

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | DallasVoice.com

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Dallas' hottest new restaurant is also a lightning rod in the twitterverse, thanks to its colorful chef, John Tesar. We peek inside the kitchen of Knife

Cover Story
by Arnold Wayne Jones
Page 14

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8

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Once a Turtle, always a Turtle
- 9 City pension board stalling on equality
- 10 John Cook vs. George P. Bush

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 16 'Dr. Who' engagement pics go viral
- 18 Knife turns steak into fine dining
- 20 Howard: How to do what's wrong right

■ COVER ART

Cover designed by
Arnold Wayne Jones



16

departments

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | Pet of the Week | 21 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 24 | Cassie Nova |
| 12 | Texas Voices | 25 | Scene |
| 14 | Life+Style | 27 | Classifieds |

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Supreme Court stay only applies to gays and lesbians

In a bizarre ruling that only applies to gays and lesbians, the U.S. Supreme Court put a stay on marriage equality in Virginia a day before an appeals court ruling was to go into effect.

The stay only applies to same-sex marriages. Opposite-sex couples will still be allowed to marry in the state, although there's no word if those marriages will be seen as valid by most people. Since there is a religious exemption in all marriage laws, denominations such as Reform Judaism and United Church of Christ that believe marriage discrimination laws violate their beliefs, may not recognize those marriages. Those denominations certainly will not have to accept the validity of opposite-sex marriage licenses issued during this period of discrimination.

The Virginia attorney general refused to defend discrimination in his state at the trial court or appeals court levels and has asked the Supreme Court for a quick resolution. But he also asked for the discriminatory stay that applies only to gay and lesbian couples. He is not up for re-election, so it is not clear why he is taking both sides of the fence on the issue.

When a stay is placed on issuing marriage licenses, the stay should be placed on issuing all marriage licenses. If the gays can wait, so can the straights.

— David Taffet

Finding interesting junk as Dallas Voice packs to move

Funny what you find when you're going through old drawers when you're packing to move.

Apparently attorney Don Maison is still owed \$28.30 for some work he did on a case in 1980-83 in which about a dozen people were arrested at Village Station for public lewdness. Yes, they were — wait for it because it's pretty graphic — dancing. Ironically, the song playing during the raid was "Enough is Enough."

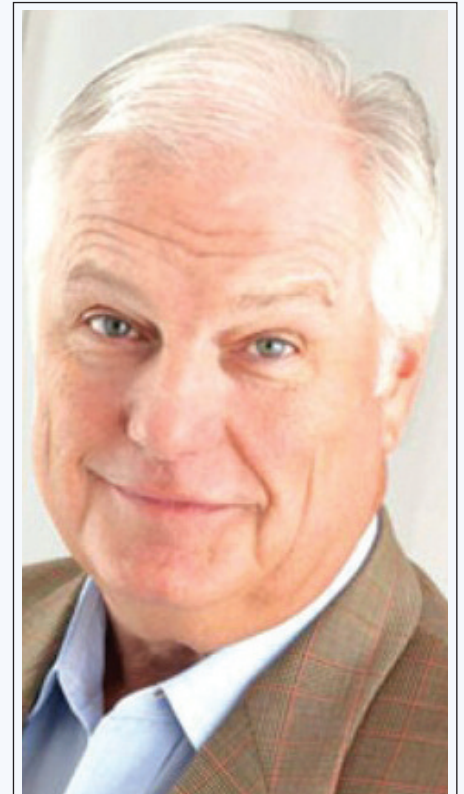
A photo of the back of the building shows graffiti that reads, "STOP POLICE HARASSMENT." Maison said this and other photos were taken as part of the evidence shown at the trials.

According to a Dallas Morning News clipping that we found in the same folder, after a criminal judge found four of the defendants not guilty, District Attorney Henry Wade removed the remaining cases from Judge Chuck Miller and placed them in another court. No, that wasn't legal, and the paperwork filing the grievance against Wade is also included in the folder.

Maison said as he sat in court that day, he realized the police officer testifying couldn't have possibly seen what he claimed he saw from where he said he was standing. He called Ernie Smith from Caven Enterprises, owner of Village Station, and had him rush building plans over to the courthouse. On the stand, Smith explained how the cop couldn't have seen what he said he saw using those plans. The judge acquitted because the officer was obviously lying.

Maison said among the witnesses who came forward to testify that she went to Village Station often just to dance was a very young Pauline Medrano.

According to Maison, who is now CEO of AIDS Services Dallas, only one person was convicted. Another was found guilty at the trial level but that was reversed and rendered on appeal and later ex-



Dale Hansen made a video accepting an invitation to attend Black Tie Dinner. Each time he addresses the subject, he proves himself to be a bigger and bigger ally. "All I was doing was being myself and not afraid to tell the world who I am..." he said in the video.

punged from the record.

Also found among the papers are depositions for the case Dallas Gay Alliance, Inc., Ronald Dickson Woodroof vs. Dallas County Hospital District d/b/a Parkland Memorial Hospital. Maison was one of the attorneys on that case too. Woodroof is better known as founder of the Dallas Buyers Club. DGA and Woodroof prevailed, forcing Dallas County to fund medical care and medication for persons with AIDS.

These files are going up to University of North Texas to be added to the LGBT archives.

— David Taffet

Out WNBA stars Brittney Griner and Glory Johnson engaged

Baylor University alumna and Phoenix Mercury player Brittney Griner proposed to her girlfriend Glory Johnson, of the Tulsa Shock, this weekend.

The couple posted photos of their engagement on their Instagram accounts.

Griner, who is from Houston and played basketball at Baylor, came out in an interview with SI.com, Sports Illustrated's website, in 2013. She published *In My Skin: My Life on and off the Basketball Court*, a memoir, earlier this year, detailing her struggles growing up and remaining in the closet as a lesbian.

According to the Washington Post, "Griner was not to come out publicly because university officials, including [coach Kim] Mulkey, worried it would hurt recruiting. She lived in what many call a 'glass closet;' she would bring her college girlfriend to events, but elsewhere, both online and offline, Griner was expected to live under a cloak of ambiguity."

The couple have been together since June.

— James Russell

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Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats host female candidates

Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats host a Ladies' Night featuring Susan Motley, Leigh Bailey and Carol Donovan, three female Dallas County Texas House candidates, on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 7.30 p.m. at Sue Ellens, 3014 Throckmorton.

GALA Youth hosts guest speakers

GALA Youth hosts guest speakers Franky Smith and Ruby Bouie Johnson on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the GALA office, 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

The substance abuse experts will be available to share their experiences and knowledge and answer questions. Parents, friends and siblings are welcome to join. Admission is free.

Contact Jeanne Rubin at jeanne_rubin@galanorthtexas.org for more information.

JEWEL hosts monthly writing discussion and exchange at ilume

JEWEL hosts its monthly writing discussion and exchange on Tuesday, Aug. 26 from 7-9 p.m. at ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. The group will discuss writing, conduct mini-writing exercises and discuss what worked, what didn't and how to improve.

QCinema hosts sneak peek and short film festival Saturday

QCinema hosts a sneak peek of its upcoming film festival lineup and a short film festival on Saturday, Aug. 23 at 9 p.m. at the Rainbow Lounge, 651 S Jennings Ave, Fort Worth. Festival passes will be available for purchase. Admission and popcorn are free.

Contact Kathryn Omarkhail at kathryn@qcinema.org for more information.



City of Dallas Senior Services hosts Cesar Chavez health and safety fair

City of Dallas Senior Services host the Cesar Chavez Health and Safety Fair on Friday, Aug. 29 at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center, 2828 Fish Trap Road from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The free fair will include exhibits, music, entertainment, giveaways, vendors, food trucks, and more.

Contact Lilia Gonzalez at 214-670-4218 or lilia.gonzales@dallascityhall.com for more information.

pet of the week / PeeWee

PeeWee is a 2-year-old, brown-and-white, Chihuahua-Italian greyhound mix. He loves to snuggle and lay his chin on your shoulder. He is calm but also alert and playful. He's been at the shelter since July 16, so his adoption fee has been waived. He's vaccinated and microchipped and will be neutered when you adopt him. Please visit him at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 Westmoreland Rd. Ask for PeeWee, A845945.



This Saturday, Aug. 16 is "Empty the Shelter" day and all adoption fees will be waived. The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. There are also discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, for any senior citizen that adopts a pet and for anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices](https://www.facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices). Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.



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GIVING DIRECTION | Turtle Creek Chorale's Acting Director Sean Baugh leads the group in vocal exercises at its first rehearsal for the new season. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Once a Turtle, always a Turtle

After the quick departure of Turtle Creek Chorale's former artistic director, Associate Director Sean Baugh jumped right in and picked up the baton

Baugh heard the sound and felt the support — and seemed at home in his new role.

