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12

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 9 Queerbomb and the need for activism
- 10 Profiles in Pride: Darius Phillips
- 11 Bell County's first Pride
- 12 DMV won't recognize name change

LIFE+STYLE

- 18 Marti Cummings keeps 'em laughing
- 20 '30s on stage: 'Annie,' 'The Nance'
- 22 Adam Lambert reinvents himself

ON THE COVER

Design by Kevin Thomas



18

departments

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 25 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 28 | Cassie Nova |
| 16 | Texas Voices | 29 | Scene |
| 18 | Life+Style | 31 | Classifieds |

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22

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Supreme Court rules on housing, healthcare

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday, June 25 decided two major cases — one on housing and one healthcare — that affect members of the LGBT community. The housing case originated in Dallas.

In *King v. Burwell*, the Supreme Court on a 6-3 vote upheld the subsidies under the Affordable Care Act that have allowed millions of people to obtain health insurance. The ruling particularly affects Texas because the suit took aim at states — like Texas — that didn't create their own health insurance exchanges.

For people with HIV, that coverage has meant being able to see a private doctor and go to a hospital other than Parkland. For AIDS agencies providing direct healthcare, it's meant a new revenue source and the ability to help more people without insurance.

The second case, *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project* upheld the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Attorney Mike Daniel, former husband of County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, represented Dallas' Inclusive Communities Project, and prevailed in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The decision allows the Dallas nonprofit to sue for discrimination, even if the bias wasn't intentional. Money for housing projects usually went to Dallas' poorest neighborhoods rather than placing low-income housing throughout the city. That could affect plans for Dallas Housing Authority's largest project slated for Kings Road between Maple Avenue and Cedar Springs Road.

"We are elated that the U.S. Supreme Court protected health insurance for millions and reinforced the importance of rooting out discrimination in housing," said Kate Kendall, National Center for Lesbian Rights executive director. "These two rulings reaffirm the most basic principles of equality, access, and fair dealing."

— David Taffet

'Kill the gays' measure tossed by California judge

A proposed ballot measure calling for gay people to be put to death for the "abominable crime against nature known as buggery, called also sodomy" has been thrown out by Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Raymond M. Cadei, according to

Patheos.com, the progressive Secular Humanist website.

Huntington Beach lawyer Matthew McLaughlin filed the measure, asking that it be placed on the California state ballot for a vote. Titled "The Sodomite Suppression Act," the proposed law required that gays be put to death by "bullets to the head" or "any other convenient method."

California Attorney General Kamala Harris asked the court to throw out McLaughlin's ballot measure. Judge Cadei did just that, ruling that it was "patently unconstitutional on its face."

— Tammye Nash

West Hollywood gay club on endangered list; NYC nods to Stonewall, rainbow flag

The National Trust for Historic Preservation released its annual list of the eleven most endangered historic sites in the country on Wednesday, June 24. Among them is the Factory, a West Hollywood, Ca. building once home to the gay club Studio One.

Originally built for major movie camera manufacturer Mitchell Camera Corporation in 1929, the building later housed a gay club called Studio One. Founded in 1974 by Scott Forbes, an out Beverly Hills optometrist, as a haven for gay men it hosted Patti LaBelle, Joan Rivers and Liza Minnelli and fundraisers throughout the AIDS epidemic, according to the West Hollywood Heritage Project. It's threatened at the hands of developers seeking to cultivate a larger tax base. In this case, the Factory faces the threat of demolition to make way for a pedestrian walkway toward a planned hotel.

In New York City, the Stonewall Inn was given a historic preservation designation by the city's historic landmarks commission. The Inn, fortunately, does not face the threat of demolition like the Factory because it is already located in Greenwich Village Historic District. According to The New York Times, advocates said the city's designation was necessary to preserve and recognize the historic site. To mark Pride Month, the Museum of Modern Art of New York also announced it has acquired artist Gilbert Baker's iconic rainbow flag for its collection.

"We're proud the MoMA collection now includes this powerful design milestone," wrote museum curators Paola Antonelli and Michelle Millar Fisher in a statement.

— James Russell

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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 Lambda Legal Community Educator Omar Narvaez; **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 26: Queerbomb Dallas 2015 Event Political Rally, Performances and After Party** Open-mic speaker's corner and rally starting at 7 p.m. in Lake Cliff Park (corner of Colorado and Zang) followed by a community procession at 9 p.m. After-party (18+) at 10 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Free and open to the public. To volunteer or perform 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: National HIV Testing Day** See page 8 for locations, times and more information

• **June 27: HRC DFW Federal Club Summer Luncheon** Special guest Jeydon Loredo 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.

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Sergio 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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• **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 includes a three course dinner and 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. 7-11 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. Ste. 107. Tickets are \$100 and include dinner and drinks. To purchase tickets visit Legacycares.org.

• **June 28: GALA Presents Fears for Queers V**

Independent horror film festival benefitting Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas's Youth program 1-7 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. First film block starts at 2 p.m. and second block at 4:30 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson. To purchase tickets visit Bit.ly/1dgmVBF.

• **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 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: Independence Day on the Bridge**

Family-friendly event commemorating Independence Day with games, entertainment and screening of Million Dollar Arm. 4-8 p.m. on the Continental Bridge, 109 Continental Ave. For more information call 214-671-9500 or visit Dallascontinentalbridge.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 sfynn.jones@gmail.com.

• **July 16: Urban Engagement Book Club: Our America: A Hispanic History of the**



Legacy Counseling Center hosts its annual Be An Angel fundraiser featuring a three-course dinner paired with wine and cocktails, with entertainment by jazz crooner Vince Martinez, on Saturday, June 27, from 7-11 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. Ste. 107. Tickets are \$100 and include dinner and drinks. Live auction items include a dream vacation to Destin, Fla., a fajita dinner for 50 and a celebrity chef dinner party. Silent auction items include dining, travel, art and entertainment items. Since its inception, Be An Angel has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Legacy, providing much needed support for the agency that provides mental health care, substance abuse treatment and special care housing facilities for HIV-positive and AIDS-challenged persons living in North Texas. For more information or to purchase tickets visit Legacycares.org.

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.

• **July 17: HRC DFW Federal Club Mixer**

Light appetizers. 6-8 p.m. at Times Ten Cellars, 6324 Prospect Ave.

• **July 17-19: Courage and Authenticity in the LGBT Community Workshop**

Led by Kristina Tutt, LMSW, CDWF, and based on the research of Brené Brown, the workshop explores vulnerability, self-compassion, empathy, and authenticity. \$425 per person. Sliding scale prices available. For more information and to register visit Inspirationaloutcomes.com.

• **July 18: Gaybingo: Salute the Troops**

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.

• **July 21: 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 sfynn.jones@gmail.com.

• **July 31-August 1: Seventh Annual Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit**

Summit addressing transgender issues in higher education with keynote speakers, workshops and panels. 8:30 a.m., July 31-5 p.m., Aug. 1 at University of Texas at Dallas, 800 West Campbell Road, Richardson. Register online at Tinyurl.com/utdts. For more information contact Josephine Tittsworth at josephine@txtns.org.

AUGUST

• **Aug. 1-14: Youth First Youth Reception Art Show**

Meet the artists from 6-8 p.m. on August 5 at Illume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **August 1: 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.

• **August 4: 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 sfynn.jones@gmail.com.



Take time to be tested

As the country marks National HIV Testing Day, local advocates extol the benefits of knowing your HIV status

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

There are a lot of good reasons for making a point of knowing your HIV status. Most of them can be grouped into two major categories.

First of all, notes Resource Center CEO Cece Cox, knowing their HIV status gives a person who is HIV-positive a chance to get into care. Getting proper treatment means that people with HIV are able to live longer, better lives, she said.

Getting proper treatment also helps lower a person's viral load — a measurement of the amount of HIV in their system — and having a lower viral load not only means a person is healthier, it also means there is less chance they will pass the virus along to someone else.

The second reason, Cox added, is that “knowing your status usually correlates to behavior.” In other words, if you know you are HIV-positive, you are more likely to protect your intimate partners by practicing safer sex. And perhaps those who know they are HIV-negative will be more likely to do their best to stay that way.

Dr. Jason Gillman, a physician with Dallas' AIDS Arms, also stressed the importance getting tested and knowing one's HIV status.

“Early detection makes a difference,” Gillman said. “We know ... that treating HIV earlier reduces the risk of serious illness and death by 53 percent.”

Reiterating the benefits of reducing a person's viral load, he added, that suppressing HIV can reduce transmission by 96 percent. “Clearly,” he said, “a decision to have an HIV test today can save not only the life of the person tested, but perhaps the life of a friend as well.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that 1.2 million in the U.S. are living with HIV, and frighteningly, nearly 1 in 7 don't even know they are infected. Since the height of the epidemic in the mid-1980s, according CDC statistics, the number of new HIV infections each year has gone down by about two-thirds, from about 130,000 each year to about 50,000 each year.

Despite the years of education and prevention efforts in the LGBT community, men who have sex with men of all races and ethnicities continue to be the population in which the largest num-

bers of new infections are found each year, according to the CDC. Next are African-American straight women. Looking at race/ethnicity overall, African-Americans are the most heavily affected, according to the CDC, followed by Latinos.

CDC statistics show that the number of new infections among men who have sex with men ages 13-24 increased by 22 percent from 2008 to 2010. Young black MSM account for 55 percent of new infections among MSM in that age range. In fact, the CDC points out, young black MSM now account for more new infections than any other subgroup by race/ethnicity, age and sex.

There was a 12 percent increase in HIV incidents among MSM overall from 2008-2010.

According to Dallas County statistics (provided to Dallas Voice by Resource Center), in 2013, an estimated 15,500 people were living with HIV in Dallas County, an increase of about 69 percent compared to 2003. From 2009 through 2012, 37.8 percent of all newly-diagnosed people in the county progressed to a concurrent AIDS diagnosis within 12 months of being diagnosed with HIV.

HIV/AIDS cases in Dallas County are disproportionately higher among African-Americans, reflecting the national trend. And in 2013, 60 percent of new HIV diagnoses were among people age 35 and younger

Gillman also pointed out that HIV testing has improved significantly over the last 10 years and is now available in clinical and non-clinical settings alike, using samples of either blood or saliva. There are also different kinds of tests available, some offering results in as little as one minute.

In the past, it could take as long as three months after exposure for HIV antibodies to show up in testing. Now, though, Gillman said, RNA testing is available that can detect HIV within 10 days of exposure. And most testing centers can also offer tests for other STDs, as well.

Still, no one can take just one HIV test and be done with it. Even if you have been tested before, you should be tested again.

“It is important to remember that an HIV test is a single snapshot in time and reflects the state of your body only at the moment your blood or



HIV Testing Options

AIDS Arms

National HIV Testing Day is Saturday, June 27, and AIDS Arms Inc. is honoring the day with pop-up locations for free HIV testing in Oak Lawn and in Cockrell Hill through Sunday, June 28. NHTD pop-up testing locations are:

- **Thursday, June 25, 3-7 p.m.**
at Walgreen's, 3802 Cedar Springs Road.
- **Thursday, June 25, 3-7 p.m.**
at Walgreen's, 8120 S. Cockrell Hill Road.
- **Thursday, June 25, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.**
at Havana's, 4006 Cedar Springs Road
- **Friday, June 26, 3-7 p.m.**
at Walgreen's, 3802 Cedar Springs Road.
- **Friday, June 26, 3-7 p.m.**
at Walgreen's, 8120 S. Cockrell Hill Road.
- **Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
at Walgreen's, 3802 Cedar Springs Road.
- **Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
at Walgreen's, 8120 S. Cockrell Hill Road.
- **Sunday, June 28, 11 p.m.-3 a.m.,**
Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

AIDS Arms, 351 W. Jefferson, Ste., 300, also offers free HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C testing and risk reduction education. Anyone who tests positive for HIV, syphilis and/or hepatitis C is linked to medical care and other needed services. Call 214-521-5191 for a testing appointment or go to the office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Offices are closed from noon-1 p.m. daily.

