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Suzanne performs Saturday in Fort Worth

COMEDY, Page 20



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The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

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FREE | Friday, April 9, 2010

Chisum, Staples file brief opposing gay divorce

Plaintiff's attorney expects more anti-gay briefs to be filed, says anti-gay groups may protest at courthouse during hearing

JOHN WRIGHT | News Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Two Republican state officials who spearheaded Texas' constitutional amendment banning

same-sex marriage have filed a court brief opposing a gay divorce in Dallas.

State Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa and Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples, a former state senator from Palestine, filed the amicus brief in Dallas' 5th District Court of Appeals on Friday, April 2.

The Court of Appeals is set to hear oral arguments April 21 in the same-sex divorce case involving two Dallas men, J.B. and H.B., who were married in Massachusetts in 2006.



Rep. Warren Chisum

Last October, Democratic state District Judge Tena Callahan of Dallas ruled she could hear J.B.'s divorce petition because Texas' bans on same-sex marriage violate equal protection under the U.S. Constitution.

Republican Attorney General Greg Abbott, who sought to intervene in the divorce case after

it was filed in January 2009, has appealed Callahan's decision.

Chisum and Staples filed their brief with the help of the right-wing, Plano-based Liberty Institute.

In an interview this week with Dallas Voice, Chisum noted that he authored both the 2005 constitutional amendment and a 2003 statutory ban on same-sex marriage.

"I filed the brief just because I think it's my duty

BRIEFS, Page 14

Demonstration supports ENDA 4

Get Equal counts enough support on House floor for passage of Employment Non-Discrimination Act

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The direct action group Get Equal organized rallies across the country this week to encourage passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. At a Dallas rally held outside the office of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Jim McGee, the senator's North Texas regional director, spoke to demonstrators and promised to meet with them again.

The rally was held the same day as the arraignment hearing in Washington, D.C., for the ENDA 4 on Tuesday, April 6.

The ENDA 4, which includes Dallas activist

online exclusive

See video of the Dallas ENDA protest on Instant Tea
DallasVoice.com/instant_tea



CALLING FOR EQUALITY | LGBT activists gathered outside the Dallas office of U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison on Tuesday, April 6, to urge Hutchison to vote for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The rally was one of several held Tuesday to show support for the ENDA 4, a group of activists including Dallasite Chastity Kirven who were in court Tuesday in Washington, D.C., to answer to charges related to a sit-in in support of ENDA last month in the offices of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

ENDA, Page 15

HRC AND ERIC ALVA ARE FIGHTING TO REPEAL “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL.”

Eric Alva was the first U.S. service member wounded in Iraq. He lost his right leg to a land mine. He is a proud Marine and a gay man.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” keeps patriotic women and men like Eric from serving openly. He is working with the Human Rights Campaign to repeal this law. Join us and help to repeal it now.



Over the past months, we have worked nationwide to repeal DADT, focusing on 103 priority congressional districts. Our efforts include:

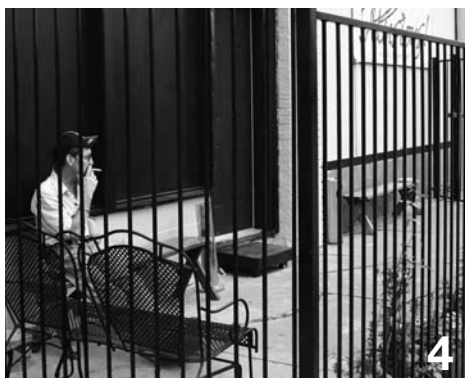
- ★ More than 300,000 phone calls and e-mails to members of Congress.
- ★ 275 HRC members lobbied on Capitol Hill to repeal DADT and pass ENDA and other key legislation.
- ★ Beyond the Beltway, our members conducted more than 250 in-district lobby visits.
- ★ In 41 cities, we held events that highlighted military veterans opposed to DADT, and over the next several months we will conduct dozens more.
- ★ On May 11, we will send hundreds of veterans to Capitol Hill to lobby for repeal.

Join HRC and Eric to repeal DADT
Visit www.hrc.org/RepealDADT



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NOT NEXT YEAR. NOW.





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Tarrant County AIDS Walk steps off to benefit AOC

Organizers expect 500 walkers to participate in 18th annual fundraiser

TAMMY NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The 18th annual Tarrant County AIDS Walk steps off Sunday afternoon, April 11, and organizers expect about 500 people to participate.

AIDS Walk co-chairs this year are Kelly Smith and J. Michael Williams.

Proceeds from the event benefit AIDS Outreach Center of Tarrant County, and AOC Development Director Jim Downing said this week the agency hopes to raise \$131,000 through the AIDS walk this year.

The goal amount, he said, was based on budget needs and the total — \$85,000 — from last year's walk.

"When we started setting our 2010 budget, we

already knew that we would be acquiring the assets of the Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network, and that would add programs, including the Geisel-Morris Dental Clinic. And our case load has increased 33 percent since we merged with TCAIN," Downing said. "So we knew that we had to set a bigger goal and raise more money this year with the AIDS Walk."

The walk will once again begin and end at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy Ave., at Montgomery Street. Registration begins at 1 p.m., and the walkers step off at 2:30 p.m.

The Mondo Drummers of Fort Worth will be on hand to entertain the crowd before the walk, then the Quimpet Toartet, a musical/comedy trumpet quartet from Texas Christian University, will be there to "herald the walkers in" as they finish the course and keep walkers and the rest of the crowd entertained, Downing said.

Even though the walk is only two days away,

Downing said people can still register to participate — either by going online before the event, or at the Arts Center on the day of the event.

"All you have to do is fill out the form and give a minimum donation of \$25 to walk," Downing said. "All the money we raise goes directly to AOC to pay for the programs and services we provide."

AOC's services, in addition to the dental clinic, include client advocacy, mental health counseling, medical case management, the Sandy Lanier Nutrition Center, housing assistance, insurance assistance, legal assistance, an information hotline, testing, prevention and outreach services, professional education, community awareness events, workplace education, transportation assistance and youth services. ■

To register online, go to FirstGiving.com/aocwalk. For more information, contact Penny Rowell by phone at 817-916-5224 or by e-mail at pennyr@aoc.org.

instantTEA

DallasVoice.com/Instant-Tea

Gay Jesus play resurrected

After being canceled at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, a controversial production of the Terrence McNally play "Corpus Christi" will be performed in Fort Worth.

John Jordan Otte, the student who chose the play as a project for his advanced directing class, said no date has been set for the Fort Worth performance, but he wants to finish the semester first. He said the performance will likely be sometime in late May.



John Otte

He is working with Elaine Liner and Mark Lowry of the Web site Theater Jones to bring the production to the Rose Marine Theater west of downtown. The Fort Worth theater is more than 2 1/2 times larger than the space where the play would have been performed at Tarleton State.

— David Taffet

The smoking ban — 1 year later



Tavern Guild director says most bars happy with the ban, but Illusions owner says it is forcing him to sell

JOHN WRIGHT | News Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Gay bars in Dallas get high marks for compliance with the city's one-year-old indoor smoking ban.

Since the ban took effect April 10, 2009, inspectors have issued a total of 163 citations citywide, records show. Of those, only six were issued at gay bars, including four at a single location.

Michael Doughman, executive director of the Dallas Tavern Guild, credited both management and customers for the disproportionately low number of citations. The Tavern Guild is made up of 22 gay and lesbian bars in the city.

Doughman also said he doesn't believe the ban has hurt business, contrary to what opponents predicted.

"The general consensus across the board for the majority is that it's been a good thing, and they're happy with the change," Doughman said this week. "In hindsight, if there has been any impact at all, it's been marginal compared to the amount of fuss that was made going into it. It's really been a very, very small bump in the road."

By the time the ordinance took effect, Doughman said, all Tavern Guild members had patios to accommodate smoking.

Some patios aren't covered, which can be an issue in inclement weather. But Doughman said even owners of smaller bars with a large percentage of customers who are smokers haven't complained.

"I think a lot of people are saying if there was any decline in business, they should probably attribute it more to the economy than the smoking ban," Doughman said.

One negative side effect of the ban has been more cigarette butts on sidewalks in the gay entertainment district, but Doughman called this a "lesser evil" for bar owners.

"Their bars are cleaner, they smell better, and they're easier to keep clean,"

■ **SMOKING BAN**, Page 11

SMOKE SCREEN | A customer at Illusions smokes on the patio added to the bar when the smoking ban took effect. Illusions owner Eddie Bonner says the ban has hurt his business so badly he is being forced to sell. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

Don't drop the soap in Texas

Five of the 10 prisons with the highest rates of sexual abuse in the nation are in Texas, including the top two, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday, April 5. But what the Chronicle's story didn't mention is that LGBT inmates are a prime target of this abuse. According to the watchdog Justice Detention International, a 2007 study found that 67 percent LGBT inmates reported being sexually assaulted during their incarceration, a rate 15 times higher than for the inmate population overall. "Of the hundreds of survivors who contact JDI every year, approximately 20 percent self-identify as gay, bisexual or transgender."

A 2008 JDI report shed further light on Texas Department of Criminal Justice:

"Within TDCJ facilities, vulnerable inmates report being set up for sexual violence by staff who treat reports of abuse—or threats thereof—with derision or callousness. In particular, LGBT prisoners describe being treated dismissively by staff. According to numerous survivor letters, TDCJ officials tend to conflate homosexuality and trans-gender status with consent to rape, and as a result fail to take appropriate action when these inmates request assistance. A prisoner at the Telford Unit describes being told, when asking for protection, 'You're an admitted homosexual, you can't be raped. We're denying you. You learn how to defend yourself.'"

The U.S. Department of Justice recently opened a 60-day public comment period on new national standards addressing sexual abuse in detention. To participate, look for the petition at www.justdetention.org.

— John Wright

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:
Lesbian fights to keep
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localbriefs

CoH marks end of first phase of construction of peace chapel

Cathedral of Hope and Hope for Peace & Justice will celebrate the completion of the first stage of construction on the Interfaith Peace Chapel on Wednesday, April 14, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the chapel site outside Cathedral of Hope at 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

The three final major pieces of steel for the structure will be topped off at 6:30 p.m. during the celebration, which will be free and open to the public. Guests will be able to sign the steel beams with well-wishes and memories, a meal will be available for a suggested donation of \$10.

AIN announces Personal Philanthropy as event sponsor

PersonalPhilanthropy.org, a nonprofit that works to alleviate poverty in developing countries, has signed on as a sponsor of AIDS Interfaith Network's 2010 "Bloomin' Ball ... sowing seeds of hope" fundraiser, officials have announced.

PersonalPhilanthropy.org is a nonprofit social enterprise that works to address poverty by "helping people and brands connect with sustainable development projects in developing countries."

PersonalPhilanthropy.org founder Mark Regouby said his organization will use the Bloomin' Ball sponsorship to launch the "Run with a Pur-

pose" campaign through which participants can join a luxury tour of Northern Spain that culminates with a visit to the annual Running of the Bulls in Pamplona July 11-15.

He said 10 percent of the tour price for "Run with a Purpose" will be donated to AIN.

Bloomin' Ball will be held Saturday, April 24, at Westin Park Central hotel. A VIP reception and auction preview begins at 6 p.m., followed at 6:30 p.m. by the general reception and silent auction. Dinner follows the silent auction and will include entertainment, a live auction and the presentation of the Crystal Hope Award. VIP tickets are \$100, and general seating is \$75, and seating at both levels is limited. Sponsorships are also available, starting at \$1,000 for a table of eight. To purchase tickets, go online to AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org.

Texas health department renews H1N1 vaccine recommendation

Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner Dr. David Lakey recommends that people who have not already been vaccinated for H1N1 flu should still get the vaccine.

Lakey said that there is plenty of vaccine to go around. The Centers for Disease Control has allocated 11 million doses to Texas.

The Walgreens at 3802 Cedar Springs Road at Oak Lawn Avenue offers the vaccine. A pharmacist in the store said that an appointment was not necessary. ■

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pet of the week / jana

Jana is a gorgeous black flat-coated retriever. She and her sisters — Jackie and Rachel — are the happiest, friendliest and sweetest dogs you'll ever meet. They're about 6 months old and have been at the shelter since late January. All three of these dogs love people, love each other and love other dogs. Spend some time with Jana and her sisters, and you'll fall in love with them.

Jana and many other great dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are available for adoption from the Dallas Animal Services Adoption Center, located at 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30 on the northeast corner. The shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays. The cost to adopt is \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats and includes spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, microchip and more. All dogs are negative for heartworms, and cats have been tested for FeLV and FIV. For more information, visit www.DallasAnimalServices.org or call 214-671-0249.

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BTD names 2010 beneficiaries

Proceeds from fundraiser to be split between HRCF, 19 local groups

FROM STAFF REPORTS
editor@dallasvoice.com

Black Tie Dinner has identified 19 local organizations and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as this year's beneficiaries. The annual gala dinner will be held Nov. 6 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

Black Tie Co-Chair Ron Guillard said this year's dinner theme, "Stand Strong," is "a perfect way to describe what our 2010 beneficiaries do each and every day. Each of these deserving organizations stands strong as they work tirelessly to provide hope for their clients and constituents."

