

# Scott Griggs plans pro-LGBT resolutions

Dallas councilman to introduce measures backing marriage equality, state ENDA  
Mayor Mike Rawlings won't commit to supporting proposals, says he needs to review language first

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Established 1984 | Volume 29 | Issue 31

FREE | Friday, December 14, 2012



# Haunted by **HATE?**

6 months after a teen lesbian couple's shooting rocked a S. Texas town, the new police chief says he can't rule out what many in the LGBT community have suspected all along — that the crime was motivated by the victims' sexual orientation ■ COVER STORY, Page 6

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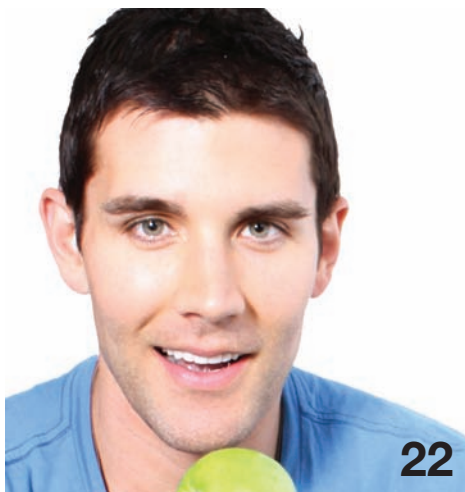
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Monica Greene

### DP benefits still stalled at DART

A DART committee is taking its time in studying a proposal to offer domestic partner benefits to the transit agency's employees.

Members of DART's administrative committee requested several sample plans complete with costs and definitions Tuesday.

After delaying a briefing on domestic partner benefits last month due to time, Michael Muhammad, DART's interim vice president of diversity, recapped his previous presentation about other Texas governmental entities that offer the benefits, as well as Texas law that prohibits the recognition of anything identical or similar to marriage.

He said DART's plan would include proving that applicants are in a committed relationship and share household responsibilities, and are 18 or older and unmarried. He suggested making the benefits open to blood relatives, which all other Texas plans prohibit.

Muhammad brought up Attorney General Greg Abbott's expected opinion on DP benefits, which was requested by state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, in early November. He also said the city of El Paso's benefits have been "legally challenged" and said it was ongoing. El Paso City Council approved the benefits in 2009 and again in 2011 after a repeal effort led by anti-gay Pastor Tom Brown overturned the council's decision. Brown appealed the case to the Texas Supreme Court in March, but it's unlikely the court will hear the case. Meanwhile, city employees have DP benefits.

He said the requirements for domestic partners could be as broad or as narrow as the committee wanted, suggesting that the broader the requirements are, the less likely they are to be legally challenged.

The number of unmarried DART employees was again asked for, as it was in October. Muhammad didn't have that information, but said the estimated cost to DART for the benefits was \$105,000 to \$210,000, which is an average cost generated from a DART consultant. Still, he said the cost would be minimal.

John Danish, DART's board chair and an Irving appointee, attended Tuesday's meeting. He brought up the possibility of offering the benefits to blood relatives, using the example of a widow who lives with her son and two brothers who live together and share household duties being eligible for the health benefits.

Danish said common law marriage already protects opposite-sex couples who are in committed relationships. He later asked a DART attorney in the meeting to clarify how DART would define mar-

riage for DP benefits purposes, but committee chair Jerry Christian requested that the committee go into executive session for that to be answered.

DART was criticized by LGBT advocates in 2010 after it made decisions in an executive session about its nondiscrimination policy and quickly voted on changes after the session.

The committee remained in executive session for 15 minutes Tuesday as board members consulted with the attorney on legal issues. They then returned to open session and requested Human Resources provide the committee with several specific plans, including definitions and costs for those plans. The committee will be briefed on those plans at its Jan. 8 meeting. DART spokesman Morgan Lyons said it is possible the committee may make a recommendation after hearing the plans and could vote on a plan at its February meeting. He said the committee could also request further information.

— Anna Waugh

### Monica's is no longer Monica's

Restaurateur Monica Greene confirmed on Facebook Wednesday, Dec. 12, a rumor I first heard Tuesday night: That she is no longer affiliated with the Oak Lawn eatery that bears her name. And as of Thursday, it appeared as though Monica's Nueva Cocina and Mi Lounge at ilume was closed. Here's what Greene said on her Facebook page:

*Dear Friends:*

*Whether change is by choice or imposed, negative or positive, personal or professional, it's always a challenging fact of life. With any major changes there are actions we can take to ease the process. And I have. The rumors were true. I haven't been a part of Monica's Nueva Cocina for about a month now.*

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— Arnold Wayne Jones

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# Haunted by hate?

6 months after teen lesbian couple's shooting, police aren't ruling out what many in the LGBT community suspect — an anti-gay hate crime

**ANNA WAUGH** | Staff Writer  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

PORTLAND, Texas — Things will never be the same in this hamlet across the bay from Corpus Christi.

June 23 will forever be remembered as the day teenage lesbian couple Mary Kristene Chapa and Mollie Olgin were attacked and shot.

Visitors to the serene Violet Andrews Park found the teens the next morning.

Olgin, 19, had succumbed to a gunshot wound to the head. But Chapa, 18, was still breathing and was rushed to the hospital.

News of the shooting shook the LGBT community near and far.

Police initially downplayed the possibility that the murder was a hate crime, but after several weeks, leads went cold, leaving little information to go on.

Six months later, new Portland police Chief Gary Giles said the department hasn't ruled out a hate crime. Giles said police have identified other possible motives, but he declined to discuss them.

"At this point we still don't have any indication that it was a hate crime," he said. "We don't want to concentrate on any one direction because if we concentrate on the fact that it's a hate crime based on their relationship, then we may miss something else. So, we're not discounting that possibility. It's just that we can't just concentrate on that alone."

Giles came to Portland from Utah and has only been on the job since Nov. 20. Shortly before his arrival, Tri-County Crime Stoppers released a video about the attack on Chapa and Olgin.

The video included new information about the crime, detailing how the girls walked to a point in the park where they overlooked the beach late Friday, June 22. They noticed a man walk by. A few moments later the suspect, wearing a hat and gloves, approached them with a handgun, forcing them to a secluded area. He assaulted them before shooting them in the head and fleeing.

Giles said the video led to more tips coming in about possible suspects, some of which investigators are still working.

"Some of them may be dead ends, but hopefully at least one or two will generate something that may lead to something else," Giles said.

Portland police are working with Crime Stop-



**LIFE AFTER LOVE** | Kristene Chapa, left, recently wrote on Facebook that Mollie Olgin — her girlfriend who was killed in the shooting — will remain in her heart forever, but she's been dating again to help her heal. 'I was heartbroken but I'm not gonna be single for the rest of my life,' she wrote.

pers, as well as the FBI and the Texas Rangers. Giles said the agencies meet often to discuss tips and evidence in an effort to brainstorm tactics.

"We have investigators that are swamped because of the fact that they are just working on this case on a nonstop basis," he said. "That is one of my personal goals as the new chief of police that this is going to be a case that we can solve and get whatever resources we need to get it solved."

## Remarkable recovery

Chapa underwent several surgeries before finally gaining consciousness in the week after the shooting. Police released an initial sketch of the suspect after a witness came forward, and officers were able to communicate with Chapa to revise the sketch in July.

The suspect is described as a white male in his 20s, 5 feet, 8 inches tall with a thin build, weighing 140 pounds, with brown hair and a scruffy beard.

Although she was unable to speak initially, Chapa wrote Olgin's name several times. Family members said they waited to tell her that her girlfriend died in the attack until she was strong enough to hear the news, and she was devastated. The teens were only together five months.

In September, Chapa took to Facebook to speak about her recovery in a rehabilitation facility.

"I still need time but I am happy," Chapa wrote.

"I'm moving on."

Although Chapa mentioned that Olgin will remain in her heart and memory forever, she wrote that she had been dating again to help her heal.

"I know people deal with things different and I'm not gonna sit in my room and cry over what happened," she wrote. "I was heartbroken but I'm not gonna be single for the rest of my life ... she's in my heart but I needed something else. I wanted a girl to be there for me and understand what I'm going through."

Chapa declined a request for an interview.

Giles said he hasn't met Chapa but he'd like to meet her soon so she knows that he and the department are committed to finding her assailant.

"I'd just like to get to know her," he said. "This is a big story for our agency and our city. It's a very important investigation that we're not going to give up on. We're going to continue until we have this thing solved."

Chapa is still assisting police with the investigation, he said, adding that she recalls a lot of what happened the night she was attacked.

The shooting took the local and national community by storm. Vigils remembering Olgin and praying for Chapa's recovery took place around the country, including Dallas, California and Washington, D.C.

Giles said the local community has begun to heal, despite constant inquiries on what the inves-

tigation is uncovering.

"When this kind of thing happens, it definitely changes a community, especially a small town like this that doesn't see this very often," he said. "I think things are starting to relax a bit...but it is still on people's minds."

## LGBT community responds

Daniel Williams, field organizer for Equality Texas, attended the vigil in Portland. Walking through the park and overlooking the beach like the couple did, he said he could see why a young gay couple cherished the view of nearby Corpus Christi. Now, the park has an eerie feeling for visitors.

"Being a 15- or 16-year-old queer kid and being so close to a large city, I can understand why you might go there and look across the bay," he said. "It's a haunting place now."

Williams has returned several times to conduct trainings for Equality Texas and said the LGBT community in surrounding areas has become more visible following the shooting.

"The nation and indeed the entire world was mourning the event in Portland, but for the people in Portland, this was a personal matter," he said. "This was their private pain."

Another LGBT advocate who attended the vigil was Wayne Besen, executive director of Vermont-



**STILL NO CLOSURE** | Mario Olgin, above, father of Mollie Olgin, looks out over the water during a vigil for his daughter at Violet Andrews Park in Portland on June 30. Police later released a sketch of the suspect, right. (Photo by Michael Zamora/Corpus Christi Caller-Times)

based Truth Wins Out, who said he traveled to Texas out of a sense of helplessness.

"It was very emotional," he said. "You just felt so bad for the families and the girls. It really stood out how much people really cared for them."

Besen said the shooting sounded like a typical hate crime when the news reached him. He said police need to keep bias at the top of their list for motives and worries police will miss clues if they don't focus on possible bias.

"That should certainly be the No. 1 motive and that's what they should look into," Besen said. "And to not do that is negligence and a total misunderstanding of the violence faced by LGBT people."

People have donated money for a reward for information, including North Texans. Currently \$20,000 in reward money is being offered for information.

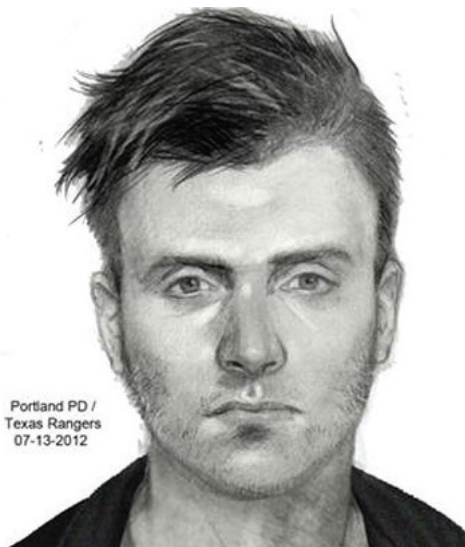
Kris Wong, a Youth First Texas Collin County teen, helped raise almost \$1,400 for the organization's donation to the Crime Stoppers fund with a bowling event in July. Wong, 18 and now a college student in New York, said the shooting affected her because she was near the teens' ages.

"It's not something you should have to think about at 18," Wong said about the investigation. "You should be going to college and having fun. It's not fair."

