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Lesbian fights to get photo of her and girlfriend back in yearbook

A 16-year-old San Antonio student is petitioning Brennan High School to allow a photo (above) of her and her girlfriend to be printed in the school’s 2013 yearbook.

The picture, above, depicts Felicia Rivera holding her girlfriend at school. The photo was selected to run on the Valentine’s Day page but the yearbook adviser removed the image from the page after she found out it was two girls.

The couple has been dating for a year and Rivera has gathered more than 200 student signatures to have the photo placed back on the yearbook page.

“You shouldn’t be discriminated against just because you’re gay,” she told KENS 5. “You shouldn’t worry about people bashing you or talking behind your back just for you to be you.”

Pascual Gonzalez, director of public information for the school district, said the photo wasn’t like other photos selected for the page where students were looking directly at the camera and was “too intimate” and “a little bit too much, exaggerated public display of affection.” The student handbook prohibits public displays of affection on campus.

But Rivera’s father isn’t buying the school’s reasoning behind pulling the photo after it’d already been placed and approved, until the two girls were identified.

“They were fine with it until they realized it was girl-girl,” Felix Rivera said. “It got placed, it got set and it was going to print and then it got pulled.”

Even if the photo isn’t put back in the yearbook, Rivera said the experience has made her want to start a Gay-Straight Alliance on the campus to prevent further discrimination from occurring.

— Anna Waugh

DART board again puts off vote on domestic partner benefits

DART’s board postponed discussion on a plan to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees this week.

The plan, which would offer healthcare benefits to opposite- and same-sex partners of employees, wasn’t discussed at the three-hour meeting of DART’s committee-of-the-whole because time ran out for the issue to be addressed.

The board considered the plan last Tuesday but didn’t vote to approve it, deciding to discuss it further during this week’s meeting.

The plan was approved three weeks ago by the administrative committee but must be approved twice by the committee-of-the-whole before being approved by the Board of Directors.

The board will take up the issue again March 26 and could vote for the plan’s first approval or request more information. The board would again consider the issue April 9 for a second approval before a formal vote on the plan on April 23.

— Anna Waugh

Anti-gay incumbent Vonciel Hill draws LGBT-friendly challenger

Back in October 2011 we reported on the plight of gay residents in the South Oak Cliff neighborhood of Kiestwood.

Kiestwood is currently represented by District 3 Dallas City Councilman Scott Griggs, a strong LGBT ally. But in 2011 redistricting placed Griggs in District 1, where he’ll face off against fellow LGBT ally Delia Jasso this May. Meanwhile, the heavily gay Kiestwood remains in the redrawn District 3, where Vonciel Hill is the incumbent.

Hill, the lone sitting member of the Dallas City Council who has refused to appear in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, once explained her boycott of Dallas’ gay Pride celebration as follows: “I believe that all people are loved by God, all people are created equal under God, but there are acts that God does not bless.”

Raymond Crawford, the gay president of the Kiestwood Historical Homeowners Association, warned in 2011 that Hill’s anti-gay views would come back to haunt her.

“The day she [Hill] comes to call to do some door-knocking or to get some votes, whether I’m the president or not, it’s going to be an interesting conversation with Councilmember Hill,” Crawford said then. “She’ll be in trouble in 2013 based on her previous statements.”

Which brings us to Friday, March 1, filing deadline for May elections, when Crawford sent word that longtime Mountain Creek resident Claudia Meyer is one of three candidates challenging Hill.

“The day she [Hill] comes to call to do some door-knocking or to get some votes, whether I’m the president or not, it’s going to be an interesting conversation with Councilmember Hill,” Crawford said then. “She’ll be in trouble in 2013 based on her previous statements.”

The other candidates who’ve filed in District 3 are Michael J. Connally and Kermit Mitchell.

— John Wright
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ALLEN — At first glance, Nick Hansen looks like any 16-year-old boy: sharp, witty and worried about how cool his hair looks.

But just a few months ago, Hansen was dreading coming out as transgender to his parents, finally admitting he’d been bullied at school and seeing how they’d respond.

Hansen told his parents in November that he was trans. Much to his surprise, his religious parents welcomed the news.

“The first thing they did was get me a haircut so I didn’t have long hair anymore,” Hansen says, laughing. The same day, his parents also bought several books on trans issues so they could better understand what it meant. “They said, ‘We understand this is you and we’re not going to change that’.”

His parents transferred him from school in Little Elm to Allen so he could escape the two years of bullying that began when Hansen started going by a male name and wearing more masculine clothing.

After starting school at Allen, a friend invited him to Youth First Texas Collin County and he started attending the group’s weekly meetings in December.

Since then, he said the group has helped him be more comfortable with who he is now that he is finally living as male.

YFT volunteer Jeanne Rubin said the Collin County group has been around for about eight years, compared to the Dallas group that started in 1999, and was created out of the Collin County Gay and Lesbian Alliance’s work.

Rubin said there are many teens like Hansen who have conservative, religious parents who are supportive when they come out to them, even in conservative Collin County.

“People are conservative in some ways but not in others,” she said, adding that the parents of minorities have a harder time learning that their kids are LGBT.

Dominic, 19, who didn’t want to use his last name because he’s not out to all of his family, said he used to tell his parents he was going somewhere else when he was attending YFT because he knew they wouldn’t like him going. Now, he said, the relationship is one of mutual agreement to not talk about his sexuality.

“I know they don’t like it, but they respect me and don’t complain about it,” he said.

Dominic attended the Dallas YFT group when he was 17. But the group was much larger than the handful of teens who attend YFTCC, and he said it was overwhelming trying to fit in with so many people. So, he stayed in Collin County and took refuge in the intimate group instead.

Rubin said the group ranges from eight to 10 junior high and high school-aged kids at meetings and special events. A few years ago, they had as many as 30 in attendance, but the group has had to move meeting places several times over the years, making it hard to keep its members.

“We’ve had to move so many times, and every time that happens, we lose kids,” Rubin said.

YFTCC currently meets at North Texas Youth Connection’s Allen center and has met there for more than two years, the longest home the group’s
As a radio personality, I’m used to talking a lot, even about the topics people sometimes try to avoid. I’ve realized it’s time to really talk about how HIV is affecting us. That’s why I’m using my voice to speak out about HIV/AIDS in our community.

