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Pandora, Tatiana and Jessica do Dallas — fabulously

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RALLYING THE TROOPS | Resource Center Dallas Executive Director Mike McKay addresses a rally outside Dallas City Hall in November 2008, a few days after passage of Proposition 8. McKay's last day at RCD will be May 28.

McKay to leave RCD for Peace Corps

Board begins search for replacement as ED announces departure after four years

TAMMY NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The executive committee of Resource Center Dallas' board of directors will be meeting within the week, according to board President Reid Ainsworth, to discuss its options in replacing Mike McKay, who announced earlier this week he is resigning as the center's executive director.

McKay announced Monday, May 10, that he is leaving RCD to take a job as chief of operations in the Volunteer Recruitment and Selection Division for the Peace Corps. He said his final day at RCD is Friday, May 28. He begins his new job with the Peace Corp on June 7.

Ainsworth said that the center already has a "strong management team" in place that will allow RCD to maintain

"business as usual," even if no one has been chosen to replace McKay by the time he leaves.

"I feel very confident that we have the management team in place to move things forward," he said, adding that the executive committee, made up of the board officers, will "determine a plan of action" and then take that plan to the full board for final approval.

Ainsworth said the executive committee will "look at all the options," including the possibility of promoting someone from within the organization to the executive director position, and the possibility of bringing in someone new from outside the center's existing staff.

"If we can decide on someone before the next scheduled board meeting on June 7, then we can call a board meeting earlier. But if we decide to look for someone externally, then those searches can sometimes take a few months," he said.

RCD's existing management team includes Cece Cox, associate executive director for GLBT services; Bret Camp,

■ **McKAY**, Page 15

Time running out on ENDA

Advocates express frustration over Democratic leadership's failure to prioritize bill banning anti-LGBT job discrimination

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service

WASHINGTON — Supporters of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) say they have the votes to pass the bill, they are just waiting for the Democratic leadership to call it to the floor.

But the leadership has grown quiet — no more regular expressions of optimism and predictions for when Congress will take up the bill, and the waiting game is wearing on nerves.

"The community and the movement have done everything we've been asked to do," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

NCTE is one of the key groups lobbying for the bill this session, taking the lead on the additional language that seeks to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, as well as sexual orientation.

"We've worked and worked and gotten sufficient votes to make sure gender identity stays in the bill," said Keisling, "but the bill is not being prioritized."

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said, "We have heard that the official whip is completed and that there are enough votes to pass ENDA in committee and in the House, which tells us that our vigorous lobbying and grassroots engagement efforts are being effective."

"Leadership needs to do the right thing, right now," said Carey, "and schedule a markup and pass an inclusive ENDA."

One of those leaders is Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the most veteran of Congress' three openly gay representatives, chairman of the House's influential Finance Committee, and sponsor of the bill. Through a spokesman, Frank had no new information this week about when a vote will happen.

Frank introduced the bill, H.R. 3017, in June of last year

■ **ENDA**, Page 16



Mara Keisling



Rea Carey



Barney Frank

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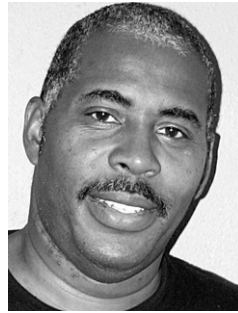
DART committee OKs trans protections

Change approved with little debate; full board votes on proposal in June

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Less than three months after Dallas Area Rapid Transit was publicly accused of discriminating against a transgender bus driver, a committee of the board of directors voted Tuesday, May 11, to add gender identity to the agency's employment nondiscrimination policy.

DART's Economic Opportunity and Diversity Committee unanimously approved the proposal, which now proceeds to the full board for a final



Michael Robinson

vote in June. "I think there's little need to debate this," said committee member John Danish of Irving, who serves as vice president of the board. "This is just something that makes a lot of common sense. ... We don't discriminate against anyone for any reason."

Michael Robinson, who was among a handful of LGBT activists who attended Tuesday's committee meeting, said he was "shocked" that there

wasn't more opposition to the proposal.

A member of the direct action group GetEQUAL, Robinson said he's been preparing to organize protests if DART doesn't approve the new policy.

"I'm extremely surprised that it went that smoothly," Robinson said.

Kriss Ann Gamez, DART's diversity director and EEO, told the committee the policy change is needed to maintain best practices and discourage negative practices, as well as to remain competitive.

DART's nondiscrimination policy has included sexual orientation since 1995.

Five cities in Texas include gender identity in

■ DART, Page 15

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Laura Bush says gay couples should have equal rights

Dallas resident and former first lady Laura Bush told CNN's Larry King on Tuesday, May 11 that she supports equal rights for same-sex couples. King asked Bush about a passage in her book, "Spoken from the Heart," where she says she asked George not to make a "significant issue" out of gay marriage:

King: "Do you think we should have it [gay marriage]?"

LB: "I think that we ought to definitely look at it, and I've debated. I think there are a lot of people who have trouble coming to terms with that because they see marriage as traditionally between a man and a woman, but I also know that when couples are committed to each other and love each other, they ought to have, I think, the same sort of rights that everyone has."

King: "So would that be an area where you [and George] disagree?"

LB: "I guess that would be an area that we disagree. I understand totally what George thinks and what other people think about marriage being between a man and a woman, and it's a real reversal ... to accept gay marriage."

King: "But you do?"

LB: "But I think we could. I think it's also a generational thing."

King: "You think it's coming?"

LB: "Yeah, [it] will come."

— John Wright



Laura Bush

LSR kicks off Sunday at Salum

Organizers adding new choices, events — including the option of a shorter route — to spark new interest in fundraiser in its 10th year

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
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In the wind up to the 10th annual Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS, LSR co-chairs Laura Kerr and John Tripp have said participants and supporters should expect to see some breaks from tradition in the 2010 event.

"For our 10th year, we decided we would toss out our 'same as last year' concept and do something different," said Kerr, who chaired LSR in 2009. "Just because we had always done it one way doesn't mean we can't do something different."

One of the most obvious changes, the co-chairs said, is the addition of a second, shorter route, complete with full-service crews, moto support and fully staffed pit stops.

In 2009, LSR moved its base camp to the American Airlines Conference Center on the campus of the American Airlines headquarters in north Arlington. The first day of the two-day, 165-mile ride featured a long loop through the countryside northwest of the airport, and the second day's ride went southeast to Ovilla and back.

That move brought with it the advantage of single starting/finishing point and a central gathering point for participants and supporters.

For the 10th annual ride this fall, the AACC will again be base camp for both days, allowing organizers to add this "fabulous new route option," Kerr said, opening up the ride to what they hope will be an even wider range of riders.



BREAKING FROM TRADITION | Lone Star Right Fighting AIDS Co-chairs Laura Kerr and John Tripp said this year's event will include the option of a 45-mile route each day in an effort to attract new riders reluctant to tackle the traditional 75-mile route.

"One of the biggest reasons people have always given for not registering to ride is, 'I don't think I can make it that far,'" Kerr said. "But now, for those who aren't confident that they can do 75 miles each day, we are offering the option of doing 45 miles each day, and that route still includes all the rights, privileges and perks that come with the longer ride."

Tripp said organizers had been considering adding a second, shorter route option for several

years, and that having the AACC as home base for the second consecutive year gave them that opportunity.

"We are familiar enough with the area that it is really doable this year to have shorter route options," Tripp said.

The co-chairs said that the longer route this year will be basically the same as in 2009, except that the lunch pit stop will be placed a little earlier in

■ LSR, Page 14



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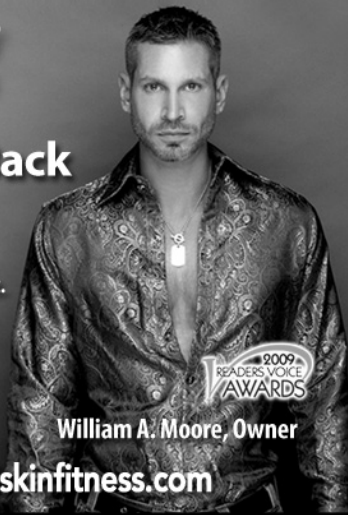
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localbriefs

Straight Guy Drag-off to benefit EMT

Equality March Texas will host a "Straight Guy Drag-off Competition" Sunday, May 16, at 10 p.m. at The DoubleWide Bar. The event will feature straight male allies competing in drag and judged on overall appearance and talent.

Mia DuBois will host the event, with special performances by Miss EMT 2010 Nia Courtland, Miss Round-Up Alexandra De Vane and Julian Pax.

Admission is \$10 and doors open at 9 p.m. The evening will include drink specials and a raffle for door prizes. All proceeds will benefit Equality March Texas.

For more information go online to Equality-MarchTexas.org or call Jacob Pendleton at 214-205-6224.

AIDS Arms announces new hires

Officials with AIDS Arms Inc. have announced the addition of non-profit veterans Kris Martin and Naomi C.T. White to the agency's fundraising team.

"We are thrilled to have these two women as a part of our resource development team," said AIDS Arms Executive Director Raeline Nobles. "Each brings unique experiences, gifts and skills to our organization to help us meet the needs of a fast growing client population and expanding efforts within HIV prevention."

Martin has been hired as manager of individual giving to develop and retain major donors for the Call to Arms expansion campaign, a project of the Red Ribbon Society at AAI designed to raise funds to build an additional medical clinic in the southern sector of Dallas.

Martin has more than 30 years of marketing, public relations, communications and development experience, having worked with PBS, Dallas Voice and KERA. She also worked for Cathedral of Hope, where she assisted with two successful capital campaigns.

Martin is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association, Lambda Legal, Stonewall Democrats, KERA 90.1 and works as a community volunteer.

White will serve as development associate at AAI, where her chief role is to help manage the agency's annual LifeWalk event. This year's event, set for Oct. 10, will mark LifeWalk's 20th anniversary.

White has more than 12 years of marketing and development experience, having worked for Susan G. Komen for the Cure in the cause related marketing department, developing and maintaining sponsorship relationships. She has earned bachelor's degree in marketing and communications from the University of Houston and is a member of Society of Non Profit Organizations and the American Marketing Association.

pet of the week / cyrus

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RUNOFF | Openly gay military veteran David Guy-Gainer faces incumbent Gerald Joubert in a runoff for the Place 3 seat on the Forest Hill City Council.

Guy-Gainer makes runoff in Forest Hill

2 of 3 Stonewall-backed candidates win races in DISD board elections

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Dave Guy-Gainer came in second in a three-way race for the Place 3 seat on the Forest Hill City Council last Saturday, propelling him into a runoff with the top vote-getter, incumbent Gerald Joubert.

Joubert won 43 percent of the 994 votes cast in the race, while Guy-Gainer drew 34 percent. Rodney Wright finished third with 23 percent of the votes.

Guy-Gainer said earlier this week that a date for the runoff had not yet been set, but that he expected it to be set for June 12.

"That's my birthday, too, by the way. That [winning the runoff] would be a nice present," the

candidate said.

Guy-Gainer explained that the city council has to meet, after giving a 72-hour notice, to canvass the votes, certify the need for a runoff and then set the date. He said he hoped to see that meeting to be held Thursday night, May 13, but had no confirmation of that date.

Guy-Gainer said he will take time to thank those who supported him in the general election, and will then "get to work again" campaigning on what he sees as the most important issues in the small town located southeast of downtown Fort Worth.

Well known in the North Texas LGBT community for his activism on repealing the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy, Guy-Gainer said his sexual orientation had not played a role in his campaign for City Council.

And just as in the campaign leading up to the general election, the openly gay candidate said he

■ **ELECTIONS**, Next Page



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■ **ELECTIONS**, From Previous Page

would focus on issues important to Forest Hill in the runoff.

"There has been a lot of turmoil and in-fighting over the last five years, and that doesn't help the city move forward," Guy-Gainer said, noting that Forest Hill has had three city managers and numerous recall votes. "We need to get over all that now and develop a focused plan that will allow the city to move forward."

He said a primary roadblock for the city has been its lack of mass transportation since the citizens voted down a proposal to join the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, known as The T, several years ago.

"We are sitting out here between Fort Worth and Arlington and Dallas, where jobs are available. But our kids can't get those jobs because they don't have cars and there isn't any bus service available to get them to where the jobs are," Guy-Gainer said. "The kids can't get to the community colleges to further their education. And it's not just the young people. I was talking to a woman [at a senior living facility] and she told me she would love to be able to get on a bus and go anywhere, just to go. It would be such a treat to be able to get out of here sometimes."

Guy-Gainer said the city also has to find new sources of revenue, including grants.

"Our property values have dropped 8.8 percent. We've got the highest tax rate of any city in Tarrant County, and we still have the lousiest streets. We've got to find money to fix the streets. There are all kind of things we can do to turn our economy around," he said.

Dallas ISD School Board elections

Two of the three candidates endorsed by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas in races for seats on the Dallas Independent School District Board of Trustees won their races in elections held last weekend.

Incumbent Lew Blackburn won re-election with 54 percent in District 5. He had earned Stonewall's endorsement over both of his opponents, Claudia Fowler and Daphne Edmond.

In the District 7 race, Stonewall had endorsed Eric Cowan, who won the race with 62 percent of the vote. Luis Trujillo, who had also sought Stonewall's backing, received 33 percent of the vote, while the third candidate, Olegario Estrada, received 4 percent. Estrada did not ask for the Stonewall endorsement.

The District 7 incumbent, Jerome Garza, did not run for re-election.

Incumbent Nancy Bingham received 55 percent of the votes to win re-election in District 4, defeating the Stonewall-backed candidate, Camile White, who got 32 percent of the vote and Jesse Diaz, who earned 13 percent.

Stonewall President Erin Moore said both Bingham and White had asked for the LGBT political group's backing in the District 4 race, and that Stonewall members had voted to back White.

Still, Moore said, she believes Bingham could be an ally for the LGBT community on the school board.

"Nancy Bingham did seek our endorsement, and she did tell us she is ready and willing to work with our community," Moore said. "It was a close decision for us, and in the end we voted to endorse Camile White. But I believe Nancy Bingham is a good choice, and we intend to work with her however we can."

Moore said that having trustees on the school board who have actively sought backing from the LGBT community "opens the door and opens the dialog again" between the community and DISD officials. "That door has been closed for too long. There have certainly been inroads made by other [LGBT] organizations. But now those board members know our community is watching them. And it shows that we [Stonewall] are paying attention."



Moore said that although DISD has had an LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination policy in place for several years, it hasn't been adequately enforced. She said her organization intends to work with board members to remind them that "the policy is already in place and that it needs to be enforced and reinforced."

She said Stonewall also will "talk to them [school officials] about enforcing common sense practices about kids who are caught in a hostile learning environment. And if the Texas Legislature doesn't see fit to pass laws to protect these kids, then we will be there to press the school board to step up and protect them." ■


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OCCASIONS



DINGMAN-ALLEN ANNIVERSARY | Chad Dingman and Brian Allen will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on Thursday, May 20. The couple met in the Turtle Creek Chorale and had their holy union while living in Austin. Dingman is a hairstylist at Anderson, Cox and Company at Stanley Korshak, and Allen is an executive at the Stoneleigh Hotel & Spa. The couple hopes to be considered legal by the state of Texas in the future.



GONZALEZ-ROARK WEDDING | R. Michael Gonzalez and Jeffrey T. Roark were married on May 1 before an audience of their closest friends in a ceremony at the Fairmont Hotel, with the beautiful Dallas skyline as the backdrop. Gonzalez and Roark met in December 2007 and soon became best friends because of their mutual love for Transformers and DC Comics superheroes. They have been inseparable since March 2008 when Roark asked Gonzalez "what would it be like if we were dating" while they were watching "The People Under the Stairs." They share similar hobbies and both enjoy watching musicals and game nights with friends. They are honeymooning in Las Vegas.

Seven Points elects openly gay mayor, but Dobbs says political foes 'playing games' with him

Outgoing mayor of small town near Cedar Creek Lake schedules vote to change city's government to 'weak mayor' model before leaving office

DAVID WEBB | The Rare Reporter
davidwaynewebb@embarqmail.com

SEVEN POINTS — Mayor-elect John "Joe" Dobbs barely had time to savor his victory in the city's election May 8 as the first gay mayor before he realized he was facing yet another challenge.

He learned this week that outgoing Mayor Gerald Taylor placed an item on the agenda for the City Council meeting May 14 that will transfer the administrative powers of the mayor's office to an "administrative board," which would be the council at large. In effect, the plan is to switch Seven Points from a strong mayor form of gov-

ernment to that of a weak one.

"They're definitely playing games with me," said Dobbs in an interview in the City Council chamber this week. "I'm going to find out if there is anything I can do about it."

The first item on the May 14 agenda is to canvass the results of the May 8 election, which shows Dobbs winning with 109 votes, compared to his opponents, Bubba Powell with 75 votes and Wanda Nichols with 31 votes.

The second agenda item is the proposal to establish the new form of government, and the third is to swear in the new mayor and council members.

Dobbs said supporters of the proposal to change the form of government claim they want to do it because he is inexperienced as a politician. But in reality, he said, it is a continuation of a political vendetta against him because he is gay and has stepped on some toes in his position as volunteer fire chief.



SUPPORTING THE CANDIDATE | Lahoma Sue Powell said she would have moved away from Seven Points, where she has lived for 69 years, if John "Joe" Dobbs, left, had not won the mayoral election last weekend. Michael Tayem, Dobbs' partner of four years, said he witnessed illegal electioneering by another candidate during the race. (David Webb)

During the campaign, his opponents and their supporters informed voters that he was gay and urged them not to support him for that reason, said Dobbs, who works as a juvenile probation of-

ficer in Rockwall County.

"They tried to make an issue out of it, and it backfired on them," said Dobbs, who noted that

■ **MAYOR**, Page 13

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'All I really want to do is be myself'

Trans teen in small East Texas town has few options in her efforts to convince school officials to let her dress as a girl

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

WHITEHOUSE, Smith County — Sixteen-year-old Alexis Lusk says she's been cross-dressing more subtly for about three years.

But one day a few weeks ago Alexis, a transgender female, took it a step further — donning a bra, a women's blouse and ballet flats to accompany her flare jeans.

Alexis was called into the assistant principal's office and told she was creating a disruption, even though there had been no incident. Not wanting to jeopardize her academic future, she agreed to remove the objectionable clothing and has been dressing like a boy ever since.

