LGBT Dallasites head to inauguration

Oak Lawn Band, attorney Pete Schulte among local participants

President Barack Obama’s swearing-in will also feature gay poet, gay-affirming benediction pastor

LGBT advocates in Dallas, Fort Worth push for cities to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to transgender employees

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LGBT advocates in Dallas, Fort Worth push for cities to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to transgender employees
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4 years later, divorce-seeking gay Dallas couple remain in ‘limbo’

If justice delayed is justice denied, one could argue that the gay Dallas couple known as “J.B.” and “H.B.” have already effectively lost their case.

It was precisely four years ago this month when J.B. filed an uncontested petition for divorce from H.B. in Dallas County court, seeking to amicably dissolve their 2006 Massachusetts marriage.

Republican Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott promptly intervened to challenge J.B.’s divorce petition, arguing that Texas’ constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage also prohibits the state from granting gay divorces. But State District Judge Tena Callahan, a Dallas Democrat, disagreed. Callahan ruled in September 2009 that not only could she hear J.B.’s petition — but also that the state’s marriage amendment is unconstitutional.

Needless to say, Abbott appealed, and not surprisingly, an all-Republican panel of the 5th District Court of Appeals reversed Callahan’s decision and ruled in Abbott’s favor in August 2010.

In March 2011, J.B. appealed the case to the Texas Supreme Court, and that’s where it’s been sitting ever since, joined by another same-sex divorce case from Austin. The state high court requested briefs in the case but has not scheduled oral arguments.

Now, James J., “Jody” Scheske, the attorney representing both J.B. and the lesbian Austin couple, says it’s possible the Texas Supreme Court will wait until after the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in two marriage equality cases it has agreed to hear.

“The [Texas Supreme] Court has not decided whether it will hear either of them,” Scheske said in an email Tuesday. “There is no deadline for the Court to decide what it wants to do. The Court may be waiting to determine what the U.S. Supreme Court decides in the marriage-related cases, but that is only a guess. The U.S. Supreme Court will likely issue opinions in those cases at the end of June.”

Asked to comment on his clients’ predicament in the meantime, Scheske added, “Limon is a good word for it.” — John Wright

Rawlings calls pledges ‘baloney’

during domestic violence speech

Mayor Mike Rawlings announced efforts to battle domestic violence during a press conference Monday at City Hall, highlighting a violent culture and mental illness as the main causes of violence.

“We somehow act as if violence is an accepted normal,” Rawlings said. “It’s just the way we live. We’re just a violent society.”

He said violence is everywhere, from schoolyard bullying to child abuse and “simple jerks [who] decide to assault people who are not like them because of their sexual orientation; their skin color or just because they’re a weak target.”

But Rawlings focused primarily on male-on-female violence that is perpetuated in video games, TV shows, dialogue in locker rooms, and among fathers and sons. Instead of acknowledging that violence is also male-on-male and female-on-female in LGBT relationships, he focused on men who “have been the violent gender over the centuries.”

“We must come together as men in Dallas, Texas, and say that hitting a woman is not acceptable. Strangling a woman is not acceptable,” Rawlings said.

Rawlings later said Dallas would consider the impact of having gun shows at the city-operated Omni Dallas Convention Center Hotel. When asked about his refusal to sign a pledge against gun violence, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, he reportedly said he didn’t sign because “signing those pledges are baloney,” the Dallas Morning News reports. He said instead of signing the pledge, he wanted to focus on raising the public’s awareness of the issue. When Rawlings refused to sign a pledge in support of same-sex marriage last January, he also said he wanted to focus on more substantive issues.

— Anna Waugh

Richland Hills woman charged with anti-gay hate crime dies

Wanda Derby, the 72-year-old Richland Hills woman charged with assaulting her gay neighbor, has died.

Derby had a court hearing Monday, Jan. 14, on charges including indecency with a child and assault on a person with sexual orientation bias. She was ordered to prison for 26 months for contempt of court after she missed a Dec. 18 hearing.

Now, Christopher McGregor, the Tarrant County assistant district attorney assigned to Derby’s case, said he received her death certificate the previous week. He said she passed away Nov. 25, but it takes a while before they notify the courts.

“Based on that, we have dismissed the assault cases against her,” he said. — Anna Waugh

Drama Room landlady was a notorious madam in Houston

The owner of a Cedar Springs strip property that’s been the subject of a recent rent dispute once spent three years in federal prison for running a notorious statewide call girl ring. Last week we reported that Penelope Hatteras, who owns the building that houses the Drama Room, had locked out her tenants, the Hershner family, as the two sides continue to haggle over the lease.

In 1985, Hatteras was sentenced to five years probation and a $10,000 fine for operating a high-priced call girl service in Sugar Land. The next year she was ordered to prison for 26 months for continuing to operate the prostitution ring while on probation.

Hatteras claimed to have had 200 call girls in Houston, Dallas, Denver and Atlanta and took in $10 million annually. When Hatteras got out of a Fort Worth prison, she bought the property on Cedar Springs Road in Dallas where the Drama Room now stands and opened a gay bar. That bar failed and several others have operated in that space since, including Mickey’s and the original BJ’s.

In 2008, the Houston Chronicle interviewed Hatteras about the Eliot Spitzer call girl scandal that brought down the New York governor.

— David Taffet
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Transforming healthcare

LGBT advocates in Dallas, Fort Worth push for cities to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to transgender employees

ANNA WAUGH  |  Staff Writer
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When Dallas police officer Debbie Grabowski transitioned six years ago, she paid for the $90,000 in surgical procedures out of her own pocket because the city’s health insurance didn’t cover gender reassignment surgery.

Officials say the city’s coverage includes everything except the surgery, including hormone replacement therapy, but Grabowski said the plan doesn’t currently cover her hormones — and never has.