Resource Center

On Saturday, June 27, to mark National HIV Testing Day, Resource Center will offer free HIV testing at Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, 4012 Cedar Springs Road, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and at LGBT

Family Day event at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St., from 4-7 p.m.

Nelson-Tebedo Clinic offers HIV and STD testing during regular business hours by appointment only. Hours are Monday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., no drop-in hours; Tuesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., no drop-in hours; Wednesday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., no drop-in hours; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., drop-in from 4-8 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., drop-in from 4-7 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., drop-in 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The clinic is closed on Sundays.

Walk-in testing cannot be guaranteed same day service during regular testing hours. Call 214-393-3700 to make an appointment.

Confidential one-minute rapid HIV antibody and early detection screenings with a syphilis test are free. This includes the rapid HIV anti-body test that detects HIV after three months and the early detection HIV RNA tests which detects HIV after 10 days. Results for these tests are available in 7-10 business days.

Anonymous rapid HIV antibody screening requiring a blood draw and with results available in 30 minutes are \$90.

Screenings are also available for gonorrhea/Chlamydia for \$40; for herpes for \$90 and for hepatitis A/B/C for \$120. Individual hepatitis testing is available for \$40 per test.

AIDS Outreach Center

AIDS Outreach Center in Tarrant County hosts the Know Your Health Fair on Saturday, June 27, with free food and free HIV testing, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 536 Randol Mill Road in Arlington.

HIV testing is available at AOC's HIV Testing Center, 400 N. Beach St., Ste. 100, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursdays, and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays.

For information call 817-335-1994.

oral fluid was collected,” Gillman said. “Persons at high risk for HIV infection should consider repeat testing at regular intervals. And perhaps most importantly, whether at high risk or low risk

for HIV, no one should feel embarrassed for being proactive and getting tested. Our health, after all, is our most valuable commodity.” ■

Pride alternative

Queerbomb parties with Pride, but also stresses the need for activism to continue

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

Queerbomb, by its very nature, is many things to many people.

Depending on whom you ask, including folks from Austin to Dallas, it's a nod to the radical roots of the struggle for LGBT equality, or it's simply a big fucking party.

But in Dallas organizers — including Daniel Villareal with Queerbomb Dallas that is celebrating its second anniversary on Friday, June 26 — agree it's an alternative to what they call the increasingly corporatized mainstream Pride celebrations held in Austin and Dallas.

Call it what you want, just don't call Queerbomb a Pride parade.

Queerbomb was founded in Austin six years ago to provide a freewheeling, gender nonconforming and free alternative to that city's parade.

"Austin Queerbomb started because many people in the community were not satisfied with Pride being so infused with corporate sponsorship ... as most are around the world," Paul Soileau, one of the founding members of Queerbomb Austin, wrote via e-mail. "Queerbomb was formed to create a space free of corporate holds on our pride and history, as well as offering a political rally fully equipped with local speakers, a glorious march downtown and an after party to celebrate the joy of it all — all for free."

Last year, Villareal co-founded the Dallas offshoot to provide the same kind of alternative.

"[Dallas Pride is] highly corporate and politically impotent. They are only about the audience and spectator," Villareal said. "We put together the free event encouraging people to not just be spectators but to participate."

It's also political. "You won't see protest signs or any signs of protest [at Dallas Pride]. The focus seems to be on celebration," Villareal said. "Pride is something political. It's healing, invaluable and empowering."

Participants get plenty of opportunities to get involved and engage their queer history at this year's Queerbomb Dallas. Attendees may speak at a political rally, march with fellow activists and/or party until dawn at an event at Texas Theatre featuring drag performers Nikki Trash, Damien Dupree, Elle Ay'Elle, Helena Isis, Kitty Sangria and more, along with musical performances by soul-funk performer Dezman Lehman and Tuesday Night Tease DJ DQ.

The political nature of Queerbomb is attractive to Fort Worth's Joel Flores.

"Queerbomb's overtly political and anti-corporate stance is what attracts me over the Pride celebrations," he wrote.

The sentiment isn't confined to Texas. Nationally, writers like Sarah Schulman have offered similar critiques. In her 2014 book, *The Gentrification*



Daniel Villareal

of the Mind, Schulman lashes out not only at the whitewashing — or gentrification — of the radical activism during the AIDS crisis but its link to the rapid development of Manhattan's once-queer hotspot, the Lower East Side.

Locally, Queerbomb's timing couldn't be better: The event as planned could come on the same day as an historic Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality, and all at the end of national Pride Month, no less.

The marriage equality ruling will be handed down on either Friday, June 26, or Monday, June 29.

Despite the excitement surrounding the expected ruling, Villareal said he worries LGBT ac-

Queerbomb Dallas 2015 Event Political Rally, Performances and After Party

Open-mic speaker's corner and rally starting at 7 p.m. in Lake Cliff Park (corner of Colorado and Zang) followed by a community procession at 9 p.m. After-party (18 and up) at 10 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Free and open to the public.

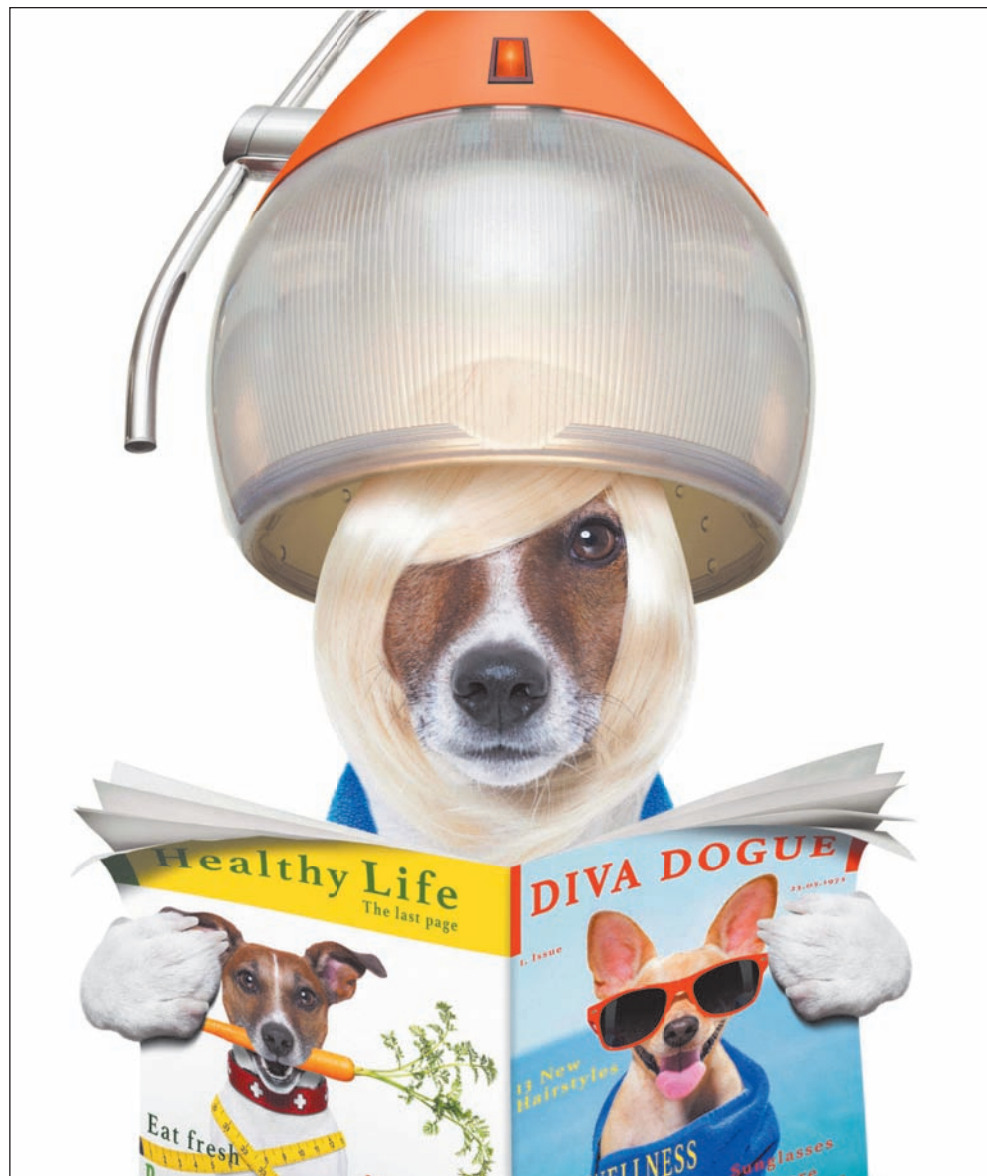
tivism may wither if the court affirms marriage equality.

"I'm worried after the marriage decision a chunk of LGBT rights movement will splinter," he said. "There's still a lot to be done."

One of Queerbomb's overarching goals — to contribute to LGBT liberation — means they do not just honor one perspective of the past but also look to the future. In a way, Queerbomb also serves as a test for the LGBT community.

"Queerbomb has become for many in Austin a gathering that addresses the current social climate of our people, and our community. It tackles issues every year that are relevant to our past, present and future," Soileau wrote.

Villareal added, "This just isn't about celebrating or partying; it can be more and about why we can exist." ■



