas Voice photographer Chuck Marcelo, who was attracted to the leanly muscled Latino in the Stars and Stripes bikini and leather harness. Marcelo snapped a picture (which was cropped to cut off

GRAND OLD FLAG | Joel Mendoza's Stars and Stripes bikini briefs made him a popular 'click' in a photo slideshow of Dallas Pride last fall. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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Mendoza's head) and it was uploaded to the Dallas Voice website's photo gallery. Of the dozens of pictures in that slideshow, Mendoza's happened to be picked as the "featured" image — the first thing visitors saw when they logged on to the page.

And it created something of a sensation.

The slideshow was hugely popular for weeks, with viewers no doubt drawn to the sexy pose of Mendoza shaking his moneymaker. Some people were offended by the photo (and others showing scantily clad folks enjoying Pride); we even added a "PG gallery" after that for more wholesome images.

But Mendoza's picture remained a draw.

For everyone, it seems, except Mendoza.

"I had no idea," he says humbly. "When I saw it, for a minute I thought it couldn't be me."

Really? And none of Mendoza's fans at the Tin Room, where he performs on weekends, mentioned the photo to him, or even recognized him from the parade? Nope. "Every bar brings their own crowd — maybe the people in our crowd do not go to parades," he offers.

And maybe they didn't suspect the 24-year-old UNT grad, who by day works as a paralegal at a real estate and bankruptcy law firm, capable of such steamy posing. Certainly few law clients would suspect the well-spoken young man comes alive onstage when the clothes come off. It kinda comes as a surprise to him, too.

"I work 9 to 5, take my tie off, put my underwear on and work 9 to 2. I might be a stripper dancing in my underwear, but I'm a very shy guy, though when I'm onstage I'm not as shy as off. It's like a switch you flip," he says. "You have to have some personality [when you perform]."

Before he began stripping, Mendoza was already a dancer — he even did a number with the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders last year during a half-time show. He started working at the Tin Room earlier this year, after starting out at BJ's. Being a sex object with tons of hits online, however, has made him think about just how many people have seen him dance.

"I was shocked in a way — like, 'Whoa!' It makes you wonder how many phones you might be on [taking pictures that can turn up somewhere]," he says.

Still, he's proud to be a dancer (he's out to his family — his mother has even seen him perform at clubs) and had a blast during the parade.

"It was amazing. The weather was bad, people were waiting there for hours in the rain and it was cold, but having all those people cheer for you was just quite an experience," Mendoza says. He specifically bought the flag briefs at Skivvies ("that was the only pair they had left") because the patriotic colors put him in mind of the parade. "I thought I could use this."

As for the controversy over getting nearly naked in public ... well, he's reflective about it.

"Everybody's different. It was a parade, it was gay Pride — a celebration! If you're gay, you know what a gay Pride is gonna be like. If you are gonna feel offended for somebody wearing a thong, maybe you should not be there. Skip that float."

Everyone else is happy *not* to skip it. ■

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Rearranging the sky

Martha Wash is back fighting for gay rights ... and a rainstorm with a 'Magic Mike' star

If you've been feeling cloudy with a chance of man-rain, have we got news for you. Martha Wash, former lead singer of The Weather Girls, releases her first album in 20 years this month — and she's bringing out the sun. Known for leaving a mark on the disco era, the early-'80s girl group's biggest hit, "It's Raining Men," is still as much a part of gay culture now as it was then. The theme of empowerment (one that the 58-year-old can relate to, especially after witnessing the toll Hurricane Sandy took on her New York neighborhood) endures on Wash's latest solo album, *Destiny*, an adult-contemporary showcase for her powerhouse vocals.

Just hours after her power was restored, Wash called us to talk about what the new songs mean to her, how she fought for gay rights when few people in the '80s did and being surrounded by hot hunks for the 30th anniversary shoot of "It's Raining Men."

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Twenty years: Do you know how grueling this wait has been for your gay fans? Why the wait? Wash: What can I tell you? Life. No one particular thing, but I thought it was time to put out a whole new CD and hope that the fans would accept it.

Was it easy getting back in the studio? Yes and no. Some of the songs are a bit harder for me to do, but it was something I needed to do, to stretch out on things I had not done in a long time. I'm just really hoping that the fans will appreciate the work and love the music.

The album takes a very inspiring and faith-focused approach. How does *Destiny* represent you at this point in your life? I think it's more so for the masses. There are so many people that are going through something, and sometimes they feel like they're the

only ones going through it. I think that everybody needs a bit of uplifting, and the songs kind of sound like anthems. For some people, those are the things they'll take away from the songs — songs of empowerment, just being uplifted. I think that's what people need right along through here.

Obviously you're known for anthems; "It's Raining Men" is still a staple in the gay community 30 years later. Which songs on the album could be remixed for the gay clubs? Everybody wants a remix! Can't you accept it just the way it is? [Laughs]

You know how the gays are: They want something to shake their butt to. Have you considered remixes? Nope, no. We have not. I don't think it'll happen. That's not to say never, because somebody is always going to



HALLELUJAH IT'S MARTHA WASH | The disco icon, a pioneer in AIDS activism, is releasing her first new album in 20 years.

