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Three city council members celebrated with the community after passing the equality resolution
Cover story by Anna Waugh

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Council members Scott Griggs, Adam Medrano and Philip Kingston
Photo by Steve Ramos

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Members of Pegasus Square Dance Club dance during an organizing meeting in February. Weekly lessons at Resource Center begin March 9 at 2 p.m. and are open to the public. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Pegasus Square Dance Club is back after decade dance break

After a 12-year hiatus, LGBT square dancing is back.

Alan Josephson said several people from Dallas connected last summer at the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs Convention.

"It took a few months to identify a caller and locate a place to meet," he said.

He explained that in square dancing, there's a boy's part and a girl's part, but in gay square dancing, everyone gets to choose which part they want to dance. He encouraged people who aren't usually great dancers to participate because square dancing doesn't require much foot work.

"It's fun and social," Josephson said, "with lots of gay flourishes."

A 10-week series of dance lessons begins at Resource Center on March 9 at 2 p.m. The first two afternoons are open dances. The full series of lessons are \$90, but no one will be turned away because of ability to pay.

Josephson said square dancing is great exercise and is good for partners or singles, and the trans community participates in big numbers.

"There are more trans people in square dancing than I've seen anywhere in community activities," Josephson said.

So does Josephson usually dance the boy part or the girl part?

"I'm bidancial," he said.

More information at Pegasus-Squares.com.

—David Taffet

Out candidate Donald Brown wins S.E. Texas congressional bid

Texas now has two out candidates for Congress after openly gay Donald Brown received enough votes to avoid a runoff in the Democratic primary Tuesday.

Brown received 61 percent of the vote in his Democratic bid for Congressional District 14.

Buck Willis, who received the local Stonewall Democrats endorsement, brought in 28 percent of the vote, with Gagan Panjhzari receiving 11 percent.

CD 14 spans Southeast Texas from Freeport to Beaumont. Brown will take on Republican incumbent Randy Weber, who was unopposed in the primary.

Brown is one of two openly gay Texas candidates running for Congress. Louie Minor was unopposed in the Democratic primary for CD 31 in central Texas. He'll face Republican incumbent John Carter in November.

— Anna Waugh

Group drops opposition to SA nondiscrimination ordinance

After the San Antonio City Council passed a nondiscrimination ordinance last September, opponents tried to force a repeal election. To do so they had 40 days to collect signatures from 10 percent of the city's voters. They managed to get only about a third of the signatures needed.

The group's next target was Councilman Diego Bernal, author of the nondiscrimination ordinance.

To recall the councilman, opponents needed signatures of 10 percent of the registered voters in the district. Although they promoted the idea that the ordinance allowed men to use women's bathrooms where they would assault little girls, the group was unable to collect the needed signatures by the March deadline. They were 1,000 signatures short of the 5,800 needed.

The new strategy is to support an opponent of Bernal in the 2015 election. He ran unopposed in the previous election.

Bernal thanked his staff for acting professionally despite the amount of hate mail they received.

Gina Casteneda, organizer of the opposition to the ordinance, has taken the position of Texas field organizer for Americans for Prosperity, the conservative group funded by the Koch brothers.

— David Taffet

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A 'landmark day for the city of Dallas'

Council passes comprehensive resolution, ending more than a year's work and beginning the process for full city equality

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

With Wednesday's passage of a comprehensive equality resolution, 13 councilmembers assured the local LGBT community they support equality in city employment, living and tourism.

The resolution is a "comprehensive statement of support" that directs the city manager and staff to identify inequities in those areas and work to resolve them administratively and also through council approval.

Changes that require council approval will be brought to the Finance, Budget and Audit Committee first. Councilman Jerry Allen, committee chair, had openly gay city employees Theresa O'Donnell and John Rogers make three presentations on LGBT issues before the committee passed the resolution in February.

The measure easily passed the council 13-2 with Sheffie Kadane and anti-gay Councilwoman Vonciel Jones Hill voting against it.

Mayor Mike Rawlings came out in favor of the resolution Tuesday. His support was questioned after he delayed the vote a week by requiring the measure be discussed in executive session for legal concerns last week.

"I am proud to have voted in favor of this," Rawlings said after the resolution passed. "It's very humbling to be mayor of this city. We have so many great communities. ... There's not a better community in the city of Dallas than the LGBT community."

Rawlings angered the LGBT community in June after he blocked the previous resolution that addressed marriage equality and workplace protections from being added to the agenda. He had the city attorney declare him present so former Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano couldn't place the item back on the agenda as acting mayor after former Councilwoman Delia Jasso pulled her support from a memo requiring the item to be voted on. While he told supporters and Dallas Voice he supported those issues personally, he called the resolution a "misuse" of the council's time.

He said this week he's completely behind the current resolution and analyzing what the city leadership can fix moving forward. He even wore a red and blue striped tie Wednesday, which he said doubled as his support for Southern Methodist University and the LGBT community.

"I believe in the resolution, and I think it's a

good structure to come back to so we are prepared to make those decisions," Rawlings told Dallas Voice. "We've done a lot of the hard work now. God's in the details on this stuff. We need to look at each one of them, examine them and have those discussions, but I'm enthusiastic about it."

As for the tension with the community after last year's resolution failed, Rawlings said he's ready to look past it.

"I never had an issue with the LGBT community," he said. "I'm very proud of them. I love them. Now they may not like me, but I'm always a believer in turn the other cheek and be positive, love people and the rest will take care of itself."

But LGBT activists and advocates have struggled to support Rawlings since his time in office began in 2011 when he failed to sign a pledge for Mayors for the Freedom to Marry. Followed by the resolution's failure, advocates wondered if he would back any equality measures. GetEQUAL TX activist Cd Kirven said his support and his words about the LGBT community this week show a shift in his attitude towards the community.

"I've very proud of the mayor for getting behind this and championing our community," Kirven said. "I'm just very proud of the progress he's made."

The resolution is the council's most significant show of support for the LGBT community in a

decade after the council approved domestic partner benefits in 2004. Two years before, the council passed a nondiscrimination ordinance in 2002, barring discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Before that, the council approved a nondiscrimination policy for city employees to cover sexual orientation in 1994, which was later amended to include gender identity.

Councilman Scott Griggs, the author of the previous resolution, thanked the LGBT community for coming together and working with city staff, councilmembers and the city's LGBT Task Force to bring the new measure forward.

"I can't speak enough about your patience and your perseverance," Griggs told the audience Wednesday. "It's a real testament to the

whole community. This is a wonderful landmark day for the city of Dallas."

City Manager A.C. Gonzalez said he's already begun discussions with city staff about employee pensions and other items. However, he said anything with a financial impact would be brought to committee. He expected a report to be presented next quarter with a list of items and a timetable for implementation.

"That process has already begun, but I can't give you an answer as to which one will be first," Gonzalez said.

Cece Cox, CEO of Resource Center, said she glad to hear the city manager's office has already begun discussing possible changes, and she's already spoken with Gonzalez. Cox said the center's staff would prioritize changes into

■ LANDMARK, Page 15



HAPPY ENDING | Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and Resource Center CEO Cece Cox chat after the equality resolution passed Wednesday with a vote of 13-2. Allies and LGBT community members filled the room during the discussion and vote. (Photos by Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

Activist becomes 1st gay member of Dallas County School Board



NEW HAT | Dallas County School Board President Larry Duncan, left, swears in Omar Narvaez as the board's new member on Feb. 26. Narvaez, a longtime LGBT activist, is the first openly gay member of the board.

Former Stonewall Dems President Omar Narvaez fills board vacancy, plans to evaluate policies for LGBT-inclusiveness in the county

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Dallas political activist Omar Narvaez is now a politician.

Narvaez was sworn in to a countywide member position with the Dallas County School Board last week. He replaced Maricela Moore, who resigned from the position in January. The term ends next May.

DCSB governs Dallas County Schools, an intermediate educational agency that serves Dallas County's 14 independent school districts. Its primary services for districts are transportation and information technology, as well as continuing education for teachers. The board has three countywide positions and four district seats that align with the Dallas County Commissioners Court districts.

Narvaez said Moore mentioned she might resign back in October, so he considered applying for the position. The agency doesn't hold special elections, so Narvaez applied to the board and was interviewed by a selection committee before the recommendation was made to select him.

"It's not a well-known seat, but it's one that affects the entire county as far as schools go and ISDs," he said, adding he's excited to focus on a position that affects youth. "They are the most important entity for our future."

Having thought about running for office before, Narvaez said the opportunity arose and it seemed ideal.

"It was an opportunity, and it was the right opportunity at the right time," he said.

But as for whether he'll run to keep the seat next year, he said he wants to "focus right now on being

the best person for the county" before he thinks about re-election.

And not only is he the newest trustee on the board, he's believed to be the first openly gay member of the board. The significance isn't lost on him in a county that currently has only three out county officials with Sheriff Lupe Valdez, District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons and 116th Judicial District Court Judge Tonya Parker.

"There's not a lot of us, but at the same time we are putting ourselves out there, and our orientation does not deter us from running for office," Narvaez said.

Narvaez has previously served as a precinct chair and as president of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, but he's known for his powerful speeches at local rallies and addressing other agencies, like Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Dallas City Council, to urge those governmental bodies to support equality measures.

While he's attended only one meeting, Narvaez said he's looking forward to some of the new initiatives the board is taking on. For example, DCS is considering new technology that requires students on buses to scan their ID cards so the administration would know when a student got off the bus. In addition, bus routes would be tracked, so if a student goes missing or a bus goes off-route, that data will be collected.

"It's not a fool-proof system, but I think it's a great way to work in the community," Narvaez said about the new system that's pending board approval.

As the community educator for Lambda Legal's south central regional office in Dallas, Narvaez is responsible for education, research and community outreach. He said one of the first things he plans on working on is employee policies and procedures to ensure they're inclusive.

And don't expect him to go silent on the activism front. He still plans to be loud and proud.

"Until we have full equality, I'm not going to stop fighting, stop making change," he said. ■

Cathedral of Hope hosts Bishop Spong

The retired Bishop who led the fight for LGBT equality in the Episcopal Church calls anti-gay legislation a 'last gasp of white male racists'

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Had a black person walked into the South Carolina church where Bishop John Shelby Spong grew up, he would have been arrested. Women also were kept in their places at his childhood evangelical Episcopal church. None of them were allowed to serve in leadership positions.

"And we didn't have gay people," he said, although he knew some members must have been gay.

Decades later, when Spong retired as the bishop of Newark, N.J., in 2000, he said he had named 35 out-of-the-closet clergy to positions in his diocese, and blessing gay unions had become common throughout his denomination.

He ordained his first openly gay priest in 1989.

