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## FWPD asking community for help in finding robbery suspect

LGBT liaison says white male involved in muggings 'may or may not' be involved in April 30 murder

**TAMMYE NASH** | Senior Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

In the wake of an April 30 assault near Rainbow Lounge in which a North Richland Hills man was killed, Fort Worth police are asking that members of the LGBT community who have been accosted in the area by a white male come forward with any information that could help identify the suspect.



Officer Sara Straten

"We want to talk to anyone who has been robbed or 'rolled' or assaulted in some way — even just handled roughly by someone asking for money — by a white male in that area around the Rainbow Lounge," FWPD LGBT Liaison Officer Sara Straten said Thursday, May 6.

"We know there may be someone who was mugged or assaulted who didn't report it to police at the time for whatever reason. But we are trying to get a bad person off the street, and we need the [LGBT] community's help," she said.

Rainbow Lounge is located at 651 S. Jennings St., around the corner from where the man was beaten to death last Friday, in the 500 block of Cannon Street.

According to reports from the Tarrant County Medical Examiners Office, Grady Fairbairn, 72, of North Richland Hills died at 10:33 p.m. Friday.

■ FWPD, Page 12

## Immigration is an LGBT issue, too

Immigration reform proposals could help undocumented LGBT immigrants who have even fewer options than straight counterparts

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

Tens of thousands of people marched in Downtown Dallas for immigration reform on Saturday, May 1. Among them were members of the local Rainbow LULAC group and other allies from the LGBT community.

The Mega March was planned months ago to support immigration reform legislation that was expected to reach the floor of Congress once health care reform passed.

In the weeks before the march, however, Arizona passed a new law that requires police officers to check immigration status of anyone they stop. Anger about that law fueled larger than anticipated participation in the march.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund condemned the new Arizona law and its particular effect on LGBT immigrants and their families.

"LGBT undocumented immigrants are among the most invisible of the invisible," said Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart in a written statement. "Many inhabit a double closet, afraid of disclosing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and afraid of disclosing that they are undocumented."

Among those participating in the Mega March was a young man who knows exactly what Cathcart meant. Because of his immigration status, the young man asked that his real name not be used, and that he instead be referred to as Miguel.

Miguel said he came to this country from Mexico with his parents when he was 5 years old. He grew up in San Antonio but has lived in Dallas for the last 10 years.

He does not have legal status.

Although he is 22, Miguel said he feels like he isn't where he should be at that age.

■ IMMIGRATION, Page 13



**IMMIGRATION ALLY** | Lividia Violette was one of many LGBT people who turned out Saturday, May 1, to participate in the Dallas Mega March calling for reform of the country's immigration laws. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



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# A different kind of motherhood

Roni Coghill couldn't have children of her own, but by hosting foreign exchange students she now has 6

**TAMMYE NASH** | Senior Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Roni Coghill learned early on that she would never be able to conceive and give birth to children. It was news, she said, that left her with "an empty place inside."

But now Coghill has six children she thinks of as her own, and her family is likely to keep growing. She is a host mother for foreign exchange students.

"When I heard about the program to host foreign exchange students [through the EF Foundation for Foreign Study], I inquired about it. It all happened very quickly, and believe me, it has been a life-changing experience," Coghill said.

Coghill took in her first foreign exchange student seven years ago, and has hosted six students since then. One was from Italy, and the other five were all from Germany, including her current "daughter," Sassi.

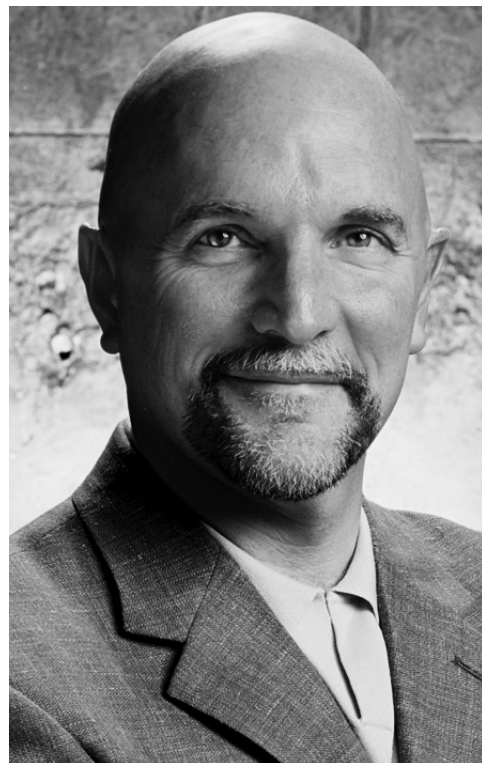
Coghill said she decided to focus only on students from Germany because it helps her keep in touch once their year of study here in the U.S. is

■ **MOTHERHOOD**, Page 10



Roni Coghill

## Resounding Harmony taking 'Sing for the Cure' to NYC



Timothy Seelig

Syler to narrate choral work about breast cancer survivors in events to raise money for Susan G. Komen

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

Resounding Harmony will perform "Sing for the Cure" on May 12 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and then on June 6 at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Both performances benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Tim Seelig will conduct.

Former WFAA and KTVT news anchor and CBS "Morning Show" host Rene Syler will be the narrator at both performances. She currently lives in New York.

Although Syler was not diagnosed with breast cancer, she had a positive BRAC test that indicates a probability that she would develop the disease. With a strong history of the disease in her family, including both her mother and her father, she had a prophylactic mastectomy in 2007 to prevent developing cancer later.

The Susan G. Komen Foundation commis-

sioned "Sing for the Cure," according to Seelig, explaining that Komen founder Nancy Brinker wanted to get the organization's message out in a new way — through music.

Pamela Martin Tomlinson wrote the libretto, which was set to music by 10 composers. The work tells the true stories of the pain, struggles and hope of breast cancer survivors.

Maya Angelou narrated the 2000 premiere of the song cycle in Dallas. Seelig conducted the Turtle Creek Chorale performance at the Meyerson.

"Nothing like big shoes to fill," Syler joked. "I'm terrified!"

But she said that as she listens to the music and prepares for the performance, she is just a conduit for a greater message.

"I'm helping spread a message of hope and encouragement through song," Syler said.

Since its first performance in Dallas, the piece has been performed around the world.

"Last year it had its Canadian premiere in Vancouver, and Dallas PUMP! performed," Seelig said. He said he has conducted performances of the work "from London to Wichita, Kansas."

The London Gay Symphony Orchestra accompanied the London concert with singers from

■ **SING**, Page 11

## instantTEA

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### Greg Abbott's conundrum

There's a fascinating case out of El Paso in which a male-to-female transgender person is seeking to marry another woman.

The Texas Tribune reports that the El Paso county attorney is requesting an opinion from Attorney General Greg Abbott about whether the trans woman can marry another woman, given that the trans woman was technically born a male.



Greg Abbott

Now I'm no expert, but I do believe that in the infamous 1999 case of Littleton v.

Prange, a Texas appeals court refused to recognize a marriage between a man and a male-to-female transsexual, saying you must go by the birth certificate of the trans person.

But according to the Tribune, lawmakers changed the Family Code in 2009 to allow a sex-change court order to nullify a birth certificate for the purpose of marriage licenses. And it would certainly seem to me that the bottom line here is, you can't have it both ways.

In other words, if you refuse to accept the existence of transgender people, as Abbott surely does, then you have to go by the birth certificate, right? So, if someone has a birth certificate saying they're male, as in the current El Paso case, then they must be allowed to marry a woman.

On the other hand, if you refuse to allow this marriage because you accept that the trans person is now a woman, then you have to allow the marriage of Littleton.

It's a lose-lose for Abbott and his right-wing cronies, because either way the state will be forced to allow what one side considers to be a same-sex marriage.

**UPDATE:** As it turns out, the couple has already married — on Monday in San Antonio. The El Paso Times reports that Sabrina J. Hill and Therese "Tee" Bur applied for a marriage license in February in El Paso, and the county attorney there requested the opinion from Abbott. So instead the couple traveled to San Antonio, where the clerk said he grants same-sex marriage licenses once or twice a year. The clerk told the newspaper he's just going by the court's ruling in Littleton v. Prange. From The Times:

*Hill and Bur never intended to make a social statement or seek publicity but are now receiving interview requests from as far away as England. "It did strike me. We have been living so covertly, being careful not to express public displays of affection, and then we were standing in front of a judge saying, 'You may now kiss your bride,'" Bur said. "A public display of affection — it is so validating."*

There's no word on whether Abbott will challenge the marriage.

— John Wright



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## localbriefs

### LaTour to speak at CoH

Breast cancer survivor Kathy LaTour will speak Sunday, May 9, at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Resounding Harmony, Dallas' newest community chorus, will be the special musical guest at both services.

LaTour was diagnosed with breast cancer in



1986 and has been active in the cancer survivor community, both locally and nationally, ever since. She has been on the board of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship and was founding board president of The Bridge Breast Center. LaTour was also founding president of the board for Gilda's Club North Texas.

LaTour published her book, "The Breast Cancer Companion," in 1993. She and her daughter Kirtley narrated "Sing for the Cure" in 2000, and in 2004, she premiered her one-woman show, "One Mutant Cell," in Dallas to benefit Gilda's Club. She has since performed the show in more than 50 cities.

Resounding Harmony, conducted by Timothy Seelig, has raised more than \$100,000 for local charitable groups. The group will sing a selection from "Sing for the Cure," which will be performed in its entirety on Wednesday, May 12, at the Meyerson Symphony Center.

### Mr. IGRA candidate hosting benefit

Jody Harvey, a candidate for Mr. International Gay Rodeo Association 2011 and the current Mr. Texas Gay Rodeo Association, will host the "Guys N Gear Underwear Auction on Saturday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St.

One of the requirements for Mr. IGRA candidates is to hold fundraising events for area organizations, and Harvey said this event will be a fundraiser for TGRA.

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| Michael Fortenberry, from left, Larry Hackett, Miss Irving Jordan Johannsen, Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS Development Director Arlen Miller get into the spirit of the evening at the Passion 4 Fashion show, sponsored by Saks Fifth Avenue and Caven Enterprises and benefitting Lone Star Ride. Money raised from the show, held April 16 at S4, will be used to purchase bicycles for LSR's Lone Star Locker, a program that loans bicycles to individuals who want to participate in the annual two-day benefit cycling event but who don't have their own bicycles. The event also supported Loan Star's L'il' Locker program that provides bicycles during the holidays for children from families impacted by HIV/AIDS. (Terry Thompson/Dallas Voice)

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# Baylor Medical Center gym refuses gay couple a family membership

Director at Tom Landry Fitness Center says policy dictated by hospital; refusal prompts calls for LGBT boycott of facility

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

A fitness center owned by Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas won't allow same-sex couples to sign up for family memberships, a possible violation of the city's nondiscrimination ordinance that's prompted calls for a boycott of the facility.

Steven Johnson said he's been a member of the Baylor Tom Landry Fitness Center, at 411 N. Washington St. in downtown Dallas, for the last eight months.

On Tuesday, May 4, Johnson tried to add his partner of 23 years, Roland Crago, to his membership, but the gym refused.

"I have had numerous health clubs," Johnson said, "and all of them have accepted us as family members. So add Tom Landry Fitness Center to your list with Exxon and all the other companies we can not support with our dollars."

Phil Tyne, director of the Tom Landry Fitness Center, confirmed that gays and lesbians are prohibited from adding same-sex partners to their memberships as spouses. Tyne added that only spouses and children qualify for family memberships.

Tyne said the policy is dictated by the Medical Center, not the 7,000-member gym. He said a representative from the Medical Center's public re-



Steven Johnson

lations department would "pull the policy" and contact the newspaper, but they had not done so by press time.

"We can't put him on as a spouse if they're not a married couple," Tyne said. "It goes directly with the state law of Texas on what defines a marriage."

It may also go against the city's eight-year-old nondiscrimination ordinance. And one local gay

■ GYM, Page 10



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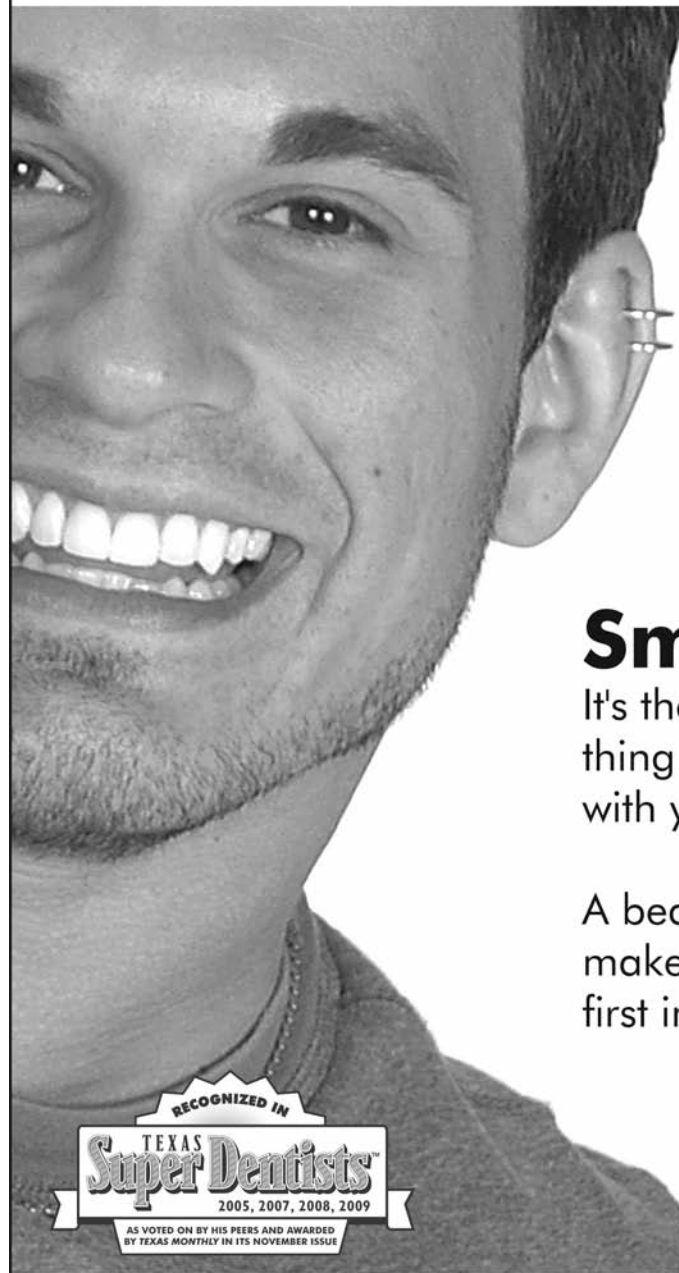
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**GYM**

From Page 9

attorney said the policy raises questions about whether the Medical Center itself discriminates against same-sex couples when it comes to things like visitation.

Beverly Davis, director of Dallas' Fair Housing Office, said it's "possible" that the gym's policy violates the ordinance, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations. The Fair Housing Office investigates complaints under the ordinance.

Davis added that she was surprised to learn that a gym in Dallas wouldn't allow family memberships for same-sex partners.