“It hasn't changed,” she said of the city’s healthcare coverage. “If it did change, I’m not aware of it.”

Grabowski also said her gender marker hasn’t been corrected in the city’s directory despite several attempts to get it changed from male to female. She’s also put off getting male wellness checkups because she doesn’t think they’d be covered.

If the city had covered her surgeries, Grabowski said it would’ve helped immensely.

Deena Fidas, deputy director of HRC’s Workplace Project, said trans health benefits are medically necessary and help people complete their gender transitions. She compared a trans person who is denied hormone therapy coverage to a woman going through menopause who is able to get hormone replacement therapy, as one example of the inequity.

“Why are we dealing with are medically necessary therapies, surgeries and procedures, and so the denial of the insurance coverage is just as critical as somebody who’s not transgender being denied coverage for needed endocrinology appointments or needed surgeries,” Fidas said.

“It’s incomplete healthcare coverage to not extend these benefits to transgender employees.”

Fidas said companies are increasingly offering them after HRC began requiring trans-inclusive healthcare for companies to receive a perfect score in its Corporate Equality Index. The number of companies that offer the benefits has since grown from 49 in 2009 to 287 at end of 2012.

California and Oregon recently mandated that private insurance companies stop discriminating against people based on gender identity. Without specifying medical treatments that are covered, companies must cover hormone therapy, breast reduction and medical screenings if they would cover it for patients who are not transgender.

When the city of Portland added trans-inclusive healthcare coverage in 2011, the cost increase was $32,300 added to its $41.6 million healthcare budget. Portland has roughly 9,000 employees.

“Trans advocates said many cities see little or no financial impact as there are few people who access the coverage. Fort Worth has roughly 6,000 employees and Dallas has about 13,000.

LGBT leaders in North Texas are hoping the national attention to the issue will help them conquer fears and attitudes locally to offer comprehensive trans health benefits by year’s end.

Nell Gaither, a former city employee who is president of Trans Pride Initiative, started a campaign in December to persuade the city to add comprehensive transgender health benefits in 2014. But City Manager Mary Suhm recently told Gaither that isn’t going to happen.

City Manager Mary Suhm was asked about adding the benefits at a city June Pride event. Suhm said the money wasn’t there to add them and encouraged people in attendance to continue to remind council members they were needed.

Suhm also said at the event that the upcoming budget year may be more favorable for including more health benefits, so Gaither said she hopes the city will find a way to add them.

“I think we’ve all been thinking about it for a while but haven’t gone anywhere with it because of the budget,” Gaither said. “I think this is an issue that a lot of people don’t know is a problem.”

Suhm told Dallas Voice that the city’s current UnitedHealthcare plan covers everything the trans community needs except gender reassignment surgery. She said employees who speak about the plan should be clear about what it covers.

“Our plans need to be clear about that and the people that are answering those questions need to understand … I don’t want it to be difficult or people to feel intimidated about getting them.”
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pet of the week / BROWNIE

Brownie is an adorable 1-year-old Shih Tzu who would love to find his forever home! He is incredibly affectionate and will even roll over on his back for you to rub his belly. Brownie is not too fond of children so a home with no kids would be best for him. He walks well on a leash and is good with other dogs. He will need regular grooming and brushing to keep his fur in good condition. Come and meet Brownie.

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

WEDDING

BROWN-MORRIS | Jaime Brown and Donald Morris of Dallas were married on the second anniversary of their love together — Dec. 11, 2012 — on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Brown works as a patient accounts rep II and Morris works as a commercial real estate appraiser. Brown is from Oklahoma, and Morris is from Texas. They are planning to eventually make their home in Maryland or the Washington, D.C. area.
Crime plummets in Cedar Springs TAAG

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
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Violent crime fell 11.5 percent in 2012 in the hotspot that encompasses the Cedar Springs strip, according to Dallas police statistics.

Four years ago, the area held the No. 2 spot for violent crime citywide after police identified the 27 worst hotspots for crime. In 2012, with 100 violent offenses, it fell to No. 14 on the list, down from No. 7 the previous year.

The Wycliff-Lemmon Target Area Action Grid, previously known as the Cedar Springs-Wycliff and Maple-Wycliff TAAG, also saw a decline in nonviolent crime of nearly 21 percent, resulting in a 19 percent drop in overall crime. The TAAG stretches roughly from Maple Avenue to Lemmon Avenue and from Oak Lawn Avenue to Kings Road.

Councilwoman Angela Hunt, whose represents part of the Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG area in District 14, said she’s very pleased with the numbers.

“There were some prominent crimes being committed in the Cedar Springs-Oak Lawn area that we were concerned about, and our police chief and his team really stepped up to come up with a good plan of attack in addressing those issues and working to ensure that we create a safe area,” she said.

Hunt also attributed the decrease in crime to the continued efforts of businesses and citizens in the area that have alerted police to problem areas.

“I think what’s significant is ensuring that we have a really strong police presence over there, that we have patrols in the neighborhoods and that our police are reaching out to community partners to make sure that we have strong connections within the various neighborhoods,” Hunt said.
Homophobia is out and gay is in for President Barack Obama’s second inaugural ceremony.

At Obama’s first swearing-in ceremony, controversial evangelical pastor Rick Warren delivered the invocation. This year, Passion City Church pastor Louie Giglio was chosen, reportedly for his global anti-slavery campaign. But when his anti-gay teachings became clear, Giglio stepped down.

The Rev. Dr. Luis León from St. John’s Church, a gay-affirming Episcopal Church near the White House, was chosen as a replacement. León’s church is gay-affirming and performs same-sex weddings, which are legal in Washington, D.C. León also delivered the benediction for George W. Bush in 2005.

