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Trans teen fights for crown

Even though students nominated Andy Moreno for homecoming queen, North Dallas High School principal says she can't run

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Like most teenage girls, Andy Moreno wants to be homecoming queen. And her classmates want Andy to be homecoming queen, too; they are the ones who nominated her for the honor.

But Dinnah Escanilla, the principal at North Dallas High School where Andy is a senior, has said that can't happen.

Why? Because Andy Moreno is transgender.

Escanilla suggested that Andy run for homecoming king, instead.

Andy, 18, said this week she began thinking about running for homecoming queen last year. She felt like she would have a good chance at winning because she's popular in school and has never been bullied by her classmates because of her gender identity.

HOMECOMING QUEEN, Page 14



Andy Moreno

Parading with Pride



A GRAND TIME | The Rev. Carol West made two trips down South Jennings Street on Sunday, Oct. 3, during the Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade — first riding as co-grand marshal with Scott Wasson Conger and then again with the entry for Celebration Community Church, the church she pastors. Tarrant County Gay Pride Week concludes Sunday, Oct. 10, with the Picnic at Trinity Park in Fort Worth, near the 7th Street Pavilion. (Tammie Nash/Dallas Voice)

Organizers set goal of \$500,000 for 20th annual LifeWalk

Organizers hoping for more than 10,000 walkers to gather in Lee Park to raise money for 10 AIDS service organizations in Dallas

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

About 62 new teams have registered to participate in the 20th annual LifeWalk on Sunday, Oct. 10, according to AIDS Arms Executive Director Raeline Nobles.

"That's the most new teams in one year that we have ever had," Nobles said. "We have all our es-

tablished teams coming back, plus the 62 new teams. That's a little more than 200 teams total that will be walking."

And that's not counting the people who haven't registered yet and will be walking as individuals instead of with a team.

"A lot of people never join a team. They just show up on Sunday, register on their own and walk. And those individuals usually bring someone with them — a partner or other family member or a friend or a pet. We never know until the day of the walk how many people will be participating," Nobles said.

She said nearly 10,000 people participated in

the 2009 LifeWalk, "and we assume we will meet that number again this year, if not exceed it. We hope we will exceed it, of course."

The fundraising goal for the 20th LifeWalk is set at \$500,000, which will be divided between AIDS Arms, which presents the event, and the 10 other beneficiaries.

"That's huge, we know. Year before last, we raised \$430,000, and last year we just about hit \$400,000. The economic recession hit us hard last year, but we are hoping to really bounce back from that this year."

The fundraising goal for the walk is based on

LIFEWALK, Page 10

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Poll: Most Texans favor relationship recognition for gays



Dennis Coleman

Lyceum Poll is fourth survey in 2 years to show majority supports same-sex marriage or civil unions

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

For the fourth time in two years, a statewide poll has shown that a majority of Texans support marriage or civil unions for same-sex couples.

In the 2010 Texas Lyceum Poll, released Tuesday, Oct. 5, 28 percent of respondents said they support same-sex marriage, 22 percent said they support civil unions, and 40 percent said they oppose any legal status, with the remaining 8 percent undecided. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3.75 percent.

Dennis Coleman, executive director of Equality Texas, said the poll results should prove helpful heading into the 2011 legislative session.

"It's very significant," Coleman said. "For any legislator who might be a little leery about moving forward, hopefully this gives them some

sense of confidence.

"It definitely strengthens the conversation for us to have that," Coleman said of the poll results. "This definitely gives us some ammunition of where Texans are right now, and where they're moving."

In February, a University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll showed that 63 percent supported same-sex marriage or civil unions.

In 2009, UT/Texas Tribune and Texas Lyceum polls showed that 61 percent and 57 percent of Texans supported marriage or civil unions.

"The fact that you're getting the same results across different methodologies and different polling formats, suggests that the result is what it is," said pollster Daron Shaw, a political science professor at UT.

In 2005, Texas voters approved a ballot measure prohibiting both same-sex marriage and "any legal status identical or similar to marriage," by a margin of 3-1.

However, fewer than 20 percent of registered voters cast ballots in the off-year election. And

■ POLL, Page 11

Asher Brown laid to rest

HOUSTON — Asher Brown's uncle told a big gathering of mourners and family supporters on Saturday, Oct. 2 that school bullies "ripped him up and tore him down every day."

A crowd of hundreds blanketed a Houston park to express grief over the death by bullying of 13-year-old gay boy Asher Brown.

Bright balloons floated in the air as the line of friends patiently waited to sign the memorial book and get a chance to speak to David and Amy Truong, Asher's parents. His uncle, a Christian minister, MC'ed the memorial service.

"The bullies picked on my nephew because of the way he dressed, how he talked, and the fact he was small. He was a David among Goliaths," the Rev. Truong told the crowd. "But Asher's heart was so big! His heart made him a giant."

Asher's school friends, the few who stood by him no matter what, also spoke.

One of them said there was a "Bully Free Zone" sign at Hamilton Middle School where Asher faced torment every day for being different, for being gay, and for being vulnerable. His friend said that the sign meant nothing. Nothing was done by anyone to protect Asher or any other target of ridicule at Hamilton. The Truongs had repeatedly tried to get school officials to help, but the school ignored their calls and e-mails.

Initially, a spokesperson for the school district denied that any appeals had come to the school about Asher and the severe bullying he was facing there. Now the Cy-Fair Independent School District is acknowledging that "some communication" concerning Asher did indeed come from his parents.

The gay teen shot himself Sept. 23 after the bullying became unendurable. When David Truong, Asher's Dad, found Asher lying on the floor of his closet, he thought at first that his son had fallen asleep reading a book — and then he saw the blood.

Referring to Asher's six friends who spoke at the service, David Truong said: "These kids are the true heroes of this whole thing. They are speaking out, and we need to support them."

Houston City Councilwoman Jolanda Jones told the crowd she and Mayor Annise Parker are taking this senseless killing in Houston as a "call to action" for passage of a zero tolerance anti-bullying law that will be named "Asher's Rule."

Many supporters from the LGBTQ community came to show their support for safe schools for all children, and to support Asher's family.

Asher's uncle declared that "gay and straight alike are perfect in God's sight. God doesn't make any mistakes." What happened to his nephew was not going to be dismissed as simply a "gay issue."

"This is a hate issue, and we are not going to rest until all children are safe from hate at school," he said.



— Stephen Sprinkle

Elliott's story:

How 1 teen survived bullying, suicide attempt

When classmates beat him up for being gay, this Ennis teen and his mom reported it. But the principal told Elliott he brought it on himself

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The suicides of as many as six LGBT youth over the past month have focused a spotlight on the issue of anti-LGBT bullying in schools and online, and the correlation between bullying and teen suicide.

According to a 2003 study by the National Crime Prevention Council, six out of 10 teens witness some form of bullying at least once a day. And much of that bullying is directed at teens who are — or who are perceived to be — LGBT.

The Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network has reported that students hear anti-LGBT epithets an average of 25 times a day, and that in 97 percent of the cases, teachers fail to respond to the comments.

Various studies have shown that LGBT teens are two to four times as likely as their non-LGBT counterparts to attempt suicide, and according to a report to the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide, 30 percent of all completed youth suicides are related to sexual identity.

And GLSEN's 2003 National School Climate

■ ELLIOTT, Page 12



IN MEMORY OF ASHER | Brian Carter, left, and Sharon Ferranti stand on the corner with signs as the buses let out of school during a human rights demonstration outside of Hamilton Middle School in Cypress on Tuesday, Oct. 5, to protest the treatment of Asher Brown, a gay eighth-grader at the school who killed himself at home Sept. 23. Brown's parents blamed his suicide on two years of anti-gay bullying they say he had suffered at the school. (Karen Warren/Associated Press-Houston Chronicle)



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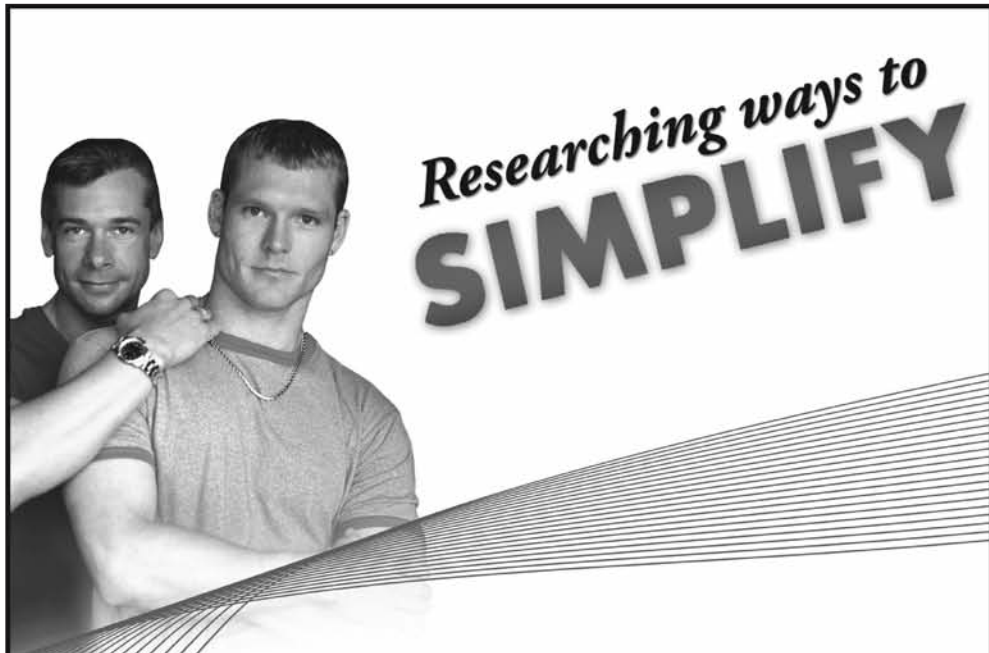


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localbriefs

Danny Dean holding benefit at Dallas Eagle for RCD pantry

Danny Dean presents "Danny Ray's Country Gravy and Biscuits Drag Show," benefitting Resource Center Dallas' food pantry and hot meals programs, on Friday, Oct. 15, at 8 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

Emcee for the event will be Lips LaRue, and performers include Messy Panocha, Anita Protest, Selena and Patti Le Plae Safe, along with live singer Anton Shaw. The event will include a 50/50 raffle and an auction for gift baskets.

Those attending are also invited to bring in donations of dry goods and canned goods to be donated to the food pantry.

GAIN program to feature Dr. Mitch Carroll discussing healthy living

GAIN, a program of Resource Center Dallas for LGBT seniors, presents "Keeping Up Your Health: Challenges for Today's GLBT Seniors," on Thursday, Oct. 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the center, 2701 Reagan St.

The program will feature Dr. Mitch Carroll, medical director of ambulatory clinics at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, discussing health issues affecting LGBT seniors and suggestions for living a longer, healthier life.

His presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session, and hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

For more information, call 214-528-0144, e-mail gain@rcdallas.org or go online to RCDallas.org.

Postcard project marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Resource Center Dallas is currently conducting a postcard project designed to allow LGBT community members discuss their views and share their stories and art related to domestic violence.

The postcards are blank on one side, allowing people to write or draw a message. The center's address is preprinted on the other side. Participants can either put a stamp on the card and mail it to the center, or bring it by the center themselves.

The returned postcards will be assembled in a collage. Some may also be used in future advertisements and promotion for the center's Family Violence Program.

Cards will be available at the center, 2701 Reagan St., starting Friday, Oct. 8. They will also be available at Gaybingo, on Saturday, Oct. 16, at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

For more information about Resource Center Dallas' Family Violence Program, call 214-540-4455.

The North Texas LGBT Family Violence Coalition 24-hour hotline is 866-620-9650.

HRC presenting Family Project town hall on LGBT family options

The Human Rights Campaign presents "The Family Project: A Town Hall on Creating LGBT families," on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, for individuals and couples interested in adoption, foster care or surrogacy.

The event will include a panel discussion on options, with panel members sharing their own experiences in creating families through adoption, foster care and surrogacy, as well as the legal and financial considerations involved. Local attorney Lorie Burch will facilitate.

The event is free and open to the public. Vendor tables are available. For information, contact Leo Cusimano at 214-893-1075 for details.

For more information about the event, contact Cooper Smith by phone at 214-329-9191 or by e-mail cooper@coopersmithagency.com.

For more information on the HRC Family Project, go online to HRC.org/issues/parenting.asp.

The Group holding 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. ■

pet of the week / duchess

Duchess is a bubbly, 3-year-old, purebred Boxer. She was transferred from another shelter and has heartworms. Duchess plays well with other dogs and is always willing to give kisses. Once her heartworm treatment is completed, she will need daily exercise. Duchess will begin her heartworm treatment on Sept. 29 and is available for adoption.

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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■ texasnews

Annual tour of Oak Cliff homes to be 'best ever,' organizer says



EXTREME MAKEOVER | An historic church and 11 homes will be featured on this year's Oak Cliff Tour of Homes. The tour has been credited with encouraging people to buy and renovate older homes throughout the area. Others have built new homes, like this one, in historic styles. (Courtesy Old Oak Cliff Conservation League)

Gays' homes featured prominently
in Old Oak Cliff Conservation
League's 36th event

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

This weekend the Old Oak Cliff Conservation League holds its 36th annual Home Tour, and "almost all the houses are gay this year, which will make it the best friggin' tour ever," said OOCCL President Michael Amonett.

The Oak Cliff Tour of Homes is one of the oldest home tours in Dallas and one of the largest. Members of the LGBT community is actively involved in the conservation group and in the tour.

Home Tour Chair Michele Cox said that actually five of the 11 homes on this year's tour are gay-owned and noted that D Magazine readers voted this the city's best home tour.

In addition to OOCCL's president, gay residents head most of the 29 neighborhood associations and many of the tour sponsors are LGBT-owned businesses.

Amonett said that the tour has contributed to much of Oak Cliff's renovation efforts.

"This tour is an ambassador for Oak Cliff and has been for 36 years, long before we were trendy," Amonett said. "People came across [the river] and got a different perspective of Oak Cliff than the preconceived ones they had before."

"What stands out for me is that Oak Cliff has become hot and fashionable," said gay Realtor Steve Habgood, one of the sponsors of the tour.

He said that much of that has to do with Bishop Arts District and some of the city's hottest new restaurants like Bolsa.

"This allows people to come and experience what it's like to live in Oak Cliff," Habgood said.

Amonett said that the tour highlights various neighborhoods where homes have been renovated and updated. That encourages others to buy on the block "and pretty soon you're Winnetka Heights," he said.

He said that Oak Cliff homes are better built and more stable than homes elsewhere in the area. "We're built on rock," he said. "Our homes don't slide around like they do up north."

The 11 homes on the tour are all from North Oak Cliff neighborhoods.

"I begged both the Oak Park Estates rep and the Kiestwood rep all year to find me a house in their neighborhoods and it didn't work out," said Amonett. "Kiestwood has a promising house next year — a very cool mid-century that sits diagonally on their lot. The guy was just not ready right now."

Kiestwood and Oak Park Estates, the two southernmost Oak Cliff neighborhoods, are both south of Kiest Park but inside Loop 12. Amonett described the variety of houses included on this year's tour.

"We have a new house built to look old, a new house built to look new, a house that is really two houses — one old and one new," he said.

Angus Wynne Sr. built his own house in Wynnewood North on the highest point in the area. Wynne developed the neighborhood and its namesake shopping center that originally in-

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THIS OLD HOUSE | This Hampton Hills neighborhood home, within walking distance of Hampton Station, is one of the homes featured on this weekend's Oak Cliff Tour of Homes. (Courtesy Old Oak Cliff Conservation League)

cluded department stores, offices and a hotel.

Chris Medsger is the current owner of the Wynne house. He said he has been updating the house since he purchased it four years ago when he moved back to Dallas.

He said that when he previously lived in Dallas, he lived on Turtle Creek Blvd.

"I thought Oak Cliff was down-market," he said. But now he said he wouldn't live anywhere else.

Tour organizers approached him about opening his house for the tour. The renovations were done, but he said he put in a new garden for the tour that covers half of his backyard.

Organizers told him to expect about 1,500 people to come through his house each day.

Amonett described the variety of homes included on the tour.

"Two of our homes are award winners," Amonett said. "And one of our homeowners is in the middle of an election campaign."

The Lake Cliff Historic District tour home won the Preservation Dallas 2010 award for "Best New Construction in a Historic District."

"The home on North Oak Cliff Blvd. was

named one of the 12 WOW houses in Dallas in this month's D Home," said Cox.

In addition to the 11 homes, Cliff Temple Baptist Church on Sunset Avenue, across the street from the main office of AIDS Arms, is also on the tour.

Cliff Temple, founded in 1898 is on the National Register of Historic Places and has a state historical marker. Amonett described the church as a liberal congregation with a number of LGBT members.

Last year the tour returned more than \$20,000 to its member neighborhoods, Cox said, for a variety of projects. Some areas used the money for cleanup and crime prevention. Others used the money for projects such as updating a park.

"Family memberships come with purchase of two tickets and it's not illegal to be a same-sex family at OOCCL," said Amonett. ■

Old Oak Cliff Conservation League Fall Home Tour. Oct. 9-10, noon-6 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors over 60, children under 12 free. Available at Hunky's in Oak Lawn or Oak Cliff and at Daniel Padilla Gallery, 838 W. Davis St. More information is at OOCCL.org.

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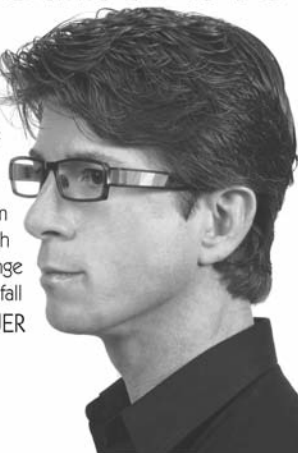
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LIFEWALK

From Page 1

the needs of the beneficiaries, Nobles said. "We tell the [LifeWalk] steering committee what we need, and the committee approves that as the goal. Then they [committee members] have to go out there and make it happen."

The recession, Nobles said, has impacted AIDS service organizations in more ways than one. While donors have had to cut back on how much they are able to give, agencies are at the same time seeing more people who need help.

"What's happening, across the board, is that there are just far too many clients needing help than we have the capacity to help," Nobles said. "All of us [AIDS service organizations] are just way beyond our capacity. All of us need funding to expand that capacity and serve the fast-growing segment of people who are HIV-positive."

And the proceeds from LifeWalk are especially helpful because the beneficiary agencies can use those funds however they want.

"Grant money is always extremely restricted money," Nobles explained. "You can only spend grant money on the specific things that the funder has approved. And most often, those grant dollars don't pay for the tools we need to do our jobs — things like computers, prevention supplies, testing supplies."

"Grant money usually doesn't cover the costs of expanded media in new formats, those new ways to use new avenues to reach out with education and prevention efforts," she continued. "For example, here at AIDS Arms, we love to do our 'Lunch and Learn' program. It's where we invite clients to come in and we feed them, and as they have lunch we educate them on some aspect of living with AIDS. But all that goes by the wayside when there are no unrestricted funds available."

And that's why LifeWalk is so important. Because the funds it brings in are completely unrestricted.

Nobles said AIDS Arms officials hope to be able to use LifeWalk funds this year to bring in new equipment for the Peabody Clinic.

"We have a long list of equipment we need to diagnose, track and monitor the health of our clients," she said. "This time around, cardiovascular care is a huge need in our HIV patients, and we need equipment to be able to respond to that



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY LIFEWALK | AIDS Arms recently held a reception at ilume Galleries honoring past and present chairs of the agency's annual LifeWalk fundraiser as part of the buildup to the 20th annual LifeWalk taking place Sunday, Oct. 10, at 1 p.m. in Lee Park. During the event, an unnamed benefactor donated \$5,000 to LifeWalk in honor of the past co-chairs. The event also featured eight local artists who had work on display in the gallery.

need in a better way. I don't think the general public really understands that cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 health risk for a lot of HIV patients. That's particularly true as the patient population ages. And that makes the management of HIV disease that much more complicated. We have to stay on top of all of it. You have to treat the whole person."

Registration for LifeWalk opens at noon on Sunday, and the walk steps off at 1 p.m. Walkers will move up Turtle Creek Boulevard, go through the West Village and then circle through Uptown and back to Lee Park.

There will be activities and entertainment going on throughout the day in the park, including the Buster Brown Band, a DJ playing music, Voice of Pride winner Mel Arizpe, games for the children, food, beverages and more, Nobles said.

Also during the day, in honor of the 20th anniversary, past LifeWalk co-chairs will be recognized from the stage.

"It's going to be very family friendly, and very dog friendly. There will be several vendors with booths, and there will be a health fair with free HIV testing available on-site all day," she said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

Nobles acknowledged that the reason behind LifeWalk is very serious, and that there are likely to be some sad moments as organizers and participants remember friends and family members who have died.

But the fun side of the event is also important. "Everyone knows that we do this for very serious reasons, that the epidemic is still killing people and that our dollars are going to help with serious needs," Nobles said. "But people need to

have some relief from that seriousness, too. People get burned out. It's called 'compassion fatigue.' And they need to be able to celebrate life; we need to celebrate the memories of those we have lost and we need to celebrate the lives of those who are living with this disease.

