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FREE | Friday, April 16, 2010

## 'Supreme' possibilities

Justice Stevens was a solidly progressive voice of the nation's highest court. What about those being considered to succeed him?

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service  
LisaKeen@aol.com

The White House has begun floating trial balloons for candidates President Obama might appoint to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens.

Stevens, who turns 90 on April 20, announced Friday, April 9, that he will retire from the high court at the end of June. Some court observers credit Stevens with having forged a majority of



Justice John Paul Stevens

the court to overturn laws banning private sexual relations between persons of the same sex when the court overturned the Texas sodomy law in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

The "who will be nominated" guessing game is a well-known ritual,

played by anonymous White House sources, a willing and competitive media — and even justice-wannabes who know how to capitalize on the power of the rumor mill.

The Associated Press is, thus far, winning, claiming that it has "confirmed" the names of seven potential nominees on a list of candidates it says is 10 people long.

The seven include nominees that are generally

■ COURT, Page 14

## 'What a great moment this is'



**MAKING A MARK ON HISTORY** | Frank Welch, right, renowned architect and author of "Philip Johnson in Texas," signs his name to one of the beams that will support the Interfaith Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope. The chapel was the last major project designed by architect Philip Johnson before his death. The final beams for the project were hoisted into place Wednesday night, April 14. (Barbara Nunn)

Cathedral of Hope celebrates final beams of Interfaith Peace Chapel

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The final beams for the \$3.7 million Interfaith

Peace Chapel at Cathedral of Hope were hoisted into place on Wednesday, April 14.

The chapel is part of a larger design by architect Philip Johnson that was his major project before his death at age 98 in 2005.

Before the final two girders were lifted into place and secured to the structure in front of a

crowd of more than 100, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist prayers of peace were said by representatives of each faith.

The Rev. Jo Hudson, the Cathedral's rector and senior pastor, led a Christian prayer.

"What a great moment this is," Hudson said.

■ CHAPEL, Page 11

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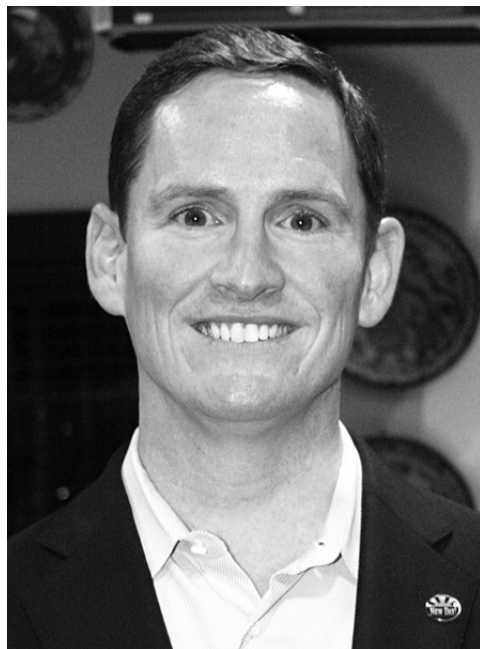
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# Jenkins, Villarreal win runoffs



Clay Jenkins



Beth Villarreal

New constable, county judge candidate win big in LGBT precincts

**JOHN WRIGHT** | News Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

Clay Jenkins and Beth Villarreal both won the gay vote on their way to victories in Dallas County Democratic runoffs on Tuesday, April 13.

In what Stonewall Democrats of Dallas has identified as the county's most heavily LGBT precincts, Jenkins received 60 percent of the vote to Larry Duncan's 40 percent. Overall, Jenkins defeated Duncan by a margin of 65 percent to 35 percent to become the Democratic nominee for county judge. He'll face Republican Wade Emert in November.

Villarreal, meanwhile, trounced Precinct 5 Constable Jaime Cortes in the most heavily LGBT precincts, capturing 75 percent of the vote to the incumbent's 25 percent. Overall, Villarreal defeated Cortes by a margin of 58 percent to 42

■ **RUNOFFS**, Page 10

## Developer announces plans for ilume Too

Acquisition of acreage across Cedar Springs is first step in expanding luxury, gay-oriented complex

**JOHN WRIGHT** | News Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

The developer of ilume plans an expansion of the posh, gay-oriented complex on 4 acres across Cedar Springs Road.

The Crosland Group, which recently completed the five-story, 340-unit ilume, announced this week that it has acquired the property that was once the site of the Douglas Park and 4242 Cedar Springs apartment complexes.

The previous owner of the property, the Lane Co., demolished the complexes last year after they sat vacant for more than 18 months. The Lane Co. was unable to secure financing for a development it planned, and the property went into foreclosure.

Luke Crosland, chairman and CEO of the Crosland Group, said he hopes to complete a 220-unit complex, called ilume TOO, at the site within the next two years.

■ **ILUME TOO**, Page 10



**A NEW BEGINNING** | Luke Crosland, chairman and CEO of the Crosland Group, said he hopes to have the 220-unit ilume TOO complex completed within the next two years. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

## instantTEA

DallasVoice.com/Instant-Tea

### More on Palin's upcoming visit to the Fairmont Dallas

The Sarah Palin event at the Fairmont Dallas Hotel on April 30 keeps getting better and better. Just added — conservative talk show host Mike Gallagher will be the "MC."

As we've reported, Mayor Tom Leppert will offer a welcome. And his office wishes I'd stop repeating that.

The evening benefits the non-existent Uptown Women's Center. The Palin4life Web site no longer claims to be a nonprofit organization. We pointed out in our original post that it is not listed as a 501(c)(3) on the IRS Web site.

Uptown Women's Center still does claim to be a 501(c)(3), although it is not registered with the IRS as a non-profit organization. However, it may be operating under the non-profit status of a downtown anti-abortion organization. I know, they wish I wouldn't call them that.



Sarah Palin

Apparently the property they're threatening to buy on Fairmount Street will be a staging ground for anti-abortion activity in the Oak Lawn area.

Remember, tickets are \$10,000 for one, \$25,000 for two or \$75,000 for four. I like the math. And it's not a legitimate tax deduction, since they're not a 501(c)(3), unless they're having people make the check out to some other organization.

Contact Get Equal and Equality March Texas about any protests that are planned.

And jot down a note on your hand to make sure to misspell your signs so that people attending the event can read them.

— David Taffet

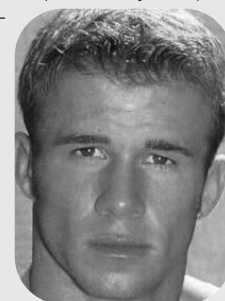
### Dynamite debut for Dalton

A few weeks ago, we ran a story about porn star Mark Dalton (aka Jeremy Sons), who was competing in his first body building competition — the Ronnie Coleman Classic, which was set to take place this past weekend in Mesquite.

Even though he's inked and it was his first time even attending, Dalton did pretty well.

"I won first [place] in novice heavy-weights and won the highest award given — best overall! It was a great night," he texted me Monday morning.

Looks like he'll be doing more of these in the future.



Mark Dalton

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Call for appointment. More info at [www.rcdallas.org](http://www.rcdallas.org).



## localbriefs

### Police investigating charge 2 men drugged, raped a third man

Dallas police are investigating an alleged sexual assault that began when two suspects put a drug in the victim's drink at Station 4.

Sen. Cpl. Kevin Janse, a spokesman for the Dallas Police Department, said the victim reported that the suspects offered him a Red Bull at S4 shortly after midnight on Sunday, April 11.

The suspects then told the victim they'd put a drug in his drink, and he began going in and out of consciousness, Janse said. The suspects carried the victim out of the Cedar Springs Road nightclub and put him in their vehicle. They drove him

to an apartment, where they sexually assaulted him.

The victim told police that he fled the apartment when he woke up the next morning, Janse said. The victim went to Parkland Hospital, where police responded at about 8:15 p.m.

The victim is a 29-year-old white male. The suspects are described as two white males in their 50s.

Janse said Wednesday, April 14 that police were still working to identify the suspects.

— John Wright

### CoH hosting adoption seminar

Cathedral of Hope will host an adoption and foster care seminar Sunday, April 18, beginning at 6 p.m., for LGBT people interested in becoming adoptive or foster parents. The event will include a chance for participants to meet representatives of LGBT-friendly adoption and foster care agencies.

For more information, contact Beau Heyen, the church's minister for youth and spiritual formation, by phone at 214-351-1901, ext. 228, or by e-mail at [beau@cathedralofhope.com](mailto:beau@cathedralofhope.com).



tion will hold its monthly meeting Sunday, April 18, at 3 p.m. at Best Friends Club, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth.

Topics of discussion will be long-range picnic and parade committee reports and merchandise for 2010 Gay Pride Week.

Organization leaders, charity titleholders and other interested persons are invited to attend. ■

### TCGPWA meeting Sunday

The Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Associa-

## pet of the week / frank

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Many other great dogs and cats are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, located at 3201 Earhart Drive, 1 street south of Keller Springs and 2 blocks west of Midway Road, in Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open 6 days a week: Monday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The adoption cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount. For more information, call 972-418-PAWS, or visit [www.operationkindness.org](http://www.operationkindness.org).



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## ■ texasnews

# Activists gathering for State of the State conference in Austin

Equality Texas Foundation hosting daylong event to educate LGBTs on current Texas policies and how to work to change them

**JOHN WRIGHT** | News Editor  
wright@dallasvoice.com

AUSTIN — Hundreds of LGBT activists from across Texas will gather at the Capitol on Saturday, April 17 for the second biennial State of the State Policy Conference.

The daylong conference is hosted by the Equality Texas Foundation in off legislative years. This year's installment will feature more than 60 experts in panels and plenary sessions on topics from safe schools to hate crimes to workplace equality.

Chuck Smith, interim executive director at Equality Texas, said the goal of the conference is two-fold: to educate people about current policy on LGBT issues in Texas, and to show them what they can do to change it.

"If you really do want equality, this is like the

nuts and bolts," Smith said. "You can stand on a street corner with a sign and demonstrate, and you might get your picture on the news, and that is helpful, but if we're talking about changing laws, this is how you change them."

Smith said he expects up to 150 people to attend the conference, and panelists will include four members of the Texas House. The conference will aim to build momentum for next year's session, when Equality Texas will again be trying to pass the state's first pro-equality legislation since 2001.

"It's not impossible to achieve progress in the state of Texas, but it does require a lot of work, and it requires continuous work," Smith said. "This is kind of an update, and a pat on the back and a kick in the butt to keep at it."

The conference is free and includes a breakfast and lunch. Online registration will continue through Friday, April 16 at [www.EqualityTexas.org](http://www.EqualityTexas.org). Those who show up at the door without registering can get in but may not be able to eat.

The conference will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room E2.002 of the Texas Legislative Conference Center at the State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave. in Austin. ■

# Dallas consultant dies in Thailand

Rumors Perry Upchurch was murdered untrue; cause of death appears to be stroke

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Perry Upchurch, a prominent gay design consultant from Dallas, was found dead in his hotel room on the island of Koh Samui, Thailand, on April 5. He is believed to have died from a stroke.

Upchurch had arrived for a visit that weekend and spent Sunday with friends touring the island.

Because Upchurch fell and hit his head, police initially suspected foul play but later ruled it out.

Former Dallas retailer Ken Knight called Upchurch "the eternal Southern frat boy."

Upchurch graduated from Wake Forest University and lived in Memphis before moving to Texas in 1975. He had several design-related businesses in Dallas.

His current business, Perry Upchurch Design, was a retail and wholesale consulting firm on Hall Street at Oak Lawn Avenue.

One of Upchurch's recent clients was Nicholson-Hardie Nursery and Garden Center on Lovers Lane in Dallas. In the July 2009 issue of Garden Center magazine, Nicholson-Hardie credited Upchurch with tripling their gift and home décor sales since 2007.



Before moving to Dallas, Upchurch lived in Memphis and opened stores across the South for furniture retailer John Simmons.

While working for Simmons, Upchurch became a partner in Brandon Christopher Inc., a Dallas showroom at Dallas Market Center. He moved here and became president of the design, merchandising and marketing service for retail and wholesale showrooms.

That was the first of a number of Market Center businesses he owned and managed through his career.

■ UPCHURCH, Next Page



## ANNIVERSARY



**GLENN-CALHOUN** | Curtis Glenn and Patrick Calhoun will celebrate their 10-year anniversary on April 20. Glenn and Calhoun met playing softball for the Dallas Beer Maidens in the Dallas Pe-gasus Slowpitch Softball League in 2000. They relocated to San Francisco that year when Glenn accepted a job as a learning consultant for Gap Inc. They spent six years in San Francisco where they continued to share their passion for softball by playing and acting as committee chairs and board members. They returned to Dallas in October 2006 to be closer to family and friends. Glenn currently works as a global learning strategist with ACS Inc., and Calhoun works for a law firm in downtown Dallas.

# Toast to Life is Saturday

Theme for annual fundraiser benefiting RCD's AIDS programs is 'Night at the Speakeasy'

**LISAMARIE MARTINEZ** | Contributing Writer  
lisa\_marie808@charter.net

Resource Center Dallas' 12th Annual Toast to Life event, sponsored by Pride Pharmacy, is set to take people back to the Roaring '20s, with the theme "A Night at the Speakeasy."

The fundraiser, which benefits RCD's HIV/AIDS programs, will be held Saturday night, April 17, at the FIG-Fashion Industry Gallery.

Dee Pennington and Dr. David M. Lee, event co-chairs and RCD board members, said they hope attendance this year will surpass the 800-plus of past events.

