

LGBT Dallasites head to inauguration

Oak Lawn Band, attorney Pete Schulte among local participants
President Barack Obama's swearing-in will also feature gay poet, gay-affirming benediction pastor

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TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

LGBT advocates in Dallas, Fort Worth push
for cities to provide comprehensive insurance
coverage to transgender employees

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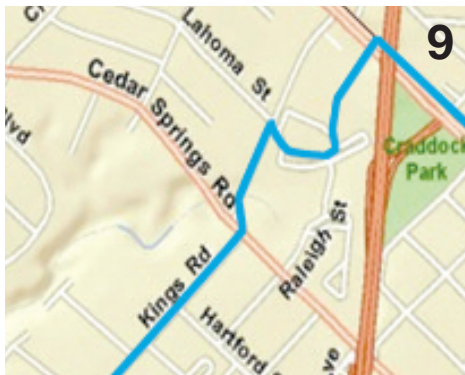
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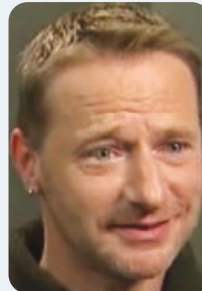
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4 years later, divorce-seeking gay Dallas couple remain in 'limbo'

If justice delayed is justice denied, one could argue that the gay Dallas couple known as "J.B." and "H.B." have already effectively lost their case.

It was precisely four years ago this month when J.B. filed an uncontested petition for divorce from H.B. in Dallas County court, seeking to amicably dissolve their 2006 Massachusetts marriage.



'J.B.'

Republican Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott promptly intervened to challenge J.B.'s divorce petition, arguing that Texas' constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage also prohibits the state from granting gay divorces. But State District Judge Tena Callahan, a Dallas Democrat, disagreed. Callahan ruled in September 2009 that not only could she hear J.B.'s petition — but also that the state's marriage amendment is unconstitutional.

Needless to say, Abbott appealed, and not surprisingly, an all-Republican panel of the 5th District Court of Appeals reversed Callahan's decision and ruled in Abbott's favor in August 2010.

In March 2011, J.B. appealed the case to the Texas Supreme Court, and that's where it's been sitting ever since, joined by another same-sex divorce case from Austin. The state high court requested briefs in the case but has not scheduled oral arguments.

Now, James J. "Jody" Scheske, the attorney representing both J.B. and the lesbian Austin couple, says it's possible the Texas Supreme Court will wait until after the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in two marriage equality cases it has agreed to hear.

"The [Texas Supreme] Court has not decided whether it will hear either of them," Scheske said in an email Tuesday. "There is no deadline for the Court to decide what it wants to do. The Court may be waiting to determine what the U.S. Supreme Court decides in the marriage-related cases, but that is only a guess. The U.S. Supreme Court will likely issue opinions in those cases at the end of June."

Asked to comment on his clients' predicament in the meantime, Scheske added, "Limbo is a good word for it."

— John Wright

Rawlings calls pledges 'baloney' during domestic violence speech

Mayor Mike Rawlings announced efforts to battle domestic violence during a press conference Monday at City Hall, highlighting a violent culture and mental illness as the main causes of violence.

"We somehow act as if violence is an accepted normal," Rawlings said. "It's just the way we live. We're just a violent society."

He said violence is everywhere, from schoolyard bullying to child abuse and "simple jerks [who] decide to assault people who are not like them because of their sexual orientation, their skin color or just because they're a weak target."

But Rawlings focused primarily on male-on-female violence that is perpetuated in video games, TV shows, dialogue in locker rooms, and among fathers and sons. Instead of acknowledging that vi-

olence is also male-on-male and female-on-female in LGBT relationships, he focused on men who "have been the violent gender over the centuries."

"We must come together as men in Dallas, Texas, and say that hitting a woman is not acceptable. Strangling a woman is not acceptable," Rawlings said.

Rawlings later said Dallas would consider the impact of having gun shows at the city-operated Omni Dallas Convention Center Hotel. When asked about his refusal to sign a pledge against gun violence, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, he reportedly said he didn't sign because "signing those pledges are baloney," the Dallas Morning News reports. He said instead of signing the pledge, he wanted to focus on raising the public's awareness of the issue. When Rawlings refused to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage last January, he also said he wanted to focus on more substantive issues.

— Anna Waugh

Richland Hills woman charged with anti-gay hate crime dies

Wanda Derby, the 72-year-old Richland Hills



Wanda Derby

woman charged with assaulting her gay neighbor, has died.

Derby had a court hearing Monday, Jan. 14. Christopher McGregor, the Tarrant County assistant district attorney assigned to Derby's case, said he received her death certificate the previous week. He said she passed away Nov. 25,

but it takes a while before they notify the courts.

"Based on that, we have dismissed the assault cases against her," he said.

— Anna Waugh

Drama Room landlady was a notorious madam in Houston

The owner of a Cedar Springs strip property that's been the subject of a recent rent dispute once spent three years in federal prison for running a notorious statewide call girl ring. Last week we reported that Penelope Hatteras, who owns the building that houses the Drama Room, had locked out her tenants, the Hershner family, as the two sides continue to haggle over the lease.

In 1985, Hatteras was sentenced to five years probation and a \$10,000 fine for operating a high-priced call girl service in Sugar Land. The next year she was ordered to prison for 26 months for continuing to operate the prostitution ring while on probation.

Hatteras claimed to have had 200 call girls in Houston, Dallas, Denver and Atlanta and took in \$10 million annually.

When Hatteras got out of a Fort Worth prison, she bought the property on Cedar Springs Road in Dallas where the Drama Room now stands and opened a gay bar. That bar failed and several others have operated in that space since, including Mickey's and the original BJ's.

In 2008, the Houston Chronicle interviewed Hatteras about the Eliot Spitzer call girl scandal that brought down the New York governor.

— David Taffet



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Transforming healthcare

LGBT advocates in Dallas, Fort Worth push for cities to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to transgender employees

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
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When Dallas police officer Debbie Grabowski transitioned six years ago, she paid for the \$90,000 in surgical procedures out of her own pocket because the city's health insurance didn't cover gender reassignment surgery.

Officials say the city's coverage includes everything except the surgery, including hormone replacement therapy, but Grabowski said the plan doesn't currently cover her hormones — and never has.

"It hasn't changed," she said of the city's healthcare coverage. "If it did change, I'm not aware of it."

Grabowski also said her gender marker hasn't been corrected in the city's directory despite several attempts to get it changed from male to female. She's also put off getting male wellness checkups because she doesn't think they'd be covered.

If the city had covered her surgeries, Grabowski said it would've helped immensely.

The issue is even worse in Fort Worth because Cowtown's insurance plan specifically excludes everything related to transgender care.

Transgender-inclusive healthcare is rare among cities nationwide, with only five out of 137 cities ranked in the new Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index listed as having the coverage — San Francisco, Minneapolis, New York, Portland and Seattle. But more and more cities and private companies have started offering the coverage since San Francisco became the first U.S. city to cover gender reassignment surgery for its employees in 2001.

Deena Fidas, deputy director of HRC's Workplace Project, said trans health benefits are medically necessary and help people complete their gender transitions. She compared a trans person who is denied hormone therapy coverage to a woman going through menopause who is able to get hormone replacement therapy, as one example of the inequity.

"What we're dealing with are medically necessary therapies, surgeries and procedures, and so the denial of the insurance coverage is just as critical as somebody who's not transgender being denied coverage for needed endocrinology appointments or needed surgeries," Fidas said.



TAKING THE INITIATIVE | Nell Gaither, a former city employee who is president of Trans Pride Initiative, started a campaign in December to persuade the city to add comprehensive transgender health benefits in 2014. But City Manager Mary Suhm recently told Gaither that isn't going to happen. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

"It's incomplete healthcare coverage to not extend these benefits to transgender employees."

Fidas said companies are increasingly offering them after HRC began requiring trans-inclusive healthcare for companies to receive a perfect score on its Corporate Equality Index. The number of companies that offer the benefits has since grown from 49 in 2009 to 287 at end of 2012.

California and Oregon recently mandated that private insurance companies stop discriminating against people based on gender identity. Without specifying medical treatments that are covered, companies must cover hormone therapy, breast reduction and medical screenings if they would cover it for patients who are not transgender.

When the city of Portland added trans-inclusive healthcare coverage in 2011, the cost increase was \$32,300 added to its \$41.6 million healthcare

budget. Portland has roughly 9,000 employees.

Trans advocates said many cities see little or no financial impact as there are few people who access the coverage. Fort Worth has roughly 6,000 employees and Dallas has about 13,000.

LGBT leaders in North Texas are hoping the national attention to the issue will help them conquer fears and attitudes locally to offer comprehensive trans health benefits by year's end.

Nell Gaither, president of Trans Pride Initiative, started a campaign in December to persuade the city of Dallas to add comprehensive coverage to its 2014 budget.

City Manager Mary Suhm was asked about adding the benefits at a city June Pride event. Suhm said the money wasn't there to add them and encouraged people in attendance to continue to remind council members they were needed.

Suhm also said at the event that the upcoming budget year may be more favorable for including more health benefits, so Gaither said she hopes the city will find a way to add them.

