

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas
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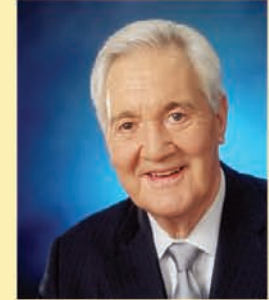


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Moore, Lewis named 2010 parade grand marshals

Doughman says Tavern Guild is in negotiations with Houston mayor to appear as honorary grand marshal

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman has announced that Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Erin Moore and longtime Caven Enterprises employee Paul Lewis have been chosen as grand marshals of the 2010 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

The parade, produced each year by the Tavern Guild, will be held Sept. 19 this year.

Doughman said that parade grand marshals are chosen each year by a vote of Tavern Guild members. This year's honorees, he said, were both chosen in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the LGBT community.

"Erin has done so much good work in the past several years with Stonewall Democrats, with the Equality March last year. We just felt that her body of work, especially on the political front, deserved this recognition," Doughman said.

He added that Tavern Guild members also had high praise for Moore's partner, Patti Fink, and considered naming them both as female grand marshals.

"But we didn't want to lump them together this year."
■ **GRAND MARSHALS**, Page 21



MIGHTY MIGHTY MARSHALS | Longtime Caven employee Paul Lewis and Stonewall Democrats President Erin Moore will share grand marshal duties for the 2010 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

HRC sorry for e-mail saying Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson voted against DADT repeal

The Human Rights Campaign issued an apology this week after sending out an e-mail that erroneously said Dallas Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas, voted against repealing "don't ask, don't tell."

Johnson, a longtime LGBT ally, in fact voted in favor of DADT repeal on the House floor last month. HRC chalked up the error to a "technological glitch," but one of Johnson's prominent gay supporters said the group's apology was not enough. (HRC also sent out a corrected e-mail later in the day.)



"As a member of the DFW Federal Club and HRC, I believe in HRC's visions and goals," wrote James Nowlin, an openly gay member of Johnson's re-election steering committee. "However, I believe that in order to truly gain footing in the battle for equality, HRC must check its facts before sending emails which blast Congressmembers' voting records. A simple apology is not enough. The damage has been done. Erroneous emails only work to impugn the reputations of our strongest leaders. My advice for HRC is to check the congressional record before sending email blasts about Congressmembers' alleged 'disappointing' votes. My hope is that HRC will understand the seriousness of its error. HRC's goal should be to win and keep allies, not to mistakenly sully their reputations."

Earlier, HRC issued its apology, which noted that Johnson consistently scores 100 percent for her support of LGBT equality on the group's Congressional Scorecard.

"The email that was sent out this morning incorrectly stated her vote and was a technological glitch for which we have apologized," said HRC spokesman Fred Sainz. "Our president, Joe Solmonese, has placed a call to the congresswoman to apologize and we have been in touch with both her congressional and district office staffs to let them know that a corrected e-mail will be going out shortly."

As it turns out, another Johnson in Congress was on the other end of HRC's gaffe. Constituents of Illinois Congressman Tim Johnson, who did in fact vote against DADT repeal, reportedly received e-mails from HRC asking them to thank him for the vote in support of equality. Phillip Reese, a gay constituent of Tim Johnson's said he was concerned that the e-mail would give gay Republicans an excuse to vote for Johnson, whom Reese says is anti-gay.

"I think that giving his LGBT constituents the impression that he may be 'coming around' this close to the election is dangerous," Reese said.

— John Wright

DART guts transgender policy

Closed-door session leads to proposal that could take protections from gay and lesbian employees and offer none to transgender employees

BY JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

LGBT advocates expressed outrage this week after learning that Dallas Area Rapid Transit had effectively gutted a months-old proposal to add transgender protections to the agency's employment nondiscrimination policy.

Following a 30-minute closed-door session to discuss the new policy on Tuesday, June 15, DART's Board of Directors hastily approved an amendment stating that the agency won't discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity "except to the extent permitted by federal and/or Texas law."

Because there are no state or federal employment protections for LGBT people, the amendment could allow DART to discriminate against workers based

on both sexual orientation and gender identity.

LGBT legal experts said the amendment would not only nullify the addition to the policy of gender identity, but it would also rescind DART's protections for sexual orientation, enacted in 1995.

Cece Cox, associate executive director at Resource Center Dallas, said she felt the LGBT community's "trust has been shattered."

"Without answers from DART, we are left to speculate that DART does not care about equity for LGBT people and even perhaps that this was deliberately sabotaged," Cox said in a statement released Thursday. "We have not seen action like this since ExxonMobil rescinded employment protections at their merger in the most crass display of disregard for their LGBT employees in recent corporate history. A final vote has not taken place. DART has time to do the right thing. If it does not, DART should be prepared for outrage from the LGBT community."

The DART Board of Directors is scheduled to take a final vote on the new policy Tuesday, June 22. The proposal to add gender identity to the policy came about in response to allegations that the

agency discriminated against a transgender bus driver.

RCD spokesman Rafael McDonnell said the nature of the LGBT community's presence at next Tuesday's meeting likely will depend on what happens in the meantime.

"The question is going to be, are they going to change the language?" McDonnell said Thursday. "Do they get that the language is bad? And if so, what are they doing about it? I think that will reflect the tone of what we do on Tuesday."

By noon Thursday, DART officials gave no indication they planned to revisit the amendment, which was caught by Dallas Voice after the agency forwarded a draft of the policy to the newspaper on Wednesday afternoon.

In response to questions about the amendment, DART spokesman Morgan Lyons insisted that the agency's intent is to add gender identity to the policy and become more inclusive.

But Lyons couldn't explain the reason for the amendment, and he denied requests for an interview with the agency's attorneys.

■ **DART**, Page 17

Celebrating pride



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localbriefs

Miss LifeWalk pageant

The 7th annual Miss LifeWalk pageant is set for Sunday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m., at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. The event will be hosted by Wayne Smith and Ima Lush and produced by the Guys and Dolls LifeWalk Team.

The suggested donation at the door will be \$5. Contestants will compete in three categories — evening gown, talent and fundraising — for the title of Miss LifeWalk 2010.

All proceeds generated from the pageant will

go toward LifeWalk.

ilume signs new tenant

The Crosland Group, developer of ilume, announced this week that Fin Sushi has signed on to occupy space in the mixed-use development on Cedar Springs Road.

Fin Sushi will occupy 4,000 square feet of space on the southeast section of ilume and is currently scheduled to open in September.

CO CO CONQUERS CANINE COOL DROOL

TOP DOG | Co Co Burnett, pictured here with her person, DeDe, walked away with the award for Best Costume last Sunday, June 13, during the Canine Cool Drool 3 event held on the patio at Sue Ellen's. The annual event kicks off the lead up to the 2010 LifeBark fundraising event, which will take place Oct. 10 at Lee Park as part of AIDS Arms' annual LifeWalk. For more information, go online to LifeWalk.org.



pet of the week / boombay

June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month, and Boombay is a shelter cat just waiting to be adopted. She's a beautiful black kitty with a sleek and shiny coat and gorgeous gold eyes. Boombay is 1 year old and very friendly. She seems to be good with other cats, is playful and loves to be petted.

Boombay and many other great dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are available for adoption from the Dallas Animal Services Adoption Center, located at 1818 N. Westmoreland at I-30 on the northeast corner. The shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays. The cost to adopt is \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats and includes spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, microchip and more. All dogs are negative for heartworms, and cats have been tested for FeLV and FIV. For more information, go online to DallasAnimalServices.org or call 214-671-0249.



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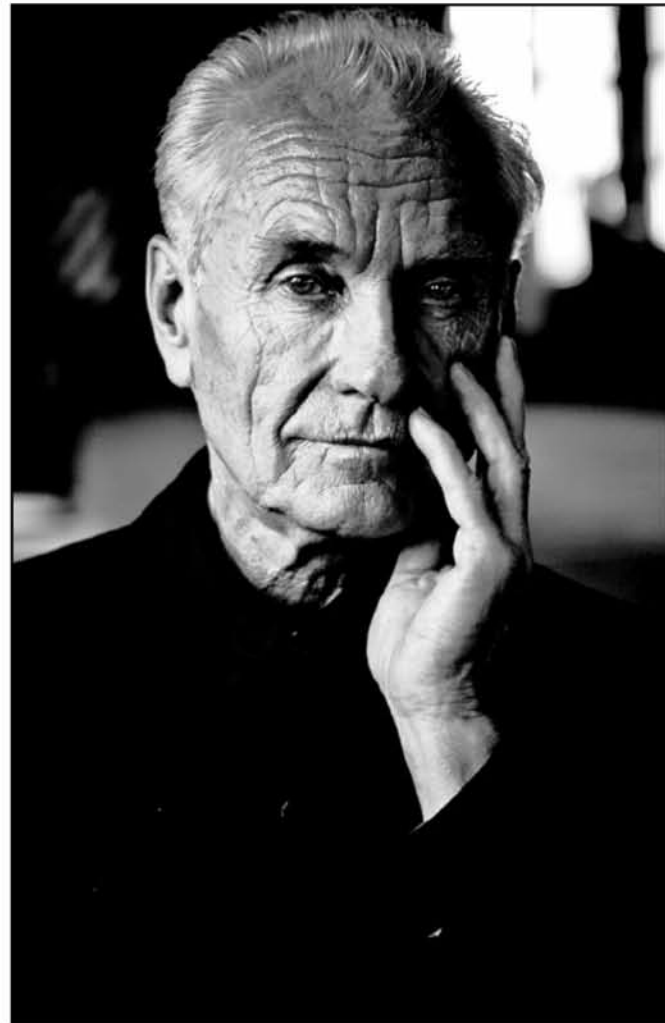
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And LSR makes it this easy: Start today by adding the Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS boundless FUNDRAISING application to your Facebook page, and you can extend your fundraising efforts to your networks of friends on Facebook.

SZIOLS is focused on being an active participant at the many LSR-sponsored training rides scheduled before the actual crowning glory/10th anniversary event on Sept. 25-26. And, that is all about serendipity.

One day in February, I randomly popped into a Starbucks, in an obscure, for me, neighborhood.

I'm guilty, as charged, of eavesdropping on the conversation at the next table. But I couldn't help but overhear Arlen Miller's amazing, heartfelt sponsorship sales pitch regarding the Lone Star Ride.

And it was game on!
"Excuse me, I really hate to interrupt, but can I accept your sponsorship offer for this year's event," I asked. The intended/scheduled sponsor immediately handed me the official sponsor package. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Nearly three years ago, I felt "the need for speed" and bought a bicycle. During training for the 1984 Olympic marathon, a bone chip lodged

in my knee and triggered an onslaught of problems. Infection and three weeks in the hospital dashed my running dreams but opened the door for a new connection and opportunity. I fell in love and started a family.

Fast-forward two decades later to grown and graduated sons, a marriage in meltdown and a spontaneous invitation to participate in an eight-day bike trek in Germany. And another moment of serendipity led me to Sziols sports sunglasses.

In 2000, German athlete Beate Gabelt designed SZIOLS sunglasses and founded the company. After breaking one too many pairs of sunglasses, she began her search for a super-lightweight, flexible-yet-sturdy fiber which could be used to make a sunglass frame that could withstand use and abuse by a sporting, rugged individual.

She "reverse-engineered" what she was looking for and came up with SZIOLS (pronounced "shields").

Immediately the potential of the advanced technology literally struck me right between the eyes. That week I became the sole North American distributor.

I believe — and experts agree — that these sports glasses are saving eyes, by shielding them from harmful UV rays and from projectiles and other injury-causing factors.

And I know that Lone Star Ride is saving lives and enhancing the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

You can see it and believe it and be part of it, too. Sign up with me and my team, "Practice Safe Specs," at SusieSunglasses.com to ride or to crew for Lone Star Ride. And if you can't do that, then donate to someone else who is a rider or a crewmember.

Either way, you can help change lives — including yours. ■

Susie Sunglasses and SZIOLS America are sponsors of the 10th annual Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS. For more information about the company or to sign up

to ride with Team Practice Safe Specs, go online to SusieSunglasses.com. Sandstrom is offering a \$50 discount on SZIOLS sunglasses — frames and lenses — to anyone participating in Lone Star Ride, and in addition has pledged \$50 from every sale to Lone Star Ride.

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Dallas parade sticks to plan

While Pride parades in other big cities can tend toward the wild side of things, Dallas keeps things milder and more ‘family-oriented’

Of all the sacred institutions in the Dallas-Fort Worth LGBT culture, there is none more inviolate than the annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade in September, produced by the Dallas Tavern Guild.

Just the hint of anyone wanting to change the date, the time, the route or the structure of the parade is akin to sticking a finger in a wasp’s nest.

If that happens, stand back because a blitz of stinging barbs will soon be flying.

With the parade scheduled to kick off Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. for the 27th year in a row, organizers, sponsors and participants plan for

it to go off just the way they want it. The staging of the city’s largest parade is a complicated, time-consuming process that usually starts as soon as everyone has recovered from the most recent one — in other words, almost immediately.

It’s big business, and a lot of money changes hands during the parade’s orchestration, promotion and production.

This year’s parade, themed “One Heart, One World, One Pride,” likely will flow pretty much to plan, thanks to the generosity of the corporate sponsors, Andrews beer distributing, Smirnoff, Heineken, Jagermeister and American Airlines.

Of course, every year there’s some kind of glitch, such as the year many of the members of one high-profile political contingency arrived drunk, creating chaos for parade organizers. Then there was the year an acrobatic group got carried away with its performance and wouldn’t move forward, prompting threats to ban the group from future parades.

But unforeseen technical difficulties aside, this is an acutely-organized, expensive event that is unique in comparison to other Pride parades seen across the country.

Its origins were similar to other gay rights parades, but the Dallas event has evolved over the years into a promotional vehicle that has greatly benefited the LGBT community in terms of gaining public acceptance.

The Dallas parade is tame, almost bland, in comparison to the ones staged in New York City, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Those parades, which generally occur during National Gay Pride Month in June, often trend toward the wild side of our culture, whereas in Dallas it’s more of a family-friendly atmosphere.

It’s the type of parade that straight public officials are comfortable taking part in because it’s

mostly non-confrontational. It’s not offensive to anyone other than the evangelical Christian fanatics that like to hang out at the parade’s end in Lee Park, jeering at the participants, which for years have included the mayor, City Council members, the police chief and other city department heads.

It’s a celebration, not a protest.

That’s why the recent launch of the Facebook page “Take Back Dallas Pride” — an offshoot of a national movement — is unlikely to draw much support locally.

The organizers of the movement argue that the 40th anniversary of the first gay rights parades in New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco in June 1970 should see a return to the roots of those first marches.

Those events were protests, complete with signs and angry voices demanding equality and an end to official and professional harassment.

Because of all of the major strides that we may be close to accomplishing, such as the long-worked for dissolution of the military’s discriminatory “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy and the passage of a gay-inclusive federal nondiscrimination employment act, the organizers of the movement want the Pride events to become more militant this year.

That’s not the Dallas way these days. But it does make some sense to me.

It would be an accurate reflection of the past and a return to where we started.

Just like everywhere else in the country, the gay rights movement in Dallas began with people who were fed up with discrimination and harassment from police officers and prosecutors, who in the 1950s and 1960s were still raiding parties in private homes and arresting and prosecuting people for nothing more than same-sex dancing.

That first parade in downtown Dallas, decades ago, got the attention of a lot of people, and more importantly, it empowered a whole generation of local people to get involved in the gay rights movement.

What started off as a small group led by drag queens grew into several hundred marchers who were inspired to step off the sidewalk and join the march.

We wouldn’t be where we are today if it hadn’t taken place.

So I’m thinking maybe it isn’t such a bad idea to get a little more brazen this year — carry some protest signs and scream a little in demand of equal rights. When you get down to it, isn’t that what it’s all about? ■

David Webb is a former staff writer for the Dallas Voice who lives on Cedar Creek Lake now. He is the author of the blog TheRareReporter.blogspot.com. He can be reached at davidwaynewebb@embarqmail.com.



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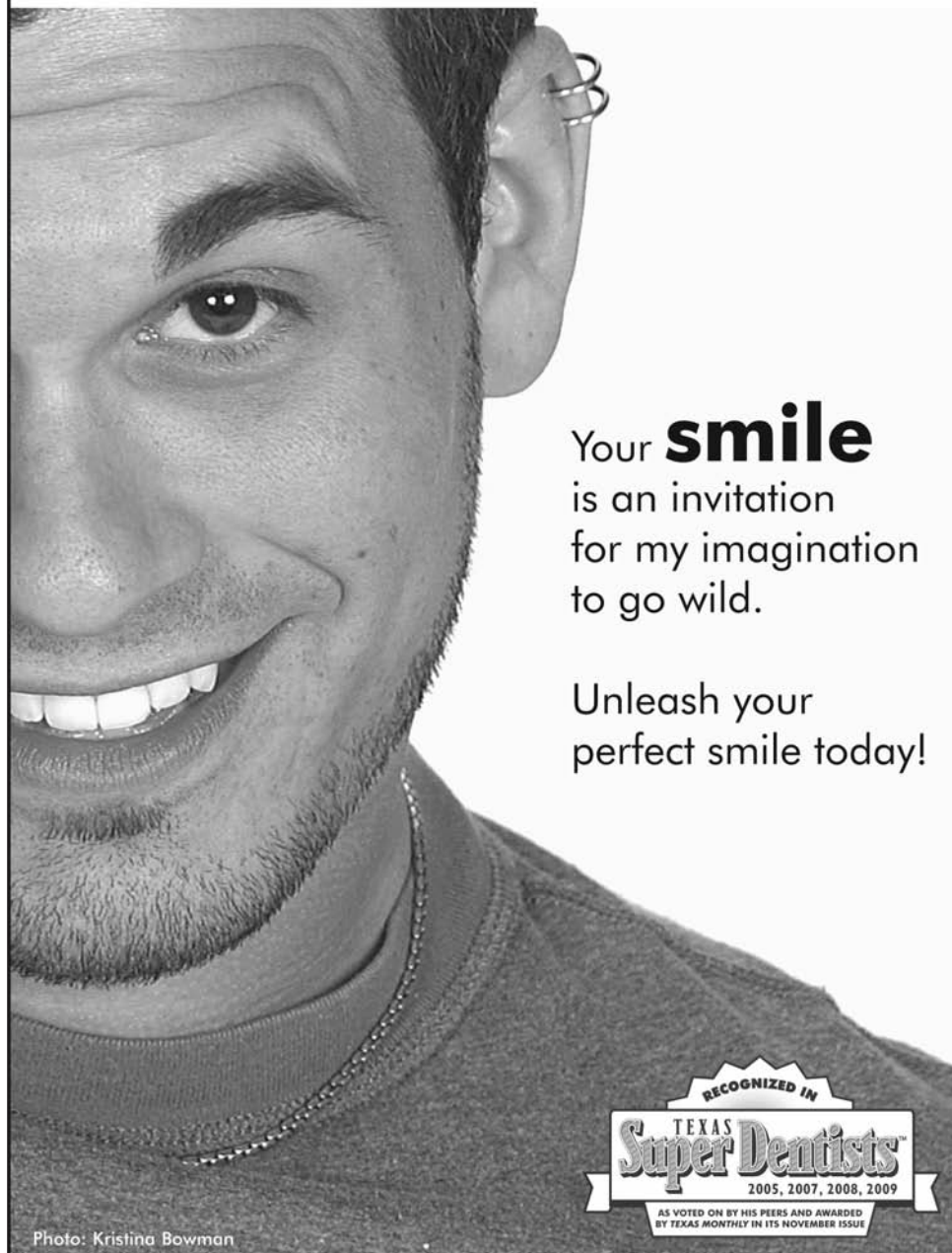
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■ texasnews

Dumont leaving YFT



MOVIN' ON UP | Judith Dumont has been director of youth services at Youth First Texas for 2½ years. She will continue to work with LGBT youth in her new position at Eastfield College. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Youth director's experience with LGBT youth makes her a perfect fit for program targeting at-risk students at Eastfield College

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

On June 10, Judith Dumont announced that her last day at Youth First Texas would be this Friday, June 18. She has been director of youth services at the agency for the past 2½ years.

On the night of her announcement, she assured the youth at the center that said she was not going to suddenly disappear from their lives.

"I'm like herpes," she told them. "I won't go away."

She said she was going back to her roots to practice therapy. She will become a volunteer counselor for the group. As the organization's director, she said, she couldn't be an objective counselor.

Dumont holds an M.Ed in Counseling from the University of North Texas. But she said she never went looking for another job.

"I was scouted," she said.

Kristine Vowels, a volunteer and member of YFT's advisory board, hired Dumont as a resource specialist for Eastfield College's "Gateway to College" program, which is funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In her new position, Dumont will form partnerships with a variety of groups to help at-risk students finish high school while earning a college

degree. The program is open to students 16-to-24 years old. She said her first collaboration would be with Youth First Texas.

Vowels said she hired Dumont because of her connection to the LGBT community.

"Knowing there's an ally out there for LGBT students should make a difference," she said.

Dumont began working at Youth First Texas as a volunteer. After nine months she was hired as the agency's director of administration. While on staff, she began developing greater access to counseling for the agency's youth.

"We've been able to create a partnership with SMU at Legacy and earned a reputation throughout North Texas as a great place to do an internship," she said.

Dumont said that the agency currently provides about 15 individual client sessions and two groups helping a total of almost 50 youth per week.

"That alleviates the staff from constantly managing crises," she said.

Dumont also developed Leadership Corps, a series that teaches youth self-examination, community building and activism. She said the goal of the series was, "How can we put you out in the world to create a less homophobic society?"

Dumont said she accepted her new position because she looked ahead to where she would like to be by the time she is 40. To get there, it was time for her to move on.

Dumont said YFT's move to a new, safer location had a major impact on the organization. Since the move, YFT has seen a 25 percent increase in the number of youth served, according to Sam

■ YFT, Page 16



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Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus marks 10th anniversary

Group will honor founders, including Michael Milliken, Al Daniels of Dallas

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus marks its 10th anniversary as the officially recognized LGBT caucus of the Texas Democratic Party at the 2010 Texas Democratic Convention, which is expected to attract 8,000 delegates, alternates and visitors, including hundreds of LGBT delegates, to Corpus Christi June 24-26.

The anniversary events begin Thursday evening, June 24, with a reception at Desiree's By The Bay Restaurant at the Art Center, 100 Shoreline Blvd. The reception will feature a full buffet, cash bar, anniversary cake and presentation of the Founder's Awards.

Co-founders Michael Milliken and Al Daniels of Dallas, who served as TSDC's first president and treasurer respectively, first vice president Nancy Russell of San Antonio and first secretary Jonathan Westerman of Houston will be honored, as will Ron Ennis, who got TSDC chartered with National Stonewall Democrats, and Molly Beth Malcolm, a straight ally who was chair of the Texas Democratic Party at the time.

On Friday, June 25, the TSDC will hold its Biennial Caucus Membership Meeting at the American Bank Center before the business of the State Democratic Party begins. More than 350 delegates and visitors from around the state are expected to attend.

Current President Dan Graney of San Antonio and current Vice President Erin Moore of Dallas are seeking re-election. A new secretary and treasurer will be elected. Candidates and elected officials will be invited to address the group.

Milliken, Daniels and Ennis teamed up with other LGBT Democrats in Texas to found TSDC in January 2000 as the successor organization of the Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas. At the Texas Democratic Convention in Fort Worth in June of that year, Milliken successfully petitioned the convention delegates to approve adding TSDC as an "add-on" organization of the State Democratic Executive Committee, thus giving TSDC two LGBT seats on the SDEC, the governing board of the state party between conventions.

YFT

From Page 14

Wilkes, director of development and administration.

At the same time, Wilkes said that there has been a decrease in sustaining donors, due to the economic recession. It's put YFT on a tight budget.

"We're paying close attention to our finances," he said.

He said there has been an influx of youth ac-



Michael Milliken, above, and Al Daniels

Since then, both the president and vice president of the TSDC have served as voting members at SDEC meetings.

At the time of TSDC's founding, there were only three Stonewall Democrats chapters in Texas. There are now 10. •

For more information, go online to TexasStonewallDemocrats.org.

cessing their food pantry, noting that a disproportionate number of homeless youth are LGBT who have been thrown out by their families.

Board president Cathy Gonzalez said the organization's two biggest expenses are salaries for its two staff members and rent. She said that not having one of those positions would help in the short run, but they had already budgeted for it.

"Any money saved on salary will be put in reserve," Gonzalez said.

YFT

From Page 16

She said there has been a suggestion to cut hours at the center this summer to save money, and that the board would meet this week to decide.

"We don't want to get into a situation where we have to turn any youth away," she said.

She also said that some of YFT's biggest donations come later in the summer. The youth board is raising money with garage sales, car washes and the annual fashion show at Rose Room on July 8.

One of the agency's fundraising events is Gaytona, on July 2, which Gonzalez describes as "remote control racecars, partying, beer and lots of fun in the heat." The event is held in the parking lot behind S4 on Cedar Springs Road.

Despite any savings, Gonzalez was sad to see Dumont leave but knew she would continue to be involved in YFT.

"She is the one who is responsible for the exponential growth of our services that focus on our mission statement," Gonzalez said. "We're changing lives, and Judith gets a lot of praise for leading us in that direction."

Gonzalez said YFT planned for growth after the move but didn't expect it this quickly. The agency expects even more youth accessing the facility when DART's new Market Center Station across the street from their new location opens with the Green Line extension in December.

Gonzalez said that the board would put together a search committee in the fall to look for a replacement for Dumont.

"For the summer, activities and programs will be staffed with volunteers," Gonzalez said.

Dumont said she would continue to work with the group as a volunteer. She said she will see two programs she began to the end: the fashion show and youth activist camp.

Youth activist camp will be held over the summer on the University of North Texas campus. YFT has formed a partnership with the Texas Gay Straight Alliance Network and hosts the North Texas region.

