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■ PINK DOLLAR, Page 18

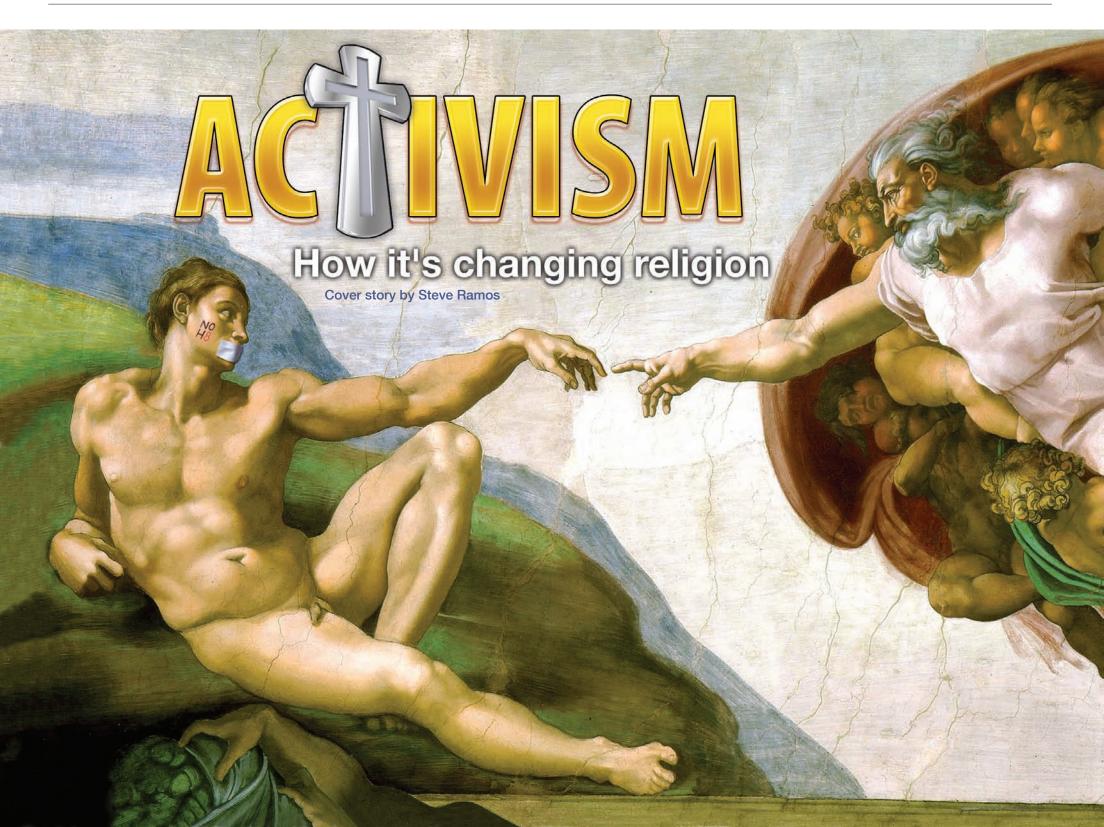




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Friday, February 21, 2014







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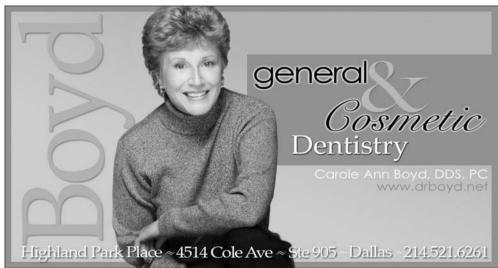
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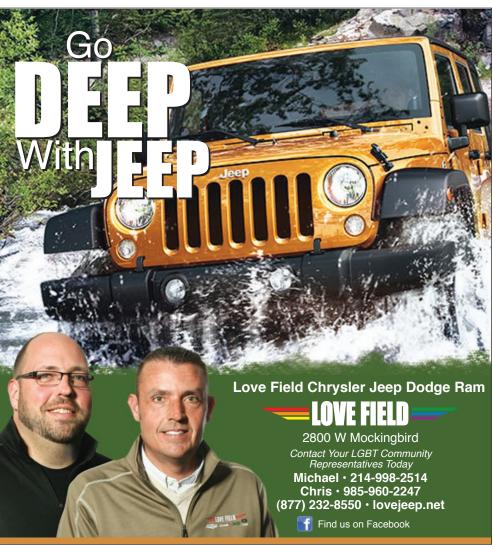
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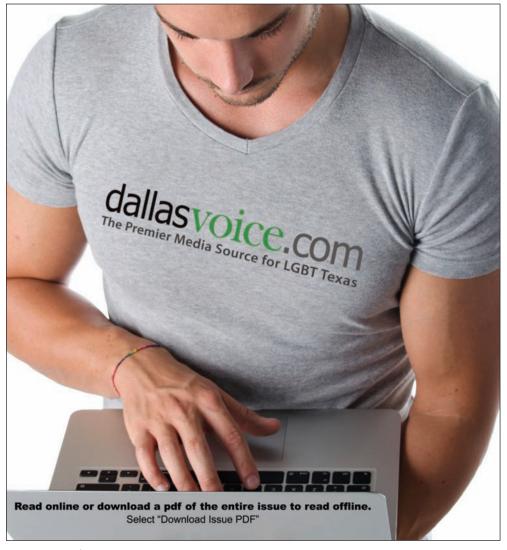
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## instant**TEA**

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#### Williamson County Democratic chair's campaign manager accused of making anti-gay comments about challenger



Braden Frame

A central Texas campaign manager for Williamson County Democratic Chair Karen Carter has been accused of making anti-gay comments about

Carter's primary opponent, Braden Frame. In a Feb. 12 recording sent to Dallas Voice, Carter's campaign manager Terry Cook is heard saying "he has no staying power. With anything. He can't stay with his wife, he can't stay with his sexual preferences. He can't stay."

The sender wrote that Cook is talking about Frame

Cook said the comments were taken out of context during a political planning meeting for another candidate and were not anti-gay. She said back in 2008 when Frame came onto the county's political scene, there were rumors that he was gay.

"It was all about perceived inconsistencies with Braden's life," Cook said, adding that Carter has been a consistent leader in the county's Democratic Party. "And I shouldn't have said that. That is my mistake."

Cook said she doesn't remember how Frame came up in the conversation last week, adding that the comments were wrong.

"I am so sorry I made those comments," she said. "It was so out of place."

Cook said people have accused Carter of saying anti-gay things about openly gay Congressional District 31 candidate Louie Minor. But she said Carter told Minor in private that he should be out, but he should focus his campaign on the issues, not have his sexual orientation be the campaign's centerpiece. If elected, Minor would be the first openly gay congressman from Texas.

All of Williamson County is located in CD 31, in which Minor hopes to replace Republican incumbent John Carter.

Frame said he didn't know what the comments referred to. He said he identifies as straight, and while he divorced in 2012, he remarried last year.

"That's straight up homophobia bullying. That's disgusting," he said. "One: I'm straight and have been straight my entire life," Frame added. "Two: There's people everyday who struggle with understating their orientation, and I don't think that her saying that is OK at all. That's the kind of bullying that doesn't have any place in politics or life at all.

"Even if I had chosen to identify as bisexual or gay in the past, it's no one's bloody business," Frame added. "I'm not offended that someone might think I was gay. I don't care. That's fine. ... But you don't say it as a negative thing."

Frame said he's a supporter of LGBT issues, which he lists on his campaign website.

"It's time we reach out to young people, the LGBT community, and minority groups to build our party and grow diversity," his website states.

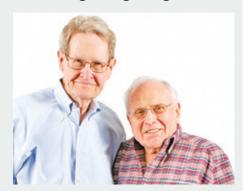
Carter's website doesn't mention the LGBT community.

Jose Orta, former executive director of Informe-SIDA, an HIV project of the Austin Latino Lesbian Gay Organization (ALLGO), said the lack of LGBT issues on Carter's website was "an oversight," adding that she was a strong supporter of the community and HIV awareness.

Visit DallasVoice.com to listen to the recording.

— Anna Waugh

#### Jack, George are getting hitched



Jack Evans and George Harris have been together 53 years. On March 1, they're getting married. Finally.

Evans and Harris are members of Northaven United Methodist Church but because of a ban on same-sex marriages within the denomination, their ceremony will take place at Midway Hills Christian Church. That church belongs to Disciples of Christ, which recognizes same-sex marriages.

The Rev. Bill McElvaney will preside. He's a retired Methodist minister who served many years at Northaven and always welcomed the LGBT community when some other Methodist churches in the area didn't.

The controversy in the Methodist Church gained national attention last fall when the Rev. Frank Schaefer was defrocked after a church trial that found him guilty of performing his son's wedding.

Schaefer recently appeared in Dallas and suggested that a way to change church policy is for 1,000 ministers to perform same-sex weddings. He said his trial was budgeted at \$100,000, and the church couldn't afford to try 1,000 ministers and can't afford to lose that many ministers.

Evans said they sent out about 100 invitations and are putting together a reception with just a few weeks' notice. Members of Northaven stepped up to help. One is taking care of the catering, and another member is taking care of the flowers, Evans said.

"We're doing this more to support Bill in his efforts," Evans said. "It's more about him than us."

Whoever it's about, friends will gather to celebrate the relationship of two men who have worked for equality throughout their lives and served on numerous boards in the LGBT community including Resource Center, Turtle Creek Chorale, Black Tie Dinner and, most recently, The Dallas Way.

They said they had no plans to hyphenate their names after they marry and didn't think being married would change things too much.

Well, maybe some.

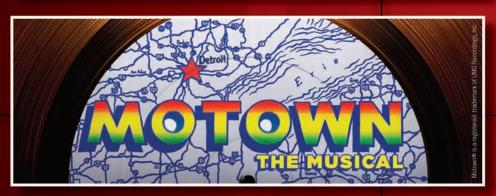
"It does get better," Evans said. "We're counting on that."

David Taffet

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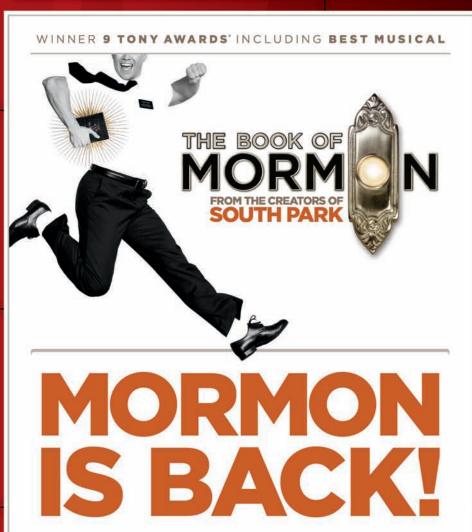












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# How LGBT activism is changing religion

By methodically fighting the Religious Right's battle against the LGBT community, activists have forced the churches to turn to genuine Christian teachings

**STEVE RAMOS |** Senior Editor ramos@dallasvoice.com

About 25 years ago, few people are certain of the date now, the leaders of a church in the middle of the gayborhood made an astonishing decision. The pastor of Oak Lawn United Methodist Church told the congregation it wasn't appropriate for gay men and women to be in positions of leadership and those who were would be stripped of those roles.

The announcement stunned many of the church members.

"That was a devastating statement," Shirley Cooper said. "We felt like we had been kicked in the head. Later, the gay people were in the kitchen crying. They had prepared the Thanksgiving dinner for the church, and they, as well as many of us, were wondering what was going to happen next."

What happened next emptied a good deal of the pews. Cooper and her husband were members of Oak Lawn United Methodist, and they supported their gay son. After that announcement, they spent a year looking for another church, finally choosing Northaven United Methodist Church.

"About 100 people left the church because of that attitude," Cooper said. "Most of us were very pleased to have gay people in the church, but the top leaders said we should shut the door on gays. They made it seem as if the whole church was in agreement, but that wasn't the case."

When the leaders of Oak Lawn United Methodist made that decision, they didn't know they would strengthen Dallas' gay activist community. After leaving the church, Cooper and her husband, now deceased, helped establish Dallas' first PFLAG chapter. By that time, in the early 1990s, Dallas gays and lesbians were solidly entrenched in the fight against AIDS, but they knew they were fighting a multi-front war.

"At that time, the Religious Right was really hammering at us, and they were making huge strides," Mark Jones said. "They were saying AIDS was God's way of punishing gays, and we deserved to die, and, unfortunately, a lot of people were buying that message."

Jones grew up in the small East Texas town of Center in a family whose devotion to the Pentecostal faith was "fanatical."

"We didn't have TVs in our homes because it was the devil's tool," he said. "Women didn't wear makeup or pants. As a gay man growing up

in that environment, I was one confused boy."

Having grown up in the far right of the Christian faith, Jones said he sees the tremendous influence the gay rights movement has had on the church.

"When I go home, I can see it's not the same church," he said. "Even my family isn't the same. I hardly hear anything homophobic anymore because public opinion about gays has changed so much. We've won so many legal battles, and we're definitely winning the PR battle. Gay activists have exposed the Religious Right for what it is: Ignorant, mean and hypocritical."

Yet some experts say that if it hadn't been for the Religious Right's attacks on the LGBT community, the activists wouldn't have fought back so successfully. According to Michael Klarman, who wrote in Harvard Magazine, that as late as 1990 "roughly 75 percent of Americans deemed homosexual sex immoral, 29 percent supported gay adoptions, and only 10 percent to 20 percent backed same-sex marriage. Not a single jurisdiction in the world had yet embraced marriage equality."

But when U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder recently announced at the Human Rights Campaign's gala that the federal government will expand the recognition of same-sex marriages in federal legal matters, including bankruptcies, prison visits and survivor benefits, it barely moved the political crisis dial.

Klarman also wrote that in 1999, when Vermont's high court ruled that the traditional definition of marriage discriminated against same-sex couples, an enormous political controversy erupted. The Vermont Legislature's 2000 session was dominated by the issue.

In contrast, when a county clerk in New Mexico started issuing marriage licenses to gay men and women, Republican Gov. Susana Martinez barely acknowledged it in public. The state moved into the column of other states that allow same-sex marriage without fanfare or the collapse of its society.

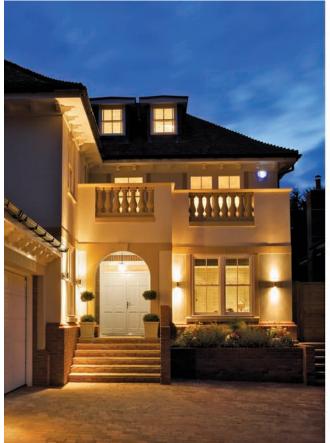
"We can thank the activists for that," Jacob Martin, a Catholic, said. "Back in 1991 when those three gay couples in Hawaii challenged the laws, there was a huge outcry against them. And that was in a state everyone thinks is liberal. Then 20 years later, state after state is doing the opposite and saying the ban against same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. We've come a long way, and we have to thank the activists for fighting the religious opposition in this battle."

