

Mozart — with sex appeal

Paulo Szot gets a sultry Dallas Opera debut

Gay Tony winner opens season with 'Don Giovanni'

■ OPERA, Page 22



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Established 1984 | Volume 27 | Issue 22

FREE | Friday, October 15, 2010

DOJ appeals injunction halting DADT

Advocates warn LGBT servicemembers not to come out until questions are settled

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The U.S. Department of Justice on Thursday, Oct. 14 asked a federal district judge to allow the military to continue enforcing “don’t ask, don’t tell” pending the government’s appeal of her ruling declaring the policy unconstitutional.

The request came two days after U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Phillips issued an injunction Tuesday, Oct. 12 ordering the Department of Defense to halt enforcement of DADT worldwide.

The DOJ, which is defending the 17-year-old ban on open service, on Thursday asked Phillips to stay the injunction pending its appeal of her September ruling.

“As the President has stated previously, the Administration does not support the DADT statute as a matter of policy and strongly supports its repeal,” the justice department told Phillips. “However, the Department of Justice has long followed the practice of defending federal statutes as long as reasonable arguments can be made in support of their constitutionality, even if the Administration disagrees with a particular statute as a policy matter, as it does here.”

If Phillips denies the request for a stay of the injunction, the DOJ can request an emergency stay from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which will hear any appeal.

■ DADT, Page 14

‘Whose queen? Our queen!’



TEAM ANDY! | Hundreds of students at North Dallas High School chanting “Whose queen? Our queen!” and carrying “Team Andy” signs surround Queer Liberation Action member Elizabeth Pax, holding megaphone, and transgender student Andy Moreno, standing behind Pax, during a rally in support of Moreno, who was denied the opportunity to run for homecoming queen even though students had nominated her. NDHS Principal Dinah Escanilla said Moreno couldn’t be homecoming queen because she is “a boy” and refused to allow votes for Moreno to be counted. For the full story, see Page 16. (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

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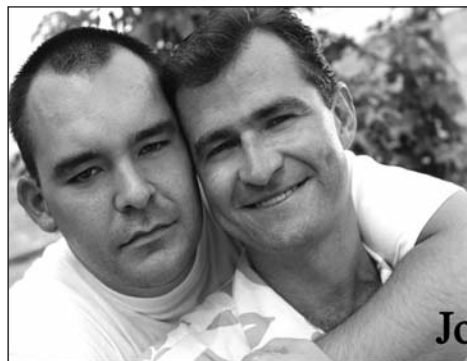
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Local leaders turn focus on bullying

Rally set Friday in Dallas to promote legislation, promote awareness of bullying in schools, teen suicide

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance will hold a rally in Lake Cliff Park in Oak Cliff on Friday, Oct. 15 to draw attention to the problem of gay teen suicide and to opportunities in the next session of the legislature to end school bullying.

State Rep. Roberto Alonzo is among the speakers. In the last session he coauthored a safe schools bill with Rep. Mark Strama of Austin. The legislation did not pass.

Larry Duncan, president of Dallas County Schools, is also scheduled to appear. Dallas County Schools is providing shuttle bus service from 8th & Corinth Station on the Red and Blue lines to Lake Cliff Park. The park is located at E. Colorado and Zang boulevards.

"The rally is important because we need a safe schools law that empowers teachers, administrators and staff to stop bullying when they see it," said DGLA President Patti Fink. "No kid can focus

■ RALLY, Page 14



RALLYING FOR SAFE SCHOOLS | Rep. Roberto Alonzo, a Dallas Democrat, right, speaks to a witness during a meeting of the House Committee on Higher Education during the 2007 session of the Texas Legislature. Alonzo is among those who will speak at a rally Friday to promote awareness of the problems of bullying in schools and teen suicide.

11 arrested in raid at Club Dallas

DPD liaison says action prompted by complaint, warns more police activity possible at bathhouse

JOHN WRIGHT | Online Editor
wright@dallasvoice.com

Eleven people were arrested at The Club-Dallas on Friday night, Oct. 8, when police raided the gay bathhouse in Deep Ellum for the first time in several years.

Ten patrons of The Club reportedly were charged with either public lewdness or indecent exposure, while one employee was charged with interfering with police. DPD would only release records related to three of the 11 arrests, saying Dallas Voice needed to file a freedom of information request to obtain additional details.

Laura Martin, DPD's liaison officer to the gay community, said the vice unit raided the establish-



Dallas police Officer Laura Martin, liaison to the LGBT community.

ment on Swiss Avenue in response to a complaint. But police wouldn't say who had complained.

Martin said she believes it marked the first time since 2003 vice officers have gone in to the 34-year-old establishment, one of nine similar clubs nationwide.

"We've done operations in that club since the late '70s. There just hasn't been one in a while because there hasn't been a complaint," Martin said. "They [officers] were in there for a legitimate reason, and obviously there was illegal activity going

on or that many arrests wouldn't have been made."

The Club Dallas on Thursday, Oct. 14 issued a one-sentence statement about the raid.

"The Club Dallas management is committed to pursuing justice for and defending the rights of each of its members," the statement read.

The Club reportedly helped bond out arrested members from jail and has offered them legal representation.

Martin, meanwhile, warned that additional police activity at the business is possible.

"When somebody complains we have to go in, just like when someone calls 911 we have to go to the call," Martin said. "Now that so much activity was found there, they can probably expect more vice operations there. ... I've certainly never been there, but I've heard that public lewdness does go on in the club. All you have to do is keep your ears open."

Though it is billed as "a private men's club," The Club Dallas is considered a public place for the purposes of Texas' public lewdness statute, according to one criminal defense attorney who frequently represents people charged with the crime.

Public lewdness, defined as sexual intercourse or sexual contact in a public place, is a class-A misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a maximum \$4,000 fine.

Criminal defense attorney Tim Menchu said a public place has been interpreted by Texas appellate courts to mean any place "a substantial group of the public has access to."

■ CLUB DALLAS, Page 12

Proposal revived to restrict parking on N. Hall Street

A little over a year ago we wrote about a proposal to establish a "resident-parking only" zone on the 3900 block of Hall Street, just off the Cedar Springs strip.

The RPO zone would prohibit non-residents from parking on the block during certain hours on weekend nights.

Some residents say the RPO is needed because they have no place to park due to spaces being taken by patrons of the gay entertainment district.

But opponents say those residents knew it was an entertainment district when they moved there, and they fear another RPO zone would make a bad parking situation worse in Oak Lawn.

There are dozens of RPO zones in Dallas — mostly in the Lower Greenville area. There currently is only one RPO near the gay entertainment district — in the 3200 block of Throckmorton Street.

According to Jim Musick, a resident of the 3900 block of Hall Street who opposes the RPO, the proposal appears to have been revived after more than a year.

"I find this totally inappropriate and offensive," Musick wrote to Instant Tea.

Musick forwarded a note from the property manager for his complex seeking volunteers to circulate a petition in support of the RPO. As the note dated Oct. 12 states, the petition would need the signatures of two-thirds of homeowners on the block for the proposal to proceed. Here's what the note said:

Hi All:

It had been mentioned to me at the Board meeting held last month that there is an interest in homeowners and guests being able to park in the street and spaces being available.

I met with a neighboring property on your street that I also manage and they have visited the city to see what needs to be done to apply for permits for homeowners on Hall Street. I have a form that each homeowner would have to sign and provide your license plate number. A total of 2/3 of the homeowners have to sign this document to be submitted to the city.

I need a volunteer that can visit each homeowner within your community to get it signed. Would someone like to help me with this project as I need original signatures?

Please let me know and I can drop by and give you the form.

Thanks

Ed Colvin, CMCA, AMS

Association Manager

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— John Wright

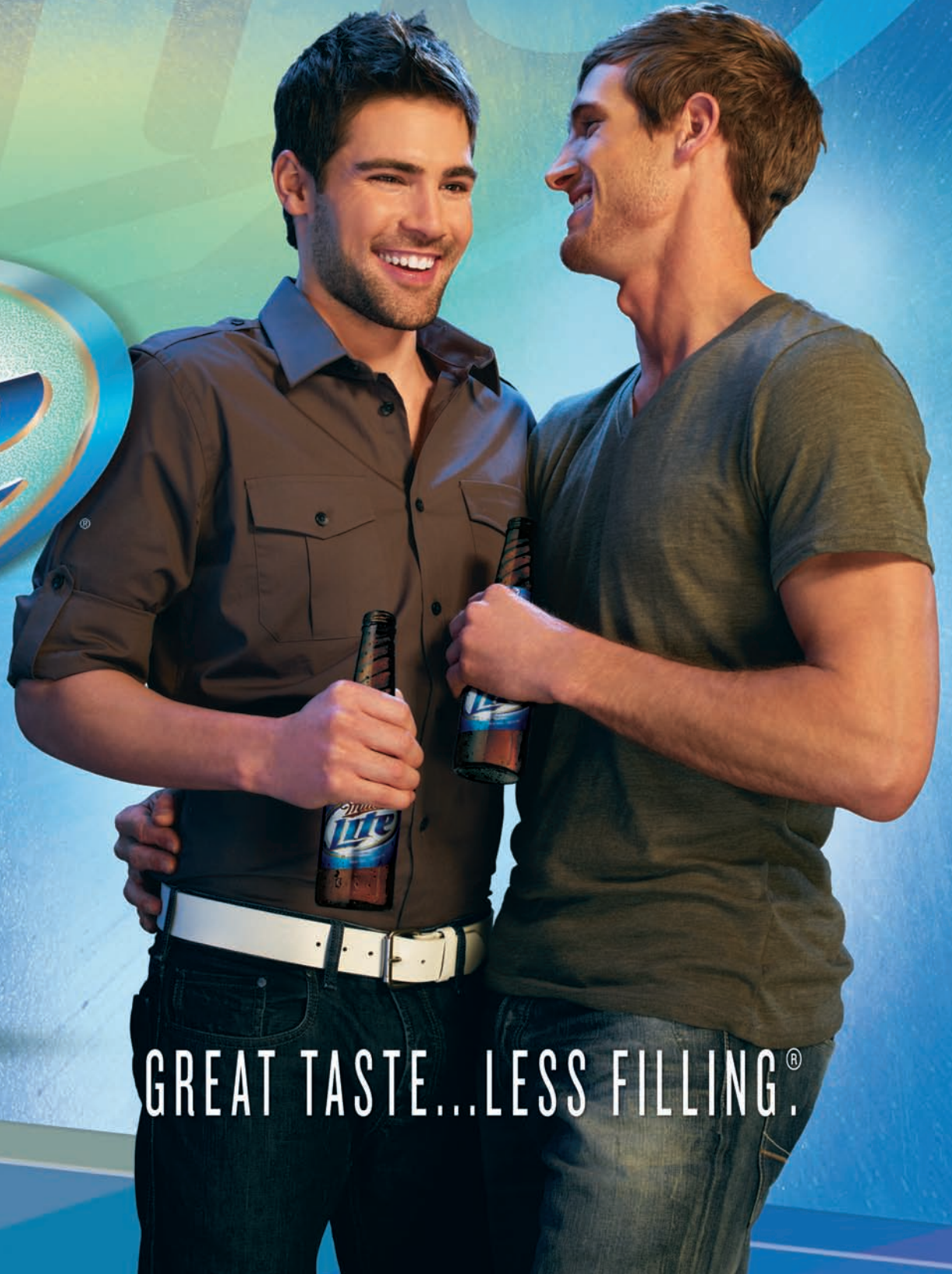


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SISTERS STAND VIGIL



VEIL OF TEARS | Attendees write on a Veil of Tears on Sunday night, Oct. 10 in the parking lot of Kroger on Cedar Springs Road prior to a vigil and march honoring gay teen suicide victims. People were asked to write down examples of when people used anti-gay language against them, and organizers said the veil would later be burned. About 100 people attended the vigil put together by the DFW Sisters, marching down Cedar Springs to the Legacy of Love Monument for a ceremony during which victims' names were read aloud between refrains of "Stop the bullying" and "Never again." (John Wright/Dallas Voice)

Deaths

Dale Norman Rust, 53, of Dallas died on Monday, Aug. 30 following a brief illness.

Rust was born Jan. 19, 1957, in Litchfield, Minn., and graduated from Litchfield High School in 1975. He continued his education at St. Cloud State University and graduated in 1979.

After graduating from college, Rust lived in Minneapolis through 1990 and then moved to Dallas where he worked at the Adolphus and Stoneleigh hotels.

Rust was a free spirit who thoroughly enjoyed

classic and modern movies, reading books, collecting classic Disney animation sericals, movie memorabilia, art, antiques and Tommy Bahama clothing.



He is survived by his parents, siblings and many other relatives and friends in Minnesota and Texas.

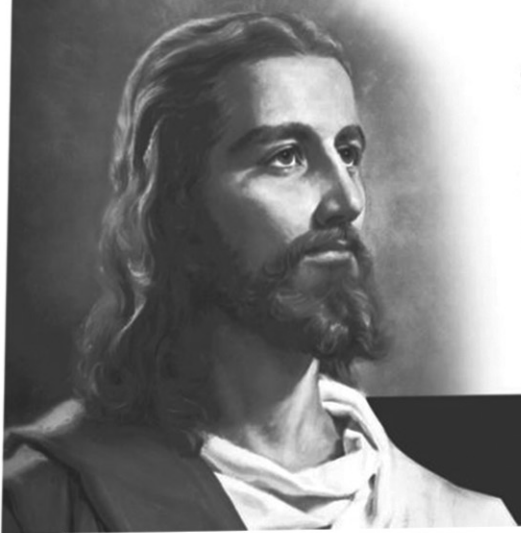
A celebration of Rust's life will be held on the afternoon of Oct. 24 at a local residence. To be added to the invitation list please send an e-mail to familyrust@att.net.

■ pet of the week / sasha

Sasha is a beautiful calico with vivid markings and gorgeous gold eyes. She's 2 years old and very petite, weighing less than 8 pounds. Sasha is somewhat shy but loving once she gets to know you. She seems to be good with other cats and would do best in a quiet adult home.

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





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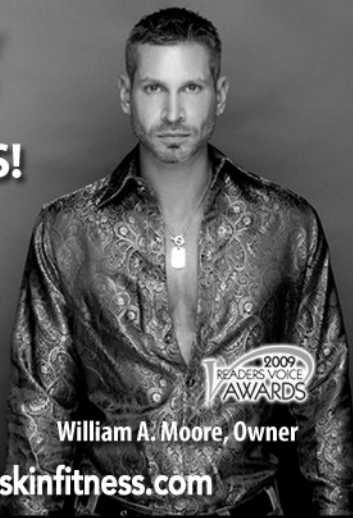
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Remembering a friend and helping others



HAPPIER TIMES | Shauna Greaham seemed like 'the perfect person' to her friends, but in reality, she struggled throughout her adult life with depression. This weekend, her friends are holding an event in her memory to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Friends of woman who committed suicide holding 2nd benefit for Foundation for Prevention of Suicide

TAMMY NASH | Senior Editor
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Kinita Albertson first met Shauna Greaham in high school, when the two played softball for opposing teams. Then the two women met again, this time as teammates, when they both played college softball for Texas Wesleyan University.

Greaham was, Albertson said, "the perfect per-

son, so amazing."

But it only seemed that way.

Greaham committed suicide on Oct. 13, 2008.

Albertson said Greaham struggled with periodic bouts of depression throughout her adult life. Although Albertson said she never knew of her friend being bullied or harassed over being gay, Greaham wasn't comfortable with her sexual orientation, either.

"When we were in college, she was embarrassed to be gay. She never talked about it or admitted it," Albertson said. "Even after college, I would see her at the games [for the lesbian softball league], and she would say, 'Oh, I'm just playing

■ **SHAUNA**, Next Page



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■ **SHAUNA**, From Previous Page

for the gay league because they needed more players.”

Still, Greaaham’s friends never expected her to take her own life.

“She had a girlfriend, but they were breaking up,” Albertson said, recalling the days leading up to her friend’s death. “We knew Shauna was upset and depressed, so we went over that weekend to spend some time with her. She seemed to be okay. Yes, she was upset, but by the time we left, she seemed okay. She was laughing and having a good time with everybody.

“And then, she was just gone,” Albertson continued. “Nobody really knows what happened. Something just snapped, and she was gone.”

And her friends were left with grief and questions.

“I had all the questions and nowhere to find answers. Even on the Internet, I had trouble finding any information. I had to dig. I was just grasping at straws as to why this happened,” Albertson said.

And then she found the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and finally found some of the answers she was seeking.

