

Dallas athletes prepare for gold

Mark LeDoux runs for Pride and country
Over 40 athletes will rep Dallas this year at the Gay Games in Germany

■ SPORTS, Page 22



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FREE | Friday, July 2, 2010

Youth First Collin County needs home

Organization seeks new space for Plano youth center, or at least somewhere to temporarily store furniture and other items

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

PLANO — Collin County's organization for LGBT youth is looking for a new home — or at least a place to store its stuff.

For the last 18 months, Youth First Texas-Collin County has been utilizing, free of charge, some vacant commercial space on Avenue K just south of East Park Boulevard in Plano.

But the landlord recently found a paying tenant, and YFT-CC will have to move by mid-July.

It marks the third time the six-year-old organization has had to move, according to lead volunteer Jeanne Rubin.

This time, YFT-CC has accumulated several large items, such as sofas, a pool table, a TV and computers — some of which were hand-me-downs from its parent organization in Dallas, Youth First Texas.

YFT-CC has found a location in Frisco where it can meet temporarily if necessary, but the organization would still need to store the items somewhere while it looks for a more permanent home.

"The real issue is that we need a space, and it would be nice if we could have a space that we would have forever, but I understand that because we want it for free, that's not always

■ COLLIN COUNTY, Page 13

What a difference a year makes



Community leaders, PD officials look back at 12 months of change in the wake of the Rainbow Lounge raid

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

What a difference a year makes.

On June 28, 2009, seven officers with the Fort Worth Police Department joined two agents from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in a raid on a newly-opened gay bar in Fort Worth called the Rainbow Lounge.

On June 28, 2010, the Fort Worth police were back at Rainbow Lounge. Only this time, instead of making arrests the officers were sharing a barbecue meal with community leaders and bar patrons and celebrating the progress the city has made over the last 12 months in improving the relationship between Fort Worth and its LGBT community.

And that progress, most in Fort Worth agree,

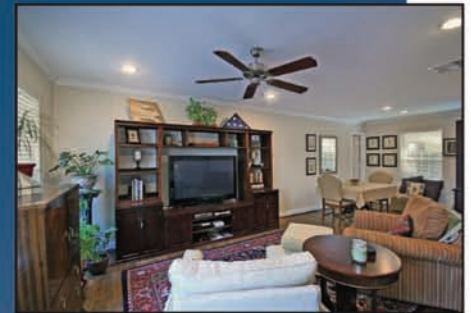
■ A YEAR LATER, Page 14

THEN AND NOW | A year ago, angry LGBT people protested outside the Rainbow Lounge just hours after a raid on the bar by Fort Worth police officers and TABC agents, above. This week, Rainbow Lounge owner J.R. Schrock, below left, and bar manager Randy Norman, below right, played host as LGBT community members packed the bar for a barbecue and meet-and-greet with FWPD officers, from Chief Jeff Halstead to beat patrol officers. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

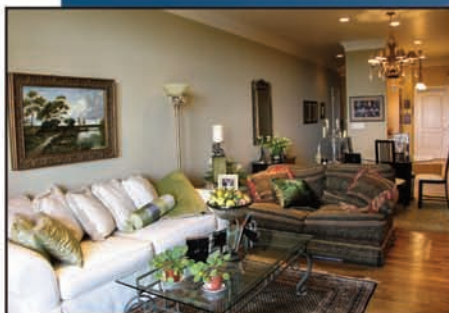




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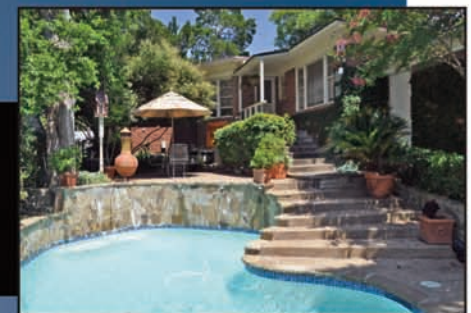


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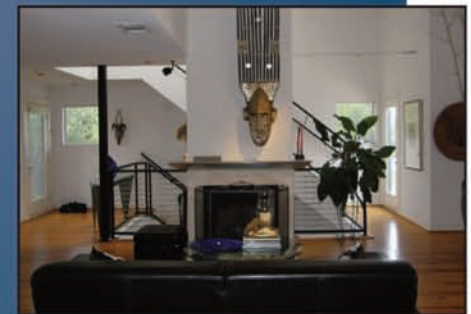
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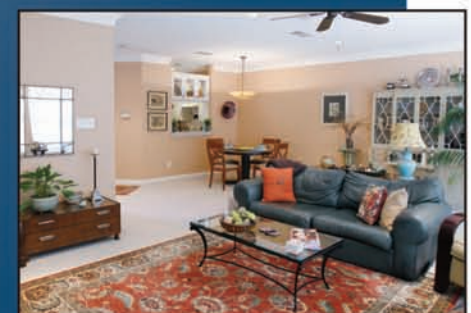


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Cox named ED at Resource Center

Equality Texas extends offer to ED candidate while YFT puts search on hold for the summer

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center Dallas on Thursday, July 1 announced that Cece Cox has been named as the new executive director of the organization, replacing Mike McKay, who resigned in April to take the position of chief of operations in the Volunteer Recruitment and Selection Division for the Peace Corps.

RCD board chair Reid Ainsworth sent an e-mail to staff on Thursday, announcing Cox would become the new executive director of the organization.

Cox already works at the center as associate executive director of GLBT Community Services. She assumes her new position on July 3.

"I cut my teeth as a baby activist in this building," Cox said.

She has been active in the LGBT community since the early 1990s when she started a local chapter of GLAAD. She was later president of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Cox has also worked as director of development and marketing for the Turtle Creek Chorale.

Cox was instrumental in coordinating support on the Dallas city council to include non-discrim-



NEW DIRECTOR | Cece Cox assumes her new duties as executive director of Resource Center Dallas on Saturday, July 3.

ination based on sexual orientation for city employees and the inclusion of sexual orientation in 1995 in DART's employment policy.

Cox received her law degree in 2004 and after a short period of working for a private law firm,

took the position at the community center.

"I missed my community terribly," Cox said of why she returned to community activism.

She said she always thinks about the history of the community center.

"Before John [Thomas] died, he told me, 'Keep doing what you're doing. Don't stop.'"

Thomas was a founder and original executive director of the center.

Cox sees her immediate goals as serving the increasing number of people with HIV and working locally to achieve equal rights for the LGBT community.

"And I'm going to get us into that new community center so we can serve more people," she said. "There are lots of opportunities for us to engage and get our community the rights we deserve."

Resource Center Dallas was one of three high-profile LGBT organizations searching for new executive directors over the past few months, along with Equality Texas and Youth First Texas.

Equality Texas may be at the end of its search process for a new executive director after the board met Thursday and decided to extend an offer to a candidate.

Paul Scott stepped down as executive director of Equality Texas in January to become executive director of AIDS Services of Austin. Scott preceded McKay as executive director of Resource Center Dallas.

Judith Dumont left Youth First Texas in June to

■ DIRECTORS, Page 11

'Holcy' is straight bear bait

A few months back Resource Center Dallas' Rafael McDonnell penned a piece for our Viewpoints page about Steven "Holcy" Holcomb, the straight Olympic bobsled champion who refreshingly appreciates his many gay fans. At the time McDonnell noted that there's even a Facebook fan page called, "Bears for Steve Holcomb," which now has 1,870 members.

McDonnell reports that on Friday, June 25, he got a chance to meet Holcomb face to face. Holcomb was in Fort Worth at a national conference for Advocare, a nutrition and sports supplement company that also lists Cowboys tight end Jason Witten among its clients. Holcomb had invited all his Facebook friends to come to the event at the Fort Worth Convention Center. McDonnell said this of the encounter:

"Jason [my roommate] and I both got pictures, and he told Holcomb that we were the two who were texting him while he competed in Canada. He not only remembered that, he also said that he suspected that the texter was a guy because we didn't disclose a lot of personal information or offer up a picture. But, in his words, 'That's cool.' I told him about the column I wrote for the Voice and he got a big smile out of that."

As McDonnell noted in his original column, it's sure nice to see a straight athlete who isn't so homophobic that he squirms at the thought of having gay followers. But I'm also here to tell you that you don't have to be a bear to want Holcomb to drive your sled. On the other hand, if you like bears or being chased by bears, you may want to pick up some Advocare.

— John Wright

Earp wins; TGRA events set

North Texas cowboy Wade Earp won the title of All-Around Cowboy during the Greater Mowtown International Rodeo held last weekend, June 25-27. It is, I think, the third time this season that Earp has won all-around honors.

In other gay rodeo news, the Dallas Chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association has two big events planned over the holiday weekend. The "Cowboys, Jocks and Leather" underwear auction is on Saturday, July 3, at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave., with a cocktail mixer at 7 p.m., hosted by GayCowboyCentral.com and with hot dogs and chips provided by the Eagle Bears. The main event starts at 8 p.m.

Then on Sunday, July 4, the Dallas TGRA chapter presents the 22nd annual Miss Firecracker Pageant, starting at 9 p.m. at Illusions Bar, 4100 Maple Ave.

And don't forget that the Big D Rodeo is coming up Sept. 10-12 at the Diamond W. Arena Complex in Aledo.

— Tammye Nash

New group forming for hate crime survivors



Maeve O'Connor, left, and Winter Mullinex

O'Connor, Mullinex both fell victim to hate crimes, and now they want to use their experiences to help others

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Options for victims of hate crimes are limited. But two transgender women who survived life-threatening attacks have the group formed Surviving Hate to try and offer more options for hate-crime survivors who are trying to put their lives back together.

To raise money to launch their group, Dallas filmmaker Israel Luna will screen his film, "Ticked-Off Tr*nnies With Knives," on July 7 at Studio Movie Grill in North Dallas.

Surviving Hate organizer Maeve O'Connor said there are advocacy groups for hate crime victims, but survivor groups outside of a clinical setting are rare. She said she realized the need for such a group during discussions with Winter

■ SURVIVORS, Page 18

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MISS LIFEWALK PAGEANT



WALKING TO VICTORY | Anita Nother, center, was named Miss LifeWalk 2010 at the seventh annual pageant held June 20 at The Round-Up Saloon. First runner-up was Brandi Amara Skyy, left, and Bambina Boote, right was second runner-up. Proceeds from the pageant benefited the Guys and Dolls LifeWalk Team.

■ pet of the week / ember

Ember was rescued from a puppy mill last year. She is a gentle 3-year-old border collie mix that came to the shelter with three puppies, each of whom has been adopted. Because Ember spent nearly three years at a puppy mill, she is a bit scared of people at first, but she definitely warms up to those she trusts and loves.



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

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Another challenge to overcome

KERRY PHILLIPS
Team Slow Spokes

When my friends hear that I am participating in an event such as the Lone Star AIDS Ride Fighting AIDS, they think I am totally insane. I would have thought the same thing — until I took part in my first ride.

Cycling became a passion of mine in the 1990s after I was able to surpass a few medical obstacles. Most people don't know this, but growing up I had a seizure disorder. For the first 17 years of my life, my experiences were quite normal, except for regular visits to doctor's offices. During college, the seizures became increasingly worse, occurring more frequently until they ultimately became uncontrollable.

Starting in 1994, I underwent two major operations: one to remove an enlarged, possibly cancerous tumor, the other to resolve this complicated seizure disorder I had grown up with.

The best-case scenario for the first operation was extending my life by only three years. But thanks to much prayer and good luck, the tumor was not cancerous.

Curing my life-long struggle with seizures with a cutting-edge brain surgery had even greater risks. Medications were no longer adequate, and at the time, the operation was my only alternative if I wanted to have a chance at the normal life I had always desired. Death and disability were risks I was willing to take for freedom from this disorder.

My life motto from that point forward became: "We take risk not to escape life, but to keep life from escaping us." I made a deal with myself then that if I beat the odds again by surviving the brain surgery, I would always push myself beyond normal limits so that I could meet the goals and challenges that cross my path.

The surgery was a complete success and once again, I beat the enormous odds that I was up against.

From that point forward, I began looking for ways to pay forward the opportunities that I had been given. As AIDS became more prevalent, I began to become more aware of the issues that HIV/AIDS causes, and I wanted to do something to help.

I started by volunteering at Bryan's House, a special care facility here in Dallas that assists children with HIV/AIDS. I then learned about the 1998 Texas AIDS Ride. Without any hesitation I signed up for this seven-day, 575-mile bike ride.

I didn't own a bicycle. I hadn't even ridden a bicycle since elementary school. But this didn't matter to me, and I immediately began training with only about six months to prepare. Yes — only 6 months.

The Texas AIDS Ride was a life-changing event. Aside from the overall experience of the ride, the support that I received from my friends, coworkers and even strangers that I met along the way amazed me.

Now if you know me, you know I very rarely cry. But I will never forget riding into downtown Dallas on Day Seven to finish the ride. As I approached the finish line, I could hear the music and see the crowd full of excitement. It was so overwhelming that I began to bawl.

At that moment I was reminded that if you push yourself and believe in what you are doing, you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

Since then I have participated in a number of rides benefiting AIDS foundations including my most recent accomplishments, the Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS 9 and 2010 California AIDS Lifecycle Ride. The gratitude you receive from people who your fundraising goes to help is overwhelming.

Just a few weeks ago while riding in the AIDS Lifecycle ride a woman asked me to stop so she could thank me. She explained that because of cyclists like me, she is able to receive services and medications that she otherwise could not afford.

It is moments like that, along with the friends, memories and the community feeling you gain,

that make these rides unforgettable.

Whether you choose to ride, crew or just support us through donations of time or money, every little bit makes a difference. Sydney Smith once said, "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can."

■
Kerry Phillips is a member of Team Slow Spokes. You can contribute to him or to any other Lone Star Ride participant online at LoneStarRide.org.