"It is so common these days to have different family arrangements," Davis said. "It would seem to me that most people who are in that business ought to be accustomed to that by now, and would easily make an accommodation to recognize that you have all different kinds of families now."

Johnson said he planned to contact the Fair Housing Office and file a complaint. A similar complaint was filed a few years against another gym, the Texas Club. In response to media coverage, the Texas Club changed its policy before the

complaint could proceed.

Rob Wiley, a gay Dallas attorney who frequently handles discrimination cases, called the policy "absolutely ridiculous." But Wiley acknowledged there may be a "gray area" under the ordinance when it comes to marital status.

"I think to some extent it's open to interpretation," Wiley said. "I would hope that the city of Dallas would take a broad interpretation. ... There's certainly nothing in the ordinance that says same-sex couples should not be treated the same as married couples."

Wiley, who once represented a lesbian employee who was fired by the Medical Center, said he doesn't believe the hospital is exempt from the ordinance as a religious organization, even though it's affiliated with the Baptist university in Waco.

"When you have a religious organization that's performing a nonreligious kind of service, then generally it's not going to apply," Wiley said of the exemption for religious organizations. "I don't think that lifting weights has anything to do with praying to God."

"It's shocking, it's petty, it doesn't make good business sense," he added of the policy. "It really is just a policy based on nothing more than discrimination." ■

**MOTHERHOOD**

From Page 4

done and they go back home.

"Each one of these kids is important to me, and I want to be able to visit them later," she explained. "I am only able to go visit every other year, and if they are all from different countries, then I have to make a hard choice about who to go see when I get the chance to go. But since all but one are from Germany, I don't have to choose. I can go and see them all in one trip."

Usually, Coghill makes her biennial journeys in the summer, but her first trip to Germany was at Christmas. The student she was hosting that year was in the U.S. only for the first half of the school year, so she accompanied the student back home, she said.

This year, Coghill added, she is heading to Germany to visit her kids in July, and she expects one

student will be coming back with her.

"My second kid comes back every year to spend most of the summer, and the rest have all come back to spend at least a week with me," she said.

Many LGBT individuals and couples might think that they wouldn't be accepted as foreign exchange student host families because of their sexual orientation. With EF Foundation, Coghill said, that isn't the case at all.

"A same-sex couple would have to have the approval of the student's family to host a student, and a single man couldn't host a female student. But for single people, being gay or lesbian isn't an issue at all for EF," Coghill said.

"I am single, and I don't really date much, so it really isn't an issue for me," she continued. "But I make it an issue. I want that student and his or her family to know before I host a student that I am a lesbian."

■ MOTHERHOOD, Next Page



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■ **MOTHERHOOD**, From Previous Page

“Once I pick a student to host, I fall in love with them, the way any parent falls in love with their child. And if they know I am a lesbian before they come here, but we make the agreement, I don’t have to worry about it being any kind of problem later. But if they don’t know before they get here, and then they find out and decide they don’t want to live with me because of that, then it would break my heart,” she said.

Coghill said she has never encountered any resistance from the families of students she has hosted. In fact, she said, “the first boy I hosted, when we talked about me being a lesbian, he said that was one of the main reasons he wanted to live with me. He said all the gay people he had known were very nice, and so he thought I would be nice, too. They are a little more open-minded about things like that in Germany.”

Coghill also had some advice for LGBT people — or anyone, for that matter — considering becoming a host family: Know what you’re getting into, and be prepared for everything.

“You have to go into it knowing that you are dealing with teenagers, and teenagers like to test boundaries and push buttons. You have to go into it expecting there will be times when things are all wonderful,” she said.

But, she added, the advantages — the pure joy of sharing your life with these teenagers and having them share their lives with you — “is just so much greater than any of the problems you might have. It’s worth it, completely.”

Some people might see hosting a foreign exchange student as a short-term commitment, like having a house guest for 10 or 11 months who will then leave and not really have any more impact on their lives.

But for Coghill, each hosting agreement is a long-term commitment, and each student becomes a member of her family.

“Once they’re in your house, they’re in your heart. And once they’re in your heart, they never leave,” she said. “When I got to a reunion or see someone I haven’t seen in a long time, they’ll ask if I have any children. I tell them yes, I have six. It always gets me some funny looks, and then I explain.

“The thing for me is that these students and I, we choose each other. It’s not like I am their biological mother and they have to love me because I am their mother, or I have to love them because they are my children. We choose to love each other,” Coghill said.

“This isn’t a love affair you’re born into. It’s one you choose. And it is wonderful.” ■

For more information on hosting a foreign exchange student, go online to [EFFoundation.org](http://EFFoundation.org).



**HAVE VOICES, WILL TRAVEL** | About 145 members of Resounding Harmony will travel to New York City to perform ‘Sing for the Cure’ at Carnegie Hall.

**SING**

From Page 4

around Europe and from as far away as Australia.

Two years ago, Seelig founded Resounding Harmony as a mixed-voice chorus, gay and straight, male and female. Fundraising is a major goal of the group and partnering with the Komen Foundation for the 10th anniversary of “Sing for the Cure” was a natural for them, Seelig said.

Of Resounding Harmony’s nearly 200 members, about 145 of them, as of earlier this week, will be performing in New York, according to Seelig.

“Approximately 90 others are meeting us there from all over the U.S.,” Seelig said.

Singers who are performing in New York paid a \$590 fee. This covers the hall rental, hiring an orchestra, advertising and rehearsal space. In addition, singers are responsible for their own airfare

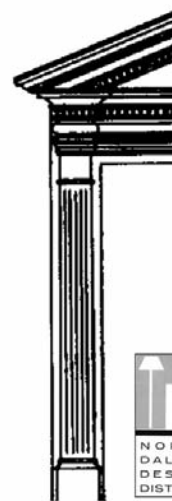
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## ■ texasnews

### SING

From Page 11

and hotel.

The Dallas singers have been rehearsing since January, and many of the guest singers who will join Resounding Harmony at Carnegie Hall have performed the piece with other groups in their hometowns.

"A large chunk is a group coming from Sarasota," Seelig said. Their group, Diversity Sarasota, will perform the piece on May 15 in Florida.

In New York, the combined chorus will rehearse on Friday and Saturday. Then on Sunday there will be a full dress rehearsal with Syler and the orchestra before that evening's performance.

To Seelig, nothing compares to performing at Carnegie Hall. For the fifth anniversary of "Sing for the Cure," he conducted the Turtle Creek Chorale there.

"Not one person I've ever taken didn't say, 'I'd pay double to stand on that stage.'"

### FWPD

From Page 1

April 30. Cause of death is listed as blunt force trauma to the head, inflicted by another person.

Police reports indicate that a passerby saw Fairbairn outside his vehicle after he had been attacked, and offered to call police. Fairbairn refused, however, saying he would drive himself to the hospital.

But police later found Fairbairn dead in his car, which was parked alongside the curb on Cannon Street.

Initial reports described the suspect in Fairbairn's murder as a black male. But Straten on Thursday stressed that police are looking for information on a white male suspect. She also said these other robberies "may or may not" be related to Fairbairn's death.

David Mack Henderson with Fairness Fort Worth issued a statement on Saturday, May 1, saying that his organization had heard reports of several muggings in that area over the last few months in which the victims had chosen not to report the attacks.

Henderson encouraged those people and any others who had been mugged to contact police as

soon as possible. Straten on Thursday reiterated that plea.

Straten also sent a message to Fairness Fort Worth asking for that organization's help in finding victims and potential witnesses.

"We need to talk to anyone who may have information on these crimes," Straten told Fairness Fort Worth. "Community members can talk to me first if they prefer, but I have a good friend who is working Homicide and has asked us for our help."

"We need to work together on this, and while I cannot discuss much at this point, I will the second that I have information that I can talk about."


"We just have to maintain some privacy in order to successfully prosecute when we get this investigated to its conclusion," Straten said.

Straten asked that anyone with information contact her by phone at 817-475-3630. "I will return every call or text I get," she said.

Fairness Fort Worth posted Straten's message on its Facebook page and also offered to act as a go-between for people who might have information but are hesitant to go to police directly.

"Send a note to FairnessFtWorth@aol.com, and we'll reach back quickly," the notice said. ■

Online Editor John Wright contributed to this report.



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## IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

"I feel like I've been set back," he said. "Everything is harder for me."

Without documentation, Miguel has not been able to go to college, although he tried to register at El Centro College.

"Because I'm not a legal resident, they can't give me loans," he said.

Miguel works two jobs, at a gas station and fast food restaurant, trying to save money for school. To get those jobs, he had to use someone else's information.

Miguel drives, although he does not have a driver's license. Texas does not issue licenses to residents who are not legal.

Miguel said that he's trying to save money, but has spent much of it recently paying a couple of traffic tickets that included extra penalties for driving without a license. He's careful to make sure any fines he incurs are paid so he's not picked up later on a violation.

If he were arrested, Miguel would likely be sent to Mexico, a place he hasn't been since he was five and where he has no family. He does not speak Spanish well, and would have no place to live.

Miguel said he understands that he faces these dangers because he is in the country illegally. But he also noted that inequities in U.S. immigration law for LGBT people leave him with far fewer options than others in his situation.

Miguel's brother married a woman who is U.S. citizen and is now in the United States legally. His sister married a man who is a U.S. citizen and now resides in this country legally.

Miguel's boyfriend would like to do the same for him, but because they have a same-sex relationship that is not recognized by the federal government, he cannot.

"I'm screwed in two ways," he said.

The situation is not uncommon.

The former mayor of San Angelo, J.W. Lown, resigned soon after he was re-elected for his fourth term last year to be with his partner. Lown's partner had returned to Mexico because he could not get legal status here. But that would not have been the case had they been a heterosexual couple.

Lown moved to Mexico so they could be together.

"Under the current laws, once you are out of status, it is very hard to gain legal status," said Cannon Flowers, executive director of the Human Rights Initiative. "It takes congressional intervention."

Flowers said that a comprehensive immigration bill was introduced in Congress last week that includes the LGBT-friendly Uniting American Families Act and the Dream Act. Either would help in Miguel's situation.

UAFAs would allow bi-national LGBT families to remain together legally in the United States, and the non-citizen could gain eventual citizenship, Flowers said.

The Dream Act would allow people who came to this country as minors to apply for citizenship. Flowers said those applying for legal status under this law would have to meet a number of criteria.



**STANDING FOR A CAUSE** | Jesse Garcia, president of the LULAC 4871-Dallas Rainbow Council, and Dallas City Councilwoman Pauline Medrano were among those who turned out to march for immigration reform. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

To be granted legal status under the Dream Act, applicants would have to be high school graduates, have been in the country five years before passage of the bill and be of good moral character.

Flowers said that last provision simply means the person has no criminal record, and he said he does not expect it would be used to exclude LGBT immigrants.

Flowers said the only current alternative for someone like Miguel is to go to Mexico and re-enter the U.S. with a work or student visa.

Many of the arguments for stricter enforcement of current immigration laws and deportation of anyone in this country without legal status are economic in nature.

Some argue that North Texas public schools and county hospitals are overwhelmed serving illegal residents.

But two of the property taxes paid in Texas fund the local hospital district and the independent school district, and an illegal immigrant who buys a home in Dallas County pays property taxes that support DISD and Parkland Hospital. And those who pay rent fund their landlord's payment of those taxes.

However, in an e-mail to Dallas Voice, one writer pointed that out illegal immigrants do not pay federal taxes, and those taxes fund a number of local programs.

"Our schools, hospitals, etc. are not funded 100 percent by sales and property taxes," he wrote. "[Federal taxes] fund local programs like school lunches, general federal school funding."

A number of other local school programs that cover many non-legal students are funded with federal money. Title 1 grants support education for disadvantaged students and IDEA grants subsidize programs for disabled students.

Signs by counterprotesters at the Mega March called for the end to granting citizenship to "anchor babies." Those are children born to mothers who come across the border pregnant and give birth on U.S. soil.

But a number of studies indicate that undocumented workers actually have a positive effect on their communities.

The non-partisan Iowa Policy Project found that the average undocumented family in that state paid about \$1,254 in sales and excise taxes, \$110 in property taxes and \$307 in income taxes, for a total tax contribution of \$1,671 each year.

The League of Women's Voters did a study on the impact of immigration.

In North Carolina, for example, they found that foreign workers filled one-third of new jobs in North Carolina. Supplying services to those same people cost the state \$61 million but their impact on the state was an \$11 billion contribution.

Still, the issue remains volatile. One side would like the federal government to enforce current laws strictly and even build a wall across the border. The other side would like immigration laws to be reformed and enforced.

Under current laws, same-sex couples have no rights. Whether same-sex couples are included in any reform bill is at the whim of Congress. As the bill introduced by Sen. Charles Schumer of New York now stands, gays and lesbians would benefit.

One candidate for Congress in Iowa offered his own proposal this week to deal with illegal aliens. "I actually support micro-chipping them," Republican candidate Pat Bertroche said. "I can micro-chip my dog so I can find it. Why can't I microchip an illegal? That's not a popular thing to say, but it's a lot cheaper than building a fence they can tunnel under." ■



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NEWS ANALYSIS:

**White House likely to side with Gates and not push for DADT repeal this year**

Activists concerned Democrats could lose seats in Senate, House in mid-term elections, diminishing chance for repeal in near future

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service  
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Wording is everything in politics. What *is not* said can sometimes be more important than what *is* said, and what is said can be subjected to a multitude of interpretations that transform a simple sentence into a powerful new expectation.

Such has been the case with this statement, made by President Barack Obama in January during his State of the Union speech: "This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country."

He *did not* say that he and Congress would "repeal the law this year." He said he would work with Congress on it this year.

But, whatever the president's intention, the sentence was widely interpreted by many LGBT people and other political circles as a promise by the president to repeal the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy this year.

And this interpretation has been repeated often enough that it has taken on a life of its own.

LGBT activists have reasons for pushing for repeal this year. In part, they are concerned about mid-term elections this November — elections that many predict could weaken the Democratic majority in both the House and Senate, making for a tougher vote if repeal is postponed until 2011.

And in part, they have been relying on the advice of Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and the Human Rights Campaign from last September. They said then that a floor vote on DADT in the House wasn't likely until 2010 because of Congress' preoccupation with health care reform.

Frank suggested activists focus on garnering support for a 2010 push to approve the measure through on the annual bill to authorize Department of Defense spending.

But now that 2010 is here, another stack of critical bills is piling up on the Congressional floors — immigration, oil spills, climate change and a Supreme Court nominee.

Democratic leaders are not promising to put the language into the original DOD authorization bill

but suggesting, rather, that the repeal measure fend for itself as an amendment. And Defense Secretary Robert Gates is becoming emphatic that a vote on repeal should not happen until after the Pentagon study group hands its study into him on Dec. 1.

Gates' position has not changed since February. Six days after the State of the Union, Gates appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee, with Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Michael Mullen, and stated very carefully that his working group would come up with an "implementation plan by the end of this calendar year."

He did not say they would implement the plan this year. He said they would come up with a plan this year. And that plan, said Gates, is to ensure that the department is prepared "should the law be changed," not when it is changed.

The prospects for change are defined, of course, by that delicate relationship between the political composition of Congress and the perceived support of the public as measured through polls.

