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1984 | Volume 31 | Issue 17 | FREE | Friday, September 5, 2014



GRANTING WISHES

GEAR's latest innovation offers funds
for the costs of transitioning

By David Taffet, Page 8

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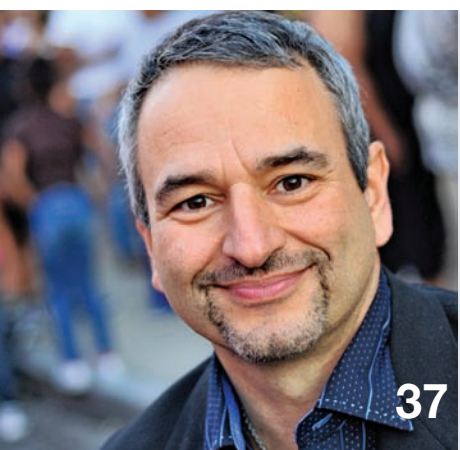
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Blair High of GEAR.
Photo by Terry Thompson

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Joan Rivers dead at 81

Joan Rivers, 81, has died, according to her daughter Melissa:

"It is with great sadness that I announce the death of my mother, Joan Rivers. She passed peacefully at 1:17 p.m. [on Sept. 4] surrounded by family and close friends. My son and I would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff of Mount Sinai Hospital for the amazing care they provided for my mother."

— James Russell



but same-sex marriage remains an illegal sin. Britney Spears' one-day marriage is fully recognized, but couples who've been together for 50 years are not. That all may change later this month if Nevada begins recognizing the right of gay and lesbian couples to be married by Elvis impersonators, just like their tacky heterosexual counterparts. Same-sex marriage may come to Nevada the way it did in Oregon and Pennsylvania. Officials in those states refused to defend the state's marriage ban and allowed lower court rulings to stand.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which has already weighed in on the side of marriage equality, is set to hear an appeal of a lower court ruling on Sept. 8. Nevada's governor was once a party to the appeal, but has since dropped his opposition to same-sex marriage when he realized gays could hold even bigger, gaudier and more garish weddings in his state than any straight bridezilla ever imagined.

— David Taffet

Judge rules that Louisiana's marriage ban is constitutional

The ban on same-sex marriage in Louisiana was upheld by a U.S. district judge, according to the Times-Picayune. This is the first time since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down portions of the Defense of Marriage Act that discrimination has been upheld by a court.

Plaintiffs said they would appeal the ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. That court has a Texas marriage case pending as well.

While several cases have been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, there is no conflict in rulings so the court is not forced to act. If the Fifth Circuit rules differently than all other appeals courts, the U.S. Supreme Court would be forced to take up a case and make a definitive ruling.

The judge said plaintiffs failed to prove that banning marriage violates due process or equal protection.

— David Taffet

Gays may earn right to be married by Elvis impersonators

Prostitution is moral and legal in Nevada,

— James Russell

Group plans 'massive protest' at Cowboys Stadium

The American Decency Association has announced that thousands of people will descend on the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington to protest the team's hiring of openly gay player Michael Sam for its practice squad.

The organization, which opposes pornography and indecency in the media, originally planned to picket in St. Louis. The group's plans changed when Sam was released by the Rams then signed with Cowboys.

"We cannot just stand idly by as Christian values and morals are trampled. We will do whatever we can to preserve family values in this country," said Jack Burkman, a conservative lobbyist and head of American Decency.

"Jerry Jones has betrayed American values, Christian values, and his own city's values. The people of Dallas — and Christians all across this land — are about to make him pay a huge financial price. The Cowboys are no longer America's team."

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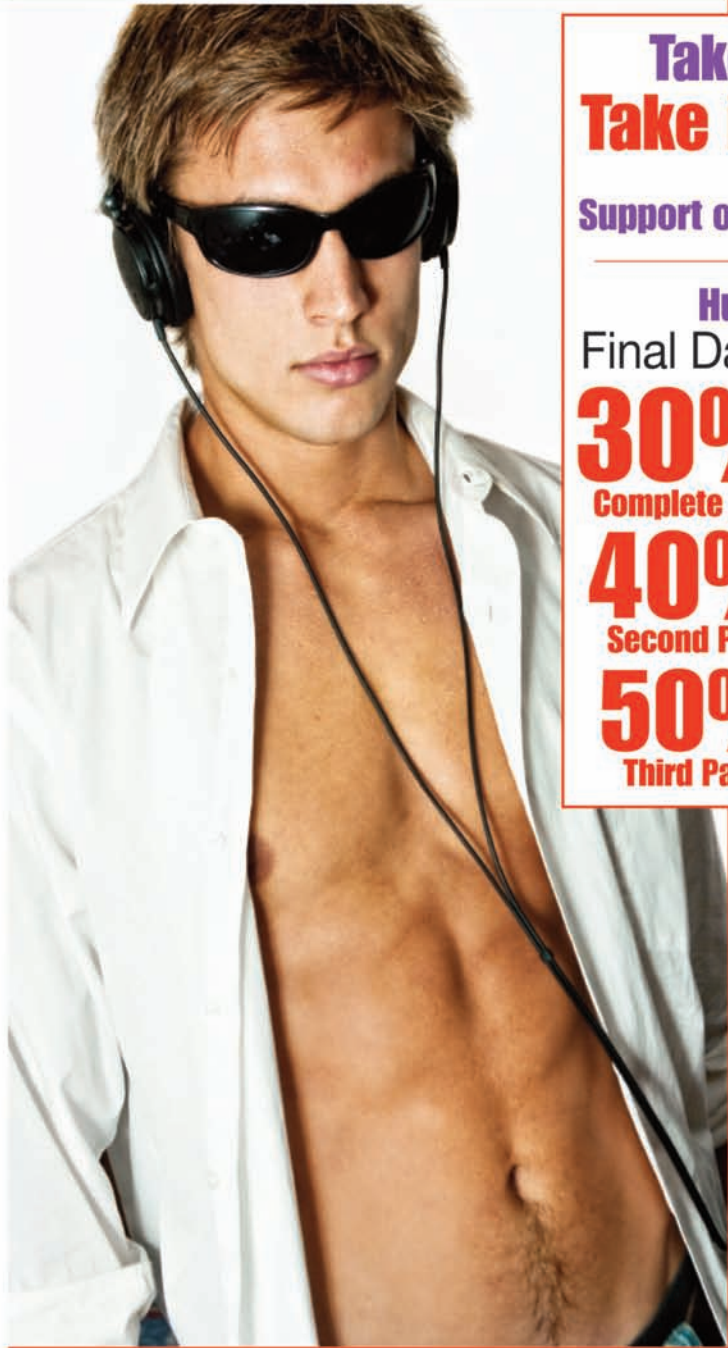
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■ localbriefs

Alameel to speak at TC Stonewall

Dr. David Alameel, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats, 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at Tommy's Hamburger Patio and Grill, 2455 Forest Park Blvd.

For information, visit Facebook.com/TC-Stonewall.

Game night at Trinity MCC

Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, 933 E. Avenue J in Grand Prairie, holds a game night Saturday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m. The evening includes a 50/50 raffle and a \$20 donation that includes two cards for 15 rounds of bingo. The evening benefits Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association that stages the Fort Worth parade, festival and picnic on Oct. 4-5.

Solid Talk at Oak Lawn Library

The Rev. Chris Terry is the speaker for this month's Solid Talk at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11 at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Solid Talk is a series of presentations that focus on having a healthy life.

'Cupcakes' screens at Film Fest

Cupcakes, from director Eytan Fox who pro-

duced Israel's biggest gay hit *Yossi and Jagger*, is a musical comedy send up of the Eurosong competition. Sponsored by Congregation Beth El Binah, Dallas Voice writer David Taffet leads a talk back after the screening at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at Studio Movie Grill, 13933 N. Central Expwy. in Richardson.

Red Party countdown social

Red Party holds a social hour, Counting Down to Red Party, in the Ilume Park Great Room, 3109 Douglas Ave. at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10. Red Party, which raises money for Legacy Counseling Center, is Sept. 19 at The Globe on Riverfront Boulevard.

SPCA offers pet grief counseling

The SPCA of Texas's Pet Grief Counseling Program for those grieving the loss of a beloved companion animal, meets at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the conference room at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive in Dallas.

The next meeting is this Saturday, Sept. 6.

The sessions, led by certified grief recovery specialist Diane Pomerance, Ph.D., and trained volunteers, are free and open to the public.

For information, visit SPCA.org or call 214-742-SPCA. The Pet Grief Helpline is 214-461-5131. All messages are returned within 24 hours. ■

■ pet of the week / ANGEL

Angel was found in a parking garage when he was very young, and good Samaritans brought him to Operation Kindness. After some TLC in foster care, Angel is now ready for a permanent home with a loving family. He is a sweet little kitten who is outgoing and curious, with lots of cute kitten energy. If you are ready for a fun baby, come see if this handsome fellow is the right one you.

Angel 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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Granting wishes:

GEAR members credit Blair High with saving their lives with her down-to-earth advice and innovative programming

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Although A.Z. said he felt completely isolated a year ago, he had it better than some people who come out as transgender, because he came from a loving family.

"I started feeling like I was a boy at age three," he said. "I'm over 50 now."

He said when he was a child, no one thought of gender identity. As an adult, he entered a lesbian relationship and thought that would work.

But, A.Z. said, he soon discovered, "No, that won't work."

For 10 years he was isolated. Then he found out about GEAR and its legal scholarship fund. A friend hooked A.Z. up because he had a legal background.

GEAR stands for Gender Education, Advocacy and Resources, a Resource Center program dedicated to "empowering transgender men and women through education, social occasions, outreach and medical services," according to the Resource Center website. GEAR's focus is on "increasing the well-being of all transgender people, their families and their friends."

For A.Z., GEAR seemed like way to "give some money and be connected that way," he said. "But I need to give back more and help Blair raise more money."

"Blair" is Blair High, who runs the GEAR program and has turned it into one of the most innovative transgender programs in the country.

Several years ago, GEAR began working with a pharmacy to begin offering scholarships for hormones. Then High also connected with counselors to offer scholarships for counseling.

Working with Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo Clinic and two area doctors, GEAR began offering a monthly transgender health program that treats the whole person rather than one gender or the other and treats them without judgment. As obvious as that may sound, High said that sort of medical care is sometimes hard for a transgender person to find.

Last year, High teamed with attorney Katie Sprinkle to offer a legal clinic to address gender marker and name changes, as well as other legal issues most members of the trans community face. For those who can't afford the fees, again High arranged a scholarship.

Recently, High got the idea of raising money to offer grants to assist with surgery.

"If I could just raise \$25,000, we could offer top surgery to a man and a woman," she said.

High said her main job with GEAR is to welcome people and help them explore who they are. Some are surprised that she warns people to take it slowly.

She said some people just want to jump right into it once they re-

alize they're transgender. She advises them to go out dressed as the appropriate gender first, then try living as that gender before rushing on to other things.

"It's truly amazing what she's done," said Phill Scheldt, GEAR's volunteer outreach director.

As an example of new programming, he said GEAR begins yoga classes next week. Regular yoga classes just don't work for some members of the trans community, so High found someone to adapt it to fit the need.

"She not only finds what's missing," Scheldt said, "but finds someone who helps correctly."

Because of the success he's seen with her work with members of GEAR, Scheldt said he's committed to help High raise the money she needs for new scholarships for surgery.

A.Z. said High's advice, direction and leadership saved his life.

"I recently told my employer" that he is transgender, he said.

He braced for the negative reaction most transgender people get at work. Instead, A.Z.'s employer said, "Why would that be an issue?"



Blair High and Phill Scheldt



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS | Blair High is gathering funds to be able to offer scholarships to GEAR members for transition surgery. (Terry Thompson/Dallas Voice)

He feared his family's reaction as well. "I felt like a freak, afraid I'd lose my family," he said. "When I came out as gay, they were devastated, but after 20 years, they were more accepting."

He said his family expressed sadness that he has struggled with his gender identity for so long.

A.Z. described his life before coming out as transgender as living two lives in his head: "Constantly wrestling," he said. "Always feeling something's wrong."

He said at GEAR, he met people who have experienced the same anxiety.

"I could begin talking about it with people who walked the same journey," he said. "Saying the words out loud can be so freeing."

He said he has new-found freedom as he moves from being a masculine lesbian out into the world as a guy.

GEAR scholarship winner Terry Allen called High revolutionary in changing people's lives. Allen, assigned female at birth, has won three scholarships from GEAR, including one for hormone therapy enabling him to begin transitioning to male.

Allen began exploring his gender identity in 2011 and came out to family and friends in January 2013. It wasn't easy going: "When I started coming to GEAR, I had a bipolar diagnosis," Allen said.

He was unemployed, and felt unwanted and

physically awkward. Then he started spending time with High and began volunteering at Resource Center, which turned into a job at there.

Allen said that because of his appearance and because he doesn't "respond to social cues in a female way," he often gets mis-gendered. He said he's hoping High is able to offer the surgery scholarship this year, since such surgery isn't covered by his insurance.

"Top surgery would monumentally be a relief to me," he said. "It's a huge expense, and I don't have that sort of money. But it's a necessity for me."

Allen has laid out a time table for himself. He plans to finish his transition within three years.

But no matter what else happens, he knows he's much healthier living as a man than he was living as a woman. He is no longer diagnosed as bipolar.

Allen said he's accepted that some people in his life aren't on board with his transition, but he knows he's moving in the right direction.

"As you transition, people grow with you or they fall away," he said.

Whether or not High achieves her goal to offer two scholarships for top surgery in the first year, both A.Z. and Allen have only the utmost admiration for High. After all, they both said, Blair High and GEAR saved their lives. ■

For more information about GEAR, contact Blair High at Resource Center, 214-528-0144.




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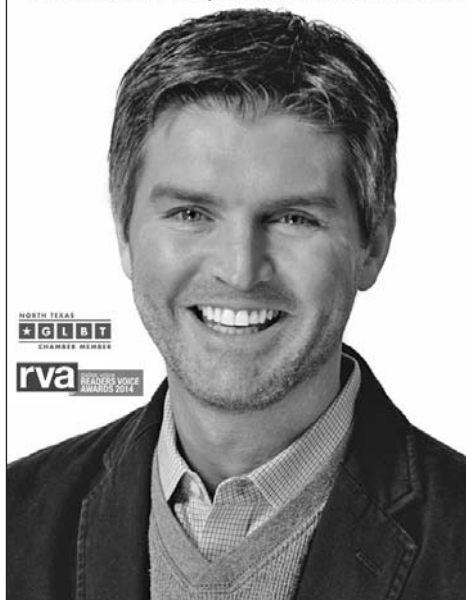
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Activists, Conventions, And the GOP platform

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
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Texas GOP's anti-gay party platform made headlines, but it isn't really an aberration

When the Texas Republican Party passed its party platform in June in Fort Worth, the 40-page document called for freedom and prosperity for Texans — except for LGBT Texans.