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How can you relate to these songs? Oh, I can relate to just about every song, to something in there.

Anything in particular? As far as *Destiny* is concerned, having gone through love and loss and thinking, "If it's supposed to be, then it will be; that would be the destiny for us. But if it's not, then I gotta let it go."

How much of a hand did you have in writing these songs? Just the one song, "Destiny." I'm slowly getting into songwriting; that was a song Zach Adam already had the music and lyrics for, and we decided to just scrap the lyrics, keep the music and start all over again. So we wrote that one again.

For the 30th anniversary shoot of "It's Raining Men" with photographer Mike Ruiz, was it difficult being surrounded by hot men?

Oh, that was fun! And the shoot went great.

The song is played at weddings, gay clubs, my Zumba class.... Look, it's played everywhere, OK! The gay community snatched it up and made it their anthem, but like you just said, you hear it at wedding receptions, you hear it at bar mitzvahs, you hear it at parties, you hear it at clubs, at Zumba class[es]. Even though it's a campy song, everybody likes it. I think that's why it's lasted so long, because for 30 years you've got the kids and then you've got the grandkids who like the song. It's one of those pop songs that's a classic now.

Are you glad "It's Raining Men" is the song you became known for? I think for that particular time, when it came out in 1982, that was the song that was supposed to be for us, because other people had turned the song down. We were the ones that recorded the song and [co-writer] Paul Jabara was the one who really took the song around to clubs and asked the DJs to play the song in the clubs way before mainstream music picked up on it.

1982 was also the year I was born, so maybe I should blame it for turning me gay. There are a lot of people who say, "I came out when that song came out." And I say, "Well, cool!"

When did you know you had a big gay following? It was actually before "It's Raining Men," when I was singing background for Sylvester. I started singing with Sylvester in the mid-'70s, and so he had a large gay following and it followed us when we started recording under the name Two Tons o' Fun and then into The Weather Girls, and so forth and so on.

Which men would you want it to rain? For me, I'd put George Clooney in the sky. George is a nice-looking guy. But I'm leaning more toward Matthew McConaughey or Idris Elba. And Terrence Howard is cute. Russell Crowe's not bad. So yeah, there are a few out there.

You were given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the AIDS Emergency Fund on World AIDS Day at the 30th anniversary dinner gala — in the heart of the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park — to honor your friend Sylvester, who passed away from AIDS back in 1988, and for years of raising money and awareness of HIV/AIDS. Why were you so outspoken about gay issues when so many people in the '80s were not? We were going around doing all these fundraisers for these grassroots organizations in different cities and we were

asked to come and do shows to raise money for different organizations that were trying to set up hospices. I always say I wish I didn't have to do this, but it's been over 25 years [of HIV] and I'm still going out, doing shows and trying to help people raise money.

How do you reflect on that time? And why was it important for you to stand up for the gay community? Because at that time I was losing so many people in the industry: artists, DJs, agents, managers. People just leaving out of here in droves. It was a really scary time for a lot of people, and at that time nobody could really figure out what was causing this AIDS epidemic and the blame was always on the gay community — which I don't believe was true, because I was hearing of straight people who were dying of AIDS. They couldn't figure out how they contracted it. At the time, the gay community was really getting slammed for bringing this AIDS epidemic to the world, and it was wrong because at the time nobody knew how it was contracted. But you always have to put the blame on somebody, so why not the gay community? That's the easy thing to do.

So you were defending them. Yeah, I couldn't understand why would you blame the gay community but not know how it's contracted. Again, there were straight people [getting AIDS]. I remember an older woman who died, she was in her 50s or 60s, from what they said was AIDS. So now how did she contract it? Was she with somebody who was gay? Use a little bit of com-

mon sense, but people weren't. And they were scared. They were saying, "Don't be around somebody who is gay, because you don't know if they might give you the AIDS virus."

I remember this one time there was a celebrity who had this big dinner party and she had all her silverware washed in bleach. Seriously. This was kind of a gossip report. And I'm saying to myself, "You don't know how this is being contracted, so why would you bleach all your silverware?" It was just crazy.

Is that celebrity still a celebrity? Yeah.

Can you say who? I'm not gonna talk about who it is. She is famous and was married to a very famous man. But it was just the mentality at that time.

What do you miss most about Sylvester? His craziness. He was crazy at times, but you had to love him. He was way before his time and really just kind of on the cusp of going mainstream when he passed. I think if he had come out now, it would be no problem, being a gay singer. There are more people who are coming out every day, period. But I think he was way before his time. Great singer, great entertainer. I think if he had lived longer, if he had come along in this generation, it wouldn't have been a problem.



Where do you stand on gay issues like marriage? I'm for it. From my perspective, there have been more gay couples who've stayed together longer than straight couples. My feeling is, if you are a citizen of the United States, you should have all rights and liberties of everybody else. If you're paying taxes like everybody else, why can't you have the full commitment from the United States government, from marriage on down?

