

dallas voice

DEFINING
homes
supplement - page 18

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DIFFA @ 25

Longtime DIFFA designer Michael Faircloth reflects on a quarter-century of fundraising and hope. By Arnold Wayne Jones, Page 8

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Cover photo courtesy of DIFFA.



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Sean Baugh named TCC artistic director



Sean Baugh

Sean Baugh, who has been serving as associate artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale this season, has been named permanent artistic director.

Chorale Executive Director Bruce Jaster said the singing membership strongly sup-

ported the appointment and the announcement during the Chorale's Tuesday night rehearsal was met with a standing ovation.

Throughout the season, Baugh has reversed declining attendance and recent shows have been sold out.

Jaster said Baugh would work with the Chorale full time and reduce his affiliation with Cathedral of Hope to part time. Thursday rehearsals and Sunday services would continue at CoH under Baugh's direction.

"Cathedral of Hope is my spiritual home," Baugh said. "I'm excited to be able to continue my work there as well. Both organizations are dear to me and I cannot imagine my musical life without both of them working in tandem."

Baugh has been with the chorale nine years. He joined during former artistic director Tim Seelig's final season. Through most of his tenure at TCC, he has been a conductor of specialty groups and has also served as an officer of the organization.

Jaster said planning has begun for the 2015-16 season that will be announced before this season's final concert in June.

— David Taffet

U.S. Supreme Court sets date for oral arguments in marriage equality cases

The United States Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments in marriage equality cases from Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio for April 28, according to a press release issued around 11 a.m. Thursday, March 5, by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the organization among those representing plaintiffs in the Tennessee case.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue a decision in the cases by the end of June.

— Tammye Nash

TGRA expands spring rodeo, books Ty Herndon

TGRA — the Texas Gay Rodeo Association — announced Thursday, March 5, the expansion of their spring event, the Texas Tradition Rodeo, Music Fest and Fair.

The four-day event, which will take place at Fair Park, will feature recently-out country singer Ty Herndon performing, in addition to other regional bands and a jackpot barrel race. The TGRA has also added \$6,000 in prize money, covering several events including rough stock, speed and roping competitions.

The royalty pageant will take place the same week, starting at the Round-Up Saloon and finish-

ing at Fair Park Coliseum.

The dates for the event are April 30–May 3. Tickets are \$20/day or \$30/weekend pass. Special VIP passes will also be offered. Learn more at TGRA.org.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

When ruling comes, Tarrant County Clerk will issue marriage licenses

The Tarrant County Clerk's office told a local LGBT leader on Wednesday, March 4, that the office will issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples if the 5th Circuit rules the state's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

"If the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals were to find the Texas bans on same-sex marriages unconstitutional and no stay is imposed on that decision, then Tarrant County will begin issuing marriage licenses in compliance with court rulings," said Tarrant County Clerk's Office Chief Deputy Jeff Nicholson to Fairness Fort Worth President David Henderson.

Garcia's office had previously said Tarrant County would not give marriage licenses to same sex couples because the county does not fall into the federal court district in which the state's same-sex marriage ban was ruled unconstitutional.

Henderson added that while he "is unaware of any state district judges in Tarrant County that will waive the 72-hour waiting period...getting equal access to a license is the more crucial step."

— James Russell

Rodriguez, 4 more senators file state anti-discrimination bill

Texas Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso, on Monday, March 2 introduced SB 856, a statewide anti-discrimination bill that bans discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing and state contracting based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Co-authors for the bill are Sens. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston; Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston; Kirk Watson, D-Austin; and John Whitmire, D-Houston.

Rodriguez said he chose to file the bill on Texas Independence Day "because Texas values — such as hard work, opportunity and The Golden Rule — are the reason why Texas remains strong 179 years later. That is why we must act definitively to ensure everyone in the Lone Star State is treated fairly and equally."

— Tammye Nash

Nebraska marriage ban struck down

U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon struck down Nebraska's marriage ban on Monday, March 2.

Only 13 states still ban marriage equality and in only two have there now been no marriage rulings — Georgia and North Dakota. In Missouri, a partial ruling compels the state to recognize out-of-state marriages and couples may marry in St. Louis by court order. The county clerk in Kansas City also issues licenses. Missouri is not counted as one of the marriage equality states.

Seven couples challenged the Nebraska ban that has been in effect since 2000. The same judge had previously struck down the ban, but after his 2005 ruling, the Eighth Circuit reinstated it.

— David Taffet

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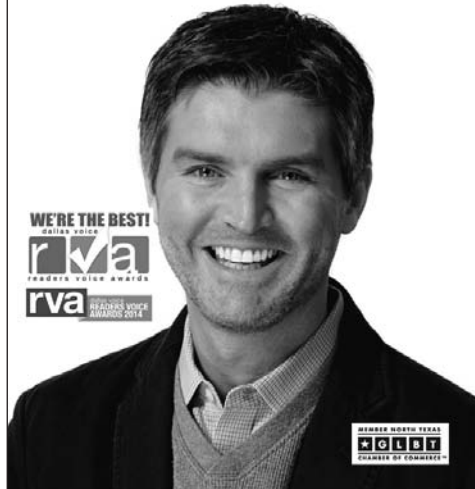
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localbriefs

Jones Day creates online database of marriage laws

The Jones Day law firm has launched a new website that tracks marriage equality in every country around the world.

Recently, the firm's Dallas office offered to work pro bono for city of Dallas retirees who were being denied equal benefits by the Employee Retirement Fund. Had the ERF not changed its policy, the law firm was prepared to file a lawsuit on behalf of LGBT retirees.

Now, Jones Day has compiled the latest information on marriage equality around the world.

Some pages for places like Saudi Arabia, Russia or Texas simply cite relevant law that precludes marriage. Some places like California remain com-

plicated. That state still recognizes domestic partnerships, so the legal differences between marriage and partnership are explained.

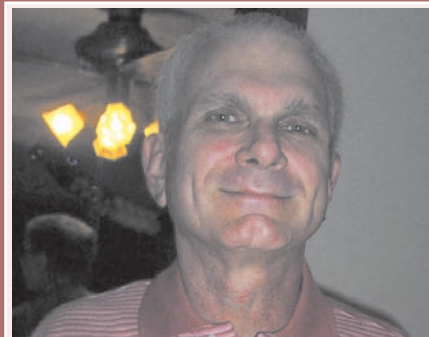
To check other jurisdictions, visit SameSexRelationshipGuide.com

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas interview candidates

Candidates for Dallas City Council and mayor seeking the endorsement of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas can attend a candidate screening from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 7 at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

All members in good standing as of 30 days prior to this event are invited to participate. Others may attend, but can't vote in the endorsements. ■

Obituary



Alan Gorman, 61, died January 15 while recovering from surgery.

He was born in Saint Petersburg, Fla., but was a longtime resident of Dallas. At the time of his death, he was living in Shreveport, La.

He was an optometrist who graduated from the Southern College of Optometry. He was one of the founders of Congregation Beth El Binah.

Alan is survived by a brother, his partner, Johnny, and his former partner, Mark Manning.

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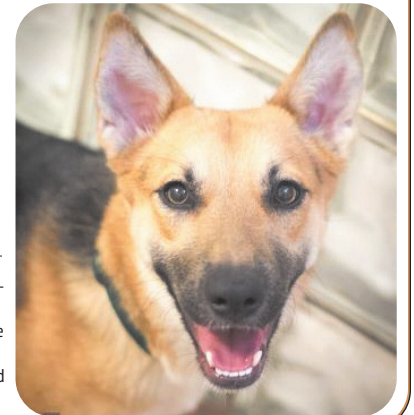
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Brownie and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 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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DIFFA@25

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

One of the great traditions in Dallas — as with all good gay traditions of the last 30 years — started with Madonna.

It was 1988, in the infancy of DIFFA Dallas — the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS, a fundraising organization in the early, deadliest years of HIV — and Michael Faircloth was participating. The origin of the event wasn't fashion-based but interior design-based; Faircloth, just a few years out of college and a dress designer still trying to make his reputation, was donating a dress for the auction. Because decorators instigated the show, Faircloth used fabrics intended more for curtains than cuffs, like the several other dressmakers participating.

The runway didn't go well.

"It was not a successful auction," concedes Faircloth, now one of Dallas' best-known designers (He famously made the scarlet-red inauguration gown Laura Bush wore in 2001). "There were maybe 150 people. No one could afford these size 2 dresses!"

But Faircloth, his then-wife Donna and his soon-to-be (and still-is) partner David Davis, refused to give up on the idea of fashionistas fundraising for AIDS. The three were sitting around brainstorming when one of them noticed a fashion magazine that had a picture of Madonna at a trendy event, wearing an extravagantly restyled denim jacket.

Light bulb.

"The Levi's denim jacket was the perfect canvas. We knew we could elevate the classic piece of Americana into something fabulous," Faircloth says. "We came up with the idea of approaching Levi Strauss to see if they would donate 100 denim jackets. Then we would use our connections at Neiman-Marcus to get the jackets [circulated among] designers around the country."

They had no prior relationship with anyone at Levi's, but that didn't stop them. The iconic brand was (and is) based in San Francisco, where AIDS wreaked the most devastation.

Davis flew there on the errand of mercy with high hopes. Still, even they were surprised and delighted that Levi's quickly agreed.

"They were very excited. The hardest part was coordinating [delivery] of the jackets to very high-profile designers of the time," Faircloth says.

Faircloth won't even speculate about what would have happened if Levi's had said no. Having Levi's stamp of approval at a time when HIV was not something the rich and powerful cared to acknowledge, much less discuss openly, was just one vital step that helped transform a community benefit into one of the preeminent HIV/AIDS fundraisers.

For two decades "the Dallas Collection" was synonymous with repurposed jeanswear — not in Size 2s, not even exclusively for women, but a panoply of celebrity-designed coats and eveningwear that made DIFFA a brand of Dallas, eventually reaching around the nation.

Faircloth still remembers virtually every jacket he designed: "I tried to make them extraordinary, with hand beading and embroidery, and exotic fabrics and skins — I'm in a luxurious industry, and we wanted to bring luxury to the [runway]," he says.

He even recalls that his first jacket was bought at auction by Joe Pacetti, who is being honored at House of DIFFA this year as one of the Legends of Style.

"I remember the incredible talent and art of design that Michael possessed and does still possess," Pacetti recalls. "Those denim jackets were the real start of people being made aware of DIFFA and the awareness of AIDS. Prices were minimal then and fortunately have risen over the years to benefit the cause."

(Back then, it was just the clothes themselves that raised the money; there weren't "packages" — airline tickets, weeks in Italian villas, etc. — to nudge the sales along.)

"I believe I have purchased 19 jackets over the years, and have gifted every single one on the condition that when they wear the jacket, they spread the word about DIFFA," Pacetti says.

The system worked. Dallas' DIFFA event is still the best-known ... as it was always destined to be.

"Even after that first show, I had no doubt we would make it work — we had to make it work," Faircloth says. "We knew we would make it the biggest and the best."

