

Somewhere ogle the rainbow

'Shrek' actor gets big laughs from a tiny villain

And David Vaughn has high hopes for his first State Fair

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FW adds partner, pension benefits for LGBT workers

HR Commissioner Thomas says Community Relations Department cuts won't impair enforcement of nondiscrimination ordinance

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
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FORT WORTH — After months of a contentious budget process, the Fort Worth City

Council on Tuesday, Sept. 21 approved a \$1.3 billion budget for fiscal year 2011, and with that vote also approved domestic partner benefits for city employees.

Beginning Oct. 4, LGBT city employees will be able to add their domestic partners to their insurance plan, with the employee paying all the costs of the added benefits. The insurance will go into effect Jan. 1.

The new budget also calls on the city to increase its contribution to the pension fund by 4 percent and to offer new hires the option of designating a



Thomas Anable

survivor, which can include a domestic partner, to receive benefits.

The move to offer partner benefits came in under the radar, happening quietly and with none of the often rancorous debate that accompanied the vote last fall to add gender identity to the city's nondiscrimination policy, or even the decision to

form the Diversity Task Force that recommended adding partner benefits.

The task force was formed last summer in the wake of the raid on the Rainbow Lounge, and was created to suggest ways that the city could better serve its LGBT employees and citizens.

In fact, it was the way the council set up the task force that allowed the partner benefits to be added without opposition, according to Thomas Anable, president of Fairness Fort Worth.

The task force was created to study city policies

■ BENEFITS, Page 11

Leading the revolution



'Drag Race' finalist Jujubee heads to Lone Star State for Dallas Southern Pride

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
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Airline Inthyrath had been performing in drag "off and on" for about eight years. But, he said, he wasn't "really 100 percent" into it.

"I really didn't feel appreciated by some of the audiences. And it was expensive. I'd go shopping, and then I would think, 'Do I really want to spend all this money on this wig?'" But then along came "RuPaul's Drag Race," and all that changed. Inthyrath slipped into character as "Jujubee" and hit the big time.

"I just auditioned because I thought, 'What do I have to lose?' And then I got there and I realized, whoa! This is really serious. I was competing with the best drag queens in America!"

Jujubee — who will be in Dallas this weekend to perform at the Dallas Southern

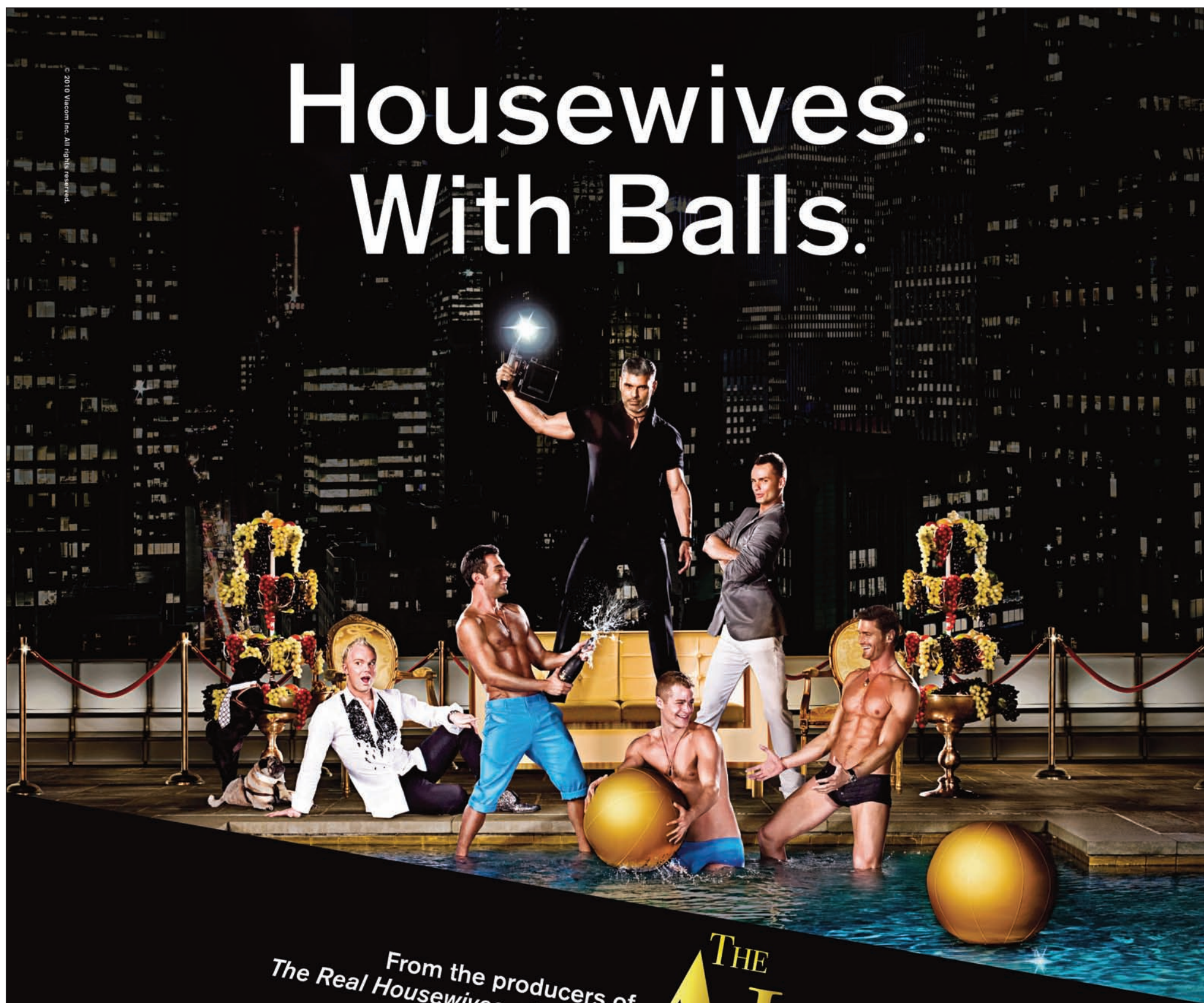
■ JIJUBEE, Page 12

The colors of Pride



STUDENT PRIDE | Student groups, like this one from the University of Texas at Dallas, were a large presence in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade on Sunday, Sept. 19. For more photos of the parade, go to Page 33 in this issue or go online to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. (Chuck Dube/Dallas Voice)

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Lone Star Ride set to pedal the Metroplex

Annual bike ride leaves from American Airlines conference center on Saturday and returns Sunday

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
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Close to 200 bicyclists will be pedaling their way across the Metroplex this weekend, supported by about the same number of crew members staffing pit stops, sweep vehicles, the moto crew and other support positions, as part of the 10th annual Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS.

The ride again benefits three DFW AIDS service organizations: AIDS Services of Dallas, Resource Center Dallas and AIDS Outreach Center of Fort Worth.

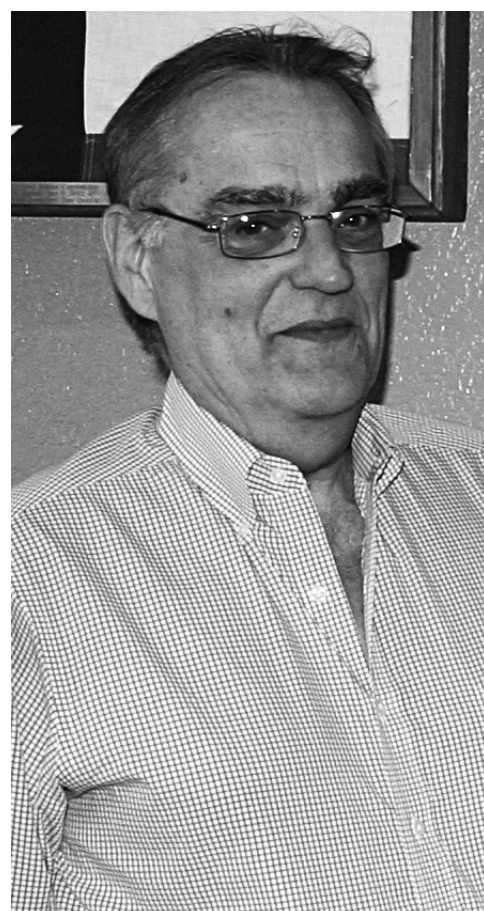
Laura Kerr and John Tripp, LSR co-chairs, said Monday, Sept. 20, that they were pleased with how smoothly the final stages of preparations were going, thanks to the efforts of the Lone Star Ride council and committee chairs.

"I'm really not stressed at all, thanks to these people," Kerr said with a sweep of her arm, indicating council members and committee chairs who had gathered at Resource Center Dallas to fill "goodie bags" that will be handed out to riders and crew members. "This council has exceeded all our expectations."

■ **LSR**, Page 10



READY TO RIDE | Volunteers pack goodie bags before the start of the 10th annual Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS. Resource Center Dallas, AIDS Services Dallas and AIDS Outreach Center will split the proceeds.



Dave Guy-Gainer

Local gay vet: Time to regroup, refuel, attack again on DADT

Veterans and active servicemembers express outrage and frustration but will use this time to regroup

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
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Gay current and former servicemembers from North Texas expressed frustration and outrage over this week's vote in the U.S. Senate that halted progress on a repeal of "don't ask don't tell."

But they vowed to continue fighting the military's 17-year-old ban on open service, in hopes the Senate will take up the measure again during the lame duck session that follows November elections.

The Senate voted 56-43 on Tuesday, Sept. 21 to move forward with debate on the 2011 Defense spending bill that includes a provision to repeal DADT, but the margin fell short of the 60 votes needed to overcome a Republican-led filibuster.

Dave Guy-Gainer, a retired Air Force chief master sergeant from Tarrant County and a board member for the Servicemembers Legal Defense

Network, chalked up Tuesday's vote as a lost battle, but said the war won't end until the policy is history.

"Now is the time to regroup, refuel and attack again," Gainer said. "We'll see this scenario again in December and again and again until repeal happens. It will happen. Between now and then, the voices of our community and our allies must become louder and more incessant than ever before. This is not a political issue — this is a discrimination issue. After 17 years we cannot give up now. We are still alive in the Senate and in the courts."

Two weeks before the Senate vote, a federal district judge in California declared DADT unconstitutional, but the U.S. Justice Department, which is defending the policy, hasn't said whether it will appeal the ruling.

Meanwhile, a Pentagon review of the impact of DADT repeal is due Dec. 1.

Kevin, an active-duty gay Marine from North Texas whose name is being withheld to protect him from being outed under DADT, called on President Barack Obama to issue an executive

■ **DADT**, Page 11

instant**TEA**

DallasVoice.com/Instant-Tea



Angela Hunt's last-minute scramble to make it to Pride

Some may be wondering — as we were — why Dallas City Councilwoman Angela Hunt had a separate entry in Sunday's gay Pride parade instead of riding on the city of Dallas float with other councilmembers. Hunt's separate entry prompted at least one local gay Republican to post a photo of the city float on his Facebook page and suggest that Hunt, whose district includes half of Oak Lawn, had missed the parade. That's not true, of course. Hunt's entry — consisting of her car, her husband and herself — came near the end of the procession.

Our first thought, to be honest, was whether this was an indication that Hunt plans to run for mayor next year. We thought maybe she was trying to show up current Mayor Tom Leppert, who was absent from Pride for the second time in four years. But it turns out Hunt's separate parade entry wasn't at all politically motivated, or even intentional.

Hunt explained to Instant Tea Tuesday morning that she missed the shuttle that takes councilmembers from Lee Park to the parade lineup. She was told initially that the shuttle would be returning for her, but it never did, and the parade start time of 2 o'clock had come and gone. Hunt said she and her husband began to panic. They quickly jumped in their car and hit the car wash (she says her husband insisted that they couldn't take the car in the gay parade without washing it). They then made a quick visit to CVS to pick up some poster board, magic markers and streamers. Hunt called parade organizer Michael Doughman and explained that she would be cutting him a check for the \$250 entry fee.