And, for the Obama administration, those prospects are no doubt still haunted by the memory of President Clinton's failed effort to overturn the ban on gays in the military — the effort that ended up producing "don't ask, don't tell."

So, until recently, the White House has been mum on a timetable.

So, LGBT activists have stepped up the pressure, publicly confronting Obama during a speech in Los Angeles, staging three events in which activists have handcuffed themselves to the White House fence, and, on May 10 and 11, organizing more than 300 veterans to lobby Congress for the measure.

Then, at a regular White House briefing on April 21, Advocate magazine reporter Kerry Eleveld asked White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs whether President Obama is "committed to letting the Pentagon work through its working group process until Dec. 1?"

"Yes," said Gibbs. "The president has set forward a process with the chair of the Joint Chiefs and with the Secretary of Defense to work through the issue."

Asked whether that commitment "rules out legislative action this year," Gibbs passed the buck. Congress, he said, is "a different branch of government."

Congress was clearly feeling the pressure, too,

■ Continued on Next Page



■ Continued From Previous Page

and, on April 28, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee — Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Missouri — sent a letter to Secretary Gates asking for his views “on the advisability of legislative proposals that may impact” the DADT policy.

“I expect this issue will be raised at a number of junctures throughout” the process of reauthorizing the DOD funding bill, wrote Skelton. Skelton opposes repeal of DADT, so his letter appeared to be a request for ammunition against consideration of a repeal measure.

On April 30, Gates and Mullen, responded — although the response came on the letterhead of the Secretary of Defense and was written in the first-person singular:

“I believe in the strongest possible terms that the department must, prior to any legislative action, be allowed the opportunity to conduct a thorough, objective and systematic assessment of the impact of such a policy change; develop an attentive comprehensive implementation plan and provide the president and the Congress with the results of this effort in order to ensure that this step is taken in the most informed and effective manner.”

The Gates letter advised Skelton that it is “critical” the DOD working group be able to “systematically engage our forces, their families, and the broader military community.”

“Our military must be afforded the opportunity to inform us of their concerns, insights and suggestions if we are to carry out this change successfully,” said the letter.

“Therefore, I strongly oppose any legislation that seeks to change this policy prior to the completion of this vital assessment process,” stated the letter.

To change the policy prior to this study completion, said Gates, “would send a very damaging message to our men and women in uniform that in essence their views, concerns and perspectives do not matter on an issue with such a direct impact and consequence for them and their families.”

It was an unusually blunt message from a man who has demonstrated he is capable of being politically cautious — even neutral — on this issue. Now, suddenly, Gates was drawing a line in the sand and warning of failure for repeal should Congress approve it prior to the study’s completion.

Then, the White House issued a statement that same day:

“The President’s commitment to repealing ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ is unequivocal. This is not a question of if, but how,” said the statement. “That’s why we’ve said that the implementation of any congressional repeal will be delayed until the DOD study of how best to implement that repeal is completed. The president is committed to getting this done both soon and right.”

Given the timing and bluntness of the White House statement, some might have interpreted it as a pushback against Gates’ letter. But LGBT activists reacted angrily to the president’s willingness to wait on repeal “until the DOD study of how best to implement that repeal is completed.”

## Dallasite among those arrested in DADT protest



**MAKING A STATEMENT** | Dallas activist Mark Reed, right, was one of six protesters arrested on Sunday, May 2, to demand immediate repeal of DADT. (Photo courtesy GetEQUAL)

Reed says Gates memo prompted him to join latest action outside White House

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

Dallas activist Mark Reed was one of six LGBT activists arrested after chaining themselves to the fence around the White House during the May 1 rally to demand a 2010 repeal of “don’t ask don’t tell.” The rally was organized by the direct action groups GetEQUAL, Queer Rising and Talk About Equality.

Reed, a member of GetEQUAL, said he hadn’t even planned on being in D.C. last weekend. Then he heard Lt. Dan Choi’s “Truth or Consequences” speech at Harvard University last week on the Internet, which inspired him to book a flight for the rally.

As he was en route to the capital, Reed got wind of Defense Secretary Robert Gates’ letter to Congress, in which Gates strongly urged lawmakers not to repeal DADT this year, delivering a major blow to the cause. That’s when Reed

“The commander in chief sounds like he is deferring to his Defense Secretary, to a House chairman who opposes him on repeal, and to his political operatives,” said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

Michael Cole, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, said the repeal effort lacks “clarity and leadership” and added, “We expect and demand that clarity and leadership from the administration immediately.”

There may be a compromise in the works.

On April 30, the same day Gates drew his line in the sand and the White House responded, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., issued a statement suggesting the administration “immediately place a moratorium on dismissals under the policy until the review has been completed and Congress has acted.”

It’s a suggestion Pelosi has raised before but which has gotten little attention or support from

volunteered to be one of the six civilians who would chain themselves to the fence during the rally.

“Reading the Gates memo on Friday really made me angry and it convinced me that Obama really, truly wasn’t behind us, and that letter was providing a cover for politicians not to promote a repeal of DADT this year,” Reed said. ... “We need to ratchet up the pressure and let them know that we’re not going to take it anymore.”

Reed spent 24 hours in jail before being released following a court appearance on Monday, May 3.

After appearing in court, Reed was ordered to pay a \$100 fine before being released. His case is closed, and he won’t have to return to D.C. for court. But that’s not to say he won’t be back there for other reasons.

“Absolutely, I’d do it again, and I hope others join us,” Reed said. “I think that these actions may help and they may not, but I’ll tell you what, if nothing else is working, and if it doesn’t get repealed this year, at least we can say we tried our best to bring attention to it.” ■

either LGBT activists or the DOD.

“Our first priority is for full repeal of ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ this year,” said a statement released by SLDN spokesman Trevor Thomas. “It is premature to be looking at moratorium options right now.”

The White House confirmed Tuesday, May 4, that a meeting has been scheduled between more than 100 gay vets and officials in the White House Office of Public Engagement, on May 10.

But Shin Inouye, a spokesman for the White House for LGBT media, said the meeting is simply one of the “many outreach meetings we do on a wide range of issues.”

HRC’s Cole agreed.

Cole said the meeting was scheduled as part of HRC’s lobby day effort “for the veterans to hear from the White House about their plans for repeal and for the veterans to share their stories and impress upon them the need for repeal this year.” ■

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viewpoints

'Your papers please!'

New Arizona immigration law echoes with shades of Hitler's Germany, and it's an issue the LGBT community must take a stand on

"Ihre Papiere, bitte!" That phrase often brought shudders to the people who heard it in the 1930s and '40s. It is German for "Your papers, please," and it came to symbolize the iron fist of the state that slammed down on the German people and especially on immigrants, Jews, gypsies and gays.

Now that phrase will be heard, albeit in English, in Arizona with alarming frequency. It will be part of the new anti-illegal immigrant law that was signed in that state.

Police can stop anyone if they have a suspicion that they might be illegal. What's worse, it encourages residents to monitor law enforcement and if they believe police officers are not enforcing immigration laws, to sue them.

This crazy bill, SB-1070, will probably not stand the test of constitutionality since it includes provisions that grant police officers authority to conduct warrant-less arrests of anyone who cannot immediately produce documents proving their status. That kind of thing has already been invalidated by the Ninth Circuit Court, but apparently it hasn't stopped the Arizona legislature from including it in their bill.

The root of the whole thing is something pretty basic, and it should be of concern to all of us: Racism.

I am not talking about KKK-style racism, but something far more subtle.

Recent research has shown that racial attitudes run so broad and deep in our society that even children can learn to discriminate based on skin color almost as soon as they can talk. They learn

from both the verbal and non-verbal cues our society bombards us with every day.

The bill was supposed to be about illegal immigration, and I understand that it is a problem. But the solution offered by the Arizona law is based on the assumption that you can easily recognize a person's citizenship by just looking at them.

Well, I haven't heard of an "illegal immigrant uniform," so the only thing left is the color of their skin.

The problems encountered by people of color when driving through Highland Park come to mind. There has been no firm proof, but the expression "Driving while Hispanic" has already entered the vernacular.

It is the basis of a lot of traffic stops in that cloistered white enclave, and it is the kind of racial profiling that will undoubtedly take place in Arizona.

So what the heck does this have to do with us? Well, Texas has never been one to be left behind when the bigotry train is leaving the station.

Republican state Rep. Debbie Riddle of Tomball plans to put forth a similar bill to Arizona's. The city of Farmer's Branch is already embroiled in a similar controversy with its attempt to pass an ordinance that would prevent landlords from renting to undocumented immigrants. I will bet you there are several more in the pipeline.

The federal government is responsible for immigration, and local authorities and states getting involved just muddies the waters. Unfortunately, until the federal government comes up with a workable solution to the problem, this kind of thing will reoccur.

It's strange that the same folks who are screeching about the government taking control of everything can't wait to put a law in place that is about as fascist as they come.

So again, why should this bother us? Well, it is a short step from demanding proof of citizenship papers to other more draconian measures.

As one minority begins to be targeted, the scope will broaden to others. Imagine if the police in Arizona began using this law to harass LGBT people.

Say they demand proof of your gender. Even though there are laws in some states banning discrimination because of gender identity, many transgendered people are distrustful of law enforcement officials, and it would not be hard to imagine problems arising during such a stop.

It is only a small step from demanding citizenship papers to using that law to harass whoever

the law enforcement officer decides they want to harass. If memory serves, our local constabulary has already been shown to be ready and willing to use any excuse to bust a few heads.

Just take a look at the Rainbow Lounge raid. Standing beside other minorities when they face discrimination is not just a good idea, it's something that will bring benefits to us all — especially when we need support at the ballot box. ■

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

Swinging vote

The needle on my mental gauge has finally settled in the center on immigration issue — with a clear understanding that it's not just about immigrants

There's a gauge in my head with a needle that sways back and forth between L for liberal and R for conservative. When I'm observing events around me the needle usually sways wildly from the middle to the right, then back to the left, usually coming back to rest just to the left of the center.

That's what happened when I was watching televised reports of the pro-immigration reform march and rally on May Day in Dallas that drew tens of thousands to downtown streets.

My first reaction to a woman from El Salvador who acknowledged being in the United States illegally was one of astonishment. She had just given her name and showed her face while demanding the right to be allowed to live and work in the U.S. without interference from government officials.

Why didn't she just paint an X on her posterior and bend over in the street in front of the camera?



Hardy Haberman

Flagging Left



David Webb

The Rare Reporter

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125 Votes cast



My best guess is that she's going to get a visit from some immigration officials in the near future.

To that point, much smaller numbers of counterprotesters attended the march and rally, demanding that government officials enforce current immigration laws that would deport anyone living in the U.S. illegally.

At one point my reaction was one of indignation, because I've considered moving to Mexico to live in retirement in Puerto Vallarta, and I certainly understand that would require a little interference by Mexican government officials.

That would have been when the needle was popping over to the right in a pretty dramatic, "boing."

But there I go again, forgetting that in comparison to this woman who is struggling to survive and provide for her children, I am the privileged white American who wants to live in paradise. I realized it was not fair to compare our two agendas, and that's when the needle launched backwards.

After all, most Americans who have come here in the last five centuries have been run out of some other part of the world or been forced to flee for another reason, such as famine, unemployment, political oppression, religious perse-

cution and even criminal prosecution.

Many were seeking help from relatives who were already here. The others were searching for adventure, fame and fortune.

I don't see any difference between our ancestors and the current flow of people from other countries, and I don't think our being here earlier gives us any cause to be indifferent to their plights.

If the conditions in their home countries weren't unbearable, they wouldn't be risking their lives to get here anyway they can. The marches and rallies — simultaneously staged from New York to Los Angeles, with Dallas drawing one of the larger crowds — were for a just cause.

They drew widespread participation because of a recently passed Arizona law targeting illegal immigrants and justifiable concerns that other states might follow suit.

No matter how much it galls some people, we have large numbers of people from other countries living and working in the U.S. illegally.

The idea of deporting them is neither practical nor humane. They have established their lives here, and many of their children are now natural-born U.S. citizens.



**SPEAKING UP** | Thousands attended the march for immigration reform in Dallas on May 1, including a large contingent from the LGBT community. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

What's more, there is inequity in immigration laws regarding gay and lesbian people who want to bring their committed partners who were born in other countries to live with them in the U.S.

So with the needle in my head more-or-less stable, I finally concluded, immigration reform is long overdue for many reasons that are important to me. The more time we spend trying to en-

force antiquated policies, the bigger and more complicated the problem becomes.

I think so much more clearly when I'm centered. ■

*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).*

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## query 05.07.10 BY DAVID TAFFET

Why is immigration reform an LGBT issue?

**Sally Lowry** — "It's everybody's issue."

**Tracy Clinton** — "There are LGBT people all over the world who want to come here and share in the opportunities."

**Alexis Sanchez** — "We're fighting for equal rights for people in general."

**Tony McMullin** — "It's an extension of our own fight for full equality. There's no sunlight between these two issues."

**Patrick McCoy** — "I was involved with someone who was not a citizen. I couldn't sponsor my same-sex partner the way a heterosexual couple could."

**Jason Wright** — "The thing that got me into this is that they're locking people up for this. These are people sending money home to families, not criminals. We have to learn to co-exist and we demand rights for LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants."

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





# Woman on top

Of her game, that is. Acclaimed lesbian director **Francesca Zambello** has two shows in Dallas now — she just wishes she could be here to enjoy them

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

**F**rancesca Zambello is well represented on the stages of Dallas... which is a strange thing, because she's not *in* Dallas. Not even close.

Try China.

"I'm directing 'Carmen' at National Center for the Performing Arts here," she says in an interview via Skype. "That's the big theater that looks a giant egg. This is the first time a Westerner has ever directed a production in the theater and the first big production of a Western opera. There're a lot of difficulties but I think the pros outweigh the cons — it's such a unique experience."

But Zambello sincerely wishes she could be in Dallas. After all, she has two shows opening here this week.

The first is the Dallas Opera's season closer, a revival of her production of *Madame Butterfly*, which she originally staged a decade ago for the Dallas Opera. Zambello's concept for the show is being recreated by her on-site assistant, with whom she has been in daily e-mail communication.

Then across town, the national tour of *Little House on the Prairie*, which Zambello conceived and directed before it hit the road, arrives courtesy Dallas Summer Musicals. It's an embarrassment of riches for the East Coast girl who secretly pines for Texas.

"I'm a New Yorker who loves working in Texas," Zambello says. "And I want to see the beautiful new [Winspear] theater. I do check on the tour with *Little House* and Dallas would have been the city I would have stopped in."

For now, she'll have to settle for being an internationally in-demand theater artist — one who, unconventionally, straddles the worlds of both musical theater and grand opera. And as one of the few openly gay women at her level, her achievements are rarer still.

"I started in theater and just gravitated to opera," she explains. "The last number of years I have been doing more of both, which in Europe is very accepted but less common [in the U.S.]"

