

# Don Lemon: Gay rights are civil rights

Our exclusive with the out CNN anchor who'll speak at UNT next week  
He dishes on racism within the LGBT community, recent assignments from Sandy Hook to Obama's inauguration

■ TEXAS NEWS, Page 6



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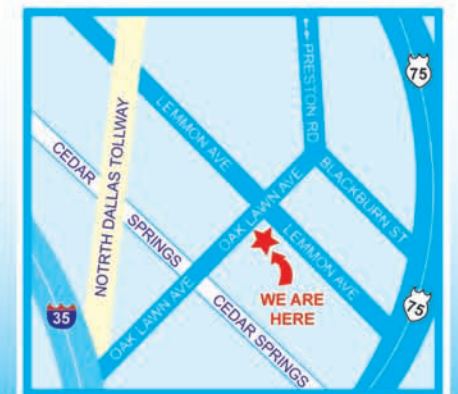
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**JUST FOR HER** | A dancer performs during the HRC Her fundraiser at Sue Ellen's on Jan. 20. For more photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos). (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

### Rawlings still won't commit to supporting pro-LGBT resolutions

Dallas' Mike Rawlings made a brief appearance during a reception for a coalition of pro-marriage equality mayors during the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington, D.C. last week, according to The Washington Blade.

It was during the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in the capital one year ago that Rawlings declined to join the group, Mayors for the Freedom to Marry, prompting a huge outcry from the LGBT community back home that reverberates to this day.

A year later, Mayors for the Freedom to Marry has grown to nearly 300 members from across the U.S., the Blade reports.

But it still doesn't include Rawlings, who maintains that he personally supports marriage equality but has not formally joined the group because he doesn't "sign pledges." Dallas is the largest city in the U.S. whose mayor has not joined Mayors for the Freedom to Marry.

This week we asked Rawlings' chief of staff, Paula Blackmon, about his appearance at the reception last week.

"He stopped by the reception," Blackmon confirmed in a text message, parroting our question.

"As was stated last year MOD [the mayor of Dallas] does not sign pledges," Blackmon added in response to further prodding. "Doesn't mean he is not a supporter of issues."

We noted that Rawlings didn't attend the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry event at last year's Conference of Mayors. Has something changed?

"Did they have a reception?" Blackmon wrote. "Thought it was only a press conference. And I think he left the conference a day early."

Blackmon also said Rawlings still hasn't decided whether he'll support two pro-LGBT resolutions planned by Councilman Scott Griggs. The resolutions would express the council's support for marriage equality and a statewide ban on anti-LGBT employment discrimination.

"I'm still in the exploring mode at this point because I believe in marriage equality personally," Rawlings said of the resolutions a few weeks ago. "I also believe in the focus of the city of Dallas making sure that we discuss and debate issues that we can impact and we need to decide where this issue is on that scale."

Rawlings said the city of Dallas already protects LGBT people against employment discrimination with a city ordinance, so it's "something that we believe in and actually live." He said the issue is "complicated at the state level" and questioned

whether a resolution supporting the issue was the council's job.

"The city acts that way and we don't discriminate in that regard," Rawlings said. "The question is, do we have jurisdiction over other businesses?"

Last week, Griggs said he wants to obtain signatures from eight or more council members — a majority — before he brings forward the two resolutions.

Only five signatures would be needed to place the resolutions on the agenda for a council vote, but Griggs said because it's an important issue, "You want to know where you are going into it."

Dallas Voice reported in December that seven of 15 council members have said they support the concept of the resolutions, which Griggs now hopes will pass sometime this spring.

Griggs said he recently had a "positive meeting" with Rawlings to discuss the resolutions but would not comment on whether he thinks Rawlings will come around.

"I'm not in a position to speak for him or any of my colleagues on a particular vote," Griggs said, adding that he's "very optimistic" the resolutions will pass the council.

Griggs made the comments Jan. 24 during an appearance at a meeting of Dallas' gay LULAC chapter at Havana on Cedar Springs Road.

"We've seen that this is a council that's beginning to address important issues, whether it's education, whether it's talking about gun control or domestic violence, and along that line a really important civil rights issue to talk about is marriage equality," Griggs told the group.

Asked by a LULAC member why the council should pass the resolutions given that the city can't legalize same-sex marriage, Griggs said he feels they could help sway the U.S. Supreme Court, which is set to hear two marriage equality cases this year.

"I think it's important to be leaders and to join all the voices that we're seeing around the country," Griggs said. "We really need a public outcry, and we need everyone, whatever you can do to make a difference."

"We can't change the rules. We're the city, we're not the feds, we're not the state, but what can we do?" Griggs said. "And when you can't take action to change something, you definitely have not only the responsibility but the duty to do everything you can do, and in this case that's influence the process. And certainly the ninth-largest city in the U.S. coming out with these resolutions will give our voices and our support and help influence the process."

— John Wright and Anna Waugh

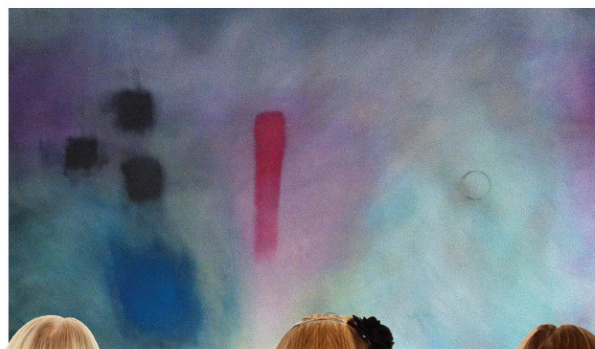
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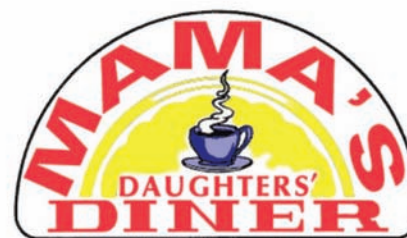


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# Don Lemon: Gay rights are civil rights

CNN anchor dishes on racism in the LGBT community, assignments from Sandy Hook to the inauguration in advance of Denton visit next week

Don Lemon has been at CNN since 2006. He's the network's weekend primetime anchor and serves as an on-the-scene reporter during the week.

In 2011, in conjunction with the release of his book *Transparent*, Lemon came out publicly, although he had been out in his private life and to his colleagues.

He sat down with Dallas Voice this week in advance of his appearance at the University of North Texas' annual Equity and Diversity Conference, which he'll keynote on Feb. 1.

— David Taffet

**Dallas Voice:** Why did you decide to speak at the Equity and Diversity Conference in Denton next week?

**Don Lemon:** I thought it was important with the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. I look at all of the requests that I get and weighing the theme "Journey to Freedom" in honor of signing the Emancipation Proclamation — and I love talking to students.

**DV:** You've said that you were out at CNN long before being out publicly. Was that a difficult balancing act and was there resistance to your announcement from management?

**D.L.:** It was a difficult balancing act. I probably had to choose my words. Instead of "he," I'd say "they" or I just didn't say much around people I didn't know. But for the people I was friendly with and people who knew other people I knew, they knew that I was gay. It wasn't something I'd hide.

It was something I didn't talk about. As far as any resistance from CNN management? None. I've had overwhelming support from CNN.

When I told one of my bosses, he said, "I know that." At the time I was seeing someone in the company and he said, "I know that and he's a great guy" and it was never an issue.

**DV:** You were at the inauguration. Other than meeting Cyndi Lauper, what were the highlights?

**D.L.:** The highlight for me was being out there and meeting the people who were there from all over the country and all over the world.

It wasn't about the celebrities. The best part for me was just to be out and hang with the crowds.

**DV:** Tell me about the response to Obama's speech you got from those two gay guys.

**D.L.:** It wasn't just those guys, it was everyone standing around us. They went "Whoa! Did you hear that? He mentioned Stonewall, he mentioned



**FREE AT LAST** | Don Lemon said he accepted the invitation to speak at UNT because it's the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and he was inspired by the theme, 'Journey to Freedom.'

love between people of the same sex. He mentioned gay people." We were all "Wow! That's huge."

We were all pretty stunned, even though we knew he's a supporter of same-sex marriage, but no president has ever mentioned that in an inau-

gural address. So to have that mentioned was pretty historic.

**DV:** As a black, gay man from the South, how did you feel about Obama equating Selma to Stonewall?

**D.L.:** The two movements are different, but the same. One is for people of color and one is for people of the same sex who want their love to be seen as legitimate and the same as everyone else. We know they're not exactly the same. But the fight and crusade for equal rights and civil rights are exactly the same.

John Lewis, the civil rights leader, has said to me, and leaders up on stage during the inaugural address said — that issue as far as this president and John Lewis are concerned — that's settled. Gay rights are the same as civil rights. It is the same struggle. For me, it's a settled issue.

People see that I'm black before they know I'm gay. Sometimes they don't know that I'm gay. But it's the same issue and the same struggle.

**DV:** In your book, you address racism in the black community. Have you experienced racism in the gay community?

**D.L.:** Yes. Absolutely. I went out for drinks with friends when I was there [in Washington] and we went to a bar and the black people were on one floor and the white people were on another floor.

I hear some of my friends who say "I don't date white guys." Or some of my friends will say, "I don't date black guys."

I've gone to events and I've been the only person of color in the room and the only reason I'm there is I'm emceeding the event or I'm getting an award or because I'm the guy on television.

What does that say when there's only one person of color in the room?

It has to do with a manner of thinking. And just because we're gay people doesn't mean that we can't be prejudiced or biased or that we don't need to open our minds more.

**DV:** Tell me about your reporting on AIDS in Africa, which you won one of your earliest awards for.

**D.L.:** I pitched AIDS stories for years. I pitched it with the network and then with my local station and there was not much interest in it. You understand, it's a business and some things get on and some things don't.

There was a learning curve but it was something I am very passionate about. I decided to spend my own money and took my vacation. And because I couldn't tell it in my own community, I went halfway around the world and brought it back to my community. I related it in a way that we take care of people in our community, especially African-Americans who are dying in rapid and increasing numbers.

■ LEMON, Page 8



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## ■ texasnews

■ **LEMON**, From Page 6

**DV:** Was Newtown the hardest story you've reported? Talk about your on-air appeal for gun control while reporting from Connecticut.

**D.L.:** It wasn't advocacy. It was being a human. I've always said we are human beings before we are reporters.

So to be in the middle of that covering it from the very beginning all the way through the funerals, one could not be struck without emotion and feelings that were going on there.

I was feeling what most people around the country were thinking in their own living rooms, that we as a country need to get a grip on these sort of shootings. We have issues when it comes to gun violence in this country and we need to talk about it.

**DV:** Is there room on cable news to do more than just report but to express how you're feeling?

**D.L.:** Certain stories you can do that. Hurricane Katrina was one of them. "I know that you're saying, Mr. Government Leader, that this is happening, but we're here on the ground and it's not happening."

