

dallasvoice

The Pre

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W D WENDY DAVIS The GAY Interview

The Texas Democratic gubernatorial candidate, on the record about gay issues

Cover Story by
David Taffet
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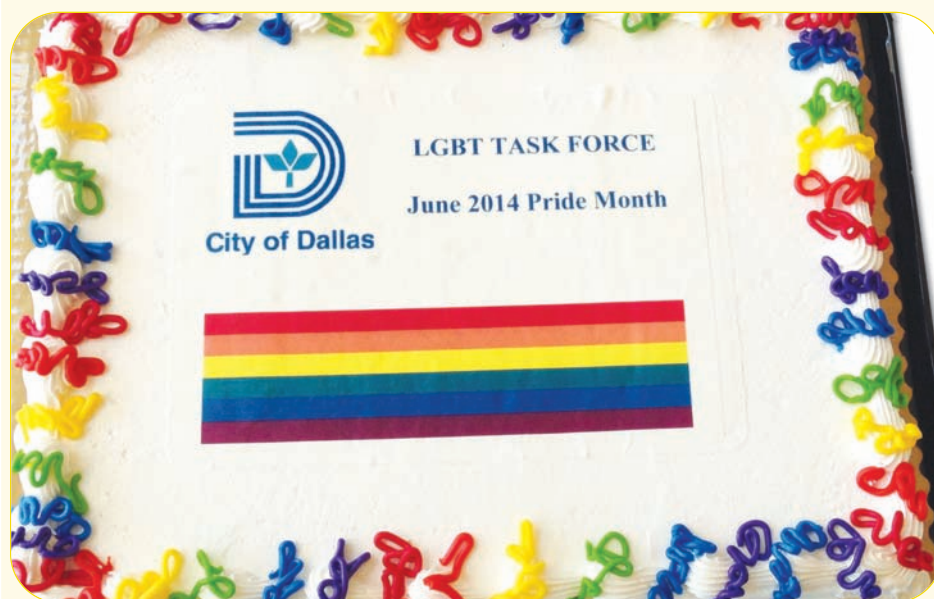
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Dallas celebrates Pride at City Hall

The city's LGBT Task Force celebrated Pride at City Hall Wednesday and gave out three Spirit of Equality awards.

Councilman Jerry Allen was given the Leadership Award. Allen guided the city council's recent equality resolution through committee.

Councilmen Scott Griggs and Phillip Kingston jointly won the Ally Award. Both have worked closely with the LGBT community during their terms in office.

The Rev. Jim Mitulski accepted the Community Award for Cathedral of Hope. Task Force member Cd Kirven said the church stepped up when support was needed to help pass the resolution.

The resolution instructs city offices to make sure policies are equal and inclusive of everyone including the LGBT community.

— David Taffet

Queer Index ranks 35 gay-friendly U.S. cities. So how does Dallas do?

The Queer Index is a survey of the 35 most LGBT-friendly cities in the U.S., based on 32 publicly available data and 16 "lifestyle metrics." The top three are pretty much what you'd expect: Los Angeles, New York City and San Francisco. But how does Dallas fare?

Not so well, actually. Our hometown didn't even crack the top 35 — and neither did Texas city Houston and Arizona's Phoenix (all three are in the top 10 population cities in the U.S.). Indeed, the city farthest south on the list was Denver, Colo. — hardly a stalwart of ol' Dixie.

Rounding out the top 10 are Des Moines, Iowa (No. 4), Chicago (5), Seattle (6), Albany, N.Y. (7), Rochester, N.Y. (8), Denver (9) and Madison, Wisc. (10).

Of course, the metrics themselves are fairly arbitrary. For instance, one of the 16 "key lifestyle metrics" is "availability of hookups;" a separate one is "availability of casual sex." I'm not sure "sluttiness" and "friendliness" are comparable, but there you have it.

There were some interesting statistics, such as the highest percentage of single lesbians are in Memphis, that Boston has the highest number of anti-gay hate crimes and that more than 2,000

same-sex "casual encounters" are posted on Craigslist every day in N.Y.C. alone.

The survey was undertaken by a new media company called Vocativ.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

A reparative therapy program offered by the gays that guarantees no results

One certificate is all it takes to go into the reparative therapy business. There's no certification. No training. No oversight. Why? Because reparative therapy isn't therapy.

Metroplex Republicans Vice President Rudy Oeftering, who attended the Texas Republican Convention in Fort Worth last week, testified before the platform committee and was as horrified as anyone when they endorsed reparative therapy.

To show just how qualified you have to be to offer reparative therapy, Oeftering went to the Dallas County Clerk's office and registered his new business — Nomo Homo Reparative Therapy. It's official — with County Clerk John Warren's signature and everything.

Reparative therapy is unregulated. No medical, psychological or social work organization endorses it. In fact, all of them condemn it. The state of Texas doesn't regulate it. So now Oeftering is happy to offer it.

He promises no results. He expects any gay "patients," as the Republican platform refers to the community, to finish his program just as gay as they started, maybe more so. And he plans to charge just what other programs charge — \$10,000 cash upfront.

Oeftering said at least in his program, his promise of no results is guaranteed. He suggests victims of other programs, which don't deliver the promised results of changing a person's sexual orientation, should sue for breach of contract.

He said the person registering the business in the County Clerk's office looked horrified when he turned in the application for the business certificate, until he assured them he was just trying to make the point that this was all you needed to open a reparative therapy business. No training or qualification is required.

— David Taffet

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Wendy Davis: The gay interview

In our exclusive interview — her first with the gay press — Davis defends record of gay support and blasts opponent

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com



In her first interview with the gay press, state Sen. Wendy Davis, the Democrat nominee for governor, affirmed her support for marriage equality, employment and housing nondiscrimination, and said she would like to strengthen the bullying bill she shepherded through the Senate Education Committee.

Connecting with the LGBT community is a priority for the Davis campaign, but some have criticized her avoiding gay issues, even when addressing LGBT groups. During the campaign, she has attended a number of events with the LGBT community and fundraisers thrown by community members. She mentioned Black Tie Dinner, in particular. "What a special night that was," she said. But despite a spirited reception from the audience, during her brief address to one of the largest fundraisers in the nation for LGBT groups, Davis neglected to use the term "gay," "LGBT," "marriage equality" and the like. Similar omissions were noted when she spoke at several high-dollar private fundraisers.

And while she hasn't been silent on gay issues — Davis called on Abbott to stop defending the state's ban on same-sex marriage during her endorsement interview with the San Antonio Express-News in

February — she hasn't addressed that issue directly with her LGBT audiences. When her campaign contacted Dallas Voice about her first one-on-one interview with a gay media outlet, they said Pride month was a good time to do that, and that Davis wanted to make her positions clear on a number of issues affecting the LGBT community.

In doing so, Davis also made several jabs at Attorney General Greg Abbott, the Republican nominee and her opponent in the general election this November. Abbott intervened in two same-sex divorce cases in Texas; when he missed the statute of limitations in one of those cases to bring a challenge, he had the legislature change the law. Davis called his position absurd.

"I like to say that Texas right now is a state where you can't love who you choose to love and you can't hate who you choose to hate," she said. "It's such a great irony, right? If [Abbott] stands against marriage equality, why in the world would he stand against someone being able to dissolve a marriage he says he doesn't agree with in the first place." ■

Dallas Voice: Why has it taken you until this stage of the campaign to talk about LGBT issues? Wendy Davis: When we started the campaign, I wanted to focus on education. Obviously, that cuts across every person, no matter what orientation, race [or] income level. But I, of course, am very committed to LGBT rights and am proudly speaking about my history — the anti-discrimination ordinance in Fort Worth [which] was the first in the state, my work on anti-bullying and my support for marriage equality.

In two recent marriage-equality cases (Oregon and Pennsylvania), the state attorneys general refused to defend the state law while the respective governors — one a Democrat, one a Republican — decided to abide by the Appeals Court decision and not appeal the decision. Is that what you'd do as governor? Absolutely. That would be my position, and it would be a clear contrast to what Greg Abbott has admitted his position on that issue is. Unlike the attorneys general you just mentioned, he, of course, is fighting to defend the constitutional ban on gay marriage

in Texas, and has been very vocal on his opinion on that.

How do you see marriage equality playing out in Texas? The courts will be the first place to answer the question. Depending on what they do, Texas will reexamine the next step. I would not at all be surprised to see Texas voters ultimately move this issue forward through another vote on this, and I certainly would be supportive of putting the issue to a vote in Texas if we don't find resolution in the court system.

What are you hearing around the state? Do you think enough Texas voters would repeal that amendment? With the exception of the Republican convention going on in my hometown of Fort Worth [last week], yes. That is what I'm hearing around the state. I think it's in keeping with the evolution we're seeing on this issue around the country. People are bringing younger, fresher, nonjudgmental perspectives in our state just as they are in other places, and it's only a matter of time before we evolve to a point other states have on this issue.

An issue that affects even more people than marriage equality is em-

ployment nondiscrimination. How would you deal with that? Absolutely right. In Fort Worth, we were the first to pass an anti-discrimination ordinance in employment and housing and it was used as a model for other Texas cities.

I was thrilled to see Houston successfully pass their ordinance [last month]. It looks like it's going to come under some challenge in one form or another. I'm not sure what that will look like. But when that first began to move forward in Houston ... I don't exactly recall what Greg Abbott said about it, but he gave evidence of his disagreement with Houston moving forward. He talked at one point about trying to block the implementation, which I found so surprising because other major cities in Texas have long had these ordinances in place. Fairness in the workplace should belong to everyone, and the idea that we would exclude anyone from fairness in the workplace is not in keeping with Texas or American values.

■ DAVIS, Page 9

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localbriefs

Chorale celebrates divas gone ... but not forgotten with concert

The Turtle Creek Chorale's last concert of the season will be a diva-licious evening of music honoring some of the finest female vocalists in the world, presenting the iconic songs of legendary pop, rock, and country divas. From Etta James' "At Last" to Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" and Amy Winehouse's "Rehab," this fast-paced show will serve up one hit after another.

Divas Gone ... But Not Forgotten. Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. June 20-22. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Continental pedestrian bridge opens

On June 15, the Continental Avenue Pedestrian Bridge, Trinity Skyline Trail, West Dallas Gateway Plaza and Sylvan Avenue Bridge are set to have their grand opening in Dallas' Trinity River Corridor.