"It was great fun but slightly stressful," Hunt said. "I couldn't miss the parade. My husband and I have been in it for five years, and we were determined not to miss the parade. It's not a political statement, and I hated not getting to ride with my colleagues."

— John Wright

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■ texasnews

SETTLING IN



PARKER IN DALLAS |
In her only interview while in Dallas as the honorary grand marshal of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, Houston Mayor Annise Parker said she doesn't live her life just out of the closet, but out on the front lawn. Her city is competing with Moscow for a major petroleum convention, and she plans to meet up with that city's mayor to tell him what she thinks of his treatment of gays and lesbians in Moscow. Read the complete interview with Parker online at DallasVoice.com. (Photo courtesy Steve Krueger)

Deaths



Roy E. Cooper Jr., 67, formerly of Dallas, died in his home in Acapulco, Mexico, on Sept. 13 of injuries suffered in a fall at his home.

Cooper was born Oct. 1, 1942, in Harlingen, Texas. He graduated from Waco High School in 1961 and earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Baylor University in 1965.

Throughout his life, Cooper worked as a minister of music and choir director at various Baptist churches and schools in Waco, Killeen and Dallas. During the Vietnam war, he served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain's assistant, and was stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.

Cooper was also a certified financial planner

and worked as an accounts payable manager for Comp USA for 15 years. For eight of those years, he also served as minister of music at White Rock Community Church in Dallas.

He retired and moved to Acapulco, Mexico in 2008. Cooper had a talent and a passion for music that touched everyone he knew, and he was a loving father, son, brother, grandfather, uncle and friend.

Cooper was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. Roy Edgar Cooper and Frances Louis Stahl Cooper. He is survived by his son, Tim Cooper; his daughter and son-in-law, Harolyn and Troy Salwie; his granddaughter, Hailey Salwie; his brother and sister-in-law, the Rev. Reuel and Lanelle Cooper; his former wife, Michelle Padgett Perkus; seven nieces and nephews and their spouses and children, and many friends.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. at White Rock Community Church in Dallas. Memorial contributions can be made to the Roy Cooper Memorial Fund, c/o White Rock Community Church, 9353 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218.

■ pet of the week / bambi

Bambi was transferred from a city shelter when no one came to claim her. She is a very friendly dog who has never met another dog or person she didn't like. She gives great kisses and would sit happily next to you, glad to have the attention. She would also be a great running partner, if that is your thing! Bambi is white with little brown spots in several places on her head.

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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Team Dallas Voice

I left the office and went out for lunch today. Not an uncommon occurrence. I go out almost every day. The biggest challenge I have before I leave the building is deciding where to eat. Dallas is a restaurant town, you know.

Where to eat? How much to spend? How far to travel? How much time do I have in my schedule today? So many decisions to be made just for a simple lunch.

Not today.

Today I had lunch with Jennifer Hurn, the client services manager for Resource Center Dallas, one of the beneficiaries of Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS, along with AIDS Services of Dallas and AIDS Outreach Center of Tarrant County.

I had called Jennifer and told her I was riding Lone Star Ride this weekend and I wanted to meet some of the clients at the Hot Meals Program, which she oversees. Ultimately, when you are holding out your hand and asking people for money to support a cause, your cause, you want to know and see that the money they hand over to you is doing some good.

The RCD's Hot Meals Program serves between 100 to 150 clients every weekday. Today's menu was barbeque chicken, green beans with potatoes, garlic toast, a salad, plus cake for those, like me, that have a sweet tooth.

To be eligible for the meal, a client must be HIV-positive, have an income at or below 300 percent of the poverty level and fall under Ryan White funding.

"We see some people once a week and some every day," Hurn explains. "The numbers always go up at the end of the month when the social security money starts to run out. Always. We have a total of over 900 clients who are eligible for the meal. If they all showed up on a single day, I don't know what we would do."

Jennifer doesn't want to face that prospect and I

understand her fears. Most of the chairs are taken.

After going down the serving line, we sit down with Edward, a long time client. Edward lives in Oak Cliff and takes the bus on his daily trip to RCD. The journey takes him an hour-and-a-half to two hours each way.

"I have been coming here for years. I'm an old-timer at this place. Plus I'm 60 years old," he says, shaking his head with a grin, something of an acknowledgment he didn't expect to be around this long. He notes that while the trip is onerous because he walks with a back brace and the help of a cane, he looks forward to it.

"If I don't come here I may not see many people. I try to get to know people, especially the new folks who may not be comfortable at first." Edward is the welcoming voice closest to the serving line.

While Edward holds court, Jennifer and I change tables to meet some of the other diners. Rick and Mike are longterm AIDS survivors. Rick became positive in 1997, Mike in 1987.

They both were successful businessmen who held professional jobs and never expected to be clients of a non-profit like Resource Center, but HIV has taken its toll and neither are able to work. Now, they live together to look after each other, have some company and help with living ex-

penses.


"This place is important to me," Rick states firmly. "I take a lot of medication and, well, it can make me confused," he confides. "I really like to cook. I used to cook all the time, but now, well, many times I start cooking but I can't finish what I'm cooking. I don't remember what to do next so I just give up. But then the medicine makes you sick if you are not eating. This lunch solves a lot of problems for me."

Rick looks straight at me, and I realize that he is about to say something he hates to admit: "Plus this place gives me a reason to get up and get dressed and gets me out. If I didn't come here I might never go outside."

Mike nods his head in agreement. "The interaction at the table is very important. There are


■ JOURNAL, Page 11





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Deidra Burns, left, her partner, Sandra Howell, and their dog, Tesuque.

Friendships of a lifetime from LifeWalk

Editor's note: This is the second on a series of four columns by past co-chairs of the AIDS Arms LifeWalk that will be published in Dallas Voice leading up to the 20th anniversary of the event on Oct. 10.

BY DEIDRA BURNS
Special contributor

I moved to Dallas in 1995 and at the time was living in the closet as a young, single lesbian Republican.

A neighbor and dear friend, Kathy Hewitt, asked if I would volunteer for LifeWalk. I believe it was simply because I had a big truck and she thought I was a fit to help out with operations and the route.

It's all history from there.

I served on the committee for six years, co-chairing the event the last two of those years.

It was a humbling experience to help those in need and to volunteer for a wonderful agency. My eyes were opened to the LGBT community in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and all that it can do for an individual.

It gave me strength, empowerment and friendships of a lifetime.

LifeWalk holds a special place in my and my

partner Sandra Howell's hearts.

Sandra has spent most of her career fighting infectious disease as a pharmacist in the community, and I simply like to give back to the community by volunteering and raising money. LifeWalk brought us together, and it is an event that we have shared in our relationship and throughout our family.

All of the many friends we volunteered with while we both served on the committee are true friends and "family" now.

While there are so many special memories over the years, one of our most memorable LifeWalks was the first year LifeWalk teamed up with Luke's Locker and a race was added. We had several friends win in their perspective categories (including Sandra) and it was also the first year we were able to take our pup, Tesuque, to the walk. He was the first dog to cross the finish line!!

I hope you will all join us all in the LifeWalk spirit for the 20th anniversary. AIDS Arms is a great agency, and LifeWalk is a great event and a great fundraiser that provides for our community — both straight and gay.

The 20th anniversary AIDS Arms LifeWalk takes place Sunday, Oct. 10, beginning at 1 p.m. at Lee Park. To register, go online to LifeWalk.org. ■

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■ texasnews

LSR

From Page 4

Tripp agreed. "This council has done an amazing job this year," he said. "They have stayed focused on doing what they set out to do, and they have accomplished their goals."

Tripp said organizers had reached their primary goals for the 10th anniversary of the fundraising ride.

"We wanted to grow the ride, and we did that. We wanted to register more riders this year, and then we wanted to retain more riders throughout the year, and we have done that. I think we are in very good shape," he said.

Kerr explained that more than 200 people had registered over the past 12 months as riders. In the past, as many as 25 percent of those who registered to ride eventually dropped out or switched over to crew positions before the day of the ride. But this year's rider retention rate, she said, is much higher.

Kerr and Tripp credited that to Michael Mack and Dennis Pilgrim, co-chairs of the rider retention committee.

Pilgrim and Mack, both in their second year as riders with LSR, said they had created a training program that included non-crew-supported rides each Tuesday and Thursday, giving registered riders the opportunity to train alongside each other and get used to riding in a group.

That program, the two men said, has helped keep registered riders involved and interested.

Pilgrim and Mack are also co-captains of the Positive Pedalers team for LSR, a group of HIV-positive cyclists and crew members participating in the event. Mack said the Positive Pedalers team this year includes 21 riders and crew members, the largest Pos Pedalers team every in LSR.

The ride begins at 7 a.m. Saturday morning, with cyclists leaving base camp, set up at the American Airlines Training and Conference Center — located at 4501 Hwy. 360 S. in Fort Worth — and riding northwest to Haslett, before circling back to end at the training center. Day two on Sunday again begins with ride out at 7 a.m., only this time riders head southeast to Ovilla before circling back.

On Saturday, riders have three route options: a century ride that covers 100 miles, a 75-mile route and a 45-mile route. The two longer routes include a pit stop at the offices of AIDS Outreach Center at 400 North Beach Street in Fort Worth.

Sunday riders can choose either the 75-mile or the 45-mile route.

On Saturday night, there will be dinner and entertainment at the AA training center, and guests are invited to attend. Guests are also invited to come out and help cheer the riders on during both days of the ride.

Two cheering stations will be set up on both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's stations include one at the American Airlines training center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and one at AIDS Outreach Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday's cheerings stations are at the training center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

and at Texas Plume Road, across from Lorch Park, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For details, go online to LoneStarRide.org.

Non-ride participants are also encouraged to attend closing ceremonies on Sunday, beginning at 5 p.m., at the training center.

Kerr and Tripp both noted that anyone who has not yet registered and wants to participate has until 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, to sign up. In addition to online registration, potential participants can attend the pre-ride spaghetti dinner being held at Resource Center Dallas and register there.

To register as a rider, individuals must pay a \$75 registration fee and raise at least \$500 in donations. To register as a crewmember, individuals must pay a \$50 registration fee. Crew positions are still available.

David Mineheart, LSR event manager, also encouraged people to participate in some way in the ride.

"The bottom line is that this even raises money for people who really need the help and rely on it," Mineheart said. "Plus, Lone Star Ride is just lots of fun. It creates an energy that is just amazing. Anybody who has ever been there knows what I am talking about, and if you haven't been there, you should come and see for yourself."

"This is about people of all types, from all walks of life, coming together to help with something that is bigger than themselves," he added. "We are talking about giving and having fun. That's what Lone Star Ride is all about."

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DADT

From Page 4

order ending discharges under DADT until the policy can be repealed — either legislatively or judicially.

Currently stationed overseas, Kevin is a member of OutServe, an underground network of actively serving LGBT troops. Kevin's partner is also on active duty.

"This was a huge letdown, and has made me just about completely lose faith in our government," Kevin said of Tuesday's vote. "But we at OutServe are standing by our word, we are not going to give up the fight.

"I would also encourage the American public to still stay on their congressmen and senators, call them and tell them to repeal this unjust policy," Kevin said. "This is human lives that this policy is affecting."

JOURNAL

From Page 8

people going through what you are going through, or maybe you can help somebody with a problem that you had once. Maybe you can teach them about Social Security or how to make it through a day at Parkland. Living on charity is not an easy way to live.

"There are homeless people here. They can get groceries from the Food Pantry but if you have no place to cook, how are you going to eat a hot meal? At least the kids on the street can get one hot meal a day."

Mike knows a few of the homeless kids who got sick and went back home to stay. Their parents thought they just had a sick kid, then they found out they had a gay kid too, so they just turned them out on the street. "Isn't that wrong?" he asks in disgust. "Is to me."

Edward and Mike and Rick turn a few questions to me. Why are you here? Why are you taking notes? I explain that I am doing Lone Star Ride, writing this installment of LSR Journal and, most importantly, asking people for money to keep programs like Hot Meals going.

