

# Fur alert: Gay bears invade Dallas!

Texas Bear Round Up 18: Casino Bear Royale gets under way  
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Established 1984 | Volume 29 | Issue 44

FREE | Friday, March 15, 2013

# STANDING in the way

Although the U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear historic cases challenging Proposition 8 and DOMA this month, it's possible justices won't consider the issue of same-sex marriage at all.

Part I in our four-part series, 'Marriage at the Supreme Court'

■ COVER STORY, Page 6



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**STORMING THE CAPITOL** | Texas March for LGBT Justice participants make their way through downtown Austin. More photos at DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

### LGBT advocates march on Austin on eve of EQTX Lobby Day

More than 300 LGBT advocates stormed the state Capitol Sunday evening, March 10, in preparation for Monday's Equality Texas Lobby Day (story, page 12). Participants at GetEQUAL TX's pre-Lobby Day event, the Texas March for LGBT Justice, walked hand-in-hand, holding signs and chanting, "What do we want? Equality! When do we want it? Now!"

Several onlookers joined the mob as marchers made their way from Austin City Hall to the state Capitol a few blocks away.

GetEQUAL Dallas activist Cd Kirven encouraged the crowd to remain active in the fight for civil rights as she shouted from the Capitol's steps.

"Don't let this be the only time that you participate. Don't let this be the only time lawmakers hear your voice," she said. "Nothing is free. Justice has a price."

Austin activist Sami-di Williams told the crowd that when she and her partner Amy began looking for other same-sex parents, she discovered that her daughter was friends with a girl who also had lesbian moms.

She then realized that her daughter hadn't thought to tell her that her friend also had gay parents because it didn't matter to her and she hopes one day it won't matter in Texas, either.

But until that day, being a gay parent in Texas still matters, she said.

"When Amy can't sign documents for school, it matters. When she can't take the kids to a doctor appointment without me, it matters," she said. "When I'm not protected from discrimination whenever I volunteer at my kid's school, it definitely matters. ...When our family is looked at with disdain in public places, it matters."

Daniel Williams, Equality Texas field organizer, spoke about the many monuments on the grounds of the Capitol that remind lawmakers what makes Texas great and what makes the state not so great.

But he stressed that there is no reminder of LGBT Texans — not the more than 19,000 same-sex couples raising children in the state or the 989 hate crime victims who suffered last year.

"You must be that monument. You must be the reminder, the daily sentinel to those Texas lives," he said.

— Anna Waugh

### Kroger responds to complaints about Cedar Springs parking lot

Kroger says it will work with Dallas police, ilume and business owners over the next two weeks to come up with a permanent solution to end the rowdy late night activity in the parking lot of its Cedar Springs store on weekends.

Kroger spokesman Gary Huddleston said this week that the store is aware of the complaints over the last year about noise and illegal activity and has worked to resolve the issues, including increased security patrols of the parking lot. He said the noise has escalated over the last month.

"Obviously it hasn't been successful," he said. "So we're looking at other options to control the noise and other crimes."

A few of the options would be to hire a valet to stay all night to monitor the lot, as well as have ilume take over the valet, which its management has offered to do.

"We're trying our best," Huddleston said.

Joshuah Welch, ilume community director, said the Kroger becomes a paid lot Thursday through Sunday, but the person who takes the money leaves around 1 a.m. and doesn't monitor the noise and other activity. Over a year, Welch and other residents of ilume have been woken up by the partying and have called police to complain.

Welch began emailing Kroger management last February to address the issue, offering to have ilume pay for security to monitor the parking lot so it wouldn't disturb ilume residents.

"The residents of ilume deal with this loud and destructive party scene every weekend, and in turn are forced to call the police to get them to end the mob scene," Welch wrote in one email to Kroger. "This is not only a problem for our building, but also a safety concern for your employees that work late and are forced to walk through this late at night."

ilume hired two Dallas police officers to patrol the parking lot from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. Thursday through Sunday, and he said they have reported underage drinking, drug use, sexual activity and other illegal acts. Luke Crosland, ilume developer, said he thought ilume and Kroger had an understanding to eventually allow ilume to take over the parking lot, but that hasn't happened.

"We're not trying to make money off of it. We just want it to be operated correctly and responsibly," Crosland said.

— Anna Waugh

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# STANDING in the way

Although the U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear historic cases challenging Proposition 8 and DOMA this month, it's possible justices won't consider the issue of same-sex marriage at all

*Editor's Note: The following is the first in a four-part series to prepare readers for what to expect March 26 and 27 when the U.S. Supreme Court takes up the marriage equality cases.*

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

It would be hard to overstate the potential impact of the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court cases concerning marriage for same-sex couples. The primary questions posed by the two cases — Hollingsworth v. Perry involving Proposition 8 and U.S. v. Windsor involving the Defense of Marriage Act — could lead to rulings that dramatically advance the equality of LGBT people under the law.

But the Supreme Court may end up issuing no ruling in either case.

How is that possible?

It's possible because the Supreme Court can choose to consider whatever questions it wants, regardless of what questions parties pose in bringing cases to the court.

When the Yes on 8 coalition, led by Dennis Hollingsworth and other conservative activists in California, appealed a lower court ruling striking down Proposition 8, California's ban on same-sex marriage, it asked the Supreme Court to decide, "Whether the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits the State of California from defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman."

When famed attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies filed their brief, on behalf of the two plaintiff same-sex couples, in response to Yes on 8's appeal, they suggested the court decide "Whether it violates the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment for a State to use the ballot-initiative process to extinguish the state constitutional right of gay men and lesbians to marry a person of the same sex."

When U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli filed the government's petition in the 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals case U.S. v. Windsor, challenging the Defense of Marriage Act, he asked the court to decide "Whether Section 3 of DOMA violates the Fifth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the laws as applied to persons of the same sex who are legally married under the laws of their State."

Meanwhile, a brief from U.S. House Republicans' Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, which is defending DOMA, also posed the equal protection question but added two questions regarding legal standing — one concerning plaintiff Edith Windsor's marriage certificate (obtained in Canada and not recognized in New York when her spouse Thea Spyer died in 2009), and another concerning the legal standing of the executive branch (via the solicitor general) to appeal a decision that "it requested" from the 2nd Circuit.

But when the U.S. Supreme Court announced in December it



would review the two cases, it added questions to both concerning legal standing.

In the Prop 8 case, the high court asked whether Yes on 8 has standing under Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution.

In the DOMA case, it asked whether the executive branch's agreement with the 2nd Circuit precluded the Supreme Court from ruling in the DOMA case and whether BLAG has standing.

And in the DOMA case, the Supreme Court "invited" Harvard law professor Vicki Jackson to submit a brief and oral argument in support of the notion that the Supreme Court does not have jurisdiction and BLAG does not have standing in the DOMA case.

## Case, controversy and injury

Standing is another way of saying "right to sue." To have the right to sue, a party must have suffered or be threatened with a discernible injury, the lawsuit must be directed at the cause of that injury and the controversy must be one that a court decision could remedy.

Section 2 of Article III gives the courts jurisdiction to review "all cases ... arising under" the Constitution and to "controversies to which the United States shall be a party."

The question about legal standing for the Yes on 8 coalition was first raised by the plaintiff couples' legal team in the lower courts, and in their brief to the Supreme Court, Olson and Boies argued that Yes on 8 lacks standing and that its appeal should be dismissed. As their brief argues, Yes on 8 groups have "never once suggested that permitting same-sex couples to marry could harm them — or anyone else — personally."

"And [Yes on 8 proponents], who are not public officials, do not have a close relationship with the State" that would otherwise justify standing.

Of course, the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals panel, which struck down Prop 8, accepted a California Supreme Court ruling that Yes on 8 did have legal standing to appeal, even though California state officials chose not to. The 9th Circuit panel unanimously concluded it was "bound" by the unanimous state Supreme Court determination that California law authorized Yes on 8 to have standing "to assert the people's and hence the state's interest in the validity of the measure and to appeal a judgment invalidating the

## Marriage at the Supreme Court

**PART II:** President's Punch: How strong a position has the Obama administration taken in both cases to push for the most decisive victory on marriage equality? (Now at DallasVoice.com)

**PART III:** Friends and foes at the bar: What groups have lined up for marriage equality and which have lined up against? What have the gay legal groups submitted? (March 22)

**PART IV:** Guide to arguments: Who are the attorneys? Who are the key justices to watch and what questions might be most important? How can readers listen to arguments? How can readers get the transcript of each argument? How soon might decisions be issued? (March 22)

measure."

The 9th Circuit panel, which seemed troubled that denying Yes on 8 standing would amount to giving state officials veto power over voter-approved initiatives, said Yes on 8 "need not show that they would suffer any personal injury from the invalidation of Proposition 8" because "the State would suffer an injury ..."

In the DOMA case, BLAG argues that, because the executive branch did not defend DOMA in court, it should not have the right to petition the Supreme Court for review of the lower court decision that found the law unconstitutional.

BLAG lead attorney Paul Clement and his team assert that the House has a "concrete interest in ensuring that its passage of DOMA is not completely nullified" and that it would suffer a "distinct injury" that a Supreme Court decision could redress. (BLAG argues the Supreme Court should dismiss the solicitor general's petition and, instead, grant BLAG's petition to appeal the 2nd Circuit decision.)

Professor Jackson's brief argues that BLAG has neither suffered nor been threatened with "injury," that one chamber of Congress cannot assert that Congress has suffered injury, and that BLAG "is not the House" but rather an advisory group to the House.

"It is the Executive Branch, not Congress, that is obligated to 'take Care' that laws are enforced," said Jackson's brief. "Moreover, any injury that might arise from nondefense of a law would be to the

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**T'EXAS BEAR ROUND UP**

## ■ deaths



**Jon Walter "Wally" McHenry**, 53, passed from this world on Feb. 21, 2013, after a brief illness.

Wally, as he was known to friends, was born Feb. 9, 1960, in Snyder, Texas. He was a proud member of the Creek Nation, one of the Five Civilized Tribes, based in Oklahoma.

A 1978 graduate of Collinsville (Okla.) High School, he went on to complete a certification program from the American School of Welding. But the same energy, excitement and enthusiasm he brought to life led him to Dallas, where he had spent the last three decades, with stops in Tulsa, New Orleans and San Francisco.

He developed a special bond with his beloved New Orleans, which he visited frequently. Wally participated in several aspects of the retail industry in recent years.

In 2002 he was awarded recognition from the Neiman Marcus Leadership Development Program as Manager of the Year, and most recently was employed with Sephora.

Wally enjoyed sports, especially football and basketball, cheering on his favorite teams, including LSU and Nebraska. March Madness was a great joy for him. His knowledge of college sports was astonishing. But he also took great pleasure in gardening, and most of all entertaining his large and diverse group of friends. Whether he was hosting or attending a function, his smile and laughter were sure to light up the room, and everyone present felt like a good friend. Wally also enjoyed seeing family and friends and had taken an extended trip to Thailand, which he enjoyed immensely.

Wally is survived by a large extended family, including his parents, Ron and Martha of Coweta, Okla.; grandmother, Josephine of Broken Arrow, Okla.; sister, Ronda McHenry of Dallas; brothers, Eli, Joe, Dan and Steve, and their spouses; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and literally hundreds of friends and co-workers throughout Dallas and the U.S. from coast to coast.

Services were held Feb. 25 at Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church with burial at Park Grove Cemetery in Broken Arrow, Okla.

**Barry James Milton Sullivan**, a 27-year resident of Irving, Texas, who was born and raised in Memphis, moved on to the next phase of our existence on March 4 at 9:15 p.m.

By his side was his partner of 30 years, Joseph



Puckett, and the two sisters he loved so very much, Lorna McClusky and Patricia Edminston.

We were so blessed, as Barry was an angel sent by God to teach us to never give up no matter what is presented to you. He trusted all that they would do right, as he knew both would benefit from it.

Barry's infectious smile, laughter and "genuine" concern for others enhanced the lives of everyone who knew him. His greatest legacy is that he made everyone feel important.

Barry's career with American Airlines for 25 years was an integral part of his lifelong love of airlines. His crew chief said that Barry "came out every day and worked to do his best even though things may not be the best conditions or situation. He was a fighter, stronger than most."

Barry and his partner, Joseph, traveled across the country playing a major role as members of the International Gay Bowling Organization, helping raise more than \$10,000 for charity organizations. Barry's love of drag provided the means to entertain and draw in donations.

Barry and Joseph belonged together as their love for each other was the force of their strength and their faith that in the end things will simply be all right.