Some would say the Religious Right's attack on gay men and women became public when with Anita Bryant's homophobic campaigns began in the 1970s. Katherine McFarland wrote in a review

■ ACTIVISM, Page 20



**WELCOME HOME** | Oak Lawn United Methodist Church Senior Pastor Anna Hosemann-Butler welcomes the LGBT community and particiapted in Pride last year. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)









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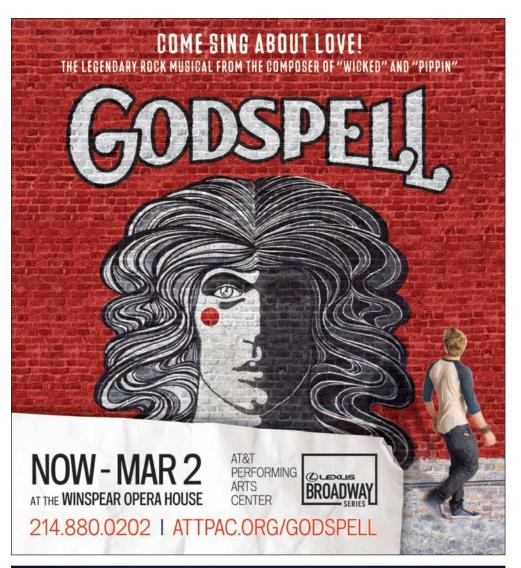
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#### **Early voting continues**

Early voting in the Democratic and Republican primaries began this week and continues through Feb. 28. Polls are open daily 7 a.m.-7 p.m. except Sunday when the hours are 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

There are no polling places in Oak Lawn. The closest locations are the Dallas County Records Building downtown and Grauwyler Recreation Center, five blocks north of Mockingbird Lane on Harry Hines Boulevard. In Oak Cliff, the sub-Courthouse on Beckley is the main polling

Elections Administrator Toni Pippins Poole said meters near the Records building are covered and not in effect during voting hours, and parking beneath the building will be validated for voters.

On Primary Day March 4, voters must go to their local precincts.

#### QueerBomb fundraiser

A Night of Queer Love, Hot Entertainment and Questionable Morals begins with a prefilm talk with local queer film experts. The film Cabaret screens at 9 p.m.

A live cabaret follows at 11:30 p.m. featuring queerlesque performances with local queer

Prizes will be raffled all evening and costumes are encouraged.

All this benefits the first QueerBomb Dallas that takes place during Pride month. Queer-Bomb began in Austin several years ago to hold an alternative Pride event in June when the parade moved to September.

Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. \$10

#### **Chard named National Board Chair**

SMU Simmons School of Education Dean David Chard was recently elected by fellow board members as chairman of the National Board for Education Sciences, effective immediately. Chard succeeds Bridget Terry Long from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

The U.S. Senate approved President Barack Obama's nomination of Chard to the board in 2012. The 15-member board oversees and directs the work of the Institute of Education Sci-

"Schools throughout the nation will benefit from David Chard's leadership of this important board," SMU President R. Gerald Turner said. "His support of evidence-based education practices will help ensure that proven teaching strategies make their way to the classroom."





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**Hubert** 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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## texasnews

# New LGBT resolution gives Dallas 'road map' for change



**WINNING TEAM** | From left, LGBT Task Force members Nell Gaither, Rafael McDonnell, Michael Lo Vuolo, Patti Fink join Dallas Councilmen Scott Griggs and Adam Medrano and Fort Worth Councilcman Joel Burns and member Omar Narvaez for a photo after the resolution passed committee. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

Almost a year since marriage resolution failed, new measure expected to pass at City Hall and create improvements in employment, city outreach

**ANNA WAUGH I** News Editor waugh@dallasvoice.com

Dallas councilmembers took a step this week in rectifying the relationship with the city's LGBT community after another pro-equality resolution failed to move forward last June.

In a 4-1 vote Tuesday, the Finance, Budget and Audit Committee approved the "Comprehensive Statement of Support" resolution. The measure states the city leadership is "in full favor of equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees of the city of Dallas, citizens within the city of Dallas, and visitors to the city of Dallas."

If approved by the entire council next Wednesday, it would guide city staff and the city's LGBT Task Force to research areas for improved LGBT equality and report back to the committee quarterly on the progress. Items will then be addressed on an individual basis and voted on.

Members who voted in favor of the new resolution this week were Committee Chair Jerry Allen, who originally pushed for a broad state-

ment of support, Vice Chair Jennifer Gates, Philip Kingston and Tennell Atkins. Sheffie Kadane voted against it because he said he didn't like that it focused solely on the LGBT community.

Based on recent and past support, the resolution would likely pass the full council with Allen, Gates, Kingston, Atkins, Scott Griggs, Adam Medrano, Monica Alonzo, Dwaine Caraway, Carolyn Davis and Sandy Greyson supporting the measure. Lee Kleinman confirmed in an email this week to Dallas Voice that he, too, would support the resolution. Rick Callahan said he'd review it for consideration. Kadane and Vonciel Jones Hill oppose the measure. As for Mayor Mike Rawlings, spokesman Sam Merten said he "has not been fully briefed about the issue."

Medrano, who chairs the city's LGBT Task Force, said he thinks there's at least eight councilmembers who will vote in favor of the resolution to ensure its passage.

He said there's not a timeline for changes to take place, but once the resolution passes, city staff can immediately update policies administratively. Other things needing council approval will be compiled into a list by the Task Force and will be presented to the Finance Committee in a few months.

"Once we get this resolution passed, city staff will have direction from the council to address a lot of these issues we've been talking about," Medrano said. "This resolution will give them di-

■ ROAD MAP, Page 12

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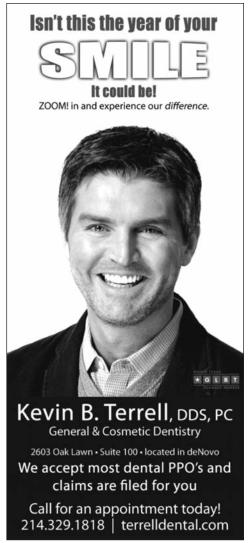
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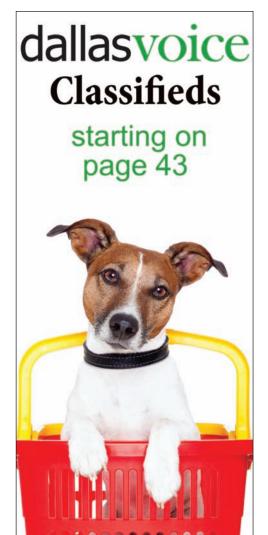




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### texasnews

# **Candidates attend** Log Cabin meeting



SEEING RED | Republican candidates, from left, Lisa DeWitt, Ron Natinsky, Leah Lucius, Susan Hawk and

Gay Republican group's vice president is among those seeking office in Dallas County

**DAVID TAFFET I Staff Writer** taffet@dallasvoice.com

A number of candidates met with Log Cabin Republicans on Tuesday evening, including two vying for the Republican nomination for Dallas County district attorney in the March 4 primary.

Susan Hawk, who is seeking the DA's seat, has lived in Oak Lawn's Perry Heights neighborhood since 1992. As a judge, she said she's seen discrimination in her court, especially targeting trans people. She said she's built relationships with counselors from AIDS Arms and Legacy Counseling and helped ensure inmates with HIV receive their medication and remain compliant.

She said she believes crimes committed against certain groups should be investigated as hate crimes and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the

"As district attorney, I'd make sure my prosecutors were sensitive to and had training in regards to the issues," she said. Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins recently announced his office is establishing an LGBT Task

Tom Nowak, also running for DA, has experience as a child abuse and family violence prosecutor and as a defense attorney. His positions on LGBT issues are similar to Hawk's. He'd like to see the state hate crime law that calls for penalty enhancements rewritten because often those penalty enhancements don't apply. First-degree misdemeanors can't be upgraded to felonies and first-degree crimes can't be upgraded to stricter penalties. He said as a prosecutor and a defense attorney, he has handled domestic abuse cases that have involved same-sex couples and believes everyone should be treated equally.

Former Dallas City Councilman Ron Natinsky is running for county judge. He's unopposed in the primary and faces County Judge Clay Jenkins in the November election.

As a councilman, Natinsky received the endorsement of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and was DGLA's choice for mayor against Mike

His race for county judge is his first partisan election.

"I'm running because people don't realize the importance of county government and how it impacts people's lives," he said. "Parkland's a big concern," referring to the county's hospital.

He called Parkland's 2½-year search for a new CEO unacceptable. He also said other counties without public hospitals whose residents use Parkland should pay their fair share. Currently, no one from Denton or Collin counties would be turned away, but if the patient was unable to pay, Dallas County isn't going after the delinquent suburban counties to share the burden of the costs. Instead, Dallas County taxpayers subsidize these nonresidents, which Natinsky called unfair.

Several judicial candidates attended the Log Cabin's meeting, including Lisa DeWitt and Leah Lucius, who don't have primary challengers.

Lucius, running for County Criminal Court No. 5, has seven years experience as a prosecutor in the district attorney's office.

Lisa DeWitt, vice president of Log Cabin Dallas, is running for 265th Judicial District Court, an open seat.

She's an officer of Log Cabin and said she's often asked if it's her son or daughter who's gay.

"It's not my son or daughter," she said. "But it's someone's son or daughter. I've always thought it was so unfair that someone should be discriminated against over something you have no control over."

# Maxey Scherr stands on her progressive record

The El Paso Democrat says her support of ENDA and marriage equality are among the issues that set her apart from competiton

**DAVID TAFFET I Staff Writer** 

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Maxey Scherr was in the U.S. Senate chamber during the debate on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in November. When the vote began, she said Sen. John Cornyn's name was called six times. He was in the chamber, but he didn't respond. When he was called the seventh time, he voted nay.

Scherr said it wasn't just his no vote that convinced her to run for his seat, but his two thumbs down gesture and the look of disgust on his face when he voted.

"That was pivitol for me," she said. "Enough is enough."

A fourth generation Texan, Scherr is a single mom and a plaintiff's attorney from El Paso. She's a first-time candidate but has been involved in



Maxey Scherr

previous campaigns, working for President Barack Obama, Hillary Clin-Bill White and others. She worked on the staff of former Rep. Silvestre Reves, who has endorsed her.

She's also been endorsed by Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio, Austin, Den-

ton County and Southeast Texas. She didn't screen with the Dallas group but hopes to reach out to

"This is the first time someone is running statewide as a progressive," she said.

She said she admired President Lyndon Johnson, who had been a Texas senator and stood strong with his values. Scherr believes she can win the primary with a strong turnout of women, the LGBT community and African-Americans.

"Women are sick of being voted against," she said.

As an example, Republican women are joining the boards of Planned Parenthood around the state because they want to protect healthcare for other women, she said.

The increased funding for public education is another issue Scherr supports, and she said Democratic senators from around the country are con-

"Senators are looking at Texas as winnable," she said. "People are ready for a change."

Scherr gets "outraged" when she meets people who are still living under the poverty level, so she

supports raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour.

"Instead of addressing those problems, we have senators who shut down the government,"

She wants to implement immigration reform and eliminate the extra hurdles current law creates for the LGBT community. Cornyn, she said, uses scare tactics about border security, something that

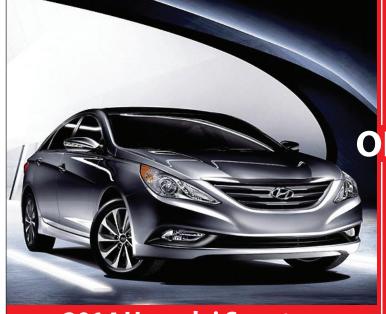
doesn't play well in her hometown of El Paso. The city was also named the safest large U.S. city for the third year in a row by the annual City Crime Rankings by CQ Press and has been in the top three every year since 1997.

Her stand on marriage equality is unequivocal, and she believes that if she's in office, it'll come to Texas sooner rather than later.

"Everyone is ready for it," she said.



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### texasnews

#### ■ ROAD MAP, From Page 9

rection to go on and correct those inequalities in the city's policies."

Resource Center spokesman Rafael McDonnell called the resolution "a step forward" because it allows the city to move forward with inclusive changes with the backing of the council.

"It is a significant step," McDonnell said. "It is a roadmap to accomplish significant change within the city — change that can be accomplished by staff action, as well as change that will have to go before the council."

During Tuesday's committee meeting, Cathryn

Oakley with the Human Rights Campaign explained the organization's Municipal Equality Index and how Dallas could improve its score.

Dallas scored an 81 on last year's second annual MEI, up from a 76 the year before. Oakley, the main author of the MEI, said a few things the city could add this year are equivalent family leave, an ordinance requiring city contractors to offer their employees domestic partner benefits, and trans healthcare, which will be counted as standard points instead of bonus points in the fall's report.

Fort Worth scored an 89 and 91 on the two MEIs. Openly gay Fort Worth Councilman Joel Burns attended the committee meeting to explain how his city responded to the violent anti-gay police raid on the Rainbow Lounge in 2009. The city worked closely with the police department to heal the relationship with the LGBT community, forming a Diversity Task Force and implementing most of its 21 recommendations.

Burns told Dallas Voice he was proud to share his experience on Fort Worth's Council with the committee. He said Kadane's comments about the resolution and nondiscrimination ordinance protecting all citizens instead of focusing on LGBT people show how much those measures

"This is a good reminder in making sure that all citizens are welcomed and protected," he said. "It's unfortunate that we have to have ordinances like this to affect change."

A resolution supporting marriage equality and workplace protections was slated to go before the council last June, but former Councilwoman Delia Jasso withdrew her signature from a memo, which required the measure be considered. Mayor Mike Rawlings then intervened while out of the country to prevent former Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano from adding it back to the agenda in his absence. Since then, advocates and members of the city's LGBT Task Force, chaired by Adam Medrano, have discussed ways to move forward with that resolution.

Over the summer, Councilman Allen asked two openly gay city employees, interim Assistant City Manager Theresa O'Donnell and Assistant City Attorney John Rogers, to make a presentation on equality issues and the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the federal Defense of Marriage Act. Jerry also envisioned a broad statement of support in a resolution before taking on particular issues at City Hall. O'Donnell and Rogers addressed his committee in December and again in January on LGBT issues within the city.

O'Donnell said this week that LGBT advocates have created a "laundry list of about 30 items" to change at the city level to improve Dallas as an employer, a place to visit and an advocate for its citizens. That list includes updating the pensions, adding comprehensive transgender healthcare coverage, an LGBT employee resource group, citywide diversity training and outlining state and federal legislation for the city's lobbyists to sup-

"Those will be a work in progress that I think will take many, many weeks and months to accomplish," O'Donnell said.

While some of the things will be done administratively and others will require council approval, a new position in the city manager's office will help determine the appropriate processes. The city plans to hire an ethics and diversity officer to oversee strategies, training and promote understanding and inclusion. City spokesman Frank Librio said the application for the job closed last week and interviews begin in March.

LGBT Dallasites' recent fight for equality at the city level goes back to 2012 when several protests urged Rawlings to sign a petition for "Mayors for the Freedom to Marry."

Despite coming out in favor of marriage equality personally, Rawlings refused to sign the pledge and later called the resolution last year a "misuse" of the council's time.

Resource Center's McDonnell said the true impact of the new resolution has a much larger scope than the one advocates hoped would pass last year. And none of the progress that's underway now would have happened if Rawlings had signed the pledge two years ago, he said.