I AM GARY WITH DA TEA AND I AM GREATER THAN AIDS.
Marvin Fletcher Shelley, 73, passed peacefully at his North Dallas home on Feb. 8, 2013. Shelley was a native of Plano. His ancestors settled in Collin County in the 1880s. His original family home was situated on land that is now the campus of the University of Texas at Dallas.

Shelley graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a bachelor's degree in mechanical and engineering mechanics. In his early career, he designed missile and aircraft control systems, including the Boeing 747 horizontal stabilizer for LTV Electronics and Vought Aeronautics. In the 1970s, Shelley became head of the real estate division for LTV. In the 1980s, he designed custom homes and later started his own development company. He also owned and operated Shelley Realtors, dominating the North Arlington, Oak Lawn and Uptown markets — and is credited with coining the phrase Uptown Dallas with full-page ads in Dallas newspapers. Shelley successfully developed several residential, industrial and commercial developments in McKinney, Arlington, Dallas, Frisco, Plano, Richardson, Allen, Las Colinas and other areas of Tarrant County. In his spare time, Shelley enjoyed gardening and entertaining at home.

Shelley is preceded in passing by his father, mother and brother. Survivors include a daughter, grandson and his partner of 22 years, Derik J. Albertson. Shelley will be deeply missed by those who knew him and loved him.

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**Black Transmen hosts 2nd annual advocacy conference next week**

Black Transmen Inc.’s second annual Transgender Advocacy Conference is next week from March 13-17.

BTMI founder Carter Brown said the organization will launch its female component, Black Transwomen Inc. at the conference.

He said the five-day conference is already larger than last year, with 221 people registered, compared to 186 people who attended last year. Those who attend will also experience a broader and more diverse conference, as workshops will span health and educational issues to how to be an LGBT ally and handling workplace issues.

Night events during the conference will range from a talent show to a ball and pageant.

The focus of this year’s conference will build upon last year’s work, which inspired people to become leaders in their community. Now, Brown said the shift will be to discovering who people are as leaders with the theme, “The Power of You.”

Brown encouraged trans people, as well as family members, friends and supporters of the LGBT community to attend, as workshops will focus on several issues. People can register for one day or just the Saturday banquet on March 16 at BlackTransMen.org.

For more information about the conference, see our story at DallasVoice.com.
Mesorito — A lesbian from Seagoville was recovering this week after suffering a dislocated jaw when she was brutally attacked in an apparent anti-gay hate crime at a Mesquite playground.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Mesquite Police Department disputed initial media reports about the attack that suggested authorities were discounting anti-gay bias as a possible motive. The spokesman said police are still looking for a suspect but haven’t ruled out a hate crime.

The suspect yelled gay epithets while he beat Sondra Scarber after she tried to defend her 4-year-old from bullying at the hands of the suspect’s children. After knocking Scarber to the ground, the suspect kicked her in the mouth and stomped her face. She would later need surgery on her jaw, which had been knocked an inch-and-a-half out of alignment.

Scarber said this week she’s on a room-temperature liquid diet. Both hot and cold hurts the metal in her mouth. She’s tried some solid food, but even mashed potatoes are hard for her to swallow. Scarber said rubber bands in her mouth would be off in two weeks, metal would come out in three weeks and then she would begin physical therapy that could last up to two years.

“There’s no feeling in the lower jaw,” Scarber said.

The assault happened Feb. 17 at the Seabourn Elementary School playground, where Scarber and her partner Hillary Causey had taken their son to play.

A 10-year-old began pushing their son around so Scarber told the boy to stop. That’s when the boy’s younger sister went to the car to get their father. Causey said she expected the father to tell his son not to pick on a 4-year-old but as he got closer, she could see his anger. At first, he thought Scarber was a man.

When he realized she was woman, he said, “Oh, it’s a bitch. It’s a bitch,” according to Causey.
“You’re a woman, but you think you’re a man.”
He called her a dyke and a faggot, holding her up by her necklace and repeatedly hitting her in the face until he knocked her out.
“I’m going to beat you like a man,” he said.
Causey said a woman who was with the suspect tried to stop him but he pushed her away. He dropped Scarber to the ground and kicked her in the mouth, detaching her jaw on the right side. Scarber said as she was trying to regain consciousness, she saw his foot come down on her face.
She said her son was standing there watching.
“Please don’t kill her,” she said he pleaded.
The woman who was with the suspect convinced him not to attack Causey and to leave, but first he took Scarber’s phone, earrings and cap and tried to get her shoes.
When the suspect and the woman ran to their car, Causey chased him and snatched the phone out of his hand. She got close enough to the car to see a large Ziplock bag of marijuana in the front seat. As they drove off, she called police.
Police arrived at the scene within minutes, and Scarber turned away the ambulance.
Instead, Scarber saw a doctor later and underwent surgery on her mouth Feb. 28. Her bite is not expected to return to where it was before the attack.

Emotional Scars | Scarber and her partner Hillary Causey, shown at home in Seagoville this week, said their son blames himself for what happened and is undergoing counseling. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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Emotional Scars | Scarber and her partner Hillary Causey, shown at home in Seagoville this week, said their son blames himself for what happened and is undergoing counseling. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Hedgpeth said that because of injuries Scarber suffered and because the assailant took her cap, the department plans to pursue a charge of aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony.
Scarber, on the other hand, has several more doctors’ appointments over the next couple of months, a possible second surgery and 18 months to two years of physical therapy and recovery ahead of her. The Victim’s Compensation Fund is helping pay for her medical treatment because she has no health insurance.
Causey described her son as angry since the attack and she’s taking him for counseling at a victim’s outreach program.
“He’s blaming himself for what happened to me,” Scarber said.
Causey said he’s angry he couldn’t protect her.
The suspect is a black male, standing 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighing 180 pounds. He was wearing a royal blue T-shirt and jeans. He was with a woman and four children. He drove away in a silver, early 2000s Chevy Impala with paper temporary tags.
About 50 feet away from where she was attacked, a group of adults were playing basketball. None tried to intervene and when the police arrived, they said they didn’t see anything.
Causey thinks the man’s children go to that school or at least come to play there regularly. When the kids got there, they seemed to know the playground, she said.
Since then, she and several friends have watched the school parking lot during school. She said they spotted several cars fitting the description dropping off children. Last week, when a friend began following a silver Impala, the woman sped off.
But she got a license plate number off the car with new black and white Texas plates, which may have replaced the temporary paper tag.
Hedgpeth said Mesquite police are determined to make an arrest in the case.
“Someone with this propensity for violence is a danger to everyone in the community,” Hedgpeth said. “This bad guy needs to be arrested so we can prosecute and get him off the street.”
Judge recommends denial of TABC license for Hideaway

An administrative law judge is recommending that the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission deny a license for Marty’s Hideaway, making it unlikely that the gay bar on Buena Vista will open anytime soon.