Wong said she thinks the large reward will definitely help people come forward with information to find the shooter.

### 'Somebody's going to talk'

Besen said his time in Portland showed a devastated community that lost two beautiful young



women who were very much in love and had so much potential to offer the world. The community now mourns that June day constantly, at least until the man responsible is captured.

"With something like this that justice may not be served makes me very sad," Besen said. "It's depressing that it's not solved yet. ... I don't even know them and I would like some kind of closure, and I imagine the people who are there who actually knew them that this has been incredibly painful for them, and I'd like to see them get that closure."

But Giles, still new to the town and in his role as chief, said the town's constant questions about the investigation give him comfort that citizens aren't forgetting the tragedy that will only be solved with their help.

"What it takes is community involvement," Giles said. "I think people know or at least have suspicions on who may have done this or who would be in the area. ... Somebody's going to talk."

Anyone with information should call the Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 800-245-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online at [TinyURL.com/crbgtjb](http://TinyURL.com/crbgtjb). ■

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### IGRA gives almost \$6K to National Ovarian Cancer Coalition



Gene Fraikes of Fort Worth, left, vice president of the International Gay Rodeo Association, presents a check for \$5,967 to representatives from the Dallas-based National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, from funds raised by the 2012 IGRA Royalty Team. The team consisted of 10 members from California, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada and Texas. The IGRA, which held its World Gay Rodeo Finals in Fort Worth this year, is based in Colorado and has 24 member associations across the U.S. and Canada, including the Texas Gay Rodeo Association with chapters in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio and Houston. For more info, visit [IGRA.com](http://IGRA.com).



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# Griggs plans pro-LGBT resolutions

Dallas city councilman says he'll introduce measures in support of marriage equality, employment nondiscrimination in early 2013

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Dallas City Councilman Scott Griggs announced his intention this week to introduce two pro-LGBT equality resolutions as part of his 2013 ordinance and resolution agenda.

Griggs said he's working on a marriage equality resolution and one supporting a statewide ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination. He plans to introduce them early next year when the council sets its legislative agenda.

"Equality Texas and others have made employment nondiscrimination a top priority in the state Legislature next year," he said. "Now is the time to show our support for these efforts in Austin."

As for the marriage resolution, Griggs said it's important because "marriage is a powerful affirmation of love and commitment, as well as a

source of social stability and recognition."

The resolutions could help position Griggs, who currently represents District 3, to compete for LGBT votes next year in District 1. Redistricting has placed Griggs and Councilwoman Delia Jasso, who created the city's LGBT Task Force, into the same North Oak Cliff district. A lawsuit challenging the city redistricting map is pending.

The Austin City Council passed a marriage equality resolution earlier this year and Fort Worth passed a resolution in support of statewide employment nondiscrimination a few years ago.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said resolutions are vital because municipal work helps state lawmakers come around to supporting LGBT issues and eventually implementing laws.

"As more and more cities, including large cities like Dallas, demonstrate that equality is important for the residents and for the vitality and continued success of their community, it helps state lawmak-



Scott Griggs

ers in their evolutionary process with our issues," Smith said.

Councilwoman Angela Hunt said she will support the resolutions and she hopes constituents will contact their council members to secure their passage.


"When it comes to civil rights issues that directly affect my constituents, I absolutely believe it's our role to address those injustices," Hunt said. "I think it's absolutely critical that we have the support of the council lined up ahead of time prior to pushing forward because I think it could be a real setback if the council did not pass those measures."

Although Griggs said he's been working on the resolutions for some time, the news comes two weeks after the Human Rights Campaign gave the city of Dallas a score of 76 on its new Municipal Equality Index, which ranked 137 cities on their gay-friendliness. Fort Worth received an 89.


Paula Blackmon, chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, said Rawlings would need to see the language of the resolutions before deciding whether to support them.

Blackmon also said the mayor's goal is to in-

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■ texasnews

# HIV/AIDS agencies fear fiscal cliff cuts

Local leaders say impact could be devastating on programs providing housing, lifesaving medication, other services to low-income clients

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

If Democrats and Republicans don't reach a deal to avoid the "fiscal cliff," automatic 8.4 percent federal budget cuts could have a devastating impact on local HIV/AIDS services.

While other LGBT-related programs would be affected — including funds for the FBI to investigate hate crimes and for the education department to implement anti-bullying programs — cuts to HIV/AIDS service organizations would directly affect the healthcare, nutrition and housing of people with HIV.

The Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program would lose \$27 million nationally, according to Nancy Bernstine, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based National AIDS Housing Coalition. Locally HOPWA cuts would affect AIDS Services of Dallas, which provides housing to people with AIDS who would otherwise be homeless.

"The policymakers don't expect this to take place, but they sure are playing it close to the edge," Bernstine said.

The two sides reportedly were edging closer this week to a deal that would raise some taxes and cut spending to avert the fiscal cliff. If a deal is not reached by Dec. 31, the Budget Control Act mandates all taxes revert to the level prior to the Bush-era tax cuts and all federal spending is cut by 8.4 percent, referred to as sequester.

Bernstine said if there is sequester on Jan. 1 but

a resolution by March 1, most agencies won't have a problem. That's because federal subsidies of local programs aren't paid on Jan. 1. Payments are staggered.

HOPWA isn't the only program delivering lifesaving services to people with AIDS that would be affected.

The Ryan White program, the largest federal funding source for a number of programs for low-income people with AIDS, would be cut by \$196 million. That includes \$77 million in cuts to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, or ADAP, which provides medication for people who do not have insurance. Although 7,000 people are already on ADAP waiting lists nationally, Texas does not have a waiting list. But one estimate projects that 2,000 people now receiving lifesaving drugs nationwide would lose their medication.

Resource Center Dallas CEO Cece Cox said cuts to Ryan White would affect programs like the insurance program that makes COBRA payments and helps clients with doctor co-pays. She said the \$1 million in premiums RCD pays would be more than it could find a way to replace.

"The threat is real and will impact real people here in our community," she said.

But Cox was not trying to panic her clients.

On Dec. 5, Cox attended a White House meeting with 80 other Texans to discuss the fiscal cliff. She said one purpose was to coordinate their message. They agreed it was important for people to contact their representatives to let them know how these budget cuts could affect them.

RCD has a template letter on its website (ResourceCenterDallas.org), as well as a tool to find your representative. But Cox suggested that people write personal letters about how AIDS service agencies make a difference in their lives.

Cox described the average client of RCD as someone who is working and receives some nu-

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**STAYING UPBEAT** | AIDS Services of Dallas resident Matthew Kowalewski, who was homeless after losing his partner to AIDS and surviving cancer before moving into Hillcrest House in July, shows off one of the Christmas trees he decorated to make the holidays festive for residents. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

trition assistance, doctor co-pays or insurance assistance that helps them stay healthy and continue to get to work.

"There are still quite a few unknowns," she said. "But we won't be able to serve as many clients."

Legacy Counseling Center Executive Director Melissa Grove said potential cuts to healthcare would be short-sighted. She compared the \$25,000 per year cost of keeping someone healthy to the \$500,000 cost of treating someone whose HIV infection has progressed to AIDS.

She said when Legacy prevents just one new in-

fection, it covers the annual cost of running her agency.

AIDS Arms CEO John Carlo agreed.

"Every case you prevent saves a half million in healthcare costs," he said.

Before moving into his new position, Carlo worked for Homeland Security. He said the executive branch's position was to not make plans for the fiscal cliff. The fear was that if there were plans in place, at some point they could be implemented.

"We're all bracing for impact," Carlo said. "It's

hard to put numbers against projections, but there will be an impact."

He said his agency has a diversity of funding and for the short-term he isn't panicking. But he added that any cuts would put a burden on providing healthcare for several thousand people who rely on AIDS Arms.

"I'm concerned with how we proceed not just with the fiscal cliff but with healthcare reform," he said.

In Fort Worth, AIDS Outreach Center Interim Director Shannon Hilgart said as much as \$250,000 could be cut from her annual budget. That translates into four staff positions.

"And we don't get to choose where those cuts come from," she said.

She said her nutrition and case management budgets were already cut in half this year. The agency has learned to be more efficient, but Hilgart said she doesn't know how it can serve its clients on an even slimmer budget.

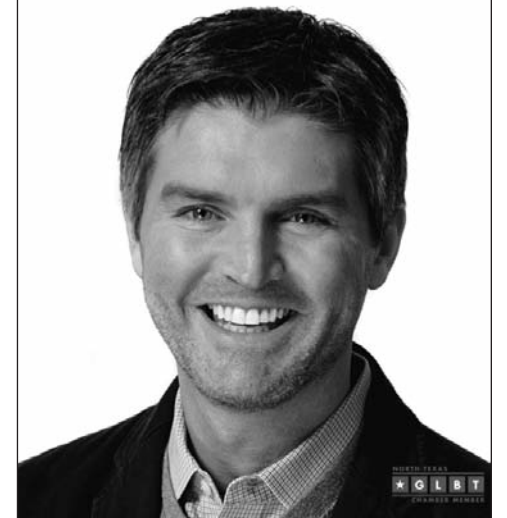
She said donations from individuals is already what's keeping the nutrition program running.

One group of people served by AIDS service providers will be able to continue to access their healthcare without interruption. The Budget Control Act, which mandates these cuts, exempts Medicaid from sequestration.

Carlo said he's worried most about cuts that would restrict access to lifesaving medication. "We don't want it to be 1993 again," he said. ■

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■ **texasnews**

# LGBT community continues tradition of holiday giving

From angel trees to toy drives to Christmas stocking auctions, gay organizations in N. Texas are again opening their hearts and wallets

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas LGBT community has its share of holiday traditions — from the 1,000 holiday bags the Dallas Tavern Guild puts together for clients of HIV/AIDS agencies, to Caven Enterprises' gift project for the Sam Houston School and the Angel Tree at the Dallas Eagle.

But every year also seems to bring a few new projects. Among them this year is a holiday wreath auction at Alexandre's benefiting the new Buddy Shanahan Music Fund, set up in honor of the well-known gay pianist who died this year.

According to Mary Beth O'Connor, development and volunteer services manager at AIDS Services of Dallas, the real tradition in the LGBT community is the spirit of generosity and caring.

"I think we're blessed here in Dallas," O'Connor said.

When she thinks about why the community has been so generous to the residents of Hillcrest House and the other ASD residences, O'Connor said, "Because our friends have lived and died here."

O'Connor said it's easy to find church groups to fill the Christmas wishes of children who live at ASD's four properties, but harder to find donors for the adults' wants and needs. That's where projects like the Angel Tree at the Eagle come in. Each resident lists a few items they'd like to have.

O'Connor said she couldn't go to a church group that was buying toys for kids and ask them for the pink boa that one resident requested. But Leather Knights, who spearheads the Angel Tree, fulfilled that wish.

Gay insurance agent Steven Graves bought a half dozen DVD players that were among the Angel Tree requests. Graves said what struck him was the number of people who wanted basics — pillows, blankets, socks and underwear.

The Leather Knights' Adam Lynn said the community is successful because different groups work together.

Lynn calls himself a transplant who's been in Dallas since 2006. He said he hasn't seen the same thing happen in other places.

"Dallas is such an amazing city," he said. "There are few places that give so generously."

This year, the DFW Sisters joined the Leather Knights for the Angel Tree project.

Lawna Jocqui, a member of the DFW Sisters, put together "Sleigh Ride in Leather," on Dec. 15 with Mr. Texas Leather 2013 Bobby Thurman on hand as Naughty Santa for photos. A show and



**BARS GIVE BACK** | Dallas Tavern Guild members prepare gift bags for people with HIV on Thursday, Dec. 13 at S4. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

auction will bring in cash to buy any items still left on the tree after Sunday.

