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She performs her standup live at Winspear Opera House on Sunday

COMEDY, Page 16



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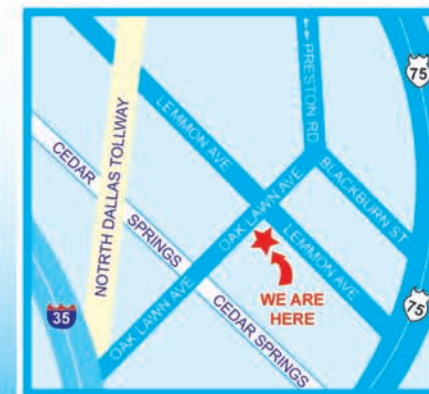
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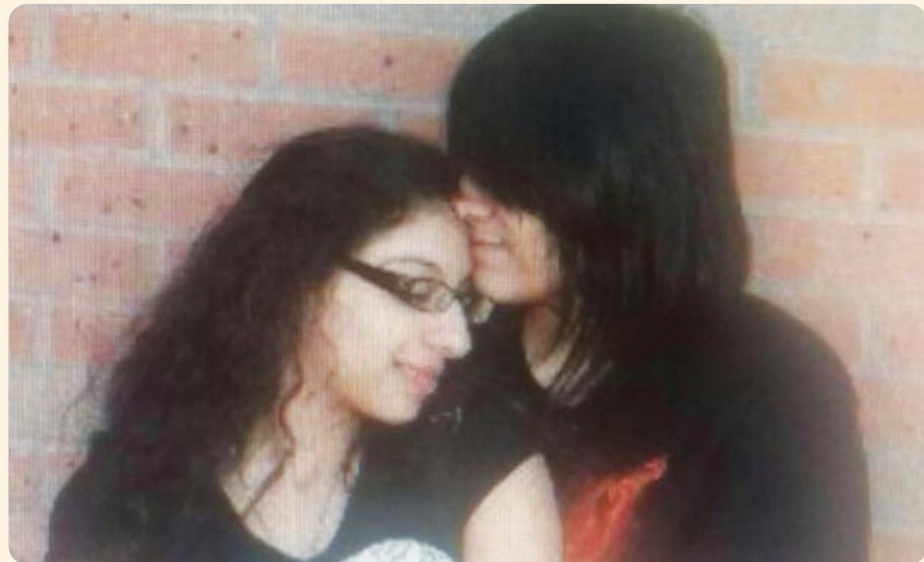
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Lesbian fights to get photo of her and girlfriend back in yearbook

A 16-year-old San Antonio student is petitioning Brennan High School to allow a photo (above) of her and her girlfriend to be printed in the school's 2013 yearbook.

The picture, above, depicts Felicia Rivera holding her girlfriend at school. The photo was selected to run on the Valentine's Day page but the yearbook adviser removed the image from the page after she found out it was two girls.

The couple has been dating for a year and Rivera has gathered more than 200 student signatures to have the photo placed back on the yearbook page.

"You shouldn't be discriminated against just because you're gay," she told KENS 5. "You shouldn't worry about people bashing you or talking behind your back just for you to be you."

Pascual Gonzalez, director of public information for the school district, said the photo wasn't like other photos selected for the page where students were looking directly at the camera and was "too intimate" and "a little bit too much, exaggerated public display of affection." The student handbook prohibits public displays of affection on campus.

But Rivera's father isn't buying the school's reasoning behind pulling the photo after it'd already been placed and approved, until the two girls were identified.

"They were fine with it until they realized it was girl-girl," Felix Rivera said. "It got placed, it got set and it was going to print and then it got pulled."

Even if the photo isn't put back in the yearbook, Rivera said the experience has made her want to start a Gay-Straight Alliance on the campus to prevent further discrimination from occurring.

— Anna Waugh

ther during this week's meeting.

The plan was approved three weeks ago by the administrative committee but must be approved twice by the committee-of-the-whole before being approved by the Board of Directors.

The board will take up the issue again March 26 and could vote for the plan's first approval or request more information. The board would again consider the issue April 9 for a second approval before a formal vote on the plan on April 23.

— Anna Waugh

Anti-gay incumbent Vonciel Hill draws LGBT-friendly challenger

Back in October 2011 we reported on the plight of gay residents in the South Oak Cliff neighborhood of Kiestwood.

Kiestwood is currently represented by District 3 Dallas City Councilman Scott Griggs, a strong LGBT ally. But in 2011 redistricting placed Griggs in District 1, where he'll face off against fellow LGBT ally Delia Jasso this May. Meanwhile, the heavily gay Kiestwood remains in the redrawn District 3, where Vonciel Hill is the incumbent.

Hill, the lone sitting member of the Dallas City Council who has refused to appear in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, once explained her boycott of Dallas' gay Pride celebration as follows: "I believe that all people are loved by God, all people are created equal under God, but there are acts that God does not bless."

Raymond Crawford, the gay president of the Kiestwood Historical Homeowners Association, warned in 2011 that Hill's anti-gay views would come back to haunt her.

"The day she [Hill] comes to call to do some door-knocking or to get some votes, whether I'm the president or not, it's going to be an interesting conversation with Councilmember Hill," Crawford said then. "She'll be in trouble in 2013 based on her previous statements."

Which brings us to Friday, March 1, filing deadline for May elections, when Crawford sent word that longtime Mountain Creek resident Claudia Meyer is one of three candidates challenging Hill.

"Claudia is a good friend of mine and would be a good friend, and solid supporter of the LGBT community at Dallas City Hall," Crawford wrote.

The other candidates who've filed in District 3 are Michael J. Connally and Kermit Mitchell.

— John Wright

DART board again puts off vote on domestic partner benefits

DART's board postponed discussion on a plan to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees this week.

The plan, which would offer healthcare benefits to opposite- and same-sex partners of employees, wasn't discussed at the three-hour meeting of DART's committee-of-the-whole because time ran out for the issue to be addressed.

The board considered the plan last Tuesday but didn't vote to approve it, deciding to discuss it fur-

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OUT IN ALLEN | Members of Youth First Texas Collin County gather for the group's monthly dinner night at On The Border in Allen last weekend. Shown, from left, are Avery and Antimo, who asked that their last names be withheld, along with Nick Hansen, Bradi Pirtle, Michael Vest and Clint Hooper. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Youth First Texas Collin County provides a much-needed oasis for LGBT youth

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

ALLEN — At first glance, Nick Hansen looks like any 16-year-old boy: sharp, witty and worried about how cool his hair looks.

But just a few months ago, Hansen was dreading coming out as transgender to his parents, finally admitting he'd been bullied at school and seeing how they'd respond.

Hansen told his parents in November that he was trans. Much to his surprise, his religious parents welcomed the news.

"The first thing they did was get me a haircut so I didn't have long hair anymore," Hansen says, laughing. The same day, his parents also bought several books on trans issues so they could better understand what it meant. "They said, 'We under-

stand this is you and we're not going to change that.'"

His parents transferred him from school in Little Elm to Allen so he could escape the two years of bullying that began when Hansen started going by a male name and wearing more masculine clothing.

After starting school at Allen, a friend invited him to Youth First Texas Collin County and he started attending the group's weekly meetings in December.

Since then, he said the group has helped him be more comfortable with who he is now that he is finally living as male.

YFT volunteer Jeanne Rubin said the Collin County group has been around for about eight years, compared to the Dallas group that started in 1999, and was created out of the Collin County

Gay and Lesbian Alliance's work.

Rubin said there are many teens like Hansen who have conservative, religious parents who are supportive when they come out to them, even in conservative Collin County.

"People are conservative in some ways but not in others," she said, adding that the parents of minorities have a harder time learning that their kids are LGBT.

Dominic, 19, who didn't want to use his last name because he's not out to all of his family, said he used to tell his parents he was going somewhere else when he was attending YFT because he knew they wouldn't like him going. Now, he said, the relationship is one of mutual agreement to not talk about his sexuality.

"I know they don't like it, but they respect me and don't complain about it," he said.

Dominic attended the Dallas YFT group when he was 17. But the group was much larger than the handful of teens who attend YFTCC, and he said it was overwhelming trying to fit in with so many people. So, he stayed in Collin County and took refuge in the intimate group instead.

Rubin said the group ranges from eight to 10 junior high and high school-aged kids at meetings and special events. A few years ago, they had as many as 30 in attendance, but the group has had to move meeting places several times over the years, making it hard to keep its members.

"We've had to move so many times, and every time that happens, we lose kids," Rubin said.

YFTCC currently meets at North Texas Youth Connection's Allen center and has met there for more than two years, the longest home the group's

■ **SAFE**, Page 12



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localbriefs

Black Transmen hosts 2nd annual advocacy conference next week

Black Transmen Inc.'s second annual Transgender Advocacy Conference is next week from March 13-17.

BTMI founder Carter Brown said the organization will launch its female component, Black Transwomen Inc. at the conference.

He said the five-day conference is already larger than last year, with 221 people registered, compared to 186 people who attended last year. Those who attend will also experience a broader and more diverse conference, as workshops will span health and educational issues to how to be an LGBT ally and handling workplace issues.

Night events during the conference will range from a talent show to a ball and pageant.

The focus of this year's conference will build upon last year's work, which inspired people to become leaders in their community. Now, Brown said the shift will be to discovering who people are as leaders with the theme, "The Power of You."