In college, Baugh majored in trumpet and piano. With his undergraduate degree in music education, he intended to be a high school or college band or orchestra leader. He came to Dallas to study instrumental conducting at Southern Methodist University. But when he left SMU, he didn't want to teach anymore and so began a career in communications and marketing.

Baugh began singing with TCC in 2006, long-time conductor Tim Seelig's last year with the group. He said he joined primarily to sing TCC's signature piece, "When We No Longer Touch."

"I became addicted to the spirit and music making of this organization," he said.

That's when Baugh realized that his true love was choral music, especially male choral music.

As he was driving home to Tulsa, listening to the chorale's recording of "When We No Longer Touch," Baugh said to himself that one day he wanted to be standing in front of the Turtle Creek Chorale. He said he thought he was done with that part of his life, but he had found something

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

No other organization is as good at wrapping its arms around an audience, Sean Baugh said, proudly describing the Turtle Creek Chorale. This week, Baugh held the baton to lead the chorale as he welcomed back members to begin TCC's 35th season.

Baugh is associate artistic director of the chorale

and, since the departure of Artistic Director Trey Jacobs earlier this year, its acting director. While much of the structure of the new season was already laid out when he stepped up as acting director, Baugh's imprint will certainly be obvious.

"Sean built the new season around a basic foundation," TCC President Kevin Hodges said.

At the season's opening rehearsal, Hodges expressed his excitement at having Baugh at the helm. He described Baugh's approach as simple

— joy, music that can engulf the audience and touching people's hearts.

As the members of the chorale gathered in the rehearsal room of the Sammons Center on Oak Lawn Avenue on Aug. 19 for its first rehearsal under the new acting director, Baugh admitted to being a little nervous. But within minutes of warming up, the members of the chorale harmonized, producing that full, rich sound — as strong and wondrous as they've been in years.

City ERF board chair stalling on pension policy change

Brewer says staff can't give LGBT employees equal pension benefits without approval of council, voters

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

One of the city of Dallas LGBT Task Force's primary goals since the city passed an LGBT equality ordinance earlier this year has been equalizing pension benefits. That ordinance requires every department to review its policies to ensure equal treatment.

Policies offering family leave to cover gay and lesbian employees were quickly put into place. But efforts to equalize pension benefits have proven contentious.

In a memo to the Employees Retirement Fund Councilman Philip Kingston, who is an attorney, wrote, "Simply directing your staff to begin paying equal benefits will not require the change of one word in the entire chapter," Kingston wrote. "The only contrary argument is that somehow state-law definitions of the term 'spouse' control the city's plan."

At issue is whether same-sex spouses who outlive the employee would receive the pension for the rest of their lives as opposite-sex spouses do. Kingston wrote that the only possible negative reaction to paying gay and lesbian employee pensions equally to straight employee pensions is that the attorney general could seek a court order requiring the city to stop.

The councilman said that's unlikely. But, he said, not paying equal benefits could result in costly lawsuits.

"I believe you can, at this point, merely redirect your staff to begin paying equal benefits," Kingston wrote. But Carla Brewer, ERF board chair, wrote back to Kingston that the board does not believe it has the power to adopt a rule that violates state law.

The ERF board is elected by city employees participating in the pension fund.

The law Brewer is referring to is the state's anti-marriage amendment that has been declared unconstitutional in a court ruling now on appeal and likely to go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Brewer also wrote to Kingston that even if it did not violate state law, she believes extending benefits would have to be approved by not just the ERF board, but also by city council and ultimately Dallas voters.

What prompted the requested changes are city employees impacted by these policies. The council has already indicated its support for the change by passing the equality ordinance and both Kingston and City Councilman Adam Medrano have made the council's intentions clear to the board.

Changes to policies so far have been instigated

by LGBT employees who have run up against unequal policies. Interim Assistant City Manager Theresa O'Donnell was unable to take family leave when her child was born, because her wife's name was on the birth certificate, and a second parent adoption can't be completed in Texas at birth.



City Councilman Adam Medrano

In the pension case, City Attorney John Rogers recently retired and began the battle for pension equality.

Medrano chairs the city's LGBT Task Force. He said Brewer asked the Internal Revenue Service for an opinion before moving forward.

"We're working on it, trying to come up with a way for all employees to be included," Medrano said.

He was optimistic the IRS would send the pension board a positive ruling. Since the U.S. Supreme Court's Windsor decision that struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act, the IRS has treated all legally married couples equally — no matter where they live. Married Texas couples began filing joint federal tax returns this year despite state law.

Medrano said he expected a ruling from the IRS that treats same-sex married couples the same as opposite-sex married couples. In that case, no changes to the ERF rules would have to be made. Pensions would simply be offered to all couples with a marriage license equally without regard to sexual orientation.

The LGBT Task Force agreed that waiting for the ruling from the IRS was a good decision.

At its August meeting, the group also heard from Frank Rodriguez who works with the City Council's legislative committee.

Rodriguez said he expects a new version of employment nondiscrimination to be introduced but recommended that the legislative committee of the city council approve broad wording that supports equality for the LGBT community and opposition to bills that discriminate and demean.

Medrano also said the city is looking at the idea of creating a human rights commission. He said as the city council studies the idea, the task force could look at best practices from commissions already created around Texas and those in other major cities around the country. Currently, those complaints are heard by the Dallas housing office.

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'He's running against me'

John Cook, Democratic nominee for land commissioner, and his uphill climb against a dynasty

BY JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

John Cook, the Texas Democratic candidate for land commissioner is blunt, sarcastic and one hell of a funny guy.

The former mayor of El Paso faces a Republican opponent with a familiar name: George P. Bush of Fort Worth. Despite the state's Republican dominance and his limited name recognition, Cook still thinks he has the edge. In two and a half months, he said in the interview, he has already put 16,000 miles on his truck.

He recently spoke with Dallas Voice.

Dallas Voice: What is the land commissioner's role? John Cook: The commissioner is the trustee

of \$29 billion worth of state land assets that funds the Permanent School Fund. He collects the royalties from oil and gas companies and lease payments from landowners. He sits on the Texas Veterans' Land Boards and he oversees three veterans' programs that offer land loans, manage cemeteries and retirement homes. He also manages Texas' coasts.

It's a pretty important job and requires someone who has experience managing a large institution. He manages about 1,000 employees. When I was mayor of El Paso, I managed 6,200 employees. In 2011, you and two of your council members

faced a recall election lead by a group of conservative Christian pastors. They were angry that you overrode a November 2010 referendum revoking the city's recognition of domestic partnerships for city benefits, which benefit to the LGBT community. Talk about what happened. After they submitted the recall petition, we went to court. Their lawyers dragged it out because they thought I would drop the case. The thing is, I didn't. I wracked up \$675,000 in legal fees and I still haven't seen my day in court.

Their group is the same group of ministers who would come to council meetings and quote the book of Leviticus, saying it calls for the stoning of gays and lesbians. I would say, "This is the same book that said stone adulterers."

Then they thought they set me where I was supposed to talk about the "spiritual state of the city." I explained in about eight or nine bullet points why I believed God looked favorably on El Paso. At the end of it, a pastor's wife said, "You call yourself a Christian? You're a hypocrite." I then asked her to show me then where in the New Testament that Jesus talked about homosexuality. And I said, he didn't!

Then I looked at one of the pastors in the room — a guy who left his wife and three kids for another woman — and said, "You know Christ mentioned adultery. He said a man who leaves his wife for another commits adultery. So I need to take you out and stone you. If you want a mayor to start judging sins, then let me ask: Is there anyone in this room who hasn't sinned?" Not one of them raised their hand. They didn't know what to say. I turned around and left.

Say you are the only Democrat who wins among all of the statewide nominees. Your colleagues would be, in most cases, Tea Party types. How would you relate to them? I can work with the GOP, but I'm not going to sacrifice my value system for them. I've taken on bigger people than them. I'm not afraid to express my opinion. I'm persistent; I'm a real civil rights advocate. I marched with MLK as a senior in high school. I always thought all people should be judged the same. I'm not afraid to take them on. Remember what Confucius said: "Compromise is the art of making no one happy."

Your Republican opponent, George P. Bush, has highlighted wedge issues irrelevant to the commissioner's role. What's your take on that? You know, he's running his campaign and I'm running mine. He doesn't want to hurt his base. Honestly, people want to know where you stand on the issues even if it has nothing to do with the Land Office. Voters want to support someone who shares their values.