Despite all the attention the Lone Star GOP got for its antiquated views on LGBT rights and “reparative therapy for gays and lesbians,” Texas’ Republican platform isn’t really all that different from other state GOP platforms. As it turns out, GOP platforms in all but seven states and Washington, D.C. include some form of anti-LGBT language.

In some states, the language uses the national party’s platform language, opposing LGBT rights, including same-sex marriage. In other states, party platforms go further.

Texas is one of those states.

The 2014 Texas Republican platform did remove some of the harsh anti-gay language that had been included in the 2012 version. But the “softer” language was not much better: “Homosexuality is a chosen behavior that is contrary to the fundamental unchanging truths that have been ordained by God in the Bible.”

Were that not enough, a last ditch move by conservative activist Cathie Adams of the Texas Eagle Forum got a plank regarding the “legitimacy and efficacy” of reparative therapy.

Adams told the Texas Tribune that she faced criticism after it passed. After the convention, Texas GOP Chair Steve Munisteri told Texas Public Radio while he opposed the language, he couldn’t kill it without gutting the entire platform.

A quick perusal of state platforms provided by The Huffington Post indicates Texas is alone in specifically mentioning reparative therapy; otherwise the language is similar to others nationwide.

Among the most frequent anti-gay platform planks are those opposing same-sex marriage, even in states where it has been legalized, like Iowa and Massachusetts. Other planks include opposition to adoption by same-sex couples and to nondiscrimination ordinances.

Oklahoma’s 2013 platform, for example, opposes “[repealing] the elimination of laws against sodomy.” It also mentions opposition to “gender-norming, promotion, co-ed training and housing and ‘sensitivity training’ in the military.”

James Riddlesperger, a professor of political science at Texas Christian University, emphasized that party platforms are non-binding. Whether it’s

the Democratic or Republican convention, those attending are primarily die-hard party activists.

“They [the conventions] mostly attract people who have axes to grind,” Riddlesperger said.

And those activists typically do not resemble the average voter, who Riddlesperger described as “partisan, but not to the extent of a party activist.”

vention does have a price.

The party activists Riddlesperger described are seen as the grassroots voters who are more likely to vote in primary and run-off elections. In a nearly one-party state, the candidates they back usually become the elected officials.

In the case of the GOP, those voters are known,



PARTY FOR THE FAITHFUL | The 2014 Texas Republican State Convention ended with a platform that calls for reparative therapy for LGBT people. (Rex C. Curry/Associated Press)

Attending also costs a lot.

“Going to a convention entails giving up three to four days of work and a weekend at your own expense. When you think about the personal investment, it takes a particular type of person to go to a convention, typically hyper-partisan political junkies,” Riddlesperger pointed out.

Conventions are clearly not entirely dated concepts, but many candidates no longer attend. Elected officials like the former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison “often chose to chart their own course,” Riddlesperger said.

He cited the increasing use of digital and social media by candidates, which broadens their voter and donor base as one reason fewer candidates attend conventions now. But not attending a con-

vention is not sometimes inaccurately, as Tea Party voters. Their presence at the conventions spills into the polls, with their influence clearly determining election outcomes. While conventions may attract mostly activists, their influence is still undisputed.

As the Tea Party emerged on the right as an influential movement, activists flocked to the conventions to have their voices heard. Thus the party also moved rightward.

And as the convention’s influence wanes, grassroots groups also take over, in sometimes-raucous factions.

In Arizona and Nevada, libertarian-leaning Republican activists took over conventions. In Arizona’s case, party leaders shut the convention completely down.

That is not the case in Texas, however, where a very socially conservative base still commands the party’s mantle.

“An interesting development occurred in 2010,” Riddlesperger said, “when Hutchison ran against incumbent Gov. Rick Perry in the Republican primary.” While Perry was deeply unpopular in the state, he went to the grassroots and reached out to the party activists. He crushed Hutchison in the primary and won re-election that year against Democratic candidate Bill White, the former Houston mayor.

Hutchison retired in 2012, leaving Texas with a rare open Senate seat. While the party’s preferred pick, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, was seen as the front-runner, underdog candidate Ted Cruz roused the grassroots across the state. Cruz pushed Dewhurst into a run-off, and ultimately secured the party’s nomination and won the general election.

Earlier this year, Dewhurst was defeated by conservative state Sen. Dan Patrick in the run-off for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor.

So while conventions may be limited in their appeal to a variety of voters, the grassroots voter influences those conventions and the non-binding platforms.

Over the past six years, Riddlesperger said support for same-sex marriage and the LGBT community has grown. “Even President Obama said in 2008 he didn’t support same-sex marriage,” he noted.

As public opinion in favor of same-sex marriage grows in favor in Texas and elsewhere, “fewer and fewer Americans want to entangle themselves” in the issues, Riddlesperger said. While many voters may struggle reconciling their beliefs and faith at the polls, the party must progress on social issues and minority outreach at the same time, he said.

Earlier this year, a federal judge struck down Texas’ same-sex marriage ban. A recent Texas Tech poll showed support for same-sex marriage in the state on the uptick. Nationwide, young people are more likely to support LGBT rights as a whole.

Meanwhile Munisteri has to deal with the party in its current state.

When the Texas convention ended, he received a flurry of phone calls from people angry about the inclusion of reparative therapy in the platform, he told Texas Public Radio. “And I just make the point for anybody that thinks that may be the possibility: Do they think they can take a straight person to a psychiatrist and turn them gay?” ■

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Texas state Sen. Dan Patrick

Andrews calls relationship with LGBT community strong and solid despite company's contributions to homophobic Republican's campaign

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Andrews Distributing has been one of the most steadfast corporate supporters of the LGBT community and equality in Dallas. In fact, the company is the title sponsor of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade this year, with a multi-year sponsorship contract.

So some people were disappointed to hear that company founder Barry Andrews was sponsoring a fundraiser for Sen. Dan Patrick in his home.

Patrick is the Republican candidate for Texas lieutenant governor. He's served his northwest Houston and suburban Harris County district in the Texas Senate since 2007. He was a Houston sports broadcaster and is a conservative radio talk show host.

Along with 62 other Republican state House and Senate members, Patrick recently signed on to an amicus brief to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in a marriage equality case out of Texas. That brief links same-sex marriage to pedophilia, bigamy and incest.

Mike McGuire is president of Andrews Distributing. He said support for Patrick among some ex-

ecutives in his company revolves around bills that came up in the legislature involving the liquor industry and doesn't involve the senator's positions on social issues and LGBT rights.

"Leadership here has a singular focus when determining support for a statewide office, particularly in a race such as the one for lieutenant governor who presides over the Texas Senate and has enormous power and influence on the law-making process in Austin," McGuire said.

"In the last Legislature alone, there were 92 alcohol-related bills introduced and 95 others that could have impacted the beer business and its customers. Candidates must understand and be willing to listen to the views of the beer industry, its importance to Texas and have a commitment to protect beer consumers, a highly diverse community in Texas," he said.

"There are millions of enthusiasts who enjoy beer at events such as NASCAR races, tailgate football celebrations, family barbecues, baseball games, post-dove hunt dinners or the Allen Ross Dallas Pride Parade," McGuire added.

Michael Doughman, executive director of the

■ PATRICK, Page 18

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September

- **Sept. 5-14: Play Pride Festival**
Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 N. Tyler St. \$15-\$20. TeCoTheater.org
- **Sept. 12-20: Pride Performing Arts Festival**
Uptown Players, Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org
- **Sept. 13: Gay Day at Six Flags** hosted by Dallas Voice
Discount tickets good Sept. 13, 14 or 20. \$35 including parking if booked online. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. is.gd.W00KU
- **Sept. 13: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Casino Coach Day Trip**
Bus trip to Louisiana Downs casino and race track. \$30. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. TCGPWA.org
- **Sept. 19: Red Party**
Benefits Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage. The Globe, 525 S. Riverfront Blvd., 9-11 p.m. RedPartyDallas.org
- **Sept. 20: Purple Party**
The Loft, 1135 S. Lamar St., Dallas. \$35 Online/\$40 Door. 10 p.m.-4 a.m. PurpleFoundation.org
- **Sept. 20: Dallas Teen Pride**
Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Teens free. Adults \$5. 2-7 p.m. RealConnect.org

- **Sept. 20: Austin Pride festival and parade**
Festival 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Jesse Segovia St., Austin. Parade 6-10 p.m. Congress Ave. in downtown Austin. AustinPride.org
- **Sept. 21: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**
"Reflection of Pride: Stonewall 45." Cedar Springs Road from Wycliff Ave. to Turtle Creek Blvd. Begins at 2 p.m. DallasPride.org
- **Sept. 21: Festival in Lee Park**
Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. \$5. Noon-7 p.m. DallasPride.org
- **Sept. 22-30: The Gay Softball World**
DallasSeries2014.com
- **Sept. 26: 5 Factor**
7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 107. 7-9 p.m. \$50. MyResourceCenter.org
- **Sept. 27: Jackie K. Jones Memorial Ride**
Revlon Courtyard, 720 N. Lancaster Ave. to White Rock Lake and back. 9:30 a.m. Benefits AIDS Service Dallas. AIDSDallas.org

October

- **Oct. 2: Teen Pride**
Music, dancing and pizza for ages 14-19. Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave, Fort Worth. 6-8 p.m. Celebration-Community-Church.com



- **Oct. 2-4: Southern Regional Health Disparities & Leadership Conference**
Crowne Plaza, 1015 Elm St. BHAPConference.org
- **Oct. 2-6: Dallas Black Pride Weekend**
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1015 Elm St. DallasSouthernPride.com
- **Oct. 4: Tarrant County Pride parade, festival**
Parade steps off at Weatherford and Houston St. Noon-6 p.m. TCGPWA.org
- **Oct. 5: LifeWalk**
Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. Register 11 a.m. Walk at 1 p.m. LifeWalk.org
- **Oct. 5: Tarrant County Pride Picnic**
Trinity Park, 2987 Trinity Park Dr, Fort Worth. Noon-6 p.m. TCGPWA.org
- **Oct. 9-12: QCinema Film Festival**
QCinema.org

- **Oct. 16: Great Gatsby Party**
Benefits AIDS Interfaith Network. The home of Faye C. Briggs, 5909 Desco Drive. 3-6 p.m. AIDSInterfaithnetwork.org
- **Oct. 17-18: International Gay Rodeo Finals**
John Justin Arena, 1051 Rip Johnson Road, Fort Worth. \$15 one day, \$25 two days. IGRA.com
- **Oct. 25: Halloween on Cedar Springs Road**
Facebook.com/Events/776039205742083

November

- **Nov. 14: Wanda Sykes with Keith Robinson**
Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. Details to come.
- **Nov. 15: Black Tie Dinner**
Dallas Sheraton Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. \$400. 6 p.m.-midnight. BlackTie.org



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10 must-see attractions

DOWNTOWN DALLAS ARTS DISTRICT

When you think of Dallas, cowboy boots and broncos probably come to mind, but Dallas' arts community has grown and thrived. The new arts district is a vibrant hub for creative energy, offering a mix of contemporary and traditional art experiences. The district is home to several museums, galleries, and performance venues, all within walking distance of each other. The opening of the AT&T Performing Arts Center in 2008 marked a significant milestone for the district, bringing world-class entertainment to the heart of the city. The district is also home to several public art installations, including the iconic "The Reunion" sculpture by Fritz Koenig. The district is a vibrant hub for creative energy, offering a mix of contemporary and traditional art experiences.

FORT WORTH ARTS DISTRICT

Dallas' Museums aren't the only places in North Texas to see stellar art - in fact, some would label Fort Worth as having an even better museum experience. The famous Kimbrell Art Museum, a collection ranges from contemporary to classical, with works by Caravaggio, Gainsborough and Morandian. The Modern Art Museum, housed in a recent and spectacular building, features a collection of modern art, including works by Francis Bacon and Andy Warhol, and the Armon Carter Museum boasts a substantial photographic collection.

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Fair Park & Fort Worth TEXAS

The Fair Park & Fort Worth Texas is a vibrant hub for creative energy, offering a mix of contemporary and traditional art experiences. The district is home to several museums, galleries, and performance venues, all within walking distance of each other. The opening of the AT&T Performing Arts Center in 2008 marked a significant milestone for the district, bringing world-class entertainment to the heart of the city. The district is also home to several public art installations, including the iconic "The Reunion" sculpture by Fritz Koenig. The district is a vibrant hub for creative energy, offering a mix of contemporary and traditional art experiences.

DALLAS WORLD MUSEUM

Next to the world's largest collection of dinosaur fossils, the Dallas World Museum is a vibrant hub for creative energy, offering a mix of contemporary and traditional art experiences. The district is home to several museums, galleries, and performance venues, all within walking distance of each other. The opening of the AT&T Performing Arts Center in 2008 marked a significant milestone for the district, bringing world-class entertainment to the heart of the city. The district is also home to several public art installations, including the iconic "The Reunion" sculpture by Fritz Koenig. The district is a vibrant hub for creative energy, offering a mix of contemporary and traditional art experiences.

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Dallas County Schools adds LGBT rights to nondiscrimination policy

DCS board members say new policies impact 3,000 employees and 440,000-plus students

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Dallas County Schools voted unanimously at its Aug. 29 board meeting to revise its nondiscrimination policy to include protections for LGBT employees and students, officials with the district announced.

The new rules apply to both DCS' 3000 employees and to the 440,000-plus students it serves, officials said.

DCS was the last countywide elected body to include LGBT protections in its nondiscrimination ordinance.

DCS provides transportation both in Dallas County and around the state. It also provides student safety programs, technology solutions, online instructional services, psychology services and risk management solutions.

Officials said the new policy takes "the broadest comprehensive approach" by prohibiting "all discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, military status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or on any other basis that is prohibited by applicable law and these policies."

The policy also expressly prohibits retaliation against anyone who complains that they have suffered such discrimination.

"We are committed to dealing with all our employees and students on a fair and equal basis. There are no excuses," said DCS Board President Larry Duncan.

He also commended Trustee Omar Narvaez for leading the effort. "When we were looking to fill a vacancy on the board, we were also talking about updating these policies. After being given a list of candidates, the board unanimously chose Narvaez, whom Duncan

knew from Stonewall Democrats.

"He was the ideal person to lead the efforts" that would revise the district's policy.

Narvaez, Lambda Legal's community educator, proposed his organization review DCS' policies and procedures and make recommendations for any changes.

With in a month, DCS officials had agreed and the process had begun, Narvaez said.