Especially given how much real estate we have on a 24-hour cable network, yeah. There's an opportunity not only for that but to give more of the truth because we're not working with a 22-minute news hole.

**DV:** Do you get pressure from different sides to tone that down?

**D.L.:** David, as a gay, black man, I get pressure from everybody. I get pressure from the left, from the right, from the gun enthusiasts, from the people who don't like guns because I believe in telling the truth. For the truth, there is no right, there is no left. There's only the truth. I don't live by any concern or worry for pressure. I live only with the challenge that when I'm on television, the American people deserve to have the truth.

**DV:** During your "No Talking Points" segment, you compared Mitt Romney's position on same-sex marriage to George Wallace's position on race. Is it sometimes difficult to remain fair and balanced?

**D.L.:** When someone says marriage is between one man and one woman, I imagine what that will sound like in 40 or 50 years. I'm offering you the opportunity to think about it. I'm not saying that will sound like George Wallace. I'm just giving you the opportunity to think about it.

And that's not my slogan to be fair and balanced. My thing is about accuracy and the truth. Just because someone has another point of view or opinion, I don't believe in false fairness. I just believe in the truth.

*Equity and Diversity Conference, University Union, 155 Union Circle, Denton. Feb. 1 at 8:30 a.m. Students free, UNT faculty, staff and alumni \$50. Non-UNT participants \$150. <http://Edo.unt.edu>.*

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**STRIPPERS DEBRIEFED** | Cedar Springs Merchant Association President David Richardson, left, and Rich Galceran, director of the city's public works department, address the group's membership at the Rose Room on Wednesday. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

## CS merchants discuss plans for \$1.2M bond

Wish list includes narrowing street to 3 lanes, gateway arches, pedestrian parkways on Throckmorton St., but work is unlikely to begin before 2016

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

Pedestrian parkways, decorative arches and ambiance lighting are among the possible improvements a bond package could bring to the Cedar Springs strip in coming years.

Voters approved the Dallas bond package containing \$1.2 million for the strip's beautification and improvements in November. But while the Cedar Spring Merchant Association has compiled a list of things they'd like to see done with the funds, official planning won't start until next year.

Rich Galceran, director of the city's public works department, attended the Merchant Association's meeting this week to explain the bond process. He said the bond would work like other complete street improvements with a roughly five-year turnaround, adding things such as lighting, extended sidewalks and landscaping from Douglas Avenue to Oak Lawn Avenue.

"It's a process," Galceran said. "For complete streets, it takes a little bit longer because of the involvement."

The city will hire a consultant to work with merchants and citizens in the fall of 2014 to develop a plan with an engineer. The strategic planning and design process takes an estimated 15 months, followed by up to a year of construction,



David Berryman

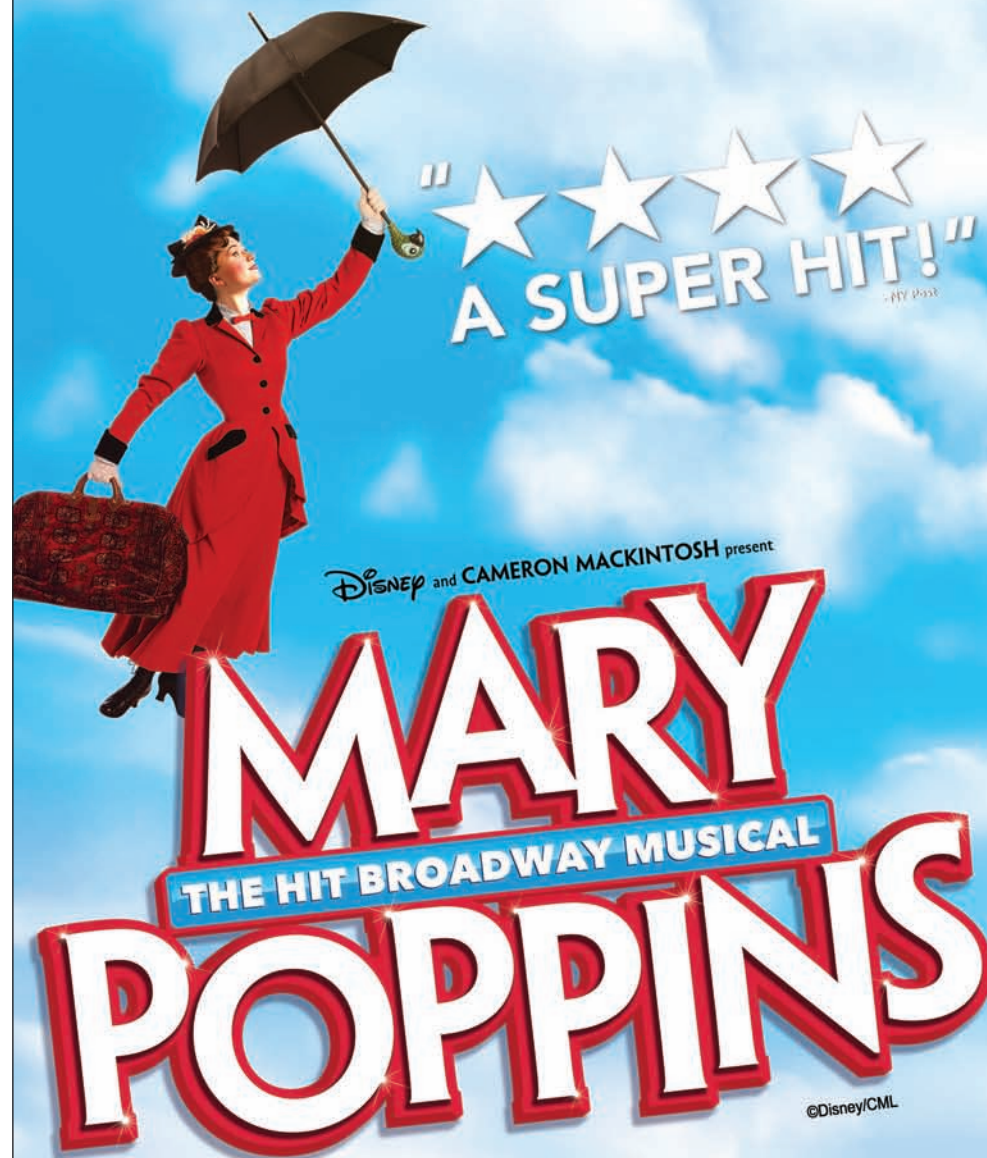
which would begin in late 2016 or early the following year.

David Richardson, the association's president, spoke about a "wish list" the improvement committee made to get an idea of what merchants and citizens wanted from the bond. The list includes a pedestrian parkway on Throckmorton Street that would block off a half-block on each side of the street at the Cedar Springs intersection and allow space for pedestrians to walk with benches and landscaping.

Other suggestions include gateway arches welcoming visitors, widening the four lanes along the road to two with a center turn lane, adding a lighted information kiosk for brochures about or-

■ **MERCHANTS**, Page 13

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**BATTLE MONUMENT** | The AIDS Memorial in Lee Park, above and below, is dated 1992 but was not installed until 1995 due to opposition from the city of Dallas. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

# Lee Park upgrades prompt relocation of AIDS Memorial

Officials say trees near garden were removed due to disease; Dallas Tavern Guild will select new location for its 'Living Tribute' to Alan Ross

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
[taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com)

Trees near an AIDS Memorial in Lee Park were cut down last week to make way for a new formal garden, but officials say the memorial will be moved to a new location in the park.

Ken McKinsey, manager of facilities and operations for the Lee Park and Arlington Hall Conservancy, which runs the park, said removing the trees was unrelated to the new garden, which is one of several planned upgrades to the park. The old trees were diseased and had to come down but will be replaced over the next few months.

McKinsey said two possible locations for the memorial garden have been proposed. Michael Doughman, executive director of the Dallas Tavern Guild, an association of gay bars, is deciding which of the two sites should be home to the memorial.

Doughman said the tree planted as a memorial to Dallas LGBT icon Alan Ross was cut down several years ago because it was also diseased. Doughman said the evergreen was a bad choice for this area.

The new location he'll be looking at for the me-



morial — and a new tree to honor Ross — is up the hill in a newer area of the park. He said the sites are near Lemmon Avenue, across the bridge.

Doughman said he'll be meeting with the park's arborist and McKinsey in early February and expected the tree and new memorial to be dedicated this spring, hopefully in April.

Gay Donnell, Lee Park conservancy president and CEO, agreed that the two sites suggested were appropriate locations for the memorial but was happy to offer Doughman any location in the park.

A plaque will be moved to the new site and the community will be invited to a dedication.

"We'll hold a formal ceremony and invite some of the people who were involved in the original memorial," Doughman said.

Creating the AIDS Memorial took years of lobbying, and not until two openly gay members sat on the City Council was it approved — despite

# Parkland charting new LGBT territory

After adding trans protections this week, county's public hospital plans to participate in Healthcare Equality Index, assess community's needs

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

Parkland's Board of Managers voted unanimously this week to add gender identity and expression to the hospital's Equal Opportunity Employment and harassment policies.

Parkland is among several agencies to include LGBT protections in their employment policies recently. Southern Methodist University added gender identity in December. The North Texas Tollway Authority and the North Central Texas Council of Governments also added the protections last year.

Protecting patients and visitors to the hospital became an issue in April when trans woman Paula Witherspoon was ticketed for using a woman's restroom while accompanying her husband to the hospital. A woman saw her come out of the restroom and complained to police.

Witherspoon hired gay Dallas attorney John Loza to fight the ticket. Loza said this week that he expects the ticket to be dismissed but the case is ongoing.

Concerns were raised about visitors not being included in the harassment and retaliation policy. The policy provided by the hospital states that in addition to employees, the hospital "will not tolerate harassment of or retaliation against a patient or vendor by any employee." Spokeswoman Melissa Grych said visitors are also included as an "extension of the patient."

Dr. Roberto De la Cruz, a gay Parkland board member, said he discussed adding the trans protections to the employment policy with Resource Center Dallas officials several months before the incident involving Witherspoon, but the encounter was a good reminder to change the harassment policy as well.

"With this, I hope that she feels that she is welcome to use the facilities of the hospital at any level, as a companion to her partner or as a patient herself," he said.

The city of Dallas has a nondiscrimination ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations, but other governmental entities are exempt. Parkland falls under county government.

The hospital doesn't have a policy governing restroom use, but De la Cruz said a task force was



**POLICY COVERS BATHROOMS** | Dr. Roberto De la Cruz, an openly gay Parkland board member, said he hopes the new policy will make people like transgender woman Paula Witherspoon — cited last year for using a women's restroom — feel comfortable when visiting the hospital.

created two months ago to work on projects that address LGBT issues. They're working to ensure that single-use unisex bathrooms located around the hospital are clearly marked, as well as providing educational resources for staff so they understand that gender identity is protected under policy.

