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AG Paxton sues Department of Labor over FMLA definition of 'spouse'

Following in the footsteps of his predecessor Greg Abbott, who sued the federal government over President Obama's immigration policies, newly-minted Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced on Wednesday, March 18 that he has

filed suit against the U.S. Department of Labor over the revised definition of "spouse" in the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Paxton is also taking a page from Alabama state Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore's book and "advising state agencies to follow state law, not the federal rule."

State law prohibits recognition of same-sex marriage, whereas the Department of Labor's rule, scheduled to take effect on March 27, revises the definition of "spouse" to recognize marriage equality and therefore grant family and medical leave benefits to same-sex spouses.

According to a statement released Wednesday afternoon by Paxton's office, "This action is a violation of federal statute, attempts to abrogate Texas' sovereign immunity, and runs afoul of the principles of federalism recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court."

The new rule, however, is based on the U.S. Supreme Court's July 2013 ruling in *United States v Windsor*, striking down that portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that prohibited the federal government from giving legal recognition to same-sex marriages performed in jurisdictions that legally recognize such marriages.

Paxton's suit also fails to consider U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia's February 2014 ruling declaring Texas' anti-marriage equality constitutional amendment and laws to be in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Paxton also apparently has never heard of the "supremacy clause" in

U.S. Constitution, which says that when state and federal laws clash, federal laws win.

— Tammye Nash

Camp Mabry again refuses service to same-sex spouses

Three same-sex military couples were denied assistance by the federal military identification card enrollment center on March 13 at Camp Mabry, the headquarters of the Texas Military Forces, in Austin. All three couples were told by the center's employee that they would not be provided service because their marriages were not recognized by the state of Texas, regardless of the fact they were seeking federal military benefits.

After intervention Tuesday, March 1, by representatives of the American Military Partner Association, the Texas Military Forces clarified that three same-sex couples should not have been denied assistance at the federal military identification card enrollment center at Camp Mabry, the headquarters of the Texas Military Forces, in Austin.

All three couples had been turned away on March 13 after being told that they would not be provided service because their marriages were not recognized by the state of Texas. One of the couples was contacted on Tuesday and given a priority appointment to enroll for their benefits and ID card.

— David Taffet

Caleb Moore, son of Alabama's Chief Homophobe, blames drug arrest on vengeful liberals

Caleb Moore — the 24-year-old son of Alabama's Chief Homophobe, state Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore — was arrested Sunday, March 15, and charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana. But Caleb swears he is innocent and blamed the whole thing on those nasty liberals who are out to get his dad.

Roy Moore is the one who declared that Alabama doesn't have to

legally acknowledge same-sex marriages, no matter what the federal courts — including the U.S. Supreme Court — say. Despite federal court rulings, Roy Moore told Alabama county probate judges not to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and later led the state Supreme Court in ordering the probate judges not to abide by the federal court rulings.

Caleb Moore was arrested in Troy, Ala., after officers responding to a report of a break-in found him and some friends standing nearby, close to a pickup truck that reeked of pot. When they searched the truck, the officers found a bag containing marijuana and some Xanax pills in the glove compartment, along with Caleb's passport. So they arrested him and took him to jail. He was later released on \$8,500 bond.

But Caleb Moore has denied any wrongdoing, taking to Facebook on Monday to defend his honor and point out the real criminals with this post: "This is nothing more than a prime example of how media and crooked police officers and critics of my dad try to not only destroy his career for what he stands for but will go as far as trying to destroy his family. I am not a drug user as the drug test taken today will show. As for the malicious possession charges, justice will be served."

Caleb Moore didn't say Monday, March 16, whether his guilty plea to drug-related charges in St. Clair County in 2013, and his 2011 arrest in Crenshaw County for drug possession and driving under the influence were also the fault of vengeful liberals.

— Tammye Nash

Star-Telegram runs first same-sex wedding announcement

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram ran its first same-sex wedding announcement on March 15.

Joshua Adam Rogers and David Apolonio Hernandez were married in New York on July 14, 2014 after having a ceremony in Fort Worth on July 12. The announcement didn't run until the newspaper changed its policy this month.

According to the announcement, the Fort Worth ceremony was "on the 10-year anniversary of their personal commitment to one another."

The paper listed a best man and best woman and the picture shows the couple holding hands.

— David Taffet

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— Rebecca Covell



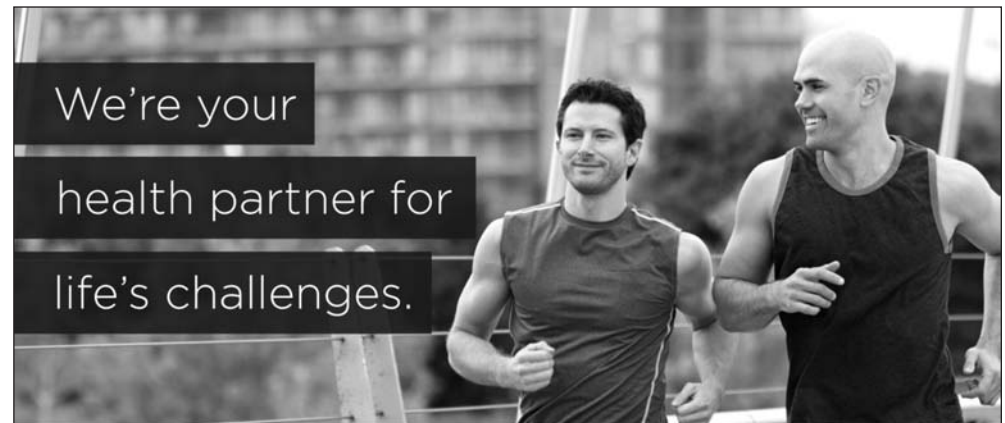
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localbriefs

Dallas Red 2015 launches

Dallas Red Foundation, Red Hot & Ready: The 2015 Launch Party takes place from 8-10 p.m. March 20, at 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Cocktails will be provided complimentary by Equality Vodka, with DJ Sno White and DJ Kayla Kruz spinning. A \$20 donation is suggested at the door. The Dallas Red Foundation raises money for Legacy Counseling Center.

For more information, RedPartyDallas.org.

Michael Sam speaks

The Dallas Holocaust Museum's first Upstander speaker of the year is out football player and Dancing with the Stars contestant Michael Sam. The evening is sponsored by Congregation Beth El Binah.

Sam speaks at 6:30 p.m. on March 26 at Communities Foundation of Texas, 5500 Caruth Haven Lane.

Sam made headlines last year when he came out as gay after ending his successful college football career at Missouri. He was drafted by the St. Louis Rams and after being cut, played on the Dallas Cowboys practice squad. He currently makes his home in Dallas.

WFAA sportscaster Dale Hansen will introduce Sam at the event. Hansen made national news when he broadcast an editorial expressing shock

that Sam was drafted as late as the seventh round when players who abuse their wives and girlfriends and those on trial for murder are given a pass.

For more information and tickets, visit DallasHolocaustMuseum.org.

Second LGBT Advocacy Day

Equality Texas holds its second LGBT Advocacy Day at the Texas Capitol on Monday, March 23 at the Texas Capitol in Austin.

Rather than one advocacy day, three were scheduled for this year, dividing the issues into three themes. This week's theme is "family," with a focus on talking to legislators about how LGBT families are affected by discrimination in Texas based on bias against sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

The first advocacy day in February focused on faith. The theme for the April 13 advocacy day is freedom.

Equality Texas will hold a training session at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St., which is one block west of the Capitol. Parking is available at the Texas Capitol Visitor Center's Parking Garage, 1201 San Jacinto, on the east side of the Capitol grounds.

Equality Texas asks participants to pay a \$5 reg-

■ LOCAL BRIEFS, Page 33

pet of the week / NILO

Nilo is a 2-year-old possible plot hound/Chihuahua mix. He's very friendly and would enjoy being your lap dog. He has been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Please visit him at Dallas Animal Services and Adoption Center, 1818 N. Westmoreland, Dallas 75212. Ask for Nilo, ID# A877921. Since he's been at the shelter since March 3, his adoption fee will be waived. For a limited time, DAS is running a Spring Special for all other spayed/neutered pets. The adoption fee is only \$5.

The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Mon-Sat, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. They also offer discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, to any senior citizen that adopts a pet, and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices. Photo contributed by Judi Bumett.




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THE GAY AGENDA

MARCH

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

• **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 21: Razzle Dazzle Dallas bus trip to Winstar Casino**

First of three bus trips to Winstar Casinos from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. benefits Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Home for the Holidays and The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. \$75. Party Bus will include adult beverages and soft drinks, snacks, entertainment and raffle prizes. Leaves Cedar Springs at 8:30 a.m. and Collin Creek Mall at 9:00 a.m. For more information and to register visit T.co/r7voNP2HBu or contact Info@razzledazzledallas.org.

• **March 22: Lambda Weekly special guest: Mayoral candidate Marcos Ronquillo**

• **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 22: Cathedral of Hope hosts Bishop Carlton Pearson**

Guest speaker Bishop Carlton Pearson discusses his transformation from protégé of Oral Roberts

to progressive activist and minister preaching for peace and justice at 9 and 11 a.m. services at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. For more information call 214-351-1901.

• **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. at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration required. Register at EqualityTexas.org.

• **March 25: AIDS Arms Red Ribbon Society**

Presents "AIDS Arms: Past, Present and Future" Learn about the group's history, mission and vision with appetizers and wine at from 6-8 p.m. at illumine Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road #107. Complimentary valet. RSVP at Redribbonevent.rsvpify.com.

• **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.

• **March 26: Black Tie Dinner Kick Off Party in Fort Worth**

Kick off party reveals year's theme and beneficiaries with snacks and complimentary Stoli Vodka cocktails. 7-9 p.m. at Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth. For more information visit Blacktie.org or call 972-865-2239.

• **March 27: University of North Texas XTE HIV/AIDS Dance Society Benefit Concert**

The UNT's Dance Honors Society presents a benefit concert for the Resource Center featuring Big Rig Dance Collective and UNT Dance students at 8 p.m. at the Dance and Theater Building on the UNT campus, 300 Bernard St., Denton. \$10 admission. Online contributions can be made at Gofundme.com/UNTXTEBenefit.

• **March 27: Dedication of "Targeting" by George Tobolowsky**

New sculpture dedication at 6:30 p.m., ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave.

• **March 28: George Tobolowsky exhibit opening**

Art opening in conjunction with new sculpture dedication by the artist from 7-10 p.m. at illumine Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs, Suite 107.

• **March 28: HRC Federal Club Spring Luncheon: "Beyond Marriage"**

The Human Rights Campaign's Federal Club leadership lunch features guest speaker Sarah Warbelow, HRC's Legal Director from 10:30

a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm Street 48th Floor. RSVP required. Ticket prices vary. For more information and to RSVP visit Bit.ly/1BNjdYd.

APRIL

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

• **April 2: Trans* Network Affiliates Meeting: Dr. Steven Klemow, Parkland Hospital**

Networking event and lecture for transgender organizations and service providers features Dr. Steven Klemow of the Amelia Court Clinic at Parkland Health and Hospital System. 7 p.m. at Brazos Room, Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street. For more information e-mail Nell.Gaither@npride.org.

• **April 2: Annual Dallas County Democratic Party Johnson Jordan Dinner**

Annual dinner honors countywide elected and judiciary officials. Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson speaks. VIP Sponsor reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. at Hyatt Regency Dallas, Reunion Ballroom, 300 Reunion Boulevard. For more information e-mail eventsrsvp@dallasdemocrats.org.

• **April 2: Resource Center Volunteer Orientation**

Mandatory volunteer orientation 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. For more information and to register call 214-528-0144 or visit the Resource Center.

• **April 4: Easter Egg-stravaganza at Northaven United Methodist Church**

LGBT family friendly event includes Easter egg hunts, raffle, egg races with prizes, brunch and photo opportunities with Easter Bunny. 10 a.m.-noon Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. For more information call 214-363-2479.

• **April 8: GEAR: Transmen Community Session**

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

• **April 9: Fashion CITED: A Style Event**

Style show benefits Legal Hospice of Texas. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. Tickets available at Bit.ly/1DGaphZ.

• **April 11: Hold Me Tight Couples Retreat**

Randy Martin, LPC-S and Carolyn Solis, LPC facilitate a retreat focused on same-sex couples based on the work of Dr. Sue Johnson, author of Hold Me Tight: Seven Conversations for a Life-



SPOTLIGHT:

Help a good cause, or five

If you're not going to the either the South Dallas or Tarrant County AIDS Walks on Saturday, March 21, then don't worry - there are other ways to help a good cause without lifting a finger.

On Sunday, March 22, Cathedral of Hope hosts guest speaker Bishop Carlton Pearson, who discusses his transformation from an Oral Roberts evangelist to a progressive activist.

Sleeping in? The Dallas Voice's crotchety senior staff writer David Taffet hosts mayoral candidate Marcos Ronquillo, who recently received an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas on Lambda Weekly from 1-2 p.m., Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM. Or if you can't take another dose of politics, much less on the Lord's Day, lift your legs and head to PositiviTEA 2015, a benefit for Legacy Counseling Center Grace Project for women living with HIV, from 1-3 p.m. at Eden Restaurant & Pastries.

Head north on March 27 to the University of North Texas for a benefit concert hosted by UNT's Dance Honors Society for the Resource Center featuring Big Rig Dance Collective and UNT Dance students. Still don't want to move? They're accepting online contributions at Gofundme.com/UNTXTEBenefit.



Marcos Ronquillo

Walking for money, walking

AIDS Walk South Dallas steps off for the 5th time with additional sponsors and one new and one returning beneficiary

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Organizers of AIDS Walk South Dallas this year have added Black Transmen as a beneficiary, along with AIDS Interfaith Network, in a move that walk Executive Director Auntjuan Wiley said was a great way to diversify the walk.

Steven Pace, executive director of AIN, said the event “helps us collaborate with organizations in the area.”

About 40 percent of the people served by AIN come from south and south-east Dallas, according to Pace. His agency provides transportation for people living with AIDS and offers a meal program and an adult day care center.

For the first time in a year, Pace said, all of the agency’s services will come under one roof. AIN’s former home was in an office complex near downtown that closed. The landlord in its new building lagged in construction and just finished building out the kitchen.

AIDS Walk South Dallas

Saturday, March 23

8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Walk Start Time: 10 a.m.

St. Philip’s School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Dallas
Proceeds go to AIDS Interfaith Network and Black Transmen

The hot meals program that provides breakfast and lunch, mostly for homeless or housing unstable people living with AIDS, has been taking place at Cathedral of Hope along with the Daire Center.

The Daire Center provides a safe place for people with AIDS to connect, access a phone and other services and follow up on appointments. Both programs move to AIN’s facility at 2707 N. Stemmons Freeway on March 23.

Pace said AIDS Walk South Dallas allows the community to embrace HIV and become more involved. He said a large portion of his clients are from South Dallas, adding “it gives us the opportunity to participate with the community there.”

Pace said AIN works with other South Dallas organizations to do prevention work.

“The walk helps us collaborate with organizations in that area,” he added.

While AIN has been a recipient of funding from the AIDS walk for several years, Black Transmen is a new beneficiary.

Carter Brown, who founded and heads the organization, said although this is the first year his group will receive funds, Black Transmen as an organization has been volunteering for AIDS Walk South Dallas since 2012.

Brown said he founded Black Transmen in 2011, and his group has grown to about 30 members locally, with five state affiliates elsewhere in the country. In April, his group is hosting a national Black Transmen convention in Dallas.

Brown echoed Pace’s comments about the walk, saying Black Transmen has a “reciprocal relationship” with AWSD. He said participation allows his organization to get AIDS awareness information out to its members and to interact with the community.

Brown said trans men are generally considered a low risk group for contracting HIV, but that’s because there are no statistics and no studies on transmission among trans men. Classifying trans men as low risk is counterintuitive, he said, since they date people who are high risk.

Wiley said in addition to the new beneficiary, his list of sponsors has grown and diversified for the fifth walk. Covenant Catering Company is among those new sponsors and will provide both breakfast and lunch for walk participants.

Dallas Southern Pride, The Brick and Equality Vodka are additional first-



AIDS Walk South Dallas, top, steps off at 10 a.m. on Saturday with Dallas County Health Director Zach Thompson, above right, expected to participate in the event for the fifth time. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

time sponsors.

Returning sponsors, Wiley said, have redoubled their efforts to make this year’s walk successful.

For a month, participating Walgreens stores asked customers to donate a dollar to the walk as they checked out at the cashier.

The Original Cupcakery offered an AIDS Walk South Dallas cupcake with

Tarrant County AIDS Walk marks 23rd anniversary with new events, hope

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

The first Tarrant County AIDS Walk took place in 1992 in Fort Worth’s Trinity Park, just west of downtown. It was the one of the first major sources of funding for the AIDS Outreach Center of Tarrant County, which began as an all-volunteer organization in 1986.

On Saturday, March 21, 23 years later, the 2015 walk will be held in the same location and will be attended by many familiar faces, all gathering for the same mission.

But this year, we are a world away from when AIDS was called the “gay disease” and there were few viable treatments and no sign of a vaccine, much less a cure.

Then, like now, said AOC’s Development Association Sarina Harz, the walk was a fundraiser. But, she added, “it was also a way to honor those the community had lost to the disease, encourage those who were surviving, and raise awareness in the community.”

Today, Harz said, “the walk is a large fundraiser as well as an educational opportunity and community gathering.”

As of press deadline, 225 participants had registered for the 5K (3.2-mile) walk and raised \$30,000. By the time the walk steps off on Saturday, Harz said she anticipates around 50 to 100 more walkers, and 50 to 100 more spectators, volunteers and vendors.

And more participants means more money raised. And that has Harz feeling hopeful.

“The turn out is bigger than [recent] years, though not as big as the turnout in the 1990s,” she said, although she is worried that turnout may be impacted by weather, with a high chance of rain predicted for the day of the walk.

Fortunately, unlike in the time following the Great Recession of 2008 when numerous non-profits and service providers had to drastically cut funds or even close, AOC is seeing an increase in giving, Harz said.

“The economy seems to be improving, as is our relationship with our donors. We are growing in numbers of donors and in the consistency of donations. We will soon announce another matching gift program to accompany our Red Ribbon Circle giving society,” she said.