"That created a storm," he said. The furor included death threats, but he's proud there are now two out bishops in the Episcopal Church.

During his years as a priest and then bishop, Spong became a leader in the fight for equality for women, people of color and gays and lesbians in his church. He brushes off the question of how he became that leader since he says he was doing nothing more than what was morally just.

After witnessing the civil rights and women's movements and the fight against anti-Semitism, Spong said he's not surprised at the speed at which LGBT rights are advancing. He credits social media for changing social attitudes.

"Churches will change or die," Spong said.

He said people under 40 just don't tolerate bigotry, but older people, including some of the most powerful in the religious world, are coming around. He called Pope Francis' "who am I to judge?" statement an amazing change from the previous pope's conservative teachings. Calling out anti-gay laws disguised as religious protections, he said the Arizona anti-gay bill that Gov. Jan Brewer recently vetoed "an incredibly stupid bill." He questioned the religion the bill was supposed to protect by allowing discrimination.

"I don't know what type of religion that is," he said.

Noting the backlash the Arizona bill generated, Spong said the fight for equality is in its final stages.

"As soon as we start debating prejudice, the battle is won," he said.

He sees legislative bills protecting bigotry in the name of religion as "the last gasp of white male racists."

After eight years of the bigots complaining about President Obama, Spong laughed at the prospect of them facing eight years of Hillary Clinton.

"That's more than most of them can stand," he said.

When he appears at Cathedral of Hope on March 9, Spong said he'll address the predominately LGBT congregation as he would any other "ordinary group of Christians."

"I just love Cathedral of Hope," he said. "I know Michael Piazza quite well," referring to the church's longtime pastor.



Bishop John Shelby Spong

He said he's also known the Rev. Jim Mitulski, Cathedral's interim senior pastor, since Mitulski headed a church in West Hollywood, Calif.

At 82, Spong isn't slowing down. He speaks about 125 times a year, and he's writing a book about the Gospel of Matthew he said will give Christians a new way of approaching the work.

Today, he doesn't run into some of the hostility he did while he was still an active bishop, but he hasn't toned down any of his viewpoints.

He said if he's been invited to speak, he assumes they're ready to hear him.

Bishop Spong preaches at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, March 9 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. traditional services and at 6 p.m. evening service. ■

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Deaths



Long Vu, 44, owner of Hollywood Nails & Spas, including a location on Oak Lawn Avenue, died on March 1.

He was born in Vietnam to a U.S. military father and a Vietnamese mother and raised in many different foster homes. He came to the United States in 1990 through a special program for Vietnamese Amerasian children. After arriving in the U.S., he lived with family in California and trained at his uncle's salon. He found a job in Florida and later moved to Texas where he began his business.

Friends called him a successful and happy man who touched many people's lives.

He is survived by his partner, Danny Nguyen, his brother, Kenneth Thai, and his sister, Victoria Tran. Funeral service was held at Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, 2121 W. Apollo Road, Garland on March 6.

Larry O'Dwyer, 77, an actor and director long as-

sociated with Theatre Three, died on Feb. 28 in Knox City, Texas, following surgery for colon cancer.

Larry began his acting career with Theatre Three in 1962, playing major roles in many plays including *Tartuffe*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Stop the World - I Want to Get Off*. His final show at Theatre Three was *Sly Fox* in 2003. He also



directed many shows at Theatre Three including *Hedda Gabler*, *Design for Living* and *Animal Farm*. For 20 years, Larry wrote and directed a series of imaginative children's shows for Theatre Three, inspiring Dallas' youngest citizens.

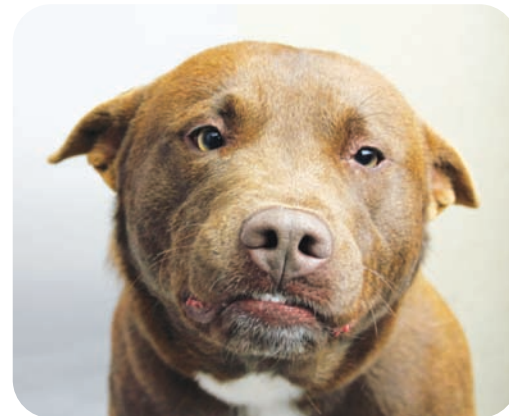
Larry finished his acting career as an associate artist at CenterStage in Baltimore, Md., and in July of 2013, he retired to Knox City.

He is survived by his longtime partner, Ricky Tankersly. A memorial service will be held at Theatre Three March 24 at 6 p.m. The service is open to the public. ■

pet of the week / CALVIN

Calvin is an adorable 2-year-old brown shepherd/pit mix. He has been at the shelter awhile, so his adoption fee has been waived. He's neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. All he needs now is a person or family to love. Come visit him at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 Westmoreland Road, and ask for A822306.

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



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Incumbents fared poorly in primary



RUNOFFS | Sara Martinez, left, and Pauline Medrano at their election watch party. Both move to runoffs in their races. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice.)

Challengers unseated an unusually large number of officeholders and forced others into runoffs

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Primary day wasn't a good day for incumbents. Lieutenant Gov. David Dewhurst received only 28 percent of the vote and goes into a runoff for the Republican nomination. In Dallas County, nine Democratic judges lost to primary challengers. Incumbents in the Legislature fared poorly on both sides of the aisle as well. Republican representatives Linda Harper-Brown of Irving, Bill Ratliff of Carrollton and Diane Patrick of Arlington lost to tea party challengers, as did Democratic representative Lon Burnam of Fort Worth. Burnam was named a top-10 LGBT ally by Equality Texas in the 2013 session.

In a contested state senate race, Don Huffhines beat Sen. John Carona by 630 votes. Carona has served in the Legislature since 1990.

In justice of the peace precinct 5, place 1, out candidate Sara Martinez received 29 percent of the vote in a five-way race. She'll face Melissa Bellan in a runoff. John McCall, who also is gay, polled 16 percent of the vote.

Former Dallas Councilwoman Pauline Medrano received the most votes in the four-way race for Dallas County treasurer.

"This campaign started with Stonewall Democrats' endorsement," Medrano said. "That propelled me to other endorsements."

Her runoff opponent is Bennie Brown.

In the constable race for precinct 5, an area that includes North Oak Cliff and Oak Lawn, incumbent Beth Villareal faces Michael Orozco in a

runoff. Out candidate Susan Lopez-Craig polled third out of four candidates. Villareal had the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement.

Women did well in elections in Dallas County in both parties. In every election where a man and woman ran against each other, the woman won, whether she was the incumbent or challenger, whether the seat was open or not.

Although Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins' prosecutors did well in judicial races, his top assistant, Heath Harris, failed to unseat Darlene Ewing as Dallas County Democratic Party chair.

Susan Hawk won the Republican primary for district attorney over Tom Nowak. She'll face Watkins in November. The last time a man beat a woman in a Dallas County election was in 2008 when John Ames beat Diana Lackey in an open race for county tax collector.

As expected, state Sen. Wendy Davis and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott won their gubernatorial primaries and face each other in November.

John Cornyn handily defeated seven opponents for his spot as the nominee for U.S. Senate. On the Democratic side, David Alameel faces Kesha Rogers in a runoff to determine who will challenge Cornyn in November. The Democratic Party issued a warning about Rogers whose main platform is impeaching President Barack Obama.

Parties poll their electorate on issues in Texas primaries. Democrats asked, "The Congress and the Texas Legislature should adopt legislation that expands protections against discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based upon sexual orientation and gender identity." In Dallas County, 91 percent voted in favor of that question. Statewide, 88 percent of Democrats voted for it, too. ■

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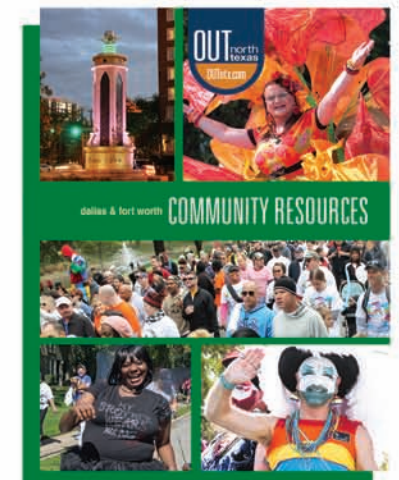
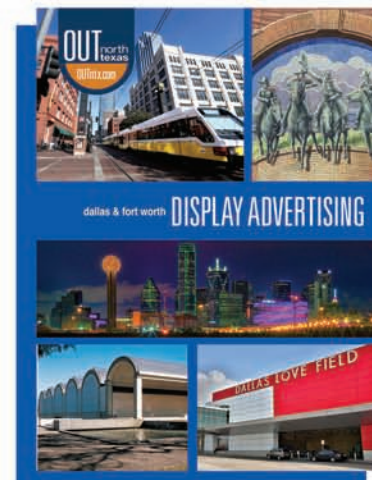
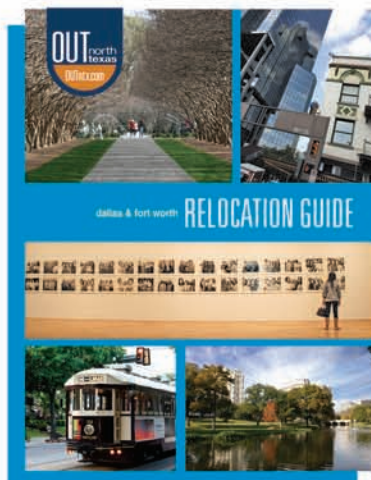
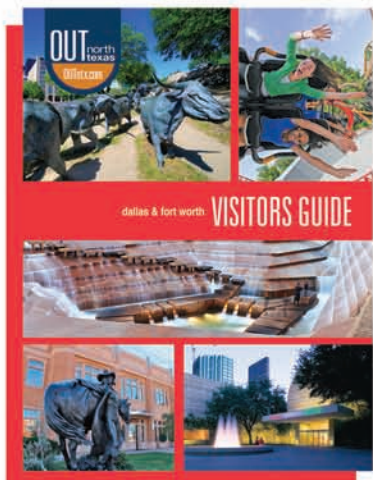
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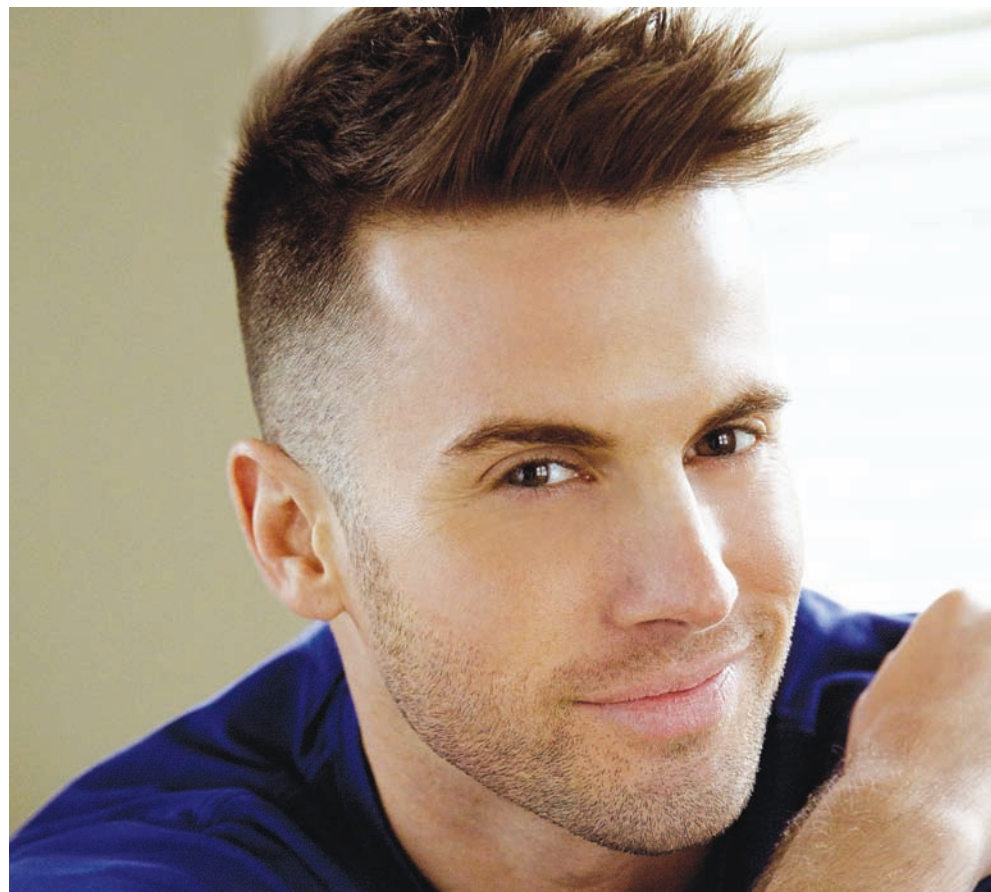