"I expect the Texas GSA Network to be our biggest outreach tool, bringing even more youth to YFT and help create safer schools," Dumont said.

And through her new position, she'll see to it that more LGBT youth finish high school while earning college degrees. ■

DART

From Page 8

Ken Upton, a senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal in Dallas, said he felt the community had been "royally screwed" by DART.

"It's exactly the opposite of what they promised they were doing," Upton said. "After all the work that's gone into this, if this is what comes out of it, then we got nothing. They can say that's not what they intended, but that's what it says." ■

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Stonewall anniversary march moving downtown

Rally marks 41st anniversary of New York rebellion and 1st anniversary of Rainbow Lounge raid in Fort Worth

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For the first time since the original parade in Downtown Dallas in 1972, a Pride rally will take place outside of Oak Lawn. The march marks the first anniversary of the Rainbow Lounge Raid and the 41st anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion.

Daniel Cates is one of the organizers the June 27 march.

"Harvey Milk said, 'We've got to get out of the ghetto. We've got to take our fight to Main Street.' We're literally doing that," Cates said.

A pre-march pep-rally, led by activist Elizabeth Pax, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Founder's Plaza on the corner of Main and Market Streets outside the County Records Building.

"We don't just want to be chanting," Cates said. "We want it to be echoing off the buildings."

The march steps off at 7:15 p.m. Marchers will head east on Commerce Street six blocks to Ervay Street and return to Founders Plaza along Main Street.

Cates said police offered a route up Elm Street, which would have made a wider loop, but they chose Main Street for the symbolism.

He said he heard constant criticism of last year's Equality March on Cedar Springs as "preaching to the choir."

"This literally gets us on Main Street," he said.

Although there are few people in Downtown Dallas on a Saturday night, he said thousands of people do live Downtown and lots of restaurants on Main and Commerce streets are open.

He expects media coverage that they did not get with the 2009 march.

A dozen speakers are scheduled during the freedom rally after the march. Stephen Sprinkle from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University is the keynote speaker.

"Just because we are 41 years from Stonewall doesn't mean we're free and equal," Sprinkle said. "No one in America received rights and privileges as a gift."

He also said the march and rally were a time to celebrate LGBT community, leadership, hope and talent.

Rafael McDonnell from Resource Center Dallas is also scheduled to speak.

"I promise to keep my remarks brief," he said. "I am going to look at what has happened over the

last year — a number of advances and where we're heading."

Cates said he scheduled activist Chastity Kirven to excite and rile up the crowd.

"Stonewall still lives within us," Kirven said. "The first finish line we need to cross is civil rights. The baton has been passed to the civil rights leaders of today."

Marla Compton, the program coordination for the transgender education and advocacy group GEAR, will also speak.

"We are marching to remember what happened at Stonewall and what we've accomplished since then," Compton said. "I'm going to talk about our need for unity. That's been very important to me ever since I became an advocate for the community."

Other speakers include Omar Lopez who was discharged from the military under "don't ask, don't tell" and local performer Krystal Summers.

At 8:45 p.m., a candlelight vigil will feature vocalist Angela Rains. Cates called her a straight ally, mother of two and proud supporter.

Spencer Young will speak during the vigil. He is a Tyler-area student who performed in the recent, controversial production of "The Laramie Project."

Cates said he expects the rally to end by 9:30 p.m. ■



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AIDS organizations mark HIV Testing Day

New report from CDC says most recent data shows that MSM continue to make up the largest percentage of new infections

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

AIDS service organizations across the Metroplex are offering free HIV testing over the next week, leading up to National HIV Testing Day on Sunday, June 27.

The Nelson-Tebedo Clinic is offering free testing Monday through Friday, June 21-25, Monday-Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from noon to 7 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the clinic on Cedar Springs. On June 27, testing will be available free at JR.'s Bar and Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

No appointments are necessary. Rapid HIV testing results will be available within an hour.

Last year on National HIV Testing Day, 213 people came to Nelson-Tebedo to be tested, clinic officials said.

In Collin County, free testing will be available on the Springcreek Campus of Collin County Community College on June 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AIDS Arms will offer free testing at their office in Oak Cliff on Saturday, June 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are located at 219 Sunset Avenue, Suite 116-A.

"What we're wanting to do is focus heavily on our area in Oak Cliff that's heavily Latino-American who walk into our office on a regular basis," said Darriane Martin of AIDS Arms.

They will distribute fliers along Jefferson Boulevard and in Wynnewood Village before the event and "put people on the streets" the day of testing.

"We want you to get tested, know your status, talk to us and even get some condoms if you need them," she said.

The same day, they are partnering in the National HIV Testing Day 5K walk/run at 8 a.m. in Reverchon Park in Oak Lawn.

AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth will have extended hours at their office at 400 North Beach St. in Fort Worth on June 29. They will also participate in the third annual Neighborhood Connect at 4300 Eastland St. in Fort Worth

on June 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This week, the Center for Disease Control released its 20th annual HIV Surveillance Report noting almost 42,500 new diagnoses of HIV or AIDS in 2007 — the latest year for which statistics were available.

Of new cases reported, 53 percent could be traced to male-to-male sexual contact. More than 30 percent were the result of high-risk heterosexual contact. The rest were connected to intravenous drug use or a combination of risk factors.

More than 21,500 of new cases were among African-Americans. Whites made up the next largest group with more than 12,500 new infections.

Though Texas is the second most populous state, it ranks fourth in new diagnoses as well as in cumulative cases since the beginning of the epidemic. Since the early 1980s, 72,828 people have been identified as HIV-positive.

At the end of 2007, the CDC estimated 468,578 persons were living with HIV/AIDS and that estimate 14,561 people with AIDS died that same year. The total number of deaths related to the virus since the beginning of the epidemic is 583,298. ■

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Deaths

Robert Wade Brown, 64, formerly of Austin, died at his family home in Texarkana, Texas, on June 11, following a brief illness.

Brown was born and grew up in Texarkana where he graduated from Texas High School before attending college first at Texarkana College and later at the University of Texas at Austin.

From his earliest days, he was passionate about politics and government, and he was a tireless supporter of candidates and causes in which he believed.

During his college years and afterward, Brown spent countless hours working to make government open, honest and accountable.

After working in politics for several years, including the Connally for President campaign, Brown turned his political attention toward returning the Republican Party to its historical support of individual rights and liberties.

He formed one of the first gay Republican organizations in the 1980s, was one of the co-founders of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas and was a strong supporter of the pro-choice movement.

In recent years, believing the Republican Party to be lost to the control of fanatics and sycophants, Brown devoted his time and talent to strengthening his local Democratic Party.

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Though he considered himself a political independent, Brown was an active volunteer for Barack Obama's election in 2008.

Among the things he considered his greatest moments were having the Capital City Men's Chorus sing at the opening of the 1990 Travis County Republican Party convention, where the delegates passed the Texas GOP's first — and only — countywide pro-LGBT equality platform; helping unseat Texas GOP Party Chairman Fred Meyer after Meyer reversed his support for inclusion and backed the party's anti-gay platform; and arranging a broad-based coalition of Republican groups to convince Williamson County officials to reverse their votes against providing tax breaks to Apple Computer because of Apple's domestic partner policies.

Brown also had a beautiful tenor voice that he enjoyed using in the Capital City Men's Chorus and the Grace United Methodist Church choir.

Professionally, he owned Robert Wade Brown and Associates, a telecommunications consulting firm.

His clients included AIDS Services of Austin and the American Heart Association, where he served for almost 30 years.

Brown's brilliant mind, sharp wit, love of good food and loyal friendship will be deeply missed. He truly left a mark on the world, and did all he could to make it a better place.

Brown was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by many friends and a legacy of fighting for integrity, honesty, equality and a better world.

A memorial service will be held at Grace United Methodist Church, 205 East Monroe in Austin, at 11 a.m. on Aug. 7.

Bennie "Ben" Aguilar, aka Clorritta Jay,



48, died Friday, June 4 at Parkland Memorial Hospital following a brief illness.

Aguilar was a 17-year staff member of



the Hidden Door who will be remembered as a fun-loving, caring man who raised an untold amount of money for various GLBT charities through his persona as Corritta Jay, a former Miss Leo.

Aguilar was laid to rest next to his mother in McCamey, Texas, his boyhood home. He is survived in Dallas by his longest, dearest best friend, Michael Schuessler, and a host of other friends.

His friends and coworkers have invited everyone to attend a Fun Raiser show in his honor on Friday, June 18, at 8 p.m. at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St.

The event will be hosted by Messy Panocha.

In addition, a memorial service will be held at the Hidden Door from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 19. •

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Grand Marshals

From Page 8

year and ruin the chance of possibly honoring Patti for her contributions in years to come," he said.

Moore said being chosen as grand marshal was an amazing honor — and a big surprise.

"It hasn't really sunk in with me yet that anybody thinks I deserve something like this. I keep expecting them to call back and say they were just joking," Moore said.

"It really means a lot to be chosen for this. I do the work I do because I feel like it needs to be done, and because I like doing it. Getting this honor is sort of like getting paid for doing something you love doing. It's a recognition that I am a valued member of this community," she said.

Lewis was "a unanimous choice, immediately," Doughman said. "In fact, it really baffled everyone to realize that Paul had never been grand marshal."

Lewis was "always been involved in planning the parade" and with other Tavern Guild projects during his years with Caven Enterprises, and even since his retirement, Doughman said.

"He still heads up the Holiday Gift Project, and he still goes down every parade day to the intersection at Wycliff and Cedar Springs to kick off the parade," Doughman said. "He may not be as hands-on as he once was, but he is still involved. It was an easy decision to elect him as grand marshal."

Lewis said this week being named grand marshal is "one of the best things that has happened to me. It is truly pleasing, truly an honor."

Lewis said he moved to Dallas in 1969. He went to work for Caven Enterprises the following year, and stayed there 27 years.

He served on the board of Oak Lawn Counseling Services and the board of Dallas Tavern Guild. He was coordinator of the annual Pride parade and still serves as coordinator of the Tavern Guild's PWA Holiday Gift Project. He also hosts Daire Center dinners and outings at his home.

Lewis has lived with Kenneth Jones for the last 20 years.

Moore said her first real involvement with Dallas' LGBT community came in the early 1990s when she helped organize National Coming Out Day events. She also works with the Human



HOPEFUL | Dallas Tavern Guild officials are in negotiations to bring Houston's lesbian mayor, Annise Parker, to town to be honorary grand marshal of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

Rights Campaign and has served on the organization's national board of governors, helping establish HRC's grassroots presence in Dallas.

In 2005, Moore said, she moved into the political realm through her work with Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Other parade plans

Doughman said that other plans for the September parade are also moving forward, and that he hopes soon to be able to announce openly lesbian Houston Mayor Annise Parker as the parade's honorary grand marshal.

"We are in negotiations right now to invite Annise Parker to be honorary grand marshal. It's looking very positive, and she would be a terrific representative for our parade," he said. "She has been very successful as mayor of Houston and is highly popular there. Even the conservatives in

Houston have conceded that she is doing a great job."

Parker would bring "a high degree of interest" as grand marshal, and as a speaker at the VIP reception that weekend and as a speaker at the Festival in Lee Park afterward, he said.

Local government officials will also be featured, including new Dallas Police Chief David Brown, who will be appearing for the first time.

Doughman noted that the Tavern Guild is "still operating under a fairly constrained budget" in organizing the parade, due to the ongoing economic downturn.

"The costs of putting the parade on have not gone down, and sponsorships are still a little harder to come by than they were in years past," he said. "So we are being very careful. We want to make sure at the end of the year we have enough to pay the bills, to give money to our beneficiary and to run the Tavern Guild throughout the year. The parade is the only real income the Tavern Guild has, and we have to make sure to set aside to keep it afloat."

In 2009, a confluence of fortunate coincidences allowed the Tavern Guild to have longtime, high-profile activists Cleve Jones and Larry Kramer. There is the possibility that the Tavern Guild might be able to bring in a celebrity guest or two this year, as well. But celebrities, he said, are not what make the parade.

"And we don't need to pay to bring in musicians or bands. We have outstanding musicians and bands already right here," he added.

But there is one big announcement Doughman said he is ready to make: Food services during the Festival in Lee Park this year will be handled exclusively by Brinker, the parent company for restaurant chains On The Border, Chili's and Maggiano's.

"Brinker had a small booth at the park last year as a kind of test run, to see how it would work out. They really enjoyed the event, and they saw the potential for them in it. So they made us a proposal, saying they would like to handle all the food this year," Doughman said.

"We really liked the idea of having these recognizable brands out there for the food. We think it is a real step up," he said. "We think they will do very well, and on top of that, they have agreed to give us a portion of their proceeds to give back to our beneficiary." ■

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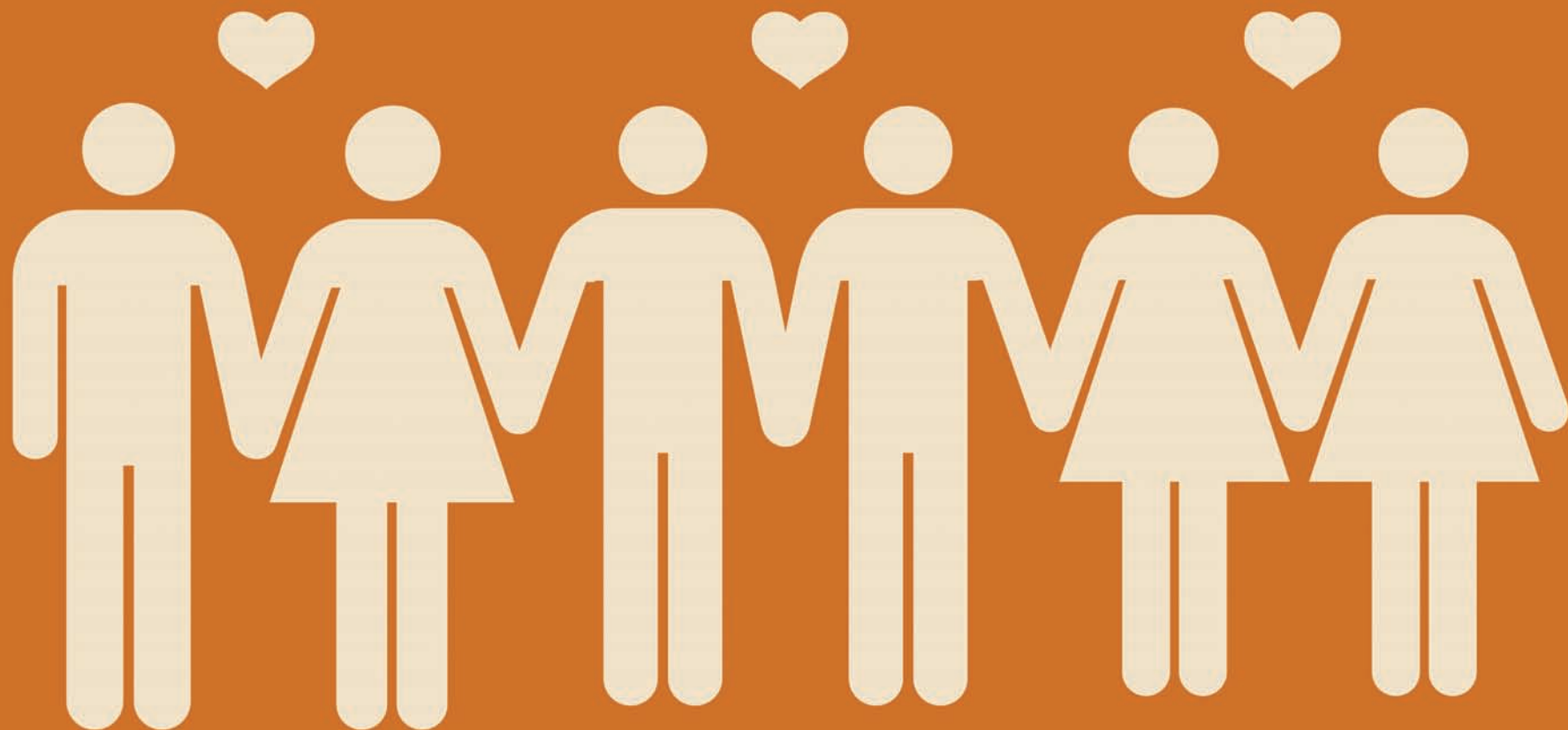
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'TOTWK': Exploitive or empowering?



THE PROTESTERS | Among those opposing 'TOTWK' are, from left, Pamela Curry, Kelli Busey and Joanna Leverette. (Tammie Nash/Dallas Voice)



THE SUPPORTERS | Among those supporting the film are, from left, Tori Van Fleet, Maeve O'Connor and Winter Mullenix. (Tammie Nash/Dallas Voice)

8 North Texas trans women tell how they feel about Israel Luna's controversial film, and why

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Dallas filmmaker Israel Luna's latest effort, "Ticked-Off Trannies With Knives," has made headlines and stirred controversy across the country, from the Tribeca Film Festival in New York in May, to the Seattle International Film Festival last weekend, with a stop in between at Fort Worth's Q Cinema Film Festival earlier this month.

Luna himself has described the movie as a "grindhouse transploitation comedy," an homage to the uber-violent revenge fantasy movies of the 1970s like "I Spit on Your Grave."

But at the same time, he has said, there is a serious message at its heart, a message about the epidemic of violence and hate that is claiming the lives of transgender women and men.

Luna has said he hopes that while people might walk into the theater to be entertained by a dark comedy, they will walk out with a better understanding of the potential violence trans women face every day. He has said he hopes that the movie will focus public attention on that violence, and in doing so, help bring an end to it.

But for many in the trans community, Luna's movie is part of the problem instead of part of the solution.

The protesters

Kelli Busey with Dallas Transgender Advocates and Allies is one of the most outspoken opponents of "TOTWK," promoting protests in New York and Seattle when the film screened there, and organizing the protest held outside Fort Worth's Rose Marine Theater when it screened there as part of the Q Cinema festival.

"The title, the content, the whole concept of this

movie is unacceptable," she said, adding that she views Luna as a misogynist who is expressing his disdain for and underlying anger toward trans women through his film.

Busey compared "TOTWK" with the June, 2009, murder of Neda Agha-Soltan, a 26-year-old woman who was shot in the streets of Tehran during protests over Iran's controversial presidential election. Video of her death captured international attention, making Soltan a rallying point for the reformist movement in Iran.

"That woman was murdered by a man, a man who wanted to kill a movement with a bullet through the heart," Busey said. Luna, she added, was trying to kill the trans movement with "a shot through the heart" in the form of his movie.

"Why would anyone think that transwomen being murdered [for laughs in a movie] is acceptable?" Busey said. "It's not funny. It's not comical. It's not humorous. Israel Luna is a misogynist who hates trans women, and making a film where trans women are parodied by drag queens is his only outlet for his anger."

Busey does not include drag queens — cisgendered men who live as men but dress in drag and perform for audiences for pay — under the transgender umbrella.

However, using the broader definition of transgender accepted by others interviewed for this article, all of the actors portraying trans women in "TOTWK" are transgender. At least two of them — Krystal Summers as Bubbles Cliquot and Erica Andrews as Emma Grashun — are transsexuals.

Busey also has condemned the use of the word "tranny" in the film's title, saying that Luna took a word that trans women often used affectionately between themselves and turning it into something demeaning and insulting.

"The word 'tranny' has always been owned by the transgender community. We owned it. But now it's become a perjorative. And gay men and lesbians have done that to us," Busey said.

For other local trans women who oppose the film, more problematic was the fact that the trans

characters all fit what they call an insulting stereotype — that all trans women work as performers — and that trans people are likely to "snap" and become violent when provoked.

"Why villainize trans people more when we are already villainized every day in society?" said a woman who asked to be identified only as Stacy. "Imagine waking up every day and not knowing how people are going to treat you. And this movie only promotes the stereotypes that cause the prejudice. People already think the only thing trans people are good for is entertaining them in the clubs. It puts trans people in a purely comical light."

Joanna Leverette agreed. "I like to work and have a job that doesn't require me to lay on my back or dance for people to make a living," she said. "Trans people have a hard enough time already. It's a grindhouse film, fine. But you can make a grindhouse movie that doesn't portray [trans women] as being stupid or silly or only capable of being performers."

None of the four women interviewed for this article who oppose Luna's film have seen it, and they all said that they have no intention of watching it.

"From watching the trailers, I think it's just too comical for the topic [of anti-trans violence] for me to even think about going to see it," said Leverette.

For longtime activist Pamela Curry, the idea of dealing with anti-trans violence through the medium of a grindhouse film at all is problematic.

"I'm not going to watch it, ever," Curry said. "It's about the darkness. Why would I pay to see a movie about darkness when I have to see it all the time in real life? It's like those violent video games that depersonalize violence. I don't need to see that darkness. It's not funny."

For Busey, seeing the film is not necessary to oppose it. "Do you actually have to go to Dachau to know that Jews were murdered there?" she said, adding that as a survivor of violence, just watching the trailers for the film made her physically ill.

"I did actually manage to finally watch the trailer. [But when it came to the scene of an attacker holding

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TRANS WOMEN TALK

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a baseball bat and standing over a trans woman], I just got sick to my stomach," Busey said. "The man standing over me had a metal pipe, not a baseball bat, but he had that same look in his eye. It was too much. It just came too close."

The graphic violence and what she sees as the implied message that people should answer violence with violence also offends Busey's moral sensibilities, she said.

"I am a Christian, and I think that violence is never right. I firmly believe in defending yourself, but the idea of getting revenge that way is wrong. And you're going to give that message to the children out there, that if they face violence they should react with violence.

"The whole message is wrong. Dancing suggestively for people in clubs, drinking, drugging — those things are almost always involved in instances of anti-transgender violence. This is what we need to come out of if we are going to empower transgender people," she said.

But for both Busey and Curry, Luna's greatest transgression was using the names of actual transgender murder victims, including Angie Zapata, in an early trailer promoting the film.

"That's what really inflamed my anger" against the film, Busey said.

She said that some 160 trans people have been murdered since Luna first announced his plans to make "TOTWK" in January 2009. And she said she believes Luna bears at least some responsibility for those deaths because, she said, his film promotes anti-trans violence.

Although Luna removed the names of trans murder victims from his trailer before the movie premiered, due to complaints from the trans community, "He still frames this movie as a tribute [to victims of anti-trans violence]. But he takes no social responsibility for promoting that violence," she said.

"He's making money on this, making money off their deaths. He's greedy," Busey charged. "If he wants to prove he's sincere, then let him take all the profits from this movie — all the profits, not a percentage — and contribute that money to a trans organization."

Curry agreed. "If he really meant this as a tribute, he would have gotten permission to use those names before he did it," she said. "The organizers in general of Transgender Day of Remembrance [an annual event commemorating transgender victims of violence during which those killed in the past 12 months are read aloud] are against this film, against using the names of our dead that way."

Leverette added, "If you want to honor those people, then make a serious movie, not a grind-house comedy."

During the protest outside the theater when "TOTWK" was screened as part of the Q Cinema film festival, when Busey and others drew chalk outlines on the sidewalk and labeled them with the names of murdered trans women, other trans people attending the screening protested.

It was, they said, no more permissible for the protesters to use the names of the dead than it was for Luna to include them in his trailer.

But, Curry said, there is a difference: "We are not using their names to try and make a profit. Israel Luna was."

The supporters

Marla Compton agreed that Luna was wrong to include the names of murder victims in his original trailer. "But he has removed them since getting complaints about it," she said. "Including them in the first place might have been ignorance on his part. But he has been educated, and he did the right thing and removed the names."

Compton — who stressed that she was speaking as an individual and not as representative of Resource Center of Dallas and its Gender Education Advocacy and Resources program, with which she is affiliated — went to see "TOTWK" during Q Cinema, and "I honestly enjoyed it. I didn't find it offensive in the least.

"It was entertaining, and that's what I go to the movies for, to be entertained. I didn't go to be empowered or anything like that. I went to support Israel and to enjoy the movie," Compton said.

Her problems, she continued, are "with all the controversy around this and the issues of freedom of speech and expression. I endorse Israel's right to make the film, and I endorse people's right to protest it if they want. We in the transgender community are the epitome of self-expression. We take what's in our hearts and put it out there for the world to see, 24-7. So as advocates for self-expression for ourselves, we should defend everyone's right to self-expression, even if we disagree with them."

Compton continued, "I decided to get involved when I started seeing all the hypocrisy and the leap-frog logic [on the part of the protesters]. I am sorry, but that kind of thing is far more damaging to the trans community than any movie could ever be."

"Leap-frog logic," she said, was using the list of names of murder victims from Transgender Day of Remembrance and "trying to tie that to this film, to say this film caused those deaths. Come on, James Bond movies are more believable, more realistic than Israel's movie. Nobody is going watch this movie and walk out of the theater saying, 'Oh, that's what all transgender people are like.' It's a fantasy. It's silly. It's supposed to be silly."

Compton said she went to see "TOTWK" with a group of other trans women, and all of them, she said, enjoyed the movie.

"There are some very funny parts of the movie. There were parts where I laughed so hard, I choked on my water," she said. "There are funny parts, and there are some very tragic parts. It's an emotional roller-coaster."

Rather than offensive caricatures, Compton said she felt the characters were well written and well acted within the structure of a movie in the grind-house genre.

"I don't think it makes fun of us [as trans women] at all. We laugh with the characters, not at them," she said. "I thought the way he portrayed the violence against trans women was very well done. For me, porn movies about 'shemales' and 'chicks with dicks' are far more offensive than

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Use

KALETRA® is a prescription anti-HIV-1 medicine called a protease inhibitor that contains lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is used with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to increase the chance of treatment response in people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. It is not known if KALETRA is safe and effective in children under 14 days old.