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TOP PICK **D**

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Two-faced

The good and bad in men provides the lesson for both 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Jekyll & Hyde'

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

Nineteenth century England is surprisingly well represented on North Texas stages this week — and the Brits involved are both a couple of two-faced men. Dallas Theater Center's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* performs for the last time at the Kalita, with Scrooge progressing from bitter ol' curmudgeon to warm-hearted patron; at the Winspear, the protagonist of the pre-Broadway revival of *Jekyll & Hyde* has the opposite journey, as benevolent scientist Henry Jekyll transforms into sexually predatory Edward Hyde. It's not betraying any literary secrets to say things ultimately go better for the character in one of these plays than in the other. Audiences, too.

Men are animals, we all know, and Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 novella proved just that, exploring the duality of man. Frank Wildhorn turned that into a dark musical 20 years ago — one that was initially poo-poo'd by critics and couldn't get a Broadway booking, until a concept album, regional production at Houston's Alley Theatre and subsequent national tour created interest. *Jekyll & Hyde* eventually ran on B'way for nearly four years, introduced the world to Linda Eder and spawned such notable songs as

"Someone Like You," "This is the Moment" and "Take Me As I Am." Sporting events and weddings wouldn't be the same without this score.

But it still gets no love from critics. I'm an exception, someone who can see the flaws but still appreciate its effort at grand tragedy. Mawkish, perhaps, but also soaring and with some good music poking out of many of the repetitive chords. Like *Phantom*, it's an overblown musical that has undeniable appeal. I think critics balk because they feel manipulated by it, and that's a fair point.

That was the older version, at least; the newer version has been tweaked and rewritten in some minor (the sex club is no longer The Red Hat but The Spider's Web) and major ways (numbers rearranged, new songs added, others ditched, including "Good and Evil"). But the major change, to my ear, is the *Idol*-ization of the arrangements.

This isn't meant as a cut against Constantine Maroulis, the former *American Idol* contestant who has met with success as a stage actor. He has the chops — and the pipes — to go beyond such reductionism, as have Chris Daughtry, Jennifer Hudson, Kelly Clarkson and more. (Justin Guarini? Not so much.) But just the orchestrations of "Take Me As I Am" and "This is the Moment" have become transparently radio-friendly — call it *Jekyll & Hyde: The Remixes*. This isn't a Broadway-style show anymore, not something Barbra or Patti would do. It has been rewritten for the iTunes generation, with lots of flash.

For proof, you need look no further than the second number, which employs video components that call to mind the opening credits for an Incredible Hulk movie; at the end, another video display resembles a Megadeath video I once saw. (It doesn't help that when Maroulis is wearing his top hat as Hyde, he looks like Slash ... though when he sings, he's more Axl.)



OH, HENRY | Maroulis and Cox really can belt out their numbers, though it's less showtune than club remix in the reimagined 'Jekyll & Hyde.'

Ultimately, these are reasonable choices made by Wildhorn, director Jeff Calhoun and the producers: To youth-enize the musical while euthanizing its predecessor. In some ways, it works. Aside from a really freak accent that sounds part Jonathan Pryce, part CW heartthrob, Maroulis' voice is spectacular, squealing out high

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HE DOESN'T STAND A GHOST OF A CHANCE | Scrooge (Chamblee Ferguson) is visited by an oddly sympathetic Marley (Brian Gonzales) in DTC's 'A Christmas Carol.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

notes while simultaneously flouncing his curly mane around like he's performing a guitar solo. (As Jekyll, he looks like a character from *The Big Bang Theory*.)

Just as good vocally — and perhaps the most solid acting — is Deborah Cox as Lucy, the prostitute with a heart of gold. Her entrance triggered applause from the fanboys in the audience, and she nails "Someone Like You" and a spectacular duet, "In His Eyes" ... though the latter is the only really memorable number in Act 2. ("Dangerous Game" sounds as if it was written to be performed in a dance club; I'm sure it will eventually.)

J&H has always had problems; it still does. Even the plot, with boiling beakers and mad scientist run amok narration feels cribbed from *The Fly*, *Little Shop* even *Sweeney Todd*. But if you can look past those as audiences have done for years, there's some good singing here — and a very new vision of a musical still yearning to be considered a classic.

Over at DTC, they *have* a classic in *Christmas Carol*, once again with Chamblee Ferguson as Scrooge, Liz Mikel as Christmas Past and Joel Ferrell directing. And once again, they've found new ways to freshen things up. That's even more impressive since it's difficult getting into the hol-

iday mood in 80-degree weather. But you'll believe the snow. That's a step in the right direction.

Among the modifications from prior years are Jacob Marley's death rattle and subsequently sympathetic reappearance, making him more haunting than haunted. Brian Gonzales, fresh from recent stints on Broadway, goes for tortured soul more than spooker.

ON THE BOARDS

JEKYLL & HYDE at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Dec. 16. ATTPAC.org.
A CHRISTMAS CAROL at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 23. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Even without changes, you can often judge a good *Carol* by the cuteness factor of Tiny Tim, and this time out it's through the roof (surprise: He's played by two alternating girls in drag!). But once again it's Ferguson — lanky and angular, as much Icha-bod as Ebenezer — who guides us through the cold-hearted old sod into avuncular hero expertly, and that is what makes the show work. He's full of infectious enthusiasm by the end and that translates when you leave the theater.