Then what issues do you find important in distinguishing yourself from your opponent? One of the biggest issues is all about energy. Right now, Texas is reeling from drought. You go to somewhere like Wise County and see that all of the lakes are dry. We're letting the drillers take water out of lakes. And you want to know what they do with that water? They use it for fracking. They use 10 gallons of water for every gallon of fuel. Then they can't ever use it again.

These are issues that deserve debate. I've challenged my opponent to debates and he hasn't even responded. Why is he afraid to debate me?



You said you're not running against George P.

Bush Correct. He's running against me. I think I'm the frontrunner.

But at the same time, do you feel you're running as a Democrat? Or are you running on your own? You know, I'm just me. I'm running on my own platform. I don't believe in everything in the Democratic Party platform. For instance my wife and I are pro-life. And we're honest about it. I sarcastically say, "You know, when I get pregnant I'm carrying the baby to term."

If you asked me to put both parties' beliefs next to one another, you could say I'm a Democrat. I like the Democrats' belief in civil rights, equality, democracy. I disagree with a lot of things in the GOP platform. They begin it with "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness," but they only believe that for a few. I mean they don't want gay people to enjoy them. They want to repair them. C'mon, give me a break.

If elected, what would be three things you'd do? I would do three audits. We need to audit the companies who owe us royalties and leases. We need to audit the companies investing in it. We need to look at which are contributing to the political campaigns. Finally we need to see how the money is used.

You're emphasizing efficiency, but where do you differ with your opponent? My opponent and I agree we want to maximize the revenue for the Permanent Education Fund. But we differ in our approach. I think we need to slow down fracking and examine it closer. I don't want to do that by ruining Texas. I don't want to ruin the environment while doing it. I don't want my grandchildren to say, "What the hell was grandpa thinking? He did all of this just for money?" ■

■ **TURTLE**, From Page 8

he truly loved.

In his second year with the chorale, Baugh joined the board and eventually served as its president for three years.

In addition to leading the chorale, Baugh is associate director of music and worship at Cathedral of Hope and conducts the choir and orchestra at the church's Sunday morning services. Baugh said the two positions are very similar with some big differences.

For Cathedral, he and Music Director David Moldenhauer are coming up with something new every week, coordinating with the pastors and speakers who will be participating in the service. For the chorale, he's looking at music a year in advance and putting together an entire program designed to evoke emotion from the audience.

"We aim for a chill, a teardrop and a laugh," he said.

Baugh's first season as acting director for TCC won't be a season of celebrity talent — although Tim Seelig will be back to direct the chorale for a 35th anniversary performance in February, something the Chorale's former artistic director said he is thrilled about.

Seelig also said he thinks Baugh is the right person to lead the chorale through this period of transition.

"He's been part of the organization at multiple levels for the past seven years and knows the men well," Seelig said, speaking the afternoon before the chorale's first rehearsal for the season. "They love him and I expect tonight to be a total love fest looking to the future. I'm excited to see what's ahead."

Baugh knows to succeed, it's about more than the music.

"We need to get our core audience back and remind them why they're coming," he said. "This season is about the guys." ■



Baugh said that while the framework of the season was already in place, he had the opportunity to put his own stamp on it. For the first concert, however, he did more than just a minor tweak. He put a newly commissioned work — *The Tyler Suite*, about bullying victim Tyler Clementi — on hold. That will probably be performed next season.

Instead, for the October concert, called *Brave*, chorale members will tell their own stories of coming out, dealing with AIDS, suicide attempts and family acceptance.

At the season's first rehearsal, Baugh handed out music for the first half of the season. He said at least one part of his conducting style will be more Seelig than Jacobs.

While Jacobs was more likely to stick with a piece once he had chosen it, "Tim threw things away all the time," Baugh said. "I have no qualms saying, 'Rip that out. We're not doing it.'"

Baugh also wants former chorale members to come back and give the group another shot. He said he's not even asking former members to audition again. Instead, he has invited them to come to a Tuesday night rehearsal and just sing.

"Once a Turtle, always a Turtle," he said. "They always have a place here."

Baugh has another goal, too. He reflected on past concerts with the Hamilton Park Baptist Church men's chorus, the U.S. Army chorus and a recent concert featuring Christian music singer Sandi Patty.

"We changed some hearts," he said. "We still have the power to do that."

New singers may audition from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23. Call the office to schedule a time. Others may stop by a Tuesday night rehearsal, or call to schedule an audition time.

Baugh said he's looking for "good singers who love good music." But he also called the chorale "a place for healing." He said he finds that singers who come to the chorale to heal are the singers who flourish the most. ■

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editorial

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Arnold Wayne Jones Executive Editor Life+Style | 129
David Taffet Staff Writer | 125
James Russell Staff Writer | 124

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Jesse Arnold Classified Sales | 110
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Before and After Gay

Coming out is a right of passage both universal and unique

Coming out is a right of passage for gay men and women — an experience as nearly universal as it is unique for each person. The process invariably began with the moment where the journey from self-discovery to self-awareness finally coalesces in self-acceptance and the readiness to speak the words. It began the first time we spoke the phrase “I’m gay” aloud to another human being.

Despite the shared experience, the nature of the journey is specific to each of us. Coming out stories run the gamut from those who kicked the closet door off its hinges in six-inch platform stilettos to those who cracked the door open just far enough to let in those nearest and dearest. A nearly infinite number of factors impact how we do it, when we do it, the words we choose, the people we share with and the choices we make once we were received.

That moment draws a line through our lives when our personal timeline suddenly has “Before Gay” and “After Gay” — our own internal birth which allows us to divide the important events, decisions and people on the calendar of our life by whether they happened B.G. or A.G.

For the most fortunate among us, it’s a line in the sand. But when the fury of the coming out storm dies down, love and acceptance smooth the sand again and the line is gone. Before Gay and After Gay are one journey with events and people running continuously from one into the other.

For others, the line between Before Gay and After Gay is more of barrier. It is a definitive boundary accompanied by varying levels of upheaval caused by certain kinds of ridicule or specific rejection. Coming out may have had traumatic elements, but the battle wounds healed with only some relationships damaged.

In the most extreme cases, the line is more akin to the Great Wall of China overlooking the Grand Canyon. This burn-the-ships scenario exists for those who received soul-crushingly negative reactions to coming out.

Rejection, specifically from family, and most egregiously when accompanied by religious shaming and judgment, have led some to march into our After Gay life away from the wall without looking back, like Bruce Willis in the action-iest of action movies. This reaction is particularly common in strongly religious and politically conservative families and communities. The Before Gay years go up in flames and take all of the people and places that ex-

isted there with them. It was a fire sale, and everything went.

There is great validity in taking the power away from those who could do and will do damage to a difficult journey into proudly loving ourselves both personally and publicly. If we remove the ability of those we know to reject us by nuking our relationships with them first, they cannot hurt us anymore. If it was world-endingly painful to come out to family or closest friends, the idea of being open to rejection from anyone else was inconceivable.

However, is it possible that some of us did ourselves harm by allowing the extremely negative reactions of some people to allow us to reject our Before Gay life entirely? The unintended result is that the scorched-earth approach left behind other people who would not have reacted so terribly. At the time, their good will may not have counter-balanced the horrible reactions of others, so they were, out of necessity, kicked to the curb as well. It was not worth the risk to separate a small amount of supportive wheat from a painful mountain of chaff.

Can we then, at some point further away from the trauma of a difficult coming out experience, look back and reconsider the wall we built to block out our Before Gay? And should we? It is certainly not an option for everyone. Some people have no wall. Some people have a wall separating them from people who proved to be entirely toxic. But some of us? Maybe some of us can consider that in choosing the nuclear option we needed then, we likely lost some wonderful people as collateral damage.

It may have been necessary, but that does not mean we cannot ever consider going back for those we might have kept. Our journey is never over, and it seems that it may be possible that one of the ways to sooth the scars from the earliest and most painful rejections can be to finally go back. Moving forward can benefit by looking backward. The strength and fortitude we gained in marching proudly away from those who judged us or shamed us or rejected us can allow us to consider tearing down some of the wall we once needed to cope and survive.

I chose the apocalyptic option as the result



Emerson Collins
Contributing Columnist

of being a boy who grew up in the Southern Baptist church where my entire social life revolved around church activities through high school before I attended Baylor. After college, living in New York City for a summer, I finally had a still moment alone, far from everyone I knew, to see and accept who I was. I did it, but I was not prepared to deal with the rejection of everyone I ever knew, and so I never gave them the chance. I froze them in time in my Before Gay life.

I needed a Great Wall and a Grand Canyon. However, I have grown in my outlook, perspectives and as a person since then. The result is that I am finally able to consider that those I left behind may have grown as well. Some of them may have surprised me back then, and likely more of them would surprise me today. I’m finally able to understand that I surely caused pain to others that I never realized when I walked away.

