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National Pride Edition

2015



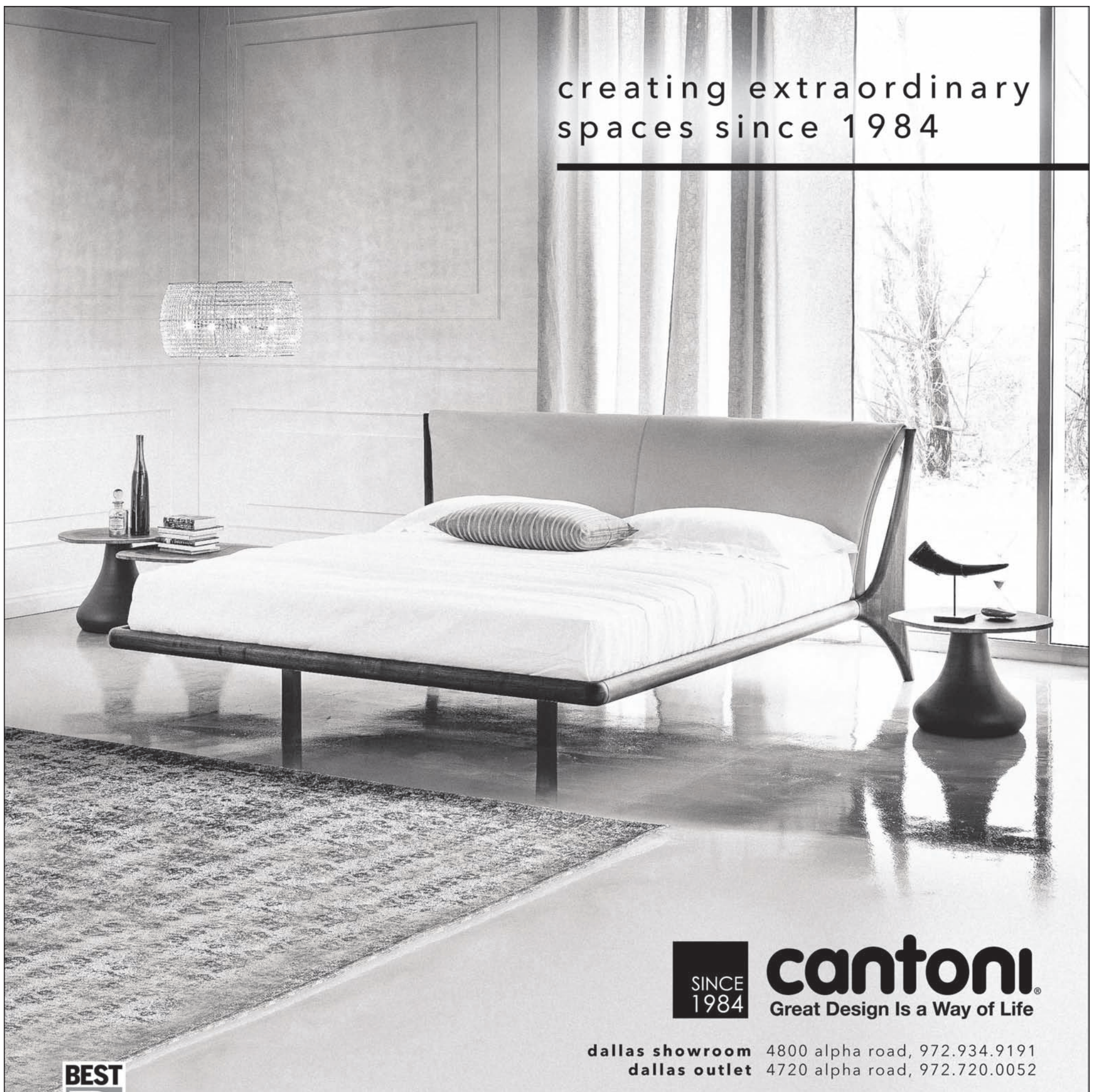
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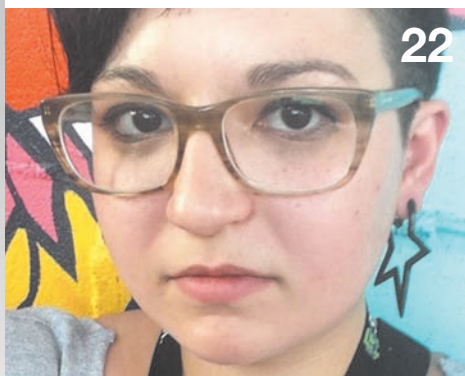
I had to stop smoking.

— PAUL

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Tony Fera

him president of MidStar Energy, a Houston oil company. His bail was set at \$5,000.

— David Taffet

Austin police release mug shot of alleged attacker

Austin police have released the mug shot of the man arrested in the attack of Andy Smith, a gay Texas Instruments executive from Dallas.

The man is Tony Fera, 51. Austin Business Journal identifies

for ILGA-Europe, said the exciting thing about the Maltese policy is that it can pave the way for similar policies in other countries. She noted that the countries don't need to have something like the GEGISC Act in place to adopt a similar education policy.

— Tammye Nash

Bush, Trump joining 399 other candidates running for president

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush announced his Republican presidential campaign on Monday, June 15. The next day, Donald Trump announced his quixotic bid. They join a crowded field of candidates.

No, really. It's packed, according to the Federal Elections Committee. 392 other candidates have filed a Form 2 statement of candidacy for 2016.

Bush and Trump are vying for the nomination against 89 other nominees from across the country.

Among them is former stripper and social conservative activist Pogo Mochello Allen-Reese of San Antonio. No word if he plans to campaign against marriage equality with his fellow culture warriors former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas and Dr. Ben Carson of Maryland, all of whom have rosy opinions on a variety of LGBT issues.

Allen-Reese is probably the most colorful of the bunch, however. The "Patriot Prancer" recently ran for San Antonio mayor, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

— James Russell



AIDS Services Dallas celebrated the 28th anniversary of its founding with a barbecue and by handing out awards to allies and residents in the Revlon Apartment courtyard. Awards were given in the names of ASD's two founders — Michael Merdian and Daryl Moore — and early board member Phil Morrow. Don Maison has headed the housing agency since 1989, making him the longest serving director of an AIDS agency in the U.S.

Holocaust Museum invites Jeffress

Mary Pat Higgins, president and CEO of the Dallas Holocaust Museum Center for Education and Tolerance, responded to Pastor Jeffress of First Baptist Church who made comments last week comparing the LGBT community to Nazis on Fox News.

"The Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust. This is the touchstone from which we teach the moral and ethical response to prejudice, hatred, and indifference. Study of the Holocaust assists individuals in developing an understanding of the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping in our society. We are in no way free

of the dangerous desire that lay at the root of the Holocaust to divide humanity into groups and categories. Thus, as part of our mission, we encourage open and genuine dialog in our society to foster tolerance and understanding. We also caution strongly against drawing comparisons between current conditions in America and those in Nazi Germany. Besides being absurd and inaccurate, such rhetoric cheapens the sacrifices of those who died or suffered during the Holocaust.

"We invite Pastor Jeffress to visit the Museum for a private tour to explore and learn more about the Holocaust," she wrote.

— David Taffet

Malta's new education policy for trans, intersex students

The Maltese government launched a new comprehensive education policy Tuesday, June 16 focusing on the needs of trans, gender variant and intersex children, according to a press release from the International Gay and Lesbian Association-Europe.

The policy, the first of its kind in Europe, identifies several particular needs that have to be addressed, including confidentiality, adequate facilities, support, inclusive policies, the possibility to amend documentation and access to information.

Sophie Aujean, senior policy and programs officer



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THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? E-mail your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

JUNE

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is former Dallas City Councilwoman Veletta Lill; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce Street, Suite C; **Fuse game** night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.
- **June 1-30: Dallas Public Library #LGBTBookMonth**
 Follow @DallasLibrary on Twitter for a new book recommendation every day in honor of the American Library Association's GLBT Book Month, a nationwide celebration of the authors and writings that reflect the lives and experiences of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

- **June 19: Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance and Trans Pride Initiative present "Hard Conversations: One Organization's Journey Toward LGBT Competency"**
 Leaders with Fort Worth's ACH Child and Family Services discuss the process and results promoting LGBT youth acceptance. Noon-1:30 p.m., in the Oak Room of the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak St. Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP call or e-mail David Gruber at 469-222-0047 or david.gruber@mdhadallas.org.
- **June 19: Dallas Juneteenth Festival**
 Free event and festival features vendors, games, food, live music and games from noon-5 p.m. at Martin Luther King Community Center, 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. For more information call LaRhonda Bacon at 214-670-8419.
- **June 19: Log Cabin Republicans host speakers**
 Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas host Fox News contributor Mary Katharine Ham and TownHall.com's Political Editor Guy Benson for a talk about their new book *End of*

pet of the week / TYLER



Tyler is a big — we mean really big — boy. He has a playful and very attentive disposition. He seems alert and very interested in his surroundings. He is a beautiful dog who needs plenty of exercise. He plays well with other dogs, loves to play ball and is easily motivated by food, which should make training a snap. He is a very strong dog and will need some guidance with his leash manners.

Tyler and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.

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Discussion: How the Left's Outrage Industry Shuts Down Debate, Manipulates Voters, and Makes America Less Free from 7-8:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 2201 Preston Road, Plano followed by cocktails at Del Frisco's Grille, 3232 McKinney Road. For more information and to RSVP visit Bit.ly/1BjtdvM.

• **June 20: Second Annual Handsome Father's Day Brunch**

Celebrate fatherhood and dads-to-be from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at Blue Mesa Grill in Lincoln Park, 7700 W. Northwest Highway. To purchase tickets visit Bit.ly/1TqC8kT.



• **June 20: LGBT Latina/o History Talk with Jesús Cháirez**

TeCo/Bishop Arts Theatre Center hosts Dallas native Jesús Cháirez, visiting from his current home in Mexico City, for a talk on local LGBT Latina/o history. Cháirez's resume boasts a number of firsts, including a stint as first president of the region's first gay Latino organization, Gay Hispanic Coalition de Dallas, in 1982; producer and host of the country's first LGBT bilingual Latino radio show, *Sin Fronteras* on KNON-FM from 1993-2005, and organizer with the Latino arts collective Artists Relating Together & Exhibiting in 1991. Sylvana Alonzo will facilitate the discussion. 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler. Advanced ticket price \$20 each, at the door \$25 each. For more information and to purchase tickets visit Bit.ly/1Bb74j2.

• **June 20: GLBT Latina/o History Talk with Jesús Cháirez**

TeCo/Bishop Arts Theatre Center hosts Jesús Cháirez, who helped organize and was president of DFW's first gay Latino organization: Gay Hispanic Coalition de Dallas, for a talk on his involvement with GLBT Latina/o history in Dallas at 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler. Advanced ticket price \$20 each, at the door \$25 each. For more information and to purchase tickets visit Bit.ly/1Bb74j2.

• **June 20: Stonewall Democrats of Central Texas' Pride Rally**

In anticipation of the Supreme Court's decision on marriage equality, experts and speakers, including out Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, will talk about the legal process for obtaining marriage licenses and more from 1–3 p.m. at the Bell County Courthouse, 101 W. Central Avenue, Belton.

• **June 20–21: Juneteenth Pool Party and Unity BBQ**

UBE and Dallas Southern Pride partner for a pool party from 5–10 p.m. on Saturday, June 20 at Bungalow, 3121 Ross Ave. with a poolside fashion show, UBE Cabana and swag and apparel. \$10. Unity Barbeque from 2–7 p.m. at Stone Tables Pavilion, 650 East Lawther Dr. For information visit UBEDallas.org/Juneteenth.

• **June 20: We Do Preview Screening at CoH**

New documentary film about the stories of three LGBT couples, their journeys for legal recognition of their relationships and the impact that the pursuit of marriage equality has on their lives. 6 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Free with \$5 suggested donation. For more information e-mail Todd Whitley tdubtx@yahoo.com.

• **June 20: Girls Rock Dallas' Summer Splash Party**

Fourth annual Summer Splash Party from 3–5 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 8500 Arturo Drive. Free event open to all families with bake sale and entertainment benefitting scholarships for weeklong summer day camp for girls ages 8–17. For more information visit Girlsrockdallas.org.

• **June 20: Gaybingo: Super hero/villain**

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

• **June 21: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Monthly Meeting**

Meets at 3 p.m. at the Baron House at Celebration Community Church, 908 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Worth. For more information e-mail Richard Tinker at Tink2uwithu@aol.com.

• **June 23: Resource Center Open House and Tour**

Meet the staff, tour the Center and learn about Resource Center's programs and services. Light appetizers and wine will be served. 5:30–6:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan Street.

• **June 24: Lambda Weekly fundraiser**

Draconis van Trapp, Molly Midori, Brook



• **June 26: Queerbomb Dallas 2015 Event**

Alternative pride group hosts their second annual signature celebration, Queerbomb Dallas, featuring speakers, music, entertainment and a movie screening. Speaker's rally and march at 7 p.m. in Lake Cliff Park followed by a community procession at 9 p.m. After party at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. featuring entertainment from Nikki Trash, Damien Dupree + Elle Ay'Elle, Helena Isis, Kitty Sangria, May May and more, musical performances by soul-funk performer Dezman Lehman and Rose Room and Tuesday Night Tease DJ DQ. To volunteer or to be a performer e-mail queerbombdallas@gmail.com.

and Vincente, Athena C Sapphire and Syd Gotswood perform at 7–10 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road to raise money for KNON, the non-commercial radio station that has hosted the world's longest continuously running weekly LGBT radio show since 1983.

• **June 25: The Dallas Way Presents 'Outrageous Oral'**

The GLBT history project presents another segment of Outrageous Oral series ahead of the Supreme Court's decision on marriage equality with couples Mark Pharriss and Vic Holmes, Peggy Evans and Stella Hess, Durward Watson and Michael Kaufman and Sherry Briggs and J'aime Joiner. Rabbi Steve Fisch will serve as emcee. Doors open at 6 p.m. and program starts at 7 p.m. at the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Free. For more information, call 505-400-4405 or visit TheDallasWay.org.

• **June 26: Queerbomb Dallas 2015 Event**

Political rally, performance and after party beginning at 7 p.m. in Oak Cliff. Speaker's procession at 7 p.m. followed by a community procession at 9 p.m. at locations TBA. After party at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. To volunteer or to be a performer e-mail queerbombdallas@gmail.com.

• **June 26: Children's Rainbow Crafts and Movie**

Family-friendly arts and rainbow crafts and movie screening from 1–5 p.m. at the Children's Center at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

• **June 27: HRC DFW Federal Club Summer Luncheon**

Special guest Jeydon Loredó speaks at the annual summer luncheon from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm St. 48th floor. Seating limited to 200. For more information and to RSVP visit Bit.ly/1TqE9gS. Must RSVP by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24.

• **June 27: Rainbow Family Day**

Family-friendly, free event with activities for the whole family from 4–7 p.m. at Dallas City Hall Plaza, 1500 Marilla.

• **June 27: Be An Angel Benefit for Legacy Counseling**

Fundraiser for Legacy Counseling three course dinner and passed hors d'oeuvres by Chef Wendy Krispin, complimentary red and white wine, specialty cocktails by Stoli, live and silent auctions, and fabulous entertainment by Vince Martinez.

• **June 28: TAG Pride Picnic**

Tyler Area Gays hosts its largest pride picnic yet with more auction items, entertainment, food and vendors. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at Southside Park, Tyler. For more information e-mail info@tylerareagays.com or visit Tylerareagays.com or on Facebook at Facebook.com/TylerAreaGays.

JULY

• **July 2: Fort Worth PFLAG meeting**

Meets every first Thursday of the month from



In the race to win hearts and minds, national LGBT advocates say the equality movement has a ways to go

Employment nondiscrimination and the path forward

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com



Even should the Supreme Court rule in favor of marriage equality this month in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, national

advocates say there's a long way to go before the LGBT community achieves full equality.

"The Supreme Court decision would be a victory," said Ineke Mushovic, executive director of Movement Advancement Project, a national LGBT advocacy group in Denver. "People could marry but many may still be fired based on their sexual orientation or gender identity."

In fact, according to MAP's latest report *Mapping Equality*, looking at LGBT protections, or lack thereof, in each state, 52 percent of LGBT people would be at risk of being fired from their jobs, kicked out of their homes, or denied access to doctor's offices and restaurants.

One alarming conclusion from the report reveals the considerable gaps between protections for lesbian, gay and bisexual people

versus trans people.

It was the first thing Rea Carey, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force, noted. "Ninety percent of trans people experience discrimination or harassment in the workplace," she said.

While the lack of legislation protecting LGBT people from job or employment discrimination may be motivated by political animus or bias, not all Americans are opposed to protections. "Many Americans simply don't realize people can be fired from their jobs simply based on their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression," Mushovic said. They believe LGBT people are already protected.

With marriage equality all but certain, advocates believe employment nondiscrimination is the next major priority for the equality movement.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, 29 states do not protect job discrimination based on sexual orientation. 32 states have no such protections based on gender identity or expression. Texas protects neither.

Texas legislators during the most recent legislative session attempted to rectify that, to no avail.

Bills like HB 187 by Rep. Senfronia Thomp-

son, D-Houston, and SB 65 by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, would have broadened the state's employment and wage discrimination codes to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

Additionally, HB 2860 by Rep. Diego Bernal, D-San Antonio, would have prohibited housing discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Past, present, future

Comprehensive employment nondiscrimination legislation has been introduced in Congress during all but one legislative session since 1974. Beside partisan politics, one unfortunate hurdle in passing legislation has been opposition to transgender protections. That was made clear when Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat who has since retired, introduced the bill but then stripped trans protections from it. While the Employment Nondiscrimination Act has since then been introduced with transgender protections, noted Gender Rights Maryland Executive Director Dana Beyer, they largely have gone nowhere.

One legislative victory turned out to not be any victory at all for many LGBT groups. In 2013, the Senate easily passed a trans-inclusive

version of ENDA. But LGBT rights groups pulled their support for it over sweeping religious liberty exemptions that would have allowed faith-based organizations and people of faith to skirt the law. The House did not schedule it for a vote.

There's currently little momentum for federal legislation in the conservative Republican-controlled Congress. As such, victories have played out not in Congress but at the executive level and in the courts.

One such decision came in 2012 when the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission issued a unanimous landmark ruling protecting transgender people. The commission based on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ruled discrimination against a transgender employee or applicant is illegal sex discrimination.

The case was brought by the Transgender Law Center on behalf of Mia Macy who was denied a job at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Last summer, President Barack Obama signed an executive order barring discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation for federal contractors. He also extended

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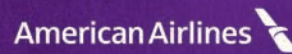
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■ ENDA, From Page 10

protections based on gender identity to all federal employees.

"[The EEOC] is a major advancement in transgender rights that will provide a significant tool to fight discrimination. It will also help us advocate for still needed protections, ENDA and the federal contractors executive order," National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling said at the time.

So where is there hope?

Mushovic pointed to state-level advances, like Utah, where a local push in progressive Salt Lake City fueled passage for a statewide bill barring discrimination for LGBT people in employment and housing.

"Local progress has [also] been helpful," she said.

Clockwise from top left:
Barney Frank,
Rea Carey,
Mara Keisling
and Ineke Mushovic



Not just legalities

The battle for LGBT equality won't end with

marriage equality or with employment nondiscrimination.

There's more to LGBT issues than just marriage, discrimination or job protections. It's about changing hearts and minds through interpersonal interactions, coming out and telling stories.

"We want a whole approach, not just legal recognition," Carey said. "We need to be free to be ourselves in every area of our lives. Whether it's a young lesbian couple holding hands or safely attending church with your partner."

Traditional LGBT groups must also partner with other leaders for justice. She ticked off any number of issues facing the LGBT community, including many of who are often overlooked.

"We have to guarantee the safety of LGBT immigrants in detention centers. We're still talking about voting rights even after the Civil Rights Act! Just because we've made progress doesn't mean we have to defend it," she said.

"We'll continue to see legislation pop up but we're hopeful with the Supreme Court decision that public opinion will continue to change. A positive marriage equality decision from the Supreme Court wouldn't impact LGBT protections," Mushovic said. "We have far to go." ■

To read the full Mapping Equality report visit Lgbtmap.org/file/mapping-equality.pdf.



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Trans leaders look to the battles ahead

From nondiscrimination ordinances and policies, to addressing racism, transgender community still has work to do

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com



Today in Texas, a lesbian couple may marry if one of the partners is trans, but a heterosexual couple with a trans partner

may not. That's because Texas only recognizes the sex on the original birth certificate, not on an amended certificate.

