

Life is a cabaret!

North Texas theater's go-to guy for sass sets out with a solo show
Darius-Anthony Robinson does one-man act of singing and humor

■ STAGE, Page 20



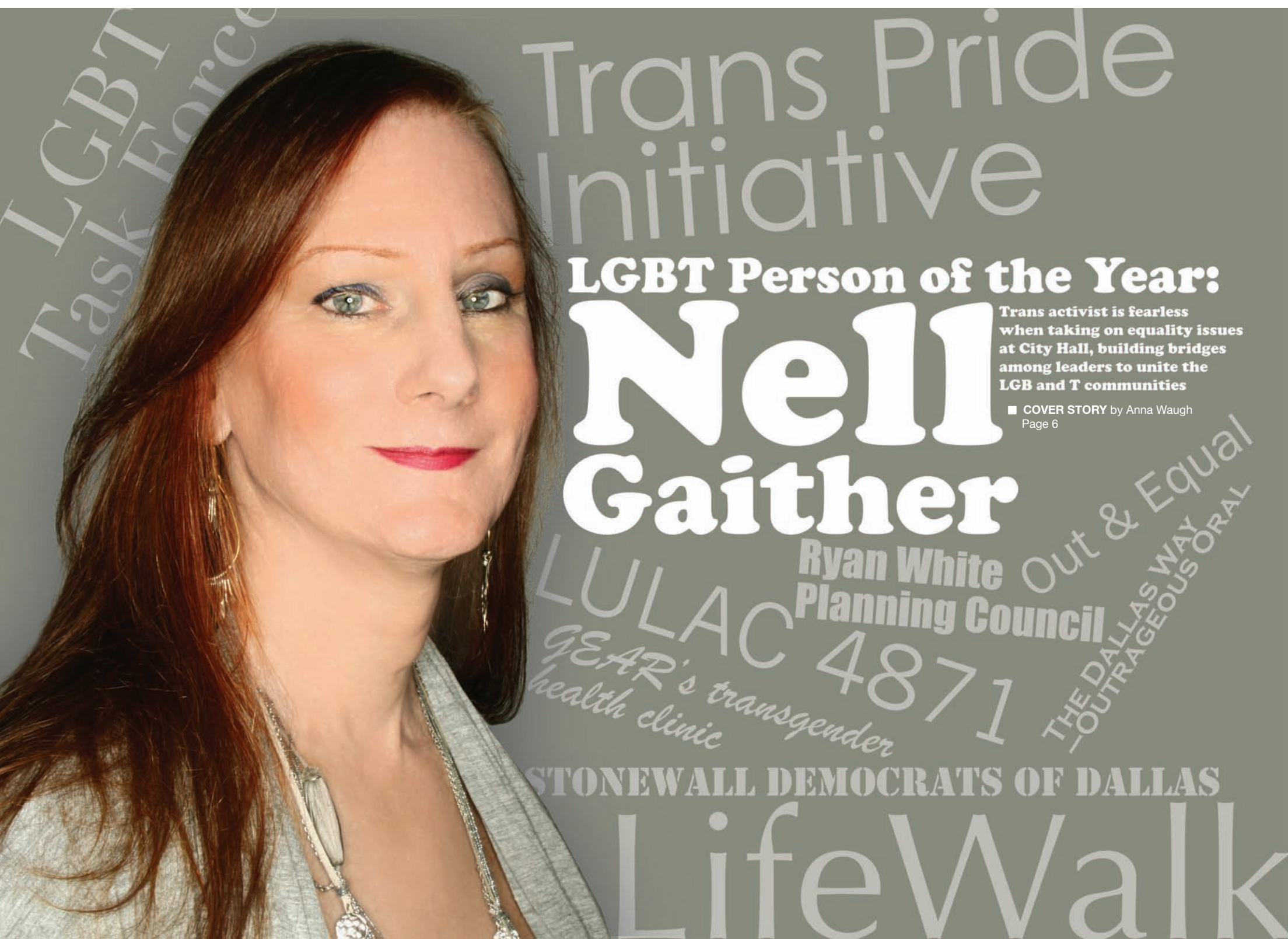
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LGBT Person of the Year:

Nell Gaither

Trans activist is fearless when taking on equality issues at City Hall, building bridges among leaders to unite the LGB and T communities

■ COVER STORY by Anna Waugh
Page 6

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headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 9 Exxon keeps -25 score on HRC index
- 11 VA denies housing loan to gay couple
- 12 Texas lags in FBI hate crime stats
- 14 The pressure to be perfect in Dallas

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 21 Rundown of 2014 gay ski weekends
- 23 Gays differ on Winter Games boycott
- 24 Panic! frontman dishes on sexuality
- 28 Scary Spice talks gays, new solo

■ ON THE COVER

Photo by Terry Thompson
Design by Kevin Thomas

departments

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 6 Texas News | 20 Life+Style |
| 8 Pet of the Week | 31 Calendar |
| 8 Death | 36 Scene |
| 18 Viewpoints | 38 Classifieds |

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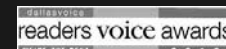
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BIG MONEY | Black Tie Dinner chairs Ken Morris and Mitzi Lemons, pictured, along with board members, presented a commemorative plate and a check to 18 beneficiaries at a party at One Arts Plaza on Dec. 11. Beneficiaries were AIDS Arms, \$37,421; AIDS Interfaith Network, \$33,467; AIDS Outreach Center, \$24,040; Celebration Community Church, \$32,302; Congregation Beth El Binah, \$19,557; East Texas CARES Resource Center, \$19,796; Equality Texas Foundation, \$23,700; Health Services of North Texas, \$20,034; Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, \$25,758; Legacy Counseling Center, \$20,141; Legal Hospice of Texas, \$20,768; Northaven United Methodist Church, \$27,304; Resource Center, \$71,676; Turtle Creek Chorale, \$22,891; White Rock Friends, \$20,202; Women's Chorus of Dallas, \$18,354 and Human Right Campaign Foundation, \$465,000. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Judge to consider blocking TX marriage amendment in Feb.

A date has been set for two Texas couples challenging the state's marriage amendment to appear in court to argue that a temporary injunction should be ordered, preventing state officials from enforcing the law.

Federal District Judge Orlando Garcia is set to hear arguments on Feb. 12.

Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes of Plano, joined by Austin couple Cleopatra DeLeon and Nicole Dimetman, are the plaintiffs in the case. Both couples met in San Antonio years ago, but while the lesbian couple later married out of state, they want their union recognized here, and Phariss and Holmes want to marry in Texas.

The attorney for the couples filed the motion last month and said they expect a favorable ruling regarding the injunction, but Gov. Rick Perry and Attorney General Greg Abbott, listed as defendants in the case, could request proof that the law harms same-sex couples, delaying a ruling on the motion for a year or more.

— Anna Waugh

Trans Pride Initiative expands 2nd annual health fair on Saturday

After focusing on the health needs of the trans and gender non-conforming communities last year, Trans Pride Initiative is adding health screenings for the entire LGBT community at a health fair Saturday.

Nell Gaither, president of Trans Pride Initiative, said she planned a Chest & Breast Wellness Day at UT Southwestern Medical Center last year so gender non-conforming individuals would have access to healthcare without feeling uncomfortable or facing discrimination at a doctor's office.

This year's event on Saturday is called the Out Healthy Fair. It will again feature chest/breast screenings, diagnostic exams and same-day results, and informative presentations will be offered throughout the day on various topics like skin can-

cer, lung cancer and smoking cessation. A transgender Affordable Care Act coordinator will also be in attendance.

"We're trying to expand our audience and we're expanding the types of things we're offering," Gaither said.

Last year, UT Southwestern saw about 15 people, but Gaither said the response from people who attended and the training of the staff helped Trans Pride refer LGBT people to the hospital throughout the year for services because they knew they'd be comfortable.

"Our original idea was to expand it and grow it each year so that it became more of an LGBT community-wide health event for the entire LGBTQI community and something that the trans community could say, 'this is us, this is our work for the entire community' as a way of instilling trans pride," she said.

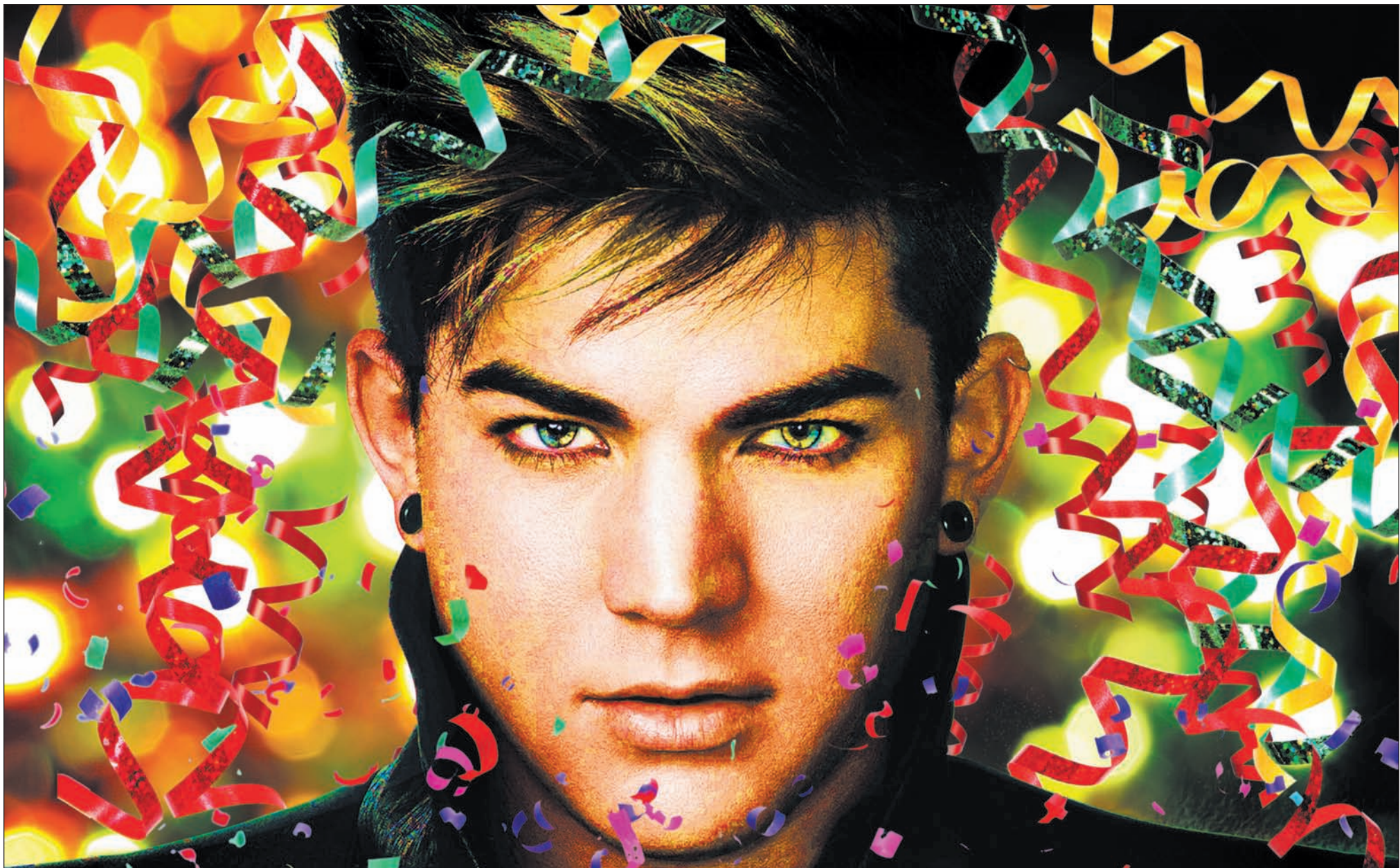
Screening costs are covered by sponsors for persons who don't have insurance or whose insurance won't cover them. While people can call to schedule an appointment, Gaither said walk-ins are encouraged on Saturday.

