Marking one year of marriage equality

Happy Anniversary!

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Members of the LGBT Community (and ally Judge Ken Molberg) gather in the lobby outside the Dallas County Commissioners Court to celebrate Pride Month in Dallas County.

(David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Dallas County proclaims June Pride Month

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D.C. rally planned to ‘Disarm Hate’

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“So that the Orlando 49 did not die in vain, the LGBT community and its allies will rally in Washington to demand equal rights and sensible gun laws reform,” reads the post announcing the event. “Join us.”

The rally is set for Saturday, Aug. 13, beginning at 11 a.m. on the National Mall in Washington. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

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June 15, 2016, at his home in Oak Cliff, after a hard-fought battle with ALS.

Michael Robert Jensen, 55, died Sunday, June 19, 2016, at his home in Oak Cliff, after a hard-fought battle with ALS.

A native of Door County, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Jensen had lived in Dallas for more than 25 years. He worked as the head of security at the Nasher Sculpture Center and was past co-owner of Roxy Art Deco. He loved classic cars and was a longtime member of Classic Chassis Car Club.

Jensen was preceded in death by his grand-parents, George and Edna Jensen and Robert and Marion Malzahn; his godmother, Donna Marx; his niece, Sarah Marie; his grandparents-in-law, Edgar and Nora Parks and Dallas and Mildred Kniskern, and his father-in-law, James William Parks.

He is survived by his husband and partner of more than 29 years, Jim Parks; parents, George and Peggy Jensen; sister, Monica, and her husband, Jack; brother, Steve, and his wife, Kay; sister, Ann, and her husband Kevin; sisters-in-law, Kathy, Mary and her husband, Doug, Anita and her husband, Glen, and Patty and her wife Linda; as well a large extended family and friends, including his Nasher Sculpture Center family and his Classic Chassis Car Club family.

A memorial service will be held at the Nasher Sculpture Center at a time and date to be announced. Memorial contributions can be made to the Nasher Sculpture Center, attention Mike Jensen Memorial Fund, 2001 Flora St., Dallas, Texas 75201.
• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNOM-FM with this week’s guest is Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez; United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

JUNE
• June 24: Gay Pride Shabbat
Congregation Beth El Binah, a Reform Jewish congregation, celebrates the ancient biblical holiday Gay Pride Shabbat. The Rev. Eric Folkorth and Neil Cazares-Thomas are among the participants. 7:30 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Northaven St.

• June 24: Movie time for adults
The Danish Girl at 2 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Branch Dallas Public Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• June 25: National HIV Testing Day
Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road, offers free walk-in HIV testing and free condoms, 4-7 p.m. Call 214-528-0144.

• June 25: National Loving Day Sidewalk March
Join P-FLAG Abilene as it celebrates the 1967 Loving v. U.S. decision that legalized interracial marriage. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Vera Hall Minter Park, North 2nd and Cypress streets, Abilene.

• June 25: Rainbow Family Day
Sponsored by the Mayor’s LGBT Task Force. From 4-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information and to volunteer visit Facebook.com/QBDallas.

• June 25: Blow Torch
QueerBomb’s music festival from noon-5 p.m. at RBC, 2617 Commerce St.

• June 25: Queerbomb Dallas 2016
Free Pride celebration begins with music festival a noon followed by apoken word/open mike at 6 p.m., rally at 7:30 p.m., march at 8:30 p.m. and a party until 2 a.m. at RBC, 2617 Commerce St. For more information and to volunteer visit Facebook.com/QBDallas.

• June 25: FemmeBomb
Music festival presented by Planned Parenthood from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at Double Wide, 3510 Commerce St.

• June 25: What’s Up Doc
Oak Lawn Band a free concert featuring music from popular old and new TV and music animation at 4 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St.

• June 26: Marriage Equality Day
Celebrate the day that love and freedom won. From 4-6 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 3910 Cedar Springs Road.

• June 26: Interweave Dallas LGBTQ and Allies fellowship brunch
LGBTQ and A are invited to a brunch sponsored by Interweave, an affiliate organization of First Unitarian Church of Dallas. From 1-3 p.m. at Truck Yard, 5624 Searst.

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• June 26: Fears for Queens VI
LGBT horror film festival benefiting GALA Youth at 5 p.m. at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

• June 26: I Am Done: Protest against Hate in Fort Worth
Take a stand against speech that incites hatred and violence toward the LGBT community at 10 a.m. at Stedefast Baptist Church, 5840 Jacksboro Highway, Fort Worth. Text Done to 41242 for details and updates.

• June 27: National HIV Testing Day
Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, 4012 Cedar Springs Road, offers free walk-in HIV testing and free condoms, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information call 214-528-0144.

• June 28: Commissioner Theresa Daniel’s District 1 town hall meeting
From 6-7:30 p.m. at Eastfield College, Pleasant Grove campus, 802 S. Buckner Blvd.

• June 29: Commissioner Theresa Daniel’s District 1 town hall meeting
From 6-7:30 p.m. at Arlington Hall, Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.

JULY
• July 1: Garden Gigs at Dallas Arboretum

• July 2: San Antonio Pride
Crocket Park, 1300 N. Main Ave., San Antonio. PrideSanAntonio.org

• July 6: Painting to Benefit Orlando
1851 Club in Arlington and Poured restaurant and wine bar host a special glass painting night to benefit the victims of the June 12 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, at the restaurant, 1601 E. Debbie Lane, Ste. 1105, in Mansfield. Cost is $35 per person, and includes all supplies, instruction and food, with house wines for $5 a glass and $1 off all beers all night. 6:30 p.m.. RSVP by email to bridge@pouredtx.com or call 817-453-7919 to choose a wine or beer glass.

• July 8: High Tech Happy Hour
Organized by TI Pride Network but open to everyone. From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Maracas Cocina Mexicana, 2914 Main St.

• July 16: Queencenara Gaybingo
Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information, call 214-540-4488 or email Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• July 17: Drag Star Divas for Orlando
The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce partners with The Rose Room and Drag Star Diva to present Drag Star Divas for Orlando, a benefit for the victims of the shooting in Orlando, a drag extravaganza featuring an all-star cast, 6-9:30 p.m. in The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. There is a $5 suggested donation at the door, and the event is open to those 18 and over. Visit http://bit.ly/Divas4Orlando for more information.

• July 23: Summit on LGBT Aging
Second annual summit is a joint venture with GALA North Texas. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Southern Methodist University Plano Campus, 5326 Tennyson Parkway, Plano. cfa.lgbt.
Local couples talk about the impact of the SCOTUS ruling on marriage equality in the last 12 months

TAMMIE NASH | Managing Editor
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DAVID TAFFET | Senior News Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

It’s been a year since the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling in Obergefell vs. Hodges, making marriage equality the law of the land, and in those 12 months, about 123,000 same-sex couples have been legally married in this country, according to a study released Wednesday, June 22, by Gallup.

The study, based on interviews conducted over the last year by Gallup, shows that 49 percent of the same-sex couples in the U.S. who live together are now legally married, up from 38 percent before the ruling. That means that about 9.6 percent of the gays and lesbians in this country are married, up almost 2 percent from 7.9 percent before the marriage equality ruling.

And according to the Williams Institute, a progressive think-tank based at the UCLA School of Law and dedicated to independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity, those marriages generated about $1.58 billion in the federal economy, and added about $102 million in state and local sales tax revenue.