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Do not take KALETRA® if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including lopinavir or ritonavir. Do not take KALETRA with certain medicines, as they can cause serious problems, death, or make KALETRA less effective against HIV. Some patients taking KALETRA can develop inflammation of the pancreas and liver problems, which can cause death. Patients may develop changes in heart rhythm, large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol, diabetes, high blood sugar, changes in body fat, and/or increased bleeding in people with hemophilia. Some patients may develop signs and symptoms of serious infections they already have after starting anti-HIV medicines.

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Read the Medication Guide that comes with KALETRA 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 doctor about your medical condition or treatment. You and your doctor should talk about your treatment with KALETRA before you start taking it and at regular check-ups. You should stay under your doctor's care when taking KALETRA.

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

KALETRA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Interactions with other medicines.** It is important to know the **medicines that should not be taken with KALETRA.** Read the section "What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?"
- **Changes in your heart rhythm and the electrical activity of your heart.** These changes may be seen on an EKG (electrocardiogram) and can lead to serious heart problems. Your risk for these problems may be higher if you:
 - already have a history of abnormal heart rhythm or other types of heart disease.
 - take other medicines that can affect your heart rhythm while you take KALETRA.

Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms while taking KALETRA:

- dizziness
- lightheadedness
- fainting
- sensation of abnormal heartbeats

See the section below "What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?" for more information about serious side effects.

What is KALETRA?

KALETRA is a prescription anti-HIV medicine that contains two medicines: lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is called a protease inhibitor that is used with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

It is not known if KALETRA is safe and effective in children under 14 days old.

Who should not take KALETRA?

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please see "**Can I take other medicines with KALETRA?**" and **consult with your doctor about all other medicines you take.**
- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir and lopinavir.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

KALETRA may not be right for you.

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have any heart problems, including if you have a condition called Congenital Long QT Syndrome.
- have liver problems, including Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C.
- have diabetes.
- have hemophilia. People who take KALETRA may have increased bleeding.
- have low potassium in your blood.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if KALETRA will harm your unborn baby. Birth control pills or patches may not work as well while you take KALETRA. To prevent pregnancy while taking KALETRA, women who take birth control pills or use estrogen patch for birth control should either use a different type of birth control or an extra form of birth control. Talk to your doctor about how to prevent pregnancy while taking KALETRA.
- take KALETRA during pregnancy, talk with your doctor about how you can take part in an antiretroviral pregnancy registry. The purpose of the pregnancy registry is to follow the health of you and your baby.

- are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV-1. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby while taking KALETRA, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV-1, there is a chance that HIV-1 can be passed to your baby through your breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Many medicines interact with KALETRA. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your doctor or pharmacist. Your doctor can tell you if it is safe to take KALETRA with other medicines. Your doctor may need to change the dose of other medicines while you take KALETRA.

Medicines you should not take with KALETRA.

Serious problems or death can happen if you take these medicines with KALETRA:

- ergot containing medicines, including:
 - ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot, Ergomar, Ergostat, Medihaler Ergotamine, Wigraine, Wigrettes)
 - dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Embolex, Migranal®)
 - ergonovine, ergonovine and methylegonovine (Ergotrate, Methergine), ergotamine and methylegonovine
 - Ergotrate Maleate, methylegonovine maleate (Methergine)
- triazolam (Halcion®), midazolam hydrochloride oral syrup
- pimozide (Orap®)
- the cholesterol lowering medicines lovastatin (Mevacor®) or simvastatin (Zocor®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®) only when used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial

hypertension. (See “Medicines that may need changes” and “What are the possible side effects of Kaletra?” for information about the use of sildenafil for erectile problems.)

- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)

Medicines that you should not take with KALETRA since they may make KALETRA not work as well:

- the herbal supplement St. John’s Wort (*hypericum perforatum*)
- rifampin (Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®)

Medicines that may need changes:

- birth control pills that contain estrogen (“the pill”) or the birth control (contraceptive) patches
- certain cholesterol lowering medicines, such as atorvastatin (Lipitor®) or rosuvastatin (Crestor®)
- certain other antiretroviral medicines, such as efavirenz (Atripla® and Sustiva®), nevirapine (Viramune®), amprenavir (Agenerase®), fosamprenavir calcium (Lexiva®) and nelfinavir (Viracept®)
- anti-seizure medicines, such as phenytoin (Dilantin®) carbamazepine, (Tegretol®), phenobarbital
- medicines for erectile problems, such as sildenafil (Viagra®, Revatio®), tadalafil (Cialis®), or vardenafil (Levitra®)
- medicines for tuberculosis (TB), such as rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- inhaled steroid medicines, such as fluticasone propionate (Flonase®)
- inhaled medicines such as salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol in combination with fluticasone propionate (Advair®). Your doctor may need to change to a different medicine
- medicines for gout, such as colchicine (Colcrys®)
- medicines to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), such as bosentan (Tracleer®) or tadalafil (Adcirca®)

If you are not sure if you are taking a medicine above, ask your doctor.

How should I take KALETRA?

- Take KALETRA every day exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- It is very important to set up a dosing schedule and follow it every day.
- Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- Swallow KALETRA tablets whole. Do not chew, break, or crush KALETRA tablets.
- KALETRA tablets can be taken with or without food.

- If you are taking both Videx® (didanosine) and KALETRA:

- didanosine can be taken at the same time as KALETRA tablets, without food.

- take didanosine either one hour before or two hours after taking KALETRA oral solution.

- Do not miss a dose of KALETRA. This could make the virus harder to treat. If you forget to take KALETRA, take the missed dose right away. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Instead, follow your regular dosing schedule by taking your next dose at its regular time. Do not take more than one dose of KALETRA at one time.

- If you take more than the prescribed dose of KALETRA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

- Take KALETRA oral solution with food to help it work better.

- If KALETRA is being used for your child, tell your doctor if your child’s weight changes.

- KALETRA **should not** be given one time each day in children. When giving KALETRA to your child, give KALETRA exactly as prescribed.

- KALETRA oral solution contains a large amount of alcohol.

- If a young child drinks more than the recommended dose, it could make them sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

- Talk with your doctor if you take or plan to take metronidazole or disulfiram. You can have severe nausea and vomiting if you take these medicines with KALETRA.

- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of KALETRA. The amount of HIV-1 virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may become resistant to KALETRA and become harder to treat.

- KALETRA can be taken with acid reducing agents used for heartburn or reflux such as omeprazole (Prilosec®) and ranitidine (Zantac®) with no dose adjustment.

- KALETRA should not be administered once daily in combination with carbamazepine (Tegretol® and Eptol®), phenobarbital (Luminol®), or phenytoin (Dilantin®).

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection. KALETRA does not stop you from passing HIV infection to others. Do not share needles, other injection equipment or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. 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 KALETRA?

KALETRA can cause serious side effects.

- See “What is the most important information I should know about KALETRA?”

- **Liver problems.** Liver problems, including death, can happen in people who take KALETRA. Blood tests in people who take KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems:

- loss of appetite
- yellow skin and whites of eyes (jaundice)
- dark-colored urine
- pale colored stools, itchy skin
- stomach area (abdominal) pain.

- **Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis).** Some people who take KALETRA get inflammation of the pancreas which may be serious and cause death. You have a higher chance of getting pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain while taking KALETRA. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- **Increases in certain fat (triglycerides and cholesterol) levels in your blood.** Large increases of triglycerides and cholesterol can be seen in blood test results of some people who take KALETRA. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia).** Some people who take protease inhibitors including KALETRA get new or more serious diabetes, or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you notice an increase

in thirst or urinate often while taking KALETRA.

- **Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat in some people who take antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include 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.
- **Increased bleeding for hemophiliacs.** Some people with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors including KALETRA.
- **Increased risk of certain problems when you take medicines used for the treatment of erectile problems such as sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), or vardenafil (Levitra®) with KALETRA:**
 - **low blood pressure.** If you get dizzy or faint, you need to lie down. Tell your doctor if you feel dizzy, or have fainting spells.
 - **vision changes.** Tell your doctor right away if you have vision changes.
 - **penis erection lasting more than 4 hours.** If you are a male and have an erection that lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

Common side effects of KALETRA include:

- diarrhea
- nausea
- stomach area (abdominal) pain
- feeling weak
- vomiting
- headache
- upset stomach

These are not all of the possible side effects of KALETRA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

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 KALETRA?

KALETRA tablets:

- Store KALETRA tablets at room temperature, between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C).
- Do not keep KALETRA tablets out of the container it comes in for longer

than 2 weeks, especially in areas where there is a lot of humidity. Keep the container closed tightly.

KALETRA oral solution:

- Store KALETRA oral solution in a refrigerator, between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). KALETRA oral solution that is kept refrigerated may be used until the expiration date printed on the label.
- KALETRA oral solution that is stored at room temperature (less than 77°F or 25°C) should be used within 2 months.
- Keep KALETRA away from high heat.

Throw away any medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need.

Keep KALETRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about KALETRA

KALETRA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use KALETRA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give KALETRA to other people, even if they have the same condition you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about KALETRA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about KALETRA that is written for health professionals. For more information about KALETRA call 1-800-633-9110 or go to www.KALETRA.com.

What are the ingredients in KALETRA?

Active ingredient: lopinavir and ritonavir
Inactive ingredients:

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KALETRA 100 mg lopinavir and 25 mg ritonavir tablets: copovidone, sorbitan monolaurate, colloidal silicon dioxide,

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Revised: April, 2010

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TRANS WOMEN TALK

From Page 24

'TOTWK' could ever be. If you're going to protest, go protest the porn industry. That makes much more sense."

Maeve O'Connor, Winter Mullenix and Tori Van Fleet were among the trans women who went with Compton to see the film in Fort Worth. O'Connor and Mullenix are both survivors of anti-trans violence.

When "TOTWK" first came out, Van Fleet said she sided with those protesting against it.

"I have never liked the word 'tranny.' And I was upset when I heard the title, so I attacked the film for using that word," she said. "And I was bothered by the idea that it portrayed us as lunatics who go around attacking people."

But then, Van Fleet said, she talked about the film with a friend who suggested that she see the movie for herself before passing judgment.

"I realized that maybe what I was hearing about the movie from other people who hadn't seen it either was actually true. I decided to see it for myself and make up my own mind, instead of letting other people tell me what to think."

The result, she said, was a 180-degree turnaround. Following the screening, Van Fleet stood up during a panel discussion to make a public apology to Luna for her earlier protests.

"Seeing the movie, I understood the context. I realized that 'tranny' really was the only word that worked in that context. It fit," she said. "Yes, the movie was violent. There were parts that really made me squirm. And I laughed and I cried and I got angry. I realized, this is the level of violence that transgender people face every day, and people need to understand that. If this movie helps them understand, then that is fantastic."

O'Connor said she isn't usually a fan of the grindhouse genre, but she went to see the movie because it was about transgender women, and not many movies are. She also wanted to see it because, "as a survivor of a hate crime, as someone who was raped and beaten and left for dead, I wanted to know how the violence in this film was handled. And now, I know it was handled well."

Mullenix said the graphic violence in the film hit very close to home for her, as well. She said she was raped and beaten, and when she reported it to police, "They just laughed. They told me there was no crime, because boys can't be raped."

So when she watched the film, "I had to stop myself from crying at parts of the movie, but by the end of it, I was cheering and applauding. It was nice to see trans women finally standing up for themselves and winning."

O'Connor agreed: "There were parts where I was definitely cheering, celebrating the women having the courage to fight back, celebrating the fact that they weren't defenseless against their attackers. Even though, as a survivor, you might never act on those feelings of wanting revenge, you still have them. You still cheer for the idea of someone winning over the people who want to hurt them."

O'Connor, Van Fleet and Mullenix also condemned what they called the hypocrisy of those who are protesting "TOTWK" without ever having seen it for themselves, and for dismissing the lives of the characters in it and the actors who portrayed

them because they work as showgirls.

"I'm not angry [at those protesting]," O'Connor said. "But I am frustrated. I have reached out to them as a hate crime survivor. I asked them to talk to me. But I got no response. They've got a pre-determined plan of attack, and they are going to stick with that no matter what."

Mullenix said the protesters have "a kind of religious zealotry" and "aren't being logical. They are just angry. We can't educate people with angry voices."

Compton, too, said she is "most disappointed with the name-calling and the childishness. We can't accomplish anything that way."

And they condemned the attacks on Luna.

"I am friends with Israel," Mullenix said. "I know he wants to help trans women. He's not just some random gay guy who decided to make a movie about trans women. He talks to us. He listens. He educates himself."

And Van Fleet added, "And he is bringing to light the issue of violence against trans people. He is making people talk about it. My fiancé saw the movie, and he said it needs to be mainstream so more people will see it, and think about the issue."

Mullenix summed it up: "This is a movie that helps us focus on the fact that we are all humans. It lets us celebrate survival. We are always talking about who's gone; this lets us talk about who survived. Silence on the part of the survivors doesn't help anybody. The dead don't have a voice anymore. It's up to those of us who survived to be their voice. This movie helps us do that." ■

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■ **texasnews**

Pride is flying high in the Texas Panhandle

OUTstanding Amarillo getting set for its annual gay Pride month party; more than 1,000 expected to attend

RENEE BAKER | Contributing Writer
renee@renee-baker.com

AMARILLO — Twenty-six years ago this month in Amarillo, a “heartsick” parent wrote to Ann Landers begging for advice about their daughter, who had just come out as a lesbian.

The parent worried, “Did we raise her wrong?” and “Is it our fault that she is like this?”

They found it impossible to welcome their daughter’s gay lover into the family “as if it was normal.”

Landers replied that no one knows for sure why people are gay, whether nature or nurture, but “unless you accept your daughter ... you will lose her forever.”

It is 2010 now, and we can only hope that whole family is still together — and perhaps celebrating at PRIDEfest in the Texas Panhandle.

The festival takes place Saturday, June 26, at Amarillo’s Thompson Park.

Cyndy Walton, president of OUTstanding Amarillo, said anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 people are expected to attend.

“The event is about celebrating our pride as LGBT folks,” Walton said, “in the middle of town.”

OUTstanding is the primary nonprofit resource organization for the LGBT community in the Texas Panhandle area and is celebrating its 12th anniversary this year.

Instead of having a parade, the organization hosts a family-oriented picnic complete with volleyball tournament, music, vendors and food booths. The Amarillo Metropolitan Community Church will be serving ice cream and setting up a dunking booth.

Walton said, “This is a time of year that we see folks we don’t see at any other time.”

The Pride event, she says, is affirming for the community, and it allows the community as a whole to get to know the city’s LGBT residents, Walton said.

The festival has taken place for 15 to 20 years, according to board members.

And during that time, Walton said, “We have come a long ways, being out, being present.”

Amanda Blackshear of Dallas was surprised that Amarillo had progressed so far as to have a festival. She lived in the Panhandle from 1975 to 1980 and moved to Dallas so she could be openly gay.

PrideFEST 2010



Blackshear reminisced about the gay bars having no signs out front and about having to enter the bars through the back alley.

“Many Amarillo folks are still not out,” she said of friends she talked to during a recent visit to the Panhandle. “But it is good to know that the younger gays aren’t so closeted.”

Sandra Dunn, a board member for OUTstanding, said she is expecting Mayor Debra McCart to attend the festival. The mayor’s office was not available for comment.

Dunn said she expects the event to be peaceful and that it gives her a chance to get outside and be with others like herself.

Several off-duty police officers will be at the event to ensure everyone’s safety, Dunn said, noting that Repent Amarillo, a spiritual warfare group, picketed the PRIDEfest in 2009.

“[While] there are a few people in town who like to cause trouble, for the most part, the community is very accepting, and I’m not aware of a lot of discrimination,” she said.

Dunn said the world is not a scary closet and LGBT people have to learn to believe and be true to themselves.

“The hardest thing is to get over that fear,” she said. “If you get over that, it’s not so bad.” ■

For more information about PRIDEfest, go online to OUTstandingAmarillo.org.

Renee Baker is a freelance writer and can be found online at GenderPower.com.

The lessons of a spiritual journey

As MCC of Greater Dallas prepares to move into its new permanent home, Pastor Colleen Darraugh looks back at the church's path

LISAMARIE MARTINEZ | Contributing Writer
lisamarie1207@yahoo.com

The formation of Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas involved the search for spiritual self-identity, something that many people can relate to.

Now in its seventh year, as the church prepares to move into its new and more permanent home, the pastor, the Rev. Colleen Darraugh, says that her congregation and she herself have gone through many journeys, learning lessons that could apply to almost anyone's life.

History

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
■ **MCCGD**, Page 32



SINGING PRAISES | Pastor Colleen Darraugh, standing, leads the congregation of MCC of Greater Dallas in worship during June 13 services at the church's temporary location. (LisaMarie Martinez/Dallas Voice)

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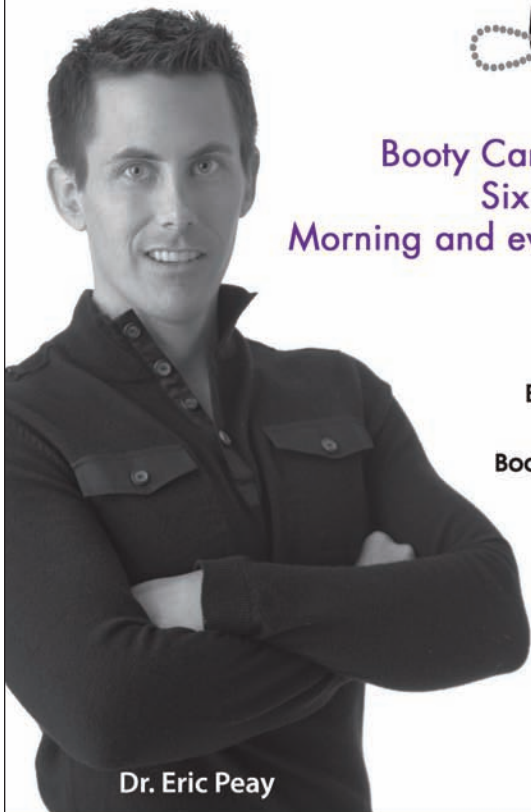


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■ spirituality



TRYING SOMETHING NEW | MCC of Greater Dallas Pastor Colleen Darraugh, left, and her partner Shelley Torres-West worked together to present a service in song and scripture at a recent service. (LisaMarie Martinez/Dallas Voice)

MCCGD

From Page 31

Community Churches was founded in Los Angeles in 1968. A year later, the Dallas MCC was founded.

In the 1990s, Dallas MCC changed its name to Cathedral of Hope, and that congregation later voted to end its affiliation with the MCC denomination.

There was a group of people within the CoH

congregation who wanted to remain a part of MCC. So when the cathedral left MCC, that group left to form a new church, MCC of Greater Dallas.

Since 2003, MCC of Greater Dallas had many temporary homes. The congregation was housed in Hotel Dallas for about a month, then moved to the Weisfeld Center Dallas.

Weisfeld Center hosted a number of other congregations as well, said Darraugh, and often, members of other churches would arrive for their

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■ MCCGD, From Previous Page

services before MCCGD had finished its communion.

So by the fall of 2004, MCCGD had moved again, this time to the Wyndham Dallas North hotel, located by the Galleria mall. The church stayed in that location for a season.

The following year, MCCGD moved again, but continued what Darraugh called its "hotel years" by holding services at the Radisson Hotel at Loop 12 and I-35. MCCGD stayed at that location for more than a year, but it was hectic one. As Darraugh explained, each Sunday after services, church members would load up the church's belongings and take them home.

Then they would turn around and bring it all back the next weekend for the next Sunday's services.

It was, Darraugh said, "much like when the Levites, of ancient Israel, carried the Tabernacle and set it up every time they made camp."

By the spring of 2006, MCCGD had moved again, this time to a space at 2735 Villa Creek Drive.

This new location gave the church a beautiful entry way featuring fountains and ponds — reminders, Darraugh said, of the "living waters" of baptism.

It was a quiet space with a view of trees. Its low ceilings created multimedia challenges, the pastor said, but it had a kitchen and several rooms where the congregation could hold children's church and fellowship, and house church offices.

And it served MCCGD well for more than four years.

But then the economy took a downturn. And with the lease renewal looming, MCCGD officials announced in May that in an effort to be "good stewards of the church's financial resources," the church would again be moving to a new home.

Beginning May 31, the congregation is meeting temporarily at the Holiday Inn Select in North Dallas until its new, permanent facilities are ready.

Although she declined to identify the new location yet, Darraugh said it offers a number of advantages for the congregation, including lower costs.

It is a ground floor location that has its own entrance, so the church can put up signs to let the public know where it is located.

It has high ceilings in the worship area to allow more multimedia opportunities. And the best feature of the new space, Darraugh said, is that it has fully accessible restrooms and its own temperature controls.

Lessons in transitions

Darraugh said that the church has learned many lessons through its many transitions, lessons that allow its members to understand the transitions in their own lives.

She said they learned that there is a time to figure out what to take with them from the past and what to leave behind, and when to shake off the dust of some things.

"Being in transition is no different from the

■ MCCGD, Page 35

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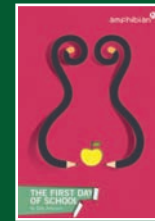


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MCCGD

From Page 33

children of Israel who were in the wilderness for awhile," the pastor said. "Sometimes we talk about being in the wilderness, as if to say we don't know where we're going. But God knows.

"As MCC of Greater Dallas in transition, we don't know the exact date of when we will be in our new place. But we know that God's looking after that and that we will be getting there in the right time," she added. "Transition can allow you a time of rest, to focus on family and community."

Services today

For now, MCCGD is taking a break from some of its usual programming. They are "going back to the basics," Darraugh said, and remembering that, "where there are two or three gathered in God's name, God is present."

She said that the congregation is relying on "God's Holy Spirit" as opposed to all the technology and pretty decorations to make services special.

But that doesn't mean the church is idle as it waits for its new home. Darraugh said MCCGD's main summer mission project is to work on a Habitat for Humanity home, the ground for which was blessed last week.

The style of worship varies from one MCC to the next, and the style at MCCGD includes contemporary praise and worship music, hymns and other creative forms of worship.

"God hears us speak in a lot of different ways, so we like to vary the styles of worship because our congregation comes from a variety of different backgrounds, and could possibly be on a journey of healing from a past spiritual abuse and moving into a healthier relationship with the divine," Darraugh said.

The church held its second Sunday worship services at the temporary location on June 13. The service featured a mini worship concert with Darraugh and her partner, Shelly Torres-West.

Darraugh said it was their first time doing that kind of worship in their church, although they had done it in other churches they had visited.

Torres-West sang songs, and Darraugh wove the preaching and teaching between the songs. It presented a different way for people to interact with the scripture and the teaching, and allowed the music help to settle it into their soul a little deeper.

"Some people will hear the message more so from the music, while others will hear it from the word, or from the combination," Darraugh said. "We just hoped that our approach would allow the spiritual message soak into to people a little more."

Although MCCGD's primary outreach is to the LGBT community, Darraugh said everyone is welcome. The congregation consists of many generations of family, and the style may differ from one week to the next.

"The styles of worship offered are of a variety," Darraugh said. "There will always be singing, prayer, and communion; but it will be served in a variety of ways so that it can touch people from the different traditions and the 'no traditions'

from which they come and help people develop a growing, spiritual relationship with the divine."

The pastor

Darraugh has been the pastor of MCCGD for more than five years, and being a minister is, she said, her life's mission.

"By being a pastor, I help people to serve in the world, love their neighbor, to make moments of heaven on earth," she explained. "In this way, we begin to live the peace that we pray for, to help people grow up in understanding their sacred identity and their giftedness, and to be able to live fuller lives that help not only them, but also help them to help others."

Darraugh is a Canadian immigrant who once served on the staff of Dallas MCC, before it became Cathedral of Hope. After she left the Dallas church, she was pastor of Harvest MCC of Denton for 10 years.

Darraugh said becoming pastor at MCCGD was like coming back to the congregation that first brought her from Canada to Dallas.

"Yes, it's different, but it's the same thread of MCC in Dallas even though it's a different congregation," she said. "There are people in this congregation who were part of MCC of Dallas more than 20 years ago when I first arrived. So the MCC of Greater Dallas is drawing on 40 years of history of MCC of North Texas, in Dallas; it continues to serve the mission.

"Years ago, there were not a lot of affirming congregations, and now there are. Therefore, there a lot more people welcoming the gay and lesbian communities and including them. But there still is a place for us to reclaim, tell, advance, nurture, and build," she said.

Some people, Darraugh said, want to attend a much bigger church with more resources, where they can sit back and be part of the crowd.

But many others, she added, want what a church like MCCGD can offer: "a smaller congregation where you can really get to know people and where people can get to know you."

"Here your gifts have to be unpacked and used. We're hospitable, welcoming and truly caring about people," the pastor said. "It's a praying congregation that has helped one another through some really hard times. It's a church where you are allowed to struggle with your spiritual questions and explore what the traditional and progressive teachings of Christianity have been and are now, and what you believe."

She continued, "We encourage people to come with their questions. This isn't a church that you come to because you got it all figured out. We're on a spiritual journey of asking questions, trying to determine our purpose and meaning in life, seeking to know God better, know ourselves better, really seeking to do the great command of loving God, our neighbor, and ourselves." ■

MCC of Greater Dallas currently meets at the Holiday Inn Select in North Dallas, 2645 LBJ Freeway at I-35. Services are held each Sunday at 10 a.m. No adult Sunday school or children's worship services will be held until the church moves into its new permanent location. For more information, go online to MCCGD.org.



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What's the LGBT status in Congress?

There are 27 LGBT-specific bills in Congress right now, but only a handful stand even a small chance of passage. How much do you know about what's on the table?

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

It's LGBT Pride Month and time to check your LGBT-IQ.

Only one question this year: Besides the measures on the House and Senate Defense authorization bills to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," name the other 25 LGBT-specific bills pending in Congress right now.

ENDA? Yes — the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. That's two: a bill in the House and one in the Senate. Both have had hearings but neither has had a committee vote.

Hate crimes? No — that passed last fall, attached to the Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010. The president signed it into law on Oct. 28.