"I think we've all been thinking about it for a while but haven't gone anywhere with it because of the budget," Gaither said. "I think this is an issue that a lot of people don't know is a problem."

Suhm told Dallas Voice that the city's current UnitedHealthcare plan covers everything the trans community needs except gender reassignment surgery. She said employees who speak about the plan should be clear about what it covers.

"Our plans need to be clear about that and the people that are answering those questions need to understand. ... I don't want it to be difficult or people to feel intimidated about getting them [the

■ HEALTHCARE, Page 14



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localbriefs

WEDDING



BROWN-MORRIS | Jaime Brown and Donald Morris of Dallas were married on the second anniversary of their love together — Dec. 11, 2012 — on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Brown works as a patient accounts rep II and Morris works as a commercial real estate appraiser. Brown is from Oklahoma, and Morris is from Texas. They are planning to eventually make their home in Maryland or the Washington, D.C. area.

pet of the week / BROWNIE

Brownie is an adorable 1-year-old Shih Tzu who would love to find his forever home! He is incredibly affectionate and will even roll over on his back for you to rub his belly. Brownie is not too fond of children so a home with no kids would be best for him. He walks well on a leash and is good with other dogs. He will need regular grooming and brushing to keep his fur in good condition. Come and meet Brownie.



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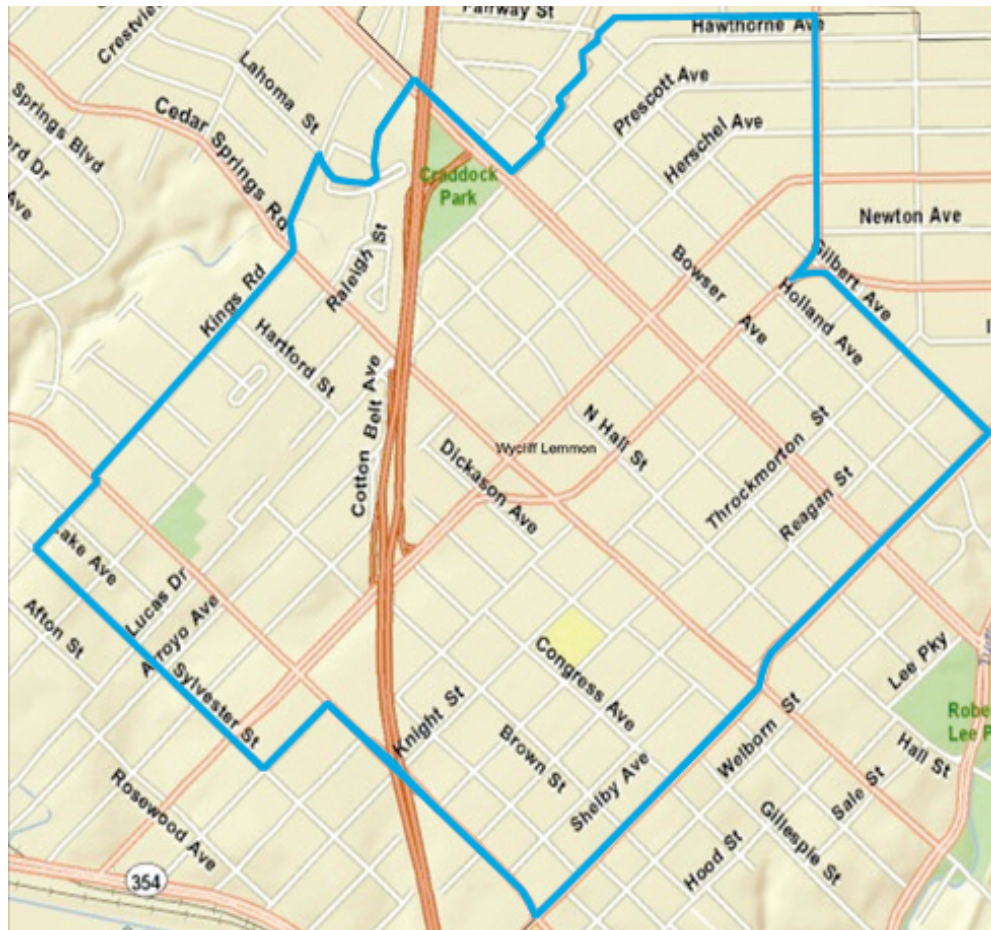
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Crime plummets in Cedar Springs TAAG



TAKING BACK THE GAYBORHOOD | The Wycliff-Lemmon Target Area Action Grid, previously known as the Cedar Springs-Wycliff and Maple-Wycliff TAAG, is outlined in blue. (Dallas Police Department)

Oak Lawn hotspot falls from No. 2 to No. 14 over 4 years

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
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Violent crime fell 11.5 percent in 2012 in the hotspot that encompasses the Cedar Springs strip, according to Dallas police statistics.

Four years ago, the area held the No. 2 spot for violent crime citywide after police identified the 27 worst hotspots for crime. In 2012, with 100 violent offenses, it fell to No. 14 on the list, down from No. 7 the previous year.

The Wycliff-Lemmon Target Area Action Grid, previously known as the Cedar Springs-Wycliff and Maple-Wycliff TAAG, also saw a decline in nonviolent crime of nearly 21 percent, resulting in a 19 percent drop in overall crime. The TAAG stretches roughly from Maple Avenue to Lemmon Avenue and from Oak Lawn Avenue to Kings Road.

Councilwoman Angela Hunt, whose represents

part of the Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG area in District 14, said she's very pleased with the numbers.

"There were some prominent crimes being committed in the Cedar Springs-Oak Lawn area that we were concerned about, and our police chief and his team really stepped up to come up with a good plan of attack in addressing those issues and working to ensure that we create a safe area," she said.

Hunt also attributed the decrease in crime to the continued efforts of businesses and citizens in the area that have alerted police to problem areas.

"I think what's significant is ensuring that we have a really strong police presence over there, that we have patrols in the neighborhoods and that our police are reaching out to community partners to make sure that we have strong connections within the various neighborhoods," Hunt said.

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■ texasnews



LGBA REPLAY | A contingent from the Lesbian Gay Band Association, shown at Dallas Pride in September, will include members of the Oak Lawn Band and make its second appearance in the inaugural parade on Monday, Jan. 21. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

Gay Dallasites have inauguration roles

Oak Lawn Band members, Dallas attorney Pete Schulte among those who'll participate in festivities prior to President Obama's swearing-in

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Homophobia is out and gay is in for President Barack Obama's second inaugural ceremony.

At Obama's first swearing-in ceremony, controversial evangelical pastor Rick Warren delivered the invocation. This year, Passion City Church pastor Louie Giglio was chosen, reportedly for his global anti-slavery campaign. But when his anti-gay teachings became clear, Giglio stepped down.

The Rev. Dr. Luis León from St. John's Church, a gay-affirming Episcopal Church near the White House, was chosen as a replacement. León's church is gay-affirming and performs same-sex weddings, which are legal in Washington, D.C. León also delivered the benediction for George W. Bush in 2005.

And this year, members of the LGBT community will actively participate in the inauguration in highly visible roles, behind the scenes and as invited guests. Among eight "citizen co-chairs" of the inauguration named this week was David

Hall, a former Air Force sergeant dismissed from service under "don't ask, don't tell."

"This is certainly the honor of a lifetime, and I am grateful to President Obama for his leadership in repealing 'don't ask, don't tell' so that no qualified American who wants to serve this country in uniform will ever again be denied that right simply because they are gay or lesbian," Hall said.

On the local front, three members of the Oak Lawn Band will be part of the 220-piece Lesbian Gay Band Association group that will march in the inaugural parade on Monday, Jan. 21. When LGBA marched in the 2009 parade, it was the first LGBT group to be part of a presidential inauguration.

The band was chosen from more than 2,800 groups that applied to participate and will be one of just 25 bands marching. Performers in the LGBA band come from 37 groups across the country.

This year the band had more time to prepare and ordered new uniforms.

"Last time they said we looked like baked potatoes," LGBA director Marita Begley said. "People said, 'You don't look like a gay band.'"

She said the new uniforms include a purple and black jacket with a dramatic white zig-zag, bold lettering and black Aussie hats with ostrich-feather fan plumes.

The LGBA band most recently performed to



A POLICEMAN AND A POET | Gay Dallas attorney Pete Schulte, left, a commissioned police officer, will be sworn in as a U.S. marshal and expects to conduct security along the inauguration parade route. Richard Blanco, right, will be the first gay and first Hispanic inaugural poet.

gether at the 2012 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and at a concert at the Majestic Theater during their annual conference in Dallas in September.

For the inaugural parade, Begley said she chose four pieces of music.

While marching, the band will perform a patriotic piece that includes "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and music by gay composer Aaron Copeland, "Edge of Glory" by Lady Gaga and "Give Me Everything (Tonight)," popularized by Latino-American rapper Pitbull.

Begley said she chose the Lady Gaga song because she wanted something by a contemporary woman and because Gaga is bisexual. And she loved the connection of "Battle Hymn" to Lincoln. Written during his first year in office, Lincoln reportedly cried when he first heard it and asked for an encore.