Which is really part of the fun in seeing this show year in, year out. As always, *A Christmas Carol* remains as relevant today as in the past. It's hard listening to Scrooge grouse about the "surplus population" and not imagine the number he's talking about might be, oh, 47 percent. There are still Scrooges among us; this play at least puts you in the giving spirit and reminds you to enjoy the season. Even when the weather is unseasonably warm. ■

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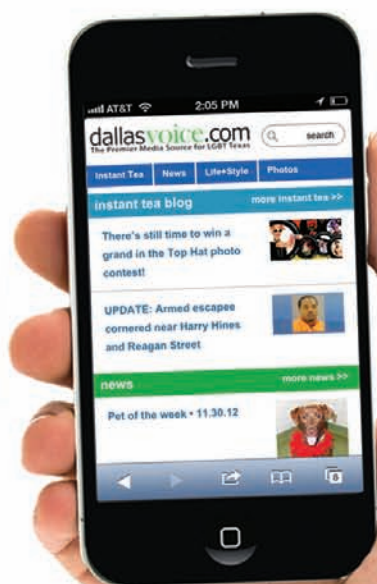


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L+S dining



Razing the bar

Max's Wine Dive's indulgent combo of booze & pub grub

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

"Fried chicken and champagne — why the hell not?" is emblazoned across the waiters' T-shirts at Max's Wine Dive, which recently moved into the West Village's vacant Borders space. Why the hell not, indeed? We live in the era of hedonistic excess, where doing it "cuz I wanna" provides complete justification for most behaviors, gastronomic and otherwise.

It also appears to be the culinary principle among many of the dishes served at Max's.

The Wine Dive concept is so far a small Texas chain, with branches in the state's other major cities, though it's less corporate than some. Yes, there is the consistent recipe for fried yardbird, but that's just half the menu; exec chef Patrick Russell gets to put his finger in the other dishes.

Sometimes, that finger tastes salty. C'mon, housemade chips doused in caviar and crème fraiche? Call it sodi-yum rich. Of course they are addictive — caviar makes almost everything better. But that mush salt is bound to lead to palpitations, and at \$62, who's gonna shell out for such bar-menu extravagance? "Can do" and "should do" are not synonyms.

Then again, subtlety isn't the strong point at Max's, at least most of the time. The bison sliders (\$11.50) *might* be good — it was difficult to tell when the in-house pickles and chipotle honey smothered the flavor of the beef. The borracho bread app (\$10) recalls mac & cheese in its richness: A steamy plate of burbling gruyere and provolone clinging to shreds of baguette — a pre-dipped fondue. The thing is, the serving is too big for one or even two diners without causing loginess. I know for a fact; my dining companion and I ate it all.

That happens when you go to a joint that serves wine by the glass willingly paired by the

staff for most of the dishes. You don't savor the food here so much as devour it. Then again, if you wanted to serve deft flavors balanced for sophisticated palates, you probably wouldn't call yourself a "dive" and blare sports from every orifice like an Ebola victim. There are placed designed to be great after-work hangs or socially buzzy congregating. Foodies are welcomed, but not required.

That said, there are some items we'd return for, especially — mostly on chef Patrick's side of the menu. Fried Brussels sprouts (\$9) have caught on in recent years, and while the version here aren't as elegant as other establishments, how often have *you* seen your greens topped with a fried egg?

The huevo gets further deep-fried expression with a Southern fried egg perched atop a bowl of autumnal pumpkin risotto, tossed with pepitas (\$18). It's a beautiful dish and well-expressed, too, as is the trout and roe (\$9), highlighted by slivers of beets and a smoky quality.

And of course, the chicken. Max's is part of the fried chicken trend this year, and like Sissy's, it aims for a darker, crispy quality. And it comes stacked with Texas toast. Carbs don't just live here — it's their hive.

The lunch selection is smaller (and the burger merely OK), and some ideas (the "pork and beans" as a white bean puree and bacon alongside a scallop for \$25) don't quite measure up. But measure up to what? Max's Wine Dive has been crowded every time I've been by since Week One, and the vibe it offers is unlike anywhere else in the area. It's turned the gastropub into a wine bar with fatty dishes. It doesn't want to be competition for The Grape — it wants to be competition for Gingerman.

Max's Wine Dive, 3800 McKinney Ave., Suite 100. Open daily for dinner and weekends for lunch. MaxsWineDive.com/Dallas.

FABERGE, CADBURY ... AND NOW THIS | A Southern fried egg provides a rich bit of color and taste to the pumpkin risotto at Max's Wine Dive. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com

Dear Howard,

My best bud and I are planning a motorcycle trip through southern Europe this spring. Any chance you could direct us toward some countries where we'd most likely find the biggest concentration of, ahem, *impressive* attractions to enjoy? I trust this question isn't too vaguely worded for you not to figure out (hint-hint) what I'm referring to. — **Bad4Bone**

Dear Bone Collector,

"Too vaguely worded," BB? Dora the Explorer herself and the dingbat Doodle Bops would grasp perfectly your vacation's objective. So: Head those Harley hogs down the coastline of western Iberia. You and your horndawg bud will enjoy the most *fulfilling* enjoyments of your lives once in Lisbon. The Portuguese, bar none, pack the most (hint-hint) "impressive attractions" in Europe. Tell them Rick Steves sent you.