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The hard — but informative — job of a temporary census worker

I was in the service of the U.S. government as a federal agent, collecting sensitive information that I must take to my grave without ever revealing it to anyone, for any reason. Talk about a challenge for a reporter, especially one like me who tends to push the envelope to the edge. But obey the law I will, because to violate my oath of office as an enumerator for the U.S. Census 2010 could be punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Just rereading the previous sentence causes me to swallow awfully hard. I already know, without even trying one on, that a prison jumpsuit simply would not be my style, no matter what color it might happen to be. That's why this piece will be written very carefully, so as not to violate the confidentiality law that governs all census information collected.

My temporary commission expired June 27, after about two months on the job, and I was pretty glad to see that date roll around. What started off as seemingly a fun experience earning me \$11 an hour and 50 cents per mile quickly turned out to be a hellish part-time job.

A census of the population is mandated by the U.S. Constitution to be conducted every 10 years for the purpose of determining the congressional representation of each state in the U.S. Congress. It's been taken every decade since 1790, and I don't even want to think about what that must have been like before the days of air-conditioned automobiles.

The week of training before they unleashed us on a wary public was pleasant enough. But on the first day we went out for trial runs, I realized it was not going to be quite as easy as I thought. It was a hot and dusty job traveling the roads of East Texas.

On my trial run with my training teammate, I did the driving, and she did the navigating. She kept telling me to be on the lookout for roads named Ushwy and Cord. I finally asked to look at the information myself and realized she was misinterpreting abbreviations for U.S. Highway and County Road as roads named Ushwy and Cord.

A number of times after I started working on my own I got so lost that I honestly didn't think I was ever going to find my way back to civilization. What I came to realize is that on country roads, when something happens to a road sign nobody ever bothers to replace it. The same applies to address signs on houses and rural mailboxes.



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

I also was surprised by the number of abandoned homes I saw everywhere. The contrasts between the neighborhoods of the rich and the poor also was an eye-opener. Now I won't say what anyone I interviewed on the job had to say about the Census and the federal government, but I can tell you what people who knew what I was doing had to say to me on my own time.

We must be living in an unparalleled time of public mistrust of government at all levels because many, many people apparently believe that the census information that was collected is a violation of their privacy and might be used contrary to its intended purpose. There's also a lot of concern about the cost of the U.S. Census 2010, which is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$14 billion.

Maybe I'm naïve, but I believe the census information collected this year will be kept secret for 72 years until it becomes part of the public domain, and that it will be used appropriately. I also believe it is a useful record for generations to come. I know how fascinated I was to discover information about some of my ancestors living in Alabama in the U.S. Census 1890.

The census records will also provide important information about the numbers of committed partners living in gay and lesbian relationships.

Now, that it is all over, I'm glad to have taken part in a project that has been a part of our nation's history for more than two centuries. At the same time, I'm glad that it will be another 10 years before the next census rolls around, and I will be too old to enlist. ■

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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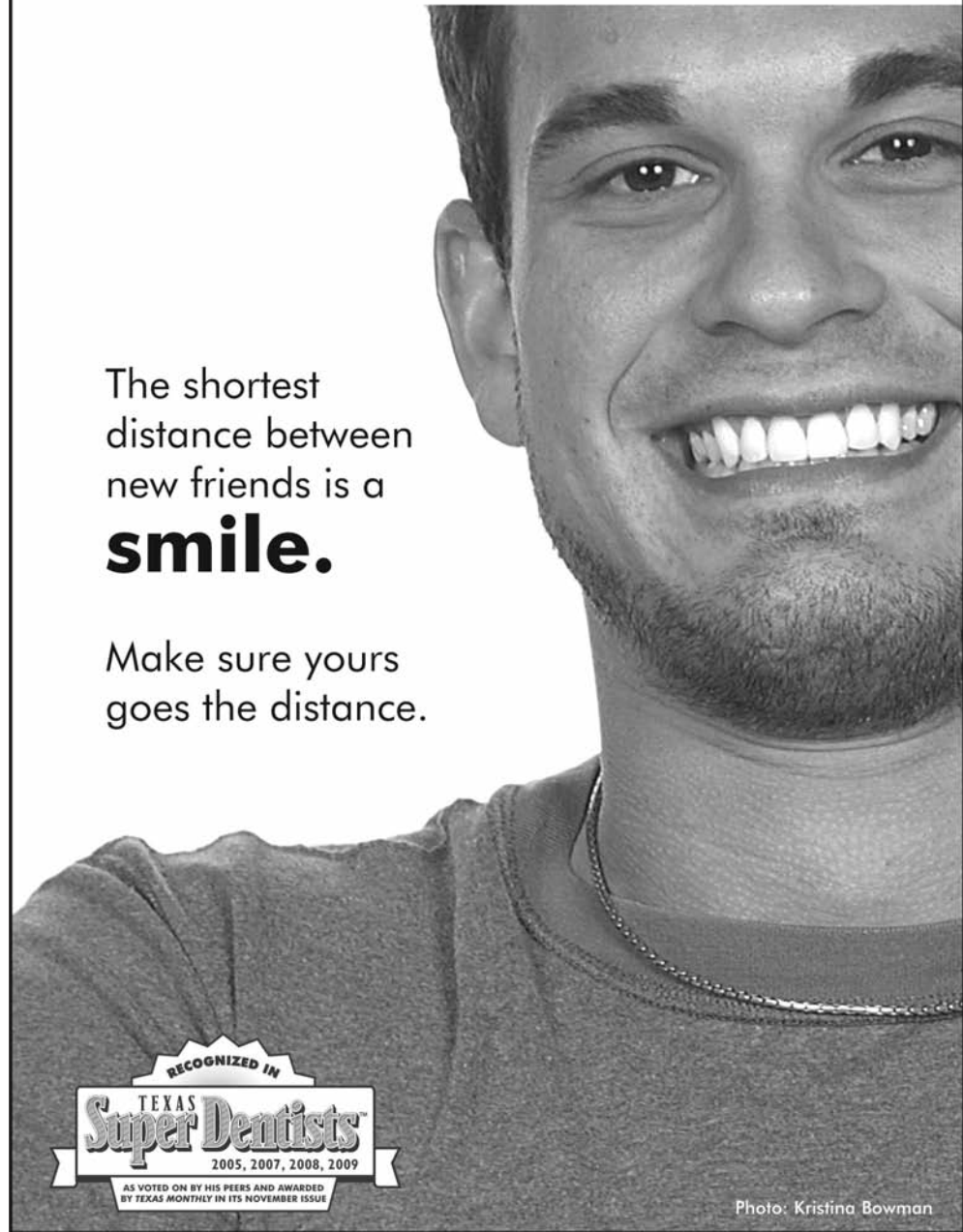


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OCCASIONS



SAYMO-DOAN WEDDING AND ANNIVERSARY | Christopher Ramos Saymo and Thomas Arthur Doan were legally married in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC., on June 15, 20 years to the day after they first met. They met at a bachelor party when Doan was serving in the military on the island of Guam, where Saymo lived. A few weeks later, Doan proposed to Saymo on top of a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Saymo and Doan are both IT professionals working for AT&T. They have been living in D-FW since 1997 and currently reside in Dallas with their three dogs, Butch, Toshi and Deogi. They are planning a reception in October when it is much cooler and will be honeymooning in Vegas shortly thereafter.



PHILLIPS-PATTERSON ANNIVERSARY | Craig Patterson and Kerry Phillips celebrated their sixth anniversary on Friday, July 2. The couple met at a friend's birthday party in 2004 and married in Toronto, Ontario in 2006. Phillips is a property manager for Worth Ross Management, and Patterson is a corporate trainer for Dunkin Brands (Dunkin Donuts). They have two sons and are the proud grandparents of two granddaughters.

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DIRECTORS

From Page 4

assume a position at Eastfield College but it is unlikely the organization will begin looking for a replacement for her until fall, officials said.

Equality Texas

On Thursday, July 1, the boards of Equality Texas and the Equality Texas Foundation met jointly by phone to approve and extend an offer to a candidate to become the organization's new executive director.

Interim executive director Chuck Smith said an announcement should be made next week when the candidate accepts the offer.

Equality Texas began its nationwide search for a new executive director on Jan. 8. At the time of the announcement, the goal was to have a new director in place by May 15, but the interview process took longer.

Smith said he's looking forward to going back to his position as deputy director and getting a day off.

"It certainly has been a rigorous and thorough process," he said. "We've seen many strong candidates."

Smith said he expects the new director to be in place during the summer, long before the start of the new legislative session in January 2011.

When fully staffed, Equality Texas has six full-time positions. In addition to the executive director vacancy, the position of director of development is also open.

Smith said it made sense to wait until the new director was hired and for that person to select the new development team.

He said the work of the organization has continued on schedule. The political action committee will be making endorsements in legislative races through the summer.

Political director Randall Terrell, who was recently in Dallas for the DART vote on nondiscrimination, said he is already planning for the January legislative session.

Youth First Texas

YFT board chair Cathy Gonzalez said that the organization would staff activities and programs with volunteers through the summer. She said some volunteers would be given job titles and responsibility for supervising other volunteers.

"It will get us through the summer," Gonzalez said.

The board met this week for the first time since Dumont resigned.

"In the fall we'll convene a search committee," Gonzalez said. "We need someone with a counseling or social service background."

But she said they weren't ready to start accepting resumes.

"That wouldn't be fair to applicants," she said, since they wouldn't be looking at them through the summer. ■

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Tony Award nominee Gavin Creel, most recently starring in the Broadway revival of *Hair*, will headline entertainment at this year's Black Tie Dinner and be joined by Dallas' own Turtle Creek Chorale. Gavin is an active leader in the GLBT community and is one of the founders of Broadway Impact, an organization fighting for equality and GLBT civil liberties. Don't miss this special appearance at the 2010 Black Tie Dinner, November 6.



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PROM PREP | Volunteers and youth get ready for the Gayla Prom at Youth First Texas Collin County in June. YFT-CC will have to move from its current location by mid-July. (Courtesy of Jeanne Rubin)

COLLIN COUNTY

From Page 1

going to be the case," Rubin said. "We would like to take this opportunity to move a little further north. Collin County is a huge county, and we have kids from Denton and Flower Mound and Lewisville and other place besides Collin County."

Rubin said anyone who knows of space available in Collin County is asked to contact her at CollinCounty@youthfirsttexas.org.

Donations will also be accepted to help pay for storage or to cover utilities if a space is found.

"Obviously our first choice would be to pick up our pool table and sofas and plopp them in another place," she said. "Donations are always helpful. If we end up at the Dairy Queen once or twice, we'll have money to buy everybody ice cream."

James Dunn, a board member at Youth First Texas in Dallas who lives and works in Frisco, said his employer, Big Brothers Big Sisters, has offered a space where YFT-CC can hold its big group meetings on Sundays.

Dunn serves as liaison between YFT-CC and the Dallas parent organization, which have been attempting to work together more closely of late.

While the parent organization is experiencing its own financial challenges, Dunn said the long-

term goal is to lease a permanent satellite somewhere in the northern suburbs.

"We want to be in a position where we don't have to rely always on somebody providing us a free space," Dunn said. "There is a level of uncertainty when you rely on that."

YFT-CC began as a partnership between YFT in Dallas and the Collin County Gay and Lesbian Alliance, according to Rubin.

YFT-CC meets every Sunday, in addition to twice-monthly "hangout nights" and a monthly movie night.

Rubins said about 20-30 youth typically attend the Sunday meetings in the summertime.

Collin County, more conservative than Dallas, has only three high schools with Gay Straight Alliances, Rubin said. At one of those high schools, school officials won't allow the group to call itself a GSA, and instead it's known as the Tolerance Alliance.

"What a lot of them say is that while the high school they go to may be cool, in terms of people don't care they're gay, lots of times they'll be like the only gay kid," Rubin said. "Even though some people don't have a problem with that, it's nice to come to Youth First and be John or Jeanne, not the gay kid. Here they can come and just sort of be themselves." ■

For more info, go to <http://youthfirsttexas.org/collincountry/> or look for the organization's Facebook page.

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■ texasnews

A YEAR LATER

From Page 1

has been remarkable.

Todd Camp, co-founder of Fort Worth's Q Cinema LGBT film festival, was at the Rainbow Lounge celebrating his birthday with friends when the raid occurred. It was Camp, along with Chuck Potter, Thomas Anable and others, who used e-mail and social networking sites like Facebook to spread the word about the raid almost immediately.

They also put their outrage to work to organize two protests — one that Sunday afternoon outside the bar and a second later that evening outside the Tarrant County Courthouse — and to rally people to attend the next meeting of the Fort Worth City Council.

Camp said recently that he has been pleased to see the way that Fort Worth — its LGBT community, its police department and its city officials — have stepped up to the challenge and worked together not just to mend fences, but also break down barriers.

"I think, for me personally, the biggest accomplishment of the past year has been the fact that the city of Fort Worth has become aware that they have a gay community that has a voice with some emotion and power behind it, that it is a community that is willing to speak out when something is wrong," Camp said.

"The City Council has stepped up to the plate

and made a lot of fantastic changes. And there have been some really good changes in the police department, in the way they do business. It has really raised their [the police department's] awareness," Camp continued. "It took something going horribly wrong to open their eyes. But I feel like now, for the first time, the city and the police realize that there are gay people living here and that we are valuable members of society. ... The city learned a lot about a vibrant part of its community."

The incident has also, Camp said, raised awareness in the LGBT community.

"There was so much ignorance, and not just on the side of the city officials and law enforcement. It was on our side, too. We all learned a lot about the law, about what was acceptable and what was not acceptable."

Police Chief Jeff Halstead agreed that both sides have learned valuable lessons from and about each other in the last year.

"We all decided to get past our emotions, and we've learned to respect each other's feelings and opinions," Halstead said. "And it's definitely been a worthwhile investment for us all to make."