And this year, members of the LGBT community will actively participate in the inauguration in highly visible roles, behind the scenes and as invited guests. Among eight “citizen co-chairs” of the inauguration named this week was David Hall, a former Air Force sergeant dismissed from service under “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

“This is certainly the honor of a lifetime, and I am grateful to President Obama for his leadership in repealing ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ so that no qualified American who wants to serve this country in uniform will ever again be denied that right simply because they are gay or lesbian,” Hall said.

On the local front, three members of the Oak Lawn Band will be part of the 220-piece Lesbian Gay Band Association group that will march in the inaugural parade on Monday, Jan. 21. When LGBA marched in the 2009 parade, it was the first LGBT group to be part of a presidential inauguration.

The band was chosen from more than 2,800 groups that applied to participate and will be one of just 25 bands marching. Performers in the LGBA band come from 37 groups across the country.

This year the band had more time to prepare and ordered new uniforms.

“Last time they said we looked like baked potatoes,” LGBA director Marita Begley said. “People said, ‘You don’t look like a gay band.’”

She said the new uniforms include a purple and black jacket with a dramatic white zig-zag, bold lettering and black Aussie hats with ostrich-feather fan plumes.

The LGBA band most recently performed to-
A POLICEMAN AND A POET | Gay Dallas attorney Pete Schulte, left, a commissioned police officer, will be sworn in as a U.S. marshal and expects to conduct security along the inauguration parade route. Richard Blanco, right, will be the first gay and first Hispanic inaugural poet.

Inauguration, Next Page

For the inaugural parade, Begley said she chose four pieces of music.

While marching, the band will perform a patriotic piece that includes “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and music by gay composer Aaron Copeland, “Edge of Glory” by Lady Gaga and “Give Me Everything (Tonight),” popularized by Latino-American rapper Pitbull.

Begley said she chose the Lady Gaga song because she wanted something by a contemporary woman and because Gaga is bisexual. And she loved the connection of “Battle Hymn” to Lincoln. Written during his first year in office, Lincoln reportedly cried when he first heard it and asked for an encore.

In front of the reviewing stand where Obama will watch the parade, the band will play “Tonight” from West Side Story.

“We have a kick-ass arrangement and it’s by a gay composer,” Begley said.

She said she loved the excitement in the lyrics as well.

Oak Lawn Band President Tim Stallman is among those who’ll perform in Washington. This will be his second inauguration parade.

“As a former Marine Corps musician, I know firsthand what an honor it is to be selected and invited to participate in an inaugural parade,” he said. “It is my patriotic duty to represent our country in this tradition.”

Oak Lawn Band trumpet player Gloria McDonald will be performing in the parade for the first time. She said she is going because she wants to thank the president for standing up for LGBT rights. But she hopes the band’s inclusion also sends a message to LGBT youth that they are not alone.

“I was raised in West Texas,” she said. “People in places who are isolated will see us.”

She called the band a true cross-section of the community.

“Everything from doctors to street cleaners,” she said.

And she called the band a positive reflection of the LGBT community.

“It’s hard to argue with music,” she said.

Band members were set to fly to Baltimore on Friday for two days of intensive rehearsals at their Camden Yards hotel. They already received their music and are expected to have it memorized before arriving.

On Monday morning, they’ll travel together by bus to the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., where all parade participants will go through extensive security.

During the parade, Begley said, the rules are strict. No cameras along the route. Nothing can leave their hands. Twirlers can twirl and flaggers may wave but no tosses and catches. And above all, do not reach in a pocket for anything. In the last inaugural parade, some band members pinned their pockets shut just to make sure they didn’t reach inside by mistake.

“You will be taken down,” Begley said they were told.

This year, among those responsible for taking down any participant seen as a threat to the president will be another community member, Pete Schulte.

Before becoming an attorney, Schulte began his career as a commissioned police officer in Brazos County in South Texas. He continues doing legal work for them and retains his commission.

On Sunday, he’ll be sworn in as a deputy U.S. marshal and receive training. His assignment begins at 3:30 a.m. on Monday. He said he expects to be posted along the parade route.
Although the Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG ranked No. 14 citywide for violent crime in 2012, it remains at No. 10 for overall crime. The only category of offenses that increased was a 28 percent jump in thefts, with 140 incidents in 2012 compared to 109 in the previous year.

The 19 percent decrease in the Wycliff-Lemmon TAAG was part of the citywide crime reduction of nearly 11 percent last year, making it the ninth consecutive year crime has decreased. Police attribute that decrease mostly to patrols and added technology like the new program launched last year. The program is expected to eventually equip the 27 TAAGs with more bait cars, license plate readers and surveillance cameras to drive crime down in those areas.

Wycliff-Lemmon is No. 11 in line to receive the technology. While the top 10 were expected to have the technology by the end of December, an expected date for when the Oak Lawn area will receive the added technology is uncertain.

Lt. Tony Crawford with DPD's Homeland Security and Tactical Intelligence Division said installing the technology in the TAAGs is progressing as the department works with companies to obtain the equipment.

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San Francisco airport may be named for Harvey Milk

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco lawmaker on Tuesday introduced legislation asking voters to rename the city’s airport after slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk.

A charter amendment sponsored by Supervisor David Campos would put the question of creating Harvey Milk-San Francisco International Airport on San Francisco’s November ballot.

The proposed name change will be sent to committee in a matter of weeks, then returned to the Board of Supervisors, Campos confirmed late Tuesday.

If five of Campos’ colleagues agree to submit the proposed name change to voters and the amendment goes through in the fall, the city would become home to the world’s first airport honoring an openly gay person, said Milk’s nephew, Stuart Milk.

Milk, who runs an international gay rights foundation in his uncle’s memory, said that adding an airport to the list of public venues named for Harvey Milk would mark a milestone since flights to and from San Francisco International serve 68 countries where homosexuality is illegal.