Brown encouraged trans people, as well as family members, friends and supporters of the LGBT community to attend, as workshops will focus on several issues. People can register for one day or just the Saturday banquet on March 16 at BlackTransMen.org.

For more information about the conference, see our story at DallasVoice.com.

Death

Marvin Fletcher Shelley, 73, passed peacefully at his North Dallas home on Feb. 8, 2013.



Shelley was a native of Plano. His ancestors settled in Collin County in the 1880s. His original family home was situated on land that is now the campus of the University of Texas at Dallas.

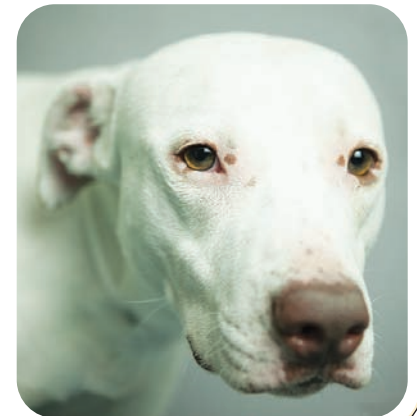
Shelley graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and engineering mechanics. In his early career, he designed missile and aircraft control systems, including the Boeing 747 horizontal stabilizer for LTV Electronics and Vought Aeronautics.

In the 1970s, Shelley became head of the real estate division for LTV. In the 1980s, he designed custom homes and later started his own development company. He also owned and operated Shelley Realtors, dominating the North Arlington, Oak Lawn and Uptown markets — and is credited with coining the phrase Uptown Dallas with full-page ads in Dallas newspapers. Shelley successfully developed several residential, industrial and commercial developments in McKinney, Arlington, Dallas, Frisco, Plano, Richardson, Allen, Las Colinas and other areas of Tarrant County. In his spare time, Shelley enjoyed gardening and entertaining at home.

Shelley is preceded in passing by his father, mother and brother. Survivors include a daughter, grandson and his partner of 22 years, Derik J. Albertson. Shelley will be deeply missed by those who knew him and loved him.

pet of the week / POINTER

Pointer is a shy, loving fellow waiting for someone to call his own. He is a 1-year-old neutered pitbull/pointer mix who is a quick learner and loves treats. He weighs about 48 pounds. He has been at Dallas Animal Services since January, so his adoption fee has been waived. Pointer has tested positive for heartworms, which is not uncommon for dogs in our area, but Dallas Animal Services will provide the necessary treatment. Please ask for Pointer, A765682.



Pointer and many other dogs, puppies, cats and kittens are available for adoption from Dallas Animal Services, 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30, just minutes west of Downtown Dallas. The shelter is open Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Sundays noon-5 p.m. The regular adoption cost is \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats, but discounts are offered for older animals and those in the shelter longer than 45 days, and to senior citizens and those who adopt two animals at the same time. All animals are spayed or neutered, fully vaccinated and microchipped. Dogs are tested for heartworms, and cats have been tested for FeLV. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or call 214-671-0249.

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Police seek suspect in brutal hate crime



ON THE MEND | Sondra Scarber's jaw was knocked an inch-and-a-half out of alignment when the suspect kicked her in the head and stomped her face as she lay on the ground. (Courtesy of WFAA-TV)

Lesbian recovering after suffering badly dislocated jaw when she was attacked for trying to defend her 4-year-old from bullying in Mesquite

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

MESQUITE — A lesbian from Seagoville was recovering this week after suffering a dislocated jaw when she was brutally attacked in an apparent anti-gay hate crime at a Mesquite playground.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Mesquite Police Department disputed initial media reports about the attack that suggested authorities were discounting anti-gay bias as a possible motive. The spokesman said police are still looking for a suspect but haven't ruled out a hate crime.

The suspect yelled gay epithets while he beat Sondra Scarber after she tried to defend her 4-year-old son from bullying at the hands of the suspect's children. After knocking Scarber to the ground, the suspect kicked her in the mouth and stomped her face. She would later need surgery

on her jaw, which had been knocked an inch-and-a-half out of alignment.

Scarber said this week she's on a room-temperature liquid diet. Both hot and cold hurts the metal in her mouth. She's tried some solid food, but even mashed potatoes are hard for her to swallow. Scarber said rubber bands in her mouth would be off in two weeks, metal would come out in three weeks and then she would begin physical therapy that could last up to two years.

"There's no feeling in the lower jaw," Scarber said.

The assault happened Feb. 17 at the Seabourn Elementary School playground, where Scarber and her partner Hillary Causey had taken their son to play.

A 10-year-old began pushing their son around so Scarber told the boy to stop. That's when the boy's younger sister went to the car to get their father. Causey said she expected the father to tell his son not to pick on a 4-year-old but as he got closer, she could see his anger. At first, he thought Scarber was a man.

When he realized she was woman, he said, "Oh, it's a bitch. It's a bitch," according to Causey.

■ **SAFE**, Next Page

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■ **SAFE**, from Previous Page

"You're a woman, but you think you're a man."
He called her a dyke and a faggot, holding her up by her necklace and repeatedly hitting her in the face until he knocked her out.

"I'm going to beat you like a man," he said.

Causey said a woman who was with the suspect tried to stop him but he pushed her away. He dropped Scarber to the ground and kicked her in the mouth, detaching her jaw on the right side. Scarber said as she was trying to regain consciousness, she saw his foot come down on her face.

She said her son was standing there watching. "Please don't kill her," she said he pleaded.

The woman who was with the suspect convinced him not to attack Causey and to leave, but first he took Scarber's phone, earrings and cap and tried to get her shoes.

When the suspect and the woman ran to their car, Causey chased him and snatched the phone out of his hand. She got close enough to the car to see a large Ziplock bag of marijuana in the front seat. As they drove off, she called police.

Police arrived at the scene within minutes, and Scarber turned away the ambulance.

Instead, Scarber saw a doctor later and underwent surgery on her mouth Feb. 28. Her bite is not expected to return to where it was before the attack.

Mesquite police spokesman Lt. Bill Hedgpeth



EMOTIONAL SCARS | Scarber and her partner Hillary Causey, shown at home in Seagoville this week, said their son blames himself for what happened and is undergoing counseling. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

said the department is not discounting bias as a possible motive.

"We look at everything and if that's a motive, that's a motive," he said.

He called the level of violence in the case shocking and said Mesquite police have placed a priority on finding the person who assaulted Scarber.

"But the hate crime designation happens on the

prosecution side," he said. "We take all the information and present it to the DA."

While it's up to the district attorney's office whether to prosecute cases as hate crimes, police departments report bias-motivated incidents to the FBI under the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act.

Online records show the Mesquite Police De-

partment hasn't reported a hate crime to the FBI under the act in more than five years. Meanwhile, neighboring Garland reported 46 hate crimes to the FBI from 2007 to 2011.

According to the FBI's hate crime data collection guidelines, the No. 2 criteria for classifying an incident a hate crime is written statements or gestures made by the offender which indicates the offender's bias.

James Harrison, records supervisor for Mesquite police, said officers can classify incidents as hate crimes on offense reports. Detectives can also determine that offenses are bias-related, Harrison said, but otherwise he wouldn't have the authority to report them as hate crimes to the FBI.

Resource Center Dallas' Communications and Advocacy Manager Rafael McDonnell said when cities don't report bias-motivated incidents, it can have a chilling effect on crime victims.

"We know they're happening against all sorts of categories," McDonnell said. "They believe they won't receive fair treatment from the police."

Hedgpeth said that because of injuries Scarber suffered and because the assailant took her cap, the department plans to pursue a charge of aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony.

Scarber, on the other hand, has several more doctors' appointments over the next couple of months, a possible second surgery and 18 months to two years of physical therapy and recovery ahead of her. The Victim's Compensation Fund is helping pay for her medical treatment because she has no health insurance.

Causey described her son as angry since the attack and she's taking him for counseling at a victim's outreach program.

"He's blaming himself for what happened to me," Scarber said.

Causey said he's angry he couldn't protect her.

The suspect is a black male, standing 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighing 185 pounds. He was wearing a royal blue T-shirt and jeans. He was with a woman and four children. He drove away in a silver, early 2000s Chevy Impala with paper temporary tags.

About 50 feet away from where she was attacked, a group of adults were playing basketball. None tried to intervene and when the police arrived, they said they didn't see anything.

Causey thinks the man's children go to that school or at least come to play there regularly. When the kids got there, they seemed to know the playground, she said.

Since then, she and several friends have watched the school parking lot during school. She said they spotted several cars fitting the description dropping off children. Last week, when a friend began following a silver Impala, the woman sped off.

But she got a license plate number off the car with new black and white Texas plates, which may have replaced the temporary paper tag.

Hedgpeth said Mesquite police are determined to make an arrest in the case.

"Someone with this propensity for violence is a danger to everyone in the community," Hedgpeth said. "This bad guy needs to be arrested so we can prosecute and get him off the street." ■

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CLOSE QUARTERS | Administrative Law Judge Craig Bennett noted that the Hideaway, left, is fewer than 10 feet from the closest townhome, right. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Judge recommends denial of TABC license for Hideaway

Proposed decision says reopening iconic gay bar on Buena Vista 'not consistent with the general welfare and peace of the local community'

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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An administrative law judge is recommending that the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission deny a license for Marty's Hideaway, making it unlikely that the gay bar on Buena Vista will open anytime soon.