Dallas Voice's coverage of the event last year sparked interest in other departments at UT Southwestern. Gaither said she expects more departments to participate in future years to again grow the event.

Vendor booths will include participation from UTSW Community Prevention and Intervention Unit, AIDS Arms, LULAC Rainbow Council 4871, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Black Transmen Inc., Black Transwomen Inc., Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, AmeriDoc, University of North Texas Center for Psychosocial Health Research, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, Parkland Health & Hospital System, Transgender Education Network of Texas and Lambda Legal.

The Out Healthy Fair is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 14 at UT Southwestern Medical Center's Seay Biomedical Building, 2201 Inwood Road. To schedule an appointment, call 214-645-2526. For more information, visit tpride.org.

— Anna Waugh



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LGBT Person of the Year: Nell Gaither

Trans activist is fearless when taking on equality issues at City Hall, building bridges among leaders to unite the LGB and T communities

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Nell Gaither isn't one to brag about the long list of things she's accomplished over the past year — and it's a lengthy list.

Gaither, a trans activist and founder of the non-profit Trans Pride Initiative, started her year by going toe-to-toe with city of Dallas leadership that would prove to be the beginning of an extended conversation and fight to help transgender city employees receive the health benefits they need.

After several meetings with the city manager's office, Human Resources and insurance representatives, Gaither was convinced the city wouldn't add comprehensive trans healthcare, including gender reassignment surgery. But what she found was that the city's coverage wasn't even covering one employee's hormones. And as a former city employee herself, Gaither knew the hormone coverage shifted with prescription providers. This news was surprising when the city was telling Gaither that everything was covered for trans employees except the surgery.

While Gaither focused on the healthcare fight at City Hall, she also was stirring things up among local city homeless shelters to be more trans inclusive and focusing on how to better reach the trans and larger LGBT community's health needs with an annual health fair.

After quitting her job last year to focus on her nonprofit, Gaither has emerged as a star in the local and statewide transgender communities for her passion, commitment and dedication to advancing trans rights. Her much-needed presence has helped educate LGB leaders in North Texas and across the state, filling the void of a local advocacy group with a specific trans focus.

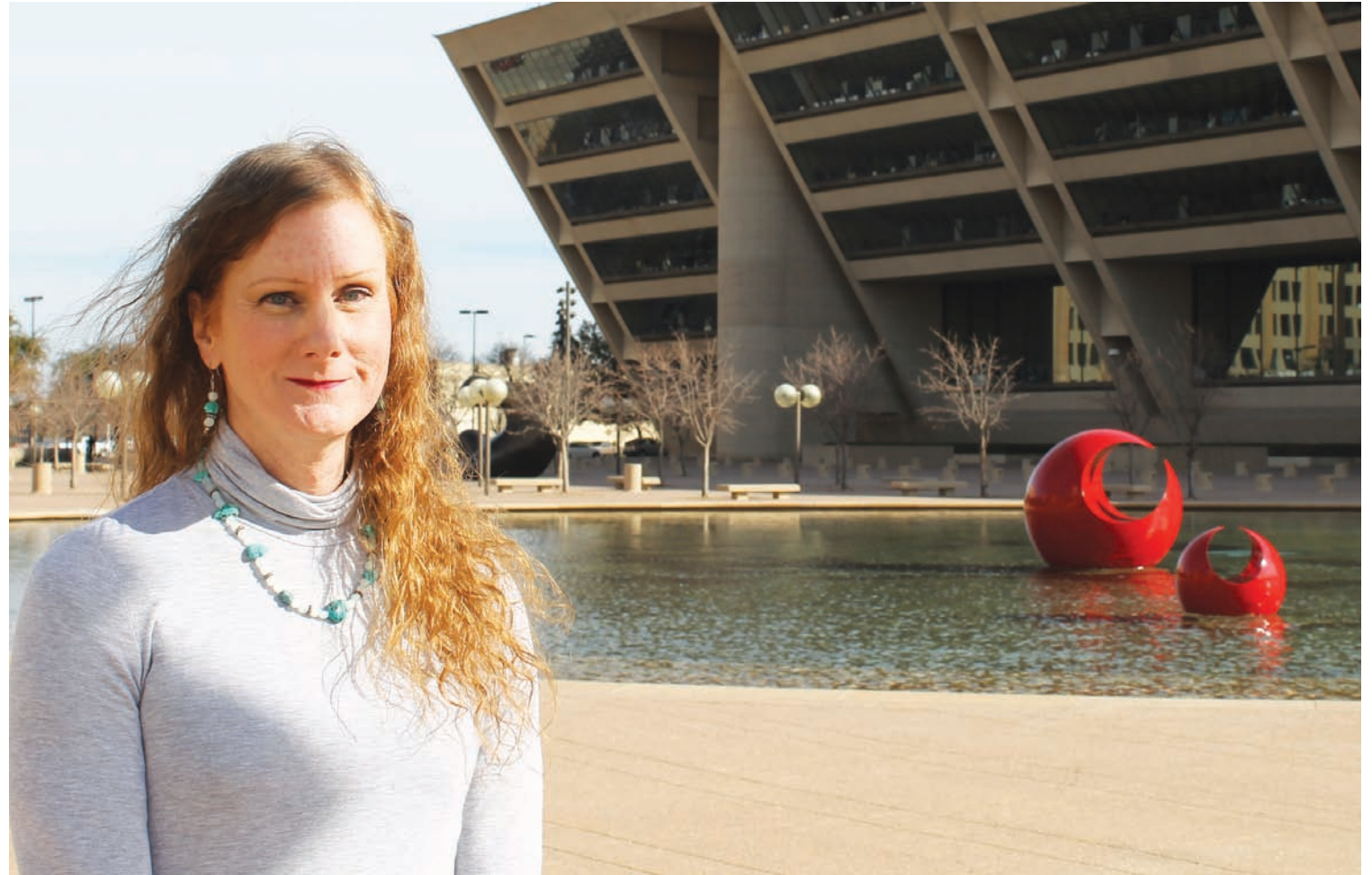
It is for her fearless advocacy and ability to forge new partnerships and pathways in 2012 that Gaither is Dallas Voice's LGBT Person of the Year.

Answering the call

Gaither started thinking about social services available to the trans community when she was involved with Metroplex Crossdressers Club back in 2006. As a member of the steering committee, she pushed for the group to take an advocacy role and encouraged trans men to join.

"I always wanted to do more than just social events," she said.

But the idea didn't gain a lot of traction with



ON THE FRONT LINES | Nell Gaither started the year by going toe-to-toe with Dallas officials to clarify and expand health coverage for trans employees. She continued the dialogue on the issue and worked with homeless shelters and other agencies to expand trans protections and services. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

members.

By 2010, Gaither was working for the Dallas Public Library. That year the annual National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change was held in Dallas. Not yet out at work, Gaither volunteered for the trans hospitality suite after work at the conference.

While there, she encountered a trans person who was a suicide risk and the volunteers helped talk the person through it. The incident lingered with her, and her need to do something more for the community only grew.

"I think just being involved in that kind of made me feel more of a drive or more of an initiative that I really wanted to do something to start addressing the problem," Gaither recalled.

A few months later, she began coming out at the library. And while she was working on website development she was in charge of an online form for a youth poetry contest. She noticed that the form had check boxes for gender and told her supervisor that the gender designation wasn't necessary for participation in the contest. Instead, she said it may deter youth who were trans or intersex from entering.

When her supervisor showed little interest in her suggestion, the form went unchanged. But she later was helping the director of the contest with a project and mentioned the form to her, explaining why she felt the gender identification wasn't needed. The director never said anything, but Gaither later found that the form had been changed. She was later told that it was because of her comments that it was changed to be more inclusive. The gender designation has been removed from all contest forms and even the employee manual for library staff.

Gaither even encouraged the library to request that the computer software they use allow them to remove the gender identification on the form when people sign up for a library card, while many librarians now leave it blank. She said since Dallas has had a lot of input in the software's changes, if the company allows them to turn off the gender boxes, other cities can follow suit.

After those successes, Gaither began to toy with the idea of her own nonprofit, later launching Trans Pride Initiative in 2011.

While she remained active in a number of groups like the transgender health clinic at Nel-

son-Tebedo Clinic and Out & Equal, she left her job with the city to grow the nonprofit last year.

Fanning the flames

One of the first big events by Trans Pride was a chest and breast wellness day at UT Southwestern Medical Center last fall that focused on the trans and gender non-conforming community, many of whom are afraid to get annual checkups at the doctor for fear of embarrassment or ridicule. Gaither planned the same event this year, but grew it to encompass more tests and screenings to meet the needs of the entire LGBT community.

With a healthcare focus in mind, Gaither turned her attention to the healthcare inadequacies at City Hall regarding trans health coverage. City officials continued to suggest that better communication needed to take place between HR and trans employees about what was covered under the city's insurance plan. But little headway was made on expanding the coverage to include surgery.

"I would say they're not very supportive at all,"

■ **GAITHER**, Page 12

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localbriefs

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Annual Round-Up stocking auction

The annual stocking auction benefiting Legacy Founders Cottage takes place at the Round-Up Sa-

loon on Dec. 15.

Items available include trips, liquor baskets, restaurant certificates and electronics.

Legacy Executive Director Melissa Grove said after the ice storm many people are behind in their Christmas shopping.

"This is a fun way to catch up on your shopping," she said.

She said the stocking auction began after a Round-Up bartender spent his last days at Legacy Founders Cottage and the rest of the staff was impressed with the loving care he received.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the auction gets underway at 7 p.m. A preview night takes place on Dec. 14. ■

Death



Kenneth Phillip Rowell, 69, died at his home in Dallas on Dec. 6.

He worked for Southwest Airlines for 34 years and was one of the company's first 700 employees. He retired in 2011.

After graduating from Sam Houston College, he taught art in public schools. He and his partner, Brian Giglio, were together 19 wonderful years and had an antique business together in New Orleans.

He raised Afghans and miniature schnauzers and showed them around the country. He loved gardening when he owned his own home and spent a lot of time antique shopping with his partner.

He is survived by his partner, Brian, and brothers Ronny and Bill Rowell and lots of friends from Southwest Airlines. He is preceded in death by his beloved mother, June Eloise Wallace Rowell.

The funeral will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 3811 Oak Lawn Ave. on Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m. Lunch follows at River Oak Condominiums, 4837 Cedar Springs Road. ■

pet of the week / ALIZA

Aliza is a 2-year-old, 35-pound pit bull mix. She is very friendly and is a dog lover. Because she has been at the shelter since Oct. 13, her adoption fee has been waived. Please visit her at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 Westmoreland Road.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 12 noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. They also offer discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, to any senior citizen that adopts a pet, and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit www.DallasAnimalServices.org, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices. Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.



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Exxon maintains negative score on annual equality report

HRC President calls ExxonMobil the 'worst corporate citizen' while other companies like AA and AT&T are leaders on LGBT policies

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Exxon remains the pariah corporation in the 2014 Corporate Equality Index released this week by the Human Rights Campaign.

Despite offering partner health benefits, the company retained its minus-25 score, the only company with a negative score.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin called the company "the worst corporate citizen in America."

He called their actions "unconscionable" and dismissed any offer of benefits as "so far behind."

"I hope every customer and investor will push that company to do the right thing," he said.

Deena Fidas, Human Rights Campaign's director of the Workplace Project that compiles the annual report, was not impressed with the company's offer of partner healthcare benefits.

She said that without a nondiscrimination policy in place, employees would have to out themselves to get coverage and could be fired at will for being gay or lesbian.