Toast to Life will featured appetizers prepared by prominent local chefs, along with drinks and

the "Ice Bar" by event sponsor Ketel One. The event also includes the "The Art of Living" live and silent auctions, live entertainment, gaming, a DJ and dancing.

Pennington is managing this year's auctions, which she said will include items such as a gay ski week package, a Providence Town package and art work. Lee and Pennington also said thanks to the event sponsors and the volunteers who have organized Toast to Life, all of the proceeds would go to RCD's programs.

Rafael McDonnell, strategic communications and programs manager for RCD, said, "The noteworthy part of Toast to Life is that it has had long-term community support, people who have donated or have come year after year. It's because of them that the Resource Center has been able to do the work that they do for the HIV/AIDS communities, and have done so for many years.

For more information, go online to ToastToLife.org. ■

### ■ UPCHURCH, From Previous Page

In 1981, he became director of the Omnibus Collection for Fitz and Floyd in Dallas and Nagoya, Japan. In 1986, he opened his own wholesale gift and stationery showroom called Grynne Barrett.

He opened Up-Designs Co. Inc./Make Somebody Happy Co. in 1995, importing products from Asia, Mexico and Europe sold at his Dallas Market Center showroom. Among the business connections he developed were in Thailand, where he moved in 2003.

He lived on Koh Samui, a tropical island off the

coast of Thailand for four years. There he was director of marketing and sales for Frangipani Bay Co./Make Somebody Happy (Thai) Co.

In 2007, when he returned to Dallas, he opened Upchurch Design doing retail and wholesale merchandising and marketing and retail import consulting.

His dogs were rescue animals and he was a big supporter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) both here and in Thailand.

Upchurch is survived by his parents Bill and Beth Upchurch of Durham, N.C.; two sisters, Kay Upchurch Brooks and Sarah Upchurch Owen; and his beloved rescue dog Ms. Bentley. ■

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## ■ texasnews

### RUNOFF

From Page 4

percent. Villarreal will become constable in January, since there is no Republican in the race.

"Obviously as a PFLAG mom, she enjoys that sort of support in the gay community, and unfortunately Jaime had a rather up and down relationship with the LGBT community for quite a while," said David Morris, the openly gay treasurer and co-manager of Villarreal's campaign. "So when the corruption issue started coming forward, it was not unusual for the community to re-look at Constable Cortes and say, 'Well, maybe not.'"

Cortes was endorsed by Stonewall Democrats, but Morris said the incumbent's efforts to win over LGBT political leaders didn't resonate with rank and file voters.

Precinct 5, once represented by openly gay Constable Mike Dupree, includes the city's most heavily LGBT neighborhoods in Oak Cliff and Oak Lawn.

In the county judge race, Jenkins said he was "honored" to receive 60 percent of the vote in the LGBT precincts. While Stonewall Democrats endorsed Duncan, who campaigned as a longtime ally, Jenkins also had his share of gay supporters, including Dallas County District Clerk Gary Fitzsimmons.

"I think Dallas County Democrats reaffirmed their message from the primary last night," Jenkins said Wednesday. "I think what they said was, it's time for new leadership at the Commissioners Court that brings people together to get things done."

Despite the sometimes bitter clash between

LGBT supporters of the two candidates, Jenkins is hoping the community can unite behind him in November.

"I hope to have the support of all Democrat groups and the majority of every community in Dallas County," he said.

“ We supported who we thought would be better on our issues, but that doesn't mean the other candidate is not a good candidate and not a good Democrat.

—Erin Moore

*Stonewall Democrats of Dallas*

Erin Moore, president of Stonewall Democrats, said the group will meet Saturday, April 17 to re-endorse in races where its endorsed candidate was defeated — including four of Tuesday's seven runoffs.

"We're all one big party now again instead of individuals fighting for the nominations," Moore said. "We supported who we thought would be better on our issues, but that doesn't mean the other candidate not a good candidate and not a good Democrat."

Moore said Stonewall Democrats will also be endorsing in May school board elections. Saturday's meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Resource Center Dallas. ■

### ILUME TOO

From Page 4

"It'll have similar features to ilume, but it'll have a little different amenity package, so members at both places can go back and forth," Crosland said. "It's all about socializing and bringing our community together. We've built a community here around the GLBT culture."

The Crosland Group is now seeking financing for the new development, which Crosland said is only possible due to the success of ilume, where more than 60 percent of residential units are already leased.

Three businesses have also opened on the ground floor of ilume: Beyond the Box, Dish and Red Mango. Crosland said he expects to announce retail leases next week for a sushi lounge and a Southwestern cantina.

The new complex won't have any retail, but will include a fitness center, a dog park and a private movie theater, Crosland said. The Crosland Group is "ilume-inating" the Lane Co.'s existing plans, which had already been approved by the city.

Pricing will be comparable to ilume, where units lease for about \$1,000 to \$1,200 monthly.

Scott Whittall, president of the Cedar Springs Merchants Association, said he'll be glad to see a return of residents to the property that was ini-

tially closed down more than two years ago.

The Douglas Park and 4242 Cedar Springs property has been the most visible example of recession-stalled redevelopment in Oak Lawn.

"There's no question that we've felt the impact of all the units not being there anymore," Whittall said. "Those people that we used to see every single day, we've said goodbye to so many of them, because where they lived is no longer there."

Whittall said there's also "no question" that the addition of ilume has benefited the opposite end of the strip, where three new businesses have opened or been announced in recent months.

"After seeing what they've done where they are now, and what they've brought to the street already, the buzz and the excitement, to double that is pretty darn exciting," Whittall said. "It's created an awareness of Cedar Springs by a lot of people who in the past have not come to Cedar Springs."

Whittall also said the Crosland Group's decision to cater to LGBT residents has helped preserve the traditional gay neighborhood.

"It helps us a great deal when you have something as big and important as ilume saying that they're a gay community," Whittall said.

Crosland said the new complex will take two years to build, and he hopes to break ground in the next six months. In the meantime, he's discussing with the Merchants Association the possibility of holding special events on the vacant property. ■

## CHAPEL

From Page 1

She said that people who attended the ceremony would always remember this as one of the important milestones in the history of the church.

Hudson introduced several of the people involved in construction of the chapel. Among them was Gary Cunningham, the local, on-site project architect who took the concept and translated it into a physical building.

The project manager spoke and thanked people involved with the construction including the person "in charge of tearing up the parking lots."

Because the church is in the glide path to Love Field, special clearance for the crane had to be obtained by the church before construction began, and the FAA had to be notified each morning before work began.

The crane is tall enough that it reportedly showed up on Love Field radar.

Groundbreaking for the building was held for November 2007, and construction was expected to take nine months. Because of the economy, actual work was postponed until January 2009.

Construction is expected to continue through September and the chapel should open in November.

The building covers more than 8,000 square feet and at its highest point stands 46 feet tall, higher than a four-story building.

Cunningham added a basement that was not in the original Johnson design.

Beau Heyen, the church's youth minister, said he was excited that it would give him additional classroom space. He said the basement also would provide storage space for groups that use the building.

The 175-seat chapel is intended for weddings, memorial and interfaith services, and other religious and meeting functions.

Cunningham said the building could not have been built as efficiently three years ago. A new computer program allowed him to create exact specifications for each steel beam, which were sent to a steel foundry in Fort Worth.

"They bend steel from our computer disk," he said. "Every stud is different."

The pieces arrived numbered so that they knew exactly where each girder went.

He said the building is lighter and stronger than it would have been had it been constructed without this technology.

"It's a green building and sustainable," Cunningham said.

That raised the price of construction some, he said, but it will be much cheaper to maintain in the long run. He called it the most automated building ever built.

Cunningham said that the computer did not completely replace the human eye: "One window, it didn't see a funny blip."

That took people to make the correction.

An adjoining building would seat 2,200 people and cost an estimated \$40 million.

On April 11, the Cathedral had the final beams displayed outside during Sunday worship services. Members were invited to sign them before

■ CHAPEL Page 12

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# Love named executive director of Soulforce

Abilene pastor brings combination of business acumen and religious experience to activist organization

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

ABILENE — Cindi Love, former leader of the national MCC church, has been named executive director of Soulforce, the organization founded by the Rev. Mel White in 1998 to confront the religious right on LGBT issues.

White said Love, who recently stepped down after four years as executive director of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, brings a combination of business experience and spiritual and organizational knowledge.

"Let her show what can be done," White said. "I'm very grateful she's willing to take over."

Love said that she hopes to forge alliances with other national and local groups to focus on acceptance. While some things can be legislated, she believes real equality will only be achieved when people believe God sees gays and lesbians as equal.

"We must stand together on this issue," she said.

Soulforce is perhaps best known for its Equality Rides. LGBT students travel by bus to campuses not normally seen as gay friendly to engage in dialogue.

"I love watching them work," Love said.

Last week, the equality riders visited two campuses in Abilene and were allowed only limited access to talk with students, Love said.

"No one was arrested or thrown out," she said, adding that neither is always a bad thing. "But we can't heal while we're afraid to talk."

Love said her approach to Soulforce will be a dual strategy of protest and dialogue. She likened it to ACT UP demonstrations balanced by com-



**NEW CALLING** | The Rev. Cindi Love said she will approach her new position with Soulforce with a dual strategy of protest and dialogue, likening that strategy to combining ACT UP protests with having community leaders talking to elected officials.

munity leaders talking to elected leaders.

"There were always people working behind the scenes," she said. "The two parts of the process are both equally important."

She referred to acceptance of gays and lesbians by churches as "consumer adoption." And she said she doesn't believe that most religious people reject the LGBT community.

"We just allow fundamentalists to have the

loudest voice," she said.

Love will maintain her office in Abilene. Some administrative functions, such as accounting, would continue in the Soulforce's Austin office established during the tenure of Jeff Lutes, the previous executive director. White will continue his work in Virginia where he works and lives, across the street from Jerry Falwell's church.

Love described Abilene as "the third most con-

servative city in America," making it a perfect home base for Soulforce.

From 2005 until April 2009, Love served as executive director of UFMCC, also based in Abilene. But before that her background was business.

She started several companies and INC Magazine named her a Top 50 entrepreneur in 1990.

She received a commendation from Gov. Ann Richards for bringing a computer-based education system developed in Israel to the U.S. The program was used in countries with a large influx of immigrants. She said it helped children in grades K-4 increase reading scores by a year-and-a-half in just a few months.

Love encouraged dialogue on prejudice and discrimination in her book, "Would Jesus Discriminate?" about her experiences as a corporate executive and her entry into the ministry through her leadership of MCC.

While working as executive dean at Brookhaven College in Dallas, she completed her requirements for ordination by MCC. She said Rev. Margaret Walker of Exodus MCC in Abilene encouraged her.

"She saw something in me I never saw," Love said.

White said, "She'll take the organization to new heights." ■

## CHAPEL

From Page 11

Wednesday's topping off ceremony.

Johnson is probably best known for designing the New York State Theater in Lincoln Center. However, he has made a mark on North Texas architecture as well.

His contributions to Fort Worth include the Water Gardens and the original Amon Carter Museum built in 1961 as well as the 2001 addition. In downtown Dallas he created the Kennedy Memorial, Thanks-Giving Square and the Comerica Tower. And while he has more skyscrapers in New York City, his Pennzoil Place in Houston is considered a landmark in high-rise construction.

Cunningham called the Interfaith Peace Chapel one of Johnson's most important designs. ■



**CELEBRATION** | The crowd that gathered to watch the topping off of the beams for the Peace Chapel enjoy a meal during the celebration on Wednesday, April 14. (Barbara Nunn)



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## nationalnews

### COURT

From Page 1

friendly to the LGBT community, based on what little is known of them right now.

They include Solicitor General Elena Kagan, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. The other four include three circuit court judges with brief, but friendly, records on gay civil rights, and a former Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court who is at least liberal enough to be disliked by anti-abortion groups because — they say — she protects constitutional rights to privacy against efforts to legislate morality.

Not on the list — at least not confirmed by Associated Press — are two openly gay candidates mentioned last time around: Stanford professors Kathleen Sullivan and Pam Karlan. The likelihood of their being considered, given the hostile partisan climate of the Senate right now, seems nil.

The seven who are reportedly under consideration include:

- Former Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, who was the first African-American woman to serve as chief justice of any state supreme court — and she did so in Georgia.

During that time, she twice sided with decisions overturning the state's laws against sodomy. "The individual's right to freely exercise his or her liberty is not dependent upon whether the majority believes such exercise to be moral, dishonorable, or wrong," wrote Sears in a concurring opinion in *Powell v. State* in 1998.

She is also friends with conservative Justice Clarence Thomas, who would likely be an asset in persuading conservative senators to give her their support.

- 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Sidney Thomas, who was appointed by President Clinton in 1995.

He dissented from a 9th Circuit decision that said it was permissible for San Francisco police to do strip searches and body cavity searches of all arrested persons — even those arrested for non-violent acts of vandalism during a gay Pride event. He also agreed with the full circuit's refusal to hear a school district's appeal of a decision that found it unconstitutional for a school to bar a gay student from wearing a gay Pride T-shirt.

- Solicitor General Elena Kagan, whose position is sometimes referred to as the "10th justice" because of the importance of that role before the nation's highest court. From the moment Obama nominated Kagan to the position, speculation began that she would eventually be his nominee to the court.

She was a clerk for liberal Justice Thurgood Marshall and, as dean of Harvard Law School, defended a non-discrimination policy that barred military recruiters because of their discrimination against gays. That, coupled with her status as single and having served as a research assistant for the great defender of gay civil rights, Laurence Tribe, has right-wing conservatives up in arms.

- 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Diane Wood, who clerked for liberal Justice Harry Blackmun and was appointed by President Clinton. She has a mixed record on gay-related cases,

something that probably bodes well for her prospects for confirmation.