"It's obviously a symptom of her (Witherspoon) feeling uncomfortable in the hospital and we hope to take that away for her or anybody," he said.

Parkland, which added domestic partner benefits in 2011, will also become the first in North Texas to participate in the Human Rights Campaign's voluntary Healthcare Equality Index in February. Only Legacy Community Health Services and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, both in Houston, have participated in the index.

De la Cruz said the recent policy changes have helped Parkland be more inclusive, but participating in the HRC index will provide training and feedback on other ways the hospital can improve.

"The whole process is a learning process and we're happy to continue learning," he said.

Paul Guequierre, HRC deputy press secretary, said hospitals that decide to participate show a dedication to equality.

"By participating, at the very least it shows a desire to work towards LGBT equality in the

■ PARKLAND, Page 13

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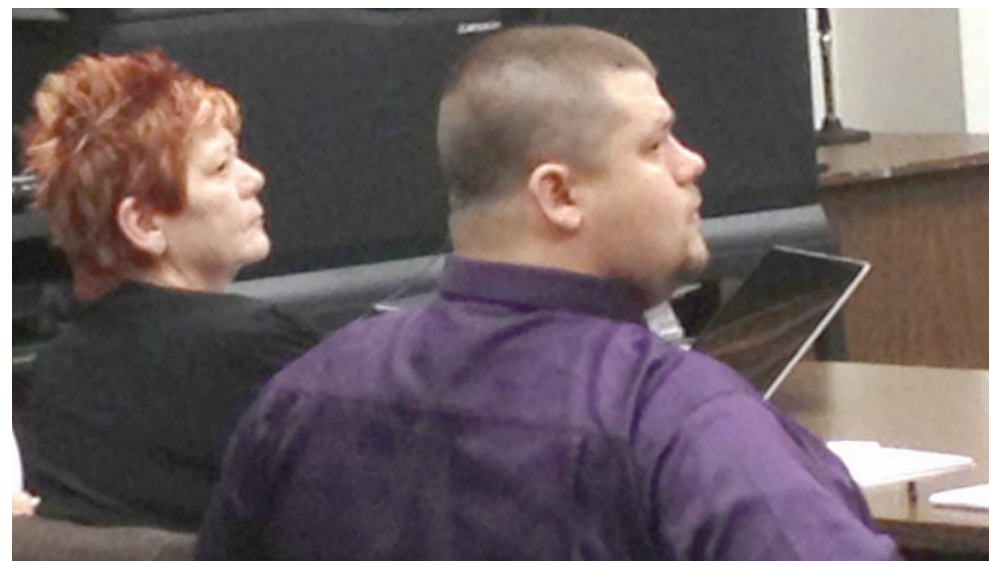
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**BAR FIGHT** | Paulette Hershner, left, and Lonzie Hershner, look on Friday, Jan. 18, during the hearing on a challenge to their liquor license application for the Hideaway. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

## Parties await Hideaway decision after crowded, daylong hearing

TABC investigator recommends denial of liquor license even though agency is officially neutral; judge's ruling could come in February

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
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A state administrative law judge could decide by the end of February whether to allow a liquor license for Marty's Hideaway, according to an attorney for the bar's owners.

A marathon hearing on the Hershners' liquor license for the Hideaway took place in a standing-room-only courtroom in downtown Dallas on Jan. 18.

Neighborhood groups are opposing a liquor license for Lonzie Hershner or Paulette Hershner, who have been renovating the Hideaway property on Buena Vista Street for about two years. The Hershners also operate the Tin Room on Hudnall Street, Chesterfield's on Inwood Road and the recently closed Drama Room on Cedar Springs Road.

"It went as well as I thought it could have gone for us," the Hershners' attorney Tim Griffith said Tuesday of the hearing at the George L. Allen, Sr. Courts Building.

Thomas Walston, of the State Office of Administrative Hearings in Austin, said decisions typically are issued within 60 days after the record closes.

However, Griffith said the judge who heard the case, Craig Bennett, indicated he would likely issue a decision by the end of February.

Walston said the Hershners' closing arguments

were received on Tuesday. The neighborhood group has until next Monday to file reply briefs.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is officially neutral in the case, but an investigator from TABC recommended on the stand during the hearing that the license be denied.

"That was the one thing that blindsided us," Lonzie Hershner said.

The Hershners signed an affidavit with TABC saying Marty's Hideaway won't have dancers like the Tin Room and the Drama Room.

Drama Room landlady Penelope Hatteras testified that the Hershners closed the bar owing \$9,000 in rent. That bar closed just days before the hearing.

The court heard testimony that the Hershners were issued four citations from the city for operating an unlicensed dance hall at the Drama Room. Witnesses also testified that two people were arrested at the Tin Room on July 9, 2010, for solicitation of prostitution, resulting in a TABC violation.

The Hershners countered that they have three TABC licenses and have gone through 30 renewals with no challenges. They said the prostitution arrests at the Tin Room represent their only TABC violation.

"Our record stands for itself," Hershner said. "Thirty-five years and only one violation."

Another witness who lives on Fleetwood Oaks directly behind the Tin Room testified that the Hershners are "incredibly bad neighbors."

"When I was cross-examined, I pointed out the inaccuracies in their testimony," Hershner said.

Hershner said the Hideaway would be a piano bar and attract an older, more mature crowd.

If the neighbors challenging the license lose, they are not permitted to appeal under Texas law.

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But if the Hershners lose, they may appeal as far as the U.S. Supreme Court.

An unrelated lawsuit against the Hershners filed in September alleges a group known as Cedar Springs DR Entertainment entered into an agreement to purchase the Drama Room in June,

but the Hershners reneged on the agreement. That lawsuit is set to go to court in February, according to Arthur Hood, one of the complainants.

Hershner brushed off the suit saying it is from disgruntled former employees whose services were no longer needed. ■

#### ■ PARKLAND, From Page 11

healthcare setting," he said. "Just by participating, it's a great first step."

Resource Center Dallas' Rafael McDonnell said he hopes Parkland's participation will set a precedent for other hospitals in North Texas to partake in the report and also examine how their policies could be more inclusive.

"I hope that other hospitals will take a look at what Parkland has done and emulate it," he said.

In addition to participating in the HEI, the hospital's population medicine division is in the plan-

ning stages of an LGBT community health assessment for the county. De la Cruz said the county releases an annual health assessment but health issues that affect the LGBT community are not addressed in it because it's not among traditionally studied populations.

"That, I think, is sort of the crown jewel to actually look at the health needs of the community," De la Cruz said.

He said the assessment may take a few years to plan in order to find the health issues relevant to the county's LGBT community and outline possible solutions to meet the health needs. ■

#### ■ MEMORIAL, From Page 10

the cost being paid for by the LGBT community, not the city.

In December 1989, Ross spearheaded a plan to build the AIDS Memorial in Lee Park. He applied to the Dallas Park Board for approval but kept hitting obstacles.

Gay Urban Truth Squad, better known as GUTS, a group similar to ACT-UP that predated the national organization, held a demonstration in Lee Park in June 1990 to support the drive to create a memorial. By the time of the demonstration there had been 1,421 AIDS deaths in Dallas County.

Not until 1995 was the Tavern Guild allowed to move forward with the plan for the AIDS Memorial. That was after the conservancy was created by five local groups to run the park in a public-private partnership. Among the founding organiza-

tions was the Dallas Tavern Guild.

Lee Park continues to be run by the conservancy separately from the Dallas Parks Department. The Tavern Guild maintains ties with the conservancy, and Doughman sits on an advisory committee. Several major LGBT events, including the Pride Festival and Easter in the Park, are held at Lee Park every year.

The park is getting upgrades, including the formal garden, paid for by a large donation made by one of the conservancy's board members.

Donnell referred to the new garden as a flower garden, and a fountain will be added to muffle the noise from nearby Lemmon Avenue and Turtle Creek Boulevard. A stone wall will be built with the same stone used in the nearby bridge and benches that date from the 1930s.

Donnell said there's no direct access to the Katy Trail from Lee Park so the conservancy is raising money to build access directly into the park. ■

#### ■ MERCHANTS, From Page 9

gанизations and entertainment, installing cobblestone crosswalks, and adding overhead lighting and more trees and planters.

Galceran said it was unlikely everything on the list would be able to be done because the cost of the consultant will cost \$200,000, so that leaves \$1 million to be spent on improvements. He said the only thing the association listed that wasn't possible was new asphalt for the street, as it would cost about \$2 million alone.

Richardson said Galceran's summary of the process gave him and other members a first look at the timeline and the realistic things that the money could provide. He said the association is going to put together a committee to oversee community meetings for input on the bond project over the next year to help narrow the list down. In the meantime, fundraising will fund other beautification efforts until then.

"This is a long-range project, but it doesn't mean we're going to stop raising funds for other improvements," he said.

David Berryman, who was elected as the asso-

ciation's new executive director earlier this month, will help oversee planning for fundraisers and events. Berryman replaced Scott Whittall after he stepped down from the position at the beginning of the month.

Berryman said he accepted the part-time position gladly. While the position is paid, his compensation is still under negotiation.

His goals as the executive director are to keep merchants informed, drive traffic to the strip and reach out to members in person. The strip hasn't been full in a long time, but Berryman said with so many new merchants and no vacancies along the strip, he wants to help initiate socialization and collaboration.

"I want to bring the personality back to the association where all the merchants know each other," Berryman said.

Richardson said Berryman is a great fit for the position.

"David is a very valuable person," he said. "I think he'll be a very valuable person in that position and one certainly that can come up to the caliber of what Scott [Whittall] was able to accomplish and we're very proud of that." ■



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# Hagel faces bipartisan scrutiny on gay rights

Defense secretary nominee gains LGBT support with apology, letter backing DADT repeal, equal benefits in advance of hearing next week

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

The Senate Committee on Armed Services has scheduled the first day of defense secretary nominee Chuck Hagel's confirmation hearing for Thursday, Jan. 31.

Many expect his positions on benefits for the families of gay service members may get some scrutiny from both sides of the partisan aisle.

Hagel's response to a letter from Sen. Barbara Boxer this month — saying that he “fully” supports the law that repealed “don't ask, don't tell,” helped earn her vote and was apparently influential in helping to win over Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

One additional statement in Hagel's letter — saying he would do “everything possible to the extent permissible under current law to provide equal benefits to the families of all our service members” — also won support from some LGBT leaders, but the community still seems torn.

Allyson Robinson, executive director of Outserve-SLDN, called the equal benefits statement a “turning point” for gays in the military and their families. Hagel's qualifying words “to the extent permissible under current law” were an apparent reference to the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act. While the Obama administration is arguing in court that DOMA is unconstitutional, it still must enforce the law until it is repealed or struck down. The U.S. Supreme Court could strike down the law as soon as June, but the Republican-led House is unlikely to do so during the next two years.