BENEFITS

From Page 1

and make recommendations on changes to City Manager Dale Fissler. All the recommendations Fissler concurred with, with the exception of any cost changes or policy changes, would be adopted without the need of a vote by the council.

Of the 20 recommendations made by the task force, all but three were adopted in January without a council vote.

One of those three — adding gender identity to the city's nondiscrimination ordinance — happened last fall during a marathon council meeting that included dozens of speakers on both sides of the issue.

The council chose to delay implementation the other two recommendations — partner benefits and adding insurance coverage for gender reassignment surgery — pending further study to determine the cost to the city.

Anable said that once it was determined that

Danny Hernandez, a former Marine from Tarrant County who was discharged under DADT and now works with SLDN, said he was in the Senate gallery when Tuesday's vote took place.

"The Senate continues to play games with the lives of thousands of servicemembers," said Hernandez, a graduate of Texas A&M University who hopes to one day return to the Marines. "There were GOP senators who voted not to represent their constituents, but to follow party lines even though they support the repeal of DADT. A vote against the bill is one thing, but a vote against the opportunity to bring it up for debate is shameful.

"I am remaining optimistic and hoping that this will pass during the lame duck session at the end of the year," Hernandez added. "It would be nice to see politics placed aside as well as for the support of all our men and women in uniform." ■

"The great thing about the ride is that it is a very public statement," Mike says. "You let people know that AIDS is still here. It's still with me, that's for sure."

Jennifer asks how Lone Star Ride fundraising is going. She knows it is tough out there raising money. "Whatever you raise, we will make it go as far as possible," she promises.

Indeed she does. For that thirty bucks I spend on a typical business lunch, Jennifer can feed an RCD client a hot lunch every weekday for a month. On thirty bucks. Amazing.

The crew and the riders who come together to make events like Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS work ultimately are there because they want to help people like Edward and Mike and Rick, and all the clients and the programs of the three beneficiaries.

We ride for those who cannot. I am determined to ride every mile.

As I get up to leave, Rick stands up and shakes my hand, and invites me back. I accept. I tell him we'll share a table again. Because like Rick says, "I like going out for lunch." ■

Robert Moore is captain of Team Dallas Voice. Donate to him online at LoneStarRide.org.

adding partner benefits wouldn't cost the city, partner benefits were "a done deal. The council didn't even need to vote on it."

A spokesman in Mayor Mike Moncrief's office confirmed changes in the pension plan and the addition of partner benefits, but said details on the pension plan were still being hammered out.

He also confirmed that the addition of partner benefits did not require a council vote, but that the plan was presented to the council as an informational item during a pre-council meeting in August.

During the budget planning process, Fairness Fort Worth had expressed concern that proposed cuts in the city's Community Relations Department would damage the department's ability to investigate alleged violations of the city's nondiscrimination ordinance.

But on Lisa Thomas, an openly lesbian member of the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission, said this week the final changes will not impede

■ BENEFITS, Page 12



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BENEFITS

From Page 11

investigations or enforcement of the ordinance.

Thomas said commission members and commission chair Estrus Tucker, Community Relations Department Director Vanessa Boling, Fissler and Assistant City Manager Fernando Costa had “worked hard to ensure that the necessary budget cuts do not harm the ability of the Human Relations Commission to carry out its mission.”

In the final budget, the Community Relations Department has been eliminated, along with Boling’s post. Staff was reduced from almost 80 to almost 40, with some of those 40 employees whose positions were cut being absorbed into other departments, Thomas said.

“The remaining staff of 13 will support the Human Relations Commission and carry out the investigations and enforce federal regulations under Fair Housing and Equal Employment in addition to the recently-expanded city of Fort Worth nondiscrimination ordinance,” Thomas said.

The remaining staff includes an administrator, support staff, two communications officers and an investigatory staff.

“I believe that the organization as it is proposed in the budget can work and will be considered substantially equivalent to the requirements as laid out in the federal regulations, allowing the commission and its work to continue,” Thomas said. “In this way, we can continue to protect all the people who live, work and visit in Fort Worth.” ■

JUJUBEE

From Page 1

Pride’s Masquerade Ball Saturday at The Warehouse — went on to finish third in the second season of Logo’s hit reality show/drag competition, behind winner Tyra Sanchez and second-place finisher Raven. But even though she didn’t take home the top prize, Jujubee did win a legion of fans with her energetic performances and bubbly personality.

She was so popular, in fact, that she was called back this year to be a “drag professor” on the first season of “RuPaul’s Drag U,” another show in which drag queens give “real girls” a drag makeover.

Which show did Jujubee enjoy more? “Oh, I can’t choose between them,” she said. “They were two entirely different concepts, and I really loved both.”

She is quick to note, though, that “Drag U” is not your mother’s makeover show: “We weren’t trying to make them over to be ‘beautiful women.’ We were there to take these biological women and train them to be divas. That’s different,” Jujubee said.

“We made them into extravagant, couture, high-fashion divas — a woman wearing too much make-up, or a drag queen with not enough make-up,” she added. “I mean, if we were trying to make them beautiful, why would we put so much make-up on them? But all that make-up, all that hair, those costumes — they felt like different women when we were done. They felt glamorous.”

“We helped them create these glamorous characters for themselves. I mean, Jujubee is just a character I created, and that’s what we trained them to do. We showed them that if you believe you are beautiful, you are beautiful,” Jujubee said. “It’s all mind over matter. You have to believe in yourself.”

In fact, believing in herself was part of the lesson Jujubee said she learned competing in “Drag Race.”

“Being in that competition changed so much for me as far as what I thought I could do. I have always wanted to be in the arts in some way, and I have always wanted to do something I liked doing,” she said. “‘Drag Race’ let me believe — and it let a lot of my friends and other people who watched the show believe — that you really can do anything if you try. It’s a huge new step in this revolution we are all going through. And it teaches people not to take things so seriously all the time.”

Just like it was the drag queens that threw the first brick and started the gay rights revolution at Stonewall in 1969, Jujubee said she believes the drag

queens of “Drag Race” are helping lead the way in the new LGBT rights revolution.

“When I travel now and perform in different places, I love hearing people’s stories, hearing them say how we have helped them be more comfortable with themselves, helped them come out to their families. They can sit down with their sisters and watch the show together, and it makes them more comfortable in talking about who they are.

“The show is bringing families together. It really is, and as someone in the spotlight in our gay world, I take it as the biggest honor out there that there are people who are looking up to us, especially young people who are looking for role models,” she said. “I think that we are doing something that can change people’s futures. I think we can make that happen.”

Jujubee also believes that she and the other “Drag Race” alumni are helping promote drag as a legitimate form of entertainment.

“If I were to have a mission, I would say it would be going out there and showing people that being a drag queen is a real career, a real job. I mean, this is something we choose to do. We are not just little gay boys dressing up in Mommy’s outfits, and it’s not something we do because we can’t do anything else,” she said.

“I choose to do this. It’s a career. It’s art,” Jujubee added. “We do this because we love it, not because we have to. And we need to be out there in the mainstream media. Don’t get me wrong; I love Logo. But I think drag needs to be on the regular channels, too, and not just the gay channel. Hey, I want to be on the cover of Star magazine!”

Jujubee said being invited to attend and perform at Pride festivals is one of the greatest things about having been on “Drag Race” and “Drag U.”

“Pride is a time for us to come together as a community and celebrate life, celebrate our history and how far we’ve come. I’ve seen whole families come out together for Pride,” she said. “It’s so fierce, and I enjoy it so much. And I am excited to be coming to Dallas for Southern Pride.”

But, she admits, she is also “a little nervous.”

“My hair is never really that huge! I know everything is bigger in Texas, so I have been researching huge hair. I’m going to have to go out and get seven or eight wigs and put them all together. I want to walk in there and look like an ornament!” ■

For more information on Dallas Southern Pride go online to DallasSouthernPride.com. For a listing of Dallas Southern Pride events, see Page 28 in this issue.

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FASHION FORWARD | Morgan Metcalf transformed a failing discount store into the No. 1 fashion eyewear store in the Metroplex. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Gay retailer competes with the mall chains

Service, style and a little bit of avant-garde translate into success for this Oak Lawn eyeglass retailer

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Over the past few years, Fashion Optical has gone from discount store to high fashion boutique, becoming the highest-volume optical shop in Dallas/Fort Worth.

When Morgan Metcalf bought Fashion Optical, located on Oak Lawn Avenue at Lemmon, several years ago, he thought he could increase the store's volume. But, he said, sales have increased beyond his wildest dreams.

Within his first year as owner, business tripled. Today, he's more than doubled that total again and plans to open a second store.

And all that success happened while the country was in the throes of a deep recession.

A high-profile location is important, Metcalf said. But the location didn't sustain the previous owner, who had sold discount eyewear there for 15 years.

"There's no one silver bullet," Metcalf said.

Metcalf's background was in employment

placement, so he said when he came into the optical business he looked at it with a fresh eye.

He upgraded lines and dropped the word "discount" from the name. He remodeled. He upgraded the service and did runway fashion shows.

"We serve champagne on Saturdays," he said.

Looking for a way to compete with the mall stores, Metcalf recently added \$55,000 in equipment that trumps all of his competitors.

"I'm spoiling all of my customers with a 24-hour turnaround time," he said.

He can actually produce lenses faster in an emergency when customers lose or break their glasses and are relying on him for a quick replacement.

"We're the only store within a 300-mile radius that can produce progressive lenses with all the coatings in as little as two hours," he said.

Mall stores usually promise them in a week. That's because stores that used to do the work on-premises now send the work out to central locations.

Metcalf has even increased his sales volume by servicing other small optical stores, offering them the same quick turnaround time.

When Metcalf first bought Fashion Optical, he said the store was in need of remodeling. He planned to do stained concrete floors. But when

■ **OPTICAL**, Next Page



HI TECH | Fashion Optical is the only store within 300 miles with this equipment to produce progressive lenses themselves. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

■ **OPTICAL**, From Previous Page

they stripped the floor, they uncovered 75-year-old terrazzo tile. Although the facade of the strip center is new, the building dates from the 1930s.

Metcalf said his taste runs to the avant-garde. But when he was choosing new lines for his Oak Lawn store, he didn't want to be too way-out for Texas. The lines he picked up included Gucci, Versace, Jimmy Choo, Dolce & Gabbana and Armani.

While some vendors were hesitant to place their upscale products in a store that had only recently removed "discount" from its name, Metcalf has become the No. 1 retailer in the state for those and other fashion lines. Currently, he's working

on his own line of glasses that he hopes to debut later this year.

The store has become a destination and has attracted a celebrity clientele. He counts Jeff Bridges and Troy Aikman among his clientele. Many customers drive from outside the immediate area and even from out of state to shop with him regularly.

Metcalf has been active in the community and his lenses will be included in the Black Tie Dinner auction. Among others, he's supported the Turtle Creek Chorale and Resource Center Dallas at their fundraisers.

While this store keeps Metcalf busy six days a week, he plans to get busier as he launches his new line and opens a second location. ■

BRIEFS

After 10 years on Cedar Springs, **Zen Salon** moved to the **Centrum** where owner **Paul Kraft** had his first business. **Mark Reavis**, **Isabel Munguia**, and Kraft offer cuts, color, highlights, facial and body waxing, award-winning sunless airbrush tanning, and PearlBrite teeth whitening in their new facility. ... **Lula B's** moved from its Lower Greenville Avenue location to **2639 Main St.** in Deep Ellum. Their second store is on Riverfront (Industrial) Boulevard and features 80 vendors selling funky, kitschy and collectible, vintage and pimpadelic items. ■



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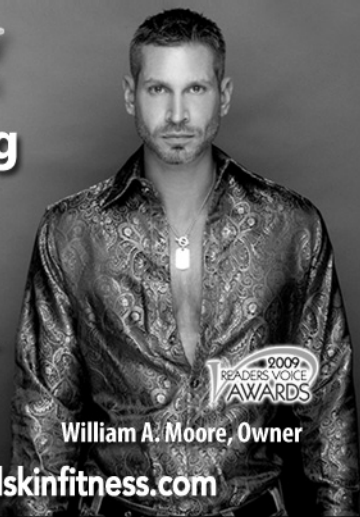
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Microsoft rules offended everyone

One customer service representative said that it didn't matter whether it was the name of his town or not, the word gay was always inappropriate

We've reached a point in America where many companies seek to do right by gay people. Once in a while, they get bit on the butt for it.