Lynn said because the DFW Sisters came to the Leather Knights and offered to help with the Angel Tree, they were able to take on an additional 30 angels.

O'Connor said one of the nicest gifts many residents can get are gift cards.

"It's really nice for a woman to buy her own bra," she said. "To shop for themselves is a luxury."

On Thursday, Dec. 13, members of the Dallas Tavern Guild assembled and distributed 1,000 gift baskets that will go to clients of AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Services Dallas, Parkland hospital and other agencies.

Caven event manager Chris Bengston said each basket has two pieces of fruit, juice, cookies or candy, a letter and a teddy bear. Ron Adams of Metro Games donates the teddy bears and each Tavern Guild member contributes \$100.

She said that project has gone on for years. A couple of other projects have also become staples in the community.

The Sam Houston Elementary School project, started more than 20 years ago by Alan Ross and Ed Oakley, has grown into year-round support from Caven Enterprises and its patrons.

"The kids got to write a letter to Santa Claus and pick three items from a catalog," Bengston said.

On Dec. 20, after the children leave school,

■ **GIVING**, Page 14

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■ GIVING, From Page 12

Caven's elves will put the children's presents and a goody bag on their desks. On Dec. 21, the elves return with Santa Claus who will visit each class to sing songs with the students.

Bengston said anyone who still wants to participate can pick up a Christmas wish letter from any bartender at JR.'s.

She said the project has grown into a community effort with employees of Andrews Distributing who donated toys at their Christmas party and Ben E. Keith, Pepsi and a number of churches contributing to the gift effort. The project gets so much support that the overflow goes to the Medrano School on Lucas Drive.

The Round-Up Saloon presents its annual Christmas Stocking Auction on Dec. 16 benefiting Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage. Baskets are on display for preview the night before.

Legacy Executive Director Melissa Grove said the money raised will help offset expenses caused by a 25 percent increase in patient load this year.

"After a decade of being stable, we're really having a rough year," she said.

Taking care of animals is also a priority in the community.

Anton Shaw uses her annual Christmas show at Sue Ellen's to help the Cathedral of Hope Music Ministry, as well as the Irving City Animal Shelter.

And Bob Williams, whose Ranch Hand Rescue

**Upcoming holiday benefits**

- Wreath Auction benefits Buddy Shahan Music Fund, Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- Sleigh Ride in Leather benefits Angel Tree, Dallas Eagle 5740 Maple Ave., Dec. 15 at 7-10 p.m.
- Toy Drive benefiting the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, The Tan Bar, 3818 Cedar Springs Rd, Suite 106, through Dec. 21
- Angel Tree benefits ASD Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. through Dec. 16
- Stocking Auction benefits Legacy Counseling Center, Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, Dec. 16 at 7-11 p.m.
- Anton Shaw's 10th Christmas Extravaganza benefits the music ministry at Cathedral of Hope and the Irving City Animal Shelter, Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St., Dec. 16 at 7-10 p.m.
- Honky Tonk for Horses benefits Ranch Hand Rescue, The Mule Barn, 218 Hwy 156, Justin, Dec. 20, 8 p.m.-midnight
- Leslie Jordan, benefits Legacy Counseling Center, Weisfeld Center, 1508 Cadiz St., Jan. 4 at 6 p.m.

in Argyle takes in and nurses back to health abused farm animals, holds Honky Tonk for Horses featuring live entertainment at The Mule Barn, a bar in Justin, on Dec. 20.

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**ROPING IN DONATIONS** | Mr. TGRA 2013 Lee Rodger holds up a request from the Angel Tree during the group's Hard Candy Christmas fundraiser at the Dallas Eagle on Dec. 8. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

Church of Greater Dallas is collecting warm clothing for the homeless. Donations of coats, hoodies, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks are welcome at the church's Carrollton home. Church members will deliver the items to people on the street.

Among the fundraisers helping the Resource Center Dallas food pantry is the United Court of the Lone Star Empire's Jingle Ball. The Texas Gay Rodeo Association staged its annual Hard Candy Christmas to help its beneficiaries including RCD's nutrition programs.

RCD's Rafael McDonnell said: "Traditionally, in November and December we see higher need but also higher giving. I'm always amazed at the generosity of this community."

He said the food pantry moves seven tons of

food a week. But despite what seems like an overwhelming volume of food, he said bringing in just one bag of groceries does make a difference.

"Everything gets used and folks are glad to have it," he said. "The stuff doesn't sit on the shelves. In a matter of days, it'll be on someone's table."

And the holiday fundraising continues into the new year. Leslie Jordan returns to Dallas for the fourth time for a show at the Weisfeld Center downtown to benefit Legacy Counseling Center.

"Leslie always lifts people's spirits after the New Year," Grove said.

"It's a way to kick off the new year right. Sister Helen Holy and Leslie Jordan remind us to keep humor in our lives, which is so important to good mental health." ■

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■ GRIGGS, From Page 9

crease the score by 10 percent by next year.

"There is room for improvement," Blackmon acknowledged.

Blackmon said Fort Worth made its employment nondiscrimination resolution part of its legislative package, adding that it's uncertain whether Dallas could pass one with "the climate here internally."

She said Rawlings has agreed to go to Austin with representatives from Resource Center Dallas to help the state bill gain support.

The resolution would likely have faced opposition from Councilwoman Vonciel Jones Hill, who chairs the legislative committee.

Hill has expressed her opposition to attending gay Pride in the past because of her religious beliefs. Resolutions have to be approved by the legislative committee before they are brought before the council unless they receive five signatures from council members.

Griggs said he's optimistic that his resolutions can pass both the legislative committee and the council.

Dallas lost points on the Municipal Equality Index for things like not having a Human Relations Commission, not offering comprehensive transgender health benefits and not having outspoken pro-equality city officials — likely due to Rawlings' refusal to sign a marriage pledge earlier

this year. Rawlings has said he personally supports marriage equality.

"He's not signing any pledges and I don't think he's going to at this point sign any pledge moving forward," Blackmon said. "We're working together on issues, and signing a pledge shouldn't be the only indicator of your dedication to an issue."

Blackmon said she didn't know whether Rawlings had approached the trans healthcare benefits issue with City Manager Mary Suhm. At an LGBT Pride Month event in June where Suhm was among the speakers, she said the city's health benefits are not good in general and encouraged the audience to remind their council members and other officials that transgender benefits are needed as the economy improves and the budget can cover more.

Asked about a Human Relations Commission, Blackmon said if the city's LGBT Task Force thinks Dallas needs one, "we're open to seeing what it looks like and how it works."

Calling the report a "performance review," Blackmon said the LGBT Task Force would make recommendations so the city can "start working toward creating a score that we feel is a very clear representation of how we value the community."

Jasso, who created the LGBT Task Force in 2009, said she wasn't "completely satisfied" by Dallas' score, acknowledging that Dallas "has accomplished quite a bit in the last few years for LGBT



Delia Jasso

equality, for both its residents and employees."

Jasso said the Task Force will review the report and outline areas for improvement among city policy and services. She echoed Blackmon's goal to increase the score next year by 10 percent.

Since its creation, the Task Force has helped review the city's discrimination complaints based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Jasso said it has also helped secure a full-time LGBT liaison for the police department, as well as sensitivity training for Dallas Fire-Rescue and veteran officers.

Pam Gerber, a member of Jasso's LGBT Task Force since its creation in 2009, said she was "pleasantly surprised" by Dallas' score. She said it highlights room for improvement, but shows a good effort on behalf of the city when officials weren't aware that there would be a new HRC report.

"I'm thrilled that we're the eighth-largest city in the country scoring that well without even trying. So imagine what could happen if we did try," she said, adding that it isn't just about improving a score. "We should never stop. We can always do better. I think the best intentions are already there and now the numbers just quantify it."

Gerber said the Task Force should work with the RCD and city leaders to determine priorities for areas of improvement.

Responding to the perception that the Task Force is secretive and hasn't accomplished much, Gerber said its members don't try to keep it a secret and are always trying to bring in new members, and she often meets new people at the meetings.

While the last few monthly meetings have been postponed for unknown reasons, she said she is proud of the sensitivity training its members are continually working on and the city Pride events members planned in June.

"There's always people who think that groups aren't doing much and that groups are ineffective," she said. "If they were in the room and knew what was going on, they may not say that."

Gary Sanchez, Jasso's assistant, said the Task Force meets monthly. When asked if media could attend the January meeting, he said Jasso wanted to discuss that with members at the meeting and maybe media would be allowed to attend in February.

Normally, members mention someone they would like to bring to a meeting and it is discussed about what a member would contribute to the discussions and work.

A few months ago, he said one member brought a few people without asking, causing a "little bit of a stir." ■

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**BENEFICIARY IN CHIEF** | Black Tie Dinner Co-Chairs Chris Kouvelis and Mitzi Lemons present a check and a commemorative plate to Human Rights Campaign Foundation President Chad Griffin during a distribution celebration on Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Dallas Contemporary. To view more photos from the event, go to [DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos). (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## Black Tie distributes over \$1M, gets new presenting sponsor

From Staff Reports

Nineteen beneficiaries shared in a \$1.05 million distribution from the 31st Annual Black Tie Dinner, and Turtle Creek Solutions was announced as the new presenting sponsor for the annual fundraiser, during a celebration on Thursday night, Dec. 13, at The Dallas Contemporary.

Checks were presented by Black Tie Dinner board members to community leaders of 18 North Texas LGBT-supportive beneficiaries and Black Tie's national beneficiary, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

"I want to personally thank everyone for their time, their enthusiasm and, most of all, their unwavering commitment to moving our community forward," said Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Chris Kouvelis. "The distributed funds were a result of generous corporate and individual sponsors, table captains and their guests, and through the purchase of live luxury and silent auction items, raffle tickets and general ticket sales."

Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Mitzi Lemons saluted the sponsors, table captains, dinner guests and volunteers who proved their commitment to the beneficiaries and the North Texas community. "It's a thrill and a privilege for Black Tie Dinner to be able to distribute these funds," Lemons said. "The common thread that runs through all of these wonderful beneficiaries is that they each truly represent our 2012 theme: 'Affair of the Heart.' Each of our beneficiaries puts their heart

### BTD beneficiary amounts

The 2012 Black Tie Dinner distributed the following funds to this year's beneficiaries:

- AIDS Arms: \$52,951
- AIDS Interfaith Network: \$21,505
- AIDS Outreach Center: \$21,024
- AIDS Services of Dallas: \$25,083
- Celebration Community Church: \$33,342
- Congregation Beth El Binah: \$22,601
- Equality Texas Foundation: \$33,304
- Health Services of North Texas: \$18,951
- Home for the Holidays: \$19,011
- Lambda Legal: \$41,979
- Legacy Counseling Center: \$22,387
- Legal Hospice of Texas: \$26,857
- Northaven UMC: \$29,920
- Resource Center Dallas: \$75,438
- Samaritan House: \$19,025
- Turtle Creek Chorale: \$22,405
- White Rock Friends: \$19,870
- Women's Chorus of Dallas: \$19,347
- HRC Foundation: \$525,000

into the services they provide each and every day, and it's all for the benefit of our community."

Turtle Creek Solutions, led by co-owners Duane Ransdell and Greg Cave, will be the presenting sponsor for the 2013 Black Tie Dinner, the co-chairs announced Thursday evening.

"This has been a lifelong dream for both of us," Ransdell said. "We are extraordinarily proud to be part of this event in such a rewarding capacity." ■



# Thank You!

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## nationalnews

# 'History will vindicate them. It already has.'

Jack Baker and Michael McConnell, gay couple behind 1971 same-sex marriage case, still together — and alive to see high court revisit issue

PATRICK CONDON | Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — When Jack Baker proposed to Michael McConnell that they join their lives together as a couple, in March 1967, McConnell accepted with a condition that was utterly radical for its time: that someday they would legally marry.