Outserve-SLDN's Robinson said Hagel's promise to provide equal benefits to gay service members' families “demonstrates his deepening



**DRAFT DAY** | President Barack Obama announces his nomination of former Sen. Chuck Hagel for defense secretary in the East Room of the White House on Jan. 7. (Associated Press)

grasp of the injustice currently being done to them.” The group had already expressed its opinion that Hagel is “exceptionally qualified” for secretary of defense and expressed its commitment to “working with him should he be confirmed.”



Most LGBT groups were initially opposed to Hagel's nomination, many citing his 1998 remarks against the nomination of openly gay James Hormel to serve as ambassador to Luxemburg in the Clinton administration. Hagel expressed concern about the appointment of an “openly, aggressively” gay man “representing America” as ambassador.

“They are representing our lifestyle, our values,

our standards. And I think it is an inhibiting factor to be gay — openly, aggressively gay like Mr. Hormel — to do an effective job,” Hagel told the Omaha World-Herald. He had also racked up a zero voting record — the worst possible — from the Human Rights Campaign during his years in the U.S. Senate.

Even before he was nominated, Hagel issued an apology for his remarks against the gay nominee, and some organizations and LGBT leaders backed off their opposition. Some expressed a desire to examine the nominee's LGBT positions more carefully. Some continue their opposition.

Log Cabin Republicans has held onto its oppo-

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sition, saying Hagel's apology and evolution on gay issues is suspect, given its timing. GOProud, another gay conservative group, hasn't taken a position yet, but leader Jimmy LaSalvia says he does not see Hagel as anti-gay.

"He is not," said LaSalvia, noting that Hagel voted against a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. And GOProud's co-founder Chris Barron, who once served as Log Cabin's political director, told DailyCaller.com that the Senate office of Hagel as a Republican senator from Nebraska "always had an open door to Log Cabin."

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said Hagel's letter to Boxer was a "positive sign, but we will be watching very closely to see what steps he takes to demonstrate his support ... should he be confirmed."

"We still expect him to provide more detail on his views during the confirmation process, as well as what specific steps he intends to take as defense secretary to support all military families," said Carey. "We recognize that people do evolve on these issues, and believe that Hagel, if confirmed, must ensure full fairness for all military families."

Outserve-SLDN's Robinson said Hagel does need to deal with the "foot-dragging" of the Department of Defense on its gay discrimination policies. She said DOD needs to amend various military non-discrimination policies to explicitly prohibit sexual orientation discrimination. These policies, she said, "help establish the command climate for the entire force, and for Sen. Hagel to expand them in this way would send a very clear message that the days of treating LGBT service-members as second-class citizens will be coming to an end under his leadership."

HRC President Chad Griffin said Dec. 21 that he "appreciated" Hagel's apology for the remarks against Hormel. He called Hagel an ally. But in a press statement Jan. 16 illustrating an example of such "foot-dragging," HRC noted that a U.S. Army club for military spouses at Fort Bragg in California recently refused a membership card to the same-sex spouse of a gay Army officer. While repeal of DADT enabled gay servicemembers to serve openly, said HRC, DOMA blocks the ability of their spouses to access many of the benefits granted routinely to the spouses of heterosexual servicemembers.

"However, other benefits, including access to military ID cards, could be granted to these spouses and partners through regulatory revisions," said HRC. "Changes to the appropriate regulations have been pending since December 2010."

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., initially expressed reservations about Hagel's nomination, saying she wanted to ensure that Hagel's apology for the Hormel remarks was "sincere and sufficient." She has since had an introductory conversation with Hagel and expects to meet with him before making a decision about his confirmation.

But even before next week's confirmation hearing, strong testimony of sorts is emerging for Hagel. Pulitzer Prize-winning openly gay commentator Jonathan Capehart, of the Washington Post, wrote Jan. 8: "Times change. People change.

And on issues of civil rights, when both change, folks should be given the space to make amends for being on the wrong side of history. Besides, I can't imagine Obama selecting someone for his cabinet who would stall or reverse the considerable actions he has made on equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans."

Steve Clemons, the gay Washington editor for The Atlantic political news magazine, published an article last month calling Hagel "pro-gay, pro-LGBT, pro-ending 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

"I'm not sure where Hagel stands on same-sex marriage," wrote Clemons in the Dec. 21 article, "but I know that he supports solid legal protections for gay families and is personally supportive of gays and lesbians.

"How do I know this? Because I'm a national-security wonk who happens to be gay and who happens to have interacted with and followed Chuck Hagel for years. I have spoken directly about these issues with him over the years."

Glenn Greenwald, an openly gay political commentator for Salon.com and other outlets, responded to criticism that Hagel, in 1998, expressed negative views on the Hormel nomination.

"When it comes to LGBT equality, 1998 is a different universe. Virtually no prominent Democrats (let alone Republicans) supported marriage equality back then, or even equal rights for LGBT citizens," wrote Greenwald on Salon.com Jan. 5. "In fact, Hagel's comment came only two years after the overwhelming majority of Democratic Senators voted in favor of the truly odious and discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act — including Joe Biden, Patty Murray, Pat Leahy and Paul Wellstone — which was then signed into law by Bill Clinton. ... If you're going to judge politicians by how they felt about LGBT issues 15 years ago, be prepared to scorn almost every national Democratic Party hero you have as a bigot."


A 2007 interview with Hagel by Gentlemen's Quarterly magazine might be of interest. In the interview, uncovered by a reader posting a comment on DemocraticUnderground.com, Hagel was asked, "How conservative are you really? Tell me the truth: You don't care whether or not gay people get married, do you?"

"No. Personally, I think marriage is between a man and a woman, but that's because I see it as a religious union," said Hagel. "As a legal contract, marriage should be up to the states. If a state wants to change the rules, that's up to them."

Later in the interview, he expounded on how he, as a conservative Republican politician, could hold views that seem contrary to most Republican conservatives.

"We are living through one of the most transformative periods in history. If we are going to make it, we need a far greater appreciation and respect for others, or we're going to blow up mankind," said Hagel. "Look at what zealotry can do. Religious zealotry has been responsible for killing more people than any other thing. Look at the Middle East today. It's all about religion. We need to move past those divisions and learn to be tolerant and respectful. If we go out there full of intolerance and hatred, we'll never make it." ■

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# viewpoints

# Dream of equality gets closer

While there's still a lot of work to be done, Obama's inauguration speech clears up any lingering doubts about his commitment to LGBT rights

Had Mitt Romney won the election, the gay community would have hit a stone wall. Instead, President Barack Obama's historic inauguration speech mentioned *Stonewall*, the New York City gay bar where patrons fought back against a police raid in 1969. That Obama did so while invoking Seneca Falls and Selma — cities indelibly linked to the fight for human liberty — made the speech even more significant.

The nationally televised talk in front of hundreds of thousands at the National Mall in Washington marked the first time that the word "gay" was included in an inauguration address.

"We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths — that all of us are created equal — is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall," Obama eloquently said in front of a sea of flag-waving citizens. "Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law — for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well."

Obama's soaring speech was as bold as it was beautiful, as moving as it was magnificent. It was an address the LGBT community had only dreamed a president delivering. While watching, I had a Chris Matthews moment and "felt this thrill going up my leg."



**Wayne Besen**  
Contributing columnist

This triumphant moment is the result of decades of backbreaking work. The first breakthrough came on Saturday, March 26, 1977, when Midge Costanza, a top aide to President Jimmy Carter, invited 14 gay advocates to the White House. The event took place in the Roosevelt Room and lasted three hours. The book *Out for Good* discusses the risqué meeting:

"President Carter, off to Camp David, would not be there, and Midge Costanza had not told him what she was doing. She did not clear her meetings with the president, but she did list them on her schedule, which was sent to the chief of staff."

Another milestone came in May 1992, when a gay political strategist introduced his college friend and presidential candidate, Bill Clinton, to a group of gay advocates and donors. At the Palace Theater in Hollywood, the former governor of Arkansas wowed the crowd with an emotional speech that included the famous line, "What I came here today to tell you in simple terms is, I have a vision and you are part of it."

Unfortunately, Clinton's vision blurred a bit when confronted with strident right-wing opposition — leading to the heinous "don't ask, don't tell" debacle and his signing of the odious Defense of Marriage Act.

During his re-election campaign, Obama went out on a limb (or was pushed onto it by Joe Biden) and endorsed marriage equality. Locked in a tight race, it was unclear what the ramifications might be in conservative swing states, such as Florida and Ohio. With the LGBT community firmly behind him, Obama handily won and proved that supporting marriage equality would not cost a candidate a national election.

Prior to his address, it was unknown to what

extent Obama would focus on LGBT equality in his second term. Only a week prior, a virulently homophobic evangelical preacher, Louie Giglio, was chosen to give the benediction at the inauguration. After an uproar, the plug was pulled on the minister and a more inclusive holy man replaced him.

Obama's speech cleared up any lingering doubts about his commitment to LGBT equality. He signaled that he viewed this topic as more than a political issue or a chance to mollify a boisterous special interest group. What we heard was a man who strongly considers gay rights an important legacy issue. He seems to consider achieving liberty for gay and lesbian Americans the type of accomplishment one burnishes at his presidential library.

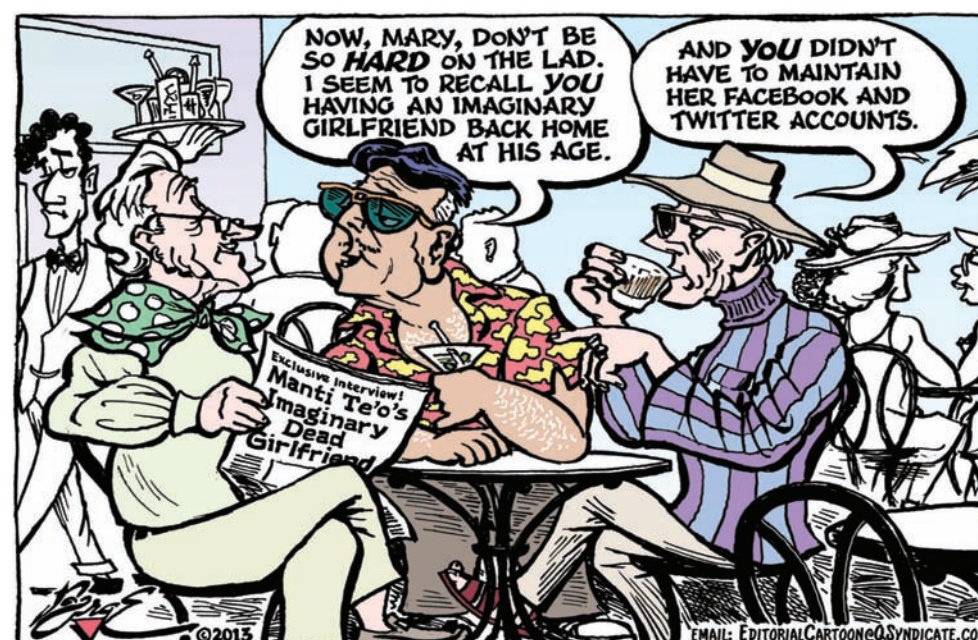
Still, there is so much critical work to do.