Microsoft recently lost a piece of its posterior to 26-year-old Josh Moore of West Virginia. Moore is an avid gamer, and as an unemployed factory worker, he's got plenty of time to indulge his passion for Microsoft's Xbox Live.

Moore favors "shooters" like "Call of Duty," "Medal of Honor" and "Ghost Recon." Since I don't know "Ghost Recon" from Casper the Friendly Ghost, I'm out of my depth here.

But I do grasp that people play these games online, and Moore was gearing up for a "Search and Destroy" competition when Microsoft searched and destroyed him, or at least his alter ego.

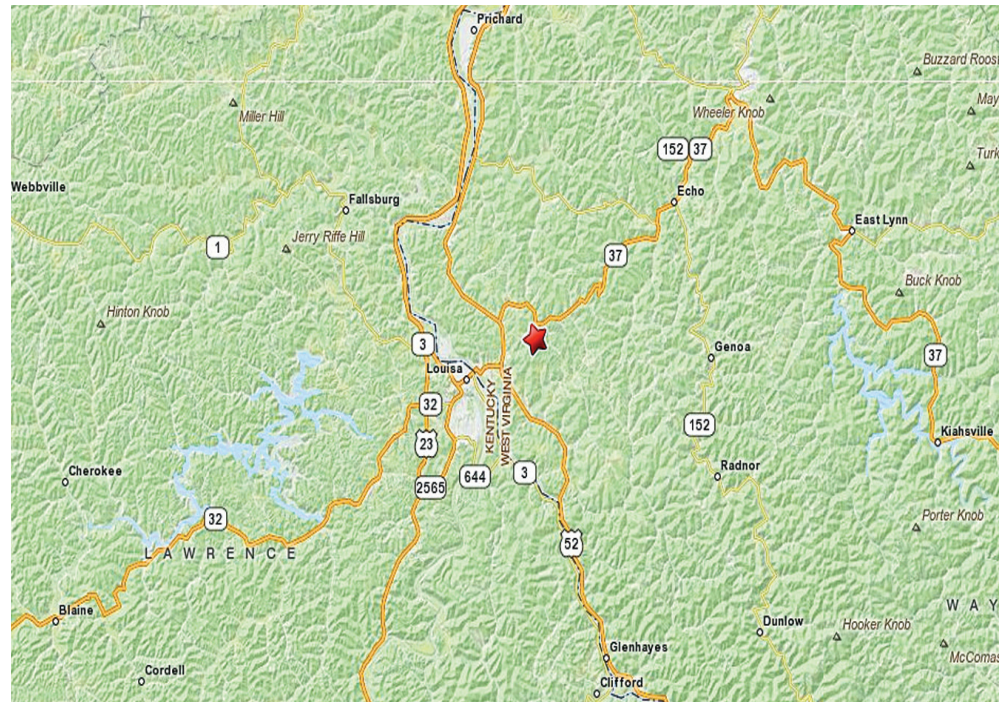
The colossal corporation suspended Moore's gaming privileges, believing he had violated Xbox Live's code of conduct.

In his profile, Moore had listed his hometown as Fort Gay.

Can you see where this is going?

Fort Gay is a real town of about 800 located along West Virginia's border with Kentucky. But somebody, presumably a fellow gamer, smelled insult among the bullets, explosions and general mayhem, and complained to the Xbox Live folks.

"Someone took the phrase 'fort gay WV' and



GOOGLE IT — 25514 | Where in the world is Fort Gay, W.Va.? An online map can tell you.

believed that the individual who had that was trying to offend, or trying to use it in a pejorative manner," said Stephen Toulouse, director of policy and enforcement for Xbox Live, to The Associated Press. "Unfortunately, one of my people agreed with that."

Moore found himself up a creek without a joystick.

"At first I thought, 'Wow, somebody's thinking I live in the gayest town in West Virginia or something.' I was mad ... It makes me feel like they hate gay people," Moore said. "I'm not even gay, and it makes me feel like they were discriminating."

I am gay, and I'm confused.

It's not clear whether Moore thought Microsoft or the person who complained was discriminating against gays. Either way, Microsoft and the complainer were actually trying

to do the opposite.

Moore intended no offense. Microsoft intended to prevent offense. Moore was offended.

Who, huh, wha'?

An angry Moore called customer service, figuring he could explain that Fort Gay really exists. But the representative said if Moore put Fort Gay in his profile again, Xbox Live would cancel his account and keep his money.

Now I know whom they use as a model for their games' tough-guy characters.

"I told him, Google it — 25514!" Moore said,

listing Fort Gay's ZIP code. "He said, 'I can't help you.'"

Fort Gay Mayor David Thompson got involved, and I can just imagine his call to customer service: "What do you people think I'm the mayor of, Brigadoon?"

Even if Thompson managed to convince the representative of Fort Gay's existence, it didn't solve Moore's problem. The mayor was told the city's name didn't matter — the word "gay" was inappropriate in any context.

Hmmmm. Protecting us by eliminating us. Making us as ghostly as Casper. I'm feeling mighty pallid.

The employee got that wrong, said Toulouse, the Xbox Live rules enforcer. The player's contract says users may not write profile text that could offend others. But the Code of Conduct says players can use such words as gay and transgender in their profile.

Toulouse said the company has modified its training, and he planned to apologize to Moore.

Microsoft might be feeling that no good deed goes unpunished. In this swirl of good intentions, the vacuum sucked up everybody.

It's a good thing, though, that this incident showed the Xbox honchos they need to refine their procedures — before they get calls from Gay, Mich., and Gay, Ga.

Leslie Robinson's brother-in-law works for Microsoft, and his attempts to educate her are downright noble. E-mail her at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and visit her blog at GeneralGayety.com.



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety

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Letters and Comments

Proud of Pride edition

I just wanted to tell you — though you have probably already heard the same from a thousand others — that I think your “Dallas Pride Special Edition” and “Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade” supplement were and are terrific. Graphics, layout, copy — all the finest.

What a gift to our community the Dallas Voice is. All of you deserve thanks from all the rest of us.

Phyllis Guest
Dallas

DADT suit should be front page

On the heels of the most significant legal victory for LGBT rights brought on by the Log Cabin Republicans, I would have expected more from Dallas Voice than just an online story on Voice website on Thursday, Sept. 16. I was prepared to see a significant printed story in the Sept. 17 issue of Dallas Voice.

Important stories deserve to be in the print edition, and most of my board and personal friends were expecting a headline about the vic-

“Important stories deserve to be in the print edition, and most of my board and personal friends were expecting a headline about the victory this week.

tory this week.

Instead of a major column in the “Pride Edition,” all you found fit to publish was “Whorin Cornyn!” (Instant Tea column, Dallas Voice, Sept. 17).

Are you kidding? This is nothing short of an outrage!

You are certainly showing your own bias against Republicans. If Stonewall Democrats or HRC had filed and won the same case, there isn’t any doubt this would have been front page news!

Members of our local board of directors are concerned about the stereotypes Dallas Voice continues to put forward about Republicans and would like to meet with the editorial staff to discuss this and other issues.

Without more balanced reporting, you will soon turn the Dallas Voice from the “Premier

Media Source” into just another sensational tabloid that serves as an extension of the Democrat Party.

You can do better, and I expect more from you! Other gay media, including those not always friendly to Log Cabin Republicans, fortunately have given this story wide coverage along with national news organizations in print, web and television. Dallas Voice should have been amongst these news outlets.

Rob Schlein, chapter president
Log Cabin Republicans Dallas

Don’t just look to others

On “Man robbed at gunpoint just 1 block from strip” (Instant Tea, Sept. 14):

“What are the bars going to do?”

“It is the responsibility of the police to handle crime on the streets.”

“Where are the increased patrols? I sure don’t see them and I live in the gayborhood.”

“Maybe the clubs should do a gun check like they do for coat checks.”

“I believe we should all make a petition in helping more added on security to the bar scenes.”

“Gather up a citizens patrol group.”

“Why can’t there be security cameras pointed in that direction, along with bright lights?”

“Why doesn’t someone come up with a plan, and invest in a parking garage?”

Instead of telling us what someone else should do for you, making personal contributions toward a solution is more productive. Like several commenters have said, we are responsible for ourselves.

It’s up to you and me to get these things done and not complain that someone else should be doing something for us.

Citizen

via DallasVoice.com

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What’s your favorite thing about the State Fair of Texas?

Jenny English — “Fried stuff, biscuits, fried biscuits, fried butter.”

John Landry IV — “I’ve never been but hope to go this year.”

W. Allen Simmons — “That unmistakable State Fair odor. Sort of a combination of cotton candy and vomit.”

Jenny English — “Animals.”

Roger Huffman — “Food and the exhibits.”

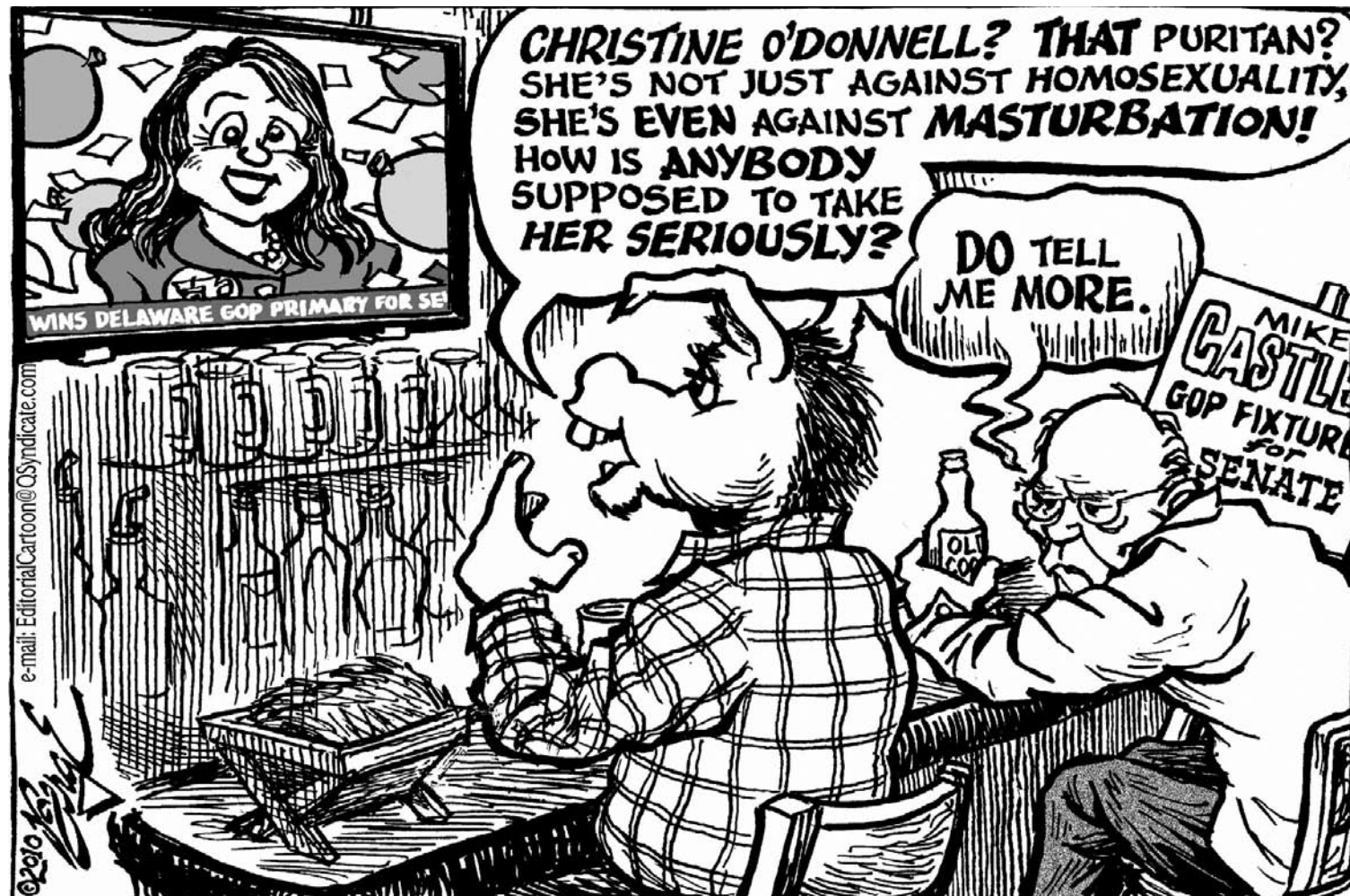
Dwayne Mosley — “Food!”

