Migrant fight to go to next level

After grilling by board, internal auditor announces investigations into possible broken laws.

By Matthew Hands

DALLAS ISD

Dallas ISD chief internal auditor said Tuesday that he has launched investigations into charges that human resources administrators and employees have broken state laws and district policies.

Mike Singletary said a financial audit is already underway into whether human resources money was spent on teacher mentorship grants that he said were never approved by a duly convened committee.

"We are moving forward, and we will lay out the potential investigations that may come out of that," Singletary said.

Public school board trustees questioned Singletary at a Monday night meeting and demanded to know why he hadn't announced an investigation into problems discovered during a recent audit of top human resources officials.

DALLAS ISD

Inquiries of HR launched

Residents and clergy gathered at a press conference at United Methodist Church in Dallas on Tuesday after a federal judge temporarily halted two programs that could have provided work permits and legal protections for up to 5 million unauthorized immigrants.

The plaintiffs

Obama vows to appeal rejection of executive actions

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration put new deportation relief on hold Tuesday on the eve of its launch, complying voluntarily with a federal judge's order that ruled immigrant communities nationwide and states berated on the issue of the Affordable Care Act.

President Barack Obama promised an appeal and predicted it will prevail. But for hundreds of thousands of immigrants ready to begin applying Wednesday for work permits and deportation stays under his direction, their plans were dashed at least temporarily.

State of the State Speech

Abbott backs Guard's border stay

He also says roads, education — and voter cuts — are priorities.

By Robert T. Garrett

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott said Tuesday he should not move to rescind his decision to move to the Texas-Mexico border to meet transportation needs, as a forum to dragee to state education leaders.

"I am concerned that the Governor's actions in this area are not in the best interests of the people of Texas," Abbott said.

Gus Garcia Abbott

Abbott's chief of staff.

"The Governor's actions are not in the best interests of the people of Texas," Garcia Abbott said.

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Owen Wilson to attend Dallas tribute to his dad

It's pretty easy to get an affirmative RSVP from a-list Owen Wilson — just have a gala honoring one of his gifted parents. Owen, the middle Wilson brother, is on the list of those expected at Saturday's gala honoring his father, Dallas public TV and ad exec Bob Wilson. Living With Bob: A Salute to Roberto, Wishing at the Joses hotel is a first-time benefit for the Aging Mind Foundation, which raises money to study cognitive aging and related memory issues. The elder Wilson has been in tensions health for three years and will not attend. His wife, noted photographer Laura Wilson, is expected to be there.

Wilson's former TV colleague Bob Ray Sanders will serve as emcee. In addition to being a historian and author, Bob Wilson is a pioneer of public television. As director Terry Gilliam, formerly of the Monty Python troupe, told Owen: "We have something in common. Neither of us would be here without Bob Wilson." Bob was president of Dallas public TV station KERA (Channel 13) when staffer Ross DeWittier brought in a tape of a British comedy show considered too risque for American TV: Monty Python's Flying Circus. Bob gave it a green light for KERA. Monty Python made its American debut in Dallas on Sept. 22, 1974.

At a 2012 KERA gala honoring Wilson, newsmama Jim Lehrer observed: "I am one of the people in the room who can say I wouldn't be here without Bobby Wilson." Lehrer was a newspaperman when Wilson gave him his first TV gig as host of the KERA show Newsroom.

The Living With Robert will be co-chaired by Lauren Habroff, Barbara Buzzell and Barbara Dasse."}

Some Amalfi evening

La Sirenuse, a 58-room hotel on Italy's Amalfi Coast, is about the most chic place on the planet, and the people responsible for making it so well be in Highland Park Village on Monday for a dinner at Bistro 31. La Sirenuse opened in 1951 when the Sercane family turned its summer home in Positano into a hotel. Monday night, Antonio Sercane and Bistro 31 owner Alberto Lombardi and his wife, Vivian, are co-hosting a dinner. The two chefs will be Matteo Temporini of La Sirenuse restaurant La Spensa and Carlo Alvesina, executive chef of Lombardi Family Concepts.

The last word

"Objective journalism and an opinion column are about as similar as the Bible and Playboy magazine."

— Walter Cronkite

Once is on a national tour that stops in Fort Worth for performances Wednesday through Sunday.

Actor has soft spot for SMU
What's it like to play in the preshow when the audience gets on the stage with you and the other musicians? Very fun for us to get to sing to each other in a circle. It's music-making at a very basic level, getting to look at each other and listen. I think it's a treat for people also, who get to lean in to this little tribe of musicians. Audiences are full of smiles, and yes, sometimes, beer.

What are your favorite memories of going to Southern Methodist University? Have you kept up with friends from those years? What was the most valuable thing you learned that helped you in your acting career?

I got together at Snuffer's on Lower Greenville.