“For young gay people in an illegal place looking up at a monitor and being able to point to this international airport named after an LGBT advocate, it gives them the green light to authenticity,” Milk said. “It’s a major representation that (they) are being celebrated somewhere in the world in a high-level way.

About 41 million passengers pass through San Francisco International every year, “and the idea that millions of people can learn about Harvey Milk and what he represented is very moving,” Campos said.

“That no airport in this country has been named for an openly LGBT person is something I hope would be remedied, and what a better place than San Francisco for something like that to happen and what better person than Harvey Milk,” he said.

Campos said the San Francisco Board of Supervisors could vote on the amendment in as little as two weeks.

Milk became one of the first openly gay men elected to public office in the United States when he won a seat on the board of supervisors in 1977, inspiring a generation of activists with his uncompromising call for gays to come out.

He was assassinated at City Hall, along with Mayor George Moscone, more than a year later.

His life became the subject of the 2008 Oscar-winning film Milk.

The airport renaming, if it is approved, would make him the recipient of an honor most often reserved for former presidents.
According to a copy of the city’s healthcare plan, “sex transformation operations” are not covered. UnitedHealthcare’s prescription drug plan is separate. CVS/Caremark is the current prescription provider and doesn’t list hormone replacement therapy in its exclusions.

Gaither worked for the city for more than five years before quitting last June to dedicate more time to her nonprofit. She said her hormones were sometimes covered based on the prescription provider, adding that Caremark covered her hormones.

Asked about Grabowski’s statements, Suhm insisted hormones are covered under the city’s plan and that the people processing claims needed to be aware of the coverage.

“Those things are covered. We need to work harder on the training and on the clarification in the material, but then again if people have a problem, we need to hear about it,” she said.

Frank Librio, director of the city’s public information office, issued a statement saying that the city doesn’t cover surgery related to gender reassignment, but it does cover wellness exams and “other health services.”

Gaither created letter templates for people to send to city council members, Suhm and Mayor Mike Rawlings to urge them to extend coverage for trans employees. She also started a Change.org petition entitled “Provide Equal Access to Health Coverage for City of Dallas Employees.” So far, 57 people have signed the petition.

Gaither postponed the letter aspect of the campaign after she attended a meeting of Councilwoman Delia Jasso’s LGBT Task Force on Jan. 9. Transgender-inclusive healthcare was on the agenda and Gaither attended to approach the Task Force about helping with her campaign. At the meeting, Suhm spoke about the coverage and said it was unlikely gender reassignment surgery would be added to the budget this year. Suhm agreed to meet with Gaither and the city’s benefits coordinator to discuss the city’s coverage at the end of January.

Despite the upcoming meeting, Gaither said she will continue her work to eventually get the surgery covered.

“I’d love to see full surgeries covered, but Mary Suhm’s already said that that would not happen,” she said.

As for including the surgery in the coverage, Suhm told Dallas Voice it would be an issue for the budget, which staff will begin working on in about a month.

“It would be a plan that would be approved by the City Council,” she said. “It’s a process.”

When asked whether she supports adding the coverage or if she would place it in her proposed budget, Suhm said: “I can’t support things. That’s not my role and I don’t know anything about the budget just yet, so we’ll have to work through that as I go through the budget process.

“It could be a part of the budget, but I don’t know whether it can be a part of this year or not,” Suhm said. “The staff brings a recommended budget to the council and so if there’s a way to do that in that context, it could be a part of the
When Rawlings was asked whether he supported offering trans health benefits in a May 2011 mayoral runoff forum, he said the surgery was an elective procedure, adding that he didn’t have enough information to speak decisively on the matter.

Paula Blackmon, Rawlings’ chief of staff, said in an email this week, “Because employee insurance is an issue the city manager handles he will await her direction.”

When Jasso was asked whether the LGBT Task Force would take up the issue, her assistant Gary Sanchez emailed that city staff is planning to meet with representatives of Trans Pride Initiative.

Pam Gerber, a member of the LGBT Task Force, said she was glad Suhm was at the meeting to explain the city’s coverage. As for having the city cover the surgery, she said she’s not informed enough to give an opinion but thinks the city should research the issue.

“I think it certainly deserves having the city look further into it and ultimately come up with a solution where everyone can win,” Gerber said.

In Fort Worth, comprehensive trans healthcare has been on the backburner since 2009, when it was the only outstanding recommendation of 21 suggestions from the city’s Diversity Task Force that was created in response to the Rainbow Lounge raid.

Tori Van Fleet, a city employee who served on the Task Force, said she remembers a council member stating that the benefits wouldn’t pass because voting in favor of them would be a political risk.

“I think it should’ve been added back then, but too many people were afraid of it and against it,” she said.

Fleet, who is now a board member for the city’s LGBT advocacy group Fairness Fort Worth, said the group’s former President Thomas Anable was working on a plan to add the benefits last year. However, after a board meeting Jan. 10, she said the group will have to start all over because members are unsure where Anable left off. She said the plan of action will avoid a vote from City Council and would add the benefits by the end of the year.

Fleet transitioned in 2008 and paid for the surgeries on her own. Although Fort Worth’s Aetna plan specifically excludes coverage for “sex change surgery or treatment of gender identity disorders,” Fleet was able to get her hormones covered because her doctor prescribed them for a hormone imbalance. She worries about getting wellness exams now that she is listed as female.

“My understanding is I would have to fight to get [these checkups] done,” she said. “It’s really sad that the city doesn’t cover it because we should be entitled to the same care. We are paying for coverage and therefore we should get total coverage.”

Oliver Blumer, regional director for Transgender Education Network of Texas and a member of Jasso’s LGBT Task Force, said the fact that the city covers counseling and hormones is an accomplishment in itself.

“Hormone replacement therapy and therapy both [being] covered is huge,” Blumer said. “Across the country that’s huge.”

Blumer said more can still be offered and the specifics of the current plan should be better communicated.