In some ways, they had to. In the 1980s and

■ DIFFA, Page 15

Legends

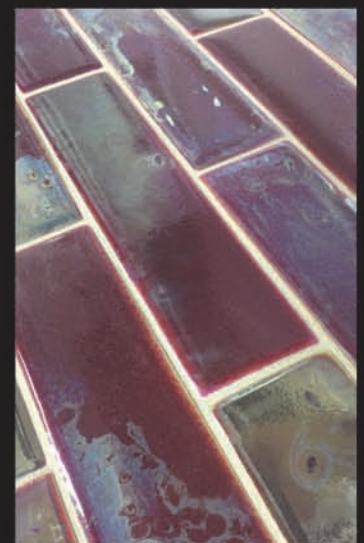
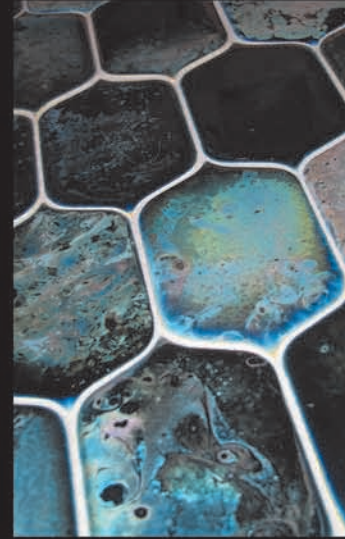
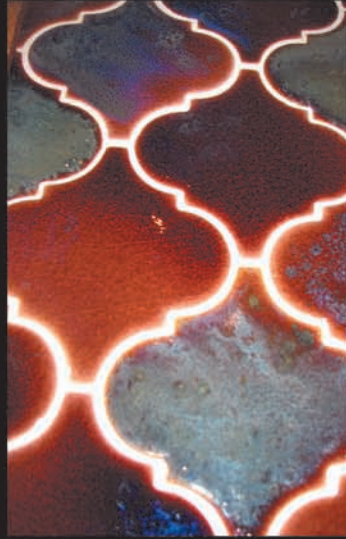
DIFFA/Dallas' 2105 Style Council Ambassadors for 2015 are Jenn Clark, Ralph Randall, Debra Nelson, Norma Johnson, Patrick Ware, Scott Ken, Shayne Robinson, Jody Stein and Jenna Alexander

DIFFA/Dallas' Legends of Style — some of the most successful and influential past Style Council Ambassadors brought back this year to help commemorate the 25th DIFFA/Dallas gala — are Simona Beal, Don Gaiser, Rebecca Hallam, Gillian Breidenbach, Joe Pacetti, David Kiger and Matrice Kirk.

The Style Council Ambassadors and Legends of Style were introduced last October in a reception at Neiman Marcus Downtown. Both Style Council Ambassadors and Legends of Style represent DIFFA/Dallas as ambassadors to the community for the 2014-2015 season. They help raise awareness about the organization and continue efforts to educate people about HIV/AIDS and prevent spread of the disease.



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Green light

After 19 years, a married couple is no longer threatened with separation since the non-U.S.-born partner received his green card

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

RafiQ Salleh Flowers hopes to be in the newspaper only once more — when he receives his U.S. citizenship. For now, he's proud to show off his new green card.

Salleh has been working on his obtaining his permanent resident status since he and husband Cannon Flowers met 19 years ago. And it hasn't been easy.

Along the way, he was detained in Singapore. Twice. Homeland Security mistook him for another other RafiQ Salleh, the terrorist they were already holding in Guantanamo.

Salleh remained in the U.S. on an entrepreneurial visa by starting a business. But when it came time to renew that visa two years later, he ended

up managing his North Dallas business in the middle of the night from halfway around the world while he was being detained in his home country awaiting a visa that had already been approved.

Once a member of Congress had to intervene on his behalf to get him back home to Dallas.

After 19 years, Salleh now shows off his green card to anyone who asks. His husband said at least three times a day he repeats, "I have a green card."

Salleh and Flowers met in Singapore. Flowers was there for two-and-a-half years, working for Texas Instruments. When that assignment ended in 1998, Salleh moved to Dallas with Flowers on a student visa.

After receiving every degree he could possibly earn and no longer qualifying for a student visa, Salleh remained in the U.S. on an entrepreneurial visa.

What Salleh couldn't get was permanent residency based on his relationship with an American citizen. The Defense of Marriage Act prevented the federal government from recognizing their relationship.



PROUD DALLASITE | RafiQ Salleh proudly shows off his green card. The *Windsor* decision paved the way for him to attain his permanent residency status. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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That changed after the U.S. v Windsor case overturned one section of DOMA. Since the June 2013 ruling, one federal agency after another has announced it would recognize same-sex marriages based on place of celebration. The U.S. Department of Immigration announced more than a year ago it would recognize marriages of same-sex couples for visa and citizenship purposes.

In January 2014, Salleh and Flowers went to San Francisco to obtain a marriage license, then began the application process for a green card in June. By October, they received confirmation that the application was in process and, in January, a final interview was scheduled for February.

Before the interview, Salleh had to go for a medical exam. Flowers said that was a holdover from the AIDS crisis when someone with HIV was excluded from coming into the country.

Flowers said their attorney, John Nechman, prepped them for the interview. Nechman told them they'd probably be interviewed together. He said he had straight couples they'd separated during the interview, but never a same-sex couple.

But shortly after the interview began, Salleh said, Flowers was taken out of the room.

"I don't think the officer had done one of these before," Flowers said.

Dallas immigration attorney Josh Turin said in heterosexual marriages, there are high incidents of fraud, maybe as high as 20 percent of cases filed. With same-sex couples, he said, there's a well-spring of cases, with most of the applications for long-term couples.

"There's little doubt of the sincerity," Turin said.

Salleh said his impression was the officer wasn't comfortable talking to a same-sex couple.

The questions were designed to see whether they were actually a couple — things like what had they done over the past week.

The rest of the time the officer spent with Salleh was reviewing the application — visas he's had over the years, letters of recommendation and other items in the file.

Turin said part of the application process is simply proving you're a couple. Not only would official documents like a marriage license be included, but pictures together in different places, letters from friends confirming the relationship and leases or utility bills paid jointly.

When Flowers was called into the interview, he said he was asked about what visas Salleh has had over the years and what the couple did the previous Sunday — where they were, what they ate, who they were with.

Their answers matched, but that wouldn't surprise anyone who knew the couple. When Salleh and Flowers were separated for two months because Homeland Security put a hold on Salleh's visa before he was boarding the plane back to the U.S., Flowers could only have been described as morose. Together, they often finish each other's sentences.

Once the interview was finished, the officer told Flowers and attorney Nechman, who sat through the interviews, they'd have an answer shortly, then asked if they had any questions for him. Flowers said no, but Nechman said he had a ques-



Cannon Flowers, left, and Rafiq Salleh

■ GREEN LIGHT, Page 13

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Conservatives' last stand

Cruz's efforts to stop marriage equality aren't likely to succeed; Huckabee doesn't seem to understand how government works

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee made a peculiar argument on Jan. 20 on conservative political commentator Hugh Hewitt's radio show. The 2016 presidential aspirant said, in essence, just because federal courts strike down state same-sex marriage bans, the president or Congress or state governors and legislatures don't have to follow those rulings.

"If the federal Supreme Court rules that same-sex marriage is protected under the 14th Amendment, you still have to have Congress and the president act to agree with it, because one branch of government does not overrule the other two," Huckabee said.

"Constitutionally, the courts cannot make a law," he added. "They can interpret one. And then the legislature has to create enabling legislation, and the executive has to sign it, and has to enforce it."

Another 2016 presidential aspirant, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has used similar language. The fiery Republican has consistently slammed federal judges for what he calls "judicial activism" — or what political partisans describe as legislation from the judicial branch.

While Huckabee's rambling statement seems to show a lack of comprehension about how the three branches of the federal government actually interact, Cruz's efforts are, according to one observer, part of social conservatives' last stand against the inevitable nationwide recognition of

same-sex marriage. "They're going back to the states' rights argument, saying states should decide if it recognizes marriages," said Austin lawyer Brian Thompson.

Thompson recently represented Austin couple Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant in a legal battle over the couple's marriage license, which was appealed to the Texas Supreme Court by state Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Thompson said it's also a change in tactics for the right wing.

"It's different from what it used to be. [Social conservatives] now realize when you say 'outlaw same-sex marriage,' there's no political argument to hide behind. You look like a bully even in states without same-sex marriage. But if you say 'let states decide,' you still have political backing," Thompson said.

But potential 2016 presidential candidates are looking for a different type of political backing, said Matthew Wilson, an associate professor of political science at Southern Methodist University. They're looking for the voters pivotal to primary election success.

Unlike legal scholars, politicians use "more sweeping and broader statements" to get a point across. The election tactic is more about campaign messaging than it is legal maneuvering.

"Legal scholars look at the nitty-gritty. Politicians just want to say, 'Washington, D.C. can't tell us what to do,'" Wilson said.

But Cruz and Huckabee are taking different routes to 2016. Huckabee is campaigning, he's just using less reliable arguments, in part because he has a narrow appeal, just targeting evangelical Protestants, Wilson said. Though a reliable GOP voting bloc, without distinguishing himself when it comes to other policies, Huckabee won't make it as far as a candidate like Cruz in the presidential primary election.

Cruz also has the advantage of currently serv-



Ted Cruz, above, and Mike Huckabee, above right.



ing as an elected official. Using his bully pulpit in the U.S. Senate, Cruz has re-introduced, with 11 other senators, the State Marriage Defense Act on Feb. 10. (He first introduced in the bill in 2014 with hard-right Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah.) The purpose of the bill is to circumvent the expected U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning marriage equality bans.

Ultimately arguing marriage equality is “a question for the states,” Cruz has also inserted language stating his support for “traditional marriage.” He also plans to introduce a constitutional amendment barring federal recognition of same-sex marriage later this year.

For a constitutional amendment to pass, “there has to be an overwhelming national consensus,” Wilson said. An amendment must pass with a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate and be ratified by three-fourths of states at a constitutional convention.

None of those outcomes are likely — something Cruz will use to his advantage, Wilson suggested.

“Cruz wants to tell primary voters he tried [to stop same-sex marriage],” Wilson said.

But, Wilson continued, there may be legal precedent to punt same-sex marriage recognition back to the states.

When Supreme Court justices hear arguments

in four cases stemming from the Sixth Circuit Court appellate decision upholding bans on same sex marriage or marriage recognition in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee in April, the justices face two questions. The first asks if the 14th Amendment of the Constitution requires states to issue same-sex marriage licenses. The second asks if the 14th Amendment requires states that do not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples to recognize the marriages of those couples performed in jurisdictions that do recognize same-sex marriage.

Aside from the case of *Loving v. Virginia*, which legalized mixed race marriages, “marriage is traditionally regulated and defined by the states.” States define the age of consent, kinship and blood relations, for example.

Constitutionally, Texas A&M University law professor Meg Penrose previously told the Voice, answering the question of whether or not states are compelled to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples could be a big step.

But whether presidential aspirants like Cruz or Huckabee will continue to address same-sex marriage and other LGBT issues after the Supreme Court’s likely June ruling remains to be seen. ■

■ GREEN LIGHT, Page 11

tion — would his client be approved?

When he didn’t get a direct answer, he asked several more times. The officer finally indicated that there was no problem.

Within a few days, Salleh’s green card arrived in the mail.

Nechman said because Salleh and Flowers were not married a full two years before the green card was issued, Salleh received a provisional two-year card. In 2016, they’ll have to re-apply, this time for a full 10-year green card.

Three years after having his green card, Salleh can finally apply for citizenship.

“This was one of the strongest cases I’ve ever filed,” Nechman said. “Their story couldn’t have

been more detailed.”

Turin said it is a good idea for any couple seeking a green card to have at least a consultation with an attorney familiar with all the changes in policy for same-sex couples.

He warned that other factors that may have nothing to do with the validity of the relationship may need to be fixed before applying for the green card. Other things may not be able to be fixed, but he said it’s better to know that before spending a lot of money on the application process.

Turin called the atmosphere “extremely favorable” for same-sex couples applying for permanent resident status for the non-U.S. spouse.

“They’re bending over backwards,” Turin said. “These interviews have gone quickly and smoothly for us.” ■



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THE GAY AGENDA

MARCH

• **Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.**

• **March 7: 25th Anniversary of House DIFFA Celebration**

DIFFA/Dallas celebrates the 25th anniversary of its House of DIFFA black-tie fundraiser benefitting numerous North Texas AIDS service organizations. Silent/live auctions, seated dinner and fashion runway show begins at 6 p.m. at the Omni Hotel Downtown Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St. Ticket prices vary and are available at Bit.ly/1ID2U2Y. For more information visit DiffaDallas.org.

