

Dallas Salvation Army welcomes gays

Local director says national organization is not anti-LGBT
Dallas staff participated in video campaign against discrimination

■ Salvation, Page 6



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A close-up portrait of Adam Lambert with dark hair and light-colored eyes, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark jacket and has black studs in both ears. The background is filled with vibrant, multi-colored streamers and confetti, creating a festive atmosphere.

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GETTIN' DOWN IN COWTOWN | State Sen. Wendy Davis addresses the crowd Saturday, Dec. 14, at the opening of her Fort Worth headquarters for her governor's bid. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

GOP Houston judge blocks city's partner benefits until hearing

State District Judge Lisa Millard signed a temporary restraining order Tuesday prohibiting the city of Houston from offering partner benefits to same-sex couples after the Harris County GOP chairman filed a lawsuit.

Out Mayor Annise Parker announced that health benefits would be offered to legally married same-sex couples for city employees last month in light of June's DOMA ruling.

"This is one of the most egregious acts by an elected official I've ever seen," said Jared Woodfill, chairman the Harris County Republican party. "They just decided to, unilaterally, as a lame duck, thumb their nose at the will of the people and just spit on the U.S. Constitution."

The lawsuit alleges that Parker violated the city's charter when she extended the benefits for same-sex couples, the state Defense of Marriage Act and the Texas constitutional marriage amendment.

But attorneys for the city told the Houston Chronicle that the lawsuit will likely be thrown out because the men who filed it likely don't have legal standing.

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus issued a statement late Tuesday.

"The Harris County GOP doesn't care how many hundreds of thousands of taxpayers dollars are wasted on this frivolous lawsuit," Caucus President Noel Freeman said.

So far only three city employees have added same-sex spouses to their benefits, including Freeman, but now that coverage will be on hold. And if the spouses received care since the benefits went into effect on Nov. 20, they may have to pay for the entire cost.

"The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that simply being a taxpayer does not grant standing to sue elected officials," Freeman said.

A hearing is set for Jan. 6.

— Anna Waugh

Harold Simmons Foundation donates \$600K to Resource Center

An early artist's rendering of the new center on Cedar Springs and Inwood roads.

The Harold Simmons Foundation donated \$600,000 to the Resource Center's capital campaign, center officials announced Tuesday.

Serena Simmons Connelly, director of philanthropy for the Harold Simmons Foundation, said

that this is the only large gift ever made by the Harold Simmons Foundation to an LGBT cause beyond supporting HIV/AIDS.

She added this gift "takes it to a different realm of basic human rights of our gay and lesbian fellow citizens. I feel hopeful about Resource Center being a place for families and the issues of youth and seniors – a place where people move into a healthy life."

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox said in a statement that "the generous investment from the Harold Simmons Foundation moves us closer to ensuring that LGBT youth have a space free from bullying, that families and seniors are supported, and that persons living with HIV are cared for."

Resource Center demolished a strip mall on the corner of Cedar Springs and Inwood roads last April for the new building.

The original cost of the building was \$12 million, but decreasing the size of the new facility lowered that figure. Cox said \$5 million of the \$8.7 million goal was raised and she hoped to break ground on the new building in January 2015.

— Anna Waugh

Davis: Fort Worth is ground zero for my campaign

A little over two months into her run for the Texas governor's office, state Sen. Wendy Davis said on Saturday that Fort Worth is "ground zero" for her campaign.

Davis spoke to a packed-in crowd of supporters at 219 South Main St., enforcing the message that people from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds can achieve educational and professional success. Davis has often told the story of her impoverished background and how she worked to overcome it. A single mother at 19, she eventually earned a law degree from Harvard.

Political watchers have said a gubernatorial race can't succeed without an Austin-based campaign headquarters, but Davis said she has proven them wrong before.

"When I ran for the state Senate in 2008, pundits all across the state said there was no way we could win, and obviously we did," Davis said.

Education reform and equality issues occupy much of Davis' speeches. When asked, however, how far into her term as governor, if elected, would she address marriage equality in Texas and how, Davis replied, "I would rely on the Legislature to do that."

— Steve Ramos

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Dallas Salvation Army is 'changing the dialogue' on gays

Service center director says the organization is speaking out about accepting the LGBT community, including a video campaign

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

While many LGBT advocates are withholding their spare change from The Salvation Army's red kettles this holiday because of perceived anti-gay views, the local Dallas shelter says they are anything but anti-gay.

Blake Fetterman, operations director at Carr P. Collins Social Service Center, said her facility helps anyone with housing and food needs regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

When transgender people come into the center, she said they're asked what their preferred name is, how they identify and which shelter they'd feel comfortable in.

With the men's shelter being more like military barracks with open living and shower areas, she said some trans people feel more comfortable in the women's shelter because it's more private.

The Salvation Army is an international organization and follows Christian Church doctrine. Its mission statement reads in part, "Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

"Our mission is to provide services without discrimination," Fetterman said. "It's right there in our mission. I don't know if any organization this large would survive if it didn't follow its mission."

The U.S. Salvation Army is divided into four territories, and the Southern Territory, based in Atlanta, includes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in its nondiscrimination policy. The Southern Territory covers 15 states, including Texas.

Fetterman said whenever she's approached about working for the organization because of their anti-LGBT views, she uses it as an opportunity to inform people about how her center treats people.

"I have to help by changing the dialogue," she said. "It's just not who we are."

The Dallas center was recently recognized in October when its staff and clients were featured in a national nondiscrimination video, explaining how the organization treats members of the LGBT community.

PJ Snyder, who was featured in a Dallas Voice cover story about domestic violence services in Dallas earlier this year, was featured in the video. She came from Oklahoma to escape her abuser and found accepting refuge at the Collins Center



DING DONG | A Salvation Army bell ringer sits outside Big Lots at Cityplace Market this week. Bell ringing begins on Thanksgiving and ends on Christmas Eve. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

after negative experiences at other shelters because she is gay.

Snyder said her experiences at other shelters made her hesitant to come out at Salvation Army shelters since other shelters tried to use religion to change her.

"At the other ones, I got called everything from the resident fairy to being asked to change who I am," she said. "There were other shelters at Salvation Army that I worried about coming out, and they were very receptive and they were actually shocked I didn't feel comfortable."

She said her experience in the shelter, financial classes and job skill training was "very positive."

"They don't treat you differently," Snyder said. "It's positive because you're treated as everyone else is."

Fetterman said the anti-gay views many people associate with the Salvation Army has come up every year, especially around the holidays, and she's glad the video shines light on the inclusive work its staff does.

"These assumptions and these rumors have

been out there for some time, and they're not going away," she said. "My belief is the Salvation Army has been silent long enough."

"It was just an honor," Fetterman added about the Dallas location being selected to participate. "I hope the Dallas Salvation Army can be a representation of the Salvation Army worldwide."

The Salvation Army has a storied anti-gay past. It turned down contracts with the city of San Francisco in 1998 because of the city's nondiscrimination ordinance. It did the same thing in 2004 with New York City.

And in 2001, the organization tried to make a deal with the Bush administration that made religious charities that received federal funding exempt from local nondiscrimination ordinances. But the deal fell through after The Washington Post reported on it.

And while the Salvation Army has recently removed links to "ex-gay" ministries from its website, links to Harvest USA and Pure Life Ministries were once listed under a section on how to deal with sexual additions. Just last year,

a caseworker in Vermont was fired after she came out as bisexual. The employee handbook states that the organization can make employment decisions if an employee's behavior is contradictory to its principles. A spokesman later said same-sex relationships are "against the will of God."

Fetterman said the views of one individual doesn't reflect the views of the organization's majority and how progressive the organization has become in the five and a half years she's worked at the Dallas location.

She said she encourages people who think negatively of the organization to check with their local shelter about its LGBT policies instead of assuming a Salvation Army location won't accept or help them.

"Because of these rumors, what I worry about is people not getting served, is people from the LGBTQ community not seeking services because they think they won't get served," Fetterman said. "This is hurting people." ■

To watch the Salvation Army's nondiscrimination video, visit TinyURL.com/SAArmyVideo.

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GEAR announces scholarships

GEAR will award four scholarships in January to help members of the transgender community with health and legal costs.

Winners of two health scholarships will receive a 12-month supply of hormone replacement therapy from American Specialty Pharmacy and four counseling sessions with Rebekka Ouer of Rainbow Counseling.

Two legal scholarships will pay filing, court costs and provide an attorney to obtain name and gender marker changes in Dallas County.

Each package is worth thousands of dollars.

Interviews for these scholarships take place at Resource Center on Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. To reserve a spot, contact Blair High at blairhdallas@yahoo.com or call 214 540 4498.

Applicants must fill out an application available at the GEAR Yahoo Group or Facebook page.

Winners will be announced at the GEAR mixer at La Madeline, 3906 Lemmon Ave. on Jan. 30 at 6 p.m.

Equality Texas New Years party

Ring in the New Year for equality with an Equality Texas New Year's dinner party in Fort Worth.

Happy hour begins at 7:30 p.m., dinner is at 8 p.m., and the celebration continues until 12:30

a.m. at Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth. Tickets are \$100. Higher sponsorship levels are available.

Gray Pride holiday party

Gray Pride invites all aging LGBT pioneers in the Dallas area to the festive holiday gathering in celebration of who we are.

Neeki Bey and his musically eclectic band will entertain and soothe while everyone enjoys good food, delightful company and a variety of holiday beverages.

Bey, a native Texan, blends jazz piano, choral music, African drumming, with gospel influences and a hint of folk and country twang — into joy and transforming energy. His music is spiritually uplifting, deeply groovy and lots of fun.

Joining Bey for this holiday gathering will be trumpet player Freddie Jones, Lamont Taylor on the drums and Kevin Butler playing bass.

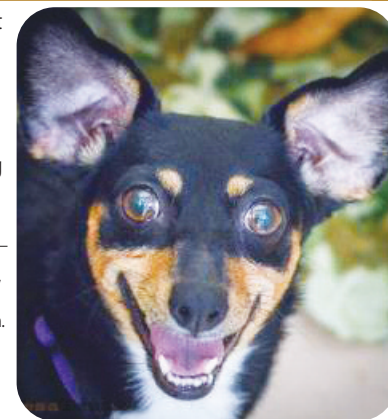
The Café will be open from 5 p.m. until the food is gone, fun has quieted and the music is silent.

The event takes place at Cathedral of Hope Fellowship Hall, 5910 Cedar Springs Road on Dec. 20. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the program begins at 6 p.m.

Gray Pride is a program of Resource Center and serves members of the LGBT community who are 50 and older. ■

pet of the week / AMSTERDAM

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Activist decides against political run



DIAMOND RING | Now that he's not running for political office, Mark Jimenez plans to continue his work as an activist and help bring about marriage equality. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Jimenez cites blackmail among reasons he decided not to file his petition to run for county clerk

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

You haven't seen the last of him. Although Mark Jimenez decided not to run for Dallas County Clerk, he said he won't stop working for marriage equality.

"You don't understand how thick a skin you have to have to be in politics," Jimenez said. "I'm not a politician."

But he is an activist.

After Jimenez and his partner were denied a marriage license in July 2012, they refused to leave the Dallas County Records Building at closing time and were arrested. They attempted to get a license two other times in 2012 and once in 2013.

That experience prompted Jimenez to consider a run for county clerk. Since then, however, he said he's been threatened with blackmail. A member of the leather community, Jimenez said, said he would expose elements of Jimenez' personal life, and he also worried how those details would affect his partner's job as an IT specialist.

Jimenez said he collected more than 700 signatures, enough to get him on the ballot, and he had supporters.

"I had people ready to give me donations," he said.

However, Jimenez wasn't certain he would have enough support to see him through a difficult election. Out District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons opposed Jimenez' run for office, which led to a lack of support from members of the LGBT

community, Jimenez said.

"They (political candidates) might want to actually find out what a county clerk does before running for the office so as to save the LGBT community the embarrassment," Fitzsimmons commented on a recent Dallas Voice article. "That and when you are politely asked to leave an establishment and refuse, it's called 'trespassing' and yeah, you get arrested."

Jimenez said that because politics in Dallas is controlled by a small circle of people, he didn't see a way to break into it.

"I'm going back to the way I'm comfortable doing things," he said.

