

Lily Tomlin: Timeless laughter

From Edith Ann to Ernestine, her character-driven humor endures
Queer icon prepares for one-night-only performance in Dallas

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unplanned parenthood

As she fights for the right to see her ex-partner's son, Laura Cooper says she wants to warn other same-sex parents to protect themselves legally

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Cover photo by David Taffet

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Komen CEO Nancy Brinker hosts fundraiser for LGBT legal group

Since announcing she was leaving her post as CEO, Susan G. Komen Foundation founder Nancy Brinker has been spending some of her time on other causes such as gay rights.

According to the Washington Post, Brinker hosted a reception for Lambda Legal at her home in Georgetown with her son Eric, 37, who is gay.

"Having the most supportive mom in the world, I didn't have to twist her arm very hard to get her involved," Eric Brinker said.



Nancy Brinker

And until the Planned Parenthood controversy last year, supporting the LGBT community was apparent in Komen's distribution of funds. When Resource Center Dallas expanded its health programming beyond AIDS and created a women's health program, Komen provided

the first grant — which was also the Dallas-based foundation's first grant to an LGBT organization.

Between 2007 and 2011, Komen funded 30 lesbian breast-health projects around the country.

But after the Komen Foundation cut off grants to Planned Parenthood for breast cancer screenings, there was alarm in the lesbian community. Evidence suggests lesbians are more prone to breast cancer than heterosexual women and many lesbians get their health care through Planned Parenthood, which provides gynecological services to women without insurance.

The cuts to Planned Parenthood came after Brinker hired Karen Handel as senior vice president for public policy. Handel ran for governor of Georgia on a right-wing and homophobic platform. So the fear was Komen would target all lesbian health programs next.

But her son, speaking publicly of being gay for the first time, told the Washington Post that his mother had always been supportive of him.

— David Taffet

2 teens sentenced to probation in Arlington anti-gay graffiti case

Two teens were sentenced in Fort Worth on Friday, Jan. 25 for their involvement in an Arlington



SEXY BEASTS | Lady Gaga fans flash their 'monster claws' at the Born This Way Ball at the American Airlines Center on Tuesday, Jan. 29. For more photos from the concert, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

graffiti spree in June that included anti-gay slurs spray-painted on a lesbian couple's SUV.

Morgen Rae Aubuchon, 18, and Seth Stephen Hatcher, 19, pleaded guilty to the state jail felony charge causing \$1,500 to \$20,000 in damage and were sentenced to three years deferred adjudication with 120 hours of community service at Samaritan House, AIDS Outreach Center or another organization approved by the court.

They must complete a minimum of 20 hours of community service a month. They are also jointly responsible for \$6,441 in restitution to the owners of the damaged property.

David Mack Henderson, Fairness Fort Worth treasurer who attended the sentencing, said 371th District Court Judge Mollee Westfall informed the teens that if they violate their probation, they face six months to two years in jail.

If the teens complete their probation without any violations, they won't have a conviction on their

records, but an arrest record will remain unless expunged.

The graffiti incidents were combined last year to obtain a higher charge, which ruled out a possible hate crime enhancement for the lesbian couple's property because the bias didn't apply to all of the damaged property.

The first teen sentenced in November was a 16-year-old who was the first to turn herself in and cooperated with Arlington police. She was sentenced to a year of probation in juvenile court, along with 50 hours of community service that must be completed at either Samaritan House or AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth.

The remaining two teens, Daniel Sibley, 18, and John Austin Cartwright, 18, have court dates set for Feb. 20. Part of Aubuchon and Hatcher's plea deals included testifying against Sibley and Cartwright if their cases go to trial.

— Anna Waugh

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Unplanned parenthood

As she fights for the right to see her ex-partner's son, Laura Cooper says she wants to warn other same-sex parents to protect themselves legally

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Less than a year after Laura Cooper's partner had a baby, their relationship ended. Because Cooper isn't the biological mother and there were no legal agreements in place, she's now fighting in court for visitation rights.

Last week, a Dallas County district court judge ruled that Cooper has standing in court to seek visitation and ordered the couple into counseling. The judge wants to see whether the two women can agree to a visitation schedule.

An attorney for Cooper's ex plans to appeal the judge's finding that Cooper has standing.

But Cooper said that regardless of how the case turns out, she wants to warn others in the LGBT community so they don't end up in a similar situation.

Same-sex couples who decide to have children together should take certain steps to ensure the rights of both the biological and non-biological parent before the child is born. Cooper said she expected to begin adoption proceedings after the child was born but didn't think about establishing her standing prior to the pregnancy.

"You never think it will happen to you," she said. "By not taking care of your 'modern family,' the rejected co-parent has to recreate history and demonstrate the biological parent's intent to have a family together, something the biological parent will be denying."

Cooper and her partner had been in a relationship for seven years. They decided to have a child and agreed her partner should carry the baby, she said. Their son was born in June 2011, but they broke up less than a year later.

Cooper and her partner had no paperwork in place naming her as a co-parent when the child was born. After his birth, she said her partner was reluctant to complete a second-parent adoption.

Amy Davis, an attorney representing Cooper's ex, agreed that no paperwork was in place but disputed other aspects of Cooper's story. Davis said Cooper knew that she would need legal agreements to protect herself but opted not to sign them because she didn't want the responsibility of a child.

"Laura's claim to be a victim of ignorance is untrue and evidence that her so-called crusade has nothing to do with the baby boy she has put in



EMPTY FEELING | Laura Cooper, shown in Lake Cliff Park near her Dallas home, had no legal paperwork in place naming her as a co-parent when the child was born to her ex-partner in June 2011. They broke up less than a year later, and Cooper has not seen the boy since. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

harm's way by her lawsuit," Davis said in a statement. "Laura is using this publicity and self-created martyrdom to conceal the truth — she wanted little to do with this baby until she saw him as a way to hurt and threaten my client as their relationship was ending. She's brought the custody lawsuit for the same reason."

At Davis' request, her client's name is being withheld to protect her privacy and that of the child.

Since the breakup, Cooper said she has spent more than \$50,000 in legal fees and hasn't seen the child since July.

Legal experts say adoption is the best option for non-biological parents seeking to protect their re-

lationship with a child. But a joint managing conservatorship also establishes a strong legal relationship.

If they have neither, non-biological parents must show "care, custody and control" of a child for more than six months to establish standing, according to Texas law.

Ken Upton, a supervising senior staff attorney in the Dallas office of Lambda Legal, said there's always a strong push to resolve custody cases by mutual agreement.

"But sometimes the animosity is so overwhelming, they can't act in the child's best interest," Upton said.

What constitutes legal parentage varies from

state to state, he said. In states with marriage equality and civil unions, both spouses are typically recognized.

In Texas, some judges will perform second-parent adoptions for same-sex couples.

The practice began with one judge in San Antonio but has become common in places like Dallas, Houston and Austin.

Despite Texas' ban on same-sex marriage and an attorney general who has interfered in family courts, Upton said, many family court judges understand that families come in all shapes and sizes.

"Even in the worst states, judges are starting to do the right thing," Upton said.

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■ death

John Edwin Cook Jr. passed away in his sleep at home Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, after a 31-year battle with HIV/AIDS. John was born in Philadelphia on Dec. 7, 1961, to John Edwin Cook Sr. and Margaret Martin. He grew up in Baltimore, Md. and Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In 1980, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and completed basic training in Paris Island, S.C., where he was selected for training in the Presidential Guard Unit. He served Presidents Carter, Reagan and Vice President George H. W. Bush. He especially loved duty at Camp David with President Reagan and Vice President Bush. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1985 with the rank of corporal.