Just a few years later, the U.S. Supreme Court slammed the door on the men's Minnesota lawsuit to be the first same-sex couple to legally marry in the U.S.

It took another 40 years for the nation's highest court to revisit gay marriage rights, and Baker and McConnell — still together, still living in Minneapolis — are alive to see it.

On Dec. 7, the justices decided to take a potentially historic look at gay marriage by agreeing to hear two cases that challenge official discrimination against gay Americans either by forbidding

them from marrying or denying those who can marry legally the right to obtain federal benefits that are available to heterosexual married couples.

"The outcome was never in doubt because the conclusion was intuitively obvious to a first-year law student," Baker wrote in an email to The Associated Press. The couple, who have kept a low profile in the years since they made national headlines with their marriage pursuit, declined an interview request but responded to a few questions via email.

While Baker saw the court's action as an obvious step, marriage between two men was nearly unthinkable to most Americans decades earlier when the couple walked into the Hennepin County courthouse in Minneapolis on May 18, 1970, and tried to get a license.

New York City's Stonewall riots, seen now as the symbolic start to the modern gay rights movement, were less than a year in the past. Sodomy

laws made gay sex illegal in nearly every state; most gay men and lesbians were concerned with much more basic rights like keeping their jobs and homes or simply living openly.

"People at the time said these guys were crazy," said Phil Duran, legal counsel to OutFront Minnesota, the state's principal gay rights lobby. "I think today, most people would say, 'Holy mackerel, you saw this when no one else did.' History will vindicate them. It already has."

Forty years after they appeared in a Look magazine spread and on The Phil Donahue Show, Baker and McConnell have retreated from public life. The men, both 70, live in a quiet, nondescript south Minneapolis neighborhood. McConnell recently retired after a long career with the Hennepin County library system. Baker, a longtime attorney who ran unsuccessfully for Minneapolis City Council and a judgeship in the years after they pursued a marriage license, is

The outcome was never in doubt because the conclusion was intuitively obvious to a first-year law student.

— Jack Baker,  
plaintiff in Baker v. Nelson

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**PIONEERING PETITIONERS** | Michael McConnell, left, and Jack Baker, are shown applying for a marriage license in Minneapolis on May 18, 1970. The license was denied because they were both men, and two years later the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear their lawsuit challenging the decision.

mostly retired as well. Their case is no longer widely recalled in Minnesota, and the couple has mostly withdrawn from open activism, although the two men are working on a book about their lives.

Today, nine states have legalized gay marriage or are about to do so. The state-by-state approach adopted by gay rights groups has gathered steam, while the Supreme Court has yet to address whether the Constitution extends marriage rights to straight and gay couples alike.

The high court in October 1972 declined to hear arguments in their case, rejecting it in a one-sentence dismissal "for want of a substantial federal question." Now, in taking up the dispute over a California constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, the court may confront the issue of whether the U.S. Constitution forbids states from defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

According to an unpublished book about their case by Ken Bronson, a Chicago-based amateur historian who extensively interviewed Baker and McConnell, the two met at a Halloween party in Norman, Okla., in 1966. McConnell, at this first meeting, expressed his belief that gay people should not be treated like second-class citizens. Not long after, Baker — a U.S. Air Force veteran with an undergraduate degree in engineering — was fired from a job at Tinker Air Force base for being gay.

Soon the couple relocated to Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota, McConnell to take a job at its library and Baker to study law. He joined a campus group called FREE (Fight Repression of Erotic Expression), an early gay-rights group.

"Baker and McConnell — educated, clean-cut and handsome — contrasted with the typically scruffy counterculture activists of the era. But the

Hennepin County attorney blocked their bid for a marriage license, a decision upheld by a district judge and affirmed by the state Supreme Court with reasoning that echoes in today's arguments against gay marriage: The institution of marriage as a union of man and woman, uniquely involving the procreation and rearing of children within a family, is as old as the Book of Genesis."

Asked via email why they pursued the case, Baker wrote, "The love of my life insisted on it."

Two decades after the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed Baker vs. Nelson, the Hawaii Supreme Court in 1993 ruled that homosexuals had a constitutional right to marry. It started the ball rolling on a movement that has seen many victories and setbacks since.

"Jack was the politician — outgoing and effective, manipulating the material world," said Roger Lynn, a retired Methodist pastor who performed a marriage ceremony for the men in 1971, and who remains in touch with them occasionally. "Michael was the librarian, detail-oriented, more introverted. They were a good match, and they're still making it work."

In a strange twist to their story, Baker wrote via email that he and McConnell would be personally unaffected if Minnesota legalizes gay marriage. In 1971, about 18 months after Hennepin County rejected their application, the couple traveled to southern Minnesota's Blue Earth County, where they obtained a marriage license on which Baker was listed with an altered, gender-neutral name.

That license was later challenged in court but was never explicitly invalidated by a judge. While Baker recently predicted on his blog that gay marriage would be legalized in Minnesota soon, he emailed that he and McConnell don't see a need to make it official in Hennepin County.

"We are legally married," Baker wrote. ■

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The original "Sue Ellen Ewing," actress Linda Gray poses with Gaybingo hostess, Jenna Skyy at November 2012 Gaybingo. Photography by Chuck Marcello.



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# viewpoints

# Supreme Court goes on trial

If justices rule against 83-year-old widow Edie Windsor in DOMA case, they will tarnish their legacies and undermine the body's legitimacy

**E**motionally, my job is vaguely similar to that of a police detective. I closely monitor, and occasionally confront, bad guys. The process requires witnessing the chaos and carnage that results from crimes of prejudice and passion.

Most of the time what I encounter are shattered people and broken families who are devastated by the process of reparative therapy or "ex-gay" ministries. Some of these individuals have been psychologically browbeaten or even sexually abused. In extreme cases over the course of my career, I have dealt with hate crimes that involve brutality and murder.

To properly do my job, it is imperative that I stay somewhat detached so emotions don't cloud my judgment. Having seen so much, it takes a pretty significant story to move me (such as the senseless shooting of a lesbian couple in Portland, Texas, earlier this year). Yet, I found myself fighting back tears in a hotel lobby on a recent morning reading the USA Today that I picked up at the check-in counter. The article that stirred me was about a widow, Edie Windsor, who sued the federal government after she received a \$363,000 estate tax bill because her marriage wasn't legally recognized.

This is one of two cases that the Supreme Court has decided to hear in the coming year. It will challenge the Defense of Marriage Act that defines marriage as between one man and one woman, making it impossible for same-sex couples to receive federal benefits, even if they live in a state with marriage equality.

Although this is ostensibly a legal case, it is really about competing narratives — and there is nothing same-sex marriage opponents offer that comes close to the touching tale of Edie Windsor and her deceased wife Thea Spyer. Their struggle not only tugs at the heartstrings, it transforms the heart into a marionette, dancing merrily to sappy love songs. This case screams out for fair resolution, and the court runs the risk of delegitimizing itself as draconian and doctrinaire if it denies this couple justice.

The case itself boldly refutes decades of false and irrational arguments against homosexuality in general, and marriage equality in particular. Social conservatives have claimed that gay couples don't stay together. Windsor and Spyer were partners for 40 years, yet were only able to spend the last 20 months legally married.

Anti-gay activists assert that homosexuality is



Edie Windsor, right, and Thea Spyer

a lonely lifestyle that is centered on sex. Yet, after Spyer was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in the 1970s, Windsor quit her job to take care of her ailing partner. Over the years, the condition worsened and Spyer became a quadriplegic. After the discovery of a heart problem, doctors gave Spyer one year to live.

"She got up the next morning after the doctor said that and she said, 'Do you still want to get married?'" Windsor told USA Today reporter Richard Wolf. "And I said 'Yes!' And she said, 'I do, too. Let's go... People asked, 'What could be different? You've lived together for over 40 years — what could be different about marriage?' And it turned out that marriage could be different. We can't have it, and then suddenly when we can have it, it's profound."

After Spyer died, Windsor had a heart attack that doctors diagnosed as "broken heart syndrome."

This is the type of marriage everyone — gay or straight — dreams of having. It is truly an inspiring example of the vow pledging loyalty in health and in sickness, till death do us part. All the biblical devotionals from anti-gay activists can't diminish the incredible devotion this couple demonstrated. To be blunt, Justice Antonin Scalia's arcane bigotry invoking the intent of our slaveowning founding fathers simply can't compete with this compelling narrative.

In a sense, the Supreme Court is as much on trial as gay marriage. A USA Today-Gallup Poll, taken in late November, showed 53 percent support marriage equality, up from 27 percent in 1996. On ABC's *This Week* conservative George Will summed up why the Supreme Court, if they are wise with an eye toward their legacy, should rule in favor of gay couples: "Quite literally, the opposition to gay marriage is dying. It's old people."

Meanwhile, as the court cases move forward, gay couples will begin marrying in three new states — Maine, Maryland and Washington —

joining the six states where gay couples can already marry (Iowa, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and the District of Columbia). The nation will be treated to countless stories like that of Windsor and Spyer, which will only strengthen the emerging American consensus in favor of same-sex marriage.

In this legal skirmish, conservatism has much at stake. Will the creed be associated with compassion or kicking a loving and faithful widow when she is down? Will Anthony Kennedy, the swing vote, elect kindness over cruelty? Will Chief Justice John Roberts heighten or harm his legacy? By choosing a case where Windsor is the face of discrimination, the members of the Supreme Court face tough choices.

In the end, this is not a case of legality, but morality, of expanding joy, not cold-hearted jurisprudence. The Supreme Court can be remembered for protecting prejudice or for dismantling discrimination — the stark choice is theirs. ■

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](mailto:WBesen@TruthWinsOut.org).



Wayne Besen  
Contributing columnist

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See [www.dfwfuse.com](http://www.dfwfuse.com) for additional details and events.

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# Juiced up!

Gay entrepreneur Brent Rodgers went from Wall Street to nutrition guru. And all it took was a year of wandering the planet

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

When Brent Rodgers took a break from the cutthroat world of business to re-energize himself, he never imagined his spiritual journey would produce a whole new career.

Rodgers had been working for a Wall Street firm for 10 years when, quite literally on a whim, he decided he was tired of the rat race.

"I [was burned out], so I quit. I had stock options and grants and left them all behind. The next morning, I was on a plane," Rodgers says.

He didn't have a plan beyond "doing a reset. I bought an American Airlines around-the-world ticket — with it, you can change the dates and times any time with no fees. It was great. I traveled the world — Asia, Australia, Egypt, South America, the Middle East — going to 45 countries for a year by myself. It was the best decision I ever made."

When the trip was over, of course, he needed to come back to reality and find something to do. That's when he realized the trip itself gave him the idea.

"It was my intention to go back to LA and do something," he says. "But along my journey, I started listening to *The Secret*, which teaches 'if you do what you love, money will flow to you.'"

He gave up on settling back in Los Angeles ("that city is very toxic —

people are always looking for the next best thing") and returned to Dallas to start his company, Roots Juices.

Rodgers came up with the idea for his company just this past April, officially launching a few months later. Like its name suggests, Roots Juices blends up a menu of organic drinks, squeezed from fresh fruits and vegetables, and mixed into antioxidant-ful, vitamin-rich tonics. And Rodgers would never have thought of it if he hadn't taken off on his walkabout.

"I know the exact moment I came up with the idea," he recalls.

"I had already been to Argentina, Brazil and China. In Ipanema, you can walk down the street and everyone you see is just flawless. In western China, where there's no tourism, there is no heart disease. I would ask, 'What's your secret?' And I saw [people in all those places] were making pressed juices."