Some legislators would like to avoid their own confusion about who transgender people are by simply banning them from marrying anyone. Once marriage is defined as between two people, that will no longer be an issue for the trans community.

But there are many more issues that are just as, if not more important to most in the transgender community. And as America begins to look beyond marriage equality, these are just a few of the battles the trans community will continue to fight.

Nondiscrimination ordinances

Trans Pride Initiative President Nell Gaither is more interested in protections that can be acquired by regulation rather than by law.

She said nondiscrimination ordinances are great, but to take advantage of them, the person has to have transportation, time and experience working with a bureaucracy.

She's more interested, she said, in changing policies and regulations that benefit trans people.

While nondiscrimination ordinances may set the basis for policy, only by educating people will things change.

Gender markers

Getting the proper gender markers on official documents remains the biggest barrier for the trans community. Vincent Villano with the National Center for Transgender Equality said modern policies need to be adopted nationwide to adequately address the problem.

Dallas attorney Katie Sprinkle explained how updating procedures to change gender markers would make a huge difference in the lives of transgender people. Once the gender marker is changed, she explained, trans people can get identification that matches their presentation.

"Most people get a driver's license and say, 'Now I can drive,'" she said. "A trans person gets a driver's license with the correct sex on it and says, 'Now I can live.'"

A name or presentation that doesn't match the sex on the license outs someone applying for a job. That's one reason for the high unemployment rate in the trans community.

But correct ID affects the life of a transgender person in a number of ways. "A traffic stop can escalate quickly," Sprinkle said. "Especially if you're stopped by Bubba in the wrong jurisdiction."

In fact, she added, simply getting carded when entering a bar can become a dangerous situation. "A little bigotry and some alcohol?" she said. "Violence can quickly follow."

Monica Roberts is editor of TransGriot and lives in Houston. She said a more uniform policy on gender marker changes is needed, noting that in some states, a trans person can change the gender marker without surgery. But in Texas, getting an ID "to reflect who you are," is more difficult, Roberts said.

Sprinkle said Tarrant County won't accept any case involving gender marker change. In Dallas County, she relies on friendly judges using a broad interpretation of the law.

Bathroom bills and workplace harassment

Bathroom bills that clogged legislative agendas this spring in Texas and other states are already illegal, according to Villano, or they at least disregard current Equal Employment Opportunity rulings.

"Should one of these bathroom bills become law, they would be inconsistent with EEOC rulings on transgender people's right to go to the bathroom at work," he explained.

In Texas, Republican state Rep. Debbie Riddle of Houston, introduced HB 1747, which would have changed the penal code on bathroom use, and 1748, which would have implemented a penalty for use of a bathroom by the "wrong" sex. Both died in committee.

The ruling Villano referred to was the case of Tamara Lusardi, a disabled Army veteran who worked for the Army as a civilian. Lusardi transitioned on the job and was required to only use a gender-neutral bathroom. She was reprimanded when she used a women's bathroom when the assigned restroom was out of service.

The EEOC found that the requirement intruded on her privacy, caused discomfort and was humiliating.

In addition, she was called by her former name



Texas state Rep. Debbie Riddle

and her supervisor called her "sir." Those most common forms of harassment against the trans community were found to be illegal discrimination.

Villano said people faced with that sort of harassment in the workplace need to step forward and file complaints "to solidify these protections."

Sprinkle said she's advised clients in that position to look for a new job that will be more understanding, and to hold off on filing a complaint until after they have changed jobs.

"When you leave, you're free from retribution," Sprinkle explained. "If you're still working there, they'll start building a file against you."

A clearer definition of Title 7 by the Supreme Court would go a long way to solidify what the EEOC has already said about protections the trans community has, Sprinkle noted.

Health insurance

One of the problems Gaither said could be solved through regulation is in the area of health insurance and healthcare. Insurance companies often discriminate against their trans customers by not providing all necessary medical care. A trans man, for example, who hasn't had a complete hysterectomy may not be covered for uterine cancer if he's had his gender markers changed.

Villano said he believes sex-specific treatments are covered by the Affordable Care Act and will be covered as cases work their way through the courts. But cancer and other illnesses aren't likely to wait on the court system to work things out.

Gaither said even many trans people who have insurance still have trouble getting the hormones they need, and transition surgery that is often prescribed as medically necessary is being added to some policies, but only very slowly.

Villano said, "Under rule 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, no one can be denied sex-specific care. It shouldn't be happening."

But it is.

Late last year, Sprinkle filed suit against an in-

urance company that refused to cover a client of hers — a trans man who had had top surgery — for breast cancer. After his breasts were removed, the tissue was biopsied in what Sprinkle said is a standard medical procedure.

The man's doctor found he had a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer found primarily in women, and recommended the man be treated with chemotherapy and radiation. But since he had already had his gender marker changed, the insurance company refused the coverage.

Using rule 1557, Sprinkle said she was able to get the insurance company to cover the necessary treatments.

Shelters

Because of the difficulties they face in other areas, including in employment, transgender women and men often find themselves homeless and in need of shelter. And while "federal policy says you can't discriminate, that a trans person can get into any shelter, that's not the way it works in real life," said Gaither, who has worked with several shelters in the Dallas area.

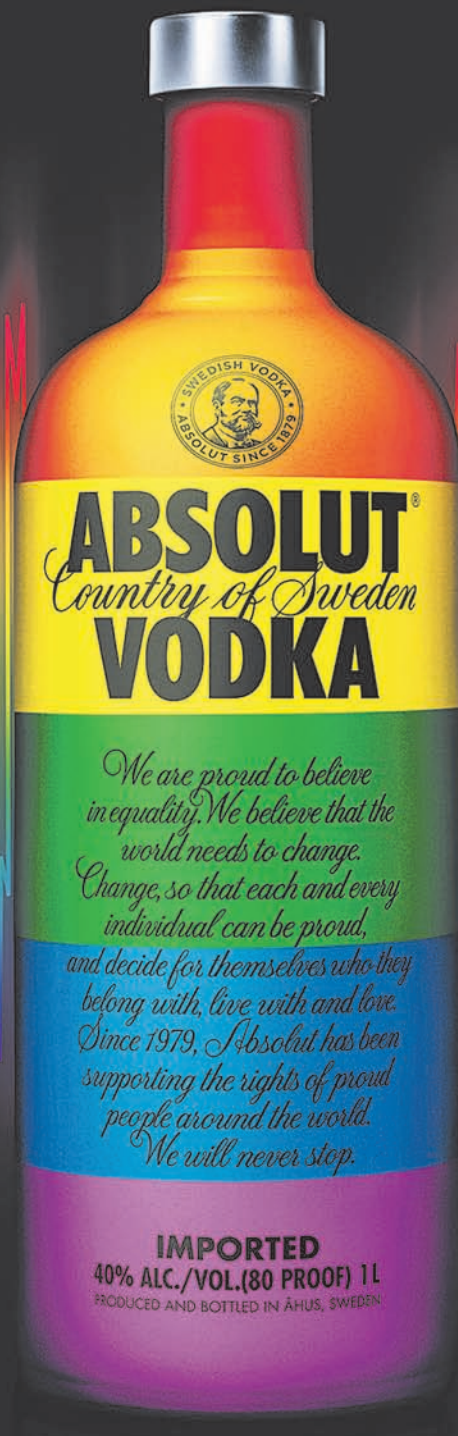
People are still turned away or sent to housing for the wrong gender, Gaither said, adding that 30 to 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT, but most are not accessing traditional shelters. Many couch surf or find alternate places to live temporarily.

"We're expecting marginalized people to come to us and that doesn't happen," Gaither said, noting that policies need to be put in place to serve the homeless trans community and new ways to reach that marginalized community have to be found.

Jobs

A bill to replace the embattled Employment Nondiscrimination Act will include protections in the areas of housing and accommodations as well as employment. Gender identity and expression will be included as protected categories

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Hawk: DA's LGBT Task Force will continue

District attorney also says she hopes to participate in Dallas Pride events in September

MATHEW SHAW | Contributing Writer
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Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk said she plans to ensure cooperation continues between her office and the county's LGBT communities during her tenure as the county's top prosecutor.

The office's LGBT Task Force, created under former District Attorney Craig Watkins, will be utilized for that purpose, Hawk added. "We're planning now to go forward with the task force that [Watkins] created and expand it in any way

ney and chairman of the task force. "Our main focus is on victims and witnesses and making sure that they're being treated like anyone else," he said.

Hawk said she treated fairly across the board during her 11 years as a judge and seven-and-a-half years as a prosecutor, and law enforcement agencies need to understand that LGBT-related cases should be prosecuted the same way as other cases.

"The one message that I heard time and time again is [LGBT people] want to feel safe. They want their families to feel safe," Hawk said. "This is not a task force for any other reason than to make sure the community is served."

Hawk said she wants to meet with LGBT liaisons from different agencies, such as police departments and school districts, and law enforcement agencies within the next month to



Susan Hawk

that we can," she said.

The task force was created in 2014 after Watkins learned that members of LGBT communities are often reluctant to report crimes committed against them to the police out of fear and mistrust. The task force is meant to repair relations between the two groups.

In March 2014, nearly 300 of Watkins' prosecutors and investigators participated in sensitivity training to understand the diverse needs of the county's communities.

Hawk defeated Watkins in the election last November.

The task force is made up of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, social workers and investigators, said Craig McNeil, assistant district attorney

make sure cases are investigated correctly.

"I also think it's important that we reach out to the different nonprofits," she said. "I worked with different groups when I was a judge. One of the things that I've done since I was elected is go out and speak with as many groups as I can."

She said Resource Center and churches in the LGBT community are among the nonprofits she plans to reach out to.

Hawk also said she would like to participate in Dallas Pride on Sept. 20. "Wherever I can be out supporting the community, I'll do it," she said, adding that she wants the LGBT community to know that her office will treat them with respect, whether they're witnesses or victims.

"Justice is blind here," she said. ■



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Former Dallasites Carrancho, Franklin exchanged vows atop a D.C. Pride parade float

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
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George Carrancho and Sean Franklin remember the exact day, time and place they met. It was March 11, 2007,

at 7:45 p.m. at J.R.'s. They saw one another, but Carrancho had to go.

"Desperate Housewives was about to air!" he exclaimed. But it was still "love at first sight" for the couple.

They remember their engagement, too: It happened three years ago, during Manchester, England Pride.

And now, without a doubt, they'll also remember the day they got married.

Well, really, everyone who attended Capitol Pride in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 13 will remember when they got married. With TV personality Ross Matthews officiating, the couple said "I do" in front of family, friends and

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strangers on a Capitol Pride float, thanks to the Marriott hotel chain.

Of course, they remember the unexpected offer, too. The hotel chain's press representative approached them as they left the April Supreme Court marriage equality hearings.

The proposal was simple: the hotel chain, as part of its #LoveTravels campaign, was looking for individuals and couples who travel often and who had a story to share.

Late last month, the call came: Were they still interested?

"We had three weeks' notice," Carrancho said. Before making a decision, however, they wanted to make sure their families and friends could attend. They said yes after rallying brothers, parents and others.

"Our families love us, and we're close to them," he explained.

Carrancho gets the strategy from the consumer and corporate perspective. As American Airlines' former manager for LGBT and multicultural outreach and a frequent traveler, he understands that "it only makes sense for corporations to engage diverse communities. The fact is, we do travel and we have a variety of interests. Appealing to all audiences is in their best interest."

The two hadn't planned on getting married anywhere but Dallas, where Franklin lived for 20 years and Carrancho for seven.

"We miss Dallas. We miss our friends and the

community. We loved Black Tie Dinner," Carrancho said.

But the couple, now living in New York City, just couldn't turn down the opportunity Marriott offered. A wedding in the nation's capital hadn't been on their radar. But they agreed to Marriott's offer because of the unrivalled opportunity. Instead they're hosting a big reception in Dallas in the fall, should same-sex marriage be recognized.

But the fight for equality isn't over yet, however. Carrancho said he anticipates states like Texas will put up a fight even if the Supreme Court rules for marriage equality. Like in Alabama, judges and clerks may refuse to grant licenses in defiance of federal law.

But activists should continue the momentum for equality and for employment nondiscrimination protections, Carrancho insisted. "It's a bunch of moving parts. The battle isn't over," he said.

Even if Franklin and Carrancho had decided not to get married during the Pride parade last weekend, they would have gotten married someday. Probably someday soon. They clearly love one another, and friends call them relationship role models.

"We actually like each other. And we actually love one another," Franklin said. "Not everyone does, or knows how to like and love. We're at the age where we are beyond bullshit.

"You have to let the little things go," Carran-



Left, George Carrancho and Sean Franklin at the D.C. Capital Pride Parade where they were married as part of Marriott's #LoveTravels Campaign on June 13 in Washington, D.C. Above, Ross Mathews officiates at the couple's wedding. (Photos by KrisConnor/Getty Images for Marriott International)

cho added. "You can't fight over a guy checking you out or the underwear that is on the floor."

The two might let go of the little things. But they

won't let go of one another. "If he dies before me," Carrancho said of his new husband, "I'm jumping into the coffin with him." ■

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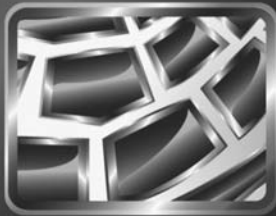
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Erring on the side of welcome

First Presbyterian Church is as old as Dallas and steeped in a tradition of compassion

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Walking from lunch back to his church on Harwood Street, the Rev. Joe Clifford stopped to help a man in a wheelchair who sounded like he was in distress. He was sitting in direct sun on the first hot and humid day after the rain stopped this summer.

The man told Clifford he was waiting for a bus but the last driver didn't help him board. Clifford told him to wait there and he'd go back to the church and arrange for a DART handi ride.

No, most people wouldn't stop to help someone on the street. But Clifford is the head pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Helping people is what he and his church do.

The church is as old as the city, chartered a day after Dallas received its city charter in 1856. And

First Presbyterian has a long history of inclusion and of helping the less fortunate. Examples of that history are seen throughout the church, located downtown.

A clinic for children set up in the basement of the church merged with two similar clinics and became Children's Hospital. Pictures in the church show children of all races being served at a time that was rarely seen in Dallas.

In 1975, the church started The Stewpot to feed the homeless, something Clifford calls "the defining ministry of the church." When the Otis Elevator building across Young Street became available, the church bought it for The Stewpot, and to provide day center services to connect the homeless to other available social services.

One day recently, lunch had already been served, but many people remained to take advantage of the air conditioning as well as a number of other social services offered by First Presbyterian and others offered in the same building by neighboring First Methodist Church.

Since the Stewpot began 40 years ago, the need has increased, so First Presbyterian recently purchased another neighboring building from Oncor



The Rev. Joe Clifford

to house expanding services. Clifford hopes to expand an art program that has brought out the creativity in some of the people his church has served and allowed some to earn enough from their art to find housing. His dream is for a floor of the new building to become a gallery for their work.

Before The Bridge, Dallas' new homeless shelter, opened, the city was clearing out homeless people from under bridges and other public areas. First Presbyterian found itself at odds with city officials on the issue and allowed about 200 people to camp out on part of the church's downtown property until the new homeless shelter opened.

Clifford describes his congregation as a mixture, ranging from conservatives to some who've been served by the Stewpot. And yet, he adds, they all share a sense of compassion.

History of inclusion

In 1983, the Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches reunited after a split that occurred during the Civil War. First Presbyterian's ministers were leaders in the reunification.

So when the issue of accepting LGBT members became a hot issue in the Presbyterian Church, there was no question where First Presbyterian stood. Everyone was welcome.

Clifford says his LGBT members were never looking to go to a gay church. They were just looking to go to church. He said the church hasn't begun reaching out — it has always reached out.

As an example, he says, during the Turtle Creek Chorale's first season, the group was looking for places to perform. One of the group's first performances was at First Presbyterian Church.

Last year, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) changed its policy on marriage by allowing pastors discretion in whether or not to perform same-sex weddings.

"Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives," is part of the new wording that acknowledges tradition, but allows congregations to follow civil law and perform weddings for same-sex couples.

Clifford says he hasn't performed a same-sex union yet, but has couples he's talking to about their upcoming weddings after Texas becomes a marriage equality state. His church doesn't have an official policy yet, but Clifford says he doesn't want to present the board with an abstract policy and ask them to make a decision that way.

"People don't change unless they're in a relationship with people," he says. So when one of the couples is ready to marry, Clifford won't present a policy to the board; he'll present people who have been members of the congregation for decades.

Clifford doesn't expect much more discussion than when a gay couple wanted their photo, together as a couple, in the member directory. He says the board might have rejected the idea, but they weren't going to reject a couple who had been active members of the congregation for years.

He says laws may change soon, but things don't change until hearts change. That's why he always likes to make issues about people: "Always err on the side of welcome," he said. ■

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Sam Harrington says bisexuality isn't a phase, and it isn't a synonym for promiscuous

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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Samantha "Sam" Harrington has been in a committed relationship with a man — Tony — for more than four years now. But she still proudly claims her place in the LGBT community, although, she says, the community is often reluctant to claim her and other bisexual men and women.

Harrington said she didn't begin to realize she was attracted to women as well as men until the-

ater class her freshman year in college. "Before that," she said, "I feared I was homophobic because of the 'butterfly' feelings I got when I was around other girls."

But one day in theater class, she and the other students were participating in a movement exercise, and "I basically ended up straddling another girl in class who was a lesbian," Harrington recalled. "I realized then that [the 'butterflies' were] attraction and that I had been trying to suppress it for years."

Already a member of the gay-straight alliance on her campus — "I joined under the guise of being a straight ally" — Harrington said the GSA gave her the chance to come out as a bisexual.

Harrington, 26, lives in east Fort Worth, work-

ing as “a bookseller by day and a private tutor by night,” although she considers tutoring to be her primary job.

“I tutor students of all ages in numerous areas — elementary math, algebra and Euclidean geometry, in reading comprehension, literary analysis, grammar and writing, and in test prep” for the SAT, ACT and other such exams, she said.

In her spare time, Harrington makes wire jewelry by hand and sells it on Etsy and at craft shows. She is also part of a creative writing club and has recently been named as the book critic for a “soon-to-be-released” women’s magazine. “So I have been reading a lot of new books recently,” she added.

Because she has “numerous friends that fall under the LGBTQA umbrella,” Harrington said, “I have attended a few protests for equality in my day. But I’m not public activist.”

Instead, Harrington said, she considers herself “an intersectional feminist. So you could say that my belief in the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, etc., and my vocalness about those issues makes me somewhat of a private advocate.”

In other words, while she may not be out marching in the streets very often, Harrington considers the way she lives her life to be a kind of activism, in and of itself. And the activism started with coming out as a bisexual.

“In some ways,” Harrington said, “I think coming out as bisexual is harder [than coming out as gay or lesbian] because of the prevalence of biphobia in both the straight and gay communities. Many monosexual people assume being bisexual is ‘easier,’ since bisexuals can ‘choose’ to appear straight, based on their choice of partners, thus avoiding the stigma” gays and lesbians face.

But, she added, “It’s not quite that simple.”

Harrington explained, “From what I know of the process of coming out for gay and lesbian people, the anxiety over acceptance from the people you are coming out to is the same [for bisexuals]. Other than that, I find that generally, gay and lesbian people only have to come out once. After they are out, their partner choices visually represent their ‘outness.’

“But as a bisexual person, I find I am constantly coming out and having to convince people I really am bisexual,” she said.

Harrington said there are some definite similarities in the experiences of bisexuals and lesbians and gays. But there are some definite differences, too.

“Obviously,” she said, “we are all treated as ‘other’ by mainstream society. We share a common interest in marriage equality, and we would like to see an end to discrimination at the blood banks. But I think the similarities end there.”

