

'Cinderella' and the Texas two-step

Texas Ballet Theater's gender bending ballet

Two straight dancers find camp in a classic

■ BALLET, Page 20



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Advocates push safe schools bill in wake of suicide

Parents of Houston teen who shot himself last week say school officials didn't respond to repeated complaints, leading to 13-year-old being 'bullied to death'

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

HOUSTON — The recent bullying-related suicide of a gay Texas teen highlights the need for comprehensive safe schools legislation protecting LGBTQ students, advocates said this week.



Asher Brown

Asher Brown, a 13-year-old eighth-grader at Hamilton Middle School in northwest Harris County, fatally shot himself on Thursday, Sept. 23 after his parents said he was "bullied to death" over a period of 18 months for, among other things, being gay.

Asher's parents allege that school officials failed to respond to their repeated complaints about the bullying — which included other students simulating gay sex acts on their son. Asher came out as gay to his stepfather the same day he took his own life by shooting himself in the head with a 9mm Baretta.

His suicide was one of four in recent weeks around the country tied to anti-gay bullying, prompting calls to action from advocacy groups

■ SUICIDE, Page 14

Triumphant return



CROSSING THE FINISH LINE | Cyclists in the 10th annual Lone Star Ride exult as they cross the finish line on Sunday, Sept. 26. Ride Director Dave Minehart said 173 bikers and 194 crewmembers got out on the road Sunday after rain washed out the Saturday portion of the fundraiser. Minehart said donations are running 40 percent ahead of last year, and the total will be announced and money distributed to beneficiaries at the Oct. 24 wrap party at Salum. (Linda McKinney/Dallas Voice)

A new direction for Tarrant Pride

Parade, block party kick off 29th Pride in Fort Worth as organizers get ready to move it downtown next year; annual picnic promises to be bigger than ever, planners say

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Officials with the Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade are planning a big announcement on Sunday during the annual parade along South Jennings Street in Fort Worth: Next year's 30th annual Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade will move to Downtown Fort Worth, according to parade chair Tony Coronado.

But first, Tarrant County's LGBT community gets to party at this year's parade and picnic. And they don't have to wait for 2011 to start getting a taste of something new in Tarrant County Pride.

This year's parade follows the same route as previous years, but reverses direction, marching toward downtown in anticipation of next year's move, Coronado said. The 29th annual Pride parade begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 3.

An addition to this year's parade is a block party. The intersection of South Jennings and Pennsylvania avenues near the end of the parade route will be closed for the day for the event.

The Rev. Carol West of Celebration Community Church and Mr. Gay Pride Week Scott Wasson Conger are the parade grand marshals. Fort

■ TARRANT PRIDE, Page 17



Tony Coronado

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Taft joins RCD as associate director



Lee Taft

Longtime activist says he is excited, scared by the opportunities he has as head of center's LGBT programs

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center Dallas has hired Lee Taft as associate executive director of GLBT programs and strategic partnerships.

William Waybourn, one of the founders of Resource Center Dallas, called the hiring of Taft genius.

"Talk about a power couple at the right time for the right organization — [Executive Director] Cece [Cox] and Lee are it," Waybourn said.

Taft was hired to replace Cox who became executive director of the organization after former director Mike McKay left last spring.

"This place has a regional and community history," Taft said. "But it also is deeply personal. I worked with John [Thomas]. I worked with Bill [Nelson] and Terry [Tebedo]."

Thomas was the first executive director of Resource Center Dallas. Nelson and Tebedo were founding board members and created the food pantry at their store, Crossroads Market. The Nelson-Tebedo clinic on Cedar Springs Road is

named for them.

Taft was an attorney for 20 years. As a board member of the Texas Human Rights Foundation, he was involved in the Don Baker case.

Baker, a Dallas school teacher, challenged the Texas sodomy law. In that 1982 lawsuit, Judge Jerry Buchmeyer declared the Texas statute unconstitutional.

"For me, it was a time when I could have been fired on the spot from my law firm," Taft said about his own involvement in the case. "Jerry wrote a phenomenal decision."

An en banc hearing by the full court later reversed the ruling.

Taft left Dallas to attend Harvard Divinity School in 1996. In 1999, he became the school's dean.

But through his affiliation with THRE, Taft had worked with Lambda Legal since its founding. In 2001, Lambda Legal opened its South Central region and tapped Taft to open the Dallas office.

He became the regional spokesperson for the Lawrence v. Texas case that originated in his Dallas office was the case that led to the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the Texas sodomy law. It has been cited in every case that has advanced LGBT rights since.

Taft called the wording of Lawrence an

■ **TAFT**, Page 13

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Big Tex goes gay

Last year, people were asking us about gay day at the State Fair, but we were as much in the dark as they were. When Big Tex started rolling around this year, we were bracing ourselves for the inquiries. And then Facebook saved the day — or

rather, Mike Weaver did.

Weaver, who hails from Watauga, started the Gay Day at the State Fair Facebook event to begin

getting a consensus on when it should be. Of course, one date wasn't going to make everyone happy, but he's made the final decision. Oct. 9 is the day. I say it's not such a bad day to pick. It doesn't compete with Life-Walk on Sunday and is two days shy of National Coming Out Day on Monday. He proposes that LGBT peeps wear colors of the rainbow and meet at noon at Big Tex.

Although he didn't make it out last year, Weaver wanted to be part of the community coming together. "We can show people who are GLBT that it is OK to step out of the box and be with your fellow GLBTs and supporters. Maybe this could be a day for people who stay in because there scared to get them to come have fun."

I'm there. That is if I can break away from the just close-enough Belgian waffle stand.

— Rich Lopez



Gilbert, Staples square off for ag commissioner

Democratic challenger supports gay civil unions; Republican incumbent sponsored Texas' gay marriage ban

TAMMY NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Many LGBT people in Texas may not see the race for agriculture commissioner as a top priority. It's not an office usually associated with having much impact on LGBT issues.

But there are clear differences this year between the two candidates when it comes to LGBT issues.

Todd Staples, the Republican incumbent, is a former state senator who co-sponsored the state's ban on same-sex marriages when he was in the Legislature. And earlier this year, the agriculture commissioner joined with State Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, to file a brief in the court case in which two gay men married in Massachusetts and had filed for divorce in Texas.



Hank Gilbert

riage.

"Hank Gilbert has been a friend of our community for years," said Dan Graney, president of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus. "For somebody from Tyler, Texas, I am absolutely amazed at how open and supportive of our community he is."

In a recent telephone interview, Gilbert himself said that he has never supported same-sex marriage, "but I would support it if it were put on the ballot as a constitutional amendment. I think it should be on the ballot."

Gilbert also criticized Staples for "taking time away from the job he was hired by the people of this state to do [as agriculture commissioner] to file a brief on a case about two men who want to get divorced. That has nothing to do with his agency. He is just trying to get support from the right-wingers."

Graney said that while the office of agriculture

On the other hand, Hank Gilbert, the Democrat challenging Staples, has issued supportive statements on a wide range of LGBT issues, including full support for same-sex civil unions with all the rights and benefits mar-



Todd Staples

commissioner is "not particularly relevant to LGBT people ... Hank could make a real difference in that office with his ability and willingness to hire people in his office who would be pro-equality. He is gone clearly on the record as being pro-equality himself."

Gilbert confirmed that as ag commissioner, he would enact a nondiscrimination policy in hiring that would include LGBT people.

"Would I discriminate in hiring based on sexual orientation? Hell no! Two of my current staffers are openly gay," Gilbert said. "I am going to hire people who are qualified and who I feel can do the job that I and the state require of them. I could care less what color or religion or political persuasion or sexual orientation you are."

Gilbert did disagree with Graney, however, on the question of whether the agriculture commissioner's office is important to LGBT people.

"This job is important to everyone in Texas. We are charged with making sure the food you put on your table is safe. [Staples] has been terrible at that. We have these constant outbreaks of e coli, and there was the incident in Plainview where that

■ **AG COMMISSIONER**, Page 12

ATM kidnappings reported

Dallas police say the same suspect may be responsible for two recent aggravated robberies in the Uptown and Oak Lawn area that involved victims being kidnapped and forced to drive to ATMs to withdraw money.

The first incident, which we reported on Tuesday, occurred late Sunday, Sept. 26 and began in the Office Depot parking lot at 2929 Oak Lawn Ave.

The second incident began at 6:45 a.m. Monday in an alleyway at 4151 McKinney Ave., according to police reports. The victim reportedly is an employee at the Katy Trail Animal Hospital.

"Detectives are looking to see if they are related," DPD Sr. Cpl. Kevin Janse said of the two incidents on Wednesday. "The suspect description is very similar. We suggest people call ahead to their place of business or home and have someone waiting on them when they arrive to make sure they get inside safely. This lady [the second victim] did the right thing and complied with the demands."

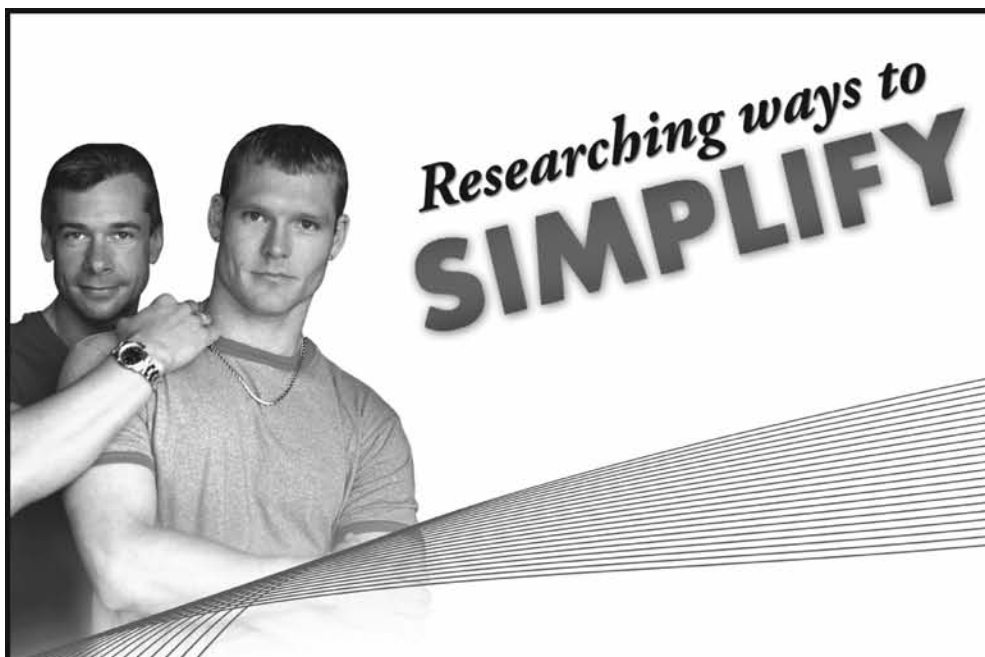
The suspect is described as a black male about 40 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing about 220 pounds. He has a scar under his right eye and was wearing a white T-shirt, blue jeans and a black hat at the time of the first incident. Anyone with information should call 214-671-4071 or 911.

— John Wright

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localbriefs

The Group for HIV-positive black men celebrating 4th anniversary

"The Group," an organization for black men who are HIV-positive, will celebrate its fourth anniversary Thursday, Oct. 14, with a meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

The theme of the evening is "Thankful! Celebrating Four Years of Education, Empowerment and Support," and guest speaker will be Sabrina Y. Taylor, MSW, of Tibotec Therapeutics.