For instance, Chad Griffin, President of the Human Rights Campaign, urged Obama today to "take yet another important step toward fulfilling that promise of equality by filing an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*," the lawsuit challenging California's marriage amendment that's before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Obama could increase diversity by nominating an openly gay person for his Cabinet and other high-level administration jobs. Additionally, it is still legal for LGBT people to be fired because of their sexual orientation in the majority of states. Only nine states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex couples to marry. Reparative therapists continue to abuse children by peddling their "ex-gay" snake oil.

Inauguration Day was even more special because it occurred on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King holiday. The only thing more powerful than having a mighty dream is making it happen. Obama's eloquent speech made the future seem brighter, the horizon limitless and our dreams of equality closer to reality.

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).



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# Piano men

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Dallas' music scene benefits from three side men — local musicians who tickle the ivories in unique ways

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer  
getrichindallas@gmail.com

**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER** | Mark Mullino pauses from a rehearsal at WaterTower's current musical to show why he's so sought after by Dallas theaters — and cabaret singers. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Most musicians have a burning passion to share their talents with the world — a drive that never lets up. And while Carnegie Hall may not be an immediate option for everyone who tickles the ivories or steps up to a mike, expressing your talent manifests itself in a variety of ways.

Three local musicians, all from the LGBT community, have proven their skill at the piano, having touched Dallas onstage, at bars ... even on Sunday mornings. This is only a short list of players who are pushing to be heard. These are gay Dallas' Piano Men.

## The Renaissance Man

Local theatergoers are likely familiar with the work of Mark Mullino — and not just his piano playing. The musician has directed and music-directed stage shows at WaterTower Theatre (he's currently leading the band in that company's production of *Putting It Together*), Uptown Players, Lyric Stage and more.

People may also know Mullino from his artwork — he has recent exhibitions at the Granville Arts Center in Garland, and displays at Cathedral of Hope.

But for the Dallas LGBT community, it may be his piano work playing at the shuttered Bill's Hideaway, Alexandre's and Phases (now Pekers).

"I've also been playing piano and singing with Amy Stevenson for many years at the long running Mama's Party," he adds.

He's not playing around. Or rather, he *is* when it comes to his profession. Mullino has made his music his career — as a freelancer, and as a teacher at KD Studios and Collin County Community College. With all these under his belt, he cites his daily life as his greatest triumph.

"My biggest accomplishment since being here in Dallas is making a decent living out of nothing but my art. I love everything I do," he says. "I never dread going to 'work' because I love it! Even when I am tired, I feel blessed to be able to do what I love with all my heart and people actually pay me to do it. Life is good."

Not bad for the 46-year-old who started piano lessons at age 7. Involved with anything from choir to orchestra to the school musical, you would think his life was already planned out. But when college came around, his dilemma was deciding between majoring in music or art (his other creative outlet). His talents were apparent, but his future was not.

"When it came time to go to college, I had to choose which major I preferred, music or art," Mullino says. "I went with music but did not paint again until I was 38. But everything I do now revolves around music and theater — even my painting. Every piece I paint has music in it. I will not paint without it anymore. I find as

much pleasure in playing a beautiful score as I do in directing one, acting in one or painting it on canvas."

A veteran of the Hideaway, Mullino is part of an elite Dallas team of musicians that have perpetuated familiar careers in town and beyond. Along with Gary Floyd, Liz Mikel, Denise Lee and others, Mullino is a nod to the legacy that the Hideaway created years ago. But if he had derailed into other career options, it would

have been with, of all things, cattle. A self-described animal freak, the one other thing he goes on passionately about is his compassion for four-legged creatures.

"If I didn't play piano or paint, I'd most certainly be doing something with animals. I even considered studying to be a veterinarian for a while," he says.

"I've fostered many pets, volunteered at humane societies across the country while I was performing. I just cannot stay away from animals and I'd be happiest having a home out in the country with acreage where I could have all the cows, horses and chickens I wanted. My dream has always been to have a herd of longhorns."

Sorry, Elsie, but Dallas is glad Mullino stuck with music.



■ PIANO, Page 20



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### The Spirit

For seven years, Sunday mornings at Cathedral of Hope have included Les Holben on the piano with the CoH Orchestra. Whether he came to that position by choice or by fate is something he's not even sure of himself. When Holben got the gig, he wasn't all that interested in it. He hadn't given up on the piano — he just wasn't in the mood to get back onstage again. After a stint in Austin as the music minister for that city's MCC, he returned to Dallas ready to sit back a bit.

"My partner and I joined cathedral, but I was burned out and had no desire to participate," he says. "I simply enjoyed listening to the music from the pews. [Then-director] Cathy [Brown] spoke with me a number of times about playing the trumpet, but I hadn't played since college, feeling I had lost the ability to play well, so I always declined. She eventually convinced me to play synthesizer in the orchestra for special services. That continued for a couple of years until the pianist was diagnosed with cancer. I frequently filled in at the piano, eventually being selected as principal pianist."

He's settled into the role with confidence over the years and calls his time at COH an amazing experience. Discovering that the caliber of musicians Brown led was high, he is both fulfilled and challenged on a weekly basis. But it's not just about reading the music notes for Holben. While enjoying his role and colleagues, he doesn't forget what his role is. A higher calling for this gig is not lost on the musician.

"Leading worship is my real role at CoH," he says. "Taking the focus away from me as a soloist, my job is to support the ensemble so that our notes and words allow God's spirit to work its magic. While serving as a musician at other churches wore me out, play-



**HOLY ROLLER** | Les Holben can be seen every Sunday morning at the Cathedral of Hope, playing along to the liturgical selections on his grand piano. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

ing at COH feeds my soul. I get a tremendous sense of satisfaction knowing that I'm playing a small role in helping others experience hope and acceptance."

Like many, Holben began his music early (age 6), but moved on

to the trumpet in high school and college — an instrument he actually preferred to the piano. But Holben saw more in playing with a band or orchestra than he felt he could reach as a soloist.

"I was fascinated by the different musical textures that could be

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achieved by combining the different instruments," he says. "There's something about the energy from a large ensemble that can profoundly affect the performers and listeners."

He discovered that by going back to church after college. That experience is what led him to become a minister in Austin.

"Controlling them using my computer nurtured my geeky side. By day I'm an electrical engineer," he says. "I was asked to direct the youth choir and frequently created my own arrangements to accompany the choir. But that experience was invaluable to my time at MCC."

Holben says his proudest moment while playing he owes to his mother who, ironically, he had a strained relationship with. More than 20 years had passed without her ever hearing Holben play. And then she made a request.

"About two years before she died, she wanted to attend a service at CoH. The choir and orchestra had just returned from the UCC general conference. The music director made the evening even more special by asking to play a difficult duet as the service postlude. I think it was the first time she realized that her kid turned out OK. It still brings tears to my eyes when I remember her sitting in the congregation, beaming from ear to ear. Playing at the national conference was great, but playing for mom at CoH one last time [and being asked to play for her funeral] were my most special performances."

### The Institution

Gary Poe almost shrugs off his years of piano playing — and his talent in general. He doesn't boast about his proudest moments; Poe's playing is just for him. But it's his sing-along audiences that relish his work Friday nights at Pekers. Bargoers select from a catalog of showtunes and standards that Poe has transformed into dirty ditties with alternative lyrics alongside his knack for naughty limericks.

He sneaks in a smile of pride at this mention.

"Well, I only do those when I get a few beers in me," he says.

Poe comes off as quiet, drinking his light beer and smoking his cigarette almost to the point of invisibility. But he comes to life behind the keys. When in doubt, he leaves the emotional stuff to his ivories.

### Cabaret Series continues at Sammons

Last fall, the Sammons Center for the Arts inaugurated its first Cabaret Series with Gary Lynn Floyd; in 2013, it continues the successful series. Next up will be community favorite **Hunter Sullivan** (Feb. 21), pictured, followed by **Lynn Cadena** (March 21), **Nina Katrina** (April 18) and finishing up with another local legend, **Liz Mikel** (May 16).



Kurth Hall at the Sammons Center, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. Tickets \$35-\$40 and include refreshments. All performances begin at 8 p.m.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



**WHEN THE MAGIC HAPPENS** | At 62, Gary Poe has enjoyed piano playing for many decades.

"The piano can say things you can't touch," he says. "It lets me put certain deep emotions out there. That's what the instrument does for me."

He reveres the magic of the instrument, but without overkill. And he sticks to what he knows best: Classics of the Great American Songbook. He proudly admits he's not of the Lady Gaga generation — and that's become his signature at Pekers and for 25 years at the Hideaway as their first piano player.

"I enjoy playing those because a larger group of people can enjoy that," he says. "I have a lot of fun with honky-tonk and ragtime but that's mostly for my enjoyment. But I won't do anything new like 'In-a-Gadda-Da-Vida.'"

Those moments like that is where his wit sneaks in. Poe isn't uncomfortable talking about himself, though he prefers to express himself at the keyboard. From his time as a teenager playing in gospel quartets with his parents to playing Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Nashville, Poe revels in a sorta dive bar career that led to Dallas in 1979.

With a degree in communications, he did some radio and newspaper work and then transitioned into a computer career, but when the economy took a nosedive in 2002, he adjusted with freelance gigs (creating websites) and even event photography alongside his night at Pekers and the occasional retirement center performance.

"I do these little parties a couple times a month and I really enjoy that," he says. "They do too. I see them mouthing the words; that's nice."

At 62, Poe is at a certain peace with what he does. He dismays over the difficulty of working in this atmosphere, but when he's at his piano on Friday night, the world's in his hands — or at least the club is.

"I've enjoyed my time in many bars. The Hideaway, Pub Pegasus, Pekers ... it really is a high when something gets going. When the magic happens, it's noticeable," he says. "Playing piano is the most fun I have with my clothes on." ■

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the Music ISSUE

# Queen of misfits

Wherein, on the eve of her latest Dallas concert, we ponder the impact of Lady Gaga's voice in entertaining and empowering the gay community

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer  
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Given today's celebrity culture, one would think, "What sane person would wear a meat dress?" It's a good question. Fashion has become synonymous with fame, but Angeline Jolie wouldn't be caught dead wearing beef earrings to the Oscars. And Rihanna could never pull off a red carpet appearance showing up in an egg.

Such antics are reserved for one person. And she's a Lady.

"What makes Lady Gaga interesting is that she's so explicitly artificial," observes Sean Griffin, a professor at Southern Methodist University where he chairs the division of film and media arts. "She has this weird dichotomy that on a certain level she's very genuine and authentic in her emotional outreach, but then there's the very public plastic image on display."

Griffin, who has taught a class on lesbian and gay film and video (*before* Gaga burst onto the pop culture landscape), has considered how her particular iconic status has struck a different cord from many celebrities before her while harkening to those who paved the way.