Co-Chair Nan Arnold added, "Our 2010 beneficiaries are a major inspiration to the entire community, including everyone involved with Black Tie Dinner. We're proud that, through Black Tie Dinner, individuals and our sponsors support

these organizations that provide so much to the North Texas LGBT community."

The local organizations were selected by the Black Tie Dinner board through a detailed examination and rating process, Guillard and Arnold said. The application questions focus on the financial and organizational health and stability of the applicant, and each organization is also evaluated on its service to the North Texas LGBT community, including the quality and impact of programs, services and activities.

The 2010 local beneficiaries are AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Outreach Center, AIDS Resources of Rural Texas, AIDS Services Dallas, Celebration Community Church, Congregation Beth El Binah, Equality Texas Foundation, Health Services of North Texas, Home for the Holidays, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Legacy Counseling, Legal Hospice of Texas, Northaven United Methodist Church, Resource Center Dallas, The Women's Chorus of Dallas, Turtle Creek Chorale, White Rock Friends and Youth First Texas. ■

McClelland elected to water board

Vote makes him Denton County's first openly gay elected official

FROM STAFF REPORTS
editor@dallasvoice.com

LITTLE ELM — Homeowners in Paloma Creek along U.S. 380 — including openly gay candidate John McClelland — were officially elected to the Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 11-A in elections held Thursday, March 25.

McClelland was one of three residents of the master-planned community to win positions on the board of one of its five fresh water supply districts within the development. All three were unopposed.

McClelland, Kenneth Botts and Conrad Davis will be sworn in May 26 at the Paloma Creek Amenity Center at the district meeting.

In a statement released after March 25, McClelland said his election to the water district board makes him the first openly gay person elected to an office in Denton County.

He said, "I do not hide my sexual orientation from anyone, and I am proud of who I am. I hope being the first in this county will encourage other people like me to run for office and not be ashamed of who they are. You run on your merits and you can win."

McClelland is also the current president of Stonewall Democrats of Denton County and a former Democratic nominee for the Texas Legislature.

Fresh water supply districts in Denton County were created for the development of large communities outside the town limits of local municipi-



John McClelland

palities, McClelland explained. The districts are responsible for building roads and sewer access.

Paloma Creek is located between Denton and Frisco, north of Little Elm on U.S. 380. It is divided into districts 8-A, 8-B, 11-A, 11-B, and 11-C.

"As homeowners we felt that it was important to become a part of our local government," McClelland said, explaining why he, Botts and Davis decided to run for board seats. "Residents have gained access to their fresh water supply districts in Savannah and Providence Village already, and Paloma Creek homeowners have not been interested until recently. We wanted to have some say in our tax rate, as well as giving other residents the opportunity to understand how they are represented since we do not live within the scope of an incorporated city." ■



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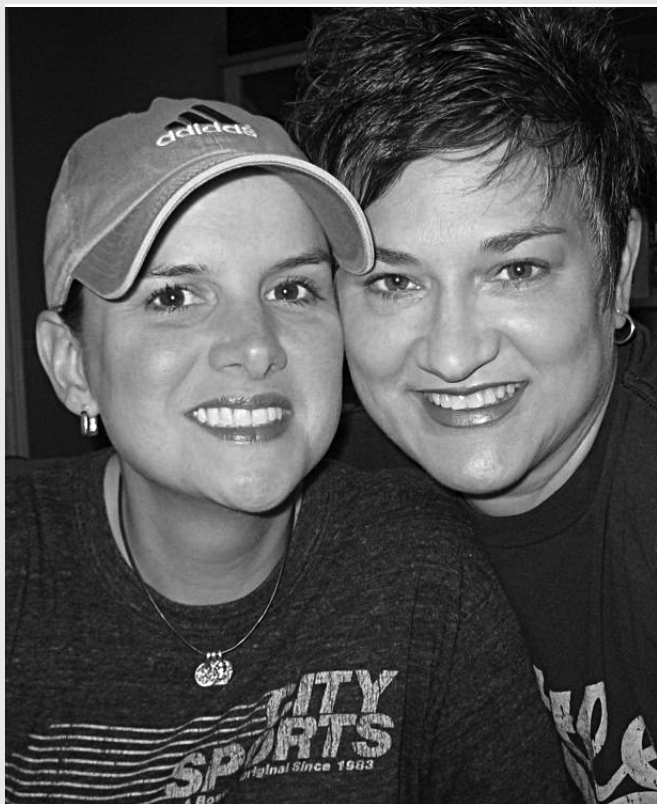
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After many years of love and commitment, Stacy Kucera and Susan Edwards of Carrollton were legally married in Boston in a ceremony in the Boston Public Garden on Oct. 20, 2009. A wedding celebration was held in their honor on Nov. 14 at the home of their nephew, Joey Edwards of Sachse. Kucera and Edwards would like to thank all of their friends and family for attending the celebration and for the many years of love and support.



Deaths

JEFFERSON — Memorial services for Robert L. "Bob" Haynes, 71, of Jefferson, were held Tuesday, April 6, at Haggard Funeral Home Chapel, with the Rev. David Puckett officiating, under the direction of Haggard Funeral Home of Jefferson.



Haynes was the owner and operator of River City Mercantile Co. Antique Store, vice president

Haynes died Thursday morning, April 1, at his home in Jefferson, with his family at his side. He was born Nov. 23, 1938, in St. Louis, the son of Howard and Evelyn Haynes.

■ To Place an Obituary

We print notices of deaths of members of the LGBT community at no fee. A questionnaire is available to assist you in organizing the information. Certain information is required. The questionnaire can be e-mailed, faxed or mailed to you. You may supply photos as prints (color or B&W) or scans (min. 300 d.p.i. at 3X5). For more information or to submit a notice, e-mail nash@dallasvoice.com or call 214-754-8710 ext. 128.

of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce and very involved in numerous other community and civic activities and projects. He and his partner David Sinclair lived in Dallas for 20 years before retiring to Jefferson to operate their antique store.

He is survived by his life partner, David Sinclair; cousins, Tom Dome and Kathy Dome; and many loving friends and associates.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Jefferson Historical Society, Jefferson Historical Museum, 223 W. Austin St., Jefferson, Texas 75657; or to your local Humane Society. ■

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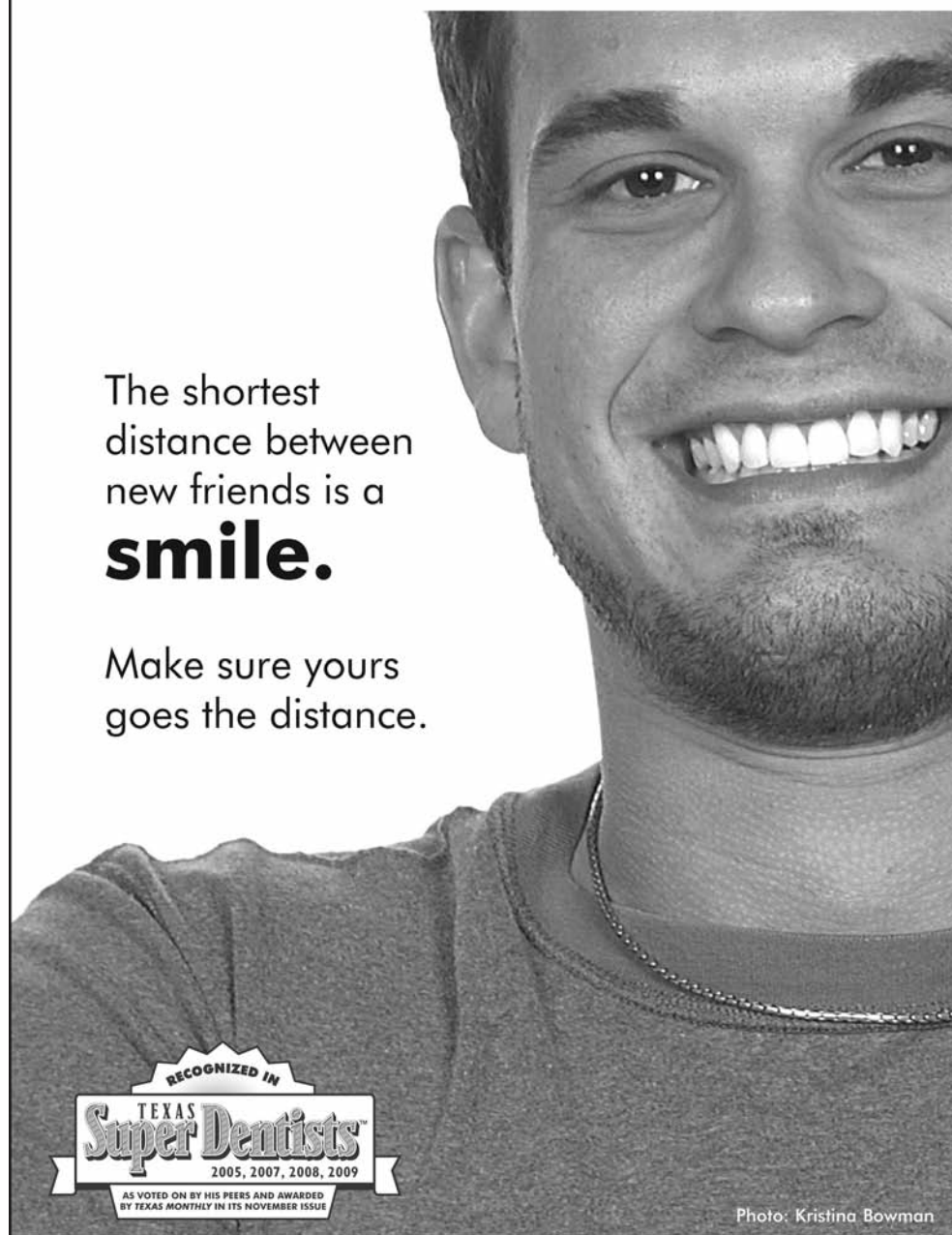


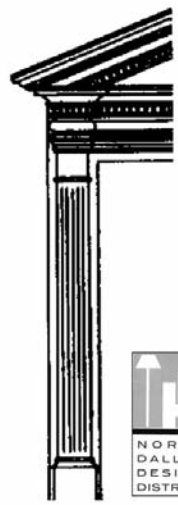
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■ texasnews

Students gathering at SMU for Breaking the Silence event

GLSEN expects more than 8,000 schools to participate in National Day of Silence on April 16

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Local LGBT students will gather for Breaking the Silence on the Southern Methodist University campus on April 16.

The Dallas chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is sponsoring the evening event after students at North Texas high schools and colleges observe the National Day of Silence.

Beau Heyen, chair of GLSEN Dallas, said he expects hundreds of local youth to take part in the National Day of Silence, by taking a vow of silence to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in their schools.

He added that students in different schools have different levels of participation.

"Our youth are pretty good at reading their schools," Heyen said. No one is encouraged to do anything that would endanger themselves or their grades.

Many in North Texas simply have a lunch table where those participating observe their silence. At other schools, students remain silent all day. In some, even teachers participate and create lessons around the silence.

Breaking the Silence, in the ballroom of SMU's Hughes-Trigg student center, will feature a DJ and an open mike for students to discuss the day's experiences. Food and refreshments will be served.

Heyen said students are welcome to perform spoken word, drag or comedy. Student bands may also perform.

He encouraged Gay Straight Alliances to bring posters, T-shirts and other materials they've used during the Day of Silence to put together a mural. He hopes students will get ideas from each other

and share their successes.

Heyen said the Texas GSA Network plans a summit to bring together groups from different schools, but for now Breaking the Silence is the largest such gathering in North Texas.

Local organizations can reserve tables to distribute fliers and information. Reservations for tables should be made with Heyen by the day before the event.

Heyen said a parent-friendly space will be available at Hughes-Trigg since many of the students participating aren't old enough to drive.

PFLAG will be on hand for parents. Heyen said while many parents are supportive of their out teens, they often have questions.

"They're silenced in their own lives as parents of LGBT youth," Heyen said.

Lambda Legal offers tips on what rights students have to remain silent during the school day.

Public schools must protect students' right to free speech, which includes the right not to speak, according to Lambda Legal. Schools can't restrict students' speech as long as it isn't lewd, profane and doesn't harass others.

The first Day of Silence took place in 1996 at the University of Virginia. Within two years, about 100 high schools were participating.

GLSEN has been involved since 2001, helping to turn the day into a national event. In 2005, the event included more than 4,000 schools, and last year about 8,000 schools across the country participated.

Over the years the Day of Silence has resulted in a backlash from the right wing. This year, Tim Wildmon, director of the anti-gay American Family Association, is encouraging parents to keep their children home from school on the National Day of Silence.

"Parents must actively oppose this hijacking of the classroom for political purposes," he said. "If students will be permitted to remain silent, parents can express their opposition most effectively



■ Continued Next Page



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■ From Previous Page

by keeping their children out of school on the Day of Silence and sending letters of explanation to their administrators, their children's teachers, and all school board members."

Wildmon claims his counterprotest will be effective because most school districts lose money for each student absence.

The 2007 National School Climate Survey found that LGBT students do better in schools with policies on harassment and support services.

LGBT students who have supportive teachers and staff earn grade-point averages that are a half-point higher than those who don't. Schools with supportive policies and staff send 10 percent more of their LGBT students to college.