All of Lambda Legal's recommendations are included in the policy revisions, he said.

The board and the district were supportive from the beginning, he said.

"Everything was positive on the board. Human resources staff members were excited," he said.

He said the changes bring the district up to par by barring discrimination against a wider group of people and modernizing the district's complaint procedures to guarantee due process.

Narvaez said he sought a comprehensive review instead of just asking for new nondiscrimination protections because "you can't hire the employee and not protect them if they are harassed. So I said, 'Let's fix it all.'"

DCS has had an anti-bullying policy on the same comprehensive basis since 2011. It served as a framework for the revisions.

Even though he also explored options to provide domestic partner benefits to district retirees, DCS acknowledged in a statement that the policy is "not enforceable on employee health care and retirement benefits because DCS is bound by Texas law."

Neither the state's insurance for public employees and the Teachers Retirement System recognize same-sex couples.

He hopes that changes soon.

Following the bill's passage, he said, "Today, we took a vital step forward in our continued commitment to creating an inclusive, safe and respectful workplace."

Duncan agreed.



■ Omar Narvaez

■ **PATRICK**, From Page 12

Dallas Tavern Guild that stages the parade, said his organization has an excellent relationship with Andrews Distributing and its management company. He said in addition to the company's own sponsorship of the parade, they've brought in Heineken and Miller Lite as additional sponsors and Coors as Voice of Pride sponsor.

McGuire continued, "We are advocates and supporters of myriad causes through event sponsorships as well as marketing and advertising support. Andrews has a long-term partnership with Tavern Guild. That relationship is characterized by an open line of communications and a joint commitment to build an even stronger future for events such as the Pride Parade. It's all about brand-building for our products and their events, and our work together has been extraordinarily successful."

Doughman agreed. "Our relationship with them has always been strong and solid. They're always first to the table," he said, adding that he doesn't expect that relationship to change and that he expects it to continue into the future.

Signing the anti-gay amicus brief wasn't Patrick's first foray into anti-gay pandering.

In February, a tweet from Patrick went wrong because of a typo.

"MARRIAGE=ONE MAN & ONE MAN.



Michael Doughman

Enough of these activist judges. FAVORITE if you agree. I know the silent majority is out there with us," he tweeted.

After deleting the original with the typo, he then sent the message, "Marriage is between one man and one woman. Period."

Then he retweeted the original after correcting the second "one man" to "one woman."

After Mayor Annise Parker married her partner Kathy Hubbard, Patrick felt compelled to weigh in on the ceremony.

"I am not shocked that Mayor Parker decided to elope to California for a marriage that is unconstitutional in Texas," Patrick said at the time. "This is obviously part of a larger strategy of hers to turn Texas into California."

Parker and Hubbard married in January on their 23rd anniversary. They have raised three children together.

Patrick's political feuds are not only with Democrats.

In 2012, Patrick, who has been married to his second wife for 38 years, and Dallas state Sen. John Carona got into an email battle that Carona claimed Patrick leaked to the press for political gain. Accusations included Carona allegedly questioning Patrick's sexual orientation, which Carona denied doing.

"I've never been shy about sharing my dislike and distrust of you," Carona said, according to reports in the Austin American-Statesman. "Put bluntly, I believe you are a snake oil salesman; a narcissist that would say anything to draw attention to himself."

At least some of Patrick's supporters say the state senator is not anti-gay, just anti-marriage equality. But during last winter's Duck Dynasty controversy, Patrick's remarks had nothing to do

with marriage. While Patrick didn't mention the word "gay," the controversy entirely revolved around reality show star Phil Robertson's homophobic rants.

"This is an exciting time for Christians," Patrick wrote on his Facebook page. "God is speaking to us from the most unlikely voice, Phil Robertson, about God's Word. God is using pop culture and a highly successful cable TV show to remind us about His teaching. God has used unlikely people in the Bible before to share his Word throughout history. He is doing it again. Phil's words will reach more people than any preacher or conservative leader could. It's clear God is speaking to us and I find it exciting."

Patrick's also come out against domestic partner benefits.

"Since the people voted overwhelmingly a few years ago to define marriage between one man and one woman it seemed unconstitutional [sic] to me," he wrote on Facebook in April 2013.

Patrick's opponent in the lieutenant governor's race, Leticia Van de Putte, has worked with Patrick in the Texas Senate.

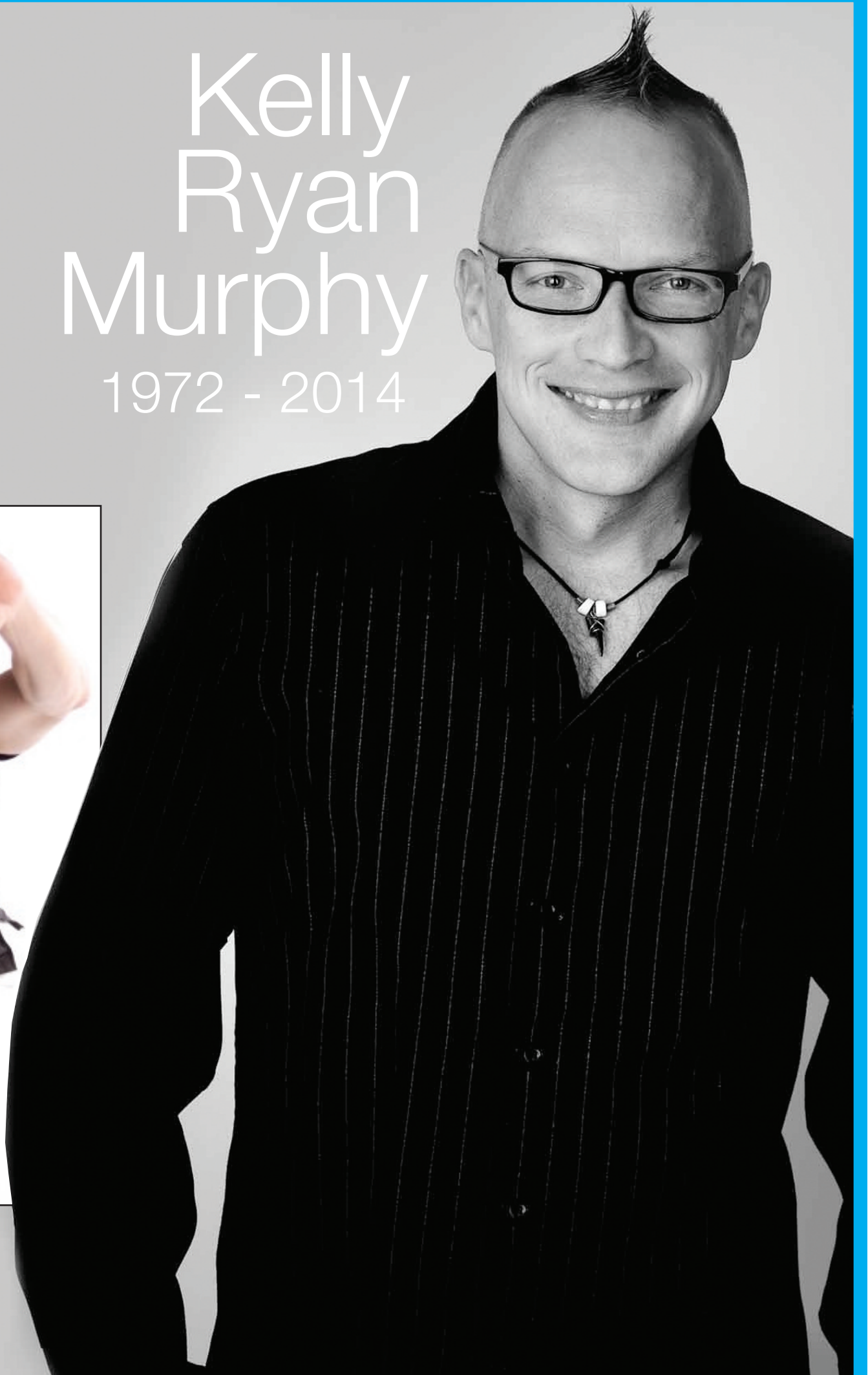
"If you don't have respect for all Texans, you are not putting Texas first," Van de Putte said. "All Texans deserve the opportunity to live a life of dignity without fear, especially fear of their elected leaders. It is time to end discrimination and to promote equality for all." ■

Kelly Ryan Murphy

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Equality in Mexico's Mega-City

Mexico City is a bastion of liberalism in Mexico, but GHAI is leading the way in the battles still left to fight

Editor's note: Longtime activist Jesús Chairez, a former Dallas resident now living in Mexico City, will be contributing "Letters from Mexico" to Dallas Voice on a regular basis. This is the first of his letters.

Although Mexico City is mostly liberal and the LGBT community here won the right to legally marry and to adopt children in December 2009, the fight for complete equality continues.

There are several LGBT organizations in this mega-city, which has a population of about 22 million. One of these organizations is Grupo Homosexual de Acción e Información [Homosexual Group of Information and Action], or GHAI.

GHAI was started in 1995 by a core group of activists in their 20s. Today those activists are in their 40s. Like most other LGBT organizations, GHAI has focused on HIV/AIDS prevention and health, coming out advice and sponsoring social events and field trips.

For example, when a young man wanted to leave his home because of problems with his family over his sexual orientation, GHAI helped him find shelter, employment and a place of his own as well. Today that young man is doing well and standing on his own.

And of course, GHAI participated in all the marches and protests for same-sex marriage and child adoption.



Jesús Chairez
Letters From Mexico



Community Voice | Co-producers Joselo Castillo, lower left, Donato Rangel, top left, and Luis Melo, top right and GHAI member Juan Manuel, top center, talk during a recent production of Los 41. (Jesus Chairez)

But there are a couple of ways in which GHAI stands out from the rest of the LGBT organizations in Mexico City. GHAI created a gay Lucha Libre (free wrestling) icon called Super Gay, and has its own weekly Internet radio show called Los 41 (The 41).

Super Gay, a gay luchador that fights homophobia, has been featured not only in print media and TV in Mexico, but also in magazines and film in Europe. When Mexico City's LGBT community won the right to marry, it was Super Gay's image that was picked out from the crowd of protesters by the wire services and plastered on front pages around the world.

(Super Gay was on the front page of Dallas Voice in July 1997 when I wrote an article about gay life and the Pride Parade in Mexico.)

Super Gay was also the inspiration for Dallas'

gay Latino luchador, Santo Gay. Super Gay's high visibility and personal appearances help keep GHAI in the public eye.

GHAI's weekly two-hour Internet radio show, Los 41, airs live every Saturday at 5 p.m. CST. There are four core members that produce the show, which gets its name from what is considered Mexico's Stonewall story.

On Nov. 18, 1901, police raided an upper class gay party attended by 41 men, half of whom were dressed as women. Rumor is that there were really 42 people at this party but one was allowed to escape because he was the son-in-law of Porfirio Díaz's, Mexico's dictator at the time and the reason Mexico had a revolution beginning in 1910.

Those arrested were put into the military and made to perform hard labor, never to be heard from again.

GHAI remembers this historical milestone and honors those that suffered from homophobia in Mexico then and still today.

"Starting Los 41 Radio was a natural evolution of GHAI's development into global social media," says Joselo Castillo, one of GHAI's founding members and radio team member.

Los 41 radio show started six years ago at a Starbucks in La Zona Rosa (the Pink Zone, Mexico City's gayborhood). But a year later, it was moved to a Sanborns restaurant in the same neighborhood.

"Waitresses would even save the best table for us to comfortably do our show," Castillo said. "I was glad to see how [restaurant patrons] would somehow be interested in taking part," sometimes laughing and even joining in on the discussions.

But because public places get noisy, Los 41 moved to Castillo's home, which he shares with his husband, Bael Bautista.

The lack of what might be considered a "con-

ventional" radio studio is immediately obvious to visitors to the Castillo/Bautista home. In the middle of their small apartment is a sofa and love seat — the heart of Los 41 radio show — and on a nearby computer table is 27-inch iMac — the show's and GHAI's brains.

There no mixing boards for sound checks nor does anyone have a microphone. But everyone does seem to have a comfortable place to sit, and the iMac picks up every word.

Los 41 begins with Castillo taking the lead, then the others joining in. They offer up lots of LGBT news from Mexico and beyond, mixed with lots of personal commentary, laughing and sometimes just plain, old silliness.

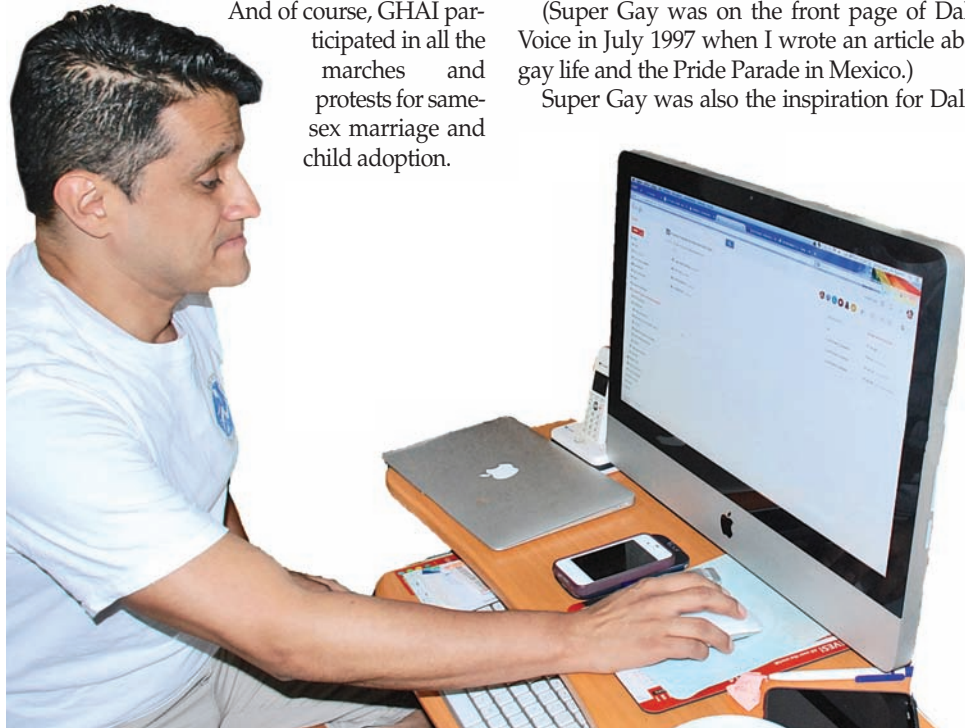
The Los 41 radio show DJ's don't take any live telephone calls, but they do field questions and comments coming in in real time via Los 41's Facebook page. Though the radio show appears to be impromptu, it does take a whole week of planning Castillo said.

