

The Lady Bunny, out of her cage

Our dishy one-on-one interview with the drag diva
Wigstock founder prepares for her triumphant return to Dallas for Carnivale

■ COMEDY, Page 18



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LGBT community to Dallas City Council: Pass resolution this time

The Dallas City Council received an earful Wednesday morning from LGBT advocates who urged members to pass an equality resolution next week.

Dallas activist Omar Narvaez reflected on the failure of the marriage equality resolution last June.

"This resolution is not a binding resolution. It was written so we could do work as a city, together, openly, honestly," Narvaez said. "Back in June, this room was filled with red. And we were told you didn't do it the right way. You didn't come to us the right way. You have to go and do it a different way than all other communities."

The resolution is a comprehensive statement that directs city staff to fix inequities among city policies like pensions and health-care for the LGBT community. It was slated to go to a vote Wednesday but Mayor Mike Rawlings delayed the resolution, which was discussed in executive session Wednesday by the council before a vote March 5.

Nell Gaither, president of Trans Pride Initiative, recalled the history of when Rawlings' refused to sign the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry pledge two years ago. She said the discussion about the resolution in executive session was an effort to water down the measure.

"The purpose is clear to alter the meaning and substance of the resolution into something simplistic," Gaither said.

Cece Cox, CEO of Resource Center, recalled the history that the LGBT community had with the city of Dallas, dating back to the early 1990s when the police department debated hiring a lesbian officer to when the council voted to include sexual orientation in the city's nondiscrimination policy.

And while those battles were hard fought, Cox reminded the council that the city's leadership has stood with the LGBT community.

"This city has a history of standing up for equality, and that's where we are today," Cox said. "There's an opportunity to do the right thing in the resolution that is before you. It's a chance to stand up for equality."

"It's not law. You're not being asked to pass a law," Cox added about the resolution. "You are faced within our community to say that you stand for equality for the LGBT citizens that you represent and that live in the city and that work in this city and for the visitors that want to come here."

Steve Rudner, president of the Equality Texas Foundation, spoke about his children and his gay son, who wouldn't have the same benefits and rights if he chose to work for the city of Dallas.

"It's not possible for me to explain why the city of Dallas treats one of my children as a second-class citizen," he said. "I'm not looking for special rights for my children and for all of the citizens in this city. I'm looking for them all to be treated equally."

He urged the council to take the right action next Wednesday when the resolution goes to a vote or face the nation's scorn as Arizona is being scrutinized for its recent anti-gay efforts.

"Mr. Mayor and members of the council, the eyes of the world are upon you," Rudner said. "This is a historic moment. Will we be a community that fosters discrimination [and] be shunned by the whole world as you see happening in Arizona? Or will we be the city that is open, inclusive, tolerant, attractive to employers and academics?"

None of the councilmembers or the mayor commented on the speeches.

When the council later went into executive session, advocates gathered outside the council chambers, briefly encouraging those who showed up to call their councilmembers over the next week to ensure the resolution passes.

"When we stood up like this, that showed them that we mean business," Narvaez said about the unity in the LGBT community's attendance. "LGBT is everything. We are all one family."

Patti Fink, president of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said the community's presence made a difference since June, and the creation of the new resolution and the continued pressure on the council will make a difference as well.

"They saw us today," Fink said. "And they're going to vote with us."

— Anna Waugh

Carnivale Time *What a spectacle!*



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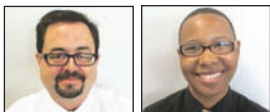
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Texas ban on same-sex marriage ruled unconstitutional



SUDDENLY LEGAL | At a rally following the ruling declaring the Texas marriage ban unconstitutional, Mark Jiminez and Beau Chandler, above, talked about their arrest after trying to get married in Dallas. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Even though the state is expected to appeal the decision, the ruling is a major victory for gay rights activists

STEVE RAMOS | Senior Editor
ramos@dallasvoice.com

A federal judge in San Antonio ruled Wednesday that Texas' ban on same-sex marriage violates the U.S. Constitution and demeans the dignity of gay couples "for no legitimate reason."

Judge Orlando Garcia then granted two plaintiff couples' request for an injunction barring the state from enforcing the ban. But, like federal district court judges in Virginia and Oklahoma, Garcia stayed his ruling pending appeal of the case to the federal appeals level.

"This injunction sends a powerful message that gay and lesbian Texans are being harmed every day by inequality, and that these plaintiff couples who we're proud to call members of the HRC family are very likely to succeed in striking down Texas' ban on marriage equality," Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said. "This is a

historic day in the heart of the South, and I can't stress enough how important it is to move quickly until loving couples in all 50 states feel the full reach of this victory for equality."

The two couples, Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes of Plano, and Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman of Austin, filed the unprecedented lawsuit, and it moved quickly through the courts. On Feb. 12, Garcia heard testimony, which included a comment from Mike Murphy, an assistant Texas solicitor general, who said the legalization of same-sex marriage is "a more recent innovation than Facebook."

After Wednesday's ruling, Resource Center CEO Cece Cox said the judge's ruling is "the first step toward dismantling the impediments blocking marriage equality in Texas," but the decision isn't the last word on the issue of marriage equality in Texas.

"Just like in Utah, Oklahoma and Virginia, a stay is in place so marriages will not begin immediately," Cox said. "Courageous LGBT families will continue to live in loving relationships, despite the fact that the laws of this state are clearly discriminatory. But the day is coming, sooner

rather than later, that the unjust laws will be permanently struck down."

Ken Upton, Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney, called Garcia's ruling a good opinion — analytical and detailed. Upton noted that he hasn't seen a difference between the decisions issued in more liberal circuits and those in the more conservative ones.

"The decisions haven't been tailored for the audiences," Upton said. "They keep coming up with the same results. Now we'll see what happens on the appellate level. The momentum and pressure is on the states who want to uphold these bans that are a blanket exclusion of a full class of people."

Last year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal government cannot refuse to recognize valid same-sex marriages in states where they are permitted.

Now, Garcia said in his ruling, lower courts must decide "whether a state can do what the federal government cannot — discriminate against same-sex couples."

"After careful consideration, and applying the law as it must, this court holds that Texas' prohibition on same-sex marriage conflicts with the United States Constitution's guarantees of equal protection and due process," Garcia wrote.

The state's laws, he added, deny same-sex couples the same rights to marriage enjoyed by other citizens simply because they wish to be married to someone of the same sex.

"Today's court decision is not made in defiance of the great people of Texas or the Texas Legislature," Garcia wrote, "but in compliance with the United States Constitution and Supreme Court precedent.

"Without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuge in our United States Constitution."

Pundits predict the state will likely try to get an expedited hearing in front of the appeals court at the next level, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, but Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Patti Fink is confident of a victory.

"When we show up in numbers, we're unstoppable," she told a crowd that had gathered at the

Legacy of Love monument Wednesday. "We are set on a course for full equality."

After Garcia's ruling, the LGBT community took to social media and to the streets to express their feelings. Read their stories below.

"By God, that's where we're going to get married"

Mark Phariss said he's not a person who cries, but when his attorney sent him a text message on Wednesday that said, "We won," he said he was in tears.

Phariss and his partner of 17 years, Vic Holmes, were in San Antonio when Judge Orlando Garcia's decision to strike down the Texas marriage ban was announced. They filed the lawsuit in October after applying for a marriage license in San Antonio that was denied them.

After an Austin couple who wanted their out-of-state marriage recognized in Texas joined the suit, the case progressed rapidly.

In December, Garcia set a Feb. 12 trial date. Two weeks after hearing testimony on that day, he issued his ruling.

"I'm stunned, pleased. The amount of emotion — it's beyond belief," Holmes said.

Phariss said he and Holmes talked about going to another state to get married but decided against it.

"Our belief is we're Texans," he said. "By God, that's where we're going to get married."

They weren't particularly judge-shopping when they filed their suit in San Antonio, Phariss said. They met in San Antonio and decided that's where they wanted to get married.

He doesn't think the outcome would have been any different had they filed their lawsuit anywhere else. Since the Windsor decision last June declaring the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, he said, "all federal judges have been in favor of equality. Whoever heard the case would have made the same conclusion."

Holmes said the lawsuit was important because of all "the little things that make you less than." He was referring to all the times he and Phariss have been reminded their relationship isn't recognized.

He said the case was heard and the decision announced, "surprisingly quick," but that the judge had latitude in scheduling.

"He thought it needed to be heard rapidly," Holmes said.

In comparison, the Oklahoma decision declaring that state's marriage ban unconstitutional had been languishing in the courts for more than 10 years.

The couple was flying back to Dallas on Wednesday night. They're expecting Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott to file an appeal, but Phariss said he's optimistic about the outcome in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. If that court doesn't find in their favor, however, he expects the U.S.

Supreme Court to agree with Garcia's decision. So what's next for the couple after the landmark decision?

"Back to work," Holmes said.

— David Taffet

'That was the day I withdrew'

With the federal judge striking down the Texas Constitutional Amendment prohibiting gay marriage and civil unions, hopefully this is the beginning of the end of a sorry, hateful chapter in Texas history.

Who did this amendment help? You? Please tell me how. Didn't your life continue as always? OK, so it helped politicians get money and votes, which was really the purpose of it and which adds to the sleaziness of it. They played the people of Texas like a violin and got more power as a result.

Who did this amendment hurt? Well, ME, for starters, and the hurt went way beyond the rights and protections denied to Bill and me. The day I went to vote against this amendment, my life changed profoundly.

I went to vote early, as I usually do. Normally, for a vote on constitution propositions, I am one of maybe five or 10 people to vote on that particular day. Not this day. People were lined up out the door and around the corner — to vote against me. To make sure that I could not even have a civil union.