“My understanding was that the Task Force would begin to look into this and see how in collaboration with other groups we could take this to the city at the appropriate time,” he said. “You can say you’re diverse and inclusive, but they [city officials] have no idea about anything about the culture and the clinical competency that surrounds [transitioning].”

CHEERS AND JEERS | Fort Worth employee Tori Van Fleet applauded when trans discrimination protections passed in 2009, but she criticized officials for failing to add trans health coverage despite the recommendation of a Diversity Task Force following the Rainbow Lounge raid. (Dallas Voice file photo)
Spring 2013 edition of body. This special section features the latest news and trends in personal health and development.

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The ‘It Gets Bitter’ project

Hypocritical attacks on Jodie Foster over her Golden Globes speech from within the LGBT community have been difficult to understand

F ormer child actor and double Oscar-winner Jodie Foster and I are exactly the same age, and she’s always been one to watch (on so many levels) at every turn my entire life, always someone I could relate to, and I’ve always understood her to be gay.

And so it was with great joy that I learned that she had “come out” while accepting an award at the Beverly Hills Hilton. No, not this past Sunday during the Golden Globes — I’m talking about in December 2007 when she thanked “my beautiful Cyndey who sticks with me through all the rotten and the bliss,” referring to Cyndey Bernard, her then-partner of 14 years and co-mom to their two sons.

In June of that same year it was disclosed that Foster had donated millions of dollars over many years to The Trevor Project in honor of her best friend, the late Randy Stone, who co-produced the 1994 Oscar-winning short Trevor and co-founded our nation’s premier effort to prevent LGBT suicide.

In July 2007, when the aquatic pavilion that she wholly funded at a facility for aging actors opened, she donated plaques of her young sons’ handprints bearing their names: Kit Bernard Foster and Charles Bernard Foster.

In September 2007, she said of her acting career to the Denver Post, “I need to have something that doesn’t belong to my mom, doesn’t belong to my kids, doesn’t belong to my partner,” and of her Tiffany ring to More magazine, “It’s an eternity ring and I never take it off.”

That year alone was a bonanza (also one of Jodie Foster’s acting credits) of unapologetic un-solicited “outness” from an A-list, household-name celebrity who also happens to be gay. And yet the U.S. media largely ignored not only her hefty philanthropy but also the almost-conversational normalcy of her personal life as an out lesbian comfortable in her own skin.

This is exactly how my everyday interactions sound as well — I rarely “say the words” (“I’m gay” or “I’m lesbian”), unless it’s to strangers in a church pew or distributors. No person may, without prior written permission of Voice Publishing Company, take more than one copy of each Dallas Voice weekly issue.

(Corrections & Clarifications)

Dallas Voice accepts comments from readers about published material that may need correcting. Comments may be submitted to the senior editor by e-mail (editor@DallasVoice.com), phone (214-754-9110 ext. 120), or via the U.S. Postal Service (Dallas Voice, 4145 Travis St., Third Floor, Dallas, TX 75204).
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When we sat down to talk about the visit of the Joffrey Ballet, TITAS' director Charles Santos was unsure what TITAS actually stands for.

“I think the second T stands for ‘theatrical,’ and we do so much more than that. We gave some thought to changing the name but decided to leave it TITAS, sort of like IBM. Everyone knows it by that anyway.”

Actually, it stands for Texas International Theatrical Arts Society and Santos, who took over as its leader in 2001, is completely correct in his assessment. While it is still in Texas and international in scope, they present equal portions of both music and dance with very little theater per se. This has changed somewhat since they forged a partnership with the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

“We decided that it was counterproductive to compete with them so we joined forces. We forged a really good relationship. They needed what [TITAS] had, as well as my experience in dance. They knew that you can’t have a major venue without a dance component,” Santos says.

He is adamant that dance needs to be seen live, so bringing the top companies to Dallas is imperative. It is, in fact, what led him to bring the Joffrey Ballet back to Dallas (finally) to mark the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky’s revolutionary ballet The Rite of Spring, presented with Nijinsky’s reconstructed 1913 choreography, and even reproductions of the original costumes.

Dancer Matthew Adamczyk, who is in this production, said that Nijinsky’s choreography was “meant to shock and awe. Aggression, hunched positions, stomping, bent feet and hands; everything you would imagine a classical dancer to look like — this is the opposite.”

“It was the beginning of modernism,” says Santos. “Talk about left of center! I just knew that we needed to bring it here for its centenary.

In 1913, audiences were accustomed to graceful motions, exquisite ballerinas floating across the stage en pointe, flowing lines, pointed toes, rustling tutus and men executing powerful leaps in perfect form. Instead, they got men in menacing bear suits, stomping feet, a brawl punctuated by fisticuffs. Bodies withered inelegantly, with pigeon-toed foot positions, cramped hands and angular arms. At the climax, there was no graceful dying ballerina sinking to the stage with fluttering hands. Instead, Nijinsky presented a woman dancing herself to death leaping spasmodically into the air.

It wasn’t long into the performance before the rival jeers and the supportive cheers gave way to physical confrontations. And things went downhill from there.

Santos marvels at the difference between 1913 and 2013. “I can’t imagine anything that we could put on the stage that would cause a riot today,” he says with a laugh.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST | Dancer Matthew Adamczyk, pictured, believes the original choreography reproduced by the Joffrey is still enough to shock and awe audiences 100 years after its debut.
I had pretty much assumed the local supply of severed limbs had been exhausted by the prop department for A Behanding in Spokane, but Theatre Three was able to turn up a spare for their regional debut, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo. It says something about our collective mood that two shows open within a week of each other featuring maiming; add to them Penelope — a sort of twist on No Exit via Greek mythology — and you have a 2013 already set up to explode with despair. Thank goodness some musicals are just on the horizon.

