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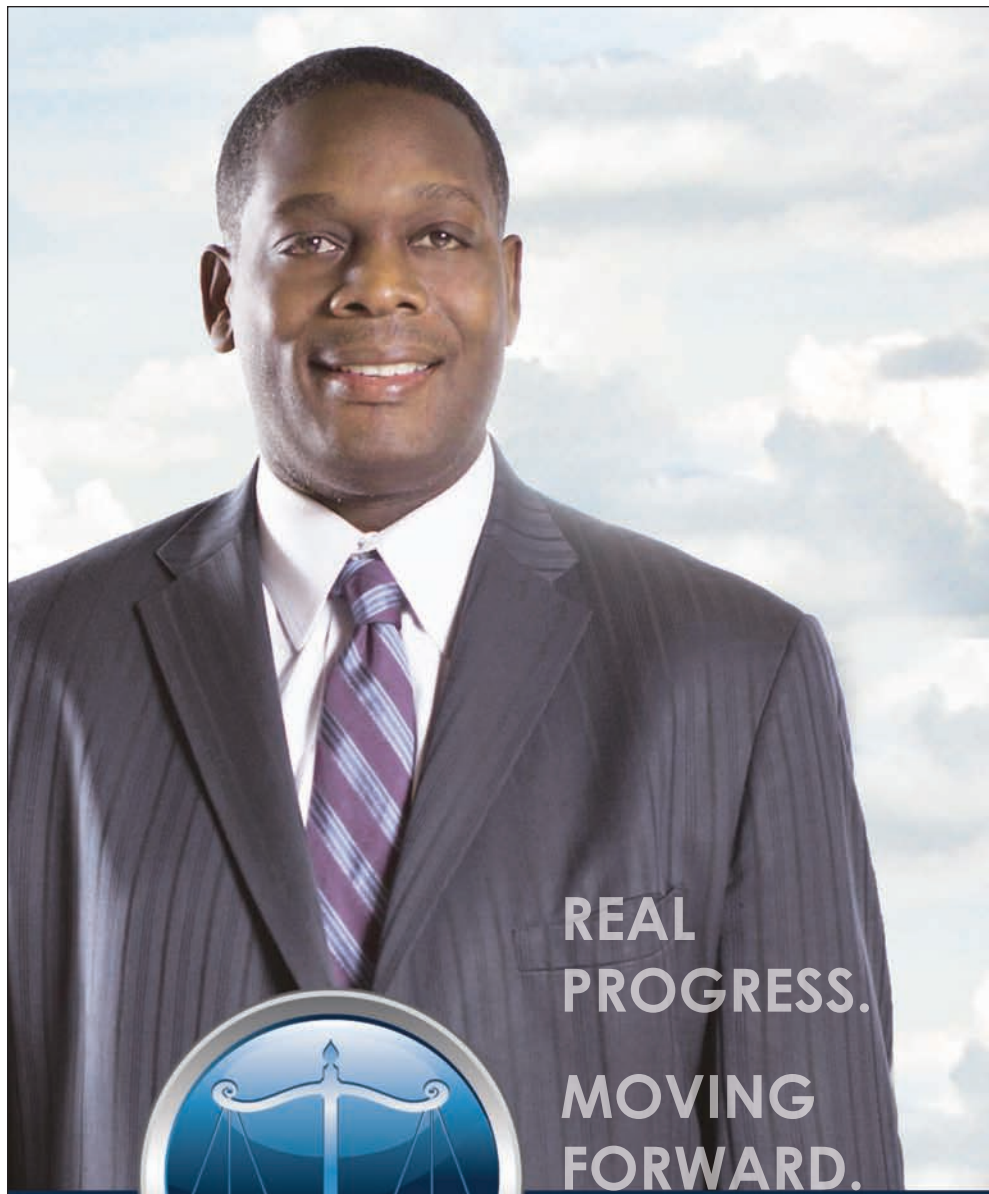
The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Dallas Voice | Established 1984 | Volume 31 | Issue 25 | FREE | Friday, October 31, 2014

KING of the after-party

Don Gaiser plays a huge role in the success of the Black Tie Dinner, especially with his post-meal soiree

Story by Arnold Wayne Jones
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Photo of Don Gaiser and Walter Ramos by Terry Thompson



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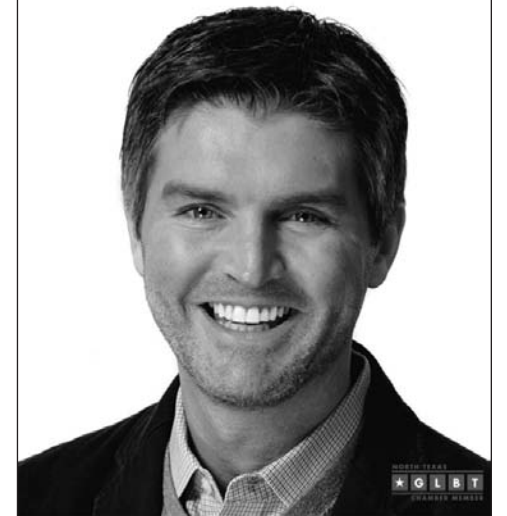


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 Place 7 – **Gina Benavides**

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 Dist. 108 – **Leigh Bailey**
 Dist. 109 – **Helen Giddings**
 Dist. 111 – **Yvonne Davis**
 Dist. 113 – **Milton Binkley**
 Dist. 115 – **Paul Stafford**

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 Place 5 – **Ken Molberg**

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 68th Judicial Dist. – **Martin Jerome Hoffman**
 101st Judicial Dist. – **Staci Williams**
 116th Judicial Dist. – **Tonya Parker**
 134th Judicial Dist. – **Dale Tillery**
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 193rd Judicial Dist. – **Carl Ginsberg**
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 204th Judicial Dist. – **Tammy Kemp**
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 255th Judicial Dist. – **Kim Cooks**
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 282nd Judicial Dist. – **Amber Givens**
 283rd Judicial Dist. – **Rick Magnis**
 291st Judicial Dist. – **Stephanie N. Mitchell**

292nd Judicial Dist. – **Brandon Birmingham**
 298th Judicial Dist. – **Emily Tobolowsky**
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instant**TEA** DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea



More than 150 supporters welcomed Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor Leticia Van de Putte to Oak Cliff on Tuesday, Oct. 28. U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, state Sen. Royce West and DISD school board President Miguel Solis were on stage to encourage the group to vote early and bring friends to the polls. West said part of the strategy to win is getting 300,000 votes for Van de Putte in Dallas County. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Anonymous homophobic mailer roils Tarrant County race

The Dallas Voice learned in an exclusive on Monday, Oct. 27, a group named "National Family Coalition" sent a homophobic mailer blasting Libby Willis, the Democratic candidate for state Senate in District 10, for having the backing of the Equality Texas PAC.

The mailer mistakenly calls out Equality Texas for its support of Willis. Equality Texas does not endorse candidates. Texas Equity PAC does, however — including Sarah Davis, a Republican state representative.

Luke Macias, a spokesperson for Willis' opponent, Konnie Burton campaign, said Burton's campaigning had no affiliation with the NFC.

"Our campaign is not affiliated with the group that sent this mail piece in any way," Macias said. "We are unaware of who sent the mailer, as the group claiming credit has no website, no telephone number, and only a mailing address. We don't plan for third-party mailers sent from Virginia to be a distraction in the final week of this race."

Willis blasted the mailer. "It's unfortunate, but not surprising, that Konni Burton would resort to desperate, hateful attacks from out-of-state groups. I am proud to have the support of the Texas Equity PAC because in the Texas Senate, it

will be my priority to work for every Texan," she said.

Willis, of Fort Worth, is locked in a tight race with Burton, of Colleyville, to replace Wendy Davis, the Democrat who has represented the district since 2008.

The district is the only swing senate district in Texas and will determine the balance of power in the senate.

— James Russell

Houston Mayor Annise Parker withdraws sermon subpoenas

Houston Mayor Annise Parker announced on Oct. 29 that Houston withdrew subpoenas of five pastors in the lawsuit over the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance.

Parker and the city came under national scrutiny when their lawyers subpoenaed five pastors' sermons. A group of pastors opposed to the ordinance brought the lawsuit. The request resulted in a national outcry.

Parker said she withdrew the subpoenas so the city can defend HERO. "What is best for the city of Houston, not what is best for the litigation," she said, "I don't want to have a national debate about freedom of religion."

— James Russell



In Memoriam

Keep Me In Your Heart For A While

Phillip McCright, died six days shy of his 45th birthday, on October 8th. Raised in New Boston, Texas, he is survived by numerous friends & family members. Phil was known for diligence, adventurism & sentiment. HIV positive since 1989, Phil aggressively managed his disease & lived fully. In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations to a local AIDS organization. An informal "open house" celebration of his life & love will be held on November 8th, 11:30 – 2:00, at 5142 Lahoma Street.

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localbriefs

Dallas Diablos vs. The Sisters

The third annual Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence kickball game against the Dallas Diablos Rugby team takes place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 at Glencoe Park, 5300 Martel Ave. The game raises money for Legacy Counseling Center.

Saddle Up Hollywood Style

The third annual Saddle Up Hollywood Style features five-time Emmy Award winner Doris Roberts to raise money for Ranch Hand Rescue.

Ranch Hand Rescue, based in Argyle, rescues and rehabilitates abused and starved farm animals and uses them in equine and animal-assisted therapy for people with a variety of issues including wounded warriors, abused children, children facing amputation, teens in the juvenile justice system and LGBT youth. At RHR, people help animals and animals help people.

The event takes place at 5–11 p.m. on Nov. 1 at Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Highway 121 Bypass, Lewisville. Tickets and more information at RanchHandRescue.org.

Solidarity with Women mixer

Hope 4 Peace & Justice hosts a Solidarity with Women mixer 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7 at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. Meet Kate

Kendall, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Election Night Watch Parties

Watch parties begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 4 when the polls close.

- Wendy Davis watch party at Rodeo Goat, 2836 Bledsoe St., Fort Worth.
- Stonewall Democrats at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.
- Dallas County Democratic Party at Ozona, 4615 Greenville Ave.
- Carol Donovan, candidate for Texas House District 107, at BJ's Restaurant, 1106 Town East Mall, Mesquite.

Oral arguments set in Texas and Louisiana marriage cases

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans will hear the Texas and Louisiana marriage equality cases on Jan. 5.

In September, Judge Martin Feldman in Louisiana became the first federal district court judge to uphold a state's marriage ban since the Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act last year.

Texas's marriage ban was ruled unconstitutional by San Antonio District Judge Orlando Garcia in *DeLeon v. Perry*. His decision is stayed pending appeal. ■

pet of the week / APRIL O'NEIL

Meet **April O'Neil**, a pretty little girl who came to Operation Kindness from a local city shelter looking for a place to call home. April O'Neil appears to be a miniature wirehaired dachshund mix and has the soft wiry coat of the breed. She is a calm, sweet pup and will make a wonderful new friend and companion. Come meet this little doll and give April O'Neil the loving home she needs and deserves.



April O'Neil 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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Preparing for the battles to come

NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendall says as marriage equality looms, it's time to look ahead and to stand with others fighting for their rights

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The legal battle over same-sex marriage has grabbed headlines and taken center stage in recent weeks. But that's only one battlefield in the overall fight for LGBT equality, National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendall pointed out this week.

Kendall will be in Dallas to participate in several events taking place Nov. 7-9 as part of the "Our Bodies. Our Spirits. Our Selves: A Celebration of Women" weekend, being presented by the Dallas-based Hope for Peace & Justice social justice ministry. And Kendall said the message of the weekend-long celebration meshes seamlessly with the mission of her organization.

"There's so much happening right now [in terms of same-sex marriage]. That [issue] is completely on fire right now in a way we would not have expected before the U.S. Supreme Court rejected" in early October appeals in seven cases from five states where lower courts had overturned same-sex marriage bans, Kendall said.

But, she continued, "That is just a small piece of the overall battle. There is so much else to be done, especially in a place like Texas. And this weekend of events will be focusing on those issues that are very much in the sweet spot of NCLR's mission."

NCLR, Kendall said, was created some 37 years ago specifically to offer help to lesbians dealing with issues like child custody, relationship protections and employment discrimination.