In front of the reviewing stand where Obama will watch the parade, the band will play "Tonight" from *West Side Story*.

"We have a kick-ass arrangement and it's by a gay composer," Begley said.

She said she loved the excitement in the lyrics as well.

Oak Lawn Band President Tim Stallman is among those who'll perform in Washington. This will be his second inauguration parade.

"As a former Marine Corps musician, I know firsthand what an honor it is to be selected and invited to participate in an inaugural parade," he said. "It is my patriotic duty to represent our country in this tradition."

Oak Lawn Band trumpet player Gloria McDonald will be performing in the parade for the first time. She said she is going because she wants to thank the president for standing up for LGBT rights. But she hopes the band's inclusion also sends a message to LGBT youth that they are not alone.

"I was raised in West Texas," she said. "People in places who are isolated will see us."

She called the band a true cross-section of the community.

"Everything from doctors to street cleaners," she said.

And she called the band a positive reflection of the LGBT community.

"It's hard to argue with music," she said.

Band members were set to fly to Baltimore on Friday for two days of intensive rehearsals at their Camden Yards hotel. They already received their music and are expected to have it memorized before arriving.

On Monday morning, they'll travel together by bus to the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., where all parade participants will go through extensive security.

During the parade, Begley said, the rules are strict. No cameras along the route. Nothing can leave their hands. Twirlers can twirl and flaggers may wave but no tosses and catches. And above all, do not reach in a pocket for anything. In the last inaugural parade, some band members pinned their pockets shut just to make sure they didn't reach inside by mistake.

"You will be taken down," Begley said they were told.

This year, among those responsible for taking down any participant seen as a threat to the president will be another community member, Pete Schulte.

Before becoming an attorney, Schulte began his career as a commissioned police officer in Brazos County in South Texas. He continues doing legal work for them and retains his commission.

On Sunday, he'll be sworn in as a deputy U.S. marshal and receive training. His assignment begins at 3:30 a.m. on Monday. He said he expects to be posted along the parade route.

■ INAUGURATION, Next Page

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■ **texasnews**

■ **INAUGURATION**, From Previous Page

"We'll learn more when we get there," he said. Background checks for all band members began when the group was accepted in November. Schulte said checks for officers began a year ago. He said he would have participated no matter who won the election.

"I'm glad it's President Obama," he said. "But it's about being there seeing people celebrate our democracy."

Eric Johnson and his partner, Mark Parker, will be on the platform at the swearing in ceremony. Johnson, co-chair of the Lambda Legal Dallas Leadership Committee and a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, began raising money and bundling donations for the re-election campaign last February.

"It became even more important to me in May after the president announced his support for same-sex marriage," Johnson said.

He said if it isn't too cold, they'll watch the parade, at least until they see the LGBA band perform. That night, they'll attend one of the inaugural balls.

At the swearing-in ceremony, the LGBT community will be represented by Richard Blanco, 44, this year's inaugural poet.

Born in Spain to Cuban-exile parents makes him the first Hispanic, as well as first openly gay inaugural poet.

He'll also be the youngest of the five poets who have delivered a poem at a presidential swearing-in ceremony. The others were Robert Frost at John F. Kennedy's inauguration, Maya Angelou at Bill Clinton's first swearing-in, Miller Williams at his second and Elizabeth Alexander at Obama's first.

Blanco has published three books of poetry. A theme of his most recent, *Looking for the Gulf Motel*, is the conflict between his macho upbringing and being gay.



LOUD AND PROUD | LGBA uniforms will be decidedly gayer than they were in 2008 — a purple and black jacket with a dramatic white zig-zag, bold lettering and black Aussie hats with ostrich-feather fan plumes. (Courtesy of LGBA)

Blanco, a trained civil engineer, moved to Bethel, Maine, from South Florida in 2009 with his partner.

In 2006, he graced the cover of *The Most Intriguing (and Sensual) Male Poets of 2006 Calendar*. ■

■ **CRIME**, From Page 9

Although the Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG ranked No. 14 citywide for violent crime in 2012, it remains at No. 10 for overall crime. The only category of offenses that increased was a 28 percent jump in thefts, with 140 incidents in 2012 compared to 109 in the previous year.

The 19 percent decrease in the Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG was part of the citywide crime reduction of nearly 11 percent last year, making it the ninth consecutive year crime has decreased. Police attribute that decrease mostly to patrols and added technology like the new program launched last year. The program is expected to eventually equip the 27 TAAGs with more bait cars, license plate readers and surveillance cameras to drive crime down in those areas.

Wycliff-Lemmon is No. 11 in line to receive the technology. While the top 10 were expected to have the technology by the end of December, an expected date for when the Oak Lawn area will receive the added technology is uncertain.

Lt. Tony Crawford with DPD's Homeland Security and Tactical Intelligence Division said installing the technology in the TAAGs in

progressing as the department works with companies to obtain the equipment.

"Of course, progress with each company advances at different rates. We will make announcements when the technology is put in place," he said. "Please be assured that the Dallas Police Department is making every effort to deploy the best products available."

When the new technology is installed, crime in the Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG is expected to continue its decline.

David Richardson, president of Cedar Springs Merchant Association, said the organization is very grateful to police because they have increased patrols and provided added surveillance on top of the security patrol hired by CSMA.

"Fortunately I guess the numbers reflect that it's working," he said.

Richardson said the stronger police presence has led to more arrests and helped deter people from trying to steal cars or rob people, adding that new technology will likely only help more.

"It's all helping," Richardson said. "It's making our community very safe and exciting to come back to where people don't have to worry about things." ■



SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS | Slain gay-rights pioneer Harvey Milk, who twice lived in Dallas, would become the first openly LGBT person to have an airport named after him. (Associated Press)

San Francisco airport may be named for Harvey Milk

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco lawmaker on Tuesday introduced legislation asking voters to rename the city's airport after slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk.

A charter amendment sponsored by Supervisor David Campos would put the question of creating Harvey Milk-San Francisco International Airport on San Francisco's November ballot.

The proposed name change will be sent to committee in a matter of weeks, then returned to the Board of Supervisors, Campos confirmed late Tuesday.

If five of Campos' colleagues agree to submit the proposed name change to voters and the amendment goes through in the fall, the city would become home to the world's first airport honoring an openly gay person, said Milk's nephew, Stuart Milk.

Milk, who runs an international gay rights foundation in his uncle's memory, said that adding an airport to the list of public venues named for Harvey Milk would mark a milestone since flights to and from San Francisco International serve 68 countries where homosexuality is illegal.

"For young gay people in an illegal place looking up at a monitor and being able to point to this international airport named after an LGBT advo-

cate, it gives them the green light to authenticity," Milk said. "It's a major representation that (they) are being celebrated somewhere in the world in a high-level way."

About 41 million passengers pass through San Francisco International every year, "and the idea that millions of people can learn about Harvey Milk and what he represented is very moving," Campos said.

"That no airport in this country has been named for an openly LGBT person is something I hope would be remedied, and what a better place than San Francisco for something like that to happen and what better person than Harvey Milk," he said.

Campos said the San Francisco Board of Supervisors could vote on the amendment in as little as two weeks.

Milk became one of the first openly gay men elected to public office in the United States when he won a seat on the board of supervisors in 1977, inspiring a generation of activists with his uncompromising call for gays to come out.

He was assassinated at City Hall, along with Mayor George Moscone, more than a year later. His life became the subject of the 2008 Oscar-winning film *Milk*.

The airport renaming, if it is approved, would make him the recipient of an honor most often reserved for former presidents. ■



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coverstory



NOT-SO-SMOOTH TRANSITION | Dallas police officer Debbie Grabowski, shown at work in 2007, was forced to pay \$90,000 out of pocket for gender reassignment surgeries. Grabowski claims her hormone therapy isn't covered, either, but city officials insist that it is. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

■ **HEALTHCARE**, From Page 6

services]," Suhm said.

According to a copy of the city's healthcare plan, "sex transformation operations" are not covered. UnitedHealthcare's prescription drug plan is separate. CVS/Caremark is the current prescription provider and doesn't list hormone replacement therapy in its exclusions.

Gaither worked for the city for more than five years before quitting last June to dedicate more time to her nonprofit. She said her hormones were sometimes covered based on the prescription provider, adding that Caremark covered her hormones.

Asked about Grabowski's statements, Suhm insisted hormones are covered under the city's plan and that the people processing claims needed to be aware of the coverage.

"Those things are covered. We need to work harder on the training and on the clarification in the material, but then again if people have a problem, we need to hear about it," she said.

Frank Libro, director of the city's public information office, issued a statement saying that the city doesn't cover surgery related to gender reassignment, but it does cover wellness exams and "other health services."

"If there are problems with coverage because of gender markers, the city will address such situations on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the medically necessary coverage the member is entitled to is provided regardless of their gender marker," the statement read in part. "Based on feedback from the community we now recognize that our documentation and communication of this is not as clear as it needs to be and will work to clarify this going forward."

Gaither created letter templates for people to send to city council members, Suhm and Mayor

Mike Rawlings to urge them to extend coverage for trans employees. She also started a Change.org petition entitled "Provide Equal Access to Health Coverage for City of Dallas Employees." So far, 57 people have signed the petition.