"There are people who have lived with this since the day the epidemic began, and we need to celebrate their lives, their tenacity and their courage," Nobles said. "And LifeWalk is a great way to do that, because you know that every dollar that comes into LifeWalk goes to programs that directly help clients. Close to 20,000 people depend on the AIDS services organizations in Dallas, and the money from LifeWalk goes to help them. You can make an investment in the future of a lot of people through LifeWalk." ■



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Abilene's Exodus MCC winds up 2-year project to fund Habitat home

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ABILENE — Exodus Metropolitan Community Church in Abilene celebrated its 30th anniversary last weekend by presenting a check for \$15,000 to Abilene's Habitat for Humanity, represented by Habitat director Chris Proctor-Cleveland and the organization's board of directors.

Exodus MCC has been collecting donations for the past two years to pay for the construction of a Habitat house in Abilene. Church members reached their goal on Sept. 12.

The Rev. Margaret Walker, senior pastor, said Exodus members began raising money for the Habitat project two years ago, budgeting it into the church's mission fund. Church members made personal pledges and contributions, held garage sales and dinners and sold desserts to bring in funds.

Children in the church made and sold art crosses and Christmas ornaments, sold M&M candy and collected and cashed in aluminum



cans to help raise money for the project. One youngster even operated a lemonade stand to help out, Walker said.

The pastor noted that such efforts by the church's youngest members accounted for more than \$1,000 of the \$15,000 total.

Church members presented the check to Habitat for Humanity officials during the anniversary celebration banquet on Saturday night, Oct. 2. The anniversary weekend continued with services on Sunday, Oct. 3, featuring the Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, founder of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Exodus MCC has about 100 members. In addition to Senior Pastor Walker, the staff included the Rev. Connie Mangin as executive pastor. ■

POLL

From Page 4

LGBT advocates have long said they believe some voters didn't realize the amendment would ban not only same-sex marriage but also civil unions.

Coleman acknowledged that in order to legislatively establish civil unions in Texas, the state must first undo the amendment, which would require a two-thirds majority of lawmakers and another ballot measure.

"In the meantime, there are some ways you can recognize relationships through hospital visitation rights, through recognition of family relationships to children," Coleman said, adding that Equality Texas wants to conduct its own, more specific polling on LGBT issues.

"For certain communities, marriage is not No. 1; protecting their jobs is No. 1," Coleman said. "For some protecting their families, having both parents names on a birth certificate, is No. 1. We're not just all about marriage."

Shaw said the Texas Tribune may also conduct polling on other LGBT issues during the session that begins in January.

Debate over same-sex marriage has been "polarized by elites" and is a "difficult sell" in Texas due to people's religious beliefs, Shaw said.

But if you offer them options like civil unions, many will take the middle ground.

"It's not clear to me that statewide there's a huge market for real hardcore socially conservative positions," Shaw said. "When it comes to questions of personal liberty or personal freedom, there's a strong Libertarian strain in Texas. I think that's kind of what you see when you look at the gay marriage question." ■

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■ texasnews

ELLIOTT

From Page 4

Survey reported that more than 64 percent of LGBT students say they feel unsafe at their schools because of their sexual orientation.

The statistics are overwhelming. But for one North Texas gay teen, anti-gay bullying and suicide attempts are far more than just statistics.

Elliott, who lives in Ennis, is 17 now. But he almost did not live that long after enduring bullying that started, he said, when he was in first grade. After years of enduring the abuse, Elliott said, he tried to commit suicide at age 15.

"I live in a small town," he said. "I'm a ballet dancer. I stuck out like a sore thumb."

Elliott said he was on the only one in his school being bullied, a fact that left him feeling totally alone.

And the bullying didn't stop at words. When he was a freshman, Elliott said, a classmate followed him into the restroom at school and beat him up.

Elliott told his mother what happened. She went to the school and spoke to the principal, who told her he would do something about it.

What the principal did was tell Elliott that he had brought it upon himself.

The bullying wasn't just at school: "I was dealing with a lot of problems," Elliott said.

His older brother was having drug problems and tormented him at home. He had an abusive stepfather who let his own two children get away

■ Where to get help

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YouthFirstTexas.org
- The Trevor Project
866-488-7386
TheTrevorProject.org
- The Promise House
224 W. Page Ave.
Dallas, Texas
214-941-8578
or 214-941-8670
PromiseHouse.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK
SuicidePreventionLifeline.org
- Suicide Prevention Help
SuicidePreventionHelp.com

with things that he grounded Elliott for.

"He'd ridicule me for being gay," Elliott said of his stepfather, "and it turned out he was bi."

So Elliott started cutting himself on his ankles and his wrists. He was never hospitalized, but a nurse noticed the cuts. He told her he injured himself when he fell out of a tree.

Elliott took what he called a "safe overdose," of a prescription drug, but recovered. He said that was the last time he tried or even considered suicide. But he said he understands how the young suicide victims that have been in the news felt. And it scares him that he came close to meeting the same fate.

Elliott said things began to get better at home for him by the end of his freshman year. His mother finished her degree, started teaching and divorced his stepfather.

His older brother very recently became sober.

For his sophomore year, Elliott transferred to arts magnet Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas. That's where he first learned about Youth First Texas.

"I took a DART bus over [to Youth First] and I loved it," he said, adding that for the first time in his life, he was with other people like him.

"It made me feel amazing," he said. "Whenever I'm not in Ennis, I'm at Youth First Texas."

Elliott joined a survivors group at Youth First in which LGBT youth discuss how they feel during times of distress. He worked with the fundraising committee and became a member of the Youth Board. He entertained with a YFT group at the Creating Change conference in February and the Gayla Prom in June.

Elliott also modeled in the annual YFT fashion show at the Rose Room and was a runway model for DIFFA.

Elliott began his activist career in April when he participated in Day of Silence in school and Breaking the Silence at Rosa Parks Square in Downtown Dallas. This summer he attended Activist Youth Camp at University of North Texas. An ACLU representative told him that had he reported the principal's comment about bringing the beating on himself, they would have

■ ELLIOTT, Page 13

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PHANN-TASTIC



PUTTING EDUCATION FIRST | Dannee Phann and staff members of The Brick/Joe's recently presented a check for \$1,128 to a class at Ben Milam Elementary School, representing proceeds from a fundraiser presented by Dannee Phann Productions at The Brick. The money will be used to purchase supplies for the school, and Phann and Brick staff members also spent a day helping the class' teacher paint the classroom.

ELLIOTT

From Page 12

investigated.

"Just knowing I can do that is important," he said. "I didn't know I could do anything about it."

His mother has become an active volunteer with YFT as well. He called her his biggest supporter.

"A lot of the others are neglected by their parents," he said. "She acts as a mom to everyone."

“ Everything you say affects someone. I want teachers and staff to know it really hurts. Everything you say affects someone. Teachers and principals are ignorant to that. If you ignore it, it will fester.

—Elliott

She gives everyone hugs. She talks to everyone and is there for everyone."

He said he'd like to see more LGBT community involvement from other organizations.

For his senior year, Elliott is back at Ennis High School. He said the environment is different now, although it's still difficult to walk down the halls

and see other students who tormented him for years.

For protection in school, he said, "I'm starting to repopulate my girl-posse."

Activist camp left Elliott feeling empowered and safer in school. He said he is not afraid to face the principal who told him he brought on his own beating.

Elliott said he has no personal life in Ennis, although he does teach ballet at a dance studio in town. His students are 6-to-8-year old girls.

"It intrigues them that there's a male teacher," he said.

A former Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader owns the studio. He said she's proud to have a male teacher on staff. Now when he goes into a store and sees one of his students, he said, they call out, "Hi Mr. Elliott!"

After graduation, Elliott plans to attend Navarro County Community College to take his basic courses. Then he'd like to transfer to a school in Dallas to study dance and continue to be involved at YFT.

He said the recent suicides have affected him terribly. "I printed out the headlines," he said. "It really bugs me."

Elliott has advice for other teens who have considered suicide: "Whatever you're going through, it just makes you a stronger person," he said. "Whatever you go through makes you capable of doing things others can't."

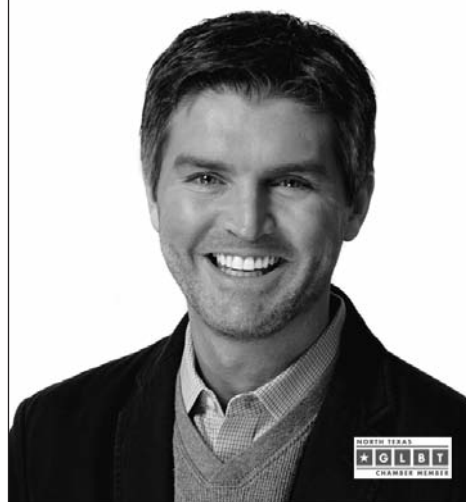
And he wants school staff to know how much bullying hurts.

"Everything you say affects someone," Elliott said. "I want teachers and staff to know it really hurts. Everything you say affects someone. Teachers and principals are ignorant to that. If you ignore it, it will fester." ■

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HOMECOMING QUEEN

From Page 1

Andy said she is also a good student, taking two advanced placement courses plus calculus and physics, and has never been in trouble at school.

But that, apparently, isn't enough to make her homecoming queen material in some people's eyes.

Andy said she always identified as female. And she made a promise to herself that once she started high school, she would be open about who she is.

Fortunately, her family is supportive. Andy's sister, Daisy Moreno, said Andy has always worn makeup but this year also began going to school in women's clothes. It was Daisy who contacted Dallas Voice when she found out school administrators weren't going to let Andy stay in the running for homecoming queen.

In addition to her sister's support, Andy also has the encouragement of her mother, who has helped make posters for Andy's homecoming queen campaign.

But Andy acknowledged that her mother worries about her.

"She warns me that people can be evil and I should watch how I present myself," she said.

Her father, she said, has been a bit more reticent. Still, "Dad's coming around in supporting me," she said, adding that she has never felt rejected in any way by her father.

Andy also has two younger brothers, ages 4 and 14. She said her teenage brother is "completely fine with" the fact that she is transgender.

She said that when their mother talked to her brother about the issue, she asked him if he was embarrassed to bring friends home.

His answer: "No, why would I?"

Andy said she has gone to school dances in a dress and never had a problem. In fact, she said she has had support from many other students and, surprisingly, by some of the staff members.

"The security guards, counselors, teachers — and the cafeteria ladies love me," she said.

Although the family lives in Pleasant Grove, Andy said she chose to attend North Dallas High School in Uptown because it was known for its diversity and tolerance.

She started transitioning in her freshman year, and in her sophomore year, a Gay-Straight Alliance formed at the school with the blessing of the principal at the time. Andy said he was very supportive of the group.

But since a new principal took over this year, Andy said, things have changed. "They watch us [the GSA] more than any other club," she said.

Andy said that the counselor, who is the GSA sponsor, told her recently that the administration didn't want her to run for homecoming queen, and that she should prepare herself for that opposition.

Earlier this week, she met with the principal and another woman she identified as a principal for the day who is also an attorney.

"She was asking me why I wanted to run," she said. "She asked, 'Why is this so important to



SISTERLY SUPPORT | Andy Moreno, left, has her family — including sister Daisy Moreno, right — and her friends backing her up in her bid to be the 2010 homecoming queen at North Dallas High. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

you?"

Daisy was upset over the way the two administrators had treated her sister. "The principal kept calling her a transvestite," she said. "She's not a transvestite."

Andy added, "She said, 'You're a gay man.' I told her I'm not and she said, 'Well, whatever you are.'"

But Andy said she doesn't think the principal is trying to hurt her. She thinks, instead, that the administration is afraid of what alumni attending the homecoming game on Friday night, Oct. 15, might say.

Because the principal is new, Andy suggested, she doesn't want to cause waves or attract what could be adverse publicity.

After Fox 4 News aired a story about Andy on Wednesday, Oct. 6, she said school was a little

awkward the next day.

She said friends told her she was the topic of discussion that day, and while most of her classmates were supporting her, a few voiced opposition to her run for homecoming queen.

Friends told Andy that their teachers set aside regular lessons for the day to discuss the issue. But her own teachers did not.

Andy said she didn't hear any nasty comments from students in school. But Daisy said comments like "You're a bitch" were posted on Andy's Facebook page.

Other comments — including "I'm embarrassed to have graduated from there. It's a homo school" — were posted on Andy's Facebook page and on her friends' pages.

But North Dallas High School has a zero tolerance policy for bullying. And Andy said two stu-

dents were given tickets by security guards this week for calling another boy a faggot. The students will have to appear in court downtown and will be required to pay fines.

Still, the principal has not been above making threats, Andy said.

"When I told her I could go to the media with the story, she said, 'Well, I could close down your GSA,'" Andy said.

She said the principal told her that she was only running for shock value.

"If I wanted to run for shock value, I would have run as king," Andy said.

But not all the faculty and staff take the same view as the principal. Andy said staff who saw her in school on Thursday, Oct. 7, told her to fight back. And she said the others running for homecoming queen are friends of hers and have encouraged her to stay in the race.

One friend was assigned to give a current event talk, and "She's making me her current event," Andy said.

"I've heard of parents who are mad at the principal for not giving me a chance to run," Andy said.

The principal has not spoken to the media and the Dallas Independent School District spokesperson did not return a call to Dallas Voice.

But DISD officials issued a statement that they supported the principal's right to decide how to handle the situation.

In her statement, DISD spokesperson Sandra Guerrero said the school district "is proud to have one of the most aggressive anti-harassment policies among school districts in the state of Texas."

Voting for finalists for homecoming king and queen was held on Tuesday and Wednesday. The top three vote-getters for king and top three for queen will be announced on Monday, Oct. 11.

Andy said that on the first day of voting, she seemed to be ahead. But on Wednesday, she said, an assistant principal was interfering with balloting, telling students who turned in a ballot with Andy's name on it that they could not vote for her and needed to choose someone else.

Andy said she has friends on the committee counting the ballots and will challenge the results if she believes she has won and is not allowed to move onto final balloting to be held at homecoming or to serve as queen.

She said that friends have been making Team Andy T-shirts and banners and her campaign posters remained up at the school. And, she said, her best friend is a male-to-female transsexual but is running for homecoming king.

And said she hopes they win the titles together.

While waiting for the ballots to be counted, Andy was planning to attend her first Youth First Texas meeting after a school counselor encouraged her to visit the youth center.

She said she hoped to talk to others who have been through similar situations and get some advice from them.

But she will still be spending the weekend waiting for Monday when she will find out if she is one of the finalists, and hoping for the chance to attend the homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 16, to take the floor with her trans friend as king and queen of the ball. ■

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LGBT groups call on DeMint to apologize for repeating old insult

S.C. Republican rubbed 'salt in the wound' when he repeated comments from 2004 saying gays shouldn't be teachers, Carey says

MEG KINNARD | Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — National gay and women's rights groups on Tuesday, Oct. 5, called on U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint to apologize for referencing his own six-year-old comments that gays and lesbians and some unmarried pregnant women should not be teaching in the state's public schools.

"It is salt in the wound in our community," said Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "It's irresponsible for Sen. DeMint to reassert this position in this day and age. I would ask him to apologize."

Carey was reacting to DeMint's remarks at an Oct. 1 appearance at a Spartanburg rally, where the Republican referenced the public backlash and quiet support that followed his 2004 comments that gays and lesbians and unmarried pregnant women with live-in boyfriends should

not be teaching in the state's public schools.

"No one came to my defense. But everyone would come to me and whisper that I shouldn't back down," DeMint said at the Greater Freedom Rally, according to a published report in the Herald-Journal of Spartanburg. "They don't want government purging their rights and their freedom of religion."

DeMint first addressed the issue in October 2004 during a televised debate with state Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum weeks before the election to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, D-S.C. The candidates were questioned about a state Republican Party platform item saying gays should not teach in public schools.

"I don't think they should," DeMint said then, adding that government should not endorse particular behaviors. "We need the folks that are teaching in schools to represent our values."

Tenenbaum replied by calling that stance "un-American."

Gay groups demanded an apology from DeMint, then a third-term congressman. During an interview with the Aiken Standard newspaper two days after the debate, DeMint expanded the list of people whom he thought should not teach

in public schools.

"I would have given the same answer when asked if a single woman, who was pregnant and living with her boyfriend, should be hired to teach my third grade children," said DeMint, who apologized a day later for that particular remark. "I just think the moral decisions are different with a teacher."

Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, said the comments underscore the importance of the coming midterm elections.

"Sen. DeMint is a bigot and a sexist and he doesn't belong in the U.S. Senate," O'Neill said. "Being conservative is one thing. Being hate-filled is different. Jim DeMint is hate."

On Tuesday, a DeMint spokesman said the Republican senator on Oct. 1 was merely making a point about attacks on people who speak out on morality issues.

"Senator DeMint believes that hiring decisions at local schools are a local school board issue, not a federal issue," spokesman Wesley Denton said. "He was making a point about how the media attacks people for holding a moral opinion."

One of DeMint's general election opponents said DeMint, who has spent months campaigning



Sen. Jim DeMint

for tea party-leaning candidates in other states in the run-up to the Nov. 2 elections, is referencing the comments to cater to far right-leaning voters.

"I consider his remarks as outrageous and out of step with the ma-

majority thinking in this state," said Tom Clements, an anti-nuclear activist and Green Party candidate. "Everything he says is very much calculated to appeal to a certain audience. ... He's feeling his oats right now, and he thinks he can get away with saying outrageous things that he thinks will resonate with the public."

An adviser to Democratic nominee Alvin Greene would not weigh in on DeMint's comments, and instead reiterated Greene's commitment to rejuvenating the state's education system, in part through an affiliation with the Department of Homeland Security.



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Local ASOs respond to disability proposals

New guidelines are more specific but would require qualifying for benefits every three years

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Institute of Medicine has published recommendations that would change guidelines for people living with HIV to apply for Social Security disability.

Bret Camp, Resource Center Dallas' associate executive director for health and medical services, said the recommendations are a starting point for discussions about changing those qualifications.

To qualify, the institute recommended that a person's T-cell count would have to be less than 50. Currently, a count of 200 or lower is generally needed to qualify.

The other major change is that persons qualifying after new rules take effect would have to re-qualify every three years. Currently, disability payments are for life.

Certain AIDS-related illnesses would qualify someone for disability payments no matter what the CD4-cell count is. Wasting syndrome, for example, would impair a person's ability to function, the Institute of Medicine report said. Dementia, AIDS-related cancers, heart disease or hepatitis are other conditions they list that would qualify a person for disability payments.

"These seem fairly reasonable to me," said AIDS Arms Executive Director Raeline Nobles. "Perhaps I would consider a CD4 of 100 rather than 50 — 50 does seem very low and indicates rather extreme health vulnerability."

She said that by the time someone has a CD4 cell count of 50, chances are they have already experienced an opportunistic infection.

"However, current treatment, if ongoing and proactive and of high quality, does do miraculous things these days even for people with CD4s who drop well below 50," she said.

"The Social Security Administration is beginning to revise the listing criteria for every condition starting with HIV," Camp said. "Reevaluation has always been a goal for SSA."

He said that because of strides in treatment of HIV over the last 15 years, this was a good place to start.

Current guidelines are not as specific, he said. Camp said he likes the specific enumeration of certain AIDS-related cancers and other infections.

He said he has worked with people who have been denied benefits with a CD4 cell count of 200 and seen people with a higher count receive them.

Nobles worried about compromising access to



Bret Camp

treatment because disability status impacts Medicare eligibility.

"That would be disastrous," she said. "Sure, HIV treatment has come a long way — for those who have ongoing access to that treatment administered by specialists in the field. And therein lies the problem."

Nobles is also worried about unforeseen problems with the changes.

"Often governmental entities seem to forget that a change in one area ripples throughout the entire system of care and support and has ramifications they should have thought about, but didn't until it's too late and significant issues/problems emerge," she said.

Steve Dutton, executive director of Samaritan House in Fort Worth, said the proposed changes don't surprise him.

"It's going to be tough," he said.

Dutton said he likes the addition of certain specific categories that qualify people for disability but worries about those who don't quite fit into those categories.

"I hope there are still some gray areas," he said.

Dutton also wondered about the motive.

"They'll look for every opportunity to minimize the number of people covered," he said.

He agreed that those who manage their disease well can go back to work without further need for disability payments.

But he worries about those who became ill and are too sick toward the end of the three-year period to go through the bureaucratic paperwork to qualify again.

For more on the report go online to iom.edu/Reports/2010/HIV-and-Disability-Updating-the-Social-Security-Listings.aspx

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Dallas rate of new HIV infections higher than national average

New statistics released by CDC examine infection rates in MSM in 21 major metro areas

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In September, the Centers for Disease Control issued new HIV statistics for men who have sex with men in 21 metropolitan areas.

They tested 8,153 men and found HIV prevalence was 28 percent among blacks, 18 percent among Hispanics and 16 percent among whites. In Dallas, 461 men participated in the study.

The statistics were worse for Dallas than the 21 cities as a whole. Nationally, 19 percent of those tested were positive. In Dallas, 26 percent were positive. About 44 percent of those who tested positive in the full survey were previously unaware of their status. In Dallas, 54 percent were previously unaware.

In Houston, the same percentage tested positive as in Dallas, but only 23 percent were previously unaware of their status.

Only Philadelphia, Detroit and San Juan had higher percentages of participants than Dallas who did not previously know their status. Each

of those cities scored more than 70 percent unaware. Only Baltimore and New York City revealed a higher percentage of new HIV infections than Dallas or Houston.

The study found that HIV prevalence dropped with higher education levels and with higher in-

come levels. Positive testing increased with age but those in their 30s were most likely to be unaware of their status. ■

For more on the report go online to cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5937a2.htm?s_cid=mm5937a2_w

Forum set to promote HIV awareness

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Resource Center Dallas will hold a community forum seeking input to expand awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS in an effort to battle the growing rate of HIV/AIDS in Dallas County, on Tuesday, Oct. 12, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the center, 2701 Reagan St.