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Detecting change: A landmark in HIV prevention



Tyler Curry

A new HIV study with stunning results should have the LGBT community cheering, but some are stuck on finger pointing

TYLER CURRY | Contributing Writer

For years, the legitimacy of being undetectable and what that means in the fight against HIV transmission has been questioned, criticized and rebuked. Although many doctors and HIV activists have said for years that having an undetectable viral load makes HIV transmission virtually impossible, this message was met with skepticism and even contempt from the outside community.

But now, according to a study titled “HIV Transmission Risk Through Condomless sex if HIV+ Partner on Suppressive ART: PARTNER Study” presented this week at the Conference of Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI), gay men who are on treatment and undetectable do not transmit the HIV virus ... at all.

The two-year scientific study finally tested the efficacy of an undetectable viral load where it counted the most — in men who have sex with men. Previous studies had already purported a 96 percent reduction in transmission for those who

were undetectable, but these results were primarily found in heterosexual couples and, therefore, were inconclusive in regards to gay men. Now, there is proof that treatment as prevention is incredibly effective when it comes to HIV transmission through anal sex.

In fact, Alison Rodger, one of the presenters at CROI, said “their best estimate is zero” when asked about the chance of a homosexual male with an undetectable viral load transmitting the virus.

That means you, homo.

You would think that with this new information, HIV and LGBT organizations around the country would rush to the presses to inform the masses that treatment is one of the best, if not the best, form of HIV prevention. But with just one look at the comments and criticisms already swirling around the release of this study, it’s unlikely that will happen anytime soon.

Whenever any story about the effectiveness of treatment as prevention is discussed in the media, the conversation quickly turns from medical facts to character judgments. Whether the topic is Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) or undetectable viral loads, the focus shifts to vicious and stigmatizing comments about how this information will just lead to more problems in the hands of HIV-positive men.

Here are some responses to a story on the CROI



ACTIVISTS | Nell Gaither, left, Cd Kirven and David Mack Henderson chat after the city council vote.

■ **LANDMARK**, From Page 6

what can be done quickly and what can be done that has the most impact.

"I think it's a start," she said. "The resolution sets forth a whole lot of things that now need to be done."

Some items the city's LGBT Task Force plan to resolve fairly quickly are adding comprehensive transgender healthcare for city employees, making the pension plans equal for same-sex spouses and updating policies to improve the city's score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index.

Cox was among the more than 30 LGBT advocates wearing red in the audience Wednesday and clapped when the resolution passed. She said the work and input from many LGBT organizations to help the resolution succeed shows how significant its passage means.

"A lot of work went into this, so what was accomplished today was very significant," Cox said. "It makes me proud looking over 20-plus years of ordinances and resolutions and discussions. It's significant." ■

To view the resolution and more photos, visit DallasVoice.com.

study posted on Instinct Magazine and Queerty online:

"This is going to create a big problem. HIV undetectable (people) will use it as excuse to bareback or skip their daily antiviral meds then become re-infected creating a super bug of HIV that current meds can't treat."

"How about use a (expletive) condom?!"

"I wouldn't play Mr. scientist with casual barebacking partners you meet on apps. First, most guys that infect others are not aware of their real HIV status — meaning they don't test as often as they confidently believe to be "clean." And with those that are positive, you still don't know about their HIV med intake history."

Now, this is the point when I grab my pointer, slam it against the chalkboard and scream, "Stay on topic!"

This study isn't a free pass for stupid behavior. It doesn't promote bareback sex in lieu of condoms. And it most certainly does not encourage you to trust what people say when you don't even know their last names. But this study is a monumental and extraordinary step in the fight

against HIV.

The efficacy of undetectable viral loads has nothing to do with how you protect yourself from HIV in your dating life. What it is about is encouraging the 25 percent of HIV-positive people who are unaware of their status to get tested. It's about arming people with the facts of HIV transmission to reduce the stigma surrounding the virus. It is for people who fall in love but feel divided by their sero-status. It's about becoming educated on the reality of HIV transmission, rather than just leading blindly through your sex life and hoping for the best.

Condoms are good. PrEP is good. But getting tested, becoming educated and taking control of your status is the only way we are going to stop the spread of HIV for good.

But for all you men on those "dating" apps, you just might start seeing "undetectable as of..." on many more of the profiles you browse. It is hoped these results will encourage more honesty, more transparency and less fear when it comes to sharing your status. And that is a damn good thing. ■

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Dallas man comforted by federal charge in brutal beating

Federal hate crime complaint shows man lured Arron Keahey to his house as a joke, resulting in an assault that nearly killed him

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

FORT WORTH — When federal investigators filed a criminal complaint to charge a Springtown man under the federal hate crime law, Arron Keahey was relieved.

Keahey spent 10 days in the hospital after an online encounter led to an assault that left him nearly dead. He started chatting with Brice Johnson on the social MeetMe app on Sept. 2.

Keahey, who lived in Dallas at the time, was in Springtown, visiting family for Labor Day weekend. Springtown is about 70 miles west of Dallas in Parker County.

Keahey said he was pleased the case is being handled by federal prosecutors because it'll draw national attention to the case and hopefully will prevent future anti-gay acts of violence.

"I like that's it's under the federal law," he told Dallas Voice. "There's something about that that's

comforting that it's going to a federal level, that it'll bring national attention to it."

Johnson allegedly invited Keahey over after the chat turned sexual. But when Keahey arrived, Johnson allegedly ambushed him, brutally beating him. Johnson later admitted to police that he assaulted Keahey after blacking out. Keahey suffered brain trauma, nerve damage and broken facial bones. He had to have facial reconstruction surgery and now has a metal eye socket.

Keahey said this week he still has memory loss from the event and is still waiting to see if some of the nerve damage will be permanent. His injuries have made it difficult for him to work, and he's been staying in a Fort Worth homeless shelter for a month. Medical expenses led him to create an online GoFundMe account in January to help cover bills. So far he's raised \$1,905 out of his \$10,000 goal.

Federal prosecutors filed a complaint last month charging Johnson, 19, with a federal hate crime under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Johnson originally told Springtown police he found Keahey assaulted outside his house and saw a truck fleeing the scene. He later admitted to police he assaulted him after blacking out and later drove him to the hospital.

Johnson was originally charged with a state felony for aggravated assault.

If convicted of the federal hate crime charge, he faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

"Suspected crimes of this nature will simply not be tolerated," U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldana said in a statement about the case. "With the assistance of all our partners, hate crimes will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The federal complaint reveals new details of the case, including that Johnson didn't think the sexual discussions on the app were "for real."

In a recorded jail conversation to family, Johnson said he invited

Keahey over and it was "basically a joke that went too far and too wrong. I invited him over because he was a fag or whatever."

Johnson had Keahey listed in his cell phone as "fagg bagg," according to the complaint.

Johnson alleges that Keahey grabbed his crotch when the two were talking outside, but Keahey told investigators he never had any physical contact with Johnson. Johnson told investigators the alleged contact angered him, and he hit Keahey "about five times" before blacking out.

When Johnson woke up after blacking out, he found Keahey bleeding and thought he was dead, according to the complaint. He then put Keahey into the trunk of Keahey's car, with his wrists bound in electrical cord and drove him to a friend's house.



HATE CRIME | Federal prosecutors charged Brice Johnson under the hate crime law for the alleged attack on Arron Keahey on Sept. 2.

Friends later convinced Johnson to take Keahey to the hospital at 7 a.m., an hour and a half after Keahey arrived at Johnson's home.

Keahey said Johnson has continued to change his story when speaking to investigators. He said the new claim that it was a joke is an excuse that shows that he planned to assault him.

"A joke gone wrong is an excuse to me," Keahey said. "It's obvious by how it happened that he already had it planned."

Prosecutors are awaiting a possible plea from Johnson. An indictment is expected by late April, court records show. Until the case moves forward, Keahey said he's waiting for closure.

"Right now it's a waiting game," Keahey said. ■

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viewpoints

If CBS knows a reason these 2 people shouldn't be joined

Before the Rev. Bill McElvaney had George Harris and Jack Evans exchange rings and have them do “whatever public display of affection you're comfortable with,” he didn't ask, “If anyone knows any reason these two people should not be married, speak now or forever hold your peace.”

However, CBS-11 found someone to object.

All of the other Dallas television stations did a pretty good job of reporting the Evans-Harris wedding that took place at Midway Hills Christian Church on Saturday.

KXAS-TV Channel 5, the NBC affiliate, got the churches wrong. They reported that Evans and Harris had asked a number of churches to perform their wedding, and Northaven United Methodist was the first to say yes.