Trinity Commons Foundation volunteers and sponsors are throwing a big party to celebrate ... and everyone's invited.

Events take place all day. A 5K run begins at 7:30 a.m. starting at West Dallas Gateway Plaza.

Information booths are open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on the Continental Bridge. Gift shops at both ends of the bridge will be open until 10 p.m. Beer gar-

dens and food trucks will be in the Trinity basin.

On the Downtown side of the bridge, there will be a vintage car show during the day.

In the evening, there will be big band dancing on the bridge and a campfire party in the river bottoms from 8-10 p.m. For more information visit TrinityRiverRevel.com.

Sister Helen hosts Gaybingo North

To promote Gaybingo North, Sister Helen Holy appeared on that train wreck of a show whose host was proudly "goin' to Midland." While he maintained his holier-than-thou persona through the segment, he never walked off the show.

Gaybingo North takes place at the Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Ave., Plano. June 15 at 3 p.m.

'The Case Against 8'

The Case Against 8 is a behind-the-scenes look inside the case to overturn California's ban on same-sex marriage. Shot over five years, the film follows the unlikely team that took the first federal marriage equality lawsuit to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The screening is hosted by the Human Rights Campaign. It takes place at the Texas Theatre, 231 Jefferson Blvd. June 18 at 7 p.m.

pet of the week / SCOOTER

Scooter is a very handsome and young Beagle mix. He was transferred from a local shelter in hopes of finding a loving, forever home. This adorable little boy is friendly, playful and ready for a home to call his own. He gets along fabulously with other dogs and he really enjoys recess time with his playgroup of friends. He is an older puppy and is almost full grown though he will still need help learning basic manners. Come meet Scooter and show him the love and devotion he deserves.



Scooter and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.

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BLACK TIE APPROVAL | During her brief speech at Dallas Black Tie Dinner last fall, Davis neglected to mention gay-specific issues, but has not come out strongly in favor of marriage equality and gay-inclusive nondiscrimination laws. (Chuck Marcelo/Dallas Voice)

■ DAVIS, From Page 6

Was passage in Fort Worth in 2000 as contentious as it's been recently in San Antonio and Houston? It took us awhile. There had been attempts to pass that ordinance in prior city council years and we were split. One of the most vocal opponents [was city councilman] Chuck Silcox. He had a conversation with someone who he cared for deeply, who shared his personal journey of discrimination. It changed Chuck's mind, which shows the power of putting a face on these issues. And when Chuck proudly came forward to support that ordinance, I believe the council came along [with a vote of] 6 to 1. That was a very important and symbolic moment, and it reminded me of the power of human stories in policymaking.

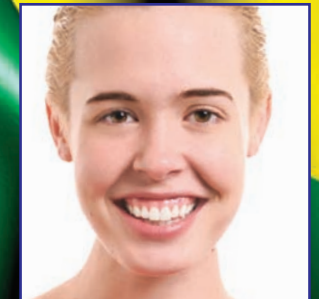
You worked toward passage of the anti-bullying bill through the Senate Education Committee and the state Senate. The final bill was a compromise. Now that it's been in force a couple of years, what would you do to improve it? I've watched implementation of the bill in my home community of Fort Worth. We had someone from the LGBT community who was a real leader on that. His name was Jon Nelson. He worked with the school district to implement a very thorough teaching-training-education

platform for the teaching and administrative community. Last time I spoke to him, he was very pleased with how well it was being received and implemented. What I don't know is how it's been received across the state. That's a very good question to ask as part of our work.

Was there anything you were disappointed that was taken out of the bill? Yes, I was very disappointed that we weren't able to extend it to online bullying. In today's social media world, especially among our young kids, that's where a lot of our bullying is taking place. I understand we can't ask educators to police the Internet. But what the bill would have called for is the empowerment of teachers and administrators — where information comes to their attention about online bullying to be empowered to address it.

What's at stake in this election? What this race is about is [that] all hardworking Texans — no matter their gender or race or orientation or background — have an opportunity to be a vibrant part of who we are and the varying policies and diverse policies that Greg Abbott and I have in regard to a myriad of issues will be a real reflection of whether we're able to advance the issues of hardworking Texans or not. There's a lot at stake here.

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- Proven public health measures must be stringently upheld

Public health is based upon seeking the cooperation of the entire community

- Without the active participation and input of all communities, public health measures will fail

Public health puts the health of the overall community above the wishes of the individual

- Individual rights and desires must be balanced against the health needs of society

Cultural, political and religious prejudices are a major obstacle to good public health

- Making public health policies that are at odds with science endangers the health of the entire community

Public health services are poorly administered in much of the world

- Most places rely more on treatment after the fact rather than prevention

Public health is among the most important functions of government

- Only sound government policy can protect all of society from the ravages of infectious diseases



ADVOCACY

The direct delivery of public health services is insufficient to stop disease

- Direct services by themselves won't change ineffective government policies

Advocacy for best practices in public health is essential

- Concerted action to improve policies have been highly effective in changing AIDS and other policies

Public health advocacy must be done at the community, governmental and societal level

- Effective advocacy involves members of the community as well as opinion leaders in society

Advocacy must be forceful enough to overcome all the prejudices that work against it

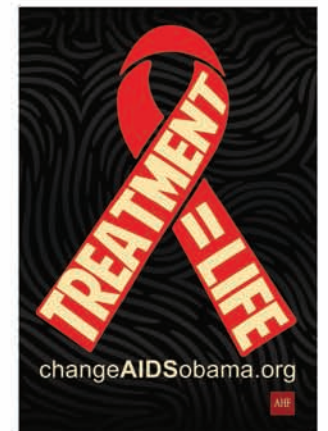
- Sometimes loud, aggressive voices are needed to get and keep the public's attention

Advocacy is itself a public health service

- Patient advocacy is healing and empowering

Advocacy must be culturally appropriate

- Different communities approach issues in different ways, which must be incorporated to be effective



HUMAN VALUES

All lives matter equally

- Diseases don't discriminate. Defending the most disadvantaged is vital to public health

The neediest among us require the most assistance

- Poverty, stigma and discrimination often accompany diseases and must be addressed

Telling the truth no matter how unpopular is the right thing to do

- Credibility can only be maintained when the public believes that what you are saying is true

Our job is not done until the last case is cured or treated

- While we will never wipe out all diseases, settling for half-measures will lead to the spread of infections



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PORNOGRAPHY

AHF is not opposed to pornography

- We approach the issue solely from a public health vantage point

Condomless porn encourages young people to have risky sex

- While we do not wish to censor in any way, porn is a powerful cultural influence

Condomless porn endangers the health of performers

- No person is disposable: No one should endanger their health at work

Condomless porn enriches producers at the expense of the public health

- The profit motive does not trump health

Condomless porn is against the law

- Federal, California, Los Angeles County and City laws prohibit condomless porn



PrEP

Current PrEP regimens require taking medication daily

- Future drug regimens may be administered on a monthly or quarterly basis

All PrEP studies have shown a significant problem with adherence based on daily dosing

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Sub-optimal adherence will lead to an increase in infections

- If the community norm of condom use decreases, infections will increase

PrEP is appropriate for a very limited number of people under special circumstances

- Sero-discordant couples who don't use condoms and sex workers may be good candidates for PrEP

PrEP has not been shown to be an effective community-wide public health intervention

- Research studies that show limited success at the individual level cannot predict community-wide success

PrEP does not protect against other STDs

- Epidemic levels of STDs will likely increase if widespread use of PrEP decreases condom use

PrEP without consistent HIV testing will result in viral resistance

- If a person is infected with HIV while taking Truvada they are at high risk of drug resistance

Wide-scale promotion of PrEP will likely lead to lower condom use

- If conventional wisdom says that condoms are a thing of the past, current users will stop using them



CONDOMS

The majority of gay men use condoms

- Multiple surveys have shown that the majority of gay men use condoms always or sometimes

Condoms are not readily accessible to many populations

- Condoms are expensive for the young and the poor and people are embarrassed to buy them

Condoms are not properly advertised and promoted

- Condom advertising is prohibited on prime-time TV and on billboards in most places

Condoms do not eliminate sexual pleasure

- While most people would prefer sex without them, sex can be enjoyed with them

Condoms are currently the most effective form of prevention of HIV and other STDs

- In 30 years, not a single case of HIV has been transmitted in Nevada brothels, which require condoms

Appropriate education about the value of condom use will result in fewer infections

- Modern marketing can be used to make condoms more appealing



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AHF

The elephant in the room

Texas GOP convention causes a stir with anti-gay platform amendments, exclusion of gay Republican groups

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Following last week's Texas Republican Party convention in Fort Worth, which saw the inclusion of gay reparative therapy in the platform and a controversy over the presence of gay Republican groups at the event, some commentators — even those within the Texas GOP itself — are questioning whether the party has lost touch with voters.

Much of the displeasure with the party was focused on the introduction of a platform plank that would "recognize the legitimacy and efficacy of counseling [of gay people], which offers reparative therapy and treatment for those patients seeking healing and wholeness from their

homosexual lifestyle. No laws or executive orders shall be imposed to limit or restrict access to this type of therapy." The language was introduced late on June 5, and was put up for a vote before the entire convention on June 7.

Before the vote, Rudy Oeftering — a Republican delegate and vice president of the gay political group Metroplex Republicans — made an impassioned plea to the platform committee to drop the issue of homosexuality from the platform. While two lines of language damning the LGBT community in the 2012 platform were dropped — the removed wording read, "We affirm that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society and contributes to the breakdown of the family unit. Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God" — the provision supporting reparative therapy passed the convention vote easily.

"It will not add one new vote to the Texas Republican vote totals," Oeftering told the platform committee. "We also believe it's just bad poli-

tics."

When Oeftering asked the committee whether they believed homosexuality was a social problem that needed to be addressed in the platform, members answered him.

"Social problem?" one spoke up and answered. "Absolutely."

Oeftering continued his argument that the language be expunged. "Let this issue go," he said. "It your opinion. It's your belief. It's my life." When he finished, he received applause.

Colter Keathley, a 19-year-old Young Republican and delegate at the convention, noted that the language was out of touch with the beliefs of people his generation — even those who identify otherwise with the GOP.

"[Among] Young Republicans [ages] 18 to 29 ... 61 percent support gay marriage," Keathley said. "A vast majority are moving away from the Republican Party because of what some would call bigoted ideals against homosexual couples."