Gaither postponed the letter aspect of the campaign after she attended a meeting of Councilwoman Delia Jasso's LGBT Task Force on Jan. 9. Transgender-inclusive healthcare was on the agenda and Gaither attended to approach the Task Force about helping with her campaign. At the meeting, Suhm spoke about the coverage and said it was unlikely gender reassignment surgery would be added to the budget this year. Suhm agreed to meet with Gaither and the city's benefits coordinator to discuss the city's coverage at the end of January.

Despite the upcoming meeting, Gaither said she will continue her work to eventually get the surgery covered.

"I'd love to see full surgeries covered, but Mary Suhm's already said that that would not happen," she said.

As for including the surgery in the coverage, Suhm told Dallas Voice it would be an issue for the budget, which staff will begin working on in about a month.

"It would be a plan that would be approved by the City Council," she said. "It's a process."

When asked whether she supports adding the coverage or if she would place it in her proposed budget, Suhm said: "I can't support things. That's not my role and I don't know anything about the budget just yet, so we'll have to work through that as I go through the budget process."

"It could be a part of the budget, but I don't know whether it can be a part of this year or not," Suhm said. "The staff brings a recommended budget to the council and so if there's a way to do that in that context, it could [be a part of the



CHEERS AND JEERS | Fort Worth employee Tori Van Fleet applauded when trans discrimination protections passed in 2009, but she criticized officials for failing to add trans health coverage despite the recommendation of a Diversity Task Force following the Rainbow Lounge raid. (Dallas Voice file photo)

budget]."

When Rawlings was asked whether he supported offering trans health benefits in a May 2011 mayoral runoff forum, he said he thought the surgery was an elective procedure, adding that he didn't have enough information to speak decisively on the matter.

Paula Blackmon, Rawlings' chief of staff, said in an email this week, "Because employee insurance is an issue the city manager handles he will await her direction."

When Jasso was asked whether the LGBT Task Force would take up the issue, her assistant Gary Sanchez emailed that city staff is planning to meet with representatives with Trans Pride Initiative.

Pam Gerber, a member of the LGBT Task Force, said she was glad Suhm was at the meeting to explain the city's coverage. As for having the city cover the surgery, she said she's not informed enough to give an opinion but thinks the city should research the issue.

"I think it certainly deserves having the city look further into it and ultimately come up with a solution where everyone can win," Gerber said.

In Fort Worth, comprehensive trans healthcare has been on the backburner since 2009, when it was the only outstanding recommendation of 21 suggestions from the city's Diversity Task Force that was created in response to the raid on the Rainbow Lounge.

Tori Van Fleet, a city employee who served on the Task Force, said she remembers a council member stating that the benefits wouldn't pass because voting in favor of them would be a political risk.

"I think it should've been added back then, but too many people were afraid of it and against it," she said.

Fleet, who is now a board member for the city's LGBT advocacy group Fairness Fort Worth, said

the group's former President Thomas Anable was working on a plan to add the benefits last year. However, after a board meeting Jan. 10, she said the group will have to start all over because members are unsure where Anable left off. She said the plan of action will avoid a vote from City Council and would add the benefits by the end of the year.

Fleet transitioned in 2008 and paid for the surgeries on her own. Although Fort Worth's Aetna plan specifically excludes coverage for "sex change surgery or treatment of gender identity disorders," Fleet was able to get her hormones covered because her doctor prescribed them for a hormone imbalance. She worries about getting wellness exams now that she is listed as female.

"My understanding is I would have to fight to get [those checkups] done," she said. "It's really sad that the city doesn't cover it because we should be entitled to the same care. We are paying for coverage and therefore we should get total coverage."

Oliver Blumer, regional director for Transgender Education Network of Texas and a member of Jasso's LGBT Task Force, said the fact that the city covers counseling and hormones is an accomplishment in itself.

"Hormone replacement therapy and therapy both [being] covered is huge," Blumer said. "Across the country that's huge."

Blumer said more can still be offered and the specifics of the current plan should be better communicated.

"My understanding was that the Task Force would begin to look into this and see how in collaboration with other groups we could take this to the city at the appropriate time," he said. "You can say you're diverse and inclusive, but they [city officials] have no idea about anything about the culture and the clinical competency that surrounds [transitioning]."

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viewpoints

The 'It Gets Bitter' project

Hypocritical attacks on Jodie Foster over her Golden Globes speech from within the LGBT community have been difficult to understand

Former child actor and double Oscar-winner Jodie Foster and I are exactly the same age, and she's always been one to watch (on so many levels) at every turn my entire life, always someone I could relate to, and I've always understood her to be gay.

And so it was with great joy that I learned that she had "come out" while accepting an award at the Beverly Hills Hilton. No, not this past Sunday during the Golden Globes — I'm talking about in December 2007 when she thanked "my beautiful Cydney who sticks with me through all the rotten and the bliss," referring to Cydney Bernard, her then-partner of 14 years and comom to their two sons.

In June of that same year it was disclosed that Foster had donated millions of dollars over many years to The Trevor Project in honor of her best friend, the late Randy Stone, who co-produced the 1994 Oscar-winning short *Trevor* and co-founded our nation's premier effort to prevent LGBT suicide.

In July 2007, when the aquatic pavilion that she wholly funded at a facility for aging actors opened, she donated plaques of her young sons' handprints bearing their names: Kit Bernard Foster and Charles Bernard Foster.

In September 2007, she said of her acting career to the *Denver Post*, "I need to have something that doesn't belong to my mom, doesn't belong to my kids, doesn't belong to my partner," and of her Tiffany ring to *More magazine*, "It's an eternity ring and I never take it off."

That year alone was a bonanza (also one of Jodie Foster's acting credits) of unapologetic unsolicited "outness" from an A-list, household-name celebrity who also happens to be gay. And yet the U.S. media largely ignored not only her hefty philanthropy but also the almost-conversational normalcy of her personal life as an out lesbian comfortable in her own skin.

This is exactly how my everyday interactions sound as well — I rarely "say the words" ("I'm gay" or "I'm lesbian"), unless it's to strangers in an activist setting. To people around me I just speak openly about my life in normal, unfiltered ways ("my partner and I...") and people get it. People know exactly what I'm telling them if they didn't already know — they're not stupid. And I don't think that Foster believed she was speaking to stupid people either when she was

just living her life in 2007 or this week when she accepted a coveted lifetime achievement award for her 47 years in the industry.

LGBT people tell LGBT people that "coming out" is a lifelong process, a very personal journey that you and only you take, on your own terms in your own way in your own timing to whomever you choose — it's your life, your risks and rewards, your story, your journey.

We vigorously applaud, cry like babies and cheer when LGBT people young and old come out, and we stand on our chairs in proud unified ovation when the scary people they come out to embrace them with warm welcoming love and acceptance. We also stomp our feet and cry tears of sorrow when the scary people ridicule, disown or reject them, and we stand on our chairs with bullhorns and angry signs when anyone vilifies them with hell threats, physical violence or worse.

And yet I've watched in heartbroken horror this week as many in the LGBT community viciously turned on Foster because she came out on Sunday. "Too little too late." "Privacy is a lame excuse." "Not good enough!" "She didn't say the words." "What a coward." "Did she come out or not?" "She didn't do it right."

The catty, petty bile, the willfully playing dumb, the angry judgmental condemnation, the naked hypocrisy from every corner of the LGBT community this week — it's been breathtaking. I've never seen anything like it.

A virtual flash mob of LGBT people shamelessly shredding one of our own. Bullying? We're the best of the best at it. To all young, closeted

LGBT people out there: Do not fear the usual scary people if and when you come out; you should brace for the special, extra-mean, laser-focused venom awaiting you from LGBT people who will have plenty to say about your journey.

And I honestly do not understand it at all. Especially the many so-called LGBT "leaders" inciting from the front. This new "It Gets Bitter" project inexplicably aimed just at Foster is bizarre at best, shocking and shameful at worst. The bitter have made a parlor sport of parsing each other's multifaceted armchair critiques of Foster's journey, while condemning those who simply support her.

I must've been watching a completely different speech. I cried, applauded, laughed with her, cheered, recalled with renewed horror the unique personal ordeal that she endured before, during, and after a would-be assassin shot the president of the United States and three others as "proof" of his "love" for her, felt my heart sing when she so eloquently paid tribute to her ex and her family, and wept when she spoke directly and lov-

ingly to her mother who is in the fog of dementia. And I thought about how she's transformed herself from family breadwinner at age 7 to an extraordinarily accomplished life with her partner, having kids, surviving a tough break-up while remaining on excellent terms as a family, and beyond to living openly as an out lesbian. And in between she's taken huge heat for her unwavering faith in old friends who very publicly screw up, famously fortified the firewall between her work and her personal life to restore the daily peace of mind robbed from her 30 years ago, and won two lead actress Academy Awards.

So she was nervous, giddy even, rambling away from the speech she'd written for the teleprompter. She openly mocked the eager-to-tell-every-personal-detail world we all live in now as naively foolish for anyone in the public eye and cautioned her peers to hold on to their privacy in this new landscape lest the elusive privacy genie escape their lamps forever, and she came out (yet again) — on her own terms in her own way in her own timing to those she chose.