How did it feel to win the Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Most Happy Fella in 1992?

Very exciting, very humbling. Kind of a culmination of the 10-plus years I'd been in New York. It takes a lot of good fortune to be awarded for one's work in that way, and it was a great honor. In the short term, it opened some doors, but over the long haul there are so many ups and downs in a career in the arts, it just becomes kind of a fun part of stories I get to tell.

Follow Nancy Churnin on Twitter at @nchurnin.

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Levine nails trademark falsetto notes

Levine brought along no special effects or costume changes, just a proletariat uniform of blue jeans and a jersey with the number 83 (an homage, perhaps, to a year that left a major imprint on many of Maroon 5's synth-driven songs). For every slick dance move, Levine offered lots of dork-dancing straight out of Tom Cruise's tighty-whities scene in Risky Business.

At one point, he even skipped merrily down the ramp like a kindergartner, a rare sight among male rock stars who tend to be concerned with their street cred.

Levine was in decent vocal form, nailing all his trademark falsetto notes with ease. He wasn't nearly as impressive in the lower registers, but then again, Maroon 5's well-crafted but predictable pop songs don't require a lot of vocal range.

Their tunes were stuffed with hypnotic melodies and fail-safe hooks, from the soul-lite of "Sunday Morning" to the hard rock of "Harder to Breathe" and the reggae-funk of "Stereo Hearts," Levine's 2011 hit with Gym Class Heroes.

The group felt confident enough to play half of its new album, V, including the bombastic show opener "Animals" and the disco-flavored "Maps." Levine kept apologizing for being rusty — "we're still getting our touring legs back," he said — and the band's handlers didn't provide the media with tickets or photo credentials to cover the tour's opening night.

They needn't have worried. With their athletic, affable star at the helm of not one but two stages, Maroon 5 was doubly foolproof in concert.

Maroon 5 kicked off its world tour Monday in Dallas with a show that held the spotlight firmly on Adam Levine.

Chris Pizzello/The Associated Press
Who would want to marry this guy?

By ROGER MOORE
 Tribune News Service

The faith-based romance *Old Fashioned* is a slow, preachy romantic comedy that opened Valentine's week opposite *Fifty Shades of Grey*, counterprogramming love that's kinkily with love from Corinthians.

"Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast, it is not proud ...." Pido, or piping, is the film's worst enemy. The writer-director, perhaps for reasons of economy (surely not vanity), cast himself as the romantic lead. Rik Swartzwelder, competent behind the camera, is an utter stiff on screen.

Elizabeth Roberts is Amber, bubbly and upbeat, even as she and her cat run out of gas in small-town Ohio. Her hand's in a cast, and she uses her last cash for fuel to get her ancient Jeep Cherokee off the road. There's an upstairs apartment above *Old Fashioned*, an antiques store where the meticulous and quiet Clay (Swartzwelder) presides.

He's an odd one. Her heart-melting smile doesn't seem to move him. He won't do a walk-through of the apartment with her. Clay has resolved to "never be alone with any woman who's not my wife." While that kept Billy Graham a televangelist beyond reproach, it's incredibly off-putting for an eligible bachelor. That's not old fashioned, that's something beyond traditional.

Clay quotes the Bible, starts a lot of sentences about dating, love and romance with "I have a theory" and is a general stick-in-the-mud. Naturally, Amber is intrigued. "Dating," he lectures, just teaches us how to act "witty, romantic and charming." He doesn't believe "dating prows us to be husband and wives." When Amber doesn't run-run-run from this self-righteous bore, we cannot help but think, "It's only a movie."

A shorter, slightly faster-paced version of this with a better lead might have worked, but that sounds like every mandolin Nicholas Sparks novel ever adapted for the screen. Who'd go to that?

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**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

DSO going back to Vail festival in July

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra will return to the Bravo! Vail music festival in July, once again joining the Philadelphia Orchestra and New York Philharmonic on the Colorado festival's schedule. Featuring performances at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater and other venues, the full festival runs July 1 through Aug. 6.

Music director Jaap van Zweden will conduct three concerts: an all-Beethoven program July 1, with violinist Pinchas Zukerman; an all-Mozart concert July 3, including the composer's Requiem, with the Colorado Symphony Chorus; and a July 6 French program comprising the Poulenc Concerto for Two Pianos, with pianists Alessio Bax and Anne-Marie McDermott and the Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*.

Principal pops conductor Jeff Tyzik will lead a patriotic concert July 4 and a program of Hollywood classics and John Williams selections July 5.

On July 7, concertmaster Alexander Kerr and principal horn David Cooper will join a Bravo! Vail piano fellow for a free community concert. Other DSO musicians will perform in a "Little Listeners at the Library" afternoon program July 6.

Subscriptions are now on sale; single tickets go on sale April 13.

For information, call 1-877-812-5700 or go to bravovail.org.