

UT-Dallas LGBTQ History Hangout!

Let's Get to Know Some Texas Queer History!



Leigh Pfeffer
they/them

Host, *History is Gay*
podcast



Aubree Calvin
she/her

Co-host, *Southern
Queeries* podcast

Your hosts for tonight!

Intro: History is Gay Podcast



History is Gay is a monthly podcast where two queer nerds use their passion for social justice, history, and storytelling to examine the overlooked and underappreciated queer ladies, gents, and gentle-enbies from the unexplored corners of history. **Because history has never been as straight as you think.**

[@historyisgaypod](https://twitter.com/historyisgaypod)

www.historyisgaypodcast.com

Intro: Southern Queeries Podcast

Southern Queeries is a bimonthly Texas based show that examines LGBTQ life in the southern United States. We focus on personal interviews with everyday people of all walks of life. Our current series looks at LGBTQ weddings. SQ is a two person operation consisting of India Bastien (she/her) and Aubree Calvin (she/her).

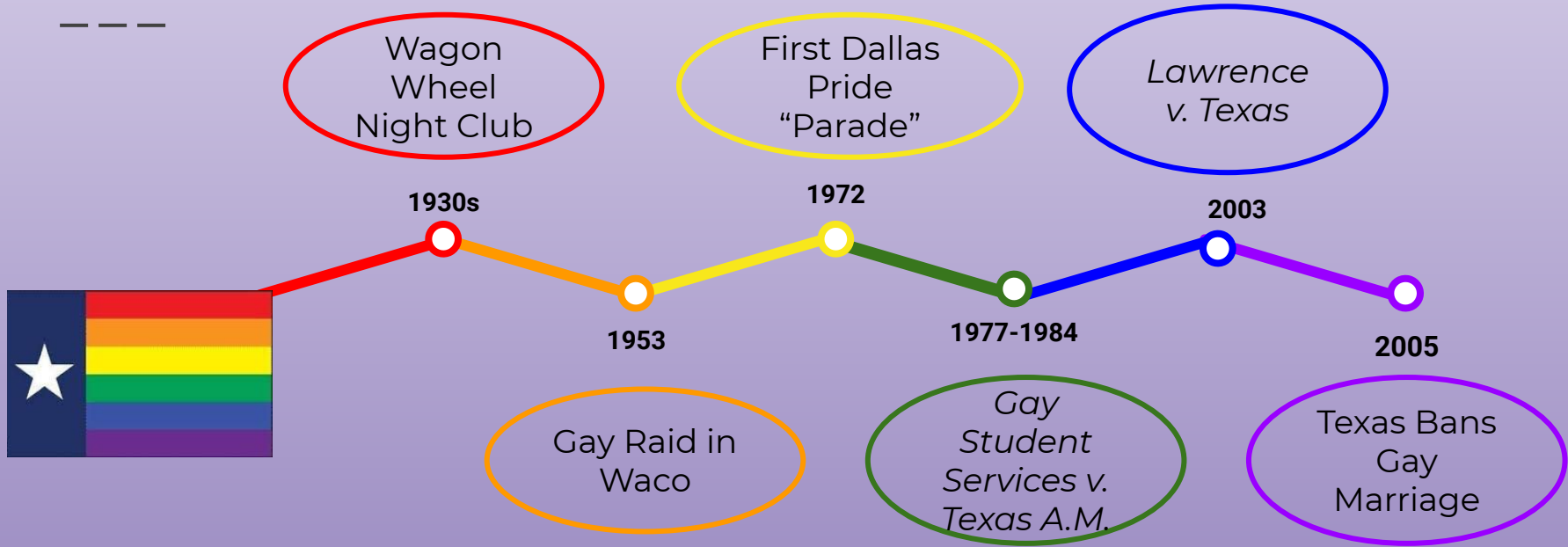


southernqueeries.com

[Instagram: @southernqueeries](https://www.instagram.com/southernqueeries)

[Twitter: @So_QueeriesPod](https://twitter.com/So_QueeriesPod)