The Hershner family, which also owns the Tin Room and Chesterfield's, has been trying to reopen the iconic piano bar that closed more than three years ago in the Cole Park area of Oak Lawn.

But a group of neighbors challenged the Hershner's application for a TABC license, citing noise, crime, trash and other concerns.

The neighbors' protest was heard at a daylong hearing before an administrative law judge in January.

"Applicant cannot rely on the prior bar's existence to bootstrap its application; rather the area is evaluated as it is at the time relevant to the application," Administrative Law Judge Craig Bennett wrote in his Proposal for Decision, dated Feb. 21.

However, the judge also dismissed many of the arguments of the neighbors protesting the application. Their case was based on five points — the manner in which the Tin Room operates, tax problems of principal owner Paulette Hershner, increased crime in the area, increased traffic and noise in the neighborhood, and not meeting building codes.

Noting only one violation among three bars they own over a number of years, the judge called the Hershners' record "relatively good." A payment plan is in place for the tax debt and "other entities" control building codes.

"The ALJ does not find that the manner in which Applicant has conducted its business is a valid basis for denying the permits in this case," Bennett wrote.

While denying the neighborhood concerns about the Hershners, he is concerned about the place where the bar is located.

"Noise, crime and other nuisance problems have diminished since Bill's Hideaway closed," he wrote, noting the bar is fewer than 10 feet from the closest townhouse.

"A bar that is open until 2 a.m. with an open air patio and music is not consistent with the general welfare and peace of the local community," he wrote. "Rather, such would be expected to be disruptive to local residents and be a nuisance to them."

The Hershners argued that new residential development that takes places after a bar is in place shouldn't be justification for closing the bar. But the judge sees this as a new facility, since Bill's Hideaway closed more than three years ago.

But Bennett's decision is not the end of the road for the Hideaway.

"I know of cases where the district court overturned the administrative court and where TABC disagreed," TABC spokeswoman Carolyn Beck said.

She said the losing side can file exceptions and the winning side can file responses. If the judge changes his proposal, the neighborhood may file a request for a new hearing. If the proposal stands, the Hershners may request a new hearing. They have 30 days to ask for a rehearing.

Beck said it's unusual for a new hearing to be granted. Substantial new evidence would have to be presented for the case to be heard again.

If the ruling changes in favor of the Hershners, the neighborhood has no more opportunities to appeal. But if the ruling stands in favor of the neighbors, the Hershners may appeal to district court.

TABC may also ignore the proposal and issue the license anyway.

"We have the authority to do that, but don't do that very often," Beck said.

Tim Griffith, attorney for the Hershners, said his clients are still deciding what to do. "I've never seen one so hotly contested," he said.

Van Shaw, attorney for the neighbors, said: "I think justice was done. That's just not a proper location for a bar."

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coverstory

■ SAFE, From Page 6

had. Before that, Rubin said they were in Plano for a while until the rent went up and they had to leave.

"If we had a place that we knew we could call home forever, that'd be great," she said.

But even with all the migrating around the county, youth have remained active in YFTCC because of the valuable experiences it's brought to their lives.

Christian Luu, 19, has been attending YFTCC since 2011. After coming out at 16 to his Vietnamese parents who didn't know how to handle the news, he sought an understanding group that he could talk about it with. Luu said YFT has made him a better person and helped him grow into who he is today.

"I think I've grown as a person and really matured at Youth First," he said.

Part of the attraction for youth to YFTCC is the need for acceptance while growing up in the conservative cities that make up the county. Rubin said there are only four Gay-Straight Alliances that she knows of in the county with one in Frisco and Allen and two in Plano for youth to seek out as a resource.

YFT volunteer Michael Vest has been working with the organization for about a year. Growing up in a religious family where he was home-schooled, he said he likes providing an outlet to youth that he didn't have growing up.

"It's really safe for them to be who they are, even for only two hours once a week," Vest said.

Volunteer Michael Wren has been involved with the organization for about 18 months. He said he likes seeing what acceptance does for so many of them who simply need a place where they can be themselves.

"Some of the youth that come to us might or might not be out, but here they can be whoever they are, free and openly without judgment," Wren said. "It's exciting getting to be a positive influence in what can be a negative world."

Justin Nichols remembers just how negative the Collin County world can be. Raised in Plano, Nichols went on to work as a teen court coordinator for the county and ran for Plano City Council as an out candidate in 2008. His candidacy brought up his sexual orientation at work, and he was later forced to resign from his position for being gay.

Nichols said he couldn't discuss the controversy that led to him resigning because of a confidentiality agreement he signed during the settlement. But he said he's seen the city and the county change since he was a teen.

"I think Collin County is growing and the idea that it's a small-time, small-minded area really isn't the case anymore," he said. "As Collin County grows, so does the LGBT community."

Nichols came out in high school at 16 with mixed responses. He said he had supportive teachers, as well as some who threw a Bible down on his desk.

"There were always people who were supportive," he said.

He said during the time he worked for the



NOT ALONE | After coming out to his Vietnamese parents who didn't know how to handle the news, Christian Luu found a place where he could talk about it at YFTCC. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

county he spoke to YFT a few times. He said it's an organization that is still needed in the conservative county to continue to educate and encourage youth.

"The reality is Collin County is still relatively conservative," he said. "There's certainly a need for YFT."

Bradi Pirtle's mom recognized her daughter would need YFT when they moved to North Texas from Chicago in July. Pirtle, 17, said her mom researched groups she could attend for LGBT youth since she left a group behind.

While Pirtle misses how liberal and accepting Chicago is compared to the conservative attitudes in Texas that seem dominant at times, she said YFT has helped her make the transition easier.

"I really like it and feel like it provides a sense of community that otherwise wouldn't exist," she said.

That community has certainly helped Hansen, who said his life has entirely changed for the better since moving to Allen and joining YFT.

Hansen said the bullying at his previous school in Little Elm varied from being pushed around to verbal abuse. But he was worried about coming out to his parents and asking for help.

"I didn't want to make a big deal about it. I tried to tough it out," he said. "After I asked for help, it got a million times better."

He said he's braved discussing hormone replacement therapy with his parents, and they scheduled an appointment to discuss it with a doctor. And while there will be more discussions and maybe even battles up ahead, the thought of going on hormones is enough for Hansen.

"I'm excited because even the possibility of being on hormones is great," he said. ■

Youth First Texas Collin County meets Sundays from 6-7:30 p.m. at North Texas Youth Connection, 201 W. Boyd Drive #105D, Allen. For more information, go to YouthFirstTexas.org.

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Poll: TX voters back marriage equality

A growing number of Texas voters support the freedom to marry for gays and lesbians, according to new polls released this week by Equality Texas and the University of Texas/Texas Tribune.

The Equality Texas telephone poll was similar to one commissioned by the organization in 2010 and asked about 11 key issues, including discrimination, domestic partner benefits and relationship recognition. The highest change found that 47.9 percent of voters support marriage equality compared to 47.5 percent who oppose it. In 2010, 42.7 percent of voters supported marriage equality.

The poll also found that 64.7 percent of voters support civil unions, compared to the 63.1 percent who favored it three years ago.

The poll was conducted by Glengariff Group, Inc. and surveyed 1,000 voters between Jan. 24-27. It has a margin of error of 3.1 percent.

Other areas with a high increase in support was making medical decisions for a partner, inheriting possessions without a will, extending domestic partnership benefits to government and public university employees and recognizing the same-sex marriages from other states.

A University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll also released this week found that 37 percent think gay and lesbian Texans should be able to marry, 28 percent think they should have civil unions and 28 percent said they shouldn't have either.

As for the most important issue facing Texas, 0 percent answered gay marriage, compared to the 1 percent who answered that gay marriage was the most important problem facing America today.

The results are close to a similar October 2012 poll that found 36 percent support marriage equality, 33 percent support civil unions and 25 percent don't support either.

That Web poll questioned 1,200 respondents between Feb. 15-25, with a 3.3 percent margin or error. The poll was conducted by YouGov, which has residents who agree to participate in surveys.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said the organization's poll used a different methodology than the UT/Texas Tribune one. He said the random sampling was done geographically based on population and broken down into nine different regions.

Even though the polls used a different sampling and method, Smith said they "continue to show positive improvement" in public opinion. Smith said the poll results don't indicate a ballot measure repealing the marriage amendment that prohibits same-sex marriage would pass anytime soon, especially with such a minor plurality in the Equality Texas poll of those who support and oppose same-sex marriage.

"We're not ready for a ballot measure yet," Smith said. "It's going to take time and energy and money to win at the ballot box because time, energy and money are going to be spent against a ballot measure."

Until then, he said the attention should focus on changing state laws to protect LGBT citizens, which are increasingly supported by Texas voters.

"The effort now needs to continue to have those views reflected in public policy because right now they're not," Smith said.

For full results from the Equality Texas poll, go to TinyUrl.com/EQTXpoll.

— Anna Waugh

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■ **viewpoints**

Hate knows no fences

Anti-LGBT violence is on rise in U.S., and 3 recent crimes in D-FW show we're not safe in our 'gay bubble'

Incidents of hate violence against the North Texas LGBT community are on the rise, and everyone has reason to be concerned. A set of popular myths about LGBT security make us more vulnerable to harm and more likely to deny how much at risk we really are in the Dallas-Fort Worth "gay bubble." A few simple steps can help LGBT people stand strong against hate violence, so that the tide of harm can be stemmed in the region we love.