For more information or to become a member of The Group, call 214-455-7316.

First Community Church holding benefit Sunday for Youth First Texas

First Community Church will celebrate its Alternative Christmas on Sunday, Oct. 3, to raise money and awareness for Youth First Texas, beginning with the 11 a.m. worship service, followed by a potluck luncheon in the church social hall where handmade Christmas cards will be sold for \$5 each.

All proceeds benefit Youth First Texas.

Alternative Christmas is an annual event at First Community Church, and each year handmade Christmas cards are sold to raise money for a designated ministry partner.

Each card comes with an insert stating a gift has been given in the recipient's honor to that year's designated beneficiary.

In addition to raising money for Youth First, the Christmas cards this year will also help raise awareness of the organization and its programs.

Sunday's worship theme is going to be "When The End Is A New Beginning," with services focusing on the scripture in Genesis where God's new covenant with humanity is symbolized by the rainbow. First Community Church is an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ located at 9120 Ferguson Road. For more information, go online to fccdfw.org.

Monday is deadline to register to vote in November elections

The deadline to register to be able to vote in the Nov. 2 elections is Monday, Oct. 4.

To register to vote in Texas, an individual must be a citizen of the United States, a resident in a Texas county, and at least 18 years of age by election day.

A voter's registration remains in effect unless the voter changes his/her residence.

Texas voters can check to see if they are registered by calling their county Voter Registration Office or by going online to VoteTexas.org.

To register, go to the voter registration office in your county, or complete and mail in the voter registration form available at post offices, libraries and Department of Public Safety offices.

The application is also available for download online at VoteTexas.org. ■

pet of the week / bruce

Bruce is a 2-year-old beagle mix. He has a short, white coat with a black-and-brown mask on half of his face and a sprinkling of black freckles on his ears. Bruce is a happy guy who smiles a lot and stands on his back feet to clap his front paws together when he's excited. He's good with other dogs and just loves people.

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



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Fighting the good fight with LifeWalk

This is the third in a series of 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 Sunday, Oct. 10.

RAY WARNER
Special Contributor

Because of my involvement with Nelson-Tebedo Health Clinic as an HIV counselor and phlebotomist, a good friend asked me one day if I would be interested in joining the AIDS Arms LifeWalk steering committee for 2005.

"Are you crazy?!" I answered. "I don't have time to volunteer with another agency."

But I said I would go to the event and see what it was all about.

Somehow I found the time to volunteer at both places, manage a home and still work full time.

The steering committee was made up of both past committee members and new members, and the people I met that day were a wonderful group. So I joined, and I had a really great time planning and doing fundraisers.

When the day of the walk finally arrived, I felt like I worked my butt off. But at the end of the day, when they let us know how much unrestricted money had been raised, I suddenly did not feel so



RECOGNITION | Robert Moore, left, presents three-time LifeWalk co-chair Ray Warner with LifeWalk's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2009.

tired. In fact, I was very excited about getting started for LifeWalk 2006.

Several months before the committee was to meet, I got a call from my friend Bill telling me that AIDS Arms had a new director of development, named Margaret Byrne. I had not met her yet so Margaret, Bill and I met for lunch. And that, as they say, is how it all began.

Bill was asked to be LifeWalk chair, and he

■ WARNER, Page 9



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SMU's first gay dean may not lead the parade, but he sure isn't in the closet

David Chard heads up SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education, started 3 years ago

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

David Chard wanted to make sure before taking the job as dean of Southern Methodist University's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education three years ago that he wouldn't be closing himself back into a closet. That's why he was upfront with administrators about being gay when he applied.

Before even coming to Dallas to interview, Chard asked an SMU faculty member he knew if he should reveal his sexual orientation. She told him SMU administrators all knew he was gay, but that they probably weren't looking for someone

who would be grand marshal of the gay Pride parade.

"So now," Chard said recently, "I want to be grand marshal of the Pride parade."

But, he added, he'll probably take a pass on performing in drag at S4's Rose Room with Joe Hoselton, the graduate admissions coordinator at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts who performs regularly under the stage name Jenna Skye.

Although Chard was named the first permanent dean of the Simmons School three years ago, the school just became consolidated under one roof with the dedication of the new Simmons School building on Sept. 24. Before then, Simmons' education, dispute resolution and counseling, and physiology departments were part of other SMU schools.

Among the various named areas of the new building is the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas Reception Area outside the dean's office.

■ CHARD, Page 10

WARNER

From Page 8

suggested me as his co-chair. I was so honored to be asked to do something with an organization that I was passionate about.

During the 2006 LifeWalk, we raised nearly \$100,000 more than we had raised in 2005. The steering committee built a float for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and won the "Carson Kressley Trophy" for best costumes.

I was co-chair again in 2007, and again we raised even more money than we had the previous year. And we won yet another trophy in the parade, this time bringing home the "Queen Latifa Trophy" for best nonprofit.

Then came 2008, and once again I was LifeWalk co-chair, the first person to be co-chair for three years in a row. That was a huge honor for me, especially being in such a great group of co-chairs, both past and present. We again exceeded our fundraising goals in 2008. And when Margaret

Byrne and Robert Moore presented me with the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2009 LifeWalk, I was surprised and honored beyond belief.

I am so honored to have held the position of LifeWalk with such a great group of family, because, believe me, it is just like a family. We argued like brothers and sisters. There were ups and downs. But just like a family, we had each others' backs.

Bottom line, raising money to help the clients of AIDS Arms and the other LifeWalk beneficiaries is the most important task at hand. Volunteering just a little bit of your time is so important to a nonprofit agency. These agencies are very special to my heart; some of my best friends are living with HIV, and some others have already lost their battles with the virus.

I know that a cure will be found so that no one else has to lose the battle. You can help. Get out there and volunteer for LifeWalk, walk, or just tell others about this wonderful event. I hope that I see you as I walk with the Nelson-Tebedo Team on Sunday, Oct. 10. ■

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CHARD

From Page 9

"About six to eight months ago, I met with the [GLFD] board and asked if they'd sponsor a fundraising event," Chard said, explaining how the reception area got its name.

At the time Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas was involved in another project, but GLFD members made plans to raise funds with an event later, nothing their intent on the fund's website.

Chard said GLFD received an immediate response that included donations from many alumni and faculty, which funded the reception area in time for the building's dedication.

Chard came to Dallas from the University of Oregon. While Oregon has a reputation for being gay-friendly, he said that part of the country has more of a "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Chard said SMU has a more welcoming environment, with many more gays and lesbians on its faculty and staff.

SMU made Princeton Review's list of most homophobic colleges in the country again this year. But Chard doesn't believe the school deserves that position on the Princeton Review list, calling SMU's administration very respectful of him and his relationship.

As an example, he said, "My partner is invited to every major event and he receives the spousal gift."

Chard said the listing is based on student responses, and "Student responses don't match [SMU's] policies," he said.

Chard did acknowledge that the ranking was helpful in demonstrating where community relationships need to be built. He said he has used the school's rating to encourage participation by other deans in LGBT community events such as the Black Tie Dinner.

He also said that his being a member of the LGBT community has presented opportunities for SMU. The Simmons School's counseling department provides counseling through Resource Center Dallas. And Chard said that there is a waiting list to participate in that internship program. Once Resource Center has more room in its planned new building, he'll provide more students for the program, he said.

Resource Center Executive Director Cece Cox said SMU has made "a huge commitment" to RCD, and that the school's connection to the Resource Center goes further than its counseling program. Chard hired Resource Center to do diversity training for students training to be teachers and counselors.

He said that all SMU student teaching is done in Dallas. Because Dallas Independent School District has non-discrimination policies in place, it was important for his students to understand diversity issues.

Cox said the relationship with Simmons has expanded to the business school. Resource Center provides training for MBA students to understand LGBT diversity policies at most Fortune 500 companies, including most of the top Dallas-based corporations.

Chard named Cox to the Simmons School's executive board, he said, because she represents an



David Chard

important group of potential donors.

"She represents gay alumni," he said. "It's a community we need to build a relationship with."

"He's incredibly innovative," Cox said. "He's helped SMU get

involved in the community."

Cox said that community extends far beyond just the LGBT community and that Chard has made important contributions in many areas around Dallas.

The department of dispute resolution based on the Legacy campus in Plano works with local companies such as American Airlines and J.C. Penney. The department of applied physiology works with the area's professional sports teams and the education department is currently working with Southwest Airlines.

"We're helping them think about the format they use for pilot training," he said.

Simmons faculty members serve on planning committee of the upcoming Perot Science Museum that will be built in Victory Park and advised on the Children's Adventure Garden at Dallas Arboretum.

Chard said that Simmons was never intended to be just another education school. "We're here to build community relationships," he said.

Now that Simmons School is established and settling into its own home, Chard has plans to expand the school's mission of research and beginning new programs, including a special education program.

He said special education attracts a large number of gays and lesbians to the field and thinks it's because of the connection to helping those needing the most help.

Chard earned his own Ph.D. in special education. He began his career as a high school math and chemistry teacher. Then he joined the Peace Corps and taught in Lesotho for four years where he met his wife.

Chard joined the faculty of University of Texas, and he and his wife had three children.

After coming out, Chard accepted a position at the University of Oregon. A motivation to move back to Texas was that his children were still here.

Comparing SMU with UT, he said, "SMU is a face-to-face campus. UT is a city."

His partner of two years recently moved from Boston to Dallas, and Chard said they are just getting settled.

Chard said Dallas pleasantly surprised him. He called the city nice, giving and gracious.

"I found Dallas to be a lot more interesting than Austin," he said. "Great neighborhoods. The gay community is more active."

Chard brought one of his daughters to last week's Pride parade. He said seven students marched in an SMU entry. His daughter suggested they march with them next year.

He said he's thinking about it — unless he's the grand marshal. ■

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Neal heading up RCD's capital campaign

Recession, cost changes causing budget, timeline to fluctuate, but campaign manager promises new, larger facility will be built

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

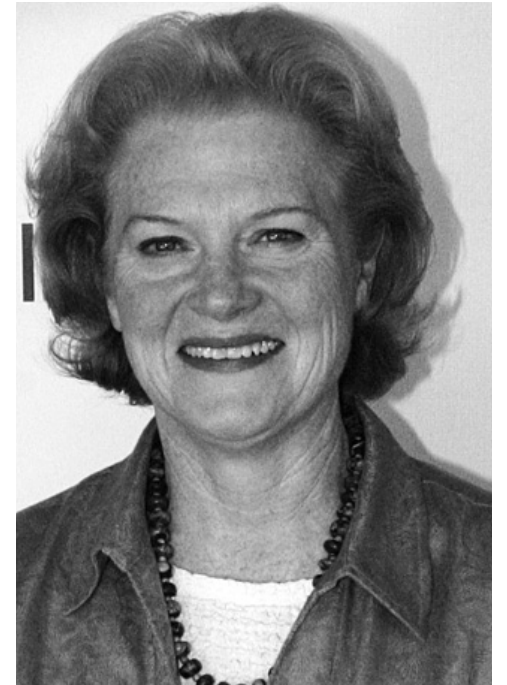
Faced with costs for building new facilities that could range from \$8 million to \$12 million, officials with Resource Center Dallas recently announced that Sharon Neal had been hired as director of the center's ongoing capital campaign.