Schools with supportive policies and staff are also safer. Students in schools with GSAs are more likely to feel safe in school. Students from schools with comprehensive policies on violence and harassment are more likely to report incidents in school to a teacher or administrator, according to the report. ■

Dallas chapter hosting TGRA state meeting

Meetings, fundraising events part of three-day schedule this weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS

editor@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association will host the annual meeting of the TGRA corporation April 9-11, with members representing Austin, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio joining members from Dallas for the yearly gathering.

The meetings will take place at the Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St, on both days. The Dallas chapter will host TGRA committee meetings on Saturday, and the general meeting will take place on Sunday.

Members will meet to discuss and vote on by-laws and guidelines for the association as well as rodeo and business operations. After the meetings

are complete, local TGRA members will treat their colleagues from out of town to a sample of the LGBT community nightlife and dining options.

Entertainment and fundraising events to which the public is invited are also scheduled over the weekend. Mr. TGRA 2011 candidate Armando Reyna hosts a "Midnight Rodeo and Show" Friday night at Club Los Rieles, 600 S. Riverfront Blvd. (formerly Industrial Boulevard). Rodeo-themed events including dancing demonstrations, entertainers and games will start at 9 p.m.

This event marks an inaugural TGRA fundraiser at Club Los Rieles.

On Saturday Illusions Bar, 4100 Maple Ave., hosts the 17th annual Queen of the Closet Ball, a campy contest featuring performers from throughout Texas. Miss TGRA 2011 candidate Victoria Weston hosts the event that starts at 7 p.m.

Both fundraising events will benefit the TGRA Dallas chapter and its charities. ■

SMOKING BAN

From Page 4

he said. "Some of the bigger clubs, it took them months to get the residual smell out of their bars, but it's pretty much gone everywhere now, and it's a noticeable difference.

"Some of the bartenders that I've talked to, even people who do smoke on their own time, will say that it's a better environment to work in."

The only Tavern Guild member who's publicly opposed the ban, Illusions owner Eddie Bonner,

said this week he now plans to sell the bar on Maple Avenue. Bonner claims business has been down as much as 40 percent since the ban took effect.

"I guess it could be because of the economy. There could be other factors involved, but my opinion is, because it happened at the same time and it stayed that way, that it was because of the smoking ordinance," Bonner said. "I've had to pay some of the bills myself out of my personal funds to keep it [the bar] going, hoping it would turn around and we would start seeing that influx

■ SMOKING BAN, Page 12



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"Same-sex couples are equally affected by economic hardships and should have equal access to important benefits like COBRA continuation coverage," said HRC's Joe Solmonese, "We applaud Senator Boxer's leadership in seeking these important protections for our community." To learn more about how the new Health Care Reforms affect you, join us at the April Mixer at ROK Republic.

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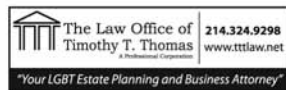
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■ SMOKING BAN, From Page 11

of nonsmokers that everybody predicted. I can't afford to keep doing that, and I don't have the time to look to do a makeover of the bar to try to bring people in."

At one point before the ordinance took effect, Bonner told Dallas Voice he didn't intend to enforce it at Illusions. But he eventually constructed a patio out front, and records show no citations have been issued at the bar.

Each violation of the ordinance carries a \$200 fine, and citations can go to both patrons and managers.

Four of the six citations issued at gay bars went to managers at the Tin Room, which isn't a member of the Tavern Guild. One citation went to a patron at J.R.'s, and one went to a manager at TMC.

Asked about the citations at the Tin Room, owner Marty Hershner said the bar has complied with the ordinance, but someone's been maliciously calling in complaints to the city's 311 line.

"There's somebody that has it out for me, and in this business that's the way it goes," Hershner said.

"They did not find anyone smoking on any complaint," Hershner added. "They just wrote the ticket because there was an ashtray in the building."

The ordinance prohibits ashtrays in areas where smoking is prohibited.

Chauncy Williams, sanitation supervisor for the city, said enforcement is largely complaint-based. City inspectors don't respond immediately to complaints but compile lists and visit multiple bars during nighttime "blitzes," Williams said.

City inspectors have issued far more citations under the new ordinance than they did in the first year of Dallas' previous smoking ban, which applied only to restaurants and took effect in 2003.

But records show they issued most of the citations in the first few months after the new ordinance took effect last April. The city has conducted a total of seven blitzes, with the most recent one coming in early November.

"Most facilities have gotten the word that we're enforcing it, and therefore they're being compliant," Williams said.

Jimmy Martin, the city's assistant director of code compliance, said police officers, in addition to code inspectors, may soon begin writing smoking tickets.

"Basically they've inquired about whether or not there's any prohibition from them enforcing it, and there's not," Martin said.

Williams, Martin and other city officials said they feel the first year of the ordinance has gone smoothly, especially given the controversy leading up to it.

Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, a driving force behind the ban, agreed.

"During the process of expanding our smoking ordinance, we clearly heard some very loud concerns," Leppert said in a statement this week. "And by getting that feedback early on, we were able to address many of those concerns and offer options to accommodate smokers. I think the implementation has gone so quietly and smoothly in large part due to this. Dallas is a healthier city." ■



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■ texasnews

BRIEFS

From Page 1

to defend what I got the rest of the members of the House and Senate to pass, and the governor to sign," Chisum said. "We're defending our actions as the legislative branch of government."

Asked what legal remedy he would propose for J.B. and H.B., Chisum said, "If they want to go back to their state, whatever state they came from, and get the marriage — or whatever they call it — dissolved there, that's OK with us, but it's not the state of Texas that needs to be doing it."

Chisum added that he doesn't believe same-sex divorce is a civil rights issue, because being gay is a choice.

"Everyone has the ability to get married," Chisum said. "All they have to do is find someone of the opposite sex."

Chisum, a 20-year member of the House, is opposed in his bid for re-election this year.

Staples, who faces gay-friendly Democrat Hank Gilbert in November, didn't return a phone call seeking comment. Staples, who served in the Senate from 2001-07, lists the 2005 amendment under "significant legislation authored/sponsored" on his campaign Web site.

Pete Schulte, the gay Dallas attorney who initiated the same-sex divorce case, declined to discuss legal aspects of the appeal this week.

"From a political standpoint, they're going to try to use this to reinvigorate their base," Schulte said. "It's the same reason why the attorney general is still pursuing it."

Schulte called the Liberty Institute's brief "defamatory" and said Chisum has "pretty much no credibility in Texas politics."

He also said Staples should have stayed out of the case since he's no longer a state senator.

"Politicians generally need to worry about what they're doing now, not what they were doing in the past," Schulte said. "He may have been involved with that debate, but now he's our agriculture commissioner, and that is not in his purview to be worrying about."

Schulte said he wasn't surprised by the brief and expects others from right-wing groups before oral arguments. He said it's up to the Appeals Court to decide what, if any, weight it gives to amicus briefs.

Schulte, who's already appeared with J.B. on "The Daily Show with John Stewart," said he was interviewed this week for a story about same-sex divorce for Newsweek and MSNBC.

He also said there may be anti-gay demonstrations outside the courthouse on April 21, and he added that the LGBT community should be prepared to respond.

Ken Upton, a senior staff attorney for Lambda Legal in Dallas, said amicus briefs filed by legislators are hardly uncommon.

Upton said legislators file amicus briefs because they're typically barred by judges from becoming parties to cases.

"This is now the way they know they can get in," Upton said. "They get one of these hate groups to write an amicus brief for them. ... We file them a lot in cases that we're not involved in, but we're not a hate group."



Peter Schulte

Upton said amicus briefs from legislators are more common when an attorney general has declined to take up a case.

"The interest of the Legislature is to pass the law. It's not their job to defend it," Upton said. "It's the courts whose job it is to say whether it's constitutional or not."

"This is pandering to the electorate," he added. "This is something they can issue a press release about, and talk about how they stood up for good American values."

The AG's Office didn't respond to a request for comment this week.

The AG's office has also attempted to intervene in a same-sex divorce case in Austin.

There, state District Judge Scott Jenkins last month upheld his decision to grant a divorce to two women who were married in Massachusetts. Jenkins declined to consider Abbott's request to intervene.

Jennifer Cochran, the attorney representing one of the women, said this week she's unsure whether Abbott's office will appeal Jenkins' decision. The AG's office has 30 days in which to do so.

At last month's hearing, the judge asked an attorney from the AG's office not to pursue the case, because it could negatively impact a 4-year-old boy who was adopted by the couple. The judge told the AG's office to instead focus on the Dallas case, which likely will be decided by the Texas Supreme Court.

Cochran said this week the couple's breakup has been highly contentious. She said a divorce proceeding was actually a "last resort" after other legal avenues failed to settle issues including child custody, and division of joint business and real estate holdings.

"How many times does she have to sue her wife when a divorce could be the answer to all of it?" Cochran said. "Above all, she wanted to have a better co-parenting relationship. The poor child is having to deal with two moms that hate each other right now. Can you imagine trying to divorce someone or end a relationship and you keep getting dragged into court?"

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ENDA

From Page 1

Chastity Kirven, were in court answering charges related to a March 18 incident. The four were meeting with staff members in House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi's office.

They wanted a commitment from Pelosi's staff that she would move ENDA out of committee and onto the floor of the House for a vote. When staff members wouldn't make that promise, the four refused to leave.

After a four-hour standoff, Capitol police arrested them for illegal entry. That charge carries a penalty of up to six months in jail.

Before returning to Washington for the arraignment, Kirven said she thought her attorney, former D.C. attorney general Robert Spagnoletti, had negotiated a plea deal. She said she expected to plead no contest and receive six months probation and community service.

Kirven was defiant as she left Dallas to attend the hearing. Thinking she would have to complete community service in Dallas as part of her sentence, Kirven said whatever she chose to do it would be something they wouldn't particularly like.

"I plan to make it as queer as possible," she said. "It will be queer and in their face."

Kirven said the four pleaded not guilty at the initial hearing and were immediately sent to a different court for disposition of the case.

"We went straight from arraignment, where we pleaded not guilty, to judge Harry Cushman Jr.'s court, where the prosecutor and our attorney reached a final settlement," Kirven said.

There, they were sentenced to six months probation and ordered to stay out of the Capitol and related office buildings. Two of the four defendants, who are from the D.C. area, were sentenced to 60 hours of community service. Kirven was not.

The probation is a "stet agreement." Once probation is completed, charges will be dismissed. If probation is violated, she will have to serve 180 days in jail and pay a \$1,000 fine.

The two who were given community service said they would spend the time working for a transgender organization.

Kirven said, "Pelosi had the option of 'no-pa-pering' it," meaning not pressing charges.

She said she thinks charges were pursued to

discourage others from using this form of protest. She said if ENDA doesn't move forward, this won't deter the LGBT movement.

During the civil rights movement, Kirven said, when four people were arrested at lunch counters, there were four others ready to step up and take their place.

Kirven also said that Get Equal has heard "through the back door" that the three gay and lesbian members of Congress, Reps. Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis, want them to keep up the pressure to get ENDA to the House floor.

Because this is an election year, Pelosi is under pressure from many members of Congress to keep more controversial issues from coming to a vote.

But Baldwin's office has confirmed to Dallas Voice that there are enough votes to pass ENDA in the House.

When about a dozen demonstrators gathered outside Hutchison's office on Tuesday afternoon to push for passage of ENDA, McGee came downstairs to talk to them.

"When the bill comes to the Senate, we'll take a look at it," McGee said.

Hutchison, who consistently receives a rating of zero on LGBT issues from the Human Rights Campaign, voted against ENDA in 1996, when it came within one vote of passage in the Senate.

"She's open to discussing the bill when it gets to the Senate," McGee said.

He ended the friendly meeting on a grassy area along the Central Expressway service road just north of Meadow Road by handing out his card and inviting the demonstrators to arrange a meeting.

Michael Robinson, who organized the Dallas rally, also faces charges related to a March 18 incident. He was meeting with staff in Pelosi's San Francisco office and was issued a citation for disorderly conduct when his group refused to leave. He said he'll have to answer the charge in court, but has not heard about a date.

About 50 people showed up at the court building in D.C. to show their support for the ENDA 4. Get Equal staged a similar rally in San Francisco and Queer Rising held one in New York City. In Texas, rallies were also planned in Houston, Austin and San Antonio. ■

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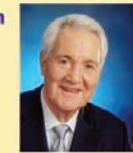
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One man's legacy of love



NEVER FORGET | Stuart Boslow, left, and Jason Harmon met and got to know each other online before meeting in person. Harmon's death last May from Burkitt's lymphoma cut short their relationship, but Boslow keeps Harmon's memory and their love alive by participating in the Light The Night fundraiser.

Stuart Boslow honors the memory of — and his love for — his late partner by participating in annual 'Light The Night' fundraiser

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

Jason Harmon and Stuart Boslow had an intense relationship — not in a bad way, but because they crammed a lifetime of memories and love into less than two short years.

Harmon and Boslow found each other on the Internet and chatted online for nearly three months before finally meeting in person over gay Pride weekend in September 2007.

"We met at the Round-Up, had a date a week later, and the rest is history," laughs Boslow, a special projects producer for CBS-11 in Dallas.

Harmon was the global field sales director for Omni Hotels and the Global Hotel Alliance, splitting his time between the two. So even after they first started officially dating, he was quickly off for a month-and-a-half trip around the world, forcing his romance with Boslow to head back to cyberspace.