Jimenez is referring to the attempts to obtain a marriage license and the subsequent arrest that made national news. Jimenez said Dallas County Clerk John Warren could have handled the incident differently but didn't because he doesn't support marriage equality. Warren has since said at political meetings he's evolved on the issue and does support marriage equality.

"I don't believe one thing John Warren is saying," Jimenez said.

As part of his continued involvement in marriage equality issues, Jimenez said he will attend the San Antonio hearing on Feb. 12. Two couples, one from Plano and the other from Austin, are challenging Texas' marriage amendment.

"The Plano couple basically did what we did," Jimenez said, "but when they were denied their license, instead of getting arrested, they sued the state."

Jimenez said he's been contacted by a national marriage equality organization and will coordinate any presence at the hearing with them. In addition, he's been asked to speak at a rally in Fort Worth two days before the hearing.

"That's the way I know how to do it," Jimenez said. ■



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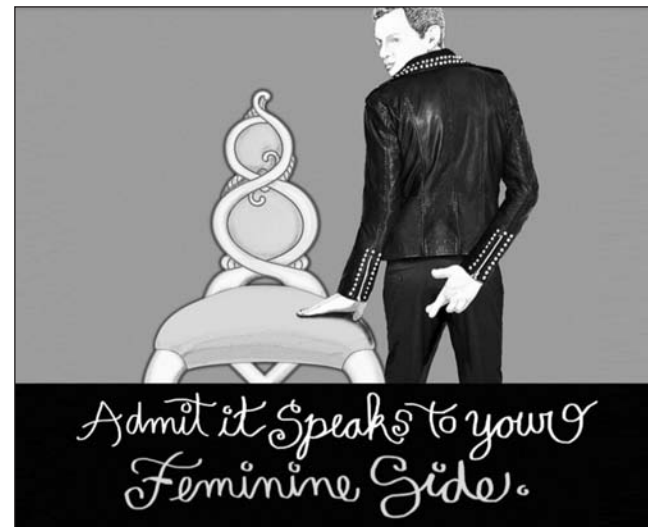
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LHT transitions to meet legal, medical changes

As the new executive director of Legal Hospice of Texas, Tony Lokash hopes to continue to make service delivery barrier-free

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Roger Wedell served as executive director of Legal Hospice of Texas for 13 years, but as the agency enters a period of evaluation, as it does every few years, he felt it was a good time to retire.

"I didn't plan to stay another three to five years, so it made sense," Wedell said.

On Monday, Tony Lokash stepped into the executive director's position, and he wants to build on the work Wedell has done.

"I want to build on Roger's foundation and expand our revenue sources, so we can do more," he said.

Lokash has more than 20 years of nonprofit experience, most of it with the YMCA. He began work with that organization after high school, planning to stay only a year. However, after 20

years he was still with the YMCA, serving as a program manager and becoming one of 20 national training instructors.

"Those skills transfer and are a good fit," Wedell said of his experience.

LHT provides legal services to low-income individuals who have HIV or are terminally ill. While there are other legal aid societies who assist people with HIV or a terminal illness, LHT is the only one in the United States that assists both. The organization, originally called Dallas Legal Hospice, grew and spread its umbrella to cover 16 North Texas counties. The organization changed its name in 2007, Wedell said, because it was difficult to raise money in Fort Worth when Dallas was in the title.

Today, clients need information about how the Affordable Care Act is changing how they access healthcare, one of the reasons LHT is evaluating its mission. Also, medical technology has changed how cancer, Alzheimer's, renal disease and hepatitis C are treated. Advances in transplant procedures have extended patients' lives. LHT's services must evolve to address those changes. Wedell said the legal issues faced by clients with HIV have become more complex over the last decade.



Tony Lokash

"In the early years, they needed a will because they were going to be dead within six months," he said.

Today, attorneys spend more time on cases, such as a social security appeals or an insurance company challenging a long-term disability claim. LHT is prepared for those challenges.

"I was told we had a great legal staff on board and about 40 volunteer attorneys," Lokash said.

Lokash said the position appealed to him because of dealing with terminal illness in his own family and understanding how traumatic it can be. He said helping people with their legal needs reduces their stress and can help with their healing or recovery.

In planning for the future, Lokash said he's listening to the needs of the community rather than providing services based on the funding and resources.

"The need builds the vision," he said.

Over the next year, he'll be watching the ACA carefully to see what legal issues arise and how they'll affect his clients. He hasn't seen any red flags yet, but with such a major change in the way healthcare will be covered for so many people, problems will inevitably occur.

"One of the things that attracted me to Legal Hospice is that we make service delivery more barrier-free," he said.

He hopes to continue that tradition. ■

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Dallas County led the way in LGBT inmate protections

Harris County Jail's new LGBT protections were called the first in the state, but Dallas has implemented them for years

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

When the Harris County Sheriff's Office announced a sweeping LGBT nondiscrimination and housing policy last month, it was heralded as the first of its kind in the state.

But after reviewing the policy and the one implemented by openly gay Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, the policy, while extensive, is one of many in the state.

The policy, released mid-November in conjunction with the county's regulations required by the Prison Rape Elimination Act, provides a safe zone for better communication with the gay community, as well as housing gay inmates in homosexual tanks and allowing transgender inmates to be called by their chosen name and housed with their gender identities.

Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia told The



QUIET CHANGES | Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez said she's had LGBT protections in her jail since 2005. (Anna Waugh/Dallas Voice)

Associated Press he believes the new policy is one of the most comprehensive in the country. It states that "discrimination or harassment of any kind based on sexual orientation or gender identity is strictly prohibited," and outlines how such inmates will be searched, booked and housed.

Brandon Wood, executive Director of Texas Commission on Jail Standards, said most metropolitan areas have designated housing areas for the LGBT community, but the protections aren't required by the commission, which requires jails meet minimum jail requirements. He said many jails don't have extensive LGBT policies.

"We do have several counties that have addressed that issue and it's above and be-

yond what we require," he said. "I think most of them have at least pieces and portions that are probably similar in nature because they do a very good job of trying to ensure the safety and security of all inmates at all times."

Valdez told Dallas Voice that Dallas County Jail, the seventh largest in the U.S., has had separate homosexual tanks for gay inmates since she took over as sheriff in 2005. The transgender protections took effect about two years ago, she said. Also, all classification specialists are trained on LGBT issues.

In 2009, Valdez added sexual orientation and gender identity to policies prohibiting harassment and discrimination in the sheriff's General Orders, a policies and procedures manual for the department's employees.

"We had it way before they did," Valdez said about Harris County. "Just because we didn't put it in the paper doesn't mean we didn't have it."

When people get booked, Valdez said a classification specialist talks to people about their sexuality and gender identity. If transgender inmates are far along in their transition, they can

■ PROTECTIONS, Page 15

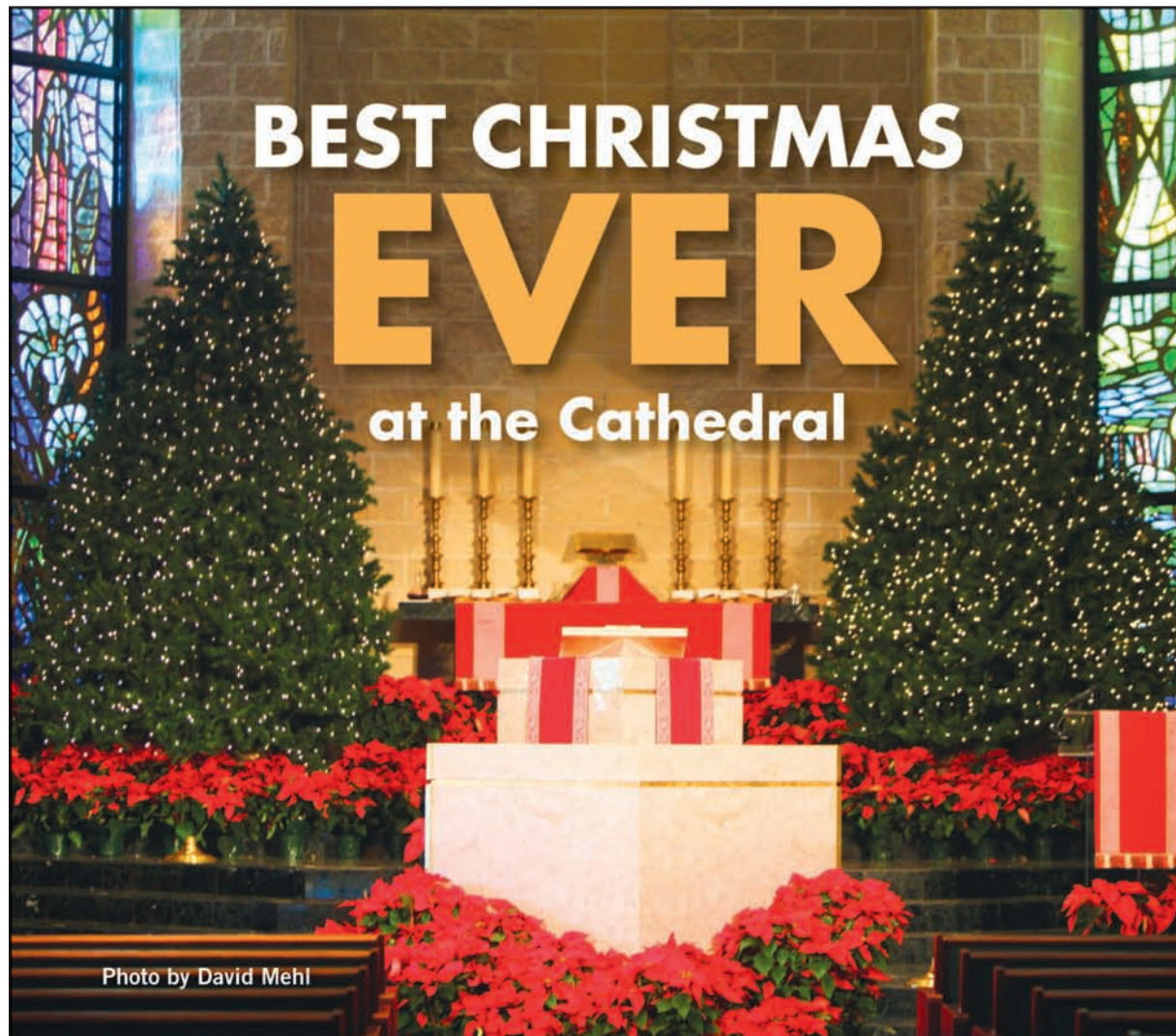


Photo by David Mehl

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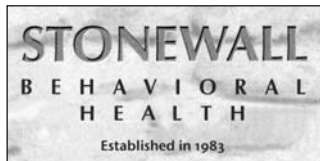
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nationalnews

Federal agencies roll out equality policy changes



LEVEL FIELD | The U.S. Department of Education's new policy that ensures same-sex married couples are treated equally will affect how students qualify for federal financial assistance. FAFSA will now collect data on same-sex spouses or partners in same-sex marriages. (Courtesy photo)

To ensure same-sex marriage couples are treated equally, federal agencies changed policies to comply with DOMA strike-down

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

There was a flurry of activity among federal agencies this month to issue regulations concerning how they are complying with the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). All of them were aimed at making sure same-sex married couples were treated equally, but not all of them resulted in a positive gain.

On Monday, the U.S. Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service issued a notice that governs how employees with same-sex spouses may sign up their spouses for health coverage and avoid paying taxes on the benefit, as straight married couples have been able to do. Previously, under DOMA, employers could not allow employees with same-sex spouses to elect coverage for that spouse on a "pre-tax basis."

Also on Monday, the U.S. Social Security Administration announced it is now processing and paying claims for benefits of "some" surviving spouses' of same-sex marriages.

"In addition," said SSA Acting Commissioner Carolyn Colvin, "we are able to pay some one-time lump sum death benefit claims to surviving

same-sex spouses."

According to SSA spokesman William Jarrett, a widow or widower may receive reduced survivors' benefits as early as age 60, and full survivors' benefits once they reach the "full retirement age." Full retirement age for people born between 1945 and 1956 is currently 66. Over time, however, that will increase. The full retirement age for people born in 1962 or later will be 67.

"If your surviving spouse is disabled, benefits can begin as early as age 50," Jarrett said. "Your widow or widower can receive benefits at any age if she or he takes care of your child who is receiving Social Security benefits and younger than age 16 or disabled."