“I found AFSP online, and I called and asked for information. They really did help,” Albertson said.

One of the things she learned, Albertson said, was not to give in to some of the common misperceptions about suicide.

“A lot of times, when someone commits suicide, people say that they just gave up, that they quit trying. It’s a lot more complicated than that. There aren’t such easy answers,” Albertson said. “That’s one thing I don’t want people to think about Shauna. She was an amazing person, and I don’t want anybody to think of her as a quitter.”

AFSP is a nonprofit organization “exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide,” according to its website.

The agency works to meet its goals by funding scientific research, offering education programs for mental health professionals, working to educate the public about mood disorders and suicide prevention, promoting policies and legislation

aimed at preventing suicide and offering programs and resources for those who have lost loved ones to suicide and those who are themselves at risk for suicide.

The organization also has a specific LGBTQ Initiative and in 2007 helped sponsor, in conjunction with the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, a conference on LGBTQ suicide. AFSP has since funded several grants related to the issue of LGBTQ teen suicide and is currently working to complete a review of research and recommendations on LGBTQ suicide and suicide risk, according to the website.

The organization is also actively involved in studying and publicizing the link between anti-LGBT bullying and suicide.

But all those efforts take money. That’s why Albertson and her friends this weekend will hold their second annual “Strides for Shauna” benefit show and date auction.

Casey Cohea, who is helping organize the benefit, said eight people have already committed to being “auctioned off” for dates, and she expects others to join the list by the time the event starts Saturday night, Oct. 16.

The event will also feature a performance by Nikki McKibben who was the third place finisher in the debut season of American Idol.

McKibben isn’t one the dates who will be auctioned, Cohea noted, “she will just be there to sing. We told her what we were doing, and she wanted to help.”

The show and auction starts at 8:30 p.m. Saturday night at Best Friends Club, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth. And anyone interested in volunteering for the auction can contact Cohea at pinkertc15@yahoo.com or Albertson at Kinita.albertson@gmail.com.

But even those who can’t attend can still contribute by going online to OutOfTheDarkness.com and donating to Team Strides for Shauna.

“I didn’t know Shauna. I’m doing this because people that I know and love knew and loved Shauna and this is important to them,” Cohea said.

“But I am also doing it because this is something that affects so many people in our community. We are losing so many people to suicide, and we have to do something to help.” ■

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Vowels drops 3½-year custody fight

Although courts finally ruled she had standing to bring custody suit, Vowels says continuing the fight would have harmed her daughter

TAMMYE NASH | Senior Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Kristie Vowels vividly remembers the last day she saw her daughter Meghan. It was the morning of April 24, 2007.

"I took her to school that morning. She had on her khaki shorts, and her black t-shirt and her little black Crocs," Vowels said.

Meghan was 3 years old then. And Vowels has spent the 3½ years since that day fighting for the right to see her daughter again — right up until Friday afternoon, Oct. 8.

That's when Vowels signed the papers to drop her lawsuit seeking joint custody of her daughter.

"I'm doing this for Meghan," Vowels said in an interview at her attorney's office. "I'm doing this because I want to do what's best for her. I love her enough not to be selfish."

Vowels and her former partner, Tracy Scourfield, had lived together for several years, since December 1998, when they decided to have a child together. Scourfield gave birth to their daughter on May 21, 2004, and the couple gave their baby girl both their last names — Scourfield-Vowels.

Vowels and Scourfield ended their relationship a little more than a year later, in August 2005, and Scourfield and Meghan moved out, into an apartment near Vowels' home. For nearly two years, the two women shared custody of their daughter, with Meghan spending part of her time with Scourfield, and the rest with Vowels.

On Aug. 3, 2006, Scourfield had Meghan's last name changed to Scourfield. And nine months later, she cut off contact between the little girl and Vowels. Less than a month later, on May 23, 2007, Vowels filed suit seeking joint custody.

Less than a month after the suit was filed, 302nd Judicial District Court Associate Judge Christine Collie ruled in the case, saying that while Vowels had standing as a "person with substantial past contacts" to sue to adopt the child, she had no standing to sue for custody. Judge Tena Callahan confirmed Collie's rulings in November and then again in January 2008, and in April that year, Callahan signed the order, based on a motion by Scourfield, to dismiss the suit.

By the end of April, Vowels had appealed the ruling, but it took a little over a year for the appeals court to issue its decision, finally affirming the dismissal on Aug. 11, 2009. Vowels asked for a rehearing and an en banc review, and on Dec. 1, the appeals court handed down a new ruling, this time in Vowels favor, saying she did, in fact, have legal standing to sue for joint custody.

Scourfield's motion for a rehearing was denied



THE LAST WORD | Kristie Vowels, seated, watches through tears as her attorney, Michelle May O'Neil, standing left, adds her signature under Vowels' to paperwork informing the court Vowels is dropping her lawsuit seeking joint custody of the daughter she shared with her former partner. Even though attorney Ashley Russell, standing right, had located a clause in the Texas Family Code that might have helped win, Vowels and her attorneys felt the price of victory would have been too great. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

by the appeals court, as was her appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. And on July 26 this year, the appellate court issued the mandate to return the case to trial court.

Vowels was ready for the next stage of the battle. But she and her attorneys, Michelle May O'Neil and Ashley Russell, knew it would be a hard fight, thanks to legal precedent set in a 2000 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Troxel v. Granville*.

In that case, a Washington couple were suing for visitation rights with their dead son's children. But the Supreme Court ruled that a parent has the constitutional right to rear their children as they see fit, and that to abridge that right, the court had to find the parent unfit.

It is, O'Neil said, a very high standard to meet. "It's really hard to disprove the fitness of a parent. Look at Britney Spears and everything she went through, and she was never ruled unfit," O'Neil said.

Still, there was a chance. In fact, Russell had found a clause in the Texas Family Code that might have even lowered the bar so that Vowels and her attorneys wouldn't have to try to prove Scourfield unfit to win their case.

To gain standing to sue, Vowels and her attor-

neys had already proven that she had "actual care, control and possession" of her daughter — through the joint custody arrangement with Scourfield that lasted almost two years — within six months of the date she filed suit.

And then Russell found a clause in the code that said if a parent "relinquishes actual care, control or possession" of a child for six months, that overcomes the presumption of fitness. And the courts had already ruled that Scourfield had relinquished partial control to Vowels over the course of those two years.

It was the chink in Scourfield's armor, and if Vowels and her attorneys could prevail, it would likely set precedent, O'Neil said.

But, the attorney added, "If we win, what would that look like?"

On Sept. 1, O'Neil met with Scourfield's attorney to try and reach an agreement that would allow Vowels to see her daughter and end the court battle. After all, Vowels said, "For me, this was never about winning a court case. It was just about being able to see my daughter. That's all I wanted, to see Meghan."

But during the meeting with Scourfield's attorney, O'Neil said, it became blisteringly clear that

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Scourfield would never settle.

"I tried everything to get him [Scourfield's attorney] to make a settlement. I hoped that after 3½ years, she would soften some and agree to something. I used every persuasive argument I could think of," O'Neil said. "But it became painfully obvious to me that no matter what her lawyer thought or said, or what I said or what Kris said, there was never, ever going to be a settlement offer."

Vowels recalled that day and her conversation with O'Neil.

"Michelle and I walked outside after she met with Tracy's lawyer and sat down, and I remember her telling me what took place. Then she said, 'You know Kris, I don't know if I can win this for you,'" Vowels said. "I was so taken aback. I said, 'Yes, you can.'"

But O'Neil wasn't swayed. "I asked her, if we do win, what will that look like? I really wanted her to think about that, about what it meant to keep fighting and what it would mean if we won," she said.

"We could go through this horrible, protracted fight, and I knew that on every ruling from the judge that didn't go her way, Tracy would appeal it, all the way to the Supreme Court. If we go through three or six or nine more years of court battles, even if we win everything, what does that really look like? Even if the court gives you cus-

today, will Tracy support your relationship with Meghan? What will it do to Meghan?"

And that was what cemented Vowels' decision. She and O'Neil set an appointment for later to make the final decision, but Vowels already knew what she had to do.

"I was OK that night. I was OK that next week. But not really," Vowels said. "Grief was knocking on my heart, and it was knocking hard. I realized that I had been in some phase of grief for 3 ½ years. I hadn't been living; I had just been functioning. I functioned at a high level, yes, but I had limited myself emotionally."

O'Neil said Vowels had stayed positive throughout the fight, always putting up a brave front. But she knew the struggle was wearing on her client.

"Every hearing, every meeting, Kristi came to that courthouse thinking, 'Today's the day that I'll get to see Meghan again.' Every time, even when she knew that it wouldn't actually happen, she came with that attitude. It was really affecting her ability to just live her life."

And so Vowels decided to end the fight. With her attorneys standing behind her, as they had done for more than three years, Vowels signed her name with a shaking hand to the papers that would end the case.

It's been a long, hard battle, but Vowels said she is ready now to move on with her life, even though she will always love her daughter and will always think of herself as Meghan's mom.

For the two attorneys, who describe themselves as "two straight, white, Republican women with husbands and children," this case has been life-changing.

"I had just been practicing maybe a year when Kristi came to us with this case," Russell said. "I was just learning to navigate the family courts system and figure out where everything fit. Then this case came along and blew that all wide open. I realized that there were all these people, all these families and children who don't fit into these neat little slots made for us by the law."

"This case really heightened the awareness for me that in reality, people are not all treated fairly under the law, and that is not right," Russell added. "You can only do the best with what you have, but we all have to fight for what is right."

O'Neil said that she already had an idea of the legal barriers that LGBT people face, thanks to her time as a young lawyer working in the Texas attorney general's office.

"That was when the attorney general was defending the sodomy statute in the case that eventually went to the Supreme Court," O'Neil said. "And as a Baylor Baptist bow-head girl, that was a real shock to my system, believe me! But through that, I got exposed to the prejudices so many people are subjected to, and I really learned compassion [LGBT people and the defendants in the case], even though I was defending the statute."

"That experience really broadened my

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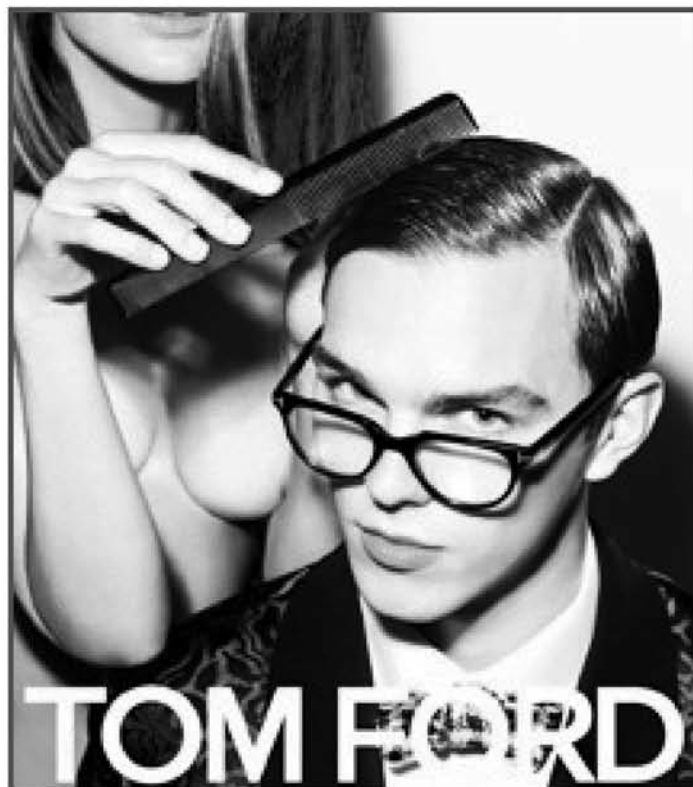
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CLUB DALLAS

From Page 4

"Just having to pay a cover charge doesn't take you out of the realm," Menchu said, adding that he would argue in court, "I guess everyone in the world has access to the bottom of the ocean, but nobody's going to go there."

Of the three individuals whose arrest reports were released to Dallas Voice, one was charged with public lewdness and two were charged with indecent exposure, which is defined as exposing one's genitals with the intent to arouse or gratify and in a manner that is "reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed ..."

Indecent exposure is a class-B misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a maximum \$2,000 fine.

Menchu said he once successfully fought indecent exposure charges against five men who were arrested at Midtowne Spa, another gay bathhouse in Dallas. He said it's hard for prosecutors to argue that the activity is recklessly offensive when all club members typically sign waivers saying they acknowledge it takes place.

"I don't think it flies," Menchu said of the indecent exposure charges.

"They didn't go to the freakin' park. They're not out in the mall in the bathrooms. What the hell is wrong with that?" said Menchu, who's straight.

"I personally have no problem with it. The

problem is that with these particular officers in the vice unit, and with the DA's office and with the state of the law, you're putting yourself at risk."

One member of The Club-Dallas who asked not to be identified said he doesn't believe most patrons are aware of the risk. The member said

“Most of these guys, if not every single one of them, said, ‘How is this illegal?’ You’ve got to realize if you take away our places to have sexual releases, that means we have no choice but to return to the streets, so it’s not a smart move.”

—Club Dallas member

one of his friends who is bisexual but was not out to his family was arrested in the raid, forcing him to call relatives from jail and explain what happened.

"Guys just honestly don't know," the member said.

"Most of these guys, if not every single one of them, while the police were interviewing them said, 'How is this illegal? This is a private men's club.'"

"You've got to realize if you take away our places to have our sexual releases, that means we have no choice but to return to the streets, so it's not a smart move," the member added.

Another member who was present during the raid but was not arrested, accused police of harassment and intimidation.

According to police reports, two undercover officers paid their way into The Club and gathered evidence, before additional officers came in and helped execute the arrests.

The member said the officers were carrying plastic flexcuffs and detained him for 45 minutes even though he was just working out in the fitness area.

He said he believes the city is trying to shut down The Club to make way for redevelopment around the new DART station that sits next door.

At one point the member said he heard one of the officers remark that, "I'm going to have nightmares forever after this."

The member said he was also at The Club-Dallas the following night when the fire marshal paid a visit. "There's real crime going on in the city, and they don't need to be harassing a private club," he said. "I'm irritated and I'm frustrated because I feel like the police department is targeting them." ■

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TOAST OF THE TOWN | Leadership Lambda Toastmasters Club will hold an open house for new members on Monday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Champagne Lounge at ilume. In 1997, the group was chartered as the first LGBT Toastmasters group in the world. Toastmasters helps members speak confidently, become leaders and improve their communications skills through practice. Pictured from left: Manoj Pinnamneni, Larry Davidson, Keva Ward, Marty Ruiz, D. Scott Cooper and Karen Llewellyn. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

VOWELS

From Page 11

horizons, and I have always since then made it my personal policy that I would never withhold my help from someone just because they were different from me," O'Neil continued. "And I think it is sad that some [LGBT] people think that there aren't any [non-gay] lawyers they can rely on. There are prejudiced people, and there are prejudiced attorneys. But that's not us. It's sad to think that people might judge us on our orientation."

O'Neil said she has never had another case like Vowels, which has proven to her yet again that "a child can never have too many people to love them."

"This case," she said, "certainly has given us an opportunity to try and make a difference. I believe we have made a difference, and I hope that it will

continue to get better for others at least in part because of what we have done."

While Vowels said she will never close the book on her relationship with her daughter, it is time to start writing a new chapter in her own life.

"I really believe we all have a path to walk. What matters is how you choose to talk that path," she said. "I could not have gotten through this without Michelle and Ashley, and I couldn't have gotten through it without my faith in God. My faith is even stronger now, and I think I can be an even better Mom now. I believe that my love for Meghan is what will allow me to open my heart and my life to another child.

"What it all comes down to is that we have created change; we have created opportunities," Vowels said. "I always say you have to be the change you want to see in the world. That's what I am trying to do." ■

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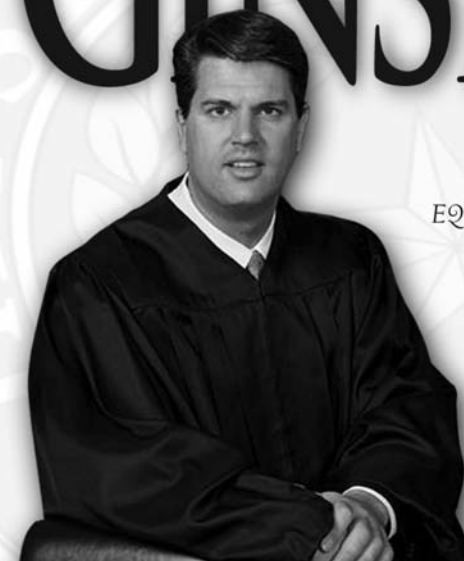
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RALLY

From Page 4

on algebra when they're fearing for their safety. Kids are losing their lives over this issue. It's got to stop."