Barry is survived by his partner of 30 years, Joseph Puckett; his father, Elbert B. Sullivan; his sisters, Patricia Edminston, Lorna McClusky, Gayle Sullivan and Amy Carter (Richard); his brothers, Brooks Sullivan (Debbie) and Jeff Sullivan (Maura); his nieces, Trisa Russell (Arthur), Candace McColgon (Andrew) and Bridget Lambdin; his nephews Chris Houston (Tracy), Brian Houston (Heather), Anthony McClusky (Angela), Joseph McClusky (Amanda), Aaron McClusky (Laura), Davis Carter and Jack Sullivan; great-nieces Ashley James (Wade), Lara Boston, Kate McClusky, Madison Lambdin, Alice McClusky, Mary Elisabeth Houston and Olivia McColgon; great-nephews, Andrew Houston, Wyatt Houston, Scott Boston, Justin McClusky, Alex Russell, Porter McColgon, Max McClusky, Charlie McClusky; and as well as a great-great-niece Scarlett Wade.

Services will be at 10 a.m. March 16 at Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church, 2330 Cheyenne St. in Irving.

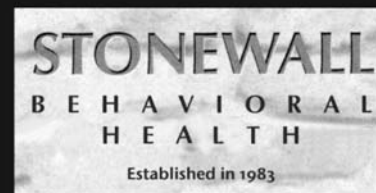
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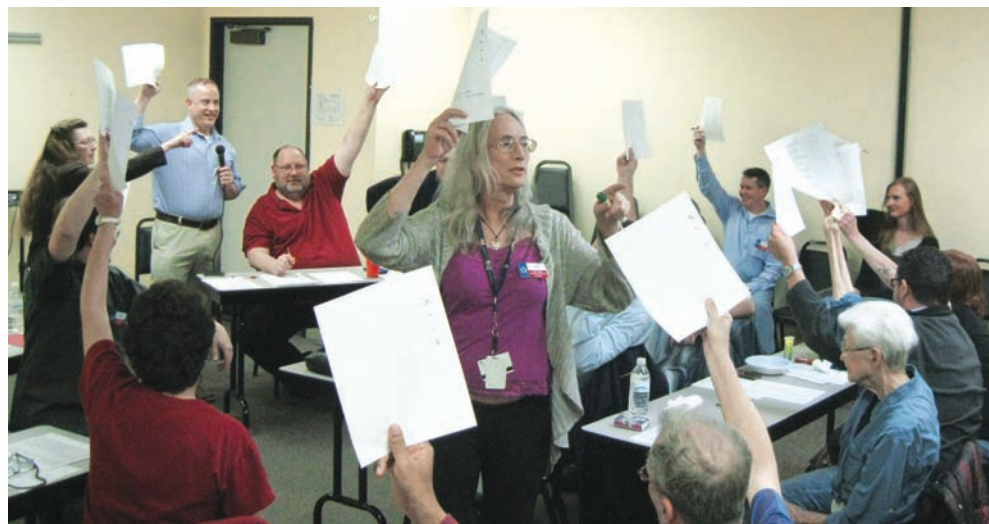


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**KEEPING COUNT** | Stonewall Democrats board member Pamela Curry counts ballots during the endorsement committee's meeting at Resource Center on March 9. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

# Stonewall panel backs Abtahi, Jasso, Medrano

Group's endorsement committee also recommends Claudia Meyer, Monica Alonzo, Jesse Diaz for Dallas council at 5-hour meeting

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

Dallas City Council candidates Bobby Abtahi, Delia Jasso and Adam Medrano received endorsement recommendations from a Stonewall Democrats of Dallas committee on Saturday, March 9.

The committee interviewed 10 candidates and two surrogates in six contested council races, deliberating and voting on the recommendations during a five-hour meeting at Resource Center Dallas.

Not surprisingly, the most hotly debated recommendations came in the city's most heavily LGBT districts — 1, 2 and 14. The committee's recommendations of Abtahi, Jasso, Medrano — as well as three other candidates — are expected to be ratified by Stonewall's general membership Tuesday, March 19.

"All of the races were hard for us to choose, because now we have so many great allies, so it's hard to pick one over the other, but that's part of politics, and that's how the endorsement process goes," Stonewall President Omar Narvaez said.

Perhaps the group's most difficult choice was between Jasso and Scott Griggs, both incumbents, who were placed in the same North Oak Cliff District by redistricting. Jasso created the city's LGBT Task Force after she took office in 2009, while Griggs, first elected in 2011, is the author of a proposed council resolution backing marriage equality and statewide LGBT employment protections.

During his Stonewall interview, Griggs criti-

cized Jasso for failing to use her title of council member on a letter she wrote to state legislators asking them to consider marriage equality and statewide employment protections — a letter which she made public shortly after Griggs announced his resolution.

"I will use my title," Griggs told Stonewall members. "I will stand out there and use it on your behalf, and that is the big difference. We don't need to talk issues to death. We need to take action. I stand on issues with courage and conviction and take action."


Jasso said later she opted not to use her title on the letter at the advice of the city attorney. According to the city's Ethics Code, a city official may not "use the prestige of the city official's position with the city on behalf of a candidate, political party, or political committee, except that a city official is not prohibited from lending his or her name so long as the office held with the city is not mentioned in connection with the endorsement."

"The advice of the city attorney was to write it as a citizen," Jasso said of the letter.

During her Stonewall interview, Jasso touted the LGBT Task Force's accomplishments, crediting the group with making DPD's LGBT liaison officer position full time, modifying city forms to be more inclusive, developing diversity training for DPD and Dallas Fire-Rescue, and organizing the city's June Pride Month events.

"I'm very, very proud of all the initiatives that we continue to work on in the LGBT Task Force," Jasso said. "What makes me a better candidate is that I have four years of experience now serving on the City Council. I have many allies on the council. I think that helps when you're trying to get eight votes to pass whatever you need to pass. I do have that ability to get consensus — and that's all I'll say."

■ STONEWALL, Next Page



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## ■ texasnews

■ **STONEWALL**, From Previous Page

In District 2, the committee recommended Dallas school district Trustee Adam Medrano — the nephew of incumbent council member and LGBT ally Pauline Medrano, who is term limited — over openly gay candidates Herschel Weisfeld and Vernon Franko, who also sought the endorsement.

Adam Medrano supported an LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying policy as a member of the DISD board, and has repeatedly ridden alongside his aunt and other council members in Dallas' gay Pride parade. He said he was honored to receive the Stonewall committee's recommendation.

"They probably just looked at, I would think, my history of supporting the LGBT community," he said. "I've lived in the Oak Lawn area all my life, I've been active in my community and I think that's what they really went on. And also my family has long supported the LGBT community and issues way even before others would. We've lived in the Oak Lawn area for over 50 years. This is our home. This is where we're going to be for the rest of our lives."

Weisfeld, a real estate developer, said he wasn't surprised the recommendation went to Medrano. Weisfeld alleged Narvaez told him prior to the screenings that "he [Narvaez] was much more concerned about Hispanic representation as opposed to the LGBT mission of the organization."

The endorsement meeting grew dramatically in size just prior to the District 2 candidate interviews, and several members of the powerful Medrano family either joined Stonewall or renewed their memberships in February — just prior to the deadline to participate in the process.

Narvaez acknowledged there was "some truth" to Weisfeld's allegation concerning his comments about Hispanic representation. Narvaez said he believes it's important for the council to be as diverse and inclusive as possible.

"Is LGBT important? Absolutely, 100 percent," Narvaez said. "Are Latino issues important? Absolutely, 100 percent."

Narvaez said Stonewall's mission is to elect pro-LGBT candidates and to educate people about issues facing the LGBT community — but also to educate people about racial and economic justice.

"We're Democrats, and that is part of our Democratic Party platform," he said, adding that there are always a few candidates whose feelings get hurt during the endorsement process.

Stonewall political chair Jeff Strater noted that even without the influx of Medrano family members and others prior to the District 2 interviews, Medrano had enough votes to capture the recommendation, because Weisfeld simply didn't resonate with the group.

"There have always been Medrano members of the Stonewall Democrats — longer than Herschel Weisfeld — so it's not an unusual presence," Strater said. "It's not like they were random people who came to our meeting."

In District 14, where incumbent and LGBT ally Angela Hunt is term limited, three of seven candidates sought the Stonewall endorsement.

Abtahi, a former city prosecutor, has a lesbian

sister and would be the city's first Middle Eastern council member.

While the committee's questions for candidates covered everything from gas drilling to the Trinity River project, party affiliation emerged as a major issue in District 14.

Prior to the meeting, Stonewall leaders distributed a spreadsheet containing the party primary voting histories of all 38 council candidates stretching back two decades. On the opposite side of the spreadsheet was an "Oath of Affiliation" to the Texas Democratic Party signed by District 14 candidate Philip Kingston — a requirement for him to be eligible for the endorsement since his primary voting history is exclusively Republican.

Stonewall member Pam Gerber, who supports Kingston, said later it was the first time she can remember that candidates' full voting histories were distributed. Gerber said she felt the move was designed to target Kingston. Kingston did not appear at the meeting but was represented by Hunt, who has endorsed him to be her successor.

But other Stonewall veterans took a different view. Former state Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt, one of Stonewall's founders, wrote a letter to the endorsement committee encouraging them to support Rogers — the only one of the three District 14 candidates seeking the endorsement whose primary voting history is exclusively Democratic.

Abtahi, 31, has voted in just two primaries — the Republican Primary in 2010 and Democratic Primary in 2012. He said he voted in the 2010 Republican Primary because he wanted to vote against Gov. Rick Perry.

During his interview, Abtahi called supporting LGBT equality a "no brainer" but said the fact that only three of the seven candidates in the race sought Stonewall's endorsement "shows that we have a lot of work to do."

"Too often we play politics with things like equality and civil rights, and that's not what I stand and not what I'm going to do when I get on the City Council," he said.

Strater defended the decision to distribute the spreadsheet containing voting histories.

"At the end of the day, it's a Democratic organization, and a Democratic organization recommends Democrats, and that information is necessary," Strater said.

In District 3, the committee recommended Mountain Creek neighborhood activist Claudia Meyer, who is challenging anti-gay incumbent Vonciel Hill. Hill, who did not seek the endorsement, is the lone sitting council member who has refused to appear in the gay Pride parade.

Asked by a Stonewall member whether she would appear at Pride, Meyer said: "Most certainly. Just invite me and I'll be there."

District 3 candidate Michael Connally also sought Stonewall's endorsement.

In District 5, the committee recommended Jesse Diaz, the only one of four candidates who sought Stonewall's backing. In District 6, the committee recommended incumbent Monica Alonzo, who was represented at the meeting by gay former DISD Trustee Jose Plata and was the only one of three candidates who sought the endorsement. ■

News editor Anna Waugh and staff writer David Taffet contributed to this report.

# Medrano won't say if he's gay despite arrest in 2000

Dallas council candidate ran from officer investigating 'homosexual conduct' in Dillard's bathroom, but won't discuss his sexual orientation

**ANNA WAUGH** | News Editor  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

DISD Trustee Adam Medrano is vying to represent one of Dallas' mostly heavily LGBT City Council districts — but he won't address rumors that he himself is gay.

Medrano, 37, has served on the Dallas school board since 2006 in District 8, and a majority of the council district falls into his school board district. During his time on the board, he's been elected president three times.

Council District 2 covers most of Oak Lawn, as well as parts of downtown and East Dallas. Two of the other three candidates for District 2 are openly gay: Herschel Weisfeld and Vernon Franko.

But Medrano would not address his sexual orientation with Dallas Voice this week.

"I'm not going to discuss that," he said. "I don't think that sexual orientation is an issue in the race."

Medrano was arrested for evading arrest in December 2000 when an officer tried to detain him during an investigation into "homosexual conduct" in the Dillard's bathroom at NorthPark Center. Medrano declined to speak about the arrest, pointing to his comments from a 2006 Dallas Morning News story about the incident.

According to the police report, a store employee told an officer "three males inside the bathroom were possibly engaged in sexually (sic) activity in the bathroom."

The officer "could hear low tone moaning sounds and could hear a plastic packaging noise behind the stall door." After a few minutes, Medrano exited the stall "in a hurry." The officer recognized both men from an hour before in another bathroom in the store where homosexual behavior was suspected, the report states.

When the officer tried to stop him, Medrano ran from the officer.

He was charged with evading arrest, a class-B misdemeanor, instead of lewd conduct, a class-C misdemeanor. He received a year of probation for deferred adjudication and performed 24 hours of community service.

Medrano denied the allegations that he was engaged in sexual activity in the bathroom in the Dallas Morning News article, published when he first ran for school board. He said he was using the restroom and exited the stall to find an officer ordering him to line up with several other men for homosexual conduct.



Adam Medrano

"I heard that and said, 'Whoa,'" Medrano told the newspaper. "I was innocent. I did nothing wrong. I ran. That was the mistake I made."

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsed Medrano in the District 2 race. During the screening process, his sexual orientation wasn't addressed.

Stonewall President Omar Narvaez said he doesn't know if Medrano is gay, but added that Medrano discussed his arrest informally with the organization prior to the screening.