Maybe it is time to take some bricks off my own wall and reach back to see what I find. There may be some judgment and there may be some love, but I can handle either now. For my own continued growth, and dealing with the consequences, intended or not, of my own actions, I probably owe a few apologies I never considered before. Maybe some forgiveness as well.

What about you? How did you come out? Did you need a Game of Thrones-style wall of ice as far as the eye could see to love yourself regardless of the opinions of others? Do you still need all of it now? Or could you benefit from a Berlin-style celebratory teardown? It’s worth considering. There may be some things and people back in that closet still worth bringing out and putting back on. You won’t know who might still fit unless you look.

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Knife imitates art

The recent kerfuffle between volatile chef **John Tesar** and a food critic played out like a movie plot, drawing national attention to Dallas' foodie scene. We go inside the controversy and examine how a local steakhouse is redefining a lot more than just social media, it's also reinventing a sacrosanct Texas institution

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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The timing could not be more propitious. It's the night after Leslie Brenner, the divisive food critic for Dallas' only daily, has published her review of Knife, and the chef-owner, John Tesar, is still fuming. *He* might not put it that way, but the twitterverse seemed to disagree. In what seemed like a scene from the recent movie *Chef*, wherein a volatile golden-boy cook inadvertently tweets angry messages to a food blogger, unaware that his crimson-laced missives were public, Tesar started a Twitter war over Brenner's damning-with-faint-praise write-up, a three-star review that reads more like a hatchet job.

At least, that's how Tesar sees it.

The irony is, the *Chef* plot couldn't be further from the reality.

For one, unlike the movie character, nobody behind a stove understands the power of social media better than Tesar. He knew exactly what he was doing, which is why, less than 24 hours after the foodie scene in Dallas — and eventually, across the U.S. — exploded in camps of support for one side or the other, he has no compunction talking about it frankly in front of a journalist with a notepad.

"We're banning her from our restaurants," he declares with I-don't-care-who-hears-me defiance. "Why should we let her in? Would you invite someone who opposed gay marriage into your house?" he asks rhetorically, to nobody in particular, as if the two were the same.

The other ironic truth of the movie comparisons were, they kind of went past Tesar himself.

"The funny thing is, people thought I was trying to imitate what

happened in *Chef*," he says, "but I haven't even seen the movie!"

Not that he cares. The controversy, if nothing else, just increased the Hot New Thing talk that had made Knife — at the former Hotel Palomar (now The Highland) in the restaurant space that was known as Central 214 — the sizzling new restaurant in Dallas this summer. "It's kind of nice to wake every morning and tweet back-and-forth with [New York Times food critic] Pete Wells and [Pulitzer Prize-winning Los Angeles Times food critic] Jonathan Gold," Tesar grins.

Still, it's not about a difference of opinion, the chef insists, it's about a personal vendetta — a confrontation between critic and chef, between writer and creator. As much as he protests, despite any of the positives, he's angry. But the dispute is not, ultimately, where his passion lies. It's with food and serving his customers a meal to be proud of.

THE HURT LOCKER | There's more than \$30,000 worth of meat inside Knife's meat cooler, where careful control of temperature and humidity preserve and cure exquisite cuts. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

"The real reason I got mad at Leslie — which is something no one has asked me — was very specific," Tesar tells me. "I grew up in New York City, where the star system had meaning. You needed to have sommelier crystal and a certain level of service to get [the highest marks]. There was a map as to what it took to get a certain amount of stars. She's undermined that in Dallas. She's trying to better her brand at the expense of mine."

Tesar speaks in measured but lively tones, not frothing or bitter but as someone who truly lives for the give-and-take between kitchen and dining room, between artist and patron.

"A restaurant without a restaurant critic would be like an unregulated industry," he readily offers. "We need constructive criticism. I think I take constructive criticism well. Leslie does not take criticism at all. Anyway, the hotel is filled with energy. It's because of my success that I can tell Leslie Brenner to go fuck herself." (He later apologized for his choice of words.)

This is the kind of free publicity that most restaurants can only dream of. A brand-name celebchef — volatile and well-known, he was even on a season of *Top Chef* — who was once called the most hated cook in Dallas seems to generate curiosity and foot-traffic. And all for that most commonplace of Dallas institutions: a steakhouse.

All he has to do is keep them coming. And he thinks he's found the way to do that.

John Tesar walks into a room the size of an average closet he keeps under lock and key. Every square inch is lined with tens of thousands of dollars worth of goods. Only it's not furs or diamonds or Faberge eggs he's securing, but meat — some blood red, some the color of heirloom tomatoes. The best ones, surprisingly, have a touch of white mold growing on the outside. Tesar's eye sparkle when he notices a new patch. He rubs it over the flesh. "That's what cures and flavors the meat," he explains. "The secret was 30-degree meat locker with 40 percent humidity to allow the white mold to grow while preventing any black-spore mold from growing on it." Some of the cuts will age more than half a year before reaching the level where Tesar feels comfortable serving them to his patrons.

It takes a special kind of personality to open a business in May, knowing full well that the signature item won't even be available until October. Say what you want about Tesar's persona — he is chock full of patience.

"When it comes to meat, the real work isn't on the stove, it's in that room," he says. Tesar ages and nurtures each slab like a brood-hen, turning out a finely marbled product worthy of the \$80/inch (you heard me) he will eventually charge for the best cut. The elegantly prosaic preparation will finish it off: a salt rub, a little bit of pepper, some olive oil and an incredibly hot oven burning red oak. "It doesn't take a lot of fuss to turn a piece of meat into an experience," he says. (See review, Page 18.)

Tesar was first approached by the hotel (Kimpton at the time) about developing a concept after chef Blythe Beck left. Before they could feel out a plan, chef Graham Dodds came onboard and Tesar's involvement went into stasis.



TEXAS STYLE | Tesar knew that if he was going to do a steakhouse, he'd have to push boundaries in style and substance. Otherwise, "the critics would come after me." One did anyway.

"After that ran its course, Michael Hanlon and Jeff Burns reconnected with me," he says. What would the style be? It was Burns who first said, "I like steakhouses."

Tesar was dubious.

"I knew that I couldn't just do a steakhouse in Dallas. I told them the critics would come after me for that — doing *steak* in Dallas? Most steakhouses have an executive chef on duty, but they are like factories — they just turn it out. I said, what if we did a steakhouse like a real restaurant, fine-dining like a French place or what we do at Spoon? So I said, 'I have to do it differently if I do that. If there's criticism, I'll take the knocks for it.'"

After the decision was made, a million bucks went into the renovation. But that was just the start. The process was complicated; he first had to figure out the limits of what a steakhouse could do. Pappas Bros. Steakhouse — which Tesar openly admits is the finest steakhouse in Dallas already — ages most of their meats 40 to 45 days. But he'd heard rumor the place in Las Vegas had extended the dry-ageing process to 240 days — basically three quarters of a year. I tell Tesar I didn't know that was even possible. "Neither did I until I met them," he replies.

"It was this place serving alternative cuts," he says. "But it was Vegas, where people are on expense accounts and just trying to impress people. They are sometimes not able to appreciate what they have in front of them — they are the kind who might order a steak with ketchup and miss the whole point. Texas isn't like that."

But Tesar isn't a head-in-the-clouds concept artist. He gets the practicalities of running a restaurant that serves the most number of people. While splurging can be a special treat, he wants a communal place — high-end but accessible, where heiress and hipster dine elbow-to-elbow.

"When you decide to go to a steakhouse, you've defined your experience before you've even walked out the door. I just wanted to see how I could do steakhouse better," he says.

"We're in between Lakewood and Highland Park," Tesar says with a pause, letting that fac-

"HILARIOUS!"

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The Doctor is OUT



Gay Dallas couple's 'Doctor Who'-themed engagement photos go viral

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

For young guys — 24 and 28 — TJ Mundell and Timmy Patterson, are, to say the least, enthusiastic fans of the 50-year-old BBC television series *Doctor Who*. The sci-fi series, which reinvents itself with new actors and style every few years, borders on obsession for the two. Consider this: every Oct. 31, Mundell and Patterson celebrate *Who*-llooween ... wool duster, waistcoat and all.

It was therefore no surprise to friends of the Dallas couple when they decided to pay tribute to the fictional Time Lord in their engagement photos — complete with a custom built TARDIS, the time machine disguised as a 1960s London police call box. Mundell and Patterson hired local photographers Shaun and Shannon Menary and chose a Deep Ellum warehouse location for appropriate ambiance. They thought it

would be a hoot, something their circle of well-wishers would appreciate.

But in the Internet age, you never know when something will go viral.