"If Mayor Rawlings had signed that pledge two years ago, we might not be here," McDonnell said. "I think this would have short-circuited the outside movement and there wouldn't have been such a sustained push and focus that we need to do something."

To read the resolution, visit Dallas Voice.com.



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# nationalnews

# Ohio couple files lawsuit to overturn state's marriage ban

A couple married in New York in 2012 and together 28 years say they are tired of being treated as second-class citizens

#### AMANDA LEE MYERS | Associated Press

CLEVELAND - A gay married couple has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit asking a judge to overturn Ohio's statewide gay marriage ban because they say it's preventing them and their daughter from enrolling as a family under President Barack Obama's health care law.

Arguments in the lawsuit, filed Tuesday by Al Cowger Jr. and Tony Wesley Jr., mirror recent successful litigation that has led a handful of federal judges to declare statewide gay marriage bans unconstitutional, most recently in Virginia on Feb. 13.

Cowger and Wesley, who've been together for 28 years and live in Gates Mills in suburban Cleveland, married in upstate New York in June 2012 and have a 7-year-old adopted daughter.

"This is the last straw," said Cowger, who also is an attorney and will be arguing the lawsuit before federal Judge Christopher Boyko. "After 28 years, we're just so sick of having to jump through hoops and get around all these restrictions, all the stuff that comes with these prohibitions, to be treated like a family. We're just tired of being given not even a second-class status — a no-class status."

The lawsuit names the state, Republican Gov. John Kasich and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who's also the director of the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Representatives for each declined to comment Wednesday, citing the pending litigation.

The lawsuit is the latest of three seeking the recognition of gay marriage in Ohio. The others are narrower and apply only to the recognition of gay marriages on death and birth certificates and did not seek an overturning of the statewide ban.

For the last 15 years, Cowger and Wesley say they were insured under the same policy, either under employer-provided group insurance or an individual policy in which they were listed as domestic partners.

The couple began trying to sign up for the new health care law in November after their then-insurance company wanted to nearly double the price of their deductibles and premiums, according to the lawsuit.

At first they were unsuccessful because of glitches on HealthCare.gov. Later, Cowger said, he talked to help-desk personnel who would initially tell him in hours-long phone calls that he and Wesley had been approved for a family plan, then later say they didn't qualify because of Ohio's gay marriage ban, passed by voters in 2004.

Joanne Peters, a spokeswoman for the U.S. De-



**COURT CHALLENGE** | Two months after Judge Timothy Seymour Black, above, questioned the constitutionality of Ohio's ban on same-sex marriage, an Ohio couple filed a federal lawsuit to overturn the state's marriage ban. (AP Photo)

partment of Health and Human Services, said in a statement that the agency was "aware that same-sex married couples in some states are experiencing issues in obtaining family plans and is looking into ways to address this issue for the

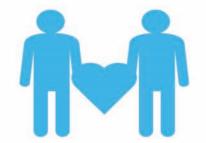
Cowger, 53, said he and Wesley, 57, had no choice but to sign up for individual plans for themselves and their daughter, each subject to individual deductibles and premiums.

The couple wants the federal judge to issue a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against Ohio authorities to recognize them as a family and take any action needed to allow them to sign up for a family plan under the new health care law.

Eventually, the couple wants the judge to declare the state's gay marriage ban unconstitutional and therefore void.

The lawsuit says that throughout their 28 years together, Cowger and Wesley "have continually shared assets and financial obligations, as well as the personal and emotional aspects of persons in a committed relationship, ranging from personal and professional triumphs, to happy and sad family events, to the birth of their daughter."

"Defendants are denying Cowger and Wesley scores of rights afforded to married couples under federal and Ohio law," the lawsuit says.





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The new rules are complex and involve employee benefits, retirement plans, and more. For example, a worker who received employer-paid health coverage for a same-sex spouse previously had to pay federal income tax on the benefits' value. Those benefits are no longer taxable.

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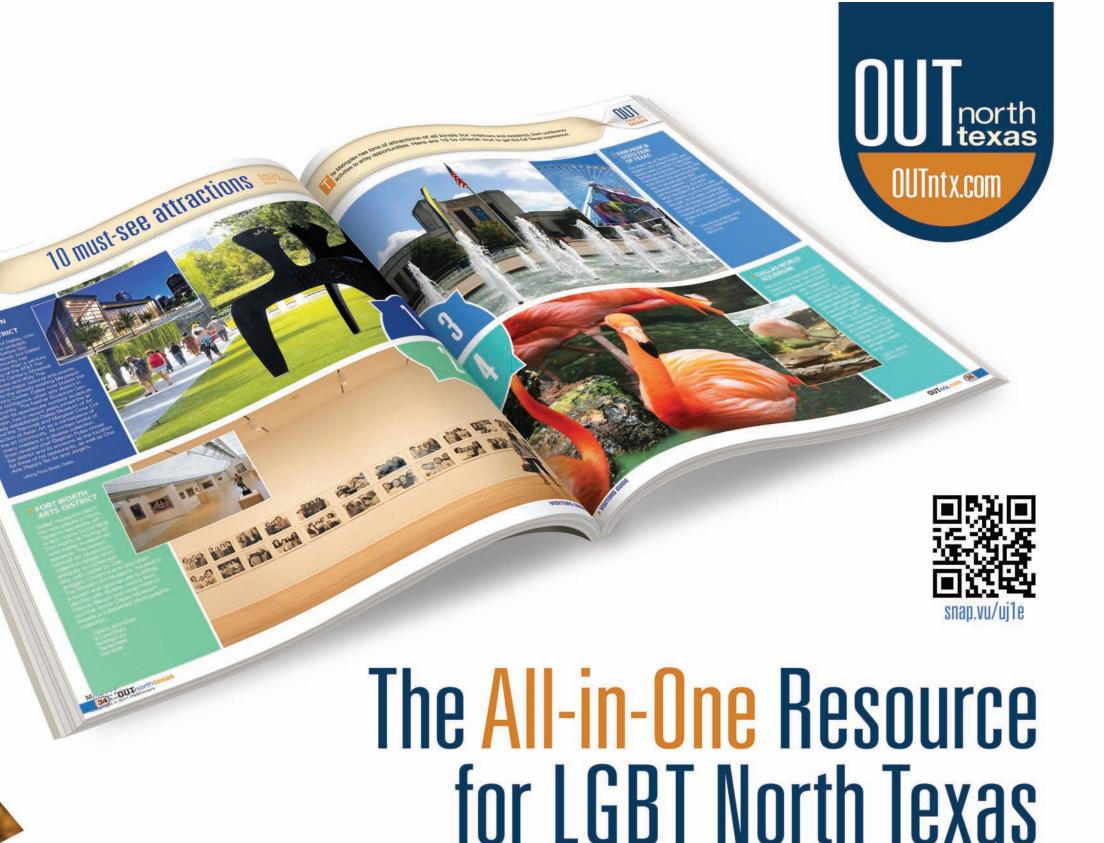




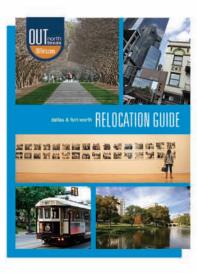


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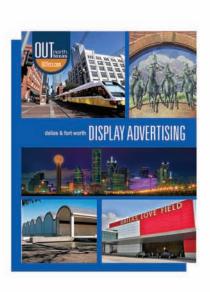


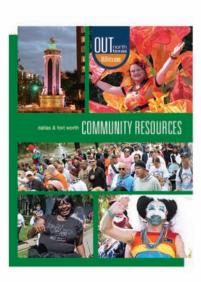


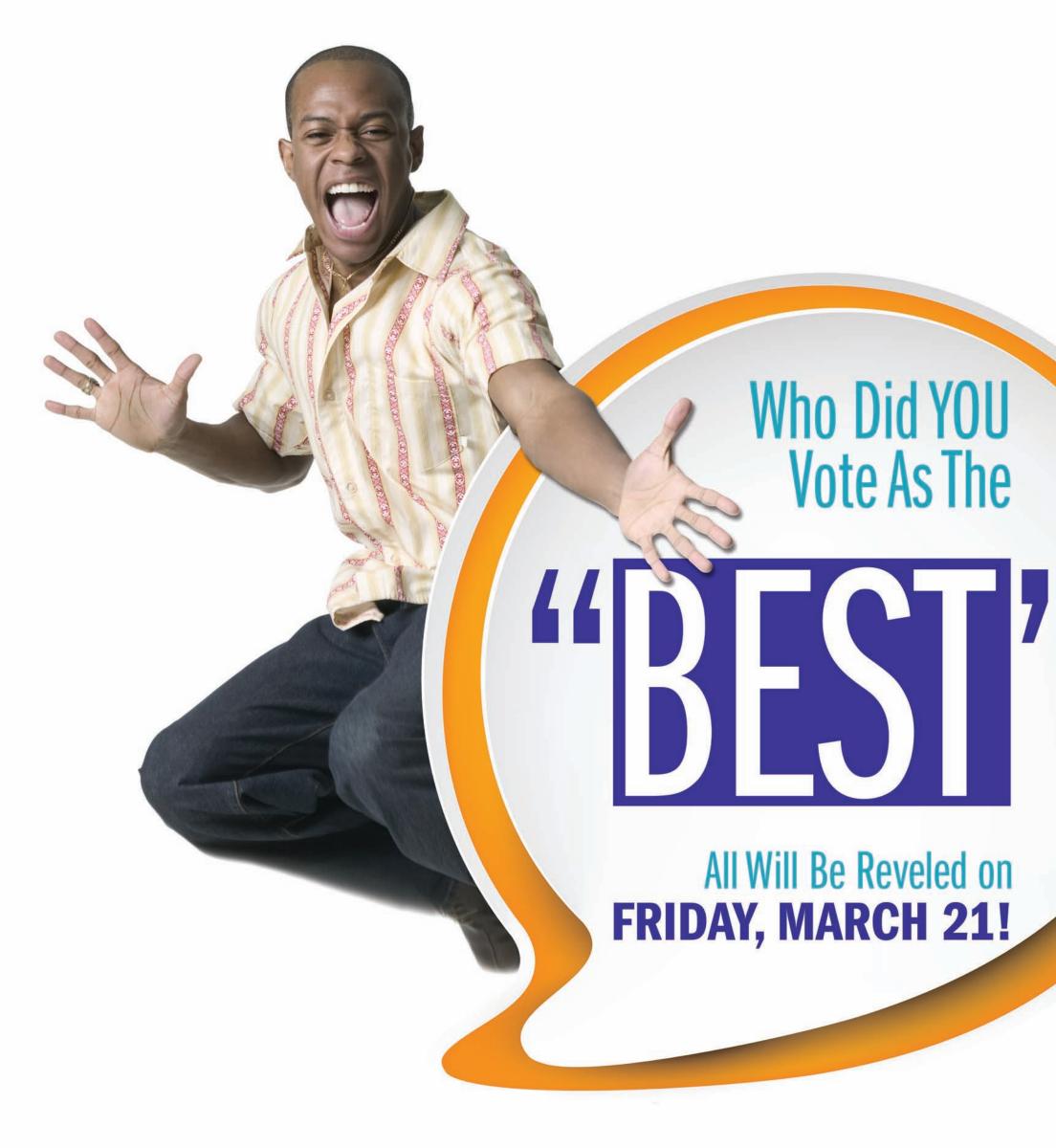














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# Married? You can't file as single

When the IRS decided to recognize all valid same-sex marriages, that meant all married couples must file together, even in Texas

**DAVID TAFFET I Staff Writer** taffet@dallasvoice.com

Lerone Landis and Danny Valle married in Canada six years ago before their daughter was born. Valle has been filing as single and Landis as head of household, claiming their daughter on his

This year, they haven't filed their taxes yet, and Landis said they aren't sure whether they'll file to-

"We're just going to play around with it and see what benefits us," Landis said.

Ron Allen, a CPA, said a number of married couples have come into his office and said they don't want to change anything. They just wanted



Ron Allen

to continue filing as single.

"That's not an option," Allen said.

After the Defense of Marriage Act was declared unconstitutional last June, the IRS ruled that marriages performed in marriage equality states or in countries that issue licenses to same-sex

couples would be recognized as married no matter where they lived. That means all couples who are legally married must file federal taxes as mar-

Couples will have a choice of filing jointly or as married filing separately. Because Texas is not just a community property state, but also a community income state, Allen said most couples will file jointly in Texas. That's because in Texas, the income must be split down the middle to file separately, and the tax rate for married filing separately is the highest rate.

CPA Alan Levi said some couples will pay the so-called marriage penalty filing jointly, but even then the rates will be lower than filing separately.

"Married filing jointly is generally the way to go," Levi said.

Tax law was designed to benefit couples with one main breadwinner and one stay-at-home spouse. If one spouse isn't working or was starting a business and had losses, the couple will benefit when filing jointly. A couple with comparable incomes will probably pay more than they did when they filed as single.

Levi gave another example of the marriage penalty that will be paid by high-income couples.

Under the Affordable Care Act, upper income couples will be paying a new tax beginning this year. A new Medicare tax kicks in on incomes over \$200,000 for singles and \$250,000 for couples.

So a couple earning \$250,000 jointly will pay the new tax while two singles may each earn \$200,000 — a total of \$400,000 — before they're taxed.

Some married couples did lose money in past years when they were prevented from filing

Those couples may file amended tax returns for up to three years. The couple must have been married by the end of the year being amended.

Levi said amended returns for 2010 must be filed by April 15. Only couples who will receive a refund should file an amendment. There's no requirement to do so.

Allen said he's already done a number of amended returns and said they can be tricky. He advised couples who might qualify to seek out a CPA who is experienced in same-sex marriage.

While there's no rule about who will qualify for a refund, he said couples with a big variance in income, those with capital net operating losses carried forward or those where one spouse had capital gains and the other capital losses are those ones who benefited.

The rules apply only to those who are legally married, not to couples who like to refer to a partner as husband or wife and didn't travel out of state to obtain a legal marriage license.

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# Young, gay and poor but not for long

As people finish college and wade through student loan debt, financial advisers caution them about waiting too late to save for the future

ANNA WAUGH I News Editor waugh@dallasvoice.com

ADDISON — Joanna Bernal has often thought about putting money aside for her golden years, but the money for retirement hasn't always been available.

Bernal, 27, currently attends an MBA program at Texas Women's University and works as a pharmaceutical contract analyst. Her undergrad student loan debt is \$80,000 from her time at Texas Christian University.

While her education at TCU was paid through financial aid and student loans, she said the price for TWU isn't nearly as bad with mostly grant money funding her

As for retirement, Bernal has some money in a 401K from a previous job she plans to eventually move into an IRA.

"That's my starter point," she said. "And trying to add to it as Austin Green much as possible."

She said she'll likely add to the fund once a year. She also has a regular savings account, but like many young people, she uses it for emergencies instead of for future planning.

"I'm always having to pull out for emergencies, so it's more of an emergency savings than a retirement savings," Bernal said.

Another cost-effective measure Bernal plans on doing is consolidating her student loans for a lower interest rate. But for many people her age, she plans on working for several more decades, so it's hard to think about retirement.