The forum is being held in collaboration with Dallas County and other community partners. It is free and open to the public.

Bret Camp, associate executive director for health and medical services at the center, said, "The goal is to lay groundwork for a community-driven effort that will reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS, and to increase awareness of the services available to the public."

He noted that a recent CDC study found that in

2008, one in five — or 19 percent of — men who have sex with men in 21 major U.S. cities are infected with HIV. Nearly half — 44 percent — were unaware of their infection.

The forum is part of the "Greater Than AIDS" project which responds to the AIDS crisis in the United States by targeting the severe and disproportionate epidemic among the gay community and African-Americans. The effort aims to raise knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS and confronts the stigma surrounding the disease.

Resource Center's forum concentrates on gay men and will target communities most heavily affected, based on HIV/AIDS incidence and prevalence data, to ensure its success. Information gained will be used in strategic planning to reduce the number of HIV cases in the Dallas metropolitan area. ■

AOC BEGINS GROUP FOR SERODISCORDANT COUPLES

FORT WORTH — AIDS Outreach Center of Tarrant County begins its "Magnetic Couples Group" for serodiscordant — or mixed serostatus — same-sex couples on Friday, Oct. 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Allen Gould, the center's executive director, explained that serodiscordant couples face all the same issues and problems that all couples face, but serodiscordant couples also must deal with additional issues, such as worries that the HIV-positive partner might infect the HIV-negative partner. And both partners in a mixed serostatus couple have to deal with the side effects of the medications the positive partner has to take.

Concerns about health and health disparities can cause feelings of resentment and can strain the relationship, Gould said, sometimes causing a "serious lack of balance" between partners.

AIDS Outreach Center's "Magnetic Couples Group" is intended to help serodiscordant couples address those issues in a safe and confidential environment. The group will give couples the chance to talk about health, finances, guilt, communication, sexual intimacy and more.

The group will meet every Friday for six weeks, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at AIDS Outreach Center, 400 North Beach St. in Fort Worth. For more information call Bill or Ashley at 817-916-5291.



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Texas Republican seeking to intervene in marriage cases

Lamar Smith claims a 'protectable interest' in defending DOMA in Massachusetts lawsuits

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

Claiming that the Obama Department of Justice is not doing enough to defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act, U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, the Republican who represents Texas' 21st district, has asked a federal court for permission to serve as an intervenor-defendant in two cases expected to come before the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

The Alliance Defense Fund announced Tuesday, Oct. 5, that it had filed motions on behalf of Smith in the U.S. District Court for Boston, where Judge Joseph Tauro had ruled — in two cases — that one part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional.

The Department of Justice still has until Oct. 12 and Health and Human Services has until Oct. 18 to give the court notice of whether the federal government intends to appeal those decisions.

In its Oct. 5 motions to intervene, the ADF claims the Department of Justice is mounting "no defense at all" for DOMA. The lawsuits in question challenge only DOMA Section 3, the section that limits the interpretation of "marriage" for any federal purpose to heterosexual couples.

"We should be strengthening and protecting marriage, not subjecting it to a hostile takeover through the courts," said Dale Schowengerdt, legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, in a press release. "If the Obama administration won't defend marriage, we are ready and willing to do so."

ADF claims the DOJ has failed to raise certain crucial arguments in defense of DOMA. For instance, it argues that DOJ should have noted that the U.S. Supreme Court's "decision" in the 1972 Baker v. Nelson "was binding precedent that DOMA is constitutional."

"Under the new administration, which strongly supports DOMA's repeal, the DOJ traded these winning rationales for anemic arguments never recognized by any court in a challenge to DOMA or a similar state marriage definition," states the ADF's motion to intervene.

Actually, the Supreme Court did not issue a "decision" in Baker; it dismissed the appeal of a gay couple who had sought a marriage license in Minnesota.

Dismissing an appeal has more significance than simply refusing to hear the appeal. But, in dismissing the Baker appeal, the high court explained it was doing so because there was no "substantial federal question" presented by the

case.

There is dispute within legal circles as to whether that dismissal means anything today.

And Mary Bonauto, civil rights director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders that brought one of the DOMA lawsuits, said the lawsuits here are not — like Baker — about marriage.

Bonauto also said she wasn't surprised to learn of ADF's motion to intervene.

"The ADF tries to intervene in everything," said Bonauto. "We're just surprised it took this long."

Bonauto said her organization would oppose Smith's motion to intervene "on multiple grounds."

The motions to intervene will be decided by Judge Tauro sometime during the next few weeks or so. Bonauto said she doesn't imagine the motions will be granted if the federal government decides to appeal the two cases.

The ADF motion claims that Rep. Smith has a "protectable interest" in the outcome of these lawsuits because, as ranking minority member of the House Judiciary Committee, he has a duty to see that federal laws "are fully defended and that adverse decisions are appealed."

The motion says Smith asked Attorney General Eric Holder, by letter, on Aug. 9, whether DOJ intends to appeal the DOMA cases. DOJ had not yet made a decision, notes ADF.

"[I]t is difficult to understand to DOJ's indecision," says ADF's brief.

Attorneys for the HHS have until Tuesday, Oct. 12, to file notice that they intend to appeal the decision in the state's case, Massachusetts v. HHS. DOJ attorneys have until Oct. 18 to file notice of appeal in GLAD's case, Gill v. Office of Personnel Management. GLAD's Bonauto said it is common for the appealing party to give the court notice of its appeal in the last couple of days remaining to do so.

Thus, the timing of ADF's motion could have the political benefit of appearing to prod DOJ and HHS to file notice. But Arthur Leonard, a long-time legal scholar on LGBT cases, says it's also not unusual for Smith to file the intervenor motion.

"There have been occasions in the past where members of Congress have sought to intervene in order to present what they think would be stronger arguments than the Justice Department is likely to present, especially when the administration that is defending the statute is different from the administration that signed it into law," said Leonard.

"But," he added, "to the extent this is about getting particular arguments before the court of appeals, I can't imagine that an appeal of the DOMA case won't attract plenty of amicus briefs that would make all the arguments that Rep. Smith would want to make."

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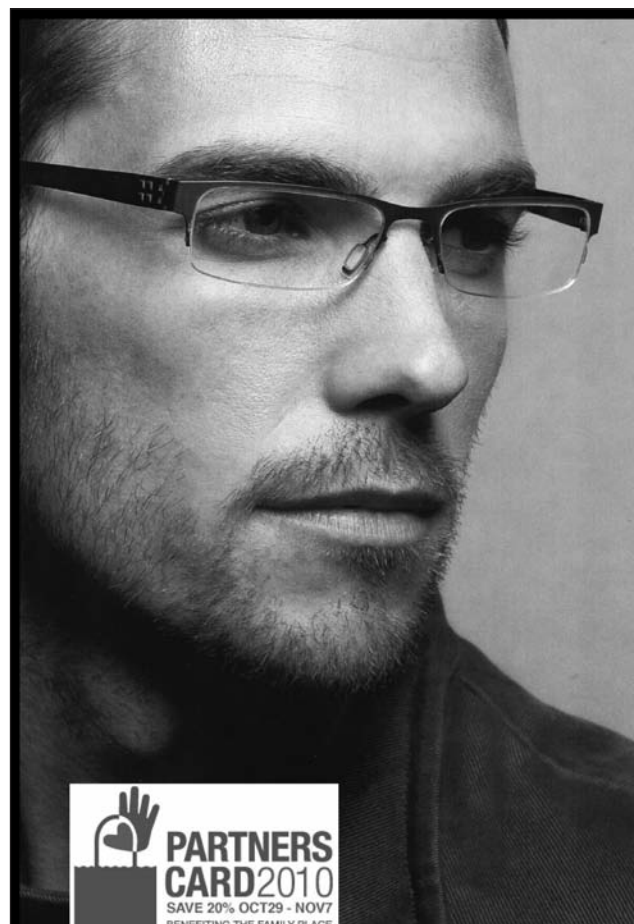
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■ election2010

Mid-term elections to determine 8 Dallas, Tarrant House seats

Scandal could hurt area's lone House Democrat, but Johnson still expected to win re-election

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

As the midterm elections grow closer, Republicans are hoping to ride a wave of anti-incumbent sentiment to majorities in both houses of Congress. That would mean hanging on to the seven seats already held by Republican incumbents in Dallas and Tarrant counties, and possibly ousting a longtime Democratic incumbent who has recently been rattled by scandal.

U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas has held the District 30 seat in the House since 1992 and hasn't faced a serious challenge to re-election — until this year. In early September, her Republican opponent, Stephen Broden, released documents showing that Johnson had funneled several thousand dollars in Congressional Black Caucus Foundation scholarships to her own relatives and to the children of one of her top aides.

Johnson has since apologized, repaid the scholarships herself and restructured her committee that allocates scholarship funds. But the scandal has given Broden a seemingly secure foothold in his campaign for what has long been considered an unassailable Democratic seat.

Johnson's district includes a large LGBT population, and Erin Moore, president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, said this week that if Broden were to defeat Johnson, it would be a significant blow to those LGBT constituents.

Johnson has long been considered one of the community's staunchest allies in the U.S. House. She has consistently received a 100 percent rating from the Human Rights Campaign, which ranks Congress members based on their votes on LGBT issues.

Johnson has supported federal legislation to ban employment discrimination against LGBT people (ENDA), federal hate crimes laws including LGBT people and efforts to repeal the law prohibiting gays from serving openly in the military (DADT), according to the nonpartisan website OnTheIssues.org.

She has voted against an anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendment and a bill that would have banned adoption by gays and lesbians, the website notes.



Rep. Eddie B. Johnson



Stephen Broden

OnTheIssues.org ranks members of Congress, based on their voting records and stated positions on specific issues, on a spectrum ranging from "hard-core liberal" to "hard-core conservative." Johnson, according to the website, is a hard-core liberal.

Broden, on the other hand, has publicly stated his opposition to legislation banning anti-LGBT discrimination in employment and to LGBT-inclusive hate crimes legislation. The candidate recently appeared on The Glenn Beck Show on Fox News,

and said that the hate crimes law is "used to knock Christians around and keep them silent, from speaking out in America today," and that employment non-discrimination legislation is "bullying people and pushing Christians into hiring people they should not hire."

On his campaign website, Broden lists "Family and Faith" among the issues important to him, saying: "As the family goes so goes the nation. I will fight for policies that strengthen marriage, not destroy it. I firmly believe that our nation was founded on the principles of the Judeo-Christian heritage. These principles are the bedrock of our success as a nation and as a people. Our nation's traditions of faith are under attack by the forces of political correctness. I intend to reinforce those principles and traditions while serving in our nation's capitol."

Moore said this week she expects Johnson to win re-election, but not by as wide of margins as in the past.

"I think he [Broden] is going to hurt her [Johnson]," Moore said. "I don't think he will win, but he will hurt her. She has had 80 percent to 100 percent approval ratings [from her constituents] all

■ HOUSE RACES, Next Page

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■ **HOUSE RACES**, From Previous Page

along, but I think this race will be a wake-up call for her."

Moore acknowledged that Johnson "has surely made some mistakes," but said Stonewall Democrats are still endorsing her re-election bid.

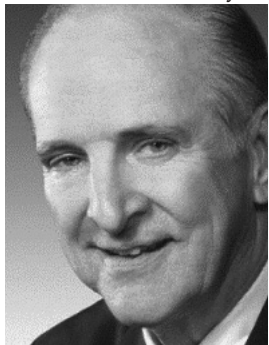
"She has been an exemplary representative for her district and for civil rights through the years, and we still strongly endorse her. But this [scandal] is a big chink in her armor, and she needs to get out there and work to win some voters back," Moore said.

Libertarian J.B. Oswalt is also running for the District 30 seat. Moore said she knows nothing about Oswalt, or any of the Libertarian candidates on the ballot, and Dallas Voice was unable to find a website for Oswalt.

According to CampaignMoney.com, as of the latest reporting deadline, he had not raised any campaign donations, nor had he reported any campaign expenditures.

District 3

Republican Rep. Sam Johnson has held the District 3 seat in Texas' Congressional delegation since he was first sent to Washington in a special election in 1991, and like his Democratic colleague in District 30, has rarely faced any serious opposition to his re-election.



Rep. Sam Johnson

Moore, however, said Democratic candidate John Lingenfelder is putting up a good fight this year.

District 3 has been called "the most Republican district" in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex — the office having been held by a Republican since 1968 — and Sam Johnson has been one of the most conservative lawmakers in Congress during his 20 years in office.



John Lingenfelder

He has consistently received a score of 0 percent from HRC, having voted against ENDA, against hate crimes legislation and against the repeal of DADT. He has voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act, in favor of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and in favor of a bill that would have banned adoption by same-sex couples in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his 0 percent rating by HRC, Sam Johnson has received a 7 percent rating on civil rights issues by the ACLU, an 11 percent rating by the NAACP and a 0 percent rating from Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

OnTheIssues.org classifies Johnson as a "hard-

core conservative."

"Sam Johnson is pretty vehement on our issues, and he is vehemently against us," Moore said. "Still, he's not one of the ones who is out there authoring or championing legislation against us. He just always votes against us. He is pretty much just a seat warmer."

Lingenfelder asked for and received Stonewall's endorsement, and Moore said he is "a good guy who's running a pretty good campaign. But like always, beating an incumbent will be hard, especially in some of the outlying regions of the district."

She added, "We always try to do what we can to support a Democrat running against an entrenched Republican like Sam Johnson, the kind who aren't really moving toward anything but are just holding the ground they have."

The Libertarian in the District 3 race is Christopher J. Claytor of Plano. On his website, Claytor says he is "habitually devoted to the principles that the United States was founded on: personal freedom, individual responsibility and limited government as stated in the Constitution of the United States and Bill of Rights."

His primary focus is promoting "fiscal responsibility and smaller government," and according to his website, Claytor is "socially tolerant, desiring that every American should be able to live their life the way they want, as long as they do not infringe on the rights of others to do the same."

District 5

Republican incumbent Jeb Hensarling faces challenges from Democrat Tom Berry and Libertarian Ken Ashby in his bid for re-election in District 5.

Stonewall Democrats have endorsed Berry in that race. But, Moore said, "I haven't seen a lot of his campaign, and I'm really not willing to comment on that one."

Berry's website includes no information on LGBT issues, focusing instead on Berry's call to "put America back to work."

Hensarling is another Texas Republican with a consistent 0 percent rating from HRC. He also earned a 17 percent rating from the NAACP and a 0 percent rating from Americans for Separation of Church and State.

He has voted against ENDA, against the hate crimes law and for the anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendment. OnTheIssues.org describes Hensarling as a hard-core conservative.

Ashby lives in Plano, but Dallas Voice was unable to locate a website for the Libertarian candidate. CampaignMoney.com lists no donations to or campaign expenditures by Ashby.

District 6

District 6 has long been a Republican stronghold, with Rep. Joe Barton winning re-election easily in every election since he first took the seat in 1984, following Republican Phil Gramm who left the House to campaign for — and win — one of Texas' two seats in the Senate.

But his comments to BP CEO Tony Hayward

■ **HOUSE RACES**, Page 22

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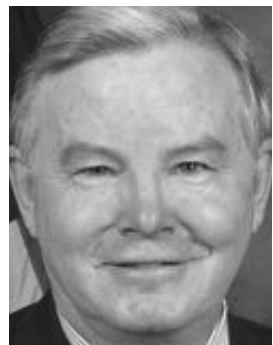
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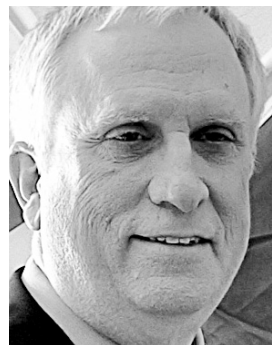
From Page 21

during a congressional hearing on the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in which Barton apologized to Hayward for the Obama administration's "shakedown" of the company, may have opened the door to his opponents this time around — at least a tiny crack.

OnTheIssues.org ranks Barton has a hard-core conservative, and his votes on LGBT issues have always shored up his conservative credentials. He voted against ENDA, against repeal of DADT and against hate crimes legislation, and for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.



Rep. Joe Barton



David Cozad

Barton has a 0 percent ranking from HRC, a 7 percent ranking from the ACLU, a 19 percent ranking from the NAACP and a 0 percent ranking from Americans for Separation of Church and State.

David Cozad, his Democratic opponent, has the endorsement of

Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats. A spokesman for the group said Tarrant County Stonewall had endorsed the full slate of Democratic candidates, but was not actively working for Congressional candidates because "we are a state PAC, so there are limits to what we can do for federal candidates."

Cozad's website does not include information on LGBT issues.

Libertarian Byron Severns is also challenging Barton. Severns' website does not include information on LGBT issues, but does note that he is pro-life and advocates for the reversal of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

CampaignMoney.com lists no donations or campaign expenditures for Severns.

District 12

Rep. Kay Granger became the first Republican woman to represent Texas in the U.S. House when she won her first term in Congress in 1996. Her only serious challenge to re-election came in 2000 against Democrat Mark Greene.

Like other North Texas Republicans, OnTheIssues.org ranks Granger as a hard-core conservative, and HRC has consistently given her a 0 percent rating on LGBT issues. She has received a 14 percent ranking from the ACLU and a 22 percent ranking from the NAACP.

Granger has voted against ENDA, hate crimes

legislation and repeal of DADT, and she voted for the anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendment.

Granger faces Democrat Tracey Smith and Libertarian Matthew Solodow in the 2010 election.

Smith also has the endorsement of Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats, but his website includes no information on LGBT issues.

Solodow also does not address LGBT issues on his website.

District 24

Republican incumbent Kenny Marchant has no Democratic challenger in the general election, but does face opposition from Libertarian David Sparks.

Marchant, who lives in Coppell, won the District 24 seat in 2004 from longtime incumbent Democrat Martin Frost after the district was significantly reconfigured by the Texas Legislature in 2003. Marchant was in the Texas House and serving on the Redistricting Committee at the time District 24 was redrawn.

Since being elected to Congress, Marchant has voted against ENDA, against the hate crimes law and in favor of amending the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

He has been given a 0 percent rating by HRC, a 22 percent rating by the NAACP and a 0 percent rating by Americans for Separation of Church and State. OnTheIssues.org calls Marchant a hard-core conservative.

Sparks is a minister who lives in Carrollton, and according to his website the primary issues of his campaign are "lower taxes, less government and more personal liberty." However, his website also describes him as "an unwavering advocate of pro-life and pro-family values."

District 26

Democrat Neil L. Durrance of Denton is challenging incumbent Republican Michael C. Burgess in District 26, and Moore said the Democrat is "a good guy with a good record in Denton County."

Durrance is "a very strong candidate, and he has a really good chance in this election," Moore said.

She said Stonewall Democrats have endorsed Durrance in the race.

Burgess first won the District 26 seat in 2004 after defeating Scott Army in a Republican Primary runoff. Scott Army was the son of longtime District 26 Congressman Dick Army and was expected to win the race, however local media reports that he had used his influence to get county jobs and contracts for his friends.

Burgess has carried on Dick Army's congressional legacy of being an opponent of LGBT rights, voting against ENDA and for the anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendment.

He has a 0 percent rating from HRC, a 36 percent rating from the NAACP and a 0 percent rating from Americans for Separation of Church and State.

OnTheIssues.org describes Burgess as a hard-core conservative.

Libertarian Mark Boler is also running for the

District 26 seat. Dallas Voice was unable to find a website for Boler's campaign, and CampaignMoney.com lists no donations and no campaign expenditures for him.

District 32

Incumbent Republican Pete Sessions faces Democrat Grier Raggio and Libertarian John Jay Myers in his bid for re-election in District 32, and Moore called the possibility of a Democratic win in that race "the holy grail."

"We keep trying to win that one, and trying hard," Moore said. "There have been some more or less significant candidates running in that district, but Sessions is still there."



Rep. Pete Sessions



Grier Raggio

Moore said Raggio has "a good name and a significant history in Texas politics, and I really hope we do pull that one out. It would be cause for celebration, for sure."

Raggio is an attorney whose parents were also attorneys well known for their work in civil rights. His mother, Louise, was a national leader in winning equal rights for women, and his wife, Lorraine, is a civil district judge in Dallas County.

Moore said that Stonewall Democrats have endorsed

Raggio, adding that "there are three levels of candidates that we endorse. There are the advocates who really get out there and fight for us. There are the allies who vote with us but don't initiate legislation on our behalf. And then there are the 'do no harm' candidates, the ones who don't fight for us or always vote with us, but who don't fight against us, either."

"Grier Raggio is certainly not a liberal. He is very moderate in a lot of ways, but he has been very supportive of Stonewall Democrats, and he has been supportive of our fiscally supportive issues like ENDA," Moore continued. "When it comes to [same-sex marriage], he is a middle-of-the-roader, someone who supports civil unions but not marriage. But given that district, he is probably the only kind of Democrat who could possibly win. And given who is in there now, I will gladly wear a Raggio sign 'til Election Day if that will get him elected."

Sessions was first elected to Congress in 1996 as the District 5 representative, and was re-elected twice before redistricting in 2000 made that district more Democratic. He then moved to District 32 and won that congressional seat in 2002.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Sessions has consistently voted against LGBT issues, in-

cluding ENDA, DADT repeal and hate crimes legislation. He has voted in favor of the anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendment and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Sessions has gotten a 0 percent rating from HRC, a 7 percent rating from the ACLU, an 8 percent rating from the NAACP and a 0 percent rating from Americans for Separation of Church and State.