And on a personal level, he wonders: What makes Gaga so important, especially to her queer fans and the community in large?

"Her impact is that she's been so upfront and proud about supporting gay rights and so much so that it's almost a part of her image, her brand even," Griffin says.

That brand has encouraged all of society's

misfits, whoever they may be, to celebrate that status. In turn, this has created a win-win situation for Gaga — and whether it's a shrewd move or happy accident, everyone from the pretty and rich to the quirky and minimum-waged can join in on the party. Everyone has hang-ups, Griffin says, but Gaga is one of the few high-profile heroes telling them that's all right.

"She plays up her outsider, non-conventional status, saying she was this dorky kid who didn't know how to fit in," Griffin says. "But then she brilliantly balances that with her outrageous outfits playing her public role [and] we don't really see the real Gaga. You could even say she's more artificial than Madonna."

## BORN THIS WAY BALL

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2500 Victory Ave. Jan. 29. at 7 p.m.  
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win two tickets to see Lady Gaga,  
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contest on Page 8.

Inevitable comparisons to Madonna have been present since the beginning. But the trap in comparing Madge to Gaga is merely a time stamp. At her peak, Griffin says, Madonna was certainly friendly toward her gay fans, but that LGBT cul-

ture was an accent to Madge's camp — it wasn't key to her pop image. Gaga has made it a part of her persona.

"When she uses the term 'Little Monsters' and makes it a collective, that's part of why she's so popular. Gaga is for a new generation in terms of where we are. Madonna was for us what Gaga is for younger gays now," Griffin says.

Not that Madonna's generation of gays don't appreciate the Fame Monster. Griffin says they appreciate her outspokenness and value what she's bringing to the public conversation. And from that generation raised on disco and new wave, a good beat is always appreciated.

SHOWMANSHIP WITH A PURPOSE | At her last appearance in Dallas, Lady Gaga played a flaming piano, above. But her outrageousness is also couched in empowerment, especially for the gay community, says SMU professor Sean Griffin, opposite.

"There is that," Griffin laughs. "The kids of the late '90s think they discovered circuit party music, but honey, there was this thing called disco."

Griffin resists characterizing Gaga's artificiality as some kind of con; instead, it's the stuff icons are made of. She challenges conventional thought while being embraced by the masses. Gaga's outspoken nature on supporting gay rights clearly exhibits her care for the community while her avant garde dresses make her fabulous.

He also notices that Gaga's accessibility is unique to subcultures. On her last visits to Dallas, her appearances post-American Airlines Center shows at the Round-Up Saloon and Station 4 weren't just about an after-party, but blatantly told her fans she doesn't forget where she started. She strengthens her relationship with her fans (especially her gay Dallas fans) and that bond impacts not just a sense of self, but even the political stage.

"Her way of presenting herself is 'Come on — we're all family, we're all friends,'" Griffin says. "That resonates. And politics happen within relationships. Things that matter like same-sex marriage is extended in feelings with those you



have a bond with. It's partly Gaga's courage and forthrightness that has created this situation in which she's blossomed. And stemming from her support at her shows to hanging with her people all comes from that."

It's fair to say that the 20-something pop star is already in the gay pantheon of strong female heroes. In that way, Lady Gaga should be compared less to Madonna and more to the likes of Elizabeth Taylor (for her vocal support on AIDS issues), Cyndi Lauper (for her embracing of the inner freak) and Barbra Streisand's outsider, unconventional beauty. They've all paved the way for a new type of gay den mother, and with Lady Gaga's obvious talent and civic mindedness, she will likely do the same for icons still to come.

### Joyful noise Lesbian twins Tegan & Sara go for pop

When love hurts, weepy ballads seem the perfect fit — whether to listen to or to write. An angry beat sometimes helps as well, but a pop beat? Well, that's a tricky road. And one Tegan & Sara navigate masterfully on their seventh release, **Heartthrob**. Heartbreak never sounded so good.

These twin sisters are never at a loss for clever lyricism but don't come off as too cerebral. They craft smart, poignant words layered over distinctly guitar-based tunes, and it always works. But here, they venture into the world of glitzy synth-pop. They've never been far from it, but *Heartthrob* pulses with a different musical approach that remains distinctly T&S. That's their magic.

"Closer," the first single and album opener, sets the tone. They show no hesitation, thriving in a land of lush beats and keyboards. When they sing *let's make things physical / I won't treat you like your typical*, it's instantly recognizable as T&S. It's not just a strong beginning, but the first chapter in what plays like a narrative. Still, don't expect high concept here.

This kind of pop isn't new to the twins (in September, they teamed with dance maestro David Guetta), but this foray is gloriously unexpected. *Heartthrob* is wonderfully alive with brains and brawn. Keyboards are muscular and delicate; their pixie demeanors are great disguises for their monstrous talents marking their brilliance as artists.

This is definitive on "Drove Me Wild," which comes out just in time for any Valentine's Day mixtape — it's sweet and sexy, with winning lyrics. These women can write a love song!

This CD fits snugly alongside the likes of One Di-



rection, Taylor Swift and fun. — not bad company, but for these veterans, it feels strange, though perhaps it's just a shrewd marketing move. The album isn't expressly lesbian in nature — it swings both ways.

Where "Drove" puts a lover on a pedestal, "How Come You Don't Want Me" is gutwrenching in dealing with worthlessness. T&S don't let up, giving pain and anger a happy rhythm. They nail almost every insecure thought that happens within a relationship, belting out *why don't you wanna win me now / why don't you wanna show me off* and then follow up with *someday soon, I will be the one who'll insult you*. It's an astonishing moment in pop music.

*Heartthrob's* 10 tracks ride an emotional roller coaster. Near the end, they let up slightly on "Now I'm All Messed Up" and "Shock To Your System," but not much. They are still in full-fledged pop mode that recalls *Missing Persons*, but just a bit, because the album is decidedly Tegan and Sara ... thankfully so.

— Rich Lopez

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# Broad strokes

Uptown's 'B'way Our Way' reinvents itself (again) with a toe-tapping show

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

The folks with Uptown Players will happily recount, if you ask them, how small they started out; how, in the first year of *Broadway Our Way*, their annual fundraiser, eight men sang songs written for women over the course of one weekend in a 120-seat theater.

Ten years on, *BOW* has become an extravaganza — a cast of 26 (men and women) with lots of gender-reversal showtunes. Last year's production injected an energy occasioned by the semblance of a storyline tying together all the musical numbers. This year, the focus is on dancing: There's a tap number, several same-sex *pas de deux* and enough comedy and schmaltz to confuse your lacrimal glands about whether you're laughing or crying. With hot men and sexy ladies contorting to Jeremy Dumont's impressive choreography, and singers wringing emotion out of every tune, it's moving, and it moves.

The production begins with a rousing comic performance by Marisa Diotalevi of the song made famous by Neil Patrick Harris at last year's Tony Awards ("Broadway — it's not just for gays anymore!") ... and then proceeds to prove exactly why it is for gays. At least it is for

Uptown's audience, which lapped up B.J. Cleveland and Coy Covington performing "Sisters" as the rotting human husks of Jane and Blanche Hudson (Joan Crawford and Bette Davis) from *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*, or Cleveland and Beth Albright in the psychiatric one-two punch of "I Cain't Say No" and "To Excess," or Darius-Anthony Robinson's sassy "I'm Outta Here" from *Ghost: The Musical*. An all-female version of "Gee, Officer Krupke" proves inspired.

There are melancholy moments, as well. The production is dedicated to Uptown alum Jeff Kinman, who passed away last month; he gets a soaring tribute courtesy of Denise Lee and his surviving partner, Adam C. Wright, who serves as co-musical director on the show. Angel Velasco's wrenching ballad "With You" (also from *Ghost*) left few dry handkerchiefs, and Paul J. Williams performed against type with a poignant interpretation of "Hello, Young Lovers."

The subtitle of this edition is *Divas Raise the Roof*, a reference to one of the songs mounted in the show, from Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party*. It's an apt selection, because a wild party is exactly what *BOW* is.

**BROADWAY OUR WAY**

**Kalita Humphreys Theater**,  
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Final week-  
end. \$40-\$45. UptownPlayers.org.

**NOTHING LIKE A DAME** | One of the biggest laughs of the evening at 'Broadway Our Way' is the rendition of 'Sisters' performed as Joan Crawford (Coy Covington) and Bette Davis (B.J. Cleveland) in 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane' regalia. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)



# Slice of life

The stories in gay author Emma Donoghue's 'Astray' stir the imagination

*Astray* by Emma Donoghue (2012)  
Little, Brown. \$26, 275 pp.

The lady in the picture was wearing the biggest scowl you'd ever seen. The photo was taken long ago and it made you wonder: What happened that day to make her so snarly? Was there a death, lost crops, an accident, bad weather ... or did the photographer make her angry?

You'll probably never find the answer, but just like that portrait stirs your imagination, so does Emma Donoghue's collection of short stories, *Astray*, make imagination become possibility.

As you'll see in "The Widow's Cruise," the scowling woman could've been on her way to meet her lawyer. Newly widowed by a smallpox plague, she was frightened and unsure. She feared destitution. Her lawyer should have feared *her*. Then again, that woman you just can't quite figure out you'll see in "Daddy's Girl" — she's not really a woman, down deep.

*Astray* is written with a great premise: take an old newspaper article, story, fictional tale, or even a passing mention from any source, and imagine how that single episode in someone's life might have actually happened.

It sounds like a seventh-grade writing assignment, but in Donoghue's hands, it works to a level of impressiveness.

Moving through the centuries, Donoghue turns everyday situations and period-piece slice-of-life situations into something for which O. Henry would be proud. Indeed, some of these tales start with a little sleight of word, poking our emotions in one way, then slowly twisting



**IRISH LASS** | Lambda Literary Award recipient Emma Donoghue imagines backstories with great aplomb in 'Astray.'

them into another direction before giving us the real story. You never know where these tales will end, and that's a good thing.

My only complaint about this book is that it didn't last long enough. I wanted more, and if that's the kind of book you have to have, then *Astray* is one to picture yourself reading.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

## Built Ford Model Tough

It seems now that the only criterion for a reality cable TV show is how punny and suggestive the title can be. A show about big-breasted women working in a bra shop would be a non-starter ... until you call it *Double Divas*, then you have a tentpole. Would anyone watch *Honey Boo Boo* if it weren't called *Honey Boo Boo*?

Add to that list **Built**. The premise: Five gorgeous male models *also* work as home renovators! Of course, they do both extremely well: Look hot, nail ... and maybe get nailed. It's all the same nowadays. (The show is a combination of *Trading Spaces* and *Joe Millionaire*, without the class of either.)