Three recently reported cases should awaken us to the fact that people still hate us for who and what we are right here in our own neighborhoods — and are willing to act on that hatred violently. The horrific beating last month of lesbian Sondra Scarber in a Mesquite elementary school playground for defending her 4-year-old child against bullies has drawn the most media attention. The attacker, allegedly a parent of one of the bullies, yelled homophobic slurs, knocked Scarber unconscious and broke her jaw when he realized he was facing a lesbian.

Soon thereafter, North Texas was shaken by news of a gay couple, Ben Allen and Justin Hudgins, whose property was vandalized in Everman with the spray-painted slur "Burn FAG." Allen and Hudgins were targeted after locals learned they had been rejected by a wedding reception venue that refused to serve same-sex couples.

Most recently, we heard of the arrest of Erica Moore in Forest Hill, a mother who faces felony charges for whipping her 15-year-old son bloody when she found him engaged in same-sex acts with a teenage cousin in her home. Moore adamantly defends "whooping" her boy with an electrical power cord because "homosexuality is a sin" in her value system.

We are burying our heads in the sand if we believe these hate crimes in Mesquite, Everman and Forest Hill are not our concern in the D-FW "gay bubble." Familiar taverns and social groups give us a false sense of security. Dallas residents ignore fresh rumors of attacks by bat-swinging men near the strip, and recent Tarrant County hate crimes remind Fort Worth folks of the forgotten trauma of the raid on the Rainbow Lounge, not quite four years ago.

Dallas and Fort Worth have protection statutes for LGBTQ people, but none of the Mid-Cities have them yet. D-FW security also depends on what people believe and do in the suburbs and Mid-Cities. Lest we forget, it was just a short



drive from Garland for the three attackers who beat longtime Dallas gayborhood resident Jimmy Dean within an inch of his life in July 2008, stomping the nose off his face. Today's reports of local violence mean that the risk of being LGBTQ in North Texas never went away.

Myths of security hamper the North Texas LGBT community from taking steps to stop the violence, such as:

1) Hate crimes are down nationally and regionally. False: Since President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law in October 2009, murders of LGBTQ people have reached historic highs each year since. The murders of our people are increasing alarmingly, not decreasing, as reported by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, or NCAVP, and the FBI.

2) Victims are risk-takers. They are "flamers." Their irresponsibility leads to their harm. False: Studies of LGBT homicide victims show that they were specifically targeted because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Since 1982, LGBTQ people from all walks of life have been killed in bias-driven hate crimes.

3) As young people become more politically and socially powerful, risk of anti-LGBT violence will diminish. False, also: The profile of who murders LGBT people today is a white male, 17–27 years of age. While youth attitudes on LGBT equality have improved, so have incidents of youth violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, especially transgender people of color.

So, what can our community do to raise consciousness about our risk of violence, prevent and even decrease incidents of harm?

- Inform yourself about hate crimes, their causes, and groups working to stop them, and become involved. The FBI, the NCAVP, Resource Center Dallas and Fairness Fort Worth are great resources.

- Reach out to straight allies, friends and family members, and raise their awareness about the issue of anti-LGBT violence. Impress upon them that violence, bullying and teen suicide harm everyone, gay and straight alike. We need our

heterosexual allies to turn the tide.

- Work with groups in the Mid-Cities and neighboring suburbs to pass municipal LGBT protection statutes. Ignoring towns like Everman, Forest Hill and Mesquite has led to bad consequences for Dallas and Fort Worth.

- Support LGBT-friendly religious groups. No matter what you believe about organized religion, bad religion is at the root of much anti-LGBT violence in Texas and throughout the nation. The only voices speaking out effectively against religious bigots are our allies in the LGBT-friendly faith community. Cathedral of Hope, White Rock Community Church, Celebration Community Church Fort Worth, the Human Rights Campaign Religion and Faith Program, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Institute of Welcoming Resources are great allies of ours.

- Speak out against violence against any group. The violence of our culture is the launching pad for attacks on the LGBT community, immigrants, racial/ethnic minorities, women and minority religions. Remember, we are all in this together. ■

The Rev. Stephen V. Sprinkle is an ordained Baptist Minister, an openly gay professor at Fort Worth's Brite Divinity School, theologian-in-residence at Cathedral of Hope and the author of Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memories of LGBTQ Hate Crimes Victims. He can be reached at svsprinkle51@yahoo.com.

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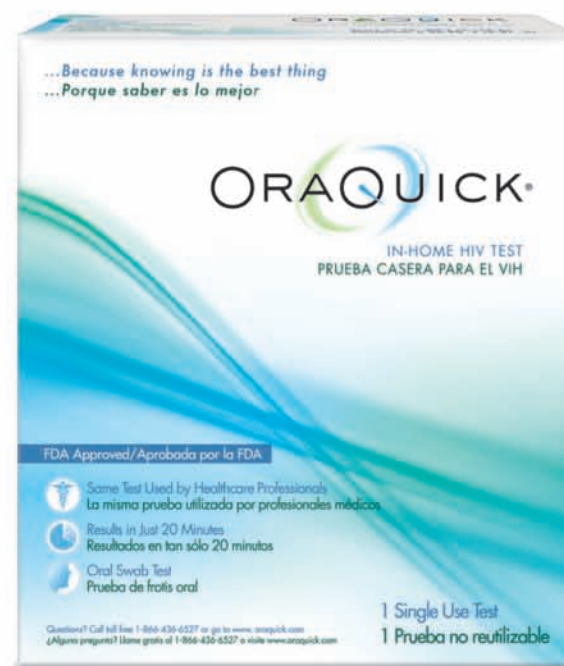
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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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The Rivers wild

Legendary comedian Joan Rivers doesn't care about being politically correct — only funny

Joan Rivers was gay before gay was trendy. Well, not gay herself — though we wouldn't put anything by her. But the shocking comedian was courting gay audiences — and developing a gay sensibility — probably as far back as Stonewall. She even came up through the ranks at the same time as Lily Tomlin, whom she still adores.

"We both worked together before we were discovered — Lily and I go back forever together. I thought she was the funniest girl then; she did a thing about going to a funeral and making the corpse talk" like a puppet, she says, and laughs.

"Make sure you put this in the article: Every gay man in Dallas had *better* show up to my show on Sunday," she cautions from her home in New York. "That's what makes a good show — six gay men in the front row."

Rivers doesn't just talk the talk, either. It's not just because we get her humor, though — it's because she gets us, too.

"I love gays. *Love* gays. I'm still Queen of the Gays — I have the crown on my head even when I'm in bed," Rivers says. "If two people can get along with each other, you're already ahead of me, but don't say I didn't warn you [about same-sex marriage leading to same-sex divorce]."

Maybe, but that didn't stop her from getting ordained online as a minister/rabbi so that she could perform a legally binding marriage ceremony in New York — between a same-sex couple who are friends.

"It was on Valentine's Day at the top of the Empire State Building — isn't that romantic?" she says. "And in honor of *Sleepless in Seattle*, the bridal favors were a piece of Meg Ryan's original face."

It's lines like that that have kept Rivers — at 79 — one of the busiest performers in America.

Career ups-and-downs (from her *Tonight Show* debacle to the suicide of her husband) bridled but did not halt the indefatigable jokester. She's a queen of infomercials, the scary master of the red carpet and reigning maven on the E! hit show *Fashion Police*, the subject of the acclaimed documentary *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*, a Broadway vet and Tony Award nominee, even Donald Trump's one-time *Celebrity Apprentice*.

"You forgot *Joan and Melissa* Saturday nights on WE and *In Bed with Joan*, which is a huge hit on the Internet," she corrects, chuckling.

The point is: Joan Rivers has remade herself over and over ... almost as often as her own face.

And yet, with a schedule hectic even for a person half her age, Rivers still finds time to do what made her a legend: Tour with her standup act, which arrives at the Winspear this weekend.

FEATHER BOA CONSTRICTOR | Joan Rivers, who recently performed a same-sex marriage in New York, doesn't care who she pisses off ... but she loves her gays.

And she has no plans to slow down.

"Why? What would I do? I don't look forward to retirement — retirement is death. One of the lucky ones who loves what I do," she says, repeating a mantra that has kept her going for nearly 50 years.

"Young standup comedians mention me in the business. The joy of being out there and reaching a different audience? There is nothing else like it. It's like greeting old friends. I've played to 7,000 ... 8,000 people and it's all the same. I work from the front row out."

Rivers has time now to tour, since her high holy days — awards season — ended with the Oscars last month. She finally has a break from red carpet snark. So what did she conclude about with this season? How boring it all was.

"Melissa and I were the first to go live from the red carpet, back when they dressed themselves. As it got more popular, they all have stylists now. They all look wonderful, they all look very thin. But luckily there's always someone to make a fool of herself," she says.

This season, some of that was directed toward co-host Kelly Osbourne, who took criticism for calling nominee Quvenzhané Wallis merely "Q."

"Let's get real here!" Rivers shouts. "They came down on Kelly cuz she called her Q? She has *told* people just to call her Q! How about getting a name you can pronounce? P.C. has reached the point of insanity. If you think you'll see P.C. in my show Sunday, *don't fucking come!*" Rivers pauses for a second.

"Think you hit a raw nerve here?"

Rivers has always pushed the envelope ("I want to give people the best hour and a half show, but 3 percent should walk out furious," she admits), though the one person who never reflects on the Big Picture about what that means is ... Joan Rivers.