Actually, Harris and Evans are longtime members of Northaven. That church couldn't perform the wedding because of the denomination's ban on same-sex marriages.

The Rev. Arthur Stewart of Midway Hills Christian Church agreed to host the wedding at his church. In the NBC story, Stewart is identified as a pastor at Northaven.

But other than not knowing where they were or who belonged to what church, NBC did a good job reporting the wedding.

Then there was CBS.

In their reporting, reporters go for balance. Dallas City Council on Wednesday approved a resolution that will move the city toward offering to employees in same-sex marriages the benefits available to employees in opposite-sex marriages. Balance means finding someone against equality for gay employees and presenting that point of view — like Dallas Councilman Sheffie Kadane who thinks those rights should just go to everyone. Or a story about development in a neighborhood — there are those who want to preserve architectural history and those who argue for progress.

But what is there to balance in reporting a funeral or a wedding?

In my reporting on the death of Jerry Falwell, I wrote, “My mother taught me if I can't say something good about a person, don't say anything at all. He's dead. Good.”

Of course, I was trying to be rude. Is that what CBS was going for?

In the stereotypical TV wedding, the officiant asks, “If anyone knows a reason these two people should not be married, speak now or forever hold your peace.”

CBS found someone — the Rev. Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Dallas.

And speak he did. Twice. On a report the day before the wedding and on a piece after the



David Taffet
Staff Writer

ceremony.

Northaven's pastor Eric Folkerth found it offensive on several counts.

Why did the Baptist minister chime in on a story about Folkerth's Methodist church? If “balance” was what CBS was looking for, at least a Methodist minister in Dallas could have commented about going against the Methodist Book of Discipline. There were a few dozen Methodist ministers at the wedding, but none of them would have given the CBS reporters the “balanced” comments they were looking for.

Why did CBS find the need to “balance” a story about a wedding anyway? Was it the 53-year relationship between Harris and Evans that offended the news editor? Was it the couple's decades-long membership in this North Dallas Methodist church that offended someone at CBS?

Or was it a desire to throw cold water on a congregation's celebration Folkerth called the happiest event at Northaven in years.

Jeffers' comments related more to last week's ruling in San Antonio by Judge Orlando Garcia declaring Texas' anti-marriage amendment unconstitutional. Was his piece tacked on to the wedding story because CBS can only do one gay item in a week? The two stories were only marginally related.

In the San Antonio case, the judge made a ruling related to civil marriage that the unconstitutional practice of passing a law based on animus toward a group is unconstitutional. The interview with Jeffers proved the accuracy of that decision as he spewed anti-gay animus on the air.

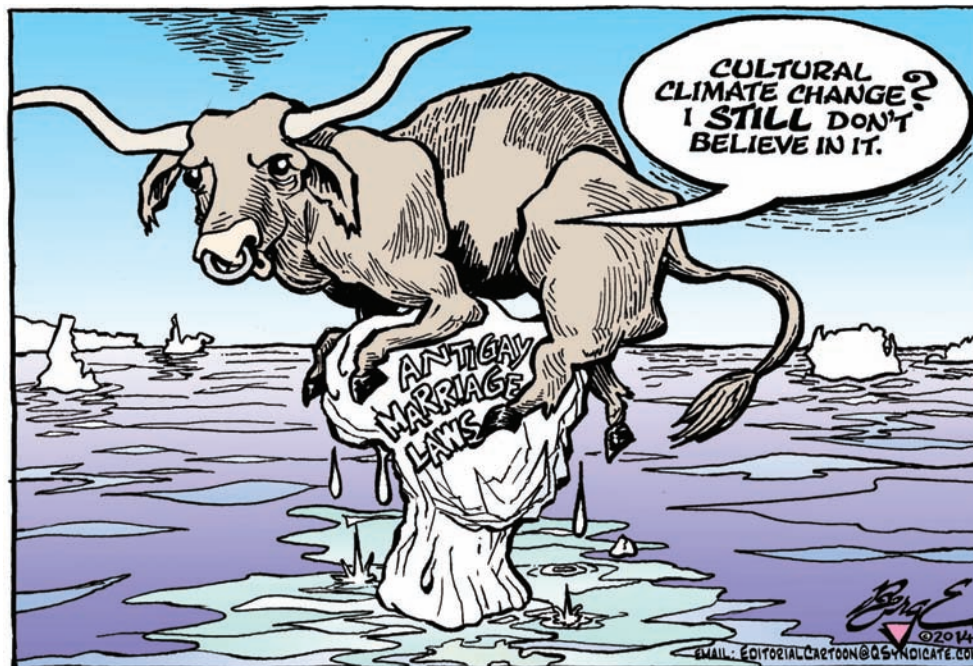
The Northaven religious wedding story was about a controversy rocking the Methodist Church. The very nature of that denomination is that all of its churches must follow all of the same practices. Either all perform same-sex weddings or none do. Unlike Midway Hills Christian Church, a member of Disciples of Christ, Methodist congregations or clergy can't decide if they'd like to perform weddings at Northaven but not perform them at Highland Park United Methodist.

And, finally, Folkerth is annoyed that CBS-11 doesn't come to him or any other progressive clergy to solicit their opinions every time a story on First Baptist runs.

Hey, last year First Baptist opened a beautiful new facility in Downtown Dallas. Why didn't CBS ask members of another denomination for their thoughts on the construction? Because it's not the Methodist Church's business how big or expensive the Baptists' new church is.

It's also not the Baptists' business who the Methodists decide should marry. Jeffers is free to have any religious belief he wants, but to intrude into another faith's beliefs is unconscionable. And the news editor at CBS-11 should be able to discern when someone's opinion on a story his station is running is relevant — or not.

David Taffet is a staff writer at Dallas Voice. He can be reached at taffet@dallasvoice.com



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'Throwing Shade' podcasters Erin Gibson and Bryan Safi take on Dallas

Feminasty" Erin Gibson and "Homosensual" Bryan Safi just want to make you laugh. And trust me, they will, as they hit the stage of Dallas Comedy House March 14 with their absurdist, stream-of-consciousness comedic dialogue in the podcast-cum-live-show *Throwing Shade*.

The West Hollywood-based (and Texas-native) comedy duo host the popular podcast, which has been running for two years (now with video) and has surpassed 3 million downloads worldwide. They will be serving up social justice realness with outrageousness. If you're not a listener yet, get on it stat. For the past two years, *Throwing Shade* has been named the "Best LGBT Podcast" by the Podcast Awards for its satirical look into important social justice issues like gay rights, women's rights and pop culture — including banter about *RuPaul's Drag Race* and angry pro-football cheerleaders. We caught up with Gibson and Safi to find out more about what we can expect at their upcoming Dallas live show.

— Eddie Garza

Dallas Voice: How did you two first meet? Gibson: We met in an orphanage. Miss Hannigan hated us both, but we were adopted by [Upright Citizens Brigade] Theater and started doing comedy there with each other instead of with brooms and mops.

Safi: We met at UC Berkeley, a comedy theatre here. Then we got a job at Al Gore's network Current TV, where we wrote on a show everybody in the world has heard of called *Infomania*. And that's how we blossomed into adult comedy partners who make *Annie* references.

Why did you decide to start the *Throwing Shade* podcast? Were live shows always part of the business plan and vision? Gibson: Our show *Infomania* got cancelled, which was actually a blessing in disguise. We started our podcast as an extension of our segments on *Infomania*, "That's Gay" and "Modern Lady."

Safi: Except we were free from any sort of network oversight. No quality control, no time constraints, no one telling us to keep it classy.

Gibson: So we started talking honestly, like two friends would do. Using words like "fuck" and "shit."

Safi: Our Texas mothers would not be proud. Or would they?

Gibson: They wouldn't. We're trained performers and natural assholes, so it was just the right thing to start doing live shows. Also, podcasts are kind of a lonely endeavor. We always hoped we'd have an audience to perform *Throwing Shade* for. We love performing. Whether it be at home, in the mirror, naked, doing our best Buffalo Bill.

Safi: Or singing "Happy Birthday" to strangers at a Pappasito's.

How do the live shows differ from the podcast? Safi: Bigger in every way. It's an actual show, not two people sitting down in front of microphones. We're also totally nude.

Gibson: They're more insane. It's more like a two person standup show. We interact with the audience a lot.

Safi: We can't really do exactly what we do in the podcast because Erin and I don't laugh at each other's jokes. Or we try not to.

Your tagline is: "We take a look at all the issues important to ladies and gays, and treat them with much less respect than they deserve." Do you find that talking about important social justice issues in a funny way makes it easier to talk about them? Safi: I think we always try to do funny first, message second. There are so many stupid people saying stupid things. If you don't laugh, you cry. Wouldn't you rather laugh?

You're both accomplished sketch writers. Who/what have you written for, and do you have a favorite comedian who delivers your jokes just like you write them? Gibson: At FunnyOrDie.com, here's everyone who has perfectly delivered an "Erin Gibson" joke: Kaley Cuoco, Mary Steenburgen, Jerry O'Connell, Alfie Allen, Josh Molina, Natasha Lyonne, Taryn Manning, Tracee Ellis Ross and the glorious Teri Hatcher.

Safi: I just straight-up give people line readings. But yeah, we definitely prefer to deliver our own jokes. I would say that I've loved working with Jesse Tyler Ferguson. He was so good in *The First Gay Bachelor* thing I did. And I would also say Fred Willard was every bit as amazing as you'd think. Cheyenne Jackson in *The Gay Christian Mingle* was also fantastic.

THROWING SHADE LIVE

Dallas Comedy House, 2645
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ThrowingShade.com.

What is the difference between writing for other comedians and developing material for yourselves? Gibson: I did a web series with Rachel Harris, and she was a delight! I just listened to her stories and ideas and then really just executed them. It was easy because I like her comedic sensibility. If someone gave me \$40,000 to write for Larry the Cable Guy, I'd do it for the challenge, but I would absolutely mainline cocaine.

Safi: It has to be a comedian I really like. I wrote some stuff for Kathy Griffin this year for a Trevor Project benefit in Hollywood. Once I met with her and understood what she wanted, it wasn't bad at all. She was so clear, and we have similar tastes. And she was obviously amazing.

How has *Throwing Shade* changed over the years, both philosophically and comedically? Safi: It hasn't really. Our philosophy has always been the same: Bring skorts back.

Have you ever seen each other naked, either accidentally or on purpose? Safi: No. I mean ... no.

Gibson: I draw pictures of Bryan naked. He looks like a velociraptor with a rainbow wig on. But we did just decide we're ready to share a bed on tour, like brother and sister.

Safi: We're gonna sleep *Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory*-style, head to feet.