The company even had 25 points deducted because it worked so hard to fight a shareholder resolution to add nondiscrimination to its equal employment opportunity statement.

"The Securities and Exchange Commission has even had to step in to reject ExxonMobil's requests to block the pro-equality shareholder resolution," Fidas said.

She said the company was simply bringing its policies in line with the law.

Other local companies are at the opposite end of the spectrum.

American Airlines, AT&T, Nokia and GameStop received perfect scores of 100.

Griffin said American Airlines and AT&T were national leaders in offering benefits and embracing the LGBT community.

AT&T spokesman Charles Bassett said this was the 10th year in a row his company received 100 percent. He said diversity is part of AT&T's corporate culture.

"Because our customers, our suppliers and our investors are diverse, we serve them best when our workforce is diverse," Bassett said. "That's why AT&T has long been a leader in ensuring a diverse workforce and inclusive work environment."

Bassett listed some of the benefits his company

offers that go beyond HRC's requirements to receive a perfect score. The company's health insurance includes transition-related treatment of transgender individuals. New hires go through mandatory training on AT&T's nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. The company reaches out to the LGBT community in recruitment, marketing and community involvement and support.

"Additionally, one of our 11 employee resource groups, which offers employees the opportunity to learn, network, collaborate and develop professionally, is LEAGUE at AT&T — the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Organization,"

he said. "LEAGUE at AT&T was founded by employees in 1987, making it the first LGBT employee resource group in corporate America."

While Fort Worth's largest transportation company, American Airlines, received a perfect score, the city's second largest, BNSF Railway, received just a 20. The company has a nondiscrimination policy based on sexual orientation.

However, BNSF announced earlier this month they will begin offering healthcare benefits to same-sex spouses. That announcement came a day after two legally married engineers who are gay filed a lawsuit in Seattle. Washington became a marriage equality state in December 2012.

The company claimed they would offer the benefits even though it was not required in the company contracts or by law. Attorneys for the plaintiffs disagreed and said the health plan lists eligible dependents as "your husband or wife" and does not specify "opposite sex," so it is required by contract.

Either way, that addition in benefits could add 15 points to the company's score next year.

Griffin said more companies achieved a perfect score this year than ever. Of the Fortune 500, 125 received 100 percent, including 13 of the top 20. Two thirds offer partner benefits and more than a quarter offer transgender health coverage. ■

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VA denies housing loan to gay couple

As they look for alternate financing to meet their closing date next week, the VA administration is still tweaking how it'll interpret DOMA ruling

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
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BEDFORD — Alan Rodriguez and his husband are scrambling to find new financing this week after the Veterans Affairs Department denied them a housing loan after pre-approving them.

Rodriguez said his husband, Earl Rector, qualified for the loan because Rector is a former Army sergeant with eight years of service. But he said his husband is between jobs, so the loan is based on his income.

Since the VA office count doesn't the income of the non-veteran spouse in states where same-sex marriage isn't recognized, the couple was informed Monday, Dec. 9, that they wouldn't receive the loan.

"We understood that the VA was going to recognize same-sex marriages and underwrite VA loans," Rodriguez said. "People thought with the DOMA ruling that all of these federal agencies now would recognize these marriages. It's not that simple."

Rodriguez and Rector have been together for 13 years, during which they've each been out of work and helped take care of each other. But now that Rodriguez's income isn't being considered because his husband is the veteran who's out of work, he said the entire application process is faulty because the VA knew their circumstances when they applied.

"That's what it means to be in a relationship is you take care of each other," Rodriguez said. "That's what this is all about is the fact that we can't function in society like normal people."

They sold their Bedford home in November and got married later that month in Seattle before signing a contract on a new home in Oak Lawn. Their closing date is Dec. 18 and while their lender is dealing with the VA to ensure the loan will be issued, time is running out.

"We're scrambling right now to see if we can put pressure on the VA to approve the loan but we're about to switch to conventional financing," Rodriguez said. "At this point, we have nowhere to live."

With alternative financing options, he said they'd end up paying at least \$200 more a month with a higher interest rate, resulting in thousands of dollars more for their home.

If financing doesn't go through by next week, the couple will be in breach of contract, so the seller can later come after them for money if he sells the home to someone else for a lower price.



GAY VS. VA | Former Army Sgt. Earl Rector, left, and husband Alan Rodriguez previously took Tom Landry Fitness Center to task for not giving them a family membership. Now they're fighting the VA to receive a housing loan in time to close on a new home. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

The couple reached out to U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, for help resolving the matter since she has a VA liaison. Johnson is a longtime LGBT champion.

Johnson spokesman Cameron Trimble said her office is aware of the situation and is working to help resolve the issue.

"It's something that the congresswoman is very aware of," Trimble said. "She fights for equality and fairness and at the end of the day, especially with her history of being a VA nurse, she holds veterans in the highest esteems and she's always going to fight as hard as she can for any veteran that is being denied any of their rights or anything that was owed to them or promised to them for service for their country."

This isn't the first instance where a non-marriage-equality state has denied a veterans home loan to a same-sex couple. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., asked the Obama administration to change its income rules after a Colorado couple had a similar situation.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee is currently considering legislation that would order the VA to recognize same-sex couples in every state instead of the state's definition of marriage.

But while the U.S. Department of Defense has

released new standards for processing same-sex spousal benefits after the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling in the federal Defense of Marriage Act, the VA hasn't announced how the ruling will affect it.

Ken Upton, senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal's Dallas office, said the VA is more complicated than other federal agencies because VA benefits are handled under a different part of the federal law. Congress set the law that requires VA benefits be available to opposite-sex couples who are legally married where they reside.

"They really weren't affected by the DOMA ruling because they already had restrictions built into the congressional law about veteran benefits to begin with," Upton said. "And so that's an area that's still kind of not resolved that the Department of Justice and Veteran's Administration is working on."

He said the opposite-sex part is no longer being enforced after the DOMA ruling but the residency part is still being considered.

As for why the couple was pre-approved and then later denied, Upton said he didn't know what error occurred before someone caught the mistake.

"I don't know how they got that far without someone raising it," he said. "It's probably just

they process a lot of applications and this is still an area that's kind of confusing and being resolved, so whoever did it probably didn't know would be my guess."

Rodriguez and his husband are known in Dallas for taking on the Tom Landry Fitness Center in 2011 after the gym refused to give them a family membership because they are a gay couple.

They filed a complaint under the city's nondiscrimination ordinance.

The gym, owned by Baylor Health Care System, claimed it was a private religious organization and not a public accommodation, but the city attorney's office found them at fault.

Baylor ended up settling with the city last year to avoid legal action by eliminating all family memberships.

If the VA doesn't give them the loan and they can't find another financing option in time to close on the home, Rodriguez said he'd likely leave Texas, especially after the welcoming treatment he and Rector received in Seattle when they married.

"I'm absolutely done with this," he said. "Why would you deal with all of this garbage when you can go live somewhere where the marriage is fully recognized?" ■

Texas hate crime stats well below national average

Two cities, Dallas and Fort Worth, account for a quarter of the state's reported bias-motivated incidents

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
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Hate crimes in Texas are under-reported.

To take the data at face value, someone is four times as likely to be a hate crime victim in Dallas than in Houston or Austin, using statistics released by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"We know we have an under-reporting crisis," Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said.

He's served on the Travis County Hate Crimes Task Force for several years.

"Some jurisdictions have no interest in reporting," he said.

He said a number of hate crimes go unreported in jails. When they're investigated, those incidents are often counted as gang-related but may be racially motivated or may be targeting someone based on sexual orientation.

Around the state, Smith said one of the problems is training. Texas' James L. Byrd Hate Crime law — signed in 2001 and lists "sexual preference" in its protections — requires police departments to be



Chuck Smith

trained in investigating hate crimes. That would be a responsibility of the Attorney General's office, but hate crimes are nowhere to be found on that department's website and no training or training material is provided by the state.

Some training is being done on local levels and Smith

cites success with the Austin and University of Texas police departments.

Earlier this month, the FBI released its 2012 hate crime statistics. Texas figures were missing because the state missed the publication deadline. However, the Texas Department of Public Safety lists crime stats on its website. Those will be included in final FBI figures that will be released in January.

According to DPS, 170 hate crimes took place statewide in 2012. Of those, Dallas reported 30 and Fort Worth reported 14. Houston — with twice the population of Dallas — reported one less than Fort Worth.

According to the FBI, 6,718 bias motivated

crimes were committed across the country in 2012. Race accounted for almost half of those incidents. Sexual orientation was the next most commonly cited bias accounting for one in five offenses.

In Texas, sexual orientation accounted for a third of all hate crimes reported. Dallas figures match the state stats. Ten of 30 hate crimes in Dallas were based on sexual orientation. Five were religious, seven racial and eight ethnic, which includes crimes against Hispanics.

Of the 1,318 reported bias-motivated offenses based on sexual orientation across the country, 26 were anti-heterosexual. The rest targeted gays, lesbians or bisexuals. Anti-trans violence is not included in these numbers.

Comparing the number of hate crimes reported in Texas to other large states, someone is six times as likely to be a hate crime victim in New York than in Texas. New York is the state closest in population to Texas.

Resource Center spokesman Rafael McDonnell had a different take on why hate crimes are under-reported in Texas. He said people in a state like Texas might be more afraid to report a hate crime here than elsewhere.

"There's a general distrust of how a police department will treat a hate crime report," he said.

That may be based on stereotypes and other incorrect information, he said, but many people wonder how seriously a department will take

their complaint.

Dallas police LGBT liaison Detective Laura Martin reports hate crimes for the city of Dallas.

She said she was "fairly comfortable" with the numbers she reported. Per capita, the numbers are comparable to other medium and large cities around the country.

"It's a fair representation compared to other cities," she said.

She said Dallas police receive extensive training on hate crimes both as rookies and as veterans on the force.

Before including an incident on the city's hate crime report, she said she reviews it with two other officers, since motive is sometimes subjective.

She said collecting the data helps the department look at patterns and trends and determine how personnel should be deployed.

While hate crimes may be under-reported, she said most victims of crimes in her report are forthcoming with information and volunteer that they believe they were targeted because they are part of a protected category.

She said it wasn't uncommon for the suspect in a case to repeat the slurs or admit why they targeted an individual.

"Suspects are often loud and proud, too," she said. "They think they're somehow furthering their cause." ■

■ GAITHER, From Page 6

Gaither said about the city's response. "It's my impression that they're uncomfortable with the issue, but I don't get a good impression that they're looking at it very seriously."

Since her discussions with the city, Gaither has become heavily involved in the city's LGBT Task Force, which recently made insurance coverage and transition protocol for employees one of its main goals for next year. Gaither also said depending on how the Affordable Care Act is implemented could also affect the city's decision to expand coverage.

The back and forth with the city and urging the Task Force to take up the issue has been a long journey, but Gaither said the process has helped people better understand trans health issues.

"It's a little bit frustrating but you always have to have a long-term perspective and sometimes you take small steps," she said. "Sometimes you talk to a person who does think about it over time and they eventually get back to you or something happens and has more of an effect than you realize. So, to me, just being out and bringing attention to it kind of helps in the long-term."

Pursuing the dream

Gaither's reach expands beyond City Hall. When Dallas Area Rapid Transit passed domestic partner benefits in October after more than a year of delays and discussion, Gaither addressed the



ON THE AGENDA | Nell Gaither, center left, attends a meeting of the city's LGBT Task Force. Gaither's involvement with the group has led to them making trans health benefits for Dallas city employees a priority.

board, telling its members that their work wasn't done and she'd be back to get trans healthcare expanded.

She said since that meeting she's been collecting information on companies that offer transgender healthcare and hopes the city's decision to provide full coverage will encourage agencies like DART that have fought equality at every step.