Certainly the process wasn't without its challenges. The photo shoot, which took place earlier this month, was sweltering. Temperatures in the warehouse exceeded 100 degrees (worse than it sounds, since they were clad in costumes), and electrical problems — the facility had recently been hit by copper thieves — required connecting extension cords to the building next door. Such setbacks were ultimately deemed minor and did not dampen the couple's excitement.

"The easiest aspect of the photo shoot was TJ and Timmy," says Shaun Menary, who specializes in theme photo shoots (he's also done similar shoots for *Mad Men* and *Alice In Wonderland* for other clients). "They were immediately in character with their costumes and sonic screwdrivers. It was awesome."

With the project complete, Mundell and Pat-

CARRYING A TORCHWOOD | TJ Mundell and Timmy Patterson became Internet sensations this week after their photos turned the nerd world into full geek-out mode. (Photos by Shaun and Shannon Menary)

erson were eager to share their photos with fellow Whovians. They posted them on a fan page. The timing of their release conveniently coincided with the new season of *Doctor Who*, which premieres Saturday in the U.S. on BBCAmerica. The two were a bit shocked, however, when the photos quickly became the subject of multiple online news stories.

Over the past week, Mundell and Patterson have received congratulatory messages from around the globe. The responses have been overwhelmingly gay-positive — a fact that the couple attributes to the show's futuristic and inclusive nature. One especially touching message came from a 15-year-old girl who sent them an email stating that the photos had "changed" her life.

"I have been struggling with wanting to come out to my mom," the girl said, "and I wasn't going to because I was scared. But then I saw your pictures and it was like The Doctor was telling me that it was okay. So I came out to her and everything went perfectly. So thank you."

Mundell and Patterson met and began dating four years ago while they were students of massage therapy. Today, the two have added to their relationship the element of professional partnership as co-owners of the Green Lotus Spa & Retreat in Uptown. Though they originally planned not to marry until Texas legally recognizes same sex unions, they became engaged last November during a trip to Japan.

"[Timmy] proposed while we were hiking on a mountain," Mundell recalls, describing the breathtaking mountaintop vista. But the couple's romantic reverie was cut short when two giant Japanese hornets, insects whose stings can sometimes be deadly, began circling overhead.

Despite their recent Internet fame, the announcement is probably as far as their fanboy enthusiasm goes — they do not feel pressure to have a *Doctor Who*-themed wedding. They did, however, hint that the ring bearer at the ceremony might not be human.

They plan to marry Nov. 8 at Hakone, a century-old Japanese estate in Saratoga, Calif. They'll get there by commercial airliner.

Sadly, the TARDIS will not make the trip with them.

Nerd alert! Visit DallasVoice.com to see a slideshow of additional photos featuring the couple ... and the TARDIS.



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When John Tesar first came to Dallas, to take over the kitchen of The Mansion on Turtle Creek where Dean Fearing had ruled for two decades, he was jumping into a shark tank. How do you replace a legend in a foodie town filled with famous chefs?

Fortunately, Tesar came from a seafood background, so he felt right at home with the sharks. He was Rick Moonen's No. 2 in Las Vegas, but the tradition of The Mansion required something else: fish, yes, but all sorts of other cuisines. After a newsmaking departure a few years later, he dipped his toe in several different pools: Consulting chef at The Cedars Social, then onto The Commissary, a burger joint in the then-new Arts District. Think of that journey: From fish to peripatetic gastropub to burgers. If nothing else, he demonstrated deftness in a variety of cuisines — not merely a journeyman cook, a “jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none” — but someone who takes on new challenges, a student of the culinary universe.

His next signature restaurant, Spoon — which opened in late 2012 and was one of Dallas Voice's top 3 new eateries that year — showed what he could do with fine dining when not constrained by the expectations of a prior legend. Again, he delved into fish, compiling a menu of simple yet elegant preparations.

After a Spoon, of course, comes the Knife. The concept opened in Kimpton's Hotel Palomar in May, but two weeks ago new owners took over and renamed it The Highland. The renovated Hilton that has anchored the corner of N. Central

Expressway across from Mockingbird Station for many decades is remaking itself once again, and Tesar has a hand in it. Once again, he has tried something different; once again, he succeeds.

Knife, like Spoon, is a soup-to-nuts operation. Tesar and his partners conceived it, designed it, renovated it, executed it. Central 214, the long-standing restaurant it replaces, had three high-profile chefs in its 10-year history; Tesar, within his first three months, has probably generated more buzz than they did combined.

Over the course of its lifetime, each chef has brought a different energy to a space that was, sadly, unappealingly banal: High ceilings, a bowling-alley dining room, and cold, reproachful concrete was probably meant to allow the food to speak more than the setting, but all it did was take away one more reason (atmosphere) to eat out. The food could be great, but one wants to feel welcomed, too.

Knife bridges that gap. Gone are the gray, emotionless walls. In their place, warm brushed woods, contrasting grey leather banquettes, and stabs of color and contrasting tones.

Tesar has drawn a better line between bar and restaurant, between hotel and eatery. Although the pub area now lacks its arresting stained glass backdrop, the overall feeling is more social, more buzzy. In the restaurant, it's the same: Many of the seats are communal; guests sit stranger with stranger, and family-style is the order of the day.

And you'd be a fool not to experience the many levels of dining that Knife offers.

The cocktails (also available in the dining

MEAT MARKET | The 45-day dry-aged ribeye from Niman Ranch has a unique mouthfeel and unparalleled flavor — as well as a deceptively simple preparation.

room) are crafty, from classics like Long Island iced tea to new-fangled concoctions. It's both old and new. And that's reflected on the menu as well.

Indeed, Knife goes so far as to label its dishes Old School (traditional steakhouse fare) and New School (Tesar's approachable take on steak).

New School includes all \$25 cuts, from the luscious flat-iron to the chewy mouthfeel of the cutlet (sirloin cap) cooked visceraally, followed by a sous vide and smoked over red oak. Seasoning — a salt-pepper rub with olive oil, simple but in service to the meat — holds the edge in place as the weeks of dry-ageing in the cabinet of Dr. Caligari work some magic.

Old School is pricier (as is the "Exotic" menu) but amounts to an uncompromising feast and an education. Two items with putatively similar pedigrees — one a 45-day-aged ribeye from Niman Ranch (\$80; serves two), one an Akaushi ribeye from Heartbrand (\$95; serves two) — seem to be slightly different variations of the same essential product. But just take a bite. The Akaushi — medium rare and purplish, with just a millimeter of char on the outside and tiny veins of fat adding structure — is gamy yet buttery. Then try the Tomahawk cut from Niman: Fatty, darker (this will serve well cooked medium) and rich as Scrooge McDuck. It's a completely different flavor profile, a completely different texture on the tongue. It's as if eating an apple pie and a custard pie should be considered equivalent just because they have the word "pie" in common.

What Tesar is trying to accomplish with Knife is a journey, an experience, an appreciation. You can't be convinced that one of these is better or at least different than the other. Like *The Matrix*, you simply have to experience it for yourself.

An unmissable appetizer (hidden away under

a category called simply Slices; it's next to one called Slabs) is the "bacon tasting." Five varieties of cured pig belly that will astonish you by the diversity in what you think is a familiar strip of fat (\$12). I had my own favorites: The applewood from Nuekese is awesome, the cob-smoked from New Hampshire subtly winning; but a variety from Tennessee was bland by comparison. It's worth it to do a horizontal tasting — someone needs to get certification going for "meat sommelier" — to appreciate the variety of meats available here.

Some items you might recognize from prior incarnations. Tesar recycles the decadent fried avocado slices (I call them talons) from his Commissary menu (\$10), and his version of steak tartare (\$19) (delectable, with a quail egg topping it) is done "in the style" of the New York legend 21. He copies David Chang's red-eye gravy as well.

But Knife stands on its own. On the margins, there's much to love, with a pea shoot salad (\$15) surprising you with its pea sorbet (who knew?) and a retro Green Goddess dressing. Hand-rolled penne (\$24) promises "black truffle essence," but we enjoyed it much more than the description implied. "Standard" steakhouse sides like mac & cheese (\$12) and heirloom carrots (\$8) are distinctive. We skipped the creamed spinach — you can only go *so far* into the old school — as well as the sauces. Who needs sauces on meats like this?

Down to the desserts, service was attentive, knowledgeable and efficient, but not stiff. That's true of Knife overall.

"We've both eaten at fancier restaurants," my dining companion observed one night, "but I don't know that I've had a better meal."

That's what fine dining is about — even if you get it at a steakhouse. ■

■ TESAR, From Page 14

toid sink in. Plus it's located inside a hotel, with out-of-towners being catered to as well. He wants a diverse crowd of all kinds who can enjoy everything his techniques have to offer.