What's the grossest thing you've put in your mouth for no money?

Gibson: I eat more tartar sauce than anyone would believe. Like, with a spoon.

Safi: Great question. Crack?

Do you look to any comedians for inspiration? Gibson: Tina Fey — duh and derh and doy — and Judy Gold. She was my first standup crush when I was a kid. She's super tall and confident and understands pantsuits. Although she's a comedic actress, Jane Lynch is pretty much the bee's knees.

Safi: Sandra Bernhard. It's always been her for me. She's blunt, she never self-deprecates for a laugh, and she's brilliant. She's completely herself whether people like it or not.

Gibson: Like us. Except we actually just want people to like it.

Bryan, you're originally from El Paso. What was your experience growing up gay in a Tex-Mex border town? Safi: I didn't have a gay identity in El Paso. I've never even been to a gay bar there, which needs to change. I knew I was gay at about 15 or 16, and I kept it to myself. It definitely didn't feel like my high school or my environment was a safe space in any regard for me to come out. I'm sure it's slightly different now. Now I would probably just drive across the border with a huge car wrap on my car of me in bed with another man, and people would cheer.

Gibson: They absolutely would not.

Stritch marks

It's Elaine's world, and we get to watch her live it



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

The last time I interviewed Elaine Stritch, more than a decade ago, the call had to take place at 11 p.m. Eastern, because she was used to getting off the stage around then and was wired. So when we scheduled a day chat last month, I assumed it was out of character and reminded her that she told me she was a night-owl.

"I don't remember ever saying that — ever," she insisted with a definitiveness that made me question my own memory. (I checked; I was right.) But the hard-edged definitiveness is probably what made Elaine Stritch a star: When she says something to you, either onstage or on the phone, you believe it. Arguing is pointless.

That's more or less the message of *Elaine Stritch: Just Shoot Me*, the documentary about the legendary star of stage (a Tony Award and four more nominations) and television (three Emmys). She might not have the name recognition of some bigger stars, but you can bet if John Travolta mispronounced her name on an Oscarcast, she'd have something to say about it.

The doc, which runs for one week at the Magnolia, tracks a few months in the life of the actress, best known for interpretation of Sondheim (she starred in the original production of *Company*) and her overall sass which, at age 89, is as tart as ever.

"My hairdresser has just strangled me," she barks over the phone, then adds with in a voice that you can practically hear smiling, "No, he didn't — he's too dear."

She was actually getting her hair done by this very person when the idea for the documentary first came about. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but was harder work than she imagined.

"I'm glad I did it," she says of the film, although even that warrants a caveat. "A documentary of anyone's life, if they've had any life at all, would take a couple of years [to shoot], and there's nothing funny about [filming one]."

It's hard. But I've been doing a lot of research about myself [in order to] answer questions from people like you, and I got a lot of wonderful facts and figures."

When Stritch announced her retirement in 2012, and that she was moving away from New York City and the hotel she had called home for 60 years, it set off a nuclear reaction among theater queens. Most of us had just assumed Stritch was, like Strontium-90, indestructible and would continue on after the next ice age. But she is beginning to feel her years.

"I'm so tired I can hardly tell a story," she says. "I should get some rest, but I have to get rid of you first." I apologize for keeping her up. "It's not your fault," she offers, quickly followed by, "well, maybe it is your fault. You'll have to face

■ SCREEN Page 30

IN STRITCH'S | The grande dame of B'way divas is the irrepressible center of a documentary about her life, running for one week at the Magnolia Theater.

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Div URSA fied

Bear rapper Big Dipper, laughing & sashaying his way through Texas

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer
getrichindallas@gmail.com

There are three things someone is quick to notice about Big Dipper — and he's fully aware of them.

"When people write me up, [they usually describe me] as a 'gay white rapper,'" he says. "Now they add 'bear' in there, too."

So, make that *four* things.

In his first trip to Dallas, Big Dipper (he refuses to reveal his real name) will perform during Texas Bear Round-Up as part of the ThrIII fashion show at BearDance. He'll take to the stage of the Rose Room for the Underwear on the Runway March 14, with additional performances afterward. That will all come while also being in Austin for a stint at South By Southwest. That makes for a busy week for the 28-year-old.

"Yeah I'll be in Austin all week and fly in to do the shows in Dallas," he says. "I prefer it to be busy because it just keeps me on the ball."

It's also what helps him build his cred. In 2013, he released the EP *Thick Life*, which made an impression with his provocatively hilarious "Dick Hang Low" video. With that and his pre-

vious mixtape (*They Ain't Ready*), Dipper is slowly expanding his audience at a pace he is comfortable with. Despite demand for him to perform throughout the country and now high profile events like SXSW, he really considers it all a slow burn.

"I think it can be less stressful that way and if it moved too fast, I fear I'd lose sight of everything I'm doing," he says. "It's interesting because I saw 2012 as a big year and then last year [also]. And this year has already started out huge. But I'll take it any way it comes because it's exciting to be out in the world."

With a mostly-theater background, he secretly had dreams of being a hip-hop star. He had the confidence already to be in front of people, but when he dabbled in hip-hop as this character he created, the response snowballed and his dream was becoming a reality.

Although hip-hop and queer music fans haven't always gone hand-in-hand, Big Dipper sees interesting parallels with them. As a young fan of rap, he admits to feeling uneasy about

■ CULTURE Page 30

IS BIG D READY FOR BIG D? | The homo-hop star is on a slow burn as he continues to blow up with bear appeal and performances at TBRU and SXSW.



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East to Eden

Lake Highlands gives East Dallas its own take on the gayborhood

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

Part of the fun of urban exploration — as far as home-buying is concerned — is discovering the hidden gem. Once a neighborhood like Oak Lawn or Oak Cliff is widely known as gay-friendly or funky or affordable, some of those (especially the affordable part) stop being the case. That's why David Sassano and Don Tapani are only *now* willing to tell everyone that they got in on the ground-floor.

The name "Lake Highlands" probably does not conjure up fantasies of a gay enclave, but the East Dallas neighborhood (roughly northeast of White Rock Lake around Northwest Highway) has been a perfect fit for the couple.

Tapani bought the house in 2009, having moved away from the Lakewood area. That was before he and Sassano met; within a year or so, the two moved in together, and have lived a suburban dream since.

"I like that Lake Highlands is not as busy as Lakewood — the traffic, the noise, etc. — yet it is just as close to White Rock Lake and the Arboretum," Tapani, an account manager in the television industry, says. "Your real estate investment will go much further here, rather than in a lot of neighborhoods that have historically appealed to LGBT buyers." And it's well-situated for easy access to Downtown, NorthPark Center, Fair Park and LBJ, he notes.

Tapani isn't the only one to have noticed this.

"I've been surprised by the amount of gays that do live in, or are moving to, Lake Highlands," says Brian Bleeker, a Realtor with experience in the market here. "Many gay [home-



Tapani, Sassano and one of their four-legged 'children' find the Lake Highlands area gay-friendly, affordable and topographically unique for Dallas. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

buyers] have chosen to pack up shop and head across the lake."

"East Dallas is now where Oak Cliff was five years ago, with regards to new restaurants, independent shops and available services," says Sassano, who previously lived in Oak Cliff, where he "enjoyed the uniqueness of the community." And, like the 'Cliff, "the neighborhood is very affordable and gay-friendly.

"There is a great mix of gay and lesbian homeowners scattered throughout the area," he says. "We have ethnic and age diversity, and there are several gay-owned businesses located nearby that the neighborhood has embraced and supported."

Unlike Oak Cliff, the homes tend to be dominated by more mid-century and fewer pre-war styles.

"I would describe our home as an urban ranch with mid-century influences," Tapani says. "The homes in our immediate neighborhood were built in the mid-'50s to late-'70s. There are numerous mid-century modern homes in the area that are very affordable. The square footage can range between 1,600 to 3,500, depending upon when the home was built."

"That's a big, big gay deal," smiles Bleeker, who says gay buyers are drawn to the architecture and the price point, which he calls "just a smidge less than in-town neighborhoods." Prices

span \$200-\$400K. "I find these [age] homes also require a little bit less maintenance than historical neighborhoods containing '20s, '30s and '40s construction of the intown markets. The energy efficiencies of post-1950s is a completely different ball game as well."

Of course, that didn't mean Tapani and Sassano didn't bring "the gay touch" in personalizing their home. When Tapani bought their home, which was still lived in by the original owner, he made tons of improvements, from expanding the master suite by removing a wall and constructing an add-on. The backyard was re-landscaped, and they filled in with the kinds of furnishings

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Lost in foundation

Home inspectors can keep you on track to make buying and selling a home easier

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer

Don't ignore those cracks in the walls or that hint of separation between the windows and the house. Structural engineer Dave Vannier says those are the clues that the building is in need of an inspection. Whether selling or buying, an inspection is the one thing that can make or break a deal. Vannier offers tips on what to consider when it comes to having an inspection performed.

In general, a real estate agent may offer recommendations on an inspector, but Vannier encourages people to research them as they would a general physician. It's the health of the house that's needed to be looked at.

"The inspector will give all the systems a look over and so he or she will look at the plumbing, electrical, heating and stuff like that, but they will have limited knowledge until they call someone like me with more expertise," he says.

While licensed inspectors can likely perform work on any home, Vannier advises to start with the foundation, which is indicative of the age of

the building. Some will have far more experience with older pier-and-beam homes like those found in Oak Cliff or the M Streets. Most inspectors, he says, may have more knowledge of newer homes and slab foundations, so it's good to ask if an inspector has a specialty.

Inspectors and other specialized professionals act as a second line of defense when it comes to getting a house in shape. As a structural engineer for Vannier Engineering, it's his job to start at the bottom. When his job is done right, everything above will be in better stead.

"When the general inspector refers to me, that means it's necessary," he says. "But before getting to me, there are still things one can do to get a topnotch person to start the job."

And that could be as easy as talking to the neighbors.

"Yeah, ask for references from those around you. And most companies should be able to give you names in the area or another focus area where they've done the work. And if they're



willing, consider that a sign of confidence. If they're transparent that way, that's a good sign," he says.

Ironically, Vannier isn't overly encouraging of researching via the Better Business Bureau — or at least, he's cautions not to assume much if going that route. While they can be a resource for inspectors, they also pay to be a member of the bureau, and thus their reputation shouldn't be assumed as quality.

Once settled, Vannier advises to give a berth to the inspector to properly assess the problems if any, offer insight and even with client dissatisfaction, try to maintain a professional reciprocity.

"Give them a chance to resolve any issue if

you're unhappy," he says.

With a hot market in Dallas right now, sellers have taken to preinspect a house to work to their advantage when selling. This could help transactions move faster. But buyers shouldn't rest only on that.