"All I really want to do is be myself," said Alexis, a junior at Whitehouse High School in East Texas. "I understand that in today's world that's complicated, but there's a point where it's not that complicated."

LGBT legal experts say federal courts have generally upheld trans students' right to cross-dress at school, citing both first amendment protections for free expression and Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination. However, it's difficult for trans students like Alexis to assert their rights in places like Texas unless parents are supportive.

Alexis indicated that her parents are only mildly accepting and would be unlikely to hire an attorney for her.

"If I'm not contacted by one of the parents, I'm not getting into it because I cannot risk a lawsuit over interfering with parental rights," said Phyllis Frye, a well-known transgender attorney from Houston.

A few years ago, Frye successfully fought the

Fort Worth School District to allow a high school student to cross-dress. But Frye noted that the FWSD student had a supportive mother and was in a more progressive district.

Frye said another option would be for Alexis to seek emancipation from her parents.

"If she does that, that means she's going to be out on the street," Frye said. "The other thing she can do is gut it out for another year. I'm not saying that's a fun thing to do, but she's only 16, and being on the street is a good way to die. ... It's a really shitty situation."

Alexis agreed that emancipation isn't viable. For one thing, she suffers from juvenile diabetes and relies on her parents for health care.

Ken Upton, a Dallas-based senior staff attorney for the LGBT civil rights group Lambda Legal, said it's hardly unusual for school administrators to react to cross-dressing by punishing the trans student.

"The schools just don't get this," Upton said. "Instead of punishing the people who are disrupting, you punish the person who's trying to exercise their rights. ... We are seeing this more and more as students are starting to deal with this earlier and earlier and are less willing to take a lot of grief from administrators who are still in the last century."

Administrators at Alexis' school didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

Alexis said the assistant principal threatened to write her up if she's caught cross-dressing again. She noted that the topic isn't mentioned in the dress code, but she said she believes her assistant principal is relying on a provision that states, "Decisions on the appropriateness of school dress rest with the campus administration."

Upton encouraged Alexis to call Lambda Legal's help line, but he noted the group would want to speak with one of her parents. He also warned that she could risk backlash from her parents, school administrators and the Whitehouse community.

"The law is really supportive, but the problem



SUBTLE CHANGES | Alexis Lusk, who didn't want her face shown, said this photo is a good example of how she has been subtly cross-dressing for the last three years.

is that's only part of the equation," he said. "You have to take into account the practical effect of raising a stink with the school."

Alexis said she isn't worried about backlash — which is why she contacted Dallas Voice.

She said most people already know she's trans, and her friends are supportive. In fact, this week several of them were tentatively planning to cross-dress at school in protest.

Alexis lamented that she won't be able to wear a dress to her prom this weekend, because it's a school function. She wants to become a pharma-

cist and a computer programmer, and she doesn't want to risk getting in more trouble.

At the same time, she isn't sure how long she'll be able to toe the line. When she's tried to give up cross-dressing completely in the past, it led to thoughts of suicide.

Alexis was debating whether to ask her mother about hiring an attorney. She said she hopes this article will draw attention to the issue and prompt school officials to reconsider their decision. ■

In addition to Lambda Legal, Dallas Voice provided Alexis with contact information for Youth First Texas.

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GetEQUAL activists planning protests against ExxonMobil

Activists staging events at gas stations on May 14 and May 21, and outside ExxonMobil shareholders meeting May 26

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Local activists from GetEQUAL — the national LGBT direct action group whose members have been arrested recently in Washington and San Francisco — plan protests outside three ExxonMobil stations in Dallas on Friday, May 14.

The protests are designed to draw attention to Irving-based ExxonMobil's anti-gay employment practices as well as the need for passage of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, according to GetEQUAL's Mark Reed.

"When the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company with nearly 30,000 employees in the United States refuses to protect the LGBT community against workplace discrimination, it underscores the need for Congress to pass ENDA now," Reed said.

"Every day that Congress does not act on ENDA is another day when lesbian, gay, bisexual

and transgender employees can be fired from ExxonMobil for simply being who they are."

The rallies will begin at 4 p.m. outside ExxonMobil stations at 3716 Maple Ave., 4239 Lemmon Ave. and 2503 Lemmon Ave. in Dallas, and GetEQUAL is hoping to have at least 25 people at each location.

GetEQUAL is also calling for protests at ExxonMobil stations around the country on May 21.

And on May 26, protesters will gather outside the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, where ExxonMobil shareholders will hold their annual meeting and again vote on a proposal to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the company's employment nondiscrimination policy.

The proposal, which has been introduced every year since 2000, was defeated last year by a margin of about 60 percent to 40 percent in a vote of shareholders.

After Exxon and Mobil merged in 1999, ExxonMobil rescinded Mobil's LGBT employment protections and domestic partner benefits. ExxonMobil is one of the few companies that score a zero on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index, which ranks businesses based on their LGBT-related employment practices.

Reed, Chastity Kirven and Michael Robinson are organizing the May 14 rallies. ■

MAYOR

From Page 11

his opponent Powell is a business partner of outgoing Mayor Taylor. "Most of the citizens I talked to said they didn't care what my sexual preference was or what I did in the bedroom. They said they just wanted the city straightened out."

Dobbs said Seven Points citizens are desperate to see someone take control of city business and run it efficiently because of the controversy that has plagued City Hall for months. Last fall, the FBI and the Henderson County District Attorney launched investigations and issued warrants for all of the city's computer records.

Two indictments followed the issuance of the warrants. City Judge Monica Corker, who resigned, and outgoing Mayor Taylor, who is also a member of the volunteer fire department, are now free on bond facing felony corruption charges.

Dobbs said that in his capacity as fire chief he demoted Taylor from the position of assistant chief to a regular firefighter because of ethical concerns about him. In a subsequent council meeting, Taylor responded by calling him a "fucking queer bitch," he said.

The new mayor said he is contemplating whether to pursue any action against Taylor under federal hate crime laws for the alleged public harassment.

The joint investigation of Seven Points by the FBI and the District Attorney continues, and the

District Attorney sent two investigators to City Hall on election day because of complaints about irregularities involving Dobbs' opponent Nichols. Nichols allegedly was visiting City Secretary Debbie Mosley's office and told a couple who entered the office she was running for mayor.

Michael Tayem, Dobbs' partner of four years, said he witnessed the electioneering by Nichols while he was serving as a poll watcher for Dobbs.

"I'm his bull dog," said Tayem, who helped Dobbs with his campaign. The couple own a home together on 30 acres in Seven Points.

Dobbs said he believes that he has proven as volunteer fire chief that he has the organization abilities to run Seven Points efficiently, and that he is confident the majority of the citizens support him. Most of the firefighters support him wholeheartedly, he said.

"It was a tough fight, but the public spoke," Dobbs said. "And they showed sexual orientation doesn't have a damn bit to do with it."

Dobbs said he ran a clean campaign and refused to engage in any negative conversations about his opponents.

Lahoma Sue Powell, a lifelong resident of Seven Points, said she supported Dobbs in his campaign and will continue to do so.

"It's going to come out all the better," Powell said. "If he hadn't made mayor I would probably have moved out of Seven Points, and I've been here 69 years. This is a man for mayor. He just happens to be gay." ■



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LSR

From Page 4

the route, in Haslett. It will also include the century — or 100-mile option — for the more experienced participants who want a longer ride.

The return loop has been redirected slightly, the co-chairs continued, bringing riders back through the Trinity River Bottoms and including a pit stop at AIDS Outreach Center, one of the three organizations benefiting from Lone Star Ride. The other two beneficiary organizations are Resource Center Dallas and AIDS Services Dallas.

“This is a great opportunity for the new riders we are hoping to draw in to see the services our beneficiaries provide. Being able to stop there is a great perk,” Tripp said.

While the shorter route option gives less experienced riders a chance to participate in Lone Star Ride, the co-chairs said they have other new activities planned that they hope will draw in a new array of cyclists who wouldn't have participated in what may have been seen strictly as an LGBT event or an HIV/AIDS event in previous years.

“HIV and AIDS have grown out of our [LGBT] community over the past few years,” Kerr said. “It affects families — all kinds of families. Those people need to be educated and aware and involved, and we are hoping to draw them into Lone Star Ride this year.”

Tripp added, “The LGBT community has done

a fantastic job for, well, however many years we've been fighting AIDS now. But now people with HIV and AIDS are living longer, and one of the most important services now is outreach and education and fighting the stigma of AIDS.

“We want to start bringing in people who are interested in cycling instead of fundraising so we can start getting that message out to them. And we want to bring in people who are just interested in doing something good for the community instead of cycling, getting them involved as crew and getting them to participate in events at the conference center during ride weekend.”

Toward that goal, Lone Star is partnering this year with the outdoor clothing and gear retailer REI to hold a “Bike Rodeo” for children, ages 6-11, on the second day of the ride.

A tentative schedule for the rodeo includes a lunch for parents and children, a kid's bike safety inspection, a safety lecture and a bike rodeo competition. Children participating in the bike rodeo will be able to participate in the LSR Ride-In at 5 p.m. The \$20 registration fee will also include a bike helmet for participating children.

LSR officials will set up a separate LSR website for the rodeo where parents can register their children for the event.

Lone Star Ride has also expanded its Lone Star Locker program this year not just to provide loaner bikes for riders who want to participate but don't have their own bike, but also to purchase bikes at the holidays for children in families af-

ected by HIV/AIDS, called the Lone Star Little Locker.

Proceeds from the bike rodeo will help purchase bicycles to be distributed during the holidays as part of the Lone Star Little Locker program

To help pay for the expansion of the program, organizers held the Passion 4 Fashion event in April at Station 4, raising more than \$7,000 to help fund Lone Star Locker and Lone Star Little Locker.

“By the end of March, all 12 of the bikes we had in the locker had been loaned out to people who had already registered and were ready to start training,” Kerr said, explaining the immediate need for funds in the program. “We used to get used bikes for the program, but they usually needed a lot of work and weren't necessarily safe to ride when they first came in. But now we have found a supplier through whom we can get brand new bikes for a really inexpensive price.

“So now, when somebody gets a bike through the locker, they get a brand new bike to ride. And if they raise \$2,000, they get to keep the bike,” she said.

The 2009 Lone Star Ride was also the first with a designated Positive Pedalers team, Kerr said, and this year the team will be back, branching out to include riders who are not themselves HIV-positive.

“Last year there were 10 registered riders on the Positive Pedalers team, and we hope to grow that



FINISH LINE | Lone Star Ride organizers hope to have at least 175 riders participating this year. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

to 20 this year. That's a lofty goal, I know, but I think we can do it,” said Tripp, who is himself a Positive Pedalers team member. “We really wanted to open the team up to include not just those who are positive, but those who support us

■ LSR, Page 15

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LSR

From Page 14

as positive riders, too. The whole point of the team is to educate people about the kinds of issues that positive people struggle with, about our everyday lives, and having them riding with us on our team is a great way to do that."

Tripp said that the Positive Pedalers team captain this year is Michael Mack, and Kerr noted that the team has special jerseys and shirts and other equipment to identify those team members who are HIV-positive and those who are supporters.

The whole idea of the innovations instituted for the 10th annual ride is to attract more riders and more crew members and more supporters. A total 126 riders registered in 2009, with more than 200

registered crew members volunteering. This year, Kerr said, organizers are shooting for at least 175 riders and about 350 crew volunteers. She also said that while only 14 teams had registered in all in 2009, 13 teams have already registered this year.

And that's before the 2010 event officially kicks off. That happens on Sunday, May 16, with the kick-off party at Salum restaurant, 4152 Cole Ave., Ste. 103, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The party will include hors' d'oeuvres and a cash bar featuring "Lone Star Ride-inspired" drinks, and a presentation on the ride beginning about 2:45 p.m.

Also on Sunday, participants will be able to take advantage of a "two-for-one" registration special. The cost to register as a crewmember is \$50. Riders pay a \$75 registration fee and commit to raising at least \$500 in donations. ■

LGBT activists called on DART to add trans protections in the wake of Dallas Voice articles about the agency's decision last year to challenge the bus driver's gender marker-change in family court. A judge overturned the gender marker change before DART could intervene in the case.

The employee, whose name is being withheld to protect her anonymity, also alleges that DART supervisors have at various times told her she couldn't wear a dress, couldn't have long hair and couldn't use women's restrooms. The employee, who's been with DART and its predecessor for 25 years, began transitioning in 2003 and had sex reassignment surgery about three years ago. ■

DART

From Page 4

their employment nondiscrimination policies, as does the Capital Metro transit agency in Austin, Gamez told the committee. According to the Human Rights Campaign, 72 percent of the 590 private companies rated by the gay-rights group this year include gender identity or gender expression in their nondiscrimination policies.

Gamez said DART's position is that adding gender identity to the nondiscrimination policy will also cover gender expression, which is listed separately by some employers.

McKAY

From Page 1

associate executive director for health and medical services; and Shannon McKay, development director.

McKay's new direction

McKay said this week he first learned about the position with the Peace Corps around Christmas through his friend and former coworker, Rosie Mauk. Mauk, who now works with the Peace Corps, had worked with McKay at AmeriCorps, an organization McKay described as "the domestic Peace Corps."

"Rosie and I are good friends, and we talked at Christmas about the opportunity with the Peace Corps. Then when the job announcement came my way a month or so later, I looked at it and decided to apply. It was just last Thursday [May 6] that we finalized everything," McKay said.

"I had to think about it very, very carefully. I wasn't looking for a job," McKay continued. "I already had the best nonprofit job in Dallas, so if I was going to leave the best job in Dallas, it had to be for something pretty spectacular. The Peace Corps and this new job are pretty spectacular."

McKay explained that the Peace Corps already has nearly 7,000 volunteers working in 71 countries. But President Barack Obama's administration has called for an increase of about 50 percent

in that number.

"So we will be ramping up our recruiting and selection efforts. My job will be to handle the staff that does that," he said.

McKay said he will be overseeing a staff operating out of office in six cities and the District of Columbia.

"This is just one of those unique opportunities that I really wanted to take," he said. "The Peace Corps offers me the opportunity to [continue in community service], working from D.C. to have an impact on an international scale."

Working with the Peace Corps fits well with what McKay described as a lifelong commitment to community service.

His tenure at RCD

"Community service is one of my biggest passions. In fact, I have made a career with and from community service of some sort throughout my 30-plus years working," he said. "I believe each of us has an obligation to give back to our community in some form or fashion. I definitely believe we have that opportunity every day here at Resource Center Dallas."

McKay succeeded Paul Scott as executive director of RCD four years ago. He said he believes that in that time the organization has "made some tremendous strides in helping advance the cause for equality and fairness and compassion and

■ McKay, Page 16



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ENDA

From Page 1

and the House Committee on Education and Labor held a hearing on it last September. But a long-sought hate crimes bill got the nod last year; Democratic leadership attached it to the annual bill authorize spending by the Department of Defense. And an enormously contentious and time-consuming debate over health care reform kept most everything else off the table until March of

this year.

After the health reform legislation passed and was signed into law in late March, Frank said the way was now cleared for the House to take up ENDA. He predicted then that a vote would likely come as soon as Congress returned from a spring recess—in early April. It is now mid-May. On May 10, Roll Call newspaper, specializing in coverage of Congressional legislation, reported that “senior Democratic aides and lawmakers” believe ENDA could be on the House floor this month.

McKAY

From Page 15

justice that is our mission.”

McKay points to the institution of a transgender health night and “more effective outreach into minority communities” on HIV/AIDS issues on the health services side of the organization, and to “enhanced and expanded programs that reach beyond North Texas” on the LGBT programming side as signs of the center’s progress during his tenure.

One of those programs, he said, was the LGBT sensitivity training the center conducts for employees of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission statewide.

TABC contracted with the center to conduct the training following the raid on the Rainbow Lounge in Fort Worth.

McKay said he can’t pick out any one program

or accomplishment to say he is most proud of during his time at RCD. “But to combine two or three things into one, I am proudest that this agency is even stronger and in an even higher profile place as an organization for equality, justice and compassion. We’ve raised that awareness. We’ve raised our programs. We’ve raised our profile as a leader.”

McKay said that although he will be moving to Washington, D.C., for his new job, he is definitely not cutting his ties to North Texas.

“Dallas is home. I moved here in 1979, and I will always come back here,” he said. “I am keeping my condo here. I don’t know how long this new gig will last, and I fully expect to move back here some day.

“Beyond the friendships and beyond my job at RCD, I will really miss the people of North Texas. And I’ll miss the Tex-Mex food,” he said. “But at the same time, I know that’s what they make airplanes for!” ■

One such aide told this reporter that Democratic leaders would likely be discussing timing next week and there should be “more clarity” on timing “by the end of this month.”

Meanwhile, the remaining days in which the House can vote on anything are ticking away — House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer’s legislative calendar shows a total of 48 full days for voting and 14 part days before adjournment and mid-term elections.

Roll Call ran two articles in late April suggesting support for ENDA has been suffering because some supporters of the legislation in 2007 are suddenly getting cold feet over the inclusion of gender identity protection in the bill this year. But Frank told Roll Call this week the provision will stay in the bill and that he’s still optimistic for passage.

Some LGBT activists expressed upset over Frank’s comments to Roll Call that the bill, in addressing the gender identity issue, does give employers the right to expect that employees have a “consistent gender presentation” before they can sue claiming gender identity discrimination.

“They can’t sit there with a full beard and a dress,” Frank told Roll Call. But NCTE said Frank’s comment was simply reiterating the current state of the law.

“Barney was not really saying anything new,” said NCTE legal counsel Harper Jean Tobin. “It was troubling to a lot of transpeople, but people forget that ENDA puts rules on employers, not

employees. And most employers don’t have gender-based dress codes.”

So, if the votes are there and a vote has been promised, why hasn’t a vote happened yet?

People on the Hill who are close to the action offer several explanations, though none would do so with their name attached. One said Democratic leaders worry about a repeat of last week’s debacle on a bill to encourage homeowners to adopt energy-saving measures.

The bill passed the House 246 to 161 but not before Republicans attached provisions that could prevent it from being successful. One amendment requires that it cannot go into effect unless supporters can prove that it will not add to the deficit. Another amendment requires that contractors participating in the program ensure that they do not have any sexual predators among their employees.

Conservative Republicans are almost certain to try similar amendments on ENDA, as well as an effort to recommit the bill to committee, as a way of thwarting it.

But Keisling said these types of efforts are simply part of the game in Congress and that she’s “extremely confident” the support is there to pass ENDA.