He then had a *Lost in Translation* moment: "I was in a subway in Tokyo. No one spoke any English. Suddenly there's was this sign, like a bumper sticker, and all it said was ROOTS. I was looking for a sign and there it was. That's when I knew what I was gonna move back to Texas."

In a few months, all of his wildest dreams have been fulfilled and exceeded.

"I'm surprised at how quickly it has taken off," he admits. "We're already ahead of schedule — we've exceeded all our expectations for the year [in just a few months]. I'm working so hard — harder than I've ever worked — but I don't have to wear a tie every day and people like my product. And they hate Wall Street."

People's embrace of the product probably has to do with its nutritional benefits. "Drinking an eight ounce serving a day is like eating three pounds of vegetables — you're flooding your cells with nutrients," he says. He works with a nutritionist though Rodgers himself usually tastes everything.

Rodgers also tinkers with flavors ("I'd like to do some seasonal versions," he says) and as a gay man himself, is happy to have developed "The Six-Pack," what he calls a "five day cleanse for gay guys."

The products change with availability of produce: Kale is one of the big components, but the plant generates very little juice; Rodgers' company maxed out on the organic grapefruit they had been using for one recipe and had to make changes.

"The farmer was very glad about that," he smiles. "We go through about 4,000 pounds of produce every day, from a number of [Texas] farmers."

Roots Juices isn't the only company cold-pressing organic produce, but they are a rarity in this country and unique to Texas.

"There are a few people offering pressed juices out of New York at about twice the cost of us. People who live in Texas would rather deal with someone in Texas anyway, but we're shipping worldwide now. It's worked out really well for us."

Rodgers hopes to open some retail stores soon — right now, it's a delivery service, though juices are also available in a dozen or so locations (Equinox, the Crescent Hotel, Bolsa Mercado and more) — and hopes to expand to San Francisco, Houston and Atlanta.

Looks like the world tour is about to start all over again. Only this time, Rodgers knows what he'll come home to.

For more information, visit [RootsPressedJuices.com](http://RootsPressedJuices.com).

**DRINK YOUR VEGETABLES** | An 8-oz. bottle of Rodgers' juices holds the equivalent of 3 pounds of veggies. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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# Weekend in New England

As marriage equality takes hold nationwide, gay travelers remain justly loyal to Vermont, where same-sex unions have long been recognized

In 2000, Vermont became the first state to legally sanction civil unions for same-sex couples, and in 2009, the state extended full marriage rights to gays and lesbians. Although neighboring states now also have same-sex marriage, and marriage equality is hitting a nationwide tipping point, Vermont has remained a favorite romance destination among LGBT travelers, some coming to exchange nuptials, others visiting simply to enjoy this stunningly scenic state's relaxed pace, mild and wild recreational opportunities, charming inns and B&Bs.

From north to south, this narrow swath of forests, meadows and mountains has plenty to offer, with several key regions making excellent hubs for exploring. In southwestern Vermont, close to both the Berkshires of Massachusetts and the Albany region of upstate New York, the town of Manchester is a favorite weekend getaway — it's home to dozens of outlet shops, but beyond these mostly expected retail establishments you'll find a charming downtown with some great restaurants, plus several historic attractions and well-known ski areas. Just a two-to-three-hour drive from Boston, the Upper Connecticut River Valley is rich in culture and out-

door recreation. And along the shores of rippling Lake Champlain, you'll find Vermont's largest community, Burlington, a lively and liberal college town that's also an excellent base for great skiing at several resorts, including nearby Stowe.

Although Vermont has a high proportion of LGBT residents, it's sparsely populated. Nightlife options are minimal, although Burlington has some fun bars on or near downtown's Church Street pedestrian mall, all of which are ostensibly gay-friendly. Vermont is ideal for couples seeking romance or groups of friends looking for both summer- or wintertime outdoors adventures.

It's very easy to find information on planning gay weddings and other trips to Vermont — sites including VermontGayTravel.com and VermontGayTourism.com provide excellent guidance and list welcoming businesses, and the official state tourism site, VermontVacation.com, is great for general trip-planning information.

## Burlington and Stowe

The largest city in the state, Burlington is home to the University of Vermont and claims the state's most visible gay community. It's just

**CHAMPLAIN TOAST** | Sunset over Lake Champlain in Burlington is heavenly in the fall, while in January gay skiers will descend on Stowe for the annual Winter Rendezvous gay ski week.

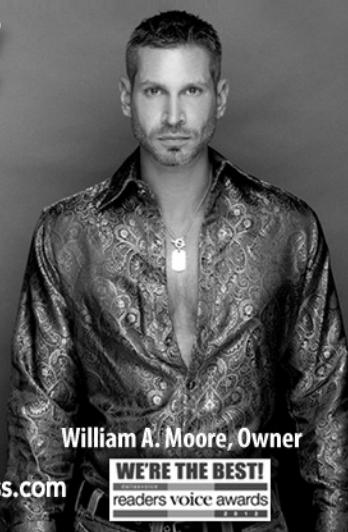
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100 miles south of Montreal and enjoys a stunning setting, with Lake Champlain on one side and the rugged Green Mountains on the other. Visitors appreciate the vast opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, plus downtown's network of redbrick sidewalks, cozy coffeehouses, great music and bookstores, and affordable eateries.

Just 35 miles away, Stowe ranks among the nation's best ski getaways, but this charming, gay-friendly village offers a genuine balance of outdoor and indoor fun. An abundance of plush lodges and inns, sophisticated eateries, and first-rate spas contribute to the town's ardent following. And shoppers appreciate Stowe's many one-of-a-kind shops.

Stowe is popular all winter with gay visitors, especially in late January when the town is host to Winter Rendezvous (Jan. 23 to 27 in 2013), a five-day gay ski gathering that draws enthusiasts from throughout New England and includes not just skiing and snowboarding but also a wealth of other activities, as well as parties and entertainment.

In Burlington, the Courtyard by Marriott Burlington Harbor and Hilton Burlington are both great, gay-friendly chain properties with central locations, large rooms and friendly service. Just six miles south on a secluded peninsula overlooking Lake Champlain, the elegant Inn at

Shelburne Farms (ShelburneFarms.org) occupies a former Vanderbilt summer home and now contains 24 rooms and suites furnished very much in the style of the Gilded Age. The surrounding 1,400-acre working farm includes a working dairy — note that the inn is closed mid-fall to mid-spring.

The quaint town of Waterbury, famous for Ben & Jerry's ice cream, is convenient both to Burlington and Stowe and contains one of the best gay-owned accommodations in the state, the Moose Meadow Lodge (MooseMeadowLodge.com), an upscale log home with three plush rooms, a hot tub and a peaceful setting with alluring views. Hosts Greg and Willie are great resources for what to see and do locally.

Stowe's personality is low-key yet urbane. Virtually all the town's businesses are gay-friendly, but a few inns are especially so, among them the excellent Timberholm Inn (Timberholm.com), a 1940s cedar lodge with great mountain views; and the luxurious Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa (Stoweflake.com), which provides the sort of indulgent pampering that can make it tempting never to leave the premises. The famed Trapp Family Lodge (TrappFamily.com) is another favorite resort, especially during Winter Rendezvous (it's the host hotel in 2013).

— Andrew Collins

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### A compelling history of marriage equality

***From the Closet to the Altar: Courts, Backlash, and the Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage* by Michael J. Klarman (Oxford University Press, 2012) \$28; 276 pp.**

In the years after World War II, gay rights faced "daunting hurdles." Organized activism was rare because homosexuality was widely criminalized. Homosexuals — and those merely suspected of homosexuality — were subject to police raids, surveillance, loss of jobs and worse. They were believed to be "possibly as dangerous as Communists."

But by the 1960s, social mores had relaxed enough for major news outlets to gingerly cover homosexuality. That change, says Michael J. Klarman in his new book, was made possible in part by the Supreme Court's relaxation against pornography, which opened the door for gay literature. By this time, gay rights organizations were also plentiful and more vocal.

Same-sex marriage at that time was largely a non-issue. Monogamy was practiced, but family life was often sneered at by activists. Still, the possibility of marriage was pretty enticing.

There were pioneers. In Minnesota in 1971, two men were married in a church, though the state refused to recognize their marriage. In 1975, two Phoenix men applied for a marriage license; a local court voided the union. That same year, couples in Colorado found a "more obliging" court clerk and several were married before the state stopped her from issuing more licenses.

By 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected, the Moral Majority reigned and public sentiment was definitely against same-sex marriage. Still, anti-discrimination laws were widely passed across the nation, giving proponents hope ... until AIDS took the focus off the issue.

And then came Bill Clinton....

Klarman begins his book by discussing how the Supreme Court has often followed social convention. That made me afraid I was getting myself into something dry and emotionless. I'm happy to say I was wrong.

*From the Closet to the Altar* is an interesting, lively look at the history of gay rights, as well as that of same-sex marriage. Klarman sets the tone for every history-making milestone by explaining how it's connected to the event that came before it, which makes it easy to understand how we got where we are now. In between, he makes some excellent, valid points as he looks at the future of the institution, including how and why it's just a matter of time before nationwide acceptance. And with the recent decision by the High Court to review DOMA and Prop 8, it couldn't be more timely.

Starry-eyed dreamers won't find romance here, but historians and realists will love the facts that *From the Closet to the Altar* presents. If that's you, then read this book because, really — doesn't "We're married" have a nice ring to it?

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

From the Closet  
to the Altar



COURTS, BACKLASH,  
AND THE STRUGGLE FOR  
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Michael J. Klarman

# That '70s gay

Alan Cumming takes on gay adoption in 'Any Day Now'

Set in the late 1970s, *Any Day Now* stars Alan Cumming as a drag performer, Rudy, who forms an unconventional family unit with Paul (Garrett Dillahunt), a closeted employee of the D.A.'s office, and Marco (Isaac Leyva), an abandoned teenager with Down Syndrome. But homophobic bureaucrats would rather see Marco dead than with a deviant couple, and so begins the loving trio's heartbreaking legal struggle to stay together.

## ANY DAY NOW

Alan Cumming, Garrett Dillahunt, Isaac Leyva, Frances Fisher. Rated R. 95 mins. Now playing at Landmark's Magnolia Theater.

The original script, based on a real-life Rudy and Marco its screenwriter knew, had been kicking around Hollywood in development and turnaround for decades before writer/director Travis Fine found, re-wrote and produced it. Here Cumming — who currently appears as slick campaign manager Eli Gold on CBS's *The Good Wife* — dishes on his lack of an inner drag queen, working with his Down Syndrome co-star, and why Sylvester Stallone, attached to the project during one of its earlier incarnations, hates Woody Allen.

— Lawrence Ferber

**Dallas Voice: One might expect a lighthearted, frothy turn when they hear you play a drag queen, but this is a pretty heavy drama.** Alan Cumming: I'll say. What I liked about it was it was about something important but also managed to have humor. I liked the fact the tone of the film is always veering between comedy and tragedy.

**How much of the performance is Alan Cumming?**

Well, I feel very connected to this character as a person, as an activist, as a man. The issues involved in it are close to my heart. But I didn't realize how much

of me there was until it was pointed out to me. As I got older, I realized that why people connect with you as an actor is because you do allow yourself to come through and be vulnerable. In this, I felt incredibly vulnerable in it and that means the audience is let in and can see you. When I'm with Isaac and Garrett, I feel that's completely me in that moment and how I am in that situation. It's nice to be able to access those bits that allow you to connect with the audience, but couched in someone very different from you.



WHO'S YOUR DADDY? | Two gay men (Garrett Dillahunt, Alan Cumming) battle to adopt a child with Down Syndrome (Isaac Leyva) in this period comedy-drama from director Travis Fine.