He also asked the committee to remove any language disparaging the gay community.

Keathley said he was emotional on the issue because his brother is gay.

The plank was somewhat surprising because in recent years, reparative therapy — which tacitly supports the idea that sexual orientation is a "choice" — has been debunked and largely abandoned, including by some former practitioners. Dallas County Democratic Party Chairwoman Darlene Ewing said reparative therapy was "dangerous," "outlawed in several states," and prompted kids to commit suicide.

Family counselor Candy Marcum called advocacy of reparative therapy dangerous.

"It has been soundly rejected by every professional organization for mental health organization that I know," Marcum said. "They've all resoundingly said it doesn't work."

Democrats in the state's bluest counties weren't the only one criticizing the Republican platform and its homophobic positions. Writers from some of the most conservative newspapers in the state condemned the Republican document.

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CONVENTION SHAKE-UP | Metroplex Republicans vice president Rudy Oeftering, pictured left with Texas land commission candidate George P. Bush, spoke against the inclusion of anti-gay planks in the Texas GOP platform at the party's convention in Fort Worth last week, but the language still was included in the final document.

A comment in the Lubbock Avalanche Journal read, "When I read their 2014 platform, I thought I was reading The Onion ... but it was real."

An editorial in the Beaumont Enterprise said, "The Texas Republican convention that concluded last weekend in Fort Worth moved the party further right. Even some Republicans wonder if the party has gone too far."

From the Midland Reporter Telegram, "For a party and its leaders, who are supposed to represent all Texans, to endorse reparative therapy in its platform, that's not something we can get behind."

Jeff Davis, chairman of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas (a statewide gay group), said a number of people at the convention told him, "This is wrong." That included people

from all walks of life, he said, including those in the religious community.

Davis said the problem with the platform was its length. He said rather than a list specifics, the platform should be a statement of principles.

Log Cabin Texas was refused a booth at the convention. Metroplex Republicans, which broke off from Log Cabin in 2011, was itself the center

of a controversy earlier in the week when it had initially been granted a booth ... until party officials realized it was gay-friendly and kicked them out of the exhibition hall. Oeftering said his group was told they could not exhibit because their beliefs don't conform to the party platform. Davis said the idea that Log Cabin was refused a booth because it opposes one plank is ridiculous.

"No one agrees with every one of the 250 items in the platform," Davis said.

Thomas Purdy, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, said the treatment of his group locally stands in contrast to how it was treated at the state convention.

"We are fortunate in how seamlessly integrated we are with the Dallas County Republican Party, as we have been for many years," Purdy said. "The letters to the state party of support for a booth and removal of the offensive planks from the 1950s came overwhelmingly from Republicans in Dallas County, evidence of the very relationships we have proudly developed."

Earlier in the week, Rob Schlein, president of Metroplex Republicans, said the group was successful removing some language from the 2012 anti-gay platform as well as another plank from earlier platforms which opposed gays in the military. Then the statement supporting reparative therapy was added. Over the past year, California and New Jersey have enacted laws preventing the

use of reparative therapy on minors.

After Log Cabin was refused a table at the Republican Convention, the Texas Democratic Party invited the group to have a booth at the Texas Democratic Party convention, which will be held at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas later this month. Log Cabin turned the offer down.

Davis said no one from the Democratic Party contacted him directly so he questioned the sincerity of the offer, but he had an additional reason to refuse.

"It would send mixed messages to our party," he said.

Ewing said she hadn't heard of anything special being planned to address the reparative therapy issue or to spotlight Stonewall Democrats, the LGBT Democratic organization, at the upcoming Democratic convention.

"Our Stonewall group is a pretty powerful group," Ewing said. "They're part of our executive committee."

She said members of Stonewall are already among the convention's planners, speakers and participants and called them an organic and important part of Texas' Democratic Party.

Log Cabin Republicans of Texas chairman Jeff Davis weighs in on the view from inside the convention, defends gays staying true to party principles. See Viewpoints, Page 16.

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Dallas health dept. falsifies STD records

One man reports being hounded by county even after testing negative

For one Dallas man, a negative HIV test wouldn't stop Dallas County from contacting him.

"At the end of May, I got a call from the county health department saying I may have been exposed to HIV," said John (he asked that his real name not be used). The county health official told him someone who tested positive listed him as a contact. John said he was tested in April at Out of the Closet, the new thrift store on Cedar Springs Road run by AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Rapid HIV testing is available at the store. The test results came back as negative.

When the county official called again, news that the test was negative was not enough — he insisted John come in for another test. John refused.

John's experience is indicative of a problem at the Dallas County Health Department, which came under fire this week when the state alleged the county was falsifying records.

When someone tests positive for HIV or syphilis, the health department is supposed to find any sexual contacts to let them know they are at risk. Dallas Health and Human Services is

under investigation for falsely contacting people about being exposed to syphilis and HIV.

HHS employees took names of people who tested negative and listed them as sexual contacts of people who tested positive to make it look like Dallas was doing a better job of tracing contacts.

A letter from the Texas Department of State Health Services Office of the Inspector General to Dallas HHS director Zach Thompson said Dallas is in breach of the HIV/STD Public Health Follow-up contract. Thompson would not comment.

Bret Camp, AHF Texas regional director, said when they test at his clinics or at Out of the Closet, they encourage someone with a positive test to bring in partners for testing. Camp said HIV testing is confidential, but not anonymous. An anonymous test would allow someone to get results without giving a name; confidential testing does permit reporting the name to the county if the test is positive. That's required of all doctors and clinics in Texas that test for STDs.

Camp said syphilis must be reported to the county within one business day; HIV, within a week.

County officials will contact anyone with positive results to ask for partners' names, addresses and phone numbers, then they contact those partners. That's required by the state.

When John was contacted by the county, he told the official he had already been tested and was negative. The county insisted he prove he was negative or come to the county clinic for another test.

John refused since he had only one partner over the previous year, who also tested negative.

He wasn't sure why his name would have been on a county list. Out of the Closet didn't report his name to the county because they only report positive results.

"Any friend of yours could have come by and given us your name," John said the county official told him.

Camp said HIV tests used to require a sample to be sent to a lab and a written lab result was returned. "Technology has advanced beyond the protocols," Camp said.

With a rapid test done on site, there's no written result, so John had nothing to send to Dallas County to prove his status. Instead, Dallas County continues to harass John, telling him he must come in for a test.

Kirk Myers, CEO of Abounding Prosperity, said "Obviously if that's occurred, it's not acceptable. It undermines the county's credibility with the community."



A MATTER OF TRUST? | Abounding Prosperity CEO Kirk Myers called Dallas County's STD tracking program valuable, but worries reports can undermine the department's credibility.

The letter from DSHS placed Dallas County's Health Department on probation for six months and reduced the contract for the year by \$118,137, the amount of the salaries of two employees accused of falsifying records. One of those employees has already resigned.

— David Taffet

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Oh, what a feeling

LGBT employees may lose rights, marital status with Toyota move

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

While the economic benefit of Toyota moving its headquarters from Los Angeles to Plano is good news for North Texas, current Toyota's married LGBT employees may not be happy about what they'll lose when they relocate.

Their marriage licenses will be invalid as they cross from California into Arizona, then become valid again as they drive through New Mexico, finally becoming worthless as they settle in to become new Texas residents.

In the eyes of Texas law, couples who are recognized as married today will become legal strangers.

Although the cost of living is cheaper in North

Texas, and the state imposes no state income tax, a variety of rights they enjoy as married couples in California will suddenly disappear. Without the right paperwork, their children won't even be recognized as theirs.

Oh, what a feeling.

"I'm not comfortable responding on behalf of how our LGBT associates feel about moving to Texas," said Brandon Mosley chairs of Spectrum, Toyota's LGBT employee group. "Our new headquarters location will not be completed until late 2016 or early 2017, and there are many personal decisions to be made as our associates and their families consider relocation." Mosley did say the benefits Toyota offers its LGBT employees are equal and won't change when they relocate.

By 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court may settle several pending cases, including a Texas case that found the state's anti-marriage amendment unconstitutional. Until then, the state of the law is murky at best.

While benefits a company offers may be equal, opposite-sex couples will move to Texas with their marriages intact with just one piece of paper. Same-sex couples will arrive no longer married and may spend upwards of \$1,500 to receive some of the protections a \$75 marriage license ensures. Changes in health status or a new house may prompt additional paperwork.

Dallas attorney Rebecca Covell said couples

moving to Texas should take care of some paperwork as soon as possible. She recommends seven documents, the cost of which runs around \$850 per person. In addition to updated wills, couples will need medical powers of attorney and HIPAA releases, statutory durable powers of attorney, declaration of guardian, directive to physicians and appointment of agent to control disposition of remains.

For couples with children, if both parents are not on the birth certificate, there should be no problem, she said. For those without a two-parent or second-parent adoption, many forms need to be filed, costing thousands of dollars more.

While Texas actually encourages LGBT people to become parents, not every courtroom in Texas is equal. The best places to complete an adoption in the state are in Dallas or San Antonio. Some attorneys have had luck even in conservative Collin County.

Covell said couples with children should get



LEGAL EFFECT | Rebecca Covell, a Dallas attorney familiar with laws as they relate to same-sex relationships, says married gay couples from other states will have to take steps to protect their rights when relocating to Texas.

a declaration of guardianship in the event both parents are incapacitated. "There's another layer of protection you need in Texas," she said.

Protection written into the family code for opposite-sex married couples is not there for same-sex couples, she said.

In the 1970s, Toyota's advertising slogan was, "You asked for it, you got it, Toyota." The company's LGBT employees didn't ask for it, but they're getting it anyway. ■

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viewpoints

Texas Republican leadership failed us all, not just gay community

Despite progress, coming out as a Republican rivals coming out as gay — and it shouldn't anymore

One of the hardest times in my life was when I came out. I had lots of friends who loved me and accepted me, but how could I know if they would love and accept me when a major secret regarding who I am was exposed? Millions of men and women across the country had been ostracized and ignored for what I was about to tell my inner circle, but I came out anyway.

"Friends," I said, "I'm tired of hiding from you, and I'm tired of living a lie. I am a Republican."

For LGBT Republicans like me, coming out of the Republican closet is often as difficult, if not more difficult, than coming out of the gay closet.