The Hershner family, which also owns the Tin Room and Chesterfield’s, has been trying to reopen the iconic piano bar that closed more than three years ago in the Cole Park area of Oak Lawn.

But a group of neighbors challenged the Hershner’s application for a TABC license, citing noise, crime, trash and other concerns.

The neighbors’ protest was heard at a daylong hearing before an administrative law judge in January.

“Applicant cannot rely on the prior bar’s existence to bootstrap its application; rather the area is evaluated as it is at the time relevant to the application,” Administrative Law Judge Craig Bennett wrote in his Proposal for Decision, dated Feb. 21.

However, the judge also dismissed many of the arguments of the neighbors protesting the application. Their case was based on five points — the manner in which the Tin Room operates, citing noise, crime, trash and other concerns.

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Justin Nichols remembers just how negative the Collin County world can be. Raised in Plano, Nichols went on to work as a teen court coordinator for the county and ran for Plano City Council as an out candidate in 2008. His candidacy brought up his sexual orientation at work, and he was later forced to resign from his position for being gay.

Nichols said he couldn’t discuss the controversy that led to him resigning because of a confidentiality agreement he signed during the settlement. But he said he’s seen the city and the county change since he was a teen.

“I think Collin County is growing and the idea that it’s a small-time, small-minded area really isn’t the case anymore,” he said. “As Collin County grows, so does the LGBT community.”

Nichols came out in high school at 16 with mixed responses. He said he had supportive teachers, as well as some who threw a Bible down on his desk.

“There were always people who were supportive,” he said.

He said during the time he worked for the county he spoke to YFT a few times. He said it’s an organization that is still needed in the conservative county to continue to educate and encourage youth.

“The reality is Collin County is still relatively conservative,” he said. “There’s certainly a need for YFT.”

Bradi Pirtle’s mom recognized her daughter would need YFT when they moved to North Texas from Chicago in July. Pirtle, 17, said her mom researched groups she could attend for LGBT youth since she left a group behind.

While Pirtle misses how liberal and accepting Chicago is compared to the conservative attitudes in Texas that seem dominant at times, she said YFT has helped her make the transition easier.

“I really like it and feel like it provides a sense of community that otherwise wouldn’t exist,” she said.

That community has certainly helped Hansen, who said his life has entirely changed for the better since moving to Allen and joining YFT.

Hansen said the bullying at his previous school in Little Elm varied from being pushed around to verbal abuse. But he was worried about coming out to his parents and asking for help.

“I didn’t want to make a big deal about it. I tried to tough it out,” he said. “After I asked for help, it got a million times better.”

He said he’s bravely discussing hormone replacement therapy with his parents, and they scheduled an appointment to discuss it with a doctor. And while there will be more discussions and maybe even battles up ahead, the thought of going on hormones is enough for Hansen.

“I’m excited because even the possibility of being on hormones is great,” he said.

Youth First Texas Collin County meets Sundays from 6-7:30 p.m. at North Texas Youth Connection, 201 W. Boyd Drive #105D, Allen. For more information, go to YouthFirstTexas.org.
Poll: TX voters back marriage equality

A growing number of Texas voters support the freedom to marry for gays and lesbians, according to new polls released this week by Equality Texas and the University of Texas/Texas Tribune.

The Equality Texas telephone poll was similar to one commissioned by the organization in 2010 and asked about 11 key issues, including discrimination, domestic partner benefits and relationship recognition. The highest change found that 47.9 percent of voters support marriage equality compared to 47.5 percent who oppose it. In 2010, 42.7 percent of voters supported marriage equality.

The poll also found that 64.7 percent of voters support civil unions, compared to the 63.1 percent who favored it three years ago.

The poll was conducted by Glengariff Group, Inc. and surveyed 1,000 voters between Jan. 24-27. It has a margin of error of 3.1 percent.

Other areas with a high increase in support were making medical decisions for a partner, inheriting possessions without a will, extending domestic partnership benefits to government and public university employees and recognizing the same-sex marriages from other states.

A University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll also released this week found that 37 percent think gay and lesbian Texans should be able to marry, 28 percent think they should have civil unions and 28 percent said they shouldn’t have either.

As for the most important issue facing Texas, 0 percent answered gay marriage, compared to the 1 percent who answered that gay marriage was the most important problem facing America today.

The results are close to a similar October 2012 poll that found 36 percent support marriage equality, 33 percent support civil unions and 25 percent don’t support either.

That Web poll questioned 1,200 respondents between Feb. 15-25, with a 3.3 percent margin of error. The poll was conducted by YouGov, which has residents who agree to participate in surveys.

Equality Texas Executive Director Chuck Smith said the organization’s poll used a different methodology than the UT/Texas Tribune one. He said the random sampling was done geographically based on population and broken down into nine different regions.

Even though the polls used a different sampling and method, Smith said they “continue to show positive improvement” in public opinion. Smith said the poll results don’t indicate a ballot measure repealing the marriage amendment that prohibits same-sex marriage would pass anytime soon, especially with such a minor plurality in the Equality Texas poll of those who support and oppose same-sex marriage.

“We’re not ready for a ballot measure yet,” Smith said. “It’s going to take time and energy and money to win at the ballot box because time, energy and money are going to be spent against a ballot measure.”

Until then, he said the attention should focus on changing state laws to protect LGBT citizens, which are increasingly supported by Texas voters.

“The effort now needs to continue to have those views reflected in public policy because right now they’re not,” Smith said.

For full results from the Equality Texas poll, go to TinyUrl.com/EQTXpoll.