"If a house is ready to sell, problems have been identified, repaired and documented, it helps the sale," Vannier says. "But I don't think a buyer should just rely on sellers' reports only. Overall though, it helps move things along quite nicely."

Vannier cautions that homeowners can be mindful of the age of their home in relation to

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JONANNA WIDNER | Contributing Writer

It's always been the Dallas dream: A giant house in the midst of a sprawling central neighborhood, plenty of space for the kids, a game room and a suite for the in-laws, all topped with a nice big lawn (picket fence optional). And for a while, that's exactly what Jon Langbert had.

"We were living in University Park, in a 4,600-

square-foot home — what I'm sure people term McMansion," says Langbert, single gay father to 13-year-old triplets. The house had four bedrooms, a game room with its own full bathroom, and six *more* bathrooms. "It was crazy-big," Langbert confesses.

It may have seemed like the goal, but Langbert — as many LGBT Dallasites have done

Single dad Jon Langbert moved his 13-year-old triplets and pet Weimaraner, above, to an apartment in Addison from his Park Cities McMansion, opposite, in order to save money earmarked for tuition to the elite private schools his kids attend. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



lately — chucked it. He packed up the house and kids and moved to Addison, to a new high rise apartment building called Fiori. Their new digs total just under 1,500 square feet, with just two bedrooms, a study and 2-1/2 baths.

“My son took the study as a bedroom,” Langbert explains, “he gets the half-bath, and uses the shower in my room in the morning.”

Langbert decided to make the transition after his girls were accepted into Hockaday, the well-respected, and expensive, private school in North Dallas. (Langbert was already paying for his son to attend another private school, St. Mark’s.) It didn’t make sense for the family to pay the sky-high taxes and living expenses that come with Park Cities if they weren’t going to take advantage of the primary benefit living there: The excellent public schools.

“The primary factor was the money,” Langbert says. “The girls were behind it because they knew the reason we wanted to cut costs was they were switching to private school. We went from roughly \$10,000 to \$3,000 a month in living expenses — the savings come out to roughly equivalent to three private school tuitions.”

But money wasn’t the only factor. A second benefit of the downsizing, he says, is the simplification of his lifestyle.

“As a single dad with three kids, it was a lot of work to keep up [with the old house]” he notes. “You feel like you’re either a full-time contractor or a full-time handyman.”

One would think those two benefits are enough, but Langbert soon figured out more.

“One thing that you can kind of feel good about yourself is that you can really reduce your

carbon footprint. I didn’t think about it until I saw my first power bill, and I thought, ‘Well, this must just be for part of a month,’” he laughs.

“No, it was actually for the whole month. You go from a few hundred dollars in a house that had gas as well for the cooking and hot water, to all-electric and still \$70 per month for power, even in the deepest, coldest months. It really is efficient that way.”

The Fiori building is adjacent to Vitruvian Park, a greenspace with a small lake and ducks, which Langbert says he and his family also enjoy. The best part about it? He’s not required to mow it.

“If your in a suburban subdivision with row houses, all that’s around is other houses, and you never see anybody,” he says. “Here, you go out and walk the dog, you see other people walking their dog, you get to say ‘Hi.’ You get to see your neighbors. It wasn’t like that in University Park. When I walked the dog, I never saw anyone out there. People come and go through their garages; in our case, in the garage you see other people.”

Langbert also says getting out of The Bubble, where the speed limit is 30 mph everywhere, let him live life at a faster pace. With kids, that’s a bonus, as well.

Given the social aspects plus the savings, it’s no surprise that Langbert has noticed other Dallasites following a similar downsizing path. Of course, while his family ultimately loves it, there are naturally bound to be stumbling blocks.

“The hardest part,” he says, “has been convincing two 13-year-old girls to share a bathroom.”

the water heaters and HVAC systems will be issues for inspectors. And older homes may start having foundation problems that can be for any home because of the volatile soil here,” he says. “Older slabs in the late ‘70s/early ‘80s are hitting that age, and I’m seeing so much of that right now.”

Ultimately, he says to hire an inspector who knows how to deliver the news, good or bad because it boils down to communication.

“I like to explain things to them and what to expect and not to,” he says. “Repairs can be expensive and stressful in a buying or selling situation. But knowledge comes in handy.”

For more information, email Dave Vannier at dvannier@vannierengineering.com.

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potential issues. Also, home inspections aren’t just for those in the market — they come in handy for those staying right where they are.

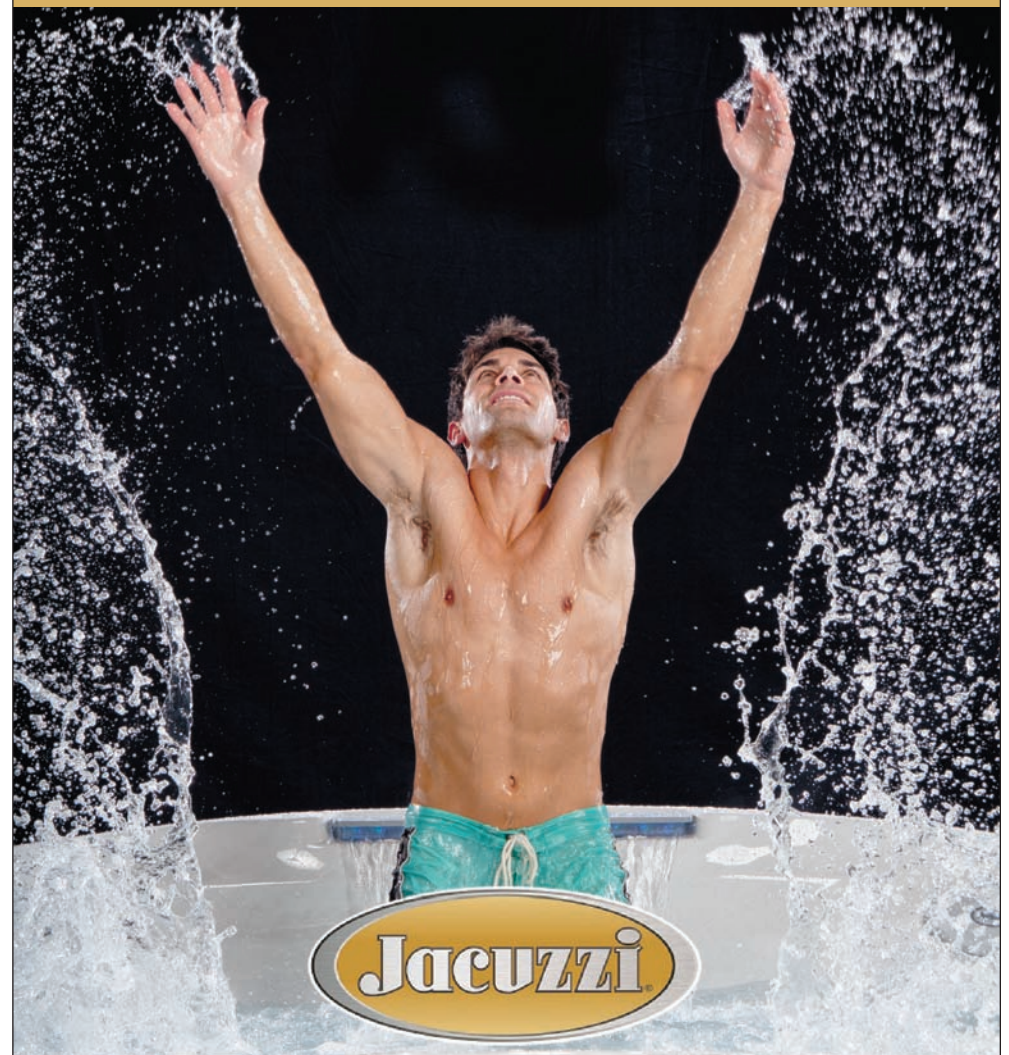
“When those cracks or separations start happening in an older home, that’s a good sign to hire someone to look at the house. There may also be water-leaking issues if you notice those bills rise all of the sudden,” he says.

But he does break it down when people should consider the issues that might be on the horizon.

“If a house is eight years old, those will have the least problems because they’ve likely been corrected from previous ones. At about 15 years,

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[ECO-CONSCIOUS]

Somewhere that's green

These eco-friendly tips make your home more marketable — and cheaper to live in



JEF TINGLEY | Contributing Writer

With images of melting ice caps and dying polar bears populating headlines and newsfeeds, now more than ever is the time for individuals to think about the effect of their carbon footprint on the world. And while improving car emissions and switching to reusable water bottles are good places to start in the journey to being more environmentally

aware, there are also many ways around the house to conserve energy and resources, too. Better yet, these simple steps may help your home become more desirable when buying or selling. "It's smart to be aware of everything about a house that makes it more green, because those things will save homeowners money," says Steve Atkinson, a realtor with Keller Williams Urban. "This includes items like high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, extra insulation, radiant

Using compact fluorescent light bulbs and other energy-saving lights are a good way to make a home more marketable, says Realtor Jenni Stolarski. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

barriers on roofs, and the right kind of windows. A home doesn't have to be built to green standards or have a green [LEED] designation in order to have many environmentally friendly components that save natural resources and money on utility bills."

In the construction industry the term LEED — meaning Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design — is a coveted certification to achieve for any project as it designates that the highest levels of efficiency was taken to ensure that the property is as green as possible. LEED certification can be challenging for non-new construction given dated materials, such as paints and woods, but buyers and sellers can still strive toward a more eco-savvy residence with small, yet measurable, changes.

For home sellers, Realtor Jenni Stolarski with Briggs Freeman Sotheby's International Realty recommends "greening up their home to put it on the market, without spending money that won't pay them back." She suggests cleaning HVAC system and filters, as it not only improves functionality, but can save the seller money. When it comes to lighting options, Stolarski points out that switching to CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs can also be a money and energy saver as they use one-fifth to one-third the electric power, and last eight to 15 times longer than incandescent lamps.

For homebuyers, Stolarski says start with an insulation check. "If the home doesn't have the proper amount of insulation, it's fairly cost efficient to add." She also recommends switching the most-used water fixtures to low-flow op-

tions, starting with commodes and sink faucets.

Jeff Duffey, a Realtor with Jeff Duffey & Associates, agrees on increasing water usage efficiency.

"[Homeowners] should prioritize investing in tankless, on-demand water heaters," he says. "Not only are they green and energy efficient, but their compact size also allows many homeowners to gain extra closet space where the old 50-gallon tube used to sit."

And whether buying or selling, real estate experts agree homeowners should think about the outside of the home as well as what's inside. Well-planned landscaping will not only increase curb appeal, it can also impact a home's green bottom line.