Neal brings with her some 20 years' worth of experience raising funds for nonprofit organizations. She worked previously with Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS, with the KIPP Truth Academy and the Dallas Women's Museum, among others.

Neal said this week that the ongoing economic recession has slowed progress on fundraising for the new center.

"We had thought we would be further along by now," she said. "Right now, we are still in a quiet mode. This really isn't a broad-based campaign in the community."

Being in a quiet mode, she explained, means that the center is right now focusing on raising funds from individual donors, and that individual



Sharon Neal

donors "usually account for about 30 percent to 50 percent of your overall goal."

The campaign will broaden and reach out for
■ **NEAL**, Page 13

AG COMMISSIONER

From Page 4

salmonella-tainted peanut butter got out and killed three people," he said.

"This agency is also charged with making sure that all instruments in the state measure accurately — gas pumps, scales at the produce counter, scales at the pawn shop. This isn't being done, either," Gilbert added. "These are all important to con-

sumers in Texas, no matter what your sexual orientation is, or your religion or your ethnic background."

Neither Staples nor any spokesperson for his campaign returned calls seeking comment for this story.

Dallas County Republican Party Chair Jonathan Neerman and Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas President Rob Schlein also did not return calls seeking comment. ■

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NEAL

From Page 12

support from the general community in the months to come.

Rafael McDonnell, strategic communications and programs manager for RCD, said the recession and other concerns have caused both the budget and the timeline for completion of the new center to fluctuate.

"Estimates on the cost of the construction have changed," McDonnell said. "For example, the cost of concrete has gone up and come down several times, and that has really played havoc with our budget. Right now, we are having to make some guesses about costs."

"Of course, if the economy turns around, we will be able to raise more money easier. But at the same time, costs could go up, because more new housing construction will start, and that will make things like the concrete more expensive and harder to find."

Despite the difficulties, though, Neal said the project will move ahead. "We are all committed to building a place that will really serve the whole community — the LGBT community and the HIV community, but also the community at large," she said. "We are committed to creating the place you know you can come to for help and for answers on LGBT issues, HIV/AIDS issues and community issues in general."

The new facility, intended to be large enough to house all of the center's various programs including the food pantry and the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, will be built near the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Inwood Road. ■

For information or to donate to Resource Center Dallas' capital campaign, contact Sharon Neal at the center by calling 214-528-0144.

TAFT

From Page 4

apology for Hardwick and an exoneration for Baker.

Taft left Lambda Legal later that year to found his own consulting practice as an ethicist.

Among the many clients he helped was the city of Dallas that hired him to steer it through the fake drug scandal in which police planted fake drugs and charged dozens of people on narcotics violations.

"Madeleine Johnson hired me in guiding the response," Taft said, and based on his recommendations, "The city council passed a five-point resolution." Johnson was Dallas city attorney at the time.

Among Taft's recommendations were expressions of remorse, directions to settle the case and changes of policies and procedures. He said the settlement was financially efficient, avoided a racial fracture in the city and has been cited as a model of how a city should respond.

Including expressions of remorse rather than just issuing an apology is something that Taft said was confirmed for him during a discussion he had in Dallas with Bishop Desmond Tutu.

■ TAFT, Page 14

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texasnews

TAFT

From Page 13

He said reconciliation in South Africa was failing because all that was required was an admission of deeds without an expression of regret.

He said he would bring that lesson to some of his work at the Resource Center, specifically citing the center's domestic violence program.

Taft said he doesn't believe an apology is all that's necessary from batterers: There also needs to be an expression of remorse.

Cox said she was excited about the rich background Taft brings to his new position.

"He has an understanding of this organization and how we fit into the overall GLBT movement and HIV communities we serve," she said.

She said she planned to keep him quite busy.

"I expect him to be able to do a number of things — position our programs to be more sustainable and relevant in the future; integrate our health and GLBT programs to promote wellness."

Although Taft wasn't looking for a job when he applied this summer, he said he couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"When Mike McKay became director and de-

scribed Cece's position, I thought it was the coolest position in the community," he said.

Taft said his new job will allow him to be innovative and creative and do something important.

Taft calls his resume eclectic. His list of community activities is as long and varied as his professional career. In addition to THRE, he was a founding board member of AIDS Interfaith Network. He worked with Gay Line, a help line that was later folded into Oak Lawn Community Services. Today, Resource Center Dallas receives many of those types of calls.

Earlier this week, Taft was in California speaking on ethics at Pepperdine University School of Law. After he assumes his new role at the Resource Center, he plans to continue doing some speaking, which he hopes will help develop strategic partnerships for the agency.

Cox added "strategic partnerships" to the job title and said she considers developing new relationships for the agency to be a major goal for Taft.

He said his new position would give him an opportunity to grow.

"There's something about this," he said. "It's on-the-ground community activism that excites me and scares me." ■

SUICIDE

From Page 1

and tentative plans for vigils in cities nationwide the weekend of Oct. 9-10.

"It's devastating. It's horrible," said Chuck Smith, deputy director of Equality Texas, the statewide gay-rights group. "You don't want to see any child hurt, much less lose their life, because of an unsafe school environment."

Asher's suicide is the first in recent memory in Texas that can be directly tied to anti-gay bullying, Smith said. However, a national survey in 2009 found that 90 percent of LGBT middle and high-school students had experienced harassment at school in the last year, while nearly two-thirds felt unsafe because of their sexual orientation.

A safe schools bill that includes sexual orientation and gender identity was introduced — but failed to pass — in each of the last two state legislative sessions.

"Part of the reason why the bill hasn't passed is because it hasn't risen to the level of being deemed legislation that we absolutely have to deal with," Smith said. "If there is any silver lining to Asher Brown's death, hopefully it raises awareness that please, let us deal with this before another child dies."

Equality Texas this week called on members to contact legislators and urge them to support the safe schools bill sponsored by Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, in next year's session. The group also noted that Asher's suicide marked the second time in less than a year that officials in Houston's Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District have been accused of failing to respond to complaints of anti-gay bullying until it was too late.

Last November, a freshman at Cy-Fair ISD's Langham Creek High School was beaten with a metal pipe in what he said was an anti-gay attack. Jayron Martin, 16, said at the time that he had begged two principals and his bus driver to inter-

vene prior to the attack, but they failed to do so.

Asher's death was one of four this month in the U.S. that stemmed from anti-gay bullying and harassment in schools, according to media reports.

Seth Walsh, a gay 13-year-old from California, died in a hospital on Tuesday, Sept. 28 after hanging himself from a tree in his back yard several days earlier. Billy Lucas, a 15-year-old high school freshman, hung himself in his family's barn in Greensburg, Ind., on Thursday, Sept. 9. And Tyler Clementi, an 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers University, jumped off a bridge this week after his roommate secretly streamed on the Internet a live recording of him having sex with another man.

"These horrific stories of youth taking their own lives reflect on school bullying culture in this country," said Charles Robbins, executive director of Trevor Project, a national organization focused on crisis intervention and suicide prevention among LGBTQ youth.

"To be clear, they do not point to a contagion of teen or youth suicide, but that the media, parents, teachers and friends are more in-tune to speaking up about the causes," Robbins said. "We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends affected by the loss of these wonderful individuals."

Hayley Gorenberg, deputy legal director for Lambda Legal, the national LGBT civil rights group, also expressed condolences.

"But sympathy is not enough — we all have a responsibility to take action, and to keep working until all young people are safe and respected, no matter what their sexual orientation or gender identity," Gorenberg said. "We must push for laws on the federal level and in every state that prohibit bullying and discrimination."

"We must hold people accountable, and use the courts when necessary. And most importantly, we must love and teach all our children to be their best selves and to respect and support others to do the same." ■

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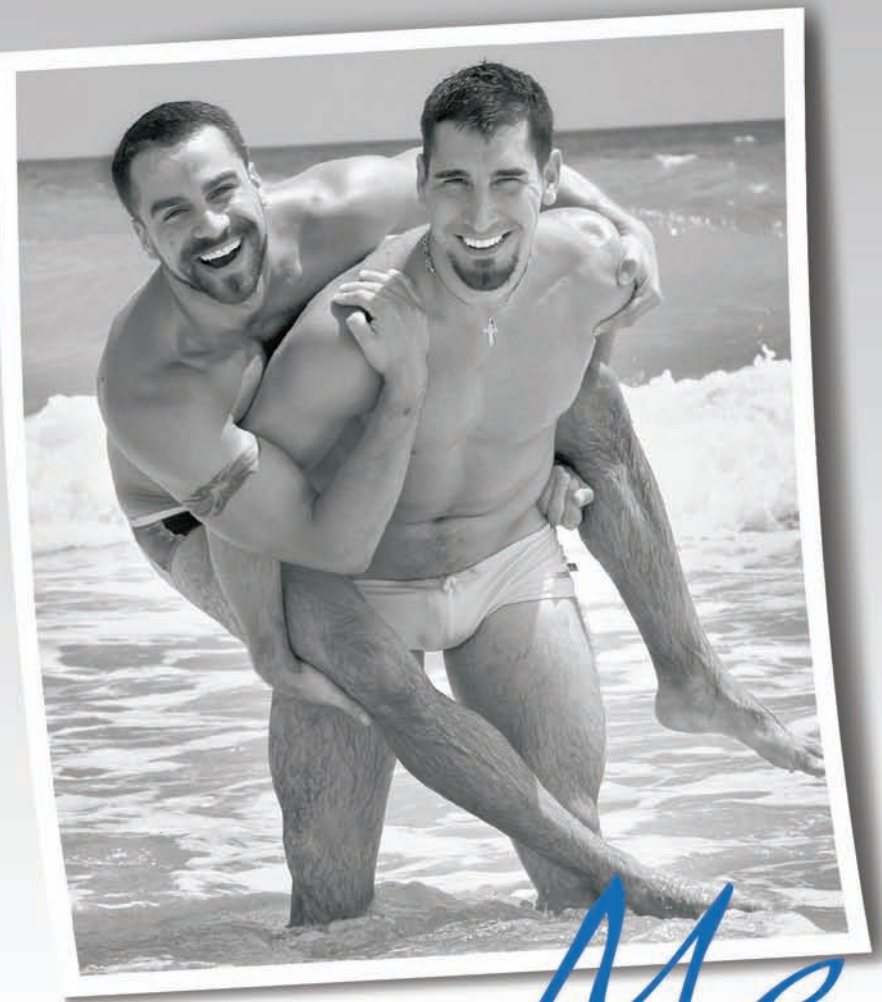
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TARRANT PRIDE

From Page 1

Worth PD's LGBT Liaison Officer Sara Straten and Chief of Police Jeffrey Halstead are honorary grand marshals.

Among the 50 entries in this year's parade are several, including Resource Center Dallas and American Airlines, that marched two weeks ago in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade in Dallas.

Members of Club Los Rieles saw Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association's entry in the Dallas parade and approached Coronado about participating. They'll be traversing the parade route on horseback in the Tarrant County Pride parade this weekend.

Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association President Jody Wasson said Pride Pets is the big addition to this year's parade. Pets will be judged in three categories according to size. Prizes will be given for best-dressed pet and best-dressed pet and owner.

At 4 p.m. during the block party, pets will be judged on behavior, obedience, grooming and manner. A king and queen will be awarded rhinestone crowns and royal capes.