• **March 7: Stonewall Democrats Candidate and Endorsement Screening**

Takes place 9 a.m.–4 p.m. upstairs at Sue Ellen's. Open to the public but membership must be current or renewed at least 30 days prior in order to participate with the Endorsement Committee. 30-day deadline was Thursday, Feb. 5th. For more information visit StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org.

• **March 10: Women's Chorus of Dallas' The Voices of Women concert**

WCD partners with the Texas Woman's University Concert Choir and University of North Texas Women's Chorus to celebrate the music of women composers at 7 p.m. at Dallas City Performance Hall. Tickets are \$20. For more information or to purchase tickets call 214-520-7828 or visit TWCD.org.

• **March 11: GEAR: Trans*men Community Session**

Monthly meeting with discussion topics relating to masculine gender identity and transitioning. 6–8 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.

• **March 12-15: TBRU 20 — Bears On Studio 54: Return to the Discotheque**

Annual Texas Bear Round Up gathering at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 N Stemmons Freeway. Call 682-231-2624 or email customerservice@tbru.org for more information. Register online at TBRU.org/?page_id=12.

• **March 12: TBRU 20 BearDance**

Texas Bear Round Up hosts fundraiser for HIV/AIDS organizations 8 p.m.–4 a.m. at Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. \$25 advanced tickets or \$35 at the door. Register online at Tbru.org/?page_id=12.

• **March 13-14: End with Red: A Time for Solidarity**

The Afiya Center's second annual weekend fundraiser and symposium on the reproductive justice movement includes dinner with a presentation by guest speaker Bylye Avery at 6 p.m. on Friday. Faith-based roundtable discussion on the church's position on women's issues such as HIV/AIDS at 9 a.m. Both events at Academy of Black Arts and Letters, 1309 Canton Rd. Register online at Bit.ly/1z8d8Rq.

• **March 13: High Tech Happy Hour**

Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and straight ally employee diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Ten Bells Tavern, 232 West 7th St. For more information e-mail Paul.von.Wupperfeld@pavw@ti.com.

• **March 14: #NOH8Worldwide open photo shoot**

Photo shoot with Adam Bouska benefitting NO8 campaign. 2–5 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, 14115 Hillcrest Road. Single/Solo Photos: \$40. Couple/Group Photos: \$25 per person. Cash and credit cards only. For more information visit Noh8Campaign.com.

• **March 17: JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club: Dispatched With Cause by Jeanne Barrett McGill**

Monthly book club discussion open to all women 7–9 p.m. at ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. Free. For more information e-mail jewel@myresourcecenter.org.

• **March 18: GEAR Women's Rap Session**

Peer group discusses topics relating to feminine gender identity and transitioning every third Wednesday of the month. 6–8 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.

• **March 19: Log Cabin Republicans Host 5th Circuit Judge**

Log Cabin Republicans-Dallas hosts Justice Bill Whitehill of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which is currently examining Texas' same-sex marriage case. Whitehill will discuss the 5th Circuit and how it works. A question-and-answer session follows. The Vera Cruz Café, 408 North Bishop, Suite 107. Meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m. RSVP at Bit.ly/18il6Am.

For more information e-mail Chad M. Terry at logcabindallastx@gmail.com.

• **March 19: Urban Engagement Book Club: Hatred's Kingdom by Dore Gold**

CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

• **March 19: Gray Pride: Senior Moments**

Monthly Senior Moments series discusses topics and issues impacting LGBT seniors. Free. 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail GrayPride@myresourcecenter.org.

• **March 19: First Annual Mr. and Mrs. AIDS Walk South Dallas 2015**

Benefit for AIDS Walk South Dallas 2015 with guest DJ, performers and drag contest at 11 p.m. at The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. Registration begins at 4 p.m. \$10 cover. For more information call Ivan Nolen at 214-579-0473 or Auntjuan Wiley at 214-455-7316.

• **March 21: Tarrant County AIDS Walk**

Takes place 9 a.m.–12:30 pm at Trinity Park Pavilion, 2300 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth.

Registration at 9 a.m. \$20. Benefits AIDS Outreach Center. Register at Bit.ly/AOCAIDSWalk.

• **March 21: AIDS Walk South Dallas**

Takes place 8 a.m.–3 p.m. at St. Philip's School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Visit Bit.ly/1wxUG4I for registration details.

• **March 21: GEAR Voice Feminization Support Group**

Monthly meeting to study and practice voice feminization training. Free, but seating is limited to 30. 2–4 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail gear@myresourcecenter.org.

• **March 21: Gaybingo: Lucky Charms**

Monthly Resource Center benefit takes place 6–9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Rd. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call 214-540-4495 or e-mail Gaybingo@myresourcecenter.org.

• **March 22: PositiviTEA 2015**

Benefit for Legacy Counseling Center Grace Project for women living with HIV 1–3 p.m. at Eden Restaurant & Pastries, 4416 West Lovers Lane. General admission \$50. Sponsorship opportunities available. For tickets and more information visit LegacyCares.org.

• **March 23: Equality Texas Family Advocacy Day**

Lobby legislators in Austin about issues facing LGBT families. Second of three EQTX's lobbying days at the Capitol. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. gathering at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration preferred. Register at EqualityTexas.org.

• **March 26: GEAR Monthly Mixer**

Make new friends and learn about GEAR and Resource Center 6–8 p.m. at La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. For more information and to R.S.V.P. call 214-528-0144 or email gear@myresourcecenter.org.



Voices of Women concert

Three acclaimed local women's choirs will perform Tuesday, March 10 at the Dallas City Performance Hall to honor Women's History Month. They'll also be celebrating a whole lot more. The historic Voices of Women concert will bring together 150 members of Women's Chorus of Dallas, The Texas Woman's University Concert Choir and the University of North Texas Women's Chorus. It will feature numerous performances and arrangements by female composers, including the late Anne Albritton of Dallas. And it will also honor TWCD Artistic Director Melinda Imthurn's 10th anniversary with the group. They'll open with music by contemporary female composers Sarah Quartel, Joan Szymko as well as Albritton. Solo performances

by TWU and UNT will perform solo sets, leading up to a united closing set by all three choirs. One of the closing songs Still I Rise is inspired by the poem of the same name by the late poet laureate Maya Angelou. TWCD bills it as "a women's anthem, saluting the strength of women." Throughout a woman's life, according to a statement released by the group, may be emotional, "filled with tears and heartaches," but she'll find through the adversity and triumphs that she "has grown stronger and risen a little higher because her circumstances have not overcome her." Thus the closing song of "Still I Rise." Tickets are \$20. For more information or to purchase tickets call 214-520-7828 or visit TWCD.org.

DIFFA@ 25

■ DIFFA, From Page 8

early '90s, being diagnosed as HIV-positive was practically a death sentence. Faircloth and countless others saw too many friends to count succumb to the ravages of the disease.

Yet there was much misinformation and fear, and not enough money allocated to help those in need — not even to find a cure, but just to make their lives bearable.

"Dallas was a conservative city in a conservative state. To get people to donate money or to help out was hard," Faircloth reflects. "We were raising money to improve the quality of life [of people with AIDS] — we weren't really saving lives. The first three or four years, I was having to explain to my clients not just what DIFFA was, but that AIDS was the need for it. Now, Dallas is the 'city of charities' and DIFFA — and AIDS — is common knowledge and we have elevated the event to a tremendous level."

A tremendous level, indeed.

On Saturday, again at the Omni Downtown, DIFFA returns for its 25th Collection (no event was held in 1993, 1999 or 2010) ... and there will be a sight more than 150 people in attendance. It has become one of the pre-eminent social and fundraising galas the city hosts each year: 1,500 people are expected to attend the sold-out party, which over the years has raised more than \$6 million in support of people with HIV/AIDS.

But all things come to an end ... or at least take a break. Faircloth made "between eight and ten" jackets before "taking a little hiatus" from DIFFA. In the early days, he said, he had more time than money to donate; in later years, the reverse was true.

But DIFFA has always remained dear to his heart, as it has for so many in the community. On Saturday, Faircloth will return in person for only the second time in a decade. And he'll see his latest creation — a handmade zebra jacket fashioned from a custom-woven fabric from Barcelona he had specially commissioned — walk the runway for charity.

"It has a strong graphic element — very black-and-white," he explains. "I'm very rules-oriented that way. And it has very exaggerated black fox cuffs."

And there's not a lick of denim to be seen.

That's because, as successful as the denim collection proved to be, DIFFA changed direction a few years ago. They started by opening up the fashions to smoking jackets; last year's event enticed with the theme "masquerade."

This year? Well, it's the silver jubilee — anything goes.

"[The past few years] have shown a whole new chapter in the Dallas Collection," Faircloth says. "I went to [the 2014] event at the Omni, and it was a spectacular show — must different than our first show at the InfoMart, which was still quite new [then]. Then, they just set up bleachers in the main hall and these models from Kim Dawson just walked down the middle. Now it's just humongous, and to see how much awareness it brings to HIV is gratifying." ■

House of DIFFA, Omni Dallas Downtown, 555 S. Lamar St. Doors at 6 p.m. Individual tickets (\$350) may still be available. Overnight rooms at the hotel start at discounted level of \$199. DIFFADallas.org.

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The bigots' 'bigotry map'

American Family Association claims to ID anti-Christian groups with ridiculously deceptive map

The American Family Association's new "Anti-Christian Bigotry Map," which claims to identify LGBT groups nationwide, is long on hype and short on facts. You might even call the map and its categories of "anti-Christian, humanist, atheist and homosexual agenda" laughable — if it weren't so deceptive.

In Texas for instance, the map identifies Human Rights Campaign chapters in Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, Houston and San Antonio with little rainbow-colored balloons. I wonder how long someone in the Mississippi-based organization worked to compile that silly list, given that there are countless local LGBT organizations statewide easily identified.

The interactive map allows the viewer to isolate by state the different categories. The list is led by a colorful "homosexual agenda" icon that sort of resembles a hot air balloon — an apt, albeit unintended image for this map to be sure. The AFA map features about 200 icons nationwide that provide obscure group names in most cases.

HRC quickly ridiculed the map's publication on its website, noting that the organization maintains no offices in certain cities listed on the map. "...

We will not be able to meet at HRC's offices in Dallas and Austin that are included on AFA's map because they don't exist. Gosh darn."



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

Texas and Central Texas. It would appear the humanists escaped detection as to exactly where they congregate.

At the bottom of the map, the AFA gets down to the real business at hand by listing the national headquarters of the Human Rights Campaign, the Southern Poverty Law Center, Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network and Freedom from Religion Foundation. The HRC blog noted that the AFA list also "oddly included" the American Association of Retired Persons and People for the American Way, but those groups appear to no longer be included on the map.

AFA claims on the map HRC "bullies American

corporations to embrace sexual perversion and encourages lawsuits against Christian-owned businesses and states." It accuses SPLC of labeling Christian organizations supporting the Biblical definition of marriage as hate groups, and it claims GLSEN "infiltrates public schools with pro-homosexual indoctrination tactics." FFRF "threatens, intimidates and sues local governments and public schools to abolish all public references to the Christian faith," according to the AFA.

What is most interesting about the AFA interactive map is that it poorly imitates the Southern Poverty Law Center's comprehensive annual list of hate groups, which includes the AFA. The list names 939 groups, including white supremacists of all varieties, anti-government gangs and LGBT-bashers, which are gleaned from extensive research.

SPLC began including anti-LGBT groups on its hate group list soon after its founding in 1971 because white supremacists and others often targeted LGBT people in propaganda and hate crimes.