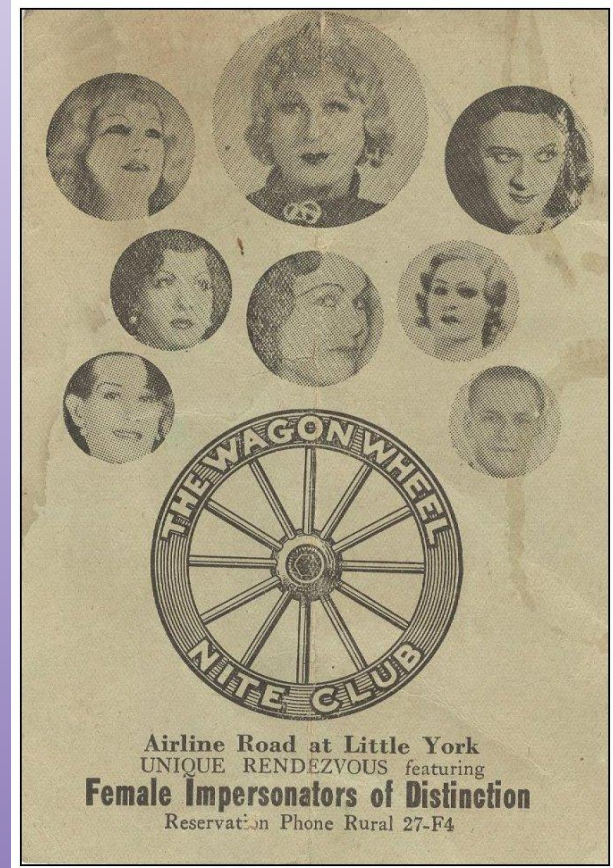
Some significant points of Texas LGBTQ History!



Wagon Wheel Night Club, 1936-1939

Female impersonators revue night club in Houston, featuring **Dave/Daisy Gold & his Female Impersonators of Distinction (or sometimes Gay Boy Revue)**!

There were also other female impersonator clubs through Texas, like The Torch K-9 Club in FW!

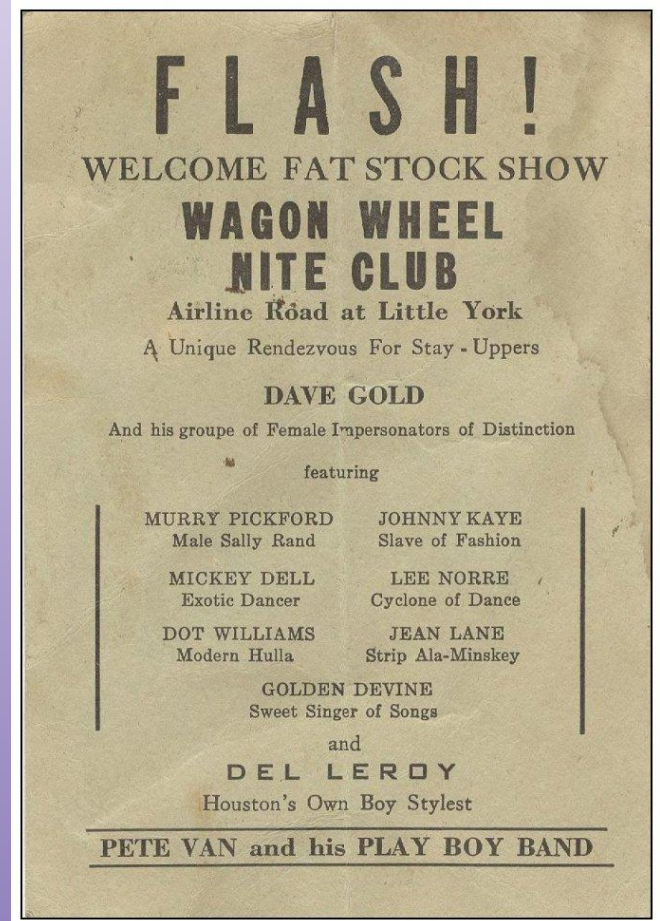


Wagon Wheel Night Club, 1936-1939

Some frequent stars:

Dave/Daisy Gold

Murray Pickford, Mickey Dell, Dot Williams, Johnny Kaye, Lee Norre, Jean Lane, Golden Devine and Del Le Roy ("Texas' Favorite Songster)!



