

# Boy Scouts take step in right direction

But LGBT advocates say vote to allow gay youth doesn't go far enough  
BSA's bans on gay leaders, employees remain despite passage of resolution at National Council meeting in Grapevine

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Dallas designer Tre LaVoux



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**BILLIE JEAN QUEEN** | 'Billie Jean' performs during Miss Gay USofA at the Round-Up this week. The weeklong pageant concludes Friday night at the Palladium. For more photos from the pageant, go to [DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos). (Patrick Hoffman/Dallas Voice)

### Dallas County DA Craig Watkins comes out for marriage equality

Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins came out in support of marriage equality Tuesday, May 21, and proposed that the county establish a domestic partner registry similar to one administered by Travis County.

Watkins, a two-term incumbent who is facing a possible challenge in next year's Democratic Primary from former Judge John Creuzot, addressed Stonewall Democrats of Dallas during the group's monthly meeting at Ojeda's Restaurant on Maple Avenue. Watkins delivered what appeared to be his standard stump speech to the group's membership, and he didn't mention LGBT issues. But he spoke to Dallas Voice in an exclusive interview after the meeting.

"This is America, and we shouldn't discriminate against anyone for whatever reason, and so I think it's a disservice for us as Americans to say that just because you are a certain lifestyle, that you can't have the same rights as someone else," Watkins told the Voice. "I think it goes towards, you know, when we were going through the civil rights movement, issues that we dealt with back then, which, basically, I can understand very clearly because of who I am. ..."

"It goes back to quality of life issues, and as a DA, I'm responsible for improving the quality of the lives of all of the citizens I represent," Watkins said. "I'm the lawyer for everybody in Dallas County, and so I can't be against something that will make your life better. So I'm for whatever we need to do in Dallas County to make the quality of life better, and in my opinion to have that — marriage equality and the registry — it makes lives better for citizens of Dallas County."

Travis County has had a domestic partner registry since 1993. According to the county clerk's web site, the office accepts the filing of Domestic Partnership Agreements and maintains a Registry of Domestic Partnerships.

"A Domestic Partnership Agreement is a document that describes the legal rights and responsibilities between two individuals of any gender in a long-term relationship," the site states. "These

documents are used for a variety of purposes, for example, some employers use them to grant insurance and other benefits."

The site goes on to note that the state of Texas doesn't recognize domestic partnerships.

— John Wright

### Jenna Skyy retires as GayBingo host after more than 7 years

Joe Hoselton, known on stage as Jenna Skyy, announced at GayBingo on Saturday, May 18, that the show would be her last. Skyy has hosted GayBingo for more than seven years.

Johnny Humphrey, event manager at Resource Center Dallas, said he knew Skyy planned to take some time off, but didn't know ahead of time it would be her last show.

"She will be missed," Humphrey said. "We're proud of the productions she's done."

Hoselton called the change good for everyone. He said he spoke to the GayBingo performance group, Something Fabulous, ahead of time.

He said he'll miss doing the show but made the decision because of the time commitment. "I discovered Jenna through that show," he said.

Hoselton said the schedule to produce the monthly show at GayBingo included weekly Sunday rehearsals in addition to prop building days and costume sewing nights. Cost was another factor. He spent almost \$500 on the two costumes made specifically for that month's theme.

He called GayBingo a "great opportunity" and said he hopes other entertainers will take advantage of it. "It's a way to contribute something through your art," he said.

Hoselton said Jenna won't be retiring. She'll continue entertaining at the Rose Room.

"And I'm going to throw my hat back into the competition circuit," he said.

Jenna was Miss Gay Texas 2011 and second alternate Miss Gay America 2012.

For next month's GayBingo, Humphrey said he's working with several groups to put on a good production and is not necessarily looking for Skyy's permanent replacement to begin in June.

— David Taffet

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**MIXED EMOTIONS** | Ousted lesbian den mother Jennifer Tyrrell, left, and gay Scout Pascal Tessier speak during a press conference Thursday, May 23, at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, after the Boy Scouts of America announced it had voted to lift its ban on gay youth. Despite the vote, the Irving-based BSA will continue to bar gay adult leaders and employees. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

# 'It's acceptable to be gay now'

Out Scouts, leaders celebrate BSA's decision to lift ban on gay youth, but vow to keep fighting until LGBT leaders, employees can also serve

**ANNA WAUGH** | News Editor  
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GRAPEVINE — Gay youth members of the Boy Scouts of America will no longer face being kicked out because of their sexual orientation after BSA leadership voted to lift a 22-year ban.

The 1,400 members of the BSA's National Council passed a resolution Thursday, May 23, requiring troops everywhere to welcome gay youth.

The historic vote comes more than a year after Ohio den mother Jennifer Tyrrell was removed from her position for being gay. Her removal created a national outrage and launched a national campaign with GLAAD to end the ban.

Cheers rang out as Tyrrell and others gathered in Grapevine hugged each other and cried after learning the result of the vote, which passed with more than 60 percent support. Family and friends shook their heads in joyful disbelief that years of work had paid off. Tyrrell called the resolution's passage a first step, but said she and others will continue to push for full inclusion. The BSA will continue to ban gay adult leaders like Tyrrell, as well as LGBT employees.

"We will continue until there's equality for all," Tyrrell said, adding that her son, Cruz, is the reason she fights. "The Boy Scouts still tell him his moms aren't good enough. Everyday they tell him his family is different and that's not OK. He has a great family. He's very loved. The BSA needs to recognize that they're hurting him and others like him."

Pascal Tessier, a gay Maryland Scout who faced

not receiving his Eagle Scout Award because of the ban, was overcome with joy. He called his older brother, who is a gay Eagle Scout, to tell him the news back home. But he said the organization hasn't solved the issue of equality because gay leaders are still barred from BSA ranks.

"It's acceptable to be gay now," he said. "But they're trying to solve one form of discrimination with another. The adults in this that actually made this happen, now they're not going to be able to be Scouts like I am."

Zach Wahls, founder of Scouts for Equality, said the fight is renewed to include gay adults leaders like his two moms who were involved with him in Scouting.

"It's a step in the right direction, but our fight goes on," Wahls said.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin issued a statement calling this "a historic day

for Boy Scouts across the country who want to be a part of this great American institution."

"But the new policy doesn't go far enough," he added. "Parents and adults of good moral character, regardless of sexual orientation, should be able to volunteer their time to mentor the next generation of Americans."

HRC also noted that the Boy Scouts still bans gay employees and called for the organization to adopt an LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policy across the board.

Resource Center Dallas CEO Cece Cox called Thursday's vote a "half-measure."

"It is a step forward from their previous position, but not a full solution," she said. "It tells gay Scouts that they can take part in their troops, but once they reach adulthood, they will be denied the ability to lead. It also excludes open LGBT adult leadership in the Scouts, thereby maintaining a system of 'less-than' status. Scouting should not rest and pat itself on the back for only lifting the

■ SCOUTS, Page 8

online exclusive

View more photos and watch video from this week's Equal Scouting Conference at DallasVoice.com.

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■ **SCOUTS**, From Page 6

ban on gay Scouts; they should take the next step and lift it for adult leadership as well."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican who has been outspoken in support of the ban, said he was "greatly disappointed with the decision."

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins echoed Perry's comments.

"It is clear that the current BSA leadership will bend with the winds of popular culture, and the whims of liberal special interest groups," Perkins said in a statement. "There is little doubt that God will soon be ushered out of scouting. Now is the time for new leadership. In the meantime, we will stand with those BSA Councils who will now act to protect boys from a new policy that only creates moral confusion and disrespects the views of the vast majority of Scouting parents."

The decision takes effect Jan. 1, 2014. A task force to help with the implementation was already been created.

Wahls said his organization will ensure the policy goes into effect and be a watchdog over councils in the event that gay Scouts face discrimination.

Leading up to the vote, dozens of protesters held signs outside the Gaylord Texan that read "No on the resolution" to greet council members meeting there.

Across the street at the Great Wolf Lodge, gay Scouts and allies held an Equal Scouting Summit, sharing emotional stories about the negative impact of the gay ban and how changing it would help Scouting survive in America.

The Boy Scouts ban on gay Scouts and leaders began in 1991 when the organization determined open homosexuals went against the part of the Scout Oath that mandates members be "morality straight."

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ban in a 2000 case when justices ruled that the private organization could choose its membership.

Even though gay Scouts have been kicked out and leaders removed for being gay, many still continued to serve quietly or with the approval of their local troop.

After Tyrrell was removed, AT&T CEO Randall Stevenson and Ernest & Young CEO Jim Turley, members of BSA's Executive Board, then joined forces to discuss the ban in February. The board decided to postpone a decision until the National Council could vote.

The compromise to only allow gay youth was announced in April after the organization surveyed parents and leaders. But with 70 percent of troops chartered by faith-based organizations, the debate continued to draw backlash from conservatives. The Mormon and the Roman Catholic churches came out in favor of the compromise. ■

## Deaths



**George William Amerson** was born June 11, 1938, in Petersburg, Texas, and left the world a better place on May 19, 2013.

A Realtor since 1975, he was a member of the MetroTex and Henderson County Association of Realtors, serving twice as president of HCBR. George was a founding partner of Uptown Realtors.

George is survived by partner of 42 years, Mike Grossman; children, Laura and Devon Cloud, and Barney and Stephanie Grossman; and grandchildren, Miles and Rachel Grossman, who will miss their Papa George.