That level of spending, Williams Institute researchers say, could support an estimated 18,900 jobs for one full year.

That’s a lot of money in a lot of pockets.

But for same-sex couples in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex who got married in the last 12 months or who finally had their legal marriages performed elsewhere legally recognized here at home, it’s not about the money at all.

“It’s breathtaking!” declared longtime activist Louise Young, “the absolute joy I’ve seen on the faces of couples that have gotten married! The pure joy that same-sex couples have is something we didn’t have before.

“It’s like waking up from a dream and realizing [the dream is] real.”

Young and her wife, Vivienne Armstrong, have been a couple since they met on the campus of University of Colorado at Boulder in 1971. They went to Vermont for a civil union on July 24, 2000, when Vermont became the first state in the U.S. to recognize civil unions. They were married in California on Aug. 22, 2008, during the window between a state supreme court ruling legalizing marriage there and the vote on Proposition 8 that rescinded legal recognition. Then they were married again in Oklahoma on Oct. 14, 2014 at Young’s high school reunion.

Armstrong pointed out that the Obergefell ruling has had far-reaching effects, beyond that walk down the aisle.

“So many people who’ve taken advantage of marriage have so many rights that impact their lives,” she said. “A friend of ours who died recently, her wife had rights while she was dying and rights after death as a surviving spouse. But I am saddened that some people who have taken advantage of marriage have been outed and fired.”

Steve Atkinson, who married his long-term partner, Ted Kincaid, in California in 2008 before Prop 8 passed, also noted that hasn’t been all roses.

“It’s been a very interesting year, in mostly good ways. But it’s also been a mixed bag,” Atkinson said. “On the negative side of things, when we won marriage rights, that unleashed a whole new round of hate against us, against all LGBT people. There have been a lot of so-called religious freedom bills and stuff, and all of it is really just a license to discriminate against us.

“People got pissed off that we got marriage rights. They’re angry about that, so they are trying to take away our other rights and protections,” he added. “We still don’t have workplace protections. So we can get married, yes, but we can also still be fired for being gay.”

Linus Spiller married his partner of 18 years, Gregory Craft, in February 2015 in Washington, D.C.

“Craft says the marriage equality ruling has “changed the conversation. Because it’s the law, [people] have to find something else petty to talk about now.”

But while the law has changed, Spiller said, a
Dr. Steven Pounders has been named the recipient of the 2016 Kuchling Humanitarian Award, Black Tie Dinner officials announced Thursday, June 23, at the annual Black Tie Sneak Peek event.

Organizers also announced that multi-platinum recording artist and actress Deborah Cox will be featured entertainer at this year’s dinner, which begins June 12, 2017, at the annual Black Tie Sneak Peek event.

Organizers said they chose Pounders as this year’s Kuchling Award because he has, for more than 25 years, “served the LGBT community with compassion and dignity through his medical practice, which began at a time when HIV and AIDS were sweeping through the community with devastating impact.” Pounders also volunteers as medical director of Resource Center’s Nelson-Tebode Clinic, which provides free medical care to those in need in the LGBT community.

Pounders has “spent decades supporting the LGBT community in Dallas, devoting his time and energy to myriad organizations and impacting thousands of lives,” said Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Nathan Robbins. “As we celebrate our 35th year, Dr. Pounders is an excellent representation of a community leader and an extremely deserving recipient of the Kuchling Humanitarian Award.”

Pounders said that when he found out he had been chosen as this year’s Kuchling Award winner, “I felt humbled to be included on a list loaded with champions of social change and equality for the LGBT community. “My activism began in 1981, caring for and treating patients with the disease we came to know as HIV and AIDS at UTMB Galveston,” he added. “While I’m very proud of our advancements in medical, legal and civil rights, I realize there is much work ahead.”

Deborah Cox

Cox has recorded six award-winning albums, and her lost of No. 1 Billboard hits includes the double-platinum “Nobody’s Supposed to Be Here,” which sat at No. 1 on the R&B charts for 14 consecutive weeks. She was recently announced as the star of the national Broadway tour of The Bodyguard, a musical based on the Whitney Houston movie of the same name. The show comes to the Metroplex next year, as part of the Dallas Summer Musicals line-up from July 18-30, 2017, and at Bass Performance Hall Aug. 1-6, 2017.

Cox is also long-time ally of the LGBT community. She received the Out Music Pillar Award in January 2015, the California State Senate Award in 2014, and The Civil Rights Award from the New York State Senate in 2007 for her contributions to the fight for equality.

Cox was also honored by The Harvey Milk Foundation at the 2015 Diversity Honors for her efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the LGBT community. And on June 12 this year, she received the Liberty Bell and Proclamation in Philadelphia by Mayor James Kenney to proclaim June 12 as LGBTQ Philadelphia Pride Parade and Festival Day.

Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Mitzi Lemons said the BTD committee is “thrilled to welcome Deborah Cox to the Black Tie Dinner stage this year. Throughout her successful career, Deborah has been a major supporter of the LGBT community, and we can’t wait to share her powerful voice with our community.”

The theme for the 35th anniversary Black Tie Dinner is “Believe.” The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the national beneficiary of the dinner each year, and organizers announced this year’s list of local beneficiary organizations in April. They are: AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Outreach Center, AIDS Services of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope, Celebration Community Church, Congregation Beth El Binah, Equality Texas Foundation, Lambda Legal, Legacy Counseling Center, Legal Hospice of Texas, Northaven United Methodist Church, Resource Center, Turtle Creek Chorale, Uptown Players, The Women’s Chorus of Dallas, and first time beneficiary, Promise House.

For additional information about the dinner, visit blacktie.org. Raffle tickets and sponsorship tables are currently being sold at blacktie.org.
Winging it

Dallas Wings veteran Plenette Pierson says the team is happy to welcome its LGBT fans

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Sports fans in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex are accustomed to an embarrassment of riches, so to speak, when it comes to having professional athletes around. There’s the Dallas Cowboys, the Dallas Mavericks, the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Stars, Dallas Elite, FC Dallas, Dallas Sidekicks … And now, you can add the WNBA’s Dallas Wings to the list. But don’t just lump the Wings in with, say, the Mavs or the Stars. “We’re different,” says team leader Plenette Pierson.

“If you see a player from some of these teams out and about, they probably have a whole entourage with them. Not us, though,” Pierson said during a recent interview. “We’re all really relatable. You’re likely to see us out at the grocery store or wherever, and if you see and want a photo with us, ask us. We’re all OK with that. We’re real people, and we aspire to be in close contact with the community.”

The Wings — formerly the Tulsa Shock — are just shy of halfway through their first season as a DFW team. As of press time Thursday, June 23, they stood at 6-7 on the season, putting them in third place, out of six teams, in the WNBA Western Conference. They were set to play the San Antonio Stars, 2-10 on the season, and in last place in the Western Conference, on Thursday night.

But Pierson said she and her teammates never take any game for granted, even against a 2-10 team. “You have to go out every game and play your best,” she said. “Win or lose, you have to take lessons from each game you play.”

In previous seasons, the WNBA playoffs have featured the top four teams from each conference, based on their regular season records. Starting this year, though, the top eight teams in the league, regardless of conference, qualify for the playoffs, and will be seeded based on their regular season records. And instead of a series of games at each level, the first and second rounds are single-elimination. The semi-finals round and the finals will be best-of-five contests.