## ON THE BOARDS

**MADAME BUTTERFLY** at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 7–23. Evenings at 7:30 p.m., matinees at 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org

**LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE** at Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. May 11–23. Tuesdays–Sundays, weekend matinees. DallasSummerMusicals.com



**ON THE ROPES** | Francesca Zambello is a rarity among American stage directors — and not just by being a gay woman. She works effortlessly between fluffy Broadway musicals and epic grand operas. (Photo courtesy Daniel Chavkin)

Her career path raises the issue: With the expansion of musicals from spritely revues to bombastic epics, is there a great dividing line between opera and musicals anymore?

"It's very much blurring," she says. "A lot of people will raise their hackles at me for saying this, but for me, musicals *are* American opera — our popular musical art form, the way people in Europe might whistle Verdi on the street. They have entered our popular culture and are our big contribution to musical history, a fusion of Vaudeville and operetta and opera. And it's amazing to think they aren't even 100 years old!"

It's that approach that lets Zambello effortlessly flit between serious, deeply psychological classic operas like *Butterfly* and small, prosaic new musicals like *Little House* — with some *Disney's The*

*Little Mermaid* thrown in. (Zambello directed the live-action musical on Broadway, which she worked on with Dallas native Doug Wright. "I love, love, love working with him and he is a fantastic collaborator," she says.)

But it all works together for her.

"The irony of the job is that your reputation is made in larger, more prestigious venues, but the work that satisfies you more is often in the smaller, out-of-the-way places. Of course, you want to be at the Met and at the Royal Opera House and the West End, but sometimes the pressures of these places are not as conducive to your best work. *Little House* we developed as a production based on the imagination of the audience. *Little Mermaid* is certainly more lavish.



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**MULTI-TASKING** | From the American plains ('Little House on the Prairie,' left) to a Japanese consulate ('Madame Butterfly,' right), Francesca Zambello is well-represented on Dallas stages this week.

■ **STAGE**, From Page 18

"To be truthful, I think opera productions are very much like musicals in that you have to tell stories in highly dramatic and embellished ways, different from a straight play," Zambello says. "One thing much better about theater than opera is you have so many performances and previews. But the great unknown is always the audience."

That's even more an issue when she finds herself overseas in places like China, and her recently completed tour of Cambodia. But she goes it alone there.

"My partner stays at home — she has no interest to come to Cambodia," she draws. "She's the

editor-in-chief for arts & culture for Bloomberg News, so she travels enough herself."

The couple will settle in a little more next year, now that Zambello has accepted the choice assignment as general and artistic director of the Glimmerglass Opera Festival, one of North America's most acclaimed opera programs. But she keeps coming back to Texas.

"I'm really upset I'm not coming," she interjects suddenly. "You don't know, I have a lot of friends there. There are certain cities where I know a lot of people. I love audiences in Texas because they definitely let you know what they think."

That we do. ■

**Show boaters**

**The glorious stagecraft of 'Moby-Dick'**

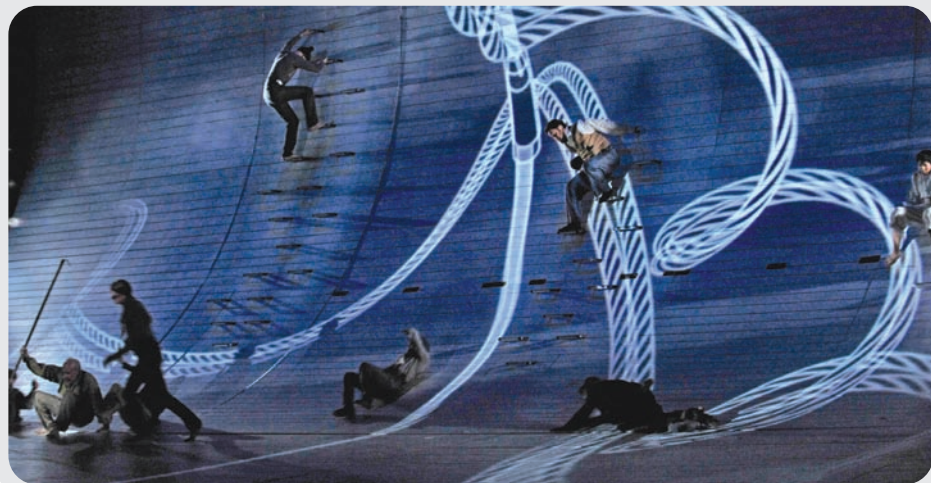
Opera purists may consider this blasphemous, but the best of many wonderful things you can say about the Dallas Opera's world premiere of *Moby-Dick* is: It's as gloriously modern — even cinematic — as an opera can get. Cinematic isn't a bad thing; movie scores are as close as most younger people come to classical music nowadays, and composer Jake Heggie, who's not yet 50, seems to know that. His overture, and many of the motifs sprinkled throughout this lively adaptation of the literary classic, are as compellingly evocative as a summer action flick, full of exploratory chords and thrilling, curious, what-comes-next anticipation. You half expect Harrison Ford to drop from the yardarm.

It helps that the design, which incorporates tons of exceptional video, gives the whaling vessel Pequod a sense of movement you can hardly fathom would be possible onstage. The opening sequence, in which a field of stars slowly become constellations and sextant coordinates before morphing into an abstract version of the ship itself, generated spontaneous applause.

The vocal performances add to the exhilaration — the Act 1 quartet stands out, as does the Act 2 opener — but it's the orchestral score (conducted masterfully by Patrick Summers) and director Leonard Foglia's brilliant innovations that make *Moby-Dick* much more than some old fish story: It's the unmissable theatrical event of the decade.

— A.W.J.

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through May 16. Visit [DallasOpera.org](http://DallasOpera.org) for schedule.





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## Hunting season

Lesbian trio Hunter Valentine hits and misses with 'Lessons'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

**MUSIC 'LESSONS'** | Hunter Valentine goes for the raw sound in their major label release, 'Lessons from the Late Night,' but needs a bit more flavor.



Crotch rock doesn't come to mind much when a woman is at the helm — or in band Hunter Valentine's case, three women. But the ladies rock out hard on their second full-length CD, *Lessons from the Late Night*, in the same cock jock vein of Kings of Leon or Nickelback. And that proves to be both a good and bad thing.

At a mere 22 minutes, the seven songs in *Lessons* pack a lot of wallop in a short span. Kyomi M blares her guitars and shreds her voice — and sometimes it's the other way around. Adrienne

Lloyd on bass and keyboards and drummer Laura Petracca maintain a throttled rhythm. But just a few minutes in, the formula wears thin. "The Stalker" opens *Lessons* strongly with headbanging guitars and drums. They give a respectable raw garage sound against a decent melody. "Stalker" would make any mainstream rock listener feel like they are hearing something cool and "in" ... if it was the '90s. But it works fine. Even though M's voice goes all over the place from her usual range up into scary shrieks belonging more in grindcore. Here, it hurts. The same happens in the decent second track, "Treadmills of Love."

By the time "Revenge" rolls around, the trio dives into repetition. Instead of the structure of the first two tracks, "Revenge" is an ambling mess both vocally and rhythmically. The music is hard, but it doesn't caress you into listening. "Revenge" figures you're already this far in, so here's some crap. The driving beat hypnotizes you into numbness. Kinda like that feeling when you type with-

out really looking at the words on the screen. Or is that just me, right now?

M's voice has perfect rocking quality with swagger and enough grit, but her screeching is a problem. She seems to want to make it a signature, but her wailing is never an enjoyment. The songs aren't serious epics; I just wish she had more fun in her delivery. There's a lack of humor in this album and at times — she's really just yelling at you.

There is restraint in "Scarface," which ends up just short of fantastic. Rock 'n' roll isn't supposed to be charming, but Hunter Valentine pulls it off and gets into a great Go-Go's-meets-The-Cliks groove. In the final act of the three minute, 35 sec-

ond song, M kills in her ad-libs over the backing vocals.

Although the album is spotty in the lead up, Valentine ends with topnotch tunes. The well-structured "She Only Loves Me When She's Wasted" belongs in a teen dramedy from the '80s over a montage of character development, but that doesn't make it less effective. Perhaps there is some cheese factor, but the lesbian tone throughout the album is captured here with precise, unadulterated potency. "Wasted" glimpses at some fascinating songwriting that may not be overly deep, but that has potential.

"A Youthful Existence" also nods to radio hair rock from the '80s that was still hit-worthy. See Giuffria or White Lion. The band opted more for quality than rocking and screaming here and out popped a fairly great song with enough commercial appeal to attract a broad audience. Too bad we had to get through M's crotch rocking to prove a point before hearing the best stuff.





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# 'Iron' sufficiency

The summer movie season begins with heavy metal thunder



The unexpected upside of the original *Iron Man* movie was that, while everyone knew it would be a popular hit, it also happened to actually be *good*. It was a rare thing, an action comedy where the comedy was as good as the action. (By contrast, look at the disastrous *Spider-Man 3*.)

It was probably expecting too much to think *Iron Man 2* could capture lightning in a bottle, though it tries — lord, it tries. The problem is, superhero-slash-billionaire industrialist Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) has gone from mad-cap iconoclast to preeningly insufferable egotist.

That is to say, he's become Bill Clinton.

Maybe director Jon Favreau and scenarist



Justin Theroux wanted to create a quasi tragic figure — from great heights, to a great fall — but Tony, despite being played by adorably arrogant Downey (his last name should be "Snark"), he's hard to like. And there are too many scenes that go nowhere about industrial politics with a snivelling rival (Sam Rockwell) financing Iron Man's nemesis, a conscienceless Russian physicist (Mickey Roarke) with the same technology.

Mercifully, the action sequences are plentiful and well-staged, despite sometimes being needlessly destructive (and an anti-climactic finale). And Scarlett Johansson's kick-ass performance as a superspy — all black leather and martial arts calm — gives the movie a breakout character for the sequels.

Still, *Iron Man 2* will be around a while. This weekend, try not to miss *The Secret in their Eyes*, this year's Oscar winner for foreign language film. It's a smart and exciting mystery set in Argentina that really does reach tragic proportions ... and without the fake bombast.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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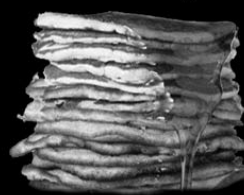
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Riding the  
**rainbow**



**ROLLING FOR RIGHTS** | Danielle Girdano plans a 1,200-mile bike ride to bring awareness to teen suicide. (Photo courtesy Michael Jackson)

How a survivor of teen suicide went from couch potato to cycling activist

**RICKY BRADLEY** | Contributing Sports Writer  
[thesportsfag@sportsfags.com](mailto:thesportsfag@sportsfags.com)

Measuring maybe 5-foot-6, Danielle Girdano hardly possesses the imposing figure of someone training to cycle cross-country. And for someone exercising as single-mindedly as she is — six days a week, starting with core/abdominal work

before dawn, two hours of cardio before some light resistance training, 75 laps swimming preceding hours of road work — she's not the exhausted, panting flower you might expect.

Yet after only a few minutes with Girdano, you no longer questioning how a woman of her small stature could take on such an impressive physical challenge, but rather, you question why you're not cycling with her.

With such dedication, Girdano's mission is clearly personal.

As with many LGBT teens raised in rural America, Girdano's childhood was a struggle. Repressing her sexuality was a key to being accepted by her straight peers, and like many others before and since her, she attempted suicide —

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**Getting Bull-ish on flag football**

The Texas Bulls, DFW's team in the National Gay Flag Football League, is hosting the Spring Stampede Flag Football Tournament this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Teams from San Antonio, Houston and Tyler (yes, Tyler) will be in attendance at Rusk Middle School/Weichsel Park, at the intersection of Inwood and Cedar Springs.

After the game, dive into the Radisson Love Field's pool with the rest of the boys from 4 to 8, then enjoy more hot jock action by hopping over to Woody's for the player auction from 9 until you score.



not once, but on multiple occasions. (Studies put the suicide rate for LGBT youth at two to three times higher than their heterosexual counterparts.)

Fortunately, Girdano did not suffer the family rejection she feared. Her father — a former Marine who stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima and is a “Red State Republican to the core, a true conservative” — allayed her worries.

“You’ve always been a good kid, you’re my kid and I love you,” Girdano recalls him telling her. From that day on, she knew that whatever happens in her life, whatever path she chose, her dad was in her corner.

And many things have happened since. Last June, Girdano was laid off from her job as a marketing manager for tobacco giant RJ Reynolds. Out of work, out of shape and wanting to do something more meaningful with her life, Girdano woke her fiancée at 3:30 in the morning to announce that she was going to “ride across the United States for LGBT rights.”

She was serious, but it would require a lot of advance work. In September she joined a gym; spin classes led to a friendship between Girdano and her spin instructor Michael Jackson — he would become her trainer.

Never one to think small, Girdano wants her ride to emulate the ongoing struggle for equality of the LGBT community. Her ride path will take her through the heartland of America, where she will purposely face head-on any antagonists. Physically, she will not only battle her own mind and body but also the Jet Stream, which, for the most part, she will be cycling against as she zig-zags her way from Minneapolis to Dallas.

Taking inspiration from the words of Martin Luther King, she founded Ride the Arc, the organization that will carry her message. (“The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice”).

Ride the Arc will commence in Minneapolis on a yet to be determined date and finish in Dallas on Sept. 18 — Dallas Pride Weekend. While the distance between these two cities is a little over 1,200 miles, stops in cities for local fundraisers will include events like century rides to complete the balance of the 5,000 mile journey.

In order to raise the capital needed for her support team, the 10 hours of spare time between the end of her daily training regimen and the start of the next day is an opportunity for Girdano to attend fundraisers and speaking engagements.

Girdano will wind her way through some of the most anti-gay burghs in the country, “cause that’s where the 14-year-old kid lives, the one who thinks he’s all alone and who doesn’t know about that the resource center in the next town,” she says.

It’s just “ridiculous that I have to consider things like my safety on an equality ride in this day and age,” she says. All along the route, her Republican father will be there supporting his daughter and speaking to various PFLAG groups or anyone else who wants to hear his message about how to love and support your kids.

Girdano’s purpose is to bring attention to local resource centers along the route, such as Metropolitan Community Church, Cathedral of Hope, and Youth First Texas here in Dallas, and the numerous other gay resource centers across the country, so “maybe some kid in Northern Missouri, the tip of Iowa or in Minnesota that’s on the verge of committing suicide will find some help — and maybe we can help avoid that.”

A core tenet of the ride will be its focus on energizing the LGBT youth movement into action locally. Girdano believes it’s time for people her age and younger to do something big that garners national attention.

“People have been fighting for our rights for so long — it’s our turn to put a youthful face on it, so the next generation doesn’t have to continue the fight for marriage equality or hate crimes legislation,” she says.

In the beginning, she says her motivation was rooted in proving herself when others doubted her. However, she now draws her strength from teens like the teary-eyed, 14-year-old girl who approached her at a recent appearance and confided in Girdano that she tried to commit suicide.

“Those are the faces I will see when I’m struggling to climb that hill,” she says. “That’s all the inspiration I need.” ■

#### ARC FUNDRAISERS

**The Brick**, 2525 Wycliff Ave. May 8, 9–11 p.m.  
**The Bronx**, 3835 Cedar Springs Road. May 9, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. **The Round-Up Saloon**, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. May 15, 8 p.m.–midnight. [RidetheArc.org](http://RidetheArc.org)

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## Sunday 05.09

### They drag hard for the money

The cost for doing drag isn't cheap. Even if it's bad. Heck, wigs alone are \$30. So to keep up with their own drag races as well as pad their benevolence fund, the Round-Up employees get all dolled up for *DYMK: Does Your Mother Know?* See those hunky cowboy bartenders and barbacks turn about for some fab drag fun and financial security.