In 2000, she joined a panel decision against a gay man, Robert Mueller, who violated the terms of his release from prison for having refused to file his tax returns because he could not file a joint return with his partner. But two years later, she dissented from a panel decision that found no fault in a school district's failure to prevent harassment of a teacher for being gay.

She also dissented from a 1998 panel decision that allowed students to object to their student fees going to gay groups and other organizations of which they disapproved.

- Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, who was appointed by President Obama. She was governor of Arizona and, prior to that, its attorney general.

As governor, she said she opposed an amendment to the state constitution to ban gay marriage but her reasoning was not that such a ban would be unconstitutional, rather because the state already had a statute that banned gay marriage.

Like Kagan, she is unmarried and subject to frequent speculation about her sexual orientation even though, according to the *Arizona Republic*, she has described herself as "just a straight, single workaholic."

- D.C. Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Merrick Garland, who was appointed to the appeals bench by President Clinton and clerked for one of the high court's liberal icons, William Brennan. Garland is the most conservative of the seven nominee candidates.

He joined a decision that upheld a gay Navy man's discharge even though two discharge boards said there was insufficient evidence to merit discharge. He joined a decision that upheld a Federal Communications Commission action against the operator of a low-power radio broadcaster serving the gay community. And he joined then-D.C. Circuit Judge John Roberts Jr. in a decision rejecting police liability for misconduct by officers who sprayed a chemical deterrent on members of a pro-gay protest group during President George W. Bush's first inaugural parade.

- Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who is labeled a "long shot" by her home state newspaper the *Free Press*. But her name keeps coming up.

She opposed an amendment to the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage and, following that, sent a letter to constituents assuring them she was not ending benefits for domestic partners. She riled right-wing conservatives recently by issuing a statement calling on state legislators to pass an anti-bullying bill, which the American Family Association sees as part of the gay agenda.

President Obama is meeting with several members of the Senate next week to hear their thoughts on filling Stevens' seat.

Richard Socarides, who worked in the Clinton White House, said he thinks all the potential candidates mentioned thus far would be "pretty outstanding" and "pretty reliable" when it comes to gay civil rights cases.

But he said the president's chief considerations now are "who he connects with best on a visceral level" and "who is most likely to be confirmed." ■

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# Lies, damn lies and statistics

How the right wing is distorting the information in the DSM IV-TR in an effort to defeat the Employment Non-Discrimination Act

It is unfortunate that the DSM IV-TR is available to the general public. First of all, it is not a new model of car or an electronic gadget. It is a book.

To be specific it is the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders," fourth edition text revision, and it is a handbook intended to be used by trained practitioners in mental health fields. In fact, the introduction of the DSM IV warns against its use by untrained professionals, specifically mentioning its use in legal settings as potentially dangerous.

It is published by the American Psychiatric Association, and is intended as a semantic roadmap for mental health professionals, giving them a common language.

It was an earlier edition of this book that relegated gays and lesbians to the ranks of the mentally ill, and it was a later edition that — with a few words — magically cured us all.

Of course, it took a lot of work in the background by the Caucus of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Members of the APA as well as the sincere belief by many doctors that the empirical evidence showed that homosexuality did not belong in the manual.

This very brief background is intended to give you an idea of what the DSM IV-TR is. The fact that anyone can buy a copy means it can be used by folks who have no business even opening it — folks like the Traditional Values Coalition, to be specific.

If you haven't guessed, the TVC is a right-wing fundamentalist group with a decidedly anti-human rights agenda. They are spreading lies about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and their words are in turn being used

by the Republicans to bash LGBT people.

No surprise there. These people are using the DSM IV-TR to back up their claim that if ENDA is passed it would have a cataclysmic effect.

Here is one of the big lies they are propagating:

"What you may not know is that ENDA normalizes and provides special federal protection for 30+ bizarre sexual orientations listed by the American Psychiatric Association — the so-called 'Dirty 30.' These 30+ fetishes include behaviors that are felonies or misdemeanors in most states.

"ENDA's 'Dirty 30' includes such bizarre criminal acts as incest, pedophilia, prostitution, bestiality and cross-dressing. If we don't act today, Obama and Pelosi will normalize these disorders by federal law on April 21!"

Of course there is a big "Donate Now" button alongside this tripe. I guess that is so they can buy additional copies of the DSM IV-TR for their friends.

What they have done is list a few of the paraphilias discussed in the DSM IV-TR. Not only are these not considered sexual orientations, the manual does not include any references to sexual

orientation as mental illness at all.

Much like fundamentalists quoting the Bible, these folks are cherry-picking their quotes, and they are taking them out of context to win their point. In other words the Traditional Values Coalition must not see the 9th Commandment as a "traditional value." I guess Charlton Heston would have something to say about that!

I believe this kind of pathological lying is also referred to in the DSM IV-TR, and is listed as a symptom of several disorders. This could put the TVC directly in company with malingerers and confabulators, as well as sufferers of Ganser's syndrome, factitious disorder, borderline personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, histrionic and narcissistic personality disorders and just plain delusions.

Sounds like they keep pretty dicey company. So, while their lie about the "Dirty 30" may roll off the tongue, it is a forked tongue at best.

(My special thanks to Lillith Grey for her kind fact-checking and suggestions.)

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. His blog is at <http://dungeondiary.blogspot.com>.



Hardy Haberman

Flagging Left

# Who wants to be a drag queen?

Those who would separate the drag queens from the gay community need to take a good look back at the last 40 years of the equality fight

So who wants to be a drag queen? Trust me on this one, you probably don't. But not for the reasons you're thinking.

The typical day in the life of the drag queens I know involves going to their day jobs so they can provide themselves with food, shelter, transportation, basic clothing and the other necessities of life. Then after they've cleaned house, worked in the yard, shopped for food and so forth, it's time to start preparing to assume their alter egos.

Before they can even begin to think about going on stage, there's the enormously costly and laborious task of purchasing wigs, gowns, hose, high heels, makeup, jewelry, undergarments, padding and who knows what else.

The hour before show time in a drag queen



David Webb

The Rare Reporter

dressing room is quite a sight as men, who generally are pretty average in appearance, transform into their own visions of exotic glamour.

The transformations are pretty dramatic, and it always takes me a while to connect the person

from before to the person after.

Finally, it's on to the sweltering bright lights of the stage to give the performances for which they've spent many hours in rehearsal. And of course let's not forget the labor of carting all of the wardrobe and accessories to the show, then back home and just getting out of the costumes and makeup.

The drag queen's reward for the labor in most

DRAG, Next Page

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Which is more important, the right to free speech or accommodating community values?

**Bill Fenson** — “Is people’s faith is so shallow that a little play can bother them?”

**Anita Haddy** — “Fred Phelps gets free speech and we can’t put on a play? So they were gay. What if all the characters were Jews?”

**Kendra Wallis** — “You have a right to put on a play. If you don’t want to go to it, don’t go to it.”

**Zoe Wallis** — “I think people should have the right to speak freely and say what they want to say.”

**Scott Stout** — “I think there’s always going to be controversy for the sake of controversy. I just don’t see why we, as gay people, have to be the brunt of it. We seem to be scapegoats.”

Have a suggestion for a question you’d like us to ask? E-mail it to [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com).

■ DRAG, Previous Page

nightclubs is applause from the audiences that appreciate the art of female impersonation. The money they receive in tips usually goes to charity or back into replenishing their closets and makeup cases.

Unfortunately, sometimes they must endure slurs from those in the LGBT community — usually from gays guys who think they are the very essence of masculinity. And therein lies the point I want to make.

I was surprised recently to hear someone remark that drag queens have nothing in common with gay men, and that there is no relationship between them and same-sex attraction.

Oh, really? Well, first of all I’ve never known

a drag queen that wasn’t gay, and it’s really not the same thing as mere cross-dressing.

It is an art form that has been a part of the gay entertainment scene since the Stonewall Riots in New York in 1969. In fact, it was the drag queens that led the battle against police oppression during those few hugely significant nights of civil disobedience.

And during the AIDS crisis, who do you think was helping lead the charge in fundraising at all of those benefits in the bars?

I’m not sure the LGBT community would even exist in the strong form it does today without the contributions of drag queens.

It’s OK if you don’t appreciate the art of female impersonation. But at least give a little thought to everything that has transpired during the past 40 years leading up to your life today before you condemn an important segment of our community.

Now, who wants to be a drag queen? It may take more than you’ve got to give. ■

*David Webb is a former staff writer for the Dallas Voice who lives on Cedar Creek Lake now. He is the author of the blog [TheRareReporter.blogspot.com](http://TheRareReporter.blogspot.com). He can be reached at [davidwaynewebb@embarqmail.com](mailto:davidwaynewebb@embarqmail.com).*



# Letters

## LCR, HRC and DADT

I have been reading the recent discussion in Dallas Voice regarding the effectiveness and bloated budget of the Human Rights Campaign. I’d like to contrast this to recent efforts of Log Cabin Republicans and our David and Goliath fight to bring down “Don’t ask, don’t tell.”

On April 5, Log Cabin Republicans filed further action in the United States Central District Court of California against the United States of America and Robert Gates, secretary of defense (<http://online.logcabin.org/lcr-opposition-to-msj.pdf>) The case is the best hope for judicial action against the legal standing of DADT. The Obama administration is expending substantial resources to defeat our efforts to overturn DADT in this case.

I bring this up in order to contrast Log Cabin Republicans to HRC. With minimal funding and even less staff support than HRC, we are having an impact in real world terms while exposing the hypocrisy of the Obama administration regarding this issue.

We support many of the goals of HRC in achieving equality. That said, a \$22 million office building (purchased in 2001 for under \$10 million with improvements since at an estimated \$12 million), bloated salaries and extravagant budgets are obviously weighing down an organization that could be more effective.

We have proven that lean, mean and focused can get more done.

If you would like to be a part of the real solution that eventually repeals DADT, please consider giving money to our national organization, which has a fund dedicated solely to the legal costs of pursuing our court action to repeal it.

Without our lawsuit, this issue would not be on the Obama administration’s front burner.

*Rob Schlein, president*  
Log Cabin Republicans 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](mailto: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.



**K**athy Griffin owes us big time — and she knows it. She routinely does shout-outs to “my gays,” and is attempting to break her personal appearance attendance record not at some mainstream event, but at Milwaukee’s PrideFest.

And even when she appears, as she will this Sunday and Monday at the Meyerson with the staid Dallas Symphony Orchestra (“Nothing makes me happier than to use the F bomb much more than the first cello,” she says), she expects her gay following to be the torchbearer.

“I don’t think of Dallas as the Deep South — my next Bravo special will be filmed in Knoxville, so believe me: You guys are like Chelsea — but whenever I play any of those markets, people warn me. But those shows are the most raucous. That’s because the gays will make the drives. They will come three hours to see me. It might not represent the most accurate cross section of Dallas but it’s a good crowd. And let’s not leave out the seven heterosexual men who were dragged there.”

Griffin knows where her bread is buttered. And the surest evidence that she’s a true FOG (Friend of the Gays): Even when she’s not obligated to be gay-friendly, she gives us props. For instance, when her house got a room makeover on HGTV’s *Next Design Star*, she asked for (but did not get) a gay designer. And when she attempted a rare dramatic acting role on *Law & Order: SVU*, she played gay.

“They told me I was gonna play ‘a white Al Sharpton.’ I was so there. I’m actually friendly with Al Sharpton — I love almost every controversial person. I mean, not Ann Coulter — I’m not *that* nuts.”

Griffin even planted a same-sex kiss on series star Mariska Hargitay — though it didn’t make it in the final cut when the aired episode.

“[Executive producer] Dick Wolf ended up cutting the lesbian kiss because they thought it went too far. But it will be the buzz of the Dinah Shore,” she cracks. Still, the experience was surreal for her.

“You know the demographics for that show is my mom, who’s 90, and older people. I never had my Twitter blow up until I committed to *SVU* — they put the gays to shame. It was very exciting,” she says. “But the gays are all up in that shit, too. The gays love Chris Meloni and the lesbians love Mariska.”

It also made her wonder about the sexual orientation of Hargitay’s character.

“The day we shot the kiss, it was a big deal on the set — you could hear a pin drop. She’s tough and she’s sexy — they almost purposely play her like she’s gay,” she opines. “Her character has never slept with the Chris Meloni character in, like, seven years. I personally don’t know any woman who could go seven minutes and not sleep with him.”

The guest spot was a departure from *My Life on the D List*, her Bravo reality show for which she won two Emmys...

“Did you says Emmys?” she gasps. “I didn’t know we were

#### KATHY GRIFFIN

With the **Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Meyerson Symphony Center**, 2701 Flora St.

April 18 and 19  
at 8 p.m. 214-692-0203.  
DallasSymphony.com.

switching topics to my favorite subject! I’m on a campaign to get nominated for my guest appearance on *SVU* ... and to legally change the name of show to *SUV*. That’s what people call it anyway.”

But she hasn’t abandoned *The D List*. In fact, the day we talk, she’s terribly excited about what’s coming up.

“Please let me tell you my day,” she begs. “Of course, we’ll have a joyous interview, but then I’m going to the house where we will be filming the next season of *The D List*. I will be at that meeting with Levi Johnston and his personal representative, Tank Jones. He’s gonna be on our show! Sarah Palin is supposedly getting a million dollars an episode [for her upcoming show on Discovery]. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to have Levi on a

# Kathy on the spot

A gay man’s best friend, the shocking — and shockingly hilarious — **Kathy Griffin** will sauce up the Meyerson this week

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

**LADY GAG** | Kathy Griffin’s topical humor will be front and center at the Meyerson Sunday and Monday.

competing network.”