Interestingly, an SSA press release quoted Commissioner Colvin as urging, "If you believe you may be eligible for Social Security, I encourage you to apply now to protect against the loss of any potential benefits."

Asked what might cause a "loss of any potential benefits," Jarrett said, "We don't want an individual to delay filing an application because he or she is uncertain of the rules. A person is typically protected back to the date the application is originally filed." SSA's press release said it is developing "additional policy and processing instructions" in the coming weeks.

"If you are in a same-sex marriage or other legal same-sex relationship, even if you live in a state that prohibits same-sex marriage," says the SSA website, "we encourage you to apply right away."

But not all compliance changes in the post-DOMA aftermath improve circumstances for same-sex couples. For instance, the U.S. Department of Education on Friday announced a new policy related to eligibility for federal student loans.

Under DOMA, the Department of Education could not seek information about a student's same-sex spouse and what income that person might contribute to the student's financial picture. Nor could they look at the contribution of a non-biological parent either married to or living with the student's biological parent. In many cases, that probably helped a student seeking federal needs-based student aid.

A Dec. 13 press release from the DOE says it will now consider a student loan applicant married if he or she "was legally married in any jurisdiction that recognizes the marriage, regardless of whether the marriage is between a couple of the same sex or opposite sex, and regardless of where the student or couple lives or the student is attending school."

Students who need financial aid for their college education can apply through the Free Applications for Federal Student Assistance, or FAFSA, under the Department of Education. The program gives out more than \$150 billion each year in grants, loans and work-study funds to help pay for college education for more than 15 million students. In fact, it is the largest provider of student financial aid in the country. About 22 million students apply each year.

Information provided on the FAFSA form is used to determine how much a student and his or her family can be expected to contribute to school costs and how much he or she might be eligible to receive from the federal needs-based student aid.

Where, under DOMA, the FAFSA would not collect data on same-sex spouses or parents in same-sex marriages, now it will. And this is the part of the post-DOMA change DOE's press release focused on.

"We must continue to ensure that every single American is treated equally in the eyes of the law, and this important guidance for students is another step forward in that effort," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in the press release. "As students fill out their FAFSA this coming year, I'm thrilled they'll be able to do so in a way that is more fair and just."

The new FAFSA forms will be gay friendlier. They refer to parents not as "Mother" and "Father," but as "Parent 1" and "Parent 2." They provide an option for applicants to describe their parents' relationship status as "unmarried and both parents living together." ■

Death



Noble Ray "Pete" Hubert, 56, was born in Pasadena, Texas. He was the son of Raymond and Mildred Lafern (Rust) Hubert. He died on Dec. 12 at his home in Dallas.

He will be remembered for his hilarious rants on Facebook and for his gentle manner and generous heart.

Pete had worked for several banks as an accountant and in other departments. He enjoyed people and was a giver and had lived in Dallas the past nine years.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Pete is survived by his sister Beverly McComb and husband Don of Houston; half-brother Ben S. Carey and wife Terry of Houston; half-sister Shirley A. Rogers and husband Frank of Rockdale; his nieces and nephews Leslie Argudin, Jessie Schelander and wife Krystal, Nathan Baban and wife Michelle, Walleed Baban and wife Staci, Adil Baban and Zena Caldwell and husband Cody and by his great nieces and nephews Corey Young, Savannah Shelander, Christin Caldwell, Tyler Caldwell, Carli Baban and Cole Baban.

Graveside services will be held on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Minerva Cemetery in Minerva. Visitation will be held on Dec. 21 from 10 a.m.-noon at the funeral home. ■

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Social media superiority: status updates that only put people down

Are you an Internet mean girl and you don't even know it?

TYLER CURRY | Contributing Writer
tylercurry83@gmail.com

I was a sophomore in college when I first typed "Facebook," into my web browser. Then, it was an interactive tool for university students to list their class schedules, find other students in their classes and post general mindless dribble about what boring topics they were currently obsessing over. It was simple then — dumb status updates, silly pictures that I have long since erased and a mindlessness of what your social media profile said about you.

Ten years later, the simple little site for college students has now turned into a virtual marketplace or business, art, fashion and yes, your personal life. But with the evolution of Facebook and the introduction of other social media applications has come the development of our online virtual reputation. Are you considered the selfie-queen, the person who shares too much or the one who constantly posts his daily mundane activities?

Or, worse, are you the one who boasts your superiority by making fun of each and every one of the characters on your Facebook page? Frequently, my status feed is inundated with articles breaking down the worst types of social media users. Worse, those articles pull in the photos, videos and statuses of unsuspecting souls.

Some could make the argument that if you don't want your social media junk criticized, don't publish it in the first place. But regardless of your privacy settings, you should be able to make an utter fool of yourself in the safety of your virtual friendship circle.

Then there are the friends who publicly shame and ridicule their anonymous pals for their social media content. Of course, it's all under the veil of innocuous humor. I'm talking about the unceasing barrage of "What annoys me most..." or "If I see another..." and on and on.

Sure, we all roll our eyes from time to time at that one friend who just keeps making excuses to take shirtless pictures. But what's worse than his harmless vanity posts are the negative and cruel critiques of said friends who are doing nothing more than validating themselves on an application meant for self-validation.

Sometimes these virtual mean girls can turn into full-fledged online bullies. This past month, a pseudo-gossip story appeared on my Facebook feed. The title of the column was, "Is This Guy Hot Enough to Call Him Mr. Hotlanta?" The casual onlooker would have probably scanned the headline, glanced at the picture and assumed this individual was some sort of public figure. We all generally agree that those who seek to be in the public eye also agree to be subjected to an onslaught of public criticism — and not the constructive kind.

But this story was different. I know the man in



Tyler Curry

question, and his name is John Northstar. More importantly, I know he is not the kind of guy to try and become Internet famous. His friends gave him the title of "Mr. Hotlanta" after he relocated from Austin. The nickname was partly a nod to his handsome looks and part lighthearted mocking of his endless stream of adorable selfies.

Northstar was in on the joke, and he began using his nickname in his social media profile. Although he's a private person, it was only a matter of time before Georgia's version of Dallas noticed the hot little Latin with tons of tattoos and a beaming smile.

The column appeared in Project Q Atlanta and the author had taken Northstar's photos from his Instagram and Facebook without his permission or knowledge. As the title suggests, the article was simply asking for feedback on whether he was "hot" enough to call himself "Mr. Hotlanta."

The comments were hateful, insensitive and completely unwarranted. My friend found out about the article after one of his friends pointed him in the direction of the site. By then, the comments section was already more than vibrant and could have done significant damage to a less secure man.

It's easy to brush off the social-media-mean-girl mentality as just part of our ever-changing online culture, but how can we accept such behavior that has the potential to do real damage to unsuspecting users and breed traditions of acceptable cruelty for generations to come? The word "bully" has almost become a curse word with its newfound weight in political correctness. Still, online bullying is rampant. What's worse is that these aren't teenagers who are taking part in this cafeteria behavior; they are adults.

The culture of humiliation as humor has created a constant feed of articles, blind items and gossip sites that only serve to increase our online worth by demeaning others. Even sharing an article aimed at breaking down the worst kind of Facebook user can indirectly offend and ostracize one of your virtual connections.

I have been guilty of this multiple times and have also had my feelings hurt a time or two from a friend's status. Was it always on purpose? Hardly. But do we have the ability to pause for a moment and encourage an environment, virtual or otherwise, that rejects the validation at the expense of others? Certainly.

The emergence and increasing importance of our online social profiles have created a new responsibility of monitoring how your presence affects others. Just as you want your personal interactions to leave those around you with feelings of positivity and kindness, your virtual interactions are now equally important.

Developing the content of your character is a constant process. Although we may laughingly disregard our Facebook profiles and Twitter accounts as a harmless waste of time, it may just be the most lucid depiction of who we really are. So tell me, do you like your virtual self? ■

■ PROTECTIONS, From Page 11

be housed with their gender identity. If they don't feel comfortable, they have the choice to be in a homosexual tank or to have a single cell.

"Some transgenders are not comfortable with gay men because they make fun of them," Valdez said. "So gay men think they're too butch or something so they make fun of them. We ask them if they're comfortable going in there and, as we're talking to them, the specialist is looking and trying to figure out if it's OK."

Harris County's policy also covers intersex inmates, defined as people born with sex chromosomes or reproductive systems that are not considered standard.

Houston has the third-largest county jail in the U.S., behind Los Angeles and Chicago's Cook County, and processes some 125,000 inmates annually. Other major jails, including those in Los Angeles, Denver and Washington, D.C., have taken similar steps to meet new federal standards for protecting inmates from sexual abuse and assault.

Garcia's office reviewed policies in 20 other law enforcement agencies across the country, including Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami-Dade County in Florida and Las Vegas, as well as an International Association of Chiefs of Police database. Harris County borrowed from each to come up with a policy it perceived to be more comprehensive.

A key section of the policy states that members of the transgender community will be addressed by their chosen names, even if it has not legally been changed, both when spoken to and on their identification bracelets.

Such an issue arose recently at the jail and was one of several things that prompted the department to begin its review.

That incident involved Nikki Araguz, the transgender widow of a fallen firefighter who was sentenced to 50 days in jail for stealing a Rolex watch off the wrist of a woman she met in a bar. Araguz had previously been in jail, but had been booked as Justin Purdue. Because the name Justin was attached to her fingerprints in the computer system, the officers booking her initially refused to put the name Nikki Araguz on her wristband, Bernstein said. Higher level officers in the department made "ad hoc adjustments" so Araguz's wristband could accurately reflect her name.

Because Araguz had undergone surgery, she was housed with the women when she returned to jail. But under the new policy, even if she hadn't had the operation she could still have been housed with the women.

Valdez said she was glad Harris County implemented an extensive LGBT policy, adding that her jail has had a similar policy in place to protect LGBT inmates. While the policies are worded differently, she said their principles are the same and "it may be two different ways of doing the same thing."

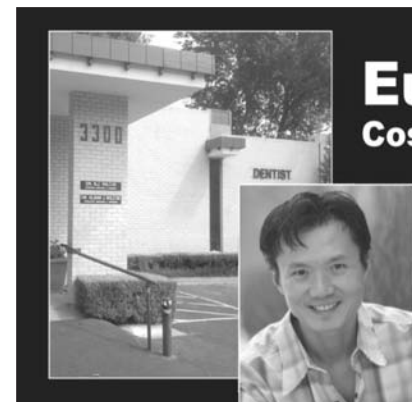
"The end result is we need to take care of our people," Valdez said. ■



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viewpoints

Pope Francis: I'm ready for my closeup

The Advocate's selection of Pope Francis as its Person Of The Year for 2013 signals a major shift in the Catholic Church's LGBT tone

Recently, The Advocate magazine announced its Person Of The Year for 2013, choosing Pope Francis for the title. Since the announcement, the magazine has been defending its choice to some among our movement who take issue with honoring the head of a church which, doctrinally, is still as anti-gay as it has always been.

With respect to those in our movement who do such incredible work, but who are not happy with the magazine's decision, we must disagree. Pope Francis is exactly the right choice for the magazine's Person Of The Year. First, let's look at the magazine's reasoning:

Pope Francis is leader of 1.2 billion Roman Catholics worldwide. There are three times as many Catholics in the world than there are United States citizens. Like it or not, what he says makes a difference.

Sure, we all know Catholics who fudge on the religion's rules about morality. There's a lot of disagreement about the role of women, about contraception and more. But none of that should lead us to underestimate any pope's capacity for persuading hearts and minds in opening to LGBT people — not only in the U.S. but globally.

The remaining holdouts for LGBT acceptance in religion, the ones who block progress in the work left to do, will more likely be persuaded by a figure they know.

In the same way that President Obama transformed politics with his evolution on LGBT civil rights, a change from the pope could have a lasting effect on religion.

Pope Francis's stark change in rhetoric from his two predecessors — both of them recipients of The Advocate's annual Phobie Awards — makes what he's done in 2013 all the more daring.

First there's Pope John Paul II, who gay rights activists protested during a highly publicized visit to the United States in 1987 because of what had become known as the "Rat Letter" — an unprecedented damning of homosexuality as "intrinsically evil." It was written by one of his cardinals, Joseph Ratzinger, who went on to become Pope Benedict XVI. Since 1978, one of those two men had commanded the influence of the Vatican — until this year.