Sessions has, in the past year, appeared at meetings of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, and last month received an award from the national Log Cabin Republicans organization for "serving [the] country with distinction in the model of the late Sen. Barry Goldwater." Sessions had agreed to attend Log Cabin's national dinner, at which the award was presented, but canceled shortly before the dinner in order to attend a House GOP Caucus meeting.

Myers, on his website, does not specifically address LGBT issues, but lists "personal freedom" as one of his priorities.

"Any government that dictates morality and invades privacy is not a small government," Myers' website says. "What part of America being a free country do they not understand?"

Although not specifically mentioning same-sex marriage, Myers does address the issue of marriage in general on his website:

"The reality is that marriage is none of government's business. People do not have to ask permission to get married; it's their right to do so with whomever they please, whenever they please. When we surrender the power of marriage to government by asking for their permission, we give them the power to deny our rights, just as recently happened in Louisiana when a couple was denied a marriage license on account of their skin color. We should never give power over marriage to government. People are free to retain that power themselves," his website says.

Anti-Democrat wave?

Although Republicans are hoping to ride the energy of the Tea Party movement to majorities in both houses of Congress, Moore said this week she thinks the idea of voters being anti-Democratic or anti-incumbent are too simplistic.

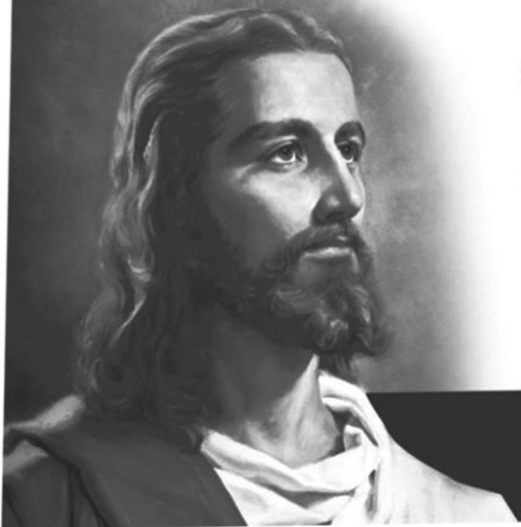
"I don't think it's anti-Democratic, and I don't think it's anti-incumbent," Moore said. "I think it's anti-inheritance. And by that, I mean that the ones who have held their seats forever and done nothing will get

ousted. ... People are really paying attention now, and they are not giving anyone a free pass anymore. If you are an incumbent who's doing a good job, you'll be OK. But if you have been just a seat warmer, then you are in trouble."

Rob Schlein, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, did not return calls seeking comment for this article. ■



Erin Moore



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gay couple.** Matthew 8:5-13

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Hope is a dangerous thing ...

... And the LGBT community must find a way to give hope to youth struggling against bullying, bigotry and discrimination

“Hope is a dangerous thing,” a line from the movie *The Shawshank Redemption*, is a concept our community should embrace.

Like you, I have been deeply disturbed by recent reports of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender teen suicides. As heartbreaking as they are, the greater tragedy may be that such suicides have been happening all along, but no one has paid any attention.

Studies have shown repeatedly that LGBT teens are four times more likely to attempt suicide. But, until recently, that has been a statistic without faces and names. Perhaps now these young men will force our country to pay attention.

That is faint consolation, but it does mean their lives and deaths won't be in vain.

It is tempting to rail against fundamentalist religions of all stripes that have given the “moral” justification for an atmosphere of bullying and abuse. Fundamentalist Islam leads to suicide bombers, and fundamentalist Christianity leads to suicidal teenagers.

Our anger at them is justified, but, ultimately, it doesn't do much to help the problem.

So what can we in the LGBT community do? How can we help?

Well, this is where hope comes in.

For 22 years, I was a leader at the Cathedral of Hope. Although I am no longer there, the memories I relish most are the times I talked to people who discovered that what their fundamentalist parents or church had said about them had been a lie. They were angry, angry enough to get in-

involved and do something.

Too often our anger turns to cynicism, so we practice “horizontal violence,” taking our anger out on one another. Rumors and gossip and catty remarks aimed at one another will not change the world or heal our own wounds.

We are also prone to turn our anger inward, and all too many members of our community struggle with depression.

It is well past time that we put our anger where it belongs. Let it energize us to volunteer, write letters, post Facebook rants and come out. (After all, Monday, Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day.) We must use the energy of our life to change things.

All of us have had times when we felt rejected, oppressed and depressed. Most of us overcame those feelings. Remember how you did it and then figure out a way you can help others.

Are there places you can volunteer where, as an openly gay or lesbian person, you might give hope to a child who is growing up feeling different? Isn't it past time you spoke to your family and told them the truth about how right-wing policy and fundamentalist religion is hurting you personally?

Next time a co-worker makes a homophobic joke, pull them aside and tell them that, while you aren't thin-skinned, it worries you that those kinds of remarks are why so many gay and lesbian kids commit suicide.

I have a dear friend named Daryl who turned 50 this week. He has had AIDS for almost 30 years. At his party, we played that Gloria Gaynor song, “I Will Survive.”

He is my hero because, even before there were any treatments for HIV, he fought the disease and led small group programs for men who had only their attitudes to see them through. He came out as a person living with AIDS in a day when there were no protections and much bigotry.

It wasn't enough for him simply to survive; he worked to help others who were in the same boat.

You and I are in the same boat as those teenagers. It isn't enough for us to have survived to adulthood. We have a moral obligation to challenge and confront oppression every chance we get.

Oh, yes, it might cost us. Many years ago, I was fired as a pastor for being gay and, later, I was fired as a therapist for speaking at a gay Pride rally. I've had my tires slashed and the paint on my car scratched nearly off. Two churches I served were firebombed. I have been picketed and spat upon, and have had numerous death

threats through the years.

Yes, this fight can cost you, but my only regret is that I wasn't able to do more.

Hopefully, there is still time. Hopefully, there is still time for you, too.

We can, and must, change the world in which teenage lesbian and gay people are growing up. We must do so in a public way so that they have hope.

It will terrify our fundamentalist and right-wing friends because, “Hope is a dangerous thing.”

The Rev. Michael Piazza is president of Hope for Peace & Justice, a nonprofit organization that is equipping progressive people of faith to be champions for peace and justice. He also serves as co-executive director of the Center for Progressive Renewal, which is renewing progressive Christianity by training new entrepreneurial leaders, supporting the birth of new liberal/progressive congregations, and by renewing and strengthening existing progressive churches. He served the Cathedral of Hope for 22 years, first as senior pastor and later as dean.

Lamar Smith has questions to answer

Texas Republican is throwing stones over ‘secret negotiations,’ but he's got conflicts of interest of his own

On April 22, 2010, House Judiciary Committee ranking member Lamar Smith of Texas and House Oversight and Government Reform Committee ranking member Darrell Issa of California — both Republicans — asked asked nine automobile company CEOs to answer questions about their “secret negotiations” with the Obama administration on setting greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards under the Clean Air Act.

“Given the clear conflict of interest issues at play, which naturally arise when the government is in a position to pick winners and losers and the future viability of private entities, it's imperative to act with the utmost of transparency,” Smith said, regarding the secret greenhouse emission arrangement.

Smith — the fifth richest member of the Texas



Rev. Michael Piazza
Special Contributor

The deadline was Oct. 1. Are you registered to vote?

CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE AT DALLASVOICE.COM

speake out poll

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

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

- Yes: 46 percent **69** Votes cast
- No: 34 percent
- Don't know: 20 percent

delegation to Congress, vehemently anti-gay and a former partner of the law firm of Maebius and Duncan — has some “secret negotiation” issues himself that he needs to explain to Texas voters.

From 1989 to 2010, Smith received \$403,547 in political campaign donations from big oil and gas companies.

Valero Energy and Lewis Oil, a distributor for Chevron, donated thousands of dollars to his campaign. Smith’s former law firm partner, Jeb Mabius Jr., worked for the Gulf Oil Company rebranded as Chevron in the 1980s.

The apparent conflict of interest doesn’t end there. Smith co-sponsored House Congressional Resolution 417, which would open the Outer Continental Shelf and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil shale reserves exploration and extraction.

Smith is a staunch advocate for big oil companies and is opposed to the American Clean Energy and Security Act, stating it would raise gas prices and eliminate more than 2 million jobs.

According to the University of California at Berkley, the ACES bill would boost annual



C.D. Kirven
Special Contributor

household income by \$1,200 and create more than 1.9 million jobs.

So, why does our state representative oppose the bill that would limit green house emissions and help kick start our fledgling job market? I will allow you to decide as I lay out the results of my investigation.

Smith and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, a Wisconsin Republican, recently submitted a brief to the federal appellate court in Case No.

09-17490, arguing that the U.S. Constitution gives the legislative and executive branches, not judiciary, the authority to make political determinations about the impacts or injury as a result of greenhouse emissions.

Around 400 indigenous villagers of the city of Kivalina, Alaska, claim they were forced to relocate due to floods destroying their homes and business — floods that they feel were a result of global warming.

The villagers, with the help of Steve Susman, filed a lawsuit against the big oil companies whose business operations, they felt, were responsible for the global warming that lead to the

destruction of their city.

The oil companies in question included ExxonMobil, BP America, Chevron and other big oil producers.

Are you starting to see a pattern? Why would a Texas representative file a brief in an Alaskan case? Why would Lamar Smith want to stop the court from determining damages that were a result of global warming?

Once the head of the Ethics Committee and currently up for re-election, Smith needs to answer what appears to be a quid pro quo issue.

So my questions are, given the clear conflict of interest issues at play — which naturally arise when the government is in a position to pick winners and losers and the future viability of private entities — will Lamar Smith resolve the issues around questionable campaign donations? Will he explain his opposition to the ACES bill? Will the Texas Ethic Commission investigate these issues? ■

C.D. Kirven is an activist and the Lambda Literary Award-nominated author of the book What Goes Around Comes Back Around. She is also a former GetEqual member and co-founder of Get Equal Now, a founding board member of DFW Pride Movement, an artist and a filmmaker who created the first LGBT



U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith

cell phone documentary about same-sex intimate partner abuse. She has an online clothing line at Zazzle.com/cdkirven and is editing her online reality show about her life called: SOULPRINT. She is currently working on a screenplay, her second book and a documentary. E-mail her at cdkirven@aol.com.

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query 10.08.10

BY DAVID TAFFET

Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day. Why is it important to come out and be out?

Jon Lee Hart — “Because the more people who know someone in the LGBT community, the harder it is for them to hate.”

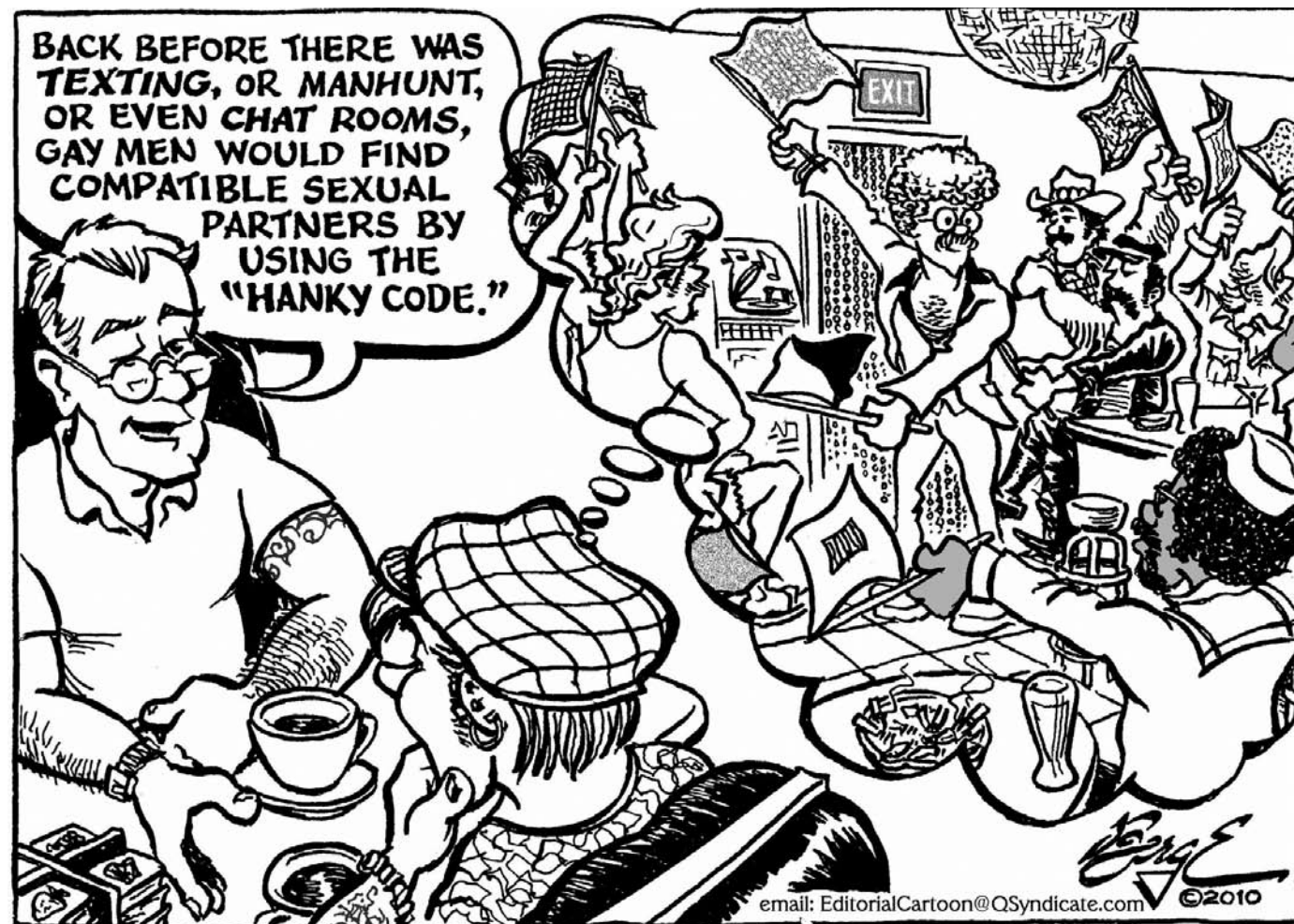
Carl Smith — “So the rest of the world can see we are just like them, only with better taste.”

Lisa Dub Windsor — “Coming out is one of the most important things you can do to help in the fight for equality.”

Ron Zabornie — “To set an example to others to accept themselves and be free.”

Gregg S. Gunter — “It is important to live your life fully, out of the closet. It makes for a better, more secure and authentic person if you live your life openly and with honor.”

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



email: EditorialCartoon@QSyndicate.com ©2010

SHOW VS. SHOW

Mother
& child
reunion

On the same weekend, Dallas gets Liza Minnelli at the DSO and Debbie Gravitte in a Judy Garland tribute

Call it serendipity, but when Liza Minnelli stops by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra the same weekend as Irving Arts Center's tribute to Judy Garland, we have to shed a tear. In a very special installment of Show vs. Show, we couldn't resist pitting "mother" against daughter.

Minnelli is an icon in so many ways. Whether she's a movie legend based on her Oscar-winning star turn as Sally Bowles in 1972's *Cabaret* or as a drag queen go-to with that signature short hair and adorable warbly voice, Minnelli is literally the stuff of legends — hardly the case with many of today's stars.

But she's also *Liza*. As in the woman who keeps marrying the non-marrying kind (translation: gay) or the lady who always seems a bit on the nutty end of the ice cream bar, We wonder, "What is up with her?" And we love her just for that.

An *Evening With Judy Garland* showcases Debbie Gravitte singing signature Garland tunes on the anniversary of Judy's famous Carnegie Hall show. Don't expect a Rufus Wainwright type recreation: Gravitte and music director Michael Berkowitz inject their own personalities into the show (see sidebar).

Will Liza's legendary status trump the weekend, or will Gravitte knock this show out of the park? Choices, choices...

— Rich Lopez



Liza

.... is a true diva with an Oscar, Tony and an Emmy to her name.

.... married some friends of Dorothy.

.... embarrassingly performed Beyonce's "Single Ladies" on the *Sex and the City 2* soundtrack — which we hope she doesn't do at this show.

.... was on Larry King recently, expressing sympathy and empathy for Lindsay Lohan's drug use and alcoholism.

.... had her solo Broadway show, *Liza's At the Palace...!*, replacing the musical *Legally Blonde*.

.... had a small comeback in 1989 by going in a different musical direction with her album *Results*, produced by the Pet Shop Boys.

.... hocked her velvet jumpsuits on Home Shopping Network.

.... has embraced her gay icon status, even performing at Pride in Paris last year.

.... performs with Dallas Symphony Orchestra at the Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Oct 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. \$45-\$122. DallasSymphony.com.



Judy (aka Debbie)

.... got a miniature Oscar for her role as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* — ouch. (Gravitte has her own Tony, though, for *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*).

.... Was Dorothy. And she married some friends of Dorothy. Apparently a genetic trait.

.... embarrassingly messed up some of the words in her famous Carnegie Hall appearance. Still, "Single Ladies" trumps that.

.... was the Lindsay Lohan of her day. Minus the paparazzi.

.... had her Carnegie show recreated detail for detail by gay singer Rufus Wainwright.

.... had several comebacks including Oscar-nominated performances in *A Star is Born* and *Judgment at Nuremberg*

.... had a better idea with that red velvet gown from *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

.... embraced gay men as husbands but responded to a reporter about her iconic status, "I couldn't care less. I sing to people." Umm, we guess that's cool.

.... isn't portrayed by Debbie Gravitte as much as she is celebrated, which Gravitte discusses further below.



Recreating a legend

Debbie Gravitte just found out that her show where she performs Judy Garland songs is the same weekend Liza Minnelli comes to Dallas. The scheduling conflict for friends of Dorothy could have massive repercussions, but it is an easy (and obvious fix).

"There is a perfect way to work it out," Gravitte says. "See her on Friday and see me on Saturday."

Gravitte teams up with former Minnelli music director Michael Berkowitz, pictured, for *An Evening With Judy Garland* at the Irving Arts Center Saturday. The solo show commemorates Garland's iconic Carnegie Hall concert exactly 50 years ago. But Gravitte assures that she is not doing a Judy imper-

sonation.

"This is a tribute, a celebration of this one incredible night of her life," she says. "I don't look anything like her and maybe I sound like her a tiny bit, but it's not like we are recreating Judy. We want to channel that joyful part of her instead of recalling the tragic."

With a full orchestra behind her, Gravitte would even venture to say this is more of a concert than a show; Berkowitz agrees. His closeness to Garland's material is far beyond just his work with Minnelli.

"I was always a fan. I was a friend of Bill Lavorgna, Liza's drummer before me. Bill and I knew each other for 40 years. I first heard his playing on the Garland Carnegie Hall recording. That alone was worth it to me."

As for the dueling shows, Berkowitz thinks anyone who gets out to either comes out ahead.

"I didn't know Liza May was in town this weekend as well," he says. "It's going to be a double header of great music and entertainment."

Gravitte knows the gays are gonna hold her to task, but she's not daunted. In fact, she even challenges her audience a bit.

"I welcome everyone to come dressed in their best Judy," she says. "We are gonna do a sing along and I want people to sing every fucking line!"

— Rich Lopez

Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Oct 9 at 8 p.m. \$19-\$54. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

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Housewives. With Balls.



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— New York Post

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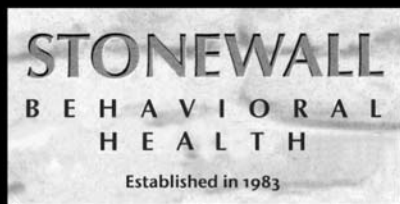
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L+S sports

Tourney journey

Over 20 years, DIVA has turned its Fall Classic into a sports destination

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Dallas is a sports town: Cowboys, Mavericks, Stars, Rangers — they're all part of the city's life. That translates even into a strong gay sports community as well, with softball, tennis and rugby leagues holding strong interest for LGBT jocks.

But volleyball might be the most obsessive. The Dallas Independent Volleyball Association (DIVA) has not only grown internally over the years, but has expanded its Fall Classic tournament into a major event.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the popular tournament, which hosts teams from all over the country. But DIVA president and tournament director Hayden Mitchell says it's just business as usual. "We're not really doing anything different for this one," he says.

But really, this is a good thing.

Over the years, DIVA has swelled into a sports organization of more than 300 members — that is about double its average membership from the last few years. With that many members in all divisions, Mitchell and the DIVA board take the obvious approach when setting up the tourney.

"From some of the feedback we've gotten from teams and NAGVA [North American Gay Volleyball Association], this is a well-run tournament," he says. "With our kind of membership, we have to be and stay very organized. So we just translate that into the tournament."

That has garnered DIVA's fall tournament some major props by traveling teams. In the gay volleyball circuit, traveling teams spread the word that the Fall Classic is a key event, and it shows. This year, 41 teams will play; up to 50 teams have competed in other years. These are good numbers, says Mitchell.

"With the Columbus Day weekend, we usually do compete with the Portland or Indianapolis tourneys," he says. "But people talk and teams ask where the competition is gonna be and then teams end up coming here."

But "business as usual" doesn't mean DIVA runs a bland ship. Over his six years as president, Mitchell has tried to put a personal stamp on the Fall Classic, not only to entice teams to come, but to build on its own identity.