Still, while the world of our advocates and adversaries watches, it seems that some in our community are turning the "coming out" rite of passage into just another hypocrisy that is right for me but wrong for you.

So, some part of the when, what, why, how, where and who of it all wasn't "perfect" in your eyes? Get over it! It was not about you, or your journey or our journey.

We're better than this. We're so much better than this. I, for one, choose to stand on my chair and applaud Foster's quirky, loving celebration of her own "modern family." Let's simply rejoice and be glad in it. Who's with me? ■

Patti Fink is president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, co-host of Lambda Weekly on 89.3 KNON-FM and past co-chair of the HRC DFW National Coming Out Project. She can be reached at PattiFink@gmail.com.



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Staying *en pointe*

As the Joffrey returns to Dallas to mark a century of 'Rite of Spring,' TITAS' director Charles Santos examines the need for dance in North Texas

GREGORY SULLIVAN ISAACS | Contributing Writer
gregoryisaacs@theaterjones.com

When we sat down to talk about the visit of the Joffrey Ballet, TITAS director Charles Santos was unsure what TITAS actually stands for.

"I think the second T stands for 'theatrical,' and we do so much more than that. We gave some thought to changing the name but decided to leave it TITAS, sort of like IBM. Everyone knows it by that anyway."

Actually, it stands for Texas International Theatrical Arts Society and Santos, who took over as its leader in 2001, is completely correct in his assessment. While it is still in Texas and international in scope, they present equal portions of both music and dance with very little theater per se. This has changed somewhat since they forged a partnership with the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

"We decided that it was counterproductive to compete with them, so we joined forces. We forged a really good relationship. They needed what [TITAS] had, as well as my experience in dance. They knew that you can't have a major venue without a dance component," Santos says.

He is adamant that dance needs to be seen live, so bringing the top companies to Dallas is an imperative. It is, in fact, what led him to bring the Joffrey Ballet back to Dallas (finally) to mark the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky's revolutionary ballet *The Rite of Spring*, presented with Nijinsky's reconstructed 1913 choreography, and even reproductions of the original costumes.

Dancer Matthew Adamczyk, who is in this production, said that Nijinsky's choreography was "meant to shock and awe. Aggression, hunched positions, stomping, bent feet and hands; everything you would imagine a classical dancer to look like — this is the opposite."

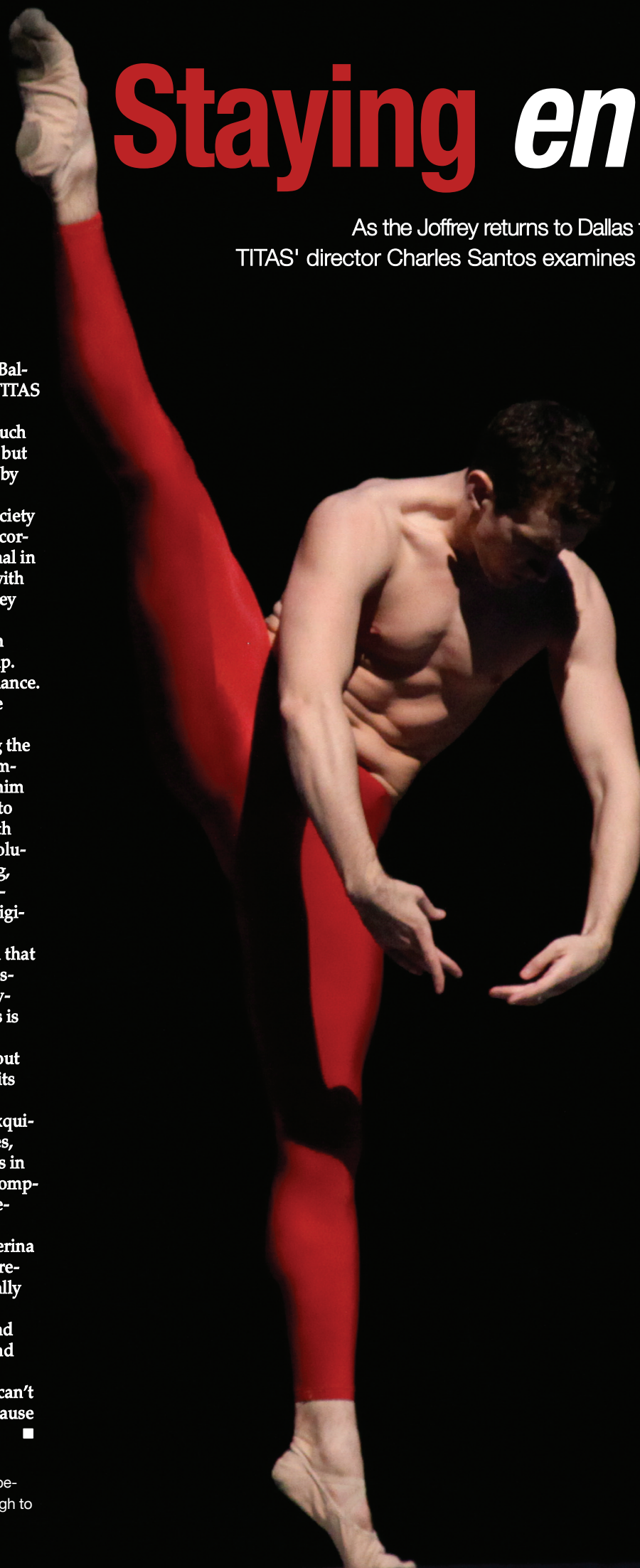
"It was the beginning of modernism," says Santos. "Talk about left of center! I just knew that we needed to bring it here for" its centenary.

In 1913, audiences were accustomed to graceful motions, exquisite ballerinas floating across the stage en pointe, flowing lines, pointed toes, rustling tutus and men executing powerful leaps in perfect form. Instead, they got men in menacing bear suits, stomping feet, a brawl punctuated by fisticuffs. Bodies writhed inelegantly, with pigeon-toed foot positions, cramped hands and angular arms. At the climax, there was no graceful dying ballerina sinking to the stage with fluttering hands. Instead, Nijinsky presented a woman dancing herself to death leaping spasmodically into the air.

It wasn't long into the performance before the rival jeers and the supportive cheers gave way to physical confrontations. And things went downhill from there.

Santos marvels at the difference between 1913 and 2013. "I can't imagine anything that we could put on the stage that would cause a riot today," he says with a laugh. ■

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST | Dancer Matthew Adamczyk, pictured, believes the original choreography reproduced by the Joffrey is still enough to shock and awe audiences 100 years after its debut.



Darkness *falls*

Existentialism gets played for laughs (sort of) in 'Penelope,' 'Bengal Tiger'

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

I had pretty much assumed the local supply of severed limbs had been exhausted by the prop department for *A Behanding in Spokane*, but Theatre Three was able to turn up a spare for their regional debut, **Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo**. It says something about our collective mood that two shows open within a week of each other featuring maiming; add to them **Penelope** — a sort of twist on *No Exit* via Greek mythology — and you have a 2013 already set up to explode with despair. Thank goodness some musicals are just on the horizon.

Thank goodness also that this trio of dark comedies do what they do as well as they do it. None are easy sells to audiences: In *Bengal Tiger*, for instance, not only is a vicious jungle cat played by a dishdasha-wearing human (Cliff Stephens), but he has the kvetching personality of a Borscht Belt standup. And he *keeps* addressing the audience long after he's been killed. And he's not the only character to do so.

Rajiv Joseph's play, set in Iraq following the U.S. invasion, might well have been called *The Men with the Golden Gun*: A gold-plated pistol, once owned by Uday Hussein, figures into the lives not only of the tiger, but of the soldiers who desire it. Like the ring of Mordor, it feeds their self-destruction, a metaphor for the insanity men are driven to. It's an existential reverie with multiple points of view, and it never really answers most of the questions it asks.

Theatre 3's production, gritty and stark with a bombed-out look and language as coarse as sandpaper, creates a harsh and abstract world where sex, violence and power are inextricable. The cast — especially Parker Fitzgerald as a whacked-out soldier, Akron Watson as a serviceman and Blake Hackler as an Arabic translator — bring shocking intensity to the show. It's not for the faint of heart. Few things worthwhile are.

Also not for the faint of heart: The middle-



FASTER THAN THE SPEEDO LIGHT | Four men meander through a pointless existence as they await death in Enda Walsh's darkly comic 'Penelope.' (Courtesy Undermain Theatre)

aged bodies in Speedos hanging out in the wrecked remnants of a swimming pool. Undermain ironically came above ground (it's at the City Performance Hall) for the below-ground setting of *Penelope*, Irish playwright Enda Walsh's quirky updating of the Odysseus myth. Four fellas are all that's left of the suitors who tried to woo Odysseus' woman, Penelope, while her husband was questing for a generation; they suspect he's about to come back and will kill them unless they act in concert.

Only they can't. Men being men, they bicker and bloat and try too hard to one-up each other until the inevitable occurs.

Penelope sometimes slogs, as each of the characters speechify in the ways writers and actors enjoy more than audiences. But the cast of gifted gentlemen — Max Hartman, Bruce DuBoze, Bruce Elliott and Gregory Lush — possess, collectively, an infinite capacity to be entertaining, and director Stan Wojowodski Jr.'s quirky choices as he wanders through the last earthly hours of the damned makes for a thought-provoking 85 minutes.

Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo runs through Feb. 9 at Theatre Three. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Penelope runs through Jan. 26 at City Performance Hall. Undermain.org.

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Down the hatch

Safe and sporty? When you're dealing with Volvo's C30, that's it exactly



CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

Volvo is well-known as the nerdy Swedish automaker that makes safe sedans and blitizin' wagons. But how would it build a *sports car*?

Turns out, much like Mini makes Coopers and Volkswagen makes GTIs: Take a box, slap on a sexy hatch and rev its motor with a turbo. Sounds like a great little sports car with a wide safety net.

Responsible sensibilities do not mean a completely boring partner. Strong shoulders and Volvo's traditional grille are obvious bids to tradition, but the P1800 ES-inspired rear glass hatch, which opens up to a cavernous rear compartment, is a practical and stylish solution to a small wagon design. It's more custom Jaguar "shooting brake" than a boxy mommy wagon — perfect for trend-setting urbanites. Contrasting color ground effects and 17-inch alloys fit some stylish kicks.

Although it's becoming a little dated compared to newer S60 sedans and XC60 crossovers, the C30's interior still makes a comfy locker room: Very Swedish, with a thin metallic console with hidden storage behind. Canvaslike seats are comfortable, safe (includes WIPS whiplash protection headrests) and scrubbable should you make a mess during late night pleasures (it's easier if you just put down the roomy rear seats). When erected, rear bucket-style seats provide enough room for humans on shorter drives, but plenty of room for canines on longer ones.

Luxury touches include a leather-wrapped steering wheel with tilt and telescope functions, premium speakers, USB port for iPods, Bluetooth and auto up/down power windows. Bunker-thick doors are fortified with side/side curtain airbags that protect outboard passengers.

When the C30 was developed, Volvo was part of Ford's global empire, so it was based on the same small car architecture as the Ford Focus



and Mazda3. Like its platform-mates, the car feels athletic and sturdy, rumbling over rough pavement like a much larger car, but still cutting a rug through twisty corners and fast on-ramps. DSTC (Dynamic Stability and Traction Control), four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes, automatic panic assist and brake force distribution fortify Volvo's reputation for active safety controls. Even in ice and snow, the C30 is unbothered.

Part of the C30's ability to gobble pavement comes from a turbocharged 5-cylinder engine that generates 227 horses. A 5-speed automatic and 6-speed manual transmissions put it to good use. There's plenty of torque to roast the front wheels off the line — at least until the electronic nannies step in to quell the fun. It is a joy to drive on the highway where the turbo is wound and screaming. Fuel economy is rated 21/30 mpg when driven more reasonably.

It would be easy to overlook the C30. It is as safe as Volvo's bigger cars and shares styling traits with its ancestors, but steps out with more spunk and a more energetic driving experience. And, like the trapeze artist you enjoy at the circus, comes with a wide safety net just in case the fun turns to tragedy. I'd say that makes it the perfect Scandinavian sports car, ripe with protected pleasure.

Base price is \$25,500, but the aggressive R-Design can be yours for under \$28,000. Or go all-in for the 250hp Polestar edition for a bit more. ■

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Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com

Dear Howard,

I'm in a long-distance relationship with a great guy, but I recently met someone online who flirts with me, and I'm wondering: Am I cheating on my relationship with my boyfriend? Thanks. — Aaron

Dear Aaron,

Saint Howard is always amused by these raptorially innocent questions requesting how to bemusedly secure a ticket into Heaven whilst abusing, in secret, the 10th Commandment. Apparently, Aaron, your relationship's disclaimer of it being just something that's "long-distance" means that what your boyfriend doesn't know won't hurt *you*? Karma is a bitch, Aaron. The real question is this: What were you doing online in the first place cruising for alternative men to your long-distance boyfriend?

Dear Howard,

Recently, I've become friendly acquaintances with one of the women in my yoga class. I'm lesbian; she's straight (I think). I'm attracted to her, Howard, and either she doesn't seem to mind me flirting with her, or she has no gaydar whatsoever. Heck, maybe she's even, possibly, attracted to me? How do I pursue this without offending her or embarrassing myself, should she turn me down for a date if I asked her out on one? — Skelter Helter

Dear Skelter,

Easy! You pursue this by asking her out. She'll either answer "yes" or "no." You've nothing to lose and everything to gain. Just go for it!

Dear Howard,

I'll make this short and sweet: I've been BFF with a guy, platonically, for three years now. We are normally together at least part of every day. He lives across the hall in my apartment building (which makes it very convenient to invent reasons for spending time together). Just in these past two or three months, though, I've begun having more feelings toward him than being merely "friends." Do I risk freaking him out and losing our friendship forever, Howard, if I tell him I want to take things to the next level? — Breezy Steve

Dear BS,

Everything involving platonic friendships is at

risk whenever sex is introduced into the format; however, if neither of you are currently in a relationship, then Howard says go for it!

Dear Howard,

I've been noticing lately that a lot of the guys at my gym have shaved legs — butch, compact muscle guys, too, all of them. Is this some new, metrosexual trend I'm not in on? — Hairy Harry, the Tall

Dear HH,

Exactly how tall are these "compact muscle" men you've been noticing of late, Harry, with their shaved legs? Hairy-legged Howard here, at 6'3" himself, would wager that they're, one and all, of a height rivaling the notoriously short Napoleon Bonaparte; or if not short, exactly, then certainly short of being tall as you, Harry. After all, any man *over* 6 feet *only* shaves his legs for two reasons: If he has a drag show tonight or Olympic swimming trials tomorrow.

Dear Howard,

Here's my situation (and let's just see if you publish my question, or are the questions in your column faked by some staff writer?): I am a gay male and am 5-foot-5 with red hair. Many people say I'm cute, but as I say, beauty is in the eye of the beer-holder. I have been teased all my life. I would hope that our community would be more accepting, but no: They're the worst! I want to meet someone special, but given my looks, which I can't change, I don't think there is much



of a chance for me. Any thoughts? — Red Dear Ginger Jester,

The only unattractive characteristic you've presented to me, Red, is your attitude toward how you perceive yourself. You're talking here to a man named, "Russell." My kinfolks invented red hair. Change your 'tude, Carrot-top, and everything else will ascend, accordingly. Follow the mantra in life that I've always taken: They're lucky you even showed . . . up!

Have a question for Howard? Send it to askhoward@dallasvoice.com.



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Friday 01.18

Divas are back on B'way — their way

For the 11th year, Uptown Players is back raising money for Dallas' gay-themed theater troupe, and, as always, they snag some of the luminaries of the Dallas theater scene. B.J. Cleveland, Coy Covington, Marisa Diotalevi, Paul J. Williams and a host of others will be joined by special guests Denise Lee and Shane Peterman for a tribute to the songs the way they would sing them (including a preview of this season's musical offerings). There will be auction items, refreshments and a whole lot of laughs.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Jan. 18–27. 8 p.m. \$40-\$45. UptownPlayers.org.



Saturday 01.19

Bear Dance, Lord Byron team up

Remember those old ads about two great tastes that taste great together? Well that's what happens this weekend when Lord Byron's Panoptikon "Disco vs. Retro" dance party gets invaded by Big D Bear Dance for the sweatiest old-school dance of the week. Seems like bears do come out of hibernation early if there's a party involved.

DEETS: 3025 Main St. (in the old Club One space). 8 p.m. \$10 suggested donation.



Sunday 01.20

Denise Lee conquers the Winspear

She's performed everywhere from Bass Hall to mainland China, so it makes sense local legend Denise Lee would take on the Winspear. She'll perform *The Divas of American Music* in Hamon Hall, delighting audiences with her breathtaking interpretations of classics from the Great American Songbook.

DEETS: Hamon Hall at the Winspear, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. \$35. ATPAC.org.

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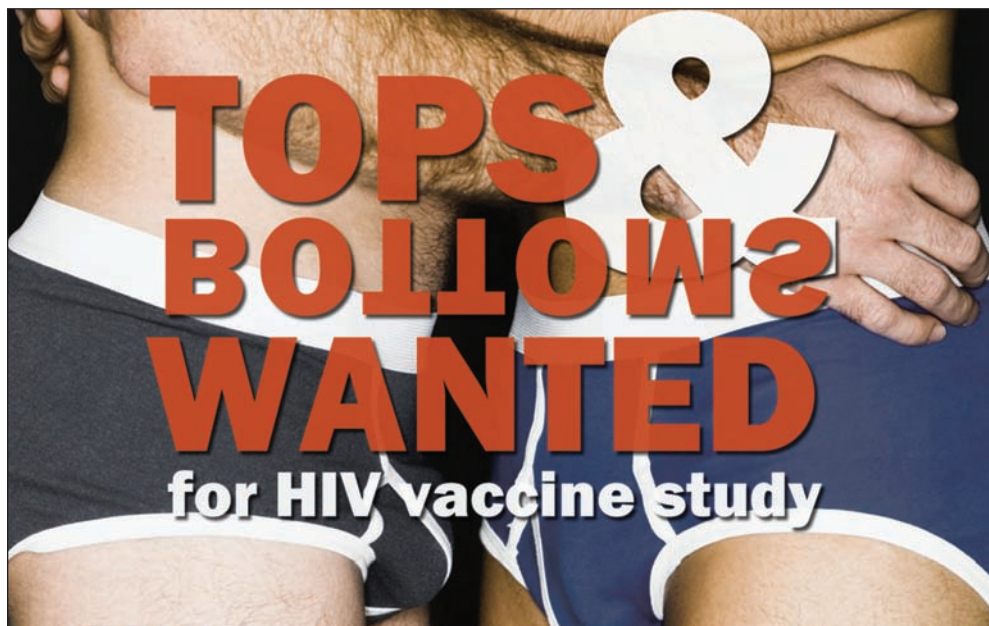
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NOT SO GOOD TO BE KING | Kevin Moriarty concludes his four-season cycle of Shakespeare plays with 'King Lear,' which he mounted this fall with the same cast at the Trinity Rep Theater. It goes into previews Friday and opens officially here Jan. 25.