"I was aware of the story, but it wouldn't have been a factor for me," Narvaez said. "That's not a factor."

Narvaez said Stonewall doesn't ask candidates about their sexual orientation and it would be wrong to ask only Medrano.

"In order to make orientation to be where it doesn't matter, we've got to quit focusing on it as a question that we ask at some point," he said. "I don't think that a person's orientation matters in whether they're going to be a good councilmember or not."

Stonewall political chair Jeff Strater said none of the members asked any candidate about their sexual orientation during the endorsement meeting. Medrano's criminal record also wasn't discussed.

"We heard him speak on Saturday and he presented his case for running for Dallas City Council

■ MEDRANO, Page 13



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'THIS PLACE IS CHANGING' | Openly LGBT state Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, addresses Lobby Day participants on the south steps of the Capitol. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

# Lobby Day sees record attendance of 540-plus

LGBT advocates, allies from across state tell personal stories in support of pro-equality legislation at biennial event organized by Equality Texas

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor  
waugh@dallasvoice.com

AUSTIN — Hundreds of LGBT Texans and allies from across the state told their personal stories of discrimination, love and hope for a better future to lawmakers Monday, March 11, during Equality Texas Lobby Day.

With more than 540 registered attendants, it marked the biggest Lobby Day ever, Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said.

Smith started working with the statewide LGBT advocacy organization as a lobbyist in 2003. He shared his experience with the crowd Monday morning, explaining that he came out to former state Rep. Carter Casteel, who had been his eighth-grade history teacher. He told her that he and his partner of 17 years, Rick, had loved each other dearly until his death in 2001.

And he asked her not to vote for the state's Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage be-

tween a man and a woman and passed later that year.

Smith said she acknowledged his love between him and his partner but told him she couldn't vote against DOMA because she would lose her seat.

"The day changed my life because I learned that the people who serve this state are real people just like me," he said, adding that more legislators need to hear stories to earn their support. "They just need to hear from enough of us to give them the strength to do the right thing for the people of Texas."

Pansexual state Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, thanked those who attended for standing behind her when she came out during her contested Democratic Primary last year and for encouraging her with their fight for LGBT rights.

"A year ago when I decided to run for office and people would ask me if I was going to be out about my sexuality, I had naively said yes and didn't realize the kind of backlash it would cause all over the state, all over the country," she said. "But it was people like y'all standing behind me today, that stood behind me during the campaign, that gave me the courage to stand up and continue to be my authentic self so that we can start to change this place. ... This place is changing and it's changing because of everyone who's here today and it's

going to continue to change."

Gonzalez has filed two pro-equality bills. HB 2402 would prohibit harassment and discrimination in public schools against LGBT students and employees, and HB 2403 would remove gender restrictions in the Romeo and Juliet defense for minors who have intimate relationships.

Rob Martinez was in Austin to lobby for HB 1701 that would remove language in the Texas Penal Code keeping homosexual conduct a class-C misdemeanor after the statute was found unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2003's *Lawrence v. Texas*.

Martinez has been with his partner for 15 years. They have three children together and 11 grandchildren, so he was also advocating for HB 1696, which would remove negative teachings about homosexuality from public school curriculum. He said both bills would help his grandkids grow up knowing that his relationship is just as meaningful and lawful as relationships between straight couples.

"I would hate to think that they have to go to school and be told that my lifestyle is not only immoral but illegal," he said.

State Rep. Jessica Farrar, D-Houston, who authored both HB 1701 and 1696, welcomed Martinez's group into her office Monday and listened

to their stories. She said the work has started and now she is working with fellow lawmakers to determine the best strategy for both bills' passage.

Noelle Gaughen told Farrar about her 17-year-old brother, who two years ago was hurt so badly from a rumor that he is gay that he took a semester off of school to escape the torment.

She said he hasn't come out and may not be gay, but she doesn't want schools teaching that being gay is wrong and being called gay shouldn't be an insult.

Elsewhere in the Capitol, groups lobbied for employment nondiscrimination, accurate supplementary birth certificates and marriage equality.

With a wedding photo in hand, Darrell Garcia-Parsons told legislators about the happiest day of his life last August when he married his partner, Jason, in New York. He added that it was also a bit sad because they couldn't have the ceremony surrounded by friends and family in Texas, where the two grew up, because it's prohibited.

"We shouldn't have had to go to New York," he said. "We work hard, pay taxes but we don't have the same equal rights as everyone. We got married because we love each other but we'd also like to take advantage of all the benefits [that come from marriage]. ... We're fighting for what's right and what should be a no-brainer." ■

#### ■ MEDRANO, From Page 11

and there was ample time for questions for all candidates," Strater said. "People weren't asking questions about prior arrests or records."

Medrano resigned from his job in the Park and Recreation department in January in order to meet the qualifications to run for City Council to replace his aunt, Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano, who currently holds the seat but is term-limited.

Medrano said he decided to quit his job and run for office because he wanted to make a difference in District 2, where he grew up.

"I just felt that I could work downtown at City Hall to get things done for District 2, being a life-long resident of District 2," he said. "I was actually born and raised in Oak Lawn and that's like the heart of District 2."

Pauline Medrano told Dallas Voice this week she hadn't heard the rumors about her nephew's sexuality, adding that she believes his involvement in the community makes him the strongest candidate for her replacement.

"I've not heard that, but I think in District 2 people that have served as representatives are hard-working, they are people of their word," she said. "I think that that's what people in District 2 are accustomed to are people that put the needs of District 2 first and foremost to be a good, responsible leader and elected official."

Dallas hasn't had an openly gay council member since Ed Oakley resigned in 2007 to run for mayor.

Two past openly gay council members, Chris Luna and John Loza, have served District 2.

Loza said this week he wouldn't discuss rumors about Medrano or the race. He said in general, running as an out candidate in Dallas doesn't

matter anymore.

"I just don't think it's something that people think is particularly relevant anymore," Loza said.

Openly gay real estate developer Herschel Weisfeld has emphasized that his sexuality is a small part of who he is and adds to his diverse background to serve on the council.

He said Medrano should be honest about who he is and suggested that he and Medrano should debate city issues, including those facing the LGBT community.

"I believe that in America in 2013, it should be OK that we can stand up proudly and say who we are," Weisfeld said. "Whether he's gay or not, I think he needs to be open and honest about who he is, as I am."

Denis Dison, spokesman for the Washington D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said the organization has a coming out project that helps candidates come out and pairs them with politicians who have come out in similar situations.

"It's important because we want people to be out," he said. "We think that's most helpful for them and for the LGBT community."

Dison said when politicians and candidates come out it speaks to their honesty as an elected official or candidate, adding that each person has a unique situation surrounding their coming out.

"For a lot of people, it speaks to their honesty and their trustworthiness and when somebody who is gay is honest about that, what won't they be honest about with their constituents?" he said. "It's pretty easy to be honest about taxes and crime and other problems when you have shared with other people something that's so personal about yourself." ■

Senior editor John Wright contributed to this report.

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## healthnews

# AIDS Walk South Dallas tries to chart new course

Fundraiser has new presenting sponsor, but some local agencies still won't participate after proceeds weren't accounted for in 2012

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

With a new sponsor and name, organizers expect this weekend's AIDS Walk South Dallas to make money for its beneficiaries and move beyond its troubled past.

"All the bills are paid," AIDS Walk Chair Auntjuan Wiley said.

He said costs are low, but some expenses like permits, police and printed materials are unavoidable. The nonprofit organization staging the 2013 walk is C.U.R.E., a Collin County-based AIDS education group. C.U.R.E. founder Roseann Rosetti said her organization is all-volunteer and will take no money from the event. "The money is staying in South Dallas," she said.

Wiley called C.U.R.E. the event's banker, making sure the books stay in order. That was important for this year's event after no accounting was released last year and no funds were distributed.

The 2012 South Dallas AIDS Walk began falling apart less than two weeks before it took place, when it was revealed that the Anthony Chisom Foundation, the event's presenting sponsor, had lost its nonprofit status months earlier. After the walk, despite repeated promises from Chisom Foundation founder Anthony Chisom to the event's beneficiaries, no accounting was ever made of money raised.

Most of the money brought in from walkers and sponsors was assumed to have been eaten up by expenses — and no criminal investigation was opened. At the time, a spokesman for the IRS said since there was no valid nonprofit organization, Chisom would simply have to report proceeds from the walk as personal income.

Wiley, who chaired last year's walk but said he had no access to its bank account or books, picked up the pieces, reorganized the event and found a different nonprofit sponsor organization to continue the work of spotlighting HIV in South Dallas. He said one thing that attracted him to C.U.R.E. is that group has overseen the accounting for other entities in the past. Rosetti said C.U.R.E. provided that service last year to North Texas Pride in Plano. She said her organization agreed to partner with AIDS Walk South Dallas primarily because of Wiley's reputation.

"For the past couple of years, we've gotten to know Auntjuan really well," she said. "We've built a trust between us. We agreed to do this because of Auntjuan."

She said C.U.R.E. will take no management fee



Auntjuan Wiley

and is not a beneficiary.

C.U.R.E. is an AIDS awareness organization based in Collin County founded 12 years ago. Much of its outreach and education work is with displays of panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Despite the changes this year, a representative from one of the beneficiaries of last year's event said he's still not comfortable participating.

"I have an issue with a majority organization from Plano having a walk in South Dallas," said Kirk Myers, CEO of Abounding Prosperity. "My concern is having a walk in South Dallas and no beneficiary in South Dallas."

Two beneficiaries have been named for the walk — AIDS Interfaith Network and Kidsapes Foundation. AIN is situated near downtown on Stemmons Freeway and Kidsapes Foundation is on McKinney Avenue in Uptown.

Myers said this year his organization is supporting AIDS Arms LifeWalk, which takes place in October in Oak Lawn.

"We know where the money is going," he said, referring to LifeWalk. "They do good work and have a proven track record."

AIN Development Director Travis Gasper said he was approached by the walk to become a beneficiary and accepted the offer. He's putting together a team for the walk and hopes a number of his agency's South Dallas clients will participate.

Gasper said he has a good working relationship with C.U.R.E. Most recently, they joined forces at the World AIDS Day event downtown.

"They're collaborative," he said. "They stepped in to be helpful."

Wiley said this week vendors are still coming in and will be accepted through the day of the event. Walkers and teams may register at the walk.

Zach Thompson, director of Dallas County Health and Human Services, and Deciding Moments campaign spokesman Otis Harris Jr. will speak before the walk.

A pre-walk party takes place at House of Blues Foundation Room at 6 p.m. on March 15. A \$20 donation includes free hors d'oeuvres and a drink coupon. Dezi 5 entertains with DJ Tino Valentino until 9 p.m. All proceeds benefit the walk. ■

AIDS Walk South Dallas starts at St. Philip's School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. March 16 at 10 a.m. Registration opens at 8 p.m. \$25. Information at AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

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■ **STANDING**, From Page 6

whole Congress, which one House cannot alone assert.”

Jackson’s brief also argues that the Supreme Court does not have jurisdiction to consider the 2nd Circuit decision given that the executive branch agrees with that decision, so, there is no “case or controversy” and no “injury.”

The U.S., said Jackson, agrees that DOMA is unconstitutional and that Windsor deserves a refund of the more than \$300,000 she had to pay in estates taxes following her spouse’s death. (The surviving spouse of a heterosexual marriage is not required to pay taxes on joint property. But because Section 3 of DOMA forbids federal agencies from recognizing marriages between same-sex spouses, the Internal Revenue Service did not grant Windsor the exemption.)

“The United States thus offers no concrete injury to its legal interests from that judgment sufficient to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court,” said Jackson.

### Why did the U.S. appeal?

One might wonder: If the U.S. agreed with the 2nd Circuit decision — that DOMA is unconstitutional — then why did the Solicitor General file a petition with the Supreme Court, seeking review of the decision?

The short answer is because the executive branch was obliged to continue to enforce DOMA, including the tax bite it inflicted on Windsor. But it’s also true that the Justice Department wanted the Supreme Court to weigh in on DOMA to avoid the havoc that would result from having one circuit court strike the law down while others had not yet done so.

“It would create havoc if there is not a definitive ruling on its constitutionality nationally,” said noted legal scholar Nan Hunter.

Jackson says the U.S. was “only nominally a defendant” in the courts below and that its interest in “obtaining a precedent from a higher court” is “insufficient.”

As for the likelihood that the justices will agree that the Supreme Court itself has no jurisdiction, well, that has political implications.

Veteran Supreme Court reporter Linda Greenhouse, in a New York Times blog post, put it this way: She said it would amount “to a huge grant of power to the executive branch at the expense of Congress, enabling the president to cut off further judicial review any time a law that he never liked in the first place is declared unconstitutional by a lower court.”

### No standing, no step forward?

So what if the court finds the petitioner for either case has no legal standing, or that the court itself has no jurisdiction to decide the DOMA case?