The chief said he has seen a marked difference in the way the LGBT community responds to the police department since the raid occurred, and a difference in the way his officers see the LGBT community.

"I think people in the community feel like they have actually built friendships in the police de-

partment, and not just with [LGBT Liaison Officer Sara Stratten]. I think they feel like their ideas and opinions will be heard," he said.

Halstead had been on the job as chief of the Fort Worth PD for less than a year when the Rainbow Lounge raid happened. And in his first public comments on the raid, Halstead told a reporter that patrons in the bar that night had made "sexually suggestive movements" toward the officers, and that he was proud of the restraint the officers had shown in the situation.

Halstead later apologized for his remarks, but not before the comments made him the focal point for much of the community's anger and outrage. But at the barbecue this week, and when the chief attended a screening at the recent Q Cinema film festival, it was obvious that Halstead's efforts to reach out to and understand the LGBT community had overcome the anger.

Camp said that "one of the greatest moments for me" of the last year came when Q Cinema previewed the recently-completed trailer for Robert Camina's documentary, "Raid at the Rainbow Lounge."

"[City Councilman] Joel Burns was in the audience, and Chief Halstead was there with his wife. There had been a lot of hand-wringing and worry over the trailer, because it focuses on the community's immediate gut reaction to the raid. It's kind of harsh, and [Camina] was a little bit worried about how the chief would

■ Continued Next Page

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STOPPING TO REMEMBER | Fairness Fort Worth President Thomas Anable, left, and Q Cinema co-founder Todd Camp were among the community leaders who attended a barbecue on Monday, June 28, at Rainbow Lounge to commemorate the anniversary of the 2009 raid on the bar and celebrate the progress the community has made over the last 12 months. Anable and Camp were both at Rainbow Lounge when the raid occurred, and both helped organize the community's response. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

■ From Previous Page

react," Camp said.

But Halstead took it all in stride, he said.

"I think it showed some tremendous courage for him to be there and see that trailer. He was painted as a villain early on, but he's not a bad guy," Camp said of Halstead. "He just had some learning to do, and he stepped up and was there and was supportive.

"I also think it says a lot that the chief of police was there for the opening night of an LGBT film festival," Camp continued. "It meant a lot to everybody that he was there. ... It's a sign that things really are changing for the better."

One of the first — and perhaps, most important — of those changes for the better came less than a

month after the raid when Halstead announced that Fort Worth Officer Sara Straten had been appointed interim liaison to the LGBT community. By the end of the year, the appointment had been made permanent and Straten had been reassigned from her community patrol duties to the public information office.

Straten acknowledged recently that while she is glad to be the LGBT liaison officer, it hasn't always been a smooth ride.

At first, Straten said, people in the LGBT community saw her as being too supportive of Halstead, a man they still saw as the enemy. But as time passed, both she and the chief have built not only solid working relationships within the community, but friendships as well.

■ A YEAR LATER, Page 16

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FROM PROTEST TO PARTY | The Rev. Carol West, left, and David Mack Henderson, right, both of Fairness Fort Worth, are all smiles as they talk to Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead during a barbecue and meet-and-greet with police officers at the Rainbow Lounge on Monday, June 28, the one-year anniversary of the Rainbow Lounge raid. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

■ A YEAR LATER, From Page 15

There have been very concrete advances with the police department, Straten said, starting with the implementation of a new policy on bar checks that went into effect on Sept. 1 last year. The new policy specifies detailed steps for officers to follow, and designed to lessen the potentially adversarial relationship between officers, bar owners and staff and patrons.

Straten also praised the new diversity training implemented within the police department that puts more focus on LGBT issues than before. She said she and Gil Flores taught the first diversity training session, and that officers in the class "asked a lot of good questions."

"The mayor and the chief both went through the training themselves about a month ago, and the chief was there at the first session," she said.

Officers also participated in the Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade and Picnic last October, and the chief and his wife attended the picnic.

The atmosphere for LGBT officers within the department has improved significantly, too, Straten said.

Before she volunteered for the liaison position, Straten was not out at work. In fact, when she did step forward to volunteer, she became the first officially "out" officer on the force. Since then, a number of other officers have come out, but Straten says the credit for that goes to the chief's leadership in creating a more comfortable and accepting atmosphere, and the individual officers' courage in taking that step.

"Coming out is scary. But what kept me in the closet back then was as much my own stereotyp-

ing as anything else," she said. "I do think there has been a shift [in attitudes within the police department], but I would never say that came from me. I think it's more about a shift in the culture at large. The younger officers coming into the force are much more accepting in general, and that changes things for everybody."

Halstead agreed that there has been a shift within the department.

"I think that more and more, officers are feeling like they can just be themselves, gay or not," Halstead said. "It's taken some time, but the improving relationship with the LGBT community is helping. With the proper training and with time, it will continue to improve."

Perhaps one of the most significant changes over the past year has been the formation and continued growth of the organization Fairness Fort Worth. The group was formed in the days immediately following the raid initially to assist in finding witnesses who saw what happened that night, and to provide those witnesses with legal advice and support in giving their statements to investigators with the Fort Worth Police Department and TABC.

Now, said Anable, the group's newly-elected president, FFW has branched out and is intent on becoming a permanent resource for the entire community, helping to coordinate between other organizations and serving as a clearinghouse for and point of contact between the LGBT community and the community at large.

Anable said the group has secured its status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and organizers held their "first real strategic planning meeting" in

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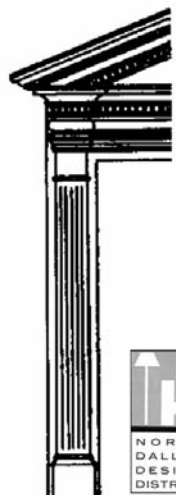
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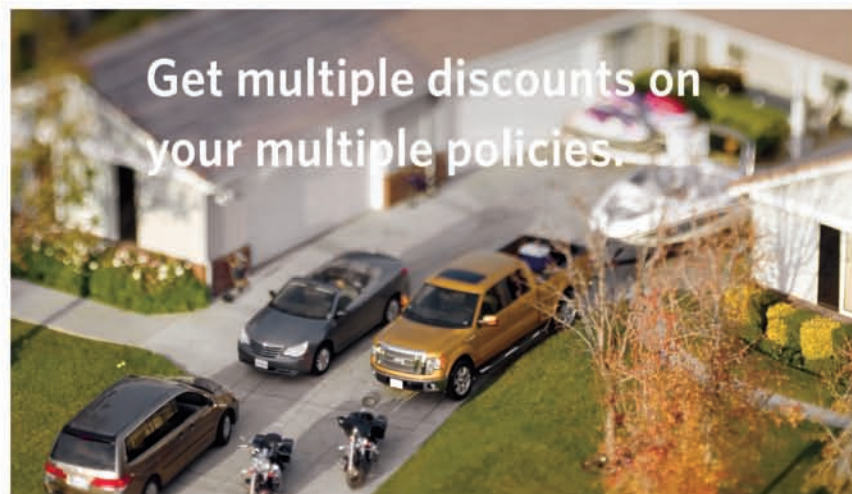
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■ texasnews

SURVIVORS

From Page 4

Mullinex, who also lived through a violent attack.

"We realized we were able to empathize with each other about what we went through," O'Connor said.

The new group is still in the development stage. Their goal, she said, was to empower survivors to live healthy lives. A website where survivors will be able to share their experiences, anonymously if they prefer, should be running next week. O'Connor said they are still creating their board of directors and then will apply for non-profit status.

O'Connor said she hopes this spawns a network of survivor groups across the country.

Surviving Hate will reach beyond the transgender community to help victims of any bias-related violence — whether it was motivated by race, religion, ethnicity or physical disability, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

The most recent FBI statistics are for 2008, a year before the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crime law was enacted. Of the 7,780 bias incidents reported for that year, 16.7 percent were based on sexual orientation.

O'Connor believes that some crimes based on gender identity are included in that number, but most have gone unreported. Statistics compiled for the year 2010 — that will not be available until 2012 — will include gender identity and expression as specified in the new law.

Both O'Connor and Mullinex spoke about the crimes that affected their lives. Both were raped, beaten and left for dead. O'Connor said her rapists told her, "You look like a girl. You act like a girl. We're going to help make you a girl."

A YEAR LATER

From Page 16

January. FFW is also conducting a community survey that will allow the group to compile statistics on the Fort Worth LGBT community.

"We've never really had an organization in Tarrant County that was really plugged into the political process, one that is able to speak consistently with one voice," Anable said. "We are actually doing, now, things that were only talked about before. We have the momentum and the commitment to move forward with things that have only been talked about for a decade."

Although the Fort Worth community has "a cooperative spirit" and has accomplished goals in the past — like getting the city to pass a nondiscrimination ordinance protecting lesbians and gays — such efforts were always done quietly and in a somewhat piecemeal manner, Anable said.

But now, he added, "we have an organization that has depth and is permanent, something that won't go away. We have lines of communication open now that we never had before. We have real credibility now. Now, they know we are a viable and valuable community."

Members of FFW were among those who went to the Fort Worth City Council meetings following the raid. They stepped up to serve on the Diversity Task Force formed by the council that came

The attack happened 31 years ago when she was 16.

The first reaction is fear, she said, and like many hate crime victims, she did not report the crime. Next, she said, comes shame.

But she said at that age she did not understand gender identity and was not out, she believed the attack happened because of who she really was.

Winter, a survivor of multiple hate crime attacks, was first raped at age 9. She said she understood at the time she was transgender.

Both women said the purpose of their new group is not to wallow in pity. Survivors often think their reactions are unusual, but together victims discover their reactions are quite similar and normal.

The women said the victims are often blamed for bringing on the attack. But the purpose of Surviving Hate is not self-pity or assigning blame.

"How do you thrive?" O'Connor said. "How do you go on with your life? I've become successful. I'd like others to do that."

"I can tell you, 31 years later, you don't get over it," she said. "But you do learn to deal with it and put it to the side."

"When you're in a victim mindset, you feel powerless," Mullenix said. "No one lives unscarred, but survivors are empowered and capable of leading a normal life."

She would like to help hate crime victims move past the fear.

Their goal for survivors seems simple but is something that took both women years to achieve.

"Learn to have healthy, happy relationships and trust again," Winter said. ■

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up with a list of changes, most of which have been made already by city officials.

Among those was amending the city's nondiscrimination ordinance to specifically protect transgender people as well as lesbians and gays. Two of the task force's recommendations — domestic partner benefits for city employees and insurance coverage for city employees who undergo gender transition surgery — are still on the table, primarily because the city has to watch every penny during the ongoing economic crunch.

There are other plans in the works, too, Anable said, such as building an LGBT community center that would include a phone bank and a library.

And while the resources — and the need — for these advances have always existed within the community, it took what Anable called "the perfect storm" of the Rainbow Lounge raid to set the change in motion.

"It really was a perfect storm. It was the 40th anniversary of Stonewall; they were having the Stonewall anniversary march in Dallas; Todd [Camp] was there in the bar that night; I was there," Anable said. "People saw what happened, and people were angry. And they were willing to do something about it."

"It's amazing, really, everything that has happened," he continued. "I mean, to go from where we were to where we are now in just 11 months — are you kidding me? It's been amazing." ■

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viewpoints

Critics give Texas GOP platform too much weight

Log Cabin Dallas president responds to criticism of Republican Party, state platform and gay GOP group's effectiveness

I agree with Hardy Haberman ("A platform of ideas — bad ideas," Dallas Voice, June 25) that when it comes to LGBT issues, the Texas GOP platform contains some vehement rhetoric.

Where I completely disagree is his inflated sense of the significance of the platform, his view that Log Cabin Republicans has done little to moderate the party and the impact of the Tea Party.

I could go on and on about the platform writing process, how it's controlled by the extremists of our party, and how the old guard scheduled the Texas Republican Convention to make it difficult to have honest debate on the floor.

What is more important is to understand the real impact the platform has on Republican legislative priorities.

The fact is, Hardy Haberman is absolutely wrong in believing the platform is used as a litmus test for candidate recruitment and that it's the basis for legislative decisions. Even those that participate on platform committees would admit to that. Their number one complaint is that legislators do not govern by the platform.

Legislators understand the platform is a way for a small minority of hard-liners to vent their beliefs. They recognize that it contains many

planks, not just the ones on "homosexuals," that aren't consistent with the views of the general voting public and do not represent the views of rank and file Republican voters.

Additionally, those who recruit candidates and support them with the most funds to their campaigns are outside the Texas GOP structure, and they don't have an interest in demonizing gays.

Haberman fails to see how the efforts of Log Cabin have had any effect on the Texas GOP. If he is so narrowly focused on the belief that the platform is the complete and almost biblical metric of success, then it would be hard to discern our achievement.

A better measure for our accomplishments, though, is the willingness of legislators to reach back to us when we reach out. Some that Dallas Voice labels as "anti-gay" attended important Log Cabin events: Texas State Rep. Dan Branch and Congressman Pete Sessions.

Others important to the Texas GOP that have visited Log Cabin include U.S. Senate candidate Michael Williams (former railroad Commissioner), Dallas County GOP Chairman Jonathan Neerman, Dallas County Commissioner Maurine Dickey and candidate for governor Debra Medina, who now leads a large political group called "We Texans."

Naturally, people like Haberman love to complain when others use language that is vehement. Yet he engages in similar language when he says that, "The politically astute will note that most of these changes seem to be a bow to the 'tea baggers' and are simply appeasements never to be written into law."

The term "tea bagger" is no less offensive to me than the word "faggot."

Tea Partiers are natural allies to our community. They don't have a dog in the fight when it comes to combating gays and their aspirations. In fact, just the opposite is true.

Their views on social issues lean libertarian — "live and let live," "get government out of our lives and our bedrooms." Their focus is on economic security (reducing the deficit) and keeping our country safe.