George and Mike were married in Washington, D.C. on April 20, 2013, on the occasion of their 42nd anniversary.

George's surviving siblings are Ruby Embry of Lubbock; Eva Loue and Mike Brula of San Antonio; Glenda and Bill Ware of Arlington; and Dwight Amerson of Dallas. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and their children.

George was preceded in death by his parents, Eva and Raymond Amerson; and brother, John.

George was active in the LGBT community since the early 1980s. He and Mike were among the founders of Oak Lawn Community Services. He was a volunteer for the the Experience Weekend and helped bring the event to Dallas many times. He vol-

unteered for the Human Rights Campaign and was among the founders of the Dallas Way: The GLBT History Project. George was a member of the choir at the Cathedral of Hope for many years, and more recently at First Methodist Church.

**Charles Terry Anderson Jr.**,

a longtime resident of Dallas and member of the gay community, died on Friday, May 10, 2013, at 71.

Charles was born Oct. 27, 1941, in Tyler, the only child of Charles T. Anderson of Grand Saline and Vernelle Thedford Anderson of Tyler.

Charles had an outstanding academic career, graduating with honors from Tyler Junior College and later completing his studies at UT-Austin, where he was named to the Dean's List of Outstanding Students, received a Distinguished Service Award from the University of Texas Press and was nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship. He received his bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, and his master's degree, cum laude, from that university.

After college, Charles worked in administrative positions for the hotel industry, earning awards for his contributions to that industry. In 1986, he became Library Assistant for the Dallas Morning News and in his 10 years there, provided research for five series of articles that earned the Pulitzer Prize. He concluded his professional career with Southwest Airlines, where he received numerous awards from the company.

In 2009, Charles published *In Illustrious Company*, a collection of his essays on literature. Charles is survived by many beloved family members and numerous cherished friends.





# Drag performer alleges Dallas store refused to let him try on gowns

Steven Havard files discrimination complaint against Terry Costa after owner told him policy was based on thefts by male customers in the past

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
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A drag performer from Oklahoma has filed a discrimination complaint against a Dallas retailer after they refused to allow him to try on a gown.

Steven Havard, aka Stacey McBride O'Neil, of Tulsa, filed the complaint this week, under the city of Dallas' nondiscrimination ordinance, against Terry Costa, which has a store at Preston Road and LBJ Freeway.

In a letter responding to O'Neil's allegation, the owner of Terry Costa acknowledged that the store does not allow men to try on gowns.

"I was made to feel like a second rate person when I went into Terry Costa," O'Neil said. "I made a nearly five-hour drive to try to find a gown for the Miss Gay Oklahoma America Pageant and was treated like dirt."

Tina Loyd, the owner of Terry Costa, was out of the store for the week and not available for comment.

On May 11, O'Neil drove with his partner from Tulsa to buy a gown to compete in the Miss Gay Oklahoma America Pageant. He asked friends where he should look.

"Everyone recommended Terry Costa," O'Neil said.

When they got to Dallas, they stopped at the North Dallas store first.

"An amazing consultant helped," he said.

She told him there was a private dressing room where he could try on a gown.

But he said nothing he saw on display immediately blew him away and they decided to look at a few other places. The sales associate made it clear that there would be no problem trying on the gowns before buying one.

When he returned in the afternoon to Terry Costa, he was told the saleswoman who helped him earlier had left for the day, so he went over to the section with his size and picked out a dress. That's when the manager came over and looked at him in disgust, he said.

"We're not going to make any accommodations for you in our store," he said she told him.

She said she would let him buy a dress "if you have the money," but he couldn't try it on or re-



Steven Havard, aka Stacey McBride O'Neil

turn it.

"My jaw hit the floor," he said.

He said he wasn't going to buy a \$1,300 gown without trying it on, so he hung up the dress and walked out. From there the couple drove home to Tulsa.

When he contacted the store about his experience, Loyd sent him a letter of explanation.

In her letter, Loyd explained her "experience with male clientele."

"Several years back," she wrote, "we noticed a sharp and dramatic increase in theft."

She connected the increase in theft to an increase in male customers.

She claimed a staff member attended a pageant one week after an expensive dress was missing from the racks. A man, who had been in the store and tried the dress on, was wearing it on stage.

"There he was, competing in the very dress he stole from us, a dress that had not been widely distributed or available for order," she wrote. "He didn't even bother to take the pins out we used to fit the dress since it was too big."

Loyd said she asked the police for help with the theft problem but didn't receive any.

O'Neil said Loyd's explanation was even worse than the original insult. Now he felt he had been accused of being a thief.

When he returned home, he contacted the Dallas Fair Housing Office, which handles discrimi-

■ DRAG, Page 12

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# Equality Texas: Session was 'enormous success'

Lawmakers filed record number of pro-LGBT bills, with some clearing committee for 1st time since 2001, and killed 4 anti-LGBT measures

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor  
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by El Paso's Jose Rodriguez, to remove the unenforceable "homosexual conduct law" from the Texas Penal Code. Dallas Republican John Carona supported the bill. Carona also supported SB 1316 — which would provide legal protections for same-sex minors in intimate relationships under the "Romeo and Juliet" defense — to help it out of committee.

The House version of SB 1316 by Gonzalez also passed out of committee. Neither bill made into the floor for a vote. But Smith said passing three bills out of committee reflects a shift in opinion among lawmakers and the public.

"The allies are there now," he said. "The issues are out front now."

State Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, has been a longtime LGBT advocate. He said lawmakers who haven't taken a stance to be on right side of history have finally come to see that standing up for the LGBT community is the right thing to do.

"Those who didn't get it before, they get it now," he said.

Three anti-LGBT pieces of legislation and one anti-gay amendment all died. At press time, the fate of a fifth anti-LGBT measure was unclear.

Republican Fort Worth Rep. Matt Krause's HB 360 originally stated that student groups at state-funded universities could discriminate based on gender, race and sexual orientation. A compromise bill later passed out of committee that would have allowed student groups to disregard a school's nondiscrimination policy in determining membership. Krause then attached the bill as an amendment to another bill and it passed the House. It was unclear whether the amendment would be included in a final version of the bill.

Smith said the tactics to pass anti-gay measures this session were less direct, with Krause saying his amendment called for free speech at universities. But in the end, he said the discriminatory purposes didn't resonate with constituents who helped defeat them.

"The majority of Texans are not supportive of gay-bashing or blatantly homophobic or transphobic fear-mongering," he said.

The Senate passed Republican state Sen. Donna Campbell's SB 1218, which would have prohibited anyone from obtaining a marriage license with a document that lacks a photo, including an affidavit of sex change. But advocates delayed the process for its advancement in the House and it never made it out of committee for a vote.

State Rep. Drew Springer, R-Muenster, passed a committee substitute of HB 1568 that would have given the Texas attorney general the ability

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**RITE OF SPRING** | GetEQUAL TX members hold a banner calling for ExxonMobil to add LGBT protections outside the company's annual meeting at the Meyerson in May 2012. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

# Suit accuses Exxon of anti-gay discrimination

Freedom to Work files complaint in Illinois ahead of annual meeting in Dallas, where shareholders will again vote on adding LGBT protections

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
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IRVING — For the 15th consecutive year, ExxonMobil shareholders will vote next week in Dallas on a resolution that would add LGBT employees to the company's nondiscrimination policy.

Meanwhile, the national civil rights group Freedom to Work filed a lawsuit against Exxon Mobil this week alleging that the company violated the state of Illinois' ban on anti-LGBT employment discrimination.

And Resource Center Dallas officials released details of a meeting they arranged last year between ExxonMobil Human Resources officials and executives from other local Fortune 500 companies, to discuss the business advantages of having nondiscrimination policies in place and offering equal benefits to all employees.

The shareholders resolution that will be voted on next week was again filed by New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli on behalf of the state's pension funds, which own more than \$1 billion in Exxon stock.

DiNapoli's resolution asks that, "ExxonMobil amend its written equal employment opportunity policy to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity."

ExxonMobil rescinded domestic partner benefits and protections for gay employees after Exxon and Mobil merged in 1999. In 2011, ExxonMobil became the first company to receive a negative score on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index.

After the resolution was filed last year, the company tried to block a shareholder vote. The Securities and Exchange Commission rejected Exxon's attempt and placed the issue on the shareholder ballot. This year, the company did not try to obstruct it.

Since shareholders last gathered, Resource Center arranged the meeting between Exxon leaders and executives from other local compa-

nies. The assumption by the group at the time was ExxonMobil was studying how to implement partner benefits and put in place an LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policy.

Gary Freundorfer, an RCD board member who is vice president of human resources at AT&T, said Exxon officials were cordial and inviting at the meeting.

"But they were very noncommittal," he said.

Rebecca Solomon, vice president and senior tax officer with Bank of America, said she saw several "aha" moments during the meeting. She said ExxonMobil executives seemed determined not to be pushed into changes by activists, but she presented solid business reasons for adopting inclusive policies.

"Family leave, sick leave, implementing these policies create a work environment where people feel welcome," she told them.

She suggested implementing these policies could reduce litigation as well as draw talent from a larger pool.

"I wouldn't work for you," Solomon said she bluntly told them.

But after the meeting, nothing changed.