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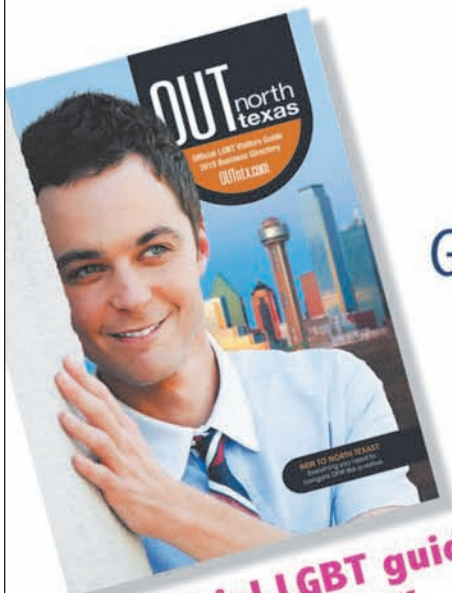
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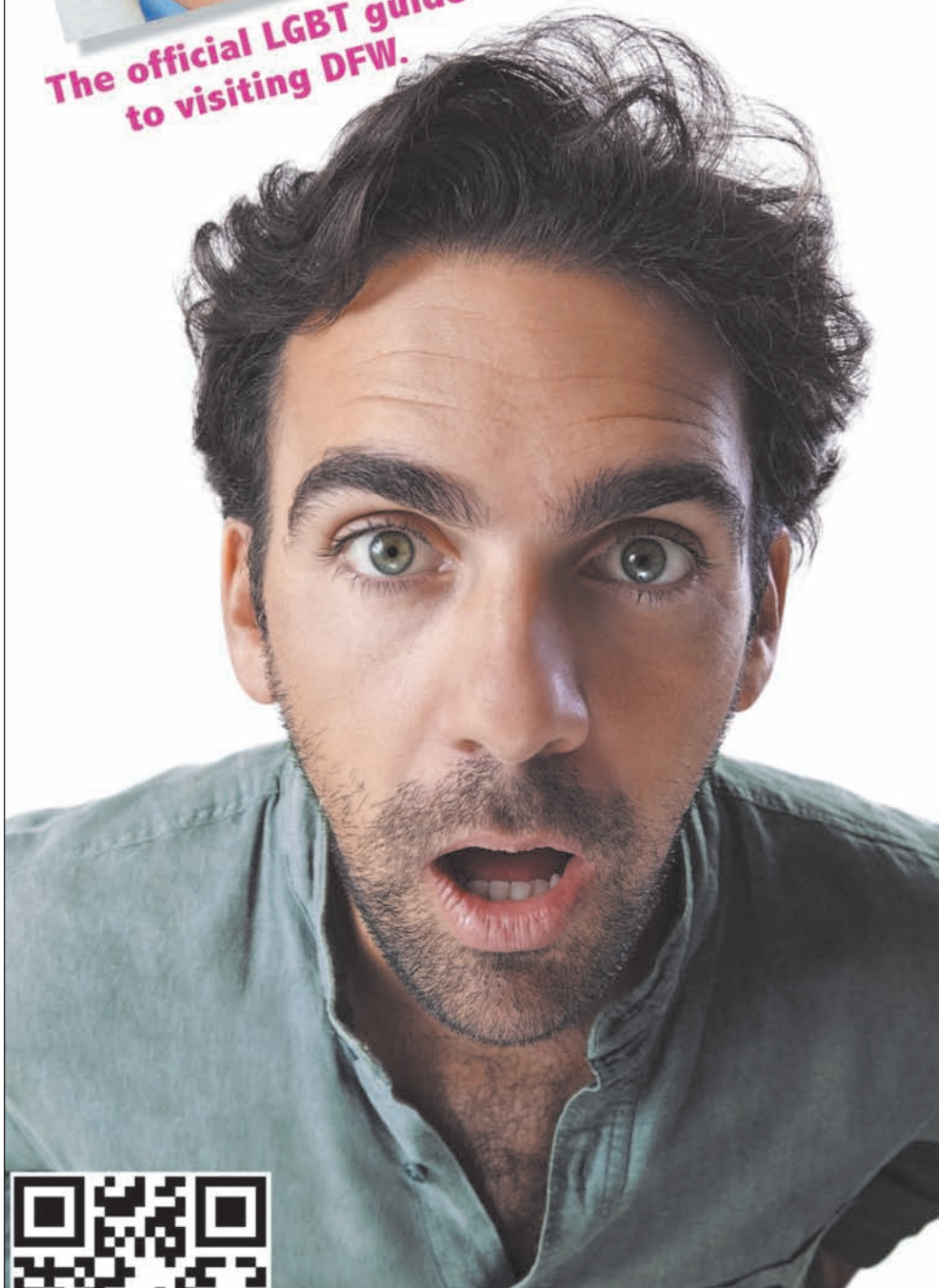
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PROFILES IN PRIDE: *Darrius Phillips* Stepping out of the shadows

L G B T

Darrius Phillips hopes to be a role model for other young trans men

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

By the age of seven, even though assigned a female gender at birth, Darrius Phillips knew he was a boy.

But he had no one to talk to about his gender, which made it even more bewildering.

"I was raised in a Christian home, and I didn't have the courage to tell my parents," Phillips said. "It was something I kept to myself."

But keeping his true gender to himself caused depression, Phillips said, because he didn't know how to verbalize that he simply wasn't a girl.

As a teenager, Phillips said, he was quiet and reserved and spent quite a bit of time around his mother. She noticed girls were attracted to him, which upset her. He said he always tended to dress in a more masculine manner, but tried to not to go so far that his mother would be upset.

What Phillips didn't know when he was younger was that actually transitioning to male was possible. Especially for African-Americans, it was not common to have what he called something "cosmetic" done. In his community, he said, the idea of surgery was a joke.

As an adult, Phillips looked for information on the Internet, which led him to finally meet Carter Brown, founder of Black Transmen in Dallas.

"That's when I began transitioning," he said. He was 25 at the time.

In 2011, Phillips met with Felisha Porter, a counselor with an extensive practice dealing with gender identity.

"She gave me confidence to be myself," he said. "She pushed me to live the way I wanted to live."

His next step was beginning the physical transition. "I went to the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic to see a doctor who prescribed hormones," Phillips said.

Beginning that transition — outwardly becoming the male that he had always been on the inside — had a high cost: "I couldn't see my mom anymore," he said. "When I went to visit, I wasn't welcome there. She didn't want me around."

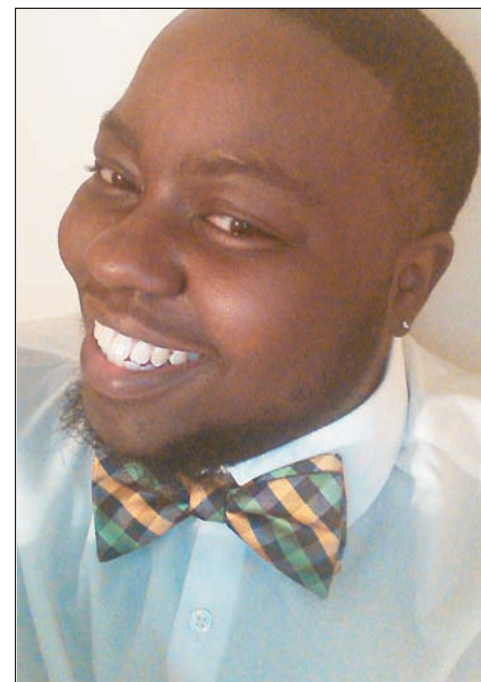
Earlier this year, Phillips underwent gender-confirming surgery.

When he was younger, the community of trans men was much less visible. Phillips hopes to help change that, making himself available to other trans men so they're not alone in their journey.

While many trans men and women have problems at work, Phillips said he's lucky to have not experienced that discrimination.

Currently, he works at a mental health hospital. Phillips hasn't had his gender marker changed yet, but now that he's had surgery, he plans to get that taken care of. When he began his current job last year, that could have presented a problem.

"When HR did my background work, it said female," he said. "They asked about it."



Darrius Phillips

Phillips explained he was transgender and his HR department has kept that information confidential. Although he said he has some qualms about being "stealth" at work, his coworkers know him only as male and that keeps his employment more secure.

In his previous position, he transitioned on the job. "I went through a phase where everyone used the wrong pronoun," he said.

While that was uncomfortable, he said there weren't instances of the misuse being malicious. But in his current position, he notices a respect he gets as a male that he didn't get when others still thought of him as female, even after his transition.

For the future, Phillips would like to continue his education and become licensed professional counselor. He said there aren't many black trans LPCs.

"I always felt more like an ally rather than a lesbian," he said.

Phillips described transitioning as a process that can be scary and even surreal.

"We worry about jobs. We worry about hate crimes, he said, adding that after they first come out and test the waters, many trans people go back into their shell, like he did, for awhile. Because trans men often grow a beard and are not recognized as trans, he said many go stealth after transitioning, blending quietly into the mainstream.

But that doesn't help young trans men looking for role models. Younger trans men need someone to step out and say, "I'm here," and be a mentor, and Phillips said that's a role he hopes to fill.

"People are afraid of what they don't understand," he said. "I'm here to show people it's OK."

He said he's not out to trick anyone about who he is and he's really someone just like anyone else.

"I'm just an average guy going to work everyday," he said. ■



Group shot of those who stayed for the duration. (Photo by Zach O'Leary)

Bell County holds first-ever LGBT Pride

DEBORAH MONCRIEF BELL | Contributing Writer

While larger Texas cities have long enjoyed large gatherings and parades celebrating "Pride Month," the tiny central Texas town of Belton hosted the first-ever Pride event in Bell County on Saturday, June 20. Although Pride events for LGBT servicemembers have been held at Fort Hood Military Base, which is located in the county, this was the first public gathering of its kind.

Organized by the Central Texas Stonewall Democrats, the rally took place in front of the historic Bell County courthouse. Early arrivals stood on the corner with signs urging supporters to honk to show support. A little girl attending the event took a tally of the honks and counted more than 200 in a one-hour period.

The event was organized in part to celebrate June as the traditional National Pride Month. The other reason for the gathering is in recognition of the expected decision by the Supreme Court regarding marriage equality. The decision will be handed down Friday, June 26 or Monday, June 29, and will determine whether same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry.

The courthouse was chosen as the rally location since it is where marriage licenses are issued. Brochures provided information on Bell County marriage license requirements that included a phone number to report any sexual orientation discrimination by city, county or state employees.

About 50 people attended the rally to hear a number of speeches and share in camaraderie. Irene Andrews, one of the principal organizers, served as emcee, and co-organizer Dion McFall served as DJ. After hearing some lively music and a general meet-and-greet session, Andrews talked about the importance of marriage equality, sharing the story of her own 31-year-relationship with her partner, Joan Hinshaw, and how they were legally married in 2013 in Washington State.

Raymond Arsenaault and Randy Broussard talked about their partnership and eventual marriage in Maui and the way the legality of their marriage has impacted their lives, such as being

able to file a joint tax return. But there are still some areas where their partnership is not protected because Texas does not allow same-sex marriages — yet.

Ricky Hicks, a meteorology student at Central Texas College and president of the Gay and Straight Alliance there, talked of his journey to acceptance of himself as a gay man. The views of his parents and of their church had him feeling afraid and isolated, and he prayed to be changed.

Hicks said he tried to "man up" and even did a stint in the military. The end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" encouraged him to start the coming out process, and he finally built up the courage to tell his grandfather, with whom he was particularly close. He said the love and support his grandparents gave him helped him accept himself and be proud of who he is.

Keynote speaker at the rally was state Rep. Celia Israel of District 50 in Austin. An out lesbian and longtime, fierce advocate for civil rights, Israel reported on some of the anti-gay bills that were stymied in the most recent session of the Texas Legislature.

Carmen Saenz of Waco, located in McLennan County just north of Bell County, announced plans for a rally to take place in Waco's Heritage Park, at Third Street and Austin Avenue at 6 p.m. the day the Supreme Court hands down its marriage ruling.

Andrews closing words were, "My wife Joan and I have waited many years for this first Pride event in Bell County. Finally, we didn't have to travel to Dallas or Austin to be part of an LGBTQ community to celebrate Pride.

"I'm honored that so many youth and straight allies attended this gathering. And yet there is so much work to be done to ensure real justice for all," Andrews continued. "We won't stop working for full federal equality and protection under the law until all our LGBT brothers and sisters are safe and free to live and work without fear of discrimination and violence.

"The freedom to marry 'Day of Decision' is coming very soon. I'm on pins and needles waiting to hear the good news. Love will win! Let the weddings begin!"

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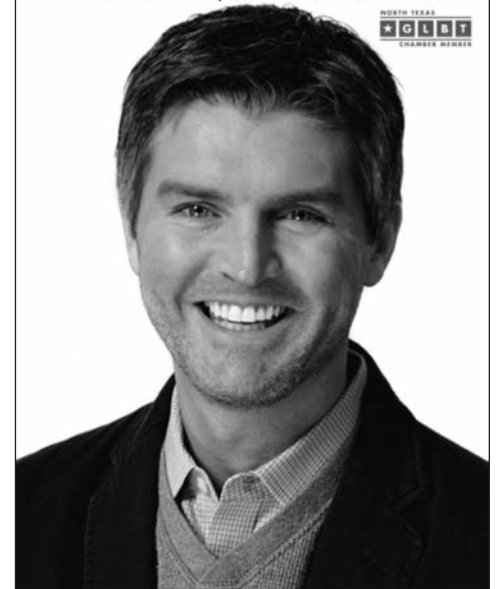
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DMV refuses to issue license in married name

After moving back to Texas because of family illness, the last thing this couple wanted was an argument with the DMV over what their real name is

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com



When moving to Texas because of an illness in the family, the last thing anyone wants — or needs — is an argument with the Department of Motor Vehicles over their legal name. But that's exactly what happened to Bridget and Kathy Hanson.