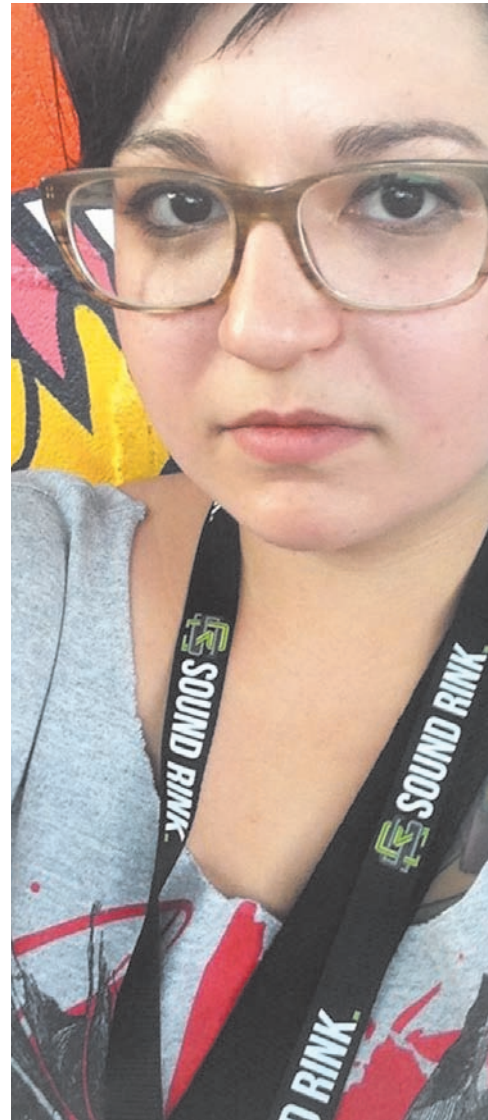
Gays and lesbians, Harrington suggested, just face hatred and discrimination from straight society. But bisexuals are stuck in the middle, taking on fire from both sides.

“Bisexuals receive hate simultaneously from the straight and the gay words,” she declared. “So we have a harder battle to fight to be understood and respected. We are belittled by people who say that bisexuality is a phase in the direction of homosexuality, or that it is a myth altogether. Our fight is about equal parts acknowledgment and accept-

ance. Homosexual people only need to fight for the latter.”

But Harrington doesn’t believe that the battle for bisexual acceptance in the lesbian and gay community is just about shattering the myth that bisexuality is just a phase. It’s about overcoming actual hatred from people who should be allies.

“I have had too many homosexual people tell me to my face that I am a faker or a fence-sitter and that I need to pick a side,” Harrington said. She explained that she used to host a karaoke night at a local gay club and was often approached by women who wanted to know if she



were gay or straight. “I would tell them I am bi, and they would react with disgust or frustration. I’d usually just shrug my shoulders and walk away.”

Harrington understands it’s not the whole lesbian and gay community is not biphobic. “My friends who are homosexual are beyond accepting, so I know not everyone thinks that way,” she said.

But the community as a whole has a long way to go. People need to understand, she said, that “Bisexuality is not a synonym for promiscuity, especially in my case of preferred monogamy. I love both chocolate and strawberry ice cream. But if I am actively involved in eating on, I will not be actively interested in the other at the same time.” ■



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Miles Dean

Miles Dean is not happy

L.D. Bell student fought his school over forming a GSA, now he's taking the LGBT community to task for not being more welcoming of youth

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com



Despite a lack of help from anyone in his school's administration, Miles Dean created a gay straight alliance at L.D.

Bell High School in Hurst. And when his GSA remained small, he decided to organize with other area GSAs and created an organization called Queer Youth Coalition.

Then he began looking for community and found Oak Lawn. But he's not entirely happy with what he found.

Dean, who turned 18 this week, spoke at the June 13 Senior Summit on LGBT aging issues in Dallas. While the Summit focused on seniors, its goal is to provide services for all marginalized groups including youth, and that opened the door to Dean.

"I hope Miles helps bring balance to the full continuum of aging in our community," Summit organizer Cannon Flowers said of the teen's par-

ticipation in the summit. "He, too, is part of the marginalized."

But what Dean had to say surprised many of the people attending the summit.

While GSAs are thriving in some schools in Dallas and Fort Worth, whose school systems have nondiscrimination policies, Dean said administrations in some suburban districts are actively working to prevent the groups from forming. When a group does manage to form, he added, those suburban school officials try to eliminate them as soon as possible.

Dean cited one example of a Tarrant County GSA that hung posters announcing a meeting in the wrong place and was promptly disbanded by its administration.

In his school, Dean said, finding a sponsor was an uphill battle. No teacher there openly identifies as LGBT and the sponsor they found was not actually a supporter — not at first.

Through the first year of its existence, L.D. Bell's GSA met regularly and participants discussed issues important to young LGBT people, like bullying in school and family relationships. Dean said the group's sponsor attended every meeting but said nothing. But he was listening.

The sponsor told students that although he agreed to be their sponsor, he disagreed with them because of his religious beliefs. But, "by the end of the year, after listening, he became an advocate," Dean said.

Because the L.D. Bell group remained small, Dean formed QYC to interact with other GSAs.

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He said that organization has several goals.

Since nothing gay is being taught in schools, QYC wants to develop a curriculum for area GSAs to use. He said information his group got, especially on trans issues, was simply wrong.



Next, the group wants students at schools just forming GSAs to get some support and know their rights. He advised students to always stay on the good side of the administration, no matter how hard some made it, but to know they have a right to form. He was initially told his school didn't have any room for more clubs, but when you're dealing with someone like Dean, that's an answer that just motivates him more.

"The school is legally obligated to let you meet," he said.

Dean said the objection he's heard time after time from principals is that the GSAs are just a place for teens to "hook up." But if that were truly a serious concern, Dean questioned why no administration officials ever attended one of their discussions.

He urged students forming and leading GSAs in hostile school districts to "be brave." He said he learned a good lesson in Texas politics as he spoke to school board members.

"When school boards pass an LGBT-positive law, those people are voted out," he said. "It's our community that's hostile. Meanwhile people are suffering from bullying."

Turning to the community

When Dean didn't feel welcomed by his school, he turned to the LGBT community for support.

And he's not happy, folks. Things have to change.

He said Cedar Springs should be "home" — for everyone in the LGBT community. The bars are obviously not open to youth, he pointed out, then he criticized stores in the gayborhood for being too adult-oriented.

"It felt empty," he said of area, "devoid of youth."

Noting that an organizational event for the Harvey Milk Day celebration in Dallas was held at a bar, Dean pointed out that because he was still just 17 at the time, he — and other LGBT youngsters — couldn't attend.

"If you want to include youth [in events, those events] shouldn't be in bars," Dean declared. "Hold a meeting to make signs somewhere that's not age-restricted."

Dean said he brought some younger students in his GSA to the Harvey Milk celebration that ended on the patio of another bar. Despite being billed as "family friendly," the event included adult themes, people walking around in nothing more than underwear, and drinks all around. That, he said, freaked

out some of the younger attendees.

Dean attended Pride festivities in Dallas last September and left there with mixed feelings, too.

Dean said he noticed lots of eyes on his group. But then he realized most of those eyes belonged to members of the community who were watching out for youth, not gawking at them. He said the group's reception at the Festival in Lee Park last fall was a mixed bag, too, and he hopes this year more of the vendors at the festival will be aware of younger attendees who may be going to Pride for the first time.

On the plus side, he recalled, the folks operating one booth made sure the youth got bottled water, because the day was especially hot, something everyone in Dean's group appreciated. But on the flip side of that coin, an insurance agent was handing out small Pride flags in exchange for an email address at another booth. He told the youths they had to be over 18 to get a flag. And at the HRC booth, to get a Pride sticker, they were told they had to make a donation.

Dean said there were lots more instances of welcome than not, but his introduction to the largest national LGBT organization was not positive and will remain with him and his group.

"Kids want to be involved," he said.

Dean recently graduated from L.D. Bell and will be a freshman at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., in the fall. Although he'll miss Pride in September, that doesn't let the Dallas LGBT community off the hook. Other QYC students will be there, Dean said, and he'll be watching from afar. ■

To contact Queer Youth Connection, email QY-CDFW@gmail.com



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Most people know about Stonewall, but protests starting 5 years earlier in Philadelphia set the stage

NATALIE POMPILIO | Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — On the Fourth of July 50 years ago, when homosexuality was considered a mental illness and a same-sex couple's public declaration of love put their lives and livelihoods at risk, about 40 people took a stand by staging a peaceful protest in front of Independence Hall.

Philadelphia's Independence Day festivities this year will include the usual concert, fireworks, parade and public reading of the Declaration of Independence, but will also mark the city's important place in the history of America's gay rights movement with events billed as the 50th anniversary of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movement.

While these weren't the first public protests for gay rights, nor were very large when compared with demonstrations that came later, many LGBT activists say they are worthy of being celebrated as stepping stones to 1969's Stonewall riots in New York City, a turning point in gay rights.

Philadelphia participant John S. James, now 74, said he was relieved when no one staged a counter-protest that day. Still, the mood of the time was summed up by the comments an ice cream

50 years ago in Philly



vendor made to him.

"He said something like, 'I never thought I'd be doing this,' and it was obvious he meant doing business with homosexuals," said James, who now lives in an LGBT-friendly senior apartment building in Philadelphia.

James didn't want his photo taken that day for fear of losing his government job. Yet among the images is one of James holding a sign that says, "Homosexual citizens want their right to make their maximum contribution to society." James kept his position — possibly because there was very little media attention given to that march and the ones that followed.

"What they were potentially subjecting themselves to far outweighed the benefits," said Malcolm Lazin, executive director of the nonprofit LGBT rights organization Equality Forum. "At the time, there were at most 200 people in the U.S. who identified as gay activists. Very few gay people were willing to rock the boat, because it could always get worse."

Over the four years that followed the protest, a growing number of people took part in the "Annual Reminders" outside America's birthplace, where both the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were debated and signed.

Even their supporters thought they "were out of their minds," said Lazin, who is organizing a series of events over the holiday week to mark the

■ PHILLY, Page 28



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Key players in the Philly protests

PHILADELPHIA — One of the nation's first gay rights protests was held 50 years ago this July Fourth in Philadelphia. About 40 people participated; here are profiles of some of the most prominent protesters and their legacy.



Frank Kameny

• FRANK KAMENY

A World War II veteran with a doctorate from Harvard University, Kameny was fired from his job as an astronomer with the U.S. Map Service in 1957 after his superiors learned he'd been arrested in a park known as a gay pickup spot. Four years earlier, President Eisenhower had signed an executive order barring gays and lesbians from holding government jobs because of "sexual perversion."

Kameny appealed his dismissal to the Civil Service Commission and sued the government in federal court. He then founded the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Mattachine Society, which organized the first pickets for gay rights in Washington in summer 1965 and the first of the Annual Reminders — gay rights protests held each July Fourth between 1965 and 1969 in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall — a few weeks later.

He advised his fellow activists and followers to model themselves after the Civil Rights Movement, coining the slogan "Gay is good."

At the time, the American Psychiatric Association listed homosexuality as a mental illness that could be treated by lobotomy or shock therapy. Kameny and fellow gay rights activist Barbara Gittings fought the classification and lobbied the organization to get the classification changed. They were successful in this effort in 1973. Kameny described it as the day "we were cured en masse by psychiatrists."

• BARBARA GITTINGS

As Kameny is considered the father of the movement, Gittings is called its mother. Although she lived in Philadelphia, she founded gay rights organizations in New York and San Francisco and was the editor of the first national lesbian magazine.

She and Kameny organized the "Annual Reminders," ending them after 1969 as the focus switched to organizing a march the following year to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York City.

In 1958, Gittings opened the East Coast chapter of Daughters of Bilitis, the first known

lesbian organization in the United States, started in San Francisco. In the 1970s, she and Kameny challenged the American Psychiatric Association's stance on homosexuality as a mental illness.

She advocated for more gay and lesbian literature in libraries. She was chairwoman of the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association, the first of its kind, from 1971 to 1986. The Free Library of Philadelphia established a gay and lesbian collection named for Gittings in 2007. The New York Public Library houses a collection of papers from Gittings and her longtime partner, Kay Tobin Lahusen.

Gittings died in 2007 at age 74. A street in a section of Philadelphia known as the Gayborhood is named in her honor. She's also featured in a nearby mural called "Pride and Progress," her white-haired, bespectacled image looking directly at the observer.



Barbara Gittings

• JOHN S. JAMES

James joined Kameny and the other D.C. activists who bused to Philadelphia for the July 4, 1965, protest. He told organizers that he didn't want to be photographed for fear of losing his job as a computer programmer at the National Institutes of Health.

One image from that day clearly shows James wearing a dark suit and carrying a sign that says, "Homosexual citizens want their right to make their maximum contribution to society," but it did not affect his employment because of the lack of coverage.

But anti-gay employment sentiment did influence his career choice. He considered physics and "the Oppenheimer track" but feared being outed, losing his government clearance and being tossed from the field. He chose software, he said, "because I could be judged by my work instead of being judged as a person."

The 1965 protest was his only public activism for gay rights because "I was never one for demonstrations. I'm more about working relationships," he said.

James thinks his bigger contribution to the LGBT community was working on AIDS awareness campaigns and creating AIDS Treatment News, which he founded in 1986. The award-winning, biweekly newsletter shared insights on drug developments and other health matters, as well as public policy issues. It had 5,000 subscribers at its

■ PHILLY, From Previous Page

half-century anniversary of the protest, which is also recalled in a state historical marker that went up a decade ago.

Protest organizer Frank Kameny set the rules that “men had to wear suits and women had to wear similar formal wear,” James said.

“We had to show respectability because of the public sentiment towards gay people at that time,” he said.

The Associated Press covered the third Annual Reminder in 1967. It noted the protesters were “neatly-dressed” and carried “hand-painted signs saying, ‘Homosexual American citizens, our last oppressed minority’ and ‘Fifteen million U.S. homosexuals ask for redress of grievances.’”

Some of the planned events this Fourth include a ceremony in front of Independence Hall, parties and legal panels. There will also be a VIP lunch with Judy Shepard, the mother of slain gay man Matthew Shepard, and Edie Windsor, the plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that struck down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act. Museums are also showing special exhibits.

The Philadelphia celebration comes at a momentous time in gay history and is a stark reminder how different things were just 50 years ago.

Same-sex couples can now marry in a majority of states. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity are punishable by federal law.

peak and was also published free online. The paper edition folded in late 2007.

• THE REV. ROBERT WOOD

Wood and his longtime partner, Hugh Coulter, joined the nation’s first gay picket line organized by Kameny in June 1965 in front of the Civil Services building in Washington, D.C. When Kameny mentioned the upcoming Philadelphia protest, Wood decided to march there, too.

“We were involved long before Stonewall,” said Wood, now 92 and living in New Hampshire. Coulter died in 1989.

In 1960, Vantage Press published Christ and the Homosexual with his name, Rev. Robert W. Wood, boldly printed on the cover. He wanted it that way, he said, because the author of another book on a similar theme had used a pseudonym and “there’d been enough subterfuge.”

Wood, a World War II veteran who was wounded in Europe and received the Bronze Star, has said he had his first homosexual experience in the military. After the war, he used the GI Bill to earn degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and the Oberlin School of Theology. He was ordained at the Congregational Church in Fair Haven, Vermont, in 1951.

Wood’s first posting was to a church in New York. After building a strong, trusting relationship during seven years as a pastor there, he wrote and released his book, which called for the Christian church to welcome gays and lesbians and allow them to marry. He gave copies to the church’s leadership council.

The church and congregation had no problem with Wood’s book. He would go on to serve as a parish pastor there and elsewhere for another 28 years.

States, counties and cities are adding the LGBT community to the list of those protected under employment discrimination statutes. Openly gay candidates are regularly elected to public office.

In Philadelphia, just a stone’s throw from the protest site lies the area everyone knows as the Gayborhood, the heartbeat of the city’s LGBT culture, where gay bars line the streets and rainbow “Pride” symbols pepper storefronts and street signs. Crosswalks will be painted in rainbow colors to commemorate the protest.

But back in 1965, gays and lesbians were prohibited from working in federal government under an order signed by President Dwight Eisenhower a dozen years earlier. Those kinds of rules were one reason Marj McCann, who worked for the city of Philadelphia at the time, watched that first protest but didn’t participate.

“I was hiding behind a tree,” said McCann, 75, who lives in the Philadelphia suburbs with her partner. “We were all hiding, passing in the way we dressed and carried ourselves.”

The Rev. Robert Wood took part in the 1965 protest and many others wearing his clerical collar. While most were peaceful, there were always name-callers, he said, and he never got fully used to being denounced with words like “sinner” and other derogatory terms.

“Men and women, you could see the viciousness in their faces and their voices,” said Wood, now 92 and living in New Hampshire. “But we expected it. We survived it.”

Online: 50th Anniversary: <http://lgbt50.org/>



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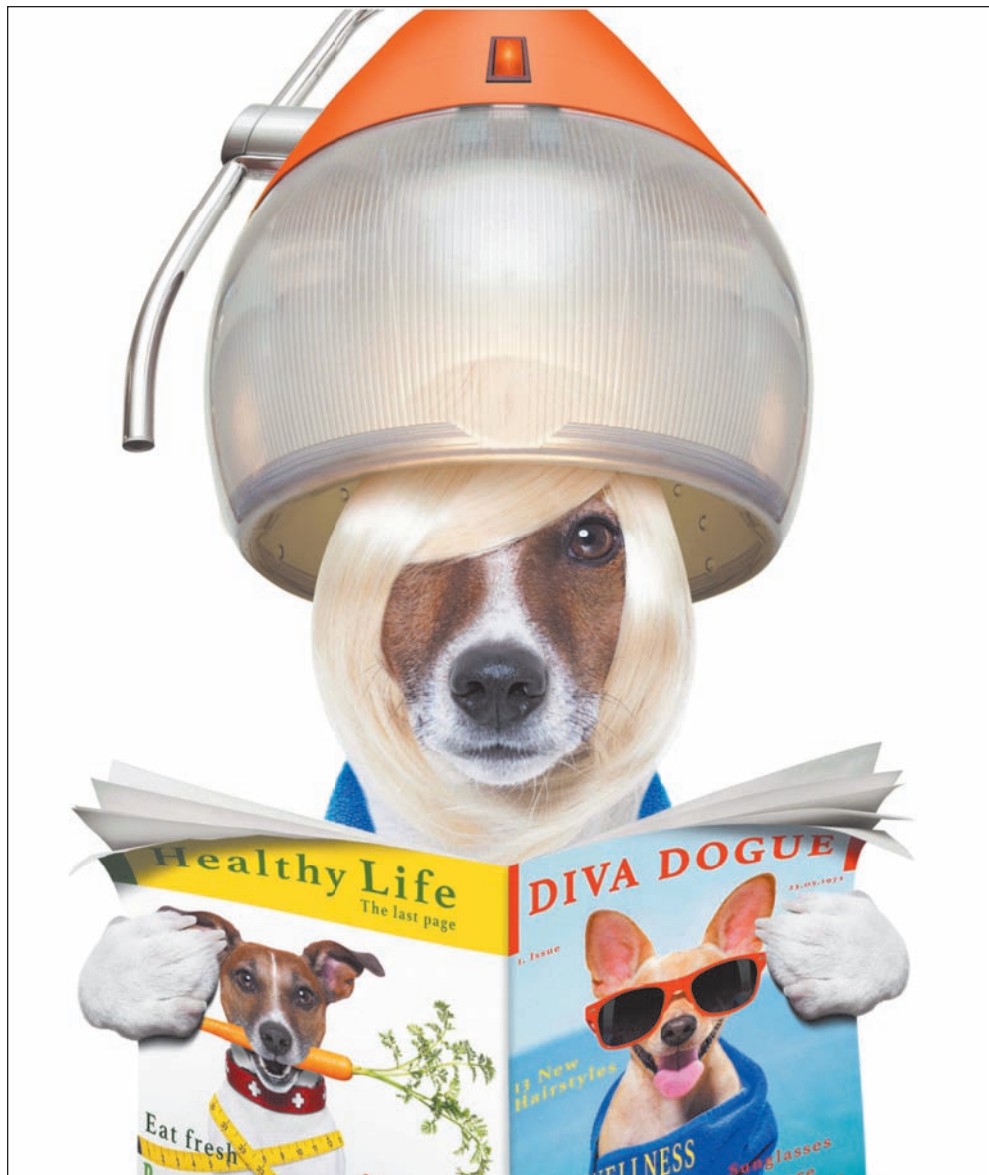
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Fighting the marriage equality backlash

Some states have already passed laws to counteract an expected SCOTUS ruling and others will try again. But LGBT activists are ready for the battle

LISA KEEN | Contributing Writer
lisakeen@mac.com

The Supreme Court of the United States is expected to rule any day now on whether it is a violation of the federal Constitution for states to bar same-sex couples from marrying. But for months, in apparent anticipation that the court will strike down such bans, states that still have or want to keep their bans have been passing legislation aimed at trying to circumvent such a ruling.

North Carolina's legislature this month overrode its governor's veto and enacted legislation that permits public magistrates and registrars to refuse to process marriage license applications for any couple by claiming to have a "sincerely held religious objection" to the marriage.

Indiana passed a law to allow any person, organization or business being sued for discrimination to claim he or it is exercising religious beliefs as a defense in any proceeding against him or it. The aim of the measure was to enable businesses — including restaurants, bakers and florists — to deny service to same-sex couples. There was such

a backlash nationally against the law, the legislature amended it, within days, declaring the law did not mean businesses could refuse service based on sexual orientation.