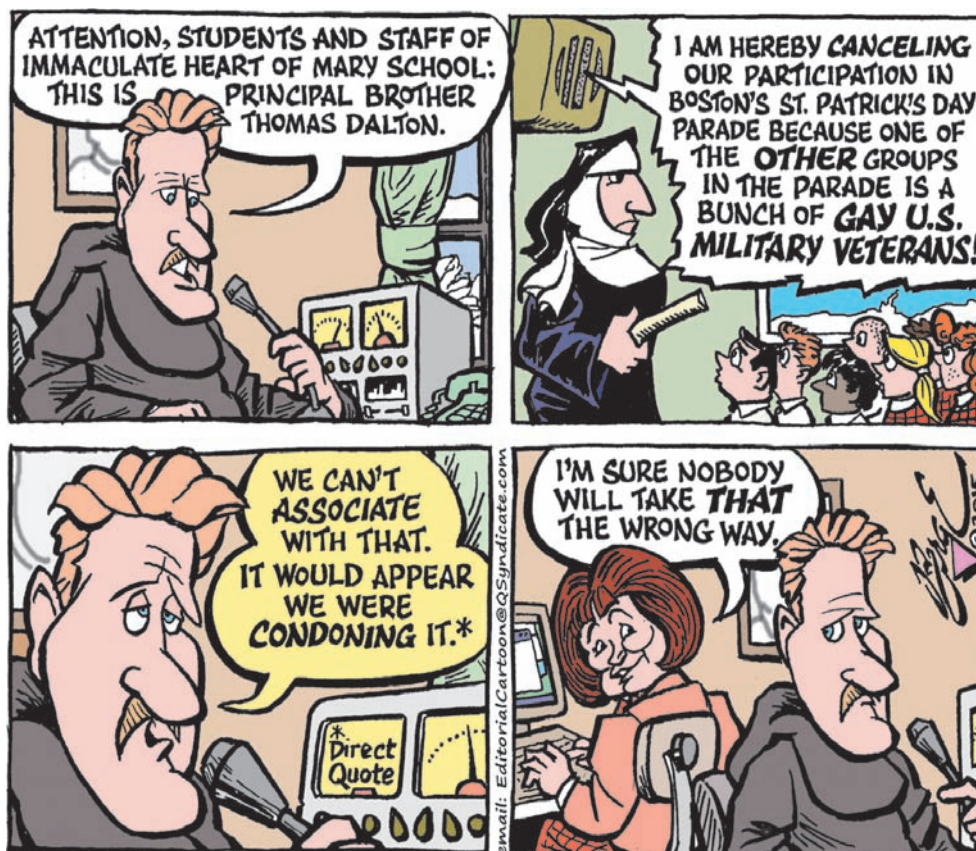
SPLC President Richard Cohen said in an email to Dallas Voice that with the map's publication the "AFA is continuing with its big lie — its claim that we're anti-Christian. We're obviously not."

Cohen noted SPLC also disagrees with the policies of Focus on the Family on a variety of issues, but the organization is not included on the annual hate group list because it maintains a higher level of integrity than AFA. "...We would not call Focus a hate group because, unlike groups like the AFA, Focus does not routinely spread demonizing lies and propaganda about the LGBT community," Cohen said. "And in the case of the AFA, its bigotry is not limited to the anti-LGBT variety."

The AFA's publication of the map seems to prove Cohen's point because it seeks to spread resentment against non-Christians as well as LGBT people. The propaganda also ignores the affiliation of millions of LGBT people with the Christian faith. AFA leaders attempt to portray LGBT people as deviants who want to overthrow Western Civilization by destroying traditional Judeo-Christian values.

Since AFA's founding in 1977 under the former name of the National Federation for Decency the group has sought to censor publications and television broadcasts, disseminate false information about LGBT people and their relationships and promote "ex-gay" therapy. Methodist minister Donald E. Wildmon founded the group, but he stepped down after 33 years, leaving his son, Tim Wildmon, to carry on his anti-LGBT campaign, that sometimes has targeted minority groups such as Muslims and Native Americans who refused to convert to Christianity.

AFA, which depends on donations and the sale of books and other propaganda to operate, is largely ineffective and professionally disrespected



Tastes like irony

This past weekend we loaded up the car for a trip to Phoenix. My girlfriend, Katie, and I were off to visit my daughter. We decided to drive the 1,100-plus miles instead of flying because it is a heck of a lot cheaper. And with all of the TSA hoops at the airport, combined with common flight delays; I'm not convinced that in some cases, it's not actually faster to drive.

Besides, when you get there, you have your car! Awesome!

So, off we went. We left at 2 a.m. Friday morning and ran into all sorts of bad weather. Just outside of Abilene, we hit snow and for the next 300 miles, I20 was a slip-and-slide.

We stopped often enough to get coffee and gas and to get rid of coffee, if you catch my drift.

Things cleared up after 300 miles or so, and we made it to my daughter's house by 9 p.m. It

Katie nor I attacked anyone. We didn't harass anyone.

We just did what the other women were doing in there — we used the bathroom, washed up and then maybe bought some coffee and got back on the road.

Perhaps the most amusing visit to the women's room was at a truck stop in New Mexico. Katie was filling the car with gas and I went inside the truck stop to use the bathroom and get a candy bar. This was a fairly large restroom with maybe six stalls in it. As I entered the women's room I saw two other women at the sink and we made a little idle chit-chat before I stepped into the stall and began to pee.

While I was in the stall, I heard the bathroom door open and a woman say, "Hey, you're in the wrong bathroom!" Then a male voice offered profuse apologies as he quickly left.

After the interloper made his exit, the women in the bathroom began talking about it. "What is the world coming to?" one mused. "Men, in the women's bathroom!"

One feared that this would someday soon be commonplace.

I finished up and buttoned my pants and stepped out of the stall to wash my hands and run a brush through my hair. Two women engaged me, seeking my opinion on just how awful things were becoming.

I said I figured he just made a mistake and that he sounded rather embarrassed. I agreed that men have no place in there and I left.

The unmistakable taste of irony came when I imagined for a moment if an interviewer or survey-taker were to meet those women outside that restroom and ask their opinion about a bill such as Texas HBs 1747 and 1748, legislation introduced by Rep. Debbie Riddle that would criminalize the use of public gender-segregated facilities by transgender folks.

I'm fairly certain that they would express all sorts of righteous indignation and fear about sharing a restroom facility with someone like me. They just didn't know that they just had shared a restroom with someone with a "Y" chromosome (I'm presuming, as I have never had mine checked) even though I have a vagina, just like they do.

Nobody got hurt. We all had a good laugh. What's the big deal? ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

AFA has unwittingly identified them for you. ■

David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than three decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. He also previously worked as a researcher and writer for SPLC. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.



Leslie McMurray
Contributing Columnist

was an 18-hour drive.

We had a really good visit. My daughter is a cosmetologist, and Katie and I had scheduled appointments to have our hair done on Saturday. Chrissy did a wonderful job, and then we went to dinner and took in a comedy show.

Sunday, Chrissy made us eggs benedict. After breakfast we all went shopping; to Victoria's Secret then on to Sephora and up and down a mall or two. We even hit a Starbucks.

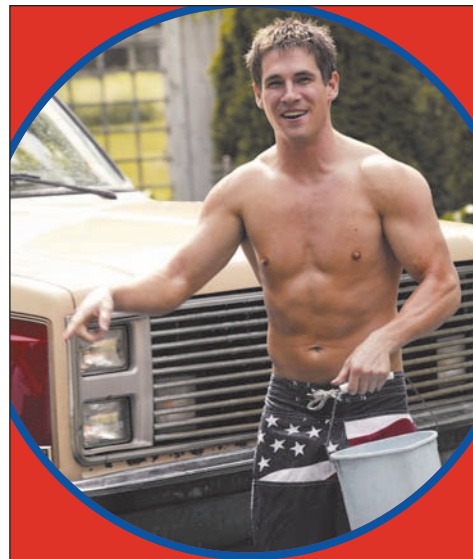
Sunday night we found a really good barbecue place.

Over the course of four days, we stopped and used the ladies restroom facilities in bars, restaurants, a comedy club, a shopping mall, department stores, road-side rest stops, gas stations, truck stops and . . . You get the idea. If we needed to go, we went.

I know that the readership of Dallas Voice is composed of people who overwhelmingly support transgender equality. But if I could reach those who would deny us this most basic of rights, simply because they are afraid of the unknown or have had fear of us instilled by right wing religious extremists, I would let them know that in all of these various visits to gender segregated spaces, neither

as the publication of its map shows. Still, it manages to keep operating because enough people buy into the organization's untruthful and alarmist propaganda to fund it.

About the best we can do as a community is to continue to support the organizations that we know tell the truth and work for our benefit. Now



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Design for living

Dallas' Design District is emerging not only as a business & fashion hub but as livable urban alternative to Downtown **JEFTINGLEY** | Contributing Writer

With humble beginnings as a warehouse district following World War II, the Dallas Design District has seen its share of change over the decades. But what has gone on there in just the last few years has been nothing short of a renaissance. In addition to developments like Trinity Groves and the growth of art and décor galleries, most notable is the addition of abundant living options, as well as retail and office spaces mixed in amongst the area once only traveled to by those only looking at showrooms.

John Anderson, a 29-year-old software developer, moved out of Oak Lawn and into his apartment in the 1400 Hi Line Drive mixed-use development in the Design District a year ago. While there were many amenities that influenced his decision, he's quick to point out the main selling point that brought him to the neighborhood.

"The leasing agent knew exactly what to do to convince me to stay," Anderson grins. "She told me to come back after dark, and that she would leave the key on the front desk for me to see the view at night. The views from 1400 Hi Line are hands-down the best views in Dallas."

The location had the added advantage of being set *apart* from Downtown ... meaning that instead of being within the center of

the architecture, Anderson has a panoramic skyline view from just the right distance away.

"The evening views are breathtaking," he gushes. "I could see the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge all the way across the city to the famous Goat Hill waterfall and beyond. I texted my leasing agent and asked, 'Where do I sign?'"

The development isn't just a run-of-the-mill high-rise, either. There's retail on the ground floor, as well as proximity to the galleries, showrooms and other amenities in the area, and ready access both to the highway and the gayborhood. (Anderson works in Frisco, but wanted to be close to the hustle-and-bustle of Cedar Springs.)

Andrew Gonzales, on the other hand, likes living close to work. The 44-year-old moved to the Avant apartments on Market Center Boulevard about nine months ago, just steps from his job as showroom manager for Gracie, a luxury wallpaper & antique showroom in the Dallas Design Center. He was drawn to the District by the proximity to his job, but also enjoys the finish-out of the apartments and the flexibility of the location to visit other parts of Dallas.

"It is so easy to hop on a freeway or down the street to get to other neighborhoods," says Gonzales. "Plus I am so close to

work!"

Both men agree that while the Design District doesn't boast the LGBT population density of other neighborhoods such as Oak Lawn and Oak Cliff, it's still very welcoming and diverse. (Full disclosure: Dallas Voice moved its offices to the Design District last year, upping the queer quotient. "[It] does attract some members of the LGBT community who don't necessarily want to live on The Strip but don't want to be too far, either," says Anderson.

And while living in the Design District may have been an act of faith for urban pioneers just five years ago, now it isn't just about striking skylines and short commutes to attract residents. The area has lots of trendy restaurants, coffee shops and other perks that make it a true neighborhood.

"My favorite local haunt in the Design District is Ascension Coffee located on Oak Lawn Avenue," Anderson says. "It is very 'Dallas' — they serve [organic artisanal] coffee and have a great outdoor seating area, and what other coffee shop has valet parking?"

But Gonzales knows of an even more off-the-beaten-path place for true locals, especially those in need of clothing alteration: "Orlando Morales of The Tailor Shop, located within the Edo Popken men's store on Dragon Street," he crows. "He's worked for years

On the corner of 'scenic' and 'central': The Design District has quickly evolved from run-down showroom row to trendy living for urban pioneers, including Andrew Gonzales, above. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.

with Barneys New York, and now I don't take my alterations to anyone else!"

Foodies might call it a paradise as well. When not dining on the local scene at places like Medlesome Moth, FT33 and Off-Site Kitchen, you can find the residents of the Design District enjoying its open spaces, which connect to other trail systems for unexpected greenspaces.