In 1981, he married Cheryl Jill Obstfelder and they had a son, John Sansbury Cook II, in 1984. They divorced later that year.

On Nov. 12, 1988, John met Arthur Crunden in Wilmington, N.C. They had an immediate connection. Beginning in 1990, John attended Cape Fear Community College and the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He studied mathematics education with the dream of being a teacher, but he became ill before he could finish his studies. In Wilmington, John worked with The Opera House Theater Company and had small parts in several movies, including *Exorcist III*.

John and Arthur moved to the Dallas area in February 1994 and were joined together in a civil union ceremony on Aug. 3, 1996, at the Cathedral of Hope. They later married on May 16, 2010, in Kent, Conn.

John contracted HIV from a blood transfusion he received after injuring a knee on a USMC training mission with the ROK (Republic of Korea) Marines along the DMZ in South Korea in 1982. After failing



to recover from a minor infection in 1984, John discovered he was HIV-positive. He was told he had six months to live. He began his battle with the AIDS virus in 1990, and in 1996, was diagnosed with PML and again was told he had six months to live.

Many of the drugs now used to treat HIV/AIDS were tested on John. Because he lived so long with the virus, doctors and researchers were able to gain new insights into the disease's progression by studying John's case.

John was a member of the Cathedral of Hope, then White Rock Community Church and finally First Community Church of Dallas. He volunteered at White Rock Friends for many years, serving Tuesdays and some Saturdays, as well as being a member of Positive Voices. John loved animals and provided a happy home to many over the years. John also enjoyed arts and crafts. He made quilts for his doctors and many of his family and friends.

John was looking forward to marriage equality and a cure for HIV/AIDS. John's family expresses their sincere appreciation to the doctors, nurses and other caregivers that supported John all these years, especially the Dallas Veteran Administration Hospital, Infectious Disease Department and Jackie Rohrick.

A memorial service celebrating the life of John Edwin Cook Jr. will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, at 1 p.m. at First Community Church of Dallas, 9120 Ferguson Road. In honor of John's part in the search for the cure for HIV/AIDS, his family would appreciate your support of Bryan's House John E. Cook Memorial in lieu of flowers. ■

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POPCORN COLONEL MAY BE RECOMMISSIONED | Jon Langbert and son Carter left the Boy Scouts after dad was removed as popcorn colonel of their University Park troop for being gay in 2010. Langbert says if the Boy Scouts allow local troops to welcome gays, he and Carter may join again.

LGBT advocates say Boy Scouts' proposal doesn't go far enough

2 troop leaders from Dallas suggest they'd welcome gays if organization lifts national ban, but many others likely would continue to discriminate

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

IRVING — Jon Langbert and his son Carter left the Boy Scouts in 2010 because of the organization's ban on gays.

But now that the Scouts may remove the ban on gay Scouts and leaders and leave the decision up to local troops, Langbert said his son has a renewed interest in Scouting.

Langbert was asked to step down as popcorn colonel for his son's University Park Cub Scout troop because he's gay. He said his son wanted to leave the Scouts because Langbert couldn't be more involved. His son now attends St. Mark's School in Dallas and has expressed interest in joining that school's chartered troop if the policy changes and if the troop will welcome his dad.

"That would be great," Langbert said. "We en-

joyed it before."

However, Langbert said the proposed change to allow local troops to decide whether to admit gays has its shortcomings because discrimination will still occur and could still prevent him from being a leader again. Langbert said he would've liked the national organization to propose changing the policy to be inclusive instead of placing the decision with local troops.

"I don't know that [the BSA] have thought this through," he said. "Now instead of having a national office set the policy, each troop will have their own debate. ... I'm not sure all the volunteers are up for it."

The organization's National Executive Board could decide at its meeting Wednesday, Feb. 6, to remove the gay ban and place the decision on accepting gays with local troops.

"The Boy Scouts would not, under any circumstances, dictate a position to units, members or parents," spokesman Deron Smith said. "Under this proposed policy, the BSA would not require any chartered organization to act in ways inconsistent with that organization's mission, principles

■ **SCOUTS**, Next Page

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■ **texasnews**

■ **SCOUTS**, From Previous Page

or religious beliefs."

LGBT advocates praised the discussion about changing the policy this week, while noting that even if the policy no longer mandates discrimination, it still grants troops the choice to exclude gay Scouts and leaders.

Marlin Earl Bynum, a local gay schoolteacher who's been active in protesting the Boy Scouts ban on gays, said the change would be "a move forward, but it's not far enough."

Bynum said he would like to see the national board prohibit discrimination at all levels because placing the decision with troops would continue to cause harm at a local level.

"As long as there's discrimination, it tells gay men that they're still second class," Bynum said.

The discussion to change the policy comes months after BSA reaffirmed the ban following a two-year study. In July, Smith told Dallas Voice that the organization "has no plans to change its membership policy."

When asked about the decision to consider changing the policy in light of the study last year, Smith said the "decision to discuss the policy is a result of a longstanding dialogue within the Scouting family."

"Last year Scouting realized the policy caused some volunteers and chartered organizations which oversee and deliver the program, to act in conflict with their missions, principles or religious beliefs," Smith said. "It's important to note this policy would not require any chartered organization to act in ways inconsistent with that organization's mission, principles, or religious beliefs."

The study findings were released a day before ousted Ohio Den Mother Jennifer Tyrrell visited the Irving headquarters to deliver a petition with more than 330,000 signatures requesting the ban be ended. Tyrrell was removed from her position with her son's Cub Scout troop in April because she's a lesbian.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation teamed up with Tyrrell to protest the ban. And Eagle Scout Zach Wahls, who founded Scouts for Equality and was raised by two moms, also joined the fight. Wahls began targeting major donors to the Boy Scouts last year, resulting in UPS, Intel and Merck pulling their funding be-

Scouts seek input on changes

BSA is seeking the public's input on the policy change. To voice an opinion, call the National Service Desk at 972-580-2330 or email nationalsupportcenter@scouting.org.

cause of the discriminatory policy. More companies have reportedly threatened to pull their funding if the policy isn't changed.

Both GLAAD and Wahls praised the Boy Scouts for their discussion on inclusion and urged them to remove the ban.

"The Boy Scouts of America have heard from Scouts, corporations and millions of Americans that discriminating against gay Scouts and Scout leaders is wrong," GLAAD President Herndon Graddick said. "Scouting is a valuable institution and this change will only strengthen its core principles of fairness and respect."

Wahls called the move "an incredible step forward in the right direction."

"We look forward to working with BSA Councils and chartering organizations across the country to end the exclusion of our gay brothers in Scouting, as well as the gay and lesbian leaders who serve the organizations so well," he said.

With 69 percent of the nation's troops chartered by religious groups — largely by Mormons, Catholics and Southern Baptists — it's unclear how many troops would adopt inclusive policies.

Pat Currie, Scout executive at the Dallas-based Circle Ten Council, said the number of the council's roughly 1,350 troops that are chartered by faith-based organizations is close to the national number, ranging from about 60 to 65 percent. The council spans 12 counties and has more than 54,000 members and 16,000 adult volunteers, he said.

Currie declined to give his opinion on the policy change because it hasn't been made official yet.

"This is an ongoing national discussion and right now there's been no decision. Until there's been a decision, I don't think it'd be appropriate for me to comment," Currie said.

However, he said that in the three years he's been with the council, there hasn't been any troop opposition to the national ban.



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DEN MOM DELIVERED | Ousted lesbian den mother Jennifer Tyrrell visited the Boy Scouts' Irving headquarters in July to deliver a petition with more than 330,000 signatures. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

"Sexual orientation has no place in scouting, period," Currie said. "That's a discussion that's appropriate for parents and spiritual leaders."