“It’s just a question of getting prioritization” from Democratic leaders, said Keisling. “I know they’re busy — I get it. But apparently we’re not being prioritized. ...The clock is running out.” ■

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SUN WORSHIPPERS | Everyone loves to have a good tan, including these folks soaking up the rays at a First Splash celebration at Lake Travis in Austin. But too much exposure to the sun can exact a heavy price in the long run. (Dallas Voice archives)

Summer's here, and you've got to love the skin you're in

Moisturize from the outside with lotions as well as the inside through diet to keep that youthful glow

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Summer skincare tips from William Moore, clinical director of Advanced Skin Fitness on Oak Lawn Avenue, are practical and simple:

Moisturize your skin from the inside as well as the outside and protect it from the damaging effects of the sun.

Moore recommends drinking plenty of water,

especially during hot summer days, but he offers a few alternatives as well.

"I recommend decaffeinated green tea," he said.

Caffeine is a diuretic so it doesn't help hydrate the skin. Avoid coffee and most sodas as well, he advises.

Juice is good, he said, but not in massive quantities because of high sugar content. Sports drinks help balance electrolytes but won't do much for the skin.

Green tea also has antioxidants, substances that fight viruses, slow aging and help prevent cell damage while also helping to lower blood sugar and high blood pressure.

■ **SKIN CARE**, Page 18

Protect yourself and look for ABCD warning signs of melanoma — asymmetry, border, color, diameter

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Four Dallas-area hospitals will offer free skin cancer screenings on Saturday, May 22, with dermatologists available to check moles and other spots for signs of cancer and determine if further analysis is necessary.

"Skin cancer is on the rise," said Suzanne Hall-Lewis with HSC Marketing, the company helping

organize the event.

Overexposure to the sun poses the greatest risk of contracting skin cancer. Tanning beds are also a danger.

When use of tanning beds begins before the age of 30, the chance of contracting melanoma increases by 75 percent.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer upgraded tanning beds to its highest cancer risk category — "carcinogenic to humans" from "probably carcinogenic to humans." That puts them in the same category as tobacco.

The National Cancer Institute said to look for the A-B-C-D warning signs of melanoma.

■ **SKIN CANCER**, Page 18

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SKIN CARE

From Page 17

“We get free radicals in our skin from the sun, cigarette smoke and toxins we come in contact with,” Moore said. “They destroy collagen, dilate capillaries and cause hyperpigmentation or sunspots. As free radicals build up, they cause the skin to age.”

Antioxidants help eliminate these free radicals. Vitamins C and E and beta-carotene are the most common substances that protect skin cells from the damaging effects of the sun.

Vitamin E, the principal fat-soluble antioxidant, protects cell membranes. Water-soluble vitamin C helps maintain healthy collagen.

The body converts beta-carotene into vitamin A, which supports the immune system.

Moore recommends not just relying on diet to get those antioxidants to the skin surface.

Use a topical antioxidant especially on the face and neck, two of the body’s most exposed and vulnerable places for sun damage, he said.

The protein collagen is sometimes referred to as the glue that holds the body together.

Protecting the skin helps keep the layer of collagen under the skin healthy. When enough collagen disappears, sagging skin can suddenly appear.

Moore said loss of collagen in the face can be seen particularly around the eyes, mouth and jaw line as we age. At age 35, the body stops produc-

ing the substance naturally and existing collagen begins to break down slowly. He likened this to termite damage that suddenly becomes apparent after eating away at the interior of the structure over a long period of time.

The greatest damage to the skin is caused by too much exposure to the sun’s harmful rays. Sunburns are the major cause of dry, wrinkled or leathery skin, as well as the most common forms of skin cancer.

To block the harmful effects of the sun, use a sunscreen with at least an SPF 15 rating or higher. Apply enough and apply often.

Since water reflects sunlight, be especially careful to use enough sunscreen around pools or at the beach and reapply generously after swimming.

After swimming, Moore suggests showering. Chlorine from a pool can dry the skin. Following the shower, he recommends applying lotion with antioxidants and pigment regulators.

He said diet is important as well. Stay away from fatty and oily foods. Those same foods that choke the heart and blood vessels clog the skin as well.

Of course all of these tips to promote healthier skin this summer does nothing for Moore’s business. But he said that sunscreen, lotions and diet aren’t always enough.

Photo facial treatments help repair sun-damaged capillaries. Accent XL skin tightening helps turn on the mechanism that allows the body to



William Moore

produce collagen. And laser resurfacing can help make the skin smoother and softer after years of sun exposure.

Following his routine skin-care tips makes any of these procedures less necessary. ■

SKIN CANCER

From Page 17

A is asymmetry of a spot or mole. B is the border of the spot, which is often ragged. C refers to the color, often uneven. Shades of black, brown, tan with areas of white, grey, red, pink or blue may be seen. D is the diameter. The spot should be checked when there is an increase in size. Melanomas are usually larger than one-quarter inch.

Sometimes all of these symptoms appear.

■ Continued Next Page

■ **Get Screened**

The four area hospitals listed here will be offering free skin cancer screenings on Saturday, May 22.

- Baylor University Medical Center, 3500 Gaston Ave., 2nd Floor, AM Admit, Hoblitzelle Bldg., Dallas 75246.

- Medical City Dallas Hospital, 7777 Forest Lane, Building A, Day Surgery, 2nd Floor, North Tower, Dallas 75230.

- Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford, 1600 Hospital Parkway, Edwards Cancer Center, Ground Floor, Bedford 76022.

- The Medical Center of Plano, 3901 W. 15th St., Plano 75075. Use north emergency entrance.

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Know your SPF

Sun Protection Factor, or SPF, refers to the amount of time skin is protected from ultraviolet B radiation, not the amount of protection. The higher the number, the longer the skin is protected.

An SPF of 15 filters 93 percent of the UVB rays that affect the outer layer of skin. If it takes 20 minutes to burn without protection, SPF 15 provides 5 hours of protection.

In addition to sunburn, UVB rays are the main cause of basal and squamous cell carcinomas and a cause of melanoma, the most dangerous type of skin cancer.

UVA rays (longer wave solar rays) cause wrinkled and leathery skin.

The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends sunscreen with at least SPF 15. Sun blocks with SPFs higher than 30 only block 4 percent more UVB radiation.

William Moore said to look for sunscreens with the minerals zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, which soothe the skin and reflect the light. Others lotions are made with ingredients that absorb and disperse the light.

Moore warned to make sure you apply enough on sunscreen to make a difference.

"If you're using a dime-sized amount on your face, you're getting SPF 2 not 15," he said.

Since the amount needed to truly provide a protection factor of 15 is unrealistic, reapply often.

— David Taffet

■ From Previous Page

On some people just one or two of the ABCD warning signs develop.

"Melanoma is the most important skin cancer to catch early," said Dr. Nick Bellos.

Squamous and basal cell carcinomas are two other common types of skin cancer.

The flat cells that form the surface of the skin are the squamous cells.

Basal cells are the small round cells found in the base of the epidermis. Basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of cancer with more than 1 million cases diagnosed every year.

Bellos said microscopic Mohs surgery is the most commonly used method of removing the carcinoma.

"They shave a layer of cells and look under a microscope," he said. The procedure is repeated until no more cancerous cells are found.

The cure rate using this procedure is about 98 percent for the first appearance of basal cell cancer.

"Any moles that change — it's good to get them checked," Bellos said.

At last year's screening at Presbyterian Hospital, of 138 people who were screened, 48 people were referred for follow-up.

The four hospitals offering the free screenings from 8 a.m. to noon this year are Baylor, Medical City, Harris Methodist HEB and Medical Center of Plano. No appointments are necessary, but Hall-Lewis said more than 1,100 people participated last year. She advised arriving early. ■

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Don't deny your daily dose of D

Too much exposure to the sun is harmful, but so is missing out on the necessary Vitamin D

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Wear a hat. Use plenty of sunscreen with at least an SPF 15 to protect your skin from the harmful effects of the sun. Prevent skin cancer and slow the aging process.

Do a good enough job of protecting yourself from the sun and you may end up with a Vitamin D deficiency. That's because we naturally produce the nutrient when sunlight hits the skin.

Low levels of vitamin D, the "sunshine vitamin," may be the unintended consequence of doing too good of a job of protecting yourself from the sun.

Vitamin D is present in very few foods but is usually added as a supplement to milk. A deficiency of the nutrient is associated with lactose intolerance and dairy allergies but was first added

to milk in the 1930s to prevent rickets in children.

Most adults do not consume enough milk to get sufficient amounts of the vitamin. Other dairy products such as ice cream are generally not made with fortified milk. Fish is a good source of the substance.

Low levels of vitamin D have been linked to chronic pain, fatigue and depression. Sufficient amounts of the vitamin must be present for the body to absorb calcium, which prevents osteoporosis and other skeletal and muscular disorders.

Sunscreens with the recommended SPF 15 block the radiation needed to produce the vitamin. Cloud cover, smog and location on the globe affect vitamin D production. Dallas is far enough south to allow for enough exposure to UVB radiation throughout the year.

And while too much exposure to the sun can cause melanoma and other skin cancers, vitamin D helps prevent colon, prostate and breast cancers.

Recent studies indicate most people need 1,000 to 2,000 units of vitamin D daily, five times the current government guidelines. ■

Dallas participating in 27th annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial on Sunday at Cornerstone

Larry Bryant with Campaign to End AIDS is keynote speaker for event co-sponsored by The Group

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas will participate in the 27th annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial on May 16 in conjunction with 1,200 cities in 115 countries.

The event remembers 25 million people who have died of AIDS and supports 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS around the world.

For the second year in a row, the local observance will take place at Cornerstone Baptist Church at 1819 MLK Jr. Blvd. at 6 p.m. Dallas has participated in the event for 10 years.

Auntjuan Wiley is the local director of the event sponsored by The Group, a support and empowerment group for African-American men, in coordination with the church.

He said they chose to partner with the church because it is located in the zip code with the highest morbidity rate for AIDS in Dallas.

Wiley will be the moderator for the event. Among other things, he is a national trainer for AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families and a consultant for the National Minority AIDS



Council.

The keynote speaker is Larry Bryant, director of national organizing for Housing Works and a member of the Campaign to End AIDS.

Housing Works provides services including housing, meals, medical care, drug treatment, social support and employment opportunities for homeless and low-income New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS.

With the Campaign to End AIDS, he works to prioritize the issues of marginalized and underserved communities.

Bryant is heterosexual and was diagnosed HIV positive in 1986.

"Unlike World AIDS Day or National HIV Testing Day, this will be simply a memorial," Wiley said. No testing will be done at the event.

At the end of the service participants may light a candle in memory of someone who has died of AIDS or in honor of someone living with HIV. ■



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Fowler says Naval Academy would adjust to DADT repeal

BRIAN WITTE | Associated Press Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The head of the U.S. Naval Academy said Wednesday, May 12, the school would adapt if the military repeals its ban on gays serving openly, because the academy has adjusted to big changes before and basic respect among students is crucial to success.

"There was a time minorities weren't allowed here," Vice Adm. Jeffrey Fowler told reporters. "There was a time women weren't allowed here. There's been many changes over the years, and we follow the law."

The superintendent pointed out that students already come from all over the nation from a great variety of backgrounds.

When he came to the academy in 1974 from Bismarck, N.D., he noted he lived with two students, one from inner-city Pittsburgh and one from Baltimore.

"We needed to get along, and we were certainly different people, so a lot of it was just basic respect and that's really what we teach across our midshipmen," Fowler said.

Fowler also noted that the rigors of academy life require students to trust and help each other.

"You cannot get through here without your classmates and that will continue forever," Fowler said.

All of the academy's 4,400 midshipmen live in one dormitory, and women started attending the academy in 1976.

President Barack Obama has said the 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" law unfairly punishes patriotic Americans, and he has asked Congress to repeal it.

Earlier this month, senior Pentagon leaders warned Congress not to change the ban until they can come up with a plan for dealing with potential opposition in the ranks.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates supports lifting



Vice Adm. Jeffrey Fowler

the ban, but he wants to survey the troops first to get a better idea of how it should be done.

Gates has ordered a study by Dec. 1 that will examine whether housing arrangements would have to be altered.

Fowler spoke to reporters during a regular briefing he holds near the end of the school year. He talked about a variety of changes that have happened during his tenure, which began in July 2007.

The academy has made big gains in diversity initiatives since his arrival. Minority applications for the class of 2014 were the most in the school's history, with 5,379. ■


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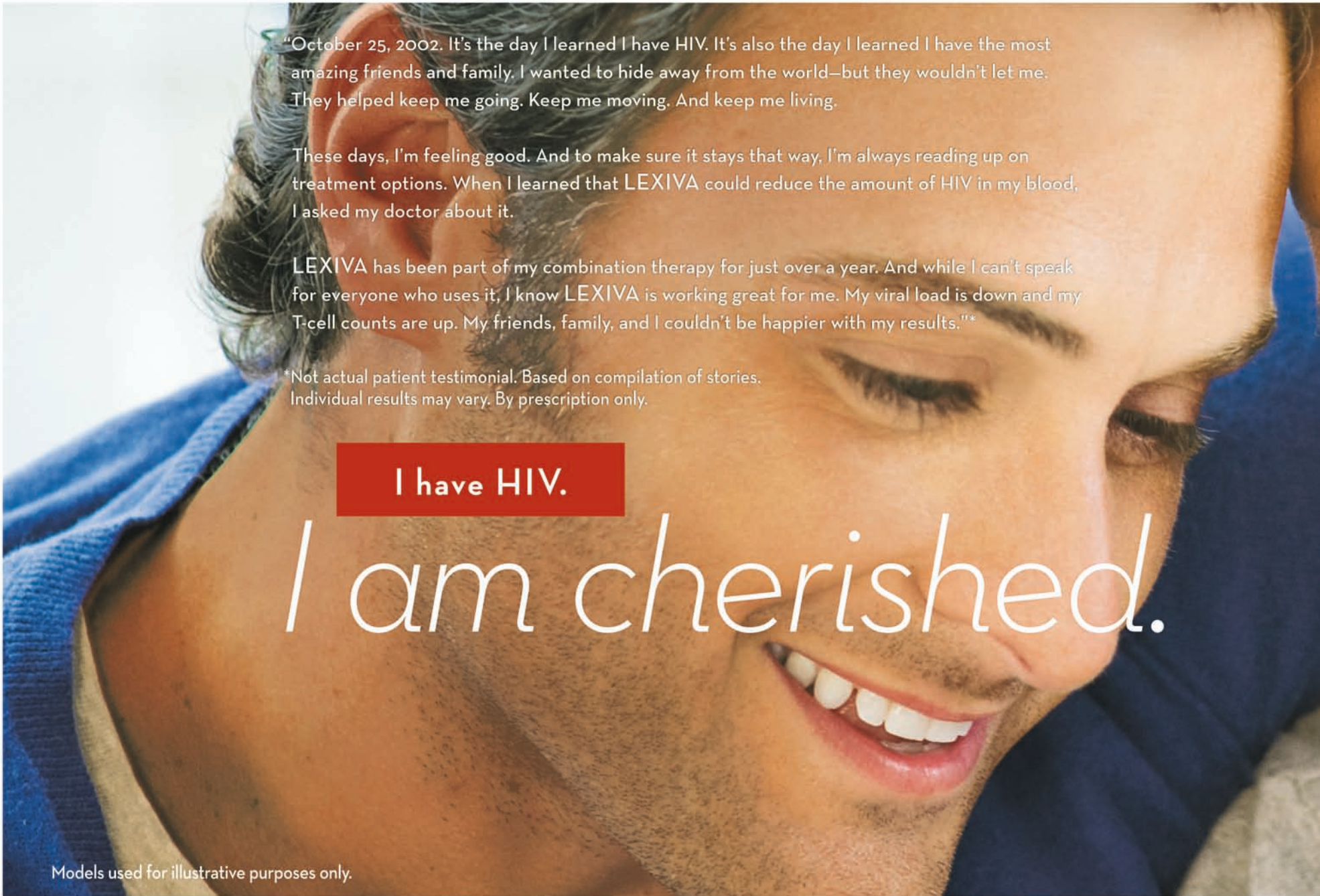
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"October 25, 2002. It's the day I learned I have HIV. It's also the day I learned I have the most amazing friends and family. I wanted to hide away from the world—but they wouldn't let me. They helped keep me going. Keep me moving. And keep me living.

These days, I'm feeling good. And to make sure it stays that way, I'm always reading up on treatment options. When I learned that LEXIVA could reduce the amount of HIV in my blood, I asked my doctor about it.

LEXIVA has been part of my combination therapy for just over a year. And while I can't speak for everyone who uses it, I know LEXIVA is working great for me. My viral load is down and my T-cell counts are up. My friends, family, and I couldn't be happier with my results."*

*Not actual patient testimonial. Based on compilation of stories. Individual results may vary. By prescription only.

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LEXIVA is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection.

- The PI-experienced-patient study was not large enough to reach a definitive conclusion that LEXIVA/ritonavir and lopinavir/ritonavir are clinically equivalent
- Once-daily administration of LEXIVA plus ritonavir is not recommended for PI-experienced patients or any pediatric patients

LEXIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

Please see Important Patient Information below and on the following page. You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- You should not take LEXIVA if you have had an allergic reaction to LEXIVA or AGENERASE® (amprenavir).
- High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening of diabetes, and bleeding in hemophiliacs have occurred in some patients taking protease inhibitors.

- When you start taking HIV medicines, your immune system may get stronger and could begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body, such as pneumonia, herpes virus, or tuberculosis. If you have new symptoms after starting your HIV medicines, be sure to tell your doctor.
- Changes in body fat may occur in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Skin rashes can occur in patients taking LEXIVA. Rarely, rashes were severe or life threatening.
- Opportunistic infections can develop when you have HIV and your immune system is weak. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while you are taking LEXIVA to discuss any side effects or concerns.
- Kidney stones have been reported in patients taking LEXIVA. Tell your healthcare provider if you have pain in your side, blood in your urine, or pain when you urinate.
- Most common side effects in clinical studies were diarrhea, headache, nausea, rash, and vomiting. In most cases, these side effects did not cause people to stop taking their medicine.