The Wings’ 6-7 record puts them, as of Thursday afternoon, in a tie for sixth place with the Eastern Conference’s Chicago Sky. But, Pierson said, the team is really just getting started.

“We had a phenomenal season last year,” Pierson said, referring to the team’s 18-16 season record, which earned them their first playoff berth since moving to Tulsa in 2010. “But even though we have a lot of the same players, we’re still a young team. We’ve still got a learning curve this year, because we’ve had some injuries and we’re still learning how to play together as a team” with those injuries and other factors in play.

And while the team got off to a slow start in its first year in Dallas, Pierson said, “We’re going to weather this storm. There are a lot of teams that are peaking early, and we’re still getting to top form. When we all get healthy and get out there on the court, it will be something to see.”

Wings history

The Wings were founded before the 1998 season as the Detroit Shock. They moved to Tulsa in time for the 2010 season, keeping the Shock name. But when they came to Dallas last year to get ready for the 2016 season in their new home, the management chose to go with a new name, choosing Wings in part in tribute to the Pegasus that has long been a symbol of Dallas.

For Pierson, the team’s move to Texas is something of a homecoming. Born in Houston, she grew up nearby in Kingwood, graduating from Kingwood High School in 1999. She played her college career at Texas Tech, from 1999 to 2003, and was a first-round draft choice for WNBA’s Phoenix Mercury in 2003. Pierson spent three seasons — 2003, 2004 and 2005 — in Phoenix before heading to Detroit in 2006 to join the Shock. She moved to the New York Liberty from 2010-2014, before rejoining the Shock in 2015, helping lead the team to its first playoff game since moving to Tulsa.

Now in her 14th season, Pierson is the Wings’ tried-and-true veteran. She has two WNBA championships under her belt — in 2006 and 2008, both with the Detroit Shock. She won the WNBA’s first Sixth Woman of the Year Award — recognizing the league’s most valuable player for her team coming off the bench as a substitute, or sixth woman — in 2007, and in 2015 played in the All-Star Game.

And now, she said, she’s happy to be back in Texas. “Texas is a huge sports state, and Dallas is a huge sports town,” Pierson said. “The Texas fans really embrace you.”

That includes the LGBT community. A team spokeswoman said that between 30 and 35 percent of the Wings’ season ticket-holders come from the LGBT community, which has always shown a lot of support and enthusiasm for the WNBA as a whole.

Pierson agreed that the LGBT community here as welcomed the team with open arms. “The LGBT community is a great community, really supportive of us. It’s a great market for the Wings, and a great market for the WNBA overall.

“We want fans in the seats for our games, and the LGBT community gives us that. They give us a lot of support, and we’re happy to reach out to the community in return. We’ve always had great fans, and we’re happy to see that continue in Dallas.”
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Keeping our guard up

‘If you see something, say something,’ minister, others advise

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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“We owe it to one another to be extra vigilant,” the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas said after suitcases were found outside the door of Cathedral of Hope on Sunday, June 19, just a week after 49 people were shot to death inside an Orlando gay nightclub.

Cazares-Thomas said the church has stepped up security after the Orlando murders. Before the church opens now, a security officer checks the perimeter. It was while checking the property that first Sunday after the Orlando attack that the guard found two suitcases and a laptop bag with something beeping inside.

That prompted an evacuation of the building and a call to police, who in turn summoned the bomb squad.

Cazares-Thomas moved the 9 a.m. service outside, but the bomb squad swept the church inside and out and had the bags removed in time for the 11 a.m. service to take place inside.

Cazares-Thomas’ advice for people to use throughout the community — in bars and businesses, offices and churches — is if you see something, say something.

Church officials later learned the bags belonged to two homeless people who thought they were leaving their belongings in a safe place. And it would have been, the pastor said, had they let someone know. In fact, he added, the church would have locked the bags up kept them secure for the owners had church officials known what the bags were.

Instead it prompted a call to police.

“It’s sad we have to do that,” Cazares-Thomas said.

The church has done quite a bit of work to ensure its safety, including studying a video put out by the FBI and Homeland Security.

Ushers are the first people who greet anyone coming into the church, Cazares-Thomas said, and they are the first line of defense against an attack. “You can tell a lot about someone who won’t make eye contact,” he said.

According to the FBI video, if you do make that eye contact, the likelihood a shooter will carry through with his plan goes down.

Cazares-Thomas said the Orlando shooter was wearing a coat and carrying a backpack. Take note if someone is dressed inappropriately, he advised.

“We’re not allowing backpacks or big purses,” Cazares-Thomas said, adding that the alternative is to go through everyone’s backpacks and purses — and no one at the church wants to do that. Instead, church-goers can check those larger bags or return them to their car.

But taking steps to remain safe doesn’t mean living in fear.


Bob Roton, Legacy Counseling Center’s clinic director, said although he’s trained to look for suspicious behavior, the trick is knowing when suspicious behavior is actually dangerous behavior.

Police and airport security usually look for packages left next to a building, in the bushes or elsewhere. Notify security or call 911 rather than examine the package yourself.

Look for odd behavior among other patrons inside the club. But what does odd behavior look like?

If you see someone who looks nervous, approach that person. Say hello. Introduce yourself. Start a conversation. In most cases, that person was just nervous about being in a bar by himself. In the rare case when you suspect something, say something to bar staff. They’ll keep an eye on the person and call security or the police if necessary.

Kilhoffer also advised club-goers to be aware of their surroundings and know where all the exits are.

Staying home isn’t an answer. Look out for each other and being aware of what’s going on around us will help keep the community safe.
lot of attitudes haven’t. “Young people aren’t so bad,” he said. “But those my age and older have been the most resistant, as well as religious people. They have been the absolute worst. They feel like something has been taken from them, when it hasn’t.

“Every day, someone I interact with, either in person or online socially, has something negative to say,” Spiller added. “They do it covertly usually, but the attitude is still there. And I attack it each time it rears its head, whether I hurt feelings or not.”

But still, the joy that Young described is there — even for couples who have spent many years together and were legally married somewhere before the June 26, 2015 SCOTUS ruling made their marriages legal everywhere.

“What it means to me personally is that our life for the last 18 years together has not been in vain,” Craft said. “It’s actually recognized that we matter. It’s not just a fantasy or a fad.”

He continued, “For me, it has solidified our union. I am able to call Linus ‘my husband’ with strong conviction. Sometimes I notice people’s reaction when I call Linus my husband, and it tickles me. But I don’t care.”

Spiller said he and Craft have always had a good response from their families, who were only upset that the two eloped to D.C. instead of getting married locally, where family could participate.

“Once we save enough money to renew our vows and have a reception the way we want to do it, we are going to have a tough time deciding who’s going to be in the wedding party, because everyone is jockeying for a slot,” he laughed.

Atkinson said he and Kincaid now “make a conscious effort to use the word ‘husband’ when referring to each other.

“Even though we’ve been together 26 years and legally married for almost eight years, we never made an effort to use the word ‘husband’ until the ruling last year,” Atkinson said. “Now we keep each other in check and make sure we use it — not because words are magical, it’s just important that people hear it. The more we treat it as a natural thing, the more people get used to it and accept it.

“We have to boldly put ourselves out there,” Atkinson said. “Just as it’s been important throughout the history of our community to come out [as LGBT people], it’s important now to be open about the fact that we are married, and that our marriage is as normal as any heterosexual marriage.”