But two local troops have already pledged to welcome gay scouts and leaders if the policy is changed.

Sam Noble, assistant Scout Master for the troop affiliated with Dallas' Temple Emanu-El's Brotherhood, said a disclaimer for the troop is always posted below Boy Scouts communications because the Reform Jewish synagogue doesn't discriminate based on sexual orientation. As a troop chartered by them, Noble said the affiliation mandates that they also not discriminate despite the national policy.

"For us, this is a very good move to national," Noble said. "This will help our troop."

Nobel said that while the troop's accepting policy hasn't received any backlash from national, he hopes that the change is approved by the board so the troop can be more vocal about its inclusive policy.

Ben Burns, Scout Master for a special needs troop chartered by Dallas' Notre Dame School, said the troop has a gay father who's already involved with the troop but the current ban on gay leaders prevents him from being more involved.

"If this passes, we'll probably make him a leader. He just can't be an official leader right

now," Burns said. "As for gay members, if there was a gay special needs member, I would let him in. I wouldn't discriminate against him."

He said the change would help welcome even more Scouts into the organization and be more inclusive of all families whose members would like to participate.

"I think anytime you include anybody it's a positive thing," Burns said.

Although the troop leader would be able to decide who is allowed, Burns said the chartered organization would overrule the decision if its leadership agreed with the ban. He said he didn't expect a negative response from the Notre Dame School because they welcome everyone.

"If they don't like the leader, they can get rid of him," he said of charter organizations. "They control the leaders."

Cathedral of Hope would consider chartering a troop if the ban is reversed. The Rev. Dawson Taylor, executive minister at CoH and an Eagle Scout, said many in the overwhelmingly LGBT congregation know the value of Scouting and have been proponents of the discrimination ending. He said the church would discuss chartering a troop in order to open it up to the inclusion of everyone.

"We would not only celebrate that [end], but encourage participation," he said. ■



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OUT IN COWTOWN | Openly gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns files paperwork on Wednesday to seek re-election to a third full two-year term representing District 9.

Gay municipal candidates file in Dallas, Fort Worth

FROM STAFF REPORTS
editor@dallasvoice.com

Openly gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns filed for re-election to a third full two-year term this week.

Meanwhile, a gay candidate in Dallas formally launched his bid to give Big D its first openly LGBT councilmember in six years, as candidate filing began in May 11 municipal elections.

Herschel Weisfeld, a gay Dallas real estate developer, filed to run for the District 2 seat being vacated by Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano, an LGBT ally who is term limited. Medrano's nephew, Adam Medrano, is expected to run in District 2 against Weisfeld but had not filed as of press time. Medrano resigned from his city job last month, a requirement to run for council. He could not be reached for comment.

Burns, who was first elected in 2007 to complete the remainder of Wendy Davis' term in District 9, is one of only three openly LGBT city council members in Texas, along with Michael Laster in Houston and Scott Sherman in Pearland.

Burns will again enjoy the backing of the Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a PAC that backs LGBT candidates nationwide. Weisfeld said he'll also seek the Victory Fund's endorsement.

Victory Fund spokesman Denis Dison said many of the group's endorsements this year

would be in municipal races, which he called important.

"People feel government most acutely on a local basis," Dison said. "Having representation at that level shows the LGBT community they have a voice in those things."

Dison cited Houston's Mayor Annise Parker as an example of a success story.

"Houston is topping all sorts of rankings," he said. "It's a success story being led by an out lesbian."

Weisfeld noted Dallas is the ninth-largest city in the nation and said while the city has LGBT allies on the council, "There's nothing like having one of our own at the table."

Dallas has not had a gay council member since Ed Oakley stepped down to run for mayor in 2007.

"I think it's imperative," Weisfeld said. "I think we should have a LGBT representative sitting in one of those 15 seats."

Weisfeld, who is also Jewish and bilingual, said having someone who is open and honest about their sexual orientation is also important because it's a small part of who he is and what he would bring to the council, as well as active involvement in the LGBT community.

"I'm not embarrassed nor am I afraid to be honest about who I am," Weisfeld said. "My qualifications speak highly of my ability."

In another heavily LGBT district, seven candi-

dates have filed to run to replace Councilwoman Angela Hunt, an LGBT ally who is also term limited.

Hunt has endorsed Philip T. Kingston. Other candidates include Jim Rogers, who began a campaign for the seat in 2011 but withdrew from the race when Hunt decided to run for a fourth term. As of the first campaign finance filing, District 14 candidate Bobby Abtahi raised \$60,000, more than any other council candidate in any race. Abtahi said he expected quite a few candidates to enter this race and got a jump in fundraising to stand out from the crowd. Also running in District 14 are David Blewett, Kevin Curley, Charles Kobdich and Judith Liimatainen.

In District 1, two LGBT allies and council incumbents have been placed in the same North Oak Cliff district. Councilwoman Delia Jasso created the city's LGBT Task Force in 2009, while Councilman Scott Griggs is the author of planned resolutions in support of marriage equality and a statewide ban on anti-LGBT job discrimination.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Omar Narvaez said his organization will endorse in City Council races again this year even though the races are nonpartisan. Screenings take place on March 9 and endorsements will be ratified on

March 19.

Narvaez said Stonewall's bylaws do not allow the group to endorse a Republican so they will check primary voting records for affiliation.

"It would be nice to have an open member of the community returned to City Council," Narvaez said, "but we need qualified people on the council, and that's not the only qualification."

Narvaez said Stonewall will probably only endorse in Districts 1, 2 and 14. Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance will screen candidates separately and endorse in races throughout the city.

In Cowtown, Burns said he hasn't heard of anyone planning to run against him, but he's prepared for challengers. He ran unopposed for re-election in 2009 and 2011.

The only other known openly LGBT candidate in North Texas thus far is Fort Worth school board First Vice President Carlos Vasquez, who'll be seeking re-election to his seat. Vasquez became the secondly openly gay elected official in Fort Worth when he unseated an incumbent in 2008 to win the North Fort Worth District 1 seat. Vasquez said he hopes he won't have an opponent but that drawing a challenger is always likely.

Candidate filing in municipal elections continues through March 1. ■

■ UNPLANNED, From Page 6

But problems still arise for non-biological parents when rulings are appealed to higher courts.

"Appellate judges go by hard and fast rules," he said.

Those rules favor biological parents, heterosexual couples and laws that don't recognize same-sex relationships.

Cooper's attorneys, Chuck and Julie Quaid, said non-biological parents are always more vulnerable, especially in same-sex relationships. They recommend getting legal papers in place, beginning before a child is conceived. While custody cases between straight couples revolve around visitation rights and child support, cases between same-sex couples begin with the question of whether the non-biological parent has standing in court.

Since Texas has no relationship recognition for same-sex couples, they should establish their relationship with papers such as medical powers of attorney, wills and other documents to show intent that they are a couple. Joint leases, mortgages and bank accounts also help establish that relationship.

Cooper even suggested going to another state to get married.

While the marriage won't be recognized in Texas, most fair-minded family court judges will look at a marriage document from another state as proof of intent to form a family.

Cooper, a psychologist, also suggested couples undergo premarital and childrearing counseling. She said to use the time to divide responsibilities and discuss hopes and expectations. She suggested writing up a family plan that can be taken to an attorney to formalize into a legal document.

Should there be a split, the family plan can be

used to help a judge or mediator work out a settlement, according to Cooper's attorneys.

"The message for the community is even though Texas doesn't allow the gay community to get married, there are ways to protect yourself," Chuck Quaid said.

The best way is to begin adoption proceedings soon after birth.