Levi is just one peg in a year Griffin enthusiastically describes as “a comedy gold mine. When Clinton was in office you could have fun with *anything*, including him. Then Bush was elected and we couldn’t laugh at our government in the post 9/11 years. With Obama in office, it’s a nice change. I cannot sit idly on the sidelines.”

Griffin can find comedy almost anywhere. “That’s what I love about touring year round. I am like two weekends on, two weekends off. There’s always something new.

But while she still pays homage to Paula Abdul and Oprah — “what I call The Standards,” she says — she has some current tar-

■ GRIFFIN, Page 25



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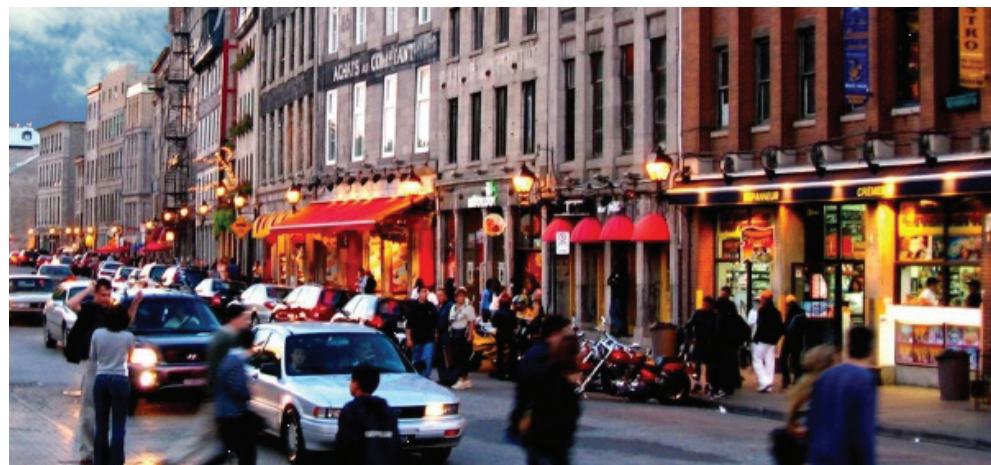
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L+S travel

## Putting the 'Q' in Quebec

Montreal's gayborhood, The Village, puts a French twist in North America

JON FAIRBANKS | Contributing Travel Writer  
jon.fairbanks@gaytravel.com



**IT TAKES LE VILLAGE** | Ste. Catherine Street is the heart of gay Montreal.

Originally named Ville-Marie or City of Mary for you Anglophones, Montreal is a chic, sophisticated gay destination. After Paris, it's the second-largest primarily French-speaking city in the world, though most residents speak English and getting around without fluency is pretty manageable.

For a city with a metro population of more than 3 million residents, Montreal is maneuverable. The gayborhood — called simple *Le Village* — is the largest in area in North America. Luckily for out-of-towners, it's also easy to find. If you journey down Sainte Catherine Street (the major downtown artery), you'll start seeing rainbow flags and gay porn shops at about Rue Berri. The Village stretches to Rue De Lorimier, in between you'll find a plethora of bars, clubs, coffee shops, boutiques and restaurants, all serving the local and foreign LGBT community.

No matter what you are looking for, you'll be able to find the right place to stay. There are many inexpensive, quaint B&Bs and non-chain hotels, like the Hotel Dorion. A cozy property if you're on a budget, it couldn't be closer to all the action. Situated on Rue Dorion, you can get a standard room or upgrade your stay with a Jacuzzi or other amenities. The Hotel Maritime Plaza is more expensive and about two miles away from the Village but gay-friendly and the service is always on-point.

A truly cosmopolitan city, Montreal (and specifically the Village) offers an eclectic mix of great cuisine, including Le Bato Thai, Restaurant La Strega (Italian) and Le Club Sandwich. More than just a great place to grab a sub, Le Club Sandwich is an institution, diner-style complete with jukeboxes.

If you like cruising with your meal, Le Drugstore is a treat for all of the senses. Part restaurant, part bar, part boutique, it's a huge complex that has a hot wait staff and hosts a large LGBT clientele. There's a variety of menu options, but the best is a burger with a generous helping of the popular favorite *poutine* (a dish of French fries, cheese and gravy; some restaurants put

ketchup or peas on top).

By night, Le Drugstore turns into a popular lesbian bar with three levels of drinking, dancing and debauchery. Parking is the best dance club for the boys only (women are only allowed to join the party on Wednesdays). Also located in the Village, it plays great music spun by local and international DJs. If you want to see nearly naked guys do the dancing, take a swing by Campus and get a lap dance from one of the hot (and usually straight) male dancers. Once again, women are not allowed most nights of the week.

The biggest and most popular gay club in Montreal is the triple-decker Club Unity on Sainte Catherine Street. On the bottom floor you'll find a bar, on the second two bars with a *huge* dance floor and the third offers more bars and another dance floor, all playing a different kind of music. True to its name, the crowd at Unity consists of men and women of various ages, types and orientations.

After the club, if you're looking for a late night "dip," there are a few bathhouses to choose from, all within stumbling distance of the gay clubs. Oasis and Sauna Centre Ville are among the most popular with locals and tourists.

There are beaucoup things to do outside of the Village. Montreal is a city bursting at the seams with museums, landmarks and classic architecture. Visitors who need a shopping fix can get lost at Eaton Centre. Located on Sainte Catherine, Eaton is the largest shopping mall in eastern Canada, serving more than 1 million visitors a week.

If you're looking for a faster but thrilling way to burn through your money, venture over to the Casino De Montreal. Open 24 hours, it offers more than 3,000 slot machines and more than 100 gaming tables, plus a cabaret show for non-gamblers.

French, English and other influences fused harmoniously. If you're looking for a uniquely Euro experience, but don't want to leave North America, Montreal is an ideal destination. ■

For more information, visit [GayTravel.com](http://GayTravel.com).

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L+S stage

## Bros before 'hos?

The brilliant uncleanness of 'Reasons to Be Pretty'

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

Every performance of one of the "beauty plays" by Neil LaBute that the Dallas Theater Center shows in repertory in their studio theater is followed by a "cast-audience talk-back." They should be followed by a chemical scrub and complimentary relationship counseling.

I mean this in the best possible way. Some playwrights are merely gadflies who provoke for provocation's sake. But you sense a personal connection between LaBute and his topics, as if he's working out his own issues onstage. His characters tend to be identifiable but unrelatable, like a rare species of bacterium. There's real pain here, and he doesn't care how uncomfortable it makes you feel to witness it.

online exclusive

To read a review of this week's House of Blues appearance by the Thunder from Down Under, the Australian male strip troupe, visit DallasVoice.com: Stage.



**MEN BEHAVING BADLY** | A cheater (Regan Adair) and a loudmouth (Lee Trull) get into all sorts of trouble with women in the last of DTC's 'beauty plays.' (Photo by Matt Nager)

Of the three plays — *Fat Pig* and *The Shape of Things* have already opened — the one with the least pretension is **Reasons to Be Pretty**. It's the only one set amid working-class folks, not ivory tower upper-crusters or navel-gazing academics, and the central issues are familiar: Steph (Christina Vela) breaks up with her longtime boyfriend Greg (Lee Trull) when a friend, Carly (Abbey Siegworth), rats him out for saying Steph is not as pretty as the new girl at work. Greg wishes he could take it back (he does love her), but the damage is done.

Meanwhile, Greg's oldest friend, Kent (Regan Adair) is cheating on Carly with the new girl, making Greg lie for him. The men here are awful (you pick: the sniveler or the bully?), but as usual with LaBute, the women are awful-er — mon-

strous witches who are all pre-menstrual ids, incapable of logic or empathy who delight in public humiliation; all of them are quite dumb as well. (Greg reads classic literature, but it's unclear whether he gets any of it.)

LaBute, assisted by the able cast (Adair especially is a chameleon) and director Joel Ferrell, has perfected the art of passive aggression, toying with the audience as mercilessly as the characters toy with each other, setting verbal

traps and all around making you feel a little dirty. But the flashes of recognition — how these characters intrude on the facts of our own relationships — border on the profound. You don't exactly enjoy *Reasons to Be Pretty*, but, like the audition weeks of *American Idol*, it's difficult to look away.

### REASONS TO BE PRETTY

Performed in repertory with **FAT PIG** and **THE SHAPE OF THINGS** at the **Wyly Theatre**, 2400 Flora St. Through May 23. For complete schedule visit [DallasTheaterCenter.com](http://DallasTheaterCenter.com).



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# Cooped up

Chickens aren't just for hawks anymore. Urbanites have taken to them as both pets and a lifestyle

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

When you stop at Chere Hickock's house in East Dallas, you'll be overwhelmed by a slew of things: The garden in the driveway, the architectural beauty of the house and Dashiell, the grey and white dog who comes out to quietly greet you. Immediately you feel the natural comfort of the tucked away spot by White Rock Lake, but it continues to the back where Hickock has another menagerie all cooped up. Literally.

"I've had chickens since 1983 and have loved them ever since. They are totally a blast to have," she says.

Hickock is on the planning committee for A Peep at the Coops Urban Coop Tour, the first of its kind in Dallas. Her house is one of the stops and serves as headquarters for the tour — all because she's happy to spread the good word about owning chickens.

Twelve coops through a self-guided tour highlight this slow food movement happening in this pocket of the city. The tour also educates and displays other sustainable practices like bee-keeping, composting and rainwater harvest. Proceeds from the tour benefit the Our Saviour Community Garden and the gardens at Stonewall Jackson Elementary.

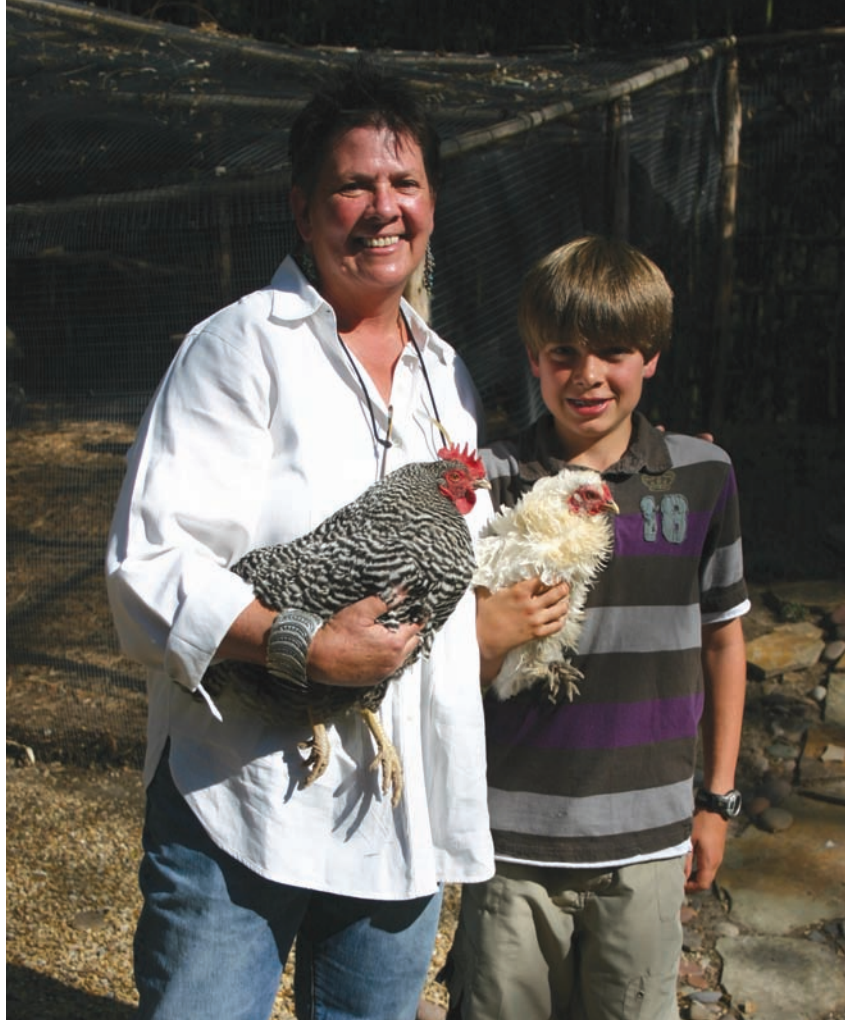
But the stars are the chickens. Not only can they be pets, they add to a self-sustaining and green lifestyle. And according to Hickock, the gays love their chickens.

"There are so many!" she says. "You'd expect it to all be us lesbians, but the urban chicken is the new big thing. I know several gay people who have them and *not* out in the country. Of course, they have these architecturally-designed coops. Gay men take chicken-keeping and gentrify it and make their urban flock fabulous."

Hickock is right there with them. Her self-built run (where chickens roam) is a long fence over an area adjacent to the coop where the little cluckers go in and out at night. It's utilitarian and rustic but with enough design to match her home.

Her renovating background has even turned into a business. Hickok owns Custom Coop Co. and designs coops for her fellow urban chicken owners — but with flair.

If you're thinking about joining the clucking ranks, Hickock says it's eas-



**SHE'S GOT EGGS** | East Dallas resident Chere Hickock and her son, Jack, have a small flock of chickens which produces about a dozen eggs every other day. (Photo by Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

ier than it sounds.

"It's cheap! [Ed. note: *pun intended.*] For food, you just go to feed stores or Northaven Gardens. They fill that niche. Once you have feeders and waterers, you don't need much else."

New owners need to be aware of predators: Bobcats, raccoons, coyotes, even dogs. "Lots of things will kill your chickens," she warns. "Just make sure they are secure at night."