"We have a buffet so traveling teams will get at least one meal and that means something," he



COURTING DIVA | For 20 years, DIVA has hosted the Fall Classic tournament which attracts teams from all over the country. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

says. "Plus, we have a giveaway or T-shirt at each tournament. What I like to do is have the captains of the teams get me the sizes of the players, I think instead of just an oversize tee, that really adds a personal touch. I think the Dallas tournament has something special to offer."

Getting the planning stages down to an art may be second-hand now, but that doesn't mean it has become any less gratifying for the board. Mitchell says that pride in the event comes from two sources. And that makes this

all worthwhile.

"We've increased the number of teams coming to Dallas," he says. "What really stood out for me were two teams from Hawaii that came out to play. They were blown away by the fact that we all played in same facility. And they even want to do a tourney of their own."

On the other end, Mitchell and the rest of DIVA do their part to give to the LGBT community. According to NAGVA rules on tournaments, a large portion of monies earned from the event has to go to a charity. That has given DIVA the opportunity to contribute thousands to local nonprofits such as Youth First Texas, Resource Center of Dallas and this year, the AIDS Interfaith Network.

"That is the one big thing with the Fall Classic," he says. "We do a lot of research on the different LGBT associations we select. We've been giving back to the community for 20 years and that is the most rewarding thing." ■

DALLAS FALL CLASSIC XX

Texas Advantage Sports, 4302
Buckingham Rd., Fort Worth.
Oct. 8-10. DivaDallas.org.



Compiled by Dan Gueths



1991

Fred York and Barbara O'Brien served as co-chairs of the first LifeWalk, held on Sunday, Oct. 6, 1991, in Lee Park. About 1,000 people participated in that first event, a 10-kilometer walk that raised more than \$103,000. LifeWalk that year had two corporate sponsors — Curaflex Infusion Services and Life Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas.

York described the event as “absolutely wonderful, a gorgeous day in the park,” and he praised the contingent of volunteers — which then, as now, were the mainstay of LifeWalk. Barbara O'Brien said, “We had all kinds of people participate from all walks of life, which brings a greater awareness to the whole community.” Terry Stone, then executive director of OLCS, said that LifeWalk 1991 “was the largest and most successful fundraiser that OLCS has ever done.”

What else was going on in Dallas at the time? City officials were proposing parking regulations that would require Oak Lawn dance halls to add one parking space for every 15 square feet of dance floor area. The Voice was reporting on the many new medical treatments coming out for HIV/AIDS, and for many, the LGBT community newspaper was the only place such information could be found. The Voice also featured Heda Quote's gossip column and a personals section — the earliest version of social networking that was available long before the Internet, Facebook and Grindr (to name a few).

1992

In 1992, 2,500 walkers participated in LifeWalk, held Sunday, Oct. 4, and the event raised nearly \$200,000, surpassing OLCS's goals of 2,000 walkers and \$162,000 in donations.

Co-chairs for the second LifeWalk were Bruce Russell and Carolyn Roney. There were corporate teams from Miller Beer, VNA, Baylor nurses, Curaflex, Lennox, Caven Enterprises, SABRE and American Airlines. There was an arts and crafts show that included more than a dozen artists, and well-known KDFW-TV Channel 4 anchorman John Criswell emceed the event.

In other news that fall, Congress okayed a \$2.1 billion budget for AIDS spending, and a survey in 16 U.S. cities indicated that unsafe sexual behavior was starting to happen more and more frequently again as AIDS entered its second decade.

Twenty years is almost the span of a generation. But it can seem more than a lifetime when you consider everything that can happen in the course of those years.

Through the reflections and records of many community members, and the archives of Dallas Voice, it is possible to create a historical narrative of the inception, growth and continuum of LifeWalk.

In 1981 Howie Daire and Candy Marcum, with the aid of Joe Fleming, founded an organization called Oak Lawn Counseling Center, focusing on providing counseling services for the LGBT community, by the LGBT community. As the North Texas LGBT community began to feel the impact of the AIDS epidemic more heavily, OLCC's mission began to morph, and by the late 1980s, the organization's primary focus was providing services for those with HIV/AIDS. Then the name changed to Oak Lawn Community Services to more accurately reflect the organization's new focus.

In the early 1990s, OLCS officials came up with the idea of holding an annual walk-a-thon as a signature fundraising event for its AIDS programs. They brought in Fred York, who had experience with a walk-a-thon venue in New York, to create a similar event here in Dallas, based on and tailored after the New York model. And LifeWalk was born.

1993

Carolyn Roney and Bruce Russell returned as co-chairs for LifeWalk 1993, and more than 300 teams pre-registered, up from 220 in 1992. John Criswell and U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson were named as honorary co-chairs of the Sunday, Oct. 3 event.

The theme for LifeWalk was “Lace Up for Life” to prove once again that in the fight against AIDS, walking is one of the best defenses. About 3,300 walkers participated, raising \$350,000 for AIDS programs at OLCS and five other local AIDS service organizations. Lee Heck, the director of revenue development for OLCS, described the event as “a phenomenal success.” Again there was an arts and crafts area and live entertainment by Sarah Hickman and New Arts Six. And even though a hail storm battered the Oak Lawn area the afternoon before the event, volunteers were able to clean up the park and LifeWalk went on — rain or shine. That same hailstorm forced the cancellation of DIFFA's Dallas Collection scheduled at the Anatole Hotel in the Chantilly Ballroom after the hotel roof was damaged.

Heck pointed out that in 1993, LifeWalk was “one of the top 10 AIDS walks in the country,” and that the other top walks all had paid staffs. LifeWalk prided itself — and still does today — on the large number of volunteers who made the event happen.

1994

In 1994, the World Health Organization reported that full-blown AIDS cases had increased from 2.5 million to 4 million within 12 months. Several country music performers — including Kathy Mattea, Clint Black, Dolly Parton and Brooks and Dunn — came together to record and release an album, *Red, Hot and Country* to raise money for AIDS programs. *Forrest Gump* was hot at the box office, and the bar Moby Dick opened on Cedar Springs.

Amid all that, LifeWalk was held Sunday, Oct. 2, in Lee Park, with Roger Bolen and Sara Reidy as co-chairs. Texas Gov. Ann Richards joined local TV newsman John Criswell as honorary co-chairs. LifeWalk had grown to be one of the largest AIDS fundraisers in Texas, and Heck said that was due largely to the event's accessibility to a wide range of people.

EVERY
STEP
HAS MADE A
DIFFERENCE

Continued on Next Page



1991



1992



1993



1998



1991



1992



1992



1993



1996



1993



1996



1996



1997

From Previous Page

Six other AIDS service organizations received a portion of the money raised. They were AIDS Resource Center, AIDS Arms Network, Bryan's House, Welcome House, Mathis House and DARCO Drug Center. Dallas Police Chief Ben Click registered and ran in the 1994 event, which had 3,750 registered participants total and raised \$415,000. Sara Reidy reminisced, "I loved serving for LifeWalk and am proud every time I hear or say the name."

1995

LifeWalk turned 5 in 1995 and was held Sunday, Oct. 1. A total of 495 teams had registered by mid-September to traverse a walk route that had been shortened from 10k to 5k in a concession to the Texas heat — which can be extreme, even in October.

Texas Instruments was a new sponsor in 1995, and Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and American Airlines Chairman Bob Crandall walked in the event. Entertainers included Blanche Fury, Jane Doe, Painted Faces, the Daniel de Cordoba flamenco dancers, Omari African drum group and Lisa Loeb, who performed her hit song "Stay." Michael Doughman, Lory Masters, Kathy Jack and Johnny Murray served as emcees on the stage, and the event brought in about \$473,000.

Also that fall, Chastity Bono and Candace Gingrich were at the Texas State Fair for National Coming Out Day, and Southern Methodist University announced a newly-formed gay male fraternity called Delta Lambda Phi. Over in the gayborhood, foam parties were the rage at the Brick.

1996

The 1996 LifeWalk kicked off with Miller of Dallas as a primary sponsor and nine other corporate sponsors, plus eight additional beneficiaries, on Sunday, Oct. 6. There were more than

7,000 LifeWalk participants gathered in Lee Park that day with the goal of raising \$600,000.

James Youngblood and Kathy Hewitt co-chaired the event, American Airlines CEO Bob Crandall and Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk's wife Matrice were honorary co-chairs. Dallas native Lisa Loeb returned to headline the stage entertainment.

Youngblood said of the event, "I had never volunteered at the local level and wanted to give back to the community. It is still one of the most remarkable and rewarding experiences of my life."

What else was happening in the fall of 1996? That was the year that IBM became the nation's biggest company to extend health benefits to the partners of its gay workers.

1997

Kathy Hewitt and Steve Habgood were the co-chairs for the 1997 LifeWalk, working with a host of volunteers and OLCS staffer Martha Dealey. Hewitt said, "We're all here for a reason, and that reason is to help people who are living with HIV and AIDS." And Habgood added, "People are living longer, but they still have needs for things like housing, transportation, food and prescriptions. We are here raising money to provide these services that they need to make it every day."

LifeWalk was Texas' largest AIDS walk that year, with more than 7,000 walkers coming together in Lee Park on Sunday, Oct. 5, as individuals or as one of 730 teams. Matrice Ellis Kirk and WFAA TV anchor John McCaa were honorary co-chairs.

1998

Team American Airlines returned to LifeWalk for the third year in 1998 with a bigger team than ever before. Team captain Jacques Lee, declared, "Often I provide the flint that needs a stone to make a spark. Without the two elements, we could never make the fire come to life. We [American Airlines] are

reaching out into more areas, more departments that were not involved last year, [and] now we are getting more participation." Team American Airlines raised an estimated \$27,000.

LifeWalk was held Sunday, Oct. 4, and was co-chaired by Steve Habgood and Leigh Ann Stockard. Honorary co-chairs were Lisa Loeb, who also entertained, and *Good Morning America's* Todd Whitthorne. Park Cities Jeep Volkswagen was a first-time sponsor and participating team, running a full page announcement in the Dallas Voice. The Green Team, one of the oldest LifeWalk teams, raised \$7,000 with 24 walkers, helping bring LifeWalk's all-time total to nearly \$3 million.

1999

In the fall of 1999, the movie *Trick* was playing in an exclusive engagement at the UA Cine, and Cher was making us *Believe* on the dance floor. Armistead Maupin was keynote speaker at Black Tie Dinner, replacing Olympia Dukakis.

LifeWalk was set for Lee Park on Sunday, Oct. 3, that year, and AIDS Arms teamed up with OLCS to present the event. Additional beneficiaries were Bryan's House, Johnnie's Manor, Legacy Counseling and Project Esperanza.

Karen Frost, steering committee member, said, "The organizers faced an unusual challenge this year. Like AIDS agencies throughout the nation, local organizations are finding funds harder to raise due to reports that fewer people are dying."

Neiman Marcus helped pump up the proceeds in 1999, making an original commitment to donate \$1,000 and then in the end donating \$10,000. Co-chairs Leigh Ann Stockard and Gregory Pynes presided over the more than 650 teams that registered to participate, while Lisa Loeb performed with Dweezil Zappa.

2000

LifeWalk turned 10 in 2000, the year that OLCS folded and



AIDS Arms became the primary presenter for the event. A pre-event street party was held at Oak Lawn Avenue and Bowser Street, sponsored by Luke's Locker and Lucky's Café.

The walk itself was held Oct. 1 and featured some prominent sponsorships from Neiman Marcus, Centrum, Miller of Dallas, American Airlines, Caven Enterprises, Centrus Sports Club, LaurusHealth.com, Texas Instruments, Dallas Voice, Dallas World Aquarium, The Freeman Companies, Lucky's Café, Luke's Locker, Merck, Tiffany & Co., Wendy Krispin Caterer, WFAA-TV Channel 8 and the Anatole Hotel — among others.

The walk route was changed to funnel walkers through Neiman Marcus' downtown store. Gregory Pynes and Deidra Burns were co-chairs, and Ken Downing, corporate vice president of public relations for Neiman Marcus, was honorary co-chair.

The 10th anniversary crowd was noted for its greater diversity, and Steven Pace, executive director for AIDS Interfaith Network, said, "The walk is becoming more reflective of the problems that AIDS is causing throughout the Dallas area." LifeWalk organizers emphasized outreach to African-American and Hispanic communities. St. Luke Community United Methodist Church registered its first organized team.

Bring It On, *Scary Movie* and *X-Men* were all the rage at the theater in the fall of 2000, and comedian Leann Berry performed a comedy fundraiser for LifeWalk. John Loza, a then-current AIDS Arms board member and Dallas city councilman, made news by switching his political party affiliation from Republican to Democrat.

2001

LifeWalk saw some major changes in 2001. The event's home base was relocated to Dallas City Hall Plaza and the date was changed from its usual Sunday afternoon time to Saturday morning, Oct. 13. The route wound through downtown Dallas,

passing again through Neiman Marcus before heading into Deep Ellum. Special emphasis this year was placed on the walk being "pet friendly."

Co-chairs were Deidra Burns and Michelle Jackson. Scott Evertz, the "AIDS czar" (director of the Office of National AIDS Policy) from Washington, D.C., attended and walked as an honored guest.

2002

Erykah Badu was celebrity spokesperson for LifeWalk 2002, held on Saturday, Oct. 5. For the first time that year, the event included a sanctioned 5K run segment through a partnership with Luke's Locker. LifeWalk moved through the Dallas downtown business district for the second year.

Shanon Rust, publicist for LifeWalk, said, "There has definitely been an evolution in the demographics of who participates. Even on the [event] committees you see an increasing diversity."

Event co-chairs were Michelle Jackson and John Woodyard, with Channel 8 newscaster Debbie Denmon and radio personality Susan Havens co-hosting. LifeWalk proceeds to date for LifeWalk stood at more than \$4.5 million in 2002.

2003

In 2003, the LifeWalk route included views of the newly-completed Latino Cultural Center, the Gypsy Tearoom and part of the Swiss Avenue Historic District. Special entertainment was featured at the Latino Cultural Center to underscore the recent rise in HIV infections among the Hispanic population.

Grammy Award winner Erykah Badu again served as celebrity spokesperson, and she led the 5,500 walkers along the route.

The Saturday, Oct. 4 walk was co-chaired by John Woodyard and Wendi Rothschild.

Over at Fair Park Music Hall in Dallas and then at Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, the musical *Mamma Mia* was entertaining the crowds.

2004

Co-chairing the 14th annual LifeWalk, held Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004, at Dallas City Hall, were Wendi Rothschild and Jerry McDonald. McDonald was one of the original founders of the Guys and Dolls LifeWalk team, which has been one of the most successful teams in the event's history. It was formed and grew through a network of friends, and is still growing stronger. In 2002, Guys and Dolls' fundraising goal was \$22,500; in 2010 the team's goal is \$57,000.

2005

LifeWalk celebrated its 15th anniversary Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005, by "coming home" to Lee Park. Co-chairs that year were Jerry McDonald and Elizabeth Brown, and honorary co-chairs were Tony Dorsett and his wife, Janet.

Hurricane Katrina blew ashore just before LifeWalk that year, creating havoc and destruction in New Orleans and all along the U.S. Gulf Coast. The storm and its aftermath created a huge challenge for Dallas AIDS service organizations who absorbed those Katrina refugees impacted by HIV/AIDS. The catastrophe underlined the importance of LifeWalk and other such events that raise dollars that are neither designated nor ruled by government grant and can be used for emergencies and everyday necessities.

AIDS Arms and LifeWalk, along with many other agencies, stepped in to help by collecting canned goods for distribution for evacuees.

In news other than Katrina, *Brokeback Mountain* rode onto the silver screen, and Randy Jones, the cowboy from the Vil-

Continued on Next Page



From Previous Page

lage People, celebrated his 53rd birthday. Sharon Stone and Lily Tomlin were guest speakers at Black Tie Dinner. And LifeWalk's to-date total clocked in at \$5.8 million.

2006

In 2006, the community lost a great friend with the death of longtime Dallas Voice editor Dennis Vercher. That same year, the Legacy of Love Monument was unveiled and dedicated at the corner of Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs.

In the meantime, LifeWalk returned to its roots as a Sunday event, taking place on Oct. 1 with co-chairs Bill Carter and Ray Warner at the helm. Warner noted that he "had done volunteer work around breast cancer, but I had also lost several friends to AIDS, and felt like I needed to get involved and do my part."

An estimated 5,000 walkers participated, raising more than \$300,000 for AIDS Arms and partner agencies Dallas Legal Hospice, Resource Center of Dallas and the Greg Dollgener Memorial Fund.

2007

Something new came to LifeWalk in 2007 with the debut of LifeBark at the Sunday, Oct. 14 event. The goal of LifeBark is to increase the walk's fundraising potential by having walkers' pet friends register and help raise funds. All registered pets got special LifeWalk bandannas to wear.

Bill Carter and Ray Warner returned as co-chairs, with outrageously out radio personality Jack E. Jett taking on emcee duties. "LifeWalk is an AIDS event where the money goes where it's supposed to go — to try and solve the problem," Jett said.

That was also the year that "Dear Abby" came out in support of gay marriage, saying, "I believe if two people want to commit to each other, God bless 'em. That is the highest form of commitment, for heaven's sake."

2008

Sordid Lives playwright Del Shores and his partner, Jason Dottley, were honorary co-chairs for the LifeWalk held Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008, the year that Ray Warner teamed up with Dan Gueths to co-chair the fundraiser. The 2008 LifeWalk raised \$420,000, bringing the event's to-date total to more than \$7 million. Pride Radio DFW and all of the Clear Channel Radio Dallas affiliates promoted and supported LifeWalk and LifeBark.

By 2008, HIV awareness efforts had evolved from ACT-UP's radical anger of the early years of the epidemic to a quieter message. But while treatments had improved, infection statistics were still alarming, especially in North Texas.

2009

AIDS Arms Executive Director Raeline Nobles noted in 2009 that "LifeWalk fundraising would be critical, as the recession means more clients and fewer dollars for AIDS services." According to reports in Dallas Voice, "Nobody is feeling the sting [of the recession] quite like the state's non-profits, including the AIDS service organizations of North Texas."

LifeWalk 2009 was held on Sunday, Oct. 11, to help take out some of that sting. Co-chairs Dan Gueths and Scott Kersh presided over the event that raised money for eight partner agencies — AIDS Services of Dallas, Legal Hospice of Dallas, Legacy Counseling Center, Resource Center Dallas, Youth First Texas, The Women's Chorus of Dallas, Turtle Creek Chorale and The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund.

An estimated 10,000 participants got to hear Voice of Pride winner Jason Huff perform the national anthem. And everyone was encouraged to "go green," with recycle containers placed around Lee Park.

2010

LifeWalk will officially celebrate 20 years on Sunday, Oct. 10,

2010 in Lee Park, beginning at 1 p.m. Current Voice of Pride winner Mel Arizpe will perform the national anthem, and past co-chairs will be recognized from the stage. The Buster Brown Band will perform later in the afternoon.

This year's event is co-chaired by Scott Kersh and Fred Harris. People from all walks of life will turn out — families, friends, survivors and pets. *You* should be there, too. For hope. For AIDS Arms.

Walking into the future

Walk for yourself, walk for the benefits of others.

Those early pioneers who led the efforts to create LifeWalk and keep it going have gotten a lot of recognition over the years. But there have been countless supporters and volunteers in the last 20 years, too numerous to even begin to name, that have all played their very important parts in making LifeWalk the success that it has been. Every year behind the co-chairs, there have been the members of the volunteer steering committees, donating and dedicating their time to perform the many endless — and often thankless — tasks necessary to create and stage a successful event to raise funds and increase awareness as the AIDS epidemic continues. Let us all join together now to take a moment and say a special thanks to all of them.

We also owe a special thank you to all of the staffers and supporters first of Oak Lawn Community Services and now of AIDS Arms: Your efforts have made and still continue to make all the difference in the world to those in need dealing with HIV/AIDS.

And finally, thanks to the Dallas Voice for recording and preserving history as it happens.



500 days of Samir

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Male dancer Samir breaks the chains of Cirque du Soleil to blossom as 'the guy' with Bellydance Superstars

Going by a single name is a ballsy move that usually works more in favor of women: Madonna and Cher. Pink. Charo.

Then throw in Bono. There's always one guy willing to go against the grain.

Samir is no singer; he's a dancer. But the solo moniker isn't the only thing about him that defies convention. He also seeks to prove that a dance traditionally performed by women has room for at least one guy. Samir is part of the harem of Bellydance Superstars, which is in Dallas this week. Just don't box him into the male label — or even gay. He sees himself in a more primal fashion.

"I don't identify as a male dancer or female dancer," he says. "I'm more like a creature and I never had people criticize that. That's what's unique about it because audiences are confused and I think they like that."

Samir is the first male dancer onstage for the Bellydance Superstars show, but it's also one of the first times in his professional life that he's felt like his art is blossoming. He first burst onto the public scene as part of Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas. That experience looked great on his resume, but Samir wasn't thrilled come curtain time each night.

"To get to Cirque, I felt something was different," he says. "It was totally new for me but I was also never a backup dancer. For three years, I basically went out every night to just do these beautiful poses."

For Samir, Cirque was a grueling process that left little for the Tajikistan-born dancer to

be inspired by. He could recognize the art and technique that went with the show, but he says it was not a place for people who create.

"I found myself killing my talent and my time," he says. "It was just a regular job doing the same thing every night. It was good exposure, being in Vegas at the Bellagio, but Cirque is only for dancers who are retired. They can enjoy their life there until they go to heaven."