While México City is Mexico's gay mecca, Castillo stressed that the community still has plenty of work ahead. "If you take a look at the newspapers, or the media online, there are hundreds of cases of hate murders, discrimination cases, harassing cases — this job is far from finished."

Even when Los 41 is not transmitting live, GHAI team member Donato Rangel has started a 24/7 music feed, and the team hopes to add podcasts to the menu soon.

More information visit www.los41.com or facebook.com/los41radio.

Jesús Chairez is gay Latino activist and freelance writer. He produced and hosted U.S. first two-hour LGBT Latino radio show, *Sin Fronteras*, which aired on KNON 89.3 FM in Dallas from 1993 to 2005. Chairez now resides in México City and may be found at facebook.com/JesusChairez.



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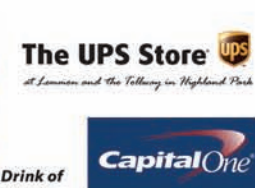
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No place for anti-bi bigotry

Gays and lesbians have faced enough discrimination to know better than to delegitimize the experience and identity of bisexuals

Within the big LGBT tent, there are myriad strong and specific spaces and groups for lesbians, gay men and — even more so lately — transgender individuals who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to organize or socialize with those who have shared experiences.

However, it seems those who identify as bisexual are often left out, ignored or outright rejected from those spaces by a great deal of dismissive judgment from within the community.

Certainly it comes as no surprise that bisexuals experience ridicule or oppression in the broader heterosexual society similar to that experienced by homosexuals. But that they experience a different version of the same skepticism within the community is disheartening. It actually seems bisexuals are more easily accepted in transgender groups and spaces than in gay or lesbian ones. This is likely a result of the degree to which the transgender community still struggles far more greatly for acceptance in the broader culture than the gay community does.

Why is that? Why are gays and lesbians so likely to respond derisively to bisexuals after experiencing so much judgment for our own sexuality? It ultimately boils down to prejudice, and that it happens inside our community where we are all well-versed in the impact of prejudice makes it that much worse.

Judgment from those one does not know is easily dismissed. But it is significantly harder to ignore when it comes from those who should be friends or, at the very least, allies.

Some of the gay and lesbian disdain for bisexuality is specific to the gay experience. The fact that many who ultimately identify as gay or lesbian begin that journey by first coming out as bisexual has led to a community-wide epidemic of eye-rolling at those who first enter the community and proclaim their bisexuality.

“Sure honey,” a gay person says with a head tilt and knowing nod, “of course you’re bi. On the bi-way to gay town. Let us know when you reach the destination.”

It’s insulting to bisexuals on several levels. First, it’s stereotyping to presume that because gays start by claiming bisexuality, all bisexuals are just coming to terms with being gay or unwilling to commit. An entire sexual identity cannot be dismissed as a “phase” just because it is a stepping-stone for some gay people. Moreover, to presume that because someone is young they cannot be fully aware of their own sexuality is ar-

rogant and ignorant.

Anecdotal evidence from the lesbian community supports a similar view from many there, as well. The idea that there are straight women in a lesbian phase rather than women who are bisexual negates the bisexual identity in an equally harmful way.

A first same-sex experience may indeed be an awakening and connection to one’s true sexual identity. It may also be a realization that the individual is bisexual, expanding their sexual identity to include a broader spectrum than simply flipping from straight to gay. Both are equally valid and should be treated as such without presuming to dictate to that individual which is actually happening for them.

Both gay women and men can be incredibly guilty of reinforcing a sexual preference binary with the idea that one is either completely gay or totally not, delegitimizing the sexuality of anyone who is anywhere in between. It becomes the gay equivalent of the “one drop” rule. If a guy has ever had a homosexual experience — he’s gay.

It’s one of the few instances where homophobic straight culture and gay culture can treat bisexuals the same: “He hooked up with a dude once, he’s gay.” It’s an extremely isolating judgment against bisexual men. Whether it’s a straight guy or a gay guy saying it, it’s equally dismissive, and equally wrong.

Bisexual women tend to be treated the opposite. Whereas bisexual men are “once gay, always gay,” bisexual women having a first homosexual experience or relationship are judged to be having a “lesbian phase,” as though they are a silly college girl on spring break in Cancun, so it is something they will grow out of and go back to being straight.

Whether it is diminishing a woman’s bisexuality or accentuating a man’s, it is not fair and is akin to saying bisexuality does not exist. That certainly should not be happening within our community. The denial of anyone’s existence in the LGBT community should be left to the bigots outside of our world, and we should be fighting them together, on behalf of all of us.

As homosexuals, we’ve expended an enormous amount of effort demanding respect for our identities. We cannot then deny that same respect to those who are bisexual. All of the understanding we ask for should be given to them first and loudest from us.



Emerson Collins
Contributing Columnist

The list of complaints about bisexuals often stated by gays and lesbians for why they are leery of bisexuals sounds just as ignorant as those of straight people. They’re promiscuous. They’ll decide they are straight. They’ll cheat with the opposite sex. These complaints are also all easily dismissible with even the most cursory consideration. Cheating has nothing to do with sexuality. If an individual decides they are straight, they were not really bisexual — or homosexual — to begin with. Promiscuity can be a characteristic of any sexuality and is representative of the individual, not the sexuality.

A bisexual person is not gay when in a same-sex relationship any more than they are straight when in a heterosexual one. Limiting the individual through the label of their relationship is reductive by forcing them to fit in a binary sexuality that none of us should be promoting.

More importantly, bisexuality and those who are even more fluid, with possibly a preference for one kind of relationship or sexuality while being open to another, should be celebrated for throwing off the sexual repression the strictly homosexual community has been fighting against for so long. Individuals should be free to explore their sexuality. Allowing people the time to be open-minded and figure out who they are should be easier as we gain wider acceptance. We will stunt that process and limit the exploration of others if we in the community are rushing to scream “gay” at any guy who explores intimacy with a man or dismissing a woman as a tease who flirts with the idea of being with a woman.

We should be celebrating bisexuals as we celebrate each other. They are not “greedy” or “in denial” or “going through a phase.” They have a very specific identity that we should respect and welcome. After all, in the grand LGBT scheme of things, they are on our team ... even when they aren’t “on our team.”

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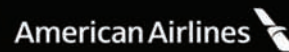
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Origins of love

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A gay love story is an unlikely frontrunner in this year's Oscar race. Inside the making of Ira Sachs' 'Love Is Strange' with John Lithgow and Alfred Molina

LAWRENCE W. FERBER | Contributing Writer
lawrencewferber@hotmail.com

When *Love Is Strange* first received Oscar buzz this past winter at the Sundance and Berlin film festivals, Alfred Molina's daughter asked what he'd say at the podium if he actually won an award for his performance as John Lithgow's husband. "And I replied," he says, "that *John Lithgow is a really good kisser!*"

Directed by Ira Sachs, who co-wrote it with Mauricio Zacharias, *Love Is Strange* stars Lithgow and Molina as New Yorkers Ben and George, a retired artist and Catholic school music teacher, who legally tie the knot after 39 years together. Their bliss is short lived: due to his employer's conservative policies, George is fired, leaving them unable to afford their Manhattan apartment. Consequently, Ben is forced to move into the small apartment of his Brooklyn nephew (Darren Burrows), his wife (Marisa Tomei) and teenage son (Charlie Tahan), while George couch-surfs with a pair of gay cops (Cheyenne Jackson and Manny Perez). Frantically searching for new sources of income and housing options, the pair struggle with forced separation and too-close-for-comfort arrangements with family and friends.

Inspired by the works of Yasujiro Ozu and *Husbands And Wives*-era Woody Allen, this multi-generational rom-dram is rich with humor, family conflicts, and, yes, love.

"I liked the idea of making a romantic film about gay life," says

the Memphis-born, NYC-based Sachs. "It seemed to me there are not enough of those. George and Ben's relationship is as imperfect as any of ours, yet it is a true bond John and Alfred created that is real and beautiful."

Indeed, *Love's* depiction of a loving albeit human and complex life-long relationship between two gay men is an antidote to the dysfunctional, doomed one depicted in Sachs' previous, and semi-autobiographical feature, *Keep The Lights On*, which was based on his experience with a drug addict boyfriend, literary agent Bill Clegg.

"I couldn't have made this film five years ago," Sachs admits, "not just because of the [legalization of same-sex marriage in New York], but because of myself. I wouldn't have known how to imagine a relationship between two men that grew so beautifully."

Sachs was partly able to imagine such a healthy relationship thanks to his marriage to artist Boris Torres (they've been together seven years, and are raising two children), who provided the paintings created in the film by Lithgow's Ben.

"Boris is a very dear man and I actually painted with him," Lithgow offers. Sporting a substantive beard, grown for his role of King Lear in August at Shakespeare in the Park, Lithgow is a painter himself. "We came up with this hybrid art that accommodated my technique and his and he did the half-finished painting I work on. He's very sweet. It became a family-inclusive experience."

The character of Ben, Sachs notes, was partly inspired by real-life artist Ted Rust, the longtime partner of his great uncle.

"Ben is what you would call an artistic type: He's got his head in the clouds, he's impractical," Lithgow opines. "All he really thinks about is his art and not even that too often. Sometimes you want to shake him, but he's also impossible not to love. He reminds me of me!"

Conceived with repeat collaborator Zacharais as the second entry in a NYC-set trilogy (the third, Sachs says, will deal with a friendship between two boys), *Love Is Strange* was first announced in early 2013 with UK actor Michael Gambon attached to co-star opposite Molina. When Gambon left the production, Lithgow's agent sent the script to the 6-foot-4 actor — Oscar-nominated for his turn as a transgender ex-football player in 1983's *The World According to Garp* — who then and set up a meeting with Sachs. (Lithgow also snagged an Emmy playing a pair of gay twins, one dying from AIDS, in a 1995 TV movie, *My Brother's Keeper*.)

"I said at one point during the meeting, 'it would be such a relief to play a part where I don't have to do any acting,'" Lithgow recalls. "Ira asked, 'What do you mean by that?' He may have thought I was admitting to him I was gay, but that wasn't it! Curiously, from that point on, 'no acting now' was his favorite direction on set. That's what I loved about the script. It was so effortless, real, and emotionally authentic you didn't have to do anything strenuous, to renovate the writing. It was all there."

■ LOVE, Page 30

MODERN FAMILY | Alfred Molina and John Lithgow find marriage equality comes with a cost in Ira Sachs' acclaimed new film, which opens in Dallas this weekend.

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2(x)ist briefs. Unless you're the kind of guy who prefers commando, we need to slip on our skivvies. Today's tighty whities, pictured left, have come a long way since our pot-papas rocked the look around the house, and 2(x)ist has the perfect pair to keep your artillery under wraps. The slim-fit 1 Contour Pouch Brief features side-running satin ins stripes and a Jacquard elastic waistband, and it's available in stark white so you can show off what your daddy gave ya. [2xist.com](#); \$26.

Timberland polo. Even though we're headed into dreaded (for me, anyway) cold-weather territory, there are still a few rays of hope and sunshine to soak up before hibernation begins. You'll come off preppy and put together on those seasonable days just following the holiday — a good look if you're tryin' to take a dip in the back-to-school pool — in the men's short-sleeve Millers River polo from Timberland. This regular fit shirt — sorry, skinny bitches — is solid white for a clean, finished look. [Shop.Timberland.com](#); \$58.

Slater Zorn Oxford. You won't have to hem and haw when choosing a shirt from luxury retailer Slater Zorn, pictured above right, because every men's button-down offered is — you guessed it — white. But these casual classics are anything but boring. There's a pop of collegiate color on the contrast grosgrain placket that lets you bunk Labor Day tradition in white while showing a smidge of your true hues. [SlaterZorn.com](#); \$135.

Bonobos chinos. Every dude deserves a great-fitting pair of chinos, and Bonobos is nothing if not dedicated to that pursuit. Buck the trend this time, however, with a pair of Great Whites, a stark (or is that shark?) contrast from the other blues, olives and browns that currently populate your closet.

This limited-edition style — once they're gone, they're gone, says Bonobos — features the company's signature back pocket liners and slide-snap closures in a straight-leg fit. [Bonobos.com](#); \$68.

Mission belt. As a loyal fan of ABC's *Shark Tank*, I first learned about the Mission belt, below, last year when entre-



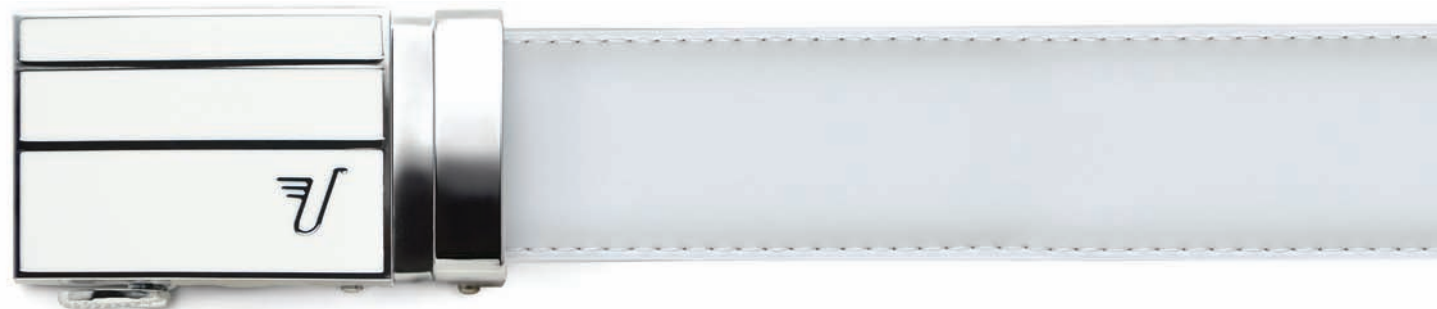
neur Nate Holzapfel appeared on the show. Hoping to reinvent the belt altogether, Nate walked away with an offer from investor Daymond John. Its only fitting, then, that it's the Great White style (hey, maybe they share a copywriter with Bonobos) that's most appropriate here. This isn't your ordinary belt, however. There are no holes in the design, but rather a sliding set of "teeth" on the inside that allow you to adjust the leather as your body changes. Mission also has another mission besides making you feel less self-conscious about your weight: \$1 of every belt sold helps fight global hunger and poverty through micro lending on Kiva. [MissionBelt.com](#); \$40.