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DRUG INTERACTIONS

- LEXIVA should not be taken with: AGENERASE[®] (amprenavir), Halcion[®] (triazolam), ergot medications (Cafergot[®], Migranal[®], D.H.E. 45[®], and others), Propulsid[®] (cisapride), Versed[®] (midazolam), Orap[®] (pimozide), Zocor[®] (simvastatin), Mevacor[®] (lovastatin), Rifadin[®] (rifampin), Rescriptor[®] (delavirdine mesylate), or St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). If you are taking Norvir[®] (ritonavir), you should not take Tambocor[®] (flecainide) or Rythmol[®] (propafenone hydrochloride).
- Serious and/or life-threatening events could occur between LEXIVA and other medications, including Cordarone[®] (amiodarone), lidocaine (intravenous only), Elavil[®] (amitriptyline HCl), and Tofranil[®] (imipramine pamoate), tricyclic antidepressants, and Quinaglute[®] (quinidine).
- Women who use birth control pills should choose a different kind of birth control. The use of LEXIVA with Norvir (ritonavir) in combination with birth control pills may hurt your liver. Also, birth control pills may not work if you take LEXIVA or LEXIVA with Norvir. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing the right birth control for you.
- Patients taking Viagra[®] (sildenafil citrate) or LEVITRA[®] (vardenafil HCl) with LEXIVA may be at increased risk of side effects.
- This list of drug interactions is not complete. Be sure to tell your

healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or plan to take, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and herbals.

RESISTANCE

- Missing or skipping doses of your medicine may make it easier for the virus to mutate and multiply. Your medicines may not work as well against a mutated virus, and you may become cross-resistant to other HIV medicines. It's important to take your medicine exactly as prescribed.



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PATIENT INFORMATION
LEXIVA®
(lex-EE-vah)
(fosamprenavir calcium)
Tablets and Oral Suspension

Read the Patient Information that comes with LEXIVA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. It is important to remain under a healthcare provider's care while taking LEXIVA. Do not change or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about LEXIVA.

What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA?

LEXIVA can cause dangerous and life-threatening interactions if taken with certain other medicines. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

- Some medicines cannot be taken at all with LEXIVA.
- Some medicines will require dose changes if taken with LEXIVA.
- Some medicines will require close monitoring if you take them with LEXIVA.

Know all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of the medicines you take. Show this list to all your healthcare providers and pharmacists anytime you get a new medicine or refill. Your healthcare providers and pharmacists must know all the medicines you take. They will tell you if you can take other medicines with LEXIVA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking LEXIVA without talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with LEXIVA.

What is LEXIVA?

LEXIVA is a medicine you take by mouth to treat HIV infection. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). LEXIVA belongs to a class of anti-HIV medicines called protease inhibitors. LEXIVA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. When used in combination therapy, LEXIVA may help lower the amount of HIV found in your blood, raise CD4+ (T) cell counts, and keep your immune system as healthy as possible, so it can help fight infection. However, LEXIVA does not work in all patients with HIV.

LEXIVA does not:

- cure HIV infection or AIDS. We do not know if LEXIVA will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems (opportunistic infections) that people get with HIV or AIDS. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while you are taking LEXIVA. The long-term effects of LEXIVA are not known.
- lower the risk of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

LEXIVA has not been fully studied in children under the age of 2 or in adults over the age of 65.

Who should not take LEXIVA?

Do not take LEXIVA if you:

- are taking certain other medicines. Read the section "What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA?" Do not take the following medicines* with LEXIVA. You could develop serious or life-threatening problems.
 - HALCION® (triazolam; used for insomnia)
 - Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches)
 - PROPULSID® (cisapride), used for certain stomach problems
 - VERSED® (midazolam), used for sedation
 - ORAP® (pimozide), used for Tourette's disorder
- are allergic to LEXIVA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is fosamprenavir calcium. See the end of this leaflet for a list of all the ingredients in LEXIVA.
- are allergic to AGENERASE (amprenavir).

You should not take AGENERASE (amprenavir) and LEXIVA at the same time.

There are other medicines you should not take if you are taking LEXIVA and NORVIR® (ritonavir) together. You could develop serious or life-threatening problems. Tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking before you begin taking LEXIVA and NORVIR (ritonavir) together.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking LEXIVA?

Before taking LEXIVA, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions including if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if LEXIVA can harm your unborn baby. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if LEXIVA is right for you. If you use LEXIVA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breastfeeding. You should not breastfeed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby through your milk. Also, it is not known if LEXIVA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- have liver problems. You may be given a lower dose of LEXIVA or LEXIVA may not be right for you.
- have kidney problems
- have diabetes. You may need dose changes in your insulin or other diabetes medicines.
- have hemophilia
- are allergic to sulfa medicines

Before taking LEXIVA, tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. LEXIVA can cause dangerous and life-threatening interactions if taken with certain other medicines. You may need dose changes in some of your medicines or closer monitoring with some medicines if you also take LEXIVA (see "What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA?"). Know all the medicines that you take and keep a list of them with you to show healthcare providers and pharmacists.

Women who use birth control pills should choose a different kind of contraception. The use of LEXIVA with NORVIR (ritonavir) in combination with birth control pills may be harmful to your liver. The use of LEXIVA with or without NORVIR may decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

How should I take LEXIVA?

- Take LEXIVA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed.
- Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of LEXIVA at any one time. Do not change your dose or stop taking LEXIVA without talking with your healthcare provider.
- You can take LEXIVA Tablets with or without food.
- Adults should take LEXIVA Oral Suspension without food.

- Pediatric patients should take LEXIVA Oral Suspension with food. If vomiting occurs within 30 minutes after dosing, the dose should be repeated.
- Shake LEXIVA Oral Suspension vigorously before each use.
- When your supply of LEXIVA or other anti-HIV medicine starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. The amount of HIV virus in your blood may increase if one or more of the medicines are stopped, even for a short time.
- Stay under the care of a healthcare provider while using LEXIVA.
- It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of LEXIVA by more than 4 hours, wait and take the next dose at the regular time. However, if you miss a dose by fewer than 4 hours, take your missed dose right away. Then take your next dose at the regular time.
- If you take too much LEXIVA, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

What should I avoid while taking LEXIVA?

- Do not use certain medicines while you are taking LEXIVA. See "What is the most important information I should know about LEXIVA" and "Who should not take LEXIVA?"
- Do not breastfeed. See "Before taking LEXIVA, tell your healthcare provider". Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection since LEXIVA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of LEXIVA?

LEXIVA may cause the following side effects:

- skin rash. Skin rashes, some with itching, have happened in patients taking LEXIVA. Swelling of the face, lips, and tongue (angioedema) has also been reported. Tell your healthcare provider if you get a rash or develop facial swelling after starting LEXIVA.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia). Some patients had diabetes before taking LEXIVA while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others may need a new diabetes medicine.
- increased bleeding problems in some patients with hemophilia.
- worse liver disease. Patients with liver problems, including hepatitis B or C, are more likely to get worse liver disease when they take anti-HIV medicines like LEXIVA.
- changes in blood tests. Some people have changes in blood tests while taking LEXIVA. These include increases seen in liver function tests and blood fat levels, and decreases in white blood cells. Your healthcare provider may do regular blood tests to see if LEXIVA is affecting your body.
- changes in body fat. These changes have happened in patients taking antiretroviral medicines like LEXIVA. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- kidney stones have been reported in some patients taking LEXIVA. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider right away.

Common side effects of LEXIVA are nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider about any side effects that bother you or that won't go away.

This list of side effects of LEXIVA is not complete. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store LEXIVA?

- LEXIVA Tablets should be stored at room temperature between 59° and 86°F (15° to 30°C). Keep the container of LEXIVA Tablets tightly closed.
- LEXIVA Oral Suspension may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated. Refrigeration of LEXIVA Oral Suspension may improve taste for some patients. Do not freeze.
- Keep LEXIVA and all medicines out of the reach of children.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General information about LEXIVA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use LEXIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give LEXIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about LEXIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about LEXIVA that is written for health professionals. For more information you can call toll-free 888-825-5249 or visit www.LEXIVA.com.

What are the ingredients in LEXIVA?

Tablets:

Active Ingredient: fosamprenavir calcium.

Inactive ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and povidone K30. The tablet film-coating contains the inactive ingredients hypromellose, iron oxide red, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

LEXIVA Tablets, 700 mg, are pink in color and are capsule-shaped, with the letters "GX LL7" printed on one side of the tablet.



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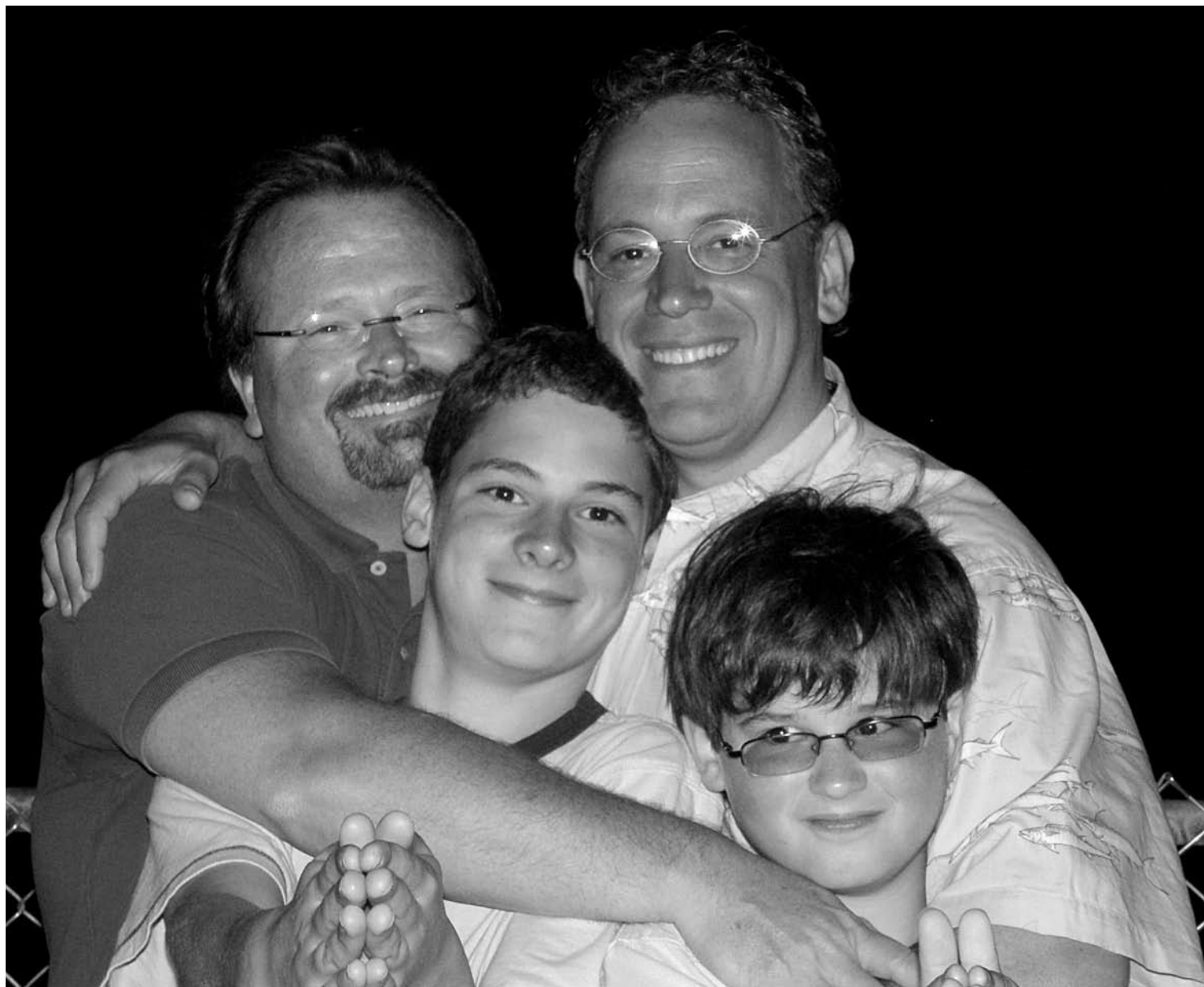
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January 2010

Agency helps same-sex couples create families



AND BABIES MAKE FOUR | Cliff Weltman, back left, and his partner John, back right, were the first gay couple to have a child with an egg-donor surrogate. Now their family has grown to four with sons, Zachary and Kyle, front left to right. (Photo courtesy Ron Poule-Dayan)

Surrogacy offers some obstacles, especially for gay couples from Texas, but rewards can be huge

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

John Weltman founded Circle Surrogacy after he and his partner became one of the first gay couples to have a child with an egg-donor surrogate.

After 14 years and almost 400 babies, Circle Surrogacy is now the oldest gay-owned and gay-focused surrogate-parenting agency.

Gay couples are the target market of Weltman's agency, but they have helped single men, straight couples and even lesbian couples have babies.

He explained that sometimes an older lesbian couple decides to have a child or neither of the partners can conceive.

On Saturday, May 15, the agency will present a seminar at the Four Seasons in Irving on the legal, emotional and economic obstacles of having a child through surrogacy.

"For people to have a child with a non-intimate partner is a challenging event," Weltman said.

Ron Poule-Dayan is a consultant who works with Circle Surrogacy. The agency helped him and his partner have 9-year-old twins.

He said a number of advances over the past few years have helped control the costs.

"The egg bank will cut about \$20,000 from the cost," Poule-Dayan said. That was technologically not possible until recently. Before you could only freeze the sperm or embryo."

Weltman said that although there are plenty of surrogates available in Texas and the arrangement works fine in this state for heterosexual couples, he looks for someone in another state to match with gay Texans.

"We would find a surrogate in a state where we can get a second-parent adoption," he said.

While many of Circle's surrogates actually

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SURROGACY

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come from Texas, they end up carrying babies for single men or for gay couples from abroad.

Weltman mentions Massachusetts and California as good states for residency of surrogates to match with Texas couples. Those states will put both same-sex parents on a birth certificate and, unlike same-sex marriages, circuit courts around the country have ruled that other states must recognize it, he said.

If the birth mother is from another state and the child is born in that state, Texas cannot interfere in the issuance of the same-sex parent birth certificate. That state's laws and regulations govern the issuance of the document, rather than those of Texas.

Circle Surrogacy specializes in egg donor rather than traditional surrogacy.

The traditional method involves impregnating a woman who will carry the baby. That process can take months of tries and has a high failure rate.

Egg donor surrogacy involves harvesting eggs from one donor, impregnating them in a Petri dish and implanting the embryo into a surrogate.

The egg donor and surrogate are normally two different women.

Using this method, Weltman said 70 percent of his clients get pregnant the first try and 98 percent get pregnant by the third attempt.

He called his the only guaranteed baby program.

"We'll give you everything back if you don't have a baby by the third try," he said.

That excludes expenses such as medications, travel and donor fees for a total of 60 to 70 percent of overall costs refunded.

Also, if the couple would like to continue trying after a third failed attempt, there would be no additional charges.

The cost can run as high as \$135,000. Using the frozen embryo program, the process will be \$100,000 to 120,000.

While traditional surrogacy is cheaper, he said costs mount rapidly if numerous trips to try to impregnate the surrogate are necessary.

Weltman said his agency also guides parents through the emotional ups and downs of having a baby. He has social workers who help deal with both the carrier and the parents.

Problems range from the anxiety of waiting to find a surrogate, then hoping for impregnation, to a variety of control issues.

One case he mentioned included the concern of having triplets who had to remain in the hospital for five weeks after their birth. The couple's anxiety was compounded by their out-of-state location.

"The relationship with the carrier is critical," Weltman said.

A social worker can negotiate that relationship. "Being kind without overstepping boundaries," he said, is sometimes a difficult balance to achieve.

"There isn't a 'most normal' or 'most healthy' after the birth," Weltman said. He and his partner are in touch with their surrogate a few times a

year.

"I call mine on Mother's Day each year to thank her," he said.

Lura Stiller is a Dallas-area surrogate who will speak at the seminar. In addition to three children she has with her husband, she acted as a surrogate twice.

The first time was for a heterosexual couple. That experience, she said, left her feeling unappreciated.

The next was for a gay couple in Massachusetts. She called that experience rewarding and she maintains a relationship with them.

When she went into the hospital to give birth, they were in Dallas to take care of her other children at her home.

Weltman and his partner have two children, Kyle, 13, and Zachary, 15. Each parent is the genetic father of one of their sons.

Weltman said he sometimes thinks he and his partner each have a closer bond with the child that is not his own genetically. He said each son seemed a little disappointed when he learned which dad was his genetic dad.

Weltman's younger son Kyle described growing up with two dads.

"It's pretty much like growing up in any other family," he said.

He seemed to have observed the parents of his friends carefully and compared their parenting to his own dads. He said his parents take on different roles just as his friends' parents do.

"One tries to relieve your stress and the other teaches you to manage it," Kyle said.

He said they adapt to being parents like anyone else. But how others treat your children is a concern of all parents.

Kyle was clear about how his friends regard his family: "They're not my friends if they have any prejudices," he said. ■

The Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas, 4150 North MacArthur Blvd., Irving. May 15 from 3 to 5 p.m. The seminar is free and open to all.

FAMILY PRIDE | Ron and Greg Poule-Dayan, below, had their two children through a surrogate with the help of Circle Surrogacy. The family participated in the New York City Gay Pride Parade, with Ron, left, holding their son Tomer on his shoulders and Greg holding their daughter Elinor. Surrogate Lura Stiller of Texas, right, will speak at the seminar this weekend. (Photos courtesy Ron Poule-Dayan)



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How it might have happened

What were the conversations really like between George Rekers and his Rentboy.com luggage carrier during their European vacation?

As a Baptist minister, a co-founder of the Family Research Council and a board member of the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), George Rekers has been a relentless leader of the Christian right for decades.

He lifted the banner of anti-gay activism, but now he can't lift luggage.

That's the reason he gave for hiring a male escort to accompany him on a European vacation.

Thanks to surgery, Rekers needed the 20-year-old to carry his luggage.

His second story was he brought the escort along to urge him toward Jesus and away from homosexuality.

We'll be learning more about Rekers. And, for that matter, about the callboy dubbed "Lucien."

Right now I can only guess, based on the information in the Miami New Times, which broke the story, what that 10-day sojourn abroad was like:

Rekers: You're back! Right on time.

Lucien: Barely. I got lost on the subway. Ended up in some place called Convent Garden.

Rekers: I think you mean Covent Garden.

Lucien: Oh. You were right, the British Museum was fab. I might go back tomorrow. Want to go with? I saw a hieroglyphic that looked just like you when you sneeze.

Rekers: Wow. I'm old, but not that old. Did you

spend your whole stipend today?