— Anna Waugh
Hate knows no fences

Anti-LGBT violence is on the rise in U.S., and 3 recent crimes in D-FW show we’re not safe in our ‘gay bubble’

Incidents of hate violence against the North Texas LGBT community are on the rise, and everyone has reason to be concerned. A set of popular myths about LGBT security make us more vulnerable to harm and more likely to deny how much at risk we really are in the Dallas-Fort Worth “gay bubble.” A few simple steps can help LGBT people stand strong against hate violence, so that the tide of harm can be stemmed in the region we love.

Three recently reported cases should awaken us to the fact that people still hate us for who and what we are right here in our own neighborhoods — and are willing to act on that hatred violently. The horrific beating last month of lesbian Sondra Scarber in a Mesquite elementary school playground for defending her 4-year-old child against bullies has drawn the most media attention. The attacker, allegedly a parent of one of the bullies, yelled homophobic slurs, knocked Scarber unconscious and broke her jaw when he realized he was facing a lesbian.

Soon thereafter, North Texas was shaken by news of a gay couple, Ben Allen and Justin Huddings, whose property was vandalized in Everman with the spray-painted slur “Burn FAG.” Allen and Huddings were targeted after locals learned they had been rejected by a wedding reception venue that refused to serve same-sex couples.

Most recently, we heard of the arrest of Erica Moore in Forest Hill, a mother who faces felony charges for whipping her 15-year-old son bloody when she found him engaged in same-sex acts with a teenage cousin in her home. Moore adamantly defends “whooping” her boy with an electrical power cord because “homosexuality is a sin” in her value system.

We are burying our heads in the sand if we believe these hate crimes in Mesquite, Everman and Forest Hill are not our concern in the D-FW “gay bubble.” Familiar taverns and social groups give us a false sense of security. Dallas residents ignore fresh rumors of attacks by bat-swinging men near the strip, and recent Tarrant County hate crimes remind Fort Worth folks of the forgotten trauma of the raid on the Rainbow Lounge, not quite four years ago.

Dallas and Fort Worth have protection statutes for LGBTQ people, but none of the Mid-Cities have them yet. D-FW security also depends on what people believe and do in the suburbs and Mid-Cities. Lest we forget, it was just a short drive from Garland for the three attackers who beat longtime Dallas gayborhood resident Jimmy Dean within an inch of his life in July 2008, stomping the nose off his face. Today’s reports of local violence mean that the risk of being LGBTQ in North Texas never went away.

Myths of security hamper the North Texas LGBT community from taking steps to stop the violence, such as:

1) Hate crimes are down nationally and regionally. False: Since President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law in October 2009, murders of LGBTQ people have reached historic highs each year since. The murders of our people are increasing alarmingly, not decreasing, as reported by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, or NCAPV, and the FBI.

2) Victims are risk-takers. They are “flamers.” Their irresponsibility leads to their harm. False: Studies of LGBT homicide victims show that they were specifically targeted because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Since 1982, LGBTQ people from all walks of life have been killed in bias-driven hate crimes.

3) As young people become more politically and socially powerful, risk of anti-LGBT violence will diminish. False, also: The profile of who murders LGBT people today is a white male, 17–27 years of age. While youth attitudes on LGBT equality have improved, so have incidents of youth violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, especially transgender people of color.

So, what can our community do to raise consciousness about our risk of violence, prevent and even decrease incidents of harm?

• Speak out against violence against any group. The violence of our culture is the launching pad for attacks on the LGBT community, immigrants, racial/ethnic minorities, women and minority religions. Remember, we are all in this together.

The Rev. Stephen V. Sprinkle is an ordained Baptist minister, an openly gay professor at Fort Worth’s Brite Divinity School, theologian-in-residence at Cathedral of Hope and the author of Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memories of LGBT People Lost to Violence.

The Rev. Stephen Sprinkle
Contributing columnist
svsprinkle51@yahoo.com

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CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE AT DALLASVOICE.COM

Do you feel safe from anti-LGBT hate crimes in your neighborhood?

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK’S POLL:

• Yes: 57 percent
• No: 28 percent
• Unsure: 15 percent

46 votes cast

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), telephone (214-754-9710 ext. 113) or via the U.S. Postal Service (Dallas Voice, 4145 Travis St., Third Floor, Dallas, TX 75204).
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Legendary comedian Joan Rivers doesn’t care about being politically correct — only funny

Joan Rivers was gay before gay was trendy.

Well, not gay herself — though we wouldn’t put anything by her. But the shockingly comical was courting gay audiences — and developing a gay sensibility — probably as far back as Stonewall. She even came up through the ranks at the same time as Lily Tomlin, whom she still adores.

“We both worked together before we were discovered — Lily and I go back forever together. I thought she was the funniest girl then; she did a thing about going to a funeral and making the corpse laugh,” she says. “And in honor of Sleepless in Seattle, the bridal favors were a piece of Meg Ryan’s original face.”

It’s lines like that that have kept Rivers — at 79 — one of the busiest performers in America.

Career ups-and-downs (from her Tonight Show debacle to the suicide of her husband) bridled but did not halt the indefatigable jokester. She’s a queen of informercials, the scary master of the red carpet and reigning maven on the E! hit show Fashion Police, the subject of the acclaimed documentary Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work, a Broadway vet and Tony Award nominee, even Donald Trump’s one-time Celebrity Apprentice.

“You forgot Joan and Melissa Saturday nights on WE and In Bed with Joan, which is a huge hit on the Internet,” she corrects, chuckling.

The point is: Joan Rivers has remade herself over and over — almost as often as her own face.

And yet, with a schedule hectic even for a person half her age, Rivers still finds time to do what made her a legend: Tour with her standup act, which arrives at the Winspear this weekend.

JOAN RIVERS
Winspear Opera House
2403 Flora St. March 10.
7:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

Legacy of being out there and reaching a different audience? There is nothing else like it. It’s like greeting old friends. I’ve played to 7,000 … 8,000 people and it’s all the same. I work from the front row out.”

Rivers has time now to tour, since her high holy days — awards season — ended with the Oscars last month. She finally has a break from red carpet snark. So what did she conclude about with this season? How boring it all was.

“Melissa and I were the first to go live from the red carpet, back when they dressed themselves. As it got more popular, they all have stylists now. They all look wonderful, they all look very thin. But luckily there’s always someone to make a fool of herself,” she says.

This season, some of that was directed toward co-host Kelly Osbourne, who took criticism for calling nominee Quvenzhane Wallis merely “Q.”