Modify watch. Watches used to exist as function over fashion back in the day, but now that everyone comes out of the womb with a smartphone attached to their paws, the roles have been reversed. Thus, there's nothing wrong with strappin' on a timepiece like it's 1993, and Modify watch helps make your throwback style funky and fresh. Choose a white-on-white watch for the post Labor Day festivities, or select from more than 150 other faces that can feature your favorite sports team, show your patriotism and solidify your commitment to charity. There's also an option to upload your own custom design. [ModifyWatches.com](#); from \$35. ■

— Mikey Rox

I've never been a fan of clothing etiquette which says somebody, somewhere, once decided when I can wear this and when I can't wear that. The most annoying rule of them all: "No white after Labor Day." Hogwash! Especially in Texas, where summer never quite ends, it just goes into remission.

White makes sense in the summer for practical reasons (like that it reflects the sun to keep us cool and it's ideal for wet T-shirt contests — hey, boy!), it's perfectly fine any time of year. If you're on my side of this debate (and you better be), check out these white-hot wardrobe additions that'll help you stick it to tradition.



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Selfie expression

Oh, snap(chat)! Gay model Topher La Fleur tumbles into underwear fame



Topher La Fleur, a 23-year-old Los Angeleno who presently works as a marketing executive at Out Front Colorado (like Dallas Voice, the Denver-based gay weekly), is of the generation where Snapchat, InstaGram and selfies aren't novelties but the background of everyday life. And as someone working in media, he knows the power of a good image.

La Fleur proved his savviness earlier this summer by turning what could have been a simple Tumblr snapshot into a degree of fame and adulation.

He's the national winner of an online selfie contest sponsored by Texas-based underwear maker XVII Underwear. As part of the reward for winning, La Fleur received a paid tour of Texas (including Dallas, where he will be doing a meet-and-greet on Thursday at TMC) and gets to be, if not the face, then the crotch, of a clothing brand.

We chatted with the budding millennial model about his winning pic (plus some other modeling work) and his obsessive collecting of skivvies.

MEET AND GREET

TMC: The Mining Company,
3903 Cedar Springs Road.
Sept. 11. 9-10 p.m.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: When did you hear about the contest?

La Fleur: My partner stumbled across the contest online one evening and encouraged me to enter. There were about 250 applicants to start with, which were later narrowed down to 17. XVII Underwear then sent us pairs of underwear to take selfies in, and then the public voted on them!

Why do you think you won? A huge part of my success had to do with local businesses sharing my photo with their fans. I also received a ton of support from international groups on Facebook.

Have you ever modeled before? What kind? I have runway, fashion, fitness and editorial modeling experience, but I'm by no means a pro. I always look for-

ward to collaborating with new individuals. The challenges help me learn and grow, and the resulting photos are usually pretty amazing.

Do you wear a lot of underwear? What's your preferences — boxers? Briefs? Thongs? I love underwear! My partner and I have around 300 pairs, and prospective clients are always sending me new samples of products to share with my fans on Instagram. I don't like thongs — they're very uncomfortable. I won't pose in them, either. I find them very unflattering. Day-to-day, I love a good modal or brushed cotton brief. The brighter the color, the better.

You're quite the expert! Tell us about your tour in Texas. What will you be doing and looking forward to? The most exciting part of this trip is that I've never been to Texas. I've basically jam-packed every

hour of my time in the Lone Star State. I've arranged several collaborations with Texan photographers, in addition to the work I'll be doing with XVII Underwear for their new season. Additionally, I'll be agent shopping in Dallas and I'm hoping to take a trip to Austin Pride! Of course, we'll have to hit the town at least once while we're out here.

What's the most revealing selfie you've ever taken? Being a model is all about image — you have to keep it tightly controlled! I try not to take excessively revealing images, and I won't work in sheer underwear or thongs. However, for a recent music video, I was asked to wear a jockstrap, and I did enjoy that experience. I definitely took a few jockstrap selfies. They were totally harmless and definitely in good taste.

Tease.

MODEL CITIZEN | Topher La Fleur has had some modeling experience, above, but it was a selfie in underwear, opposite, that has won him a wider audience — and, he hopes, an agent when he visits Dallas this week.



PHOTO BY BRIAN GUILLIAUX

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AND DIRECTOR MAKES THREE | Molina and Lithgow with director-co-writer Ira Sachs.

■ LOVE, From Page 24

A few things were tweaked, however, in the various drafts leading up to the shoot, including the ethnic backgrounds of several characters. George was at one point a Latino. "Ira thought maybe if we could make him closer to my own cultural and ethnic background there might be more mileage in that," Molina reveals. "But Ira changed his mind — he put it to me that was adding another layer of possible contention, and unnecessary. But we gave George a Spanish name, like me, to suggest he had a Spanish dad."

Molina, no shorty at 6-foot-2, garnered much attention for his turn in 1987's *Prick Up Your Ears* opposite Gary Oldman as, respectively, murderous, frustrated writer Kenneth Halliwell and his lover/victim, iconic UK playwright Joe Orton (Molina says that his cracked-out *Boogie Nights* character, meanwhile, "is open to interpretation"). Discussing the film in Manhattan's Regency Hotel, the pair of actors gush praise for one another and in-joke barbs whenever one mentions they've won an award for a performance.

"I knew Fred pretty well, and we were good friends without having worked together," Lithgow shares. "By the end of *Love Is Strange* he was my favorite actor I ever worked with and one of my best friends. We poured it all into the work and it emerged from the work, that affection and respect."

Molina describes their pairing as "a happy accident. It becomes effortless. You don't have to try. John's a fantastic partner and actor. He's a giant in terms of he can take whatever you throw at him. And John's a good kisser. We learned today that some ladies on *The View* think you've got really sexy lips."

Lithgow laughs. "Thank god they said it when the sound was turned off."

Shot over 27 days, the low-budget film (which Sachs says was financed largely by accomplished lesbian businesswomen, several of which have married since themselves, that rec-

ognized both its political and commercial potential) called upon favors from family and friends, sometimes through postings on the film's Facebook page, which chronicled and illuminated the production process extensively. One of those favors involved everything from locations (one pivotal sequence takes place at Julius, the historic NYC gay bar) to drafting real-life Dungeons & Dragons experts to teach Jackson and Perez how to play the role-playing fantasy game during a scene.

It was a very different atmosphere, the actors say, from their Hollywood big-budget gigs. Lithgow just finished a role in Christopher Nolan's upcoming blockbuster, *Interstellar*, while Molina played Ned Weeks' brother in *The Normal Heart*. The film's messages about relationships and how older gays' lessons in love can inform future generations for the better also stood apart, and the illumination of an unhappy fact that same-sex marriage, despite its legal status in some states, can have unexpected, negative consequences. This past July, in fact, a Chicago Catholic choir director, Colin Collette, was fired when the archdiocese learned he had been proposed to by his boyfriend via a Facebook post.

"I do think that whoever does something on the cutting edge — even at this point getting married is the cutting edge — are going to suffer consequences," Lithgow says. "I've only been to one gay marriage, and I've never seen such intensity. A ritual that was so important to the two people involved and everyone else there because it's been withheld from an entire population of people. But it can take its toll. It starts with that price being paid and the story plays out dealing with all of life's other difficulties."

Just imagine if *Love Is Strange* had dealt with a throuple, I comment. Both Lithgow and Molina raise their eyebrows and laugh, confessing they had never heard this term for a three-person relationship before.

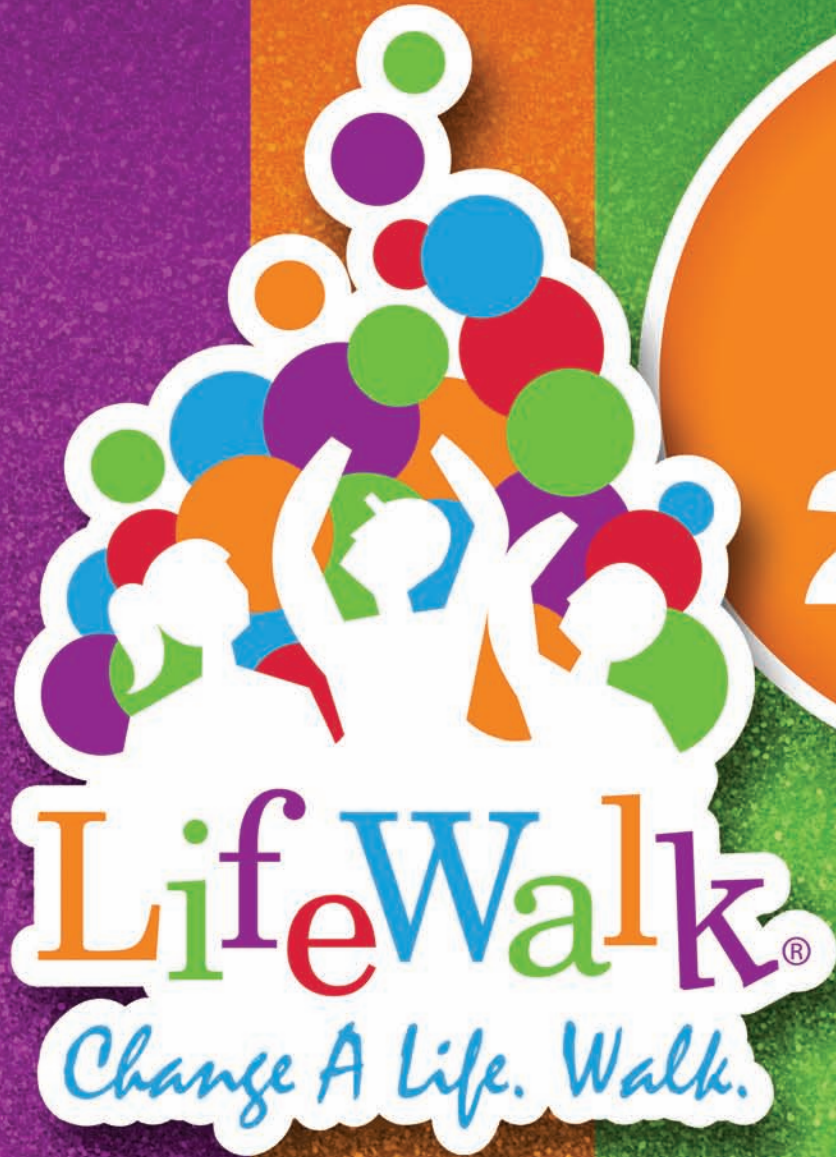
"I have only known one person who was part of a throuple," Lithgow says, amused. "It's now a couple, which is what it was before!" ■

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Pecan Lodge

I don't feel compelled to review Pecan Lodge. I have eaten there, and eating there's enough.

In fact, I had the first morsel from the first brisket ever sliced from the board of the Main Street location that opened earlier this summer in Deep Ellum. The taste was, predictably, a sensation — not merely sensa-

tional — as an adjective of superlative appreciation — but an experience for the senses: smoky to the point you wonder whether they get their edge by having the cows puff on Cohibas while dipping Copenhagen, rather than merely fulminating grass before they sacrifice their flesh to the kitchen gods. There's something sanctifying knowing that a life, even of the cattle variety, was given in service to a memorable and careful food creation, rather than wasted on some fast food mystery meat abomination.

And no one would ever call Pecan Lodge "fast food" ... for several reasons. First, any truly deft iteration of Texas barbecue takes time. In my salad days, like many wayward souls, I was apt to choose a BBQ joint based on the signature sauce (which, when it comes down to it, is merely some variation of tomatoes, vinegar and molasses) when the star is meant to be the meat. It would be like claiming to love homemade gelato but only eating it when smothered in Magic Shell. True Texas barbecue requires four things: (1) good beef; (2) time; (3) a smoker; and (4) a pit master with patience and a keen eye. The best barbecue takes many hours — hours!!!! — to reach its apogee of flavor. When it's ready, it's done. Sauces are permissible but extraneous. The meat carries the day, or should.

And so it is at Pecan Lodge — not, truth be told, my favorite local BBQ but a contender for one of the top spots among peers, and definitely trek-worthy. The trek is the other proof this is not fast food. I refer not to driving into Deep Ellum, but the waiting in line once you get there. The queue is rarely shorter than what you'd expect



SACRIFICIAL COW | There's a sanctification to the way the barbecue is prepared at Pecan Lodge — a savory, smoky succulent serving that makes you proud to be a carnivore. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

to find for the Titan at Six Flags on Memorial Day weekend. It's a common problem. When Justin Fourton and his wife Diane operated Pecan Lodge in Shed 2 at the Farmers Market downtown, it was the major draw for weekend urbanites and the line went on *forever!* Worse yet: at Shed 2, once the meat ran out, the grate came down and remaining customers were SOL. They won't run out anymore, they promise (it's open daily for lunch and weekends for dinner). But that doesn't mean you get your meal faster. It's a pilgrimage for many (hence the street cred I get for being the first customer ever) who worship at the altar of the god of carne. Waiting is part of the process; tantalizing is a kind of flavor.

Watch the brisket being sliced: the glistening ropes of lean bloody muscle seem to pulsate with the life force of flavor before transferring that energy to you. I could praise the sausages, or even the classic sides that complement but do not interfere with the meat. (If you're vegan, don't go figuring you can "just enjoy the veggies" — not worth the wait) or I could describe the beer list, which includes a house specialty created by Five Corners Brewing specifically for Pecan Lodge.

But I won't do that. Cuz I'm not reviewing Pecan Lodge. A review will only get more people interested in going there and the lines are already long enough. It may be too late to keep it a secret but no need to shoot myself in the foot. That first spot in the queue doesn't come by often.

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Ball's to the wall



Muralist and multi-media artist **Adam Ball** returns to the Goss-Michael Foundation for the institutional solo exhibit *The Space Between*

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

The night before his first major work went on public display, Adam Ball was terrified.

"It was early in my career," he says by telephone from his London home. "It could've been bad."

Ball doesn't worry as much any more about being bad. He's arrived, as they say in the art world. From that 2002 debut in London's busy Golden Square — the painting of a tree, standing 32 feet tall and 23 feet wide, was at the time one of Britain's largest art projects — Ball has proven his bona fides.

The project "was a great learning process," he says. "I was pushing and challenging myself to make a big project. I thought it would take six months. I was naïve and young. I had nothing to lose."

He's come a long way since then.

His latest exhibit, *The Space Between*, opens Sept. 5 at Dallas' Goss-Michael Foundation, which specializes in edgy works by contemporary British artists.

This mid-career artist is no stranger to

MAKING HIMSELF PART OF THE ART |

Ball used replications of his own DNA to make this henna-like wall tattoo. Ball specializes in employing unusual media for his larger-than-life pieces.

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Dallas. His first solo show here was in 2007 (also at Goss-Michael) and he has been back multiple times since. He has contributed to the RE:DEFINE fundraisers benefitting HIV/AIDS research. Foundation founder Kenny Goss considers him a friend. He has also exhibited internationally including in Bahrain, France and Spain.