Dear Howard,

I lead a "normal" life as a married man (to a woman). I'm 42. We got married young — a shotgun wedding, if you will — but we've raised two beautiful children: one now in college, the other a high school honors' senior. My astute wife, however, has become justly dubious of my many "late nights spent at the office" recently and is confronting me with point-blank questions regarding why I've suddenly joined a gym four days a week; why I'm dying my gray hair; and why I'm manscaping for the first time. I still love my wife ... in a way. Our marriage, if success can be measured by raising exemplary children, is something I'm proud of. To be honest, though, I've been *very* lonely even before this unraveling at my marriage's seams began. Any suggestions for how I should proceed? Thank you. — **Paler Than Blue**

Dear Daddy Milquetoast,

I can read between the lines. Understand, Blue: This secret boy-toy of yours with whom you're experiencing ecstasy on the sly is in *no way whatsoever* worth estranging your fine children. Fortunately, both should have the maturity not to particularly mind that you've discovered your latent homosexuality and gone on a tear — I suspect your repressed orientation will hardly come as a shock to them. Your *priority* is to ensure that you are an absolute, total gentleman toward your good wife during her upcoming divorce proceedings ... and don't delude your-

self for one second into believing that it's possible to have things both ways — a stalwart wife of many years does *not* take kindly toward remaining married once the boy you've been cheating on her with has been discovered.

Dear Howard,

My brother ran away from home four years ago, when I was 15. Mike's two years older than me — he was still in high school when he dashed. Nobody heard from him afterwards except me, but that stopped cold after six months. Mike said he was in Oak Cliff at first, hanging with his boyfriend, but he shut me down after he accused me of snitching to Dad, which I wasn't. Worse, Dad took my phone away, so Mike couldn't ever text me again. When I turned 18 finally, and got my own phone, Mike's old number didn't work anymore. Howard, could you run this letter in your column, and if Mike reads it, would it be OK for him to hit you back so I'd know how to get back in touch with him? I've hit a wall here, man. — **Sidney**

Dear Sidney,

Although it's not usually in the investigative habit of my (fluffy) column to petition for a man-hunt, in light of your earnestness and refreshingly innocent candor, I'm delighted to make an



exception: Yes, absolutely, I'll be happy to pass word back to you, young man, should your long-lost/yearned-for older sibling read the posted query above and respond. ■

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Friday 12.07

TBT's 'Nutcracker' goes to Bass

There's a reason Texas Ballet Theater no longer has a city in its name — it's a troupe meant for all of North Texas. So, having just concluded a two-week engagement at the Winspear in Dallas of *The Nutcracker*, it heads into the Christmas season at Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall. Ben Stevenson's newly-choreographed version of Tchaikovsky's most beloved work just scored a "Nutty" Award nomination for best version of *The Nutcracker* anywhere in the country. That's something to dance about.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 7–23. TexasBalletTheater.org.



Wednesday 12.12

Out sax man Dave Koz blows it for Christmas

Ballet isn't the only thing going on at Bass Hall this week. On Thursday, two-time Grammy-nominee Dave Koz celebrates the yuletide season with *Dave Koz and Friends' Christmas*. The jazzy show features the openly gay saxophonist performing alongside other acts, all with the goal of getting you into the Christmas spirit.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. \$27–\$88. BassHall.com.



Thursday 12.13

Dark Knight moves from film to stage for 'Batman Live' arena show

After this summer's *The Dark Knight Rises* in theaters, the Caped Crusader has never been hotter, and the proof might be *Batman Live*, a world arena tour that stays faithful to the DC Comics characters. The plot involves all the iconic elements, from Penguin to Arkham Asylum to the quasi-homoerotic relationship between Batman and Robin. It's hard to act like a grown-up when such childhood joys abound.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Dec. 13–16. \$20–110. AmericanAirlinesCenter.com.

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calendar

FRIDAY 12.07

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's traditional holiday show begins its final season at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in Uptown, once again with Chamblee Ferguson in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge and Liz Mikel as Christmas Present. *Reviewed this week.* 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 23. \$15–\$85. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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

The Beauty Queen of Leenane. Oscar-winner writer/director Martin McDonagh's dark play gets a staging from Kitchen Dog Theater. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Final weekend. \$10–\$30. KitchenDogTheater.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker! The annual holiday

offering from MBS Productions, a farce-and-ballet about a small town inadvertently hiring strippers to dance *The Nutcracker*. Stone Cottage Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 29. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Crazy for You. Theatre 3's newest musical, set to the music of the Gershwins. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Dec. 15. \$10–\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Jekyll & Hyde. Constantin Maroulis and Deborah Cox star in the pre-Broadway revival of the musical. *Reviewed this week.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 4–16. ATPAC.org.

Mother Goose. Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, a children's show with tons of saucy adult content, including cross-dressing. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Avenue, Plano. Through Dec. 30. \$10–\$20. 972-490-4202. Theatre-Britain.com.

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

On the Eve: A New Musical by Michael Federico, Shawn and Seth Magill about a time-traveling Marie Antoinette. Presented by Nouveau 47 Theatre in the Margo Jones Theater at Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. Through Dec. 15. \$18–\$25. OnTheEveMusical.com.