"I enjoyed working with [the filmmakers who made *Piece of Work*], but who knows who we are and who cares? I don't dwell on who I am. The SAG Awards, where the nominees say 'I'm an act-or!' Snore. You're a former pizza waitress who got a good part. The only people who care about who I am are the people I owe money to. They look at me and say, 'I wonder if she'll be around to pay us back.'"

So far, Joan, so good. ■

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Back from REALITY

Gay Dallas designers turn TV fame into a showcase for local fashions

Evening gowns and men's underwear might sound like unlikely combinations coming down a runway, but then again, Oscar Fierro and James Martinez are an unlikely combination themselves. Longtime friends, these local designers shot to the national spotlight as the result of reality TV. Both had been finalists for multiple reality series before landing primo spots — Fierro on NBC's *Fashion Star* last year, Martinez earlier this year as a contestant on the current season of *Project Runway*.

But Dallas doesn't have to tune into the tube to see their work — they, along with several other designers, will be showcasing their collections at *Runway*, a fashion show March 13 at the Belo Mansion.

When Fierro learned Martinez was going to be on *Project Runway*, he immediately pitched the idea of a joint show as a way to showcase their new collections.

"James knows I am all about quality when it comes to production and it would be a way to strengthen our brands," says Fierro, who is planning a collection of the full-length gowns that have become his trademark, as well as men's underwear; Martinez — known for his pants — will showcase 12 everyday-wear men's looks in his collection, featuring vests and jackets. Martinez was specifically excited about his yellow hot pants in addition to a pair of divine black and white marble knit pants.

Though Fierro and Martinez have great respect for one another, their design processes and styles differ greatly. Martinez's design process is technical, measured and precise, originating from sketches on his computer to pattern and sample makers.

"Things like my denim pants are a much longer process. I make several pair so that I can try different washes, colors and treatments. I've been doing this for over four years and I learn something new every day," Martinez says.

Fierro's process, by contrast, is imaginative and broad-stroked.

"Basically, [I'm all about] draping selected fabrics on mannequin to create the piece," he says. "Then I snap a photo and send the picture and a bolt of fabric to El Salvador for production. I am fortunate enough to work with people who understand my vision and we work through the details on the phone."

They decided to open up the show to five other local designers, to give them the opportunity to be in the spotlight as well (as many of them have also been finalists for reality shows).



ALL FIRED UP | Oscar Fierro developed his upcoming show to showcase both his work and that of aspiring young designers.

Of course, it takes more than talent to break into a fashion reality series; producers also want someone they can work emotionally.

"If the casting director can't make you cry when you should cry or laugh when you should laugh, you're not going to make it. He has to be able to read your full range of emotions and know who you really are," says Fierro.

That accessibility allowed Fierro to take control from the very beginning, telling the casting director when she could interview him and that he would be the designer representing Dallas on the show.

"She expected to see a bitch and diva that was confident and when I got there that was exactly who I was, the real deal," says Fierro.

Attitude made him into a polarizing figure on *Fashion Star*, even when buyers and judges turned on him during the second week, but Fierro insists upon his success.

"My goal was not to become a famous designer but to become famous," he says.

For Martinez, his third attempt getting on *Project Runway* proved the charm, once he shed his cockiness. He also talked openly about being bullied as a child, which changed how the show's producers perceived him.

"I used to dress certain ways most guys wouldn't dress — like wearing Capri pants," Martinez says. "I wasn't a big kid and my sister would have to pull me out of fights. I think the fact that I was hurt so much as a kid is what really makes me who I am and that is what they liked. This last interview they [the producers]

■ **RUNWAY**, Page 21

RUNWAY

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Home, body



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

Lesbian lifestyle guru Leslie Ezelle gained fame on HGTV's 'Design Star,' but

When Leslie Ezelle steps into Cowboys Stadium this weekend, it won't be the first time she's performed in a venue that houses America's Team: 25 years ago, she slipped on the spangled short-shorts and halter top and, for two seasons, rah-rah'd as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader.

"It is weird," she agrees. "I'm delighted to be back. The fact I'm able to go into that room" is a kind of victory.

Life has changed a lot for Ezelle in her years since she cheered: Breakups and relationships, co-parenting four kids with her partner Libby (she jokes that they could have their own reality show, *The Real Modern Family*), starting a business, gaining fame (and eventually, the championship) on reality TV. And most dramatic of all was her diagnosis of breast cancer.

But all these changes have been blessings for Ezelle, each one feeding a piece of her to make her who she is.

Her story as a breast cancer survivor (and her openness about it) made her a popular contestant on a season of HGTV's *Design Star*. Although

she was kicked off before the finale, she returned for the *All Star* edition, winning the prize money ... but not the thing she most desired.

"The money was spent before the check arrived," she jokes over ahi tuna tacos at Dragonfly in the Hotel Zaza. "It was really great to win ... but I still didn't get my own show!"

But if fighting cancer has taught her one thing, it is tenacity.

"I have not stopped! I've been a dog with a bone," she says.

In the meantime, Ezelle — whose design company is based

in Dallas — continued to apply the lessons from her life to develop lifestyle ideas for women like her: Those who want their environment to be peaceful, productive and healthy.

Toward that end, Ezelle will be making several presentations at the Great Big Dallas Home Show at Cowboys Stadium this weekend. (The Home Show is especially gay this year, with Ezelle joined this weekend by fellow reality celeb Josh Flagg of Bravo's *Million Dollar Listing*.) In one demo, which she labels Tame Your Domain, she explores "the importance of a happy, healthy

BIG TEXAS HOME SHOW

Cowboys Stadium,
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GreatBigTexasHomeShow.com.



LIFE+STYLE

digs

SPA YOURSELF | Leslie Ezelle has turned lessons learned as a breast cancer survivor into a lifestyle philosophy. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

her greatest victory was turning breast cancer into a motivator for success

home."

"Our home is one place we can control," she explains. Her goal is to help people create "a healthy-driven and aesthetically pleasing environment — your home as spa, from kitchen to office to bath to bedroom."

The process, she says, is really just applying rules we've been taught since the 1970s. Still, it isn't always easy.

"I had lost control of my home," Ezelle admits. "It took longer for me to heal because of it. I was the first person in history to beg my doctor to keep me in the hospital longer."

Ezelle puts a lot of her ideas into practice not only at her own home (which she and Libby recently remodeled themselves), but with her friends and clients. One of the most surprising pieces of advice? Do not bring *home* to work.

"Nope," she says. "Not even your bills. Keep home at home, but put everything in what I call a stress box: Stress out as much as you have to ... for an hour. Then put it in a closet and close the door. Keep it there."

Ezelle counsels making the bedroom a refuge as well. "Unplug!" she says. "No electronics." (The means no iPad in bed.) In your bathroom,

hide all the things that make it *look* like a bathroom — shampoo bottle sitting out, for example — and turn it into a spa. Then take a long, hot bath.

These rules were developed with women in mind, but Ezelle knows men (especially gay men and metrosexuals) enjoy a little pampering, too. Still, that won't stop her from another demo, "a sort of Cosmo Quiz about men and women, about how to get your design aesthetic in your life." (One rule: You should always be able to see the top of your bedside table.)

But being at peace with her home and coming to appreciate life as a cancer survivor hasn't slowed down Ezelle's ambitions one iota. In addition to developing a line of pillows that provide comfort and fashion sense to women recuperating from surgery, she's working on several books, blogging incessantly and growing her design business. And there is still the ultimate goal: Developing a lifestyle TV show to bring her ideas to the masses.

"Eventually the network will get tired of me [and give me a show]," she says.

We don't put it by her.

To learn more, visit LeslieChristineDesigns.com.

The Rose Room inside S4 | 3911 Cedar Springs | Doors open at 5 | Tickets at rcdallas.org/gaybingo

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L+S digs

MODERN man

Gay antiques collector Max Tibbits had good taste before you did

When Max Tibbits was growing up in the 1960s, his house was in a "kind of isolated" part of Central Texas. "There were not a lot of kids in the neighborhood," he says in a recent phone interview.

Tibbits' mother designed and built houses, so what the family *did* have lying around the house were a lot of old copies of periodicals from the National Association of Homebuilders and Architectural Forum — not exactly traditional childhood reading.

Like many gay kids starved to embrace creativity, Tibbits loved poring over them.

"I would read those magazines to keep myself company," he says. "At first I just liked the advertisements, and then I liked the articles."

Tibbits went on to study architecture at Texas A&M, but detoured, slowly, into a different but related arena: Antiques. He now owns and sells a vast, beautifully edited collection of mid-century furniture.

Tibbits will be on hand with some of his collection this weekend at the Fort Worth Show of Antiques and Art (formerly the Dolly Johnson Show), celebrating its 50th year. Last year, Tibbits sold out all but two pieces of his entire stock of mid-century wares.

While these days mid-century pieces are almost *de rigueur* for anyone with an eye for design, that wasn't always the case; Tibbits got an interest in it early on. While at A&M, his grandmother was redoing an old room and planned to give away all the furniture in it.

"I said, 'No! I want it!'" Tibbits laughs. He ended up with a room full of furniture others considered outdated; now they are classic collectibles. And the collection has grown ever crowded since.

"I always thought it was cool, and I started so many years ago when no one else was interested in it, I was hoarding it for a while," he says. "People would tease me about it."