"[Trans issues] are going to be at DART, so we will need to address them there," Gaither said. "My idea with working with the city is to get the city on board first and hopefully that will set a precedent with working with other groups."

While it may seem like Gaither has her work cut out for her, she's only adding projects to her to-do list. Her work with area homeless shelters

this past year has spurred her to start her own shelter and community center that would address a variety of issues the trans community faces, as well as provide short- and long-term housing.

She said she'd like the shelter and center to be in one place so people who have worked through their hardships can share their experiences and mentor others.

"I want to be able to foster a situation where there can be peer mentorships across that divide," she said.

She's projecting to have that dream become a reality in a few years unless she can find a funding source sooner.

When asked about how her work has already benefited the greater trans community, she humbly called it "limited" to people who read the Voice by following trans news. She added that her work is successful because trans people are coming out and taking a stand for their needs and rights, shining a light on the work that's only just begun.

"It's just one of a lot of different things happening locally and nationwide to bring trans issues kind of to the fore, where as in the past prior to 2008, 2009, at least the last 10 years or so, trans persons were very much hidden," Gaither said. "But in the last eight to 10 years, we've started stepping out. So, it's not that Trans Pride is doing it, we're just one of a lot of different things that are bringing those issues out into the open and making them a part of the public conversation." ■



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The Dallas Tavern Guild Family

Honey, it's Dallas: The pressure to be perfect

In the quest to look your best, check yourself before you wreck yourself

TYLER CURRY | Contributing Writer
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Women have long been subjected to a wildly unrealistic expectation of beauty. The advertising and marketing industry has capitalized on the obsessions and insecurities of women for decades. Multi-million dollar campaigns pushing the newest age-defying moisturizer or flaunting the latest breakthrough in weight loss have flooded the pages of magazines and our TV screens.

Even mainstream marketing towards heterosexual men most often uses the insatiable sex appeal of perfect women that can act like an indirect reminder to the mother at home that her wrinkles are showing and her thighs shouldn't touch. But now, as the almighty gay dollar is becoming more and more recognized, the unrealistic idea of male beauty has emerged. You might want to hold on to your wallets, boys, because it is your finances that are now in the crosshairs.

It isn't breaking news that a healthy portion of the Dallas gay male population has always strived to look more like a comic book character and less like a real man. Most gay men at least have a gym membership card attached to their key ring as a reminder that they aren't there and can name at least three luxury skin care brands. Although we may not be cornering the cosmetic market anytime soon, the advertising practices of numerous products and services have increasingly taken on a homo-slant. Why? Because the advertising industry has discovered that gay men are just as susceptible to the youth delusion as women.

So what does the perfectly impossibly A-list gay man resemble? Well, it's a sort of amalgamation of Anderson Cooper's face with the body of someone from Magic Mike. We are supposed to be impossibly wealthy and ripped to pieces yet somehow frozen at the age of 25. The money can be a little more than difficult to come by. But the appearance of having it all — let's just say some Dallas boys have mastered the art of illusion.

But now, mainstream marketing has smelled our desire to look like an action star and it has taken note. Just across the street from Equinox, a new business has opened up that is geared toward the male client and promises that you will look better, feel better and, indeed, live better. I walked into this new business, with the cleverly ambiguous name of Thrive, thinking that it would be just another "wellness" center offering Botox, Restylane and the like. Although it is injections that they are touting, they are not

the kind that you put in your face.

Thrive brings to Dallas the latest trend in youth preservation with an emphasis on the male client. Their product is simple — custom tailored hormone injections that will make you feel stronger, increase your sexual appetite and be the trick up your sleeve come pool season. Once I realized that this place was the injection fountain of youth, I figured I was probably not the ideal client. But was I ever wrong! Even at the age of 30, I was a prime candidate for a host of treatments that they would be happy to stick me with. As tempting as a boost to my muscles and manhood sounded, it was just one step too far.

Although I escaped the allure of designer hormones (at least for the day), the pressure to appear perfect never felt so tangible. The experience forced me to step back and assess the behaviors of my peers and myself and wonder how well we balance quality of life, the content of our character and the quest for perfect abs.

Of course, there are many homosexuals that do not subscribe to the Men's Fitness version of what a man should look like. Even those who could very well be on the cover of the next issue may often demonstrate some of the richest character of all. But I challenge anyone to deny the pressure that the Dallas Gay Culture places on its subjects. I will be the first to admit, I contribute to the problem.

I constantly worry about my diet and beat myself up every time I accidentally inhale a batch of brownies.

The value of my fancy gym membership takes way too much precedence when considering my not so fancy budget. I maintain a four-season bronzed glow (thank you, Tom Ford). And even though fashion has never been much of a priority, I catch myself coveting the labels that so many of my friends adore. As Dallas is one of the premiere markets for fashion, fitness, plastic surgery and cosmetics, it appears I am in good company.



Tyler Curry

Of course, none of these traits do a monster make. But the failure to recognize that these vain indulgences are just that, vain, can lead to some pretty gruesome characters. The boy who won't eat a single carb and looks at you with disgust when you do, even at his own birthday. The guy you dated that could never meet you for dinner during the week because it interrupted his two-hour gym session. The group of friends that only will hang out with people who look and act like them. These people are real, and whether you like it or not, they have the ability to impact your life.

So how do you protect yourself from your inner narcissist? The answer is easy. Learn to recognize when you feed into your vanity and focus instead on what makes your presence

beautiful to be around — not just something pretty to look at. We all strive to be the best versions of ourselves, but the impact you have on the lives around you will linger much longer than how great you looked at last weekend's pool party. No matter how perfect you mold your image to be, someone will always look better, dress better and appear more "perfect" than you. So take time to enjoy the things that matter and, for heaven's sake, eat a piece of cake on your birthday.

After all, designer hormones may be able to stimulate muscle growth and boost your libido, but there is no injection for a bad sense of humor. ■

Tyler Curry is a Dallas-based writer and is the creator of The Needle Prick Project.

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Arnold Wayne Jones Life+Style Editor | 129
Anna Waugh News Editor | 124
David Taffet Staff Writer | 125

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viewpoints

We have nothing against you, but...

A lesson from one Louisiana town on the polite way to send LGBT people back into the closet

No sooner had I written a column a few weeks back about how nice it felt to see a rainbow flag in front of Philadelphia's City Hall, than I saw this headline from July (my online news alert tends to operate on Gay Standard Time): "Louisiana Republican to introduce bill to ban rainbow flag from public buildings."

A little investigation revealed that Councilmember Andy Naquin, of Lafayette, La., was looking into the feasibility of banning all but governmental flags from city property. A complaint from Ray Greene, 79, and fellow veterans, prompted this inquiry. According to city council meeting minutes, Mr. Green saw a photo of a rainbow flag aloft in Lafayette's Girard Park, and "it offended him very much." He told the council, "I am not a gay basher...this is a flag safety issue," and then, trying to illustrate his point, proffered two examples in which people had been prohibited from flying the American flag somewhere. The minutes do not indicate if anyone asked what that had to do with his rainbow flag problem.

I don't mean to bash Mr. Green either, nor do I take any issue with his devotion to the Ameri-

can flag. I would, however, like to use his complaint as an example of how our national discussions about LGBT pride avoid the simple truth.

Putting it all in context, the flag was hoisted for one day by local group Acadiana OUTspoken Alliance to celebrate the overturning of DOMA. Their president says that they got permission from the city and that the flagpole was not being used at the time. Councilmember Naquin told a local TV station that he was not intending to single out gays, but that he opposed any non-governmental flag going up there: "What would happen if the Catholics were to fly a flag or a pro-

life flag was flown or KKK flag was flown or even Taliban flag was flown [sic]? Who would you say 'no' to when you open those doors?"



Abby Dees
Contributing Columnist

This all seems reasonable at first (though any high school civics student could tell you why no religious flags would be allowed). And it's true that as soon as the government starts cherry picking what kind of messages are allowed on public property, thorny free speech issues arise. A clean,

across-the-board rule could possibly avoid this. But that's not what's got me gnashing my teeth.

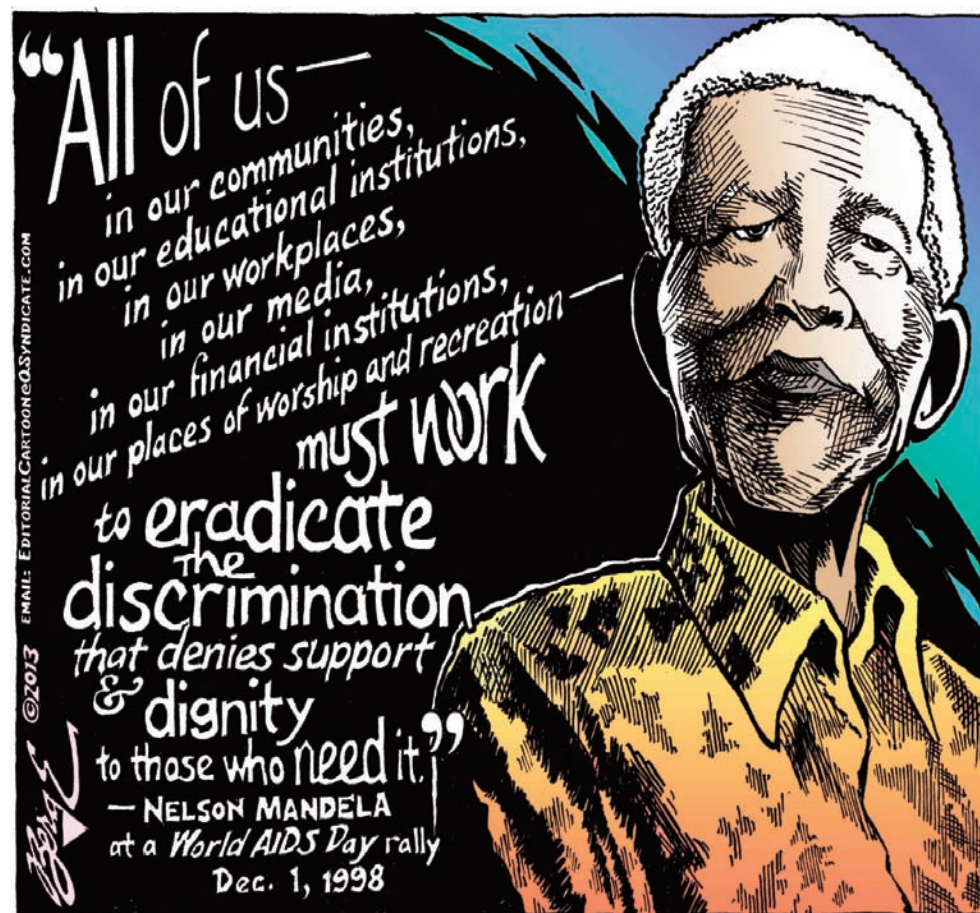
I'm still stuck on why this issue arose at all, which is not so clean and tidy. Let's say that instead of a rainbow flag, the Boys and Girls Club asked to hoist a flag for a day. Would Mr. Green be so worried as to give an impassioned — though kind of random — speech on the imminent threat facing the red, white and blue? Of course not. While both gentlemen made obvious efforts to demonstrate that they had nothing against the gays, everything else they said belied these assertions. Speaking for the discomfited veterans, Councilmember Naquin said, "They felt it was a disrespect to this country and a disrespect to them and I'd have to agree with that."

I'm trying to find a way to interpret this that doesn't mean, "Gays are gross and I shouldn't have to watch them celebrating gayness in my park." What am I missing?

Mr. Green, less politically evasive than Naquin, got more to the point when he warned, "If you allow the gay pride flag to be flown, then you got to by all rights allow the KKK, the Muslims and anybody else" — which tells me exactly what he thinks of the KKK, Muslims, and yes, gays.