**Have you wanted to play a full-on drag queen before? Should we nominate you for *RuPaul's Drag Race*?** No. I don't have an inner drag queen waiting to get out. The summer before making *Any Day Now* I did a miniseries in South Africa for British TV where I played a transvestite. It's not my thing. I don't think I'm good with it. I look like a horse in a wig. The two guys I perform the song with in the beginning of *Any Day Now* are proper drag queens and I felt like a total amateur. Even the moves I couldn't get together. Maybe if I hadn't done drag for work I would secretly pine for it but it's not something I yearn for.

**Variety's review said, "Acting from beneath the least flattering haircut this side of the Bee Gees, Cumming delivers what is possibly his best performance to date." Comment?** I was not the biggest fan of my wig. On the poster they snatched the one moment where it looks quite good, but it took a while to settle in. Garrett and I still laugh uproariously about them. At the premiere, actually, we got the giggles during a very poignant scene where both of our wigs looked ridiculous. But that's how people looked in those days and it was actually quite liberating to do something where you had to leave your vanity at the door. The clothes and the lighting as well was not particularly flattering, on purpose quite harsh, because the story's quite harsh.

**Had you heard about the case the film's story was inspired by prior to receiving the script? And this sort of difficulty or impossibility that loving gays who want to adopt otherwise neglected or un-**

**wanted children face still exists, doesn't it?** No, I hadn't, and absolutely. I think that's one of the reasons I was drawn to the film. You try adopting a child through the state system as a gay in America. Nothing much has really changed. Some investors of this film had fostered kids with learning and physical difficulties and took on the state of Florida to be able to adopt one of those kids. Really the prejudice that happens in the film happens today. You're so sad this family can't be together and yet you're so complicit because we are part of the society that allows that to happen.

**Big actors like Sly Stallone and Tommy Lee Jones were attached to the original script during earlier attempts to get it made. Were you surprised to hear that?** I was. But Sylvester Stallone is always getting my parts so it's about time I got one of his. I worked on a film with him once years ago and he was very open about [his plastic surgeries]. He was really angry at Woody Allen and I asked why. He went, "Well, he could have a facelift, he doesn't have to look so wrinkly!" Stallone was pissed off that Woody wouldn't have a facelift.

**What else was memorable or special about this film?** Meeting Isaac. He's 22, and that was an amazing thing to just hang out with him for a month. I never really spent time with someone with Down Syndrome, and that was hilarious because he has no filter. We were doing a night shoot and everyone was exhausted and pissed off and he turns around and says to me, "I can't wait for the Oscars. I'm going to thank Travis and ... what's your name again?" Bless him.

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# Country living

Adventures (including sex!) await folks in 'The Hobbit' and 'Hyde Park'

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

It's an axiom of criticism that you can only review the thing in front of you — a philosophy more complicated than it sounds when it comes to **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey**, the first of a trilogy of films adapting J.R.R. Tolkien's novel. The version of the film I (and all other local critics) was presented was a high-speed-frame, high-def, 3D version of a movie that most folks will see in a 2D format. It sometimes happens critics screen movies in 3D or IMAX or THX Sound others don't have access to; it's just part of the game. Usually, though, you can separate those out from the bona fides of the film itself.

That's nearly impossible with *The Hobbit*. The high-def process employed isn't widely available, and that's a good thing — in some ways, it's quite unwatchable. The moody, dark atmospheric of film stock are missing when everything is as ravishingly supersaturated as a videotaped BBC comedy. There's no texture to the images, no grit. It's as if the entire film were being projected on a giant silver mirror.

So distracting is the process, divorcing one's self from it becomes an exercise in will power. It's not always possible to win. Even without a format more eyesore than eye-popping, *The*

*Hobbit* is a disappointing entry into this fantasy universe. Peter Jackson turned Tolkein's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy into three rousing movies; why does it take *another* three films to put his slender, less ambitious single volume onto the big screen? The enterprise reeks of overreaching.

It also explains why, at nearly three hours, *An Unexpected Journey* feels more padded than a drag queen's brassiere. The assembling of dwarfs heading on a quest to reclaim their conquered city takes at least 45 minutes to get going, during which you're more likely to nap than coo with wonder.

When the action does begin in earnest, the sequences are well staged, if sometimes pointless. *The Hobbit* is a family film in the way *LOTR* was not — all the killings are bloodless (even the



**TOO PRECIOUS** | The high-definition process used to render 'The Hobbit' in 3D is a fatal distraction, but even in 2D the film is silly, overlong and padded — except when Gollum (Andy Serkis) is on screen.

swords are pulled from chest cavities sparklingly clean) and the comedy is of the Three Stooges variety — quite literally when Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) encounters trolls who are no scarier than Lindsay Lohan out of makeup.

When, with less than an hour to go, Gollum (Andy Serkis) finally makes his appearance, *An Unexpected Journey* finally starts to come together. Gollum is a fabulous character, brilliantly rendered by Serkis in a motion-captured performance, that raises the level of the film and even makes you forget about the hi-def. But it's not long after that the film ends, *a la The Empire Strikes Back*,

■ **COUNTRY**, Next Page

★★★★★  
**THE HOBBIT:  
AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY**  
Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman,  
Andy Serkis. Rated PG-13. 175  
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- MARSHALL FINE, THE HUFFINGTON POST

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TOP PICK

Hank Henley Photography

■ COUNTRY, From Previous Page

with an intentional cliffhanger.

*The Hobbit* would have worked better as a TV miniseries, if not for prohibitive costs (makeup alone must have been millions — there are more beards here than at a convention of Tom Cruise’s exes). Even Ian McKellen back as Gandolf — plus Cate Blanchett, Hugo Weaving, Ian Holm, Christopher Lee and Elijah Wood in cameos — adds only a slight level of grandeur and sense of continuity; what they can’t add is purpose.

If the rural folk in *The Hobbit* go searching for action, so do the Ameristocracy in **Hyde Park on Hudson** ... though the action they seek is of a vastly different nature. Based on more-or-less true events about how King George VIII of England — called Bertie, the stuttering dad of Elizabeth II portrayed onscreen in both *The King’s Speech* and *W/E* within the last two years — paid a visit to FDR in the advent to WWII, trying to muster popular support for U.S. intervention against the Nazis. Both sides had a lot at stake; both were so caught up in protocols they nearly tanked it: Bertie (Samuel West) read too much into every gesture; Roosevelt (Bill Murray) couldn’t keep his pants on, romancing his distant cousin Daisy (Laura Linney) under everyone’s nose.

If it weren’t for the historic political overtones, *Hyde Park on Hudson* would play more or less like a quaint country sex farce — at times, it seems director Roger Michell goes out of his way to echo Bergman’s *Smiles on a Summer Night*, which itself became the Sondheim musical *A Little Night Music* — I half expected Eleanor (Olivia Williams) to break into a chorus from “Send in the Clowns.”

Alas, nothing quite so magical happens. All the moonlight romping and bucolic soft focus are nice, but they don’t come together with the politicking; it’s like two movies jockeying for dominance.

There are two areas, however, where the film succeeds. First is in its candor about the marriage of convenience between Eleanor and Franklin. Both servants and guests

seem uncomfortably resigned to the fact Franklin has a mistress who is invited to attend events, hidden in plain sights. They also address Eleanor’s presumed homosexuality — a point is made that she lives not with FDR in Hyde Park, but with a household of lesbian furniture makers nearby with whom she has an intimate relationship — with a disarming directness.

The second is what becomes the film’s central scene: A late-night discussion between Bertie and FDR about the nature of governance. Despite making almost no effort to have Murray (or Williams) look like a Roosevelt — a cigarette



**LAVENDER LOVE AFFAIR** | Eleanor (Olivia Williams, left) and Franklin (Bill Murray, right) carry on with others — he with his cousin (Laura Linney, center), she with other women — in ‘Hyde Park on Hudson.’

holder for him, and dowdy clothes and an overbite for her — in this moment Murray demonstrates his acting chops. He’s savvy and human, discussing his polio and the nature of perception in a way that rings true even today. (It also sets up the finale, where an awkward picnic forms

the crux of a diplomatic flourish.)

With those other recent Bertie movies, this ground feels overly familiar to trod on again. But by the end, Murray has given us a reason to care, and to see things afresh — both the character he plays and the actor himself. ■

★★★★★  
**HYDE PARK ON HUDSON**  
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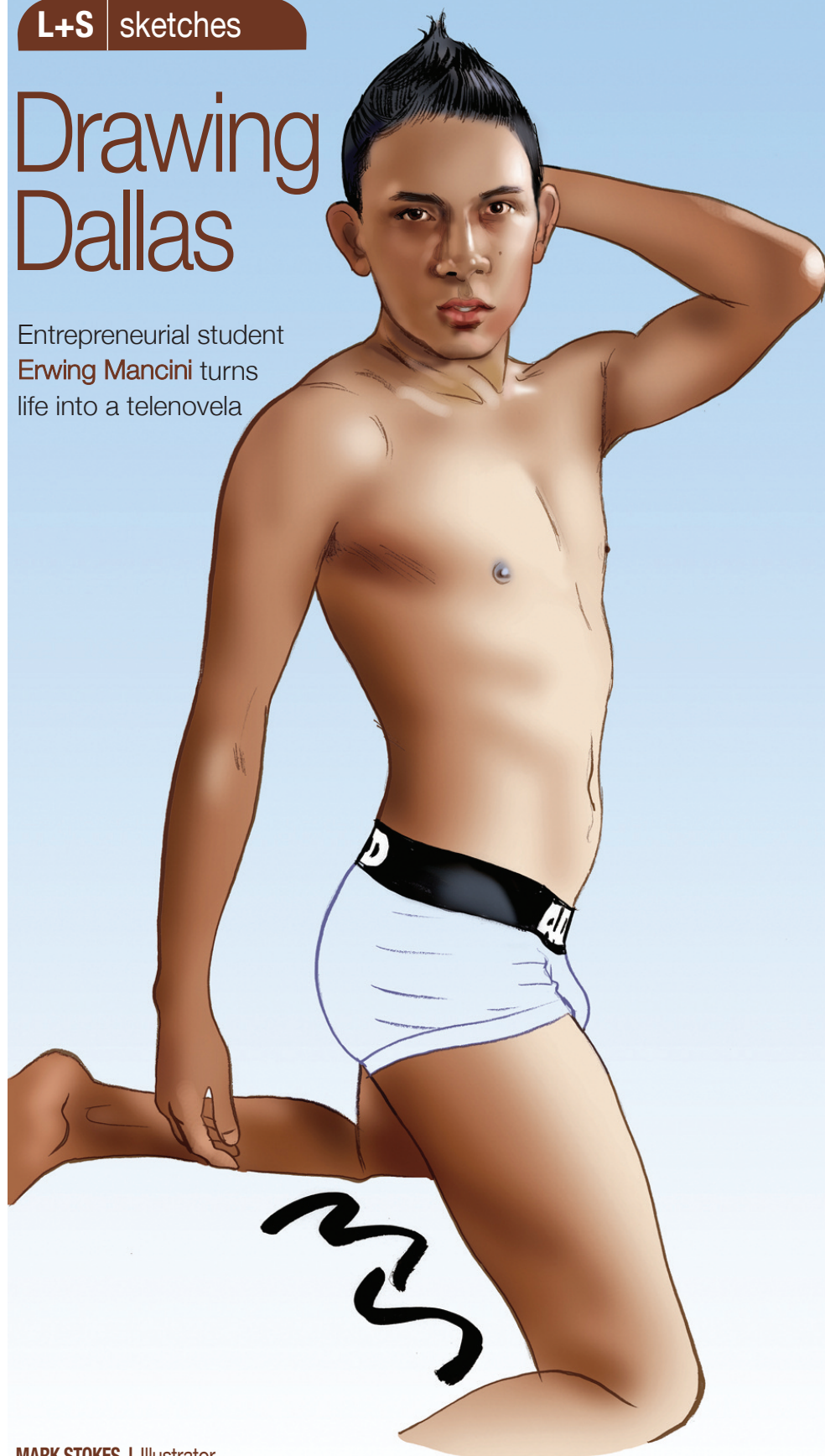
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# Drawing Dallas

Entrepreneurial student  
Erwing Mancini turns  
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MARK STOKES | Illustrator  
[mark@markdrawsfunny.com](mailto:mark@markdrawsfunny.com)

**Name and age:** Erwing Mancini, 20

**Occupation:** Student, entrepreneur

**Spotted at:** Gloria's Uptown

Born in Acapulco, Mexico, the exquisitely handsome Erwing Mancini has made his home in Dallas for the last few years. Well known in the Latino community, this captivating Sagittarius is CEO of G Mundo Network, and is currently developing an online gay Latino-centric network that will import international programming from Columbia, Mexico City and Argentina. He is also in pre-production on a gay-oriented bilingual online novella, which he is writing and producing. It is based loosely on his own life and it is giving him an outlet to express some of his personal gay experience.