Samir discovered early that this wasn't where he was supposed to be. Regardless of his excitement, the marriage was doomed from the moment he signed the contract.

"They told me all the good things, but changed it once I started," he says. "The rehearsal part was all love and sex but the honeymoon ended right after I signed with them."

He applauds Bellydance Superstars producer and creative director Miles Copeland for stepping away from the norm to see the dance as an art. The show gives him the creative outlet he has been searching for.

"[Copeland] doesn't want to keep you locked away," he says. "Here you can show your stuff and if he likes it enough, it will be in the show. He respects your talent and that make me want to give more. I feel great here."

Unlike Cirque, this show offers Samir a family of like-minded individuals — not a mishmash of athletes and artists. For him, everybody here talks the same language and has become one family. Plus, the touring has allowed him to see more of the world. The different places, people and even different dressing rooms each night are a longshot from his

former routine.

Samir's desire for creation is in his blood. Both his parents were involved in the arts: his mother a famous folk dancer, his father a musician. Samir has been dancing since he was 2 and had already tasted fame when he traveled the country with his parents. He fits in naturally to the whirlwind of touring and bringing bellydancing to the masses — even if his audiences are aficionados more than curious on-lookers.

"The show is all about bellydancing and Indian and Oriental tradition dance. Only people who are into it and understand it usually come to see the show. But I hope some new people will see how beautiful it is," he says.

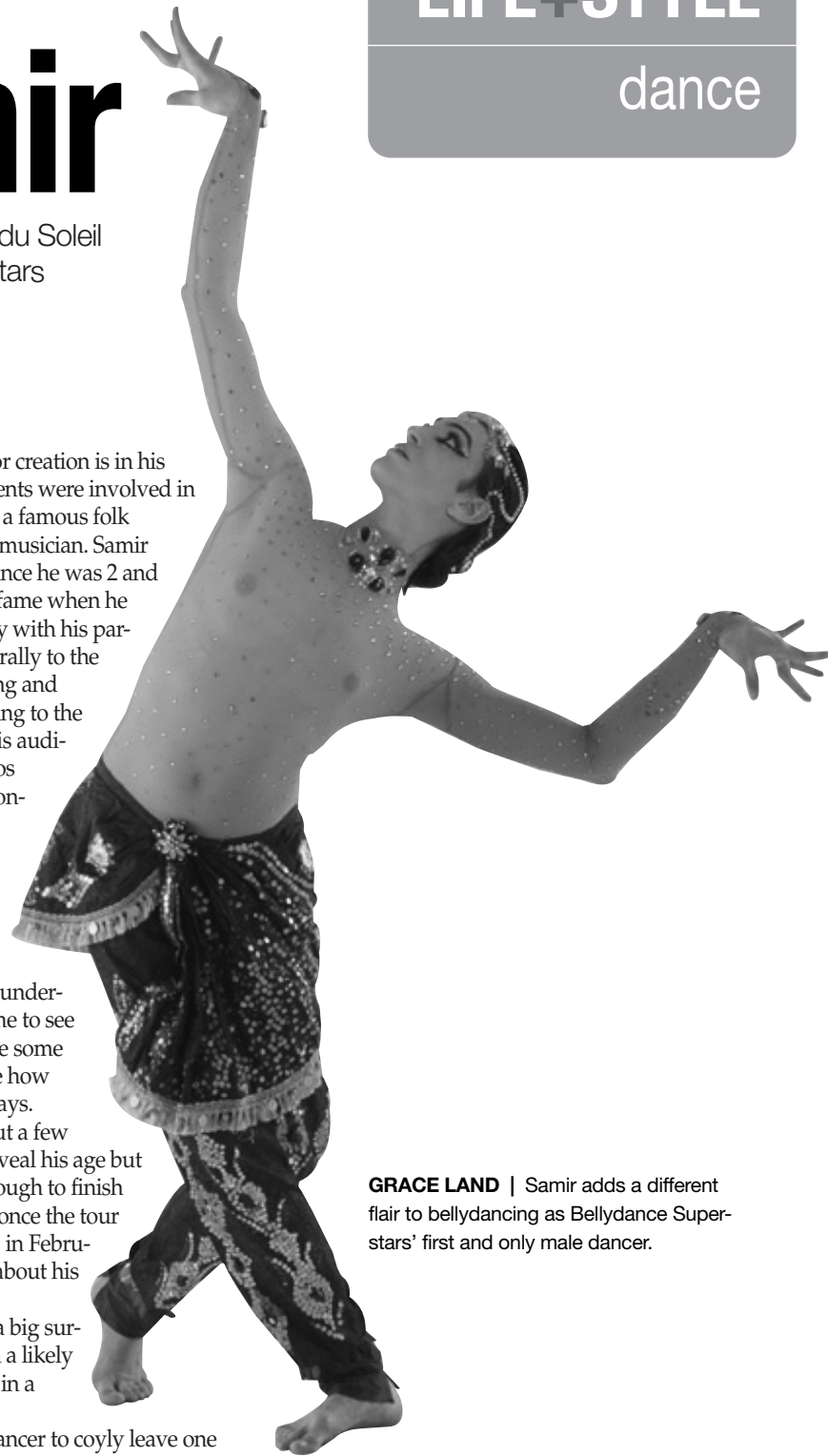
Samir is coy about a few things. He won't reveal his age but says he's young enough to finish the tour. However, once the tour wraps up (for now) in February 2011, he teases about his next career move.

"It's going to be a big surprise," he says with a likely smile. "Contact me in a year."

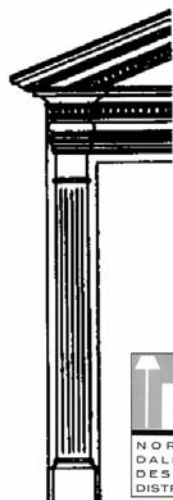
Just like a bellydancer to coyly leave one veil hanging.

BELLYDANCE SUPERSTARS

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GRACE LAND | Samir adds a different flair to bellydancing as Bellydance Superstars' first and only male dancer.



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Tex-Maxed out

Are tacos the new frozen yogurt? We gorged the gourmet and the prosaic

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

I'm not a prude. I get that breastedaurants like Hooters and Burger Girl coast on the unsubtle innuendo of sex to sell food. It's not just women being exploited, either. Hell, the name Hunky's refers as much to the slabs of meat on the plate as those in line ordering them.

But it seems like the current surge in taco stands has pushed the limits of good taste. Rusty Taco on Greenville sounds like the results of a case of chlamydia; everyone calls Fuzzy's Taco Shop "Fuzzy Taco" — a syntactic sleight of hand that justifies, apparently, grossing me out. (What's next, a raw bar manned by shirtless gym rats called Muscle Clams?)

But then there's more gourmet offerings, which we discovered at the new Urban Taco on McKinney. Can you guess which one fared the best?

If I'm gonna eat a place called Fuzzy's, of course I'm gonna order the fish taco. The version here is a disappointment. I had to organize a search party to find the actual bits of fish crisped in tempura, which had like shriveled tentacles in the sun under a mound of lettuce. The taste was fine, although you had to work for it.

Pairing it with the habanero salsa didn't help. I'm rarely one to complain about spicy food, but Fuzzy's fire salsa suffocates the flavor of protein. It did nothing to accentuate the taste of the "special ground beef." I'm still not sure what makes it special, though it has the appearance of dog food: pulverized and processed into a virtual paste, not rich and beefy.

The goat cheese accents are nice, and the "nor-



HOLY GUACAMOLE! | The trio of avocado dips at Urban Taco provide a rich, soothing contrast to the spicy salsas. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

mal" salsas fine; and for two bucks each, they hit the spot without hitting the wallet too hard. But why settle for an "OK taco" in this town?

Better in appearance *and* flavor were the tacos at Rusty. Like Fuzzy's, it has the atmosphere of a truck stop (and the parking of one), with long lines during the lunch rush.

I ordered the namesake creation (an anchoite pork with pineapple, very well-seasoned) as well as their fish taco (much more plentiful, also fried, but with flakier white fish) and the brisket (tender and smoky). Rusty's seems to personalize its tacos more than Fuzzy's, and the price is the same. The tomatillo salsa, mild but tasty, was good, and their version of spicy salsa showed restraint. Overall, Rusty trumps Fuzzy. By a hair.

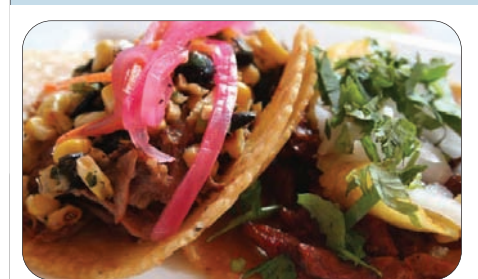
But as gritty taco stands proliferate, appealing to the Von Dutch hat wearers in all of us, my inner dandy ultimately prefers a little refinement.

It's fair to call the tacos (and the rest of the menu) at Urban Taco gourmet Tex-Mex.

I'm a converted fan. The Urban Taco at Mockingbird Station didn't wow me when it opened three years ago. Service was spotty, decor seemed cheap. The tacos were pretty good, though.

The McKinney Avenue locale, which opened late summer, fixes those problems and improves upon the food as well. The menu here is substantially expanded from Mockingbird Station or outright new, including ceviches, tostadas and

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★



Urban Taco, 3411 McKinney Ave. Open daily 11 a.m.–10 p.m. 214-922-7080.

This elegant Mexico City-style taqueria expands on the menu of its Mockingbird Station progenitor, improving on the service, atmosphere and menu.

Food: ★★★★★

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

Service: ★★★★★

Price: Inexpensive to moderate

guacamoles — all available, like the salsas and tacos, in trios. (Urban Taco loves its *ménages-à-trois*.)

The atmosphere is buzzy but unrushed and not too noisy. The change in weather makes the outdoor patio an autumnal delight for *al fresco* dining. It has the vibe of a South Florida oasis. Service has been friendly and fast.

Tacos cost only marginally more than their counter-service (about \$3 each), but the ingredients are a cut above. The Dos Equis barbacoa taco is braised in chiles; the red snapper incorporates the avocado lime crema in its flavor profile.

It's not just tacos, either, that make Urban Taco a good destination. I like eating salsas that are not served in plastic lidded mini-buckets, but cute porcelain dishes. There's variety, too: Instead of "mild" and "hot," you can choose among



WHERE'S THE FISH? | The seafood in the taco from Fuzzy's was masked under a mountain of lettuce; when we finally found it, it tasted fine. (Arnold Wayne Jones /Dallas Voice)

nine incarnations. You also pay for them, though they are worth every penny. (A trio of salsas plus chips runs \$3; add more salsas for a quarter each.)

So how do you pick among the lot? Judiciously. None of the salsas are unworthy, though for my fire-eating taste buds the roster pico is the only unmissable dip. Pair it or the tomatillo Serrano (served warm but also inherently hot, *i.e.*, spicy) with the pineapple pico, sweet with a faint tang that soothes the heat.

The peanut habanero packs a wallop as well, though the boldness of the peanut flavor almost distracts you from your burning tongue. The scarlet smoothness of the roja salsa has a burnt full-bodied flavor. Housemade tortilla chips and fried yucca strips are both addictive, and the salsas all accent the variety of tacos.

Guacamole is usually a side dish; here it could be a meal. Five variations — three named after major thoroughfares in Mexico City — cascade with rich flavor. The smoky Reforma was probably my favorite, although mild Polanco, with its mole and pumpkin seeds, delighted us as well.

It's worth a visit where you don't stick only with tacos. The lunch tostada plate presents three exquisitely balanced crowns of protein atop mini crisp tortillas. Best among them is the ahi tuna, a ceviche-style preparation that pulls smoke from the marito sauce. The crab is nearly as delicious, generously dressed with a chipotle bite.

The ceviches also impressed, as did the carne asada (\$19), a proper skirt steak rolled into luscious pinwheels and glazed with maple-habanero. Cooked medium rare, it's a filling — and fitting — example of why man cannot live on tacos alone, no matter what the fashion of the moment may be. ■

TASTING NOTES

He let it slip a little early last week, but **Stephan Pyles'** latest concept, **Samar**, is set to be named one of Esquire's best restaurants of the year. That follows on the heels of his namesake **Stephan Pyles** being dubbed the nation's best restaurant of 2006 and neighboring **Fearing's** the best in the country for 2007. Can anyone doubt Dallas' foodie bona fides?

Samar, the Downtown eatery that blends Spanish, Indian and Mediterranean flavors will celebrate its one-year anniversary Friday from 5 to 11 p.m. with half-price cocktails and wines, \$5 Samartinis and live music and bellydancing.

Many more of Dallas' top chefs, including Pyles, pictured, will be on hand Oct. 15 for the "**Burgers & Burgundy**" party, a benefit for **DIFFA**. The second annual fundraiser, set atop the roof of **The House in Victory Park**, features red wine and exceptional gourmet burgers from event host **John Tesar**, as well as **Kent Rathbun** of **Abacus** and **Jasper's**, **Scott Romano** of **Charlie Palmer**, **Tim Byres** of **Smoke** and **Dan Landsberg** of **Tillman's Roadhouse**. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at DIFFADallas.org or by calling 214-748-8580.

Norma's Cafe in Oak Cliff will help celebrate the first ever **Texas Chicken Fried Steak Day** on Oct. 26 by serving — what else? — vegan chickpea patties. Only kidding. The country cookin' extravaganza will extend to downhome diners in Austin, Fort Worth and the great Perini Ranch in beautiful downtown Buffalo Gap.

Here's vegan news that is no joke: Our dear friend, Mercy for Animals coordinator and Dallas Vegan **Eddie Garza**, has set Sat., Oct. 16 as **Vegan Day** at the State Fair. You gotta admire someone who takes on Big Tex and deep fried everything. But he does so promising just as many suffering-free fried foods as carnivores can get. Visit DallasVegan.com for information.

— A.W.J.



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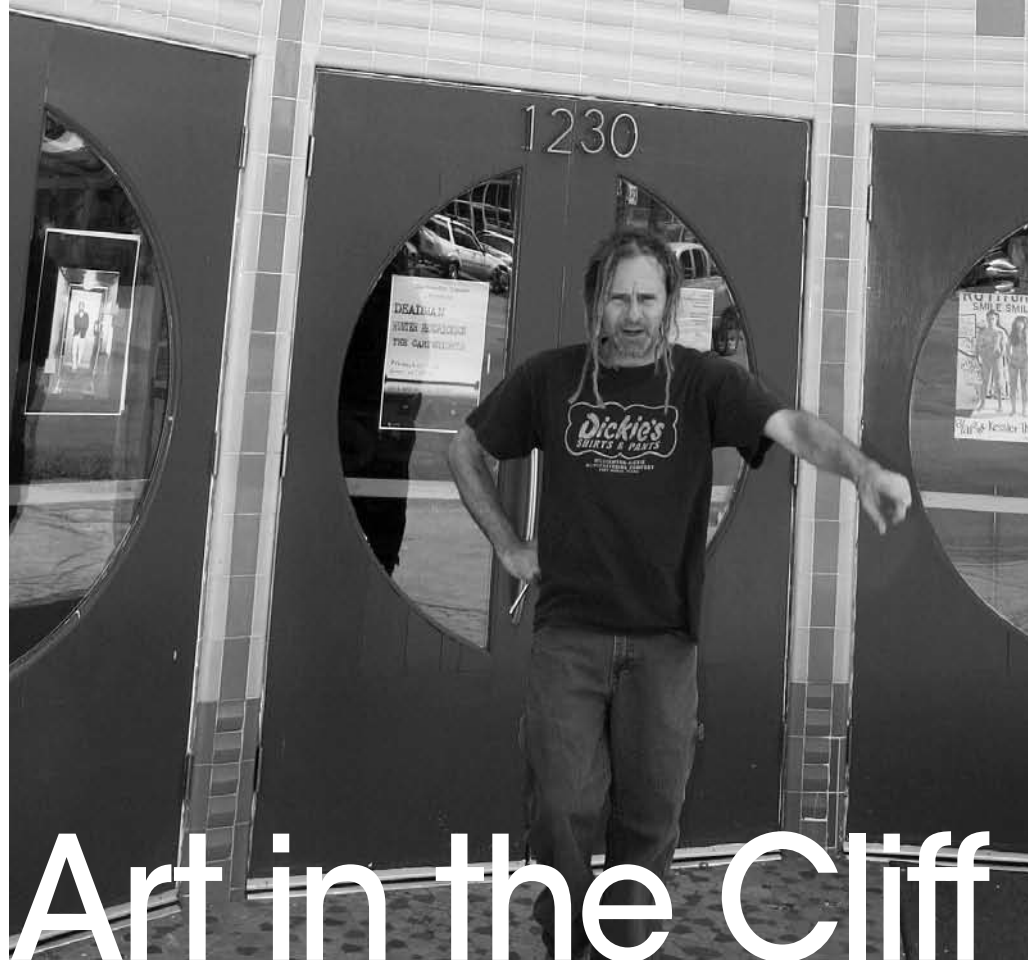
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Art in the Cliff

Oak Cliff's arts community thrives by making the old new again

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

First the Bishop Arts District brought gay-owned restaurants to Oak Cliff. Art galleries and

stores followed closely. But not since the Bronco Bowl was torn down to make way for a Home Depot a decade ago have performing arts been so evident in the Cliff.

The Kessler Theater on Davis Street in Winnetka Heights has been around for decades, but

THEY AUTRY BE PROUD | The Kessler opened as a movie palace owned by movie cowboy Gene Autry, but Edwin Cabaniss and Jeff Liles, pictured, have renovated it into a performing and visual arts venue. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

although it's in the process of renovating its art deco design, it's also hopping with activity.

Originally owned by Gene Autry and opened as movie theater, it fell on hard times with the advent of television. The building cycled through many uses — it was a church at one time, and later still, a bowling shirt factory.

In 1957, the Kessler took a direct hit from the great Oak Cliff tornado, a disaster most familiar to Oak Cliff residents today from a large photograph hanging in Norma's Café across the street. (The twister ripped right through the theater but left the structure standing.) A few years later, the building was further devastated by fire. For most of the past 25 years, it has stood empty.

Then Edwin Cabaniss, who lives in the neighborhood, bought the theater for his wife, a dancer who teaches tap and ballet. The couple's love of the arts translated into turning the space into a clearing house for live performance. Work continues on updating the building, and when dance, guitar, piano and voice lessons aren't taking place there, Jeff Liles books live music. Cliff native Edie Brickell will appear there Nov. 16; acts are booked four nights a week.

Visual arts are part of the ethos as well. In the gallery upstairs, an exhibit of black-light 1960s posters ran this summer. The theater, opened in March, looks better than it has since Autry owned it — and is more active.

The Kessler isn't the only venue bringing life back into this gayborhood. Down the road, the Texas Theatre on Jefferson Boulevard has also reopened with a classic movie series. Best known as the place Lee Harvey Oswald was cornered after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, it's worth a visit, if only for its historic significance. After several failed attempts to save the building through the years, it is now owned by the non-profit Oak Cliff Foundation that is working on renovations.

Next door is the newly opened Oak Cliff Cultural Center with 5,000 feet of space, which the city of Dallas used to replace the Ice House Cultural Center. The Ice House was the original early 1900s building where 7-Eleven got its start: They froze water in this building on Polk Street and sold ice in their first store just a few blocks

away on Edgefield Avenue.

Dallas converted the Ice House into one of its small neighborhood cultural centers years later, where artists and playwrights were often featured, including Martice Productions, which specialized in gay/Latino comedies.

Gerardo Sanchez of the center said the new space features an art gallery that will house eight shows per year as well as a dance studio that's already being used by arts groups, dance groups and classes. With the Texas Theatre next door, Sanchez said there are a lot of possibilities.

"We're hoping to partner with them," he says.

TeCo Productions is an ambitious theater company that operates out of the newly renovated Bishop Arts Theater on Tyler. The company started in Atlanta in 1993 and moved to Dallas where they performed at the Hall of State in Fair Park until a patron donated the dilapidated Blue Bird Theater just off Jefferson Boulevard.

The Blue Bird was a silent movie theater built in 1917 — talkies never made it in this part of Oak Cliff. Outside, the drab brown cement building is easy to miss. The surprise is the 170-seat proscenium-stage, state-of-the-art theater inside.

This year's schedule includes gay writer Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity* starring New Arts Six; the show opens in December. The season also includes a world premiere of a mystery in October, and in February, their annual new play competition. Last year's Southwest Airlines Jazz Series regularly sold out. ■



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L+S auto

I hear a symphony Hyundai Sonata's power, price are music to the ears



AFFORDABLE SOUL | Sonata turns Hyundai's upscale Genesis into a well-priced powerhouse with style.

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
crwauto@aol.com

If some of the major players in the mid-size sedan market don't get it into gear quickly, they're going to be looking at the tailpipes of a Korean juggernaut leaving them in a cloud of unhappiness. Hyundai is finished playing nice.

The 2010 Sonata takes all of Hyundai's upscale Genesis sedan goodness and moves it down a rung for the rest of us. The car is beautiful, powerful and loaded with tech. Most important, it has *soul*. Get an earful of this symphony.

Mercedes pioneered fast-raked four-door sedans with coupe rooflines when it introduced the CLS, but the Sonata makes the fetching shape affordable. High doorsills, narrow window slits, and tapered trunk give the illusion of a tight coupe, but there's plenty of space for four and a pinch inside.

A prominent chrome strip up the beltline is a little old-world Buick, but it looks as sharp here as it did on the Park Avenue in its day. A large chrome grille has a hint of Toyota Avalon; it and the hood look like they were shaped by water over centuries. Large 17-inch alloy wheels complete the car's sporting character.