“Let’s get real here!” Rivers shouts. “They came down on Kelly cuz she called her Q! She has told people just to call her Q! How about getting a name you can pronounce? P.C. has reached the point of insanity. If you think you’ll see P.C. in my show Sunday, don’t fucking come!”

Rivers has always pushed the envelope (“I want to give people the best hour and a half show, but 3 percent should walk out furious,” she admits), though the one person who never reflects the Big Picture about what that means is … Joan Rivers.

“I enjoyed working with [the filmmakers who made Piece of Work], but who knows who we are and who cares? I don’t dwell on who I am. The SAG Awards, where the nominees say ‘I’m an act-er!’ Snore. You’re a former pizza waitress who got a good part. The only people who care about who I am are the people I owe money to. They look at me and say, ‘I wonder if she’ll be around to pay us back.’”

So far, Joan, so good.
Gay Dallas designers turn TV fame into a showcase for local fashions

Evening gowns and men’s underwear might sound like unlikely combinations coming down a runway, but then again, Oscar Fierro and James Martinez are an unlikely combination themselves. Longtime friends, these local designers shot to the national spotlight as the result of reality TV. Both had been finalists for multiple reality series before landing primo spots — Fierro on NBC’s Fashion Star last year, Martinez earlier this year as a contestant on the current season of Project Runway.

But Dallas doesn’t have to tune into the tube to see their work — they, along with several other designers, will be showcasing their collections at Runway, a fashion show March 13 at the Belo Mansion.

When Fierro learned Martinez was going to be on Project Runway, he immediately pitched the idea of a joint show as a way to showcase their new collections.

“James knows I am all about quality when it comes to production and it would be a way to strengthen our brands,” says Fierro, who is planning a collection of the full-length gowns that have become his trademark, as well as men’s underwear; Martinez — known for his pants — will showcase 12 everyday-wear men’s looks in his collection, featuring vests and jackets. Martinez was specifically excited about his yellow hot pants in addition to a pair of divine black and white marble knit pants.

Though Fierro and Martinez have great respect for one another, their design processes and styles differ greatly. Martinez’s design process is technical, measured and precise, originating from sketches on his computer to pattern and sample makers.

“Things like my denim pants are a much longer process. I make several pair so that I can try different washes, colors and treatments. I’ve been doing this for over four years and I learn something new every day,” Martinez says.

Fierro’s process, by contrast, is imaginative and broad-stroked.

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“Basically, I’m all about] draping selected fabrics on mannequin to create the piece,” he says. “Then I snap a photo and send the picture and a bolt of fabric to El Salvador for production. I am fortunate enough to work with people who understand my vision and we work through the details on the phone.”

They decided to open up the show to five other local designers, to give them the opportunity to be in the spotlight as well (as many of them have also been finalists for reality shows).
When Leslie Ezelle steps into Cowboys Stadium this weekend, it won’t be the first time she’s performed in a venue that houses America’s Team: 25 years ago, she slipped on the spangled short-shorts and halter top and, for two seasons, rah-rah’d as a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader.

“It is weird,” she agrees. “I’m delighted to be back. The fact I’m able to go into that room” is a kind of victory.

Life has changed a lot for Ezelle in her years since she cheered: Breakups and relationships, co-parenting four kids with her partner Libby (she jokes that they could have their own reality show, The Real Modern Family), starting a business, gaining fame (and eventually, the championship) on reality TV. And most dramatic of all was her diagnosis of breast cancer.

But all these changes have been blessings for Ezelle, each one feeding a piece of her to make her who she is.

Her story as a breast cancer survivor (and her openness about it) made her a popular contestant on a season of HGTV’s Design Star. Although she was kicked off before the finale, she returned for the All Star edition, winning the prize money … but not the thing she most desired.

“The money was spent before the check arrived,” she jokes over ahi tuna tacos at Dragonfly in the Hotel Zaza. “It was really great to win … but I still didn’t get my own show!”

But if fighting cancer has taught her one thing, it is tenacity.

“I have not stopped! I’ve been a dog with a bone,” she says.

In the meantime, Ezelle — whose design company is based in Dallas — continued to apply the lessons from her life to develop lifestyle ideas for women like her: Those who want their environment to be peaceful, productive and healthy.

Toward that end, Ezelle will be making several presentations at the Great Big Dallas Home Show at Cowboys Stadium this weekend. (The Home Show is especially gay this year, with Ezelle joined this weekend by fellow reality celeb Josh Flagg of Bravo’s Million Dollar Listing.) In one demo, which she labels Tame Your Domain, she explores “the importance of a happy, healthy
Lesbian lifestyle guru Leslie Ezelle gained fame on HGTV’s ‘Design Star,’ but her greatest victory was turning breast cancer into a motivator for success.

“Our home is one place we can control,” she explains. Her goal is to help people create “a healthy-driven and aesthetically pleasing environment — your home as spa, from kitchen to office to bath to bedroom.”

The process, she says, is really just applying rules we’ve been taught since the 1970s. Still, it isn’t always easy.

“I had lost control of my home,” Ezelle admits. “It took longer for me to heal because of it. I was the first person in history to beg my doctor to keep me in the hospital longer.”

Ezelle puts a lot of her ideas into practice not only at her own home (which she and Libby recently remodeled themselves), but with her friends and clients. One of the most surprising pieces of advice? Do not bring home to work. “Nope,” she says. “Not even your bills. Keep home at home, but put everything in what I call a stress box: Stress out as much as you have to … for an hour. Then put it in a closet and close the door. Keep it there.”

Ezelle counsels making the bedroom a refuge as well. “Unplug!” she says. “No electronics.” (The means no iPad in bed.) In your bathroom, hide all the things that make it look like a bathroom — shampoo bottle sitting out, for example — and turn it into a spa. Then take a long, hot bath.

These rules were developed with women in mind, but Ezelle knows men (especially gay men and metrosexuals) enjoy a little pampering, too. Still, that won’t stop her from another demo, “a sort of Cosmo Quiz about men and women, about how to get your design aesthetic in your life.” (One rule: You should always be able to see the top of your bedside table.)

But being at peace with her home and coming to appreciate life as a cancer survivor hasn’t slowed down Ezelle’s ambitions one iota. In addition to developing a line of pillows that provide comfort and fashion sense to women recuperating from surgery, she’s working on several books, blogging incessantly and growing her design business. And there is still the ultimate goal: Developing a lifestyle TV show to bring her ideas to the masses.