They will preside over next year's pet entries and will ride their own float in the 2011 Pride Parade.

Jazz-rockabilly-blues group Aurora Bleu performs on the block party main stage at 3 p.m.

Coronado said that although it is too late to enter the parade, those who are interested can still apply vendor booths at the block party.

"We'll fit 'em in," Coronado said. "If you would like to do business and market to us, this is a great place to start."

He said that because Fort Worth's LGBT community is so spread out, this is the best place to reach this market.

Additional events are planned throughout Pride Week, culminating in the Pride Picnic on Oct. 10.

QCinema screens "Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride" at Four Day Weekend Theater in downtown Fort Worth at 8 p.m. on Monday Oct. 4.

Best Friends Club has game night on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. and Pride Karaoke on Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 9:30 p.m.

Fort Worth's Imperial Court holds its Texas Sweetheart Ball in memory of Taylor Vaughan at the club on Thursday, Oct. 7. And the Texas Gay Rodeo Association performs at the bar on Friday, Oct. 8.

Rhonda Mae presents her annual "Wall of Food Show" at Changes on Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 9 p.m.

Tarrant County Pride Week ends with the annual Pride Picnic in Trinity Park near the 7th Street Pavilion.

Dianne Dunivan is the chair of the picnic. She said this event has "expanded the area a bit" this year, and there will be two stages instead of one.

Entertainment runs on the Bud Light Main Stage from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Local singer Kylie D. Hart and country performer James Allen Clark will be featured on the main stage. A number of groups, including a local stomp troop, will also perform through the afternoon.

On the second stage, a DJ will spin music.



POLICE PRIDE | Sara Straten, the Fort Worth Police Department's LGBT liaison officer, pictured, and Police Chief Jeffrey Halstead will be honorary grand marshals for the Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade this weekend. Grand marshals will be the Rev. Carol West and Scott Wasson Conger.

Vendors will be in a tent.

"We're attracting some vendors from out of state," said co-chair Tina Harvey. "We've got a couple of spots left. That's it."

But, she said, with enough last-minute vendors, they would rent a second tent.

Harvey said about 40 vendors scheduled include community groups, T-shirt vendors, jewelry and crafts sellers, churches and an attorney.

"The attorney has lots of information on adoption by same-sex couples and estate planning," Harvey said.

She said the picnic setting is better for taking some time to sit down and talk about adoption or getting involved in community groups than the block party.

Harvey said that hamburgers, hot dogs and beer will each be \$1 this year. At past picnics, food was free but mounting the downtown parade will cost more than this year.

"So we're getting people used to paying a little," Harvey said.

Dunivan added that the charge should cut down on waste as well. She said that people are also welcome to bring their own coolers and grills.

Picnic activities will include volleyball, horseshoes, tug-of-war and sack races. She said high-heel drag races and wheelbarrow races have been popular events at past Pride picnics.

About 200 children participated in the kids' area last year. Face painters and balloon artists are this year's addition to that section.

Harvey said that next year they're planning events throughout the week and are hoping that people who come to town for Pride will stay for the full week.

Dunivan said the picnic is like homecoming. "Come out and enjoy the day," she said. ■

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viewpoints

Hey Rangers: Why not take us out to the ballgame?

More than half of Major League Baseball's teams already have LGBT days during their seasons, so why can't the Texas Rangers follow suit?

I've always loved baseball. It takes me back to summer nights at my grandparents' house, listening to games on a crackly AM radio, dreaming of the word pictures painted by the play-by-play announcers in faraway places.

Later, I was lucky enough to work at the flagship radio station for the Texas Rangers, and got to see in person the team's first two playoff appearances. That's why I was especially happy to see the Rangers make the playoffs again this year, after an 11-year break.

At the same time I was cheering on the Rangers, it made me think. Why hasn't the team conducted its own outreach event directed to its LGBT fans? For that matter, why haven't any of the other major league sports teams in North Texas held such an outreach?

By my count, 16 of the 30 Major League Baseball teams have held LGBT-specific community days prior to this season. The Chicago Cubs — the only MLB team with an LGBT owner — have held their event since 2001. The Philadelphia Phillies started theirs a year later. Other teams, from Los Angeles to Denver and New York to Tampa Bay, have also conducted similar community days.

This year, two more teams held LGBT community days: the St. Louis Cardinals and the Houston Astros. Both are significant because the teams themselves were the driving force behind the events.

The Astros called their event "Pride at the

Park," donated a portion of ticket sales to seven local LGBT non-profit groups, and invited the Bayou City Chorale, a chorus made up of gay men and lesbians, to sing the national anthem.

According to the Houston Press, more than 1,000 members of the LGBT community attended the game. Other reports indicate there was no major opposition to "Pride at the Park."

Earlier this month in St. Louis, about 200 members of that city's LGBT community attended the Cardinal's first-ever "OUT at the Ballpark" after the team reached out to Pride St. Louis.

In Minneapolis this past July, the fourth annual "Out in the Stands" event hosted by the Twins drew more than 1,200 fans to Target Field. For \$25, attendees received a game ticket, admission to a pre- and after-party, and a T-shirt.

So, what about the Texas Rangers?

In 2003, roughly 200 tickets were sold to a community-generated, non-team-sponsored event. The event, spearheaded by then-employees of Resource Center Dallas, hoped to draw 1,000 members of the North Texas LGBT community.

It also drew protests from church groups. Since then, there have been no other similar events involving the local major league sports teams and their LGBT fans.

The Rangers are under new ownership. With Chuck Greenberg and Nolan Ryan in place, the team has reached out to fans by cutting concessions, beer and parking prices. Have they considered an "LGBT Day at the Ballpark"? If so, would the community support it and attend? What should happen at such an event?

If the team hasn't thought about holding such an event, we can encourage them to do so. Send them an e-mail, make a call or write a letter. Congratulate the Rangers on winning their division, and ask them to hold an outreach "day at the Ballpark" event for their LGBT fans in 2011. Show them that an event like this would be great for both the fans and the team.

The Rangers' e-mail is fanfeedback@rangers.mlb.com. The team's address is 1000 Ballpark Way #400, Arlington, Texas 76011, and their phone number is 817-273-5222.

And while were at it, Mavericks and Stars — some of your peer teams are having similar events. In the NBA, The Philadelphia 76ers, Golden State Warriors and Toronto Raptors have held LGBT events, as has the NHL's Atlanta Thrashers.

This would be a tremendous opportunity to reach fans that may feel marginalized because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and

build a lasting loyalty to the teams. As best I can tell, no NFL team has conducted an LGBT outreach event, including the Cowboys.

It's no secret that homophobia is an issue in sports — two-thirds of sports reporters identified it as a problem, according to a study conducted last year by Penn State University.

But events like LGBT community days at sporting events are a step toward fighting it. 2010-2011 isn't 2003, and if the Astros can reach out to welcome the community, so can the Rangers.

Rafael McDonnell is strategic communications and programs manager for Resource Center of Dallas.

Ann Coulter, the right-wing Judy Garland? Oh puleeze!

Pundit turned stand-up for GOProud's Homocon, and the jokes were all on the gays

Last weekend, the queen of the Neocons met the queens of the Homocon in a surreal event in New York City.

The group GOProud invited Ann Coulter to speak to them. This is the same Ann Coulter who called John Edwards a "faggot." The same Ann Coulter who claims she has "never failed to talk a gay out of gay marriage."

The same Ann Coulter who the event organizers called "the right-wing Judy Garland."

From reports by those in attendance, Coulter delivered less of a speech and more of a stand-up routine. I have no problem with comedians, but



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

COULTER, Next Page

Has someone you know attempted suicide after being bullied or harassed?

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 • Harry Reid: 8 percent
 • LGBT activists: 2 percent
 • Obama: 23 percent

133
Votes
cast

COULTER

From Previous Page

her show consisted of gays being the punch line of every joke, if you rule out the jokes directed at black people.

Imagine standing in a group of LGBT people listening to and laughing at a straight woman tossing off one liners like, "Marriage is not a civil right. You're not black!"

I am waiting for the laugh, and I expect I will continue waiting for a while.

Coulter continued her routine with remarks about why gays and abortion foes should band together, "as soon as they find the gay gene, you know who's getting aborted!"

I am again left astounded at the strangeness of these self-proclaimed conservative gays who apparently feel chumming around with Ann was worth weathering the insults she spewed.

These folk, and there were only about 150 of them, claim they focus on "federal issues" rather than "state issues like marriage."

I keep hearing echoes of 1950s white Southerner's talking about "states rights" when they really meant retaining Jim Crow laws.

What these alleged gay conservatives miss is



Ann Coulter

that to the GOP we are just a punch line.

L G B T Americans are not a group of citizens struggling against discrimination, they are just funny fags who can be so amusing and do a fabulous job decorating and styling hair.

To tell a group of LGBT people that civil rights are the sole property of racial minorities is outrageous, but for that same group to actually stand and pay some blonde bimbo to say it while clinking champagne glasses and making chitchat is appalling.

I fully realize that there will be lots of apologists for this strange event. They will say that I misunderstood the intention of the event; it was "to start a dialogue"... etc.

But a dialogue has to have some kind of give and take. It is not just someone talking and another person waiting to talk.

Perhaps there is some common ground for Coulter and her adoring Homocons in the fiscal responsibility I hear touted by the Republicans. But isn't it funny that she decided to go for gay jokes instead of substance?

There will also be those who defend the Homocons by pointing to the Democratic Party and saying, "Hey, what have you done for LGBT people?"

To them I would say this, "Not enough!"

Still, at least with the Democratic Party, we are part of a real conversation, and we are not thought of as punch lines. We are not limited to the sidelines and asked to passively stand by while we are insulted and demeaned.

And as to the reference to Judy Garland? Well, for those old enough to remember Miss Garland, whose performances I adored, she was a tortured and sad woman who struggled with drug dependency and emotional ups and downs wilder than any rollercoaster. I suspect a lot of gay men admired her ability to persevere in spite of her problems and let her talent soar.

She was both brilliant and sad but she was

Homophobia in the Black Church

As the debate rages over allegations that

Bishop Eddie Long sexually coerced young men in his Atlanta mega-church, local activist Linus "Buster" Spiller speaks out about his own childhood history of sexual abuse, and the



Rev. Irene Monroe takes on homophobia and the "down-low" in the Black Church. Read it online at DallasVoice.com.

bursting with enough talent to transcend the struggle and whisk audiences away over her own personal rainbow.

Ann Coulter, on the other hand, may have charmed the self-loathing Homocons with her snappy quips and tasteless attempts at humor, but for me she would be much better cast as the Wicked Witch of the East.

Now, would someone please drop a house on her? ■

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

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BY DAVID TAFFET

Have you or your children been bullied in school?