"Occasion restaurants are great, but if that's all you're serving to — the guy who comes in for \$300 meal — that's not going to get you as much repeat business," he says. "My benefactors had a vision and I had to insert all the pegs in the right holes: modern, affordable, high-end," he says.

He found a supplier in 44 Farms, as well as meat mainstay Niman Ranch and many other boutique ranches to flesh out the contours of the menu. "We have a \$12 burger and a \$25 steak. We'll have a projector outdoors soon for movie nights and gorgeous projected images with the DJ out there [on other nights]. Brunch and lunch will open right after Labor Day. It's going to be a nice brunch."

Brunch, of course, might as well be code for "gays," and Tesar is good with that. He actively courts the imprimatur of gay approval from the social denizens who stretch morning mimosas into its hip, crepuscular cocktail culture. Tesar is from an old-school Kennedy Democrat New York family, so progressive causes are close to his heart. For six years, he's been the driving force behind that AIDS fundraiser Burgers and Burgundy,

which takes place every fall. (This year will be at a private house on Oct. 3.)

"I was asked to be on [DIFFA's] Style Council, and I agreed to do it before I realized I was going to have to raise money. I thought, what am I going to do to do that? I could have asked customers, but I didn't want to do that. So I decided instead I would just raise the money" with the cookout. It was such a hit, it's continued on.

AIDS is a topic he feels about almost as passionately as his food. "I grew up working at a French restaurant where I was the only straight man in the kitchen," he says. "I was living in New York in the '80s and I lost a lot of friends," so when it came to picking a charity to sponsor, "I said, I'm not changing causes in midstream."

Which, curiously, brings us full-circle. Tesar almost doesn't get all the fuss, though he doesn't exactly discourage it. "We're not reinventing the wheel, we're just cooking steak," he says about the reaction by so many over the review. But here's something to keep in mind: Just this week, the studio that made *Chef* announced it will be re-releasing the film into theaters again next Friday. Just a coincidence?

Maybe. Then again, John Tesar knows as well as anyone that sometimes Knife imitates art ... and sometimes vice versa. ■

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L+S advice

Ask Howard

How to do what's wrong right

HOWARD LEWIS RUSSELL | Special Contributor
askhoward@dallasvoice.com



Dear Howard,

I have a twin sister. We're both gay but we haven't told our parents yet. We're 17. When do you think would be a good time to come out to them? We have an older sister that's 21 and heterosexual; she just got "shotgun" engaged to a guy, ugly though he is, so maybe that might take some of the pressure off Momma and Daddy when we tell them we're lesbians, you think? — Chere

Dear Chere,

OK, just give me a second here, dear girl, to actually wrap my brain around what you're asking me: Your coming-out philosophy is predicated upon your older sister (who's straight, pregnant and engaged) producing a longed-for grandchild; however, the ghastly scandal of her *having* to marry — over being discovered that she engaged in premarital sex with an ugly dude — will, therefore, soften whatever potentially perceived shame your parents *may* have subsequently expressed toward hearing the bombshell *revelation*, via their younger twin children, that you're both gay?

May I ask you a question, Chere? Do you have *any* real-life experience at all, outside of watching the "reality" exploits of the Kardashians and the various *Housewives* franchises?

Dear Howard,

My parents moved from Japan to Dallas a week before I was born, so I'm American by birth. I'm currently dating a guy living in the M Streets whose parents also emigrated to the U.S. when he was only a baby, but from London, and I think I'm in love with him.

Long story short, he now requests we move together to New York City after we graduate from SMU, because he says New York is the largest, most fascinating city in the world, almost as big as London, and he doesn't believe me when I tell him that Tokyo, by far, is larger than NYC and London (plus Dallas) combined. Would you please answer this question, Mister Howard, and inform him I'm right? — Logan

Dear Logan,

Nerd Alert: Boys, if you truly want to engage in this urinating contest over a topic so very non-sexual as which city in the world has the greatest

Do you have any real-life experience at all, outside of watching the 'reality' exploits of the Kardashians?

population density, then, I've bad news for both your bladders: First, Logan: London reigned supreme as *the* world's largest city for fully 100 years, from 1825 to 1925 — longer than any other city throughout recorded history (including ancient Rome); from 1925 to 1968, New York City ruled, and from 1968, forward since, it's been ... Tokyo, by far. By metro population currently, Tokyo is No. 1 with 38 million; NYC is only No. 8 with 21 mil, and London, at 9 million, ends up at No. 34. So you're right, Logan; exactly what you presume that being insistently correct will achieve for your private life in the long run,

regarding your relationships with potential partners?

Dear Howard,

Why can't I find any daddies out there in their 50s? I'm 25 and I worship older men, especially guys twice my age or older, but where are they all? — Frank K.

Dear Frank,

Unfortunately, much of the planet's phalanx of silver foxes that you so lasciviously crave — who should now be well into their 50s — got hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic of the early 1980s, when they were at their sexual peak and before safe sex was talked about. You'll have a much easier time scoring a daddy in his 40s, or even in his 60s.

Do you have a question about etiquette, love, life or work? Send it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer it in a future column.

Friday 08.22



Time to Panic! ... at South Side Ballroom

Brendon Urie, the queer-friendly frontman for the band Panic! at the Disco, will give you a chance to panic at a disco yourself ... or at least, a ballroom, as the band shows up in The Cedars Friday for The Gospel Tour, in support of the group's hot new disc, *Too Weird to Live, Too Rare to Die!*

DEETS: South Side Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar St. 7:30 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Wednesday 08.27

Sir, yessir! LeatherSIR, -boy competition returns to Dallas

Leathermen love their holiday weekends — IML is held in Chicago over Memorial Day, and the other big worldwide leather event, International LeatherSIR, Leatherboy and Community Bootblack competition, returns to its new home in Dallas for Labor Day. But you don't have to wait until Friday to get your share of tanned hide — events start on Wednesday and go through the finals (and parties) on Labor Day.

DEETS: Crowne Plaza Market Center (host hotel), 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway. Aug. 27–Sept. 1 ILSb-ICBB.com.

Friday 08.22

Stage West on the couch for 'Therapy'

What happens when a bisexual man, his put-upon lovers and a bad psychiatrist walk into a room? When Christopher Durang is writing about them, hilarity. Stage West tackles *Beyond Therapy*, the classic farce with a queer bent, for a long run, though OCD folks will want to go *now*.

DEETS: Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Aug. 22–Sept. 28. StageWest.org.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Beyond Therapy. Christopher Durang's absurdist romp about sex, psychiatry and the meaning of life. The cast includes favorite area actors — Mark Shum, Dana Schultes, Jakie Cabe and more. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 28. StageWest.org.

Candy Barr's Last Dance. A new play by Dallas writer Ronnie Claire Edwards about the mid-century stripper. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Sept. 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Full Gallop. A one-woman show about Diana Vreeland, the famed editor of Harper's Bazaar and Vogue who helped establish the benchmark for fashion in the U.S. A regional premiere starring Diana Sheehan. Studio Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 31. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Menopause The Musical. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Aug. 31 (extended). EisemannCenter.com.

Wait Until Dark. The tense thriller about a blind woman terrorized by murderous drug dealers. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through Sept. 7. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

The Phantom of the Opera. An all-new production of the monster hit. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in T3's downstairs space. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Extended through Sept. 20. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Year of the Rooster. Upstart Productions makes its debut at the Wyly Theatre with this dark comedy about revenge and a fighting cock with anger issues. Wyly

Theatre 6th Floor, 2400 Flora St. Aug. 22–Sept. 6. UpstartTheater.com. TicketDFW.com.

FINE ARTS

Concentrations 57: Slavs and Tatars. An international art collection, in display as part of the DMA's Concentrations Series. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Dec. 14. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 08.22

COMMUNITY

Dick's Happy Hour: Summer Series. Swimming is optional at this gay mixer, presented by Ketel One Vodka and DJ Prince P. Salt Dallas, 3121 Ross Ave. 6–10 p.m. No cover with RSVP at DicksHappyHour.com.

CONCERTS

Panic! at the Disco — The Gospel Tour. The group performs in support of the new CD *Too Weird to Love, Too Rare to Die!* South Side Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar St. 7:30 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY 08.23

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.



INTO THE POOL | DJ Prince P spins at Dick's Happy Hour Friday.

MONDAY 08.25

BROADCAST

Dallas. The fall season of the Texas-set soap returns for the second half of its third season. TNT at 8 p.m.



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TUESDAY 08.26

FILM

An Affair to Remember. The classic weepy with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr. Part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, sponsored by Dallas Voice. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 08.27

COMMUNITY

International LeatherSIR Leatherboy and Community Bootblack. The leather competition returns to Dallas. Crowne Plaza Market Center (host hotel), 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway. Aug. 27-31. ILSb-ICBB.com.