But it's actually during Pope Francis's time as cardinal that his difference from Benedict and hard-liners in the church became apparent. As same-sex marriage looked on track to be legalized in Argentina, he argued privately

that the church should come out for civil unions as the "lesser of two evils."

That's all according to Pope Francis's authorized biographer, Sergio Rubin. Argentine gay activist Marcelo Márquez backed up the story, telling The New York Times in March that he "listened to my views with a great deal of respect. He told me that homosexuals need to have recognized rights and that he supported civil unions, but not same-sex marriage."



Evan Hurst
Contributing Columnist

There are times when words really matter. The Roman Catholic Church will be very slow to change doctrine on things like marriage equality, but it's important to remember that, of all religious groups in the world, the adherents of the Catholic Church, at least in the West, aren't quite known for following Church teaching on social issues.

Indeed, a majority of American Catholics already support marriage equality, so I would argue that the doctrine of the Church, at least at the moment, is not the most important or influential thing to consider when dealing with the effect of Catholicism on the LGBT people of the world.

The Advocate also is very clear that, in giving Francis this title, they are not claiming that he is some sort of pro-gay hero, but rather the person who stands to have the most positive influence on LGBT people:

For the leader of the largest contingent of Christians in the world, one that is historically as anti-gay as it gets, to express even unofficial support for civil unions — to be willing to move toward us in conversation and in public expressions of support — is a game-changer.

It's a signal to the many Catholics in positions of power that they're not going to find quite as much support from Church leadership when it comes to working to deny dignity and rights to LGBT people.

Indeed, six of the justices on the United States Supreme Court, those who will likely end up making the final decision on nationwide marriage equality, are Catholic.

During the papacies of John Paul II and Benedict XVI, organizations like the National Organization for Marriage were able to work freely, knowing that at the end of the day, the head of their church truly was on their side. They don't have that with Francis, and it's making them squirm.

Sure, the doctrine of the Catholic Church hasn't changed, but with the elevation of Fran-

cis to the papacy, the daily headlines sure have. Earlier this week, we learn that Pope Francis has removed Cardinal Raymond Burke from an influential post in the Congregation for Bishops, the group that chooses Catholic bishops around the world. Burke is an anti-gay, anti-woman firebrand who famously said he would deny presidential candidate John Kerry communion for supporting women's rights.

The doctrine hasn't changed, but the tone has, and in this case, the tone perhaps matters the most. For the first time in many, many years, the head of the Catholic Church is a man who seems to most people, Catholic or not, to be an all around good guy who wants to lead the Church away from being known primarily as an anti-gay, anti-woman institution.

And let us be clear: If nothing really changes in the Church, if Francis ends up being more like his predecessors than he seems, we will be the first to say so, redouble our efforts and push back. That's the push-pull game one must master in order to have the stomach to work in this movement long-term. But I truly believe that Pope Francis would like to clean house and change the way things are done around the Vatican.

If Catholics around the world follow his lead, and if anti-gay bigots like Brian Brown and Bill Donohue find themselves increasingly isolated in a Church that seems to care less and less about their work every day, then indeed, the history books will record that shift as the most significant thing to happen for LGBT equality worldwide in the year 2013, and for that reason, Pope Francis will have earned the title of The Advocate's 2013 Person Of The Year.

Evan Hurst is the associate director of Truth Wins Out, a Vermont-based nonprofit organization that fights anti-gay religious extremism. He can be reached at EHurst@TruthWinsOut.org.

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Michael Urie, up from Ash's (script)

'Ugly Betty's actor Michael Urie teams with fellow queer Texan Ash Christian for the gay indie comedy 'Petunia'

LIFE+STYLE
screen

Michael Urie doesn't mean to disappoint you, it's just that after basically becoming Marc St. James on *Ugly Betty*, the hit ABC comedy that launched his career, he's often expected to be a flamboyantly catty queen.

And he's not.

The Dallas native teamed with a fellow gay Texan, writer-director Ash Christian, for the indie film *Petunia*, now available from Wolfe on DVD. His role there as George Petunia, the scion of a quirky clan, is almost the antithesis of Marc: aloof, not-so-effeminate and sexually ambiguous, George is the kind of man the 33-year-old actor has longed to play.

In addition to his enigmatic part in *Petunia*, Urie talked about entertaining the idea of a polyamorous relationship, the trick to impersonating Barbra Streisand and not living up to people's *Ugly Betty* expectations. ■

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: George is a different role for you. What was it like stepping into his shoes for *Petunia*? Urie: That's exactly what I was so excited about when I read it. I thought it was such a good script. Halfway through reading it, I was laughing at situations based on character traits, not just jokes and physical bits. I was really interested in it because I love — as you can probably imagine — camping out and being silly and being the center of attention and the colorful one, but it was really great and exciting for me to tone it down and play a more introspective character.

You and the filmmaker, Ash Christian, both lived in North Texas before becoming famous, and both now live in New York. Did you know him or his work before this script came to you? I got to know it because of this. He and my partner, Ryan, are old friends, so I knew him socially. He'd also been on an episode of *Ugly Betty*, but I didn't work with him. I remembered his work, though, because he's a great actor as well [as a filmmaker].

Is your family anything like the Petunias? Nooo! I think the three boys' dynamic is a pretty specific thing and my parents — we're from Texas — spent most of their lives in Texas. I have an older sister who's about seven years older than I am and is married to a woman, so we have a very different thing going on. She's in Northern California, I'm in New York, my parents are now in Virginia. We get along very well but don't meddle in each other's lives like the Petunias, so there's a lot less friction and conflict in our family.

Helps being so far apart from each other. Yes, it does! It absolutely does. So the time together is isolated and lovely.

You've been with women in the past, and you identify as "queer" and not gay. So was this sexually mysterious role something you were interested in on a personal level? Yeah! That was another thing that I thought was really cool: That there was this character [Ash] wrote who wasn't

entirely happy in his marriage but wasn't necessarily looking to get out of it. I loved the scenes where George wants to have his cake and eat it, too. The moment where he thought maybe he could have a wife and a boyfriend — that was really interesting. And obviously I know that's not a healthy thing, but I can't say I haven't thought about it. [Laughs]

Well, there are people in polyamorous relationships who seem to make it work. What are your thoughts on poly relationships, and do you think you could make one work? I don't know. Ultimately, if I could make that work, obviously all three parties would have to be 100 percent on the same page.

One partner is plenty of work anyway. That would be the thing for me. I mean, I'm lucky in life that I'm quite busy, so keeping up with one partner is plenty, but what I loved about [George] was the idea that maybe I could vicariously see what that felt like. I don't think it would actually work for me personally.

Maybe for other people, or maybe as an experiment for a period of time. I don't think Ryan would be so into it. [Laughs]

Currently you're starring in the off-Broadway production of your one-man show *Buyer & Cellar*. Because of it, you've said you're more invested in Barbra Streisand than you've ever been. What have you learned and observed about Barbra from doing this show that even her most devoted gay fans wouldn't know? In preparing for this show and preparing to play her, what was most beneficial to me was not her singing, which is what she's most popular for I would imagine, and not her interviews — for the most part she keeps interviewers at arm's length and she's

pretty guarded — but it was her performances in movies. And I'm certainly not the first person to discover that Barbra Streisand is a great actor, but I realized that when we watch her in movies, especially movies like *Funny Girl* or *What's Up, Doc?*, we get to see that sense of play that you don't really get in her concert banter or in interviews. That to me is the real her.

That is the her that we have in our play, and our play is a fictional story of what it might be like to work for her and her street shops that she keeps in her basement — that is very real, by the way. [Laughs] It's sort of a fantasia on that, and so I found that watching her silliness in movies, and watching

that fun that she had and is now continuing to have, is the real her. And I don't know her. I have never met her. I don't know if I ever will. But that, to me, is probably the Barbra that is really there if you were to break down the barriers ... and live in her mall. [Laughs]

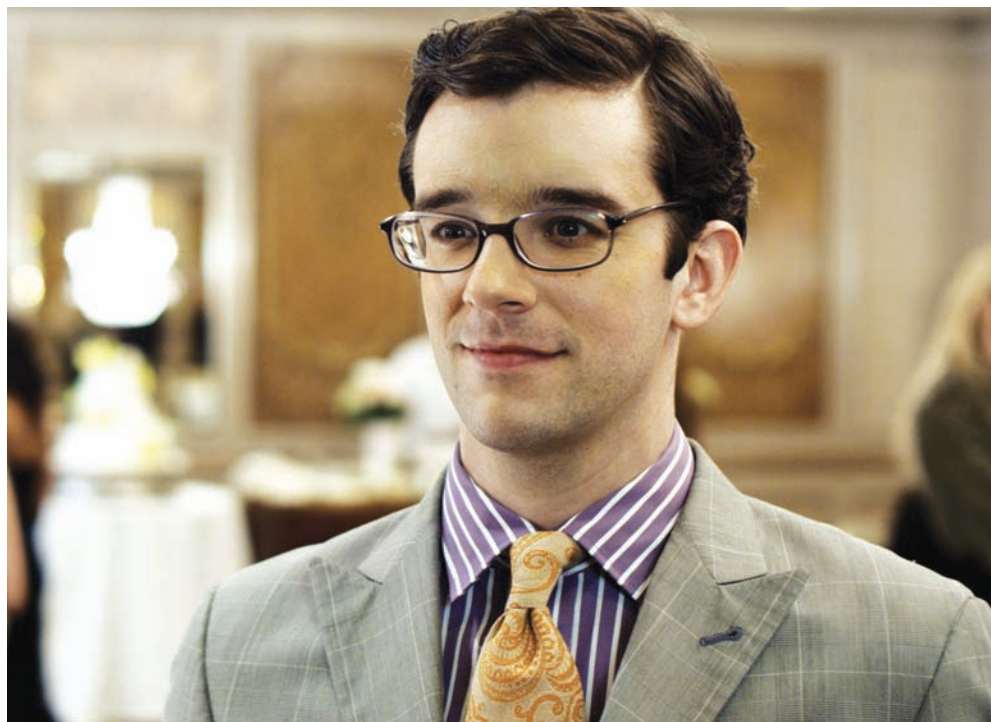
Will you bring the show on the road? I hope so. I would like to. We'll

see. There are some rumblings but nothing to report just yet. I would like to do it. We're gonna stay in New York for a while longer and there are certainly other cities I would like to play in, so I think so.

Within the last year, two gay-themed shows were canceled after just one season. One of those was your show, *Partners*. Do you think gay-themed shows are tough sells on major networks? I don't know if it's a gay-themed show thing. I think network television is a very tricky beast, and ultimately I feel like *Partners* could've found its footing. Unfortunately we had a lot of episodes — there were seven episodes that never saw the light of day — that are brilliant.



The
Hollywood
Issue



FLOWER CHILD | Urie plays George Petunia, above, the son of a screwed-up but charming family of New Yorkers (including Christine Lahti and David Rasche) in Ash Christian's art-house comedy 'Petunia,' now available on DVD, below.

But it's tricky. Networks are becoming more and more niche, and *Partners* really belonged amongst different shows. We were surrounded by very funny shows like *How I Met Your Mother* and *2 Broke Girls*, but maybe we needed to be in a different crop of shows. I think it was less about the gay thing and more about just finding a family of shows that we fit better in. But it's funny: Six-and-a-half million viewers is a lot of people. A lot of people saw that show, but on CBS, that unfortunately is not a hit and I get it. Though it would've been nice if they would've nurtured us.

Look on the bright side: At least you got to kiss Brandon Routh. That's exactly right! There was a really funny blooper that, of course, nobody will get to see where we did the kiss and then I messed up a line and I said, "I'm sorry, can we do it again?"

Your role on *Ugly Betty* as Marc St. James was so iconic and sometimes, when you essentially al-

most become that role, it's hard for people to separate you from the character. Did you experience that at all? Absolutely. In real life I'm more like George in *Petunia* than Marc. I enjoy playing characters like Marc, but me personally, I'm not generally like that. I can get excited, but I'm not bitchy or fashionable or a sycophant or any of the things that Marc was, but those characters are so much fun to play.