"We really got to know each other and when he got back, we felt like we'd been together that whole time. It was an interesting way to build a relationship," Boslow says.

"He loved to cook and I love to eat. We enjoyed watching TV shows together and tried a lot of new restaurants. We just enjoyed spending time together," he says.

Then on May 28, 2008, after less than a year together, Harmon was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma, a highly aggressive and often deadly form of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. One year later to the day, 39-year-old Harmon died with his parents and partner by his side, exactly as he'd wanted.

Today, Boslow is hard at work on fundraising for the second year of Team Jason, a group he formed of friends and family to raise money and participate in the Light the Night Walk, an annual event for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Last year, they raised nearly \$11,000, making Team Jason the No. 1 friends-and-family fundraising team.

This Saturday, April 10, he's organized a benefit for Team Jason from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Olivia Bennett Gallery in Southlake Town Square. Everything for the event has been donated, including food, beverages, a raffle for an Olivia Ben-



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TEAMING UP TO REMEMBER | Stuart Boslow and a host of friends and family members have formed "Team Jason" to participate in the Light the Night fundraiser in October in memory of Jason Harmon.

nett limited edition print, and silent auction items, including hotel packages from around the world, jewelry, furniture and more.

It's Boslow's hope that this event alone can raise \$10,000 for the charity and Team Jason's overall goal of \$25,000 for this October's Light the Night walk.

"In 2008, he and I walked it together," Boslow says. "Together we raised close to \$4,000. We really didn't know what to expect. Neither of us had ever heard of it, but I think it was really the first time that he felt he wasn't alone in this. It was only natural for me to create the team after he was gone to do it again."

The nighttime event raises funds and awareness for leukemia and lymphoma research. Each participant carries a balloon: red for supporters, white for survivors and gold balloons are carried in someone's memory. Inside each is a tiny light, so once the sun sets and the walk begins, a sea of colored lights pushes away the darkness of night.

"He refused to carry a white balloon because he didn't consider himself a survivor. He was still fighting," Boslow says of Harmon.

In fact, Harmon fought hard from first diagnosis until his final days. He refused to let the disease control his life and constantly sought new treatment options, which included several rounds of chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant and surgery to remove the tumor.

"He lived his life to the fullest that he could. I think he should be an example for anyone living with cancer, anyone living with any terminal disease, that it's still possible to live your life. Let those around you love you and do things for you and love them back and do things for them," Boslow says.

Even though their time together was short, Boslow says their bond was unmistakable.

"It was by far the best relationship that I've ever been in. I know for a fact that he was the love of

my life. I'll be very hard-pressed to find anyone like that again," he says.

"If he walked in the door this day I would still have the same feelings for him that I did the day he died. It's crazy how that never goes away."

With the one-year anniversary of Harmon's passing, Boslow still feels like he's somehow with him, whether in dreams or something as simple as a song.

"You know how [radio station 103.7 FM] switches over to Christmas music like in October? We would always joke about 'Feliz Navidad' because they'd play that song incessantly. The first time it came on, we'd get excited. And then by the fourth time, it was like 'Oh. My. God.' We'd start texting each other 'FN' for 'Feliz Navidad' whenever we heard it. And then there was a Celine Dion version that we hated, so it was just sort of our joke.

"But it was one of those symbols that every time I heard that song, I thought of him. On Christmas Day I went to the cemetery, had a conversation with him, got in the car and that song was playing. I just busted out laughing. I was crying; I was laughing.

"I have dreams about him, too. I had a dream the night he died, that was kind of one of those 'I'm OK' dreams. I don't know if I believe it's really him or not, but I feel really comforted by them," he says.

And it's his continued connection to this love that makes Team Jason a lifelong passion.

"This is something I want to do forever. I keep saying, whoever I meet in my life, whoever may be my next partner is going to have to be OK with this. This is something that will be in my life forever. Jason will be in my life forever." ■

To attend Saturday's free fundraiser in Southlake, please RSVP to (817) 416-8618. To donate or track the efforts of Team Jason, visit <http://pages.lightthenight.org/ntx/DallasL10/TeamJason>

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Ellen: A lovable icon of 'Gay Normal'

Already winning hearts and minds with her daytime TV talk show, Degeneres is now winning over a whole new Middle American audience on 'American Idol'

"American Idol" is a show everyone watches — young, old, from Red States and Blue. It is a throwback, almost, to the days of television when families would gather around a television set and watch enriching programming together.



JUDGE FOR YOURSELF | Ellen DeGeneres, right, is a hit with Middle America as the newest judge on "American Idol," which co-stars Simon Cowell. (Michael Becker/Associated Press, Fox)

And one of its big draws these days is a lesbian.

The New York Times pointed out last weekend that Ellen DeGeneres "finds a way to remind audiences of her sexual status on almost every episode of 'American Idol.'"

It continues: "More than in any other of her ventures, Ms. DeGeneres' performance on America's favorite television show suggests how hard she works to seem effortlessly funny and how determined she is to be openly but unthreateningly gay."

She brings it up gently, making jokes and bright-eyed allusions, mentioning her wife Portia, talking about her suits and short, tousled hair.

And America loves it.

Ellen is America's sweetheart of the moment — funny, down to earth, a pretty, sparkly woman whom everyone can relate to. And the extraordinary thing is that her gayness doesn't get in the way of that or hide it — instead, she makes being gay seem to be the absolutely normal thing that it is.

And an icon of Gay Normal is important. All too often — still — anti-gay conservatives point to people on the edges of our community as being representative of all gays and lesbians.

They take images from Pride parades and television and gay circuit parties and try to paint us as social outliers who are strange and frightening

(or inappropriate and silly) and thus, a danger to mainstream marriage, work and family.

Those who lie on our edges — Adam Lambert, say, or Johnny Weir, or any of the Dykes on Bikes — are important to us and are part of our community. They help us define our LGBT culture as one that celebrates fiercely individual personalities who nonetheless come together for common causes and celebrations.

We need them and we love them and we celebrate their outrageousness.

But we need our Ellen DeGeneres and Dan Chois (and now Ricky Martins and someday Anderson Coopers), too. We need public figures who seem like the best friend that you wish lived next door, people who are safely sexy, people you can trust to watch your dog, people

who you'd welcome to meet your kids and your folks and your elderly Aunt Martha.

Ellen works hard for us. As the Times says, her private life is "served up as an affirmation of gay marriage set in a Harlequin romance frame." And she brings her life "with her on America's most conventional reality show."

She makes gay marriage and gay rights seem easy to take — and not just easy, but almost as if they are a fait accompli.

Ellen had a beautiful wedding and the many pictures and videos of a beloved Gay Normal icon getting hitched surely made marriage equality easier for Middle America to imagine.

They can picture being at a wedding of a gay couple now, which means that they are slowly being won over to our side.

America loves Ellen. Her daytime talk show may collect the gigantic Oprah Winfrey audience once Oprah moves on at some point next year.

(The Times says she is the best bet to inherit "Oprah's mantle as talk show queen.")

Her gentle jokes and self-deprecating bits have made her the most amusing judge to watch on "American Idol."

Ellen has hosted the Emmys and Oscars, won 12 Emmys herself, and convinced then-candidate Barack Obama to dance on her talk show. She is happy and successful and famous and — normal. She is what middle America wants to be.

The contest for best singer might still be going on over at Fox, but America has already crowned it's next American Idol — and it's Ellen DeGeneres.

Jennifer Vanasco is an award-winning writer and columnist. E-mail her at Jennifer.Vanasco@gmail.com; follow her at Twitter.com/JenniferVanasco.



Jennifer Vanasco
Contributing Columnist

Has the smoking ban in Dallas bars affected how often you go out?

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RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Is Joe Solmonese's salary at the Human Rights Campaign too high?
• Yes: 64 percent
• No: 36 percent
• Don't know: 0 percent
165 Votes cast

Letters

Webb missed the mark

Re: "Not the Time for a Fashion Parade," by David Webb, Dallas Voice, April 2

David Webb has written some great stories for the Dallas Voice over a long period of time. However, with this one I think he has missed the mark.

As one who has been intimately involved with HRC for many years, I am fully aware of Joe Solomonese's salary and of the fact that he is most effective in his role as president of the largest LGBT advocacy organization in the world.

Is anyone surprised that the head of one of the country's most recognized, successful and effective nonprofit organizations is well compensated? Does it matter that Joe happens to enjoy fashion and likes to dress well?

The answer to both of those questions is certainly no.

What does matter is that HRC works each day to protect and advance the rights of LGBT Americans. Last year, HRC was largely responsible for the passage of the Matthew Shepard Hate

Crimes Act — the first piece of legislation in the history of our country that extends protections to individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

When the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy is finally ended, HRC will be largely responsible. No organization except HRC will be able to rightfully claim that it played a significant role in the enactment of ENDA, which will wind up becoming law and protecting LGBT people from discrimination in the workplace.

An organization as large and visible as HRC will always have its critics. Whether any LGBT person at any given moment is happy with HRC or with the fact that its president dresses well is irrelevant to the end goal and the end results.

For 30 years HRC has advocated for our rights. That work will continue tomorrow and each day until we have full equality under the laws of our country. What HRC does helps every LGBT American, and that won't change.

Steve Atkinson

Former co-chair, HRC Board of Governors

Badu video not a stunt

I am a former student of Erykah Badu, and I applaud her creative and artistic work in sustaining and revitalizing South Dallas communities.

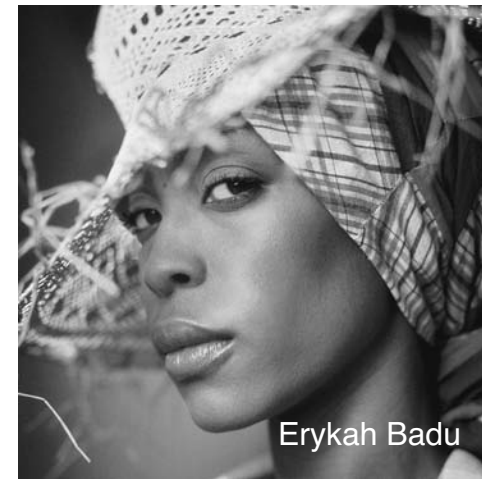
Breasts and free expression don't kill. Guns, bombs, poverty and pollution do. I would challenge any of her critics by asking, "What have you done for your local community?"

Many of us have not brought awareness to the issues that plague our city, whether they be social or environmental, and yet we are quick to criticize an artist whose primary goal is to improve the lives of her fellow citizens.

What she did when she undressed on a downtown Dallas street while filming a video was not a publicity stunt, it was a humanity and humility stunt. If only we could all be so brave.

Keep up the good work, Ms. Badu.

Also, she has been incredibly supportive of the LGBT community here in Dallas, and I have personally witnessed her participating in LifeWalk and other benefits that would affect the lives of



Erykah Badu

members of our community. I even saw her at a drag show, and she tipped.

She should only have a "good name" with the gays in Dallas. She is a wonderful person.

Chaaz Chaim Quigley
Dallas

TO SEND A LETTER | We welcome letters from readers. Shorter letters and those addressing a single issue are more likely to be printed. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, but we attempt to maintain the writer's substance and tone. Include your home address and a daytime telephone number for verification. Send letters to the senior editor, preferably by e-mail (nash@dallasvoice.com). Letters also may be faxed (214-969-7271) or sent via the U.S. Postal Service (Dallas Voice, 4145 Travis St., Third Floor, Dallas TX 75204). All letters become the property of Dallas Voice.

query 04.09.10 BY DAVID TAFFET

Have you ever experienced employment discrimination?

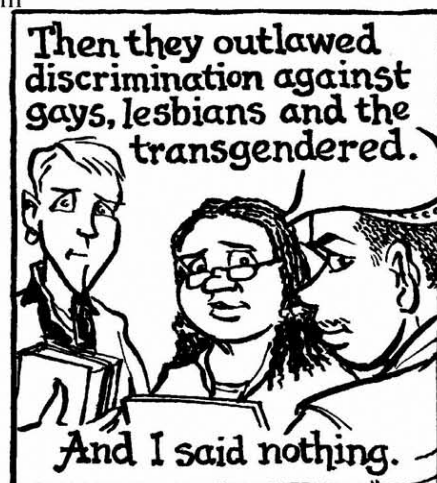
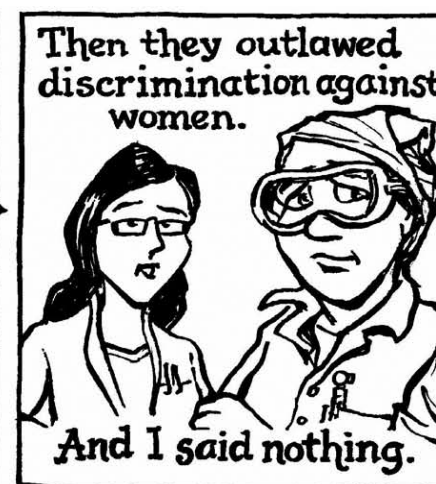
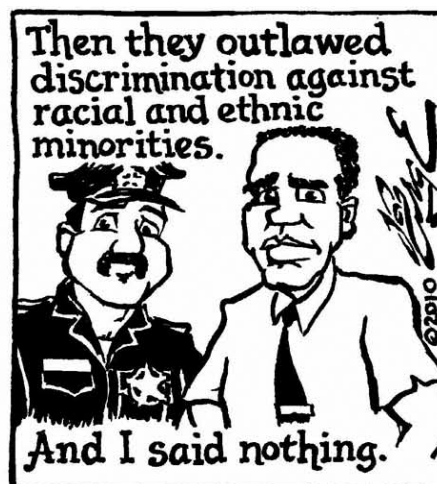
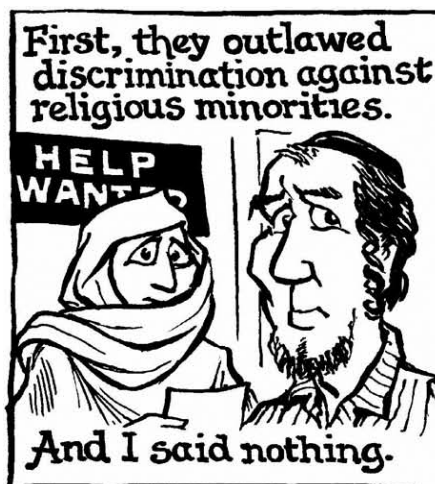
Lynn Bernstein — "You never know if you've been discriminated against. I've been trying to get into a college job and it turns out the dean of the department has a problem with gay people."