THEATER

Broadway Our Way: Divas Raise the Roof. Uptown Players' annual fundraiser is also one of the biggest song extravaganzas of the year. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Jan. 18-27. \$40-\$45. UptownPlayers.org.

A Behanding in Spokane. Dark Irish playwright Martin McDonough's American-set play launches Second Thought Theatre's 2013 season. Bryant Hall at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Jan. 26. \$22.50. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo. Rajiv Joseph's Pulitzer finalist examines the war in Iraq through the eyes of a dead jungle cat. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Feb. 9. \$10-\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

King Lear. Shakespeare's grand tragedy goes into previews. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Jan. 18-Feb. 17. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Penelope. Undermain moves out of their underground space for this play, written by Tony winner Enda Walsh (*Once*). *Reviewed this week.* City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Through Jan. 26. \$10-\$30. Undermain.org.

Putting It Together. A musical revue of the songs of Stephen Sondheim, presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 3. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

West Side Story. The reimagined version of the classic musical by Authur Laurents, Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein plays for a limited run at Bass Hall. 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.

XSR:Die! Pegasus Theater's latest "Living Black & White" production, set backstage at a play. Written by and starring Kurt Kleinmann, and directed by Michael Serrecchia. Performed at two locations. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Place, Richardson. Through Jan. 20; MCL Grand Theater, 100

N. Charles St., Lewisville. Jan. 24-27. \$15-\$35. PegasusTheatre.org and ATTPAC.org.

Zero. Actor-playwright Danny O'Connor's one-man show about male relationships was one of Dallas Voice's top 10 productions of 2006. Studio Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Jan. 17-Feb. 9. ZeroThePlay.com.

BALLET

The Joffrey Ballet. The troupe performs a reconstructed version of the original Nijinsky ballet of *The Rite of Spring*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 18-19 at 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

FINE ART

Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec and His Contemporaries. An exhibition of rare posters from the French belle epoque. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. *Final weekend.* 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.

Optical Spaces: The Art of Victor Vasereley opens at the MADI Museum, 3109 Carlisle St. Through April 7. GeometricMadiMuseum.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. An 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.

FRIDAY 01.18

BROADCAST

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

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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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

SATURDAY 01.19

CONCERTS

John Bucchino. The gay composer performs at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth as part of the Cliburn Concerts. 3200 Darnell St. 2 p.m. \$25. 817-212-4280.

COMMUNITY

Dallas FrontRunners fun run for all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 8:30 a.m.; brunch follows. FrontrunnersDallas.org.

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

SUNDAY 01.20

WORSHIP

Cathedral of Hope. Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

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

CONCERTS

Denise Lee Sings the Divas of American Music. The theater and cabaret luminary performs selections from the Great American Songbook. Hamon Hall at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. \$35. ATPAC.org.

COMMUNITY

Human Rights Campaign HER event. An afternoon celebrating women. Dance, bachelorette auction, burlesque performance by the Lollie Bombs, trivia competition. MCs Jenna Skyy and Cassie Nova. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 1-6:30 p.m. \$15.

MONDAY 01.21

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., 5353 Maple Ave. #130 (entrance at rear of building).

TUESDAY 01.22

COMMUNITY

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

FUSE Movie Night. For gay and bi guys up to 29.



WAR IS HELL | A soldier starts to lose it after experiencing war in Rajiv Joseph's 'Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.'

Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 01.23

COMMUNITY

Firedancers Dallas Tribe club night the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7-10 p.m. Free.

Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statute of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FrontrunnersDallas.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 01.24

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.

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Jesse L. Martin turns 44 on Friday. Best known for playing Det. Ed Green on *Law & Order* for nine seasons, the actor first shot to fame in the original Broadway production of *Rent*, playing the HIV-positive boyfriend of drag queen Angel. He reprised his role for the film in 2005.



CAPRICORN Dec 21–Jan 20

Between now and the end of the month, you'd be wise to stay centered in things that allow you to stay grounded, and in things that stir your soul: sunrises/sunsets, time alone, enough time with others to remind you that your life is full of love.

AQUARIUS Jan 21–Feb 20

Reclaiming a sense of strength is what's needed now. For most of us, strength comes from roots and family. If we can't call upon those, almost anything can bring us back to center.

PISCES Feb 21–Mar 20

No matter how rough or smooth the path appears at the moment, you must come to a place where your inner and outer resources seem big enough for the situation at hand. At times like this, your inner sight may bring you clarity.

ARIES Mar 21–Apr 20

Maybe it's time to soften up and let anyone but you call the shots; you are not the only person on the planet, and whether you know it or not, you are not now — and never will be — right about everything.

TAURUS Apr 21–May 20

There seem to be issues that stem from too much focus on money and things; it's churning up the need to cling to whatever seems to be slipping away. Part of your lesson is knowing nothing outside of your own beingness will make you safe.

GEMINI May 21–Jun 20

Get back to a place of physical and emotional balance. Don't waste your time or your energy making room for anything that isn't there to support your need to restore your faith in what you're doing.

CANCER Jun 21–Jul 20

As you watch the next few weeks unfold, be conscious that change is the operative word. See yourself as one of the ones who will be most deeply affected by it. We live in miraculous times. So much is about to uproot your sense of how life is supposed to be, you'd do well to just lighten up and let go.

LEO Jul 21–Aug 20

Your first step toward sanity might be to make things easy on yourself by losing the sense of obligation that leads you to be overly responsive to the needs of others, and amazingly out of touch with the ones that you call your own.

VIRGO Aug 21–Sep 20

When distractions get the best of you, you start making things up in your head and convincing yourself that they're true. If the cure for this lies in being able to stop the madness long enough to get back to realizing that life is what we make it, a deep breath could be all it takes to restore your sanity.

LIBRA Sep 21–Oct 20

These days, the need to allow for all possibilities has you getting used to life outside of the strictures of custom and convention. After years of being the one who always got it right, you are beginning to see that there's no such thing as perfection.

SCORPIO Oct 21–Nov 20

If I were you, I'd get far enough away from things to reclaim your sovereignty and allow absence to let the heart grow fonder. Don't over-analyze; you of all people should know how to handle this.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21–Dec 20

Those close to you seem to be stretched past their limits. Whether it's your job to heal all of their ills is another issue. You can't let the goodness that you need to create for yourself take a back seat to anything.

JANE'S WORLD



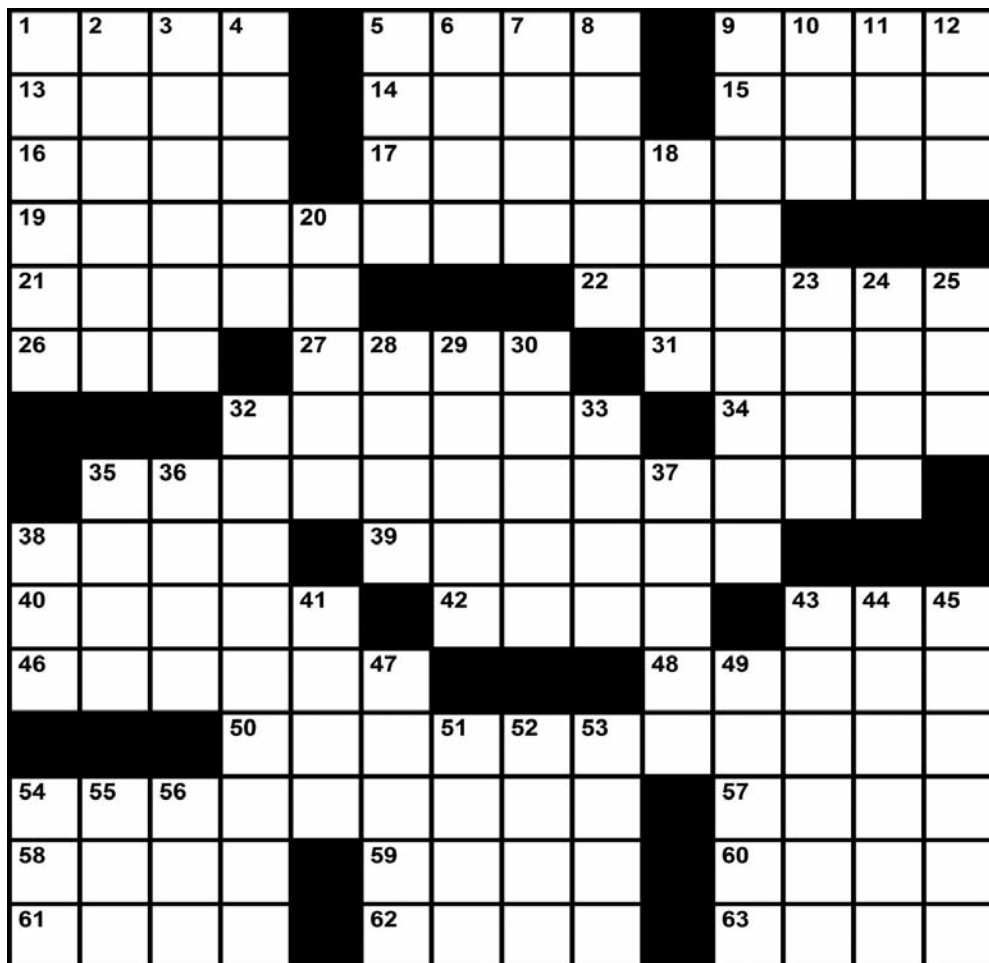
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Girl Groups of the Sixties