In the interim, an attorney can prepare a joint managing conservatorship.

"If something happens, it gives the non-bio mom standing to go in," Julie Quaid said.

She said in this case she had to prove Cooper had reason to be awarded any visitation.

Cooper presented a copy of the birth announcement. Both names were on it presenting themselves as co-parents.

"You have to prove personal interest," Chuck Quaid said, adding that a non-biological parent needs to file for visitation within 90 days.

The Quaid's said that in addition to an out-of-state marriage certificate showing intent to form a family, contractual wills for monetary care and powers of attorney are papers an attorney can draw up. Life insurance and joint accounts with rights of survivorship also show a judge that the couple was caring for each other and planned to jointly take care of the child.

The Quaid's said while Dallas family courts — and even those in surrounding counties — recognize that families aren't what they used to be, custody cases between same-sex parents are still handled differently.

"The issue shouldn't have been: Is she a parent?" Chuck Quaid said. "The issue should have been: Was she as good a parent?"

"No one wants to think about their relationship breaking up," he added. "But if you're a gay couple, the law's not going to help you." ■



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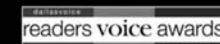
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viewpoints

'The culture wars are over'

Declaration from ex-Romney adviser is quickly bolstered by Boy Scouts announcement, news that even Chick-fil-A is moving toward equality

Responding to the Boy Scouts of America's plan to ditch their ban on gay Scouts, Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, said, "A departure from their long-held policies would be devastating to an organization that has prided itself on the development of character in boys."

The problem that Perkins and other culture warriors are encountering is that each day fewer people believe their hyperbolic and hyperventilating warnings about LGBT people. The terrifying "Gay Agenda" and "Special Rights" rhetoric worked well in the 1980s and 1990s when homosexuals were thought of as a far-off species that only existed in San Francisco's Gay Pride parades. It was easy to spook the suburban masses by exploiting fear of the unknown.

However, now that gay people are coming out quicker than Perkins can invent new lies — and straight allies are joining our cause faster than new homophobes are minted, the outcome appears to be a foregone conclusion. The only rationale for Perkins and his ilk to continue their losing crusade is to suck every last cent out of their aging, gullible followers' pockets before they expire.

The Boy Scouts story was featured in Tuesday's New York Times on page A-13. However, all one had to do to understand the reason for their policy shift is read the story on page A-12, "Sewers, Curfews, and a Ban on Gay Bias." It is about Vicco, a poor, abandoned Appalachian coal town in Kentucky, which has a gay mayor and a City Council that just passed an anti-discrimination ordinance.

Similarly, a bill that would give same-sex couples the majority of the legal rights afforded heterosexual couples cleared a Wyoming House subcommittee by a 7-2 vote and was headed to consideration in the full House. According to the Los Angeles Times, the bill's sponsor is state Rep. Cathy Connolly of Laramie, the first openly gay representative in Wyoming.

If Perkins' prejudice isn't playing in rural Kentucky and Wyoming, it soon won't be resonating in too many places.

Sensing this trend, Dave Kochel, an Iowa Republican operative who served as senior adviser to Mitt Romney, declared this week on a local television show his support for marriage equality and said, "The culture wars are over, and the Republicans largely lost."



WHOLE NEW BALLGAME | Shane Windmeyer, left, executive director of the LGBT group Campus Pride, is shown with Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy at the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

If FRC's Perkins wasn't already feeling besieged and beleaguered, Chick-fil-A CEO, Dan Cathy, has struck up an on-going dialogue with Shane Windmeyer, the executive director of the LGBT group Campus Pride. Cathy invited the gay advocate to sit with him at the Chick-fil-A Bowl, and the company's latest 990 tax forms show that they have stopped funding the most venomously anti-gay organizations. While the fast food chain is still far from perfect and funds questionable groups, one must remember that it is the religious right's Alamo — the last company to stubbornly dig in and hold firm against society's changing attitude's toward LGBT people.

Thus, it can't be encouraging to Perkins that a gay activist, and not he, is sitting in a luxury skybox with Cathy at the 50-yard line.

Lately, even when the news is bad, it's good. For example, former San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders offensive lineman, Kwame Harris, was arrested this week and faces felony charges for beating his boyfriend in a parking lot. While Harris won't win a role model award, his "outing" helps break another stereotype and, once again, shows that gay

athletes are an integral part of the sports world. Speaking of which, Baltimore Ravens linebacker Brendon Ayanbadejo is using his Super Bowl appearance to promote the cause of marriage equality and anti-bullying. He sent an email to same-sex marriage advocates Brian Ellner and Michael Skolnik asking, "Is there anything I can do for marriage equality or anti-bullying over the next couple of weeks to harness this Super Bowl media?"

In the same vein, Kenneth Faried, who plays for the NBA's Denver Nuggets, appeared in a video supporting the state's bid for civil unions

where he said, "No one can tell me I can't have two mothers, because I really do."

The final nail in the anti-gay movement's coffin will be complete abandonment by the business community, because that is where the money is — and money drives politics in today's America. This week, the Human Rights Campaign formed a business coalition made up of Fortune 500 companies that support the end of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Corporations that are on-board include heavyweights such as Marriott, eBay, Reuters and Aetna.

There is still an unacceptable amount of discrimination and an enormous amount of work to do. But if I were Tony Perkins, I'd either spruce up my resume or find a new group to hate — because while the party isn't over, it's well past midnight for homophobia in America. ■

Wayne Besen is founding executive director of Truth Wins Out, a Vermont-based nonprofit organization that fights anti-gay religious extremism. He can be reached at WBesen@TruthWinsOut.org.



Wayne Besen
Contributing columnist

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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Joker's wild

Out comedy icon **Lily Tomlin** brings her classic collection of characters to the Winspear

Hey! It's Lilian Tomlinson!" is how I answer the phone when Lily Tomlin called for our interview, mimicking a line she made famous as Trudy the Bag Lady. "You must get that a lot," I add.

Tomlin chuckles; having her lines thrown back at her is one of the extreme joys of being one of America's best-loved comedienne for nearly half a century.

"It's great," she admits. "Not too long ago, a woman [saw me at a store] and shouted to me across the showroom, 'Thank you for years of merriment.'"

That's almost an understatement. Since jumping onto the national stage with *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In*, where her Ernestine the Telephone Operator and precocious Edith Ann became huge icons virtually overnight, Tomlin has stayed at the top of her game, winning Emmys, Tonys, a Peabody, a Grammy and an Oscar nom. She brings that comic genius to the Winspear Feb. 10 with *An Evening with Lily Tomlin*. So what exactly does that entail?

"The basic thrust is what it's always been: A lot of characters. But it's not a book-show," she says. "It's more free-form with interchanges with the audience. I also use video that is meant to be self-deprecating and tell you something about yourself. I'd like to have bungee jumpers appear while I do a costume change," but that's not likely to happen, she jokes.

Tomlin's humor has always been more character-driven than punchline-friendly. Even when she performs more traditional standup, it's as the *character* of Lily Tomlin.

"I like character-comedy better — it's more interesting and richer for me. Anyone who does classic standup becomes that persona — it's a little larger than life, even Joanie Rivers. When I started out, people who did characters usually did just *one* character: Hans Conreid, Dody Goodman — they had a persona. It would be as if I appeared as Ernestine all the time."

She actually *has* done that in the past. Famously, Tomlin showed up at the 1983 Emmy Awards in character as Ernestine in a Bob Mackie original, pretending as if *she*, not Tomlin, was the actual nominee.