Please try to imagine the feeling, seeing such a line to vote against you, and knowing that many of your "friends" are in that line, people who trust you to teach their children are, nevertheless, in that line to make sure that you cannot have what they take for granted.

Worse yet — the many friends who were silent. I don't know how they voted, and therefore, I didn't know who my friends were.

That was the day I withdrew. I started eating lunch alone. I didn't stay around and chat after meetings. Conversations became superficial. Fortunately, I had the support at home from a loving life partner, and I had an abundance of love and support from the amazing people of my church, Northaven United Methodist in Dallas. They helped me to learn to forgive, to see the people in that line as victims manipulated by greedy power seekers, manipulating them by stirring up fear. But it has been a years-long, unfinished process.

I am doing fine, but I wonder about those who did not have the support I had, especially the young ones. How many of them decided to just end it all? If they were in the same dark place as me, undoubtedly it happened. And listening to the debate still going on, I'm sure it is still happening.

So, I celebrate this judge's decision. I hope it speeds the day when we can throw this hateful amendment in the trash heap of history, right along with Jim Crow, and the Salem witch hunts, etc. etc. etc. (That heap is pretty big, isn't it?) I hope it speeds the day when we become a society who cares for and values one another rather than beat

■ MARRIAGE Page 12

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GIVERS



From left, Jared Wilson, Mark Trimble, Ami Sadeh, Paul Crisantes, RC representative Joshua Allan, Mike Goldberg-Periman, Joey Cavanaugh and Howie Goldberg-Periman.

BearDance makes donation

Members of the BearDance team met recently to present a check to Resource Center. Proceeds from the BearDance's New Year's Eve party at the Hard Rock Café contributed to the \$1,075 donation. Joshua Allen, an RC representative accepted the check.

BearDance's next event is scheduled for March 14 at S4. It will be held from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. and is their annual party that's held in conjunction with the Dallas Bears' Texas Bear Round Up weekend. The theme is Space Cowboy and Planet of the Bears. Doug Jackson, Jesse Mercado, Roke Cabrera and Romann T will be the DJs

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Arizona governor vetoes anti-gay bill

The state's business community, along with GOP leaders, told Gov. Jan Brewer the legislation would usher in an economic disaster

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

PHOENIX —Republican Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed the religious-bias bill Wednesday, after nearly all political pundits predicted she would. The bill would have allowed people to discriminate based on self-claimed religious beliefs, and even former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney joined the chorus of prominent Republicans who said she should.

Brewer vetoed a similar bill last year, but that was part of an overall threat to veto every bill until the Legislature passed a budget.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said Brewer's veto "spared her state from institutional discrimination and economic catastrophe."

The state is already paying a price for its Legislature's willingness to back the religious-bias bill. The Hispanic National Bar Association's board voted unanimously Wednesday to pull its 2015 convention from the state — a conference of more

The National Football League had warned it might pull the 2015 Superbowl, scheduled to be played in Arizona.

At a press conference late Wednesday, Brewer said she spoke with lawmakers and citizens on both sides of the issue, but she said little to suggest she disagreed with the legislation — only that the issue had not been a priority for her.

"When I addressed the Legislature earlier this year, I made my priorities for this session abundantly clear ... among them are passing a responsible budget that continues Arizona's economic comeback." She said she also wanted legislation to fix Arizona's "broken child protection system."

"Instead, this is the first policy bill to cross my desk," Brewer said. "Senate Bill 1062 does not address a specific and present concern related to religious liberty in Arizona. I have not heard of one example in Arizona where a business owner's religious liberty has been violated. The bill is broadly worded and could result in unintended and negative consequences."



PRESSURED | Gov. Jan Brewer said the law was unnecessary because there were no cases of religious discrimination in Arizona.

She reassured supporters of the bill that she understands that "long-held norms about marriage and family are being challenged as never before."

"Our society is undergoing many dramatic changes," Brewer said. "However, I sincerely believe that Senate Bill 1062 has the potential to create more problems than it purports to solve. It could divide Arizona in ways we cannot even imagine and no one would ever want. Religious liberty is a core American and Arizona value, and so is nondiscrimination."

"Going forward, let's turn the ugliness of the debate over Senate Bill 1062 into a renewed search for greater respect and understanding among all Arizonans and Americans."

In a letter to the president of the Arizona Senate, Brewer said the concerns that motivated the sponsors of the religious bias bill were "not unfounded." Without explaining, she cited "actions taken by the Obama Administration" and "some federal and out-of-state courts" for making her "increasingly concerned about government's encroachment upon religious freedoms."

She also noted that some legislators who supported the bill's passage "now do not want this legislation to become law."



Peter A. Schulte
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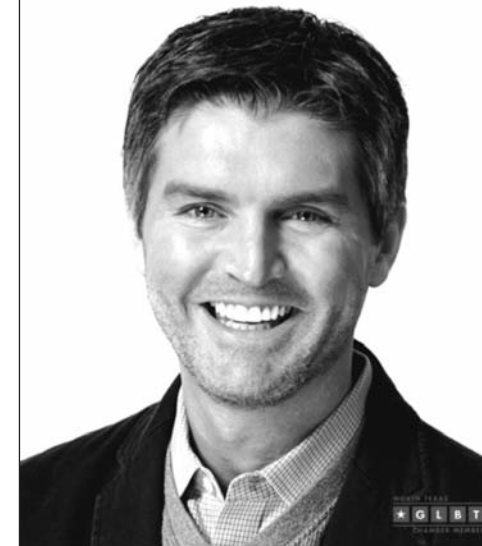
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Healthcare law benefits LGBT community

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DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

David Richardson remembers a time when Oak Lawn's 75219 zip code was redlined for insurance coverage. The AIDS crisis was in full swing, and although neither he nor any of his Cedar Springs Road stores' office or retail staff had pre-existing conditions at the time, their insurance rates suddenly skyrocketed.

To get around the problem, Richardson asked for new bids, but he used the address for a warehouse he had on Manufacturing Street behind the Anatole Hotel. Its zip code was different than the Oak Lawn one. It made a difference.

"The rates went down by at least half," Richardson said. "That's because we were no longer in the gay area."

The Affordable Care Act, commonly called ObamaCare, which went into effect in January prevents that sort of discrimination by insurance companies. Pre-existing conditions can no longer be used to hike up rates and neighborhoods can't be redlined.

The new healthcare law makes policies affordable to more people by subsidizing insurance for some and expanding Medicaid coverage in states that agreed to that expansion.

However, in Texas, the state with the most uninsured people, Gov. Rick Perry did not expand Medicare coverage.

According to a new report released by the U.S. Census Bureau, out of the 435 U.S. congressional districts, Rep. Marc Veasey's district ranks on top as the one with the most uninsured people. His District 33 had 271,443 uninsured residents. That's 38.4 percent of his constituents in a district that runs from North Oak Cliff to Southeast Fort Worth.

Compare that to Rep. Joseph Kennedy's Massachusetts district that ranks on the other extreme with only 2.8 percent of his constituents uninsured.

While Veasey's district ranked highest on the nation's uninsured list, the rest of the Metroplex did, too.

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson's Dallas district ranked 14th nationally with 203,558 people or

29.8 percent of her district without health insurance. Four other Texas congressional districts rank between Johnson's and Veasey's in number of uninsured.

Even Rep. Pete Sessions' wealthier North Dallas district that includes Highland Park had 151,788 uninsured residents, or 21.4 percent of his district, and 14 percent of Rep. Sam Johnson's Plano district reported they were uninsured.

As bad as the health coverage rate is in Texas, it gets worse. According to a study by the Depart-

of it.

When purchasing insurance through the Marketplace, all legally married couples are treated the same for financial assistance, whether or not they live in a marriage equality state.

Being transgender may no longer be considered a pre-existing condition, either.

"I was one of the ones who applied for individual coverage and was told I was not qualified," trans activist Nell Gaither said.

Instead, when she left her job, she had to take

regional Director Bret Camp said, "People with HIV will live longer, so many more would have reached the cap."

A number of new policies set by executive order or made by HHS benefit the LGBT community.

As the Healthcare.gov website is upgraded, an online tool will be added to identify policies that cover domestic partners.

One of the most far-reaching is the Presidential Memorandum on Hospital Visitation. That order ensured that hospitals receiving Medicare or Medicaid funding would respect the rights of patients to designate visitors, regardless of sexual orientation.

So far, the effects of the ACA on the LGBT community are difficult to measure, officials say.

John Carlo, executive director of AIDS Arms, said just a couple of his agency's patients have gained coverage.

"More people are coming into care, so ultimately this is a good thing," Carlo said.

Many of AIDS Arms' patients could gain coverage through Medicaid expansion, but Texas isn't participating in that program. Even if Texas did expand Medicaid coverage, it would have limited effect in getting people into care since so many doctors refuse to accept Medicaid, Carlo pointed out.

In Dallas, some people with HIV have maintained insurance through a program run by Resource Center and funded with Ryan White money.

In Louisiana, Blue Cross decided it would not accept Ryan White money as payment for its policies.

"They don't want people with HIV on their plans," Carlo said.

Carlo also is concerned that mindset will spread to Texas, and some people with HIV would lose their coverage.

When Sebelius was in Dallas in January to discuss the rollout of the ACA, she said as coverage kicks in and more and more people have basic medical care covered, programs like Ryan White may be affected.

"It's a discussion Congress will have," she said. "In Massachusetts, their Ryan White money is used for housing and drug support."

There was a reduction in the amount spent on general health care, she said.

"We'll get to a day when the money spent will go to research," she said.