Bridget and Kathy were married in Iowa in



2010 and lived in Illinois. When they moved to Dallas in 2012 because of family illness, they went to the DMV in Rockwall to get Texas driver's licenses. All Bridget had to show was her marriage license to prove her name change. On federal documents, like her social security card, her name was already changed.

After Kathy's father and brother died, she and her wife moved back to Illinois, once again changing their driver's licenses. But this year, because Kathy's mother was still having a hard time handling her losses, Kathy and Bridget moved back to Texas.

This time the DMV wasn't as understanding when it came time to change their driver's licenses again.

Bridget showed her insurance and vehicle registration. Both showed the name Hanson. The officer asked for her marriage license.

"It's a same-sex marriage license," Bridget told the officer. "Are you going to accept it?"

"Absolutely not," the officer replied, in a tone Kathy described as rude.

After being rejected in Rockwall, Bridget went to Garland, where the scene was repeated.

If the U.S. Supreme Court issues a ruling re-

When the clerk realized the reason for a name change was a same-sex marriage, she conferred with a supervisor and they declined to issue a new driver's license with her new name.

Bridget followed up by contacting the Illinois secretary of state's office. Chicago's LGBT newspaper Windy City Times got involved that time.

The secretary of state's office told the newspaper, "Illinois doesn't honor gay marriage. ... It's not legal [here]."

After several calls, a spokesman said the marriage license and social security change satisfied the state's requirement for a legal name change and Bridget received her Illinois driver's license in her married name.

Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Ken Upton said he expects that even with a Supreme Court ruling in favor of marriage equality, there will be a period in Texas during which some people in government will claim they don't know what to do.

"There'll be this awkward period," he said. "I think this period will be relatively short."

He said Texas might try to delay recognizing marriages by claiming there's still a stay in place. The simple solution is to go back to U.S. District

Bridget and Kathy Hanson have the paperwork to show they've been married. They want the Department of Motor Vehicles to honor Bridget's legal name. (Photo courtesy the Hansons)

quiring all states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, things should change for the Hansons. Their marriage license should be recognized.

Notice that says should, not will. Just because the state begins issuing marriage licenses, that doesn't mean an officer at the DMV will recognize those licenses.

Government officials who refuse to comply with a court ruling can be held personally liable for damages caused.

When Bridget and Kathy asked why Bridget was issued a driver's license in her married name during their previous Texas residency, they were told it was a mistake. "Mistake"? Or something done quietly at a time marriage equality wasn't in the news and expected to come to Texas at any minute?

This wasn't the first time they had trouble changing names on Bridget's driver's license. When they were first married in 2010, Bridget changed the name on her social security card first. Then she went to the DMV near their home in Illinois. She was denied there, too — Illinois was not yet a marriage equality state.

Judge Orlando Garcia, who issued the ruling striking down the Texas marriage amendment but also staying his own ruling, to lift the stay once the U.S. Supreme Court rules.

Someone at the Department of Motor Vehicles might claim they weren't party to the federal ruling so it doesn't apply to them, or they're waiting for instructions. Upton said his office can help that process along.

Government officials who refuse to comply with a court ruling can be held personally liable for damages caused. Upton thinks that as officials realize that, they'll be more willing to comply.

But he also said to cut some agencies some slack.

If someone is denied a service, he said, "Look at the why."

If the official says they're planning to comply and are waiting as the software is updated or a new form is arriving later in the week, that may be an inconvenience, but it's not a willful attempt to disregard an order by the U.S. Supreme Court.

If an office decides they're not going to comply until they're specifically told to do so, his office will intervene and make sure the person who needs to will try once more to get her Texas driver's license issued in her legal name. She plans to go to the Rockwall DMV, look for the same officer who rudely refused her and when asked for her marriage license, she'll hand it over — along with a printed copy of the Supreme Court's marriage ruling.

Should that office refuse to issue her a license with the correct name, her next call will be Lambda Legal. ■



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D DAY: Events planned for marriage equality Decision Day



When the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality comes down, the LGBT community will have plenty of reasons to gather and, if the decision is pro-equality as expected, to celebrate. The question is: Where on earth should they go?

Dallas/Fort Worth

• **Dallas Day of Decision** events include a rally at 6 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road followed by a march to Legacy of Love monument at 7:30 p.m. concluding with a rally at 8 p.m. at Legacy of Love. Shuttle service provided. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

• **Denton Day of Decision** events include a celebration 6 p.m. at a Denton Courthouse Square, 110 West Hickory Street. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

• **Fort Worth Day of Decision** events include a celebration at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave. hosts a rally with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, kissing and photo booths at 6 p.m. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.



After Beau and Major applied for their marriage license in 2012, they were arrested for trespassing at the Dallas County Records Building. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

Texas:

• **Amarillo Day of Decision** events include a gathering at 6 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4901 Cornell Street, Amarillo. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

sion-day.

• **Austin Day of Decision** events include a gathering at 6 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 200 East 8th St., Austin. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

• **Harlingen Day of Decision** events include a rally at 6 p.m. at Mount Calvary Christian Church, 401 N 21st St., Harlingen. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

• **Houston Day of Decision** events include a celebration beginning at 5 p.m. in Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St., Houston. A post rally event takes place at 7:30 p.m. at Hughes Hangar, 2811 Washington Ave. Another event will be held at 6 p.m. at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 West 11th St. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

• **San Antonio Day of Decision** events include a celebration 6 p.m. at the Bexar County Courthouse, E. Main Plaza, followed by a gathering at Luther's, 1422 North Main Ave. For more information visit Sanantonio.hrc.org. Another event takes place 6 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepard, 1630 Goliad Road. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

• **Waco Day of Decision** events include a celebra-

tion 6-9 p.m. in Heritage Square, at the corner of 3rd and Austin Ave. Speakers and entertainment include Susan Duty-Dennard and Heather Grace Ranelle. Another event takes place 6 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco, 4209 North 27th Street. For more information visit Action.marriage.tx.org/page/s/join-us-for-decision-day.

Elsewhere:

• **Tulsa Day of Decision** events include a celebration 6:30-8 p.m. at Oklahomans for Equality's Dennis R. Neill Equality Center, 621 E 4th St, Tulsa.

• **Oklahoma City Day of Decision** events include a celebration 5:30-7 p.m. at Pedestrian Mall, Jackson Square, New Orleans. After party at Oz New Orleans, 800 Bourbon St., New Orleans. For more information visit Facebook.com/events/886686488059687.

• **New Orleans Day of Decision** events include a celebration 6 p.m. at Freedom Oklahoma's Equality Center, 5613 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City.

• **Metropolitan Community Churches** holds an online event and teleconference with church leaders providing coverage of events in the local areas at 5 p.m. Call in via Adobe Connect link and log in under "Guest" at Mccchurch.adobeconnect.com/communications_bemcc.

— James Russell

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Getting a marriage license, and married, in Texas

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

For same-sex couples, getting married is, unfortunately, easier said than done — at least in Texas, where uncertainty looms among the officials responsible for issuing marriage licenses.

So far, county clerks in both Dallas and Tarrant counties have said they would issue licenses to same-sex couples if the Supreme Court rules in favor of marriage equality.

Dallas County Clerk John Warren has previously indicated to Dallas Voice he will extend hours to accommodate an influx of couples, if a pro-equality ruling comes. Tarrant County Clerk Mary Louise Garcia has not said whether she will extend hours, but she has said she will comply with the law and anticipates no issues.

Elsewhere in North Texas, Collin County Clerk Stacey Kemp's spokeswoman said she was unsure of any plans and would have Kemp call us back. That call didn't come by press deadline.

Denton County plans to follow the law but has not provided more information. Dallas Voice was waiting at deadline to hear back from the Henderson County Clerk.

Outside of North Texas, Bexar and Travis County clerks are also ready to issue licenses and extend hours to accommodate couples as soon as a positive ruling is issued.

El Paso County Clerk Delia Briones told The El Paso Times she had "every intention to follow the law." But that doesn't mean she'll immediately issue licenses. She said she'll wait for the state to change the forms.

Lubbock's County Clerk Kelly Pinion seems to be more accommodating. He told the local Fox News affiliate, "There won't be any extra work. It would just be processing. I'm assuming the qualifications are not going to change in the statute, so we would be asking the same questions and going

through the same steps."

Harris County is a different issue, however. County Clerk Stan Stanart has dug in his heels, telling the Houston Chronicle he'll wait for a decision from state officials instead of just abiding immediately by a Supreme Court ruling. Stanart previously said a favorable Supreme Court ruling would "destroy the institution of marriage."

In nearby Nueces County, "the County Clerk said her office is not making special accommodations for a Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriages until she receives guidance from the state," according to the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

Antsy and don't want to wait? Good news even for those whose county clerk does not intend to issue licenses immediately following a SCOTUS mandate: A couple can get married in any Texas county, regardless of where they live.

So, what do you need to get a marriage license?

Submit proof of identity, which includes a driver's license or identification card issued by Texas or another state; a U.S. passport; a current passport issued by a foreign country; an original or certified copy of a birth certificate printed within the last 10 years; a valid form of government issued ID; or a military ID card. (One of these is necessary; not all of them.)

Bring a checkbook, cash or card, too. A license generally costs somewhere between \$70 and \$80, dependent upon fees imposed by each county.

But once you've got a license, then what?

In Texas, first you first get a license then you get married. While there's usually a 72-hour waiting period between the time the license is issued and the time a couple can wed, judges in Dallas and Travis counties have indicated they will waive the waiting period. They'll also perform the ceremonies.

And of course, a religious leader (sans Billy Graham) may conduct the ceremony as well. ■



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Family matters

Put aside the myth of 'traditional marriage' AND the myth that SCOTUS can solve all our problems

The Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage will undoubtedly bring some cheers, and some jeers. Needless to say, the LGBT community will celebrate and those on the far right will gnash their teeth and rend their garments.

One pastor has already said he will set himself on fire if same-sex marriage becomes the law of the land. I suspect his idea of "set himself on fire" will be modified to a metaphoric version should the decision go our way.

The real threat will doubtlessly come in the rise in homophobic violence that may follow the decision. In France, an LGBT rights law incited a spate of anti-gay violence a few years ago. And we can note similar up-ticks in hate crimes in our country.

So though this will be a win in the long run I suspect there will be some short-term consequences that will be ugly.

It only takes a glance at the inflammatory rhetoric of propaganda outlets like Fox News to see why. They are trumpeting any ruling favoring same-sex marriage as the downfall of civilization. Their pundits are shouting about how this decision will destroy traditional marriage.

But the truth is, "traditional marriage" is an institution that has been hemorrhaging for decades. The divorce rate in the late 1970s and the 1980s was as high as 50 percent.

Marriage Equality



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

That rate has been dropping slowly but the reason has little to do with tradition. The modern institution of marriage is actually getting a bit stronger, perhaps because people are getting married for the right reasons. It also stems from the fact that fewer people are getting married at all.