This is much less complicated than anyone is willing to admit. At its heart the debate isn't about the First Amendment, flag protection or delicate local politics. If a rainbow flag on public property causes someone distress, it is because he or she fundamentally has a problem with LGBT people, a feeling anyone's entitled to. But any more explaining is merely tap-dancing around this fact. Fortunately, the furor in Lafayette has since died down and the city council is dealing with more important things now. Last I heard, there was an American flag in Girard Park.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25-plus years. She can be reached through her website: queenquestionststraighttalk.com.



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Darius'

turn

Everything's coming up roses for **Darius-Anthony Robinson**, a veteran gypsy of theater striking out with his one-man cabaret

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

Darius-Anthony Robinson never intended to become the sassy, sashaying drag actor he has become, but when you are as fabulous as he is, you kinda expect something like that would happen.

It all started a few years ago, when he auditioned for Theatre 3's regional premiere of the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

"To audition for that show, I sang 'I'd Rather Be Sailing' from *A New Brain*," Robinson explains. "I was very straight-laced and serious — I even danced. Shortly after that, I got a phone call saying, 'What do you think about playing Trix, the Aviator?' Not aviator, mind you — aviatrix. He accepted. "To this day, Denise Lee jokes that I stole that role from her."

Since then, Robinson has been a go-to guy for the head-bobbin', shade-throwin', tart-tongued black gay comic relief — as often as not, in a dress: NeNe Leakes in Uptown Players' *Re-Designing Women* spoof; Tootie in their *Facts of Life* spoof; and, he has said, "as soon as the *Kinky Boots* producers call, I'm there."

It used to be that he wanted those roles but never got them — for some reason.

"I am the nelliest guy ever, and yet I would get cast in these straight-guy roles. I really just want to play gay onstage. Just goes to show, be careful what you wish for — I'm not only gay, but a woman." Even his current role, in Uptown Players' *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* (which plays through this weekend) was written with a woman in mind.

"She's the stage manager, calling all the cues. I get to sashay

across the stage and yell out lines. She acts as the creator of all. Basically, I'm God," he says.

So, typecast again.

But it's the performance that follows that one that has Robinson most energized: His very own one-man cabaret.

It's been a long time coming. The Dallas native has been in the spotlight, one way or another, for most of his sentient life. He attended Booker T. Washington arts magnet as a dancer/singer, and finished up his bachelor's at SMU as a dance major. He even

toured in a "Chitlin Circuit" play called *Dreams* (alongside Liz Mikel) in his teens.

And he almost gave it all up. When he was playing *The Lion* in Garland Civic Theater's production of *The Wiz* several years ago, he had basically decided to give up per-

forming.

"It's hard being young and growing up in the theater — I thought, 'I don't know if I want to keep doing this.' But there was a little African-American girl who saw me in the show, came up to me and said, 'I want to be the Lion when I grow up — I wanna be just like you.' So I figured maybe I should keep doing this."

Hair was his big Dallas re-emergence, but he hopes to show audiences a brand new side with his show, which he's calling *This Time: A Holiday Evening with Darius-Anthony*. Best of all?

"I don't wear any skirts! I do bring a couple of tiaras out, but getting a chance to put on a suit and use the imagination is good. Peo-

ple sometimes forget I am a singer."

He named it *This Time* because "I really want to show myself at a new place in my career and my life — as an adult and *seen* as an adult," he says. "I'm getting a chance to go back to the basics — like singing, which is how I started."

And since Christmastime is his favorite holiday — "and because it is the *gayest* holiday" — December seemed perfect for it ... even though he's had to rehearse for it in between calls for *Fabulous Story*.

He has help from pal Denise Lee, whom he calls "my spirit guide — my mother willow tree. She offers encouragement because sometimes I go on this kick that it's too much. She's there to say there's no turning back."

He describes the cabaret as "a mix of *Liza with a Z* and Dean Martin holiday special" — certainly one of the more intriguing concepts for an "evening

with" show. He promises showtunes, jazz numbers and gospel songs, "plus drinking my whiskey and singing." (He's not kidding: Among the numbers will be "The 12 Drunk Days of Christmas." And Robinson is a Method actor.)

"Vonda K. Bowling is my music director and I get to be backed up with some really great musicians. It's almost like a Christmas soiree — nothing is taken too seriously," he says.

Except that the show itself represents an important milestone. "I feel like this is just the season I'm in — a nice time for me," Robinson says. "It's a chance to do some really great things — and the next phase is going to be very exciting!" ■

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It's all downhill from here

Our 8th annual rundown of gay ski weeks across North America in 2014



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

Gay ski weeks used to be edgy, new things. Starting with Aspen 36 years ago (and still the first of the season), they've added annually. This season, the newest event will turn 4, while most have more than 10 years under their belts. That gives snowmosexuals a lot of well-established options to bunny-hop and après-ski at. So snap on your binders and wax those skis — here's our annual rundown on the major North American gay ski weeks for 2014.

Aspen Gay & Lesbian Ski Week, Aspen, Colo. Jan. 12–19. The forerunner of gay ski weeks has events at Aspen, Snowmass and Highlands for this, its 37th annual winter party. To commemorate the banner year the gay community had legally in 2013, the week's festivities will include the largest gay civil union ceremony ever, plus dinners, cocktail receptions, dances, hot tub parties and even a Movie Night and Comedy Gala hosted by Mario Cantone. GaySkiWeek.com.

Winter Rendezvous XXVIII, Stowe, Vt. Jan. 22–26. You can segue right from Aspen to the opposite side of the country for Winter Rendezvous in Stowe, Vt. The 28th outing includes a performance by Well Strong and the now-traditional *Sound of Music* sing-along (Stowe was the American home of the Von Trapps), with seven other events, parties and shows, including the Kinsey Sicks and a Pool Party with DJ Harrison and the Blow Out Party with Steve Mardsen. WinterRendezvous.com.

WinterPride, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. Jan. 26–Feb. 2. Whistler's big annual ski week turns 22 a week earlier than last year's festivities, and features a cowboy/cowgirl night of

hoedowns and line dancing, plus a trip through the rabbit hole for the Mad Hatter Party. Gay-Whistler.com.

Elevation Utah, Park City, Utah. Feb. 20–23. Park City, Utah's Gay Ski Week, celebrates its fourth year in the same city as the Sundance Film Festival with DJ Blacklow, DJ Brett Henrichsen and DJ Josh Peace among the musicmakers spinning over the weekend. UtahGaySki.com.

Telluride Gay Ski Week, Telluride, Colo. Feb. 21–March 2. Named the U.S.A.'s top gay ski week by Gay.com, the Mountain Village event is back with its 11th incarnation, which again runs 10 days this year. Get your Gay Card for discounts (including your first day of skiing for free), to enjoy the costumed skiing, the nighttime parties and the gala fashion show that typically caps the week. (It's put on by Dallas' own Straight Out Media & Marketing.) TellurideGaySkiWeek.com.

Elevation: Mammoth, Mammoth Lakes, Calif. March 12–16. Turning 12 this year, and put on by the same folks who do Elevation Utah, this event expects 2,500 skiers and snowboarders, while hosting nine parties ... and countless memories. DJs Manny Lehman, Casey Alva, Dawna Montell and Drew G will provide the musical backdrop. MammothGaySki.com.

OutBoard Gay and Lesbian Snowboard Week, Steamboat Springs, Colo. March 25–30. This gay winter week that targets snowboarders especially is unique for always changing locations. It moves back to the charming resort town of Steamboat Springs for its fifth event in the 19th year of the event. OutBoard.org.

Last year, **Lake Tahoe WinterFest**, in Lake Tahoe, Nev., took place March 3–10; as of press time, they had not confirmed dates for 2014, but check out LakeTahoeWinterfest.com for more information. ■

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Drawing Dallas

Slender, gregarious retailer Ryan Naico is a people-person



MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name and age: Ryan Naico, 27

Occupation: Retail and service industry

Spotted at: Target Cityplace

Zodiac: Leo

Mix master: This slim, handsome young man of Russian, Irish and Mexican descent was born in the small town of Sierra Vista, Ariz., and reared in Jackson, Miss. Ryan moved to Dallas at 19, and currently resides in North Dallas with his boyfriend, Paul.

Ryan has worked in the retail and service industry since he was 17, a career he enjoys. "I like being around and meeting new people. Helping people gives me a sense of accomplishment. I feel rewarded."

Music man: A band nerd in high school, Ryan loves

music — he has musical notes tattooed on his arm to prove it. He has mastered the trumpet, flute, clarinet, mellophone and French horn. He enjoys concerts, music venues and live shows around Dallas.

Ryan is a family man: He came out at 16 (his senior year of high school), though he says everybody already knew they were just waiting for him to confirm it. His very open and supportive family accompanies him to Pride and block parties. "I try and spend as much time with them as possible."

One of his favorite things to do is go for walks, sit outside with his Chihuahua-terrier mix, Puff, and read. Elizabeth Wurtzel, Chuck Palahniuk and Stephen King are his favorite authors. You can also find him at outdoor festivals, such as Taste Addison and Octoberfest, unless he's hanging out on the Strip at JR.'s, Alexandre's or The Grapevine Bar.

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Sochi solution?

Should anti-gay laws affect the Winter Games?

In 1936 it was the Nazis. In 1980, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. In 1984 brought retaliation for '80. This year, it's treatment of gays. Another year, another Olympic boycott threat.

As Russia criminalizes LGBT people — a new law threatens jail for anyone even acknowledging gay people on the Internet or in a classroom — a broad swath of people has called for a boycott of the Winter Games in Sochi, which begin on Feb. 7. The list of boycott advocates includes current and former athletes, human rights organizations and Russian activists. A fiery op-ed piece in the *New York Times* by Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein helped fan the flames.

But support for a boycott isn't universal. And many opposed to it are gay themselves.

Out American figure skater Johnny Weir calls Russia's anti-gay laws "heartbreaking and a travesty of international proportions." However, he says, "there isn't a police officer or a government that, should I qualify, could keep me from competing at the Olympics."

Weir has a special dog in this fight: He is married to a Russian man.

John Carlos agrees. He too has an intriguing perspective. In 1968 — after taking bronze in the 200-meter race at Mexico City — Carlos and gold medal winner Tommie Smith raised black-gloved fists during the American national anthem. Smith described the act as a "human rights salute," not the Black Power gesture it was assumed to be. But the overtly political act has resonated since then.

"If you stay home, your message stays home with you. If you stand for justice and equality, you have an obligation to find the biggest possible megaphone to let your feelings be known," Carlos says. "Don't let your message be buried and don't bury yourself. To be heard is to be greater than a boycott. Had we stayed home, we'd never have been heard from again."

Also on the anti-boycott bandwagon: Cyd Zeigler. The co-founder of Outsports.com, the Internet's premier LGBT sports website. Zeigler is less concerned with politics than with the Olympics ideal.

"No athlete good enough to compete in the Olympics should ever be told by her country that she cannot fulfill her lifelong dream," he writes. "The Olympics aren't about politics; they're about putting politics aside and competing in friendship. The LGBT community needs to go after politicians and government officials to affect change in Russia and leave the future of Olympic athletes alone."

Zeigler says that most athletes get only one shot to compete in the Games. He cites openly gay gymnast Josh Dixon, who has worked for over a decade to attain his dream. Dixon told the *Washington Blade* that having that work go for naught would be "gut-wrenching."

Hockey plays a huge role in the Winter Games and it's a hugely popular sport in Russia. And the National Hockey League has been in the



Johnny Weir

forefront of supporting LGBT issues — it has partnered with the You Can Play project — and some of its public service announcements could be considered criminal offenses in Russia.

Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews told the *Chicago Tribune*, "A lot of athletes have expressed their thoughts (about the laws), and they're pretty much all the same ... in that there's a disrespect for those attitudes and that narrow-mindedness. As athletes, we can express our feelings, and we don't have to stand for that train of thought at all. By no means are we standing up for those laws by competing at the Olympics."