FLASH!
WELCOME FAT STOCK SHOW
**WAGON WHEEL
NITE CLUB**
Airline Road at Little York
A Unique Rendezvous For Stay - Uppers

DAVE GOLD
And his groupe of Female Impersonators of Distinction

featuring

MURRY PICKFORD Male Sally Rand	JOHNNY KAYE Slave of Fashion
MICKEY DELL Exotic Dancer	LEE NORRE Cyclone of Dance
DOT WILLIAMS Modern Hulla	JEAN LANE Strip Ala-Minskey

GOLDEN DEVINE
Sweet Singer of Songs

and
DEL LEROY
Houston's Own Boy Stylest

PETE VAN and his PLAY BOY BAND

Wagon Wheel Night Club, 1936-1939

ON NIGHT CLUB

Type of Entertainment at Wagon Wheel to Be Studied

The grand jury will turn its attention tomorrow to the type of entertainment being presented at the Wagon Wheel Night Club at Little York on the Airline road, Charles McPhail, foreman, said today.

"I'll call it to the attention of the grand jury," Mr. McPhail said.

The club specializes in female impersonators who sing lewd songs and do obscene dances.

"I'm strong for stopping that stuff," Mr. McPhail said.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Norfleet Hill stuck to his contention that there were no state laws under which he could take any action against the club.

Dan Jackson, district attorney, was away from his office and could not be reached for questioning concerning means Sheriff Hill can use against the club.

May 1938 Houston Press.

BELIEVE CLUB BLAZE ARSON

HOUSTON, June 10.—(INS)—Fire which destroyed the Wagon Wheel Night club on the Dallas-Houston highway and caused damages estimated at \$19,000 was blamed on arsonists by the sheriff's office today.

The structure was fired, officers believed, by two men who were seen to run from the building 15 minutes before the blaze was discovered, investigators said.

THE SAN ANTONIO LIGHT.
JUNE 10, 1938.

1938

Waco Gay "Convention" Raid, 1953

Inside Today
 War Page 2
 Old City Page 3
 Serials Page 4
 Baseball Opens Page 8

The Waco News-Tribune

WACO, TEXAS, MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1953 —14 PAGES

Waco Police Jail 63 Men In Fast Raid

Sixty-three men were caught in a police dragnet Saturday night in what Detective Captain Wiley Stern announced Sunday morning was a state-wide homosexual convention being held in Waco.

Fifteen detectives and policemen and Ranger J. L. Rodgers and Assistant District Attorney Burney Walker made the raid.

It was one of the most efficiently planned and executed raids in the history of the department.

The officers, on foot and in patrol cars, struck so swiftly some of the arrests were made in automobiles as men were arriving at the site of the party.

Some of the prisoners hauled to the police station to be charged as vagrants were wearing women's apparel complete from high-heeled shoes to evening dresses and spring hats.

Marijuana Charged

One man was charged with possession of marijuana.

Raiding officers said beer, whiskey and champagne were in use when they surrounded the house where the party was in progress.

The officers obviously were working on advance information and had made elaborate plans for the haul, but Captain Stern said he could not release any of the background information which set up the raid.

"All I can say, it was an outstanding example of law enforcement co-operation, and perfect detective work," Captain Stern said.

Captain Stern marveled at the fact the raiding officers made a clean sweep. "I don't think anyone got away," the Captain stated.

Only three of the prisoners were permanent residents of Waco, Stern said they came from everywhere, even from outside the state.

At least two of the men arrested made statements of perverted activities to the assistant district attorney.

"Delegates" Post Bonds

Detectives said they learned the convention was a party being given in honor of four or five men, and it was to be climaxed by a mock wedding. Presumably one of the

See RAID, Page 3

RAID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

men dressed in female attire was to be the bride.

As the "convention delegates" posted bonds on vagrancy charges Sunday morning a red wig, blonde wig, several women's dresses and "faldies" were stacked on a table in the detectives' office.

One young man arrested in women's clothes managed to get some male attire before leaving jail, but he left the city hall wearing white high-heel pumps.

Sunday morning beards had marred the clean-shaven complexions of the "women."

The 63 victims of the raid were mostly young men in their twenties, but some were in the upper age bracket.

Except for the one charged with possession of marijuana, the prisoners were being released on \$25 cash bonds on charges of vagrancy. Failure to appear in city court to answer charges will mean forfeiting of the bonds.

Not All Peaceful

Stern said it is to be regretted more serious charges couldn't be filed, but the total in fines will boost city coffers by approximately \$1,500.

Captain Stern said all of the prisoners did not submit to arrest peacefully.

"I understand the arresting officers had quite a time of it for a few minutes, but the fight didn't last long," the Detective Captain said.

Among the items of evidence retained by police was a 'love letter' written from one man to another. It was taken from one of the prisoners.