"I stayed as Ernestine for five hours," she recalls. "The president of the Academy [then], Diana Muldaur, was sitting in front of me. I leaned forward to her and said" — and here Tomlin affects the pinched nasal whine of her most famous creation — "'Miss Muldaur, this is my first Emmys!' She said back, 'It may be your last.' But to me, that was half the fun of being famous: Giving my audience something they could enjoy. Not everyone got it."

One person who didn't "get" Tomlin was Michael Jackson. At Elizabeth Taylor's 65th birthday party, Tomlin performed in her character of sleazy lounge singer Tommy Velour (perhaps making Tomlin the first drag king). Jackson sat next to Taylor.

"Tommy sang directly to Elizabeth and you could see Michael looking like, 'Who is this guy?'" She laughs.

Tomlin is a font of many such great stories. It may come from

having had a hand in more comic moments from history than you might imagine. With her life partner, writer Jane Wagner, Tomlin was friends with late Texas Gov. Ann Richards; Wagner, in fact, wrote the icon's famous keynote address about George H.W. Bush being "born with a silver foot in his mouth."

"That was the one line [of Jane's] that Ann chose to use," she says. "There were other lines Jane wrote we thought were much better. But it was an explosion — right that night it was a huge thing." (An even better line Tomlin never got to use was when George W. Bush was elected president: "It was, 'The syntax of the father is visited on the son.' But it's too late now," she says.)

At her Winspear appearance, Tomlin will likely perform many of her classic characters, such as concerned housewife Judith Beasley and Madame Lupe. But Tomlin remains hard at work creating new characters as well: Lisa Kudrow's mother on the Internet series *Web Therapy* and Reba McEntire's pot-smoking ma on ABC's family hit *Malibu Country*. But she knows her fans still appreciate her long-standing creations.

"Part of my good fortune is, you'll never know where I turn up next. Touring is such a big part of my life and career it doesn't seem right *not* to do it. But another reason I've been so fortunate is, I created those entities and some of them just *stuck* — they caught on, probably because they are easy to imitate."

Maybe. But Lily Tomlin herself is simply inimitable. ■

LILY TOMLIN

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The adults get their day — not always in a good way — in 3 new shows

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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“Getting older isn’t for sissies,” Bette Davis famously opined, and that’s never been more evident on North Texas stages. Three new productions look at middle age — and old age — in ways that both delight and disturb.

Even though it’s been around for 45 years, Neil Simon’s **Plaza Suite**, now at Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, has a serious theme about aging that passed me by in my younger days. The three one-act plays, all set in the same New York hotel room, are characterized as comedies, but only in the last — a still-hilarious farce about a middle-aged couple trying to get their daughter out of the bathroom so she can get married downstairs before the crab cakes turn — do the laughs come without much pathos.

The first act (“Visitors from Mamaroneck”) deals with a married couple in their late 40s who have settled into such a bland suburban life, they don’t even seem to realize they haven’t been happy for years. The wife, Karen (Marcia Carroll, CTD’s go-to neurotic for sophisticated urban comedies), is trying to rediscover romance with her businessman hubby Sam (Dennis Millegan), but he’s too focused on making money and ogling his secretary. Nothing much gets resolved between them; we grow to dislike Sam, but, as in most relationships,

realize neither is blameless. It’s a well acted downer of a play, buoyed by Act 2 (“Visitor from Hollywood”), which parses celebrity culture in still-familiar ways, and of course Act 3 (“Visitors from Forest Hills”), where Sue Loncar and Tom Lenaghen get to simmer on a low heat and let the laughs come.

Director Cynthia Hestand has wisely kept the play set in the ‘60s, and also Noo Yawkered it with heavy accents that conjure the era — perhaps without many laughs at first, but surprising insights.

ON THE BOARDS

THE TALE OF THE ALLERGIST’S WIFE
at Theatre Arlington, 205 W. Main St.,
Arlington. Through Sunday.
TheatreArlington.org.

KING LEAR at the Wyly Theatre, 2400
Flora St. Through Feb. 17.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

PLAZA SUITE at Greenville Center
for the Arts, 5601 Sears St.
Through Feb. 10.
ContemporaryTheatreofDallas.com.

The laughs come more full-force with **The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife** at Theatre Arlington. One of playwright Charles Busch’s non-drag plays, it’s also among the smartest, most urbane comedies of the century so far. (*Plaza Suite* feels very dated; *Allergist*, now 13 years old, feels as if it was written last week.)

In an Upper West Side apartment, Marjorie (Cindee Mayfield) is having a nervous breakdown. She’s been a housewife her whole life and feels she

hasn’t accomplished much. Then she reconnects with a childhood friend, Lee (Brandi Andrade), who gives her a bolt of energy. Only is Lee real or just the middle-aged version of an imaginary friend?

Busch keeps the audience guessing with sharp turns and razor-witted dialogue, moving from comedy to mystery to sex-farce (*ménage-a-trois!* In Arlington!) with deftness. Director Andy Baldwin



NO SEX, PLEASE, WE’RE MID-CITIES | A menage-a-trois complicates life for an Upper West Side couple in ‘Tale of the Allergist’s Wife.’

has assembled an enviable cast, with Mayfield at her usual high level, Elias Taylorson spot-on as her nebbishy husband, Andrade a sexy tornado and 80-year-old Barbara Bierbrier a hoot as Marjorie’s foul-mouthed mother. Even TA stalwarts were agog at Bob Levallee’s gorgeous set, but in fact, everything about this production comes together. It’s another step along TA’s growth in high-quality theater — their best show yet.

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STARRING
RACHEL YORK

FEB 13-24
AT THE WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY
KATHLEEN MARSHALL

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The problems of aging go up a notch in *King Lear*, Dallas Theater Center's modern dress version of Shakespeare's grandest tragedy. An enfeebled king (Brian McEleney) decides to divide his realm between his three daughters, once they pay obeisance to him. Goneril (Christina Vela) and Regan (Angela Brazil) dutifully brown their noses, but Cordelia (Abbey Siegworth) refuses. She gets disowned, and Lear finds that being the *ex officio* comes with fewer perks than the chairmanship itself.

As a dissection of the terrors of aging, *King Lear* feels as relevant as, say the new film *Amour*. And DTC's updating of it (especially in Act 1; Act 2 begins to drag) resonates, and some of the moments — especially the blinding of Gloucester, made in some ways more horrific by casting the character as a woman — are brilliantly realized.

Yet the production never fully comes together. The costumes are a disaster — modern dress is fine, but for queens, why are Goneril and Regan clad in such dull cotton-poly blends and ugly shoes? At least the Borscht Belt comedian clothes on The Fool (Stephen Berenson, who plays the



SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH | DTC's Lear (Brian McEleney, pictured with Christina Vela) lacks a necessary power.

role like Nathan Lane) suit the character. The closing has such '80s-era let's-get-ready-to-rumble clothing it began to look like a *Planet of the Apes* sequel.

But McEleney's Lear is the major problem. The part is a challenging one for sure: It requires fire, strength, madness, frailty in turn. McEleney nails the frailty, but not the power. His voice, a high-pitched whistle, squeaks when it should shake you. (Most of the shaking is done by a chandelier, which made me think we were switching to *The Phantom of the Opera* at any moment.) Lear's tone rarely varies; with his squinty glare and perpetual falsetto, he seems more Mr. Magoo than His Royal Highness. He feels no more tragic than Mitt Romney ... and about as likeable. ■

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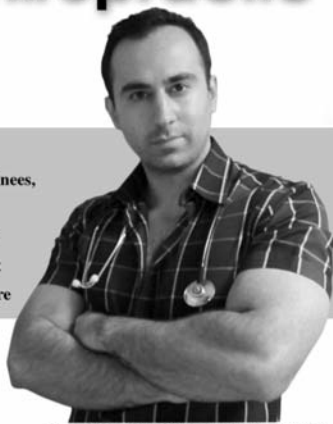
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L+S screen

Briefly said



Magnolia brings back Oscar-nominated live action and animated short films

Here is why we still need movie arthouses: So we can see the short subjects nominated for obscure Oscars and win the office pool. As always, Landmark's Magnolia runs the live action and animated shorts (starting this weekend), giving you a chance to see the usually unseen. (Oak Cliff's Texas Theatre will screen the documentary short subjects one-night-only, the day before the Oscars, on Feb. 23.)