Perhaps the most irritating thing about being a gay Republican is the one question that we are often asked: "Why are you a gay Republican? If you care about equality for the LGBT community, then why aren't you a Democrat?"

Gay and Democrat are not synonymous. There are millions of LGBT individuals who grew up in conservative households and still believe in conservative principles of limited government, personal responsibility and free enterprise.

The idea that only the Democrats care about equality or the LGBT community is a fallacy. As chairman of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, the largest LGBT Republican organization in Texas, I have found incredible allies and friends in organizations like College Republicans, Young Republicans, Texas Federation of Republican Women and Republican Liberty Caucus. These organizations are bursting with members who support the LGBT community and want to see the full inclusion of that community within the party. Moreover, support of the LGBT community is growing among general Republican voters. According to a 2013 poll conducted by the

Texas Politics Project, 60 percent of Republicans polled support same-sex marriage or civil unions.

Of course, all of this inspires a follow-up question: "If there's so much support of the LGBT community, then what the heck happened at the recent Texas GOP convention?"

What happened is, leadership of the Texas GOP failed. They failed all of us, not just the LGBT community. Convention is meant to be a



Jeff Davis

Contributing Columnist

time in which Republican voters can voice their opinion on the party platform and change it to reflect their current opinions on various issues. Convention is meant to be a time for healthy and open debate. There's a reason why the addition of a plank supporting reparative therapy — an outdated and unethical practice in which "therapists" try to "cure" their "patients" of their same-sex attraction, sometimes by utilizing torture tactics or physical violence — is gaining more press than Greg Abbott's acceptance of the gubernatorial nomination. The new plank is not supported by a majority of Republicans who were present at the convention and does not belong in the platform at all.

Then how was it added to the platform? Platform changes can be brought up days before the platform is voted on by the delegates present for convention. Though the platform isn't finalized until the vote of the delegates on the final day of convention, amendments to the platform may be introduced to sub-committees nearly a week earlier. If that sub-committee of five people votes to approve an amendment (a vote of only three committee members being a majority), then the

amendment continues to a temporary platform committee and then to a permanent platform committee of 31 members, one for each Senate District. It may be challenged there, and the committee may hear testimony from delegates who support or oppose the amendment.

It's worth noting that on Thursday, June 5,

the permanent platform committee heard testimony opposing the reparative therapy plank. While there was debate on the issue, the committee voted to keep the plank in the platform. The vote was not unanimous, but that body of 31 people is responsible for the language which is now making international headlines.

Among delegates, there was intense opposition to the reparative therapy plank. Strangers were contacting Log Cabin Republicans to offer their support in challenging the plank on Saturday when further amendments could be presented on the convention floor to the entire body of 8,000 delegates. With the help of a coalition of allies, we wrote an amendment to strike the entire homosexuality plank.

That amendment was never heard. During the six-hour debate of the party platform on June 7, only one amendment was debated. Another 200 amendments, including ours, were ignored.

The Texas GOP didn't vote on reparative therapy. They voted on the entire platform without debating it, save for a brief debate on medicinal marijuana and an overlong debate on immigration. Hundreds of people who put pen to paper to change the platform were not heard.

By approving the platform after debate of only two of over 250 planks, the Republican Party of Texas failed the delegates. By not debating reparative therapy, the Republican Party of Texas adopted a plank which will haunt them until the next convention.

What happened last week illustrates several problems within the Texas GOP. The platform, which is meant to be a brief statement of basic Republican principles, should not be 35 pages long and should not include over 250 planks. The convention, which is meant to be a forum for open debate, should be exactly that. Delegates, who allegedly have the power to change the party platform, should actually have the power to do so.

I still believe in limited government, but it's doubtful that a state party with a 250-plank platform does.

Jeff Davis is chairman of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, based in Austin.



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Cinderella stories

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Out actors Peter DiCesare and Sean Burroughs create their own fairy tale endings

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

For actors Peter DiCesare and Sean Burroughs, the Dallas theater experience had been like a fairy tale.

In less than two years, DiCesare has had acclaimed featured roles in *The Producers* (as Carmen Ghia), *Sweeney Todd* (as Pirrelli) and *Pageant* (Miss Deep South), all for Uptown Players. That's an impressive resume for anyone who's been working here for a long time, not to say a Houstonian and recent TCU grad.

For Burroughs, the rise has been even more meteoric. The same week he was graduated from the theater department at Oklahoma City University, he began rehearsals for his Dallas theatrical debut, and with it and an upcoming role in *The Boy from Oz*, he's already earned his Actors Equity card; by the end of summer, he plans to move to New York City to pursue an acting career. DiCesare plans to make the move within the next year, as well. Those are what you call real Cinderella stories.

It is appropriate, then, that the two actors' next show together will be *Soho Cinders*, the North American debut of a hit in London two years ago, which puts a gay twist on a familiar story.

Set in modern-day England, DiCesare plays Robbie, a scrappy entrepreneur trying to make a go of his laundromat while his stepsisters stand in the way. In order to help finance his dream, he occupies himself as a part-time escort. That's something that his boyfriend, James Prince (Burroughs) doesn't know. But James, a hot young politician, has his own issues. He's deeply in the closet, and hasn't informed Robbie that he plans to marry his favorite hag in order to keep up appearances while rising up the ranks.

"It's sort of the Ted Haggard story," offers director/choreographer John de los Santos with a sarcastic wink. (De los Santos, for the record, made the leap to New York City last year.)

Maybe not *exactly* Haggard's life story, but if the plot sounds familiar — and especially the reference to a handsome Prince — well, it's meant to.

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SO, HO | Peter DiCesare, right, and Sean Burroughs, center, put a gay twist on Cinderella with 'Soho Cinders,' a North American premiere presented by Uptown Players, directed and choreographed by John de los Santos, left. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

"It's a gay twist on Cinderella," says DiCesare. "There are little echoes of Cinderella — there's no wicked stepmother and no actual fairy godmothers," but there are a few ugly sisters and the few thoughtful mentors along the way.

"[Theatre Britain founder] Sue Birch notes that this is a British panto," De los Santos says. "There's no drag, but it is filled with characters who are over-the-top — broad stereotypes."

"[My character] is fairly wishy-washy — he's pushed in so many directions," Burroughs says. "He has a fiancée and she knows he's been attracted to men in the past, but she agrees to

marry him anyway. But [ultimately there's a message] about being true to yourself and [not] putting on facades."

"It's a romp!" De los Santos adds. "It's family-friendly — there's no cursing, and no one takes his shirt off! It may be my first nipple-free show."

But what appeals most to all the principals is "the score, which is absolutely infectious and tuneful and hummable," De los Santos says.

"It's really neat to create something fresh with this piece itself," says DiCesare, who's vocal register includes an impressive falsetto. "It has some touching moments, but it's new, and has such

light touches. My solo is called 'They Don't Make Glass Slippers,' and I love it."

Burroughs' own preference is one he doesn't even sing.

"Let Him Go" is my favorite song," he says. That leads to a discussion of *all* the good numbers on the show, which debuted in London in 2012 with legendary actor Stephen Fry as the narrator.

DiCesare and Burroughs are so new to the scene, Burroughs especially, that they've only



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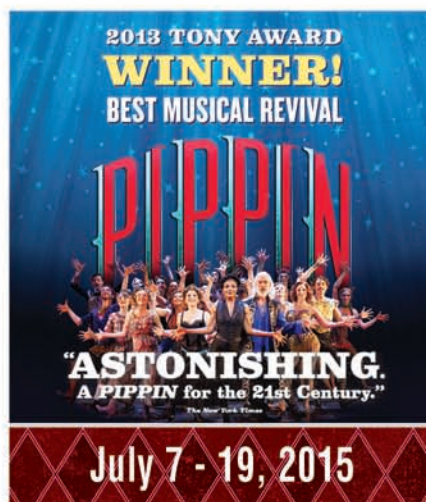
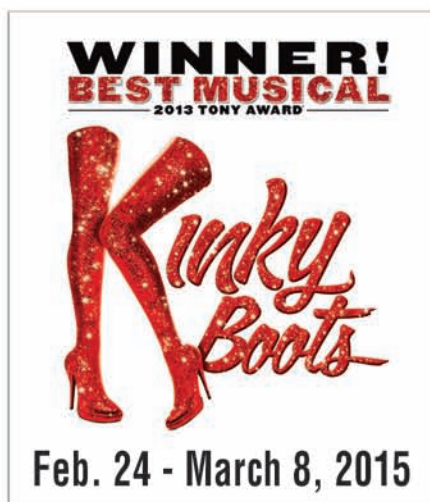
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Gateway to WorldPride

Toronto welcomes international Pride fest, but city's a gay mecca anyway

The annual Gay Pride celebration in Toronto has long been one of the biggest, boldest and best-attended around, but for 2014, get ready for the city's greatest festival yet. The annual WorldPride, which moves to a different city each year, will take place concurrently with Toronto Pride. Later this month (June 20-29), WorldPride will dominate the city's famed Church Street Gay Village. Adding to the buzz is the fact that this year marks the first time that WorldPride takes place in a North American city.

The 10-day event will include concerts by a slew of A-listers, including Tegan and Sara, Chely Wright, Melissa Etheridge, Deborah Cox, Martha Wash and superstar DJs David Morales and Quentin Harris (expect the lineup to continue evolving between now and the big week). Official events are many, beginning with an opening ceremony on June 20, and culminating



CANADA GAYS | Toronto Pride was already a spectacular event, but this year it will coincide with the international WorldPride event later this month. (Photo courtesy Toronto Tourism)

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during the big weekend (June 27–29) with a Trans March, Dyke March, WorldPride Parade, Family Pride, Streetfair and Arts and Cultural Festival, and Closing Ceremony. Check the WorldPride website for further updates and details, and also on news about additional parties, gatherings and performances taking place during the big week.

If you're in Toronto for WorldPride, you'll surely experience the city's lively, naughty-and-nice Church Street Gay Village. It's one of the largest and most centrally located LGBT business and entertainment districts on the globe, with dozens of bars, restaurants, shops and other establishments catering enthusiastically to the community.

But, of course, there's far more to both Toronto (SeeTorontoNow.com/toronto-diversity) and surrounding Ontario (OntarioTravel.net) than all the good fun you'll discover on or near Church Street. Here, we're taking a look at some cool neighborhoods in Toronto in case you wanna be there for WorldPride; next week, we'll profile a few enchanting vacation spots within an easy drive that would make for charming pre- or post-Pride overnight getaways — or just good ideas for a Canadian vacation any time.