What I found very quickly when that show started and was at its height in popularity — I was new to L.A. — was that I was not meeting anyone's expectations. People wanted me to be Marc. They wanted me to be like that, and then immediately, as soon as they'd lay eyes on me they knew I wasn't. Especially when they started talking to me, they realized, "Oh, he's not that," or they'd think I was playing coy or being shy. That was a very interesting period for me to realize that, on the one hand, I liked the attention, but I wasn't going to be able to give people what they wanted. I had to remain aloof and keep myself in an air of mystery because I wasn't going to be what they wanted. I wasn't going to be the king gay — the catty, stylish, fashionable, funny guy they all wanted me to be. That just wasn't in my nature. I needed someone to clothe me and give me lines to say in order to be that. It was an interesting lesson learned, actually.

How did it feel knowing you couldn't be that person to them? I felt bad. But it was probably for the best. I don't really wanna be like that guy. It's not in my nature.

There have been rumors of an *Ugly Betty* movie. Are you open to the idea? Oh my god, are you kidding? All I want in life is to work with those people again. I'm always trying to come up with ways to get back with all of them. We've really remained as tight of a group as we were without being able to see each other on a daily basis. I know everyone of us would jump at a chance to make a movie. Unfortunately, it's not our call. I hope it happens. I think it would be terrific.

Are you looking at any new TV roles? Nothing in particular, but I would love to get back on TV. My appetite was very much whetted with *Partners* last year. We shot that in front of an audience — that's where my bread is buttered, being out in front of an audience. Doing a multi-camera show, it's so much fun. It's like the best of both worlds for me.



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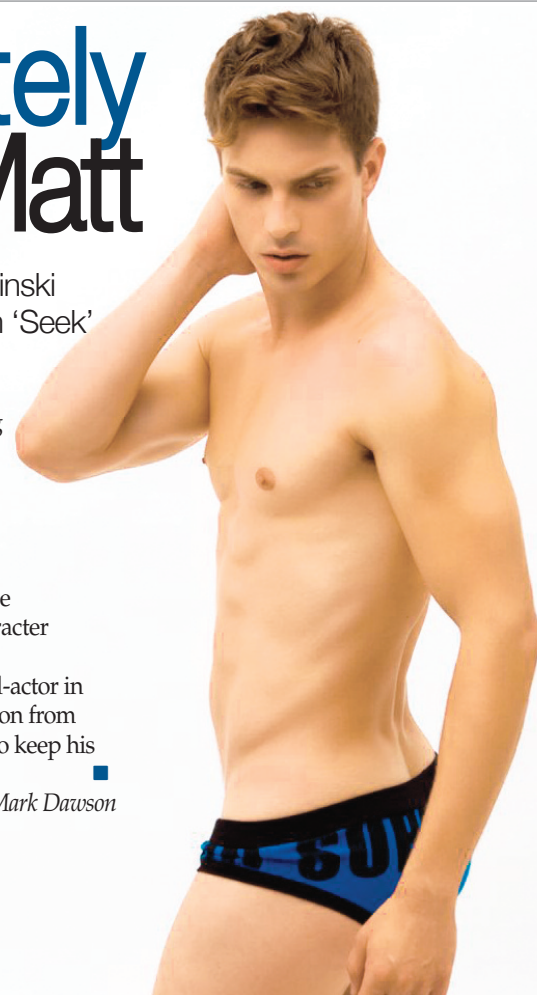
Model-cum-actor Matthew Ludwinski presses his hunky flesh in gay film 'Seek'

First-time director Eric Henry's debut feature, *Seek*, centers on a group of 20something urbanites longing for approval — whether by the guy they find attractive, the gay in-crowd or by the industry they work in. All strive for more, failing to recognize the fruit that lies within their reach.

In it, Matthew Ludwinski plays Jordan, the dreamboat underwear model that main character Evan *thinks* he desires.

We caught up with the sexy model-turned-actor in Hollywood to talk about his role, the transition from modeling to acting, and why he can't seem to keep his pants on.

—Mark Dawson



Dallas Voice: What are you eating? Ludwinski: An egg on a sesame bagel, a banana and a coffee with vanilla flavored International Delight.

How has your diet changed from the days when you were a model? Well, I'm currently trying to get a little bigger so I drink a lot of protein shakes and I allow myself to eat starch.

Many of your roles require you to keep in shape. I read you're playing "Naked Man" in a short film, *Little Consequences*. ... For that film, I'm actually wearing a yellow jock strap.

What is it with you and nudity in film? Not just film! I've done it onstage. I performed off-Broadway in *Naked Boys Singing*. I don't know why I get cast in so many nude roles. I think it's because I've done a couple of gay genre films, and if you are the love interest in a gay genre film, there is a pretty good chance you will be required to show some skin.

Are you comfortable with nudity? I don't have any negative feelings about nudity if it serves the story. And I don't mind playing the sexy guy role while I'm in that category. It's fun!

Has showing skin hurt or helped your career? I'm not sure. I'm an actor; I take the parts I'm given. But for the record, I've done a number of projects with all of my clothes on!

You actually don't take off your clothes in *Seek*. Well, I play an underwear model, so I do end up removing most of my clothes.

And you look good doing it! What is it about Jordan that so enraptures Evan? Jordan is one of those people who sweeps in and out of your life and you are left wondering "what the hell happened?" I think for Evan, Jordan represents something he is missing or wants in life.

How did you get the role in *Seek*? Eric Henry saw me in a film I starred in, *Going Down in La La Land*. He offered me the part in *Seek* without even auditioning. I loved the script, so I was very flattered and excited to accept.

When you first read the script, did you think you were perfect for the role of Jordan? I did. Not that

TO THE MATT | Ludwinski isn't opposed to nudity in film. We're cool with that.

Jordan and I are completely alike, but I knew that as an actor it would be fun to play this guy who was kind of a bad-ass. He does what he wants without regard to consequences or other people. I got to be the cocky guy, which was fun because that's not usually me in real life. Also, from my modeling days, I know what it's like to be the sex symbol other people fantasize over without really knowing anything about you. That happens to Jordan, too.

The film is about the torment of lost love. Have you ever been tormented by love? Oh, yes. I'm a sensitive guy, and my emotions are a bottomless swirling fire pit. I find at regular intervals in my life, I am deeply tormented by love.

Have you ever made the mistake of letting a dream love slip through your fingers? Maybe. How can I know? I guess I'll know at the end of my life, when I'm looking back.

When you see something you like, do you go for it or do you wait for love to come to you? A little of both. I find I have more success when I make the first move and just go for it. But then, I'm not going to work too hard for someone who is not interested. I do like to get pursued a little.

Are you cool with guys coming up to you for your number? If I like them.

Are you single right now? I'm seeing someone.

What is it that you seek in life right now? Peace, stability, happiness, friends, career. Basically, everything and at the same time.

Are you on your way to achieving your desires? I have to at least think I am on my way to achieving it. It would be pretty horrible if I didn't.

What are you working on next? A new web series for Logo that takes place in Montreal. It's called *Poutine Out*. It's due out in the spring.

Will you be keeping your clothes on? Nope.

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Holiday film roundup

Reviews of 'Saving Mr. Banks,' 'American Hustle,' 'Inside Llewyn Davis'



FOLK ART | Oscar Isaac, left, plays a talented but temperamental folk singer and Justin Timberlake, right, his friend with a hit song in 'Inside Llewyn Davis,' one of the Coen Brothers' best films.

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

Christmastime is the perfect season for moviegoing, and the studios well know it: Families are together, spirits are high, there's time off from work and school ... and the Oscar nominations are just around the corner. It's when they pull out their big guns.

Here's our rundown of the major contenders this season for your dollars — and for awards.

Inside Llewyn Davis

I'm a huge fan of the Coen Brothers, but let's face it: they are a smarmy pair. Peripatetic in the diversity of their interests, they are genre-benders who always seem to put quotation marks around their movies. They don't make comedies, they make "comedies." They aren't masters of the gangster film, but rather the "gangster film." They exude a self-referential, deconstructionist's joy at defying expectation and finding humor (and darkness) in unlikely places. They always seem to be having sick fun.

But not always. *No Country for Old Men* was straight-on thriller with a brooding, inevitable aura of gloom (although it *was* also a modern-day Western where the bad guy wins). It is per-

haps the one time they allowed the voice of another author — Cormac McCarthy, who wrote the novel on which the film was based — to drive out their own ... or almost.

While their newest film, **Inside Llewyn Davis**, isn't quite as dour and brilliantly oppressive as *No Country*, it does show a maturity level that makes it seem almost un-Coen-ish. It's less like it is surrounded by quotation marks than parenthesis.

Set in 1961, mostly in New York's Greenwich Village, it follows a minor light in the burgeoning folk music scene, the fictional musician Llewyn Davis (Oscar Isaac).

Llewyn was once part of a successful duo, but his partner killed himself jumping off the George Washington Bridge (he couldn't even do that right — you're supposed to jump off the Brooklyn Bridge. Everyone knows that). Llewyn has talent, and even some drive, but not many social skills; he's not warm and fuzzy, and it's hard to be his friend. He impregnates his best friend's gal, he berates his sister, he even gets stuck with the cat of a couple of middle-aged professors.

Inside Llewyn Davis feels like a real slice of life about the guy who *didn't* become Dylan, a gifted artist who self-destructed not from drugs or bad love but just because he was a dick. And

■ **ROUNDUP**, Next Page

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■ **ROUNDUP**, From Previous Page

yet in Coen fashion, we care deeply about Llewyn, probably for the same reason so many people stick by him: The man has chops.

Isaac's performance drives the film forward, even as it becomes a rangy road movie (with a dazzling cameo by John Goodman as a prissy heroin addict); with the cat in tow, it occasionally resembles *Harry & Tonto* with a young man. But the film perpetually reinvents itself, never lingering too long in one place, conjuring Llewyn's own lack of focus and the in-and-out way he deals with issues. It's a portrait of an artist as a doomed man. (We know, even as he doesn't, that the moronic novelty song he's recording will be a hit just as he signs away his royalties to it.)

Llewyn Davis isn't shot in black-and-white, but it might as well be, since the photography (especially in the cave-like coffeehouses where Llewyn performs) plays off stark contrasts of light and dark, much like his own life. The Coens have made one of their most sincere films, and one of their best.

Saving Mr. Banks

We expect our children's book authors to be as warm as the characters they create, but P.L. Travers was nothing of the sort. You might

get that if you read the books she wrote about literature's most famous nanny, Mary Poppins, instead of watching the iconic Disney film. Mary Poppins was arch and strict even as outrageous things happened around her. She was a Victorian, and Travers basically was, too.

But Disney *did* make the film, much to her displeasure. The creator of fun for children hated the cartoons that were at the center of the world's most pervasive kidtainment empire, and resisted, for years, the temptation to sell the rights to her stories. Eventually, we all know, she did. In that way, there's no mystery, no suspense to **Saving Mr. Banks**, in which Travers (Emma Thompson) faces off against Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) and his creative team. She needs the money, the world needs "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

But the end result isn't the point; the process is, and much of that process is fascinating, from the recorded interviews in which Travers dictatorially corrected the paint swatches for the Banks' London home to her primness about being called by her first name. Between these scenes, the film flashes back to her upbringing Down Under, where a father she loved (Colin Farrell) drank his family into ruin.

"Daddy issues" drove the creation of a work of literature? That's hardly news. But director John Lee Hancock (*The Blind Side*) has



BATTLE OF EQUALS | Tom Hanks plays the avuncular but single-minded Walt Disney and Emma Thompson an irascible P.L. Travers in 'Saving Mr. Banks,' about the struggle to make 'Mary Poppins.'

a style that nears, but does not cross, the line between sentiment and mawkishness. Truth be told, the scenes of Travers' childhood seem too familiar and predictable, but the ones in the 1960s, with Walt cajoling until he finally gets his way, ooze a delightful, family-friendly comic tone.

Thompson and Hanks pair off winningly, matching hushed word for hushed word. It's a sparring match of well-suited but stylisti-

cally diverse prizefighters: Thompson with her tight-lipped British classical prudery and Hanks with his warm-blooded American charm. Ultimately, it's a draw, and the winner is the audience.

American Hustle

In the 1970s, Italian-American men in loud suits and wide neckties and their blowzy women with hair teased so much it bordered

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on bullying were all small-time hoods in the big city who thought they were smarter than everyone. How do we know this? Because Martin Scorsese told us, that's how. In *Goodfellas* and *Casino* and *Taxi Driver*, Scorsese mastered a style of epic storytelling around commonplace hoods that established its own genre. Many have repeated his formula; some have succeeded in coming close (Ted Demme with *Blow*, P.T. Anderson with *Boogie Nights*), but none has done it better.