The AIDS Walk was AOC’s biggest fundraiser until the organization merged with Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network in 2009. Having grown in size, the organization created Evening of Hope, which takes place this year on May 30.

Evening of Hope has grown significantly since it was first held, “so much so that this year we

■ SOUTH DALLAS, Next Page

for life



AIDS Outreach Center board members pose for a group photo at the 2014 AIDS Walk. (Courtesy AIDS Outreach Center)

Tarrant County AIDS Walk

Saturday, March 23
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Walk Start Time: 10:30 a.m.
Trinity Park Pavilion, 2300 W. 7th Street,
Fort Worth
All proceeds go to AIDS Outreach Center to serve women, men, and children living with and at risk for HIV in our community.

will be hosting it at the Worthington in Downtown Fort Worth," Harz noted.

With the glamorous Evening of Hope now serving as AOC's fundraising anchor, the Tarrant County AIDS Walk can take on another mission: education.

"[It's] still a major fundraiser for AOC, but has also become about promoting healthy lifestyles, visibility in the community, and educating North

Texas about the work we do," Harz said. "Testing is also done at the event, which promotes prevention and knowing one's HIV status."

But this walk won't be just like any other walk. New to this year's event will be a Blessing of the Pets and two live bands, including headliners Pocket Theory. Dallas/Fort Worth favorite Mi Cocina will also provide breakfast.

Harz suggested participants' stick around for the public event after the walk ends.

"We have an after party with live bands and performances, the In & Out Burger food truck, free beer for walkers supplied by Ben E. Keith, vendors, WoofKornor [the dog area], and Cook's Children Kids Kornor," she said.

From a somber reminder to a celebratory educational event that is now one of the most popular in Tarrant County, the Tarrant County AIDS Walk has come a long way since 1992. ■

■ SOUTH DALLAS, From Previous Page

proceeds benefiting the event.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation is another returning sponsor, and AHF Texas Regional Director Bret Camp said, "It's good to see communities mobilizing. AIDS Walk South Dallas reaches people who may not be active in other HIV activities."

AHF operates two medical clinics in North Texas — one in Fort Worth at AIDS Outreach Center and one in North Dallas at Medical City — as well as Out of the Closet on Cedar Springs Road. Camp said additional clinics are planned in Texas.

Camp said the Dallas clinic serves people from every zip code affected by HIV including many from South Dallas, even though AIDS Arms Peabody Clinic is just blocks from where the walk

takes place.

"Some people don't want to get their care in their neighborhood," Camp said. "We're pleased to be able to support the community being reached through AIDS Walk South Dallas."

Wiley encouraged people to arrive early to the walk, even if they have already registered, since breakfast will be served. Vendors, including many of the HIV providers, will have booths set up around the field across from St. Philip's School where the walk begins and ends.

Registration for the walk begins at 8 a.m. and the walk steps off at 10 a.m. on March 21. St. Philip's School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. hosts the event. Parking is available in the school's parking lot, but volunteers will direct traffic to alternate parking once the lot is full. ■

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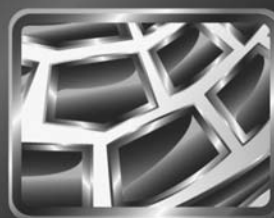
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Walking in grace

Young Adult Advisor Scott Overacker, of Roanoke, Va., front, adds his voice to the debate on whether the church should recognize same-sex marriage at the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Detroit last June. This week, the 87th presbytery voted to adopt Amendment 14 F, recognizing same-sex marriage as Christian in the church constitution, adding language that marriage can be the union of “two people,” not just “a man and a woman.” Eighty-seven is the magic number that puts the amendment over the top for the win. (David Guralnick of The Detroit News/Associated Press)

With this week’s milestone presbytery vote that ratified Amendment 14F, Presbyterian Church U.S.A. takes the next step in its evolution on marriage equality

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

At 1.8 million members, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. is one of the nation’s largest mainline Protestant denominations. It is the largest in the Presbyterian denomination. On Tuesday, March 17, it became one of the largest religious denominations yet to recognize same-sex marriages.

In doing so, Presbyterian Church U.S.A. joins other religious denominations in recognizing marriage equality, including the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the Friends General Conference (Quakers), the Unitarian Universalist As-

sociation of Churches, and the Reform and Conservative movements within Judaism.

But change in the Presbyterian Church did not happen without decades of discussion. Nor did it come without recognition that the church, already seeing a decline in membership, also faces a clear reconciliation process ahead of them.

The vote

At its biennial meeting last year, the church’s General Assembly recommended the consideration of Amendment 14F by local governing bodies within the church, known as presbyteries. The amendment describes marriage as “a unique relationship between two people, traditionally a man and a woman,” instead of a relationship only between a man and a woman.

Church rules dictate that 87 of 171 presbyteries had to vote in favor of the amendment for it to pass and be enshrined in the denomination’s constitution, known as the Book of Order.

That key 87th vote came from the Presbytery of the Palisades in Fair Lawn, N.J., on Tuesday, se-

curing ratification of the amendment, effective June 21.

Grace Presbytery, which covers both Dallas and Fort Worth, had already voted in favor of Amendment 14F. Even though ratification is inevitable, 41 presbyteries voted against the Amendment and one is tied.

Per church policy, 84 presbyteries still have the opportunity to vote before the June ratification.

Long time coming

The move was long overdue to the Rev. Fritz Ritsch, pastor of St. Stephen Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. His church, near the Texas Christian University campus, has long been known as an inclusive church. But like many other religious traditions, it has been divided on same-sex marriage.

Ritsch said he remembers the history of the church’s struggle to reconcile with issues of sexual orientation.

In 1991 the church’s Special Committee on Human Sexuality released two “sexuality reports” at its 203rd General Assembly as part of the recon-

ciliation process, Ritsch said. Initially meant to be a comprehensive document, the commissioners couldn’t reach a middle ground; it resulted in two competing studies divided on the topic.

“They were ultimately prepared by so-called liberal and conservative perspectives,” Ritsch said. “The [the special committee’s Keeping Body and Soul Together: Sexuality, Spirituality, and Social Justice] lacked a real theological or biblical core. The minority report released by the church’s more traditional members was stronger in its theological and biblical core. But it also acknowledged the church may grow to accept” same-sex marriage.

In 1996, the General Assembly again addressed the issue of sexuality. It passed an amendment limiting sexual activity by ministers, according to a church statement, to happening only “within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman.” Otherwise they were expected to maintain “chastity in singleness.”

It was meant to be a step forward in recognizing sexuality while allowing local bodies to decide the specifics. But instead of being helpful, it was con-

Presbyterian Church U.S.A. information and resources

• Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pcusa.org

Ministries:

• Covenant Network of Presbyterians
816-605-1031
Covnetpres.org
• More Light Presbyterians
info@mlp.org
Mlp.org

Local affirming Presbyterian churches:

• St. Stephen Presbyterian
2600 Merida, Fort Worth
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Ststephen-pcusa.com/
• Ridglea Presbyterian
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817-732-3388
Ridgleapres.org/
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lowship Community, a network of theological conservatives who have not left the church, opposes the amendment. But he doesn't think it is an attack on his faith.

"It's a way of saying, 'If this is where we are going, then this is where we came from,'" he said. "While I remain biblically opposed to the amendment's language, it's phrased in a way that's honest and generous to my position. Instead of attacking the remaining conservative members within the church, it is written simply as an irrefutable statement of fact.

"One of the great things to come out of this process is reasonable people are able to compassionately engage in dialogue," Detterman continued, "as opposed to our contemporary culture's divisive polemic."

Detterman also wanted to make it clear that that he opposes the amendment, but not the LGBT community. "As a Christian I have no right to condemn," he said, "nor do I have the right to compromise what Scripture is saying to us."

LGBT grassroots pivotal to vote

Ritsch credited LGBT-affirming groups like Covenant Network Presbyterians for building grassroots support for the amendment.

In a statement, the Rev. Randy Bush, co-moderator of the Covenant board and pastor of East Liberty Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, praised the move as a new chapter for the church. "With the positive vote on Amendment 14F, our denomination steps forward into a new chapter — one that values our past journeys of faith, respects the importance of pastoral discretion in congregational matters, and yet offers to the world a compelling witness about how God's grace is active in loving, mutual relationships," Bush said.

More Light Presbyterians, another group that behind the successful efforts to pass the amendment, also celebrated the move and praised its network for its hard work.

"Today, we can bring our whole selves to church," Alex McNeill, More Light's executive director, said in a statement. "Ratification is not the end; it is the continuation of ongoing sacred conversations. This is the next step in our long journey to minister to all of our people. Presbyterians know that love of God and neighbor is, by definition, a call to love and serve people who are different. Faithfulness does not include discrimination in the name of God."

Progress under the big tent

As times change, so does popular opinion. But that doesn't mean a tradition shouldn't go without recognition. Which is why, like Fellowship Community, Covenant acknowledged the need for another type of reconciliation.

In a statement, both the organization and its board of directors acknowledged the decades-long discussion was "difficult and that some will feel a deep sense of pain over this decision."

But the difficult dialogue will not stop More Light from engaging in compassionate conversation on other issues.

"We have not 'won' a battle by ratifying 14F; we are simply taking the next step on this amazing journey with our beloved family we call the church," McNeill, its executive director, wrote on the LGBT-affirming Christian blog Believe out Loud, "We are walking in grace." ■

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fusing.

"Its wording was weird. Any sexual act could disqualify you," Ritsch said.

Not every church agreed it was vague. As a result of the church's ongoing reconciliation process, many of the church's more conservative members left to join other Presbyterian denominations, and not solely because of the church's evolution on sexuality. For example, the church's openness to ordaining women angered some.

Losing the more conservative congregants meant less resistance to reconciliation efforts. In 2011, a majority of presbyteries passed an amendment scrapping the language barring the ordination of "sexually active unmarried church officers" — a big leap forward for gay, lesbian and bisexual congregants.

Addressing differences

If previous language in the reconciliation process signaled ambiguity, Amendment 14F provides a fresh and clear interpretation of the church's position. Its broad language indicates the church's belief that marriage is traditionally between a man and a woman, but leaves the decision not to participate in or host same-sex marriages to local elders and congregations.

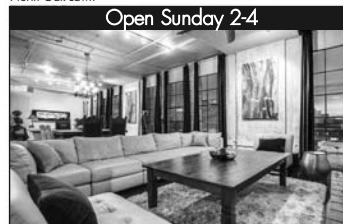
Paul Detterman, national director of The Fel-



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Legislative round-up



State Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, has filed legislation outlawing the use of reparative therapy on minors. (Associated Press)

Flurry of last-minute bills advance, hinder LGBT equality

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Bill filing season ended in the Texas Legislature on Friday, March 13, and the last day predictably featured a slew of last-minute bills being filed. Some are welcome surprises; some are predictably eye-rolling ridiculous.

Despite the knee-jerk bills filed in reaction to an Austin lesbian couple's marriage in February, it's safe to say LGBT Texans largely dodged any more harmful legislation, based on a perusal of the bills filed between late Thursday, March 12 and Friday, March 13.

Good bills

Rep. Celia Israel, an out lesbian and Democratic lawmaker from Austin, filed HB 3495 that would ban the harmful and discredited practice of reparative or conversion therapy on minors. Bills like it are gaining steam in statehouses nationwide and already California, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., have enacted laws protecting LGBT youth from such "therapy."

The historic move earned praise from numerous groups, including Equality Texas, the Human Rights Campaign and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Marty Rouse, field director with HRC, said, "No child should be subjected to this extremely harmful and discredited so-called therapy. These harmful practices are based on the false claim that

GOOD

Relationships and marriage:

- New SB 1064 by Sen. Sylvia Garcia would allow a person to use their same-sex marriage license or civil union record as a valid form of identification before state or municipal government.
- HB 71 by Rep. Mary González and SB 492 by Sen. John Whitmire would prevent two minors in a same-sex relationship from being charged with child indecency.
- HB 537 by Rep. Rafael Anchia and SB 250 by Sen. Sylvia Garcia would remove language added to the Health and Safety code in 1997 to equalize access to accurate supplementary birth certificates for all Texas children.
- HB 130 by Rep. Anchia, HJR 34 by Rep. Garnet Coleman, SB 98 by Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and SJR 13 by Sen. José Rodríguez would put a constitutional amendment on the November 2015 ballot to extend the freedom to marry to Texas.

Nondiscrimination:

- New HB 2692 by Rep. Elliott Naishtat would permit state university pension systems to provide pension benefits to same-sex spouses.
- New HB 3495 by Rep. Celia Israel would prohibit the practice of "reparative therapy" to change a child's sexual orientation.
- New HB 187 by Rep. Senfronia Thompson and SB 65 by Sen. Rodney Ellis would broaden the language in the state's employment and wage discrimination codes, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.
- New HB 2860 by Rep. Diego Bernal would prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.
- Update HB 1351 by Rep. Chris Turner and SB 88 by Sen. Ellis would prohibit bias based on sexual orientation in health education curricula.
- HB 582 by Rep. Chris Turner would prohibit and penalize discrimination by state contractors based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.
- HB 1522 by Rep. Jessica Farrar would prohibit discrimination in public accommodations protections statewide for multiple protected classes including sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
- HB 627 by Rep. Eric Johnson would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.
- HB 70 by Rep. González would prohibit discrimination in public schools based on gender identity or expression and sexual orientation.
- HB 453 by Reps. Roberto Alonzo, HB 304 by Rep. Thompson and SB 76 by Sen. Rodney Ellis would prohibit insurance discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

- HB 2059 by Rep. Coleman would amend James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Other legislation:

- Updated HB 679 by Rep. Sylvester Turner and SB 1892 would authorize a study on homeless youth including LGBT youth. HB 4013 by Rep. Turner and SB 1580 by Sen. Garcia would create a study on homeless youth and veterans.
- HB 2058 by Rep. Coleman would create a standard process for correcting gender markers.

BAD

Religious liberty bills:

- New HB 3567 by Rep. Scott Sanford would prevent the government from punishing a clergy

member or person of faith who does not perform same-sex marriages. HB 3864, also by Rep. Sanford, would allow to child welfare organizations to deny care to children of LGBT parents based on religious beliefs.

- HJR 55 by Rep. Jason Villalba and SJR 10 by Sen. Donna Campbell would allow Texas' businesses to refuse service or deny employment to LGBT people based on individual's or religious organization's beliefs. Villalba has since said he would reconsider his resolution but Rep. Matt Krause filed the identical HJR 125 late Wednesday, March 12.

- HB 2553 by Rep. Molly White would allow business owners to decide whom they serve or conduct business with based on religious convictions.

- HB 1355 by Rep. Matt Shaheen would make it a criminal offense for an elected official to threaten, punish or intimidate a person based on the person's religious beliefs.

Marriage:

- New HB 3890 by Rep. Phil Stephenson would ban public retirement or pension systems from providing benefits to same-sex spouses.
- New HB 4105 by Rep. Bell would amend the state family code to prevent state or local employees from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples or use funds to issue those licenses.
- HB 623 by Rep. Cecil Bell punishes state employees who would issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.
- HB 1745 by Bell, and SB 673 by Sen. Charles Perry would restructure state government to only allow officials in the secretary of state's office to issue marriage licenses.
- HB 2555 by Rep. White would bar Texas from recognizing same-sex marriages regardless of federal court rulings.

Transgender discrimination:

- HB 1747 by Rep. Debbie Riddle would criminalize transgender individuals whose gender identity does not match their biological sex from using public accommodations appropriate to their gender identity or expression.
- HB 1748 also by Riddle, would make it a state jail felony for business owners to allow individuals to use a bathroom appropriate to their gender identity. It would also make it Class "A" misdemeanor if transgender individuals use bathrooms appropriate to their gender identity.
- HBs 2801 and 2802 by Rep. Gilbert Peña would make it a criminal offense for transgender students whose gender identity does not match their biological sex to use public accommodations appropriate to their gender identity or expression. School district and officials who failed to prevent the student from using a bathroom would be held liable.

Nondiscrimination ordinances/local control:

- New HB 2477 by Rep. Rick Miller and SB 1934 by Sen. Campbell would make it illegal for someone to carry both a driver's licenses and photo identification, adversely impacting transgender and crossdressing individuals.
- HB 1556 by Rep. Miller and SB 1155 by Sen. Bob Hall would restrict the ability of local elected officials to pass or enforce nondiscrimination ordinances, rules or regulations of identities not already protected by the state.
- SB 343 by Sen. Don Huffines, like HB 1556 and SB 1155 would restrict the ability of local elected officials to pass or enforce nondiscrimination ordinances or other rules or regulations not already protected by the state or in state code.



Deneen Robinson was taught that God created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve, but her grandmother assured her God created Steve too.
(David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

‘Quitters never Win’

Every day, Deneen Robinson lives out the credo she learned from her grandmother

RAUL JUAREZ | Intern
intern@dallasvoice.com

Deneen Robinson is a peaceful soul, but her life story is more remarkable than what her calm personality might indicate.

Robinson, 48, believes that “Individuals must have a right to dignity, and to live a life with as much personal dignity as possible.” It is a credo she holds close to her heart.

Robinson was raised by her grandmother, who taught her that “quitters never win.” Her grandmother also taught her that relationships are key to a happy life.

As she was growing up, Robinson faced a number of difficulties, including homophobia and with racism.

“Homophobia in the black community stems from [the community’s] understanding of faith. Any of us who grew up in churches [knew it was]

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not ok to be [anything other than] what that church decided you should be. And being gay or effeminate was not up for discussion.

"In church, we were taught its 'Adam and Eve, and not Adam and Steve,'" Robinson added. But as a little girl, Robinson said, she asked her grandmother, "If God made Adam and Eve, who made Steve?" The question, she recalled, prompted her grandmother to respond, "Girl, God made Steve, too."

While homophobia may be a problem within the black community, the LGBT community isn't a safe haven from discrimination. Robinson said that she came face to face with racism within the LGBT community, and has felt ostracized in lesbian bars because of her skin color.

"Black people still face a residue of slavery as a community; there is a fear if you are anything other than what is normal, then you are going to be hurt in some way," Robinson said. "You're not safe. Its not safe to be anything out of the box."

Robinson was diagnosed with HIV in 1991, while she was completing her practicum in social work at the University of Texas. Since then, being HIV-positive has been a large part of her life — but, she stressed, "not the totality of it."