Patti Fink and Erin Moore, another long-term couple active in DFW’s LGBT community and in Democratic politics statewide, were married on April 1, by Judge Teena Callahan in her courtroom. Callahan was the first family court judge in Texas to declare — in granting a divorce decree for a same-sex couple in 2009 — that Defense of Marriage Act, which allowed individual states to ignore the legality of same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions, was unconstitutional.

“Considering the long fight we had — first to prevent a constitutional amendment banning marriage through to the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling legalizing marriage — getting married by a judge who is a personal friend and who had a part in that fight made it all the more meaningful.”

And even though it’s been 12 months, it’s still sometimes hard to believe. “I still have to almost pinch myself sometimes at this great victory we’ve won,” Atkinson said. “Most of us never dreamed we’d have marriage this soon. Ten years ago, I would have said I’d be an old, old man before that happened. And now, here we are.”
QueerBomb organizer Daniel Cates hopes this year’s QueerBomb will be a way for the community to take action as it celebrates Pride and comes together to heal in the wake of the June 12 murders at Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

In just a few years, QueerBomb has evolved significantly, Cates said: “It began as a statement against the corporatization of Pride,” he said. But what began as a protest is now the premiere LGBT June Pride event.

This year’s celebration begins at noon at RBC, a club on Commerce Street in Deep Ellum, with the Blow Torch Music Festival. (See box for lineup)

At 5 p.m., the rally yard opens. Organizations will be set up to encourage people to get involved. “Artists will be creating art live,” Cates said, noting that proceeds will benefit the victims of the attack in Orlando.

Spoken word performances and open mike begin at 6 p.m.

The rally starts at 7:30 p.m., with a line-up of speakers that includes City Councilman Adam Medrano, who will issue an LGBT Liberation Proclamation.

At 8:30 p.m. the march leaves the rally yard and will wind through Deep Ellum, making its way up Main Street and down Elm Street before returning to RBC.

Cates said it makes more sense if QueerBomb is trying to make a statement, to march through an area of town outside the gayborhood. Noting it would be mostly straight people who would be on the sidewalks watching on Saturday night, he said, “We’ll show these people how to have a good time.”

Anyone may participate since this is a march, not a parade. Police have promised security along the route.

The march ends where it began at RBC where the QueerBomb Ball begins at 9 p.m.

Cates said the rally yard will remain open and alcohol-free through the evening so younger people may participate. Drinking will be allowed inside and on the club’s patios.

In addition to police security, RBC employs its own private security and QueerBomb has volunteer security that will work the events throughout the day. People will be wanded before entering the club.

Other events are coordinating with QueerBomb to make the Pride celebration even larger. Planned Parenthood is presenting FemmeBomb at Double Wide on Commerce Street. Live music and art will celebrate femme folks of all backgrounds, gender identities and sexual orientations. Sudie, Francine, Moth Face and DJ Ursa Minor are among the performers.

Oak Lawn Band presents What’s Up Doc, a free concert, at the Latino Cultural Center with music from popular animated shows from TV and movies, both old and new.

“More and more people are coming on board,” Cates said. “We’re looking forward to seeing how it grows over the next few years.”

RBC, 2617 Commerce Street from noon-2 a.m. Walking distance to Deep Ellum Station on the Green Line and paid parking is available for $5 under the bridges.

Double Wide, 3510 Commerce St. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. at 4 p.m.
Trans athletes still excluded in Texas

Despite threat of lawsuits, UIL doesn’t budge on exclusionary policy

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
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The 32-member legislative council of the University Interscholastic League can’t say Rafael McDonnell didn’t try to educate the committee on Tuesday, June 14.

McDonnell, the communications and advocacy manager of Resource Center, spoke to the statewide body overseeing high school sports and other extracurricular activities about a rule barring transgender student athletes in sports set to go into effect in August.

McDonnell asked the committee to halt its implementation, which states gender is based on a student’s birth certificate, not gender identity. He also shared policies from Colorado, Florida and Minnesota, all of which have rules accommodating transgender athletes.

As the Dallas Voice and other outlets have reported, McDonnell said, “UIL did not consult outside resources; they simply codified their current practice.”

The rule was one of 11 ballot items sent to school district superintendents across Texas for consideration. It passed in a lopsided 586-32 vote.

“The reception from the legislative committee was polite. They all intently looked at it and some took notes,” McDonnell said. “But because it wasn’t on the agenda, they couldn’t take it up.”

The committee however declined to consider a different proposal — unaffiliated with McDonnell’s previous advocacy — allowing transgender athletes to play sports based on their gender identity.

His request to halt enforcement isn’t without precedent, however.

Last year, the Education Department ruled a Palatine, Ill., school district violated Title IX for refusing to allow a transgender girl on a girls’ sports team to use the girls’ locker room. If the district did not remedy the situation within 30 days, the Education Department warned, it would risk losing some or all of its Title IX funding.

Some of the legal battles are currently playing out in Texas. Most recently Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, on behalf of a Wichita Falls school district, challenged new guidelines for transgender students released by the Obama administration.

In Fort Worth, a group known as Stand for Fort Worth, is rallying against similar guidelines released by the school district for accommodating transgender students. In their literature, the group suggests the provisions threaten the parent-child relationship and force an “agenda” on their children.

They’ve been joined by a chorus of local legislators, including Republican state Sen. Konni Burton, and state Reps. Matt Krause and Stephanie Klick, all of who represent parts of Fort Worth. Parents in Palatine recently formed a similar group known as “Students and Parents for Privacy” and filed a suit against the federal guidelines.

What the opponents have in rhetoric, they lack in historical precedent, however.

Earlier this month the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals declined to re-hear a case brought by transgender Virginia student Gavin Grimm. The Gloucester County schools student successfully sued to overturn his school district’s policy segregating transgender students from their peers by requiring them to use separate restroom facilities.

The American Civil Liberties, representing Grimm, successfully argued the rule violates Title IX, federal non-discrimination laws and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The appeals court declined to re-hear the case, the Fourth Circuit halted the decision. The Gloucester County School Board plans to appeal its case to the Supreme Court.

McDonnell believes the Supreme Court will ultimately rule in favor of transgender equality.

Until then, “UIL now has in its hands good policies,” McDonnell said.

Rafael McDonnell
When you count your blessings this month during gay Pride, don’t forget to say a word of thanks to the Dallas-Fort Worth mainstream media. You wouldn’t enjoy the freedom you experience today without the editors and reporters of those newspapers and television stations.

My thoughts on mainstream media crystalized June 9 at the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealy Plaza, when I accepted an award from the Press Club of Dallas for “Excellence in Journalism” at the 2016 North Texas Legends ceremony. The club honored me along with some real big shots, including retired Dallas Morning News columnist Steve Blow, who wrote countless missives over the years in support of the LGBT community.

I stood in heady company, and I worried about how I would stack up. The beauty of your last name starting with one of the last letters in the alphabet is that you will likely be the last one called to speak, which I was. The horror of it is that you must dwell on what you are going to say when it comes your turn to talk.

When my turn came I mounted the stage, and I hoped the words would come from my heart and mind. It helped that the beautiful NBC Channel 5 host, Kristi Nelson, welcomed me warmly, and she gave me a boost of confidence.

Looking out at the audience that included stalwarts such as retired ABC Channel 8 anchor Gloria Campos and investigative reporter Brett Shipp — not to mention “legends” like former Dallas Times Herald journalist Hugh Aynesworth, who covered the John F. Kennedy assassination — I might have shrunk. But that didn’t happen because I knew I stood in the company of good people.