"I have a Siberian husky," says Anderson. "While building 1400 Hi Line, they agreed to do a beautification project underneath the I-35 bridge that joined Katy Trail with the edge of the Design District. In addition to many grassy areas around Hi Line and Edison street, a path to Katy Trail is just a few steps away from my apartment."

With plans in the works for more apartments and even more restaurants on the way, the Design District is fast becoming the go-to 'hood for those looking for a "walkable" neighborhood, scenic city views, easy access to the freeway or just a new place to call home.

Now if they could just get a grocery store. ...

To learn more, visit DallasDesignDistrict.com.



John Anderson was quickly sold on moving into the high-rise at 1400 Hi Line Drive — he just got one look at the views of Downtown and the Calatrava bridge at night and was hooked. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.

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DEFINING
homes



Before you sell, here's what you need to know in order to maximize buyer appeal — and your bottom line

RAUL JUAREZ | Contributing Writer

You've lived in the same place for a few years, but that wanderlust has taken over. It's time to sell. But how do you ensure you maximize your profit before turning it over to the ebbs and flows of the real estate market? That's where a good agent can be essential.

Clean and clutter-free. "The least expensive thing to do is to declutter and paint," says Alicia Treviño, a Realtor with Century 21. "It's the easiest home improvement to increase market value. But it depends on what the property needs; if it is something major like foundation or roof work, where you are from a financial standpoint goes into deciding what you are going to do to add value to your house."

"Cleanliness is important," adds Ed Wiggins, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. "You will be surprised how many homes are cluttered and dirty." And he's not just talking a quick roll of the vacuum cleaner and spritz of Febreze. When it comes to making the most of what is probably your single largest financial investment, you want to put in a lot of elbow grease to see the best profit.

"When I say 'cleanliness,' I mean a deep clean — baseboards and everything," Wiggins says. "I call it 'un-decorating' when you depersonalize your house and take photos away and make it less personal so other people can see themselves in that house. You're not selling your life, but the home itself."

Setting the stage. Both agents are firm believers in the value of staging — the process by which you decorate the house with the specific intention of making it a beautiful blank canvas on which prospective buyers can paint their dreams. "You can even ask a friend — one who is critical and is there to tell you what furniture you need to get rid of and who can help you move and rearrange furniture," Wiggins says. If no friends have the kind of creativity you need, there are professional staging companies who can do it for a price.

Treviño recommends purging your space of extra furniture and making sure the space photographs well. "Professional photography makes a difference in online marketing," she says. "Good taste is very important; ask a friend with good

"Paint is your best friend!" agree Alicia Treviño and Ed Wiggins, real estate agents who know a thing or two about getting your home ready for the market. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.

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taste, or follow the guidelines you see on HGTV.”

Taking on bigger projects — judiciously. If you really want to get the most out of your investment, some bigger home-improvement projects can reap dividends ... so long as you don't overspend.

“Obviously, updating the kitchen and bathrooms is something you will always want to do, and quite frankly there are ways to do that very inexpensively these days,” Trevino says. “Paint is your best friend!”

“Updating light switches, outlets and cover fixtures are easy and simple steps to add value,” Wiggins says. You might also invest in hiring a home inspector presale; for a few hundred dollars, he or she can evaluate everything that might be wrong with your house upfront so you don't waste money fixing things that are fine or making matters worse. (It's sad to repaint a room only to be told afterwards that a wall needs to be replastered.)

Neutrality trumps individuality. Perhaps counter-intuitively, too much “style” and individual personality can actually detract from your home's market value.

“Bright color on walls, or painting different rooms different colors, is fine if you live there; if you want to sell, neutralize those rooms,” Wiggins says.

Trevino notes that home gardens may actually discourage buyers — they can be so personalized that buyers who prefer different kinds of plants will find it distracting. And those who prefer low-maintenance yards could be scared off from the rigors of keeping the garden blooming year-round.

“Houses on the inside and outside must be cohesive in nature as well — the outside [should] match the interior,” she says.

'Tis the season. If you have to relocate for work you can't always choose when to put your place on the market, but there are good “seasons” for selling.

“Summer and spring are the best seasonal times to sell,” Wiggins says, though Trevino adds, “You know your home best, and know

when your home looks best.”

Keep in mind that factors other than the property itself can impact when to sell. For instance, the school district you live in might be important to families with children; they might be more inclined to move in the summer, before the fall term starts, to keep from moving their kids around mid-school year. On the other hand, your home might be better for those looking to downsize.

“People are returning to the city — new young couples, empty-nesters, etc., are living closer, and people are commanding more money [for those who want] a closer commute,” Wiggins says.

On the hunt. Of course, you might not be looking to sell — you might want to *buy*. There are some checklist items to keep in mind when you're house hunting.

Check your credit (everyone is entitled to one free credit report a year), get a good agent and find a reliable loan officer, Trevino says. “It is very important to be prequalified for a loan and know what new programs are there for new homeowners.”

Also, be aware of incentive programs, like those targeted to first-time homeowners. Wiggins notes that “teachers in Dallas can get 5 percent for their down payment — they are literally buying places for no money down. It does take some assistance, its important that you trust the person because it is the biggest purchase you will ever buy.”

It also helps to work with an agent who knows the special needs of gay and lesbian homebuyers. In Texas at present, same-sex couples are not protected the same as they are in Iowa or California where marriage equality is the law.

“It is important to have the right connections with the people you are working with and that including the title company,” Wiggins says. “Believe it or not, even if the loan is under your name, it is still possible to have both of parties' names on the title — not all title companies do that, so you have to make sure your Realtor works with them.”

HOW THE OTHER HALF...

If you've ever wanted to live along the Turtle Creek corridor but don't have the scratch to afford it, the annual Turtle Creek Association Home Tour gives you the opportunity to live vicariously. Once again, six high-rise residences — including condos at The Vendome, The Warrington, The Claridge and 4011 Turtle Creek — will open their doors to looky-loos. For \$60 (\$50 if you're a member of the TCA), you can spend a lazy Sunday afternoon in April getting decorating ideas and maybe even deciding if you wanna make the big move. And if you act before March 31, early-bird prices are only \$54/\$45. And there's even an option after-party to rub elbows with other lovers of living (\$125).

April 12, 1-5 p.m. TurtleCreekAssociation.org.



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Lofty goals

Living where you work is an easy fit for entrepreneur Zac Campbell

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer

Going to work naked isn't an option for most people ... unless you happen to work in the adult entertainment industry. But as anyone who works from home will attest, "Casual Friday" doesn't have to come at the end of the week. And there are many interpretations of how casual "casual" can get.

For Zac Campbell, working and living in the same space — in the Mitchell Lofts building at the edge of vibrant, young, LGBT-friendly Deep Ellum and Exposition Park — provides plenty of creative inspiration.

"When I walked up to the front doors of the Mitchell Lofts and grabbed the hand-wrought brass door handles, I knew I was not walking into a cookie-cutter space," says Campbell. "The loft I ended up taking had literally been on the market for about 20 minutes. I walked into the space and because it was being used as an office for a data-mining firm, I immediately had to put on my designer goggles and visualize [converting it to a living space]."

What he didn't have to visualize was how happy he'd be to wake up every morning. The open floor plan prominently features spectacular Downtown views. The 100-year-old wood floors, an expansive galley kitchen (Campbell is a trained chef who used to work as a caterer and personal chef) and a spacious his-and-his bathroom with garden tub convinced him he was home.

A month after acquiring the loft, Campbell met his interior-designer fiancé; their first collaboration as a couple was tackling a re-design of the 2,100-square-foot apartment.

"The loft represents our lives perfectly," Campbell says. "The dining room table seats 14 guests. The 15-foot-long custom-designed butcher block island houses all my cheffy tools, and also acts as a bar with seating for eight." When Campbell used to teach cooking classes, the space was ideally suited for allowing his stu-

dents to see him work (although he admits being a little self-conscious about them also being able to see his bedroom — it's all one giant open layout.)

There is a designated office area for him to work, but if he needs a mental break he's just steps away from the living room that doubles as an impressive screening room with a 92-inch television. Comfort comes courtesy of an Eileen Gray sofa, a Barcelona-style love seat and Wassily chairs. A breakfast/game nook is encircled by windows with views of the city and neighborhoods beyond.

"I'm a total tech geek and the whole house is wired for both visual streaming as well as music. Images are constantly streaming whenever we entertain with screens strategically hidden away so it feels like an ever-changing art installation," he says.

The loft building itself is steps away from Fair Park, close to the Green Line DART rail, and nearby such artsy attractions as the Ochre House theater and hipster pubs. Inside, the converted space is awash in brushed concrete and lacquered hardwoods, and even offers secured parking and a small gym.

But don't think that Campbell is all play and no work. Among the businesses he's run from the space are the aforementioned cooking classes and creating his own food product line ... both of which he realized weren't sustainable as full businesses.

"The space has been my own test lab for my entrepreneurial ideas. Some fly, some don't," he shrugs.

You might think that working and living in what is basically the same large room would drive you stir crazy ... or lead to constant distractions. But that has not been the case for Campbell.

"I have worked for myself for years and have mastered the separation," he says. "The difference with this business is I can do my work from anywhere that I have an Internet connection. There are

times I will be at home working and then times I will head over to one of my favorite coffee shops or communal work spaces to get work done."

Next up is a brand-new venture that will be headquartered out of the loft. "ZacLiving360.com is a culmination of my years as a designer, chef, event planner and basically a life hacker," he says. "The company will focus on a market that I refer to as people who live life with champagne tastes and beer budgets." The first product, which will be launched this summer, is DIY training for couples who are getting married.

Campbell describes the enterprise — called Wedding Planning Unzipped — as an interactive online course that will guide couples through the complex and often frustrating process of planning a wedding. From creating a strong, sensible budget to learning how to deal with an out-of-control, soon-to-be mother-in-law.

"This is not your typical wedding planning site. It's not about the colors, the fluff and the fancy. This course is about setting you and your partner up for a successful celebration that in turn will set the stage for a strong, grounded marriage and not a debt-producing, stressful event that starts your marriage off under duress," he says.

More broadly, ZacLiving360.com is about "learning ways to overcome fears, from cooking to finance, balancing children and friends, creating the job that supports your life, to learning how to travel the world like a queen but on a pauper's budget," he says. "It's about grabbing life by the cojones and making it yours to celebrate."

And for someone who has mastered work and home life, have a view both of the future and of the skyline is easy as pie.

Zac Campbell's Exposition Park loft fits his lifestyle both for living and work — it allows him to get work done and play with his dogs Max and Pickering. Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones.

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Kelly? Grrl

Burleson's No. 1 idol, out with a new CD, talks Kezbos, Midler and more

Before catapulting to pop stardom, Kelly Clarkson was one of us. In many ways, she still is. The original *American Idol*, who memorably erupted into waterworks when she won the first season of the reality show in 2002, wasn't always able to muster the willpower she's instilled in the gay community through her uncompromising persona and liberating pop anthems, including those on her latest album, *Piece by Piece*, out this week

That's just the charm of the Burleson native (now Nashvillian), who opens up in our new interview about overcoming teen inferiorities, diehard lesbian fans who call themselves "Kezbos," driving Bette Midler to "suicide," and that night she sipped some wine, felt "sad" for our generation and wrote a powerful song about it.

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Tell us the moment you first knew gay people worshipped at your altar. Kelly Clarkson: [Laughs] Oh my god — that's amazing! It was the Breakaway World Tour [in 2005] — the first tour for the Breakaway record — and it was so awesome. One girl came up and just introduced herself and was like, "I'm a Kezbo," and I was like, "What?!" She was like, "A Kezbo — [one of] your lesbian fans." And I was like, "Wait ... there's enough of you to have a group? That's amazing! Awesome! Go me!" And she was like, "Yeah, we just love you. We're gonna bring you to the other side." And I was like, "All right, well, keep trying!"

Then, on the same tour, I had this guy, and he was so funny! Because, you know I'm a huge fan of Bette Midler and have been since I saw *For the Boys* when I was a kid, and he's like, "You're our new Bette!" I was like, "You need to aim higher. Bette Midler just shot herself! I'm not that cool, but I will work on gaining the respect of that compliment."