As the ACA is implemented, Sebelius says the HHS plans to pay close attention to the health needs of the LGBT community and include LGBT health experts on a variety of advisory boards. ■



I DO NOT LIKE HEALTHCARE | Sen. Ted Cruz has led the GOP in attacking the Affordable Care Act. In 2013, he railed for 21 hours on the Senate floor against the ACT, including references to Dr. Seuss and Star Wars. (Illustration by Kevin Thomas)

ment of Health and Human Services, the LGBT community tends to be covered at an even lower rate. Because of that, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the Obama administration targeted states such as Texas to get people signed up for insurance under the healthcare marketplace. A breakdown of how many newly insured people by district is not available yet.

On a recent visit to Dallas, Sebelius said five million people remain uninsured in Texas who would have been eligible for coverage had Texas expanded Medicaid.

"That's an \$18 million per day loss in Texas," Sebelius said.

In addition to covering more people, the ACA benefits the LGBT community specifically in a number of ways, according to the HHS.

No one can be denied coverage because of his or her sexual orientation or gender identity, and no one can be charged higher premiums because

the more expensive COBRA policy offered. She gave several examples of how trans people were denied coverage in the past.

If a transman had top surgery, some breast tissue would be left. If he developed breast cancer, coverage would have been denied. Had internal organs not been removed, a transman might develop ovarian cancer that was denied for a policy covering a man. A trans woman who developed prostate cancer also was denied coverage.

Gaither said she's heard that loopholes remain, but the law requires full coverage for everyone. She's hopeful any remaining problems with coverage will be resolved.

Insurance policies may no longer have lifetime limits, which benefits some people with HIV, especially those who have had cancer or other opportunistic infections that required expensive treatment and care.

American Healthcare Foundation Texas Re-

HIV positive and still not that into you

Confidence is knowing that the goods you're selling are worth their sticker price, and you don't need to discount them for anyone

TYLER CURRY | Contributing Writer

As someone who is openly HIV-positive, I often get the privilege of hearing from other newly diagnosed gay men from across the country. As anyone can imagine, learning you are positive can feel like taking a cannonball to the chest. So, sometimes you need to talk to a stranger before you can catch your breath and find the words for your family and friends.

Although I'm no psychotherapist, I can definitely relate and speak to the myriad of fears that flood your headspace while sitting in the clinic and receiving the news. In almost every instance, the most pressing concern in the emails, texts and phone calls I receive is about how HIV will affect a person's dating life.

I remember it all too well. When I first found out about my status, all of my romantic dreams

instantly felt like dead ones. Who would love me now? Can I ever enjoy sex again? Will I ever get married? And I went wah, wah, wah into my wine glass all through the night.

Truth is, once I picked myself out of the puddle of tears, I was relatively unaltered. Besides a recurring doctor's appointment every four months and a new pill to add to my pill box, my worth on the dating market remained the same. Of course, the first couple months were pretty shaky. Learning how to disclose your status isn't something most gay men discuss over cocktails on a Saturday night — although it should be.

I had to answer the question I'm asked over and over again. When is the right time to disclose? Many of my friends think you should let the person get to know you first before launching into your medical history. After all, you don't disclose all of the dirty details of your life on a first date, so what makes your status any different? Right?

Wrong. Being HIV positive isn't the same as having a beast of a mother or being a Log Cabin Republican. Those dirty details are the layers of who you are as a person, and they're revealed as



Tyler Curry

■ TYLER Next Page

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■ TYLER From Previous Page

a relationship develops. Your status isn't a part of your character; it's a matter of logistics. Either your Friday night date is someone who understands the logistics of dating someone positive, or he doesn't.

If a potential match is afraid of dating someone who is positive, your personality and charm will not remedy his fear. Your status isn't a deep dark secret or something to hide. But acting as if it is will most assuredly scare away anyone who is unsure about dating you.

Just as in any dating environment, confidence goes further than any amount of money, expensive suit or HIV-negative status. If you treat your status as some cloaked secret that you're asking him to overlook because everything else is great, he'll respond accordingly. But if you tell him before the first drink is served and approach it as if it's something you need to clear up for the benefit of both of you, your honesty will be appreciated and will most likely be a turn on.

You know what confidence is? It's knowing that the goods you're selling are worth their sticker price, and you don't need to discount them for anyone. It doesn't matter if you're positive, negative, too short, too tall, balding or bushy browed, you should be worried about who is right for you and forget about trying to be the right person for anyone else. It may never move past the first date regardless of your status, so don't act like you're desperate for your potential match to love you until you know you love him back.

Unfortunately, some people would like to see you stay in a state of despair rather than have you realize you're the same good catch you've always been. It's human nature to want to feel superior, and people will use any excuse to justify their feelings. You may even have men lash out at you for not being a sad sap and giving them the attention they think they deserve. It's as if, because you are now positive, you should be grateful for their interest. Conversely, your disinterest in them is a disruption of the natural hierarchy they've subscribed to.

To these types of men, you just smile more, because there's nothing more gratifying than getting under the skin of a person who wants to feel better than you, but can't. Yes, people will try to put you down. Everybody loves a sob story, and everybody loves to hate a success. But regardless of your status, you'll always deal with people who want to see you struggle.

People like their boxes. If you're positive, many will want you to stay in yours. I've been told that I have no idea what I am talking about, and I'm not realistic about how hard living with HIV really is. True, living with HIV can be difficult, but only if you listen to other people's opinions and beliefs of what it's supposed to be like. If you don't, you're free to define how your life is viewed for yourself.

It's your choice to live your life as a tragedy, a drama or a romantic comedy. Just remember, you're in charge of casting your leading man. If he isn't smart enough to understand your script, then he doesn't get the part. ■

■ MARRIAGE Page 7

ing down and stigmatizing one another.

— Jim Lovell on Facebook

Jim Lovell retired from the Plano ISD, and lives in France with his husband, Bill Stoner. They will be in Dallas this weekend to attend the marriage ceremony of Jack Evans and George Harris.

'Marriage equality is fixin' to come to Texas'

How does it feel to be part of history?

We talk often about the long moral arc of history bending towards justice, to paraphrase Dr. King, but today we saw that happens right in our own backyards. And mark my words—every one of us here, and scores of people who came before us helped to make today happen.

One of this nation's founding fathers, Samuel Adams, wrote, "It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."

It just happens to be brush fire season in Texas, and LGBT rights, including but not limited to marriage equality and employment nondiscrimination, have been picking up momentum. And why? Not only because it is right and just, but because we as a people are courageous to live openly, sharing our authentic selves with the world and demonstrating for all to witness that

love is love.

The decision by Judge Garcia confirms what we in the LGBT community have known for nearly a decade: The additions to the Texas Constitution and the Texas Family Code, which many fair-minded Texans fought against when it was put to the state's voters as Amendment 2 in 2005, are discriminatory and violate the United States Constitution.

We still have our work cut out for us. None of us can predict how long this appeal will take. I can't go down to the courthouse right now and get a marriage license, even if I were of a mind to do so (I'm single). We can still be fired from our jobs because of who we are and whom we love. Our transgender sisters and brothers, and our immigrant sisters and brothers, face extreme discrimination just for being. Our LGBTQ youth and seniors need additional services to make their lives easier.

But mark this down. Today, we saw the first effort to dismantle the barrier of marriage equality in Texas. This evening we celebrate a significant victory. Tomorrow, we get back to the work of asserting our equality. But we do so with an increased certainty in our hearts and our heads that marriage equality is fixin' to come to Texas. ■

— Rafael McDonnell

Rafael McDonnell is Resource Center Communications and Advocacy Manager and spoke at a rally at the Legacy of Love monument on Cedar Springs Road on Wednesday.

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viewpoints

States of hate

Doing the right thing is not the same as being on the right side of history

During the fourth season finale of *Downton Abbey*, Mrs. Levinson (Shirley MacLaine), the American mother of Lady Grantham, having endured the snipes of the Dowager Countess (Maggie Smith) for days, finally snaps. In a measured voice, Mrs. Levinson turns to the countess in a hallway and explains how she has no desire to become a British aristocrat.

"My world is coming nearer, and your world is slipping further and further away," she says plainly, as the countess stands gobsmacked, her face pale and stunted. There's nothing worse than being told you're on the wrong side of history ... and knowing that it's true.

That must be what it's like to be a Republican nowadays.

Within 24 hours, both in Texas and Arizona, gay rights scored major victories, much to the disdain of the entrenched right wing, who must feel their way of life slipping through their fingers like sand.

They can see the writing on the wall — how can they not? For decades they've beaten the drum that gay marriage equals *The End Times*, that churches will be "forced" to marry same-sex couples and society will erode. But in Spain, a Catholic nation where gay marriage has been legal since 2005, heterosexuals live peacefully alongside their gay

counterparts with nary a shower of fire descending from the heavens. The scare tactics haven't worked, but the haters continue to be propelled by their bigotry and calculated divisiveness.

That's what spurred the Arizona Legislature to reactively pass its sweeping "religious right to institutionalize bigotry" law last week. But let's be clear about something: When Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed it Wednesday, she wasn't doing so for the right reason.



Arnold Wayne Jones
Lifestyle Editor

Brewer is a craven political hack whose career has been a circus of partisanship and cronyism. Her record has been a stark reminder of her disdain for human beings who are not already in her camp, whether Democrats (wag-

ging your finger at President Obama), illegal aliens (implementation of the "proof of citizenship" law) or now gays.

It was slightly horrific to see so many of my gay brethren on social media following the veto "praising" Brewer for "standing up against hatred" or "helping us in our battle for rights." Brewer did not become our ally just because she did the right thing; she does not warrant our sym-

pathy for any political price she pays. There's no doubt in my mind she was motivated purely by economic considerations and not based on any humanity or compassion she feels for gay people.