Susan Cook — "It's hard to separate discrimination against me as a woman, as a lesbian and as a transgender in unequal pay. I only know when I seek legal representation, they say, 'You're transgender. You're not covered.'"

Brian Cross — "It depends on who you talk to. I had just gotten a promotion at work. They were having trouble getting insurance. The things they went through to make me self-destruct at work."

Pam Curry — "Yes, but not because of being transgender but because of HIV. They found a reason to terminate because I sero-converted."

Have a suggestion for a question you'd like us to ask?
E-mail it to nash@dallasvoice.com.



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Inappropriate laughs

Lesbian comic **Suzanne Westenhofer** keeps nothing off limits with her brand of funny

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

Depending on whether she counts from the first time she hit the stage or the first time she got paid to perform standup, Suzanne Westenhofer has been making people laugh for 17, maybe 18 years — in other words, a long time.

With an upcoming performance in Fort Worth Saturday, she fought through a weeklong bout of laryngitis to chat about gay cruises, Kathy Griffin and what one question she just loves to ask people.

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SHE AIN'T RIGHT

Westenhofer's "Totally Inappropriate" tour isn't called that without reason. The comic might just ask you about all the sex partners you've ever had.

Dallas Voice: Sorry to hear about your voice. You don't exactly have the career where you can be quiet. Westenhofer: Or the reputation! I've already lost it so many times and it's just because I can't just shut up and relax and let it heal. It's not just my way.

You've performed in Texas a lot. What do you like about audiences here?

Everybody comes out to play and party and laugh. People come out dressed and ready to have fun. I don't know how to explain it, they're like, "Let's do this! Let's get our boots on and make plans for after the show!" That's not really the case in every city.

I see you're performing on Walt Disney property this summer. Does that change your act?

I don't change, no. I don't change for where I am, but I do change for events. Like, if you're doing an HRC dinner and the governor's there, you know what I mean? I'm raised right, I'm not going to break out all my four-letter words.

So you have a censor button for the right occasions. Well, you know, I wouldn't censor myself in general and change it for straight or gay, for example. But I would definitely use my common sense. If people are all dressed up and there's a dinner and politicians, yes, I would take it down a notch. But I think that's appropriate. I think everybody would.

Except for maybe Kathy Griffin. Oh no, I've seen her at an HRC dinner here in Los Angeles. And you know, she absolutely pulled it down. She was very somber about some friends of hers who are in Afghanistan right now. She's actually a very good egg. I know she's said in the past an occasional quote-unquote "inappropriate" thing, but come on, she's a comic. Oh, she said something inappropriate at the

Emmys. You know what? The Emmys are not the inauguration. Let's be real. It's just a big, ol' made-up, fabulous awards show. Go for it.

Speaking of inappropriate, describe what fans can expect from your "Totally Inappropriate" Tour. Apparently, other people think that the things I say are inappropriate. I'm the kind of person who will maybe sort of ask you what you paid for something. I'm the kind of person who would ask you how many people you've had sex with. It was suggested that maybe they write up a list of topics I'm not allowed to say at dinner. But I happen to think they're perfectly normal, interesting questions.

"How many people have you had sex with?" is definitely a great icebreaker for someone you're meeting for the first time. Right? That's like one of my favorite questions in the whole world. When did you come out? How old were you? How many people have you had sex with? Have you had sex with both genders? I think those are, like, super-fun, fabulous questions. For some reason, apparently, according to many, many people, those are not appropriate questions.

I'm often surprised how sensitive and easily offended some gay people can be. I always just assume that we're all kind of Teflon-coated and the raunchier the better. Isn't it a bummer? It's like when you find out that gay people are conservative or Republican or extremely Catholic or Christian and you go, "Oh my God. I forgot." We always say that we're everywhere and then we realize we really are everywhere. We really are all kinds of people. I thought that was just part of our propaganda. I didn't realize we were going to be diverse like *that*! It's uncomfortable.

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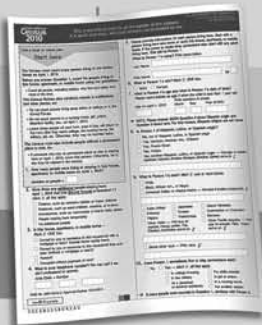
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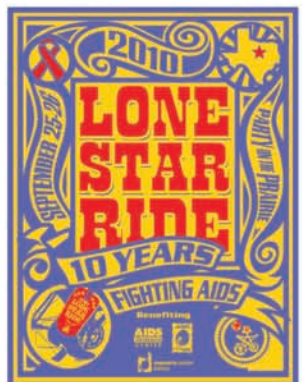
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L+S comedy

COMEDY, From Page 20

Are there any topics that are off limits to you? Rape is a big one for me. I think mostly you don't want to say anything that is so offensive that it's not funny and if you don't know that line, you're not a good comic. Comics can make mistakes. We can think something's funny or just blurt out something. We can be wrong.

There's that fine line between something being hilarious or just completely imploding. Right, for someone like me. I don't practice, I don't rehearse, I don't write it down. It comes to me when I'm onstage, I think it, and I say it. It's not like I tested it on 20 people before I said it. If it's not funny, I step away from that.

You perform on a lot of gay cruises. Which do you like better, all-women or all-men? I've done quite a few, but I haven't done as many as I used to. I want to do another boy one, because gosh darn it, it's fun to be on a ship with 3,000 fags — I'm with gay girls all the freakin' time. [Laughs] When you're on a gay male ship, and you're one of like 20 women, gay guys will completely focus on you. I love the attention.

Sweet, a new lesbian travel company, launched their first cruise last November. How was it? It was awesome. We got hit by a hurricane and still had a blast.

If there's a natural disaster thrown into a gay cruise... Yeah, nothing bonds the queers more than a natural disaster.

So what's next, besides tour stops in fabulous places like Hawaii? Yeah, what a bitch it is to be me! I'll be continuing the tour. We'll soon be filming the third season [of the Internet show *We Have to*



FUNNY LADY | Westenhoefer hopes to have Texans laughing with their boots on this weekend.

Stop Now] and I have to feed my cat because, as we're talking, he's been jumping on me and then jumping off. Then he's putting his face right up in mine. Now he's knocking shit off my desk, which means, get off the phone, get up, feed me. He's bitchy.



The gays bring the funny back for a third time around

Whatever happened with Fitzwilliam and his intent search for a vagina? Will Maya Angelou continue her inspiring readings from Craigslist's Missed Connections? And will Super Liza save the day for the gays again?

For fans of those recurring characters, the answers will hopefully lie in the new season of the *Big Gay Sketch Show*. Logo TV and producer Rosie O' Donnell bring back the comedy show for a third time around after a strangely long hiatus. Perhaps that's what happens when you put

eight gay (and non-gay) funny people in a room.

This season's cast is one less with the departure of Erica Ash. We're gonna miss foul-mouthed fitness instructor LaTanya and old school lesbian Grandma Bell. That's OK, because Kate McKinnon's Fitzwilliam and Colman Domingo's Maya Angelou are just some of the characters we've come to love and laugh at.

— Rich Lopez

The Big Gay Sketch Show season 3 premieres, April 13 at 9 p.m. on Logo. LogoTV.com.

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All he can bear

A self-described 'big, fat, hairy gay dude,' Malcolm Ingram set out to make an expose of the bear community, but instead 'Bear Nation' became a Valentine

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Malcolm Ingram has issues and he doesn't care how many F-bombs he has to drop to tell you about them.

Ingram has toiled away as a journalist, then as a narrative filmmaker (both in the straight world) before the one-two punch of coming out and making gay-themed documentaries. His first, *Small Town Gay Bar*, was produced by hetero filmmaker Kevin Smith, as is his follow-up, *Bear Nation*, which plays this weekend at the Dallas International Film Festival.

Ingram vented a little about the gay community he loves — and the adoptive state of Texas which has, oddly, embraced him so much.

Dallas Voice: How'd you decide on the subject of *Bear Nation*? Ingram: When it came time to make my follow-up [to *Small Town Gay Bar*], I wanted to find a subject that mattered to me. I promised myself I would never pick up a camera until I had something to say. I'm a big, fat, hairy gay dude so I decided to make a documentary about my big, fat, hairy gay brothers. I never fit into my culture. That whole *Queer Eye* phenomenon felt real minstrel-ly to me — like how a black person must feel watching *Amos and Andy*. The only relation I felt was, I like to suck dick. But beyond that, there was no common place with gay culture. I didn't

come out of the closet until my 30s and didn't do that until I found the bear community.

Both of your documentaries are executive produced by Kevin Smith. How did that happen? I met Kevin when I was a journalist for *Film Threat*. We met and later hung out and kept running into each other.

His films are gay-friendly, but in this confrontational way.... It's because he doesn't tread softly. He says a word like "faggot," and uses it in a pejorative way, but the intent's not there. It's just a word. And he's so curious. He wants shockingly graphic gay sex details. I swear, he's one six-pack away from sucking a dick.

I was living in his house when I came out and he was releasing *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back* [and was getting in trouble with GLAAD]. They said, "If you don't give us money we're gonna come against you so hard." I said, "Hey, I'm gay and I live here and have dinner with his family and his child." But the GLAAD guy Scott didn't believe that I was gay and started asking me questions like he was gonna trap me.

We have a similar controversy right now with a locally-made film, *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives*. I've seen the trailer! It looks brilliant.

I have called it "*Kill Bill* with drag queens." That needs to be on the poster somewhere. I can't wait to see it. Drag queens are some of the toughest motherfuckers you'll ever meet. I love them.

People give such incredible powers to words. GLAAD is a fucking joke. It's a bunch of upper-class gay men who throw fundraisers so they can pat themselves on



GOT MILK? | Filmmaker Malcolm Ingram, inset, has choice words for some in the gay world, but only because he wants to encourage community, as 'Bear Nation' explores.

the back without dealing with very deep issues. My favorite word in the world is queer. It's how I define myself.

How do you describe the tone of *Bear Nation*? When I started doing it, I didn't think it would be a Valentine to the bears, which it is. I have a lot of issues with the bear community and thought a lot of [those issues] would be explored, but when I got there, the overall feeling was everyone seemed very grateful.

What issues? There are camps in the bear community. One is basically the bears who are just happy to fit in. Then the others have found this thing that they can co-opt. For a community based on acceptance, forcing a hierarchy on it destroys what's great about it.

You used to be able to walk into a party or a bear event and it felt like this hug; now it feels like the first day of class, like you're being judged. If the bears were in high school, they would be the AV club, the misfits surrounded by the jocks and the preps. But as the jocks are getting older and getting hairier and not wanting to go to the gym as much, they are finding the bear community ... but they are bringing the jock mentality to the bears. This community was founded as a reaction to cliques; now a cliquish hierarchy has become a facet of it.

I hope I'm not coming off as negative about the bear community, because I'm not. I think the bear community is having an incredible impact on modern gay cul-

ture. Men are hairier, have you noticed? Admitting you were a bear *used* to be downgrading yourself — it was very, very underground, and there was an outsider element to it. In the past five years it has become desirable. I'm a big, fat, dopey guy and if you saw some of the guys I've dated, you'd be shocked. Even my mother is.

Does it seem men are embracing their bear-ness later now? Yeah, the whole ageing this is funny, isn't it? The young'uns are crazy — just fuckin' nuts in a dating situation. That age, you're just figuring your shit out. When I think back to what I thought I knew in my 20s and

what I know now, it's completely laughable. But you kind of need to have that because when you figure out how the world works, it's soul-crushing.

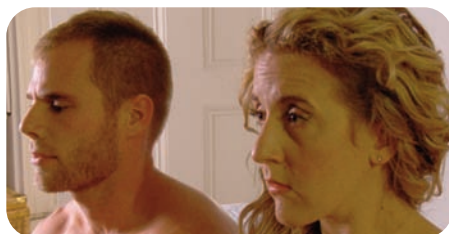
This weekend's screening brings you back to Texas. Yes, [*Bear Nation*] premiered at SXSW — basically, we're only gonna screen it in Texas. Ha! I love Dallas and love Texas. Texas is really insanely friendly — my boyfriend and I went to a Cowboys game and had the best time. I was there [a few weeks ago] for the Texas Bear Round-Up. We were gonna show the film there but they were not interested — maybe because we didn't interview them.