"But then, very shortly after the organization was founded, they started representing gay men dealing with those very same issues," she said. "One of our earliest clients was an HIV-positive gay man who lost custody of his son in the mid-1980s."

And while NCLR now boasts a staff and an array of donors that

is "wildly diverse," caring for and helping women remains at the core of its mission.

"We have the very best men working for us and supporting us, men who aren't afraid of women, who understand we are all sisters and brothers in this fight together," Kendall said. "But the majority of our supporters are surely women, mostly lesbian-identified women. I am the executive director, and I am lesbian-identified. The majority of our board are lesbian-identified women."

She continued, "Even in 2014, as we fight as a community for broad LGBT protections, lesbian women and transgender women continue to, in many ways, live more on the margins than we should be willing to tolerate. One thing I am very gratified by with Hope for Peace & Justice is the focus of the [panel discussion] on Saturday. You can't address a problem if you don't acknowledge it exists. And that's what Hope for Peace & Justice is doing with this event: bringing women and like-minded men together to talk about the inequities and the ways to move forward."

As the LGBT community "begin[s] to see the close of the chapter on marriage," Kendall said, "We have to look ahead. Who else is being left behind? What else do we need to put our energy and our obviously tremendously powerful talents for change to work on?"

And when she looks, Kendall said, the list is obvious: poor LGBT people, especially lesbian- and trans-identified women; rural LGBT people, particularly lesbian- and trans-identified women; and "folks who live in communities where they do not have economic security or security in their communities" socially.

"It's all the same issues we [at NCLR] have been working on all along," she said.

Kendall also praised the LGBT community for the way, overall, that people bridge the gender gap to work together on issues that



Kate Kendall

may affect one gender more than another.

"I think our community probably understands as well as any community that our fates are connected," she said. "And we also, I think, have a greater appreciation for the morality of not leaving anyone behind. We have seen this in our movement again and again."

Kendall pointed to the early days of the AIDS epidemic when lesbians were the ones — sometimes the only ones — stepping forward to "care for our sick brothers" and who were "on the front lines fighting alongside the gay men."

The LGBT community has also been "very present" in standing with immigration rights organizations in the battle for comprehensive immigration law reforms, and "our community has stepped up big to help LGBT youth being harassed in schools and communities, helping them find strength and an autonomous voice to fight back."

Kendall noted that recent years have seen "a rocket-propelled acceptance of LGBT people, particularly on the issue of marriage." And while LGBT people have won that acceptance by standing strong through some very tough fights, the LGBT community did have some outside help.

"It happened because of our non-gay allies," Kendall said. "It happened because of our friends, our neighbors, our family members who did not have a dog in this hunt, but who saw the injustice and who stood up for us."

"Now we are being asked to stand up for others whose fights are not our fight," she continued. "We understand that we got where we are because many people stood up for us who could have easily turned their backs on us. Now it's time for us to do the same," whether that means standing up for poor LGBTs even if you are not poor yourself, standing up for transgenders even if you are not transgender, standing up for immigrants even though you are not an immigrant.

"I think we will do the right thing," Kendall said. "I just feel we do know true north. We have a good moral compass as a community."

Kendall said the weekend full of events offers a chance for those in the community to "come together, appreciate each other, honor where we've been, where we are and where we are going." But she doesn't want anyone to be scared off by the thought it might be too somber.

"Yes, I want people to hear some good information and I want them to be inspired. But I want to have fun, too. I want to laugh and have a good time."

For information on National Center for Lesbian Rights, visit NCLR.org. For information on Hope for Peace and Justice and a schedule of weekend events, visit H4PJ.org. ■

Celebration of Women : Schedule of Events

- Solidarity With Women Mixer: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31, Sue Ellen's Vixen Lounge, 3014 Throckmorton St. Free admission. Sponsored by Resource Center, Lambda Legal and Human Rights Campaign.
- Women's Rights Symposium: 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Led by the Rev. Colleen Darrough of MCC Dallas, with Kate Kendall of NCLR, Blair High of GEAR, Susan Perry, Amanda Robertson of Real Live Connection, the Rev. Shelley Hamilton of Cathedral of Hope, a representative from Genesis Women's Shelter and more, discussing topics including the history of the women's movement, women's health care, spirituality, trans women, marriage equality, domestic abuse, aging and more. Lunch will be served after the panel discussion, followed by five workshops on the next step in the LGBT rights battle, domestic violence, aging issues for women, trans women and spirituality, and men and feminism. A \$5 donation benefiting Genesis Women's Shelter is suggested. Box lunches are available for \$10.
- Celebration of Women Reception: 5-7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. \$10 suggested donation. Presented by Hope for Peace and Justice.
- Cathedral of Hope Sunday Morning Services and Brunch: Kate Kendall of NCLR will speak at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, Nov. 2, at Cathedral of Hope. A brunch in her honor will follow the 11 a.m. service at Margaux's Bridge Bistro, 921 N. Riverfront Blvd. Brunch tickets are \$50 with proceeds benefiting H4PJ.
- Spanish-language, women-focused event following the 1 p.m. Spanish-language service with a sermon by Yinessa Romera and a special blessing of all women, at La Catedral de la Esperanza, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Event will include a Tex-Mex lunch and a workshop at 3 p.m. with Betti Ibarra, author of *Mi Despertar: No Son Ustedes, Yo Soy*. Suggested donation is \$10. For reservations call 469-879-3783 or email imarquez@cathedralofhope.com.

For tickets to or information about any of the Celebration of Women weekend events, visit H4PJ.org/WOMEN. Individuals needing a scholarship for the reception or boxed lunch should contact Roger Stanley at 214-351-1901.

Scam artist working Cedar Springs bars

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A man posing as a modeling agent has been scamming men at bars along Cedar Springs Road with promises of travel and a modeling career, Dallas Police officials warn. One victim had his credit ruined but claims another had his identity stolen and bank account drained.

Dallas LGBT Police Liaison Laura Martin said the man operated in Austin before coming to Dallas.

"He's not a legitimate agent of any sort," Martin said.

Whether or not the scammer is prosecuted, Martin wanted to make sure people in the community are forewarned.

Joseph Gifford said he met Jerald Dean, also known as Jerry Franklin Rogers, at JR.'s Bar & Grill over the summer.

"He handed me his business card," Gifford said, which listed the man's name as Jerald Dean and his agency as Dorf Modeling.

Gifford said Dean took him upstairs in the bar where he spoke to three guys about becoming models for him and took applications. That was the first time Gifford thought there was something odd about the man.

"They were very personal questions," he said.

The questions involved the potential models' sexual orientation, favorite position and other things that had nothing to do with modeling. The pictures he required with the application included an underwear shot, but nothing more revealing than that.

Gifford said that didn't entirely surprise him because Dean told him he provided photography for a number of brands.

After Dean accepted his application, he "hired" Gifford for a modeling shoot in Austin for Buckle, which has 52 stores in Texas including NorthPark and Galleria locations in Dallas.

Gifford drove to Austin with Dean and another model. Two people flew in from Colorado and another from Pennsylvania.

Their airline tickets were paid for. But, "When we got there, we had no hotel," Gifford said.

Dean told Gifford his account was frozen and his credit card was temporarily deactivated.

Still, when they arrived at the Austin condo where the shoot was to take place, Gifford noticed the Buckle products were there. So while he had misgivings, he wondered why, if it was a scam, would Dean have gone to the trouble of getting the product?

He said the shoot was odd. Dean gave no direction. No one told him which clothes to model. And if Dean was a modeling agent, as he claimed, why was he also the photographer, Gifford wondered.

To cover expenses, Dean gave Gifford a \$1,200 check to cash. His bank cashed the check, but later dunned his account for the amount. Gifford said Dean wrote him two more checks to cover the



Joseph Gifford

bounced check and another check as payment for the photo shoot, but all of them bounced.

Gifford's bank told him the checks weren't bounced just for insufficient funds; the checks were fraudulent.

With airline tickets paid for, Gifford said he knew there was some money coming from somewhere.

About a month later, Dean gave Gifford an airline ticket to a photo shoot in Atlanta. Gifford decided to give Dean one more chance. He hoped this trip would make up for the money he lost on the Austin shoot.

Gifford and another man used their prepaid tickets to Atlanta without a problem, but once they arrived, there was no transportation, no hotel, no food, no money and no photo shoot.

Others scheduled to fly to Atlanta found they were holding invalid tickets when they arrived at the airport, but Gifford said that fortunately, he was able to fly home on his.

Gifford said he's been in touch with a corporate attorney in Dallas who claimed money was illegally taken from his account. The attorney told Gifford he doesn't know Dean or know how Dean accessed his account.

Martin said that that the attorney, who Gifford did not identify to Dallas Voice, has filed no police reports about the alleged theft that she has been able to find. However, if the attorney's allegations are true, Dean could be arrested for theft and prosecuted for giving the bad checks to Gifford.

Martin said the incident was originally investigated as a sexual assault, but there's not evidence of that. She said what happened was deceptive but consensual. In one case, when the victim said no, Dean stopped.

Whether Dean is ever prosecuted, Martin had a warning for gay men in Dallas: "There are people who will take advantage of you by being manipulative," she said. "Be careful."

Martin said that anyone else who has been scammed by Dean should contact her at 214-490-0541. ■

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Natinsky: 'I'm just passionate about serving the public'

Republican candidate for county judge says incumbent shows off rather than governing

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Voice: You served on the Dallas City Council. Now you're running as a Republican for county judge. There are big differences between city and county governments. Ron Natinsky: I came from the private sector, so it was an interesting merging of private and public cultures. When you look at government, whether city or county, it's nothing more than a business. The only difference at end of the day is the outcome. In the private sector, it's about making returns for your investors. In the public sector, it's about providing services for those you represent. When I was on council, the city of Dallas had a \$2 billion budget and 13,000 employees. The city council functioned as the business's board of directors so to speak.

What were your priorities on city council? I focused on economic development. I worked on expanding the tax base. Growing a tax base requires effort, and we did not market the city well. We just thought, 'We're so great everyone will come here.' But when corporations want to relocate, they don't sit back and wait. They want to be courted, and not just with tax incentives either. You need to promote and enhance the quality of life. I helped move Comerica bank here from Detroit. That's where I'm from. It was a coup. We really need to help small business owners grow. They're the core of a community. I also emphasized making government more efficient. On council we saved millions when we reduced trash pick up from two days to one. We were able to steer that money instead toward basic city amenities, like parks and roads instead.

The county is more than just Dallas. Dallas County is 900 square miles of 26 cities and 2.5 million people. It's the heart of North Texas. If we were a state, we would be bigger than 15 states. You travel the county and see the differences — not just ethnic, age and class, but almost like neighborhoods. Cedar Hill has one personality; Garland has another. None are better or worse than others.

Collin County works together. We ought to focus like them on bringing businesses to Dallas County. After Plano landed Toyota, real estate developers told me people weren't just looking to live in Plano. They're not worried in which city a business lands as long as it lands in Collin County. They may not want a Plano identity but instead a Frisco identity or maybe Uptown Dallas.

Do you think incumbent Clay Jenkins has failed in coordinating county efforts? If he has [been successful in coordinating county efforts], I don't see it. Maybe he's doing it behind a cloak.

But what motivated you to run? For a long time people didn't pay attention to county government because it ran well. Over the last eight years it has declined, but in the last four years it has further declined. It's bothersome to open the paper and see on almost a weekly basis a new investigation about Parkland or the sheriff's office or the district attorney. It has taken a moral toll, but paying these fines and court costs also drains [financial] resources.

So do you think Judge Jenkins has focused more on Dallas and his political ambitions? Take his announcement this summer the county would host 2,000 undocumented children who sought refuge in the States. I absolutely think it was politically motivated and just a theatrical episode. To go to the state's Democratic convention and announce that, without talking to the other four commissioners, or really anybody, is irresponsible. It seemed like he had an ulterior motive. But it got him \$500,000 worth of media time. Have you seen the movie *Wag the Dog*, where the dictator creates a war to distract the public? Remember then suddenly, *poof* it's gone.