If a petitioner does not have standing, the Supreme Court will not decide the underlying constitutional question. In many cases, that means the lower court decision stands, but it applies only

to the lower court’s jurisdiction. For instance, if a 2nd Circuit decision is left intact, it benefits only people living in the 2nd Circuit states of New York, Connecticut and Vermont.

With these two cases, there are a multitude of things the court might do if it finds no standing and a staggering number of ways experts have thought of for how both cases might play out.

For instance, one law professor and former advisor to the Department of Justice under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Marty Lederman, thinks lack of standing in the Prop 8 case could mean as little as the grant of marriage licenses to the two plaintiff couples only. That’s what Yes on 8 proponents argue, too.

But others, including UCLA law professor Erwin Chemmerinsky, say no standing in the Prop 8 case means California officials would have to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples anywhere in the state. And many experts believe there could be additional litigation over that matter, too.

A finding of lack of standing and/or lack of Supreme Court jurisdiction on the DOMA case is even more complicated. First, as Hunter points out, allowing the 2nd Circuit decision to stand would leave a judicial system in which same-sex couples in three states could receive federal benefits of marriage while same-sex couples in the other states could not. One of the primary responsibilities of the Supreme Court is to address such inconsistencies among the circuits.

So, if the Supreme Court finds that BLAG lacks standing and/or the Supreme Court lacks jurisdiction in the Windsor case, it might choose to deliberate over the law through consideration of another of the DOMA petitions pending before the court. However, those cases pose much the same procedural questions.

What that might lead to then, says Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal, is years of more lawsuits.

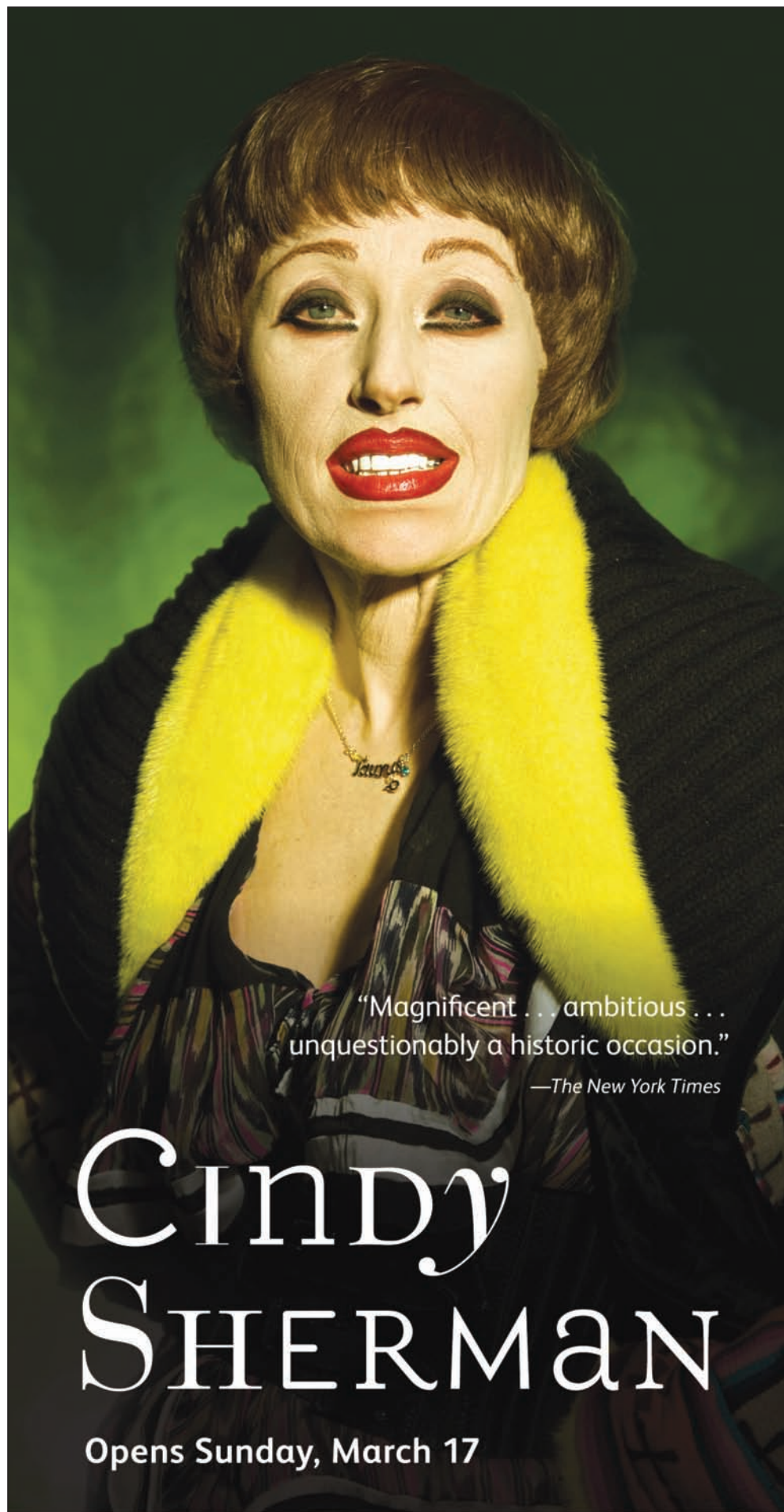
“It would mean that DOMA would be unenforceable in some instances but not others for at least some period of time, and that there would need to be new suit after suit after suit until a married same-sex couple actually lost and appealed before the higher courts could rule on the issue,” said Davidson.

But another alternative scenario, said both Davidson and Chemmerinsky, is that the Obama administration could — if the Supreme Court decides not to rule in Windsor — issue an executive order saying it will stop enforcing DOMA Section 4.

“But I suspect that some of the justices would not like creating a situation where a president can arrange to stop enforcing a law if the president’s administration ceases to defend it and a district court finds the law unconstitutional,” said Davidson.

Meanwhile, on March 4, the Supreme Court issued an order granting a request from all parties to the DOMA case and added 50 minutes to the usual 60-minute argument time for the March 27 case, to address the questions of standing. ■

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Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available at the following rates: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues), \$130. Subscriptions are payable by check, cashier's check, money order, Visa, Mastercard or American Express.

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# viewpoints

# Abort mission, pro-lifers

Abortion opponents, like anti-gay activists, are fighting a losing battle, and overturning Roe v. Wade would ironically doom their movement

Groups opposed to abortion are similar to anti-gay activists because they rely on junk science, scare tactics and religious fervor to limit the freedom of others. Both issues are central to the culture wars, and the religious right will be on the losing end of each battle.

Last week, the newly Republican-controlled Legislature in Arkansas overrode a veto by Democratic Gov. Mike Beebe to ban abortions at 12 weeks of pregnancy. The law flies in the face of Supreme Court rulings that say abortions are legal until the fetus is viable outside the womb, which is usually at 24 weeks.

Twelve weeks was not an arbitrary number, but a calculated public relations stunt to prohibit abortions when a fetal heartbeat could first be detected by abdominal ultrasound. This decision had nothing to do with actual medicine, and the heart, if you think about it, is just another random organ.

However, it is the only organ that is audible, associated with love, and turned into cute little candies on Valentine's Day — as opposed to the less attractive liver, colon or lungs. Thus, the masses in Arkansas who attend scientifically illiterate churches could be easily duped into believing a heartbeat meant a viable fetus.

Now, I have sympathy for individuals who are pro-life and most of them who aren't gunning down abortion providers mean well. But, they and the radical groups they support are really engaged in a fool's errand and fighting for a futile cause in which they will never succeed.



**Wayne Besen**  
Contributing Columnist

For starters, since the beginning of time women have had unwanted pregnancies and then found methods to terminate them. No matter what these zealots do to overturn Roe v. Wade, women who do not want to be mothers will find ways not to be. What the "right to life" crowd doesn't realize is that overturning Roe v. Wade would not be a victory, but the death knell of their movement.

First, the prohibition would create a black market for abortion drugs that would furtively be provided to wealthy Americans. If Americans spend \$41.3 billion a year on the drug war, but can't stop tons of cocaine from crossing our border, how does Operation Rescue think they can stop people from smuggling easily concealed abortion inducing drugs?

Second, if Roe v. Wade falls, it would hand the issue back to the states — and many would opt to legalize choice. This would create a situation where abortion would essentially be legal for women in Red States who were wealthy enough to buy a plane ticket to Massachusetts or New York.

Third, prior to 1973 those who were victimized by coat hanger abortions often suffered in silence. With today's 24-7 news cycle we would be inundated with a constant stream of cable TV stories of women bleeding to death in back alleys. This sanguinary spectacle would occasionally include the death of a pro-life preacher or conservative politician's daughter, creating media frenzies. Suddenly, most Americans would remember why the Supreme Court made abortion legal in the first place and the right-to-life movement would crumble.

Finally, if the plight of suffering women did not move enough men to reconsider their position, the soaring crime rate might. Hundreds of thousands of unwanted, undereducated babies

would grow up without job prospects and many would likely turn to illegal activities to survive.

At the moment, this is a movement that has badly eroded its moral authority by turning to lowball tactics. It relies on irritating women with onerous restrictions, intimidating them with raucous self-righteous protests outside of clinics, and tricking those seeking real medical advice into visiting bogus, faith-based pregnancy crisis centers.

The problem with pro-lifers is that they are shackled to oppressive religious fundamentalism, which keeps them from making mature decisions that could cut the abortion rate. For example, instead of promoting comprehensive sex education, they push the silly mirage of purity rings and abstinence until marriage. How strange that religious groups centered on the premise that we are all sinners, base their sex-ed programs on the notion that teenagers will never "sin" if we instruct them to "just say no."

A New York Times article this week mentioned that Focus on the Family CEO, Jim Daly, had "collaborated with the local alternative weekly, The Colorado Springs Independent, in a campaign to encourage families to take in foster children."

Such actions — as well as real sex education and encouraging adoption — is the correct path for the religious right to take instead of making a false idol out of overturning Roe v. Wade. In the meantime, zealots, such as the lawmakers in Arkansas who passed their blatantly unconstitutional law, are simply spinning their wheels and wasting taxpayer's money. The sooner this movement aborts such tomfoolery, the sooner it can get down to the business of helping women avoid unwanted pregnancies and lowering abortion rates. ■

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

## Feedback

### Stonewall should stay neutral in D. 1

Stonewall Democrats' recent endorsement of Delia Jasso over Scott Griggs in the District 1 Dallas City Council race must be based in something other than the candidates' commitment to gay rights. Just like the last election where veteran Angela Hunt was rejected for James Nowlin, this election presented the group with not one, but two vocal champions to our causes, and one got a slap in the face.

Forty percent of Griggs' appointees to boards and commissions are openly gay. By choosing out

citizens to represent him, Griggs lets other parts of the city know that his district is a place where gays and lesbians have a voice and a seat at the table in matters that impact us all. His is a real record we all should be proud of and he is a real friend who doesn't deserve such disregard.

When presented with two candidates that support the gay community so wholeheartedly, perhaps the Stonewall Democrats should explore a third option and remain neutral — if only for their own good. Continuing to offend such fervent supporters of our community is wrong and threatens the group's continued relevance.

**Michael Amonett**  
Dallas  
via Email

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# Turning LePage

Just in time for TBRU, BearDance celebrates five years of parties and charity with DJ John LePage

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer  
getrichindallas@gmail.com

Considering it's one of the premier bear events across the country, it's hard to believe that San Francisco's celebrated DJ John LePage has not played Dallas during Texas Bear Round Up before now. But better late than never. The nonprofit BearDance has had him in their sights to play its signature TBRU dance party, and has snagged LePage to headline its fifth anniversary event this weekend. This also secures LePage's place as one of the go-to DJs for whenever bears wanna dance.

"John's cult-like following in the bear community, combined with his playing of high profile venues across the country made him our natural choice to headline this year's event," BearDance board member Darren Graff says.

"I've been spinning Bear Week in Provincetown and Lazy Bear, so I have a lot of experience spinning at major bear events," LePage concedes. "I was approached by BearDance about two years ago to see if I'd be interested in what they're doing, so they've been on my radar and I'm very excited to play."

This gig will also mark LePage's first time attending TBRU. The closest he's ever come before to attending the furpalooza was in 2002, when he coincidentally spun a Dallas gig that happened the same weekend. LePage and his partner will stay for the entire event, but work comes first and he reassures that the dance floor will be a musical haven.

"I'm considered a 'bear DJ' because I cater to them," LePage grins.

Face it: A hunky, scruffy guy on the turntables is going to be easy to identify with, in some fashion, for the bear community, but LePage doesn't want people to confuse catering to his crowd as pandering. What makes LePage a favorite is that he doesn't just look the part; he proudly plays it as well.