But I'm looking forward to the Dallas Eagle. But even more, I wanna go to that gay bar in Gun Barrel City. I wonder if they sell t-shirts. How cool is that? A gay bar in a Texas town called Gun Barrel. I'm so there on Saturday night.

DALLAS FILM FESTIVAL

Screenings run through April 18 at the Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station and other venues. **BEAR NATION** screens Friday at 10:30 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. DallasFilm.org

online exclusive



The Dallas International Film Festival doesn't have a gay-specific series, but some of the films (including the short *Gayby*, pictured) have queer content, and others have local and LGBT interest. For a rundown, visit DallasVoice.com: Screen

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L+S stage

Break a leg

Theater director **Rene Moreno** takes a fall but bounces back for WingSpan staged reading

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Picture the scene: A man makes a transfer —not at the bank or the airport or even the bus station, but from one wheelchair to the next. In a split second, his hand slips and the wheels give way. He's struggling but it's no use — he falls to the ground. And hears a loud "snap!" As he makes his way to the phone, he notices a broken bone.

All is not well.

It might make for a tense opening scene for a play — perhaps one that Rene Moreno, North Texas' most respected stage director, could make even better. But it's not a scene Moreno directed; it's one he lived. And now, after four months of recovery, he's preparing to head back to the stage in WingSpan Theatre Co.'s staged reading of *¡Cenote!*

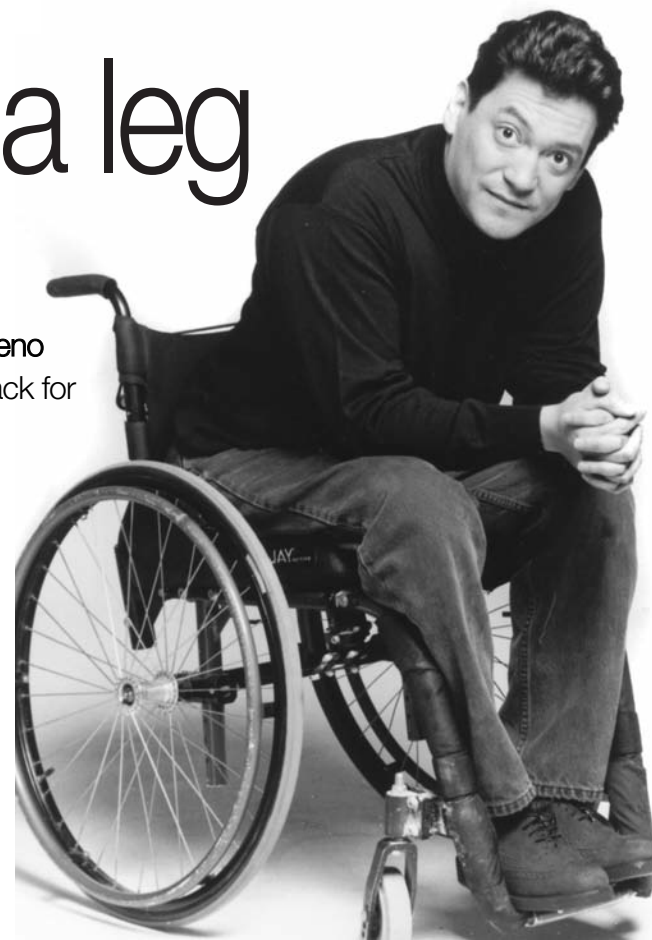
"I had a new chair and slipped and fell," Moreno says matter-of-factly. "I looked down at my leg and it looked funny. It didn't break the skin but there was a bone sticking out. It turned out to be a spiral fracture and required surgery. I don't know what was more scary: preferring to feel it or *not* feeling it."

Moreno's no-nonsense manner doesn't make the description any less cringe-inducing. He underwent surgery, which ended up affecting his hip, requiring *more* surgery. But the worse part of it all, he was out of theater for a while.

"You do a lot of thinking when you're laid up," he says. "When you're out for that long a time, you think a lot about not doing it. You know the limitations of yourself but if anything, now I have real sense of joy to be back at work. That's where I'm at right now."

At the time, Moreno was spent. He had done several plays without much downtime and felt he was burning out. His exhaustion may have even derailed his concentration, leading to his fall.

Moreno is now concentrating on staying



RETURN OF THE KING | Rene Moreno says his wheelchair can enhance characters he plays such as his weakened Mayan king in 'Cenote!'

healthy and now that he's back, a slew of work coming his way — he'll soon direct a production at SMU of *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

But *¡Cenote!* is Moreno's return to the stage — and this time, in front of the footlights (a Broadway acting veteran, he only acts occasionally now). He's feeling not only fit, but grateful at how life has unfolded for him.

"I'm almost 51 now and I get to continue doing what I love," he says. "I'm playing a Mayan king struggling with the idea of

whether or not his daughter should be sacrificed to bring rain for their food. This king is a weakened king. I think the chair amplifies something about his state and I feel akin to him. I feel I'm right for this."

There aren't many choice roles for a theater actor in a wheelchair, but Moreno has thrived on using it as an extension of the characters he plays, like the king in *¡Cenote!* or his notable turn as the title character in Kitchen Dog Theater's production of Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

"I try to select roles where the wheelchair will amplify what's going on with the character and add to the dimensionality of the role," he says. "I feel who I am in the chair and what that is emotionally for me. It helps to feed the character."

Moreno plans to be careful though in the future. He has a cheery disposition despite the slip and fall, but he's realistic.

"I feel great. And hey, people in chairs fall every now and again."

Strange magic

Have you never been mellow enough to enjoy 'Xanadu,' the campiest show since 'Mamma Mia'?

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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This may sound like a meaningless distinction, but there's a *big* difference between something that is good and something that is enjoyable. McDonald's French fries aren't good — not like, say, a potato veloute with white truffle oil, clarified butter and dill is good — but damn if I don't love 'em. Disco music, for the most part, is not good, but in the grand tradition of *American Bandstand*, it's got a nice beat and you can dance to it.

Following that rubric, *Xanadu*, the camp stage musical now at Fair Park Music Hall, is not "good." But I dare you not to have a blast watching it.

Like the jukebox music it showcases — mind-numbing late-'70s pop, courtesy of Olivia Newton-John — *Xanadu* wants nothing more than to distract with campy charm. While hardly a classic, it makes up for every shortcoming with a

cheeky awareness of its own ridiculousness.

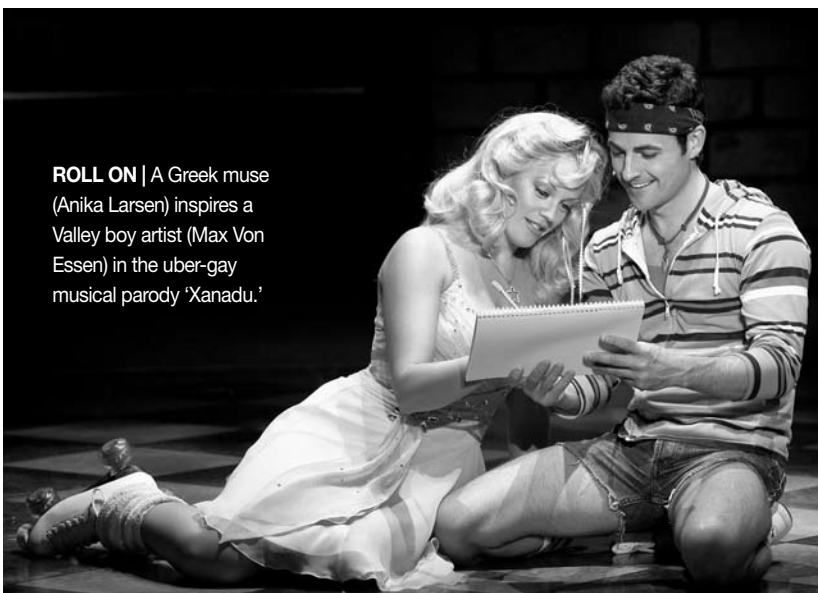
Even a particle of self-importance, or even relevance, would doom it. The total absence of pretense is its salvation. *Non cogito ergo est jocus*: It doesn't think, therefore it is funny.

The plot — *plot?!!* — concerns a Greek muse, Clio (Anika Larsen) who comes to 1980s Venice Beach to inspire a street artist (Max Von Essen) to pursue his art: Opening a roller-disco. Somehow, they work "I'm Alive" and "Have You Never Been Mellow" into it. I'm

not sure how.

Xanadu is as campy as you can get without Paul Lynde and Bruce Vilanch vying for center square. Clio's sister muses include two gay boys and a sassy black mama who rubs her boobs in the face of a gay audience member while plot-

ROLL ON | A Greek muse (Anika Larsen) inspires a Valley boy artist (Max Von Essen) in the uber-gay musical parody 'Xanadu.'



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Overshooting star

Bisexual Tara Holloway gives a gutsy debut with 'Sins to Confess,' but misfires along the way

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

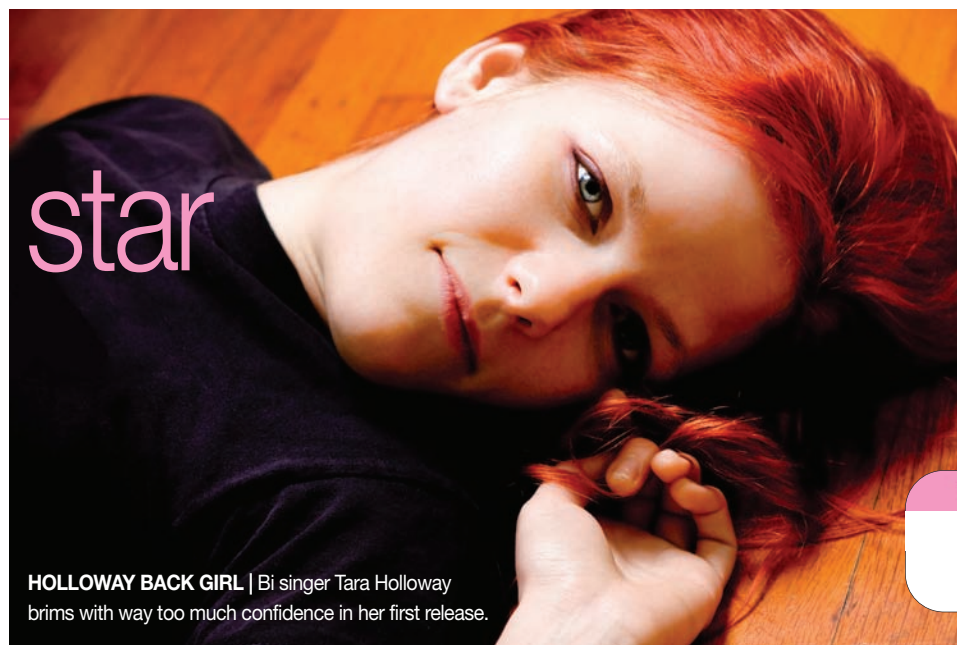


The songs on Tara Holloway's first release, *Sins to Confess*, have the confidence of a seasoned artist with lyrics that are borderline silly — the kind a veteran could get away with but still be considered brilliant.

But her songs are cockier than her pedigree. Holloway's debut doesn't introduce the listener to a breaking artist. Instead, it expects you to know her, shake her hand and create a holiday for her. Her overconfidence is her biggest enemy.

Sins opens with the groovy "East Side Story," where Holloway does her best Joan Osborne impression when her gritty voice takes over. The song's upbeat tempo calls to mind Sheryl Crow's "All I Wanna Do" with a similar narrative. The problem, though, is that the lyrics flow horribly and the song is a messy blur about two girls, a pimp and the city. Holloway laughs through the song as if we were already in on the joke. She punctuates the song one time with the word "fucking" so intently, that we're supposed to know she's a badass. Instead, it's just annoying.

"Boyfriend" follows up better. Holloway is out as bi and she



HOLLOWAY BACK GIRL | Bi singer Tara Holloway brims with way too much confidence in her first release.



SINS TO CONFESS
Tara Holloway
Waystation Records

wonderfully embraces her lesbian side. A girl's night out has major subtext against the sexy sway of the beat. But her construction is off-kilter. Unlike "East Side Story," the chorus is prevalent but choppy. *If you don't then I won't / If you don't tell your boyfriend... you're gay* is uneven in its delivery but has a refreshing bluntness. The song is far from perfect but addictive — each time it unfolds, a new subtle element appears despite a lazy ending.

Sins is a short album (just eight songs) with the first half erratic in its delivery. Holloway calms down more on the backside. "In the Flesh" is dreamier than "Boyfriend" and we get a better glimpse of Holloway's vocal range. Her rasp works best in the bluesy ballad. She goes honkytonk with "This Time Fer Sure," a sound that better suits her. These are the album's standouts and feel more genuine than in-your-face.

The biggest misfires are "Facebook" and "Misnomer." With

lyrics like, *I'm not on your Facebook anymore / You seem to have some problem with the score*, she doesn't quite relate the social network to the rest of the song. The line sounds like she was trying to rhyme "whore" in the following line, and she does. Although she slightly redeems herself with the line, *Instead of talking out your ass, you can talk to me*. In "Misnomer," Holloway slurs and giggles her way through the song with such bothersome attitude, it comes off more like she hit the recording studio after a very good happy hour.