Pets or not, the sustainability of chicken-raising is a big plus and a closed loop. Organic scraps feed the chickens, which then create waste for the compost, which is turned into the soil for the garden. Lest we forget, it's also about connecting with the food source.

"It's reconnecting to a simpler time," she says. "There's something about having your own eggs. And the eggs taste so much better and so fresh.

"Are you an egg eater," she asks.

"I am," I say.

"Well then, I'll have to give you some."

Egg-cellent. ■

## CLUCK OFF

**A Peep at the Coops Urban Coop Tour.** April 18 at 11 a.m. Rain date April 25.

For a map of homes, visit [APeepAtTheCoops.blogspot.com](http://APeepAtTheCoops.blogspot.com)

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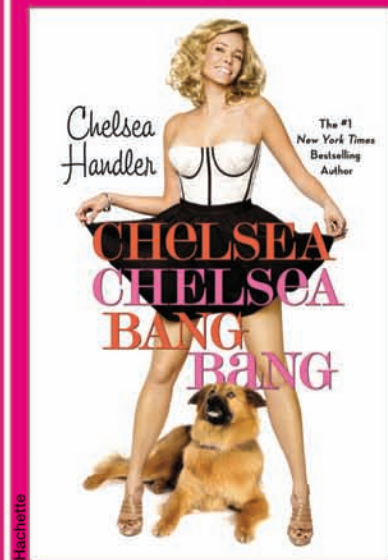
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# Spokes, models

Cycles and style meet at LSR's Passion for Fashion

Other than biker shorts and colorful clingy tops, there isn't much that's fashionable about cycling ... unless Hugo Boss or Dolce & Gabbana designs the outfit. Then it's a whole different story.

Just expect to see those names on the runway instead of the parkway at Friday's Passion for Fashion.

"We put our heads together to come up with an event and figured a fashion show would be great," says Lone Star Ride event manager David Minehart. "Caven was on board so we had the Rose Room. Then the Lincomn Agency donated models and Saks donated fashions."

The show is a benefit for the Lone Star Locker program, which offers gently used loaner bikes to those wanting to participate but those who don't have wheels. The program has

become so popular that LSR is working to keep up with the demand. All their current inventory of bicycles is on loan, so Passion for Fashion will be the program's fundraiser for LSR to purchase more.

"We have some money left but need to raise more. It's a great problem to have, but we still need to increase the inventory," Minehart says.

For that need, people and companies came together quickly to put on this first time event. Such a quick response left Minehart almost



**WHEELS IN MOTION** | Lone Star Ride's Passion for Fashion will give a boost to the loaner bike program, Lone Star Locker. (Photo by Tammye Nash)

speechless.

"It's hard to describe but it makes me pleased to be part of a community that supports itself," he says. "We're very honored and it says that we're on the right track. That's a fantastic feeling."

A feeling he hopes translates into the event. Not only do they need to raise the money, Minehart still wants Passion for Fashion to be a success.

"We'll get to raise money but also introduce people to Lone Star Ride and have a great time."

— Rich Lopez

## PASSION FOR FASHION

**The Rose Room** 3911 Cedar Springs Road (inside Station 4). 8:30 p.m., VIP reception at 7 p.m. \$25-\$75. LoneStarRide.org.

## ■ GRIFFIN

From Page 18

gets:

**About Tiger Woods:** "I could listen to Gloria Allred read his sexting all day long."

**About Miley Cyrus:** "Miley was a mentor — a mentor! — on *American Idol*. I think that's what you call jumping the shark. And I don't hear Miley singing 'I'm a sweet virgin' much anymore — not now that she has a hot boyfriend."

**About Sandra Bullock:** "Are you really going to go for Sandy Bullock? There's no comedy there. It's the Nazi with the whip — *that's* where the joke is." (But she must have known before the Oscars that Jesse was cheating on her, right? "She was thinking, Whatever the fuck I'm going through is only going to be worse with every reporter asking 'Where's Jesse?' It's just easier to put a goddamn suit on him, walk down the carpet and just deal with it Monday.")

But all of this raises a question: With sold-out tours, Emmy Awards, another season of her show and guest spots on mainstream network fare, might she need to change the name of the show to, maybe, *The C List*?

Never, she insists.

"When you're on the D list, you constantly have to switch it up," she explains. "It's not newsworthy for me to be seen at the grocery store or walking my kids. Trust me, I would get



**QUEEN OF QUEENS** | Griffin knows her gay fans turn out to see her — even in Red States.

a kid if I thought it would help. But I'm not able to get pregnant with Levi's baby because I don't have any eggs left."

Toward that end, she granted us this exclusive:

"I tell you first: I am coming out as a Christian virgin. I tell people I am going to become Christian *and* a virgin and am not doing it for publicity. I am also *not* a proud member of the Church of Scientology. If that doesn't get more people to buy my t-shirts, what the fuck will?"

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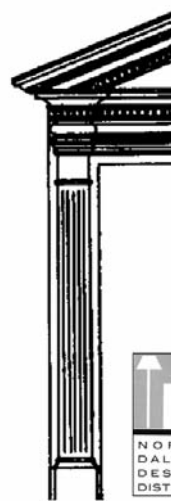


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2010 GLBT Job Expo participants include: American Airlines • AT&T • Bank of America • Best Buy • Capital One • City of Fort Worth • CVS Caremark • Dallas Area Rapid Transit • Dallas County Sheriff's Department • Dallas Police Department • Enterprise Rent A Car • Farmers Insurance • Fort Worth Police Department • McKesson • Metro PCS • National Security Agency • New England Financial/MetLife • North Texas LEAD • Raytheon • SMU Continuing and Professional Education • Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission • Texas Instruments • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • University of Texas at Arlington

GLBT Job Expo presented by Resource Center of Dallas, North Texas GLBT Chamber and hosted by the Office of Diversity, Cox School of Business at SMU.

The mission of Resource Center Dallas is to serve the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and North Texas communities by providing: support to GLBT individuals and organizations; health, HIV and social services; and education and advocacy.



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# Mr. and Miss Big Thickette

Benefiting the TCC Aids Fund, Inc

Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>

# 2010

at the fabulous

## Round Up Saloon



doors open  
**6:00 pm**

show starts  
**7:00 pm**

Reserve seating: \$10.00

General suggested donation at the door: \$5.00

**"The only pageant that can be bought!"**

hosts

*Edna Jean Robinson*

alter ego of **Richard Curtin**

*Nelda Pickens*

alter ego of **Paul J Williams**

For more information contact: Michael Bradley @ 214-394-9064



## Friday 04.16

### Watch out for childhood friends

Marjorie's dull and boring life takes a change when her old friend and cosmopolitan lady, Lee, shows up in Charles Busch's *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*. Now, life isn't so droll, but Marjorie may be getting more than she's bargained for. She could be in for a major buzzkill when she finds out that ole Lee may be something more akin to *Single White Female*.

**DEETS:** Greater Lewisville Community Theatre, 160 W. Main St. 8 p.m. Through May 2. \$13. GLCT.org.

## Sunday 04.18

### We like the big, thickette one

If you'd rather skip actually competing for a title, the people behind the Mr. and Miss Big Thickette pageant proudly state this contest can be bought. So pony up the scratch because it all benefits the TCC AIDS Fund, Inc. If not, then expect host Edna Jean Robinson to get a few bucks out of ya.

**DEETS:** The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 7p.m \$5-\$10. roundupsaloon.com

## Sunday 04.18

### A little patio music is always nice

You wouldn't expect to see the Oak Lawn Band outside a fancy music hall but they change all that this weekend. With Music to Wet Your Whistle, the OLB peeps will play it up at Station 4's patio. How's that for some club music?

**DEETS:** Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. \$5-\$10. OakLawnBand.org.



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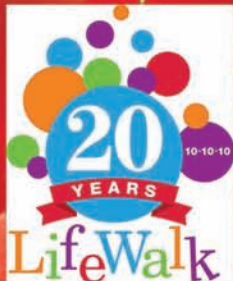
\*\*\* REGULAR PRICING ON ROOMS & LOCKERS ON WEEKEND... RECEIVE A FREE TUESDAY PASS (NON-VIDEO) OR A LOCKER PASS FOR THURSDAY! DEPENDING ON YOUR PURCHASE.

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# Sue Ellen's presents the 2010 Dallas Lesbian Festival Sunday, April 25

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pet friendly with plenty of outdoor  
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Lee  
Anton  
Shaw  
Heather  
Knox  
Giao  
Bella  
Sarah  
Slaton  
Lisa  
Michaels



IT'S TIME TO SHOW

## LAYLA LARUE

HOW MUCH WE CARE

Layla has been diagnosed with Non Hodgkins Lymphoma. She needs our help.



PLEASE ATTEND A FUNDRAISER

Thursday, April 29 @ 10pm in the Rose Room

Enjoy a star studded cast of friends & family

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CASSIE NOVA

EDNA JEAN ROBINSON

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WERE TRUE !!!

## DEBORAH VIAL AND THE KEGELS

FRIDAY  
MAY 14  
9PM

SHE WORRIED...HAD SHE  
REMEMBERED TO SAVE  
THE DATE?

Giao  
Bella  
8PM

Deborah  
VIAL

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**KING OF STEEL** | Michael Kalish's art transforms license plates into modern art like this Elvis rendition on display at Samuel Lynne Galleries.

#### ART

**Andy Warhol**  
*The Last Decade.* Modern Art Museum, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Through May 16. TheModern.org.

**Michael Craig-Martin** show and installation. Goss-Michael Foundation, 2500 Cedar Springs Road. Through Apr. 30. Goss-MichaelFoundation.org.

#### Photographic Gold by Dan

**Burkholder** at Sun to Moon Gallery, 1515 E. Levee St. Through May 22. SunToMoon.com.

**License to Steel.** Michael Kalish exhibition of his work using license plates and tailgates as his medium. Samuel Lynne Galleries, 1105 Dragon St. Through May 1. SamuelLynne.com.

#### FILM

Dallas International Film Festival begins. Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Sunday. DallasFilm.org.

## SATURDAY 04.17

#### COMMUNITY

**DFW Prime Timers** play bingo at private residence. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

**Toast to Life 2010.** Celebrating its 12th year, the fundraiser features live entertainment, live and silent auction and gaming events and benefits HIV programs and services of Resource Center Dallas. Fashion Industry Gallery (F.I.G.), 1809 Ross Ave. 8 p.m. \$100. ToastToLife.org.

**Out and Equal DFW Regional Affiliate** monthly council and officers meeting. Open to general public. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 11 a.m. OutandEqual.org/Dallas-Fort-Worth.

**Gender Bender Ball Drag Show.** First ever show presented by UNT's GLAD organization. Mable Peabody's, 1215 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m. \$3-\$5. Myspace.com/GladUNT.

#### ART

**Olin Travis: Views of Texas, Colorado and Arkansas** show. David Dike Fine Art, 2613 Fairmount Ave. 2 p.m. Through May 1. DavidDike.com.

**Sprung** invitational art exhibit featuring several local artists including out artist Erica Felicella. The event is part of the DEEP Art Walk. Kettle Art, 2714 Elm St. 7 p.m. KettleArt.com.

## SUNDAY 04.18

#### COMMUNITY

**Order of St. Francis and St. Clare** every first and third Sunday. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 12:30 p.m.

**Gaymsters** bridge club. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 2 p.m.

**Friends Associating and Relating**, LGBT social group meets. Newcomers welcome and there are no dues. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

**Oak Lawn Tennis Association.** Samuel-Grand Center, 6200 E. Grand Ave. 9 a.m. OLTADallas.org.

**Child Adoption and Foster Care** seminar at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. CathedralofHope.com

**The Set**, a group for mature-minded SGL African-American men, meets. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 6 p.m.

#### 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.

#### FILM

**Queer Film Series** presented by Black Cinematheque and Fahari Arts Institute. This month's screening is *Dreams Deferred: The Sakia Gunn Film Project* about the murder of a teenage black lesbian in New Jersey. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 6:30 p.m. \$5. BlackCinematheque.com.

## MONDAY 04.19

#### 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.

**Self Esteem support group** meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

#### BROADCAST

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

## TUESDAY 04.20

#### COMMUNITY

**Dallas FrontRunners** meet at Knox Street entrance of Katy Trail. 6:30 p.m. Dallasfrontrunners.org

**Q's-Day Potluck.** Casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday evening. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.

**Stop Smoking** psycho-educational group by the

AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

**Oak Lawn Tennis Association.** L. B. Houston Tennis, 11225 Luna Road. 6 p.m. OLTADallas.org.

**Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.** Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-887-4990.

**Lesbian Book Club.** Borders Books Music Cafe, 10720 Preston Road. 7 p.m. Julie at 214-363-1243.

## WEDNESDAY 04.21

#### COMMUNITY

**Prime Timers Prime Lunch** at Genghis Grill, 5500 Greenville Ave. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

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

**Apartment Managers and Stakeholders Crime Watch.** Oak Lawn Branch library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Noon. 214-670-1359.

**DFW Bi Net** support group for bi people with issues everything third Wednesday; dinner follows. Rainbow Room of the Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. Free. DFWBi.net.

## THURSDAY 04.22

#### COMMUNITY

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

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

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4-10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

**Cathedral Business Network** breakfast. Princeton Grill, DoubleTree Hotel Campbell Centre, 8250 N. Central Expressway. 7:30 a.m. \$9.

**Lesbians and Cancer.** A support group for lesbians with cancer or survivors. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Gilda's Club Dallas, 2710 Oak Lawn Ave. 6-8 p.m.

**Lambda Pride Toastmasters.** Regular meeting for improving communication and leadership skills. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Lambdapride.freetoasthost.us.