"It's the scene that we socialize in and I think DJs in general will play toward their own scene," he says. "That face that I'm also socially a part of the scene I spin for? I'm proud of that."

There has been some slight kerfuffle among DJs when certain artists get played that aren't in favor with all of the LGBT community. This controversy isn't lost on LePage. His brand of vocal-progressive house varies greatly, but if there is the remotest hint that homophobia could be tied to a song or artist, he refrains.

"I pay attention to the music charts like Billboard, so I know what's popular, but I'm also aware," he says. "I remember Mary Mary had a popular single a couple of years ago that I liked, but I just couldn't play them because of their anti-gay remarks. I'm very proud to be gay and I certainly don't like to think that what I play could affect the people on the floor."

An admitted workaholic, LePage juggles his own label Groove Records, a new single ("Echekeboom") and a full-time day job as a Realtor. Add to that he listens to dance music "99.9 percent of the time," how does the guy decompress?

"Oh, it's tough," he laughs. "When I'm doing the music stuff, that's not work for me; that's my fun, relaxing time. But I don't have a lot of free time, so I try to sleep." (Ummm ... don't bears call that hibernating?)

And while he's apparently relaxing on those Station 4 turntables for BearDance, he expects the menagerie of fuzzy creatures on the floor to be dancing up the proverbial storm.

"They can expect an exciting set of music alongside some of my original productions," he says. "They just need to come prepared."

## BEARDANCE@TBRU 18

With DJs John LePage and Doug Jackson. **Station 4**, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. March 15. 8 p.m. \$30. BearDance.org.



**OUT OF HIBERNATION** | Despite being part of the bear community and a popular DJ, this week's appearance at BearDance will mark John LePage's debut at TBRU.

# Twang with a twist

Out C&W artist Drake Jensen makes a viable shot at stardom with 'OUTlaw'

The music genres of hip-hop and country & western may be the last bastions where their mainstream makers still struggle to find a queer voice. Even so, both have undergone some opening in the closet doors, thanks to artists like K.D. Lang, Chely Wright, Frank Ocean and Queen Latifah. But not quite. As the "gay" label attached to Wright, she ventured into a more folk sound, while Lang veered into adult contemporary/ torch songs. So, country has been without a genuine out artist. It doesn't seem fair, especially in Texas — dying dogs and rusty trucks are as much a part of LGBT life as a gym membership or Sunday Funday mimosas.

This is where Drake Jensen steps in.

Much of the pre-release touting of Jensen's second full-length album, *OUTlaw*, as the product of an out country star rebound as an attempt to expand his presence within the LGBT community, while merely giving him an angle to dangle before the mainstream country music scene at large. But on the CD, he makes his move to be a definitive voice in country music that also *just happens* to be gay. And he does it with a honed sense of balance.

It was smart of Jensen not to set out to make "the gay country album," which some of the hype seemed to indicate. On 11 tracks, he shows a solid effort that plays with heartfelt lyrics and the proper amount of country clichés — yes, with a twist, but hardly climbing Brokeback Mountain.

The gay perspective comes through distinctly in "Checotah, Oklahoma," reminding us that *every cowboy's got a story*. While painting a picture of a closeted man who *fight[s] everything inside him* he delivers an epic listen. Jensen's pure voice can punctuate the right poignancy needed to empathize with his character. By detaching himself from the lyrics, Jensen lets us see a man we all probably know, reminding us of the painful struggle inside a closet that feels as big as a hometown. This should go down as a classic in the LGBT music continuum.

He takes the same approach on "Scars," singing the story of two bully victims. Jensen lets you make up your own mind about who his characters are, but sings a roadmap to help you cement who his people are. It's a brilliant talent and demonstrates that he trusts his audience to fill in the gaps.

When he enters radio-ready mode, as he does on the opening track "When It Hurts Like That," he fits right in with the Blake Sheltons and Billy Curringtons, but with some throwback to hit-makers of the '90s like Randy Travis and George Strait. Here, he does play the "vague pronoun" game, leaving the object of affection up to the listener, but the songs are so well done, that seems peripheral. And besides, we know what's up.



**BROKEBACK? NOT QUITE** | Canadian-born Drake Jensen turns out slyly gay country songs.

"Fast Enough For Me" is downright formulaic with an upbeat delivery that shows his disdain of rapid-fire living. When he sings *a sunset drive in my old Jeep / my baby's hand upon my knee*, queer listeners will be challenged to suppress a giddy smile knowing he's referring to a hunky boyfriend in the passenger seat. But he's writing with the same sensibilities that someone like Sara Evans would follow. Whether by design or not, he has the chops to be a star.

The end of the album tapers into a lull. Jensen builds up energy only to fade away. Strangely, the last three songs are so uninspired, they almost undermine what came before: "Every Other Day" drones on without any emotional punch behind the lyrics (*like I can hear you calling my name / and our song just don't sound the same*), then he ventures into some near-ridiculousness with the front-porch-ready "Midnight Forest Cricket Chorus," a banjo laced sing-along that plays more forced than authentic.

But Jensen assures that a gay singer can have a country music perspective. *OUTlaw* is what it should be: A collection of songs about love and loss — character-driven tales buoyed by a sturdy voice, solid instrumentation and classic lyricism that should do the genre proud ... despite the absence of a "lost dog" ballad. We'll give him time.

— Rich Lopez



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# Papa Bear

Dallas Bears president Wayne Davis is the humble dynamo who keeps TBRU on track



**FUR FLYING** | Last year's Texas Bear Round Up was the best-attended ever, but organizers expect this one will continue to grow in number of attendees from all around the world.

**RICH LOPEZ** | Contributing Writer  
[getrichindallas@gmail.com](mailto:getrichindallas@gmail.com)

Approximately 50 gentlemen showed up for the Dallas Bears meeting at the Youth First Texas facilities on a drizzly Saturday afternoon. With details to iron out, the men take their seats on long sofas and a smattering of chairs at a drab meeting room as they prepare for something that is less event than onslaught.

Texas Bear Round Up is nearly upon them. Leading the charge is Dallas Bears president Wayne Davis who, for the past four years, has worked to streamline and grow the annual weekend of fur and fun, which has become one of — if not *the* — largest gatherings of gay bears in the nation. With days shrinking down to hours, Davis leads the Saturday meeting with a surprising amount of reserve.

Then again, that may just be the calm before the storm. First on the agenda? Davis preaching the group on the benefits of Purell. “Stay hydrated, take your vitamins and use hand sanitizer,” he announces to the collection of volunteers. “Always wash your hands, but *especially* during TBRU weekend.”

The jokes are obvious as giggles and heckles run the gamut, but it serves Davis’ character. He leads the group more with a parental quality than any sense of a power run amok. He merely needs his guys to be healthy enough to handle four days of celebrating the hirsute while TBRU expands.

“We’ve grown [by] about 200 [attendees] each

year for the past five years,” Davis says. “But you know, it’s not about number of attendees — we’d be just as pleased if 500 men came. We just want our guests to have the most fun and raise the most money for our charities. That’s where the compass always points.”

The nonprofit group donated a staggering \$58,000 to local charities in 2012. This year, proceeds from the four-day event will go toward Youth First Texas, the Sharon St. Cyr Fund and Resource Center Dallas’ Food and Nutrition Program.

These last few days, Davis’ time consist *only* of TBRU. He reluctantly admits to being tired, fearing public perceptions that could draw focus.

“We’ve always been lucky to not have many major issues,” he says, “but when there are issues, we take them offstage. Whether it’s a disagreement among us or someone with a complaint, we go behind closed doors. And once TBRU hits, we’re onstage practically 24 hours.”

Treasurer Paul Young says that it’s this attention to detail that TBRU has gained such a strong reputation.

“Under Wayne, the event has just grown and everything runs just so smoothly,” Young says. “He’s definitely done a great job with his leadership for this and the group in general.”

Some of that success can be attributed to the accommodating nature of the Round Up. Davis sticks to the model they’ve created but allows for nips and tucks, whether it’s dinner in a different location, getting rid of the game shows or bring-

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 Through Sunday. [TBRU.org](http://TBRU.org).



**HIRSUTE PURSUIT** | Texas Bear Round Up has grown consistently since Wayne Davis, center, took over, resulting in staggering fundraising efforts from the Dallas Bears — \$58,000 to charity in 2012.

ing in entertainers, they are dedicated to figuring out what works best.

“We listen very carefully to our attendees and we ask what they want to do,” he says. “We have a good model but we have to pay attention to their critiques. We’re always ready to change.”

Davis recalls a Saturday night dinner two years ago that went slightly awry. Even the Dallas Bears had to (re)learn not to mess with a bear and his food.

“We were at the 300 Club and we ran out of food,” he recalls. “They cooked every piece of food in that building but, well, there wasn’t portion control. The biggest joke in our club is that we’ll never have cake at TBRU again.”

Such hiccups are outweighed by the results.

Yes, Texas Bear Round Up is one big party hosting hunky men from here and abroad, but Davis never forgets what it all boils down to.

“When we give those donations away and then physically see the result, all the energy and disagreements and time doesn’t matter. We can see when Youth First is able to get supplies or people getting fed, those tangible reliefs are what this is all about. This isn’t about me, it’s about all of us and I really credit the Dallas Bears and the board. My credo is fellowship, fun and lasting friendships and if we can do those and address serious needs in our community, it makes them — us — spectacular.”

Let the bears begin.

### Appreciation: Erica Andrews

When news that Erica Andrews passed away broke on Monday night, the outpouring of grief was not only widespread and sincere, but surprisingly diverse. Andrews, who died unexpectedly on March 10 of a lung infection in Chicago, straddled many communities. She amassed an impressive list of drag titles in her decades-long career, including Miss Gay Texas USofA 1997, Miss Gay USofA 1999 and Entertainer of the Year 2006. But her fame expanded beyond the pageant world.

As a trans woman, Erica (born Eddie) was an icon for the transgender community, having been profiled in the trans documentary *Trantasia* and appearing as a guest on *The Tyra Banks Show*. She mentored other drag queens, including serving as “drag mother” for current *RuPaul’s Drag Race* finalist Roxxy Andrews (who, consistent with tradition, took Erica’s last name as a sign of respect). She was active in many gay causes, including being the first model to pose for photographer Jorge Rivas’ Faces of Life HIV/AIDS awareness campaign (pictured). And she headlined the first “transploitation” grindhouse spoof, 2010’s *Ticked Off Trannies with Knives*, directed by Israel Luna.

“She understood that to make it in the industry, you had to be smart and easy to work with,” recalls Luna. “On *TOTWK*, she was quiet, professional and funny. I had cast her in my next film and spoke to her about being the lead in the one following. She had set a high bar in the entertainment world. Although her body is no longer here, her spirit, soul and mark of talent will live on. I will miss her dearly.”

Luna is not alone in his sentiment. Dozens of fans and friends left messages on DallasVoice.com when word of her passing spread. “The trans community has lost a great woman,” one posted. “Erica [was] always doing something to help people and our GLBT community,” offered another. “She lived a fuller life than some who live until 100,” opined another. “She was my mother & she never knew it,” lamented another.

Although Andrews moved to Chicago with her boyfriend last year, her ties to Dallas remained strong; as of press time, the ilume had scheduled a memorial service, including candlelight vigil, on March 14. It’s an appropriate tribute to someone whose light burned so bright and enriched so many with its warmth.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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L+S dining

# All sizzle, no steak-frites

Cafe des Artistes in One Arts Plaza has the look of a Parisian brasserie. So where is the cuisine to match?



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

Ah, Paris during *La Belle Epoque*: Petticoat-clad ladies dancing *le can-can* at the Moulin Rouge, Jules Cheret posters dotting streetlamps and alleyways with vibrant colors, music from concertinas drifting on winds fragrant with freshly-baked baguettes and paté from countless brasseries.

Of course, it's not like that anymore. Concertina music has been replaced by hip-hop blaring from over-sized headphones, the smell of automotive carbon smothers the aroma of bread and Benetton ads have replaced burlesque shows.

But the cafés? Well, the cafés remain, with their banks of narrow doors, small tables perched on tiled floors and espresso being pressed as diners share a morning cigarette or an evening aperitif. The *era* may have ended, but the iconography remains.

And that's what Café des Artistes, the newest concept from Dallas restaurateur Alberto Lombardi, seeks to capture.

He's chosen a suitable locale for this style: The corner space of One Arts Plaza on the eastern end of the Downtown Arts District, a suite for-

merly occupied by Screen Door. It's well suited for the image Lombardi is trying to conjure: A buzzy refuge for food and wine prior to a night of theater or opera or strolling through the museums. Location has never been better served.

The décor accomplishes exactly what the name and position shoots for: Accessible glamour, courtesy of the late 19th century (and Dallas designer Ron Guest). The banquettes are lushly appointed with mirrored headrests; the scarlet bunting is scandalous and rich; the bar resembles something from a Manet of the Folies-Bergère. There's even a piano when live music is deemed appropriate, and the bar is stocked with fodder for old-school cocktails, including absinthe. It's everything you need to feel transported across time and space to an age of carefree indulgence.