Most states, including Texas, do have some form of anti-bullying laws.

Only five states — Hawaii, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana — remain without any student protection.

In 2005, the Texas legislature passed Chapter 37 of the Education code that requires school districts to adopt student codes of conduct that proscribe bullying and harassment.

The law does not specify groups that are often the targets and doesn't enumerate what must happen when school staff observes bullying behavior.

Laws that are not specific have proven to be ineffective in preventing bullying of LGBT students, according to advocates.

The current Dallas Independent School District regulations list groups protected from harassment. Among those is the unclear "gender orientation," sort of a combination and confusion of gender identity and sexual orientation, which are not listed.

Four representatives from the LGBT community attended a DISD board of trustees meeting on Thursday, Oct. 14. The board is considering a new anti-bullying policy. The proposed policy, as currently written, doesn't specifically protect LGBT students.

Gregory Pynes, vice chair of the board for Resource Center Dallas, spoke during public comments and commended the trustees for wanting to strengthen their anti-bullying policy.

But he urged them to amend the proposed policy by listing protected categories, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

Pynes invited trustees to work with Resource Center on the policy, which is expected to come up for a final vote later this month.

Others from the LGBT community who attended the DISD meeting were Chastity Kirven of Get Equal Now, David Plunkett of Hope for Peace and Justice and Pamela Curry of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Earlier this year, Fort Worth ISD ran a district-wide poster campaign called "It's Not Okay" to

bully one's fellow students or to allow others to be victimized. The district sponsored parent workshops throughout the district to combat bullying.

Sexual orientation is included in the Fort Worth school district's bullying policy under its code of conduct. Gender identity is not.

Other large school districts in the area — including Plano, Richardson and Arlington ISDs — do not specify groups that are covered by anti-bullying policies.

One of Tarrant County's largest school districts, Birdville ISD, does not list covered groups. Earlier this year, Haltom City parents called police about bullying incidents at a BISD school and brought their complaints about bullying including assaults to CBS 11.

At this week's city council meeting, Fort Worth city council member Joel Burns gave an emotional speech about having been bullied in school and considering suicide. He showed pictures of six teens who recently committed suicide after having been bullied and told their stories.

"This bullying and harassment in our schools must stop," he said.

His 10-minute speech received a standing ovation from other council members and from citizens attending the meeting.

Equality Texas Deputy Director Chuck Smith said that stronger safe schools legislation will be the top priority of the upcoming legislative session. He said that electing legislators who will support an anti-bullying law is important. Several bills will be introduced in the House.

The law that Smith was most excited about is one being crafted by Rep. Mark Strama of Austin. Strama has introduced safe schools legislation each session since he was elected in 2004. Local representatives Alonzo and Raphael Anchia of Dallas, Paula Pierson of Arlington and Lon Burnham of Fort Worth co-authored the bill in the last session.

Burnham's legislative director in Austin reaffirmed Burnham's commitment to the issue.

"He certainly supports and is concerned with the issue," he said.

Smith said next session's proposed law is different from previous versions. The exact language of the new bill is still being written. However, Strama's proposed legislation will specify what does and does not constitute bullying and what

school personnel must do when they see bullying occur or when it is reported.

In defining the problem, schoolyard fights, for example, are not considered bullying.

Bullying refers to verbal or physical acts committed by a student to harass, intimidate or cause harm to another student. The more recent problem of cyber-bullying includes threats, harassment and intimidation on line as well as in texting or through other electronic means.

Locally, support for anti-bullying legislation appears strong although some representatives would not commit to supporting a particular bill until they saw final wording. Specifying gay, lesbian or transgender students has been the reason some withhold support of anti-bullying legislation in the past.

Rep. Eric Johnson represents part of Oak Lawn and campaigned on the issue of safe schools. His wife serves on the board of Resource Center Dallas.

"We must provide all Texas schoolchildren

with an atmosphere in which they feel, and in fact are, safe while learning," said Johnson. "Our very future depends on it. I will support comprehensive legislation in the Texas House to address the issue of bullying directly so that all of our children have the opportunity to make the most of their education and their lives."

Calls to other area legislative offices showed general consensus that schools need to be made safer for students.

Republican Rep. Linda Harper-Brown's office said, "Of course. She's against any bullying in schools."

Harper-Brown's district is in Irving. Her opponent is in the upcoming election is Loretta Haldenwang. Her campaign manager, Kirk McPike, also indicated support.

Multiple calls to other area Representatives' local, Austin and campaign offices were not returned. Many of those legislators did support the Strama bill in the current session. ■

DADT

From Page 1

The DOJ has 60 days from the time of Phillips' injunction to appeal her ruling.

Representatives from Log Cabin Republicans, which brought the lawsuit, and other groups advocating for DADT repeal warned LGBT servicemembers against coming out in the wake of Tuesday's injunction.

Christian Berle, deputy executive director for Log Cabin Republicans issued a statement Thursday afternoon saying his organization had "expected that the Obama administration would continue to pull out all the stops to defend 'don't ask, don't tell.'" But, Berle pledged, "Log Cabin Republicans will continue to advocate on behalf of the American servicemembers who everyday sacrifice in defense of our nation and our Constitution. If this stay is granted, justice will be delayed, but it will not be denied."

Berle said Log Cabin Republicans are urging Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to "do what it takes" to repeal DADT when Congress reconvenes after the midterm elections in November.

"If Sen. Reid treats the minority party fairly, the votes will be there to end 'don't ask, don't tell' once and for all," Berle said.

Although the House of Representatives voted this summer to repeal the policy, as an amendment to a Department of Defense spending bill, the measure died in the Senate last month when supporters could not get enough votes to end a Republican filibuster.

Republicans launched their filibuster in protest after Reid added an amendment to the bill dealing with immigration and refused to allow Republicans to add amendments from the Senate floor.

Even though Phillips' injunction barring enforcement of DADT remains in force, at least for the time being, David Guy-Gainer of Forest Hills, a board member for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said his group is urging closeted servicemembers to act with caution.

"If you look at it in terms of gay marriage in California, you remember that sliver of time [between the Supreme Court ruling overturning the state's ban on gay marriage] and the passage of Proposition 8 [which amended the Constitution], there were couples who were legally married in California. And even after Prop 8 passed, those marriages held up. They are still legal," Guy-Gainer said.

"There is a chance there could be a window like that created in this case," he continued. "But it's too risky. If you have a gay servicemember who

■ DADT, Next Page

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stands up while this injunction is in force and tells his commander, 'Hey, I'm gay,' and then the injunction is lifted, well the commander isn't going to just forget that.

"Despite the injunction, we can't confirm that they have actually stopped discharges, so it's just too risky to actually come out," Guy-Gainer said.

Rob Schlein, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas, criticized the White House for appealing the injunction.

"I am very happy that the judge followed through on her decision and issued the injunction. But I think it is very sad that our 'fierce advocate,' President Obama, has filed an appeal, which is contradictory to his claims that he wants the law repealed," Schlein said.

Rich Hisey, a former M.P. in the U.S. Army who is also a member of Log Cabin Dallas, said he feels "really good, very pleased" about Phillips' ruling in the case and her injunction against DADT, despite the appeal.

"I think this is a big victory for Log Cabin Republicans, and a big victory for the gay community as a whole," Hisey said. "It's been a long, long road. But we're finally getting close to the end."

Still, Hisey said, he, too, warns gay and lesbian servicemembers to be "very, very cautious right now."

"I served three years in the Army, in the military police, back in the 1980s. That was a very different time, and I was closeted the whole time I was in the military. Things are different now, but I think if I were in the military now, I would stay in the closet for a while longer at least. I think everything is still up in the air, and it is still too risky to come out," Hisey said.

Hisey also echoed Schlein's frustration with Democrats' failure to repeal DADT, despite their pledges to do so.

"Obama has not shown any leadership, and he still continues to push the DOJ to appeal this ruling," Hisey said.

"My real frustration is with the Democrats in the Senate. We had a golden opportunity last month to repeal DADT, but Harry Reid played politics with it and added the Dream Act to the bill, even though he knew it wouldn't pass. That really bothers me."

Senior White House officials have said the president wants to end DADT, but believes the change should come through Congress and not through the courts.

Shortly after the appeal was filed Thursday, President Obama sent out a notice on Twitter, reiterating his opposition to DADT and renewing his pledge to end the policy.

"Anybody who wants to serve in our armed forces and make sacrifices on our behalf should be able to," the president Tweeted. "DADT will end & it will end on my watch."

The bill passed by the House calls for repeal of DADT, but only after the completion of a Pentagon study that includes a survey on how servicemembers and their family members feel about repealing the policy. That study is due Dec. 1. ■

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NDHS students rally behind Moreno

Hundreds join QL protest in support of trans teen denied the chance to run for homecoming queen

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Members of "Team Andy" turned out in full force Thursday afternoon, Oct. 14, as hundreds of students from North Dallas High School, leaving the building after the final bell, flocked over to join a protest organized by members of Queer LiberAction.

QL staged the rally in support of NDHS transgender student Andy Moreno, who was not allowed to compete for homecoming queen.

On Monday, Oct. 11, election results were announced listing the finalists for king and queen. The final election will be held at homecoming on Friday, Oct. 15. Although she reportedly received more votes than at least one of the finalists, she was not allowed to compete.

About 20 people gathered outside the high school on Thursday afternoon before students were dismissed.

Among those was Francisco Herrera, a friend of the Moreno family who was there with his family and children.

"We're longtime friends," Herrera said. "We're here to show full support."

He said he had been friendly with Moreno's sister Daisy for years and was close to the family.

LGBT liaison officer Laura Martin said that she arranged for quite a few police to be present because of gang activity at the school. She was worried that the protest would be an excuse for some students to cause trouble.

But when school let out, Elizabeth Pax encouraged students to join the protest and hundreds gathered around her.

"The principal is ignorant on this issue," Pax shouted into a bullhorn.

They began chanting, "Free votes!" and "Team Andy," and "Whose queen? Our queen!"

"I don't know about you, but when I was in high school, it was the students who decided on homecoming queen, not the principal," Pax told the crowd.

Students reported that North Dallas High School Principal Dinnah Escanilla had gone out of town earlier that day, so she was not there to witness the support students showed for Moreno.

Many of the students joined the protest, some carrying their own "Team Andy" signs that they had downloaded from the Queer LiberAction website. Others had written Team Andy across their stomachs or on their shirts.

"This couldn't have been more fabulous if I dreamed it," said QL organizer Gabe Coppinger.

"That students are supporting Andy is the new twist," said QL founder Rick Vanderslice. "The derision is coming from the principal."

Annie West is married to a man and moved to Dallas from Norman, Okla. She said she attended the rally because she was upset about a suicide in her hometown last week following a heated debate about a Gay and Lesbian History Month proclamation at a Norman City Council meeting.

"I am so proud to be here on this day to witness history changing before my eyes," West said. "The youth of America believes in equality and I think adults should learn from this."

Martin and other officer were pleased at how peaceful the rally remained. A few students shouted anti-gay slurs, but students said they had a right to say what they wanted as well.

Students who had not met Moreno clamored to meet her and a crowd gathered as MTV filmed her telling her story.

Voting for prom king and queen takes place on Friday, Oct. 15, before the homecoming game. Although Moreno's name is not among the finalists for queen, Ruby Ortega is among the finalists for king.

When Moreno was nominated for queen, Ortega, also a male-to-female transgender, decided to run for king.

"I didn't want her to feel uncomfortable," Ortega said. "I decided to run with her so she wouldn't have to run alone," Ortega said.

Ortega spoke to Escanilla about running. The principal allowed her to run based on birth gender.

Although she may be elected king, she's planning to wear a dress to homecoming. She said she told the principal who didn't seem to have a problem with that.

"I plan to wear something they wouldn't expect the king to be wearing," she said.

Moreno said she believes that Escanilla doesn't understand who they are. She said Escanilla called her a transvestite and kept repeating that she was a boy. When Moreno tried to explain transgender, Escanilla said, "Whatever you are."

Moreno said that all of the recent teen suicides in the news recently motivated her to run.

She said she understands that homecoming queen wasn't the most important thing in the world. She ran because she thought it would be fun.

But she said she also ran because it bothered her that other LGBT teens were committing suicide.

"I want to show them that it's OK to be who you are," she said. "After high school it gets way better. I'm doing this to make high school better and easier for people who aren't as strong as we wish they were."

She said it bothers her that so many LGBT teens feel they are alone.

"You should stand up for what is right even if you are standing alone ... because you are not alone," she said.

In the two days of voting a number of stu-

dents cast their ballots for Moreno on the first day. On the second day, an assistant principal reportedly handed ballots back to students who had voted for her and were told to vote for someone else.

"I was getting a lot of the votes," Moreno said.

She thinks if voting were allowed to proceed without interference, she would have placed in the top three to become a finalist — and she believes she would have won.

Moreno said that throughout her school career, she had never been bullied. She chose to attend North Dallas High School because of its reputation for zero tolerance of bullying, and Moreno commutes to Uptown each day from Pleasant Grove.

While she won't be homecoming queen, Moreno's looking forward to going to the homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 16, and seeing her friend Ruby crowned homecoming king.

But the message she said she hopes other LGBT students get is to be themselves and that they are not alone. ■



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Andy Morena talks with reporters from MTV on Thursday. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



A NEW BEGINNING | The Rev. Colleen Darraugh, right, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas, blesses the kitchen in the new house that MCCGD members helped build for one of their own as part of a Habitat for Humanity project. (LisaMarie Martinez/Dallas Voice)

Helping build a brighter future

Members of the MCCGD celebrate their new home by helping Habitat for Humanity build a new home for a member of the congregation

LISAMARIE MARTINEZ | Special Contributor
lisamarie1207@yahoo.com

There's a popular saying that goes: "We can take a minute to know someone, an hour to like them, a day to love them, but it would take our whole lives to forget them."

These words ring very true for the most recent recipient of a Habitat home, whose family is a member of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas.

With their recent move to their new location in Carrollton, the members of MCCGD have already begun their mission to serve others within the surrounding communities by volunteering, this sum-

mer, to be a part of the North Collin County Habitat for Humanity project.

In the more than 20 years since it began, this branch of Habitat for Humanity has built 63 homes with a service area that includes Frisco, Celina, Melissa, McKinney, Princeton and all the way to Farmersville.

A typical Habitat home is built within a 12-week span of time, depending on the amount of volunteer participation. The sponsors of this project were Stonebriar Community Church Frisco, led by Pastor Roy Williamson, and The Hartford. They funded the building of the house and supplied volunteers.

Additionally, groups, such as the information technology company IOLAP and churches, including MCCGD, got involved to provide the additional volunteers necessary to complete the project, which was ahead of schedule by four weeks. Key personnel, besides the volunteers, were house leader Russ Waite, volunteer coordinator Andrea Tabor and recipient mentor Dawn

Serr.

Knowing the recipient personally and having her family as a member of their congregation, MCCGD Pastor Colleen Darraugh and her congregation said they were delighted to be a part of the project, even if in a small way.

"This project is about relationships; it's about our mission, about serving, to move into the community and outside of our church walls," Darraugh said. "It's about meeting a need."

There are many ways to support a Habitat build, the pastor stressed, regardless of one's physical handicaps or scheduling conflicts.

"Collecting water or praying for the safety of the volunteers, the well being of the family or for a successful build, are just some of the ways anyone can support these kinds of projects," Darraugh said.

Gene Goodwin, a friend of the recipient and fellow MCCGD member, was part of the build since the beginning and helped to put up doors

■ **HABITAT**, Page 18

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HABITAT

From Page 17

and paint baseboards.

Other MCCGD members who were unskilled in carpentry, like Milly Crawford and Mary Ann Miller, discovered that every job was important as they held the tall ladders when necessary or helped with clean up.

Darlene Hays of MCCGD worked on a Saturday when the frame was already standing, helping out by handing to those who needed them. By the end of her day on the project, the roof decking had been put in and the siding completed; save for the doors and windows.

Hayes said it was more than just her affiliation with MCCGD and the church's involvement that made her want to participate in the Habitat for Humanity project.

"I've always been blessed with a safe home, and I will do anything I can for someone else to have that as well," Hayes said.

The Habitat recipient said the experience was about more than just having a house built for her.