“Eventually the network will get tired of me and give me a show,” she says. “We don’t put it by her.”

To learn more, visit LeslieChristineDesigns.com.
When Max Tibbits was growing up in the 1960s, his house was in a “kind of isolated” part of Central Texas. “There were not a lot of kids in the neighborhood,” he says in a recent phone interview.

Tibbits’ mother designed and built houses, so what the family did have lying around the house were a lot of old copies of periodicals from the National Association of Homebuilders and Architectural Forum—not exactly traditional childhood reading.

Like many gay kids starved to embrace creativity, Tibbits loved poring over them.

“I would read those magazines to keep myself company,” he says. “At first I just liked the advertisements, and then I liked the articles.”

Tibbits went on to study architecture at Texas A&M, but detoured, slowly, into a different but related arena: Antiques. He now owns and sells a vast, beautifully edited collection of mid-century furniture.

Tibbits will be on hand with some of his collection this weekend at the Fort Worth Show of Antiques and Art (formerly the Dolly Johnson Show), celebrating its 50th year. Last year, Tibbits sold out all but two pieces of his entire stock of mid-century wares.

While these days mid-century pieces are almost de rigueur for anyone with an eye for design, that wasn’t always the case: Tibbits got an interest in it early on. While at A&M, his grandmother was redoing an old room and planned to give away all the furniture in it.

“I said, ‘No! I want it!’” Tibbits laughs. He ended up with a room full of furniture others considered outdated; now they are classic collectibles. And the collection has grown ever crowded since.

“I always thought it was cool, and I started so many years ago when no one else was interested in it, I was hoarding it for a while,” he says.

“People would tease me about it.”

The unenlightened teaser probably wish they had held their tongues. Tibbits now owns a warehouse full of beauties—Eames chairs, Florence Knoll credenzas and other pieces featuring the clean, unadorned, deceptively simple looking designs that mark the period. But the beauty of the furniture isn’t just in its aesthetic.

“It feels like it is part of a time when the U.S. was at its sort of zenith of creativity and power,” he says. “Even though it was a really repressive period, too, people became very creative in the places that they could.”

It’s a thoughtful way of looking at what otherwise might just be considered either a purely functional aspect of life, or a purely fashionable one. This furniture means something to Tibbits, a fact reflected in his careful editing of what he chooses and what he sells.

Once packed, his warehouse is beginning to clear out a little as his inventory gets more and more popular. As his search for new pieces goes on, Tibbits says, his love of mid-century pieces never wanes. He pinpoints one aspect that continues his excitement: “Modern design was so creative, there’s an energy to it,” he says. “It wasn’t like some rehashing of something that had been done before.”

— Jonanna Widner
Dear Howard,

I’m 22, hot looking with a monster endowment — I’m talkin’ horses move back! My goal is to fall in love with a rich man someday soon — only a rich man — and to “marry” him. My friends call me a golddigger, but I say, what dummy wants to go digging for just tin? I don’t come from money. I come from the tracks’ wrong friggin’ side. My problem, Howard, is that it’s impossible for me to spot the men who have real money from those who are just players. I wanna be able to tell instantly by just looking at someone whether he has actual, real money or not. Could you help me? When I’m out on a first date, what are the top 10 giveaways I should look for to determine if some man is a keeper worth me pursuing? — Beauty Boi

Dear Zaz,

Seeing as how you’ve cornered me here by outright requesting (from a golddigger’s perspective exclusively, no less) the top 10 moneyminded “giveaways” to look for (all cues of true gentlemen as well), I’ve drawn up for you — a failsafe list by which you may instantly calculate whether your first date is worth you so much as even deigning him a second, follow-up date:

1. If he’s flaunting a Rolex, run away from him and never look back. Rolexes are worn by playas, only.
2. If he’s wearing a suit, there must be four buttons on its sleeve cuff; if he’s wearing a blazer, there should be no fewer than three buttons on its sleeve cuff; if he’s sporting no jacket at all, it’s, “Next in line!”
3. The leather of your date’s belt must match the leather of his shoes. If he’s donning neither a belt, nor shoes, simply slam your door in the cretin’s face.
4. Neckties must be 100 percent silk and, of course, clip-less; occasionally, wool neckties are acceptable.
5. Flip-flops are never permissible foot attire (except at the beach), and sneakers are never permissible foot attire on a date, period.
6. No visible tattoos or facial jewelry are permitted — ever (including earrings).
7. Jeans are not proper dinner attire; however, jeans are perfectly acceptable for, say, a Starbucks coffee date.
8. If he fails to open either his car door or a restaurant door for you, then rest assured that the only thing he’s remotely interested in is a one-night stand with that horsemeat bulge in your britches.
9. If he brags about money, or name-drops celebrities he has met, or babbles haughtily about how fabulous he is, do not return his calls/texts/emails again in a million years.
10. If he doesn’t compliment you within the first five minutes of showing up, dump his sorry butt — quickly.

Got a question you think Howard can answer? Email it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.
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PHOTO BY ANDREW COPPA
**Friday 03.08**

**Dance troupe Grupo Corpo at Winspear**
As if you need another reason to love Brazil, seeing Grupo Corpo in action should seal the deal. An exquisite blending of ballet, power and the beauty of the human form, this 35-year-old troupe gives rare sensuality to dance while exploring the soul and rhythms of Latin American culture.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. $12–$125. ATTPAC.org.

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**Saturday 03.09**

**‘Gay Marriage Plays’ begins run at Out of the Loop**
WaterTower Theatre’s Out of the Loop Fringe Festival is already under way, but it really gets rolling this weekend, with Saturday and Sunday chock full of shows — many with gay interest. In fact, plan it right, and Saturday you can see gay scribe David Parr’s *Pluto Is Listening* at 5 p.m., gay cabaret star Walter Lee at 7 and Q Live’s entry, *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* at 8. But don’t worry if you miss one or two — all (and more of gay interest) will be performed throughout the fest.

**DEETS:** Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 17. $10 (individual) to $65 (season pass). For a full performance schedule, visit WaterTowerTheatre.org.