**DEETS:** Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. No cover. RoundUpSaloon.com.

## Wednesday 05.12

### Ten years goes by so quick

Where does time go? Already, this is the tenth anniversary of *Sing for the Cure* benefiting the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation. Resounding Harmony brings it back to the Meyerson where it debuted a decade ago, but the concert is also a send off. After this show, they head to Carnegie Hall to perform. How awesome is that?

**DEETS:** Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$25-\$100. ResoundingHarmony.org.

## Thursday 05.13

### Now this is some foreign exchange

OutTakes Dallas screens *Soundless Wind Chime*. Ricky from Beijing falls for Swede Pascal. Everything is great until it isn't, but Ricky is determined to make it work. That is until he meets Ueli, who looks exactly like Pascal. What to do?

**DEETS:** The Magnolia, 3699 McKinney Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$10. OutTakesDallas.org.



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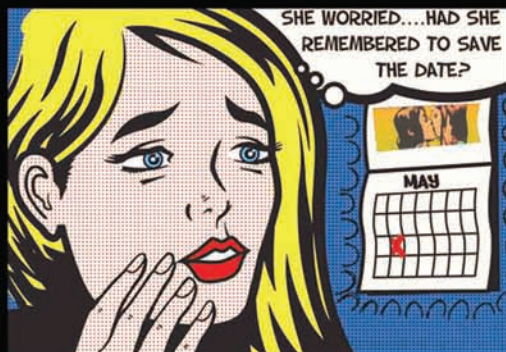
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MAY 14  
9PM**



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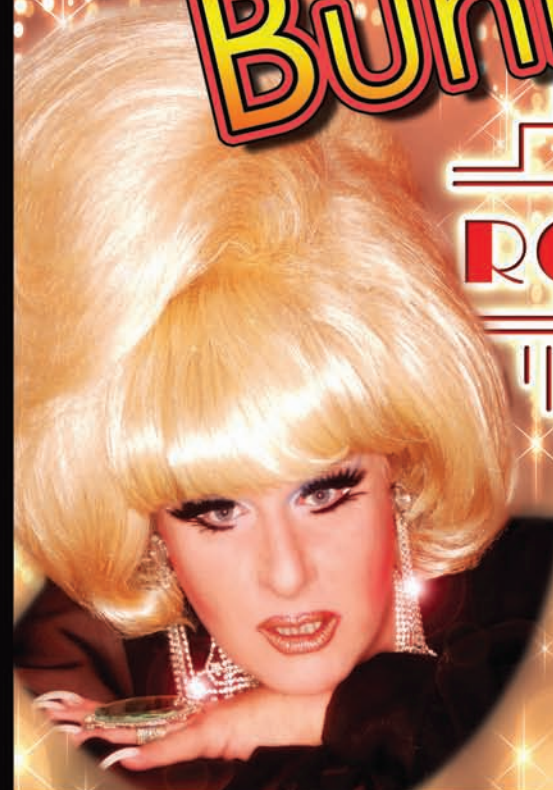


**TYRA SANCHEZ**  
winner of RuPaul's Drag Race 2  
**THURSDAY, MAY 27**



**Sunday, May 30**

# Lady Bunny



THE  
**ROSE**  
ROOM

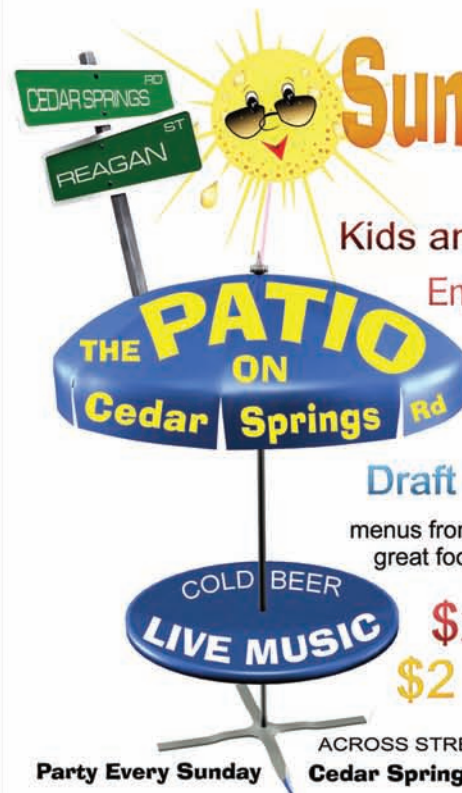
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## FRIDAY 05.07

## COMMUNITY

**CityArts Festival** featuring live entertainment, culinary shows, free admission to Fair Park museums and more. Fair Park, 3809 Grand Ave. Through Sunday. Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 11 a.m., Sunday at noon. Free. CityArtsFestival.com.

**DFW Bi Net** meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1761.

**Dallas Fresh Leather** meets. Dallas Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

## THEATER

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

**The Importance of Being Earnest** by gay playwright Oscar Wilde. Arts Centre Theatre, 1028 15th Place, Plano. Through Saturday. Friday–Saturday at 7 p.m., Saturday matinee at 3 p.m. \$15. ArtCentreTheatre.com

**Sherlock Holmes—The Melodrama.** Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through May 15. Thursdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 9 p.m. \$10–\$18. PocketSandwich.com.

## ART

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

**Fancy Footwork**, a group show presenting a take on everything from the waist down. HCG Gallery, 1130 Dragon St. Through May 22. Free. HCG-Gallery.com.

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

## SATURDAY 05.08

## COMMUNITY

**Health and Happiness** workshop presented by the Art of Living Foundation for a stress- and violent-free America. Hilton Garden Inn, 7516 Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. 5 p.m. \$10. US.ArtofLiving.org.

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

## SUNDAY 05.09

## COMMUNITY

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

**Cowtown Leathermen** cookout. Best Friends Club, 2620 East Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

**Prime Timers** play Uno at member residence. 2 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for information.

## BROADCAST

**Lambda Weekly.** This week's guest is Kimberly Truax, creative director for the GLBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon.

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

## FAIR

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

## MONDAY 05.10

## COMMUNITY

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

**Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County.** Tommy's Hamburger Grill, 3431 W. 7th St., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-913-8743.

**PFLAG Mesquite.** St. Stephen United Methodist Church. 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite. 7 p.m. 972-279-3112.

## CONCERTS

**Ricky Ian Gordon.** Gay composer whose works have been performed by the likes of Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth and Betty Buckley. The Modern, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. \$20–\$25. Cliburn.org.

## BROADCAST

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

## TUESDAY 05.11

## COMMUNITY

**Late Bloomers** group for women who come out later in life. This week's guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Petra Weldes, senior minister of the Center for Spiritual Living. La Madeline, 3906 Lemmon Ave. 6 p.m. For more information, call 903-451-3021.

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

**Prime Timers Prime Diner** at Macaroni Grill, 5858 W. Northwest Highway. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

## WEDNESDAY 05.12

## COMMUNITY

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

**JEWEL's Lesbian Fiction Book Club** held the second Wednesday of each month. Urban Dog Coffee, 2720 Oak Lawn Ave. 6:30–8:30 p.m. 214-540-GIRL. Jewelbookclub.blogspot.com.

**x3** social group for women. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. Free. 214-528-0144.

## THEATER

**Before Night Falls: Relationships, Politics and Opera** panel discussion with composer and librettist Jorge Martín, opera principals Wes Mason and Janice Hall and costumer Claudia Stephens. Owen Arts Center (on SMU campus), 6101 Bishop Blvd. 7 p.m. Free. FWOpera.org.

## THURSDAY 05.13

## COMMUNITY

**Dallas Gay and Lesbian Bar Association** monthly luncheon meeting. Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Noon. 214-540-4460.

**PFLAG Dallas.** Northaven UMC, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

**The Group.** for black men who are HIV-positive. 2900 Live Oak St., 7 p.m. 214-868-7315.



**CLASS ACT** | Ricky Ian Gordon has been called the Sondheim of his generation. See for yourself at his concert Monday night.

## FILM

**CSMA Outdoor Movie Series** with movies every Thursday in summer on the TMC patio. Showtime is officially 8 p.m. but always at darkfall. Visit site for listing of films. TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Rd. Free. ShopCedarSprings.com.

## this week's solution

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Robert Pattinson** turns 24 on Thursday. The actor took brooding to new heights in the *Twilight* movie series. As Edward Cullen in the popular films, his star has been launched into the celeb stratosphere. But he caused us to prick up our ears when he told *Details* magazine that he was allergic to vaginas. Some of us could relate.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

What you own isn't who you are. You're in no immediate danger, but imagine losing your belongings, having only your own self and the people you love. Scary or liberating?

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Throw yourself into community service or political activity. Invest your time and energy in a better global future and your personal future should brighten up too.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Meditative inspiration, support from friends and professional advancement are as necessary as food, water and air. Each is necessary to support the other two. Balance them for success.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Don't hold back. Be gracious in welcoming all challenges and arguments as they will give you an opportunity to show your prowess. Kindness to your opponents will pay off big for you.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Charming your way to the top will get you noticed —and annoy the competition. Stay nice and principled in dealing with critics and backbiters. Don't sink to their level; kill them with kindness.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

You'll find love more easily far from your usual hunting grounds. Keep an eye out for someone you can play and compete with. Got love? Spice it up by wrestling for top — or bottom.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Your erotic charisma is cranked up. Enjoy it the easy way (the gym, jogging or sport that makes you irresistible) or promote your work and get colleagues to cooperate more effectively.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Your competitive spirit can boost morale at work. You and your co-workers should strive for personal bests. Pride in your work and going for that personal best will help you find love or keep it.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Creative handicrafts, particularly that come out of your ethnic background, can show you to be handier than some people — including yourself — may think.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Try your hand at any sort of domestic creativity. Add your own touch to old family recipes and styles. Can you do better than Mom? Better than your sister at least? Prove it.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Swap old family stories for the fun of it. No family tales you care to share? How about recipes? Invite a few pals to share old favorite dishes and create new stories.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

Try to keep those playful impulses simply playful. You can get caught up way too easily in one-upmanship. If you really know who you are and what you're about, you have nothing to prove.

**THIS WEEK**

With the sun in Taurus, Venus in Gemini and Eris in Aries all in harmony one can hardly resist the urge to flirt and banter, even a bit competitively. Do keep the quips friendly!

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

**JANE'S WORLD**

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH. EVERY YEAR IT STARTS THE SAME WAY. SHE GIVES ME THE RUNDOWN ON MY POORLY CONSTRUCTED WARDROBE...**

HONEY, COULDN'T YOU WEAR SOMETHING NICE FOR BRUNCH?

THIS IS NICE. I EVEN IRONED.

I MEAN A NICE SUMMER DRESS. YOU HAVE SUCH NICE LEGS, YOU SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THEM, SWEETIE.

MOM, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME VOLUNTARILY WEAR A DRESS SINCE SECOND GRADE. WHY ARE YOU STILL CARRYING THAT TORCH?

AND THOSE SHOES... CLASSIC CHUCKS, OF COURSE.

HEY, IF THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH FOR ELLEN, THEN THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH FOR BRUNCH.

LOOK AT THAT NICE COUPLE. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO FIND A NICE MAN AND SETTLE DOWN?

MAYBE IN MY NEXT LIFE WHEN I'M RE-INCARNATED AS A GAY MAN.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT TONE, YOUNG LADY.

YEAH, MOM, I THINK THERE IS! EVERY YEAR WE HAVE THE SAME CONVERSATION.

I COULD JUST RECORD THIS SCENE SO WE COULD REPLAY IT AT HOME AND SAVE OURSELVES THE PUBLIC FORUM!

I'LL JUST GIVE YOU A MINUTE...

YOU START WITH THE WARDROBE, THEN MY ROMANTIC LIFE... NEXT COMES HAIR AND "WHY CAN'T YOU CARRY A PURSE INSTEAD OF THAT WALLET IN YOUR BACK POCKET?" CAN WE JUST GIVE IT A REST?

NO, I'M YOUR MOTHER. IT'S MY JOB TO NAG YOU AND TRY TO CREATE YOU IN MY OWN IMAGE.

NOW, HONEY, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT THE EGGS BENEDICT? DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY CALORIES ARE IN THAT DISH?

(SIGH)... I LOVE YOU TOO, MOM.

**bitter girl**

**GAME OVER**

WANT ANOTHER?

NO THANKS, I, uh... I NEED TO GET OUT OF A THIRD-WHEEL SITUATION HERE, SO...

...I NEED MY FRIEND TO THINK I HAD TO LEAVE, PATHETIC, I KNOW...

THE OL' "PRETENDING-TO-TEXT" TRICK? HON, THAT'S NOT PATHETIC. EVERYONE DOES IT.

THEN WHAT...?

I'M PRETENDING "TETRIS" IS TALKING TO "SUDOKU".

OK—THAT'S PATHETIC.