Texas lawmakers tried to pass a bill that would have barred county officials from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples but it and other anti-gay measures were killed through legal wranglings by LGBT allies. The Texas Legislature does not convene again until January 2017.

The Alabama Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Roy Moore, ordered state clerks to defy a federal court ruling to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

While some of these specific tactics are novel, attempts to avoid complying with a court order to provide equal protection to same-sex couples were tried in 2003 in Massachusetts when the state Supreme Judicial Court ruled, in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, that the state constitution required equal treatment of same-sex couples in marriage licensing.

The SJC gave Massachusetts 180 days to comply with its order, but the legislature instead held a special session to vote on proposals to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex couples from marrying and to offer them only civil unions. One proposal passed its first vote but was killed the following year.

There were also four different lawsuits (three in state court, one in federal court) to challenge whether the SJC had jurisdiction to decide the marriage issue. None succeeded.

Then-Gov. Mitt Romney pushed for a stay of the SJC decision. That failed, too.

But for a few years, Romney did succeed in blocking the state from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples from other states who might travel there seeking a license. He did this by reviving an obscure law passed in 1913 to block interracial couples from marrying in Massachusetts.

And there were rumors that Romney might



we'll continue to be able to stop most of them if not all ... [or] at least to narrow them substantially."

Pizer says it may be "essential" that the LGBT community and its allies "be prepared to help from all corners of the country, much more than we've done up to this point."

But legal activists also expect that resistance will follow the same course it did in Massachusetts.

"If we win," said Bonauto, "...I think it is fair to expect that there will be a few last ditch efforts to block marriages. They will fizzle." ■

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■ **TRANS** From Page 14

in the new legislation, Villano said.

Passage of the new measure can't come fast enough since, as Roberts noted, "The trans community has a 26 percent unemployment rate."

Racism

Even if there is progress on all these other issues, racism remains a huge barrier to progress for trans women and men of color. Trans women are already frequently targets of violence. Add racism into the mix, and the costs

rise even higher. Trans women of color are murdered at a much higher rate than even others in the LGBT community; at least 12 trans women have been murdered just since the start of this year, and most were women of color.

Roberts said that combating racism will help bring those alarming statistics down, and the battle needs to start within the LGBT community itself.

"Race does impact what happens in our community," Roberts said, calling on the LGBT community to acknowledge and address its own racism. "Then we can set the example for greater society," she concluded. ■

order town clerks to defy the court's ruling and refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Although the governor did not issue such an order, Mary Bonauto, the attorney who argued *Goodridge* and also argued the current appeal at the U.S. Supreme Court, recalls that some marriage clerks in Massachusetts were reluctant to comply with the SJC ruling and "a few resigned."

But despite its initial vigorous resistance, Massachusetts did ultimately comply with the decision. The legislature repealed the 1913 law, and though opponents still exist, the fighting in Massachusetts has long been over.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision this month — if it does strike down state bans — will only reinforce the SJC's landmark decision.

As for the states who are now trying to resist compliance pre-emptively: LGBT legal activists are clearly ready.

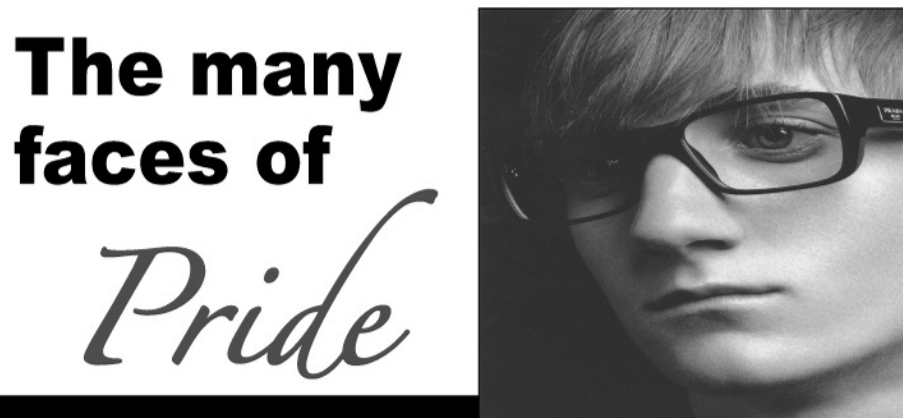
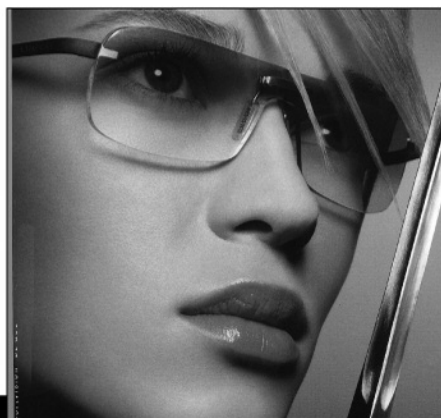
"If we win at the Supreme Court and state or local authorities refuse to comply, they should expect to be sued," said Jon Davidson, national legal director for Lambda Legal. "Public officials will need to keep in mind that the right of same-sex couples to marry will have been clearly established at that point, and any interference with that right likely would subject government officials to personal liability for damages and attorney's fees.

"In addition, refusal to comply with court orders that will control them in some jurisdictions may lead to them being held in contempt of court and the imposition of sanctions," Davidson added. "I think there will be less resistance than some are predicting, but we are ready to hold officials responsible for failure to comply with the law — indeed, we're looking forward to it."

Lambda Senior Attorney Jenny Pizer says it's possible "obnoxious — even outrageous — measures will be proposed."

"Bills seeking to expand religious exemptions in inappropriate ways are likely to continue to be among the most pernicious," said Pizer. "I hope

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THE GAY AGENDA



June 25: The Dallas Way Presents 'Outrageous Oral'

Ahead of the Supreme Court's decision on marriage equality, the LGBT history project presents another segment of Outrageous Oral series with trailblazing Dallas couples entrenched in the fight for marriage equality. Speakers include Mark Pharriss and Vic Holmes, Peggy Evans and Stella Hess, Durward Watson and Michael Kaufman and Sherry Briggs and J'aime Joiner. Rabbi Steve Fisch will serve as emcee. Doors open at 6 p.m. and program starts at 7 p.m. at the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Free. For more information, call 505-400-4405 or visit TheDallasWay.org.

AGENDA, From Page 9

7-9 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information call 817-428-2329 or visit PflagFortWorth.org.

July 2-5: 50th Anniversary of LGBT Civil Rights Movement

The 50th anniversary in Philadelphia celebration includes panels, LGBT history exhibits, parties and more. Each day features LGBT history exhibits at the National Constitution Center, National Museum of American Jewish History and Independence Visitor Center along with fireworks on July 3 and 4. For more information, visit LGBT50th.org and Gaypioneers.com.

July 3: LGBTQ Saves 4th of July with Friends

Gathering for area LGBT youth at 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information visit LGBTQsaves.org.

July 4: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting

Meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information e-mail info@dfwtgladies.org or visit

DFWTGLadies.org.

July 6-31: Youth First "Creative Works Summer Program"

Free activities for LGBT youth ages 14-22 at Youth First, 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Art Camp runs 12-5 p.m. July 6-10 Theater Camp runs 11 a.m.-4 p.m. July 13-17, 20-24. Leadership Camp runs 1-4 p.m. Jul 27-31. RSVP at 214-879-0400 or youth@myresourcecenter.org

July 7: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting

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 by e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

July 16: Urban Engagement Book Club: Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

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.

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The War Against Prevention

By Michael Weinstein

President, AIDS Healthcare Foundation

One of the greatest legacies of the AIDS movement has been the successful promotion of safer sex. While behavior modification is never 100% effective, HIV prevention in the United States and abroad has been a remarkable success story with certain groups such as gay men and IV drug users.

Current levels of HIV infection in the United States, while unacceptably high, are a fraction of what they were at the height of the pandemic. For more than 30 years, the condom has been at the center of the prevention movement. We have demonstrated measurable success in our fight against HIV—37 percent of people living with HIV globally are on treatment and HIV incidence is declining—but now is not the time to give up on condoms.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), an anti-HIV medication called Truvada used to prevent HIV infection, was first recommended by an FDA committee three years ago this month. Three years of promotion later, Truvada has not caught on with medical providers or patients. Gilead Sciences, the maker of Truvada, has spent tens of millions of dollars pushing PrEP through the FDA, even funding community groups and providers to promote this drug. However, a recent report found that only 5,200 prescriptions were written in the fall of 2014 in the United States. The American Academy of HIV Medicine recently released a poll showing that 95% of their members were concerned that their patients would not adhere to taking Truvada regularly as recommended by the FDA.



In the debate surrounding PrEP, emotional appeals for sexual liberation have trumped medical science. Every published study that has been done on PrEP has shown major problems with efficacy. First, in the most successful of all of the published studies more than half of the patients did not take the medication as directed. In fact, study patients who were most at risk for HIV were the ones least likely to take the drug regularly. Second, the two PrEP studies that exclusively focused on female patients had to be halted because there was simply no benefit found. And third, the largest study conducted among men who have sex with men (MSM) showed only 42% efficacy. Two European studies on intermittent use in gay men have yet to be published but showed very high rates of STDs and poor adherence.

The concerns found in these PrEP studies would be nonexistent if the patients wore condoms. Condoms not only prevent HIV, they prevent other serious sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that increase the risk for HIV. Truvada only protects against HIV.



In a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention¹, three out of four MSM used a condom during their last sexual encounter with a casual partner. We are lucky the majority of MSM still use condoms because STIs like syphilis have reached levels not seen since before the AIDS epidemic. Gonorrhea is now antibiotic resistant in parts of the world, and Chlamydia is very often asymptomatic. There are twenty million new STDs every year in the US, and none of them can be prevented with PrEP.

No matter how irrational it seems, when Gilead Sciences first sought approval for PrEP the company contended that Truvada would be used exclusively with condoms. That message has been thrown out the window with PrEP advocates such as Damon L. Jacobs, the creator of the PrEP Facts website, who brazenly asserts, people want to experience the maximal pleasure with the minimal consequences. They want to have more connections, with fewer barriers. They want to feel heightened physical sensations, with lowered medical risks. Public health be damned.



AIDS Healthcare Foundation is not against PrEP. Truvada can absolutely be the right decision for specific patients who, in consultation with their doctors, decide this is the best choice. However, the entire body of scientific data demonstrates that Truvada will not be successful as a mass public health intervention. Yet, that is exactly what PrEP advocates, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommend.

The question is: What will become of the condom culture that has been so hard fought since the beginning of AIDS? No one can argue that men would prefer to have sex without condoms, but there are compromises we must make for the benefit of ourselves and society. While we cannot tell consenting adults that they must use condoms, we can tell them the truth. If you have multiple partners or your partner has multiple partners, the most effective protection for yourself, your partners, and your community is a condom. Mass PrEP administration is a dangerous experiment that is not supported by medical science and is currently resisted by doctors and patients alike.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation is not against progress or innovation. We have another incredibly powerful tool to prevent HIV infection: any person who is HIV-positive, whose virus is undetectable, is 96 percent non-infectious to others. This is great news for serodiscordant couples where one partner is HIV-positive and the other is HIV-negative. Yet, in the United States only 40 percent of HIV-positive people are even seeing a doctor for their HIV and only 30 percent are undetectable. If every person with HIV in the United States knew their status, went on treatment, and had their viral load under control there would be no new HIV infections. This is common sense, which is why we are shocked that many AIDS activists propose to take government funds dedicated to HIV treatment and transfer the money to PrEP.

Protecting the public health is a sacred trust based on scientific data, not emotions or personal desires. AIDS Healthcare Foundation's position on PrEP has stirred a storm of controversy in some quarters. However, we believe that in the end, science and real-world experience will prove us right. In the meantime, we will continue to promote the use of condoms, testing, and treatment as the most effective means of controlling HIV and other STDs.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV Risk, Prevention, and Testing Behaviors—National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System: Men Who Have Sex With Men, 20 U.S. Cities, 2011. HIV Surveillance Special Report 8. Retrieved online: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/HSSR_8_NHBS_MSM_PDF-03.pdf



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Losing sleep while waiting for SCOTUS

We are on the verge of marriage equality, but that doesn't mean the fight is over

As we move further into June, the days get longer. That's science — the tilt of the earth's axis. But, I noticed the nights seem to be getting longer, too, which seems to be caused by my obsession over the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court marriage ruling.

I go to bed and wake up during the night thinking about it. Why do I care?

I became invested in marriage equality more than 20 years ago. When I was president of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, I met Evan Wolfson, then with Lambda Legal and one of the lead litigators in the milestone case *Baehr v. Lewin*. The Hawaii Supreme Court found that excluding same-sex couples from marriage was discriminatory, and remanded the case to state court.

While the case wound through the legal system, Hawaiian voters passed a constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage.

Lambda was working to create awareness and support for marriage equality. It may be difficult to imagine, but many people in the LGBT community were terrified of advancing the right to marry. The then-head of HRC told me she wouldn't touch the issue with a 20-foot pole.

In support of Lambda's educational initiative, DGLA created a media event including a poster series designed by fellow board member Susan Page. It featured images of and quotes from far-right conservatives about how government should not over-reach into personal lives.

The hypocrisy and ignorance of many elected officials is as obvious today as it was 20-plus years ago. In anticipation of a possible Supreme Court ruling that would require same-sex marriages to be legally recognized, Gov. Greg Abbott signed SB 2065, the "Pastor Protection Bill," into law last week. Where do I even start? Pastors need to be protected from what?

Civics Lesson 101: The United States has something called The Constitution. It prohibits the government from interfering in the exercise of religion. Therefore, pastors already get to do lots of bat-poop crazy stuff, and no one can force them to perform a marriage if they don't want to. We don't need a new law in Texas to ensure a right that already exists!

By the way, Governor, not all pastors are bigots, just as not all LGBT persons are heathens. Some of us queers grew up in communities of faith and know pastors and faith leaders who actually understand the message of love and inclusion and who would be glad to marry us. They don't need your so-called "protection" anyway!

Now for Civics Lesson 201: That thing called



CeCe Cox
Contributing Columnist

one way by serving them delicious frosted cake, but treat another group differently by refusing the cake. Open to the public means open to all of the public.

In the recent legislative session, Abbott supported passage of a so-called "Religious Free-

The Constitution has more than one paragraph. It provides for religious freedom AND for equal treatment of individuals under the law. Two freedoms can co-exist!

For example, when a business is open to the general public, it cannot treat one group

tions. However, the marriage train left the station a long time ago and has proven to be a significant vehicle to open the hearts and minds of a majority of Americans who now favor marriage equality and who have learned about our lives and families as a result of the issue.

So, like all LGBT civil rights issues, this is personal. I'm generally upbeat, but I'm also sick of having to justify my existence, beg for my civil liberties and listen to the junk that spews from the mouths of many elected leaders.

After the Pastor Protection Bill was signed into law, Attorney General Ken Paxton had the audacity to say "we now have much more work to do to ensure that all Texans can practice their faith and, among other things, recognize traditional marriage without being punished, harassed or discriminated against for their beliefs."

Drop mic.



dom Restoration Act" (RFRA) law that would have allowed businesses to refuse service to anyone of their choice, based on "sincerely held religious beliefs." While a RFRA passed in Indiana and then was altered due to backlash, Texas dodged a bullet and our governor did not get his way.

These fear-driven legislative actions are exactly why some LGBT folks were scared to death of pushing marriage as a civil rights issue back in the early 1990s. RFRA-styled laws are a desperate backlash.

So, why do I care so much about marriage equality? There are legal wins that would arguably benefit more people, such as federal or state employment nondiscrimination protec-

If the Supremes decide there is a constitutional right to marry, I'll be really happy and plan to dance in the streets. And the next day, I'll get back to work, because we are nowhere close to achieving all that needs to be accomplished in our movement: racial, gender, gender identity and economic equity; safety for our bullied and rejected LGBTQ youth; access to health services; support and community for our seniors; elimination of stigma around HIV and more. And, there will be more backlash while we get that stuff done.

No wonder I can't sleep.

CeCe Cox is CEO of Resource Center. She is a longtime LGBT rights activist and an attorney.

'Fabulously and wonderfully made'

Celebrate Pride month by finding pride in yourself, then sharing with others

Growing up in church, I was familiar with the verse from the Psalms: "... I am fearfully and wonderfully made." But most of my life I did not believe it about myself.

Despite the things about me that were good — including those things that were different from other boys — I never liked who I was. In fact, I hated myself for decades.

My church, my peers, certain teachers, even members of my own family made me feel ashamed of who I was. Fortunately not everyone in my life was that way, and that is one reason why I believe I survived.

As a young father, I would always pray with my sons at bedtime and whisper over them, "You are fearfully and wonderfully made." But always in the back of my mind, I wondered, "Do they know I'm a fraud?"

Toward the end of my five-year attempt at "ex-gay therapy" — where they tried to cure me of my "same-sex attraction disorder" — I decided I could no longer suppress who I was, and I came out. Admitting that my authentic self could be prayed away, cured or stifled no longer probably saved my life.

In the process, my well-intentioned but misguided therapist gave me some amazing words of advice on that day in 2008: "Your issue is not whether to come out gay. Your issue is whether you will come out Todd." Undoubtedly, "coming out Todd" was a painful process but was the first step toward having a sense of pride — not shame — in whom I was created to be.

Six years of living out and in the open but bitter toward religion would ultimately lead me — kicking and screaming — to a faith community that would, every time the doors were open, in one way or the other, affirm that each of us was "fearfully" — or as I like to say fabulously — "and wonderfully made."

Not perfect. Not without need to refine and grow. But OK just as we were. And that included Gay Todd, too.

Eventually, I became mostly OK with who I am, allowing a real sense of pride to take hold. Not the clanging symbol kind of pride that says, "Hey! Hey — look at me!" (Though



Todd Whitley
Contributing Columnist

if you see my Facebook and Instagram, you might think otherwise.) But a kind of pride that I can describe only as an exuberant joy — kind of like a parade. And in that parade, my banner says: "Hallelujah! Look

what God-the Goddess-the Universe, et al made me to be!"

And as we enter a season of Pride, nowhere can that be more ideally expressed than within community.

Parades? Absolutely. Pride parades remain one of my most favorite occasions! But let me provide another couple examples of what Pride means to me.

Pride can be expressed by a community of gays and lesbians on behalf of mostly homophobic British mine workers and in the process, not only change a union also change a country.

Pride can be expressed to respond to issues of police brutality, transphobia, economic injustice, sexism and a host of other -isms and phobias that plague our community and country. For indeed, gay lives, white lives, all lives cannot matter until black and brown lives matter. Until transgender lives matter. Until immigrant lives matter. Until women's lives matter. Until the lives of the poor matter.

When those of us who understand and believe we are fabulously and wonderfully made say that to ourselves and to the world — that is pride. Leveraging that pride collectively to ensure that everyone feels that they, too, are worthy of pride — whether they believe it themselves or are treated that way by society — well, that is a holy kind of pride that saves lives and makes the world a better place for us all.

So, as we celebrate Pride month, may we all be proud of the creation in each one of us and commit ourselves to being a community that leverages that pride one for another so that no one is left out or feels ashamed of who they are. ■

Todd Whitley is a local activist. Read his blog at tdub68.wordpress.com.

The Father's Day I should have seen coming

Growing up in Southern California, I idolized my dad. He was everything I wasn't. He was bigger than life. He was a gentle giant. He was our protector.

Father's Day was a day to honor him but he always turned it into a fun day for us. He didn't want a lot of fuss over him. Dad gifts for him were things he'd use for the family, like a new grill.

I didn't know it at the time, but June 15, 1986 was the last Father's Day I'd have with my dad. He died the following February and I've missed him more than my words can ever hope to express.

On Nov. 7, 1980 I became a father to my baby girl, Sarah, and so continued the tradition of that third Sunday in June being special to me.

I struggled as a dad. I loved my two daughters with all my heart and soul, but I had a difficult time being the dad they both deserved. The standard I had to live up to was impossibly high and the inner turmoil I felt inside made me feel even more unworthy.

I often retreated inside myself.

In July 2012, everything came spilling out. I began transition to female in the winter of that year. I started hormones in January and both of my girls were tremendously supportive of me.

That year, 2013, was a year unlike any other in my life and to this day, I am amazed I came out of it in one piece. In a span of about 90 days, my divorce from my wife of 33 years was final, I left a job I loved and did well, and I had to move out of a safe, comfortable home that I adored — all while going through the awkward and often traumatic experience of early transition.