Arizona faced the loss of the Super Bowl, and of low-level employees being able to wreak havoc on huge companies with a vested interest in appeasing the gay community (hotels, airlines, all manner of service industry types) by exercising their own uninformed opinions contrary to corporate policy. Religious freedom is one thing; costing a company money (and state tax dollars) is quite another.

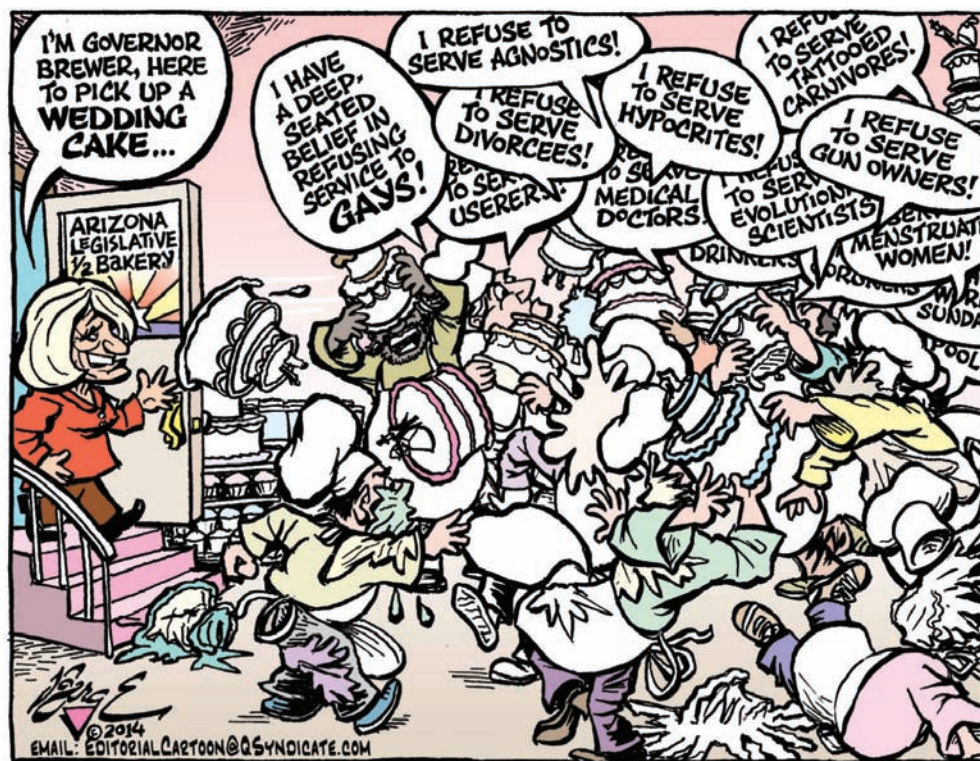
Republicans have long touted themselves as the party of laissez-faire, anti-Big Government policies, and it's been a lie most of the time. "Everyone should be allowed to choose his own doctor!" they shout, then whisper, "Unless it's at an abortion clinic, then no dice." "Let the states alone decide how they want to interpret marriage!" followed, after many states permitting same-sex weddings, with, "We need a constitutional amendment banning queers from marrying." Even they can see the inherent hypocrisy in what they're promoting. But they're frightened and weak, and they're bereft of ideas.

All such laws (including one just brought up for debate in Mississippi) are boondoggles, embarrassments to their states and their sponsors. They are reminiscent of Jim Crow and the Nuremberg race laws of 1930s Nazi Germany — hardly the company anyone should seek to be in.

We can expect more such laws (and oppositions to judicial rulings) to pop up as true marriage equality becomes more commonplace, as additional states and jurisdictions and countries make solemnized gay relationships seem normative. But do not mistake our victories for winning over the hearts and minds of our opponents. As the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. observed, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

We mustn't see every action that supports the cause of equality as a moral position, but often decisions of expediency. The true allies have been with us all along.

Arnold Wayne Jones is Life+Style Editor of Dallas Voice.



speaking out poll

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Will Mayor Mike Rawlings continue to obstruct the equality resolution?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

How current are you on LGBT political issues?

- Very: 69 percent
 - Somewhat: 25 percent
 - Not at all: 6 percent
- 77 votes cast



RAIDERS OF THE SAUCED ARK

Tips and tricks for navigating the frothy waters of a gay cruise

STEVEN LINDSEY & JEF TINGLEY

Contributing Writers
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

To very loosely paraphrase 1970s cameo-machine *The Love Boat*, gay cruising is indeed exciting and new, offering something for everyone who sets a course for adventure. And if your mind's on a new romance, that can be found there, too. Heck, even Charo's still a possibility.

While some companies block out a few dozen rooms on cruise lines with nongay itineraries, there are four well-known companies that charter entire ships. Olivia Travel provides cruise, resort, luxury and adventure vacations designed especially for lesbians and women (see sidebar, Page 15). R Family Vacations focuses primarily on LGBT parents and their kids. The passenger logs on RSVP Vacations are mixed, but still slant toward a higher number of men (about 90 percent). And Atlantis Events cruises, where we've had the majority of our gay charter experiences, clock in at about 95 percent guys. (See sidebar.)

Many people think that translates to ripped models, skimpy swimsuits, free-flowing booze and hedonism in excess. Which is all there if you want that. But it's also one of the most unassuming places we've found to make new friends of all ages, shapes, sizes and degrees of sass from

among thousands of passengers from all over the world, each with the common interest of having the time of their lives in an environment that celebrates their sexuality rather than marginalizes it. Think of it as a really big gay bar where everyone knows your name, and no one gives you that *Mean Girls* glare.

While we're not experts on cruising (of any variety), between us we have a decent amount of experience thanks to a total of 10 full-ship gay charters and three hetero-centric voyages where we learned why gay cruises are just so much more fun. So whether you're embarking on your first gay cruise or planning your 99th, we present 10 easy ways to make it epic.

1. Judge a cabin by its cover: The importance of door décor. One thing that makes gay cruising much more akin to sleep-away camp is the tradition of festooning your cabin door with faboo decorations. Staples include everything from a dry erase board (for messages from cute boys) to visual tributes to the country/state you call home to photos of the room's occupants. To really stand out, opt for vinyl clings, battery-operated lights or a full-size cardboard cutout of Jessica Lange in witch garb, her eye situated perfectly over the peephole. Just remember to pack it all in your carry-on bag so you can deck the halls while you wait for your luggage to arrive.

2. Junk in the trunks: Pack plenty of swimwear. From lounging poolside to dancing

MAKE A SPLASH | Pack plenty of swimwear on your gay cruise — you'll spend a lot of time wearing one and won't want to wait for one Speedo to dry before heading out again. (Photos courtesy Atlantis Events)

the night away, swimwear is the must-have cruise fashion. For a seven-day cruise, pack an equivalent number of square-cuts, Speedos and surf shorts, or 14 if you really hope to impress those who might be keeping tabs. Shop online in advance or out of season to scoop up the best deals. Typically smaller sizes are better, but wear what makes you comfortable, and you'll avoid the nightmare that is having to re-wear a soggy suit. Blech.

3. Goodbi iPhone: Keep incommunicado at sea. Social media and texting addicts may face withdrawals within the first 24 hours as the open ocean and cheap data plans don't mix. Instead, embrace this time to unplug, but keep in touch with new friends both on the ship and beyond with printed business cards including your room number (for leaving voicemails or whiteboard messages) and your contact info back on dry land. Make sure to include a photo, and your inbox will be filled with winky emoticons by the next port and three-bar status.

4. Dress for success: Costumes are (not really) optional. A cruise itinerary with five or more costume parties can make even a seasoned pro want to throw in the towel. Don't! Instead, fill an extra suitcase with everything you'll need to be the beau of the ball. Some of the usual themes are military, disco and white party. Start there and let your imagination go wild. Remember, there's no costume that's too much (or too little) as far as Maritime Law is considered. There's also typically an unannounced underwear party the first night, so pack your best skivvies. Don't forget the "costume emergency kit," which includes sewing supplies, tape, scissors, face/body paint and, of course, glitter.

5. Hay is for horses. "HEEEY!" is for homos. Stepping onboard a floating city that's packed port to stern with dudes can be, admittedly, overwhelming. Instead of retreating into your

Upcoming all-LGBT cruise charters

Ahoi, there! One great thing about LGBT cruises is the vast selection. Available year-round and to a variety of top destinations on the best ships in the industry, there truly is something for every person and every budget. Contact a local travel agent who specializes in LGBT travel for best service and insider tips.

Atlantis Events (AtlantisEvents.com)

Bali to Singapore, March 15–25, aboard the Seabourn Odyssey (From \$3799).

Copenhagen to Stockholm, July 20–27, aboard the Holland America Eurodam (from \$999).

Barcelona, Italy and Ibiza, Aug. 2–12, aboard the Celebrity Equinox (from \$1799).

Olivia Lesbian Travel (Olivia.com)

Montreal to Boston, May 17–24, aboard the Holland America ms Maasdam (from \$2099).

Mayan Caribbean Culinary, Nov. 23–30, aboard the Holland America ms Ryndam (from \$1099).

Australia and New Zealand Odyssey, Feb. 13–25, 2015, aboard the Holland America ms Oosterdam (from \$1699).

Alaska Indie Passage & Glaciers, May 13–25, 2015, aboard the Holland America ms Volendam (from \$1099).

R Family Vacations (RfamilyVacations.com)

Anniversary Cruise, July 13–20, aboard the Royal Caribbean Allure of the Seas (from \$1309).