Holloway shouldn't refrain from letting it all out but her lack of humility flavors this album with a sour taste. Her laughing throughout the album never makes sense but does make *Sins* sound overly cocky. The songwriting has potential and her blunt sexuality is galvanizing, but if she's going to continue her aggressive tone, she should have more to back it up with. ■

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Tasting notes

Two Cowboy restaurants — Chow and Diner — make big gambles

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Cowboy Chow in Deep Ellum is taking an interesting gamble — literally. Customers can go “double or nothing” on their appetizer: Flip a coin or do a high card/low card draw, and if you win, the appetizer’s free; if you lose, it costs double. The question is: Do you feel lucky? Well, do ya?

The similarly-named-but-quite-different Cowtown Diner in Fort Worth has its own daring bet going on. You can get your meal free if you clean your plate... though it's not *that* simple.

Your “meal” is the 64 oz. chicken-fried steak platter — four pounds of deep-fried beef covered in gravy and accompanied by six pounds of mashed potatoes and half a loaf of Texas toast. Proprietor Scott Jones reports that in the last week, six orders have been placed — and none have finished it. Fully loaded it’s \$70 ... and 10,000 calories, but free if you finish.

You can enjoy *much* lighter bites at Tei-An in One Arts Plaza, which has opened its rooftop lounge, serving small plates and cocktails — perfect now that the weather has turned nice.

The Place at Perry’s, which has long anchored a corner along Cedar Springs in Uptown, will host a tasting of Macallan scotch on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. For \$25, you can sample three of The Macallan potables: 12-, 15- and 18-year. And you can indulge in the 25 year for half-price in the bar after the tasting. Hors d’oeuvres will also be served. ■



SCENE OF THE CRIME | The 64 oz. chicken-fried steak platter at Cowtown Diner in Fort Worth is free — if you can finish it all.

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Friday 04.09

One queer eye will work this time

This weekend, the Galleria hosts Beauty Live featuring celebrities, style icons, classes and demonstrations on makeup and fashion. Just think of it as Beauty-palooza. We're excited to see *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy's* Kyan Douglas back on the radar. The hunky stylist will give his grooming tips while making the women and men swoon.

DEETS: Galleria Dallas, 13350 Dallas Pkwy. Noon. Through Sunday. Free. GalleriaDallas.com.

Saturday 04.10

Are you going...OK, we'll stop there

Not everyone who heads to the Scarborough Renaissance Festival dresses like a wench or jester. So don't think you have to. Instead, just get out there on a nice spring day and you'll be surprised the amount of fun that can be had stepping back in time. Even if you are in your Nikes.

DEETS: Scarborough Renaissance Festival, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Through May 31. \$21.99. ScarboroughRenFest.com.

Saturday 04.10

Pike goes back to her band roots

Sister 7 (AKA Little Sister) started here in Dallas playing venues like Club Dada back in '91. Little did we know how Patrice Pike would go solo and blow up both the Austin and Dallas scenes. For one night only, though, she reunites with the band to relive some of the glory days of Dallas (and Austin) music.

DEETS: Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 8 p.m. \$17-\$23. GranadaTheater.com



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High Tech Happy Hour is hosted by the LGBT community networking program of Texas Instruments. La Calle Doce, 1925 Skillman St. 5:30 p.m. pavv@ti.com.

Guerrilla Gay Bar April Takeover happens in Exposition Park across four bars: Meridien Room, Pizza Lounge and the Fallout Lounge. But the beer selection is great at Amsterdam Bar, 831 Exposition Ave. 9 p.m. GuerillaGayBarDallas.com.

THEATER

The Beauty Plays. Three plays by Neil LaBute play in repertory. *The Shape of Things*, *Fat Pig* and *Reasons to be Pretty* play through May 23. Sundays, Tuesdays–Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Weekend matinees at 2 p.m. Wyly Theater, 2400 Flora St. Visit site for play dates. \$15–\$80. ATTPAC.org

Dark of the Moon. Presented by Level Ground Arts. Dallas Hub Theater, 2809 Canton St. Through April 24. Fridays–Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. \$20. LevelGroundArts.com.

Is He Dead? about a desperate painter who fakes his own death to mark up his work. WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 25. Wednesdays–Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. \$25–\$40. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Persephone, Queen of the Dead. Presented by MBS Productions. Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Road. Through Saturday. Friday–Saturday at 8 p.m. \$18–\$21. MBSProductions.net.

FILM

Dallas International Film Festival. Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through April 18. DallasFilm.org.

SATURDAY 04.10

COMMUNITY

Prime Timers Prime Brunch at the Mecca, 10422 Harry Hines Blvd. Call 972-504-8866 for info.



SUBTEXT MESSAGE | The relationship between an old man and his servant grows weary in the Undermain's 'Endgame' which opens Saturday.

Choctaw Casino/Bingo trip leaves the second Saturday of every month from 709 Magnolia St., Arlington. \$7. 817-548-8110.

Once in a Blue Moon, women's dance. Dance-Masters Ballroom, 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$10. 972-479-0774.

THEATER

Endgame. Undermain concludes the season with the Samuel Beckett play directed by former dean of Yale School of Drama, Stan Wojewodski. Undermain Theater, 3200 Main St. Through May 8. Wednesdays–Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. \$15–\$25. Undermain.org.

SUNDAY 04.11

COMMUNITY

Dallas Prime Timers play Uno at member's residence. 2 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

Expressions, a free gender support group for men and women led by volunteers. Sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. 214-540-4475.

Fourth Annual Dog Bowl hosted by Friends of Fair

Park at the Cotton Bowl. A day of fun for the dogs including a "tail" gate party, live entertainment, contests, activities and giveaways. Picnics encouraged but no alcohol. Fair Park, 1200 S. Second Ave. Free. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. FairPark.org.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. Gay and lesbian radio for North Texas with David Taffet, Patti Fink and Lerone Landis. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon.

Cathedral of Hope service. Ch. 8 at 12:35 a.m.

FAIR

Arlington Psychic Fair. La Quinta Inn, Highway 360 and I-30 (next to Six Flags). Noon \$7 (\$2 off with can of food donated to AIDS Outreach Food Pantry). 817-727-7882.

CONCERT

Voices of Change will perform Paul Schoenfield's Café Music and Jake Heggie's *Deepest Desire*. This coincides with Heggie's premiere of *Moby Dick* by the Dallas Opera. Caruth Auditorium, 6101 Bishop Blvd. (at SMU). 6:30 p.m. \$25–\$30. Voice-ofChange.org.

MONDAY 04.12

COMMUNITY

Dallas Prime Timers play bridge at member's residence. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

F.A.C.E., support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS in any capacity. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

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

BROADCAST

The Rick Vanderslice Show streams Monday–Friday from noon–2 p.m. on RationalRadio.org.

TUESDAY 04.13

COMMUNITY

Prime Timers Prime Diner at Texas Land & Cattle, 10250 Technology West. Call 972-504-8866 for info.

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

Lesbians and Cancer. A support group for lesbians with cancer or survivors. Gilda's Club Dallas, 2710 Oak Lawn Ave. 6–8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 04.14

COMMUNITY

Dallas Prime Timers play bridge at member's residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

JEWEL's Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets. Urban Dog Coffee, 2720 Oak Lawn Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-540-GIRL. Jewelbookclub.blogspot.com.

American Veterans for Equal Rights North Texas Chapter. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan. 7 p.m. Lone Star Veterans Chapter. LGBT veterans group meets in Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Info at LSVCPres@aol.com.

THURSDAY 04.15

COMMUNITY

Dallas FrontRunners run on the Katy Trail. Meet at Knox Street entrance. 6:30 p.m.

FUSE drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For guys up to 29. Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3–8 p.m. 214-540-4435.

Career Fellowship offers support to those experiencing unemployment or under-employment. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. 972-662-4499.

this week's solution

A	G	I	L	E		S	W	I	G		P	R	O	D	
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig

Linda Perry turns 45 on Thursday. We dug "What's Up" when Perry fronted 4 Non Blondes but that was about it from the band. The lesbian singer morphed into a kickass songwriter and producer churning out hits for the likes of Christina Aguilera, Pink and James Blount. She was nominated for a Grammy for song of the year for writing Aguilera's "Beautiful."



ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Bad news about money is inevitable these days. Do your best to roll with the punches. Take a deep breath, focus, relax and consider what changes are necessary. Meditation will help.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

You or your friends are likely to offend each other with some remark. It's just a stupid misunderstanding, but getting to the root of it and clearing it up could take work. Be patient and forgiving.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Miscommunications at work can grow from a simple screw-up to a Kafkaesque nightmare. Unraveling the mess will take time. Admit to errors promptly to nip bigger troubles in the bud.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Write down ideas and concerns to get those bees in your bonnet to calm down and produce something sweet. If solitary scribbling keeps you out of arguments, you're ahead of the game.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Work is a minefield these days. In conversation with bosses, be ready for corrections and revisions of plans. Sex can release tension, but be careful. Murphy's Law is in full force.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Something you say will upset your partner or vice versa. Both of you will be shocked to have caused offense. Don't get defensive. Apologize and accept it as a lesson in knowing the other better.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Sexual adventurism could explode in your face — in a bad way. Be careful now about not tying ropes too tight and who you're playing with. And when was the last time you got tested?

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Playful efforts with your partner can precipitate arguments. Accept the chance to clear up problems that have been simmering. Real love is a huge challenge. This is bumpy. You can handle it.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Cleaning and organizing your home is necessary to prevent more accidents. But do be careful. Also, discuss your domestic plans with roommates so as not to be at cross-purposes.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Any sort of entertainment or playing with pals can also loosen your tongue. Focused thoughtfulness can sharpen your brilliance, but awkward revelations are more likely.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Domestic accounts can be a minefield. Get those affairs in order. Money loaned to relatives is money you'll never see again. The stars promise a rude surprise, but don't rule anything out.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Your ability to keep secrets is non-existent. Treat gossip as odd trivia. Keep your mind focused on learning something new. Classes and lectures can keep you out of trouble.

THIS WEEK

Brace yourself for rude surprises, arguments and screw-ups. Mercury is turning retrograde in Taurus while semi-square Uranus in Pisces. Stubborn thinking will slam you against walls you didn't see coming. Balancing practicality with adaptivity is the big challenge.

Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

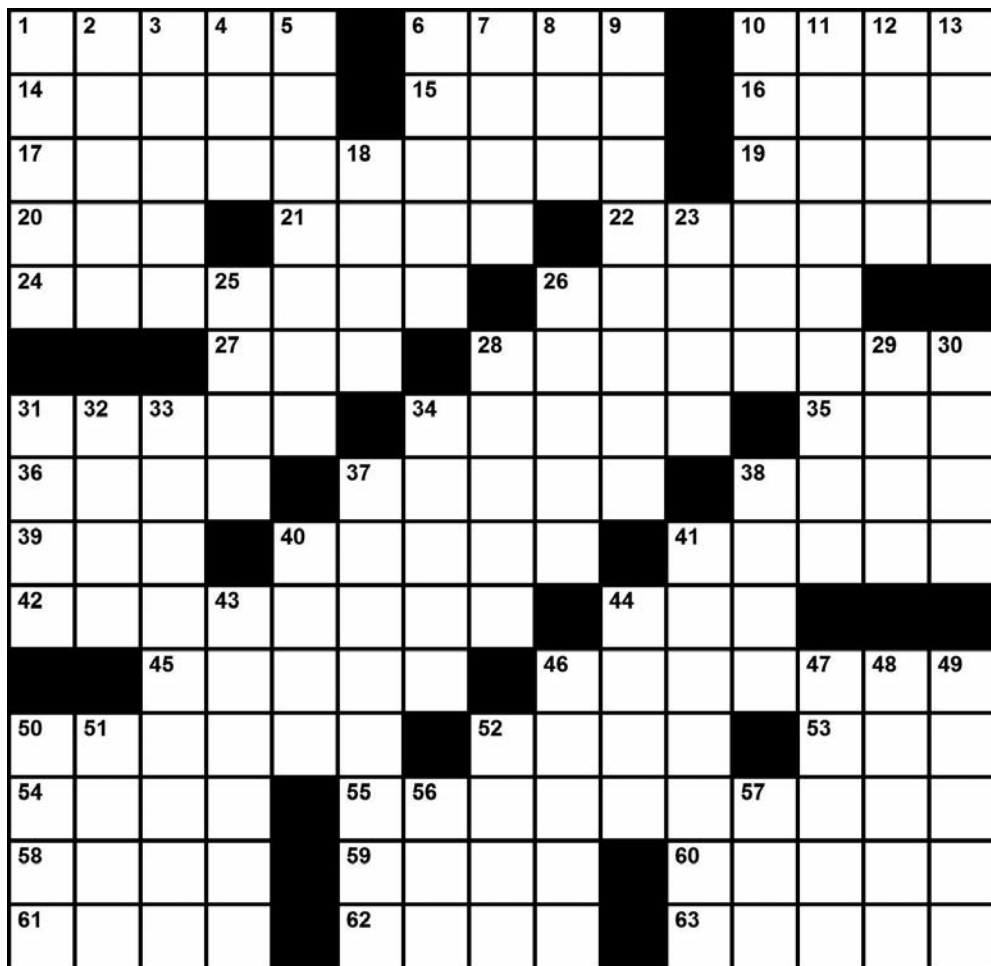
ISLIP-MACARTHUR AIRPORT...
... AND I PROMISE... NO ALCOHOL BEFORE 6:00 PM. I'M TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.
RIGHT. WE'LL SEE.
LOOKS LIKE MY FLIGHT'S LEAVING ON TIME. I GUESS THIS IS IT, BABY!
GLORIA... WHY DON'T YOU STAY A WHILE LONGER? MAYBE WE COULD ACTUALLY...
...BE LIKE A REAL MOTHER AND SON THIS TIME?
BREYER... YOU DON'T NEED ME HERE.
YOU'RE STRONG.
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT. EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE.
WELL... YOU ARE.
NOT WHEN I WAS FIVE.
OH, BREYER... YOU WERE MUCH BETTER OFF WITH YOUR STEP-MOTHER FOR A MOM THAN ME.
TRUST ME ON THAT.
YEAH, WELL... SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP 'TIL I WAS EIGHT. ALL I HAD FOR THREE YEARS BETWEEN THEN WAS A VIOLENT DRUNK FOR A FATHER...
... AND A STUFFED ANIMAL TO KEEP ME WARM AT NIGHT.
MANNY THE MOOSE? YOU REMEMBER?
I BOUGHT HIM FOR YOU.
OH, I... ... I GUESS YOU DID.
THEY'RE CALLING MY PLANE.
GOOD-BYE, BABY... THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T STAY. I'M SORRY...
... FOR A LOT OF THINGS. I LOVE YOU SO MUCH... MY BEAUTIFUL SON.
I LOVE YOU, TOO...
... MOM.