I was hanging by a thread.

I had moved in with a friend in Marble Falls, Texas where I knew no one. My life as I'd known it was over. I was starting over at 55. Could I do this?

On May 31, I agreed to leave the big house in Flower Mound. I put everything I owned in life into a 10x15 storage unit (a sobering thought).

The majority of the contents of the 4,000-plus-square-foot house were going to California to my ex wife. Everything else was being tossed. I didn't have the room to store it, so I let it go.

Now, it was June 16, just two weeks later. It was a sweltering hot Sunday, and I'd driven the three-and-a-half hours from Marble Falls to finish cleaning out the house, garage and workshops of the spacious house I had called



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

home.

The process was moving along. Boxes full of familiar books, dishes, furniture, pictures, clothing — the stuff of a 33-year-marriage were being packed up to be sent to their final destination. It

was emotionally exhausting.

In a pile on the driveway was stuff that couldn't come along and was just being trashed. I spent most of that blisteringly hot day wiping tears from my face. I was a wreck.

The mover my ex had called to move this stuff showed up with a standard Chevy van and the smallest U-Haul trailer available. I flipped! There was no freaking way everything would fit in that — plus there was just one guy!

It was going to take multiple trips and all day — and everything HAD to be gone that day. Anything that wasn't packed and moved by then would go to the dump.

Right as I was jawing with this mover, my cell rang. "Happy Father's Day" came the voice of my oldest daughter.

I said "Thanks! Can I call you right back? I'm kind of in the middle of something." She said, "Sure, I need to ask you something." I said, "OK, talk to you soon."

Only I didn't. She's a mom herself and was busy, too. I called back but missed her.

The next day, while driving back to Marble Falls, I called again and found out what she wanted to ask. She had seen so many people on Facebook posting pictures of their dads on Fathers Day, and she wanted to know if it was OK with me if she posted one of me — pre-transition. She knew I was now living full time as Leslie and wanted to be respectful.

I said, "Of course honey. I'm not embarrassed or ashamed of who I was, but thank you for asking. What picture were you wanting to post?"

She answered, "The one of you walking me down the aisle."

I cried for the next 100 miles. ■

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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Off the D-List

Comedy boss-lady Kathy Griffin: On gay flaggers, Jenner pronouns and who she'd go trans for

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

LIKE A BOSS

The Majestic Theater,
1925 Elm St. June 25. 8:30 p.m.
\$50-\$80. AXS.com.

Any time you talk with Kathy Griffin, you know she's going to be "on." Her wit on the telephone is as quick and well-honed as in her standup routines. But during our most recent chat, it's what Griffin was *not* being that stood out: Self-deprecating.

With the passing of comedy legend and mentor Joan Rivers and the retirements of David Letterman and Jon Stewart, the comedian — once best-known for her Emmy-winning reality TV show *My Life on the D-List* — has come to realize that she's a A-lister now. You might even say she's behaving finally like the queen of comedy ... or as she titled her new comedy tour (which hits Dallas Thursday), *Like a Boss*.

We chatted with Griffin before her concert about the things she likes to talk about most: Her gay fans, reality TV (and especially the Kardashian clan's biggest star, Caitlyn — though she was still known by Bruce during our talk) and the divas she (and we) love. ■

Last time we talked, you told me you were in the middle of filming for *My Life on the D-List*, and a few months later, when I was watching the episode you were filming, you said onscreen that you had to step away because you "have to do an interview for Dallas." And I realized that was our call. I put you on the map, Arnold! Me! I made you, and I can break you, dammit!

As of yesterday, your new tour was called *In Trouble Again*; suddenly this morning, you renamed it *Like a Boss*. Why the sudden change of heart? I decided to change the title because, dammit, I earned it. I was like, you know what? I stand there alone on a stage, I have a New York Times No. 1 best seller, two Emmys, a Grammy — I'm half way to an EGOT, for fuck's sake! — a wax museum figure and am still hitting the pavement 80 shows a year, doing Carnegie Hall ... I'm not in trouble again — I'm the boss. If I could call it "Like a Boss, Motherfuckers," I would.

You can call it that in our publication. I know I can! That's why I love your publication. I was looking [at DallasVoice.com] recently and saw the photo you ran from *Grace & Frankie*, and I sent an email to [Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin] last week to congratulate them on their success. I love the legends — they always give me materials — but are Fonda and Tomlin still delivering the hits?!

David Letterman recently retired, and it occurred to me: He used to be the hip new guy and now he's the stalwart senior fellow. Is that part of why you renamed your tour? Are you now not on the D-List, but rather the reigning queen of comedy? Exactly! Not to toot my own horn — because of course, Arnold, you know I won't do that — but nobody out there is doing what I do, and I don't have Lorne Michael building me up or a network promoting me; I never had that relative that got me in the business or that big-time producer who discovered me. It's just me, baby, alone with a microphone and no opening act going town to town. I am really proud of all that stuff.

We're thrilled for you, which is why we're excited you're returning

to town. I'm so thrilled to be going back to the Majestic, a legendary theater I love performing at. Everything is going to be magical there. I'm even looking forward to when — not "if," but "when" — someone storms out in a huff. Let me tell you, I know you folks in Dallas think you're sooooo progressive, but I have played every city in Texas and I guarantee you some elderly couple will have stumbled in expecting Blue Man Group or *The Lion King* and will grab their bibles and storm out. I had a great walk-out before my post-show Waffle House dining experience in Kentucky recently. The gentleman actually said out loud, "I can't take one more minute of this!" Like my mother would say, "Last time I checked, this was still America," though I always actually say, "Who's checking with you, Mom?"

Speaking of your mother, how is she? She's everybody's favorite other mother. That's another reason why I named the tour *Like a Boss* — I get to boss her around. She's just drinking and wreaking havoc in her retirement village. I think she's banging some new guy — could be John Mayer, who knows. She has to have new tennis balls on her walker — that's very important to a 95-year-old. She doesn't know she's 95, though — she's still walking around and drinking and saying, "It's 5 o'clock somewhere." Every so often, I'll catch her with the hard stuff, like whiskey, which I know comes as a shock to a Southerner like you.

Yeah, not so much. But it's hard — I have to *drag* her away from FoxNews and give her the speech that mom, it's not news — it's propaganda. They she'll switch to *Judge Judy* ... How can I put it in context? What Grindr is to a gay man, *Judge Judy* is to the elderly.

You've always had such a gay sensibility and embraced your gay fans ... I love talking with you because I have such a genuine connection to the [gay] audience. It's like being a country music star: They never forget you because it's a true two-way relationship. All I want to do is make you guys laugh. Bring on the gays!



QUEEN OF THE GAYS | Kathy Griffin returns to the Majestic on her brand-new comedy tour.

A muscular man with a well-defined physique is smiling and holding a large white sign. He is shirtless and wearing dark shorts. The background is a dark, solid color.

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travel

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Columbus is the biggest small town in the world ... or is it the smallest big city?" says one longtime booster of Ohio's capital. It works either way: With its series of quaint, walkable and distinctive neighborhoods, Columbus is — as the same booster called it — a "string of pearls:" inviting, gay-friendly and charming enclaves that make for a surprisingly sophisticated Midwestern oasis of progressivity, good eating and cultural maturity.

Columbus, the 15th largest city in the U.S. (pop: 850,000), is the political, business and social hub of Ohio, and home to the enormous Ohio State University, though it's much more than a typical "college town." Politically in a swing state, it boasts an out African-American city councilmember in Shannon Hardin, who was appointed to fill a vacancy and is currently running for reelection to his historic seat (with the help of the HRC).

"Columbus is a progressive city with only 4 percent unemployment," Hardin told me over breakfast. "We think we're in our coming out stage, and it's time to tell our story."

The story is a good one, developing from urban blight in the 1970s to a more recent renaissance, often led by the pioneering gay gentrifiers. It now boasts clean streets, civic pride and cultural awareness, including a major renovation at the lovely Columbus Museum of Art that will see a doubling of its exhibition space when it reopens on Oct. 25. You might want to visit then to enjoy the interesting collections (from tributes to Marvin Hamlisch to Old Masters to Dale Chihuly and interactive exhibits), but go sooner and enjoy a walking tour of one of the delightful neighbor-

hoods — German Village, Italian Village, Grandview and especially the buzzy Short North district, where all gay adventures to Columbus should begin and end.

The Short North

The primary gay district — and the cultural hub — of Columbus, is certainly The Short North. A social melting pot for all progressives and fun seekers, the neighborhood runs along High Street from approximately Goodale for 20 blocks (though the 10 closest to Downtown are the most heavily trafficked). Its name — a police shorthand for the undefined area north of Downtown but short of OSU — belies a crime-ridden past ... pretty much like all areas before the gays renovate them. Now, it is a safe and popular neighborhood that has become a kind of "Castro lite:" Bright and friendly during the day, and well lit (with an adequate police presence) and lots of foot traffic on busy nights.

Its hopping nightlife is largely, but not exclusively, gay: corn-fed college boys, hipster couples and gays walk side-by-side along 300 businesses, from steakhouses to sushi restaurants, cappuccino to cocktail lounges, galleries to go-go-boy discos, comic-book storefronts to boutique hotels, bakeries to ice cream parlors.

The first Saturday of each month is the Gallery Hop, where retailers fling open their doors for late-night shopping and a party atmosphere, but in general, the commerce is as diverse as the population. The Flower Child, a San Francisco-inspired vintage shop that's been here for about 10 years, looks like a drag queen's closet, with a sidewalk bubble machine beckoning you to step in and explore that tangle of clothing, knickknacks and tchotchkes. The Candle Lab nearby will help you design and pour your own scented candles with a staff that loves to consult with you on creating a unique fragrance (it's like a candy store for the nose).

Gay bars are plentiful here. Around the 800 block is Union, a cavernous video bar with an extremely mixed crowd that also serves weekend brunch, while across the street, Axis is a multi-level show bar where drag diva Nina West leads a conceptual,

two-hour production that's damned dazzling.

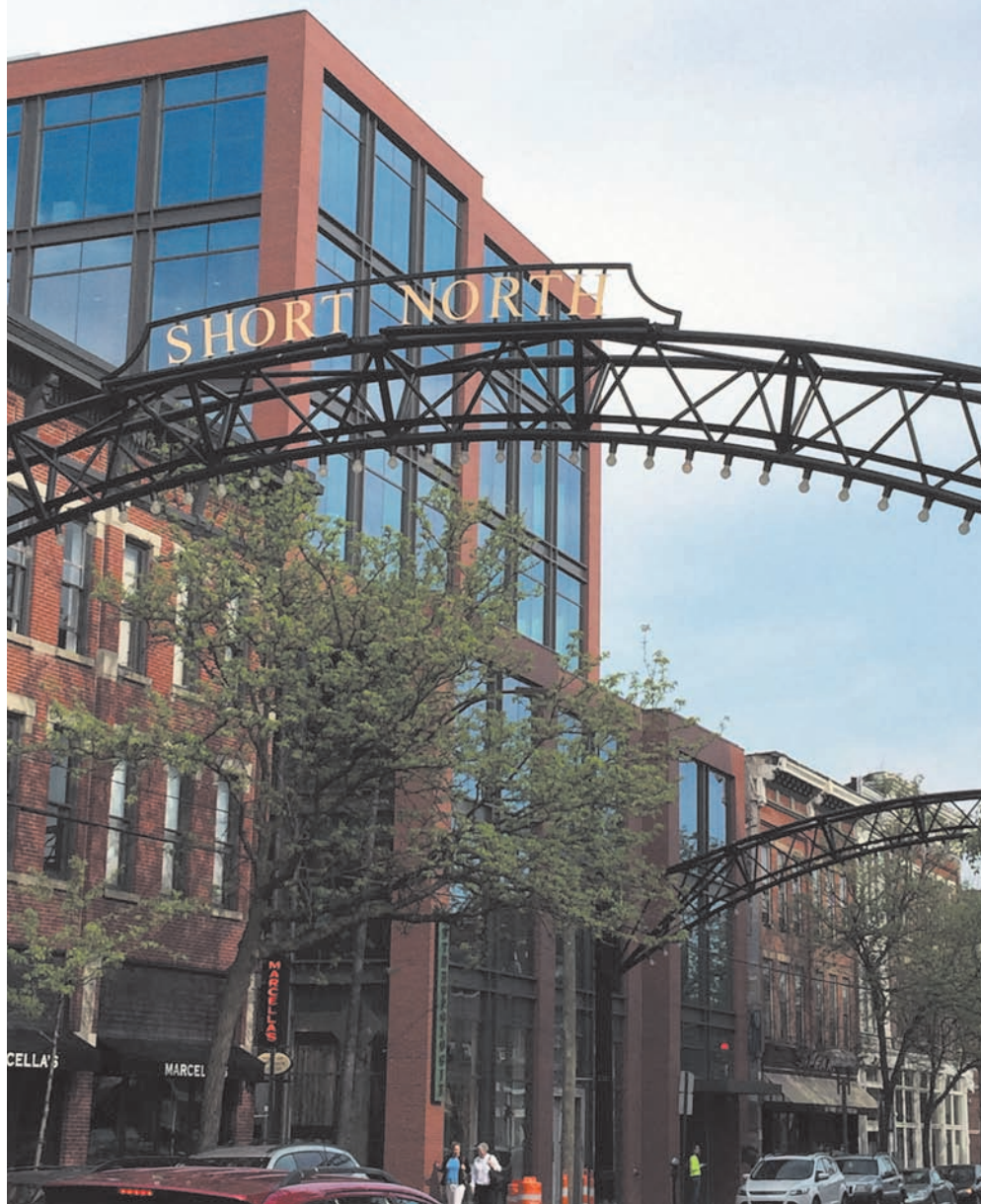
Wall Street is popular with lesbians, while Exile is the cruisy leather bar option. Local Bar is another popular club, while Level Dining Lounge at the corner of Lincoln and High combines cocktails and meals.

Indeed, dining choices are plentiful in The Short North. Husband-and-wife team John and Trish recently relaunched Basi Italia,



ART AND COCKTAILS | Specialty cocktails like those crafted at Curio, left, give an urban hipster feel to Columbus, as does the modern and centrally located Joseph Hotel, above, which is attached to the fine-dining restaurant The Guild House. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)





CASTRO LITE | The walkable Short North neighborhood is the cultural hub of Columbus, and the focal point of its gay scene, peppered with a half-dozen bars and clubs. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

with such specialties as lobster ravioli and scallops wrapped in prosciutto. Its patio is a delightfully chummy space during nice weather; go inside, it has old-school Italian-bistro charm where you can entertain drinks like the aviation cocktail, made with gin and violet liqueur.

The Guild House is a brand-new modern restaurant with a warm décor and huge plate glass windows opening up along the excitement of High Street. The food, from great cocktails to a wonderful selection of indulgent desserts, is a draw. It's attached to The Joseph, a Le Meridien hotel from the Starwood brand. It's a perfect place to stay for gay travelers — brand new, beautifully decorated with modern art, with a contemporary feel that makes it the perfect home base in the heart of the gayborhood.

German Village

It probably comes as no surprise that Germans were a major ethnic subculture in Columbus dating back more than a century — the Midwest is known for its beer-brewing, and both German Village and the adjacent Brewery District are popular and storied neighborhoods.

On the National Historic Registry since 1974, the 233-acre German Village was the first gay neighborhood to emerge in the 1960s, which thrived under the stewardship of its unofficial

gay mayors, fondly still remembered simply as "Fred and Howard." With the opening of the eclectic Hausfrau Haven store, which served everything from unique foodstuffs to clever greeting cards to booze (and is still there for your shopping pleasure), Fred and Howard turned the rundown area into a showplace of preserved 19th century architecture that gives the area a Colonial Williamsburg-ish quality. Homes are now recognized for their colorful windowboxes, which are festooned with flowers, as well as cobblestone alleys and a variety of local businesses that define the area.

Chief among these is surely The Book Loft, a labyrinth of literature where you could get lost for hours, if not days. Originally a gay bookstore, it now occupies 32 rooms in a cobbled-together multistory home along Third Street. It's across the street from The Meeting Haus, the home of the tourist bureau and a great starting place for walking excursions.

Be sure to hoof it to Club Diversity, an old-style gay piano bar that's been there almost 15 years. It occupies a charmingly run-down house where upstairs is a performance space while downstairs friendly bartenders make sure you're happy and will make you any drink you want.

■ COLUMBUS Next Page

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MOUTHGASM | Skillet's grilled cinnamon roll is the size of a boulder but as soft and crunchy as the best of pastries. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

■ **COLUMBUS**, From Previous Page

It's the definition of a neighborhood hang.

For more hipsterism, check out still-new Curio, a craft cocktail bar led by mixologist Travis Owens. Retro and steampunky, with a hip vibe (and next door to the excellent Harvest Pizza), Curio is one of only two craft cocktail bars in the city, though "craft breweries are popping up like mushrooms," Owens told me. It's an intimate and intense place that makes you feel like you're in the West Village more than the Midwest.

For Curio's brunchy equivalent, visit Skillet, a farm-to-table breakfast nook infused with Southern cookin' influences — biscuits and gravy are among the menu's list of exceptional and rich foods. A griddled cinnamon roll — a caramelized mouthgasm — is unmissable, while a side of game sausage (wild pheasant, anyone?) or Bolognese grits with micro greens will make the Wednesday-through-Sunday brunch-only spot worth the inevitable wait.

For dinner, gay-owned Barcelona is the only authentic Spanish-style cuisine in town, with paellas, inventive tapas and Spanish wines at reasonable prices. It's a star on the burgeoning foodie scene in Columbus, where high-end excellence makes it a culinary destination without reliance on bratwurst and hoagies (who knew?).

If you think you might want to cook something yourself, the new experiment called The Kitchen is an ideal place for couples to go to enjoy some bonding over a meal. It's a great open space where the owners don't so much teach you *how* to cook as they do facilitate the cooking experience.

Gay Pride in Columbus is celebrated at German Village's Goodale Park each Father's Day weekend, with three days of a festival, parade and a Sunday brunch among the scheduled offerings.

Italian Village

You'll have to drive to get to Italian Village, an emerging neighborhood that calls to mind Dallas' Design District or even Deep Ellum. Here, converted garages make way for interesting businesses that, just a few years ago, would never have survived to do to lack of foot traffic. But the growing hipster culture has helped it and other neighborhoods blossom.

You need to know what you're doing, though. Fox in the Snow Café doesn't even have any signage, making it a kind of coffee-fueled speakeasy for the in-crowd. Serving artisan rustic American-style pastries — from cream-filled donuts to peach clafoutis — as well as custom-poured drip coffees (*the* hot new trend in café society), it opened just last November.

Next-door neighbor Seventh Son is one of those "mushroom" craft breweries Owens mentioned, and a damned good one at that, especially for beer-obsessed Dallasites. A wonderfully hip hangout for beer nuts and food truck junkies, the two-year-old biergarten has made more than 60 versions of their product, from the awesome and mild IPA (with 73 IBUs, called The Scientific) two Waffles, a 5 percent ABV saison. More full-bodied porters and stouts (like the coffee-ish Black Sheep) give you a diverse selection of beers to chill with.

Grandview

If you're *really* into the full scope of a city's culinary scene — and in Columbus, there's even a local distiller, Watershed, that makes exceptional vodka and other spirits — Columbus Food Adventure Tours can customize your visit, with walking tours of all sorts of neighborhoods. I took the Grandview tour, which included the following stops.

Toast Bar, the new walk-up concept from local pastry king Dan the Baker, has made artisan breads here for several years. The toast trend



DIVERSE CITY | Run-down-looking Club Diversity is actually a casual neighborhood gay bar.

started in San Francisco, Chicago and New York to serve artsy toasts, like their organic sourdough. After that, head over to famed Stauf's Roasters. A local legend, and one of the oldest roasters in the country, this café has been around more than 25 years and has enough credibility to put Seattle to shame. (There are several locations around the city, including one in German Village next to The Book Loft, but this is the flagship.)

Chef Hubert Siefert, a cuddly Captain Kangaroo with teddy bear appeal, has been one of the culinary grandmasters of Columbus for 35 years, running a string of restaurants, including the members-only club Aubergine; and Spagio (both a wine lounge and a restaurant), which serves nice foods and unique wines for a discerning

clientele. Around the corner is Third and Hollywood, a modern American bistro, which serves interesting cocktails as well as the popular herb cheese biscuits with pimento cheese and bacon and roasted dates.

Stop into Figlio and its attached wine bar Vino Vino for a bite (and sip) of Italy. Owned by an interesting and progressive-thinking couple, you'll be amazed by the aromatic wood-fired pizzas like the truffle mushroom as well as delicious crab-corn chowder and an engaging wine list.