"I plan on working for a really long time," she said. "It'd be nice to have some sort of savings or nest egg. Right now I'm really trying to focus on building equity."

Part of building that equity is owning something, which Bernal hopes to do sometime this year by purchasing a condo.

Dallas-based financial adviser Carol Meyer with Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management said people should start planning for retirement once



they're done with college. While some graduates are bogged down with student loans, Meyer said people should pay themselves first by paying bills and investing in themselves, either with an IRA or utilizing a 401K at work with a company match.

"That's free money," she said about a 401K

For people without a 401K option, Meyer suggests they open a Roth IRA, like Bernal plans on doing, in which people under 50 can put up to \$5,000 a year into it without the funds being

As for being young, in debt or not making enough to invest in retirement, Meyer said she doesn't let people get by with those excuses. She said people need to take the \$5 they spend weekly on something they want, like Starbucks, and put that \$20 a month into a retirement account. Basically, it comes down to identifying and planning for needs and wants.

**■ POOR,** Next Page

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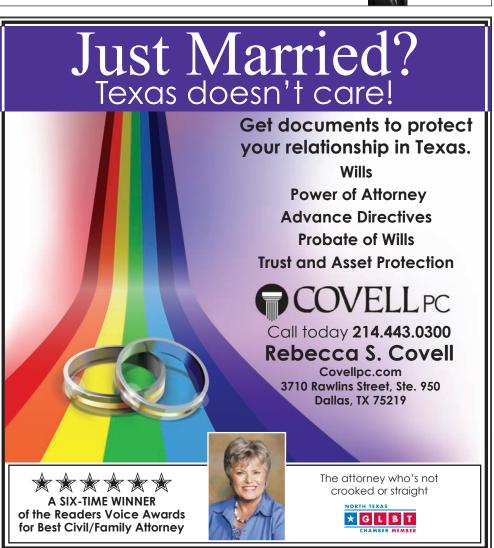
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## coverstory

#### ■ ACTIVISM, From Page 6

of the book "How the Religious Right Shaped Lesbian and Gay Activism" that Bryant, using Christian rhetoric and mobilizing church networks, staged campaigns across the country to pass antigay legislation or overturn existing protections to LGBT citizens. But gay and lesbian organizations responded to those moves by mobilizing against the campaigns.

"The lesbian and gay movement in New York City could have been intimidated by the anti-gay efforts or ignored them altogether," book author Tina Fetner wrote. "Rather than choose either of these reactions, a number of social movement organizations decided that Bryant's activism presented an opportunity to make significant advances in lesbian and gay rights and stepped up their activism significantly...."

In the past months, the United Methodist Church has been embroiled in controversy as it publicly tried one of its pastors, the Rev. Frank Schaefer, for officiating his son's marriage. However, the controversy in the Methodist church isn't new. What is new is that it went public.

"My sense is that the majority of the [Methodist] church backs the activists who are in favor of gay rights, but they have been shut out politically," said Dr. Robert Hunt, professor of Christian Mission and Interreligious Relations at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. "They're frustrated that they don't have a voice, and they are going to turn to other means."

Hunt said one tool disgruntled Methodists will use is not to submit to the authority of the church, as Schaefer did.

"They're saying, 'We're going to test the will of the church. We're going to come out in the public forum to see who is with us.' It's going to be disruptive, and that's what activists want. They want to disrupt because that makes people think."

Methodist ministers who support same-sex marriage are threatening to officiate the weddings and choke the church's judicial system. Another bishop, Hunt said, has taken an adversarial position against the activists, saying he will suspend all ministers who officiate same-sex weddings, regardless of the financial and emotional strain it will have on the church.

Today, at Oak Lawn United Methodist, Senior Pastor Dr. Anna Hosemann-Butler supervises an LGBT-inclusive church, far removed from the position the church took 20 years ago. The church welcomes LGBT members and participates in Pride. Hosemann-Butler rode on a float in the 2013 parade, and the church opened its doors to the community, offering the use of its facilities.

"Later, as the parade was winding down, I started to clean up our grounds and one of the young women who was sitting on the grass said, 'Oh, no. We'll clean up. You don't have to do that," Hosemann-Butler said. "All of us then talked and started picking up things. Then that young woman said, 'Thank you for not giving up on us.' That just tore into my heart because it meant someone in the past had given up on her."

As activists continue to change religion, a question could be raised that asks how will churches incorporate new philosophies into what has been homophobic teachings.

homophobic teachings.

"It's not so difficult," Hunt said. "Look at the Baptists and divorce. Until about 1985, most Baptist ministers wouldn't officiate a second marriage because their interpretation of Scripture was clear on the matter. When we decided that divorced people needed to remarry, they figured out how to make Scripture fit reality. Our interpretation of Scripture can be flexible."

To Jones, that is obvious. His family now has three television sets when they once didn't own any. His sisters wear makeup when they once didn't dare.

"Activism has changed religion for the better, and not just for gays," he said. "The activists have ripped off the mask of moral authority the churches were used to wearing, and we saw the hate that was beneath it. That was what was driving their fight against us. My parents' home is such a better place now. Because of the activists, our churches will be a better place, too."

#### ■ POOR, From Previous Page

"The discipline of investing on a regular basis no matter what amount is where they need to begin," Meyer said. "People will spend money on things they possibly don't need."

After an IRA and 401K, Meyer said an ETF, or exchange trade fund, is a good option for younger people because it allows them to invest small amounts of money.

Meyer works primarily with financial planning for the LGBT community. And while the planning strategies for LGBT people are different with costs associated with family planning to legal protections, she said the most important thing for everyone is to start putting money away.

"The planning needs are certainly a little bit different, but whether you're a heterosexual or a gay person, you should begin saving as much as you can," she said.

TCU student Austin Green knows all about saving for retirement.

Green, 19, is a biochemistry major whose grandparents are funding his undergrad educa-

tion. His parents, who both retired young, plan to pay for him to attend pharmacy school after TCU.

Without any student loans, Green said he's often thought about his future because his mother retired in her 40s and his father later followed in his 50s.

"So my dad gave me the 401K 101 class," Green jokes. "He's making sure [financial planning is] intentional with me to make sure I can retire early if I want to "

Right now, Green envisions himself working until he's 60. He's maintaining a savings account and plans to open a brokerage account soon.

Green is the only one of his friends who has thought about financial planning, and he attributes that to his parents' example, something he's grateful for.

"I feel like it's not really in our scope of thought right now," he said about college-aged people and retirement. "We're thinking about the immediate future and a step or two after that, but a step or two after that is just our early career. The only reason I've thought about it because my parents were retiring in my high school years."



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# viewpoints

# **Gay discrimination laws: Bring it on**

Several state Legislatures are trying to pass anti-gay legislation that would give bigots the right to discriminate based on their religious

he Arizona Senate passed a bill this week to allow businesses to refuse to serve gays and lesbians based on owners' "sincerely held" religious beliefs.

Supporters said the bill isn't about discrimination but about preventing discrimination against people who are living their faith.

Similar bills in Kansas, Tennessee and Idaho are floating around their Legislatures, too.

Last week, the Kansas House passed a bill offering legal protections to individuals and businesses that refuse service to gays and lesbians. That bill goes so far as to allow government workers to refuse service based on their religious beliefs.

So, a firefighter could refuse to put out a blaze if he thought the homeowner was gay or an EMT could decide not to save a lesbian's life, all in the name of deeply held religious beliefs.

The sponsor again believes he's protecting religious people from discrimination by gays.

How do I feel about these laws?

I say, bring it on.

The resulting U.S. Supreme Court's decision striking down these clearly unconstitutional laws will give the LGBT community more rights than those moral con artists ever thought of taking away.

When word got out about what was going on in the Kansas Legislature, the president of the Senate announced that a majority of Republicans would not support the bill as written, and the House version wouldn't go to the Senate floor.

Well perhaps not that version of discrimination, but another version will.

Bring it on.

The Tennessee bill focuses on wedding vendors, allowing them to deny service to same-sex couples having a ceremony. I never understood why a cou-

ple would want homophobic religious extremists to profit off their weddings and turn the event into something miserable.

But even this legislated discrimination is unconstitutional. Imagine that same law allowing white florists to refuse to provide flowers to a black couple marrying. Or a Catholic baker to refuse to provide a cake for a Baptist wedding. Or anyone refusing to rent a hall to a disabled couple.

So, bring it on.

Idaho's proposed legislation was the best.

That state's new measure would allow teachers to throw gay students out of class. Stores, theaters, a police station or doctors could put up a "No gays allowed" sign.

Doctors? Doesn't the American Medical Association require nondiscriminatory treatment of patients under threat of losing his or her license? Well, this bill takes care of that.

And how about those pesky nondiscrimination laws already passed by Idaho municipalities? This law takes care of them as well.

Bring it on.

**David Taffet** 

Staff Writer

Where does that law stand? Enough people in Idaho expressed such outrage that its sponsor withdrew the measure with a face-saving statement of reserving a right to re-introduce the measure

Awww.

These laws don't just violate the recent Windsor decision that struck down the Defense of Marriage Act or even Lawrence v. Texas that struck down the sodomy laws. These laws violate Romer v. Evans, the first pro-LGBT decision issued in 1996 that

struck down a Colorado state constitutional amendment, preventing cities from passing nondiscrimination ordinances offering protection based on sexual orientation. The ruling stated those laws didn't pass the rational basis test under the Equal Protection Clause.

These laws are a desperate, last-ditch attempt to stop same-sex marriage in those states.

Since December, federal judges in Ohio, Utah, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Virginia have ruled those state's marriage bans unconstitutional and the opposition has run out of any rational or legal argument against marriage equality.

Four couples sued Idaho this week for the right to marry, asking the judge to make a ruling without a trial based on recent federal court rulings elsewhere. Hence the proposed anti-gay legislation.

Four couples sued Arizona in January challenging Arizona's definition of marriage as only between one man and one woman.

Hence the new legislation.

In Tennessee, four couples sued the state for marriage equality in October.

At least that state's legislation only addresses the impending marriages that might begin before the end of this year, if the courts don't delay the suit.

So as these laws have suddenly cropped up, why haven't we heard anything from the crazies in Texas trying to pass bigoted, unconstitutional laws?

Because in Texas, our Legislature isn't in session and won't be this year, unless Gov. Rick Perry sees the impending danger of same-sex marriage and calls a special session.

Would a special session of the Texas Legislature actually pass such a law?

I say bring it on.

The Supreme Court decision striking down these laws will implement employment nondiscrimination as well as marriage equality nationwide. Sexual orientation and gender identity will be added as categories that receive heightened scrutiny.

And those people who would like to continue to discriminate within their own churches will be perfectly free to do so. But as much as I dislike these people, I won't be able to discriminate against them in public accommodation or jobs any more than they will be allowed to discriminate against me.

David Taffet is a staff writer at Dallas Voice. He can be reached at taffet@dallasvoice.com





# LIFE+STYLE community

# Before he was notorious drag queen Alyssa Edwards, Justin Johnson was just a gay kid from

J. DENTON BRICKER | Contributing Writer dentonbricker@gmail.com

hen he thinks about it, Justin Johnson says it all started with Little League Baseball.

Growing up in Mesquite, Johnson played his heart out during games with the singular hope that, if he played well enough, his father would allow him to attend jazz-dance class as reward. Athletics was just a means to an end for the little gay boy.

"My dad was bound and determined to make me an all-American little boy," says Johnson now. "My four sisters did drill team, and I would do their numbers on the sidelines. It humiliated him, but I wasn't able to distinguish between a girl sport and a boy sport. Growing up in Mesquite, my parents were uneducated about a lot of things."

Dance did eventually become a career for Johnson — especially once he donned a dress and renamed himself Alyssa Edwards, one of Dal-**RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE** las' reigning queens and a contestant on last season's Ru

Paul's Drag Race. (The new season launches Monday.) Johnson (aka Edwards) attributed his grandmother as serving as his saving grace. She would whisk Johnson away to her house

cluding a pageant queen, dressed appropriately in a nightgown and high heels. "I love that because, in a way, she made up for not being as attentive to my uncle when he was younger, who is also gay. Now my father is also getting to do the same thing

through his relationship with my nephew,

where he could be anything he wanted, in-

and it is a wonderful thing," Johnson says. Johnson's relationship with his father became a flashpoint on his season on Drag Race; the two had become estranged, but during the filming, the senior Johnson surprised his son with a video stating how supportive he was, and proud to have a gay son. It became one of the most tearful moments in the history of the show.

Season premiere

Logo, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m.

It was a long-time coming, as Johnson has been in the arts since his earliest years. In his teens, Johnson began to teach and choreograph dance at a local studio with an old and ailing owner. The landlord approached him during a rehearsal break, said he had seen his interactions with the children, and asked if he would be interesting in picking up the lease. Before he could answer, a student's mother answered for him.

Mesquite with a love of dance

"I said that there is no way this could even be an option, but she encouraged me," he says. "[She pointed out] that the studio was already established and made an insistent offer to pay the first month's rent. She paid it, and that is how Beyond Belief Dance Company came about."

After showing a clip of the Trevor Project

to a studio full of his students, Johnson decided he was going to choreograph a piece set to these videos and the effect was enthralling and uplifting.

"For a child to convey a story without words from someone else's brain is difficult. The younger kids aren't always intuitive enough to understand it all either," he says.

Six years later, Johnson and a group of students from BBDC finished in the top 25 of America's Got Talent, his studio was named one of the top 10 studios in the South, and his Trevor Project piece received high industry awards and acclaim. Johnson says his happiest days are spent teaching in the studio as evident by his company's continued

"I think dance saved me, but drag has given me the opportunity to find who I really am," he says.

After attending his first drag show at Station 4, Johnson found himself utterly fascinated by the glitz and glamour of the

queens. Having some experience with makeup from working at Glamour Shots, he decided to transform into Alyssa (named after actress Milano) to compete at the Rose Room amateur night ... and won.

"I had to come back the next week as a special entertainer after winning. I worked the show with the late, God bless her soul, Sahara Davenport, and we became sisters. Those were the days," he says.

Within a few years, Alyssa Edwards rose through the ranks due to his looks, personal-



# The Wait is Over, Kittens.





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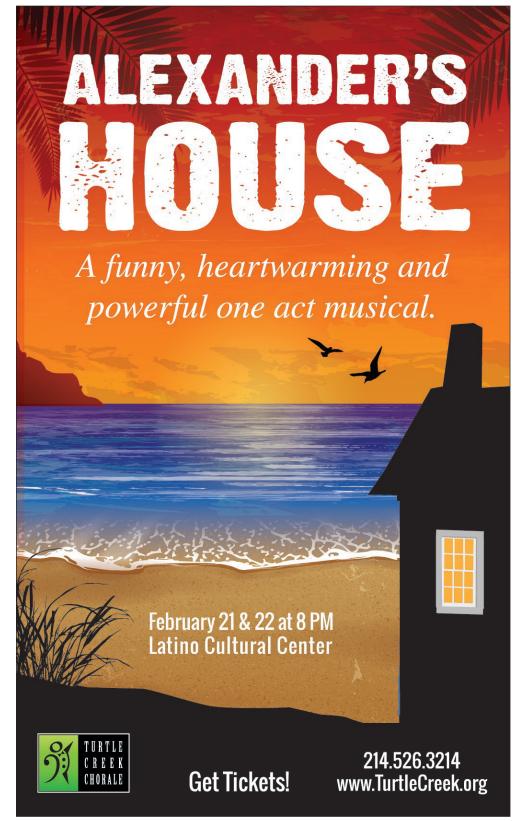
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#### community



■ DANCE From Page 22

ity, wise drag "parents" and extraordinary dancing talent. Alyssa won crown after crown, including Miss Gay Texas America, Miss Gay USA, and eventually Miss Gay America (which, as any *Drag Race* watcher knows, he ultimately had to relinquish).