Joe Galvan — “Fletcher’s and Beer.”

Forrest Cain — “People watching.”

Juan Soto — “Haven’t been since I was a kid. Can’t wait to go!”

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



Lord, have mercy

David Vaughn got on his knees to nab a primo role in 'Shrek'

LIFE+STYLE

stage

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevenlindsey@me.com

MINI ME | One of the comic highlights of 'Shrek the Musical' is the diminutive villain Lord Farquaad, played by recent tour addition David Vaughn.

The most evil villains ever created are typically compensating for one shortcoming or another. For *Shrek the Musical*'s Lord Farquaad, the diminutive tyrant's inadequacies are quite literal: His tiny legs are about as spindly as a sock monkey's.

But for David F.M. Vaughn, it's one of the greatest roles he's ever played. And in *Shrek* alone, he's played more than his fair share.

"I was a swing in the original Broadway company, so I understudied 19 different tracks in the show. It was a lot of work. I had to be able to go on in any role at any second. But I also understudied Lord Farquaad, which is the role I play now. It's a new look at a show I've been playing for over two years," he says.

Performing on Broadway is wonderful, according to Vaughn, but touring also has its perks.

"You get to kind of explore each of these great cities. You also get to perform as an actor for different audiences. They vary greatly by region. It's fun to see which audiences like what, play that up and adjust the show for each audience," he says. "Plus, there's something to be said about having your room cleaned every day. Fresh towels, clean sheets ... you really can't beat that."

This will be the actor's first visit to Dallas and he's excited to have family members in the audience, but almost equally thrilled to be performing at the State Fair of Texas.

"I live in New Jersey and I love, love, love the State Fair. The fried awfulness, the people watching. The touring company is so excited to go explore."

Eating his way around Fair Park and seeing all the attractions will be a welcome break from the demanding schedule and an even more difficult role.

"The biggest challenge is the obvious physicality of playing an entire show on my knees. Not just performing it, but making it realistic and funny and making the whole joke work," Vaughn says. "There's also a section where I have a puppeteer controlling my legs for me. I have to trust that he will do what he was choreographed to do and I will do what I'm choreographed to do."

Once on Broadway, in a different *Shrek* role, things didn't work out so well. There's proof in a backstage photo on his website where he can be seen sitting with an ice pack on his ankle and a tissue up his nose to stop the bleeding. Harrowing stuff.

"The set was so big and so complicated. There were so many lifts and turntables and flying things. It was very dangerous. We're all very safe, but anything can happen. And unfortunately, that's one of those things that happened. I had to run really fast around the corner and one of the guys who runs props forgot that I was there and he slammed his forehead right into my nose. We were both knocked over."

The touring set is just as complex, even if it is scaled back to accommodate various stage setups.

"It looks just as full and lush, even sometimes more saturated and colorful than I remember it. The show's completely reconceived not only as a tour, but as a new production. They trimmed it and added stuff," he says, "but the story's more focused."

The new dragon puppet is better than the one on Broadway. "Finally, DreamWorks' commitment to getting it right paid off and they figured it out. Now it's a full dragon from head to tail.

His wings flap, it's just wonderful. I can't wait for you to see it."

Everyone who's seen the show or performed in the show seems to agree that gay audiences love the "Freak Flag" number, and Vaughn is no different.

"All the fairy tale creatures have been shunned and forced from their home because Lord Farquaad says they're freaks. They're not like everyone else and everyone should be perfection and all the same. But the pigs are fat, and the wolf is hairy, and Pinocchio is not a real boy," he says. "They all question themselves until Gingy, the gingerbread man, sets them straight and kind of says what makes us special makes us strong. It's kind of an anthem of individuality and community and strength and celebrating differences, but using this platform they all gather together and nothing can stop them."

"It's that same old story," Vaughn continues. "We may have been ashamed of ourselves because we were gay, until we finally banded together and realized that we're awesome and we can do anything together. And, oh, there's power in that. This number is almost like a Pride parade on stage."

And if that's not enough, he quickly jumps back in and exclaims, "We have a transsexual wolf in the show, too!"

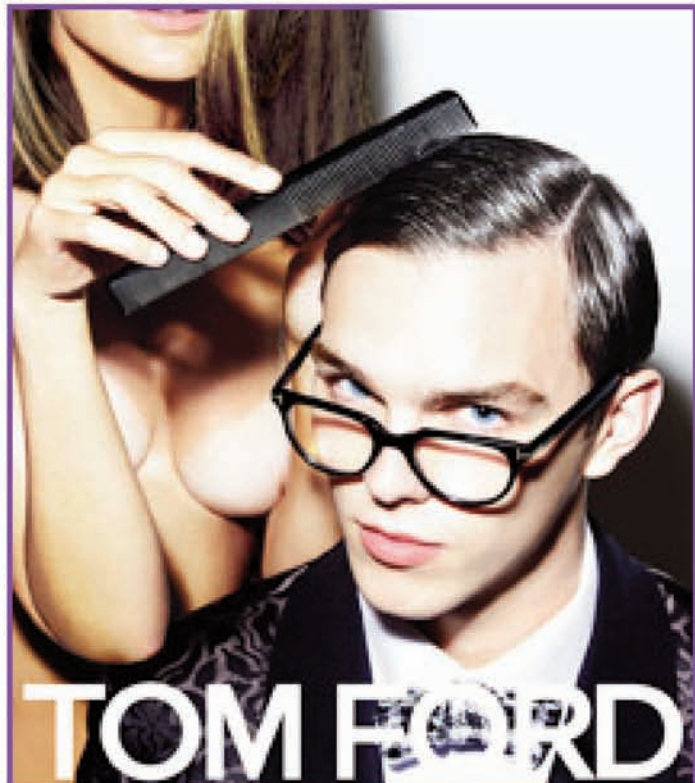
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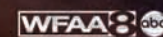
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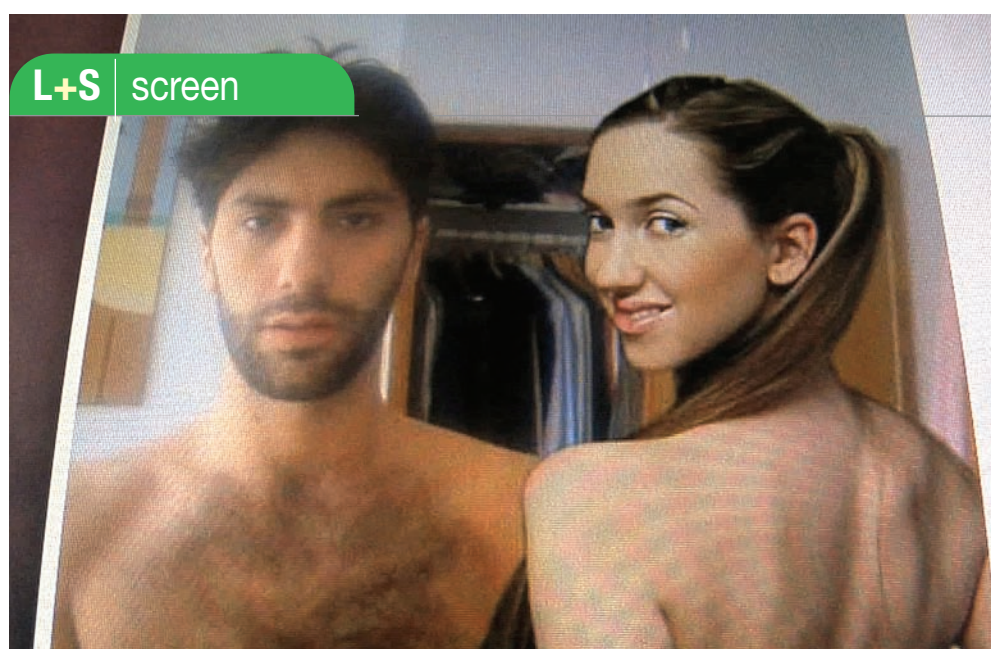
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L+S screen



Face to Facebook

'Catfish,' a documentary about online relationships, is a gripping true mystery

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

If you've heard any spoilers for *Catfish* already, shame on the person who told you. This is a rare opportunity to be surprised in a movie theater in a time when studios are opting for marketing tactics that gets people into the theater without concern for truly entertaining them once they get there. To be sure, *Piranha 3-D* wasn't a great movie, but did they have to show the final shocking scene in the trailer?

The last time an onscreen secret deserved to be kept by audiences and critics alike was probably *The Crying Game*. The mystery at the center of this film, thankfully, isn't the entire thrill. Really, it's the way filmmakers Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost structure their documentary.

Capitalizing on the do-it-yourselfability of modern filmmaking — where anyone with access to digital HD cameras and editing software can be an auteur — they weave animated sequences from Google Earth, instant messages from Facebook and videos from YouTube with

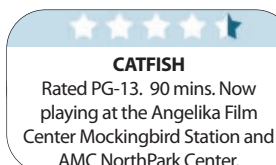
the same frantic browsing experience of anyone who's ever attempted to multi-task online. The method of storytelling, which would've been thoroughly confusing to just about anyone even as recently as three years ago, intuitively plays to the way our brains now function.

The story starts out innocently enough. Schulman's adorably cute (and distractingly hairy) brother Nev has begun an online friendship with

Abby, an eight-year-old girl who sent him a painting of one of his photos. Soon, he's developed a friendship with the girl's mom, and eventually, a crush on her 19-year-old half-sister, Megan. The family begins sending him fre-

quent care packages filled with more and more paintings and intimate glimpses into their family life.

After exchanging hundreds of text messages and chatting endlessly online and over the phone, Nev begins to slowly uncover inconsistencies in Megan's story. Blinded by the possibility of love and curiosity, he and the filmmakers head to rural Michigan to surprise her in person. At this point, the mystery begins — utterly compelling and nothing my sick imagination had predicted. The result is a story that's at once



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heartwarming, frightening, unsettling and vivid.

The fact that the filmmakers stumbled onto this bigger narrative completely by accident has caused many critics to accuse them of faking the whole thing. But I tend to believe them.

Catfish ends up as one of the most entertaining

films I've seen in quite awhile. Just make sure to stay for the closing frames where even more shocking truths are revealed in simple white text on a black screen. Then head home and decide whether or not you should keep your Facebook account.

Dallas Video Fest goes a little gay, but just a little

For 23 years, the Dallas Video Fest has offered up a strongly diverse selections of work both local and from afar. These kinds of indie projects are prime territory for LGBT filmmakers, and the DVF, thankfully, doesn't shy away from gay content. This year, though, the selections seem slimmer than in the past ... though that doesn't mean they are less interesting.

This crop of films have certain gay appeal whether it's behind the camera or on the screen.