"Traditional marriage" — where women marry to find a good breadwinner so they can be the homemaker has steadily been eroding since the 1960s, according to Stephanie Coontz, director of public education for the Council on Contemporary Families. People today are marrying more because of love and less because of tradition.

Personally, I see same-sex marriage as an extension of that.

This also gets to the root of the problem, and that is the idea that families can only be defined as father-plus-mother-equals-kids (plus or minus a dog or cat or two).

That formula has been outmoded for a long time. Single-parent households, specifically households led by single mothers, have increased to the point that demographers believe half of all children will live with a single mom at some point prior to their 18th birthday.

So, if we are going for what is "normal" in America, it is far from the 1950s sitcom families. Meanwhile, Americans are defining their own families and have been for a long time.

The concept of "family of choice" has long been a model for the LGBT community, since so many LGBT youth have been disowned by their biological parents. They created tight groups of friends who became their family, not only in living arrangements, but in emotional support and mentoring roles.

These families are often stronger and healthier than the often dysfunctional family of origin, yet our society does not recognize them in any material way.

In the leather community, there is a tradition of "leather families," with members taking on a variety of roles and often living together communally. Their structure is varied, but many follow a hierarchy based on sexual roles such as Top/Sir/Daddy and sub/bottom/boy.

These families sometimes last for many years and yet again, have no formal recognition legally or socially except within the leather/kink subculture.

So let's drop the ruse of believing that there is such a thing as a "traditional marriage." Let's also stop believing that once we obtain same-sex marriage all our troubles will be over.

Indeed, the Supreme Court decision might just be the beginning.

Whether that is the beginning of more trouble or the beginning of the end of discrimination and start of recognition of all families will largely be up to us.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.





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SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer

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New York drag entertainer Marti Gould Cummings seems bent on bucking tradition. His gender-bending style is more boy-in-a-dress than paint-and-pageant. He sings live rather than lip-synchs. And, perhaps most shocking, he has no drag name.

"My parents named me with the girls' spelling of Marti, and my last name is Cummings, so I thought I might as well keep my real name," he says. "People sometimes ask me why I don't have a drag name, and my answer is very selfish. When I was a little kid and I wanted to be an actor, and I would always pretend I could read about myself in the newspaper. Now I am able to. I can Google my name, and I like that."

Cummings, who makes his Dallas debut Saturday at The Brick (with Drag Racer Milk), describes his performance style almost as if he were following a cocktail recipe: one part cabaret performer, one part glam rocker and two parts comedian.

"I like to think of my drag persona as a mix of Liza Minnelli, Lisa Lampanelli, Joan Rivers and Freddie Mercury," Cummings says. "I pull from a lot of different sources. I've got a lot of influences."

Cummings grew up on a farm in Maryland. Two weeks after finishing high school, he headed for the bright lights of NYC to enroll as a student at a musical theatre conservatory. His dream was to become the next Nathan Lane or Alan Cumming. His introduction to drag was happenstance.

"I did a musical off-Broadway," he recalls. "They made a change in the character and asked if I would do it in drag. I put on those heels and I thought it was the most amazing fucking thing I've ever done. I thought it was so much fun."

After a subsequent drag gig hosting a birthday party, Cummings was offered his first weekly drag show. It was an opportunity that he desperately wanted, but was not quite prepared to undertake. Cummings considers this period one of on-the-job training.

"It was like throwing yourself into the lion's den," he says. "I had to learn to talk to an audience with a microphone. It was a whole year of me just really failing. I have drag queens who ask me how I did it. I always tell them you have to stay in front of an audience a lot. You have to just stumble and let yourself

Quip/ tuck

NYC drag artist Marti Gould Cummings brings a bite of the Big Apple to Big D



do it and learn from the mistakes. It was a total accident."

Early in his drag career, Cummings found the temptations of abundant liquor and a party lifestyle too alluring to resist. He began a downward spiral — a period he calls his "Britney Spears tragic meltdown" — until, at rock bottom, he found that he didn't remember how he got home multiple nights in a row. He realized he had a big problem and decided to make changes.

"I didn't move to New York to die," Cummings says. "I moved to New York to thrive. I got sober four years ago and it has completely changed who I am as a performer, a human being, a son, a drag queen. It's changed me as a person. All of my relationships are different. All my shows are different. I can control what comes out of my mouth. But it's not easy."

These days, Cummings finds his musical theater experience and the breadth of his performing ability to be among his greatest assets. He recently released a single called "Show Me Your Dick," a cheeky track featuring gay rapper Big Dipper. A music video featuring the two artists premiered earlier this month.

"I have so many interests as a performer that I don't want to ever pigeonhole myself into being this type of queen or this type of actor or this type of singer," Cummings says. "I'm not versatile in my sex life, but I want to be versatile in my performing life. I want to be a queen for all peo-

ple. I want everybody to be able to come see a Marti Gould Cummings show and enjoy it."

Cummings feels the best career advice he has gotten was from fellow drag performer and former *RuPaul's Drag Race* contestant Bianca Del Rio. Cummings and Del Rio share the same New York home bar at the Ritz.

"She would come to my show all the time, and she would give me advice," Cummings relates. "It helped me so much as a comedian and a performer. She would say, 'Never let them see you sweat. The minute they see you are nervous, they will attack. Be confident. Even if you don't feel confident, be confident.'"

Unlike many queens currently on the drag circuit, Cummings has yet to appear on *Drag Race*. The idea, though, is something he would certainly consider.

"If they called me, I'm not going to say no," Cummings says. "I would love it. It's a great platform to showcase yourself to an audience. Obviously it's an amazing opportunity. I used to think I had to be on it. Now I look at it as if I am on it, I would use it to build my career. But I don't need it to build my career. It would be great, but I don't need it."

Today, Cummings performs on stage seven days a week. If he had not established himself as a drag performer, he is not quite sure what he would otherwise do with his life.

"I would probably be an escort," Cummings jokes. "I don't have a plan B. I don't know what I would do, because performing is all I know." ■

BIG APPLE INVADES BIG D

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REVIEW: 'Folsom Forever'

It's still Pride Month for a few more days, so why not recommend a documentary that really presents the outer limits of what gay Pride means in some quarters? The DVD *Folsom Forever: The Story of How a Kinky Rebellious Street Festival Captured the Heart of San Francisco* (2015 Breaking Glass Pictures) turns an unflinching eye on the hardcore gay leather-and-kink scene that really defined a generation ... and a major gay subculture often in the shadows.

Almost without exception, when Pride parades get filmed for local news stations, it's the drag queens and kink/leathermen who dominate the images. The implication? Gay culture is a freak show. But in San Francisco, at least since the 1970s, it's been the norm. Folsom Street was an industrial area — the city's Skid Row — until the gays came in and opened bars and started to gentrify it. That, of course, cleared the path for developers to rob the neighborhood of its character for profit, and triggered, in 1984, a street festival to preserve the street and raise money for AIDS. Since then, it has grown into a kind of freak show, but one so unabashedly *outré* and proud, it revealed that the kink lifestyle wasn't so far from the surface of polite society.

Tracking the history of how underground culture stepped boldly into the light of day, *Folsom Forever* is as much a history of the City by the Bay's own coming-out as it is a document about the hardcore leathermen (and women) who tried to rescue a forgotten urban area.

But the film doesn't just address the homophobic tongue-clickers who object to the nudity and brazenness, but even some of those within the LGBT community who think the behavior can go too far. Wherever you fall on the spectrum of propriety, this movie provides a no-holds-barred look at Folsom ... and may whet your appetite to attend one day. It sure did mine. Freaky.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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L+S stage

Deal or New Deal

Uptown Players' impressive 'The Nance'; 'Annie' percolates with schmaltz



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
 jones@dallasvoice.com

Dallas audiences are getting a good deal of the New Deal this week — both *The Nance* (locally produced by Uptown Players at the Kalita) and *Annie* (a national tour playing at the Winspear) view the 1930s through different sets of rose-colored glasses (or in *Annie's* case, hollowed-out eyes).

First, the sunny side of life. *Annie* — a 1977 musical adaptation of the corny comic strip *Little Orphan Annie*, about a perpetually upbeat mop-pet “gee-whiskers”-ing her way through the Great Depression — has long held a reputation as among the most saccharine of all song-and-dance shows. Melodic but cloying songs like “Maybe” and the inescapable “Tomorrow” gave pre-pubescent girls the best forum to belt out a showtune until the advent of *Glee*. It's ripe for mockery, what with all the dog-whistle screeching of the orphan girls in songs like “It's a Hard-Knock Life” and “You're Never Fully Dressed without a Smile.” A recent movie update, released at Christmas, got savaged by most critics (not me, though) because it's such an easy show to target.

But there's also a reason it has lasted. This touring production, which recreates the recent Broadway revival starring Jane Lynch as the con-ning Miss Hannigan, has all the so-cute-you-could-strangle-them-while-they-sleep perkiness I remember from the first national tour I saw during the Carter Administration. There's sentiment *in* the show, but also in *seeing* the show.

Audiences today are probably as charmed by its longevity as audiences in 1977 were by seeing the comic strip brought to life. Why get yourself worked up hating it? It's like punching a clown.

That said, this production makes some puzzling choices. The orchestrations are a jumble, unpredictably rushing through some parts and slowing others down to a crawl, and the cast too often garbles lines or delivers them so that the jokes don't land. But Lynn Andrews brings a boozy-floozy vibrancy to Miss Hannigan, and the dog Sandy all but steals the show with his few appearances. That's the measure of a schmaltzfest, I guess: When you cheer for the dog *and* the kid.

New York City c. 1937 is a very different place for Chauncey Miles. Vaudeville has all but died, improv comedy clubs have not yet been discovered, and the last bastion of plying his brand of slip-on-a-banana-peel shtick and suggestive wordplay is the burlesque house. Chauncey is a star of the circuit, famed for his Nance Act — the fey, flamboyant “fairy” who makes seemingly lewd remarks but where, as he points out, all the really bad stuff is going on inside the minds of the watchers. Think drag queens with the rim shot.

In Chauncey's case, though, the nance isn't entirely a character. He's gay himself, forced by the conventions of the day to lurk in the shadows, picking up trade at the automat for no-real-

TRICK OF THE TRADE | A guileless redneck (Sterling Gafford) touches the heart of a self-loathing comedian (B.J. Cleveland) in this unmissable production of 'The Nance.' (Photo by Mike Morgan)

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names sex and a meek “see ya” in the morning. Despite this, he remains steadfastly Republican, a prudish conservative who opposes FDR’s “socialistic” reforms and agrees with the law-and-order stance of the populist major Fiorello LaGuardia, despite rhetoric that could bring an end to burlesque altogether.

Chauncey’s wrong, of course. He’s both self-hating and self-deluded, confident that as long as he toes the line, he and his livelihood will weather the raids and public attacks. There won’t be a “Stonewall” moment for Chauncey. Who needs the attention?

The Nance is Douglas Carter Beane’s hilariously heartbreaking metaphor for the self-immolating apathy that leads people to act in their own worst interest. Why do the working poor nowadays vote for the GOP when the GOP doesn’t really care about them? Because they can’t believe how insignificant they really are to the power structure.

It’s a serious issue, but in this sweeping play that combines history, activism and sexual politics into a single, brilliant narrative, it forces you to laugh through the tears. That’s nowhere more evident than in the play’s penultimate scene, when a defeated Chauncey performs a set that would be legendary if it weren’t such a raw wound. His pain is unfathomable.

It won’t take you until that scene, however, to

be won over by B.J. Cleveland, who delivers a tour-de-force performance of such fierce humanity, it quakes you. Cleveland is North Texas’ boldest clown, a fearless performer whose intelligence, affability and sly bitterness undergird most of his work. No one can be as manic, as over-the-top, one second, then say even more with the cast of an eyebrow the next and still keep the beat.