Is it hard for a small-town Texas girl to fathom being a gay icon? I guess it's hard to fathom you can be an icon in general. I don't consider myself an icon at all, but no — I have a lot of gay and lesbian friends and they like my stuff, so I guess it's not so hard for me to think [the gay community] might like my music. But I don't know ... I'm not an icon. I've only been doing this for 13 years. You've gotta be doing it for a good 20 to gain that status.

What was your very first time at a gay bar like? That would've been in L.A., and I was probably 22. I went with some of my friends and a couple of my gay friends, and they were like, "You're gonna love this! But you're gonna need to wear a hat." They played "Since U Been Gone," and it was so funny because nobody knew I was there. I had a blast! The awesome thing is: Because most gay bars that I've been to are all gay men, and [me] being a straight female, you don't get hit on the whole time, you don't get people grabbing you or, like, being gross. There's no judgment, and it's just fun. You're not worried about going, "No, thank you, I can buy my own drinks." It's the most fun club and fun time you'll ever have in your life.

Growing up in small-town Texas, when did you get your first taste of gay culture? Did you even know gay people then? Oh, yeah. Yeah! Nobody was outspoken like they are now. A couple of friends of mine just recently came out to their parents and one was just about the most horrible situation ever. So I think that still happens, unfortunately. But when I was a kid, I had a couple of my friends in choir with me. I think everybody knew [they were gay], but it wasn't talked about. Honestly, I grew up in such a creative environment. I feel like I grew up in a really incredibly good bubble. I never experienced people hating until well into the industry. With *Idol*, people would say

hateful things about certain contestants on the show, and I was like, "What in the world?!" I, fortunately, grew up in a world where that wasn't a huge issue.

You were raised Southern Baptist. What was the journey like to get to where you are now, as a staunch supporter of gay marriage? At my church, whenever I *did* attend Sunday service, that was never talked about. I know that is what the doctrine of Southern Baptist is, but they also said don't drink and dance, but we drank and danced! [Laughs] I don't think I grew up in some hardcore community where people were like that. I grew up in a very accepting household. I was taught to accept everybody how they are, and I admire my mom for that. She's never taught me hate.

How do you explain your bond with the gay community? I have a connection, but I don't look at it differently. I don't ever look at a fan as a gay fan or a lesbian fan or a straight fan — I don't ever look at that. Fans are fans, and no matter what our lives are like, no matter what path we're on, music is the one thing that connects us. I mean, I had so much fun at this club recently. It's called G-A-Y — this club in London — and everybody knew all the words to every song. Even the new one! And they were gay and straight and lesbian ... everybody was there. It was just really cool. It's what I love about music — that it doesn't matter. That's what connects us.

The song "Invincible" alludes to overcoming self-doubts and insecurities. In your own life, when did you most experience those hurdles, and when did you finally accept yourself for who you are? In high school, and you know, I was having a hard time. I guess all people go through it — it's just a different time period for all of us. When I was a sophomore in high school, it was the one time [in my life] I felt like I was insecure. It was just an awkward stage for me. Well, as was junior high, but I just wasn't aware of it yet. [Laughs] I've always been different. I've never been the girl that has to feel like she has to get all dolled up every day. I've always been kind of a



tomboy. I've always been very outspoken, and, you know, my mom is too. I don't know any other way to be. It's just my personality.

I gotta ask about your baby girl, River Rose. Because she's magical. She's a magical unicorn.

You know, in some circles, the unicorn is a gay symbol. Oh, I didn't know that! But I love it. That's what I call my baby!

Speaking of which, how might you and your hubby handle it if River turned out to be lesbian? Oh, I don't care. I mean, here's what I hope for her: I just hope she finds love. It took me a while, man. And there was a lot of heartache throughout those years. You know, as long as she's happy, I don't care either way, and neither does my husband. And we have two other kids as well, and we don't care either way for *all* of them.

 online exclusive

To read the full interview with Kelly Clarkson, visit DallasVoice.com and click on Life+Style.

Kila 'dillas?

Quesa re-imagines the quesadilla ... but is that a good thing?

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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EMPAÑO-NO | Who's ever heard of deep-fried quesadillas? The folks at Quesa, apparently.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the deep-fried quesadilla!

Yeah, I don't get it, either.

This is the thing: Most foods are defined by their preparation. Pastas are all water, egg and flour. Roll it into tubes, it's penne; roll it into thicker tubes, it's ziti; thicker still and filled? Manicotti. So what do you call a quesadilla — tradi-

tionally two flour tortillas sandwiching cheese, beans and possibly meat, then grilled in butter or lard, flipped at the mid-point — that is instead made with corn tortillas, folded into crescents and immersed in boiling oil? Not a quesadilla, if you ask me — more like Fair food. (It's not just

■ QUESA Next Page

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me — *actual Mexicans* confirmed my suspicions.) They'd call that a samosa in India or an empanada in the Spanish-speaking Americas (by which I include Texas).

And yet, when I ordered a trio of quesadillas (\$7.60; \$2.60 each) at Quesa, the new quirky taqueria ('dillaria?) along Cedar Springs, that's exactly how they came out: Crunchy, golden brown, piping hot corn pockets. In short, nothing like I expected.

"These are quesadillas?" I asked my waiter incredulously. "Yes, that's how they come, unless you ask for them grilled," he informed me. "That's our specialty."

Far be it from me to question a specialty.

Perhaps I shouldn't get so hung up on what they call them anyway. After all, the restaurant itself isn't named Quesadilla; if they can play fast-and-loose with the name, why not the recipe? Though I will maintain with my last breath that I was eating empanadas, the fillings were spicy-good. The picadillo (potatoes with ground beef) and chili were appropriately warming during this cold winter weather. They hit the spot for a quick lunch. The barbacoa, while tender, was bland.

Since they do offer grilled versions, I made sure to specify that on a subsequent visit ... and it still arrived deep-fried. I sent it back — there's experimentation, and then there's getting what you order. The replacement 'dilla was exactly what I wanted ... and what I expected.

The finishing touch on any Tex-Mex dish, though, is the salsa, which puzzlingly arrived in tiny demitasse cups, as if G.I. Joe was running a tea party out of a chuckwagon. The shape made it difficult to pour or spoon out the salsas — roja and verde varieties, as well as reliable ol' sour cream — but not *too* hard. Ultimately I (awkwardly) got all I needed.

There are about eight 'dillas at Quesa, and half as many more selections on the all-day taco menu (\$2.40 each, \$7 for three), which repeats the barbacoa and picadillo, plus chicken tinga, chicken alambre (chorizo and peppers) and pork carnitas, but the ones I liked the most were the gringa (al pastor on a flour tortilla) and the slaw-slawed fish taco (where deep-frying is welcome).

On our first visit, the chips (possibly made with blue corn, but blackish) were slightly stale, and the guacamole, while fine, didn't set us on fire with passion. Ditto the margaritas — good enough, but not gourmet. I didn't re-order either on the next visit.

The menu boasts the best-ever tres leches, and while I usually cast a jaundiced eye at such hyperbole, I will say this: The super-moist slab of cake, with its hints of vanilla and coconut, delivered a delightful post-prandial sweetness.

The food is reasonably priced and it fills a niche on The Strip. Actually, perhaps the best part of Quesa is how it understands its market. Among the items are a "hangover helper" (a shot of broth) and a late-night menu that serves tacos 'til 3 a.m. Quesadillas aren't available then, though. Best not to confuse customers with the munchies.

Quesa, 3900 Cedar Springs Road.

Theatre Britain counts bodies until 'There Were None'

Last year, Theatre Britain had a rousing success with its production of the record-setting Agatha Christie mystery *The Mousetrap*. Well, they know a good thing when they see it — they've returned to the works of Dame Ag with what is probably her second-best-known stage show, *And Then There Were None* (sometimes known as *Ten Little Indians*). Which of the guests on this island is a murderer — and who will be the victim(s) ... and why? Opening night is Friday, but it runs 'til March 22.

DEETS: Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. March 6–22. Theatre-Britain.com.



Friday 03.06

**Friday 03.06 —
Sunday 03.08**



**Friday 03.06
Saturday 03.07**

'Rock star' cellist Maya Beiser performs with Wilco drummer

Maya Beiser plays the cello, but to simply call her a "cellist" is to understate what her elegant but spirited playing demonstrates. She has rock-star charisma — indeed, the drummer for her sets this weekend will be Glenn Kotche from the band Wilco — who has arranged and performed pieces not just from the likes of Vivaldi, but also Led Zeppelin and Nirvana. She's presented by TITAS for two shows this weekend.

DEETS: City Performance Hall. 2520 Flora St. March 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. \$55–\$75. ATPAC.org.



North Texas Irish Festival kicks off 33rd year

The Irish are used to cold, wet climates — that's most of the reason they dance and drink whiskey and Guinness ... to stay warm! So you will be in good company this weekend with the North Texas Irish Festival, which returns to Fair Park for a few days of bagpipes, face-painting, dogs in green neckerchiefs and whiskey tastings. It's also good practice for St. Patrick's Day next week.

DEETS: Fair Park, Martin Luther King Boulevard and First Avenue. Friday–Sunday. Cost runs from free from 6.–7 p.m. Friday to a weekend-long pass for \$30. NTIF.org.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Out of the Loop Fringe Festival. Seven world premieres are featured at the 14th annual assemblage of dance, comedy, music, drama, performance art and more. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 15. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

And Then There Were None. The Agatha Christie mystery. Presented by Theatre Britain. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. March 6-22. Theatre-Britain.com.

Gilligan's Fire Island.

Spoofmeister Jamie Morris takes on the iconic sitcom with a gay twist in this bonus show from Uptown Players, a drag comedy performed at the Rose Room inside S4. 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Through March 14. UptownPlayers.org.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Robert Rain stars in the exhilarating show. Margo Jones Theatre at the Magnolia Lounge Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. Through March 14. \$25. HedwigDallas2015.brownpapertickets.com.

Kinky Boots. The smash Tony Award winner, written by Harvey Fierstein and with a score by Cyndi Lauper,



WIGGING OUT | Robert Rain continues his production of 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' at the Margo Jones Theatre inside Fair Park.

makes its North Texas debut. Drag queens, union workers and leather — what more could you want? *Final weekend.* Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals, Fiar Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence. Madeleine George's Pulitzer-finalist, time-traveling play about invention, artificial intelligence and human relationship. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through March 22. StageWest.org.