A surprise to some might be the Sonata is not available with a V6 engine. Truth is, it doesn't need one. Twenty years ago, V8 engines barely made 200 horsepower. My 1989 Corvette, one of the fastest and most powerful cars of its day, generates 245-HP from a 5.7-liter V8. Ten years ago, V6 engines produced around 200 horses without turbos.

Now, the Hyundai Sonata's direct-injected four-cylinder engine produces that much power. With a turbo, output jumps to 274-HP! You will not miss the extra cylinders, and will salivate over fuel economy ratings of 22/35-MPG city/hwy.

I'm not sure why everybody crinkles their noses up in high-snoot when I tell them there is no V6 option. Their unwillingness to look at four-cylinder cars completely cracks me up. It is a ridiculous position to take. Look at horsepower, torque, and performance by all means. But who cares how many cylinders are under



the hood? It's just stupid! There, I've said it; write letters.

Getting over cylinder envy is helped along by smooth power and a crisp six-speed manual transmission. Back in the dark ages, it was hard to get power out of a four-cylinder engine because it was always over-revving or bogging down without enough transmission cogs. Today's six-speed and higher transmissions shift seamlessly between gears to always find the right power band. As a result, cars like the Sonata rarely feel under-powered and cruise happily at Interstate speeds. Sonata comes with a six-speed automatic with manual shift mode so you can let the computer go about its business without interference or you can snap through the gears as you please.

Given the chassis' willingness to play, you may want to. Sonatas are not Mustangs, so there are limits, but the four-wheel independent suspension soaks up bumps and backroads with aplomb. Steering feel is firm and communicative, with a very positive feel when it moves even a little off-center. Over rough pavement, nothing upsets the body structure or suspension.

There is a feeling of precision, with a healthy dose of soul that is lacking in many competitors. Building a solid car is one thing, but making one that is actually enjoyable to drive, is exhibited in Hyundai's new level of maturity.

Designers gave the Sonata an interior worthy of its smooth exterior and spirited powertrain. Equal parts *Star Trek* and *Corvette*, the dash wraps around the driver and front passenger, enveloping them in luxury cocoons. Combined with the high windowsills, you feel as if you are

'10 SONATA LIMITED

Hyundai. 200 horsepower, 2.4 liter I4. 22/35-MPG city/hwy. As-tested price: \$28,215

tucked down inside a high-performance sports car. Large analog gauges, stylized four-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel and comfy leather seats complete the illusion.

The test car came loaded with push-button starting, automatic climate control, heated seats, Bluetooth cell phone connectivity, USB port for MP3 players (allows them to be controlled through the car's knobs and buttons), rear backing camera, navigation and XM Satellite Radio. Our car also had the deep burgundy interior package that colored the seats and steering wheel spokes to match. Black piano finish on the doors and center console flashed elegance.

Hyundai may be a Korean company, but the car is very American. It was designed in California, engineered in Ann Arbor, Mich., engines are produced in the U.S., and the car is assembled in Montgomery, Ala. The transition over the last decade from being purely Korean to significantly American coincides with the car's popularity here, and its overall excellence. Hyundai means business and has invested billions on research, development, design and manufacturing to make the point. One drive in the Sonata and you will come to believe the investment was worth it. This should all be music to your ears.

Base Sonatas start at \$19,195, and Limiteds begin at \$25,295, but our loaded test model came to a very reasonable \$28,215. Competitors include the Chevy Malibu, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Toyota Camry and Chrysler 300. ■

Son of 'Seabiscuit': 'Secretariat' is old-fashioned, formulaic

Contrary to rumors, one of America's great race horses did not get his name when an ungrammatical executive looked around the office and said, "Where's my secretary at?" That is, however, how the title was chosen for the Disney movie about that horse. It was only coincidental that the horse, and hence the movie, were named **Secretariat**.

Secretariat takes place between 1969 and 1973. Had it been made at that time, it would still have seemed old-fashioned. But formulas are repeated because they work. Take a good story, apply the formula, and with the right skills in every department you can make a good movie. Director Randall Wallace brings most of those skills but is too obvious in his reliance on the formula. *Secretariat* is the son of *Seabiscuit* — not the horse, but the film: Well-bred, but not in the same league. Again it's less about the horse than the people around him.

Diane Lane stars as Penny Chenery Tweedy, who inherits guardianship of the horse she calls Big Red, but will race as Secretariat. Penny games Ogden Phipps (James Cromwell), "the richest man in America," into letting her keep Big Red: She's done her homework and predicts his genealogy will lead to a winning mix of speed and stamina.

No one else has her confidence. Dealing with horse business in Virginia puts a strain on Penny's family life in Denver. Her husband (Dylan Walsh), often left alone with their four children, makes her feel guilty; her brother (Dylan Baker) tries to strong-



arm her into selling the farm.

Her supporters are a ragtag assortment: Eddie Sweat (Nelsan Ellis of *True Blood*, pictured) is the stable hand who nurtures Big Red. Trainer Lucien Laurin (John Malkovich), is colorful and funny, though we never actually see him *training* a horse; her father's secretary (Margo Martindale) and jockey Ron Turcotte (Otto Thorwarth) do their parts.

The three races of the Triple Crown occupy the second half of the movie. High-definition video race footage, some from a jockey-cam perspective, provides the film's only modern touch.

It helps build suspense that Secretariat's style really was as portrayed: Slow out of the gate, then picking up speed while leaving the others in his dust. Perhaps it's the effort to make him and Penny appear as underdogs — er, underhorses — that makes the screenplay feel strained. Or it could be the Disneyfication of the story that makes everyone seem so nice. Maybe they should have called it *That Damn Horse*, just to be edgy.

— Steve Warren

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Collective soul

THE MANY FACES OF MILLER | Artist Cathey Miller hopes her paintings will speak for themselves. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

The networking event Pecha Kucha is about precision and presentation — but say it correctly, first

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

With an endless barrage of Twitter and Facebook updates, people are learning how to communicate quicker and with fewer words. Writing is one thing, but how are people at talking with that same succinctness? Is 20 seconds enough time to verbalize your point in a clear fashion?

If you ever plan to partake in some Pecha Kucha it will be — because you have no choice.

“The format took me forever to figure out,” Rawlins Gilliland says. “But it really is a wonderful one and you can pretty much conceptualize anyway you see fit.”

The KERA commentator known for his Southern drawl during pledge time, is one of 12 presenters for Wednesday’s fourth Pecha Kucha event. But first, he had to learn how to say it.

“I didn’t know anything about it and I still can’t pronounce it,” he says.

Originally designed as a networking event for designers in Tokyo, Pecha Kucha (pronounced *puh-che ku-cha*) has gone viral in bringing creative types together for a chit-chat (pecha kucha in Japanese). Only it’s not about cocktails and mix-

ing: Participants present topics in some pretty precise parameters — all thanks to Sarah Jane Semrad and Brian Murphy, who licensed PK here in town.

“I had to ask Sarah Jane a lot of questions,” Gilliland says. “She asked me to be a presenter in which I come up with 20 photos, put them into a PowerPoint where each appears for 20 seconds. That translates to six minutes, 40 seconds. That’s the format.”

Gilliland is a storyteller, so he plans to weave a story about his childhood experiences in the time frame. He knew once he heard exactly what Pecha Kucha entailed that he wanted to tell the story of “my mother’s vain attempt to cook something for me and my sister.” He calls the six minute parameter a luxury compared to the usual three minutes he gets for a radio bit.

He is among a diverse group of presenters that includes a human rights lawyer, tattoo artist, architect and visual artist Cathey Miller. Unlike Gilliland, Miller plans to let her art do most of the talking. Getting in front of a crowd to speak isn’t her norm. She admits she’s nervous.

“I’ve checked it out before to see what it was

about,” she says. “It was interesting for me as I was watching. I’m nervous but the good thing is it’s only 20 seconds with a gigantic slide behind me. And whenever Sarah Jane asks me to do anything, I say yes.”

Where Gilliland will use his images like a visual soundtrack to his story, Miller has created a slideshow of her art through the years with a brand new piece debuting as the final slide. She creates vibrant, colorful works that are part pop art and sci-fi with a humorous touch. Most depict women in strong situations, but still with some tongue in cheekiness aspect.

“My first couple of slides show what it’s like to be a working artist,” she says. “That’s been my job for 25 years. And then I’ll be fleshing out the story of Cathedonia, this planet I invented in my art. Some of it’s kooky and crazy.”

By that she means femaliens with Big Gulps and tridents with heads as spears. She’ll also display some of her past work for DIFFA, and her newest pieces where she plays with wigs and mustaches in her many self-portraits.

For Semrad, Pecha Kucha reflects the genuine fabric of what Dallas personifies and maybe

PECHA KUCHA
Wyly Theatre, 2403 Flora St.
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PKNDallas.org

even reminds there is greatness behind this city. Plus, she and Murphy thought it was cool.

“I was captivated by this idea that it is in so many cities pulling diverse groups of people together, sharing ideas succinctly. And it’s fun — for the presenters and the audience,” she says.

With three smaller PK nights under their belt, this particular one will be the biggest of the year. They chose to move away from a theme and instead go for absolute variety where they could find it. Murphy and Semrad seem to have it covered.

“We have one of everything,” she laughs. “We wanted it to be purposefully diverse and not just gay or straight, but a good mix of men and women, professional backgrounds — an eclectic mix that represents Dallas in a profound way. Dallas is a cultural wasteland and full of endless opportunity. This is a celebration of ideas and contrasts.”

The former gallery owner is fine with the Twitter analogy that people can push boundaries within constraints and lends it to saying just what is important.

“And if the presentation sucks, well, it’s only six minutes.” she says. ■



Buggery nights

'Closer to Heaven' wallows in sex, drugs & rock; '33 Variations' hits wrong note

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

The opening 10 minutes of **Closer to Heaven**, the season ender from Uptown Players, is an exhausting, non-stop carnival of music and movement. If only it could sustain that energy.

This is as hardcore as a musical usually gets—edgy, dark stuff. (Andy Redmon's set looks like the decaying remnants of a Satanic altar.) But it gets lost in a weak score and plot that turns too trite, too soon.

The program says it's set in 1999, but the sound and story are pure 1987: Dave (Evan Fuller), a straight young Irish boy, comes to the big city to work at a club, eventually becoming an exotic dancer. On the way, he gets exposed to gay sex, drugs and electronica, becoming corrupt and losing the innocence that made him so attractive.

These were all clichés by the time Christopher Atkins shook his ass in another "heaven" set potboiler, *A Night in Heaven*. The addition of gay themes makes them no fresher here.

And yet, *Closer to Heaven* works—on the margins, at least. As flawed as the show is, it's still compelling. I enjoyed large

swaths of it, almost against my better judgment—at least in Act 1. By Act 2, it starts to resemble an indie gay film more than a structured musical, as the plot shifts to a relationship between two men that comes almost from nowhere.

The performances surpass the material. If the androgynous Master of Ceremonies from *Cabaret* were a coke whore and more clearly a woman, she'd probably look and sound a lot like Morgana Shaw's Billie Trix. In her leather fetish garb, it seems as if the director, Bruce Coleman—here and with his bondage-themed take on *Equus* last winter—is working through some S&M fantasies at Uptown. In Shaw, in thigh-high latex platform boots, he's found an excellent medium.

Shaw doesn't blink at the excesses, channeling equal parts Marlene Dietrich and Nico Icon, and

she gets (by far) the best lines to have fun with. "They say my voice is 'living in,'" Billie growls with Teutonic predation. "Your voice would be lived in if you sucked as many cocks as I have." That's just one of the shocking moments in the production, and the fact it's still possible to be shocking onstage these days says something.

Coy Covington, nearly unrecognizable as a sleazy boy band entrepreneur, gets some droll moments (he seems to know it's best not to take the script too seriously). As Covington's toadie Flynn, Mikey Abrams steals laughs as an Eve Arden type with bits of Jack McFarland, Ethel Mertz and Rachel Berry.

Unfortunately, the Pet Shop Boys' music doesn't translate to stage like Elton John's and ABBA's do. (The Act 2 "overture," a nasty, disorienting mess, just puzzled the opening-night audience.) Their songs are hopelessly pop-sounding, without the theatrical flourishes of a Broadway score. Numbers just drift off without conclusion, as if the next track will fade over it. The lyrics are too literal, and the final song repetitive to the point of annoyance. That's a bad note to leave on when it kicks off so well.

Two centuries earlier, music played a big role in the lives of some other Europeans. In 1819, Ludwig van Beethoven (Bruce Elliott) took on the challenge of composing 33 variations on a "small waltz," becoming virtually obsessed with it and startling the world with his eventual output. In the present day, musicologist Katherine Brandt (Sharon Garrison) head to Bonn to research Beethoven's letters, trying to parse what he saw in this trivial little ditty.

Brandt doesn't have much time. She's been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease, and is slowly losing motor coordination. She's as obsessed with figuring out the mystery as Ludwig Van was writing it, to the exclusion and disappointment of her

ON THE BOARDS

CLOSER TO HEAVEN at the **Kalita Humphreys Theater**, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Oct. 24. UptownPlayers.org
33 VARIATIONS at **Theatre Three**, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 31. Theatre3Dallas.com.

■ NIGHTS, Page 42

BRINGING SEXY BACK | Morgana Shaw, center, leads a menagerie of freaks in Uptown Players' 'Closer to Heaven.' (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

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DA-DA-DA DUM | Beethoven (R Bruce Elliott, standing) is desperate to compose '33 Variations.'

undermines the drama. (It doesn't help that when she's rolled out for a CT scan, she looks like a Luann platter being slid along the counter at Luby's.)

Gordon Fox, as Beethoven's shrill assistant, Schindler, turns the comedy into something out of a silent film. He's all moon-faced surprises and overwrought gestures. He acts like Renfield to Beethoven's Dracula. I half expected him to eat bugs. Minor parts by two young actors are performed with distracting incompetence.

Elliott is a clear exception, capturing the maestro's bravado and his neuroses with depth and understanding, and exceeding in the comedy as well. (I'd love to see him try the Joe Sears roles in *Greater Tuna*.)

The costumes, especially the period clothing, are a disaster; what should be elaborately brocaded frocks look like cheap cotton hand-me-downs in need of a good pressing. Compared to the exquisite work done just a few months ago at Circle Theatre for *Bach at Leipzig*, they pale.

The same is true of the plays. *Bach* was conceived as a fugue; *33 Variations*? Intentionally or not, it's a dirge. ■

NIGHTS

From Page 41

estranged daughter (Lydia Mackay).

33 Variations, Moises Kaufman's 2009 Broadway hit now presented by Theatre Three, is staged by director Jac Alder with the same bombast as the "Ninth Symphony." Where's the deft, limber subtlety of Mozart, or even Beethoven's own "Moonlight Sonata?" Everything about it is melodramatic and big — too big.

The cast comes at the excess from both ends. Jane Fonda played Brandt on Broadway, and it's difficult to imagine her playing the part with the same noisy desperation as Garrison. Garrison projects her frustration too prosaically, furling her brow and snarling her lips in confusion. She

WingSpan tackles 2

early Albees

Being gay figures less concretely in playwright Edward Albee's work than do his skewed ideas about the nuclear family (owing, in part, to his chilly adoptive parents). But his plays almost always deal with people on the outside of society.

Two on the Aisle: The American Dream and The Sandbox is a festival of two early one-acters from Albee, which WingSpan Theatre

Co. is reviving at the Bath House Cultural Center, starting this week. In *The Sandbox*, an elderly relation's (Elly Lindsay, pictured) usefulness is minimized as her materialistic family plot to get rid of her; *The American Dream* continues that family's story with deep stabs at middle class values. In true Albee fashion, the absurdism is girded by a dark sense of humor and an ample dose of satire.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Presented by WingSpan Theatre Co. Through Oct. 23. Thursdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m., select weekend matinees at 2 p.m. \$17–\$20. 214-675-6573. WingSpanTheatre.com.



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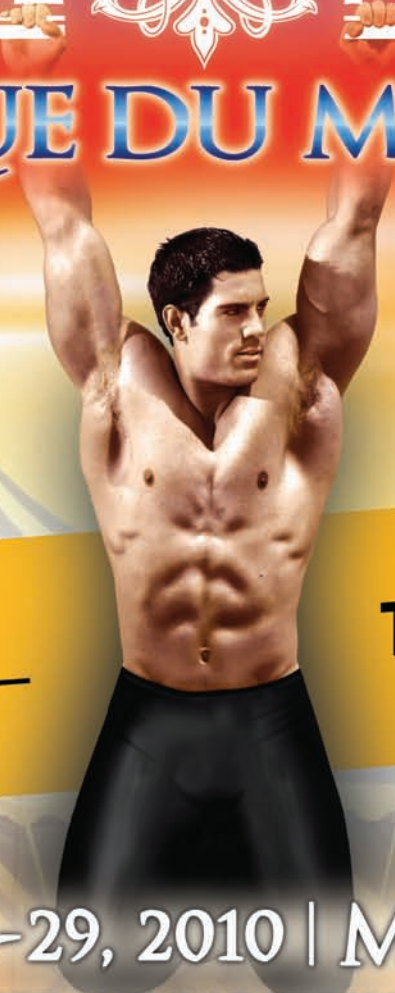
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Friday 10.08

Everything 'Zen' at this fundraiser

There are those of us who walk long distances and those of us who contribute. If you're the latter, but still want to help out LifeWalk, head to Gary Floyd's CD release party. His latest EP, *The Gospel of Zen*, gets the soiree treatment while also raising funds for AIDS Arms. Plus, with every suggested donation, you get a free CD. But get an autograph if you can.

DEETS: Private residence. 7 p.m. \$25. 214-686-7476. Facebook.com/LifeWalkDallas

Saturday 10.09

Walk this way to Deep Ellum

The Deep Ellum Enrichment Project hosts the Deep Ellum Art Walk with 18 galleries from the area and Exposition Park showing a variety of arts, with music and food along the way. The walk is followed up by an after-party at La Grange on Elm. Sweet.

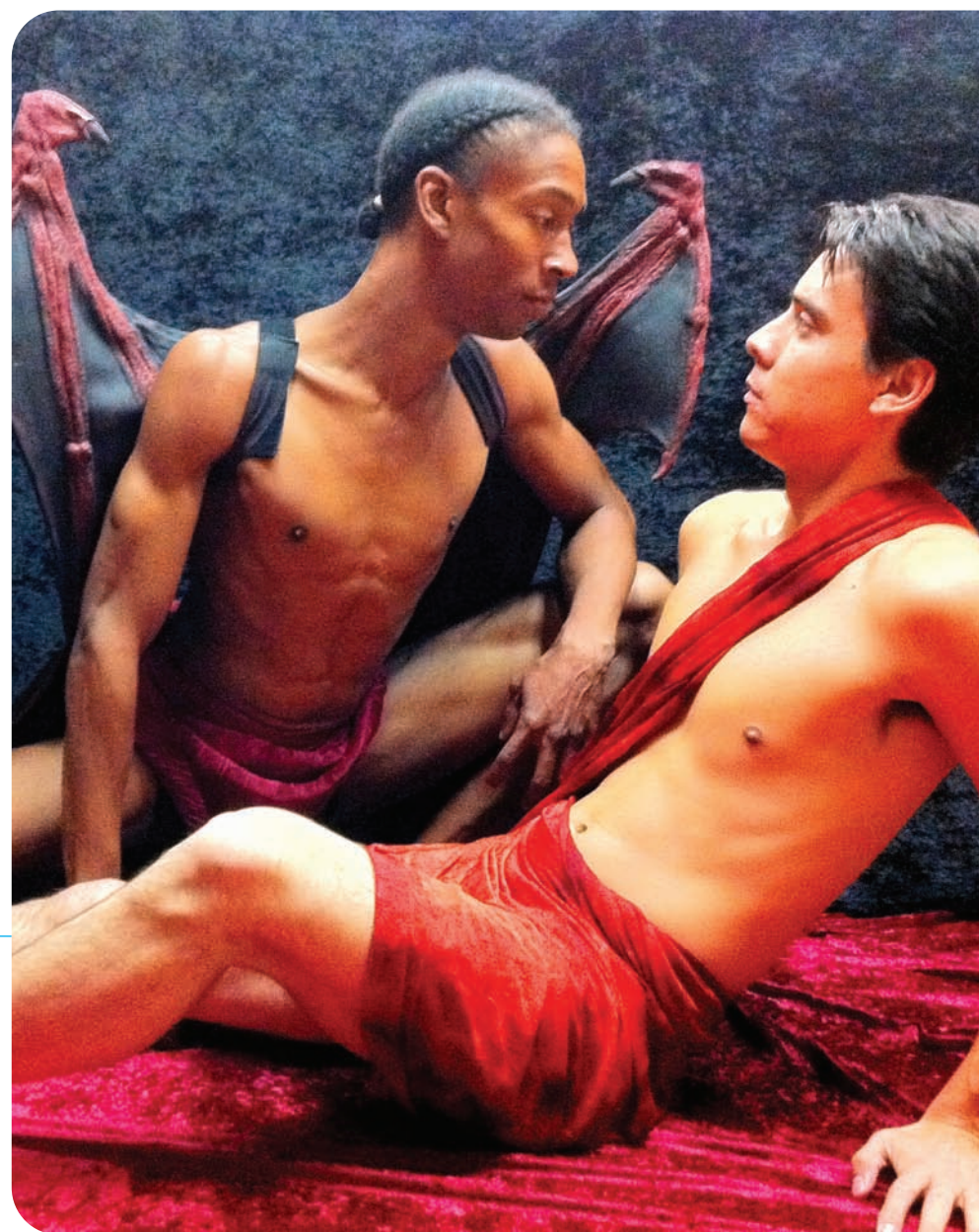
DEETS: Hosted by DEEP. 6 p.m. Free. Kevin@GreenBandanaGroup.com

Thursday 10.14

The devil never sleeps

Mark-Brian Sonna takes us to Hell again with his latest production, *Lucifer Descending*. Lucifer is pissed at God so he goes and creates the underworld. Then he sets his sights on abducting Seth, one of the sons of Adam and Eve. Clearly, Lucifer just doesn't know when to stop.

