Nearly 15 years before Mica England’s successful challenge to DPD’s anti-gay hiring policy, Slade Childers fought the same battle

by David Taffet, Page 8
VOTE A STRAIGHT
DEMOCRATIC TICKET

You are already aware that this is no ordinary election year. We have, perhaps, the most qualified candidate to ever seek the presidency in modern times running against the most unqualified candidate without any government experience whatsoever. By voting a straight democratic ticket, you will be sending a strong message that you want to protect the advances that the LGBT community has secured over the last 8 years. All of the progress we have achieved is in grave danger this year. The winner will determine who is nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court and Federal Judiciary that will shape our country and our rights as LGBT Americans for decades to come.

Early voting begins this Monday, October 24th and runs through Friday, November 4th. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm throughout the early voting period with the exception of Sunday, October 30th when the hours will be from 1pm to 6pm. During the early voting period, you may vote at ANY early voting location in your county. It is a convenient way to cast your vote without waiting in line on Tuesday, November 8th… Election Day.

On Election Day, you must vote in the precinct in which you are registered to vote. For more information please visit dallascountyvotes.org or your local county elections department website. Please remember to bring a government issued photo I.D. (drivers license, passport etc.). If you do not have a government photo I.D., bring something that shows your address (utility bill etc.). You will be asked to sign a “Reasonable Impediment Declaration” attesting that you do live at that address and are a registered voter. Some of the early voting locations in Dallas County are:

- GRAUWYLER REC. CENTER ------------ 7780 HARRY HINES BLVD.
- OAK CLIFF SUB-COURTHOUSE -------- 410 S. BECKLEY
- GEORGE ALLEN COURTS BLDG. ------- 600 COMMERCE ST.
- J ERICK JONSSON CENTRAL LIBRARY ---- 1515 YOUNG ST.
- MARSH LANE BAPTIST CHURCH -------- 10716 MARSH LN.

Please visit
DALLASCOUNTYVOTES.ORG
For a complete list of all 41 early voting locations and more information.
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We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for Bankruptcy Relief under the Bankruptcy Code. Board Certified, Consumer Bankruptcy Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
Dallas and Fort Worth receive 100 on Municipal Equality Index

Dallas and Fort Worth have both received a score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index for the second year in a row. Austin was the only other city in Texas to receive the top score.

Houston scored 71 as a result of its repeal by general election of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance. San Antonio’s score improved this year to a 95. Last year it received a 90.

Although 100 is the top score available, it is not considered a perfect score. Each of the seven categories have bonus points that a city can earn.

Both Dallas and Fort Worth lost 6 points for not having transgender-inclusive health benefits.

Dallas received 2 bonus points for having LGBT elected or appointed officials. Fort Worth did not receive those points, even though it does have several appointed officials, including Sharon Herrera, who serves on the Human Relations Commission. That loss of bonus points didn’t affect the city’s final score.

All progressive cities in Texas received 4 bonus points for being “pro-equality despite restrictive state law.” That would include El Paso, which only scored 57, but not Houston, because of voter hostility.

Among Dallas suburbs, Plano received the highest score — 74 — and Irving, whose mayor was elected to keep Sharia law out of the city, earned 6 points for having an enumerated anti-bullying policy in its schools. Irving should have received a zero, however, because the school district doesn’t have an enumerated policy and balked when Rafael McDonnell from Resource Center tried to work with them to improve its policy after the “clock boy” incident.

Improvements at both properties will include new fitness equipment, new and improved tanning beds, remodeling in the offices and clubhouses including color and decor changes, new landscaping and ground cover, new pool furniture and outdoor seating area furnishings, and updated Mac computers in the business centers.

Improvements such as these, Roos said, are part of Venterra’s focus on “quality of living and great customer service.” Venterra, he added, has “a lot of exciting things lined up” for Iume and Iume Park. He said that initial changes will be focused on the physical facilities and management and staff transitions and converting operations to Venterra’s management system.

Roos said that while Venterra is aware of the LGBT community’s prominence in Oak Lawn, “We don’t really understand all the nuances of the community” and its previous relationship with the Iume properties and management. He said he is aware that the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce is housed in offices at Iume at a reduced rate for rent, but that his company has not yet explored that situation and how it might continue.

Iume opened in the summer of 2009, and Iume Park opened in 2013.

— Tammye Nash

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Bella is a small kitty with medium-length hair, calico markings and big blue eyes. She is a little over 11 years old, and came to the SPCA shelter after her person became too ill to care for her. Bella can be shy at first, but warms up once she gets to know you. She loves to be petted and loves being brushed. She is spayed, negative for FIV/FeL, microchipped and fully vaccinated. Bella is housed at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive in Dallas. For more information call 214-742-7722 or visit SPCA.org. Bella’s ID number is 148559.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. AIDS Arms CEO John Carlo is this week’s guest; 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.

OCTOBER
• Through Oct. 29: Screams Three haunted houses, Carnevil, clown maze and zombie wasteland. 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights at Scarborough Faire site, Waxahachie.
• Oct. 22: Ranch Hand Rescue fundraiser Benefit for the counseling center that uses equine and other rescued farm animals in therapy to help vets with physical disabilities and PTSD and children facing surgery and with other mental and physical disabilities. 6–11 p.m. at Hilton DFW Lakes Grand Ballroom, 1800 Hwy 26 East, Grapevine. RanchHandRescue.org. $100.
• Oct. 22: Texas Gift of Adoption dinner Fajita dinner and silent auction benefits the Texas Gift of Adoption Fund Chapter from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at Ozona Grill, 4615 Greenville Ave. $40.
• Oct. 23: 25th Anniversary Hope Walk The 25th annual Hope Walk benefitting AIDS Outreach Center in Tarrant County, includes a 5K family- and pet-friendly walk to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and help AOC serve
Family and friends are invited to gather to celebrate the life of Anthony “Celie” Gurley on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 3-5 p.m. in the Granite Bar at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

Gurley’s body was found Oct. 4 in a field near the restaurant where he worked in Anna, Texas, just north of Dallas on I-45. He had been missing since Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18, when he left work early, around 1 p.m., saying he didn’t feel well. The Collin County Medical Examiner has not yet determined a cause of death.

Gurley lived in Anna with his mother and sister. The family has already held a private funeral service.

Blake Deeter, who is organizing the celebration of life for Saturday, said that Caven Enterprises is donating the use of the venue for the service, and Uncle Julio’s, where Gurley worked as a server, is donating food for the event. Juan Gaviota Flowers is donating flowers.

There will be a video wall featuring photos of Gurley — known to his many friends as Miss Celie — throughout his life, and displays of memorabilia will also be set up for the service.

Organizers will be accepting contributions, which will be donated in his name to Resource Center, as his family requested, Deeter said.

Jody Grant Simmons, 57, of Dallas died Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016, with his mother and father at his side.

Born on Jan. 4, 1959 in Dunedin, Fla., Jody graduated from University of West Florida, where he served as student council president his senior year. He had lived in Dallas for more than 30 years, and had worked for Zale Properties, Kelly Services and Pearson.

Jody loved museums, street tacos, quirky Coen brothers-type movies and his Florida Gators. When anyone needed anything, he was the first to help. He will be missed greatly by everyone who knew him.

Jody’s friends plan to gather at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 2-4 p.m., to celebrate his life. Those who would like to leave a message for his family may do so online at AriaCremation.com/obituary-Jody-Grant Simmons.

Jody is survived by parents, Jack and Janice Simmons; his brother, Stuart; his sisters, Carol, Becky and Beth; and many friends from Dallas.
Perverts need not apply

Long before Mica England took on DPD’s anti-gay hiring policies and won, Slade Childers was fighting for his right to work for the Dallas police.

DAVID TaFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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When Mica England sued the Dallas Police Department in 1993 for rejecting her employment application because she was openly lesbian, her victory changed the relationship between Dallas and the LGBT community.

But things were very different in 1975 when Steven “Slade” Childers was rejected by the department because he was gay: He sued and lost.

How it began

Childers’ battle began when, while working for the Dallas Water Department, he requested a transfer to DPD. In a letter rejecting the transfer, Dallas Police Chief D.A. Byrd explained to that department because he was gay: He sued and lost.