Other straight allies are equally vocal. "I think it's absolutely embarrassing that there are countries and people who are that intolerant and that ignorant," five-time Olympic medal skier Bode Miller told the *Washington Post*. "But it's not the first time; we've been dealing with human rights issues probably since there were humans."

Zeigler has a solution. "Instead of walking away, LGBT athletes and their nations should march into Sochi holding their heads high."

Harking back to 1936, when the U.S. resisted pressure to boycott the Berlin Games, Zeigler recalls Jesse Owens, the black athlete who beat Hitler's master race at his own game on his own track. "We can do the same thing in Sochi," Zeigler urges. "Want to make the Olympics a gay spectacle? Beat the Russians on their own track. Help out LGBT athletes get onto the podium.

The power of the community isn't to force governments to play politics but to lift up our brightest stars and help them, like Owens, deliver our message for us. You don't win in sports by walking away. You win by competing."

Gold medal-winning bobsledder Steven Holcomb agrees. "I think we should show up — pardon my French — and kick their asses and take names and go from there. That'd be such a bigger statement, in my mind."

— Dan Woog

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'Straight' dabbler?

Panic! at the Disco frontman Brendon Urie on sexual fluidity and hot dudes

After years of speculation, Brendon Urie is coming out as ... "a straight dabbler?" Panic! at the Disco's glam frontman, who celebrates bisexuality on the band's single "Girls/Girls/Boys" from its fourth LP, *Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!*, opens up in our recent chat about his curious past with men and finding himself "attracted to dudes all the time."

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: What inspired "Girls/Girls/Boys"?

Brendon Urie: Like every song on this record, the song is very autobiographical — just very honest and very confessional about exactly how I feel. The biggest summarization of the whole song in general is in the lyric "Love is not a choice," which I completely believe. I'm proud of who I am and I'm gonna act accordingly. It's really kind of loosely based on the majority of relationships I've been in, even now with my wife. Yeah, she's attracted to girls, and I think some men are extremely attractive and I don't wanna hide it. I have no shame in it. I like being able to shed some light on that. It's nice to be able to open up like that.

You basically answered my next question: Was this song inspired by a relationship with a bisexual woman? [Laughs] It was! I've been in these scenarios and I just find that attractive. Maybe not just the bisexuality, but the openness and the honesty that one can accomplish by just knowing, "This is me, this is who I am." It's so attractive to have that kind of confidence.

Would you call the song a bisexual anthem? I mean, that's a bold statement, but I'd be honored to call it a bisexual anthem — that's kind of awesome. I feel like [bisexuality] needs to be celebrated, because a lot of times I feel like people are ashamed and they hide it and they might be a little scared to open up about it. Being able to do that is a big step for me.

Gay rumors about you have been circulating since the beginning of your career. And last year you tweeted, "Everyone's a little gay." Do you truly believe that for yourself and for other people? Oh yeah, definitely. It's natural. I find myself being attracted to dudes all the time. I'm like, "Wow, that's a beautiful man." There's no shame in it; that's how I feel. To stifle that would probably bring on stress and probably make somebody homophobic.

How do you label yourself sexually, then? I guess if I had to classify myself, I'd say I'm straight. But I have, in the past, experimented in other realms of homosexuality and bisexuality. Overall I'm more attracted to women. Like with my wife, I'm just so insanely in love and attracted to my wife that I go, "Well, OK, my love of musicals can't trump that I love pussy."

A straight dabbler? Yeah, sure. It's fun to dabble!

What's it about D'Angelo's music video for "Untitled (How Does It Feel)" that made you want to pay tribute to it in the "Girls/Girls/Boys" video? When I first saw that video, I was pretty young — I think I was 12 years old — but I don't even know if it was something sexual. At that point I was just more mesmerized by how bold it was. I was like, "This guy is so confident that he has no problem being naked." I did like his pants and how low they'd go. It got real close to seeing his junk. Something about it was so open and so just naked ... not just physically but figuratively. He's really opening himself up to be that comfortable in front of the camera. This song was such a

vulnerable song that I felt it just made sense to do something like that.

Are you as comfortable with being naked as you look in the video? Oh yeah. Right now I'm naked. I'm naked all the time. If I'm home, I'm naked. [Laughs]

So you're at home now? No ... I'm walking through a grocery store, totally naked. [Laughs]

How aware are you that both women and men are swooning over this video? Are you getting salacious tweets? How does your wife feel about all this? I've gotten a couple. My wife was on set, actually. She was helping to oil me up! My wife is the coolest. She's so down to let me do whatever crazy thing pops in my head. It's kind of amazing.

But I've gotten tweets from fans, and it's flattering. They're like, "Your video is so hot." I'm just a skinny white dude. I'm not built. I'm not some supermodel dude. I'm just a normal dude. And I feel it's flattering in a way, and also surprising — you think it's sexy? Really? I was just spoofing a video that I really love, but it's nice to get some good feedback.

Thank your wife for me please. I thank her every day.

You guys are known for putting on a pretty gay show. It's been about 10 years since you referred to your former bandmate Ryan Ross as your lover and chased him across the stage, trying to kiss him. What's gay about the latest show? We have this thing we call "stage gay" where I become a different person onstage. I think I can say the same for the rest of the band: We become just a character, a different person onstage, and you treat every situation accordingly. So you get close to somebody onstage and there's sexual tension and you're all of a sudden this cocky person running around. I like to bring that person to the character I play.

It's also just very flamboyant. Our costumes are pretty amazing. Some very flamboyant shiny, sparkly clothing. I have a pinkish, rose-gold jacket that's my favorite thing ever. I gotta gay it up a bit.

What about the heavy eye makeup? When's that making a comeback? I miss the makeup, actually. I've been looking at ideas in the past couple of months to not replicate what we've done in the past but to do something new and different, because I do miss wearing the makeup.

You've always prided yourself on being pretty odd. What do you find so weird about yourself? I always roll paper, which is a weird thing. I mean, I can roll a really good joint ... but all day I'm just rolling bits of paper. My wife is impressed by it. She's like, "Wow, these are perfectly rolled pieces of paper. Tightly packaged like a toothpick."

Maybe you have a second career in origami. Maybe! I should look into that.

What's on your iPod that would surprise people? Let's see what I have here — this might actually sur-



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WEIRD IS COOL | Brendon Urie likes being weird — and we don't mind either.

prise *me*. We've got Ace of Base. Gotta have Ace of Base. Here's a funny one: OMC's "How Bizarre." I have weird one-hit wonders from the '90s. Oh, and I've got Aqua. Definitely got Aqua.

And show tunes, right? I have a whole folder! I've got *Li'l Abner* and *Cabaret*. I have *The Sound of Music!*

What accounts for the shift in sound on *Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!*, an album that meanders from your theatrical flourishes as of late and goes electro-pop? I was spending a good amount of time going to clubs and just watching people dance — things I really never did in the past — and going to Vegas, where I grew up, and just spending time at nightclubs. Basically not being the cynical hipster with the beer in the corner and actually joining in and being one of the people that I would've made fun

of in the past. It's liberating in a way. I wanted to make a record like that. I wanted to make a party record. One that got me excited. One that I felt could excite people to get up and dance — and dance like no one's watching. And to celebrate life.

What inspired the nod to Janet Jackson with the "are you nasty?" line on the song "Miss Jackson?" A lot of times my samples are stolen from a place of admiration. With the "Miss Jackson" line, I was watching Janet Jackson's "Nasty" and, when she gets out of that car and says that line, I'm just like, "Ahh, it's so good!" I don't know why I love it so much, but I love it. I just started having the best time dancing around, singing that.

You were naked when this all went down, weren't you? Chances are that yes, I was naked.

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TWICE AS NICE | The new Piano Pavilion stands a perfect distance from the original Khan building. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Piano Pavilion at the Kimbell

By nearly doubling its floor space, the Kimbell Art Museum can always keep a large portion of its permanent collection on exhibit

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The simple fact that the Kimbell Art Museum's permanent collection is back on extended display is reason enough to celebrate the opening of Piano Pavilion.

Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, who also designed Dallas' Nasher Sculpture Center, the pavilion virtually doubles the exhibit space for America's most acclaimed small museum. That means the permanent collection doesn't need to make way for traveling or special exhibits for virtually the first time in the museum's 40-year history.

The entire African collection is out. So are most of the Asian and pre-Columbian pieces. Renaissance European paintings are on view as never before in the new building and the Impressionists are hanging in the south gallery of the older Louis Khan building.

Hanging among the treasures from the per-

manent collection is a rarely seen Van Gogh, *Street in Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer*, from a private Fort Worth collector. In addition, a special exhibit, *Picasso and Matisse from the Art Institute of Chicago*, fills the north gallery.

For decades, the Kimbell has talked about how to expand its exhibition space. Early proposals called for increasing the number of vaults in the original building. But the space described as Khan's masterpiece is considered an architectural gem and changing it in any way was considered nearly criminal. Annexes and new structures were proposed, but not until Renzo Piano stepped in was any sort of expansion seriously discussed.

Piano began his association with the Kimbell as he was designing and building the Nasher. He visited the Khan building many times.

"Khan is a master," he says, calling the original museum "unpretentious and beautiful."

While Piano has designed a number of public spaces, including the Shard (a London

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THE ART IS OUT | What good is owning the art if no one sees it? The new Piano Pavilion nearly doubles the exhibit space. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

the Cy Twombly Gallery.

“Art makes people better people,” Piano says. “Art makes the city a better place to live.”

Piano’s first decision was where to place the pavilion. His team spent months measuring to create the perfect urban space.

“Buildings don’t stand alone,” he says. “Too close is aggressive.” But too far would destroy the synergy between the structures, Piano says, while looking through the giant glass wall of the gallery named for him across the landscaped lawn connected by walkways to the original building.

Interaction of buildings is nothing new to Piano. His brilliant roof design on the Nasher

was created to bring in more natural light and deflect glare, until the highly reflective Museum Tower was erected next door, flooding the galleries with harsh light. Still, the roof on the Kimbell does even more than the Nasher. The louvered panels reflect heat, adjust light from full sun to just four percent of available light and then produce electricity with attached photovoltaic cells. Above the auditorium and a gallery (housing more delicate works that could be affected by light), the roof has been returned to the landscape and is planted with grass.

Five acres were excavated for the pavilion, but four-and-a-half acres were returned to its original park-like setting.

Inside, the building is equally innovative. Moveable walls in galleries are usually two feet thick and held in place with sandbags inside. Modular walls in the Piano Pavilion appear to float but are actually bolted to the floor and are just 11 inches thick to give the galleries a much airier feel.

Glass used in the walls is structural and not held up with the usual steel beams. Vast wall space in the Piano Pavilion allows four nine-foot high by six-foot wide French rococo paintings by Francois Boucher to hang side by side for the first time since they were acquired by the Kimbell in 1972.

Already a gem of North Texas, the Piano Pavilion makes the Kimbell twice as good. ■

skyscraper that’s the tallest building in Europe), designing art museums is closest to his

heart. In addition to the Nasher and Kimbell, he designed Houston’s Menil Collection and

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Scary stories

Mel B talks about the gay eye and falling in love with her woman

Mel B will tell you what she wants, what she really, really wants: to get back to being Scary Spice again. Not that the pop star, known as the Spice Girls' wild child, ever got away from her alter ego. But even with a solo song out now — "For Once in My Life," her first single in eight years — Mel B is ready to reunite musically with her gal pals. In our interview, the Spice Girl chatted about the big part the group's gay following played in their career, the time she fell in love with a woman, and the female artists du jour ... and their girl power, of course.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: A gay club you were at recently with Mel C couldn't stop playing your new single. Mel B: They played it by surprise and I was like, "Woo-hoo!" Mel C and I made our own little selfie video of it. It was a nice little surprise.