Repeal DOMA? Yes — that's one bill, in the House, though it isn't sponsored by the most veteran of Congress' three openly gay members and has gone exactly nowhere since it was introduced last September. Not even a hearing. Not likely to go anywhere either, though it has 111 co-sponsors.

Ryan White? No — that's not really an LGBT bill. It's an HIV medical treatment funding bill. But it is of interest to the community and it, too, was signed into law last fall.

Twenty-three more to go...

Give up? Don't feel bad. Most people can't name them. And most of these bills are going nowhere this year anyway.

But for those hoping to refine their LGBT-IQ during the month of June, here's a quick primer, categorized by their proximity to passage:

Poised for passage

• **"Don't ask, don't tell" repeal:** Two individual stand-alone bills (one in the Senate, one in the House) to repeal the military's policy excluding gays were introduced by Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., and Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Penn.

The full House, in considering a defense authorization bill, approved adding an amendment that put the repeal measure into the annual funding bill. The Senate Armed Services Committee put a similar amendment into its defense funding



FIRST VICTORY | President Obama signed the Hate Crimes Act into law last October.

bill and then sent it to the full Senate.

Now, all eyes are on the full Senate, where Republicans are expected to try and sabotage the repeal measure or filibuster the entire funding bill. Then, the funding bill will go to a House-Senate conference committee where members must decide on one final version.

DADT repeal could be won or lost anywhere along the line, and most likely before August. But the way the measure is now written — requiring Pentagon certification before it can be implemented — it could be a failed effort even if it does pass Congress.

On the verge of a vote

• **Employment Non-Discrimination (ENDA):** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., promises the House bill, to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, will get a vote this year. But she won't move the bill until DADT (see above) passes, and she can't promise ENDA will pass.

Rumblings of conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans in the press suggest some level of uneasiness around the inclusion of gender identity.

Republicans are expected to try and kill the bill,

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sponsored by gay Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., with scare tactics — like saying it will lead to cross-dressing teachers for kindergartners and men with beards wearing dresses to gain access to women's restrooms.

Meanwhile, there are no promises in the Senate, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., did not even mention the bill, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., at the top of this month when outlining the work ahead.

• **Domestic Partner Benefits/Obligations (aka DPBO):** Both the Senate bill, sponsored by Lieberman, and the House bill, sponsored by lesbian Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., have passed committee and both have gotten two public nods from President Obama.

The House bill has 140 co-sponsors; the Senate one has 31. But they're gathering dust waiting for their moments on the floor for two reasons: 1. The health care reform bill overshadowed everything until March of this year, and 2. There are unresolved issues about how to pay for the bills.

Until that happens — and it might — they'll continue waiting in the wings while time runs out on this Congressional session.

Going nowhere this session

- **Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries:**

This bill, introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wisc., and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., has the same "pay for" issues as the Domestic Partner bill. But it has only 44 co-sponsors in the House and 17 in the Senate, and neither has passed committee.

• **Respect for Marriage:** Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., is the only legislator in Congress to introduce a bill this session to seek repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The bill has a respectable 111 co-sponsors but is not as high a priority as DADT and ENDA or even DPBO among LGBT activists in Washington.

Plus, politically, it's a tougher sell in a mid-term election year at a time when the latest poll (Gallup, in May) showed only 44 percent of the American public thinks gays should be able to marry.

There is no Senate counterpart and the bill has seen no action since being introduced last September.

• **Every Child Deserves a Family:** This bill, from Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., seeks to end discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in the adoption of a child.

It has 26 co-sponsors, no Senate counterpart, and has seen no action since being introduced last October.

• **Family Leave Insurance:** This bill, also introduced by Rep. Stark, would expand the existing federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in

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NO PROMISES | Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid did not even mention ENDA earlier this month when outlining priorities for the Senate.

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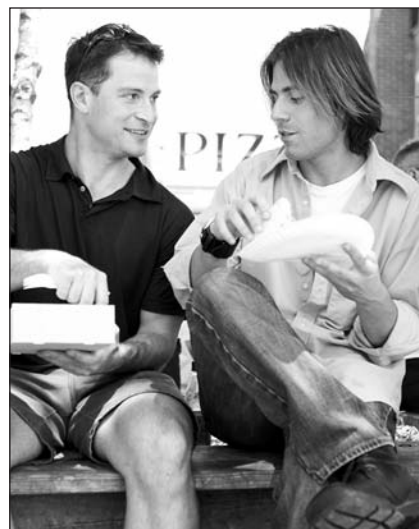


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a number of ways and, of particular interest to the LGBT community, enable employees to take leave in order to care for a domestic partner or child of a domestic partner.

The bill has only 35 co-sponsors, has no counterpart in the Senate, and has seen no action since being introduced in March of last year.

• **Family and Medical Leave Inclusion:** This bill, introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., along with the three openly gay representatives in Congress, would also amend the FMLA but only for the purpose of enabling gay employees to take leave to care for "a same-sex spouse, domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling or grandparent who has a serious health condition."

The bill has 29 co-sponsors, no counterpart in the Senate, and has seen no action since being introduced in April of last year.

• **Uniting American Families:** With immigration being such a hot issue these days, one would expect this legislation — introduced by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Rep. Nadler — to have seen some action, but it hasn't.

The House bill has 124 co-sponsors; the Senate bill 23.

Leahy, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, held a hearing last June, and there was talk of including the measure as part of an overall immigration reform bill. But so far, nothing else has



FIGHTING FOR THE STUDENTS | Gay Congressman Jared Polis has introduced a bill to protect LGBT students from discrimination. But prospects for its passage don't look good.

happened.

• **Equal Rights for Health Care:** This bill, introduced by Rep. Laura Richardson, D-Calif., would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and other characteristics in the delivery of health care services or federally funded health research.

It has only 13 co-sponsors, no Senate counterpart, and has gone nowhere since being introduced in June 2009.

• **Freedom from Discrimination in Credit:** Rep. Frank chairs the powerful House Financial Services Committee where this bill has sat quietly since being introduced by Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., with Frank and 75 co-sponsors.

It would amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in credit services.

There is no Senate counterpart and no movement in sight.

• **Student Non-Discrimination:** Rookie Congressman Jared Polis, D-Colo., who is both openly gay and a staunch advocate for education, introduced this bill in January 2010, seeking to prohibit discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools.

It has the support of 111 co-sponsors, including Reps. Frank and Baldwin. Its counterpart in the Senate was introduced by rookie Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., and has 23 co-sponsors.

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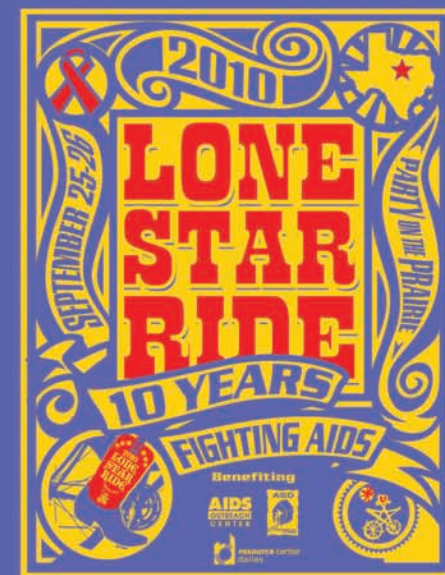
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PROTECTIONS FOR COUPLES | Lesbian Rep. Tammy Baldwin sponsored the Domestic Partners Benefits/Obligations Act in the House.

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But neither bill is expected to see action this year.

• **Safe Schools Improvement:** Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., introduced this bill in the House to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to collect data on and move to prevent bullying. It specifically identifies one form of bullying as targeting students based on real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. And it has 113 co-sponsors.

There was a push to include this as part of the Obama administration's proposed reform of No Child Left Behind, but the proposal submitted by the president did not include it.

Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., introduced a similar bill in April, but it has only five co-sponsors.

There is no Senate counterpart and no action likely.

• **Health Equity and Accountability:** This bill, introduced by Rep. Donna Christiansen, D-Virgin Islands, seeks to have the Department of Health and Human Services collect data on health matters related to sexual orientation and a number of other characteristics, but it calls on HHS to develop a plan to eliminate disparities in health care on the basis of race, ethnicity, and primary language only.

It has 58 co-sponsors (including Rep. Baldwin),

no Senate counterpart, and has seen no action since its introduction in June 2009.

• **Equal Access to COBRA:** COBRA, or the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, is a federal law that enables employees to keep their existing job-related health insurance coverage for themselves and their families for 18 months after they've lost their jobs.

This bill, from Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., would enable gay employees to continue their coverage for their domestic partners.

The bill, introduced in March 2010, has no co-sponsors, no counterpart in the House, and no prospects for this session of Congress.

• **Housing (three identical bills):** In March, three legislators introduced three identical bills to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in real estate transactions and brokerage services.

The Fair and Inclusive Housing Rights from Rep. Nadler has two co-sponsors; the Housing Nondiscrimination Act from Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., has none, and the Housing Non-Discrimination Act from Rep. Joe Sestak, D-Penn., also has no co-sponsors.

Keep in mind: This primer expires when the 111th Congressional session adjourns at the end of this year. All bills left pending must be reintroduced and start down the political passage tracks all over again, from the top.

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

In David Webb's Rare Reporter column, "Have we made the face of AIDS too pretty?" in the June 11 issue of Dallas Voice, the name of AIDS Arms' recent fundraising event was listed as Casino Cool Droll. The actual name of the event, which kicked off the 2010 LifeBark event, was Canine Cool Droll.

HIV testing: Why not now?

It's easy to come up with plenty of reasons not to get tested now for HIV. But none of those reasons can outweigh the reasons you should get tested as soon as possible

Why wouldn't you get an HIV test if one was offered to you, free of charge, with results in under half-an-hour? Is there anything stopping you? Not enough free time? Don't think you have any risk? Never had an HIV test?

Is it the fear of receiving a positive result? Or, is it the fear of knowing, positive or negative, you may have to face your own actions since your last test?

Consider these numbers from the Texas Department of State Health Services from 2008, the last year for which data was available: 63,019 people in Texas were living with HIV/AIDS.

That's one in 387 people.

The rate of African-Americans living with HIV/AIDS is more than five times that of Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS and four times that of Caucasians.

And 54 percent of the new HIV/AIDS cases were among men who have sex with men, while just over one in five were through heterosexual contact. Another 15 percent were through the use of injection drugs.

If you combine the numbers for Dallas, Tarrant, and Denton counties, three out of 10 of the people living with HIV/AIDS in Texas call North Texas home.

Thanks to technology and social media, it has become easier than ever to meet people for friendships, relationships or casual sex. You can even cruise from your cell phone or mobile de-

vice wherever you are.

Self-esteem and self-respect issues can sometimes play a role, leading you to trust before you think.

If you wouldn't trust your sexual partner with your ATM card, because you may not know them that well, shouldn't you think twice before you automatically trust their negative status or last testing date results? The person who thinks they are negative, but is positive, is at the height of being infectious to others.

Trust is a two-way street. If you feel you're doing more of the trusting and less of the second-thinking, slow things down and protect yourself. You have the right to say no.

It's been nearly 30 years since health professionals meeting in Dallas identified a mysterious disease they first labeled GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency), and later, more appropriately HIV/AIDS.

There is still no cure for HIV. But a positive test result doesn't mean that someone who is infected will become sick and die.

Early detection and medical care remains the key to long-term survival. New drugs are constantly being developed to fight the HIV virus in the body, and in turn, help people remain healthy.

However, that doesn't mean you should "risk it anyway" because you're afraid to make it an issue with your sexual partner. You should never let someone pressure you into risking your health and your future.

Who should get an HIV test? If you're sexually active and not in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship (keywords: mutually

monogamous), or if you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, you should get regular HIV testing:

- Have you had unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex, multiple partners or anonymous partners?
- Have you exchanged sex for drugs or money?
- Have you injected drugs or steroids or shared equipment (such as needles, syringes, works) with others?
- Have you been diagnosed with or treated for hepatitis, tuberculosis or a sexually transmitted disease like gonorrhea or syphilis?
- Have you had unprotected sex with someone who could answer yes to any of the above questions?

By 2012, it's estimated there will be more than 25,200 people living with HIV/AIDS in Dallas County alone, up from more than 14,700 in 2007.



Bret Camp
Special Contributor

You don't need an appointment to get tested. Just show up at Nelson-Tebedo Clinic Monday through Friday, June 21-25. You can also get a free syphilis test at the same time.

If those days aren't convenient, we're holding a special National HIV/AIDS Testing Day screening the afternoon of Sunday, June 27 at JR.'s (thank you, Caven Enterprises!).

Respecting yourself and protecting yourself starts with facing your fears and understanding why you're afraid of taking that free HIV test. Overcoming that fear and uncertainty is your first step toward taking control of your sexual health, and your future.

Bret Camp is associate executive director of health and medical services for Resource Center Dallas. Contact him at bcamp@rcdallas.org.

Remembering the 'other' Stonewall

Take a moment and remember the riots, Compton's Cafe, and the trans women, drag queens, butch lesbians and leatherpeople who weren't afraid to fight back

As we celebrate this year's National Gay Pride Month, we will talk a lot about the Stonewall Riot back in 1969 and the birth of the Gay Pride movement.

The Stonewall Inn, a Mafia-owned bar in New York City's Greenwich Village, had no liquor license and no running water behind the bar. What it did have was a dance floor and a tolerance for trans women — and that made it a popular place.

Police regularly shook down patrons, forcing them to be inspected to see if they were men or women. Those who were men dressed as women were arrested and the bar's liquor was seized.

This was a regular occurrence at the place — until one night, things went wrong.

Followers of the movement will correctly give some of the credit for the original rebellion to the feisty trans woman who bashed an arresting policeman over the head to the delight of the crowd.

■ **FLAGGING LEFT**, Next Page

When was the last time you were tested for HIV?

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How important is the Prop 8 trial ruling to LGBT rights?

- Very: 76 percent
- Moderately: 11 percent
- Not at all: 7 percent
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130 Votes cast

■ **FLAGGING LEFT**, From Previous Page

Another provocation came from a very butch lesbian who complained that the handcuffs were too tight. When police clubbed her, the gathering crowd outside reacted. The details are sketchy, but it set off several nights of rioting in the neighborhood — and the term “gay power” was born.

What gets forgotten in the history of the LGBT rights movement is a similar event that happened three years earlier in San Francisco.



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

Gene Compton’s Cafeteria in the Tenderloin area of San Francisco was open 24 hours, and late nights it became a place where transgender folk gathered.

At that time crossdressing was illegal and was not welcomed in gay bars in the city. One hot night in August, a group of these patrons got a bit rowdy, and management at Gene Compton’s called the police.

When the cops arrived, they assumed the troublemakers would cooperate and be easy to handle. That was not the case. As a policeman began roughing up one trans woman, she threw coffee in his face. That was all it took to push the crowd to the boiling point.

Chairs were thrown through the windows and a riot began in full force.

The following night, the trans women and gay men returned to picket the business. Their signs bore colorful slogans like, “DRAG is out in the OPEN,” and their boisterous and angry protest soon turned violent again. The newly installed plate glass windows were smashed again.

The riots at Compton’s were a watermark in transgender rights in San Francisco, yet they remain mostly a footnote to the riots three years later at Stonewall. I note this because I think transgender folks’ contributions to the LGBT movement are often overlooked. Though they probably called themselves “drag queens” or “hair fairies” rather than transgender, their place in our history should not be marginalized.

The “T” sometimes seems tacked on to the end of the list of who we are, but without the vitality and stubbornness of those pioneering drag queens, we might still be hiding in the shadows.

I suspect they felt that because of who they were and how they presented themselves they had less to lose than the gay men and lesbians who could easily assimilate into the society and become invisible. I suspect we will never know the full story, but it is worth thinking about.

The other forgotten subculture that actively pushed the movement forward at Stonewall in particular were people we now call leathermen and leatherwomen. A good friend of mine, a well-respected leatherwoman, tells her story of how her friends recruited her for the second night of the riots at Stonewall and they showed up on their motorcycles to take a stand.

At this time of year, even though in Dallas we celebrate LGBT Pride in September, it’s a good thing to look back and remember that we didn’t get here by ourselves.

We got here by standing on the shoulders of rowdy groups of outcasts who had reached a tipping point. They were not content to go along with the

status quo, and they stood up — in pumps and heels and wigs and boots and motorcycle jackets — and said, “Enough!”

And that is something we can all take pride in. ■

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

Letters

I found David Webb’s article (“Have we made the face of AIDS too pretty?” Dallas Voice, June 11) to have the flavor of a good old “fire-and-brimstone” sermon. Unfortunately, with a target audience of young people at risk, it is not very effective. A few might be scared silly, but most will tune it out.

With record unemployment, global warming and homophobia to deal with, today’s gay youth are not likely to be interested in “ancient history” offered up by an aging baby-boomer.

HIV drug companies do make the picture “too pretty.” However, Mr. Webb makes it too gloomy. The fact is, the “miracle” drugs of the 1990s have worked for the large majority of infected persons. (Access to these drugs is another issue.)

Like Mr. Webb, I also have memories of a nightmarish world, in which I attended weekly burials of friends gone too soon. But this is not the reality of the world I now live in. I am very thankful for this.

If we are to reduce new HIV infections, we must use conversation (not go to war on HIV mentality) to

achieve it. Young people need to be told of the amazing advances in HIV meds, but also focus on the tedious routine of drug dosages, increased “side effects” of these meds as we age, as well as the ever growing cost of such meds (forget new clothes, travel and other luxuries they may want in the future). Our discussions need to focus on what is relevant to their world now, not what happened in our past.

Finally, I found Mr. Webb’s comments on his friend with KS scars painful to read. I hope he was not as harsh at the time with him. Statements like “so vain about his good looks [he was] hiding in an apartment to die” overlook how much a person’s identity is trashed by such a condition. Vanity is not the sole reason for an ill persons’ fear of the outside world.

Hopefully, in dealing with HIV we can move beyond fear tactics. We have plenty of people who dislike us using this method. Let’s agree to be better than that with each other.

Michael Cowan
Dallas



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Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa transforms from mild-mannered comic book author to rockin' musical playwright atop the Wyly Theatre as his 'Superman' adaptation enters previews this week. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

SUPERMAN

COMES OUT! (sort of)

Gay playwright and comic book author **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa** puts a queer twist on comicdom's straightest superhero with his adaptation of the '60s musical 'It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman'

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

Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, like most gay men, knows something about having a secret identity. Although he grew up with worldly parents who had an appreciation for musical theater (he would listen to their cast recordings of *Hair* and *Man of La Mancha*), Aguirre-Sacasa tried to hide from them his own favorite showtunes from the first album he ever bought: *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* soundtrack.

"It felt sometimes like when 'Sweet Transvestite' and 'Touch-a Touch-a, Touch Me' were playing, that's when my parents would come into the room," he now confesses.

But while his alter ego (gay theater queen) was finally revealed, it all worked out for the best: Aguirre-Sacasa became a respected playwright and TV writer (*Big Love*), as well as comic book author of one of the *Spider-Man* imprints. And now he's combining those passions, adapting the 1960s musical *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman* for the Dallas Theater Center.

While he's best known for his work on Marvel Comics, it's difficult not to see the physical similarities between Aguirre-Sacasa and the fictional DC superhero's own alter ego. He's tall and seems born to wear the mantle "mild-mannered;" he even sports the same boxy black rim eyeglasses as Clark Kent. Could he be hiding something under that button-down?

Nah.

"I did not pick the glasses because they were Clark Kent's, but I definitely was aware that they *were* Clark Kent glasses," he says. "It's more that I'm hard to satisfy."

Despite closeted gay kids finding solace in parallels between superhero comics and their own dual identities, Aguirre-Sacasa resists pop psychologizing about his motivations and how — if at all — his personality winds its way into his comic book work ... or his stage adaptation of a cartoon *ubermensch*.

"I get that, absolutely, but for me it's hard to reconcile," he says. "I feel Superman is the straightest of superheroes; and I first worked on the Fantastic Four, also the straightest in the Marvel universe" — despite the fact, he acknowledges, that one of the Four's signature phrase is "Flame on!" "But I don't say, 'Oh, I'm attracted to the comic books because they allow me to play out subtextual symbolism.' I do know I have gay fans — I've met both of them," he jokes. "But it's not something I am conscious of in my work."

Nevertheless, he has brought an undeniable gay sensibility to this *Superman* adaptation, with lesbian characters and a "sigh" factor to the hunky Man of Steel, played by Matt Cavanaugh.

And he was definitely conscious of turning Superman into an old-fashioned musical comedy, the kind that will make people say,

"They don't do 'em like that anymore."

"I do feel superpowers are larger than life — a quite natural fit to musical theater," says Aguirre-Sacasa.

Still, fitting the *very* '60s-era musical into a post-modern world familiar with decades of superhero culture was daunting. Aguirre-Sacasa grew up listening to (and enjoying) the original Broadway cast recording, but the songs were all he heard; he hadn't read the script until he saw a staged reading a few years ago.

"It was very jokey — just skits strung together. That was the driving impulse. Character was sacrificed at the expense of the material. Who Superman was — honest, patriotic — was a joke. It was very tonally different from the first two *Superman* movies; more like the third one," he says.

Aguirre-Sacasa — and for that matter Kevin Moriarty, the artistic director of the DTC and a superhero-obsessed overgrown kid — wanted something that would fit within the contemporary construct. The original authors (including Waxahachie-bred co-author Robert Benton) gave their blessing for a re-imagining of the book.

Aguirre-Sacasa streamlined the multitude of romantic subplots in the original and let them fall in expected ways (Superman with Lois Lane, for instance) and gave more stage time to editor Perry White. Among the biggest challenges: A more legitimate opponent

IT'S A BIRD... SUPERMAN

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L+S stage

Gays on strike!

No 'Regrets' for Rudnick farce

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

The world inhabited by Hank Hadley and the McCullough family is one of cocktail parties, witty repartee and comforting superficiality. The first real issue anyone has had to deal with is the loss to cancer, after 28 years together, of Hank's (B.J. Cleveland) partner. Even that sad news is softened when then McCullough's daughter Spencer (Melissa Farmer) announces her engagement. She wants Hank, a famous fashion designer, to make her wedding dress.

But Hank is having second thoughts. Spencer and her father Jack (Dennis Canright), both lawyers, have agreed to draft a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Hank and Jack's wife Tibby (Mary-Margaret Pyeatt) are apolitical, but this issue hits close to home. Maybe Hank — maybe all gay people — should go on strike.

In *Regrets Only*, Paul Rudnick turns a hot-button issue like gay marriage into the stuff of frothy fun, full of delicious zingers ("If you wanna kill sincerity, add crab cakes and God" one person observes of weddings) even while tackling serious matters. When's the last time you heard a cogent discussion of gay marriage between opposite camps that didn't become loud, angry and hectoring diatribes? Because for me, it was last week at the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

Although there's no music (other than director Coy Covington's whimsical insertion of incidental tunes at the act breaks), in terms of its old-fashioned appeal with an updated outlook, it calls to mind the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*: A fantasy with concrete ideas and sentimentality

REGRETS ONLY

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
Through June 27.
UptownPlayers.org



WEDDED BLISS | A gay man (B.J. Cleveland) takes a stand against his flighty friend (Mary-Margaret Pyeatt) in Uptown's sophisticated fizz. (Photo by Mike Morgan)

that completely avoids mawkishness.

Indeed, this is throwback entertainment in the best sense. Despite its contemporary issues, *Regrets Only* most resembles *Dinner at Eight* and other bubbly, smart, '30s-era comedies: The perfectly appointed drawing room, the banter as sparkling as a magnum of champagne, the lovely costumes. This production has all that, especially an elegant and expensive looking set by Andy Redmon (nothing's more disappointing that when a Park Avenue penthouse looks like

a Park Slope coldwater flat; this one doesn't).

The cast is flawless, with Cleveland uncharacteristically demure — he's easily upstaged by Cynthia Matthews as a saucy maid (her riff on fashion is brilliant) and works effortlessly with Pyeatt on creating an authentic friendship.

Rudnick can be a bit too inside baseball, with obscure but hysterical theater jokes (David Mamet and Neil LaBute? Risky), but even potentially dour moments are buoyed like helium, and the second act farce is winningly executed.

Like the best cocktail, Covington has delivered delightful brew that goes to your head for 90 minutes and leaves you happy and refreshed. I'll drink to that. ■

■ SUPERHERO, From Page 45

for Superman.

"One of the tricky things was to have a worthy villain," he says. "Max Menken and Dr. Segdwick [the bad guys in the original script] didn't really work together until the second half of Act 2. Our Max is more like the industrialist in *Iron Man*, like Al Capone."

But, he admits, still no Lex Luthor. What gives?

A couple of things prevented that, mostly the idea that "Lex Luthor just wouldn't sing. And making Max formidable was real attractive to me."

Shoe-horning the existing songs into his new script was another feat.

"There was not a lot of Superman singing, and not a lot specific to Superman" in the original score, Aguirre-Sacasa notes.

The songs did get restructured, and there has been additional tweaking and reshuffling, including commissioning four original composers Charles Strouse and Lee Adams to write four new songs. But in his original draft, Aguirre-Sacasa "pretty much followed the score structure, though I didn't think they had to be sung by the same characters." That meant in one instance swapping the lyrics in a duet, so Clark gets to sing the woman's part.

That made me wonder: Just how gay will this production be? I mean, other than being a musical with a hot guy in tights?