Ken Emanuelson, a board member of the Dallas Tea Party, spoke at Log Cabin's Grand Ol' Party. And just this week the Republican Liberty Caucus issued a press release condemning the anti-homosexual planks of our platform.

I wonder, too, how Hardy Haberman discerns between planks that appease when he complains that the same planks are the basis for a legislative agenda? Has he ever considered that the passages on "homosexuals" are appeasements never to be written into law?



ROB SCHLEIN
Guest columnist



Lastly, our party's leadership has changed. Cathie Adams, one of the most strident anti-gay activists, was defeated by Steve Munisteri in a contested race for state party chair. I talked to Steve by phone early in his campaign, and he believes gays should be included in our party.

The defeat of Cathie Adams should have merited a large headline in the Dallas Voice.

And, although I lost my precinct chairman's race by three votes out of 800 cast against Homer Adams (Cathie's husband), it's clear to me that activists of her ilk are on the decline.

Our acceptance and welcoming by Dallas Young Republicans confirms that on questions of gay rights, views are shifting.

Would we like our platform more to our liking? Certainly.

Does the platform in its present form mean Log Cabin isn't making a difference? Does it mean we should bolt from our party when we agree with Republican principles of limited, smaller, lower cost and efficient government, and disagree with the many actions taken by the Obama administration that have exploded our deficits, placed new burdens on gay business owners and stunted job creation?

Do we abandon our party with which we agree on principles of strong national security and an unapologetic support of Israel for the Democrats who appease our enemies that murder men for just being gay?

Do we switch parties for the "hope" of gay rights as narrowly defined by people like Hardy Haberman? No!

Log Cabin Republicans is making an impact here at home, and nationally with our new executive director, a former Bush appointee and Iraq War veteran.

If Hardy Haberman doesn't see the impact we are having, it means he isn't looking.

Rob Schlein is the president of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas.

Are you satisfied with progress in Fort Worth since the Rainbow Lounge raid?
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RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:
Will a win in the Prop 8 case cause an anti-gay backlash?
• Yes: 41 percent 125 Votes cast
• No: 40 percent
• Not sure: 19 percent

Letters

Working tirelessly isn't 'too pretty'

I feel that I must respond to the article "Have we made the face of AIDS too pretty?" by David Webb in the June 11 issue of Dallas Voice.

Twenty-two years ago, my partner and I started a variety troupe for no other reason than because we sat many days and nights with friends in our bowling community as they were dying of this dreadful disease, making a difference by changing their briefs, bathing them or cleaning them up after a sick episode. Later, we would cry our eyes out, wishing we were able to help them more.

We started our group to help raise money in any way we could so those friends could have some chance at a quality life amid all the "toil and trouble."

To say that in doing benefit shows we are glamorizing the face of AIDS, quite honestly, is crap. We, along with many of our friends, have seen the angry head of the "face of AIDS" rise up and take down far too soon so many of those whom we loved and cared for.

Did you know that 90 percent of money raised in our community is raised by men and women who donate their time and talents to entertain in some shape, form or fashion just to try and make a difference? Heaven knows, the government cares very little about the population that is faced with this dreaded disease every single day.

There have been many weekends I wanted to just stay home and watch movies with my partner and spend time with my animals. But my partner and I both believe we have a job to do. You may call it glamorizing the face of AIDS, but we do this with a heartfelt passion that should give hope to many that we are trying to make a difference in their lives somehow, someday, now.

So the next time you hear that someone has gone to get food from the food pantry, or that someone has gotten assistance with their rent so they didn't have to live on the streets, or that someone who is at a critical stage in their disease and wants to visit their family one last time and they got the plane ticket they needed;

remember it is because of all the many wonderful men and women of our community who spend their free time trying to help those in need.

Let me finish by challenging you to come watch us as we tirelessly work our butts off every weekend trying to raise money, one dollar at a time, for those brothers and sisters in need.

If you think what we do "glamorizes" AIDS, then get up off your sofa or bar stool and do your part by working as hard as we do.

I pray to God that the men and women who work so hard and care so much will always stand together, because, heaven knows, if it wasn't for us, it wouldn't get done.

Just know there are many organizations that stand with us and know what goes into the things we do, and why we do them.

Home for The Holidays Texas Inc., Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage, Cedar Creek Lake Meals on Wheels, Fort Worth AIDS Food Pantry and AIDS LifeWalk are but a few.

Glamour is about guts — remember that!
Linze Serell, aka Bill Lindsey
Miss Charity America 2010

Hardy, don't get so worked up

Re: "A platform of ideas — bad ideas" by Hardy Haberman (Dallas Voice, June 25)

Every convention cycle, the apparatchiks within the Texas GOP outdo themselves by passing increasingly bizarre, and unfortunately offensive, party platforms. Why get worked up over these manifestos, which are ground out by a roomful of tools, who are accountable to no one?

It's an election year, so this is the time to talk to candidates and officeholders who are running under both party labels about the virtue of equal rights for gays and lesbians, and not give credibility to these documents which under our system of government maintain the same force of law as the most recent issue of Tiger Beat magazine.

Steve Labinski
Austin

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

query 07.02.10

BY DAVID TAFFET

How important is the Texas GOP party platform?

Justin Pryor — "I think it's important to pay attention to the hate rhetoric."

John Hancock — "It's inconsequential. It's not going to be legal. It's a wish."

Randy Booth — "It doesn't bind anyone to anything so it's irrelevant."

Blair High — "We can just pray for them. It's so terrible."

Lisa Geduldig — "There goes the whole closeted Republican party. Rentboy, anyone?"

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



Let the Games begin!

Dallas will field more than 40 athletes at the Gay Games in Cologne later this month. Here are some of those hoping to bring home gold

Looking for an excuse to take advantage of a weak Euro this summer? There's always a trip to Amsterdam's Red Light District or jumping aboard one of those floating bathhouses known as gay cruises.

And then there's the quadrennial Gay Games.

Starting July 31, Cologne, Germany, will host the largest LGBT sports and cultural gathering in the world. Conceived by 1968 U.S. Olympic decathlete Tom Waddell, the Gay Games were first held in San Francisco in 1982 with 1,350 participants. Organizers this year had hoped to surpass the 11,500 registrations total from the 2006 Games in Chicago, but the lingering global economic recession has tempered their expectations. But with late registration still coming in, organizers are predicting 10,000 participants.

Unlike the Olympics, athletes in the Gay Games represent their cities rather than their countries. Jere Becker, organizer of Team Dallas, says 43 local athletes will march into the historic Rhein Energie Stadion for the opening ceremonies, joining others competing in 33 team and individual sports (among them basketball, cycling, diving, fig-

ure skating, track and field and volleyball). Some non-athletic competitions (better described as disciplines than sporting events, like chess and bridge) are also included.

Most events and disciplines are classified by age or ability, so both beginners and veterans will compete against their athletic equals. Holding true to the principle of inclusion, anyone can participate, regardless of ability, age, sexual orientation, race, gender, nationality or ethnicity, religion or HIV status.

But even those who just like to watch can enjoy the cultural events that are open to the public, including a cheerleading contest, band and choral festivals, visual and performing arts performances and social events for everyone from women to bears to the leather community.

Let the games begin!

— Ricky Bradley

Gay Games VIII, from Cologne, Germany. July 31-Aug. 7. GayGamesCologne.com.



Athlete: Sean Faulkner

Age: 40

Day job: Emergency nurse

Sport: Soccer (plays center midfield)

Gay Games experience: Faulkner will be competing in his fourth Gay Games, following Amsterdam in 1998, Sydney in 2002 and Chicago in 2006.

Interesting fact: His diving header won a match during Team Dallas' silver medal run at the 1998 Games in Amsterdam.

In his own words: "When we meet people on the street in Europe, they're so accepting of us that they don't understand why we have a separate games just for gay people. They don't view being gay as anything wrong or different; being who you are is just way more accepted in Europe."



Athlete: Mark LeDoux

Age: 31

Day job: Anesthesiologist and interventional pain management specialist

Sport: Track and Field

Events: 4x100 meter relay, 4x200 meter relay, 200 meters, 110 meter hurdles, 200 meters, 400 meter hurdles and 800 meters.

Gay Games experience: First Gay Games

Interesting fact: Father of twin 9-year-old girls

In his own words: "Ever since I came out, I've wanted to do this. Things ache a lot differently than they did 10 to 11 years ago, but I draw inspiration from previous attendees and other participants."





HERE'S TO HERS AND HERS BEACH TOWELS.

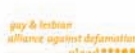
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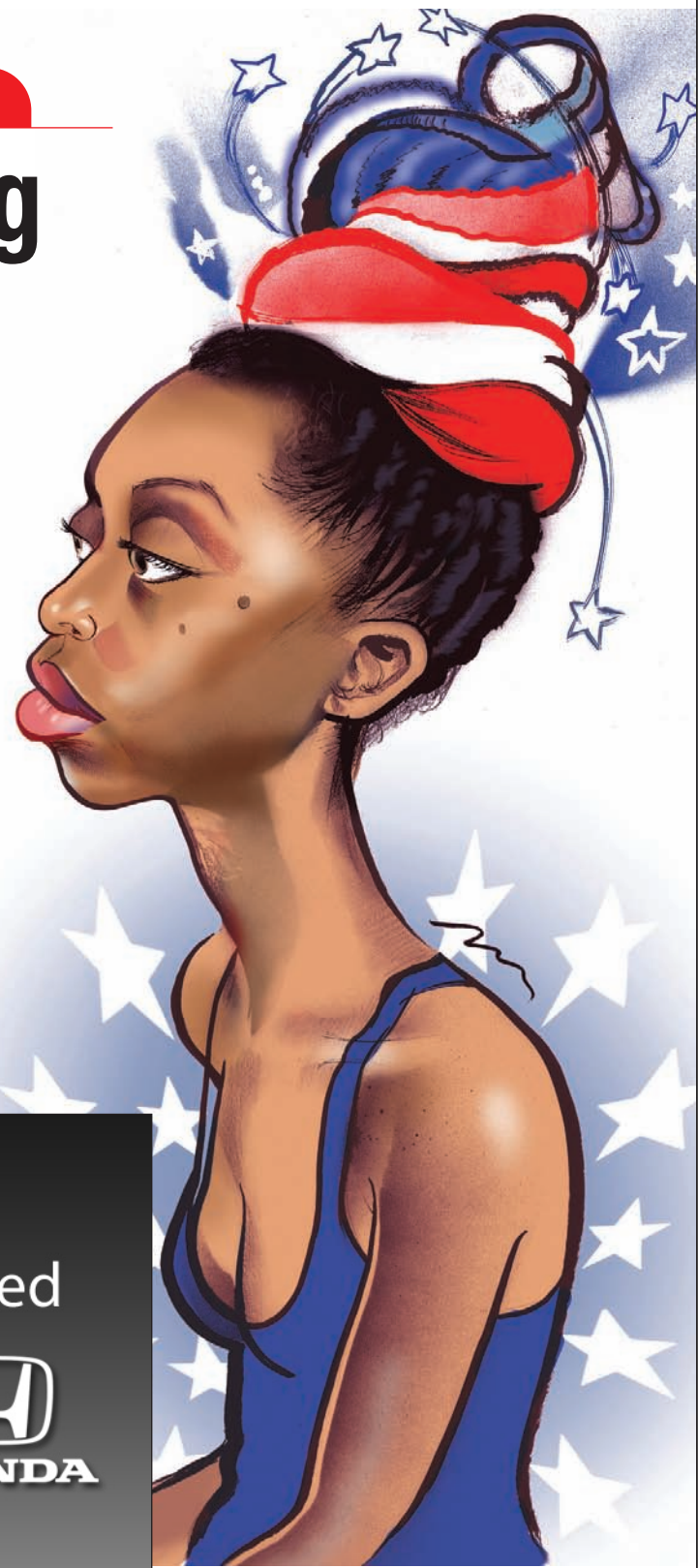
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Name: Tabrechai Washington
Spotted at: The patio of the New Amsterdam Bar in Deep Ellum
Occupation: Professional dancer, choreographer and teacher
Out, proud ... and patriotic: This Big Apple transplant is a co-founder of Kinetic Exhibit, a bi-monthly art party seeking to transform the community through art. This free-spirited dancer spent her formative career in New York City. She has an affinity for Roseau, Dominica, the capital and largest city of the Caribbean island of Dominica. She has spent a lot of time there and is a frequent contributor to the Caribbean Living Lifestyle blog.

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Sonic bookends

Scissors Sisters and Texas-based White Widow span a spectrum of styles

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com



It's hard to believe **Night Work** is only the third album from Scissor Sisters. They made an impression with their '70s throwback sounds on their eponymous 2004 debut, followed by 2006's *Ta-Dah*. Here, they make a stronger impression.

Sisters have worked with producer Stuart Price, and his synth-pop signature is all over the place. He's given them a crisp overhaul — the band shines under his light.

They keep their retro sound, but Price flushes it out with an '80s/early '90s dance vibe that is also simple. None of the songs are overly complex, but like the title opener, there is a vibrant energy.

Lead vocalist Jake Shears works his Barry Gibb falsetto masterfully in "Any Which Way," but will recall the robotic vocals of Gary Numan and Devo in "Running Out" and "The Harder

You Get." Over the continual dance beats, the band makes a successful attempt at rekindling the new wave genre.

The Killers catch flak for their radio readiness, but when the Sisters mimic their sound in "Fire With Fire" and "Skin Tight," they achieve a nice freshness. (The sound shouldn't surprise — Price has worked with The Killers, too.)

The album's only weak moment is Ana Matronic's lead on "Skin this Cat." The song slows the pace a bit and overall is forgettable. Shears glows so much that I want to get back to his energetic singing against an up-tempo beat quick.

Night Work's lead single, "Invisible Light," is worthy of "song of the year" lists. The captivating six-minute saga boasts hypnotic verses and an explosion of an inspired chorus. Throw in an Ian McKellen monologue and it achieves greatness.