"Yes, this project will provide me with a home. But I'm getting more, because it's about being with community and organizations, and being with other church members," she said.

She thanked everyone who helped with the project, and said she would remember each one of them every time she walked into her new home.

While North Collin County Habitat for Humanity, as with other Habitat branches, relies on large donations from churches and organizations to fund the homes the agency builds, anyone can give donate to the organization and in any

amount. Word of mouth and fundraisers are other ways by which NCC Habitat for Humanity has received support.

It takes about \$60,000 to build a house and those dollars are harder and harder to come by

in this economy. Habitat does not pay labor costs, which is why volunteers are vital to the organization. ■

For more information on North Collin County Habitat for Humanity, go online to NCC-Habitat.com.

DFW Unitarians holding progressive revival this weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS

"Revivals" have long been a staple of the more conservative, evangelical side of Christianity. But this weekend, revivals get a more progressive twist with the "Rediscovering Jesus and Communities of Hope" Revival/Retreat 2010, a national event for spiritual progressives, according to organizers.

The event, open to everyone, will feature talks by biblical scholar Brandon Scott, author and pastor the Rev. John Buehrens, SMU Perkins School of Theology professor Ruben Habito and more.

The revival began Thursday, Oct. 14, and continues through Sunday, Oct. 17, at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W. Hebron Parkway in Carrollton.

The revival is sponsored by the national Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship.

Scott is a professor of New Testament at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, a founding fellow of the Jesus Seminar and parables scholar whose

newest book is *The Trouble With Resurrection*.

Buehrens is a past president of the Unitarian Universalist Association whose previous churches served include First Unitarian Church of Dallas. His newest book is *A House For Hope: the promise of progressive religion*.

Habito is the president of the Society of Buddhist Christian Studies and author of several books.

In addition to the keynote speeches and Habito's talk on "Christian Faith and Buddhist Practice," there will be worship services that include opening and closing services, Taizé sung meditation, communion, baptism, prayer and healing services.

There will also be workshops by Scott and Buehrens on "Re-Imagining the Resurrection" and progressive religion's problems and promise. The Rev. Naomi King will speak on Jesus and queer christologies. And there will be workshops on Jesus and film, Universalist Christianity, Jesus and India and Jesus and Unitarian Universalism today.



Ruben Habito

Small group times, social times, bookstore, and service opportunity will also be available.

The Rev. Ron Robinson, executive director of UUCF, said the revival weekend will focus on "voices of old" that are "needed more than ever today" in

finding an 'authentic version of Jesus and what it means to follow in his radical spirit of hospitality and justice."

Robinson stressed that "we welcome you at this event whether or not you are Christian, whether or not you are Unitarian Universalist. We don't think Jesus would have it any other way." ■

For registration and more information, go online to UUChristian.org.

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Dallas Voice is published weekly on Fridays. Each reader is entitled to one free copy of each issue, obtained at official distribution locations. These locations include most area 7-Eleven stores and the businesses and organizations marked with an asterisk in the directories located near the back of this issue.

Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available at the following rates: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues), \$130. Subscriptions are payable by check, cashier's check, money order, Visa, Mastercard or American Express.

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Shaking off those nasty midterm blues

It's tempting to echo the 'throw them out' refrain, but compare the candidates and the political parties carefully, then go out and make your voice heard by voting

I suspect a lot of people right now are experiencing the same kind of feelings my grandfather used to have around election time: One of his favorite phrases was, "Throw the bastards out."

Though it may make for a colorful epithet, it was not the way he voted. He once told me that if his hand ever touched the lever on the voting machine marked "Republican," it would burn his fingers.

Though he was a feisty and almost illiterate blacksmith from Tennessee, he followed politics and he was a Roosevelt Democrat through-and-through.

That brings me back to the here and now and the current election, when a lot of new voters are frustrated by what they perceive as the lack of change since the last election.

I will admit I, too, am frustrated. I want things to change faster and to do that I agree that we need to throw a few folks out.

But I am selective in my tossing. I know that midterms are every bit as important as the years when the presidency is in play, and though they are not nearly as sexy, they deserve our attention.

I get a lot of questions from friends and acquaintances this time of year as well, and because of that I prepared a short list of "talking points," just to remind myself — and them — what is at stake.



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

• "How come things haven't changed?" They have, and they can continue to change if we concentrate on keeping and increasing the Democratic majority in Congress.

For example, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was passed during the last congressional session and signed into law by President Obama. Most importantly, the bill included crimes motivated by the victims "gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability."

That is a big step. Additionally, the president signed a bill giving benefits to same-sex spouses of federal employees.

• "Why should I bother to vote for local offices like judges?"

National politics is sexy, but the real actions that affect your life happen at the local level.

For example District Judge Ernest White presided over the gay-bashing trial of Bobby Singleton. He was one of two men who beat and disfigured Jimmie Dean in 2008 here in Oak Lawn.

Singleton was sentenced to 75 years in prison. Though the jury handed down the sentence, the judge has an influence over the trial. Wouldn't you want a sympathetic judge on the bench if you were the victim?

• "Are there any LGBT people running for local office?"

You betcha! Gary Fitzsimmons, Dallas County district clerk, is seeking re-election. Not only has he been an outstanding public official for all of the county, his office was first in the county to add sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policies. Fitzsimmons recently added gender identity to the policy as well.

• "Why is Bill White a better choice than Rick Perry?"

Here is a quote from Gov. Perry: "Would you rather live in a state like this, or in a state where a man can marry a man?"

He was addressing a group about jobs creation, but his subtext is clear: "If LGBT people don't like it here, leave."

Additionally, who walked with us down Cedar Springs for the Alan Ross Freedom Parade, Bill White or Rick Perry? Bill White.

• "What about ENDA, DOMA and DADT?"

It's been only two years since the landslide victory for Democratic lawmakers; it took eight years of the disastrous Bush administration policies and six years with the Republicans in control of both houses of Congress to get us where we are today.

Yes, I am impatient as well, but we need to keep Democratic control over the Congress and



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill White

elect even more progressive candidates to move the vital issues forward.

• "Both parties are the same; it's all politics anyway."

Take a look at the state party platforms and say that again.

The Republican platform is filled with vehement language demonizing LGBT Texans, like this plum: "We believe that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases. ... Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable 'alternative' lifestyle in our public education and policy, nor should 'family' be redefined to include homosexual couples."

It is tempting to use my grandfather's line, and just throw up my hands and say, "Throw all the bastards out."

But once I get over my immediate frustration and look at the reality of where we are and where we have come from, I know things are getting better for LGBT folk in this country and this state.

If we fail to show up at the polls and support our allies, we will only hurt ourselves. It wouldn't take much to turn back the clock, and rest assured the candidates who stand against us want to do just that.

Another bit of wisdom I gleaned from my grandfather was this: "If you are feeling down in the mouth, it's probably because you've been standing around with it open. Now shut your trap and get off your rump and go out and do something!"

The best cure for the midterm blues is doing something — like voting!

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

Is a general policy on bullying sufficient for DISD or should it include specific classes of students?

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RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Are you registered to vote?

• Yes: 94 percent 90 Votes cast
• No: 4 percent
• Not sure: 2 percent

Does Dallas Police Department unfairly target gay men for public lewdness?

Steven Riedisser — “To me, public lewdness is f*ckin on the train platform and not inside a ‘private club’ where you pay a membership to be admitted.”

Scott Cessac — “I have been to many a straight bar and in the same night, witnessed a guy have sex with a girl while he rested up against a wall right next to a dance floor and another guy get a blow job in a booth. All had people walking around them constantly.”

Noby Coronado — “Shouldn’t be doing it in public anyway!”

Josh Youngblood — “I don’t believe so. If everyone followed the law it wouldn’t be an issue. Public lewdness is illegal, gay or straight.”

Derrick Mask — “For some in law enforcement, two gay or lesbian people holding hands or sharing an innocent kiss in public can be considered lewdness. Especially if the officer(s) are offended by that behavior.”

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

Let’s all get aboard the crazy train!

Lately the crazy train has picked up speed. I don’t know if it’s the upcoming midterm elections or people are scared by gay court victories or what, but we’re in a period of nutty.

Take David Barton. Please.

An evangelical minister, teacher at (Glenn) Beck University and former vice chairman of the Texas Republican Party, Barton — a self-styled historian — is the founder of WallBuilders, a group devoted to the idea that America was founded as a Christian nation.

On his WallBuilders radio show recently, Barton discussed with Rick Green how health-conscious America is, regulating cigarettes and trans fats and salt, yet allowing something to slip through that is such an obvious threat to the health of Americans: Jersey Shore.

Okay, he didn’t say that. Instead, Barton reeled off fanciful statistics, like, “Homosexuals die decades earlier than heterosexuals,” and “nearly one-third [of homosexuals] admit to a thousand or more sex partners in a lifetime.”

Barton said, “I mean, you go through all this stuff, sounds to me like that’s not very healthy. Why don’t we regulate homosexuality?” That’s the moment he boarded the crazy train.

Barton, the quack historian, cited a 1920s study that found nations that “rejected sexual regulation like with homosexuality” didn’t last “past the third generation from the time that they embraced it.”

Have gays been embraced? When will the third generation appear? It’s important to know when we’re supposed to make this country collapse. We have a schedule to keep.

Rick Green’s role in this production was to be properly aghast that the breathtakingly unhealthy gay lifestyle is promoted and protected. That makes Green — recently a candidate for the Texas Supreme Court — the porter on the crazy train.

If David Barton wants the government to regulate gay sex, Andrew Shirvell’s goal is much more modest. But Shirvell is the conductor on the crazy train. For almost six months, Shirvell has railed in a blog against Chris Armstrong, the openly gay University of Michigan student assembly president.

Shirvell, a Michigan grad, accused Armstrong of so many things — including being anti-Christian, hosting a gay orgy, trying to recruit freshmen to be gay and, my favorite, sexually seducing a conservative student and influencing him to the point that he “morphed into a proponent of the radical homosexual agenda.”

Good strategy, that seduction. Armstrong should be able to convert everybody on campus by the time he’s 106.

During his anti-Armstrong crusade, Shirvell protested outside Armstrong’s house, and called him “Satan’s representative on the student as-



Leslie Robinson
General Gayety

sembly. “Paranoid much? All this would be plenty bad enough, but the fact that Shirvell is a Michigan assistant attorney general launches the affair into the realm of the bizarre. Rod Serling couldn’t have made this up. Shirvell’s boss,

Attorney General Mike Cox, cited the guy’s right to free speech, while also telling CNN he’s a “bully.” Cox said that Shirvell’s “immaturity and lack of judgment outside the office are clear.”

This is more than a case of bad judgment. Shirvell is obsessed with Armstrong’s homosex-

uality. I have to wonder if Shirvell — now on a voluntary leave of absence — is an immense closet case, or a few ties short of a railroad track.

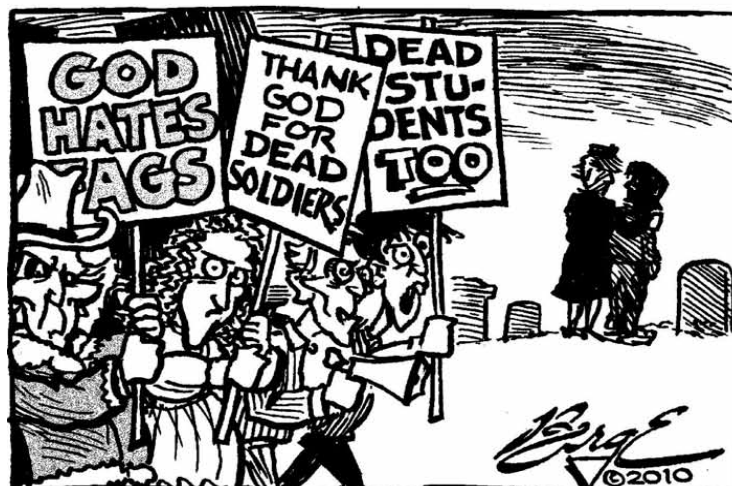
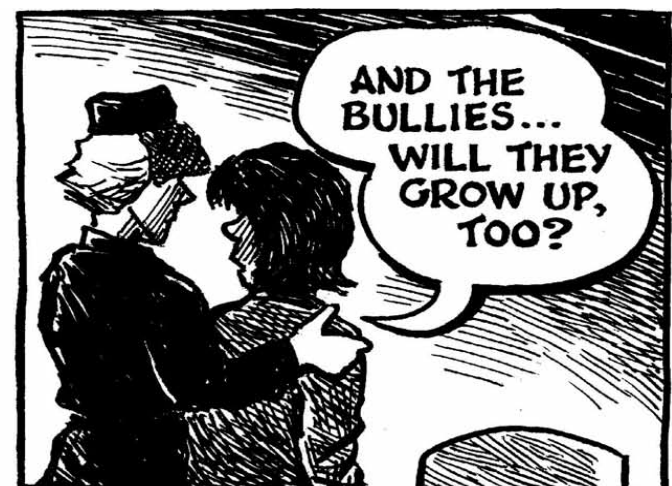
Either explanation or both might apply to Fred Phelps, leader of the infamous Westboro Baptist Church, but it’s his daughters who recently clambered on the crazy train.

Margie Phelps recently represented Westboro at the Supreme Court in the dispute over protests at military funerals, and after, while addressing the press, she and sister Shirley Phelps-Roper broke into song. They warbled a few lines of a variation on Ozzy Osbourne’s “Crazy Train.” Osbourne declared his displeasure that they used his music to advance “despicable beliefs.”

When the Prince of Darkness looks civilized compared to you, your caboose is loose. ■

Leslie Robinson assumes the Phelps daughters will never sing *Indigo Girls*. E-mail Robinson at lesarobinson@gmail.com, and visit her blog at GeneralGayety.com.

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Hot Szot

Swoon-worthy gay baritone **Paulo Szot** injects tons of sex appeal in Dallas Opera's pulpy 'Don Giovanni'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

If you ever wanted to know how important casting is to the success of a play or an opera, consider this: If Don Giovanni, the most notorious lover in history, isn't swoon-worthy onstage, there's no chance an audience will lose itself in fantasy.

That is not a problem when you have Paulo Szot in the role. Szot effortlessly smolders with swagger and charm. In leather pants and pencil moustache, his chest heaving from under an iridescent cape, he looks like a superhero from the 1940s.

That's fine with John Pascoe, the director and designer of this production of Mozart's **Don Giovanni** — he *wants* you to think of a pulp romance novel cover when you see it.

"He's like George Brent or Errol Flynn," says Jonathan Pell, artistic director of the Dallas Opera, marveling at Szot's graceful charisma. You totally understand how Don Giovanni was able to woo so many women.

In person, Szot himself is as compelling as his character, but disarmingly humble. And he's not a womanizer at all — he and his partner have been together 10 years, sharing their home on the edge of the Brazilian rainforest with their four Weimaraners.

"I built that house three years ago — it is my dream home," Szot says, eyes twinkling. "But I get to stay there, like 10 days. I miss my dogs, but I talk to them on Skype. They listen to me."

It would be difficult not to listen when Szot talks — or sings. One of the most gifted baritones of his generation, Szot rocketed to international fame when he took on the role of Emile de Becque, the reclusive plantation owner who falls for an American farmgirl, in Lincoln Center's 2008 revival of *South Pacific*. Szot won a Tony and the hearts of everyone who heard him sing "Some Enchanted Evening" and, even more thrillingly, "This Nearly Was Mine."

"The main song [for Emile] is 'Some Enchanted Evening,' but somehow 'This Nearly Was Mine' became the 11 o'clock number," Szot acknowledges. "It was magical for me; I'm very glad so many people liked it."

Szot — already an in-demand opera star — was originally scheduled for only a six-month run in the role due to opera commitments, but extended it to more than two years (with brief departures for opera gigs), appearing only recently in a TV simulcast on PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*. His appearance with the Dallas Opera represents his first full opera performance since leaving Broadway, although in between he pursued another dream: Singing at the Carlyle Hotel in New York.

"That was very new for me," Szot says. "I've always wanted to sing songs I would sing to my friends in my house. It was so intimate, and in such a famous place. I'm coming back in February."

From opera to musical theater to cabaret, Szot wants to do it all — and so far, he seems to be succeeding. Though the skill sets are different, he sees the line between these musical art forms blurring.

"The biggest difference [between opera and Broadway] is the number of performances. In opera, you rely on your throat and can't sing eight shows a week. But microphones allow some control — that's a wonderful thing. And Emile only has like 14 minutes of singing, though he's constantly onstage, and there's the dialogue."