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. B.J. Cleveland headlines WaterTower's new holiday production, a play version of the Jimmy Stewart film where five actors perform the roles of everyone in Bedford Falls. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Nov. 24–Dec.16. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

BALLET

The Nutcracker. Ben Stevenson's enduring version of Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday classic moves this week to Bass Hall next. Presented by Texas Ballet Theater. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 7–23. TexasBalletTheater.org.

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DEPARTING SHORTLY | Gay Irish artist Gary Farrelly's exhibition of airport-inspired art ends this Saturday at Ro2Art Gallery on Akard.

posters from the French belle epoque. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 20. \$14. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Gary Farrelly: Terminal Compositions. Gay Irish artist's work shows at Downtown's Ro2Art Gallery, 110 N. Akard St. Through Dec. 8. Ro2Art.com.

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. CrowCollection.org.

Frank Lloyd Wright's Samara: A Mid-Century Dream Home. Furnishings and designs by the renowned architect are brought to life. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Feb. 17. Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (open Sundays at 1 p.m.) ArlingtonMuseum.org.

Anne Frank: A Private Photo Album. A new exhibit featuring 71 private photos of the Frank family, taken by Otto Frank, opens. Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through March 31. Open daily. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

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. Crystallmeth.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.

BROADCAST

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

SATURDAY 12.08

COMMUNITY

TGRA's Hard Candy Christmas. The Texas Gay Rodeo Association will host its annual auction and entertainment show at the Dallas Eagle, with holiday music, live performances, silent and live auctions of fun-filled baskets. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Auction baskets on view as early as 6 p.m.

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.

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

Choctaw Casino/Bingo trip leaves the second Saturday of every month from 709 Magnolia St., Arlington. \$7. 817-548-8110.

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

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 12.09

WORSHIP

The ONE Church, 5427 Philip Ave. Services 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

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

COMMUNITY

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

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

MONDAY 12.10

COMMUNITY

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

Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County. Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 5228 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.3431 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

PFLAG Mesquite. St. Stephen United Methodist Church. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: Comfort and Joy. The first of two separate holiday concerts from the chorale, this one features traditional Christmas songs. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. \$20-\$75. TurtleCreek.org.

TUESDAY 12.11

COMMUNITY

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4-9 p.m. 214-879-0400.

WEDNESDAY 12.12

COMMUNITY

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.

American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas



HARD CANDY CHRISTMAS | Christopher Wilson, left, and Miss TGRA 2013 Kelly O'Neil, right, host the TGRA's 21st annual fundraiser at the Dallas Eagle Saturday.

Chapter. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m.

American Veterans for Equal Rights Lone Star Veterans Chapter. LGBT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCPres@aol.com.

CONCERTS

Dave Koz and Friends' Christmas. The gay jazz saxophonist performs. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. BassHall.com.

THURSDAY 12.13

COMMUNITY

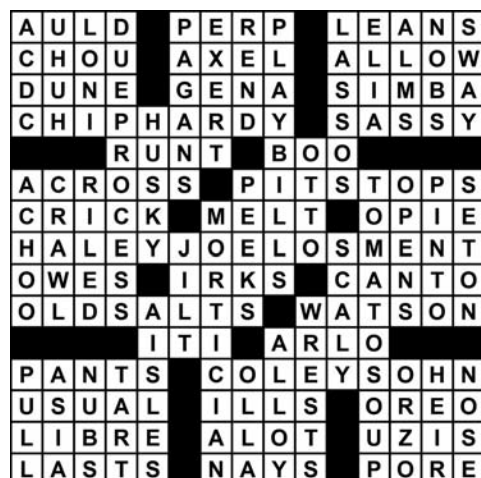
Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association monthly luncheon meeting. Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Noon. 214-540-4460.

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

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

Brokeback Dallas. Support group for gay men married to straight women. Rec Hall of St. Thomas

this week's solution



the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6526 Inwood Road. 7:30 p.m.

THEATER

Batman Live World Arena Tour. An original adaptation of the DC Comics hero. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Dec. 13-16. AmericanAirlinesCenter.com.

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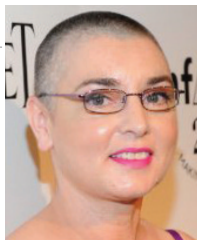
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Sinead O'Connor turns 46 on Saturday. The Irish singer best known for her Prince-penned hit "Nothing Compares 2 U" has been a lightning rod for controversy for years. She came out as "a dyke" in a 2000 interview, then later declared herself just "one-quarter gay."



SAGITTARIUS Nov 21–Dec 20

Finding your place has always been an issue. Whatever this comes from, your current situation has you straddling the fence of becoming involved with people and things. You're a wizard when it comes to juggling, and your heart is bigger than China.

CAPRICORN Dec 21–Jan 20

You can't figure out what's going on and it's driving you crazy enough to make you want to talk to a psychic. That could be just what the doctor ordered, but I am here to tell you that you're smart enough to get it on your own.

AQUARIUS Jan 21–Feb 20

The next time you decide to shoot for the moon, make sure you know how much it costs to get there. A deep breath is about to inspire you. You are already there, and whatever is going to happen is already written.