Night Work makes you wish for the ideal dance floor: A DJ playing only these 12 tracks.



Night Work
Scissor Sisters
Downtown Music



CUTTING CREW | Scissor Sisters go to the basics of dance music with success in 'Night Work.'



Austin-based White Widow's album **Black Heart** is relaxed rock that grooves more than jams. The hollowness of it is so sexy it makes you want to take up smoking.

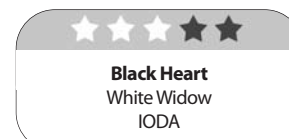
White Widow is Carla Patullo, who plays all the instruments, sings and produces. The out artist plays with confidence and there are pluses here. She asserts her singing with sublime smoothness in her cover of Stevie Nicks' "Lady From the Mountain." "In Your Life" is jarring because its acoustic

touch differs from the tone and manages not to disappear into the overall fabric of the album.

But *Black Heart* also suffers by Patullo's unwillingness to amp it up. Her songs bubble with harder rock flavor but never combust.

Even what should sound edgier isn't. The blues-tinted "Warriors" trails off into sleepy vocal runs missing the point of her own strong lyrics — *we are/we are warriors*.

White Widow did make a good album to get high to. Its ethereal attitude does call for some major down time. Ultimately though, *Black Heart* is one-note even with its bewitching quality. ■



Black Heart
White Widow
IODA

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When you're a Jett

Queer rocker Joan and radio gadfly Jack weren't separated at birth, but they still have a lot in common

We thought it weirdly coincidental that local radio guy Jack E. Jett and rocker Joan Jett had so much in common: Just look at the spelling of their odd, shared last name. They don't look like twins, but might they have been siblings?

No, don't be dumb. But we did come up with a few striking comparisons.

This has been a big year for Joan. She was back in the spotlight after the indie film *The Runaways* depicted the history of her first band (and hinted at lesbian overtones). Timed with its release in spring, she dropped an impressive greatest hits album including *Runaways* material, solo work and of course, with the Blackhearts.

Joan may always be known best for "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" from 1982. That's OK, because we can still jam to that song as well as "Bad Reputation," "Do You Wanna Touch Me" and "A.C.D.C."

Jack Jett never fails to rock us in his own way. He's made a comeback as well with *two* radio shows ... not bad for someone who got jacked (no pun intended) around earlier this year by Clear Channel: Just when he was set to start his CNN radio show, the plug was pulled.

Resilient as ever, Jack has come back pulling double duty on Internet radio. He hosts *ilume-A-Nation* on Tuesdays with what he calls "campy music for boomers and hipsters." And he's brought back *The Jack E. Jett Show* Thursdays, co-hosting with Sly's mom, Jackie Stallone.

With such shared longevity, we knew there was something to these two. So we delved.



Joan



Jack

... used to have a band called The Blackhearts.

... in the 1980s, appeared in the film *Light of Day* with Michael J. Fox.

... had her life story told in a the recent indie film *The Runaways*.

... has her music still played on the radio.

... is blogged about all over various websites.

... now sports a shorter, spikier 'do.

... has 15,088 people "liking" the Joan Jett and the Blackhearts Facebook page.

... is up for "Queen of Rock" via online voting at Venus Magazine.

... performs with Black Tie Dynasty at Que Fest at Robertson Park, Dalrock Road at Cooke Lane, Rowlett. July 3 at 8 p.m. \$8-\$95. RowlettExchangeClub.org.

... had a heart that had become so black from abuse he had bypass surgery.

... in the 1980s, as a fashion model, was such a stone-cold fox, he rarely saw the light of day.

... had his life story told in a recent story in the Dallas Voice.

... has to play Joan's songs on the radio.

... comments all over various websites in Dallas.

... feels Joan took that look from him.

... has 367 friends on Facebook.

... already considers himself the Queen of Cock.

... streams *The Jack E. Jett Show* with co-hosts Jackie Stallone every Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

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What's on for July 4? Wolves, vampires & sorcerers, oh my!

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

To praise *Eclipse* as the best film thus far in the *Twilight* saga is like saying the drunk driver who rear-ended your new car had only been sipping Johnnie Walker Blue: Its pedigree doesn't, ultimately, make the pain more bearable.

Little has changed since the last one, *New Moon*, pitted icy vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson) in a chaste sexual competition with passionate werewolf Jacob (Taylor Lautner) for the affections of pouty, bitchy Bella (Kristen Stewart). There are still long stretches with far too little action ("Get to the fight," my date complained after one of the many delayed starts) — unless you consider emoting and seething "action."

The (new) director David Slade at least begins the movie with a stylized if tame horror sequence, which postpones the gooey, banal ro-

mantic entanglements. Slade has advanced in bounds since first director Catherine Hardwicke's lame-o special effects made me laugh inappropriately, but you still need to have seen both prior films — and preferably have read the books — to follow what the hell is going on.

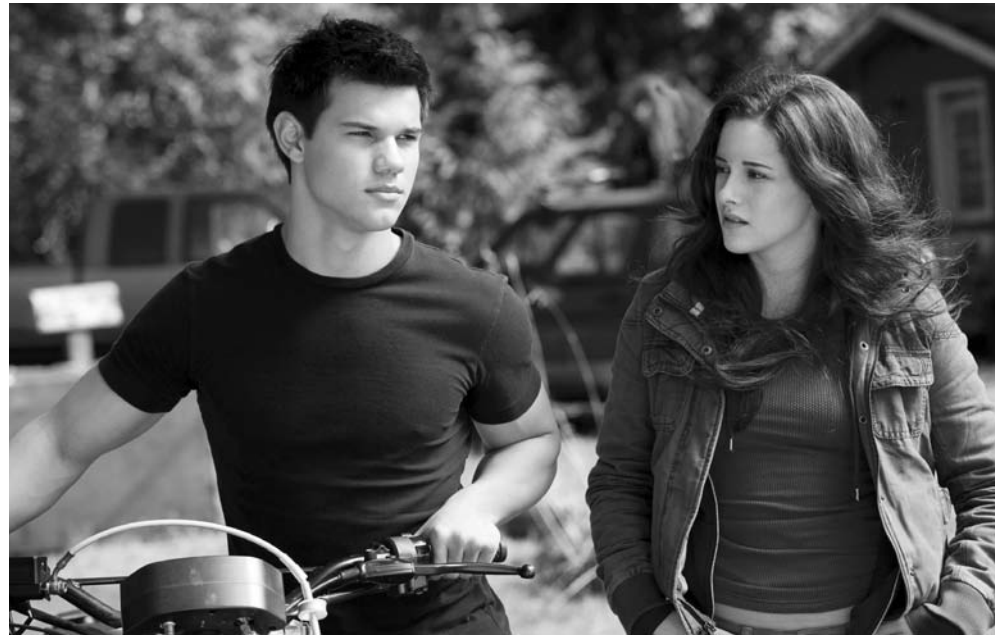
Even that might not be enough. The Vultur cult (led by Dakota Fanning, all of whom appear to have stolen their wardrobe from Pete Wentz), the revenge of Victoria (now played by Bryce Dallas Howard, as if it mattered), the enmity between the vamps and the

wolves — who can keep track of all this nonsense? (The cross-cutting between factions is choppy and confusing.)

Deeper still is this mystery: What, exactly, is Edward's appeal as a romantic hero? He's pale, bloodless, glassy-eyed and continually lies to

★★★★★

TWILIGHT SAGA; ECLIPSE
 Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Dakota Fanning.
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TEEN WOLF | Purse-lipped Bella (Kristen Stewart) strings along ab-fab Jacob (Taylor Lautner) in 'Eclipse.'

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | A magical avatar (Noah Ringer) learns to control the four elements in 'The Last Airbender.'

Bella ("to protect you" he insists; I bet Tiger Woods said the same thing); he also sparkles like he's been doused in body glitter at a circuit party. Jacob, by contrast, is all brio: Forceful and rugged and thankfully shirtless when he has nothing interesting to say. It's America versus Europe — why isn't America winning? What is this, the World Cup?

Bella seems to think she's *The Bachelorette*, stringing along two guys until the last commercial break. Just give one a rose and let's call it quits.

Pattinson's acting amount to little more than brooding like a 19th century actor doing Hamlet. He smolders so much, I worried he might cause a forest fire. Lautner, bless his fab abs, is not the best actor, though his sincerity carries him pretty far.

Alas, none of these qualms will have any effect on its box office success, so I might as well highlight the main positive. The best scene in the film is a relative truce between Jacob and Edward, as the two sit in a tent, Bella asleep between them, and bond over their shared maleness. It also smacks the taste of cheesy sentiment out of your mouth as Jake and Eddie seem a bottle of tequila shy of ditching Bella and moving together to Brokeback Mountain. I wish I could quit them. I wish everyone would.

At its essence, the kid-focused actioner **The Last Airbender** is a two-hour movie about playing Rock-Paper-Scissors: Water beat fire, fire

beat wind, wind beats earth. Or something like that. I lost interest pretty quickly.

In a world that looks like it was cobbled together from discarded sets, costumes, cast members and plots from *Narnia*, *The Golden Compass* and *Return of the King*, four nomadic tribes representing the four elements (air, fire, water and earth) are engaged in a war, with the bellicose fire nation suppressing those in other tribes who can "bend" (control) their element. An avatar, Aang (Noah Ringer), missing for a century, returns to bring order from chaos. One Ringer to rule them all, I suppose.

With Aang a Dalai Lama-esque reincarnated leader and lots of repetitive conjuring, *The Last Airbender* is a hodgepodge of Eastern mysticism and Western myth — *Harry Potter Meets Falun Gong*. ("Bending" looks suspiciously like tai chi.) Even though the plotting is paint by numbers (the bad guys are all swarthy, to

make it even easier), and the symbolism unsubtle (the fire tribe is composed of polluters and soulless machines), none of it comes together.

M. Night Shyamalan is constitutionally the wrong director for this kind of effects-laden spectacular. (The 3D effects were added in post production, like with *Clash of the Titans*, and don't add much to the drama.) Aside from children in peril, there's little of his themes present, or his superb though tired sense of tension. This is a bold-faced effort at reinventing himself, but this vehicle? It's a Shyamalan a-ding-dong. And that's elementary. ■



THE LAST AIRBENDER

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New Mexico's cool, outdoorsy antidote to Texas summer heat

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
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When you live in North Texas, New Mexico, our neighbor to the west, seems like a backbreaking drive. Well, no more. A year ago, American Eagle began a direct route to Santa Fe. This is big news at the single-gate Santa Fe airport; it means celebs (Daniel Craig was in the security line next to me) can get to the arts enclave without flying to Albuquerque an hour away and renting a car. And gay-friendly Santa Fe is surely worth a visit.

Once you get downtown, a car isn't really needed either (which is good, because parking is hard to come by). Even in the summer, Santa Fe is a very walkable city of about 65,000 people that stays reasonably cool due to its elevation. (At more than 7,000 feet about sea level, locals joke they "look down on" Denver.)

Not much gets taller than that, either. (A skyscraper here comes in at about five stories.) From the air, the buildings recede into the landscape, as if a modern town where free wifi is widely available doesn't exist yet. You might think this is still an Indian pueblo.

The Inn and Spa at Loretto, a luxury hotel that abuts the famous Loretto Chapel, is, like virtually



POT PALACE | Porcelain goddess Heidi Loewen makes gorgeous art in her gallery to buy, or you can take her class and learn to make your own. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

every other building in town, a short, adobe-like edifice of brown stucco, but the décor works. Inside, spacious rooms are decorated in earth tones with high-end amenities (lush furnishings, wide-screen TVs). The common areas are also beautiful.

Nothing more so, in fact, than Luminaria, the exceptional on-site restaurant. Much of the seating space here is outdoors, giving chef Brian Cooper's creations an al fresco elegance. The housemade breads alone are worth a visit, though there's much, much more to enjoy.

New Mexicans are proud of their culinary traditions; you'll find pinon-flavored coffee, syrup, nuts and more, plus loads of green chiles. That makes for an unapologetically caliente cuisine, from Luminaria's quesadillas with chipotle salsa and spicy pico de gallo to a power-packed gazpacho to a green chile burger charred beautifully on the outside and pink as a prom dress in the middle.

You could spend much of your trip just eating here and lying by the pool or enjoying a relaxing, aromatic massage at the acclaimed Loretto spa, but Santa Fe is worth a venture outdoors. Indeed, that may be the best reason to come here: To commune with nature away from the sweltering Texas

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CLIFF NOTES | Santa Clarans Indians give guided tours of the Puye cliffs near Santa Fe. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

heat.

Northern New Mexico is home to many Pueblo Indians, among them the Santa Clarans, whose centuries-old Puye cliff dwellings are still a sight to behold. Carved out of the pumice-like rockfaces of low-lying mountains, the tours here, conducted by tribe members, only recently started up after a decade when fires had all but closed the attraction. Even if you don't consider yourself a hiker, it's a fascinating look at the history of our nation before it *was* a nation.

In fact, this year Santa Fe is celebrating its 400th year — it was founded when William Shakespeare was a living playwright. That makes it the oldest state capital in the U.S. (Not the biggest, though: Despite New Mexico's size — geographically, it's the fifth largest state — the population of the entire state is about 2 million — less than that of Dallas County.)

The Santa Fe Opera is an open-air facility that operates in repertory in the summer, producing major operas and world premieres against a sagebrush landscape. An on-site cantina makes for a casual way to enjoy high culture.

Indeed, Santa Fe town is justly known for its thriving arts community, which may account in part for its gay-friendly reputation. Many galleries are concentrated along Canyon Road, a five-minute walk from the Inn and Spa. Here, you can peruse literally hundreds of collections from local, national and international artists.

If you think the only thing to buy here is

turquoise and paintings of cow skulls, you're sorely mistaken. While Native American art is plentiful, the styles range from classic to contemporary. You'll get an especially diverse selection of edgy, intriguing work — from paintings to sculpture — at InArt Gallery, run by the McKoskys.