How have the gays reacted to the single? So far, so good. The reaction overall has been really supportive, and it's been really humbling because I've done no promotion for it. I haven't got a big record label behind me. Nothing like that. I'm just doing it all myself, and it's been really well received. I mean, I've had not just the support of fans but the support of celebrities, from Ellen DeGeneres to Kim Kardashian to Tony Hawk. It's been quite a nice little roller-coaster ride.

Well, we missed you. I know! It's been a loooong time, that's for sure.

Why does now feel like the right time for your first solo single in eight years? I got the bug doing *America's Got Talent*, where I've been watching people perform week in and week out since March. I literally got in the studio and just started recording with my producer and my writer and it developed from there. I was saying, "I don't want to wait to promote it. I just wanna get it out there now." And I just put it out there with no promotion, no nothing.

Should we expect a full album? I wouldn't say a full album, because I don't wanna put that pressure on myself. I'm gonna be in the studio and I wanna do music, period, so it is what it is. I've got that passion back — that's what I wanna focus on this year and all of next year, and as much as possible.

How did you end up on *Wisteria Lane* — the fictional setting of *Desperate Housewives* for the music video? Well, why not? I only had nine hours to film the whole video shoot, and I was a big fan of *Desperate Housewives* and we were like, "This is it. Let's book the whole thing there."

Does making out with yourself, which you do in the video, count as lesbian action? It's all about feeling good about yourself and loving yourself. When you dress up for a fun night out with your girlfriends and you look in the mirror, who doesn't wanna kiss themselves? But if you want to take it the lesbian route, you can do that, too!

When did you know you had a gay following? Spice Girls. We always had an inkling. We love our gay market and we wanted to make sure we provided a song for our gay market that they could really enjoy, and we did exactly that. Everybody else followed, thankfully.

Were there any Spice Girls songs you recorded with the gays in mind?

All of them, from "Wannabe" to "Who Do You Think You Are." That the gay market embraces you a little bit — it's very humbling. And the gays will tell you whether they like it or not. A lot of my team is gay, so they tell me what will work and what won't work. They're very straight, and they're very honest. I like that about them. It's just nice to be a part of that. It's nice to be accepted in that world.

How did you end up with such a gay team? The best hair and makeup are done by the gays, whether you're a gay or a girl or a cross or whatever. They have the eye.

What is your relationship now with the Spice Girls? Do you girls hang? Yeah, I was just in London a couple of weeks ago doing my show *Stepping Out* and I went partying with Mel C. I had dinner with Geri [Halliwell]. I just did Emma [Bunton's] radio show. Me and Victoria [Beckham] get together. We just got together last year at the Olympics. We've known each other for 20 years, and it's like a sisterhood. It's not gonna be broken anytime soon, especially after 20 years.

But what about these rumors of Victoria not getting along with the rest of the girls? You always hear rumors about one of us hating one of us. If it's not me and Geri, it's Victoria and Mel. All of that is just rumors. The press just gets bored sometimes.

It sounds like there might be hope for a Spice Girls reunion album? I'm always saying that.

How about a reunion tour? We got together at the Olympics, so I like to never say never. It could always happen.

How has Scary Spice changed since the '90s? She's still the same: an 18-year-old kid who runs around with curly hair, screaming.

As someone who helped trail blaze girl power, when you look at the newest wave of female artists, who is carrying that torch? Everybody is doing it in their own way, from Rihanna to Beyoncé to Miley



SCARY SEXY | Scary Spice is back with a new solo.

Cyrus and Lady Gaga. They're all doing it. They're all strong, independent women taking control of their own careers — and no matter what people say, they're doing it and they're doing it well.

You told Howard Stern just a couple of months ago that you've kissed all the Spice Girls. Which one is the best kisser? Oh, they're all good.

Yeah? Of course they are.

But can you pick just one? How could I? They're all just as good ... in their own different way.

Though you're now married to a man, you were in a five-year relationship with a woman. Because of that, people were assuming you're bisexual.

Were you intentionally hinting that you are? I didn't have any intention of anything. You just fall in love with whomever you fall in love with. If people wanna put labels on themselves, then yeah — but no, I had a great relationship. It had a start, middle and an end, and that's it.

What's next for you? Performing my music and getting my Scary Spice vibe out there musically.

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Friday 12.13

Chorale goes traditional and campy with its holiday concerts

If it's December in Dallas, the Turtle Creek Chorale is making their list and checking it twice — twice being the operative word here. The chorale doubles your pleasure, first with its concert of traditional holiday music, *December Song*, which starts Thursday in Dallas and also expands to McKinney for a day of performances. But don't worry! If you like the campy fun of the chorale, that's coming at the end of the week, with a separate series of concerts next weekend for *Naughty & Nice: A Very Turtle Christmas — Liza's Wish List*.

DEETS: *December Song*, Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 12–13 at 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. McKinney Performing Arts Center, 111 N. Tennessee St., McKinney. Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. *Naughty & Nice: A Very Turtle Christmas II: Liza's Wish List*, Dallas City Performance Hall, Dec. 19–21 at 8 p.m. Tickets at TurtleCreek.org.



LIFE+STYLE
best bets

Friday 12.13

'Santaland' returns to WaterTower Theatre

Poor Crumpet: He's a gay, pot-smoking, under-employed 30-something looking for a seasonal job. He finds one as a elf in Macy's elaborate Santaland, where he meets lascivious St. Nicks, vulgar parents and flirtatious fellow elves. David Sedaris' essay *The Santaland Diaries*, adapted into a play by Joe Mantello, returns to WaterTower Theatre with Garret Storms taking on the role in this one-man show for a holiday run.

DEETS: WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Dec. 13–29. WaterTowerTheatre.org.



Friday 12.13

It's 'Sweater' weather in Lewisville for witty one-woman show

Dallas Observer theater critic Elaine Liner has been called much worse — and called people much worse — than Madame LaFarge, but the famed knitter during the French Revolution is one name she wouldn't reject. Indeed, she — and many other historical knitters — make up a lot of the story in Liner's onstage debut in Dallas. Her one-woman show *Sweater Curse: A Yarn About Love*, was a hit at this summer's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and she opens it in Dallas for a foray in front of the footlights. It's a funny and witty look at life from behind the needle. Attendees are encouraged to wear their most obnoxious Christmas sweaters ... and bring your own knitting!

DEETS: MCL Grand Theatre, 110 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Dec. 13–15. \$15. OurProductionsTheatreCo.org.



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ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told. B.J. Cleveland directs Paul Rudnick's sassy retelling of the Bible with a gay twist. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. *Final weekend.* UptownPlayers.org.

A Tuna Christmas. Theatre Arlington presents this cross-dressing comedy about small-town Texas during the holidays. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Dec. 22. TheatreArlington.org.

The Santaland Diaries. David Sedaris' hilarious account of his time as a gay elf at Macy's during Christmas. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Dec. 13-29. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot (or Holmes for the Holidays). Famed actor William Gillette, known for his stage portrayals of Sherlock Holmes, sets out to solve the mystery of an attempt on his own life, Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Dec. 13-Jan. 5. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Race. David Mamet's controversial play gets its local premiere from Kitchen Dog. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. *Final weekend.* KitchenDogTheater.org.

Other Desert Cities. Gay playwright Jon Robin Baitz's domestic comedy-drama gets its regional premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. *Final weekend.* Theatre3Dallas.com.

Romeo and Julieta. Cara Mia presents Shakespeare's tragedy in its original English, with contemporary Spanish added. The Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Through Dec. 21. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Three Little Pigs. Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, a beloved holiday tradition in England, always with a campy, cross-dressing twist for the adults. The Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 29. Theatre-Britain.com.

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical. Stage adaptation of the classic carol. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. Through Dec. 29. ATPAC.org.

The Rocky Horror Show: Christmas Edition. Edgy Ohlook Productions revives its hit cross-dressing camp musical, with a holiday twist, with late-night performances; coming in costume is encouraged. And it's BYOB. Ohlook's Black Box 1631 W. Northwest Highway, Grapevine. Fridays and Saturdays at 11 p.m. \$15. Through Dec. 21. OhlookPerform.com.

Jubilation: The Christmas Musical. Jubilee Theatre presents this holiday production. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 29. JubileeTheatre.org.

The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess. The national tour of the recent Tony Award-winning Broadway revival of the American operatic classic. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Dec. 22. ATPAC.org.

Sweater Curse: A Yarn About Love. Dallas Observer theater critic Elaine Linder heads to the other side of the footlights for her one-woman show about a passion for knitting. Presented by Our Productions Theatre Company. MCL Grand Theater, 110 N. Charles St., Lewisville. *Final weekend.* \$15. OurProductionsTheatreCo.org.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Choral: December Song. Dallas' gay men's chorus performs its concert of tradition holiday music and two venues around the Metroplex.

A Christmas Carol. For the first time since moving into the Wyly, the Dallas Theater Center returns to the Arts District with an all-new production of their seasonal staple, adapted and directed by Kevin Moriarty. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 24. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Twas the Night Before Christmas. A new musical based on the Clement Moore poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Dec. 22. DCT.org.

The Nutcracker. Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts performs this marionette show at Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Dec. 22. DCT.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents a Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker! MBS Productions' annual comedy about a small-town Nutcracker that's racier than expected. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 29.

City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 13 at 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. McKinney Performing Arts Center, 111 N. Tennessee St., McKinney.
Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
TurtleCreek.org.

BALLET

Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker*. Texas Ballet Theater presents this timeless classic from Tchaikovsky, with performances in Dallas and Fort Worth. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 14-27. TexasBalletTheater.org.

FINE ART

Jim Hodges: Give More Than You Take. A living retrospective of the gay artist's eclectic work. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 12. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Hopper Drawing: A Painter's Process.

The towering 20th century painting Edward Hopper is revealed in a collection of pencil drawings and sketches that inform his creative choices. Includes several finished painting, including the iconic *Summertime*. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 16. Special exhibition fee: \$16. DallasMuseumofArt.org.

Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals.

The controversial Chinese artist reimagines zodiac figures of the Chang dynasty. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through March 2. Free. CrowCollection.org.

The Jerry Lee Musslewhite Collection of Korean Art.

The late docent at the Crow, also a devoted collector of Korean art, left behind this exquisite collection of pottery, stoneware and furnishings from Korea's storied past. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Aug. 24. Free. CrowCollection.org.

Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families in the Deep South.

Photographs portraying same-sex couples and often their children. African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. Through Feb. 28. AAMDallas.org.

Angels in DeGolyer. The Arboretum presents this collection of 400 works focusing on angels for its Holiday at the Arboretum. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Through Dec. 31. DallasArboretum.org.

JFK/The '60s. Featured artist Kat will have 25 paintings on display in time to mark the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy Assassination. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 107. *Final weekend.* ilumeGallerie.com.

SATURDAY 12.14

DANCE

Mistletoe Magic: A Captivating Cabaret. Bruce Wood Dance Project mounts this one-night only event of dance and music, a fundraiser for its upcoming fourth season, featuring Broadway vets Elizabeth Stanley and Jason Graae. Venetian Room at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard St. 7 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

CONCERTS

The Women's Chorus of Dallas: Baby It's Hot Outside. TWCD celebrates its 25th season with this sassy collection of holiday tunes. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7 p.m. TWCD.org.



HOT HOLIDAY | Artistic director Melinda Imthurn leads the Women's Chorus of Dallas in its concert of Christmas music, 'Baby, It's Hot Outside,' at City Performance Hall Saturday.

MONDAY 12.16

COMMUNITY

Are You Smarter Than a Drag Queen? The sassy game show is back, with more games and a cash prize. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m.