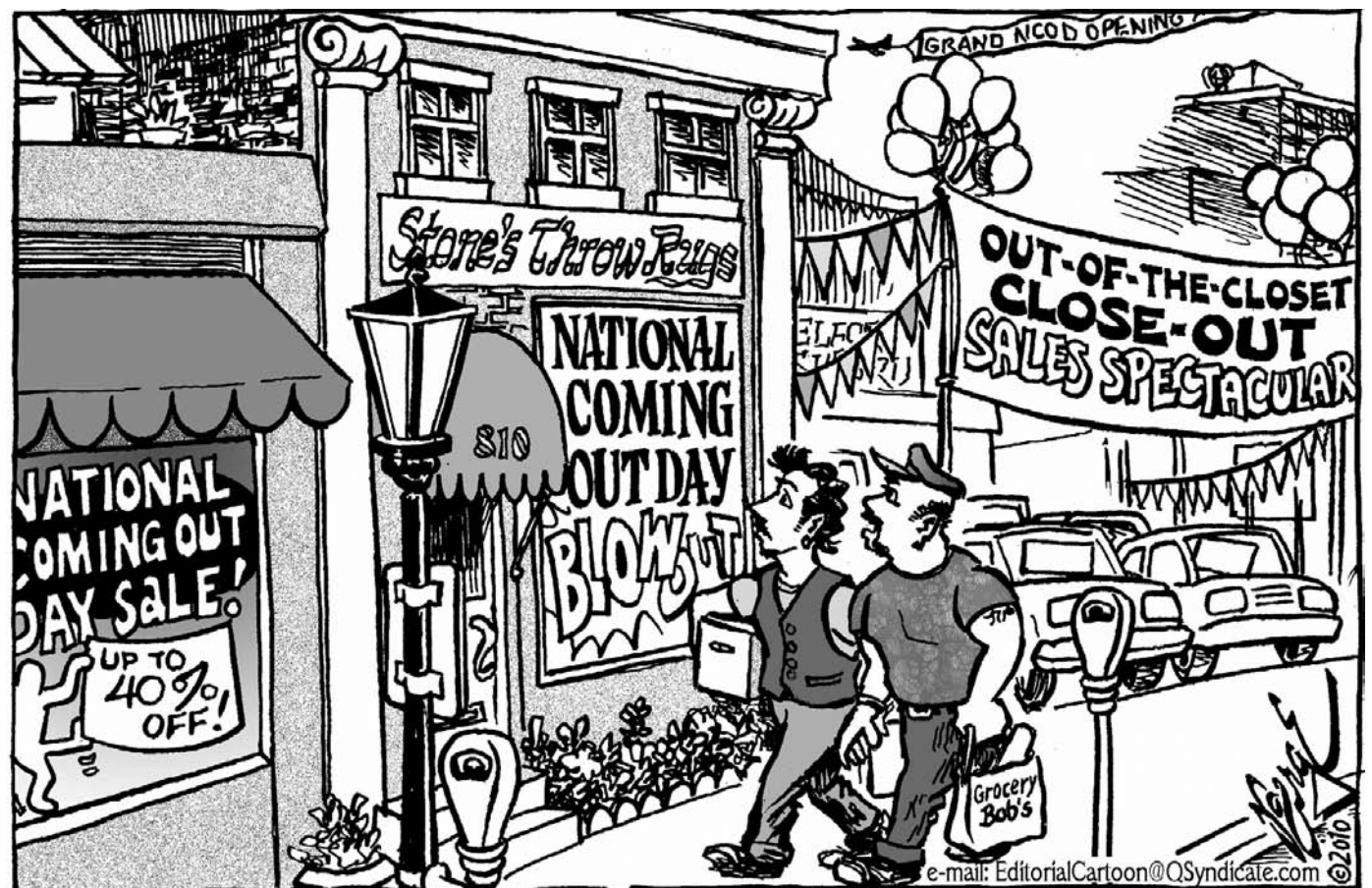
Gary Shephard — "Yes. The school I attended in rural Florida put me through hell in 9th and 10th grade. I wound up back in Philadelphia the next year; it was such a relief."

Latisha McDaniel — "Yeah, I think everyone got picked on in school but the difference now is that there is no escape like when I was a kid. The bullying stayed in the school."

John S. Shore — "I was more than bullied my entire life. All the kids, bus drivers, coaches and teachers allowed and watched me get beat up. Let's teach karate and peace."

Ron Allen — "The problem is the attitude that 'it's just part of growing up.' When parents, teachers, school officials, bus drivers and others in authority have that attitude that's what drives our gay and lesbian children to view suicide as the only solution to a daily existence that has become intolerable to them. Yes, I was bullied unmercifully as a child and a teenager in a small town in the South."

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



"THIS MAKES IT OFFICIAL. COMMERCIALISM HAS TAKEN OVER EVERY LAST HOLIDAY ON THE CALENDAR."

Bumpin' uglies

TBT's Texas two step produces a gender-bending twist on 'Cinderella'

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

Once upon a time, Texas Ballet Theater decided to have a little fun with a fairy tale classic. Artistic director Ben Stevenson has a wicked sense of humor when it comes to the ugly stepsisters in *Cinderella*, so for the upcoming productions of the timeless love story, Peter Zweifel and Mark Troxler are bringing a little extra something to these female roles: A bulge in their tights.

Gender-bending is common in opera, where female sopranos sometimes take on "trouser roles," portraying men. According to Troxler, though, the stepsister roles are often portrayed by men in productions of *Cinderella* — after all, Rose Room divas notwithstanding, men make the ugliest women. But that won't distract from the fact that these are two highly skilled, accomplished dancers.

Troxler trained with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School and spent summers with San Francisco Ballet School and Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy before joining TBT, which he's been with for nine years. Zweifel, who found his love for ballet after his mother put him into dance classes when he was a sprig, is in his sixth season with TBT. He got his start at the Virginia School of the Arts and the Stevenson Academy.

For the two seasoned dancers, the ugly stepsister roles present the opportunity to do something outside their comfort zones.

"This is more of a character acting role, as opposed to a dancing role. I am also playing a girl, so pretty much everything about it is different," says Zweifel. "I like that I get to be funny and silly. These are sides of myself that I don't usually get to explore onstage."

Troxler agrees that this is a hilarious production.

"My favorite part of this ballet is the humor. From start to finish it's a roller coaster of laughs," he says. "With a love story thrown in."

TEXAS TWO STEP | Peter Zweifel and Mark Troxler bring dancing skill and comic panache — as well as a bit of masculinity — to Ben Stevenson's campy production of 'Cinderella.' (Photo courtesy Ellen Appel)

Troxler, who will also be playing other parts in *Cinderella*, isn't phased by the need to quickly transform from one character to another. "It's not too big of a deal switching roles," he says. "You just change your mental preparation and your costume."

But really, he just wants to dance as much as he can.

"What made me decide to dance is the same thing that keeps me going every day my knees are aching and my back is sore. The love of the art form," Troxler says. "It's a very rare career and you can only dance for so long."

Ballet, like opera, can be intimidating to a lot of people, often because the perception is that the performances will be boring or too complex. So *Cinderella* presents a great opportunity for ballet

novices and enthusiasts alike to enjoy something lighthearted and fun.

"Just drop whatever horrible stereotype you have created in your mind and be open to experiencing something different. Come and enjoy the music and the dancing," Zweifel says. "Ballet is very athletic, which I think is something most people don't realize. So even if you are a complete jock, you will be able to enjoy it. Don't be afraid."

Enjoying it won't be the problem — it'll be stifling the desire to cheer for the stepsisters to put that prima ballerina, Cinderella, in her place. But even if they don't come out on top, they'll most certainly come out with a five-o'clock shadow. ■

For readers of *Dallas Voice* who make a reservation by calling 877-828-9200 and use the promo code "stepsister," tickets for many seats are 50 percent off.

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WEST END GAYS | 'Closer to Heaven' explores the dark world of gay '80s London through the music of the Pet Shop Boys. (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)



What has he done to deserve this?

Music director **Adam Wright** glams Uptown Players' Pet Shop Boys musical

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Mention the Pet Shop Boys and what comes to mind is techno-pop — hardly the stuff of musical theater. But when Uptown Players opens *Closer To Heaven* Friday, that mindset will change. The company is producing the sole stage venture by the band, which comes with the same tone as their albums. And that means the production's musical director, Adam Wright — whose background is in classical and jazz music — is doing some major gear-shifting.

"We had to reconstruct a lot of the music," he says. "The music that was sent with the materials had just two parts and not a lot to go off of."

His job might have gone easier if Wright were in communication with the Pet Shop Boys ... or if he was already a fan.

"The extent of my communication with them was through their Twitter updates," he says. "I'd love to learn more about how they program and write. I wasn't as much a fan as some of the people in the cast. My parents did buy me the Liza Minnelli album *Results* they produced. I'm certainly *more* of a fan now after working on this."

The subject of the musical is perhaps more relatable to Wright. Set in gay London in the 1980s, it's a dark show with racy queer content he can appreciate. But the task of turning that vibe into a musical theater idiom was a challenge.

Wright had only the original London cast recording to work from, which is dominated by

the Pet Shop Boys electronica sound, which he orchestrated for a six-man band to offer a live concert experience. His priority, however, was staying true to the songs PSB wrote.

"With electric drums and two keyboards, we can mimic some of that techno sound," he says. "There are some guitar moments. It's really intricate programming and having the band makes it easier and way less complicated."

His musicians will not only recreate the dance beats, but also meld them in accord with choreography and plot — and PSB's signature style.

"There is a lot more going on in the songs than you think, so it was pretty daunting," he says. "Normally with a live band, embellishments are added, but we had to stick to the appropriate style. Even the minimal songs have a repetitive, dance-y nature."

All that required a close collaboration between Wright, director Bruce Coleman and choreographer John de los Santos. Wright especially sympathized with the challenge de los Santos faced of balancing fluid and narrative movement against Wright's job to keep the proper but continuous beat of the music — and to primarily keep the audience interested.

"There have been ups and downs in this creative process," he says. "I've certainly felt overwhelmed, but I enjoy the challenge doing new

Continued on Page 22

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L+S stage

From Page 21

things. That motivates me even if I have to pace in a circle for an hour until it comes to me.”

With weeks of preparation and arranging, Wright’s work still hadn’t clicked with him until Uptown began running the full show in rehearsals. After seeing it as one cohesive piece, he settled and relieved some of his stress going in.

“At that point, it felt possible and easy,” he says. Now he’s more concerned if the audience

will be fans: Many out-of-towners are flying in especially for the show, which makes its North American debut — but Uptown knows this is difficult material. The litmus test will be opening night.

“I know some expect a certain kind of music in theater, but the nice thing is the show starts with a bang and they’ll know right away what they are in for.”



The way we were Face-off: ‘Our Town’ vs. ‘Dreck the Musical’

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

Even in the program notes of WaterTower Theatre’s current production, the reputation of **Our Town** as sentimental tripe is difficult to escape. Except in this exquisitely rendered production, it’s clear that rep is completely undeserved. Maybe abuse by countless high schools has soured opinion, but Thornton Wilder’s bare, simple snapshot of small-town life may be idyllic, but hardly is it idealized. This is humanistic theater in the best sense.

True, there would be no *It’s a Wonderful Life* without *Our Town*, but don’t allow the Capra-corn style to blind you to this show’s plainspoken beauty. Even before Act 3, when residents of

the graveyard propel the action, this is a play dominated by ghosts: Memories, shadows, feelings about things and people from the past that are both specific and universal.

The Stage Manager (Terry Martin, who also directed) narrates from an omniscient P.O.V., walking us through a few days across two decades in the lives of Grovers Corners, N.H., population 2,642. No one here is spectacular, but in that prosaic bubble, spectacular things happen.