After his request was rejected, Childers filed a grievance with the city, basing his complaint on the fact that the rejection violated his religious freedom, and that he was being discriminated against because of his sexual orientation. The director of the water utilities department requested an explanation from Byrd.

Byrd claimed the rejection had nothing to do with Childers’ religion when in fact, it actually had everything to do with his beliefs. Childers belonged to Metropolitan Community Church Dallas, now known as Cathedral of Hope, which affirmed LGBT people. Byrd said he was rejected entirely because he was gay.

“A person commits an offense if he engages in deviate sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex,” Byrd wrote. Citing Paragraph G of the employment code, he added, “No employee shall cohabit with any type of sex pervert of the same sex.”

And Paragraph X allowed him to reject employment “for violation of any federal or state statutes.”

Slade Childers, left, with his “other half” Don Armstrong. Below, the Dallas Water Department in 1972. Childers is in red in the front row. (Courtesy Slade Childers)

Childers was applying for a job in the property division. Byrd found that problematic because, he claimed, it was a “sensitive position.”

“Moreover, this position could conceivably make him privy to information concerning perspective [sic] enforcement activities pertaining to sexual offenders and to place him in a further potentially compromising position with his closest friends and associates.”

Childers said that when he asked what evidence he might see that might put him in a compromising position, he was shown dildos, which were illegal in Texas then.

At the time, Childers recalls now, DPD regularly raided gay bars. In addition, they would send undercover officers into the bars to distribute invitations to private parties set up in private residences. Once the party was underway, police would back a paddy wagon up to the house and arrest anyone who didn’t escape through the windows.

So the chief was worried Childers might tip friends off to planned entrapment operations.

Childers filed an appeal, writing: “My complaint is on the grounds of religious discrimination in regard to my sexual orientation.”

Childers, 24 at the time, had been working for the city since 1969. He had marched in Dallas’ first Gay Pride Parade in Dallas in 1972, with the MCC contingent, and, he said, someone he worked with saw him marching with the MCC group in the parade and outed him at work.

That’s when “jokes, offensive language and the usual put-downs” began, he said. When he eventually filed a grievance over his transfer request being denied, he included a newspaper clipping from 1973 that explained that homosexuality in Texas was downgraded from a felony to a misdemeanor in the rewritten Texas Penal Code.

When Childers took a civil service test, while he was preparing to ask to be transferred, he received the highest score given. At his interview with the police department, he was asked about his religion, a question that would now be illegal under Title VII.

When he was asked about MCC, Childers explained the church’s outreach to the LGBT community. Childers said the interviewer assured him that he had no problem with that, but he wanted Childers to know there were “cops that like to bust fags.” Childers assured the interviewer that his private, religious life and his work life were separate, and the interviewer told him he’d find out in three days.

After that interview, Childers was so confident he had gotten the job that he got his hair cut and his sideburns trimmed. (It was the 1970s and everyone — except Dallas Police, it seemed — had long sideburns).

But when Childers called back, the interviewer told him he was still interviewing candidates. He
Mica England’s battle

In 1989, a young woman named Mica England drove to Dallas from her home in Oklahoma to apply for a job as an officer with the Dallas Police Department. She had talked to DPD recruiters who had visited her school, telling them that she was a lesbian, and asking if that would prevent the department from hiring her.

The recruiters told her no problem. But the recruiters lied.

England had first applied to the Dallas Police Department in 1987, but was disqualified when she failed the polygraph test because she lied about being a lesbian. The next year, when England interviewed in Dallas, she answered honestly, acknowledging that yes, she was a lesbian. The interviewer then told her that because consensual, same-sex sexual contact between adults of the same gender was a violation of Texas law — Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, aka “the sodomy law,” made such contact a Class C misdemeanor, akin to a speeding ticket — Dallas PD could not and would not hire her.

Irate that she had been lied to and that the DPD was discriminating against her, England immediately went looking for someone to help her. She found William Waybourn and the rest of the Dallas Gay Alliance. With DGA in her corner, in May 1990, England sued the city, then-Chief Mack Vines and the state of Texas, and challenging the constitutionality of the state’s sodomy law.

Nearly two years later, in February 1992, Judge Lawrence Fuller in the 200th Judicial District Court in Travis County ruled for England, declaring 21.06 unconstitutional and enjoining the city and Mack Vines from hiring discrimination based on sexual orientation. But the state had challenged Fuller’s jurisdiction to hear, and he agreed, dismissing the state as a plaintiff.

So everybody appealed. The state and the city and Vines claimed Fowler was wrong to declare the sodomy law unconstitutional and tell Dallas the police department couldn’t base their discrimination on it. England claimed the state shouldn’t have been dismissed as a plaintiff.

The Texas Court of Appeals dismissed England’s appeal, but at the same time upheld Fowler’s ruling: 21.06 was unconstitutional and DPD had to change its hiring policies. (The city did file a motion for a rehearing and then tried to appeal to the Texas Supreme Court, but the motions were too late by a day or two, so the Appeals Court ruling stood.)

Today, the Dallas Police Department has a much more open, accepting and supportive attitude toward not only the LGBT community but with its own LGBT officers as well. In fact, Sr. Cpl. Monica Cordova, a lesbian on the force, was named Officer of the Year for 2015. Unfortunately, that all came too late for Mica England. She won her case but was never allowed to complete the application process with the DPD (DPD officials claimed she lied about “borrowing” supplies from a restaurant where she worked as a chef). She continued working as a chef and later moved away from Dallas.
UTA student Taylor Long is collecting oral histories of disabled transgender people.

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Taylor Long was at a social justice conference at the University of Texas at Arlington when she first learned one of the largest protests in modern United States history was led by disabled people. The speaker, Sarah Rose, an associate professor of history at the university who also directs the minor in disability studies, described one of many 1970s-era protests lead by a group of activists determined to secure one of many laws accommodating those with physical disabilities.

Long was floored.

“I thought, ‘What the hell? I had no idea,’” Long, a senior history major at the university, recalled thinking recently. “I hadn’t even learned about this before. Disabled people organized the largest sit-in in a public building ever. And don’t you think you’d know about it? But you don’t learn about Stonewall in class either.”

Those gaps in history textbooks didn’t deter Long, who is also minoring in women’s and gender studies. She is already well aware that history has often been written by straight, white, able-bodied men.

One class lead to another and soon Long was writing a 10-page research paper about the intersection of gender and disability, specifically about the politics of transgender bodies.

And now with Rose and others’ help Long is collecting those untold stories from American history. For the next two semesters, she is collecting the oral histories of disabled transgender individuals and their providers to be archived in the Texas Disability Archives at the university.

The goal of her project is to gather perspectives and experiences from within the medical field and police and political spheres from disabled transgender people and people who serve those communities.

Until recently, being transgender was classified as a disability itself. In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which lists all recognized mental health disorders, replaced the term “gender identity disorder” with “gender dysphoria” to describe transgender people. While still considered a disability, the change in terminology better reflects scientific difference between one’s gender and one’s identity.

“I want do this project because trans people are always left out of history. Being trans is not a negative thing. Neither is being disabled,” Long said. “It’s not disabling to be trans. Trans people can do all the same things able-bodied people can do, but they’ve been constructed as the same. To even get hormone therapy you had to go through a therapist and get a signed letter from a doctor. No one would make you do that for cosmetic surgery.”

Looking at the intersection of transgender and disabled identities is not limited to just physical identities but mental identities too, including those that are self-diagnosed.

“When a woman exhibits symptoms of autism, it’s perceived and categorized differently. A lot of women in the disability community have self-diagnosed with autism,” Long said. “If the medical community won’t serve them in this way, it can’t help but hurt and limit them.”

According to a 2011 report from the National Center for Transgender Equality and National LGBTQ Task Force, 30 percent of those surveyed reported having a physical or mental disability compared to 20 percent of cisgender people, in part due to the trauma many transgender people face in the form of discrimination, harassment and violence.

“I think probably a large part of that is due to more trans people having common occurrences of mental disabilities. Obviously not all trans people have disabilities. But that’s what makes it interesting to study, it’s almost double the amount of national average,” Long said.