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**Sunday 03.10**

**‘Gay Marriage Plays’ continues run at Out of the Loop**
Seeing *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* through Sunday will give you more than enough reason to enjoy the rest of the fest. The production shows the best of fringe, with a 7 p.m. show Sunday (8 p.m. Saturday), seven-by-seven style, with one-minute acts interspersed with 17-minute gay-themed dramas by some of the best in the biz.

**DEETS:** Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 17. $10 (individual) to $65 (season pass). For a full performance schedule, visit WaterTowerTheatre.org.
**THEATER**

**The Out of the Loop Fringe Festival.** The annual 11-day festival of performance; this year featured among the shows are *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* and *Elephant in the Closet*, each of which deals with gay issues; Diana Sheehan, Walter Lee and Amy Stevenson also perform their music. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 17. Tickets from $10 to $65 (season-wide pass). Visit WaterTowerTheatre.org for a complete schedule.

**Camelot.** The Lerner and Loewe musical, presented by Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Final weekend. CasaManana.org.


**Idols of the King.** Theatre 3’s newest mainstage show, a play with music about “The King,” Elvis Presley. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 30. $10–$50. Theatre3Dallas.com.


**FINE ART**


**China Through the Lens of John Thomson 1868-1872.** The vanished world of Imperial China is preserved on glass plate made over a four-year period in this new exhibition at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through May 5. Free. CrowCollection.org.


**Linear Language.** A show featuring six artists, all dealing in line and form. Mary T omas Gallery, 1110 Dragon St. Through March 25. MaryT omasGallery.com.

**CONNECTING DALLAS TO THE HOLOCAUST.** A special temporary exhibit at the Old Red Courthouse in cooperation with and curated by the Dallas Holocaust Museum. 100 S. Houston St. Through July 14. OldRed.org.


**SATURDAY 03.09**

**OPERA**
Dallas Opera Spring Gala. Mezzo Susan Graham set to make her DC debut later this month with The Asperim Papers, performs, with reception and dinner on the Skoukos Stage part of the evening. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 6:30 p.m. Tickets from $250. DallasOpera.org/gala.

**COMMUNITY**
Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet on the patio of the recreation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

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

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**SUNDAY 03.10**

**COMEDY**
Joan Rivers. The legendary comedian, aged 79, performs her standup act. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

**FASHION**
PositivTea. Fashion show and fundraiser for Legacy Counseling Center. Bridge Bistro, 921 N. Riverfront Blvd. 3–6 p.m. $10–$100. LegacyCares.org.

**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.

The ONE Church, 5427 Philip Ave. Services 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org.

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**MONDAY 03.11**

**COMMUNITY**
Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County. Tommy’s Hamburger Grill, 5228 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. TarrantCountyStonewallDemocrats.org. 817-913-8743.

PFLAG Mesquite. St. Stephen United Methodist Church, 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

**BROADCAST**
RuPaul’s Drag Race. The new season continues. Logo at 8 p.m., followed by the behind-the-scenes Untucked. Dallas. Intrigue among the Ewings, with many local actors in roles. TNT at 8 p.m.

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**TUESDAY 03.12**

**COMMUNITY**
Late Bloomers, social support group for women who came out later in life. La Madeleine, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. 903-778-4446.

FUSE Foundation discussion group for gay and bi guys up to 29. Jume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 2367. 7 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

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**WEDNESDAY 03.13**

**AUTOMOTIVE**
DFW Auto Show. Inspect, compare and test drive the latest models at this showcase of Detroit’s latest, as well as classic cars. Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. March 13–17. Tickets from $11. DFWNCDA.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.

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**THURSDAY 03.14**

**DINING**
Savor Dallas. The annual celebration of North Texas food kicks off a weekend of tastings and seminars with a sneak peek of the new Trinity Groves, 421 Bedford St., 6:30–8:30 p.m. SavorDallas.com.

**COMMUNITY**

PFLAG Dallas. Northaven United Methodist Church, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.
CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

John Barrowman turns 48 on Tuesday. The out Scottish-American actor, well-known in Britain for his musical theater career, has been a crossover star in the U.S., thanks to his leading role on the BBCA series Torchwood. In 2006, he married his partner, Scott Gill.

PISCES: Feb 21—Mar 20
Your current situation has you torn between what works for you and what works for everyone else. You wish you could get them all to see things your way, but they aren’t looking with the same pair of eyes, and their lessons are different than yours.

ARIES: Mar 21—Apr 20
You have enough to keep you busy for a while. It would be great if you could loosen up enough to make it fun. Too much internal pressure, too much responsibility and a dose of guilt pile the weight of the past, which isn’t working for you.

TAURUS: Apr 21—May 20
Your ties to the past keep you stuck in a place that disallows any chance to make room for something new to enter. Old ghosts, old beliefs — both issues keep you in a holding pattern. The need to hang on is understandable, but only up to a point.

GEMINI: May 21—Jun 20
Keeping your ducks in a row would be easier if you didn’t have so many of them. The fact that they keep stepping out of line will be your main issue for the next few weeks. Without making it sound too complicated, now is the time to take a look at how you’re going to get all of this done.

CANCER: Jun 21—Jul 20
The weight of a lot of things rests on your head. Other matters keep requiring you to deal with whatever’s on the bottom line; that would include, the bottom of the barrel and any issue that relates to mistakes or errors in judgment.

LEO: Jul 21—Aug 20
The next time you decide to give it all away, save a little something for yourself. This theme is cropping up everywhere. Between what you’re doing financially and what you’re dispensing emotionally, before you know it you’ll be waiting away.

VIRGO: Aug 21—Sep 20
You’re sure that you know everything. On a lot of levels this appears to be true, but there’s so much to be said for what other people have to share with you. Of late, your mind has become closed to everything but what you are willing to see or hear.

LIBRA: Sep 21—Oct 20
Faith is the key to everything. Yours is subject to doubts that arise when life starts heading for a fall. More than most other signs, your expectations are sugar-coated with visions that don’t correspond to the way things go 50 percent of the time.

SCORPIO: Oct 21—Nov 20
Keep reminding yourself that there’s no need to make any of this more serious than it needs to be. It’s great to take care of business, but you forget that you’ve got to leave room for yourself. The next few weeks will see you working your ass off.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 21—Dec 20
You have family issues and beliefs that take precedence over the things that make your life work. It’s great to be in touch with your roots, but you’re putting too much faith in values that have no bearing on you or the way you want to live your life.