Enchanting Rhine River Cruise (adults only), Aug. 11–20, aboard the Amadeus Waterways' MS AmaCerto (from \$2899).

RSVP Vacations (RSVPVacations.com)

Pride River Cruise, July 23–Aug. 1, aboard the Avalon Affinity (from \$3399).



Dames at sea

Olivia, which caters to lesbians, is not the same as a gay cruise. Which is just how it should be

I've never been on a gay cruise, only a lesbian one, so I don't have first-hand experience with the famed debauchery of the former. I have heard stories of the "dick decks" and barely-there costumes, and a gay cruise is definitely on my to-do list (for the parties, not the dick deck — I swear).

Rumor has it girls are rare but welcome on a gay cruise, at least according to some new friends I made on the way from the Ft. Lauderdale airport to the Harbor Beach Marriott for my pre-cruise overnight stay a few weeks ago. (An overnight is a must, FYI, if you're traveling by plane to your cruise port — flight delays can torpedo a cruise). These folks were in town to embark on an RSVP Cruise, while I was about to hit the high seas on my third Olivia adventure.

On our van ride to our hotels, one of my new friends showed me snapshots of his outfits for the planned week of parties: A boa and briefs. Dilly boppers and briefs. A headband, an afro wig and briefs. Wings and briefs. A cape and briefs. My speculations seemed correct. Gay cruises are a big, naked dance party with glitter and strobe lights. And plenty of sex. And briefs.

Lesbians do it a little differently. Don't get me wrong — the dance floor is always full whether on-deck for a theme night, or in "Club O" (what they call the dance party each night in the ship's club The Crow's Nest). We have a few theme nights (White Party, Show Your Roots [as in your hometown], Shero [as in a female hero] and a formal). And I definitely have displayed my share of skin, as have some of the other girls. But that was the exception more than the rule. Personally, I like it that way. It's fun to be "that girl" for the week.

Some girls do literally party 'til dawn, night after night. And although I went out dancing nearly every night, I only managed to linger until 1 a.m. — 2 at the latest. The reason reflected perhaps the biggest difference between the gay cruises and their lesbian counterparts: The days are just as important, if not more important, than the nights.

That's especially true on the trips like my most recent, called the Leadership and Equality Cruise. It boasted speakers including Maya Angelou, Edie Windsor, Kate Kendall, Kris Perry, Sandy Stier, Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Elizabeth Birch.

Don't laugh. Truth is, the panels were too enticing to miss by staying out too late.

That wasn't the only thing I didn't want to pass me by. I also enjoy the connections you make; they are amazing. Despite the fact that the "Ladies of Olivia" (as founder Judy Dlugacz calls us) are incredibly diverse when it comes to age and race and backgrounds, we all get along shockingly well. OK, not all. It's not like we all became best friends. But when you go to the dining room and they ask you if you want to sit with other women and you say yes, you end up having a great time, even if at first it seems that you have nothing in common. Maybe you'll be seated with a gynecologist and a bookstore owner and a technical writer and a professor, then the next night an artist, two therapists and a managing editor, or a yoga teacher, a musician and two retired, vegetarian Unitarians. (True story.)

Women are funny like that. Or maybe lesbians are funny like that. Or maybe the Ladies of Olivia are funny like that. All I know is that every dinner that started with strangers quickly became one with friends. The "liking the people I meet" versus "people I want to kill" ratio was insanely high compared to life on land.

I wouldn't have it any other way. Olivia cruises are about being "beautiful together" and "feeling free" as the Olivia theme song lyric professes. They're about being who you really are and about connecting with other women. They're about living in a perfect world for a week, a world where you're not judged for loving another woman or dressing androgynously or being scantily clad or going topless or spending your day drinking by the pool or gambling in the casino or snorkeling in the sea or eating in the fancy restaurant or whatever else it is that you might want to do. It's the perfect combination.

Still, I look forward to my first gay cruise. I have my wings and my boa and my go-go boots and my cape all ready to go.

— Jenny Block

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L+S travel

TRAVEL From Page 14

shell like a coquettish hermit crab, use the opportunity to simply say hello and meet new people. Whether making small talk about the Madonna music in the elevator ride with a harness-wearing bear or remarking on the size of the twink's lobster tail in front of you at the buffet, conversation is key. Maybe it's the salty sea air or the intoxication of vacation, but a well-placed wink and smile could be all that separate you from your new cruise BFF.

6. Come for the parties, not the food. For decades, oceanliners have had the reputation of offering spectacular cuisine in abundance, but from our travels, it's mostly about quantity. To many, that may be enough. But we've actually lost weight after a week of vodka sodas, grilled chicken and salad without dressing. Oh, and a countless number of pizza slices from the 24-hour pizzeria, but at 3 a.m. it doesn't factor into our calorie equation — you can't put on weight after midnight; everyone knows that.

7. Sea men everywhere. While exotic (and often tropical) ports of call are an exciting part of your vacation, it's the days at sea where the true bonding among passengers takes place. Trapped on the ship with nowhere to go but the pools, outdoor bars, indoor bars, hot tubs, spa, skating rink, bingo hall, movie theater, rock climbing wall, miniature golf course, piano bar, restaurants, live theater or fitness center, embrace the chance to meet new people.

8. R-E-S-P-E-C-T. It ain't a bath house. Even though this is a safe environment to hold hands, kiss and cuddle with your significant other or newfound spooning buddy, there's a crew who has specifically chosen to work the gay cruise because we treat them like actual human beings (and tip really well, too). At many ports, gay sex

is illegal, so avoid the temptation to cross "beach sex in Barbados" off your to-do list. Same with the balcony where the passengers on the Disney ship docked next door can see. You don't have to keep it in your pants, just keep it in your room.

9. Dinner and a show. Or several. One of the best aspects of a gay cruise is the on-board entertainment, filling up the schedules throughout the day. From comedians and singers to lounge acts and drag performers, making time to attend several shows is part of the experience. Even if you've never heard of a performer, they've been booked for a very good reason: They're great at what they do. There's always a big-name secret guest, too. Past headliners have included Kathy Griffin, Margaret Cho, Roseanne Barr and Deborah Cox.

10. Thank you for being a friend: Travel in packs. If you've got a gaggle of gays, get them all together and convince them to join you on the cruise because if you travel solo and don't opt to be paired with a random (possibly psycho roommate), you're going to pay twice as much for your stateroom. Besides, traveling with friends equates to attention-grabbing group costumes at theme parties and tea dances, as well as an onboard support system in case that Australian with the six-pack-abs turns down your invitation to the midnight buffet.

Most of all, just have fun and let loose from the moment you board the ship to the minute you disembark. Because once the ship's docked and you're walking through customs toward baggage claim, attitudes can revert back to bitchiness, and all those friendly glances tend to disappear.

If you're lucky, however, you'll have more than just memories to last a lifetime, but also several new friends.



Good as old

FW show gives vintage tchotchkes their just desserts

Let's be honest: For many members of the LGBTQ community, a weekend spent sipping cocktails, listening to music and perusing antiques is as dreamy as a reunion of *The L Word* cast with special guest Cher. At Fort Worth's well-known weekend-long antiques affair — called, simply enough, The Fort Worth Show of Antiques & Art — antique experts and novices alike do just that.

Around since 1963 and held in the storied art deco halls of the Will Rogers Coliseum, The Fort Worth Show features a cash bar, a live jazz band, 100-plus vendors and, this year, a theme of "Mix It Up" — a nod to the current aesthetic of blending eras and genres — along with an easygoing, friendly attitude ... and, of course, just a smidge of queer. And no vendor embodies all of those things as much as Johnny Valdivia and David Medford, proprietors of the San Antonio antique store reVAMP.

Partners in both business and life, the pair will drive up from San Antonio for the second year in a row to exhibit their wares.

"I think Jan [Orr-Harter, the show's director] does such an amazing job at really curating the show and really mixing it up," says Medford during a recent telephone interview. "She finds vendors with unique things, be they traditional or modern. It's such a beautiful show — the variety is so great, but also the price points."

A show featuring a reasonably priced mix of modern and older pieces falls in line with the couple's approach. When Medford and Valdivia began dating 11 years ago, each had dealt primarily in estate sales. But about a year ago, they opened a brick-and-mortar shop with a simple driving philosophy: "Our rule with each other is we buy things that we love, we don't buy things that necessarily make us a million dollars," Med-



THE FORT WORTH SHOW

Will Rogers Memorial Center,
3400 Burnett-Tandy, Fort Worth.
March 7-8. FortWorthShow.com.

ford says. "When we go to Fort Worth and someone comes into our booth and sees something they're excited about it ... I love that feeling."

That year's worth of collection runs the gamut. Medford mentions the two favorite pieces in their store right now. One is a Huang Dynasty bronze mirror.

"Just to hold that thing in your hand, I always think, 'That mirror was around before Jesus,'" he says with awe.

The second signature piece is a 1970s Russell Woodard polished aluminum dining set, "which is just fantastic."

Those two pieces might be in a higher price range, but Medford notes that The Fort Worth Show caters to most budgets.

"There's a huge variety of people coming through," he says. "Obviously there are people with limitless amounts of money, and then there are newlywed couples on a budget, looking for something for their first house."

Danish modern and mid-century pieces are "obviously on the upswing," Medford says, but many people are combining styles. "It makes so much sense, and it's so beautiful, and it reflects people's style so much better. An 18th century French table and a really beautiful piece of modern glass on top of it — it's really personal."