Although law enforcement officers have known for some time a small cell of homosexuals has been active in Waco, they indicated the Saturday night "convention" was the first of its kind ever held here.

Never Seen the Like

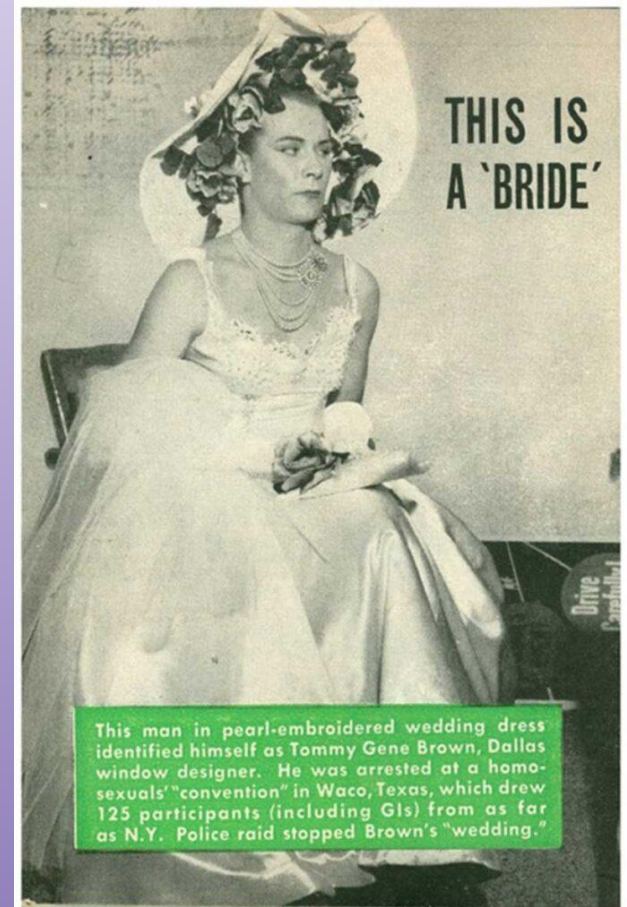
Captain Stern said he did not know whether there had been "conventions" in other Texas cities.

Veteran Bob VanWile, who has seen about everything a police station can drag in, shook his head as one properly clothed young man left the police station carrying his dress in his hand: "In 30 years of policing, I've never seen anything like this."

Taking part in the raid were: Ranger J. L. Rodgers, Assistant District Attorney Burney Walker; Lieut. Bill Cornell, Detective LeRoy Eakin and Bennie Reed; Vice Officers Stanley Turner and Guy Akard; Squad Officers Bob Mackie, Newell Chapman, A. D. Tension, Hugh Garland, Joe Rodriguez, Lillard Dyer, Richard Kent, Billy Peterson, Deima Butler and Jesse Morning.



Waco Gay "Convention" Raid, 1953



This man in pearl-embroidered wedding dress identified himself as Tommy Gene Brown, Dallas window designer. He was arrested at a homosexuals' "convention" in Waco, Texas, which drew 125 participants (including GIs) from as far as N.Y. Police raid stopped Brown's "wedding."

First Dallas Pride March, 1972



Dallasites Calm But Bit Startled At Gay Parade

DALLAS (AP) — Men wearing jeweled sandals, hot pants and halter tops and women adorned in levis and T-shirts paraded through downtown Dallas Saturday celebrating national Gay Pride Week.

About 200 persons took part in the parade as other residents of the city stood at curbside with mouths agape. There were no incidents.

The marchers carried signs reading: "Gay Is Proud," "Love Is Blind," and "Gay Is as American as Apple Pie."

"We are marching today for recognition. Legally, it's okay to be a homosexual, but we still receive harrassment on the local level," said a marcher.

"In my job, for instance, if my boss found I was homosexual, he'd fire me immediately," said another marcher.

"That's why we're marching today ... to let people know we have the same rights as a heterosexual," added another.

As the parade progressed on Main Street from the corner of Market and Main Street to City Hall, it was followed by hundreds of curious Dallasites.

In spite of a few negative comments, most of the bystanders remained passive during the parade.

June 24, 1972 a group of about 300 marched downtown in support of gay rights.

First Dallas Pride March, 1972



More of a protest than a march. With signs, banners, and chants, "Two, four, six, eight. Gay is just as good as straight."

Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M, 1977-1984

1976 Student approached A&M about permission to form a full student organization. Goal was to be a service for students:

- Providing information to students
- Sponsoring external speakers

After 6 months of no action, the college denied their application.



"The voice of the majority is no proof of justice."
— J.C.F. Von Schiller

Why Did GSS Need Recognition?

It was financially difficult for GSS to operate as an off-campus group. We spent hundreds of dollars each year for meeting rooms and advertising in addition to maintaining Skyline, which costs over \$500 a year.

In comparison, recognized groups are allowed to meet on campus for free, and receive discounts on advertising in The Battalion. Also, posters, flyers and banners can be used on campus to promote events.

Without university recognition GSS could not provide the quality and quantity of programs that students on this campus deserve to receive. The opportunity to work with other campus groups on projects of common interest was also hindered.

By denying GSS recognition, the university was obtruding it's own student's rights of freedom of association and expression as well as perpetuating unbridled prejudices which only serves a mockery of the process of education.

The only reason A&M wanted to deny us recognition was that we are a GNV group; not because we are "bodily organized," or "social," or inconsistent with the school's goals.

Why should I join GSS?

In order to continue to provide the kind of services we now offer, we need new ideas and people to help carry them out. In return, GSS offers positive moral support, discounts on GSS functions, and a variety of services. Our meetings are friendly, and we welcome newcomers and visitors, gay or not. We want to bring those who are isolated together into a community and promote an understanding of our needs and problems among the student population.

Goals and Objectives of GSS:

1. To provide a referral service for students desiring professional counseling in psychological, religious, medical, and legal fields.
2. To provide the Texas MSM community with information concerning aspects of gay lifestyles.
3. To provide speakers to classes and organizations to aid in the discussion of gay issues.
4. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and constructive solutions to the problems of gay people.

Other GSS related activities:

PARADES—GSS sponsors the Fighting Texas Flagline Gay Marching Band in the annual Gay Pride Week parades in Houston and Dallas.

FUND RAISERS—In the past, these have included garage sales, auctions, entertainment shows, and fund raising parties.

FIELD TRIPS—These include camping trips with other gay student organizations, and road trips to major Texas cities.

SPECIAL PROJECTS—On occasion GSS focuses on specific topics or issues and sponsors debates, forums, on-campus booths, and other campus-wide activities often in cooperation with other student organizations.

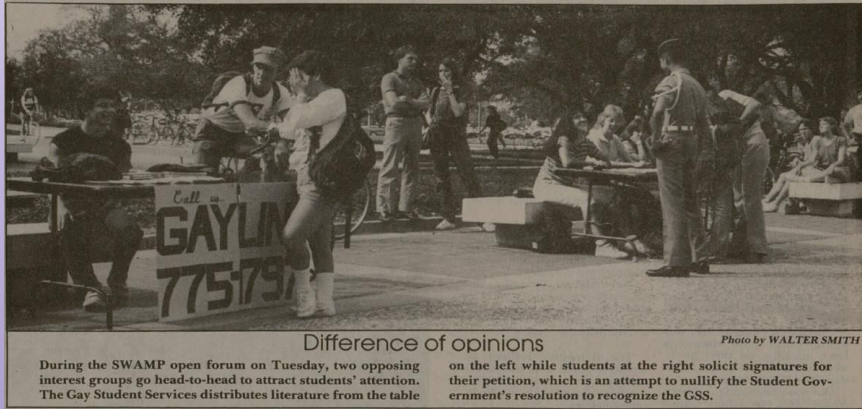
NETWORK—We frequently work in cooperation with other local, state, and national gay organizations, including the National Gay Task Force.

POLITICAL ACTION—GSS participates in political activities that seek to advance Gay Rights.

Spring, 1985
MELINDA TRIMMNET

"You have not converted a man just because you have silenced him."
— John Morely

Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M, 1977-1984



GSS president Marco Roberts and David Kerr at the MDA Kissathon staged in Kyle Field in 1985. - Aggie Yearbook Photo

Lawrence v. Texas, 2003



Texas Bans Same-Sex Marriage, 2005

Proposition 2: Defines
Marriage as a union between
a man and a woman

Only 17% of registered voters
showed up.