CAPRICORN: Dec 21—Jan 20
This is what having your cake and eating it too feels like: You are either on top of the world or at odds with it. Since you can’t tell which end you’re on, themes of waking up have many of you seeing what needs to happen next in a whole new light.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21—Feb 20
Everything is easier if you can look at it objectively. Others have twisted things up in a way that confuses you. The need to talk things over can make things worse when the person you’re talking to is so good at turning everything into its opposite.

Kyle’s Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

WEBSITE - www.kylecomics.com
E-MAIL - KylesBnB@aol.com

bitter girl

THE GAMBLING TABLE

ALL THIS WHEN JESSICA WAS ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH ROSE ON BUSINESS? YEAH, THE ORIGINA... OH, OR OFF? OR OFF?

I’LL GET YOU THE ORIGINAL RAGGEDY GIRLS WOULD IT TIGHTEN UP... OR OFF? NO WAY! TWIN BEERS SAYS THEY HAD A BEER AT THE TIME THEY’RE UP AT IT!

YOU’RE ON! YOU’RE ON!

START TALKING- WE'RE THERE!

Wow, Kyle got to you too, huh?

TOFU SCRAMBLER.

That means I like women. I have no sexual attraction to you.

AND THAT SOME- HOW CHANGES EVERYTHING?

As a lesbian...

STEELE...

You’re about as boring to me as a yellow lab.

Yeah, well... you never saw my penis before.

It’s called a robe.

And when have you ever worn a robe in this B&B before?

Mornin’, Delia.

Whoa, what the hell are you wearing, Steele?

AND IT’S NEVER BEEN AN ISSUE.

Now you’ve become Mary Worth?

No, it’s ridiculous. I’ve seen you walking around this house tons of times in your briefs...

IT AIN’T FUNNY, DELIA.

...and it’s never been an issue.

Well, it is a B&B.

IT’S CALLED A ROBE.

SO WHAT ARE YOU MAKIN’?

That means I like women. I have no sexual attraction to you.

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WEBSITE - www.kylecomics.com
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Keeping Abreast of the Oscars

Solution on page 25

Across
1 Gay-friendly student org.
5 Fit for a king
10 Rebutke from Caesar
14 Sign of calculating to get sum
15 Ooze out
16 Not just one of those things
17 Small amount in a stallion’s mouth?
18 Twilight heroine
19 Highland headgear
20 2013 Oscars Host
23 City of The Bird Cage
24 Asian prefix
25 Keystone figure
27 Queer, literally
30 Forego sleep
32 Stats from A League of Their Own
35 Jogs
36 Los Angeles group that sang with 20-Across
41 Broken Mountain setting
42 Practice for a boxing match
43 Mapplethorpe often shot them
45 Home of the “Jailhouse Rock” star
51 Cold war prog.
52 Red-ink figure

Down
1 Orgasms, e.g.
2 Though
3 Etheridge instrument
4 Intake problem?
5 “Queen of Country” McEntire
6 Biz boss
7 Chasms
8 Ike’s opponent
9 Masters
10 Place in a Robert Redford movie
11 Oscar winner’s words
12 Breaks called by Dave Pallone
13 Naval characters
21 Lots of secs
22 Gambling game for drawers
26 It may come at the end of a love letter
28 Right to the ass
29 Sea eagles
31 JFK info
33 It had a fang for Marc Antony’s girlfriend
34 Rip-off
36 Grace’s “Nice boy!”?
37 Beach’s partner Monnier
38 Thumbs-up
39 Green stuff
40 Bygone Eur. realm
41 ACLU concern
42 They scatter their seed afar
46 Queen in Romeo and Juliet
47 Trial copies
48 Much ado about nothing
49 Saturated
50 Abused orally
51 Lebanon neighbor
54 In a lather
57 Penn of Milk
58 Brings into play
59 Gambling city
60 One of a wheel’s nuts
Friends’ night out at Best Friends Club.

JR.'s honors J.R. Watch J.R. Ewing’s funeral on March 11 at 8 p.m. A bar-wide farewell toast to Larry Hagman will be at 8:30 p.m. … The Brick and Joe’s present Mr. & Mrs. Brick Pageant, a night of elegance and class on March 10. En- trants will be judged in three categories — talent, presentation and evening gown/formal wear. Ida Mae is the pageant director. … Undress and impress at the Underwear Party at S4 on March 8. Clothes check available. You could win free pairs of super hot underwear by Skivvies. … Beer Karaoke takes place at the Round-Up Saloon on March 14 to open Texas Beer Round Up. … Dallas Eagle celebrates Esprit de Corps Weekend March 8–10. Thelma DeZel hosts Dallas Shakedown, a Texas Gay Rodeo Association show and auction benefiting TGRA charities on March 9. That night is National Leather Association and Discipline Corps bar night as well. IMSL/IMsBB presents High Shine — Dallas Cigars, Boots & Butts with a live auction, boot blacking, raffles and live BDSM demos on March 10 with host Syyn Evans benefiting Sharon St. Cyri Fund. … Jason Huff appears at Sue Ellen’s on March 8 and Ciao Bella on March 9. The weekend climaxes with the second annual Battle of the Bands. First prize is $1,000 plus a booking at Sue Ellen’s. Winner will be selected by judges and audience response. On March 10, there’s a benefit for Alexis Rayn in her bid to become Miss Dallas Newcomer USofA. Appearing are Krystal Summers, Asia O’Hara, Edna Jean Robinson, Onyx, Chanel Champagne, Stefani Mixiles, Onyx Stereo, Seth B. Roxy Rendezvous, Penny Ellis Rayn, Gemini Brooke and Infinity Starr. … The Needle Prick Project, to fight HIV stigma, promote awareness and increase testing, holds a fundraiser at Alexandre’s on March 8 at 7 p.m. with Anton Shaw performing. Mark Allen Smith appears later in the evening. Shielas P and Infinity headlines on March 9.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.
Friends’ night out at Best Friends Club.

Tina and T. at the Rainbow Lounge.

Rik and Charles at the Hidden Door.

Girls’ night out at Sue Ellen’s.

Friends at BJ’s NXS!

Dennis and Joel at JR.’s Bar & Grill.

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Dallas non-profit agency seeks full-time, motivated professional to provide outreach services to those at risk of HIV. Night and evening work required. Salary 28-30K + benefits. Send resume: hr@dallascouncil.org

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