Beach and the Toronto Islands. During the summer, Torontonians venture en masse to the small archipelago located just offshore from downtown and known as the Toronto Islands (TorontoIslands.org). Among the many lovely spots for sunning and socializing on the islands,

Hanlan's Point Beach has the most ardent following among LGBT folks — it's an officially clothing-optional beach that faces the lake and is quite well-kept and picturesque. You can easily reach the beach via a frequently scheduled ferry service (the ride takes 15 minutes, costs \$7 round-trip, and affords passengers magnificent views of the city skyline — boats leave downtown from the foot of Bay Street, at Queens Quay).

Consider bringing a picnic lunch with you to Hanlan's Point, as amenities are minimal. However, you can also stroll along a paved trail to Centre Island, which contains all sorts of amusements, restaurants and other things to see and do — from here there's also separate ferry service back to Toronto, if you'd rather not hoof it back to Hanlan's Point.

Queen Street West. Toronto's most colorful ethnic neighborhoods lie west of downtown, where the hipster-factor is also highest. Walk along Queen Street West to experience the heart of the city's alternative culture — you'll find everything from offbeat antiques stores to vintage clothing boutiques to shops specializing in witchcraft to divey tattoo parlors. Farther west, Queen Street intersects with yet another

strip of trendy, hipster-infested bars, cafes and shops, Ossington Avenue, which is definitely worth a tour.

Up until the middle of the 20th century, Toronto endured a reputation as a hard-working, earnest, but rather dull metropolis. The incisive writer Jan Morris once described it as "a small

provincial city of almost absurdly British character." A walk through the many bustling ethnic neighborhoods, around the vibrant Gay Village, and past the quirky, counter-cultural businesses along Queen Street West reveal just how dramatically times have changed.

— Andrew Collins

A marriage of convenience ... or a redefinition of the institution?

***The Marriage Act: The Risk I Took to Keep My Best Friend in America, and What It Taught Us About Love* by Liza Monroy (Soft Skull Press 2014) \$16.95/320 pp.**

What makes a marriage work? Is it effort, honesty, trust, acceptance, love? Or, as in *The Marriage Act*, should you strive to marry your best friend ... even if it's illegal?

Throughout her life, Liza Monroy says there've been three important men: her father; her boyfriend, Julian; and her gay best friend, Emir. But she'd barely seen her father since her parents divorced when she was 6. Julian was in Manhattan, far from Monroy's L.A. home and, though they were engaged, their relationship was rocky. Emir, however, was nearby (three blocks away) and Monroy saw him whenever she needed him. And she needed him a lot.

They met in college, Emir in the U.S. on a student visa, from a country Monroy calls Emirstan. But in the weeks following Sept. 11, 2001, when just being Middle Eastern was cause for suspicion, Emir's visa was about to expire.

By that time, Monroy's engagement had fallen apart. She was afraid of love, but more terrified of being alone. She asked Emir to marry her, which seemed like a great solution: Emirstan was intolerant of gay men and deportation was dangerous. Marrying her gay BFF would allow her to "practice" at marriage (never mind that the Immigration and Naturalization Service disallowed marriage for a green card's sake ... and that Monroy's mother was an INS agent).

But what, exactly, makes a marriage? What characterizes it? If it's love, they had that; if it's needing one another, they had that, too. Did marriage have to be about sex and babies, or is it possible to redefine it?

The Marriage Act should be a good book — a unique chronicle of a gutsy, illegal act that, accidentally, turned out well for all concerned. And it is good, just not as much as I'd hoped.

With angst that would make Woody Allen proud (and a near inability to keep secrets), Monroy writes of stress, misgivings and sabotaging plans to keep her gay pal stateside. That would be tolerable, perhaps even madcap, if it wasn't so repetitive and fussy. Her many blame-the-parents passages and falls-flat attempts at humor don't help; mix in occasional, bumbling sweetness and not-so-subtle lessons, and you've got a memoir that's passable when it could have been great.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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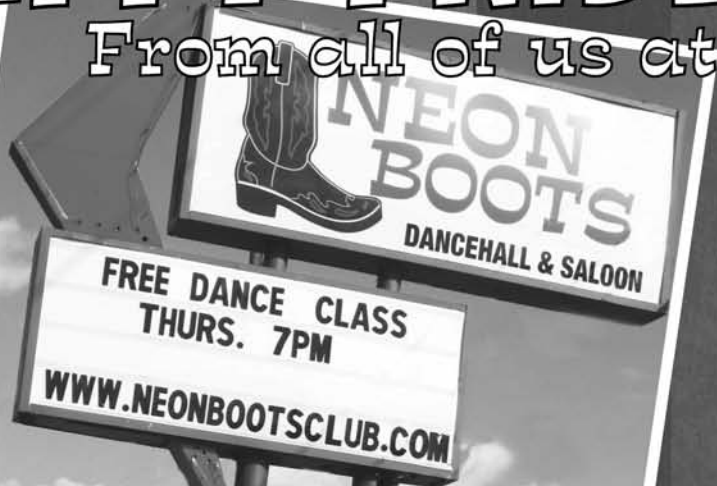
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Free Lily

Outspoken Brit Lily Allen on controversy and when she knew she was a hag

Rebellious and fearless, Lily Allen has slayed some egos in her time. But with Allen's recently-released third album, Sheezus, the tabloid target is experiencing the contentment of marriage and motherhood. But don't think the Londoner's gone soft.

Allen doesn't hold back from calling out U.K. journalists as lowbrow, and condemning the music business as a mess, and how "I'm here for the people who like me, not for the people who don't." And when she talks to you about her vagina? Well, it's like she's promoting a new horror movie. And though she won't plainly hate on her pop peers, she will drop a comment caustic enough to suggest that Lily Allen, for all her attempts at curbing her bitterness, still has no problem being a bad bitch.

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: What differences do you notice between talking to U.S. and U.K. journalists? Allen: It's actually more pleasurable here [in the U.S.]. I find that it's slightly more intellectual in the line of questioning. In England it's very ... it's very obvious what they're trying to do.

Trying to get you to say something controversial? Yeah, yeah.

You've always been a hot commodity for that. How do you deal with all the media scrutiny? I mean, I choose to be here. I made my bed and I should lie in it.

Why do you think people are so hard on you? Because no one else says shit, that's why. I don't mean they're all hard on me, but no one else gives them anything.

A B-side of yours, "Fag Hag," attracted a lot of attention from the gay community, for obvious reasons. At what point in your life did you realize you'd become a fag hag? My husband once turned around and went, "How come all of your friends are gay?" And I was like, "They're not! What are you talking about?" He was like, "Yes, they are." Then I looked around and I was like, "Oh, actually you're right — they are."

I imagine you had gay friends even before you were famous. Yeah, always.

What's the connection between you and the gay community? I don't know if I'm the one who can say what it is. I can't speak for gay men. I just know that I love my gays. I've just always had gay friends and I can't remember when I haven't. My mom always had gay friends as well. There have just always

been a lot of gays everywhere!

How much have gay people inspired your act and your music? Most of my glam squad back in the U.K. are all gay men, so when things like [my recent performance at] G-A-Y come up, they all start hyperventilating with their drag show ideas ... and then, you know, the Beyoncé wigs come out.

On "Fuck You," a single from your last album, *It's Not Me, It's You*, you've even gone as far as to make statements regarding homophobia. Why is it important to take a stand on issues like homophobia? Because talking about any kind of oppression is important if you have a voice and a platform on which to speak. If people are listening, I think it's your responsibility to talk about those things.

Have you ever felt oppressed or like an outsider? Yeah, since I was a kid. I think that's just more of a personality trait in me, but I think we all feel like that. I wouldn't want to feel any other way. I want to feel different from the idiots.

When you're doing Beyoncé drag, the gays know you're doing Beyoncé drag. But, as you've acknowledged, some people miss the point and use a performance like that as ammunition to stir drama. Do gay people get you better than the average person? I'm just glad that someone gets it! [That performance] was directed at you guys; it wasn't really for anybody else. I didn't do a show for YouTube. I did a show for my homosexual audience at G-A-Y.

What are some common misconceptions people have of you? If I speak about them, it makes me sound like I'm ranting about things. I'm very happy. I'm happy to be here and I wouldn't want anyone to think that I was complaining, because I'm not. I'm happy with myself and I'm very lucky to be here.

Some people don't think you seem so happy, based on *Sheezus*. Critics have said they think you're disdainful toward fame and pop music. What do you make of those accusations? I try not to read it. It's like having an argument with your little brother or your little sister — they know where to get me. People really do just get it wrong and I get the wrong end of the stick. That's when it really upsets me, because I feel like I can't even respond. But, actually, more often than not they have an agenda in the first place. If I respond, it just gives them more ammunition to go deeper and go farther with it, so I just let it lie and just hope that the people who do get me, get me and the people who don't get bored and move on to something else. I'm here for the people who like me, not for the people who don't.

Have you ever wished you weren't famous? Sure, there are tiny moments where I might wish that, but I have an amazing life, a beautiful house, a beautiful husband and beautiful children. I've had a lot of those things happen to me because they're my circumstances, they're my work, so I can be nothing but thankful.

Why is it that women get pitted against each other, but men don't? It's easier to make women look stupid if you write them off as being bitches that hate each other. It's a story, isn't it? And it's a believable story! But it's not the case, really, in pop music. I don't think so, anyway.

What do you think of the state of pop music right now? I think it's amazing. The best it's ever been.

You're full of it. [Laughs] What do you think? What do you think of the state of the pop music industry? What are your thoughts on it?

Nobody cares what I think. I'm not Lily Allen. I care what you think. You think it's good?

I think, for me, no era in music will measure up to the '90s. I think it's difficult. It's hard because essen-



tially a lot of big pop stars bought into record deals when the record industry was working a little bit better and were a bit taken, too, by the people who run the record labels. Really, that is the case. If we were houses we would take mortgages out against ourselves ... we've gotta pay off those mortgages! It's not fair to blame it all on the artist, and it's equally unfair to blame it on the labels. I just think it's a really difficult time in music and people are adjusting. I hope that things get to a better place quick.

What do you think your female contemporaries think of you? It's not something I really think about, to be honest.

But the title track on *Sheezus* name drops just about every current female pop artist. Well, I guess maybe that would insinuate how much I care.