### this week's solution

L	O	N	I		S	E	G	A	L		F	U	M	E			
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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**James Franco** turns 32 on Monday. The actor captured our hearts as Scott Smith in *Milk* and then confused us with his 23-episode stint on *General Hospital*. He has a few movies in the works but we're glad he goes gay again in Rob Epstein's feature film *Howl* as famous beat poet Allen Ginsberg. After that, maybe he'll be polishing off an Oscar.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

This is a good time for you to organize your resources. Focus on practicality, but also open your intuition to future opportunities and dangers. Friendly advice is probably wrong.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Don't be scared of your birthday. Getting older suits you. Cultivate a mystique of accomplishment and authority. You may surprise yourself that it is more real than you give yourself credit for.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Making your way in the world can work your nerves. Have a safe, quiet space so you can charge your batteries. Remember what's important so you can get out there to do what's needed.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Erotic fantasies have their value, but let your friends help you stay in touch with reality, too. Some of their criticisms are out of place, but some are not. At least listen and think about them.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Kinky experimentation can precipitate questions about what's important in your partnership. Explore in bed and out. Your resourcefulness gets you ahead, but creates testy situations.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Your insight for improving any situation or technique is sharp. Now apply that skill to editing your own critiques. What you see as helpful advice, colleagues will see as meddling nagging.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Remember to keep the prophylaxis, safe word and other cautions in place. That could trigger morale-boosting ideas for work, with appropriate modifications, of course.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Focus your political and social efforts on listening and following. Addictive or co-dependent tendencies are likely to surface and complicate things. Brutally frank criticism from a friend can help.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Nothing gets you ahead like good, hard work. It can help you stay out of domestic drama. If you can't avoid it, maintain emotional distance. Being mature and responsible can save the day.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Worries about money can be overwhelming. You do have sensible ideas that can help. Talk with a close friend or sibling to help clear the fog and get back to being your usual sensible self.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

What do you really want out of sex? Old patterns and new ideas are confusing. Focus on community issues and what kind of home you want. Then the erotic questions will clear up.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Your relationship can feel restrictive. Isolating and stewing is no good. A conversation or some fun with a friend — say a movie or a gallery show — can give you the fresh air you need.

**THIS WEEK**

Saturn is in Virgo aspecting Uranus in Pisces. Neptune in Aquarius triggers persnickety criticisms that could easily miss the mark. Venus is strong in her own sign, Taurus, offering some stability and harmony. Be practical, take the long view, and let compassion take the form of patient understanding, but not unsolicited advice.

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

**JANE'S WORLD**

IT'S DATE NIGHT IN JANE'S WORLD. OUR HERO CHOOSES CAREFULLY THE PERFECT SHOES TO OFFSET HER FAVORITE OXFORD SHIRT. IT'S IMPORTANT TO LOOK WELL PUT TOGETHER WHILE STILL GIVING OFF AN AIR OF NON-CHALANCE ABOUT YOUR CHOICES. LESBIAN FASHION IS A DELICATE BALANCING ACT....

OH, GIVE ME A BREAK!... I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M OUT OF DEODORANT.

DECIDING IT WOULD BE BETTER TO USE HER ROOMMATE ETHAN'S OLD SPICE THAN TO RISK SMELLY ARMPITS, JANE APPLIES LIBERALLY...

...THEN SNIFFS...

OKAY... THAT'S FREAKIN' ME OUT A LITTLE. I SMELL LIKE MY DAD.

I KNOW AT LEAST ONE THERAPIST WHO'D HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH THAT!

SHORTLY, ON SKYE'S FRONT STOOP...

HI, READY TO GRAB SOME DINNER?

SURE.

HMMM... ARE YOU WEARING A NEW COLOGNE? THAT SCENT IS SO FAMILIAR...

I'M SUDDENLY HAVING A LITTLE FLASHBACK FANTASY ABOUT MY COLLEGE ENGLISH PROFESSOR...

...LET'S ORDER IN!

WHO'S YOUR DADDY NOW?

YANK!

**bitter girl**

**IDENTITY CRISIS**

C'MON - ASK OUT YOUR DRUGSTORE GIRL! IT'S TIME FOR SOME CUSTOMER RELATIONS!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME!

SHE'S WEARING A NAME TAG.

HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING THERE.

PICKUP!

aaand WE'LL START WITH AN ATTENTION-GETTER...

HEY, YVONNE! CATCH!!

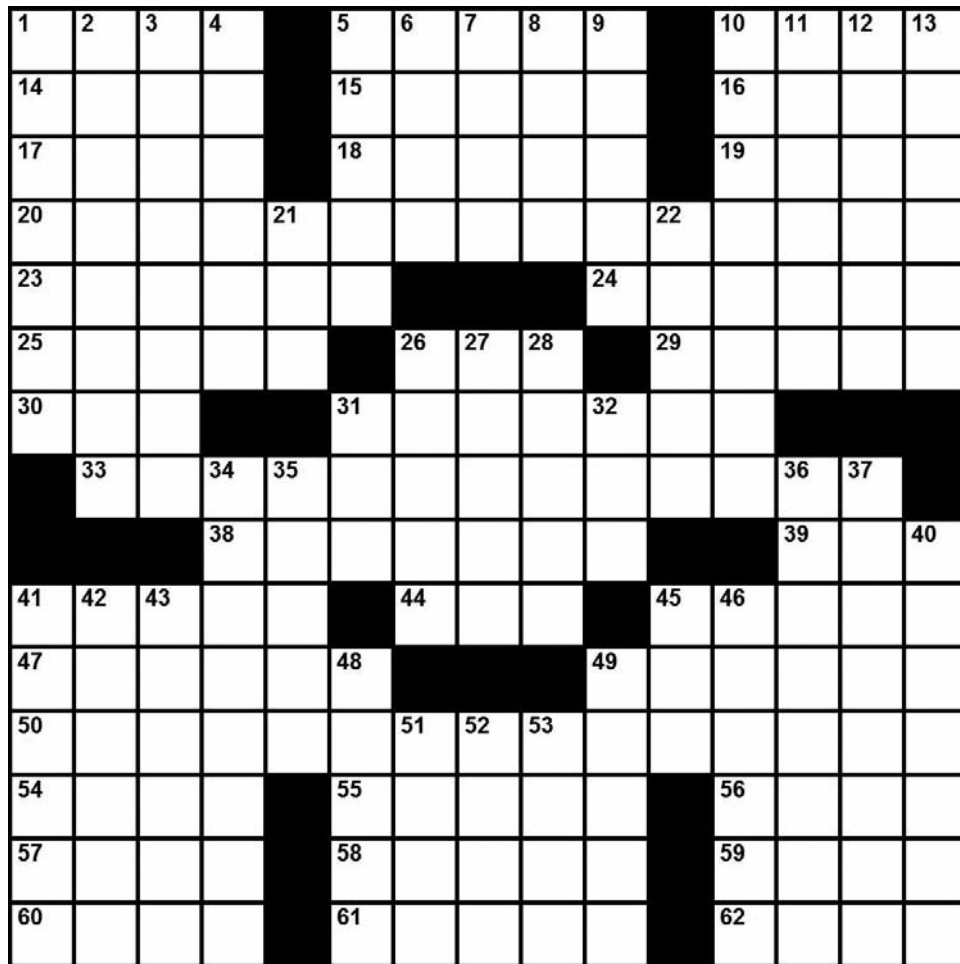
YOUR NAME'S YVONNE? SO IS MINE!

YOU'RE DESTINED, I'M DOOMED.

email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com

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JOAN HILTY © 2010



# A Fortunate Homosexual Man

Solution on page 29

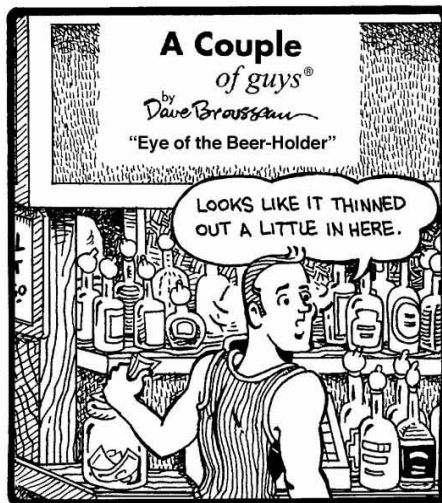
## Across

- 1 Evita portrayer Ackerman
- 5 George of "It's My Party"
- 10 Get hot under the collar
- 14 "East of Eden" brother
- 15 Butt heads
- 16 Some have it to grind
- 17 Historic Stonewall event
- 18 Jamaican cultist
- 19 It reveals a drag queen's thighs
- 20 Soap with Ricky Martin during the '90s
- 23 Lure into wrongdoing
- 24 Claim
- 25 He wrote "Englishman in New York" as a tribute to Quentin Crisp
- 26 Gal. eighths
- 29 Cicilline staffers
- 30 Lid for Barrie
- 31 Tennis great Navratilova
- 33 1996 Broadway play with Ricky Martin
- 38 Obama's middlen name
- 39 Caesar's football squads?
- 41 Runway walker
- 44 Gaydar, for example
- 45 Bounteous

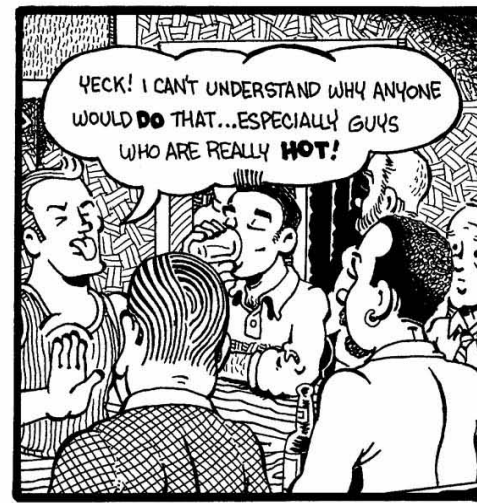
- 47 Britten's "Billy Budd" and "Peter Grimes"
- 49 Not straight up
- 50 Song by Ricky Martin
- 54 Town in O-o-o-oklahoma
- 55 Like Everett, as a movie husband
- 56 Club for Sheehan
- 57 Stiff bristle
- 58 Peter of "Say Uncle"
- 59 Not straight
- 60 Disney sci-fi flick
- 61 Where priests come together
- 62 Puts into service

## Down

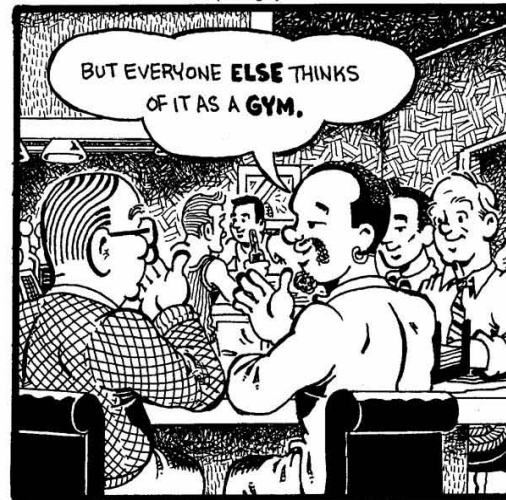
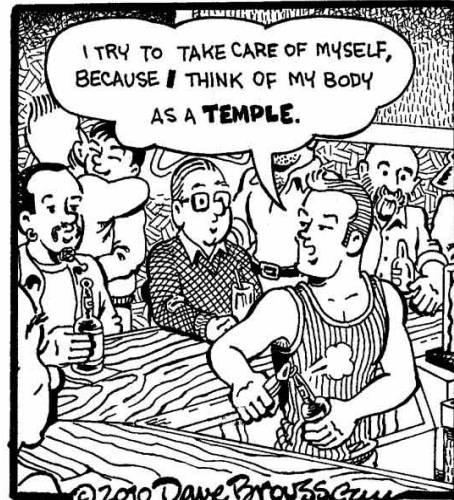
- 1 Penile boast, perhaps
- 2 Monopoly avenue
- 3 Quickie hour, for some
- 4 Status that George O'Malley had to repeat
- 5 Recycled metal
- 6 Jerusalem server
- 7 Slang for vagina
- 8 Memo start
- 9 Tibetan capital
- 10 Like "all my sisters with me"
- 11 Came together
- 12 Get by somehow
- 13 Gertrude Stein in Paris, and others
- 21 "The Advocate," to detractors
- 22 Backup strategy
- 26 Out
- 27 Kilmer poem
- 28 "Take it off!"
- 31 Third notes, to Bernstein
- 32 Magneto portrayer McKellen
- 34 Nicollette of "Desperate Housewives"
- 35 Disney film set in China
- 36 Checks out thoroughly
- 37 Breast enlarging material
- 40 Curve-cutting lines
- 41 Harass
- 42 Donor of two cents
- 43 "Hoffa" director
- 45 One \_\_\_ time (no threesomes!)
- 46 California home of Streisand
- 48 You don't want to get pink ones
- 49 Sat on one's bottom
- 51 Every 24 hours
- 52 Blood line
- 53 "Otello" villain



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



www.acoupleofguys.com



This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Ryan and Kristen at the Drama Room.



Roberto and Theresa at Kaliente.



Nat and Joanna at Sue Ellen's.



Hayley, Heather, Shelby and Kasey at Station 4.