So I told my story as it relates to journalism. It began at the age of about 10 in my native town of Childress. I would go to the newspaper office with the money, I got to keep half of it. When I returned to the office, and they would give me 10 newspapers to sell for 10 cents each. When I returned to the office with the money, I got to keep half of it.

Back in those days, a half-dollar bought a lot more than you might imagine. And I loved the town of Childress. I would go to the newspaper office with the money, I got to keep half of it. When I returned to the office, and they would give me 10 newspapers to sell for 10 cents each. When I returned to the office with the money, I got to keep half of it.

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Looking back on a life in the field of journalism

Letter to the editor

What the FBI missed

Many individuals and organizations, including my hometown newspaper, The Dallas Morning News, have asked what the FBI investigators missed when they questioned and looked into the beliefs and actions of Omar Mateen, the man who murdered 49 people and wounded 53 more at Pulse nightclub in Orlando early Sunday morning, June 12.

I’ll tell you what they missed: Violence against his wife. Violence against a woman or child is, I would say, a very good indicator of what a man will do to others.

Either the FBI did not look hard enough or they discounted “familial violence.” For shame!

Phyllis Guest, Dallas
Don’t ‘straight-wash’ Orlando

The murders at Pulse were an act of terrorism, but just as much an act of anti-LGBT hate.

I think it’s time for a little “Gaysplaining.” When you call the creep who murdered my Latino/a brothers and sisters at Pulse — a GAY BAR — a terrorist, you are only half right. He was a terrorist who hated LGBTQ people, and many in the media are soft-peddling that fact.

If you do not understand why this is so disturbing, you are most likely not GLBTQAAIA, or whatever letter you can tag onto the acronym. Am I angry? Hell yes.

Do I want change? Yes. I would love it if everyone would just “get along.” But in America, we love our prejudices. And we have politicians and pundits who nurture them.

They stoke the fear that a lot of heterosexual men and women have of a different sexual orientation. They stoke the fear of the “other,” whether it is race, heritage, sexual orientation or gender identity.

The “other” is something to be feared, despised and hated.

Add to this toxic mix the insanely easy access to high-powered weapons and ammunition designed to do nothing but slaughter people, and you have an even more volatile and deadly situation.

Sadly, in America when we are wronged — either by action or perception — we immediately look for revenge. Usually, revenge with a gun. We even joke about it, speaking of “blowing away” people we disagree with. It is the subject of movies, TV and books — a consistent thread in our culture.

So is it any wonder that the epidemic of gun violence has become an LGBTQ issue?

Meanwhile, there is the hate crime in Orlando. Orlando — I used to think of that city’s name as synonymous with fun, vacations, and pleasure. The theme parks, the tourist attractions and the gay bars made it a favorite spot for me and many of my friends.

But now, I can never use that city name again without seeing the faces of the 49 mainly Latino/a brothers and sisters who were murdered and the 50-plus others who are making painful recoveries in hospitals around the city.

Aside from tarnishing the city’s name, the crime committed against the LGBTQ community has left a lot of LGBTQ people, such as myself, feeling wounded as well. Not just by the despicable act of the shooter, but by the “straight-washing” that has taken place in the press.

Calling the murderer a terrorist is only half right. He also hated LGBTQ people, and he specifically targeted a gay night-club.

Frankly, I don’t care that he called 911 and ranted about ISIS. I don’t care if he wore a fake explosive vest or not. I don’t care if he was “radicalized” or not.

Anyone who goes into a gay bar and starts mindlessly killing people is radical in my book, and his target makes the reason pretty clear. This was not random violence; it was specific and it was a hate crime.

Now, that said, to the many heterosexual friends who have offered sympathies: Thank you. You recognize that this was an event that affected me and all the LGBTQ community. But please understand that the raw nerves and grief being experienced by the worldwide LGBTQ community is very real and very raw. We have all been attacked and it is every bit as traumatic as 9/11 was for the entire country.

So cut your LGBTQ friends a little slack, and maybe, if you really believe that you are an ally, you will join in doing something to change things. That could start with, oh, I don’t know … stricter gun laws?

The measures we are asking for have worked in every other “civilized” country, and they can work here. Almost half of the U.S. Senate thought gun law reform was a good thing, but those who were on the payroll of the NRA managed to get even the lamest form of control voted down.

I know, I know — Second Amendment and “bearing arms,” founding fathers and “well-regulated militia” and blah blah blah. Hey, just what is an assault weapon anyway?

Want to quibble about the definition of “assault weapon”? Then go over to the NRA website and chat with the people over there stroking their guns.

Here in my community, we are healing. And we really don’t care about whether you want to call this a terrorist attack or not.

To us, it was family, and to us, it calls for action.

I sincerely hope a big part of that action happens this November at the ballot box. All but three votes that defeated four minor gun control bills in the Senate came from Republicans. Let’s start with eliminating all those (R)’s who are up for re-election.

Then maybe we can do more than talk about healing.

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

Taming the unruly world of glam singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright

I’m not at the psychiatrist’s office.”

Rufus Wainwright realizes that now, years later. There was a time, he acknowledges, amused by the notion, that interviews such as the one we’re engaged in passed as therapy. For that reason, the singer and composer is transparent, a book that never closes. That frankness has long marked his raw musings, windows into his life as a gay man, as a former drug addict, as a son, as a father. The personal catharsis of his latest work is less discernible.

Featuring guest collaborators Helena Bonham Carter, Carrie Fisher, William Shatner, Florence Welch and sister Martha Wainwright, Take All My Loves: 9 Shakespeare Sonnets adapts the Bard’s work within noticeably non-traditional sonic structures, because this is a Rufus Wainwright album.

Before we launch into a wide-ranging conversation — encompassing issues he sorted through while recording the Shakespearian project, how his “very wry” personality rubs gay people the wrong way and the Benedict Cumberbatch conundrum — Wainwright says “don’t worry,” reassuring me that even though this isn’t quite psychiatry, “I’m still pretty open.”

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Just when I think you’ve reached your peak ambition, you release an album of Shakespeare sonnets set to music. Where do you think you desire to be so outside of the box comes from? Rufus Wainwright: Well, I was never in the closet, I was never in the box... I was never in my right mind! I don’t know. This album, in a lot of ways, is kind of a miracle in the sense that it’s nothing that I ever really planned on or was working toward; it sort of made itself, and all in conjunction, of course, with the 400-year anniversary of Shakespeare’s death.

It just so happens that many years ago I was working on a project of the sonnets [Five Shakespeare Sonnets, in 2010] and somehow the work that I was doing with these poems really resonated with all sorts of people, whether it was the San Francisco Symphony wanting arrangements of them or Songs for Lulu [his 2010 album grieving the loss of his mother, Kate McGarrigle] or other singers performing them. In fact, there are a few dance choreographers now who have started to choreograph pieces to the work, so it’s just something that happened, and lo and behold it fell right in line with this 400th anniversary. I just had to facilitate that as much as I could. What a lot of people think is outside of my box is really just me following my brute instincts and going with that fully. I’ve never been able to work otherwise, so I suppose that will continue to be the case.

Yes, you seem a bit artistically restless. Yes. Also, for me, music is where I really — I mean, speaking about being in a psychiatrist’s office — exercise a lot of my demons and emotionally confront issues, and in order to do that I can’t really coast now. I have to crack the ice a little bit. That’s the way it is.