Live action shorts have become the World Cinema awards of the Oscars, predominantly touching dramas in foreign languages with piano music gingerly tinkling over sad dough-eyed urchins. That's true again this year, though not exclusively — and most are at least good. Here's a preview, in descending order of likelihood of prevailing at the Oscars later this month.

Curfew (20 mins.; in English). A drug-addicted man interrupts his suicide attempt to babysit for his estranged niece at a bowling alley in this quirky and endearing comedy.

Death of a Shadow (20 mins.; in Dutch). In this *X-Files*-ish supernatural thriller, a photographer caught between worlds has the ability to shoot the echoes of past deaths, but his skill comes with a price.

Buzkashi Boys (30 mins.; in Dari). Two small boys eke out a meager existence on the streets of Kabul but dream of becoming competitive buzkashi riders one day.

Henry (21 mins.; in French). An elderly con-

cert pianist is abducted, only to be given the chance to relive great moments from his past.

Asad (16 mins.; in Somali). Little Asad, working in his Somali fishing village, longs for adventure. When he confesses he "doesn't like girls," it nearly gets him killed. Then pirates ... well, it's not the kind of adventure he was hoping for.

As with the animated features this year, the shorts are flush with stop-motion, plus some line animation from Disney to Evergreen Terrace. And in a slightly unusual development, none of the shorts is longer than 15 minutes.

Head over Heels (10 mins.). A stop-motion parable about couplehood as a husband and wife occupy the same house — he on the floor, she the ceiling — without communicating.

Fresh Guacamole (2 mins.). A chef cuts up unusual items from board games in his quest for the ideal guac recipe in this remarkable comedy.

Paperman (6 mins.). This charming black-and-white fantasy about a bureaucrat's awkward flirtation with a girl is classic Disney.

Maggie Simpson in The Longest Daycare (5 mins.). *The Simpsons* finally get an Oscar nod with baby Maggie becoming a butterfly's best friend at the Ayn Rand School for Tots.

Adam and Dog (15 mins.). Old-school anime (aside from the full-frontal male nudity) about a dog frolicking in the Garden of Eden with his new master.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

SHORT AND SWEET | In 'Curfew,' a suicidal man pauses mid-slash to act as a babysitter for his niece.

TASTING NOTES

Chefs **Matt McCallister** of FT33 and **Omar Flores** of Driftwood, who lead the kitchens at two of 2012's most acclaimed new eateries, will team up for a special surf 'n' turf dinner — or rather, dinners. Driftwood starts it on Feb. 4 with the surf portion; FT33 follows up on Feb. 25 with turf. Each dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., and will feature six courses for \$100, with an optional wine pairing for \$50 more. To RSVP, call each resto: for surf, 214-942-2530; for turf, 214-741-2629.

Uptown's destination for rabbit food, **Greenz Salads**, has a new owner in **Joel Stabile**, who has also renovated the look of the nine-year-old flagship location. Look for a review revisiting Greenz this month at DallasVoice.com.

Patton Robertson, the chef behind the creations at **Five Sixty by Wolfgang Puck** atop Reunion Tower, will be sharing the secrets of Asian cooking at the Central Market cooking school on Lovers Lane Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. On the menu: Chinese chicken salad, lobster-shrimp spring rolls, tandoori arctic char, and Five Sixty's signature crab cakes, pictured. The cost is \$60; RSVP at CentralMarket.com.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Saturday 02.02

Women's Chorus holds masquerade gala and casino night

Mardi Gras is just around the corner, so what better reason to get your beads out early than a masquerade party, courtesy of The Women's Chorus of Dallas? The annual fundraiser for the group is a masquerade party with a Fat Tuesday theme and includes food, beverages and entertainment in the admission price. Plus you can test your luck at the casino tables, or with the silent auction items or even the best costume contest.

DEETS: Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7 p.m. \$25 admission; casino buy-ins in \$25 increments. TWCD.org or 214-520-7828.

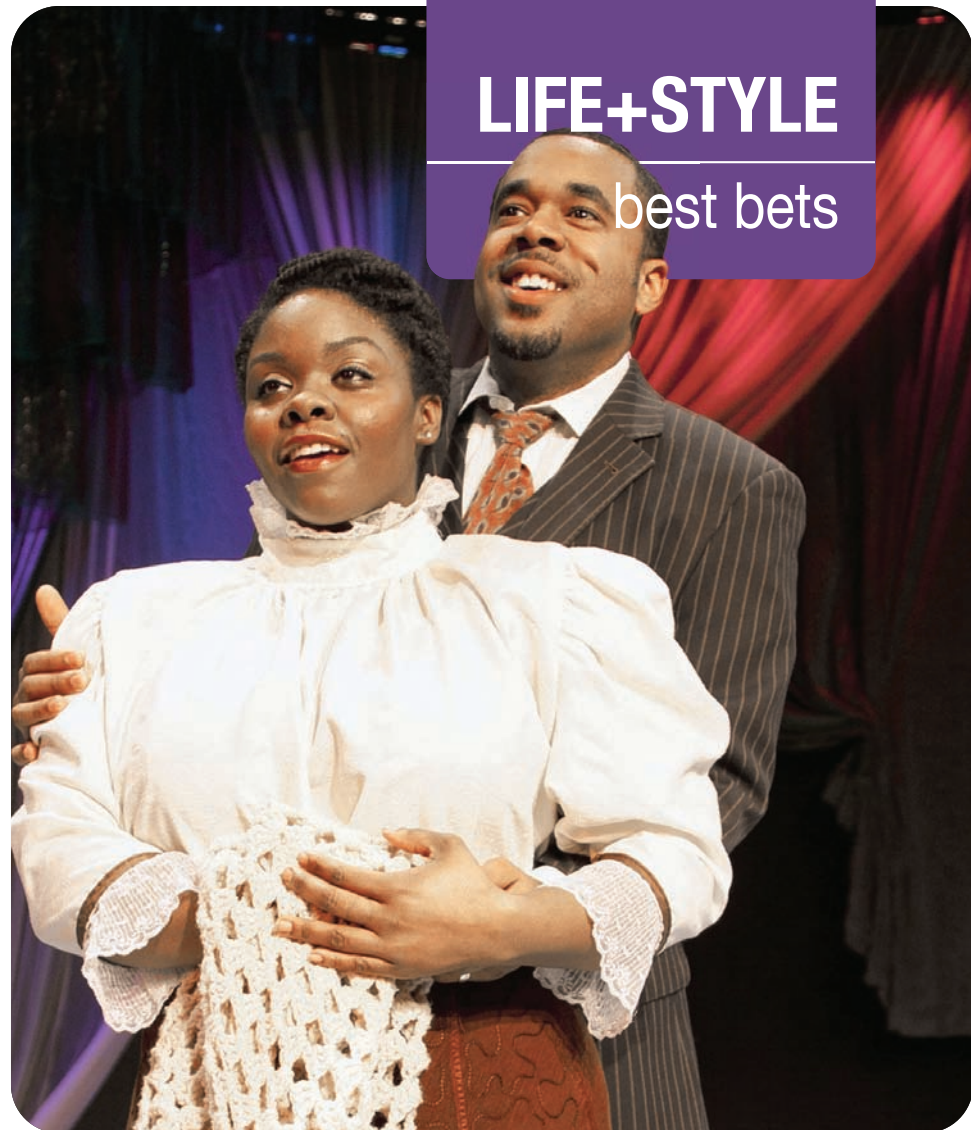


Thursday 02.07

Poundstone joins 'Wait Wait' at Winspear

Devoted NPR listeners know public radio doesn't have to be dry — in fact, its most hilarious show is probably *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me*, the weekly news quiz featuring snarky commentators like Mo Rocca opining on the week's events. The show comes to the Winspear on Thursday, with queer regular Paula Poundstone joining Tom Bodett and host Peter Sagal on the stage, riffing on the news with their patented wit.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Thursday 02.07