"A manager in HR told me they would make the change if an executive order were issued," RCD spokesman Rafael McDonnell said.

HRC spokesman Michael Cole-Schwartz said his organization continues to press President Barack Obama to issue an executive order that would require companies doing business with the federal government to have LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination policies.

"It's unclear when that might happen," Cole-Schwartz said.

But he said the White House continues to indicate it will issue that order at some point.

The executive order is viewed as a stopgap until there are enough votes in Congress to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act passes, which would ban anti-LGBT job discrimination.

Neither the state of Texas, where Exxon is based, nor the federal government have laws prohibiting discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

In April, ENDA was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives with 170 co-sponsors and in the Senate with 46 co-sponsors.

In his shareholder resolution, DiNapoli wrote,

■ **EXXON**, Page 13

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■ **texasnews**

■ **DRAG**, From Page 9

nation complaints. The ordinance prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment and public accommodations. Each violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

Ken Upton, Lambda Legal supervising senior staff attorney, said the argument that a drag queen stole from the store so they won't serve any drag queens cannot be supported legally — at least not under the city's ordinance.

What if a black person stole from the store so it maintained a policy of never serving blacks, Upton asked.

Upton sympathized with the plight of a small business owner facing theft from her business. He said there's no argument that theft is illegal. But so is not serving one customer based on what another customer has done.

After posting his story on Facebook, Corey Martin contacted O'Neil and offered to make a gown.

Although they had never met, they were already Facebook friends. Martin now lives in Dallas but worked on Broadway as a costume designer and has created dresses for a number of area performers.

"It didn't surprise me it happened," Martin said.

Because of his experience designing and sewing dresses and gowns, he has applied to work at stores advertising for tailoring help. He's been refused employment because of his sex.

"You can't work here," he said he's been told. "You're a man. Women don't feel comfortable in a fitting with a man."

Martin said when he's shopped in high-end fabric stores, he's had similar experiences with store personnel not trusting a man looking at material for women's gowns. He said store clerks have followed him around the store.

But he suggested that as part of the solution to making a sale rather than losing a customer or risking theft.

Instead of store clerks making fun of the drag queen, he said, one of them should help him.

In her letter to O'Neil, Loyd wrote she found "inexpensive gowns that were not our own hung in our garment bags."

Martin suggested most stores do not allow customers to bring bags into the dressing room and some stores limit customers to one item at a time in the dressing room.

O'Neil said he'd drive back down to Dallas for his fitting with Martin and then again to pick up the dress before the Miss Gay Oklahoma pageant in June.

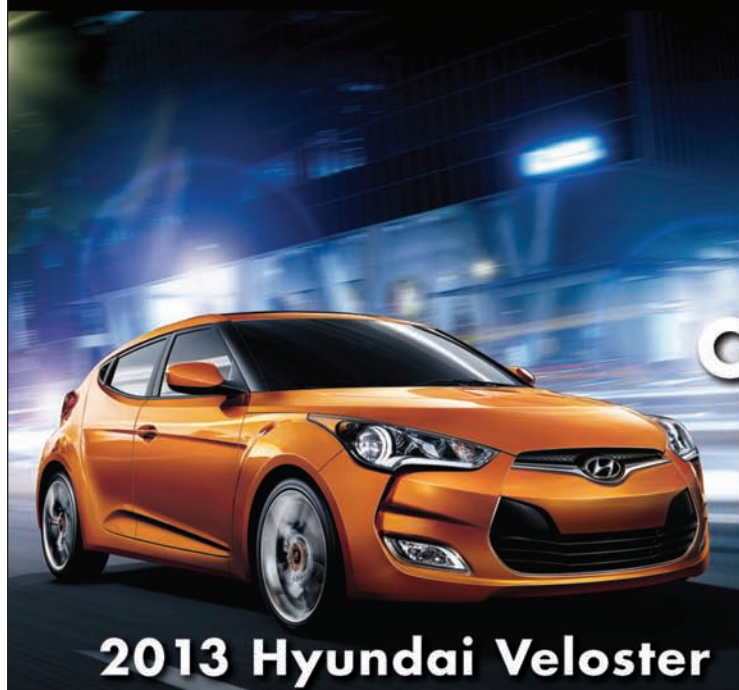
Nine years ago, O'Neil said he was diagnosed with cancer. He overcame it but six months ago the cancer returned. At his latest check-up, the cancer was again undetectable. That's when he decided to make a run for the Miss Oklahoma title.

Over the years, he has been involved in a variety of charity fundraisers. He said it's been a dream of his to represent one of the national pageantry systems and hopes the notoriety of this event doesn't spoil his chances. ■

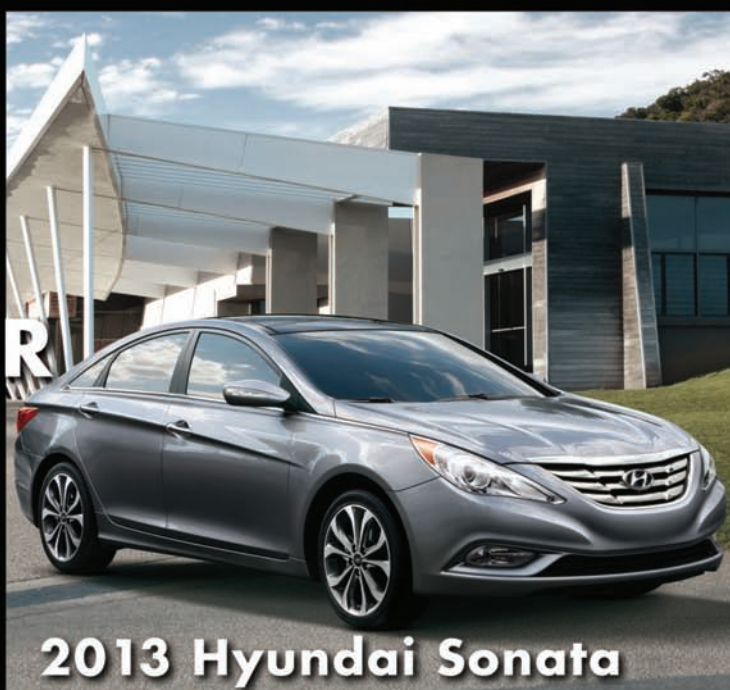


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■ **EXXON**, From Page 11

"We believe that corporations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity have a competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining employees from the widest talent pool."

He cited cities such as Minneapolis, San Francisco, Seattle and Los Angeles that restrict business with companies that do not guarantee equal treatment for LGBT employees. While not directly addressed in the resolution, the comptroller believes Exxon is violating New York law by not recognizing all of the marriages performed in that state and is costing the state money by not offering benefits to families of LGBT employees.

New York Comptroller spokesman Eric Sumberg said if the U.S. Supreme Court declares the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, it will make New York's case stronger.

ExxonMobil's board recommended that shareholders vote against the resolution.

The company claims it already prohibits "all forms of discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in any Company workplace, anywhere in the world."

The board believes its "all-inclusive, zero-tolerance policies" make the proposal unnecessary.

ExxonMobil spokesman Charles Englemann referred to the board's position on the resolution and said, "There is nothing I am able to add to it."

Freedom to Work filed a lawsuit on Wednesday, May 22 accusing Exxon Mobil of violating the Illinois Human Rights Act.

Freedom to Work partnered with the Equal Rights Center, one of the most experienced civil rights groups that engages in comprehensive civil-rights investigations in employment and housing.

Two fictitious applicants submitted resumes to ExxonMobil. One was a highly qualified LGBT woman and the other was a less qualified straight woman.

The LGBT applicant's resume said she was involved in the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, while the non-LGBT applicant's said she was involved in a feminist organization. The two fictitious applicants went to the same high school and college and graduated at the same time, so age or location were not factors.

The LGBT applicant had better grades, better computer skills, a higher level of responsibility in her previous job, more relevant experience for the ExxonMobil posting and a slightly longer period of work experience.

The LGBT person was not contacted by the company while the straight person was. She did not respond, but Exxon contacted her two more times and even said they would hold the job open for her. Even after the less qualified applicant didn't contact the company, the better qualified candidate was still not contacted. The lawsuit seeks to require Exxon to stop discriminating specifically in Illinois, but to amend its equal employment policy. It also seeks damages.

Demonstrators plan to gather outside the Meyerson Symphony Center during ExxonMobil's shareholders meeting, from 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 29, until the meeting begins at 9 a.m. ■

■ **SESSION**, From Page 10

to discredit and defund school districts in the state that offer employees domestic partner benefits. The bill never made it to the floor for a vote.

Arlington state Rep. Bill Zedler ended up withdrawing an amendment that would defund LGBT resource centers at state universities when it hit the House floor in April.

News of the amendment that stated LGBT and gender centers caused high-risk behavior and the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases created an uproar among LGBT advocates. Petitions and letters opposing the amendment were sent to lawmakers before it was withdrawn.

Coleman said the anti-gay sentiment in the Legislature was less vocal this session but was still present.

"What I do believe is the open bigotry from a verbal point of view is tamped down because it's seen by public as unfair," he said. "The people that are anti-LGBT would rather say nothing rather than be called homophobic."

Although none of the LGBT-specific legislation passed, two of Equality Texas' endorsed bills passed both chambers and would help LGBT citizens. HB 2482 by Houston Democrat state Rep. Carol Alvarado will create a study to determine the reasons major companies have chosen to invest or relocate to other states after considering Texas.