Robinson said being diagnosed with HIV forced her to make a decision: "I could either be courageous, or I could wallow in my diagnosis." She chose to be courageous.

Robinson said doctors told her she had only about three years to live. She decided to spend that time doing her best to prepare her daughters then ages 3 and 2, for a future without her.

"I wanted to plant seeds so my daughters could remember me," Robinson said, adding that it was information that saved her from "freaking out" about her diagnosis.

She decided, she said, to use that information — "the science behind HIV" — to help herself and the other women who soon started to come to her for information. And in 1999, Robinson started the "Kitchen Table" group where women could educate themselves about HIV.

That led to officials with Dallas' Resource Center asking Robinson to be part of the center's treatment education team, helping those with HIV learn about treatment options and medications.

Robinson's research on HIV has since become internationally known, and has even been translated into Russian.

Robinson said she once had the chance to participate in research on a vaccine for HIV, and she does believe a vaccine will be developed someday. She said she also firmly believes that "individuals with HIV can halt their disease from spreading."

Other than being a mother, Robinson said her most important role in life is being the partner of her wife, Angela White. The two first met at Cathedral of Hope and have been together for 14 years. Robinson said her family welcomed White — a volunteer at the National MS Society where she heads up a support group for African-Americans — with open arms. White works for the Dallas Agency on Aging.

In 2004, Robinson accepted God's call to the ministry and found a home at the Living Faith Covenant Church, which practices "relationship Christianity."



Through her work at Living Faith, Robinson said she was introduced to the Human Rights Campaign. Now she serves on HRC's DFW steering committee for religion and faith.

Robinson said her work with HRC has shown her the parallels in the black civil rights movement and the LGBT civil rights movements. Both, she said, are about people who are in "a struggle to be who they are." And, she added, it is an opportunity for other LGBT people to realize "it takes everybody ... [being] inclusive, and we still struggle in our community with sexism and racism."

As someone who has been active in the LGBT civil rights movement for years, Robinson offered this advice for young LGBTs: "Give yourself permission to let go of any relationship that's not feeding you in a positive way, even if its your parents or sibling. [Realize] that understanding one's self is a personal work, and it will not happen if you are waiting on permission from other people to make it happen for you."

"It is lonely," she continued. "But it is also filled with so much joy as an individual. ... Learn the value of work and find a way to give back and honor those who have died for what we have accomplished in our community."

So what is next for Robinson? Apart from being a mother, a wife, an activist and a community leader, she is now starting a jewelry business — Robertson Allen Jewels — in addition to her greeting card business. She also works with the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, does consulting work, and strives to "figure out what is the next stage of work in HIV." ■



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Injured pedestrian finally gets his day in court

Signs and flashing lights were installed on Cedar Springs Road after two pedestrians were killed and two more were injured in a series of accidents in 2011. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Lynn Bainbridge's civil lawsuit against the pizza delivery driver who ran over him on Cedar Springs Road in December 2011 has been set for trial in July. So far, Bainbridge has received no compensation.

The driver was delivering pizza and admitted he was on the phone with the Pizza Hut restaurant for which he worked at the time he hit Bainbridge, according to what the victim told Dallas Voice at the time of the accident. Bainbridge also said the driver said he did not see anyone in the

crosswalk.

John Loza, Bainbridge's attorney, said part of the delay in bringing the case to trial lay in figuring out who the pizza delivery driver was working for when the accident happened.

"The driver was hard to track down," Loza said. "His insurance company stonewalled us. We filed the case, and civil cases tend to take some time to work to a court date."

Bainbridge was crossing Cedar Springs Road in a crosswalk four years ago when he was injured. Cars had stopped in both directions to yield to the pedestrian. But the pizza delivery driver went around a stopped car and accelerated before strik-

ing Bainbridge.

Bainbridge hit the car's windshield before being thrown to the ground. Bainbridge, who was 72 at the time, was taken to Parkland Hospital where he spent four days being treated for his injuries, which included a broken collarbone.

While he was in the hospital, doctors discovered that Bainbridge also had heart defibrillation problems that may have been a result of the accident. He had not been diagnosed previously with heart problems. Bainbridge said this week that as an American Airlines pilot, he had to undergo regular annual examinations, including being examined for any indication of heart problems, in order to retain his pilot's license. After reaching the airline's mandatory retirement period, Bainbridge maintained his pilot's license and continued to fly private planes.

"I never had an irregular heartbeat before," Bainbridge said.

Bainbridge is suing both the restaurant and the city of Dallas.

While accidents can happen anywhere, Bainbridge believes Dallas is liable for the accident in which he was injured because it was one in a spate of accidents that happened along the strip on Cedar Springs within a short period. Pedestrians were killed in two of those accidents.

At the time, the crosswalks on The Strip were poorly marked. One crosswalk — at Reagan Street — had lights embedded in the pavement that flashed when a pedestrian was crossing, but the city had difficulty maintaining that crosswalk because of utility crews repeatedly breaking up the street.

After the two pedestrians died, but before Bainbridge was hit, then-Councilwoman Angela Hunt asked city staff to look into ways to make the area safer.

By January 2012, the city began to install flashing lights at crosswalks. One of the fatal accidents happened near Reagan Street. The turn from Reagan Street onto Cedar Springs became right turn only.

The crosswalk where Bainbridge was hit and another half a block away at the library where a 10-year-old girl was hit after getting off a school bus were outfitted with flashing lights activated by a push button that warns approaching traffic to look for pedestrians.

Other plans under consideration for Cedar Springs Road include the possibility of narrowing the street to one lane in each direction and adding landscaping that would tend to slow traffic are under consideration. The cost for those improvements comes from funds dedicated from a bond package.

Each council member was given an equal amount of money for district improvements. Because

Cedar Springs Road divides council districts, money was dedicated from both District 2 and 14 for the project.

Studies are underway by city planners to determine how to improve Cedar Springs Road, taking both ambiance and safety into consideration. Several ideas were presented to merchants and area residents last fall and suggestions last fall. The city will present a plan to area residents and merchants this summer and plan construction to begin later in the year. ■

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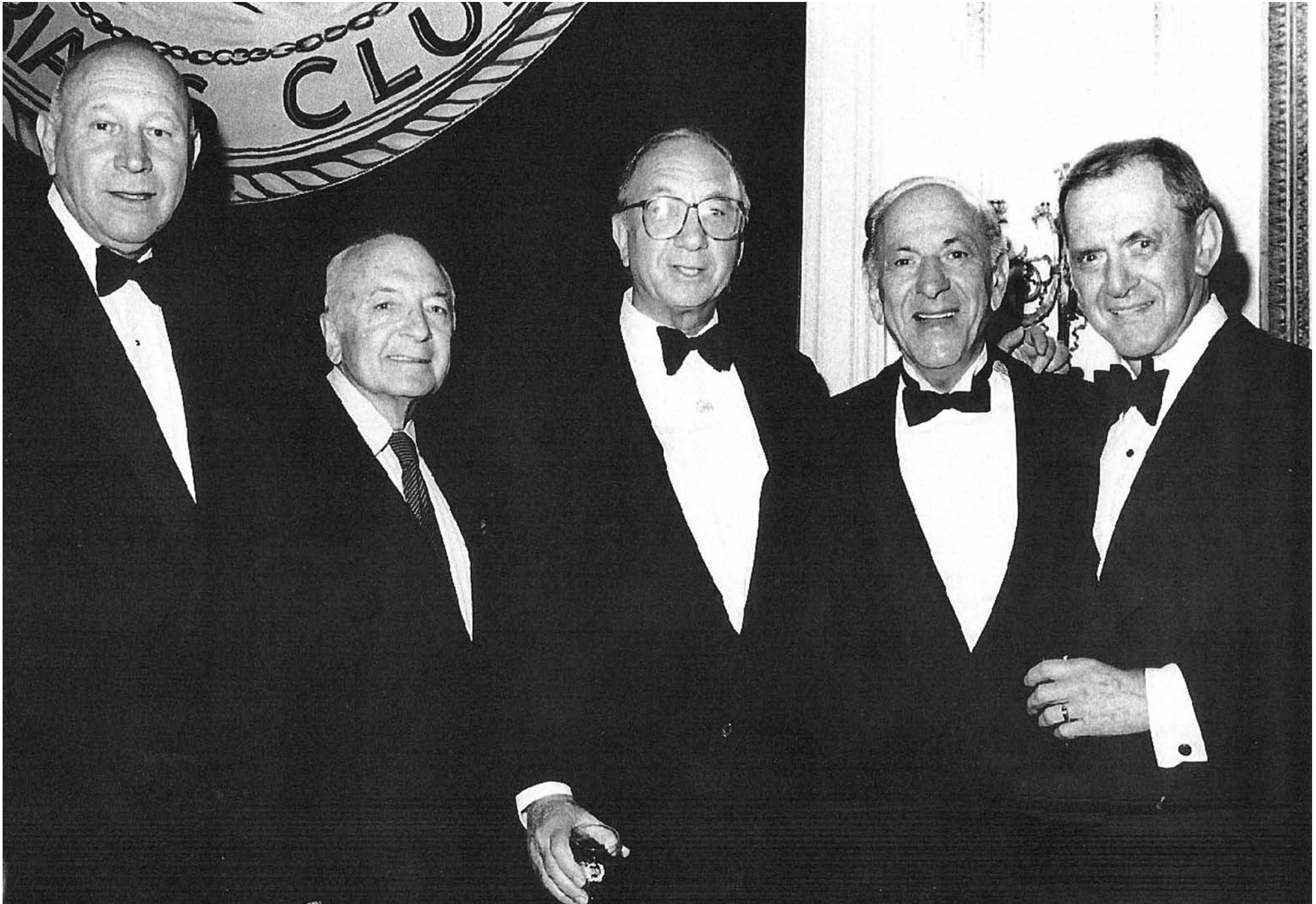
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The real odd couple

Most people know Oscar Madison as a character in 'The Odd Couple,' but one Dallas woman knew him as Dad



Real life odd couple, from left, Roy Gerber and Danny Simon with playwright Neil Simon and TV odd couple Jack Klugman and Tony Randall (Photo courtesy Pam Gerber)

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Several years ago, Pam Gerber was sitting in the Wyly Theatre when it suddenly occurred to her: "I feel like I'm sitting in my dad's living room."

That's because Dallas Theater Center was, at the time, staging a production of Neil Simon's stage play, *The Odd Couple*. And Gerber's father, Roy, was the inspiration for Oscar Madison, one

of the two main characters in Simon's play.

Although *The Odd Couple* began its life as a play in 1965, it was turned into a movie with a later sequel. That was followed by several TV shows, the most recent a current CBS Thursday night entry starring Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon.

Pam and her partner, Suzanne Slonim, moved to Dallas from California in 2000. Suzanne had been offered several positions around the country, but the couple chose Dallas because they were immediately drawn to the city's active LGBT com-

munity.

Gerber's parents were from New York where Roy became a talent agent after World War II. In the 1950s, the family moved to Las Vegas where he booked talent, including Frank Sinatra, for the casinos.

Pam's parents separated in the early '60s, and her father moved to California where he joined General Artists Corp., which managed The Beatles, The Mamas and The Papas and a variety of other musicians.

About the same time, Neil Simon's brother, Danny, had broken up with his wife, so Danny moved into Roy's West Hollywood home off the Sunset Strip.

"He went from one dysfunctional marriage to another," Pam said of her father's new living arrangement.

She said the two men moved in together partly out of economic necessity, but also because neither man liked being alone.

Despite the five-year run of the 1970-75 version

of the TV show, which starred Jack Klugman and Tony Randall, Pam said her father and Simon only lived together about two years.

Of all the actors who've portrayed Roy, Pam said Walter Matthau was the one most like him. Once, when asked how he created his character, Matthau said, "I just did Roy, and it worked out great."

Pam said Klugman, who not only starred in the original TV show but also replaced Matthau in the original Broadway run of the show, did a good job as well.

Along the way, other actors — including Craig Ferguson, Eugene Levy, Nathan Lane and even Rita Moreno, who starred in a female version — portrayed Pam's father.

But the worst portrayal she's seen, she said, comes from Matthew Perry, the current CBS Oscar Madison. "He's too angry," Pam said, recalling her father as always being the life of the party, always doing "shtick."

Beginning with the first TV version starring Randall as Felix, the character based on Danny Simon, Felix started to become prissy. But Pam said Simon wasn't prissy, just anal retentive.

She said when the two golfed, Danny would take out a tape measure to see which ball was inches closer to the hole to determine who putted first.

For two men with such high handicaps, Pam said, that hardly made a difference.

Danny was a good homemaker, with skills in chores such as cooking. Pam said the spaghetti scene in the play where Felix throws the pasta against the wall actually happened.

In her father's obituary, Pam's brother Bill told a story about how, soon after moving in together, the two men invited friends over for dinner. Danny made a pot roast.

"My dad was late, and it got dry and Danny never forgave him," Bill Gerber said.

The next day, Roy asked Danny what he was making for dinner that night. Simon replied, "What do you mean, cook you dinner? You never take me out to dinner. You never bring me flowers."

But despite the way the character of Felix is being played as probably gay in the current CBS reboot of the show and even the way Randall portrayed him, Pam described both men as womanizers.

She said her father was somewhat messy, but it was more a matter of collecting things. She called it "clean clutter."

"He had snow globes — from every city," she said. "Hats — dozens of them. Canes."

Pam said there was paper everywhere, but not half eaten sandwiches; he wasn't dirty. "He knew where everything was," she said.

Danny, who was a TV writer, began writing a play about himself and his roommate Roy. But he never got past 14 pages and instead turned the idea over to his brother, who had already had a few hits on Broadway. Neil Simon won his first Tony Award for *The Odd Couple*, and it was that play that established his career.

■ ODD COUPLE, Page 30

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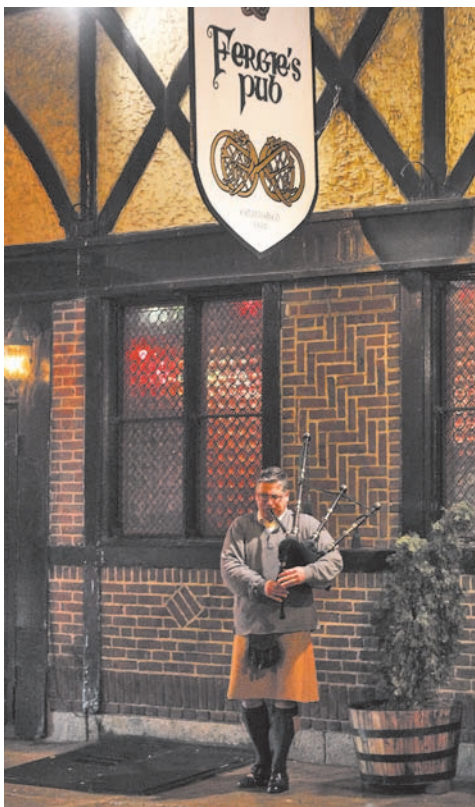
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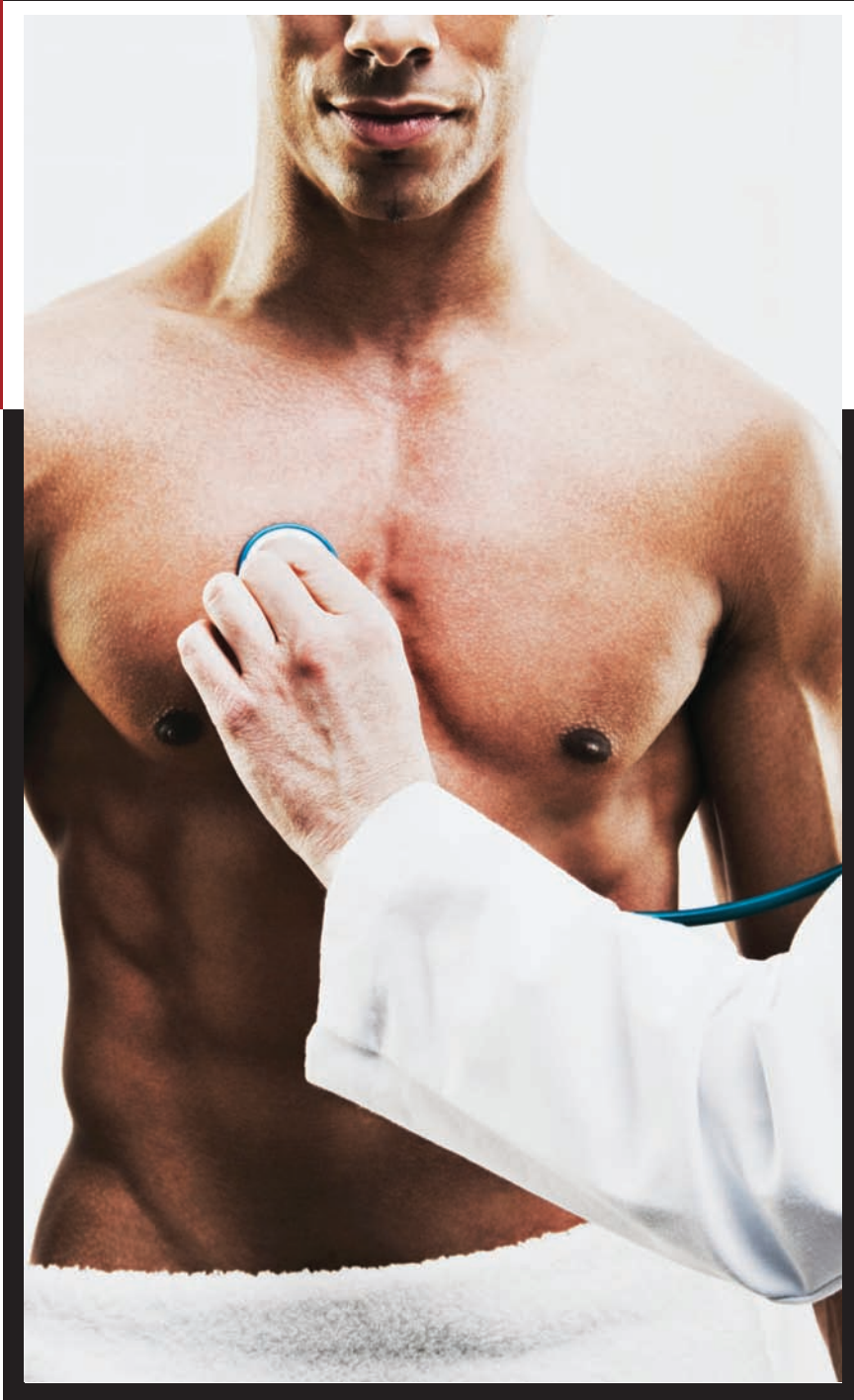
Philadelphia Freedom

Thanks to the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association and the Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Foundation, I got to spend the weekend of March 13-15 in Philadelphia, attending the 2015 LGBT Media Journalists Convening, a gathering of LGBT editors, publishers, reporters and bloggers working specifically in the LGBT media. I learned a great deal, had my eyes opened to some new perspectives and got to meet, in person for a change, a number of professional journalists I have long admired. I also had the chance to wander around downtown Philadelphia, a city I had never visited before, and get some photos of this beautiful city filled with history and with — at least in my experience there — friendly, helpful people. I wanted to share a little of my experience by sharing a few of the many photos I took there, including a view of The Liberty Bell, with Independence Hall in the background (above), and the room inside Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed (below). Visit DallasVoice.com for a slideshow with more photos.