She is also interested in the idea of outing: how and why people come out. Or how and why they don’t.

Sometimes disabled transgender people face choices when coming out. Some people choose to come out as disabled but keep their trans identity a secret.

“You come out as a disabled person especially if your disability isn’t visible. And you come out as a trans person, what identities they choose to dispose at what times and how families react to both identities” all have strong impact, Long said. “They don’t want to be discriminated against for their trans identity and vice versa. It kind of gives differences of power and what outing can do for you in those situations.”
Facing eviction because of an ex?

Dallas Fair Housing investigates a discrimination complaint against a North Dallas property manager

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When Regina Milazzotto’s ex-girlfriend showed up late at night banging on her door, she called the police. The next day, the property manager at Bent Oaks Apartments in North Dallas left a notice on her door that she was in violation of her lease for creating a disturbance.

According to her lease, two violations could result in eviction.

The incident was a domestic violence situation, and police handled it that way, Milazzotto said. By the time they arrived, her ex-girlfriend was gone, but police told her to call back if she showed up again.

About six months later, the ex appeared at her door again in the middle of the night, creating another disturbance. The property manager’s response was to post another violation on Milazzotto’s door.

Milazzotto said she was afraid she was going to be evicted, that she was afraid any call to police would prompt legal action against her. So Milazzotto spoke to the property manager.

The manager’s response: “I’ve seen cop cars outside your door plenty of times.”

Over the summer, Milazzotto had a small fire on her balcony. A neighbor called the fire department, even though the fire was out before help arrived. The property manager was in her apartment and made a comment about how clean she kept her place. Milazzotto said she really is a good tenant and said the manager simply rolled her eyes before leaving.

That’s when she decided to contact a lawyer. From attorney Kasey Krummel’s view, there was some blatant discrimination going on at Bent Oaks.

Milazzotto said property management had been polite to her, but Krummel saw a more insidious form of discrimination taking place. She had Milazzotto check with some of her straight neighbors, and as it turns out, it seems Krummel was right.

When an ex-boyfriend showed up threatening a woman and police were called, that woman wasn’t cited with causing a disturbance or threatened with eviction.Milazzotto got the same story from several of her female neighbors.

So Krummel contacted the Dallas Fair Housing Office.

Dallas Fair Housing investigator was assigned to the case, but said she hadn’t yet spoken to Milazzotto.

Earles said her office does investigate complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Once she’s done with her investigation, she said, she’ll write up a report to send to the Dallas City Attorney’s Office. It would be up to the city attorney whether to go to court, try to conciliate or find another remedy for the situation.

Milazzotto said she doesn’t want to move. She likes her apartment, the location and her neighbors. She said even if she did move, with social media, mutual friends and where she hangs out, her ex will find her anyway.

She thought of obtaining a restraining order. Investigators in that office referred her to a different office to obtain a protective order. That office told her there are too many steps to get a protective order, but what she needs is a restraining order. Krummel is looking into getting either for her client.

All Milazzotto wants is to live peacefully, without threats from her ex or her property manager.

“Everyone needs to feel safe where they live,” she said.
Chances aren’t high that the House will flip parties, but Dems have a chance to make inroads

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Republicans currently hold 247 of the U.S. House of Representatives’ 435 seats, with 188 seats in Democratic hands. To switch the majority party, Democrats must hang onto their current 188 seats and pick up 30 seats currently held by Republicans.

According to RealClearPolitics.com and others, polls show there are only 15 House races that are “toss ups” — meaning either party could win. Of those 15, 11 are currently held by Republicans.

So, to take over the House, Democrats would need to win those 11, maintain the four toss-up states currently held by Democrats, and win another 19 new seats. And polls don’t make that look like an easy prospect.

Of the 34 seats in play in this election — meaning they are leaning toward one party at this point, only nine are leaning toward the Democratic candidate. Still, the House contests do provide some interesting things for LGBT political enthusiasts to watch for on election night.

Two of the toss-ups

First, two of the 15 “toss-up” states are races in which there is an openly LGBT candidate.

Angie Craig, a Democrat, is running against a Republican newcomer for an open seat representing Minnesota’s 2nd Congressional district. And Paul Babeu, a Republican, is running against a newcomer Democrat for an open seat in Arizona’s 1st Congressional district.

Angie Craig’s prospects look good for several reasons. First, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is polling between 4 and 7 points ahead of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in that state. Second, Craig’s opponent has been widely characterized as a “mini-Trump,” and many of the state’s Republican leaders have withdrawn their support for Trump while Craig’s opponent, talk show host Jason Lewis, has not.

Third, Craig’s raised more than four times the campaign contributions her opponent has. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi campaigned for Craig in Minnesota last week, and the state’s popular U.S. senators, Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, have endorsed her.

Paul Babeu’s race looks tougher. First, polls show Arizona leans strongly toward Republican John McCain in the Senate race but slightly toward Democrat Clinton in the presidential race. Second, Babeu announced on Twitter that he was withdrawing his support for his party’s presidential nominee, Donald Trump, following the release of a videotape showing Trump saying that, because he’s a celebrity, he “can do anything” to women, including “grab them by the pussy” and that he “moved on [a married woman] like a bitch.”

According to the Arizona Republic newspaper, Babeu’s announcement — via Twitter — “generated a torrent of criticism from readers condemning him for backing away from the GOP nominee.” Soon after, according to the Arizona Republic, Babeu backed off, saying the Trump post did not have his approval.

And finally, Democrats have been running ads in Arizona saying that, when Babeu headed up a school for troubled youth in Massachusetts, he approved the use of controversial disciplinary measures against the students. An attack ad from Democrats focuses on that scandal and says, “We can’t trust him with our kids. How can we trust him in Congress.”

Other LGBT candidates

In addition to these two, there are 14 other House races in which LGBT candidates are running. Six of these are safe incumbent Democrats: David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Jared Polis of Colorado, Mark Pocan of Wisconsin, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Mark Takano of California.


Other races of interest

• California: Incumbent Republican Steve Knight boasts a very low Human Rights Campaign score of 16 and a widespread reputation of following in the footsteps of his notoriously anti-LGBT father, Pete Knight. Pete Knight proposed the California Defense of Marriage Act in 2000.

As recently as last spring, Steve Knight voted for an anti-LGBT provision to allow discrimination for purported religious beliefs. HRC and Equality California are backing his Democratic challenger Bryan Canfield.

• Illinois: In this “toss up” race, incumbent Republican Robert Dold sports a much improved record on LGBT voting — from an HRC score of only 35 two sessions ago to a 92 in the latest session. But his opponent, former Rep. Brad Schneider, scored a 100 during that in-between session. The Human Rights Campaign has endorsed the Republican.

A Schneider attack ad faults Dold for agreeing with Republicans that employers should be able to fire employees “just for being gay.” But Dold, the only Republican House candidate HRC is supporting, was the first House Republican to co-sponsor the Equality Act.

• Florida: Newcomer Democrat Stephanie Murphy is looking to unseat incumbent Republican John Mica in Orlando. She’s making it an issue that Mica has consistently rated the lowest score possible on the Human Rights Campaign’s Congressional Scorecard in voting on LGBT issues. She also criticized Mica for taking a contribution from the National Rifle Association just two days after the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando.
Florida: The Congressional district that includes Key West is one of the “toss up” races this year. Incumbent Republican Carlos Curbelo has scored a respectable 88 on HRC’s Congressional scorecard and spoken in support of marriage equality. His Democratic opponent, former Congressman Joe Garcia, had a 100 percent pro-LGBT voting record.

Maine: This is another “toss up” race. Incumbent Republican Bruce Poliquin was one of seven Republicans who agreed to switch his vote to ensure defeat of a measure to uphold President Obama’s executive order barring discrimination against LGBT people by federal contractors. Poliquin’s score on HRC’s rating is only 48.

Running against him is Emily Ann Cain, Democratic leader of the Maine State House who spoke in favor of marriage equality during a statewide hearing in 2009.

Michigan: In this “toss up” contest, HRC is behind Democrat Lon Johnson for the seat being vacated by Rep. Dan Benishek, whose HRC score has grown only to a 16 from two sessions as a zero. Johnson, as the state Democratic Party chair, has been a strong supporter of equal rights for LGBT people.