Turtle Creek Chorale, Uptown Players team for 'Ragtime'

Uptown Players and the Turtle Creek Chorale are both stalwarts of the Dallas arts community and will team up for the first significant time to present a concert version of the Tony Award-winning musical *Ragtime*. Michael Serrecchia directs the actors and Trey Jacobs the music in this show about economic inequality in turn-of-the-century New York. The cast includes Markus Lloyd and Feleceia Benton, pictured, plus a chorus of 150 voices from the chorale in the new City Performance Hall space for four performances only.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Feb. 7-9 at 8 p.m.; Feb. 9 matinee at 2:30 p.m. \$39-\$54. TurtleCreek.org. 214-526-3214.

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calendar



Counselor Candy Marcum is the guest this week on 'Lambda Weekly,' airing Saturday at 11 a.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.

Arlington. Through Feb. 17. Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (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 02.01

COMMUNITY

FUSE Movie Night for gay and bi guys up to 29 screens the first Friday of every month. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, #2367. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

Dallas Fresh Leather meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

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

SATURDAY 02.02

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.

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling monthly program helps those who have lost an animal cope with their loss. Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center at 2400 Lone Star Drive. 1 p.m. 214-651-9611.

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club. Gamers meet to play and discuss role-playing games from sci-fi to fantasy. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3–6 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

Cathedral Couples potluck dinner and social. For location, call 972-252-7124.

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

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 02.03

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.

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

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy first Sunday of each month. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

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

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

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; directed by Kevin Moriarty. *Reviewed this week.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Feb. 17. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Plaza Suite. Neil Simon's comedy of three visits to the famed New York hotel. *Reviewed this week.* Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through Feb. 10. ContemporaryTheatreofDallas.com.

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.

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife. Charles Busch's smart urban comedy. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre Arlington, 305 S. Main St., Arlington. Through Feb. 3.

Zero. Actor-playwright Danny O'Connor's one-man show about male relationships. Studio Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 9. ZeroThePlay.com.

FINE ART

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. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St.,



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



To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.



PROJECT SARANDON | Guest judge Susan Sarandon joins Heidi Klum, Nina Garcia and Zac Posen this Thursday on 'Project Runway,' airing at 8 p.m. on Lifetime.

Connection – Allen Office, 201 W. Boyd Road. Suite 105D, Allen. 6 p.m. CollinCounty@YouthFirstTexas.org.

Springs Road, #2367. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) group meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. Free. Crystalmeth.org.

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

MONDAY 02.04

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.

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

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

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race. The new season continues. Logo at 8 p.m., followed by the behind-the-scenes *Untucked* at 9 p.m.

TUESDAY 02.05

COMMUNITY

FUSE Foundations, a weekly discussion group for gay and bi guys up to 29. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, #2367. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

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

Classic Chassis Car Club. Ojeda's 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-446-0606.

National Leather Association-Dallas meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

WEDNESDAY 03.06

COMMUNITY

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. FronrunnersDallas.org.

FUSE Connect, a weekly social and decision making group for gay and bi guys up to 29. ilume, 4123 Cedar

THURSDAY 02.07

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.

BROADCAST

Project Runway: Teams. The new season continues, with many gay contestants and new judge, designer Zac Posen. Lifetime at 8 p.m.

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

Rutina Wesley turns 34 on Friday. The actress is best known for playing Tara Thornton, the bisexual waitress-turned-vampire on the hit HBO series *True Blood*, but is also a Juilliard-trained actress and dancer.



AQUARIUS: Jan 21–Feb 20

Reclaiming your strength is needed now. For most of us, strength comes from roots and family. If we can't call upon those things, just about anything can bring us to center. Whatever that means to you, call upon it and let it soothe your soul.

PISCES: Feb 21–Mar 20

You know that what goes around comes around. No matter how rough or smooth the path appears, you have come to a place where your inner and outer resources don't seem to be big enough for the situation at hand. Your inner sight may be what it takes to bring you clarity.

ARIES: Mar 21–Apr 20

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, and never will be, right about everything.

TAURUS: Apr 21–May 20

Issues stem from too much focus on money and things; it is that stuff that is churning up the need to cling to what seems to be slipping away. Part of your lesson includes learning that there is nothing outside of your own being that'll make you safe or keep you sane when all else fails.

GEMINI: May 21–Jun 20

Do your best to hold steady and strengthen your position enough to prepare for the next go-round. This means getting back to a place of physical and emotional balance. Don't waste energy making room for anything that doesn't support you.

CANCER: Jun 21–Jul 20

As the coming weeks unfold, be conscious that change is inevitable. See yourself as one of the ones who will be most deeply affected by it. So much is about to uproot your sense of how life is supposed to be, you need to 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

You tend to make things up in your head and convince yourself they're true. The cure for this lies in being able to stop the madness long enough to realize that life is what we make it and a deep breath could be all it takes to restore your sanity.

LIBRA: Sep 21–Oct 20

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 perfect.

SCORPIO: Oct 21–Nov 20

Don't over-analyze what comes down to a case of needing more space — you should know how to handle this. 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.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21–Dec 20

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

CAPRICORN: Dec 21–Jan 20

You'd be wise to stay centered in things that allow you to stay grounded, and in things that stir your soul. That would include: sunrise and sunset, time alone and enough time with others to remind you that your life is full of love.