SUDOKU IS VERY NEEDY.

well... THIS ISN'T EVEN A PHONE.

www.joanhilty.net

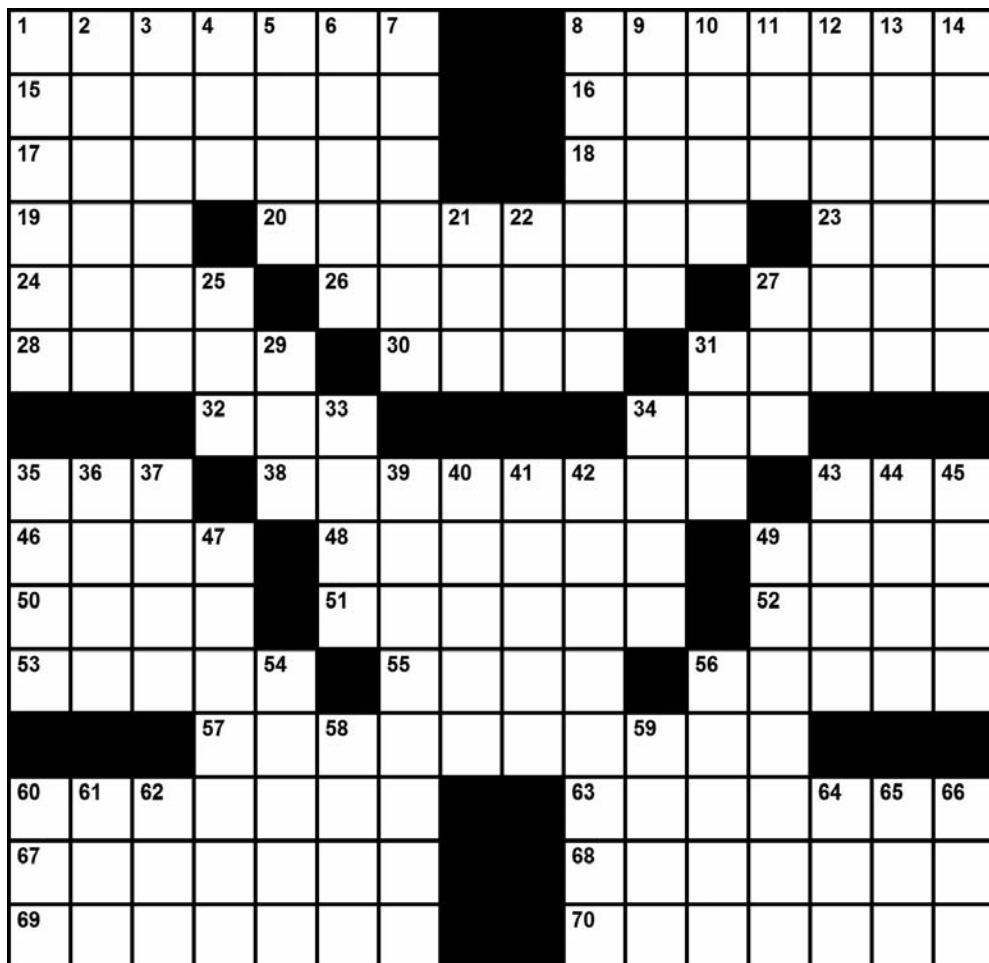
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# Social Nyet-working

Solution on page 29

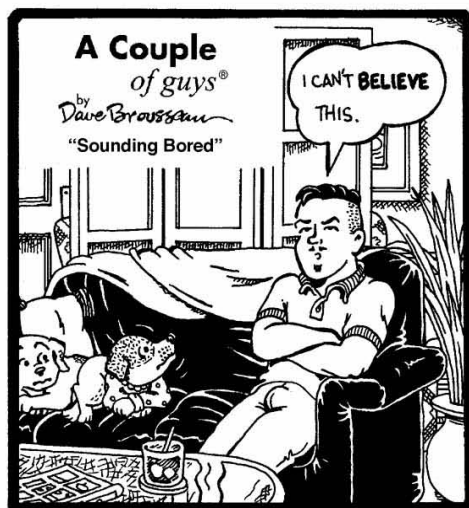
**Across**

- 1 Dick Button's field
- 8 Virginia Woolf novel
- 15 A soft drink may have one
- 16 More like Albert in "The Birdcage"
- 17 What drawers do
- 18 Lost one's cool
- 19 Rd. for a mail carrier
- 20 With 38-Across, Harmsen's T-shirt motto
- 23 Chemical ending
- 24 Queen, to a dealer
- 26 "You've Got Mail" director Nora
- 27 Body passageway
- 28 Come next
- 30 Part of DOS (abbr.)
- 31 "Great balls of fire!"
- 32 Short-order sandwich for porkers?
- 34 Summer zodiac sign
- 35 Boob tubes
- 38 See 20-Across or 57-Across
- 43 Boxing ref's end to a butt-whipping
- 46 Offend the olfactories
- 48 "Put roses on the piano and \_\_\_ on the organ"
- 49 Harmsen of this puzzle's theme
- 50 Series ender
- 51 Weapons for Buffy
- 52 R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_ Love"

- 53 Land of Margaret Cho's ancestors
- 55 A Brit soldier may shoot it off
- 56 Didst reside
- 57 After 38-Across, Harmsen's mother's motto
- 60 Copland, for example
- 63 Cheaper
- 67 Hans Christian Andersen's naked marcher
- 68 Of the seventh planet or a Kinsey 6
- 69 Removable section of "Genre"
- 70 Caters basely

**Down**

- 1 Hard to come by
- 2 "Gay Hitler" actor Chris
- 3 Changes a suit
- 4 Rocky crag
- 5 Concerns of gfn.com
- 6 Area of expertise
- 7 Edith Head outfits, e.g.
- 8 Hoofing it
- 9 "The L Word" episode, e.g.
- 10 Cruise obnoxiously
- 11 Canine care org.
- 12 La Femme of espionage
- 13 Signed over
- 14 Info for waiters
- 21 Gay Talese's "\_\_\_ Neighbor's Wife"
- 22 Periods that last 525,600 min.
- 25 Tap the shoulder of one kneeling in front of you
- 27 "Where did \_\_\_ wrong?"
- 29 Fairy's cousin
- 31 Comics cry
- 33 Skin designs, for short
- 34 Bad bottom-line news
- 35 Sci-fi sky journey
- 36 Kill, as a bill
- 37 Mark with a branding iron
- 39 Circumcise?
- 40 Tickle pink
- 41 Took part in an AIDS ride
- 42 Let one's guard down
- 43 Piercing part
- 44 Faint, with "over"
- 45 What tail
- 47 "Grease" director Randal
- 49 Dike's protect it
- 54 Elroy Jetson stroked him
- 56 Piece in the parlor
- 58 Long pants, for short
- 59 Wang in fashion
- 60 Ran into
- 61 \_\_\_ Zion church
- 62 Air quality watchdog org.
- 64 Stay in bed, or say, perhaps, "You were great in bed!"
- 65 Egypt and Syr., once
- 66 Printer's measures



This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



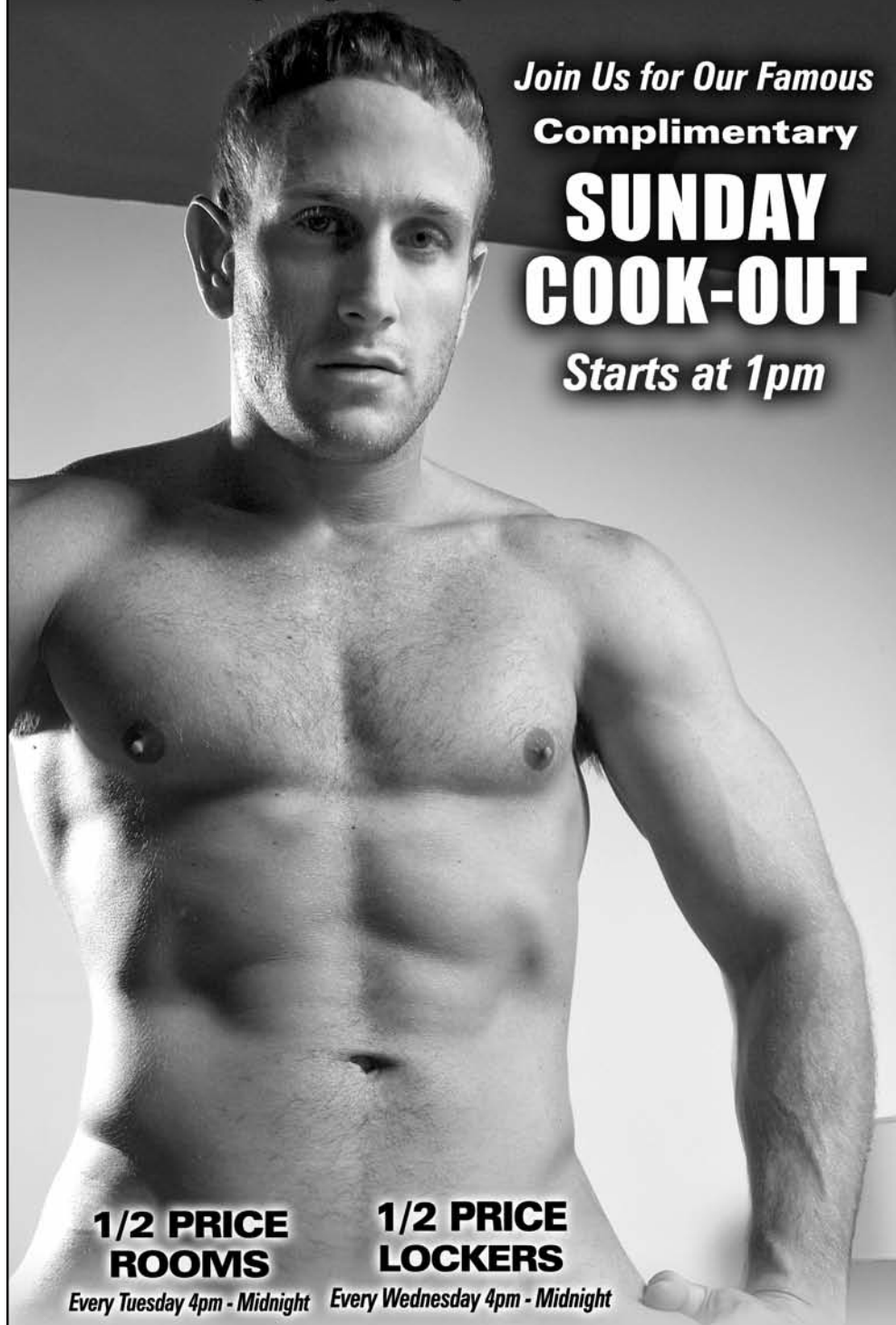
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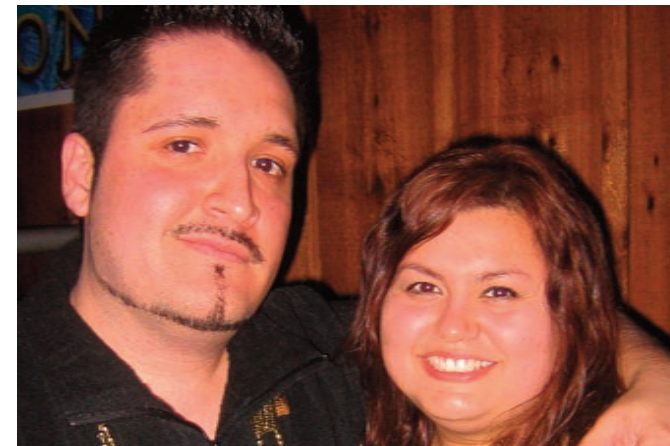
John, Vince and Matt at Illusions.

Do whatever you want this weekend, but whatever you do, don't forget to call your mother on Sunday — or at least raise a glass to her .... **Guerilla Gay Bar** is at it again. This month they take over the **Media Bar** at the **Hilton Anatole** Friday night. It's all about **Spring Cleaning** this month, so wear your whitest whites .... If you're feeling a little outdoorsy, check out the **Spring Stampede Flag Football Tournament** Saturday afternoon at **Beckley Sauer Park**. Then follow them to **Woody's** that night for the **Running of the Bulls** football player auction. Friday night, the bar hosts **Denise Lee** and **Buddy Shanahan** on the back patio .... For more patio action, head to **Jack's Backyard** for some grub and grooves. Friday night, the **C.C. Cross Band** plays followed by Santana cover band, **Soul Sacrifice** on Saturday .... **Sisters Club** hosts the **Life's a Drag** show Friday. But the best news is that they have opened the pool and the volleyball court .... **The Turtle Creek Chorale** is full of amazing singers, but car washers? Find out at their fundraiser in the lot behind **the Round-Up Saloon** Saturday afternoon. Sunday, the club hosts **Does Your Mother Know?** turnabout show where club employees do it drag style for the night .... At **Sue Ellen's Vixen Lounge**, **Anton Shaw and the Reason** play Friday night and **Cherry Hill** performs Saturday ....

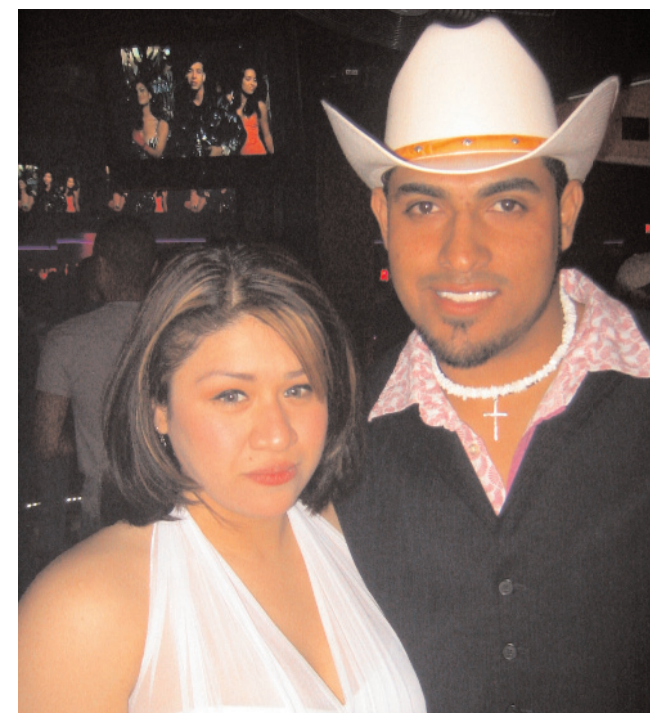
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Jim, Tim and Mike at the Rainbow Lounge.



Dave and Annabel at TMC: The Mining Company.



Claudia and Jose at Kaliente.



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AAI is seeking a Community & Client Services Director to manage various programs including case management, client intake, community outreach, HIV/STD prevention and testing, and other psychosocial services. Masters degree required. Forward resumes to: careers@aidsarms.org.

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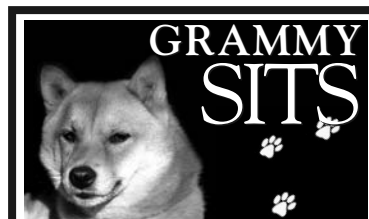
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		1901 W Main St. Gun Barrel City, TX 75156 Office: 903.887.5250 <a href="http://www.kalirealtygroup.com">www.kalirealtygroup.com</a>
<b>LISTING OF THE WEEK @ CEDAR CREEK LAKE</b>		
	MLS #58894	<b>ONE STEP AWAY</b> from the back door to the lake! 103'WF; Custom built 2BR/2BA + sunroom sits on a large lot w/wide open water views. The "Great Room" is ideal for family gatherings w/vaulted ceilings & nice WBFP. Kitchen has many built-ins & bar seating. Extra large utility has room for your freezer & includes a full size pantry. The spacious sunroom can double as extra bunkroom for guests, kids. This home has tons of lighting from the sunroom & gives it that cheerful, homey feel. Enjoy the great southerly winds here! Property does not have a boathouse but is approved by TRWD to build one. Furnishings negotiable! <small>10999 Joe meel Dr., Kemp, TX 75143 (Inside Cedar Creek Country Club)</small> <b>\$249,000</b>

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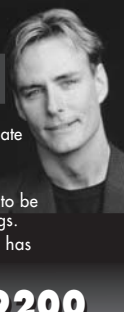
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**CUTTING EDGE** | Daniel Lewis, a fan favorite when he appeared on 'Shear Genius,' has an obsession with bridal hair.



# The 'I do' 'do

## GET YOUR EXPO ON

For the third time, the GLBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo wants to be the one-stop shopping spot for your big day. And maybe let you breathe for a second.

More than 30 wedding service vendors will be on hand — photographers, videographers, DJs, limousine rentals and everything in between. They will also feature facility options for your ceremony, a bridal and tuxedo fashion show and perhaps most importantly bakers for the fabulous wedding cake — with samples!

Creative director Kimberly Truax feels the expo is open to people even just wanting to make a statement.

"I hope people come out to the event just to support gay marriage," she says. "They can support the vendors who support same-sex marriages."

*GLBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo, Warwick Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave. Sunday, May 16 at noon. \$10. [WhyWouldWe.org/Expo](http://WhyWouldWe.org/Expo)*

— Rich Lopez



Expert stylist and gay wedding expo host **Daniel Lewis** teases and pleases for weddings of all kinds

**STEVEN LINDSEY** | Contributing Writer | [stevencraiglindsey@me.com](mailto:stevencraiglindsey@me.com)

**D**aniel Lewis loves to talk about hair. Wedding hair especially. A whirlwind of high energy, he's always on the go, whether it's cutting and coloring hair, starring on a reality TV or styling entire bridal parties for the Big Day. For the past nine years, he's been the go-to guy for straight weddings, but lately he's been turning his attention to same-sex ceremonies.

As the host for the 2010 GLBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo, Lewis is prepared to impart his quick wit and infinite hair-styling wisdom on a whole new crowd. At his Green Peridot Salon in Frisco, he's making a concentrated effort to devote additional time and effort to North Texas' gay community (beyond his already deep involvement with Resource Center Dallas).

"All my friends up here in Frisco are blonde, 30- to 50-year-old women who live behind a gate somewhere," he says. "I want to get more into my community, so that's why I want to do the gay wedding expo. I'm so excited about that. It's something that needs to happen. We as a people — the gays! — love to spend money on things and so why wouldn't we like to spend money on our wedding and have some direction?"

On season 2 of Bravo's *Shear Genius*, Lewis became the fast fan favorite, loved for his razor-sharp sense of humor and good ol' Southern charm. As host of the expo, he'll provide color commentary on wedding fashions, and, of course, hair.

"I like to make the wedding a story," he says. "Now I get to actually kind of relate to it a little bit more than I do at other bridal shows. I normally have little quippy things I say about the bride and the groom and now I'm going to have little quippy things about the bride and the bride! Or the groom and the groom!"

But it's hair that's where his heart is. And he's not afraid to state his opinion for the betterment of a wedding.

"I'm kind of known for my bridal hair, and I love doing bridal parties as a group. Say we're going to do Hollywood Glam as a theme, then they're *all* going to do Hollywood Glam. There's none of this tendrill bullshit," he laughs.

So it should come as no surprise that he has some helpful tips on making the wedding memorable — at least from the hair apparent.

**Hire a professional.** "You're spending so much time and effort into this wedding, we've got to make it like a scene. It's a put-on play," Lewis says. "I go to some weddings and I'm like, 'Oh, they let everybody do their own hair.'"

It's a great leap of faith, but Lewis says you have to trust that someone else knows best what you

need to look like that day. "Sandra Bullock didn't get up on the day of the Oscars and tell everyone what she wanted to look like — she had professionals who were chosen to make her look spectacular."

Some women can become real Bridezillas — or now Groomzillas with gay men. "This last gay wedding, [one of the grooms] insisted that all the women's hair be up in this particular style and I told him, 'Dude, look. It's going to look horrible. Look at the nose on that one!'" he laughs. "You trust your florist, you trust your decorator; you need to trust your hair stylist for the wedding."

**Plan ahead.** "For a guy, get your hair cut one week before. For a woman — or a man for that matter — make sure your color is done one week before. But you need to have a goal. Now is not the time to try a new color out. Experiment six months before if you don't know what color you want."

**Photographic memory.** "Hair and makeup is all about the pictures," he counsels. "What you look like that day is important, but what you look like in the photos for the next 50 years is equally important, if not more so. So go a little heavier on the makeup. Just put a little something extra on. Go a little further with the hair. If you're a woman with a huge white dress, know that your hair slicked down to your head is not going to give a balanced look."

If you can afford it, Lewis recommends an on-site hair specialist for the entire event.

"Have someone there for tweaking and adjusting. I spent two months filming with Jaclyn Smith and guess what? She doesn't just wake up looking like that. If it weren't for the fat French man with the teasing comb and hairspray standing five feet away at all times, she wouldn't look like Jaclyn Smith."

Even for the men, make sure things are staying in order. "For men — not just gay men — put a little translucent powder on. It's like being on TV or stage. You're not some girly guy just because you put a little powder on. You just don't want to look shiny in the pictures. As you can see, the photos are a big thing for me because you spend a fortune on photography. And if it doesn't look right, you're going to have shitty photos for the rest of your life. Though thank God for Photoshop."

**The big change.** "Change your outfits *and* your hair in between the wedding and the reception," he says. "I have even cut hair at the church before the reception. It's just fun: 'Look I'm married now! I have a whole new look!'"

**Location, location, location.** Lewis' final bit of advice: "Don't plan your wedding outside. You can quote me on that. Just don't do it. For the sake of the hair stylist, for the sake of the event planner, just don't do it. Just don't do it. Just. Don't. Do. It."



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# Where to wed

Many local churches  
want you to commit

The Cathedral of Hope doesn't believe in discriminating against those who wish to marry — senior pastor Rev. Jo Hudson says she'll marry you even if you're straight.

In fact, the ceremony performed at the cathedral is identical for gay or straight couples. The only difference is, "When we do heterosexual marriage, the pastor also acts as an agent for the state. For a gay or lesbian couple, we are acting purely as religious agents," says Hudson.

Though they might not be legally binding in Texas, here is a partial list of local gay-accepting churches that perform same-sex ceremonies.

— David Taffet



**AGAPE MCC** — 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. 817-535-5002. [Agapemcc.com](http://Agapemcc.com). Rev. S. David Wynn, Sr., Rev. Teri Lubbers. Require pre-service counseling.

**Ascension Lutheran Church** — 4230 Buckingham Road, Garland. 972-276-0023. [Ascensiontexas.org](http://Ascensiontexas.org). Pastor Kurt Friederich. Blessing service for church members.

**Bethany Presbyterian Church** — 4523 Cedar Springs Road. 214-528-4084. Other: Called "an open, caring, inclusive, multicultural 'More Light' congregation."

**Cathedral of Hope** — 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 214-351-1901. [Cathedralofhope.com](http://Cathedralofhope.com). Rector and senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson. Contact Rev. Steven Horelica at the Cathedral for marriage information.

**Celebration Community Church** — 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth, 817-335-3222. [Celebration-community-church.com](http://Celebration-community-church.com). Pastor Carol West. Non-denominational Christian congregation.

**Center for Spiritual Living** — 4801 Spring Valley Road, Suite 115. 972-866-9988; [CSLDallas.org](http://CSLDallas.org). Senior minister Rev. Petra Weldes; Rev. Dr. Marsha Meghdadpour. Marriage or commitment ceremony. United Centers for Spiritual Living.

**Community Unitarian Universalist Church** — 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano, 972-424-8989. [Communityuchurch.org](http://Communityuchurch.org). The Reverend Patrick D. Price. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.

**Congregation Beth El Binah** — Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 214-521-5342, ext. 1784. [Bethelbinah.org](http://Bethelbinah.org). Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor. Reform Jewish congregation. Reform Judaism officially recognizes marriage

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY** | The Rev. Jo Hudson says the Cathedral of Hope performs both same-sex and opposite-sex weddings — the church doesn't discriminate.

between two Jewish men or women; however Rabbi Leynor will perform an interfaith service.

**First Unitarian Church of Dallas** — 4015 Normandy St. 214-528-3990. [Dallasuu.org](http://Dallasuu.org). Rev. Dr. Daniel Chesney Kanter. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.

**Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus** — 411 S. Westmoreland St. 214-333-9779. Pastor Tony Hoult. Perform holy unions.

**Harvest MCC** — 3916 E. McKinney St., Suite B, Denton. 940-320-6150. [Harvestmcc.org](http://Harvestmcc.org). Performs weddings or holy unions.

**Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas** — 2735 Villa Creek Drive, Suite 290. 972-243-0761. [Mccgd.org](http://Mccgd.org). Revs. Colleen Darraugh, Steven Pace, Kay

● ● ● CHURCHES, Page S9



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# Get flor'd

It's not just about the bridal bouquet and boutonnieres; floral tablescapes can make a reception an epic event

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

Bryna Morrow admits it: Boutonnieres simply don't interest her that much. There, she said it.

"The main elements to me are the reception and the bridal bouquet," she says. "I love the bigger-scale stuff, the drama." (Though she does have some pretty good ideas when it comes to men's lapel art, too. Green, for instance, stands out beautifully against a black tux.)

As the wedding consultant at Dr. Delphinium Designs, Morrow has helped plan lots of events using flowers. But the dirty little secret about planning your floral theme for a wedding is: It's not all about the flowers.

"Feathers have been making a huge comeback," Morrow says. "We also use lots of handmade papers, ribbons, rocks, moss, fruit." And vases don't have to be the dull, clear hourglass containers from the grocery. They can make a statement, too.

The entire floral look takes a lot of planning. Morrow has met with betrothed couples up to a year prior to their weddings, though as little as a few weeks. (Three months is a good average.) She says it helps if the party has some idea coming in, such as the color palette for the bridesmaids or groomsmen, and the venue.

"I have a lot of questions I ask," she says — and not just "what's your favorite flower?" She asks for words that best describe the couple, colors they like and don't, texture they want to incorporate ... and of course budget.

"On average, the floral budget is 10 to 12 percent of the total budget for the wedding," she suggests, though you can save by going as low as eight percent ... or blow it out with 20 to 30. If you're trying to

make maximum impact, though, she has some practical advice.

- **Spend money at the reception, not the church.** "The ceremony is over in 30 minutes," Morrow says; people linger at the reception, so frontload your money there. Give bridesmaids and flowergirls small bouquets or even single roses instead of elaborate nosegays.

- **Get your bang with color.** "The first thing you see [at a reception] is color, then shape, then the individual flower," she says. Bright colors can pop and make a statement quickly. (Another big trend now? The monochromatic color scheme, which is modern and elegant.)

One of the biggest challenges with opinionated couples is getting a color they want *and* that looks good.

"Some women like teal, but there aren't any flowers that naturally are that color," she says. And don't mix too many very bold colors unless you want a circus theme.

- **Go with a few big pieces rather than lots of little ones.** Especially if your budget is tight, Morrow counsels putting out impressive displays of one or two types of flowers in key places — the buffet, a foyer table — instead of modest centerpieces on every table. "And use tons of candles," she says. "You can pick them up cheap at Hobby Lobby."

And perhaps the best way to make it work is: Be flexible. If you want tulips, don't plan a fall wedding. Work with your florist for substitutes. Compromise doesn't equate to compromising.

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# Table settings

Don't forget the rehearsal dinner when planning for the big day



**HAVE A SEAT** | Monica Greene, owner of Monica's Aca y Alla, appreciates the diversity of Dallas when she opens her banquet rooms to LGBT couples for rehearsal dinners and receptions. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer | [lopez@dallasvoice.com](mailto:lopez@dallasvoice.com)

Some same-sex couples might consider their unions more acts of defiance than tradition. But those who like to follow custom might let some parts of the ritual fall through the cracks.

But one you won't want to overlook is the rehearsal dinner.

Monica's Aca y Alla has become a favorite spot for LGBT couples on the eve of their big day. Owner Monica Greene's daughter and restaurant partner Erica Greene finds delight in being a part of any couple's wedding.

"We've done a few rehearsal dinners and couple receptions for people in the community," she says. "We really love to be a part of any union."

Greene acts as the coordinator, working with couples to provide a memorable evening. To her, there's very little difference between planning a straight dinner or a gay one. The basics remain the same: create a satisfying menu, decide on the number of guests, stay within budget.

But the most important part is creating what the marrying couple envisioned.

"We find out what they want to make their night special," she says. "Everybody has different ideas what the evening should be and we work closely to allow them to do that."

Rehearsal dinners are also where traditional planning collides with modern marriage. The groom's family usually pays for dinner, but when there are two grooms — or none — how do these traditions translate?

"The biggest thing about most all gay couples I do is they have tighter budgets than hetero," says Rusty Cuniff. "Most have to pay these bills themselves. Very few parents of same-sex couples spring for the bill."

Cuniff's company Completely Catered has done its fair share of rehearsal feasts, both gay

and non-gay. Perhaps as an alternative to restaurant costs, Cuniff has catered dinners in homes or uses services from some of his contemporaries like his go-to florist and her garden spot.

Cuniff sees this event as the time to bring down the pre-wedding jitters. But at the same time, make it festive.

"Usually, it's a bit more casual and people are usually wanting something like a party," he says. "It's a wonderful way to unwind but also go over last minute details, just in a more relaxed atmosphere. That's what we try to do."

But although they are a bit more casual, Greene has noticed the one thing that seems to get forgotten across the board.

"Speeches are forgotten," she says. Traditionally, they are done at the rehearsal dinners but some may feel unprepared or they weren't aware they were supposed to give one. I don't like using words like traditional in these cases, but the dinner is where the speeches usually happen."

Monica Greene sums up the trend of same-sex couples going this route and her restaurant's role in it.

"I think it's fantastic," she says. "Dallas is such a diverse city and I love that we can have a part in the community this way."

And even though Cuniff fears the dinner is going by the wayside, he advises to not stress too much over it. After all, it's not the actual wedding.

"Keep it simple and just have fun. Don't be so tied up that you can't enjoy your wedding," he says.

And couples shouldn't worry — he'll pack up some food to go for the brides and grooms.

For more information, visit [Monicas.com](http://Monicas.com) and [CompletelyCatered.com](http://CompletelyCatered.com).



# Fairy tale wedding

The 16th century is strangely progressive on same-sex unions

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

When deciding on your wedding day outfit, chain mail probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. But for some, traveling back in time to the days of the Renaissance couldn't be more romantic.

Even though Texas hasn't jumped on the same-sex marriage bandwagon, Lone Star Renaissance festivals welcome all those wishing to celebrate their unions.

"They aren't legal in Texas but we definitely would perform one," Ginger Brown says of the Scarborough Renaissance Festival out of Waxahachie.

Look to Plantersville, near Houston, the Texas Renaissance Festival has worked its wedding magic on one same-sex couple that came not from Merrie Olde England but North Carolina.

"We were really honored when Dori and Suzanne called us," wedding coordinator Shelly Lee says.

Dressed in Celtic garb, the ladies were married at the festival in the Rose Garden. Lee was proud that she could be a part of an event and the fact that her festival is open to such ceremonies.

"It is cool to do this," she says. "We love that we can participate in people's lives this way."

Renaissance fests have been in the wedding



**LADIES IN WAITING** | Dori and Suzanne went to the past to celebrate their future by getting married at the Texas Renaissance Festival.

business for a while. Depending on the budget, packages range from \$2,000 to \$6,500 in Plantersville, inclusive of guest tickets, carriage processions, a sword arch, musicians and a minister. Higher end packages will even include a cake and bottle of champagne.

Scarborough Faire's packages run from the \$800 "gentry" ceremony to the fancier "Royalty Package" at \$4,350. The more expensive fetes include refreshments, bridal cake and a Renaissance feast.

What the brides or grooms wear, though, is up to them.

"You don't have to be dressed in outfits for the event but it is best experienced when in costume," Lee says. "Some people have worn chain mail. Dori and Suzanne wore long Renaissance-

●●● FAIRY TALE, Page S9

“ A ribbon binds the couples hand's together throughout the ceremony.