Until the food arrives.

Lombardi's restaurants are among the most reliable for well-priced, classic dishes of particular regions. His Taverna serves wonderful pizzas and some deft pastas; La Fiorentina, recently closed Tuscan steakhouse, grilled up dandy meats; Sangria, his tapas diner, does Spanish plates authentically. Even Uptown's Café Toulouse — in tone and style, a close sister to Café des Artistes — has served French bistro fare

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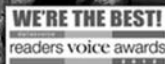
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like you'd find in Paris.

Or rather, it used to. On my last visit to Toulouse, the filet was ragged and overcooked; the vegetables lacked freshness and color. I attributed it to a misstep, but now wonder if it might be indicative of bigger problems.

Nothing we tried at Café des Artistes was as inedible as that filet, but neither was it anything worth ordering a second time.

The biggest puzzle: Why bother designing a brasserie if all you serve are

well-trod items available widely elsewhere? Mac and cheese — *really*? Pastas and risottos are certainly *available* at a French café, but are more Roman than Parisian; where are the cassoulets, the croques madames? The menu lacks personality and variety. It screamed its tired ideas at every glance.

Escargot is technically offered, though the presentation is fricassee style (why?); you *can* order a soufflé, but you can do that at Toulouse and countless other places; and the charcuterie platter at Boulevardier trounces the one here.

Consider the “crispy meatball” app with “angry” tomato sauce (\$9). The sauce does impart a *slight* kick, but “angry?” More like “inconvenienced” — perhaps “moody.” The meatballs themselves, generously put, possess a slight crunch, but are so smothered in the sauce that the descriptor “crispy” borders on misstatement. A lunch offering called the café burger (\$13) benefits from a dollop of Dijon and a schmear of gruyere, but why seek out a burger *here*?

A side of Brussels sprouts with bacon (\$5) sounded like something we could get many places, but we ordered it anyway. Again, they were not disastrous. But in a time where sautéed sprouts have become a staple at many gourmet eateries, the version here — firm but not grilled; they could use a burn, if only so that bacon



**FRENCH-AMERICAN DIPLOMACY** | Who goes to a brasserie for a hamburger, anyway — even if you call it a cafe burger?

clings better to them — fell below the norm.

Entrees let us down as well. The tagliatelle usually arrives Bolognese style, but we took a chance on the special, ordering it *frutti di mare* (\$22) — a mélange of shrimp, mussels and other bites of seafood. The pasta itself was not *al denté*, which may have been forgivable were the shrimp not overcooked. Blah.

The lobster risotto (\$19) should have been a slam-dunk, but ours was an air ball. Tiny bits of lobster were in evidence, but didn't define the dish. The risotto itself had all the seasoning of rice cake: Where were the herbs touted on the menu? I had to add table salt *four times*, and even then it had all the character of soggy cardboard. Shaved parmesan on top imparted *some* flavor on the spoonfuls where it was present, but risotto begs to have a cheesy overtone; this was defiantly lacking.

Desserts (\$8 apiece) were a marginal improvement, at best. While the Mozart — a tiered tower alternating between stiff meringue and chantilly creme, doused in ganache — was exactly the dichotomy of light and heavy we expected, the opera cake was less melodious. “Pepperidge Farm,” declared my dining companion after a few bites of the confection of sponge cake and chocolate. Exactly right.

Even our wines were disappointing. Yes, reds are to be served at “room temperature,” but that means a wine cellar in the north of France in the autumn, not a Dallas patio in July. The syrah (\$11) and South American malbec (\$9) may have been tasty, but came to us too warm, and before the food. I don't blame servers for sub-par dishes, but they should know when the wine is the wrong temp and has come out too early.

The pre-theater crowd delivers energy on weekend nights (surely that's a target audience), and the vibe is exactly what the décor demands. But until the food matches the concept, Café des Artistes feels more like a convenient way to bide one's time, not a place to go to make an evening feel complete. If it weren't for the décor, this restaurant seems about as evocative of French dining as a hot dog at the ballpark. ■

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### OVERALL RATING ★★★★★



**Café des Artistes** at One Arts Plaza, 1722 Routh St. Open Tuesday–Sunday for lunch and dinner. 214-217-6888. Cafedadallas.com.

The evocative decor is wasted on a routine menu of tired staples not worthy of a true Parisian brasserie. The disconnect between food and atmosphere torpedoes it.

**Food:** ★★★★★

**Atmosphere:** ★☆☆☆☆

**Service:** ★★★★★

**Price:** Moderate

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# Bigger'n Texas

How can you cover massive Alaska in one trip? Our travel expert has some ideas

I spent 15 days touring Alaska with a friend last summer — my second extended trip in the past three years to our nation's largest state. My previous trip included a cruise through the Inside Passage, followed by a four-day land trip north through Anchorage and Talkeetna. On my latest trip, I overnighted in eight different towns, from Juneau and Skagway in the southeast to Fairbanks in the east-central section of the state.

Even still, I've but scratched the surface of this state more than twice the size of Texas. But I have come up with a list of must-see activities or places I strongly recommend. Here, in no particular order, are the essential Alaska highlights.

**Drink your share of local craft beer.** What Alaska lacks in gay nightlife, it more than makes up for in quirky, offbeat bars with diverse, generally gay-friendly followings. Some of the best of these hangouts are craft-beer pubs, of which Anchorage has the greatest number. A few blocks apart in the city's downtown, Glacier Brew House and Humpy's both serve first-rate beer and great food, and in Midtown, the Bear Tooth Theatrepub and Grill, and nearby Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria are popular with the gay community and serve great food and distinctive beers.

In Juneau, the venerable Alaska Brewing Co. is

one of the foremost craft-beer makers in the country; although there's no brewpub on site, you can stop by for a tour and tastings, and the company's beer is widely available at bars all over Alaska. Also in southeast Alaska, the funky and friendly Skagway Brewing Co. is a great place to sip Spruce Tip Blonde (a locally distinctive beer flavored with hand-picked Sitka spruce tips). Fairbanks is home to the terrific Silver Gulch brewpub, which is as well-regarded for its malty Pick Axe Porter as for such delicious fare as beer-braised pork ribs and IPA fish-and-chips.

**Take the bus into Denali.** Visitors to Alaska's iconic national park, Denali, can be overwhelmed by the immensity of this 6-million-acre wilderness crowned by North America's highest peak, Mount McKinley (20,320 feet). The park is ideally explored over the course of a few days, but even with one full day, it's possible to cover a remarkable amount of ground. There's one road into the park, and beyond the first 15 miles, only official park school buses are permitted.

Options for touring the park by bus include guided tours and more flexible and less expensive "hop-on/hop-off" shuttles. A practical one-day strategy is taking a shuttle bus to the stunning and relatively new Eielson Visitor Cen-

ter, which is 66 miles into the park and access two short but very scenic hikes with Denali peak views. The trip takes a minimum of eight hours round-trip, but the ride itself is part of the fun — guides comment on the scenery and stop to allow passengers to snap photos of wildlife, which can include caribou, Dall sheep, golden eagles, moose, wolves and grizzly bears.

**Explore the Kenai Peninsula.** With relatively easy access to Anchorage, a slew of engaging towns and attractions, and rugged, spectacular scenery that takes in everything from massive glaciers to icy fjords to dense forests, this peninsula about half the size of South Carolina is ideal for road-tripping. The top towns for visitors are the artsy and pro-



**SERMON ON THE MOUNT** | Inside Denali National Park, Mount McKinley — the tallest point in North America — is an unmissable attraction.

gressive fishing town of Homer (the farthest from Anchorage, at 220 miles); scenic Seward, the gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park; and secluded Whittier, situated at the end of Passage Canal, which links to Prince William Sound.

On your way to the peninsula, consider tack-

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ing on a night or two in tiny Girdwood, just 40 miles from Anchorage, spending the night at the elegant Alyeska Resort. This upscale hotel and ski resort has beautiful rooms, a full spa and one of the top destination restaurants in the state, Seven Glaciers, which is reached via aerial tram.

If you'd prefer an all-inclusive approach to touring the Kenai Peninsula, book a trip with Alaska Wildland Adventures, which has three one-of-a-kind accommodations on the peninsula: the Kenai Riverside Lodge, Kenai Backcountry Lodge and Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge. AWA's trips include everything from adrenaline-pumping white-water rafting and sea-kayaking to more easygoing hikes, float trips and fishing outings, ideal for families or friends.

**Trek on a glacier.** Opportunities to view these glaciers abound from Juneau north into Denali National Park. One of the most amazing ways to experience one of these hulking masses of slow-moving ice is to hike directly onto one. In the historic gold-rush town of Skagway, Packer Expeditions offers wilderness and snowshoe hikes onto Laughton Glacier. These full-day adventures involve riding the historic White Pass & Yukon Route Railway to a mountain trailhead, and then trekking about four miles through verdant woodland and then onto the glacier.

In Juneau, Above & Beyond Alaska has developed an amazing glacier trek on which you'll hike three and a half miles through a rainforest then don crampons and ice axes and walk atop Mendenhall Glacier. If conditions permit, you

may also hike inside one of the surreal, blue-walled ice caves that have formed beneath the glacier.

**See Alaska from the air.** Alaska is home to more licensed airline pilots per capita than any other state. A number of smaller airlines offer regular service through the Inside Passage, with the trips from Juneau up to Skagway or Haines, or to Ketchikan are especially magnificent. Flights are also a favorite for viewing Denali Park.

**Stay at a small, atmospheric inn.** Most of the state's key communities have at least a few gay-friendly inns, which typically have distinctive settings and offer guests the chance to gain a better sense of what it's actually like to live in Alaska. Anchorage has a number of terrific options, including the affordable Copper Whale Inn, which is within walking distance of downtown attractions. Also centrally located are such gay-owned options as the Wildflower Inn and the City Garden B&B.

Dale and Jo View Suites is a luxurious, cozy spot with wonderful views in Fairbanks, while Pearson's Pond is one of the most sumptuous places to stay in Juneau. Funky Homer is home to such welcoming B&Bs as Brigitte's Bavarian B&B, which is set on a birch-shaded hillside, and the sunny and contemporary Bay Avenue B&B, which overlooks rippling Kachemak Bay. In Skagway, well-priced, welcoming White House B&B is centrally located.

— Andrew Collins

## Elegy for a hate crime

**October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard** by Lesléa Newman (2012 Candlewick Press), \$26; 257 pp.; two CD set (Brilliance Audio), \$23; 80 mins.

We all know the story. He was outnumbered: Two local boys in a bar with a pitcher of beer. One petite college student, sitting in the same bar, alone. But most of us have never thought of the last hours of Matthew Shepard the way author and poet Lesléa Newman imagines it in this book.

Through a series of freestyle verses, we experience many points of view from people and objects that witnessed Shepard's last moments. The truck knew that the situation wouldn't turn out well when the boys lured him into its cab. The road on the way out to the Wyoming vastness thought it had seen everything, but when it noticed Shepard trapped in the truck, it wanted to heave. The clothesline that was used to tie him felt itself tangled. The fence that held him up all night felt he was "heavy as a broken heart." The fence held on, though, through wind. It cradled him, as his mother would.

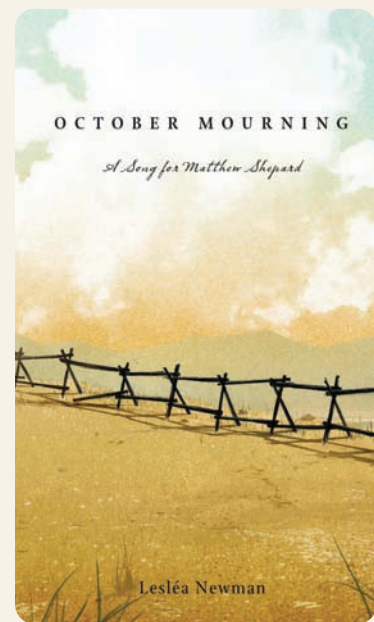
Shepard spent 18 hours waiting to be discovered, tied to a fence, with just the wind and deer as companions. When he finally was found, dying, the patrolman thought he'd been crying; the doctor *did* cry when he saw what was left of the boy. The candle at Shepard's vigil grieved and armbands stood as one. The fence that held him didn't mind becoming a shrine.

In the days to follow, as news of Shepard's death raced around the world, it changed lives: A drag queen went deeper into the closet. A police commander removed gay slurs from his vocabulary. The bartender who served the boys felt regret. Countless students wondered if Shepard's story could have been their own.