Central Columbus is just a 10-minute cab ride from its easy, moderately-sized airport. That's good — you'll want to spend as little time getting there as you can, so you can enjoy the diverse appeal the city offers. ■

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Accommodations

The Joseph Hotel, 491 S. 4th St. LeMeridienColumbus.com.

Attractions/Shopping

The Book Loft, 631 S. 3rd St. BookLoft.com. **Candle Lab**, 751 N. High St. TheCandleLab.com. **Columbus Museum of Art**, 480 E. Broad St. ColumbusMuseum.org. **Flower Child**, 989 N. High St. FlowerChildVintage.com. **Meeting Haus**, 588 S. 3rd St. GermanVillage.com.

Bars & Clubs

Axis, 775 N. High St. AxisOnHigh.com. **Club Diversity**, 863 S. High St. ClubDiversity.biz. **Exile**, 893 N. 4th St. ExileBar.com. **Level**, 700 N. High St. LevelColumbus.com. **Local**, 913 B. High St. **Union Cafe**, 782 N. High St. **Wall Street**, 144 N. Wall St. WallStreetNightclub.com.

Dining

Barcelona, 263 E. Whittier St. BarcelonaColumbus.com. **Basi Italia**, 811 Highland St. BasiItalia.com. **Curio**, 491 S. 4th St. **Dan the Baker and Toast Bar**, 1028 Ridge St. Dan-the-Baker.com/toastbar. **Figlio/Vino Vino**, 1369 Grandview Ave. FiglioPizza.com. **The Guild House**, 624 N. High St. TheGuildHouseColumbus.com. **Fox in the Snow Cafe**, 1031 N. 4th St. **The Kitchen**, 231 E. Liv-



ington Ave. TheKitchenColumbus.com. **Seventh Son Brewing Co.**, 1101 N 4th St. SeventhSonBrewing.com. **Skillet**, 410 E. Whittier St. SkilletRUF.com. **Spagio**, 1295 Grandview Ave. Spagio.com. **Stauf's in Grandview**, 1277 Grandview Ave. Staufs.com. **Third & Hollywood**, 1433 W. 3rd Ave. ThirdAndHollywood.com.

Resources

Columbus CVB, ExperienceColumbus.com/glblt. **ColumbusGayBars.com**.

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You've got to be Kidding

Miami DJ Kidd Madonny makes his Dallas debut Sunday, kicking off a new monthly tea-dance at The Brick

DJ Kidd Madonny doesn't think of himself as an entertainer so much as some kind of spiritual musical medicine man.

"The best DJs are very much like a shaman," he says from his home in Miami. "Like tribal leaders, a DJ is the leader of his tribe or community, emphasis on *unity*. If music is food for the soul, then it would make sense that the shaman or tribal elders trek into the wilderness out to the edge of their consciousness where they are forced to learn a new behavior having to overcome challenges."

DJ KIDD MADONNY

The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave.
June 21, 4–9 p.m. \$10.
OneNightInBangkok.org.

He'll learn what the jungle of Dallas in summer is like when he makes his Big D debut this Sunday, hosting what will become

a month tea-dance at The Brick.

Before his debut, we chatted with the muscle-bound spin doctor about what audiences can expect, how he got his uber-gay name (and the legend who gave it to him) and how he maintains that rockin' bod. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: You're about more than just deejaying. Explain your philosophy about entertaining. Kidd Madonny: Philosophy? Wow that sounds so elaborate. As I've evolved, it's always been about delivering a product or service that no one else in the world can deliver. So at the core, it's about doing your best and remaining true to your brand.

What should Dallas audiences expect from your show? OMGosh! They are going to get a scene they have not experienced in this city. It's my first time performing here ever! I am going to transform this venue with lots of color, and add some flash to warm up the space. I help make the room more intimate with the decor I design specifically for each new event.

Musically, I am going to serve them a bit of what they expect and then switch it up when they think they know what's coming up next. I use some special effects in my evening show. You'll see a little bit of that later in my set, too. There will be some costumes that no one else has seen yet, which is always exciting to see that virgin response.

What's your musical go-to as a DJ — what style of music gets you and your audiences moving? Good question. Just as no two rooms are the same, no two audiences are, either. I have to gauge the audience's response and see what they are into. If I don't treat them like an *audience*, it'll be just another *crowd*. I built my career by being able to reach out and touch something inside of the listener. That's why I am [coming to Dallas] or [Dallas organizer Dannee Phann] could have hired any other DJ in America.

Tell me about your DJ name. No one has asked me about this in awhile. It's kind of a funny story — I can't believe it turned out like this. Here goes: I was working for The Artist Formerly Known as Prince. It was a long time ago when he still had his club Glam Slam in Miami — a gorgeous venue and my first dancing job. I was really young and naive about a lot of things.

We were backstage getting ready to go dance. In Miami then, even the straight clubs had go-go dancers, male and female, and the best ones still do. As we were going out onstage, Prince is ushering us out and asking what my stage name is. I am thinking, stage name? I don't have one of those! Prince says, "C'mon kid — what's your stage name? You have got to have one." I look at him blankly. He asks, "OK, then who's your favorite artist?" thinking I am going to say "Prince" ... which I probably should have at that point. Instead I blurt out "Madonna." He seemed kind of surprised and his face squints a little. Like a boss, he says, "Great, you're Kid Madonny." I liked it and added another D and have been Kidd Madonny ever since. By the way, I love both artists! Forgive me, Prince!

Do you know whether Madonna knows? I think she may at this point. I never really would have until this past March when I had two gigs on both coasts in one day. We were doing the official pre-party in Miami during Winter Party weekend. I was the opening DJ, performing 8 a.m.—noon before flying out to perform

that night in Seattle. That party was at a high profile venue on Miami Beach. Madonna's U.S. marketing team was involved in the event's promotion, so I know they were in contact with her. The main DJ hosting the event was also really concerned about maintaining status quo and didn't want me or my manager to say anything about the party that wasn't sanctioned, so we were walking on eggshells, literally for weeks! To this day, we don't know if Madonna was aware of my DJ namesake and career or if the DJ who hosted the event was just being sketchy.

Do you think she'd approve? I would like to think that Madonna would most definitely approve of my career and name. We're both over-the-top performers who constantly push the boundaries of dance music and performance. We've both probably reinvented ourselves numerous times in our careers as well.

You're quite obviously ripped. What's your regimen? Wow, that's going to take up a lot of time. It's isolating different muscle groups each day and working them. Sometimes I will workout five to six days a week, depending upon my tour schedule.

Thank you for the interview and great questions! I cannot wait to come to perform for my people in Dallas. This has been a long time coming and I want to turn it out! See you on dance floor! ■

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L+S music

Gay composer Michael Friedman shares the path of 'Fortress of Solitude' from Dallas to NYC to original cast recording

Building a 'Fortress'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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The Dallas Theater Center's commitment in recent years to cultivating new works has been a boon for local audiences, but increasingly, New York ones as well: *Give It Up!* made it to Broadway as *Lysistrata Jones* (with Dallas' Liz Mikel in the cast), while both *Fortress of Solitude* and *Fly By Night* enjoyed off-Broadway runs. And while *Fortress of Solitude* didn't play for long in the Big Apple, it has enjoyed something increasingly rare in musical theater: An original cast recording that will help the music endure for generations.

That's the hope, at least, of *Fortress'* out composer, Michael Friedman.

"We ran in New York and have the cast album, though there are currently no additional plans [to mount a production]," Friedman says. "But more and more, that's how shows survive."

For anyone lucky enough to see *Fortress* last



year at the Wily, it deserves to do more than survive — it should thrive. Revisiting the cast recording is like discovering an old friend and

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SUPER MAN | Out composer Michael Friedman turned the acclaimed novel 'Fortress of Solitude' into a modern stage musical ... starting in Dallas.

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Plumb role

Perpetual middle child Eve Plumb grows up in the racy 'Love, Loss & What I Wore'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

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Here's a story of a lovely lady. Who's been busy with a career of her own.

You know her best as Jan, middle child on the cult sitcom *The Brady Bunch* as well as its spin-offs, *The Brady Kids*, *The Brady Girls Get Married*, *The Brady Brides*, *The Bradys* and even *A Very Brady Christmas*. Her plaintive call, "Marcia! Marcia! Marcia!" has been enshrined in the Zeitgeist as a call of frustration along with William Shatner's "Khaaaaaannnnnnn!"

So if you see Eve Plumb in her Dallas appearance this week in the monologue-driven comedy *Love, Loss and What I Wore* at City Performance Hall, be forewarned: Jan Brady drops a few F-bombs.

You might feel scandalized, but for Plumb, it's just another adult role, of which she has had many.

Plumb was just 11 when she was cast in *The Brady Bunch*, the quintessential family comedy that ran for five seasons but lived on for decades longer in countless reruns. As the studious, insecure Jan, Plumb was a kind of avatar for all middle kids. But her work has continued far beyond that series. Devoted fans will even recall her groundbreaking TV movie *Dawn: Portrait of a Teenaged Runaway*, which she made when she was 18.

"Beyond a certain level, any actor is happy to get an audition," says Plumb on the phone from North Carolina, where she is wrapping up a run in *Plaza Suite*. "I definitely auditioned for *Dawn* and was lucky enough to get it. It was fortunate that it was the first big job I had after *The Brady Bunch*. I felt ready for it — it felt great to do. But all my roles have been hard-won."

Last year, she appeared in the indie film *Blue Ruin*, which was a hit on the festival circuit. Initially, though, she was hesitant to take it on.

"When I read the script, it was bloodbath! I thought, 'I'm just not this person,' she says. "But I took a chance. If you don't try it, you can't lose, right? The first time I saw it was at the Sundance Film Festival, and it's absolutely thrilling. All of the gun stuff seemed justified."

She was lucky again, she says, to be cast in *Love, Loss*, in which a slate of five actresses alternate amusing, racy and sometimes touching monologues about women recalling important moments in their lives and what they were



UP AND AT 'EM, EVE | Eve Plumb may be best known for playing Jan Brady, but she maintains a busy stage career, which brings her to Dallas for a show at City Performance Hall.

wearing at the time.

"I did [the show] for two cycles in New York and had a great time doing it there. Then I did it again in Charlotte a couple of months ago. It's so much fun and I always make great friends with the other women," she says.

Each production is tailored to the specific cast — the one in Dallas also includes Tony winner Daisy Eagan, Concetta Tomei,

Nancy Giles and Ashley Austin Morris — though Plumb has a favorite monologue about a woman whose husband is in prison and what she wears when she visits him. Plumb herself has a complex relationship to clothes.

"I think everyone is concerned about what they wear," she says. "Even those who say, 'the hell with it, I don't care' ... that's a decision — and I do that often. I don't shop designer, I don't wear high-heels but I am very involved in my clothing."

One of Plumb's strangest recent encounters led to another lucky break. She was watching TV one day when a new commercial for Snickers came on that incorporates footage from *The Brady Bunch* interspersed with actors Danny

LOVE, LOSS, WHAT I WORE

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ATTPAC.org.

■ PLUMB Page 53

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Lane change

B.J. Cleveland — North Texas' homegrown version of Nathan Lane — takes on a modern classic about a closeted performer in Uptown Players' 'The Nance'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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For all of his personal successes, B.J. Cleveland admits that, in many ways, he has had a shadow career.

Look at some of his biggest local successes: Max in *The Producers*. Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Buzz in *Love! Valour! Compassion!* Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. And opening this week at the Kalita, Chauncey in *The Nance*. It's a catalogue any actor would be proud to claim as his own. And, in fact, one that another famous actor *can* claim: Nathan Lane.

Yes, while Cleveland is a Texas treasure, he admits that Broadway legend Nathan Lane has paved the way for the larger-than-life, energetic clowns that are a specialty of a handful of talents. It's as if they were separated at birth (or at least, call-backs). And Cleveland is fine with it.

"There's always the possible curse for an actor — to be put in a niche that they can't get out of as far as casting is concerned," Cleveland says. "But on the other hand, if you're the right type and you can do it, why not? As long as Nathan Lane is working, I know there will always be roles for me — and since a show gets a higher profile when his name is attached, that means regional theaters will eventually do them."

That's certainly the case for *The Nance*, which debuted on Broadway only two seasons ago and which Uptown Players quickly nabbed for its peripatetic star.

Cleveland and Uptown have a long history; he directed the first show in the company's history, *When Pigs Fly*, and has starred in, hosted, directed, devised and sometimes saved countless more productions while remaining one of the busiest theater professionals in North Texas. And while some actors might have balked at the idea of recreating *again* a role associated with another star, taking on *The Nance* was something Cleveland couldn't pass up.

The plot concerns a star in the waning

days of the burlesque houses of the 1930s. Chauncey is famous for playing "The Nance," a stock character (like Top Banana, Fan Dancer or Magician) known for his suggestively campy double entendre — the swishy gay guy onstage who let's the audience chuckle at his outrageous flamboyance. That's fine for the stage, of course; in real life, homosexuality is still a crime in the U.S., and Chauncey looks for love by trawling the automat on the make for down-on-his-luck rough trade he can woo for a night.

But Chauncey is a conundrum: A closeted gay man who's also a died-in-the-wool conservative Republican, and thinks the right wing of American politics supports his own beliefs ... until he slowly comes to realize a gay man has no power in their power structure.

"Chauncey's got two major downfalls," Cleveland muses. "One is being self-destructive with love because

he feels he doesn't deserve it. The other is being naïve to the dirty politics that are going on around him."

It would be easy to call *The Nance* a period piece that reflects a moment in our collective past, but Cleveland sees it as something much more contemporary, even today.

"I think it's terribly relevant to what's happening right now," he says. It's a reflection of our history and how much it has changed ... to a point. But also how little it has changed. At the heart of the play is a love story, and unfortunately, in the gay community, we still have a lot of self-loathing and self-effacing which Chauncey personifies because that's what society says he should feel."

But as much about relationships is the politics of Douglas Carter Beane's Tony Award-nominated play. While Cleveland isn't a Republican, he understands the

THE NANCE

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
June 19–July 5.
UptownPlayers.org.

■ NANCE Page 53



HOT IN CLEVELAND | B.J. Cleveland plays a deluded gay burlesque performer in the regional premiere of Douglas Carter Beane's 'The Nance.' (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)



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Putting the 'class' in C- Class

MB's 4th generation C300 refines a new classic

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

With each generation, Mercedes claims the C-Class is more sophisticated, more upscale ... just more of everything. That was true when the 1994 C-Class replaced the 190E and it's true again

now, as the fourth-generation supplants the third. You often hear these cars compared to the flagship S-Class. Beyond hyperbole, those comparisons hold way.

By introducing the "\$30,000" front/all-wheel-drive CLA, Mercedes was able to move the C-Class up to the \$40,000-plus range, allowing it to become better equipped in looks and function. Oh, the looks! You'll absolutely see the family resemblance to its much larger sibling, through side sculpting meant to recall classic Mercedes, LED driving lamps, sloped rump and horizontal light tubes in the taillamps. The Sport model wears its star in the grille and 19-in. AMG alloys under the fenders, but a classic grille with stand-up hood ornament is also available.

Inside, the experience is more uplifting. The center consoles and doors are paneled in artful black ash. Stitched leather on the doors, aluminum Bermester audio grilles and a triplet of round air vents that echo R107 SL roadsters from the '80s blend modern and traditional. Navi-



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PIMP YOUR RIDE | The lines of the C300 are classic Mercedes, and the styling inside both luxe and sporty. (Photos courtesy Mercedes-Benz)



gation, USB inputs and cloud-based infotainment system hit techies in the heart. I love red leather seats — especially when they're heated and cooled. Ambient lighting washes the cabin ... just as it does in the big cars.

Depending on how you feel about the size of your engine, you'll be thrilled by the C300 ... or not. I wish Mercedes would quit inflating its trunk badges to compensate for whatever it's hiding. The hood covers a 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine instead of the 3.0-liter unit it implies, but its 241 horsepower, 273 lb.-ft. of torque and 24/31-MPG city/hwy. redeem numerical transgressions.

In our car, power was routed to the 4MATIC all-wheel-drive system through a 7-speed automatic transmission. Start/stop technology helps conserve fuel. I have no complaints about the engine. It will eventually run out of thrust, but it's smooth and quiet — stomping down the left lane with gusto. And if you need more power, Mercedes offers a range of powertrains that will wake the company's long-dead founders.

The biggest complaint I've heard about the C300 is it doesn't drive like a BMW. No, sirree, it does not: It drives, as always, like a Mercedes-Benz.

I drove the C300 on the Interstate and on potholed city streets.

As in the S-Class, the car's adjustable air suspension floats over bumps in Comfort mode, or pretends it's a BMW in Sport mode. Beyond adjusting the suspension, the drive modes vary steering, throttle and transmission response. (Long-time Benz owners will compare Comfort to Mercedes' famous wafting ride while Sport entices driving enthusiasts.)

I own a "first generation" 1995 C-Class that belonged to my grandmother. My impression of the 2015 C300 left me believing it's larger than my old

C220, so I parked them in the driveway side-by-side. Nope, they're almost identical. Size is by perception, but sophistication is not. The car has grown up, becoming a smaller alternative to larger Benzes rather than just a bargain price point. This is a good thing for the new kid of class.

'15 C300

Mercedes-Benz. 241 hp, 2.0 liter T4 24/31-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$52,735.

L+S stage

■ **PLUMB**, From Page 49

Trejo and Steve Buscemi representing "hangry" versions of the Brady girls. Buscemi played Jan.

"I thought that's sort of strange," she says, but didn't think much of it. A few months later, she met a family friend of the Buscemis. "She dialed a number and handed me the phone and it's Steve Buscemi on the other line!" she recalls. They hit it off and exchanged contact information; a few months later, Buscemi called and invited Plumb to appear on his AOL talk show *Park Bench*. So, did they end up discussing the Snickers ad?

"We did," Plumb says. "I told him, 'If I were to be turned into anyone when I'm angry, I would want it to be you.'" ■

■ **NANCE**, From Page 50

pressures of being a performer forced to hide himself in plain sight: He spent 10 years hosting a children's show on local television.

"At first it was at channel 39, which was at Oak Lawn and Harry Hines but owned by the 700 Club," Cleveland says. "Imagine being a young man, coming into his own sexuality just blocks from Cedar Springs but unable to step foot in Oz because of who I had to be on a day-to-day basis." The show later moved to a more liberal station, but that had its own issues: Since it was owned by Disney, "I had this iconic image and brand to uphold. Even getting a drink at a restaurant, I'd have people say to me, 'What if children see you with alcohol?'"

Cleveland agrees we have come a long way. But there's still a long way to go.

"Do we [in the gay community] have a voice? I think we do," he says. "But we're always on the brink — like waiting to see what the Supreme Court says about our rights. We still have a lot of work to do." ■

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Viva zapatos!

We've taken a shine to El Bolero, a shoo-in for Design District Mexicuisine



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The Spanish word “bolero” has a multitude of meanings, and not all that related to one another. For one, it’s a slow-moving piece of music (exemplified by Maurice Ravel’s fever-dream of a melody, *Bolero*); it’s also a fashion term, denoting a short jacket, also called a shrug. In Mexico, it’s a nickname for a shoeshine boy. And that’s exactly how El Bolero, the new South of the Border cocina in the Design District, intends it.

I’m not exactly sure why, and I haven’t bothered to ask. Perhaps it intends to evoke a rustic authenticity — a “real people, real food” aesthetic. Outside the entrance, there’s an old-school shoeshine station, complete with shoe forms, chair and canopy advertising complimentary shines (though, on four visits, I’ve never seen it manned by a bootblack). Inside, the menus arrive on papers folded between a swatch of weathered boot leather. The music playing, though, has never been Ravel and rarely even the adagio you’d expect from a mariachi. No, beyond the quirkiness of its owners (who also run neighboring bistros Pakpao and Oak), the significance of El Bolero’s name will remain a mystery.

What’s not a mystery, though, is the appeal of the food, which brings to the burgeoning Design District a sophisticated take on the cuisines from Central and Northern Mexico to Oaxaca, Yucatan and the Gulf (plus, because we’re in Dallas, Tex-Mex).

The Tex-Mex influence is clear when you sit down and are presented with a duet of salsas (tangy tomatillo and subtle tomato) and an engaging stack of tortilla chips. You don’t get chips and salsa anywhere south of the Rio Grande, but when you get freshly made tortilla chips as addictive as these (and *not* over-salted), with salsas that score, you can forgive a bit of cultural cross-pollination.