Johnson is running against an “outsider” Republican, former Marine general Jack Bergman.

Montana: Democrat Denise Juneau is a lesbian and a Native American and hopes to be the first in those categories to win a Congressional seat from Montana. She’s gotten the backing of HRC and the Lesbian PAC, but polls suggest the seat is likely to go to Republican incumbent Ryan Zinke.

But Zinke’s attitude toward minorities earned him some audible disdain during the most recent debate. KPAX News in western Montana noted that the television audience groaned when said Zinke said he supports the rights of all people but added, “If you want to be lesbian, if you want to be Muslim, if you want to whatever, it doesn’t matter to me. It doesn’t matter. What’s important is that you have the right to be you. … And that’s what I believe.”

Zinke’s HRC score, however, is a zero.

New Jersey: Incumbent Republican Scott Garrett ran into some trouble last year when he complained the National Republican Congressional Committee had supported openly-gay candidates. He also spoke against marriage for same-sex couples. The result, reported Bloomberg, was that much of Garrett’s corporate support pulled out.

Now, Democratic challenger Josh Gottheimer has twice the money Garrett has in his campaign coffers.

Wyoming: Liz Cheney, who had a very public disagreement with her lesbian sister, Mary Cheney, over marriage for same-sex couples, is expected to win a seat in Congress next month. She faces a newcomer Democrat, Ryan Greene, for an open seat.

Greene describes himself as a “Wyoming Democrat, not a California Democrat, not a New York Democrat,” which is presumably code for “not progressive on social issues.”

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said he’d call Childers to let him know what decision was made. He never called.

A year later, Childers took the civil service exam again, scored even higher, and re-applied for the job when it opened. At the interview, he asked why he wasn’t hired the previous year.

“Because of your gay activist activities at Metropolitan Community Church,” the interviewer told him.

In Childers’ eyes, that constituted religious discrimination and formed the basis of a lawsuit he filed when his grievance appeal was denied.

The lawsuit

In a deposition for the lawsuit against the city, Joseph Werner, an assistant city attorney, questioned Childers.

“I don’t mean to embarrass you by my questions,” Werner told Childers during questioning. “The subject matter of the lawsuit necessarily involves some things which may be embarrassing, but my questions are required by the allegations that you’ve made in your lawsuit and by your own description of yourself, and I don’t mean to attach any stigma to that. . . .”

But it turned out that Werner was the only one embarrassed by the deposition questions. Childers described himself as a deacon with MCC and said he was proud of his religious beliefs, and that included being proud of himself.

Werner asked him about being homosexual.

Childers kept answering that he was gay. Werner repeatedly asked questions about what the word meant. Childers explained that being gay was more than having sex.

Finally, Werner asked, “Do you prefer that I use the word gay in referring to you?”

At one point, Werner asked Childers if he considered himself to be a sex pervert. Childers said not only did he not consider himself a sex pervert, but neither did the American Psychological Association, which had recently changed the classification at a national meeting held in Dallas.

When asked about MCC, Werner asked if the church tolerated people whether they’re gay or not.

“Well, let me rephrase that,” Childers said. “It’s a church which welcomes people whether they are gay or not.”

Werner asked again using the word “tolerates.” Childers objected and Werner appeared to become a little flabbergasted and asked what’s wrong with that?

“How can you say a church tolerates its members?” Childers asked.

In another interesting exchange, Childers refers to his partner as his “other half,” and Werner obviously had trouble understanding the term. Childers explained that his “other half” was like Werner’s wife was to him, except they weren’t married, adding that he just didn’t have a better term.

Between the time Childers filed his grievance and the time the case came to court, Childers had left the water department and broken up with his partner, Don Armstrong.

He moved out of Dallas and took several temporary jobs until meeting Ralph Josephs in California. He moved in with Josephs and settled there, and the two remain a couple today.

The outcome

The city offered Childers a $9,000 settlement and, he said, he considered it seriously because, at the time, he and Josephs could really have used the money, since he was not working.

“But,” he added, “I couldn’t take it and live with myself.”

So he left it to the court to decide, and the judge ruled against him. But, Time later told him, it was the longest decision the judge had ever written. He said the judge clearly saw discrimination, but couldn’t find a law to back up Childers’ claim.

They appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which refused to hear the case.

During the lawsuit, Childers said MCC Dallas never embraced his fight for equality against the city. In fact, the board of directors voted against supporting his case. However, the Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, which is based in California where he was living, voted full support for his case.

Childers said that after the case closed, he visited Time’s office in Dallas and was worried about the huge legal bill he faced. Time told him the legal fees had been covered. To this day, Childers doesn’t know whether Time simply wrote off the fees or if someone stepped in to fund the case.

In January 2016, Childers and Josephs celebrated their 40th anniversary. They still live in California where Childers works for the federal government, where he has received promotions and hasn’t faced additional discrimination.
Gays seeking safety in Trump?

If you’ve been paying attention this election season, you know that there are some outspoken people in the LGBT community that are backing Donald Trump for president. It’s not surprising, really; like every other group of people, gay people have diverse views, and sometimes their deeply-held views are not based in sexual orientation/identity.

Based on news coverage, polling and social media data, the majority of the LGBT community finds Trump’s behavior abhorrent. But there are some gays out there who really do like Trump and what he stands for.

It may be easy to trivialize “Gays for Trump” as a segment of the voting populace that is (a) seriously confused, (b) suffering from internalized homophobia, (c) doing it for attention, and/or (d) going along with Mommy and Daddy. Through my own personal and non-scientific polling, I have found that there are, indeed, a lot of gay people supporting Trump for some or all of these reasons.

But I’ve also found another concern among pro-Trump individuals in the LGBT community, particularly among gay evangelical Christians: the influence of radical jihadism (aka radical Islamic terrorism), the potential implementation of Sharia Law in the United States and immigration from countries where terrorism is prevalent.

Among those I’ve talked to, there seems to be a belief that Donald Trump will better defend the American way of life than would Hillary Clinton. Specifically, there is a fear that Hillary Clinton will be weaker on terrorism and immigration than Trump ultimately leading to the breakdown of our Western ideology, which includes being more open-minded toward the LGBT community.

It’s easy to say that their fear is rooted in racism, ethnocentrism and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories. And some of it certainly is. But there is a legitimate concern about the changing values of Western culture, the threat of terrorism and what role immigration will play in this country’s future.

Radical jihadism is not new in the United States. Major events involving Islamic extremist date back to the 1970s. In fact, it’s naive to believe that terrorism and immigration shouldn’t be a concern. It most definitely should be.

Let’s not forget that 5,000 people were killed and more than 6,000 people were injured on Sept. 11, 2001, by hijackers from the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda. It was one of the most devastating single events in our nation’s history. And there have been other attacks since, carried out by both foreign-born and home-grown Islamic terrorists.

The latest directly affected the LGBT community. On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen, a pledged ISIS supporter, shot and killed 49 people and injured 53 more at an Orlando gay bar. It was the largest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, the deadliest incident of violence against LGBT people in U.S. history, and the deadliest terrorist attack in the U.S. since the 9/11 attacks.

So it makes sense that terrorism is on people’s minds, especially gay people’s minds. We have a very real need to feel and be safe.

But here’s the problem: While these attacks, all of them, were devastating and terrifying, they can’t be used as a tool to define a Trump presidency or to vitify all Muslims. In fact, there is absolutely zero evidence that Donald Trump will keep you, me or any other American safer than would Hillary Clinton.

The argument that Donald Trump is strong on terrorism is based solely on that Donald Trump’s call for “a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on.”

It all sounds so comforting to those who fear a flood of immigrants coming from abroad with nefarious motives. But Trump’s proposed religious test is actually just fuel on the fire for extremists already here at home and abroad that believe the United States is at war with Islam itself.

By alienating all Muslims through such a ban, including the roughly 3 million living here in the U.S., and increasing the Islamicophobic hysteria, we are breeding hatred and extremism. Let’s not forget that Trump has already walked back on this ban in the second presidential debate, instead calling for “extreme vetting” — which, I might add, is what we are already doing. Asylum seekers looking to come here face one of the most rigorous background checks in the world.