Don't *just* stay near Canyon Road, though — visit the Heidi Loewen Porcelain Gallery, with handmade pottery from the positively charming Heidi herself. You can buy one of her beautiful pots or take one of her classes and learn to make your own (she'll even glaze and fire it for you).

If you're not planning to buy, of course you'll need to stop by the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, devoted to the state's most famous painter. The current exhibit of her work in abstraction (on through September) illuminates how her notoriously vaginal flowers were part and parcel with her overall style.

The New Mexico Museum is also worth a stroll, boasting its current exhibit of artsy cowboy boots. Among the works are several drawing by Delmas Howe, the gay artist who is to cowboys what Tom of Finland is to European leathermen. (This fact apparently escaped the curator — the notes fail to mention the homoeroticism of the art.)

If you enjoy gambling, Indian casinos dot the landscape, but really, for comfortable tranquility and outdoor adventure, everywhere in Santa Fe is a safe bet.

Read Part 2 of New Mexico's summer travel pleasures later this month in Dallas Voice.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Inn and Spa at Loretto and Luminaria Restaurant, pictured, 211 Old Santa Fe Trail. InnatLoretto.com.

ATTRACTIONS

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, 217 Johnson St. OKeeffeMuseum.org. **Heidi Loewen Porcelain Gallery**, 315 Johnson St., Santa Fe. HeidiLoewen.com. **InArt Gallery**, 219 Delgado St., Santa Fe. InArtSantaFe.com. **Loretto Chapel**, 207 Old Santa Fe Trail. LorettoChapel.com. **New Mexico Museum of Art**, 107 W. Palace Ave. NMArtMuseum.org. **Puye Cliff Dwelling National Historic Landmark**, 104 S. Riverside Drive, Espagnola. PuyeCliffs.org. **Santa Fe Opera**, 301 Opera Drive. SantaFeOpera.org.



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It's a bore! It's plain! It's *Superbland!*

DTC's reboot of the '60s musical about the Man of Steel doesn't fly

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

I have a rule of thumb about the character of Superman: He should be taller than Lois Lane. Even in his superbots as the Man of Steel in the Dallas Theater Center's re-written revival of *It's a Bird ... It's a Plane ... It's Superman*, Matt Cavanaugh barely achieves eye level with Zakiya Young as Lois. And that's only the first — and in many ways, smallest — problem in this highly problematic production.

It wasn't an easy task to make this show work. The source material wasn't the best — a jokey, '60s-era piece of snark with dated songs. Playwright Robert Aguirre-Sacasa completely retooled the book, moving the action to 1939 (a year after Superman actually debuted in Action Comics) and giving it some smart, perhaps even smart-alecky, zingers (anachronistic gags about cell phones and illegal aliens; cheeky disbelief that no one sees that Clark and Superman are the same person).

That was a good start, but the show lacks focus: Is it a post-modern, winking satire of the genre or a gosh-durn, sincere throwback to Broadway of yesteryear? I doubt anyone associated could tell you; or maybe they'd say, "Both." And therein lurks the real villain.

The plot is comic-book compatible. Daily Planet reporter Clark (Cavanaugh) tries wooing Lois (Young) but she's only got eyes for Superman. Salieri to Supe's Mozart is Max Menken (Patrick Cassidy), Metropolis' most famous and powerful citizen — apparently a master scientist, zillionaire playboy-philanthropist-businessman (think Bill Gates with fashion sense). He also wants Lois, so he assembles the Secret Society of Supervillains to defeat Superman.

New orchestrations give the songs contemporary pep, and the flying effect is admittedly fairly cool to watch, but mostly the production droops along like Superman's cape. What possessed director Kevin Moriarty to crook the proscenium? If he was trying to achieve a comic "panel" effect, he

IT'S A BIRD... SUPERMAN

Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St.
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ATTPAC.org.



HARDLY BULLET PROOF | Lois (Zakiya Young) never reaches the heights that Superman (Matt Cavanaugh) can achieve — in fact, neither does he. (Photo courtesy Brandon Thibodeaux)

failed.

Do not imagine that Cavanaugh is suffering from a head cold to explain his nasal, quavering vocal performance; that's how he *wants* to sound. It becomes annoying quick, and also robs Superman of his surefooted authority. (That he sounds exactly the same whether dressed as Clark or his alter ego demonstrates a lack of invention.)

At least Cavanaugh gives his all trying to make his hero, well, heroic; Young gives no performance to speak of. Oh, she can sing well enough, and it's not like she stumbles over her lines. But where's the energy, the panache? This is a comic book adaptation, for crissakes; better to overact than do nothing at all. (Julie Johnson, Bob Hess and Cedric Neal get that; as some of the supervillains, they camp it up outrageously.)

They're all put to shame, though, by Jennifer Powers as the gossip columnist Sydney Sharp. Her big number, "You've Got Possibilities" — also a smash in the '60s when Linda Lavin belted it out — is such a forceful, star-making bolt of electricity it actually poisons the rest of the show: Once you see what *can* be done with the music and the production, everything that follows pales by comparison.

Well, not everything. Cassidy's cackling, obsessed Max (let's be honest: He's just Lex Luthor with hair) and Cara Statham Serber as his secretary (squealing like Lina Lamont) could be in their own spinoff.

In fact, maybe that's what needs to happen here. Ditch Clark and Lois and give us something delish to hang our cape on. It might not soar, but at least it could take off. ■



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Jenn and Matt are best friends from college whose relationship has dwindled to the occasional social networking exchange. In an effort to reconnect, they decide to have a baby together, taking the easiest, cheapest route of just having sex—even though Matt is gay and Jenn is straight.



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Author, author!

Mark Lee Kirchmeier and Alvin Granowsky add their gay voices to the Dallas literary community

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

It seems unlikely that Mark Lee Kirchmeier and Alvin Granowsky had never met before this week, since both are in the niche market of gay writers in Dallas. But perhaps they represent a budding scene of out local authors. Dallas gays are claiming a presence.

When the authors finally met, a literary camaraderie took over. Kirchmeier had heard good things about Granowsky's book, which delighted Granowsky. Several mutual acquaintances and writing comparisons later, the two seemed like old pals.

Kirchmeier published his first book, *The Promise of Hope*, four years ago; the story of his hero, Johnny, continues 10 years later in his second novel, *The Open Pill Box*.

"I intended it to be a sequel but it took on a life of its own," Kirchmeier says. "It's so much larger than the first. He's psychotic as a young man in *Promise*, but now he keeps himself under control with meds but no safety net."

He calls his first book more romantic, but in *Pill Box*, Kirchmeier fully knows the story is not pretty or romantic. Johnny is a gay bipolar man seeking the help of anyone who can get him meds. Without insurance, he's close to being thrown away by society until he finds a reprieve from his ex and the Catholic Church. *Pill Box* is also Kirchmeier's exploration and criticism of America's healthcare system.

Granowsky explores social topics as well, though from a different perspective. In his 2009 book *Teacher Accused*, he addresses what happens "when homophobia explodes in a Texas town." But he has added romance into the picture giving the reader a beacon of hope amid a tragic story.

"I see this story as a journey to pride," he says. "I think people sometimes feel kind of defective because they are gay. I really want this to have a positive depiction so younger people can see there is a great life to be had — even if it's in a homophobic society."

That both books have dour, dire plots begs a curious question: Is gay tragedy an obvious outlet for an out writer? With the usual backgrounds of LGBT people growing up being bullied or



MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY | Granowsky, left, and Kirchmeier peek at each other's tragic tales. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

shunned, the need to rehash such unpleasant environments for the authors was a catharsis, whether it was experienced first hand or observed.

"I'm bipolar," Kirchmeier candidly admits. "This is an advocate book for the mentally ill who don't have insurance and who are gay. I've felt thrown away and not wanted. This isn't my story, but I am in there. Johnny and I are alike in many ways because of the things I've seen and life experiences."

Granowsky, by contrast, writes from observation. As a former educator, he noticed the students who might be gay and the way they were treated by everyone else. He was pained by this memory that years later, and needed to get it out of his system.

"There is a catharsis talking about this," he says. "It's like cleansing one's own sense of self. I needed to let it come out. My value system suffered. The funny thing is, I had no intention of getting published. I just wanted to write it down. It was a labor of love."

That venting of ill emotions has its rewards. Each author sees his novel making an impact in the community, whether from an appreciative fan or an actually life changing moment. Both express compassion in their books that speaks to readers.

"I looked around and wanted to make a change, a statement," Kirchmeier says. "I'm angry about the lack of universal healthcare.

The way hospitals treat people without insurance. I wanted to speak out in anger and take a look at the social injustice that's even based here in Dallas."

He took a year and a half to write *The Open Pill Box*, and its darkness took a lot out of him physically and emotionally. It affected his hygiene, his health and even his teeth: He became so rapt he eventually had to have a root canal for ignoring his teeth.

That should change with book three.

"I'm currently writing *My Best Pledge*, which is a lighthearted romp through fraternity hood. And then after that, I'm writing *The Paleta Man* — a sequel to *The Open Pill Box*."

Meanwhile, Granowsky is still reveling in having his book published. With people coming out earlier, he sees a shift in a new generation of pride. Something he didn't have.

"Younger people are coming out earlier," he says. "Sometimes they aren't as prepared but now there are more solid role models for that. Plus, I think this book could inspire people to be proud of who they are and that life can be happy. I'm the happiest I've ever been."

Once the photo was done the authors exchanged books, spreading their message a little further. And each seems to know that they could be part of a homegrown trend of giving a voice to the gay community. ■

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Genesis, Hyundai's new pony car, gallops along with the big boys



IN THE BEGINNING... | Hyundai's Genesis Coupe goes up against big-boy sports cars at a bargain price.

Hyundai migrated to North America in the '80s selling an atrocious little pot called the Pony. It was a total piece, based on an underachieving Mitsubishi, but it gave the Korean automaker a chance to improve its wares.

And boy has it ever. Over the past 25 years, Hyundai has gone from humble to hot, building some of the best cars sold in the U.S.

If you want a sport coupe that can humble a '90s Corvette and keep pace with America's pony cars, check out the Genesis Coupe 3.8.

Especially when equipped with the available V6 engine and manual transmission, the Genesis Coupe very much *is* a Korean Corvette: A swoopy body with steering firmly connected to an athletic chassis. This is a car that embarrasses many world-class sports cars with a price that challenges mortal mid-size sedans.

A quick glance could convince you it's a successor to the Tiburon or an aggressively-styled Eclipse competitor. Take it front-on and it looks as wide as a Ferrari Testarossa. The coupe shares its wide luxury car platform with the Genesis sedan, translating into a roomy cabin and athletic stance. At some angles, it could be an Infiniti G37 sport coupe, which I'm sure is no accident. From behind you get a breath of wing and wide butt familiar to drivers of lesser wheels.

Two-tier side surfacing and a "Z profile" windowline leave their impressions. Alloy wheels insure this exotic coupe lives up to its sexy looks.

You can get an efficient little 210-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder in the Genesis, but what's the swag in that? Get the high-tech 306-HP 3.8-liter V6 and grow a set. In every one of the six manually-selected gears, the car growls and surges forward like an American muscle car.

Like in the Genesis sedan, power is sent to the rear wheels — proper in any real performance car. Fuel economy is rated 17/26-MPG city/hwy. You'll burn more fuel than in a V6 domestic, but not much. If you're that worried about it, go for the four-cylinder model and enjoy 21/30-MPG.

All you need is an iPhone (or similar device) to turn the Genesis into a Jetsons-era space coupe. Its twin-cockpit dash design is modern and sporty. Heated leather seats in contrasting brown leather looked great and gripped for fun. Automatic climate control, power sunroof and push button starting make the car easy to use.

Even with in-dash navigation and a thumpin' 10-speaker Sirius-XM Infinity audio system, the car seems simple. Plug your iPhone into the USB port to access all of your music through the car's controls (easy-to-use menus are intuitive). Bluetooth lets you make calls using the iPhone's contact list and service by pressing buttons on the steering wheel. Add one little device and the car becomes as sophisticated as any. Best of all, you can take that tech to go.

Engineers went all out creating the Genesis sedan's chassis. Its four-wheel independent suspension system, five-links in back, is as sophisticated as high-end German units. They had clear minds when they carried over a stiffened version for the Genesis Coupe. Compared to other cars in its class, Genesis feels better planted over rough pavement, but is lively enough to carve up backroads with vigor. Somehow, it still manages to provide a comfortable ride on the highway and isn't overly harsh on rough city streets. The chassis is a first-class design, and Genesis is a first-class ride.

Safety was a key point of the design. Dual front, front-side and side curtain airbags tally off the people protectors. Four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes, electronic stability control, traction control and electronic brake force distribution let the chassis contribute to avoid accidents in the first place. Active headrests help protect against whiplash in severe accidents.

I don't have the heart to take a car and roast the tires off of it in a crazy testosterone-infused tear, but everybody tells me the Genesis is a riot among the drifting crowd. Its torquey rear-driven powertrain can spin the tires into liquid goo with a side of smoke; its precise suspension and steering let you put the car wherever you want it as if with thought alone. Amazingly, during a three-hour drive, the car was as mature and well behaved as any high-performance coupe I've driven recently.

If the Sedan heralded Hyundai's arrival with an unapologetic luxury that can take on high-end German and Japanese models, then the Coupe is the sports car that puts the world's pony cars on notice.

Genesis is giving the Mustang and Camaro their own brand of Asian hell while serving up a dish of burn for the Infiniti G37 and Nissan Z. An as-tested price of \$29,425 rubs wasabi in the wounds.