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# Ideal husbands

For Travis Brewer and Dirk Armstrong, the ceremonies were small affairs, but the significance monumental



**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer | [lopez@dallasvoice.com](mailto:lopez@dallasvoice.com)

Weddings usually have flair: flowers, harp music, billowy dresses and horse-drawn carriages. Sometimes they don't. Sometimes, it's just a justice of the peace with a small party exchanging vows.

But don't think the absence of flash was a compromise — or worse, a disappointment — for Travis Brewer and Dirk Armstrong. Although they had already celebrated their commitment, they ventured to Canada for a no-frills wedding ... mostly because they could.

But that came later. First, they had to meet. Brewer remembers Sept. 17, 2000, as the day he met his future husband. In a seemingly non-romantic way, the couple met via online chat at Gay.com. Brewer admits what he was looking for and Armstrong was just figuring things out.

"I'm not very technical so I didn't know how to do anything," Armstrong says. "I picked him to send a message and we started chatting. The next morning, he called and we were meeting for lunch. I was running late so he already knew what he was getting into."

After a slew of dates that sound disastrous — Brewer fell asleep at a play on their first; Armstrong was not keen on a dinner Brewer cooked — they found a groove. Three months later, it led to a personal commitment ceremony at Brewer's

home. Armstrong's dog Mitzi had already moved into Brewer's Oak Lawn condo.

"Maybe six weeks of being together, Mitzi went to his house and he would never let her leave. That was his trick to get me to move in," Armstrong says.

The private ceremony was small with just a few friends. The whole event was a self-proclamation of their love. And it was sweet, too.

"He was the one who wanted to shop for rings and brought up the ceremony," Armstrong says. "That was very romantic."

"I was getting old. I didn't want to wait," Brewer says with a laugh (he was 35).

Fast forward two years. By now, same-sex marriage was legal in Canada and they wanted to take advantage of the recognition. They weren't going to plan much more than getting the certificate and a quick exchange of vows.

The specifics fell into place. They had friends to visit in Vancouver, who in turn knew a woman who could perform the ceremony. In a romantic gesture, they scheduled the wedding to occur on the anniversary of their first ring exchange.

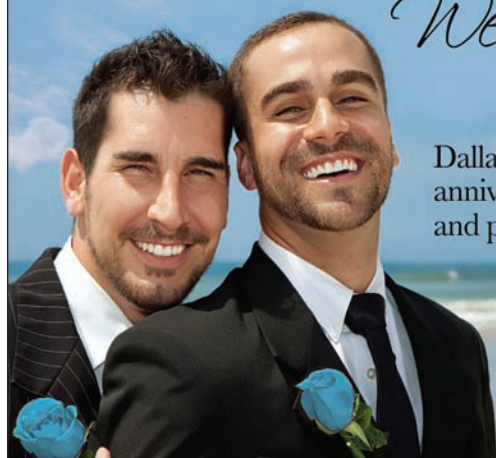
"We got there on a Saturday," Brewer recalls. But it didn't matter that the courthouse was closed for the weekend. "In Canada, you can get your marriage certificate at the drugstore. We

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“ We knew it wasn't legal here but nice it was validated in some country ... just for our own sake.

**PAIRED OFF**  
Travis Brewer, left, and Dirk Armstrong decided on a casual, no-frills wedding in Vancouver with a few friends and dinner after. Eight years later, they wouldn't change a thing.

paid our fee, showed our IDs and we were set. There were no tuxes. We had some friends come in and then we all went to dinner after.”

The couple posted their marriage announcement in Dallas Voice. They considered the trip also their honeymoon and flew back before Christmas to be back with the family.

But being low-key to begin with, why did they go through the hassle of the traveling and planning when they had already declared their union? To them, it added validity.

“We knew it wasn't legal here but nice it was validated in some country,” Brewer says, “We wanted that just for our own sake.”

“Even though we had our ceremony already, this was just to make that little extra commitment,” Armstrong says.

And 10 years later, it looks like it worked.

## ● CHURCHES

From Page S4

Seitz. Performs weddings or holy unions. The church facility is available for non-members to rent.

**Midway Hills Christian Church** — 11001 Midway Road. 214-352-4841. Midwayhills.org. Rev. Terry L. Zimmerman. Performs union ceremonies.

**Promise MCC** — 2527 W. Colorado Blvd. 214-623-8400. Promisemcc.org. Senior pastor Rev. Jon Haack. Performs weddings or holy unions.

**Trinity MCC** — 1846 W. Division St. Suite 305, Arlington. 817-265-5454. Trinitymcc.org. Performs weddings or holy unions.

**Unity Church of Christianity** — 3425 Greenville Ave. 214-826-5683. Dallasunity.org. Rev. Steve Colladay. Performs holy unions, commitment ceremonies. The minister is openly gay and supported by the congregation.

**White Rock Community Church** — 9353 Garland Road. 214-320-0043. Whiterockchurch.org. Associate pastor Douglas Shaffer. Performs holy unions, commitment ceremonies or weddings — “whichever the couple is comfortable with.” Activities center for receptions.

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff** — 3839 W. Keist Blvd. 214-337-2429. Oakcliffuu.com. Rev. Mark Walz. The Unitarian Universalist Church performs weddings and supports full marriage equality.

throughout the ceremony. It's actually pretty nice,” Lee says.

Lee looks forward to more commitment ceremonies at her fair and Brown is open to Scarborough partaking in the same. Apparently, same-sex couples are great customers.

“We've had more calls about them,” Lee says. “It's a special time when couples decide to exchange vows. I imagine it means a lot to a couple that can't get legally married. Dori and Suzanne were awesome and they were even more awesome about sending a thank you.”

For information about their packages, visit [SRFestival.com](http://SRFestival.com) or [TexRenFest.com](http://TexRenFest.com).

## ● FAIRY TALE

From Page S7

type coats.”

Straight couples need a marriage license but same-sex couples just fill out the forms. A non-denominational minister presides over the commitment ceremony. Minister John assists couples with their vows. From there, the celebration goes from either a traditional wedding to the non-traditional.

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*But wherever you end up, you gotta pack to get there.*

*Celebrity stylist Colin Megaro is a regular fixture on the fashion scene, best known for creating the idea of Shop Your Closet. He's styled best-dressed actors include Carrie Preston (True Blood), Michael Emerson (Lost) and Julie Benz (Dexter). We asked Colin to offer up some faboo advice for the fashionable gay clotheshorse for getting all of your couture to your destination in style and efficiency. Here's what he advised.*

For more tips, visit [ColinMegaro.com](http://ColinMegaro.com)

**FUN PACKER** | Fashion consultant Colin Megaro can make your honeymoon (or non-nuptial summer getaway) go smoothly — in the suitcase, at least.

It's that time of year when we are all dreaming of a summer vacation. I know I am, because this boy needs a tan and a cocktail. Some of you even might honeymoon.

But before you're sipping cosmos poolside you're going to need to pack a suitcase — and if you're like me, *more* than just the one. So how can you pack a suitcase that maximizes your space and doesn't crush your clothes? Here are some fabulous packing tips to help get you on your way to that sizzling summer trip.

**Roll — don't fold — your clothes.** This method has been used by the military and backpackers for years. Personally I prefer five-star resorts and have never been in the military or backpacking in my life, but this is the best space saving method available. I even use it for my t-shirts and polos at home.

Roll your shorts, pants, short sleeve shirts and undergarments. For shirts, fold your sleeves in and then roll from the bottom up.

**Tissue paper.** This tip comes from my grandmother and is a great practice for delicate items

such as silks, satins and evening wear. Grab some tissue, lay your piece of clothing on it then carefully fold it item around the tissue paper ... just like how items are returned from the dry cleaner. Then use an additional piece of tissue to enclose the item. When unpacking either re-wrap carefully with the same piece, travel with extra tissue paper or pick some up at your destination. (A dollar store is a great place to stock up.) A bonus tip for tissue paper: Use it to blot your face. Tear a piece off to freshen your face when you are out touring that hot exotic locale.

**Water-proof your leakables and linkables.** Head to the kitchen, open your utility drawer and pull out some Ziploc bags. They are not just for keeping food fresh — when packing they help keep like items together, cut down on suitcase bulk and keep things from spilling so you arrive at your destination with your items fresh and in place.

### COMMITTED CANINES

Dogs need love, too ... but a wedding? Well, why not? At least Wuf Pet Resort & Spa thinks so. In its second annual A Wuf Wedding, proud pooch parents can have their dog betrothed to their puppy love. As a sign of lifelong commitment, biscuits will be exchanged.

This is no joke. The nuptials will have a minister of mutt'rimony officiating, a walk down the aisle and finishes off with a reception complete with DJ and wedding cake.

The event benefits animal rescue group Paws in the City.

Lee Park, 3625 N. Hall St. May 20 at 6:30 p.m. [WufSpa.com](http://WufSpa.com).

— Rich Lopez

## WHOSOEVER DALLAS

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Dawn Allred  
Pastor-Teacher



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Romans 1:16

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Bag the shoes — and pack them first. Dropping your Ferragamos in bags or dust covers protects them and helps not to transfer polish or color to your clothing.

If you pack like I do and travel with at least six pairs of shoes, you are going to have to pack smartly. Always put shoes at the *bottom* of your bags. Remember to pack shoes that actually coordinate with your outfits and are suitable for where you are traveling to — riding boots at the beach is not a good look.

Finally, it's always a good idea to **place heavy items on the bottom** of your suitcase. This will keep lighter items from getting crushed and also keep your suitcase from toppling over.

Now get out there plan a vacation and pack a suitcase that is stress free and fabulously filled. Don't forget to send me pictures so I can giggle at your tan lines and crazy adventures.



### PIMP YOUR (B)RIDE

If the journey and not the destination is part of your style, then any wedding party should encompass the wheels to make your day spectacular. That's where Platinum Motorcars comes in.

The exotic car rental company offers an "R&R" package — and that's both for "rest & relaxation" and "Rolls Royce," meaning the gorgeous Phantom auto. At nearly \$2,000 for a day's rental — including a complimentary chauffeur — it's an extravagance. But then, when you involve Rolls Royce, extravagant is what you're looking for. (Platinum also has other luxury wheels for rental if the Rolls is outside your budget — or your style.)

The package also includes a one-bedroom suite at Hotel Zaza, a couples Swedish massage, a three-course dinner at Dragonfly and more perks.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Platinum Motorcars, 11430 North Central Expressway. 469-374-9090.**  
**PlatinumMotorcars.net.**

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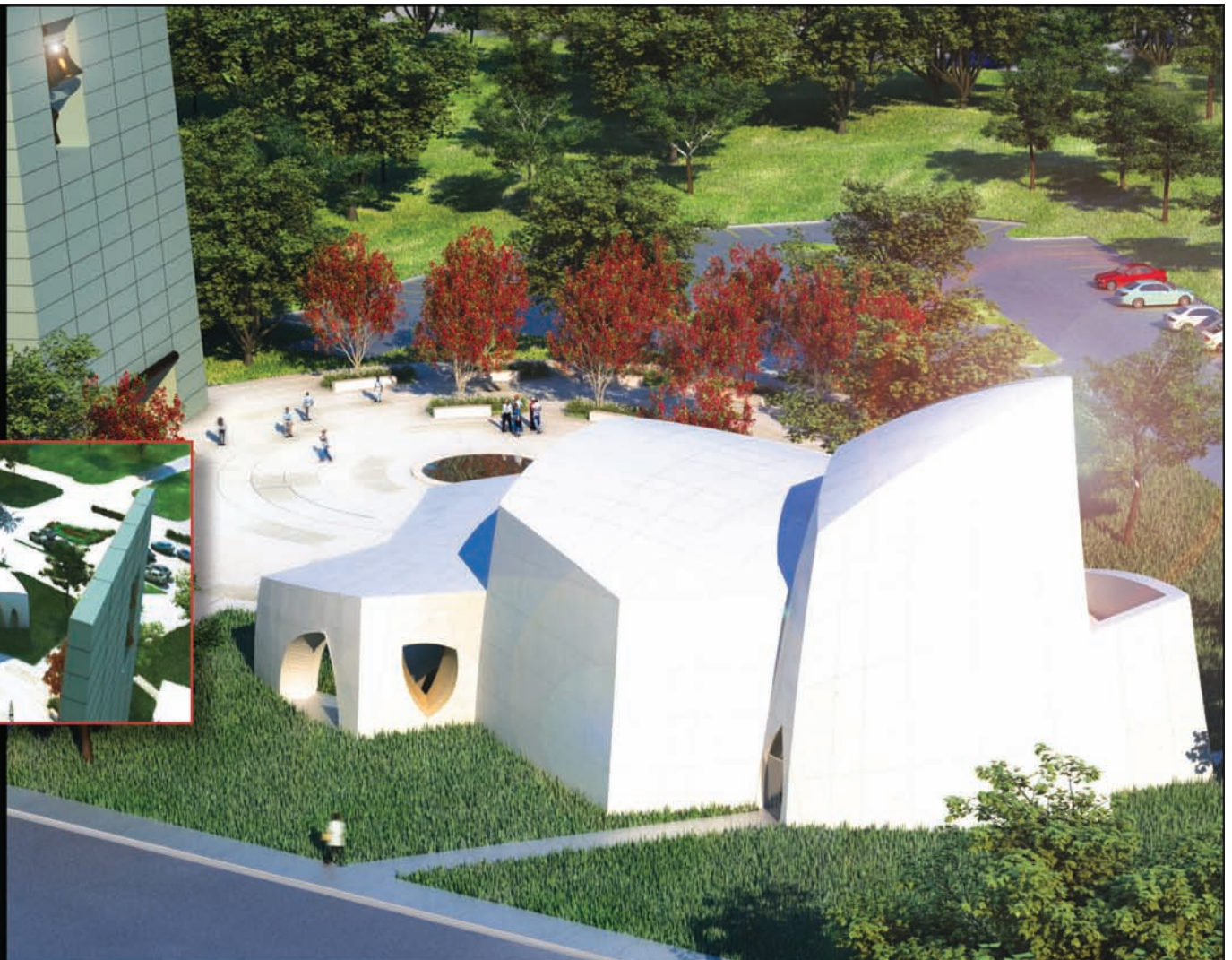
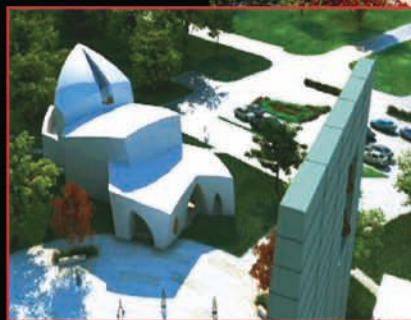
Tickets \$10 • \$5 Students/Seniors  
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[www.oaklawnband.org](http://www.oaklawnband.org)

## Coming Soon

The Cathedral of Hope has been marrying lesbian and gay couples for 40 years. The Interfaith Peace Chapel will soon be available as Dallas' world-class facility for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight weddings. Reservations are now being accepted for 2011.

To schedule your dream wedding, contact the church at (214) 351-1901 or [shorelica@cathedralofhope.com](mailto:shorelica@cathedralofhope.com)

For more information about the Interfaith Peace Chapel, visit [InterfaithPeaceChapel.org](http://InterfaithPeaceChapel.org)



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