"This is when you know what you're doing is what you're supposed to be doing," Johnson says.

Encouraged by drag daughter Shangela and friend Alexis Mateo to audition, Johnson thinks that his initial reluctance to talk about losing the Miss Gay America title cost him making the Season 4 cut beyond the top 20 on *Drag Race*. It was only when he finally opened up about the issue during the Season 5 auditions, he landed himself on the show across from Coco Montrese, the alternate queen who had stepped up to take the title.

"You have to have fun with it, and you just can't take it all too seriously. You have to laugh a little at yourself," he says. "That is something that I learned from Jinx Monsoon, that I don't have to be perfect all the time."

Johnson describes the long and intensive filming process and how producers pick through the day to glean plenty of "T and shade."

"When you see someone on television in a series like *Drag Race*, you think you have an idea of what someone would be like. But it is very difficult to judge someone based from an hour of TV. We filmed 14 hours a day, and you to take into consideration that they're making TV; they want the dish," Johnson says.

Season 5 "revolutionized" reality television as it broke rating records with audience highs throughout the season. Though Alyssa Edwards only finished sixth, don't count her out just yet. Squirrels were abuzz after Johnson appeared as RuPaul's delicious date at the MTV Movie Awards, and Ru announced he was executive producer on an upcoming new television series featuring Alyssa Edwards.

"I can tell you this," says Johnson conspiratorially, "expect the unexpected. It will be a dance reality series [focused on Johnson's dance studio and his role as artistic director]. Think a combination of *Dance Moms, Dancing with the Stars, So You Think You Can Dance, America's Best Dance Group*, and maybe a little bit of Honey Boo Boo *a la* Mesquite."

This series would sashay into uncharted territory of dance and drag on reality television.

"We've filmed very little but that little is a lot." He laughs.

# Revenge, Texas-style

'Dallas' returns — without Hagman, but chock full of juicy back-stabbing



**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES I** Life+Style Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

There's bound to be a lot of channel clicking in North Texas come Monday night, as *RuPaul's Drag Race* on Logo and TNT's reboot of *Dallas* both return for their season premieres — *Ru's* sixth, *Dallas'* third. Then again, that's what DVRs, and rebroadcasts, were designed for.

It's sad you'd even have to make a choice, as both appeal to a similar demographic: Those on the prowl for juicy scandal and shade-throwing bitchiness. And all due respect to the queens, but they got nothin' on those Texas Ewings.

Dallas was always the king of the nighttime soaps, a potboiler that set the standard, if not the high-bar, from trash TV, which its back-stabbing,

conniving, sex, violence and oil — both the kind you dig for underground at the kind you rub all over men in bed. Ooh-la-la. RuPaul has the race, but *Dallas* has the racy.

That's apparent during the opening scene of the season premiere, where John Ross (Josh Henderson) — equally evil son to the late, not-sogreat J.R. (Larry Hagman, who died midway through filming of Season 2) — steps on screen as ripped and slimy as a serpent, but with sultry bedroom eyes that could meld gold. He's a transparently devious fella, but it's so hard to concentrate when he's talking and his shirt is off. That must be what distracts everyone from his cousin Christopher (Jesse Metcalfe, bearded and butch), son of Bobby Ewing (Patrick Duffy) and even his mom Sue Ellen (Linda Gray, off the wagon again). When John Ross' lips are moving, he's lying, but damn if you don't like looking at those lips.

That's the appeal of Dallas, of course — al-

ways has been: Pretty people doing ugly things that, no matter how preposterous, are as addictive as popcorn. The plotting has never been more outrageous, and most of the time depends on short attention spans. Everyone is continually willing to forgive everyone else, no matter how egregious the transgression. Ellen (Jordana Brewster) betrays Christopher? No prob — one insincere apology later, and he's turned over the keys to the safe to her, even though she's now in the pocket of Cliff Barnes (Ken Kercheval). John Ross tries to destroy you — and is still trying — no worries, we can still work together. Just as long as we stare down each other menacingly before the commercial break.

Having just concluded a 13-episode marathon of Season 2 of *House of Cards*, in which a man

schemes to usurp the White House from under the American people (and will commit murder to do it), it's difficult to take faking a land survey in order to frack on Southfork *too* seriously, but there

you have it. This isn't lofty television, but it is damned entertaining.

Part of that appeal derives from the dialogue, which cannier than the plotting and character development. There are knowledgeable references to Dallas geography (half the fun is playing Spot the Landmark), pop culture (jokes about Duck Dynasty) and Texas life (an understanding of the prominence of barbecue feels more lived-in that most shows set in the state). So what if we have a new, evil character who does everything shy of twirling a moustache and laying a damsel on the train tracks? There's enough laying of another kind to make up for it. And John Ross' eyes. Remind me to give him my debit and PIN. I'm sure he'll be responsible with it. You can just tell he really likes me.

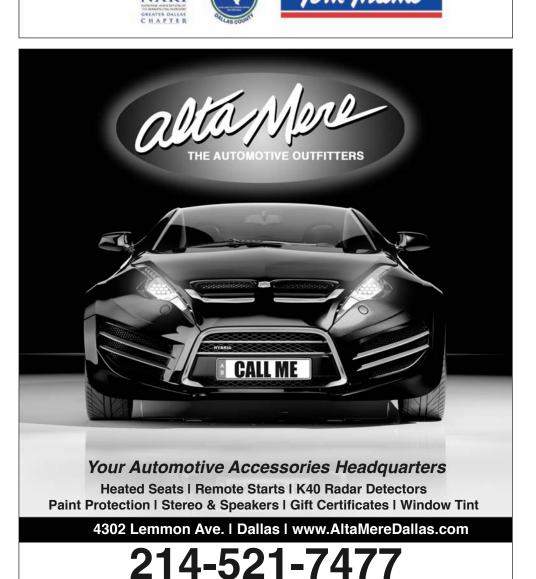
**BATTLE OF THE BOYS** | Josh Henderson and Jesse Metcalfe provide the man-candy and the emoting in 'Dallas,' a trash-wallow that's nevertheless irresistible.

**DALLAS** 

Season premiere

TNT, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m.









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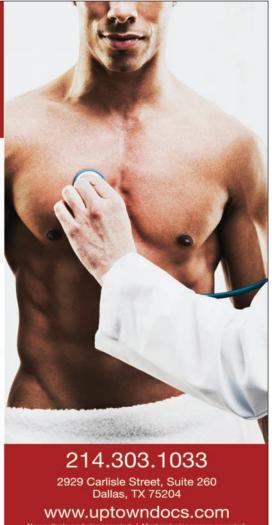
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**UPTOWN PHYSICIANS** 

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**L+S** | fine art

# Child's play

Out artist Daniel Padilla turns his kinetic art and a craft for kids and adults

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

he first major job Daniel Padilla had after graduating from college was as an art teacher at a high school for at-risk students in Houston. It was an instant culture

"I was brought up in a small town, and everybody pretty much graduated," he says, a bit of surprise still lingering. "I was 23, and my students were up to 20 years old."

Padilla didn't keep the job for long — just a few years — but one of his takeaways from the experience was realizing how important it is for young people to be exposed to, and practice, art. Any kind.

That was a while back, and in the interim, Padilla has carved out a new career as a fulltime professional artist; his colorful abstract paintings dot his Oak Cliff studio and gallery where he's been in residence for six years some paint and canvas, but some more like metallic sculptures. And that's where the idea for Twuzzles came in.

A few years ago, Padilla's sister, who teaches art at a public school in South Texas, was lamenting to her brother that her job might be cut. "And I immediately thought, 'What will creative children do without an outlet to express themselves?'

That's how Twuzzles were born.

Padilla become obsessed with how to get young people — and creative-minded adults into the practice of plying their artistic skills in concrete ways. It's one thing to suggest they go to Michael's and buy art supplies; it's another to give them all the tools to get done in one fell swoop.

Padilla, working with his own suppliers and a few business partners, spent two years developing Twuzzles, a kit that unites painting, sculpture and creativity into a small box.

"They are based on my own art, because I do multi-panel paintings, which are very heavy and take lots of work — it takes four or five people to move one piece. But I loved the idea, and I was thinking how to do something commercial — I don't wanna do throw pillows with my art on them."

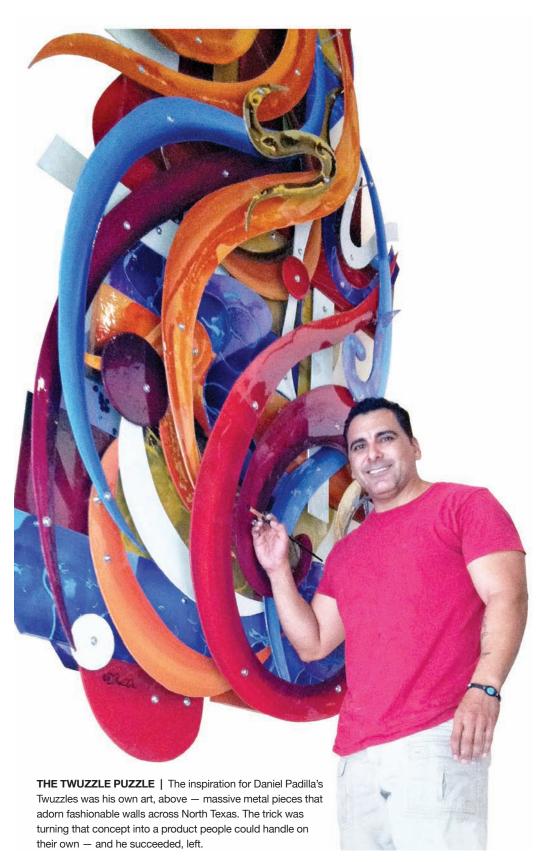
The process was far more intricate than he imagined: How do you manufacture pieces that have strength but are lightweight? That has a surface to which paint can adhere? That are mountable but modular and changeable? He experimented with wood and metal, but it turned out the simplest thing was the best: Foam board.

"We went through about six different prototypes. We wanted layers and a system that works whether you have a form there or not," he explains. ("Twuzzle" is a portmanteau word combining "twist" and "puzzle.")

The process is deceptively simple, but with endless creative possibilities: The kit includes a black foam core base with several pre-set holes, some unusually shaped white foam forms and plastic connecting rods. The user merely mounts the forms in whatever combination speaks to him or her, building a variety of levels and shapes. There is no right or wrong, just what looks right. Eventually, you'll know you're where you need to be, Padilla says.

"It's an a-ha moment," he says. "You work with the pieces, and don't know what you're going to get, and suddenly it's your work."





Padilla says a lot of folks like the minimalism of the white forms on the black base, but each kit includes a collection of acrylic paints and a brush. The pieces can be un-mounted, painted a variety of colors and assembled. And you can even paint over them and reverse them if you want to start over. ("When something I'm painting's not working for me, I paint over it. You can do the same thing with this," he says.) Or leave it plain, hang it on the wall and say, "I did that."

The product launched in November, and already Padilla has been surprised by the depth of interest in it.

"Over the holidays, people were buying four, five, six at a time to give their nieces and nephews, and then coming back to get them for

themselves," he says. "That's a really good indication"

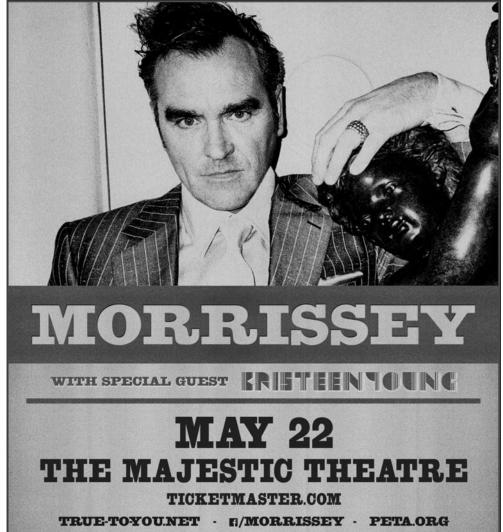
And it's not just at Padilla's gallery and website where people are seeking them out — other galleries, and even museum gift shops have expressed an interest in Twuzzles.

"We've even met with the [Dallas Museum of Art] — they love the piece," he says.

As an artist by nature, the branding and marketing is new to Padilla, but also exciting.

"The commercial side of art is new to me," he admits. "It's very competitive. But I know this product is amazing and so do a lot of people, so that tells me it's gonna do well."

Available at Twuzzles.com, for \$39.95. Also visit DanielPadillaGallery.com.







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**L+S** comedy



Comedian Dana Goldberg's latest album, Crossing the Line, recorded this past year in Seattle, kicks off with the rumble of an unusually rowdy crowd that sounds pretty fearless about making its presence known. It sounds a bit like an audience about to spiral out of control, but

Goldberg nips the situation in the bud, and, in fact, turns it around. The issue is a chatty couple, most likely a bit under the influence, one of whom challenges Goldberg with a slurry "I got jokes!"

Goldberg: "What do you do for a living, jokester?"

Woman: "She's my Allstate agent!"
Goldberg: "Best name for a lesbian insurance agent ever!"

The improvised line is a hit, and Goldberg uses the interaction as way to connect with her

audience. She continues to reel them back in, and after that, they are putty in her hands.

And that's when a comedy routine becomes a

"I was a bartender for 11 years," Goldberg says during a phone interview, "so when people

have had a little bit too much to drink and they yell something out sometimes, they pitch the softball — sorry about the lesbian term — and I hit it out of the park. So I don't mind it."

Goldberg hits it out of the park a lot. She's the Miguel Cabrera of

lesbo comedy, and her handling of the Seattle situation is very much emblematic of her comedy: There's a definite edge there, to be sure, but it's smart and not mean-spirited. It is — and this is an odd term to describe standup comedy — compassionate.

**A STANDUP STANDUP** | Dana Goldberg's quick wit and did-she-just-go-there? style of comedy has made her one of the most sought-after comics in the country. But she's still coasting on the time Barack Obama 'opened' for her.

**DANA GOLDBERG** 

Vixin Lounge at Sue Ellen's,

3014 Throckmorton St. Feb. 21.

That's pretty much what patrons can expect from her show at Sue Ellen's Friday. "My comedy is edgy, but it's smart so it's for that kind of crowd that doesn't go for drug and dick jokes," Goldberg says. "I mean, there are times when I definitely cross a line, when people say, 'Did she just say that shit?' I get up there I don't worry about what people are going to think of me. There's some political, some relationship stuff. But it's smart."

Goldberg started telling jokes at a young age, but it took some time for the comedy bug to fully sink its fangs in. It all began in that place that's so welcoming to comics: high school.