"Property owners are wise to consider and use plants in their landscaping that require little water," says Atkinson. "Water is one of our most precious resources, and we are in danger of North Texas facing a severe water shortage in the future."

Consider adding trees to the landscape as well; they can add both to the property's resale value but also provide shade, which can help cut electricity costs during those scorching Texas summers. (To help find the right tree and planting location, Stolarski recommends consulting TexasTrees.org.)

Despite Kermit the Frog's admonition in a classic song, maybe it really *is* kind of easy being green: Change a bulb, clean a filter, plant some trees, and you'll do your part to maximize your home's efficiency ... and, who knows, maybe save a polar bear or two along the way.



Tapani and Sassano added 'a gay touch' by expanding the master suite, above, and decorating it with furnishings and art that reflected their tastes, and melded with the mid-century style of architecture. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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and artwork they and their three "children" (all four-legged) enjoy. The elements all work together in creating a traditional style that feels integrated and organic.

It's not just the structures but the environment that appeals to many residents. Indeed, Lake Highlands is about as rolling as you'll find in Dallas north of the Trinity.

"Our heavily treed street is situated between two creeks providing us with a topography not found in most parts of Dallas," says Tapani.

"We have spent many summer nights at the Arboretum attending outdoor concerts, riding our bikes around the lake, walking the dogs in the neighborhood, meeting friends for cocktails at the local beer gardens, and much, much more," Sassano says. "We don't see ourselves leaving the area anytime soon."



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■ CULTURE From Page 22

singing along to Eminem's homophobic lyrics. But he loved the sound.

"I connected to the music. And queer identity, even in the bear community, is about taking ownership of self, but that's what hip-hop artists were doing," he says. "So it made me be able to express who I want to be, and that's what I do when I record and perform."

Playing the part was no problem; even if he didn't look like a rapper, he has the chops. He raps with impressive flow, and the beats along



with his humorous sensibilities create quality songs, even if they make for a chuckle sometimes.

"I have the skill but I wasn't the picture of what you thought of a rapper. You look at Cazwell, and he looks the part," Dipper says. "I feel like I don't, even when I perform. I strip and I'm a big chubby dude with hair all over. But it's that reason bears make space for themselves like the BearDance guys did."

And with humor at work in his songs, Big Dipper sometimes doesn't gain the musical respect he deserves. The jokes and gimmicks are

his perspective, his personality, but they sometimes get in the way when it comes to how he's received.

"Yeah, people think I'm a comedian, and I was scared about the humor in the beginning. I just find jokes in the world, and when I put that in my music, I'm being honest. That's who I am — cracking jokes and being cute," he says.

Indeed, his appearance has sometimes been more of a sell than the music. "I've gotten comments from bears saying they love my videos but watch them on mute," he admits.

All part of the hustle. ■

■ SCREEN From Page 21

that fact."

If that sounds like she considers the movie *and* the process of promoting it an inconvenience, it's not how she means it.

"The press are my very favorite people in the world," she gushes. "I got time to sit still in Birmingham, Mich., and think about the kind of things I have experienced. I'm flattered as all hell [by your interest]."

That interest led at least one theatergoer — me — to fly to New York three years ago for the singular reason of seeing the grande dame on Broadway for what was likely going to be a final time: As the dowager alongside Bernadette Peters in the revival of Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*.

"It was luck that we chose each other," she says of the first-time pairing with Peters. "I said [to the producers] I'd do the show if she did it. I didn't even know her except from her work, but she's a major actress, and I was thrilled to death [she agreed]. You [sometimes] get great material and great performer to work with."

Still, Stritch hasn't written off one final foray onto the stage.

"I would do a good play — find one and send it to me," she says.

Really?! Another show? Where does she find the energy?

"I don't *know* where I find the energy," she admits. "Performing is scary. I think we are all more frightened than we admit."

The only truly frightening things are interviewing Elaine Stritch ... and imagining a world without her in it. ■



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Friday 03.07

Out of the Loop shows 10 days of plays

WaterTower returns with its acclaimed Out of the Loop festival of fringe theater, featuring nearly 20 artists, companies and performers, from dance to music to plays. Among the offerings are Brandon Simmons' *Falling Man*, about a gay hustler, a drag queen and Jeffrey Dahmer, Diana Sheehan's tribute to Gertrude Lawrence, *Sweet Chariot* (pictured) and gay playwright David Parr's *Express from 59th*.

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 16. Visit WaterTowerTheatre.org for ticket information and a full schedule.



Friday 03.07
Saturday 03.08

Pop artist Peter Max returns to North Texas for 2 shows

We admit to having a soft spot for iconic pop artist Peter Max — after all, he actually designed an exclusive cover for Dallas Voice back in 2011. But even if he hadn't, we'd be happy to have him back in town. And he'll be here twice — in Fort Worth on Friday and Dallas on Saturday. Check out the latest work from one of the counterculture heroes of contemporary art.

DEETS: Milan Gallery, 505 Houston St., Fort Worth. March 7, 6–9 p.m. RSVP required to tal@milangallery.com. Road Show Company, 1215 Dragon St. March 8, 2–4 p.m. and 6–9 p.m. RSVP to 888-513-8385.



LIFE+STYLE

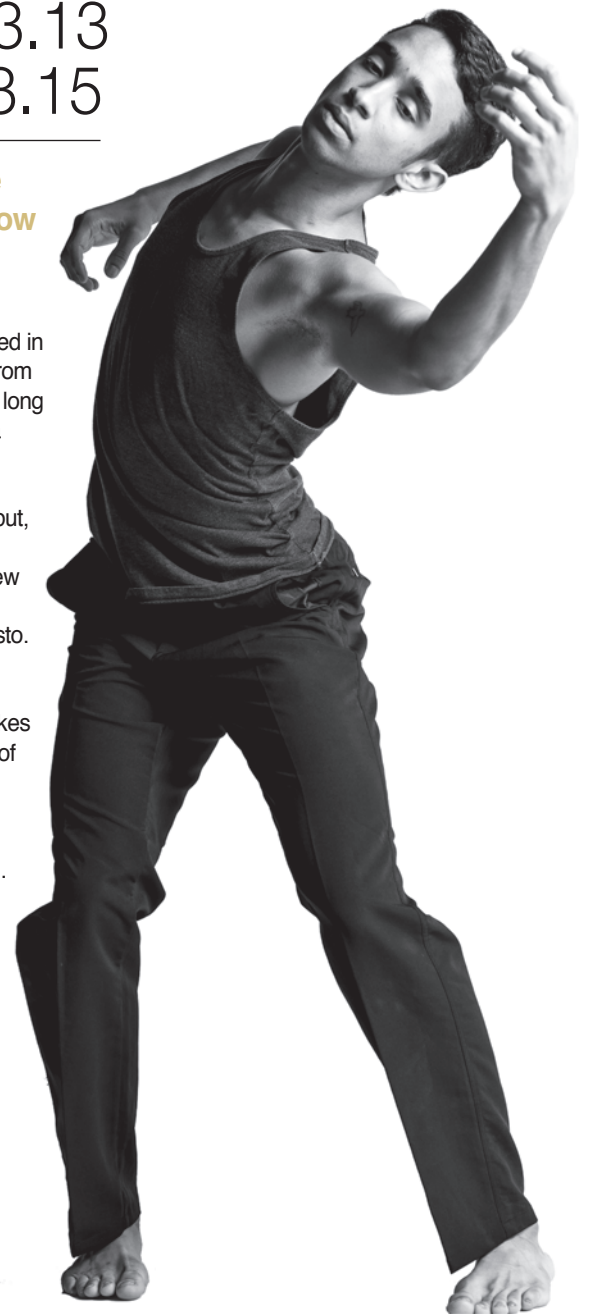
best bets

Thursday 03.13
Saturday 03.15

Dark Circles Dance back for spring show

Joshua Peugh, the artistic director of Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, arrived in Dallas only two years ago from Korea, but it didn't take him long to set down roots, starting a North Texas branch of his troupe here. Last fall, the company made its local debut, and it's back for a spring performance, including a new work created by guest choreographer Louis Acquisto. Keeping with Peugh's philosophy, prices are kept affordable, and the show takes place in the intimate space of the Sanders Theatre.

DEETS: Sanders Theatre, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. March 13 and 15 at 8 p.m. \$12–\$20.



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ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Out of the Loop Fringe Festival. WaterTower Theatre's annual expo of independent theatrical productions continues. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 16. Visit WaterTowerTheatre.org for a complete schedule of performances.

Cats. The long-running Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, with Linda Leonard. *Final weekend.* Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. CasaManana.org.

The Fortress of Solitude. A world premiere new musical about racial tension, based on a best-selling novel; written by Itamar Moses and gay composer Michael Friedman. Directed by Kevin Moriarty. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. March 7–April 6. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Lend Me a Tenor. Ken Ludwig's farce. Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through March 29. PocketSandwich.com.

Less Than Kind. A rediscovered play by gay author Terrence Rattigan gets its premiere. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 30. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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.

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

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.

We Will Rock You. A jukebox musical featuring the songs of Queen. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through March 16. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

BURLESQUE

Viva Dallas Burlesque. Dallas' premiere strip tease show takes place every first Friday at the Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Road. 9 p.m. VivaDallasBurlesque.com.

FINE ART

Peter Max. The pop artists makes two appearances in North Texas this weekend: Milan Gallery on Fort Worth's Sundance Square on Friday (6–9 p.m.), and Road Show Company in Dallas' Design District on Saturday (2–4 p.m. and 6–9 p.m.). PeterMax.com.

FESTIVALS

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

FRIDAY 03.14

FUNDRAISER

15th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon. A fundraiser for the North Texas Food Bank raises money and awareness of hunger, and features more than a dozen area restaurants serving up their cuisine. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 11 a.m.–1 p.m. \$25–\$100. NTFB.org.

SUNDAY 03.09

THEATER

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Continuing series of all Shakespeare plays presented in unabridged staged readings. Hamon Hall inside the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 9–10 at 7 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

MONDAY 03.10

BROADCAST

RuPaul's Drag Race. The sixth season continues, with the two "premiere"

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY | 'We Will Rock You,' the hit London stage show set to the music of gay-fronted band Queen, arrives in Dallas through March 16, courtesy of Dallas Summer Musicals.



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groups of six queens each merging into one group. Logo at 8 p.m.

Dallas. The Texas-set nighttime soap continues its third season. TNT at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 03.11

THEATER

I Love Lucy Live on Stage. Two episodes of the classic sitcom are recreated before your eyes. Bass Performance Hall, 435 Commerce St., Fort Worth. March 11–16. BassHall.com.