The unenlightened teasers probably wish they had held their tongues. Tibbits now owns a warehouse full of beauts — Eames chairs, Florence Knoll credenzas and other pieces featuring the clean, unadorned, deceptively simple look-



CONTEMPORARY STYLE | Tibbits has been obsessed with mid-century modern furnishings for decades. (Photo courtesy D'Ette Cole)

ing designs that mark the period. But the beauty of the furniture isn't just in its aesthetic.

"It feels like it is part of a time when the U.S. was at its sort of zenith of creativity and power," he says. "Even though it was a really repressive period, too, people became very creative in the places that they could."

It's a thoughtful way of looking at what otherwise might just be considered either a purely functional aspect of life, or a purely fashionable one. This furniture means something to Tibbits, a fact reflected in his careful editing of what he chooses and what he sells.

Once packed, his warehouse is beginning to clear out a little as his inventory gets more and more popular. As his search for new pieces goes on, Tibbits says, his love of mid-century pieces never wanes. He pinpoints one aspect that continues his excitement: "Modern design was so creative, there's an energy to it," he says. "It wasn't like some rehashing of something that had been done before."

—Jonanna Widner

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Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com

Dear Howard,

I'm 22, hot looking with a monster endowment — I'm talkin' horses move back! My goal is to fall in love with a rich man someday soon — *only* a rich man — and to "marry" him. My friends call me a golddigger, but I say, what dummy wants to go digging for just tin? I don't come from money. I come from the tracks' wrong friggin' side. My problem, Howard, is that it's impossible for me to spot the men who have real money from those who are just players. I wanna be able to tell *instantly* by just looking at someone whether he has actual, *real* money or not. Could you help me? When I'm out on a first date, what are the top 10 giveaways I should look for to determine if some man is a keeper worth me pursuing? — **Beauty Boi Climbing Up**

Dear ZaZa,

Seeing as how you've cornered me here by outright requesting (from a golddigger's perspective exclusively, no less) the top 10 moneyed "giveaways" to look for (all cues of true gentlemen as well), I've drawn up for you — a failsafe list by which you may instantly calculate whether your first date is worth you so much as *even* deigning him a second, follow-up date:

1. If he's flaunting a Rolex, run away from him and never look back. Rolexes are worn by playas, only.

2. If he's wearing a suit, there must be four buttons on its sleeve cuff; if he's wearing a blazer, there should be no fewer than three buttons on its sleeve cuff; if he's sporting no jacket at all, it's, "Next in line!"

3. The leather of your date's belt *must* match



the leather of his shoes. If he's donning neither a belt, nor shoes, simply slam your door in the cretin's face.

4. Neckties *must* be 100 percent silk and, of course, clip-less; occasionally, wool neckties are acceptable.

5. Flip-flops are *never* permissible foot attire (except at the beach), and sneakers are never permissible foot attire on a date, period.

6. No visible tattoos or facial jewelry are permitted — ever (including earrings).

7. Jeans are not proper dinner attire; however, jeans are perfectly acceptable for, say, a Starbucks coffee date.

8. If he fails to open either his car door or a restaurant door for you, then rest assured that the *only* thing he's remotely interested in is a one-night stand with that horsemeat bulge in your britches.

9. If he brags about money, or name-drops celebrities he has met, or babbles haughtily about how fabulous he is, do not return his calls/texts/emails again in a million years.

10. If he doesn't compliment you within the first five minutes of showing up, dump his sorry butt — quickly. ■

Got a question you think Howard can answer? Email it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.

■ **RUNWAY**, From Page 17

said, "We've seen you before in Atlanta and Chicago. We remember you exactly how you are so why are you so different?" It was a reality check."

It ended up not serving Martinez in the long run — he was the second designer booted this season. Still he wouldn't have changed a thing and remains true to who he is.

"For me it's all about the credentials. It doesn't matter how far I lasted but that I was on it. I know so many people that applied for it. My immediate friends and family who have never bought anything before are now asking me to make them a pair of pants," he says.

Though both designers were cut relatively early during their reality series, neither takes it personally.

"At the end of the day, it's television, it's entertainment," says Fierro. ■

— J. Denton Bricker

FROM 'RUNWAY' TO RUNWAY | 'Project Runway' alum James Martinez teamed with friend and fellow reality star Oscar Fierro for a fashion show.



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Friday 03.08

Dance troupe Grupo Corpo at Winspear

As if you need another reason to love Brazil, seeing Grupo Corpo in action should seal the deal. An exquisite blending of ballet, power and the beauty of the human form, this 35-year-old troupe gives rare sensuality to dance while exploring the soul and rhythms of Latin American culture.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$12–\$125. ATTPAC.org.

Saturday 03.09

'Gay Marriage Plays' begins run at Out of the Loop

WaterTower Theatre's Out of the Loop Fringe Festival is already under way, but it really gets rolling this weekend, with Saturday and Sunday chock full of shows — many with gay interest. In fact, plan it right, and Saturday you can see gay scribe David Parr's *Pluto Is Listening* at 5 p.m., gay cabaret star Walter Lee at 7 and Q Live's entry, *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* at 8. But don't worry if you miss one or two — all (and more of gay interest) will be performed throughout the fest.

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 17. \$10 (individual) to \$65 (season pass). For a full performance schedule, visit WaterTowerTheatre.org.



Thursday 03.14

TBRU 18 gets under way

Even though the major parties don't get rolling until next weekend, bears from across Texas and the U.S. will come out of hibernation by Thursday to help kick off Texas Bear Round-Up 18: Casino Bear Royale. After you register at the host hotel, take time to tour North Texas wineries, participate in a welcome-night costume contest or cool down for a pool party open to bears at 10 p.m.

DEETS: Host hotel: Crowne Plaza Dallas Market Center, 7050 Stemmons Freeway. Events March 14–17. Visit TBRU.org for full schedule.



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calendar



COSTUME INTERNATIONAL | Costumes for a ballet designed and built by Marc Chagall for a performance in Mexico are among the rare works that show the artist's dazzling use of color in the exhibition now at the DMA. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

The Out of the Loop Fringe Festival. The annual 11-day festival of performance; this year featured among the shows are *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* and *Elephant in the Closet*, each of which deals with gay issues; Diana Sheehan, Walter Lee and Amy Stevenson also perform their music. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 17. Tickets from \$10 to \$65 (season-wide pass). Visit WaterTowerTheatre.org for a complete schedule.

Camelot. The Lerner and Loewe musical, presented by Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* CasaManana.org.

The Chairs. Ionesco's absurdist classic, presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. *Final weekend.* KitchenDogTheater.org.

Idols of the King. Theatre 3's newest mainstage show, a play with music about "The King," Elvis Presley. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 30. \$10-\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Million Dollar Quartet. A musical inspired by the meeting of Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley and Carl Perkins at Sun Records, featuring classic rockabilly. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. *Final weekend.* BassHall.com.

Red. Joel Ferrell directs John Logan's Tony Award-winning play about artist Mark Rothko. Wyly Theatre rehearsal space, 2400 Flora St. Through March 24. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

She Creatures. A new play, presented by Nouveau 47, about mermaids, dragons and other monsters of myth. Magnolia Lounge inside Fair Park. Through March 16. Nouveau47.com.

Yellow. Del Shores directs his award-winning play about a Southern family in crisis. Presented by Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. *Final weekend.* UptownPlayers.org.

FINE ART

Marc Chagall: Beyond Color. The groundbreaking surrealist's work, from early posters to costumes to

sculpture, are exhibited in a splashy exhibit. Dallas Museum of Art. 1717 Harwood St. Through May 26. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

China Through the Lens of John Thomson 1868-1872. The vanished world of Imperial China is preserved on glass plate made over a four-year period in this new exhibition at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through May 5. Free. CrowCollection.org.

Gold on Black: Japanese Lacquer from the Jacqueline Lavant Collection. The beauty of lacquered finishes is highlighted. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Sept. 15. Free. CrowCollection.org.

Connecting Dallas to the Holocaust. A special temporary exhibit at the Old Red Courthouse in cooperation with and curated by the Dallas Holocaust Museum. 100 S. Houston St. \$8 admission, \$4 special exhibit fee. March 1-July 14. OldRed.org.

Optical Spaces: The Art of Victor Vaserey. MADI Museum, 3109 Carlisle St. Through April 7. GeometricMadiMuseum.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. DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

Peter Burega, Michelle O'Michael, Raymond Sea. A trio of artists open a new exhibit at Craighead Green Gallery, 1011 Dragon St. Through March 30.

The Eccentric Center: New Works by Brent Kollock and Earth Rhythms: Paintings by Michael Roque Collins. Norwood Flynn Gallery, 3318 Shorecrest. Through March 23. NorwoodFlynnGallery.com.

Linear Language. A show featuring six artists, all dealing in line and form. Mary Tomas Gallery, 1110 Dragon St. Through March 25. MaryTomasGallery.com.

FRIDAY 03.08

DANCE

Grupo Corpo. Extremely sensual Brazilian dance company. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour, the mixer for those in the tech field (but open to all), comes to Dish, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Youth First Texas. For ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines

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SATURDAY 03.09

OPERA

Dallas Opera Spring Gala. Mezzo Susan Graham, set to make her DO debut later this month with *The Aspern Papers*, performs, with reception and dinner on the Skoukos Stage part of the evening. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 6:30 p.m. Tickets from \$250. DallasOpera.org/gala.