Lucien: No, I'm saving to go to Harrods tomorrow.

Rekers: I call this a practical arrangement. You go out and spend money; I stay in the hotel room and spend none.

Lucien: Why don't you come with me? It'll be fun.

Rekers: I told you. Allergies. Really bad ones.

Lucien: You have a whole suitcase full of medicine. I know; I carried it. Doesn't that help?

Rekers: No. I guess I'm just allergic to London. Maybe I'm allergic to Beefeaters.

Lucien: Is that a gay club?

Rekers: No.

Lucien: I should've picked a different city.

Rekers: I might do better when we get to Madrid. Y'know, you look different from your Rentboy profile.

Lucien: I do?

Rekers: In a good way. I noticed that the first time I came to your townhouse.

Lucien: I noticed your mustache. When you take your clothes off, I swear it changes color.

Rekers: Oh my God! Excuse me, Lord. Didn't mean that.

Lucien: I love being here. I'm not in a hurry to get back to Florida.

Rekers: I love that I finally found an escort who worked out. You just don't know what you're

getting.

Lucien: Yes you do: Eight inches. I told the truth on my profile.

Rekers: I mean, you don't know if the guy can have a conversation, or whether he's out to rip you off.

Lucien: George, how come you don't want real sex? Or to get off?

Rekers: My mama raised me not to be a greedy boy.

Lucien: Okay, whatever.

Rekers: Besides, you've gotten so good at the "Long Stroke." Except yesterday; you made me giggle.

Lucien: It's a sensitive area.

Rekers: Yup.

Lucien: I see why you call it that. It is long. And complicated. Front and back. Since you want it every day, I'm afraid of getting carpal tunnel syndrome.

Rekers: I guess there's no workers' comp for that.

Lucien: Ready?

Rekers: Make sure you rub the whole body, especially my shoulders. I feel tense.

Lucien: How come?

Rekers: Now I know my moustache is about to change color.

E-mail Leslie Robinson at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and read other columns at GeneralGayety.com.



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety

To my readers, thanks — and goodbye

An award-winning columnist reflects on how her job has changed over the last 14 years, thanks to the Web, and says goodbye to her faithful readers as another paper closes

When I first pitched a column to the editor of a gay newspaper in Chicago, I was expecting to write some short, snappy, girl-around-town pieces for a year or two.

I thought I'd write about what was going on in the bars, in the conference rooms — I'd pass along the gossip everyone wanted to know.

"Nah," my editor said, after listening a moment. "I don't like that idea. But I like the idea of you writing a column. Just tell your own stories."

"Tell your own stories," he said. And so I did.

For 14 years, I've been telling my stories to readers of gay papers from Washington State to Washington, DC. I've talked about the struggle to get my dad to accept my lesbian self; falling in love

and breaking up; and, most popularly, I've talked about my dog Max, still barking at 16.

Those stories somehow persuaded readers to tell theirs and share them with me — originally through the actual mail (I still have all of those and tried to answer most of them), then email, and now as comments on posted columns, or as commentary on blogs of their own.

One reader, from Oklahoma, asked if he should come out to his parents, even though they were socially conservative. I still wonder how he's doing, though he wrote me about seven years ago. Another engaged me in a debate about whether there's a place for gays and lesbians in Evangelical



Jennifer Vanasco
Contributing Columnist

■ GOODBYE, Next Page

Do you think Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan is a lesbian?

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RESULTS
FROM LAST
WEEK'S
POLL:

Should a privately owned business be allowed to discriminate against LGBT people?

- Yes: 19 percent
- No: 81 percent
- Don't know: 0 percent

171
Votes
cast

From DallasVoice.com

"Immigration is an LGBT issue too," Page 1, May 7

This issue is not a GLBT issue. That connection attempting to be made is a manner of resorting to creating sensationalism and hysteria to get GLBT people on-board.

Instead of hysteria, this needs to be looked at in a logical view.

The Arizona law states that there must be probable cause of a legal nature to check citizenship status, and that's what we need to do. While there may be isolated cases of law enforcement using this law the wrong way, the amount of good it can do far outweighs that.

If you only look at the possible negatives of that law, it's like saying that repealing DADT is going to incite orgies in some military barracks. The good

far outweighs the bad.

Furthermore, eligibility requirements for becoming a U.S. citizen are not that difficult, and there is no indication that the gentleman named Miguel in this article has ever attempted to apply for citizenship. If he has been here for 17 years, he most certainly meets all of the requirements.

Why not apply to become a citizen? It's not that people supporting this law don't want him here; we just want him to commit to being a part of this nation.

With all of the rights and opportunities he will be afforded, why wouldn't he want to do that? In my opinion, going 17 years without attempting citizenship is unacceptable.

ProudAmerican

■ GOODBYE, From Previous Page

churches. He just wrote again recently.

When I still lived in Chicago, I met readers for drinks and for breakfast, sometimes in their homes. Occasionally, someone on the street would call out to me while I was walking my dog. In my pajamas.

In those days, the days before the web, writing a column for newspapers felt intimate. People picked up their free paper on the corner and shared it with a cup of coffee. I felt like I was writing for a community — and I could be pretty sure that someone responding to a column had likely read others and knew me pretty well. It was like

we were continuing a conversation.

The Web changed life for columnists. It became more important that columns were topical riffs on the news (the web is fueled by hits and hits are fueled by keywords which are easy to search for). When I started running a website myself (I'm the editor of the news site 365gay.com, I started writing columns I wanted to run, things that clarified or put a new spin on the news story of the week.

There were fewer of my own stories. And that made me start to feel like what I was doing, anyone could do. And maybe I should step aside and make room for the new young woman or young man who could.

When the Chicago Free Press closed at the be-

ginning of this month — a paper that was my editorial home longer than the city was my actual home — the conversation came to an end.

But oh, I'm going to miss you. I'm going to miss your stories. I'm going to miss sharing mine, as if we were friends talking quietly over an afternoon cup of tea. Thanks for being there. And if you ever see me in New York — walking Max, I'm sure in my pajamas — I hope you'll say hello.

Jennifer Vanasco (was) an award-winning columnist. E-mail her at Jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com; follow her at Twitter.com/JenniferVanasco. She writes occasional pieces for the Huffington Post and is working on a book.

Letters

Caven comes through, again

At Christmas, when the Oak Lawn Library held a party for neighborhood children, Caven Enterprises gave astonishing amounts of fruit, juice, gifts and goodies — two long tables-full — enough so that each child got far more than one of everything.

This morning, to make an early start with my begging bowl, I wrote to ask if Caven would consider donating a box of crayons, a pencil and separate eraser or a notepad for our back-to-school program. Caven responded immediately and has already ordered all the items I mentioned, and more!

As a library volunteer and a Stonewall Democrat, I want to say thanks again, Caven, and to remind Dallas Voice readers of the generosity of our community's merchants.

*Phyllis Guest
Dallas*

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query 05.14.10 BY DAVID TAFFET

Should Supreme Court justice nominee Elena Kagan's sexual orientation be considered in the confirmation process?

Tiffany Douglas — "No. No one should be judged based on their sexual orientation."

Darren Lekar — "No. It doesn't define how somebody will do her job. I own my own business and I have gay people, straight people, older people, younger people. They do a good job. That's all that matters."

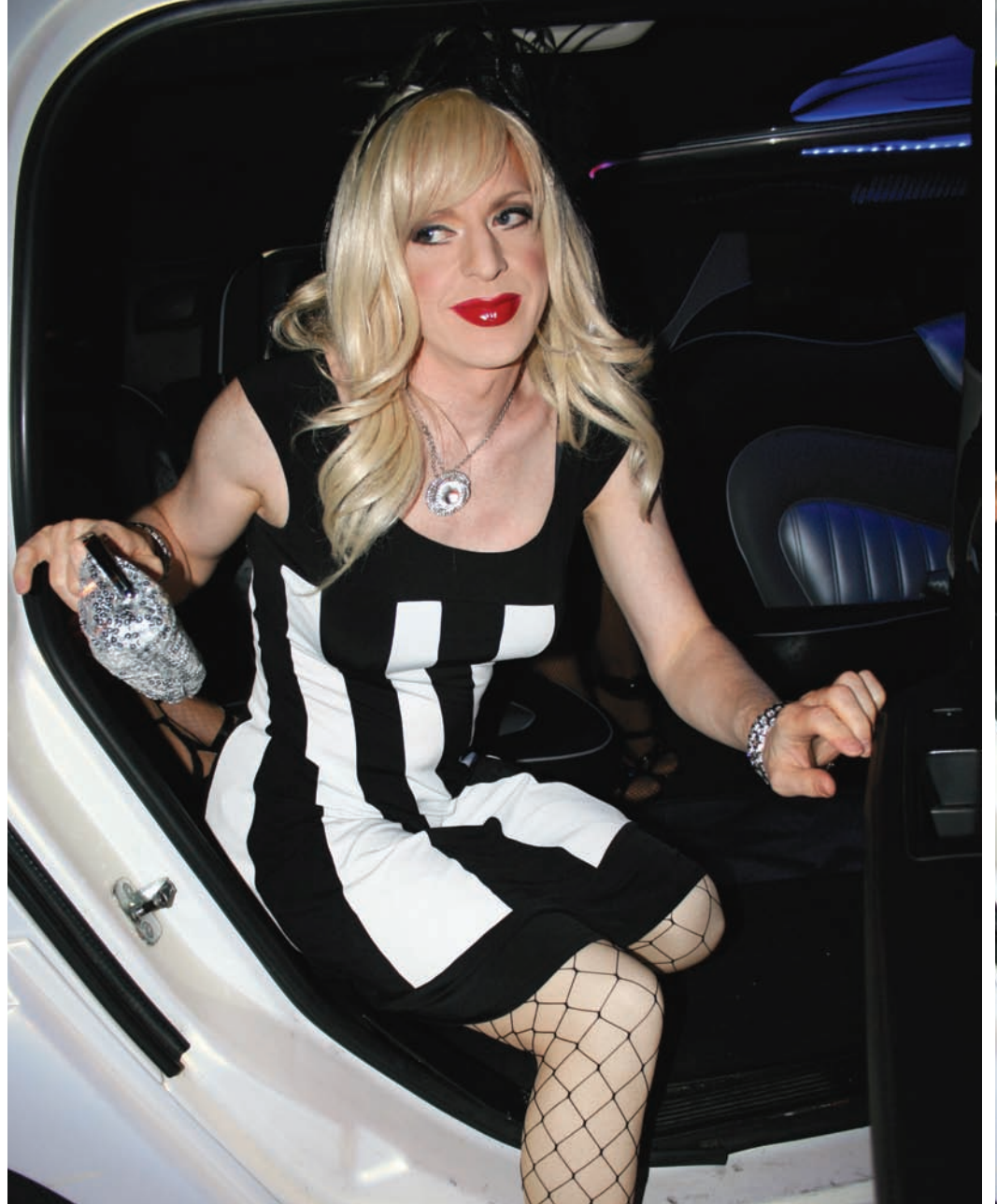
Marco Salinas — "No. Because I don't think anyone's personal life has anything to do with the job she's being asked to do."

Martin Authier — "Absolutely not. Judicial decisions have nothing to do with what one does in the bedroom."

Dan Babb — "It shouldn't. It might, but it shouldn't."

Benjamin Berrios — "No. It's her own private life."





Ladies of the evening

The night 'Drag Racers' Tatiana, Pandora Boxx and Jessica Wild stormed Dallas

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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The night begins with cupcakes. Not just any cupcakes, either, but elaborately decorated, architectural creations from Frosted Art that make an off-the-rack Sprinkles look like a home ec assignment.

Usually, dessert comes at the end of the meal, but when you have a smorgasbord of glam, as having three of the contestants from *RuPaul's Drag Race* are, the rules are broken more often than a fingernail. Delivery of the cupcakes for each of the girls is planned early. It's how the machinery of the evening gets oiled.

And quite an evening it will be.

The recent season finale of *Drag Race* saw the crowning of Tyra Sanchez as the next drag superstar, but among home viewers, she wasn't nearly as popular as Pandora Boxx, Jessica Wild and Tatiana — three queens with tons of personality and appeal. They were, in their own way, endearing more than enraging, and each represented a different style of drag: Pandora, the quick-witted clown with the outrageous outfits; Tatiana, the natural beauty who could easily pass for a girl (if she weren't 6-foot-1 in bare feet); and Jessica Wild, the flamboyant, high-energy Puerto

Rican.

Each was in North Texas last weekend for a performance at the Rainbow Lounge, and when Dallas fashion designer Nicolas Villalba realized Cowtown was gettin' the girls and Dallas wasn't, he set out to change that. So he organized a Big D event: rooms at a swanky hotel (the Warwick Melrose); a champagne reception with invited guests, including kids from Youth First Texas; personal dress fittings for each of the girls; dinner in the 'hood at Cyclone Anaya's; and the caper, seats at the Rose Room to show the Racers how Dallas does drag.

"Throughout the show, I heard how they were criticized for not having serious fashion," Villalba says of his idea to design gowns for the threesome. So he decided to give them courtesy couture.

But first, we have to get the girls.

The white stretch limo is a conspicuous accessory even in the parking lot of the Melrose, but even it is dwarfed by the ladies themselves. It is Mother's Day weekend, and the hotel is flush with well-heeled doyennes of Park Cities and their Polo-clad husbands and sons. But few male

eyes (and even some female ones) are focused on mom; a statuesque Tatiana gets most of the gawks.

Tati is tall and slender, though not rail thin (she is, after all, an adult man, not a slim-hipped superwaif) who wears stilettos and a slip dress from Forever 18 better than most high school cheerleaders. Her page boy haircut and perfect makeup frame her face beautifully, and her figure is the envy of every woman in the lobby. Men (and a few boys) who ogle her may know she's a drag queen or they may not; they don't seem to care, they just enjoy the view. Freak show or fashion show? It hardly matters. Tati *owns* the room.

Pandora makes her mark, too, once she joins Tati. "What's up dude," she says to Tatiana — a disarmingly *guy* thing to do. Nothing else about them is very *guy*. Even though they don't act up, they get attention — walking purposefully but not aggressively into the Library Bar, they turn heads.

Pandora is pretty but also clearly the jokester, with hooker-red lipstick popping from her black-and-white striped dress — all the queens seem to

be in black and white.

"We're on the same cycle," Pandi deadpans, before admitting those colors are easy to accessorize.

For anyone who watched the show, "easy" never seemed to be Pandora's watchword. She went for a strident, comic overdone, like a burger at a kid's play palace. But tonight she's subdued, almost elegant ... at least in her clothing. The wit is still there.

Jessica Wild arrives fashionably late, but it's not a diva moment. She sees a reporter she's never met before and without hesitation plants kisses on his cheeks. Jessica is as welcoming as a mariachi band.

After pleasantries at the Melrose, the girls pile into the limo, descending the steps of the hotel as if filming the opening credits for *Sex and the City*. Then it's off to Nicolas Couture and their fittings.

The ladies take turns getting their measurements taken by Villalba, who also quizzes them about what they want. Tati claims she's "not really gown-y," so she gets a green cat suit. Pandora focuses on a pink princess dress, while Jessica decides on a yellow goddess gown.

LIFE+STYLE

culture



SPARKLE, TATI, SPARKLE! | The limo is not the friend of the starlet — unless she has a sense of humor. Tatiana ‘accidentally’ flashes some panties, far left; Pandora Boxx fakes surprise, center; and Jessica Wild, above, gives her best ‘I don’t care’ glamourpuss outside Station 4.

This is the first time for all of them in Texas — Tati is from Falls Church, Va., Pandora from Rochester, N.Y., Jessica, of course, Puerto Rico — but it’s not unusual for them ... not now that is. The show has given them incredible visibility, and they’ve been traveling extensively — and Pandi, for one, has done it without an agent or even trying to get bookings; the requests have just poured in enough to keep her busy. But she has other things in the works, too.

Pandora is in rehearsals for a play she has written and will star in back in Rochester, a comic mystery called *The Lipstick Massacre*.

“I was always into theater,” she says. That actually led to drag. “I went to my first drag show and said, ‘I want to do that.’” (She took her name from the vessel that held all the ills of the world — she was into Greek mythology at the time. Tatiana named herself after a character on a sitcom.)

They are remarkably at ease in social situations, engaging with kids from YFT and even offering advice for being a gay kid in school.

“During my homecoming, I went to school in drag,” says Tati, who is only 21. “My high school

was super gay, though.” She knows it might not be the same for these kids. Still, she encourages two who plan their first drag experience later this month (“Just pretend like you’re singing in your room,” she counsels) and listens as they talk about the upcoming GAYLA Prom.

They talk about the show, too, of course.

“At first I kind of took it seriously, but then I knew, first and foremost, that this is entertainment,” Tati says about being on TV.

They all have nice things to say about RuPaul, although they confess they didn’t exactly hang out with her — the schedule didn’t allow it.

“We don’t have time!” Jessica says.

Not all the other judges fared as well.

“I think we were all confused by the judges’ comments sometimes — especially me,” says Pandora. “You arrive with all these costumes then someone tells you they don’t like your stuff and you’re, like... SHIT!”

Martha Wash gets low marks for being mean and offering useless advice.

“I think that Henry Rollins was probably the best judge,” Tati says. “Everything he said was

■ Continued on Next Page



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Continued from Previous Page

so smart and on point. It surprised me because I didn't know what to expect from him ... except that he's hot. And I liked Niccy because she told me I was the prettiest. I love you!!"

The situation was exhausting, with crewmen around all the time and interaction discouraged when the cameras weren't rolling.

"You film all day, and then they put you in a room with a producer who asks you questions," Tati explains. It's there that you realize the lack of reality in reality TV — they producers tailor the interviews to sow discord and pit queen against

queen.

"The mean girls *were* mean, but not all the time," says Pandora. Tati calls having to "lip synch for her life" against Jessica the worst part of the show — they really were friends.

And then there's the experience of watching it long after the fact.

"In the beginning I really enjoyed [watching] it," Tati says. "But by the end it got dramatic and I didn't want to watch anymore. Of course I did...."

The next stop is Cyclone Anaya's. You might expect the girls to pick at their food, but they jumped in to the rich Tex-Mex cuisine (lobster enchiladas, anyone?) and filled up on margaritas. But dinner was more akin to holding court than a enjoying a meal.