If you're having trouble filling up your nights out, don't worry too much about it. You can always take some of our suggestions .... **The Round-Up Saloon** hosts the **Miss Big Thickette** pageant on Sunday. This ain't your usual contest but the good thing is, it benefits the **TCC AIDS Fund**. Following up the show is the weekly **Man Candy** party. They also continue the **Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament** every Wednesday .... **The Rose Room** hosts the **Passion for Fashion** runway show Friday night .... **Woody's** hosts **Dallas Snipers Softball's Extra Innings** bash Sunday afternoon. Better yet, the event features a live performance by **Three of Hearts** .... **Carolyn Wonderland** performs Friday night at **Jack's Backyard**. **John Nitzinger** takes the stage on Saturday night. **Sunday Night Live** features community faves **Kathy and Bella** .... **The Sisters Club** puts on the **Foxi Femmes Show** this Friday .... Prepare to get some major dance action on at **Kaliente** this Friday. The club hosts **Caribbean Nights** and is spinning reggaeton, salsa and merengue music all night long. Thursday, they hold the **Miss Kaliente Lesbian** contest hosted by **MC Nicky Lauren** .... For you Denton folks, head to **Mable Peabody's** for the **Gender Bender Drag Show**. The night is put on by the UNT LGBT student group, **GLAD** .... **The Brick** gives their Facebook family some love. Saturday night they put on their **Facebook Fan Appreciation Night** .... **Sue Ellen's** is never without their live music weekends. **Anton Shaw and the Reason** come back to the **Vixin Lounge** on Friday and **Rigby** plays Saturday night .... And that should keep you covered for the next few days ....

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Julie and Mark at the Grapevine Bar.



Michael, Jon and Marty at the Tin Room.



Beau at the Dallas Eagle.



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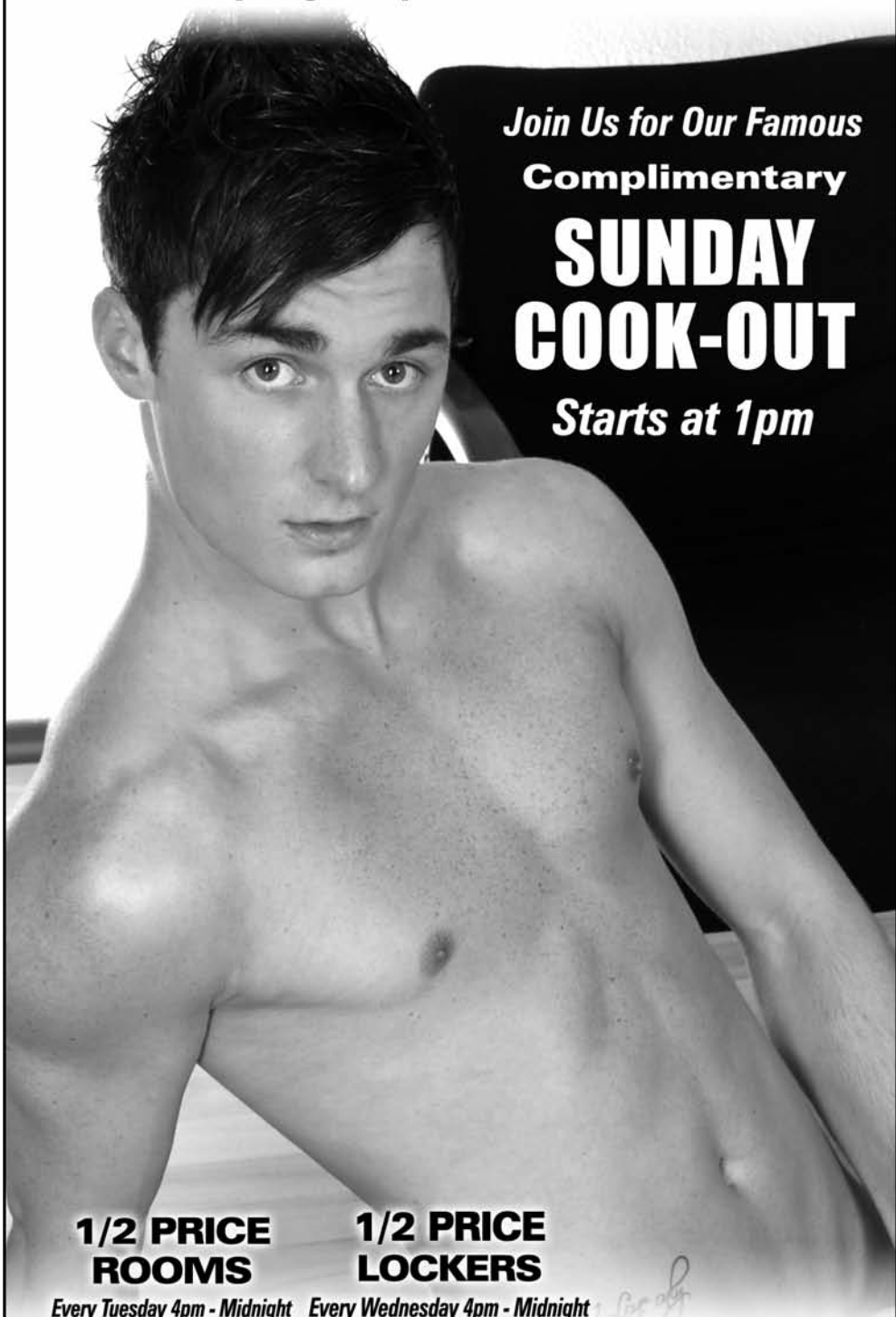
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### EMPLOYMENT

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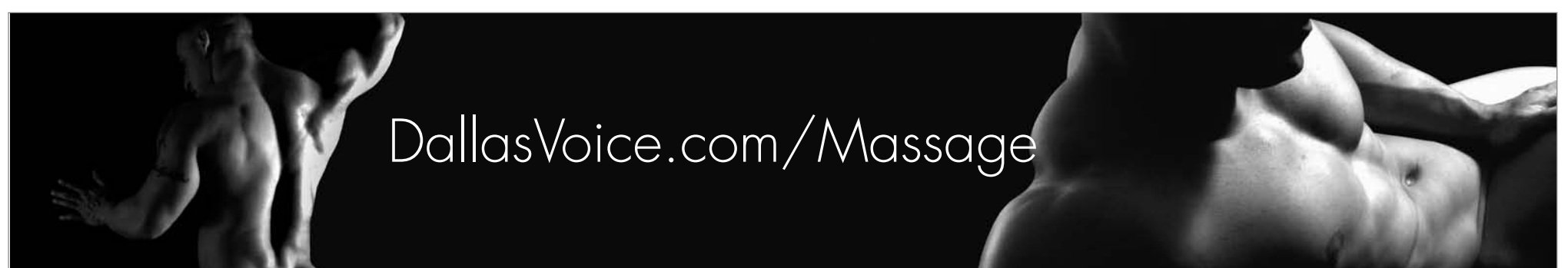
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**editor**  
 Rich Lopez

**creative director**  
 Michael F. Stephens

**graphic designer**  
 Kristina Walton

**contributing writers**  
 Arnold Wayne Jones  
 Steven Lindsey  
 David Taffet  
 Jef Tingley

**photography**  
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# Hazard assessment

Designer Roger Hazard from 'Sell This House' talks up Texas, TV and interiors

By Rich Lopez

Let's face it. There are two reasons to watch *Sell This House*. The second would be learning how to stage your home to sell better. And in this market, anything helps. The first, well, that should be easy enough.

For obvious reasons, Roger Hazard has attracted a big gay following over the eight seasons the show has been on. A handsome, bearded musclebear is hard to resist. But get past the exterior (as difficult as that may be) and discover an artist at heart.

After finishing an episode, Hazard spoke about his time in Texas and how it led to him being an unexpected pioneer in both television and even the real estate and design industries.

*Sell This House* airs Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. on A&E.

**Dallas Voice: You actually grew up in**

**Texas.** Hazard: Yeah, I grew up in Houston mostly, but went to school for a year at Highland Park.

I studied landscape architecture at Texas A&M. I worked for a landscape company in Houston and then began flipping houses there. We did shoot a show in Dallas about, I think, three or four years ago.

**Then you moved to Atlanta. How was it there?**

I started flipping homes in Atlanta and did very well. I was flipping about four homes a year. I started staging them to sell quicker and I sold with the furniture I bought for it. That brought in a lot of people. I developed quite a following then but I needed more of a challenge. So I moved to New York.

**Is that where you switched to more interior work?**

I took a position with a top interior design firm. In three months, they said I was overqualified. But now I'm doing some more commercial work in New York.

**How was it to go from exteriors to interiors?**

It depends on the project but there is more of a demand for interior work. You know, a lot of it's the same as when I was studying architecture: light, form, color. All the same principles are applied.

**Your career just seems to ascend.**

**How did the TV show come**



Roger Hazard not only knows how to fill a shirt, he can fill a room with just a few touches as he did in these before and after comparisons.



**about?** One of my clients that worked in TV was bragging about me at a pitch meeting. Someone said, "I see a TV show." About a month had passed before they called, then they sent a film crew came out and that's how the show started.

**Were you ready for TV?** Oh no. I was not ready. I pushed cameramen out of the way. TV is very structured in going about achieving a goal. You have to think backwards almost and also get the camera to catch what you're doing.

I was excited to see how it took off like wildfire. I was the first person to introduce home staging on TV and this was the only show of its kind to be

nominated for Emmys. I was very proud.

**OK, so what are some things people need to know on their own about the design of their home?** People get an emotional reaction to it. People react to furniture style and how it's arranged. If it's arranged around the TV in the living room, it makes it feel like Mom and Dad's house somehow. Know what I mean? Simple accessories and lighting are good to work with, too.

**What do you say to the person reluctant to color?** Ha! Is beige selling your house? Do you only buy beige clothes? People *do* have a reaction to color and it doesn't make a room smaller, it makes it more interesting.

**Are there common mistakes you find?** Yeah, buying furniture too big for a space. Be careful of covering up wall space with furniture. So many people use walls as an outline to place furniture. Rooms feel more open or larger when you have to walk around furniture. And you need a free wall for the eye to rest.

**Are you working on anything else right now?** I'm putting my Web site together, which should be about a couple more weeks. I've been asked several times to write a book, but I wouldn't do one about staging. I'm more about mistakes in designing. I'd call it *Design Hazards*.

**Damn, that was gonna be my headline.**



# Art for the people

Eclectic galleries prove everyone can own an original piece of art

By Rich Lopez

Gone are the days when only those in a higher tax bracket could afford that snazzy piece of original art adorning the top of the fireplace. Two local galleries — one new, one a bit more seasoned — have moved beyond the idea of unreachable art by focusing on local artists. And people from tiny studio apartments to McMansions are collecting art more and more.

"We opened to create an environment to essentially remove the notion of art as luxury," Brandon Lynch of Artisan Style gallery says.

By featuring works from local and emerging artists, he's able to maintain prices in a sensible range.

"Yes, the art is affordable but it's about environments as well. The average customer may have a new home or apartment and wants to add something," Lynch says.

Five years ago, Kettle Art opened in Deep Ellum with the same philosophy under the direction of artistic director Frank Campagna. And they don't get much hipper than this. Campagna and company work to expand the scope of Dallas art and sell it for cheap.

"We prefer showing local talent to nurture and encourage our regional culture. Simply put, if you're serious about your art, drop by and show us what you're up to," Campagna says.

In February, Kettle hosted For the Love of Kettle featuring more than 100 artists' work, all priced at \$50. Before

■ ART, Page 20



Artisan Style keeps their works affordable by working mostly with local artists. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones.)

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# The whole nine yards

Shahid Malik's evocative landscape designs will bring a timeless oasis to the home.

By Rich Lopez

One look at Shahid Malik's own home and it's easy to see he has style. The white palate of his Oak Lawn home is clean and sophisticated with a beautiful aesthetic. That continues to his outdoor fountain, which he designed himself. The stonework, greenery and water have a cohesion that turns his otherwise everyday patio into something else altogether. And this is just in his own home.

Malik is originally from Pakistan but found his calling in Dallas. After a slew of jobs, he discovered his hobby of working with nature could also be his job. This led him to start a simple yard business of mowing and trimming lawns. But as his clients wanted

more in the appearance of their yard, Malik's eyes began to instinctively see something new.

"When I lived in Pakistan, I always liked working with my plants. And here, I used to have an apartment with a small balcony, but we had the most beautiful flowers and plants. People would ask about it," he says.

Now, he's the owner of Malik Landscape & Design and his company will still mow your yard, but it will also bring an element of beauty that's beyond any bed of perennials. Malik brings architectural elements to his design that not only add to the value of a home, but provide something every homeowner wants — a neighbor's envy.

Working with the customer, Malik comes up with a design based on the client's vision. Sometimes the vision is entirely the client's, but Malik's perspective is not lost. The collaborative effort

translates into works of landscape oases that are part garden, part artistic and all complementing the design of the homes. The company's flyer boasts "out of the box" thinking as the "cornerstone of the company's philosophy."

"The work is hard and labor intensive, but all my designs are timeless. They don't use flowers so much. It's more about the green and stone colors and also the upkeep. The less upkeep it can be for the client, the more they will probably appreciate it," he says.

Some of his work includes heavy boulders and rocks laid precisely on top of each other with no filler. Like a puzzle, they fit together and gravity keeps the stone walls and borders in place. He'll create gardening beds of metal welded into modern angles. Or he will line driveways with magnolia trees of just the right size that neither dominate nor disappear into the overall look.

But he knows with the current economy, not everyone is willing to jump into the high-end cost of adding his landscape design and architecture to



With both a green thumb and a green eye, Malik (opposite) worked with the architecture of the home and echoed its design in the stark metal plant beds while accessorizing the landscape with trees and stones.

their home. His company even took such a hit that he almost shut down. Having that empathy, he works hard to keep his current clients happy and allows his reputation speak for itself.