The eclectic style is reflected in the décor as well. On the back wall are two mosaics, one that recalls a Frida Kahlo self-portrait, the other a bandito-looking fellow who could be Don Diego de la Vega without the mask. Bright yellow barstools contrast to the Mission-style table-seat-



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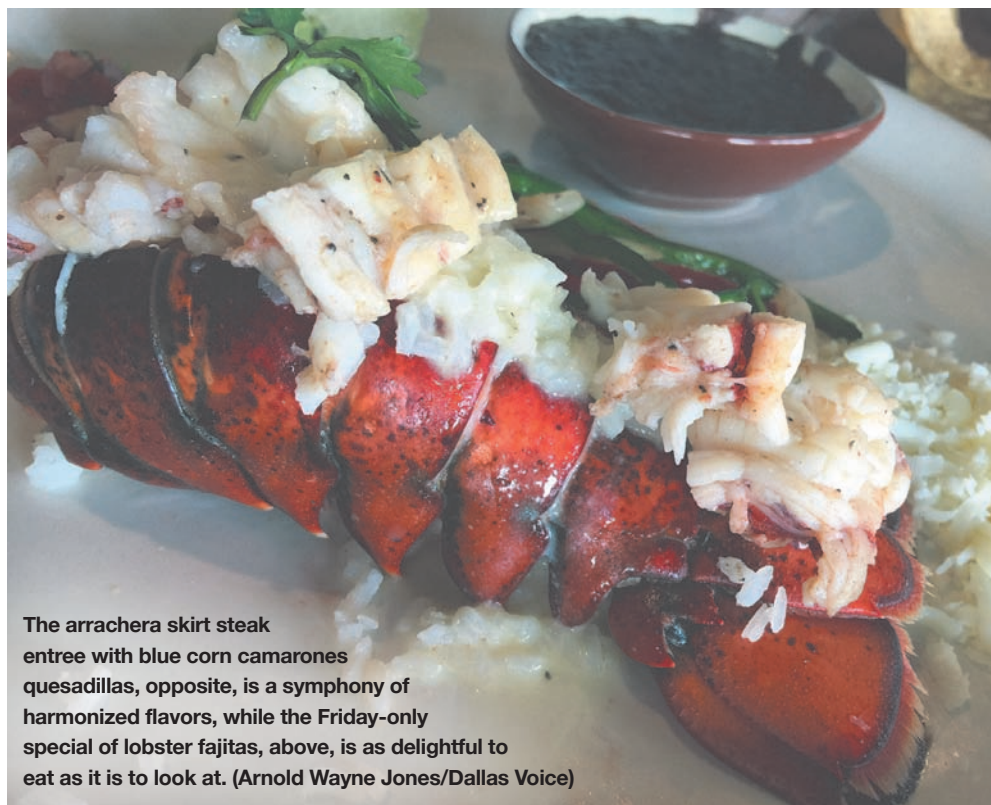
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The arrachera skirt steak entree with blue corn camarones quesadillas, opposite, is a symphony of harmonized flavors, while the Friday-only special of lobster fajitas, above, is as delightful to eat as it is to look at. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

ing, while terra cotta accents and cocoa-colored leathers and woods prevent it from looking like a quincenera dress.

For such a young, and comparatively casual, restaurant, the staff has been consistently as enthusiastic about the menu as the diners. (A grinning bartender or waiter goes a long way toward setting the tone for a meal.) On one visit, as we enjoyed our third stack of tortilla chips and salsa, our server brought out a *third* sauce — usually reserved for certain entrees, we were told. It accompanied the rest of the dishes well, and made a welcome addition to the spicy salsa verde and the rich roja.

It's not just at the edges, though, where El Bolero succeeds. There's an almost symphonic harmonizing of flavors on the arrachera that layer in increasingly interesting ways. First, of course, is the skirt steak, rubbed with chiles and dabbled in salsa to impart a mild heat. The beef at Bolero, smoky and unusually tender, pairs well with the grilled vegetables, especially the nopales and medallions of purple potato, which lend a hearty, rustic structure. Alongside the steak are two blue corn quesadillas grilled with shrimp (redolent of the saltiness of the Gulf) and melted cheese, and topped with a dollop of guac. Think of each element — smoke, vegetal, salt, sweetness, earthy — coming together as one on the tongue. The union can be intoxicating.

The arrachera costs a definitely-worth-it \$22, but in a town where hole-in-the-wall taquerias sell succulent mouthfuls for a little as a buck, giving value as a sit-down restaurant can be threading a needle. But prices at El Bolero are consistently reasonable: the most expensive item on the dinner menu — the carne a la parilla flank steak, similar to the arrachera but without the salsa (and with a chile relleno), clocks in at merely \$24 — will satisfy not just your appetite but your tastebuds. Even the Friday-only special of lobster fajitas won't set you back much more than a notch on your belt. (It's a smallish lobster,

but the preparation is lovely and homemade corn tortillas offer a genuine treat).

Assortments of tacos (mostly \$10 for four), including an al pastor (with a rotating trompo visiting in the open kitchen), exceeded expectations; at lunch, the barbacoa torta (\$10) merely met them.

Enchiladas and mole are my jam in Mexican food, so I couldn't resist the combo here (\$18). The deft presentation of these small, nicely rolled tubes of pulled chicken topped with in-house mole impressed me, though the tactic doesn't always translate. The soul of the chorizo-and-potato flautas appetizer (\$9) is there, but a salad of lettuce, cojito, crema and salsa — similar to the entree enchiladas, where the presentation worked — felt hidden under a needless pastiche that added nothing. (Flautas are finger food to me, not meant for knife-and-fork consumption.

But with tequila flights on hand from the massive selection of mezcals, live music during weekend brunches and virtually every region of Mexico at your culinary command, complaints are just swatting at flies. I've quickly taken a shine to El Bolero. ■

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

El Bolero, 1201 Oak Lawn Ave.,
Open Daily at 7 a.m. for breakfast,
lunch and dinner; weekend brunch at
10 a.m. ElBoleroMexican.com.

From the signature tacos, pictured, to high-end entrees, the vibe is an enchanting combination of a eclectic casual and serious cuisine.



Food: ★★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★★
Service: ★★★★★
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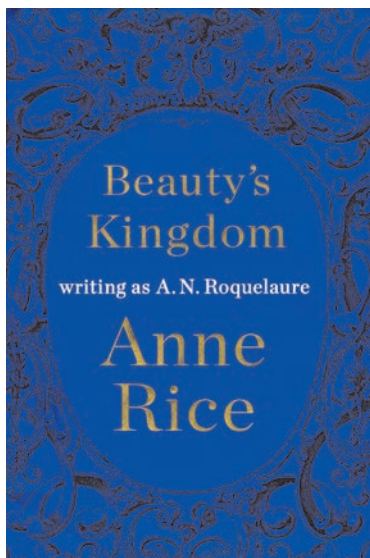
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Hurt so good

Beauty's Kingdom by Anne Rice (writing as A.N. Roquelaure) (Viking 2015) \$27.95, 272 pp.

I first came across A. N. Roquelaure's *Sleeping Beauty Trilogy* in the early 1990s, well after its author had already been exposed as a pseudonym of Anne Rice. I found the books enticing and amazingly erotic fantasies about a medieval world where BDSM was the norm and naked pleasure "slaves" and dominant men and women filled their days indulging in activities that would make most people blush. (The plot revolves around the awakening of *Sleeping Beauty* who, as in the fairy tale, has been put under a sleeping spell. Rather than a kiss, *Beauty* is awakened by a prince who has sex with her and then takes her away to his king-



dom where she becomes awakened to the submissive nature she finds so delightful.)

As a member of the leather community, these books — though far from what most would consider "leather-oriented" — were delightful diversions and just plain hot. There was no prevailing sexual orientation in this fantasyland, and members of both sexes indulged in delights with whatever gender happened to strike their fancy at the moment. It was pure hedonism, save for an underlying current of a moral structure that lead readers to

believe that no real harm would come to the kingdom's slaves and subjects.

I have been asked dozens of times if these books bear any resemblance to the reality of BDSM and my answer is typically, "In a lot of

ways, Rice gets it absolutely right." The activities would most likely be not only possible, but probably a blast! That said, Rice seems to have a big fascination with butt plugs and pony gear, and perhaps she has been the root of the whole "pony play" phenomenon. (If you don't know what that is, it would take another full column to bring you up to speed.)

Now, almost 30 years later, comes the fourth book in the series, *Beauty's Kingdom*. Rice herself remarked she was eager to get back to writing erotica, and I for one am delighted she did. Writing as Rice she is very good; writing as A.N. Roquelaure, she is a master of erotica.

The story picks up some 20 years later and now the kingdom has matured in many ways. In the original construct, young nobles were given to the kingdom for a period of mandatory slavery and were groomed in the ways of discipline and sexual servitude before being restored to their rightful titles and returned to their own countries with a new wisdom gained from the experience. It reminded me a great deal of the position that some boys, slaves and submissives held in the real-world leather community I first



Anne Rice

knew in the late 1970s. In an ideal setting, those who chose to be submissive or serve as slaves were held in a special regard and respected and protected by their Daddies or Masters. They often matured sexually into dominants themselves though that was not a prescribed path.

■ RICE Page 58

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■ RICE, From Page 56

Much of what Rice wrote about felt a lot like a pansexual version of the Old Guard wrapped in the trappings of a fantasy realm.

Now, the position of sex slaves has changed. In this mature kingdom, they come willingly and apply to become participants in the training and activities. Social status is no longer a barrier, the common and the royal can experience the joys of submission and things have become so popular, there is a waiting list.

Much like the modern leather/BDSM community, the old structure of rigid rolls has become blurred, and the idea of "switching" is accepted and common. The bisexuality of the kingdom is more profound and though there are men who much prefer other men and women who prefer women, most can appreciate the attractive qualities of a well-trained slave. There are even those individuals who magically change their gender in this new kingdom and they are awarded a special place.

The activities are mostly realistic, or at least plausible and though the kingdom has a marked propensity for spanking, pretty much every aspect of BDSM is present. The butt plugs are back, but this time instead of being polished wood, they are hardened wax and are melted down between uses. I suspect a concession to criticism about the previous book's less believable (and less hygienic) ones.

The fact that Rice noticed these details leads me to believe she knows a lot about the real world of BDSM, a fact that is almost assured in the dedication of the book to John Preston, noted homoerotic author of the Mr. Benson books.

Making inevitable comparisons of these books to *50 Shades of Grey* I can only say, Roquelaure gets it far more accurate and believable than the clumsy grammar and silliness of E. L. James. For my money, *Beauty's Kingdom* is a better read and much better erotic literature than most of the genre available today.

—Hardy Haberman

Course Correction: A Story of Rowing and Resilience in the Wake of Title IX by Ginny Gilder (Beacon Press 2015) \$26.95, 272 pp.

The first time Ginny Gilder ever saw a rowing team in action, she was 16 and didn't quite know what she was seeing. Everything about that boat, its rowers and the motion spoke of serenity and control — things Gilder lacked in her young life. She was a goner.

Two years later, while enrolled at Yale, she finally got a chance to try the sport, though the women's rowing coach strongly discouraged her. Gilder was shorter than the optimal height for a rower and, because Title IX (ensuring an end to gender discrimination at federally funded institutions) had only recently passed, she'd never seriously engaged in sports before. She was out of shape and inexperienced, but deter-

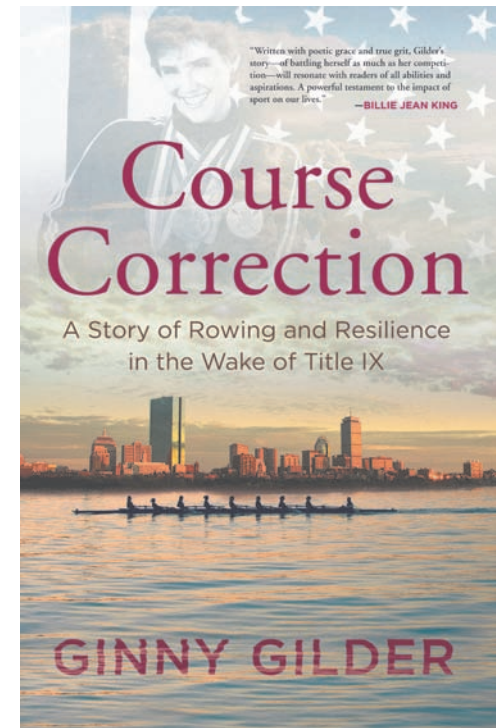
mined. She started training, running and practicing. Within six weeks, she was competing.

"Everything hurt," she recalls in *Course Correction*, her new memoir, "including my butt. My hands sported new blisters, my lungs felt like they had been rubbed with sandpaper... I had never felt happier."

For the rest of that year, Gilder threw herself into her newfound love, barely socializing except with teammates at workouts, training and competitions. Rowing helped her focus and forget about the home life she'd escaped: her family's wealth, her father's infidelity and her mother's mental health issues. Rowing helped hide her self-consciousness and lack of self-esteem.

She saw her teammates' swagger and confidence, and she saw two of them try out for the U.S. Olympic team in Montreal. At least one teammate was gay and didn't try to hide it; says Gilder, "I couldn't imagine being that bold or comfortable." Her self-doubts were exacerbated by family naysayers and by Gilder's own inner critic ... a voice she had to silence before she could excel at the sport she needed to her core. She also had to come to terms with all aspects of herself, including her sexuality.

I'm very happy to say that *Course Correction*, while sometimes a little rough in a first-time-author, way is, overall, a nice surprise. Between a breathless story of the making of an athlete, Gilder writes of the past that caused her to lose faith in herself, even as she was gaining strength, physically and intellectually. That uncertainty of



self — a big part of this book — led to many regrettable decisions, and is portrayed so well that it's hard not to feel empathetic. That empathy only leads us to want more.

Add in heart-pounding accounts of races and trials and you've got a nice memoir about a subject that's largely unsung by an author to watch. And if that sounds like an ideal read to you, then try *Course Correction*. This book is but a dream. ■

—Terri Schlichenmeyer

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■ FORTRESS, From Page 48

being reminded how delightful he made you feel once ... and how much you long to experience him again.

"There were some changes [to the score] from post-Dallas — no entirely new songs, but some grew or shrank and in one case a song was cut," Friedman says. "It was an interesting process turning the show into a cast album. We had some songs that weren't [played in their entirety], but you hear a portion of them, so we asked ourselves, 'Do we need to flesh it out more? How do you tell a story on its own?' But it's a show about pop music so you get to do a lot of fun things."

Fun because in the musical, two inner-city boys — one a white kid adrift in the big city with an absent mom and a remote dad, the other the black son of a once-famous musician — forge an unlikely friendship based on a mutual love for rock albums and Superman comics, and enjoy fantasy lives that include the ability to fly. Pop music, comics, magical realism — it has the makings for a diverse and theatrical bit of stagecraft. In retrospect, though, the real wonder was that *Fortress* got made at all — Friedman turned down the chance to adapt the novel for the musical theater.

"This is the second musical [he previously composed *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*] in which I am dealing with obsessions that are not mine, like rock music or comic books. That was

not my childhood. The superhero part is not my experience. The mean streets were very much part of what I was growing up in. The agony of that period was palpable," Friedman says.

Eventually, though, he realized the grittiness could be part of their story as well. The result is a beautiful and contemporary score that jumps through 30 years of music from the 1970s to the new millennium.

The process was not without its pitfalls. Friedman concedes that "the consensus in Dallas was that the show was too long," he says. "I think there *is* such a thing as a perfect play, but I don't think there is such a thing as a perfect musical — there are just too many moving parts. [The hardest part is] trying to tell a story and figure out what the central line of the story was. It's what's exciting about doing a musical, but it can stall [dramatically]."

Because they were adapting a pre-existing text, the process was less about creating than it is "choosing what you are gonna jettison and what you are gonna hold on to. In the book, there is a sequence where the boys are caught masturbating together. As a gay man, that scene did not imply to me that they had a secret gay relationship, but when you put in onstage, it feels like a 'gotcha' moment — a psychological catch-all," he explains. It was cut, but the final production still implies a deeper-than-we-really-know relationship between the main characters.

And because it's a musical, there's always the question of when to tell something, and when to



FROM DALLAS THE NYC | Dallas audiences saw the world premiere of 'Fortress of Solitude,' which received both a NYC run and an original cast recording. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

sing it. "The music tended to win" while working on the structure with Moses. "He would encourage me that if there was something I needed to tell with a song, always do that over a speech," he says.

So what song is his favorite in the show? It's

not that simple.

"There's always the song that was hardest to write, the one that was easiest to write and the one where I threaded the needle the most. The one you're proudest of is the one that doesn't fail ... and you feel like you got away with it." ■



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■ KATHY, From Page 40

I guess by now you've seen it all, then, even in the gay community. I continue [to learn from the gay community]. Recently I did not one, but two gay cruises. I thought I had seen everything, but as you add letters and numbers — LGBTQIA245 — I saw my first "flag-off." I went to the pool area, and there are thongs and some straight-up nudity, then I see some competitive flagging — one who had a camo flag, cuz that would hide him, and there was a rainbow ... And I started thinking: Now that Bruce Jenner is transitioning [we spoke before Bruce came out as Caitlyn], you think we can add flagging to the Olympics?

Oh, boy, we're talking about Jenner now ... We are. I wish I had a nannycam so I could watch him 24/7. It really made me realize, we have been wasting our time with all those worthless Kardashians — Bruce is the one. Watching Bruce get her nails done ... and yes I used the word "her." But the sad part was watching Kim [on that show]. Kim, as if she is the embodiment of class, was going through [Caitlyn's] clothing rack and saying "yes" and "no" to various leopard prints and such. The idea that they passed that on to Caitlyn — their fashion sense —

pains me. At least she could look at their crappy clothes and say, "I'm better than that." I'm hoping Bruce calls Rachel Zoe — I wouldn't have any Kardashian deciding my wardrobe. Physician, heal thyself!

What if Bruce instilled them with his fashion sense? First of all, it's her, you gay bashing sonuvabitch! Second, that would be a tragedy if Bruce accidentally got her style from any one of those girls. I don't know if Kylie is rebelling by making her lips one-third of her body. I mean, she is still 17 years old, but those lips are about 40.

Let me ask you a question: How do the Dallas gays feel about Tom Brady? Now that he's a cheater, do you not care because he's so hot?

I think Dallas gays are divided on that, but in general, I think the concensus is, being a cheater trumps his hotness. Can I say, that's very edgy of you, that there's an actual division, but Texas is more of a sports state [than California]. The L.A. gays don't give a shit [about DeflateGate] — they just want him to maintain that six-pack, though the second he gains 10 pounds, he's out. He has to maintain a level of hotness or they'll move on.

What about Tony Romo? How do you feel about him after he dumped Jessica Simpson?

We're up and down on Romo, I think. When we do the Readers Voice Awards, Jason Witten usually wins as hottest local athlete. That makes sense — he's a tight end, and that gives Jason the edge. But Romo hurt your beloved Jessica Simpson. Whether she knows chicken from fish or not, I'm a fan. I don't like the straight men who hurt our girls. I'm not talking to Nick Cannon and don't even get me started on Justin Timberlake — I still blame him for Britney's ... let's say ... "issues." But when [Romo] dumped Jessica, everyone was like, "Oh gosh, she lost her rich boyfriend." But she's a *billionaire*. I'm gonna break some news to you: I'm thinking of transitioning just so I could marry Jessica Simpson. If I do, I'm only going to be attracted to Jessica. Maybe Bruce can't decide whether he's attracted to men or women, but I will only be gay for Jessica.


Whether she's attracted to men or women. Touché. ■

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Saturday 06.20

Jason Dottley tells tales with 'My Life on the gAy List'

From his high-profile marriage to Del Shores to his even more high-profile divorce and lots of adventures in between, Jason Dottley's life has been on public display for more than a decade. He dishes about all of it in his confessional one-man show *My Life on the gAy List*, which comes to North Texas for a one-night-only performance this weekend.

DEETS: Haven Hotel Ballroom, 711 E. Camp Wisdom Road, Duncanville. 8 p.m. \$12-\$20. LifeOnTheGayList.com.



Friday 06.19
Saturday 06.20

Brick marks Juneteenth weekend with 2 parties

It took a while for African-Americans in Texas to get word that they were freed by Abraham Lincoln — more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, in fact, and months after the Civil War officially ended. The Brick will mark the holiday for the gay community this weekend with two events: On Friday, The Black Carpet Affair features Drag Racer Kennedy Davenport, left; on Saturday, a foam party with "surprise guests." Heck, in foam, everything's a surprise!

DEETS: The Brick, 2525 Wycliffe Ave. BrickDallas.com.