He strategically chose certain areas where backlash would've been less likely? I talked to the residents in Grand Prairie and across the county who would've been impacted. They asked, 'Are we a dumping ground? Do we not have a voice? Do you not care about our neighborhoods?' But it would've been like atomic bomb had he chosen elsewhere in the county. I don't think it was a coincidence he announced [this] as election season was ramping up. Irrespective of my wanting to win, that's not something I would've done.

The backlash received backlash, too. Critics said those opposed to the plan to house the children were not compassionate. I am compassionate for them. But we also have kids in Dallas County who need good foster homes first. Why put the Central American kids ahead of them? It was not a plan but a shoot-from-the-hip stunt.

You've been equally critical of his response to his handling of the Ebola outbreak.

Why? I criticized it from a couple of perspectives. What set me off was at the press conference he announced the next day about [Thomas Duncan, who died from Ebola-related causes]. When asked by reporter if he was going to have town hall meetings with citizens about the outbreak, what was his answer? 'I don't do town hall meetings with citizens. They are just for crazies.'

I thought, this guy is an elected official. His employers are Dallas County citizens! I've been in public office and know you don't have town hall meetings to have guys pat you on back and tell you how wonderful you are. You have town halls to say what you know and what you don't. Don't create a panic. Give some level of confidence. I thought it was disrespectful of citizens.

So Jenkins is just a showman? Take when he went into Duncan's family's apartment without the proper clothing. He drove them in his personal car to their new house. He was endangering the health of Dallas County citizens needlessly. If it was moment of bravado — 'I'll show people I'm not afraid' — that's negligent in another way. Public health is not something to be used as a publicity stunt, to say 'Look how brave I am, I walked into this apartment.' If there wasn't any harm then why did they gut it? They burned personal possessions. You don't have to burn a photo of grandma and me. Just clean off photo of grandma and me. Just theatrics.

But that's campaign season. But it shouldn't be. I didn't allow campaigns to get in the way of my council work. Some people serve just to have names on a masthead. That's not me. I am just passionate about serving the public.

Dallas Voice conducted this interview with Ron Natinsky before video sur-



ON THE TRAIL AGAIN | During his tenure on the Dallas City Council, Ron Natinsky was an LGBT ally. He is now the Republican candidate for Dallas County Judge.

faced of him at a Republican event last year at which he suggested that the Dallas County GOP did not want to field a Republican challenger to Democratic Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, because she is in a staunchly Democratic district and a challenger would encourage her supporters to come to the polls, when otherwise they would just be spending their food stamps on Election Day. Dallas Voice contacted Natinsky to get comments from him on that video, and he responded, "It was a comment that was unfortunately taken out of context and it was not meant to offend."

Ron Natinsky: RonNatinsky.com
Clay Jenkins: JenkinsForDallasCounty.com

“We need Democrats to get out and vote”

Sam Houston, the Democrat running for attorney general, talks about his opponent, his upbringing and his uphill climb for attorney general.

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Voice: Why are you running? Sam Houston: I'm running because the incumbent, Greg Abbott, has politicized the office. It has been used to benefit the Republicans, not ordinary Texans. We need an office for all Texans, not just one party. I think it should be run like an attorney's office, which I know how to do. I've been an attorney for 26 years.

How has the office been politicized? Abbott's spent millions suing the federal government, defending gerrymandering and the unconstitutional voter ID law, just protecting his Republican buddies. He's chosen to defend the Republican Legislature's decision to cut education funding, instead of putting that money in the classroom. And as your readers probably know, he's vigorously defended the state's same-sex marriage ban, which will ultimately be ruled unconstitutional. Then he uses it all as a campaign slogan.

You wouldn't have defended the state's same-sex marriage ban were you attorney general, but it was the Legislature who put it on the ballot. I would've told the Legislature from the start I think it is unconstitutional. I'm personally against it. But I think ultimately SCOTUS has to make that ruling, not me. I think the ban will be held unconstitutional. Defending it is frivolous.

So his arguments are frivolous, too? Let's get lawyerly and not say they're not 'frivolous' but say, 'I disagree.' Y'all have probably heard about the Texas Enterprise Fund [the controversial fund found to have benefitted many of Gov. Rick Perry's donors]. [Abbott's] office lied and said the governor's office received applications from certain businesses, when they really hadn't. The office should stop focusing on grabbing headlines and defending [Abbott's] Republican buddies. It needs to get back to wisely spending more money on consumer and environmental protection.

Your Republican opponent, state Sen. Ken Paxton of McKinney, isn't even liked by his own party according to your website. If you think Abbott is bad, just wait until you see Ken Paxton. He has a history of ethical problems. When he was state representative, he had ethical issues — lots of conflicts of interest he didn't report. He did business with the state then didn't disclose a number of businesses he had a stake in. He was fined \$1,000 for what he did and may face an indictment after the election. He says it isn't a felony and wants to put it behind him.

You don't get to put that behind you. Not how it works. There's been a complaint filed against him to the public integrity unit, which may take it up after the election. He could be the attorney general but found guilty of a crime!

Every major newspaper in Texas has endorsed you so far, even in traditionally Republican areas. Have you gotten a lot of support from Republicans then? Yeah, some, but they're not willing to come out about it. *(laughs)* But I'm looking for Democrats. We need Democrats to get out and vote. When people vote, we win. People who pay attention to the issues vote Democratic.

What if you are the only Democrat to be elected statewide? Don't say that!

It's a hypothetical! But if you were, you would have to work with Republicans. I have no problem working with Republicans. I pride myself on working with everyone on every issue. The question is, are they willing to work with me?

Texas Democrats haven't won a statewide race in 20 years. Your bid is seen as a long shot. How do you see your chances? I wouldn't say the Democratic races are 'long shots' but 'uphill.' I'm proud to be on this slate. That's why I'm doing this.

You grew up in a small Texas town. It was a different time and an unsafe time for LGBT people, but did you know anyone then who was LGBT? I grew up in Colorado City, where it's everybody. Small towns are different from big cities. It doesn't matter your race, income or sexual preference. You'd be surprised to learn it was okay to be LGBT. Everyone knows each other in these towns. And everyone counts. I worked at a small store owned by my family before all of the Wal-marts came in. That's where I learned everyone counts. You waited in line and got waited on and as long as you paid you were treated right.

But did you know any out LGBT people? Good Lord, I don't know when I didn't. Again, times are changin'. People are now out, which makes a difference. A lot of my wife's LGBT friends were in our wedding.

Paxton hasn't debated you and ducked editorial board meetings. I guess you haven't met him. I met him once. We were both scheduled to speak at a convention. We walked up, shook hands and he spoke and then left. He didn't listen to me. He walked out and a San Antonio reporter asked him questions about his security fines and he physically blocked him from answering questions. I think that speaks to the kind of person he is. This man wants to be your attorney general. I don't even know what type of lawyer my opponent is! I think he's just a professional politician. He's truly running the non-campaign. I'm not. I'm proud of my career. I wanna help people.

Sam Houston: SamHoustonForTexas.com. Ken Paxton: KenPaxton.com.



DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE | Attorney General candidate Sam Houston acknowledged that Democratic candidates for statewide office in Texas face an uphill battle. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Election Day: Where to vote and what to watch

2014 could be a game changer in Texas politics. Tuesday, Nov. 4, Election Day, is the day of decision. Here's what you need to know.

Where to vote:

Visit VoteTexas.gov to find out what you need. Not sure where to vote?

Collin County 1-800-687-8546 co.collin.tx.us/elections

Dallas County 214-819-6300 dallascountyvotes.org

Denton County 940-349-3200 votedenton.com

Tarrant County 817-831-8683 tarrantcounty.com/eVote

What to watch:

Will voters cross party lines or vote straight ticket? "[Statewide] straight ticket voting will likely dominate, but there are some specific contests where some Republicans are not happy with their candidates and either abstain or vote Democratic," said Allan Saxe, a professor of political science at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Moderate Republicans may prefer Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general and comptroller.

Straight ticket voters can have a negative impact down the ballot though. Locally, said Saxe, "The length of the ballot often entices people to vote straight ticket [as can] lack of knowledge of some candidates."

Take judicial races, said Russell Roden, a Republican running for a county judicial seat. "Many voters don't even know they are voting for judges, much less who the candidates are or their qualifications. As a result, poorly qualified candidates can be swept in and then they don't perform well in office. This is true of both parties."

Will Battleground Texas prevail? The former Obama campaign staffers are determined to turn Texas blue. The 2014 elections will be their test. They've propped up and raised funds for Democrats, and a handful of local legislative victories with strong candidates could be their crown jewel.

Will the Tea Party prevail? They determined the outcome of many Republican primaries. But can their candidates win in the general election? In coveted Senate District 10, currently occupied by Wendy Davis, Republican Konni Burton faces Democrat Libby Willis. The race will determine the balance of power in the senate. Burton, a Tea Party activist, bested the party's preferred candidate. The district is more Republican now than when Davis ran in 2012 but Willis has garnered support from some traditionally Republican groups.

Connecting to Care

Trans Pride Initiative's health fair, held in conjunction with Parkland, is open to the entire community

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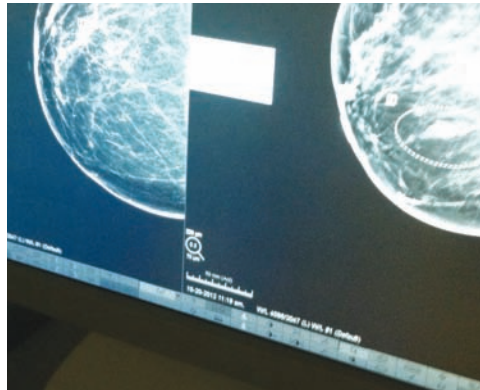
When Cd Kirven attended last year's Trans Health Fair, she just wanted to support the Trans Pride Initiative's event.

She and organizer Nell Gaither had been working together on the Dallas City Council's LGBT Task Force. "She represents everyone in the community," Kirven said of Gaither.

Kirven said she knew how important getting the LGBT community into healthcare was, so she decided to set an example by having a mammogram.

"Lots of women in our community haven't had a Pap smear or a mammogram," Kirven said.

She said the mammogram she had that day



PLAYING IT SAFE | Cd Kirven had a mammogram at last year's Trans Health Fair and found a lump. (Photos courtesy Cd Kirven)

could have saved her life: the mammogram detected a lump. Although a biopsy determined the lump was benign, she plans to have it removed as a precaution after taking care of some other health concerns.

This year, Parkland hospital and UT Southwestern became major partners in the third Trans Health Fair. In addition to providing general wellness screenings for blood pressure, body mass index, glucose and cholesterol, Parkland would like people to remain in care. Representatives will review eligibility for Parkland health plans for those looking for health coverage.

A shuttle will run people between Amelia Court and the UT Southwestern Center for Breast Care for chest and breast screenings and diagnostic exams.

Discounted flu shots and free HIV testing will be also available.

Gaither said connecting people to care is a main goal of the health fair, noting that a number of barriers to healthcare exist within the trans community.

"Many people are simply afraid of not being affirmed at the doctor's office," she said.

One trans man drove down to the health fair from Little Rock last year. Gaither said she was sure she could connect him to care at home, but he said he had already tried all of the doctors who claimed to be affirming.

"They won't look me in the eye," he told Gaither. "They won't address me by my preferred name."

Rather than face what he called harassment and discrimination in a doctor's office, the man chose to take the day off to drive to Dallas for basic medical care.

Gaither said a related barrier to healthcare is being disrespected in the doctor's office by the staff. She said she went for a colonoscopy soon after she began presenting as a woman. After turning in her paperwork, the receptionist said, "Thank you, sir," outing her to the others sitting in the waiting room.

Some doctors refuse transgender patients because they say they don't understand how to prescribe hormones to trans men and women.

"For a healthy person with no co-morbidities, it's not complicated," Gaither said.

Gaither said those same doctors work with post-menopausal women and with men with low testosterone levels.

Insurance may be slightly less of a barrier than it was in the past since being transgender may no longer be considered a pre-existing condition. But that doesn't mean policies cover everything. In addition, many trans men and women lose their jobs as they begin to transition, so they lose their benefits, including health insurance.

As part of the health fair, UT Southwestern will offer mammograms for anyone who is uninsured or underinsured. That category of underinsured would include someone with breast tissue who is listed on a policy as male. Most insurance wouldn't cover a mammogram for a man.