Well, that's what's called a cliffhanger. Tune in to find out. ■

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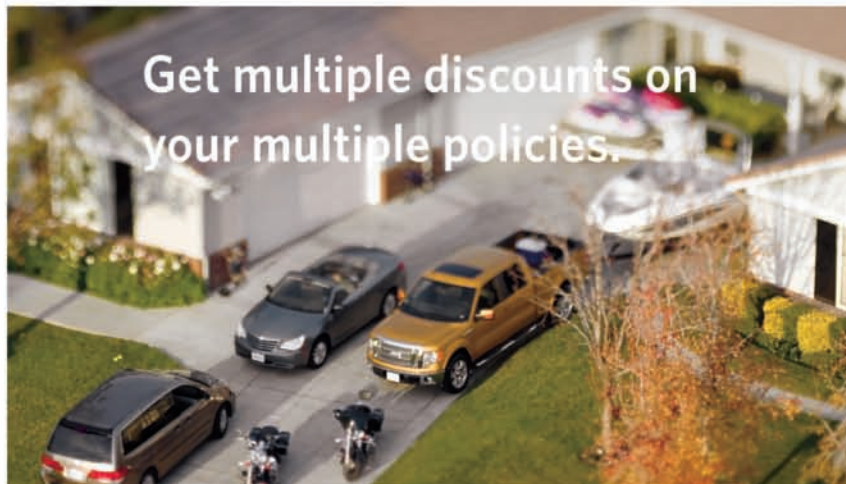
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L+S comedy

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Plus-sized comedian Ryan O'Connor doesn't shy away from fat jokes

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

Don't call Ryan O'Connor a standup comic. Sure, he's funny, he stands onstage in front of a microphone and people laugh, but his show is more than that.

The former actor and talk-show character player recently embarked on his first tour (complete with a rented Minivan) and took time out hours before the debut performance in San Francisco to talk about his career, his show and the foods that make him happy. His current boyfriend is Mormon, three of his exes have gone off to marry women and he's not above smuggling dogs into hotel rooms. How could he *not* be a comic? ■

Dallas Voice: So when did you first start doing comedy — or rather, getting paid for doing comedy?
Ryan O'Connor: My first paid comedy gig was with Second City in New York. We formed an improv group out of that called the Bird-watchers. There were eight of us and we got a split of the door, so we got about 20 bucks.

How is being a comedian different from being an actor? It's been an evolution. In a lot of ways I fought being a comedian because there's a lot of fear involved in it. Even describing myself as a comedian right now feels ambitious. I consider myself more a storyteller, and I tend to tell funny stories. But I've come to terms with the fact that people would like me to call myself a comedian, so I'll oblige.

People like labels. Exactly. But even when you're doing cabaret, you're still one man standing in front of a microphone. I'm a cabaret artist, which I sometimes describe as singing standup. You will never catch me at a standup open mike; you will never catch me going on after a standup performer. It's just way too terrifying for me. Even though it's not that much different than what I do, in my brain, it's terrifying.

You sing a lot in your show. Is the singing your security blanket? Yeah, kind of. It's not even that I have the world's most terrific voice. It's just that I'm comfortable. Musical theater is what I grew up in. It's what I've known my entire life. It gives me security knowing that if a story bombs, I have a song I can go into and songs are easier to sell than comedy. Even funny songs, it's at least written into the music. This sounds like the most defensive interview of all time!

I'm sorry. No it's me, not you!

Your publicity describes you as the "big gay singing Kathy Griffin." Do you think she's worried about you stealing her gays? Kathy's a friend of mine. I got her blessing to refer to myself as the big gay singing Kathy Griffin. I don't think Kathy sees anyone as a threat any more. In the last couple of years she's finally getting the acclaim she's deserved forever.

I'm sure she loves the label — it gets her name out there more. It's only fair, too, because I've been in her act before. She used to refer to me in her act as her Pink Hollywood Gay or something.

That's the double gay dream: Being friends with Kathy Griffin and being mentioned in her act. I was

RYAN O'CONNOR EATS

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ContemporaryTheatreofDallas.com



EAT THAT | The chubby gay boy, center, gets his revenge by turning his life into a humorous cabaret in 'Ryan O'Connor Eats His Feelings.'

a huge fan before we became friends, so to have a story mentioned in her act was very surreal.

Do you have any juicy celebrity stories? Not in this show, but I do. I am not as willing as Kathy is to "go there." Most Hollywood types are so difficult to deal with anyway, that once you do something publicly, it's even worse. I see how tough it can be for her. It's isolated her. There's groups of people that shy away from her. I think they laugh at her in the privacy of their homes, but if she walks into a party, they all avoid her like the plague. That's a very lonely kind of fame.

I tell stories in my show and I don't say it and people don't know that I'm talking about a very famous person. I could cash in and make this more exciting, but I choose not to.

What can people expect from your show? It's a comedic, self-effacing journey through story and song about my life and experiences as a compulsive overeater. It goes into my food addiction and how that is a manifestation of my experiences as a child, as well as an adult. My experiences in show business, my experiences as a gay man, all sorts of things. The show is *Ryan O'Connor Eats His Feelings*, but it could just as easily be *Joe Schmo Eats His Feelings* or *Tiger Woods Fucks His Feelings*.

You don't have to be gay to enjoy it then. My show's definitely not a gay show. It's a gay story so gay people relate to it immediately.

Are you empowered by the self-effacing part of it, beating others to the punch? That's absolutely what it is. The whole show is what I learned as a 10-year-old fat kid. My mom always told me if I made the joke first, they can't make it. That was my survival tool as a fat boy and a gay boy. That's how you get through it.

Indecent 'Proposition'

For documentarian Reed Cowan, a gay man raised Mormon, taking on the LDS church became a different kind of mission

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

Proposition 8: Only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

Getting a movie into the Sundance Film Festival is an honor in itself, but unexpected consequences always follow. For some, it's fame and fortune.

For Reed Cowan, director of *8: The Mormon Proposition*, it was death threats — a result that was especially surprising since the movie he ended up making was not the one he set out to film.

"I was raised in Utah in the Mormon church and to know that other young Mormon kids were being kicked out of their homes after coming out really pained me," says Cowan on a recent trip to Dallas. "Ninety percent of the kids on the street in Salt Lake City in the dead of winter are gay kids. I



CHANGING FOCUS | Cowan saw a bigger story when his film about Mormon gay youth kicked out of their homes opened up to a world of prejudice by the LDS church detailed in '8: The Mormon Proposition.'

thought, I have a camera and I can shine the light on that. So we started out to do a film about that.

"Then Proposition 8 began to bubble."

Cowan planned his movie to touch on the initiative though he never anticipated Prop 8 would pass. Then the vote happened.

"So many of us woke up the next morning just feeling like, are you kidding? If we can't win California, we can't win anywhere. So many of us — gay or lesbian or people sympathetic to LGBT causes — were sickened by it," he says. "In a figurative sense, if we were in a battle, I felt like I was

sucker-punched and I looked around at my feet to see what stones I had to throw."

As a response to the vote, Broadway singer-actor Sam Harris recorded a video blog that caught Cowan's attention.

"He was so incensed because he'd just gotten married and was working to adopt a child and he did this vlog that was so eloquent and so beautiful," says Cowan. "My God, here's an artist who's taking his resources, his music, his talent, his voice and he's doing something about it the very next morning! What do I have at my arm's length? I

have a camera. I have friends who can edit. So that's what I began to do. It's been an incredible journey."

The film began sending shockwaves through the church before it was even completed. But perhaps the most amazing development for Cowan was the amount of information that was dropped in his lap — literally, as the box of documents that is one of the movie's smoking guns.

"A young man who worked in the LDS church archives came out of the woodwork and approached me directly. [His] father is very high up in the Mormon church and he was allowed access to things that most people aren't."

Cowan's informant learned that high-ranking Mormons put together an internal study about gay and lesbian issues.

"It was 1,500 pages he copied and took off with. I have every one of them," Cowan says. Those documents have since been submitted as evidence in the trial challenging Prop 8, which began closing arguments this week.

Cowan's own life has faced destruction on multiple occasions, many directly attributable to his Mormon upbringing. When Cowan was doing his missionary work (which brought him to North Texas), he genuinely believed what he was preaching and he believes even now that many people within the church aren't motivated by hate.

"Prop 8 wasn't done with malice. Bigotry isn't often done with malice. As one of the people who was in my film said to me, 'But we do it with a

■ COWAN, Page 50

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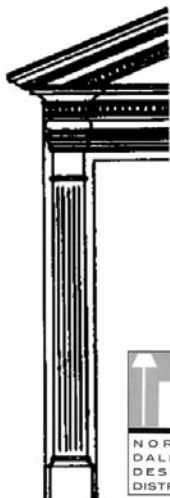
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Infuriating brilliance

Reed Cowan's emotionally charged and ultimately enraging documentary *8: The Mormon Proposition* opens today at the Angelika Film Center, almost two years to the day after the first legal gay marriages occurred in California. It's a fitting release date for a film that so candidly and energetically explores the LDS church's role in reversing the decision to recognize same-sex marriages.

His 80-minute film delves into the bowels of the church to uncover a history of bigotry and exclusion. Cowan, who was raised Mormon and persecuted for being gay, frequently sought for the Mormon church to tell its side of the story, though he was mostly refused.

Cowan's connections gained him access to hundreds of pages of private documents as revolting as they are incriminating. *8* is powerfully inspirational and should prompt every LGBT viewer to action, no matter where they previously fell on the subject of



gay marriage. Even when it's at its hardest to watch during scenes of overt condemnation and reenactments of the covert torture of homosexuals within the Mormon church, the revelation of such raw hatred and destruction is impossible to shake.

— S.L.

4 stars

Opens today at Angelika Mockingbird Station.

■ COWAN, From Page 49

smile," he laughs. "We do it with a smile! You don't have to have malice and desire to go slash somebody's throat to actually do things to destroy their lives."

After getting married and having a son, Cowan's wife left him and he finally came out. Today, he has adopted two children with a partner, Greg Abplanalp, whom he's known since elementary school.

"In high school we had a relationship and one night in our small Utah town I was beaten almost to death, almost Matthew Shepard-style, where they stood over me in disgust, where they had taken me to finish me off. I lived, but my dad was so afraid that he sent me on a mission and told me I was never to talk to that boy again," Cowan says. "And I didn't for 13 years."

Cowan even was counseled by a church leader to write a letter to Abplanalp condemning him, which he reluctantly did.

After reparative therapy, aversion therapy, visualization therapy and other approaches to "cure" him failed, Cowan approached another leader for guidance. That's when he was told to marry a woman; it didn't last long.

"I had been divorced a year, had my first relationship, got my heart broken," he says. "I believe in karma and the person who'd broken my heart kind of just dumped and ran. I thought I was obviously experiencing the pain I caused somebody else."

He learned that Abplanalp lived two blocks from him while he was married. Cowan wrote him an apology and they decided to meet. The two reunited and began raising Wesley, the boy born from Cowan's marriage. Two years later, Wesley died in an accident.

"Greg saved my life after the death of my son. He's the reason we built 25 schools in Africa for

AIDS orphans in my son's name. That's why I fight," he says of his decision to make the movie.

"Life taught us we're braver and stronger and smarter than we ever thought we were," he says. "But our little boys deserve to know that we're a family and that the U.S. government sees us as a family and that if they're going to define families by marriage, which I have my issues with, and give benefits to families that are married, then by damn, my kids deserve that. My kids deserve the same thing."

It's a fight he's willing to pursue even though some want to stop him. Which is where the death threats come in.

"You wouldn't believe the letters I've gotten from religious people," Cowan says. "Three days ago, a guy calling himself 'Christian4life' wrote, 'God took your son away from you because you're a faggot. And your son would've had a horrible life and that's why he died.'"

So many people bring his son's death into their hate-filled letters that he's made the agonizing decision to move his son's body to a private grave.

But the film has generated positive feedback, too.

"I've had letters from gay people in their 70s that say, 'Finally you lanced the wound, thank you,'" he recalls. "I've had gay kids as young as 12 and 13 contact me. I've had religious people say, 'Thank you, you helped me see things differently.'"

His goal for the film is simple: A complete and total separation of church and state in our country.

"This movie is ultimately for the voter. Look at what happened with your sacred vote. Look at how the blurring of lines between church and state resulted in your sacred vote being used to achieve the objectives of a religion. And look at the danger of becoming a theocracy in history. Do we want a democracy or theocracy?" Cowan asks.

Ultimately, though, he hopes his film brings about change.

"Gay people are tough. We're resilient. We learned to be from the time we're in school. Most of us survive, God rest the ones who don't," he says. "We lay our own lives down and give our days in the service of kids who are growing up gay to make it better for them."

online exclusive

To read about Reed Cowan's last trip to Dallas, where on his Mormon mission he experienced formative events that influenced his film, visit DallasVoice.com/LifeStyle/Screen.

An inconvenient woman

Rivers leaves no turn unstoned in frank, funny but standard-issue doc



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

JOAN DARK | Rivers does wrestle with demons; she just turns them into jokes in her act.

Joan Rivers is both an enigma and exactly what she seems: A foul-mouthed comedian who has made a career pushing buttons and causing controversy without consideration for decorum. But then again, what drives her to "be that guy"? Is there something deeper, other than the quest for immortality and applause and approval?

We never quite learn the answer to that in *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*, a documentary culled from following Rivers around for a year or so around the time she won *Celebrity Apprentice*.

Sure, we learn of the pain of her rift with Johnny Carson and the suicide of her husband and her

fragile ego and her feelings about never being a critics' darling.

But how did she make the leap to her brand

of truth-telling? Does she *have* limits? Like getting to the center of a Tootsie Pop, we may never know.

What we do know from the documentary, though, can be fabulously entertaining. Rivers is upfront about her addiction to plastic surgery (although she avoids talking about her now-cat-like appearance); she walks us through her joke file (and shares crass ones about Michelle Obama and Nazis); she tells us what current comedians she considers "brilliant" (Maher, Shandling, Tomlin); explains why she loves anal; and how she gives Kathy competition as champion of the gays. ("What's the gay community like here?" she asks a cabbie in rural Wisconsin. "I don't know," responds her driver suspiciously. "Ask your wife's brother," she snaps back.)

There's also the curiosity of seeing classic video of Rivers doing standup 40 years ago ... and realizing that what was considered racy then seems Disney Channel tame by today's standards.

Yet Joan remains endlessly fascinating. She's a money, fame and attention whore who shouts down hecklers and takes no prisoners. "Can we talk?" she used to ask rhetorically.

I don't know about "we." But can she ever. ■

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L+S music

'Bionic' woman

Christina Aguilera trades glam for Goth with her return to pop

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com



Christina Aguilera steps back into the pop arena four years after her *Back to Basics* album, trading the vintage pinup glam for a sexually charged dominatrix that extends to her music in *Bionic*.

The title song is a strong erratic opener declaring she's back in the game and don't rule her out of the pop princess arena. *I'm bionic / Hit you like a rocket* is thrust into our eardrums. Instead of beginning with a vocally amazing tune, she refrains into more staccato singing. She follows up with the assertive "I'm Not the Same Girl," also the album's first single. Aguilera has definite intention here: She won't let you forget her.

Bionic feels at times desperate, but only slightly. Attempting to take on Katy Perry and Lady Gaga at their levels, Aguilera overdoes her declaration with "Prima Donna," which continues the postmodern pop tone of the first track to the point of monotony. Otherwise, she succeeds in bringing a sexy industrial sense to pop music and stays away from her usual vocal runs.

When the ballads and slow grooves kick in,



SEXY MAMA | Aguilera shows moms can be super hot.

it's still special to hear the familiar beauty of her voice. Christina ventures into eroticism with "Sex for Breakfast" and mommy-time with the endearing "All I Need" (among the album's more honest moments).

Aguilera is professional enough though to keep her own sound and collaborations with the likes of M.I.A., Le Tigre and Peaches keep

her music smart and evolving. She moves into womanhood here and *Bionic* gives her some new game with this sound. She doesn't need to worry about the competition.



BIONIC
Christina Aguilera
RCA

RICH'S MIXTAPE Gay artists to take Pride in

I'm never sure why gay Pride doesn't extend much to gay music. We love our divas and hags, but with the pool of amazing gay talent out there, why aren't some of our own bigger stars? Instead of giving all the music love to the Gagas, Mariahs and Gaynors, try these LGBT artists looking for a piece of the Pride pie. Don't worry — you'll recognize a few.

"Run" — Vampire Weekend: Out member Rostam Batmanglij produces, writes and plays well with the boys in this band that's kept its buzz going into 2010 with their second album, *Contrast*.

"Not a Love Song" — Uh Huh Her: Camila Grey and *The L Word*'s Leisha Hailey surprise with this addictive electropop opener to their 2008 album *Common Reaction*.

"Function" — Jason Antone: Dance music and gay boys go hand-in-hand, but Antone transcends cliché with this track from last year's *Start to Move*.

"This Modern Love" — Bloc Party: When frontman Kele Okereke came out, he defined a whole new image of the gay black musician.



"Diva" — Dana International, pictured: The trans Israeli artist hit it big when this song won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1998 — which is a whole lot bigger than *American Idol*.

"Mr. Mistress" — Ari Gold: R&B and pop mix nicely with audacious lyrics in Gold's 2007 release. Gold has been defined as the first U.S.

pop star to be out since the beginning. Cool.

"My Denial in Argyle" — Woodpigeon: Fuzzy Mark Andrew Hamilton brings the bear side to indie rock. He heads the Canadian band which is more obscure than it deserves to be.

"Son of a Preacher Man" — Dusty Springfield: We sometimes forget this class act was one of our own.

"One Vision" — Queen: Bisexual frontman Freddie Mercury will always be one of rock's greatest vocalists.

— Rich Lopez

Background sounds



GUY TUNES | Regular gigs at hotels and restaurants keep musicians like Gary Floyd, left, and Bill Shafer in the game. (Arnold Wayne Jones and Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Gay musicians Gary Floyd and Bill Shafer serve up ambiance at Dallas hotels and restaurants

Maybe you don't think too much about the musicians ticking the ivories in a hotel lobby or working the saxophone as a backdrop to a nice steak dinner. But many local gay musicians have found a niche gig doing just that. Les Farrington entertains at Del Frisco's and Buddy Shanahan, Paul Allen and others have been spotted playing piano at Nordstrom.

And then there's Gary Floyd and Bill Shafer.

Shafer can be seen playing sax and piano and singing at the new cigar lounge of Chamberlain's Steak and Chop House in Addison. The spot is a far cry from his stints at the gay piano bars across the gayborhood.

"I was ready for something different," Shafer says. "Chamberlain's is a fun gig and I get to eat some great food."

Shafer moved to North Texas from Hawaii 15 years ago. A former band teacher, he came to Dallas with his partner at the time, but opted to break from music. After playing professionally since age 12, the moratorium seemed warranted. But the music bug eventually itched, and he scratched it.

"Music is such a core part of me, but after being a music teacher for 14 years, I thought about not being in the music biz," he says. "I was going to Cathedral of Hope and got hired to run sound for them."

The part-time job led to singing at church — his first experiencing playing for the gay community. It soon snowballed. Shafer worked with local gay music staples including Shanahan, Floyd and Denise Lee, picking up gigs at Bill's Hideaway before scoring a solo gig at Alexandre's.

"I wanted to do stuff on my own," he says. "I went to Alexandre's for Tuesday and Sunday nights. After four years at the piano bar, Shafer noticed a shift in the audience requests.

"The crowd started getting younger, though, and requesting stuff like Lady Gaga. I did contemporary stuff as I could, but it didn't seem enough."

That's about the time Chamberlain's was looking for entertainment for New Year's Eve. Shafer and his partner, who also plays, stood in for Larry Barnett to welcome in 2009. When they expanded, they called Shafer and ultimately booked his current gig.

"Chamberlain's was putting in the cigar lounge and I helped set up the sound system," he says. "When it opened last summer, I played a couple of nights a week, but now, I rotate with five other musicians."

The upscale spot has introduced Shafer to some high rollers: He's played in front of pro athletes (who are great tippers, he says) and other high profile types, but he's kept some of his gay fans from the Hideaway days.

"On one hand, I don't mind doing clubs," he says. "But there is a gay presence up north and it's nice to see that, even if they don't know my story. The best part though is living so close. I get off at 11:30 and I'm in bed by midnight — for a 51 year-old man, that's good!"

For Floyd, technology threatens to get the better of him at times. Other musicians with similar gigs (Farrington and Shafer for instance) bring backing tracks mixed at home or in studio. But Floyd relies on his fingers and voice to navigate the booking maze of this town.

"I'm not a tech guy and that may have hurt some opportunities," he says. "One restaurant I pitched to required backing tracks and so I lost out on that one."

But after doing this for more than 30 years, Floyd isn't worried. He's been able to make a living as a working musician and plans

to continue for a while to come. Unless he gets to that moment where he doesn't realize he's past his prime.

"I may already be at that point," he laughs.

Nah. Floyd has a solid reputation as a reliable and professional musician. At least once a week, he's listed on a live music calendar somewhere. Until recently, he was at Hotel Zaza piano playing and singing by the pool or in their Dragonfly restaurant.

Zaza was a new environment for Floyd. This wasn't the small piano bar with a regular gay crowd. Zaza is for trendsetters and millionaires. The bottom line was Floyd would be playing for a whole new group of people.

"I got that gig from someone hearing me play," he says. "The thing was, I knew people at the Hideaway related to me, but I didn't know if the cool people would. The music took over and they did."

Serendipitously, he got the job days after the Hideaway closed.

"Denise [Lee] and I had thought about the club needing to close for us to move on," he says. "When you get a steady gig you want to keep it, but sometimes we just get complacent."

The stint lasted a year, but like Shafer, playing music is core to Floyd and whether he had the full-on attention of the crowd or filled the lobby with this piano and vocals, it was all good.

"I'm not beyond background music," he says. "Even if you get just one person to stop and listen, I guess that's what makes it worth it."

He isn't fretting over the lack of a regular booking right now — he's too busy working on a new CD which comes out later this month. And that's music to his ears.

For more information on the artists, visit BillShafer.com and GaryFloyd.com.

Before Concrete Blonde's The Vampires Rise Summer 2010 tour stops in Dallas Friday, let's step back and ponder why they are on the road. The band is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its debut album, *Bloodletting*. Yes, 25 damn years. OK, just sit down and take a deep breath.

Bloodletting is arguably the finest work out of all the band's releases and gave them a higher profile thanks to the single, "Joey." Although 1992's *Mexican Moon* had some interesting musical moments, *Bloodletting* would forever be the Concrete Blonde album. But it's also a quarter century begging the question: Where did time go?

On the other hand, Passion Pit comes to town Monday signifying what's new in pop music. The Boston band delivers bubbly dance pop, but unlike Blonde, people found Pit via bloggers and buzz grew enough for them to land a major label deal and tours alongside bands like Death Cab for Cutie, Muse and Tokyo Police Club.

They come to town supporting last year's *Manners* album — a modest collection of 11 songs with surprising oomph. The band of scruffy nerdy hipsters have turned into mainstream pop sensations with indie sensibilities. And for the moment, are a good listen.

Both bands stop in Dallas this week but perhaps to vastly different audiences. So we pitted the two against each other to figure who will hold out — the veterans or the newbies.

— Rich Lopez

SHOW VS. SHOW



Band	Concrete Blonde	Passion Pit
Their music according to iTunes...	Alternative. (In reality: That's so passé, but classic rock is too soon. Just don't say grunge.)	Electronic. (In reality: Give them more credit than that. They have some decent pop song sensibilities.)
Good for the gays?	Frontwoman Johnette Napolitano has always written with a strong female touch that spoke to lesbian audiences.	Just to those who like to dance.
Cool merch?	Snag the anniversary T-shirt and be the envy of your pears.	Most likely. Newer bands seem to have the cool stuff.
Who might you run into?	Gen-Xers reclaiming their college and high school days.	The latter half of Gen-Yers — which might as well have been called the Hipster Generation.
Reason to be there	Alt-rock is middle age and these bands aren't the perpetual Rolling Stone types to keep going. See 'em while you can.	Passion Pit really is a sign of things going on in music now. And Tokyo Police Club opens.
Reason to not	Life might have been hard for these peeps. Always a risk if they aren't quite on their game.	You could boil this down to party music. Pop in the CD and have at it.
Deets	With Jim Bianco. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. June 18 at 9 p.m. \$29. GranadaTheater.com.	Palladium Ballroom, 1135 S. Lamar St. June 21 at 7 p.m. \$23. Ticketmaster.com.



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Jerry's kid

Jon Paul Buchmeyer grew up with a hero of the gay rights movement. But all he ever wanted was to turn the world on with a smile

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

Everyone occasionally feels as if his life is playing out like a soap opera, but it took an act of will for Jon Paul Buchmeyer to turn his into a sitcom.

"I filter everything through a sitcom," Buchmeyer proudly asserts. "I used Mary Tyler Moore to base my life on."

He's not joking. Not one little bit.

But to hear the whole story, it starts off like an *Afterschool Special*.

Buchmeyer grew up in the shadow of a famous dad, Judge Jerry Buchmeyer whose 1982 ruling in *Baker v. Wade* first overturned Texas' anti-gay sodomy law. Although the case was overturned on appeal, Judge Buchmeyer remained an icon for the gay community.

Less so for his gay son.

Jon Paul was thrust into the spotlight early. "I was 12 or 13 when he has me in the courtroom for *Baker v. Wade*," he recalls of his dad. "I knew I was gay by then, and Baker was a big influence on me — the first role model like that. It was a huge gift dad had given me" to introduce him to that. His coming out should have been easy, and in some ways it was.

"Given Dad's history it didn't seem that much of an issue at the time," he says. "I came out in high school while we were watching *Cheers*. My father was known for his decision on gay rights — intellectually and publicly he was supportive of gay rights. But privately we had issues."

Buchmeyer had a turbulent adolescence, partly because of the gay issue, partly because of typical father-son dynamics.

"I like to say that my dad lived his own prime-time legal drama — *Courtside Manor*. He was undeniably the star; the rest of us were bit players," Buchmeyer recounts. "So I was a pretty messed up teenaged kid: Drugs, alcohol, sex, I stole credit cards — all to get attention."

Buchmeyer cleaned up his act, but the situation continued to spiral with his father. Judge

Buchmeyer "cut me off in college. He worried I would turn my little brother gay. That's when I was written out of *Courtside Manor*."