My Name Is Asher Lev. Circle Theatre kicks off its 34th

SQUIRT

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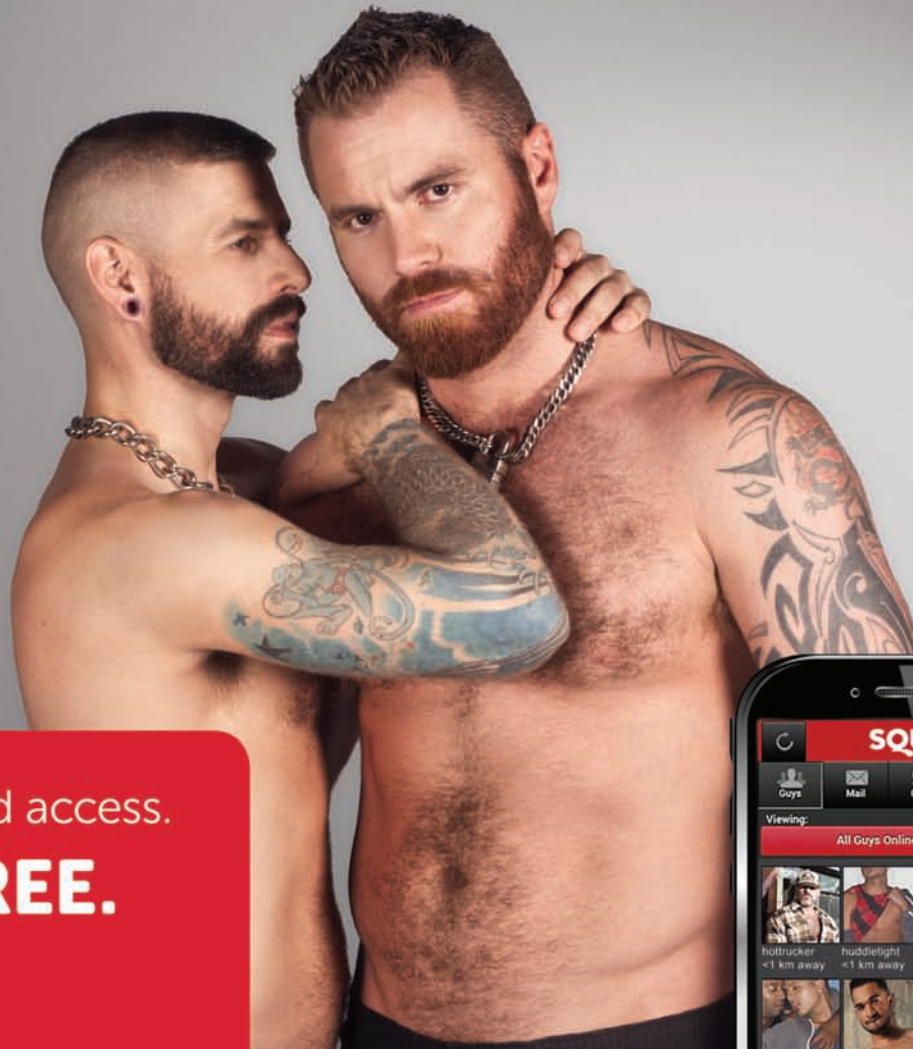
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season with this adaptation of the Chaim Potok novel. *Final weekend.* Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. CircleTheatre.com.

The School for Wives and Medea. Dallas Theater Center presents two classic plays in rep — one a saucy Moliere comedy, the other Euripides' devastating tragedy. Directed by Kevin Moriarty. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Steel Magnolias. Ruta Lee headlines in her reprise performance as Clairee in the gay classic tearjerker for Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. CasaManana.org.

Bull. Mike Bartlett, who wrote *Second Thought* Theatre's controversial *Cock* last season, now brings us *Bull*, which addresses the hot-button issue of bullying. Wyly Theatre 6th Floor Studio. 2400 Flora St. Through March 14. 2TT.co.

Fellowship! The Musical Parody of the Fellowship of the Ring. A campy musical twist on the Tolkein novel. Theatre Too space at Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through April 12. Theatre3Dallas.com.

FINE ART

What's Up Doc? The Animation Art of Chuck Jones. A exhibit celebrating the iconic cartoons of the Oscar-winning animator, from Pepe LePew to Bugs and Elmer. Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1600 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Through April 26. FWMuseum.org.

Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shigara and Sadamasa Motonaga. A side-by-side examination of the art of two of the post-war Japanese avant garde art movement known as Gutai, which sought not to transform matter but bring it to life with experimental techniques. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 15. DMA.org.

Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine. The DMA's conservationists restore this century-old display case of silver, lapis and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

EXHIBIT

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes. The Baker Street Irregulars are the focus of this elementary tribute to Sir A. Conan Doyle's enduring creation, the master consulting detective and cocaine addict. Includes interactive mystery-solving adventures. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. Through May 10. PerotMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 03.06

DIGS

Fort Worth Antiques & Art Show. The 52nd year of the showcase of collectibles and decor. Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3400 Burnett St., Fort Worth. Friday-Saturday. FortWorthShow.com.

SATURDAY 03.07

COMMUNITY

DIFFA. The 25th Dallas Collection celebrates a quarter century of giving in the name of treatment of PWA. Omni Downtown Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. 6 p.m. DIFFADallas.org.

TUESDAY 03.10

FILM

Heaven's Gate. A notorious flop in its day, this modern Western has undergone a reevaluation in the intervening decades. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. only.

this week's solution

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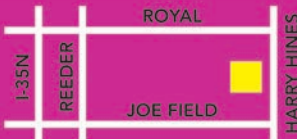
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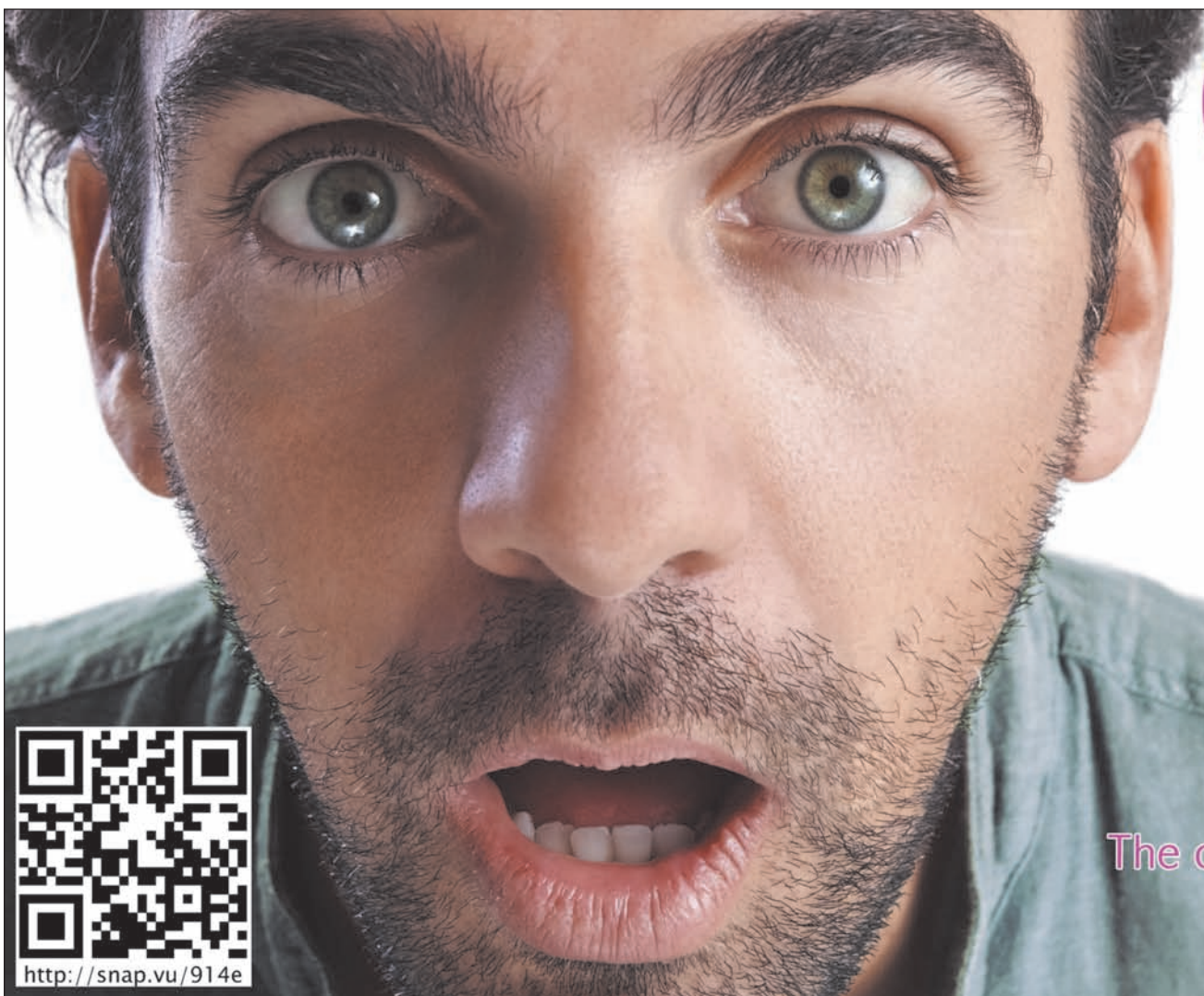
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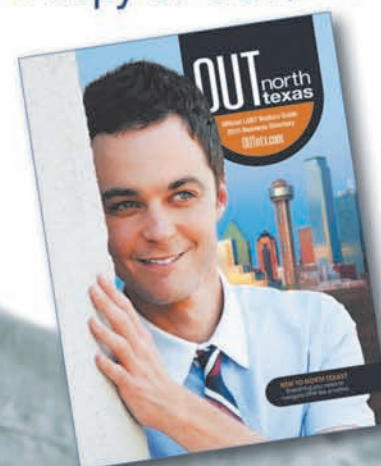
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Cassie Nova

Foul ball! Cassie's abortive film career

What's up everybody? Did you know I was almost a movie star? About five years ago, this lady came into the Rose Room and told me I would be perfect for a movie that she had written and was about to start shooting. She said it was just a small part and would only take a few hours of my time to do the scene. I thought, "Oh my god! My big break! I'm gonna be a movie star!" I of course said, "Hells yeah!" I was so excited.

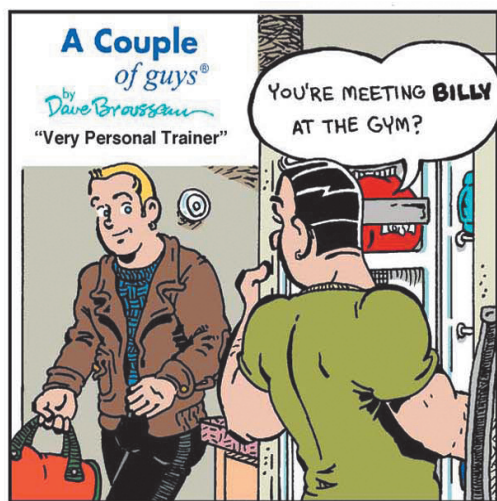
A week later, I was at the table-read of the script. The story was about this guy who worked for a show similar to *Cheaters* called *Busted*, which made him not trust his girlfriend because every day he was wit-

ness to people cheating. The script was actually funny and kind of sweet. I had high hopes.

I should have known what I was in for when I found out one of the stars of the film was the guy who played Bernie Lomax in the 1989 classic *Weekend At Bernie's*. Yes, the dead guy.

My scene I was in a motel room with a guy who was cheating on his wife with a big ol' drag queen. Guess who played *that* part? The movie opened with me in high whore drag on my knees in front of a kinda-hunky guy sitting on the bed in his underwear. When she yelled "Action!" I was supposed to act like I was sucking his dick, then the crew of this show *Busted* was going to bust into the room to catch us in the act. I then had to jump up, lipstick smeared, and say "What the fuck?" in a very deep voice.

It felt as bad as it sounded. But what was even worse was, that they had us redo the scene over and over again, from three different camera angles. The



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filmmaker kept yelling, "Back to one," which meant go back to where you were at the beginning of the scene. For me, that was on my knees with my head buried in this guy's crotch. Normally, I would not have a problem with that, but this "actor's" balls stank — like spoiled milk mixed with feet and vinegar. The tang made my eyes tear up. And that bitch just kept yelling, "Back to one!" over and over. Finally, after about the 13th take, I told the guy to please wash his dick and balls in the sink or I was gonna throw up. It didn't help; his undies were tainted with the stench. Being the consummate professional, I continued to act like I was not about to vomit. When the director finally yelled "cut" for the last time, I ran out of the room, thankful for the fresh air. That was seriously the longest 10 hours of my life ... yes, 10 freaking hours for that short scene.

It took almost a year before I heard anything about the film. Finally the writer/director chick called and invited me to a screening. She had rented out a theatre at the Magnolia so it felt legit. The movie was horrible. You could see the boom mike in most of the scenes, the jokes didn't translate and worst of all, I looked huge! That was my fault. I *am* thick! I was really disappointed and secretly hoped no one would ever see it.

Well, I got my wish. A week after the screening, I couldn't find any info about the movie online or anywhere. Even the website she made for the film was gone. Kinda sad really, that I had to endure that guy's stinky crotch for nothing. I saw that actor a few years ago on an episode of a short-lived TV series filmed in Dallas called *Chase*. He played a slacker guy playing a video game, and all I could think was, *foul balls!*

Now on to your problems.