Ain't I A Woman? — Brad Sanders directs this short which follows Lesley, a transgender doll during her transformation. In four minutes, Sanders takes a look at gender and the societal notions that come with it. (*Friday at 10:30 p.m.*)

Nothing Happened, pictured — This tale by Julia Kots about two best friends played at L.A.'s OutFest earlier this year. Barb has a secret to tell Liza but they aren't sure if they want to go *there* just yet. (*Friday at 10:30 p.m.*)

Deep Ellum Mural Project — When DART tore down the Deep Ellum tunnel for its new station, people were crushed. That turned around when artists teamed with DART and the new mural was born. Lesbian artist Cathey Miller is one of the locals with her work gracing the piece. (*Saturday at 3:45 p.m.*)

The Jeff Koons Show — The pop artist gives his own perspective on himself in Alison Chernick's profile. Gay artist Chuck Close and painter/filmmaker Julian Schnabel also weigh in on his work which you might recognize as stainless steel balloon animals or the famous gay animals photography he did for New York Times Magazine this spring. (*Saturday at 6 p.m.*)

Fragments From Death Comes for Britney



Spears! The Musical — OK, really, this has the three words needed for any gay man to come out and watch. Britney. Spears. Musical. The DVF describes it though as a parody on the singer amid a world of gossip. (*Saturday at 9 p.m.*)

The t.a.T.u. Project — This doc by Jesper Nordahl looks at the pop duo from Russia and their marketing as a same-sex couple against a political background. (*Saturday at 10 p.m.*)

Seven Songs About Thunder — Jennifer Reeder's film follows three women coming to terms with death, motherhood and even their sexual selves. Apparently one scene in which a mother calls and leaves messages on her dead daughter's phone will leave you feeling creeped out. But that's just what we hear. (*Sunday at 4:05 p.m.*)

Dallas Art City — Players in the Big D art scene open up with their memories and perspectives of visual arts and what they mean to the city. This is an excerpt from a full-length doc that will premiere later this year. (*Sunday at 7:30 p.m.*)

— Rich Lopez

The Dallas Video Fest runs through Sunday at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. Passes \$25–\$75. For a complete schedule of films and events, visit Videofest.org.

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STICKY SWEET

Cheeky raps and beefcake videos? Yes. But **Cazwell** is serious about his music ... even if he is a club diva

The most surprising thing about Cazwell is his soft-spoken demeanor. With all the bravado in his rhymes, ranging from overtly sexual to ridiculously fun, he's really just a guy. He just happens to also be the toast of gay club culture. But first thing's first.

"Normally it takes a couple of months of planning," he says. "But we did this quick."

He's referring to "Ice Cream Truck," his rap and video which has turned into a sensation on gay dancefloors everywhere. With a bevy of scantily clad beefcakes, including the tattooed hunk himself, the music video is two minutes and change of amateur production that doesn't matter one bit — its guerrilla roots aside, it's sexy as hell. When the video pops up at Station 4, the boys aren't hoppin'; they're staring at the monitors.

"That's awesome," he chuckles. "We were just gonna run up an ice cream truck with some friends and make it into this summer video. I knew some of the guys; Marco [Ovando, the director] knew others, and they came over. We filmed the whole thing at my apartment in a day."

The video was posted a month ago on YouTube by Cazwell's label, Peace Bisquit, and has notched more than 2 million views. For what started out as "a stupid song" for a movie called *Spork*, the old-school rap recorded in three hours is positioned to be

HIS 'ICE CREAM' BRINGS THE BOYS TO THE YARD | Damn right! Cazwell, in front with white hat, put together his viral video in a day, but the rap is poised to be his biggest hit yet — thanks in large part to all the beefcake.

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Cazwell's biggest hit to date.

With this tune and others such as "I Seen Beyonce at Burger King" and "I Buy My Socks on 14th Street," it's easy to get the impression that Cazwell is more club kid than musician. And that would be wrong.

"I am serious about music," he says. "Just because I don't get too deep with my lyrics shouldn't make me feel like I don't do a good job. I'm flowing with it and I know I'm doing a good job. I think people might take things way too seriously. I just want people to connect to what I've done."

Good thing, then, that he's down with the people almost every night.

"Clubs are my life. I'm out like five nights a week," he admits. "I don't think anything shapes my music as much."

Cazwell's music is club-based, with slick danceable beats and raps that flow well over his groove. He's a throwback to actual disco from its heyday. Cazwell and his team cleverly sidestep the detachment of DJ-induced techno and house and deliver reliable music to dance to.

"DJing has influenced my music and lyrics," he says. "To me it's more about the hook and lyrics. I think people don't wanna think so much. That's what I'm hearing in clubs. People just want to dance."

With a big life in the circuit and club scene, Cazwell seems to have a very un-Lohan like air.

He describes himself as a closet health nut and begins discussing his crash regimen to get cut for "Ice Cream Truck." He swears by liquid meals and cleansing protocols.

"That's changed my life the most," he says. "I see results really quick and I've lost most of my cravings for processed foods — unless I'm stoned. Plus, I go to the gym as much as I can."

Regardless of his boisterous persona and ability to get shirtless faster than Matthew McConaughey at a paparazzi convention, Cazwell is just a timid soul. Or so he says.

"The thing that would surprise most people about me is that I'm really, really shy," he says. "People don't expect that and sometimes I think they feel like I'm not making an effort. But, yeah, I'm painfully shy."

He assures that won't be an issue at Thursday's meet and greet after his show at Station 4 — he knows how to turn it on. Mostly, he looks forward to meeting the fans he gained with his last show in Dallas at minc back in 2007. Plus, being in a different city than the Big Apple gives him some new perspective.

"Sometimes I take it for granted that I live in New York City where all these gay guys know the words," he says. "I think they gain a sense of entitlement, but in a good way. I want people to feel like that. I hate to sound corny but it's cooler to be gay than straight and I want people to get a taste of that."

CAZWELL

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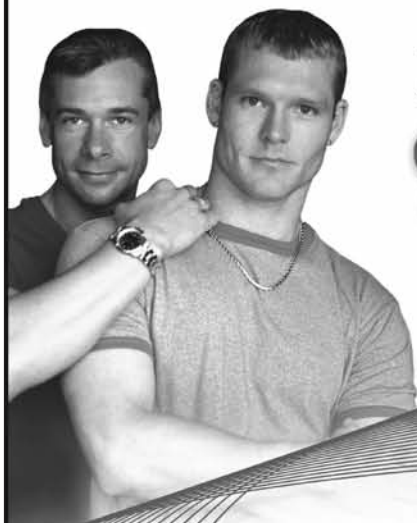


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COMIC PAIR | Paul J. Williams, right, opens for comedian Shawn Pelofsky at the Rose Room Saturday.

Shawn lately

Comic Pelofsky pairs with Dallas' Paul J. Williams for a gay ol' time Saturday

Shawn Pelofsky has probably been on more gay cruises that any straight woman should feel comfortable claiming.

The L.A.-based comic, who performs nationwide with her Lady Haha & Friends Tour, has appeared on E! with Chelsea Handler, but is familiar to gay travelers for her frequent stints on Atlantis Cruises. She brings her act, alongside local comedian Paul J. Williams, for a show at the Rose Room Saturday.

Pelofsky chatted (with Williams) about what she likes about Dallas' gay community and why she is so popular with gay audiences (hint: It's her schnoz).

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: You were here a few years ago at the Lakewood Theater; how did this show come about? Pelofsky: I was already booked in Austin. I had a lot of requests from the Dallas boys from working the Atlantis Cruises so I thought, "If I'm gonna be that close, and we make it happen..." So I called Paul and he did it.

Williams: I am just a vessel for you to perform.

Pelofsky: Paul is so nice and funny.

Are we talking about the same person? Pelofsky: Yes. You can't get much by me. He's *funny*.

You're straight — how'd you get to be so big in the gay community?

Pelofsky: I was born with a Streisand face, so I couldn't dodge anyone in the gay community — they stop me all the time. Actually, I wasn't *born* with it — I broke my nose three times and it got this way. I think with that, people noticed me a little more.

About five or six years ago, I just noticed most of my friends were young gay men and I was working a lot of gay venues in Los Angeles. Then the Atlantis [Cruises] people saw me. I was really one of the first straight comics to work so much for them. I really represent the community because I understand that thought process, that mind behind the gay man. It's my mind. And I'm very accepting.

Do you tailor your act for your audiences? Pelofsky: Sure. Believe it or not, I have worked in front of kids, and I do kid humor. Or when I'm in front of a bunch of old Jews in New Jersey. I can't do all *my* gay material when I'm in Afghanistan for the troops.

You do it at all? Any "don't ask, don't tell" jokes when performing for the troops? Pelofsky: I haven't really touched that. They say do nothing about that or the president. I just don't go there. But it does come off the cuff.... But I *do* love gay humor. And I do it when I work at the Comedy Store.

Do you have any topics that are burning a hole in you comically speaking? Pelofsky: Yes, Prop 8. I support it. Just kidding!

You've worked Vegas — did you hear they are closing the Liberace Museum? Pelofsky: Yes! Who doesn't wanna go to the Liberace Museum?

Williams: I just wanna know if they're having a garage sale. I'd buy anything shaped like a piano.

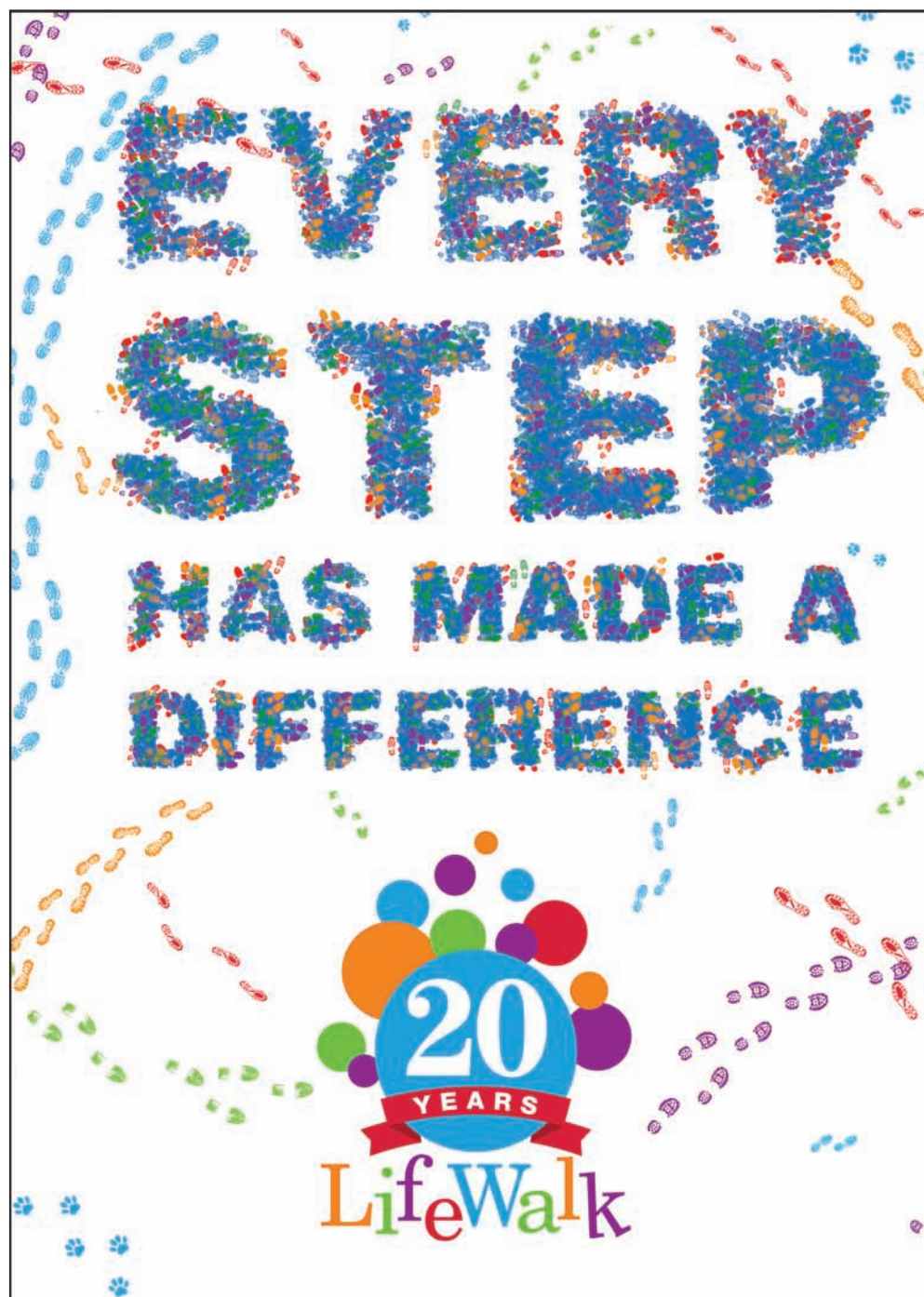
Pelofsky: I want a Bedazzled jock strap.