With this piece in particular, what issues are you confronting? I think a lot of this is centered around my mother’s illness and death, and also aging is in here. I think one of the reasons “A Woman’s Face” is repeated several times — it’s really about an older man kind of fawing over a younger man and that’s a tradition that now I’m on both sides of [laughs]. I’ve been a younger man and I am that older man now, and so I see it from both sides. To have a woman [Anna Prohaska] sing it is very interesting, because that takes it into a whole other mirrored image, which is what’s amazing about Shakespeare — how many reflections we can illustrate depending on how old one is or how young one is or what gender one is relating to at that moment. It’s a vortex of possibilities.

When it comes to aging, what has been your experience as a middle-aged gay man who’s a public figure? The catch-22 is that in 20 years — I’m 42 now — I’ll probably look back at this period as really my zenith, when I was probably the most attractive I’ve ever been. But now that I’m in the middle of it, I’m looking backwards to when I was 22... and when I was 22 I was really miserable! So it’s, “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone,” as Joni Mitchell said. But I think artistically in one’s 40s you do feel the joint rapture of both experience and still a sense of youth that can combine and really make you feel like you’re in the present.

Your cross-genre collaborations are constantly surprising people, and there are some unexpected ones on this album. Who is someone you want to work with that we wouldn’t expect? The other day my sister Martha had her 40th birthday and we had some people up to the house. One of them was Sufjan Stevens, who I’ve admired for a long time and, yeah, he’d be fun to write a song with. I’ve given up on Björk. She’s not taken my lead. I’m like, “Hey Björk, let’s do this” and she’s, like, hanging out with aliens or something.

I saw you in Toronto in 2014 for If I Loved You: Gentlemen Prefer Broadway; I’ve seen you many times before, but not in that dynamic, with a bunch of men, many of whom were straight. So I was watching you and, of course, admiring the performances, but I was also noticing the way you interacted with the other fellas on stage and I’m like, “Rufus is such a shameless flirt.” I know! I’m terrible! Have you always been that way? I have. I’m just built that way. I’m sort of a gay Elizabeth Taylor. When you’re singing a love song with Josh...
as Coy Covington what he thinks of being called "the Charles Busch of Dallas," and he’ll tell you, that’s high praise indeed.

“It’s a thrill and an honor. They can tag me with that all they want,” Covington declared. “Truly, it is a huge honor, and just a hoot. I enjoy doing his work so much. I am grateful to be acknowledged for it, and grateful that [Busch] is so generous with his work.”

Theatre Three opens its 2016-17 season, beginning this weekend, with one of Busch’s campy classics, Psycho Beach Party, described as an “hilarious and outrageous mash-up of Frankie Avalon, Annette Funicello and The Three Faces of Eve.”

It is the 10th time Covington has donned wigs and heels for a roll in a Busch play. But it is the first time he has taken on a supporting role in a Charles Busch play instead of one of the central characters.

Covington describes his character as “the overbearing mother . . . the over-protective mother who’s just a little bit whacked out herself.” It is the first time he has taken on a supporting role in a Busch play instead of one of the central characters.

It is a “really exciting opportunity,” the actor said, that “grew out of Charles Busch’s generosity and his willingness to reach out to me. It’s really kind of cool we’re doing this revised play. It’s kind of fabulous.”

Busch is “just terrific,” Covington continued, “and very honest. When he told me he was revising this play, I asked him, ‘Can’t you do something to pad my part?’ He just said, ‘No. It’s a supporting role, darling. I know you are used to being center stage, but this is a supporting role.’”

“And you know, that impressed me even more!”

Covington, who began his stage career in the early 1990s, is known for specializing in female roles, performed in drag, and this is the 10th time he has performed a female role in a Charles Busch play.

“I started doing his plays — I think the first one was in 1992, Red Sane on Sunset. I just sort of fell into his rhythm,” the actor said of his affinity for Busch plays. “He’s just got this kind of effortless, brassy elegance that draws me toward him.”

As a performer and a playwright, Covington said Busch is “very theatrical and generous,” with a “witty, urbane glamor” that shines through his work.

“His vernacular and his syntax is just so unique,” Covington said. “He’s fun to talk to, fun to read. I mean, his Facebook posts are legendary. His writing is just so specialized, so stylized, but at the same time, that makes it hard to memorize.”

He noted that because this is the first time the revised version of Beach Party will be staged, "We’re trying to go word-for-word, to do it exactly as it’s written. And there is this one line I kept getting wrong. I kept saying, ‘I can see clearly now.’ But when I went back and reread the script, I realized that the actual line is, ‘I see now clearly.’”

“It just puts a more theatrical spin on the lines,” Covington said. “He just has a certain way of arranging the words that gives it that Charles Busch spin, which is just more fabulous than the usual.”

Covington admits that he has thought of following even further in Busch’s footsteps and writing his own plays. “He doesn’t do parodies; he does satire. He pays homage to these glamorous old movies, and if I wrote, I would definitely do that. I would probably have similar themes, the same comic sensibility.

“So yes, I have thought about writing, but I haven’t ever gotten around to putting pen to paper.”

He would also strive, Covington said, to add another element of Busch’s work to his own writing: “His writing is also a little bit naughty. There’s glamor and elegance, with some of the movies’ innuendo — and then there’s just a little bit of raunch thrown in, and I love that. It just adds a whole new layer.”

While he may someday write his own plays, for now Covington said he is focused on doing his best with Busch’s work. “I just really look up to him,” Covington said. “And he really does need to keep writing!”
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(Registration ends 10 minutes prior to start times)

PRELIMINARY DATES LOCATION
CHECK-IN START
Sunday, June 12, 2016
Alexandre's • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm
Monday, June 13, 2016
Zippers • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm
Thursday, June 16, 2016
Sue Ellen’s • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm
Monday, June 20, 2016
Cedar Springs Tap House • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm
Wednesday, June 22, 2016
Liquid Zoo • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

ELIMINATION DATES LOCATION
CHECK-IN START
Tuesday, July 5, 2016
Kaliente • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm
Wednesday, July 6, 2016
Brick / Joe’s • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm
Thursday, July 7, 2016
Pekers • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm
Saturday, July 9, 2016
Marty’s Live • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

QUARTER-FINAL DATES LOCATION
CHECK-IN START
Wednesday, July 20, 2016
‘DOODV(DJOH
Thursday, July 21, 2016
BJ’s NXS • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

SEMI-FINAL DATE LOCATION START
Sunday, July 31, 2016
Round-Up Saloon • 8:15 pm 9:00 pm

FINAL DATE LOCATION START
Sunday, August 21, 2016
The Rose Room • 6:15 pm 7:00 pm

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marriage

Anthology offers 4 stories from 4 perspectives

A More Perfect Union, anthology by
B.G. Thomas, J. Scott Coatsworth,
Jamie Fessenden, Michael Murphy
(Dreamspinner, 2016) paperback $17.99;
350 pp; e-book $6.99; 104K

As we near the one-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges, establishing marriage equality as the law of the land, Dreamspinner Press is publishing an anthology of stories from four authors — who also happen to be married gay men — exploring love and marriage in days before and since that ruling.

A More Perfect Union, the publishers say, is intended “to commemorate the anniversary of full marriage equality in the U.S. and celebrate “the idea of marriage itself — and the universal truth of it that applies to us all, gay or straight.”