Well, David O. Russell is no Scorsese. He's not even P.T. Anderson.

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American Hustle
Inside Llewyn Davis
Saving Mr. Banks
Walking with Dinosaurs

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The Wolf of Wall Street, pictured
47 Ronin
Grudge Match



The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

Jan. 10

August: Osage County
Lone Survivor

Russell's *American Hustle* beats Scorsese's latest, *The Wolf of Wall Street* (set in the '80s instead of the '70s but still with the rat-a-tat-tat he patented) into the theaters by less than a week, it's really decades behind.

The elements are there: The classic-rock soundtrack (including a version of "White Rabbit" in Arabic); the color-coded washes over many scenes (usually a sepia-gold); the explanatory voice-over narration; even a cameo by former Scorsese stalwart Robert DeNiro. But it feels entirely derivative, a lame rip-off of better movies elevated only by the presence of highly capable actors doing good (not great) work.

Hustle purports to be a more-or-less true retelling of ABSCAM, the late-1970s FBI sting operation that became not only a major investigation into political corruption, but one of the first instances where hidden video was used to record a bust. The grainy floor-level images of the operation are indelible to people of a certain age, as was the sting's criticism for entrapment and politically-motivated targeting of officials. The film almost ignores most of these things, concentrating instead on a rogue, largely incompetent FBI agent (Bradley Cooper) and his use of a two-bit conman (Christian Bale) and his girlfriend (Amy Adams) to run a government-sanctioned boondoggle.

While it follows many of Scorsese's tropes, the screenplay is not nearly as clever as it thinks it is. Russell seems to be making fun of people, and not affectionately. The scene where



SHELL GAME | Bradley Cooper plays an ambitious FBI agent and Christian Bale a sleazy conman who team up for a sting operation in David O. Russell's derivative period comedy-drama 'American Hustle.'

Cooper claims to be gaining respect while giving himself a Toni home perm, his head wrapped in tight pink curlers, is meant to be ironic, but it's mostly juvenile, one of many sophomoric jokes. It's gimmicky, not smart — though also not as bad as last year's insufferable *Silver Linings Playbook*, also by Russell.

At times, I admit, *American Hustle* crackles and pops ... but so do Rice Krispies. That's no reason to waste time watching them — the film or the cereal. The real hustle here is convincing audiences that Russell is just as good as Scorsese at this kind of thing. They expect us to be easily duped as the mark's in the film. ■

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Funny girl

Comedian Sarah Silverman never met a subject too off-limits for a joke

There's nothing too taboo for Sarah Silverman. Not AIDS, not even poop. And in her 20-year career (she began in 1993 with a spot on *Saturday Night Live*), her hit comedy special, *Jesus is Magic*, and her own sitcom, *The Sarah Silverman Program*, the comedian has established herself as one of the ballsiest voices of our time. With an all-new HBO special, *We Are Miracles*, Silverman caught up with us to talk about crushing on Patti LuPone, being "older and wiser and dumber" and the meaning of life. ■

—Chris Azzopardi

SARAH IS MAGIC | Silverman can find an inappropriate joke on any topic, even AIDS — and that's kind of why we love her.



Dallas Voice: I saw a children's book recently called "Why Dogs Eat Poop." Guess who it reminded me of? Sarah Silverman: Aww, was it me?

Of course it was you. I knew it was either gonna be me or Helen Mirren.

Your comedy special, *We Are Miracles*, sounds very inspiring for the holidays. Will we be inspired? Yeah, I hope that you'll leave that show completely changed. Just kidding. I mean, maybe a little bit. But probably not.

What can you say about the special? All I can say is that the special is mind-blowing and life-changing for the viewer. It's just a really honest reflection — either literally or figuratively — of where I'm at right now, just in my life. Not that it's autobiographical at all — it's still lies — but it's just what I'm into now. Like, I'm older and wiser and dumber.

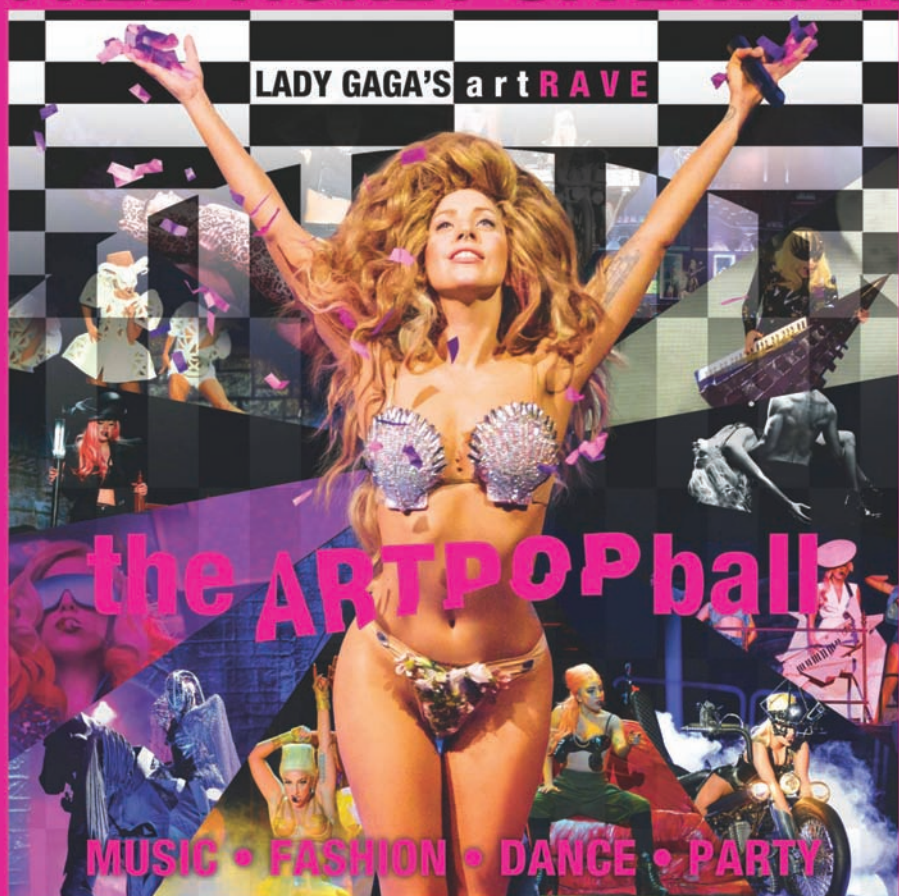
It's different than my first special. It doesn't digress into other videos or things. There's a scene at the beginning and at the end, but besides that it's just the live performance. It's just standup with a teeny-tiny audience — just 39 people.

Will there be poop jokes? Why of course, baby! There's at least one.

You attract all sorts of people It's so weird that I have such a random and eclectic demographic, like the old, the young, the gay, the gayer.

And your style of satirical comedy, where you make fun of just about every

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group of people, seems to have the ability to unite people. When you look out at your audiences, do you feel that way, too? Aww, yeah. Half of it is the energy in the room. It's like sometimes you listen to Howard Stern and you might think he sounds like he's being really mean, but if you're in the studio and you saw the mischievous smile on his face, it's a totally different thing going on.

What's your special ritual before you hit the stage?

I write out a set list and yell at myself for waiting to the last minute. And I have a sugar-free Red Bull.

No sugar? No. There are drugs they put in it. Whatever it is. It's the "limitless" pill. Oh god, I want the limitless pill so bad.

Have you ever felt badly or regretted a joke you made? Yeah, I never wanna make anyone feel bad, but I also know that's not possible. Everyone who watches comedy, they're watching in the context of their own life experience, so you don't know what's gonna catch someone.

Just recently the tables were turned and you were hurt by some age jokes during *The Roast of James Franco* on Comedy Central. I wanna be so protective of the rules of the roast, which is that there are none and that anything goes — and I protect that. I would never want to change anything that was said. It just was separate from the roast, and I said brutal things — that's just how it is. But it's separate from that. It just illuminated things for me in my life, and you're right — it is just like that. In the context of my life, that stuck. It's like, I had feelings! But I still loved it. And I feel like I'm better for it because it

forced me to deal with stuff. You know, Jonah [Hill] said the same thing. He said, "Everything that is my biggest fear in life was said tonight and I lived through it," so there's something cathartic about it as well.

Did it make you rethink your approach to comedy and how something you say could offend someone, as well? No, no, no. First of all, I don't talk about specific people in general. I mean, not as a

rule, but I don't tend to in my standup. A roast is a very specific thing.

You push buttons, though. When does a gay joke become offensive? Well, what is a gay joke? Where, like, homosexuality is the joke? Is the punchline? I don't see that a lot right now. That's in

an ugly past. Hopefully perceptions are finally changing with these fucking idiots.

How much thought goes into what you wear on-stage? Very little. I find an outfit I feel comfortable in — or that I did well in [*Laughs*] — and I just wear it until I have to wash it. I'm just kidding. I do laundry.

You do your own laundry? I do, actually. I'm in a building, so I don't even have my own washer and dryer. There's just one for every floor. It's me ... and people's maids.

If comedy didn't exist, what would you be doing with your life? I'd work with chimps and apes and monkeys — be a Dian Fossey type. I mean, I'd want to, like, always be by a really nice bathroom. So, close to Dian Fossey but with a nice place to stay.

You'll soon star alongside Patti LuPone on HBO's

***People in New Jersey*, which is being produced by Lorne Michaels.** Oh my god! I don't even know what to say about Patti LuPone. She's everything you could dream of and so much more. I knew I was a huge fan. I knew I was excited. But she is the most awesome. She is so cool, she's so funny and her improv skills are crazy. I mean, I couldn't keep it together. She's the coolest. I think I have a crush on her.

And she's gonna be your mother. How does it feel living the dream of every gay man on earth? It feels so right.

OK, the lightning round. Holy shit.

Lady Gaga or Katy Perry? Katy Perry. I just like "Firework." I love that song. So good. And "Roar" — I like "Roar," too! I love any kind of anthemic music.

Is "Roar" your pre-show pump up song? Honestly, for a while, it was.

Miley Cyrus or Hannah Montana? Miley Cyrus. I mean, I love "The Climb" and "Party in the U.S.A.," but I'm interested in what she's doing now. She's expressing herself. She's got the right to express herself. She's 20 or something. It'll be interesting to see where it leads.

Eminem or Coolio? No Doubt.

What's the meaning of life? I don't know, but it involves Nerds Rope.



The
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Friday 12.20

You don't have to dream of a 'White Christmas' — it's here!

For more than 70 years, the holiday season has practically been defined by the song "White Christmas." For more than 50, the splash film musical by that name has been equally as iconic. But if your VHS tape is chewed up or you missed the airing on cable, you can still experience all the joy and silly delights with the stage production of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, featuring all the songs from the film, including "Sisters" — performed, as always, in drag.

DEETS: Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through Dec. 29. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Friday 12.20

Chorale goes campy with final holiday concerts

The Turtle Creek Chorale opened the season recently with its *DecemberSong* concert of sacred and traditional holiday music. But nothing's sacred in their latest concert, *Naughty & Nice: A Very Turtle Christmas — Liza's Wish List*. If you have to ask "Who's Liza?" you're probably not gay enough to see this show, in which actor B.J. Cleveland portrays Judy's

daughter as she makes her wishes. Cross-dressing, camp humor, dirty little ditties ... well, it's sure to put you in a holiday cheer. And best of all, there's still time to catch *DecemberSong* one last time if you prefer your Christmas with a little dignity. Some people are funny that way.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.
Naughty, Dec. 20–21 at 8 p.m.;
DecemberSong, Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m.
TurtleCreek.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Friday 12.20

It's time again for a 'Bur-Less-Q' holiday ballet

There's still time to catch Texas Ballet Theater's classical rendition of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, but we admit that, over the years, we've grown an affection for a different kind of Christmas tradition: MBS Productions' campy *The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents a Burl-Less-Q Nutcracker!* The premise — that a small-town church group accidentally hires pole-dancing strippers to perform a ballet for their congregation — is funny enough, but watching Mark-Brian Sonna's junk flying at you compressed into Capezios ... well, let's just say you'll want some adult eggnog to wash it down.