PISCES Feb 21–Mar 20

This is one of those times when you have to be able to switch from one vibration to another, adjusting to multiple frequencies without losing touch with yourself. Of all the signs in the Zodiac, you understand unconditional love better than the rest.

ARIES Mar 21–Apr 20

You have more than one option. It's important that your motives be clear. In the past, it's been easy for you to pretend that you're in control at all times. At the moment you're doing an excellent job making believe that you're on top of things, when the inside story is a little shaky.

TAURUS Apr 21–May 20

You're doing everything right. It's great to be so steady on your feet, but guess what? It looks like it's time to get off your perch. This could mean anything from moving out to moving on — because you won't keep moving up if you stay where you are.

GEMINI May 21–Jun 20

Haul out the vitamins and do everything you can to bolster your energy — the next few weeks will see you running around like a maniac. The multiplicity of things is always the issue. This time, it looks like you've got plenty of help.

CANCER Jun 21–Jul 20

You'd be wise to review your situation before making any permanent choices. Instead of moving in one direction at times, it's necessary to stop and look. It may be hard for you to understand why you've been placed in this position.

LEO Jul 21–Aug 20

All you have to do to figure out what's going on is ask someone else how they see it; not that it has to be true for you, too, but at least you'll get a chance to see that there are a million ways to look at things.

VIRGO Aug 21–Sep 20

Your control issues are making it hard to stay in the moment. Most of us are trapped by the way we think things need to be and it totally ruins what could come to pass if we would just get out of the way.

LIBRA Sep 21–Oct 20

You have too many trips going on for me to be able to put this forecast in a nutshell. Generally speaking, if the last two years haven't put you in the hole, you're that much stronger and wiser for it.

SCORPIO Oct 21–Nov 20

How does it feel to have to sit back and watch people drive themselves nuts? You can't do anything about this. In any situation all you can do is take care of your own little piece of the fabric.