The Space Between, a collaboration between curatorial group the Future Tense and Goss-Michael, examines the blurring lines between science, technology and nature. Working with charcoal (one of his primary media), gives viewers a peek into Ball's fascination with both nature and science, looking at the recent advances in areas like genetic modification, imagining their influence on the artist's practice.

"By playing with context and scale, everything can conceivably be interchangeable," Ball says in a statement. "By choosing how to layer, combine and modify these technically incompatible images... I found I could respond almost instinctively, blurring the boundaries between laboratory, studio and gallery."

Ball has always been influenced by science and nature, going outside and taking photographs. But as an artist, he did not have the language to articulate the evolution and dynamics of the natural world. Collaborating with scientists and other professionals to find new source material for these works, working with others also provided access to power and knowledge. "It's liberating now to have these con-

tacts," he says.

Those professionals, who work in a wide range of disciplines — chemistry and environmental science, among them — and have an in-depth knowledge of their field, provided not simply materials, but also the language to articulate complex ideas. The collaboration contributed to the creation of his voice.

That voice included expanding the dialogue between nature and modern science and, for The Space Between, exploring science's influence on his body. With the help of a collaborator, he was able to get a photo of his own DNA. After stripping it down, he identified key pieces of the DNA puzzle specific to him and made it into a self-portrait.

He couldn't have taken on this bold project when he first erected the 32-foot tree a decade ago. He had to find his voice. That required developing his

confidence. "I'm less influenced by what's going on around me now, though I keep my eyes open," says Ball.

Future Tense founder Ed Bartlett, who numbers Ball among his friends, says his art is a way of exploring the future. Ever since Ball and his wife Kerry welcomed a son, Jasper, "He's been thinking about being a father and what the future holds."

Ball, modest, ruminative and clearly sincere, agrees. Jasper's birth and becoming a father has given him a new perspective of the world around him, opening his eyes to next big thing. Whether that will be a tree remains to be seen. ■

THE SPACE BETWEEN

Art by Adam Ball.
Goss-Michael Foundation,
1405 Turtle Creek Blvd.
Sept. 5–Oct. 4.
GossMichaelFoundation.org.

Music review: Banks, 'Goddess'


Goddess, the larger-than-life title of the full-length debut album from Jillian Banks (who uses just her last name), isn't much of an understatement. Anyone who's been following the 26-year-old's steady rise to stardom since she released two EPs last year knows she's destined to take that throne. Long before dropping this trance-y throng of brooding feels — sentiments draped atop a Goth fusion of fuzz, keyboard punches and pulsating bass (think James Blake meets Feist) — everyone had their eye on this mysterious Los Angeles wunderkind.

And for good reason. *Goddess* is a slow burner, but once it clicks, it consumes. Creeping up on you, its third track, "The Waiting Game," builds on a murmured vocal loop with a whirling synthesis of drone-y sounds. Just as you're caught up in its hypnotic reverb, it ends abruptly. All of its air sucked out, you're left as breathless as its coda. Next up, "Brain" is folk music from the future. Sexy and soulful, and with a shadowy aura that eventually owns every piece of your being, it inspires a fugue state. Inkings of Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu are present in Banks' celestial, R&B-inspired singing, the album's urban edge incites sophisticated simplicity and a lingering evocativeness. "Beggin' for Thread," for instance, is an example of how you do dark for the masses (in the age of Lorde, the song should already be a big hit). And with it, it's clear Banks won't have to do much begging. If you're not already praising this *Goddess*, you will be.

— Chris Azzopardi

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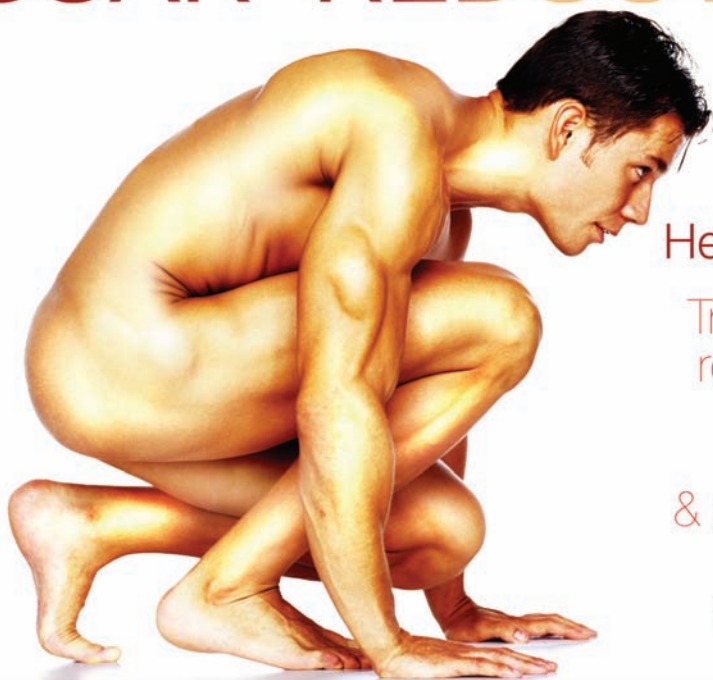
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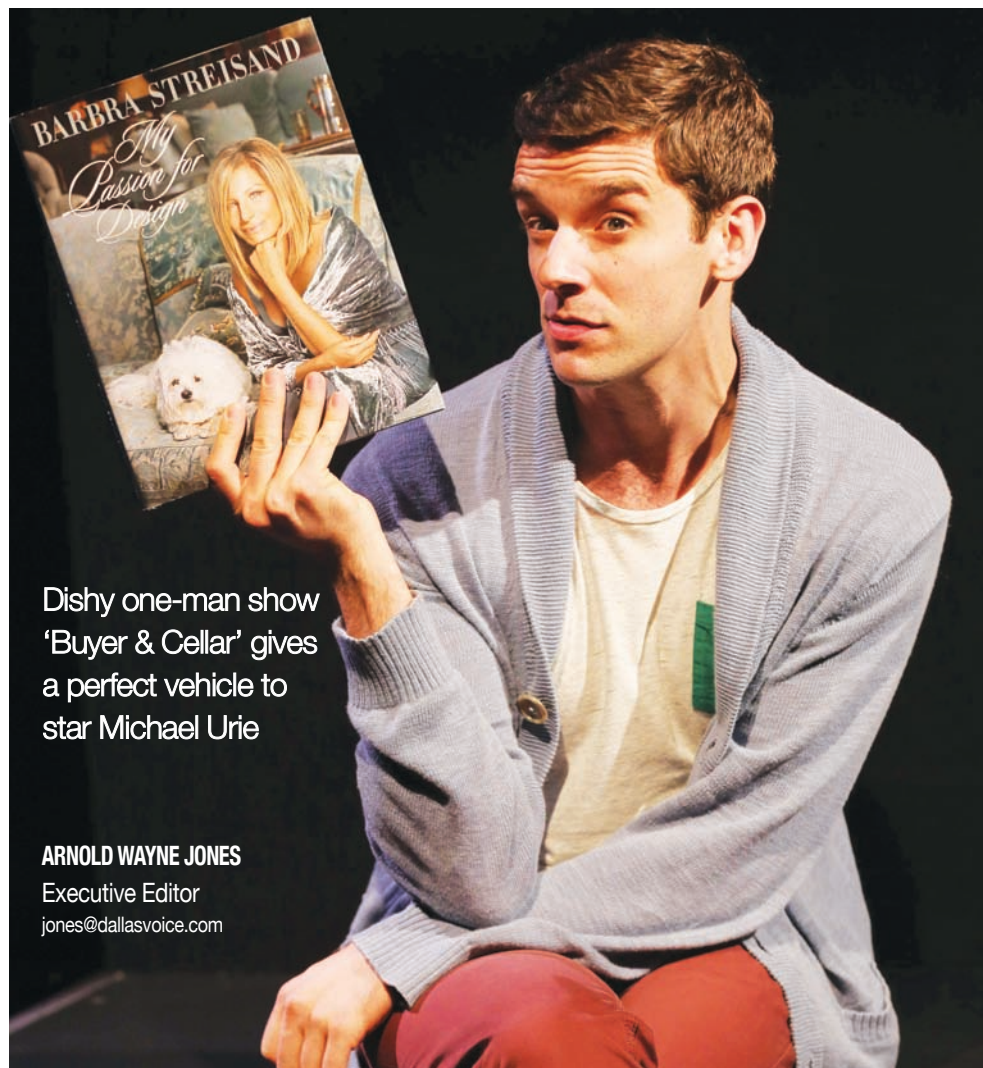
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L+S stage

Babs babble on



Dishy one-man show
'Buyer & Cellar' gives
a perfect vehicle to
star Michael Urie

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Buyer & Cellar, which has a brief run (it closes Saturday) at City Performance Hall as part of ATPAC's new Off Broadway on Flora Series, is a strange yet wonderful play that, in the loosest sense could be considered historical fiction. It uses a real person (Barbra Streisand) and a real thing (her actual basement "mall," a museum where she stores her *Hoarders*-like memorabilia) and creates a completely fake world around it.

The premise? Out-of-work actor Alex More (Michael Urie, who's onstage nearly two hours straight without a sip of water or much of a pause to breathe) is hired to act as a sort of fake salesperson, curator and concierge, ready whenever Babs decides she wants to come and browse among her belongings.

The relationship turns out kind of weird: Streisand plays a cat-and-mouse game with Alex, pretending she's "Sadie" at first, and actually haggling over the "price" of things she already owns. It all strikes Alex as some kind of strange improv session, but eventually they develop a close bond ... but then, we all know Babs' famous incompatibility. "I feel like a fly being swapped by a back issue of *Architectural Digest*," he says.

Buyer & Cellar — written by Jonathan Tolins with an impressive mastery of miscellaneous Barbrana, and couching pop-culture allusions in almost every line of dialogue — most resembles another very gay play, *The Santaland Diaries*, in that one actor recounts a fantastical

adventure in retail. But you might also think of it as *I am My Own Drag Queen*, another spin on a one-man show that plumbs interesting depths of character.

As Alex, Urie narrates his encounters with La Streisand (while reminding us, several times, that this is just a play and none of this ever happened), but also plays Barbra, James Brolin and a few other characters. ("I don't impersonate her, enough people already do," he warns us, "some even women." But in fact he does "do" her, or at least conjure her, with a flick of hair and a pursed lip.) But what he really does is more of a bravura marathon of comedy delights. He pulls faces with a cheery smile and a sparkle in his eye that's totally winning; and there more mugging here than Central Park on New Year's Eve. But it's a virtuoso solo performance, one that, only when the show ends and you realize how exhausted *you* are watching it, impresses upon you what a masterful evening you've just watched. ■

BUYER & CELLAR

City Performance Hall,
2420 Flora St. Through Sept. 6.
ATPAC.org.

Well played

Out Tony-winner Joe DiPietro reinvents an old musical with 'Nice Work If You Can Get It'

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

Though its 20 classic Gershwin tunes would likely make any Broadway musical an instant hit, Joe DiPietro feels the secret to success for the Broadway sensation *Nice Work If You Can Get It* is that the show's comedic content keeps pace with its score.

"It's a screwball musical comedy," says DiPietro, the Tony winner who wrote the show's book. "I think that people come in expecting it will be cute and sweet. And it is sweet — there is a love story in the middle of it — but it makes people laugh out loud. It's actually funny. It also has a lot of archetypes of the time like gangsters, chorus girls, bootleggers and playboys."

The musical kicks off its national tour here in North Texas — first with a two-week run as part of the Dallas Summer Musicals series, then moving over to Bass Hall as part of the Performing Arts Fort Worth series.

DiPietro — the openly gay playwright best known for the 1950s-set Tony favorite *Memphis* and the off-Broadway revue *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* — adapted the 1926 musical *Oh, Kay* to come up with *Nice Work if You Can Get*

It. Shows of that era, he says, typically were produced for limited runs: Plots were flimsy and the pieces were written with certain actors in mind. DiPietro's task — one he happily accepted — was to update the show to make it relevant today.

"When you read those shows, they were of their time," DiPietro says. "They are things we would find creaky today with specific humor and a lot of puns. They are very quaint. The challenge was to write in that style of a 1920s show using those archetypes, but make it funny and delightful for a modern audience."

DiPietro succeeded. In April 2012, *Nice Work* premiered on Broadway with stars Matthew Broderick and Kelli O'Hara. It ran for more than a year and was nominated for Tony Awards in 10 categories, including best musical and one for DiPietro's script. Although DiPietro himself did not win, he was grateful for the nominations.

"Honestly it is such a thrill to get your work produced," DiPietro says. "And then to get Tony nominations? It's such a thrill when that happens. What I do remember being very happy about was that our two supporting actors had won, Michael McGraw and Judy Kay. Michael had been around

■ DIPIETRO, Next Page

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE APPLAUSE | Although he has made a living in theater for decades, out playwright Joe DiPietro says it wasn't until he won two Tony Awards for the musical 'Memphis' that people took notice ... and his career soared.

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■ DIPIETRO, From Previous Page

for 30 years doing great work and had never won anything and suddenly he was a Tony winner, so that was the highlight of the night for me.”

And it is not as though DiPietro had never won the coveted trophy. In 2010, he was awarded two Tonys for the musical *Memphis* (best book and, along with David Bryan, best original score). DiPietro, who has been around theater for decades, considers that a turning point in his career.

“The morning after the Tony Awards, I wasn’t a better writer, but everyone thought I was,” DiPietro says. “When someone has a spotlight on you for a minute, it’s very career defining. I

had had some success [prior to the win], so I wasn’t a kid easily influenced by whatever came my way. But I wasn’t at the tail end of my career so that I could enjoy it and sort of capitalize on it. It really came at the right time and it was an amazing, amazing moment for me.”

Still, the New Jersey native feels that his greatest accomplishment is that he is able to earn a living by writing for the theater full-time.

“I spend all my time in the theater,” DiPietro says. “I feel like I’m a man of the theater, and I am really proud of that. I write small things and big

things and quirky things. I think that is my greatest accomplishment.”