And personality is what antiquing is about. ■
— Jonanna Widner

IN WITH THE OLD | Antiquing partners David Medford and Johnny Valdivia abide by one rule in their San Antonio shop: Acquire only items they love, like the Janet Waldrop necklace, top, or the classic parrot chair, left.



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Hair apparent



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

When you're a drag queen — especially one like Lady Bunny, a mega-bouffanted comedian closer to camp than to impersonation — you probably expect most people will treat you as entertaining more than intellectual. And that would be a mistake.

“It takes a lot of money to look this cheap,” Dolly Parton is fond of saying, and that could

apply to Bunny as well, with a revision: “It takes a lot of smarts to seem this silly.”

The drag goddess best known for her pioneering drag festival Wigstock and her appearances on *RuPaul's Drag Race* (and as “dean of drag” on the spinoff makeover show *Drag U*) also has a lot of opinions: About trans issues, politics and gay rights. You dismiss her at your

NO 'HOS BARRED | In a candid, politically charged interview, Lady Bunny unleashed on gay marriage opponents, Obama and Hillary and gays too disengaged to fight for their own civil rights.



Lady Bunny,
wiggling out before her
Dallas appearance

LIFE+STYLE

comedy

ing and what isn't good and how you can make it better."

That approach feeds Bunny's passions, and she's not afraid to let them come out. Consider these balls-to-the-walls positions she takes during our interview:

- "I get so frustrated with gays, because if they could apply half of the passion they have for a *Drag Race* challenge into [securing] their own civil rights, we'd have all of our rights and everyone else's too!"

- "I don't understand how we lost our fire. Whole generations of gays don't even know *how* to get involved. The hatred of gays isn't gone just because Ellen and RuPaul have shows on TV. Russia's anti-gay stance and the horrible things happening to gays over there [need to stop] as well as the 'kill-the-gays' legislation in Uganda and the anti-gay legislation in Nigeria."

- "I think the national gay movement is extremely conservative. Gay marriage is a conservative goal, except when it's about property transfer. And getting to serve in the military is a *very* conservative goal. If bullying is no good, let's not put on a uniform and go bully people in Iraq who had no interest in attacking us."

She even assails Obama as a poor leader: "I was gung-ho for Obama, [but his administration is proof] that good ol' boys come in all colors. It was a bitter pill to swallow. I don't think he's a leader, and that's what we need if we want to usher in a new civil rights era. And Hillary is worse!"

If these comments get you fired up ... well, *good*. That's basically her point. Not all Bunnies are soft and cuddly; some have fangs. (Even she, though, can find a funny way of making a point: "Opponents of gay marriage are like fans of The Beach Boys — they are literally dying out.")

If it sounds like Lady Bunny is all dour predictions and political fist-waving, you haven't seen her perform live, especially as a DJ, where her beats gets the twinks, the bears and the ladies up on their feet.

But hey, even if she is outspoken, you have to respect her for her hard-won right to have an opinion. Lady Bunny came of age in New York during the AIDS crisis, and was an active,

peril. Sure, her Bunny blog has humorous observations and viral videos, but look at it more closely: It's the HuffPo of the drag world.

"I try to trick people," Bunny admits from her home in New York. "I throw a lot of humorous stuff up so they will be drawn to the page, then I hit them with the one-two punch of serious stuff. I was not into politics when I was young — and I don't think it's normal to be — but when you get older and you find your place in the world, you find what isn't jib-

■ HAIR Next Page

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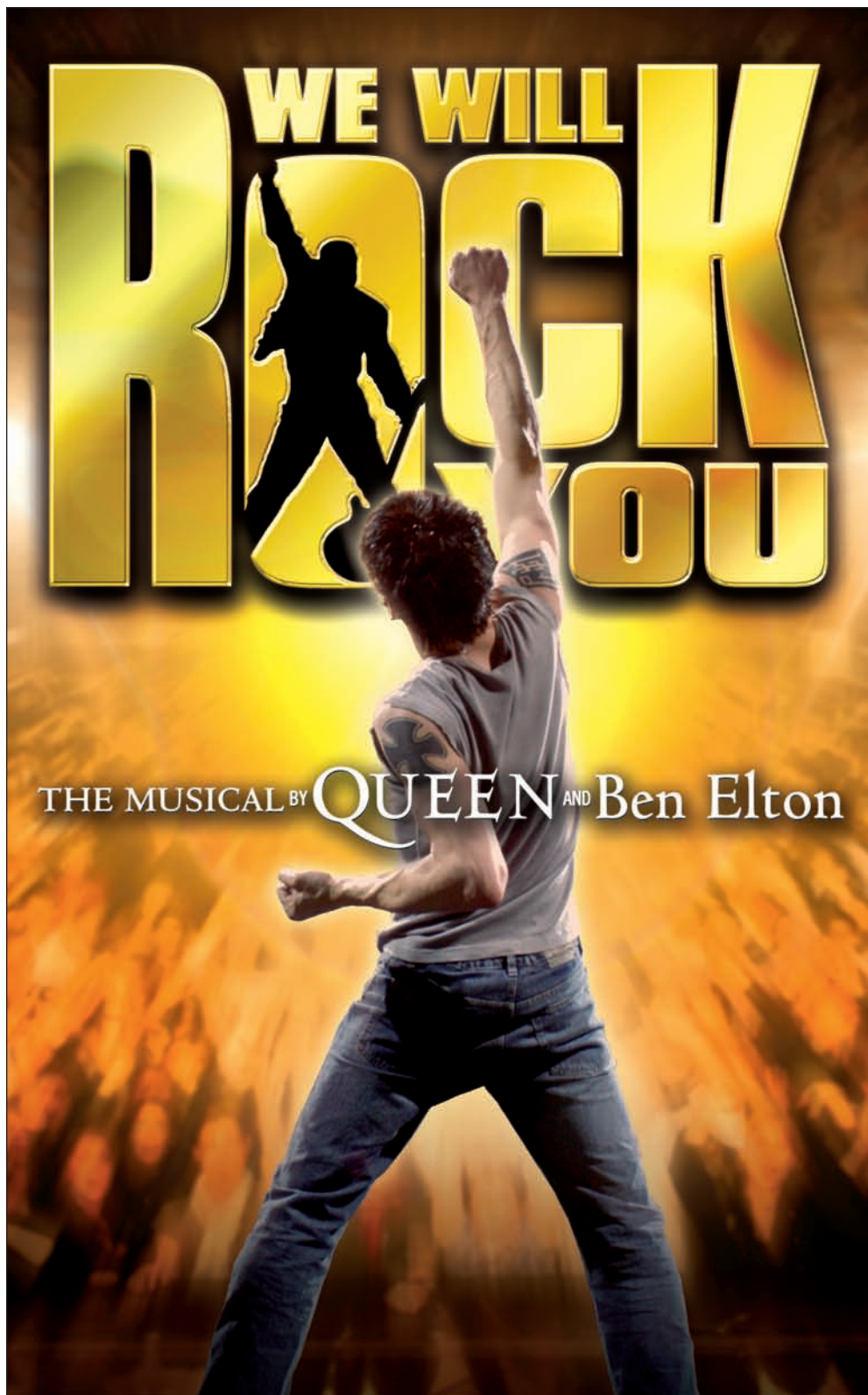
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■ **HAIR** From Previous Page

out person bringing alternative culture to the mainstream. What Wigstock did wasn't really new — it had been going on in the clubs for decades — she was just the one to move it from a 250-person venue in the East Village to the vast audiences of Union Square Park.

"My goal was to show this multifaceted side of drag," she says. "I got the permits, but everything you saw was already happening — just not in the daytime, and not outdoors ... unless we stayed up all night, which we did back then."

She'll be up late again this weekend, appearance along side *Glee* alums for Caven's Carnivale party at Station 4 on Saturday. It's something of a homecoming for her.

"I had a wonderful time at the Rose Room when I worked with the wonderful [late] Erica Andrews and Krystal Summers, who I'm still in touch with."

Bunny worked her way up to her star status starting in Atlanta (with best pal RuPaul), but her wide-ranging interest in all manner of performance whisked her to New York City, where she helped redefine what a drag queen is.

"I love Southern drag — it's always been the best drag — but it was lip-synching to Melissa Manchester ballads in sequined tops," she says. "I wanted to do standup comedy and have dance troupes — lip-synching, but like Lypsinka did, getting rave reviews from the New York Times."

That drive started Bunny on a career path that has included acting, hosting, organizing, standup, blogging, DJing and even singing. It's one of the reasons she stepped away from Wigstock.

"I wanted to do my own thing," she says. "Once you prove you can do something, you get it out of your system." Two years ago, her one-woman show, *That Ain't No Lady*, got great reviews and spurred her on to mount another one (it will start later this spring).

Calling it a "one-woman show" raises a



question: How does Lady Bunny identify herself in the LGBTQ community?

"Do you think I really go to the supermarket with this giant wedding cake wig like I stepped off the set of *Laugh-In*?" she asks.

"That's a credit to my illusion, I guess, but I don't live in drag ... though unlike Ru, who is

bald, I *do* have hair that is about shoulder length. And when I'm not in drag I'm not exactly the butchiest thing in life — and I don't want to be. Whether that's transgender or just swishy, I don't know. There are a lot of issues.

Everyone calls me Bunny. People usually call me ma'am at a check-in counter — it's not by accident that people see I'm kind of mixing the two genders. But I'm not on hormones, and I'm not getting surgery," then adds, "... though I wouldn't mind liposuction."

However she identifies, Bunny is destined to continually reinvent herself — and she's doing it in silk gloves, even if they cover iron fists. ■

GLEE CARNIVALE 10

Lady Bunny, with Alex Newell and Abraham Lin, **Station 4**, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Feb. 22 at 9 p.m. PartyAtTheBlock.com.