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## Saturday 12.15

### Women's Chorus carols the night away

Christmastime is a season of believing — in everything from Santa to finding a parking space at the mall — so the Women's Chorus of Dallas naturally calls its holiday concert at the new City Performance Hall *Believe*. Guest vocalist Aubree-Anna, pictured, will add a jazzy touch to traditional songs, including "Carol of the Bells" and "How Great Our Joy." The concert officially starts at 7 p.m., but there will be live entertainment in the lobby beginning at 6:30, so feel free to come early.

**DEETS:** City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7 p.m. \$20-\$45. ATTPAC.org or TWCD.org.

## Tuesday 12.18

### Queer literary readings get a little dirty

Queer performer Lillith Grey is expanding the scope of her reach with a recently instituted series called Dirty Panties: A Queer Erotica Reading. Local poets, writers, performers and the like gather about once a month at Ver Les Dallas for this literary exercise through sexy gay stuff. And it's BYOB ... we assume the second "B" stands for "bottle" and not, you know, something dirty.

**DEETS:** Ver Les Dallas, 5945 LBJ Freeway. 8 p.m. PantyRaidDallas.com.

## Tuesday 12.18

### 'Cirque Dreams' ... of sugar plums dancing

Believe it or not, Cirque du Soleil isn't the only place to get your share of acrobatic feats. *Cirque Dreams: Holidayze* offers its own collection of aerialists, contortionists, clowns and jugglers ... all with a holiday theme. If you think *The Nutcracker* is the only place toys and ornaments seem to come to life, you'll be pleasantly surprised by this spectacle.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 18-23. ATTPAC.org.



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**YEE HAW!** | The rollicking musical 'Pump Boys and Dinettes' opens in Lewisville.

## FRIDAY 12.14

### 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. 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 23. \$15-\$85. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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To submit an item for inclusion in the online calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

**Batman Live World Arena Tour.** An original adaptation of the DC Comics hero and his arch nemeses. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Through Sunday. AmericanAirlinesCenter.com.

**The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque 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 presents this musical, set to the music of the Gershwins. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Final weekend. \$10-\$50.

## calendar

Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Ebony Scrooge**, an all-black version of the Dickens classic. DeSoto Corner Theater, 211 Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto. Dec. 14-28. \$10. ShowTix4u.com.

**Jekyll & Hyde.** Constantine Maroulis and Deborah Cox star in the pre-Broadway revival of the musical. *Reviewed last week.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Final weekend. 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. Final weekend. \$18-\$25. OnTheEveMusical.com.

**Pump Boys & Dinettes.** A rollicking C&W musical. With Mark Mullino, John Venable, Angie McWhirter, Stephanie Riggs, Doyg Jackson. MCL Grand, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Through Dec. 23. \$25-\$30. OurProductionsTheatreCo.org.

**It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play.** B.J. Cleveland headlines WaterTower's new holiday production. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Final weekend. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

### BALLET

**The Nutcracker.** Ben Stevenson's enduring version of Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday classic. Presented by

Texas Ballet Theater. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. TexasBalletTheater.org.

### FINE ART

**Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec and His Contemporaries.** An exhibition of rare, century-old posters from the French belle époque. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 20. \$14. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**On the Silk Road and the High Seas: Chinese Ceramics, Culture and Commerce.** New exhibit of centuries-old pottery and sculpture, at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 27. 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. Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Through March 31. Open daily. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

## SATURDAY 12.15

### COMMUNITY

**High Tech Happy Hour**, monthly mixer open to anyone. Maracas Cocina Mexicana, 2914 Main St. 5:50-7:30 p.m.

**Dallas FrontRunners** fun run for runners and walkers

**Hot 'n horny hookups.**

**Horny? Hookup with local gay and bi men.** **SQUIRT.org**

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X-Posed adult theater & megastore (Formerly Odyssey Adult Video)



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** | Voice of Pride staple Carlos Saenz joins J. Michael Brown and Rusty Johnson for a holiday music CD release party and fundraiser Tuesday at Dish.

at all levels. Meet on the patio of the rec house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

**BROADCAST**

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

**SUNDAY 12.16**

**WORSHIP**

**The ONE Church,** 5427 Phillip 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**

**Christmas Stocking Auction,** a fundraiser for Legacy Counseling Center. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m.

**MONDAY 12.17**

**CABARET**

**Blue Monday at South Side on Lamar.** Liz Mikel performs a “cool yule” selection of holiday music in the style of artists from Nat King Cole to James Brown. The Blue Room at South Side on Lamar, 1409 S. Lamar St. 7:30 p.m. Free.

**COMMUNITY**

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

**TUESDAY 12.18**

**THEATER**

**Cirque Dreams: Holidaze.** A Christmas-themed show of French-style circus acts. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 18–23. ATTPAC.org.

**COMMUNITY**

**The Best of Christmas release party and fundraiser.** Musicians J. Michael Brown, Carlos Saenz and Rusty

Johnson will perform from their new album of Christmas music while raising money for the Kidscape Foundation of Scottish Rite Hospital. Attendees are requested to bring an unwrapped toy. Dish at the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 7–9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY 12.19**

**COMMUNITY**

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

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

**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.

**THURSDAY 12.20**

**COMMUNITY**

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

**Standing on the Promises** is the Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets at Cathedral of Hope. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for membership; A.A. is self-supporting through contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, political organization or institution. 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

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

**CABARET**

**Anna Lively** continues a new cabaret series at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 8 p.m. \$35–\$40. SammonsArtCenter.org.

**CONCERTS**

**Turtle Creek Choral: Naughty and Nice.** The second of the choral’s two holiday concerts this season, with a bit of camp. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 20–23. TurtleCreek.org.

**this week’s solution**

A	V	A	S	T	A	S	P	S	S	T	A	T
T	O	M	E	I	L	E	A	H	H	E	R	R
E	X	T	R	A	L	A	R	G	E	A	N	T
			F	R	O	M	B	E	A	M	M	E
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C	A	R	U	S	O	L	E	O	N	S	O	D
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		S	C	O	T	T	Y	T	O	T	A	X
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S	A	P	R	E	A	R	C	L	I	C	H	E
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H	I	G	H	E	R	B	A	R	A	C	K	
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R	O	O	S	C	A	D	S	L	O	U	S	E
A	N	N	E	K	I	S	T	S	C	R	E	W

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**



**Brad Pitt** turns 49 on Tuesday. The four-time Oscar nominee and longtime heart-throb has been the unmarried partner of Angelina Jolie for many years, in part because the couple has pledged not to marry until same-sex marriage is legal.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 21–Dec 20**

Temper your innate tendency to take on all comers with moderation and a clearer sense that you work and feel better when you have time to yourself. Trust others to deal with their own issues and make room for life to make room for you.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21 - Jan 20**

One solution isn't better than another — it's all about what you can live with, and also about looking at the part of you that isn't going to be OK if something doesn't work. Step back and let the universe shed some light and be guided by those signs.

**AQUARIUS Jan 21–Feb 20**

It will be interesting to see what happens when everything you ever dreamed of comes to pass. It's been so long since you've had a chance to look at who you are, let's hope your efforts to make things perfect haven't lost you in the process.

**PISCES Feb 21–Mar 20**

Whatever your life is revealing, know that your role is to float back and forth between worlds, and between people, places and things, with enough empathy to touch all of it with the healing power of love.

**ARIES Mar 21–Apr 20**

With so many new energies filtering into your life, you are being called to address only what your spirit is willing to handle. Listen to your heart, let your mind go, look at who you really are and open up to letting yourself feel totally joyful.

**TAURUS Apr 21–May 20**

The need to remain aware of what it will take to keep growing has you looking at cutting off ties. It could also require you to eliminate behavior patterns that bind your spirit and keep you stuck in the belief that more of any of this will make it better.

**GEMINI May 21–Jun 20**

The need to get everything in writing can't be overemphasized. You can't let yourself forget anything; when it's time to remember, others are bound to see things differently. You're sailing along nicely. Keep your shit detector on and expect the best.

**CANCER Jun 21–Jul 20**

If you think it's right to stick to your guns, your reasons for doing so have to be absolutely pure. Don't let fear or any tendency to play it safe lock you into a situation that may look good on paper but could turn out to be nothing but trouble.

**LEO Jul 21–Aug 20**

Once you begin to see that all of us are slaves to belief, and everyone is convinced that they're right, you'll be able to let yourself open up to the realization that it is the diversity of things that unifies us.

**VIRGO Aug 21–Sep 20**

As much as there are 1,001 variables forcing you to think that it's your job to stay on top of everything, you will feel a whole lot better if you can find a way to take one thing at a time and let serendipity show you how to manage the rest of it.

**LIBRA Sep 21–Oct 20**

If there are any flaws in your system, they originate in the refusal to let things pass and go on about your business. The need to be super cool about your treatment of others is a huge item right now.

**SCORPIO Oct 21–Nov 20**

Close friends keep expecting you to deal with the back end of their business until you figure out that it's not your job, or something knocks some sense into them. Good luck! Do what you can to define your boundaries without closing yourself off or hurting those who keep using you as their lifeline.

**Kyle's Bed & Breakfast** by Greg Fox

349

**Panel 1:** Steve: "CAN I HELP YOU?" Steve: "I'M STEVE. I'M HERE FOR KYLE'S HOLIDAY PARTY." Steve: "YOU'RE AWFULLY EARLY. EVERYONE'S STILL IN THEIR ROOMS... GETTING READY FOR THE EVENING'S FESTIVITIES." Steve: "OH? AND HOW COME YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR ROOM GETTING READY?"

**Panel 2:** Steve: "I DON'T BELIEVE I'LL BE ATTENDING. I'M NOT IN A VERY... ... FESTIVE MOOD."

**Panel 3:** Steve: "TSK, TSK. I DOUBT CLARENCE WOULD APPROVE OF THAT." Steve: "EXCUSE ME... WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CLARENCE?" Steve: "...HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?" Steve: "ONE OF THE B&B GUYS MUST'VE MENTIONED HIM TO ME." Steve: "I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE TOLD ANYONE HERE ABOUT CLARENCE." Steve: "WELL, TELL ME THIS... WHAT DID HE THINK OF THE HOLIDAYS?"