TUESDAY 12.17

THEATER

White Christmas. Dallas Summer Musicals presents the stage adaptation of the timeless holiday classic. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Dec. 17-29. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

THURSDAY 12.19

CONCERTS

Naughty & Nice: A Very Turtle Christmas — Liza's Wish List. BJ Cleveland plays Liza in this campy collection of holiday songs from the Turtle Creek Chorale. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 19-21. TurtleCreek.org.

this week's solution

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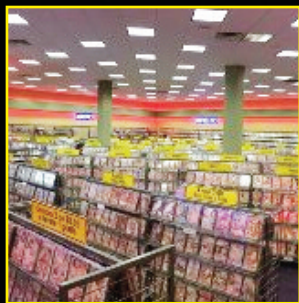
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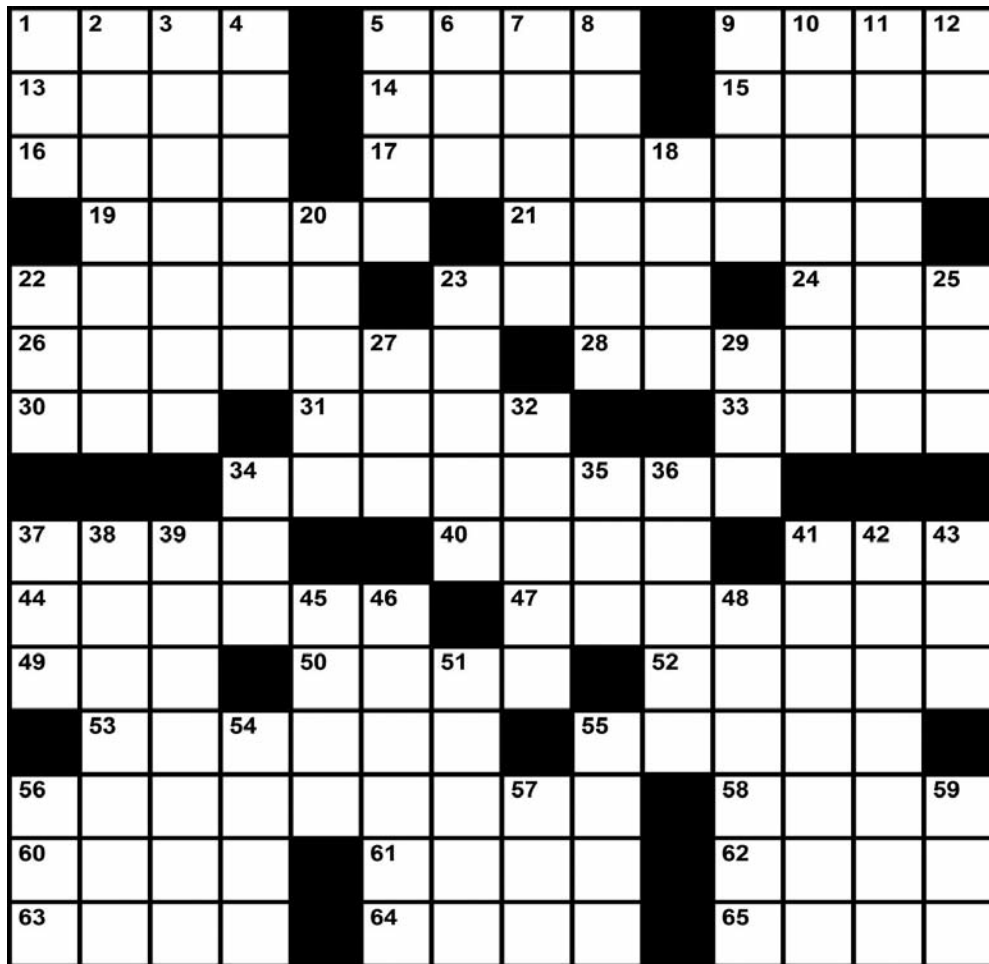
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Solution on page 33

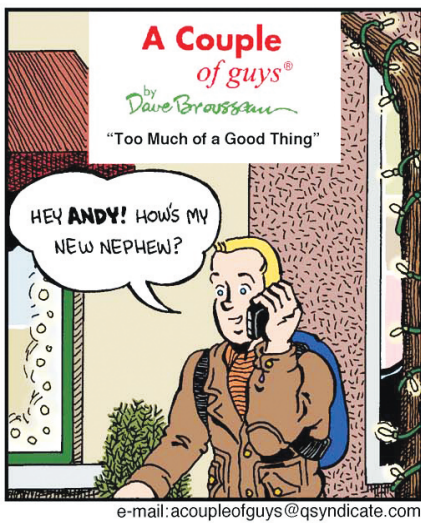
Across

- 1 It made the Titanic go down
- 5 They call balls
- 9 to trot
- 13 Drop ___ (moon)
- 14 Gay nightlife district London
- 15 Proscribed act
- 16 Browser bookmarks
- 17 He played Jack, once in a gay sitcom
- 19 Place to become husband and husband
- 21 More cut and dry
- 22 Get to second base, perhaps
- 23 Rick Rodgers preparation
- 24 Versatile vehicle
- 26 "I Will ___"
- 28 With 44-Across, singer of 26-Across
- 30 Marilyn Monroe's two big ones
- 31 What one does to one's loins
- 33 H.S. junior's challenge
- 34 "I, Will, ___" (famous trio, to Jack?)
- 37 Like a David Hockney swimming pool
- 40 Coin on the Continent
- 41 Foot fetish digit
- 44 See 28-Across
- 47 Debra, once of a gay sitcom
- 49 Useful hint

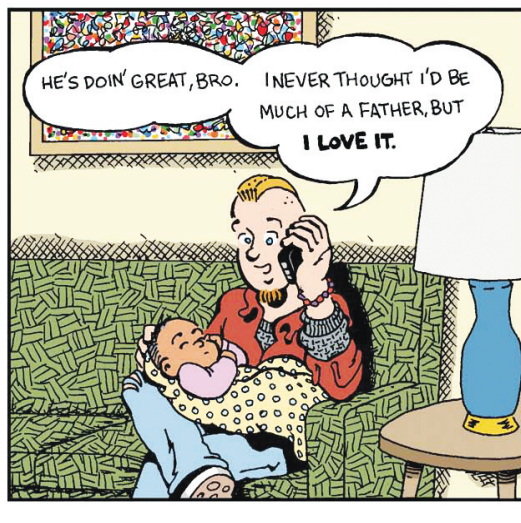
- 50 Doctors, doggy-style
- 52 Metronome speed
- 53 One-dimensional
- 55 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 56 Eric, once of a gay sitcom
- 58 Plumbing passage
- 60 Word to a dominatrix
- 61 *Nurse Jackie* protrayer Falco
- 62 Treated a swollen member
- 63 First name in detective stories
- 64 Six feet under
- 65 Uncool sort

Down

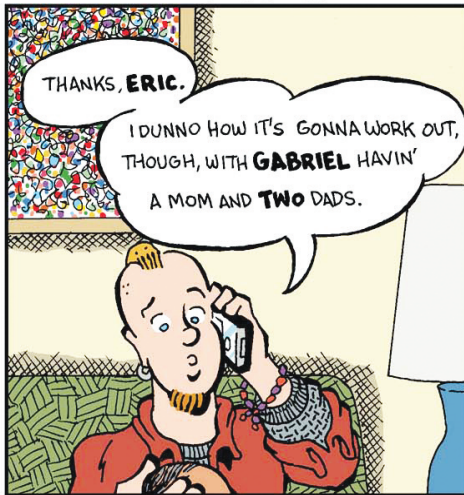
- 1 AC unit
- 2 Indication that a writer pulled a boner
- 3 Salon cylinders
- 4 Composer Mahler
- 5 R. Nureyev's land, once
- 6 He comes between Larry and Curly
- 7 What parents may hope homosexuality is
- 8 Essayist Susan
- 9 Word with warts or retentive
- 10 Peeping Toms
- 11 Staying power?
- 12 Two, in Toledo
- 18 Corridor
- 20 Get straight
- 22 U-turn from NNW
- 23 Come together
- 25 Enjoy Stephen Pyles
- 27 Film, briefly
- 29 Eliza Doolittle's aspiration
- 32 Oil containers
- 34 *Atlas Shrugged* author Rand
- 35 "You ___ what you eat"
- 36 The bottom lines
- 37 Guy under J. Edgar?
- 38 Track vehicle
- 39 No surprise
- 41 *Evita* lyricist
- 42 Not oral
- 43 I problem
- 45 Out partner
- 46 Worked the inside of a hole
- 48 Come in the cracks
- 51 It may be rough
- 54 Alaska city
- 55 Barely made, with "out"
- 56 Mrs., to Moliere
- 57 Org. in many spy movies
- 59 Jay's announcer



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Nick at TMC: The Mining Company.

Anton's 11th annual **Christmas Party Extravaganza** at Sue Ellen's on Dec. 15 features live bands and great music. Anton will be collecting money and blankets for homeless shelters during the evening. Also this weekend, **Chix 80s** party is on Dec. 13 and **The Chloes** and **Girl** perform Dec. 14. ... **The Round-Up Saloon** holds its annual **Christmas Stocking Auction** on Dec. 15. Get some great Christmas gifts, including electronics, sports tickets, wine and wine tastings, trips, hotel stays and restaurant certificates while benefiting **Legacy Founders Cottage**. ... **Tyler Curry** hosts the annual **Christmas Wreath Auction** to benefit **The Needle Prick Project** to eliminate the stigma surrounding HIV and promote a healthy community regardless of status at **Alexandre's** on Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. **Kristen Majors** performs that evening and **Shelia P** and **Infinity** appear on Dec. 14. ... The show at **Best Friends Club** on Dec. 14 benefits **AIDS Outreach Center**. ... **Cowtown Leathermen** cook out at **Club Reflection** on Dec. 15. ... **National Leather Association** holds club night at **Dallas Eagle** on Dec. 14. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** presents its annual **Hard Candy Christmas Show** that evening. **Back to the 80s** dance takes place Dec. 15. ... Tickets for **New Years Eve** with **Derrick Barry** as **Britney Spears** at **The Brick** are on sale on its website. ... The 11th annual **Pam's Present** on Dec. 14 benefits children and teens at **Genesis Women's Shelter**. Live performances all day at **Eden Lounge**. Admission is a new toy or gift. Santa Claus makes an appearance and an art auction benefits the families of Genesis. ... **Santa** will be at **Club Reflection** on Dec. 15 for a **Toys for Tots** show hosted by **Madison Deveroux**, candidate for **Miss TGRA 2015** and **Kelly O'Neil**, **Miss IGRA** first 2014 alternate. ■

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



Eric and Jake at Joe's/The Brick.



Friends at Sue Ellen's.



Johnny, flanked by Dallas' Finest, at Havana.



Zach, Hunter and Robby at BJ's NXS!



Chad, Eddie and Aric at Zippers.



Kevin, Brady and Jay on the Strip.



Oliver at the Round-Up Saloon.



Dillon at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Candace at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

PH

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BASS HALL — 330 E. 4th St.; Ft. Worth; 817-212-4280.
BEARDANCE — beardance.org.
BRUCE WOOD DANCE PROJECT — 214-428-2263; brucewooddance.org.
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CITY PERFORMANCE HALL — 2700 Flora St.; 75201; 214-880-0202; dallasperformingarts.org.
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WOODY'S GROOMING LOUNGE — 5610 Lemmon Ave.; 214-522-2887; woodysgroominglounge.com.

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Real Estate	39
Realtors	39
For Rent	39
Movers	40
Employment	40
Job Wanted	40
Home Services	41
General	41
Air Conditioning/Heating	41
Plumbing	41
Services	41
Computer Services	41
Insurance	41
Personal Care	42
Psychotherapists	42
Items For Sale	42
Massage	42
Announcements	42
Pets	43
Travel	43

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