Chauncey is Cleveland’s best role to date, even more impressive considering his resume includes memorable work as Mad King Ludwig in *Valhalla* to Max Bialystock in *The Producers* and countless other roles.

Beane’s script cannily juxtaposes behind-the-scenes insights into the characters with classic bits of burlesque comedy

sketches. You might expect the corny jokes to fall flat to contemporary audiences, but funny is funny, and the cast — which also includes across-the-board excellent work from Sterling Gafford, Brett Warner, Sherry Hopkins and especially Bob Hess and Linda Leonard — delivers every joke with pathos and understanding.

Director Bruce R. Coleman’s eye for authenticity extends to every aspect of the show, which proceeds fluidly, almost dreamily, from one breathtaking moment to the next. It’s as fine a production as has been seen at the Kalita, both timely and timeless.

ON THE BOARDS

THE NANCE at the **Kalita Humphreys Theater**, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 5. UptownPlayers.org.

ANNIE at the **Winspear Opera House**, 2403 Flora St. Through July 5. ATTPAC.org.

‘Dirty Dancing’

The movie version of **Dirty Dancing** is one of those Hits That Never Should Have Been. Set in a Catskills resort in the early 1960s, is a cheesier-than-a-fromagerie romance about “bad boy” Johnny who seduces a virginal suburban princess (with the weirdly infantilizing name Baby) with his erotic hip swinging and musky masculinity. Daddy wouldn’t approve, which is what makes the romance oh-so-dangerous. Honestly, it’s crap, and always has been. Only we don’t care, because in its bald-faced sentimentality — far from *Annie* in many ways, a close cousin in others — it taps into something primal about sex appeal, music, defiance and freedom. Who doesn’t want to



be swept off their feet by someone who can swing his hips like a pendulum?

This original musicalized stage production, now at Fair Park, has the film’s camp appeal (say it with me: “Nobody puts Baby in a corner,” the show’s only cheer line), but is one of the most puzzling concepts I’ve ever seen. Although its score includes most of the songs from the movie soundtrack, it’s not a traditional jukebox musical because so many of the songs are prerecorded tracks ... but not all of them. And the actors don’t sing the lyrics to each other ... except when they do. And the end, when Baby and Johnny have their big dance together, two other actors step onto the stage’s curtain and perform “The Time of My Life,” as if they represent the inner psyches of the characters. It’s a confusing, even annoying, jumble.

The fact it follows the movie script almost scene by scene reinforces just how different the media of film and theater are; the use of projections to define the scenes has potential, except when it causes the audience to blurt out laughs — and not in the good way. Fans of the movie will probably walk away content that they got what they paid for, but fans of musical theater? Well, we’ll stick with *Jersey Boys*.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

At the Music Hall at Fair Park through July 5; at Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth July 7–12. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

Up & Adam

Out glam god Adam Lambert — on changing his style, the impending end of 'Idol' and what question he won't answer

LIFE+STYLE

profile

Stripped of that glossy sheen, those painted nails and the purple mane that he famously flaunted on his 2009 post-*American Idol* debut, *For Your Entertainment*, Adam Lambert's latest album cover isn't even in color. His hair still reaches the same towering heights as his voice on *The Original High*, but otherwise, he's unadorned.

The glam is gone.

In our recent interview, the *Idol* alum comes clean about how a long period of "over-compensation" — yes, the outfits — led him to the latest chapter in his life. ■

—Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: People are calling *The Original High* a re-invention.

Is that how you see it? Adam Lambert: It's not the most far off thing. I consider it more like a reframing. I feel like it's still me at the heart of it. It's still my voice, but a little more grown up, and I feel like the sonic frame around the vocals is something new.

Why tweak your sound? Because repeating myself would be sacrilege. I will not repeat myself. I wanted to do something fresh, and I wanted to do something that sounded like my life, and this is the kind of music that I listen to.

When it comes to LGBT artists, you really helped pave the way.

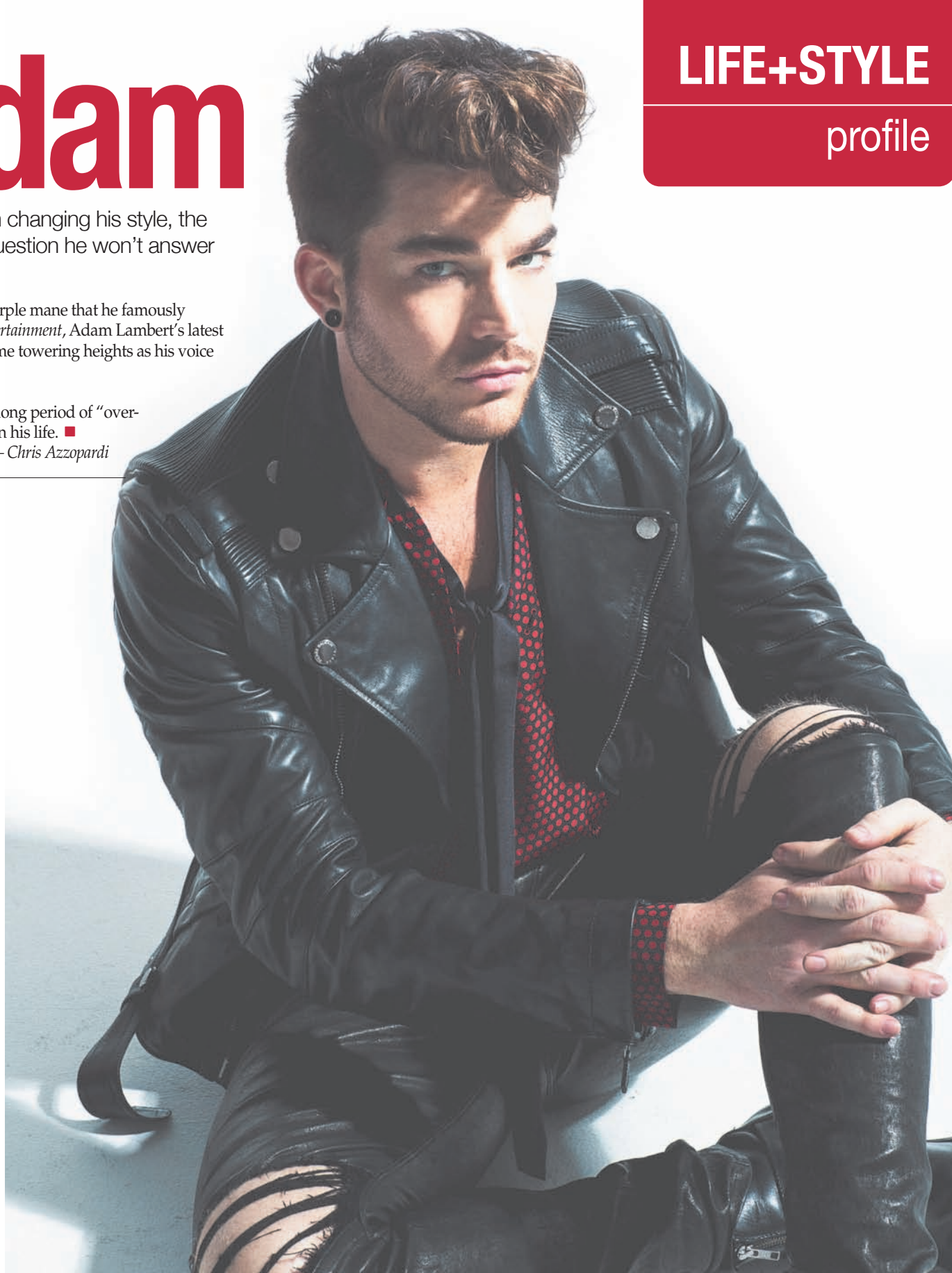
These days, how welcoming do you think the music industry is to queer artists? I think things are definitely going in the right direction, I just wanna see more! The great thing about having more and more artists who identify as queer is it normalizes it so the media can't sensationalize it as an idea. In the past, I felt the media painted me as someone who's super hypersexual and someone who only wants to talk about his orientation. While I'm very comfortable doing that, I have a lot more to talk about in reality. So, it's been interesting. But the more of us that are out there that provide some diversity, who can show different types of gay artists, it'll make it so it's not as much of a big deal. It'll be an afterthought. We'll get to move toward a post-gay presence.

***American Idol* wraps next year. In your opinion, what happened to the show? Why haven't we seen another Kelly or Carrie or Adam in recent years?** I'm not totally sure about that, but I do know that when the show first started it was a time in America when we needed something like that. I mean, 9/11 had just happened, so our country was looking for something to believe in. Not that *American Idol* healed us over 9/11 by itself, but it definitely reflected what we wanted from our entertainment at the time. It gave people hope that, hey, you can be from anywhere and you can have this dream and it can come true, and it was really positive in that regard.

It also came at a time when the music industry was really suffering. I mean, we had all the pirating that was going on; all of a sudden the Internet had taken the rug out from underneath the record companies, and they were looking for an answer. All of a sudden we're giving so much power to the people. That was really impressive, because up until that point the labels really held the strings and decided what the public was going to consume.

Mariah Carey recently called *American Idol* "fake" and had some pointed words for the show. As a former contestant on the show, how did you feel about what she said? Did *American Idol* ever feel "fake" to you? It's a TV show. I didn't feel like it was fake at all. I knew what the concept was. Personally, if you're blindsided by what *American Idol* is, then you weren't paying attention. It's not that difficult to know what you're getting yourself into. That's why I auditioned; I knew what I was getting myself into.

Essentially, it's a strategy for a contestant. It is about talent and it is about being a good performer, but you also have to put some thought into the songs you're picking. I put some thought into it, and that's partially why I think I did well. Picking a genre, picking songs that work for you, picking songs where you won't be compared. For me, I was picking songs that are more obscure or doing them a different way.



You were crafty about it. I'm crafty, yeah! I try to be crafty. And I think for the judges it's a different game than it is for the contestants, obviously, and things shifted a bit when the show wanted to focus on the judges more than the contestants.

What's the first thing that attracts you to a man you're interested in? Charm. I think charm is an amazing thing because it can make them more attractive than they are — or, without it, it can make them less attractive. I think that's something that's developed as I've gotten older. Obviously, I have my set of physical things that I like, but if somebody's a dud and they have no personality then it all goes out the window. Charm and personality are key.

One fan wanted to know if you ever feel uncomfortable watching what's said about you by the Glamberts on Twitter. I don't think

"uncomfortable" is the right word, but I'm not always the best at taking a compliment. I'm pretty hard on myself and sarcastic about things, so it's always flattering, but it makes me feel like, "Ehh, let's talk about something else."

What's one question you're glad you've never had to answer? I think I've had to answer every fucking thing you can think of!

 online exclusive

Read more of the interview with Adam Lambert, where he answers strange fan questions, exclusively online at DallasVoice.com.