Szot agreed to do *South Pacific* not only for the Broadway experience, but also to tackle one of the few leading-man parts for a baritone; tenors usually get to be the hero. But ultimately, Szot's fine with

DON GIOVANNI

Winspear Opera House,
2403 Flora St. Oct. 22–Nov. 7.
Tickets from \$25.
DallasOpera.org



DON'T YOU WISH YOUR BOYFRIEND WAS HOT LIKE HIM | As Mozart's antihero sex maniac, Paulo Szot gets to woo many women onstage. But the baritone mostly just misses his dogs and partner of 10 years, who are back in Brazil. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

the more villainous parts. He concedes that Don Giovanni doesn't get the best numbers in the show, but there are other benefits.

"I think those characters, not the good guys, are more interesting," he says. "They are more colorful — particularly the Mozart ones."

This production has captured even his attention. He's enchanted by the costumes and the direction, and says he's bringing many of the skills he learned in two years of *South Pacific* to the role.

"I've always wanted to do different kinds of music — I didn't grow up choosing between one another. The techniques differ from singing before 200 in a cabaret and 4,000 in The Metropolitan. But it's all a dream come true for me."

Trust us, Paulo — we're livin' the dream with you.

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Taste maker

Using his skills at detail and aesthetics as pastry chef, Rick Griggs moves his art from the plate to the canvas

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com

PIECE OF CAKE | Former pastry chef Rick Griggs now produces work that won't be gobbled up — he comes out as an artist with his first solo show Saturday. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Call it an identity crisis or a leap of faith, but Rick Griggs has his mind made up. With more than two decades of experience as a pastry chef, Griggs is in the midst of a career change. Earlier this year, he switched away from regimented hours of working in a restaurant to the nebulous schedule of a full-time artist. And with that move came a bundle of nerves and uncertainty.

"I'm nervous in the monetary sense, not getting a regular paycheck," Griggs says. "But it's also exciting. It's like an adventure — you don't know how it's going to unfold. That's part of the fun of it. Not knowing is a little bit nerve-wracking. But I tend to be a free spirit."

This week Griggs will have his first solo show, *Out of the Blue*, at the Cameron Gallery in the Design District, marking a fairly significant moment for him. His artwork has been featured in local magazines and hangs in prominent public spaces and Dallas homes, but this is sort of his coming out moment as an artist. After years of building up a reputation as a quality pastry chef, he now has to reinvent and reintroduce himself to the local scene. But he's got a head start.

"I show at Abacus and Jasper's," he says. "They have my work on rotation."

"Rick has always been one of the greatest pastry chefs I've ever worked with and turns out, he's an incredible artist as well," says Kent Rathbun, the chef who was Griggs' boss for eight years at Abacus. Rathbun himself is an art lover; his Plano restaurant, Jasper's, was named after its inspiration, the gay artist Jasper

Johns.

But it was not until Rathbun's annual Dallas Art Party this year that Griggs seriously planned a change. Although he had been working on his art and selling it, pursuing his passion as a career was the next step for him to move forward. But really, he'd been living his dream for 20 years.

"This really was a natural progression," he says. "My eye became more refined in doing pastry work. Your vision changes as far as what you're doing and I think if I'd started painting in 1984, I'd be doing different things now. With that time and learning technique, I think I'd be more layered, a better artist."

There is a relation, though, between his pastry work and his painting — which means he could be a better artist than he gives himself credit for.

"I see a lot of similarities," says Griggs. "I use a palette knife because I realize there is a technique similar to putting icing on a cake. A lot of my work also has that splattered paint like I've used with sauces. It's a lot of the same fluidity and control."

Griggs' creative streak stretches back to his youth. His father worked in a very specific design world: archery. Being around that, Griggs got used to working with wood and paints. He says that was part of the foundation for his interest in art and also home restoration. Griggs calls these subliminal influences which are coming out now in his work.

Griggs says it's hard for him to explain his art. Visually, it's abstract with geometric sensibilities. But interestingly, he says they are spontaneous and even reactionary. They are preconceived

ideas or visuals but manifested into something altogether different when he begins each piece.

"I'd say it's very intuitional and responsive. The paintings are a very subliminal rendering or an abstraction that could be relative to organic landscapes or architectural renderings," he says.

Griggs' culinary career began in 1984 and took him to Miami, New Orleans and Athens, then brought him back to Dallas and The Mansion on Turtle Creek before going to Abacus. Still, Griggs doesn't think he's leaving food behind.

"I still will dabble in food," he says. "I have thought about opening my own business. Just as long as I can paint."

"The intersection between art and food is basically the same — it's a stimulus for people," Rathbun says. "Rick has the ability to trigger two senses, which I think is truly unique and fascinating."

Part of his personal plan is to begin his own coffee shop/gallery where his two passions can merge together. Which is an interesting notion considering what he says has pushed him to concentrating on the visual arts.

"I've always loved interiors and cool spaces and museums and I think the permanence of a painting versus the impermanence of food really drove me," Griggs says. "I can spend hours and hours creating a food product that will disappear in moments, but a painting is everlasting. To me, there is a lot of reward in that."

Griggs is working on getting the last pieces hung and then, once the show starts, he's at the mercy of the art-loving universe.

"The exciting part is seeing how people react to it," he says. "But I also wanna sell the art and that's the most nerve-wracking. You have to sell to continue to produce." ■

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INDICATIONS

ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV medicine used for the treatment of HIV. **ISENTRESS must** be used with other anti-HIV medicines, which may increase the likelihood of response to treatment.

The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

It is important that you remain under your doctor's care.

ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection or reduce your chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when anti-HIV treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, trouble sleeping, stomach pain, dizziness, depression, and suicidal thoughts and actions.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

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- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
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 - This side effect occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* (4%) versus *Sustiva* plus *Truvada* (3%)
- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
 - Cholesterol increased an average of 7 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 21 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.

Not sure where to start? Visit isentress.com/questions

People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you have any allergies, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Women with HIV should not breast-feed because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines like rifampin (a medicine used to treat infections such as tuberculosis), non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.

Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information about ISENTRESS, please read the Patient Information on the following page.

Need help paying for ISENTRESS? Call 1-866-350-9232

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Patient Information
ISENTRESS® (eye sen tris)
(raltegravir) Tablets



Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS¹ before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is ISENTRESS?

- ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine used for the treatment of HIV. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). ISENTRESS is used along with other anti-HIV medicines. ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection.
- People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with ISENTRESS.
- The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

How does ISENTRESS work?

- ISENTRESS blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that ISENTRESS blocks is called HIV integrase.
- When used with other anti-HIV medicines, ISENTRESS may do two things:
 1. Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
 2. Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells.
- ISENTRESS may not have these effects in all patients.

Does ISENTRESS lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

No. ISENTRESS does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

- Continue to practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms or other barrier methods to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids. This includes semen from a man, vaginal secretions from a woman, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

What should I tell my doctor before and during treatment with ISENTRESS?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions. Include any of the following that applies to you:

- You have any allergies.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
 - ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. ISENTRESS has not been studied in pregnant women. If you take ISENTRESS while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- You are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
 - It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.
 - Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:

- prescription medicines, including rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections such as tuberculosis)
- non-prescription medicines
- vitamins
- herbal supplements

Know the medicines you take.

- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take ISENTRESS?

Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor has prescribed. The recommended dose is as follows:

- Take only one 400-mg tablet at a time.
- Take it twice a day.
- Take it by mouth.
- Take it with or without food.

Do not change your dose or stop taking ISENTRESS or your other anti-HIV medicines without first talking with your doctor.

IMPORTANT: Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor prescribed and at the right times of day because if you don't:

- The amount of virus (HIV) in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short period of time.
- The virus may develop resistance to ISENTRESS and become harder to treat.
- Your medicines may stop working to fight HIV.
- The activity of ISENTRESS may be reduced (due to resistance).

If you fail to take ISENTRESS the way you should, here's what to do:

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do NOT take two tablets of ISENTRESS at the same time. In other words, do NOT take a double dose.
- If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

Be sure to keep a supply of your anti-HIV medicines.

- When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy.
- Do not wait until your medicine runs out to get more.

What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included:

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach pain
- dizziness
- depression
- suicidal thoughts and actions

Other side effects include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and help to strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS with other anti-HIV medicines.

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you.

These are not all the side effects of ISENTRESS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store ISENTRESS?

- Store ISENTRESS at room temperature (68 to 77°F).
- **Keep ISENTRESS and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

General information about the use of ISENTRESS

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets.

- Do not use ISENTRESS for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not give ISENTRESS to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to www.ISENTRESS.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?

Active ingredient: Each film-coated tablet contains 400 mg of raltegravir.

Inactive ingredients: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, calcium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, hypromellose 2208, poloxamer 407 (contains 0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene as antioxidant), sodium stearyl fumarate, magnesium stearate. In addition, the film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, red iron oxide and black iron oxide.

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Revised June 2010
9795110

U.S. Patent Nos. US 7,169,780

21052250(19)(110)-10/10-ISN-CON

Frugal flirting at 40,000 ft.

Are there ethics to scoring free booze mid-air? One flight attendant weighs in

BOBBY LAURIE | Special Contributor
llifestyle@dallasvoice.com

The airline industry is nickel-and-diming travelers to death: We pay extra for checked luggage, carry-on bags, a window seat (or aisle seat!), early boarding and food. Back in the day, alcohol was the only thing you had to pay for.

And, if you handle it right, the one thing you might *still* get comped.

Flight attendants often use alcohol as a bargaining chip or a token of appreciation. They'll offer it to someone willing to change their seat, someone whose in-flight entertainment system is inoperative, to compensate for a spill or as a way to say "thank you" (it's very, very, rare).

Some passengers have become wise to cozying up to flight attendants for free stuff. And such boozy flirtations are common among gay men. While traveling, I came across this tweet by @MrSeventyTwo: "Boarding now. Gay flight attendant. Let's see if I can get hooked up with free drinks." I sent him a message: "So, it's that easy huh?" He quickly responded: "Is flirting with gay flight attendants acceptable for drinks? Is it offensive? What's a sure way to win their hearts over?"

That got me thinking, Carrie Bradshaw-like: Is flirting for Frangelico acceptable? Or would I trade a few moments of self-esteem for a mini-vodka?

As a flight attendant myself, I've fallen victim to frugal flirting. Once working a cross-country flight, I noticed a guy laughing with his two female seatmates and looking in my direction. When I reached his row to pick up his cup, I asked, "Are you enjoying yourself?" "No, but I would be if you stayed and talked with us for a bit."

I did. He was cute and a captive of the middle seat. He complimented me a few more times until I had to get back to work. "I enjoyed chatting with you — come back and visit," he



COFFEE, TEA OR ME | Being an IFB (in-flight boyfriend) is OK as long as the flirting is harmless — beware the spurned steward.

smiled, looking in my eyes. Blushing, I asked if I could get him anything. "A vodka tonic would be great."

I happily gave it to him free of charge. Did I stop at his row because he caught my attention? Yes. He actually had my attention and interest from the moment I saw him look in my direction. Did I offer him a drink because he was gay? Yes. Would I have offered to get him anything if he didn't flirt with me? Yes, but I wouldn't have given it to him for free. We engage passengers and they engage us in conversation all of the time. But he gave the illusion of being interested in me. (It *was* just an illusion — although he asked my number, he never called.)

This same situation happened to my friend Nathan. Nathan's interaction with the frugal flirter went as far as him sitting down next to the passenger to keep the conversation going. A few drinks later, they exchanged phone numbers. The passenger sent a text message after deplaning but was never heard from again.

Investigating this trend further, I asked an airline passenger if he's ever flirted with the crew for a free drink. "Yes," he said, "male and female." He added that he believed the crew knew that he was only after a free drink.

So the question remains: Is this unacceptable or offensive? The consensus among my fellow flight attendants is that it *is* acceptable — with a stipulation. The passenger should make clear he just wants to be the flight attendant's IFB (in-flight boyfriend) and not lead them on. If you do want to make your flirtation more, well, grounded, exchanging numbers is OK ... just be sincere.

Remember, though, that flirting will not always guarantee a free drink. Sometimes, it can land you in hot water. It's sometimes difficult to balance tomato juice while serving during turbulence, and you don't want it to end up on you. ■

For travel ideas, visit GayTravel.com

GayTravel.com Guru hits Dallas

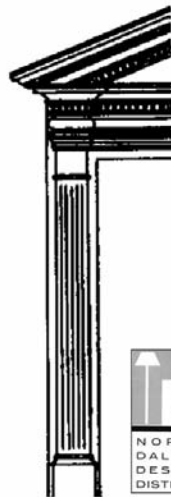
Nick Vivion, who recently won the online contest to be the new GayTravel.com travel guru, brings his tour to Dallas this weekend. Look for him around town — calling numbers at Gay Bingo Saturday, attending Uptown Players' *Closer to Heaven* Sunday — and tell him everything that makes Big D a great travel destination.



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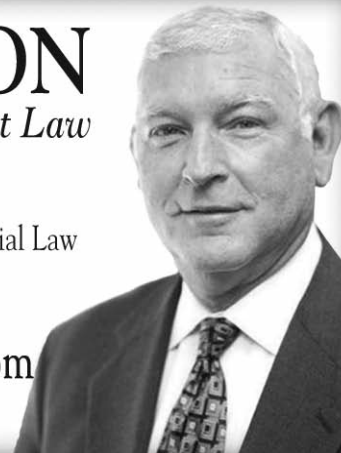
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Well, Albee

Two absurdist one-acts delve into the American psyche with humor and sex appeal

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

Most comedies — especially those written nowadays, for stage, film and TV — don't really make much sense. Characters do stupid things because stupid leads to funny consequences. They rely on their audiences not paying too much attention. (I can't count how many times I have been accused of "over-thinking" a comedy by people happy to be lost in the inanity of it all.)

It's refreshing, then, to encounter a comedy that *tries* not to make sense ... but does so smartly — so smartly, that you cease paying attention at your peril. That is the world of absurdism.

Considering that Edward Albee's rep is based largely on his hyper-realistic masterpiece *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, it's easy to forget he's also America's foremost absurdist, especially in his one-acts like *The American Dream* and *The Sandbox*, which are being revived right now by WingSpan Theatre.

WingSpan does absurdism well — Albee especially. His *Marriage Play*, *The Play About the Baby* and Tennessee Williams' *The Gnadiges Fraulein* were highlights of recent theater seasons. This duet isn't quite as strong as those, but deliciously entertaining nonsense.

Only they're not nonsense. Albee — gay, adopted, bitter — has issues. Both plays feature basically nameless characters: Mommy (Lulu Ward), Daddy (Barry Nash), Grandma (Elly Lindsay), Young Man (Austin Tindle). This is a view of the nuclear family in meltdown.

Rhythms more than plot (*plot?*) provide the fodder for a couple's obsession with materialism



YOGA BEARABLE | A young man (Austin Tindle) performs yoga while an old lady (Elly Lindsay) is left to die in 'The Sandbox,' one of two absurdist romps. (Photo Lowell Sargeant)

(their house is a hodgepodge of American flag colors, deconstructed and turned subversively critical). With annoyingly inconsequential small talk, they chatter away about the color of a hat and the content of mysterious boxes and what to do with the old lady. As with David Lynch, the logic, if any, is dreamlike — or, more accurately, nightmarish, with laughs.

Ward is ideal at conveying genteel villainy: Behind a smile cracking with anger, she exudes threatening volatility. Nash, perfectly impassive, represents a dire view of manhood.

Tindle, in contrast, captures the hearty beauty of the male form. With placid sex appeal — especially in *The Sandbox*, where he spends 15 minutes performing

yoga in tight-fitting '50s-era swim trunks — he's unattainable desire incarnate.

At least I think so. Part of the attraction of absurdism is the attraction of poetry: You can read into it what resonates with you. Director Susan Sargeant lets her solid cast loose on the material, toying with it and the audience. Don't worry if you don't understand it all. If it doesn't make you laugh, it may scare the hell out of you. And feel free to over-think it. That's what art is supposed to be about. ■

ALBEE: TWO ON THE AISLE

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That's Brynt- ertainment

Contemporary Ballet principal dancer **Brynt Beitman** finds modern dance welcomes the gay aesthetic



STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevenraiglindsey@me.com

For every parent who has ever worried about pushing their children into extracurricular activities that they might not like, there's the strong possibility that a creative spark will be lit that a child might otherwise have never discovered. That's exactly what happened to contemporary ballet dancer Brynt Beitman when he was eight years old.