Thank goodness also that this trio of dark comedies do what they do as well as they do it. None are easy sells to audiences: In Bengal Tiger, for instance, not only is a vicious jungle cat played by a dishdasha-wearing human (Cliff Stephens), but he has the kvetching personality of a Borscht Belt standup. And he keeps addressing the audience long after he’s been killed. And he’s not the only character to do so.

Rajiv Joseph’s play, set in Iraq following the U.S. invasion, might well have been called The Men with the Golden Gun: A gold-plated pistol, once owned by Uday Hussein, figures into the lives not only of the tiger, but of the soldiers who desire it. Like the ring of Mordor, it feeds their self-destruction, a metaphor for the insanity men are driven to. It’s an existential reverie with multiple points of view, and it never really answers most of the questions it asks.

Theatre Three’s production, gritty and stark with a bombed-out look and language as course as sandpaper, creates a harsh and abstract world where sex, violence and power are inextricable. The cast — especially Parker Fitzgerald as a whacked-out soldier, Akron Watson as a service-man and Blake Hackler as an Arabic translator — bring shocking intensity to the show. It’s not for the faint of heart. Few things worthwhile are.

Also not for the faint of heart: The middle-aged bodies in Speedos hanging out in the wrecked remnants of a swimming pool. Undermain ironically came above ground (it’s at the City Performance Hall) for the below-ground setting of Penelope, Irish playwright Enda Walsh’s quirky updating of the Odysseus myth. Four fellas are all that’s left of the suitors who tried to woo Odysseus’ woman, Penelope, while her husband was questing for a generation; they suspect he’s about to come back and will kill them unless they act in concert.

Only they can’t. Men being men, they bicker and bloviate and try too hard to one-up each other until the inevitable occurs.

Penelope sometimes slogs, as each of the characters speechify in the ways writers and actors enjoy more than audiences. But the cast of gifted gentlemen — Max Hartman, Bruce DuBoze, Bruce Elliott and Gregory Lush — possess, collectively, an infinite capacity to be entertaining, and director Stan Wojowodski Jr.’s quirky choices as he wanders through the last earthly hours of the damned makes for a thought-provoking 85 minutes.

Volvo is well-known as the nerdy Swedish automaker that makes safe sedans and blitzin’ wagons. But how would it build a sports car? Turns out, much like Mini makes Coopers and Volkswagen makes GTIs: Take a box, slap on a sexy hatch and rev its motor with a turbo. Sounds like a great little sports car with a wide safety net.

Responsible sensibilities do not mean a completely boring partner. Strong shoulders and Volvo’s traditional grille are obvious bids to tradition, but the P1800 ES-inspired rear glass hatch, which opens up to a cavernous rear compartment, is a practical and stylish solution to a small wagon design. It’s more custom Jaguar “shooting brake” than a boxy mommy wagon — perfect for trend-setting urbanites. Contrasting color ground effects and 17-inch alloys fit some stylish kicks.

Although it’s becoming a little dated compared to newer S60 sedans and XC60 crossovers, the C30’s interior still makes a comfy sedan. Despite the Volvo is well-known as the nerdy Swedish automaker that makes safe sedans and blitzin’ wagons. But how would it build a sports car? Turns out, much like Mini makes Coopers and Volkswagen makes GTIs: Take a box, slap on a sexy hatch and rev its motor with a turbo. Sounds like a great little sports car with a wide safety net.

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Volvo S60 sits on the same small car architecture as the Ford Focus of Ford’s global empire, so it was based on the same small car architecture as the Ford Focus of Ford’s global empire, so it was based on the

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Dear Howard,

I’m in a long-distance relationship with a great guy, but I recently met someone online who flirts with me, and I’m wondering: Am I cheating on my relationship with my boyfriend? Thanks.

— Aaron

Dear Aaron,

Saint Howard is always amused by these ra-paciously innocent questions requesting how to bemusedly secure a ticket into Heaven whilst abusing, in secret, the 10th Commandment. Apparently, Aaron, your relationship’s disclaimer of it being just something that’s “long-distance” means that what your boyfriend doesn’t know won’t hurt you? Karma is a bitch, Aaron. The real question is this: What were you doing online in the first place cruising for alternative men to your long-distance boyfriend?

— Skelter Helter

Dear Skelter,

Easy! You pursue this by asking her out. She’ll either answer “yes” or “no.” You’ve nothing to lose and everything to gain. Just go for it!

— Breezy Steve

Dear Howard,

I’ll make this short and sweet: I’ve been BFF with a guy, platonically, for three years now. We are normally together at least part of every day. He lives across the hall in my apartment building (which makes it very convenient to invent reasons for spending time together). Just in these past two or three months, though, I’ve begun having more feelings toward him than being merely “friends.” Do I risk freaking him out and losing our friendship forever, Howard, if I tell him I want to take things to the next level?

— Hairy Harry, the Tall

Dear HH,

Exactly how tall are these “compact muscle” men you’ve been noticing of late, Harry, with their shaved legs? Hairy-legged Howard here, at 6’3” himself, would wager that they’re, one and all, of a height rivaling the notoriously short Napoleon Bonaparte; or if not short, exactly, then certainly short of being tall as you, Harry. After all, any man over 6 feet only shaving his legs for two reasons: if he has a drag show tonight or Olympic swimming trials tomorrow.

— Red Ginger Jester

Dear Ginger Jester,

The only unattractive characteristic you’ve presented to me, Red, is your attitude toward how you perceive yourself. You’re talking here to a man named, “Russell.” My kinfolks invented red hair. Change your ‘tude, Carrot-top, and everything else will ascend, accordingly. Follow the mantra in life that I’ve always taken: They’re lucky you even showed . . . up!