— Tammye Nash



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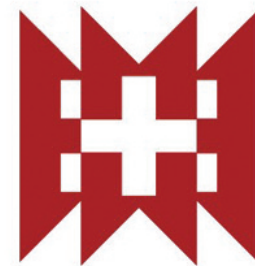
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On Target

Crosland Group bringing new sculpture installation to Oak Lawn

FROM STAFF REPORTS

"Our management philosophy for ilume and ilume Park includes community involvement and promoting social interaction among people. We have always believed that art is an integral and essential part of that social interaction," developer Luke Crosland said this week, explaining why The Crosland Group will soon be unveiling a new sculpture installation in front of ilume Park on Cedar Springs.

The installation will feature a new piece by artist George Tobolowsky entitled Targeting.

The sculpture is made of reclaimed steel, found objects and paint. The lower portion is a steel missile casing, and the upper circular portion is a steel rondelle painted in ilume Park's signature purple. Cobalt-painted steel unites the top and bottom portions of the piece.

Tobolowsky said he created and named the sculpture the way he did because he felt that the name, Targeting, would draw attention, as would the scale of the piece.

"The sculpture was initiated because of the location and the number of people who will see it, either walking or driving the Oak Lawn corridor," Tobolowsky said. "Also, the quality and color of ilume Park and of ilume lend themselves to art that is large and upscale. This piece reflects the community that will see it and enjoy it."

The sculpture stands 112 inches tall — over nine feet — and is 54 inches in width and 42 inches in diameter, and it weighs in at about 2,000 pounds. It will be installed in front of ilume Park, making it visible from the building and from Douglas Street.

It will be dedicated in a ceremony beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 27, at ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave.

ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 107, will debut a new George Tobolowsky exhibit, with a reception from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. The artist will attend both events.

The showing at ilume will feature two large signature Tobolowsky pieces, one at the ilume entrance and one at the exit, and both for sale. Other, smaller pieces by the artist will be on display inside the Gallerie during the showing. The reception is free and open to the public and will feature cocktails and complimentary valet service. The exhibit continues through April 25 and proceeds from the show will benefit AIDS Arms Dallas, AIDS Interfaith Network and Resource Center. Donations to the organizations will also be accepted.



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- Bronchitis (inflammation of the lining of the tubes which carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (intestinal gas passed through your rectum)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product of the breakdown of red blood cells)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

SHOULD I TAKE FULYZAQ IF I AM:

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- Studies in animals show that FULYZAQ could cause harm to an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
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- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether FULYZAQ is passed through human breast milk
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Pentecostal



Unitarian

Evangelical bishop who preaches 'people are loved by God regardless' speaks at Cathedral of Hope

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Bishop Carlton Pearson was mentored by Oral Roberts, was pastor of Tulsa's largest megachurch, is a fourth generation Pentecostal preacher — and believes gays and lesbians are loved by God.

Oops.
That last one has gotten him into a little trouble.

The author of the best-selling book *The Gospel of Inclusion* and millions of CDs and videos said this week he changed his philosophy to full inclusion around 2002-03.

Pearson said his TV hero is Ellen Degeneres, because "She ends each show telling people to go out and be kind to each other" He called that the message of Christianity.

Pearson will be at Cathedral of Hope at both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, on March 22, preaching the gospel of inclusion.

Among the radical ideas that have gotten Pearson in some hot water with other evangelicals is the idea that everyone can go to heaven — Jews, Hindus, agnostics, gays, lesbians, trans people, Christians — everyone. He refers to himself as a sacred humanist.

Pearson was raised in San Diego where he saw the collegiate singers from Oral Roberts University perform. That inspired him to apply to ORU where he was accepted. He said the ORU campus reminded him of *The Jetsons* with its space-age architecture.

"We were used to simplistic," he said. "Education was frowned upon."

Pearson said his own pastor in San Diego was a janitor. For the first time, ORU added class and sass and elegance to Pentecostalism.

While Pearson attended the school, he said, its founder, Oral Roberts, took him under his wing.

"He said I had 'it,'" Pearson recalled, describing Roberts as someone who loved Martin Luther King, who loved lower and working class people and wanted to protect them from liberal Christianity. Pearson said Roberts' God was a good God, not mean or angry.

But Pearson said his split with Roberts came when Pearson started "hanging out with Republicans."

That might seem backwards, but Roberts identified with the Democratic Party that got working people out of the Depression. Pearson, on the other hand, identified with the Republican Party that had voted for civil rights legislation, such as the Voting Rights Act, in numbers larger than the Democratic Party.

Pearson said he visited the Governor's Man-

sion in Austin when George W. Bush was running for his first term as president, and Roberts remained a Democrat throughout his life, voting for Barack Obama.

Pearson ran for mayor of Tulsa in 2002 as a Republican and came in third out of 13 candidates. The split between the two grew deeper, though, when Pearson stopped demonizing people with different beliefs.

"I started preaching the gospel of inclusion in my church," Pearson said. "I thought I could make Tulsa radically inclusive. Not only Christians could go to heaven. People are loved by God — regardless."

At first Roberts wasn't so much against what Pearson was saying. But he did think it would destroy Pearson's ministry.

Randy Potts, Oral Roberts' grandson, attended Pearson's church as he grew up in Tulsa. He said this week that he remembers Pearson as what was good about his religious upbringing.

Potts, who now lives in Dallas, said his family stopped attending Pearson's church after a falling out with the pastor. After he moved to Dallas and came out, Potts sought out Pearson again.

"I think he's a very brave, sincere man," Potts said of Pearson. "It took courage to say the things he said."

When Potts attended Pearson's mega-church in Tulsa, he said the service was pure Pentecostal and the congregation was evenly split between black and white. He described the preacher now as a Pentecostal Unitarian.

"He's this unique, weird bridge," Potts said. "He has the spirit of a Pentecostal but none of the theology."

He said he thinks Pearson understands gays and lesbians so well, because he had to come out himself as not believing that everyone who didn't share his theology was going to hell.

When Potts married his husband, Pearson performed the ceremony.

"I've evolved over the years," Pearson said of his changing beliefs, using a word that is heretical to many evangelicals. But his message to the LGBT community is clear: "All humanity is divine."

When Pearson began exploring liberal Christianity, he said he was surprised with what he found. Among the churches he visited was Metropolitan Community Church.

"I was astounded by how intense the worship was among people who have been taught to hate themselves," he said.

Pearson said the attitude about LGBT people

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Rep. Scott Sanford, R-McKinney, filed two more "religious liberty" bills targeting LGBT people.

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■ ROUND-UP, From Page 13

being LGBT is a mental illness that should be cured, using fear and shame to tell young people that the only way to find love or acceptance is to change the very nature of who they are.

"Psychological abuse has no place in therapy, no matter the intention," Rouse said.

Samantha Ames, NCLR staff attorney, said, "We commend Rep. Israel on making the lives of LGBT children a priority, as well all the local organizers who have worked tirelessly to get this bill introduced and ensure all Texans have the opportunity to grow up in a safe community where they are loved for exactly who they are."

After the June 2014 Texas Republican Party convention voted to include a plank in the party platform condoning the reparative therapy, legislative observers expressed concern a bill condoning the practice would be filed at the last minute.

Then-Texas Republican Party chair Steve Munisteri told Texas Public Radio he disagreed with the language in the platform, but a procedural move shut down debate before GOP convention-goers could intervene.

"I just make the point for anybody that thinks that may be the possibility: Do they think they can take a straight person to a psychiatrist and turn them gay?" Munisteri questioned.

Bad bills

But for every good bill are bad ones, and Rep. Scott Sanford, R-McKinney, filed two last-minute bad ones targeting same-sex marriage and children of LGBT parents.

Sanford's HB 3567 would prevent the govern-

ment from punishing a clergy member or person of faith who does not perform same-sex marriages.

He also introduced HB 3864, which would allow child welfare organizations to deny care to children of LGBT parents based on religious beliefs.

Companion, opposing bills filed

Other bills — both good and bad — earned last-minute companions, boosting the likelihood they would at least be considered by the legislature.

For instance, Sen. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, and Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, filed companion bills HB 4013 and SB 1580, authorizing the creation of a statewide study on homeless youth and veterans.

Meanwhile Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, filed SB 1934, a companion to Sugar Land Republican Rep. Rick Miller's HB 2477. Both would prohibit carrying a driver's license and photo identification card at the same time. If the two make it into law, they would essentially discriminate against the transgenders and cross-dressers because those individuals sometimes carry a driver's license with listing their biological gender and a photo ID showing their gender identity.

And in another case, Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin, earlier in the session filed HB 2692, which would extend pension benefits to same-sex partners. Concurrently, Rep. Phil Stephenson, R-Wharton, filed HB 3890, a last-minute bill banning all public retirement or pension systems from providing benefits to same-sex spouses.

With all bills now filed, the sausage making can begin. ■



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Sen. Joan Huffman, right, hugs Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, after the two were sworn in for the 84th Legislature in January. Huffman has introduced legislation to criminalize HIV-positive status. (Associated Press)

HIV in the LEGE

HIV Legislation

- SB 1705 by Sen. Joan Huffman and HB 2395 by Rep. Rick Miller would allow a court to test a juvenile for HIV following a crime if the criminal suspect is suspected to have HIV.
- SB 779 by Sen. Huffman would allow a court to use a crime suspect's HIV status against them if they knowingly infected the vic-

tim with HIV.

- SB 194 by Sen. Rodney Ellis makes HIV testing a routine part of medical tests while letting the patient opt out.
- HB 65 by Rep. Ruth McClendon would create a pilot needle exchange program in certain Texas counties.

Three bills in the Texas statehouse would use HIV status as a weapon, one would lessen stigma

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Januari Leo, who works with Legacy Community Health Service, is the state's go-to girl when it comes to following bills in the Texas Legislature related to HIV/AIDS.

So when she calls a bill harmful, she's likely not exaggerating.

Leo this week identified four bills introduced during this legislative session that that would di-

rectly impact those living with HIV. Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, filed SB 779, which would use a crime suspect's HIV status against them if they knowingly infected the victim with HIV.

SB 1705, also filed by Huffman and its companion HB 2395 by Rep. Rick Miller, R-Sugar Land, would allow a court to test a juvenile for HIV following a crime.

Leo, a longtime social worker who has worked with clients living with HIV, is blunt about the three bills: "They would criminalize HIV. HIV isn't a crime. It's a public health problem."

Texas is among five states that have no law criminalizing HIV, but there have been cases prosecuted in Texas based on exposure or transmission. Currently 37 states have some form of

criminal law related to exposure and/or transmission of HIV on the books, according to the LGBT Movement Advancement Project.

According to the Center for HIV Law and Policy, both the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division have recommended the repeal of state HIV criminalization laws. They are joined by numerous medical organizations.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, states enacted HIV-specific criminal exposure laws during the early uncertain days of the AIDS crisis. That legislation criminalized HIV-positive people who know their status and intentionally expose it to others.

In order to qualify for funding under the pas-

sage of the Ryan White Comprehensive Act in 1990, states were required verify that their HIV criminalization laws were sufficient enough to prosecute criminals.

"There's already legislation making it a crime to intentionally spread HIV," Leo said of the Ryan White Act requirements. "But these aren't those bills. These new bills use HIV status as a crime, against people who are suspects in a crime but have yet to be proven guilty. They're allowing prosecutors to use private medical records, as mandated under HIPPA, as a weapon."

Though the bills' language narrowly identifies cases when the law could be applied, you can't



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■ ODD COUPLE, From Page 19

Pam said her father and Danny were quite different, but not the complete opposites Neil Simon made them out to be in the play. "He made the couple polar opposite for laughs," she said.

Neil also changed other details. The story was moved to New York from California to appeal to a Broadway audience. He changed Oscar's career from talent manager to sports writer, because it was easier to imagine someone in that career as being the messy one. Felix became a photographer, a more exacting career than comedy writer.

Pam said her father loved the play. "It immortalized him," she explained.

Roy eventually remarried. In 1970, he formed a management and production company that represented talent like Bette Midler, Al Pacino and others. From 1978 to 2002, he ran Roy Gerber and Associates and managed Diahann Carroll, Arsenio Hall, Sid Caesar, Shirley Jones and others.

In 1998, Neil Simon wrote the film *The Odd Couple II*, which again starred Matthau and Lemmon. He gave Roy a copy of the book that included scripts from the original play and its movie sequel.

"What inevitably happens to these roommates is that the fights and squabbles that they left behind after their marital breakups suddenly resurfaced in their new relationship," Neil Simon wrote in the copy of book that Pam now cherishes.

For the rest of his life, Roy remained friendly with both Simons. Danny died in 2005 and Roy



Pam Gerber

died in 2007.

Pam and Suzanne still live in Oak Lawn and on Thursday nights, they watch the new version of *The Odd Couple*. ■



■ PENTECOSTAL, Page 25

is changing even among evangelicals. Many of them are realizing, he said, that they have LGBT children or grandchildren, and that they don't have to "like" that fact to keep on loving their children and grandchildren.

Pearson said his New Dimensions ministry is a church without walls. His title of bishop comes from the Churches of God in Christ, although in 2004 he was declared a heretic. In 2006, he was accepted as a minister by United Church of Christ, the denomination with which Cathedral



of Hope is affiliated.

Today, Pearson said, he speaks at UCC, Unitarian and other liberal churches. He's a frequent speaker at synagogues and at atheist and agnostic groups.

Pearson said he has been featured on NPR's *This American Life*, NBC's *Dateline*, CNN and ABC's *Nightline*. But what he doesn't do anymore is Christian radio.

"It's too stupid," he explained.

Pearson still hasn't appeared on his TV hero's talk show, *Ellen*. Maybe after this week's Cathedral of Hope appearance he'll get there. ■



Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, has introduced legislation making HIV tests a routine part of medical testing, but giving individuals the choice to opt out.

■ **LEGE**, From Page 28

forget the bigger picture.

"We're trying to get to zero cases of HIV through so many resources, including PReP, preventive testing and education," Leo said. But the bills' authors may not realize there is also an unintentional outcome: stigmatization, which could cause less testing and awareness of one's HIV status.

Enter SB 194 by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, which makes HIV testing a routine part of medical tests while letting the patient opt out.

"It creates a standard. Currently you have to ask for a test. Making people aware and voluntary eliminates stigma," Leo said of Ellis' bill. It has now been introduced for a fourth time.

Another bill that's seen its fair share of legislative sessions is HB 65 by Rep. Ruth Jones McClen- don, D-San Antonio. The bill would create a pilot needle-exchange program in a handful of Texas counties, including Dallas, to help prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and other infectious and communicable diseases.

The bill, unfortunately, was used as ammunition against its Republican sponsors, including former Sen. Bob Deuell, who was ousted by candidates backed by far right groups like Texas Right to Life and Empower Texans.

Like many advocates, Leo said she is playing defense during the 84th legislative session, where killing a bad bill is better than passing any good bills at all. ■

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Obituary



Henry "Hank" Freitag, 47, passed away peacefully on the morning of March 10, 2015, at his home in northwest Dallas. Because he was not known to be ill, his death was a shock to all who knew him.

Freitag was an art school graduate, and is survived by his best work of art, a 16-foot 1/16-scale model of the HMS Titanic that is being restored to its former glory. He was well known around the LGBT community and will be missed.

A memorial service will be held at the Cathedral of Hope at a later date. Details will be announced when arrangements are finalized.



THE GAY AGENDA

■ GAY AGENDA, From Page 7

time of Love. Open to couples and individuals. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan Street.

\$200 per person or \$400 per couple. Registration fee includes Lunch and Hold Me Tight book

Preregistration is required. For more information call or e-mail Randy Martin at 214-392-8247 or at martinlpc@yahoo.com.

• **April 12: Oak Cliff Earth Day Celebration at Lake Cliff Park**

• **April 13: Equality Texas Freedom Advocacy Day**

Lobby legislators in Austin about discrimination against LGBT people. Final EQTX lobbying day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration required. Register at EqualityTexas.org.

• **April 15: Evening of Hope Reveal Party**
Benefits AIDS Outreach Center. Blue Sushi, 3131 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. \$20.

• **April 15: 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.

• **April 16: 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.

• **April 16: Urban Engagement Book Club: Civic Sermons: Ideas for a Difference Civic Culture by Gerald Britt**
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.

• **April 18: Gaybingo: Safari**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center 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.

• **April 18: 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.

• **April 21: JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club**
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.

• **April 21: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting: Carter Brown of Black Transmen, Inc.**

Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or e-mail sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

• **April 23: UT Dallas Diversity Awards Gala**
UT Dallas 2015 Diversity Awards Soiree recognizes students, student organizations, staff, faculty and community members who advance the UT Dallas commitment to embrace, enhance, and celebrate diversity and awards scholarships to UTD students. Jack Mackenroth, an activist, athlete, and fashion model, serves as the master of ceremonies. 4 p.m. at UT-Dallas' Clark Center, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson. For more information call Rosie Peterson please call 972-883-4560 or e-mail rpeterson@utdallas.edu.

• **April 24: North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce 10th Annual Dinner**
Honoring North Texas business and community leaders at 5:30 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N Stemmons Freeway. CelebrationOfExcellence.com.

LOCAL BRIEFS, From Page 6

istration fee to help defray expenses, but ability to pay should be no impediment to participating.

For more information, visit EqualityTexas.org.