In “Someday,” author B.G. Thomas tells the story of Lucas Arrowood and Dalton Churchill, who meet when Lucas is walking to school on the first day of kindergarten and Dalton stops to help Lucas tie his shoe. The two become best friends and then lovers. But even after Dalton stands up to his conservative family to defend his love for Lucas, he refuses to marry his partner until same-sex marriage is legal everywhere.

J. Scott Coatsworth contributes “Flames” to the anthology. It is the story of Alex and Gio, life partners who are separated after an argument. When their home is destroyed and Gio is critically injured in a fire, Gio’s mother banishes Alex from his side, and Alex has no legal recourse since the two had never married. But Alex is determined to get to Gio, to use their memories to bring him back from the brink of death, no matter what rules he has to break to do it.

“Destined,” by Jamie Fessenden, is the story of Jay and Wallace, who first meet at an LGBTQ group and but take six years to finally become a couple thanks to bad timing through many meetings. Once they are together, though, they fight their disapproving families and even the state legislature to overcome the obstacles in their road to happiness.

The final entry in A More Perfect Union is “Jeordi and Tom,” by Michael Murphy. It tells the story of an open, loving gay couple living in the rural South, and how they withstand the efforts of family members and even a pastor to stay together. When Jeordi is hospitalized after an accident, his family tries to keep Tom from his side, prompting the two men to start a battle for legal recognition even against the bigotized county clerk who won’t issue them a marriage license.

— From Staff Reports

The Battle for Room 314 by Ed Boland
(Grand Central 2016) $26; 243 pp.
What was a nice, educated gay man doing in a snarling pit of teenage attitude? With sweaty palms and a worthless planner, newly-minted teacher Ed Boland wondered that himself. Inspired by teachers in his family, he’d given up a well-paying job to teach but the ninth-grade class he’d gotten wasn’t what he bargained for.

Because Boland had spent a year teaching English in China, he figured he had a leg up on a job at Manhattan’s Union Street School, a new combined middle and high school that focused on history and international studies. Teaching there, he’d been led to believe, was a dream job and, since he’d already worked with promising but disadvantaged New York-area minority students through Project Advance, he thought he knew the kind of fresh-faced students he’d have.

Instead, what he found in the classroom that fell were sullen, attitudinal, sometimes violent young adults, many (if not most) of whom were dealing with absentee parents, drug abuse, poverty, pregnancy, and bullying. Some of his new ninth-grade students were in their very late teens; many were unable to write in complete sentences or do age-appropriate schoolwork. At least one barely spoke English.

And yet, with a Hollywood-happy ending on his mind, Boland persevered. He hoped to connect with the kids, though they were often uncontrollable. He dreamed they would eventually learn something, though they usually ignored his lessons. And when the year was over, he had considered waiting at Union Street but he just couldn’t.

“I so wish it were a different ending for me and for the kids,” says Boland, “but some stories have to end like a seventies movie — gritty, real and sad.”

The solution to the country’s school- and grade-based issues, says author Ed Boland, is a multi-faceted one, beginning with more education for the educators. There are other fixes, too, and The Battle for Room 314 offers them.

But that’s not all. Boland, overall, tells a story that’s both shocking and unsurprising; part To Sir, With Love and part battlefield skirmish. There are occasional moments of too much information (both personal and classroom) but even more of frustration and missed opportunity (again, on two levels). What Boland shares left me feeling glum, mostly, but there are shadows of hope in this book — especially at the end, when he wraps up his story with a chapter of follow-ups.

Though you should be reminded that it’s representative of one man’s experience in one school, this book offers hard lessons. Still, if you’ve ever fretted about the state of education — or either side of the teacher’s desk — The Battle for Room 314 goes to the head of the class.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer
As we speak, you’re about to restage Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall (on June 16-17 in New York and June 23-24 in Toronto). How will the music and the show reflect the way the world’s changed in the last 10 years since you first performed it? The main reason I’m doing the show again is to see what condition my voice is in. I mean, I have an inkling that it’s at the top of its game, and the only way to really prove that is to sing that material, so it’s more of a practical exercise for me to do this show again. I’ve been working very hard on my singing over the years and I want to show that off, but on a more philosophical level: I originally did this show because of my broken feelings toward the Iraq War. I needed something to remind me of how great America could be when it wanted to be, and sadly we’re in the same predicament with Donald Trump and this racist, sexist blowback. I don’t know, it just seems to be something that occurs every 10 years in the United States and I’m happy that the Judy show is gonna be back out there again because it is all the good that this country can represent.

Regarding your voice: Haven’t you already proven yourself as a singer? Well, I’m a big opera fan and in the world of opera, you don’t really hit your stride until you’re in your 40s vocally. That’s when you get all the big roles, so it’s just more of a personal thing. I’m not trying to prove it to anybody; I’m just proving it to myself, and also just to be really on top of the material. I loved doing Judy the first time because it was this kind of mad rollercoaster ride that I just attached myself to with handcuffs (laughs) and went along with, but this time I feel like I can hold onto the reigns a little better and just really nail it.

You’ve done Judy and Shakespeare. Which other legendary figures intrigue you enough to make you want to dedicate an entire album’s worth of material to their work? The figure that’s kind of looming all of a sudden — I’m just hearing little squeaks of this in my psyche, but I’m a big Blake fan. I love Blake. Who knows. Maybe something like that. I’d also like to do a French record at some point to just sort of, you know, loosen it up a bit. And of course there are my own songs from my own life, so there are a lot of possibilities.

And the Shakespeare character you call your spirit animal? Oh, gee. I would say I’ve always wanted to be Titania from a Midsummer Night’s Dream, because I’m a sad queen, really.
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Caitlin Ehlinger leads the cast in Dallas Summer Musicals and Performing Arts Fort Worth’s production of 42nd Street, the comedy classic that tells the story of starry-eyed Peggy Sawyer who leaves her home in Allentown, Penn., to make it big on Broadway.


Wednesday 06.29 — Saturday 07.23

A different kind of boy

Second Thought Theatre winds up its 2016 season with A Kid Like Jake, directed by Matthew Gray and starring Christie Vela, Ian Ferguson and Jenny Ledel. Daniel Pearle’s play about a couple trying to get their son — who likes to dress up as Cinderella — into an exclusive preschool runs June 29-July 23 at Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys Campus.

DEETS: Bryant Hall, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

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Blackberry Winter. A daughter finds ways of coping with her mother’s slide into dementia in this funny, poetic play about Alzheimer’s and myth. Runs in repertory with The Thrush and the Woodpecker, both by Steven Yockey and part of the New Works Festival from Kitchen Dog, which moves (temporarily) into the space at Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Final weekend. KitchenDogTheater.org.


Dreamgirls. The hit rock musical, a thinly-disguised version of the making of the Supremes and Motown, becomes the Dallas Theater Center’s summer family show ... for funky, open-minded families. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through July 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Livin’ Fat. A college-educated man is forced to take a job as a janitor in a bank, and happens upon $20k in cash dropped by bank robbers and unnoticed by the cops in this comedy. Final weekend. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.


FINE ART


FRIDAY 06.24
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

MONDAY 06.27
CABARET
Mama’s Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. $10.