JANE'S WORLD



Jane's World © Paige Braddock 2012

JanesWorld.us

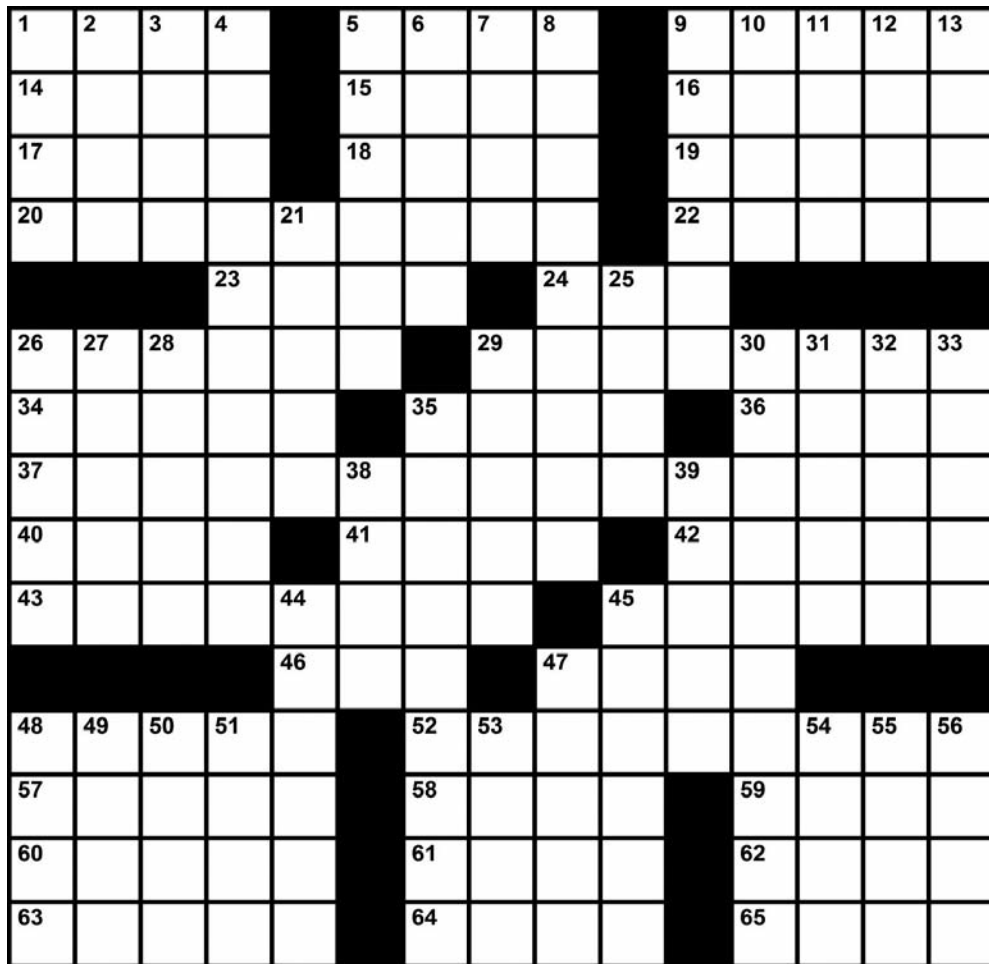
bitter girl



email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com

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Brazen Britches

Solution on page 37

Across

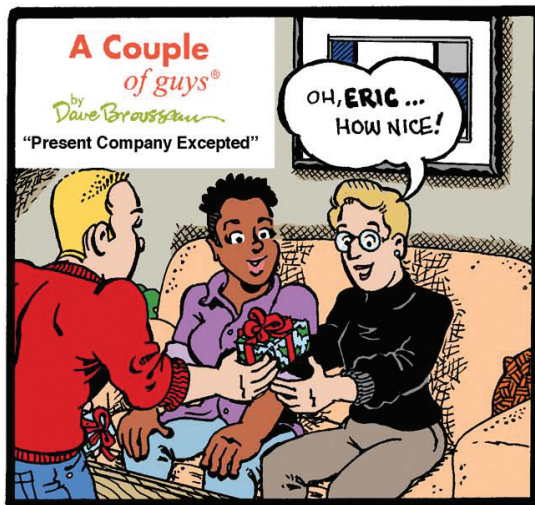
- 1 Barrie's getting on in years
- 5 Cop's target
- 9 Isn't quite straight
- 14 Chinese dynasty
- 15 Jump for Doug Mattis
- 16 Bear
- 17 Hump on the beach
- 18 Rowlands of film
- 19 *The Lion King* protagonist
- 20 Character of 22-/48-Across
- 22 With 48-Across, "brazen britches," or film comedy of 2012
- 23 Least of the litter
- 24 Halloween cry
- 26 Straddling
- 29 Stops to unzip and go
- 34 Pain in the neck
- 35 Get soft
- 36 Ron Howard role
- 37 Actor who plays 20-Across
- 40 Has debts
- 41 Ticks off
- 42 Pound poem part
- 43 Seamen running down the deck
- 45 Jude Law in *Sherlock Holmes*

46 "That's ___ quit!"

- 47 Woody Guthrie's son
- 48 See 22-Across
- 52 Writer/director of 22-/48-Across
- 57 Spacey's *The ___ Suspects*
- 58 Trials and tribulations
- 59 Milk go-with
- 60 Free, in France
- 61 Very much
- 62 What Israelis may shoot off
- 63 Stays hard
- 64 "Over my dead body!" and such
- 65 Sweater?

Down

- 1 Bi
- 2 "Not on a bet!"
- 3 Anderson of TV
- 4 Just treatment, to B.D. Wong on *SVU*
- 5 Socrates and Caesar
- 6 Bring to bear
- 7 Tear apart
- 8 Broadway souvenirs
- 9 Gay rodeo accessories
- 10 Film director Kazan
- 11 Cathedral of Hope collection
- 12 Important Brits
- 13 Go to and fro
- 21 Sled dog
- 25 Palindromic fellow
- 26 Sound of a sudden, involuntary discharge
- 27 Go on all fours
- 28 Het up
- 29 Practices voyeurism
- 30 Warhol subject
- 31 Responds like welcoming thighs
- 32 Bicolor mount
- 33 ___ Hall University
- 35 Michael C. Hall on *Six Feet Under*
- 38 Leave at the altar
- 39 Like snakeskin
- 44 Controversial paths for same-sex partners
- 45 Snatches
- 47 Pewter or brass
- 48 Word on a door
- 49 Bangkok continent
- 50 Worn-down pencils
- 51 Pastry with fruit, perhaps
- 53 Earthenware pot
- 54 Soup pasta
- 55 Name in a will
- 56 What Sam twitched on *Bewitched*



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B.J., John and Frank at TMC: The Mining Company.

Hip Hop Fridays presents **Big Meech Birthday Bash** on Dec. 7 at **the Brick**. ... **Mustache Envy** returns to **Sue Ellen's** on Dec. 7 to heat up your winter with 'Staching Through the Snow featuring **DJ Trigger Mortis**, **Reya del Sol** and hosted by **Lilleth Grey**. On Dec. 8, **The League of Animal Protectors** holds a pet adoption event beginning at 4 p.m. ... **Cheer Dallas** holds its third annual **Changing Minds Changing Lives** fundraiser for **Bryan's House** at **JR.'s Bar & Grill** on Dec. 7. Then **Jenni P** and a bevy of beauties calls the wicked to Sunday Service on Dec. 9. Stop by on Dec. 10 for a **Nicky Minaj** CD giveaway and the **Pink Friday** fragrance debut from the singer. ... Lots of groups getting together for meetings and shows at the **Dallas Eagle** this weekend. Dec. 7 is **First Friday Club Night** for **Leather Knights** and **Dallas Bears**. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** presents **Hard Candy Christmas** on Dec. 8 and the **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Jingle Ball 6**, its community Christmas show on Dec. 9. ... Dec. 7 is **Girls Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** at **Alexandre's**. The **Jason Huff** band appears on Dec. 8. ... Join Their Most Imperial Majesties **Larry Harrell Emperor XXXVIII** and **Messy Panocha Empress XXXVIII** for a **Regal Affair Investiture 38** on Dec. 8 at **the Brick**. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Girls' night out at Sue Ellen's.



Friends at Club Reflections.



Luis and Ryan at the Round-Up Saloon.



Friends at Station 4.



Girls' night out at Pekers.



Girls' night out at Best Friends Club.

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