Brad Walsh serves on Parkland's Hospital Equality Index committee to address issues in Human Rights Campaign's healthcare survey.

"Two years ago we took the HEI survey for the first time," Walsh said.

He said studying the items was eye-opening for the committee but as they worked through several, they found, "Yeah, this is really working."

Unisex bathrooms are now located throughout the facilities. While sexual orientation was already included in the hospital's visitation policy, gender identity wasn't, so that was added.

HRC asked about community participation. Walsh said the hospital participated in Pride. The Trans Health Fair is something else they can add in that category.

He said a number of employees participated in a cultural competency training class. A respectful use of pronouns by doctors and office staff, he said, helps a trans man or woman feel welcome in a hospital office or emergency room.

Walsh said the committee reviewed ways front desk staff should take a sexual history, and he said the HEI helped the committee make improvements that benefited many more than just LGBT families: Policies honoring domestic partnerships were aimed at same-sex couples, but also respect straight couples who may not be married.

Going through HRC's guidelines, Walsh said, helped the committee help the hospital update parts of its online medical records. Instead of asking for a child's mother and father, the records now list the child's parents and guardians. He said that correction not only applies to children with same-sex parents, but children in a variety of family situations — children in blended families, children whose parents have remarried and have joint custody along with their new spouses.

Walsh said the goal at Parkland is for any doctor to be able to treat any patient, but at the same time, some physicians have more experience working with trans patients. So several doctors have taken the lead in caring for trans patients and are making themselves available for consultation with other staff members.

The health fair is open to everyone, Walsh said, adding that, "We'd love to show off what we do for the community."

In addition, he said, the hospital is recruiting members of the LGBT community to participate in community needs assessment. Walsh said one area the HEI committee is studying is whether Parkland's health coverage "takes care of the person where they are." As an example, he said, a trans man might need a hysterectomy that other insurance won't cover if his gender marker has already been changed to male.

Gaither also welcomed everyone to the health fair regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Parking is free at Amelia Court where the gates will be open for the day for easy access. ■

Nov. 8 at 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Amelia Court Clinic, 1936 Amelia Court. Chest and breast screenings at UT Southwestern Center for Breast Care, Third Floor, Seay Biomedical Building, 2201 Inwood Road. Tpride.org.

PRIDE Calendar

November

- **Nov. 6: The Truth About LGBTQ Teen Pregnancy and Sensitivity Training**
Presented by Real Live Connection. Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak St. 9-10:30 a.m. RSVP to tggreenberg@ntarupt.org.
- **Nov. 6: UNT Libraries and the Portal to Texas History celebrate 2.5 million pages**
The online repository that includes the LGBT archives celebrates a major milestone. The Forum in Willis Library, 1506 Highland St, Denton. 3-4:30 p.m. Library.UNT.edu.
- **Nov. 8: Trans Health Fair**
11 a.m.-5 p.m. Amelia Court Clinic, 1936 Amelia Court. Chest and breast screenings and diagnostic exams at UT Southwestern's Center for Breast Care, Third Floor, Seay Biomedical Building, 2201 Inwood Road. Tpride.org.
- **Nov. 13: Holiday Wreath Collection**
Galleria Dallas, 13350 Dallas Parkway. 6:30 p.m. \$50. DIFFADallas.org
- **Nov. 15: Black Tie Dinner**
Dallas Sheraton Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. \$400. 6 p.m.-midnight. BlackTie.org.

- **Nov. 16: Transgender Day of Remembrance Spirit Walk**
Walk begins at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road at 6:30 p.m. Entrance of walkers and memorial at Cathedral of Hope at 7 p.m.
- **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance**
Screening of the documentary Valentine Road at 4 p.m. Panel discussion at 6 p.m. and candle-light vigil at 7 p.m. at Willis Library Forum, 1506 Highland Ave., Denton.
- **Nov. 23: Gobble til ya Wobble**
A Thanksgiving dinner and celebration for LGBTQ youth, young adults, allies and families. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6-8 p.m. Facebook.com/RLConnection.

December

- **Dec. 1: World AIDS Day**
- **Dec. 1: Night of a Thousand Names**
CURE honors The Names Project Foundation, Dr. Steven Pounders and Dr. Louis Sloan. Noah's Event Space, 2151 N. Greenville Ave., Richardson. 6 p.m. CUREnTX.org.

Deaths

Donald Zarda, 44, passed away Oct. 3 in Switzerland. He was born May 27, 1970, in Missouri, lived in Dallas for the past 14 years, and was pursuing European Union citizenship.

A skilled electrician and IT professional, Zarda graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Bachelor of Science degree in technical management/international relations. He was employed at Advanced Skin Fitness since it's opening in 2003.

An experienced skydiver, Zarda excelled at every discipline of the sport. He helped thousands create memorable life experiences while serving as a licensed tandem master and skydive instructor at dropzones worldwide. An airplane pilot, he also dedicated his life to BASE jumping as a member of an elite group of wingsuit athletes.

Zarda had a big smile and an even bigger personality. His spirit, enthusiasm and infectious laughter electrified those around him. He enjoyed sharing his adventures with loved ones, and especially relished encouraging others to experience adventures of their own. An intelligent, generous, fun, and truly unique person, Zarda made friends across the globe. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and everyone in the BASE jumping community.

Zarda is survived by his mother, Shirley (Greer) Zarda; his sisters, Kim Zarda and Melissa Zarda; his dear friend, William Moore; and his pets, Sachie and Tiny Cat.

He was predeceased by his father, Jerry Zarda; his sister, Gara Zarda, and his feline friends, Mynx, China and Little Cat.

A memorial will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at the home of William (Bill) Moore, 2300 Carroll Ave. in Dallas. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to your local animal shelter. "3-2-1 C-ya" (Zarda's signature exit).



Steven Moore, executive director of the National Gay Pilots Association and a former Dallas resident, died Monday, Oct. 27, when the small plane he was piloting crashed near Boulder, Colo., as a result of mechanical failure.

He was a powerful advocate for equality and love among all people. His penchant for leadership and passionate ambition for progress consistently reached many, many people who love him dearly. He had a unique ability to touch everyone around him with laughter, encouragement and love.

Moore is survived by his fiancé and partner Nate Samek; mother Kathy; father, Rick; brothers, Joe and Mark; and sister Marlene; and many, many more family members and friends.



Is Your Vote Being Taken For Granted in the Election For Judge of Dallas County Court at Law No. 1?

--**Russell Roden (R) (2002-06) and D'Metria Benson (D) (2007-present) have each served as Judge of Dallas County Court at Law No. 1**

--**Every 2 years, over 130 judges are rated by attorneys who appear before them. Former Judge Roden always rated among the highest. Ranked at 133rd, Judge Benson is the lowest-rated civil court judge in the history of the poll. Yet, Judge Benson expects your straight-ticket vote will return her to the bench for 4-more years.**

WHO HAS EARNED YOUR VOTE TO SERVE AGAIN?

★★★★★ **ELECT** ★★★★★★
RUSSELL
RODEN
For **JUDGE**
DALLAS COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1

2005 DBA Judicial Evaluation Poll Results for Russell Roden*		2013 DBA Judicial Evaluation Poll Results for D'Metria Benson*	
Poll Question	% of "Yes" Responses	Poll Question	% of "Acceptable" or Better Responses
Is this judge hardworking?	95%	Is this judge prepared for hearings and trials?	20%
Is this judge impartial?	90%	Is this judge impartial?	21%
Does this judge demonstrate adequate knowledge of the law?	93%	Does this judge demonstrate adequate knowledge of the law?	11%
Does this judge demonstrate a proper judicial temperament and demeanor?	85%	Does this judge demonstrate a proper judicial temperament and demeanor?	19%
Do you approve of this judge's overall performance?	91%	Do you approve of this judge's overall performance?	14%

*Source: Dallas Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Polls, 2005 & 2013

Please go "down-ballot" and vote for Russell Roden. For more information: www.rodenforjudge.com

EARLY VOTING: October 20-31; ELECTION DAY: November 4

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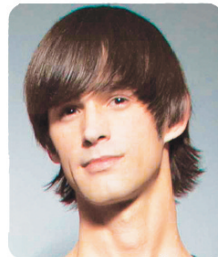
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Provocative or just in bad taste?



Emerson Collins
Contributing Columnist

Halloween costumes in the LGBT community can run the gamut, but it's all about the dress-up fun

Halloween is a special holiday that allows imagination and personal expression to run completely wild. For children, it is a day to dress up as their heroes, favorite characters or to take the power away from scary things in a sugary celebration of the weird and the awesome. I wore my Superman pajamas with the detachable Velcro cape for too many years in a row because I loved it, and also because I was getting away with wearing my pajamas in public. Score!

For many adults, Halloween is a return to that childlike enthusiasm for a night of anything goes dress up, but with the tastes, desires and experiences of adulthood driving the costume choices. In the LGBT community, Halloween is often nicknamed "Gay Christmas." With the extremes-in-every-direction approach to costumes seen at LGBT events, the unofficial title is quite apropos.

Members of our community regularly top both the best and worst lists — and with good reason. The "best" involve intricate and elaborate costumes that require a mind-boggling number of hours in preparation for a reveal that is awe-inspiringly impactful.

Those landing on the "worst" list tend to be the result of taking a look at the line of what is considered tasteful and tap-dancing so far across it that it cannot even be seen in the rearview mirror.

Of course, whether a costume is entered in a contest it will absolutely be judged — for its inspiration, execution, theme, fit, style, appropriateness, commentary — or all of the above. The listicles of great Halloween costumes across the social media-verse are now equaled or surpassed by the attention paid to the lists of the worst Halloween costumes.

There are two modern themes to the "worst" Halloween costumes, and the LGBT community succeeds (or fails, depending on your perspective) in providing both in abundance. The first is the "Sexy (insert profession here)" costume. Women of a certain age and look are most often criticized for taking a random profession or character and dropping the neckline and shortening the skirt length to make it sexy in a way that smacks greatly of misogyny.

However, within our community, men who take the barely-there approach to pulling a costume into the sexy category are often judged similarly to those women. The sexy costume gets renamed the "slutty costume" by derisive critics in a way that implies both that you can determine someone's level of promiscuity by the amount of the skin they show and that a variety-based sexual appetite is inherently negative.

Judgy slut-shaming for the win!
Why care so much? How many in our community have had — or still have — negative body images? How many who look great worked hard to arrive at that place as a result of bullying for being too fat or too skinny or too something else?

Why shouldn't all of us take a night designed for self-expression to play pretend in the way that makes us most happy? Whether that's a rhinestone studded thong and tap shoes or a three-piece tuxedo with a wax-filled 1950s up-do, any self-expression should be acceptable without others indulging the need to pull the epic eyeroll out of the arsenal because a group of half-naked sexy sailors saunters by.

The other end of the "worst" spectrum is the world of edgy costumes. Some call them offensive, but since being offended is in the eye of the beholder, that label is particularly subjective. However, the list of what constitutes an "offensive" costume gets longer online every year.

A great deal of LGBT art has always pushed at the boundaries of the acceptable. As a result, that flair for the dramatic and offensive leaps to

the forefront for some at Halloween. After all, considering what drag queens do nightly, it can take a great deal of effort to make a costume feel noteworthy.

There are costumes that are witty, wordplay, pop culture-oriented and those that mock anything and everything someone might hold dear, from culture to religion to dead celebrities and beyond. The goal of some of these costumes is to get that "I can't believe you did that" reaction, and in our modern, super-sensitive and politically-correct society we overreact in a way that is rather comical.

I'm not saying that those who object to costumes based on implications of racism, bigotry, various phobias and the destruction of general good taste do not have a point in some cases. But where is the line?

Is a homo who dons a kimono to be "Memoirs of a GAYsha" being



amusing in drag or appropriating Japanese culture? Is every straight, cisgender guy in a dress mocking women, gay men or being transphobic? Is being a sexy doctor insulting to those who attended years of additional schooling in order to provide live-saving services to our society?

Is Pocahontas okay for a little girl? For a grown woman? For a white man? Where is it affection for a Disney film and where is it belittling Native Americans? Where does the sensitivity end?