"Incoming!" one invited diner warns as a phalanx of *Drag Race* watchers line up to pay homage. Fans stop by, stammering and asking for photos; one even leaves a note inviting the girls (especially Tati) to a party at his house the following night. They will be leaving town Saturday morning and politely send back an RSVP. You finally realize why they are called drag queens: They are treated like royalty.

And they are all fine with the term, too.

"I prefer 'drag queen.' — 'female impersonator' seems to say 'I do pageants and I'm a lady,'" says Pandora. "'Drag queen' encompasses camp *and* being pretty and performing in general."

"With a drag queen, anything's possible,"



ALL SMILES | Tati, Pandora and Jessica hold court at Cyclone Anaya's. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

adds Jessica. "I wear strong makeup. I don't want to look like a woman you see on the street, I want to be Jessica Wild."

But even in the gayborhood, they become ladies. Tati uses the women's restroom at Anaya's, and says her feminine side always rears itself more in drag.

"Everyone has a little queen in them, but when I'm in drag it comes out," she says.

It's time for the late show at the Rose Room, where even among other queens, the Drag Racers are stars. They seem impressed by Cassie

Nova, Jenna Skyy and the famed "Cellblock Tango" opener. But there are still questions about the show to ask: If *they* couldn't have won, who would they most like to see crowned? No one says Tyra Sanchez, that's for sure.

"Now? Pandora," Tati offers.

"Jujube," says Jessica.

But Pandora has her own take.

"Kathy Griffin — she was the best drag queen on the show," she says.

And with that, we call it a night. A lady needs her beauty sleep. ■

online exclusive

To see more exclusive photos from Dallas Voice's night on the town with the Drag Racers, visit DallasVoice.com:: Culture.



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Out in the country

Country music's new gay poster gal, Chely Wright holds back in 'Lifted'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com



Chely Wright may be the only star — certainly the only one country music has seen — whose coming out was also a blatant career move. She announced she was gay mere days before her CD, *Lifted Off the Ground*, and autobiography, *Like Me*, dropped in stores and on-line across the nation. Now, she's on everyone's gaydar.

Her book might reveal her inner turmoil, but her CD deserves to be looked and listened over with microscopic attention. The album has some worthy songs, but it doesn't need such intense exploration.

Wright goes for a folksier sound compared to her more familiar pop-country material. Instead of belting out in each song with "I'm a lesbian" pride, she writes as if letting her heart speak for the first time in quiet baby steps. The album is mostly languid and thoughtful, though sometimes overly so. Wright must have figured a serious album should accompany her new public identity, but gives 11 songs of heavy-handed emotion. Where's the rollicking boot-scootin' anthem her country fans wanna hear?

"Broken" opens the album as a letter to her lover. Her damaged relationship gives quick opportunity to hear Wright sing to her girlfriend despite the lack of gender specificity. The song is a precursor of what's to come, calling to mind the easiness of Bonnie Raitt's "Nick of Time" but with a less optimistic viewpoint. "Broken" sets a strange amount of pain against an ironically nice tempo. The sound continues on the second track, "Heavenly Days," which sounds melodically identical to "Broken."

After the third straight too-mellow track, "Hang Out In Your Heart," we finally get to hear Wright cut loose a bit — only it's on the macabre side.

In "Notes to the Coroner," she goes upbeat singing about suicide. *You'll wanna take my blood to smear on a slide / But if you just read on you'll know how I died* are bold lyrics that don't give the song a sympathetic tone. That's fine artistically, but it's akin to reading a suicide letter firsthand.



RESTRAINED ORDER | Wright's album flirts with her newly-acknowledged sexuality but fails to dive headlong into it.

Wright might have trumped Kurt Cobain in one of his darker moments. The pop tone makes it too creepy.

She returns to the land of somber after "Notes," but at this point, her lack of affection toward a woman is noticeably absent — still. In the intimate "Like Me," the song's delicacy plays as if written by candlelight and we get a possible glimpse of Wright's affection. She asks *Who's gonna end up holdin' your hand? / A beautiful woman or a tall handsome man?* to the person she's in love with. Yes, we know it's a woman, but is she hold-

ing back for commercialism's sake?

Wright is positioned in an interesting spot. Her reluctance to be all Rosie, while understandable, goes against the hubbub surrounding her outing. Now that she *is* out, it gives the listener a curiosity to hear what's on her mind ... a curiosity that is never satisfied. Instead, she flirts with lyrics abstractly and ends up confusing and ultimately anticlimactic.

The album, if not great, is far from bad. *Lifted* is a mood album suitable for a rainy day. It even ends on a dirge-type note with "Shadows of Doubt." Fans of Wright may be disappointed by her change in tone and the inevitable new gay fans will embrace her — but not for this.



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WE'RE WITH THE BAND

From left, alto sax Tim Stallman, flute Diane Trieder and tenor sax Billy Rodriguez play in the Oak Lawn Band. (Arnold Wayne Jones, Dallas Voice)

The boys in the band

Girls, too! But you say you didn't know the Oak Lawn Band was still around? After its 30th anniversary concert this weekend, that should change

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Especially in the gay world, 30 is a landmark birthday — it's that launching pad age where one gets it all together. (It's also when twinks stop hitting on you in the bars, but that's another article.)

That certainly proves true for the Oak Lawn Band. After 30 years in the community, it celebrates this weekend with sights focused on the future while keeping the music fun.

"We want to be known as the Oak Lawn Band that is musically awesome," says Tim Stallman, president of the band.

Fair enough. When Stallman became the organization's president along with the selection of the new board officers for 2010, the band overhauled its direction. First among the goals: Reminding the community who they were.

"A lot of people didn't know the band was still around or that Dallas had a band," Stallman says. "They thought we either died or folded. For the longest time, the band played four concerts a year with the same 60 or so members in the audience."

Stallman, a member of OLB for two years, brought with him a lot of experience when he was transferred here for work. He founded bands in San Diego and Rochester, N.Y., and was a drum major in Washington, D.C. His work as a project manager also gave him the know-how to help drive OLB into a more active future, starting with the band's mission and working to build a solid foundation.

"Sometimes when a band has been around for a long time, they lose their focus," he says. "We refreshed our mission statement to clarify what our mission was. In trying to be more inclusive through the years, people felt we were getting away from LGBT community. We decided to

identify that as who we are and where our community is."

This past year alone, the OLB partnered with local agencies, performing at high-profile events such as the Resource Center Dallas' Oscar party, the Bloomin' Ball

and LifeWalk, and a walk in the Pride parade after a two-year absence.

They even found a home — at Holy Trinity Church. Instead of relying on a salon in North Dallas to house their archives and a school in East Dallas for rehearsal, the church has donated space for the OLB's Monday night rehearsals and library. Now that the band is officially and centrally located, it's easier to concentrate on the future.

But that doesn't mean forgetting the past — Mason Tripp won't let that happen. As the band's historian (he's been with it since the beginning), he's been collecting everything over its three decades, compiling an album archive for each year.

Despite Stallman's shorter tenure, he has an inherent pride in what the band has achieved over its course — most notably, playing for President Obama as part of his inauguration last year. (The band played for both of Clinton's inaugurations, too, but they were more on the sidelines.)

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I wanted to watch it again. Didn't know how rentals worked.
Lost track of time. The DVD player broke and it was stuck inside.
I'm really pretty. It was packed in a box when I moved.
I was drinking and forgot. I left it in the hotel.
I'm pretty. It was left in the uhaul. It fell behind the TV.
My dog buried it in the yard. My dog buried it in the yard.
It fell behind my TV. I wasn't doing well. I was drinking and forgot.
I left it in the hotel. I left it on the bus. I had the cocktail flu.
My boyfriend said he returned it. Someone at the party took it.
It was returned to the wrong store. I felt sick that day.
I thought it was returned already. Lost track of time.
My girlfriend said she returned it. My dad found the DVD and would not give it back.
Someone at the party took it. I found it under my car seat. I left it in the hotel.
I'm handsome. Didn't remember checking it out. I felt bad.
The guy I slept with that night said he would bring it back.
The mother in law found it in the DVD player. I couldn't find it.
It was under my car seat the whole time. I never thought to look in the DVD player.
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They have performed in most Gay Games around the world and join in Houston's Pride parade every year. It's almost as if the Oak Lawn Band has a presence everywhere ... except Dallas. But that's gonna change.

"We plan to focus on making sure we'll be

around in the next 30 years," Stallman says. "We're going to get back to basics and work on reestablishing our place here. You know, our main goal is to play good music every year, but we also want to be something the community will be proud of." ■



Vial SO soon?

Deborah returns to Dallas — this time as a married lady

WED-DY OR NOT | Vial really did put a ring on it ... but will she cover Beyonce on Friday? (Gregory Hayes/Dallas Voice)

Locals fell in love with Deborah Vial when she mixed rock and soul at regular gigs in Dallas for years, mostly at the old Sue Ellen's. Although Vial lives in Hawaii, she's returns regularly to stay connected to those fans. And this time, she comes back, herself more in love than ever — with her wife.

"I married my partner of 11 years in Washington, D.C., almost a month ago. It is spring, the marrying season," Vial says.

Singing is Vial's career but her passion for it is now being shared not only with her partner, but also her goal for Hawaii to get on board with same-sex marriage. Last month, the state's legislature approved a bill for civil unions providing equal rights for all married couples. The future of that bill now lies in the hands of Gov. Linda Lingle, a Republican. And this is a hot topic for Vial.

"We have been trying to help pass the civil unions bills here in Hawaii," she says. "We will know by July 5. My partner is having some peeps from HRC [come] out to the show because the whole gay marriage issue is hot on our agenda." ■

— Rich Lopez

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Leather & lace

Couture isn't just for people. Four Legged Fashion returns with designer duds — doggie-style

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



HOT DOGS | The sassy pink dog-gown is, appropriately enough, from BitchNewYork.com's Haute Puppy collection; Frank is dressed for a night at TMC, modeling Phoebe Couture by Kay Unger.



At most fashion shows, the stars are the designs — and the designers.

But that's not necessarily the case at Four Legged Fashion. There, it's models who drive it. And they're all dogs.

But that's a good thing.

The second annual fundraiser — which this year includes many enviable auction packages for humans, and features a disco theme — gives doggie style a new meaning, with poochie poseurs who wouldn't *dream* of walking a — *gasp!* — “catwalk” stealing the show.

And the star of the stars is Frank.

Frank is an unlikely runway superstar. He started out life barely holding onto it. When he was a 12-week-old pup, he was hit by a car, crushing his rear quarters.

“I had a broken ankle, thigh, hip, fractured pelvis and toes — nine breaks in all,” says Frank through his interpreter Terri Tomlinson, who also chairs the event. “They put rods and plates in me. I was on a morphine drip and spent three-and-a-half months at the vet hospital. They didn't think I would make it.”

But he did, then he fell into the laps of Tomlinson and her partner Melinda Webb, who just days earlier had lost their 13-year-old sheepdog.

“Our house felt so empty. We took in Frank to foster, but I said after the second day he was never leaving. He was everything we had wished for,” Tomlinson says of the healer-lab-shepherd mix. (“He just a black dog,” she

says of his pedigree.)

Eventually, Frank found his way to being the spokesmutt and senior runway model for the “canine meets couture” event. It's not a role he relishes.

“I don't really care for the clothes, though I kind of like the leather coat covered in studs and grommets [I'm wearing in this show],” Frank says. “Terri had to work with me to get me to move on the runway at first. But I realize now that when I'm working I must wear clothing. I know I'm doing good.”

FOUR LEGGED FASHION

Dallas Trade Mart Grand Pavilion, 2100 N. Stemmons Freeway. May 14. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets from \$75. 214-634-0204. FourLeggedFashion.org

He was so hard to manage during rehearsals, one organizer asked Tomlinson, “Would it be too gay if we had a male model walk him down the runway?” She laughed. “Look what he's wearing — he looks like he should be at TMC,” she says. A male escort was OK'd.

Frank has taken to the fashion aspect over time. He's a frequent “speaker” at events throughout the year, talking about fashion and animal rescue. And some clothes have growled... er, *grown* ... on him.

“I love Finley — that's the designer I wore last year,” he says. “That look specializes in men's shirts and ties — it's very masculine. Like me. And I have some black-and-white paisley to wear off-season now.”

He also admires a black ball gown with huge crystal neckline designed for a brilliant little cocker named Dixie Chick. “She's all that,” Frank says with a snap. “It looks like something Sue Ellen would wear on Dallas.”

There's gotta be some gay guy who wants to snatch *that* up — maybe even one who's not a dog owner. After all, fashion is fashion ... no matter *who* wears it. ■

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Whatever, merry (men)

Men in tights? Hardly. 'Robin Hood' equals 'Braveheart' plus 'Spider-Man'

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

Oh, to suffer the slings and arrows of ... well, in the case of **Robin Hood**, slings and arrows. At just shy of two-and-a-half hours, this Medieval actioner has a running time that would accompany something more epic — a summer tentpole franchise, perfectly positioned for sequels. Perhaps that's the goal.

The problem is, the film doesn't *feel* epic, merely overweight. Pretentious opening title cards don't give it more heft, just more detritus to wade through. Oh, would that it felt as fun as we peasants had hoped! Alas! Alack!

Robin Hood is less like the last sword-and-sandal pairing of star Russell Crowe and director Ridley Scott, *Gladiator*, than it is a modern comic book superhero movie: We learn how the man got to *become* the hero, seeing the building blocks of his legend: The hood he wears, his skill with a longbow, how he assembled his band of men. ("The more the merrier," he quips, seriously undercutting the image of

them as a clutch of forest-bound woodsprites, singing their way through the dark ages with hearty laughs and suggestive all-male companionship.)

It's odd, then, that with all the post-modern ideas at work here, the movie itself is so old-school in its techniques — nay, clichéd: The imagery is elementally mythic (villains wear black capes and have facial scars; heroes ride white horses), the style unironically retro (Gothic lettering on parchment maps that slowly burn to illustrate pillaging). Stylistically, this could have been made in the '30s with Errol Flynn. Oh,

right, it was.

Which begs the question: Why another version of the story in the first place? The rock-n-roll comic incarnation with Kevin Costner (now, shockingly, 19 years old) was a disaster of historical inaccuracies, but it knew itself to be bubblegum; this one steals from *Prince of Thieves* (arrow POV shots, upgrading Marian from



THE GOLDEN ARCHER | Robin Hood (Russell Crowe) shows off his longbow on the battlefield.

"Maid" to "Lady," setting it during the reign of Richard the Lion Heart) without really improving on it; it steals from the classic MGM version by giving Robin the name Loxley; hell, it even poaches the Robin-vs.-King John plot from Disney's 1973 animated movie (with Robin a fox and the king, inexplicably, a mountain lion). Without any truly original ideas, what's the point? (One modification that's *not* welcome: Deleting references to King Richard's historically known homosexuality.)

Of course, entertainment value can be an end in itself, and there is some of that. Scott gives the flying arrows the immediacy of tracer bullets, and the frenetic editing, distracting in the early

action scenes, relaxes a bit later. And there is the juicy, petulant performance by cutie Oscar Isaac as King John (and one brief shot of a beefy Crowe) for some eye candy.

Cate Blanchett seems, with every gesture, as if she knows she's slumming it, and Brian Helgeland's script feels programmatic: Every good guy gets one villain for them to vanquish, the comic supporting characters are, by turn, rough-and-tumble lugs (Little John), scheming clerics (Friar Tuck), wise-cracking weaklings (Will Scarlet).

The real Robin Hood reputedly robbed from the rich to give to the poor; this Robin Hood merely takes the money of moviegoers and gives it to the studio. Somehow, that's not a comfort. ■

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Aria there yet?

Dallas Opera's season ending 'Madame Butterfly' takes wing



SEEING RED | The doomed Cio-Cio San (Adina Nitescu) pines for her American lover (Brandon Jovanovich). It's opera — the relationship doesn't end well. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond/Dallas Opera)

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

The Dallas Opera really hedged its bets with its two final shows of the season — a will-they-love-it-or-won't-they world premiere (*Moby-Dick*) and the ever-popular slam dunk, Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* (second only to his *La Boheme* in its frequency of performance). The result has been packed houses at the Winspear.

Still, for modern, liberal-minded audiences, *Butterfly* is among the most problematic of stage works: The most gorgeous bit of racist claptrap ever conceived. There's an outmoded, 19th century aspect of the story that hovers over every moment — the idea of the "mysterious Orient" and the insulting assumption that Asian women are selfless devotees to Western culture — first changing their religion to be with a man, then pining away for their white male master — even if he's as callow and selfish as Naval officer B.F. Pinkerton. The tragedy seems superimposed. The geisha Cio-Cio San doesn't need free will, she has blind love.

Luckily, then, we have Francesco Zambello's exquisitely gorgeous production, full of beauty and drama. Just looking at the tableaux is exhilarating.

Even luckier is having soprano Adina Nitescu, whose powerhouse vocal performance and sharp acting cuts through the treacle. She delivers Puccini's lush songs, exquisitely performed under the baton of Graeme Jenkins. The opera itself is a bit slow-moving (three hours? Puh-leez) but the payoff — unlike Pinkerton himself — is worth the wait. ■

MADAME BUTTERFLY

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L+S sketches

Drawing Dallas

Dallas native drag diva **Wayne Smith** plays gypsies, tramps and thieves — and all in one night

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

If I could reach the stars

Name: Wayne Smith

Spotted at: Hungdinger, hosting and performing at the regular drag show

Do you believe?: Wayne Smith has been called second only to the original for his Cher impersonation, and fans of the diva can find him hosting and performing at sold-out shows Friday and Saturday nights. Smith sets himself apart from the multitude of other Cher impersonators by talking and singing exactly like his inspiration — no lip-synching for his life.

If we could turn back time: ... We'd find that Smith began his career in Los Angeles in 1979, when a job working as a costumer for Helen Marler Designs (Bob Mackie's embroiderer) opened the door to female impersonation at La Cage Aux Folles, the famous L.A. nightclub. That led this Dallas native to Atlantic City, Las Vegas, Miami, Austria and Aruba, and he has been featured on the Biography Channel, Texan Idol and a celebrity lookalike reality TV show on ABC. Wayne has also been very active in the community, helping raise funds for various charities, including the annual Cher Convention in Las Vegas.



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Parental duty

When prospective same-sex parents have questions, new website offers answers

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

When Cooper Smith and his partner Todd Koch decided to make their two of a kind into a full house, they began looking into adoption. The system was a minefield of arcane rules and strategies exacerbated by being gay parents.

Two years later, they found themselves a family of two daddies and an equal number of children, both now barely a year old. Throughout the process, the couple had questions and found their answers in random places.