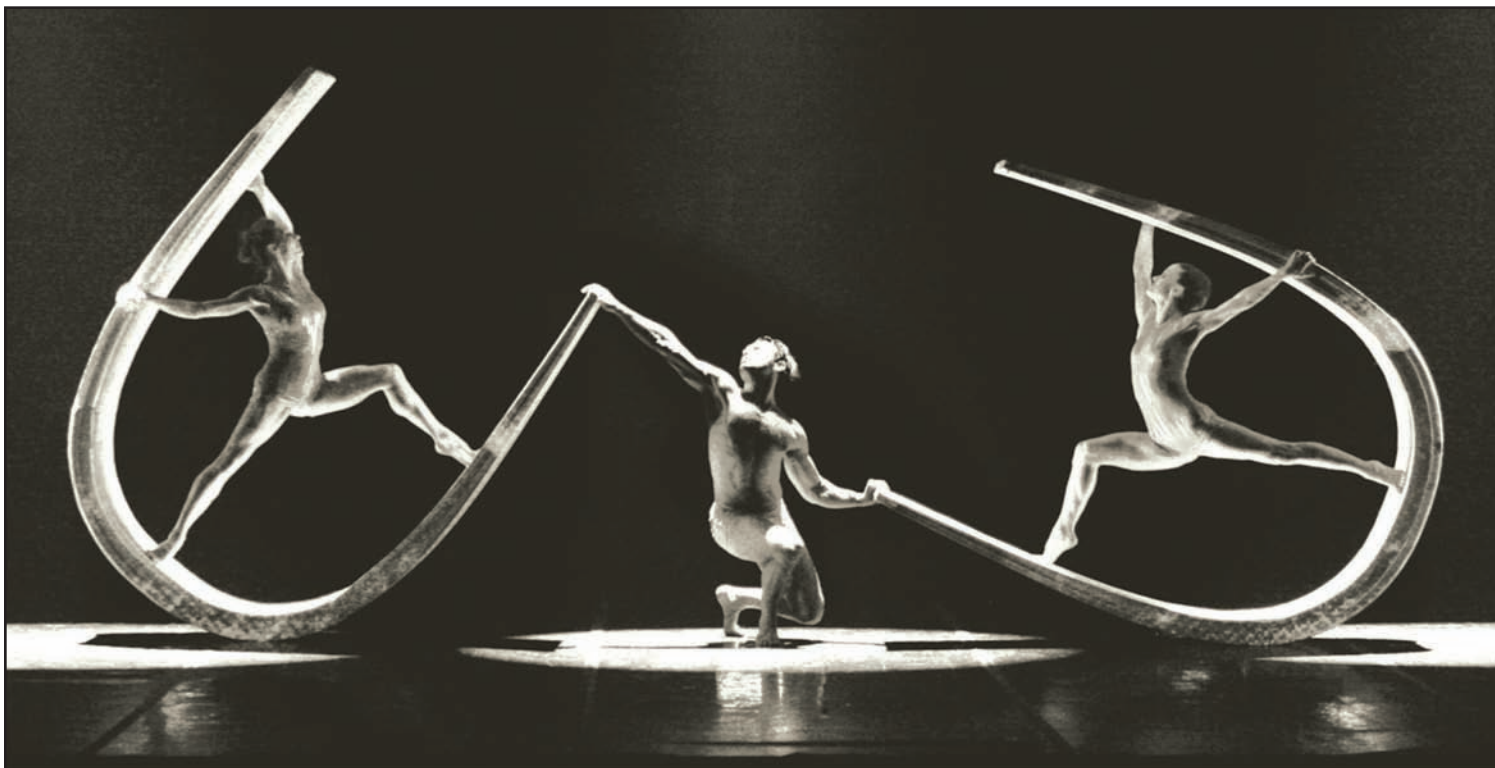
Some of the best career advice that DiPietro recalls ever receiving was from Lloyd Richards, the legendary stage director responsible for such classics as *A Raisin in the Sun*. Richards’ words were simple and few, but had a profound impact on the young playwright.

“He said, ‘Writing is rewriting,’” DiPietro recalls. “I think that is so true, and I have stuck with that as a writer. I am a huge rewriter. I think that is part of the reason for whatever success I have had. I

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keep trying to make it better. I don’t always make it better, but I keep trying.”

While actors are far more likely to be recognized by theatergoers than writers are, DiPietro enjoys the infrequent occasion when someone expresses appreciation for his work. He recalls one such moment around six months into the run of his show *Memphis*.

“I was standing in the back of the theater as people were leaving, and a young college guy comes up to me,” DiPietro recalls. “He says ‘I just want to thank you for the show. I’ve been 32 times.’ I’m thinking that is like five or six times a month and that is a lot. Something like that is really the most moving and most unexpected. It helps get you through the bad days of writing.”

Though writing remains his first passion, DiPietro is also enthusiastic about his participation in Only Make Believe, a charitable organization that brings interactive theater to children in hospitals. The charity was created by Dena Hammerstein in memory of her late husband James (son of Oscar Hammerstein). What began as a project in one hospital has now grown to include around 65 hospitals.

“Dena had worked with kids in hospitals and tried to take them to shows,” DiPietro explains, “but oftentimes they were either too sick or there were too many issues with getting them to a show. So she came up with the idea of bringing shows to them. It is unbelievable what theater — even really simple theater — can do for people, especially sick kids.”

As for the future, DiPietro intends to continue writing and venturing into new territory. He is currently working on a historical drama (in which he says “no one sings a note”) called *The Second Mrs. Wilson* for the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Conn.

“My goal is to keep challenging myself as a writer and to keep getting better,” he says. “I’m very fortunate that I’ve lived out what I’ve wanted to do in terms of getting a show on Broadway. Now I have certain goals about theaters I’d like to play. But it’s really about me becoming a better writer. I’m also a writer who never writes the same thing twice.”

Sounds like nice work ... if you can get it. ■



NATIONAL BOW | The national tour of ‘Nice Work’ kicks off in North Texas.



Saturday 09.06

Lyric Stage opens season with classic 'Fiddler on the Roof'

For more than a decade, it was the longest-running show in Broadway history, and even now it's among the most beloved musicals of all time. Lyric Stage, which specializes in brash, large-scale classic musicals, mounts this granddaddy of them all, *Fiddler on the Roof*. Friday is a preview, but Saturday is the big opening night.

DEETS: Irving Center for Performing Arts, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Sept. 5-14. LyricStage.org.

Friday 09.12 Saturday 09.13

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DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Sept. 12-13. ATPAC.org.



Friday 09.05

TeCo launches inaugural Play Pride LGBT Festival competition

Think of it as a cage match for creatives, or an intellectual's *American Idol*. Six playwrights, pictured above, each wrote a short play with gay themes, chose a local non-profit organization as its beneficiary and have at it in a weeklong battle of the boys. Each of the plays — running about 15 minutes each — tackles issues for the gay community, from a gay teen visiting a prostitute to a confrontation between a priest and a parishoner to a simple battle over a glass of water in the Texas heat. At the end of the fest on Sept. 14, audience votes will be tallied and the winner takes home \$1,000.

DEETS: Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Sept. 5-14. TeCoTheater.org.



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THEATER

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

Buyer & Cellar. Starring Michael Urie. This production launched AT&T Performing Arts Center's Off Broadway on Flora Series. *Reviewed this week.* City Performance Hall, 2420 Flora St. Through Saturday. ATPAC.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.

Fiddler on the Roof. Lyric Stage launches its new season with this long-running hit, one of the most iconic musicals in history. Irving Center for the Arts, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Sept. 5-21. LyricStage.org.

Nice Work If You Can Get It. An original musical by Joe DiPietro provides a showcase for the songs of George and Ira Gershwin. Presented in Dallas by Dallas Summer Musicals and in Fort Worth by Performing Arts Fort Worth. Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave., through Sept. 21 and at Bass Performance

Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Sept. 23-28. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in T3's downstairs space where the audience helps solve the crime. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle).



RETRO WAVE | Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey, pictured, teams with Howard Jones and Katrina (of The Waves fame) for a totally retro '80s concert at Verizon Theater on Monday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at AXS.com.

Extended through Nov. 16. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Wait Until Dark. The creepy, tense thriller about a blind woman being terrorized by murderous drug dealers opens courtesy of Contemporary Theatre of Dallas. *Final weekend.* Greenville Center for the Arts. 5601



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Sat, Sept 13th

Manhunt.net Night!

Manhunt members get
50% off lockers, 11pm-4am

Sat, Sept 20th

Flashlight Party

Flashlights provided, 11pm-4am

Sat, Sept 27th

Our FOAM Party Continues

with DJ Dark Angel Spinnin'
11:59pm-4am

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Sears St. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.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. *Final weekend.* Wyle Theatre 6th Floor, 2400 Flora St. UpstartTheater.com. TicketDFW.com.

DANCE

Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. Choreographer Joshua Peugh, who began this company that specializes in intimate performances in Korea, returns for its second season. Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 6. DarkCirclesContemporaryDance.org.

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 09.05

THEATER

Play Pride Festival. Six local playwrights compete for top honors (and a cash prize) with short plays on gay themes. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 N. Tyler St. Sept. 5-14. \$15-\$20. TeCoTheater.org.

CONCERTS

Let's Dance! Dallas Symphony Pop Series begins. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Sept. 5-6 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 7 at 2:30 p.m. \$19-\$119. MyDSO.com.

SATURDAY 09.06

DIGS

Dallas Home & Garden Show. The 31st annual expo of builders, remodelers and service providers for indoors and out. Dallas Market Hall, 2200 Stemmons Freeway Sept. 6, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sept. 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$10. TexasHomeAndGarden.com.

FESTIVAL

Natural Hair Parade and Festival. With grand marshal Erykah Badu. Pan African Connection, 828 Fourth Ave. IsisProject.co.

SPORTS

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

MONDAY 09.08

BROADCAST

Dallas. The fall season of the Texas-set soap heats up. TNT at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 08.09

FILM

Doctor Zhivago. David Lean's romantic epic, one of the definitive movies of the 1960s. Part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West

Village, sponsored by Dallas Voice. 7:30 p.m. showing only.

WEDNESDAY 08.10

CLUBS

Lip Sync Extravaganza. Ron Corning hosts this benefit for Wings DFW. The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show. \$10 (\$15 at door).

THURSDAY 08.11

THEATER

Appointment with Death. Stage version of the Agatha Christie mystery with sleuth Hercule Poirot. Garland Civic Theatre, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland. Sept. 11-Oct. 4. GarlandCivicTheatre.org.

The Rocky Horror Show. DTC launches its new season with this cross-dressing classic about the sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania. Directed and choreographed by Joel Ferrell. Sept. 11-Oct. 19 (in previews through Sept. 18). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

FILM

Cupcakes. The Jewish Film Festival of Dallas presents its first gay-themed film, a musical about members of a Tel Aviv suburb who enter a song in a huge songwriting contest. Dallas Voice staff writer David Taffet will host the post-screening talk-back. Studio Movie Grill at 13933 N. Central Expy., Richardson. 7 p.m.

BROADCAST

Project Runway. Season 13 continues with Heidi, Nina, Zac and Tim. Airs on Lifetime at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 08.12

DANCE

MOMIX. The contemporary dance troupe returns for two days of performances. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Sept. 12-13. ATTPAC.org.

THEATER

Pride Performing Arts Festival. Uptown Players returns with its annual assortment of plays, comedy, music and spoken word shows. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Sept. 12-20. UptownPlayers.org.

this week's solution

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Billy Masters

Not everything is as it seems — just ask Nate Green... and Idris Elba!

I have known **Belinda Carlisle** since I was in my 20s (last month, she celebrated her birthday on the same day as Big Mama Masters). So I have, in essence, known her son **James Duke Mason** since before he was born. But we didn't really get to know each other until he came out as a teenager. I vividly recall a group of us hanging out after a Go-Go's concert. Dukey introduced me to someone as "One of my mom's good friends."

Ouch! Until that moment, I kinda felt like one of the gang; suddenly, I was the chaperone. This was driven home when one of his friends asked, "What was it like being backstage with the Go-Go's 20 years ago?" I would have been insulted, except I was able to answer the question!!

As you all know, I'm psychic. Actually, I'm more of an empath, like that chic on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* whose name I can't remember. I think she was Greek, and very nice when I met her. See, if I were truly a psychic, I'd remember her name. But as an empath, I know she really doesn't care.

You know who does care? You — my faithful readers. My head is being bombarded with your silent cries, "Billy, get to the friggin' point." And I will ... al-

most immediately. But before I do, I'd like to just promise that this will all come together in the end — except for coming up with the name of whomever played Deanna Troi. West Hollywood is bracing itself for what will certainly be a contentious election season for city council, which will take place in March 2015. The latest person to throw his hat in the ring is my aforementioned buddy, Belinda's baby boy, James Duke Mason. Dukey seems to be running on a platform of wanting to save West Hollywood from the vast commercialization and rising rental costs which have pushed out most of the people who actually founded the city. Alas, this may be a case of closing the barn door after the horse escaped. I've been saying for years that because of WeHo's appealing geographic position between Hollywood and Beverly

Hills — to say nothing of housing the Sunset Strip — the gentrification of the once-primarily gay portion of Santa Monica Boulevard is already a *fait accompli*. Still, I give him credit for the attempt. You can learn more and support his campaign by checking out his website, JamesDukeMason.com.

Our straight ally **Josh Hutcherson** (he of the *Hunger Games* juggernaut) is continuing his good work for gay youths. As you may recall, he previously described himself as "mostly straight" when he founded the Straight But Not Narrow foundation. That group has joined forces with The Trevor Project and human IT to launch a new campaign. Power On is collecting and refurbishing digital devices for LGBT youths in low-income and rural areas. You have until

Oct. 16 to donate your old laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc. To kick off the campaign, Josh donated one of his computers — wouldn't you like to grab ahold of that hard drive? For more info, go to Trvr.org/PowerOn.

To promote her new CD and VH1 reality show, **LeAnn Rimes** has been making personal appearances in gay clubs — often with her hunky hubby, **Eddie Cibrian**, in tow. This was certainly the case when they showed up at The Abbey in West Hollywood. This promotional stroke of genius seems to have been the idea of LeAnn herself. "I've always said that Eddie and I are a gay man's wet dream. I sing, you can look at him, and it's perfect." She's half right!

In a fascinating case of a gay person becoming straight — or at least giving the appearance of being straight — comes the story of country singer **Nate Green**. Not being a devotee of country music, I had never heard of him, but certainly the hunky blond is easy on the eyes. And yet, when I saw his pic I thought "he does look familiar." In fact, he resembled a very hot fitness model named **Josey Greenwell**, who once dated Reichen's ex, **Rodiney** from *The A-List: New York*. The similarities were uncanny ... literally. When Josey was featured in an article for DNA magazine, he talked about his musical aspirations and said, "Music should be about talent and not sexuality, but I'm proud of mine nonetheless." Josey even performed at Detroit Pride in 2012.

What a difference a couple of years makes. It seems that Josey has now *become* Nate, and is cultivating a straight female audience. I am not the first to figure this out. Quite a few of Josey's former fans tried to interact with him on a Nate Green Facebook fan page. Not only were their comments quickly



CLOSET MAGIC | Is that straight musician Nate Green, or gay fitness model Joey Greenwell? The answer is 'yes!'

deleted, they were also threatened with legal action regarding any gay-oriented posts. Of course, Nate/Josey has no say over what appears on BillyMasters.com ... which include some sizzling snaps and videos of him and Rodiney. Check it out.