COMMUNITY

Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet on the patio of the recreation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 03.10

COMEDY

Joan Rivers. The legendary comedian, aged 79, performs her standup act. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.

FASHION

PositiviTea. Fashion show and fundraiser for Legacy Counseling Center. Bridge Bistro, 921 N. Riverfront Blvd. 3–6 p.m. \$10–\$100. LegacyCares.org.

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.

MONDAY 03.11

COMMUNITY

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

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

BROADCAST

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

Dallas. Intrigue among the Ewings, with many local actors in roles. TNT at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 03.12

COMMUNITY

Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

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

WEDNESDAY 03.13

AUTOMOTIVE

DFW Auto Show. Inspect, compare and test drive the



GALA GAL | Acclaimed mezzo Susan Graham is the featured entertainment at the Dallas Opera Spring Gala Saturday. (Photo courtesy Dario Acosta)

latest models at this showcase of Detroit's latest, as well as classic cars. Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. March 13–17. Tickets from \$11. DFWNCDA.com.

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.

THURSDAY 03.14

DINING

Savor Dallas. The annual celebration of North Texas food kicks off a weekend of tastings and seminars with a sneak peek of the new Trinity Groves, 421 Bedford St., 6:30–8:30 p.m. SavorDallas.com.

COMMUNITY

Texas Bear Round-Up 18: Casino Bear Royale. The annual bear convention gets under way. Crowne Plaza Dallas Market Center (Host Hotel), 7050 Stemmons Freeway. March 14–17. TBRU.org.

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

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY



John Barrowman turns 48 on Tuesday. The out Scottish-American actor, well-known in Britain for his musical theater career, has been a crossover star in the U.S., thanks to his leading role on the BBCA series *Torchwood*. In 2006, he married his partner, Scott Gill.

PISCES: Feb 21—Mar 20

Your current situation has you torn between what works for you and what works for everyone *else*. You wish you could get them all to see things your way, but they aren't looking with the same pair of eyes, and their lessons are different than yours.

ARIES: Mar 21—Apr 20

You have enough to keep you busy for a while. It would be great if you could loosen up enough to make it fun. Too much internal pressure, too much responsibility and a dose of guilt pile the weight of the past, which isn't working for you.

TAURUS: Apr 21—May 20

Your ties to the past keep you stuck in a place that disallows any chance to make room for something new to enter. Old ghosts, old beliefs — both issues keep you in a holding pattern. The need to hang on is understandable, but only up to a point.

GEMINI: May 21—Jun 20

Keeping your ducks in a row would be easier if you didn't have so many of them. The fact that they keep stepping out of line will be your main issue for the next few weeks. Without making it sound too complicated, now is the time to take a look at how you're going to get all of this done.

CANCER: Jun 21—Jul 20

The weight of a lot of things rests on your head. Other matters keep requiring you to deal with whatever's on the bottom line; that would include, the bottom of the barrel and any issue that relates to mistakes or errors in judgment.

LEO: Jul 21—Aug 20

The next time you decide to give it all away, save a little something for yourself. This theme is cropping up everywhere. Between what you're doing financially and what you're dispensing emotionally, before you know it you'll be wasting away.

VIRGO: Aug 21—Sep 20

You're sure that you know everything. On a lot of levels this appears to be true, but there's so much to be said for what other people have to share with you. Of late, your mind has become closed to everything but what you are willing to see or hear.

LIBRA: Sep 21—Oct 20

Faith is the key to everything. Yours is subject to doubts that arise when life starts heading for a fall. More than most other signs, your expectations are sugar-coated with visions that don't correspond to the way things go 50 percent of the time.

SCORPIO: Oct 21—Nov 20

Keep reminding yourself that there's no need to make any of this more serious than it needs to be. It's great to take care of business, but you forget that you've got to leave room for yourself. The next few weeks will see you working your ass off.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21—Dec 20

You have family issues and beliefs that take precedence over the things that make your life work. It's great to be so in touch with your roots, but you're putting too much faith in values that have no bearing on you or the way you want to live your life.

CAPRICORN: Dec 21—Jan 20

This is what having your cake and eating it too feels like: You are either on top of the world or at odds with it. Since you can't tell which end you're on, themes of waking up have many of you seeing what needs to happen next in a whole new light.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21—Feb 20

Everything is easier if you can look at it objectively. Others have twisted things up in a way that confuses you. The need to talk things over can make things worse when the person you're talking to is this so good at turning everything into its opposite.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

355

MORNIN', DELIA. WHOA. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING, STEELE? IT'S CALLED A ROBE. RIGHT. I FIGURED IT WAS TIME I STARTED. OH, REALLY? AND WHEN HAVE YOU EVER WORN A ROBE IN THIS B&B BEFORE? ALL BECAUSE I ACCIDENTALLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF YOUR PENIS IN THE BATHROOM? NOW YOU'VE BECOME MARY WORTH? NO, IT'S RIDICULOUS. I'VE SEEN YOU WALKING AROUND THIS HOUSE TONS OF TIMES IN YOUR BRIEFS... YEAH, WELL... YOU NEVER SAW MY PENIS BEFORE. AND THAT SOMEHOW CHANGES EVERYTHING? STEELE... I'M A LESBIAN. THAT MEANS I LIKE WOMEN. I HAVE NO SEXUAL ATTRACTION TO YOU. YOU'RE ABOUT AS AROUSING TO ME AS A YELLOW LAB. IT AIN'T FUNNY, DELIA. ...AND IT'S NEVER BEEN AN ISSUE. YET, IRONICALLY... YOU PARADE AROUND IN FRONT OF ALL THE GUYS IN THIS B&B IN YOUR BRIEFS AND JOCKSTRAP... ...THE ONE PERSON WHO DOESN'T GIVE A CRAP... YOU FEEL THE NEED TO COVER UP AROUND? REALLY? I... NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT LIKE THAT. SHORTLY... SO, WHAT ARE YOU MAKIN'? TOFU SCRAMBLER. WOW. KYLE GOT TO YOU TOO, HUH? HE'S LIKE THE BORG. I'VE BEEN ASSIMILATED...

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the gambling table

ALL THIS WHEN JESSICA WAS ACTUALLY IN IOWA WITH ROSE ON BUSINESS? YES... THE ORIGINAL ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN GIRLS. WONDER IF IT TURNED 'EM ON... OR OFF? IOWA MARRIAGE OK Vermont too! D.C. SEZ THUMB'S UP

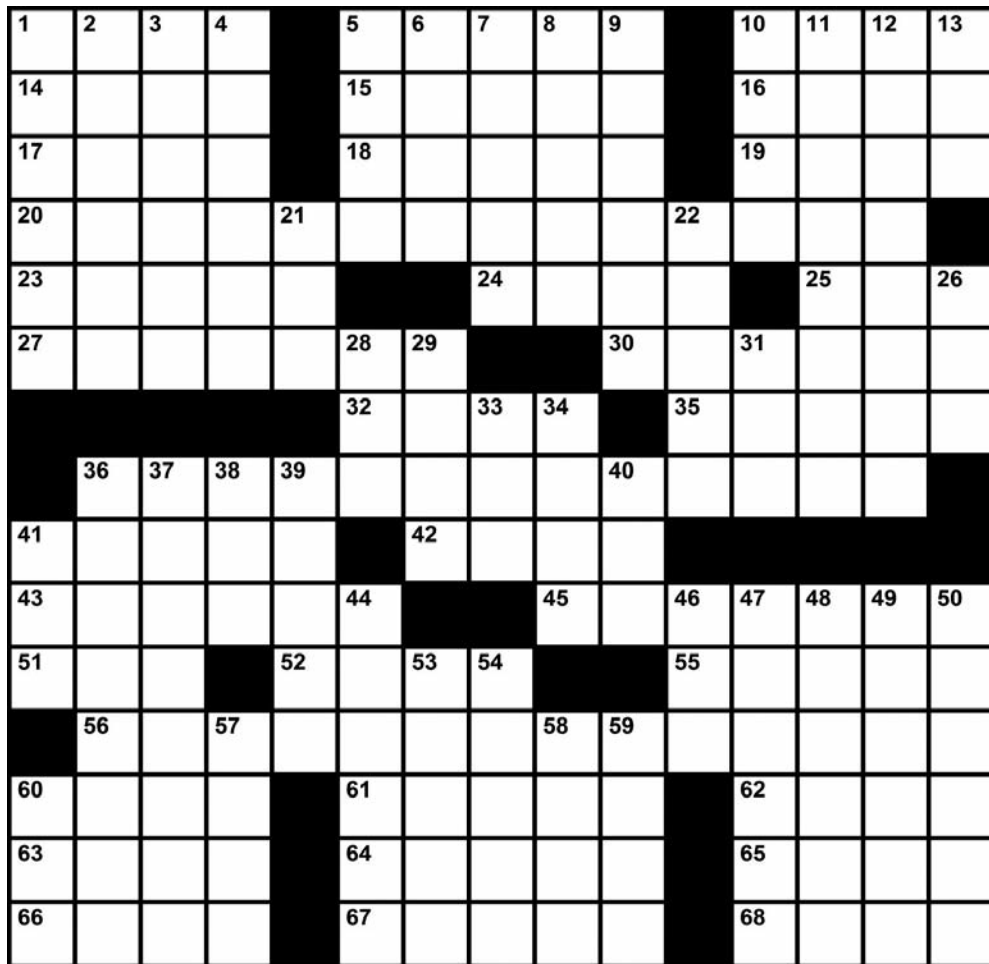
I'LL BET YOU A BEER JESS PROPOSED TO HER, RIGHT THEN AND THERE. NO WAY. TWO BEERS SAYS THEY HAD A BIG FIGHT ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. I'LL BET YOU BOTH THREE BEERS IT NEVER CAME UP AT ALL. YOU'RE ON!