So Smith got an idea.

"There was stuff online, but from all over," Smith says. "We tried to find more information to put our minds at ease. That's what I wanted to create with this website."

Thus was born a set of twins of sort — the matching websites TwoDaddiesOneLove.com and TwoMommiesOneLove.com. The sites were designed to help those same-sex couples looking into getting in the family way. They both actually lead to one site with one mission — "to bring together gay mommies and daddies to help support each other in raising our next generation," according to Smith. Think of them as clearinghouses of information mixed with the social network aspect of Facebook.

"The number one goal is simply connecting gay and lesbian parents to each other and to those looking to adopt," Smith says. "With the social media part up, people can now talk to each other and plan events and share information. We make sure we have information on the three main ways gay people can build a family: Private adoption [the route taken by Smith and Koch], foster adoption and surrogacy. Plus, we'll add links to news and websites of companies that helped other couples."

This isn't Smith's first time at the parental site rodeo. The site's first launch last summer buckled due to spammers. The interest was there, however, with more than 60 members signed up for the free site based solely on word-of-mouth. Now that the site is on a



TWO DADDIES, ONE LOVE | Partners Cooper Smith, left, and Todd Koch jumped through a lot of hoops to coordinate the private adoptions of their children, Mason and Claire. The experience led them to create a website to assist other same-sex couples looking to adopt.

more stable host, half of those original members have already signed back up.

Smith knew the response would be good but what surprised him was the actual number of gay families in the North Texas region. Helming his own public relations company, Smith has met lots of people over the years in the community. But when the families set up a brunch event, he was surprised to come across some people he hadn't met before.

"There were seven couples with kids," he says. "People drove in from Allen and Arlington and I had not met a single one before. For all these people to show up that I hadn't known before was just great."

Smith discovered that Dallas has a high concentration of gay and lesbian couples with kids, and there's growing interest from those wanting to start families. While Smith is doing his own thing with his website, he's also become involved with the Human Rights Campaign's newest family initiatives — and Dallas will be the campaign's place to pilot the program.

"There is this huge family environment in Dallas," Smith says. "Plus, all the new big things for the HRC come through Dallas. I'm on a committee for that family initiative here because I want to help and offer anything I can do."

Despite all his good intentions and strides in providing a resource, he isn't planning for this endeavor to take over his life. He has a few things higher on the list to take care of — his son Mason and his daughter Claire.

"The goal for this has not been about numbers," he says. "This is a side project and not the highest thing on my to-do list. But the kids are a bit easier to deal with. My daughter is nearly 15 months old and my son is a year old. They are just as much a handful, but they also have more patience."

With all he has going, Smith is living the family dream — it would seem.

"I got two kids under 16 months. If that's the case, then please wake me up!"

Visit TwoMommiesOneLove.com or TwoDaddiesOneLove.com for

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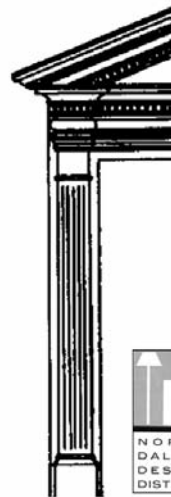
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Tasting notes

St. Germain picks your poison; Twisted Root now big burger on campus; Uptown adds eateries

Usually, the term “pick your poison” is an ironic reference to alcohol. And certainly most restaurants, haunted by fear of e-coli and even a bad review, would never want the word “poison” associated with their dining experience. French bistros probably even bristle at putting the Gallic word for fish — “les poissons” — on the menu for their unilingual diners misinterpreting.

So the **Hotel St. Germain** is major oddball here.

Uptown’s reigning oasis of French elegance is introducing an entire series of dinners, all themed around the idea of poison.



DI(N)E! | The poison dinner series at the Hotel St. Germain sounds delicious *and* campy.

There will be no strychnine-laced flagons of wine on the menu, of course (unless, perhaps, you can’t pay your bill), merely five courses of French and Italian haute cuisine wine-paired and accompanied by archival documents about famous poisonings, anecdotes and a sense of mystery and fun.

The first meal in the series — which features a

foie gras-stuffed quail appetizer and choice of filet of sole or beef entrée, riffing on the Medicis infamous infighting — starts May 22 and continues the third Saturdays of June and July. The cost is \$95 per person. For reservations, call 214-871-2516.

Twisted Root Burger Co. started humbly in Deep Ellum before expanding to Far North Dallas, but now it’s pulling back a little closer to home — and courting SMU students. The sassy burger joint (which proudly displays flair including rainbow bumper stickers commanding to “Celebrate Diversity”) has taken over the space next to the Across the Street Bar on Yale Boulevard. The menu is even more extensive than at the original locale, plus there’s tons of patio dining ... and cute co-eds. We’re so there.

After the economic downturn, it seemed fewer restaurants were opening (and more closing) especially in the Downtown/Uptown area, but that’s changed just this month. In the last two weeks, Houston-based **Perry’s Steakhouse** and Fort Worth’s **Eddie V’s Prime Seafood** have moved into the gayborhood, with Perry’s on McKinney Avenue and Eddie V’s right on Cedar Springs. That’s a lot of new protein to check out.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Q CINEMA HOLDS DRAG PAGEANT



Just a few weeks before it airs the Southwest premiere of Dallas filmmaker Israel Luna’s festival hit *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives*, Q Cinema will crown its own drag diva. Contestants in the Miss Q Cinema 3D Pageant, M.C.’d by *TOTWK* star Krystal Summers, will compete in four categories (presentation/Q&A, talent, evening wear and open mike) and will be judged by a celebrity panel of judges. And because it’s a fundraiser for a film fest, expect multi-media elements to help it earn its 3D moniker.

— A.W.J.

Best Friends Club, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. May 19 at 9 p.m. Qcinema.org.

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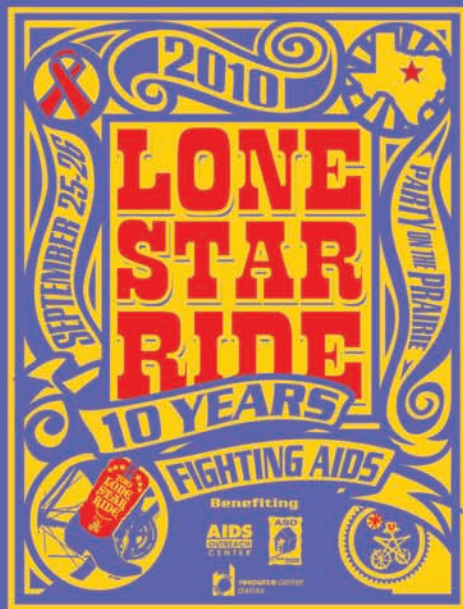
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Friday 05.14

They are gonna rock this lobster out

Whether it's "Love Shack" or "Quiche Lorraine," just try not to get wrapped up in any of The B-52s quirky hits and tunes. Perhaps the ultimate party band, they bring their campy vibe to the three-day-long Wildflower Arts and Music Festival. There's nothing like the idea of gay frontman Fred Schneider and company bringing fabulousity to the burbs.

DEETS: 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 10 p.m. \$10-\$20. WildflowerFestival.com

Sunday 05.16

These bloodsuckers are a mother

For the belated Mother's Day gift, or to just creep her out, catch The Urban Vampires' latest concert *Mothers, Music and Memories*. Flowers? Boring. Try some avant-garde horror mixed with classical music performed by sexy vampires this year. Trust us, Mom will never forget. Ne-ver. Forgiveness, though, is another matter, but hey, at least it sounds cool.

DEETS: Janette Kennedy Art Gallery, 1409 S. Lamar St. 5 p.m. \$20-\$30. TheUrbanVampires.com

Tuesday 05.18

Here comes the judge's son

The name Buchmeyer will ring bells for most Dallasites. Judge Jerry Buchmeyer was legend in these parts, and now his son follows suit — but in way different fashion. Jon Paul Buchmeyer comes back to town to sign his book, *Alphabet City*, detailing his fun and funny life as a publicist to the stars in New York.

DEETS: Hotel Palomar, 5300 E. Mockingbird Lane. 6:30 p.m. \$35 (includes book). ABCityBlog.com



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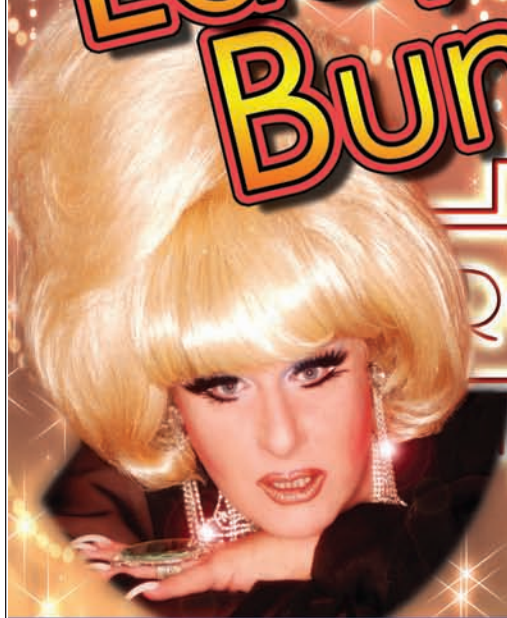
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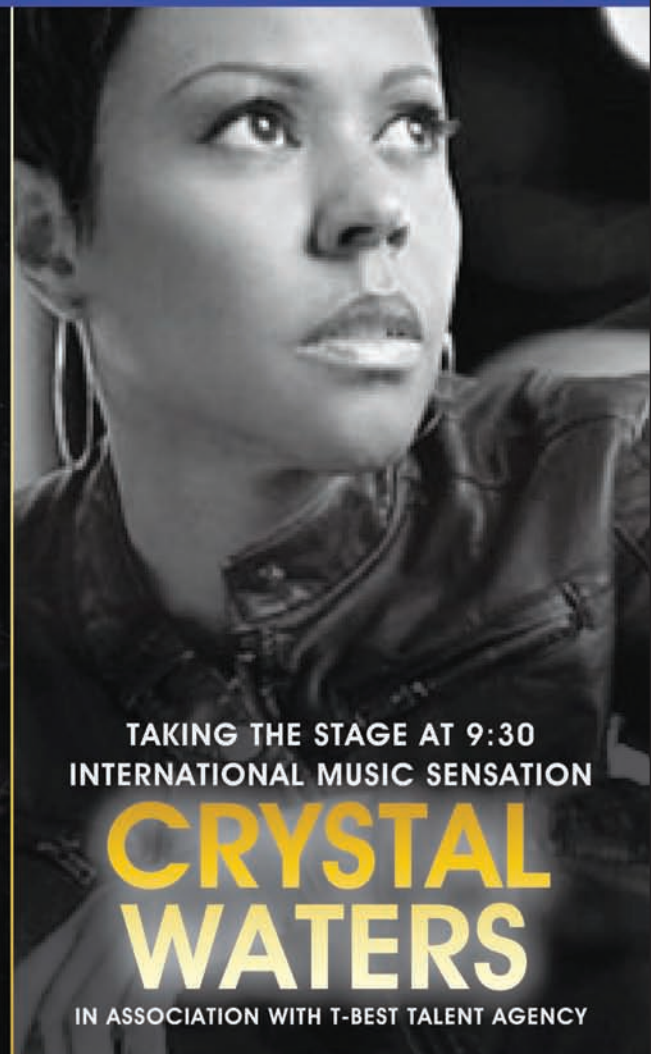
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FRIDAY 05.14**COMMUNITY**

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

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

Family Affair Fridays, a mixer for LGBT people of color. Club Che, 10333 Technology Blvd. 10 p.m.

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

Business Network Collin County luncheon. Fox Sports Grille 5741 Legacy Drive. 11:30 a.m. \$20. businessnetworkcc.org.

Oak Lawn Ski and Scuba Club second Friday dinner. 7:30 p.m. Visit site for location and information. OLSSC.org.

Congregation Beth El Binah Shabbat service. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1784.

High Tech Happy Hour hosted by the LGBTA Community Network Program of Texas Instruments. Hector's on Henderson, 2929 N. Henderson Ave. 5:30 p.m. pavw@ti.com.

THEATER

The Beauty Plays. Three plays by Neil LaBute play in repertory. *The Shape of Things*, *Fat Pig* and *reasons to be pretty* play through May 23. Sundays, Tuesdays–Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays–Saturdays

at 7:30 p.m. Weekend matinees at 2 p.m. Wylie Theater, 2400 Flora St. \$15–\$80. ATTPAC.org.

Sherlock Holmes—The Melodrama. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Saturday. 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 Sunday. TheModern.org.

Fancy Footwork, a group show presenting a take on everything from the waist down, including, but not limited to legs, feet, socks, and shoes. HCG Gallery, 1130 Dragon St. Through May 22. Free. HCGGallery.com.

Georgia O'Keeffe and the Faraway: Nature and Image. National Cowgirl Museum, 1720 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Through Sep. 6. Cowgirl.net.

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

SATURDAY 05.15**COMMUNITY**

Church services. The ONE Church East. 6246 Broadway Blvd, Suite #100, Garland. 3 p.m. 214-724-5658. Dallas1Church.org.

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918

Harry Hines Blvd. 5–10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

GayBingo Cabaret with guest hosts Richie Whitt and Sybil Summers from 105.3 The Fan and Asia O'Hara, former Miss Gay U.S. of A. The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. \$25. RCDallas.org.

Military Maneuvers fundraiser hosted by Leather Knights. The event benefits the Nelson-Tebedo Dental Clinic and the Resource Center Dallas Nutrition Program. Military haircuts, boot blacking, silent auction, uniform contest and more are all part of the evening. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 8:30 p.m. LeatherKnights.org.

Prime Timers play bingo at private residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

ART

Stiletos and Candy featuring the work of local out artist Robb Conover. Kettle Art Gallery, 2714 Elm St. 7 p.m. Through May 22. KettleArt.com.

SUNDAY 05.16**COMMUNITY**

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org.

The ONE Church West Sunday services. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 3 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

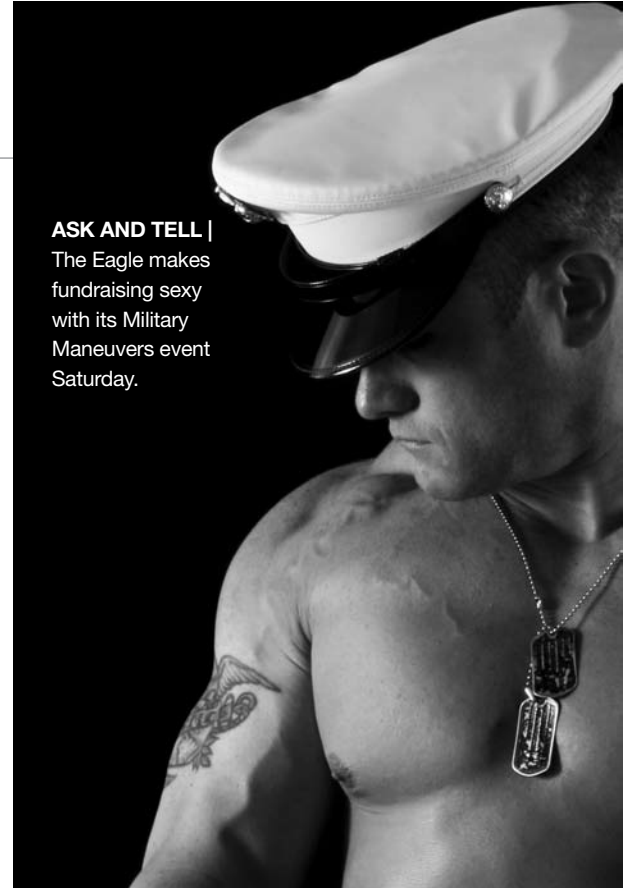
ASK AND TELL |

The Eagle makes fundraising sexy with its Military Maneuvers event Saturday.

30/40Something social group meets weekly. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 10 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

Youth First Texas Collin County. LGBTQ youth group in the North Dallas. 1200 Commerce St., Suite 121, Plano. 6 p.m. 214-879-0400.

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



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calendar

Expressions, a free gender support group led by volunteers. Sponsored by Dallas Gender Society. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m.

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.

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

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

Lutherans Concerned, LGBT affirming group for Lutherans. King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 LBJ Freeway. 7 p.m. 214-855-4998.

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

Family Pride Coalition, a monthly support group for gay and lesbian parents and their children, meets at a private home. For time and location, call 214-521-5342 ext. 1708.

Friends Associating and Relating, LGBT social group meets for events and nights out. Newcomers welcome and no dues. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. This week's guest is Jon Paul Buchmeyer, author of *Alphabet City*. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon.

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

FILM

Queer Film Series of Black Cinemathèque presented by the Fahari Arts Institute. This month's feature is *Dark and Lovely, Soft and Free*, a documentary about gay hairstylists in South Africa. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 6:30 p.m. \$5.

ART ATTACK | Robb Conover's show 'Stiletos and Candy' opens this week at Kettle Art in Deep Ellum.

MONDAY 05.17

COMMUNITY

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

Caffeine + Character. Cathedral of Hope youth meeting for ages 14-22 at Buli Café, 3908 Cedar Springs Road.

Career Assistance Ministry meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Noon. Cathedralofhope.com.

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

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



BROADCAST

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CASH VALUE | One couple tries too hard to keep up with the Jones' in 'Everthing in the Garden' which opens this week.

TUESDAY 05.18

COMMUNITY

Sista to Sista support group meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 204. AOC.org.

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

Q's-Day Potluck. All are welcome to this friendly, casual LGBT gathering. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, 817-446-3395.

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

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

WEDNESDAY 05.19

COMMUNITY

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

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

United Court of the Lone Star Empire (UCLSE). social. 7 p.m. Dallas Eagle. 5740 Maple Ave.

Prime Timers Prime Lunch at Black Eyed Pea, 3857 Cedar Springs Road. Noon. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

rich neighbor leads them into a rollercoaster of morality issues. Presented by Rover Dramawerks at the Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through June 12. \$16-\$19. RoverDramawerks.com

FILM

CSMA Outdoor Movie Series 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.

THURSDAY 05.20

COMMUNITY

Standing on the Promises Alcoholics Anonymous group meets. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Room 107. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Career Fellowship group. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. 972-662-4499.

JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club meets to discuss *Stranded* by Blayne Cooper. Cooper joins in the discussion via speakerphone. iLume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m.