Dear Cassie, If you're a top and you're on a date at dinner and you know you want some booty later, how do you politely tell that bottom not to eat too much because you want to hit it later? Brian.

Dearest Brian, Disclaimer! Anal sex talk ahead! If you don't want to read about the ins and outs of butt sex, skip to the next question now. OK. Now Brian, you might try the very forward approach and say something like, "Don't eat too much cuz I plan on getting' all up in yo' guts!" Either he will be slightly turned on by your aggressiveness or he will punch you. That's a risk-versus-reward situation. Also, don't take him to a Mexican or Indian restaurant.

Seriously though, I think you might be underesti-

mating your date. A good bottom will know his system and how to proceed accordingly. Good luck.

Dear Cassie, I've been with my boyfriend for 14 years and, as with any relationship, in the beginning we were hot and heavy in the bed. In the last five years, the hot and heavy has turned into a death march to the grave. I'm lucky to get it once every six months. I'm predominately the top and have always been the one to initiate. I'm tired of having to be the one to kick things off, but if I don't, it doesn't happen. He is five years older and we are not kids anymore but I'm still horny! Do I just grow old and give up? Do I purchase a subscription to Guys Next Door and enjoy my life alone? I'm so sexually and emotionally frustrated it's making me crazy. I try to talk to him about it. And he acts like it's the first time he's heard of it every time. We have the same conversation every year. I'm going crazy!! Any advice? Signed, Still in love, but horny as hell!

Dear Horny in love, This is a common problem in long-term relationships. Let him know that intimacy is important to you. It helps reinforce the bonds of your love. After you've been with someone for a long while, it is way too easy to become complacent and fall into a comfortable routine. But sex is still important. You need it to feel wanted and fulfilled. You might try a scheduled monthly date. Let's say the 13th of every month is sex night. No exceptions. Make him promise to commit to this plan because it is important to you. It might take away the spontaneity but you will be glad when it happens. Plus, by knowing the date well in advance your partner can plan accordingly (see the answer to the question above). Start the night with a bottle of wine — a little liquor will make them legs spread quicker.

Your partner might also have low testosterone levels that can really reduce your sex drive. Trust me, I speak from experience. Raise his testosterone level, raise his sex drive, everybody wins. Relationships should always be a work in progress. Good luck in the bedroom! Damn, I feel like Dr. Ruth! Cassie.

My dreams of being a movie star, even if it is only a tiny part, have not faded ... but more on that at another time.

Remember to always 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.



Alex, Sylvia and George at the Round-Up Saloon.



Jess, Ricardo and Matte at TMC.



Bachelorettes for HRC at Sue Ellen's.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 6-12:**

Alexandre's: *Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea* at 10 p.m. on Friday. *Filter Kings* at 10 p.m. on Saturday. *Mi Diva Loca* at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. *Lala J* at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Brick/Joe's: *Dallas Voice* sponsors *Karaoke Mega Star Monday* hosted by *Eric Way* on Monday. Cash and prizes awarded each week of the six-week contest. Open mic at 9 p.m. and contest at 10:30 p.m.

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

Club Reflection: *Texas Gay Rodeo Association* cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. *Imperial Court* candidate show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. *Imperial Court* and *Cowtown Leathermen* game night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Dallas Eagle: *Sharon St. Cyr Fund* fundraiser from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. *Dallas Bears* and *Leather Knights* club night on Saturday. *Discipline Corps* presents *Esprit de Corps* live demonstrations from 10 p.m.-midnight on Saturday. *Dallas Independent Volleyball Association* fundraiser for *Resource Center Nutrition Program* at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Havana: *Sounds by Nonsense* on *Latin Vide* Wednesdays.

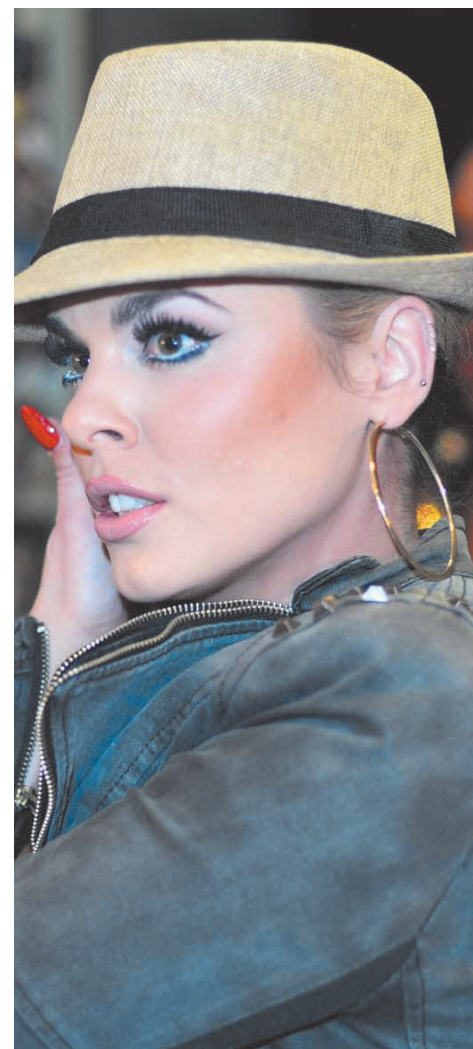
Hidden Door: *Frank Thompson* and *Heather Thomas*, *King and Queen of the Rodeo* present *Rodeo Roundup* at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Rainbow Lounge: *Imperial Court* candidate show at 8 p.m. on Friday.

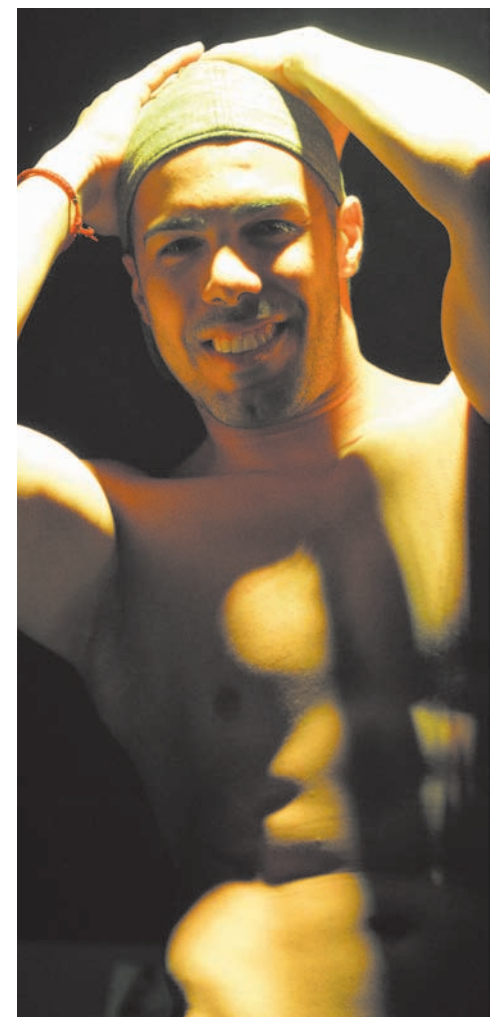
Sue Ellen's: *Mustache Envy* on Friday. *Stonewall Democrats* candidate interviews from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday. *Ciao Bella* at 10 p.m. on Saturday. *Kathy and Bella* at 3 p.m. and *Bad Habits* at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Date change for *Woody's Underwear Auction*. Now at 8 p.m. on Friday. *Uniform Party* hosted by *Jada Fox* with *Miss PSSA 2014 Britney Queers* from 3-7 p.m. on Sunday. ■

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



Katy Tiz at S4.



George at BJ's NXS!



Group night out at S4.



Mike and Juan at Liquid Zoo.



Dade Duke, center, winner at Stoli-Key West cocktail competition at the Round-Up Saloon, with judges.



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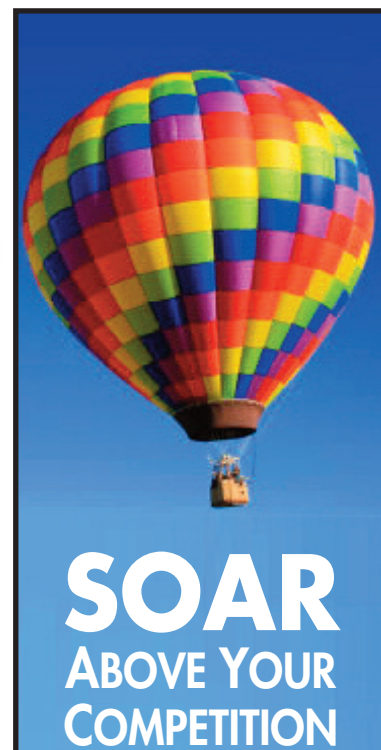
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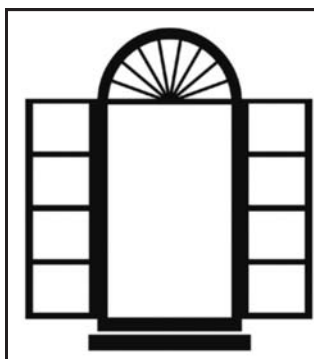
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Encouragement from Oscar

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- 1 Supporters of pansies
- 7 Paul Rudnick's *Addams Family*
- 13 Kahlo's tongue
- 15 Margaret Mead interviewees
- 16 Public image
- 17 More like a day when "you can see forever"
- 18 Start of a message from the acceptance speech of 54-Across
- 20 Judy Garland concert persona
- 23 Adolescents
- 24 From C to D, to Debussy
- 28 Quid pro
- 29 Online exaggerated stat?
- 31 Childcare writer LeShan
- 32 Barney's, e.g.
- 34 Jodie Foster's *Room*
- 36 End of the message
- 42 Bonehead
- 43 Sheik's land, in song
- 44 Men on top, perhaps
- 46 "Stick that bull!"
- 47 More like Springfield?
- 49 Wicks of the WNBA
- 50 Defeating by a small margin
- 52 Sleep with Kahlo?
- 54 Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar winner for *The Imitation Game*
- 58 Bicolor bite

60 *A League of ___ Own*

- 61 *A Beautiful Mind* mathematician
- 64 Broadway composer Jerome
- 65 *Dirty Dancing* director Ardolino
- 66 Sondheim's *the Woods*
- 67 Give some lip
- 68 Splits
- 69 Locker room shower?

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- 1 30-day mo.
- 2 *Cats* inspirer's monogram
- 3 Concern at gfn.com
- 4 Gay rodeo accessory
- 5 Seaman's unit of speed
- 6 Liberace piece, perhaps
- 7 Porter's burden
- 8 US citizen
- 9 Male deliveries?
- 10 Egypt and Syr., once
- 11 Carbon compound suffix
- 12 Outdated atlas abbr.
- 14 Put one on top of the other
- 15 Pumbaa's problem, in *The Lion King*
- 19 Become wife and wife, e.g.
- 20 C.O.'s hangouts
- 21 Surpassed other market bears
- 22 Roaring Twenties' characters
- 25 Family of Williams?

- 26 Cut
- 27 D.C. lobby group
- 29 "Take your hands off me!"
- 30 PBS relative
- 33 Sarah Schulman novel *Bohemia*
- 35 Old nuclear power org.
- 37 Member of the Bilitis group
- 38 Apr. 15 letters
- 39 What Richard Simmons helps you to burn
- 40 G-man employer
- 41 They don't look good
- 42 Initial sound, in *The Sound of Music*
- 45 It'll float your boat
- 47 Sexual orientation determiner, some say
- 48 Carnival locale
- 51 Jeremy of *M. Butterfly*
- 53 Bert's longtime companion
- 55 Sighed aside, to the Bard
- 56 Lo follower
- 57 Salsa rating
- 58 Says, "Let's do it!"
- 59 *Breakfast on Pluto* actor Stephen
- 62 Gas additive
- 63 Tootsie

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