Although more than 70 years old, it still has resonance for contemporary issues, from the closeted chorus master (achingly played by Ted Wold) to an off-handed observation (“people are

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PLAIN AND SIMPLE | WaterTower's 'Our Town,' above, delves poignantly into the American psyche; 'Shrek,' opposite, delves into flatulence. (Photos courtesy Joan Marcus and Mark Oristano)

meant to live two by two — "taint natural to be lonesome") that subtly defends gay marriage (Wilder himself was gay).

There's not a misspent action or false note from anyone in the impressive cast (especially Wold, Joey Folsom and Maxey Whitehead), and Martin's canny decision to take the bare-bones set and change it, just briefly, into a tactile, realistic tableau is breathtaking. Don't let your prejudices about the show scare you away — this is the best show of the fall.

WaterTower does a lot with a little in *Our Town*; over at Fair Park Music Hall, the opposite is true. **Shrek the Musical** exudes expensivity with admittedly great costumes, big sets and a flying dragon. It's also about as bloodsuckingly lifeless as a big Broadway musical can be.

At first, you think it might at least capture the snarky, subversive humor that the graphic novel and animated film did. But that track is quickly diluted in favor of banal family-friendly fare with cornpone plotting and sophomoric fart jokes. (Rhyming "classy" with "gassy?" That's schoolyard nonsense — and not a good school, either.) And Shrek's Scottish accent doesn't translate in the hard-to-hear space of the Music Hall.

Hiring David Lindsay-Abaire, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his play *Rabbit Hole* about the death of a child, to write a kiddie musical sounds like a bad punchline, but not as bad as most of the jokes here. Aside from a brilliantly flamboyant turn by David F.M. Vaughn as the prissy Lord Farquaad and some hambone whimsy from Alan Mingo Jr. as Donkey (although the character borders on parody — think Trotin Fetchit), it's more like *Dreck the Musical*.

The other major flaw of the production — and it would be too time-consuming to list them all — is that it makes smug references to many much better musicals, among them: *Wicked*, *Dreamgirls*, *The Lion King*, *Lez Miz*, *Hairspray* and *42nd Street*. If you're reminding your audience that it could be watching a better show, you're not helping yourself any. By the end, I'd wished the dragon had eaten me — preferably in Act 1. ■

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Steven Walters as Prince Hal,
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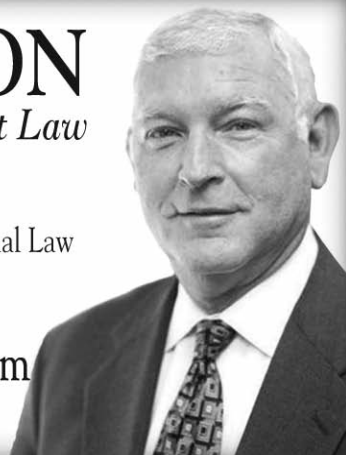


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'A'
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Logo tries to beat
Bravo at its own
reality game with
'The A-List' and
'The Arrangement'

MEN BEHAVINGLY GAILY | Is Reichen Lemkuhl, above left, an 'A-Lister?' In those swim trunks, he is; below, a naked challenge kicks off 'The Arrangement.'

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

With the success — and appeal among the gay community — of the *Real Housewives* franchise, it seemed only logical that someone would eventually come up with a gay version ... only it's not on Bravo, but Logo.

So as we watched a screener of **The A-List: New York**, I asked the man sitting on the couch next to me — my frequent plus-one at events — whether either of us could be considered "A-listers." "No, honey," he said without hesitation. "Not even in Dallas. We're not important enough."

I'm not sure I agree, assuming the standard for "A-list" status is the klatch of bitchy queens who snipe at each other on this new reality series. They go see Reichen Lemkuhl in a dopey off-off-Broadway play and hang around for the reception after; I do stuff like that three times a week. They gossip over coffee and attend fashion shows and museum openings; I turn down more of those invitations than I accept.

I'm not claiming to be an A-lister, and might even admit I'm lower on the totem than Kathy Griffin; I just don't see that they are any higher. Except that they are on TV.

That must be it.

But that is not to say the show doesn't have its appeal. In fact to me, self-delusion is almost juicier than actual achievement. To be fair, some of these men have accomplished *something*: Mike Ruiz, a daddy who likes to take his shirt off (bless 'im), is a famous photographer, and Lemkuhl won *The Amazing Race*. But hairdresser Ryan? Wannabe model Austin? I don't think so.

Of course, the "real" housewives never struck me as real anyway (there, like here, the "friendships" feel manufactured). While *The A-List* is just as un-real, it's also hotter, especially Reichen's Brazilian boyfriend Rodiney. Looks like there could be some claws coming out with that sexual tension. Thing is, I wanna know what happens. Guess I'm hooked.

Grade: Three stars

Rodiney isn't the only cute South American debuting on Logo this week; there's also Argentinian Guillermo, one of the florists competing for title of top flower arranger on **The Arrangement**, from the Bailey-Barbato team that produces *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Just how suspenseful, or interesting, is a competition show about floral design? Well, considering that Tyra Banks has made a TV career out of herding a pack of empty-headed waifs through the rigors of walking while chewing gum, at least these folks have marketable skills.

At least part of the appeal of reality series is the cleverness of the terminology (quickfire challenges, "You're fired!" etc.). The jargon here is hokey: "Are you a grower or a shower?" Gigi Levangie Grazer, the smug and uninteresting host, asks the contestants, before setting them on their "seedling challenge" to find out who will be "weeded out" and who gets to wait in the "greens room." Uggh.

Butch florist Russ says he's here to "promote masculinity" in floral arrangement, but having to decorate naked people with sushi and rose petals doesn't really convey that to me. But eh! These crafty game shows long ago ceased being about the prizes or the skills and all about the personalities. There are some here. Whether they will wilt on the vine before the final challenge is anyone's guess. But this is the new reality of television — I guess we should be thankful it's also where gays are just as prominent as their straight counterparts. Even if it is on Logo.

Grade: Two stars

The A-List: New York debuts Monday at 9 p.m. and The Arrangement at 10 p.m. on Logo. ■



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L+S music

FORGET TEAM EDWARD OR TEAM JACOB | Batmanglij, left, and the rest of Vampire Weekend bring their live show back to Dallas Wednesday to win over the city again after their spring show back in April.

Vampire strikes back

Vampire Weekend's **Rostam Batmanglij** could be the new face of gay — if it matters

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Face it: Society is getting kind of used to the celebrity come-out story. Ricky Martin comes out and we applaud; Chely Wright becomes the first out country singer and now we know her name — ho-hum.

But when Rostam Batmanglij talks about being out as part of the big-buzzed indie group Vampire Weekend, nobody seems to notice.

Maybe it's Batmanglij's everyman look — he's handsome but doesn't smolder like Martin. He's the understated hipster dude in the funky clothes. He just ... is, minus the whole producer/multi-instrumentalist bit he performs for the band.

"I think sometimes there is so much pressure

to conform to a straight identity," he says. "But also, there's pressure to conform to stereotypes of gay identity. I hope that's less and less a pressure nowadays."

Nothing about Vampire Weekend's vibe is particularly threatening, but their music is innovative enough to stand out. The sound is happy with reggae-ish beats and endearing lyrics. Their scruffy image proffers likeable appeal for college- and high school-aged kids

that includes a new generation of LGBT youth unrestricted by labels. Like Batmanglij, they are living a life that doesn't find the need to thrive on completely gay environments as may have been the case 20 years ago.

VAMPIRE WEEKEND

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"Just like there are different kinds of straight people, it's the same for gays," he says. "But now there are various gay role models."

Batmanglij came out to the media last year, saying it was something he felt he should do. It didn't have the shockwave impact of other musical coming outs, but it didn't have to for Batmanglij. Really, he just finds it tough to figure if his coming out had any kind of impact on either the band or himself.

"It's hard to perceive," he says. "I certainly believe we had gay fans before I talked about it. I just don't know if gay people would approach our band based on that fact."

What does weigh heavy on Batmanglij is not his gay identity, but his Middle Eastern heritage. When asked about the Washington Post's article where he discussed having issues with "whiteness," Batmanglij dismisses the condensed version of his life in that article, but also shifts to a troubled tone when talking about his heritage.

"I have a complex relationship with being of Iranian descent and now more than ever," he says. "There are a lot of things not talked about in America and so much is repressed and kept in the dark. Middle Easterners aren't represented well. I think that I'll continue to have an issue with it. There are ways to look at things without the cynicism."

Thus it's actually harder to be Middle Eastern than gay, right now?

"Certainly in America," he laughs. ■

TRAVEL DIARY

The biggest news in travel is the latest from Dallas-based **Southwest Airlines**. The airlines announced plans this week to acquire AirTran Holdings, which includes low-cost flyer **AirTran Airways**. What this means for travelers is added destinations, many originating from DFW. Although the merger won't have immediate effects, once in place, Southwest will increase its presence in **New York** and **Boston** and add service to the **Caribbean** and **Mexico**.

As if Palm Springs already doesn't have enough attraction, they go and add more fabulosity. The new gay resort **Escape Palm Springs** is open in the former Chestnutz spot. Renovations are complete and deals are now available for this clothing optional resort. Visit EscapePalmSprings.com for more information.

Also, the **24th Annual Palm Springs Pride Festival and Parade** is scheduled for Nov. 6-7. The festival will fill up the Palm Springs Baseball Stadium featuring a concert by **Martha Davis and the Motels**. Then it's followed up by the jumbo-sized parade on Sunday. Visit VisitPalmSprings.com for details.

If you haven't noticed, **Expedia** has added a



charming bit for their LGBT travelers. When you use the site to search for hotels, you can now filter in "LGBT-welcoming" as an option. They have tagged hotels in popular destinations throughout the U.S. and internationally such as Amsterdam, Berlin and Paris.

The travel site has also began an LGBT travel page listing events from around the globe. Visit Expedia.com/daily/gaytravel for details.

New York-based **G Worldwide** has launched the first gay luxury hotel and hospitality brand across the nation. The hotels will cater specifically to LGBT community and supporters.

With plans to launch in five locations over the next two years, they will focus first in New York, Florida, California and Las Vegas before going international. Visit GResorts.com for information.