You've said that you're giving up on drinking and drugs. When you look back at those hard partying days, what's been the wildest night of your life? If I could remember, it wouldn't have been that wild.

Is "Our Time" meant to be a gay anthem? Yeah, elements of it — "dressing up like we're queens of the night," for sure. There are definitely elements of anthemic behavior going on.

Was kissing yourself in the video for that song the most lesbian thing you've done since making out with those girl twins in San Diego? [Laughs] I can't believe you even know that! That's hilarious. But no — that has been my most lesbian experience still to date and will probably stay that way if I live up to my wedding vows ... which I do plan to do, by the way.

Your baggy vagina, noted in your "Hard Out Here" video, has gotten a lot of press lately. Are you happy with your body? Yeah, I am very happy with my body at the moment.

Now that you've opened up the dialogue regarding baggy vaginas, how often do girls wanna tell you about theirs? Do people come up and tell me about their baggy pussies? Never. [Asking the people around her:] "Hey, how's your bloody, baggy pussy? Yup, good? Lovely, lovely."

Did you say "bloody"? Too far, Lily. Too far. I know that's not what you wanted to hear. As a gay man, "bloody, baggy pussy" is really not hot.

When's the last time you thought, "It's hard out here for a bitch"? It's hard out here for a bitch when you can't find the bathroom.

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■ CINDERELLA, From Page 18

known each other since call-back auditions ... and yet they have to play men deeply in love for months *and* do justice to the Cinderella myth. But that's the fun of acting, they say.

"I get to live vicariously through the character I'm portraying and dive into my imagination," DiCesare says. "I get to do things I want to do that I never would in real life."

Such as meeting his own Prince Charming? Well, neither man has given up on that possibility (though Burroughs admits he burns a candle for Matt Bomer). And when they get to New York and try to make it big ... well, that's the fairy tale can really begin. ■

UGLY STEPSISTERS | 'Soho Cinders' taps into Cinderella with the inclusion of two trashy stepsisters who make things difficult for the lovers. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)



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UP's Pride Fest moves back to fall

For the past three years, Uptown Players has produced the Pride Performing Arts Festival — a showcase of plays and live performances with gay themes — during Dallas' Gay Pride Week in September. But when the group announced its upcoming season last summer, the fest was moved to National Gay Pride Month — that's now — with *Soho Cinders* as the centerpiece. While *Soho* is still going on as planned, the rest of the festival has been moved back to September.

The reason is, Uptown scheduled it in June when it was unclear whether they would have access to the Kalita Humphreys Theater, which they share with the Dallas Theater Center. When the slot came open this spring, they jumped at it, according to co-founder Craig Lynch.

The 2014 Pride Fest will include a concert version of *The Last Session* on the main-stage of the Kalita Humphreys on Sept. 12. Uptown Players originally produced the dramatic musical in its inaugural season in 2002. Denise Lee and Sara Shelby-Martin will recreate their roles.

Also on deck will be several productions in the upstairs Frank's Place space: *Mythical Beasts*, a new play written and directed by Bruce R. Coleman about a gay architect and his straight friend; *From White Plains* by Michael Perlman, a drama about bullying; and the lesbian-themed comedy *The Houseguests* by Harry Kondoleon.

More productions and performances, including the closing night act, will be announced throughout the summer.

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LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Friday 06.06

Magnolia says 'Wilkommen' to 'Cabaret'

It was one of the raciest movies of its day, with surprising gay content, but *Cabaret* still took home eight Academy Awards, including for best actress Liza Minnelli and best supporting actor Joel Grey, pictured. A classic musical and essential viewing for gay movie lovers — if only for Minnelli's charismatic performance as the divinely decadent Sally Bowles — it's part of the Magnolia Theatre's Big Movie Tuesday, sponsored by Dallas Voice.

DEETS: Landmark's Magnolia Theatre, in the West Village. Screenings at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.



Thursday 06.19

Third Oak Cliff Film Fest opens with Takeji doc

The Oak Cliff Film Festival is only in its third year, but they scored a nice opening night film — the documentary *To Be Takeji*, about the actor, activist and prolific (and hilarious) Facebook poster. The documentary will be just one of several gay-inclusive films screening and the four-day fest, which runs June 19–21. Among the others are a documentary about the world most pampered cat, and a short about David Hockney. But the fun of any festival is discovering things for yourself.

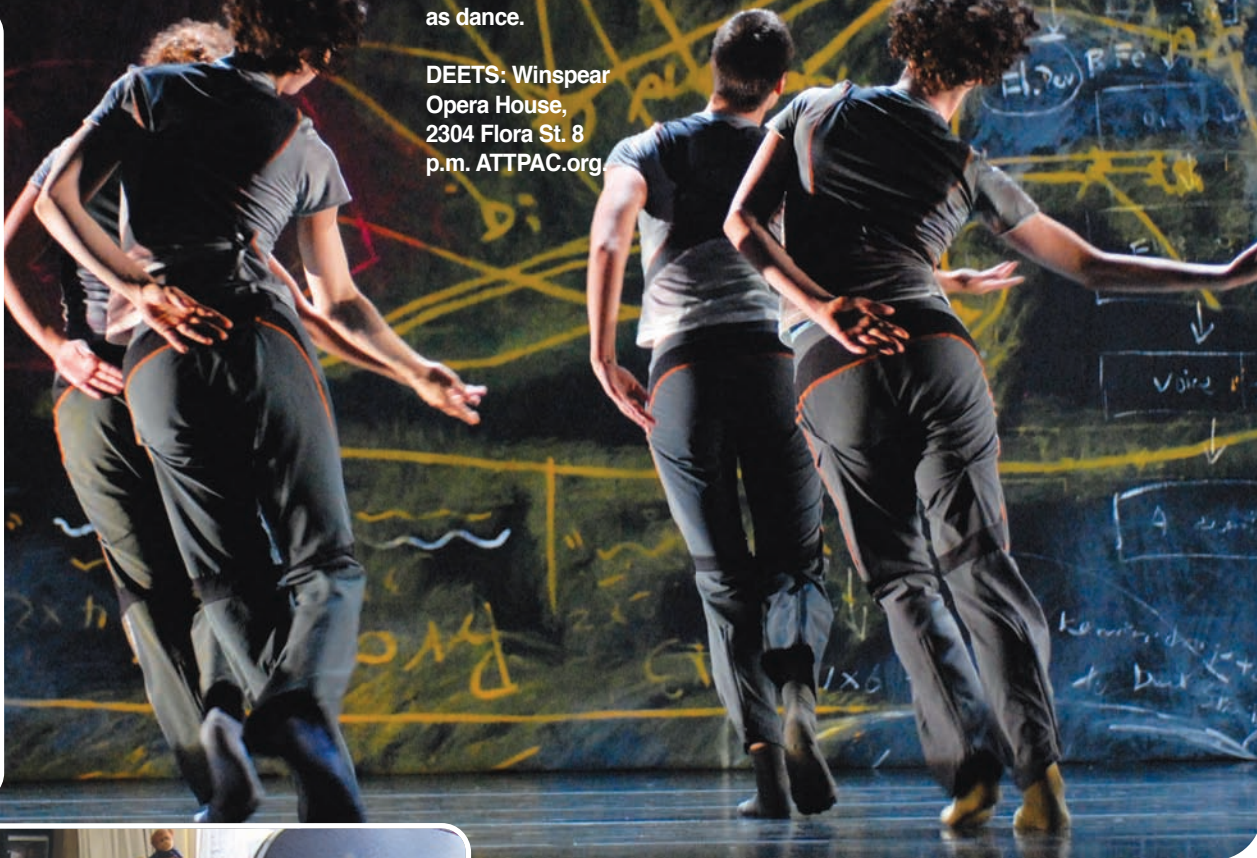
DEETS: The Texas Theatre, 321 W. Jefferson Blvd. June 19–21. For a complete schedule of screenings, visit OakCliffFilmFestival.com.

Thursday 06.19

Shen Wei Dance Arts closes TITAS' season

Shen Wei is probably best known to the world as the lead choreographer for the Opening Ceremonies at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games, and if he dazzled you on TV, you should see what he can do in person. Shen Wei Dance Arts makes its Dallas debut Thursday, closing out TITAS' season with original works that employs media elements, painting, sculpture, theater and video, as well as dance.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2304 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org



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calendar highlights



GOING UP | Nine stories, each somehow connected by fate, are told in this new play, getting only its second-ever staging at Fort Worth's Circle Theatre. Previews start June 19. (Photo courtesy Leah Layman)

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Art and Science. A "bonus" show from Uptown Players is this premiere by James Wesley, about science and religion. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

Barbecue Apocalypse. A world premiere comedy from Matt Lyle, part of Kitchen Dog Theater's New Works Festival. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through June 21. For a complete schedule of shows, visit KitchenDogTheater.org.

Black Boy Fly. A new play about race and identity, set around the controversial George Zimmerman trial. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. June 13-15. JubileeTheatre.org.

Booth. A world premiere from Steven Walters about the motivations behind the assassination of Lincoln. *Final weekend.* Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphrey campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

Good People. A comedy by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Lindsay-Abair, directed by Rene Moreno. *Reviewed this week.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through June 29. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Jersey Boys. The stage musical about The Four Seasons, which opens in a week as a film. *Final weekend.* Bass Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BallHall.com.

John XII. Mark-Brian Sonna's racy 2009 play about the notorious pope. Stone Cottage Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through June 29. MBSProductions.net.

Mamma Mia. Dallas Summer Musicals brings back this abundantly queer hit, featuring the songs of ABBA. *Final weekend.* Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Noises Off. Michael Frayn's bulletproof farce. *Reviewed this week.* Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through June 24. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in T3's downstairs

space. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Through July 20. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Soho Cinders. A gay musical adaptation of Cinderella, set in modern London. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. June 13-22. UptownPlayers.org.

Titanic. Lyric Stage brings back this Tony Award-winner for best musical. Irving Center for Performing Arts, 3333 McArthur Blvd. June 13-22. LyricStage.org.

Xanadu. The campy musical set in the 1970s and with a disco score. And, like the Broadway production, they even offer onstage seating. *Final weekend.* OnStage in Bedford, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. OnStageInBedford.com. (Use code "VOICE" when checking out for exclusive \$3 discount.)