And one of Trump’s favorite lies is that Clinton is for open borders. There is no truth to this.

When it comes to terrorism Donald Trump, unlike Hillary Clinton, has no real plan to defeat ISIS. The best he’s come up with is that we need to “bomb the hell out of ISIS.” If it were only that simple.

While Donald Trump criticizes our allies in Europe and the Middle East, suggests we abandon NATO, and that ISIS be allowed to run wild in Syria, Hillary has a real plan with calculated measures to not just contain ISIS, but to defeat it. Most importantly, she has a global approach that calls for cooperation from our allies around the world — allies that Trump has consistently alienated through ill-informed comments, tweets and racist insults.

So, my LGBT brothers and sisters, when you point out that Trump is the only candidate that can keep you safe from radical terrorism, I hear your concern. But you need to hear my response: He can’t. And he won’t.

As Clinton responded to Trump’s claim he has a “secret” plan to defeat ISIS: “The only secret is that he has no plan.” Indeed.

If you insist on supporting Trump, then I say you need another reason, because the whole “He’ll keep us safe” one ain’t it.

Oh, and P.S.: If you to know more about Hillary Clinton’s plan to defeat ISIS, you can visit HillaryClinton.com. For Trump’s latest rant, check Twitter.

Brent Paxton is a freelance writer, filmmaker and political commentator living in Dallas. You can follow him on Facebook at Facebook.com/BrentPaxton.
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Losin’ my religion

Neon Trees’ out frontman Tyler Glenn goes solo, both musically and spiritually.
That’s Tyler Glenn.

Yes, that Tyler Glenn — the sizzlingly colorful frontman for the pop quartet Neon Trees, known for his electric pastels, white-blonde crew cut and clean-shaven Mormon face. The poster boy for radio-friendly beats with a wholesome undercurrent has changed. And not just his look: His personal evolution is seismic.

“I gotta be honest: [The change in my image] hasn’t been very conscious. I went through bouts of sincere depression. I started growing my beard out mostly because I didn’t leave my house for three months,” he says, sleepy-eyed while still lying in his bed in Salt Lake City. (He overslept for our interview after taking a red-eye.) And the cause of that depression? He puts it simply: “I had a faith crisis.”

Neon Trees, for all its glam-pop sensibilities, has never hid the fact that its members are all Utah-based life-long Mormons. That didn’t make them Christian rockers in any sense, but it did inform their sensibilities.

Then in 2014, Glenn publically came out as gay in Rolling Stone. “It was only two years ago that I came out. I was 30 and I didn’t want to start another decade [hiding who I am],” he explains. Still, the step struck some as incongruous. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), after all, has a notoriously anti-gay history, including substantial support for California’s Prop 8. Glenn, though, didn’t think it would be a problem, and initially, it seemed to work. “I whole-heartedly believed in Mormonism and my ability to reconcile [my faith with my orientation]. I had taught on my mission for two years. My whole life was about trying to make being gay and Mormon work,” he says.

But behind the scenes, tensions were rising. He felt an undercurrent of non-acceptance. Then, less than a year ago, a written official church policy was leaked online. It stunned him.

“The policy stated that same-sex couples and their children were apostates, and if their kids wanted to be baptized they had to wait until they were 18, and then had to renounce their parents.” The policy, Glenn claims, caused at least 1,500 members to do a “mass resignation from the church” within a month of its leak, and caused more than 50 gay suicides within the church. “It was a huge drama and a disaster,” he says. “That took me down a rabbit hole. I started looking at a lot of things within the framework of the church and the history of the church and I didn’t believe [what I was finding out].”

Glenn acknowledges that it can be difficult for an outsider to his faith to fully grasp the depths of indoctrination… to a point, it seems, teetering on brainwashing.

“I don’t know how to explain it,” he says. “Growing up Mormon is my only perspective, and within that religion, everything is very much black or white — we are taught [that the Book of Mormon] is the restored gospel of Christ on the earth and holds the keys to revelation.” But Google disabused him of many of the things he thought he knew about the LDS Church.

“The Internet, to be honest, [opened my eyes]. I’d been bottling up my identity for years. I always looked on my orientation and nature as something I could pray away. But [I learned] not only is there clearly not a space for [being gay] within this religion, but there are so many falsehoods within the religion that are not what we are taught.”

It felt like “gut-punch after gut-punch,” he says of the revelation, “… not only to gay members and trans members, but to a lot of members as a whole. It took this idea that we’re given choice and agency and removed it from a select group within the congregation. It really fucked with the membership as a whole, because [the policy] didn’t sound like it was from God. It was tearing apart the family instead of bringing it together. That’s just heinous, especially when you say it is from God.”

Glenn had already begun writing songs for a solo album. But the conflict with what he calls “my old religion” sent him into an emotional tailspin that immediately redirected his music.

The result is his new debut solo album Excommunication, which puts in no uncertain terms that Tyler Glenn no longer identifies as Mormon. “I believed in a very specific God and afterlife,” he says. And current church teachings don’t reflect that, which he sings about in plaintive, effective lyrics.

“This is the most raw and creative record I’ve made,” he says. “It’s a record I have really been ‘in’ as I’ve been making it.”

God didn’t make me like girls he sings on “GDMML Girls,” a searing chronicle of Glenn losing his religion. I tried to kill myself and I’m not the only one. You wanna talk about my sin you wanna say I’m losing it /... I keep on hearing evil voices (voices) they keep on messing with my choices… / God didn’t give me alternatives… when she put me on the earth / God didn’t make me like girls /… If I kiss a boy in public is that cool?
Kitchen LTO returns, and The Mansion on Turtle Creek has a new exec chef

Kitchen LTO is officially back. After closing at its Trinity Groves location earlier this summer, owner Casie Caldwell launched a crowdfunding campaign to have the culinary laboratory return. She’s raised the necessary money, and so the new Deep Ellum version of Kitchen LTO opens Tuesday. The executive chef — who will serve a six month stint — will be Josh Harmon, who has worked at Fort Worth’s Grace and Dallas’ Savor. The restaurant, as before, will also highlight a featured artist, this time contemporary oil painter Melissa Ellis, who will curate Gallery LTO. Among the plates will be a crispy poached egg, Korean sticky duck leg and fried garlic chicken.

It’s been a number of months since The Mansion on Turtle Creek lost Bruno Davillon as its exec chef. Now, Tom Parlo has taken over the famed kitchen where John Tesar and Dean Fearing have also reigned. He will begin reviewing and revising the menus starting in November. Parlo was most recently at the Hotel Granduca in Austin.

Owner Jon Alexis describes his two TJ’s Seafood locations — one on Oak Lawn, one in Preston Hollow — as, respectively, “a seafood market that also has a dining room” and “a seafood restaurant that also sells fish.” But both locales are featuring something you don’t often find in North Texas: Poke (pronounced po-kay). A classic Hawaiian dish, poke is not the same as sushi or ceviche, but it’s own creation — raw seafood (traditionally ahi tuna, but also salmon and shrimp) mixed together with sauces and other items to create a hearty fish bowl that works well as an appetizer and as an entree. The versions offered by TJ’s, Alexis hopes, will introduce Texas palates to a respected culinary tradition usually found only on the Islands and the West Coast. Here’s to being at the cutting edge of a foodie trend!

Candace Nelson, founder and pastry chef of the iconic 10-year-old cupcake brand Sprinkles, will be in Dallas Nov. 3 signing copies of The Sprinkles Baking Book, at the Preston Road/Northwest Highway location. The public is welcome to get a personalized copy of the book ($26) between 4 and 6 p.m.

Street’s Fine Chicken in the gayborhood has introduced new items to its menu, effective this week. I sampled the meatloaf in sweet glaze with a hint of Sriracha, but there’s also a chicken pot pie, shrimp and grits and new signature burger, in addition to already-favorite fried pimento cheese balls.

The Grape is one of the longest-standing restaurants in Dallas history — it’s been in operation, no lie, since 1972. Owners Brian and Courtney Luscher will celebrate the iconic French-inspired bistro’s 44th anniversary from Oct. 24–29 with a week of events, including burger night (Oct. 24), a Whistle Pig Whiskey Dinner (Oct. 25) and one-third off all bottles of wine on the official b-day, Oct. 26, then chef’s tasting menus on the 28th and 29th.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Master mixologist Leann Berry bids farewell to Komali

The career of a bartender is an itinerant one. Bars and restaurants come and go, but if you know how to mix a killer drink, you can write your own ticket.