Solution on page 29

Across

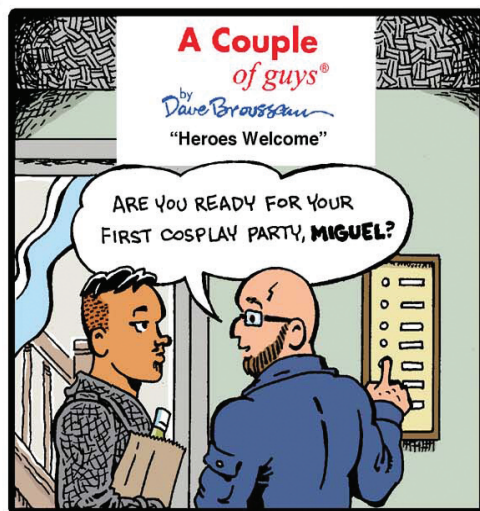
- 1 Problem for a drag queen's hosiery
- 5 Rock Hudson's *A Farewell to* ___
- 9 Dirt clump
- 13 Jason Lee TV role
- 14 Lincoln's Johnson
- 15 Folk history
- 16 Pink Triangle Press publication
- 17 Willa Cather nove
- 19 "Be My Baby" singers
- 21 Made easier to bear
- 22 Gets to second base, perhaps
- 26 Alternative to HBO
- 27 *Brothers & Sisters* producer Ken
- 31 Sound of a sudden, involuntary discharge
- 32 They wave their sticks in Atlanta
- 34 Dance club speakers
- 35 "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" singers
- 38 Environs
- 39 Show and tell
- 40 Back biter?
- 42 Belgrade resident
- 43 Strong joe

46 Nicosia's island

- 48 Too big for your britches
- 50 "Stop! In the Name of Love" singers
- 54 Public lavatories, e.g.
- 57 Collette of *United States of Tara*
- 58 Party after a Hawaiian wedding, perhaps
- 59 "Snail-mail" org.
- 60 Supporter of two plastic brides
- 61 Role for Bela
- 62 Gave the slip to
- 63 Art Deco design name

Down

- 1 Three couples in bed?
- 2 Lane of *The Birdcage*
- 3 Put the collar on
- 4 Blinding light
- 5 Shakespearean stream
- 6 Director Norman of *Prelude to a Kiss*
- 7 Come together
- 8 Dice markings
- 9 Phone message from Glenn?
- 10 Mary's TV boss
- 11 Bruin Bobby
- 12 Some NFL linemen
- 18 Salty, white stuff from the Greeks
- 20 Ban targets
- 23 Quaint sigh
- 24 Does a birth rite
- 25 Signal that goes either way
- 28 "If I Were King of the Forest" singer
- 29 High-tuition schools
- 30 Cheek
- 32 She played Maude Findlay
- 33 One who looks into crystal balls
- 35 Reverend Perry
- 36 Fab Four flick
- 37 David Marshall Grant's ___ of *Love*
- 38 Where to see a Sharon Stone movie, perhaps
- 41 Essen's river
- 43 Rita Will, for one
- 44 Collection of online discussion groups
- 45 Handle on a streetcar, for Williams?
- 47 Asian capital
- 49 The Divine Miss M
- 51 Matching notes for Rorem?
- 52 Dave Pallone and others
- 53 "Hey, over here!"
- 54 Nellie in journalism
- 55 Mo. named after a Caesar
- 56 Benjamin Hoff's *The ___ of Pooh*





Girlfriends at Station 4.

Lashes & Stashes, with DJ Psycho Sharon and Ricki Sparxx, Frankie 4Play, Artemis Rose, Damien DuPree, Skyler Eva, Sybl Strm, Mera Tucker, Mitchell McLuvin, Emperor 36 Jimmie Tucker and others, benefits AIDS Outreach Center at Best Friends Club on Jan. 19. ... Join the DFW Human Rights Campaign at Sue Ellen's on Jan. 20 for an afternoon celebrating women. HRC Her event includes a bachelorette auction, burlesque performance, trivia competition and mix-and-mingle. Jenna Skyy and Cassie Nova are the MCs and auctioneers. ... MLK Weekend Hip Hop Friday at The Brick is hosted by Ida Mae and Sha'Nyia Narcisse with performances by Tommy Ross, Silkie O'Hara Munro and Ruby Scott followed by Spotlight Show with Unshante de Foxx on Jan. 18. The weekend continues with The Black Glamor Party on Jan 19. ... Crystal Ramon begins the weekend's entertainment at Alexandre's on Jan 18. 3 Drunk Monkeys appears on Jan 19. Karaoke with L'il Chalupa is the regular Sunday feature. ... Beginner dance lessons with Juanita are free every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon. Bring a partner or they'll find one for you for the couples dancing. Line dancing lessons included, too. ... Sunel hosts Wednesday Night Showtime at 9 p.m. at BJ's NXS. ... The Mark Alan Smith Show begins every Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. at Rainbow Lounge. ... DFW Leather Corps holds a seminar on Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at Dallas Eagle. Thursday night is Growl: Bear Night. ... The Imperial Court de Fort Worth Arlington presents A Night in Morocco on Jan. 24 at Best Friends Club hosted by Imperial Crown Prince and Princess Sam Alexander Lane and Carla Pooch featuring belly dancers and additional entertainers. The evening benefits breast and ovarian cancer care through Cancer Care Services. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.



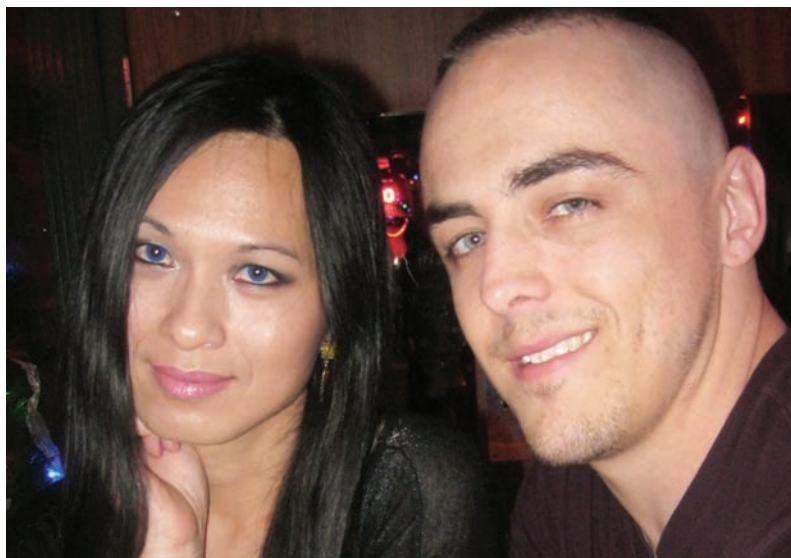
Armando and Albert at TMC: The Mining Company.



Guys' night out at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Carrie and Amanda at Sue Ellen's.



Ashley and Mitch at the Round-Up Saloon.



Alex and Mick at the Rainbow Lounge.



Friends at Havana.



Friends at Alexandre's.



Daniel and Oscar at Station 4.



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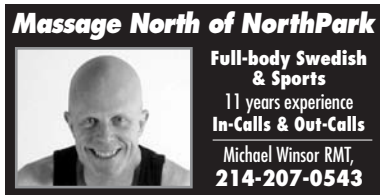
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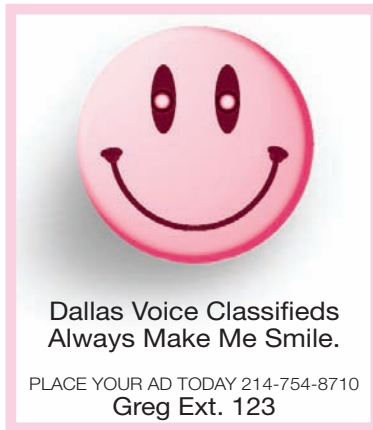
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