Smith said the study would help drive support for statewide job nondiscrimination protections for LGBT employees. He brought up Gap Inc.'s decision to not move some offices to El Paso several years ago after citing a lack of LGBT protections.

Both the House and Senate versions of a bill to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the state's list of protected classes in employment received committee hearings this session, but neither made it out of committee.

"If Texas wants to compete on a national and international scale, we can't look like a backward place that's biased against a segment of the workforce," Smith said. "Employers want to know that all of their employees will be treated equally."

SB 831 by state Sen. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, and Coleman also passed. It expands mental health and suicide prevention programs in schools to include substance abuse.

When the session ends May 27, Smith said the work for the 84th Legislature will begin.

"We're getting to the point where we've got enough bipartisan support to get bills out of committee but not enough to pass a vote," Smith said.

Gonzalez said she's looking forward to next session and having the "opportunity to have even more LGBT people on the House floor," referring to lesbian activist Celia Israel, who has announced her plans to run in Austin's District 50.

"We only have forward movement in our future," Gonzalez said. ■



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# viewpoints

# Killing gays in God's name

As long as groups like Campus Crusade for Christ are demonizing LGBT people, we'll continue to be persecuted at home and abroad

As if intending to justify the need for the International Day Against Homophobia, a vicious mob of more than 20,000 homophobes attacked 50 gay-rights advocates commemorating this event in Tbilisi, Georgia. According to the New York Times, the modern pogrom was "led by priests in black robes" who "surged through police cordons" and "swarmed the buses" where the gay activists ran so they could be evacuated.

"They wanted to kill all of us," said Irakli Vacharadze, the head of Identoba, the Tbilisi-based gay-rights advocacy group that organized the event.

After the initial horror of the attack, I felt a powerful sense of relief. Finally, the world saw the unscrubbed underbelly of religious persecution against LGBT people in broad daylight. In Tbilisi, there are no sophisticated church public relations gurus to draft saccharine statements hiding the hideousness of depraved minds and wicked hearts. There were no insincere attempts

to spin the spite by laughably claiming to "love the sinner" but "hate the sin." What the world saw was a rare glimpse of would-be killers for Christ unplugged in their full glory.

We should be grateful for this peek at unfiltered prejudice, because most indoctrination and incitement takes place in the shadows. What people often fail to comprehend is that a colossal industry exists to demonize gay people, including numerous attempts to create conditions where homosexuals are imprisoned, assaulted and even murdered.

It is not just the fringes of Christianity where calls for violence occur, but from organizations that are considered mainstream. In January, for example, Campus Crusade For Christ (which recently rebranded itself with the hipper sounding "Cru") sponsored an evangelism conference in Lagos, Nigeria. At the event, Dr. Seyoum Antonios, the head of United For Life Ethiopia, incited the crowd to frenzy, shouting multiple times that, "Africa will become a graveyard for homosexuality!"

Antonios can't simply be dismissed as a renegade speaker, because two high-ranking vice presidents in the Campus Crusade international organization, Bekele Shanko and Dela Adedevoh, organized the conference. They invited Antonios to speak even though it was widely known that he led a movement to legislate the death penalty for LGBT people in Ethiopia.



**TAKING LIVES, LIVELIHOODS** | Mark Carson was fatally shot in Greenwich Village for being gay. Carla Hale was fired after 18 years by a Catholic school because her partner was mentioned in her mother's obituary.

The question is, why is an American organization that is currently on 1,600 college campuses, as well as extensive outreach within the U.S. military, giving a platform to an aspiring murderer? It seems that the policy for groups like Cru is to persecute homosexuals to the full extent that a country allows them to get away with. Which begs the question: What would they do to gays in America if given free rein?

If this is just a misunderstanding, Cru should send a powerful message by apologizing for hosting Antonios and immediately cut ties with Bekele Shanko and Dela Adedevoh. If advocating persecution and murder of LGBT people in Africa is, indeed, part of Cru's mission, college administrators and the military officials should strongly reevaluate if this organization belongs in their institutions.

Of course, unlike the barbarians who bared their teeth in Tbilisi, we fully expect Cru to disingenuously split hairs and say that the organization did not promote violence because it advocated a "graveyard for homosexuality" and not homosexuals.

That's an interesting concept — much like claiming that a campaign to wipe out Judaism won't harm Jews. I'd love to know the last time homosexuality was convicted of a crime and sent to jail, while the gay person walked out of the courthouse free. I'd love Cru to show me tombstones dedicated to homosexuality — that did not also have the rickety bones of a slain gay man or lesbian resting six feet below.

We can look at foreign anti-gay violence and discrimination and blithely conclude, "It could not happen here." However, the dehumanization of LGBT people, on a smaller scale, happens every single day in America.

It occurred last week when a thug shot and killed Mark Carson in Greenwich Village for being gay. It happened when Edie Windsor was slammed with a \$363,053 inheritance tax bill after



her partner of 42 years, Thea Clara Spyer, passed away. (A straight surviving spouse would not have had to pay.)

We witnessed injustice in Columbus, Ohio, recently after a lesbian gym teacher at a Catholic school, Carla Hale, was fired after 18 years of service. She was terminated because her partner was mentioned in her mother's newspaper obituary. We can see the vindictiveness today, as senators threaten to derail immigration reform if it includes gay couples — essentially ruining lives and tearing families apart for sport.

People can only perpetrate such vile deeds when they consider homosexuals to be inferior. In most of these cases, there is a sadistic joy of inflicting pain and punishment on LGBT individuals when they are already suffering — such as a parent or partner's death.

Until religious leaders stop portraying the LGBT population as subhuman — we can expect more atrocities, whether in Tbilisi, Lagos, or Greenwich Village. ■

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

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Monday, June 10th	Sue Ellen's	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Tuesday, June 11th	Dallas Eagle	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Wednesday, June 12th	Pekers	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Thursday, June 13th	Barbara's Pavilion	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Friday, June 14th	Eden Lounge	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Monday, June 17th	The Brick/Joe's	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Tuesday, June 18th	Alexandre's	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Wednesday, June 19th	Havana	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Thursday, June 20th	BJ's NXS	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Sunday, June 23rd	Dallas Woody's	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Monday, June 24th	Round-Up Saloon	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Wednesday, June 26th	JR's Bar & Grill	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Thursday, June 27th	Kaliente	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Sunday, June 30th	The Rose Room	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
ELIMINATION DATE	LOCATION	CHECK-IN	START
Monday, July 8th	The Brick/Joe's	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Wednesday, July 10th	Dallas Woody's	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
Thursday, July 11th	Pekers	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
SEMI-FINAL DATE	LOCATION	CHECK-IN	START
Sunday, July 21st	Round-Up Saloon	8:15 pm	9:00 pm
FINAL NIGHT DATE	LOCATION	CHECK-IN	START
Sunday, August 11th	The Rose Room	7:15 pm	8:00 pm

# Tailor made

LIFE+STYLE

fashion



From prêt-a-porter menswear to haute couture red carpet gowns, Tre LaVoux has the drive — and talent — to be Dallas' next big designer

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

When Tre LaVoux was growing up in Shreveport, fashion wasn't exactly the hot topic of conversation around the dinner table. Far from it.

"The only thing bangin' in Shreveport are the casinos — fashion-wise, it's all old ladies in fanny packs," LaVoux jokes.

But he knew from an early age he had an aptitude for style. First, "I come from a long line of seamstresses, starting with my great-grandmother," he says. That gave him the basics, and he took to sewing easily. Moreover, "I was always the little gay boy telling my mom, 'That color doesn't work for you.' I was the fashionista in my household."

LaVoux even recalls how, while he and his grandmother were watching an episode of *Oprah* one afternoon, he had an eye-opening experience: "That's when I first saw [fashion designer] Valentino," he says. "I was glued to the TV."

Nevertheless, despite his interest, LaVoux had another future in mind — one that, on the surface, couldn't seem more removed from fashion.

"I planned to be a medical student, majoring in anesthesiology," he says.

It wasn't a waste of time, though: Studying the human body let LaVoux see what he wanted to be. During a physiology-biology lecture, "I saw myself drawing fashions [on the bodies]. I realized I like the kind of needles you stab through fabric, not through people."

In 2009, after leaving an unhappy relationship, he earnestly began to change his future. He started with an internship with Dallas designer Nicolas Villalba and went on to receive his associate's degree in fashion design and merchandising from Wade College. (He's currently working toward a bachelor in fine arts degree).

At his graduation, he heard Dallas supermodel Jan Strimple give the keynote address at his graduation; a chance meeting with Strimple a few months later opened doors for him when he talked his way into helping out with the DIFFA Collection runway show.

That was more than a year ago. Since then, LaVoux has been featured in several runway fashion shows, all while establishing his own couture line, doing designer commissions for a variety of clients. He even launched a line of prêt-a-porter fashion shirts, which went on sale earlier this month at Union Jack (where he maintains a day job as a sales associate).

"I've been at Union Jack for three years, and they are like my second family, but I'm working towards becoming one of their vendors instead of one of their employees," he says.