Still, *Built* is probably the worst new show I am likely to start watching right now. OK, I admit it: The clients are tasteless nouveaux riches, the projects full of faux drama, the men seem like Ken Doll narcissists (some *have* to be gay, though none discussed his sexuality in the pilot I screened). Built handsome guys with their shirts off is as good a reason as any to



waste an afternoon watching TV.

Monday at 8 p.m. on the Style Network.

Next week also welcomes the returns Monday of *Dallas* on TNT and *RuPaul's Drag Race* on Logo, and *Project Runway* Thursday on Lifetime. We're not sure which will have more catfights.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Friday 01.25

**Perry Twins spin at Dick's Night Out**

Dick's Night Out has become a staple mixer in Dallas' gay community pretty quickly, with drink deals and no cover charge on regular Friday evening events at Ross Avenue's edgy pool club Ku•De•Ta. You might not go for a swim there in January, but with the famed Perry Twins serving as DJs, the party is sure to get *hot*.

**DEETS:** Ku•De•Ta, 3121 Ross Ave. 6–10 p.m. No cover but RSVP required at [PerryTwins.eventbrite.com](http://PerryTwins.eventbrite.com).

Friday 01.25

**Lyric reintroduces Loesser musical**

It was 1965 when composer Frank Loesser's last stage musical, *Pleasures and Palaces*, closed out-of-town before opening on B'way. The score hasn't been heard since. But that's because Lyric Stage wasn't around most of that time. North Texas' premiere producer of splashy musical has once again enlisted Jay Dias, pictured, to lead a 40-piece orchestra in a concert staging of this forgotten classic set in the court of Catherine the Great. See it now, or wait another 45 years for your next shot.

**DEETS:** Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Jan. 25–26 at 8 p.m., Jan. 27 at 2:30 p.m. [LyricStage.org](http://LyricStage.org).

Thursday 01.31

**Oscar nom'd AIDS doc at QCinema**

Former journo-turned-filmmaker David France was on the front lines reporting about the AIDS crisis back in the 1980s and '90s, and his magnificent documentary about that time, *How to Survive a Plague*, was just nominated for a best documentary feature Oscar (he may even win). See this important film as QCinema kicks off 2013 with a special one-night-only screening of it in Fort Worth.

**DEETS:** Four Day Weekend Theater, 312 Houston St., Fort Worth. 6:30 p.m. \$10. [QCinema.org](http://QCinema.org).



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## calendar



**LIFE IS SUITE** | Contemporary Theatre of Dallas performs Neil Simon's comedy 'Plaza Suite' through Feb. 10.

### 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. Final weekend. \$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. Final weekend. \$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. 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. Through Feb. 17. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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

**Plaza Suite.** Neil Simon's comedy of three one-acts. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through Feb. 10. ContemporaryTheatreofDallas.com.

**Pleasures and Palaces.** A one-weekend-only production of Frank Loesser's "lost" musical. Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. LyricStage.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.

**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. MCL Grand Theater, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Final weekend. \$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. Through Feb. 9. ZeroThePlay.com.

### FINE ART

**Optical Spaces: The Art of Victor Vaserey** 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 01.25

### BROADCAST

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

### COMMUNITY

**Dick's Night Out.** This month's gay mixer, themed Double the Fun, features hot gay DJs The Perry Twins. Ku-De-Ta, 3121 Ross Ave. 6-10 p.m. No cover but RSVO required at PerryTwins.eventbrite.com.

**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 01.26

### 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. FronrunnersDallas.org.

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.. 5-10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

**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.

browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit](http://Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit).

## SUNDAY 01.27

### 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.

**COMMUNITY**

**Youth First Texas Collin County.** Group for LGBTQ youth and allies up to age 22. North Texas Youth Connection — Allen Office, 201 W. Boyd Road. Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m. CollinCounty@YouthFirstTexas.org.

**MONDAY 01.28**

**COMMUNITY**

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

**Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** meets to improve public speaking and leadership skills. First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4012 St. Andrews. 6:30–8 p.m. 214-587-7979. LeadershipLambda.ToastmastersClub.org.

**The Women's Chorus of Dallas** holds rehearsals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7–10 p.m. 214-520-7828.

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

**Metroplex Republicans.** Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. robschlein@aol.com

**PFLAG Denton.** Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

**FUSE** drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. #2367 Monday–Friday at 2–8 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

**BROADCAST**

**RuPaul's Drag Race.** The new season continues. Logo at 9 p.m., followed by the behind-the-scenes *Untucked* at 10:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY 01.29**

**COMMUNITY**

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

**WEDNESDAY 01.30**

**COMMUNITY**

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

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

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

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



**YOU GOT SHEMAIL** | RuPaul returns for another season of both 'RuPaul's Drag Race' and 'Untucked' following it.

**THURSDAY 01.31**

**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.

**SCREEN**

**How to Survive a Plague.** The Oscar-nominated documentary about the AIDS crisis screens as part of QCinema. Four Day Weekend Theater, 312 Houston St., Fort Worth. 6:30 p.m. \$10. QCinema.org.

**BROADCAST**

**Project Runway: Teams.** The new season continues, with many gay contestants. Lifetime at 9 p.m.

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## CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

**Ellen DeGeneres** turns 55 on Saturday. From her standup career to her hit sitcom (when she famously came out of the closet) to her enormously successful daytime talk show, DeGeneres has become one of the most visible gay icons in America for 15 years.

**CAPRICORN** Dec 21—Jan 20

You could use some time and space to sit back and review the way things stand, but it's probably not going to happen because you're in the midst of reaping the best from what your life has birthed in the last three years. What's about to come out of the rest of it will be known to you before the month is out.

**AQUARIUS** Jan 21—Feb 20

The pace is slowing down just enough for you to catch your breath. This is not an easy time but in the midst of a lot of stress your life has been boosted from one level to another. Prepare for the next phase of whatever comes.

**PISCES** Feb 21—Mar 20

Things that happened a long time ago have been popping up to remind you how far you've come. This could include very significant people returning at a critical point in time. All of these things mean something.

**ARIES** Mar 21—Apr 20

The next time you stop thinking about yourself long enough to notice what's going on with someone else, you'll be amazed to find out that others are having a tough time dealing with your nonsense. Your sense of entitlement overrules everything else.

**TAURUS** Apr 21—May 20

This is all about what belongs to who and/or who belongs to what. The bigger part of you would be fine if you wound up losing it all. In some small way you understand that possessions don't make us who we are.

**GEMINI** May 21—Jun 20

The way things show up in the nick of time, you'd think the angels had something to do with this. Just when you were getting ready to bail, in the midst of the craziest scenario you've seen so far, you're looking at the other side of the worst of it.

**CANCER** Jun 21—Jul 20

Your plans may need some adjustment. Remain open to the idea that none of this is up to you. In the long run, those closest to you may have more to say about it than you do. Changes in their reality are bound to spill over and affect you.

**LEO** Jul 21—Aug 20

Too much external pressure has created a sense of being a prisoner inside your own life. It doesn't have to be this way. Don't make everything so intense. The need for drama and the desire to be center-stage has twisted up your priorities.

**VIRGO** Aug 21—Sep 20

It's always a mixed bag with you; everything's OK on the surface, but inside is anxiety you can never put your finger on. If you're feeling more neurotic than usual, it's because you are ringing up an enormous amount of fear. It's all in your mind.

**LIBRA** Sep 21—Oct 20

No one can tell you what others are going to do. Second guessing people is a tricky of business. Let your instincts guide your choices because when logic and reason no longer apply your mind is bound to make a mess of it.

**SCORPIO** Oct 21—Nov 20

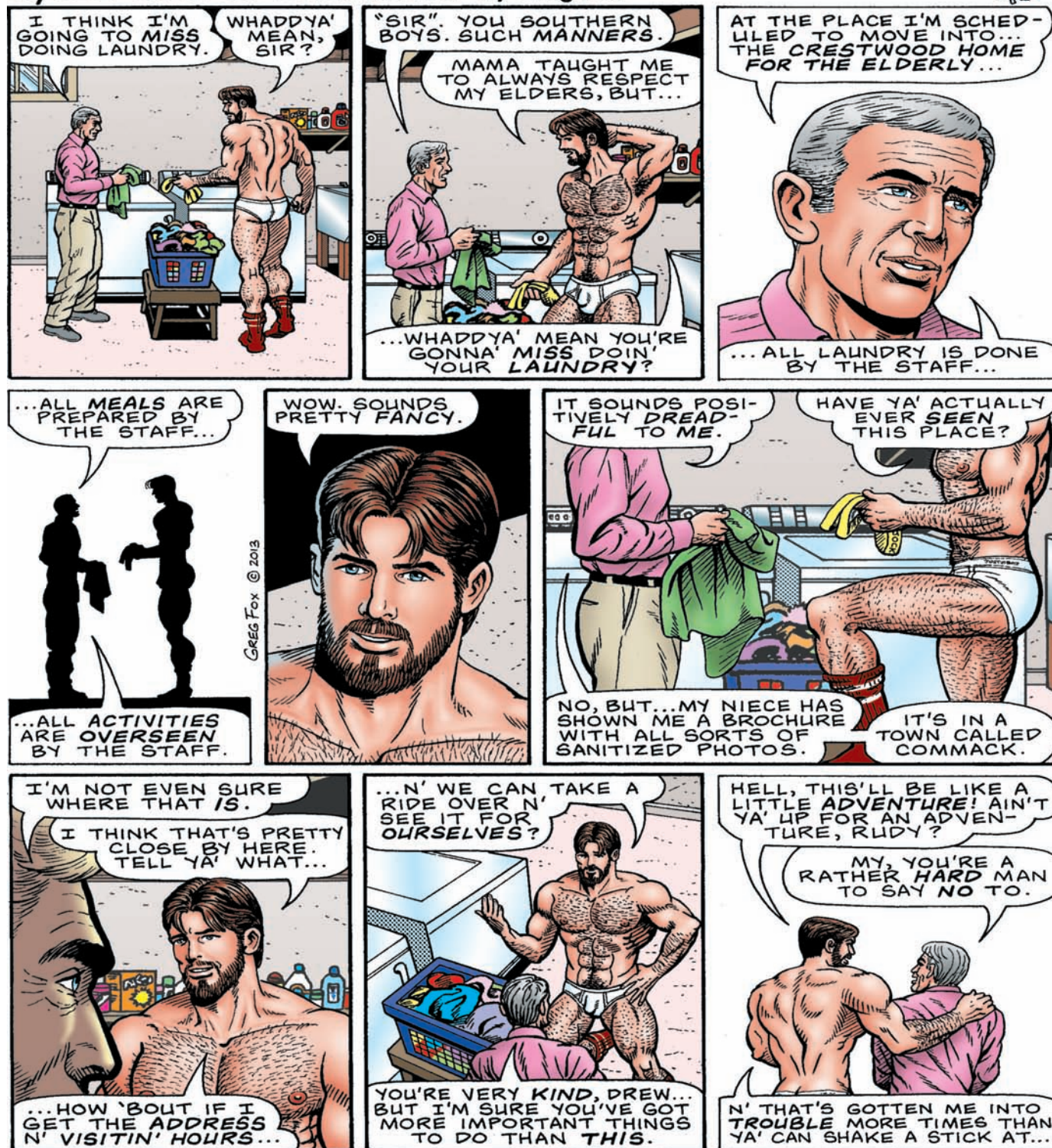
You can't account for the way others seem to over react to everything you do, or figure out why so-and-so can't be receptive to your overtures. It feels more like someone needs to maintain the boundary that keeps their identity intact.