"I don't say it to be salacious or detract from the wonderful things he did for the gay community, but he was much more complicated than people assume" on this issue. "People would come up to me and say, 'Your dad was instrumental in my life.' That's wonderful for their experience. But my father was a workaholic. I was jealous of his law clerks for spending time with him."

That's when Buchmeyer decided he needed to be Mary Tyler Moore.

In *Alphabet City: My So-Called Sitcom Life*, Buchmeyer chronicles how everything about his real life seemed to mirror plots from '70s-era situation comedies, from the guest stars to the life lessons to the humorous but self-contained story arcs. And it's not because he can turn the world on with a smile. Though he'd kill for that.

"I think like Mary Tyler Moore," he says. "She left behind a mess of a life before she moved to the big city. My partner left me right before the filming of *Gay TV* [a Dallas-shot movie written and directed by Buchmeyer]. Distribution was going nowhere, so I said, 'You've gotta start over.'"

You might say he had spunk.

In 1996, he moved to New York, "where 'summer' is used as a verb," he says. Although in Texas, he was a two-step away from white trash, in the Big Apple he thrived.

"I landed a job as a celebrity publicist — a job for which I had no experience or training," he admits with a laugh. He and his friends soon began comparing experiences and saw something familiar.

"It was at the height of *Friends* and *Seinfeld*. We'd get together and say, 'You won't believe my life in Alphabet City.' It was like a Tuesday night lineup with crossover episodes." He



IT'S YOU GIRL AND YOU SHOULD KNOW IT | Buchmeyer moved to the big city just like his hero Mary Richards — and escaped the shadow of his father, the Texas judge who was a hero to the gay rights movement. Photo courtesy of Jamie Beck)

launched a blog to test it with readers and it was an instant hit.

"They loved my voice and celebrity stories," he says.

The book followed earlier this year, written as episodes rather than chapters with appearances by Whoopi Goldberg and other stars.

"It's not a snarky tell-all — it's a sitcom where celebs come over like guest stars and teach me about myself," he explains.

Buchmeyer is still learning. His father died last year and never saw the book, though Jon Paul's

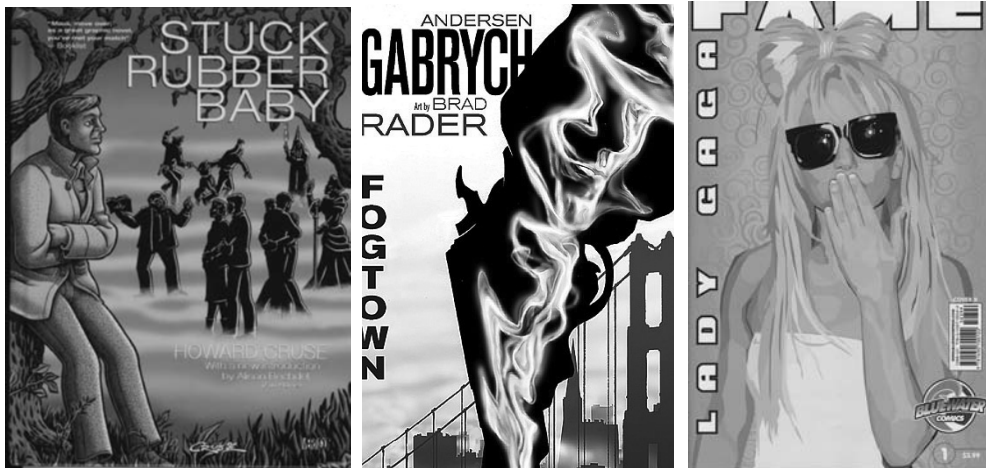
sister served as copy editor and his mother planted the seed money to get it published. He's still dealing with issues from his past, but has a promising future, too: He met his partner — ironically, a Mexican with the same name as him (Juan Pablo) and they recently bought a brownstone in Washington Heights.

"It's like my sitcom canceled and moved to a new network," he says.

There are second chances, it seems. You might even say it sounds like he's gonna make it after all. ■

Beyond the funnies

In time for Pride month, a crop of comics takes aim at gay audiences



GRAPHICALLY GAY | From classic rereleases to new graphic novels to celebrity bios, gay audiences are drawn to drawings.

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Remember in *Chasing Amy* that the character Alyssa was the author for the lesbian comic book *Idiosyncratic Routine*? The sparks of excitement flew at that notion of a somewhat underground book devoted to a gay audience.

Gay comics weren't anything new — they just opened to a bigger audience 13 years ago. Now, the big guns are in the game and have offerings directly aimed at an LGBT audience.

How times have changed.

DC Comics' edgier imprint, Vertigo, republishes *Stuck Rubber Baby* just in time for national Pride. The hardcover graphic novel (\$24.99) celebrates its 15th anniversary with new cover art by author and Lambda Literary Award winner Howard Cruse.

Baby follows Tolan Polk, growing up gay in the American South of the '60s. Against the backdrop of a racially divided community, Polk also has to deal with accepting his own self. The book unfolds in 24 chapters with both surprising grit and humor.

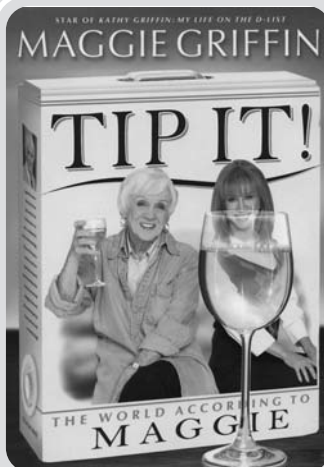
In August, Vertigo will release *Fogtown* (\$19.99) by Andersen Gabrych and art by Brad

Rader. If the author's name rings a bell, he has written some more popular DC titles such as *Batman* and *Catwoman*, but is also an actor in indie gay cinema, playing in *Edge of Seventeen*, *Another Gay Movie* and its sequel.

Fogtown is a comic noir about private eye Frank Grissel navigating the criminal element in 1953 San Francisco. The book has all the elements of most Bogart detective movies with beautiful dames, corrupt cops and seedy streets. But Grissel may have to internalize his investigative acumen onto himself as a missing persons case hits a little too close to home.

Who wants to pore through a boring ol' biography when you have Bluewater Comics? The production company famous for comic book biographies of cultural and pop cultural icons adds two more to its library this month. Joining the ranks of previous bios for Ellen DeGeneres, Oprah Winfrey and even Sarah Palin, The Fame series now adds to the roster *Twilight* actor Robert Pattinson and — wait for it — Lady Gaga.

The stylized bios (\$3.99) follow the stars from obscurity to superstardom, but without all that text in the way. Hey, it's cheaper than a CD or ticket to *Eclipse*. ■



Maggie may: Kathy's mom writes a (funny) book

Part of the appeal of Maggie Griffin, Kathy's nonagenarian ma and Betty White-style star of *My Life on the D-List*, is her essential mom-ness — she's cool, but not really cool.

It's fitting, then, that her new book *Tip It!* (Hyperion; \$23.99) — named for Maggie's signature line about getting the last drop of wine from the Franzia box — begins with a banal recitation of why she wears house dresses (or dusters as she calls them). If Granny were telling this story you'd tune out, but Maggie's rants are undercut by inserted asides from Kathy that lovingly mock Maggie's fuddy-duddyhood.

But Maggie's still pretty savvy, putting the discussion of *her* gays in chapter 2 and before her discourse on the value of rubber bands. It's a gem of hilarious nonsense.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

In stores June 23.

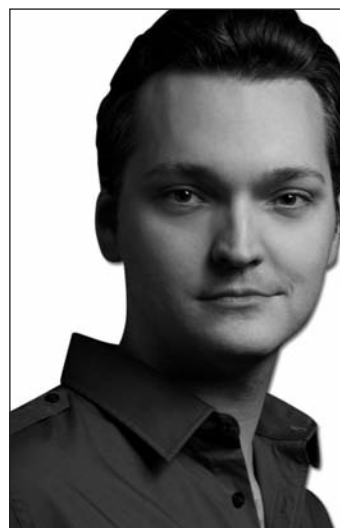
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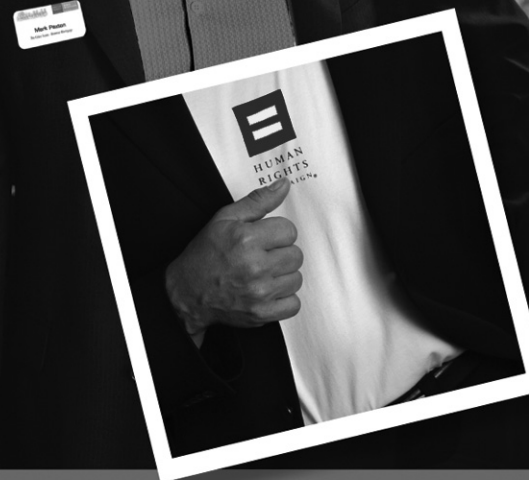
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Heavy metal

Jack Duke, Dallas' top leatherman, bucks the odds by placing at IML

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Even though he really wanted to win International Mr. Leather, Jack Duke knew going in not to expect lightning to strike twice.

It almost did though.

Duke was already the reigning Mr. Dallas Eagle and Mr. Texas Leather when he headed up to IML in Chicago last month to compete alongside 52 other leathermen for the top title in the community. The problem was, his story was already news *last* year. That's when Jeffrey Payne — who was *also* Mr. Dallas Eagle and *also* Mr. Texas Leather — won the IML title. What were the chances Duke would repeat?

Not very good, especially since Payne was already considered one of the top winners of IML *ever* — so good, in fact, that this year, an award was named after him. Those are big jackboots to fill.

But Duke did almost the impossible, coming in second runner-up and bringing home to Texas only its fourth IML medallion in 30-plus years.

"Almost 1,500 men have competed in IML in the last 34 years; there are just 34 of these [second runner-up medallions]. And this is just the fourth medallion in Texas ever. Not bad. My only hope is that the community is happy. It was a lot of work," he says.

Not bad for a man who barely spoke English five years ago when he moved to Dallas from his homeland of Italy.

When he first arrived in the U.S., Duke spoke some English but

was not fluent, especially when in groups or with those who spoke too fast. He'd just "smile and wave" a lot, he says — not bad training for his pageant career, as it turned out.

His current arc marks the first year that Duke, who was also involved in the leather community in Italy, has competed. But it's probably the last time, too.

"It's been a very long few months and I'm happy the way I am. I don't think I'm gonna do another competition — I'm good with what I got," he says.

While it was his first competition, it wasn't Duke's first time at IML — he was an observer in 2009 when Payne took the title. The experience this time, however, was *very* different.

"I was there last year and it was fun; this year was fun in a different way," he says. "This year I had so much to do, from Wednesday when we arrived till Tuesday morning when I left, that I didn't have time even for eating. But it was a good experience. I think I made friends for the rest of my life."

There's certainly evidence that he was a popular finalist. Already he has received offers from leather groups in Europe (Italy, Germany) to be an honored guest, as well as Oklahoma and Houston. And in true Texas fashion, he says his first obligation will be to the Lone Star State.

"My obligations are for Texas first," he says. "Since I am not the IML winner but second runner-up, I have the option to choose. So I'm setting all my dates in Texas and any other offers will be evaluated. Luckily I travel so much [with my job] I can manage" appearances all over the country.

The overall experience was surreal for Duke — from taking over and entire downtown Hyatt Regency to the pace he had to maintain.

"When you're there, you live in this bubble," he says. "You can



BRONZE LEATHER | Jack Duke took a medallion at IML, only Texas' fourth finalist win in the competition's history, right on the heels of 2009's International Mr. Leather, Jeffrey Payne. (Arnold Wayne Jones/DallasVoice)

even walk on Michigan Avenue in leather and no one looks at you twice. Then you come back to reality. Last night, we went to see *Sex and the City 2* and we haven't seen so many women all week as we did at the theater!

"I got zero sleep. It was terrible. You have to get up early and go to the gym, which is packed with all the guys competing. The meetings are so early. And if an event starts at 6 or 7, we have to meet at noon. Winners get invited to a private dinner with the owner. The next morning you wake up and do photo shoots. It was like being in the army."

Duke is proudest that he was able to give the Texas leather community another victory to crow about.

"This is good, putting Texas out there alongside Mr. Los Angeles Leather and Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather," he says. "That's giving a lot of focus on Texas. People are gonna pay attention now."

Although, he concedes, "The next Mr. Texas is gonna have a lot of work!"

online exclusive

Jack Duke talks about the controversial selection of a trans man as the winner at International Mr. Leather on DallasVoice.com: Culture.

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Have a Cow (town), man

Fort Worth's fierce foray into diner and pub grub takes on a queer tone

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



THE DEVIL IN YOU | Cowtown Diner's deep-fried deviled eggs are sinfully decadent.

I think I know the real reason Fort Worth is called Cowtown: It's because every time I finish eating there, I feel like a heifer.

This is not, I want to stress, a bad thing. The cliché is that gay men eat protein shakes and picky French-sounding food, but the reality

is we like to eat rich, fatty foods as much as straight guys; we're just willing to hit the

treadmill for an hour to work it off.

Two gay-owned restaurants in Fort Worth realize this. They are bastions of hetero cuisine — not that there's anything wrong with that.

Cowtown Diner

Cowtown Diner is the latest venture by Scott Jones, whose last project was reinventing Southern comfort food with upscale execution at Screen Door. The Diner is less upscale, but it is a po-mo approach to diner food: Calorie counting be damned, we're here to eat.

Truth is, there are some heart-healthy offerings on the recently revamped menu. *Some*. But the emphasis is on the classics: catfish, casseroles, chicken-fried steak.

For the most part, it succeeds, especially in the slightly reimagined standards. One of the appetizers, "pigs in a handmade quilt" (\$8.95), suggests a redneck Wellington: spicy venison sausage wrapped in phyllo, served with a rich mustard sauce, sliced on the bias in a charming presentation. There's no escaping the bold, forward flavors of the sausage, though the pastry is less impressive.

The deep-fried deviled eggs (\$8.95), hardly

■ COWTOWN, Page 60

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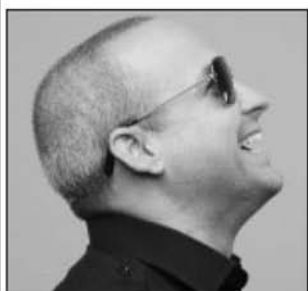
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L+S dining



GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YA | Migas enchiladas split the difference between breakfast and lunch during the disco brunch at Fort Worth's Pour House, a sports bar with camp. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

■ COWTOWN, From Page 59

something you'd find on your South Beach Diet, also pack a kick, but a side of the so-called chili cheese (\$2.95) grits didn't have a point of view or even seem all that "chili" to me aside from a light dusting of chili powder.

Paul Gonzales has updated the menu since another chef opened Cowtown Diner in January; gone is the turkey *a la* king (a wise move), while we welcome the addition of grilled tilapia (\$13.95), blackened on the outside with an exquisitely tangy lemon sauce clinging to it while the flesh remains as moist and inviting as a teenager on prom night. You can detect a Cajun influence in the risotto (a holdover theme from the original menu), although the rice itself was slightly gummy.

The pasta sofia (\$13.95) lacked finesse. Pasta purses were too thick by half, creating an al dente style not called for with the inclusion of delicate but pungent cheese on the interior, and the creamy pesto smothered the flavors.

Desserts are back on track; after a flirtation with store-bought pies, Gonzales has taken over pastry chef duties as well, and the creations are indulgent, like the heady bourbon bread pudding and the diner-ific banana coconut cream pie (\$5.95 each). Those are the kind of delectable meal toppers best served by a middle-aged woman with her hair in a bun, but we're willing to compromise.

The Pour House

"An awkward morning beats a boring night" opines a banner at the Pour House's Sunday rock-n-roll brunch, a hangover-shaking concept proprietor Eric Tschetter pinched after visiting a gay club in New York City. Why shirk from loud music and hair o' the dog when you can embrace it and move on? That means disco music ("Copacabana" was playing when we entered) and man-mosas: orange juice and champagne served in a pint glass instead of a flute. It's perfect for chugging, and how mimosas deserve to

be drunk. (And at \$2 a pop, it's easy to drink a lot.)

But despite campy drinks and circuit party music, the Pour House isn't a gay club at all; it's a sports bar ... just one with a gay attitude.

Observe the walls, decorated with hammered-metal roof tins; it's quaint and homey but kinda butch, too. Big screen TVs dot the room like dandelions after a windstorm with World Cup play never even outside your peripheral, but if there's *one place* you actually *want* to see TV while eating, it's a sports bar.

And eat you should. For a spot known primarily as a bar, the Pour House's food is a notch above normal. Even the size of the menu catches you off guard: The usual suspects like potato skin appetizers, burgers and salads.

But what's this — calamari (\$8.99)? And not the fast-food tradi-

tional style of tentacles and suction cups, but slender steak-fry cuts of battered mollusk that are as tender as they are unexpected. You might even mistake them for the mozzarella sticks (\$7.79 — a pub grub staple) and you can certainly dip either in their marinara sauce.

Equally unusual are the tortilla-crusting shrimp (\$8.79). In a world where deep-fried prawns are commonly coated in coconut, the crunch addition of tortilla shards (hand-battered in-house) gives a distinctly Southwestern character to a generally generic starter.

For more proof of its Latin bona fides, you *might* wanna ask for a side of their spicy salsa (or stick with the also-tangy cocktail sauce). We enjoyed that particular garnish on everything. Best of all: Dousing it over the migas enchiladas (\$8.99). This may be the dish that solved the brunch conundrum of whether to order breakfast or lunch; it's both. Eggs and tortilla strips are rolled in tortillas and drowned in queso. Filling, fattening and fiery, it's a surefire hangover and hunger cure.

Subtlety isn't a strength of the menu — since when would you expect that as a sports bar anyway? But friendly service and a fun atmosphere is, and the Pour House has sass to spare. ■

THE POUR HOUSE

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Nobu, in the raw

Nobu Matsuhisa celebrates five years of his namesake restaurant in Dallas

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

It's been five years exactly since Nobu, the most famous sushi restaurant in, say, English-speaking earth, opened its elegant digs at the Crescent Court Hotel, replacing longtime resident Beau Nash with a very different kind of cuisine. Sure, sushi's been around awhile, even in Dallas. But was the town's collective palate prepared for the highest of high-end sushi and sashimi, not just raw but *very* pricey?

Yes, as it turned out.

Nobu Matsuhisa returned to the kitchen earlier this month to celebrate his Dallas branch's half-decade of dining in a landlocked city known more for steakhouses than seafood. And while there were challenges along the way, he seems happy with the results.

When it first opened, people recognized the Nobu name and came out of curiosity, he says. Now it continues to attract tourists who know the brand from other cities, but a core clientele has also developed.

"Dallas was a challenge because of the beef image," he says hoarsely after a whirlwind schedule that landed him in Dallas just in time for a VIP party for his loyal customers. "But people here like healthy food and they respect quality ingredients and service. We were lucky. We are *still* lucky."

Dallas wasn't the first city that had to learn to appreciate Nobu. Twenty-five years ago, most people didn't know what ceviche meant — and certainly no Tokyo eateries were adding that to their menus. But while Nobu's training was in traditional Japanese techniques, he also spent



BEFORE... | Nobu finishes off a dish of scallop ceviche with cucumber and chili sauce as Dallas on-site executive chef Matt Raso looks on.

four years in South America, where he began the idea of incorporating Latin elements into sushi recipes for his then-unique flavor profiles. (Just don't call it "fusion.")

At first, his concepts were radical, "but people adapt," he says. Eventually customers began asking for Nobu to prepare something special just for them — the development of the *omakase* style (another term unknown to Americans two decades ago). One of those customers was Robert DeNiro. The empire followed — as did the imitators.

"I am very honored," Nobu says with stereotypical Japanese humility about restaurants that copy (or try to) his signature dish: the miso black cod. "I saw it on a menu in Israel and started smiling."

The job has been about more than getting people used to his spicy, precise and downright beautiful plates of food; there's also be contro-

■ NOBU, Page 62



Colicchio gets cookin' in Dallas

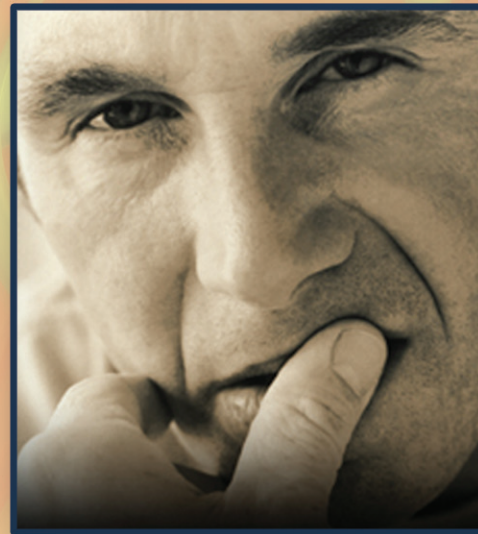
Like Nobu Matsuhisa, celebrichief Tom Colicchio spends more time overseeing his empire — and producing/hosting shows for Bravo — than cooking in the kitchens of his Craft restaurants. But just as the new season of *Top Chef* begins, the bearish icon will be packing his knives ... and bringing them to Dallas.

On June 23 and 24, Colicchio will join on-site chef de cuisine at his Craft inside the W to prepare items newly incorporated into the summer menu, including sockeye salmon from Copper River, sweet corn and purple hull peas. If you ever wondered whether food celebrities on TV really can bring it, here's your chance to find out.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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■ NOBU, From Page 61

versy about over-fishing (he jokes about Greenpeace).

"In Japan, farm technologies have developed so every shrimp is farm-raised," he says of accusations of unsustainability. Not so in the U.S., of course, which is why Nobu is cautious about the BP/gulf oil spill.

"It may affect us — we may start to feel the damage [down the road], which is a shame," he says. His special rock shrimp tempura may suffer. "It was an accident, but *people* made mistakes."

Maybe they do. But get a look at a gorgeous plate Chef

Nobu prepares himself and you may wonder if he's one of them. *Nobu Dallas, 400 Crescent Court. 214-252-7000.*



... **AND AFTER** | The completed dish. In true investigative journalism fashion, the reporter made sure it tasted as good as it looked. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Drawing Dallas

This hot couple knows how to keep cool in the summer

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Still as sweet

Who: Jennifer Aleman and Rose Klutte
Spotted at: Paciugo in Lakewood
Cool and hot: Gelato lovers Jennifer Aleman and Rose Klutte share a moment at the Lakewood Paciugo. Jennifer is a Venice Beach, Calif. native and manager at Suzzi in Uptown. She spends her free time BMX riding and writing song lyrics. Texas-born Rose is a receptionist who loves to wakeboard and is a great singer.



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Pride by design

Artist and athlete Selso Sifuentes brings it on the field and in the store

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

Name: Selso Sifuentes
Spotted at: Starbucks on Cedar Springs
Occupation: Retail visual display

Proud newcomer: Selso is a Galveston boy who moved to Dallas less than a year ago. This 26-year-old Virgo is a window display artist and designer who loves to draw and craft his own plush dolls.

What side he bats for: An athlete as well as an artist, Selso plays shortstop for the Gladiators, the Pegasus Slowpitch Softball Association team that recently won the Texas Shootout tournament in Austin.

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RICKY BRADLEY | Contributing
thesportsfag@sportsfags.com



SISSY-BOOM-BAH | Former high school or college cheerleaders Bobby Bridgwater, Ashley Horton and Will Green now show the power of the pyramid for Cheer Pride Dallas. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

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Considering that Dallas is home to the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, the National Cheerleading Association headquarters and several all-star and high school national championships meets, it's no wonder the gays have their own sense of rah-rah-sis-boom-bah. In fact, cheering is nowhere more effervescent than at Dallas Pride Cheer, Dallas' open — but mostly gay — cheer squad.

Under the leadership of Bobby Bridgwater, DPC is enjoying a renaissance of sorts. (Gimme an R!)

Over the past few years, DPC has re-organized and now is a non-profit cheerleading organization raising money for several causes. During the past year alone, DPC has cheered and raised money for charities such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and organizations benefiting individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

Its philanthropic diversity better reflects DPC initiatives to open up to those outside the gay community — which, according to Bridgwater,

is more indicative of the diversity on the squad itself.

When it started as Cheer Dallas, the members were all gay. Now, about a third of the 25 core members are straight. DPC even cheered at the hetero-filled, alcohol-fueled Greenville Avenue St. Patrick's Parade earlier in March — a significantly different crowd than DPC has encountered in Oak Lawn.

"At the Dallas Pride parade, people are throwing money at us, putting money in our bucket," Bridgwater says. "Along Greenville Avenue, people are throwing tortillas, Jell-O shots and beads. And they reach into your buckets to see what you are giving them!"

Differences aside, the squad managed to raise nearly the same amount of money on Greenville as they do annually during in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Pride (which, when considering the size of the two crowds, is a testament to the giving nature of the gay community).