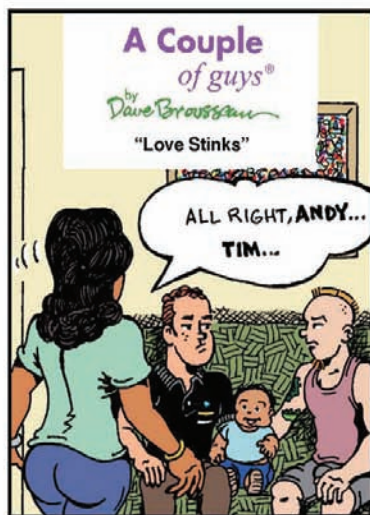
Our *Ask Billy* question comes from Kenneth in Maine: "Have you heard the rumor about **Idris Elba** having a humongous penis? Is it true?"

It depends who you ask. If you ask Idris Elba, he'll say it's false! It all started when someone published a photo of him on the set of a film sporting what appeared to be a python of a penis. After days of numerous "tripod" comments, Idris Tweeted the following: "The good news is i got a shit load of followers. The bad news is, that is a mic wire." He then Tweeted: "Calvin Klein called my mobile, they want me in their next campaign. Foot long john's Coming Winter 2014." What's the truth? Decide for yourself.

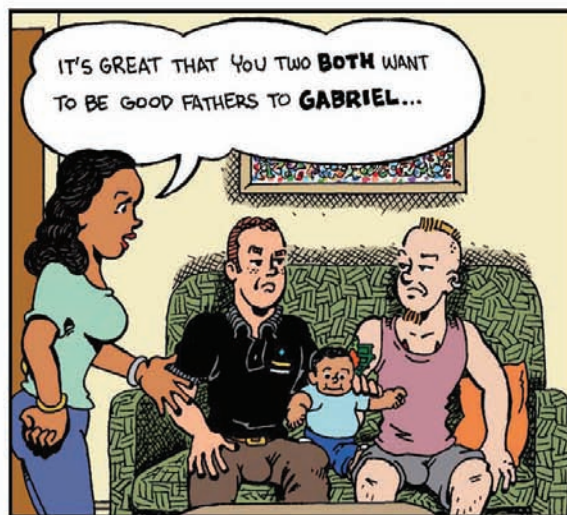
When people are denying having large penises, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Like Idris Elba, we were a little long this week. I'm sure you can expect some deep dishing on BillyMasters.com, the site that never sleeps. If there's something you'd like me to look into, feel free to drop me a note and I promise to get back to you before I get a call from *Star Trek: TNG* alum **Marina Sirtis** (I knew I'd come up with her name eventually).

Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

Have a question you want featured in an upcoming column? Just send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and he may answer it!



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Sharon and Dre hit The Strip.



Clint, Hannah and Brandon make the scene on The Strip.



Deon and Lilly at The Grapevine.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Sept. 5-11:

Alexandre's: Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea at 10 p.m. on Friday. Andrea Dawson at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Sheran Keyton at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. Alicia Sillex at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: Congratulates the new Miss Gay Texas State Sapphire Ray Brooks and the new Miss Gay Texas State At-Large Onyx Anderson who were crowned at the club. Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington pageant at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Changes: Cowtown Leathermen meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.

Club Reflection: Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

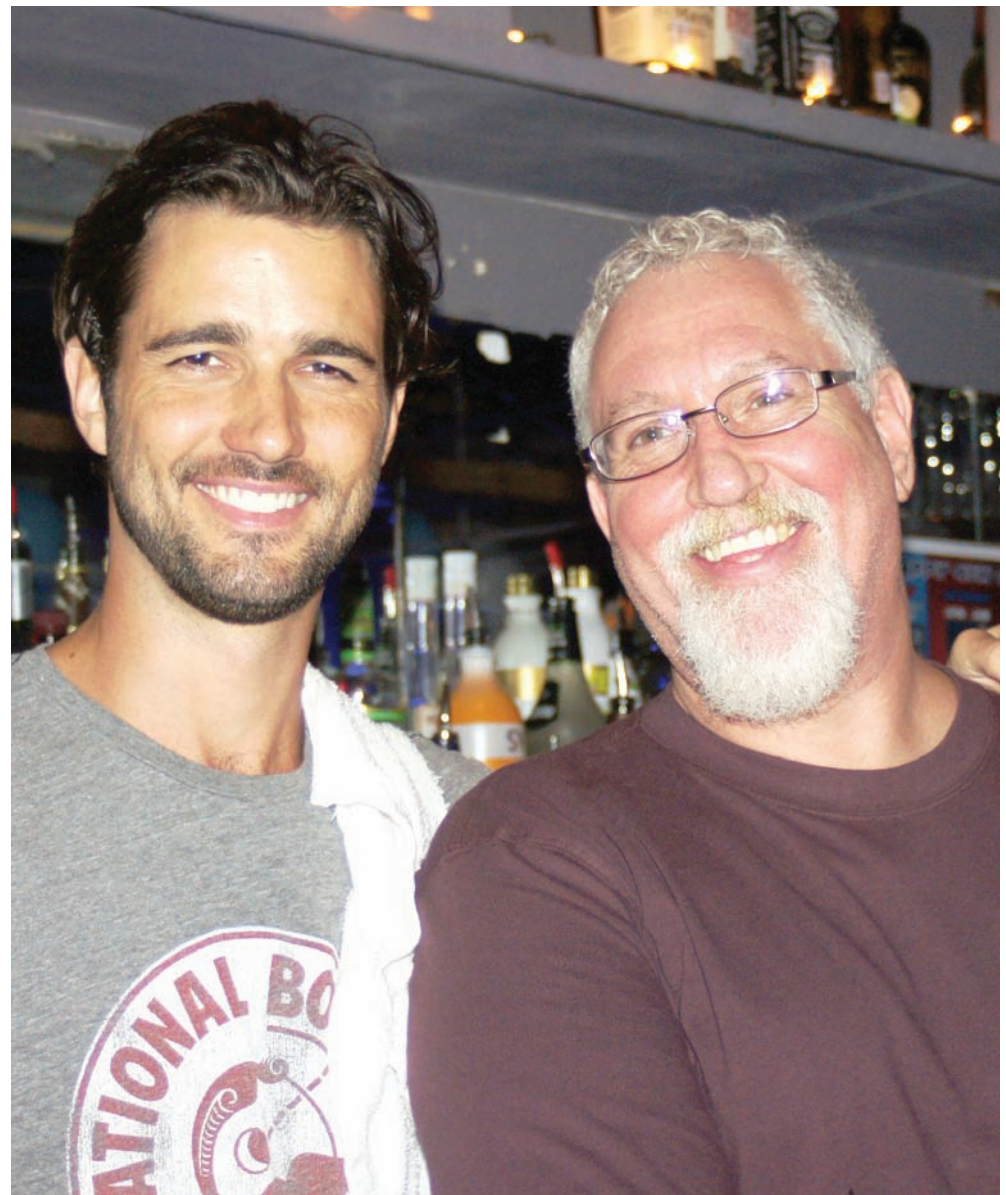
Dallas Eagle: The United Court of the Lone Star Empire announces candidates. Cocktails at 5 p.m. Ceremony at 6 p.m. Stop the Madness show and auction benefits Youth First at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Bears and Leather Knights club night begins at 9 p.m. on Saturday. Girls of Dallas Leather monthly meeting at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Miss Wanda Comedy Show at 9 p.m. on Thursday

Garlow's: Foam Party at 9 p.m. on Friday. \$10 cover.

Round-Up Saloon: Boyish to Bearish Bachelor Auction and Calendar Release Party begins at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Lip Sync Extravaganza benefits the Wings Foundation DFW begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. \$10.

Sue Ellen's: Party Raid on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. Kathy Corbin and the Barefoot Hippies on Sunday. Little Chalupa karaoke on Monday and Thursday. Cami Maki on Wednesday. ■

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



Brady and Dan at Barbara's Pavilion.



Mavis and Tasha at Sue Ellen's.



John and John at Dallas Eagle.



Alexis Rayne at JR.'s Bar and Grill.



Daniel, Kyle, Robert and Dakota at S4.



Andrew and Marcus at The Round-Up Saloon.



Randall at Dallas Eagle.



Hitting The Strip.



Keisha and Catherine at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.



Ramon and Luis at JR.'s Bar and Grill.



Party time at Sue Ellen's.



Michael at Brick/Joe's.



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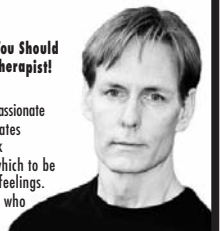
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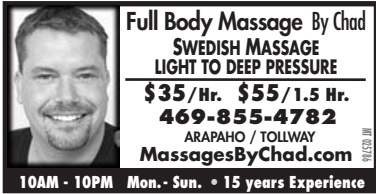
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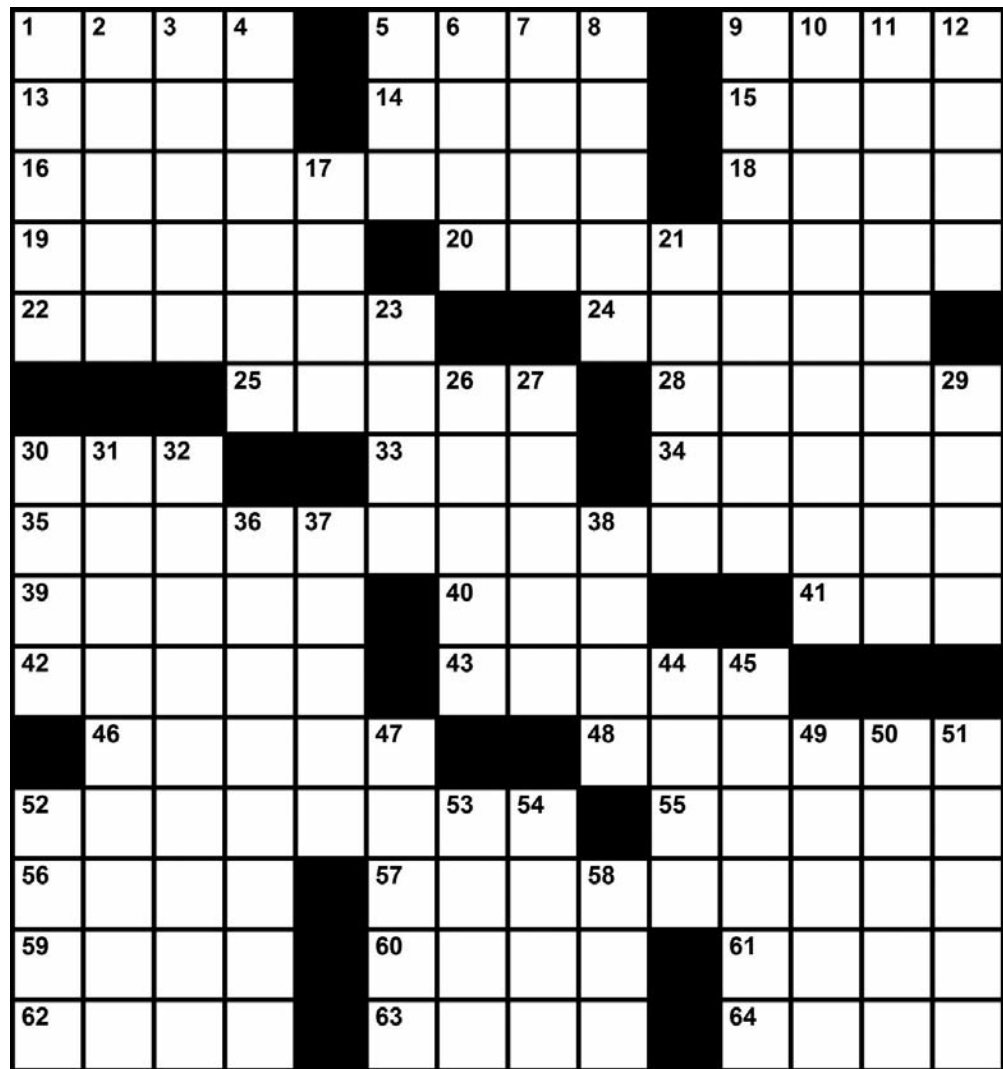
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q-puzzle



Top Musical with Seven Bottoms

Solution on page 31

Across

- 1 *Six Feet Under* creator Ball
- 5 Sounds of relief
- 9 Sophie B. Hawkins' "As ___ Me Down"
- 13 Seasoning for Rick Rodgers
- 14 Lagging behind
- 15 Quote as a reference
- 16 ___ and the Seven Bottoms (Disney spoof off Broadway)
- 18 Where to watch a NY Liberty game
- 19 *Hollywood Squares* choice
- 20 They bear many loads on trains
- 22 You can get a rise out of them
- 24 "The Velvet Fog"
- 25 Peter the Great, and more
- 28 Will and Grace shared one
- 30 Where to stick your baloney
- 33 Britten's raincoat
- 34 Like cornstalks that bear
- 35 Hero in this puzzle's musical comedy
- 39 Place name in New York
- 40 Meat source Down Under
- 41 Hot time for Colette
- 42 Dull finish

43 Composer Ned

- 46 Gettysburg general with the same name as Margaret
- 48 Becomes erect
- 52 Looked like
- 55 Bisected
- 56 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 57 Villain in this puzzle's musical comedy
- 59 What Sam twitched on *Bewitched*
- 60 Sperm homophone?
- 61 Polo of *The Fosters*
- 62 They're performing, in *Fame*
- 63 Foursome after a desertion
- 64 *Lohengrin* soprano

Down

- 1 Analyze for gold
- 2 Jessica of *Tootsie*
- 3 Place where a Greek would speak
- 4 Most like Mr. Right Now
- 5 What hangs from a Cuban
- 6 A, in Arabic
- 7 Lanford Wilson's *The ___ Baltimore*
- 8 Result of a good, hard workout
- 9 Split stuff

- 10 Daughter of the King
- 11 Currently
- 12 Longs, to a Samurai?
- 17 Waters down
- 21 Chan portrayer Sidney
- 23 ___-sex marriage
- 26 Stock car driver
- 27 Dumb-ass
- 29 ___ of *Seventeen*
- 30 Broadway opening for a lot?
- 31 Bear of the night
- 32 Most likely to make you spit
- 36 Official witnesses
- 37 Belief summary
- 38 Star quality
- 44 La Salle of *ER*
- 45 Teeny-weeny
- 47 Standing up straight
- 49 Man of ___
- 50 Big jugs
- 51 Rutstein of *Disappear Fear*
- 52 Da Vinci's Lisa
- 53 At least once
- 54 Conn of *Grease*
- 58 Matthew in *The Producers*



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