You grew up in Oklahoma as, as you put it, one of 10 Jews born and raised in the state. Do you like coming back to your old stomping grounds? Pelofsky: I have not been to Texas in a few years. I'm not going home until Monday — gonna stay longer because I have a couple of best friends there. I will tell you this, though: I will *always* get to Texas before I get back to Oklahoma. My dad says, "You gonna be playing Dallas and *not* Oklahoma?" Yes.

But you like performing here? Pelofsky: Yes, I'm excited! I think the Dallas gay community is one of the best-looking communities, and I've been around. And yes, I know everything is bigger in Texas. And everyone knows I'm a size queen.

SHAWN PELOFSKY

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SUNDAY OCTOBER 31 THE COSTUME CONTESTS

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Friday 09.24

Corny dogs, here we come

The State Fair of Texas is upon us once again and that means fried foods, dizzying rides and emptied wallets — and it's totally worth it. We're still making up our mind on the new fried beer on the menu, but the Texas Fried Frito Pie sounds like a dream and a nightmare for any personal trainer. But who cares? It's the Fair!

DEETS: Fair Park, 1300 Robert B Cullum Blvd. Through Oct. 17. \$15. BigTex.com.

Sunday 09.26

Classic lit without the reading

This image from the cover of "The Great Gatsby" instilled dread among middle and high school students. But AIDS Interfaith Network turns the classic novel about the roaring '20s into fab times with "The Great Gatsby...Get Your Flap On." Complete with jazz, bubbly and fundraising, it almost makes you want to read it again. Almost.

DEETS: Union Station, 400 S. Houston St. 2 p.m. \$75–\$125. AIDSInterfaithNetwork.org

Wednesday 09.29

WaterTower is getting Wilder

Terry Martin does double duty as director and actor in "Our Town," the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Thornton Wilder. The tales of the ordinary folk of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire come alive in this season opener for WaterTower.

DEETS: WTT, 15650 Addison Road. Through Oct. 24. \$25–\$40. WaterTowerTheatre.org.



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FRIDAY 09.24

COMMUNITY

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous.

Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m., Maple Plaza, 5353 Maple Ave, #130 (Entry in rear of building).

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA)

meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same time. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30pm. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

Congregation Beth El Binah Shabbat service. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m.

THEATER

"Carnival of Souls: Purgatorium." Level Ground Arts' adaptation of the 1960s horror film but set in post-Katrina New Orleans. KD Studio Theater, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Oct. 16. Fridays–Saturdays at 8:15 p.m., midnight shows Oct. 29 and 30. \$20. LevelGroundArts.com.

"Songs From an Unmade Bed." Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St., Suite 168. Through Oct. 3. Fridays–Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2:30 p.m. \$20–\$30. Theatre3Dallas.com.

"Well" Bath House Cultural Center, 512 E. Lawther Drive. Through Sept. 25. Thursdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sept. 18 matinee at 2 p.m. EchoTheatre.org.

SATURDAY 09.25

COMMUNITY

Rainbow Ministries International meets weekly.

Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m.

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

Legacy social group of adults 50 and older. Monthly potluck or outing. 972-387-3345.

Prime Timers Prime Brunch at The Mecca, 10422 Harry Hines Blvd. Call 972-504-886 for information.

SUNDAY 09.26

COMMUNITY

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

BROADCAST

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

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

MONDAY 09.27

COMMUNITY

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

Dallas Black Pride events

Below is a partial list of events going on during Dallas Black Pride weekend.

Black LGBT Community Summit, with keynote speaker Maurice Jamal, president of GLO TV. Lunch provided to registered guests (*Westin Hotel, 650 N. Pearl St. Friday at 1 p.m.*)

Queerly Speaking: Pride Edition — Spoken word event features national artists Kevin Koaz Moore and Uriah Bell. (*Westin Hotel. Friday at 7 p.m. \$5*)

Dallas Southern Pride party — Features live performance by Dondria, male and female dancers, DJs Chris Johnson and Unique. (*The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. Friday at 10 p.m.*)

Open Forum Girl Talk presented by Glamour Girls Alpha Lambda Zeta Fraternity. (*Radisson Hotel Dallas Love Field, 1241 W. Mockingbird Lane. 11 a.m. Free.*)

Empowerment Series: Giving Her Something She Can Feel — Interactive workshop will open discussion to healthy lesbian living. Presented by Let's T.A.L.K. founder Angela Harvey. (*Westin Hotel. Saturday at 1 p.m.*)

Dallas Social Affair Tweet & Greet — Geared toward gay and bisexual men from 18-29. Presented by United Black Ellument and hosted by Ahmier, Coach Couture and Ubellument. (*Westin Hotel. Saturday at 2 p.m.*)

GLO TV network reception and premiere —



Local premiere of the first urban LGBT network with screenings of shows in the upcoming season. (*Westin Hotel. Saturday at 3 p.m.*)

Second Annual Masquerade Ball — Features performances by Andre Mizrahi, JuJuBee, Black Rayne performers and Kage Khan. Masks encouraged for the "Fiercest Mask Contest." Sex Siren Battle will be held. (*The Warehouse, 1837 Corinth St. 3 a.m. Call 469-877-9108 for VIP reservations.*)

Interfaith Service — (*Westin Hotel. Sunday at noon.*)

Him4Him and Her4Her Picnic — Features Legends Ball Winners, j-setting contest, barbecue cook off, games and entertainment. (*Bachman Lake, 3500 Northwest Highway. Sunday at 1 p.m. Free.*)

For a complete schedule of events, classes and parties, visit DFWPrideMovement.org and DallasSouthernPride.com.



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-  "GLAAD came out against this? It's quite funny! What the f*ck?"
— *John Waters*
-  "This is the f*ckin' sh*t!"
— *Another Hole In The Head Horror Festival*

tickedofftrannies.com

facebook.comtickedofftrannieswithknives

lalunaentertainment.com

calendar

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.

Log Cabin Republicans. Mattito's, 3011 Routh St. 6:30 p.m. 214-346-2115.

PFLAG Denton. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 Bell St., Denton. 7 p.m.

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 09.28

COMMUNITY

FUSE Movie Night. For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m.

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

Lesbians and Cancer. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Gilda's Club Dallas, 2710 Oak Lawn Ave. 6-8 p.m.

Prime Timers Prime Diner at Tupinamba Mexican Restaurant, 12270 Inwood Road. Call 972-504-8866 to attend.

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 Stalone streams every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

WEDNESDAY 09.29

COMMUNITY

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

Gay Teen Project. 909 W. Magnolia St., Suite 2, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-332-7722.

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

CONCERT

Coco Rosie with Sleep Whale at the Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. 8 p.m. \$18. GranadaTheater.com



HALF GAY | Bianca Casady, top, reps the lesbian half of Coco Rosie who performs Wednesday.

THURSDAY 09.30

COMMUNITY

The ONE Church West Bible Study. First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

Choir and Orchestra rehearsals at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m.

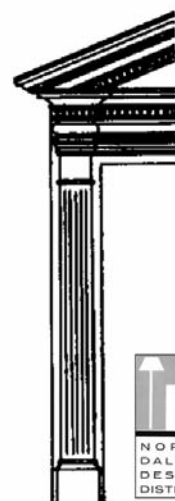
Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 4-10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

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Alternatives

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig

Jane Velez-Mitchell turns 55 on Wednesday. The openly gay journalist hosts "Issues with Jane Velez-Mitchell" on the HLN channel which covers hot topics in the news. She was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award this year for her segment on crimes against gay youth. Her 2009 autobiography "I Want" detailed her struggles with addictions to both alcohol and work.



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Mental stress can make you ill, but take it as a warning and a blessing in disguise. Rather than worry over money, focus on what's important. A creative approach will point to new solutions.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Watch out for the line between confidence and arrogance. If you don't see it, your friends will be quick to tell you. Look at how dreams from your youth influence your view of the future.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Whatever you hate about your career or boss will get out, so spill it to a friend you trust. Finding inspiration and freedom at home can strengthen your ambitions. Poetry and music can help.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Although your critical acuity is razor sharp, people will accept your insights more if they are phrased gently. There's more than one way to be right. Pay attention to others' opinions.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Financial changes can be rough, but don't get swept up in the drama. Mediation can hone your instincts, bringing out your best. Move quickly, but take at least enough time to look ahead.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Grand issues of politics, religion or philosophy can antagonize your partnership. Make a quiet escape together and focus on more personal issues, or help out together at a charity event.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Using sex or credit cards as a release for anxiety does nothing about the causes, only staving off and building up the problem. Confide in someone to get to the root of your problems.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Efforts to amuse your partner backfire. Focus your wit on analyzing problems, not solving them. Reconsider your ambitions. You won't like friends' suggestions, but use them as new ideas.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Little satisfaction at home means room for improvement. Do what you can to step toward further amelioration. Opportunities at work are there but hidden. Trust your intuition to find them.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Your mouth may be getting ahead of you. Be careful! There's a time and place for talking nasty and rough. Find it and you can be very popular.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Face problems in finances, but don't push for solutions. Pooling resources with your partner or a close friend may be wise, but approach that very slowly and carefully.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Remember to think before speaking. Be careful not to reveal confidences or otherwise humiliate yourself and your friends. Look for ways to be helpful. Just being quiet may be enough.

THIS WEEK

Mercury in Virgo opposing Jupiter and Pisces helps to "Bring In Terrific Critically Helpful Insights Needing Grounding. Check" that acronym and monitor your own attitude. Mars is aggravating the situation, and Neptune offers little help. Double-check your motives and think ahead before speaking.