Friday 06.19—
Saturday 06.20

Bruce Wood Dance Project celebrates Five Years

Although its founder passed away last summer, the Bruce Wood Dance Project lives on, with this celebratory concert marking its five-year anniversary. Among the program are two classic works by Wood and a world premiere by his talented protege Albert Drake called *Whispers*.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.



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IT'S A BIRD ... IT'S A PLANE ... IT'S BINGO | Gaybingo this month invites you to come as your favorite Spandex-clad superhero ... or supervillain. At the Rose Room Saturday.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Pride Month Summer Play Series: *Precious Little*.

Echo Theatre, which produces plays by women for everyone, brings back its lesbian-themed Pride series with this piece, directed by Kelsey Leigh Ervi, from lesbian author Madeleine George, who also wrote *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence. Final weekend.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. EchoTheatre.org.

South Pacific. Lyric Stage concludes its 22nd season with this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic set in Hawaii, which explores issues of racism and love. *Reviewed this week; final weekend.* Carpenter Performance Hall, Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd, Irving. LyricStage.org.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. Gay playwright Christopher Durang's brilliant Tony-winning play about family dynamics and a brother and sister both lusting after the same sexy but dumb young man. A Fort Worth premiere. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through July 12. StageWest.org.

Manicures & Monuments. From local playwright Vicki Caroline Cheatwood, about a manicurist-in-training who clashes with a hard-headed manager at an Oklahoma retirement community where she volunteers. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through June 28. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Dream Cafe. Brian's life as a single gay man is explored through six scenes, performed in a different order each night (as determined by the audience). A revival of Alejandro de la Costa's 2010 play. Contains nudity. *Final weekend.* Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. MBSProductions.net.

Old Time Music Hall. Theatre Britain's annual revue (and fundraiser) featuring song, dance and comedy in the class style of a London burlesque. *Final weekend.* Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com.

Rodgers+Hammerstein's Cinderella. The tuneful, lavish recent Tony Award-winner comes to North Texas. *Reviewed this week.* Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through Saturday. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. June 23–28. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

Mass Appeal. Play about a conservative young priest and the Monsignor who challenges his perceptions. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through July 18 (in previews through June 19). CircleTheatre.com.

The Firestorm. A politician in an interracial marriage finds his campaign compromised by an episode of his past in this centerpiece mainstage production of Kitchen Dog Theater's annual New Works series. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through June 27. KitchenDogTheater.org.

DANCE

Bruce Wood Dance Project: Five Years. The fifth year anniversary of the acclaimed local dance company features two classic works from the late founder, as well as a world premiere from company member Albert Drake. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday at 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

CIRCUS

Cirque Dreams: Jungle Fantasy. Gay impresario Neil Goldberg's latest modern circus of acrobatics and derring-do, with a jungle theme. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. June 19–21. ATPACG.org.

FINE ART

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

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

FRIDAY 06.19

COMMUNITY

Juneteenth Black Carpet Affair. Guests include Kennedy Davenport at the party marking a holiday in

the African-American community in Texas. The Brick, 2525 Wycliffe Ave. BrickDallas.com.

FILM

Movies in the Park. A free film series at The Shops at Park Lane every Friday in June, with screenings of *Zoolander* (June 19) and *Despicable Me 2* (June 26). 8:30 p.m. ParkLaneDallas.com.

SATURDAY 06.20

COMMUNITY

Gaybingo. Have you always wanted to be a superhero? Or how about a supervillain? Hey, any excuse to wear Spandex, right? Dress as your favorite caped wonder for Superhero/Supervillain month at Gaybingo. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25-\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

Jesus Chairez: GLBT Latino History in North Texas in the 1980s and '90s. TeCo Theatricals presents the broadcaster Jesus Chairez as part of its speakers series, discussing local gay history in Hispanic culture. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. 7:30 p.m. \$20. TeCoTheater.org.

Junteenth Foam Party. The Brick, 2525 Wycliffe Ave. BrickDallas.com.

THEATER

My Life on the gAy List. Jason Dottley's (TV's *Sordid Lives*) confessional one-man show about his life in the spotlight. Haven Hotel Ballroom, 1711 Camp Wisdom Road, Duncanville. 8 p.m. \$12-\$20. LifeOnTheGayList.com.

TUESDAY 06.23

FILM

2001: A Space Odyssey. Nearly 50 years after its debut, Stanley Kubrick's ruminations on space travel and the human condition remains a seminal piece of cinema, still as gorgeous (and inscrutable) as when it first rocked the world. 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.

THEATER

Annie. New national tour of the recent hit Broadway revival about the adorable orphan girl. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. June 23-July 5. ATPAC.org.

Dirty Dancing. Stage musical adaptation of the hit film about romance in the Catskills. Have the time of your life. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. June 23-July 5. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. July 7-12. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

THURSDAY 06.25

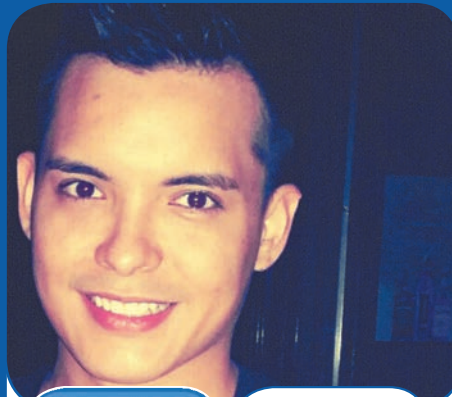
THEATER

Love, Loss and What I Wore. By turn, amusing and heartfelt monologues about women experiencing loss ... and what they were wearing at the time. Written by Nora and Delia Ephron. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. June 25-27. ATPAC.org

COMEDY

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DAMN — DAMNmen.org; P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1739); oakwinguy@hotmail.com.

DALLAS BEARS — P.O. Box 191223, Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x2943); dallasbears.org.

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GAYMSTERS BRIDGE CLUB — P.O. Box 190856, Dallas 75219; 214-946-6464; gaymasters@yahoo.com.

GRAY PRIDE — (At Resource Center); GLBT Aging Interest Network, educational & social organization for GLBT seniors; 2701 Reagan St., Dallas; 214-528-0144; RCDallas.org.

GROUP SOCIAL LATINO — 2701 Reagan St., Dallas 75219; 214-540-4446.

JEWEL — 214-540-GIRL; jewel@rcdallas.org; rcdallas.org.

KHUSH TEXAS — http://groups.yahoo.com/group/khushetexas.

LATE BLOOMERS — La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave.; Dallas 75219; 903-887-7371.

LEATHER KNIGHTS — P.O. Box 190334, Dallas 75219; 214-395-8460; leatherknights.org.

LVL/PWA CAMPOUT — Rick; campout@lvpwa.com; lvpwa.com.

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER — P.O. Box 190611, Dallas 75219; 214-521-4765.

NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION - DALLAS — P.O. Box 190432; Dallas 75219; info@nla-dallas.org; nla-dallas.org.

NORTH TEXAS RADICAL FAERIES — groups.yahoo.com/group/ntradaef.

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON — 10675 East Northwest Hwy., #2600B, Dallas 75238; 972-264-3381; cschepps@sbcbglobal.net; once-in-a-blue-moon.org.

ORANGE CLUB — groups.yahoo.com/group/orange-club.

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POZ DALLAS — pozdallas@gmail.com.

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SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW — http://singles.meetup.com/2049.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DALLAS/FORT WORTH — groups.yahoo.com/group/sindallasfortworth; dalmus@yahoo.com.

UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE — PO Box 190865, Dallas 75219; dallascourt.org.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION — dallasfamily.org.

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CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE — 9120 S Hwy. 198; Maybank TX, 75147; 903-951-2302; cotlchurch.org.

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UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY — 3425 Greenville Ave., Dallas 75206; 214-826-5683; dallasunity.org

Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Dear Howard,

My new boyfriend is better looking than I am, by lots. We've got a monogamous relationship, to my knowledge, but anytime we go out anywhere together, it's as if I suddenly turn into the invisible man. At first, I was flattered by all the attention he always gets — reflected glory and such — but lately it just makes me increasingly ... angry.

I'm not an ugly guy. Lots of dudes find me *plenty* attractive, in fact. But it's almost like my only option for being even remotely noticed whenever I'm with him is if I, oh, tattooed a logo across my smitten chest practically shouting, "I'M NOT A SIZE QUEEN BUT MY BOYFRIEND IS."

I'm *constantly* being, "too sensitive," he laughs; I need to, "lighten up and just be happy." Well, easy to say when you look like Zeus come down from the heavens. Short of resorting to, like, prescription anxiety meds versus turning into a paranoid stalker, how *does* a normal man even begin dealing with my envious resentment? — **Patrick.**

Dear Pat,

Shut up your jawbone bitching, quit being a drama diva and start big-dickin' like the lucky man your faithfully gorgeous boyfriend wants you be. That's how.

Dear Howard,

I'm kind of embarrassed here to ask this, but what does "sero-sta-

tus" mean? I'm only asking, because I think I must have misinterpreted its meaning somehow. Can you please explain sero-status to me in layman's terms? — **Walter.**

Dear Walter,

Take a deep breath, Walt, and pay close attention: In the world of sexually transmitted diseases, "sero" is the medical prefix for blood. "Sero-status" describes whether any given individual's blood tests positive for STDs; technically, therefore, sero-status is the state of either having, or not, detectable antibodies against a *specific* antigen, as measured by a blood test; moreover, "sero-conversion" of *detectable* specific antibodies to microorganisms in the blood as a result of infection or immunization ... Basically, it's whether you have an infection that can be transmitted to a partner.

If you need further, *more* specific info, Walt, you'll have to consult a professional physician: This professional, satirical columnist here can't take you any further.

Dear Howard,

I'm 18 now. I don't come from a perfect family. I have two older brothers. They both molested me when they were teenagers. A lot. Like, relentlessly. I'm moving away from home soon to go to college in another state, so I'm OK. They're both married now anyway, and I was almost asking for it besides, I guess, when they caught me looking at gay porn on our home computer after school —

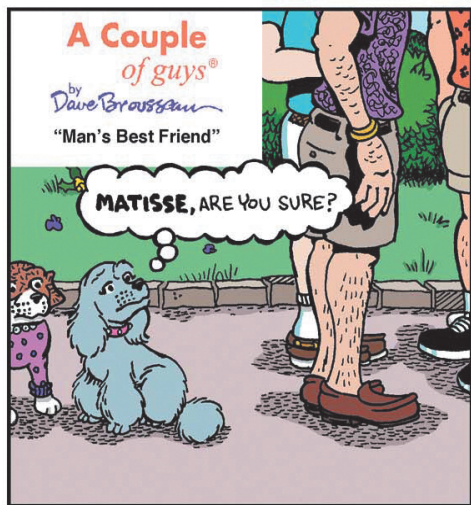
dumb me, I didn't know to "clear recent history" *before* chunking my used socks to the laundry hamper.

Here's my question: If I want to mess around again with my brothers over the holidays, when we're all back home visiting, what's the best way to go about it without their wives getting suspicious? — **Jim.**

Dear Jimbob,

A locked bedroom door, for starters; or, even better, a local motel

My new boyfriend is better looking than I am, by lots ... Anytime we go out anywhere together, it's as if I suddenly turn into the invisible man.'



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room—have your brothers cover the room's rental. They're older and married now. They can afford it.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Have a question for Howard about etiquette, love, life or anything? Send it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer.

browse

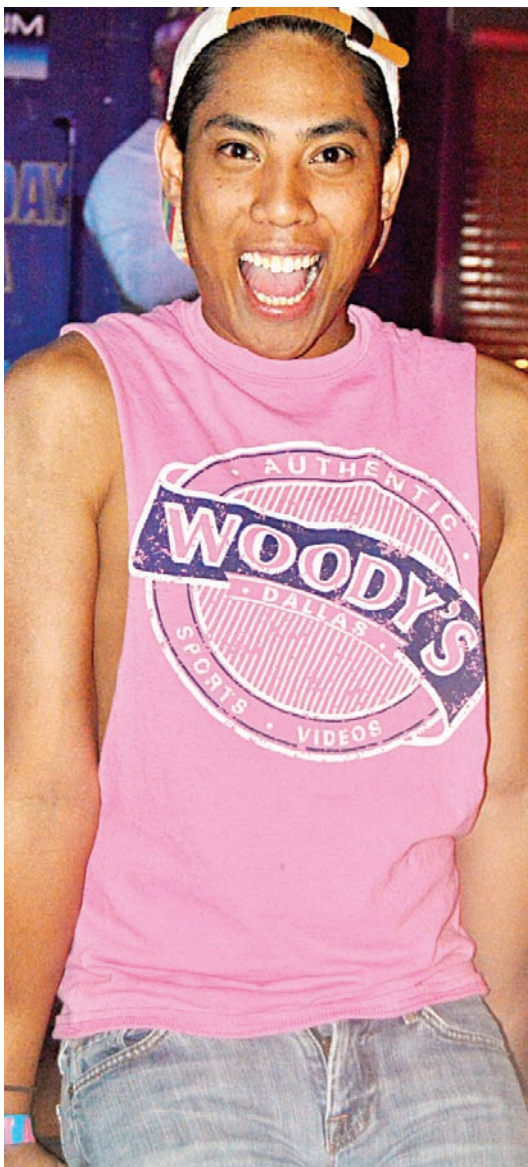
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this week's solution

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N	E	V	E	T	A	N	K	T	H	O	R		
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W	E	A	N	E	T	A	S	E	D	N	A		



Bartender at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Models and owners Chris and Mark at the ES Collection Runway Show.



Hector and Paul at the Round-Up Saloon.



Partiers at Havana.

Making the SCENE the week of June 19-25:

- **Alexandre's:** Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. Chris Chism and the Band at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Voice of Pride at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Lala J on Thursday.
- **Barbara's Pavilion:** Voice of Pride preliminary round at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Best Friends Club:** Imperial Court 18th Annual Crown Jewel Ball at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Celebrate Juneteenth weekend. The Black Carpet Affair with Kennedy Davenport, Mustang and more on Friday. Blackout Foam Party on Saturday. Voice of Pride preliminary round at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Lambda Weekly fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection:** Cowtown Leathermen Cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Terry and Mary birthday bash at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Texas Gay Rodeo Association Candidate Show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents It Takes Two, Three or More at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show with Jade Summers, Stefani, Jada and Your Highness on Monday.
- **Pekers:** Linze Serell and Rickey Phoummany present a tribute to dads to benefit the Miniature Schnauzer Rescue and Home For the Holidays at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Voice of Pride preliminary round at 9 p.m. on Wednesday
- **Sue Ellen's:** Flair Kings on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. Kathy & Bella and Jessica Grai Trio on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Outrageous Oral celebrates marriage ay 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** X-plosion D extra innings at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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



Kathy and Bella at Sue Ellen's.



"Refreshmen" at the Dallas Eagle.



Dancers at TMC: The Mining Company.



Playing tunes on The Strip.



Juan, Nickey and David at Liquid Zoo.



Kenneth and Sonia at The Hidden Door.



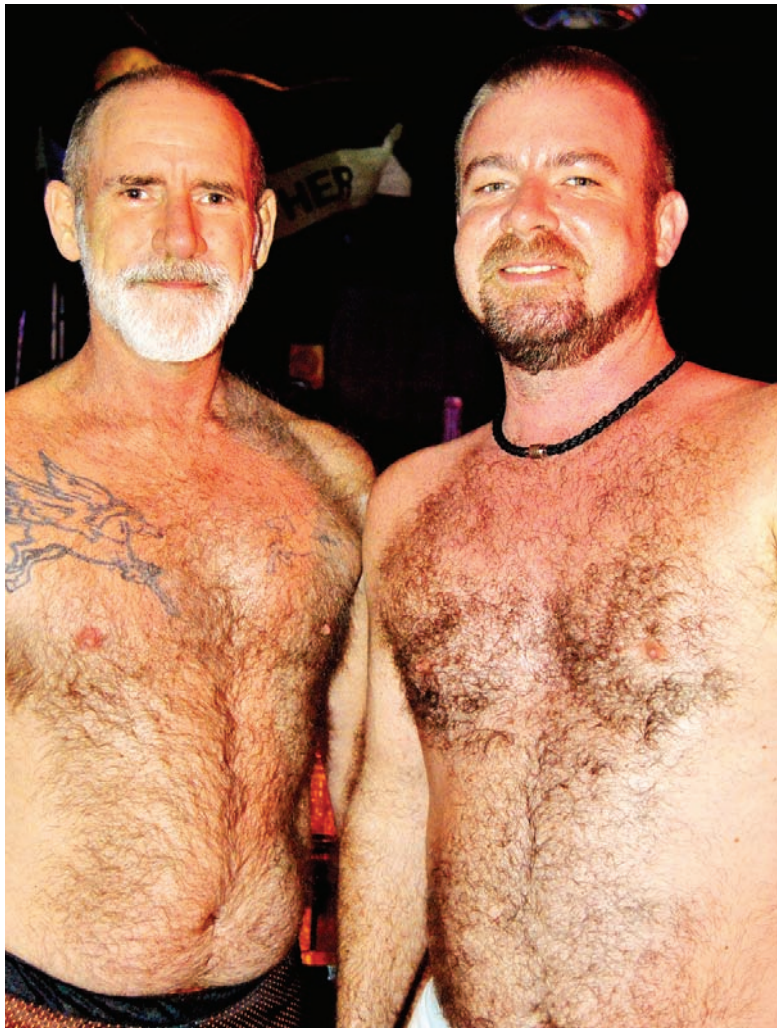
Joe and Dionisio at ES Collection fashion show.



Kathy and "Kathy" at Sue Ellen's.



Gabriel and Eric on The Strip.



T.J. and Major at The Dallas Eagle.



Kennedy Davenport kicks off Juneteenth at The Brick.



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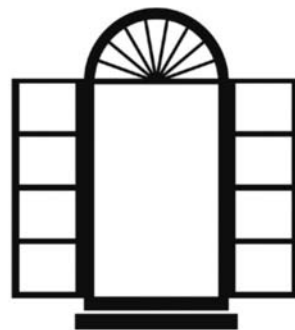
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He Could Do the Math

Solution on page 67

Across

- 1 Vows now legal for gays in Ireland
- 5 Label on a lemon that isn't a fruit
- 9 Movie about a CIA rescue mission
- 13 Campbell of *The Company*
- 14 Vehicle with treads
- 15 Norse thunder deity
- 16 2001 movie about 49-Across
- 19 4, often, to Sheehan
- 20 Like Jay's Bob
- 21 Born in Boulogne
- 22 Hot time for Bonheur
- 23 Talks like Harvey Fierstein
- 24 NATO turf
- 25 Send a message to
- 27 Screws up
- 28 Biter of Caesar's girlfriend
- 29 Mystery story pioneer
- 31 Roof animal of Tennessee
- 32 "I felt that my work would be better respected if I thought and acted like a ___"
(quote of 49-Across)
- 38 Plea at sea
- 39 Fruit flaw
- 40 Just out
- 42 Very hairy swinger
- 43 Alger's "___ Dick"

44 The Gay '90s, for one

- 45 Bear type
- 47 Bean of *Desperate Housewives*
- 49 Mathematician who died
May 23, 2015
- 54 "The Great Masturbator" painter
- 57 Winetaster's guess
- 58 Larry Kramer's alma mater
- 62 Where to find hot buns
- 63 ___ Springs
- 64 Bearing
- 65 Get off the breast
- 66 Cockpit predictions
- 67 Barry Humphries' Dame

Down

- 1 All worked up
- 2 Lincoln-Douglas event
- 3 Like washed out Mapplethorpe pix
- 4 Cruising locale
- 5 Stuff in the closet
- 6 Jack-tar
- 7 One way to shrink
- 8 Shuts out, in slang
- 9 It swallows plastic
- 10 Liberace's rock group?
- 11 Ascended
- 12 Info for waiters

- 17 Where to find Trojans
- 18 Some O.C.S. grads
- 26 Hard top
- 28 Some sex-toy batteries
- 30 Result of breeder activity
- 31 Belief summaries for Troy Perry
- 32 Terse oral response
- 33 Constellation over Sydney
- 34 One of a wheel's nuts
- 35 Fairy tale threesome member
- 36 Tongue ending
- 37 Peter by the piano
- 38 Posed for Catherine Opie
- 41 White as a ghost
- 46 Magic lamp figure
- 48 Feature Langston Hughes' work
- 50 Promo overkill
- 51 Straight, at the bar
- 52 Heterosexual female in *The Lion King*
- 53 Prepares to shoot off
- 54 Average name
- 55 Caesar's salutation
- 56 DeLaria of *Orange Is the New Black*
- 59 Lend a hand to
- 60 Deighton of spy thrillers
- 61 Old Spanish queen

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