LaVoux certainly has the knack. His collection of high-fashion gowns is impressive and creative (*Project Runway* would raise the bar if he were on it), but he also enjoys doing something many designers don't: Creating menswear. (It's rare to find LaVoux wear something he didn't design himself, or carefully tailor to fit

■ TAILOR Page 20

THE FASHION  
issue



HAUTE TIMES | LaVoux dresses like a fashion plate, so it was not a stretch for him to develop a taste for couture, from a new shirt line at Union Jack to stylish women's wear. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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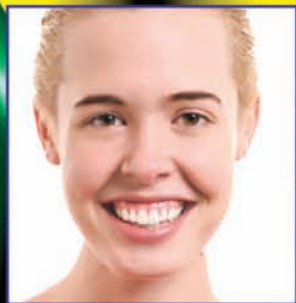
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L+S fashion



**TIGHTY NON-WHITIES**  
Neil Marek, left, and partner Robbie Richard (with pug Wednesday) share design responsibilities for their Dallas-based underwear line, modeled behind. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

## Fashion, in brief

In love and underwear, Marek+Richard stick to the (nearly) bare necessities

**J. DENTON BRICKER** | Contributing Writer  
dentonbricker@gmail.com

Partners in both love and business, Neil Marek and Robbie Richard are taking on the fashion world one themed collection at a time.

Launched online in September 2011, the Marek+Richard underwear brand is already sold by stores in cities across the nation, including New York, West Hollywood, Chicago and Fort Lauderdale. But Dallas is still home.

"We hoofed it [around Dallas], and Union Jack was the first one to buy," Richard says. "They loved that it is American made as they specialize

in brands like that."

Their underwear is comprised of U.S.-made materials and production takes place locally from a warehouse in Dallas.

"All of our fabric and thread are made here in America, so when you buy it, it's almost 100 percent American made. That's becoming more and more relevant. It makes sense for smaller businesses because you have to meet minimums, so why not do American made? One of our slogans is bringing manufacturing back to America one pair at a time," Marek says.

Keeping it local in all particulars is par for the course for these two. The men, both Texas na-

tives, met while enrolled in the fashion program at the University of North Texas, and managed to fall in love amid the fierce competition of school.

"It really helped us get through that time," Marek says. "Fashion school can be extremely stressful and time consuming and we got that. You become this family for better or for worse."

The couple's relationship not only helped to sustain them through the rigors of the program but gave them a leg up in competitions — they won regularly, and that succeed ultimately led to the Marek+Richard line.

"If I remember correctly, we won \$36,400 in scholarship money. That basically launched the brand," Richard says. "And paid for tuition of course," adds Marek with a laugh.

Designing isn't where their involvement stops, either; this dynamic duo is involved in each step of the process — from production to marketing and even photography. "Everything is almost completely vertically integrated," Richard says.

"It is part of being a small business and bootstrapping it. You take on many different roles and learn something new every day. The only thing we don't do is knit fabric," says Marek.

The pair premiered one of their most recent collections, called Gameboyz, at the Pin Show with a marketing campaign featuring real-life couple Jake Genesis and Seth Knight as models. Couple marketing is a hot new trend within the underwear industry much like Andrew Christian's Brandon Robert and Colby Melvin.

The Gameboyz collection has a hot retro nerd flare and offers trunks, briefs, jocks, tanks and hoodie tanks in a selection of color blocked lime green, purple and turquoise — all accented with grays.

"Every collection that comes out has a complete story behind it," Marek says. "I know a lot of underwear companies come out with collections based on functionality or fabric performance, but we always have an actual concept. I like having a storytelling element to it. It's almost fantastical and whimsical and yet the consumer can relate to it."

One thing almost all their products have in common is a nod to the gay culture that they draw much of their inspiration from.

"We're not Calvin Klein," says Marek of their aesthetic. "There are definitely gay undertones — especially with these new photos coming out, it will be undeniable. We are looking to create a sense of loyalty within the gay community, knowing that they will stick behind a brand that supports their beliefs and way of life."

"Anytime we release anything that is gay related, I feel like it takes off and blows up," adds Richard. "Even our designs are catering to what the gay consumer wants."

Although they've garnered national popularity by embracing their gay consumers and culture, being a gay men's underwear brand in Dallas also has its obstacles.

"I do see it as one of our struggles," concedes Richard. "I love Dallas and it is great, but the fact that we are a gay brand is that it's a little bit

tougher here than it would be in L.A. or Miami. We try to do little things to where we push little places where we can, like let's walk down the runway holding hands. Dallas is very conservative so even with the Pin Show, they didn't want any shirtless looks so we really tried to work with them on what was brand appropriate for us."

"We've shown more racy things at strictly gay events in the past but we have to get approval for it," says Marek.

Though the designer's relationship may sometimes bleed over into their business, the two think they are better for it.

"Fighting is always a good thing; it's just passion masked," says Marek.

"We are always trying to one up each other on who has the better idea on design and how we are going to shoot this, whose collection will sell bet-

ter. It's just funny to see how it works out. With two neurotic minds attacking it, you end up with a better product at the end of the day."

Although their current line consists mainly of men's underwear and casual tops built around funky, colorful themes, the pair has a vision beyond briefs. They plan to expand into casual bottoms for the fall, swimwear next spring and launch a women's wear line under the Marek+Richard umbrella in 2015.

"I don't want to sell underwear short," puns Richard, "but our true passion is to have a lifestyle brand. We understand the limitations of what we have as far as production and investment capital. We knew that underwear was something we could get into and that we understand, then can grow the brand from there." ■

## THE FASHION ISSUE



### Trendspotting: Hightop and low-rise

Did you get the memo? Cuz we sure didn't — we had to discover it on our own. We're talking about the new summer fashion trend for pool wear: Speedos (always in gay style) paired not with sandals or the ubiquitous flip-flops ... but with hightop sneakers. And not just any ol' ratty pair of Keds: We're talking colorful, neon-ish kicks designed to be worn open at the ankle, flaired almost as if intended for a superhero or Winged Mercury.

We don't object. We're so over the thong craze. And even if wearers initially look like 1970s-era b-ball players sporting their big brother's oversized tennies, the gays know how to rock a look and be sensible: Since you're not gonna dive into the pool anyway, non-skid sneaks are a no-brainer. And whose looking at your shoes, anyway?

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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## L+S fashion



THE LAVOUX COLLECTION | Tre with some of his atelier creations. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

### ■ TAILOR From Page 16

his muscular frame.)

LaVoux has worked on everything from red carpet looks to prom dresses to mother-of-the-bride outfits, and he knows he still has a way to go to reach his goals. But he sees the endgame.

“A lot of people think [fashion] is about the visual, but you also have to consider the psychology of it as well,” he says. “What the client wants is important, but it’s not simply about pleasing them. Sometimes simple is best, for example. It’s all about boosting self-esteem.”

And in a Tre LaVoux creation, that’s an easy thing to feel. ■

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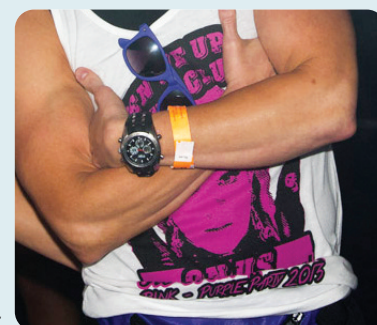
### Trendspotting: The big and the bold

Big watches are everywhere lately — from pools, pictured right, to clubs, pictured below — seen with both leather and metallic bands. There’s nothing wrong with bringing a little volume to your wrist — it allows for the normally minute detail lost on standard-sized faces to be all the more eye-catching and memorable. It only gets better when they come in such a variety of colors and options that are not necessarily immature or garish.

All we ask is that you consider proportions in regards to your body type, clothing and other accessories. Wear something sleek and tight with your oversized timepiece to make it pop all the more. Too much bold flare



can easily overwhelm your stature and the senses. If you have a tiny wrist, slapping a massive watch on it may not be for you, but don’t worry: Small is completely out. Plus, we all have to ask ourselves the age-old question: “When is big too big?”



— J. Denton Bricker

## In the closet



**J. DENTON BRICKER** | Contributing Writer  
dentonbricker@gmail.com

**WITHOUT PIER** | John Piermarini creates a homey, one-of-a-kind feel in his boutique after success operating out of an Uptown house. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Just 22, John Piermarini turned his nose for fashion into a family business with his cozy, eponymous Snider Plaza boutique

When he was 17, a woman asked John Piermarini to design a wedding dress for her, and ever since then he has never stopped chasing his fashionable dreams.

"While I was doing the dress, I was also working with my mentor [local designer Abi Ferrin] to help produce one of her runway shows in Miami," Piermarini recalls. "I got to help with model casting, designing, pattern making, merchandising, and with that I was able to see a lot of the industry and know that it was where I wanted to go."

Confident enough to pass on college, John instead started Piermarini Boutique in a small house in Uptown after graduating from high school in November 2010. (He's now 22.) Although the space was tiny and the product severely limited, the boutique's success grew big enough to necessitate a move.

"The Uptown location was just to get our feet on the ground, see how well it worked and really limit the quantity. People responded rather well to it as we decided to expand," he says.

He scoured the city and beyond for possible locations before finally settling in at Snider Plaza in what used to be a popcorn factory.

"I felt like Snider Plaza had this easy, laid-back feel, a little bit more casual than West Village or Preston Center, and it's easy to get to," he

says. "In Uptown, we had clients from South Dallas, Plano, Fort Worth and East Dallas, so I wanted another location that was accessible and centrally located."