"Fancy lawns were probably the last things on people's minds," he says. "But sometimes it can be just as costly if people try to do it themselves."

Not that landscaping is impossible, but Malik sees too many times when people buy all the wrong items for their brand new designs — if they can be called that.

"People will go to Home Depot and buy everything that is pretty. But that won't work. There are things to think about."

Malik says first to come up with a plan and draw it out. This at least gets the outline going of the space you want to allot to a design and what functions you may want it to have. Designs can accentuate but can also work for the house with walkways or shade.

Next, figure what it is you want in the design. Flowers, grass, stones and plants are all the usual components, but it is important to determine what kind of attention you plan on giving to the design.

Green thumbs may revel in tending to the greens, but minimalists may just want the style of it without devoting much attention to it. Sprinkler systems may figure in at this point.

Mostly, Malik mentions the biggest mistake is getting overzealous and buying a bunch of flowers and plants that simply won't work in your space. The Dallas heat and its unpredictable nature isn't always good for, well, nature. Although these mistakes can be costly, they aren't irreparable. In fact, Malik could sweep in to save the day.

"People shouldn't think I just do high-end designs. The company also does maintenance, pruning and fertilization. If people run into these problems, they can call me. I can help get them out of their problems and get them on the way to a very nice landscape."

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# Designing with a (re)purpose

If you want to redecorate, call Anthony Chisom first — he can turn any blah room into a great space all from items within the home

by Steven Lindsey

A bad economy is no excuse for being unfashionable. And that's why hiring Anthony Chisom, creative director and CEO of Anthony Chisom Interiors, has become a hot Dallas trend in home décor. Rather than completely starting over with a room, he surveys other rooms in a home to see what could breathe new life into another space.

"Anything within the house can be used. Know that everything is moveable and interchangeable and can work differently in a new room. Make the items do what you want them to do," Chisom says.

Chisom worked in retail for years, but decided to repurpose his own life to do what he's always loved.

"I started in 1999. I found out about my HIV status and didn't want to put my dream on hold any longer," he says. "Interior design is something I was always drawn to. I had all these books and magazines about it and I'd always help friends with their rooms and things of that nature."

He then found his own niche of designing that wouldn't break the budget for clients and could keep the entire process in the home.

"I would take art, furniture, desks from other rooms, just about anything you can imagine because interiors evolve. How a room is set up today may not work best for you tomorrow," he says, referring to the latest addition to his interior—an almost-two-year-old nephew, whom he plans to adopt with his partner, Derrick Smith Gentry.

For a general room repurposing, which includes rearranging furniture and art, as well as accessorizing with items within the home or recommending affordable options from home stores, his fee starts around \$500. He also brings an objective eye to helping people purge items that may be way out of style that they're holding onto for sentimental reasons. Clients may not want to get rid of these items, but they don't have to be center stage, either.

During a recent visit, he showed



how quickly and easily a living room can be reorganized to create a different vibe. He also shared some quick ways anybody can change a space on the smallest budget.

Follow these simple tips for your own repurposing:

## Color, color, color

"Color is an easy way to enhance your space and make it look completely different," he says. "It's my top tip to add color through paint, whether it's one wall or many. Also, adding something like colorful fresh flowers helps heighten the senses."

## Think small for trends

"You can never have too many pillows," he laughs. "Places like West Elm make it very easy to switch out with pil-

low slip covers. Go from a solid to something with a pattern. Keep your house as simple and basic as possible and address trends through accessories that can more easily be changed."

## Invest in quality for larger furniture

"Spend money on key pieces," he advises. "When buying a sofa, look at the interior makeup. If you go to the retailer and ask them, they'll let you look at the interior structure. Make sure it has good bones, good springs. If you have good furniture already, work on getting things reupholstered, recovered. I also like to reclaim things. Older furniture seems to be sturdier."

■ CHISOM, Page 21

Chisom lives by his philosophy that you can never have too many pillows. In the living room (below), he added pops of color with bright colored chairs. (Photos by Steven Lindsey)



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# Purple spring

One woman keeps her penthouse far from blue with her African violets and green thumb

by Howard Lewis Russell

Mina Cunningham, inset, gave her African violets a spot all their own facing the evening sun from her Uptown highrise penthouse. (Photos by Rich Lopez)



A wise horticulturist once said, "There are flowers that grow in nature, and then there are flowers that grow in grocery stores." African violets, as with fiery Christmas poinsettias and snowy Easter lilies, are hard to imagine existing in a world void of fluorescent lighting, polystyrene pots and organically-balanced soil medium sold in 28-liter plastic bags.

Mina Cunningham, a local Dallas devotee of these beautiful, bluish flowers, is testament to why they've achieved such a speedy, and ubiquitous, global popularity far removed from their natural, East-African jungle habitat. When asked her secret for growing perfectly happy, and healthy, velvety-leaved African violets in the merciless southwestern exposure of floor-to-ceiling penthouse windows in Texas, Cunningham chuckles, "Just plain old ultraviolet window film and utter neglect, my dear."

This ain't your grandmother's win-

dow sill.

Cunningham waves an arm flourishingly across her luxuriant window display. "I made most all these from a single, original violet. You just need one to start with. To make more, pinch off a leaf, let it sit in a glass of water about, oh, a month, stick it in a small pot of dirt with a saucer that has a big rim—the rim's got to come up big and high, now, because you're not supposed to water the leaves from the top, or get them wet—you pour the water into the saucer *underneath* the pot and the dirt absorbs it: That's my secret."

African violet plant food helps, of course, she winks — "just seven drops per quart of water every time you water." The brand Cunningham swears by is Shultz African Violet Plus, Liquid Plant Food with Micronutrients 8-14-9.

"The spring season ought to bring out the farmer in all of us, but I just don't have any farmer in me, and there's nothing more disheartening in the springtime than planting flowers in a pot and watching them die, no matter what you try," Cunningham chirps.

The history of the wild African violet, however, is unique among humanity's windowsill plants in that, even

though it would *logically* seem a flower that has been "housebroken" now surely for millennia, it was, in fact, first discovered in 1892 — growing on a shaded rock ledge high up in the lush, cool jungles of the Usambara Mountains in northeast Tanzania. (What a wonder it took so long!) Unique of most eponymous-named plants, the African violet really does hail from Africa.

African violets did not even make it to the United States until 1926, and all highly varied modern varieties since are the result of hybridization. The main (if not sole) reason for their subsequent popularity as the ideal houseplant is that it likes exactly the same temperature people do. Oh, and that it's near impossible to kill doesn't hurt, either.

"Well," Cunningham, exults, "you can't kill an African violet, not even me; and best of all, their beautiful purple flowers bloom off and on the whole year long. They stay dormant a while, then they show again. All you have to do is go to the grocery store, or, like I said, pinch off a leaf from a friend's and save yourself the money, shove it in dirt and stand back. The purple springs eternal!"



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The engineers would probably balk at calling their fancy air multiplier a “fan.” There are, in fact, no fan blades, and that means no buffeting (the choppy air created by spinning blades). Instead, it funnels small amount of air through a ring that gathers ambient air and shoots it out at 15 times the intake.

Who cares about the complicated mechanics, though? The point is, it’s a funky looking piece of equipment that, like many other Dyson products, is as artful to look at as to use.

There are practical advantages, like a low center of gravity, an easy-to-adjust speed setting (not just the “hi-med-lo” routine) and simple cleaning. And it tilts. Trust me, as Texas weather heats up, a fanciful fan like this is a welcome addition.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



There’s sitting and then there’s *sitting*. Known for their innovative massage chairs, Human Touch will debut the AcuTouch 9500 this summer, which may be the first chair to have its own app. Via Bluetooth, the HT-Connect app talks to the chair providing a variety of massages, wellness tips, personalized settings and even Espresso Shots, quickie massages when you’re on the go.

The price tag has a suggested retail price at \$5,999, but can you really put a price tag on complete and utter bliss, not to mention a healthier you?

— Rich Lopez



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# Pests keep out

Ants, aphids and snails, oh my — there are a variety of ways to get rid of garden pests but some are more fun than others.

By David Taffet

Fire ants, aphids, slugs and snails are some of the most common garden pests we encounter in North Texas. And there are different ways to get rid of each. There's the right way and then there's my way.

Probably the most insidious pests in a Dallas garden are fire ants. The imported variety, found in this area, is more aggressive than native strains and can cause more damage. They attack other types of ants, other insects and small animals and can damage gardens and even homes and electrical lines.

When their mounds are disturbed, they become aggressive. Their bites are painful.

Armadillos feed on fire ants, but attracting these creatures



Warning: this may violate some local city ordinances. But it works.

Garden snails, or escargot as I like to call them, leave a slimy film everywhere they creep. Slugs are even slimier. Both like moisture and need water. If slugs and snails are a problem, water the garden in the morning so the ground will be dry before evening.

Before resorting to nasty chemicals, try sprinkling some salt directly on any slugs you see and they will disintegrate before your eyes. What fun!

Rosemary is a natural repellent as well. Try sprinkling some of that in the garden. It's also easy to grow and does well in our climate and traditionally bad soil.

Set traps for snails by sinking a small bowl into the soil and fill halfway with beer. The smell will attract them and as they're trying to feed, they'll drown. For those opposed to the use of alcohol for moral or religious reasons — or if you live in Oak Cliff or some other "dry" area of town — grape juice also works.

Aphids are small, destructive insects that come in a variety of colors. More than 4,400 species of these pests are known. The best organic defense against these plant-killers is ladybugs. While most garden centers will try to sell chemicals and oils to wipe on the leaves of affected plants, the cute little orange insect with black dots on their backs are actually more effective. Home Depot sells a half pint of ladybugs for \$14.95.

Or try spraying affected leaves with soapy water. That will usually get rid of an aphid infestation. Filthy little aphids just don't like nice, clean soapy water.

But there's something about going to Home Depot to purchase bugs that just appeals to me.



into the yard is probably not a good option. A better natural way of controlling fire ants is to sprinkle cayenne pepper around their mounds and along their trails. Also, mix citrus peelings and water and pour on the mound. Orange Guard is the natural, organic fire ant killer available at some private garden centers.

When those approaches fail, Amdro is the chemical, environmentally questionable alternative available at supermarkets and home centers. Sprinkling just a little on the mound usually destroys it within hours when ants take the bait and share it with their queen.

Then there's the old fashioned Texas remedy that I prefer. It's fast, efficient and I get to play with matches. Pour some gasoline on the mound, let it soak in just enough and then set it on fire.



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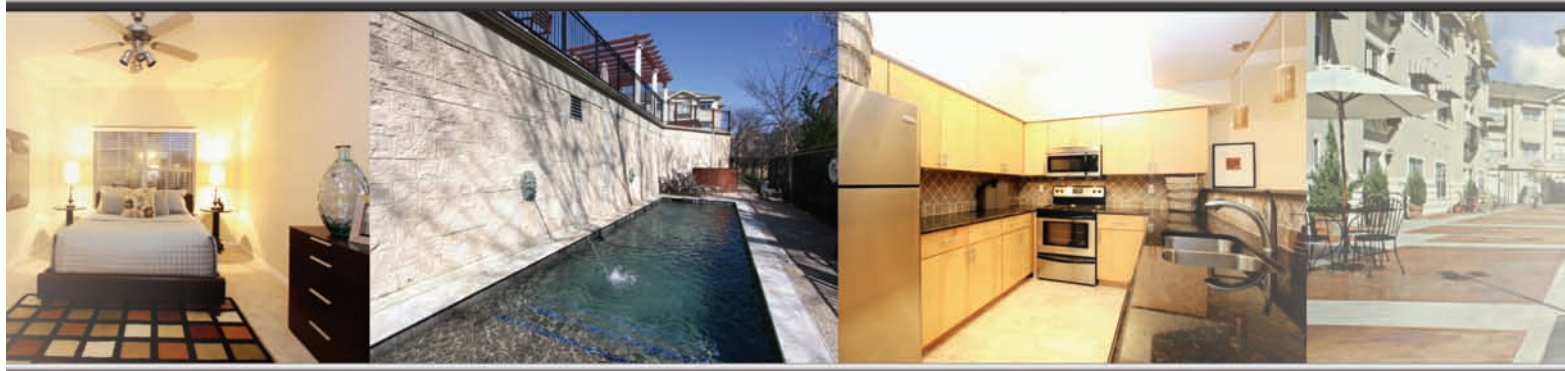
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Kettle Art's artistic director Frank Campagna. (Photo by Rich Lopez)

## ART

Continued from Page 8

the doors opened, a crowd had formed outside waiting to get in and purchase.

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meet the artist you purchase."

Lynch reminds though, that galleries also want to move the art fast and most will work with buyers.

"We have payment plans so why would you want a print from, say, Michael's when you can get something unique for a just a bit more money," he asks.

More money?

"Well, a bit more, yeah. Remember, the artist has to make a living."

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# CHISOM

Continued from Page 12

## Light up your world

"Lighting is best done in layers, overhead lighting, lamps. You can also have lighting put into your crown molding so it washes your wall in light. It's nice to have a good source of natural lighting. I like to mix it up with lamps. I'm not real matchy-matchy."

## Design for your lifestyle

"I prefer an open space because it

feels more relaxed. I know some people like things very categorized and separated, but I prefer an open flow," Chisom says. "Living is different than entertaining. Keep that in mind when buying furniture. If you do a lot of entertaining, make sure you can move it on your own!"

For more information, visit [AnthonyChisomInteriors.com](http://AnthonyChisomInteriors.com).

Chisom changes to a cooler palette by switching out the coffee table for ottoman cubes of a different color.



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