DANCE

Touch. The final work by famed choreographer Bruce Wood, who died suddenly last month at age 53. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. June 13. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

FESTIVAL

Elm Street Music & Tattoo Festival. Second annual event for the hipster crowd. 2630 Commerce St. Through June 15. ElmStreetTattooMusicFest.com.

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FRIDAY 06.13

COMMUNITY

High Tech Happy Hour. Monthly mixer for those in the tech field and those who like them. Mattito's in the Centrum, 3102 Oak Lawn Av. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 06.17

FILM

Cabaret. The movie that redefined the movie musical, an eight-time Oscar winner starring Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey in the sexually decadent story of Weimar Germany. The Magnolia Theater continues its Tuesday Big Movie (sponsored by Dallas Voice) with classic. Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village. 7:30 and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 06.19

FESTIVAL

Dallas Indie Festival. A festival of film, art, music and food. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive.

June 19–22. DallasIndieFestival.com.

FILM

Oak Cliff Film Festival. The third annual event includes documentaries about gay artist David Hockney, one about Cherry Pop, the most pampered cat in the world, by gay filmmaker Kareem Tabsch, and the opening night film, *To Be Takei* about gay actor George Takei. Texas Theatre, 321 W. Jefferson Blvd. June 19–22. OakCliffFilmFestival.com.

THEATER

By the Way, Meet Vera Stark. A play by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. June 19–July 13 (in previews through June 22). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Hope & Gravity. A new play about nine people, strangely connected to each other. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. June 19–July 19. CircleTheatre.com.

DANCE

Shen Wei Dance Arts. Dallas debut of the Chinese dance company. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.



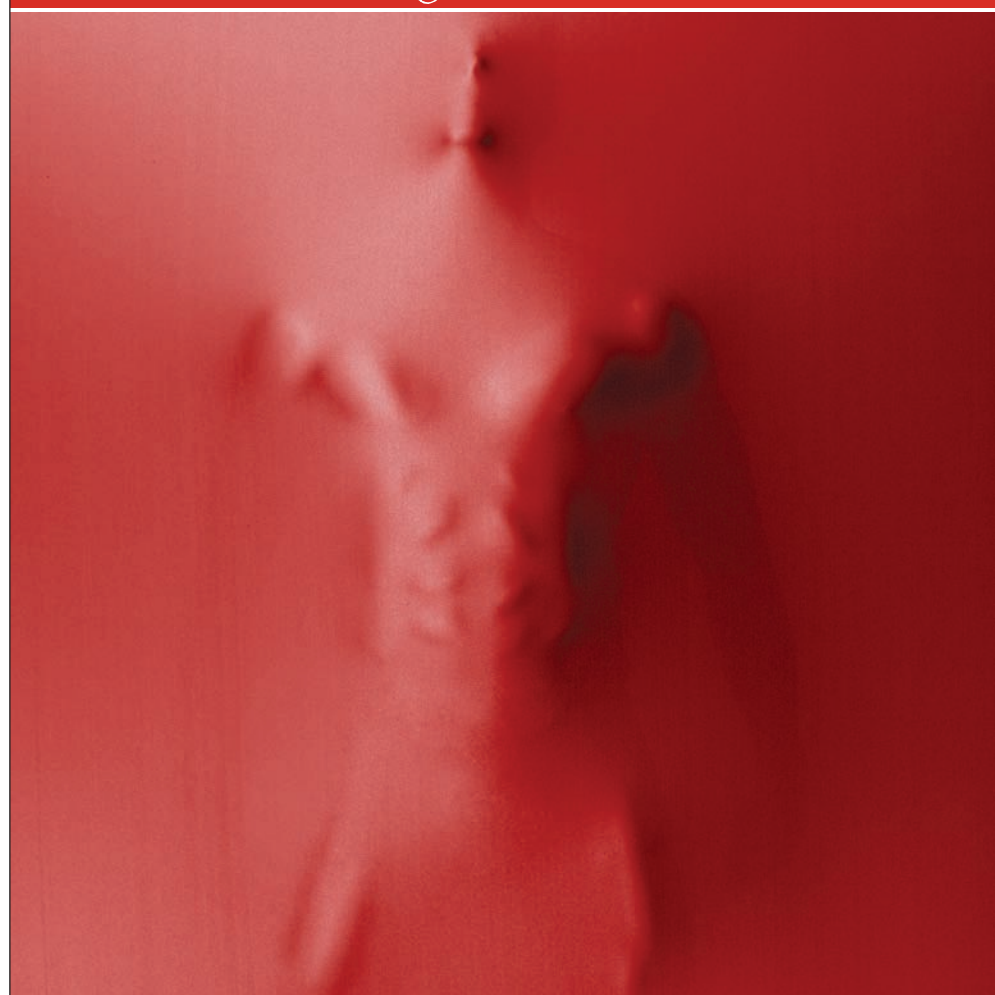
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Noises Off. A farce about a theater troupe doing a terrible production of an even worse play could get too meta — what if this production really is terrible? And could you tell? Trust me, you could.

But you needn't worry about that with *Noises Off*, perhaps the most bulletproof slamming-door romp since Moliere died, given an engaging staging from Contemporary Theatre of Dallas.

It's hard to talk about the plot and characters in a play intended to trade in broad stereotypes, but suffice it to say Chad Gowen Spear, pictured right, percolates hilariously as the show's harried director, who's also sleeping with two of the cast members; Carine Rice is a sexy bombshell as the show's empty-headed ingenue; and Lloyd Harvey adds an unexpected zing as the perpetually startled Indian stagehand, working two days without sleep.

Director Robin Armstrong for sets all the mechanics in motion as it builds from Act 1 (the disastrous final dress) to Act 2 (the collapsing show from behind the scenes) to Act 3 (the play's final, failed performance).

At the Contemporary Theatre of Dallas through June 29.

Good People. When we first meet middle-aged Boston mom Margie (Jessica Cavanaugh), she seems like a slacker who has an excuse for everything. When he boss fires her from the dollar store for being perpetually late, we're sympathetic but unsentimental. Ditto when she asks her ex-boyfriend (James Crawford), now a hot-shot doctor, for a job in his office, and he turns her down because there are no openings. She can't take "no" for an answer, though, making a few passive-aggressive jabs until he invites her to a dinner party out of obligation.

But what's so wonderful about *Good People* — directed, as always, with deft understanding for the subtleties of humanity by Rene Moreno — is how it turns all our expectations around. Margie is a complainer, someone who blames everyone but herself for her financial straits. But she's also a real person,



living a real life, with a sense of obligation we don't fully fathom until the end.

Set in Boston's Southie working-class neighborhood, David Lindsay-Abaire's comedy-drama gives context to the culture of hand-to-mouth living as well as what it takes to see how the other half lives.

It wouldn't be nearly as effective if Cavanaugh didn't deliver this year's top performance to date: That *Car Talk* whine, the shabby sense style, that masked prejudice of lowered expectations make her Margie a compelling, complex heroine whose life has been road-tested by the countless heels she's encountered along the way.

Crawford nearly matches her by also causing us to pivot on a dime, from respect to contempt for someone who things he got out of the neighborhood on talent alone, but who, like Gwyneth Paltrow, will never fully fathom how selfish he has become. *Good People* is a bad title for an excellent play.

At WaterTower Theatre through June 29.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Act 1
Prelude

20th of June
at 10:45pm

Act 2
Climax

18th of July
at 10:45pm

Act 3
Revelation

22nd of August
at 10:45pm

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Cassie Nova

Dish on Dallas, and Ask a Drag Queen!

Hey, y'all! I'm **Cassie Nova** — The Mouth of the Rose Room, and Drag Queen Extraordinaire here with the first installment of my new feature keeping Dallas up-to-the-minute on all the fun (and dirt) in North Texas.

Before I begin, a disclaimer. Please do not get offended by anything this big scary man in a dress writes here — it's all meant to be in good fun. But if I *do* offend you ... you can *kiss my padded ass*. Keep in mind — tucking can make you crazy. It's a scientific fact. If you're not sure about drag queens, we are just like other gay guys, but it takes us less time to get ready to go out. Hashtag GayMenBePrimpin. Hashtag DragItOut. Hashtag IWOkeUpLikeThis. HmMMM I don't think I know how to use hashtags.

First up, welcome our new feature **Ask a Drag Queen**. Here is a question we "girls" get all the time:

Dearest Cassie Nova: Where do you put "it" when you tuck? What do you use?

Well, I keep mine in the drawer next to the bed or in my locker backstage. Actually I lost my leg in the war, so I have had to train mine to bend like a knee and to wear heels.

This might not be true. The truth is, where we put "it" is *pushed back*. The hard part is how we keep it there after the push. Some girls use either duct tape or a clear, slightly stretchy tape you can get at **Elliott's Hardware** on Denton Drive. Then you wrap it up like a Christmas present. Important advice for newbies: Make sure you

have *shaved your hair*. OUCH! I learned that the hard way years ago. Some queens, like myself, wear five pairs of tights to keep it hidden and to smooth over my pads. Still, for some of the gals that wear pasties ... It's magic.

Here's another common question: *Dearest Cassie Nova: How did you get your start in drag?*

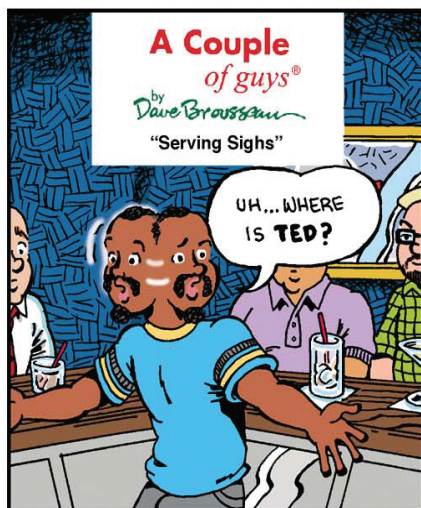
Picture it — Dallas. 1993. I was less than a week away from turning 21. Young, slightly effeminate with a full eyebrow and nelly shoulder-length bob of full hair. I was out and proud and wanted the world to know it. I was also the president of a group based out of the **Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance** called G.L.Y.A. Gay and Lesbian Young Adults.