Upon entering the men's and women's boutique, 80 feet of exposed original brick immediately draws the eye along the southern wall, offset by racks and displays of sharp clothing and accessories.

"I wanted to bring an old boutique feel to Dallas, where you come in, get to know the people there, see new designers, and find long lasting, classic pieces with a little bit of an edge that also work with other items in your closet," Piermarini says.

Although the customer service might be old-boutique, the designs are current, chic and reasonably priced (everything falls below a \$500 price point).

Having customers from all walks of life, it is important that items are bought to last beyond a season and offer versatility, as shoppers will not find trendy items here.

"We're not a trend-based store," he says. "Just because red pants are in, it doesn't mean we have them. There's nothing wrong with trends, but our motto is to keep it simple, basic and transitional along with some cool items."

Featured products are constantly changing as sizes of each design are limited because of Pier-

marini's own experiences of showing up to events and discovering a clone of the same garment.

"We keep it exclusive with one size of everything: One small, one medium, one large. And when those sell out, they sell out. Sometimes people are initially annoyed but they learn to love it," says Piermarini.

The young, gay entrepreneur discovers his designers through word of mouth, building his brand's reputation through networking and scouting trips to New York. He features designers from Sweden, Brazil, Denmark, China, South Korea and Dallas to name a few. For example, he recently met with *Project Runway* veteran and fellow Greenhill alum Mila Hermanovski.

"Her stuff is insane. She has some of the best leggings in women's wear. It's off the charts. She hasn't been in any stores in Dallas and she is from the area," he says.

Sometimes he even helps to shape creations.

"Most of the brands I buy from I know the designers, which is really nice, because a lot of people and companies don't have the opportunity to get to know them, especially smaller designers. I know where they are coming from, who their customer is and who my customer is. I am that voice in between what clients want and what the designer is trying to produce," he says.

His experimentations with different lines have resulted in some designers being picked up by

Neiman Marcus the following season and yet others have gone out of business.

At the heart of the store is an antique couch from Massachusetts that belonged to his grandmother, Ruthie, who also supplied his last name and the name of his store. Piermarini's colorfully entertaining mother, Tina, also sometimes works at the store, involving three generations of the Italian family within the business.

"The store has lots of random furniture but that's me, I'm random," he laughs.

The comfortable sitting area between racks also adds to the intimate feel of the store, almost as if you were shopping in your best friend's extravagant closet. His close friend Brooke works alongside him in the store and also joins him out at fashionable events. The cute, dapper brunette and tall, gorgeous blonde are like a platonic Ken and Barbie.

"We don't have rules here. We're not here to judge people but help them embrace who they are and learn to understand their individual style. Life is too short to be focused on you can't wear denim with denim," he says.

The boutique also hosts private and public events after hours, including birthday parties, girls/guys nights out and a recent derby party benefiting Lee Park.

What could be a better charitable fundraiser than champagne and shopping with a girl friend, gay friend and his mom? ■

THE FASHION ISSUE





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L+S sketches

# Drawing Dallas

Fashionista Marcus Evans takes to plunge to start a menswear line



**MARK STOKES** | Illustrator  
[mark@markdrawsfunny.com](mailto:mark@markdrawsfunny.com)

**Name at age:** Marcus Evans, 27

**Occupation:** Customer service rep/menswear designer

**Spotted:** Whole Foods in Highland Park

Marcus Evans is a perfect mix of exotic beauty and classic handsome features. Born in Albuquerque, Marcus is part African-American, part Native American, and, as he likes to say, maybe a "sprinkle" of Asian. Marcus moved to Dallas at age 7 with his parents and brother, a move that "changed my life."

**Fashionista from an early age:** When Marcus was 9, his mother bought him his first copy of GQ ... and the rest was history. "I remember flipping through the ads and thinking to myself how much I wanted to live the lives of these men." That's when his interest in men's fashion began, and became his destiny.

Currently studying fashion marketing in Downtown Dallas, Marcus was in class with his favorite fashion teacher, Marilyn Sullivan, when she said, "Why not start your own brands or businesses?" The notion hit him like a ton of bricks: "I was like that's it, that's what I was meant to do."

Marcus is starting his first menswear label, Shade, out in time for the holiday season. He says he's always loved men's outerwear and sport coats, and will start with blazers and sport coats and will grow into a separate label of edgy and innovative outerwear.

**Out and about:** Coming out for Marcus wasn't too bad according to him. "All through my life, I always knew that people knew, but nobody ever asked me, maybe because I was a 6-foot-1 black guy!" He never hid it and always had friends so he feels "very grateful and lucky. I told my mother officially when we were driving on the freeway. She said I had never been with a woman, and I told her that was true but I wanted to date guys for now, and she said, 'I guess.' I was sooooo glad it was over."

**Marcus' philosophies:** "Create the life you want live" and "Don't be afraid to fail." His favorite phrase, which always stuck with him: "If you want to be somebody, and you want to go somewhere, you better wake up and pay attention."

### Friday 05.24

#### Texas Ballet Theater marks Memorial Day with all-male version of Mozart's 'Requiem'

The Texas Ballet Theater's 2012-13 season has been themed Two Great Cities, One Great Company, and it proves that mission this weekend with its final performance of the season. In commemoration of Memorial Day, the company hosts a three-day celebration of heroism and art with its second annual SpringFest Weekend at the Wily Theatre. In addition to food, drink and music, it will also feature two dance performances; Balanchine's *Theme & Variations*, and Ben Stevenson's encore staging of Mozart's *Requiem*, performed by an all-male troupe of dancers.

**DEETS:** Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. May 24–26. Performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. \$20–\$65. TexasBalletTheater.org.



### Wednesday 05.29

#### Sixth Floor Museum observes JFK birthday

Had he lived, John F. Kennedy would turn 96 on Wednesday, but an assassin's bullet on Nov. 23, 1963, prevented that. On this 50th anniversary year of the Kennedy Assassination in Dealey Plaza, the Sixth Floor Museum marks JFK's birthday with a conversation featuring key museum founders.

**DEETS:** Sixth Floor Museum, 411 Elm St. 2 p.m. Free, but RSVP required. JFK.org.



### Friday 05.24

#### Bobby Lee at the Addison Improv

On eight seasons of *MadTV*, one of the funniest bits was typically watching schlubby, muscle-tone-less Bobby Lee enthusiastically drop shirt and trou to play a host of ridiculous (and often gay and campy) characters. Lee continues to share his fearless take on topics ranging from his Korean heritage (he does a mean Kim Jung Il) to the humorous news of the day. Lee settles into a weekend-long run at the Addison Improv with five shows over three days, starting Friday.

**DEETS:** Addison Improv, 4980 Belt Line Road, Suite 250, Addison. Friday at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., Sunday at 7:30 p.m. \$20. Improv.com.

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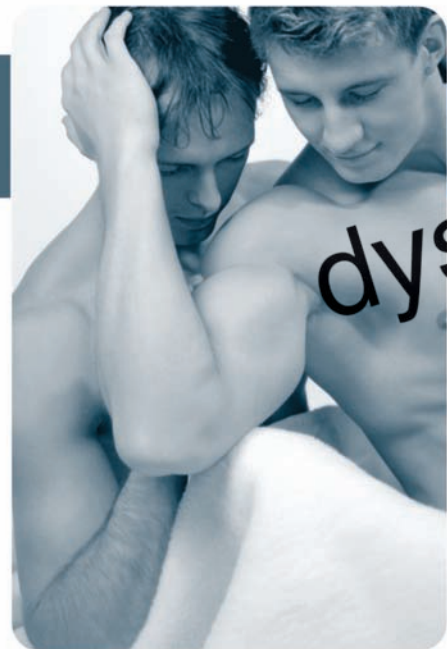
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## calendar highlights

**GENDER BENDER** | Neil Simon adapted his own play 'The Odd Couple' to feature female actors playing the famous roommates, now at Pocket Sandwich.



## ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

### THEATER

**Avenue Q.** Theatre 3's hit from last summer and fall returns for an unlimited run in its Theatre Too space. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Open-ended run. \$10–\$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Enron.** A musical adaptation of the events that led to one of the biggest corporate scandals in history. Regional premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. *Final weekend.* \$10–\$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Fly By Night.** A new pop musical set during a blackout. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. *Final weekend.* DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**In the Heights.** Local troupe premiere of the Tony winner. Artes de la Rose, 1440 N. Main St., Fort Worth. Through June 9. 817-624-8333. ArtesDeLaRosa.org.

**Knock Me a Kiss.** The 1928 marriage of African-American activist W.E.B. DuBois' daughter to Harlem Renaissance poet Countee Cullen was the social event of the decade ... until Cullen scandalized the community with his revelation. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through June 16. \$10–\$25. 817-338-4411.

**The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley.** Presented by Dallas Children's Theater; intended for ages 5 and up. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through June 2. DCT.org.

**The Odd Couple.** A gender-bending adaptation of the comedy classic, with Florence and Olive replacing Oscar and Felix in the story of mismatched roommates. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 Mockingbird Lane, Suite 119. Through June 22. 214-821-1860. PocketSandwich.com.

**Priscilla Queen of the Desert.** The drag musical, based on the hit movie, in Fair Park, courtesy Dallas Summer Musicals. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. *Final weekend.* DallasSummerMusicals.org.