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IS THAT HER?
ZIP!
I NEED TO BE A WOMAN OF MYSTERY.
YOU'RE DEFINITELY THAT.
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Sliced Fruit

Solution on page 33

Across

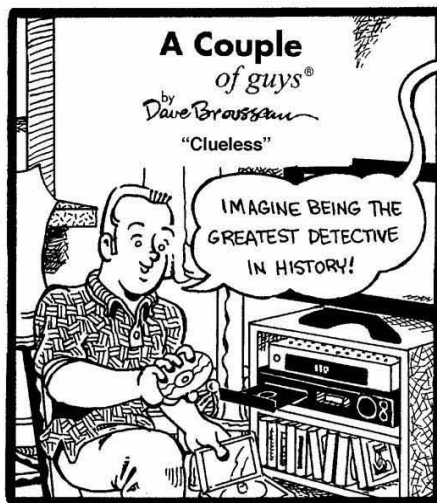
- 1 Able to bend over
- 6 Big swallow
- 10 Poke with a stick
- 14 Fruit sliced in 55-Across
- 15 "Hi" to Lorca
- 16 Round dance
- 17 Split from between the sheets
- 19 Fail to include
- 20 Prefix in a kids' clothing line
- 21 Carefree adventure
- 22 Thick soup
- 24 Toward writer Harper?
- 26 Bean of "Desperate Housewives"
- 27 Lodging place
- 28 Pink symbol
- 31 Prop department jewelry
- 34 TV bunch member
- 35 Brit. word ref
- 36 Publisher Adolph
- 37 Cook in butter
- 38 Greeting for a mate
- 39 One of "Fifty Million Frenchmen"
- 40 Subway token taker
- 41 Luxuriates at South Beach, e.g.

42 Columbus blowout

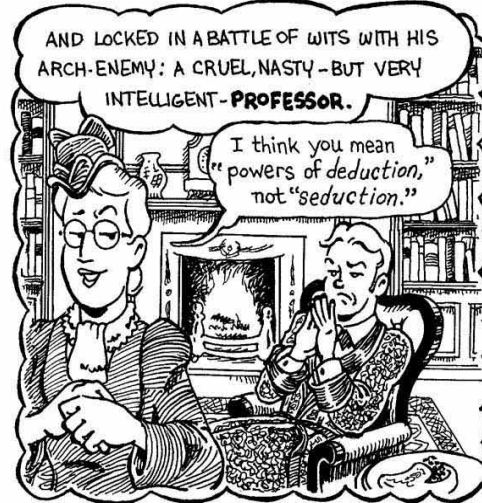
- 44 Fuel up
- 45 Inspiring city for Van Gogh
- 46 Diana, to the Greeks
- 50 Chevy Chase and others
- 52 "Gone ___ the Wind"
- 53 Tattoo's place, often
- 54 Presbyterian activist Michael
- 55 Ran off with some big bucks
- 58 Fruit sliced in 17-Across
- 59 Emerald isle
- 60 Drama queen's emotion, perhaps
- 61 They move your dinghy
- 62 Title document
- 63 Zipper piece

Down

- 1 Star in Perseus
- 2 They go down south for the winter
- 3 Cho's "___ One That I Want"
- 4 Bud's comic bud
- 5 Start, like Earhart
- 6 Small fragment
- 7 Operate properly
- 8 Kind of will
- 9 A rainbow flag symbolizes this
- 10 Type of torpedo, to Odo
- 11 Caesar worshipped them
- 12 First ed.
- 13 Fruit sliced in 33-Down
- 18 Pull down
- 23 Key opening
- 25 Mental acuity
- 26 Take the soapbox
- 28 In all honesty
- 29 Dike problem
- 30 Maker of some fruity flavors
- 31 Come down in buckets
- 32 Problem for skin
- 33 Rust, like the Tin Man
- 34 Prepares to cast
- 37 Under pressure
- 38 Peter's place
- 40 Barneys event
- 41 Where you can stand to be naked
- 43 Busybodies
- 44 Art deco illustrator
- 46 Felt bad
- 47 Fruit sliced in 11-Down
- 48 Start of a legal conclusion
- 49 "March of the Women" composer Ethel
- 50 Melissa may attach one to her neck
- 51 Conception
- 52 Tested, to Marc Jacobs
- 56 Neither a win nor a loss
- 57 "Double Fantasy" artist



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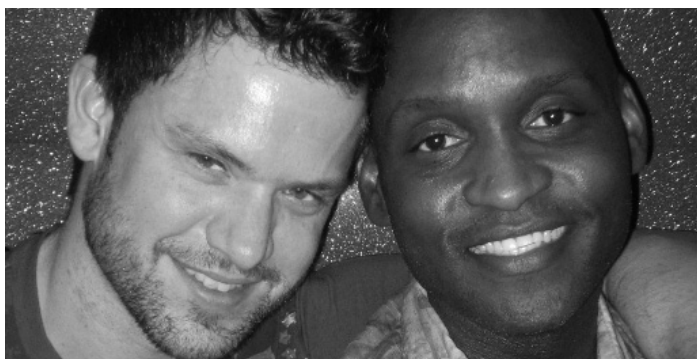
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Owner-pet look-alike contestants in the Pooch Parade.



Picnickers at Easter in Lee Park.



Michael and Chris at the Drama Room.



Easter bonnets and their owners at Easter in Lee Park.

Your spring fever may only get higher as you check out these hot spots over the coming week. Just don't forget to pay your taxes and fill out your Census. We still have civic duties and all that, you know **The Tin Room** keeps it sexy even during the week. Catch their hottie dancers during **Tempted 2 Touch Tuesdays**. The club starts the weekend early on Thursdays with **Hunk-O-Mania** **Sue Ellen's** brings **Ciao Bella** to the stage Friday night. **Camille Cortinez** and **Paige Lewis** perform a doubleheader on Saturday. Get your song on with Thursday night's **Little Chalupa Karaoke** **Whitney Paige** always hosts a fabulous cast of divas every week at the **Super Sunday Show** at the **Rainbow Lounge** Try your aim at the **Hidden Door's** weekly darts tournament every Monday night **Jack's Backyard** never lacks for entertainment. Get some Beatles' action with legendary cover band **Hard Night's Day** on Friday. Saturday is an all day affair with **Jack's Crawfish Boil** at 1 p.m. with **Emy Taylor** performing. And then **Kickback** plays that night. **Kathy and Bella** keep the music going with **Sunday Night Live** at 5 p.m. If you want to put on your poker face, **Poker Night** is every Monday The show this Friday night at **1851 Club** will feature **Topaz Stone**, **Niikki Laroux** and **Kiana Lee** hosted by the ever fab **Monique Foster** **Woody's** is going live on Fridays. **Gary Floyd** will perform on their upstairs back patio for **Summer Nights Live**. Hey, we don't mind if they start in spring Don't forget, every Monday in April, **JR.'s Bar & Grill** airs **RuPaul's Drag Race**. The show mixes well with drinks. Tuesday, **Edna Jean Robinson** hosts the **Tribeca Film Festival Travel Fund** to help filmmaker **Israel Luna** and cast take his controversial movie, **Ticked Off Trannies with Knives**, to New York **The Windmill Lounge** has been recreating the vibe left by the old **Minc Club**. Check out **Sloppy Seconds** on Saturday with DJs **Woody Rosen**, **Micah B** and **Richard Thomas**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Shawn and Peter at Station 4.



Cupcake, Azra and David at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Jen at Sue Ellen's.

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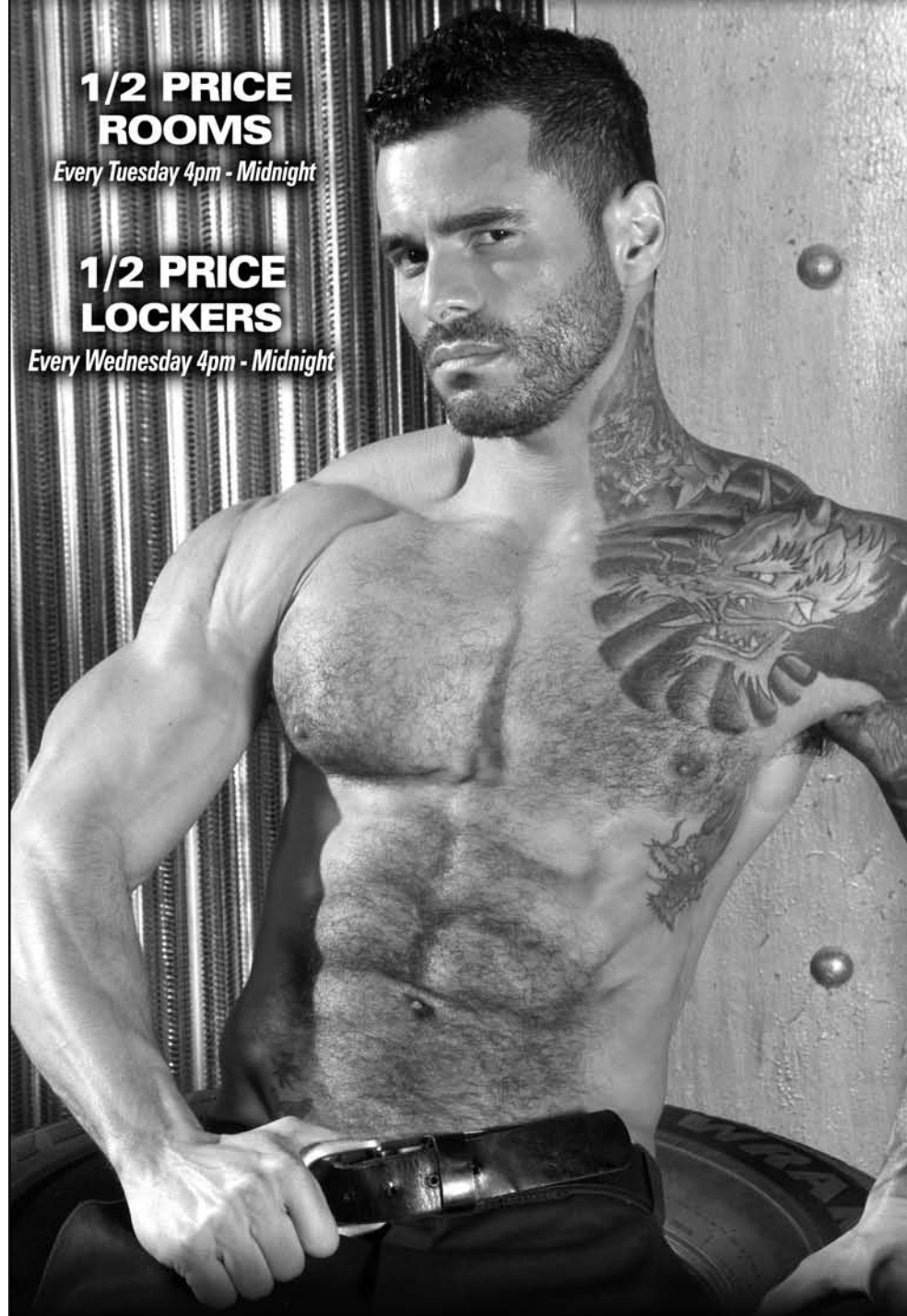
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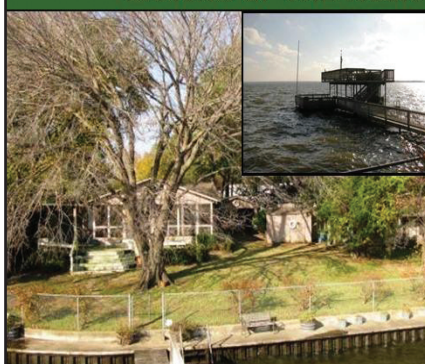
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