Trans Pride Initiative offers help filing discrimination complaints

A new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development rule issued earlier this year requires all shelters and housing programs that receive federal funding provide access to gender-segregated spaces based on self-affirmed gender.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs affirmed the ruling.

Now Trans Pride Initiative is looking for people to make all shelters and housing comply with the new rule. The organization is offering assistance to people who have experienced or currently experience discrimination and would like to file a complaint.

TPI is willing to provide research both in and outside of the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Assistance includes researching nondiscrimination policies, complaint processes as well as filing complaints with regional HUD offices. For assistance and more information contact TPI at 214-449-1439 or info@tpride.org.

GALA meets the candidates

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas scheduled several meet the candidate events in Collin County.

"It is very important to be informed about who represents us at the local level especially for our community," said GALA President Bob Shimmin, "as it is difficult to get people involved in these elections."

The Plano event takes place at 6:45 p.m. on March 27 at the private residence of the plaintiffs in the state of Texas Marriage Equality case.

Additional events will be held in Carrollton on April 8, McKinney on April 17 and Frisco on April 24.

For the address and additional information, visit GALANTX.org.

Fort Worth court presents Michial Awards

The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington presents its Michial Awards from noon-6 p.m. on March 22 at Celebration Community Church Fellowship Hall, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

Bring ID to vote proving residence in Tarrant, Denton, Erath, Wise, Palo Pinto, Hood, Somervell, Parker, or Johnson counties to decide best charity organization of the year, charity event, favorite bar, bar managers, bartenders, organization, entertainers and Emperor & Empress 36 of The Imperial Court.

The results of the Community Service Awards will be presented on March 25 at Club

Reflection at 7 p.m. The results of your vote for Emperor & Empress will be revealed at

Coronation 36 on March 28 at 5 p.m. at Club Reflection. ■

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COMPLERA is a prescription medicine for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood. COMPLERA can also replace current HIV-1 medicines for some adults who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements. COMPLERA combines 3 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. COMPLERA should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

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COMPLERA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under 18 years old.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** adefovir (Hepsera), lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV), carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin), rifapentine (Priftin), dexamethasone (Dexilant), esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex), more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate, or the herbal supplement St. John’s wort.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection**, unless recommended by your healthcare provider.

What are the other possible side effects of COMPLERA?

Serious side effects of COMPLERA may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may also check your kidneys during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.

- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems**, including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking COMPLERA.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Other common side effects include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, mental health, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take rifabutin (Mycobutin).** Talk to your healthcare provider about the right amount of rilpivirine (Edurant) you should take.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- **If you take stomach acid blockers.** Take acid blockers at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA. Ask your healthcare provider if your acid blocker is okay to take, as some acid blockers should never be taken with COMPLERA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking COMPLERA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in COMPLERA can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



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Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

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Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription medicine used as a complete HIV-1 treatment in one pill a day. COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood (this is called 'viral load'). Complera can also replace current HIV-1 medicines for some adults who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- COMPLERA is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. When used properly, COMPLERA may reduce the amount of HIV-1 virus in your blood and increase the amount of CD4 T-cells, which may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - having stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark "tea-colored" urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.

- Do not run out of COMPLERA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take any of the following medicines:

- **Medicines used for seizures:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **Medicines used for tuberculosis:** rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
- **Certain medicines used to block stomach acid called proton pump inhibitors (PPIs):** dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **Certain steroid medicines:** More than 1 dose of dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- **Certain herbal supplements:** St. John's wort
- **Certain hepatitis medicines:** adefovir (Hepsera), lamivudine (Epivir-HBV)

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (ATRIPLA, STRIBILD, TRUVADA, VIREAD)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (ATRIPLA, Combivir, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epzicom, STRIBILD, Trizivir, TRUVADA)
- rilpivirine (Eduvant), unless you are taking rifabutin (Mycobutin)

COMPLERA is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?

COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See "What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?"**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.

- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- Trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, depression

Additional common side effects include:

- Vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, mental health, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take COMPLERA.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in COMPLERA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if this could harm your baby.
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works.
- If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV-1 infection. The HIV-1 virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV-1 medicines that are like it.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Rifabutin (Mycobutin), a medicine to treat some bacterial infections. Talk to your healthcare provider about the right amount of rilpivirine (Edurant) you should take.

- Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- Certain medicines to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). Take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA. Some acid blocking medicines should never be taken with COMPLERA (see “Who should not take COMPLERA?” for a list of these medicines).
- Medicines that can affect how your kidneys work, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valganciclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte).
- clarithromycin (Biaxin)
- erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
- fluconazole (Diflucan)
- itraconazole (Sporanox)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral)
- methadone (Dolophine)
- posaconazole (Noxafil)
- telithromycin (Ketek)
- voriconazole (Vfend)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider.

How should I take COMPLERA?

- Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.
- Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Always take COMPLERA with food. Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink is not a substitute for food. If your healthcare provider decides to stop COMPLERA and you are switched to new medicines to treat HIV-1 that includes rilpivirine tablets, the rilpivirine tablets should be taken only with a meal.

Keep COMPLERA and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.COMPLERA.com.

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Words still hurt

Even at 65, anti-gay slurs have the power to cause pain, fear

It would seem like time might soothe the sting of anti-gay hate slurs such as “faggot.” But I recently learned that the hateful language shocks my senses as much at 65 as it did a half-century ago.

A dispute with neighbors about their large dogs running loose and attacking my little 10-pound poodle led to a 14-year-old youth in their supervision calling me a “faggot.” The word shocked me so that at first I thought his female guardian had uttered it. But the teenager confirmed he said it.

The teenager also disputed my claim about the dogs running loose for an extended period of time while they were out of town, during which time my little dog was attacked by their big boxer. In essence, the teen called me a liar.

In fact, the attack the teenager claimed didn't happen so scared my dog she trembled and cried under the bed for an hour. Fortunately, she seemed to suffer no serious physical injury, de-



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

spite the boxer briefly having a death grip on her neck.

During the confrontation with the family, the adult male in the teenager's company supported the youngster's anti-gay remark, asking me, “Well, what are you?”

I didn't answer the question. I hardly knew what to say. But I did call law enforcement for assistance. It marked my third call to 911 over the weekend — two about the dogs running loose and one about the dispute.

I asked the teenager if he learned that language from his family. He said, “I learned it a school. I was raised by a good Christian mother.” I was already aware his family spent a significant amount of their time at church.

The law enforcement officer listened to my side of the complaint, and he talked to the family and the youth. He told me that he advised the youth it was wrong to call people names, but he told me it was a “freedom of speech issue” and amounted to no crime.

I told the officer I believed the use of anti-gay slurs represented harassment, but I dropped it at that point. He told me at one point early on that I needed to calm down because I was at risk of making him mad and “that's not going to help you.” He mentioned something about an apology from the youth, but I told him I wanted no further conversations with anyone in the family.

I pointed out the teenager's remark about someone who lives alone, never throws parties and lives a really quiet life disturbed me because of the potential for what might be said to a same-sex male or female couple or single people who entertain frequently.

The teenager's slur also surprised me in part because it seems to contradict what school officials report. They claim to be educating students about diversity and the need for tolerance in an effort to dissuade bullying.

At no time did anyone inquire about the health of my dog or about my own health even though I was knocked to the ground when the dog attacked.

Overall, I think law enforcement did a good job concerning my multiple complaints. But the last officer left me with the impression that they could use more training in the area of hate language and where it can lead. I made a special request that he include in his report the fact that the teenager had used the word “faggot” during the dispute.

If a teenager would yell “faggot” at a 65-year-old man who just called law enforcement, and then argue with that older man about the truth of his statements, what would he say or do to another student? Will I wake up and find “faggot” written on my car or house? Will that happen to some other LGBT person?

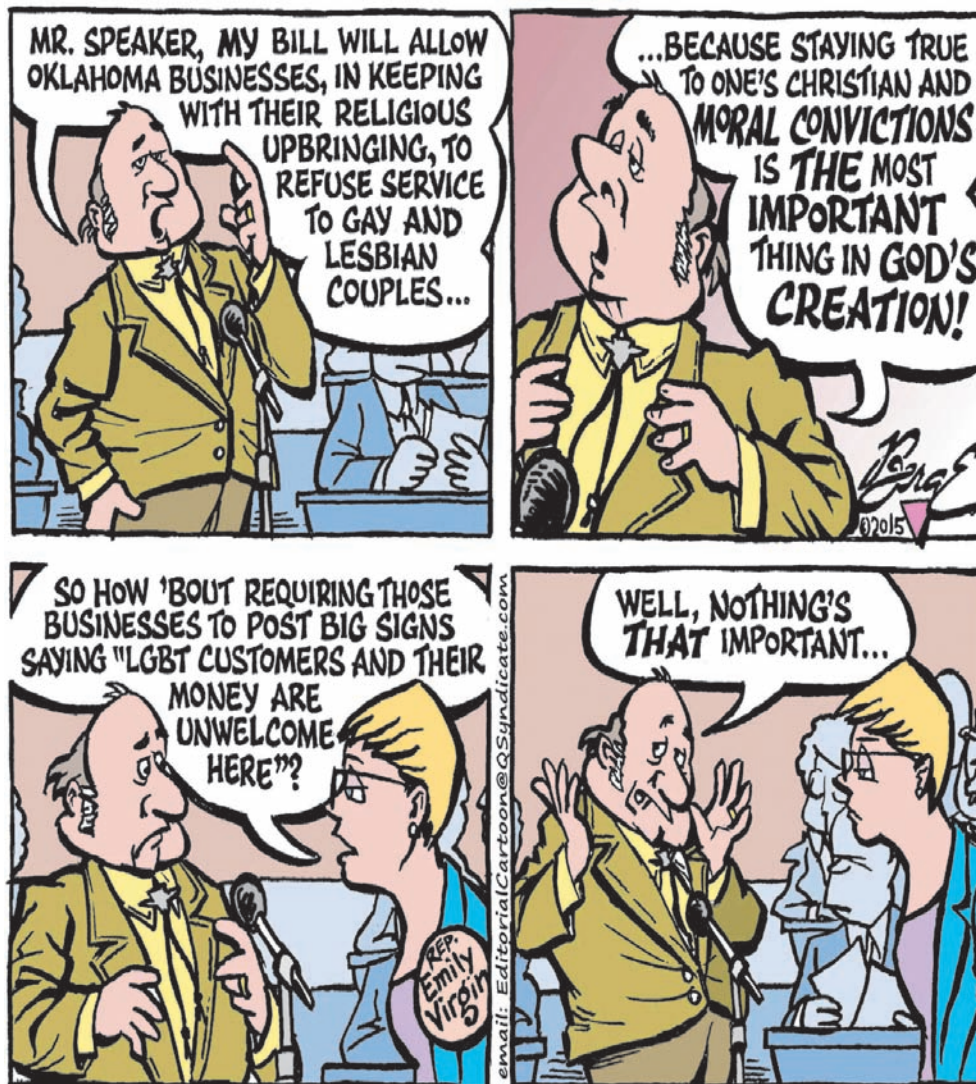
Coincidentally, the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Report magazine, outlining its annual report on hate groups operating in the United States, arrived in my mailbox today. Under the category of General Hate with a specific Anti-LGBT focus, the human rights group identified 44 in operation of the total 784 hate groups documented in the nation last year.

Many of the group's names use words like church, family, moral, ministries, mission, parents and such. The groups are located nationwide, and three have addresses in Texas, including Fort Worth, Plano and El Paso.

It's pretty easy to understand how teenagers can be conflicted by the confusing messages they must be getting at home, church and school.

For me, it's another lesson learned. No matter how hard I try to be a good neighbor, I will be at risk of — at the very least — verbal assaults because of my sexual orientation, and the words will hurt as much as they ever did. ■

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 freelances for publications nationwide.



Planet Confusion

I'm pissed off; I'm perplexed, and I'm scared. I'll try and sort out what's swirling in my pretty little head.

On Feb. 28, a female member of the Planet Fitness in Midland, Mich., complained to management about someone who "looked like a man" being in the women's locker room. The woman who made the complaint ultimately had her membership revoked, with Planet Fitness officials citing as their reason the woman's disruptive activities in warning other female members that the gym might let "men" into the women's locker room facilities.

Planet Fitness has a policy of "No Judgment" and permits members to use whatever facilities match their "sincere, self-reported gender."

Fine. But honestly, I'm conflicted.

I have held off on addressing this. My fear was that the person in the locker room was a cross-dresser, and that's what she appears to be: no hormones, no transition.

To me, that is abuse of the privilege and is exactly what the opposition wanted in order to illustrate their point that "men" who "feel like a woman today" can waltz into women-only spaces with impunity.

That makes me sick.

Where do you draw the line? I have been on hormones for years now. I've had years of therapy, gender reassignment surgery, breast augmentation and electrolysis. I'm a broke — but happy — woman.

I work out at a gym and use the ladies locker room, but I also have a vagina. I'm not sure if that should be a requirement, but discretion sure should be if you have the original equipment.

Should we require hormones? OK, for how long? Who checks?

The best I can come up with is that if you are irrevocably committed to living your life as a woman, then come on in. If you are trying it on?



Leslie McMurray

Accidental Activist

Do us all a favor and stay out.

This whole thing really pisses me off.

Living in Texas, where too many people would like to see us all dead, I sure as hell don't need anyone making my life more difficult than it already is. I am so

careful and so respectful; I don't think that it's too much to ask for others to be the same way.

Right now, one bad apple really can screw it up for all of us.

At the risk of sounding elitist, I find a parallel to breaking the color barrier in baseball. Prior to 1947, Major League Baseball was a whites-only sport. African-American players were assumed to be lesser. To prove otherwise, the first one to break the color barrier had to be excellent, to be able to put up with the abuse and do it with grace.

Jackie Robinson disproved the fear that baseball would be ruined, or that he couldn't compete.

The trans-female community needs to have women who are beyond reproach, who are respectful and graceful break the gender barrier, and then the others will be accepted.

But if cross-dressers bulldoze into gender-segregated spaces acting like jerks we are dead. Laws will pass so quickly it will make our heads spin.

I'm scared, and I'm pissed, and I don't have a ready answer.

I want to be respectful of the struggle of my sisters, but I see girls all the time who have no

business in a women's room. Hell, I would run screaming from there in some cases. We need to understand that something as innocuous as clearing your throat can cause a stampede.

I just don't want to load the opposition's gun for them. If this kind of stuff keeps up, it will just be too easy for them, and a lot of people's hard work and sacrifices will go down the drain.

Women say they need to feel safe in a locker room or ladies restroom. I agree! It is our responsibility to make sure they feel safe!

If I see someone standing to pee in a women's room, I will throw their ass out. We really need to police our own — or surely the bigots will eagerly do it for us.

So, what's the answer? I don't really know.

Perhaps we need to stop being 100 percent focused on our "rights" and instead focus equally on our "responsibilities." If we expect to be welcomed into female spaces, we need to do everything in our ability to blend in and be just another woman there. Behave and dress appropriately.

Are you going in the bathroom at Kroger at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning? Look around you in the store; most other women are wearing jeans, or leggings and a comfortable top, and sneakers or other casual shoes. Are you 6-foot-3 and sporting a too-tight, way-too-short skirt, fishnets and sky-high heels, with a nice beard shadow to match?

Check yourself. There is a time and a place for everything, and that ain't it.

I'm not trying to be mean, truly, but if that describes you, you stand out like you are wearing a neon sign that says "Cross-Dresser."

Our safety, freedom and maybe our lives depend on your discretion.

I've kept my mouth shut on this until now because I didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings. I don't want to hurt feelings, and I'm not naming

names, but it's reached the point where the risk of ruffling a few feathers is outweighed by necessity. Because too many lawmakers are loading up to deal us a crushing blow and we are teetering on the edge of completely losing the battle of public opinion.

We must teach them that we are not a threat. But to do that, we must look, act and live the part of the women we are. Help your sisters out. Our safety, freedom and maybe our lives depend on it.

Right now today, there are two bills — HB 1747 and HB 1748 — in the Texas Legislature that would make it a Class A misdemeanor for any individual over the age of 13 to "enter a locker room, shower facility or toilet facility that is designated for use by persons of a gender that is not the same gender as the individual's gender." Under Texas law, a Class A misdemeanor can be punished by a fine of up to \$4,000 and up to a year in jail.

Those two bills also target any "operator, manager, superintendent or other person with authority over a building," stipulating that they may not allow anyone to enter a locker room, shower facility or toilet facility that does not match their gender. Any facility owner who does allow such access has committed a state jail felony. Texas law allows a sentence of 180 days to two years in state jail.

There is a "bounty bill" like the one proposed in Kentucky that has been introduced as well, and one targeting students in schools.

The religious right knows they have lost the marriage equality fight. We are their new targets of hate — and we are just handing the victory to them.

On that, there is no confusion. ■

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.

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ABOUT THE VOTING

We call our annual version of the “best-of” Dallas list the Readers Voice Awards because the winners, ultimately, aren’t our choices — they are yours. Thousands of our readers logged onto our website during the month of January to let us know what they ... what you ... like about gay Dallas in 100-plus categories, from dining to shopping to entertainment.