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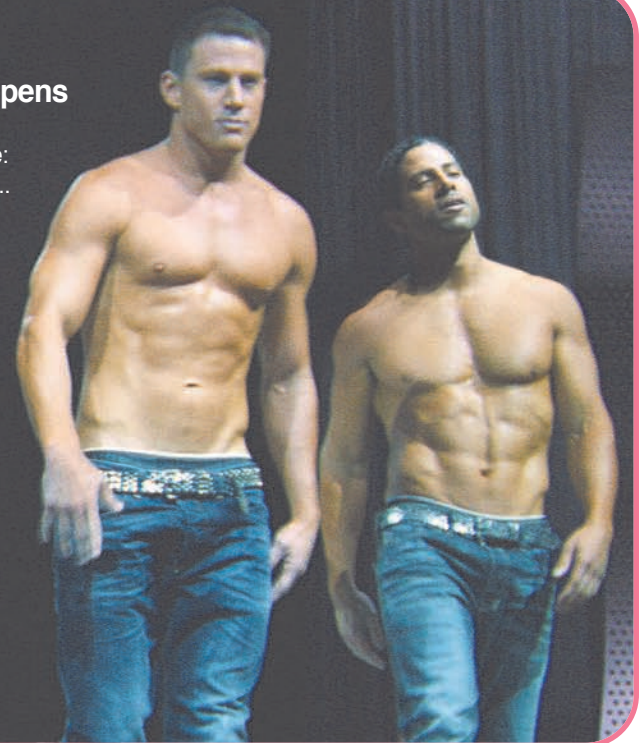
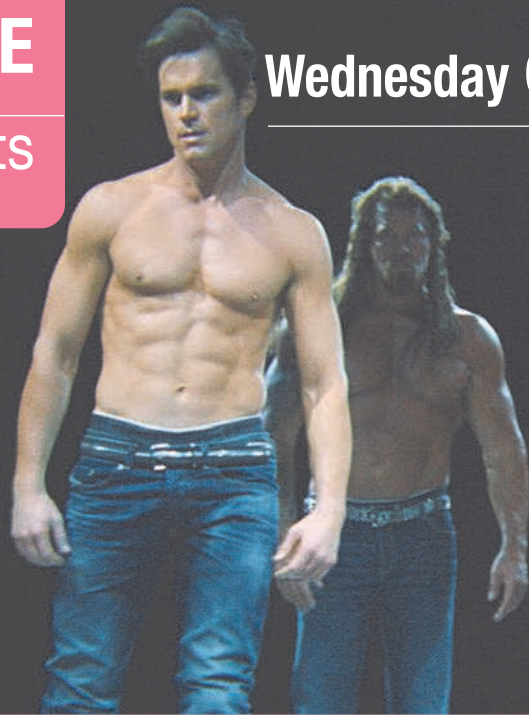
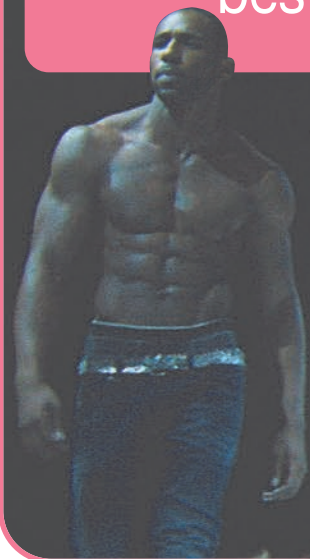


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North Texas native and 'American Idol' alum Todrick Hall performs

It isn't just Adam Lambert (interviewed on Page 22) who was an out, popular runner-up on *American Idol*. Indeed, North Texas native Todrick Hall has been a sensation of his own, especially as a YouTube star (yes, that's a thing, we promise). His Toddlerz Ball Tour, with all the Technicolor pop mashups and star-studded Disney covers that made him a household name, lands at the Majestic with hits like "Beauty and the Beat" and "Twerking in the Rain."

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Sunday 06.28

Do get your undies in a bunch! Underwear auction at the Eagle

Don't think of it as Sunday — think of it as Sun(derwear)Day at the Dallas Eagle this week. That's cuz the Levi-and-leather bar is holding a fundraiser sure to get your knickers in a twist. The Underwear Auction is a benefit for the LifeWalks team of the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund (the same folks that put on the MetroBall) with all proceeds going to fight AIDS and HIV. There's a meet-and-greet with the models starting at 6 p.m., followed by the auction, entertainment and mistress of ceremonies Sable Alexander.

DEETS: The Dallas Eagle, 5740 Inwood Road. 6–10 p.m.



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calendar highlights



TACO LIBRE | This inaugural taco and music festival takes place Downtown Saturday starting at 2 p.m. at Main Street Gardens.

Justice. Playwright and director Rockne Ragsdale presents his original and timely play about the dynamics between police and African-Americans in *Guilty or Not, Here I Come*, along with the powerful classic play by Amira Baraka, **The Dutchman**. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Friday–Sunday. RatRace-Productions.com. EisemannCenter.com.

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. Friday–Saturday. ATTPAC.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. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. 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 (extended).* Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. MBSProductions.net.

Rodgers+Hammerstein's Cinderella. The tuneful, lavish recent Tony Award-winner comes to North Texas. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 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. CircleTheatre.com.

FRIDAY 06.26

ARTSWEEK

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. ATTPAC.org.

Dirty Dancing. Stage musical adaptation of the hit film about romance in the Catskills. You'll have the time of your life. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through July 5. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St. Fort Worth. July 7–12. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

Lady Bug, Lady Bug, Fly Away Home. A revival of a play originally developed by Paul Baker at the Dallas Theater Center, starring now — as then — local actress and director Cheryl Denson. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. June 26–July 19. \$22–\$32. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

Guilty/Dutchman: Two One-Acts Plays About Social

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CONCERTS

Todrick Hall: The Toddlerz Ball. The out *American Idol* finalist and YouTube sensation performs in his native North Texas. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show. TodrickHall.com.

FILM

Movies in the Park. A free film series at The Shops at Park Lane every Friday in June, with the final screening of *Despicable Me*. 8:30 p.m. ParkLaneDallas.com.

The Celluloid Closet. CineWilde's regular Pride screening, a documentary about how gays have been portrayed in film. 35 mm print. Following the screening Queerbomb celebrates its second anniversary with an after-party. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 8 p.m. doors, 8:30 p.m. pre-show discussion, 9 p.m. screening, 11 p.m. after-party. TheTexasTheatre.com.

SATURDAY 06.27

FILM

Queens & Cowboys: A Straight Year on the Gay Rodeo. Presented by Q Cinema. Screens at The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. \$8. Qcinema.org.

FOOD

Taco Libre! Food and Music Festival. Inaugural taco festival with \$2 tacos, tequila, beer, bands and Lucha Libre wrestling. Main Street Gardens, 1902 Main St. 2-10 p.m. \$12 entry before 5 p.m. Prekindle.com/tacolibre.

COMMUNITY

The Big Apple Invades Big D. Drag queens Marti Gould Cummings and Drag Racer Milk perform at this benefit for the Red Party. The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 9 p.m. \$15-\$30. RedPartyDallas.org. BrickDallas.com.

BURLESQUE

Pride Themed Burlesque Show. Male illusionist Spike van Dyke headlines this gay-celebrating show. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. show. \$20-\$25. TexasBurlesque.com.

SUNDAY 06.28

COMMUNITY

 **browse**

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

 **submit**

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

Mr. and Ms. Dallas Pageant. A fundraiser for the Lupus Foundation. Entertainment by Chanel LeMasters, Ashton Edwards, Armani Nicole Davenport and more. The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. 9 p.m. BrickDallas.com.

TUESDAY 06.30

FILM

Airplane! One of the greatest nonsense comedies of all time, this conveyor belt of one-liners and sight gags perfectly spoofs disaster movies and film cliches of all kinds. 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. and 10 p.m.

CABARET

The Mall Jazz Vocalist: Then and Now. Damon Clark and Victor Cager perform as part of a free cabaret concert series, organized by Denise Lee. Women's Museum at Fair Park, 2800 Parry Ave. 7 p.m. Free. FairPark.org.

FRIDAY 07.03

HOLIDAY

Addison Kaboom Town! 30th anniversary of the Fourth of July celebration of fireworks, food, music and fun. Addison Circle Park, 4970 Addison Circle Drive. 5 p.m. AddisonTexas.net.

this week's solution

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Friday, July 3rd | Dusk til Dawn

Pool Side Picnic
Saturday | 1pm

Pool Side Buffet
Sunday | 1pm

Cassie Nova

Cassie answers crazy questions!

What's up, my babies? I hope you are all having a fabulous summer.

Every column I write, I ask you peeps to send me your questions. I always say, "Ask anything you want, no question off limits!" Well, one guy out there has taken that to heart, and about twice a week sends me an email. The email contains usually one very random question from an AOL account. Over this past year, I have kept his emails and will now address some of his questions I find more ... entertaining. His (actually it could be a her) email never contains a "Dearest Cassie" or a "Yours truly," just one very odd, sometimes blunt question. So here goes:

Do you believe in aliens?

I believe there is life on other planets but I doubt it has evolved enough to visit *our* planet. It is naive to think earth is the only place that has life on it when there are so many millions of planets within a Goldilocks zone. Do I think they walk among us and abduct us for anal probing? Sounds fun ... but I think not.

Have you ever had sex in drag?

Yes, when I was very young and the guy was hot but a freak. When it was over, my wig was crooked and my eyelashes and lipstick were still on the pillowcase. It had to have looked like Tammy Faye Bakker had slept there. It was so weird. So I only let it happen about 10 or 12 times after that.

Do you think you are capable of murder?
No, of course not, but don't look under my house.
Have you ever had sex with a woman?
Do nelly boys count? No, I have never had sex with a woman. My Gay Card is titanium.

Would you punch a baby for a million dollars?
I would do it for 10 bucks. Just kidding. Yes I would do it for a million dollars but I would buy the baby ice cream afterwards.
If a genie granted you three wishes, what would they be?

I only need one wish: Stronger will power. With will power, I would be in shape and more successful. I'd be rich because I would have the drive I needed to make it happen. I wouldn't be a lazy procrastinator. I'd get shit done, son. Oh, and with the other two wishes, I'd wish for a bubble butt and a gigantic penis. #SorryNotSorry.

What was your last nightmare about?

OMG! It was horrible. I was being asked all of these stupid-ass questions. ... Seriously, I dreamed I was being chased across a never-ending bridge by Russian zombies. I couldn't jump off the bridge because of the thousands of glowing great white sharks in the water. I have no idea why they were Russian zombies or that the sharks glowed but I woke up terrified and covered in sweat.

What color is the carpet in your bedroom?

Brownish beige — it sounds ugly but I love it.

Would you give a homeless person CPR to save their life?

Yes, I would. I've put worse in my mouth.

Have you ever thought of having kids?

I have thought about it and my husband and I have come to this conclusion: No way!!!! I think we have the potential to be great parents, but since it is frowned upon to put your kid in a crate so you could

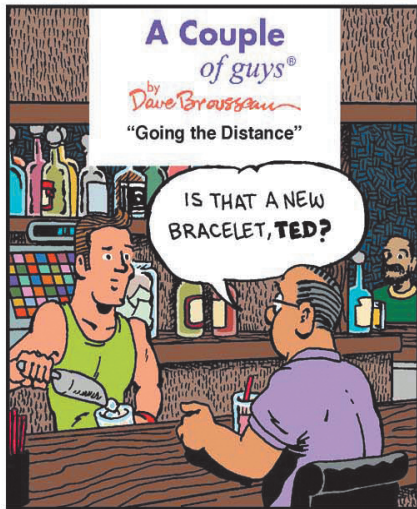
go to the movies, we should probably stick to dogs.

If you found out you were going to die tomorrow, what would you be most upset about?