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Saturday 03.01

Kibbutz Contemporary Dance makes Dallas debut

Continuing its mission of specializing in bringing the best dance offerings to Dallas, TITAS presents a debut performance this weekend with the arrival of Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. The troupe, from Western Galilee in Northern Israel, will perform its energetic, physical style for two performances Saturday (matinee and evening) across the street from TITAS' usual venue: the City Performance Hall.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

Friday 02.28
Saturday 03.01

Get dysfunctional ... and save!

Steven Jay Crabtree is back with his whacked-out Dysfunctional Divas comedy show late-night at the Pocket Sandwich Theater this weekend, but it's not the same show — it's cheaper! Just tell them at the box office that you saw the listing in Dallas Voice and save \$5 off the price of admission. Grrl loves a bargain — leave more cash for martinis.

DEETS: Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. 11"15 p.m. \$12 (\$5 off for Voice readers) plus one food item.



Thursday 03.06

'Heather Has Two Mommies' author Leslea Newman visits Dallas for reading

Lesléa Newman is widely known — some may say notorious — as the children's author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*. But the talented woman is also a poet, which is what brings her to Dallas. She'll be reading from her book of poetry *October Mourning*, a collection that addresses the death of Matthew Shepard. Newman, who was in Laramie the week of Shepard's murder, took more than a decade to write it. The event is presented by Friends of the Dallas Public Library and Oak Lawn Library Friends.

DEETS: Dish Restaurant and Lounge, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Free but RSVP at 214-670-1458.



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ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. Christopher Durang won the Tony Award for best play for this saucy comedy. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

Disney's The Little Mermaid. The stage adaptation of the fairy tale comes to life from playwright and Dallas native Doug Wright. *Final weekend.* Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Godspell. Stephen Schwartz's hit. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

The Motherfucker with the Hat. Kitchen Dog Theater presents the regional premiere of this racy comedy. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through March 15. KitchenDogTheater.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. The romantic musical comedy. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Oedipus el Rey. Luis Alfaro's adaptation of Sophocles' classic *Oedipus Rex*, set in the barrios of contemporary Los Angeles. *Final weekend.* Wyly Theatre's Studio Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Venus in Fur. Regional premiere of the Tony Award-winning two-hander about a writer looking for the perfect actress to portray his heroine. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through March 8. \$10-\$35. CircleTheatre.com.

DANCE

Epic Masterpieces: Serenade, L and Gloria. Three ballets — including *L*, a tribute to Liza Minnelli choreographed for 11 men — are performed at Bass

Hall, with encores next month in Dallas. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Feb. 28–March 2. TexasBalletTheater.org.

COMEDY

Dysfunctional Divas. Steven Jay Crabtree performs his cross-dressing comedy for two late-night shows. And if you say "I saw it in Dallas Voice" at the door, you get \$5 off admission. Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Feb. 28 and March 1 at 11:15 p.m. \$12 (discount for Voice readers) and one food item.

FINE ART

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.

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.

FESTIVAL

Dallas Blooms. The 30th anniversary of the Dallas Arboretum's celebration of spring kicks off. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Through April 6.

FRIDAY 02.28

RODEO

31st Annual Texas Tradition Rodeo. The gay rodeo event returns to Fair Park for a weekend of events, from riding to roping and more. Presented by the Texas Gay Rodeo Association. Fair Park, Feb. 28–March 2.

Visit TGRA.org for a complete schedule.

SATURDAY 03.01

DANCE

Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. The modern Israeli troupe makes its Dallas debut with two performances on Saturday. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. March 1. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

COMMUNITY

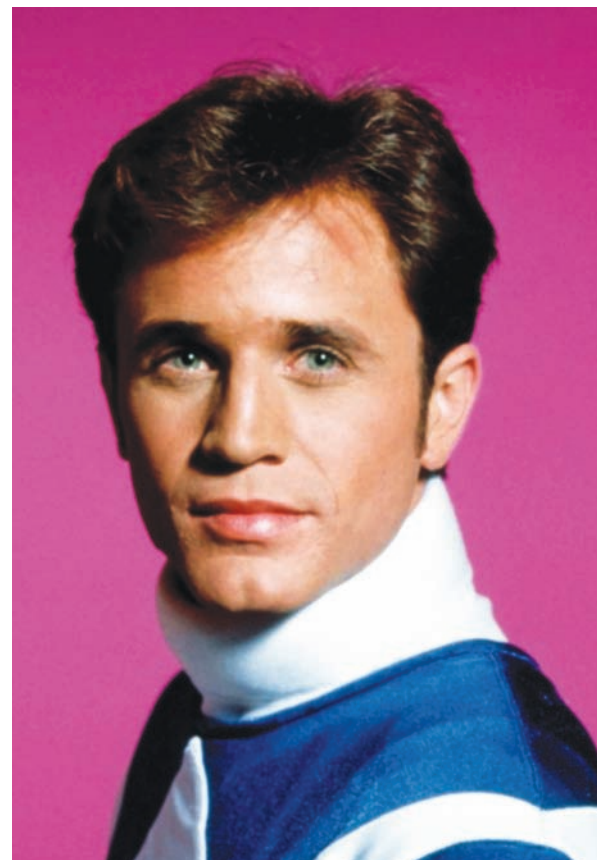
Hooch and Pooch. Kitchen Dog Theater's annual fundraiser and blowout party. Wear a hat. Green Zone, 161 Riveredge Drive. 8–11 p.m. KitchDogTheater.org.

COMIX

Dallas Comic and Pop Expo. The comic fair returns to North Texas, this time to the Richardson Civic Center. Among the guests will be David Yost, the openly gay actor who played one of the Power Rangers. Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Road. March 1 and 2. Doors at 10 a.m. DallasComicAndPopExpo.com.

COMEDY

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood. The comics best known for their work on the show *Who's Line Is It Anyway?* perform an evening of improv. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.



POWER RANGER | David Yost, the out actor who played the blue Power Ranger, will appear at Dallas Comic and Pop Expo in Richardson this weekend.

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SUNDAY 03.02

BROADCAST

The Academy Awards. Ellen DeGeneres hosts the 86th annual Academy Awards, where the gay-themed *Dallas Buyers Club*, about the early days of AIDS activism in the city, is hotly fancied in several categories. Ch. 8 at 6 p.m.

TUESDAY 03.04

THEATER

We Will Rock You. The London hit jukebox musical, set to the music of Queen. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. March 4–16. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

WEDNESDAY 03.05

THEATER

Finishing School. Elaine Liner wrote this four-character comedy-drama about life in a retirement home. Presented by One-Thirty Productions, all performances are matinees. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. March 5–22 at 1:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 03.06

THEATER

Less Than Kind. A rediscovered play by gay author Terrence Rattigan gets its premiere. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. March 6–30. Thatre3Dallas.com.

Out of the Loop Fringe Festival. WaterTower Theatre presents this 10-day festival featuring drama, comedy, music, dance and more. It kicks off with the mainstage production of *Honky*. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. March 6–16. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