With their spirit aimed squarely at helping others through tumbling, twisting and dismounting, DPC's fundraising efforts for Make-

n R! Gimme an !! D! E! What does it spell?
nts you to know

Sports Writer

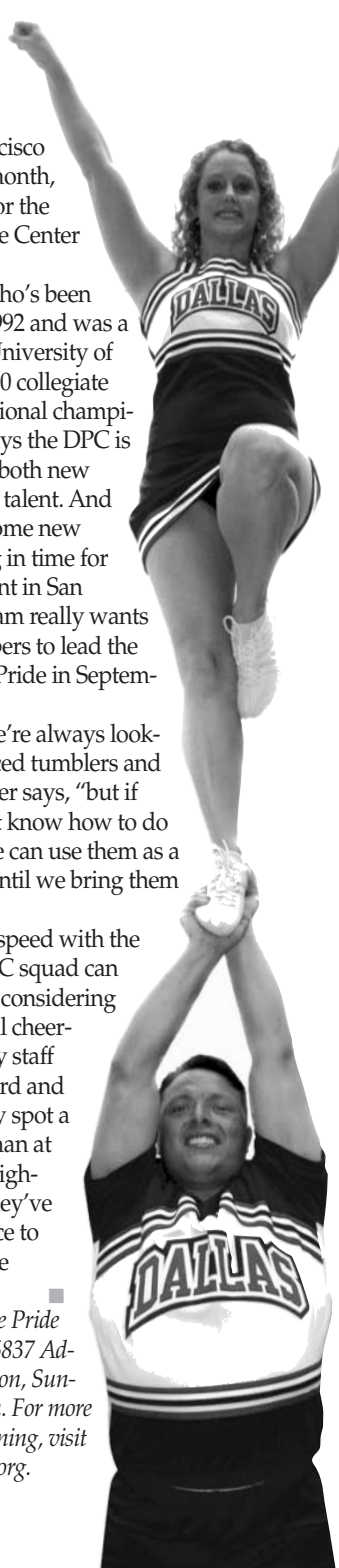
A-Wish helped them secure a corporate sponsorship from Maggiano's Little Italy. But with its roots securely anchored in Dallas' gay community, DPC is feverishly preparing for their next big appearance: They will be teaming up with cheer squads from San Francisco, San Diego, Chicago, Sacramento and New York at San Francisco Pride later this month, to raise money for the Positive Resource Center in San Francisco.

Bridgwater, who's been cheering since 1992 and was a member of the University of North Texas' 2000 collegiate cheerleading national championship squad, says the DPC is actively seeking both new and experienced talent. And while they welcome new members joining in time for this month's event in San Francisco, the team really wants long-term members to lead the cheers at Dallas Pride in September.

"Of course, we're always looking for experienced tumblers and fliers," Bridgwater says, "but if someone doesn't know how to do certain things we can use them as a base or spotter until we bring them along."

Getting up to speed with the all-volunteer DPC squad can take months but considering they have several cheerleading company staff members on board and one can routinely spot a 50-year-old woman at the top of their high-split pyramid, they've got the experience to bring new people along.

Practice is at the *Pride All-Stars Gym, 16837 Addison Road, Addison, Sundays from 6-9 p.m.* For more information on joining, visit DallasPrideCheer.org.



Gang Bangkok



The sound of the Turtle Creek Chorale against a pumping club music BPM is perhaps only for the imagination. We may never see Jonathan Palant lead his gents through a concert of classics by the likes of Black Eyed Peas or Technotronic. Maybe we don't want to. But that doesn't mean the Chorale can't throw down.

The unlikely pair of the Chorale and a circuit party happens Saturday night with One Night in Bangkok, a club event benefiting the TCC at the Brick — and promoter Dannee Phann is putting it all out there. One *Night* is really an entire weekend.

The event starts Friday with a VIP and host party, but the main celebration happens Saturday with Los Angeles DJ Roland Belmares taking over the Brick turntables. After that, you won't want to put away your dancing shoes just yet.

While Saturday is the centerpiece, Sunday has an impressive lineup, too. And what's a circuit party without the ever popular tea-dance?

Hottie Austin DJ Timmy G, pictured, throws down Sunday at 5 p.m. That gives you enough time for a major disco nap. Paul Kraft Productions hosts the after-party at The Club with DJ Brandon Moses from 1 a.m. to after sunrise — just in time for breakfast taquitos.

Now in its fourth year, One Night in Bangkok has successfully donated significant numbers to the Chorale. In 2009, the event raised \$17,500 for the organization. This year, with hopes of surpassing that number, proceeds from sold tickets will also benefit the Resource Center Dallas.

Obviously this won't be the time the Turtle Creek Chorale mixes up their traditional work with club music, but One Night in Bangkok has put it in our minds. Just sayin'.

— Rich Lopez

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ED WALSH | Contributing Writer
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com

It wouldn't surprise most people to know that the rural community of Eureka Springs (population: 2,200) has a large evangelical Christian population. Indeed, the city's best-known landmark — a seven-story statue of Jesus on a hill outside of town — is the third-largest statue of Christ in the world. Nightly outdoor passion plays draws Christian participants from all around the world. In another part of town, the stunning glass Thorncrown Chapel was ranked fourth on the American Institute of Architects list of 20th century structures.

Yet despite this fundamentalist bent, Eureka Springs has a huge gay community. The city's tourist board estimates that as many as 30 percent of residents are LGBT.

The Northwest Arkansas town depends on tourism, with many visitors gay, making them an important part of the city's economy. No wonder the city doesn't celebrate gay Pride once a year, but *three* times with a trifecta of "diversity weekends." The gay rainbow flag can be seen proudly displayed across town.

Eureka Springs began domestic partners registry three years ago and is still the only place in Arkansas where same-sex couples can register their relationships. The town also outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"I can't imagine living anywhere else," says Lamont Richie, the openly gay head of the Eureka Springs Transit System. Richie moved with

his partner to Eureka Springs from Houston 18 years ago and said he has never felt safer. His partner, Steve Roberson, owns the Quicksilver Art Gallery.

The city's laid-back style offers something for anyone, though it probably appeals more to couples than singles. There are no gay bars in town, though most are gay-friendly and some have nights that are targeted toward the gay community.

Even without any gay bars to speak of, there's no shortage of gay-friendly watering holes. Eureka Live is one of the more popular bars for LGBTs — Wednesday nights particularly.

A good example of the city's gay-friendliness can be found in the gay hotel accommodations website, PurpleRoofs.com: It lists in excess of two dozen gay-owned or -friendly hotels and inns, more than you'd find in most major cities.

About an hour's drive from Fayetteville, Eureka Springs sits in the heart of Arkansas' Ozark Mountains. It's a seven-hour drive from Dallas and the closest major airport is the Northwest Arkansas Regional, itself an hour's drive from downtown.

Eureka Springs was born in 1879 after word first got out more than a decade earlier that the city's more than 60 springs may have medicinal healing powers. In its heyday (between 1890 and 1910), the city's population was more than 20,000 — nine times what it is now. The medical



OUT IN ARKANSAS | The Mardi Gras parade in Eureka Springs is just one of the many gay-friendly celebration in this welcoming town — the only one in Arkansas that lets gay couples register their unions.

tourism industry help fund the infrastructure that kept Eureka Springs on the tourists' sights long after the waters' healing properties were debunked.

Visitors often say Eureka Springs reminds them of San Francisco, from the steep hillsides to the Victorian architecture. Many homes are built directly into slopes with ground level entrances on top, bottom *and* middle floors (the Basin Park Hotel has street-level entrances on each of its *four* floors).

Named by American Style magazine as one of the top 25 arts destinations in the U.S., the area's serene beauty attracts artists who keep Eureka Springs' more than 30 galleries stocked with some of the finest homegrown art you will find anywhere.

Diversity Weekends usually take place in April, August and October, which include a series of parties and social events. Each weekend features a gathering in Basin Park in which cou-

ples are encouraged to gather and embrace each other in union. Upcoming weekends are Aug. 6 and Oct. 29.

Hotel rates are generally the most expensive in October when people flock to the Ozarks to view the spectacular fall foliage. But no matter when you come, rates are very reasonable, with budget hotels starting around \$39/night; you can find a nice B&B for not much more than that.

The only exclusively gay hotel, the rustic Magnetic Valley Resort, sits on three acres on the outskirts of the city and offers a heated pool and sauna. The historic Crescent Hotel and Spa is gay-friendly and very appreciative of the gay market. Even if you are not staying there, be sure to stop by for a nightly ghost tour — the hotel embraces its haunted residents almost as much as the city does its gay ones.

Visit EurekaSprings.org. For information special LGBT events, visit DiversityPride.com or EurekaPride.com.



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Optrick-al illusion

Forget your game face; when choosing eyewear, give your face game

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

Kinte Walkera has a simple motto: "If you don't get 10 compliments in 10 days, I need to change my profession."

That's a pretty bold claim that few people other than personal stylists and professional sycophants could sustain. And in a way, Walkera is a stylist. His specialty is your eyes.

Walkera has decorated countless faces in his years as an eyewear specialist; he currently plies his skills at Insight Complete Eye Care on Hillcrest. It's a more nuanced job than you might expect.

People are attached to their glasses, Walkera says, and — like a haircut, hair color or wardrobe — they resist when someone tells them they haven't maximized their look.

"Change is very complicated," he says. "It's common that a person comes in and says, 'I

want something different,' and then 99 percent of the time, they pull out exactly the same thing they came in with. People see themselves in one or two dimensions all day long. I am a stranger and I see you in all four dimensions so I can see change that works better for you."

To work effectively, an eyewear specialist "has to garner your trust within the first 60 seconds," he says. And the personable, exotically accented Walkera usually has no problem doing that.

It helps that he has a system. As part of a program developed by Insight called Optricks, Walkera had honed his ability to analyze how to pair a face with a frame. It's more art than science, although it seems to work. Here's what you can consider:

Shape. There are about four face shapes, Walkera says: Box or square, oval, elongated and



SEE AND BE SEEN | Kinte Walkera with Insight Eye Care specializes in helping eyeglass wearers develop their personal style. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

round. Like matching a wine with food, choosing eyeglasses should compliment *and* complement your body.

"Go with the opposite of what your face is," Walkera counsels. "For a round face, you want a square frame. Those who are elongated can wear

anything they want. If your face is round, you don't want round glasses — all you're doing is accentuating how round you are."

All frame purchases should take the prescrip-

■ EYEWEAR, Page 76

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Driver's seat

Brandy Shaefer drives her Pride

Name: Brandy Schaefer

Occupation: Youth advisor, Center for Spiritual Living

What kind of car: 1996 Honda Accord

Why this car: Because it's mine, paid in full. And I love her. My father purchased it for me after an elderly woman totaled my Minivan in a freak accident.

Name of car: The Peacemobile

Uh-huh. So what is the Peacemobile? First it was my 1990 Dodge Caravan. The first messages were "Get involved," "The world is run by those who show up," "Support your local revolution," "Who would Jesus bomb?," "Spirituality is sexy." Most of those messages were repeated in the first paint job of this Honda.

Where did this idea come from? My roommates and I were sitting in the living room one day, discussing some idea, and I said we should paint that on the side on my van. We looked at each other, realizing nothing was stopping us. We grabbed the keys, ran up to the hardware store to get some paint.

What kind of paint do you use? I asked the guy in the paint department what kind of paint to use to paint my car. In horror and disgust, he said, "We don't sell that kind of paint here." "OK, I said, what would you use to paint a shed?" "Oh, I would use Rust-Oleum, it's right over there."

As we headed towards the paint, I heard him yell, "... but you cant use that to paint a car." But it was already too late. I've painted every car since.

What do your friends think when you pull up? Everyone loves the car and now it's a normal experience with close friends. They are desensitized to the awesomeness!

I'm trying to figure how I would react to being in the car. Passengers freak out on their first ride. They don't understand why everyone is staring and



RIDING THE PEACEMOBILE Shaefer repaints her car every few months; the message about saving the oceans is most recent. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

snapping photos while we drive down the highway. I have to gently remind them that they're riding in a billboard on wheels.

What do your co-workers think? Everyone in my life is very supportive of the car, though I have had insecure bosses in the past that seemed a little threatened by her presence in their parking lots during business hours.

Where has the Peacemobile been? The Peacemobile proudly debuted publicly at the Pride Parade in 2009, and will definitely be in this year's parade as well. It drives the streets of town everyday, and particularly loves resting outside the homes of beautiful women.

You've got to be kidding me. There's a fan club for the Peacemobile? Absolutely. You can find it on Facebook under The Official Peacemobile Fan Club. For every person that joins, I personally volunteer one hour of my life in the community.

Do cops pull you over? Well, they pull me over because of my lead foot. I don't think it has anything to do with the paint job.

If you get a new car, what will happen to this one? The new car will quickly transform into the new and improved Peacemobile! This one will be driven to its grave. Trust me.

OK, so really, why do you do this? I have received countless notes of support on my windshield. I talk with such a wide variety of people everywhere. It gives strangers the permission to connect with an idea. I stumbled into a young lesbian and her friend reading my car in a parking lot. She looked at me and said, "Can I give you a hug?" I hugged a complete stranger with avocado and tea in hand. One woman said the car woke her up from a dream. She had forgotten who she was, but the messages reminded her and she was inspired to start volunteering in the community again. It's moments like those where you look in someone's eyes and they look alive because of a bad paint job on an old Honda. The experience is completely priceless.

— Rich Lopez

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Best in SHO

Ford's Taurus SHO updates the family car into one cool ride

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

Ford's current Taurus is already a fantastic automobile that I called "the best Ford ever." It seems I out-drove myself; the SHO is better.

Ford first conceived the Taurus SHO in 1989 as a sportier and more powerful version its most popular sedan. A high-revving Yamaha V6, connected to a Mazda-sourced 5-speed manual transmission, transformed the car. A second generation debuted after the Taurus' 1996 re-design, boasting a Yamaha-engineered V8. More than 100,000 SHOs were sold in a decade.

To charm contemporary V8 levels of power out of the new SHO, engineers went for a twin-turbo EcoBoost 3.5-liter V6 to summon 365-horsepower — 102 more than the already potent 3.5-liter V6 in the base Taurus, and five HP more than the Chrysler 300C's 5.7-liter Hemi. The only available transmission (a six-speed automatic) can be left to its own mind or controlled via paddles behind the steering wheel.

A big advantage of turbos (and why you'll see more as fuel economy rules rise) is excellent efficiency. This full-size sedan, with as much interior space as a Crown Victoria, achieves 17/25-MPG city/highway.

Twin-turbo power is different than traditional high-torque Detroit muscle. Power surfaces more smoothly, not necessarily bolting you to the seat-backs, but it just keeps coming, and coming. At Interstate speeds, the turbos are reeling for a run and surge at the first indication that you and the throttle are ready to go. Power comes in a surge from 1,500-5,250 rpm, but is never abrupt.

Not much from the outside clues you into the SHO's inner voraciousness. This car is about trolling for munchies in stealth. Oh, there's the optional 20-in. wheels with Michelin high-performance tires, subtle decklid spoiler and twin chrome exhaust outlets that tell others "Back off!" A unique grille, SHO-specific parking lamp bezels, and a full range of Taurus colors make sure you get a whiff.

Designers took a similar stance inside, making enhancements for the SHO but leaving everything

else alone. Heated and cooled front leather seats with Miko suede inserts (made from recycled soda bottles), perforated leather-wrapped steering wheel (no wood here), aluminum pedals, aluminum-look dash finish and special logos are about the only ways to ping your ride. That's fine, because the raked twin-dash design, large analog gauges, piano black console finish and large gear selector look great while connecting Taurus to the Mustang.

As Ford's flagship, engineers ensured it comes with the latest gadgetry. Push button starting, capless fuel filling, Bluetooth cell phone connectivity and reversing camera are but a start. The SHO is also equipped with blind spot detectors, adaptive cruise control that monitors traffic ahead to adjust speed and "collision warning" with brake assist. The latter detects stopping traffic ahead and will apply brakes if the driver does not take action.

Sony audio with full USB connectivity thumps the plastic bits to bits with 390 Watts and 115 dB of max bass boost. Ford Sync, developed with Microsoft, enables voice-activated calling, audio selections, and navigation. You can find almost anything. If Apple's iPhone is supposedly the "Jesus phone," then Sync is an apostle. I could do without the powered multi-contoured seats that have a complete mind of their own.

The body structure is stiff and engineered to improve safety. It also insures the SHO rides firmly on its four-wheel independent suspension system, settles in comfortably on the highway, and carves up corners like no car this big should. All-wheel-drive, electronic stability control, and four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes can do to slick roads what a pair of turbos does to dry asphalt.

The 2010 SHO may not wear its balls on the outside, but is clearly displaying them in a tightly packed box. SHO has become one of Ford's most-coveted brands, not for its all-out power and performance, but for its Euro-style grace and balance.

If you want a fun weekend toy that gets junior to school or the family to Florida, this is way better. Makes you wonder how your buddy is going to feel when his prestigious sportster gets whooped by a steel blue metallic Volvo-based American family sedan, doesn't it? Prices start at \$37,995.



COUNTRY PRIDE | Cathy Brown, right, and her partner, Stephanie, find a quieter side of life in Lancaster. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

Fabbing the 'burbs

For some LGBT-ers, life away from the city ain't bad

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

The bright lights and big city are undeniably exciting. Whether it's a new restaurant opening in old East Dallas or a high-rise rising in Uptown, the city's energy flows at a continuous rate. The hubbub of a city is crucial to an active gay community.

But some people have found a nice refuge outside of the city limits.

Cathy Brown is a familiar face in the community, heading up the chorus and orchestra every Sunday at Cathedral of Hope as its church conductor, or leading the New Texas Symphony Orchestra as artistic director.

The commute to her day job at Cedar Valley College from Oak Cliff wasn't long, but one day, fate intervened.

"I spotted the house for sale on the way to work one day and fell in love with it," she says.

The home was a foreclosure mess, but after lots of hard work and elbow grease, Brown and her partner Stephanie turned it into a home worthy of an American family portrait in the southern suburb of Lancaster — with a queer twist.

And in a town where the whole "gay thing" could be an issue, Brown has had no problems.

"Much like the rest of our lives, we just live as we do and don't offer it to be questioned," she says. "It is not something we broadcast, nor something we hide. We just try to be good neighbors and the overall reaction has been great."

The couple loves the lush green trees and large lawns in both front and back, and are proud of the white fence they built on the porch.

"We just *had* to have that for this home," Stephanie says.

If there's one drawback to life in the 'burbs, it's the dining options.

"There is little variety and non-smoking is non-existent," Brown grimaces. "Dallas Avenue Diner and Big Bruce's Bar-B-Que are really good family-owned restaurants, but to have a really nice dinner, we have to drive back into Dallas."

Daryl Hildebrand and Rudy Lopez went north to find a home in The Colony. North Dallas suburbs usually fall into a Stepford template with cookie-cutter houses and gated communities, but Hildebrand has found some true character in his town.

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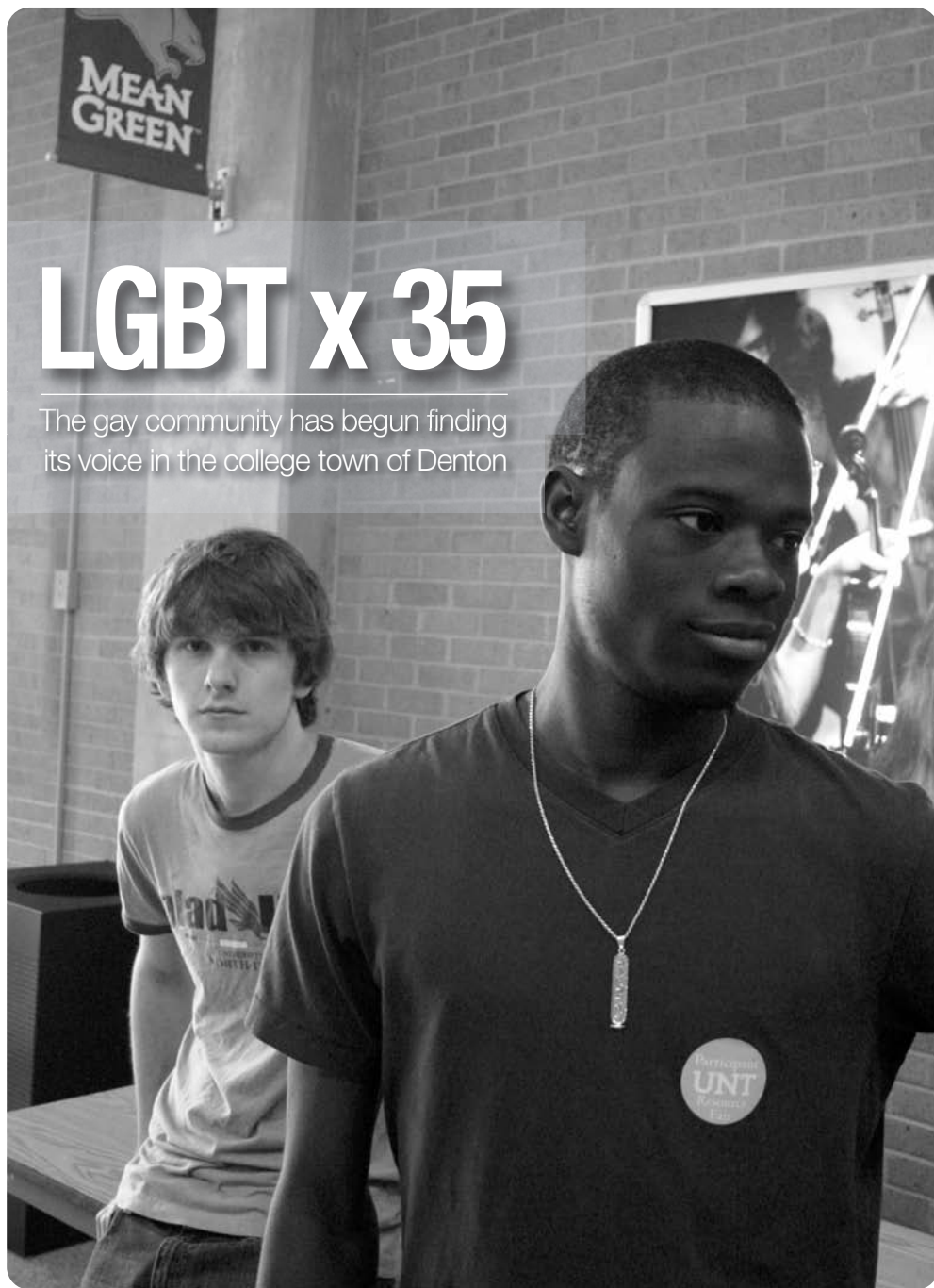
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LGBT x 35

The gay community has begun finding its voice in the college town of Denton

STUDENT BODIES | Brady Mayfield, left, and Diedrick Brackens work as officers in UNT's queer alliance group, Glad. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Something must be in the water in Denton. The town known mostly for its live music and colleges has been exploding in a rainbow of colors, as three groups work toward giving Denton's LGBT community a voice and an identity.

A while back, the University of North Texas' LGBT group, GLAD (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Denton), fizzled out as interest waned for whatever reasons, its lone remnant an outdated website stuck in Internet limbo.

A revitalized group kept the name Glad, but got ride of the acronym; now it's just Glad: UNT's Queer Alliance Group.

"We have a very good program," says Jake Richert, who until recently served as PR officer. "We're bringing more opportunities for UNT to provide a voice for the community and also provide information. And I think a lot more can be

done with Glad."

As public relations officer, Richert's goal was to demonstrate Glad is more than just a group of friends; it's a serious resource for students coming out, new students in the university and for providing awareness to the larger community.

Diedrick Brackens feels some pressure on him to see it succeed. As the current president, this senior wants his tenure to make a difference. The group was a safe place when he began college and he comes full circle in doing the same for others while also getting the group to a stable foundation — along with the school getting major attention last fall: In November 2009, UNT students voted *against* allowing same-sex couples to run for homecoming court. Despite the outcome, Brackens defends UNT as a welcoming and diverse place.

"It's an inviting place and we have many straight allies," he says. "We encourage mem-

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bers to get involved with student government and campus life. Being involved, and not just with Glad, is important to us. As LGBT students, it's our campus too."

But Brackens has led the group to be proactive in areas beyond their duty.

"We've helped a lot of gay and trans people find safe places to go on campus and dorms to live in. These are things staff would be doing."

With a small gay-centric atmosphere in Denton, Glad hosts a prom for LGBT students, camping trips and a drag show at Mable Peabody's, the city's signature gay club. These have been successful events, but Brackens knows he has to think beyond the now and to the future if Glad is to thrive.

Brackens does double duty in the community, also serving as director of programs at the newly formed LGBT Center of Denton, whose mission is "to provide the LGBTQA community in the Greater Denton area with education, social services, recreational programming and advocacy in a supportive, safe space." Currently it's just a virtual resource — there is no building yet. But getting one is on the agenda.

Right now, support is done mostly through social networks, aggregating events and news and posting them to its Facebook page. But it has taken steps to corral the community. Each month, it sponsors Real Queer, a film series at the Art Six Coffee House. According to Brackens, local businesses have been very supportive.

And they should, not only do they stimulate the Denton economy, businesses welcoming the community can be the temporary spot for the center. Clearly, a win-win situation.

When Glad vice president Brady Mayfield isn't busy tending to his school group, he's working with the Denton arm of Queer LiberAction. Sparked by the homecoming issue, Queer LiberAction formed last fall.

"It was a response to the bill's failure in the Student Government



GLAD TO HELP | Mayfield and Brackens work the group's table during UNT's freshmen orientation.

Association and we are currently still working on changing the rules to make homecoming more inclusive," Mayfield says. "But we've also been working in groups like Get Equal to fight for LGBT rights in our area."

In addition to Glad, the center and Queer LiberAction, smaller groups have also popped up. By the Bi started out as a sub-group of Glad but its growing membership allowed it to spin off. Keith Magee made an attempt with Denton Pride last August; like the center, it would have provided vital info to the community in Denton and Denton County.

Brackens figures the queer voice in Denton is only going to get bigger. The development signifies a voice almost demanding to be heard. And he's just fine being a part of that.

"We've never had any issues and we try to say to businesses, 'Hey, we're the LGBT community, you should love us,'" he laughs. ■

■ **DIGS**, From Page 71

"The Colony has been good to us for a small town," he says. "I live in the neighborhood where everyone waves and speaks when you pass by. When you don't have kids, it's harder, but we do feel welcomed here."

That doesn't mean people haven't noticed they are gay, but fortunately, it's "not a thing," he says. "I don't think we are the deep, dark, secret in the neighborhood. If you meet us, you would probably guess we are a couple. We are conscious of our surroundings, but never had a reason to feel uncomfortable."

Dave Cudlipp takes a funny approach to his 'burbs of choice — not a surprise for the member of the Dallas Comedy Conspiracy troupe. He and his partner took up residency in the Mid-Cities.