"I won a high school talent contest," says Goldberg, who grew up in Albuquerque. "For some reason, I thought it would be a good idea to do a standup comedy routine. I was telling jokes about my ex-boyfriends and why things didn't work out, and I was wearing a buttondown shirt, jeans and a tie! Years later, I took the tape [of the show] to get digitized, and the guy there said, 'Yeah, you couldn't have been gayer unless you were wearing a softball glove and a jersey."

After that, several years passed, during which Goldberg took up the aforementioned bartending stint, simultaneously "getting my degree in physical education, because it's the [lesbian] law."

But it was when Goldberg was asked to participate in a charity event called Funny Lesbians for Change that things coalesced for her.

"I went and auditioned, and they gave me a seven-minute set. And it was in front of 650 in a sold-out theater," she says. "I could see my heart beating through my shirt, and I didn't even touch the microphone, my hands were shaking so bad. And then I hit my first joke and heard the most deafening noise, like laughter I had never heard before, and I was like, 'OK, this is it.'"

Five years later, she had worked her way up the comedy ladder, and she found herself as the auctioneer at the Human Rights Campaign gala's live auction ... performing just minutes after then president-elect Obama had spoken, and just before Lady Gaga topped off the night with a performance. When I mention that in essence, President Obama opened for her, Goldberg laughs.

"Now you sound like my mom," she jokes. "She says Obama opened for me, and that I opened for Lady Gaga. That was a very surreal night."

No more surreal, probably, than fending off loud Allstate agents. But that brings us back to the almost gentleness with which Goldberg approaches, paradoxically, her edginess. It's noticeable that she infuses her routine with some political themes, but eschews being didactic about it.

"One of the ways that you can break down barriers between people is through laughter," she says. "If you can find a way to relate to another human being and they can see themselves in your comedy, that's why they laugh. I don't know how many staunch Republicans are going to come to my shows. Maybe they buy a Groupon or something and don't know what

they're coming to. And I may say something that makes them think."

Even if they don't think, they definitely will laugh. Goldberg is one of the top comics in the country right now, and she's also — if you'll excuse the pun — a standup person.

"I get to bring joy to people. Maybe everything's shitty or they had a bad day or they are dealing with an illness, and for an hour or two they get to stop thinking about it," she says. "They get to laugh and feel joy, and they may actually feel better leaving my show than when they came in. That's why I do what I do. And I love it."





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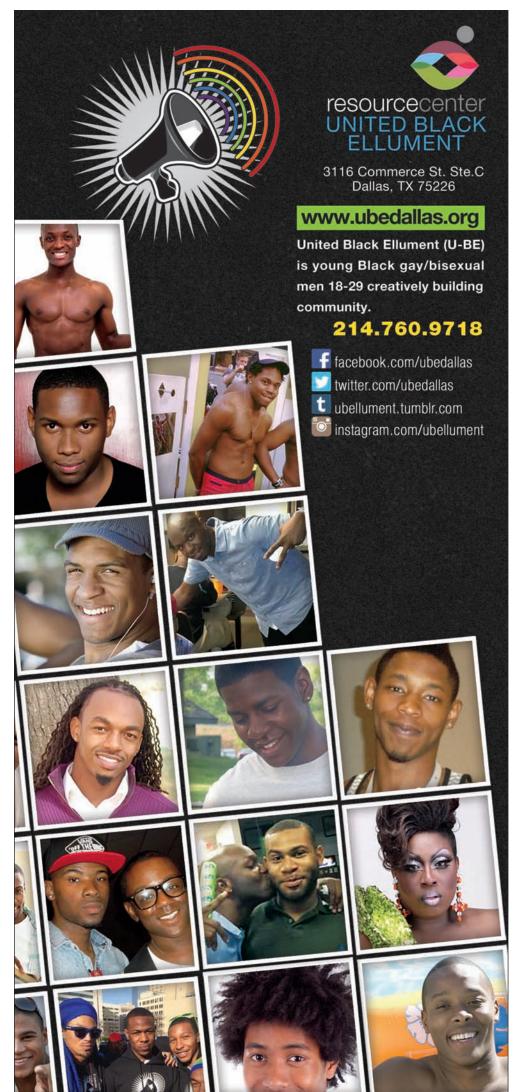




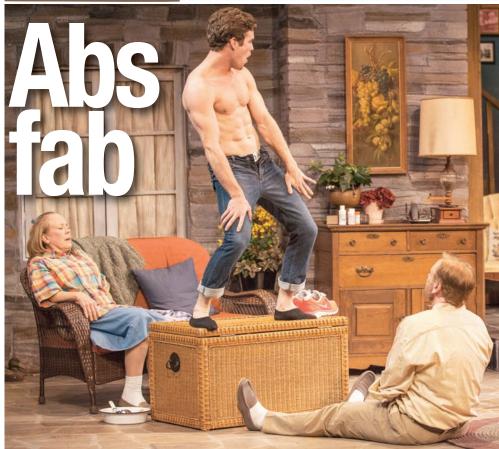
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**L+S** stage



Sexy, funny, profound 'Vanya;' something fishy at Fair Park; bad 'Hat,' Harry

### **ARNOLD WAYNE JONES I** Life+Style Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

Vanya (Bob Hess) and his sister Sonia (Wendy Welch) have been living lives of quiet desperation on their version of Walden Pond, a remote lake house in Bucks County, Penn. Now in their 50s, they spend most of their middle ages caring for elderly parents while a third sibling, Masha (Diana Sheehan), became a famous but not especially talented actress.

If the plot sounds like something out of Chekhov — or perhaps Neil Simon — it should. In **Vanya** and **Sonia** and **Masha** and **Spike**, playwright Christopher Durang throws buckets of arcane cultural, literary and theatrical spaghetti against the wall, and almost all of it sticks, including jokes about Moliere, Aeschylus, *Entourage*, Walt Disney, social media, good manners and the meaning of life.

It's through the latter category that the play's existential kernel is smuggled in, hidden under the guise of comic absurdism on its way to a profound dissection of the modern life.

That may sound lofty for a play that, at its core, looks very much like a sex farce. Vanya is a repressed gay man, who has never bothered to mention his orientation to his sisters. When Masha visits with her 20something boy-toy — a brain-dead, virile aspiring actor named Spike (Evan Fentriss) — she intends to lord her conquest over her jealous sister Sonia, but it's Vanya whose libido goes into overdrive. Throw in neighborhood ingénue Nina (Julia Golder), whose effortless youth makes Masha feel every one of her wrinkles (she's knocked the better part of a decade off her official resume, Hollywood-style), and you have a stew that simmers

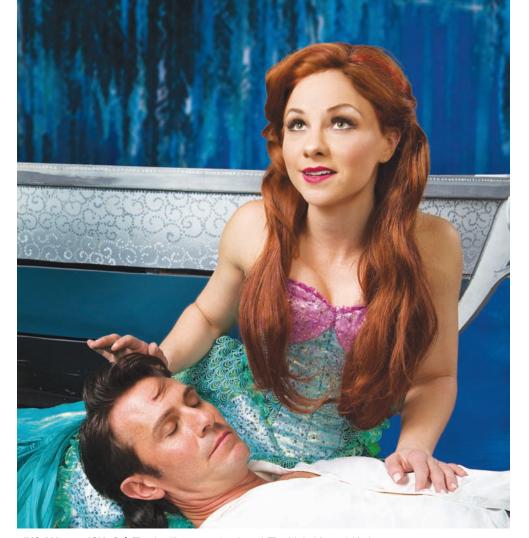
over an eventful weekend.

Durang has always specialized in intellectualism packaged around witty one-liners — *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* and *Beyond Therapy* (about Roman Catholic catechism and psychiatry, respectively) are his best-known works — but *Vanya* is his masterpiece: Cutting, crazy, beautiful and humane.

Of course, writing this good is half the battle, but even a good play can be ruined by a bad cast or flavorless direction; luckily, Uptown Players, which is presenting this regional premiere, have assembled a flawless creative team — it is, quite simply, one of the finest productions the company has ever mounted, and one of the best plays Dallas has seen in a decade. Director B.J. Cleveland (known, in turn, for his broadly comic performances and his balls-to-the-wall direction of comedy and musicals) strikes a perfect pitch of heart and slapstick, all taking place on Clare Floyd DeVries' evocative set.

But the actors inhabit their characters with enviable skill. Hess' Act 2 monologue generated spontaneous applause on opening night, as did Welch's tender one-sided telephone conversation. Fentriss, whose abdominals could be used to grate Reggiano cheese, is almost a distraction: Handsome, charismatic, uninhibited ... and did I say handsome? Alarmingly, this marks his acting debut.

Some of the best laughs, though, land courtesy of Nadine Marissa, who plays a psychic Jamaican housekeeper named Cassandra. If you "get" the joke about a clairvoyant with that name, you'll key into the genius of Durang's



FINS AND FETISHES | The familiar song classics of 'The Little Mermaid,' above, get some new ones as well as a feminist message; 'Vanya and Sonia,' opposite, is one of the finest local productions of a play Dallas has seen in a decade.

**ON THE BOARDS** 

**VANYA AND SONIA AND** 

MASHA AND SPIKE at the Kalita

**Humphreys Theater,** 3636 Turtle

Creek Blvd. Through March 9.

UptownPlayers.org.

**DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID** 

at Fair Park Music Hall,

901 First Ave. Through March 2.

THE MOTHERFUCKER WITH

THE HAT at the MAC, 3120

McKinney Ave. Through March 15.

KitchenDogTheater.org.

writing. And if you don't? Well, I think I mentioned Fentriss' abs ....

Another Jamaican makes waves onstage this week — or rather, under the sea. Sebastian (Thay Floyd) is the musically-minded crab who teaches headstrong Ariel (Audrey Cardwell) to sing in Disney's The Little Mermaid, the stage adaptation of the cartoon feature that ushered in an ani-

mation renaissance that's still going on. The original film ran 80 minutes and featured about five songs; Act 1 alone of this production runs as long, and crams twice as many songs in that, and there's a second act to go. That's the curse of Disney stage shows: They bloat the charms of the original.

Well, sometimes. With Mermaid, much of the delightfulness is maintained, thanks to original songwriter Alan Menken's score and a script by Dallas native Doug Wright that explores the phallo-

centric hierarchy that suppresses female empowerment. Heady ideas for a kiddie show, but that's the appeal of most animated films: Indoctrination set to a catchy beat and dancing fish.

Aside from its feminist bent, the dialogue and lyrics are chock full of oceanic puns and a deliciously evil villain in Ursula (Liz McCartney), plus some new staging ideas for this relaunch of the Broadway version. Gone, though, is one good song, replaced by a not-so-good one, and some techniques that don't quite work. (The "swimming" is OK, but the constant flipper

movement begins to look stupid.) On those occasions when the visuals don't work, just close your eyes and listen to the voices emerging from these stellar singers. You'll feel part of their

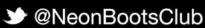
I'm not really interested in being part of the world the characters from The Motherfucker with the Hat live in: Hard-edged, criminal,

morally questionable drug addicts who spend more time dropping F-bombs than actually communicating. True enough, communication is not anyone's strong point: Not Jackie (Christopher Carlos), an ex-con trying to start over with his on again, off again lady Veronica (Christie Vela) with the help of his AA sponsor Ralph (Michael Federico). But Jackie knows Veronica is cheating on him, and his obsession to figure out who just makes life much worse for

As a character study, the play could work, if director Jamie Castaneda hadn't miscast the show: Good actors, all wrong for their parts (as a rule, they are all about 10 years too old for their characters, and that's just one problem). It takes about 100 minutes for the action to play out, and I left more confused about these people than when I started. If Vanya describes universal truths, then MoFo is the black hole at the center of that universe from which sense, like light, cannot escape.

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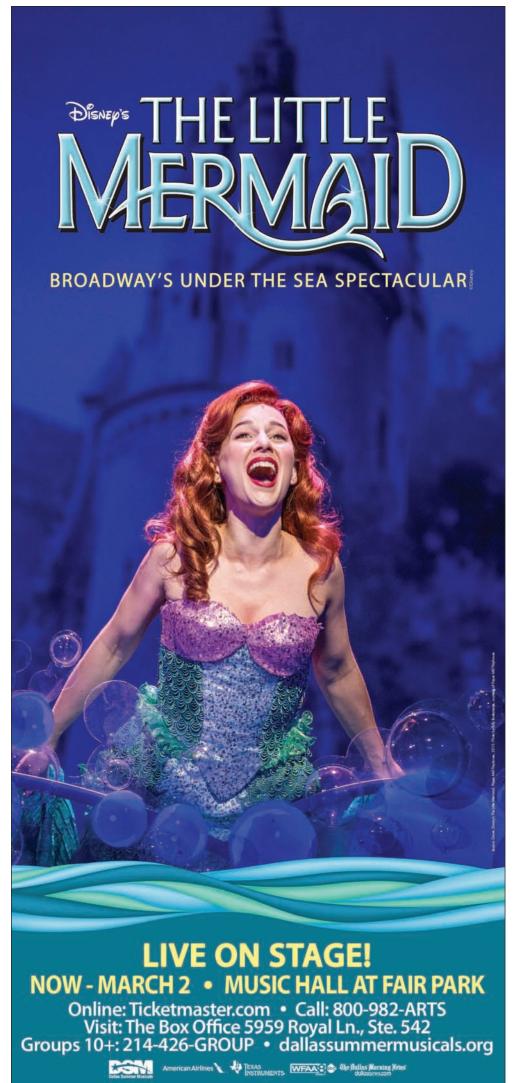


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**RICH LOPEZ I** Contributing Writer getrichindallas@gmail.com

When the Turtle Creek Chorale's artistic director, Trey Jacobs, first saw the play-with-music *Alexander's House*, it hit close to home. The story — about a gay man who passes away, leaving behind his partner, friends and a son who all have questions — resonated with Jacobs, who is a father himself. He felt immediate empathy for the characters.

"I remember being so emotional because there is such tenderness in this story," Jacobs says. "I was separated from my son when his mom and I divorced. Even

though I saw him for most holidays and summers, I still missed being with him day-to-day. And so [it is] in *Alexander's House*—Alex never had any relationship with his son, Sam, but I think

that he wanted to have one so much that even in his death he would bring Sam into his world."

Jacobs now has the opportunity to share his affection for the show. In a collaborative presentation with the Latino Cultural Center, the smaller chorus of the TCC is presenting it as a two-night production. And while it's not the usual chorale show, it marks a new direction for Jacobs' vision as artistic director. He emphasizes the mission of the chorale to create extraordi-

nary experiences for its audience, and with *Alexander's House*, this fits right in.

As a partnership, Jacobs has worked in tandem with stage director Ann Nieman, whom he handpicked to marshal the show.

"We had a wonderful conversation about the piece, its development for the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C., and Turtle Creek Chorale and it just felt like a project that I thought should be given a voice, as it were, and felt excited to be approached by Trey to have a hand in it," Nieman says.

As a process, Jacobs sees it only as amazing. Mixing the chorale with "some of Dallas' finest

actors," the show features both drama and comedy with music for a profound theatrical experience.