Well, the D.G.L.A. decided to have a President's Day fundraiser and have the presidents of the different organizations put on a show at the fabulous **Village Station** (now, of course, **S4**). I thought, "Oh, crap!" I did *not* want to do drag. I was a young gay activist and kinda *anti*-drag. See, I hadn't yet realized the power of wig. But after a little coaxing from my group, and a lesbian's old prom dress, I gave in. Thus was Cassie Nova born.

That night, I performed **Julie Brown's "The Homecoming Queen's Got a Gun"** and was showered with money and accolades. It was awesome. After our fundraiser was over, I went upstairs to the **Rose Room** and entered the talent show hosted by the fabulously bitchy **Donna Day**. And I *won!* I had the feeling I had changed my life. I realized I had been preparing to be a drag queen my whole life — every cassette I owned was a female singer



Dearest Cassie Nova: Where do you put 'it' when you tuck?



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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(**Madonna, Stacy Q, Debbie Gibson, Taylor Dayne**). I had been performing drag shows in my bedroom my whole life, minus the wigs and dresses.

My career snowballed after that. I entered every talent night I could and won almost every time. I learned and adapted fast. Shortly after I was asked to be part of a show called **New Kids: The Next Generation**. Now, 20-plus years later, I may not be a new kid but the Rose Room is still the place that gives me that awesome feeling.

How about a little Dallas drag gossip? What **rising star** was recently thrown out of a store on Harry Hines for allegedly stealing a belt the last time she was there? Here is a hint: It rhymes with Stefani Mikals. If you have ever been to those shops, you know they stalk their customers like a crazy ex. I guess they think all nelly boys look alike. Well the feeling is mutual. *Bong!* Oh, and if anybody knows the whereabouts of **Jenna Skyy's** blow dryer, please contact me. I'm talking to you, Stef!!!

Speaking of **Jenna Skyy**, congratulations to her for winning **Miss Gay USofA**. We are all very proud of you! Raise the roof! Literally ... that crown is huge.

This Sunday is **Father's Day**. So, if you are an *actual* father or just someone's "daddy," I hope you guys have a great day. Spend time with your family, whether they are blood or chosen. If you are lucky enough to actually have a great relationship with your dad, let him know how awesome and rare that is in our community. Cheers to all the loving and accepting pops out there. This mimosa is for you! ■

If you have a question and want to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen, or just have some juicy gossip to share, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



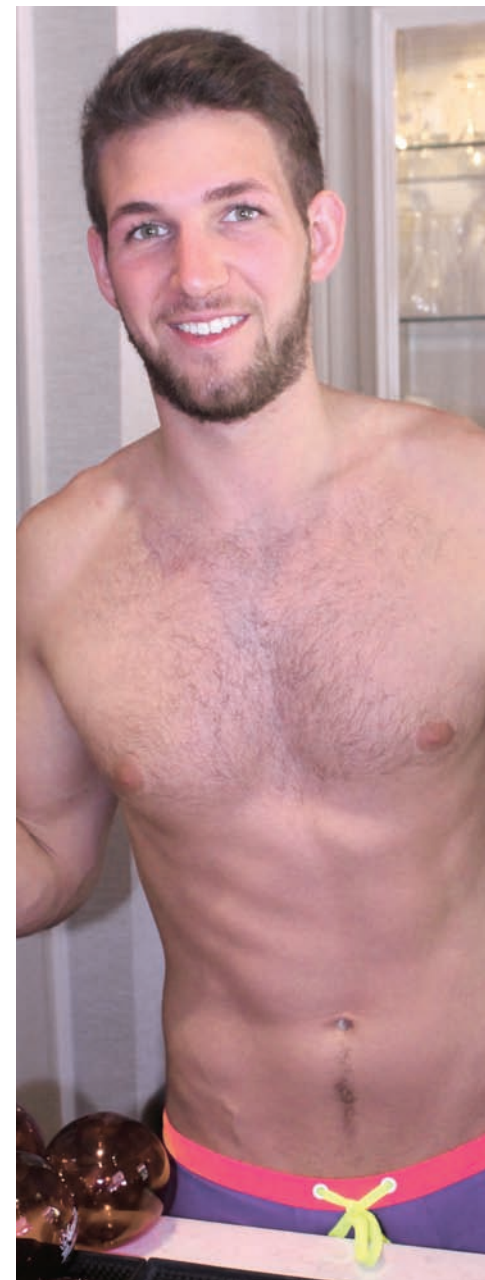
Friends at Razzle Dazzle Dallas.



Jared, Chad and Ryan at Razzle Dazzle Dallas.



Zach, right, host of the Red Party pool party fundraiser.



Bartender at Red Party pool party fundraiser.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 13-19**:

Alexandre's: **Walter Lee** on Friday at 10 p.m. **Shelia P. and Infinity** on Saturday at 10 p.m. **Paloma** on Wednesday at 9 p.m. **Alicia Silex** on Thursday at 9 p.m.

BJ's NXSI: **Voice of Pride** on Monday at 9 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: **DJ Paul Kraft** on Friday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Evening of Tropical Delight** on Saturday at 7 p.m. benefiting **AIDS Services Dallas**. **National Leather Association** club night on Saturday. **SCORE! Purple Party** benefits various local organizations. **DJ Blaine Soileau** on Sunday. **Cher-E-Oke** with **Wayne Smith** on Tuesday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: **Voice of Pride** on Wednesday at 9 p.m.

Kaliente: **Voice of Pride** on Tuesday at 9 p.m.

Pekers: **Voice of Pride** on Thursday at 9 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: **Miss Continental 2014** on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Sue Ellen's: **Heather Knox Band** on Friday. **Ciao Bella** on Saturday. **Jenni Dale Lord** on Sunday. **All American King MI Pageant** hosted by **Cassie Nova** and **Lily Lovely** on Tuesday at 9:30 p.m. benefits the Caven Employee Benevolence Association. **Bella & Darla** on Wednesday.

TMC: **The Mining Company:** **Voice of Pride** on Sunday at 9 p.m.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: **Does Your Daddy Know Father's Day Turnabout Show** benefits **Resource Center**. Sunday at 8 p.m.

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



Clint and Bill at Red Party pool party fundraiser.



Blake, Carolina and Freddy at the HRC booth at Razzle Dazzle Dallas.



Abby and Amy at Razzle Dazzle Dallas.



Brad and Charlie at Razzle Dazzle Dallas.

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Andy Bell and friends at the MetroBall (by Mike Riley)



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Starting at \$568



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Do you wanna ride?
JOIN SPECTRUM
MOTORCYCLE RIDING CLUB,
the largest GLBT motorcycle group in
the region. Please visit:
spectrum-mrc.com to learn more."

Looking for a new cuddle buddy?
Find your perfect match at the
DFW Humane Society.
Adoption is the loving option
972-721-7788
<http://www.dfwhumane.com>"

Volunteer Needed!!
Be part of an exciting team and
make a difference in someone's life.
Volunteers will be trained to conduct
HIV outreach in the
GLBT community working along
side of trained Risk Reduction Spe-
cialists. For more information con-
tact Sonny Blake @ 214-522-8600
Ext. 236

Pegasus Squares, an
LGBT North Dallas Square Dance
Club, meets the first and third
Sundays of each month,
3pm-5pm at the Resource Cen-
ter.
Lessons beginning March 9th.
Contact Rob Miller at
214-320-9598
for more information.

POKER
Freeroll Poker Tournaments
In the gayborhood
BRICK • Thursdays
Game Starts at 7:30
Nightly prizes & \$500 Grand prize!
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pocketrocketsdallas.com

Society for companion animals need vol-
unteers. Please contact
office@societyforcompanionanimals.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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"Dallas Independent Volleyball Association"
DIVA league Come play with us?
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or visit www.divadallas.org

Co-Dependents Anonymous
(CoDA) is a Twelve Step
Fellowship of men and women
whose common purpose is
recovery from codependence and
the development and mainte-
nance of healthy relationships.
CoDA meetings in the area meet:
•St. Thomas Episcopal Church
6525 Inwood Road (Inwood at
Mockingbird)
Dallas, Texas 75209
•LAMBDA GROUP
6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour
OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
7:30 PM, Wed; 1 1/2 hours
Meeting Type:
Open, Sharing, Steps, Welcoming
to all, Safe for GLBT

q-puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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63					64						65			
66					67						68			

Housekeeper and Family Therapist

Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 Pole of your first mate?
- 5 Flat hat
- 10 Flat-bottomed boat
- 14 *Aida* solo
- 15 Wed in secret
- 16 Stage show with "*Sodomy*"
- 17 "___ Get a Witness" (Marvin Gaye)
- 18 Crossword hints
- 19 Kind of child
- 20 Beloved sitcom housekeeper
- 23 Quit, with "out"
- 25 Cutter with wheels
- 26 Poem of Sappho
- 29 Rosemary and thyme
- 31 Bear
- 33 Type of triangle
- 36 Painter Brooks
- 38 Late actress who played 20-Across
- 40 "The doctor ___"
- 43 "Care to?"
- 44 Ethnic cuisine type
- 48 Patton's vehicles
- 50 Use your mouth
- 51 Colette's love
- 52 European language family
- 54 Gives a bad name to
- 55 Sitcom of 20-Across

Down

- 1 Britten's raincoat
- 2 Constellation over Rio
- 3 Singing Nancy
- 4 Some eagle feathers
- 5 *Life Goes On* daughter
- 6 First name in talk
- 7 Shaped like balls
- 8 They make points by touching the body
- 9 "Bust a Nut" band
- 10 "Beat it!"
- 11 They may shoot cream into your mouth
- 12 Lubricant
- 13 Like a silly grin
- 21 *Hedda Gabler* playwright
- 22 Hindu master

Across

- 23 Cries of surprise
- 24 Chest muscle, for short
- 27 *The Opposite of Sex* director Roos
- 28 Mary's little lamb, perhaps
- 30 Shakespearean play form
- 32 Eleventh hour
- 34 U-turn from SSE
- 35 On-line auction site
- 36 Colonel, to Cammermeyer
- 37 Cells for women only
- 39 Some forensic evidence
- 40 "___ De-Lovely"
- 41 More off-color
- 42 Behind, financially
- 45 Top bananas
- 46 Names on tomes
- 47 Taxing org.
- 49 Family member, for short
- 51 Track-and-field org.
- 53 Sticking points
- 54 Butcher's cut
- 56 "*Viva, Las Vegas*" middle name
- 57 Barney Frank, in brief
- 58 Belgian border river
- 59 NYPD rank
- 62 Boo's partner

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