Ask anyone in Dallas who can shake, stir and mix a drink with the best, and without question the name Leann Berry comes up. Where she pours, she reigns: She’s manned the bar at sadly shuttered The Bronx and Ciudad, then at Salum and, for more than five years, at Komali, the Uptown modern Mexican restaurant that’s been a popular watering hole since it opened. Where Berry goes, serious cocktail aficionados follow.

So when she texted me last week with the mysterious missive, “We need to talk immediately,” I suspected what was coming. Berry has decided to move on.

“It was time,” she says with a hint of melancholy. She’s fond on John Broady and Emanuel Salinas, who bought Komali from original chef-owner Abraham Salum late last year; the parting is amicable. But she’s itching for something different.

It’s not like she doesn’t have options. There have been offers and feelers sent to her since word leaked. But Berry is thinking about waiting until the new year to make any big decisions — she’s focused on doing a few private gigs (“I always have to turn those down because I’m too busy during the holidays!”) and fielding her options.

And you haven’t seen the last of her yet. Her last night at Komali will be Friday, Nov. 11. Everyone is invited to toast her departure. Heck, she might even make a special drink for the occasion.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Stop by Komali, 4152 Cole Ave., on Nov. 11, for Leann Berry’s final night behind the bar.
L+S screen

Porn to run

How Garrett Clayton went from Disney Channel star to porn mogul Brent Corrigan in a few sexy steps

“Do they like biting lips? Do they like using more tongue?” To play former gay porn mogul Brent Corrigan, Garrett Clayton had to answer those questions. So the 25-year-old ex-Disney star pored over videos of the notorious twink teasing the camera at just 17, when Corrigan starred in a throng of high-profile porn videos that led to his storied, controversial adult-film legacy.

Corrigan’s past is the lurid centerpiece titillating every juicy frame of director Justin Kelly’s sexy and scandalous King Cobra (now available via video on demand), embodied by Clayton and his hypnotic come-hither gaze. Christian Slater plays gay porn producer Bryan Kocis (renamed Stephen in the film), who gets tangled in a mess of controversy and murder after illegally jumpstarting Brent’s porn career. James Franco, who co-produced the project, sustains his oft-onscreen queerness, starring as a rival producer.

But who saw Clayton, who will star as Link Larkin in NBC’s Hairspray Live! in December, taking his post-Disney dive this deeply? After his role in Teen Beach Movie, the 2013 Disney Channel film that saw a squeaky-clean Clayton frolic beachside while singing surf, sun, sand / It’s a bikini wonderland, Clayton laughs at a radical career shift even he can’t believe. (“It’s been kind of like a slingshot!”)

Read on for the ex-Mouseketeer’s thoughts on Corrigan’s criticism of King Cobra (“He opened Pandra’s box and he let the movie get made”) and Clayton’s vision for his agreed-upon butt shot.

— Chris Azopardi

Dallas Voice: How does a Disney star go from Teen Beach Movie to a porn biopic? Clayton: I was attached to a film that fell through by the same producer, Scott Levenson. Then he pitched me for this to Justin Kelly, the director. I read it, and we agreed on a lot of the same points that were vital to the movie, so I sent him my audition scene. Then, bam. A couple of weeks later, I got the part. Obviously, I had nerves because coming from Disney, when any [former Disney stars] take

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that leap and are ready to do whatever adult thing, whether it’s a movie or music or anything, you hope it’s something that people will respect and see that you’re not just the person who portrayed that teenager on TV at one point.

Any trepidation taking on someone as controversial — in the porn world at least — as Brent Corrigan? I didn’t know what to expect at first because you don’t know if you’re going to have a team of people who will be really respectful and take care of you or a group of people who are there to exploit you and make money off of how good you’ll be. I couldn’t have asked for more, especially jumping into such a controversial subject.

What kind of homework is involved in playing someone like him? One thing I agreed with after Justin and I spoke: to separate the character from real life because to try to mimic him too much would come across like we were trying to make fun of his life, and that’s not what we wanted. We wanted a character who’s a little bit removed from him. I tried to have little things in there that reminded the audience of him, but a lot of it was trying to create a character that was separated enough to a degree that it just didn’t seem like we were mocking him. That was really important.

What was your process for embodying Brent’s mannerisms during the sex scenes? You want to watch someone’s work and study the way they’re into somebody or not. How do they kiss? Do they bite? Do they like biting lips? Do they like using more tongue? Are they more aggressive in their work? Does he play the victim? I tried to look at all those things. And even watching that YouTube channel that he wanted to have for a minute — those videos were interesting to watch just because there are little things in there, too. How is he when he speaks to his audience? What’s his body language like when he’s talking about something he’s comfortable with versus uncomfortable with?

At one of the film festivals, somebody asked me and Justin what our favorite video of his was, and even though mine doesn’t sound as exciting, it’s the more fascinating one. It’s the first video he did with Bryan where he’s lying in the lawn. Nobody knew at that time that he was 17, and I was just surprised that there are so many sites that still have that video online. It’s crazy. And to see him as a 17-year-old doing this, and the fact that I can find it online — I literally just typed in “Brent Corrigan first video” and a bunch of different websites came up. I just think it was fascinating to watch somebody at that age doing what they’re doing. To me, that was the most interesting piece of work because, I mean, how could it not be?

What’s it like being naked at home versus naked on camera? It’s a lot different being naked at home versus being naked on camera, in front of millions. When I’m naked at home, I’m not worried about what I ate three hours before! And it was really hard because catering, for some reason, kept making these crazy, unhealthy [meals], like macaroni and chili. Every day it was chili and macaroni and hot dogs, and I’m like, “I am on a diet. I can’t have bread, I can’t have carbs, I can’t have sugar, I can’t have dairy, and all you’re doing is supplying all those things.”

The struggles of being an actor who has to take his shirt off for the camera, right? No. The struggles of being an actor who’s only wearing underwear and maybe nothing else — not even underwear at some points!

How was your nudity established? I spoke to Justin about what I would agree to do, and it was: If you discuss with me first and I can understand logically why the nudity is a sexual act that can promote the plot in this scene, then I’ll do it. When I’m in the shower, it’s a sign he’s becoming comfortable with his sexuality. The montage is showing him becoming a star. At the end, I have my butt shot and, funny enough, that was my idea because Justin and me kept talking, saying, “When are we going to do the butt shot?” because [Brent is] known for his butt. And I was watching and I said, “Why don’t we make him getting the tattoo like ownership of self and being able to do what he wants to do with his body? If we show his ass at the end and see there’s a tattoo on it, now he can do what he wants to do with his body and he has control over his life and where he’s going.”

Brent Corrigan criticized you on Twitter, saying you don’t “embody Brian’s preference for not legal boys” and taking a dig at your “boxcut Speedos.” Did his tweets affect you at all? I think it almost started to affect me. But I made a little mantra: It’s not my place to judge; it’s just my job to tell the story. The reason we could use his name and likeness was because he got paid and he signed off on his name and likeness, so to a degree he opened Pandora’s box. He let the movie get made, so obviously he didn’t mind if it got made.

I guess he was just being critical of the outcome. As anybody would be. My thing is, would he have preferred somebody who spoke down to him and didn’t have any respect for doing what we’re doing here? Because if you look at any interview I’ve done, I completely shy away from judgment and being negative about his comments and how he feels about the movie.

In the end, did you form an opinion about him? It’s not for me — if I start doing that now, it’ll taint my mindset about the movie.

Because you’re playing gay in this movie, is there pressure to acknowledge your own sexuality? And how do you react to people who criticize you for not doing so? I mean, they probably would feel a lot differently if people were calling them and saying, “So tell me: What you do in your bedroom every day?” This is my job. And I’m happy to promote my work. And I’m happy to stand up for things I believe in. If people can’t see the positivity in that, then I think that’s up to them. You can have Mother Teresa giving food out and somebody will find something negative to say. I moved to L.A. to have a career where I got to play characters and focus on work and do all these awesome things, and I’m getting to do that now. I just don’t think it’s pertinent to talk about my personal life. I don’t think it adds to the work; it just distracted from it.