THURSDAY 08.28

BROADCAST

Project Runway. Season 13 continues with judges Heidi Klum, Nina Garcia, Zac Posen and mentor Tim Gunn. Lifetime at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 08.29

DANCE

Dallas DanceFest. Three days of dance performances from area troupes. City Performance Hall, 2420 Flora St. Aug. 29-31. \$25-\$100. DallasDanceFest.org. TicketDFW.com.

FILM

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. The camp delight about three flamboyant drag queens stuck in a small Outback town. CineWilde at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 8 p.m.

this week's solution

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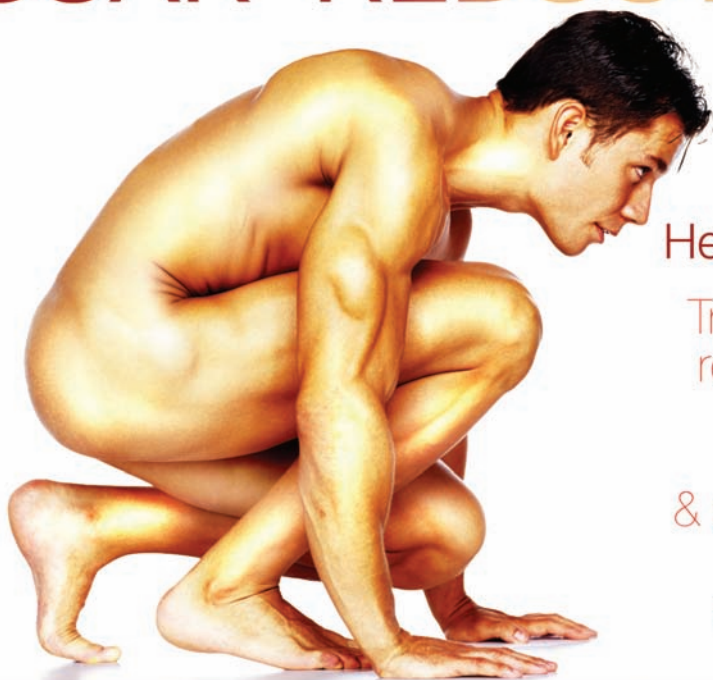
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Cassie Nova

Grindr lovers take note: Cheating need not be physical to destroy trust

This wonderfully hot Texas summer is not so nice to a thick bitch. I have lived in Texas my whole life, yet the furnace-like temperatures still get to me sometimes. This summer alone, I have suffered from sunburn, sweat blindness and swamp ass. I will admit it: I am a pussy when it comes to the heat. And in drag it can be much worse. I wear at least a pound of makeup, huge, heavy wigs and an "ass" that can absorb a lake. If you have ever been in the dressing room at S4, you know that we could hang meat in there ... and I still get hot. Maybe it's menopause. Maybe I am just a drama queen.

Anyway, enough about me (Ha! As if!) and on to your questions.

Dearest Cassie, This may be a bit like asking if you ever rode a unicorn to the Dairy Queen, but I'll ask anyways: Have you ever worked with a straight man that performed as a drag queen? Thanks, Bill.

Hey Bill Hey, We have yet to have a straight guy sign up to do the show, but we do get quite a few cross-dressers that come out to the club. A cross-dresser (as opposed to a drag queen or a trans woman) is usually a straight guy who enjoys dressing in women's clothes. I know a straight couple that

comes out to the shows and the husband is all decked out in fishy attire. I think his wife treats him like a life sized Barbie doll: She does his hair, makeup and picks out his dresses and shoes. They have a unique but very loving relationship. I would bet there are a lot of hetero guys that would love to do a drag show, but a majority of cross-dressers are content to just feel feminine. That is just one drag queen's opinion. Thank ya kindly, Cassie.

While we are on the subject of couples, I have noticed a growing trend of unconventional couples. I know of quite a few, and I wanna give a shout-out to one of my favorites: **Skyy O'Hara Paige** and her partner **Tiffany**. Skyy is a gorgeous trans woman and Tiffany is a hot little female. I have known them both since before they got together and cannot picture them apart. There is a "new normal" out there, everyone, and it is all about love, not labels. Life is about loving who you love and having the courage to do so. Cheers, ladies!

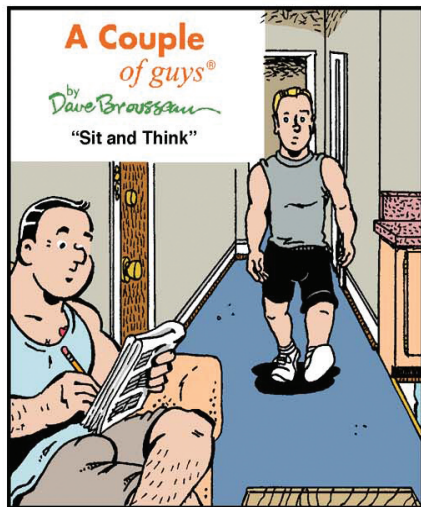
OK, now more questions.

Hi all-knowing Cassie, Recently I was having an argument with a group of friends where one of them believes you can be both humble and materialistic! What do you believe, shout-out, Benji! — Daniel.

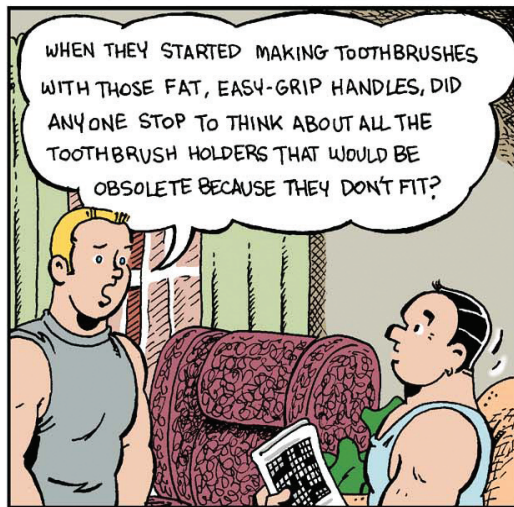
Daniel, How dare you bother someone of my caliber with such ridiculousness? I have my own problems, the temperature of my pool has become too warm. Just kidding, but I do think it's funny that you asked a drag queen about being humble. Seriously, you can be humble and still want nice things. I believe you can have balance with both. Thanks, Cassie.

I would bet there are a lot of hetero guys who would love to do drag.
— Cassie

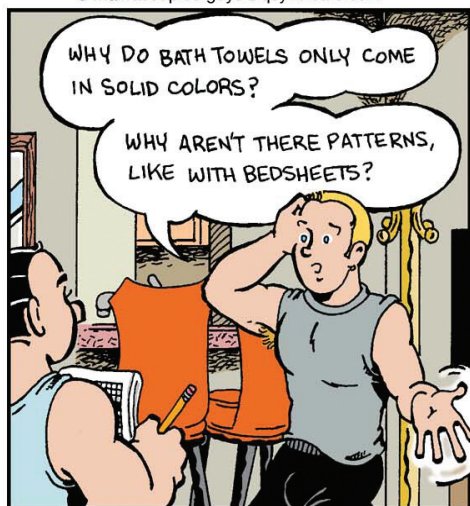
Hey Cassie, So my boyfriend and I have been together for about two years. About a year ago, he looked through my phone and found that I had been flirting/sexting on apps like Grindr and Growlr. I haven't physically cheated, but it's understandable that he would still be somewhat distrustful and jealous. I had hoped I would have regained his trust by now by not hiding my phone, letting him check it whenever he



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likes and making sure that in my free time I am usually with family, or mutual friends so my whereabouts are known. How long do you think I should give it before I tell him he has to move on about the past? And do you have any suggestions for regaining his trust, and helping him to be less jealous? Sincerely, Mr. Trustworthy.

Well Mr. TW, You, my friend, are kind of an idiot. Trust is not something you really ever get back once it is lost. It's like your virginity. When it's gone. ... You may not have physically cheated, but you did give him doubt. The ball is now in his court. If this relationship is important to you, then you need to keep playing by his rules. Relationships change and grow. Hopefully you both will continue to move forward. Don't just tell him he is the only one, show him in your actions everyday. Don't self-sabotage. And delete those devil apps! Good luck dummy, Cassie.

A few weeks ago, I said I would share some of my favorite drag stories. Here's another one. One night during the show in the old Rose Room, the legendary Donna Day walked off stage after performing "Midnight Train to Georgia" with handfuls of tips. I said, "Damn girl, the audience loved that." She said, "Of course they did, I'm Gladys Knight." Without missing a beat I said, "I'm Gladys Knight too — drag queens look awful in the daytime." It took her a second to get my very stupid joke, but when she did, she laughed so hard she fell out of her chair. I really miss that ol' bitch!