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 21—Dec 20

The need to make room for others' idiosyncrasies is always the issue; you're just about to lose it as far as that goes. In the next few weeks the pressure to be OK with just about anything will see you calling on your sense of humor more than once.

## KYLE'S BED &amp; BREAKFAST by Greg Fox

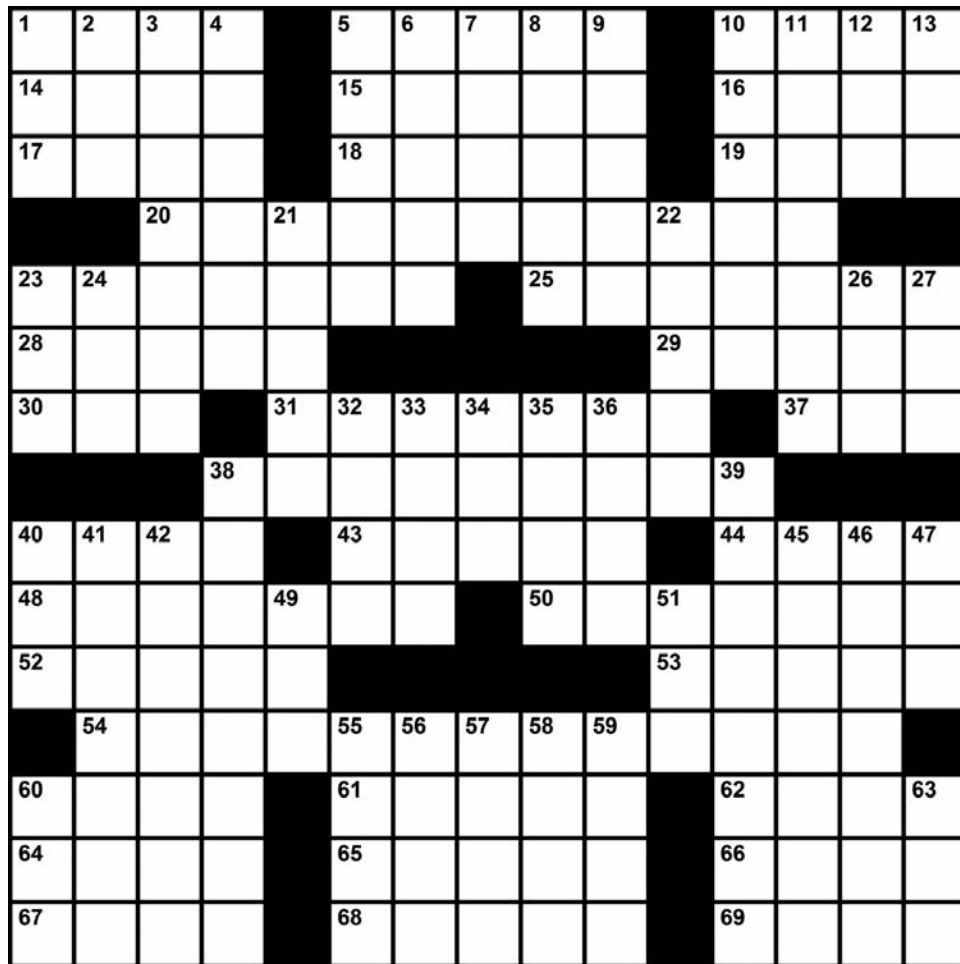
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# Coming Out, of Sorts

Solution on page 29

**Across**

- 1 Ron Howard film with Ellen DeGeneres
- 5 Pie fight sound
- 10 Little fairies
- 14 Petty of *A League of Their Own*
- 15 Taking it lying down
- 16 He cruised for 40 days straight
- 17 Electronic synthesizer
- 18 Roundup rope
- 19 Two tablets, maybe
- 20 Golden Globes honoree
- 23 Pirates
- 25 Lesbians in training, e.g.
- 28 Kofi of the UN
- 29 "C'est Moi," to King Arthur
- 30 Hosp. honchos
- 31 More like a metrosexual
- 37 Pink, for example statement by 20-Across
- 40 Baldwin's *The \_\_\_ Corner*
- 43 Fruit in "There Is Nothing Like a Dame"
- 44 What Sam twitched on *Bewitched*
- 48 Knot type
- 50 In general
- 52 Pears, to Britten
- 53 Stop on the road

- 54 With 68-Across, honor won by 20-Across
- 60 Brazilian soccer great
- 61 Shelley Duvall role in *Popeye*
- 62 Puckered pair
- 64 At once, to queens of old
- 65 Carpenter's tool
- 66 Villain's work
- 67 Cried a river
- 68 See 54-Across
- 69 Say "She's just a friend" to a jealous lover, e.g.

**Down**

- 1 It spreads its limbs
- 2 Toon canine Scooby-\_\_\_
- 3 Protection for tight ends at Southern Cal?
- 4 Abe of *Barney Miller*
- 5 Shoot, off a larger branch
- 6 Sticks one's nose into things
- 7 Shaped meat dish
- 8 Playwright Chekhov
- 9 Give a hard time to
- 10 Behind with the bucks
- 11 Like Shakespeare's Othello
- 12 Swan Lake step
- 13 Cho's *Pink as the Day \_\_\_ Was Born*
- 21 Journalist Minkowitz
- 22 Work the baton
- 23 America's Uncle
- 24 Drop the curtain on
- 26 Meat source Down Under
- 27 Cole Porter's \_\_\_ *America First*
- 32 BB's, e.g.
- 33 Peter I, for one
- 34 Sardine container
- 35 *Cunt* author Muscio
- 36 The I's have 'em
- 38 Still changing, perhaps
- 39 On the roster
- 40 Punching tool
- 41 Geological epoch when mastodons appeared
- 42 Completely surround
- 45 Emulate "I Will Survive" singer Gaynor?
- 46 Catch some extra Z's
- 47 Phallic fish
- 49 Lanka head
- 51 Mate in Montreal
- 55 Marlene's role in *Blue Angel*
- 56 Pleasured orally
- 57 Opera figure
- 58 At any point
- 59 Longtime lesbian couples often do this
- 60 Fondle clumsily
- 63 Crazy like a fox



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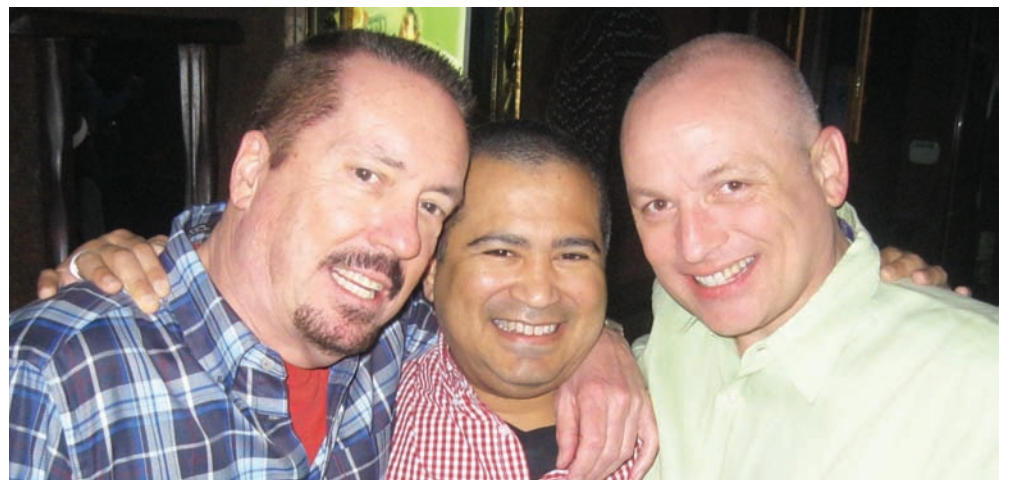
Dancers at the Tin Room.

The **Round-Up Saloon** presents **Homo Rodeo** on Jan. 26 to meet and greet the men of the rodeo. On Jan. 29, the Round-Up's friend **Lady Gaga** performs at the **American Airlines Center**. Will she make her usual Dallas appearance at the club? ... Celebrate **GagaRama** and all things Gaga at the **Monster Party** at **S4** on Jan. 28 and 29 with cast shows in the **Rose Room**. ... **BJ's NXS** holds **Aquarius Party** on Jan. 25. ... A new, weekly all-male review contest with \$100 grand prize and \$25 for the first five to sign up each Thursday begins Jan. 31 at **The Brick**. ... **Leather Knights'** 20th anniversary celebration takes place at **Dallas Eagle** on Jan. 26. **Donna Dumae** does the Leather Knights 10 better with her **30th anniversary party** the same night. **DFW Pups** holds a meet and greet that night as well. On Jan. 27, **Messy Panocha** hosts a **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** show. ... **Sue Ellen's** begins its weekend of entertainment on Jan. 25 with **God Des and She** who've appeared on **The L Word** and **Logo**. **Ray Primm** opens for **Trace Medlock Band** on Jan. 26. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** close out the weekend of music. ... Thinking of playing volleyball this spring? **DIVA's** draft party takes place at **Woody's Sports and Video Bar** on Jan. 27. ... **Carlos Saenz** performs at **Alexandre's** on Jan. 25, **Bad Habits** on Jan. 26. Midweek music is by **Anton Shaw** on Jan. 30 and **Gary Floyd** and **Denise Lee** on Jan. 31, in case you missed her performance at the **Winspear Opera House** last week. ... The new gay club **Eden Lounge** celebrates its grand opening Saturday at its Deep Ellum location. ■

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



Girlfriends at Sue Ellen's.



Friends at Club Reflection.







Girls' night out at The Grapevine.



Cassie Nova and Jenna Skyy hosting at the Her HRC event at Sue Ellen's.



Kevin and Chris at 1851 Club.



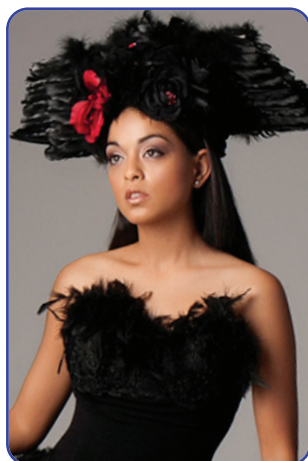
Sarah and Eric at Station 4.



Omar at T.J. and TMC: The Mining Company.



Gina and Angel at Eden Lounge.



**FINAL WEEK!!**

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