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

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bitter girl

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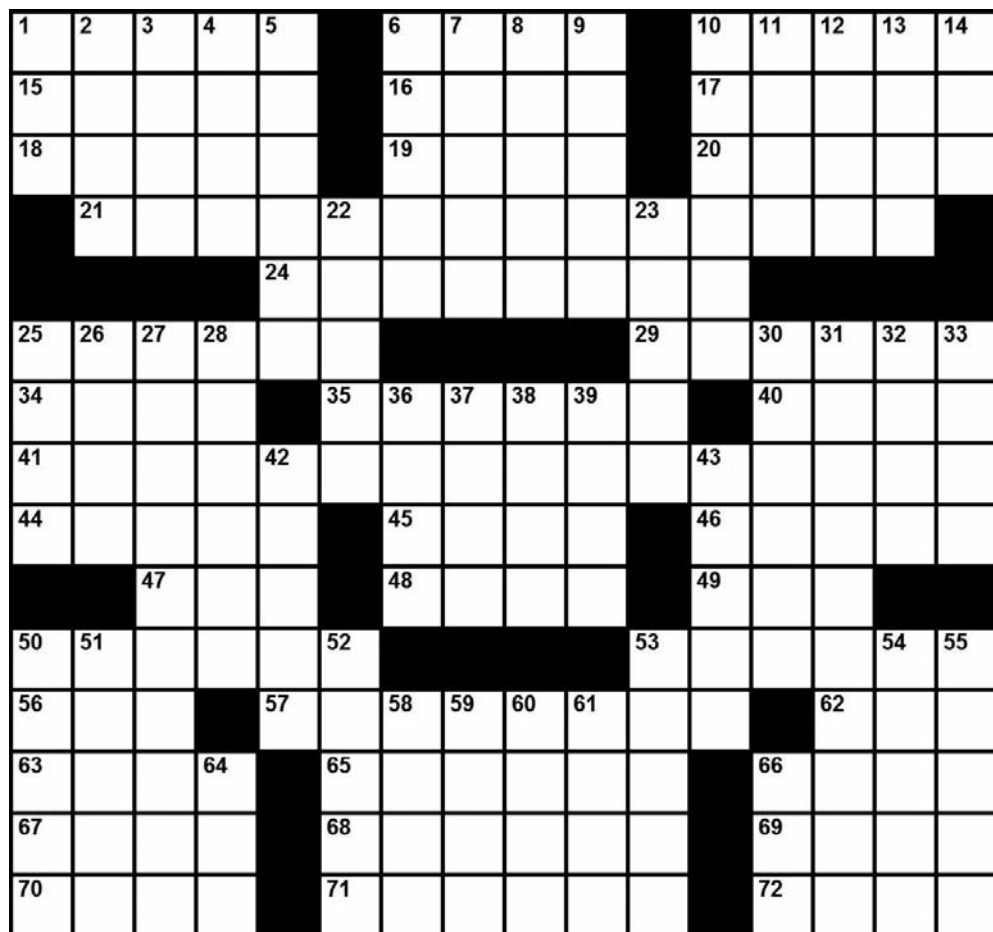
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Can I Have Your Number

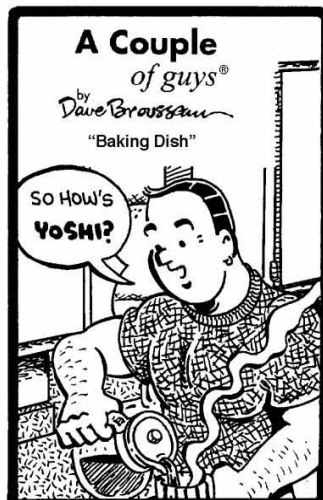
Solution on page 29

Across

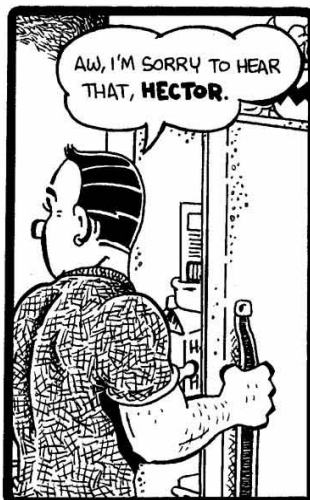
- 1 Story of Greeks that busted some Trojans
- 6 All-night bash
- 10 She played with Sherman on "The Jeffersons"
- 15 Brando's last one was in Paris
- 16 Zip
- 17 Standard of excellence
- 18 Charlize Theron's "Monster" award
- 19 Patriot's place
- 20 Suffix with Beatle
- 21 Edward Albee play of 1991
- 24 Saviors
- 25 Require a bottom?
- 29 Dines at home
- 34 Crowds around
- 35 Susan Feniger main dish
- 40 "Otello" villain
- 41 Jane Bowles novel of 1943
- 44 Muscle Mary's pride
- 45 Sea food?
- 46 Last inning, usually
- 47 Preposition for Byron
- 48 Tempting location
- 49 Where to find gay.com, with "the"
- 50 "Our" in a crime name
- 53 Lip service?

Down

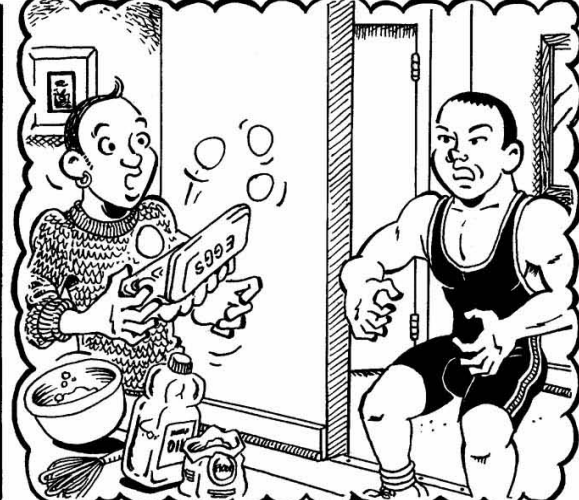
- 1 Simpson trial judge Lance
- 2 Avoid premature ejaculation
- 3 Nothing to brag about
- 4 Tutti-frutti ingredient
- 5 "The Sound of Music" song
- 6 Takes five
- 7 Box to Vidal
- 8 "Grease" singer Frankie
- 9 ___ Gay
- 10 Brunch cocktail
- 11 Sandler of "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry"
- 12 Surrealist Magritte
- 13 Reclined
- 14 Home st. of Harper Lee
- 22 Conger catcher
- 23 Cart part
- 25 Respondents to 911
- 26 "___ lay me ..."
- 27 Choice piece of meat
- 28 State with conviction
- 30 Cleans (up)
- 31 "Samson et Dalila" composer
- 32 Response to a joke, with "it"
- 33 Enjoy some ladyfingers, e.g.
- 36 Winged goddess
- 37 ___ the line (conformed)
- 38 Queens do this
- 39 Where to see sweaty athletes
- 42 They have big mouths
- 43 She got her gun
- 50 Like a metrosexual
- 51 Type of queen
- 52 Nurses' assistants
- 53 Went down on a body part
- 54 What a guy does nocturnally
- 55 Use your butt to demonstrate
- 58 Alien introduction
- 59 Nicky, in "Funny Girl"
- 60 See red
- 61 Shaft output
- 64 Soldier cops
- 66 Ewe said it!



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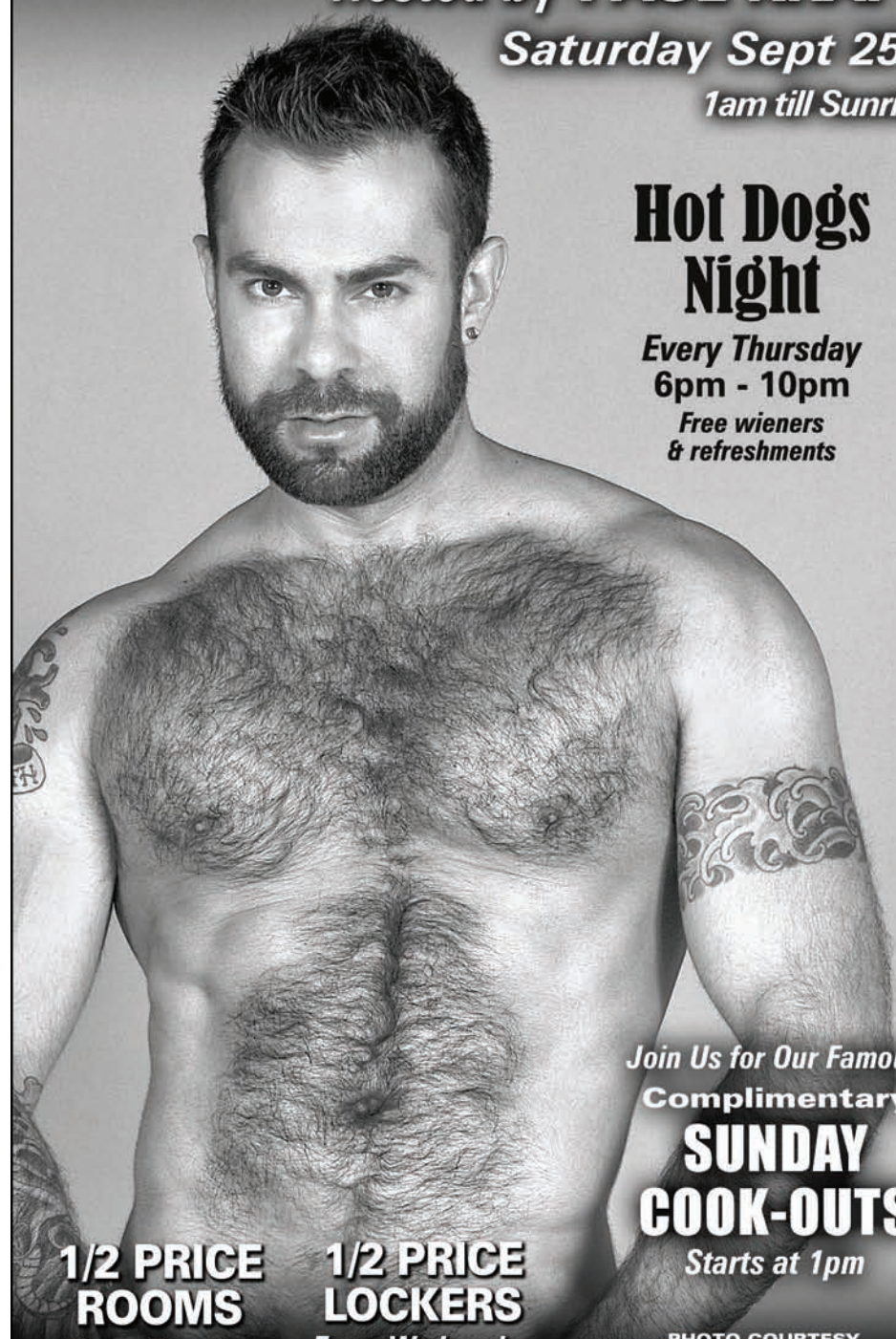
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Onlookers at the 2010 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

Pride isn't over yet. This is **Dallas Black Pride** weekend with parties and events all over the place. Check our calendar for some of the scheduled goings on. And if you're not there, then try some of these places out **Station 4** says farewell to summer with the **Red Hot Dallas Party**. Wear your red, but please don't wear your white shoes. Fashion faux pas for days Friday is **Leather Chaps and Hot Ass Night** at the **Dallas Eagle**. The **UCLSE** presented its candidates for the offices of the **Empoeror and Empress**. Then, the club hosts its annual **Turnabout Show and T-Dance** benefiting **AIDS Services of North Texas** The **Rose Room** brings some comedy to the stage with a one night only show featuring **Shawn Pelosfsky** and **Paul J. Williams** on Saturday The **Round-Up Saloon** hosts **Miss Gay Texas America 2010** on Tuesday and Wednesday **Anton Shaw and the Reason** continue their gig on Friday night at **Sue Ellen's**. **Negative Zero** rock the stage out on Saturday. Game players got it going on Tuesdays at Sue's with the weekly **Dart and Pool Tourney** and **Texas Hold 'Em Poker** night The **Brick** hosts the **Edge** happy hour with **DJ Mickey** on Friday. **BKP Dallas** presents its **Dallas Southern Pride** party afterwards with **Dondria** performing. **DJ Troy Sands** returns to spin the night away on Saturday **Jack's Backyard** brings **Bebe Le Strange** to the stage on Friday night. Sunday is a fun day with the **Relentless Rhythms II** music fest. This mini-Palooza music fest features a strong local lineup with **Iris Leu**, **The Felons**, **Luna Matto**, **Susan Gibson** and the amazing all-girl band **Lovie**. The show benefits the **Tammy Londier Leukemia Fund** and with that bill, it should bead that \$4,000 + mark it hit last year Now go have some fun

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Preston and Sherry at Alexandre's.



Deidre and Matt at Station 4.



Riders on the float for BJ's NXS!



Jeff and Thomas at Rush.

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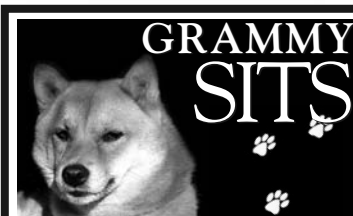
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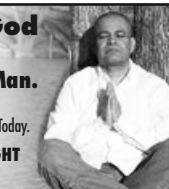
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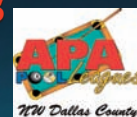
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