"My sister wanted to take dance and my parents made me play football and do all the guy stuff and I didn't like that," he says. "They actually offered to have me try dance and at first I was like, 'No, dancing's for girls!' And by the end of my first class, I was like 'OK! I really like this!'"

Beitman began his training at Kitty Carter's Dance Factory with jazz and tap. At 13, he started seriously training in ballet. After studying with Krassovska Ballet Jueness and Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet, he spent summers at Boston Ballet and Southern Ballet Theater, among others, eventually getting his bachelor's from the Juilliard School in New York.

"Now I look back and dance has been the most consistent part of my life," says Beitman, 27.

Tonight, Beitman performs in *Wild & Free* with Contemporary Ballet Dallas, where he's been for three seasons. The mission of the company, which was started in 2001 by SMU alumni hoping to revitalize dance in Dallas, is to reach a broad audience while cultivating emerging artists and choreographers.

The show honors the independent spirit of contemporary Texas artists. Original works will be set to the music of Norah Jones, Nina Simone, and even Texas music legend Stevie Ray Vaughan — no *Swan Lake* here.

MEN IN MOTION | Brynt Beitman, left, gets his Texas groove on for 'Wild & Free,' Friday at the Lakewood Theater. (Photo courtesy Brian Guillaux)

"It's based on Texas. There will be something that everybody will like," Beitman says. "There are nine pieces from nine different choreographers. If you don't like one thing, just wait 10 minutes ... but there's nothing to dislike!"

Beitman's work with Contemporary Ballet Dallas confirms his conviction that modern dance is where his talents truly lie.

"I think it's more creative.

Classical is more codified and you have less freedom and a lot more restrictions choreographically. Contemporary can be whatever you want it to be," says Beitman, who hopes to become a

choreographer. He also thinks as a general rule that contemporary ballet attracts more gay male dancers, but he's quick to point out that his opinion is far from a scientific sampling.

"I think that the athletic bravura of classical ballet attracts straight guys, where contemporary dance is a lot more times internally driven and in my experience, it seems to attract..." — he pauses before blurting out — "... queers!"

To Beitman, being a dancer is particularly rewarding because of the openness, diversity and acceptance of not just homosexuality, but people from a vast array of backgrounds.

"It's like somebody being in fashion and not being open to gay people. Contemporary dance is the same way. There's no real stereotypical dancer as far as their private lives are concerned," he says. "It's a really universal thing and there all different types of people. And here I am!"

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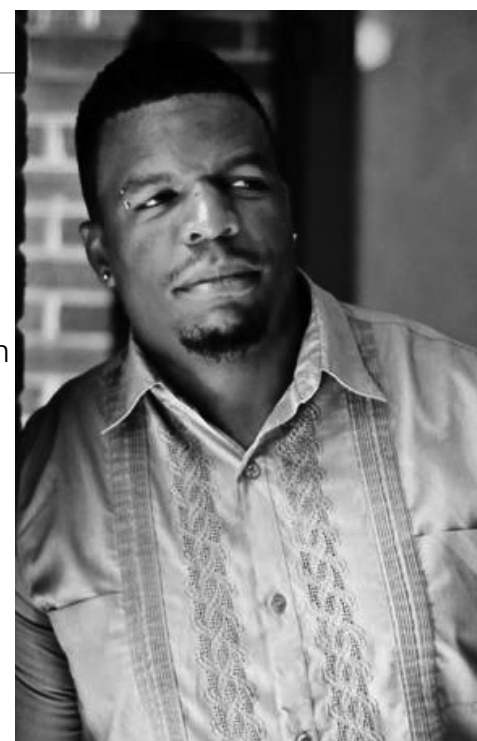


L+S culture

Gettin' schooled

Tim'm West says hip-hop is gayer than you think — and he plans to prove it

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
lopez@dallasvoice.com



MAN OF ALL TRADES | Activist, author and rapper Tim'm West brings his knowledge to UTD.

The gay community and hip-hop music often clash over homophobic lyrics, but in the last few weeks, those paths crossed in two different but significant ways. Amid the rash of gay teen suicides, rapper 50 Cent tweeted about how men over 25 who don't have oral sex with women should kill themselves (he awkwardly tried to backpedal after an outraged response). That was soon followed by Anderson Cooper's interview with Eminem, who responded to questions about his attitude toward the gay community with, "I don't have any problem with nobody."

But gay activist and rapper Tim'm West isn't buying any of it.

"It's all part of the necessitated spewing of homophobia in hip-hop," he says. "It's like this right of passage for artists to do that."

The thing is, West says hip-hop — the music and the culture — is gayer than it wants to be. He'll set out to prove it with Keeping it Real: Hip-Hop Has Gone Gay, a master class discussing the queer side of hip-hop. The Fahari Arts Institute teamed up with UT Dallas to host this two-night session, starting Oct. 21.

The event is spearheaded by UTD faculty

Filmmaker Arthur Dong talks up gay documentaries at UNT

The University of North Texas gets in on the master class action. The college brings in gay filmmaker Arthur Dong to speak to five classes about working as a documentarian. He will also screen films during his stay.

His 1997 film *License to Kill* focused on anti-gay murders, which lends itself to the hot topic of bullying and its effects on the community. Dong questions mainstream media's light approach to the resurging trend.

"I think reporters should be asking parents, administrators what their role was in shaping a particular bully," he says. "It seems as though they are not being called to question their part. That shows mainstream media and society still has an acceptance of an anti-gay society."

Dong will discuss his work with LGBT documentaries for the class "Lesbian, Gay and Queer Film," taught by Dr. Harry M. Benshoff, who invited the filmmaker. Overall, his visit to the college will have him discussing techniques in creating documentaries to five classes in UNT's Radio, Film and TV curriculum.

"I had a master class when I was in film class and it made me think 'I could really do this,'" he says. "But I wasn't to talk to students about the production side and what to do when they get out of school. I want to express there should be a balance. Because there is no money in changing the world. You can get awards and pats on the back, but you also gotta feed yourself."

He will screen four of his films over the two days including *Forbidden City U.S.A.*, *Hollywood Chinese*, *Coming Out Under Fire* and *Family Fundamentals*.



— R.L.

Lyceum of UNT's University Union, 1155 Union Circle, Denton. Oct. 18–19 at 7:30 p.m. Free. 940-565-2537. UNT.edu.

member Venus Opal Reese, who says now is the time for this kind exposure.

"I think the Dallas community needs this class to have a different experience of blackness, queerness and gender, even," she says. "If all we ever see is black men killing, gay bashing or dying from HIV, there is no hope. Tim'm is hope."

West says that hip-hop needs to be exposed and his class works to show people that LGBT culture was a part of the genre in its infancy.

"I argue that the music has always had those elements but the industry has this inability to see how LGBT culture influenced hip-hop," he says. "In the early days, there was more acknowledgement of gays in rap. Grandmaster Flash referred to 'gays' and 'fag hags' in his music but with no derogatory notion. He rapped about that as part of the life and the city."

West, who hails from Houston, boasts the kind of multi-labeling applied more to a medicine bottle: He's an activist, author, rapper, poet, scholar and professor. Working as a project coordinator for the St. Hope Foundation, he's now taking his work on the road to make the LGBT/black/hip-hop conversation a national one. He calls Dallas his first stop in this new venture.

"The plan is to advocate on a national scale," he says. "I'm touring and traveling to speak about diversity, inclusion, bullying. I'm also a suicide survivor, which has risen as an issue recently. I feel the

experience I have can lend itself to a bigger conversation."

Despite the homophobia in hip-hop, West points out prejudices stem from gays themselves. Gay racism and stereotypes have also held back what he considers should be a progressive community. He cites that block as part of what keeps big gay events sanitized with the usual types of performers year after year.

"Parades or Pride events always may have gay artists and definitely have their drag queens, but propose a hip-hop entertainer and nothing," he says. "I want to talk about how we can mobilize hip-hop as a tool rather than running from scary black men and gunfights. Gay musicians are choosing it as a medium and gay kids listen to it."

Gay or straight, black or not, Reese says this class is open to as broad an audience as it can get. For her, the message here goes beyond labels, demographics and stereotypes and instead works to shatter those abstract restrictions.

"This class absolutely is for everyone," she asserts. "If you are a writer, activist, a person interested in gender studies, it would be totally appropriate. You know, race, gender, sexuality, class are all different pieces that make the whole. When we realize that we don't have one essential self but embody different intersections of those part, you can be moved to tears by who you really are." ■

KEEPING IT REAL

UT Dallas, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson. Oct 21-22. Visit website for schedule. Open to the public. Free. RedDirt.biz.

No place like home

Linze Serell began her Miss Charity America reign nine years ago, just not like you think.

"I was first runner-up for nine years," Bill Lindsey says. "This year, I thought I'd give it another try."

Serell is the alter ego of Lindsey and this year, he took the title for the first time after 11 total tries. But winning or not, this pageant is more than sparkles and makeup.

For 20 years, Miss Charity America has been the main fundraiser for Home for the Holidays, which sends people living with AIDS home during the season.

"It's been a blessing to stick around this long," he says. "I think we're the only organization of our kind in the country."

Last year, the organization provided travel for 23 people, including sending some home to South Africa. Although Lindsey says Home for the Holidays has lingered on the bottom of the list for AIDS funding, it has received help and acknowledgement from the likes of American Airlines and Black Tie. This could be a new start for the organization, but that makes Miss Charity America no less important.

"Oh yes, this event is the life source of our organization," Lindsey says.



— R.L.

Best Friends Club, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. 7 p.m. \$5. All proceeds benefit the organization. HomeForTheHolidaysTexas.org.

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L+S music

Giving peace a chance

Turtle Creek Chorale opens season with an interfaith concert of peace and music

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer
stevencraiglindsey@me.com

With the tragic gay teen suicides in recent weeks, the timing couldn't be better for a message of hope presented through beautiful music. On Monday, the 300-plus member Partners in Harmony chorus — including the Turtle Creek Chorale, the SMU Meadows School of the Arts Chorale and Concert Choir, the Dallas Wind Symphony and singers from more than 40 religious organizations — will perform three peace anthems for *A Night of Peace*.

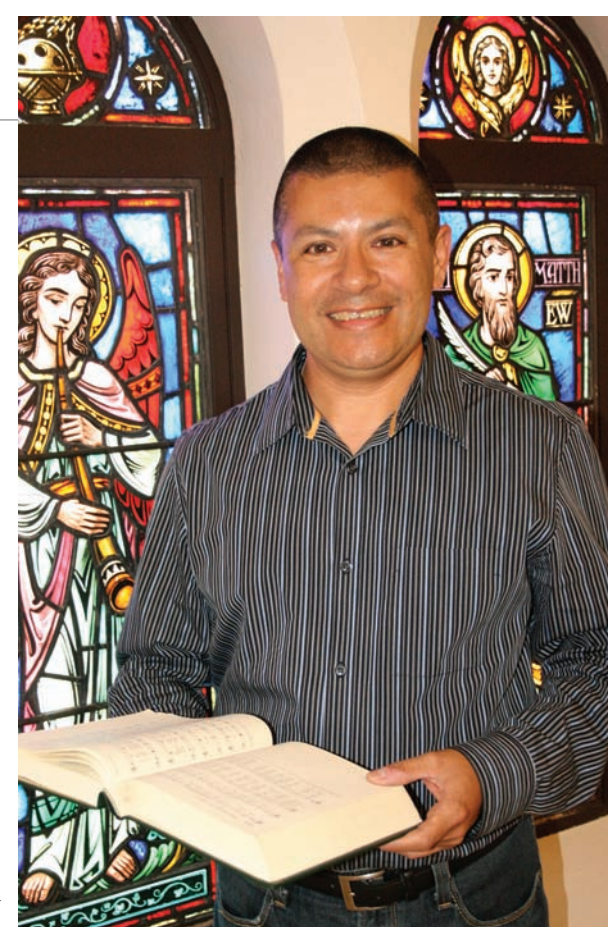
"Seven years ago, the Turtle Creek Chorale began Partners in Harmony to solicit religious organizations in the area to sign a piece of paper affirming the belief that all people are created equal regardless of sexual orientation," says Jonathan Palant, the chorale's artistic director. "Fast forward six years, and nothing other than this piece of paper really had been done with our Partners in Harmony."

Last year, the chorale invited singers from 45 religious institutions — synagogues, Baptist churches, Unitarian churches — to join it onstage for one performance. It ended up being a surprising show of unity between religious organizations and the gay community.

That did not surprise Benny Ruiz Jr., a 17-year member of the chorale and parish liturgist at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

"Most people who know me at church also know that I sing with the Turtle Creek Chorale," Ruiz says. "In fact, the Turtle Creek Chorale held its first rehearsals in the choir loft at Holy Trinity back in 1980."

Ruiz says that due to its location on Oak Lawn Avenue, the parish has always had gay members. "We often use the message 'all are welcome' in our communications because that is the truth about Holy Trinity parish. We call ourselves 'The Uptown Catholic Community,' which is almost as diverse as the city of Dallas," he says. "Our parishioners and volunteers live all over the Metroplex. Some travel a long way every weekend because they have been touched



FAITH, PEACE AND HARMONY | Benny Ruiz, a 17-year veteran of the chorale, is also lay liturgist at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Oak Lawn, where the chorale had its first rehearsal 20 years ago. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

by this open spirit of hospitality to all and they in turn want to spread that message."

Holy Trinity was approached seven years ago to become a Partner in Harmony with the chorale.

"Our pastor was pleased to do so as an affirmation of the belief that all people are created equal," he says. "This goes hand-in-hand with our message, just as Jesus was welcoming to all."

For the second year in a row, the chorale is partnering with the Parkland Health & Hospital System Pastoral Care Department and its director, Linda Wilkerson, will be on hand to talk about the hospital program, which just last year celebrated 50 years of service. The concert is intended to raise money and awareness for the program. After her presentation, Wilkerson will light a candle that will burn throughout the concert.

"The purpose is to light the way toward peace in our community, and that candle will burn just as our desire for peace and goodwill continues to burn," Palant says.

"Messages of peace and tolerance are great when written, better when spoken and acted upon, but best expressed through music and in our singing," adds Ruiz. It's an especially poignant message for gay teens.

"There is a great need for peace in the world and especially for tolerance in our nation," Ruiz says. "The bullying in our schools and intolerance shown to immigrants and religions has been in the headlines way too much lately," he says. "This night for peace provides the singers and audience a chance to silence all the intolerance and reflect on what the world can be if we all practice living as peacemakers."



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Drawing Dallas

Richard Guy might look like a modern-day Viking, but he's really just a homebody

MARK STOKES | Illustrator
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

What a Guy!