— Rich Lopez

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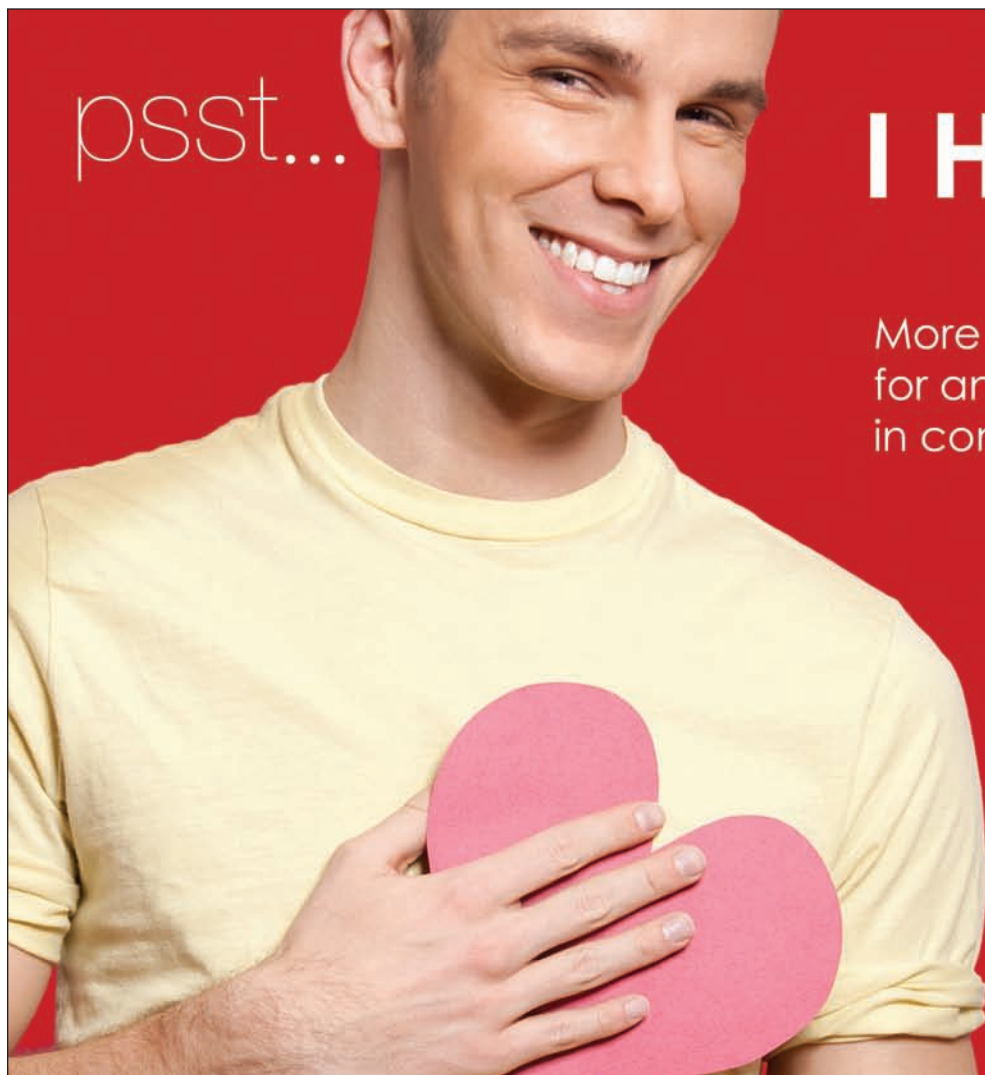
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HERE WE GO



Friday 10.01

They are still pretty ticked off

Just when you thought you were out, Israel Luna pulls you back in. The local filmmaker screens his controversial *Ticked Off Trannies With Knives* for two midnight showings. If you missed all the hubbub over the film, now's your time to catch up. And what better way to see a throwback exploitation film than late at night on the plushy sofas of the Inwood?

DEETS: Inwood Theatre, 5458 W Lovers Lane. Through Saturday. Midnight. \$10.

Friday 10.01

The hips don't lie, but they shake

We never hear much about Shakira. Unlike many a pop star, she sidesteps the usual fame trappings and lets the music speak for her. That doesn't mean she's any less fabulous. Her rollerblading and motorcycle riding in her video for "Loca" is steamy, sexy and fun — just like the non-diva diva she is.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 8 p.m. \$20-\$160. Ticketmaster.com.



Sunday 10.03

Nothing secret about these gardens

The Rainbow Garden Club brings back its third annual Garden Tour 2010. Travel to the six gardens of members and friends of the group. Just don't snip any flowers for yourself. Not cool.

DEETS: Various stops at residents' homes. Noon. \$10. Visit RainbowGardenClub.com for details.



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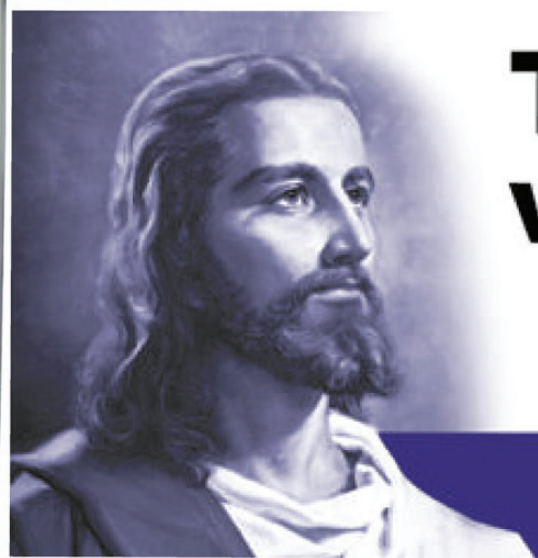
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FRIDAY 10.01**COMMUNITY**

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 for those wishing to quit using meth. Also meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same time. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30pm. Free. CrystalMeth.org.

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

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

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 on Oct. 29 and 30. \$20. LevelGroundArts.com.

Songs From an Unmade Bed in the Theatre Too space. Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St., Suite 168. Through Sunday. Fridays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2:30 p.m. \$20-\$30. Theatre3Dallas.com.

ART

Dual art shows *It Is What It Is* and *Schwarz auf Weiss Illustrations* exhibit at Norwood Flynn Gallery,

3318 Shorecrest Road. Through Oct. 17. NorwoodFlynnGallery.com.

Thoroughly Thoreau by Scot Miller: *Photographs from Walden, Cape Cod & the Maine Woods.*

Proceeds from sales will be donated to the Walden Woods Project, a nonprofit founded by recording artist and Dallas resident Don Henley. Sun to Moon Gallery, 1515 Levee St. Through Oct. 23. SunToMoon.com.

SATURDAY 10.02**COMMUNITY**

Rainbow Ministries International. Meets weekly. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m.

Fuse: Core Group for gay men ages 18 to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2-5 p.m. 214-540-4435.

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

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. 5-10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

BROADCAST

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



GHOUL TOWN | Level Ground Arts updates the 1960s film 'Carnival of Souls' into a play taking place in post-Katrina New Orleans.

SUNDAY 10.03**COMMUNITY**

Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship. LGBT-friendly "meditation and more" event. Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. 5:30-7:30 p.m. InterMindful.com.

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

The ONE Church West Sunday services. First Jef-

erson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. 3 p.m. OneChurchTX.org.

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

Resounding Harmony holds weekly rehearsals at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. 7 p.m. Resoundingharmony.org.

BROADCAST

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

MONDAY 10.04**COMMUNITY**

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

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

The Women's Chorus of Dallas holds weekly rehearsals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7 p.m. TWCDoffice@twcd.org.

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,

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BRUSH OFF | Find out if brushes and paint can be artwork at Norwood Flynn Gallery's dual art show this week.

400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

BROADCAST

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

Harry Hines Blvd. 4–10 p.m. 214-879-0400.

Dallas PUMP, rehearsal for the chorus for LGBT youth. Youth First Texas, 5415 Maple Ave. Suite 225. 6:30 p.m. Dallaspump.org.

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

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

El Sol, an AIDS Outreach Center support group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. AOC.org.

TUESDAY 10.05

COMMUNITY

Sista to Sista support group meets every first, second and third Tuesday. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. AOC.org.

Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. AOC.org.

Miracle Workers (formerly Peace Builder Leadership Team) meets in Fellowship Hall. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:30 p.m. Cathedralofhope.com.

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

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.

Cathedral Ringers handbell rehearsal. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6:45 p.m. Contact Jeremy.crosswhite@gmail.com for more information.

Stop Smoking psycho-educational group by the AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. AOC.org.

BROADCAST

Ilume-A-Nation Tuesday with Jack E. Jett. Streams weekly at 11 a.m. on ilume.com.

The 10% with Israel Luna and Richard Curtin streams every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. on RationalBroadcasting.com.

WEDNESDAY 10.06

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

THURSDAY 10.07

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. Cathedralofhope.com.

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

Color Event. Find out what the color of your eyeglasses say about you. Color guides, moodtini drinks and aura readers will be on hand. Occhiali Modern Optics, 8304 Preston Center Plaza Drive, University Park. 6 p.m.

this week's solution

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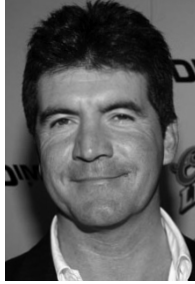
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Simon Cowell turns 51 on Thursday. Despite his surly demeanor on *American Idol*, if it wasn't for Cowell, we might not have the likes of gay popsters Clay Aiken and Adam Lambert. After nine seasons on *AI*, Cowell resigned from judging and was replaced by Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler. Hopefully, Cowell will find some more gay talent in his new show *The X Factor*.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Retail therapy is just a term for "shopaholic." Step away from the counter and get real about your accounts. You are entitled to a birthday treat, but let your friends and family cover that.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

It's not about you. But acting as if it were could unlock creative potential. There is a time and a place for rampant egomania. Keep it where it belongs and dig for those deep truths.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Reaching for the future may be more comfortable than resolving issues from the past, but the latter is your foundation so make sure you deal with that. Friends offer perspective and distraction.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Two paths lie ahead of you: One is bright and brilliant with lots of thrills at considerable risk. The other is duller and leads through hard work toward success. You know which road to take.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your ability to collaborate and bring together diverse ideas will get you noticed. Resist the temptation to show off your sense of economy and resourcefulness. That will blow up in your face.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Being your spiritual self will confuse people and scare some. You may terrify your opposition. Channel that into quiet study. Cultivating an air of mystery will convey powerful sexiness.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

When it comes to sexual activity and fulfillment, quality isn't as easy as quantity. Focus on the relationship you have and be honest about where your sexual needs aren't being met.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Your plans with friends may be far-fetched, even impractical. Be open to trimming your sails to a steadier process and more reliable goals. Share your opinions, but let others take the lead.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Trying to get noticed will make you look like a grandstanding egomaniac. Play it cool, focus on work. Innovative approaches modestly advanced will get you the attention you want.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Take care of business at home. Wanderlust and the search for novelties are mostly counterproductive distractions, but they might inspire playful ways to pep up your domestic life.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Raise issues that need to be discussed with the family. Meaningful relationships deserve openness, but tawdry adventures and intimate details are nobody else's business.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Don't shy away from the tough issues with your partner, but be careful not to be too provocative, smug or self-righteous. It's not about you. Keep the focus on what's really important.

THIS WEEK

Venus retrograding across Mars in Scorpio offers a chance to repeat or correct romantic and erotic errors. Stress from Jupiter and Uranus push it toward errors of comic proportions. Keep your sense of humor. A solar aspect from Libra promises that with small effort, grace and aplomb will get you through anything.