THURSDAY 03.13

DANCE

Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. Spring program from the Korea-based company the debuted last fall in North Texas from out artistic director Joshua Peugh. Sanders Theatre, 1300 Gendy St. Fort Worth. March 13 and March 15 at 8 p.m. \$12–\$20.

COMMUNITY

Texas Bear Round Up 19: Cowboys and Bears. The Dallas Bears host the 19th annual gathering of bears, cubs and chasers, with events planned all weekend.

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.

Registration begins Thursday at the host hotel, Crowne Plaza — Dallas Market Center, 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway. March 13–16. Visit TBRU.org for complete lineup.

FRIDAY 03.14

COMEDY

Throwing Shade Live. The comedically queer podcasters bring their live version of their vlog to Dallas Comedy House, 2645 Commerce St. 10:30 p.m. ThrowingShade.com.

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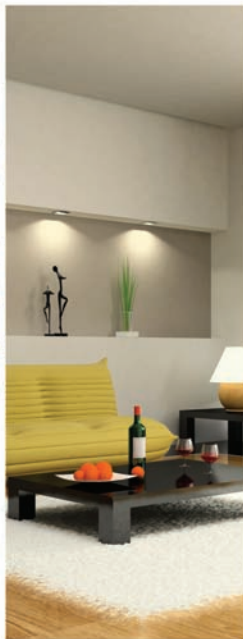
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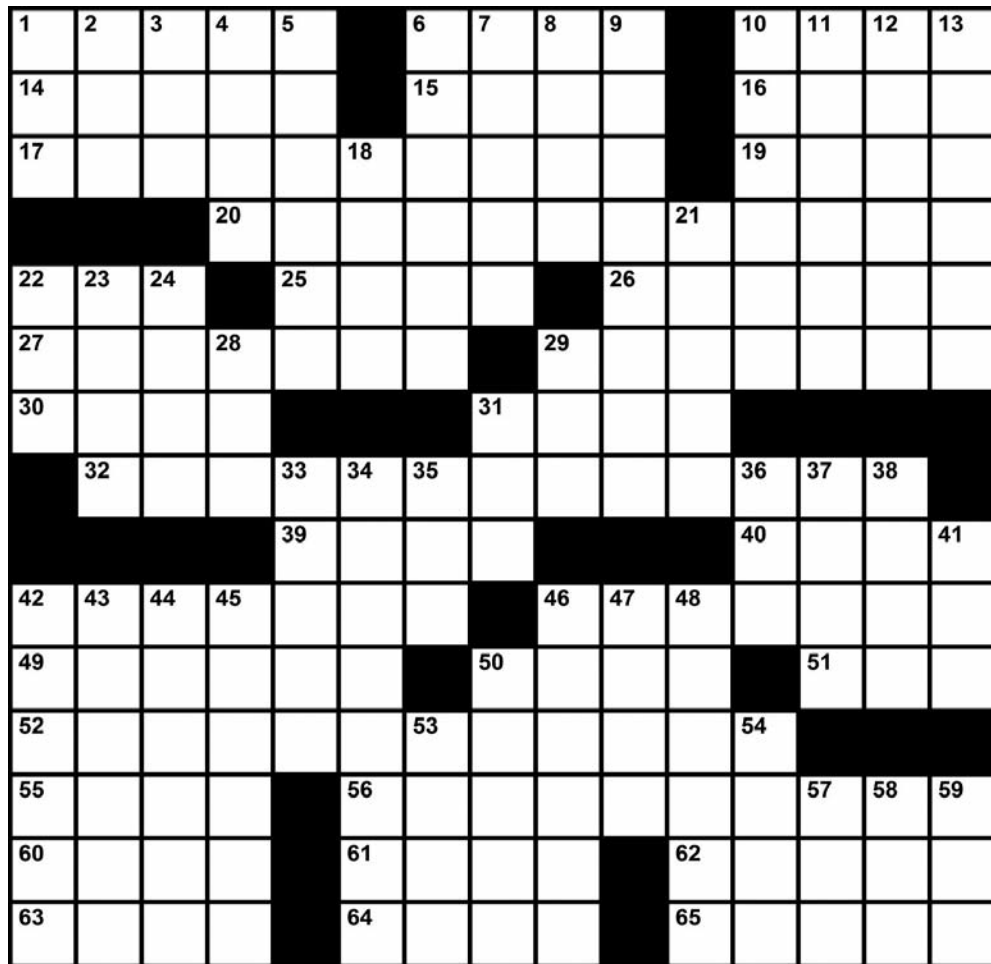
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Turn the Page

Solution on page 33

Across

- 1 Black key for Elton John
- 6 Door piece
- 10 Zipper problem
- 14 Area of Tennessee?
- 15 Race track shape
- 16 Went lickety-split
- 17 *Showboat* director with a "fishy" name
- 19 Count (on)
- 20 Start of a possible headline about Ellen Page
- 22 It bit Cleopatra
- 25 Melissa Etheridge's "___ It Heavy"
- 26 Triangle ratio
- 27 As anyone can see
- 29 Untrustworthy lawyer
- 30 Alternative to "Go straight"
- 31 Former Mets' stadium
- 32 More of the headline
- 39 Peter on the piano
- 40 Future queen of *Star Wars*
- 42 Paul Anka hit
- 46 Composer Aaron
- 49 Gay rodeo item
- 50 German industrial locale
- 51 Down in the mouth
- 52 End of the headline

- 55 Guitarist's tool
- 56 Contents of porn cassettes
- 60 Gardner of mystery
- 61 Perfect serves from Martina
- 62 Where fruits hang
- 63 Bambi, e.g.
- 64 It may come before we forget
- 65 Open-mouthed responses

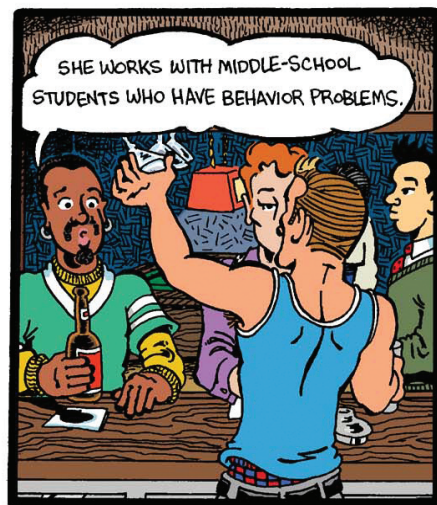
Down

- 1 Gay or lesbian (abbr.)
- 2 Title for a man who avoids sex with women
- 3 Hasty flight
- 4 Financial page heading
- 5 Explorer of southern Australia
- 6 ___ Yuma (Nick Adams character)
- 7 Word used to stop seamen
- 8 Soda shop treat
- 9 Stadium seat
- 10 Second part of Shakespeare's iamb
- 11 Jean-Paul Sartre play
- 12 Artist Raven
- 13 It regularly blows its top
- 18 Mystic Simone
- 21 Like Di
- 22 In the cards
- 23 Run-down neighborhood
- 24 Strip a fruit
- 28 Lodging place
- 29 Brown's *Murder*, ___ *Meowed*
- 31 QAF network
- 33 "___ at time!" (No threesomes!)
- 34 Rio Carnival, for example
- 35 To's companion
- 36 Not in the pink
- 37 Salty bodies
- 38 Clothing designer Chow
- 41 Dipstick word
- 42 Split to unite
- 43 Man of words
- 44 Figure in Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescos
- 45 Quarrel
- 46 Most fetching
- 47 John Goodman's *Normal*, ___
- 48 ___ in *Pink*
- 50 Amusement park features
- 53 Bad habit
- 54 Poet Teasdale
- 57 Supporter of bottoms
- 58 Velvet finish
- 59 Sound of an inflated doll with a leak



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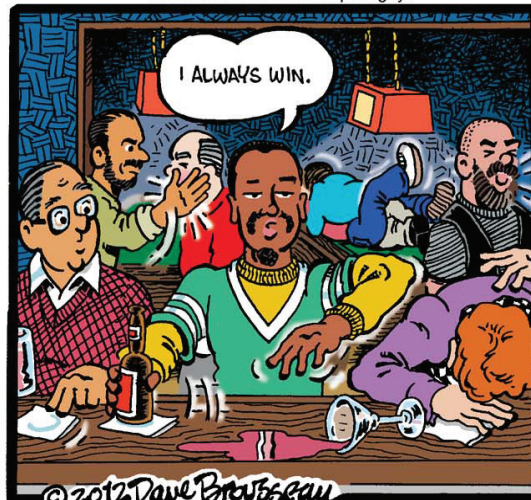
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LIFE+STYLE

scene



Jay and Ronnie at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Christina, Stephanie and Marie at Sue Ellen's.

Making the SCENE the week of March 7–13:

1851 Club: **Barefoot Hippies** on Friday at 10 p.m.

Alexandre's: The **Needle Prick Project** fundraiser at 8 p.m. **Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Shelia P** and **Infinity** on Saturday. **Liz Mikel** on Wednesday.

BJ's NXS! The lights are coming down, the music is getting loud and the dancers are heating up for the **Dirty Thursdays Launch Party** on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: **Men of the Discipline Corps** hold their annual **E'spirit de Corps** weekend and **South Plains Leather Fest** takes place Friday–Sunday. **National Leather Association** club night on Saturday.

Eden Lounge: DJs **Miss CJ** and **Sickone** spin for **Totally 80s Theme Party** on Saturday starting at 9 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: **Kristy Lee** on Saturday. **The End Theatre Productions** presents **The Vagina Monologues** benefiting the **Dallas Rape Crisis Center** and the **V-Day Spotlight Campaign** on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. \$10.

The Brick: **Dallas Hawk** show followed by meet and greet with photo shoot. **Dallas Sheraton** and **Raquel** also perform. Thursday at midnight.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: **Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association** uniform party, Sunday 3–7 p.m. **Bearaoke** on Thursday at 9 p.m. ■

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



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scene



Michael, Brandon and Nathan at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Corey at the Round-Up Saloon.



Allise, Alexis, Gemini and Alana at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Mario and Christina at TMC: The Mining Company.



Tanveer and Ruby with a model wearing a designer masks featured at the DIFFA preview party.



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- Detail-oriented with exceptional organizational skills •Valid driver's license
- Bi-lingual Spanish a plus •Computer skills
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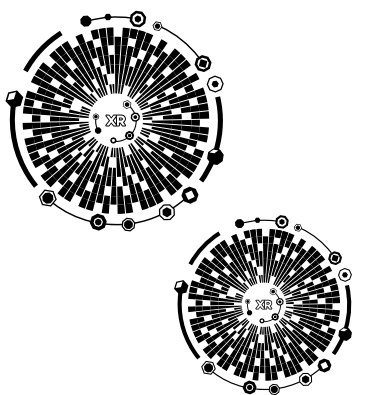
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