Nightlife was unseated as the most popular category this year, with Services — where you weigh in on those you trust with your money to those you trust with your hair and many other specialties — drawing votes. And we added new categories this time, including “Best Cocktail Menu” (Page 51) “Favorite Neighborhoods — Dallas and Tarrant County” (Page 46) Best Dance Company or Event (Page 59), among others. Here, then, are your winners, your favorites, your opinions ... your Voice: the 2015 Readers Voice Awards!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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The first thing anyone who stops into Out of the Closet probably notices — aside from the flamingo-colored ceiling and abundance of name-brand clothing — is how modern and attractive the displays are. It doesn't feel like you're rifling through boxes of hand-me-downs at a garage sale, but enjoying a leisure shopping adventure at an upscale mall. Like all thrift stores, Out of the Closet may not have multiple styles in your size, but whether you're looking for furniture, housewares, books, jewelry or a seasonal frock, there's always something new to find. And it's nice to know that proceeds from the non-profit shop benefit the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

— Raul Juarez

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—Raul Juarez



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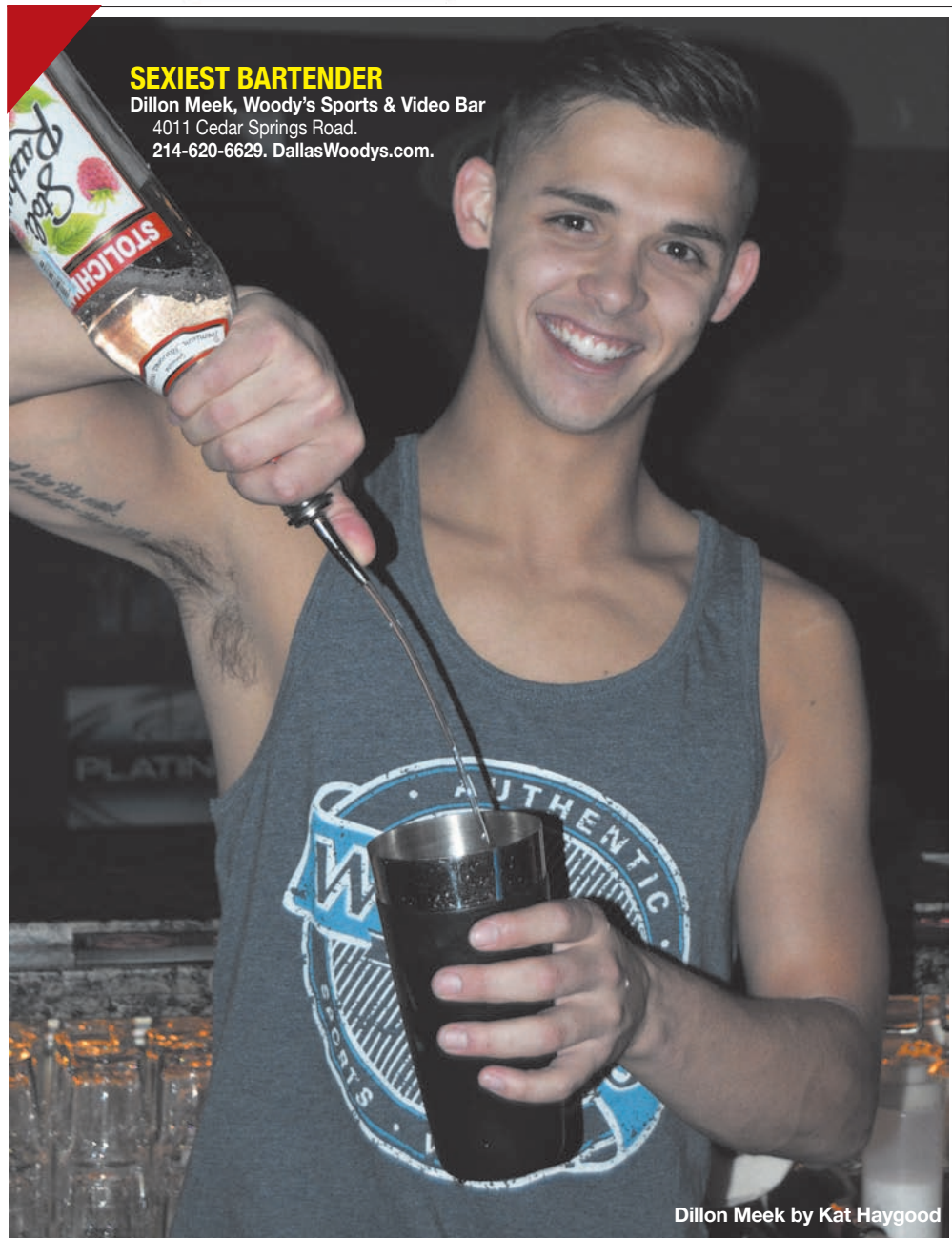
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It's nice to be chosen!

Thank you to the Dallas Voice readers for selecting the SPCA of Texas as the best place to adopt a pet.



SEXIEST BARTENDER

Dillon Meek, Woody's Sports & Video Bar
4011 Cedar Springs Road.
214-620-6629. DallasWoodys.com.

Dillon Meek by Kat Haygood

A lot of people can pour you a drink, but the one with a killer smile, a flirtatious wink or a hot body he doesn't mind showing off a bit somehow makes a dirty martini taste ... dirtier. Well, Dillon Meek, who jerks suds and mixes liquor at Woody's, has all three of those traits ... and a little something extra that made him a popular selection by our readers as sexiest bartender. We won't argue — in fact, we'll have another round.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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BEST CLUB DJ

Matt Purvis
Instagram: ItsDJMateo

HOTTEST HOOKUP APP

Scruff

BEST KARAOKE HOST

Wayne Smith: Cher-E-Okee

Liquid Zoo, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 9 p.m.; The Dallas Eagle, Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.; Cedar Springs Tap House, Thursdays at 9:30 p.m.

Wayne Smith spent 18 years entertaining Dallas audiences with his drag performances, especially his *piece-de-la-resistance*: a flawless impersonation of Cher that even earned accolades from Cher herself. So when he relocated to Columbus, Ohio, in 2011 with husband Ben Wilson, it was a sad departure. But we believe in life after the Midwest. Wayne and Ben couldn't resist the pull of Texas: Last year, they moved back to Dallas, and Smith has once again set down roots along The Strip, proving himself strong enough to be named our readers' favorite karaoke host. (He performs every night except Sundays at clubs around town, and has even been tagged to perform on a cruisehip with Ahoy Cruises in September.) Although he can't turn back time, it's as if he never left here.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Wayne Smith by Kat Haygood

BEST THEME NIGHT

Underwear Night at the Dallas Eagle
5740 Maple Ave.
Wednesdays at 10 p.m.
214-357-4375. DallasEagle.com.

TOPS CENTRAL

The Dallas Eagle
5740 Maple Ave.
Open Sunday-Thursday until 2 a.m., after-hours
Friday-Saturday until 4 a.m.
214-357-4375. DallasEagle.com.

BEST PLACE TO GET A LAP DANCE

The Tin Room
2514 Hudnall St.
214-526-6365. TinRoomDallas.com.

BEST BEER BUST

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5025 Bowser Ave.
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214-526-0620. HiddenDoor-Dallas.com.

BEST LATINO HOT SPOT

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4350 Maple Ave.
214-520-6676. Kaliente.cc.

BEST LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Sue Ellen's
3014 Throckmorton St.
Open daily 4 p.m.-2 a.m., after-hours until 4 a.m.
214-559-0707. SueEllensDallas.com.

BOTTOMS CENTRAL

Station 4
3911 Cedar Springs Road.
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214-526-7171. Station4Dallas.com.

BEST EXOTIC DANCER

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214-526-9510. BJsNXS.com.

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Klyde Warren Park

Locals spent so many years watching the building of the deck park that crossed over Woodall Rodgers and connected Uptown with Downtown, it was easy to overlook what a masterful engineering achievement it was ... until it actually opened. The park quickly became a bustling gathering place for everyone. From a dog park to on-site restaurants (Savor, Relish) to food trucks, a playground, music performances, opera simulcasts and outdoor yoga, Klyde Warren Park has established itself a cherished place in the heart of the city.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Klyde Warren Park by Kat Haygood



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LostSoulsRFC.org.

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FUNNIEST LOCAL SOCIAL MEDIA PERSONALITY

Paul J. Williams
PaulJWilliams.com.

Although technically readers declared Paul J. Williams their favorite funny social media personality, we think they actually were referring to Williams' alter ego, the sanctimonious scold of the Bible Belt, Sister Helen Holy. So we asked the famously homophobic church lady how she felt about being selected by gay Dallas. "Well, you know, I'm much more interested in winning my crown of glory in heaven than baubles on earth, though I must admit it's certainly an honor — the sodomites are known for their discriminating taste." Whether on Facebook or at PaulJWilliams.com — "I had to give my site on the inter web an assumed name so the perverts wouldn't be after me," Helen told me — there's no better place to keep up with what's funny in North Texas.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Sister Helen Holy (aka Paul J. Williams)
by Arnold Wayne Jones

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Winspear Opera House
2403 Flora St.
ATTPAC.org and DallasOpera.org.

BEST LOCAL MUSEUM

The Perot Museum of Nature & Science
2201 N. Field St.
Open daily at 10 a.m. (noon Sundays).
PerotMuseum.org.

BEST ART GALLERY

Craighead Green Gallery
1011 Dragon St.
214.855.0779. CraigheadGreen.com.

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BearDance.org.

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214-528-1004. JRsDallas.com.

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HEALTH



BEST DENTIST

Kevin Terrell, D.D.S.
2603 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 100.
Open Monday-Thursday at 8 a.m.
214-329-1818. TerrellDental.com.

Kevin Terrell by Arnold Wayne Jones

A trip to the dentist sounds about as fun taking Pat Robertson as your plus-one to a gay wedding, but Dr. Kevin Terrell's chairside manner makes getting your grill fixed as pleasant an experience as possible. A visit to Terrell's office — complete with chilled eye masks and massaging chairs — can almost feel like an afternoon at a spa rather than a squirm-inducing chore, and, as a member of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, former DIFFA chair and Black Tie Dinner board member, Terrell is definitely the LGBTQ community's dentist with a conscience. Between that and the relaxing amenities, cavity fills and cleanings have never felt more comfortable.

— *Jonanna Widner*

BEST GROUP MEDICAL PRACTICE

Uptown Physicians Group
2929 Carlisle, Ste. 260.
214-303-1033. UptownPhysiciansGroup.com.

BEST GENERAL PRACTITIONER

David Lee, M.D., Uptown Physicians Group
2929 Carlisle, Ste. 260.
214-303-1033. UptownPhysiciansGroup.com.

BEST OPTOMETRIST

William Henderson, Uptown Vision
2504 Cedar Springs Road.
214-953-3937. UptownVisionDallas.com.

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3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 260.
214-546-8852. JimmyOwen.com.

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William A. Moore, Advanced Skin Fitness
2928 Oak Lawn Ave.
214-521-5277. AdvancedSkinFitness.com.

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Steven M. Pounders, M.D.
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 600.
214-520-8833. DrPoundersMD.com.



Joel Allison, the CEO of Baylor Scott & White Health (the company that owns Baylor Health Care Center) has some innovative ideas about how to best serve the community, and it shows: Baylor Health Care Center remains a top-notch hospital, consistently ranked in top 20 lists across the country in a number of specialties from diabetes treatment to pulmonology. But the hospital doesn't just excel in rarified cases. Situated close to a number of Dallas' denser neighborhoods, the hospital's accessibility reflects its relationship to individual patients. It's one of those rare places where the achievements of specialties works hand-in-hand with the everyday patient. The result: superior outcomes on a grand scale, better care for each person who needs it.

— Jonanna Widner

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214-453-4899. LAFitness.com.

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214-443-5160. Walgreens.com.

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3102 Swiss Ave.
903-422-6044. VigorMassagePT.com.

BEST HOSPITAL

Baylor Health Care System
3501 Junius St.
214-820-0111. BaylorHealth.com.

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817-885-8222. TrinityVistaDerm.com.

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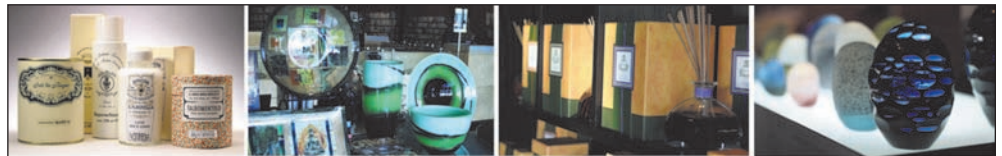
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DINE



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214-871-2337. Hopdoddy.com.

What makes a gourmet burger? Nowadays, fancy-pants burgers are the rule more than the exception — from bone-marrow butter to artisanal brioche buns to the omnipresent apple-wood smoked bacon, the burger is no longer a fast-food sandwich but a bit of culinary artistry. The readers' selection of Hopdoddy as their favorite burger joint shows they get this. Hopdoddy — which has five North Texas locations, though we suspect the opening of the newest one six months ago along McKinney Avenue in the heart of Uptown is what scored with readers — not only rolls out new burgers every so often (some recent and upcoming selections include the poutine burger, the ahi burger and the coq au vin), but the classic offerings (including the aptly-named Boss Hogg, pictured) are equally addictive. Add to that truffle fries and craft cocktails, and you have the makings of a terrific meal.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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214-377-7446.

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214-522-3474. Dish-Dallas.com.

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BEST PATIO

BEST LUNCH SPOT
Hunky's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers
3940 Cedar Springs Road.
214-522-1212. Hunkys.com.



BEST BRUNCH

Fernando's Mexican Cuisine
4514 Travis St. Ste. 201.
214-521-8611.
FernandosMexicanCuisine.com.



Let's face it: Members of the gay community have opinions on a lot of topics, but when it comes to brunch, we are experts. Heck, we practically invented the dishing-over-dishes paradigm that has become the default Sunday Funday activity in Dallas, if not every gaybohood in America. So when Dallas Voice readers vote for a best brunch, you know they know what they are talking about. Fernando's at Travis Walk has been a popular weekend hangout for diners for a few years now, owing in no small measure to the Saturday and Sunday brunch menu that packs people in. Could it be the fast-and-friendly service? ... The buzzy atmosphere with a gay-friendly vibe? ... The classic Tex-Mex dishes at reasonable prices?... Or could it be the \$2 mimosas that arrive in a huge water glass (pictured)? ... Do you really have to ask?

— Arnold Wayne Jones



BEST LOCAL CHEF

Stephan Pyles
Stephan Pyles, San Salvaje, Stampede 66.
StephanPyles.com.

BEST VEGETARIAN

Cosmic Cup Cafe
2712 Oak Lawn Ave.
214-521-6157. CosmicCafeDallas.com.

BEST DESSERT SPOT

Chocolate Secrets
3926 Oak Lawn Ave.
214-252-9801. MyChocolateSecrets.com.

BEST COCKTAIL MENU

Komali
4152 Cole Ave., Ste. 106.
214-252-0200. KomaliRestaurant.com.

BEST MARGARITA

Gloria's
4140 Lemmon Ave. (and additional locations).
214-521-7576. GloriasCuisine.com.

BEST DINER (TIE)

Lucky's Cafe.
3531 Oak Lawn Ave.
214-522-3500. LuckysDallas.com

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BEST TAQUERIA/TEX-MEX
Ojeda's Mexican Food
4617 Maple Ave.
214-528-8383. OjedasRestaurant.com.

Tex-Mex isn't a cuisine in Texas — it's a religion. And Dallas has it all, from high-end Southwestern restaurants that re-invent the classics to dollar-each taquerias. So picking just one? Can't be done. And yet it has been by Dallas Voice readers, who have a lot of love for Ojeda's. It's been on our gaydar for decades: Located in the heart of the gayborhood, Ojeda's is as much a social meeting place (Classic Chassis Car Club meets there the first Tuesday of every month) as it is a restaurant. From the famous "puffed" tacos to a constant stream of margaritas to the yummy pralines at the cash register, Ojeda's is more than a Tex-Mex restaurant — it's an institution.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST MIXOLOGIST
Stu Heineman, JR.'s Bar & Grill
3923 Cedar Springs Road.
214-528-1004. JRsDallas.com.

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Italia Express
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214-521-3300. ItaliaExpressCS.com.

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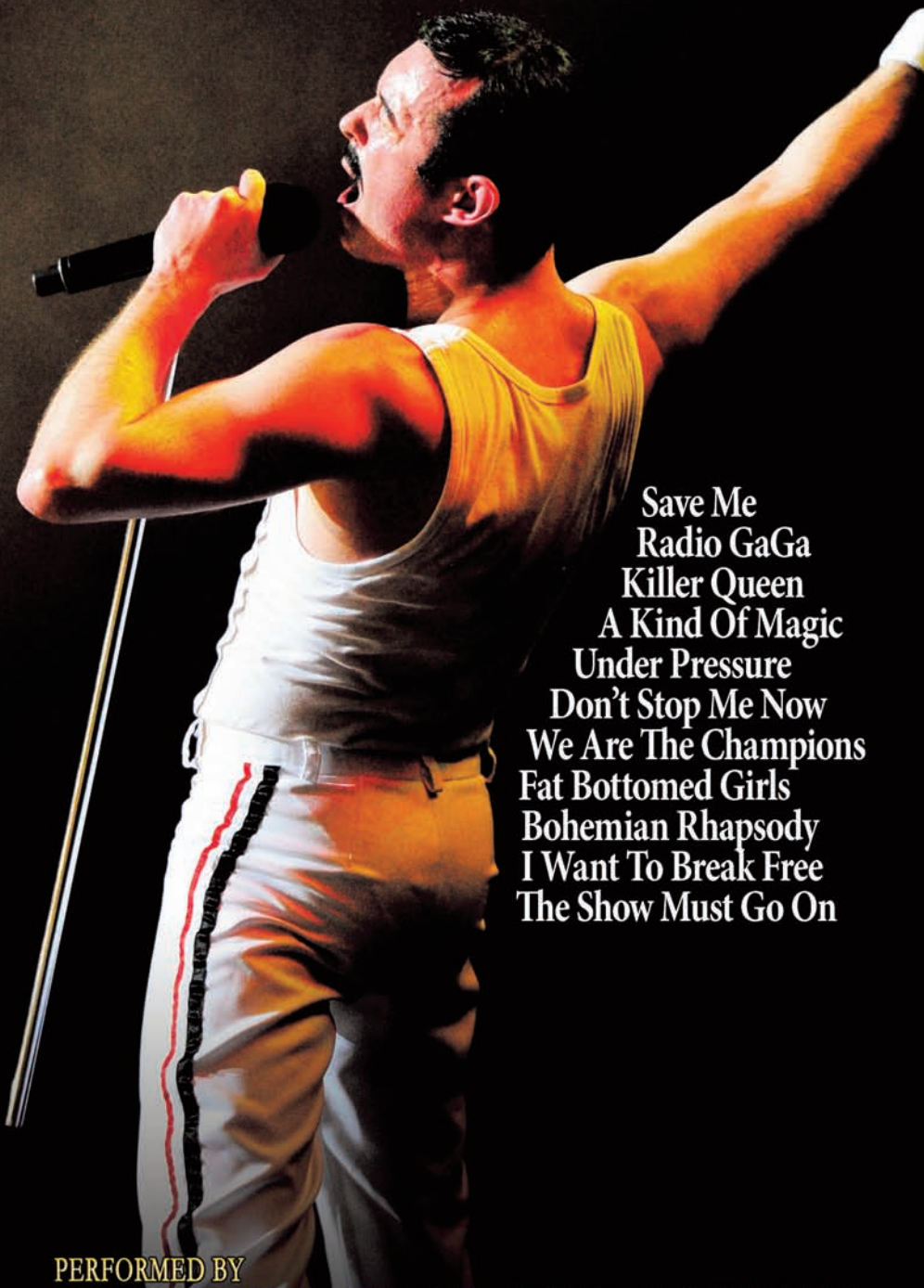
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Phillip Murrell by Arnold Wayne Jones

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— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Tyson Thuan Nguyen, Onyx Nail Bar
4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 109.
Text 214-912-7077 for appointment. OnyxNailBar.com.