"We live in Useless, er, Euleless, or as they say now Fab-Euleless," he says. "It's close to work for both of us. We bought a nicer home out here than we could afford in Dallas."

The two haven't any qualms about their neighborhood or what people might think. But also, neighbors have been surprised the two are a couple — probably because they both look like members of the Dallas Cowboys.

"It never enters my mind that I am living somewhere as an out person," he says. "When they meet us, they are very surprised to find out we are a gay couple. Because we're both big, pretty muscular, masculine guys people usually assume we're straight. Not that we care what they think but no one has ever said anything negative to us — at least to our faces."

Brown, Hildebrand and Cudlipp seem to have no regrets: Commutes, neighbors, jobs aren't as much a factor as just finding a home where the heart is. Although Brown had one problem her city counterparts may never have.

"We've experienced regular neighbor issues — loud music, rowdy kids, horses let loose in the front yard." Horses? "OK, that only happened once." ■

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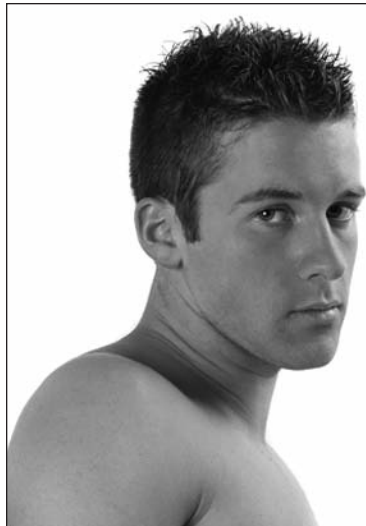
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■ EYEWEAR, From Page 67

tion into account as well.

"The prescription will change based on the shape of the frame," he says. "I am blind as a bat, so I could always have a small frame to offset the thickness of the lenses."

Wider frames create a more masculine feel, and offer an architectural quality that can give the face dimension.

Color. Color can change a person's look as well. (This is something I know from experience dealing with Walkera: He sold me a pair of black-and-red Alain Mikli frames three years ago which quickly became a signature look for me.) Walkera often quizzes customers about their profession and lifestyle before settling on a frame.

As a rule, "a harsh color establishes authority, while softer colors can be more reassuring," he says. Someone working in the arts might go for a fun color combination.

A similar color analysis goes into matching a client's skin tone with his frames.

"For people with dark complexions, I try to

get the light colors: Indigo, purple. For those with salt-and-pepper, go with a shape of color that's more youthful," he says. Those wanting to shave some years off might also want to avoid cats-eye.

Don't limit yourself. Eyeglasses don't have to be an either/or proposition — you *can* have a collection. (Walkera has 62 pair at home that even his boyfriend considers a bit excessive.) Especially for guys, a variety of eyewear acts like jewelry.

"We only get to express ourselves with a few accessories: Watches, ties and glasses. Why don't we?" Walkera asks.

He will take into account size, materials (silicon, wire, plastic) and the wearer's own preferences. But there is one hard-and-fast rule.

"Some people want something that disappears, some bold people like to contrast," Walkera says. Whatever you choose, own it. "If you're gonna wear them, wear them; don't let them wear you."

8611 Hillcrest Road. Monday–Friday 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. 214-739-8611. InsightDallas.com

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Pride pendant recalls past movements

When musician Jason Mraz takes an interest in something so small, it might be safe to think it's meaning is a whole lot more. That happened to designer Carlos Antonio and his Fight For Equality necklace. Mraz saw it, liked it and now has given his name to the cause of what the pendant stands for.

"I wanted to show solidarity and an empowered fight, but a fight with knowledge," Antonio says.

The sterling-silver necklace and pendant have rung loudly for straight allies and the community. He feels the clenched fist is a symbol people can get behind and relate to.

"I got the idea from previous movements," Antonio says. "The rainbow or the pink triangle don't reflect the feeling of what's going on. But this is a symbol to feel empowered by."

Proceeds from jewelry sales go to both Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Fund and the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

— Rich Lopez

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Saturday 06.19

The one funny view we really want

When Whoopi Goldberg joined the cast of *The View*, it was a brilliant move for the show and the outspoken actress. We do kinda miss the funny lady of the *Sister Act* movies and Comic Relief benefits. Proving she hasn't lost her chops, Goldberg is back on the road delivering the laughs and – no doubt – enjoying a reprieve from *View* cohost Elizabeth Hasselbeck.

DEETS: Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$45–\$150. DallasSymphony.com.

Saturday 06.19

Homo-horror films get their day

When the *Creature from the Pink Lagoon* and a re-make of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane* with drag queens happen the same day, it's gonna be a good thing. The first Fears for Queers LGBT horror movie fest brings the frights and the fab together with two feature films and eight shorts, all by LGBT filmmakers. Q&A's with the filmmakers, food and merch will all be on hand, along with the screams.

DEETS: Movie Studio Grill, 5405 Beltline Road, Addison. 11 a.m. \$15. DOABloodbath.com.

Monday 06.21

Such a different kind of toy story

In *Vintage*, photographer David Parise takes Kens and Barbies but reimagines them in innocent recreational scenes reminiscent of the '60s. That's what he says. To us, it looks like Ken has finally come to terms with a few things.

DEETS: Rising Gallery, 4631 Insurance Lane. Through July 31. RisingGallery.com



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FRIDAY 06.18

COMMUNITY

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

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

Triangle Networking Tarrant, for gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses. Dos Gringos, 1510 University Ave., Fort Worth. 6 p.m. \$5. 817-496-3479.

THEATER

Black Pearl Sings! WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Sunday. Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., Wednesdays–Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. \$25–\$40. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Poseidon! An Upside Down Musical presented by Level Ground Arts. Dallas Hub Theater, 2809 Canton Road. Through June 26. Fridays–Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. \$20. LevelGroundArts.com.

Wicked. Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First St. Through June 27. Tuesdays–Sundays at 8 p.m., weekend matinees at 2 p.m. \$15–\$65. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

ART

a la cARTe: Art. Jewelry. Fashion. Art and trunk show featuring work by Jim Frederick and James Rudolph. Artisan Style, 2417 Mahon St. June 6–July 3. Opening night reception at 6 p.m. ArtisanStyle.net.

Summer Selections 2.0 group show featuring Bert Long, Gary Bishop, Susan Budge and other artists. Through June 26. HCG Gallery, 1130 Dragon St., Suite 190. HCGGallery.com.

Trigger Happy art show by local out artist Cathey Miller. Magnolia Gallery (in the Magnolia Theater), 3699 McKinney Ave. Through June 30. MagnoliaGalleryDallas.com.

SATURDAY 06.19

COMMUNITY

Dallas Prime Timers bingo at member's residence. Call 972-504-8866 for information.

GayBingo. The Gay Pride Red Party of the Year. A winner will be selected for the Lady Gaga ticket raffle. With hosts Jenna Skyy and Patti Le Plae Safe. The Rose Room inside Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. \$25. 214-540-4495.

Juneteenth Pool Party hosted by Men of All Colors Together. The event is held at a member's residence. 6327 Symphony Lane, Dallas. Call 214-521-4765 for more information.

SUNDAY 06.20

COMMUNITY

Fresh 2010 Pre-Party benefiting Legacy Counseling Center and Founder's Cottage. With DJ Anthony Klatt and complimentary refreshments and eats. ThirdSpace, 1608-C Main St. 6:30 p.m. \$20. Dallas-Fresh.com.

The Set, a group of the Legacy of Success Foundation that serves as a safe environment for SGL

African-American men. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 6 p.m.

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

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 214-521-5342 ext. 1708.

Friends Associating and Relating, LGBT social group, meets. Newcomers welcome. Call 214-328-6749 for details.

FILM

Sunday Sunset Movies on the Patio presented by Central 214 restaurant. Free screenings every Sunday in June. Menu specials available. This week's film is Hairspray. Central 214, 5680 N. Central Expressway. 8 p.m. Central214.com.

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. This week's guest is community activist Gregory Pynes. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon.

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

TELEVISION

The Real L Word. Reality series debuts on Showtime profiling the lives of six lesbian women in Los Angeles. Check your channel listings. 10 p.m. Sho.com.

MONDAY 06.21

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.

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

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.

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 06.22

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.

Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

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

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THE RED QUEEN | Jenna Skyy should be in vibrant color at this Saturday's GayBingo Gay Pride Red Party of the Year.

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

Dallas Prime Timers Prime Dinner at Blue Mesa Grill, 7700 W. Northwest Highway. Call 972-504-8866 for information.

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

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

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

Animals Abused and Abandoned fundraiser. Print invitation from the website and the restaurant will donate 20 percent to the organization during the time slot. Black Eyed Pea, 3857 Cedar Springs Road. 4-10 p.m. Animals-Abused.org.

BROADCAST

Ilume-A-Nation Tuesday with Jack E. Jett. Streams weekly at 11 a.m. on ilume.com.

The Jack E. Jett Show with co-host Jackie Stallone streams every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

WEDNESDAY 06.23

COMMUNITY

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

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

Gay Teen Project. 909 W. Magnolia St., Suite 2, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-332-7722.

20Something social group meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:15 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

Common Bond, an alternative lifestyle book group. Barnes & Noble, 362 East F.M. 1382, Cedar Hill. 7 p.m. 972-293-9367.

x3 social group for women. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. 214-528-0144.

Youth First Texas Collin County. Open to ages 14 to 22. 1200 Commerce St., Suite 121, Plano. 6:30-8:45 p.m. 214-879-0400.

Firedancers Dallas Tribe club night the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser St. 7-10 p.m. Free. 972-406-9861.

THURSDAY 06.24

COMMUNITY

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

The ONE Church West Bible Study. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

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

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

FILM

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

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Ulysses, Brian and Victor at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

If you're heading out to get your **Pride** on this week, we've found a few options for you Get loaded at **Rush's CockTails** party Friday. **DJ Micah B** spins tunes from the '80s. Proceeds from the bar's take that night will go to **Resource Center Dallas** **Jack's Backyard** brings **Swan Song** to the stage on Friday. **Anne McCue** comes back to town from Nashville to play Saturday night Head to **the Brick** for the weekend-long party **One Night in Bangkok**. With special guest DJs, dance it up on the floor and then finish it off with the after party Sunday night at **The Club** New dance recording artist **Lolene** performs Friday night at **the Rose Room**. This month's **GayBingo** on Saturday is billed as the **Gay Pride Red Party of the Year**. Now that's a bold statement After that, walk down to **JR.'s Bar & Grill** for the **Hand Painted Underwear Auction**. Live artwork on boys? Um, yeah, we're there. The event benefits **Home for the Holidays Texas** Find out who the next **Miss LifeWalk** will be at **the Round-Up Saloon** Sunday **The Dallas Rainbow Council** hosts **Pride Fiesta** at **Kallente** Sunday ... **Sue Ellen's** brings 6th Street to town Friday with **Austin Does Dallas** featuring **Paige Lewis, Shelly King** and **Ginger Leigh**. **Ciao Bella** gets their turn at the stage on Saturday **Woody's** hosts **Andrea Dawson** and **Paul Allen** on the back patio Friday night and continues the live music with **Anton Shaw** Thursday evening That should keep your Pride going for another week

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Warren and Jason at the Round-Up Saloon.



Scott and Jerry at the Dallas Eagle.



Bontisha, Irene and Myeisha at Sue Ellen's.



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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Jai Rodriguez turns 31 on Tuesday. Even though we weren't ever sure how his culture input really worked on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, Rodriguez at least made it feel important. He's kept up the work on TV and stage but how many of us blinked and missed his cameo on Lady Gaga's "Telephone" video as a newscaster?

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

What disturbs you most about your partner could be exactly what's needed for him or her to help you succeed. Get past whatever flaw or blessing that may be, and work with it.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Health problems are best addressed by radically new approaches. Try chiropractic work or high colonics. Say what's on your mind, but be ready to have your mind changed.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You may shock your friends with your sudden urge to challenge them with deep and frightening ideas or risky games. Spontaneous seductions, however, can work out brilliantly.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The hardest-learned lessons from childhood are resonating at work. You may feel pressured or bullied. Resist temptation to vent at your partner, but do have a frank discussion.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Identifying too much with grand ideas can blind you to important basics. Trying to pull that together can distract you, causing accidents. Vigorous exercise burn off stress if you don't overdo it.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Sex can be a delicious diversion from the stress of political and economic crises. Sublimate that energy or take inspiration from it and channel some of that libido into more creative impulses.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Times are tough and you're feeling it. Share your feelings with someone you have a deep connection with and get some perspective. Sports cultivate a strong sense of community.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

All your secrets and worries can start pouring out of you before you realize it. This is a great time to work on deep personal problems, but be careful to make sure you can trust your confidante.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Avoid impulsive spending and gambling. Calculated creative efforts can prove lucrative. You get ahead doing something fun, but the keys to fiscal sanity are still hard work and discipline.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Competing demands of work and home are evidence that others expect great things of you. Home should be a base and your family the people you can count on so you can succeed.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

You're comfortable with practical details, but engage in overarching ideas. You have more inner strength than you realize. Step back and meditate and the big picture will become clearer.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Sex and money issues seem to be acutely critical. Think about where you want to be financially and/or erotically in 12 years. What would it take to get there? Talking with friends can help.

THIS WEEK

Entering Cancer, the sun triggers a square between Jupiter in Aries and Pluto in Capricorn, bringing clear visions of danger that may also push too quickly to protective responses. Look for common ground and keep negotiations calm and productive. Avoiding major conflict or persevering through one requires courage and sacrifice.

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

JANE'S WORLD



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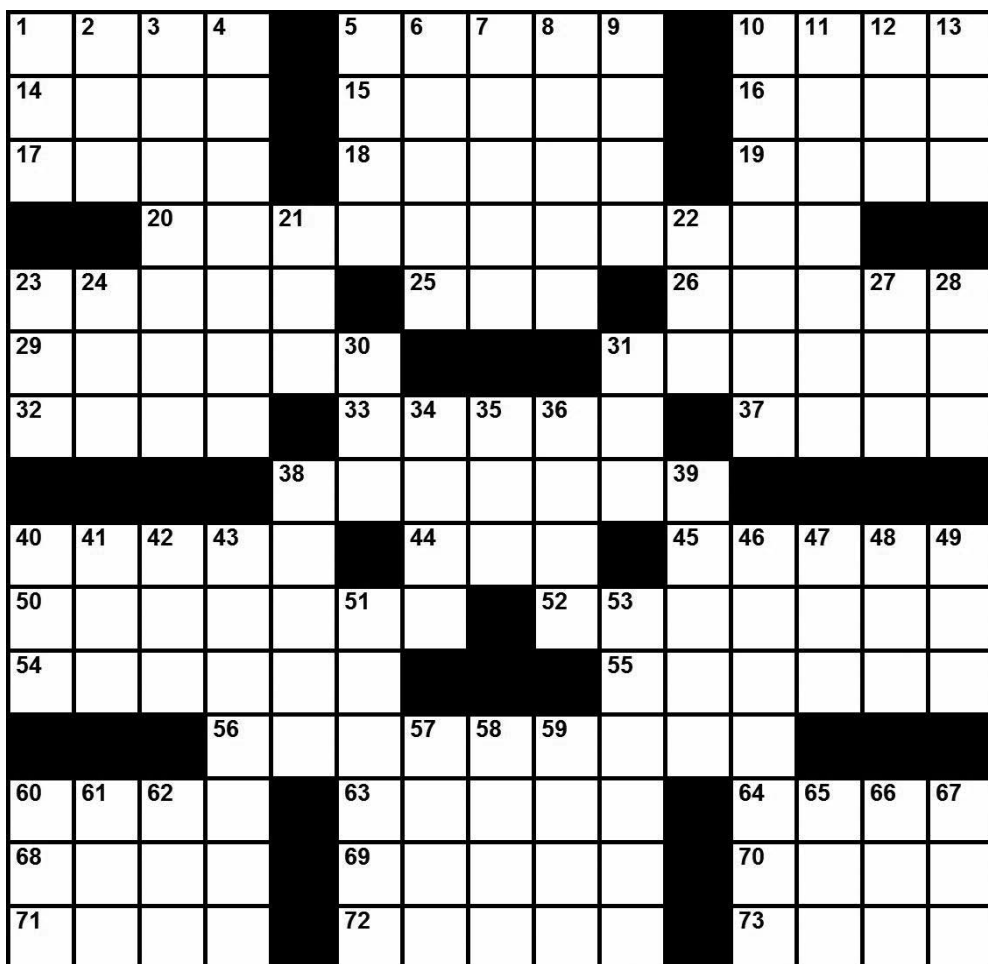
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Rainbow Flag

Solution on page 81

Across

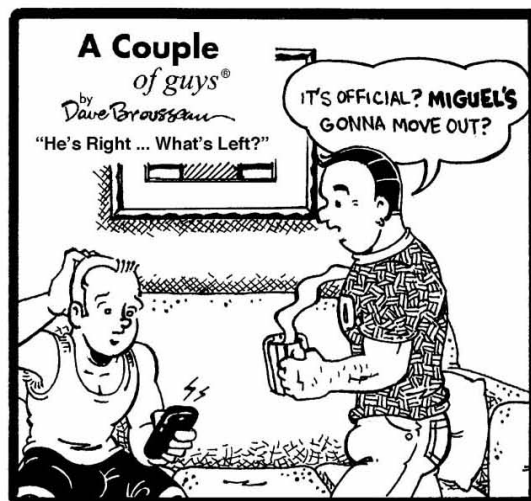
- 1 Arnaz, whose inlaws had Balls
 5 Whitman's leaves
 10 Cry of Dorothy
 14 "Baseball Tonight" channel
 15 Zellweger of "Chicago"
 16 Not outstanding
 17 Sites for three men in a tub
 18 Cancel out
 19 Chelsea Pines and others
 20 ___ Red (Type of cock)
 23 Weapon of Caesar's day
 25 Actor Bentley
 26 Scenic view
 29 ___ orange (Cut fruit, perhaps)
 31 ___ yellow ("Cock-eyed Optimist" color)
 32 "The African Queen" author
 33 Poles for your first mate?
 37 "Hollaback Girl" singer Stefani
 38 Where to meet Judy Garland, in a movie
 40 Moisten one's boxers
 44 Where to find It.
 45 Maupin stories
 50 ___ green (Patty Shehan area)
 52 ___ blue (hearing some Billie Holliday songs)
 54 Undisturbed
 55 Least sweet

56 ___ violet (straight guy in a gay bar)

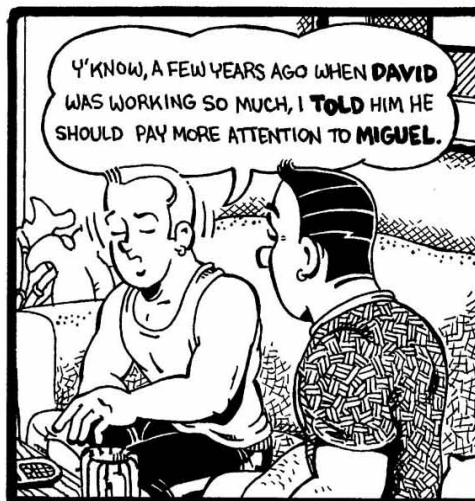
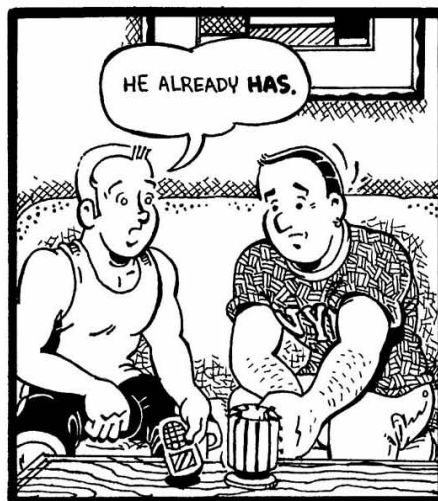
- 60 Tops a cupcake
 63 Stiff-upper-lip type
 64 Sea bottom captain
 68 Russian singing duo
 69 Reviewer Roger
 70 Like McKellen's Magneto
 71 Years ago
 72 Study stations
 73 Six feet under

Down

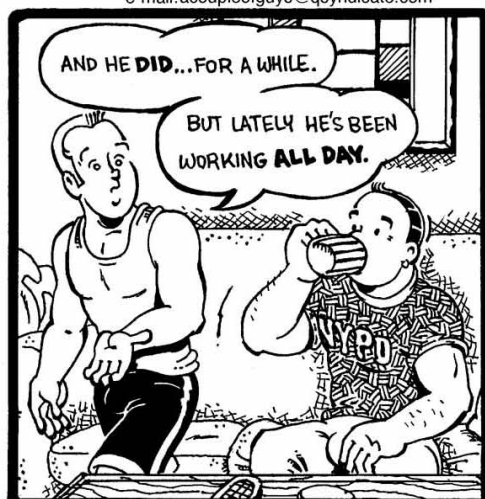
- 1 Some, on the Somme
 2 Gaydar, for example
 3 Losing gladiator's plea
 4 Like a muscle Mary
 5 Cap and gown wearer
 6 Keep getting
 7 Lennox of the Eurythmics
 8 Dr. for the children's hour?
 9 VSucceed at pitching
 10 Giving a piece of your mind
 11 Carpenter's tool
 12 Hr. part
 13 Meas. of a braggart?
 21 The NBA's Magic on scoreboards
 22 Gardner of Hollywood
 23 Castro Street, on BART
 24 Hanging spot
 27 Threesome for Michelangelo
 28 Objectivist Rand
 30 Mouth-to-mouth pro
 31 CBS show in which semen may be evidence
 34 Shake it
 35 Small amount
 36 Gang's territory
 38 Bessie of the blues
 39 Sailor's rear
 40 Inflation meas.
 41 Come quickly
 42 Saucer pilots
 43 On the table
 46 Set straight
 47 Serve up some whoppers
 48 Print measures
 49 Army NCO
 51 Gave a breast to
 53 Official decrees
 57 End of a Beatles song title
 58 Naysayers' words
 59 Sulu's star ship captain
 60 Simpson case judge
 61 When repeated, a 1953 Cole Porter musical
 62 Lister's abbr.
 65 She had no heterosexual parents
 66 Jenny portrayer on "The L Word"
 67 Like the gray mare



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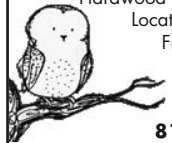
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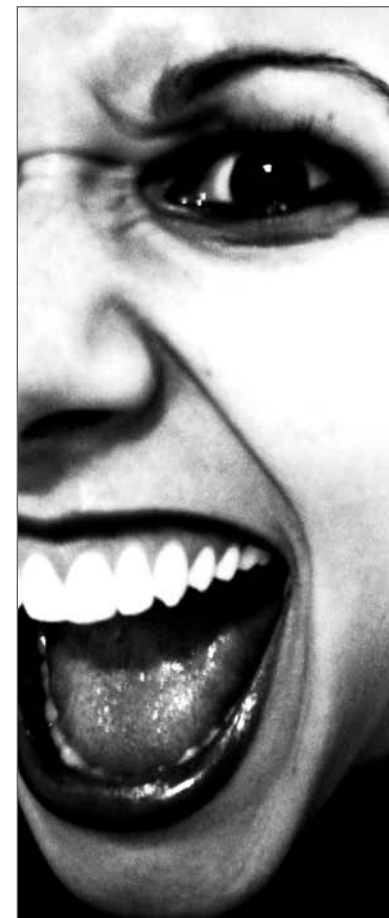
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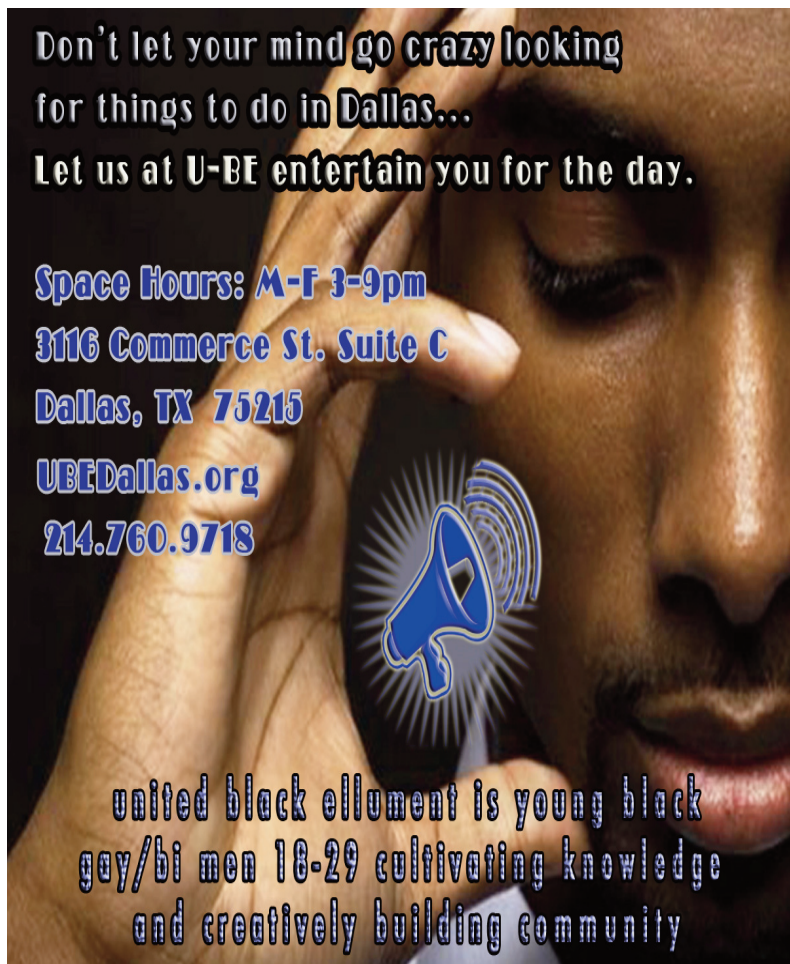
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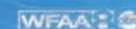
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