TUESDAY 06.28
FILM
Bullitt. Super-cool Steve McQueen had a hit in this iconic police drama. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3659 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 06.30
CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist’s weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

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Ask Howard

It seems everyone now suddenly, this summer, has “vacation” on their minds, and along with all those tan, frolicking queers in turquoise Spandex beach thongs comes, of course, good old summertime-sizzling XXX fantasies of faraway, exotic, one-night-stand strangers whom one never has to ever see or fuck twice, again: Let’s get right to it.

Dear Howard,

Have you ever heard of a “zoo party” before? My life-partner and I attend pig parties a lot — dungeon slings, blindfolded slaves, Tina galore and the like — but I just received an actual, snail-mailed velum invitation card to some zoo orgy thing at the nearby “ranch” of my monthly hall passes. He certainly is cutting-edge/homo-trendy — I’m so envious! Regarding your question, though: To my knowledge, and now astonishment, Jake, zoological “safari orgies” hadn’t even so far yet made their underground jump across the pond from the reptilian pits of Berlin and Amsterdam, say nothing of having actually landed already now in Bible Belt Central. With a little research, though, Jake, here are the top 10 LGBT “zoo orgy” party animals’ slang invocations, for all invitees joining in such fanged, bareback expeditions:

A word to the wise here, Jake: If you’re a big ol’ hairy, brutally-alpha top, I’d advise you steer well clear of showing up to any safari orgy as Harambe, the recently euthanized silverback gorilla.

1. Bear — husky, large-built, middle-aged, proudly brandishing thick facial, chest and body hair.
2. Cub — younger, thinner, less stocky baby bear (usually a bottom).
3. Chicken — young twink, willowy-skinny with no body hair (tends to be effeminate).
4. Otter — wiry, lean and hairy (older than a chicken but younger and leaner than a bear).
5. Chicken Hawk — older perv who exclusively pursues twinkie chickens and others.
7. Giraffe — handsomely tall, sometimes gangly, lusted after by prey and predators alike.
8. Pig — the kinkier and filthier it is, the happier he de-viantly wallows in it (as you probably know).
10. Unicorn — the non-existent, self-proclaimed “100 percent bisexual” (desiring of a threesome sans any jealous conflict).

FYI: A word to the wise here, Jake: If you’re a big ol’ hairy, brutally-alpha top, I’d advise you steer lawfully well clear of showing up to any safari orgy as, oh, Harambe, the recently euthanized Cincinnati Zoo silverback gorilla … that is, if you at all have your raw sights set on abusing any virginally-precious, submissive little chimps.

Dear Howard,

I’m backpacking across continental Europe six weeks later this summer, hitting all the major vice meccas — Copenhagen, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, Barcelona, Rome. Could you tell me which country over all has the most well-hung men? — Lucky Bangin’ Backpacker

Dear Lucky, Well, aren’t we sure going to have a big summer! Fortunately, Howard here is a very globally-seasoned sex traveler, so trust me when I tell you that the most consistently colossal cocks in all of Europe are just awaitin’ you to bend over in — wait for it… Lisbon. Lucky, my man, no size queen sleazily panhandling/hustling his way across the continent should ever skip the prime penises of Portugal.

Dear Howard,

My wife and I are “queer hypocrisy” film buffs: We relish films starring straight actors who tell me which country over all has the most well-hung men? — Lucky Bangin’ Backpacker

Dear Lucky, Well, aren’t we sure going to have a big summer! Fortunately, Howard here is a very globally-seasoned sex traveler, so trust me when I tell you that the most consistently colossal cocks in all of Europe are just awaitin’ you to bend over in — wait for it… Lisbon. Lucky, my man, no size queen sleazily panhandling/hustling his way across the continent should ever skip the prime penises of Portugal.

Dear Howard,

My heart quivers with fear of losing you, sweet reader.

— Beth

Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs an answer? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.
Making the SCENE the week of June 24–30:

• Alexandre’s: Jason Huff and the Ignition on Friday. No Label on Saturday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Ilumin on Thursday.

• Barbara’s Pavilion: Pride Month Trivia Night during Double Deo Karaoke from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Thursday.

• Brick/Joe’s: Dannee Phann birthday bash with India Ferrah and appearances by Andrew Christian models, benefitting Resource Center, on Saturday.

• Club Reflection: Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Condom Queen of the Parking Lot kickoff at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

• Dallas Eagle: National Leather Association–Dallas presents Leather Perspectives from 1:30–4 p.m. on Saturday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents CPR Ball benefiting AIDS Interfaith Network from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. Leather Knights presents Camp-A-Lot from 8-10 p.m. on Sunday.

• JR.’s Bar & Grill: Dream Girls with Chanel, Sassy, Raquel, Fantasha and Athena on Thursday.

• Round-Up Saloon: Dance lessons with Juanita at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday.

• Sue Ellen’s: Ashley Bradberry on Friday. The Grown Folks with Kerrie Leppia on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. and Tyla Taylor at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

• The Rose Room: Cassie, Keleas, Valerie, Kennedy Deavenport, Layla and Kandy Cayne on Saturday.

• Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night with David Carpenter on the piano from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.

• Urban Cowboy Saloon: Imperial Pride Pageant at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

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10 Rubber stamp
14 Melville story of the sea
15 Teased
16 M or G
17 Have dog breath?
18 City of Lorca’s homeland
19 Unbending
20 TV show with bisexual pol Frank
Underwood
23 Used rubbers
26 Kerouac’s Big __
27 Threesome for Caligula
28 YMCA activity
29 Morse clicks
32 Minute part
34 Competitor of Barneys
35 Russian river to the Caspian
38 Shaw of swing
39 TV show with bisexual Dr. Eleanor
O’Hara
42 Barber manuscript, e.g.
44 Hacienda room
45 Not straight
48 Loser’s catchword
50 Bryant once of hoops
52 Carnaval resort
53 Advocate.com, for one
54 “Vox populi, vox ___”
56 “Let’s get one thing straight:
I’m not.”, e.g.
58 TV show with bisexual Dr. Callie
Torres
62 Ares of Xena and others
63 Innocent ones
64 Put the top on the cake
68 __ of Seventeen
69 Seafood author
70 Village People’s “In the ___”
71 “Caught in the headlights” animal
72 Gaily colored flowers, commonly
73 TV show with bisexual cheerleader
Brittany Pierce

Down
1 Peter Cottontail’s move
2 Thurman of Kill Bill
3 No to Rimbaud
4 Teens in black makeup, e.g.
5 I, Derek?
6 Jane Spahr and Mychal Judge
7 Comic strip dog
8 Fat lady songs at the opera
9 Cluster “fornications”
10 Sundance’s Place
11 Ben Hur, and competitors
12 Guy often found in handcuffs
13 Where to be, re the closet
21 Brit. word ref
22 Need lubricating, maybe
23 Hesitation sounds
24 Breakfast on Pluto actor Stephen
25 Recognize gay rights, e.g.
30 Uno + dos
31 He’s a wheel man
32 Peeples of Fame
34 Competitor of Barneys
35 Foam at South Beach
37 Composer Edouard
40 Enjoy's Quentin Crisp
41 Rear ends
42 Coldcocked
43 Eat away at
45 Peeples of Fame
46 Pull behind
47 Upright piano
49 Dip it in your cup
51 Shade maker
55 Including everything
57 Bombing, on stage
59 River of the Singing Nun’s country
60 Mamma Mia! band
61 Began like Sheehan, with “off”
65 James Dean’s East of Eden role
66 Mother without a mother
67 Color for Easter eggs
Set his heart racing.

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