— Russell

Have a question for Howard? Send it to askhoward@dallasvoice.com.
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Friday 01.18

Diva are back on B’way — their way
For the 11th year, Uptown Players is back raising money for Dallas’ gay-themed theater troupe, and, as always, they snag some of the luminaries of the Dallas theater scene. B.J. Cleveland, Coy Covington, Marisa Diotalevi, Paul J. Williams and a host of others will be joined by special guests Denise Lee and Shane Peterman for a tribute to the songs the way they would sing them (including a preview of this season’s musical offerings). There will be auction items, refreshments and a whole lot of laughs.

DEETS: Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Jan. 18–27. 8 p.m. $40-$45. UptownPlayers.org.

Saturday 01.19

Bear Dance, Lord Byron team up
Remember those old ads about two great tastes that taste great together? Well that’s what happens this weekend when Lord Byron’s Panoptikon “Disco vs. Retro” dance party gets invaded by Big D Bear Dance for the sweatiest old-school dance of the week. Seems like bears do come out of hibernation early if there’s a party involved.

DEETS: 3025 Main St. (in the old Club One space). 8 p.m. $10 suggested donation.

Sunday 01.20

Denise Lee conquers the Winspear
She’s performed everywhere from Bass Hall to mainland China, so it makes sense local legend Denise Lee would take on the Winspear. She’ll perform The Divas of American Music in Hamon Hall, delighting audiences with her breathtaking interpretations of classics from the Great American Songbook.

DEETS: Hamon Hall at the Winspear, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. $35. ATTPAC.org.
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**THEATER**

*Broadway Our Way: Divas Raise the Roof.* Uptown Players’ annual fundraiser is also one of the biggest song extravaganzas of the year. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Jan. 18–27. $40–$45. UptownPlayers.org.


**FALL ART**


*Frank Lloyd Wright’s Samara: A Mid-Century Dream Home.* Furnishings and designs by the renowned architect are brought to life. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St., Arlington. Tuesdays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (open Sundays at 1 p.m.) ArlingtonMuseum.org.

**FRIDAY 01.18**

**BROADCAST**

*Malibu Country.* New hit sitcom co-starring Lily Tomlin as Reba McEntire’s pot-smoking mom. Ch. 8 at 7:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY
Oak Lawn Group for Gays meets weekly. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 7 p.m. For more information, call 214-886-7350.

SATURDAY 01.19
CONCERTS
John Bucchino. The gay composer performs at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth as part of the Cliburn Concerts. 3200 Darnell St. 2 p.m. $25. 817-212-4280.

COMMUNITY
Dallas FrontRunners fun run for all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 8:30 a.m.; brunch follows. FrontrunnersDallas.org.
Fuse: Core Group for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2–5 p.m. 214-540-4435. GetYourFuseOn.com.

BROADCAST
Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com.

SUNDAY 01.20
WORSHIP
Cathedral of Hope. Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

COMMUNITY
Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FrontrunnersDallas.org.
FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays–Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

CONCERTS
Denise Lee Sings the Divas of American Music. The theater and cabaret luminary performs selections from the Great American Songbook. Hamon Hall at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. $35. ATTPAC.org.

COMMUNITY
Human Rights Campaign HER event. An afternoon celebrating women. Dance, bachelorette auction, burlesque performance by the Lollie Bombs, trivia competition. MCs Jenna Skyy and Cassie Nova. Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St. 1-6:30 p.m. $15.

MONDAY 01.21
COMMUNITY
Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., 5353 Maple Ave. #130 (entrance at rear of building).

TUESDAY 01.22
COMMUNITY
Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4–9 p.m. 214-879-0400.
FUSE Movie Night. For gay and bi guys up to 29.

WEDNESDAY 01.23
COMMUNITY
Firedancers Dallas Tribe club night the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7–10 p.m. Free.
Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FrontrunnersDallas.org.

THURSDAY 01.24
COMMUNITY
Brokeback Dallas. Support group for gay men married to straight women. Rec Hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6528 Inwood Road. 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS
WAR IS HELL | A soldier starts to lose it after experiencing war in Rajiv Joseph’s ‘Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.’

WEDNESDAY 01.23
Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FrontrunnersDallas.org.
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THURSDAY 01.24
Brokeback Dallas. Support group for gay men married to straight women. Rec Hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 6528 Inwood Road. 7:30 p.m.

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CYPRUS
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THE SUPREMES
BATHROOMS
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TIER
YGOR
LOST
ERTE
CAPRICORN Dec 21–Jan 20
Between now and the end of the month, you’d be wise to stay centered in things that allow you to stay grounded, and in things that stir your soul: sunrises/sunsets, time alone, enough time with others to remind you that your life is full of love.

AQUARIUS Jan 21—Feb 20
Reclaiming a sense of strength is what’s needed now. For most of us, strength comes from roots and family. If we can’t call upon those, almost anything can bring us back to center.

PISCES Feb 21—Mar 20
No matter how rough or smooth the path appears at the moment, you must come to a place where your inner and outer resources seem big enough for the situation at hand. Times like this, your inner sight may bring you clarity.

ARIES Mar 21—Apr 20
Maybe it’s time to soften up and let anyone but you call the shots; you are not the only person on the planet, and whether you know it or not, you are not now — and never will be — right about everything.

TAURUS Apr 21—May 20
There seem to be issues that stem from too much focus on money and things; it’s churning up the need to cling to whatever seems to be slipping away. Part of your lesson is knowing nothing outside of your own beingness will make you safe.

GEMINI May 21—Jun 20
Get back to a place of physical and emotional balance. Don’t waste your time or your energy making room for anything that isn’t there to support your need to restore your faith in what you’re doing.

CANCER Jun 21—Jul 20
As you watch the next few weeks unfold, be conscious that change is the operative word. See yourself as one of the ones who will be most deeply affected by it. We live in miraculous times. So much is about to uproot your sense of how life is supposed to be, you’d do well to just lighten up and let go.