Jacobs expresses confidence in Nieman's work ethic, crediting her with lovingly guiding the

play, while associate conductor Sean Baugh is helming the Chorale's Chamber Chorus. It would appear this is several matches made in heaven for the parties involved.

"Sean and I have been working closely, and I've enjoyed every moment of it," Nieman says. "There are a few spoken lines delivered by some of the members of the chamber, and I have given them one-on-one direction for that."

Alexander's House stems from the GALA Festi-

**WORDS, MUSIC AND HEART** | The presentation of 'Alexander's House' ended up being a collaborative effort, with members of TCC's Chamber Chorus teaming with local actors and a director, to put on the performance this weekend at the Latino Cultural Center. (Steve Ramos/Dallas Voice)

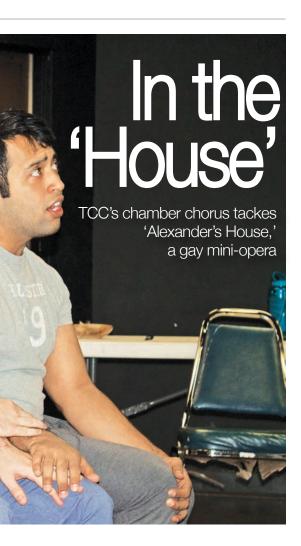
**ALEXANDER'S HOUSE** 

Latino Cultural Center,

2600 Live Oak St. Feb. 21-22

at 8 p.m. \$30. 214-526-3214.

TurtleCreek.org.



val two summers ago. Jacobs saw it when the Washington Gay Men's Chorus performed it in Denver. As powerful as it was for Jacobs to see, he expects the show would have as much impact on Dallas audiences regardless of their position in life. This is ultimately a story about

"I'm a sucker for a story of acceptance and love," he admits. "I hope that our audiences will come out of these performances with hearts that are full. I think that there are elements of the five characters in the show that every person will relate to in some way and that a story of acceptance, forgiveness, and dealing with the loss of a loved one and stages of grief is something that all of us have had to deal with at some point."

Nieman agrees. She also sees it as a sort of historic social study and hopes that younger audiences will check it out for a unique experience.

"I think it's important that younger people understand that there was a time — not all that long ago - when being gay was not readily accepted, and many people, gay and straight, had to make some very difficult choices in their relationships," she says. "It's important to shine a light on that experience, and how wrenching it could sometimes be. And also, the music and lyrics are very good."

#### Chorale celebrates 34 years

Earlier this week, while rehearsing for their upcoming concert and CD recording, members of the chorale paused to blow out the candles in a cake commemorating 34 years of music. Congratulations!

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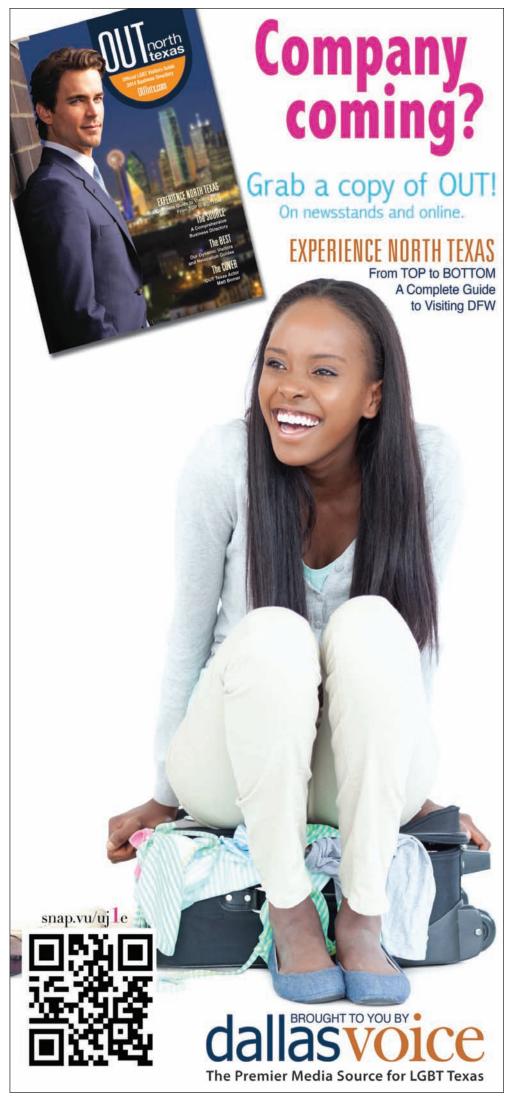


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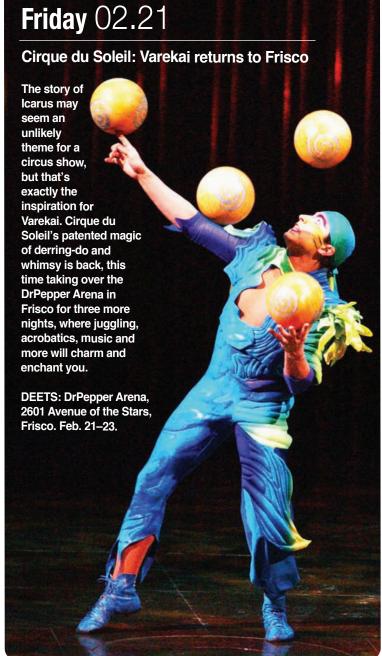
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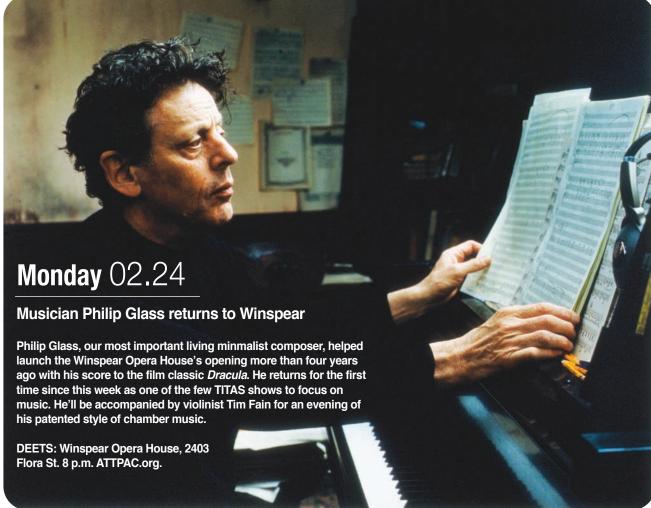




### LIFE+STYLE

best bets





### **Saturday** 02.22

#### Toast to Life Gala goes back to Circa 1983

The Toast to Life Gala is one of the signature fundraising parties in the Dallas social scene, and this year's event — its 16th — is taking inspiration from the past. The theme, Circa 1983, celebrates everything from 30 years past, from "Billie Jean" to *Terms of Endearment* to Hitler's secret diaries and when *Dallas* was on TV. Hey, wait ... *Dallas* is still on TV. See, it's not that hard to prepare for it. DJ Lucy Wrubel spins with hosts Courtney Kerr and Ron Corning.

**DEETS:** Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. 7–8 p.m. (VIP pre-party), 8–11 p.m. (gala). \$100–\$150. ToastToLife.org.





#### calendar highlights

#### **ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING**

#### THEATER

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. Gay playwright Christopher Durang won the Tony Award for best play for this saucy comedy. Reviewed this week. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 2. UptownPlayers.org.

Cock. The buzzy off-Broadway play about a bisexual man launches Second Thought Theatre's 10th season. Final weekend. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.

**Blue Roses.** A world premiere musical adaptation of The Glass Menagerie. Final weekend. Dupree Theater at Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. LyricStage.org.

Disney's The Little Mermaid. The stage adaptation of the fairy tale comes to life from playwright and Dallas native Doug Wright. Reviewed this week. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through March 2. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**The Motherfucker with the Hat.** Kitchen Dog Theater presents the regional premiere of this racy comedy. Reviewed this week. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through March 15. KitchenDogTheater.org.

*Go, Dog, Go!* The children's book is brought to life. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Feb. 23. DCT.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change. The romantic musical comedy. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. Through March 2 (extended). Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Oedipus el Rey**. The Dallas Theater Center continues its season with this work by Luis Alfaro, an adaptation of Sophocles' classic *Oedipus Rex*, set in the barrios of contemporary Los Angeles. Directed by Kevin Moriarty.

Wyly Theatre's Studio Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through March 2. Tickets from \$15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Persistence in Memory.** The revival of a 1987 play written by and starring Mark-Brian Sonna, rewritten for a new era. *Final weekend.* Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. MBSProductions.net.

Sweater Curse. Elaine Liner's popular one-woman show about knitting, but also about life, returns for a one-weekend engagement. MCL Grand Black Box Theater, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville. Friday—Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday—Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. \$15. OurProductions.org.

**Venus in Fur.** Regional premiere of the Tony Awardwinning two-hander about a writer looking for the perfect actress to portray his heroine. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through March 8. \$10–\$35. CircleTheatre.com.

Working. Michael Serrecchia directs this revival of the musical adaptation of Studs Turkel's revelatory chronicle about the labor force in America. Final weekend. Greenville Center for Performing Arts, 5601 Sears St. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

#### **CIRCUS**

Cirque du Soleil: Varekai. The French-Canadian troupe that redefined circus acts returns for a run in Frisco through the weekend. DrPepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, Frisco. Feb. 21–23.

#### BURLESQUE

Viva Dallas Burlesque. Monthly tease show, featuring popular local performers. Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Parkway. Doors at 8 p.m. curtain at 9 p.m. VivaDallasBurlesque.com.

#### FILM 5th Annual Marlon

RIggs Film Festival. Fahari Arts Institute presents this festibal named after the Fort Worth native, a black gay filmmaker and activist. This year's theme is Rights and Respectability. Includes screenings and spoken word presentations. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh St. Feb. 21-22. Free, but donations accepted. 214-960-7791.

# FINE ART Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals. The controversial Chinese artist reimagines zodiac figures of the Chang dynasty. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St.

Through March 2. Free. CrowCollection.org.

**Living in Limbo: Lesbian Families in the Deep South.** Photographs portraying same-sex couples and

MARI ON PICCS FILM FESTIVAL L. Filmmaker, Johnston Consider Apart Colons De Killer

**MARLON RIGGS FILM FESTIVAL** | Filmmaker Jatovia Gary's short 'Cakes Da Killa: No Homo' will screen as part of the 5th Annual Marlon Riggs film festival on Friday during the Queerly Speaking event, starting at 9 p.m.

often their children. African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. Through Feb. 28. AAMDallas.org.



#### **FRIDAY 02.21**

DFW Auto SHow. The show featuring upcoming models from dozens of carmakers continues through Sunday. Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. Through Sunday. DFWAutoShow.com.

#### SATURDAY 02.22

#### COMMUNITY

Toast to Life: Circa 1983. Fundraiser, party and silent auction. Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. 7-8 p.m., VIP reception, 8-11 p.m., gala \$100-\$150. ToastToLife.org.

WaterTower Theater Spotlight Gala. Liz Mikel is the featured entertainment, performing the songs of Burt Bachrach. Addison Conference Centre, 15650 Addison Road. 7 p.m. \$250. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

#### **FESTIVAL**

Dallas Blooms. The 30th anniversary of the Dallas Arboretum's celebration of spring kicks off. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Feb. 22-April 6.

#### browse

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

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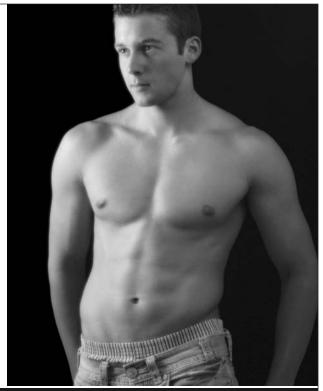
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#### **MONDAY 02.24**

#### **THEATER**

15th Annual Column Awards. The annual event celebrating Dallas theater features as co-host this year Broadway star Rachel York. Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St., Garland. 8 p.m. \$25-\$50. 972-205-2790. GarlandArtsBoxOffice.com.

#### **CONCERTS**

An Evening of Chamber Music with Phillip Glass. The composer conducts. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

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**SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW** — http://singles.meetup.com/2049. **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DALLAS/FORT WORTH** —

groups, yahoo.com/group/sindallasftworth; dalmusl@yahoo.com.

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

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION — dallasfamily.org.

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ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH — 4230 Buckingham Rd., Garland 75042; 972-276-0023; alc1@airmail.net; ascensiontexas.org.

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — 4523 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-528-4084; bethanypresby@sbcglobal.net.

\*CATHEDRAL OF HOPE — 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75235; 214-351-1901 (Local); 800-501-HOPE (Toll free); cathedralofhope.com.

CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT — 2040 N. Denton Dr., Carrollton 75006; 972-245-6520; info@colight.org; colight.org.
\*CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH — 908 Pennsylvania Ave..

Fort Worth 76104; 817-335-3222; celebration@celebrationtex.com celebration-community-church.com.

CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE — 9120 S Hwy. 198; Maybank TX, 75147;

903-451-2302; cottchurch.org.

CHURCH IN THE CLIFF — Kessler Theatre, 1230 W. Davis St., Dallas, 75208; 214-233-4605; www.churchinthecliff.org.

\*COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH — 2875 E. Parker Rd.,
Plano 75074; 972-424-8989; uuplano.org.

CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH — 2701 Reagan. PO Box 191188.

Dallas 75219; 214-521-5342 (x1784); diane@bethelbinah.org; bethelbinah.org.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH — 2800 Routh at Howell, Dallas 75201; 214-520-9090; info@crossroadscommunitychurch.us;

crossroadscommunitychurch.us. **EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** — P.O. Box 710329, Dallas 75371 (Mailing); 629 North Peak, Dallas 75246 (Physical); 214-824-8185, info@edcc.org;

edcc.org. **EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE** — 6525 Inwood Rd.,

Dallas 75209; 214-352-0410 (Phone); 214-352-3103 (Fax);

doubtertom@aol.com; thedoubter.org.
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\*FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS — 4015 Normandy Ave.,
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Dallas 75211; 214-333-9779.

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GREENLAND HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — 5835 Penrose Ave.,

Dallas 75206; 214-826-2020; greenlandhills.org.

HARVEST MCC — 725 North Elm St., Suite 18, Denton TX 76201;
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harvestmcc.org.

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Dallas TX 75208; 214-942-0098; kpumc.org. **LESBIAN & GAY UNITARIANS** — 214-691-4300.

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Icnorthtexas@Icna.org; Icna.org; reconcilingworks.org.

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972-243-6024 (Fax); mccgd.org.

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Euless 76039; 817-251-5555; info@pathwaysuu.org; pathwaysuu.org.

\*PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd.

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stmaryocca@aol.com; netministries.org/see/churches.exe/ch03022.

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UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY — 3425 Greenville Ave., Dallas 75206;

214-826-5683; dallasunity.org.
\*WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH — 9353 Garland Rd., Dallas 75218; 214-320-0043; admin@whiterockchurch.org; whiterockchurch.org.

#### **■ SPORTS**

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DALLAS FRONTRUNNERS — frontrunnersdallas.org; We meet Saturdays 8:30am and Wednesday 7:00pm at Lee Park.