### FINE ART

**The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece: Masterworks from the British Museum.** A collection of marbles and pottery and bronzework from Greek antiquity focusing

on the human form, especially the male nude. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 6. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**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. *Final weekend.* Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**Cindy Sherman.** Massive collection of massive photographs from the influential artist are on display. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through June 9. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

**Dan Rees.** Work from the man just designated the first artist in residence at the Goss-Michael Foundation, 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 27. GossMichaelFoundation.org.

**Justin Ginsberg: Mesophase.** New show with opening night artist's reception. Ro2 Art, 110 N. Akard St. Through June 1.

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

**Connecting Dallas to the Holocaust.** A 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.

**Alex Remington: Architectura.** Views of iconic Dallas buildings by gay photographer Alex Remington. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 107. Through June 22. ilumegallerie.com.

**Dick and Jane: A Narrative and Pull the Lion's Mane.** New exhibits with artists' reception Saturday begin at Norwood Flynn Gallery, 3318 Shorecrest. *Final weekend.* NorwoodFlynnGallery.com.

**Ruben Nieto: Shadow Paintings.** Dallas-based abstract artist hosts a solo show. Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1415 Slocum St., Suite 104. Through June 22. CrisWorley.com.





**MUSIC AND MORE** | The Dallas International Festival shares music and dance from many cultures at a free day-long event at Fair Park on Saturday.

## FRIDAY 05.24

### COMMUNITY

**Dick's Night Out: Poolside Edition.** The regular gay mixer at the W Hotel moves from the Ghostbar to the 16th floor pool. Music by DJ Silver. 6–10 pm. RSVP at [Wet24.eventbrite.com](http://Wet24.eventbrite.com).

### COMEDY

**Bobby Lee.** The MadTV veteran, who plays many gay characters in his act, appears at the Addison Improv all weekend. Addison Improv, 4980 Beltline Road, Suite 250, Addison.

### FESTIVAL

**TBT Springfest Weekend II.** The Texas Ballet Theater marks Memorial Day with events in the Arts District featuring food, drink and music, including productions of Mozart's *Requiem* and Balanchine's *Theme and Variations*. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. May 24–26. 877-828-9200. [TexasBalletTheater.org](http://TexasBalletTheater.org).

## SATURDAY 05.25

### FESTIVAL

**Dallas International Festival.** Annual celebration of artists in dance and music representing cultures worldwide. Centennial Building at Fair Park. May 25. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Free. [DFWInternational.org](http://DFWInternational.org).

## SUNDAY 05.26

### WORSHIP

**Cathedral of Hope.** Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. [CathedralOfHope.com](http://CathedralOfHope.com).

**Congregation Beth El Binah and Resource Center Dallas** hold a barbecue. Everyone welcome. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3 p.m.–6 p.m.

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 **submit**

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

## TUESDAY 05.28

### COMMUNITY

**FUSE Foundation** discussion group for gay and bi guys up to 29. ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 2367. 7 p.m. [DFWFuse.com](http://DFWFuse.com).

## WEDNESDAY 05.29

### EVENT

**Assassination and Commemoration: A Conversation.** Historians Stephan Fagin and Conover Hunt and archivist Lindalyn Adams mark the birthday of JFK with a reflection on his legacy during this 50th anniversary year of his death in Dealey Plaza. Sixth Floor Museum, 411 Elm St. 2 p.m. Free but ticket required. [JFK.org](http://JFK.org).

## THURSDAY 05.30

### COMMUNITY

**Boi Thursdays.** Weekly gay mixer with music from guest DJs. Winston's Supperclub, 3111 Welborn Ave., Suite 110. 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

**Anne Heche** turns 44 on Saturday. The perky blonde actress was a budding movie star when she came out as Ellen DeGeneres' lover, but her star waned, she split from Ellen, had a bout with mental illness, then came out as straight again, coining the term "hasbian" in the process.



**TAURUS: April 21—May 20**

Before you can get clear of the past you will have to make peace with it. The pull to fill the void with something new is understandable — but there won't be room for that until you process a few issues and get in touch with who you are now.

**GEMINI: May 21—Jun 20**

It's a good thing there are people like you around, because you seem to be the one helping everyone else make the best of it. On some level you are probably ready to snap, but your angels are here to keep you from flipping out.

**CANCER: Jun 21—Jul 20**

You will notice that your energy rises to every occasion when you treat yourself well. Getting better at it will allow you to do more with less. Wait and see; within a month or two all your hard work and dedication will pay off.

**LEO: Jul 21—Aug 20**

What seems to be going on is a lot of old stuff is going out the door so that a lot of good, new experiences can come in and take you to the next level. The key to all of it is lies in letting go of the need to control it.

**VIRGO: Aug 21—Sep 20**

You can stay in this situation as long as you don't lose yourself to it. There is so much happening in your outer reality, and so much promise bubbling up from within, the last thing you need is to have 80 percent of your energy siphoned off!

**LIBRA: Sep 21—Oct 20**

Dig around in the corners of your mind to see what it will take to straighten things out. The need for change could be long overdue, but it's never too late. Your best hope for getting this to work involve coming to terms with the truth.

**SCORPIO: Oct 21—Nov 20**

Saturn's on your tail and he's not one to suffer fools. The only thing that matters now is; have you learned your lessons and have you been able to be to yourself? With those bases covered you can be sure that all of your efforts will be honored with the success and recognition that they deserve.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21—Dec 20**

What's going on may require you to relocate. It could also call you to rearrange all of your primary emotional responses. Finding the faith to make changes upon which everything hinges is where it's at for you right now.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 21—Jan 20**

A little R&R is well advised, even if all it comes down to is one day off. Before you re-engage, take a good long look at what it is that you want and need out of this. This is one time when it's totally OK to say 'No' to anyone who keeps expecting you to keep putting yourself out.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21—Feb 20**

None of what's become too important is as big as you've made it. Loosening your attachments and getting far enough away from the fray to make room for a little life to trickle in will make it easier to put all of this pressure into perspective.

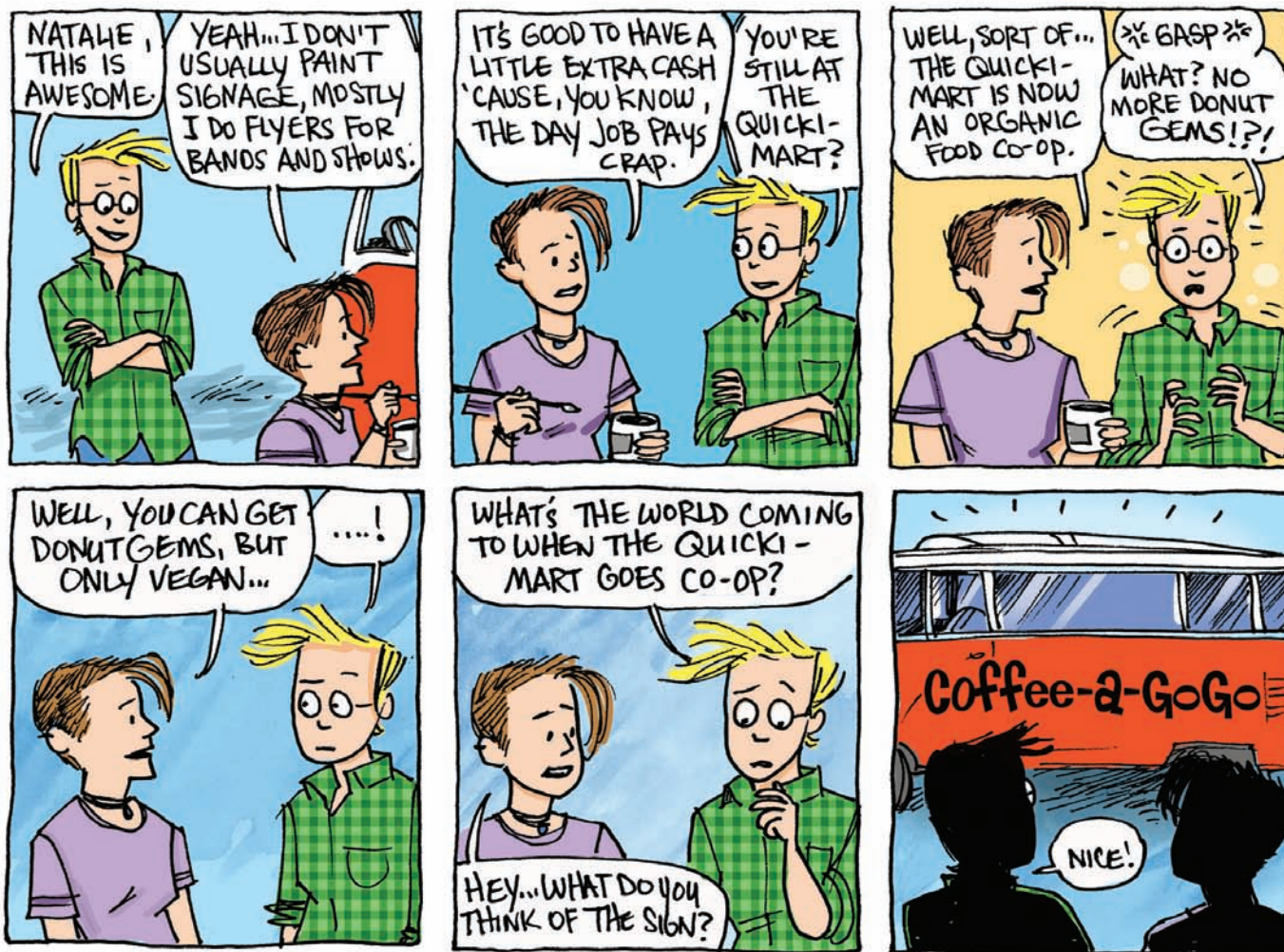
**PISCES: Feb 21—Mar 20**

The susceptibility factor is high on your part. This is complicated by the fact that others have included you in an agenda that could easily explode before you realize that it's your problem too. Open your eyes.