LEO Jul 21—Aug 20
Your first step toward sanity might be to make things easy on yourself by losing the sense of obligation that leads you to be overly responsive to the needs of others, and amazingly out of touch with the ones that you call your own.

VIRGO Aug 21—Sep 20
When distractions get the best of you, you start making things up in your head and convincing yourself that they’re true. If the cure for this lies in being able to stop the madness long enough to get back to realizing that life is what we make it, a deep breath could be all it takes to restore your sanity.

LIBRA Sep 21—Oct 20
These days, the need to allow for all possibilities has you getting used to life outside of the strictures of custom and convention. After years of being the one who always got it right, you are beginning to see that there’s no such thing as perfection.

SCORPIO Oct 21—Nov 20
If I were you, I’d get far enough away from things to reclaim your sovereignty and allow absence to let the heart grow fonder. Don’t over-analyze; you of all people should know how to handle this.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 21—Dec 20
Those close to you seem to be stretched past their limits. Whether it’s your job to heal all of their ills is another issue. You can’t let the goodness that you need to create for yourself take a back seat to anything.
Girl Groups of the Sixties

Solution on page 29

Across
1 Problem for a drag queen’s hosiery
5 Rock Hudson’s *A Farewell to ___
9 Dirt clump
13 Jason Lee TV role
14 Lincoln’s Johnson
15 Folk history
16 Pink Triangle Press publication
17 Willa Cather nove
19 “Be My Baby” singers
21 Made easier to bear
22 Gets to second base, perhaps
26 Alternative to HBO
27 *Brothers & Sisters* producer Ken
31 Sound of a sudden, involuntary discharge
32 They wave their sticks in Atlanta
34 Dance club speakers
35 “Will You Love Me Tomorrow” singers
38 Environs
39 Show and tell
40 Back biter?
42 Belgrade resident
43 Strong Joe
46 Nicosia’s island
48 Too big for your britches
50 “Stop! In the Name of Love” singers
54 Public lavatories, e.g.
57 Collette of *United States of Tara*
58 Party after a Hawaiian wedding, perhaps
59 “Snail-mail” org.
60 Supporter of two plastic brides
61 Role for Bela
62 Gave the slip to
63 Art Deco design name

Down
1 Three couples in bed?
2 Lane of *The Birdcage*
3 Put the collar on
4 Blinding light
5 Shakespearean stream
6 Director Norman of *Prelude to a Kiss*
7 Come together
8 Dice markings
9 Phone message from Glenn?
10 Mary’s TV boss
11 Bruin Bobby
12 Some NFL linemen
18 Salty, white stuff from the Greeks
20 Ban targets
23 Quaint sigh
24 Does a birth rite
25 Signal that goes either way
28 “If I Were King of the Forest” singer
29 High-tuition schools
30 Cheek
32 She played Maude Findlay
33 One who looks into crystal balls
35 Reverend Perry
36 Fab Four flick
37 David Marshall Grant’s ___ of Love
38 Where to see a Sharon Stone movie, perhaps
41 Essen’s river
43 Rita Will, for one
44 Collection of online discussion groups
45 Handle on a streetcar, for Williams?
47 Asian capital
49 The Divine Miss M
51 Matching notes for Rorem?
52 Dave Pallone and others
53 “Hey, over here!”
54 Nellie in journalism
55 Mo. named after a Caesar
56 Benjamin Hoff’s *The ___ of Pooh*
Armando and Albert at TMC: The Mining Company.

Girlfriends at Station 4.


… MLK Weekend Hip Hop Friday at The Brick is hosted by Ida Mee and Sha’Nyla Narcisse with performances by Tommy Ross, Silke O’Hara Munro and Ruby Scott followed by Spotlight Show with Unshante de Foe on Jan. 18. The weekend continues with The Black Glamor Party on Jan 19. … Crystal Ramon begins the weekend’s entertainment at Alexandre’s on Jan 18. 3 Drunk Monkeys appears on Jan 19. Karaoke with L’il Chalupa is the regular Sunday feature. … Beginner dance lessons with Juanita are free every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon. Bring a partner or they’ll find one for you for the couples dancing. Line dancing lessons included, too. … Sunel hosts Wednesday Night Showtime at 9 p.m. at BJ’s NXS. … The Mark Alan Smith Show begins every Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. at Rainbow Lounge. … DFW Leather Corps holds a seminar on Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at Dallas Eagle. Thursday night is Growl: Bear Night. … The Imperial Court de Fort Worth Arlington presents A Night in Morocco on Jan. 24 at Best Friends Club hosted by Imperial Crown Prince and Princess Sam Alexander Lane and Carla Pooch featuring belly dancers and additional entertainers. The evening benefits breast and ovarian cancer care through Cancer Care Services.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.
Armando and Albert at TMC: The Mining Company.
Ashley and Mitch at the Round-Up Saloon.
Guys' night out at JR.'s Bar & Grill.
Carrie and Amanda at Sue Ellen's.
Alex and Mick at the Rainbow Lounge.
Friends at Alexandre's.
Girlfriends at Station 4.
Daniel and Oscar at Station 4.
Friends at Havana.

Lashes & Stashes, with DJ Psycho Shanon and Ricki Sparxx, Frankie 4Play, Artem is Rose, Damien DuPree, Skyler Eva, Sybl Strm, Meria Tucker, Mitchell McLuvin, Emperor 36 Jimmie Tucker and others, benefits AIDS Outreach Center at Best Friends Club on Jan. 19. … Join the DFW Human Rights Campaign at Sue Ellen's on Jan. 20 for an afternoon celebrating women. HRC Her event includes a bachelorette auction, burlesque performance, trivia competition and mix-and-mingle. Jenna Skyy and Cassie Nova are the MCs and auctioneers. …

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY Gregory Hayes
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