THEATER

Everything in the Garden by Edward Albee about a couple who's obsession with keeping up with the

this week's solution

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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Annise Parker turns 54 on Monday. The newest mayor of Houston is also the first openly gay mayor of a city in the U.S. with over a million residents. So, clearly, Parker is a big deal. Plus, it doesn't hurt that Time magazine listed her at 13 in their World's Most Influential People issue. Maybe that's her new lucky number; unless she goes higher on the list next year.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

If you can't resist impulse shopping, save the tags and receipts. Friends won't guard you against temptation. Economical ways to indulge your playful streak can inspire resourcefulness.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

The spotlight can feel uncomfortable, but what you're most afraid of people seeing can become your greatest strength. A little vulnerability to others will prove to your advantage.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Remembering the Golden Rule can determine whether you come off as incredibly shrewd or just bitchy. If you can be generous in dealing with the faults of others, you will gain respect.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Being incredibly sexy is too easy. Your real challenge is in daring great risks for others. That's even sexier, but keep focused on the higher ideals and the lower ones will also be well met.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Much as you'd like to crack the whip on all those other screw-ups, you need to discipline yourself and find opportunities in helping them. Relax, meditate and it will all be easier.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

It's only brown-nosing if you don't mean it. Malicious gossip reflects more on tellers than subjects. Keep your motives and actions sincere to glide ahead without any mud touching you.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Let your friends set you up on a blind date. It won't work out the way they intend, but instead of true love, you could make a very good new friend, perhaps with benefits.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Unanticipated changes at home will benefit you. If you can't trust your partner, who can you trust? Logic may obstruct real communication. You might say it better with a cookie or a kiss.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Your mind needs a challenge to understand other perspectives. With focus and creativity you can draw out your opponents. Find common ground by looking into your core values.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Erotic inspirations can open your creativity depending on your upbringing. Whether adhering to those or rebelling against them serves you better is answered best in mediation.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

You are exaggerating real problems in your relationship. Get some perspective. A parent may be helpful, but looking at your parents and checking for repeating patterns is probably better.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

For the sake of personal security, be careful with your secrets. Passion may suggest sharing a house key, but think carefully about it. Advice is well-intentioned, but ill-considered.

THIS WEEK

The sun's entering Gemini, Venus Cancer, and both are aspecting Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn and Neptune! Seek ways to build communities and networks to survive the major political storms. Tribal defenses and polarizing into camps is too tempting. Work instead to build communications, especially where they seem counter-intuitive.

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

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

SO... YOU'RE SLEEPING WITH A STRAIGHT GUY, EDUARDO?

YEAH, RICHARD. I AM.

WELL? DETAILS, PLEASE!

I DON'T KNOW, MAN... THE SEX IS PRETTY WILD, BUT... I'M JUST NOT SURE WHERE THIS IS GOIN'.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU...?

FIVE.

AND WE'RE GETTIN' TOGETHER AGAIN TONIGHT.

IT'S KINDA WEIRD WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT.

WHOA. STOP RIGHT THERE. YOU'VE SLEPT WITH THIS GUY FIVE TIMES... AND HE STILL CLAIMS TO BE STRAIGHT?

THAT'S WHAT HE SAYS, KYLE.

LOOK... I DON'T CARE HOW "OPEN-MINDED" SOMEONE CLAIMS TO BE...

OH, KYLE... I'VE SLEPT WITH PLENTY OF STRAIGHT GUYS.

YOU HAVE?

OF COURSE.

...IF HE SLEEPS WITH A GUY FIVE TIMES, HE IS NOT HETEROSEXUAL.

STRAIGHT BUT NOT NARROW, RIGHT? I LOVE IT!

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY... IF A SEAFOOD LOVER IS HUNGRY... AND HE CAN'T FIND ANY SEAFOOD...

OKAY, THAT'S... INACCURATE AND OFFENSIVE. ANYWAY... FIVE TIMES IS MORE THAN "OCCASIONAL".

BUT... WHAT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING MORE THAN "CONFUSION"?

THAT'S USUALLY THE POINT WHERE I GET DUMPED...

ALL RIGHT, SO MAYBE HE'S CONFUSED. OR A FUTURE REPUBLICAN SENATOR. WHATEVER.

...HE'LL BE GLAD TO SETTLE FOR AN OCCASIONAL STEAK.

I SAY, IF THE SEX IS GOOD... ENJOY THE CONFUSION!

Website - www.kylecomics.com

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bitter girl

THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

SO... CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN? SOON?

YOU'RE SWEET, BUT...

...WELL, I'M STILL INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE.

KIND OF, NOT REALLY.

NOT INVOLVED-INVOLVED. WE'RE BREAKING IT OFF.

I MEAN... I'M BREAKING IT OFF, BUT WE'RE NOT BREAKING IT OFF YET.

SO I'M, LIKE, IN A WEIRD PLACE RIGHT NOW. I CAN GO THERE... BUT I CAN'T GO THERE.

YOU UNDERSTAND... RIGHT?

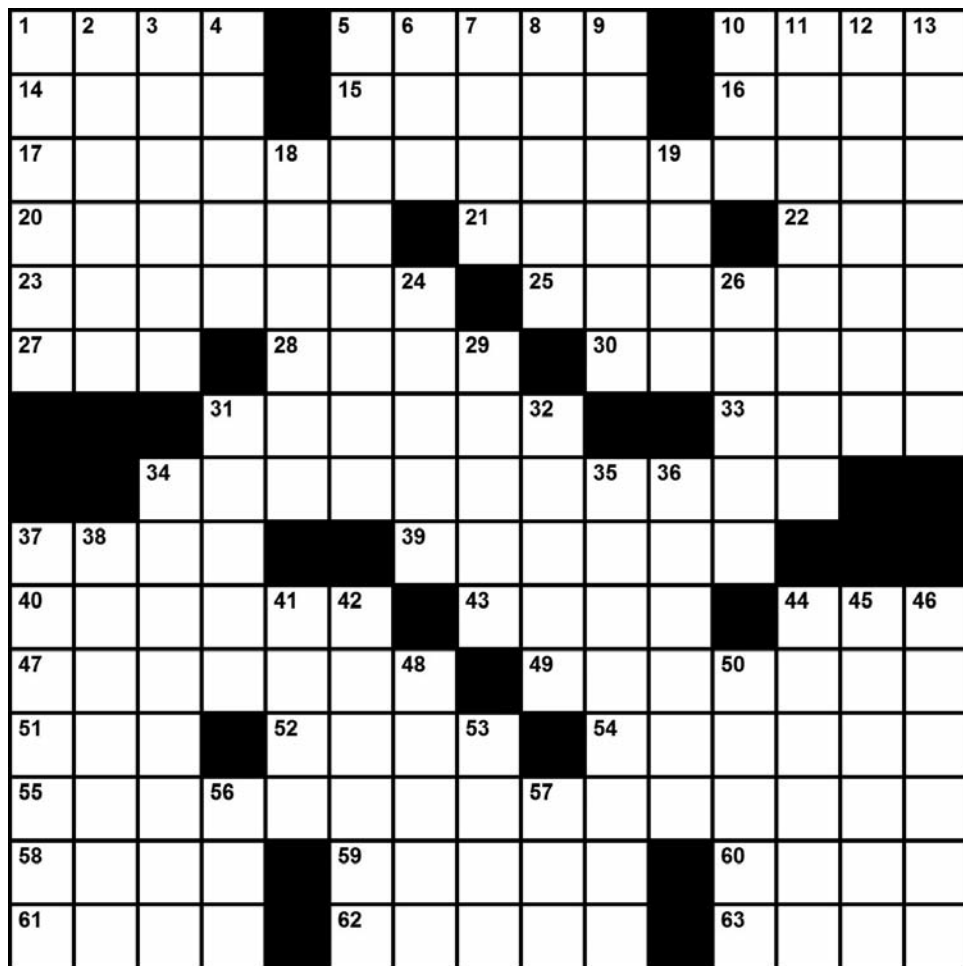
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YOU'RE SWEET.

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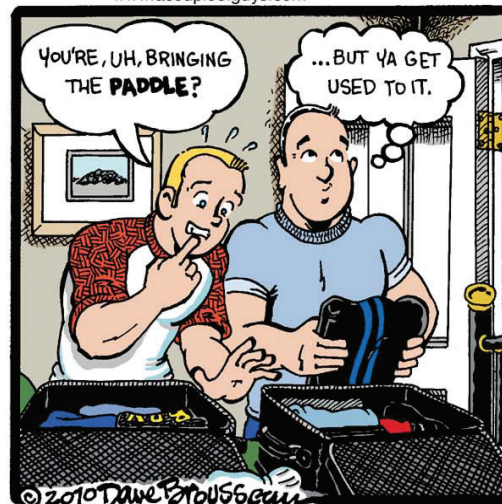
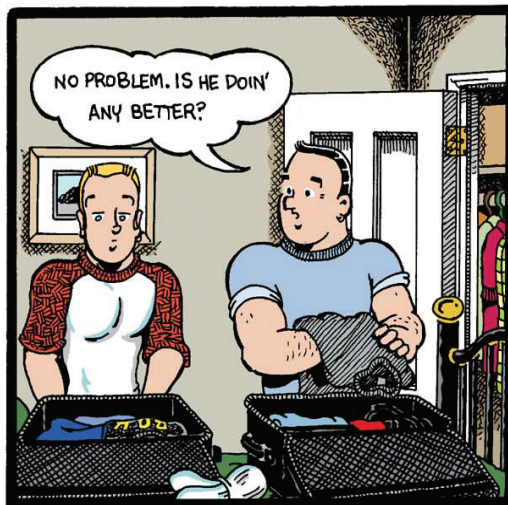
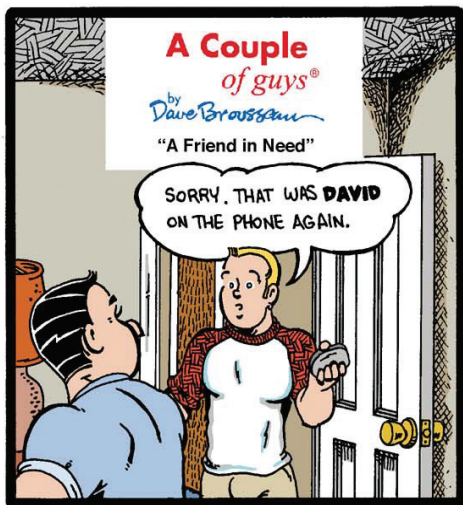
Solution on page 49

Across

- 1 Worn-out stallions
- 5 Sound of three men in a tub
- 10 Speak like a tough guy
- 14 Middle Eastern sultanate
- 15 Undeliverable letter, in post-office slang
- 16 Capable of performing
- 17 Stuff out of your shaft?
- 20 "Evita" composer Lloyd Webber
- 21 DeGeneres' "Finding ___"
- 22 Stroke your furry one
- 23 Breeder's concern
- 25 You may take it out before a blow job
- 27 Ukraine, once (abbr.)
- 28 Slangy home
- 30 Bottom's cry
- 31 Scrolls at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 33 Box tops
- 34 Cutie at a gay bar?
- 37 Minor dispute
- 39 Gertrude with a beer mug?
- 40 Like a "Man of la Mancha" knight
- 43 Give some relief
- 44 "Isn't ___ bit like you and me?" ("Nowhere Man")

Down

- 47 End of an Oscar Wilde title
- 49 Bonheur's motives
- 51 '70s org. of kidnappers
- 52 Kind of time
- 54 Salon staple
- 55 Ticketed a homophobe?
- 58 Engrossed with
- 59 "Desperate Housewives", and others
- 60 "Money ___ object!"
- 61 Dick Tracy's girlfriend Trueheart
- 62 Spine-chilling
- 63 Many, many moons
- 1 Itinerant folk
- 2 It tops a B
- 3 Mate of a heterosexual goose
- 4 Mortimer, with a wooden head
- 5 Where the rubber meets the road, in winter
- 6 Tyler of "Lord of the Rings"
- 7 Alternatives to asses
- 8 Successfully donated sperm
- 9 Trapped, with "in"
- 10 The daily grind
- 11 Ian McKellen played a Nazi war criminal in this film
- 12 Took the wheel
- 13 Cole's family
- 18 Completely faithful
- 19 Top drawer
- 24 "Great balls of fire!"
- 26 Follows up on a kiss?
- 29 "On the Beach" author Nevil
- 31 Atlas was one
- 32 Weapon of Caesar's day
- 34 Search requirements
- 35 Put straight
- 36 "At Swim, Two Boys" writer Jamie
- 37 Deems necessary
- 38 Confection with nuts
- 41 Uncool sort
- 42 Fly over the equator
- 44 Like Brando's Godfather voice
- 45 San Fernando Valley locale
- 46 Hubby of Demi
- 48 Lake site of gay and lesbian ski week
- 50 Old photo color
- 53 "Maude" producer
- 56 Canon camera
- 57 Cost-of-living stat



This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Didi and Chris at Jack's Backyard.



Moses and David at the Dallas Eagle.



Amber and Kassalinda at Best Friends Club.



Carson, Josiah, Joel and Cat at BJ's NXS!

Get some rest, because you could have lots going on this week Sue Ellen's welcomes **Deborah Vial** and her band **the Kegels** back to Dallas Friday night. **Ciao Bella** will open the show. Saturday, they bring in the **Mojo Dolls** to rock the house Head to Deep Ellum to check out **Kettle Art's** newest show, **Stiletto and Candy**, featuring the art of local gay artist Robb Conover It's **GayBingo Cabaret** this Saturday at **the Rose Room** and this time they are bringing special guest hosts **Sybil Summers** and hunky **Richie Whitt** from **105.3 The Fan**. We hear he's been working out, so maybe he'll flex something for ya Perhaps our favorite team name of this softball season is the **Donkey Punchers**. See them up close — minus the punching part — and get your car soaped up at their car wash fundraiser this Saturday starting at 11 a.m. at **the Brick** The **Leather Knights** host **Military Maneuvers** at the **Dallas Eagle** Saturday night. Bring you and your fetish out for some sweet soldier action. The event also benefits local organizations, so it'll be nothing to feel guilty about The first **Extra Innings** event for the softball team **ilume DragOns** happens at the ilume courtyard and pool. Complete with raffle, drinks, live DJ and sporty guys in bathing suits. This has some nice potential for great Facebook photos **Equality March Texas** has our interest with their first ever **Straight Guy Dragoff 2010** Sunday night at **the Double-Wide** also in Deep Ellum. Hetero dudes trying on dresses? We're all over this one. The event benefits EMT How's that for your fun time selection this week? We know we're loving it

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Pacis, Jennifer, Liz and Myra at the Drama Room.



John and Adam at Rush.



Justin at Zippers.

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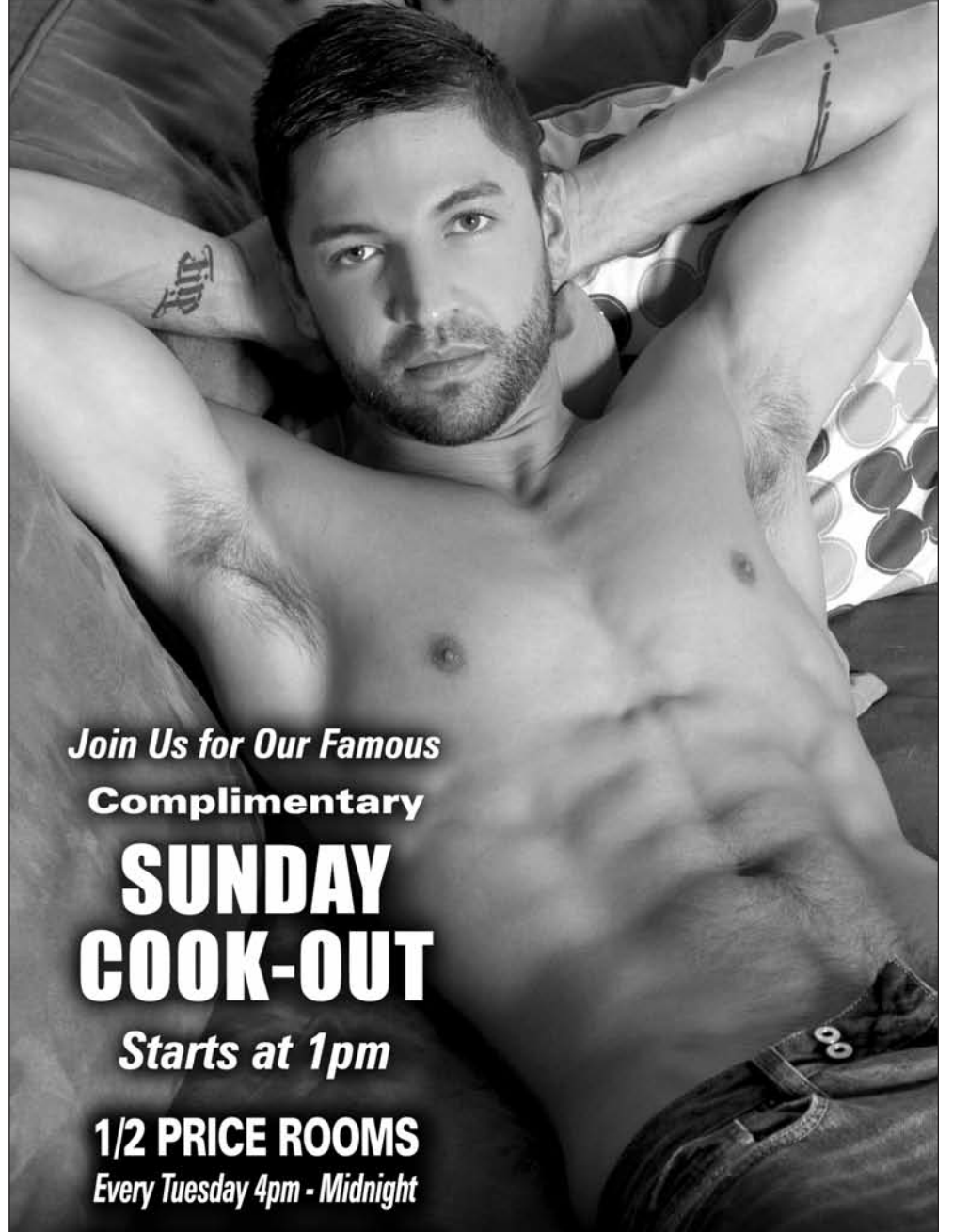
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