START TALKING- WE'RE THIRSTY.

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Keeping Abreast of the Oscars

Solution on page 25

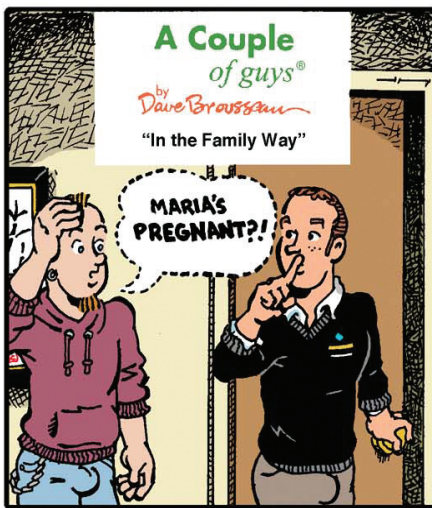
Across

- 1 Gay-friendly student org.
- 5 Fit for a king
- 10 Rebuke from Caesar
- 14 Sign of calculating to get sum
- 15 Ooze out
- 16 Not just one of those things
- 17 Small amount in a stallion's mouth?
- 18 *Twilight* heroine
- 19 Highland headgear
- 20 2013 Oscars Host
- 23 City of *The Bird Cage*
- 24 Asian prefix
- 25 Keystone figure
- 27 Queer, literally
- 30 Forego sleep
- 32 Stats from *A League of Their Own*
- 35 Jogs
- 36 Los Angeles group that sang with 20-Across
- 41 *Brokeback Mountain* setting
- 42 Practice for a boxing match
- 43 Mapplethorpe often shot them
- 45 Home of the "Jailhouse Rock" star
- 51 Cold war prog.
- 52 Red-ink figure

- 55 Emanation from Feniger's kitchen
- 56 Song sung at the Oscars by 20- and 36-Across
- 60 Dotterman's *Antonia's* ____
- 61 Tape over
- 62 Piece of Aaron Copland
- 63 Wrist bone
- 64 Mature, as fruit
- 65 Haul ass
- 66 One side of *Ed Wood*
- 67 Affirm orally
- 68 Teen temperance org.

Down

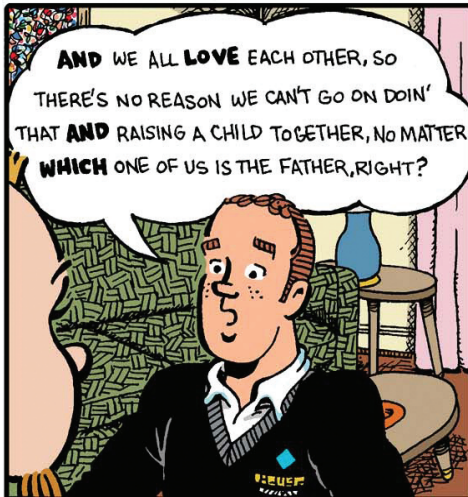
- 1 Orgasms, e.g.
- 2 Though
- 3 Etheridge instrument
- 4 Intake problem?
- 5 "Queen of Country" McEntire
- 6 Biz boss
- 7 Chasms
- 8 Ike's opponent
- 9 Masters
- 10 Place in a Robert Redford movie
- 11 Oscar winner's words
- 12 Breaks called by Dave Pallone
- 13 Naval characters
- 21 Lots of secs
- 22 Gambling game for drawers
- 26 It may come at the end of a love letter
- 28 Right to the ass
- 29 Sea eagles
- 31 JFK info
- 33 It had a fang for Marc Antony's girlfriend
- 34 Rip-off
- 36 Grace's "Nice boy!"?
- 37 Beach's partner Monnier
- 38 Thumbs-up
- 39 Green stuff
- 40 Bygone Eur. realm
- 41 ACLU concern
- 44 They scatter their seed afar
- 46 Queen in *Romeo and Juliet*
- 47 Trial copies
- 48 Much ado about nothing
- 49 Saturated
- 50 Abused orally
- 53 Lebanon neighbor
- 54 In a lather
- 57 Penn of *Milk*
- 58 Brings into play
- 59 Gambling city
- 60 One of a wheel's nuts



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Dennis and Joel at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Friends at BJ's NXS!



Friends' night out at Best Friends Club.

JR.'s honors **J.R.** Watch J.R. Ewing's funeral on March 11 at 8 p.m. A bar-wide farewell toast to **Larry Hagman** will be at 8:30 p.m. ... **The Brick** and **Joe's** present **Mr. & Ms. Brick Pageant**, a night of elegance and class on March 10. Entrants will be judged in three categories — talent, presentation and evening gown/formal wear. **Ida Mae** is the pageant director. ... Undress and impress at the **Underwear Party** at **S4** on March 8. Clothes check available. You could win free pairs of super hot underwear by **Skivvies**. ... **Bear Karaoke** takes place at the **Round-Up Saloon** on March 14 to open **Texas Bear Round Up**. ... **Dallas Eagle** celebrates **Esprit de Corps Weekend** March 8–10. **Thelma DaZel** hosts **Dallas Shakedown**, a **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** show and auction benefiting **TGRA** charities on March 9. That night is **National Leather Association** and **Discipline Corps** bar night as well. **IMSL/IMsBB** presents **High Shine — Dallas Cigars, Boots & Butts** with a live auction, boot blacking, raffles and live **BDSM** demos on March 10 with host **Synn Evans** benefiting **Sharon St. Cyr Fund**. ... **Jason Huff** appears at **Sue Ellen's** on March 8 and **Ciao Bella** on March 9. The weekend climaxes with the second annual **Battle of the Bands**. First prize is \$1,000 plus a booking at **Sue Ellen's**. Winner will be selected by judges and audience response. On March 10, there's a benefit for **Alexis Rayn** in her bid to become **Miss Dallas Newcomer USofA**. Appearing are **Krystal Summers**, **Asia O'Hara**, **Echna Jean Robinson**, **Onyx**, **Chanel Champagne**, **Stefani Mikyles**, **Onyx Stereo**, **Seth B**, **Roxy Rendezvous**, **Perry Ellis Rayn**, **Gemini Brooks** and **Infinity Starr**. ... The **Needle Prick Project**, to fight HIV stigma, promote awareness and increase testing, holds a fundraiser at **Alexandre's** on March 8 at 7 p.m. with **Anton Shaw** performing. **Mark Allen Smith** appears later in the evening. **Shiela P** and **Infinity** headlines on March 9. ■

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



Girls' night out at Sue Ellen's.



Rik and Charles at the Hidden Door.



Tina and T. at the Rainbow Lounge.

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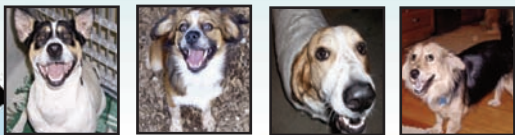
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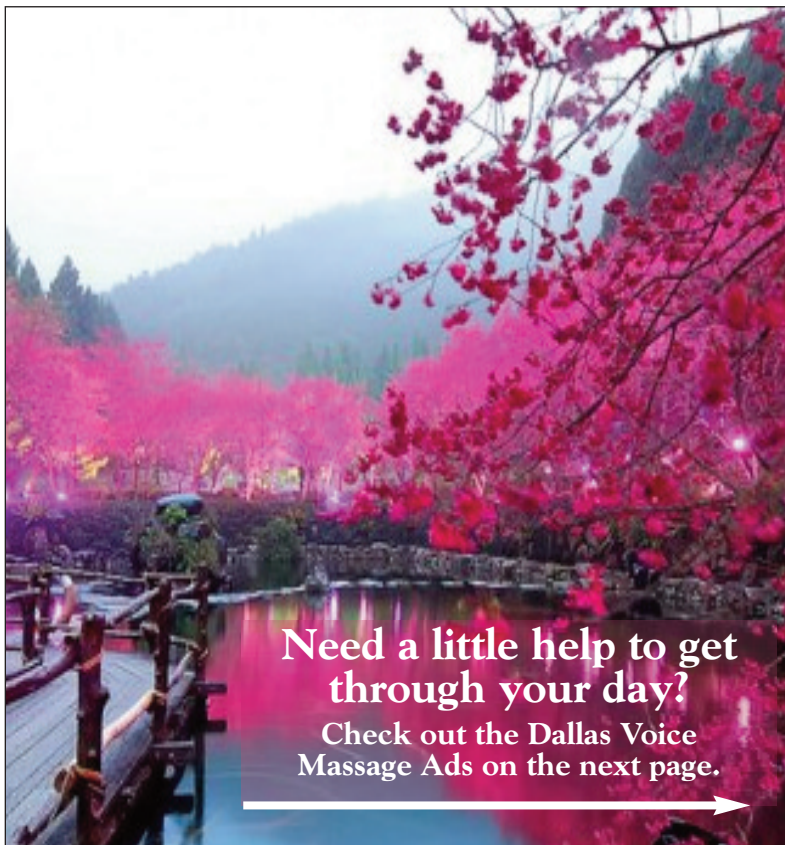
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