Certainly some thought should be given to how extremely marginalized communities are portrayed and whether a costume is silly or perpetuating stereotypes that put members of that community in danger. Every year one or two people, who must not have access to the Internet or a history book, decide that some version of blackface will just be hilarious and the explosive response demonstrates there is actually a generally understood line out there that should not be crossed.

It just seems the line is rapidly moving toward a place where anything even slightly over the line and into the areas of dark comedy, satire or simply shocking is met with unnecessary outrage.

The issues that some kinds of potentially offensive costumes bring up are definitely important. On nearly every one of those issues though, there is a better cultural form of systemic oppression that exists daily that is a better way to address the issue from a substance-based perspective.

So yes, some costumes will be offensive, racist, sexist or insulting to someone's culture, beliefs or world-view. The wearer may have done it on purpose, or they may be that stupid. If their bigotry or privilege bothers you, let them know that. That's your right just as it is theirs to dress up in whatever ridiculous way they choose.

Maybe we can also acknowledge that photos of the dumbest people in America dressed up as nonsense is not the greatest opening to deep conversations about social justice and the pervasive nature of privilege. We could just not get worked up by stupid.

Full disclosure — I may be fully biased on this subject. Every year, I work toward a silly gay costume that is both slutty and wordplay. Because I'm easily amused.

My favorite costume ever involved a loin cloth, a crown of thorns crafted from a wreath from Michael's and a John Deere tractor steering wheel as "Jesus Take The Wheel." And yes, some people were offended. Jesus did not weigh in.

So, however you spend it, whether sexy, smart, slutty, silly or face first in a bowl full of candy you decided to keep rather than hand out to children — have a Happy Halloween. Let's save the outrage and judgment for things that actually matter far more than a night of overblown dress up. ■

Emerson Collins is one of the hosts of The People's Couch on Bravo.

Vote Democratic all the way



Jay Narey
Contributing Columnist

It's about what's best for the nation

I was dismayed by a recent Dallas Voice column by Metroplex Republicans President Rob Schlein (Oct. 24: "Vote for competence and integrity, not just party") in which he suggested that voters should not ask whether a candidate or political party is "with me" or "against me" when voting. This is utter nonsense; of course a voter should ask this question when making up their mind as to who to put in important elected positions.

Schlein also suggested that LGBT voters base their support of Democrats solely on the issues of same-sex marriage and employment non-discrimination. This is also a ludicrous assertion. While admittedly these are legitimate and, yes, very important issues for the LGBT community, they are not the only reason our community should vote Democratic.

And it is the Democratic Party, not the "Democrat Party" as Republicans like to refer to us.

Here at home in Texas, we are presented with a "once in a generation" opportunity to elect two highly competent women, Wendy Davis and Leticia Van de Putte, to lead the Lone Star State into the 21st century. Neither of them are rabid ideologues, but pragmatists in their governing philosophies. Texas could use a little more critical reasoning and rational thought right about now to counter-balance the lunacy of the Tea Party and the Far Right.

Even closer to home, right here in Dallas County we have a broad field of highly competent candidates, from Commissioners' Court all the way down the ballot to Justice of the Peace. Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins has demonstrated exemplary leadership on a whole host of issues facing our community and he deserves your support for re-election.

Sadly, many Americans and even more Texans only bother to vote during presidential election years. That's a grave mistake because mid-term elections are just as important.

Why? Because the U.S. Senate controls who is confirmed and seated on all levels of the federal judiciary and the U.S. Supreme Court. I don't need to tell you how important the U.S. Supreme Court is for our rights.

Texas has one of the lowest voter participation rates in the entire country and that is the only reason Republicans have been allowed to dominate statewide office for so long. You have the opportunity to change that this year by voting.

I can honestly say that I would be a Democrat and support the Democratic Party even if I was not a member of the LGBT community. Why? Because I believe that government has a very impor-

tant role to play in our society.

There are all sorts of consumer protection and regulatory issues that I want my government involved in. For example: food safety, safe drinking water, education, and perhaps most importantly, in the financial and economic arenas.

Do you have investments or a 401k retirement plan? Then you want the government to require firms and companies to file and disclose regular and transparent financial statements so that you can make the best decisions when it comes to managing your own investments and retirement.

I find it ironic that the Republican Party wants to regulate your bedroom, but they don't want any regulation in the boardroom. They've got it exactly backwards.

Government is important and we need an active government to make sure that business and private profiteers, hucksters and shysters don't run roughshod over the common welfare of "We the People," as the Constitution instructs. We Democrats want the rights of all people protected, and that includes women, minorities, employees and workers alike.

No political party has a monopoly on competence, integrity or morals, but I know which polit-

ical party has an overriding philosophy of doing what is in the best interest of the majority of citizens, rather than further enriching an already very wealthy few.

Most Americans are completely unaware of just how concentrated wealth is in the United States. The top 20 percent of households control nearly 89 percent of the net worth of the nation (Source: www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html).

In the early 1980s, Ronald Reagan cut taxes on the rich in half, from 70 percent to 35 percent where they have largely remained ever since. During the same period of time over the last 30 years, we have witnessed a rapid decline of the middle class in America. Why continue to endorse and support "trickle down" policies that haven't trickled down to anyone?

Join me in voting for Democrats this year by voting a straight Democratic ticket. Early Voting is ends at 7 p.m. today (Friday, Oct. 31), and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4 when polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Your future and the future of Texas is at stake. ■

Jay Narey is president of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

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Fall 2014

The after-party that roars

Don Gaiser's apres-BTD soiree is more than mere fun — it's an essential part of gay Dallas' social (and fundraising!) scene

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Don Gaiser vividly remembers his first Black Tie Dinner in 1987. "I was living in Tyler, but for some strange reason, I got on the Black Tie Dinner's mailing list and got an invitation," he recalls. "I had some friend who lived in Dallas [and bought a ticket at a friend's table]. I really enjoyed it."

He had no idea then that it would become a tradition. A year later, Gaiser relocated to Dallas, and attended his second BTDD — again, as a guest of his friend. "The following year, I thought, 'I know nine people — I'll do my own table.'" To sweeten the deal, at the last minute Gaiser had an idea. "We decided to throw an after-party."

That was in 1989. But from small acorns — "At the most, we had 40 or 50 people at that

event," he says — mighty oaks grow. 2014 will mark Gaiser's 25th Black Tie Dinner as a table captain, and his 25th time hosting an after-party. And for many, the two are synonymous.

The dinner itself has grown. The original event, in 1982, was attended by few hundred people and raised about \$6,000. Now, it's attended by about 3,000 people and usually raises in excess of \$1 million.

"It has come a long way," Gaiser says, pausing to add, "... as has my after-party."

Since 1987, Gaiser has only missed the Black Tie Dinner twice, including last year, when his work as an attorney at McKool Smith mandated he attend an out-of-state trial just when the BTDD was taking place. Although he bought (and sold) 15 tables, Gaiser was not among the guests. And of course, without him there, no "Don Gaiser

after-party" took place.

"It felt like part of me was missing," he says. "It is a lot of work — very time-consuming — but I enjoy doing it and people really seem to appreciate it. They have a good time."

Last year, he realized what a tradition it had become. Not just a tradition, honestly; though

■ **GAISER**, Page 18

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■ **GAISER**, From Page 16

not an official BTD event, “the after-party,” as everyone knows it, has become an essential element of gay Dallas’ social season — and a tremendous factor in the fundraising success of Black Tie.

It’s not just the tables that Gaiser fills (currently at \$400 a plate, with 10 seats at each table, he adds literally hundreds of folks to the HRC family), but all the ancillary effects. And those effects were noticeable by his absence in 2013.

“For the first time in a decade, the dinner didn’t sell out,” Gaiser says, “and they raised less money than they had in years. And my friend at the Sheraton told me she sold 500 fewer rooms last year [than at previous BTD events.]”

It isn’t that Gaiser is crowing about this; it’s the people involved who tell all this to *him*.

“I was told by some of the board members that they were interacting with Dustin Lance Black last year, and at some point he asked, ‘How can I get an invitation to this after-party?’ They said, ‘He’s not here this year. But how would you even know about?’ He said, ‘I’ve heard about it in L.A. for years,’” he says.

To many people, Don Gaiser has become the Black Tie Dinner.

He’d bristle at such hyperbole. First and foremost, Gaiser is a philanthropist with an abiding devotion to gay causes. In addition to BTD, he has been a longtime supporter of DIFFA, and can

be frequently seen, bedecked in his flamboyant couture, at benefits for Resource Center, AIDS Interfaith Network and other charities. But BTD holds a special place for him.

“For people who have never been before, it really is an uplifting and entertaining experience of empowerment — you leave feeling good about yourself,” he says. “A lot of gay individuals, especially of my generation, grew up feeling like second-class citizens. That’s to a lesser extent now, but the first dinner I ever went to [changed that]. It’s now a time of celebration — it was more of a political event in the past, but as the LGBT community has made so many inroads, there are a lot of things to celebrate, and Black Tie has moved in a more positive direction.”

He shows his support in the most concrete way: By going all-out to make it a hit this year.

“When they confirmed I was coming back, they asked me to step up my game,” he says of BTD’s leadership. “This year, I have 20 tables” — his most ever — “and already have 16 full. Most people would fall over dead if they had four tables to fill, but I know I will. They haven’t announced the keynote speaker yet, which is the latest I can recall, but I know a lot of people who wait to find out who that is before committing.”

In fact, a good keynote address, in Gaiser’s mind, is the No. 1 factor contributing to the success of a dinner. “It really sets the tone,” he says. “In years past, we’ve had Ann Richards, Goldie

Hawn, Geena Davis, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Lily Tomlin, Martin Sheen, Stockard Channing — obviously they are all different, and some are better than others, but they make a difference.”



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So what, exactly, makes a mere party something that between 1,200 and 1,500 people attend every year? Much of the fame is due to Gaiser's commitment to letting people enjoy themselves in every possible way.

First is getting a good facility.

"It's a big event, and I have the biggest suite they have [at the Sheraton], it's not big enough and doesn't hold 1,200 — that's a come-and-go number," he says. (The hotel has in the past offered some of their smaller ballrooms to accommodate it, "but it loses its intimacy," he says.)

"One year, I realized neither my secretary nor I had called the Sheraton to book the suite, and the dinner was almost sold out. I thought, 'I'm gonna be hung out to dry.' I called and they said, 'Here's your confirmation number.' I asked how they had a confirmation. She said, 'You have a standing order. If you want to cancel you can, but we reserve it for you every year.'"

Because many people generate substantial body heat, Gaiser adds air conditioning capacity to the suite; this year, six tons of cold air will help keep the event from becoming overheated.

Gaiser enlists a number of co-hosts who help sponsor the party, and the contribution "isn't at a prohibitive level, so they have really liked doing it." The event — entirely free — comes with an open bar, a DJ, a floral display (from Shane Walker), special effects (from Dallas Light & Sound), sexy dancers (this year, he's hired eight men, including some flying in from out of town)

and perhaps most importantly, exclusivity.

"Invitations don't actually get distributed until a half-hour before the dinner," he says. "And we have a doorman at the entrance — you can't get in without a ticket."

That doesn't mean Gaiser is buddy-buddy with everyone who attends; quite the opposite.

"Every so often, I meet someone who will say to me, 'We've never met, but we have been to your after-party for years,'" he laughs.

Still, that's exactly why Gaiser keeps throwing the party — people will attend and donate money and do good. Because Dallas' BTD is the largest seated HRC-supportive event in the U.S. — and the only one that benefits both national and local charities — its continued health is a passion for Gaiser. So the after-party will continue, if only to benefit the needy in North Texas.

"In my world, BTD and DIFFA are the two main events in the gay community and benefit the most beneficiaries," he says. And there's no better way to donate than with a party.

"I was always brought up to give back to the community," he says. "But rather than writing a check, I like to have fun at the same time. [BTB and DIFFA] do that for me. They are worthwhile events, but also you have a blast doing it."

If you're interested in attending Black Tie Dinner, which returns to the Sheraton Downtown Dallas on Nov. 15, and you want to get a seat at one of Don Gaiser's tables — and perhaps snag an invitation to the after-party — email DGaiser@mckoolsmith.com.