Other drivers must've thought I was crazy. There I was, cruising down the highway with tears coating my cheeks, my hand to my mouth. That doesn't happen often; in fact, few audiobooks have moved me as much as *October Mourning*. Newman's sparse words, performed by several actors in varied voices and timbres, bring incredible emotion to her scenarios, offering a book with beauty on one side, horror on the other.

Though grown-ups can — and will — certainly enjoy this audiobook, I think its best audience is young adults who are too young to remember that one night and its aftermath. For them, *October Mourning* may wake them up.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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Friday 03.15

**'Project Runway' designer Chris Straub at FW Home Show**

If you missed the Dallas installment of the Great Big Texas Home Show at Cowboys Stadium last weekend, well you should know in Texas, "great big" carries weight. You can catch the Fort Worth version this weekend — and once again, there's gay talent onboard. Project Runway designer Christopher Straub will be doing presentations with Kelly La Plante at the Chandelier Fashion Show each day, but there are lots of other decorators, vendors and experts on hand to help you come up with creative solutions to making your house your home.

**DEETS:** Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. March 15–17. [GreatBigTexasHomeShowFortWorth.com](http://GreatBigTexasHomeShowFortWorth.com).



Friday 03.15

**Bruce Wood revisits the power of men**

Last spring, Bruce Wood Dance Project premiered the all-male work *My Brother's Keeper* to widespread acclaim. Dealing with the complex relationships between fathers and sons, brothers and comrades-in-arms, it wordlessly showed men as vulnerable, strong and unique. The show returns this weekend, with Wood adding narration and expanding the scope of this personal and haunting exploration of masculinity for two performances only.

**DEETS:** Booker T. Washington High School/Montgomery Arts Theater, 2501 Flora St. March 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. \$30–\$100. [BruceWoodDance.org](http://BruceWoodDance.org).

Wednesday 03.20

**Practically perfect nanny 'Poppins' into Fair Park**

Mary Poppins has been an icon of childhood for more than 50 years, and the Broadway hit musical — which includes the famous scenes of dancing on the ceiling and the umbrella-clad flying governess — are all here in the return of this buoyant musical, courtesy of Dallas Summer Musicals. It's a retro treat with plenty of campy references, while still being a family-friendly adventure ... especially with DSM's new earlier curtain times of 7:30 p.m. evenings and 1:30 p.m. matinees. After all, Mary insists the children get enough sleep.

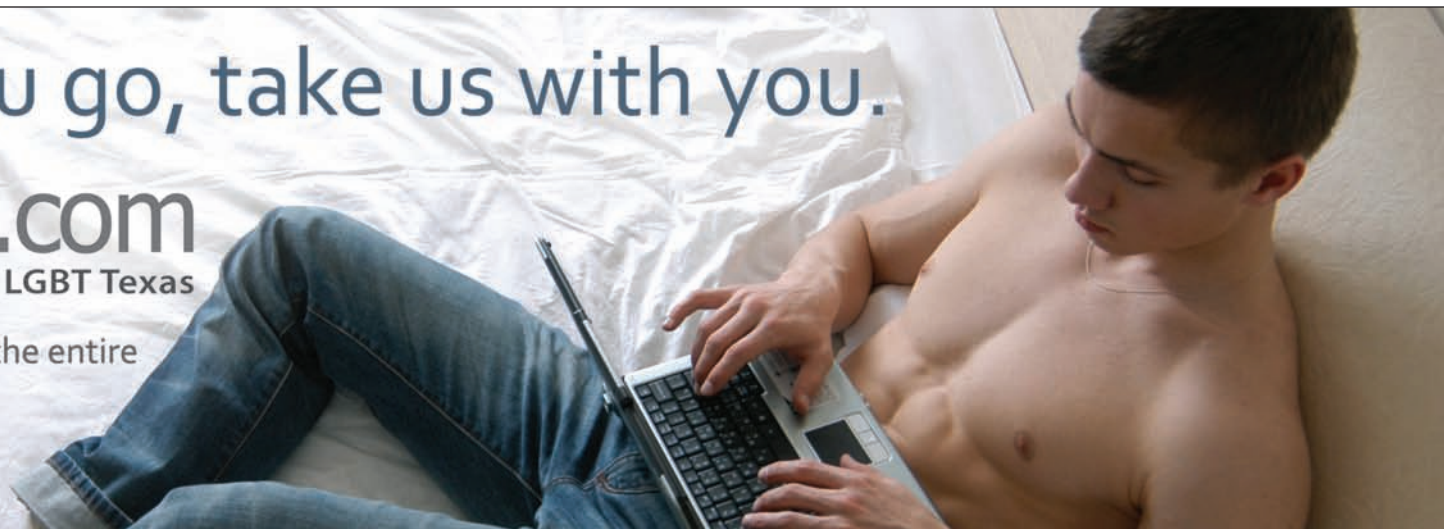
**DEETS:** Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. March 20–30. Tickets start at \$15. [DallasSummerMusicals.org](http://DallasSummerMusicals.org).



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## calendar



**ROOMMATE NOT WANTED** | Slobby Oscar and prissy Felix become an unlikely pair in DTC's 'The Odd Couple,' Neil Simon's monster hit comedy, which enters previews this week.

## 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. *Final weekend.* Tickets from \$10 to \$65 (season-wide pass). Visit [WaterTowerTheatre.org](http://WaterTowerTheatre.org) for a complete schedule.

**Greater Tuna.** The cross-dressing comedy about small-town Texas. Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. March 15–24. [ArtsGP.com](http://ArtsGP.com).

**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](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

**My Name Is Rachel Corrie.** Second Thought Theatre revives its acclaimed show from the Festival of Independent Theatres. Bryant Hall at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. March 16–30. [SecondThoughtTheatre.org](http://SecondThoughtTheatre.org).

**The Odd Couple.** Neil Simon's classic. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. March 15–April 14. (In previews through March 21). [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).

**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](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).

### DANCE

**My Brother's Keeper.** Bruce Wood's new version of the all-male ballet about relationships between men returns following its debut last spring. Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Montgomery Arts Theater, 2501 Flora St. March 15–16 at 8 p.m. \$30–\$100. [BruceWoodDance.com](http://BruceWoodDance.com).

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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. Through July 14. [OldRed.org](http://OldRed.org).

**Optical Spaces: The Art of Victor Vaserey.** MADI Museum, 3109 Carlisle St. Through April 7. [GeometricMadiMuseum.org](http://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](http://DallasHolocaustMuseum.org).

## FRIDAY 03.15

### AUTOMOTIVE

**DFW Auto Show.** Inspect, compare and test drive the latest models at this showcase of Detroit's latest, as well as classic cars. Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. Through Sunday. Tickets from \$11. [DFWNCA.com](http://DFWNCA.com).

### STAGE

**Cirque du Burlesque.** The monthly burlesque show. Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Road. Doors open at 8 p.m., curtain at 9 p.m. [VivaDallasBurlesque.com](http://VivaDallasBurlesque.com).

### HOME

**Great Big Texas Home Show.** *Project Runway's* Christopher Straub is one of the presenters for this weekend of decorating ideas. Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. March 15–17. [GreatBigTexasHomeShowFortWorth.com](http://GreatBigTexasHomeShowFortWorth.com).

### FASHION

**Dallas Vintage Clothing and Jewelry Show.** Local vintage boutiques showcase their wares for those interested in classic finds, including clothes from Janis

browse

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

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



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CathedralOfHope.com.  
**The ONE Church**, 5427 Philip Ave.  
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### MONDAY 03.18

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

**Dallas.** The goings-on of the Ewing clan, now with J.R. departed. TNT at 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY 03.19

**THEATER**  
**Spamalot.** The Tony Award-winning musical, based on the cult hit Monty Python film, plays for two nights only. Hill Performance Hall at the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. March 19–20 at 7:30 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.

**EAT UP!** | The International Grand Tasting Saturday night is the signature even at Savor Dallas, with tons of food and drink from top providers, but the expanded calendar of events also includes seminars and a tasting at the Dallas Arboretum on Sunday.

Joplin and Willie Nelson, as well as men's clothing from Richard Biasi of Chicago's Richard's Fabulous Finds. And if you dress (or cross-dress) head-to-toe in vintage attire, admssion is free. Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine. March 15–16 (Friday 3–8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.). General admission: \$8; early buying: \$20. VintageClothingandJewelry.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. Through March 17. TBRU.org.

**BearDance.** San Francisco DJ John LePage spins. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. \$30. BearDance.org.

### SATURDAY 03.16

#### FESTIVAL

**Spring Out: Art and Music Festival.** Tarrant County Pride Week Association presents this festival and fundraiser. Trinity Park Pavilion off Seventh Street, Fort Worth. Noon–6 p.m. TCGPWA.org.

#### DINING

**Savor Dallas.** The annual International Grand Tasting is the weekend's signature event. Irving Convention Center, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. \$110–\$125. 7–10 p.m. SavorDallas.com.

#### COMMUNITY

**AIDS Walk South Dallas 2013.** "Walking with Purpose" is the theme for this year's event, starting at St. Philip's School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Registration from 8 a.m., walk begins at 10 a.m. AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

### SUNDAY 03.17

#### WORSHIP

**Cathedral of Hope.** Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 5910 Cedar Springs

### WEDNESDAY 03.20

#### 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 03.21

#### THEATER

**A Bright New Boise.** Gay playwright Samuel D. Hunter's comedy about life in an Idaho big box store. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. March 21–April 13. CircleTheatre.com.

**The Futility of Hope.** Mark-Brian Sonna's new play, about a conservative girl who meets her biological father, only to find out he's gay. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. March 21–April 20. MBSProductions.com.

**Apartment Plays.** A double bill of two one-acts by Bruce R. Coleman: *A Conversation with a (Potentially) Naked Man* and *Larry Kramer Hates Me*. Green Zone, 161 Riveredge Drive. March 21–April 7.

### this week's solution

R	I	C	H		I	M	A	G	E		P	A	P	A	
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Falcon Studios

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

**Rudolf Nureyev**, who died 20 years ago this year, would have turned 75 on Sunday. The premiere male ballet dancer of his generation — and surely one of the 20th century's greatest artists in any field — he succumbed to AIDS in January 1993.



**PISCES: Feb 21 — Mar 20**

Take a step back and remove yourself from the desire to fix what may no longer be up to you. Don't imagine the worst. Life is full of surprises. For all you know, this could be the best thing that ever happened.

**ARIES: Mar 21 — Apr 20**

If tension has to do with the burden of expectation, you are in no mood to be controlled by anything. Anyone who tries to tell you what to do needs to know that they will get more of whatever they want from you if they let you be.

**TAURUS: Apr 21 — May 20**

Whatever makes you think things are working for you is about to be upset by the arrival of someone, or something, that will bring you up to speed. It is bound to make you wonder where you've been all your life — and if it doesn't sweep you off your feet, it'll inspire you to see that it's time for you to begin again.

**GEMINI: May 21 — Jun 20**

You might want to address who's standing in your way. Others operate on a totally different bandwidth. Any level of cooperation will only be achieved if you can find a way to make room for their differences, or keep it simple and just weed them out.

**CANCER: Jun 21 — Jul 20**

It could be that there are secrets that have to be kept, and the burden of silence is making you wonder why the truth seems to be such a threat. You are in an interesting position. Stay in touch with yourself. Don't let others exploit your goodness.

**LEO: Jul 21 — Aug 20**

The impulse to give up says a lot about what you wish you were getting out of a situation. Our behavior usually reflects what we wish others were doing for us. Don't expect anyone to pick up on this until you start giving as much to yourself.

**VIRGO: Aug 21 — Sep 20**

The sense of being closed in, or collapsing on yourself, has got you wondering why you're always alone. The idea that something is missing is partially true. It's not that you're incomplete, but that your heart can only be stirred by something new.

**LIBRA: Sep 21 — Oct 20**

Getting to a place where you understand that our hardest tests are where true faith gets honed to perfection is where you need to go. As much as you have issues to contend with, life is trying to show you that the tough stuff is worth its weight in gold.

**SCORPIO: Oct 21 — Nov 20**

Having enough down time will be an issue. There may be no other solution than to delegate. Expect changes and delays. Whatever the plan is, others aren't necessarily in agreement with it. It will take patience and strategy to turn them around.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21 — Dec 20**

Don't assume that your nearest and dearest understand what's best for you. If anything, you need to edit their input and be independent enough to show those who treat you like a child that you can't keep playing this game if you can't be yourself.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 21 — Jan 20**

You're off the hook when it comes to having to worry about how it'll all fall into place. The law of attraction works with or without us. Those of you who aren't having an easy time with things need to reflect upon the way they have panned out.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21 — Feb 20**

If you were more in touch with your feelings, you would know how to tell it like it is, but you lost track of them a long time ago. If anything, it looks like it's time to at least put your cards on the table. Truth always sets us free.