DEETS: Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Dec. 29. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.



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calendar highlights



THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN' | The national tour of 'Porgy & Bess' continues at the Winspear Opera House through Sunday.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

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

Hedwig and the Angry Inch. John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask wrote this musical about a transgender German singer. The music is phenomenal. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Dec. 20-21 and Dec. 27-28. 8 p.m. \$20. HedwigDFW.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. *Final weekend.* CaraMiaTheatre.org.

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. Continues through a Christmas Eve performance. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Twas the Night Before Christmas. A new musical from Dallas Children's Theater, based on the Clement Moore poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. *Final weekend.* 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. *Final weekend.* 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. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Three Little Pigs. Theatre Britain's annual Christmas pantomime, 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. *Final weekend.* 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. *Final weekend.* ATPAC.org.

The Santaland Diaries. The exploits of a gay Macy's elf during the holidays. Based on David Sedaris' novella. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 29. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Something's Afoot. A comedy about Sherlock Holmes, set during the holidays. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Jan. 5. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: DecemberSong. Dallas' gay men's chorus performs its concert of tradition holiday music. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. TurtleCreek.org.

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. Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 20-21. 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. Through Dec. 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.



NO SH*T SHERLOCK | An actor famed for portraying Sherlock Holmes actually solves a crime in farceur Ken Ludwig's holiday comedy 'Something's Afoot' at WaterTower Theatre.

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 paintings, 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.

FRIDAY 12.20

COMMUNITY

Dick's Night Out: Giddy Up! A launch party for ZipYap; an unwrapped toy is the requested donation/cover. Concrete Cowboy, 2512 Cedar Springs Road. 6-10 p.m. RSVP required at ZipYap.Eventbrite.com.

 **browse**

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

 **submit**

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

MONDAY 12.23

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.

CONCERTS

The Kenny G Holiday Show. The smooth jazz icon teams with the Dallas Pops Orchestra for this Christmas concert. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

TUESDAY 12.24 — CHRISTMAS EVE

WORSHIP

Cathedral of Hope. Four services: Children and family at 5 p.m., Candlelight holy communion at 7 p.m. (Spanish), 9 p.m. (English) and 11 p.m. (English). 5910 Cedar Springs Road. CathedralOfHope.com.

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■ HOTLINE

AIDS HOTLINE — 214-559-AIDS; Sponsored by Resource Center of Dallas. DallasSYD.org

■ AIDS SERVICES

***AIDS ARMS INC.** — 219 Sunset, #116-A, Dallas 75208, 214-521-5191; 1906 Peabody Ave., Dallas 75215, 214-421-7848; aidsarms.org.

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK — 501 N. Stemmons, #200, Dallas 75207; 214-943-4444 (Programs), 214-941-7696 (Administration); aidsinterfaithnetwork.org.

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER — 400 North Beach Street; Fort Worth, 76111; www.aoc.org; 817-335-1994.

AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT — 400 S. Zang, Dallas 75208; 214-645-7300, 214-645-7301.

***AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS** — 400 S Zang Blvd, Dallas 75208; 214-941-0523; aidsdallas.org

AIDS SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS — 4210 Mesa, Denton 76207, 940-381-1501; 2540 Ave. K, Ste 500, Plano 75074, 972-424-1480; 3506 Texas, Greenville 75401, 903-450-4018; 102 S. First, Rockwall 75087; 800-974-2437; aidsntx.org.

EXHALE SERVICES — 405 S. Elm, Denton 75201; 940-484-2516.

GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND, INC. — P.O. Box 29091, Dallas 75229; 972-423-9093; gdmfaf.org.

***LEGACY COUNSELING CENTER & LEGACY FOUNDERS COTTAGE** — 4054 McKinney, #102, Dallas 75204; 214-520-6308; legacycares.org.

***LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS** — 1825 Market Center Blvd. #550, Dallas 75207; 214-521-6622; legalhospice.org

***NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER** — 4012 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219; 214-528-2336 : rcdallas.org/nthrc.html.

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS HIV PLANNING COUNCIL — 1101 S. Main, #2500, Fort Worth 76104; 817-321-4743 (Office), 817-321-4741 (Fax); notexasaids.com.

POSITIVE VOICES COALITION — 8099 Pennsylvania Ave., Ft. Worth; 817-321-4742; notexasaids.com.

PROJECT ESPERANZA — 5415 Maple, #422, Dallas 75235; 214-630-0114.

***RESOURCE CENTER** — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5124; resourcecenter-dallas.org.

***RESOURCE CENTER DALLAS FOOD PANTRY** — 5450 Denton Dr. Cut Off, Dallas 75235; 214-521-3390

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE AIDS FUND — P.O. Box 190409, Dallas 75219; 214-394-9064; tciaidsfund.org.

WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY — 9353 Garland Rd., Dallas 75218; 214-320-0043; whiterockchurch.org.

■ EDUCATION

ALLIES — 3140 Dyer #313, Dallas 75205; 214-768-4796; smu.edu/womenscenter/allies

***DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY** — 1515 Young, Dallas 75201; 214-670-1400; dallaslibrary2.org.

HOMAGE AT UTA — 817-272-3986; tmarshall@uta.edu.

OUT @ COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE — 214-991-7851; out.cccd.edu.

SPECTRUM — 3140 Dyer Suite 313, Dallas 75275; 214-768-4792; people.smu.edu/spectrum.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS ALLY PROGRAM — 940-565-2000; ally@unt.edu; ally.unt.edu.

■ MEDIA

***DALLAS VOICE** — 4145 Travis, 3rd Floor, Dallas 75204; 214-754-8710; dallasvoice.com.

OUT NORTH TEXAS — 4145 Travis, 3rd Floor, Dallas 75204; 214-754-8710; outntx.com.

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION — 800-GAY-MEDIA; glaad@glaad.org; GLAAD.org.

LAMBDA WEEKLY — GLBT talk-radio show. KNON 89.3FM; Lambda Weekly, KNON FM, P.O. Box 71909, Dallas 75371; lambdaweekly@aol.com; www.lambdaweekly.com.

PRIDE RADIO — 14001 N. Dallas Parkway, #300, Dallas 75240; 214-866-8000; prideradiodfw.com/main.html.

■ MUSIC

OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND — 2701 Regan Street, Dallas 75219, Dallas 75219; 214-621-8998; info@oaklawnband.org; oaklawnband.org.

NEW TEXAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — P.O. Box 190137, Dallas 75219; 214-526-3214 (x101); ntso.org.

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE — P.O. Box 190137, 75219, Dallas 75219; 214-526-3214 (x 101); turtlecreek.org.

WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS — 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., #210, Dallas 75219; 214-520-7828; twcdoffice@twcd.org; twcd.org.

■ POLITICAL

DALLAS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS — 4145 Travis St.; #204; DallasSYD.org

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF DALLAS COUNTY — P.O. Box 541712; DALLAS 75354-1719; lpdallas.org.

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS — P.O. Box 191033, Dallas 75219; 214-346-2115; robschlein@aol.com; dallas.logcabin.org.

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS — P.O. Box 192305, Dallas 75219; 214-506-DEMS(3367); stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org.

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DENTON COUNTY — P.O. Box 3086, Denton, 76202; 972-890-3834; info@stonewalldemocratsofdentoncounty.org; stonewalldemocratsofdentoncounty.org.

TARRANT COUNTY STONEWALL DEMOCRATS — P.O. Box 11956, Fort Worth 76110; 817-913-8743; info@tarrantcountystonewalldemocrats.org; tarrantcountystonewalldemocrats.org.

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CATHEDRAL BUSINESS NETWORK — 214-351-1901 (x304); cbn.info@cathedralofhope.com; cathedralofhope.com/cbn.

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN BAR ASSN. — 214-540-4460; adamsidel@aol.com; dgbla.org.

GLOBE — P.O. Box 50961, Dallas 75250; 972-308-7233; marie.garza@irs.gov; fedglobe.org.

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NORTH TEXAS GLBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — 3824 Cedar Springs Rd., Suite 101-429, Dallas, 75219, 214-821-GLBT; http://glbtchamber.org.

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DALLAS/FORT WORTH FEDERAL CLUB — P.O. Box 191153, Dallas 75219; 214-428-3332; dfwfederalclub.org.

DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE — P.O. Box 190712, Dallas 75219, 214-528-0144; info@dglgla.com; dglgla.com.

DALLAS TAVERN GUILD — 214-571-1073; michaeldoughman@sbcglobal.net; dallastavernguild.org.

***JOHN THOMAS GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER** — 2701 Reagan, P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-528-9254; Phil Johnson Historical Archives and Library; 214-540-4451.

GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS — 3818 Cedar Springs Rd. 101, #371, Dallas 75219; glfd.org; 214-421-8177; volunteers@glfd.org.

GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD — 214-528-0022; rcdallas.org/glcs.html.

HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF NORTH TEXAS — 214-855-0520; info@hrionline.org; hrionline.org.

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, SOUTHWEST REGION — 3500 Oak Lawn, #500, Dallas 75219; 214-219-8585; lambdalegal.org.

LEGACY OF SUCCESS FOUNDATION, INC. — P.O. Box 700072, Dallas 75370; heritagecelebrationdfw.org.

TARRANT COUNTY GAY PRIDE WEEK ASSOCIATION — P.O. Box 3459, Fort Worth 76113; info@tcgpa.org; tcgpa.org.

TRIANGLE FOUNDATION — P.O. Box 306, Frisco 75034; 972-200-9411 (Phone), 501-643-0327 (Fax); collinequality.org.

■ SOCIAL

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DAMN — DAMNmen.org; P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1739); oaklwnnguy@hotmail.com.

DALLAS BEARS — P.O. Box 191223, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x2943); dallasbears.org.

DFW FUSE — 214-540-4435; dfwfuse.com; fuse@rcdallas.org.

DISCIPLINE CORPS — P.O. Box 190838, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1731); webmaster@disciplinecorps.com; disciplinecorps.com.

FIREANCERS — mikeykeith@cs.com; fireancers.org.

FRISCOPRIDE — P.O. Box 1533, Frisco 75034; 469-324-4123; friscopride.com.

GAYMSTERS BRIDGE CLUB — P.O. Box 190856, Dallas 75219; 214-946-6464; gaymsters@yahoo.com; gaymsters.org.

GRAY PRIDE — (At Resource Center Dallas); GLBT Aging Interest Network, educational & social organization for GLBT seniors; 2701 Reagan St., Dallas; 214-528-0144; RCDallas.org.

GROUP SOCIAL LATINO — 2701 Reagan; 214-540-4446.

JEWEL — 214-540-GIRL; jewel@rcdallas.org; rcdallas.org.

KHUSH TEXAS — http://groups.yahoo.com/group/khushetexas.

LATE BLOOMERS — La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon; 903-887-7371.

LEATHER KNIGHTS — P.O. Box 190334, Dallas 75219; 214-395-8460; leatherknights.org.

LVL/PWA CAMPOUT — Rick; campout@lvpwa.com; lvpwa.com.

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER — P.O. Box 190611, Dallas 75219; 214-521-4765; groups.yahoo.com/group/mactdallas.

NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION-DALLAS — P.O. Box 190432, Dallas 75219; info@nla-dallas.org; nla-dallas.org.

NORTH TEXAS RADICAL FAERIES — groups.yahoo.com/group/ntrdafae.

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON — 10675 East Northwest Hwy., #2600B, Dallas 75238; 972-264-3381; cschepps@sbcglobal.net; once-in-a-blue-moon.org.

ORANGE CLUB — groups.yahoo.com/group/orange-club.

OUTTAKES DALLAS — 3818 Cedar Springs #101-405 Dallas 75219; 972-988-6333 (Phone), 866-753-9431 (Fax); outtakesdallas.org.

POZ DALLAS — pozdallas@gmail.com; pozdallas.org.

PROJECT TAG (TYLER AREA GAYS) — 5701 Old Bullard Rd. #96; Tyler 75703; 903-372-7753; tylerareagays.com.

PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH — PO Box 191101, Dallas 75219; 972-504-8866; information@primetimers-dfw.org; primetimers-dfw.org.

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB — P.O. Box 226811, Dallas 75222; 214-941-8114; info@rainbowgardenclub.com; rainbowgardenclub.com.

SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW — http://singles.meetup.com/2049.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DALLAS/FORT WORTH — groups.yahoo.com/group/sindallasftw; dalmus@yahoo.com.

UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE — PO Box 190865, Dallas 75219; dallascourt.org.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION — dallasfamily.org.

■ SPIRITUALITY

AGAPE MCC — 4615 E. California Pkwy., (SE Loop 820), Fort Worth 76119; 817-535-5002; agapemcc.com.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH — 4230 Buckingham Rd., Garland 75042; 972-276-0023; alc1@airmail.net; ascensiontexas.org.

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — 4523 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-528-4084; bethanypresby@sbcglobal.net; bethany.presbychurch.org.

***CATHEDRAL OF HOPE** — 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-351-1901 (Local); 800-501-HOPE (Toll free); cathedralofhope.com.

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***CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH** — 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth 76104; 817-335-3222; celebration@celebrationtx.com; celebration-community-church.com.

CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE — 9120 S Hwy. 198; Maybank TX, 75147; 903-451-2302; cotlchurch.org.

CHURCH IN THE CLIFF — Kessler Theatre 1230 W. Davis St., Dallas, 75208; 214-233-4605; www.churchinthecliff.org.

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EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH — P.O. Box 710329, Dallas 75371 (Mailing); 629 North Peak, Dallas 75246 (Physical); 214-824-8185; info@edcc.org; edcc.org.

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INTEGRITY — 214-521-5342 (x1742).

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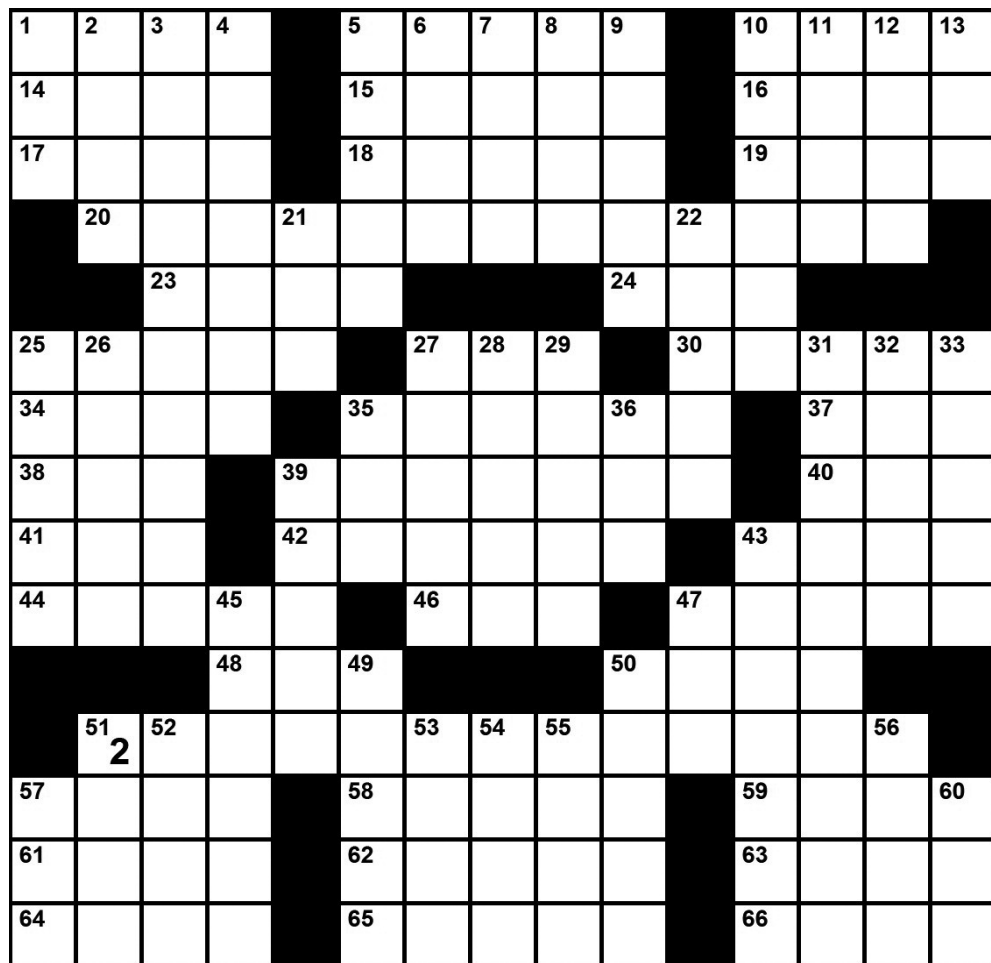
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You Da Man

Solution on page 29

Across

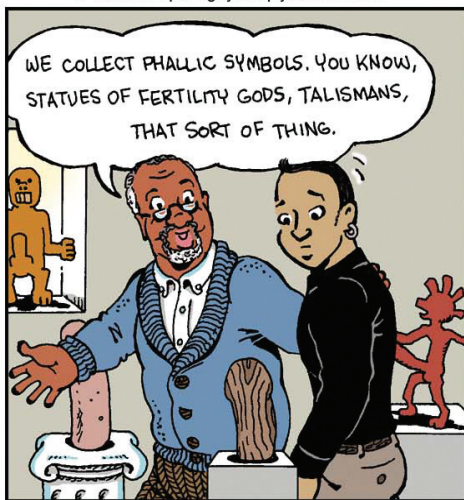
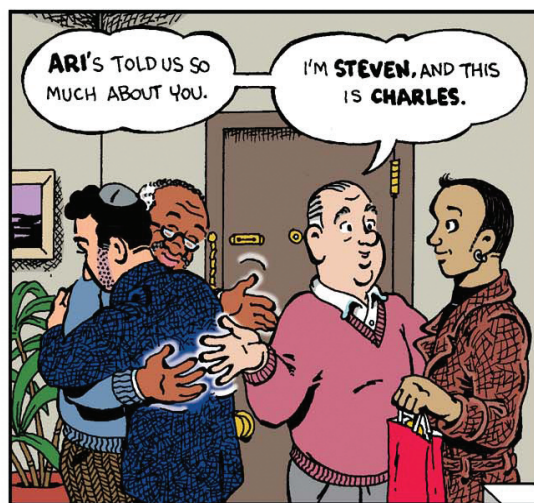
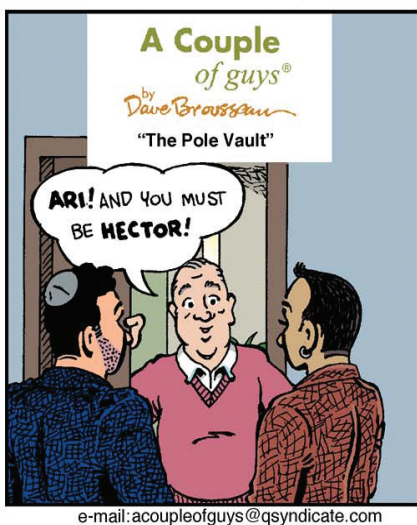
- 1 Left to pirates
- 5 Fruit container
- 10 Either of the two O's in 51-Across
- 14 Geometrical finding
- 15 Miserable dwelling
- 16 Tiger's ex
- 17 Tuft of pubic hair, e.g.
- 18 What straight soldiers do with their eyes in the shower
- 19 Nick at ___
- 20 Actor of Cuban descent recently featured in *Da Man*
- 23 Castle in a board game
- 24 "It's ___ for me to say"
- 25 TV series in which 20-Across played a nurse
- 27 Phi Beta Kappa concern, for short
- 30 Fingerprint feature
- 34 Cruising the Atlantic
- 35 Turn on
- 37 Long of *If These Walls Could Talk 2*
- 38 Sch. with a condom for a mascot?
- 39 TV series in which 20-Across plays a former CIA operative
- 40 RN offering
- 41 J. Caesar's tongue, or back muscle
- 42 Like the big top

43 Chiang Kai-___

- 44 Big name in bulk food
- 46 Pride's place
- 47 TV series in which 20-Across played a drug dealer
- 48 Top record
- 50 English channel, with "the"
- 51 1999 movie with 20-Across
- 57 Do style
- 58 Woman without a woman, e.g.
- 59 In the pink
- 61 Come clean, with "up"
- 62 Type of probe
- 63 Bus. major's study
- 64 Perry of Metropolitan Community Church
- 65 *West Side* ___
- 66 Where to stick your tool

Down

- 1 Fondle clumsily
- 2 Pg. in a photocopier
- 3 Brings back
- 4 Starchy dessert
- 5 Billiards cube
- 6 Go from one gay bar to another, e.g.
- 7 Spit it out, with confidence
- 8 Six years for a senator
- 9 John of *Aida* fame
- 10 Top
- 11 *A Streetcar Named Desire* director Kazan
- 12 Play about a gay bathhouse, with *The*
- 13 Queen's "Another ___ Bites the Dust"
- 21 Myrna of *The Thin Man*
- 22 Carpenter's rod
- 25 Handles roughly
- 26 Francis Bacon work
- 27 Long piano
- 28 Italian bridge
- 29 Writer Wylan Hugh
- 31 Nevil Shute novel
- 32 Rubbed the wrong way
- 33 Doesn't have
- 35 It may top a queen
- 36 McCullers' *Ballad of the ___ Cafe*
- 39 Greek philosophical type
- 43 Gets hot
- 45 Fastidious
- 47 Astroglide alternative
- 49 Cash drawers
- 50 Fruit on a bush
- 51 "Buy one get one free" offer
- 52 Roughly
- 53 Toe woe
- 54 In the year, to Nero
- 55 Admiral's position?
- 56 Fruit flavor for gin
- 57 Toward the rudder
- 60 Put a halt to





Aaron and Zach at JR's Bar & Grill.

Randy's Club Cherries presents A Royal Christmas Extravaganza on Dec. 21 with Mr. Texas USofA Patrick Mikyles, Miss Newcomer USofA Tonica Cavalli, Miss Texas FFI Toni R. Andrews, Mr. Texas USofA at Large Zayer and Miss Rising Star Newcomer Stefani Mikyles. ... Dust off those boots and come two-step at country night at Edén Lounge on Dec. 20. Atmospheric Sounds presents the Sexy Santa Party with DJ S-Konekt and Carson with techno and house for the holidays. ... Crystal Ramon entertains at Alexandre's on Dec. 20 and Three Drunk Monkeys takes the mike on Dec. 21. Lala J appears on Christmas night and Jason Huff performs on Dec. 26. ... Three bands perform at Sue Ellen's this weekend — Night Train on Dec. 20, Bad Habits on Dec. 21 and Tyla Taylor Band on Dec. 22. Bella & Darla appear on Christmas night. ... Tuesday and Wednesday dance lessons at the Round-Up Saloon are canceled this week but on Thursday, Juanita will teach the Georgian Winder and Beginner Shadow at 8:30 p.m. ... DFW Leather Corp holds a seminar at the Dallas Eagle on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. Paul Kraft is the DJ for Skins & Hankies Fetish Fridays on Dec. 20 and Blaine Soileau spins for Dance Your Ass Off Saturday on Dec. 21. The bar's closed on Christmas Day. ... Texas Gay Rodeo Association holds a cookout at Club Reflection on Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. ... Ivana Tramp's Showcase Showdown variety show with sexy dancers is new for Mondays at BJ's NXS. On Christmas Day, the bar opens at 4 p.m. Santa's coming. You should, too. ... Sable Linze, Melodee Karmichael and Wendell Lindsey present I'll Be Home For Christmas at Garlow's on Dec. 21 benefiting Home for the Holidays whose mission is to send people with AIDS home to be with their families. ... Tickets for New Year's Eve at The Brick are available on their website. ... Merry Christmas. ■

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



Adam, Steven and Curtis at the Round-Up Saloon.



Friends at BJ's NXS.



Dakota at S4.



Robbie at TMC: The Mining Company.



Nancy, Vanessa and Daniela at Kaliente.



Ronni at the Round-Up Saloon.



Sassy O'Hara at S4.



Luis and Ben at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Steven at Zippers.



Jennifer, Kristin, Casey and Brittney at Sue Ellen's.



Typical Redskins fans at TMC: The Mining Company.



Friends' night out at Sue Ellen's.



Nick at TMC: The Mining Company.



A serenade at Kaliente.



Jenna Sky and Krystal Summers at S4.



Jay, Juan, Bo, Jeremy and Morris at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.



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