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PIXEL SHTICK | Ted Kincaid, above, produced two works, right, for an exhibit celebrating the Gulf of Mexico before the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

Ted Kincaid is in a somber mood. The Dallas-based digital artist has for 20 years been recognizable for his uplifting, vibrantly colorful digital cloudscapes (one of his “thunderhead” clouds was shown earlier this year at the Dallas Museum of Art). But his latest exhibition, on display through July 17 at the Arthur Roger Gallery in New Orleans, resonates with a profound sense of loss and melancholy.

And no wonder. The images currently on display are based on the artist’s memories of the Gulf of Mexico before the BP oil spill.

Kincaid’s contribution, which consists of two hypnotically beautiful seascapes, is part of a 30-piece mixed media group exhibition that focuses on pre-Deepwater Horizon disaster representations of the Gulf Coast region. The exhibit celebrates but also mourns a world and way of life that are rapidly disappearing.

Kincaid, whose partner is local activist and Human Rights Campaign honoree Steve Atkinson, spoke about his art and the tragedy of the spill.

— M.M. Adjarian



Memories of the Gulf

Ted Kincaid’s digital art recalls a landscape before the environmental catastrophe

Dallas Voice: A genuine passion for nature clearly underlies your work. But why did you specifically want to take part in an exhibition about the gulf before the BP disaster? Kincaid: Arthur [Roger] organized this exhibit as a protest of the tragedy that’s going on in the Gulf and invited me to participate because of the nature of my work.

Did your environmentalism play any role in your decision to be part of this protest show? Absolutely. I think what’s going on down there is a tragedy like we’ve never seen in our lifetime and it will affect probably all us for the rest of our lives.

Do you remember when and how you become aware of the artistic possibilities the Gulf had for your work? It’s part of a trajectory that’s been happening in my work over the past 15 or so years that involves the veracity of the photograph. So those images, though printed and presented as photographs, are in fact entirely digitally constructed pixel by pixel on my com-

puter. For all practical purposes, they are digital paintings presented as photographs.

But you *have* traveled to the Gulf. Oh yes, extensively. That’s why it was so important to be involved in this. The two images that are included in the exhibit are directly influenced by the area at the mouth of the Mississippi.

The name of the series from which you chose the images is called *The Only Joke God Ever Played On Me*. Do you find that title ironic in context of the current exhibition? Absolutely. The title referred more to the sense that images such as cloudscapes and seascapes are fleeting. They’re never static and they’re never repeated. And by the time you’re able to turn someone around and get them to look at what you’re looking at, it’s changed. And it is almost like a joke being played on you.

Only in this case, the joke isn’t divine. It’s more a terrible joke that humanity has played on itself. Yes.

Your images are haunting, disturbing ... It’s much like looking at photographs of someone that you love who’s recently died. It’s the memory of what’s not there anymore.

You’ve said that your work documents things that “exist or not... and can be seen or not.” That’s a chilling statement, given that what your images depict no longer exists. Has the oil spill impacted any part of your artistic vision? My work for a number of years has tended to focus on a yearning for what we are losing. And the new work that is currently being produced in the studio has much more of an acute awareness of this than before. It doesn’t have an arrow pointing to it saying “environmental disaster;” it’s more a sense of loss and memory, a sense of something that doesn’t exist anymore. And I think that this oil spill particularly is going to impact my work for the rest of my life.

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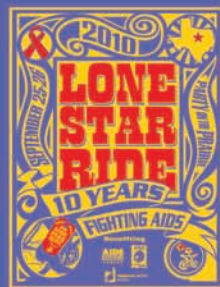
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Monday 07.05

Shake and stir over to Palm Springs

For those bartenders who wish their life was more like Tom Cruise's in *Cocktail*, this could be the break you're looking for. The winner of the Palm Springs Cocktail Challenge will head to California to compete for ultimate mixmaster bragging rights in a Poolside Finale this September to be aired on Logo. So, just how is that jigger of yours?

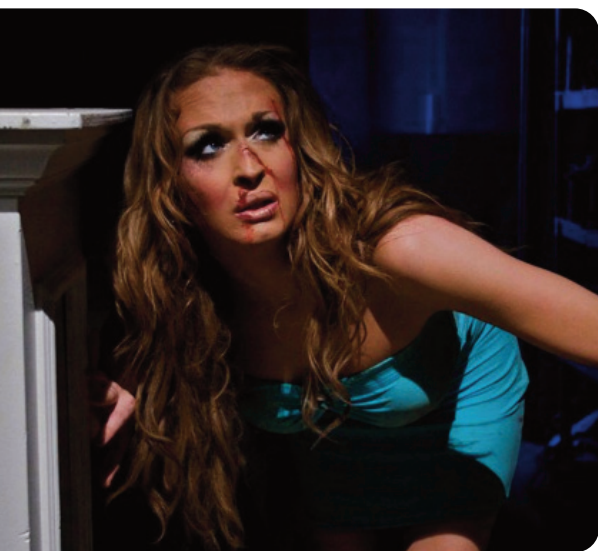
DEETS: The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. PalmSpringsCocktails.com.

Monday 07.05

Lesbians owe lots to Bieber

Not since 'The Rachel' haircut, has a style taken off so rampantly. When Justin Bieber's fresh face and innocent adolescence hit the music charts, kids took notice. So did lesbians. His swept over bangs have given women who love women a whole new look. And Bieber probably has no idea about that.

DEETS: Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. 7 p.m. \$34-\$54. Ticketmaster.com.



Wednesday 07.07

No more room for hate

Luna Entertainment and Surviving Hate have teamed up for a special screening of *Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives*. The event will help the non-profit organization build its new website which will help to empower victims of hate crimes.

DEETS: Studio Movie Grill, 11170 N. Central Expressway. 8 p.m. \$10. TickedOffTrannies.com.



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FRIDAY 07.02**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.

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

THEATER

Beehive The '60s Musical. Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St. Through Sunday. Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7:30 p.m., weekend matinees at 2:30 p.m. \$10-\$40. Theatre3Dallas.com.

It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman by the Dallas Theater Center. Wyly Theater, 2400 Flora St. Through July 25. Tuesdays-Thursdays and Sundays at 7 p.m., Fridays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., weekend matinees at 2 p.m. \$15-\$80. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Leading Ladies. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Saturday. Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m. \$17-\$19. TheatreArlington.org.

ART

a la cARTe: Art. Jewelry. Fashion. Artisan Style, 2417 Mahon St. Through Saturday. ArtisanStyle.net.

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

Vintage features the works of David Parise and Debbie Curtis which explore the world of Barbie. Rising Gallery, 4631 Insurance Lane. Through July 31. RisingGallery.com.

SATURDAY 07.03**COMMUNITY**

SPCA of Texas Pet Grief Counseling. Dealey Care Center, 362 S. Industrial Blvd. 1 p.m. 214-651-9611.

Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club. Gamers meet to play and discuss. Half Price Books, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3-6 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

DFW Bi Net Bisexual, Bi-Curious and Allies Support Group meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 11 a.m. Brown bag lunch encouraged. Email SupportGroup@dfwbi.net for more details.

Due to the holiday, please check with agencies and organizations directly for their schedules.

SUNDAY 07.04**COMMUNITY**

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

Lesbianas Latinas. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 4 p.m. 214-890-6976.

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

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

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon.

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

MONDAY 07.05**COMMUNITY**

Unwired Dallas. Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets for those wishing to quit using crystal meth. New Hope Fellowship Church, 2438 Butler St. 7 p.m. Free. Crystalmeth.org.

Caffeine + Character. Cathedral of Hope youth meet 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.

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

Palm Springs Cocktail Challenge seeks the best bartender in town. The event benefits the Legacy Counseling Center and Cottage. The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m. Palm-SpringsCocktails.com.

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BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 07.06

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.

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

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

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

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.

Classic Chassis Car Club. El Fenix Downtown, 1601 McKinney Ave. at Woodall Rodgers Freeway. 6:30 p.m. 214-446-0606.

National Leather Association-Dallas meeting. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.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 07.07

COMMUNITY

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

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



SCHOOL DAZE | Amphibian Productions opens 'The First Day of School' Thursday.

20Something social group meets at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:15 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

First Wednesday on Cedar Springs. Area merchants offer sales, refreshments and entertainment along Cedar Springs and Oak Lawn. 6-10 p.m.

THURSDAY 07.08

COMMUNITY

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

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

The Group. Support group for black men who are HIV-positive. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

THEATER

The First Day of School by Billy Aronson. Presented by Amphibian Stage Productions. Sanders Theater, 1300 W. Gendy St., Fort Worth. Through July 25. Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. \$25. AmphibianProductions.org.

ART

Charity Art Event featuring the work of Robb Conover and Margo Miller and music by DJs Robocat and Trademark. Proceeds benefit Resource Center Dallas. Urban Dog Coffee Shop, 2720 Oak Lawn Ave. 6 p.m. UrbanDogCoffee.com.

FILM

Out Takes Dallas screens *Undertow* and the short film *Gayby*. A mixer precedes the films. Magnolia Theater, 3699 McKinney Ave. 6 p.m. Film at 7:30 p.m. \$10. OuttakesDallas.org.

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

this week's solution

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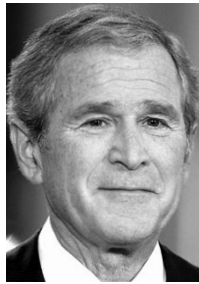


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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



George W. Bush turns 64 on Tuesday. Ever since his wife admitted to supporting marriage equality, we wonder if the former President might also. A Facebook campaign wants to draft the Mrs. for Dallas Pride this year. Imagine the GOP's reaction if Bush joined her for *that* ride in the parade. Some places might just freeze over.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Consider taking the chance of switching jobs. Any current dissatisfaction with your job invites self-sabotage. Seek advice from a friend experienced in the work you want to do.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Your partner can help open you up to powerful new ideas. Look past long-held notions to your most basic values; it's better to take in those fresh notions.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Step out of the social whirl for a bit. Focus on taking care of yourself inside and out. A new look should honor your age, not hide it. Knowing your limits can help you zero in on strengths.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You may be better off in quiet retreat with fewer, better friends. Favor the more productive and creative ones. Save time and energy for your partner, even if you don't have one yet.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Balancing friendly conversations with the boss, and maintaining friendships with colleagues could get you a huge promotion. Never forget where you came from and that going up the ladder.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Showing off newfound wisdom forces you to admit limits in your education. Ask thoughtful questions of an expert. Don't be shy. An outré approach could spark new directions for both of you

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Sex seems to be shifting from practice to theory. Old messages on the topic take sudden relevance. Tapes to erase? Valuable but forgotten lessons? You could be surprised.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your sex life should be picking up pretty well. What does your partner say about that? A discussion is in order. People change and grow. Even if everything is hunky-dory, it's good to talk.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Being playful is important, but focus on the actual work and responsibility of your relationship, real or hypothetical. When you feel uncertain using your partner for grounding can be unfair.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Playful banter can help stimulate a better work environment lest your intentions are misunderstood. Spontaneous provocation has its place, but strategic consulting will prove more effective.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Your new playful streak could come off as critical and bitchy. Sometimes a Bette Davis impression just can't make it right. Be extra mindful and considerate.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

You have a lot to say and it's important to you. Your family and boss may disagree. Tweak your message a bit. Listen to friends with radical and challenging suggestions.

THIS WEEK

With outer planets hanging out near the cusps, Mercury entering Leo and Venus into Virgo kick off a lot of issues. Being cute, outspoken and constructively critical will have broad ramifications. Modesty, compassion and forethought are always good to check before speaking.

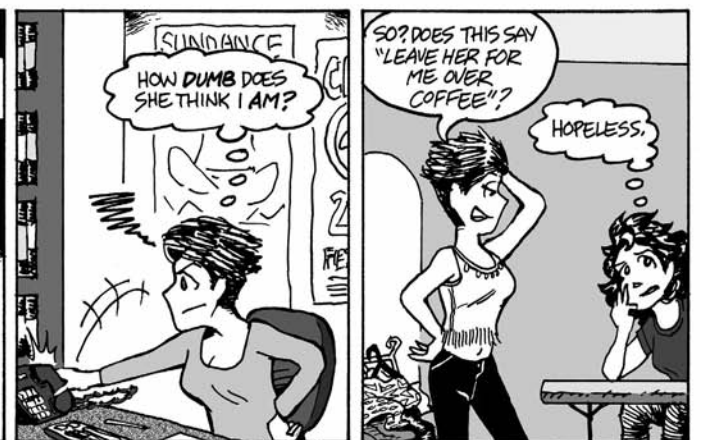
Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

JANE'S WORLD

JANE RETURNS TO WORK AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENT AT THE LOCAL HOOTERS RESTAURANT. THAT IS, "UNSUCCESSFUL," DEPENDING ON WHO YOU ASK...