Yes: 76% - 1.7 million votes

No: 24% - 536 thousand votes



Some Historic Texas Gay Publications

OUR COMMUNITY

May, 19

FROM EXPERIENCE TO YOUTH

VOICE

SUE FINK

GENDERBENT: NOTES FROM THE DRAG KING COMMUNITY

Issue #2
august 2008

\$3

zmmz issue

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF TARRANT COUNTY LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE

DECEMBER 1993

Volume 13, Issue 12

Alliance News

Harry Queener

LONE STAR LESBIANS

November 1977

HOW THIS CALL TO ME...

Lone Star Lesbians was formed at Texas Gay Conference IV (sponsored by Texas Gay News) in the midst of a bad winter at the Austin Caucus. The Caucus felt that there was a need for a state wide lesbian communication network. Although there are many other publications for gays and for women, there is no journal to spread information for lesbians and for women. As a result, Lone Star Lesbians was formed as a state wide communication network. As a result, we will be able to have your name and address from one of these sources or because you sent us your name.

Naturally, the mailing list is one totally confidential and will be in a safe way. A subscription rate of \$5.00 per year will probably be slightly above what you can get on a regular basis. An issue will be mailed whenever possible. Information has been available or there is a need to spread information quickly.

Please send articles concerning legislative actions taken, taken on a state and local level. Letters concerning issues on up coming conferences and events of interest to women will be printed. Literary and philosophical works will not be printed as there are several other publications better designed to handle them. If you would like your letter or article printed, you must send your name and address with article so that we can contact you if necessary.

The mailing list can also be used to reach women in one city. If you want to do a mail out to the lesbians in Dallas, send us the copies you want to send and we will address and mail it for you. If you are a non-profit organization then we will only charge for the cost of mailing. However, profit organizations will pay the cost of mailing, plus \$25.00.

Hopefully, this has given you some idea of what LES is all about, or trying to reach. This is a state wide publication and we need every lesbians help.

CONTACT LESBIAN

As a state wide group we feel that it might be a good idea to have a contact woman in every city. This list will be mailed to lesbians, and would enable lesbians coming to Texas to feel like they could get in touch with someone. It would also allow lesbians in the same city to find each other. So, if you are willing to be an open lesbian to your sisters, send your name on the form and check the last blank. LES also needs the same distributors. If you are willing to receive extra to use of LES and make them available to women in your area by arrangement, to leave them in care of street gathering places, please send the needed information on the enclosed form.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

March / April 1986

PLEASE INDICATE ANY ISSUES OR DISCONTINUES BELOW AND RETURN TO US:

Jezebel

Return by mail to: W.C.J. The Journal, 8755 Wardhugh, San Antonio, Texas

If you would like us to respond to your letter or suggestion personally, please include S.A.S.E.

A JEZEBEL SPONSORED PUBLICATION

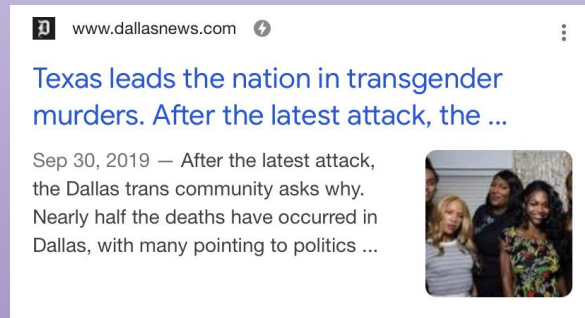
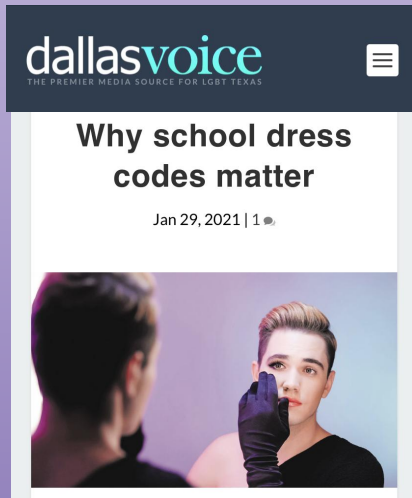
Where are we at now?

All large Texas cities have non-discrimination ordinances, but still no statewide law

— — —
2019 Five women form the first Texas
State Legislature LGBTQ Caucus



LGBTQ students still face issues related to dress code, bathrooms, harassment, etc.



Thanks everyone! Let the trivia begin!

You can contact us at:

Historyisgaypodcast@gmail.com

or

aubreecalvin@gmail.com