DALLAS INDEPENDENT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION (DIVA) —
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NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION — 214-632-8512;

OAK LAWN BOWLING ASSOCIATION — 10920 Composite Dr., Dallas 75220; 214-358-1382; oaklawnbowling.com.

OAK LAWN SKI AND SCUBA CLUB — 214-521-5342 (x1769); olssc@olssc.org;

olssc.org.

OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION — P.O. Box 191234; Dallas, 75219;

PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION — P.O. Box 191075; Dallas 75219; 972-879-7900; dallaspssa.org.

RAINBOW ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE — 817-540-0303; rainbow\_rollers\_league@yahoo.com; myspace.com/rainbowrollers. SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB — 214-289-1179; spectrum-mrc.com.

TEAM DALLAS AQUATICS/TEXAS COWBUOYS — P.O. Box 190869, Dallas 75219; teamdallasaquatics.com.

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, DALLAS CHAPTER — P.O. Box 191168:

Dallas 75219; 817-540-2075; fgra.org.

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, FORT WORTH CHAPTER —
P.O. Box 100155; Fort Worth 76185; 214-346-2107; tgra.org.

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, STATE ORG. — P.O. Box 192097, Dallas

75219; 214-346-2107; tgra.org.

\*YMCA — 7301 Gaston Ave., Dallas 75214; 214-328-3849.

#### SUPPORT

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS LAMBDA GROUP — 2438 Butler, Suite 106, Dallas 75235; 214-267-0222 or 214-887-6699; dallasal-anon.org.

BLACK TRANSMEN INC. — 3530 Forest Lane, Suite 290; Dallas 75234;

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Cancer Support Community North Texas — 214-345-8230;
8194 Walnut Hill, Dallas, TX 75231; Mailing Address:PO Box 601744,

CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS — 214-766-8939 (Dallas); 817-834-2119 (Fort Worth); outreach@coda.org; codependents.org **DFW BI NET** — facebook.com/dfwbinet.

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FAMILY PRIDE COALITION — 817-881-3949.

**G.E.A.R.** — (Gender Education, Advocacy & Resources); 214-528-0144; GEAR@rcdallas.org.

**GAY AND LESBIAN ANGER MANAGEMENT GROUP** — Maria Jairaj at 469-328-1980; marial33@gmail.com.

**GLBT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** — 5910 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219; 214-351-1901.

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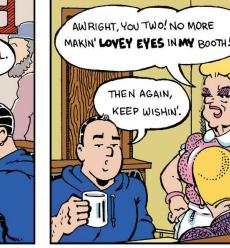
# A Couple of guys Dave Browssan "...With a Side of Crab" Y'KNOW, WE'VE BEEN EATING HERE FOR YEARS











### **Michael Sam Comes Out**

#### Solution on page 37

#### Across

- 1 Soup from the Samurai's land
- 5 Elton John Broadway musical
- 9 Regained consciousness
- 15 Q \_\_\_ queen
- 16 Circumcision sound
- 17 Key with all white notes
- 18 Start of Michael Sam's 2013 SEC football honor
- 20 Save from going down at sea, e.g.
- 21 Becomes involved with
- 22 Smokers at St. Mary's
- 23 Stand next to Georgia O'Keefe
- 24 Cross-dresser Klinger's hometown
- 26 Men on top, perhaps
- 29 Become familiar with
- 33 Popular fruit drink
- 36 They may be blowing in the wind
- 38 Area of Tennessee?
- 39 Hacker's phrase
- 41 More of the honor
- 43 Treated a swollen member
- 44 Stick it to
- 46 It may be under the tongue

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

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AWRIGHT, YOU TWO! NO MORE

KEEP WISHIN'

- 48 Bambi's aunt
- 49 Place to hang dildos?
- 51 Enjoy a hot tub

- 53 Untimely end
- 55 Hard to penetrate
- 59 Cracks up over
- 62 Education
- 65 Like a drag queen's bosom
- 66 End of the honor
- 67 Sit on, in a way
- 68 Gyro bread
- 69 160 rods
- 70 Got the bottom line
- 71 Give the cold shoulder
- 72 Application for drag queens' school?

#### Down

- 1 Kim Novak's Picnic role
- 2 "\_\_\_ little silhouetto of a man ..."
- 3 Examines carefully
- 4 "Keep your pants on!"
- 5 The A in GLARP
- 6 Pt. of B.D. Wong
- 7 Clod on the golf course
- 8 Ancestor of homo sapiens'
- 9 Go out of control
- 10 Changed a bill
- 11 Michael Sam played NCAA football at this school
- 12 Suffix with prefer
- 13 Madonna's Blonde Ambition, e.g.
- 14 Vein contents
- 19 David's Frasier role
- 22 Proverbial gay hiding places
- 25 Heeds a master
- 27 Pos., to neg.
- 28 Approach for sex
- 30 How quickly one comes
- 31 Foreboding sign
- 32 Lorca's zip
- 33 Branch of soc. studies
- 34 Online intro
- 35 "See you later"
- 37 Gay pride marchers close them
- 40 Michael Sam may be an early selection in this
- 42 \_\_\_ Speedwagon
- 45 Track support
- 47 Hombre of the cloth
- 50 Blown away
- 52 Nairobi native
- 54 Like a leprechaun
- 56 Dorothy, to Em
- 57 Catch in a trap
- 58 White-plumed bird
- 59 Silence for Copland
- 60 "\_\_\_ put it another way ..."
- 61 Words before were
- 63 Caesar's last question
- 64 Moby Dick chaser
- 66 Army missions



# LIFE+STYLE

#### scene



Alan at Kaliente.



Friends at Her HRC event at Sue Ellen's.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Feb. 21–27**:

Texas Theatre: LOVEBOMB, A Night of Queer Love, Hot Entertainment and Questionable Morals, benefits alternative Pride event QueerBomb Dallas on Friday at 8 p.m. \$10 at the door.

Alexandre's: Liz Mikel on Friday. Bad Habits on Saturday. Denise Lee on Wednesday.

Best Friends Club: Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington annual pajama party on Friday at 7 p.m.

BJ's NXSI: DJ Charlie Phresh on the decks on Thursday.

 $\hbox{\it Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association} \ cookout \ at \ 4 \ p.m. \ and \ show \ at \ 7 \ p.m. \ on \ Sunday. \ \\ \hbox{\it Red Ribbon Show} \ on \ Wednesday \ at \ 8 \ p.m.$ 

Changes: Wall of Food meeting on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Dallas Eagle: Panda-monium: Leather, Tigers and Bears hosted by Austin Able and Michael Dang benefits

Mr. Third Coast Travel Fund on Friday at 8 p.m. National Leather Association presents Leather Perspectives on

Saturday at 2 p.m. Members free. \$5 non-members. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents

Wild & Wicked hosted by Anna Condo benefiting the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund on Saturday at 7 p.m.

**Round-Up Saloon: The Hottest Karaoke Contest Around** with a \$500 grand prize continues on Sunday at 9 p.m. **TGRA Dallas Rodeo Kick-Off Party** featuring live music from **Chaz Marie** on stage at 10 p.m. Win rodeo tickets.

**S4**: Single release party for **We Are Infinite** from **Starling Glow** with remixes by **Dave Aude** and **Papercha\$er** on Friday. An EP release party for **Hi Fashion** on Sunday. Win copies while supplies last.

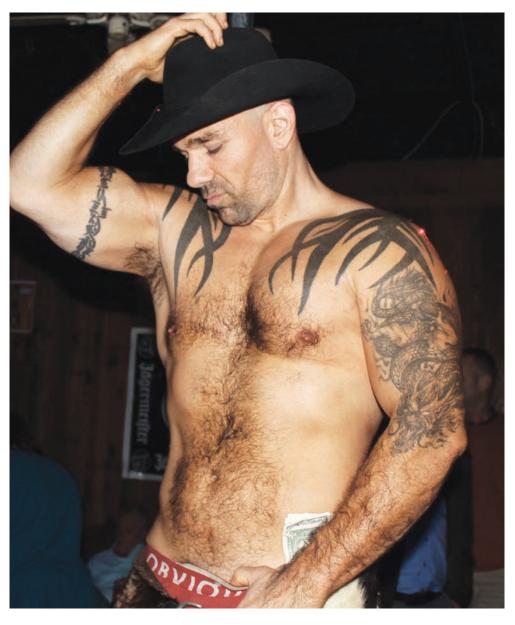
Sue Ellen's: Dana Goldberg Live — Crossing the Line on Friday at 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$12. Chix on Saturday. Tyla Taylor on Sunday.

The Brick: Meech Babies with special guests Sha'Nyia.Nacisse and Shantel Sanchez on Friday with free admission until 10 p.m. DJ Unique, DJ Rudeboy and DJ Daddydupree spinning.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos.



Christopher at the Round-Up Saloon.



Alec at TMC: The Mining Company.



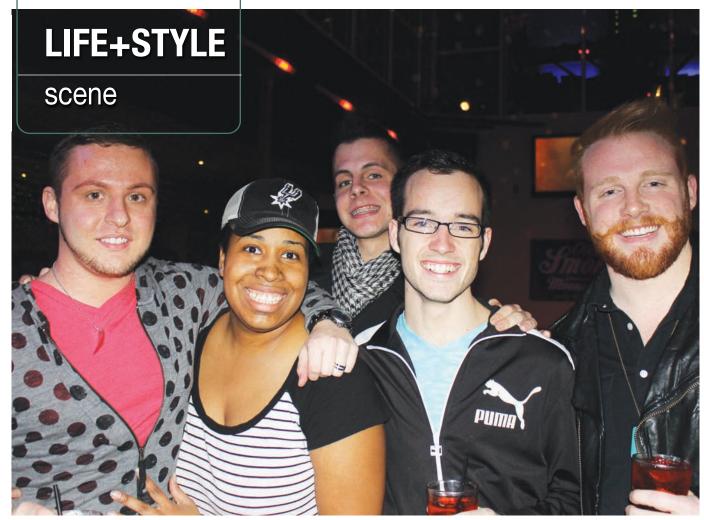


Jerry and Hunter at the Dallas Eagle.

Steve at the Rainbow Lounge.



Meeka, Hannah, Chelsea and Kaci at S4.





Brad at Club Reflection.

Scott, Dashawn, Andrew, Justin and Ryan at Sue Ellen's.



Hunter, Kevin and Adam at High Tech Happy Hour.



Mike, Samuel and Will at High Tech Happy Hour.



Paul and Tim at High Tech Happy Hour.

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#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **HOME SERVICES**

General

# Private Family seeks an experienced House Manager/Personal Assistant

25k-30k

Responsibilities would include
but not be limited to:
•Supervising household staff
•Maintaining and coordinating all family
member calendars •Party planning, set up
and post event follow through
•Grocery shopping, dry cleaning, and other
various household errands •Procuring and
managing household services
•Handling special requests

Requirements:

Strong communication skills
Detail-oriented with exceptional organizational skills Valid driver's license
Bi-lingual Spanish a plus Computer skills
Must be adaptable with a fluid schedule
A motivated self-starter who can overcome or workaround issues independently.
Have the same level of boundless energy for both creative and tedious tasks

Please send resume and references to Kristy. Email only. kristy@pitchfordhome.com

Energetic person to strategically distribute prevention/testing cards in many areas of Dallas. This is a part time position with half benefits. Must work days/nights, and some weekends. Send resume to raul.ramirez@aidshealth.org

JRs and Station 4
is now seeking fun
and energetic people to join our
amazing team! Competitive pay, great
benefits, friendly environment, and upward movement! Details online at
PartyAtTheBlock.com

AIDS Services of Dallas is seeking a full time bookkepper to assist the CFO with A/P, A/R, Payroll, preparing bank deposits, and related functions.

Excellent organizational

skills and proficiency with accounting software, MS Office with strong Excel skills required. E-mail resume with wage requirements to ygarcia@aidsdallas.org. EOE

AIDS Arms Inc. is seeking an Evaluation Specialist to support evaluation activities for several interesting and dynamic projects of national significance. Interested candidates should complete an online application athttp://www.aidsarms.org/about -header-with-toggles/.

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AIDS Arms Inc. is seeking a Data Management Specialist that will be responsible for client-level data collection and entry, ensuring data quality and reporting.

Interested candidates should complete an online application at http://www.aidsarms.org/aboutheader-with-toggles/.

Floral Delivery Driver Needed, must have a clean driving record, must know the dallas area. contact All Occasions Florist 214-528-0898 AIDS Arms Inc. (AAI) is seeking Promotores de Salud focusing on developing Culturally Appropriate Interventions of Outreach, Access and Retention among Latino/a Populations - Viviendo Valiente. Interested candidates should complete an online application at http://www.aidsarms.org/aboutheader-with-toggles/.

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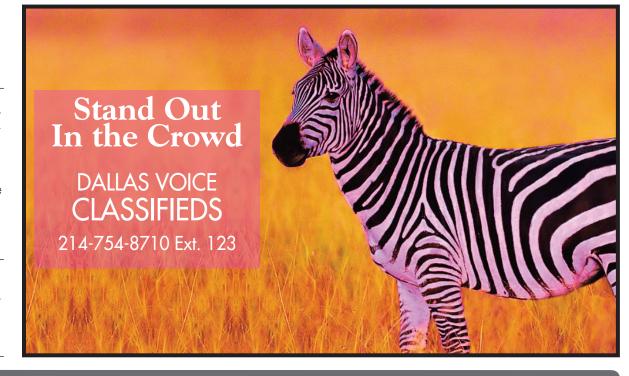
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Cleaning

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**HOME SERVICES** 

Cleaning

**HOME SERVICES Plumbing**  **MASSAGE** 

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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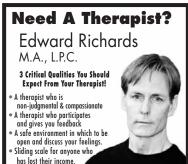
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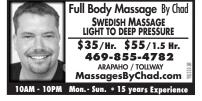
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If interested, contact Tracy Christian at 214-597-3087 or Tchristian@twu.edu

CELEBRATION of EXCELLENCE North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents the 9th Annual Business Excellence Awards Dinner Thursday, April 24 | Sheraton Dallas Hotel. Sponsorships available, for more information visit www.glbtchamber.org

POKER Freeroll Poker Tournaments In the gayborhood BRICK • Thursdays Game Starts at 7:30 Nightly prizes & \$500 Grand prize! For More info go to: pocketrocketsdallas.com

Volunteer Needed!! Be part of an exciting team and make a difference in someone's life. Volunteers will be trained to conduct HIV outreach in the GLBT community working along side of trained Risk Reduction Specialists. For more information contact Sonny Blake @ 214-522-8600 Ext. 236

Pegasus Squares, an LGBT North Dallas Square Dance Club, meets the first and third Sundays of each month, 3pm-5pm at the Resource Center. Lessons beginning March 9th. Contact Rob Miller at 214-320-9598 for more information.

#### 40th Anniversary



Charles Longcope, Jr. and Jim Williams are celebraing their fortieth anniversary in February. They met two weeks after Jim Moved to Dallas from Fort Sill, OK. Charles retired from DISD after more than four decades in the classroom, while Jim is a retired Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. They are planning a cruise later this spring to mark their anniversary.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

**TRAVEL** 

**TRAVEL** 

**PETS** 



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the region. Please visit:
spectrum-mrc.com to learn more."

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