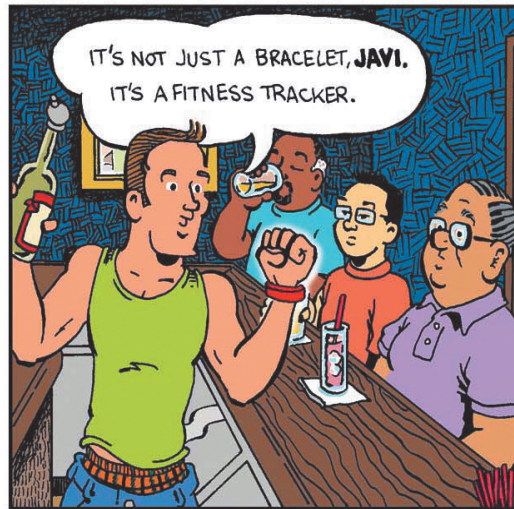
I would be so upset that I wouldn't get to see the new *Star Wars* movie.

What is the meanest thing you have ever done?

Years ago, there was this super-hot guy that worked the door at JR.'s for a short time. He was named Layne and dated my best friend, Lee. Layne had the most



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beautiful shoulder length hair and Lee was head over heels in love with him. Layne was also a cheating, thieving asshole who broke my friend's heart. He cheated on Lee, stole Lee's credit card and went on a \$2,000 shopping spree before dumping my way-too-forgiving friend. I placed a sample size bottle of Selsun Blue shampoo in Layne's mailbox, except it actually contained Nair with blue food coloring. Shortly thereafter, Layne was sporting a buzz cut. To this day, I have no definitive answer if his hair style change was my doing but in my heart I know it was. Allegedly! I know, I'm a horrible person, but I am also a good friend.

If you could be someone else for one day, who would it be and why?

Easy: Sofia Vergara. Why? Joe Manganiello, duh! My luck, on that one day, I would be on my period. We would just have to power through. I'd also want to be the future Mrs. Manganiello just so I could play with my boobs and have an accent that wasn't so country.

Do you masturbate a lot?

I don't think I do it a lot, but if my hands and arms were made of wood and my penis made of sand paper, I would be down to nubs.

Dear Mr. Random Questions from an AOL account, I have answered just a small number of the questions you have sent over this past year. I hope you enjoyed it. Keep them coming. I am strangely intrigued by the erratic content of your questions. You are obviously a weirdo and made me feel like a weirdo for wanting to answer your inquiries. It was somewhat cathartic, so thank you. I appreciate the eccentric and seek out the unconventional. By the way, check out my Freakshow at JR.'s on Monday nights. It's a good time.

Remember to love more, bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



Friends at Havana.



Staff at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Chanel and friends at the Round-Up Saloon.



Eddie, George and Dennis on The Strip.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 26–July 2:**

- **Alexandre's:** *Bad Habits* at 10 p.m. on Saturday. *Chris Chism* at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. *So Strung Out (Spencer West)* at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXSI:** *The Roast of Bridgette* at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** *Marti Cummings* and *Drag Racer Milk* perform at a fundraiser for the **Red Party** at 9 p.m. on Saturday. **Mr. and Ms. Dallas Pageant** raises money for the **Lupus Foundation** at 9 p.m. on Sunday. **Chanel LeMasters, Ashton Edwards, Armani Nicole Davenport** and others entertain.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** *Voice of Pride* preliminary round at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** *Trinity River Bears* meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. *Trinity River Bears* cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. *Imperial Court Show* at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **National Leather Association-Dallas** presents *Leather Perspectives* at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents *Diva-Divo* fundraiser at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Hidden Door:** *Mr. Hidden Door 2015* presents *Cowboys and Leathermen* show at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** *Cassie's Freak Show* with *Fantasha, Raquel Bronx* and *Infinity Starr* on Monday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** *Karaoke Out Loud* at 9 p.m. on Monday. *Project Furway 2015* at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** *Filter Kings* on Friday. *Cherry Hill* on Saturday. *Kathy & Bella* at 3 p.m. on Sunday. *Bad Habits* at 6 p.m. on Sunday. ■

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



Dancer at TMC: The Mining Comapny.



Leo, Carl and Jesus at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Guys' night out at TMC: The Mining Company.



Cody, Alberto, Sergio, Tyler and Lemontre at S4.



Mark on The Strip.



Dancer at S4.



Jen, Russell and Amy on The Strip.



Walter with cookies at Liquid Zoo.



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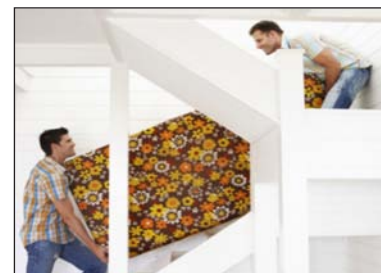
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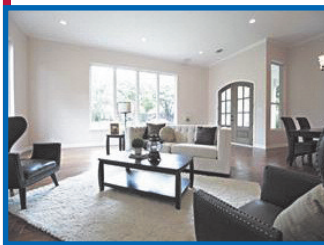
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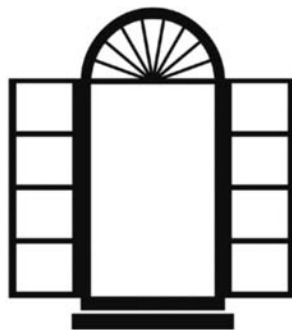
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- St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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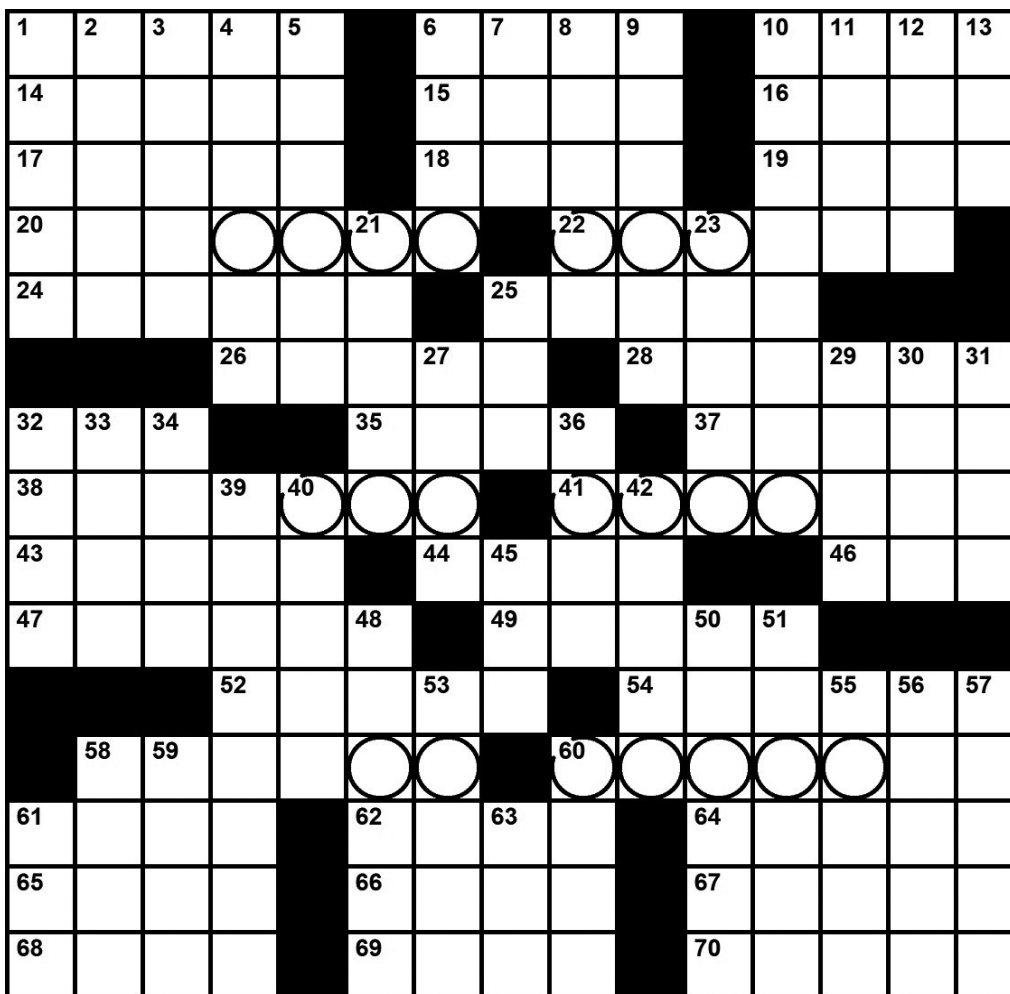
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Pegasus Squares, an LGBT Square Dance Club, meets every Sunday from 2:30pm-4:30pm at the Resource Center. Beginner lessons start in October. Contact Rob Miller at 682-238-3442 for more information or visit pegasus-squares.com.

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q-puzzle



I Refuse to Be Invisible

Solution on page 27

Across

- 1 Jane of *Grace and Frankie*
- 6 Member
- 10 Will of *The Waltons*
- 14 Slicker in the winter
- 15 Wine region of da Vinci's land
- 16 Trucker's rod
- 17 Kidney-related
- 18 Fight for a twosome
- 19 Life partner
- 20 Nelson, who championed LGBT rights
- 22 Broadway district
- 24 Sondheim's ___ *Can Whistle*
- 25 "Another card" in S/M-speak?
- 26 "Faboo!"
- 28 Audre Lorde's birthplace
- 32 It borders Tenn.
- 35 Material from Sylvia Beach?
- 37 Queen topper
- 38 "Dykes to Watch Out For" cartoonist Alison
- 41 Media gadfly Huffington
- 43 Rimbaud's heart
- 44 *Pandora's Box* heroine
- 46 Canon camera
- 47 Gloomy
- 49 *The ___ of Harvey Milk*
- 52 Marlon Brando's hometown
- 54 Check out gay porn sites, e.g.

- 58 Streisand's "Don't Rain on My ___"
- 60 Gay rodeo ropes
- 61 Old fruit drink
- 62 Cartoon chipmunk
- 64 Phrase from Ripley
- 65 Mireille, whose name rhymes with "penis"
- 66 Tied up
- 67 Christopher of *Superman*
- 68 Power measure
- 69 Enjoy Capote
- 70 Exodus memorial

Down

- 1 Like ground that's hard
- 2 South Beach setting
- 3 Boob
- 4 Completely faithful
- 5 Francis of old TV
- 6 Cry of pride
- 7 Coll. of Phil Andros
- 8 Cheri once of SNL
- 9 *Frasier's* ex
- 10 Abercrombie & Fitch locale, perhaps
- 11 Come out
- 12 Sailor's patron
- 13 *Gone With the Wind* extra
- 21 Will and Grace shared one
- 23 Precious strings

- 25 Sweetie pie
- 27 Albee's *Three ___ Women*
- 29 Nathan of *Modern Family*
- 30 Cosmetics businessman Laszlo
- 31 *Serpico* author Peter
- 32 Free verse "rhyme scheme"
- 33 Fifth-century pope
- 34 Perfect serves from Mauresmo
- 36 Limp watch painter
- 39 Kate Clinton or Margaret Cho
- 40 Stage offering
- 42 *Dancing with the Stars* routine
- 45 Hagen of *The Boys from Brazil*
- 48 Drag queen's hose problem
- 50 Boo-boos, to Billy Bean
- 51 Human Rights Campaign fundraiser
- 53 Word before "ho!"
- 55 Lost some of its size
- 56 Pilot's place
- 57 Artist Hernandez
- 58 Elizabeth of *Transamerica*
- 59 Part of a title by Tennessee Williams
- 60 What libraries do
- 61 *Orange Is the ___ Black* (source of the line in the puzzle's title)
- 63 Actress who said the line whose name is visible in this puzzle



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