Book review: 'Charity & Sylvia'

Born in the midst of the American Revolution, Charity Bryant was destined from the outset to have an interesting life: she was a sickly infant birthed by a sickly mother who died days after Charity entered the world. Before she passed, though, Silence Bryant christened the baby after her spinster-sister, an act that may have "pointed [Charity] to a model of womanhood that differed significantly from her [mother's]."

Somewhat coddled by her elder siblings but detested by her stepmother, Charity grew with a "passion for making friends with other young women." At the time, intimate romantic relationships among same-sex friends was lightly encouraged by parents and carefully watched ... at least until the couple gave reasons for concern.

And Charity wholeheartedly offered exactly that. She was "the cause of tensions in a number of communities" and, since she was a mannish teacher of young women, was the victim of vicious gossip that kept her on the move. Girls, you see, had only recently been allowed an education, and their schools had reputations for an "erotic atmosphere."

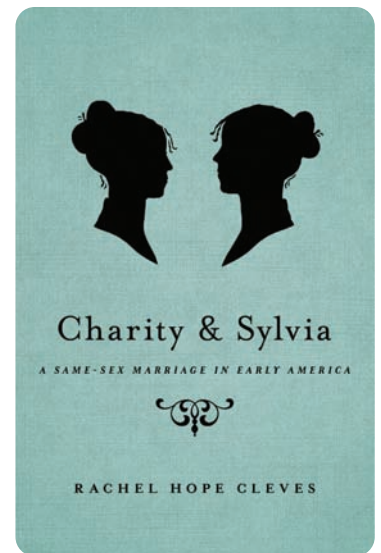
It didn't help that Charity was a bit of a rake, and left a string of broken hearts in the wake of her escapes. A renowned poet, and she and her amours filled stacks of letters with romance and steam, love and longing, though Charity seemed to want to remain footloose. She "believed in marriage, just not for herself."

But then, in 1807, while on the run from yet another sullied reputation, Charity left Massachusetts and moved to Vermont. There, she met Sylvia Drake, a relative of her hosts, and there was a spark.

With its teeny-tiny print and erudite look, I was expecting **Charity & Sylvia** to be dry as a dead creek bed. I'm likewise happy to admit I was dead wrong. Starting with the birth of the woman on whom author Rachel Hope Cleves focuses most, this book opens with a slice of life during the Revolutionary War. We then move back and forth in narrative, but Cleves never lets us forget the time and space that her subjects inhabited, the social mores, the historical aspects, nor the seemingly-inconsistent attitudes toward romance and sex that our forebears held and that which we've been led to believe they had. I found that deeply fascinating and highly entertaining.

I think that if you're a fan of history (LGBT or otherwise), this is something you'll relish. With chaste retelling and its abundant details, *Charity & Sylvia* is your grandmother's book — and yours, too.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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L+S screen



'Horns' of a dilemma

Is it possible to recommend people see the worst movie of the year? Kinda

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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To call **Horns** the worst movie of all time is neither fair nor completely accurate. I have seen thousands of movies, and many hundreds of those were downright terrible. Most of the terrible ones you give up watching as soon as you're able, or walk away from the experience with an admixture of disgust and resentment. But the terrible one that is *Horns* isn't like that — it's a train-wreck of such consummate incompetence it becomes, in a weird way, entertaining. Put another way: *Horns* is a movie so bad, it doubles-back on itself which — while that does *not* make it better — makes it almost unmissable.

It's rare to see a film so misguided, so frequently unaware of what it wants to be, that you almost can't look away. It's like watching *The Real Housewives* or Ann Coulter trying to sound reasonable — you can't believe it, but you're addicted to it. The director, Alexandre Aja, clearly has no idea what genre of movie *Horns* wants to be, and so he makes it every kind. All at once. And in turn. Continually.

Consider: It starts off trying to be a sex thriller like *Gone Girl*, with Iggy (Daniel Radcliffe, who must have agreed to make it on a dare), a small-town man being hounded by media and activists for having apparently gotten away with killing his girlfriend (Juno Temple). Iggy destroys the shrine to her, pissing on the Virgin Mary and kicking the *pieta*, but soon after begins to grow horns out of his temples. This is the film's attempt to become a religious parable *a la* *The Exorcist* (though *much* cheesier). When people see the horns, though, rather than turn in

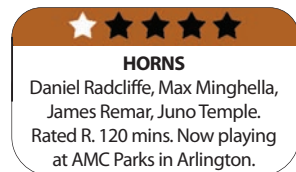
fright, they find themselves compelled to confess their sins and deepest desires to him ... then act out on them. Now, it has become a supernatural thriller like *Needful Things*.

All of that could work if the confessions didn't devolve into insane comic set-pieces (now it's *Liar, Liar*), all while Iggy recalls his childhood (and we enter the coming-of-age realm of *Stand by Me*) before it finally becomes a gruesome splatterfest (*Halloween*, maybe?) that makes zero sense. It's also *waayyy* too long.

There's not an authentic moment in the heavy-handed symbolism (Iggy drives around in an AMC Gremlin, which wasn't even a very clever joke 35 years ago when people still knew what the damn car was, and he emerges from a burning building in a cloud of brimstone), the terrible acting (Heather Graham's on hand, just to make sure of it) or the awkward direction.

Poor Harry Potter is trying so hard to grow up onscreen — last year, he played gay (and bottomed!) in *Kill Your Darlings*. Here, he tries to prove he's not a teenaged wizard anymore by saying "fuck," urinating in public and letting snakes crawl over him (has he reconciled with Voldemort?), but mostly you just feel sorry for him and everyone else — including otherwise capable actors like James Remar, David Morse and Kathleen Quinlan — trying to keep a straight face while talking to a young man sporting a set of antlers. Fail.

The movie opens (on Halloween) at just one theater in the Metroplex, but is available via VOD. Best not to let anyone see you watching it. But you might wanna stream it anyway — it's kinda fun to be on the ground floor of a cult film that sets a new low in every particular.



DO I MAKE YOU HORNY, BABY? | Try to not laugh at Daniel Radcliffe sporting antlers. Can't be done.

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Art, in a fashion

3 different exhibits, museums, artists and media create an intriguing glimpse into style and beauty

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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New York City has long had a costume museum, but ever since the Dallas Museum of Art put on the work of fashion designer Jean-Paul Gautier, local galleries have seen the value in wearable art — even if it's not wearable for you. Indeed, three current exhibitions highlight issues of fashion in unique (and mostly unrelated) way.

The most direct is the **Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion** at the **Crow Collection of Asian Art** through Feb. 22. Featuring contemporary gowns across five decades from three major Japanese designers (Miyake, Yamamoto and Kawakubo), the tightly-curated showcase of edgy couture is a dazzling display of how culturally diverse art is, even when in a seemingly universal and familiar field as fashion. The angular, colorful and boldly-patterned dresses insist you rethink how you relate to western clothing.

Isa Genzken is not a fashion designer by any stretch, but this peripatetic multi-disciplined German artist — not widely known in the U.S.,

but enjoying a remarkable retrospective at the **DMA** through January — touches on themes related to fashion (and certainly the human body). From her early videos (in which the slender artist and a zaftig friend exchange clothes silently, showing how they transform their naked bodies) to several works that merchandise items from her own closet, she makes you look at fashion in a critical and interesting way.

You can't even steal the clothes off the models in **Mario Testino's** show, **Alta Moda**, at the **Dallas Contemporary** through Dec. 22. Testino has been an in-demand fashion photographer for years, but the Peruvian native returned to his homeland for this project. Focusing on the traditional garb of the indigenous peoples of the mountainous nation, Testino imbues peasant clothing with a high-fashion sensibility in these gorgeous, large-format photos — which, incredibly, have not been retouched or photoshopped. The colors, textures and textiles are all real, but the effect is otherworldly. ■

LIFE+STYLE

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CLOTHES CALL | The traditional garb of Peru from Mario Testino, above, the gowns of Japanese designers, top, and the abstract merchandising of ready-to-wear clothes, right, highlight three new art exhibits. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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L+S stage

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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The film version of **Driving Miss Daisy** was one of those delightful confluences of popular appeal and critical acclaim — so pervasively loved that it's easy to forget it started life as a simple three-character, one-act off-Broadway play. Who does a play about a car, anyway? (Actually, from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* to *The Grapes of Wrath*, way too many. I expect *Christine: The Musical* any day now.)

But as anyone can tell you who has seen a stage production of *Driving Miss Daisy*, now at the Kalita courtesy of DTC, this isn't a play "about" a car, or even "about" driving. It's a love story, told in the rearview mirror.

Spanning more than two decades, from the 1940s to the 1970s, *Daisy* is a character study of very particular characters: Daisy (Annalee Jefferies), a prickly 72-year-old Jewish lady living in the Jim Crow South, but who fancies herself a liberal for her day; and Hoke (Hassan Al-Amin), the illiterate, late-middle-aged black man hired by her son (James Crawford) to chauffeur her around once her driving skills are called into question.

Even if you didn't read the program notes, you'd suspect that it was based on relatives of the author, Alfred Uhry. It has that specificity and uniqueness, from the surprisingly lengthy

endurance of the Daisy-Hoke relationship to the conflicts that arise between them. Daisy doesn't like having a servant, which makes her seem rich ... even though she is. She doesn't like the lack of freedom not driving implies, though she's smart enough to know she'd kill everyone in the neighborhood if she got behind the wheel again. There are driving scenes (staged abstractly, with plain benches and a steering wheel standing in for the car), but the main effect of those moments are to chronicle the dynamic between Daisy (in the backseat,

sniping constantly) and Hoke (afably treating her with respect).

The real action takes place in the space between, where nods, gestures and silences convey the development of a love affair — not

physical, perhaps, but no less tender and meaningful.

The DTC's quaint set, mounted on the Kalita's famed turntable, spins so often that it can almost make you dizzy, but the movement is leisurely, like a slow stroll from one event to another indicative not just of the passage of time, but the growth of the characters. Jefferies ages with shocking convincings from the spry septuagenarian to the senile shell of a woman near her century mark; when she stands to take her bow, you can sense the audience's surprise that she's that energetic. Al-Amin captures Hoke's mix of tolerance and defiance deftly. At a breezy 80 minutes, Joel Ferrell has fashioned a reliable little charmer for an evening's entertainment. ■

DRIVING MISS DAISY

Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Nov. 16. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

SHIFTING GEARS | Daisy (Annalee Jefferies) clucks her rules at a bemused Hoke (Hassan Al-Amin) in DTC's charmingly platonic romance 'Driving Miss Daisy.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)



'Marriage' equality

Dallas Opera launches its season with Mozart's delightfully tuneful 'Figaro'

Mozart's operas are among the most bankable crowd-pleasers, and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*) is no exception. Based on the centerpiece of Beaumarchais' Figaro Trilogy, *Le Nozze* has certainly the loveliest music throughout.

The story brings back Figaro (baritone Mirco Palazzi, who's excellent), the wily barber from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* (which closed out the Dallas Opera's last season). Figaro is now valet to Count Almaviva (baritone Joshua Hopkins), who has his eye on Figaro's fiancée Susanna (the fantastic soprano Beate Ritter), who is maid to the count's wife (terrific soprano Nicole Car). Meanwhile, Dr. Bartolo (bass Kevin Langan) and his housekeeper Marcellina (soprano Diana Montague) are conspiring to have the Count force Figaro to marry the much-older Marcellina to settle some old debts. Several other amusing characters round out the cast, including a drunk gardener (bass Adam Lau) and a page (the delightful soprano Emily Fons in a "trousers role") just discovering the excitement of love. The performances are uniformly solid and the

ensemble singing is first rate.

Kevin Moriarty, the Dallas Theater Center artistic director, marks his second collaboration with The Dallas Opera; he tiptoed into opera in 2012 with the contemporary chamber opera *The Lighthouse*. While he now has far more characters to play with, Moriarty stays true to this beloved work and the result is a delightful romp through the many stages of love. The sets are detailed period interiors (from late production designer John Bury), though the garden setting of Act 4 is lackluster. Musical highlights include the lovelorn page Cherubino's aria "Voi che sapete" as well as the gorgeous "Letter duet" between the Countess and Susanna.