I’m supportive of an open-minded lifestyle and letting people do what they want to do with their lives, so it’s nice to be able to do another, different type of role. Acting is about stepping out of body and getting to see different lives and experience different things, and I got to do that in this movie.

One thing I even took away from this: I gained a lot more sympathy for people who work in the adult industry. A lot of times society is so harsh on people who do work in porn, and they’re so judged and scrutinized, and yet they’re so accepted because porn drives the internet, and people watch it so consistently, and it’s a multi-billionaire dollar industry. When you’re done working it, though, people shun you. They just treat people who work in this industry poorly, and yet they’re watching them alone in their bedroom, supporting them. You can’t pick and choose. You either are open-minded, or you’re not.
Did he, in fact, attempt suicide? He addresses the matter gingerly.

“I felt very much inside my own body and head,” he says. “I have never turned to drugs or alcohol for coping before, but I tried them and went into a dark place. It will be a year next month from when I first started this paradigm shift. It was terrible, but also has been oddly exciting. It’s been a process — there’s a lot to be excited about once you break this stronghold. And as much as I think it’s a singular experience, I’ve realized a lot of people feel marginalized within religion. It’s very personal, but I’ve realized it’s very universal, too.”

The darkness, and the personal faith crisis, is equally apparent just on the titles of many of the other tracks: “Gods+Monsters,” “First Vision,” “John Give ‘Em Hell,” “Devil.” But it’s not all dour downbeats. This is still Tyler Glenn, and the pop elements come through. For instance, “Shameless,” I observe, contains an infectiously acidic dance rock vibe.

“Thank you,” he says. “I started writing the record in an almost a hip-hop, R&B tone. A lot of the shells of each song started with a simple beat and a sparse melody, and then I would write on top of it.” But as he progresses, Glenn began to feel a pull from artists and genres he didn’t usually incorporate into his music, from Nine Inch Nails to late-’80s Depeche Mode.

“The tone and sound were the most conscious decisions we made [for the album],” he says. “Not having a band on the record, it felt like there wasn’t much of a ceiling sonically on what we could do. We knew the sound and tone and theme and what we were saying within the record, but we wanted to touch on an introspective journey — a soundtrack to a night drive.”

The music — the album’s content, as well as what triggered it — have apparently left a kind of gash in Glenn’s relationship with the other members of Neon Trees, though he dances around it cautiously. His video for the single “Trash” contained “a lot of specific LDS imagery,” he says, which is seems rubbed the group’s other members the wrong way.

“We’ve been on a journey together — to understand where we are now, and how we can proceed,” Glenn says. “We’re talking about future records. But creatively, and as a person, I’m different than the guy I was a few years ago.” And there’s no turning back.
B.J. Cleveland performs his cabaret Laughing Matters

If you've attended a theater event in North Texas in the past 30 years, chances are you've seen B.J. Cleveland work his magic as an actor, comedian and singer. But he shows all of those talents at once in his one-man cabaret show Laughing Matters, which launches the MainStage Irving-Las Colinas theater season.

**DEETS:** Irving Arts Center's Dupree Theater, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Doors at 6 p.m., curtain at 7 p.m. IrvingTheatre.org.

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Best bets

**Saturday 10.22**

**Ricky Martin performs at TWOxTWO for AIDS and Art gala**

We were in love with Ricky Martin even before he came out. But we're so glad the Grammy Award-winning pop star gives back to the LGBT community. Case in point: He's the featured performer this weekend at TWOxTWO for AIDS and Art Gala, the annual fundraiser that has donated more than $60 million to HIV research over the years. The social event will take place at the beautiful, Richard Meier-designed home of Cindy and Howard Rachofsky.

**DEETS:** Rachofsky House, 6105 Preston Road. TwoXTwo.org.

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**Wednesday 10.26**

**Troye Sivan performs at South Side Ball Room**

We interviewed Troye Sivan last week about his music, but also his commitment to activism. Those twin passions will be on display when the hot new music sensation brings his Suburbia Tour to Dallas this week.

**DEETS:** South Side Ball Room, 1135 S. Lamar St., 7:30 p.m. TroyeSivan.com. LiveNation.com.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER


Breadcrumbs. Regional premiere of this fractured fairy tale about a reclusive writer lost in a tangle of her own memories. Opens WingSpan Theatre Co.'s 19th season. Final weekend. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. WingspanTheatre.com.

Dracula: The Vampire Play. Dallas Children's Theater's Teen Scene Players perform this 1920s play about the undead. (Recommended for ages 12-up.) Directed by Artie Olaisen. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Oct. 29. DCT.org.

The Incident. Local actor Terry Vandivort wrote this harrowing story, based on true events, about gay life in Dallas in the 1970s. Presented by The Drama Club. See story Page 20. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Oct. 29. TheDramaClub.org.


FINE ART


EXHIBITION


HABIT FORMING | Co-creator Maripat Donovan appears in 'Sister's Back to School Catechism,' a comic presentation about the Catholic church. It opens Thursday at the Eisemann Center.

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Center’s Dupree Theater, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Doors at bar at 6 p.m., curtain at 7 p.m. livingTheatre.org.

SATURDAY 10.22
FUNDRAISER
TWOxTWO for AIDS and Art. Cindy and Howard Rachofsky host this annual gala fundraiser, this year featuring a performance by Ricky Martin. Rachofsky House, 8605 Preston Road. TwoXTwo.org.

MONDAY 10.24
CONCERTS
Voices of Change. The 42nd season of the chamber music company kicks off with music from composer Shih Hui Chen. Caruth Auditorium on the SMU campus, music company kicks off with music from composer Shih Hui Chen. Caruth Auditorium on the SMU campus, 6101 Bishop Ave. Pre-concert chat at 6:30 p.m.; show at 7:30 p.m. VoiceOfChange.com.

TUESDAY 10.25
FILM
The Haunting. Robert Wise’s spooky haunted house classic, where the threat is more heard than seen. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 10.26
CONCERTS
Troye Sivan: Suburbia Tour. The up-and-coming queer musician returns to Dallas. South Side Ball Room, 1135 S. Lamar St. 7:30 p.m. TroyeSivan.com. LiveNation.com.

THURSDAY 10.27
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.

THEATER

FRIDAY 10.28
DANCE
Estampas Portenas Tango. TITAS presents this famed Argentine dance troupe that celebrates the romantic movement of the tango. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Oct. 28–29. ATTPAC.org.

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Dallas Voice’s Tuesday Big Movie lineup at the Magnolia Theatre
Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre’s weekly Big Movie New Classic Series, sponsored by Dallas Voice, screens a different classic film each Tuesday at 7:30 and 10 p.m. This quarter’s lineup is here:
Nov. 1: The Wizard of Oz
Nov. 8: ELECTION NIGHT. No screening.
Nov. 15: Seconds. John Frankenheimer extracted a moody performance from Rock Hudson in this almost-forgotten gem of the 1960s.
Nov. 22: Murder on the Orient Express. Last quarter had Agatha Christie’s Death on the Nile, but this is the Hercule Poirot mystery that launched the trend.
Nov. 29: From Here to Eternity. Montgomery Clift became a huge star in this classic romantic drama set in Hawaii prior to World War II. Winner of seven Oscars.
Dec. 6: Wings of Desire. Wim Wenders directed this strange comedy-drama about angels watching over the lives of residents of Berlin.
Dec. 13: Logan’s Run. Farrah Fawcett made her feature film debut in this sci-fi spectacular about a dystopian future when people die at age 30. An Oscar winner for special effects, it was shot, in part, in North Texas.
Dec. 20: Holiday Inn. The film that introduced the song “White Christmas” to the world ...

You’re a friend of Dorothy’s...
aren’t you? A queer classic.