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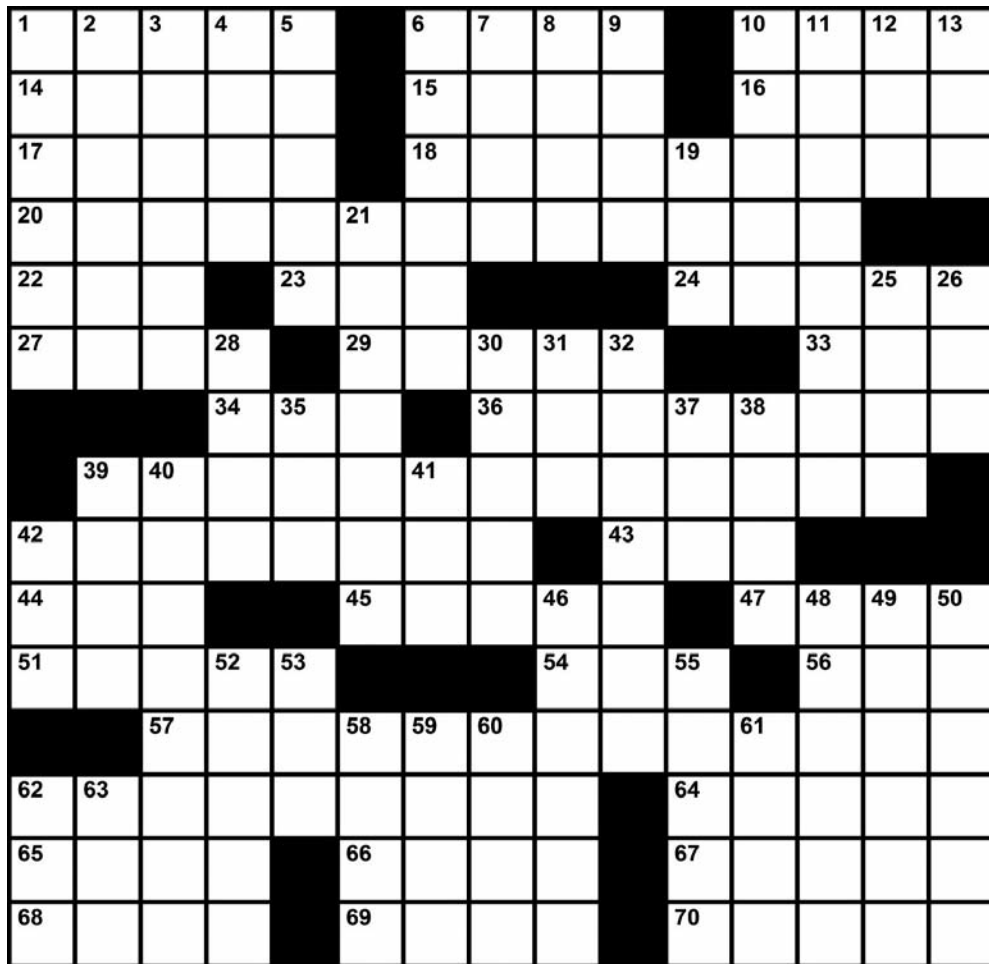
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First Gay Inaugural Poet

Solution on page 25

Across

- 1 Benjamin Britten's Peter
- 6 Comedy sketch
- 10 Reproduced nonheterosexually?
- 14 Mother of the groom, to the other groom
- 15 Reverse an action
- 16 Foam at the mouth
- 17 Beethoven's "F_r ____"
- 18 Former lead singer of Culture Club
- 20 "America" writer
- 22 CBS show in which semen may be evidence
- 23 Athenian T
- 24 Strikes out
- 27 Series ender
- 29 Blowholes
- 33 "Let's call ____ day"
- 34 Clean-air org.
- 36 Copy source
- 39 "America" writer's role at a DC celebration
- 42 Glass footwear in a fairy tale
- 43 It connects Dick to Dyke
- 44 Article in a German newspaper
- 45 Spaghetti strainer
- 47 Carrier to Tel Aviv

Down

- 51 A real mouthful
- 54 "Got a Rainbow" lyricist Gershwin
- 56 "Diamonds ____ Forever"
- 57 In "America," the writer noted that his people weren't like people on this TV show
- 62 Song from a Broadway rock musical?
- 64 First name in Irish literature
- 65 Words said with a nod
- 66 Erotic opening
- 67 Brand of machine that cuts leaves of grass
- 68 The life of Riley
- 69 Cruising areas
- 70 Mistake by Glenn Burke

Down

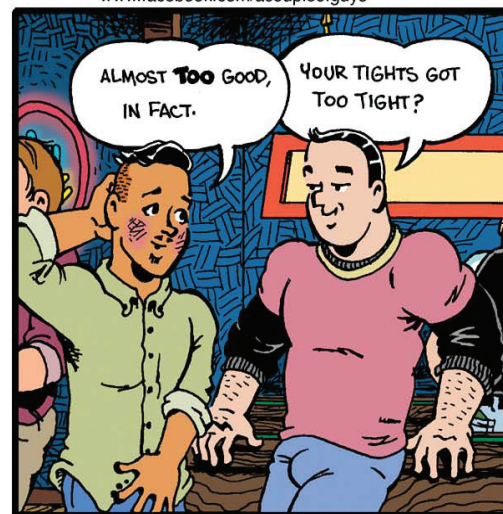
- 1 David Hyde ____
- 2 Join the army
- 3 Cher's portrayer in *Clueless*
- 4 Allergic reaction
- 5 Result of a good, hard workout
- 6 Overpower by force
- 7 Attachment often found on drawers
- 8 Pastoral poem
- 9 Julius Caesar costume
- 10 "Time in a Bottle" singer Jim
- 11 '60s First Daughter
- 12 One that gets laid
- 13 Low mark
- 19 Bring to a halt
- 21 Lays waste to
- 25 Louisiana, in old Orleans
- 26 Mineo of *Rebel Without a Cause*
- 28 Ballet move
- 30 Viking-liking
- 31 Part of a chorus line?
- 32 Like the moon, at times
- 35 Type of tent that may be erected
- 37 1.0, for one
- 38 Actress Skye
- 39 Tennis champ Nastase
- 40 The Gay ____
- 41 William Tell's canton
- 42 Get hard
- 46 Moving porn
- 48 Cavalry member that can stick it in you
- 49 Jockey Eddie
- 50 Newsman Jim
- 52 Number of sides to a gay symbol
- 53 Like cool cats
- 55 Humble home
- 58 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
- 59 Go for another tour
- 60 Official records
- 61 Visitor at gay.com
- 62 Hurry, to Shakespeare
- 63 Nutty fruitcake center?



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Girls' night out at the Rainbow Lounge.



Jake and Travis at The Brick.



Dave, Kim, Noel and Timmie at Alexandre's.

Miss National Supreme Newcomer and Mr. National Superior Newcomer take place at **The Brick** on Feb. 3. ... **Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea** begins the February entertainment at **Alexandre's** on Feb. 1. **Andrea Dawson** appears on Feb. 2. The midweek performers are **Anton Shaw** on Feb. 6 and **Matt Barron** on Feb. 7. ... Two CD release parties take place at **JR.'s Bar & Grill**. **Sentimental Journey**, the new album from **Emmy Rossum**, will be given away on Feb. 5 and **Kat Graham's** new dance single and video from her EP **Against the Wall** will be celebrated on Feb. 7. ... Back by popular demand is **Retro Pop Academy** on Feb. 1 at **Best Friends Club**. ... Following the **Super Bowl** on Feb. 3, it's amateur strip night at **BJ's NXS**. **Chanel** hosts at 11 p.m. giving away \$785 to the winner and a \$25 second prize. ... Dallas' hottest drag king show returns to **Sue Ellen's** on Feb. 1. The pre-show begins at 9:30 p.m. with DJ **Trigger Mortis**. **Mustache Envy** begins at 10:30 p.m. with a special performance by **Black Mariah**. **Caitie Taylor** performs on Feb. 2. ... Come to **Randy's Club Cherries** on Feb. 4 dressed as your favorite **Drag Race** star and win \$100 plus a booking at **Rainbow Lounge** and **Cherries**. **Dallas Bears** and the **Leather Knights** hold club night at **Dallas Eagle** on Feb. 1. **Dallas Girls of Leather** monthly meeting takes place on Feb. 2 followed by **Texas Gay Rodeo Association's Disco Meets Country Show**. ... **Woody's Sports and Video Bar** holds **Bear Happy Hour** on Feb. 1. Then on Feb. 3, Woody's big **Super Bowl** party includes raffle and buffet. ... The **Round-Up Saloon** will broadcast the game on three giant screens. ... **Rainbow Lounge** holds a **Super Bowl** party beginning at 6:30 p.m. ... Happy Super Bowl weekend. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES

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



Guys' night out at Havana.



Friends at The Grapevine.



Rudy and Albert at Station 4.



Guys' night out at the Dallas Eagle.



Friends' night out at TMC: The Mining Company.



Guys at the Round-Up Saloon.



Jennifer and Eve at 1851 Club.



April and Gregory at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

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