**Panel 4:** Steve: "HE WAS YOUR PARTNER, WASN'T HE?" Steve: "YES. FOR THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS. HE DIED FIVE YEARS AGO. BUT..." Steve: "OH, CLARENCE ABSOLUTELY ADORED CHRISTMAS. EVERY YEAR, HE WOULD TRANSFORM OUR APARTMENT INTO A MAGICAL WINTER WONDERLAND..." Steve: "CLARENCE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GIVE UP CHRISTMAS, RUDY. HE'D WANT YOU TO GO TO KYLE'S PARTY... TO ENJOY YOURSELF." Steve: "NOW... MAYBE YOU COULD FIND ME A DISH FOR THESE COOKIES I BROUGHT. THEY'RE FRESH-BAKED GINGERBREAD MEN." Steve: "OH. YOU BAKED THEM YOURSELF?" Steve: "ACTUALLY, I HAD A LITTLE HELP. FROM A GUY WHO ABSOLUTELY ADORES CHRISTMAS..."

**Panel 5:** Steve: "... WITH FRESH-BAKED GINGERBREAD MEN... AND A TOWERING REAL FIR TREE. HOW I MISS THAT." Steve: "I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT."

Website - [www.kylecomics.com](http://www.kylecomics.com)

E-Mail - [KylesBnB@aol.com](mailto:KylesBnB@aol.com)

**bitter girl**

**Panel 1:** "brainstormy weather" "REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE GONNA GO AWAY TO MONTREAL?" "I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT."

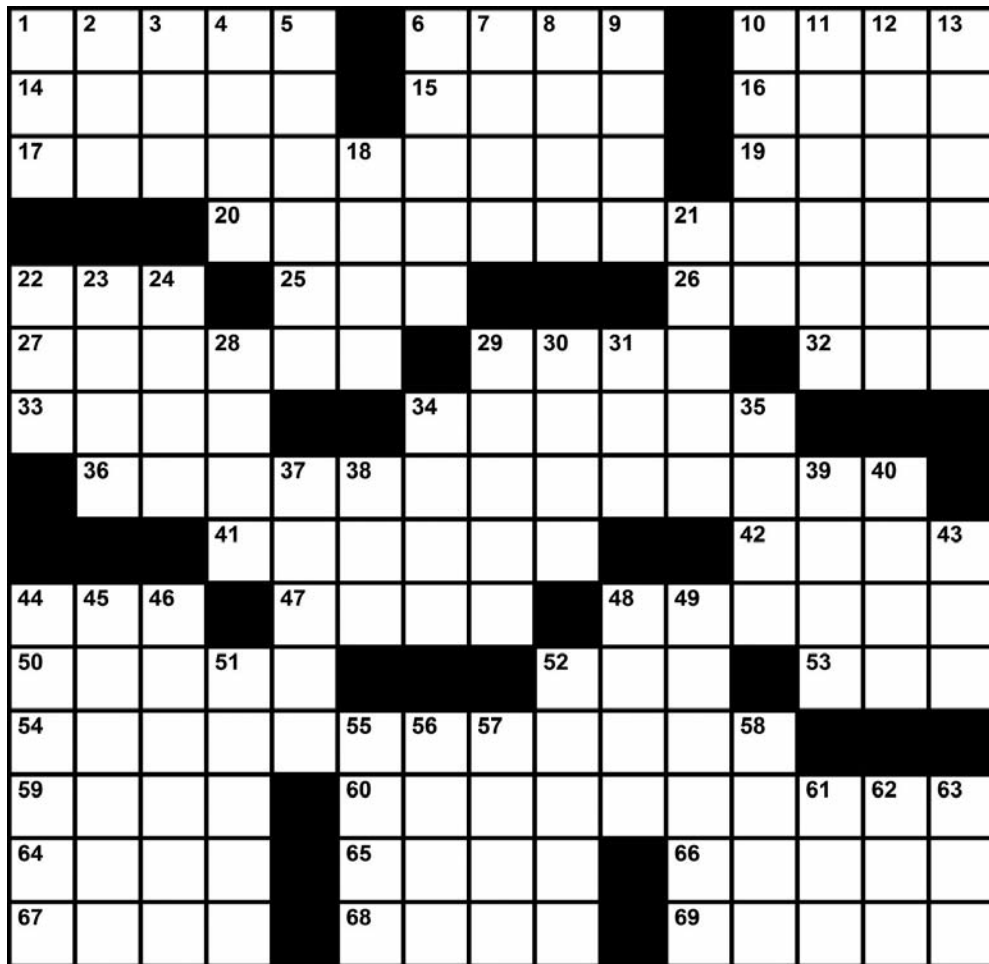
**Panel 2:** "I STILL HAVEN'T TAKEN A REAL VACATION YET. MAYBE I NEED TO." "MAYBE...MAYBE WE BOTH NEED TO GET AWAY AND, uh... RECONSIDER THINGS." "I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT." "REALLY?"

**Panel 3:** "MAYBE WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN I THOUGHT." "HEY! I HAPTA GO ORGANIZE A WIND FARM IN IOWA. WANNA COME?" "OR NOT." "IT'S ONLY A 19-HOUR BUS RIDE!"

email: [bittergirl@qsyndicate.com](mailto:bittergirl@qsyndicate.com)

[www.joanhilty.net](http://www.joanhilty.net)

JOAN HILTY © 2009



# Takei Home Pay

Solution on page 37

**Across**

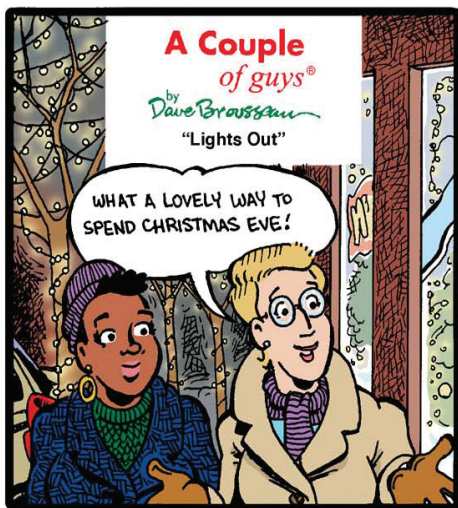
- 1 Word used to stop seamen
- 6 Bites of Caesar's girlfriend
- 10 "Now!" in a hospital
- 14 Oscar winner Marisa
- 15 *Starting Over* bisexual
- 16 Frau's spouse
- 17 Condom size claimed by most
- 19 Start to climax
- 20 Start of Lawrence O'Donnell's description of George Takei's support for Obama's policy
- 22 Follower of Jim Buchanan
- 25 "Fourscore and seven years \_\_ ..."
- 26 Elroy Jetson stroked him
- 27 Opera tenor Enrico
- 29 Politico Panetta
- 32 Gay guy, to Brits
- 33 Cry before getting off
- 34 Teeny-weeny
- 36 More of the description
- 41 Dinah on a beach?
- 42 Balls of brass
- 44 Maple fluid
- 47 Behind
- 48 Nutty as a fruitcake, e.g.
- 50 Gertrude's partner
- 52 Howe'er

53 \_\_\_ Feet Under

- 54 End of the description
- 59 On the ocean
- 60 Pop art icon
- 64 Aussie bounders
- 65 Men behaving badly
- 66 Screw (up)
- 67 Hathaway of *Brokeback Mountain*
- 68 Star-\_\_\_ tuna
- 69 It might have a Phillips head

**Down**

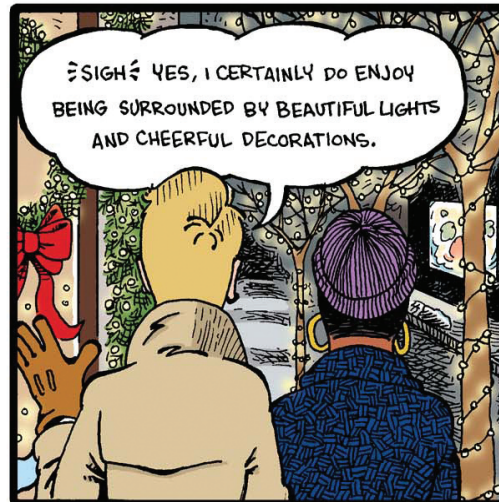
- 1 Had a Twinkie
- 2 \_\_\_ populi
- 3 Invoice fig.
- 4 One in bondage
- 5 Queen toppers
- 6 You must remember this
- 7 Balkan dweller
- 8 Work under Barney Frank
- 9 Where the Mets waved their sticks
- 10 Pillow covers
- 11 Catechism content
- 12 Conductor Toscanini
- 13 Guy with a "third leg"
- 18 HRC's equal sign
- 21 Devilfish
- 22 \_\_\_ UP
- 23 Luggage
- 24 Mabi-us of *The L Word*
- 28 Elusive craft
- 29 Metric measure
- 30 Name that rhymes with a dick?
- 31 Not closet-bound
- 34 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 35 Vet, of a sort, for short
- 37 Number of sides to a gay symbol
- 38 Foot fetish digit
- 39 Apples with chips
- 40 Of grades 1-12
- 43 Kevin's *Superman Returns* role
- 44 African desert
- 45 Cartoonist Bechdel
- 46 Easy mark, in slang
- 48 Tobacco wad
- 49 They're not out-of-towners
- 51 Climax at the end of an action film
- 52 No-tell motel meeting
- 55 Spice holder
- 56 Sons of, at Beth El Binah
- 57 Says further
- 58 Fast food pioneer
- 61 Heston's *Ben* \_\_\_
- 62 Fruit sugar ending
- 63 61-Down author Wallace



e-mail: [acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com](mailto:acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com)



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Girlfriends at Sue Ellen's.



Ben, Michael, Ed and Ryan at the Rainbow Lounge.



Friends' night out at Station 4.



Chris, Charles and Alec at the DIFFA Dallas wreath auction at Timothy Oulton.

Join **Alyssa Edwards** of **RuPaul's Drag Race Season 5** to celebrate Christmas with **Lip Syncing for Your Life** on Dec. 15 at **Randy's Club Cherries**. ... The **Legacy Counseling Christmas Stocking Auction** takes place at **Round-Up Saloon** on Dec. 16 benefiting the **Founders Cottage**. ... **Mark Alan Smith** performs at **Alexandre's** on Dec. 14. The Wreath Auction benefiting the **Buddy Shanahan Music Fund** is followed by the **Blue Christmas Party** with **Andrea Dawson** on Dec. 15. ... **Coles Whalen** performs on Dec. 15 at **Sue Ellen's**. Then **Anton Shaw** presents her 10th annual **Christmas Extravaganza** on Dec. 16 benefiting the music ministry at Cathedral of Hope and the Irving City Animal Shelter. ... Join the **Leather Knights** and **The DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** at the **Dallas Eagle** for an unforgettable holiday treat on Dec. 15 benefiting **Hillcrest House** at **AIDS Services Dallas**. Have your picture taken with **Naughty Santa**, enjoy the entertainment, wear your hottest leather, and indulge in a good time that is sure to put you on Santa's naughty list. ... **David Allen** stars in **The Ultimate Elvis** on Dec. 15 at **Garlow's** in Gun Barrel City. ... Catch the cast show at **S4** on Dec. 22 with **Cassie Nova**, **Krystal Summers**, **Valerie Lohr**, **Layla LaRue**, **Jenna Skyy**, **Celeste Martinez** and **Alyssa Edwards**. ... **JR.'s Bar & Grill** holds a DVD release party on Dec. 16 for **Gayby**, winner of 15 LGBT Film Festival Awards. Win DVDs while supplies last. ... **Qlive** presents open mic night comedy night at **Best Friends Club** on Tuesdays at 11 p.m. ... Sexy? Dance? Enter **Krystal Summers All Male Revue** each Tuesday at **Rainbow Lounge** to win \$150. Or come and cheer and vote for the winner. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES

To view more Scene photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos).



Greg, Norman, Sir Vin Up Lashes and Alex at the Red Dress Party at TMC: The Mining Company.



2013 Mr. Texas Leather Bobby Thurman and other entrants at the Dallas Eagle.



Margo and Kate at the Round-Up Saloon.



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