**ARIES: Mar 21—Apr 20**

All of your upcoming choices need to be weighed against the fact that your Spirit is changing too fast for you to be making plans or final decisions about anything.

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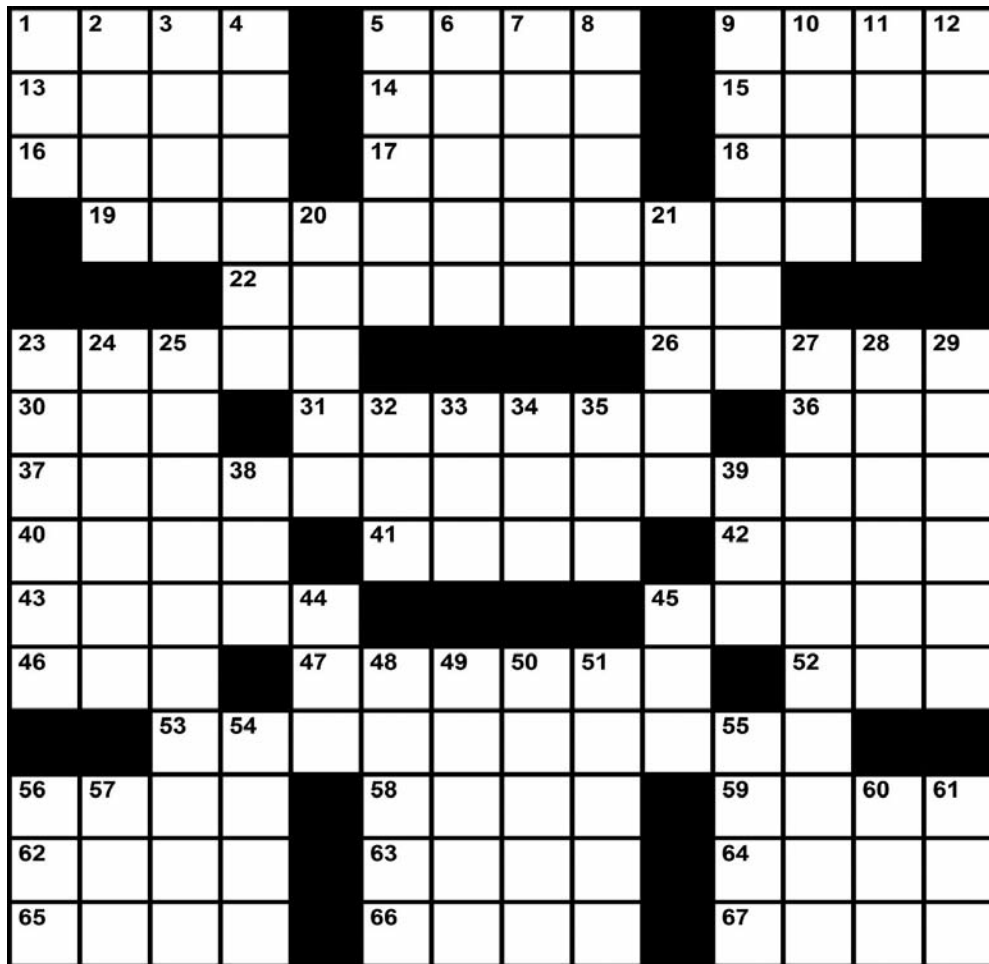
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# South Park Saying

Solution on page 25

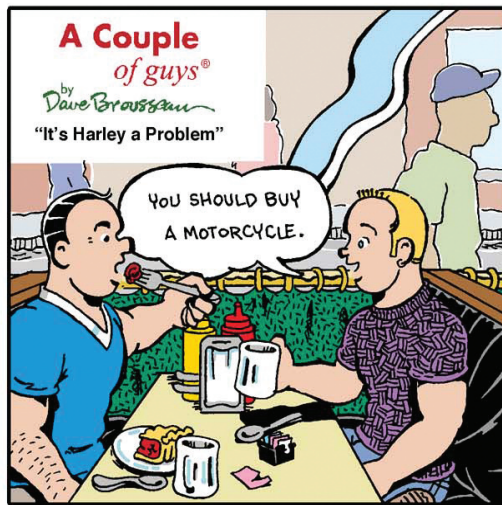
**Across**

- 1 *South Park* co-creator Stone
- 5 Cosby's *I Spy* costar
- 9 Crack the whip at, e.g.
- 13 Precollege ed
- 14 First shepherd
- 15 Club for Spencer-Devlin
- 16 Supporter of two plastic brides
- 17 Mall bag
- 18 Personality parts, to Frasier
- 19 With 37-Across, what you can't do with a canine, on *South Park*
- 22 Routine
- 23 One having an orgasm?
- 26 Vital fluid
- 30 *Cat \_\_\_ Hot Tin Roof*
- 31 Stationery in *Aida*?
- 36 *The Simpsons* storekeeper
- 37 See 19-Across
- 40 Rock that's easily split
- 41 Stats on a stallion
- 42 *Six \_\_\_ Under*
- 43 Marlon Brando's hometown
- 45 White as a ghost
- 46 1 of 100 in D.C.

- 47 Women who date men who date men
- 52 Quit, with "out"
- 53 Co-creator of *South Park* with 1-Across
- 56 You might see a polar bear there
- 58 Paul of *Little Miss Sunshine*
- 59 Cruising
- 62 Actress Skye
- 63 Caspian Sea land
- 64 "\_\_\_ in the Clowns"
- 65 *Gay Priest* author Malcolm
- 66 Novel conclusion
- 67 Poet \_\_\_ Wu

**Down**

- 1 Never \_\_\_ Picasso
- 2 Hit the ground
- 3 Pronoun for King James
- 4 Tongue-lashing
- 5 Neurotic comics woman
- 6 One that lies on the bottom
- 7 "Take your mitts off!"
- 8 Ask from one's knees
- 9 Colorful T-shirt
- 10 Movie about a CIA rescue mission
- 11 Electronic synthesizer
- 12 Madonna's pair
- 20 Traditionally limp joints
- 21 Former PLO leader Arafat
- 23 The whole shebang
- 24 How punctual people come
- 25 Eulogist for Caesar
- 27 Jockey carriers
- 28 Maintenance cost
- 29 "\_\_\_ touch!"
- 32 Earlier
- 33 Third degree, often
- 34 From Jan. 1 until now
- 35 ACLU concerns
- 38 Postcoital sigh
- 39 Hypotheticals
- 44 *Guys and Dolls* co-creator Burrows
- 45 Part of DADT
- 48 Partner of Steve, but not Adam
- 49 Like unhappy lovers, maybe
- 50 Tried to tackle tight ends
- 51 One that mates with a queen bee
- 54 Robert of *The Brady Bunch*
- 55 \_\_\_ of *Eden*
- 56 "This is my first time," often
- 57 Gielgud's john
- 60 Old Spanish queen
- 61 Hoopla





Bastien and Steve at Pekers.



Ricky and Ike at Joe's/The Brick.



Rey, Joanna and Edgar at Kaliente.



Cassie and Jimmy at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

Happy Memorial Day Weekend. ... **Mi Diva Loca** performs on **Woody's Back Patio** on May 24. ... **The Brick** welcomes home **Ginda** on May 24. Then celebrate Memorial Day Weekend with music by **DJ C Wade** and **MC Wanda** on May 25. ... **Crystal Ramon** performs at **Alexandre's** on May 24 and **Bad Habits** appears May 25. ... This week's entertainment at **Sue Ellen's** opens with **Paco Estrada** on May 24 and continues with **Kickback** on May 25 and **Tyla Taylor Band** on May 26. On May 30, there's a single release party for **Brave**, the empowering anthem from **Sara Bareilles**. ... **Onya Stereo** hosts **BJs NXS'** Absolut-ly Twisted Monday on May 27. ... **Fetish Friday** is a night for leather, uniforms, rubber, fetish gear and more at **Dallas Eagle** on May 24. **DFW Pups** hold a meet and greet on May 25 with **DJ Paul**. ... **Eden Lounge** will be graced by **Mi Diva Loca** May 25, and **Anton Shaw and the Bad Habits** will entertain as the Rooftop Band May 26. ... **Trixie** presents the **USA Memorial Weekend Show** at **Garlow's** May 25. ... **Cassie Nova**, **Krystal Summers**, **Valerie Lohr**, **Jenna Skyy**, **Layla LaRue**, **Niesha Dupree** and **Candis Cayne** appear at the **Rose Room** for some pre-Memorial Day entertainment on May 25. ■

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



Lisa and Brandy at Best Friends Club.



Girls' night out at Sue Ellen's.



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