Conducted by DO's music director Emmanuel Villaume, the small orchestra and harpsichord serve the action onstage well. At times the work feels a bit languorous, and it is indeed a long opera (nearly four hours, though taking place over the course of one action-packed day). But it's also a worthwhile endeavor. ■

—Alicia Chang

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Winspear Opera House,
2403 Flora St. Through Nov. 9.
DallasOpera.org.

COMPLIMENTARY VALET | Figaro (Mirco Palazzi, center) conspired with his fiancée Susanna (Beate Ritter, left) to avoid the marriage to Marcellina (Diana Montague) orchestrated by Dr. Bartolo (Kevin Langan). (Photo courtesy Karen Almond, The Dallas Opera)



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RUTH GORDON
BUD CORT

HAROLD AND MAUDE

DIRECTED BY HAL ASHBY

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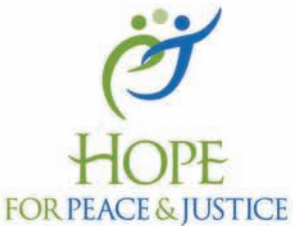
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Saturday 11.01

Openly gay singer-songwriter Matt Alber performs concert

Matt Alber's musical style has been compared to Rufus Wainwright and John Grant, with elements of folk, soul and R&B thrown in for good measure. The two-time Grammy Award winner is equally at home pairing his vocals with acoustic guitar or piano, which should all be in evidence on Saturday when he performs a benefit concert at the Sammons Center, with proceeds benefiting the Turtle Creek Chorale.

DEETS: Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 6:16 p.m. VIP reception; 7:30 p.m. curtain. \$50-\$75. TurtleCreek.org.



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Sunday 11.02

'Salome' continues DO's season

The Dallas Opera kicked off its season last week with a delightful version of *Le Nozze di Figaro* (read our review on Page 29), but that's not the only opera you can see this month. Richard Strauss' *Salome* — adapted from Oscar Wilde's racy play — is running in repertory with *Figaro* at the Winspear, with the next performance a matinee Sunday, but there are three more chances to see it this week. Out director Francesca Zambello stages all the bloody fun.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Nov. 2 at 2 p.m., Nov. 5 and Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. DallasOpera.org.



Photo courtesy Karen Almond, The Dallas Opera

LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Wednesday 11.05

Lone Star Film Fest opens with film about gay icon Alan Turing

Fort Worth's Lone Star Film Festival is in its fifth year, and it opens this week with the hotly-anticipated film *The Imitation Game*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing, the codebreaker who saved the world from Nazis ... and was persecuted for being gay. It will screen at The Modern Wednesday, but a whole slate of gay-interest films will play through Nov. 9 at the Bass, the AMC and other venues.

DEETS: *The Imitation Game* at The Modern Art Museum, 3200 Darnell, Fort Worth. 9 p.m. For full schedule, visit LoneStarFilmFestival.com.



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calendar highlights



'HAROLD AND MAUDE' | The cult classic film — an unusual romance between a teenaged boy (Bud Cort) and an octogenarian woman (Ruth Gordon) — screens as part of the Tuesday New Classics Series at the Magnolia, sponsored by Dallas Voice.

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Bent. UNT Theatre presents Martin Sherman's acclaimed drama about the treatment of gays during the Holocaust. University Theatre, 1179 Union Circle, Denton. Through Nov. 9. \$10.

Bonnie & Clyde. The recent musical adaptation of the famed Dallas bandits of the 1930s makes its regional debut. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Cabaret. The musical about the decadent life of Sally Bowles and company in Weimar Republic Germany. Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland. Through Nov. 15. \$23–\$27. GarlandCivicTheatre.org.

Dante: Purgatorio. The annual theater of the dead production from MBS Productions, adapted from the great epic poem about escaping Hell. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Special performances on Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 (Dia de los Muertos). Through Nov. 8. MBSProductions.net.

Driving Miss Daisy. Joel Ferrell directs this Pulitzer-winning comedy. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Nov. 16. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Evil Dead, the Musical. Just what is sounds like. *Final weekend.* Ohlook Performing Arts Center, 1631 W. Northwest Highway. OhlookPerform.com.

Fellowship! A spoofish send-up of *The Lord of the Rings*. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 22. CircleTheatre.com.

Little Women: The Musical. Contemporary Theatre of Dallas stages this musical, based on the Louisa May Alcott novel. *Final weekend.* Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

Shear Madness. Comic mystery in Theatre 3's downstairs space where the audience helps solve the crime. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. (in the Quadrangle). Extended through Nov. 16. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The 39 Steps. The four-actor, multi-character comedy,

adapted from the Hitchcock thriller. OnStage in Bedford, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Nov. 9. OnStageInBedford.com.

FINE ART

Isa Genzken: Retrospective. The German modern artist gets a rare and dazzling retrospective. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 4, 2015. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Bouquets; French Still Life Painting from Chardin to Matisse. A reexamination of the painting of flowers in the 19th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 8, 2015. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Mario Testino: Alta Moda. The famed fashion photographer turns his lens on the ordinary, indigenous residents of Peru. Dallas Contemporary, 161 Glass St. Through Dec. 20. DallasContemporary.org.

Monumental Works. A group show of large format paintings by three artists. Kirk Hopper Fine Art, 3008 Commerce St. Oct. 31–Nov. 29. Opening reception, Oct. 31, noon–6 p.m. KirkHopperFineArt.com.

Harvest. A group show of four visual artists, including Charles Coldewey, Tom Ortega, Cecilia Thurman and Janna Tidwell. Mary Tomas Gallery, 1110 Dragon St. Through Nov. 15. MaryTomasGallery.com.

OPERA

The Marriage of Figaro. Dallas Theater Center's artistic director Kevin Moriarty steps across Flora Street to direct his first full-length classic opera, the Mozart classic. DO music director Emmanuel Villaume directs. *Reviewed this week.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Nov. 1 and 7 (7:30 p.m.), and Oct. 26 and Nov. 9 (2 p.m.). DallasOpera.org.

Salome. The second show of the Dallas Opera opening week is Richard Strauss' lusty tragedy Salome, adapted

from Oscar Wilde's play. Directed by Francesca Zambello. Nov. 2 at 2 p.m., Nov. 5 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. DallasOpera.org.

FRIDAY 10.31

HALLOWEEN

Dark Hour Haunted House. The permanent horror attraction, with scarefests every Friday and Saturday eight months out of the year, but especially sinister during October with multiple themed areas with names like Dominion of the Dead, Coven Manor and Voodoo Vengeance. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. 7 p.m.–midnight. \$26-up. DarkHourHauntedHouse.com. 469-298-0556.

SATURDAY 11.01

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m.

this week's solution

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at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

CONCERTS

Matt Alber. Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Matt Alber performs a concert as a benefit for the Turtle Creek Chorale. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 6:15 p.m. VIP reception; 7:30 p.m. doors. \$50-\$75. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

SUNDAY 11.02

WORSHIP

Dignity (LGBT Catholics). Worship the first Sunday of each month, led by ministers Cliff and Jon Garinn. Interfaith Peace Chapel (lower level), 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m.

MONDAY 11.03

DINING

HopChef. Brewery Ommegang brings to Dallas for the first time its national food and beer pairing competition. Chefs from Blind Butcher, Common Table, Libertine Bar, Meddlesome Moth, FM Smokehouse and Whiskey Cake will compete in the event, creating a dish to go with an Ommegang brew. Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$60. TicketLeap.com.

TUESDAY 11.04

FILM

Harold and Maude. The cult classic about an unusual romance between a septuagenarian woman and teenaged boy. Awesome. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, sponsored by Dallas Voice. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 11.05

BROADCAST

Top Chef. This season, in Boston, with Padme, Tom, Gail and Richard Blais. Airs on Bravo at 8 p.m.

FILM

Lone Star Film Festival. The fifth annual Fort Worth-based festival of film begins. For a complete schedule of films, times and venues, visit LoneStarFilmFestival.com.

THURSDAY 11.06

FINE ARTS

Dallas International Art, Antique and Jewelry Show. The expo of decorative arts and crafts returns. Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. Nov. 6-9. DallasFallShow.com.



TASTING NOTES

With fall in full swing, lots of foodie events are taking place across the Metroplex. Among the biggies: The **North Texas Beer Week** launched Halloween and runs through Nov. 9 with restaurants and breweries across the area. One of the central events? **HopChef** is a national food and wine pairing competition, but it hasn't made its way to Dallas ... until now. Local chefs — including **Ashley Yancey (The Libertine Bar)**, **Rodman Shields (The Common Table)**, **David McMillan (Meddlesome Moth)**, **Oliver Sitrin (The Blind Butcher)**, **Rick Stewart (FM Smokehouse)** and **Stan Rodrigues (Whiskey Cake)**, pictured — will gather at **Trinity Groves** on the evening of Nov. 3 to create dishes paired with Ommegang beers, and one will be selected, but the real winner is you for getting to taste them all.

The Greenville Bar & Grill is back! A fire several years ago destroyed most of the original space along Lower Greenville Avenue where the neighborhood bar stood for decades, but when it was rebuilt, only Terilli's returned in the old space. After several false starts with other concepts, new owner Shawn Foley, an SMU grad, has restored the pub rumored to have been given one of Dallas' first liquor licenses. Executive chef **Richard Sipovic** has designed a menu of gastropub favorites, including fried chicken skins (and, if you want more, fried chicken), a succulent rabbit pot pie, deviled eggs and a simple sesame-seed-bunned hamburger to rival **Snuffer's**.

Now that Dallas Voice has moved into the Design District, we're glad that the **Renaissance Hotel** has completed its renovation, because it makes it easier to get to **Asador**, the restaurant inside the hotel that specializes in farm-to-fire cuisine. **Chef Brad Phillips** cultivates relationships with local purveyors (among them legendary cheesemonger **Paula Lambert**) to highlight their dishes on his newly-launched seasonal menu, including a charcuterie plate of applewood-and-mesquite-smoked duck and a wild-caught tilapia with exquisitely prepared farro that serves as a kind of Cajun fried rice. Hopefully he'll serve that on its own as well! It would be a meal in itself.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Cassie Nova

A mind is a terrible thing to waste

Hello to all my ghouls and gays! Happy Halloween! Hope your dark holiday has been full of fun and fright (as you can tell from my photo, it's been hell on me).

A few weeks ago, I wrote about feeling stupid. Well, I recently realized something. It's not my fault. It is my damn smartphone's fault. I used to be able to spell, remember everybody's phone number and even had beautiful handwriting. Now I can't do anything without my phone or computer. Back in the day, I could tell you the most random bits of trivia. I knew the name of every actor or actress and every movie they were in. Now, I immediately pull out my phone and IMDB the movie before using my brain. It used to be my penmanship was on point, but now if I have

to hand-write something, it looks like I wrote it with my feet. Heaven forbid I am ever in an emergency without my phone! The only phone number I remember is my own. (And Hunky's — that number is the same as it was 20 years ago when I worked there.) So unless I am being robbed by the Hamburglar, I'm screwed. If you only knew how many times spellcheck has highlighted words as I write this ... ashamed. I blame you, smartphones. iPhones, Androids and Windows phones done made us all more dumber.

Now let's see if I can help my fragile ego with helping others.

Dear Cassie,

First off, let me say I've adored you for nearly 10 years. You performed Kelly Clarkson my first night at a gay bar when I was 19. It was love at first lip sync. You are just amazing. Now to my question.

I got out of a relationship little over a year ago. It was a nasty breakup. I have since moved on and he now has a new guy. We don't run in the same circles



so we haven't crossed paths ... until last night. I have worked out at the same gym and around the same time for four years; he knows this. Last night, I saw him gawking at me through the window all Hannibal Lecter-like. Then he walked in. Apparently, he and his boyfriend are now members. I would be totally cool with this, however they just sit in the corner and mean-mug me. I move to another area, they follow. They are always just feet away ... and it's a big gym. I just wanna jam to Britney and work on my fitness without wondering if someone is giving me the stink eye. No words have been exchanged. How do I handle this if I run into them again? Do I take the high road and make the first move? Do I call a truce? Change work out time? Move to Alaska?! I need the point of view from someone not biased. Thanks gorgeous, C. Starling.