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

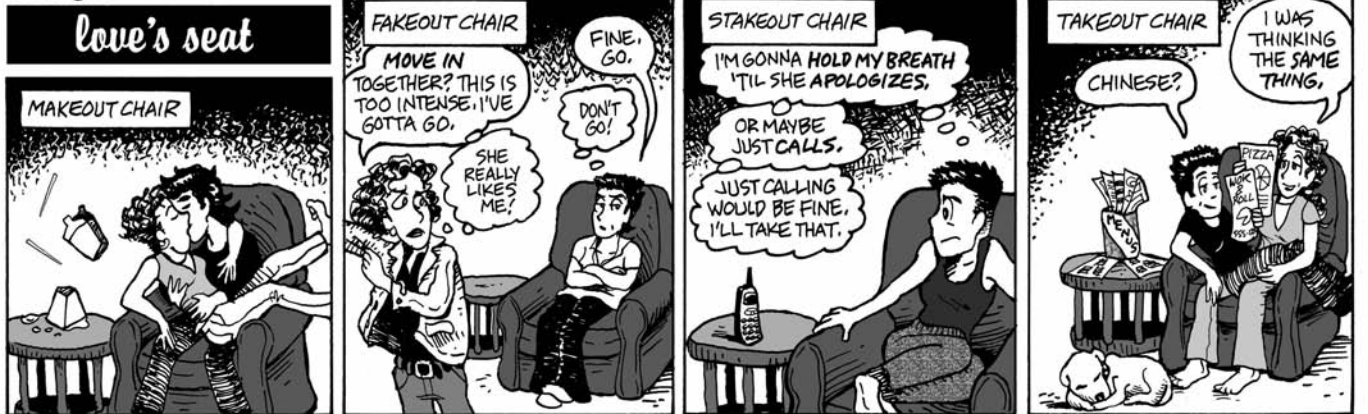
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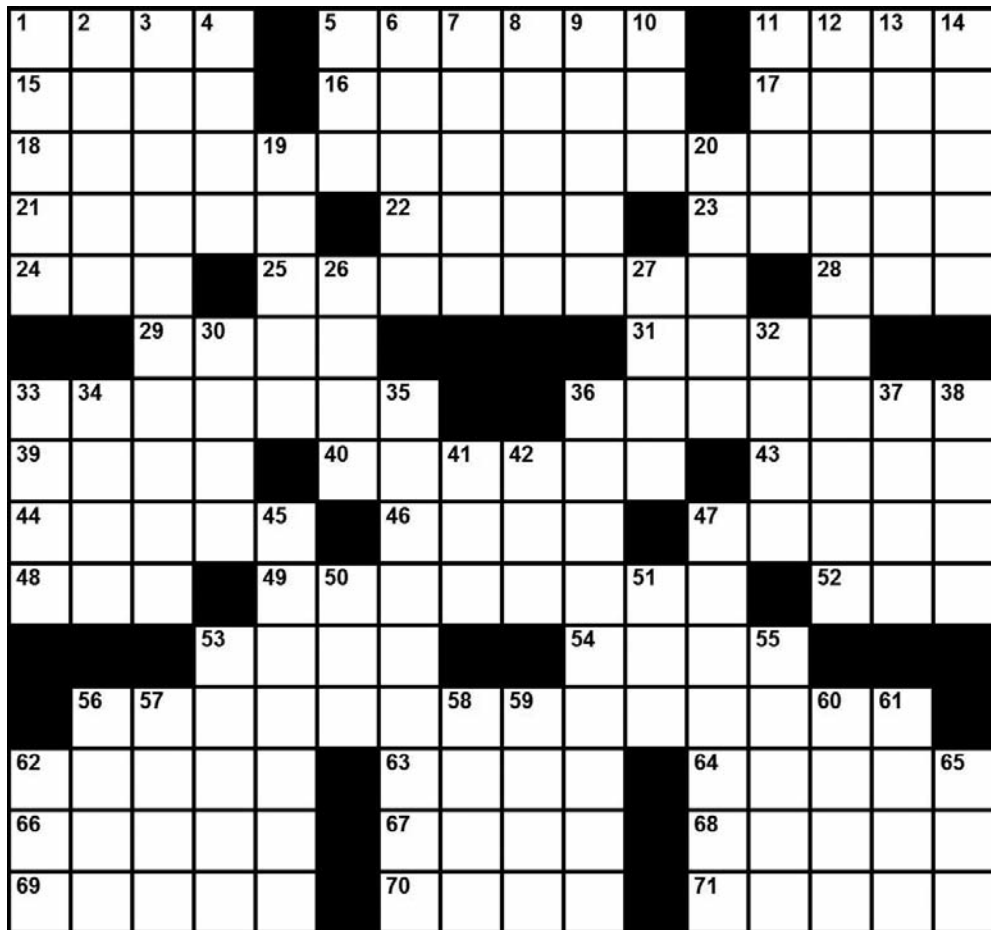
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Solution on page 32

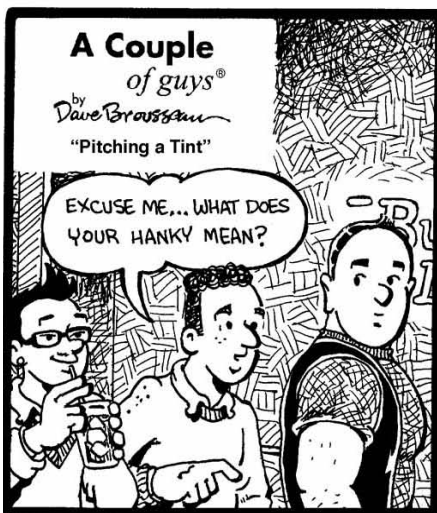
Across

- 1 Dry as a bone
- 5 Orgasms, e.g.
- 11 Islamic leader
- 15 Publisher of same-sex couples' legal guide
- 16 Forbidden fruits
- 17 Expressed, as farewell
- 18 Possible model for 56-Across
- 21 Number of deadly sins
- 22 Birthright seller
- 23 Mary Tyler Moore's costar Ed
- 24 Prufrock poet's monogram
- 25 Hans Christian of fairy tales
- 28 Early man's opening
- 29 Rainbow flag site
- 31 Osso ___ (veal dish)
- 33 Oona, who was a possible model for 56-Across
- 36 Audrey, who played 56-Across
- 39 Old Italian coin
- 40 Understated
- 43 Buffalo's lake
- 44 St. Teresa's town
- 46 Police incursion at Stonewall
- 47 Brian of figure skating
- 48 Horror maven Craven

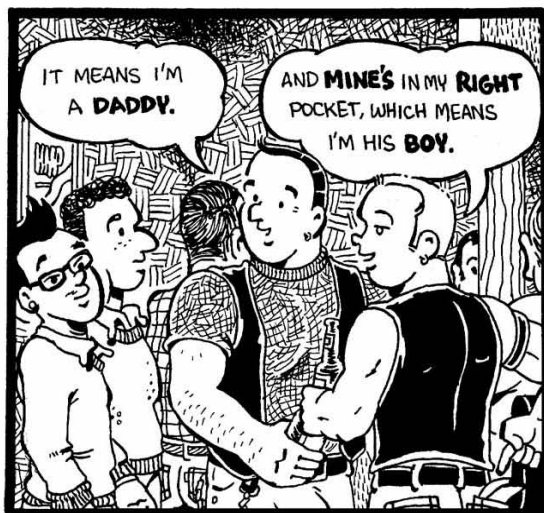
- 49 Where some major arteries go
- 52 Split one in the locker room
- 53 "You bet!"
- 54 Trivia
- 56 *Breakfast at Tiffany's* heroine
- 62 *West Side Story* girl
- 63 Fateful day
- 64 Use a rubber
- 66 Atlas enlargement
- 67 "Is so!" rebuttal
- 68 Pyle of Jim Nabors
- 69 Be nuts over
- 70 Untouchable head
- 71 Type of queen

Down

- 1 Existential woe
- 2 Edna and Arnold, to Harvey
- 3 Cole Porter classic
- 4 Starting scale notes, for Maria
- 5 RR terminal
- 6 Like the hard way
- 7 Put down
- 8 Whale finder
- 9 ___ operandi
- 10 U-turn from NNW
- 11 Peters out
- 12 Principal presentation for Stephen Pyles
- 13 One who screws around
- 14 Like bell-bottom jeans
- 19 As a whole
- 20 Accumulated, as debts
- 26 Producer Meron
- 27 Heed a master
- 30 Milk-colored gem
- 32 Good buddy
- 33 Leave marks on the back
- 34 Center of activity
- 35 Edvard Grieg, for one
- 36 Pleasure seekers
- 37 Love, to Amelie Mauresmo
- 38 Uncool sort
- 41 Like a pale face
- 42 Hobby-shop purchase
- 45 Slobber all over, so to speak
- 47 Like busy folks
- 50 Direct ending
- 51 Drag queen's accessory
- 53 More cunning than a cunning linguist?
- 55 Leather band
- 56 Backup date?
- 57 Estimate ending
- 58 Garfield's pal
- 59 Part of Mapplethorpe's equipment
- 60 Liberace fabric
- 61 River of the Singing Nun's country
- 62 Jenny portrayer on *The L Word*
- 65 The Gay '90s, for one



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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE



Noby, Peter and J.R. at the Round-Up Saloon.

Let's see what's out there for ya this coming week. Just promise us to have a good time **The Rose Room** gets ready for **Liza Minelli's** concert next week with a listening party of tracks from her latest release **Confessions**. If you think you can dance, **Something Fabulous** is holding auditions Sunday in the Rose Room for those who want to join the dance team that regularly performs at **GayBingo** Head to **the Round-Up Saloon** to catch the **Texas/OU game** on the multiple screens around the club. They add **Mickey Briggs** to the Sunday **ManCandy** night with his eclectic collection of videos. Try your hand at the returning **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament** on Wednesdays **Sue Ellen's** will bring **Ciao Bella** to the stage on Saturday. Sing your heart out at **Little Chalupa Karaoke** on Thursday Get your tobacco fix at the **Smoke** party at **the Dallas Eagle** Friday. The **DFW Leatherboys** and the **Oklahoma Leather Boys** team up for a Saturday cookout fundraiser benefiting the **SSC Fund**. Also on that night, the **Dallas Bears** host its **Turn-About** show which also benefits funds for **TBRU 16**. Hopefully those bench presses are working out for you. Find out at the **Best Chest Contest** Thursday night **Ciao Bella** performs Friday night at **Jack's Backyard**. Then they get gritty with **Bona Fide Blues** Saturday **Bill Shafer** brings his bearish jazz to **Woody's** Friday night at their **Live on the Back Patio** series. Singer **Andrea Dawson** follows up with the same on Saturday **Voice of Pride** finalist **Robert Olivas** hosts **Off-Key Karaoke** Tuesday nights at **Alexandre's Bar** ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Jujubee and Rodney Chester at Dallas Southern Pride.



Girls' night out at Station 4.



Noelle at Sue Ellen's.



Brian and Cole at Club 1851.



Jason and David at TMC: The Mining Company.



Tonya and Pamela at Best Friends Club.

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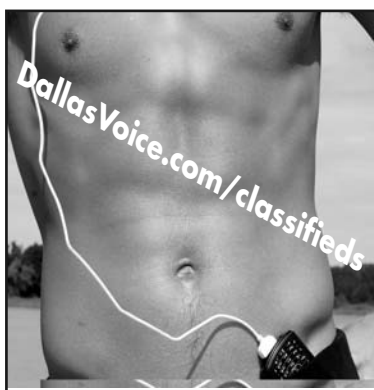
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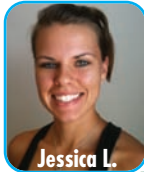
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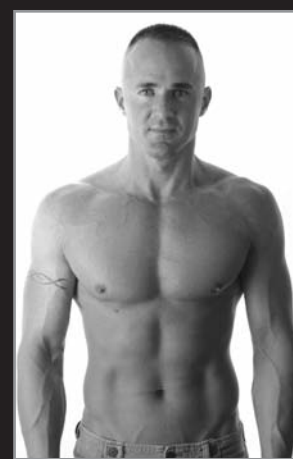
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