Name and age: Richard Guy, 47

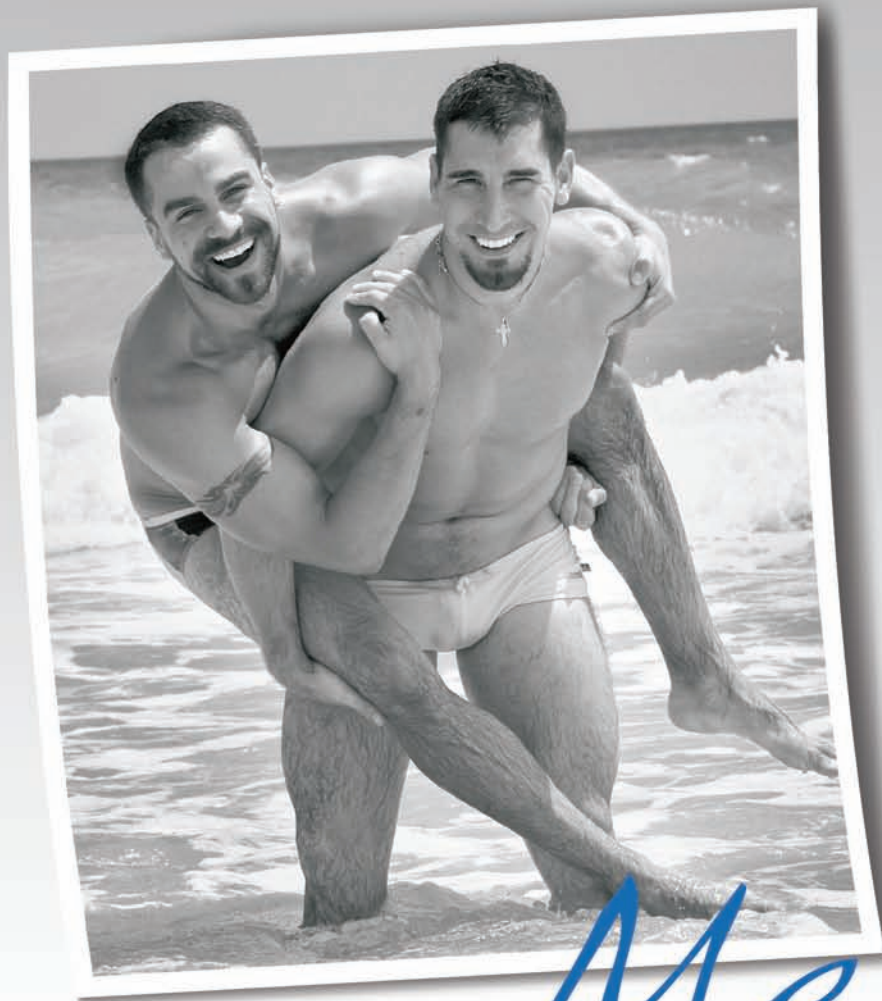
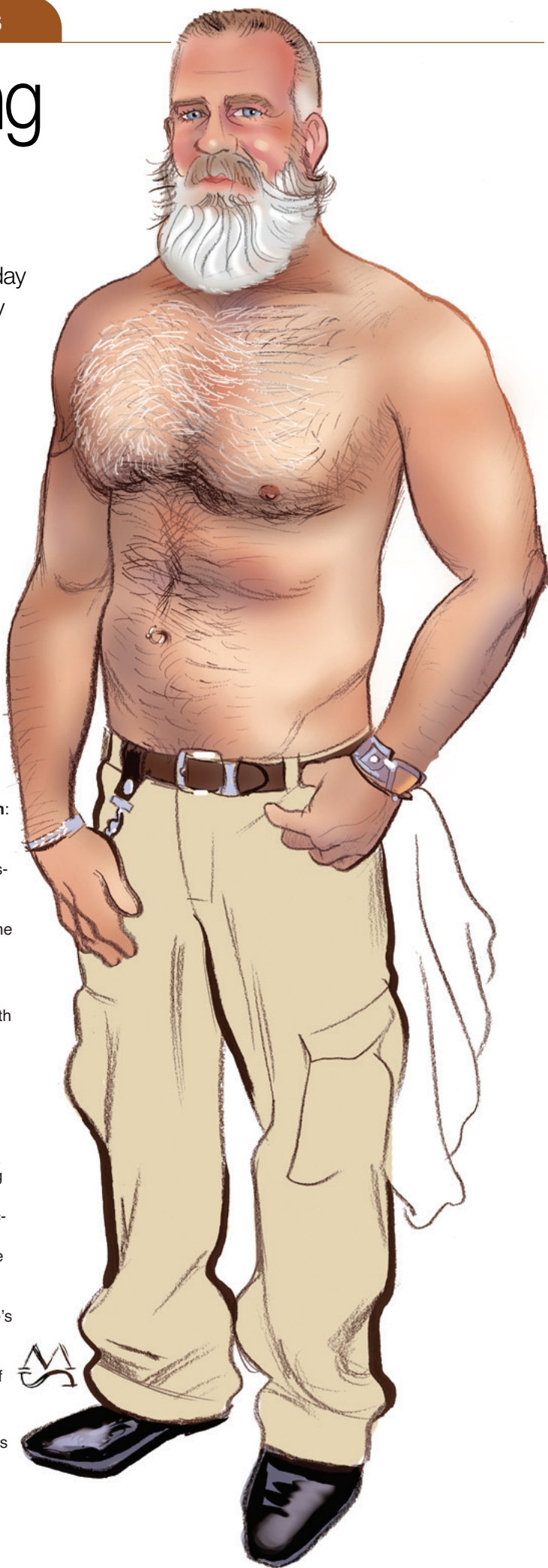
Spotted at: Lee Park

Was a man, was a big man:

A third generation Texan from Austrian stock, Richard stands an impressive 6 feet 4 inches of furry, pierced muscle. Originally from Amarillo, he has resided in Dallas for 28 years.

An animal loving Capricorn, Richard shares his life with a newly-adopted border collie, Romo, and a tortoise-shell cat named Maggie. A natural homebody, this engineering-minded man spends his time at home remodeling (he's building an amazing addition on his house), and is equipped with electrical and plumbing skills. Richard's hobbies include working out (really? We'd never have guessed), attending sports events (he's a huge Cowboys, Stars and Rangers fan), and downloading all genres of music.

His favorite quote comes from his grandmother: "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."



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Friday 10.15

No need to ask where the beef is

Burgers and beer is a primo combination, but with wine, it's a step up. Especially if they are made by 11 local celebrity chefs, then it could just be heaven. The second annual Burgers & Burgundy hosted by Chef John Tesar puts it all together for your pleasure while raising funds for DIFFA. Who said eating burgers could ever be bad for you?

DEETS: The House in Victory Park, 2200 Victory Ave. 6 p.m. \$75. DiffaDallas.org.

Saturday 10.16

Never cross a gay vampire at bingo

The last thing you want to do is piss off Miss *True Blood* by yelling "bingo" before her. The last thing you need is a big bite mark on your neck before it's truly scarf season. Put on your fangs, widow's peaks and capes for this month's GayBingo Vampire. Just watch out for those real ones blending in. Garlic should keep you safe — alone, but safe.

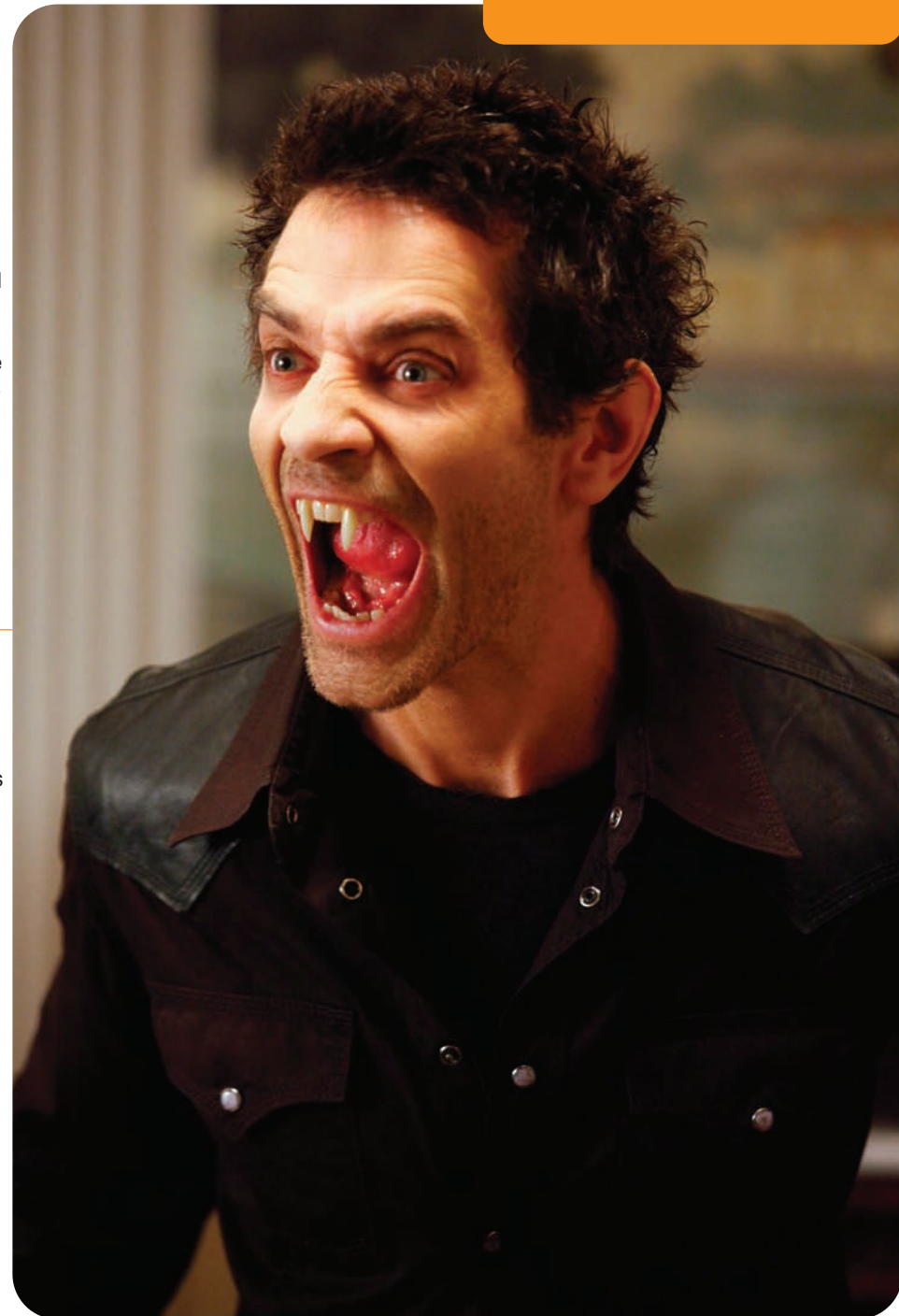
DEETS: The Rose Room (inside Station 4), 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. \$25. RCDallas.org.

Sunday 10.17

Fahari introduces Miss Bull Jeans

Harold J. Steward directs Q-Roc Ragsdale in this one-woman multi-media show about Bull Jeans and her life in the rural South of the 1920s. Her story of survival, love and lesbianism is told in *the bull-jean stories* based on the book by Sharon Bridgforth.

DEETS: South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 3 p.m. \$15. Q-Roc.tv/Bull-Jean.



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FRIDAY 10.15

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).

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

Triangle Networking Tarrant, for gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses. Dos Gringos, 1510 University Ave., Fort Worth. 6 p.m. \$5. 817-496-3479.

THEATER

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

Dracula: The Melodrama. The popcorn throwing happens again for this show in time for the Halloween season. 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 Sunday. NorwoodFlynnGallery.com.

Thoroughly Thoreau by Scot Miller: Photographs from Walden, Cape Cod & the Maine Woods. Proceeds from sales will be donated to the Walden Woods Project, a nonprofit founded by recording artist and Dallas resident Don Henley. Sun to Moon Gallery, 1515 Levee St. Through Oct. 23. SunToMoon.com.

SATURDAY 10.16

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

DFW Prime Timers play bingo at member residence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866

BROADCAST

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

SUNDAY 10.17

COMMUNITY

Breath of Life Interfaith Mindfulness Fellowship. Inspired by Buddhist spirituality, all faiths are welcome. Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. 5:30p.m. InterMindful.com.

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

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

Youth First Texas Collin County. Open to ages 14 to 22. 1200 Commerce St., Suite 121, Plano. 6–7:30 p.m. 214-879-0400.

The Set, for mature-minded SGL African-American men to create a community meets every third Sunday. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. 6–9 p.m. (cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m.).

Lutherans Concerned, LGBT affirming group for Lutherans. King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 LBJ Freeway. 7 p.m. 214-855-4998.

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

Family Pride Coalition, a monthly support group for gay and lesbian parents and their children, meets at a private home. For time and location 214-521-5342 ext. 1708.

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

BROADCAST

Lambda Weekly.

LGBT radio for North Texas. This week's guest is Sam Wilkes from Youth First Texas rescheduled originally from last week. 89.3 KNON-FM at noon. LambdaWeekly.com.

MONDAY 10.18

COMMUNITY

Unwired Dallas. Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. Free. Crystallmeth.org.

Caffeine + Character. Cathedral of Hope youth meeting at Buli Café, 3908 Cedar Springs Road.

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.

DFW Prime Timers play bridge at member residence. 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866.

Faces of Life photo shoot with Jorge Rivas. The photographer and ilume Gallerie openly invite those to take part in the photo campaign. Donations of \$50 for singles and \$75 for couples accepted and benefit AIDS Arms, Inc. Through Oct. 23, Nov. 1-5. 214-507-7369. ilumeGallerie.com.

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BROADCAST

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

TUESDAY 10.19

COMMUNITY

Sista to Sista support group meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 11:30 a.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 204. AOC.org.

Positive Recovery Auricular Acupuncture meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 817-229-4621. AOC.org.

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

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

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

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

Stop Smoking psycho-educational group meets weekly. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 2 p.m. 817-335-1994 ext. 217. AOC.org.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-887-4990.

Lesbian Book Club. Borders Books Music Cafe, 10720 Preston Road. 7 p.m. Julie at 214-363-1243.

BROADCAST

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

WEDNESDAY 10.20

COMMUNITY

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

DFW Prime Timers play bridge at member resi-

dence. 7 p.m. Call 972-504-8866.

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

DFW Prime Timers Prime Lunch at Mac's Barbecue, 3933 Main St. Noon. Call 972-504-8866.

THURSDAY 10.21

COMMUNITY

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

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

Tarrant County Lesbian Gay Alliance. Luby's Cafeteria, 251 University Ave., Fort Worth. 6:30 p.m. 817-877-5544.

Career Fellowship offers support to those who are experiencing unemployment or under-employment. Congregational Life Center, Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. 972-662-4499.

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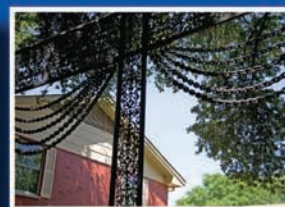
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CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

By Jack Fertig

Martina Navratilova turns 54 on Monday. The tennis superstar made different headlines when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. But in September, she told *People* magazine she is now cancer free. She spends her time away from the courts as an AARP spokesperson and was just nominated for the Sports Award of the Year by British LGBT charity Stonewall.



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

All your efforts at self-expression may reveal that some things really shouldn't be openly expressed. Focus on necessary tasks at hand. They will surprise you with new opportunities and insights.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Some inner demons are making themselves known. The way to exorcise them is to play with them, portray them artistically, act them out, engage them. Getting to the root can be empowering.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20

Worries about the future are big but friends are likely to misinterpret your words. If you can't confide in a shrink or a parent, talk with a close friend you can really trust with your deepest secrets.

CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

Say what you like among friends and get it all off your chest. At work, however, your mouth could get you into huge trouble. Keep in mind what's important and your long-term strategy.

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your resourcefulness could be brilliant, getting you ahead at work, but you can still be your own worst enemy with cockamamie schemes. Run new ideas by your boss or an expert first.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19

Your best ideas are now coming from outside yourself. Meditation can help you clear out mental garbage. Be careful not to take any of those notions seriously.

ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19

Secrets about your sex life or deeply hidden fears can leak to the surface, potentially disrupting your partnership, or efforts to start one. Friends want to help, but you'll be very sorry if you let them.

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Work is crazy. Employees understand the problems better than the bosses. Observe from a safe distance. Friends and your mate are a relief, but do not allow them to try to help.

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Work can go smoothly if you follow instructions. Trust your intuition, but only along familiar paths. Efforts to innovate or to creatively involve colleagues are sure to disappoint.

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Problems at home demand attention, but solutions are elusive. Get out of the house and explore. Spiritual and artistic adventures beckon. Sexual experiments are not a great idea now.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

You could turn your home into a passion pit, but what would your partner say? That can take some of the pressure off your communications issues, but don't avoid the hard work.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Talk with your partner about money and housework. There may be simmering issues there. Now is a good time to clear the air. Be open to what your baby has to say, and listen with your heart.

THIS WEEK

Mars is in Scorpio trine to Jupiter and Uranus, inspiring powerful, even surprising, passions. Alas, he's in hard aspect to Saturn and Neptune, arousing anxiety and confusion. Try to be alert, but calm. Your inner resources are stronger than you expect them to be.

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

JANE'S WORLD

Panel 1: I'VE READ THAT NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES CAN BE VERY VALUABLE IN HELPING PEOPLE REALIZE WHAT THEY REALLY WANT TO DO WITH THEIR LIVES.

Panel 2: I'VE BEEN TOO AFRAID TO MAKE CHANGES, TOO AFRAID TO TAKE CHANCES...

Panel 3: IT'S TIME...

Panel 4: ...TOOOOO... DOROTHY!

Panel 5: FIVE MINUTES TO THE JUMP ZONE. DOUBLE CHECK YOUR GEAR.

Panel 6: MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE TRAIL. DANIELLE? YEAH. I'M CHELLE AND THIS IS SYDNEY.

Panel 7: WHAT HAPPENED? WE THINK A BIKE CRASH, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE WHY JANE'S PHONE WAS HERE UNLESS SHE WAS ON A BIKE ALSO.

Panel 8: NOT LIKELY. GIVE ME A MOMENT... IT'S SUCH A TURN ON WHEN YOU DO YOUR "COP" THING.