Hello Clarice,

First let me say "thank you" for being a fan, and for your kind words. One can never hear enough praise. Second, let me put this succinctly: *Hell no* you don't take the high road! They are invading your space. Your ex knew you would be there so he is showing you off to his new piece. Here is what you do: Wear shorter shorts, tighter tank tops and let their jealous stares fuel your workout. You know you look good so whenever you see them staring at you, blow them a kiss or wave really big. Make sure they know they got caught staring at you again. Don't ignore them. Don't change your workout time. Don't move to Alaska, although it would be a lovely trip. Miss Britney loves an audience; so should you. In the words of Taylor Swift, shake it off. Haters gonna hate, so let 'em. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie,

I'm 42 years old and enjoying being single. I've been accused of being a "chicken hawk," and since I like boys in the age range of 18 to 23, it's probably

true. There's been one 20-year-old SMU kid I befriended through a "social networking app" and we immediately clicked. First, it was just a sexual thing, but then became a friends-with-benefits thing as well. It's almost three months now and he asked if I'd ever consider dating a 20-year-old. I told him "no." But we get along so well and we hang out practically every day. Yes, he still has his 20-year-old, immature side come out but he communicates much better than many 35- to 40-year-olds I've gone on dates with. Is it weird to consider a relationship with someone more than 20 years younger than me? Why do I feel weird when I picture myself introducing him as my boyfriend? Please help. — Chicken Hawk.

Dear Mr. Hawk,

Well, well, well you dirty old man. Sounds to me that you just want someone to say it's OK to bone a twink. Do you help him with his homework after sex? You had better hurry up and date him before he gets too old for you in a few years. I bet he feels like Anna Nicole Smith or that you feel like a gay Hugh Hefner. One more, when he calls you Daddy, is it weird because you are literally old enough to be his Dad? I will stop now. Seriously, if y'all like each other, then date. Screw what other people think. He is a consenting adult who likes older guys, big deal. Own your cougar dude status. But be warned, if you start to say things like "back in my day" and "when I was your age" it might get to be a little creepy, Gramps. You're welcome! Cassie.

Remember: Use your brain more. Don't use it, you lose it. It's too late for me, but save yourselves!

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

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



Mi Diva Loca singing duet hits The Strip.



Little Baby and Kevin at The Brick.



Newly-crowned Miss Charity America Linze Serrell, left, and Mr. Charity America Rickey Phoummany

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Oct. 31–Nov. 6:**

Alexandre's: Kristen Majors and Matt Barron on Friday at 10 p.m. Andrea Dawson on Saturday at 10 p.m. Karaoke with Lil Chalupa on Tuesday at 10 p.m. Mi Diva Loca on Wednesday at 9 p.m. Alicia Selix on Thursday at 9 p.m.

Best Friends: Cowtown Leathermen Halloween Fantasy Show and pageant on Friday at 7 p.m.

Changes: Wall of Food Show on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Club Reflection: Best costume gets \$100 and second best costume gets \$50 on Friday at midnight. Imperial Court of Fort Worth/Arlington presents 11th annual Sweetheart Ball on Sunday at 5 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: Halloween Party and Costume Contest on Friday 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Leather Knights Christmas Wreath Auction on Saturday 7–10 p.m. benefits Sharon St. Cyr Fund. Trash Disco Party with DJ Blaine on Sunday.

Havana: Costume contest with best costume winning \$500 on Friday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: Preliminary Costume Contest at 9:30 p.m. on Friday.

Rainbow Lounge: Costume contest and Hocus Pocus production at 10 p.m. \$100 for best costume. \$50 for second best. \$3 cover.

Randy's Club Cherries: Costume contest on Friday at 6 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas holds its election night party on Tuesday at 9 p.m.

S4: Costume Contest Finals at midnight.

Sue Ellen's: Preliminary Costume Contest at 9:30 p.m. on Friday.

The Rose Room: Biana Del Rio on Sunday at 9 p.m.

TMC: The Mining Company: Preliminary Costume Contest at 9:30 p.m. on Friday.

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

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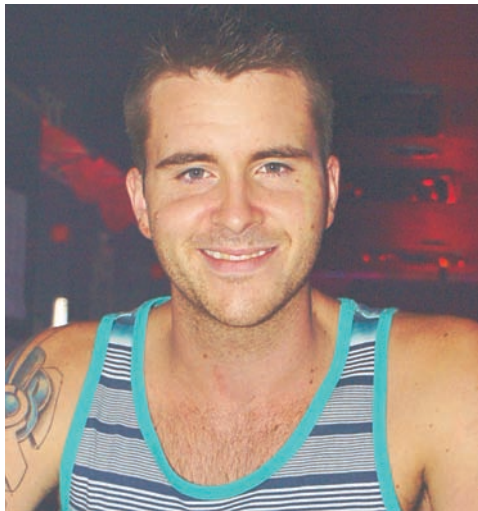
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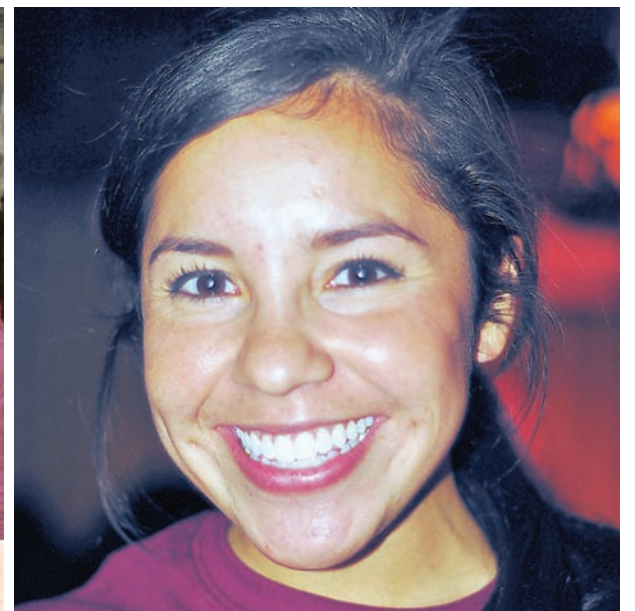
Chad, Glen and Robert at The Round-Up Saloon.



Brian, Lupe, Christopher and Scott at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Party time at Havana.



Kelly at Sue Ellen's.



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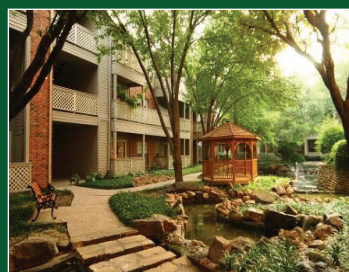
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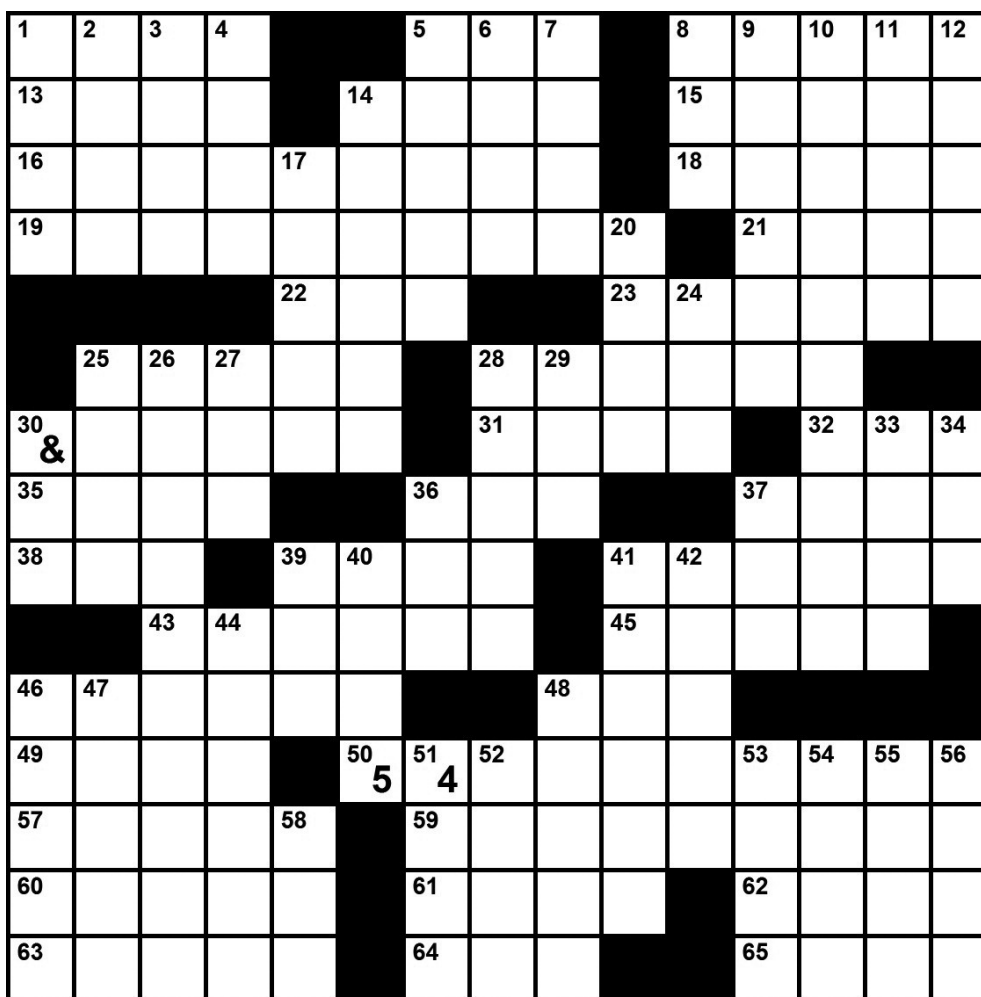
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q-puzzle



Pepper's Parties

Solution on page 26

Across

- 1 Band that goes either way?
- 5 Bear lair
- 8 Can't stomach
- 13 Pride member
- 14 Tutti-frutti holder
- 15 Juice for your pickle
- 16 Group with a mission
- 18 Toned down
- 19 With 30-Across and 9-Down, one of Pepper's parties
- 21 Chapel Hill's st.
- 22 Muscle Mary's pride
- 23 In the manner of Adrienne?
- 25 One who serves a dictator?
- 28 Latin dance
- 30 See 19-Across
- 31 S&M unit
- 32 Stimp's partner
- 35 Fly like a falcon
- 36 "At Seventeen" singer
- 37 Type of straits
- 38 A League of Their ____
- 39 TLC source
- 41 With 50-Across, holiday for one of Pepper's parties
- 43 Pussyfoots
- 45 It is but half

- 46 It may cream your face when you bite it
- 48 Mystery story pioneer
- 49 Excellent, in slang
- 50 See 41-Across
- 57 Scout's recitation, and others
- 59 Da Vinci's eatery
- 60 Balkan native
- 61 Dame of the piano
- 62 Teri of Tootsie
- 63 Lena played Glinda in *The Wiz*
- 64 Match a poker bet
- 65 Tireless carrier

Down

- 1 Karen Carpenter, for one
- 2 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
- 3 Greenish-yellow fruit
- 4 "Diana" singer
- 5 Rock costar
- 6 Business letter abbr.
- 7 Have an opening for
- 8 SDI weapon
- 9 See 19-Across
- 10 Thumb successfully
- 11 Tatum of *The Bad News Bears*
- 12 Wipe over
- 14 Gay rodeo guy
- 17 Liszt of piano pieces

- 20 Pitcher stats
- 24 Rilke's I
- 25 One with a flat bottom
- 26 Tongue expert
- 27 Stud site
- 28 Junior or senior, e.g.
- 29 Solo among the stars
- 30 " ____ it goes"
- 33 Debussy contemporary Satie
- 34 Keanu in *The Matrix*
- 36 Pen contents
- 37 Expected to come soon
- 39 Island necklace
- 40 Standard for a long golf hole
- 41 Hauls ass
- 42 It's a steal
- 44 Lane, who plays Pepper on *Modern Family*
- 46 Memorable period
- 47 Single-named singer
- 48 Moon position
- 51 Quarters
- 52 It can bear fruit
- 53 Runs around the track
- 54 Siberian river
- 55 Old money, to Pasolini
- 56 Male enhancement exaggeration?
- 58 Canadian map trigram

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