Until next time, stay cool everybody. And if you get swamp ass, Gold Bond medicated powder works great.

Love more, bitch less and be fabulous, XOXO Cassie Nova.

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.



Helios and Max at Dallas Eagle.



Edna Jean and her posse at JR.'s Bar and Grill.



Richard at The Round-Up Saloon.



Josh, Jeff and Oscar at Sue Ellen's.



Xavier, Mark, Greg and Tina at Woody's.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **August 22–28**:

1851 Club: Kami Maki & Company at 10 p.m. on Friday.

Alexandre's: Kristen Majors at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Londee** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Lala Johnson** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.

Best Friends Club: Ninth annual **Black & White Ball** at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

BJ's NXSI: Magic Sundays with Jada Pinkett Fox begin at 8 p.m.

Changes: Wall of Food meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington** show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Dallas Eagle: Gulf Coast Leather Family Send-Off Party at 8 p.m. on Saturday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Country Hoe-down Show** with cocktails at 6 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. on Sunday benefiting **Youth First**. **International LeatherSir/Leatherboy and Community Boot Black Weekend** begins on Thursday.

Round-Up Saloon: Hole-in-One Tournament/Bar Crawl from noon–5 p.m. on Saturday. A miniature golf hole will be set up at the various bars and restaurants on **Cedar Springs Road**. The tournament starts and ends at **The Round-Up** and benefits **LifeWalk**. Registration is \$80 per team.

Sue Ellen's: Pink Party with Anton Shaw and the Bad Habits on Friday raises funds for breast cancer. **Deadly Sins Burlesque & Side Show** on Saturday. **Kalico JAK** on Sunday. **Ed McMahon** on Wednesday.

The Brick: Pole warrior challenge every Wednesday.

The Rose Room: Rising Star with Layla and Jenna on Thursday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Bowlers social at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Awards banquet** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Haygood.



Clint, Hannah and Brandon on The Strip.

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Dawnetta and Jeanne.

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Movers	.28
Insurance	.28
Employment	.28
Home Services	.29
General	.29
Air Conditioning/Heating	.29
Painting	.29
Plumbing	.29
Cleaning	.29
Services	.29
General	.29
Personal Care	.29
Hypnosis	.29
Salons / Stylists	.29
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Announcements	.31

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

Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a Twelve Step Fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence and the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. CoDA meetings in the area meet:
•St. Thomas Episcopal Church
6525 Inwood Road (Inwood at Mockingbird)
Dallas, Texas 75209
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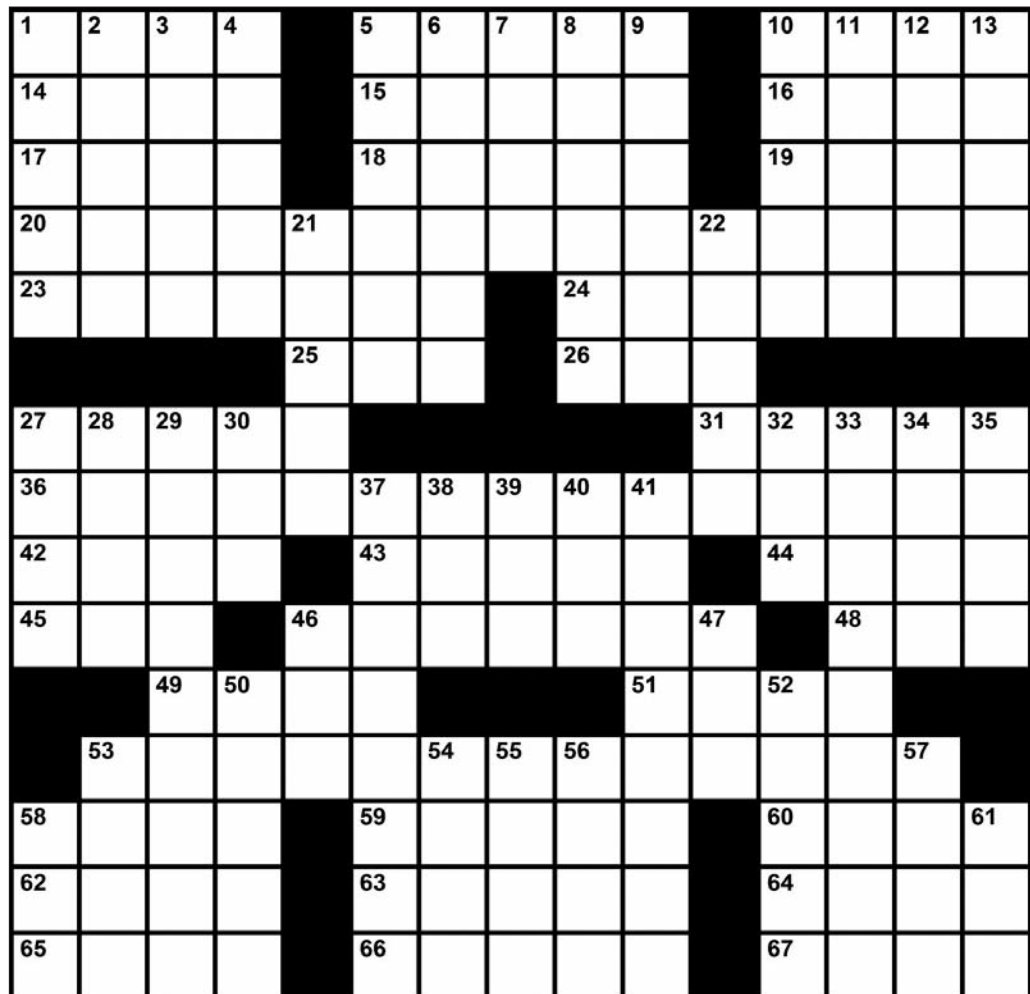
Nexus and UT Southwestern are seeking males and females, 18 to 65, for a study evaluating two medications for methamphetamine addiction.

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Call for more information & to learn if you may be eligible
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www.facebook.com/DallasMethStudy

q-puzzle



God's Gift to Men

Solution on page 23

Across

- 1 Nuts and bolts
- 5 Cleis ____
- 10 *Sex and the City* creator Darren
- 14 Mel's role with Jodie in *Maverick*
- 15 Young girl of old comics
- 16 *La ____ aux Folles*
- 17 Oahu dance
- 18 It's always on top
- 19 Type of seaman
- 20 With 36-Across, what God gave to men, along with a penis and a brain
- 23 Alarm cock?
- 24 Audrey of *That Touch of Mink*
- 25 Lots of mins.
- 26 It swallows plastic and spits cash
- 27 Extremist
- 31 West African republic
- 36 See 20-Across
- 42 For-skin cream ingredient
- 43 Ars ____, vita brevis
- 44 It makes gelatin get hard
- 45 Broadway scenery chewer
- 46 Barber's partner
- 48 Med. care group
- 49 Lorca's mouth
- 51 Pinball Wizard foul

- 53 Source of this puzzle's quip
- 58 Chinese (prefix)
- 59 Gift recipient
- 60 Russian singing duo
- 62 Fox comedy with Jane Lynch
- 63 Billy Bean boo-boo
- 64 The Gay '90s, and more
- 65 Della's angel
- 66 Straps at Rita's stable
- 67 Warrior Princess

Down

- 1 Can't bear
- 2 Bruce Willis, to pals
- 3 It goes between the knees
- 4 Chooses not to come
- 5 Smoothing tool
- 6 Helicopter features
- 7 Caesar's last question
- 8 Homosexuality, in many societies
- 9 Scented sack
- 10 Burn with hot liquid
- 11 Homophobia, in enlightened societies
- 12 Like a visibly happy face
- 13 Actor Robert and family
- 21 Hawke of *Hamlet*

- 22 Ritchie Valens hit, with "La"
- 27 Place for Young men?
- 28 Marlene's *Blue Angel* role
- 29 76 in a Broadway musical
- 30 Golden Girl McClanahan
- 32 JFK info
- 33 Bad experience in bed
- 34 Mosque leader
- 35 DVD software
- 37 Poisonous bush
- 38 No to Rimbaud
- 39 Brian who collaborated with Bowie
- 40 Guy under J. Edgar, for short?
- 41 Snitches
- 46 Long distance letters
- 47 Threesome for Caligula
- 50 You can blow them in the orchestra pit
- 52 Condom material
- 53 Rub the wrong way
- 54 Tested, to Marc Jacobs
- 55 Letters over Mary's son
- 56 Clinton aide Panetta
- 57 Gay-dog owner of *South Park*
- 58 Army NCO
- 61 Home o' the brave



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