Panel 9: I'VE GOT TRACKS HERE. TWO LIGHT AND ONE HEAVY. HEAVY?

Panel 10: SOMEONE IS BEING CARRIED. COME ON, THEY CAN'T BE THAT FAR AHEAD OF US.

Panel 11: BACK AT THE CABIN. JILL, WHAT DO YOU SEE? WHAT'S DOWN THERE? UNBELIEVABLE. COME CHECK IT OUT.

Panel 12: THIS LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF LOG BOOK.

Panel 13: LIKE MINUTES FROM A MEETING... CREEPY...

Panel 14: FOR THE LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS. THE GAY REPUBLICAN GROUP?! ARE YOU KIDDING?

Panel 15: I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL ABOUT BUTTON-DOWNS AND COCKTAIL PARTY FUND RAISERS, BUT THIS LOOKS SERIOUS.

Panel 16: FROM THESE NOTES IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PLANNING SOME MISCHIEF FOR OUR NEW DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT.

Jane's World © Paige Braddock 2010

www.JaneComics.com

bitter girl

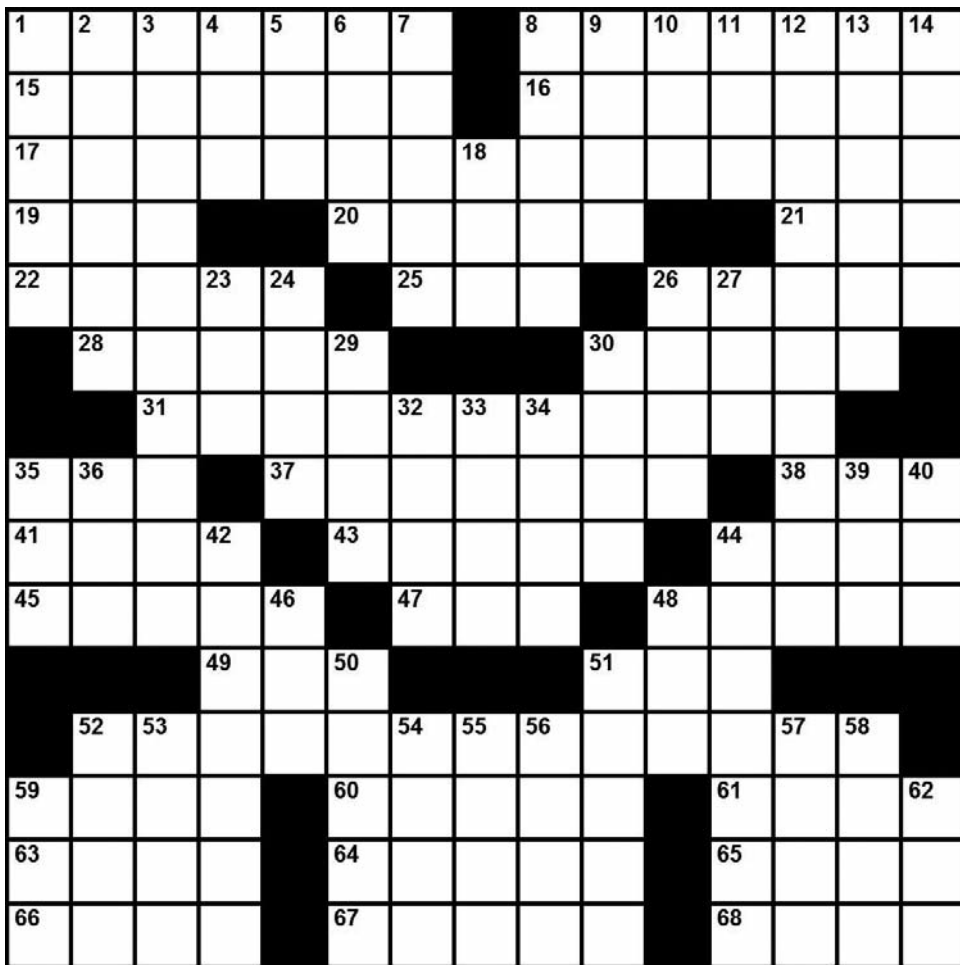
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YVONNE! RUNNING INTO YOU LIKE THIS! WHAT COULD BE CRAZIER?

email: bittergirl@qsyndicate.com

www.joanhilty.net

JOAN HILTY © 2010



On Your Knees

Solution on page 41

Across

- 1 Sex at the end of a date, in slang
- 8 Appoints
- 15 Barney Frank, frequently
- 16 Bear's fur?
- 17 Church with the country's largest gay congregation
- 19 Baseball great Mel
- 20 "Put roses on the piano and tulips on the ___"
- 21 Nonvulgar swearing
- 22 Get straight
- 25 Canon camera
- 26 Nobel physicist Bohr
- 28 Painter of ballerinas
- 30 Painter Matisse
- 31 Location of 17 Across
- 35 Part of a Stein line
- 37 Airborne Amelia
- 38 Stud site
- 41 Where they yell "Cut!"
- 43 Fag hag on a date, perhaps
- 44 Start fishing
- 45 Sheila of the California State Assembly
- 47 Hawk-chicken difference
- 48 Blow job and more
- 49 BB propellant
- 51 Third word of Katharine Lee Bates' *America*

Down

- 2 Designer of 17 Across
- 3 Color purple
- 4 Dinah of a golf classic
- 5 Sphincter opening?
- 6 Infatuated with Mr. Right Now
- 7 What hangs over and sometimes drips on you
- 8 The sound of music
- 9 Tommy's gun
- 10 Ancient erection
- 11 Poet Kitty

Down

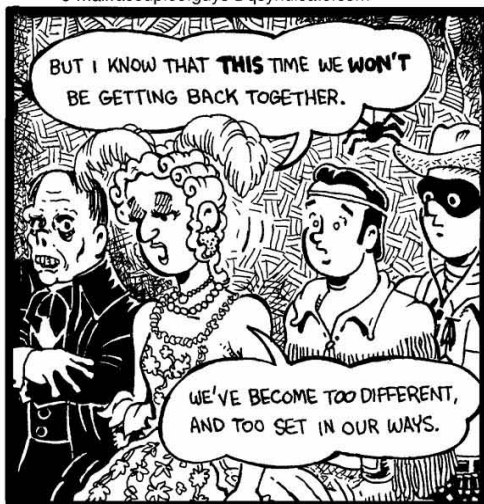
- 1 Furnishings
- 2 Ticked pink
- 3 Prepare to become wife and wife
- 4 Univ.
- 5 Hot time for Colette
- 6 What "let" means to Mauresmo
- 7 ___ Haute, Indiana
- 8 Charles, who could make you a man
- 9 Shakespeare's "anon" updated
- 10 Sunblock letters
- 11 First person in Berlin
- 12 Take a trip with your first mate?
- 13 Seaport of Italia
- 14 Places for commercial intercourse
- 18 In days past
- 23 Eastern title
- 24 *Show Boat* bundle
- 26 Barber's cry
- 27 One-million link
- 29 Big piece of meat
- 30 Crowd at the gay rodeo?
- 32 Field of study
- 33 Ball or chase balls
- 34 Conveyance weight
- 35 Same kind
- 36 Coin of Foucault
- 39 Part of DADT
- 40 ACLU concern
- 42 *Hairspray* scorer Marc
- 44 Impressionist Mary
- 46 Adjective for Abner
- 48 Metal container
- 50 Gets up
- 51 If ___ Walls Could Talk
- 52 Dreadlocks feature
- 53 Likely to break the condom, perhaps
- 54 Excellent, in slang
- 55 Zeus, to Romans
- 56 Hurler Hershiser
- 57 Bottoms' description of tops?
- 58 When doubled, Mork's good-bye
- 59 Mag. leaf
- 62 Non-Judy garland



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com

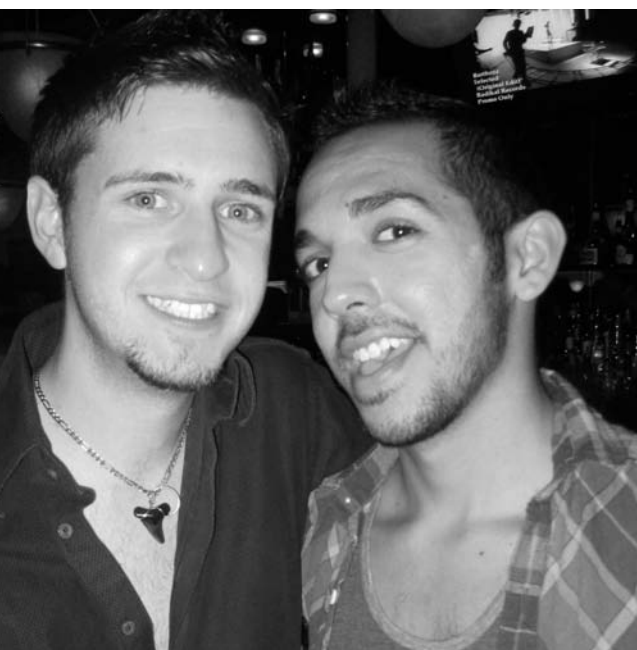


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Chance and Gocuc at Alexandre's.



Stacie and Amanda at Sue Ellen's.



James, Michael, Mark Allen Smith and Justin at the Brick.



Sean, Souk, Erika, Johnny and Rick at TMC: The Mining Company.

Time to get serious about your down time this week. Here's what's up **The Brick** brings back the **Drag King Show** Friday night featuring performances by **C.D. Kirven**, **Elizabeth Pax**, **Laura R.** and more. **Hunky DJ Blaine** spins Saturday which also benefits the **Genesis Women's Shelter**. A percentage of the door and bar will be donated to the nonprofit **TMC: The Mining Company** knows how to entice people's fetishes. To celebrate **National Boss' Day** (hi, boss!), they host **Suits** on Saturday for "men who like their men well-dressed." ... **Gary Floyd** and **Denise Lee** play **Woody's Live on the Back Porch** series Friday night. **Andrea Dawson** does the same Saturday afternoon during the bar's **Chili Cookoff**. Hey guys, next time you need a judge, give us a call. Yummy! ... **The Rose Room** hosts **GayBingo Vampires**, so do your best **Twilight** drag How good are you with that big stick? Try it out at **the Round-Up Saloon's Pool Tournament** on Tuesday **Coles Whalen** and **Hunter Valentine** stop in town for a double-billed show at **Sue Ellen's**. Whatever you do this weekend, put this show down on your must-see list. Trust us **The Dallas Eagle** serves you Friday night with **Danny Ray's Country Biscuits and Gravy Revue** which benefits the **Hot Meals Program and Nutrition Center of Resource Center Dallas**. Switch gears for **Jocks and Harness Night** on Saturday. And for you **Dallas Diablos** groupies, the club hosts the team Tuesday night **DJ Scotty** spins it out Fridays and Saturdays at **Dance Night Party Night** at **1851 Club**. Every Sunday it's the **All-Star Drag Show** You have until Sunday to get your last chance at a corn dog. **The State Fair of Texas** closes up shop until next year. We hear **the Dallas Bears** are making a group outing on Saturday though. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES



Mesly, Tiffany, Lindsay and Kassy at Best Friends Club.



Frank, Gretchen and Leo at the fish fry contest in Gun Barrel City.



Zesham at Havana.

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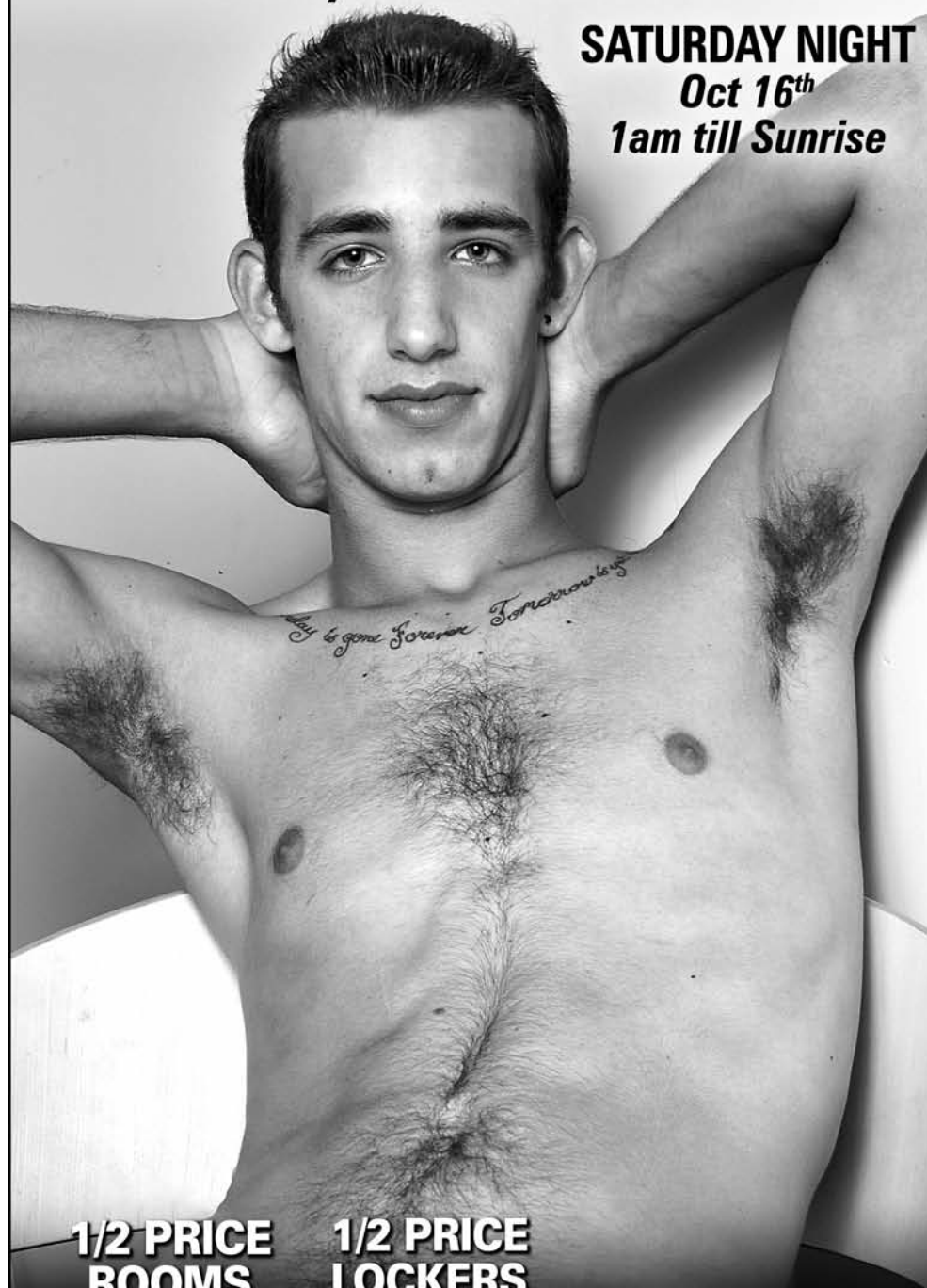
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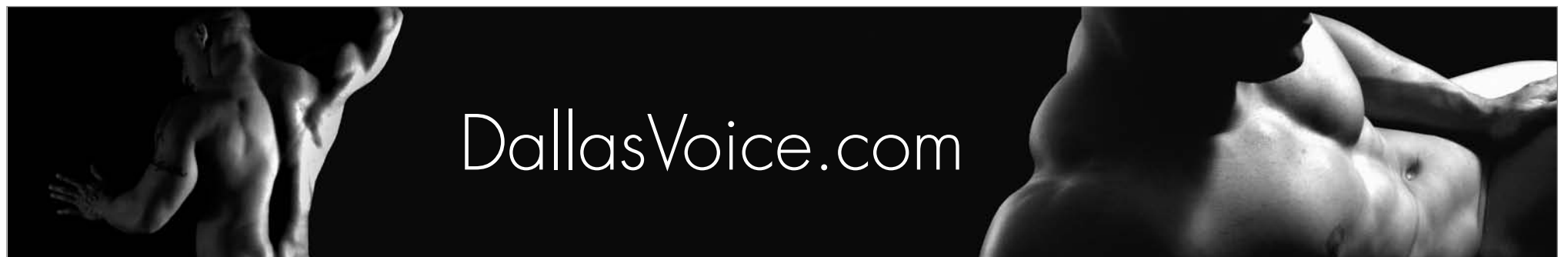


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