DEETS: Stone Cottage Theater, 15650 Addison Rd., Through Nov. 6. \$18-\$25. MBSProductions.net



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Tuesday

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Thursday

FRIDAY 10.08

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. Crystal-Meth.org.

FUSE drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3-8 p.m. 214-540-4435.

THEATER

Carnival of Souls: Purgatorium. KD Studio Theater, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Oct. 16. Fridays-Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. \$20. Level-GroundArts.com.

Dracula: The Melodrama. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through Nov. 13. Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$18. PocketSandwichTheatre.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. Norwood-FlynnGallery.com.

Thoroughly Thoreau by Scot Miller: Photographs from Walden, Cape Cod & the Maine Woods. Proceeds from sales donated to 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.

COMEDY

Dysfunctional Halloween Divas. Steven Jay Crabtree's one-man show of six female characters. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Friday and Saturday at 11:15 p.m. \$10 plus one food item.

SATURDAY 10.09

COMMUNITY

Rainbow Ministries International. Meets weekly. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 2 p.m. 469-222-3400.

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.

CONCERT

Carrie Underwood. The *American Idol* winner turned country superstar brings her tour to Dallas. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7 p.m. \$49-\$69. Ticketmaster.com.



CARRIE ON | Carrie Underwood has gone from TV Idol to country megastar..Her 'Play On' tour stops in Dallas Saturday.

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 10.10

COMMUNITY

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

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. DignityDallas.org.

The ONE Church West Sunday services. First Jefferson 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. This week's guest is Sam Wilkes from Youth First Texas. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon.

MONDAY 10.11

COMMUNITY

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

FUSE drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3-8 p.m. 214-540-4435.

■ CALENDAR, Page 48

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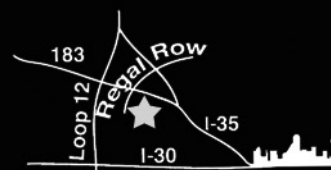
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VAMPIRE WEEKEND | 'Dracula: The Melodrama' plays at Pocket Sandwich Theatre.

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

WEDNESDAY 10.13

COMMUNITY

Positively Straight meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. AOC.org.

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

FUSE drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3-8 p.m. 214-540-4435.

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.

■ **CALENDAR**, From Page 47

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.

BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 10.12

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.

Bible study. The ONE Church East. 6246 Broadway Blvd, Suite #100, Garland. 7:30 p.m. 214-724-5658. Dallas1Church.org.

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

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

BROADCAST

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

THURSDAY 10.14

COMMUNITY

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

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

FUSE drop-in weekdays (except Tuesdays). For gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 3-8 p.m. 214-540-4435.

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

this week's solution

I	R	I	S	E	S	S	M	A	S	H	E	S	
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig



Lori Petty turns 47 on Thursday. We loved her as the spunky Kit Keller in 1992's *A League of Their Own*, but her 1995 film *Tank Girl* elevated her to cult status despite being a major flop. Petty isn't one to shy away from gay material with roles in *Prey For Rock 'n' Roll* and the very butch role as the alpha-female prison inmate Daddy in the television show *Prison Break*.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Be honest with your partner about finances. It will create challenges, but those problems are necessary steps to solving big ones. Take pride in your values, not your belongings.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Worrying about your health is the biggest danger to your health, but getting a check-up won't hurt. Your colleagues should be teammates. Being alert for skullduggery isn't paranoiac.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Doubts inhibit your self-expression. Articulate the problems and dig deeper at what's behind them. Friends' insights are helpful. Even if they're wrong, use the input as a springboard.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Friends getting on your nerves are echoing parental expectations that have long jarred against your own real aims. Discuss that with your annoying pals to get clear about what you want to do.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Wanting to show off your brilliance, or prove that you're right, is the surest way to get into trouble. Any argument should be an invitation to investigate the facts — the best way to get it right.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Everybody wants a taste of you, but what do you really want? Don't accept the first offer too quickly. Better yet, why wait to be asked? Have an open conversation with who you desire.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Sex doesn't solve all the problems in a relationship, but now it offers an interesting perspective on whatever the real problems are. Share yours and invite your partner to open up.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Your partner and colleagues are obstructing what you want to do. Be responsible for your accomplishments. Your partner's feedback won't make you happy, it will help you find answers.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Trying hard to promote your plans can provoke problems with colleagues. If you're sensing hidden agendas, it may be due to your own pushiness. Listen between the lines.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Keep the wicked fun at home where it belongs. Your creative challenge at work is to keep it clean, or at least appropriate. One step out of line will put you into somebody's firing range.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Don't get lured into simple arguments. Simple straightforward pride in who you are and where you come from doesn't depend on what others think. Consider the source.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

While it may seem that openness can save you some money or get you a romantic adventure, letting kitty out of the bag can cost you a lot on both counts.

THIS WEEK

Mercury and the sun lining up in Libra bring focus on relationships, but as they oppose Eris, a competitive streak comes out. Mars in Scorpio is the unlikely point of resolution, challenging you to make small adjustments that can lead to deep inner changes.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

THESE ARE MY "DO ME" PANTS. **OH, YEAH? DO THEY WORK?**

NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING, I'M SURE. **GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN.** **OH, HELLO, PRICE. IF YOU NEED TO DO LAUNDRY, WE'RE ALMOST DONE.**

LET'S JUST SAY, THEY'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF BITES, BUT THEY HAVEN'T REELED ANY IN YET. **ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO TALK TO BOTH OF YOU ABOUT THE NEW LAUNDRY POLICY.** **AS YOU MAY KNOW, KYLE HAS PUT ME IN CHARGE OF EFFICIENCY OPERATIONS AROUND HERE.**

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, EVERY B&B RESIDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO DO ONE LOAD OF LAUNDRY A WEEK FREE OF CHARGE. **ANY ADDITIONAL LOADS WILL INCUR A FIVE DOLLAR CHARGE.** **WELL, THAT WILL HAVE TO CHANGE. OR... YOU'LL BE SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY.** **THIS ISN'T FAIR.**

WHOA. ONE LOAD... A WEEK? **I SOMETIMES DO TWO LOADS A DAY!**

"FAIR"? PLEASE. KYLE IS ALREADY GIVING BOTH OF YOU A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN RENT. YOU, ENRICO, BECAUSE OF YOUR STUDENT STATUS... **IT'S EDUARDO.**

EDUARDO. RIGHT. AND YOU, RICHARD, BECAUSE, APPARENTLY... YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF HOLDING DOWN A JOB. **...IT'S PROBABLY BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TO BE DOING LESS LOADS OF LAUNDRY. GOODNESS...** **HE SUDDENLY SEEMS LESS SEXY TO ME.**

I HAVE A JOB! I'M A D.J. **SOMETIMES.** **I NEVER THOUGHT HE WAS SEXY. YET I STILL WANT TO SLEEP WITH HIM...**

...I ALMOST SOUND LIKE ONE OF THOSE "GREEN" LIBERAL TYPES. WHICH I CERTAINLY AM NOT. **SEE YOU AROUND, GENTLEMEN.**

Website - www.kylecomics.com

E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com

bitter girl

faux your approval

SO WE HAD THIS AMAAZING FIFTH DATE!!! **MMM HMM,**

...SHE HASN'T TOLD HER FIANCE ABOUT US YET BUT SHE TOTALLY WILL AFTER WE GO AWAY TO VERMONT FOR THE WEEKEND **MMM HMM,**

YOU DON'T DISAPPROVE? **I'VE GIVEN UP DISAPPROVING OF THIS, YVONNE,**

UNTIL THIS ALL GOES UP IN A BLAZING FIREBALL OF EPIC DISASTER, I WILL BE TOTALLY NOT TRYING TO STOP YOU,

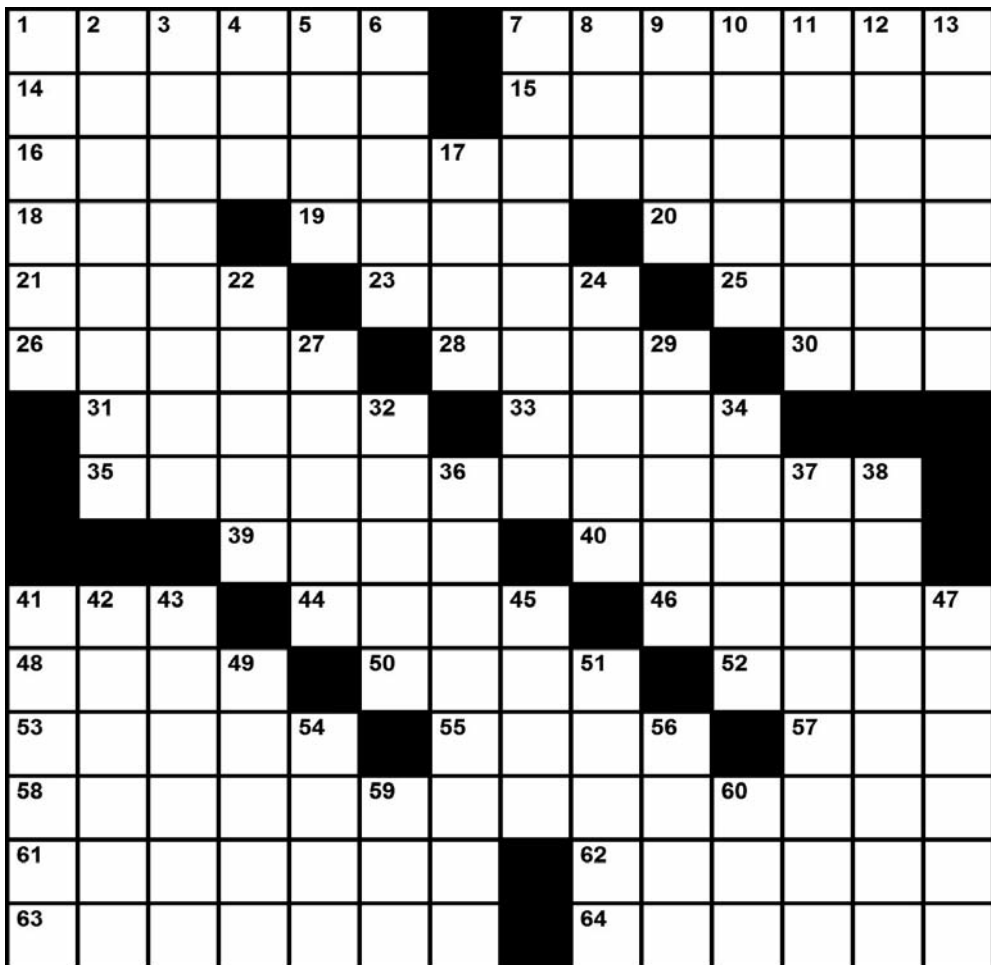
I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN YOU DISAPPROVED. **MMM HMM,**

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



Slip of the Tongue

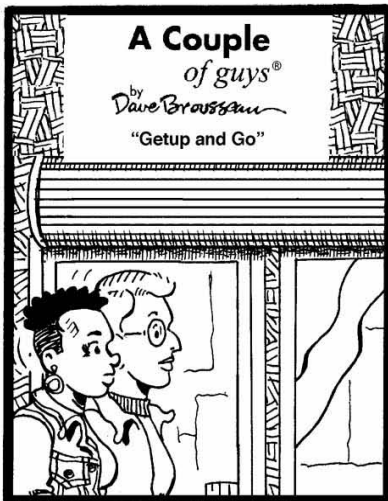
Solution on page 48

Across

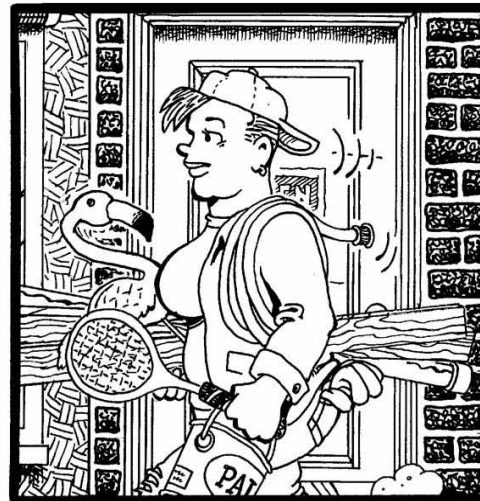
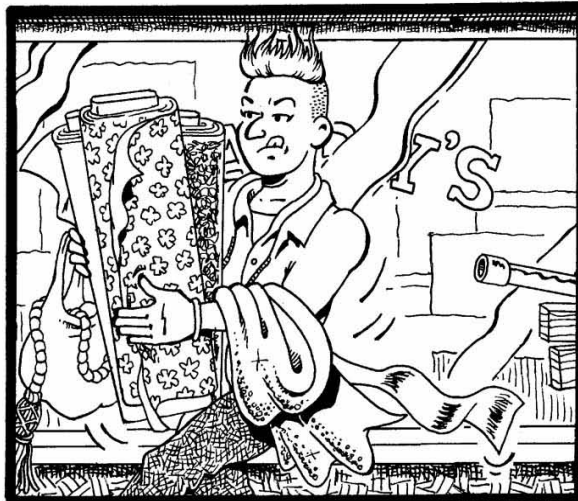
- 1 Murdoch with a flower?
- 7 Overhand strokes, for Mauresmo
- 14 Cape Fear star
- 15 Sultry Dietrich
- 16 Start of a quip
- 18 Halloween mo.
- 19 Series ender
- 20 French river
- 21 Mistake for Paul Taylor
- 23 Lubricates
- 25 Hammerhead part
- 26 Flies like an eagle
- 28 Shakespearean king
- 30 Hearst's kidnappers (abbr.)
- 31 What you do after you drop the soap in the shower
- 33 Former Queens stadium name
- 35 More of the quip
- 39 Wine list datum
- 40 Swiss capital
- 41 IBM products
- 44 Potential partners for Adam and Steve?
- 46 Puccini opera

Down

- 48 Jungle warning
- 50 Historic Stonewall event
- 52 Tide type
- 53 Rosie's favorite dolls
- 55 McAn of footwear
- 57 Beverage suffix
- 58 End of the quip
- 61 Gay parent, often
- 62 "Have a piece!"
- 63 Abductors' demands
- 64 Sachet emanations



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



www.acoupleofguys.com





Frank and Branden at the Tin Room.



Stephan and Rick at the Drama Room.



Kevin, Marshall and Ken at Station 4.



Cooper, Ramon and Kevin at Rush.

What say we get this weekend started? Heck, we'll even go into the week On the live music front, **Sue Ellen's** gives us **Anton Shaw and the Reason** in her weekly Friday appearance. **The State Of** and **Jen Korte** play the **Vixin Lounge** stage Saturday night **The Round-Up Saloon** throws back every Sunday with **Mickey's ManCandy Retro Dance**. Seriously, that just sounds fun from here. Quit stepping on other people's toes with **Dance Lessons with Juanita** Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. We'll all appreciate it **The Dallas Eagle** revs us up with their big, macho parties every week. Saturday night is the **Pig Play: Orange Hanky Party**. Apparently this is the "anything goes" color. We just thought it was for Halloween. Plus, the **Hot Wax Demon** will be onstage that night. Scary and exciting **Jack's Backyard** brings back **Voodoo Blue** to their stage on Friday night. Saturday could be a whole lotta fun. **Chris-Cook-A-Palooza III** happens all day starting at 2 p.m. The line-up includes **Reinventing Jude**, **The Felons** and **Kickback** to name a few. And with this crisp, cool weather, this could be a good day for rockin' it outdoor style Get some jock action at **Woody's** this weekend. They are the go-to spot for **DIVA's Fall Classic** volleyball tournament which hosts teams from all over the country. Total **Grindr** fest Saturday is also the unofficial "Official Gay Day" at the **State Fair of Texas**. One guy got the ball rolling on Facebook and the consensus came to this day. All the LGBTs are to **meet up** and say hi at **Big Tex** at the stroke of noon and then back to your usual fun. But hey, could you all try the **fried margarita** for us? We're not that brave.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Shawn, Eric, Katie, Amanda, David and Kamie at Alexandre's.

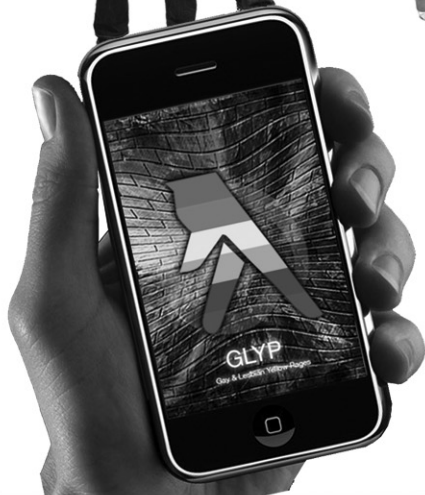


Marty, Kyle and Kinsey at Club Percussions.



Ryan and Randy at the Round-Up Saloon.

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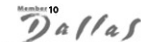
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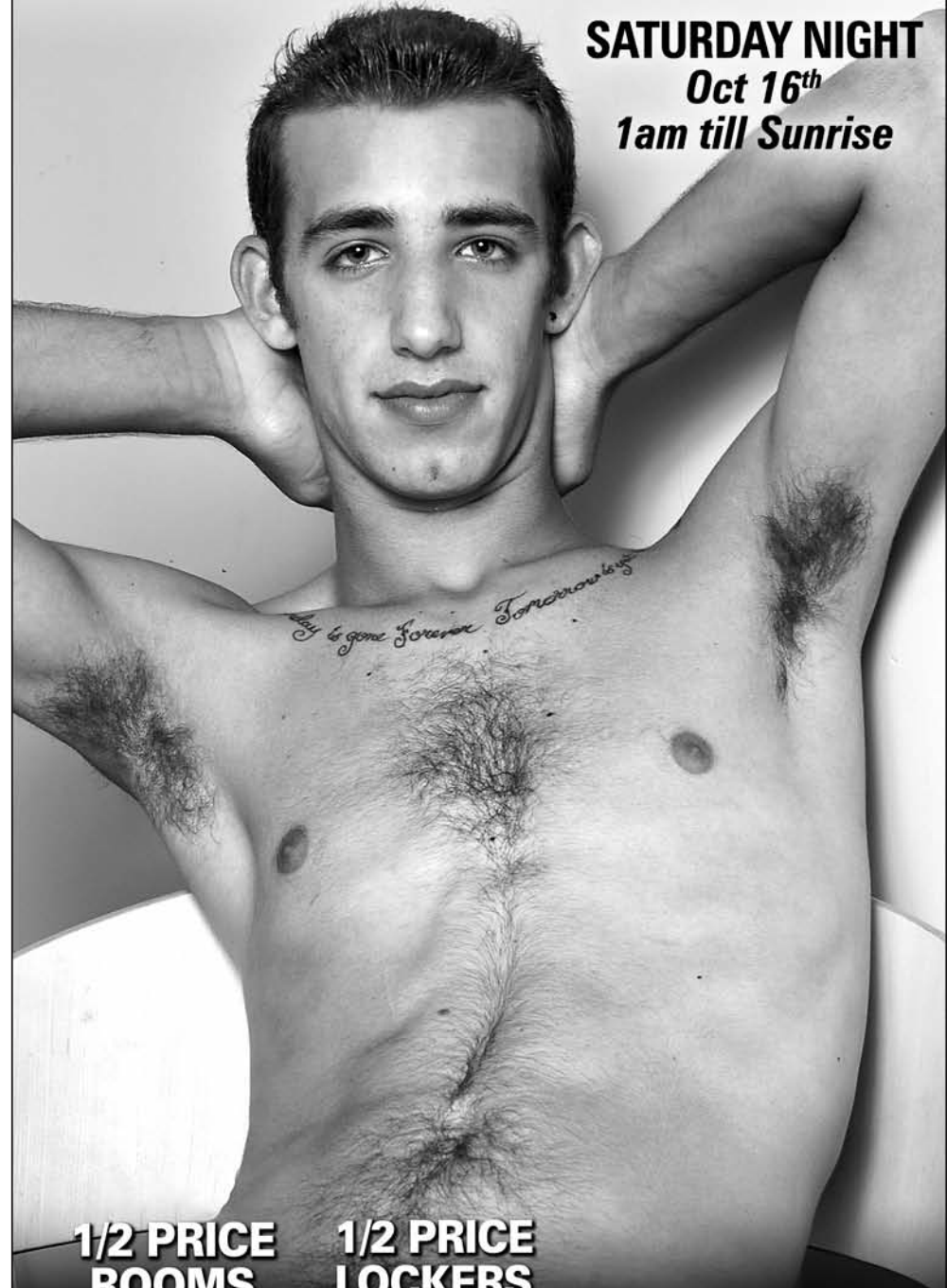
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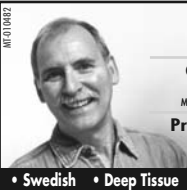
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