The film that introduced Agatha Christie to the world. Nov. 1: The Murder on the Orient Express

No films on Dec. 27 or Jan. 3.
Jan. 10: The Great Escape. Based on a true story from World War II, about prisoners of war (including Steve McQueen) who engineer a break from a Nazi camp.
Jan. 17: The In-Laws. Often regarded as one of the quintessential screwball comedies of the 1970s, this chase film starts Peter Falk and Alan Arkin.
Jan. 24: Rebel without a Cause. James Dean, Sal Mineo and Natalie Wood as teenagers coping with growing pains in this iconic coming of age film from Nicholas Ray.
Jan. 31: Gunga Din. One of producer Alexander Korda’s ambitious literary epics, based on the Rudyard Kipling tale.
Feb. 7: Steel Magnolias, pictured. “Pink is my signature color,” drawls Julia Roberts in this queer classic about strong-willed women (Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Olympia Dukakis, Shirley Maclaine, Daryl Hannah) coping with life and loss in Louisiana.

—Arnold Wayne Jones
Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Halloween is nearly here, Donald Trump nearly has a shot at becoming the president of the United States and nobody knows yet which is scarier. Nonetheless, should any of you decent Texan queers actually plan to vote for Trump, then please do not pen Dear Howard here another gay lifestyle-related question: Trump, believe me, is no homosexual’s compatriot; worse, his “conservative values” Indiana running mate — the rampantly-homophobic, bicultra-game, Stepford-ish Mike Pence, who peddles such nonsense as pray-the-gay-away — will become president after Trump dies in office from a KFC-induced heart attack. Thus, a vote for Trump — especially in blood-red Texas, where casting your ballot for either “Crooked” Hillary or (hell’s bells!) “Toker” Johnson — ultimately won’t matter one whit come Nov. 8 anyhow; but it would unquestionably be a vote against our LGBT community’s best interest.

With this impending fright stuff now unburdened from chest, let’s get just ghoulishly right to it.

Dear Howard,

My lover and I hosted some Grindr/Scruff buds over last weekend — I blame a full moon. After a few Z Tequila shots and “whatnot,” we started playing Twisted Tweaker Truth-Or-Dare. I got asked (by the hottest hulk in the room, thank you!) whose cock would I more like to blow: Donald Trump’s … or Hillary Clinton’s. Wanna guess what my answer was? — Cleet

Dear Cleetoris,

I couldn’t care less your kinky answer; moreover, those rumors of Hillary being a diesel dyke are greatly exaggerated. I think it’s a safe bet, too, that The Donald has probably engaged in fellatio with fellow males on as many occasions throughout his entire sexually-active, adult life as, oh, Hillary’s own husband has — in other words, precisely zero times. Zero.

Dear Howard,

My boyfriend, the “actor,” can’t compartmentalize his professional life from our private life. We never enjoy just “normal” intercourse; no, I must be arrested by a “wild west sheriff” and put in handcuffs for mule-skinning; or get raped by some black-chinned “wild west sheriff” and put in handcuffs for making as if you from once in a while brandishing all the whips and shackles, instead of always being the one perpetually “tied, gagged and blindfolded,” so the hell “what if” it’s Halloween every night of the week with your man? Most guys would kill to get laid creatively fun as you, constantly, by an enthusiastic boyfriend — beg Mo to tighten your ropes harder, wench!

Dear Howard,

Last Halloween, I refused handing out candy to anybody showing up at my door tall as I am; I told them, flat-out, “It’s a kids’ holiday and my candy’s for kids, only.” Well, the next morning, wouldn’t you know, my brand new 2015 Volvo had been keyed! I think I know who did it: Some 6-foot-5 vampire, I remember, yanked his dick out, fully-erect, and said, “Eat this, faggot.” If he shows up again this year, how should I handle him, what should I say? — Charlie J.

Dear CJ,

I’m fantasizing, fingers hornily crossed, that vamp’s dick was proportionally sized? Why, Chuck, do you even ask me, “What should I say?” Hell, you invite Dracula in this year and take the fanged stud up on his “mercy” BJ offer — duh! That, or else actually hand out a bit of candy, you cheap bastard, to anybody showing up at my door: “What should I say?” Hell, you invite Dracula in this year and take the fanged stud up on his “mercy” BJ offer — duh! That, or else actually hand out a bit of candy, you cheap bastard, to everybody who rings your bell. How long has it been now since you even saw a real flesh-and-blood penis besides your own? Probably last Halloween, I’ll wager. .

— Howard Lewis Russell

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.

A Couple of guys*

“Baby Boom”

WEB

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Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 21–27:

- BJ’s NXS!: Sybil Ann Storm’s Slippery Sundays at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- Club Changes: Deejay DJ presents The Secret Room at 10 p.m. on Friday. Jack-o-lantern carving contest at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- Club Reflection: October Party on the Patio with special guest performers at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Halloween Spook-tacular with prizes for costumes at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- Dallas Eagle: North Texas Council of Clubs presents Love Nest Show at 8 p.m. on Friday. Voting for emperor and empress from 8-10 p.m. on Friday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents In-Town Show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Coco Styles LaDiva hosts Fall Frolick Fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- JR’s Bar & Grill: Cassie’s Freak Show with Athena, Chanel LaMasters, Rocky and Kandy Cayne on Monday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Bear Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday.
- Sue Ellen’s: No Label on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3:30 and Tyle Taylor at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Kathy & Bella open mic on Wednesday.
- The Rose Room: Cassie, Layla, Kealeis, Aurora Sexton, Krystal, Asia and Jenna on Saturday.
- Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: Austin Santerra Barber emcees the Mr. and Miss Halloween Fantasy Pageant benefiting the Marianna Taylor Scholarship Fund from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday.
- Zephyr: Jenni P hosts late night shows at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Heygood
Enjoying a night out

Getting a late-night snack

Handsome trio on The Strip

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Solution on page 27

Across
1 Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud
5 Harvey’s Hairspray role
9 Braggarts blow it
14 Whitman’s “Sometimes
   With ___ Love”
15 Your first mate, and others
16 Put in a position
17 Election remnant
18 Irene of Fame
19 Ideal spots
20 Bisexual doctor on -Across
23 Sue ___ Ewing Dallas
24 Stripped
25 Guillermo of Weeds
28 Spanish king
29 Soft rock for bottoms
33 ’70s TV series with Kristy McNichol
34 Del Tredici’s In ___ of a
   Summer Day
36 Jerry Herman musical
37 She came out as bisexual at the
   “True Colors: 40 to None Summit”
   in Los Angeles
40 Good buddy on a radio
42 More touch-and-go
43 Bear-like creatures
46 Pick up
47 Baseball great Mel
50 Queen of Chicago
52 Spud, to Gomer
54 Seattle-based hospital drama of this
   puzzle’s character
58 Film maker Frank
61 Lorra’s stick
62 Blows
63 “…a ___ deferred” (Hughes)
64 North Sea feeder
65 Oodles
66 Nuts don’t have this
67 Big top performer
68 Trueheart of comics

Down
1 Sport of “Bend It Like Beckham”
2 Prepare to blow
3 “Come on now!”
4 Come slowly
5 Caesar’s “Seel!”
6 “Nuts!”
7 Burning software
8 Lammy, for one
9 TV’s “Queen of the Jungle”
10 Like Shakespeare’s night dream
11 Rough stuff for miners
12 Boy toy?
13 Wood and more
21 Put into the ground
22 New York Liberty game official
25 “M*A*S*H” cross-dresser
M. Klinger’s rank
26 Shade maker
27 Head job?
30 Doc’s org.
31 Alfred Douglas’ title
32 Lucas of Prelude to a Kiss
34 Big Easy festival
35 Hit with hand motions
37 Mailed out
38 Caesar’s threesome
39 Part of a fashion name
40 M*A*S*H cross-dresser
   M. Klinger’s rank
41 Noise of the lambs
44 Triangular lodge
45 Kind of enc.
46 Trueheart of comics
47 Lawrence portrayer Peter
48 Beats, to Britten
49 No-tell motel meetings
51 Plugs up the wazoo
52 Spud, to Gomer
54 Seattle-based hospital drama of this
   puzzle’s character
58 Film maker Frank
61 Lorra’s stick
62 Blows
63 “…a ___ deferred” (Hughes)
64 North Sea feeder
65 Oodles
66 Nuts don’t have this
67 Big top performer
68 Trueheart of comics
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