Tyson Nguyen by Arnold Wayne Jones

Ever since he and his family emigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam 12 years ago, Tyson Nguyen has called Dallas home ... and he loves it here. And, it turns out, Dallas loves him, too. That's why his clients voted Nguyen the top guy to give a manicure-pedicure in the Metroplex. And if anybody knows a good mani-pedi place, it's the gays. "Short and shiny!" Nguyen says is the preferred look of most of his clientele, and with his speed, gentleness and smile, they always get what they want. He's been at Onyx Nail Bar for three years of his decade doing mani-pedis, and if Nguyen weren't enough of a draw, the salon also has a fully stocked bar for their guests. Nothing like sitting back for short and shiny with a cocktail.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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It's a classic riddle: When there are only two barbers in town — one messy and with a bad haircut, one fastidious and with a flawless trim — which one do you go to? Why, the messy one of course: He's the one who cut the *other* guy's hair ... the tidy one cut his. Of course, Dallas Voice readers had more than two barbers to choose from in selecting their favorite hair stylist, and Landon Starnes impressed the most people. It's not that he's messy or has a bad haircut — indeed, he's put together with a graceful elegance. And it's being able to share that skill with his clients, to make them look as good as they can, that no doubt scored him points and fans.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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**BEST LOCAL MUSICAL
ACTOR/ACTRESS**

Walter Lee Cunningham

BEST LOCAL PRODUCTION (MUSICAL)

The Rocky Horror Show — Dallas Theater Center
Performed Sept. 11–Oct. 19, 2014, at the Wily Theatre.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Walter Lee Cunningham by Karen Almond

It's one of the most famous celebrations of queer culture that mainstream society has ever embraced — especially the 1976 cult film — so it was no surprise our readers really took a step up (and to the rii-ii-gg-ih-t) voicing their support for the Dallas Theater Center's production of *The Rocky Horror Show* last fall. Incorporating the film's notorious audience participation aspects, it was as much a party as a theater production. And the presence of Walter Lee Cunningham as a cross-dressing Magenta no doubt helped him secure the title of favorite musical theater stage actor of the year. There and in shows like Uptown Players' *Pageant*, Cunningham oozes strength, femininity and comic chops with a powerhouse voice that makes the former Voice of Pride winner (and karaoke host) one of the best reasons to see any show in Dallas he's associated with.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

BEST DANCE EVENT OR TROUPE

Bruce Wood Dance Project
BruceWoodDance.org.



b.guilliaux

When choreographer Bruce Wood died suddenly last spring, at only 53, it sent shockwaves throughout the North Texas arts community. By consensus, Wood was one of the truly great home-grown artists the Lone Star State has ever produced, an intense and uncompromising servant of making the movement of the human form into something sublime. But Wood's death did not end his mission. His Bruce Wood Dance Project — which readers declared the best dance event or troupe of the year — continues to produce dance: Not just recreating some of the 60-plus original works Wood created in his lifetime, but other classic pieces and even new dances from acting artistic director Kimi Nikaidoh. Death may have stopped the man, but his legacy of brilliance lives on.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Ever since Virgin America took over the gates at Love Field vacated by American Airlines last fall — just as the Wright Amendment expired allowing (finally) long-haul flights between Oak Lawn's airport and distant ports of call —

the luxury/low-cost airline has been a favorite of the gay community, owing in no small part to the first cities VA serviced: San Francisco, New York, D.C. and Los Angeles. (Just last week, Virgin announced it would even be expanding to 19 flights daily from Love Field, including a new route to Austin.) But it's not just the competitive prices and online fare-slashing programs that we love, it's the flight itself: The inside of each plane is less Spam-in-a-can than discotheque-in-the-sky, with dramatic lighting, roomy seats, excellent service and countless amenities. It's fitting that the airline is called Virgin: Once you've ridden it once, you are forever spoiled.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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La Bohunk

Out barihunk Jonathan Beyer braves the cold to make his debut as Marcello in Dallas Opera's production of 'La Boheme'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

As a Chicagoan, Jonathan Beyer is used to harsh winters. Still, he thought he'd dodged a bullet this year ... only to be sorely disappointed.

"My last gig was in Miami — I was living in SoBe with an ocean view," Beyer brags. "Then I was coming to Dallas, where I thought I would miss winter entirely. But it was lies, all lies!"

The extreme weather in Dallas for the last few weeks, especially the snow and ice storms that effectively shut down the city, actually forced Beyer — an opera baritone appearing in the Dallas Opera's current production of Puccini's *La Boheme* — and the rest of the cast to miss several rehearsals. "I actually sang in Alaska twice and never had a rehearsal canceled," Beyer says.

You might think that not being able to fully rehearse would have given Beyer some jitters.

Opera singers typically have a repertoire: A canon of roles they have performed in numerous productions over their careers. But Beyer is making his full-production debut in the key role of Marcello in *Boheme* ... a role he knows but has never performed.

But the night before opening, Beyer was as cool as the backside of a pillow ... and not just because of the weather.

"It's totally fine," he says dismissively. "I'm almost *too* relaxed. I've sung Schaunard [a smaller baritone role in *Boheme*] in six different productions, so it feels like I've graduated a bit into the big-boy part. And the music is ingrained in my ear, so it's been a really easy first-time out with this role."

Judging by his performance on opening night, Beyer had nothing to be concerned about. He

was one of the strongest elements of the production, which continues at the Winspear Opera House through March 29. What *does* give him some pause is realizing how many people will actually see his performance on March 21. That's when the DO airs one of its simulcasts, with the live production streamed directly to thousands of opera fans at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

"It's like The Met — [you just do the performance], and it's only later that [it sinks in] how many people just saw you," he says.

Most people who see Beyer onstage will take note of him. At 6-foot-5, he's a towering, handsome fellow with a powerful voice (opera devotees know him from his photos on the BariHunks.com fan page). When he was last in Dallas, he performed the part of Ping in *Turandot*, probably making him one of

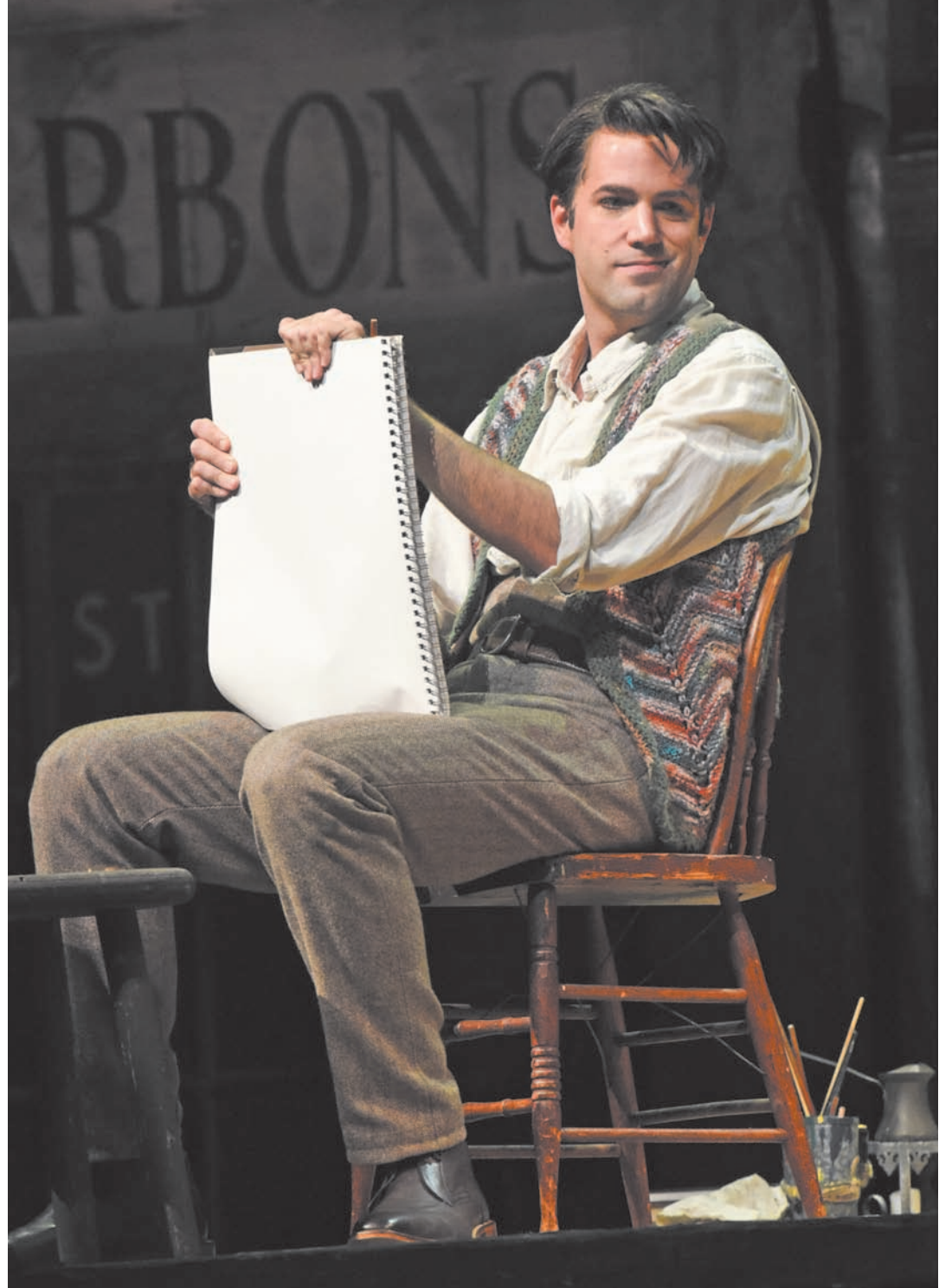
the tallest Asians in history. He also had a small role in the world premiere of Jake Heggie's *Moby-Dick*. But this is definitely his biggest chance to impress Dallas audiences.

From Puccini to Heggie, Beyer is comfortable in both classical and modern opera and even Broadway ... especially where there is crossover. And his dream roles indicate the diversity of operas available to a singer.

"I find modern opera covers such a large range [of styles]. A lot of Jake Heggie's music is accessible — *Moby-Dick* is very tonal with singable melodies — as is John Adams' *Nixon in China*. I tend to sing Figaro all the time, and I always enjoy doing *Figaro* because I like doing shtick. But on a more intellectual level, I am dying to do *Nixon in China* as Nixon. I like that

LA BOHEME

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on March 21.
DallasOpera.org.



LE BEAU EPOQUE | Jonathan Beyer return to Dallas in his largest role yet, as the spirited artist Marcello in Dallas Opera's current production of 'La Boheme.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

it's the best combination of old and new. All of these standard operas are amazing, but I like relevant concepts and cool new contemporary ideas. But also, especially with a lot of older musicals, there's a crossover [with operatic styles]. I'd rather hear an opera artist sing *Oklahoma* [than a pop singer]."

The person Beyer probably would most like to hear sing, though, is his partner of nine years, Brandon Cedel, himself an opera singer.

"Brandon is a bass-baritone, so we don't go up for the same parts, but we love it when we can perform together," Beyer says. Dallas Opera tried to get Cedel to appear as Colline in *Boheme*, but he was already contracted to perform in The Met's production of *Don Carlo*. But they'll be seeing each other before too long. He likes mixing work with pleasure, when possible.

"My gig after this is in St. Louis, and Brandon'll be there ... but singing in a different opera.

And we're doing *The Barber of Seville* together in Pittsburgh later this year," he says. "For us it is kind of a balance. We run in the same circles, so it doesn't feel like one person is tagging along. It's good for the relationship."

There's another bonus to being an out opera singer: Unlike many gay men lament aging, Beyer revels in it.

"Ballet dancers are in their prime in their youth, but the male *voice* continues developing until your late 30s/early 40s," he says. "I have friends who panic about their birthdays; But I think, 'Phew! I'm getting more legitimate! I can play father roles!'"

online exclusive

For a review of 'La Boheme,' visit DallasVoice.com and click on InstantTea.

Unmissable

2 powerful gay memoirs are unexpected page-turners

***I Left it On the Mountain* by Kevin Sessums (St. Martin's Press 2015) \$26; 273 pp.**

On the morning of his 53rd birthday, Kevin Sessums woke up in a funk. He was scheduled to attend an Oscar party that evening with Courtney Love, but was preoccupied with something else: He'd signed up to walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain, a pilgrimage of 500-plus miles.

Sessums wasn't sure what he hoped to gain by walking the camino. He'd been told that the trek was spiritual, one "that pilgrims have walked for over two thousand years." He'd been told that it would change him. Change was what he realized he needed.

As a child growing up in the South, Sessums was a "sissy boy" (*Mississippi Sissy* was his previous memoir) and he knew that he'd disappointed his father. Efforts to align with Dad betrayed his mother in ways that hurt her. But because both his parents died when Sessums was 9, he couldn't ask their forgiveness.

Molested at 13, now HIV-positive and feeling abandoned as an adult, Sessums had been bingeing on drugs and sex for months when a friend suggested the Camino. The journey beckoned ... but not without questions. "How do I fully combine the spiritual with the carnal?" he mused.

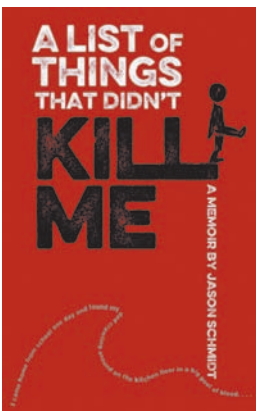
Weeks later, the answer arrived as he chose the more difficult path of the camino, up hills and through mud, fighting blisters and exhaustion but still noticing men and miracles. But that's not the pinnacle of this powerful memoir — not by a long shot.

Sessums is a first-rate memoirist. He opens his heart and soul and lets you see everything that's there: warm childhood memories, recollections of time spent with "heightened acquaintances," love of (and frustration with) family, painful years of grief, loss and fear. His unfiltered stories, and especially the diary part of his camino journey — the passages about passages, if you will — both underscore his talent. (He does bend toward frequent name-dropping and pop-culture-fashion references, which can be tiring.) He also doesn't shy from explicit, brutal sex.

Despite some flaws (that really aren't flaws), I couldn't put this book aside. It's beautiful, it's ugly, and if you skip reading it, you may never forgive yourself.

***A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me* by Jason Schmidt (FSG 2015) \$19; 432 pp.**

Killing his father would have been simple. Jason Schmidt knew he could smother his



Kevin Sessums (Photo by Matt Edge)

dad or overdose him and nobody would ever suspect. His father had been sick awhile anyhow and if he died, nobody would look twice, although Schmidt sensed he'd regret it. He didn't need any more regrets in his life.

Born in the early '70s, Schmidt remembers being a self-sufficient child: his earliest memory was leaving his mother's house (at age 3) to ride a mile on his tricycle to his father's place. That was just before his parents battled, his mother left for good, his father "got busted," and Schmidt was sent to Southern California to temporarily live with his grandparents, who shipped him to Oregon when his father got out of jail. There, Schmidt and his dad lived in a series of "leftover" houses with a variety of "flower children, baby boomers" and hippies who taught Schmidt about sex, drugs and avoiding outsiders.

When he was 7, he and his father relocated to Seattle, where they moved in with his dad's boyfriend. Three years later, another boyfriend got sick with a "weird fever" and then Schmidt's father "came down with the same bug." Schmidt pretended to cry when the diagnosis of AIDS was confirmed.

By the beginning of his senior year, Schmidt had caught up with his peers in school. He had a girlfriend, an understanding of welfare fraud, a high IQ, anger issues, a dying father, no stability, no money, no plan for the future. He was 16, barely holding things together, and couldn't think of what would happen when he graduated.

A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me is a large book, and not just the page count: Beginning with his earliest memory and moving forward to young adulthood, Schmidt shares a powerful, emotional coming-of-age tale of an unstable childhood, of the beginning of AIDS and of people purposely living on the edge of society with little to nothing, all told in a voice dripping with sarcasm, irony and anger.

That voice. That's what hooked me. I laughed. I got teary. I loved it. Though this book is meant for teens, it's best-suited for readers 16 and up. If you can handle that, then this is one you'll be glad you didn't miss.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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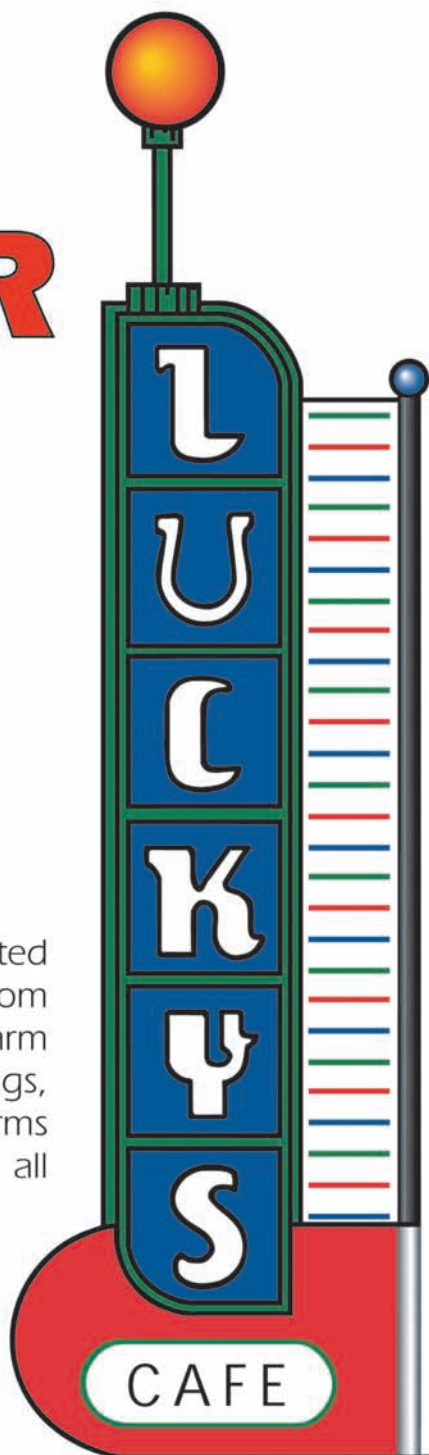
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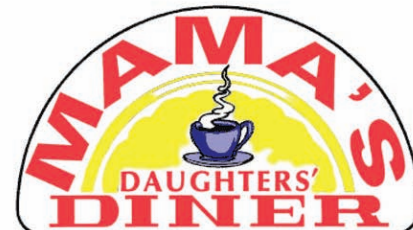
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Thursday 03.26

Michael Sam, Dale Hansen reunite

Michael Sam — who Voice readers just named hottest local athlete (see Page 46) is steaming up the dance floor on *Dancing with the Stars*, but he still has time to come back to Dallas to reunite with his champion (and Readers Voice Award winner for best local ally) Dale Hansen for a personal appearance. Hansen will introduce Sam, who will deliver an address as part of the Upstander Speaker Series for the Dallas Holocaust Museum.