JANE'S WORLD



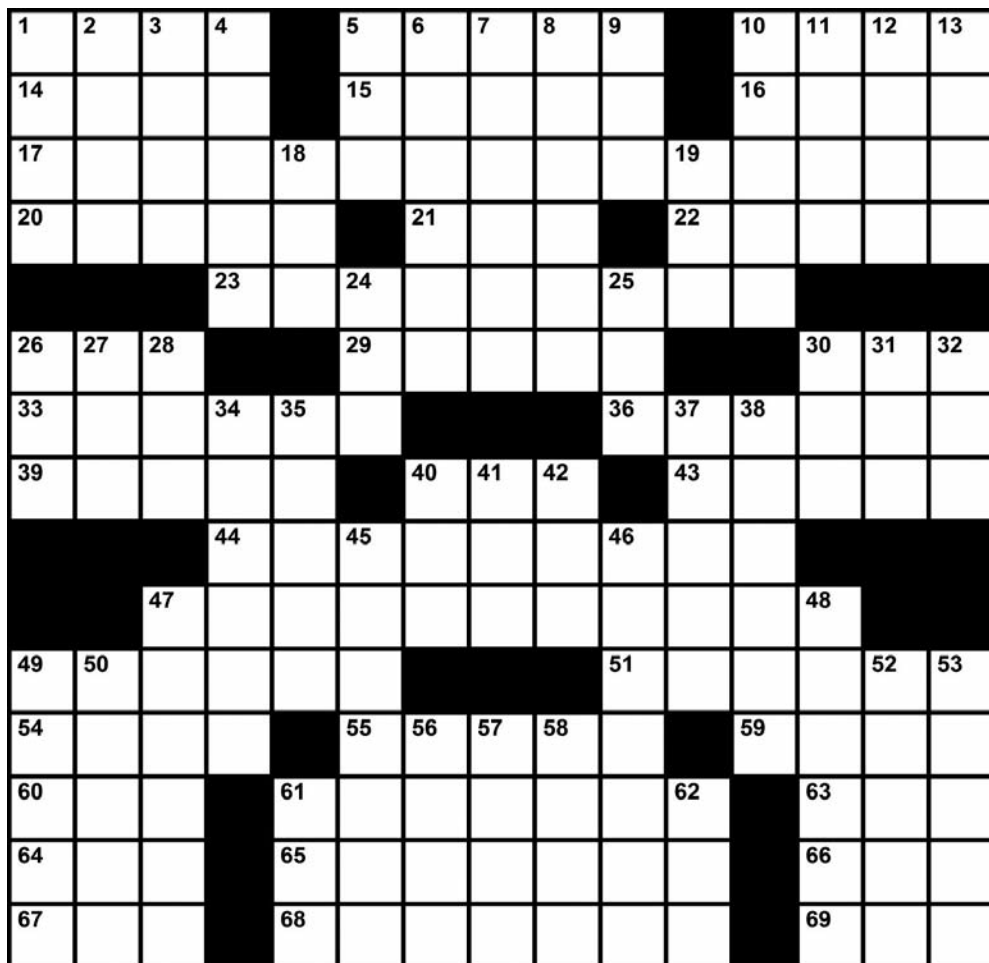
bitter girl



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# The White Stuff

Solution on page 29

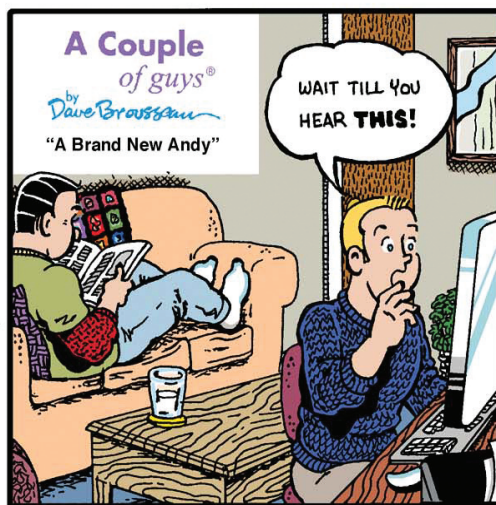
**Across**

- 1 Poet Adrienne
- 5 GLAAD concern
- 10 "Don't preach," Madonna told him
- 14 Chocolate sandwich
- 15 Meat-filled treats
- 16 Thames school
- 17 Start of a quote from Betty White
- 20 Makeup maker Lauder
- 21 "What was \_\_\_ was saying?"
- 22 Some like it hot
- 23 More of the quote
- 26 The Gay '90s, for one
- 29 Cocteau contemporary Maurice
- 30 Get up and go
- 33 Queer letter
- 36 Climb up
- 39 More of the quote
- 40 Soaring seafood lover
- 43 More of the quote
- 44 Version
- 47 More of the quote
- 49 Novelist Marcel
- 51 Not promiscuous?
- 54 Word on Warhol's can
- 55 LuPone Broadway role
- 59 Flintstones' pet

- 60 Solo among the stars
- 61 End of the quote
- 63 Greek T
- 64 Thespians do it
- 65 Dakar's nation
- 66 Joe holder
- 67 Porter's "\_\_\_ Shouldn't I?"
- 68 Advance trial
- 69 Hanging spot

**Down**

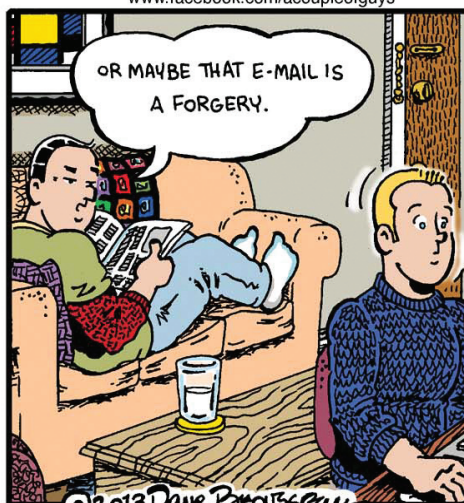
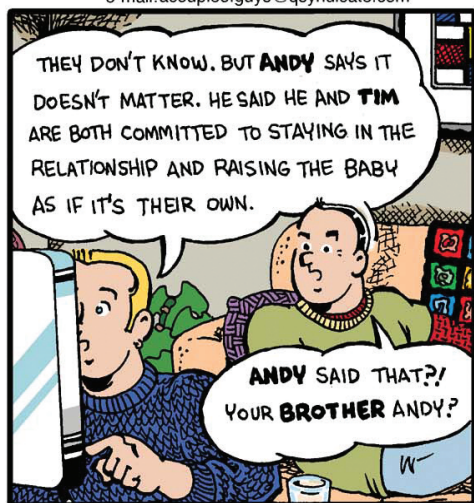
- 1 Garb for Troy Perry
- 2 Gershwin and Levin
- 3 Boston cager, for short
- 4 Targets for Patty Sheehan
- 5 Suffix that changes senior's gender
- 6 Mel pretended to be gay for her in *What Women Want*
- 7 Like Feniger's vinegar
- 8 Date steadily
- 9 Language ending
- 10 Tearoom possibility
- 11 Opposite of loads
- 12 Water lily home
- 13 *Showboat* cap'n
- 18 Match a poker bet
- 19 Off-rd. transport
- 24 Crack code-cracking org.
- 25 Life-beach connection
- 26 Larry Kramer, for one
- 27 Eng. flyers
- 28 Sedaris of *Strangers with Candy*
- 30 Kind of Buddhist
- 31 P-town's Crowne Pointe, e.g.
- 32 Palm Pilot, e.g.
- 34 Bravely endured
- 35 "You Are Sixteen, Going On Seventeen" and others
- 37 Bound by oath
- 38 Paddled in the stern, perhaps
- 40 College e-mail address ending
- 41 Fit your first mate's mast
- 42 Unknown degree
- 45 At no time
- 46 Nocturnal lizards of Tennessee Williams
- 47 Charles Laughton's ship of mutiny
- 48 "I'm coming!"
- 49 "I don't believe that!"
- 50 Butt in the mouth
- 52 Catch in a trap
- 53 Like a chicken hawk's prey
- 56 Weathercock
- 57 "And this is the thanks \_\_\_?"
- 58 Buster Brown's pooch
- 61 Biter of Marc Antony's girlfriend
- 62 Cockpit abbr.



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Stacy and Brittany at Sue Ellen's.



Boys' night out at Zippers.

Welcome TBRU. ... **The DFW Sisters** present a **Bear Affair** at **TMC: The Mining Company** on March 16 from 8 p.m. until midnight with **DJ C-Rail** with 10 percent of proceeds benefiting the TBRU charities. ... **Mr. TBRU** contest takes place at the **Round-Up Saloon** on March 16. The **Big Tex BBQ** begins at noon on March 17 followed by a cigar party at 3 p.m. **Miss Highland Park 2013** takes place on March 20. ... TBRU presents **BearDance: Casino Bear Royale** with DJ/Producer **John LePage** and DJ **Doug Jackson** on March 15 at **S4**. Tickets available at [BearDance.org](http://BearDance.org). ... **Dallas Eagle** begins **Bear Weekend** with **GROWLr Party** on March 15. Bears come out in leather, uniforms, rubber, etc. for **L.U.R.E.** on March 16. Then on Sunday afternoon is **After-TBRU Therapy** with **Wanda**. ... **Hunter Valentine** returns to rock the **Vixen Lounge** at **Sue Ellen's** on March 15. Tickets at [Caven.com](http://Caven.com). The **SXSW Tour** comes to the bar on March 16 and includes **Sarah Slaton** and **Brave Song Circle**. ... Dress in green for **BJ's NXS St. Patty's Day** party that includes jello wrestling and a strip contest on March 17. ... **Jason Huff** performs at **Alexandre's** on March 15 and **Three Drunk Monkeys** on March 16. Then it's **Anton Shaw** on March 21 and **Kristen Majors** on March 22. ... On March 16, **GayBingo** begins in the **Rose Room** at 5 p.m. The **Cedar Springs Merchants Association** presents a cabaret in the **Rose Room** on March 21. Tickets are \$40 benefiting street beautification, security and other improvements in the neighborhood. ... Rest in peace **Erica Andrews**. ■

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



Kendall, Sestry and Zig at the Hidden Door.



Asher and Ruben at the Tin Room.



Girls' night out at Eden Lounge.



Friends at Club Reflection.



Friends' night out at TMC: The Mining Company.





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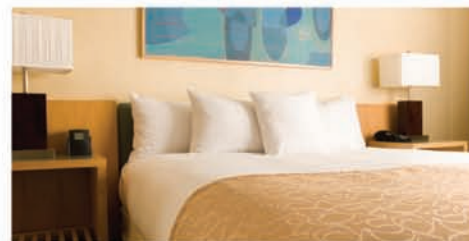
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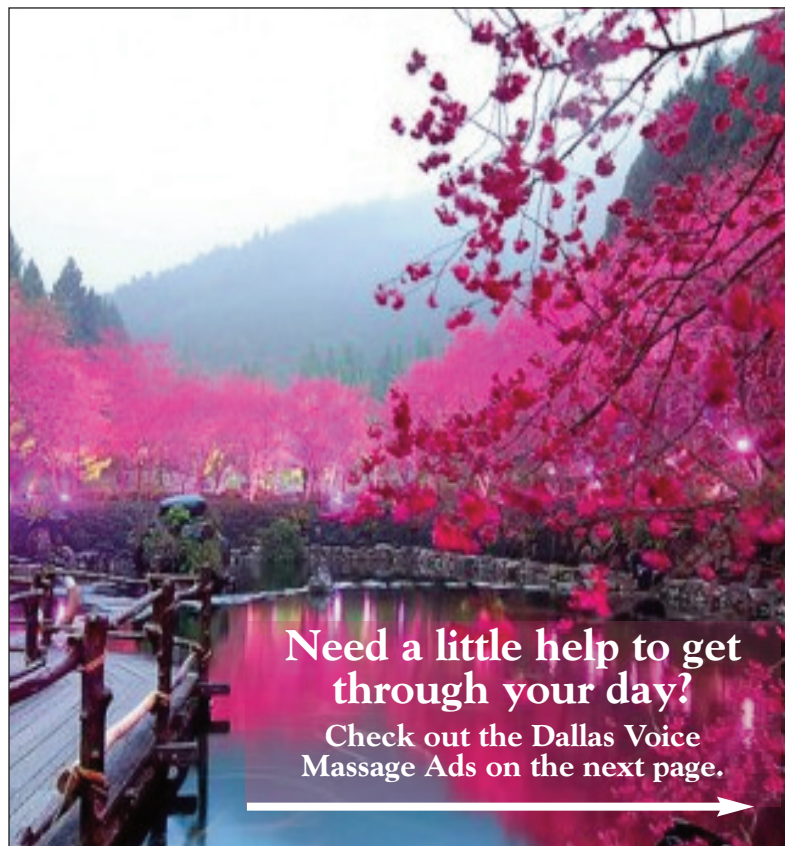
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