this week's solution



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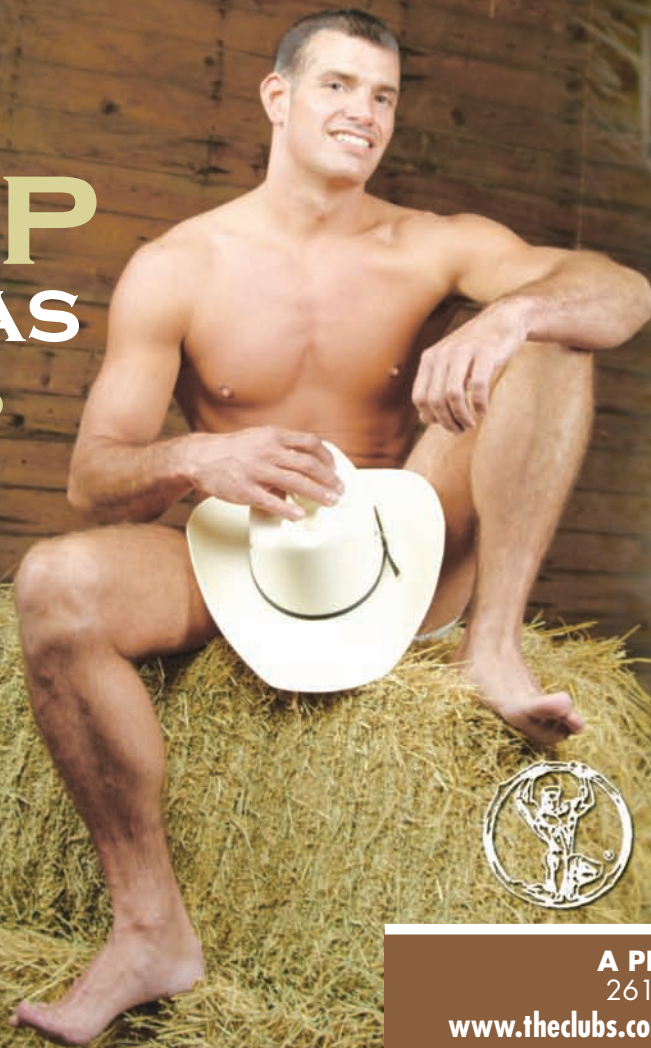
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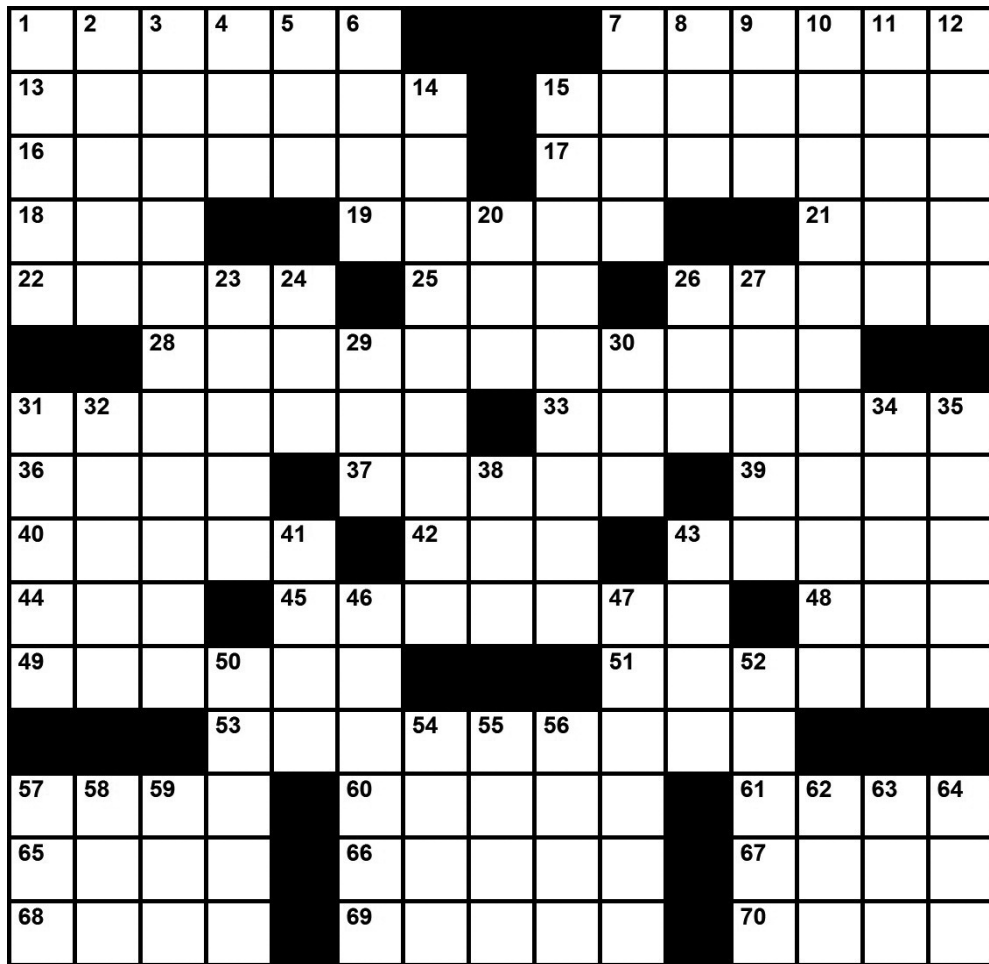
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Putin Hugs a Gay Skater

Solution on page 23

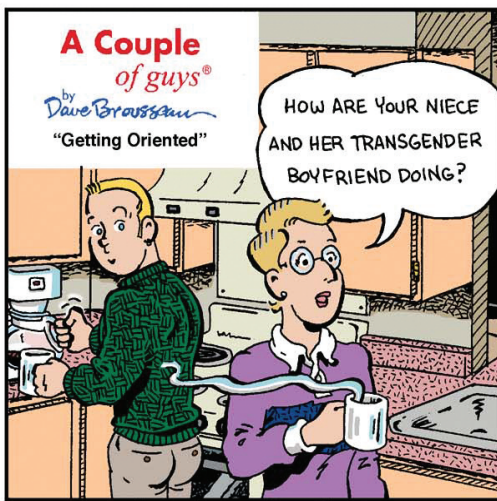
Across

- 1 Lincoln's head covering
- 7 Condition after getting cold-cocked
- 13 Shirley's *Terms of Endearment* role, and others
- 15 Limerick's river
- 16 Jon of *The Daily Show*
- 17 Start of Jon's comment on Putin hugging skater Ireen Wust
- 18 Dan Savage memoir, with *The*
- 19 Big bang cause, briefly
- 21 One of Sappho's pair
- 22 River of Gay Paree
- 25 "Love Story" composer
- 26 Says a "Hail Mary," e.g.
- 28 More of the comment
- 31 Gutsy Greek
- 33 Prayer of Harvey Fierstein's faith
- 36 Also alternative
- 37 More of the comment
- 39 Sondheim's ___ *the Woods*
- 40 Press the flesh with
- 42 Frat letter, briefly
- 43 It can cut leaves of grass
- 44 Barnyard layer
- 45 Journalist Tim
- 48 ___ Miz
- 49 Attacks

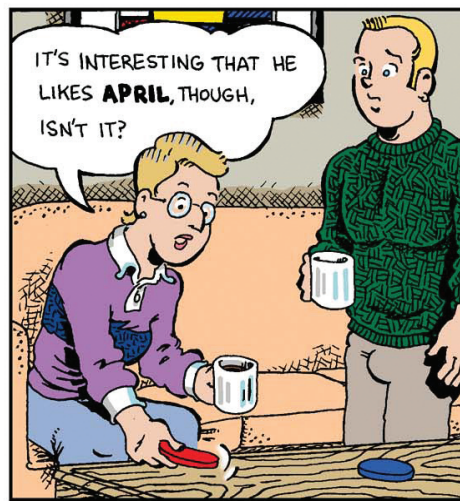
- 51 What King Edward II used to sock it to Piers Gaveston?
- 53 End of the comment
- 57 Ill will
- 60 Dorian Gray creator Wilde
- 61 Roddy McDowall's *Planet of the ___*
- 65 Bard's river
- 66 Andean pack animal
- 67 Tide type
- 68 Put out
- 69 Tether
- 70 Reid of *Josie and the Pussycats*

Down

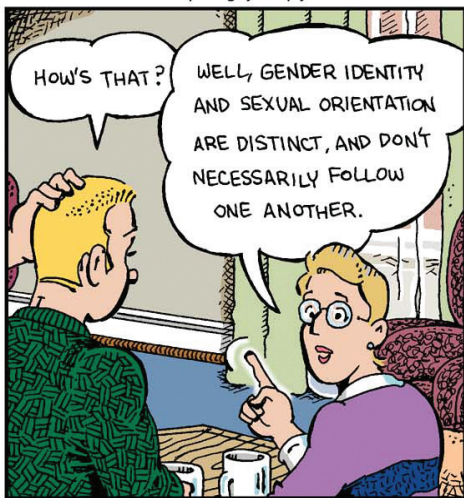
- 1 Blow job and and other jobs
- 2 Mauve hanky delight
- 3 Fix
- 4 "In what way?"
- 5 Constellation over Sydney or Rio
- 6 Mountain pool
- 7 Logical start for Rev. Jane Spahr?
- 8 Like hard-core porn
- 9 Latina writer Castillo
- 10 Without mercy
- 11 Bacon said it's "a good servant and a bad master"
- 12 Starts the pot
- 14 Calm
- 15 Winter problem for guys
- 20 Figure skater Babilonia
- 23 Tend with tenderness
- 24 Summer D.C. setting
- 26 Third degree, often
- 27 Took advantage of a decorator?
- 29 Morse's long one
- 30 Fluid acquired by pumping
- 31 Love-making sounds
- 32 1929 Cole Porter tune
- 34 ___ *Magnolias*
- 35 Mount
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e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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LIFE+STYLE

scene



Shane, Mara, Matt and Caleb at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Cody and Jeremiah on The Strip.

Making the SCENE the week of Feb. 28–March 6:

Alexandre's: Carlos Saenz on Friday. Andrea Dawson on Saturday. Denise Lee on Wednesday.

BJ's NXSI: Third annual Fat Tuesday party. The trashiest Tuesday of the year.

Dallas Eagle: Fill the Stage, a food drive for Youth First hosted by Mr. Dallas Eagle Kody Nance. Saturday 5 p.m.–midnight. Leather Knights and Dallas Bears club night on Saturday. Girls of Leather meeting. Sunday at 5 p.m.

Eden Lounge: Karaoke night with Sets in the City. Friday 8 p.m.–2 a.m.

Randy's Club Cherries: Anything Goes talent night hosted by Kiana Lee. Wednesday at 11 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: The Hottest Karaoke Contest Around, a six-week karaoke contest with a \$500 grand prize, continues. Sunday 9 p.m.–2 a.m.

Sue Ellen's: Bad Habits on Friday. Carnival 10 on Saturday.

The Rose Room: Asia, Cassie, Jenna, Krystal, Layla, Valerie and Alyssa Edwards on Friday. Asia, Cassie, Kelexis, Krystal, Valerie and Candis Cayne on Saturday. Rising Star hosted by Layla and Jenna on Thursday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: BearDance Showtunes on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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



Roxy at TMC: The Mining Company.

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scene



"Cyndi," Mike and "Prince" at Toast to Life gala at F.I.G.



Cece and Barbara at Toast to Life gala at F.I.G.



Chase, Ven, Steven and Kyle at Toast to Life gala at F.I.G.



Daniel, Chris, Dempsey and Jody at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Linda at Sue Ellen's.



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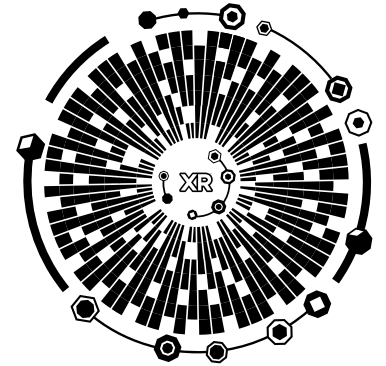
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