DEETS: Communities Foundation of Texas, 5500 Caruth Haven Lane. March 26 at 6:30 p.m. 214-741-7500.



Friday 03.20

'King and I' opens with B'way's Rachel York

The national tour of Rodgers & Hammerstein's lush and lovely *The King & I* arrives at Fair Park, courtesy of Dallas Summer Musicals, and settles in for a three-weekend run at Fair Park Music Hall. Rachel York, a Drama Desk Award winner for *Victor/Victoria*, leads the cast in such memorable numbers as "Getting to Know You" and "Shall We Dance?"

DEETS: Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. March 21–April 5. DallasSummerMusicals.org.



Saturday 03.21

So you think you can spin? Then prove it at DJ battle!

There's more to being a DJ than liking to put together mix tapes for your friends. Wanna know how much more? Then enter — or just attend as a fan — the DJ battle at Marty's Live Saturday. There are 16 slots for the 20-minute sets, and the crowd picks the winner, who goes home with \$500 bucks ... and a lot of street cred.

DEETS: Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave. March 21. Sign-up by 6 p.m. battle starts at 8 p.m.



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

And Then There Were None. The Agatha Christie mystery. *Reviewed this week. Final weekend.* Presented by Theatre Britain. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com.

Hot Mikado. A jazzy/bluesy rendition of the Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, with Major Attaway, Denise Lee and others. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through April 5. Theatre3Dallas.com.

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

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.

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

The King & I. The Rodgers & Hammerstein classic musical, starring Rachel York as Anna. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. March 20–April 5. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

The Testament of Mary. The recent Broadway solo show about the life of Jesus' mother while living in solitude in Ephesus seeks to humanize the figure



SAY GOODBYE TO HIS 'PENIX' | John Michael Colgin, who just finished a run as Gilligan in 'Gilligan's Fire Island,' is moving away, but before he goes will perform his solo show 'Order of the Penix,' about his obsession with Harry Potter and his own sex life. He'll do two pay-what-you-can, BYOB shows at Margo Jones Saturday at 10:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m.

revered in Christian iconography. A regional premiere presented by Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through April 11. Undermain.org.

The Tale of Peter Rabbit. Dallas Children's Theater presents this production featuring Kathy Burke Theatre

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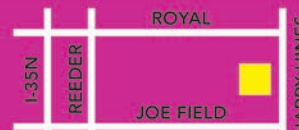


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of Pupperty Arts. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through April 5. DCT.org.

Hotel California. A world premiere comedy from MBS Productions. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. March 26–April 19. MBSProductions.net.

OPERA

La Boheme. Puccini's classic romance set in Paris during the *fin-de-siecle*. Reviewed this week. Presented by the Dallas Opera. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through March 29. Special free simulcast at AT&T Stadium in Arlington Saturday. DallasOpera.org.

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.

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.

SATURDAY 03.21

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. Monthly games-and-drag fundraiser. Theme: Lucky Charms. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. play. MyResourceCenter.org.

SUNDAY 03.22

BROADCAST

Looking. The drama about gay life in San Francisco, starring Jonathan Groff. Season finale. Aired on HBO at 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 03.24

COMMUNITY

RuPaul's Drag Race Battle of the Seasons. Michelle Visage hosts contestants including Bianca Del Rio, Detox, Sharon Needles and more. South Side Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar St. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. show. \$30. SouthSideMusicHall.com.

FILM

La Dolce Vita. The Fellini film that established the carefree extravagance of post-War Italy, with Marcello Mastroianni as an amoral reporter (the film gave us the term "papparazzi") and Anita Ekberg foliccking in Trevi

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fountain. 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.

WEDNESDAY 03.25

SPOKEN WORD

Oral Fixation: The Writing on the Wall. The program of true short stories as told by the authors. Texas Theatre, 231 Jefferson Blvd. March 25. 8 p.m. OralFixationShow.com.

this week's solution

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DALLASVOICE

Cassie Nova

Cassie' past: Gays of shade & 'hos

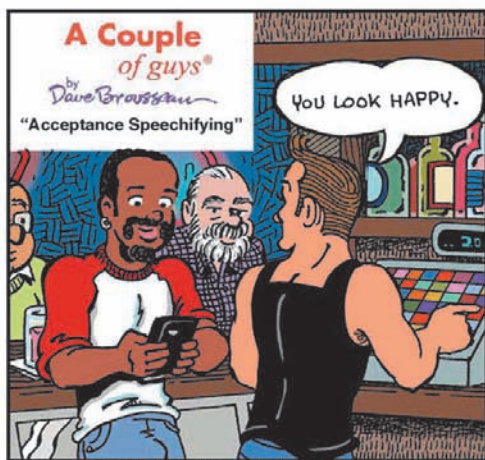
Howdy peeps, how the hell are ya? I was just thinking about the old days and how shady the queens used to be. Don't get me wrong — there are still some messy queens (there always will be), but these days the drama is not nearly as horrifying. I remember once, years ago, this very talented drag queen (who shall remain nameless) got pissed off at me because I turned in "I'm Every Woman" to do in the show. She apparently thought she was Whitney Houston and no one else should be doing it. Bitch, please. If there was a show going on in 1992 and 1993, someone in that show was doing a song from *The Bodyguard*. Every song on that damn soundtrack was a huge moneymaker and I had to pay my rent.

So while I was on stage serving a little Whitney

un-reality, this messy-ass thing in a wig was downstairs in the dressing room pouring an entire bottle of spirit gum (wig glue) into my suitcase. She ruined two of my little 'ho dresses and a pair of purple crushed velvet thigh-high boots. I was pissed off and out for blood. When I confronted this heifer, she said, "Gurr! I don't know what happened to your cheap clothes, but it wasn't me!" Then she turned smiling and sashayed out the dressing room door.

I was livid but I had no proof; **Donna Day** didn't need proof. When she found out what had happened, she said, "Miss Thang, no ma'am!" She unzipped said queen's bag and poured an entire bottle of baby oil into it saying, "Karma is a bitch!" Then she zipped it back up with a wink and a smile. I gasped with horrified delight. Whoever said two wrongs do not make a right never worked in a drag show.

I waited for the repercussions from the nameless queen, but nothing ever came of it. I think she feared the Donna Day as much as the rest of the world and kept her big pretty mouth shut. As pissed off as I was that night, I really remember Donna having my back.



She was fiercely protective of her sisters and I was lucky to be one of them. So basically what I am saying is: Some people can be just awful, shade being thrown everywhere, but there is nothing like the feeling of someone you respect having your back.

Now to use my powers for good!

Dear Cassie, I have often wondered why there isn't a school for drag. Literally, a place where aspiring performers could learn not only the fine art of make-up and hair and fashion, but also the theatrical aspects of the business — the difference between being just a drag performer and being an artist. Acting, theater and performance art are all key parts of being a great performer. It would be awesome if some of the very talented and creative entertainers of our community could mentor and guide new aspiring performers through the do's and don'ts of drag. Just a thought from an old, old showgirl. By the way, I love your column and read it every chance I get. Hugs, Michael Doughman.

Dear Miss Michael Lee, I think a school for drag is a great idea but would be a tricky thing to pull off. First off, true up-and-coming showgirls have a real thirst for learning. I remember going to the Wave to see the shows and thought of it as school. I had the best teachers, too. I learned a lot from **Valerie Lohr** about the business and how to be professional. I learned about hair and lip-sync from **Celeste Martinez**. **CoCo** was the most incredible overall entertainer. I was obsessed with **China Blue's** makeup, and I learned much from you, Michael Lee. I would go to your shows and be inspired by your comedic timing and how comfortable you were on stage. Cassie Nova is the culmination of all of the gals that inspired her and I hope that she has done the same for others.

Second, have you tried to talk to or help any of these young queens? They think they already know everything. Then they want to wonder why their careers aren't going anywhere. A true showgirl never stops learning. So if you ever want to be the Dean of a Drag University, I will be there with lashes fluttering. Thanks for everything, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, Is it right to date someone when they are still considered married but separated? Not just living together and seeing others — like living in two separate states, with no emotional connection.

Thanks, Cameron.

Cameron, Of course it is OK. They need to get off their ass and get that divorce finalized. It's hard for someone to commit fully to someone till they close the door on their past. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I've hosted a local drag show at my hometown bar for several years. A couple months ago, the bar owner asked someone else to book the girls and be in charge of the show. I let it slide without saying anything, then it happened again the next month. In a very professional manner, I emailed the owners asking what was going on. Had I done something wrong? I explained how it made me feel and how I've put a lot of time and effort into them to make sure they are successful and that the bar and performers were making money. They had no good answer as to why and went back to having me do the scheduling. Now it's happened again! Someone who has been performing with me was asked to do it and essentially wanted my blessing. I told this individual to go for it but that I wouldn't be a part of it. So what would be your advice to me. Thank you, KS.

Well KS, Although your situation does not sound fair, I have a news flash for you: The show will go on with or without you. Whenever you work in bars — or anywhere for that matter — you have to work with many egos and personalities that may not have the best communication skills. Your best bet is to show up when you are scheduled to work and put on the best show that you can because there will always be someone to come along and replace you. Don't let your ego or pride get in the way of doing what is most important to you. Are you there to book girls and be in charge or are you a performer who just needs to be on stage? It's hard to do but try not to get all butt-hurt when they ask someone else to help out. Just do "you" and put on a good show. As for your friend, be supportive. Don't get bitter, get better! Cassie.

Beware the shady queens but fear the shadiest queen of them all ... the one that has her own column in Dallas Voice! Muah-ha-ha!!

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 Long — Best Insurance Agent (SERVICES)



Station 4 — Bottoms Central (NIGHTLIFE)
Cassie Nova — Best Local Drag Performer (SHOW)



Chad West — Best Criminal Attorney (SERVICES)

Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 19–26**:

Alexandre's: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Shamrock and Roll** featuring **Holland K Smith Band** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Lala J** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: **Red Ribbon Show** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Riata's Rebels** at 8 p.m. on Saturday. **Imperial Court In-Town Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Brick/Joe's: **William's Shafterparty** featuring **Kennedy Davenport** with **Nicole Ohara Munro**, **G Licious G** and **Raquel Blake** on Tuesday.

BJ's NXSI: Be free for **Spring Break Trashy Tuesday**, **Wet & Wild Underwear Contest** on Wednesday.

Changes: **Miss Outta Sight Pageant** at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Club Reflection: **Imperial Court** candidate barbecue hosted by **Emperor XVI Melissa Flories** at 3 p.m. on Saturday. **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association King of the Rodeo** candidate show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Mother Michial Community Service** buffet at 7 p.m. and awards at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Dallas Eagle: **Underwear Night** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. **Sharon St. Cyr Spring Fundraiser** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Green Party** at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

Havana: **Curious Fridays** at 10 p.m.

Hidden Door: **Moonshine Madness** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: **Net Chix Exposed** on Tuesday.

Round-Up Saloon: **Texas National Showgirl & Showgirl at Large 2015** at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Sue Ellen's: **Chaz Marie** on Saturday. **NTWSA Softball** sign ups 1-6 p.m. on Sunday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3 p.m. **Maxwell Hughes** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The Rose Room: **Gay Bingo** on Saturday.

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



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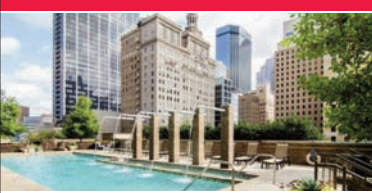
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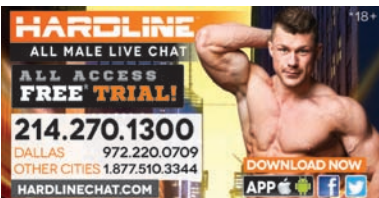
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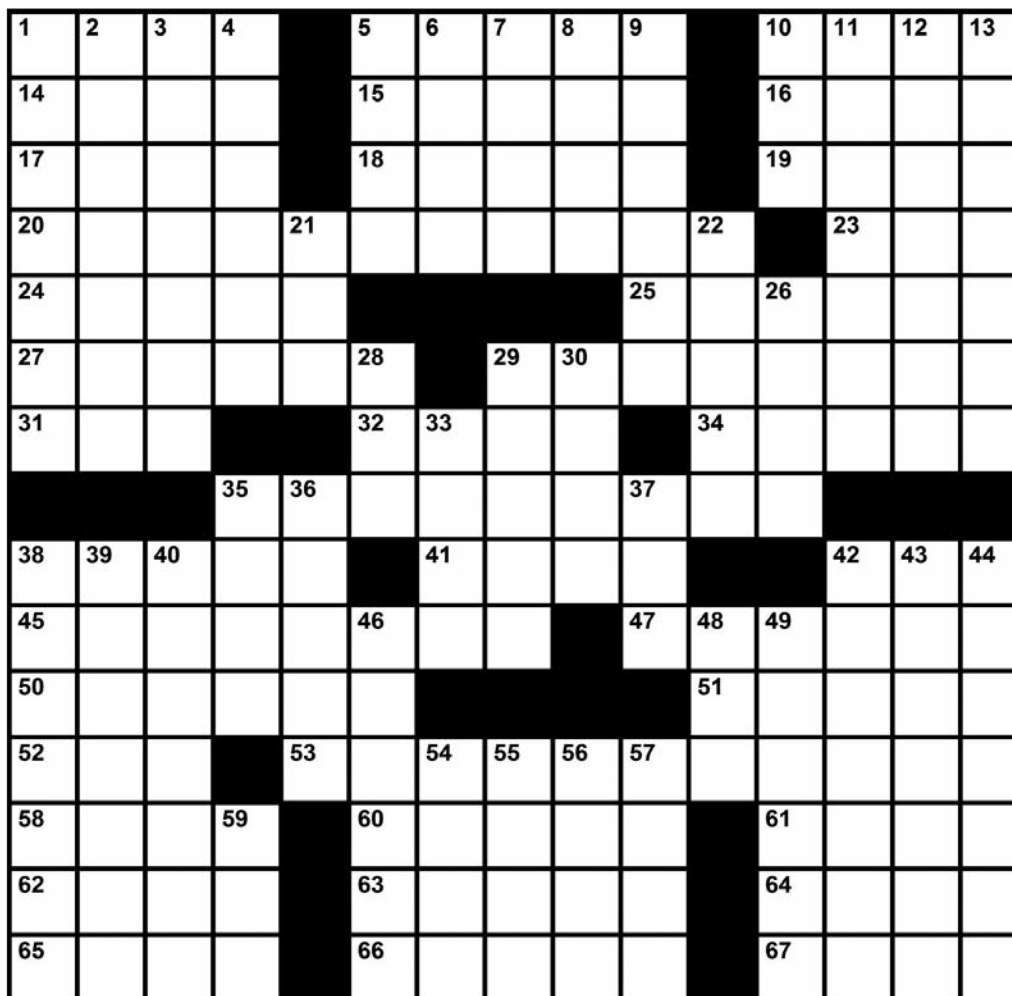
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q-puzzle



The Changing Face of Athletics

Solution on page 69

Across

- Delivered a mouthful, perhaps
- Escort from the door
- Straddling
- Meat stabber
- Too-too
- Starch source
- Bear up there
- Emulate a pansy
- "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning"
singer
- Athlete currently undergoing
gender reassignment
- Small salamander
- Trapp title
- Bitch of the '50s
- Mortgage holder
- 20-Across won gold at this
1976 competition
- Albee for short, et al.
- SEC overseer
- Is orally aggressive
- Event for which 20-Across
won the gold
- On the ocean
- Emperor played by
Charles Laughton
- Where to gaze at a hottie

45 Cereal for which 20-Across

- was a spokesperson
- ___ *aux Folles*
 - Movie tough guy Chuck
 - Reef buildup
 - Meet Me in St. Louis* writer Brecher
 - Fear of gender reassigned people
 - Diamond of note
 - Ease off when you masturbate?
 - Blow hard, in and out
 - Oz visitor Dorothy
 - Wife of Portia
 - Irish tongue
 - Filed for palimony, e.g.
 - Baryshnikov's jetes, e.g.
 - Charlie Brown expletive

Down

- Designer ___ (facial hair style)
- Attack by spraying from above
- Provides with coverage
- Official at Metropolitan
Community Church
- English Lit., e.g.
- Vogue competitor
- Collar kind
- Club for Sheehan
- To wit

10 From ___ Z

- Endures the masochist role
- Opening
- Emily Dickinson, in her day
- Carbon compound suffix
- Macho movie guy
- Word with top, for Mauresmo
- SASE, for one
- One of the "Maneater" singers
- Cowardly lion actor
- Sadist's tool
- Letter opener
- Weird Al Yankovic song sucks?
- "Ha ha!" on the Internet
- Storefront shaders
- Walden* author
- Like a slave to a master
- Nitrate Kisses* director Hammer
- Hostile to
- Ties in
- Land of the cut
- Essen exclamation
- Chris of *American Beauty*
- Ready and willing partner
- Simba's Broadway love
- Brady Bunch prefix
- Whitman and Dickinson
- Was out in front

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