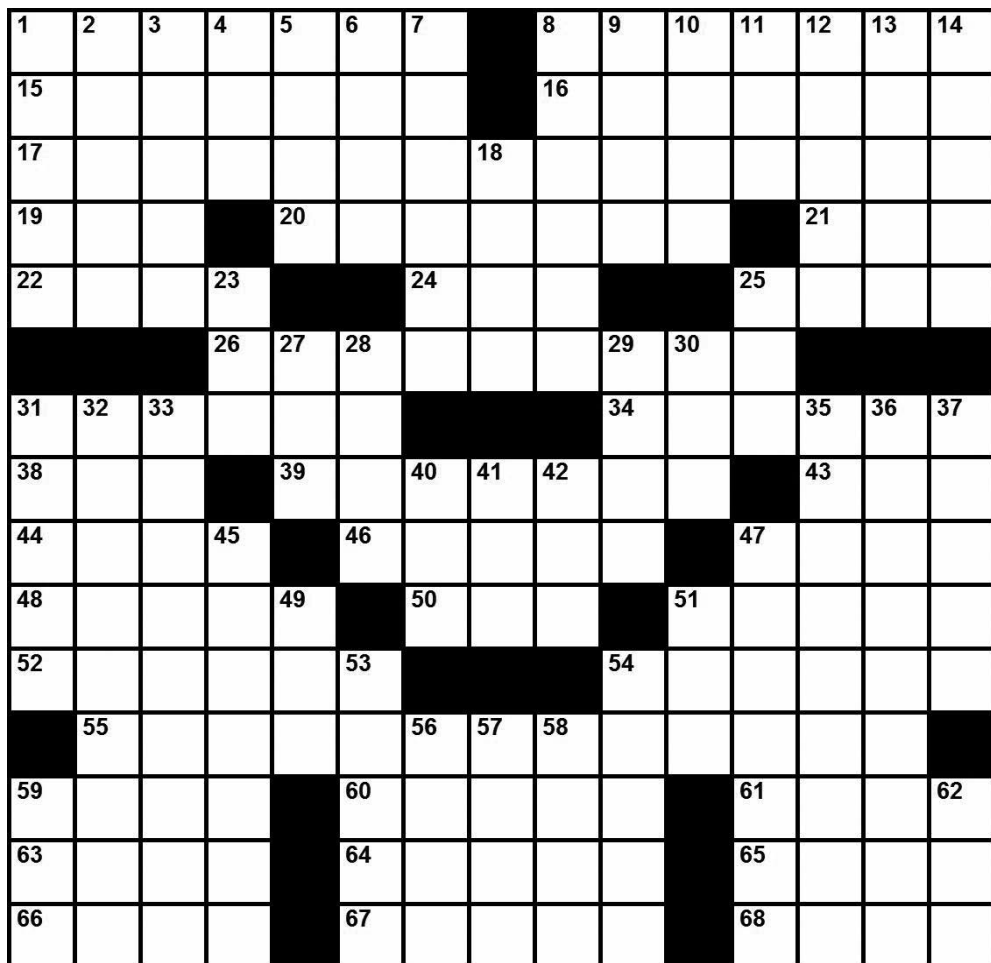


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Best of the Bicons

Solution on page 44

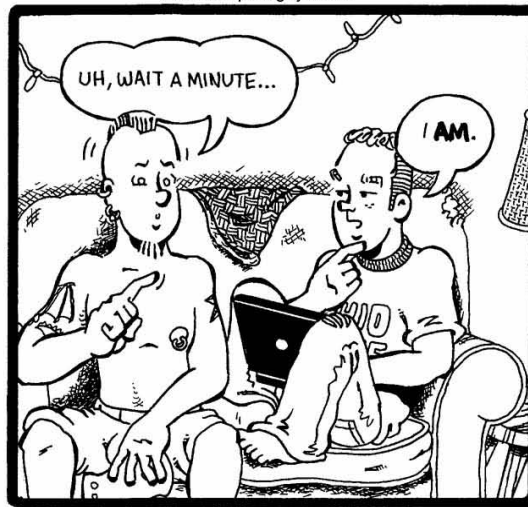
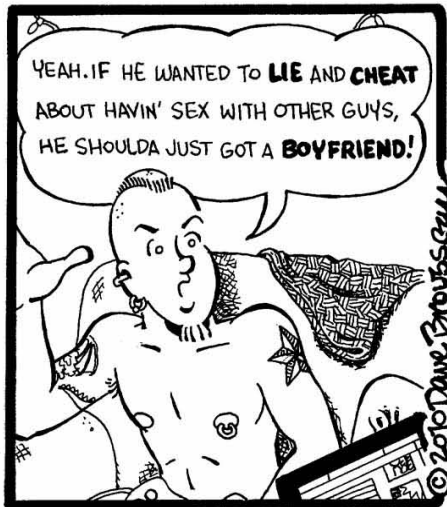
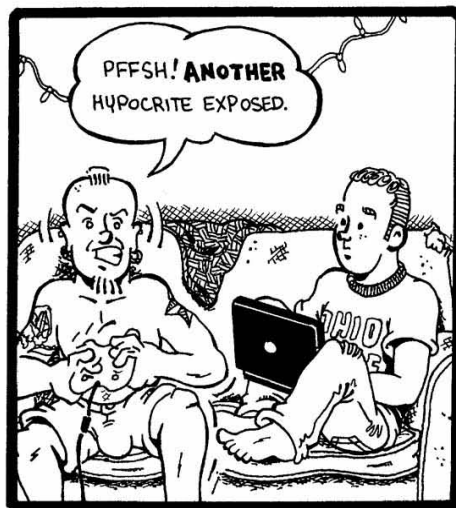
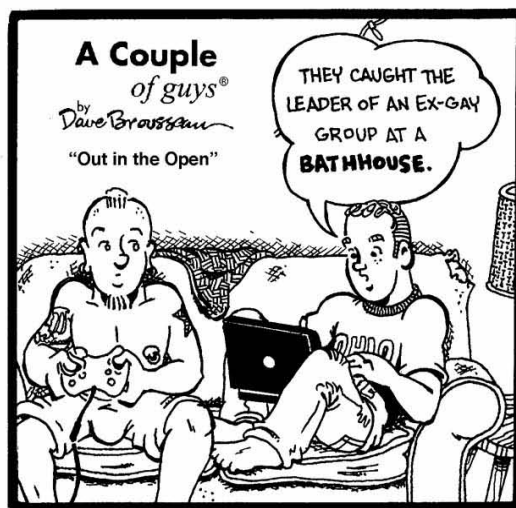
Across

- 1 Chef Traci Des ___
- 8 Mystics
- 15 They're often seen on slides
- 16 Joan of Arc, allegedly
- 17 "Blonde Venus" cross-dresser
- 19 Hot time for Colette
- 20 "Like, fer sure"
- 21 "Ben Hur" novelist Wallace
- 22 Birdbrain
- 24 Ins. letters
- 25 Pink Triangle Press publication
- 26 With 46-Across, an African-American in Paris
- 31 Empire conquered by Alexander
- 34 Until now
- 38 Pub offering
- 39 Ricky Martin and others
- 43 NBA position
- 44 Angelina's Brad
- 46 See 26-Across
- 47 Eldest Brady boy
- 48 Sculptor Nancy
- 50 Supporter of bottoms
- 51 Dress with a flared bottom
- 52 Oater brawl site
- 54 Makes into law

- 55 "God Bless the Child" singer
- 59 Susan Feniger preparation
- 60 Sacred cup
- 61 Junior Vasquez is this kind of jockey
- 63 Cigar butt?
- 64 Hung beast of a simile
- 65 Sooner city
- 66 Milk component
- 67 A turnstile swallows it
- 68 New York gay magazine

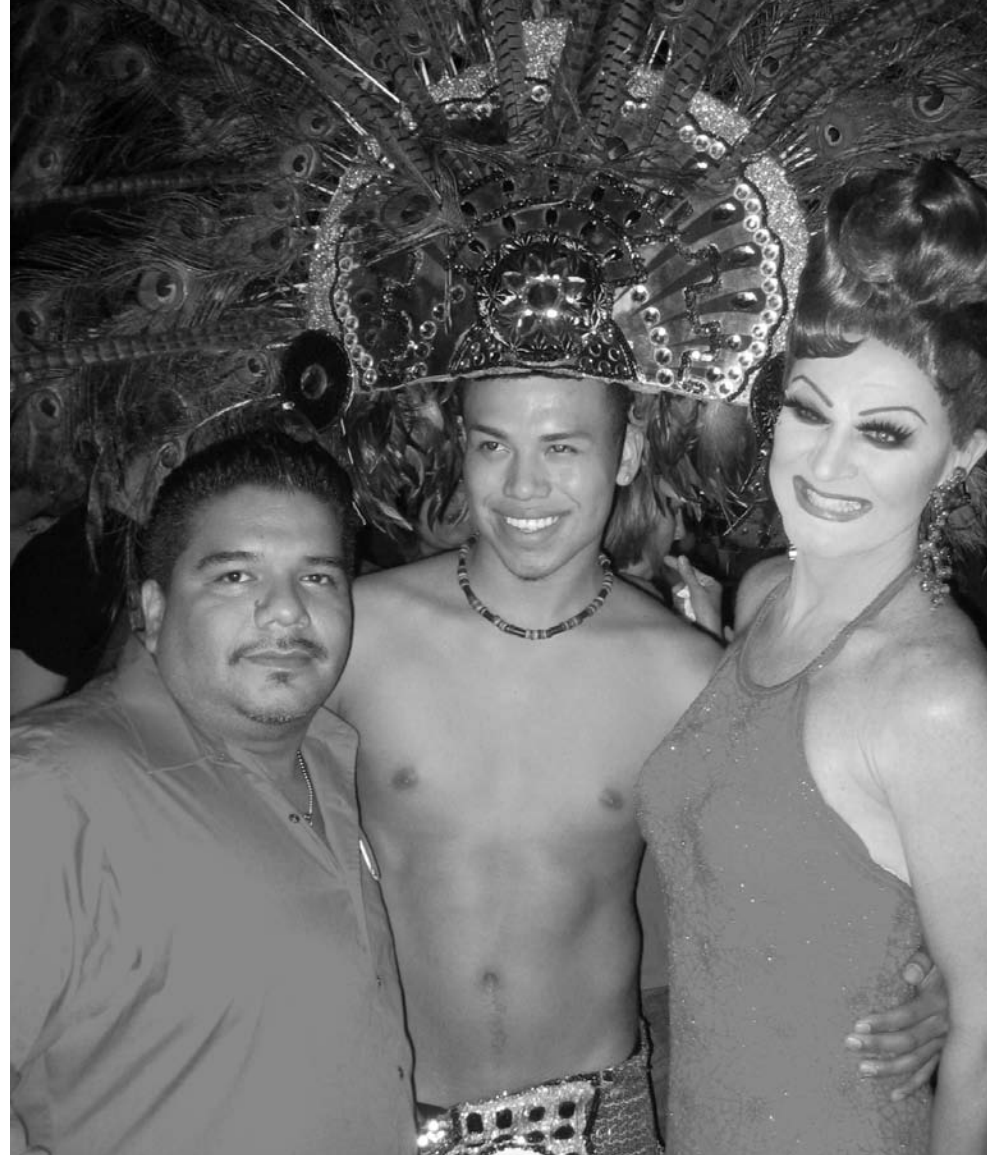
Down

- 1 President before Abraham
- 2 Precious strings
- 3 Composer Ned
- 4 "Runaway" singer Shannon
- 5 "Suuure!"
- 6 Second starter
- 7 Foam at the mouth
- 8 1862 Tennessee battle site
- 9 Command to one's bitch
- 10 Like many independent films
- 11 Debussy's "La ___"
- 12 Not straight
- 13 More like nelly?
- 14 Inverted e
- 18 Showing excitement
- 23 Duds in the bedroom
- 25 Made a mark in "Hollywood Squares"
- 27 Tin Man's request
- 28 Swedish import
- 29 "Like ___ not"
- 30 Little black bk. listings
- 31 Mamas' singing partners
- 32 Celia portrayer Perkins, on "Weeds"
- 33 Strike back
- 35 Langston Hughes' "Danse ___"
- 36 Alphabet statistic
- 37 Rims
- 40 Gentle blow
- 41 Presidential nickname
- 42 Like a crescent moon
- 45 It goes clang, clang, clang
- 47 Tickle pink
- 49 Large ISP
- 51 Singer DiFranco
- 53 Shakespearean's "Twelfth ___"
- 54 First name in talk
- 56 Suffix with switch
- 57 "Listen!"
- 58 River of northern France
- 59 Sound from a small pussy
- 62 Ill. clock setting





Tonie, Michael and Joe at Pekers.



Henry, Valentino and Patti Le Plae Safe at Gay Bingo at the Rose Room.

How many fireworks do you plan on popping this holiday weekend? ... For any July birthdays, hit up **the Brick** this weekend. It's **First Friday Birthdays** and the party includes cake, drinks and gifts! Follow up the birthday bash with **Red Hot** serving up barbecue and dancers. On Saturday, superstar **DJ Chris Cox** helms the turntables. The holiday rolls on to Sunday's **July 4th T-Dance** **Sue Ellen's** will have **Anton Shaw and the Reason** Friday night and one of our faves, **The Bright**, plays Saturday **DJ Dan De Leon** brings his talents to **Independence** Saturday. **Paul Kraft** brings back **Club One** for the night so De Leon can get his groove on **The Round-Up Saloon** hosts the awards show for this weekend's softball tournament on Sunday. But they get in the holiday action with their **4th of July Celebration** from afternoon to evening also on Sunday Have you tried the **Saturday Showers** at **Cherries Club**? When the clubs says we can paint models to our taste, we say "More, please!" ... Social play club **Clenched DFW** meets at the **Dallas Eagle** on Friday. The **TGRA** hosts a fundraising **Underwear Auction** on Saturday to coincide with the club's **Undergear Night**. Now that's some smart planning. And if you're aching for some game time, **Blackjack Night** is Tuesday and the **Billiards Tournament** cues up on Wednesday At **Jack's Backyard**, **Tony Rey** serves up his Texas music on Friday. **Bona Fide Blues** keeps it real on Saturday and **Kathy and Bella** play Sunday afternoon Catch some jock action when the **PSSA** presents **Beat the Heat** all weekend long at **Woody's** Oh, and you should see fireworks in the sky at some point

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Sadie, Valenid, Debra, Debbie and Mom at Best Friends Club.



Kimberly and Tirby at the Hidden Door.



Derrick and Mike at Alexandre's.



Allison and Kim at Sue Ellen's.



Mike and Selena at Illusions.

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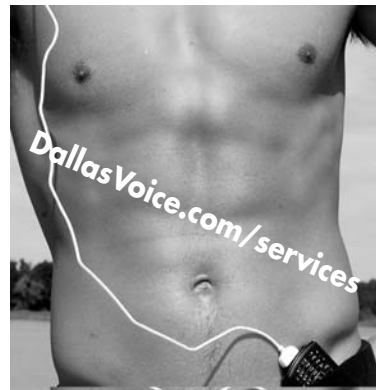
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